



Our community is not powerless against those who pollute our air and harm our health.

### WHAT CAN WE DO?

#### A) INVESTIGATE

Make sure that your school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is aware of the health risks of riding old, dirty school buses and that Local Law 42 requires cleaner buses. See our other brochures for more information about Local Law 42.



#### B) TELEPHONE

Call the New York City Department of Education's Office of Pupil Transportation at **718-482-3810**, and demand they only sign contracts with school bus companies having the cleanest buses.



If your child attends a private or parochial school, call the school to demand they only sign contracts with school bus companies having the cleanest buses.

#### C) ORGANIZE

Call WEACT and FABB to work together to get cleaner buses on the road



**WE MUST DEMAND THE BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN AND SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS**

### HOW TO DO IT?—TOGETHER

WEACT and FABB want to work with you to transform the school bus fleet in NYC. To find out more about our Rosa Parks School Bus Diesel Conversion Campaign

Contact:

#### WE ACT for Environmental Justice (WE ACT)

271 West 125th Street, Suite 308  
New York, NY 10027-4424  
Phone: (212) 961-1000 ext 317  
Fax: (212) 961-1015

Or

#### For A Better Bronx

199 Lincoln Ave.  
Suite 214  
Bronx, NY 10454  
Phone: (718) 292-4344  
Fax: (718) 665-0833

To **join us** in spreading the word and talking to neighbors about the cleanup of our city's school buses...

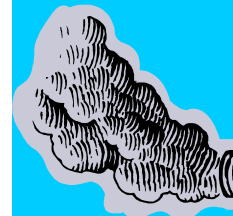
To find out more about **Local Law 42**...

To ask for a **workshop** about asthma, and the environment, diesel bus conversion, or other neighborhood issues, please call either organization...



## Rosa Parks School Bus Diesel Conversion Campaign

### School Bus Diesel and Children's Health



Asthma Delivery



Diesel

In the spirit of Rosa Parks, our unified communities can work together to achieve safe, healthy, and positive schools for students, staff, and bus drivers. This is part of our sustained goal of environmental justice.

WEACT for Environmental Justice  
And  
For A Better Bronx  
With the Generous Support of Union Square Awards

## WHAT IS DIESEL?

Diesel fuel is used in many heavy-load vehicles, like trucks, most buses (including our school buses), airplanes, and ships, as well as in the portable generators that are used at construction sites. It's also used to heat many homes and buildings.



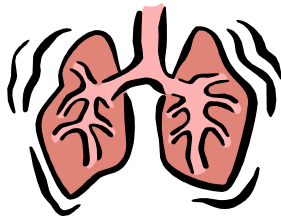
## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH IT?

The exhaust (smoke) coming from diesel engines can hurt our lungs and make us sick.



The **toxic chemical gases and the fine particles (soot) that are in diesel exhaust...**

- Irritate and congest our breathing tubes and lungs
- Cause coughs, bronchitis and infections
- Trigger asthma and allergy attacks
- Bring on cancer and many other serious illnesses—including heart and lung disease.



## WHO IS MOST AT RISK?

### Our Students

Who breathe these pollutants when getting on and off the bus, and when they ride to school, because the **pollution concentrates inside of the bus cabin.**



### Our Drivers

Who are exposed inside the bus like the children, but they sit on buses for even longer periods of time.

This is in addition to the everyday stress and responsibility of making sure our children get to school and home safely.

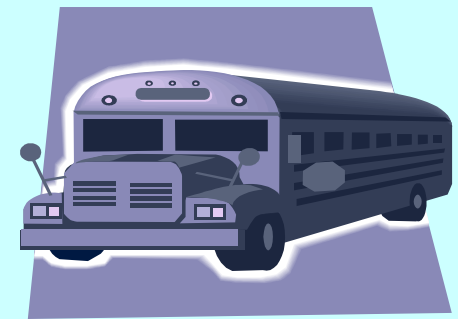
In communities like Harlem and the South Bronx, **one out of every four children has asthma.**

Riding the school bus and breathing the dirty air **can make their asthma worse.**

**ALL OF OUR STUDENTS WITH ASTHMA ARE AT RISK**

## The School Buses School Bus Pollution and Your Health

- New York City operates 6200 school buses, which is the largest fleet in the country.
- **School buses are one of the biggest polluters on the road.** They run on diesel fuel, which gives off dangerous exhaust. It not only affects the outside air, but the air inside the school bus cabin becomes polluted too.
- School buses drive with all the doors and windows shut, so the pollution stays trapped inside. Studies show that children inside the bus are exposed to four times more toxic exhaust than children standing outside the bus.
- **It is especially dangerous to children** because they breathe in more air than adults, so they take in more of the pollutants. Also, their respiratory and immune systems are still developing, so harmful air can affect how well their lungs grow.



**WE NEED TO STOP THE HARMFUL EXPOSURE OF DIESEL EXHAUST TO OUR CHILDREN AND SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS**