

FY26 Electric School Bus Grant Program



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Agenda



FY26 Electric School Bus Grant Program Overview



Program Description:

~\$5 million in funding from the Moore-Miller Administration to advance the Climate Solutions Now Act to purchase and lease electric school buses to serve Maryland public school students.

Key Details:

- **Application Deadline: Extended** – December 26th, 2025, by 3:00 PM ET.
- **Eligible Applicants:** Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), fleets/private vendors operating on behalf of LEAs.
- **Eligible Vehicles:** Any publicly-funded school bus procured by an eligible entity for the routine transportation of students for school or school-related programming or activities is eligible for consideration; retrofits or buses funded by other state grants are ineligible.
- **Statewide competitive** application process.

Program Requirements & Ineligible Projects



Program Requirements:

- Replace diesel buses (MY 2013 or older diesel buses or oldest buses in fleet)
- Vehicles domiciled in Maryland for a minimum of 3 years.
- Data sharing with MEA for 3 years, including VINs, routes, charging usage, etc.
- Private vendors/non-profits must be in good standing with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). Additionally, non-profits shall provide evidence of a contractual agreement with an LEA at the time of application.

Ineligible Projects:

- Buses previously funded through MEA's Clean Fuels Incentive Program ("CFIP"), Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Program ("AFIP"), Medium-Duty and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Grant Program ("MHD ZEV Grant Program"), or previous FY25 ESB Grant Program.
- Retroactive funding for already purchased vehicles.

Evaluation Criteria Overview

Evaluation Goals:

- Ensure fair, unbiased, and timely reviews.
- Prioritize overburdened and low-to-moderate communities.

Key Criteria:

Total Available Points: 100

- Application Quality (10 points)
- Project Cost & Funding Request (15 points)
- Emission Reductions Benefits (30 points)
- Project Planning & Schedule (30 points)
- Project Communication & Partnerships (10 points)
- Project Equity (5 points)



Key Grant Features

Award Formula Highlights:

- Up to 120% of incremental costs covered for new electric buses.
- Maximum award caps: \$2M per Grantee (\$2.5M for eligible applicants).
- Maximum cap on requested charging infrastructure is 30% of total project funding request (potential to be changed!)



Key Grant Features

Funding Scope:

- Includes school buses, charging infrastructure, and associated costs (project start-up for EVSE/facility training, and school district technician training).
- Electric school bus and charging incentives can be stacked with other programs.



Key Grant Features

Reporting Requirements:

- Quarterly progress reports on status of project and updates.
- Quarterly operation reports on mileage, energy use, and student impact.
- Telematics data encouraged for efficiency.
- Replacement of diesel buses (Optional: 2012 or older)





MEA FY26 Electric School Bus Grant


Capped at \$2 Million
(Up to \$2.5 Million for
income-qualified applicants)

Application Period Closes at
3:00pm ET, Friday,
December 26, 2025



**Up to 120% of Incremental
Cost of ESB**

Incremental Cost for ESB =
Cost of Electric School Bus
– Cost of Diesel School Bus



Charging Infrastructure

Up to 30% of total project funding
request



**Project Start-up for EVSE
and Facility Planning**

Up to \$300,000

Associated Costs



**School District Technician
Training**

Up to \$7,200 for six technicians



**Other Funding Avenues
– State/Federal/Local**

Please Note: Applicants must make sure that the total funding requested from all avenues does not exceed the cost of the project.
In case the grantee received excess funding from other funding avenues (State/Federal/Local), they must return the excess grant amount to MEA.

Grant Application

Fill out the Jotform: <https://form.jotform.com/243255090422146>

Make sure to Include:

- Attachment A: Electric School Bus (**ESB**) Summary Table (if applying for ESBs)
- Attachment B: Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (**EVSE**) Summary Table (if applying for Charging Infrastructure)

Grant Application Cont.

14 Items in the
Summary Table



Attachment A: Electric School Bus (ESB) Summary Table														
No.	Purchase/Lease? (Dropdown (DD))	Proposed vehicle: Battery capacity (kWh)	Proposed vehicle: Vehicle Range (miles)	Proposed Vehicle Type (DD)	Proposed vehicle: Vehicle Year	Proposed vehicle: Vehicle Make	Proposed vehicle: Vehicle Model	Replacing existing conventional diesel school bus? (DD)	If applicable, description of existing conventional diesel school bus being replaced (make, model, model year, fuel type)	Estimated ANNUAL Vehicle Miles Expected for the proposed ZEV	Anticipated ZEV Vehicle Useful Life (years) before replacement in fleet	Purchase Price of the Proposed ESB	Possible ZEV incentive in \$ (as outlined in the funding opportunity announcement)	Vehicle Location (Address, ZIP)
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Available Resources

The World Resources Institute has created resources for school districts and staff wanting to electrify their school bus fleet!

- [Step-by-Step Guide for School Bus Electrification](#)
- [Electric School Bus U.S. Buyer's Guide](#)
- [All About Working with Your Electric Utility](#)





THANK YOU

Contact Information:

For questions or support, please email us at:
**transportation.mea@maryland.gov or directly to the PM at
natalie.buscemi@maryland.gov.**

Stay updated on program news and deadlines at the MEA website:

[MEA Transportation Programs](#)

Fleet Transition Planning Components

December 3, 2025

Who is CALSTART?

- CALSTART is a mission-based nonprofit working nationally and internationally with over 200 member companies to advance clean, efficient transportation solutions with the goal of changing transportation for good
- CALSTART's Electric School Bus team works with school bus fleets and industry partners to accelerate nationwide school bus fleet electrification
- We specialize in providing fleet transition planning, technical assistance, education and resource distribution, tracking market trends, and facilitating peer-to-peer connections, and connections to industry

Join the Electric School Bus Network!

Scan the QR code



or follow this link to register for our bi-monthly [Electric School Bus Network Forum](#)



Fleet Transition Plan Benefits

- Helps make the electrification process feel more manageable
- Helps make sure your current electrification plan is futureproof
- Leverages the perspective of consultants who have experience in the industry and have worked across many fleet electrification projects
- Delivers a document to reassure skeptical stakeholders

**ELECTRIC
SCHOOL BUS
NETWORK**



FLEET TRANSITION PLAN COMPONENT COMPENDIUM

**New fleet transition planning
resource for school bus fleets
is now available**

ELECTRICSCHOOLBUSNETWORK.ORG



Common Fleet Transition Plan Components

1

Fleet overview

2

Duty cycle analysis

3

Charging plan

4

Funding and incentive opportunities

5

Utility capacity estimates

6

Environmental impact

7

Site assessment: virtual

8

Phasing plan/recommended replacement timeline

9

Total cost of ownership

10

Policy and legislation considerations

Thank you!

Sarah Stalcup-Jones

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CALSTART

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Get the Resource!



electricschoolbusnetwork.org

