



# **EPA Clean School Bus Program**

September 2022 Clean Air Act Advisory Committee  
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Division, OTAQ

# Agenda

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Overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's  
Clean School Bus Program

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2022 Clean School Bus Rebate Program Highlights

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# Overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law 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 clean school buses and zero-emission 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 under this program is the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates.

# Clean School Bus Program Available Funding

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

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

## 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.

## \$500 Million in Available Funding was announced for 2022 CSB Rebates

Zero Emission Funding Pool:

Applications **exclusively requesting zero-emission buses**

Clean School Bus Funding Pool:

Applications requesting **zero-emission, propane, and/or compressed natural gas (CNG) buses**

# Clean School Bus Rebate Timeline

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
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 – October 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

State and local governmental entities responsible for:

- 1) providing bus service to 1 or more public school systems; or
- 2) the purchase of school buses

Nonprofit School  
Transportation Associations

Indian Tribes, Tribal  
Organizations, or tribally  
controlled schools

Eligible Contractors



# State and Local Governmental Entities

- State and local governmental entities that provide bus service, including public school districts.
- Includes DC, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Public charter schools with an [NCES District ID](#) are eligible to apply directly for funding.
- Most State governmental entities would not be eligible to apply, but some, like South Carolina, own bus fleets and would be eligible.



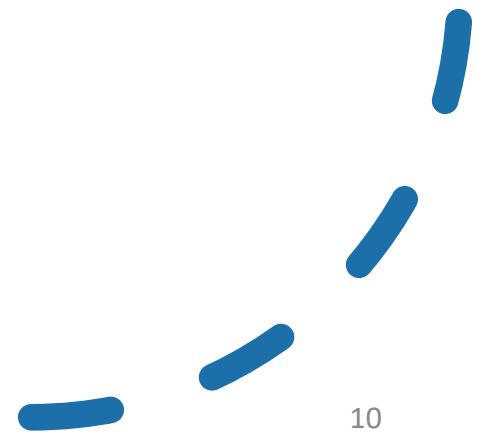
# Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, or Tribally- controlled Schools

- Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, or Tribally controlled schools responsible for the purchase of school buses or providing school bus service for a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded school.

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# Nonprofit School Transportation Associations

- Trade associations and membership organizations in the student transportation industry.



# Eligible Contractors

- For-profit, not-for-profit, or nonprofit entities that have the capacity to (1) sell clean or zero-emission school buses or related charging or fueling infrastructure to school bus owners or (2) arrange financing for such a sale.
  - For the purpose of defining an eligible contractor, financing is defined as loans or lease-to-own agreements.
- For example, school bus dealers and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that meet these criteria are eligible contractors.

# Prioritized Applicants

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allows EPA to prioritize certain applicants.
- Applicants requesting funds to replace school buses that serve a school district that meets one or more of the **prioritization criteria** will be offered more funding per bus and receive preference in the selection process.
- EPA offers equal prioritization for school districts that meet one or multiple prioritization criteria.
- School districts that qualify under one or more of the prioritizations are identified in **EPA's prioritized funding list.**

# Prioritization Criteria

## 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

# School Bus Replacement Guidelines

- Buses eligible for replacement must be 2010 or older diesel-powered school buses that will be scrapped if selected for funding.
- If a fleet has no eligible 2010 or older diesel school buses and is requesting zero-emission school bus replacements, the fleet can either:
  - Scrap 2010 or older non-diesel internal combustion engine buses; or
  - Scrap, sell, or donate 2011 or newer internal combustion engine buses



# School Bus Replacement Guidelines (Continued)

Buses eligible for replacement must:

- Have a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 10,001 lbs. or more.
- Be operational at the time of application submission.
- Have provided bus service to a public school district for at least 3 days/week on average during the 2021/2022 school year at the time of applying, excluding COVID-related school closures.





