



AMERICAN SCHOOL BUS COUNCIL™

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Saving Money, Saving the Environment and Saving Fuel *School Bus Industry Issues Impact Analysis for 2008*

Washington, DC (December 10, 2008) – Each day, the American School Bus Council (ASBC) estimates that more than 26 million students rely on school bus transportation to get to and from school. In 2008, more than 480,000 yellow school buses across the nation transported those students and spared nearly 2.3 billion gallons of fuel and saved families more than \$7.3 billion in fuel costsⁱ, allowing families to save money while reducing their carbon footprint.

In a recent survey of parentsⁱⁱ, the ASBC found that eighty seven percent (87%) of parents in the United States agree that the school bus is the only reliable form of transportation for many students and without it, the ability of students to access the education system is limited.

“We have long known school bus transportation to be the safest way for students to get to and from school each day, but these recent findings further demonstrate how vital they are to communities, not only because they provide access to education, but because they save on fuel costs and allow parents to divert those dollars elsewhere,” said Charlie Hood, State Director of Transportation for the Florida Department of Education and member of the ASBC.

Each year, the school bus industry continues to make efforts to provide the safest and most environmentally-friendly transportation available to and from school. Not only have leading federal authorizes agreed that the school bus is the safest form of transportation, but the ASBC estimates that a teenager living 5 miles from school and driving a 2008 Honda Civic can reduce their carbon footprint dramatically - from 1.27 tons of CO₂ by driving to school to 0.12 tons by taking the bus (less than one-tenth as much).

“Each day, school buses across the country take more than half the school age population to school without incident,” added Barry Stock, president of the National School Transportation Association and member of ASBC. “So we weren’t surprised when seventy percent (70%) of parents indicated that they see the school bus transportation system as a great convenience. As we round out 2008 and look to the economic reports for 2009, the school bus industry looks forward to continuing to offer families a safe and economical way to transport our children to school each day.”

Among the other finding reported by the ASBC as part of its 2008 analysis:

Fuel Savings

- 17.3 million: Total number of private vehicles needed to transport students currently riding on all school buses.
- 822 million gallons per year: Total fuel used by school bus fleet

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National Association for
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- \$3.4 billion per year: Total cost of fuel used by the U.S. school bus fleet
- \$131 per year: Cost of fuel per child transported by school bus
- 3.1 billion gallons per year: Total fuel for cars replaced by buses
- \$11.4 billion per year: Cost of fuel for cars replaced by school buses
- 62.4 billion: total annual car mileage saved by students riding school buses
- 346.6 million: total daily car mileage saved by students riding school buses
- 36: average number of cars needed to transport students currently riding one school bus

Environmental Impact

New diesel engine standards make today's buses 98 percent less polluting than buses manufactured just two decades ago. In addition, thousands of older buses have been modified to use high tech filters and catalysts to reduce emissions by up 90 percent.

About the American School Bus Council

The American School Bus Council is a coalition of the school transportation industry -- including public and private transportation providers, school bus manufacturers and state officials responsible for pupil transportation. Council members are committed to providing safe, effective, efficient and healthy transportation for the more than 26 million schoolchildren who ride more than 480,000 school buses each day.

The Council's members include [NAPT](#) (National Association for Pupil Transportation), [NASDPTS](#) (National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services), [NSTA](#) (National School Transportation Association), [Blue Bird Corp.](#) of Fort Valley, Ga., [IC Corporation](#) of Warrenville, Ill., and [Thomas Built Buses](#) of High Point, N.C.

The American School Bus Council was formed in 2006 to educate parents, school officials and lawmakers about the essential role the yellow school bus plays in the safety, health, security and readiness of America's schoolchildren. Council members advocate for increased school transportation funding and advances industry standards on safety, security, environment, energy and access to education that are above and beyond state and federal law.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.americanschoolbuscouncil.org.

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ⁱ Based on average monthly diesel and regular gas prices from January through November 2008, according to the Energy Information Administration. Diesel: <http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/hist/DDR001m.htm>; Regular: http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/hist/mg_rt_usm.htm

ⁱⁱ Based on an internet survey conducted in August 2008 of parents who have children 5-18 living at home. Research was conducted by Penn, Schoen and Berland.

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