

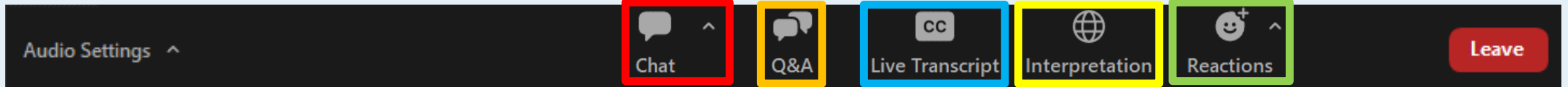


EPA CLEAN SCHOOL BUS

2023 CSB Rebates: Popular Questions & Answers
January 9, 2024 @ 1 PM ET

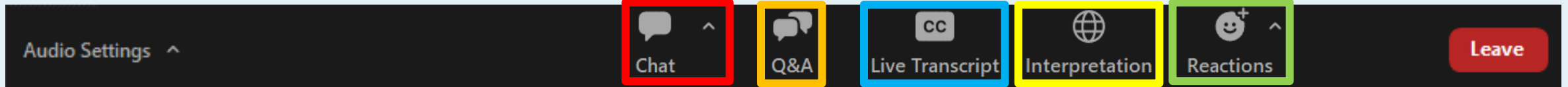
Office of Transportation and Air Quality
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Zoom Webinar Logistics



- **This presentation is being recorded.** The slides and recording will be posted to epa.gov/cleanschoolbus as soon as they are processed for posting.
- **All attendees are in listen-only mode.** Audio is available through your computer speakers or by phone. The presenter will ask you to come off mute if applicable.
- **Live transcription:** Live captioning is available by clicking the “Live Transcript” icon.
- **Live interpretation:** Live Spanish interpretation is available by clicking the “Interpretation” icon and selecting Spanish. Click “Mute Original Audio” to mute English audio when listening in Spanish.
- **Questions:** Use the Q&A feature to ask questions during the presentation. We will address as many as possible after the presentation. If we are unable to answer your question at this time, we will list all questions and answers in the Q&A document available on our website. You can also submit written questions to the EPA Clean School Bus Program helpline at cleanschoolbus@epa.gov.
- **Chat:** Chat is disabled, but the presenters might share links through the chat feature.
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Logística de seminarios web en Zoom



- **Esta presentación es grabada.** Las diapositivas y la grabación se publicarán en epa.gov/cleanschoolbus tan pronto sean procesadas para su publicación.
- **Todos los asistentes se encuentran solo en modo escucha.** Hay audio disponible a través de los altoparlantes de su computadora o por teléfono. El presentador le pedirá que quite el silencio si corresponde.
- **Transcripción en vivo:** Hay subtítulos disponibles haciendo clic en el icono “Live Transcript” [Transcripción en vivo].
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- **Preguntas:** Use la función Q&A [preguntas y respuestas] para hacer preguntas durante la presentación. Abordaremos todas las que sea posible después de la presentación. Si no podemos contestar su pregunta en este momento, anotaremos todas las preguntas y respuestas en el documento Q&A correspondiente disponible en nuestro sitio web. Puede también enviar preguntas por escrito a la línea directa de ayuda del Programa de Autobuses Escolares Limpios de la EPA en cleanschoolbus@epa.gov.
- **Chat:** Se encuentra inhabilitado el chat, pero los presentadores podrían compartir enlaces a través de la función de chat.
- **Reacciones:** Las reacciones están habilitadas para que usted interactúe con el presentador.

