



EPA Clean School Bus Program

RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

ABOUT THIS DIRECTORY

This directory is for school districts and other stakeholders interested in applying for the [EPA Clean School Bus Program](#). **All of the resources in this directory come from government agencies or non-profit organizations and all are free to access.**

The directory is constantly being updated with new information and resources as we find them. Please reach out to Carolina at carolina@chaconconsulting.com with any questions or comments.

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TOP RESOURCES FOR HELP

1. For questions on program guidelines: Your [EPA Regional Office](#) or CleanSchoolBus@epa.gov
2. For registering for SAM.GOV: [Environmental Protection Network](#) or [SAM.GOV Service Desk](#)
3. For assistance in drafting your application package: Your regional [EPA EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers](#) or [Clean Cities Tiger Teams Technical Assistance](#)
4. For technical assistance in deploying electric school buses: [The Joint Office's TA helpline](#)
5. For peer-to-peer learning with other school districts: [The Electric School Bus Forum](#)
6. For explainers and resources on key ESB topics: [WRI's Electric School Bus Initiative](#)
7. For securing political or community support for your application: [Alliance for Electric School Buses](#)

EPA CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM

Where can I get help with registering for **SAM.GOV**?

- The [Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) has [staff](#) and 550+ EPA alumni volunteers who provide [pro bono technical assistance](#) to disadvantaged communities, NGOs, and under-resourced state/local/tribal government agencies. EPN assists in navigating EPA (including registering for [SAM.GOV](#)), regulatory processes, federal policies, grant programs, and publicly available data. You can reach out to info@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org.

How do I find out if my school district is **prioritized for funding**?

- You can find [EPA's list of priority school districts here](#). These school districts are prioritized for the EPA Clean School Bus Program either because they are defined as high-need school districts, Rural school districts, Bureau of Indian Education-funded school districts, and school districts that receive basic support payments for children who reside on Indian land. Applicants requesting funding for prioritized school districts will be offered more funding per bus and receive preference in the selection process.
- Select school districts can also self-certify as priority, if they meet criteria outlined in the [Program Guide](#). Check out the [list of self-certifiable priority school districts](#) (requires download) and the [self-certification instructions](#) if this applies to you.

Where can I get **technical assistance** in preparing my application?

- EPA has a [list of resources for applicants](#).
- The [Joint Office of Energy and Transportation](#) offers [FREE technical assistance](#) for school districts interested in electric school buses, with priority for EPA Clean School Bus Program applicants. The Joint Office, in partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), is providing the following FREE services to school districts via direct consultations:
 - Coordinating with electric utilities
 - Identifying available funding and incentives
 - Analyzing charging infrastructure needs



- Conducting route analysis and planning
 - Conducting training and workforce development
 - Guidance on resiliency
 - Analyzing energy needs and grid impact
 - Identifying solar and battery storage opportunities
 - For additional information, [check out this menu of available services](#).
- The [Department of Energy's Clean Cities and Communities Coalition Network](#) can help school districts learn about electric school buses and connect with [technical assistance opportunities](#), including [help from national lab staff](#). You can also search through the [Contact Directory](#) to find a rep in your state who may have helpful local connections.
 - The [Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels Data Center](#) has a number of tools to calculate vehicle emissions, costs, incentives, etc.
 - The [EPA and Department of Energy have partnered to establish 17 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers \(EJ TCTACs\)](#) across the country. Each of these 17 TCTACs has received at least \$10 million to help underserved and overburdened communities access federal funding, providing training and assistance in navigating grant application systems, writing strong grant proposals, and effectively managing grant funding. Find out [which TCTAC is in your region](#).
 - A few non-profit organizations are providing technical assistance to school districts:
 - [WRI's Electric School Bus Initiative](#) is offering free support and [calls with experts](#).
 - The [State Funding Readiness Project \(SFRP\)](#) is an initiative providing free technical assistance and capacity to subnational governments -- primarily states, but also cities, counties, and Tribal governments -- to help unlock and direct more federal funding to equitable climate projects. SFRP delivers responsive support by connecting partners with technical experts working across relevant disciplines, including: transportation electrification, utility policy, grant writing, budget planning, Justice40 and environmental justice, and more. Their team provides surge capacity and tailored 1:1 support to help applicants overcome barriers to effective implementation. SFRP has already assisted with grant applications for the RAISE, Grid Resilience, Charging and Fueling Infrastructure, National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, and Climate Pollution Reduction Grants programs, among others. Contact SFRP [here](#) to request support or visit their [website](#) for more information.
 - The [Center for Transportation and the Environment \(CTE\)](#) is a member-supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that develops, promotes, and implements advanced transportation technologies, vehicles, and fuels that reduce environmental pollution and fossil fuel dependency. CTE has experience with more than 100 zero-emission transit and school bus deployments to date. CTE is [offering](#) application writing support and technical consulting for school districts and school bus operators.



