



# EPA Clean School Bus Program 2023 Rebate (Round 3) Awards Announcement

## Toolkit for Advocates

<b>About This Toolkit.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>About the EPA Clean School Bus Program.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>About the EPA Clean School Bus Program 2023 Rebates.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Key Links.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>What You Can Do.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Key Messages.....</b>	<b>3</b>
On the Awardees.....	4
Additional Guidance.....	4
<b>Sample Social Media.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Sample Media Statement.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Sample Media Pitch.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Sample LTE.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Sample Congratulations Email to School District.....</b>	<b>8</b>

### About This Toolkit

On May 29, 2024, EPA [announced](#) the winners of the Clean School Bus Program 2023 Rebates. In total, EPA is awarding nearly \$900 million for 3,400 new school buses to approximately 530 school districts across 47 states, as well as D.C. and several Tribes and territories. [Check the list of awardees as it's updated here.](#)

This toolkit was created by the Alliance for Electric School Buses (AESB) to provide resources for advocates to amplify the awards announcement. For any questions or comments, please contact AESB Coalition Manager Carolina Chacon at [carolina@chaconconsulting.com](mailto:carolina@chaconconsulting.com).

### About the EPA Clean School Bus Program

The [EPA Clean School Bus Program](#) (CSBP) is a 5-year, \$5 billion program established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in 2021. The program provides funding for public school districts and other eligible applicants to replace aging diesel buses with electric school buses, as well as propane and compressed natural gas (CNG) school buses. By law, the program prioritizes school districts in low-income, rural, and Tribal communities.

**Since opening in 2022, the EPA Clean School Bus Program has awarded nearly \$3 billion for almost 8,500 new school buses at over 1,000 school districts.** Applicants have submitted nearly \$8 billion in funding requests, with the overwhelming majority requesting electric school buses.

<b>EPA Clean School Bus Program In Review</b>	<b>ROUND 1 2022 Rebates</b> (May '22-Aug '23)	<b>ROUND 2 2023 Grants</b> (April '23-Aug '23)	<b>ROUND 3 NEW 2023 Rebates</b> (Sep '23-Feb '24)	<b>TOTAL</b>
Funding Offered	\$500 million	\$400 million	\$500 million	\$1.4 billion
Funding Applied For	\$4 billion	\$2.3 billion	\$1.7 billion	\$8 billion
Funding Awarded	\$872 million	\$965 million	\$900 million	\$2.7 billion
School Districts Awarded	368	270	530	1,168
Low-Income, Rural or Tribal Districts Awarded	370	229	238	837
School Buses Awarded	2,300+	2,700+	3,400	8,400+
Electric School Buses Awarded	2,200+	2,600+	3,100+	7,900+

### About the EPA Clean School Bus Program 2023 Rebates

On May 29, 2024, EPA [announced](#) the winners of the Clean School Bus Program 2023 Rebates, which opened September 2023 and closed in February 2024. In total, **EPA is awarding nearly \$900 million for 3,400 new school buses to approximately 530 school districts** across 47 states, as well as D.C. and several Tribes and territories. About **92% of the new buses will be electric school buses**. Approximately 45% of the winners and 67% of the total funding will be delivered to priority low-income, rural, and/or Tribal school districts.

For the third year in a row, the Clean School Bus Program has experienced overwhelming demand for funding. EPA initially offered \$500 million and received applications requesting \$1.7 billion, leading the agency to nearly double the funding awarded to \$900 million. The majority of applicants requested electric school buses -- the cleanest, healthiest option for children.

School districts have additional opportunities to apply for funding: the [EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program](#) is accepting grant proposals through July 25, and EPA will open another [Clean School Bus](#) rebate round later this summer or fall. [Technical assistance](#) is also available now from the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation.

### Key Links

- [EPA Clean School Bus Program 2023 Rebate Awards press release](#)
- [EPA Clean School Bus Program 2023 Rebate Awards press release - Spanish](#)
- [EPA Clean School Bus Program 2023 Rebate Awards map](#)
- [EPA Clean School Bus Program 2023 Rebate Awards website](#)
- [EPA Clean School Bus Program 2023 Rebate waitlist](#)