Overview of the Clean School Bus (CSB)
Program

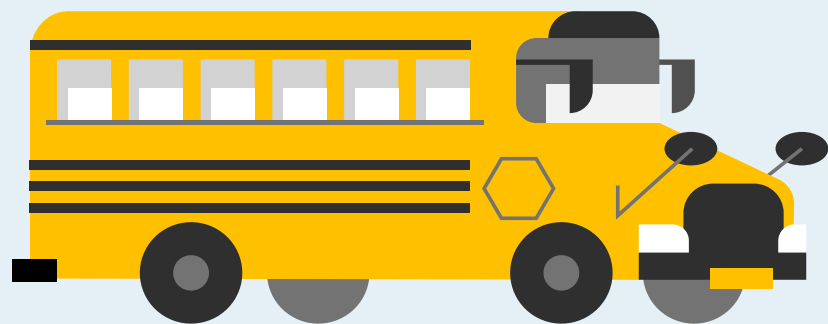
2023 CSB Rebate Program Overview

Popular Questions & Answers

Live Q&A

Next Steps and Resources

Live Transcription / Transcripción simultánea

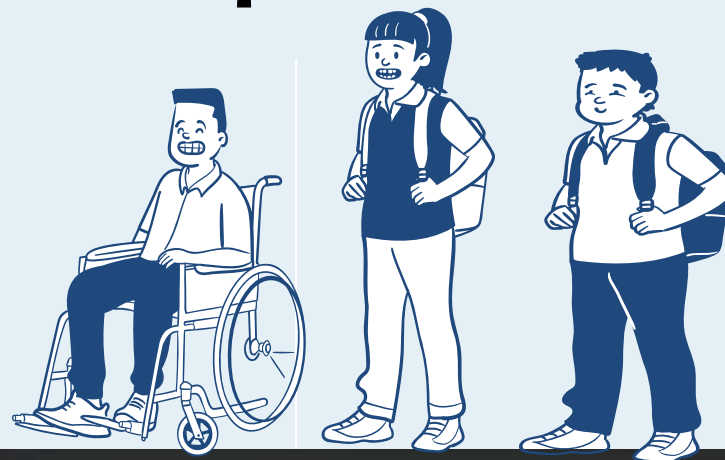


Live transcript is available

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Live Transcript

Live Spanish Interpretation / Interpretación simultánea



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Interpretation

Overview of the Clean School Bus Program

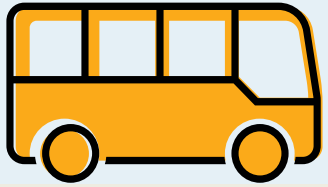
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- 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 (ZE) and clean school buses.

CSB Funding Opportunities

- EPA has offered rebates and grants in past funding opportunities.
- EPA is offering another round of rebate funding.
- The 2023 Rebates is the third CSB funding opportunity.





Why Clean School Buses?



Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions

CSBs emit zero or low tailpipe emissions.



Cleaner Air

CSBs result in cleaner air on the bus, in bus loading areas, and in the communities in which they operate.



Cost Savings

Replacing older diesel school buses with CSBs often reduces maintenance and fuel costs.



Resiliency

Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) capable CSBs can provide power to the grid or buildings during power shutdowns.





Improved Student Attendance & Achievement

The transport of students with CSBs has been linked to student attendance and academic achievement improvements.

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:

	Rebates 	Grants 
Application Process	Quick and simple; applications submitted through EPA portal	Longer, more detailed; applications submitted through grants.gov
Selection Process	Random number generated lottery process	Evaluation of application materials and scoring criteria
Selectee support and flexibility	EPA provides less support and flexibility in funding to selectees	EPA may offer more support for selectees during the project, as well as flexibility in funding – e.g. covering project implementation costs - and timing of the project, such as extending project periods to complete the project.
Number of Replacement Buses	Funds the transition of smaller fleets (lower bus replacement minimum and maximum)	Funds the transition of larger fleets (higher bus replacement minimum and maximum)



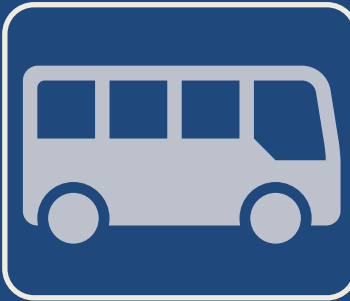
Application packages must be submitted to EPA no later than 1/31/24 at 4:00 p.m. ET.
For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.



