



Health Impacts of School Buses

Benefits of Transitioning to Zero-Emission School Buses

November 2024

“Wheels on the Bus” Video



The “Big Picture”

- Millions of children are transported by school buses
- Diesel exhaust is harmful, especially for children
- The vast majority of the nation’s 490,000 school buses are diesel-powered

Why are Kids Particularly Vulnerable?

- Children's brains and respiratory systems are still growing and developing. They 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.

Unequal Burdens of Diesel Pollution

- Low-income families and communities of color more likely to rely on school buses. They are more likely to be exposed to other sources of air pollution as well.
- Black and Hispanic communities are disproportionately impacted by certain health issues (like asthma) that increase their risk of harm from diesel pollution.

Why Electric School Buses?

- Electric school buses have no tailpipe exhaust, so they don't emit air pollution that harms children's health.
- The transportation sector is a leading source of greenhouse gases. Electric school buses have the potential to eliminate millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year.
- 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 higher.

2021 Polling on Electric School Buses

Toplines:

Strong and Broad Support for Transition to Electric School Buses

- **72%** would prefer electric school buses over diesel in their own community
- **70% & 71%** see school bus electrification as key investments in infrastructure & economy, respectively.

Transitioning to Electric School Buses

- The American Lung Association supports the transition to zero-emission transportation across the board, including electric school buses.
- We support Congress allocating funding for electric school buses in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021, which created EPA's Clean School Bus Program. We encourage states to take advantage of grants and rebates offered through this program.