## State EPA Press Releases

1. [Alabama](#)
2. [Arizona](#)
3. [Arkansas](#)
4. [California](#)
5. [Colorado](#)
6. [Connecticut](#)
7. [D.C.](#)
8. [Delaware](#)
9. [Georgia](#)
10. [Idaho](#)
11. [Illinois](#)
12. [Indiana](#)
13. [Iowa](#)
14. [Kansas](#)
15. [Kentucky](#)
16. [Louisiana](#)
17. [Maine](#)
18. [Maryland](#)
19. [Massachusetts](#)
20. [Michigan](#)
21. [Minnesota](#)
22. [Mississippi](#)
23. [Missouri](#)
24. [Montana](#)
25. [Nebraska](#)
26. [New Hampshire](#)
27. [New Jersey](#)
28. [New Mexico](#)
29. [New York](#)
30. [North Carolina](#)
31. [North Dakota](#)
32. [Ohio](#)
33. [Oklahoma](#)
34. [Oregon](#)
35. [Pennsylvania](#)
36. [Puerto Rico](#)
37. [Rhode Island](#)
38. [South Carolina](#)
39. [South Dakota](#)
40. [Tennessee](#)
41. [Texas](#)
42. [Utah](#)
43. [Vermont](#)
44. [Virginia](#)
45. [Washington](#)
46. [West Virginia](#)
47. [Wisconsin](#)
48. [Wyoming](#)

## What You Can Do

**The EPA Clean School Bus Program is proof that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is delivering a clean ride for kids to communities across the country.** Help us celebrate the awardees.

1. Share the news on [social media](#).
2. Send a [pitch to local media contacts](#) or publish a [media statement](#).
3. Send a [letter congratulating a winning school district](#) in your region.
4. Submit a [Letter to the Editor](#) to your local newspaper.

## Key Messages

- **The CSBP is transforming how kids get to school.** Before today, the EPA Clean School Bus Program had already tripled the [number of electric school buses in the United States](#). With this announcement, the CSBP will help the number of electric school buses in the United States surpass 12,000.
- **The nearly \$1 billion in rebate awards will provide a cleaner ride at 530 school districts.** Through the Clean School Bus 2023 Rebates, EPA is funding approximately 3,400 new school buses. 92% of those buses will be electric school buses. Rebate funding is delivered upfront, making it easy for school districts to make the switch.
- **Demand for EPA electric school bus funding is overwhelming.** For the third year in a row, EPA had to nearly double Clean School Bus funding awarded after receiving billions more in applications than the \$500 million they had originally offered. The overwhelming majority of applications were for electric school buses, just like during the program's [first](#) and [second](#) rounds.
- **Electric school buses are an investment in children's health and wellbeing.** Electric school buses produce zero emissions at the tailpipe, ensuring children and drivers can breathe clean air. [Diesel exhaust has been proven to](#) worsen asthma, cause heart disease, and lead to

cancer, as well as cause kids to miss school and perform worse on academic tests. Transitioning the nation's school bus fleet to electric models will prioritize children's health.

- **Electric school buses are the best choice for school districts and communities.** Electric school buses produce [half as many carbon emissions](#) over their lifetimes as diesel, propane, CNG, or any fossil fuel school bus. Additionally, electric school buses save school districts thousands of dollars each year, since they are cheaper to maintain and fuel. They also provide a quiet, smooth ride -- calmer for both students and drivers.

### On the Awardees

- We're excited that **[AWARD RECIPIENT]** has won a EPA Clean School Bus Program 2023 rebate award! They will receive **[\$XX]** to purchase clean school buses.
- **[if applicable] [SCHOOL DISTRICT]** students live in a highly polluted area, and riding diesel school buses each day is putting their health at risk.
- We know **[SCHOOL DISTRICT]** is ready and excited to invest in electric school buses. We look forward to helping them put electric school buses on the road.
- With the EPA CSBP funding, **[AWARD RECIPIENT]** will be able to provide a #CleanRide4Kids and improve the health of **[CITY/COUNTY]** students, workers and families!

### Additional Guidance

- Say "electric school buses" instead of "clean school buses." Because the EPA Clean School Bus Program also funds fossil fuel buses like propane and CNG, the phrase "clean school bus" now includes fuels that are *not* clean. Instead, say "electric school buses" or "zero-tailpipe-emission buses."
- Make sure to refer to this EPA Clean School Bus Program funding round as REBATES, not grants. CSBP grant rounds have different guidelines and requirements.

## Sample Social Media

Customize your social media posts to make sure they get seen, and don't forget to use the **#CleanRide4Kids** hashtag -- that's how AESB will help amplify your posts.

