



**EPA CLEAN  
SCHOOL BUS**

## Michigan Electric School Bus Policy Roundtable

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May 10, 2023

# Overview of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's Clean School Bus Program

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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 zero-emission and clean school buses.

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These new clean school bus replacements will produce either zero or low tailpipe emissions compared to their older diesel predecessors.

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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.

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The first funding opportunity was the **2022 Clean School Bus Rebates Program**. The second funding opportunity is the **2023 Clean School Bus Grants Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**, which opened on April 24, 2023 and will close on August 22, 2023.

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# Clean School Bus Rebates



Fastest funding program to develop



Quickest timeline fleets to receive funding



Straightforward rules - rebates are for bus replacements and infrastructure only



Streamlined application, selection, and funding processes

## 2022 CSB Rebate Applications

- Nearly **\$4B** in applications for over 12,000 buses
- More than **90%** of requests were for **electric buses**
- Majority of applicants met priority criteria as low-income, rural, or Tribal
- Awards were announced **October 26**

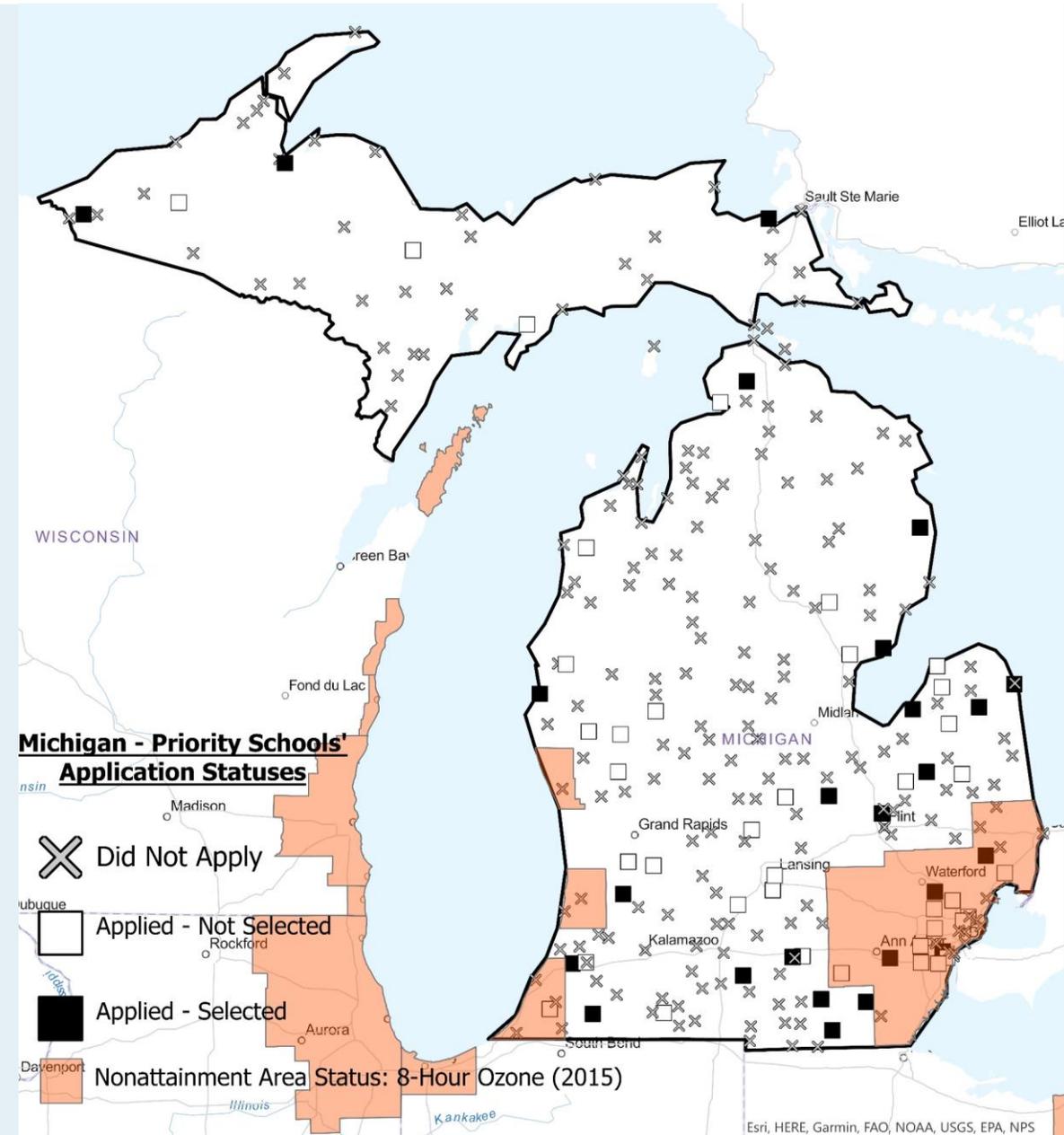
## 2022 CSB Rebate Awards

- EPA is awarding up to **\$965M** in rebates (nearly double the amount of proposed funding)
- This will fund around **2,600 buses** in more than **400 school districts**
- Once applicants receive their official selection letter, they can proceed with purchasing new buses and eligible infrastructure.

