

EPA Clean School Bus Program: How to Apply with Live Q&A
 Hosted by the US Environmental Protection Agency
 June 15, 2022 at 1PM ET

Clean School Bus Rebate Program Overview

Submit questions to the EPA Clean School Bus Program helpline: cleanschoolbus@epa.gov

Overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Clean School Bus Program

- Under Title XI: Clean School Buses and Ferries, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides \$5 billion over five years (FY22-26) for the replacement of existing school buses with clean school buses and zero-emission school buses.
- These new clean school bus replacements will produce either zero or low tailpipe emissions compared to their older diesel predecessors.
- School bus upgrades funded under this program will result in cleaner air on the bus, in bus loading areas, and in the communities in which they operate.
- The first funding opportunity under this program is the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates.
- Website: <https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus>

Funding Pools and Number of Applications

- School districts applying directly for funds may only submit one application to replace up to 25 buses.
- EPA will not fund multiple applications for bus replacements that will serve the same school district.
- The application deadline is August 19, 2022

\$500 Million in Available Funding for 2022 CSB Rebates	
Zero Emission Funding Pool:	Clean School Bus Funding Pool:
Applications exclusively requesting zero-emission buses	Applications requesting zero-emission, propane, and/or compressed natural gas (CNG) buses

Clean School Bus Rebate Timeline

Activity	Date
2022 CSB Rebates open. EPA begins accepting applications submitted via online form	May 20, 2022 – August 19, 2022
EPA reviews applications and begins the selection process	September 2022
EPA notifies applicants of selection status. Selectees can proceed with purchasing new buses and eligible infrastructure.	October 2022
Selectees submit Payment Request Forms with purchase orders demonstrating that new buses and eligible infrastructure have been ordered	October 2022 - April 2023
Project period deadline for selectees to receive new buses, install eligible infrastructure, replace old buses, and submit Close Out Forms	October 2024

Eligible Applicants & How They Would Pass Funds

1. **State and local governments** that are responsible for 1.) providing school bus service and 2.) the purchase of school buses.
 - a. Public charter schools with a NCEs District ID
 - b. States who own their own buses like South Carolina
2. **Nonprofit School Transportation Associations**
3. **Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, or Tribally Controlled Schools**
 - a. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA funded school)
4. **Eligible Contractors**
 - a. For-profit, not-for-profit or non profit entities that have the capacity to sell zero emissions buses or related charging or fueling infrastructure.
 - b. School bus dealers and Original Equipment Manufacturers
 - c. Financers who have the capacity to create loan or lease-to-own agreements

Prioritization Criteria

1. High-need school districts and low-income areas
 - a. School districts listed in the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) School District Estimates for 2020 as having 20% or more students living in poverty
 - b. School districts not listed in the SAIPE data, including most charter schools, that self-certify as having 20% or more students living in poverty. EPA may ask for supporting documentation to confirm this self-certification.
 - c. School districts located in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
2. Rural school districts
 - a. School districts identified with locale codes “43-Rural: Remote” and “42-Rural: Distant” by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
3. Tribal school districts
 - a. Bureau of Indian Affairs funded school districts and school districts that receive basic support payments for children who reside on Indian land

Prioritized School Districts Lists

<https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/school-bus-rebates-clean-school-bus-program>

- Posted under Supporting Materials [here](#)
- PDF lists prioritized school districts with the state, name, and [NCES ID](#)
- Excel version adds the city and the prioritization criteria that each district meets

Supporting Materials

- [2022 Clean School Bus \(CSB\) Rebates Program Guide \(pdf\)](#) (May 2022, EPA-420-B-22-025)
- [2022 Clean School Bus Inventory Sheet \(xlsx\)](#) (March 2022)
- [2022 Clean School Bus Program Prioritized School Districts \(pdf\)](#) (May 2022)
- [2022 Clean School Bus Program Prioritized Applicant List \(xlsx\)](#) (May 2022)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (Coming soon)

AR	QUITMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT	0511880
AR	RECTOR SCHOOL DISTRICT	0504370
AR	RIVERCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT #57	0500045
AR	RIVERSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT	0500012
AR	RIVERVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT	0508400
AR	ROSE BUD SCHOOL DISTRICT	0512000
AR	SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT	0512090
AR	SAU-TECH CAREER CENTER	0500002
AR	SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT	0512180
AR	SEARCY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	0509480

School Bus Replacement Funding

The maximum rebate amount per bus is dependent on:

- Bus Fuel Type
- Bus Size
- Whether the school district served by the buses meets one or more prioritization criteria

The table displays maximum funding levels. EPA will not disburse rebate funds in excess of the actual cost of the replacement bus and any costs above the maximum funding level are the sole responsibility of the applicant/awardee.

