

Michigan DEQ Awards Grant to fund the “Hopkins Cares for Clean Air” Project.

Hopkins Schools is receiving a helping hand from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in its efforts to provide a clean air environment for our students and community. In April, Hopkins proposed project “Hopkins Cares for Clean Air” was accepted by the Michigan DEQ and grant funds were awarded to make a cleaner air environment for Hopkins.

The project addressed our air quality in Allegan County and the impact school bus emissions have on particle matter and greenhouse gasses. The goal of the project is to reduce emissions in our community by replacing two older model school buses with two new school buses that have improved emission ratings. The grant award reimburses the school up to 25% the cost of the new buses to encourage improved emission engines on the road and accelerate decommissioning of less efficient engines. In May, our new model year 2020 School buses #2 and #15 were placed in service and two engine year 2004 School buses have been retired.

A school bus placed in service has a 10-12 year lifespan before it gets decommissioned from the fleet. The Hopkins Cares for Clean Air project utilized the DEQ’s emissions quantifier tools to calculate the reduction in emissions over the span of a year, but more importantly to look at the tons per year emissions reductions over the lifetime of a school bus in our fleet. The impact this grant award has on our environment will be immediate and continue to be a benefit for years.

Hopkins Schools strives to be a good steward of the environment we educate within. We would like to thank the State of Michigan DEQ for partnering with us in our efforts to care for clean air.

