

# SUPPORT THE CLEAN SCHOOL BUS BILL

Proposed Clean School Bus legislation would amend the existing Texas Clean School Bus program to allow schools and districts to 1) lower costs and create new revenue sources through the adoption of electric bus fleets, solar and battery storage technology and 2) reduce the exposure of school children to diesel exhaust. These efforts promote public health, as well as reliability, and cost-savings for the electric grid. The bill removes barriers to new business models, including public-private partnerships.

## Electric school buses save school districts on fuel and lifetime maintenance costs.

- ★ Switching from a diesel bus to an electric bus can save school districts as much as \$170,000 per bus in fuel and maintenance costs over the lifetime of the vehicle.<sup>1</sup> These funds can instead be used to support student education.
- ★ “Fuel costs are even lower than what we projected before purchasing the buses. One hundred percent of our administration is on board with electric buses.” – Jason Gillis, Transportation Director at Everman ISD
- ★ Transitioning passenger vehicles, transit and school buses, delivery vans and the broad trucking sector away from combustion (gasoline and diesel power) can provide \$72 billion in the value of health benefits by 2050.<sup>2</sup> – The American Lung Association

## Electric school buses protect children from harmful diesel emissions.

- ★ A child riding inside of a diesel school bus may be exposed to 4 times the level of toxic diesel exhaust as a person riding in a car next to it. Electric school buses prevent children from being exposed to diesel emissions during school transit, which could be more than 120 hours a year. Adopting electric vehicles can improve air quality more substantially than just a diesel retrofit program, as electric buses can eliminate tailpipe emissions altogether.<sup>3</sup>

## Electric buses are an investment in resiliency and emergency management.

- ★ Electric school buses are mobile batteries, which means electricity can be stored and taken from them as needed. In times of an emergency outage, buses can be utilized as generators to power schools or other emergency operations. In the future, schools could possibly utilize these buses during power outages to keep students safe and maintain essential functions like food storage.

[1] <https://pirg.org/texas/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/TX-Paying-for-Electric-Buses.pdf>

[2] Id.

[3] <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/99cc945c-47f2-4ba9-ba59-14c311ca332a/electric-vehicle-report.pdf>

# WHAT DOES THE CLEAN SCHOOL BUS BILL DO?

## Amends §34.009 Education Code

- ★ Enhances affordability by extending contract terms from 10 years to 15 years.
- ★ Extends eligible projects to include school bus conversion and electric bus charging infrastructure.

## Amends §390.003 - §390.005 Health and Safety Code

- ★ Extends grant eligibility to private entities that lease school buses, provide school bus services or supporting infrastructure.
- ★ Directs the commission to prioritize projects that achieve the greatest reductions in diesel exhaust, especially particulate matter.
- ★ Directs the commission to ensure at least 75% of grant funds are allocated to purchase electric school buses or convert diesel buses into electric buses.
- ★ Establishes criteria for which buses are eligible for replacement.
- ★ Allows the use of grant funds for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.