

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of Draft Bill SHB 1368 as edited for 2024

Requiring and funding the purchase of zero-emission school buses
(2024 Legislative Session)

Evidence indicates that Draft Bill SHB 1368 as edited for 2024 would likely result in some K-12 public schools and pupil transportation services contractors making all school buses purchased zero-emission by September 1, 2027, which would likely decrease environmental exposure to diesel exhaust, improve health outcomes, and decrease inequities for students, school staff, bus drivers, and communities.

DRAFT BILL INFORMATION

Summary of Draft Bill:

- Requires that all school buses purchased by public^a school districts, charter schools, state-tribal education compact schools, or used for pupil transportation services contracts be zero-emission school buses beginning September 1, 2027.
 - Establishes a one-time extension process for schools unable to meet the 2027 purchasing requirements.
 - Defines “zero-emission school bus” as one that produces zero exhaust emission of any air pollutant and any greenhouse gas other than water vapor.
- Requires the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to administer the electric school bus grant program and transition it to a formula-based grant available to all school districts beginning July 1, 2027, subject to the availability of funds appropriated.
- Directs the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to amend school bus purchasing protocols of public school districts to account for the 2027 zero-emission school bus purchasing requirements.
- Requires OSPI provide Ecology advice and recommendations to adjust the electric school bus grant program guidelines and administration with the objective of transitioning it from a competitive grant program to a formula-based program providing financial assistance to all school districts by 2027.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence for provisions in Draft Bill SHB 1368 2024 Edits:

- **Informed assumption** that requiring Ecology to administer the electric school bus grant program and transition it to a formula-based program would likely lead to some K-12 public

^a Throughout this Health Impact Review, “public school” includes K-12 public schools and districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools.

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schools and pupil transportation services contractors making all school buses purchased zero-emission by September 1, 2027. This assumption is based on current Zero Emission School Bus Grant program structures in Washington State and information from key informants.

- **Informed assumption** that requiring OSPI to adopt rules to require K-12 public schools to make all school buses purchased zero-emission by September 1, 2027, would likely lead to some K-12 public schools and pupil transportation services contractors meeting these requirements. This assumption is based on current school bus replacement program structures in Washington State and information from key informants.
- **Strong evidence** that some K-12 public schools and pupil transportation services contractors making all school buses purchased zero-emission by September 1, 2027 would likely lead to decreased environmental exposure to diesel exhaust for students, school staff, bus drivers, and communities.
- **Very strong evidence** that decreased environmental exposure to diesel exhaust for students, school staff, bus drivers, and communities would likely improve health outcomes.
- **Strong evidence** that improved health outcomes for students, school staff, bus drivers, and communities would likely decrease inequities.

*UPDATE TO PREVIOUS HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

This review is an update to the Health Impact Review completed for SHB 1368, Requiring and funding the purchase of zero-emission school buses (2023 Legislative Session) and reflects draft changes proposed for the bill. As part of this update, staff:

- Updated language to reflect requirements that all school buses purchased by public school districts, charter schools, state-tribal education compact schools, or used for pupil transportation services contracts be zero-emission school buses beginning September 1, 2027.
- Added language accounting for the transition of the electric school bus grant program from a competitive grant to a formula-based grant program available to all school districts.
- Completed key informant interviews with 3 state agency staff that work in air quality.
- Incorporated updated resources and research, as available.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review at

<https://sboh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/HIR-2024-06-SHB%201368%202024%20Edits.pdf>

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