The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is proposing to delay the compliance deadline by which State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) must utilize the Commercial Driver’s License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse). FMCSA created the Clearinghouse to share information about commercial drivers’ alcohol and drug violations among employers, state law enforcement, and SDLAs. FMCSA will require that employers of CDL drivers submit and review information about commercial drivers’ alcohol and drug violations. The compliance date for employers is January 6, 2020. **FMCSA is proposing to extend the compliance deadline for SDLAs to January 6, 2023.** If the extended compliance deadline is finalized, SDLAs may voluntarily request drivers’ information from the Clearinghouse prior to issuing commercial licenses or endorsements; however, SDLAs must use the Clearinghouse by the 2023 compliance deadline.

The January 6, 2020 compliance date would remain in effect for all other requirements, including the requirement for motor carriers to input drivers’ information. FMCSA requires that CDL holders’ drug and alcohol testing program violations must be reported to the Clearinghouse by January 6, 2020, and motor carriers must perform the required ‘queries’ — requesting information from the Clearinghouse — for prospective and current driver-employees. FMCSA requires all employers of CDL drivers to purchase a ‘query plan’, which is a rated access to the Clearinghouse. Employers must submit a query to the Clearinghouse — in other words, request or submit information about drivers’ drug and alcohol violations — before hiring the driver and at least annually for every CDL driver-employee. More information about the query process and purchasing plans is available from FMCSA here.

FMCSA’s objective is to share information among employers and state officials to prevent some drivers from misrepresenting his/her violations to a new employer and/or in a new state. FMCSA compiled over 50 questions-and-answers to familiarize employers and drivers on the Clearinghouse. The FAQ page is available here. More information about the Clearinghouse, including resources for employers as well as drivers, is available on FMCSA’s website here. Please direct any additional questions to Sarah Reboli, Deputy Counsel, Regulatory Affairs at NPGA.
The purpose of the Ohio Propane Gas Association Scholarship is to foster education, to be of increased service to all Association members, to enhance the public image of the propane industry, and to provide financial assistance to selected individuals who are seeking education beyond high school.

STANDARDS

The following standards will apply to all OPGA Scholarship funds applicants:

A. Applicants must be high school seniors or undergraduate students.
B. Applicants must be a dependent child of an employee of a member of the Ohio Propane Gas Association. The parent’s work must be directly related to the propane industry. The OPGA member must be in good standing with the Ohio Propane Gas Association.
C. Applicants must be full-time residents of the State of Ohio.
D. Applicants must be registered to attend an accredited college, university, or vocational school for the purpose of obtaining an academic degree.
E. Applicants who have completed one or more college terms must submit grade point average for the most recent term completed.
F. The Committee will present scholarship awards at the 2020 Great Lakes Propane Convention at JW Marriott Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Recipient will also receive a one-night free lodging and dinner for self and two guests. Award winners’ attendance is requested but not mandatory at the banquet that will be held the evening of July 29, 2020. If the award winner is unable to attend the convention in Michigan, then the OPGA will request a short video acceptance for the OPGA to play during the banquet.
G. Application deadline is April 15, 2020. Application must be received in the OPGA office by this date.
H. The OPGA Scholarship Committee strives to assist as many young scholars as possible. Past scholarship recipients are not eligible to receive the award again.

REQUIREMENTS

Applications MUST include the following:

- Letters of Recommendation — Three letters are required. The letters may be from references above.
- School Transcript — A complete official school transcript from last grade completed (High School or College) must be included with this application.
- Essay — 500 words or less stating why you deserve to be considered for this Scholarship. Your reasons may include but are not necessarily limited to the following criteria:
  - Past academic achievement
  - How you have demonstrated initiative and responsibility
  - How you have demonstrated consistent effort and performance
  - Financial need
  - Extracurricular activities and interests
  - Volunteer activities
  - Awards and Honors received
- Resume — List any Academic Achievements, job experiences, Volunteer Activities, Extracurricular Activities, Awards and Honors you have received or participated in.
- Mailing Address
- City
- State
- Zip
- Phone
- Email
- High School Attending or School Last Attended
- Last Grade Completed
- Date of High School Graduation
- University/College You Will Be Attending
- Enrollment Date
- Major
- Name of Parent
- Number of Years in Propane Industry
- Job Description
- Company
- Address
- City
- State
- Zip
- President/Manager Name
- President/Manager Email
- President/Manager Signature
- Date
- Please list three teachers, counselors, work supervisors and/or employers who can comment on your potential for succeeding in your planned educational experience.

