

100% Clean School Buses

HB 1368 / SB 5431 +

Climate Commitment Act Funding



All school kids should be able to get a healthy and safe ride to school.

Diesel pollution causes cancer, contributes to lung and other chronic diseases, and triggers asthma attacks. Yet, almost all of our 12,000+ school buses in Washington currently run on diesel. The pollution from these buses is especially harmful to kids with still-developing lungs. In fact, the **air pollution inside a school bus can be 4 to 12 times higher than outside!**¹ Children from low-income families and with medical conditions are more likely to take the bus to school, exacerbating existing health disparities and making local air quality worse. We can and must change this to protect kids and our communities.

The Legislature can and should ensure all Washington kids can get a clean and healthy ride to school by requiring **zero-emission school bus purchases when owning and operating them is cheaper than a diesel bus.**

This is expected to happen in the next five or so years! Zero-emission school buses are being manufactured right now and are at the ready. Six other states have transitions in law—we can too!

Through the Climate Commitment Act, we can help fund this transition, help our schools, and improve our kids' health. Using **\$80 million from the supplemental budget**, we can help meet the need and growing demand for clean buses. Last year, 182 electric school buses were waitlisted for federal grants and Washington State can step in to purchase these buses right now. Schools are ready to transition, but they need the Legislature's help.

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Zero-emission school buses are healthy.

Cutting tailpipe pollution from school buses improves kids' academic performance,² improves the air quality around schools and neighborhoods, and reduces air pollution that contributes to approximately 15,000 premature deaths annually³.

Zero-emission school buses are necessary to meet our climate targets.

Climate pollution from diesel in Washington has nearly doubled since 1990 and Washington's school bus fleet is likely responsible for more than 150,000 metric tons of climate pollution each year. To reduce climate impacts today and in the future, we need to transition off diesel as soon as possible.

Zero-emission school buses are ready to do the job.

More than 1,500 electric school buses are operating across the country—from Alaska to Arizona—with more than 70 on the road or ordered in Washington. There are 24 electric school bus models from 9 manufacturers available today.

Zero-emission school buses are resilient.

Thanks to their batteries, these buses can serve as mobile power sources in the case of energy outages.

Zero-emission school buses are quiet.

School bus drivers consistently report that one of their favorite things about driving zero-emission school buses is that they are quiet. Drivers can hear the kids, it's safer, and it reduces stress—leading to noticeably improved behavior.

Zero-emission school buses will protect our kids' health and the bus drivers' too.

¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0167629611000701#bib0190>

² https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w25641/w25641.pdf

³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0167629611000701#bib0190>