You can either link to the EPA press release or the [awards map/table](#), as well as add one of these unbranded graphics for [Twitter/LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram/Facebook](#). **Please make a copy of the graphic before customizing.**

- Congratulations to 530 school districts that were just awarded an @EPA Clean School Bus Program award! A #cleanride4kids is coming to a school near you -- check it out: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-recipients-nearly-900-million-clean-school-buses>
- BREAKING NEWS 📢 @EPA just announced the winners of \$900 million in Clean School Bus Program awards! Another 3,000+ electric school buses are coming to 47 U.S. states, as well as multiple territories and Tribes.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-recipients-nearly-900-million-clean-school-buses>

- Is a #cleanride4kids coming to your state? @EPA just announced the 530 winners of the nearly \$1 BILLION Clean School Bus Program awards. Check the list:  
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-recipients-nearly-900-million-clean-school-buses>
- We're excited to congratulate [AWARD RECIPIENT] for receiving an @EPA Clean School Bus Program award! [SCHOOL DISTRICT] will receive \$XX million to invest in electric school buses, the cleanest and healthiest option for children.  
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-recipients-nearly-900-million-clean-school-buses>
- 🌟 Just announced 🌟 [School District/Award Recipient] will be receiving \$XX million from @EPA's Clean School Bus Program! These funds will go towards purchasing #ElectricSchoolBuses & their charging stations, and will provide cleaner air for kids & the [city/school district] community!  
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-recipients-nearly-900-million-clean-school-buses>
- We're thrilled that [School District] will be receiving @EPA funds to purchase #ElectricSchoolBuses! For too long, [School District/Community] has been impacted by harmful pollution & underinvestment. A #CleanRide4Kids will clean up our air, reduce harmful pollution, and enable healthier communities!  
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-recipients-nearly-900-million-clean-school-buses>
- Exciting news! @EPA just announced the 530 winners of a \$900 million in funding for school districts to clean up their bus fleets. Over 3,000 electric school buses are coming to dozens of states!  
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-recipients-nearly-900-million-clean-school-buses>
- Cleaner air, healthier students and lower costs are coming to a school district near you! The EPA just announced the latest winners of Clean School Bus Program funding, including 530 school districts who will have funding to invest in over 3,000 electric school buses! See who won a #CleanRide4Kids in your state:  
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-recipients-nearly-900-million-clean-school-buses>

## Sample Media Statement

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 29, 2024

**Contact:** [MEDIA CONTACT]

**[ORGANIZATION] Congratulates XX STATE School Districts for Winning \$XX Million for Electric School Buses**

## EPA Awarding \$900 Million in Clean School Bus Program Rebates to 530 School Districts Nationwide

[CITY, State] -- Today, the U.S. EPA [announced](#) the winners of the \$900 million Clean School Bus Program 2023 Rebates, including XX school districts across [STATE] that will receive \$XX million for XX electric school buses and their charging stations.

[Organization name, title, contact] released the following statement in response to the news:

*"This is an exciting moment for schools in [STATE]. EPA's award of \$XX million in electric school bus funding to XX school districts will bring cleaner air for students, reduced pollution in our communities, a healthier working environment for bus drivers and mechanics, and lower maintenance and fueling costs. This is especially important for the XXX,XXX children in our state who suffer from asthma, which is worsened by diesel fumes. We applaud school districts for applying for and receiving this funding, and look forward to ensuring we bring a clean ride for kids to the most polluted areas of [STATE]."*

OR

*"We're excited to congratulate [SCHOOL DISTRICT] for receiving \$XX million to bring electric school buses to [STATE]. Our children deserve to breathe clean air, and for too long diesel exhaust pollution has put their health at risk for heart disease, respiratory illnesses, and even cancer. This funding is an investment in our students' health, and will save school districts money in the long term too, since electric school buses have fewer parts and don't need to be fueled by costly diesel. We're looking forward to working with [SCHOOL DISTRICT] to protect our students and our community, and reinvest in our public schools."*

OR

*"If you've ever ridden a school bus or behind one, you're familiar with the loud roar of the engine and the headache-inducing smell of the diesel fumes. Thankfully, for at least some students at [STATE] school districts, that will soon change. We are proud to congratulate XX school districts who have been awarded funding from the EPA Clean School Bus Program to switch to clean, tailpipe-free electric school buses. Taking aging dirty diesel buses off our roads and out of our schools will significantly improve air quality and protect our most precious cargo. We're thrilled to welcome this funding to [STATE], and look forward to working with school districts to completely transition our fleets to provide a clean ride for kids."*

The \$5-billion [EPA Clean School Bus Program](#) (CSBP) was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021, and prioritizes funding for low-income, rural, and Tribal school districts.

For the third year in a row, the CSBP has experienced overwhelming demand for funding. EPA initially offered \$500 million in September 2023 and received applications requesting \$1.7 billion by the February 2024 deadline, leading the agency to nearly double the funding awarded to \$900 million. The majority of applicants requested electric school buses -- the cleanest, healthiest option for children.