## 2022 CSB Rebate Awards in MI

- EPA awarded **\$54M** in rebates (5.9% of national funding)
- This will fund around **138 EV buses** in **25 school districts**
  - #2 nationally
  - 30% of applications were selected

# Michigan CSB Rebate Awards Map



## Selected MI School Districts

Pontiac City School District
Jackson Public Schools
Dearborn City School District
Ypsilanti Community Schools
Homer Community School District
Ubyly Community Schools
Beecher Community School District
Britton Deerfield Schools
Chesaning Union Schools
Hartford Public Schools
Pellston Public Schools
Harbor Beach Community Schools
Cassopolis Public Schools
Hopkins Public Schools
Bessemer Area School District
L'Anse Area Schools
Alcona Community Schools
Mayville Community School District
Pentwater Public School District
Sand Creek Community Schools
Ojibwe Charter School
Armada Area Schools
Au Gres-Sims School District
Unionville-Sebewaing Area S.D.

# CSB Feedback Efforts and Lessons Learned

## Feedback Efforts

- CSB Grants and Rebates Listening Sessions
- Stakeholder meetings with EPA staff
- Stakeholder input received through CSB helpline

## Summary of Feedback

- Rebate program worked for a majority of school districts
- Gaps in the rebate program:
  - Larger fleets limited by 25-bus maximum
  - Scrappage (i.e., some districts don't own buses to scrap)
  - Prioritization (i.e., differing opinions on prioritization criteria and funding for non-prioritized school districts)



# Clean School Bus Rebates vs. Grants

# CSB Rebates versus CSB Grants

While both grants and rebates provide selectees with award funds **prior** to purchasing eligible buses and infrastructure, there are a few differences between these types of funding programs:

	<b>Rebates</b>	<b>Grants</b>
<b>Application Process</b>	Quick and simply application process	Longer, more detailed application process
<b>Selection Process</b>	Selectees determined by a random number generated lottery process	Recipients are selected based on evaluation of application materials
<b>Project period support, flexibility, and duration</b>	Shorter project period; less support and flexibility in funding provided to applicants	Longer application period; may offer more support for applicants during the project, as well as flexibility in funding – such as providing funds for training and administrative costs - and timing of the project such as longer project periods to complete the project.

