Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Clean School Bus Program Overview



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Overview

- Welcoming remarks
- Why cleaner school buses are important for children's health
- Overview of the Clean School Bus Program in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Stakeholder input on program development





Clean School Bus Program

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides an unprecedented amount of funding to clean a substantial portion of the nation's fleet of nearly 500,000 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.





Why Clean School Buses are Important

- While new buses meet EPA's tougher emission standards, many older buses continue to emit pollutants that can be harmful to health like nitrogen oxides (NOx) or particulate matter (PM).
- Students are particularly vulnerable to air pollution inside and near older diesel school buses, and these pollutants increase their risk of asthma and other respiratory illness.
- Bus drivers and other school staff are also exposed to diesel exhaust.





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
- This funding to support zero and low emission vehicles to transport our nation's children will benefit communities across the United States, especially communities that have been historically underserved.





Available Funding

Half of \$5B total funding is dedicated for "zero-emission school buses" (\$2.5B, or \$500M/year)

Half is of the \$5B total funding is dedicated for "clean school buses" (\$2.5B, or \$500M/year)





Eligible Bus Definitions

- Zero-emission school bus: a school bus that produces zero exhaust emission of any air pollutant and any greenhouse gas
- Clean school bus: a school bus that reduces emissions and is operated entirely or in part using an alternative fuel or is a zero-emission bus.
- Alternative fuel: liquefied natural gas, compressed natural gas, hydrogen, propane, or biofuels.





Eligible Recipients

- State or local governmental entities responsible for:
 - Providing school bus service to one or more public school systems; or
 - Purchase of school buses
- Eligible contractor
 - For profit, not-for-profit, or nonprofit entity that has the capacity to:
 - Sell clean school buses, zero emission buses, charging or fueling infrastructure, or other equipment needed to charge, fuel, or maintain clean/zero emission school buses; or
 - Arrange financing for such a sale
- Nonprofit school transportation association
- Tribes, Tribal organizations, or Tribally-controlled schools responsible for:
 - Providing bus service to one or more Bureau-funded schools; or
 - Purchase of school buses





Funding Mechanisms

Competitive *grants* and *rebates* to eligible recipients for bus replacement

Contracts to eligible contractors to provide rebates for bus replacement

Up to 100% of the cost of the replacement bus and charging / fueling infrastructure

Limitation: no state shall receive more than 10% of a fiscal year's available funds





Funding Priorities and Considerations

Priorities	Considerations
High-need local education agency	Lowest overall cost of bus replacement
Tribal schools	Local conditions, including length of bus route and weather conditions
Rural areas or low-income areas	Technologies that most reduce emissions
Applicants with other external funding	Whether funds will bring new technologies to scale or promote cost parity between old technology and new technology

Considerations are for the "Clean School Bus" half of funding. Per BIL, EPA "shall take into account the following criteria but shall not give preference to any individual criterion"

Education and Outreach Component

EPA must submit an annual report due January 31 of each year

EPA must develop education/outreach plan to promote and explain the program no later than 120 days after enactment

- Must be coordinated with stakeholders
- How to apply for awards
- Eligible technologies and their benefits
- Best practices and lessons learned
 - Includes infrastructure planning and build-out
 - Workforce training development





Stakeholder Input

We want to hear from you!

As EPA develops its program implementation plan, we're seeking input from stakeholders on developing a successful program to achieve nationwide deployment of clean and zero-emission school buses.





Stakeholder Input

- You may raise your hand and the moderator will unmute you. Please keep your comments limited to 2 minutes.
- To speak, raise your hand on the zoom platform or press *9 if you've dialed in. Wait to be called on and unmuted.
- You may also submit comments and suggestions to





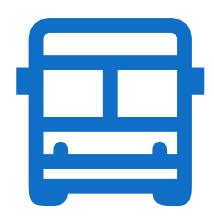
Initial Program Considerations

- What do schools see as their biggest hurdle to transition to electric school buses?
- What are some lessons learned from school districts that already transitioned to electric or alternative fuel buses?
- For fleets that have applied for federal funding in the past, what recommendations do you have for improving the application process?
- What technical resources about infrastructure planning, utility coordination, and workforce training would be most helpful?
- How can EPA better engage with school districts in underserved communities about funding opportunities and adoption of new, cleaner technologies?

Clean School Bus Program Highlights

- \$5 billion will be available over five years for school bus replacements.
- Eligible buses include zero emission or clean school buses.
- EPA is in the early stages of implementation and wants to consider your input in program development.
- You may also submit comments and suggestions to





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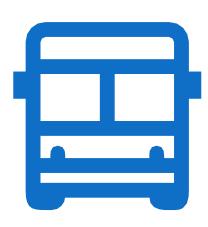




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Thank you!

- Please check <u>www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus</u> for program updates
- You may also submit comments and suggestions to



