

Clean School Bus & DERA

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Overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Clean School Bus Program

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.

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.

The first funding opportunity was the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates. We expect the next funding opportunity to be a grants program that opens in Spring 2023.



Eligible Applicants*

State and local governmental entities responsible for:

- 1) providing bus service to 1 or more public school systems; or 2) the purchase of school buses

Nonprofit School Transportation Associations

Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, or tribally controlled schools

Eligible Contractors



*The [FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(aka the Omnibus funding bill\)](#) included amendments to the CSB program that will impact the list of eligible applicants in future funding rounds; additional information will be provided when future funding rounds are announced.



Prioritization Criteria

2022 CSB Rebates*

*Please note that program criteria is subject to change in future rounds of CSB funding

1. High-need school districts and low-income areas

School districts listed in the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) School District Estimates for 2020 as having **20% or more students living in poverty**

School districts not listed in the SAIPE data, including most charter schools, **that self-certify as having 20% or more students living in poverty.** *EPA may ask for supporting documentation to confirm this self-certification.*

School districts located in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

2. Rural school districts

School districts identified with locale codes “43-Rural: Remote” and “42-Rural: Distant” by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

3. Tribal school districts

Bureau of Indian Affairs funded school districts and school districts that receive basic support payments for children who reside on Indian land



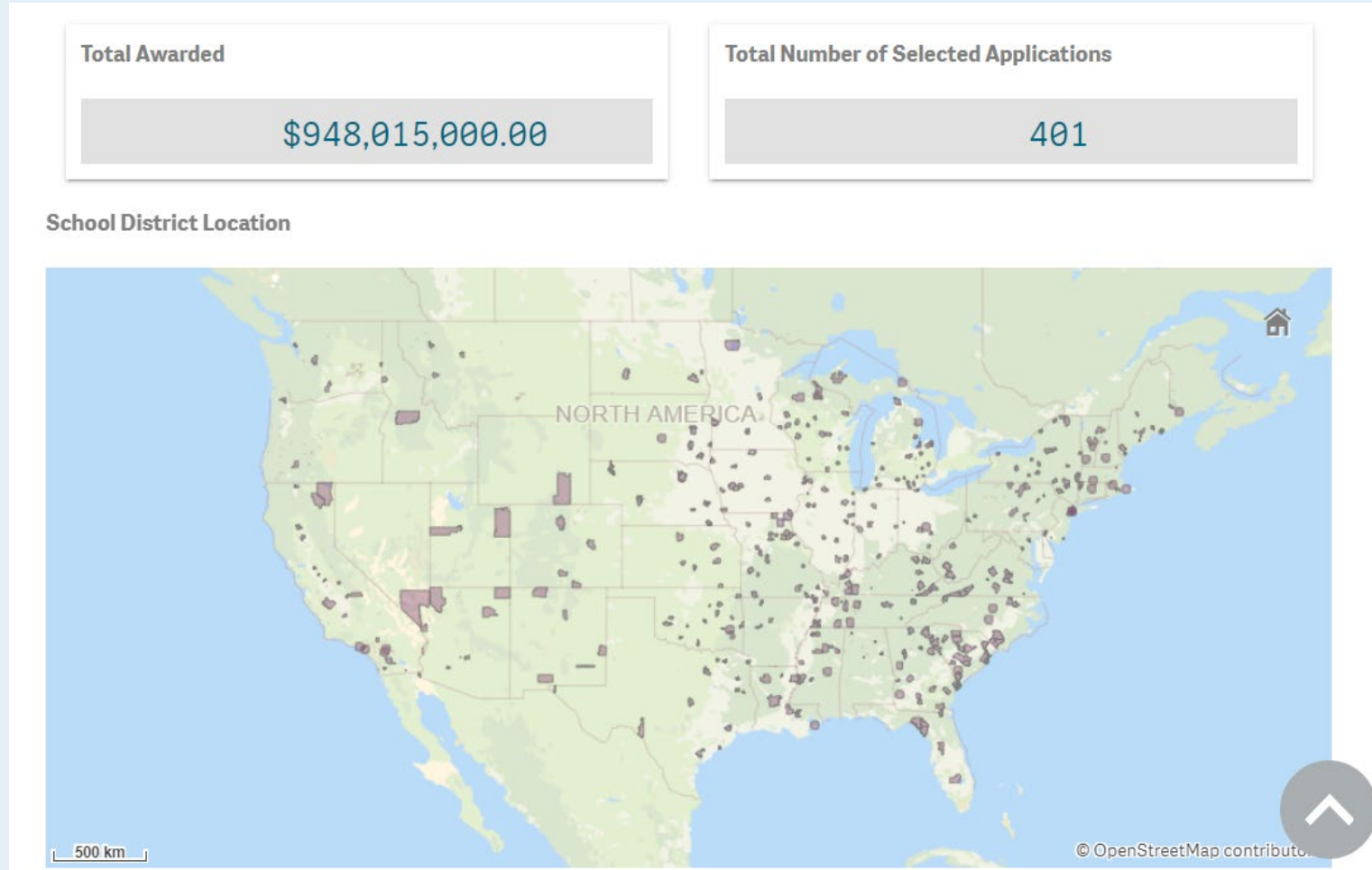
2022 CSB Rebate Applications

- Nearly **\$4B** in applications for over 12,000 buses
- More than **90%** of requests were for **electric buses**
- Majority of applicants met priority criteria as low-income, rural, or Tribal
- Awards were announced **October 26**

2022 CSB Rebate Awards

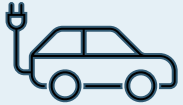
- EPA is awarding up to **\$965M** in rebates (nearly double the amount of proposed funding)
- This will fund around **2,600 buses** in more than **400 school districts**
- Once applicants receive their official selection letter, they can proceed with purchasing new buses and eligible infrastructure.

Clean School Bus Rebate Awards Map



After all selected applicants were notified of their award, a small number of selectees withdrew from the program. EPA redistributed funds from selectees who withdrew, awarding the funds to eligible applicants who had initially been placed on the program's waitlist. As of Feb. 2023, \$948 million of the total \$965 million in rebate awards has been reserved for selectees during this funding cycle. EPA is continuing to redistribute funds from selectees who withdrew to eligible waitlisted applicants; any remaining funding will be distributed to the selected applicants during future CSB funding opportunities.