# School Bus Replacement Guidelines



## **New replacement buses must:**

- Have a battery-electric, CNG, or propane drivetrain.
- Be EPA certified vehicle model year 2021 or newer.
- Have a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 10,001 lbs. or more.
- Not be ordered prior to receiving official notification of selection for EPA funding.
- Be purchased, not leased or leased-to-own.

# School Bus Replacement Guidelines (Continued)



## **New replacement buses must:**

- Serve the school district listed on the application for at least 5 years from the date of delivery.
- Meet federal safety standards and be maintained, operated, insured, registered, and charged/fueled according to manufacturer recommendations and state requirements.
- Not include an unvented diesel passenger heater.
- Not be funded with other federal funds.
- Upon request, be made available for inspection by EPA or its representatives for 5 years from the date of delivery.

# 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

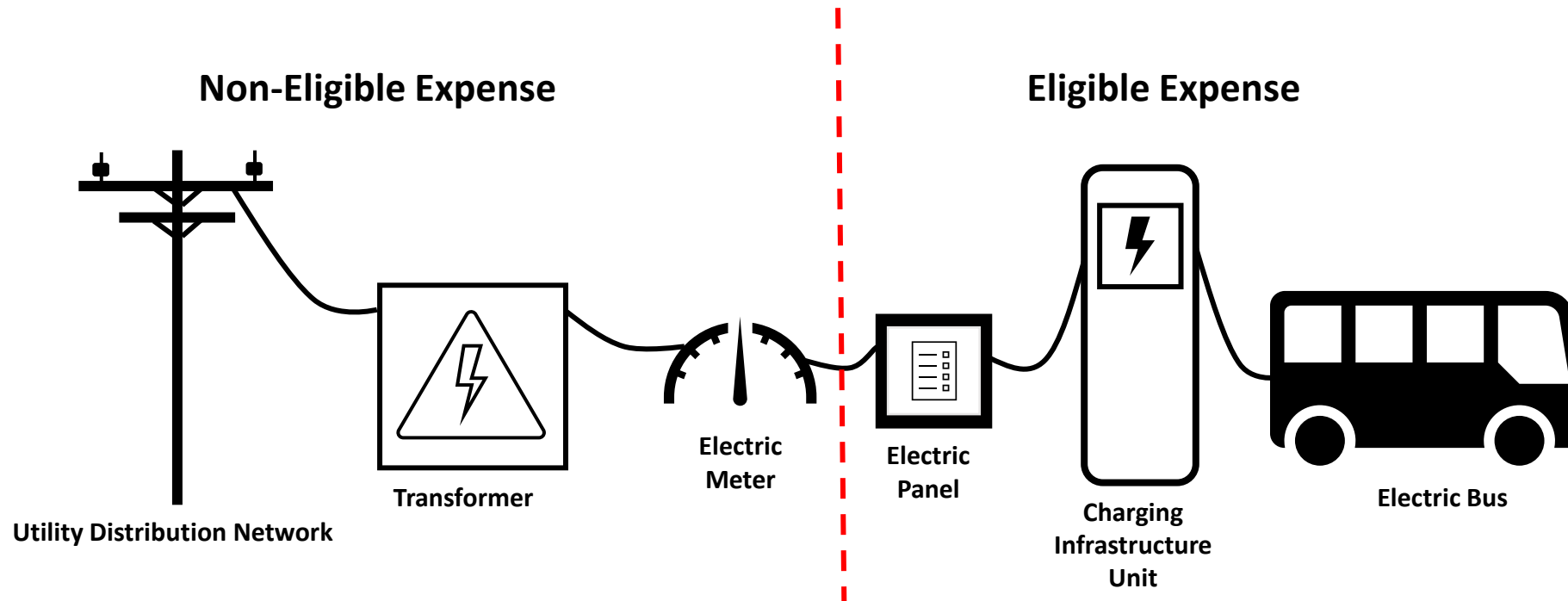
**Applicants were encouraged to talk to their utilities *early* regarding electric bus charging needs**