Maximum Bus Funding Amount per Replacement School Bus

School District Prioritization Status	Replacement Bus Fuel Type and Size					
	ZE – Class 7+	ZE – Class 3-6	CNG – Class 7+	CNG – Class 3-6	Propane – Class 7+	Propane – Class 3-6
Buses serving school districts that meet one or more prioritization criteria	\$375,000	\$285,000	\$45,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$25,000
Buses serving other eligible school districts	\$250,000	\$190,000	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000

Infrastructure Funding

Talk to your utility now if you are interested in zero-emission buses!

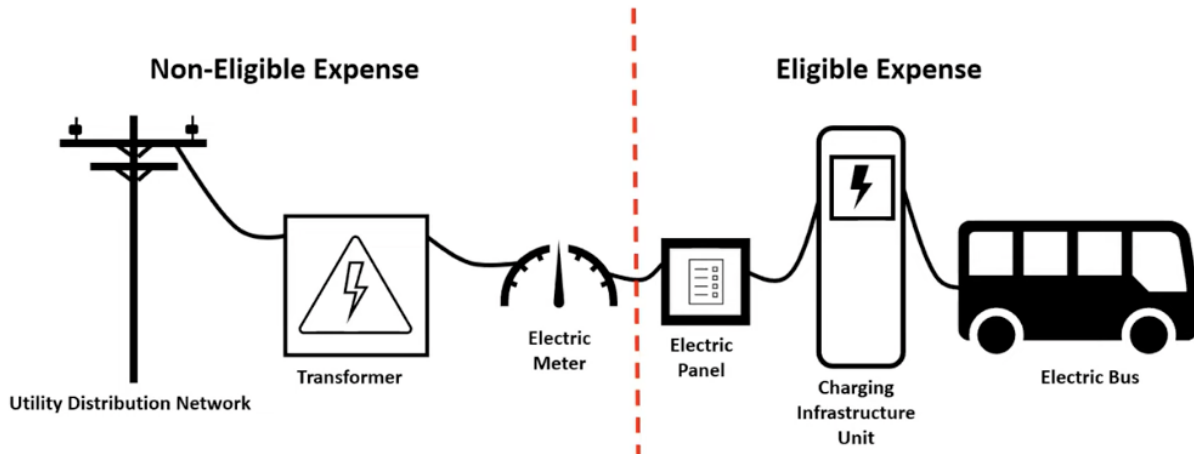
This table displays the maximum funding levels per ZE bus. EPA will not disburse rebate funds in excess of the actual infrastructure costs.

School District Prioritization Status	ZE – Class 3+ Infrastructure Funding
Buses serving school districts that meet one or more prioritization criteria	\$20,000/bus
Buses serving other eligible school districts	\$13,000/bus

- In the current online application, infrastructure funding will not be displayed. EPA will add them onto award amounts at the time of selection
- It is important to involve your utility now if you are interested in charging infrastructure

Infrastructure Funding Restrictions

- EPA funding for infrastructure is limited to the fleet's side of the meter (as shown on the right side of the diagram)
- All Level 2 charging infrastructure purchased under this program must be [EPA ENERGY STAR certified chargers](#)
 - EPA strongly recommends that all other charging infrastructure (for example DC Fast Charge) purchased under this program be listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL)