1. Name of Reference
2. Title/Position
3. Phone
4. Email
OPGA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: APRIL 15, 2020
Page 2 of 2

2. Name of Reference
Title/Position Phone
Email

3. Name of Reference
Title/Position Phone
Email

Please specify how scholarship, if awarded, will be used:

Applications MUST include the following:
1. Letters of Recommendation — Three letters are required. The letters may be from references above.
2. School Transcript — a complete official school transcript from last grade completed (High School or College) must be included with this application.
3. Essay — 500 words or less stating why you deserve to be considered for this Scholarship. Your reasons may include but are not necessarily limited to: past academic achievement, how you have demonstrated initiative and responsibility, how you have demonstrated consistent effort and performance, financial need, extracurricular activities and interests, volunteer activities, awards and honors received.
4. Resume — list any Academic Achievements, job experiences, Volunteer Activities, Extracurricular Activities, Awards and Honors you have received or participated in.

The information supplied above is for use in applying for the Scholarship offered. All information herewith is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant’s Signature Date

Applications, including three letters of recommendations, school transcript, essay, and job experience/resume should be mailed to:
OPGA Scholarship Application - 605 N. High Street, #214 - Columbus, OH 43215

OPGA provides members with a wide range of benefits including national representation through its affiliation with the National Propane Gas Association. As a member of OPGA, you have access to an extensive set of benefits that can help your business succeed.

ADVOCACY & ACTION
Pro-active involvement with all state and federal legislation and regulations affecting the propane industry in Ohio.

SAFETY & TRAINING
OPGA offers certified and non-certified employee training for those in the propane field or looking to obtain certification. We offer a wide-range of CETP classes, as well as important safety and training classes.

COMMUNICATIONS
The association’s magazine, Ohio Propane News, is distributed to industry members quarterly as well as a bi-weekly update, Buckeye Bulletin, which includes a legislative report. We also extend our reach through our Ohio Autogas Facebook page, facebook.com/OhioPROPANEGasAssociation.

SCHOLARSHIPS
OPGA scholarship program offering several annual $1,000 scholarships for member’s employees and children of employees.

SAFETY AND MARKETING MATERIALS
Through the NPGA Resource Catalog and PERC resource center, a wealth of information, including handbooks, pamphlets, videos, and other materials, is available to promote safe practices and to market propane.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
A list of all OPGA members, board members, and other information is published annually. Members include retail marketers of propane gas and appliances, producers and wholesalers of propane, propane appliance and equipment manufacturers and distributors, fabricators of propane cylinders and tanks, transporters of propane gas, and other companies interested in propane.

DISCOUNTED MEETINGS
Members receive discounted registration rates for the OPGA Annual Convention held in August. Additional meetings include quarterly membership meetings in Columbus and district meetings held as needed around the state.

NATIONAL PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION
The National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) also provides a vast amount of information to members on federal laws and regulations, industry trends and other important matters. Except in the case of multi-state marketers, who join NPGA on their own, Marketer Member dues to OPGA include dues to NPGA.

GROUP PURCHASING DISCOUNTS
OPGA offers a full range of services and programs to meet your business, employee and personal needs with the goal to help you and your business be successful and profitable. The following 2 pages outline the discounted benefit programs.
Vantage Pointe has put together a team of Insurance, Human Resources and Technology professionals to provide our clients with the necessary resources to survive in today's world of Employee Benefits. Our background, education, knowledge and experience puts us in a unique position to suggest solutions that are proven to work. Contact Vantage Pointe today at 844.368.6554.

Gasaway Investment Advisors, Inc. is an investment advisory firm with a unique expertise in working with small and medium sized companies on qualified retirement plans for their employees. Our team of experienced professionals will work with your company’s leaders to develop a plan that is tailored to meet the needs of your company. This benefit provides discounted third party administration fees. Contact Gasaway Investment Advisors at 844.368.6554.

TekCollect specializes in accounts receivable management, collections operations and customer retention services for the propane industry. Programs include custom verbal and written contracts, electronic database skip tracing, credit bureau reporting, plus optional advanced recovery efforts for hard-to-collect accounts. Our service is securely web-based, with access to every collection effort plus real-time reports. And every effort is designed to preserve the integrity of your customer relationships. Our fees are typically less than 10% — the lowest cost per dollar in the collection industry. Best of all, results are guaranteed! Contact Lance Rhutasel at lrhutasel@tekcollect.com or call 800.698.5150.