Who can I contact with **questions about the application** process?

- First, [read through the EPA's Q&A Document](#) to see if your question has been answered before.
- New questions about applying may be directed to CleanSchoolBus@epa.gov. Please include "2024 CSB Rebate Question" in the subject line of your email. To receive an answer, questions must be submitted by November 14, 2024.
- You can also contact your [Regional EPA Office](#), or a local [Clean Cities Coalition](#) in your area.
- You can also reach out to the [Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) has [staff](#) and 550+ EPA alumni volunteers who provide [pro bono technical assistance](#) to disadvantaged communities, NGOs, and under-resourced state/local/tribal government agencies. EPN assists in navigating EPA (including registering for [SAM.GOV](#) and [GRANTS.GOV](#)), regulatory processes, federal policies, grant programs, and publicly available data. You can reach out to info@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org.

How do I **engage my electric utility** company?

- EPA recommends that fleet operators begin talking to their utility company before they apply, and in fact requires applicants to [submit proof of utility engagement](#) with their application. Here are to help you approach your utility:
 - EPA - [Coordinating with Electric Utility Partners](#)
 - DOE Alternative Fuels Data Center - [Working with Electric Utilities](#)
 - WRI - [All About Working with Your Electric Utility](#)
- The Joint Office also can help any potential applicant with their utility outreach, from providing contact information to facilitating the conversation and infrastructure planning. Potential applicants can email cleanschoolbusta@nrel.gov or fill out the contact form at <https://driveelectric.gov/contact>.

PEER-TO-PEER OPPORTUNITIES

Where can I **talk to other school districts** who have electrified?

- The Joint Office hosts an [Electric School Bus Forum](#), an online message board for school districts to ask questions of each other, share experiences, or have general discussions on electric school buses. This is only available to fleet staff to promote collaboration and open conversation; no others allowed. [Sign up](#) to participate.
- CALSTART hosts the [Electric School Bus Network](#), which has virtual quarterly meetings for school districts across the country. You will hear directly from experts as well as other school districts who have adopted electric school buses.
- You can also contact your [Regional EPA office](#), which may have established an electric school bus cohort or call to support school districts.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Where can I find **other funding** opportunities?

- School districts who purchase an electric school bus and/or charging station may be eligible for new tax credits created by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. These tax credits allow tax-exempt entities, like public school districts, to qualify for the tax credit as a direct payment or transfer or credits. Check out our fact sheet on [New Tax Credits & Direct Pay for School Districts](#).
- Check out the Department of Energy [Alternative Fuels Data Center's Federal and State Laws and Incentives finder](#). You can search by category or keyword, by state or nationally.
- Check out the WRI Electric School Bus Initiative's [All About Funding and Financing Options for Electric School Buses](#).
- Check out the [Electrification Coalition's EV Funding Finder](#). This lists funding programs to purchase or lease light-duty, medium-duty, or heavy-duty vehicles, as well as their charging infrastructure and technical assistance.
- Check out [RMI's IRA Program and Tax Incentive Summary](#). This spreadsheet can be sorted and filtered to identify programs created by the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Check out [This Is Planet Ed and WRI's K12 Education and Climate Provisions in The Inflation Reduction Act](#), which is specific to school districts.

ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES 101

Where can I learn more about **electric school buses**?