In total, the program has already awarded nearly \$3 billion for almost 8,500 clean school buses at over 1,000 school districts, tripling the number of electric school buses in the United States. In [STATE], school districts have received \$XX million in funding from the CSBP. Electric school buses [have already been delivered/are coming] to [CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT].

School districts have additional opportunities to apply for electric school bus funding: the [EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program](#) is accepting grant proposals through July 25, and EPA will open another [Clean School Bus](#) rebate round later this summer or fall. [Technical assistance](#) is also available now from the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation.

**[Only for AESB Members]** As a member of the [Alliance for Electric School Buses](#), a national coalition of not-for-profit organizations committed to an equitable electrification of the nation's school bus fleet, [ORGANIZATION] has advocated for federal funding for zero-emission, electric school buses for years. We look forward to bringing additional opportunities for [STATE] to join the momentum for a #CleanRide4Kids.

###

**About [ORGANIZATION]:** [about]

## Sample Media Pitch

### **Keep in mind**

To pitch press on this news, consider a few things:

- Are there reporters in your state who have covered electric school buses before? If so, they might be interested in this news.
- Are there community members or leaders who you want to uplift through a media story? If so, make sure they're available for a media interview when reaching out to press.
- If your state has recently passed any electric school bus legislation, mention it. That will help show how this announcement is driving momentum for a #CleanRide4Kids in your state.
- Do you need help with talking points or customizing a pitch? Reach out to Carolina Chacon with the Alliance for Electric School Buses at [carolina@chaconconsulting.com](mailto:carolina@chaconconsulting.com).

### **Sample subject lines (pick one):**

- EPA just awarded \$XX to [SCHOOL DISTRICT] to purchase electric school buses
- More electric school buses are coming to [STATE]!
- BREAKING NEWS: [SCHOOL DISTRICT] receives \$XX for a clean ride for kids!

### **Sample email text (customize):**

Hello [NAME],

I wanted to make sure you saw the great news: The [EPA just announced](#) that [XX SCHOOL DISTRICTS] in [CITY/COUNTY/REGION] have been awarded funding to purchase electric school buses!

[SCHOOL DISTRICT] is one of 530 awardees across the country that collectively have won \$900 million in funding through the third round of the [EPA Clean School Bus Program](#) (CSBP), which helps replace aging diesel buses with cleaner alternatives. The CSBP was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 and has already distributed almost \$3 billion for nearly 8,500 clean school buses through grants and rebates. The program prioritizes funding for low-income, rural, and Tribal

school districts. EPA opened \$500 million in funding in September 2023, and nearly doubled the funding it awarded to \$900 million after receiving almost \$2 billion in applications.

By switching to electric school buses, [SCHOOL DISTRICT] will eliminate toxins from diesel exhaust that pollute the air our children and communities breathe and can lead to respiratory illnesses and other heart and lung diseases. [XX,XXX] or [X%] of children in [STATE] suffer from asthma. [SCHOOL DISTRICT] will also save thousands of dollars in fuel and maintenance costs, and create a healthier working environment for bus drivers and mechanics. [If appropriate, add notes on potential climate impacts/greenhouse gas reductions.]

In [STATE], school districts have received \$[XX million] in funding from the CSBP. Electric school buses [have already been delivered/are coming] to [CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL DISTRICT].

This is a victory for our community, especially low-income families and communities of color who bear the burden of pollution, and we'd love to see this highlighted. If you're interested, we can::

- Connect you with our contacts at [SCHOOL DISTRICT]
- Make available for interviews [community members/ community leaders] who have been calling for a transition to electric school buses
- Provide additional information on the benefits of electric school buses and how [STATE] advocates are planning to leverage this opportunity for additional state/local funding

**[For members of the AESB only]** As a member of the [Alliance for Electric School Buses](#), a national coalition of not-for-profit environmental, equity, labor and community organizations, [OUR ORGANIZATION] has helped advocate for the funding that is making this program possible, and we're thrilled to see a clean ride for kids coming to our STATE.

Would you consider a story on this awards announcement and what it will mean for our schools? We'd be happy to answer any questions you have.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,

[SIGNER]

## Sample Letters to the Editor

**Subject:** Great News -- A Clean Ride for Kids is Coming to [CITY/STATE]

**Word Count:** 239

**Sample Text #1:** For too long, our community has put our children at risk. By riding to and from school on diesel school buses, children have been exposed to toxic pollution that can impact their grades and attendance, lead to preventable heart and lung illnesses, and even shorten their lifespans. These diesel toxins can also affect school bus drivers, attendants, and mechanics -- not to mention the communities these buses drive through and idle by.