Quantus Solutions has designed a group benefit program for OPGA that provides aggressive solutions and reduces your bottom line with excellent customer support. Choose the right solution for your business. Our program options include: 1.00% qualified rate for Visa, MasterCard and Discover or Interchange Plus. American Express offers their latest program called Opt Blue. Receive Next Day funding of your deposits, free desktop terminal, Gateway/ Virtual Terminal. We are also pleased to announce new, exciting, and secure Mobile Solutions as well. All solutions are EMV and PCI complaint. ZERO start up fees to enroll and MORE. For more information visit quantussolutions.com or call 314.308.6853 ext. 1411.

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RECORD RETENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

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In the absence of such a policy, this guide should help you sort through most types of common documents. ☞

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<td>6 years after settlement</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance policies (current)</td>
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PROPANE COUNCIL Refresher Training.

Please note: Students must have access to a computer and have attended a 1-day instructor lead review and Certification Testing. Blended Learning. These classes are 2 to 3 days in length and include Certification Testing. OPGC and OPERC are designing course training. But are you still fuzzy required training and courses to improve industry safety. By now, OPGA believes one of its core missions is to provide numer

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<tr>
<td>Accident reports &amp; settled claims</td>
<td>6 years after settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire inspection &amp; safety reports</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance policies (current)</td>
<td>Permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance policies (expired)</td>
<td>7 years</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

OHIO PROPANE NEWS ADVERTISING

OPGA has a great way for propane vendors to get their name in front propane professionals in Ohio. The Ohio Propane News is a quarterly e-newsletter that reaches the desks of over 400 propane professionals throughout the state of Ohio. The newsletter has a 50% open rate and a 26% click through rate, on average. All ads are hyperlinked to the advertiser’s website. Click here for more information on the 2020 advertising rates and opportunities.
OPGA COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Committees are the key to any volunteer organization. Successful committees lead to a thriving association; a thriving association is a growing association; and a growing association is an influential association. Please consider joining one or more committees that interest you.

Name

Company

Phone

Email

Address

- Autogas & New Technology – To focus on the propane autogas industry and related new technology
- Code & Safety – It is the responsibility of this committee to keep abreast of changes in the Code, to review and make recommendations for possible changes in the Code, maintain communication with Ohio regulatory agencies and assist in interpreting regulations, and respond to members’ questions regarding specific sections of the Code.
- Convention – This committee plans the annual convention and decides upon future meeting locations.
- Education – It is the responsibility of this committee to consider and develop industry training schools.
- Governmental Affairs – This committee is charged with becoming actively involved in all legislation and regulations, which affects the propane gas industry in Ohio.
- Membership Services – The major function of this committee is to respond to requests for membership Information, to enlist new members of the association, and provide membership value for the industry. Membership services committee members contact new members and call and invite marketers to quarterly meetings.
- Ohio PERC Projects – This committee is charged with developing the strategy, plans and programs that receive and distribute national PERC money to deserving Ohio projects.
- OPGA PAC – Administers and operates Ohio propane industry political action committee, including fund raising, record keeping and reporting to appropriate state agencies regarding receipts and contributions. Decides upon recommended contributions to Ohio legislators and policy makers from the OPGA lobbyist professionals. Attends legislative receptions and functions under the direction of the OPGA lobbyists. Supports the OPGA Government Affairs Committee as needed.
- Scholarship – Establishes guidelines for granting scholarships and recommends funding mechanism for the association’s scholarship program.
- Transportation – The two major functions of this committee concern involvement with the general efficiency and economy of transporting propane gas, and to provide technical input to communities where HAZMAT transportation ordnances are being considered.

RETURN TO OPGA VIA FAX (517) 485-9408 OR VIA EMAIL TO DEREK CALLING.

NPGA APPLAUDS CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF PROPANE ALTERNATIVE FUEL TAX CREDITS AND R&D APPROPRIATIONS

Late last week, Congress passed H.R. 1865, which will provide the propane industry with prospective tax certainty as well as valuable research and development funding.

National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) President and CEO Stephen Kaminski applauds the work of Congress on passing critical year-end legislation that supports small businesses and energy consumers across the country. “When Congress and the private sector work together, America wins,” Kaminski said. “This legislation will motivate consumers to make smart, green energy decisions, drive the development of modern technology using resilient energy sources such as propane, and promote the growth of small businesses.”