2023 CSB Rebate Program Overview



EPA is offering at least **\$500 million** for clean school buses and ZE school buses. EPA may modify this amount based on the applicant pool and other pertinent factors. Funds are subject to availability and total awards may be higher or lower than the anticipated funds offered update if changed.



Eligible activities include the **replacement of existing internal-combustion engine (ICE) school buses with electric, propane, or compressed natural gas (CNG) school buses**, as well as the purchase and installation of **electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) infrastructure**.



EPA is prioritizing applications that will replace buses serving **high-need local education agencies, Tribal school districts funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs or those receiving basic support payments for students living on Tribal land, and rural areas**. EPA is committed to ensuring the CSB Program delivers on the Justice40 Initiative.

Next Steps – *Supplemental Application Forms*



School Board Awareness Certification

- **All applicants** must submit a School Board Awareness Certification to verify the school board's awareness of the school district's rebate application. It is imperative that the school board is aware of the application as they will likely have to vote on the approval of the project if the school district is selected for a rebate.

School District Approval Certification

- **Third Party applicants** (eligible contractors and nonprofit school transportation associations) applying for rebates must submit a signed School District Approval Certification to verify the school district's approval of the third party's rebate application for new buses that would serve their school district.

Utility Partnership Agreement

- **Applicants applying for ZE school buses** must also submit a Utility Partnership Agreement to verify the electric utility provider's awareness of the school district's rebate application. Coordination and communication between the school district and the local utility(ies) is critical to initiate early and to continue throughout the project.

CSB Funding per Replacement 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	Up to \$345,000 (Bus + Charging Infrastructure)	Up to \$265,000 (Bus + Charging Infrastructure)	Up to \$45,000	Up to \$30,000	Up to \$35,000	Up to \$30,000
Buses serving school districts that are not prioritized	Up to \$200,000 (Bus + Charging Infrastructure)	Up to \$145,000 (Bus + Charging Infrastructure)	Up to \$30,000	Up to \$20,000	Up to \$25,000	Up to \$20,000

*Funding levels include combined bus and EV charging infrastructure. Recipients have flexibility to determine the split between funding for the bus itself and the supporting infrastructure.

ADA-Compliant Buses:



Applicants can request up to an **additional \$20k** to purchase ADA-compliant clean school buses of any fuel type equipped with wheelchair lifts.



High Shipping Costs:

Applicants in non-contiguous U.S. states and territories will receive up to an **additional \$20k** per bus to cover high bus shipping costs.



Tax Credits:

