

# SCHOOL BUS FUNDING

## PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCES

### State Government

Eleven states have no mandate to provide transportation to school. The remaining states have mandates that vary from low to high student percentages.

### Local Government

For many school districts, school transportation is a part of the educational system and school boards manage these budgets.

## IMPROVING THE FLEET

### Unfunded Mandates

Most required improvements are absorbed by local districts, contractors and communities.

### State and Federal Subsidies

Funding is sometimes available for making certain types of improvements, such as grants and subsidies for clean energy-buses.

### Other Improvements

Decisions about optional improvements—such as adding seat belts to the school bus fleet—are typically up to local school districts and may need to be absorbed entirely by them or their contractors.

## RESPONDING TO BUDGET CUTS

### Alternative Vehicles

Large vans and other alternatives are sometimes used, though they may not provide all the same safety features as large school buses.

### Charging Parents

In economically impacted areas, fee-based systems are typically impractical or ineffective.

### Reducing or Eliminating Services

Safety, access to school and environmental benefits to the community can be adversely affected by a reduction in school bus service.

## GARNERING SUPPORT

### Community Use

Demand supports justification for funding.

### District-Level Support

School and community members can educate each other on the value of the school bus.

### State-Level Support

State legislators, educational agencies and executive branches can be proactively engaged to support the school bus.

**SPREAD THE WORD. GET INVOLVED. SUPPORT THE SCHOOL BUS.**

For information and free resources to help support the school bus in your community, visit [schoolbusfacts.com](http://schoolbusfacts.com).

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FACTS  
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[schoolbusfacts.com](http://schoolbusfacts.com)

