

## Fiscal Year 2025 Electric School Bus Grant Program

### **Greener Schools, Cleaner Air: Maryland Announces Electric School Bus Grant Program**

**Program Overview:** The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is pleased to announce its intention to award grants through the FY25 Electric School Bus Program. The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is seeking to support public schools and local public education agencies (LEAs) in the transition to electric school buses by providing funding for the development of charging infrastructure. This grant program aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and promote sustainable transportation in Maryland's schools.

**Funding:** The MEA has allocated approximately \$17 million for this grant program. Awards will be made on a competitive basis, with a maximum grant amount of \$2 million per school or project.

**Program Type:** The grant program will be competitive, projects that demonstrate innovative approaches, long-term sustainability, community benefits, and a commitment to equity will be given priority.

#### **Eligible Applicants**

- **Public Local Education Agencies (LEAs):** Local or State governmental entities responsible for: Providing school bus service to one or more public school systems; or the purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses.
- **Non-profit organizations:** Acting on behalf of a school district or charter school.

#### **Ineligible for Award:**

- **3rd-Party applicants:** Can partner with a school district but not apply on behalf of district
- **Retroactive funding:** Projects that were ordered, purchased, or converted before the application submission.
- **Retrofits:** Only new electric buses are eligible; repowers and retrofits are not.
- **Private Schools:** Are ineligible for this program, but eligible to apply through the [Medium and Heavy Duty Program](#).

#### **Key Program Requirements**

- Applicants must demonstrate preparedness for fleet transition and provide comprehensive information on current fleet composition.
- Vehicles must be domiciled within Maryland and comply with state standards.
- Applicants must agree to operate the awarded vehicles according to program terms.
- Awarded vehicles cannot be sold or relocated outside Maryland without repaying received funds.

#### **Funding Details**

<b>Figure 1: Electric School Bus Program AOI Descriptions</b>	
<b>Area of Interest</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1. School Bus Electrification Planning (startup costs):</b>	Assists LEAs in assessing the technical, economic, and operational feasibility of transitioning to electric school buses.

<b>2. Electric School Bus Infrastructure:</b>	Supports the installation of charging stations at schools and bus depots.
<b>3. Electric School Bus Purchase:</b>	Helps LEAs offset the higher upfront cost of electric buses compared to diesel buses.

**Availability:** MEA expects the FY 2025 Electric School Bus Program FOAs to be released in early autumn of 2024. For updates, sign up for [email notifications](#) and follow us on social media: [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

**Next Steps for Potential Applicants:** MEA welcomes feedback about the Electric School Bus Program from electric vehicle stakeholders, communities, community advocacy groups, local governments, other State agencies, and other stakeholders who are critical to the expansion of EV infrastructure deployment. Please submit comments or questions to MEA via email at [transportation.mea@maryland.gov](mailto:transportation.mea@maryland.gov). With email subject: "Electric School Bus Grant Program Feedback"

**Please Note:** This is a Notice of Intent and does not constitute a full Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). The full FOA, containing detailed program requirements and application procedures, will be released shortly.