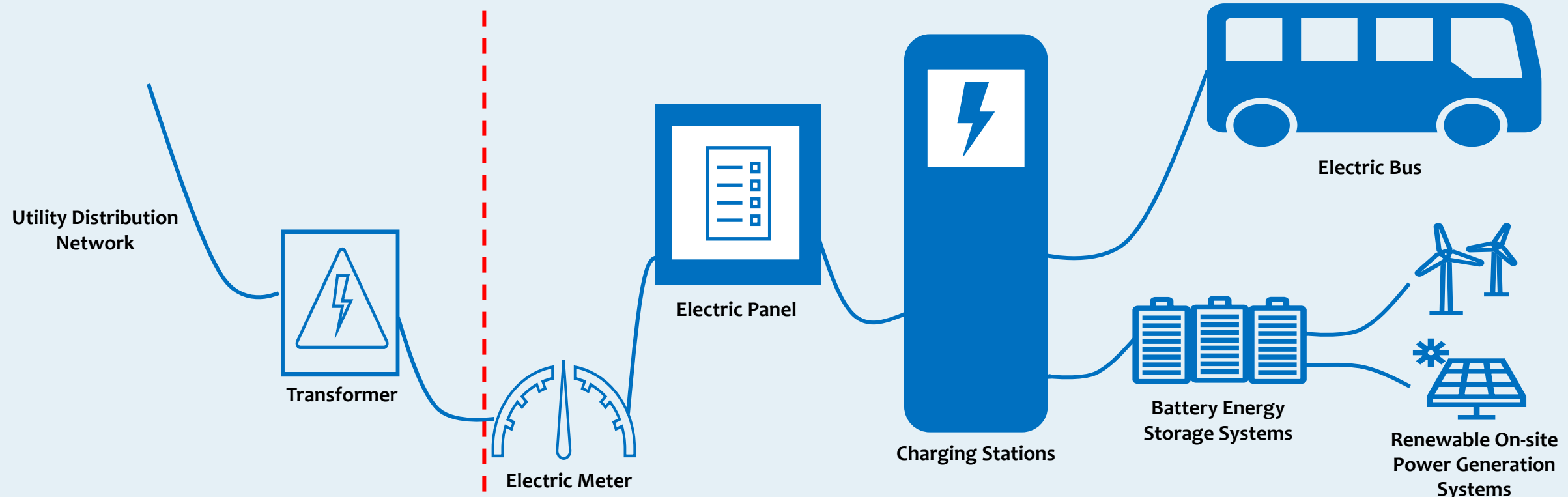
Selectees may be eligible for IRA tax credits applicable to their bus and infrastructure purchase(s) not reflected in the funding table.

Application packages must be submitted to EPA no later than 1/31/24 at 4:00 p.m. ET.

For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.

Non-Eligible Expenses

Eligible Expenses



Front-of-the-Meter (FTM)

Behind-the-Meter (BTM)

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CSB Program Website Tools and Resources



Technical Assistance

- ➔ • [Clean School Bus Technical Assistance](#)
- ➔ • [Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Resources](#)



Workforce Development

- ➔ • [Bus Manufacturer Job Quality and Workforce Development Practices](#)
- ➔ • [Workforce Development and Training Resources](#)



Educational Materials

- ➔ • [Clean School Bus Reports to Congress](#)
- ➔ • [Benefits of Clean School Buses](#)

All links can be found on: [epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus)

EPA Utility Engagement Pledge



A primary barrier school districts are facing is uncertainty around charging infrastructure deployment and how to engage with electric companies

- **Installation of charging infrastructure can undergo long lead times and requires close coordination with the local utility**



EPA is working with national electric utility company organizations to support school districts through a Utility Pledge that includes:

- **Facilitating Communication Between Electric Providers and School Districts**
- **Providing Technical Support and Assistance**
- **Increasing Funding and Deployment**



Additional information on the Utility Pledge and other technical assistance resources are available on: [epa.gov/cleanschoolbus technical assistance](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/technical-assistance)

Eligible Bus Replacements by Fuel Type

Existing Bus Fuel Type	Replacement Bus Fuel Type		
	Propane	Compressed Natural Gas	Battery-Electric
2010 or Older Diesel Bus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2011 or Newer Diesel Bus*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gasoline Powered Bus*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Propane Bus*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Compressed Natural Gas Bus*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Application packages must be submitted to EPA no later than 1/31/24 at 4:00 p.m. ET.
For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.



EPA Coordination with the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation

The Joint Office can provide **applicants and selectees** with support on the following topics:

Coordinating with
electric utilities

Identifying
available funding
and incentives

Analyzing
charging
infrastructure
needs

Conducting a
route analysis and
planning routes

Training and
workforce
development

Resiliency (V2X)

Analyzing energy
needs and grid
impact

Identifying solar
and battery
storage
opportunities

cleanschoolbusTA@nrel.gov
driveelectric.gov



*Application packages must be submitted to EPA no later than 1/31/24 at 4:00 p.m. ET.
For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.*





Popular Q&A

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

Q&A Deadline: January 10, 2024 @ 4 PM ET*

*Questions received after this date will still receive a response, but it might not be until after January 31, 2024.

cleanschoolbus@epa.gov

[epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus)

Question – 2.1:
Who is eligible to
apply?

