

A yellow school bus is shown with its side door open. A young girl in a pink jacket and blue pants is walking up the steps into the bus. A young boy in a blue and white jacket and khaki pants is running towards the camera in the foreground. The background is slightly blurred, showing green foliage.

ALLOWING ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES AS AN OPTION

Rep. Sarinana, Senator Soules 7/24/2024

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WHY ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES?

New Mexico school districts should have the option to renew aging diesel buses with clean Electric School buses, overcoming disincentives to adopt them. It would advance these legislative priorities:

1. Improve physical and mental health for ALL New Mexico students (thus addressing Yazzie Martinez mandates and absenteeism).
2. Reduce recurring transportation and energy costs, allowing districts to repurpose those dollars to the classroom.
3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help grid resilience, and place more public charging stations in rural communities.



ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES:

The BIG OPPORTUNITY

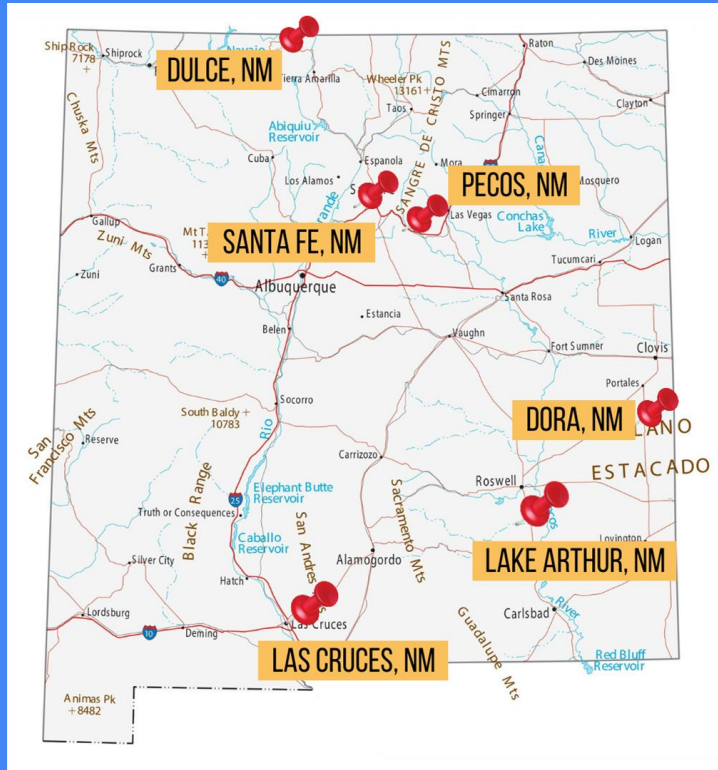
The Clean School Bus will distribute \$5 billion for Electric school buses. The EPA program funding falls short of the full purchase price for ESB's and required charging infrastructure.

For five buses, the grants were short \$359,064.85 of actual costs, which the Las Cruces Public Schools made up from their own budget. If they had replaced a diesel with a new diesel, 100% of the costs would have been paid.

New Mexico has 2,007 school buses, of which more than 300 are retired each year. Districts have no costs and need do very little to replace an aged-out bus with another diesel. It takes more work and local funds to choose electric buses because adopting new technologies also requires more work than the status quo. The process should be just as easy for Electric as for Diesel buses!

THERE IS ONLY TWO MORE YEARS OF THE EPA PROGRAM – LET'S NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

FIVE NEW MEXICO DISTRICTS GO ELECTRIC VIA EPA PROGRAM INCLUDING SANTA FE



LCPS

Las Cruces Public Schools awarded \$2M in federal money for electric school buses

Algernon D'Amassa
Las Cruces Sun-News
Published 1:38 p.m. MT Oct. 27, 2022

School districts embrace electric buses
Efforts to make school buses greener are gaining momentum thanks to billions of dollars in spending in the federal infrastructure plan. (Oct. 29 AP)

LAS CRUCES – New Mexico's second-largest school district, the Las Cruces Public Schools, has been awarded nearly \$2 million to purchase electric school buses under a federal rebate program.

LCPS was one of five school districts in New Mexico awarded funds under the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program, alongside smaller

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S&P 500 4,109.36 -27.87 (-0.67%) Dow 30 32,422.42 365.89 (+1.13%) Nasdaq 12,601.22 -5.61 (-0.04%) Russell 2000 1,636.16 -20.84 (-1.26%) Crude Oil 85.76 -2.55 (-2.94%)

Eastern New Mexico News, Clovis, N.M.

Dora schools get grant for electric school buses

Eastern New Mexico News, Clovis, N.M.
October 29, 2022 · 2 min read

Oct. 29—SANTA FE — The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Wednesday announced the award of funding for five New Mexico school districts to buy 12 electric school buses.

According to a news release from New Mexico Senator Martin Heinrich, founder and co-chair of the Electrification Caucus said, "I am thrilled to welcome this first round of funding for the Clean School Bus Program."