Application Process

- Applicants must submit applications using EPA's Clean School Bus Rebate forms.
 - To apply, organizations must:
 - Have an active System for Award Management (SAM.gov) entity registration with a Unique Entity ID (UEI).
 - For help with SAM.gov registration, reach out to the Federal Service Desk at <https://www.fsd.gov>
 - Have Points of Contact (POC) listed under their organization's SAM.gov entity registration in SAM.gov. Only specific POCs will be able to apply.
 - For help with SAM.gov registration, reach out to the Federal Service Desk at <https://www.fsd.gov>
- EPA has posted a Questions and Answers document on the CSB website and anticipates updating the Q&A document every two weeks during the application period. Novel questions submitted to CleanSchoolBus@epa.gov through August 5th, including those from program webinars, will be added to this document.
- The application deadline will be August 19, 2022. Late applications will not be accepted
- Resources:
 - [System for Award Management Registration](#)
 - Help with SAM Registration - [Federal Service Desk](#)
 - [Q&A Document](#) on Clean School Bus Website

Important! SAM.gov Prerequisites

Clean School Bus Rebate Forms: Applicant Login

 No SAM.gov records match your email. Only Government and Electronic Business SAM.gov Points of Contacts (and alternates) may edit and submit Clean School Bus Rebate Forms.

If you receive the error message above when trying to login, please confirm that:

1. The organization you intend to apply for is *actively* registered as an entity on SAM.gov and has a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#).
2. You are listed as one of the following four Points of Contact (POC) in your organization's entity registration on SAM.gov:
 - i. Electronic Business POC
 - ii. Alternate Electronic Business POC
 - iii. Government Business POC
 - iv. Alternate Government Business POC
3. The login.gov account you are using to access the rebate application form uses the exact same email address as is listed in your POC information in your organization's SAM.gov entity registration.

Note: If you update the POC information in your organization's SAM.gov entity registration, there may be a delay of 1-2 business days before that change will be reflected on the Clean School Bus Rebate Forms site.

Check the Systems for Award Management ([SAM.gov](#)) to ensure your organization is *actively* registered as an entity

- An individual user account on SAM.gov is not the same thing as an organization's entity registration
- Review all SAM.gov entity registration information for accuracy, including bank accounts, addresses, the [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#), and Points of Contact
- If your organization has no record of a SAM.gov registration, expired or active, and needs to create a new registration, the simplest entity registration type that can participate in the Clean School Bus Rebates is the "Federal Assistance Awards Only" registration.
- For help with SAM.gov, reach out to the Federal Service Desk at: <https://www.fsd.gov>

Only individuals with email addresses listed as one of the following Points of Contact (POC) under an *active* SAM.gov entity registration will have access to create, edit, save, and submit a Clean School Bus Rebate application for that entity:

- Electronic Business POC
- Alternate Electronic Business POC
- Government Business POC
- Alternate Government Business POC

Note: When entering the rebate application, applicants must use the same email as is listed in their POC information in SAM.gov. They will be prompted to sign in to, or create, a free login.gov account.

29

Getting to the Application

<https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/online-rebate-application-information-clean-school-bus-program>

- The link to the application, additional information on SAM.gov requirements, and help resources can be found [here](#).
- An Application User Guide with screenshots is posted at the bottom of this page.

Clean School Bus Home

Clean School Bus Rebate Program

Clean School Bus Rebate Online Application Information

Benefits of Clean School Buses


Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Resources

Events

Online Rebate Application Information: Clean School Bus Program

On this page:

- [Who can submit an application?](#)
- [What information do I need to complete the application?](#)
- [Where can I get help?](#)
- [User Guide and other application resources](#)



After reviewing this page, [click here](#) to access the application form

Who can submit an application?

1. Review the [Rebate Program Information](#) page and 2022 Clean School Bus (CSB) Program Guide posted there to determine if your organization is eligible to apply.
2. Check the System for Award Management ([SAM.gov ext](#)) to ensure your organization is **actively** registered as an entity

Website and Application Demo

- For a complete demonstration of the application process, please view the webinar recording (beginning at the 20 minute mark) at <https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/events-related-clean-school-bus-program>

Recap!

- EPA anticipates awarding \$500 million in rebate funding for zero -emission and clean school buses.
- Don't forget to verify your organization's SAM.gov entity registration information, including the Points of Contact!
- Initiate discussions with your utility now if you will apply for zero-emission buses.
- The application deadline is August 19, 2022.

