

From: Perry Gorgen, Business Administrator, Newfield Central School District

To: New York Times Letters to the Editor

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Dear editor,

Re “[Why Some Schools Are Hitting the Brakes on Electric Buses](#)” (Sept 23, 2026)

At Newfield Central School District in Tompkins County, we know about cold winters and long drives. We also know that electric school buses can make the grade in the New York cold. As the district’s business administrator, I saw it on full display this year.

I understand the frustration of the districts mentioned, but I hope readers also see that for others — like us here in rural New York — electric school buses have been a real bright spot.

Our buses run well year-round, even in freezing temperatures, with almost zero weather-related down time. We’ve also found they have better traction and warm up more easily than our diesel buses in winter. And our drivers love them, frequently requesting to get put on our electric routes instead of diesel.

As a rural district, it took some time to address our specific needs and make electrification cost-effective, but federal funding helped make the transition possible. Of course, every district has its own challenges, but our experience has shown us that electric school buses can work in rural New York. And importantly, I think it’s worth it to make sure our kids have clean rides to school.

Perry Gorgen
Newfield, New York