



# 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	Diesel School Bus Emissions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children's brains and respiratory systems are especially sensitive to the toxics in diesel exhaust.</li><li>• Studies show exposure to air pollution is detrimental to children's lung function and educational attainment.<sup>12</sup></li><li>• Black and Hispanic communities are exposed to disproportionately high levels of particle pollution and its resulting health effects.<sup>3</sup></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 480,000 school buses are on the road nationwide, traveling 3.5 billion miles annually. 95% of school buses are diesel-powered.</li><li>• Diesel emissions contain a variety of toxics: nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, benzene, and 1,3-butadiene.</li><li>• Diesel engine exhaust is carcinogenic to humans, based on sufficient evidence that exposure is associated with an increased risk for lung cancer.<sup>4</sup></li></ul>

## 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 Buses<sup>5</sup>

- » 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> U.S. EPA, 2019, section 12.5.4

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr213\\_E.pdf](https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr213_E.pdf)

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