"Electric school buses save New Mexico school districts money," Tammy Fiebelkorn, New Mexico Representative of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project said.

Nena Benavidez, Co-Founding Director of Creciendo Nuevo México and resident of Grant County said, "This is a tremendous opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint and protect our rural environment."

The news release reported the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included \$5 billion to help

Albuquerque Public Schools were awarded 20 Electric buses in the 2024 awards. There are now thirty Electric School buses running or on order at present in N.M.

NM LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT ON SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION REPORT RECOMMENDS ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

“Build a funding mechanism for electric school buses. ... The legislature can provide funding for electric school buses, ... State funds for electric school buses should be provided for districts that are ready to proceed with electric buses ...”

*Study of the Public School Transportation Distribution
LESC Oct 12, 2023*



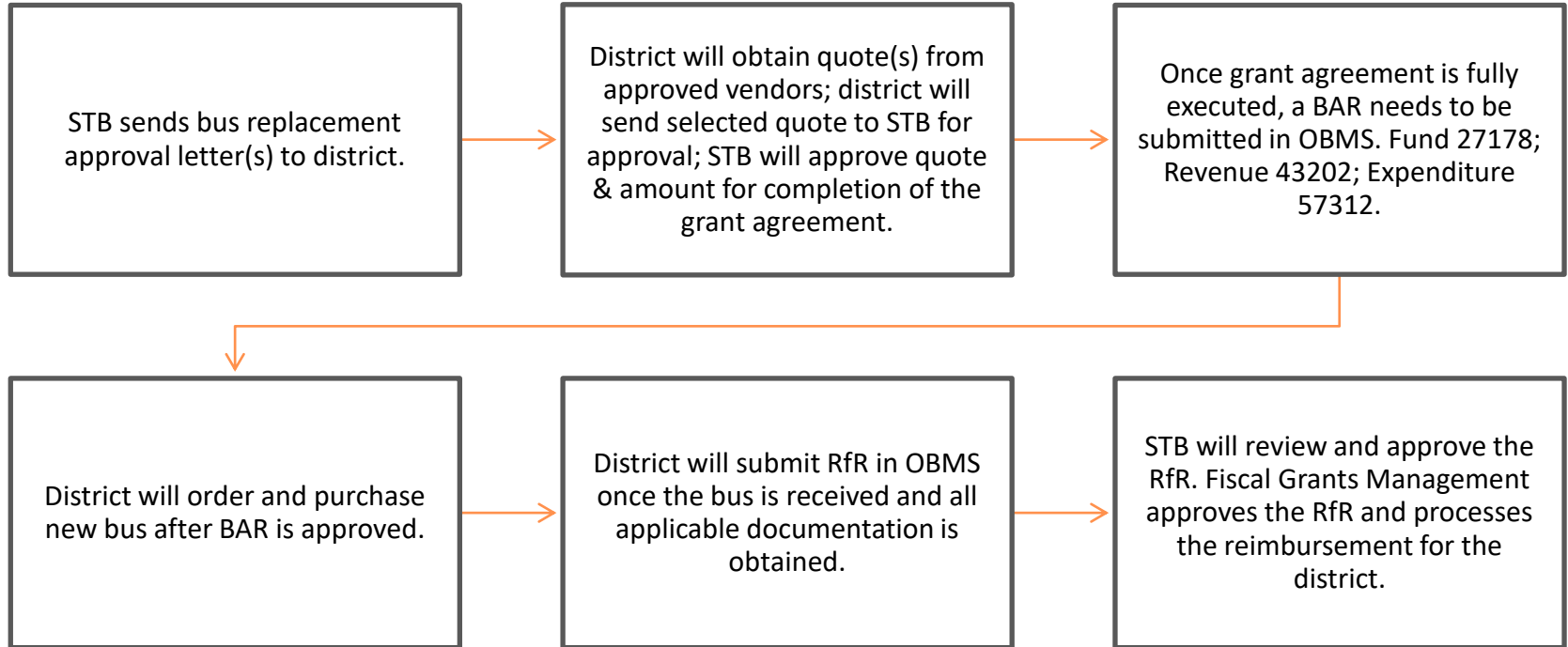
N.M. IS PROVIDING SOME HELP TO DISTRICTS

- SB 275 (2024) included funds to help school districts navigate the entirely new process of designing and installing the new technology needed for Electric School Buses.
- \$1,500,000 to plan, design, and construct infrastructure for fueling and charging stations for alternatively fueled buses statewide.



Bus Replacements

District Owned Flowchart *(courtesy of the P.E.D.)*



COLORADO IS LEADING N.M. W/\$65 MILLION FOR ESB'S! OTHER STATES GOING 100% ELECTRIC!

CO SB22-193 (enacted 2022): created the electrifying school buses grant program to award grant money to school districts to help finance the purchase and maintenance of electric-powered school buses, charging infrastructure, the retirement of fossil-fuel-powered school buses.

FIVE OTHER STATES ARE SWITCHING OUT THEIR ENTIRE BUS FLEETS TO ELECTRIC AS THEIR OLD ONES AGE-OUT!

