

# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Clean School Bus Program Overview

Stakeholder Listening Session  
Wednesday, December 15, 2021  
3:00PM EST

**Call-in information (use if having Zoom  
audio difficulties):**

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or  
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Webinar ID: 160 581 8492  
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# Overview

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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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
- 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

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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

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- *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

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- **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 [cleanschoolbus@epa.gov](mailto:cleanschoolbus@epa.gov)



# 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

[cleanschoolbus@epa.gov](mailto:cleanschoolbus@epa.gov)





# Reminders

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# Thank you!

- Please check [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus) for program updates
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