

FY26 ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS GRANT PROGRAM



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AGENDA



FY26 Electric School Bus Grant
Program Overview

Program Requirements &
Ineligible Projects

Evaluation Criteria Overview,
Key Grant Features

FY26 Decarbonizing Public
Schools Program

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: December 16th, 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



Requirements:

- Replace diesel buses (MY 2010 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:

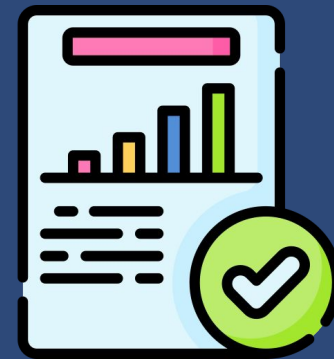
- Buses previously funded through MEA's Clean Fuels Incentive Program ("CFIP"), Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Program ("AFIP"), Medium-Duty and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Grant Program ("MHD ZEV Grant Program"), or previous FY25 ESB Grant Program.
- Retroactive funding for already purchased vehicles.



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:** \$1M per Grantee (\$1.5M for eligible applicants).
- Maximum cap on requested charging infrastructure is **30%** of total project funding request.



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 (cont.)

Reporting Requirements:

- Quarterly progress reports on status of project and updates.
- Quarterly operational reports on mileage, energy use, and student impact.
- Telematics data encouraged for efficiency.
- Replacement of diesel buses (Optional: 2010 or older)



Grant Application

Fill out the Jotform [here](#)!

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

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 (WRI) 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](#)



FY2026 Decarbonizing Public Schools Grant Program

Areas of Interest (AOI's)

- AOI 1: Capacity Building for Energy Management and NZE Portfolio Planning
 - Category 1: Energy Data Management Support
 - Category 2: Strategic Capital Planning for Energy Efficient Schools
- AOI 2: Energy Efficiency Capital
- AOI 3: Solar on Schools
- AOI 4: Net-Zero Energy Schools

Applications Due: November 21, 2025 at 3PM

Energy.Maryland.gov

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Maryland
Energy
Administration

Learn More About **MEA Programs**

MEA offers expertise and advice to match your needs to electrify with available programs and financial support.





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](#)

