EPA’s Clean School Bus Program

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WRI and Electrification Coalition Electric School Bus Roundtable

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Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Clean School Bus Program Overview

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 (EV) or low tailpipe emissions (CNG/Propane) compared to their older diesel predecessors.

2022 Clean School Bus Rebate Program was released on May 20th and closed on August 19th.

2022 Clean School Bus Grant Program to open soon
Clean School Bus Program Available Funding

Half of the $5 billion total funding is dedicated for zero-emission school buses

Half of the $5 billion total funding is dedicated for clean and zero-emission school buses
1. High-need school districts and low-income areas
   - 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
   - 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.
   - School districts located in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

2. Rural school districts
   - 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
   - Bureau of Indian Affairs funded school districts and school districts that receive basic support payments for children who reside on Indian land
• EPA anticipates awarding $500 million (possibly more) in rebate funding for zero-emission and clean school buses.
  • epa.gov/cleanschoolbus
  • Up to 25 buses in an application

• Overwhelming response to RFA with imminent EPA HQ announcement about it

• Applications currently under eligibility review. Application reviewer trainings begin today. EPA anticipates notifying selected applicants in October

• Selected applicants should refer to the program guide for complete guidance. Program guide essentially a step-by-step walkthrough for the next 2 years’ actions

• Initiate discussions with your utility as soon as you are selected for zero-emission buses.
• Planning underway for a CSB Grant Program to open by the end of the year. Stakeholder input session to be announced soon—session to happen later this month

• Grant program hopes to address some challenges encountered in the rebate program

• Thinking right now is grants for direct replacements but also grants for incentive (rebate or other) programs
  • An eligible applicant (TBD) would receive funding to provide rebates to buses most in need as determined by applicant (TBD)

• Not a lot of solid details yet, highlighting importance of your feedback
To do list

• Sign up for the Clean School Bus Listserv

• Check www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus for latest program updates

• Submit feedback or questions to cleanschoolbus@epa.gov

• Reach out to the regional program staff
  • Tony runs a monthly BIL CSB call, email maietta.anthony@epa.gov for call series invite

• School districts: check and ensure your SAM.gov registration is up to date NOW
Region 5: IL, IN, OH, MI, MN, WI

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