



Investing in Zero-Emission School Buses

As Congress is making overdue investments in our nation's infrastructure, they have an opportunity to invest in a healthier future with electric school buses. Clean, electric school buses are better for kids' health.

Air Pollution and Kids' Health

- Children's brains and respiratory systems are especially sensitive to the toxics in diesel exhaust.
- Studies show exposure to air pollution is detrimental to children's lung function and educational attainment.¹²
- Black and Hispanic communities are exposed to disproportionately high levels of particle pollution and its resulting health effects.³

Diesel School Bus Emissions

- 480,000 school buses are on the road nationwide, traveling 3.5 billion miles annually. 95% of school buses are diesel-powered.
- Diesel emissions contain a variety of toxics: nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, benzene, and 1,3-butadiene.
- Diesel engine exhaust is carcinogenic to humans, based on sufficient evidence that exposure is associated with an increased risk for lung cancer.⁴

Investing in a Healthier Future

- Electric school buses have no tailpipe exhaust, so they don't emit air pollution that harms children's health.
- They have the potential to eliminate millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year.
- The transportation sector is a leading source of greenhouse gases. School bus electrification is an important part of making the air healthier for everyone, especially children.
- Electric school buses can save school districts money in the long term. But many schools rely on unhealthy, polluting diesel because the initial costs can be high.

Congress investing at least \$20 billion will jump-start a transition to electric school buses and make the technology more affordable for local school districts.

Widespread Support for Electric School Buses⁵

- » 68% of voters support a \$20 billion federal investment to transition from diesel-powered school buses to zero-emission school buses.
- » 72% of voters would prefer electric school buses in their own communities instead of diesel.
- » 82% of voters say reducing air pollution around children is not a partisan issue, it's just common sense.

¹ Berhane K, Chang C-C, McConnell R, Gauderman JW, et al. Association of Changes in Air Quality with Bronchitic Symptoms in Children in California, 1993-2012. JAMA. 2016; 315: 1491-1501.

² <https://www.atsjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1164/rccm.201410-1924OC>

³ U.S. EPA, 2019, section 12.5.4

⁴ https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr213_E.pdf

⁵ <https://www.lung.org/media/press-releases/zero-emissions-school-buses>