This table displays the maximum funding levels per 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

# 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

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- Applicants were required to submit applications using EPA's Clean School Bus Rebate forms.
  - To apply, organizations must:
    1. Have an *active* System for Award Management (SAM.gov) entity registration
- The application deadline was August 19, 2022. *Late applications will not be accepted.*

# Application process was simple and straight forward

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](#) ) to ensure your organization is **actively** registered as an entity



# Selection and Notification

- Applications received by the deadline will be placed in a single ordered list using a random number generator lottery process.
  - This funding opportunity was not first-come, first-served.
- EPA will select applicants for funding, working from the top to the bottom of the list, until funds are allocated from both the Clean School Bus and Zero Emission halves of funding.
  - Prioritized applicants will be selected first when making selections for the two halves of funding
- To ensure a broad geographic distribution of funds, EPA will select at least one application per state or territory provided there is at least one eligible application.
- Applicants not selected by lottery will remain in random number order on a wait list.

# Selectee Requirements – Payment Request Form

- EPA plans on notifying applicants of their selection status within 60 days of the application deadline. Applicants that are selected for funding will receive an electronic status update that includes (1) that they have been selected for funding, (2) the maximum amount of funds that have been reserved for them, and (3) instructions on proceeding with the purchase of new buses and eligible infrastructure.
- After receiving notice of selection, selectees must submit an online **Payment Request Form** that includes an attached scan of the **purchase order(s) for the new school buses and eligible infrastructure within six months.**

*Selectees can request extensions to the project period deadline. EPA will review these requests on a case-by-case basis and may grant extensions if sufficient justification is provided.*

# 2022 CSB Rebates Feedback – Application

- Application Window –
  - 90 days allowed applicants to get organized
- Application Timing –
  - Summertime is convenient due to less students, but can be difficult due to staff being on vacation
- Online Application –
  - Quick and easy to apply for a CSB rebate using the online form

# 2022 CSB Rebates Feedback – Eligibility

- Prioritization Criteria –
  - Generous funding amounts for underserved communities, but requests to expand criteria or allow for more self-certification
- 5 Year Requirement –
  - Challenge for some districts due to shorter leases or contracts
- Tribes –
  - Bus and school definitions didn't apply to Head Start and minibuses that many Tribes use

# 2022 CSB Rebates Feedback – Outreach

- Extensive Outreach –
  - Lots of webinars, events, emails, and phone calls to stakeholders
- Very Helpful Resources –
  - Flyers, Program Guide, Q&A, Helpline Responses, User Guide, Fleet Sheet, Priority School List, etc
- Barrier Reduction –
  - Education about how to transition to a cleaner fleet for first-time adopters of new technology

# 2022 CSB Rebates Feedback – Support

- SAM.gov –
  - Difficulties verifying registrations and receiving timely assistance from Federal Service Desk ahead of application deadline
- CSB Helpline –
  - Sometimes responses only referred to program guide
- More Guidance –
  - Some applications were confusing due to specific circumstances (multiple contractors, mix of bus types, shared buses, etc)

# 2022 CSB Rebates Feedback – Implementation

- Funding Amount –
  - Concerns that funds won't be enough due to inflation
- Bus Performance –
  - Unknowns about buses in different circumstances
- Infrastructure –
  - Unclear what exactly was needed and how much it would cost
- Workforce Development –
  - Unsure how to train mechanics for transition to new technology
- Utility Costs –
  - Difficult to project future energy and maintenance savings





Questions?



