



# PROPANE BUS FLEET CASE STUDY

## ALVIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Transportation Center  
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Alvin, Texas 77511  
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## BACKGROUND FACTS

Fifth largest propane school-bus fleet in State of Texas  
250 sq. miles, 15,334 students  
Transports 1,242,000 students annually  
Annual school-bus mileage: 1,962,500 miles  
Current annual usage of propane: 206,146 gallons

## FLEET FACTS

Total School Buses 128 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 73 Propane</li> <li>• 81 Diesel</li> </ul>	Total Other Vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Propane</li> <li>• 4 Diesel</li> <li>• 97 Gasoline</li> </ul>
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Refueling facilities: 1  
Gallons on-site propane storage: 18,000 gallons  
Years using propane: 27 years

## PROPANE COST SAVINGS

Annual savings to district through use of propane:  
Current price this week (April 28-May 2, 2008) for propane is \$1.79/gal vs. \$3.51/gal for diesel. We also receive a \$0.50/gal. rebate for propane used. In 2006-07, we received \$92,152.00 in rebates. Vehicle maintenance is reduced due to greater brake and tire life with propane, mainly due to the inherent braking of the throttled engine and less weight on the steering axle.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/QUOTES

The new generation propane engine shows promise of fuel mileage that comes close to the mileage we experience with diesel. A demo propane bus was impressive while doubling the mileage we experienced with current propane powered-buses.

Driver comments: "Wow!". Bus accelerates quicker, shortening the route time for students.  
Environmental considerations: These engines require no particulate trap or the related services. The emissions are lower due to the inherently cleaner-burning fuel. The emission system has proved itself for over 30 years of use. The engine has a smaller environmental footprint due to the decreased uses of lubricants and coolant.

--John Ralph



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