



Zero-Emission School Bus Act

Overview This bill is about creating a **healthy, pollution free environment for our children**. HB 2945 and the -1 amendment creates a statewide program to support the transition to zero-emission school buses, providing \$20 million in funding and \$3 million in technical assistance to school districts. By replacing diesel buses with cleaner alternatives, the bill positions Oregon to lead in clean transportation, reduces transportation-related climate pollution, saving taxpayers in the long run and protects children's health.



A Healthier Ride for Over 300,000 Oregon Children

Every day, hundreds of thousands of Oregon kids ride school buses—many still powered by diesel, a known carcinogen. Children are especially vulnerable to diesel exhaust, which contributes to asthma, heart disease, and learning difficulties. HB 2945 puts kids first by investing in zero-emission school buses, which eliminate tailpipe pollution and help students arrive at school healthy and ready to learn.

Cost Savings for School Districts and Taxpayers:

Electric buses cost less to fuel and maintain over time—saving districts money while cutting pollution. HB 2945 includes \$3 million for technical assistance, ensuring that school districts—especially rural and under-resourced ones—can access funding, plan infrastructure, and make the switch efficiently.



How the Policy Works

- **Common-Sense Purchasing Rule:** School districts will only be required to buy zero-emission buses when the total cost of ownership is comparable to diesel. A flexible exemption process ensures districts can opt out when electric buses don't meet their operational needs—like long-range travel or limited charging access.
- **Upfront Investment:** The bill includes a \$20 million allocation for bus rebates and charging infrastructure, helping districts overcome cost barriers and plan ahead.
- **Support for Implementation:** It provides \$3 million per year for hands-on technical assistance, helping school districts transition from one electric bus to full fleet planning.



Benefits:

- **Healthier Kids:** Reduces exposure to harmful diesel pollution linked to asthma and respiratory illnesses.
- **Cleaner Air:** Electric buses eliminate diesel emissions, improving local air quality for schools and neighborhoods.
- **Climate Action:** Helps meet climate targets by cutting greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.
- **Cost Savings:** Lower fuel and maintenance costs over the bus's lifetime compared to diesel buses.
- **Green Jobs:** Supports local employment in clean energy sectors, from manufacturing to maintenance.

The -1 Amendment:

Feature	Original HB 2945	HB 2945 -1 Amendment
% Adoption Targets	Yes, fixed timelines	✗ Removed
Cost Parity Requirement (TCO)	Yes	✓ Retained & clarified
Flexibility/Exemptions	Limited	✓ Expanded, case-by-case
Equity (Disadvantaged focus)	40% funding set-aside	✗ Not included explicitly
Advisory Committee	No	✓ Added
Technical Assistance	Yes	✓ Retained
Funding	\$20M (buses), \$3M (assistance)	✓ Same amounts



For more information, please contact:

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