H.R. 1865 includes an extension of the alternative fuel tax credit and the refueling property credit, covering the years 2018-2020. These credits incentivize the use and adoption of propane as an engine fuel. These propane-powered vehicle credits are worth more than $500 million, putting more clean vehicles on the road and money back in the pockets of consumers.

Following Senate passage, H.R. 1865 went to the White House where it was signed into law by President Trump.

For the first time since 2015, Congress has extended these credits prospectively—through December 31, 2020. “Congress is sending a clear message to the country that it recognizes propane as a clean and green fuel of the future,” said Kaminski. NPGA thanks Representative John Larson (D-CT) and Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) for their bipartisan and bicameral leadership to advance these essential policy initiatives.

In near future, NPGA will provide guidance to the industry from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service on how to claim the credit retroactively and for 2020.

Recognizing the advantages of propane as an independent energy source with wide-ranging applicability, H.R. 1865 also provides funding for U.S. Department of Energy research, development, and demonstration projects, including $5 million for propane vehicle engine technology development and access to up to $10 million for propane combined heat and power systems development.

In addition, NPGA will continue to advocate for H.R. 5089, the Alternative Fuel Tax Credit Extension Act of 2019, which would extend the alternative fuel tax credit prospectively for several more years. “Long-term credits give customers and communities certainty, providing the best incentives to increase investment in low-emission, propane-powered vehicles,” Kaminski said. “The association looks forward to working with Congress in the coming years to build on this significant victory and bring value to propane customers across the country.”

LOOK FOR YOUR 2020 DUES NOTICES

It’s time again for OPGA dues renewals. Notices have been mailed. Be sure to look for them and a letter from OPGA President, George Walton. If you have any questions, please contact OPGA.

NOT RECEIVING INFORMATION FROM THE OPGA?

As a reminder, the OPGA database is dependent upon information provided in the annual dues notices. When dues are returned to the OPGA, please be sure to include everyone from your company that should receive OPGA emails and newsletters. This information also helps produce the OPGA Membership Directory. If you believe you are not receiving all the information from the OPGA, please contact us. We will happily add you to the OPGA database!
CLEAN FUEL GRANTS FROM OHIO EPA

On December 12, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio EPA Director Laurie Stevenson announced $13 million in grants will be awarded to 41 entities, including more than a dozen Ohio school districts, to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from diesel vehicles and equipment.

“These funds will help local communities replace school buses and trucks powered by aging diesel engines in areas that do not meet federal air quality standards for ozone,” said Governor DeWine. “By replacing these old vehicles with new, clean models, we will reduce pollution to help create a healthier environment for everyone.”

The organizations and businesses receiving grants were selected by a committee of Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Transportation representatives. The next opportunity to submit grant applications online is June 1-Aug. 7, 2020. Ohio EPA has posted a copy the state’s Beneficiary Mitigation Plan for spending these funds on the Agency’s VW program webpage.

If you are interested in applying for the next round of funding with Clean Fuels Ohio’s assistance, contact Andrew Conley, Consulting Services Director at 614-884-7336. Also contact Clean Fuels Ohio if you are interested in applying for funding under the upcoming EV Charging Station rounds of Ohio EPA VW Program or have any questions.

EPA ANNOUNCES $44 MILLION IN FUNDING TO REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM DIESEL ENGINES

The EPA anticipates awarding approximately $44 million in competitive grant funding under the Diesel Emissions Reductions Act (DERA) National Grants Program. The program is soliciting applications nationwide for projects that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions and exposure, particularly from fleets operating in areas designated by the Administrator as poor air quality areas.

Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (www.grants.gov) no later than Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. (ET) to be considered for funding.
The OPGA is pleased to announce that it will be providing the newest version of the NFPA58 at the upcoming February Board of Directors and Quarterly Membership Meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at the Doubletree Hotel in Columbus-Worthington. There are a limited number of books available. They are being provided through an OPERC grant free of charge. They will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. The books will only be provided at the OPGA meeting. The OPGA will not mail books.

The schedule for the February meetings is as follows:
- 8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting
- 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Committee Meetings and Lunch
- 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Quarterly Membership and Business Meeting

**REGISTRATION**
The registration fee to attend is $50 and includes lunch. There is no additional charge for the NFPA book.

**LOCATION & HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**
Doubletree by Hilton Columbus-Worthington
175 Hutchinson Avenue
Columbus, OH 43235
To make your reservation, call (614) 885-3334.

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CETP STARTS THE NEW YEAR WITH EXCITING CHANGES

BY ERIC KUSTER
VICE PRESIDENT OF SAFETY, EDUCATION, AND COMPLIANCE
PROPANE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

The industry’s longstanding Certified Employee Training Program (CETP) is undergoing exciting changes in the way it delivers safety education and compliance material to the workforce.

Our goal is to make workforce training and certification better, faster and cheaper. Today’s workforce learns differently than previous generations, so we are designing a more flexible system that better serves current and future hires alike. The changes will:

• Move all CETP training and CETP certification to a new, online Learning Management System (LMS)
• Break up CETP training into smaller units that can be customized to fit worker job tasks
• Save companies the expense of sending employees to several days of classroom training and the lost productivity from being away

All current courses and certification programs will be moved to the PERC LMS as of January 1, 2020 and will be available in their current format throughout 2020. The transfer includes all training records, tests, and skill evaluations for more than 100,000 propane professionals who have earned certification since the program began in 1987. Users will be able to conveniently access all materials from their desktop computer, laptop, cellphone or tablet.

CETP has traditionally been packaged into 14 areas of certification. We intend to break that material into 45-50 smaller modules so that workers don’t waste time on material not relevant to their specific duties. We will add these new modules to the LMS as they are developed. We expect any certification program changes to be approved by June 2020 and implemented by January 1, 2021.

We’re also retaining a familiar partner, Industrial Training Service, for help desk services during this transition to PERC’s system. After 33 years working with our industry, ITS knows the certification program from top to bottom. They can be reached at (800) 757-1554. They will also be sending dedicated email for helpdesk service in the next few weeks. Please watch out for it and other important details in future communications.

Lastly, I encourage your feedback as we begin this journey together. What other safety and training products do you need? Is there training you need we don’t already offer? Are there state regulations that our training could help you meet? Does your state require licensing that requires additional training?

I’m committed to creating innovative, world-class safety training materials for our industry. I look forward to working with you.

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT ERIC KUSTER AT 202.919.4346.
FMCSA SET TO ISSUE TWO-YEAR DELAY OF NEW ENTRY LEVEL DRIVER TRAINING RULE

FMCSA ENTRY LEVEL DRIVER TRAINING RULE DELAY
The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is set to announce a two-year delay to its Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) rule scheduled to go into effect February 7, 2020. The ELDT rule is controversial in the petroleum marketing industry because it requires rigorous new training requirements for both CDL license applicants and current CDL holders seeking a license upgrade. New requirements will make it more difficult to obtain and renew a CDL, discourage new applicants from applying for a CDL and as a result, contribute to the shortage of CDL drivers already occurring nationwide.

The delay is due to the failure of state driving licensing authorities to align their electronic database with the new FMCSA’s nationwide online repository for unified CDL data collection. Initially, the FMCSA planned to allow the two-year compliance delay to apply only to state CDL licensing agencies. Medical review professionals, certified training vendors and drivers would have still been required to comply by the February 7, 2020 deadline. However, the lack of certified trainers and other system glitches convinced the agency that a two-year across-the-board delay would be required. The delay is good news for petroleum marketers because the system failures would have added additional delay for new applicants and current CDL drivers seeking an upgrade.

ELDT ONLINE NATIONAL DATABASE
The ELDT is an online, centralized licensing database that will be available to state and federal CDL agencies and enforcement authorities which will provide licensing and enforcement authorities real-time information of CDL drivers operating status. FMCSA certified training providers will use the database to upload certificates of completions for the knowledge test and behind-the-wheel practical skills testing.

CDL DRIVER AND CDL APPLICANTS SUBJECT TO THE ELDT REQUIREMENTS
The ELDT rule establishes new minimum training standards for individuals applying for:
- Class A or Class B commercial driver’s license (CDL) for the first time;
- Upgrade of current CDL (e.g., a Class B CDL holder seeking a Class A CDL);
- Hazardous materials (H), endorsement on their CDL for the first time.

Individuals who obtain a CDL learners permit (CLP) before the February 7, 2020 compliance deadline (now extended by two years) are not required to comply with the new ELDT rule as long as they obtain the CDL or endorsement before the CLP (or renewed CLP) expires.

NEW KNOWLEDGE AND BEHIND THE WHEEL TESTING REQUIREMENTS
The new ELDT requirements include an expanded and more difficult written theory (knowledge) test, and for the first time, requires new applicants and current CDL drivers seeking upgrades to complete both private lot and public highway behind-the-wheel practical skills testing. Applicants must obtain at least an 80% score on the written knowledge test to pass. There are no minimum hours required for behind-the-wheel practical skills testing but requires the demonstration of proficiency in all driving skills before a certificate of completion is awarded by a certified FMCSA training vendor.

