

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ballston Spa Receives Funding from NYSERDA for Propane Buses

Funds Will Help District Reduce Environmental Emissions

The Ballston Spa Central School District has received \$63,165 from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to help the district reduce emissions in its bus fleet, the district announced today. The funding will allow the district to purchase three propane school buses and to install a propane fueling station at the district's transportation facility on Route 50, just south of the Village of Ballston Spa.

Dr. Joseph P. Dragone, Superintendent of Schools, indicated that "NYSERDA is a great partner and is to be commended for their commitment to our environment and the safe, healthy transportation of students in the Ballston Spa Central School District."

NYSERDA will fund this project through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds awarded to NYSERDA by the U.S. Department of Energy. NYSERDA received \$13.3 million in Clean Cities funding for the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuel infrastructure in December 2009. Other projects that are part of NYSERDA's award include school districts, private fleets, county and municipal governments, utilities, and universities. In total, this award will help NYSERDA put over 400 alternative fuel vehicles and close to 100 alternative fueling stations into service.

NYSERDA's President and CEO Frank Murray said, "I commend the leaders of the Ballston Spa Central School District for their commitment to providing a cleaner environment for their students and for the community. Investments like these will help stimulate our economy while reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. We are grateful to our congressional delegation for securing these critical funds and for working to support school districts' efforts to set a positive example of environmental stewardship for students."

The district continues to focus on partnerships with business and non-profit organizations throughout the area as part of the Partnership for Innovation in Education program. NYSERDA has emerged as a driving force in the arena. NYSERDA was involved in the regional STEM 2010 Expo, which was hosted at the Ballston Spa High School and highlighted science, technology, engineering and mathematics career options for students, and has supported STEM initiatives in the classroom. Dr. Dragone said these efforts have been invaluable to the district as it addresses the emerging technologies and preparing students for 21st century learning and the future workforce.