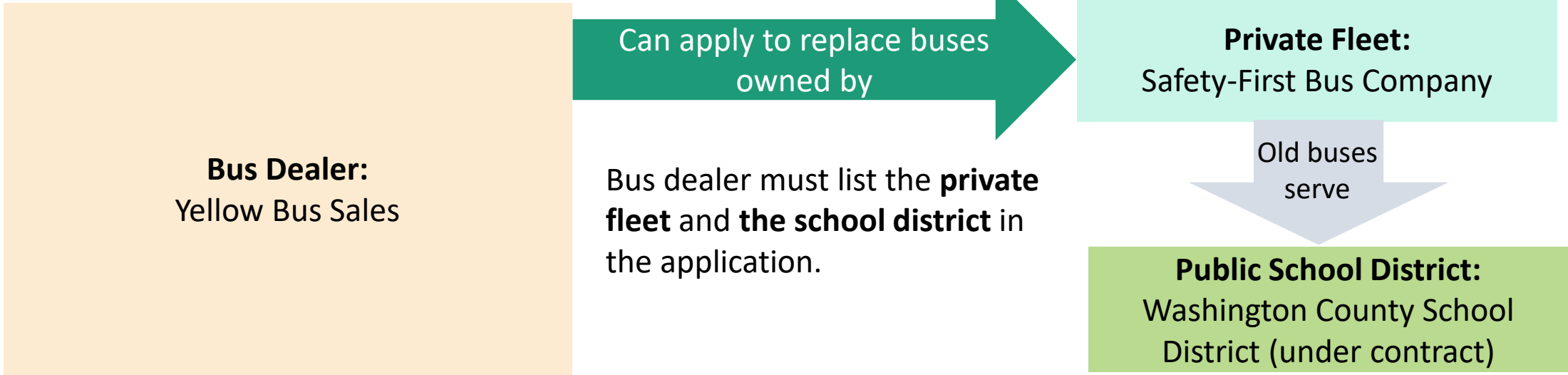
# Appendix

# Eligible Contractors

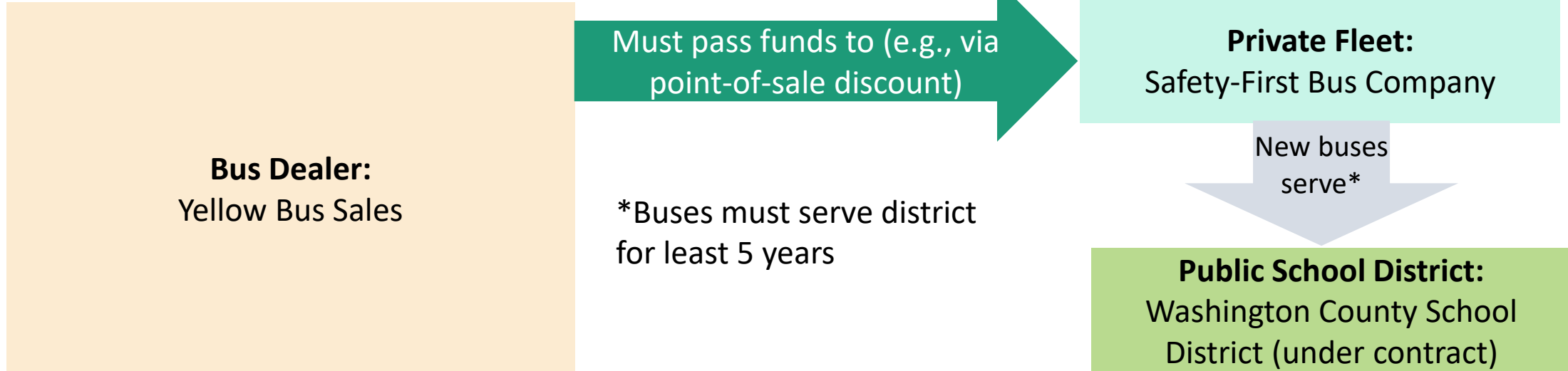
- Private school bus fleets cannot apply directly for funding under the 2022 CSB Rebates. However, any of the **eligible applicants can enter into a contractual arrangement with a private fleet that owns and operates buses to replace buses that serve a public school district.**
- For example:
  - A bus dealer, Big Yellow Bus Sales, could apply to replace buses owned and operated by a private fleet, Safety-First Bus Company.
  - These buses serve Washington County School District under a contract.
  - When applying for funds, Big Yellow Bus Sales will need to list the private fleet (Safety-First Bus Company) and the school district (Washington County School District) in the application.
  - If selected for funding, Big Yellow Bus Sales must pass rebate funds on to the private fleet via a point-of-sale discount on the new buses or other financial arrangement.
  - The buses must continue serving Washington County School District for at least 5 years from the date of delivery.