TRAINING PROVIDERS MUST BE FMCSA CERTIFIED
To comply with the entry-level driver training (ELDT) rule, CDL applicants and those CDL drivers seeking and upgrade must select a training provider listed on the FMCSA Training Provider Registry (TPR). FMCSA certified trainers are the only entities that can provide ELDT training.

CDL applicants subject to the rule must complete a prescribed program of instruction presented by an entity listed on FMCSA’s Training Provider Registry (TPR), prior to taking the State-administered CDL skills test, or for the HAZMAT endorsement, prior to taking the knowledge test.

The final rule was mandated by Congress under the “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act” (MAP-21).
PROPANE POWERS STUDENT HEALTH

Georgia State University published a study that shows that students who breathe in less diesel toxins score better on tests. Researchers compared the standardized test scores of students in Georgia school districts, where more than 2,600 buses had been retrofitted with diesel-exhaust-scrubbing systems, against test scores in districts lacking the upgrades.

"Students do better on English test if they have cleaner air," said Daniel Kreisman, an assistant professor of economics who co-authored the study.

The diesel exhaust system upgrade costs $5,000 to $10,000, which Kreisman and his colleagues argue is a pittance compared to the long-term return for society when students do better in school. Since the study, more and more school districts have been bypassing diesel altogether, replacing their fleets with buses powered by propane.

Propane vehicles emit lower levels of harmful pollutants than conventional diesel or gasoline engines. They are quieter, cleaner and at the end of the day, healthier for students.

According to University of Michigan professor of epidemiology Sara Adar, "We found that kids were less likely to miss school when they were riding cleaner buses than when they were riding dirty buses." She worked on a different study several years ago that tracked students who were switched from buses with dirty exhaust to those with cleaner systems. "There is new evidence that exhaust particles can get into the brain," she said. "Those older, dirtier buses are ones we should get off the road."

Student health has become a greater concern for school districts, but the biggest driver for propane-powered fleets are economic: Propane buses are less expensive to run, with cheaper fuel, fewer moving parts and less maintenance.

There are millions of dollars available to make the switch from diesel to alternative fuels including propane. Also, the OPGA is offering up to $3,000 to help make it easy for schools to convert to propane. For more information, visit OhioAutogas.com.

NEw REQUIRED NOZZLE OFFERS BENEFITS FOR PROPANE AUTOGAS USERS

Starting on January 1, 2020 a new “quick-release” Type K15 dispenser connector will be required on all new propane-powered vehicles, according to the per the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) Code 58, updated in 2017.

This connector allows for one-handed fueling and does not require gloves or a face shield. For vehicles with the ACME QCC screw-on connector, an adapter is available. More information on the quick-release “Type K15” dispenser connector and propane vehicles can be found by clicking here.

“Anyone considering propane should make sure to order the correct connector for their fueling system,” said Andrew Conley, Consulting Services Director with Clean Fuels Ohio.

Ohio remains a leader in the deployment of propane vehicles and stations. Based on data gathered by Clean Fuels Ohio and the US DOE, as of March 2019, Ohio fleets reported using 4.25M gallons of propane fuel for fleet operations:

- Fleets deploying Propane have also benefited from incentives to make adoption of Propane vehicles even more cost-effective, including rebates provided by the Ohio Propane Gas Association, grants from the Ohio VW Settlement funds, and loans specifically for School Districts from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.
- Clean Fuels Ohio has worked with numerous fleets to assist with analysis, planning, grant-writing, and alternative fuel deployment.

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT: CLEAN FUELS OHIO CONSULTING SERVICES DIRECTOR, ANDREW CONLEY OR CALL 614-884-7336.
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2020 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 5
Quarterly Membership Meeting
DoubleTree by Hilton Columbus – Worthington

MAY (date to be determined)
OPGA Day at the State House
Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square

MAY (date to be determined)
Quarterly Membership Meeting
Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square

JULY 28-30
Great Lakes Propane Convention
JW Marriott – Grand Rapids, Michigan

OCTOBER 29
Quarterly Membership Meeting
DoubleTree by Hilton Columbus – Worthington

For more information and updates about these events, please visit [www.OhioPropaneGas.org](http://www.OhioPropaneGas.org) and check back regularly throughout the year.