



444 West 23rd Street, Merced, CA 95340
Phone (209) 385-6600 Fax (209) 385-6393



Board of Education: Priya Lakireddy, President; Ann-Marie Delgado, Clerk; Tsia Xiong, Allen Brooks, Beatrice McCutchen
Superintendent: Julianna Stocking

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Contact: Dominique Zuniga

dazuniga@mcsd.k12.ca.us

MCSD Completes Electric Vehicle Charger Infrastructure Project to Power Zero-Emission School Bus Fleet

Merced City School District (MCSD) has successfully completed its Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Infrastructure Project, marking a major milestone in the District's commitment to sustainability and clean transportation. The project, led by our Director of Maintenance, Operation and Transportation, Dr. Doug Williams, was completed on August 15, 2025, and provides full charging capability for MCSD's growing fleet of electric school buses.

MCSD currently operates 32 school buses to provide transportation for students throughout the District. In 2024, the District placed 10 electric school buses into service, converting approximately one-third of its fleet to zero-emission vehicles. This transition significantly reduces carbon emissions within the Merced community and contributes to a healthier, safer environment for students and families.

The process to acquire the electric buses and develop the charging infrastructure began in June 2022, when the MCSD Board of Education approved applications to secure grant funding from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. The District was awarded 10 separate grants of \$400,000 each, totaling \$4 million in January 2023, to assist with the purchase of 10 electric school buses, each valued at approximately \$495,000.

In August 2023, MCSD received an additional \$3.2 million grant to construct the supporting EV charging infrastructure. The project included 15 charging stations, 12 single-port (30 kW) and 3 dual-port (60 kW) chargers, and system enhancements designed to allow for future expansion without major construction costs.

In total, the \$8.2 million project positions MCSD to meet the goals outlined in Executive Order N-79-20, which requires all school bus fleets in California to transition to zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

Merced City School District will continue to seek opportunities that will further reduce our carbon footprint as Merced prepares to expand.

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"Our students have the academic skills and personal characteristics to continue their learning journey, pursuing their passions and talents."