- Check out the Department of Energy [Alternative Fuels Data Center](#), which has key details on electric school bus types, operation data, case studies and videos.
- Check out [WRI's Electric School Bus U.S. Market Study and Buyer's Guide](#), a comprehensive guide of the electric school bus market and catalog that includes models available today with detailed vehicle specifications.
- Check out [School Transportation News 2023 Buyer's Guide](#), which includes the latest vehicle production data and budget reports, industry trends, and contact information for state, national and federal agencies, manufacturers, dealers, and suppliers.
- Check out [CALSTART's white paper Assessing Technology, Marketing and Manufacturing Readiness](#).

Where can I learn more about how much electric school buses **cost**?

- Check out [WRI's Total Cost of Ownership \(TCO\) Calculator](#), which can help calculate expected expenditures and cost savings.
- Check out the Department of Energy Alternative Fuels Data Center's [Cost Factors](#) fact sheet.



Where can I learn more about electric school bus **procurement**?

- Check out WRI's [Electric School Bus U.S. Buyer's Guide](#) and [School Bus Electric-as-a-Service \(EaaS\) Directory](#). You can also see their [Price Tracker](#) (requires download) to find what electric school buses have cost in your state or a nearby state. Then check out their [Template Request for Proposals \(RFP\) and Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) to get started.
- Check out this webinar from the [School Superintendents Association](#), "[A to Z: Getting Started with Electric School Bus Purchasing](#)".
- Check out [Virginia Clean Cities' Electric School Bus Training Connections video series](#).
- Check out [Atlas Public Policy's Fleet Procurement Analysis Tool](#).

Where can I learn more about electric school bus **performance**?

- Check out the Department of Energy [Alternative Fuels Data Center's "Flipping the Switch" video series](#) on deploying electric school buses. Each video has a corresponding handout.
 - [Electric School Bus Introduction](#)
 - [Working with Electric Utilities](#)
 - [Vehicle Requirements](#)
 - [Charging Infrastructure](#)
 - [Infrastructure Planning and Solutions](#)
 - [Vehicle In Use Performance](#)
 - [Driver and Technician Training](#)
 - [Cost Factors](#)
 - [More Resources](#)
- Check out [CTE's Considerations for Electric School Bus Adoption](#) report and their [Challenges and Solutions to Electric School Buses Presentation](#).
- You can also read electric school bus case studies and hear from school districts themselves. Check out [WRI's Electric School Bus School District Stories](#), which includes reports on deployments in Missouri, North Carolina, Utah, California, Texas, Virginia, Michigan, Illinois, and New York. You can also check out [WRI's Electric School Bus Dataset](#) to see exactly where electric school buses are located in the United States, including in your state.

Where can I see examples of electric school buses in cold weather?

- Check out electric school buses running in [Alaska](#), [Montana](#) (also [here](#)), [Colorado](#), [Minnesota](#), [North Dakota](#), [South Dakota](#), [Colorado](#), and [Canada](#).

ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES + BATTERIES

Where can I learn more about electric school bus **batteries**?

- Check out RMI's Batteries blog series, starting with [EV Batteries 101](#) and [EV Batteries 101: Supply Chains](#).
- Check out the [Argonne National Laboratory's EV Batteries and Recycling fact sheet](#).



- Check out [WRI's How to Ensure a Sustainable Future for Electric School Bus Batteries](#) and [How Electric School Bus Owners Can Maximize Battery Performance by Limiting Aging](#).

Where can I learn more about electric school bus **battery safety**?

- Check out WRI's explainer, [All About Electric School Bus Battery Safety](#).

ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES + RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Where can I find resources for **rural** school districts?

- Check out the [Department of Transportation's Rural EV Toolkit](#).
- Check out the [Beneficial Electrification League](#), which has a network of more than 350 small and rural utilities.
- The [USDA Community Facilities Program](#) provides funding for EV infrastructure, including for electric school buses.

Are there examples of rural school districts that have **successfully deployed** electric school buses?

