



Photo by: NY Mayors Office

Electric School Bus Deployment for NYCSBUS in NYC

This profile reflects the electric school bus deployment experience and perspective of NYCSBUS, a non-profit bus contractor in NYC.

Overview

NYC School Bus Umbrella Services (NYCSBUS), a non-profit bus contractor operating in NYC, has taken a bold step toward sustainability and clean transportation with the ongoing rollout of electric school buses. Spearheaded by their CEO, Matt Berlin, the initiative reflects NYC’s deep commitment to reducing its environmental impact while improving the student and staff experience.

As of March 2025, the NYCSBUS has added 21 Micro Bird Type A electric school buses and 6 Collins Type A buses to its fleet. Data on bus performance can be found at www.nycsbus.com/evar

Contact	Matt Berlin, CEO, NYC School Bus Umbrella Services
District Size	2,900 schools (1,569 are public schools)
Student Population Transported	10,000 students
Bus Fleet	800 buses

Charging Infrastructure

To support this new electric fleet, NYCSBUS has installed robust charging infrastructure that includes:

- 25 Level 2 (80 amp) Epic chargers
- Three Level 2 (48 amp) Epic chargers
- Two Portable “home use” Wall box chargers

All equipment and vehicles are owned outright by NYCSBUS. The district’s electric power is provided by Con Edison.

Funding Sources

This initiative has been made possible through a blend of funding sources, including NYCSBUS' own capital, NYC and federal funds, New York state environmental grants, and utility rebates.

Motivation

The district's transition to electric school buses has been largely driven by environmental concerns. The shift to electric vehicles represents a meaningful step in **reducing the district's carbon footprint** and **improving air quality**.

Implementation Challenges

1. **Adapting to the unique maintenance and performance characteristics of the new technology** powering electric school buses and chargers
2. **A steep and complex learning curve**, from permitting and infrastructure to training
3. **Maintaining team alignment, focus, and cohesion** across departments, requiring consistent coordination to keep the team moving in sync

Community Benefits

1. **Lower operational costs** due to savings on fuel and maintenance
2. **Increased morale** as the transition has energized the team and created a sense of shared purpose
3. **Positive feedback** from students and drivers are enjoying the quieter, cleaner ride

"I recommend an incremental approach for districts considering electric school buses. Start small. Get a few buses, get a few chargers, and start! Challenges can be addressed through persistence, a hands-on approach, constant learning, and open communication."



— Matt Berlin, CEO, NYC School Bus Umbrella Services