Answer:

1. Public School Districts with a National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) District ID

- a. Providing school bus service to one or more public school systems;
- b. The purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses; b.
- c. A public charter school district responsible for the purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses for that charter school

1. Tribal Applicants

- a. An Indian Tribe as defined by section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 U.S.C. 5304),
- b. Tribal organization (as defined by Page 8 of 65 the same section), or
- c. Tribally-controlled school (as defined by section 5212 of the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988, 25 U.S.C. 2511)*

2. Third Parties

- a. A nonprofit school transportation association, or
- b. An eligible contractor (may be for-profit, not-for-profit, or nonprofit entity)*

Note: “Eligible contractor” generally includes school bus dealers, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), school bus service providers, and private school bus fleets that provide student transportation services.

- Please see Section 2 of the Program Guide for more information on eligible tribal and third party applicants.



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For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.



Questions 2.3,
2.6, 2.8, 2.38,
2.47: What are
some examples
of applicants
which are not
eligible to apply?

Answer:

Excluded applicants:

- Private schools
- Colleges and Universities (including public and tribal colleges)
- Head Start Programs and Community Based Childcare Programs (except as part of a school district)
- Utilities and electric cooperatives
- Note: Please see Section 2 of the [2023 CSB Rebates Program Guide](#) for a complete description of eligible applicants

Question – 4.1
How many buses
can we replace?

Answer:

Each rebate application may include up to 25 buses for replacement.

- School districts applying directly for funds may only submit one application to replace up to 25 buses.
- Other eligible applicants identified in Section 2 may submit multiple applications, but each application must be for buses serving a different school district.



*Application packages must be submitted to EPA no later than 1/31/24 at 4:00 p.m. ET.
For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.*



Questions --

4.7: If a replacement electric school bus costs less than the maximum per-bus funding amount, can the remaining funds be used for charging infrastructure costs?

4.13: Is there a limit to the cost of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE)?

Answer:

Yes. The per-bus funding amounts listed in Table 2 in Section 4 of the [Program Guide](#) represent combined bus-infrastructure funding amounts.

- Recipients have flexibility to determine the split between funding for the bus itself and the supporting infrastructure.
 - The total of funds from the CSB rebate and other eligible external funds allocated for the bus replacements and charging infrastructure cannot exceed the cost of the replacement buses and charging infrastructure.
 - Standalone infrastructure projects are not eligible.
 - CSB funds must not be used for any infrastructure costs associated with work in front of the electrical meter, but that additional resources, such as state and other local funding, may be available for this work.

Questions –

4.19: Can battery energy storage systems (tied into the EV charging design) and a photovoltaic array be purchased and installed, to support the charging infrastructure unit, using infrastructure funds?

4.31: What are the requirements for managed charging options for electric bus chargers? Is charging management software an eligible charging infrastructure expense?

4.34: May selectees purchase multiple chargers per bus with the funds?

Answers:

2023 Clean School Bus Rebates charging infrastructure funds can be used for battery energy storage systems (BESS) and a photovoltaic array associated with replacement electric school buses funded in the program.

- To be eligible, the BESS must be behind the electrical meter.
- There are no requirements that chargers funded with rebate funds have managed charging, but Level 2 chargers that are funded must be EnergyStar certified. All chargers purchased and installed under this program must be certified by an Occupational Safety and Health Administration Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory. DC Fast Chargers and AC Level 2 chargers should be certified to the appropriate Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standards for EV charging system equipment.
 - Charging management software is an eligible expense, and can allow fleets to reduce peak power consumption, manage charging times, and collect data. Fleets should be aware that charging infrastructure funds will only be paid out on expenses provided in order documents in the Payment Request Form.
- The per-bus funding amounts listed in Table 4 in Section 4 of the Program Guide represent combined bus-infrastructure funding amounts.
 - Recipients have flexibility to determine the split between funding for the bus itself and the supporting infrastructure.



