



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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EPA Announces \$4,000,000 from in Clean School Bus Funding for School Districts in New Mexico

Historic investment from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law headed to all 50 states in effort to transform America's school bus fleet

DALLAS, TEXAS (October 26th, 2022) —The Biden-Harris Administration announced the Fiscal Year 2022 recipients of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program rebate competition, awarding \$4,560,000 from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to New Mexico school districts. The grants will help the school districts of Dulce, Pecos, Las Cruces, Dora Municipal Schools and Lake Arthur purchase 12 clean school buses that will accelerate the transition to zero emissions vehicles and produce cleaner air in and around schools and communities.

Vice President Kamala Harris and EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan will join schoolchildren, district leaders and community members in Seattle, Washington, later today to make the announcement and highlight how it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save schools money, and better protect children's health. The investment will also drive demand for American-made batteries and vehicles, boost domestic manufacturing, and create good-paying jobs.

"President Biden's historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is accelerating our nation's transition to electric and low-emission school buses while ensuring a brighter, healthier future for our children," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "As many as 25 million children rely on the bus to get to school each day. Thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration, we are making an unprecedented investment in our children's health, especially those in communities overburdened by air pollution. This is just the beginning of our work to build a healthier future, reduce climate pollution, and ensure the clean, breathable air that all our children deserve."

"I am thrilled to welcome this first round of funding for the Clean School Bus Program. The clean energy and electrification investments that we secured in the Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act are by far the most significant steps that Congress has taken to spur the widespread deployment of highly-efficient, fully electric and climate pollution-free technologies," **said Senator Martin Heinrich**. "Modernizing the vehicles that transport New Mexico's children to school--especially with clean and electric buses--will make our air cleaner and improve public health, and create important energy and fuel savings for public school districts. Electrifying our homes, buildings, and vehicles is one of the surest

climate actions that we can take right now that will help secure a more equitable, healthier future for all our communities."

"This strong investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is exactly what our communities need to protect students and the surrounding areas from the harmful emissions that current school buses produce," **said Senator Ben Ray Luján**. "I'm glad this funding will provide these New Mexico school districts with a dozen electric buses to ensure a safe and efficient ride to school while protecting our environment."

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is already at work in New Mexico. I am pleased to see that public schools in my district will receive three new electric buses," **said Representative Leger Fernández**. "The iconic yellow school bus is a symbol of our enduring public education system. I'm thrilled that our students will have modern, clean, reliable transport to and from school."

In May, EPA [announced](#) the availability of \$500 million for its Clean School Bus Program. Given overwhelming demand from school districts across the country, including in low-income communities, Tribal nations, and territories, EPA [nearly doubled](#) the amount of funding that will be awarded to \$965 million. The rebate application period closed in August with an outstanding response from school districts seeking to purchase electric and low-emission school buses across the country.

At this time, the agency has selected 389 applications totaling \$913 million to support the purchase of 2,463 buses, 95% of which will be electric. EPA will distribute awards to school districts in all 50 states, Washington D.C., along with several federally recognized Tribes and U.S. territories. School districts identified as priority areas serving low-income, rural, and, or Tribal students make up 99% of the projects that were selected. More applications are under review, and the agency plans to select more to reach the full \$965 million in the coming weeks.

Those school districts who received an award can now proceed with purchasing new buses and eligible infrastructure. Selectees will need to submit Payment Request Forms with purchase orders demonstrating they have ordered new buses and eligible infrastructure. EPA is also partnering with the U.S. Department of Energy and Department of Transportation to provide school districts with robust technical assistance to ensure effective implementation.

These awards are the first \$1 billion of a five-year, \$5 billion program created by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. EPA is also designing the next rounds of program funding to launch in the coming months, which will include an ambitious grant competition. Through future rounds of funding, EPA will make available another \$1 billion for clean school buses in Fiscal Year 2023. EPA encourages school districts not selected in the first round of rebates – and those that did not apply this funding cycle – to participate in future rounds.

Below is a list of school districts and total funding:

- Dulce Independent School received \$790,000
- Pecos Independent School District received \$395,000
- Las Cruces Public School received \$1,975,000
- Dora Municipal Schools received \$610,000
- Lake Arthur Municipal Schools received \$790,000

About the Clean School Bus Rebate Program

The Clean School Bus Program will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save money for school districts and produce cleaner air. Diesel air pollution is linked to asthma and other conditions that harm students' health and cause them to miss school, particularly in communities of color and Tribal communities. Phasing out these diesel engines will ensure cleaner air for students, bus drivers, and school staff working near the bus loading areas, and the communities through which the buses drive each day. The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from these bus replacements will also help to address the outsized role of the transportation sector in fueling the climate crisis. The program will also save school districts money as they upgrade school bus fleets, replacing older, heavily polluting buses with brand new clean school buses, while freeing up needed resources for schools.

The 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates prioritize low-income, rural, and Tribal communities. The vast majority of applicants met the priority definition under the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates criteria, resulting in access to more funds for buses and electric vehicle infrastructure for schools in areas that need them the most. The program also delivers on President Biden's [Justice40](#) Initiative, which aims to deliver 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved and overburdened by pollution.

[View the full list of Clean School Bus award recipients here.](#)

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