Thankfully, this is changing. The EPA announced [last week] that [SCHOOL DISTRICT] will be receiving [\$\$X] to fund the purchase of electric school buses and their charging stations. These buses produce zero tailpipe emissions, reducing pollution and improving public health. Given that [X] in [XX] [STATE]

children suffer from asthma -- one of the leading causes of school absences and the #1 chronic illness for children -- switching to electric is welcome news.

The funding award is part of the EPA's Clean School Bus Program, a \$5 billion program to help school districts invest in a clean ride for kids. [SCHOOL DISTRICT] is [one of X] districts in the state to receive EPA funding, and as such is among the pioneering districts across the country that's forging a new future for our children.

We congratulate [SCHOOL DISTRICT] for applying for, and receiving, these funds and prioritizing the health of our communities. We look forward to welcoming these electric school buses on our streets.

**Subject:** Time to Accelerate [STATE]'s Transition to Electric School Buses **Word Count:** 212

**Sample Text #2:** Great news arrived last week: [SCHOOL DISTRICT] has been awarded [\$XX] to purchase electric school buses and their charging stations, thanks to the EPA Clean School Bus Program, a \$5 billion federal program aimed at improving air quality.

This means [SCHOOL DISTRICT] will be taking dirty diesel buses off the roads and replacing them with zero-tailpipe-emission buses that are quieter, cleaner and better for children's health and our environment. Because electric school buses have fewer parts and run on electricity -- whose price is much more stable than that of volatile fossil fuels like gas or propane -- electric school buses are also expected to save [SCHOOL DISTRICT] thousands of dollars a year on operations and maintenance.

It's an exciting time for our state to receive this funding and pilot in clean transportation. But we can't stop here. The EPA Clean School Bus Program should serve as seed funding for [STATE] to create forward-looking programs that will help school districts invest in the health of our kids and climate. [OUR ORGANIZATION] is calling on [STATE LEADER] to leverage this opportunity to help other school districts purchase electric school buses by...[DETAILS].

We can and must accelerate this transition to a clean ride for kids. Join us and tell [XXX] to act now!

## Sample Congratulations Email to School District

Dear [Superintendent/Principal/Other Title INSERT LAST NAME],

Congratulations on your district's well-deserved [EPA Clean School Bus Program award](#) for electric school buses! On behalf of [ORGANIZATION], longtime advocates of a clean ride for kids, we are thrilled that you secured this essential funding.

Electric school buses bring many benefits to the communities they serve, so we especially want to thank you for taking the time to apply for this program. With the many competing needs of school districts, we know that implementing federal funding can take added effort. Like you, we believe the health of our children and communities is worth it.

[OUR ORGANIZATION], and our partners at the [Alliance for Electric School Buses](#), stand ready to help you ensure the success of this transition to electric school buses. We're including below links to

resources that we think might be helpful to you; you can also find a comprehensive directory of resources [here](#).

- The **Joint Office of Energy and Transportation** is offering technical assistance for clean school buses. [Use this form](#) to submit a request, or apply for [free assistance developing a customized fleet electrification plan](#).
- **WRI's Electric School Bus Initiative** is offering a suite of tools for school districts looking to electrify their bus fleets, from a [Step-by-Step Guide for School Bus Electrification](#) to [Electric School Bus Buyer's Guide](#) to a [Guide to Working With Your Utility](#) to a [Sample Request for Information](#). You can also [request technical assistance support](#).
- The **Department of Energy's** Alternative Fuels Data Center has a [great series of videos and fact sheets](#) on common electric school bus topics.
- If you are not already connected to them, your local **Clean Cities and Communities Coalition** might also be able to serve as a resource. [Find contact information here](#).

Please note that **[SCHOOL DISTRICT]** should be eligible to take advantage of direct payment for [two tax credits](#) related to the purchase of electric vehicles and charging stations. You can find additional information on these tax credits, and how to receive a cash reimbursement, [here](#).

Additionally, we are at your disposal to help amplify this good news. We have worked with other school districts in **[STATE]** to draw much-needed attention to the impact of securing new funding for our students and fleets, answering common questions about electric school buses and their deployment. If you are open to collaborating, we would be glad to work with local media outlets to demonstrate to the community and state leaders the benefits of adopting updated technology. This can help lay the groundwork for future investments in our school districts' fleets.

**At your convenience, we would love to set up a meeting to learn more about how we can help.**

Once again, congratulations! We look forward to the possibility of working together to shine a spotlight on your district's dedication to **[exploring/embracing]** sustainable transportation solutions.

Thank you,

**[SIGNER]**