THE BILL (HB75, 2024) DOES NOT PROVIDE EXTRA FUNDING SUFFICIENT FOR ELECTRIC BUSES WHICH ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. E.P.A. CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM. OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION MAY EMERGE TO ACCOMPLISH THAT.



**SANTA FE EXPECTS ENORMOUSLY
REDUCED FUEL COSTS –
UP TO \$15,000 ANNUALLY FOR BUSES
THEY WILL RUN ON THEIR LONGER ROUTES.**

Currently running their bus on a route up to 89 miles long, Santa Fe has plans for running even longer routes to gain greater fuel savings. *“Our move to electric school buses is great for the environment and, most importantly, our students. “*

Santa Fe Public Schools
Superintendent Chavez





DIESEL SCHOOL BUSES EXHAUST CAN HARM STUDENTS

Increasing evidence has demonstrated the toxic effects of ultrafine particles, including those emitted from the bus itself. Cancers as well as Asthma are linked.

Children are particularly at risk because of their immature respiratory systems and higher breathing rates per body mass.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INCREASES WITH CLEANER BUSES!

NBER WORKING PAPER SERIES

SCHOOL BUS EMISSIONS, STUDENT HEALTH, AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Wes Austin
Garth Heutel
Daniel Kreisman

Working Paper 25641
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w25641>

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH
1050 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
March 2019

We thank the GaDER program for assistance in identifying retrofits. We thank Jonathan Smith, Ariell Zimran, and seminar participants at TEAM-Fest, the Southern Economics Association annual meeting, and the University of South Carolina for helpful comments. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Bureau of Economic Research.

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Districts see significant test score gains in English and smaller gains in math after their districts retrofitted older diesel buses. “Results suggest that engine retrofits [and zero emission ESB’s] can have meaningful and cost-effective impacts on health and cognitive functioning.”

MORE \$ FOR OUR STUDENT'S EDUCATION, LESS WASTED ON RISING FUEL COSTS!

A school district operating an electric school bus can expect to see over \$100,000 in lifetime fuel and maintenance savings, compared to an equivalent diesel bus. This can help offset the currently higher purchase price of an ESB. The more miles driven by each bus, the greater the savings!



A RESOURCE FOR DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES!

Vehicle to Grid: 14 States

Last fall, Highland Electric Fleets and Thomas Built Buses helped supply **electricity back to the grid** for the first time in Massachusetts. The electric school bus discharged nearly 3 megawatt-hours of electricity total to the regional electric grid over the course of 30 events this summer.

“We help with storing energy and stabilizing our local grid using the energy stored in the bus batteries,” said an official of the Cajon Valley Union School District (CVUSD) near San Diego, which transports 1,000 students and has seven electric school buses (ESBs) in its fleet.

COLD WEATHER, ROUGH MOUNTAIN ROADS NOT AN OBSTACLE

“The elevation at our bus garage is 7,500 feet, and my route is above 9,000 feet. ... I am impressed by its power when it climbs the long and steep Gore Pass on my route. This pass is rarely plowed..., and the electric bus’s performance has been excellent. **Despite poor road conditions, the electric bus has never had any issues.**”

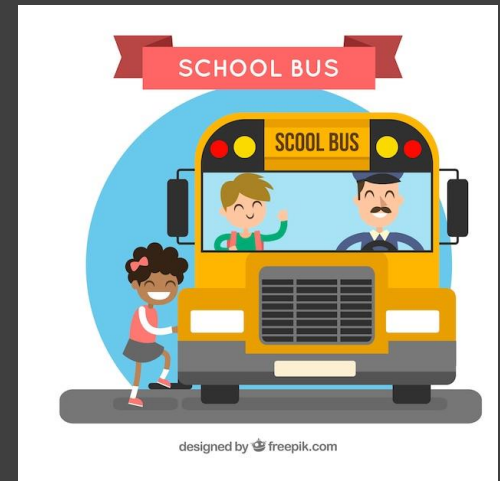
Bethany Aurin Transportation Director, West Grand School District, Colorado



DRIVERS LOVE THE BUSES

Electric school buses drive just like their gasoline and diesel counterparts – and, in many ways, are actually simpler to drive. There are no gears to worry about. EVs are also early silent – with less noise, vibration and harshness than is typically associated with diesel or gasoline drivetrains.

Drivers can hear more of what's going on in the bus, visibility can be improved due to fewer constraints from engine placement, and both students and drivers are less stressed from quieter rides.



ALLOWING DISTRICTS TO GO ELECTRIC IS A WIN WIN, WIN



- **ACT NOW SO DISTRICTS CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LAST TWO YEARS OF THE FEDERAL FUNDS!!**
- Provides a cleaner, healthier bus ride for students.
- Provides a path to reduce future state transportation funding to school districts. Fighting inflation!
- Provides a funding mechanism so that a district does not have to spend more money to adopt an ESB than it does to buy a diesel or gasoline bus. The process would be just as easy as applying for funds to buy a diesel bus