Application packages must be submitted to EPA no later than 1/31/24 at 4:00 p.m. ET.
For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.



Question – 2.25:
If a school district is not identified in EPA's Prioritized List, what is the process to self-certify their prioritization status?

Answer:

An applicant may be eligible to self-certify the school district's low-income prioritization status if the district is in one of these categories:

1. Title I funded and does not have SAIPE data, OR
2. Title I funded and very large districts (defined as having more than 45 schools or more than 35,000 students) may either:
 - a. Apply for the entire district if that district is at least 80% Title I schools. See the Prioritization Self-Certification Instructions, which can be found on the CSB Rebates webpage, for details on these options, OR
 - b. Apply on behalf of Title I sub-districts or individual schools if buses would be used primarily for those Title I schools or subdistricts.

Note: Self-certification information may be entered in the School District section of the online application form. Please see the [2023 Rebates Program Prioritization Self-certification Instructions](#) for documentation information. **Applicants are encouraged to maintain all documentation and be ready to supply documents for review in a timely manner.**

Question – 3.46:

Can a 2023 Rebate application list the same existing school buses to be replaced that are listed in a 2023 Grant application?

Answer:

Yes, as long as the existing buses to be replaced meet the eligibility requirements.

- Please see Section 3 of the [Program Guide](#) for more information.
- However, if a Grant were to be awarded, EPA would have to approve a change to the buses to be replaced on a Rebate application to move forward with that application. This is because funding recipients cannot receive two separate awards to replace the same bus.

**Question – 5.58,
5.6:**

Who is considered an authorized representative on each of the supplemental applicant forms? Can forms be altered or exchanged?

Answer:

The School District Approval Certification, School Board Awareness Certification, and Utility Partner Template all require a signature from an authorized representative.

- An authorized representative is any individual who has the consent of the applicable organization to sign on its behalf.
- All applicants must use the Utility Partnership Template. The goal of this template is to facilitate discussion and common understanding between the school district and its utility, as well as the applicant if a third-party is applying on behalf of the school district.
- Please note that these forms are not financially binding to any entity other than the applicant. They serve to give approval and demonstrate coordination between entities.
- If applicants requesting electric school buses are unable to complete the cost estimate, scope of utility upgrades, and/or time estimate on the required Electric Utility Partnership Template by the application deadline but have been able to complete the rest of the template, including all signatures, a partially completed form can be submitted with the intent to complete the form by award notification, if selected.

Question –
4.24: Can federal tax credits (e.g., IRA 30C and 45W) be claimed on the replacement bus and charging infrastructure funded by 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate funds?

Answer:

Claiming a tax credit would not trigger the 2023 CSB Rebate Program prohibition regarding stacking funds from federal incentive programs.

- Please monitor the [IRS website](#) for further guidance around how to claim or receive any tax credits. If you have any questions, please refer to the [IRS Complex Tax Topics](#) webpage.
- FYI - the IRS has released the [IRA Pre-filing Registration Tool](#) for eligible entities to take advantage of the elective payment or transfer of certain IRA tax credits.
- EPA Recently hosted a webinar on 12/05/2023 regarding tax credits, please see all webinar materials [here](#).
- IRS is hosting a webinar TODAY at 2 PM ET on Elective Pay and IRS Energy Credits Online – [click here to register](#).

Questions – A.24, A.31: My school uses a contractor to provide transportation services to and from school. Does my school qualify for the tax credit?

As a school district that owns property affected by a tax credit, what is the value of the tax credit for which I may qualify?

Answers:

Generally speaking, the owner of property eligible for the tax credit is the entity that may claim the credit.