Resources

- 1.) Sign up for the [Clean School Bus Listserv](#) and continue to check www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus for updated resources and information on additional webinars
- 2.) This presentation has been recorded and will be posted to the Clean School Bus website. A Spanish transcription will also be made available.
- 3.) After reviewing the Program Guide, if you still have questions, please contact cleanschoolbus@epa.gov. Questions will be incorporated in an update to the Q&A document.
- 4.) EPA Program [Guide](#)

Question & Answer

Eligibility Questions

We would like to apply for an electric bus yet do not have a bus to scrap, are we still eligible?

- No, in order to be eligible for funding, the entity needs to scrap a diesel bus 2010 or older OR scrap, sell for parts or donate a diesel bus younger than 2010. If the school uses a contractor to lease out buses, then the application should be submitted through the contractor rather than the school because the contractor has the ability to scrap a bus where the school does not own a bus to scrap.
- If the school wants an additional electric bus and can not scrap because they still need the old diesel bus, this eliminates them from the funding. This funding is meant to encourage the *replacement* of old diesel buses, with a goal of lessening the presence of polluting vehicles near schools.

If your school district is not prioritized can you still apply this round?

- Yes. All public school districts are eligible to apply.

If my school district isn't on the excel spreadsheet should I spend the time to fill out an application?

- Prioritized school districts (those on the list) are offered more funds and receive preference in the selection process, but all school districts are encouraged to apply.

I'm a school bus contractor who will help my District customer apply for EV grants. Do we use our contractor SAM's info, or the District's? And what is the status on getting the SAM's info back to us--we're still waiting for it.

- School bus contractors are generally not eligible to apply directly to EPA for the rebate. Therefore, the District should be the applicant, and the District's SAM info entered into the application. Please check with SAM.gov on the status of your SAM.gov account.

If our school district contracts for bus service, and we submit in collaboration with our contractor (our contract is good through July 31, 2025), who can be the owner of purchased buses?

- It is generally assumed that the owner of the old bus will be the owner of the new bus. However, EPA only requires that 1) an eligible bus be scrapped, and 2) that the new bus serve the district listed on the application for at least 5 years. EPA is not partial to the contractual arrangements between the District, school bus contractors, and bus dealers.

We are looking to buy a mini bus but don't have a bus to replace it. Can I still apply?

- An eligible old bus must be scrapped (or sold or donated per the program guide) for every new bus purchased.

If you throw in a few electric buses into the application with non-fully electric buses, will the electric buses not be 100% funded?

- Applications may include both electric buses and propane buses. If selected, buses will be funded at the levels listed in Table 2 of the program guide, based on bus size and fuel type and district prioritization.

If a school bus contractor recently gained a contract with a public school district, is the contractor (along with the public school district) eligible? The buses to serve the new school district contract did not serve that specific school district last year, but the buses did serve a public school district for at least 3 days a week in the previous years.

- Yes, this scenario is eligible. The school district would be the applicant and would receive the funds.

Is this program for replacement of old buses only, or would a school with currently no buses and were interested in purchasing a clean school bus qualify?

- For each new replacement bus funded in the program, one old bus must be removed from a fleet serving a public school district. The school district listed on the application must be served by the new replacement bus, but it is possible for that school district to partner with a bus fleet elsewhere that will remove an older bus from service. In other words, the school district that is served by the new bus may be different from the school district that is served by the old bus.
- Currently, the “School District Information” page within the online application form states, “This is the school district that the old buses serve and that the new buses will continue to serve for at least five years.” While this will likely be the case for most participating school districts, this text is not consistent with the Program Guide and will be corrected to read “This is the school district that the new buses will serve for at least five years.”

We currently lease buses. Does this eliminate us?

- There is a possibility to partner with another fleet with eligible buses that have been serving students for replacement. That can act as old buses being replaced.
- We allow school districts that apply to list a private fleet owner that has buses that will serve the school district.

Vehicle Specific Questions

If a school uses 12 passenger vans, is there an opportunity to utilize this program to replace those with electric vans?

