



# Clean School Bus Program Rebates



Application deadline: 1/9/2025



Available funding for 2024: \$965M

# Clean School Bus Program Rebates



## Goals and merit criteria for Clean School Bus Program rebates:

The EPA to prioritize awarding funds to certain communities that will benefit from the CSB Program, these include:

- high-need school districts
- Rural school districts
- Bureau of Indian Education-funded school districts, and
- School districts that receive basic support payments for children who reside on Indian land

Applicants requesting funding for the replacement of school buses that serve a prioritized school district will be offered more funding per bus and receive preference in the selection process

# Clean School Bus Program Rebates Details

Rebates and grants differ in their application and selection processes as well as financial timing, documentation, and associated regulations.

*Match funding requirement: N/A*

*Direct Pay applicability: Yes<sup>3</sup>*

## Eligible grant uses

- i) replace existing school buses with clean and zero-emission models
- ii) EV-related infrastructure installation and equipment from the electrical meter to the charging port of the bus
- iii) additional expenses, including costs associated with infrastructure labor, workforce training, consulting, delivery, and warranties

## Award amounts

Minimum award	At least 1 bus for replacement (smallest award in 2023 was <\$100K)
Maximum award	Up to 50 buses for replacement, max. \$0.3M per bus + charging infra. (largest award in 2023 was \$9.1M) <sup>1</sup>
Award distribution	60% of funds will flow to prioritized applicants, in alignment with the Justice40 Initiative <sup>2</sup>
Period of performance	2 years

## Previous awards (national)

2023 awards	603 awards (\$954M)
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## Previous awards (MI)

2023 awards	29 awards (\$24.5M)
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1. Maximum rebate amount is dependent on (1) the bus fuel type, (2) the bus size, and (3) whether the school district to be served by the buses meets one or more prioritization criteria. Funding amounts do not reflect EPA funding available for ADA-compliant wheelchair lifts, EPA funding for shipping costs to non-contiguous U.S. states and territories, nor IRA funding available through IRS-disbursed tax credits for EV bus and infrastructure purchases

2. Justice40 Initiative sets a goal of at least 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.

3. A previous awardee in Michigan, Highland Electric, proposed a project focused on converting buses to electric vehicles.

Source: [Clean School Bus Rebates Program Guide](#) and Clean School Bus Program Awards Interactive Maps and Data Tables

# High level requirements to apply for a Clean School Bus Program rebate

All applicants will also be required to submit one or more supplemental documents.

NON-EXHAUSTIVE



## Eligible Entities

- Public School Districts (local or state governmental entities, and public charter schools, as well as regional Education Service Agency (RESA) or Joint Transportation Agency (JTA), with a National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) ID specific to either the RESA or JTA)
- Tribal Applicants (an Indian Tribe, Tribal organization, or Tribally-controlled school)
- Third Parties (nonprofit school transportation associations and eligible contractors)



## Key Grant Application Components

- An active System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration for the entity that is applying and Points of Contact (POC) listed under the organization's entity registration in SAM.gov,
- Applicant information
- Organization information
- School district information

Applicants who are self-certifying under the prioritization criteria will be able to attest to their self-certification in the online rebate application form. Applicants who are self-certifying must include all required documents pertinent to their intended self-certification criteria as part of their application submission

## Supplemental documents

- All applicants must submit a School Board Awareness Certification to verify the school board's awareness of the school district's rebate application
- 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
- Applicants applying for ZE school buses must also submit a Utility Partnership Agreement to verify that the school district's electric utility provider is aware of the school district's rebate application

# Examples of past winners in Michigan



## Dean Transportation clean school bus replacement (2023)

**Applicant:** Dean Transportation Inc. for Grand Rapids Public Schools

**Impacted locality:** Grand Rapids

**Funding:** \$5.2M

**Project description:** Grand Rapids Public Schools, classified as high-need, will receive funding for 15 electric busses. The funding is intended to reduce harmful emissions and promote healthier air quality by converting school transportation fleets from diesel-powered vehicles to buses with low or no greenhouse gas emissions as determined by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. Funding can be used for buses that use electricity, propane, or natural gas. Clean school busses offer low/no tailpipe pollution, reduced maintenance costs for districts, and improved air quality for children.



## Highland Electric clean school bus replacement (2023)

**Applicant:** Highland Electric Fleets Inc. on for Saline Area Schools

**Impacted locality:** Saline

**Funding:** \$600K

**Project description:** Saline Area Schools will receive funding for 3 electric busses. The funding is intended to reduce harmful emissions and promote healthier air quality by converting school transportation fleets from diesel-powered vehicles to buses with low or no greenhouse gas emissions as determined by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. Funding can be used for buses that use electricity, propane, or natural gas. Clean school busses offer low/no tailpipe pollution, reduced maintenance costs for districts, and improved air quality for children.



## Blue Bird Body Company clean school bus replacement (2023)

**Applicant:** Blue Bird Body Company for Gwinn Area Community Schools

**Impacted locality:** Gwinn

**Funding:** \$400K

**Project description:** Gwinn Area Community Schools, classified as rural and high-need, will receive funding for 1 propane bus. The funding is intended to reduce harmful emissions and promote healthier air quality by converting school transportation fleets from diesel-powered vehicles to buses with low or no greenhouse gas emissions as determined by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. Funding can be used for buses that use electricity, propane, or natural gas. Clean school busses offer low/no tailpipe pollution, reduced maintenance costs for districts, and improved air quality for children. With a fast-charging system, buses can be recharged between routes, which makes rural routes accessible for clean school bus use.