- The value of a school district's tax credit and any tax-exempt funding used to purchase the property cannot exceed the cost of the property.
- This means that for a school district, the value of a tax credit can only equal the amount of funding directly provided by the school to purchase the vehicle, up to the maximum value of the credit.
 - A school district purchases an Electric school bus for \$340,000. The district uses \$300,00 of tax-exempt funding and \$40,000 of its unrestricted funds to purchase the bus. The bus qualifies for the maximum qualified commercial clean vehicle (section 45W) credit, \$40,000. Since the amount of the tax-exempt funding plus the amount of the section 45W credit does not exceed the cost of the electric school bus, the section 45W credit is not reduced.



Application packages must be submitted to EPA no later than 1/31/24 at 4:00 p.m. ET.
For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.



Question –
5.5: Why do I see an error message stating, “No SAM.gov records match your email” when trying to access the rebate application form?

Answer:

If you receive this error message, 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: a. Electronic Business POC b. Alternate Electronic Business POC c. Government Business POC d. 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.

Question 1.23–
Which funding opportunities are open? Which ones will be open later?

Answer:

The 2023 Clean School Bus Grant Program is one of many funding opportunities under the Clean School Bus Program.

- EPA will announce future grant funding opportunities through the website and newsletter; further details are not yet available.
- The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebates Program Application Period is currently open through January 31, 2024. Applicants unsuccessful in the 2023 CSB grant program are encouraged to consider which funding mechanism (grants or rebates) is best for them and consider applying to the 2023 Rebate Program.

Question & Answer Session



Upvote and comment on questions similar to your own.
Type your full thought so we can follow-up with an answer.
Speak slowly and clearly for the captioner/interpreter.

cleanschoolbus@epa.gov

epa.gov/cleanschoolbus

Next Steps – *How to Apply*



1. Visit the Clean School Bus Website for Tools & Resources



2. Register your Organization with SAM.gov



3. Complete your Application Form and Supplemental Applicant Forms



4. Submit Application Package by January 31st, 2024 at 4:00pm ET

Selection and Notification



- In accordance with statute, financial assistance will be distributed equally between two funding pools, Zero Emission and Clean School Bus pool.
 - **At least 60% of funding from each pool will be awarded to prioritized school districts.**
- Applications received by the deadline that meet threshold eligibility criteria will be placed in a single ordered list using a **random number generator lottery process**.
 - This funding opportunity is not first-come, first-served, but EPA recommends applying well in advance of the deadline.
- EPA will select applicants for funding, working from the top to the bottom of the random number order list, until funds are allocated from both the Clean School Bus and Zero Emission 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.
- **Prioritized applicants will be selected** within each funding pool.
- Applicants not selected by lottery will remain in random number order on a waitlist up to 90 days after the initial selection notification.

Upcoming Webinars

January 24, 2024

CSB Outreach: Engaging Your Community

February 7, 2024

2023 Rebates Feedback and Next Steps

**Please note: Webinar topics are subject to change. To view the most up-to-date list of CSB webinars and register, please visit: www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/events-related-clean-school-bus-program*



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For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.



2023 CSB Rebates

- Applications must be submitted to EPA no later than **1/31/24 at 4:00 p.m. ET.**
- Dates and topics for future webinars are on our website under the 'Webinars' section.

Future Funding Opportunities

- EPA encourages school districts to consider which competition structure (grants or rebates) best suits their needs.
- EPA anticipates opening a grant program in Spring 2024.

Resources

- [EPA's CSB Program website](#)
- The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation (cleanschoolbusTA@nrel.gov)
- The CSB helpline (cleanschoolbus@epa.gov)

Stay in Touch

- Learn more about the 2023 CSB Rebates at epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/school-bus-rebates-clean-school-bus-program
- Submit questions to cleanschoolbus@epa.gov
- Don't miss any updates! To sign up for the listserv, please visit epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.



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