- It is unlikely that vans would qualify for replacement. For the 2022 CSB Rebates, “school bus” is defined as a passenger motor vehicle designed to carry a driver and more than 10 passengers, that the Secretary of Transportation decides is likely to be used significantly to transport pre primary, primary, and secondary school students to or from school or an event related to school. Eligible school buses must also have a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 10,001 lbs or more.

I'm having to rapidly get up to speed on this. Can you do a mix of electric and natural gas or propane? Or does that weaken the application?

- An application that requests funding for only battery-electric buses may be selected for funding from either the ZE or clean school bus funding pools. An application that includes any propane or CNG buses (including a mix with electric) will only be considered for funding from the clean school bus half of funding.

If a prioritized district who is looking to purchase BEV has buses that are 2015 and newer, could they scrap or donate those vehicles to take advantage of this program?

- If they don't have any eligible 2010 or older diesel buses, then yes, they could scrap, sell, or donate eligible 2011 or newer buses.

I read somewhere 2010 and older diesel engines. I have a 2013 and a 2014 and would be looking to replace it with propane. Do we qualify?

- New propane and CNG buses funded in this program can only replace 2010 or older diesel buses.

Where can school administrators who are unfamiliar with the zero-emission or low-emission bus models find information on the options available?

- There are some resources available on www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus
- Additionally, most of the standard bus manufacturers have low-emission or ZE models on their websites

Where do you find the classes 7+ or 3-6?

- Bus class size is based on Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). Class 3-6 have a GVWR of 10,001-26,000 lbs. Class 7+ have a GVWR of 26,001 lbs or more. You can typically find the GVWR listed on the VIN tag near the driver seat. It may also be on the registration document.

How much does a typical fully outfitted ZE-Class 7+ bus currently cost? Is the \$375k intended to cover 100% of an average bus.

- For priority applicants, \$375K is intended to cover most or all of the costs for a new zero emission bus.

Charging Infrastructure Questions

Is there any part of infrastructure other than the charging station covered in the rebate?

- Please refer to Section 4 of the Program Guide:
<https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/school-bus-rebates-clean-school-bus-program#support>

Can you show how to add funding for a charger?

- Applicants applying for replacement ZE school buses will, if selected, be allocated funding to be used for charging infrastructure installations. This infrastructure funding will be reflected in the award notification but will not be displayed on the application form which only displays bus funding.

Drivers in rural districts will sometimes park the bus at their homes overnight. Can the charging infrastructure rebate be applied to at home chargers as well?

- Yes. EPA funding for infrastructure is limited to installations between the electrical meter and the charging port. This can include, but is not limited to, charging equipment (such as AC Level 2 charging equipment or direct-current fast charging equipment), design and engineering, and installation costs such as trenching, wiring and electrical upgrades, labor, and permitting. EPA funds must not be used for any infrastructure costs associated with work on the utility's side of the electrical meter.

Application Process Questions

On the inventory sheet we are completing -- do we include all buses or just the ones we intend to replace?

- The application submitted to EPA should only include those buses intended to be replaced with rebate funds. If you are completing fleet inventories for planning purposes, it is useful to include all vehicles in the fleet.

If a school applies for the max 25 buses, will the rebate be paid as units are delivered or once all 25 units have been delivered?

- After being selected for funding, applicants will have approximately 6 months to submit a Payment Request Form that includes purchase orders for the new buses and any eligible charging infrastructure. EPA anticipates disbursing funds within approximately 60 days of the receipt of the Payment Request Form. In many cases, this will result in a selectee receiving funds in advance of the delivery of the buses and charging infrastructure. The funds will be disbursed all at once.

The Joint DOE and DOT Office newsletter was sent earlier this week and highlighted this new program and indicated they would be providing technical assistance to schools during the process. Can you clarify how their TA will differ from EPA's TA (or are the 3 agencies coordinating already)?

- EPA is coordinating with DOE and DOT on technical assistance.

Do you have a link to what the process is for schools to go through if they contract their bus service?

- <https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/school-bus-rebates-clean-school-bus-program#support>

Do we submit the spreadsheet as part of the application? Or any of the content on it?

- The inventory sheet on our website is entirely optional. It should not be submitted with your application, but the application form will ask for similar information for the old buses you plan to replace. The inventory sheet might be helpful as a reference when filling out the application.