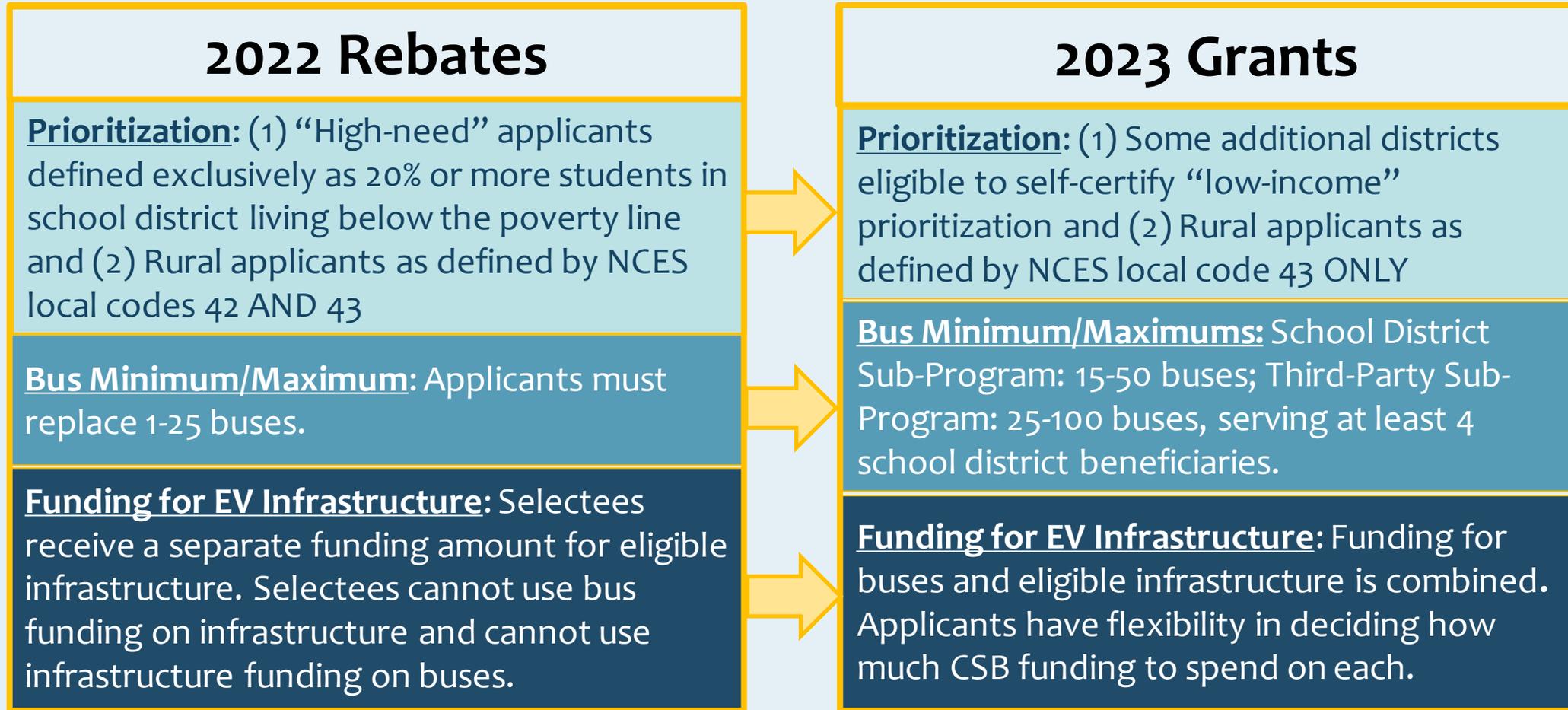


Application packages must be submitted to EPA via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) no later than 8/22/23 at 11:59 p.m. ET.  
For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus).



# Differences Between the 2022 Rebates and 2023 Grants

In addition to the differences between an EPA rebate and grant, generally, some program requirements differ between the two CSB funding opportunities, including, but not limited to:





# 2023 Clean School Bus Grant Program

# FY23 Clean School Bus Grants NOFO Important Dates

<b>April 24, 2023</b>	<b>Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Opens</b>
<b>May 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. (ET)</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Webinar Information Session</b> <i>Webinar links and additional session dates can be found at: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-grants">www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-grants</a></i>
<b>August 9, 2023</b>	<b>Final Date to Submit Questions</b>
<b>August 22, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. (ET)</b>	<b>NOFO Closes – Application Deadline</b> <i>Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<a href="http://www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a>) no later than Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) in order to be considered for funding</i>
<b>November 2023 to January 2024</b>	<b>Anticipated Notification of Selection</b>
<b>February to March 2024</b>	<b>Anticipated Awards</b>



Application packages must be submitted to EPA via Grants.gov no later than 8/22/23 at 11:59 p.m. ET.  
For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus).



# CSB Grant Program Structure

## School District Sub-Program

Eligible entities: (1) State and Local Governmental Entities (e.g., school districts), (2) Public Charter School Districts, and (3) Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, or Tribally-controlled Schools

Minimum of **15 buses**  
Maximum of **50 buses**

Targeting large single-fleet turnovers that may have been limited by the 25-bus maximum in the rebate program.

## Third-Party Sub-Program

Eligible entities: (1) Nonprofit School Transportation Associations and (2) Eligible Contractors (including OEMs, Dealers, and Private Bus Fleets)

Minimum of **25 buses**  
Maximum of **100 buses**  
Application must include at least **4** school district beneficiaries.

Targeting school districts - particularly small, rural, Tribal, or low-income beneficiaries - that may benefit from third-party technical support, grant administration, and coordination (e.g., with utilities)



Application packages must be submitted to EPA via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) no later than 8/22/23 at 11:59 p.m. ET.  
For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus).



# Prioritization Criteria

2023 CSB Grants\*

\*Please note that program criteria may be different from prior CSB funding opportunities and are subject to change in future rounds of CSB funding

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allows EPA to prioritize certain communities that will benefit from the CSB program. For this funding opportunity, prioritized communities include:

**HIGH-NEED SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND LOW-INCOME AREAS**



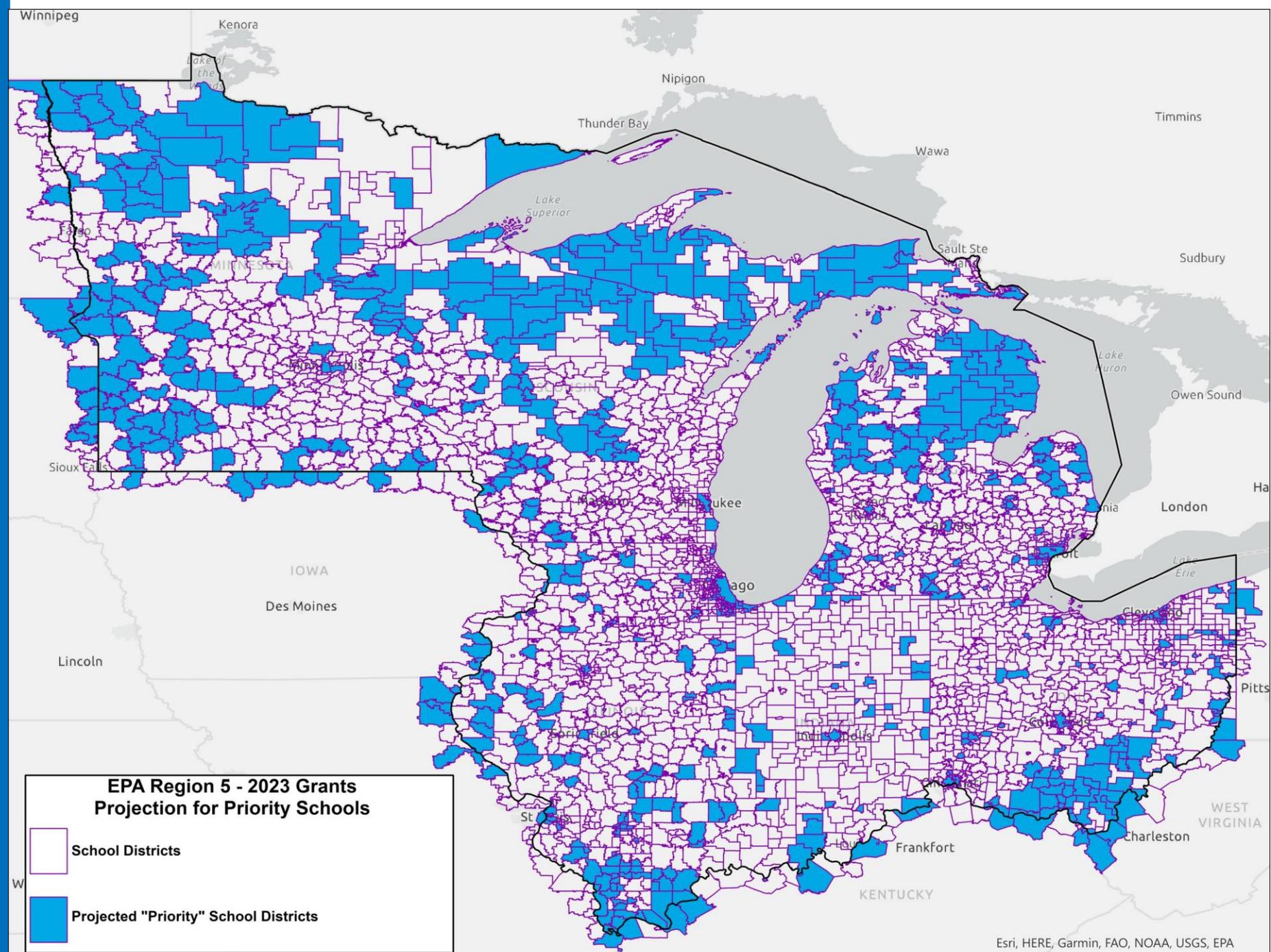
Applications due Tuesday, August 22  
[www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus)

# Prioritization Criteria

## 2023 CSB Grants

Priority School Districts PDF and  
Excel files available at:

[https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/  
clean-school-bus-program-grants](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-grants)



# What You Need To Do NOW

For EPA CSB Grants OR  
Rebates (coming this fall)

**ALL** School districts and/or potential applicants interested in applying for CSB Grant OR Rebate funding:

**Need an ACTIVE [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov) registration**

School Districts interested in applying directly, or eligible 3<sup>rd</sup> party applicants interested in applying for CSB Grant funding:

**Need to be registered with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) in order to be able to submit application**



# Got Questions?

Great! But we can't answer them...

**All questions** about the EPA 2023 BIL CSB Grant NOFO must be emailed to [cleanschoolbus@epa.gov](mailto:cleanschoolbus@epa.gov) (please type "Clean School Bus NOFO Question" in the subject line of your email)

Q&A document, updated regularly, will be posted at [EPA's 2023 Clean School Bus Grants web page](#)

Last day to submit questions: Wed. August 9, 2023 at 11:59pm ET

