



Electric School Bus Statement

Patty Frazier, NYSPTA
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Good afternoon! I am Patty Frazier, Treasurer of the New York State Parent Teacher Association.

On behalf of the parents and families of our 2.6 million public school children, we thank the many policy makers working every day to ensure our children are safe in our school buildings and homes, and on school buses.

This year we have worked alongside our fellow advocates on critical issues like lead free water for children and we continue to be concerned about PFA substances, forever chemicals, and how they affect our students.

It is critical that we continue to work to ensure clean and healthy air for children. As a parent, like many others, I relied on bus transportation for my children to attend school. Supporting ways to reduce transportation emissions and the release of other harmful pollutants into the atmosphere will help make a necessary aspect of our children's daily lives better.

Emission from diesel school buses and other transportation emissions impacts not only our children's physical wellbeing - helping cause diseases such as asthma- but also their mental health and their educational achievement and attainment. It can cause children anxiety around participating in activities such as PE classes or sports. Asthma is a leading factor in school absenteeism and missed class time. Children with asthma may perform worse in school exams and may leave school earlier, and research shows this is especially concerning for children in urban neighborhoods with poorly controlled symptoms- often children belonging to minority communities

We join our NY policy makers in calling for the funding of clean bus initiatives for our schools, as a part of the federal infrastructure negotiations. Electric school buses are the cleanest alternative available with 70% less greenhouse gas emissions than diesel buses and zero tailpipe emissions.

Our students and education staff deserve clean air!

For 125 years, the New York State PTA has advocated for laws to ensure the safety of our children including many long-standing positions for school bus safety. In 2017, NYS PTA launched our Every Child Travels Safely program. There is nothing more important than the health and wellness of our children --- together we can shine a light on every child with one voice.