# Example 1: Bus Dealer Applying for Private Fleet Partner

## While applying:



## If selected:

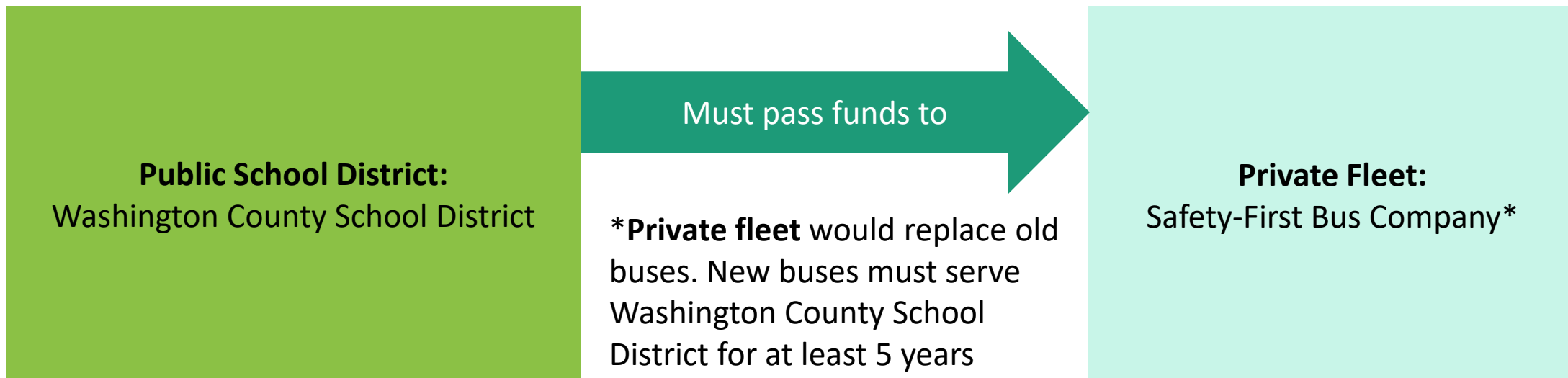


## Example 2: School District Applying for Private Fleet Partner

While applying:



If selected:




# Prioritized School Districts Lists

- 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

# Selectee Requirements – Close Out Form

- Once selectees have received their new buses and eligible infrastructure and have replaced their old buses, they must submit an online Close Out Form. The **Close Out Form** must be submitted **within two years** of the date of the selection notification.
- The Close Out Form will require selectees to attach:
  - For old buses being scrapped, scrappage photos and letter for buses being replaced
  - For old buses eligible to be sold or donated, documentation of the vehicle sale or donation
  - A scan of the invoices for the new buses and eligible infrastructure
  - A scan of proof of delivery for the new buses and eligible infrastructure (e.g., dated bill of lading)
  - One photo of the exterior of each new bus, labeled with the last 4 digits of the bus VIN
  - One photo of each charging pedestal if EPA funds were used for charging infrastructure.
- Selectees must retain all financial records, supporting documents, accounting books and other evidence of Rebate Program activities for five years after delivery of the new buses. If any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the five-year period, the recipient must maintain all appropriate records until these actions are completed and all issues resolved.

# Important! SAM.gov Registration

Check the Systems for Award Management ([SAM.gov](https://www.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.