

The Case for Electric School Buses

Diesel fueled school buses have long been the workhorses of school transportation. However, their longtime presence masks many hidden costs that affect children's health, school budgets and energy efficiency. Improvements in electric vehicle technology have now made electric school buses not only a healthier choice, but a cost-effective one, too.



The electric school bus market is growing and the technology's benefits have been proven:



Great Performance

Electric buses have proven their performance in all types of terrain and weather.



Healthier

Electric school bus motors produce zero emissions. This means cleaner, healthier air while kids wait to board the bus and inside the cabin.



Cleaner

Switching a vehicle from diesel to electric power can reduce a vehicle's CO2 emissions by 71%.



Cheaper to Run

Switching from a diesel bus to an electric bus can reduce the fueling costs of a vehicle by over 40%.



Quieter

Electric school buses are much quieter, allowing drivers better communication with and oversight of students.

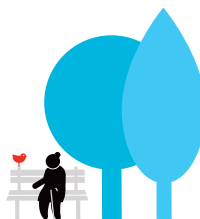


Safe

Electric school buses are built and tested by the same standards as any other school bus on the road.

Think electric school buses are a fit for your community?

Turn the sheet to review our tips on getting started.



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Getting Started

Electric school bus technology offers a great alternative to the traditional way of operating school bus service. Here are some important considerations on how to start the process of bringing electric school buses to your community.



Engage stakeholders

Implementing new technology involves a broad group of stakeholders, including school administrative and finance staff, transportation and facility departments including drivers and mechanics, and parents.



Find funding

The price of an electric school bus is often a deterrent. However, many states have incentives or vouchers that can be used to offset the cost of the bus. Other funding sources may include air quality, settlement funds, or private foundations.



Coordinate with your electric utility

Hosting an electric school bus can have an impact on how much you pay for electricity and the type of electrical infrastructure you need at your site. Your electrical utility can help you navigate these decisions.



Create an operations and charging plan

When assigning an electric school bus, transportation staff should consider individual route lengths, the range of an electric school bus, and the time needed to recharge the bus.



Map out installation of charging station

The site of your charging station should be carefully planned. Chargers need access to 3-phase power, so locating the charger close to the building will help minimize costs.



Consider your needs

There are some situations where eliminating fossil fuels entirely might not be feasible. For example, school districts in cold climates might want to purchase a bus with a propane or diesel auxiliary heater.



Investigate procurement options

You can purchase an electric school bus similar to the way you buy a diesel bus. Some states already have electric school buses listed on their state procurement contracts.



Engage drivers and mechanics

As part of getting the buses on the road, schools should work with bus manufacturers to make sure they have the proper support and training to be successful.

Visit www.veic.org/eschoolbus for more information including:

- Funding options and opportunities
- Information on bus types
- Charging station installation guide
- Draft bus specifications



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