Utility Engagement Pledge



A primary barrier school districts are facing is uncertainty around charging infrastructure deployment and how to engage with electric companies

- **Installation of charging infrastructure can undergo long lead times and requires close coordination with the local utility**



EPA is working with national electric utility company organizations to support school districts through a Utility Pledge that includes:

- **Facilitating Communication Between Electric Providers and School Districts**
- **Providing Technical Support and Assistance**
- **Increasing Funding and Deployment**



Additional information on the Utility Pledge and other technical assistance resources are available on: [epa.gov/cleanschoolbus technical assistance](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/technical-assistance)

Future CSB Funding Opportunities

- EPA intends to make another \$1 billion available in FY23 for the Clean School Bus Programs:
 - 1st Grant Competition
 - 2nd Rebate Program
- Submit comments on program design to cleanschoolbus@epa.gov
- Don't miss any updates- visit epa.gov/cleanschoolbus to sign up for the listserv

Moving Toward Cleaner Air

Reducing emissions that impact our health



Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA)

- DERA provides grants to accelerate the upgrade and turnover of diesel fleets to reduce diesel air emissions from medium- and heavy-duty vehicles or nonroad engines
 - Scrap an existing, currently operating older diesel engine; replace it with new, cleaner similar vehicle type
- Some eligible diesel vehicles and equipment include:



DERA Funding Programs



National Grants
Coming Soon



Tribal & Insular
Area Grants
Closed

DERA National

- National grant program, very competitive
- Eligible entities- involved in transportation, air quality & diesel fleets
 - Tribal, regional, state, local, or port agencies
 - Nonprofit organizations
 - Can partner with public & private fleets to pass down grant funds
- Must scrap and replace or upgrade an existing diesel vehicle, equipment or engine
- Various types of diesel vehicles & equipment are eligible for funding to reduce diesel emissions
- Evaluation Criteria points tied to poor air quality areas

DERA Tribal & Insular Areas

- Competitive
- No mandatory cost share requirement
- Separate funding opportunity from the other DERA programs
- More flexible than the DERA National Grant Program
- Separate review by EPA staff of the tribal & Insular Area applications
- Must scrap and replace or upgrade an existing diesel vehicle, equipment or engine
- Various types of diesel vehicles & equipment are eligible for funding to reduce diesel emissions
- Evaluation Criteria points tied to poor air quality areas

Eligible Diesel Vehicles, Engines & Equipment

- Buses
 - Transit, school
- Class 5-8 medium & heavy-duty highway trucks
 - Drayage, Delivery, long- & short haul, trash, fire, rescue, dump, utility
- Marine engines
- Locomotive engines
- Nonroad engines, equipment or vehicles
 - Forklifts
 - Cargo handling- at a port, airport or warehouse
 - Yard Hostler
 - Construction
 - Agriculture

Thank You!

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