- Yes, many! Check them out:
 - [Rural Districts Discuss the Move Toward Electric School Buses](#)
 - Knox County, MO: [The Electric School Bus Series: Wiring Up in Knox County](#)
 - Durango & Kremmling, CO: [New Electric School Buses in Colorado Provide Safer, Cleaner, Cheaper Rides](#)
 - Louisa County, VA: [Electric School Bus Success in Rural Virginia: Louisa County Public Schools](#)
 - Garretson, SD: [Garretson School District hails electric buses as 'safer' mode of transportation](#)
 - Geronimo, OK: [Driving into a new future](#)
 - Williamsfield, IL: [How Students in a Rural Midwest District Led the Charge to Electrify and Boost Grid Resiliency](#)
 - Mount Desert Island, ME: [Mount Desert Island High School recaps one year with an electric school bus](#)
 - Havre, MT: [Electric School Buses: Navigating Rural Montana](#) [VIDEO]

ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES + CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Where can I learn more about **engaging my utility**?

- If you don't have the right contact for your utility, check out the [Joint Office's Utility Finder](#) (requires download). This spreadsheet has utility contacts supporting EV charging infrastructure. The Joint Office can also help you get in contact with your utility.
- Check out [WRI's Power Planner for Electric School Bus Deployment](#), which lists nine steps school districts can follow or consider when working with their local utility. WRI also partnered with [VEIC on Working With Your Utility to Electrify Your School Bus Fleet](#).



- Once you're ready to contact your utility, use the [EPA's Utility Partnership Template](#) to guide your conversations.

Where can I learn more about **electric utility rates for electric school buses?**

- Check out this [Clean Cities Coalition webinar on utility rate structure and demand charges](#).

Where can I learn about **charging infrastructure?**

- Check out the [Alternative Fuels Data Center's Developing Infrastructure to Charge Electric Vehicles](#) guide, their [Charging Infrastructure Procurement and Installation guide](#), and [their video on charging infrastructure](#) for electric school buses.
- Check out [EPA's ENERGY STAR certified chargers](#), which are eligible for Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program funding.
- Check out [Clean Cities Coalition's webinar on Determining Charging Needs and Selecting a Charger](#) and their [webinar on Route Analysis, Range, and Efficiency Considerations](#).
- Check out the [Department of Energy's Managed EV Charging guide](#).
- Check out WRI's [All About Charging Infrastructure Video Series](#).

Where can I get help **planning for charging infrastructure?**

- Check out the [Joint Office's Electric School Bus Charging Station Planning Form](#) (requires download).
- Check out [VEIC's Electric School Bus Charging Station Planning Considerations](#) and [Electric School Bus Facility Assessment Guide](#).
- Find out what kind of impact your electric school buses could have on the electrical grid with [WRI's Electric Vehicles on the Grid Simulator](#), or learn [All About Working with Your Electric Utility](#).

ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES + VEHICLE-TO-GRID (V2G)

Where can I learn more about **Vehicle-to-Grid-enabled electric school buses?**

- Check out [WRI's explainer, 3 Considerations for ESB V2G Programs](#) and [All About Managed Charging and "Vehicle-to-Everything" or V2X](#).
- Check out the Electrification Coalition's [V2X Implementation Guide and Mutual Aid Agreement Template](#) for Using Vehicle-to-Everything-Enabled Electric School Buses as Mobile Power Units to Enhance Resilience During Emergencies.
- Check out [PIRG's report, Electric School Buses and the Grid](#).



ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES + EMISSIONS

Where can I calculate the carbon emissions in my state's electricity grid?

- Check out the Department of Energy [Alternative Fuels Data Center's Electricity Sources and Emissions database](#), or the [Heavy-Duty Vehicle Emissions Calculator](#).

DEPLOYING ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

Where can I get **resources for deploying** electric school buses?

- WRI offers a [Step-by-Step Guide for School Bus Electrification](#) that provides considerations and things to do at every stage of the process (such as this [Template Roadmap](#)), as well as a [template Request for Information](#) to share with potential contractors.
- Check out EPA's [The Transition to Electric School Buses: Considerations and Resources](#).
- The Joint Office and NREL have a [School Bus Electrification Center](#) that serves as a step-by-step guide to the school bus electrification process.
- Apply for free technical support from the Joint Office through the [Clean Bus Planning Award program](#). The Joint Office will support fleet operators as they draft comprehensive and customized full-fleet transition plans through one-on-one support over a six month period. Fleets also have the option to receive free deployment assistance from NREL at the completion of their plan.