

From: Matthew Belasco, Executive Director, Site Support Services, Pittsburg Unified School District
Alan Glass, Retired Energy Manager, current Sustainability Consultant for District, Pittsburg Unified School District

To: New York Times Letters to the Editor

Friday, September 25, 2026

Dear editor,

Re "[Why Some Schools Are Hitting the Brakes on Electric Buses](#)" (Sept 26, 2026)

As the Executive Director of Site Support Services for Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD), and my associate, the retired Energy Manager and now the Sustainability Consultant for PUSD, we can empathize with any school district that has challenges with its buses. But here in Pittsburg, we've had a great experience with our electric school buses – and they've even helped us save money. Our buses are consistently on the road, picking up and dropping off students all around the District, and running with minimal work needed and with smooth operations.

Our electric buses cut pollution, so our kids breathe cleaner air. Furthermore, because electric school buses cost less for us to fuel and operate, we've got more money that can be invested in the classroom. Crucially, we were able to use funding from our utility and state funding sources to cover upfront costs, so we started seeing savings right away. Now, with diesel prices through the roof, we're saving even more. In addition, we have invested in solar arrays at all our school sites and most District facilities, which has aided in our cost avoidance of funds from our utility, making the operation and costs for electric school buses even more pronounced.

Of course, everyone has different circumstances. But we can say from personal experience that electric school buses are a smart investment for our scholars and our budget. Here in California, where diesel prices are the highest, we love ours. We will continue to expand our yellow fleet, as well as our white fleet (which is now over 70% EV), to keep the air cleaner and our savings from our investments more significant.

Matthew Belasco
Pittsburg, California

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