

2014 School Bus Replacement Rebate Program: Frequently Asked Questions

Monday, November 17, 2014

The questions and answers below are provided to assist eligible organizations in applying for rebates on school bus replacements through the National Clean Diesel Rebate Program.

Complete program information and guidelines can be found at www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/documents/420b14065.pdf.

- A. Rebate Application Process and Timeline
- B. Eligibility
- C. Vehicle Replacement and Scrappage Requirements
- D. Miscellaneous

A. Rebate Application Process and Timeline

A.1: *What is the earliest I can submit my rebate application? What is the deadline for submitting my completed application and supporting information?*

Answer: Applications for the School Bus Rebate Program will be accepted beginning Wednesday, October 15, 2014. Applications must be received by EPA before **4:00 pm EST on Monday, November 17, 2014**.

The application can be downloaded at www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/documents/2014-clean-diesel-rebate-application.pdf as a fillable Portable Document File (PDF). Print and scan the completed Rebate Application and email it along with a scanned copy of the vehicle(s)' titles and registrations to: CleanDieselRebate@epa.gov. See Section 5 of the Guide for additional information.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.2: *How will requests be prioritized and selected to receive funding?*

Answer: The program is a rebate program and not a competition. All applicants who meet the eligibility requirements described on the website and have submitted their application package to EPA by **Monday, November 17, 2014, 4:00 pm EST** will be included in a random selection process.

All eligible applications will be assigned a unique identification number and applicants will be selected through a random number generator. EPA will reserve rebate funds for applicants, in the order in which they are selected.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.3: *How will I know if my application has been selected?*

Answer: Selected applicants will be sent a Selection Letter notifying them of their selection. The letter will outline the steps that must be taken and the timeframe in which each step must be completed in order to receive the rebate funds. See Section 7 of the Guide for additional information.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.4: *Do applicants need to provide any proof of signature authority from a public school?*

Answer: Public school districts applying with buses they own and operate do not need to provide proof of signature authority but the person signing the application must be an authorized representative of the organization. If the applicant is a public school district applying with state-owned buses, the applicant must submit a signed letter on the official letterhead of the state agency that owns the buses authorizing the application. See Section 2 for additional information.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.5: *How soon after the program closes will the results be posted on the Clean Diesel website?*

Answer: We anticipate that selections will be made in December, 2014. The results will be posted at www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/dera-rebate-schoolbus14.htm.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.6: *How will the order of the wait list be determined?*

Answer: All applications that are submitted to EPA by **Monday, November 17, 2014, 4:00 pm EST**, will be assigned a unique identification number, and applicants will be selected through a random number generator and put on a list in that order. Eligible applicants who are selected (Selectees) will receive Selection Letters. All other applicants will remain on the wait list in order in which they were selected.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.7: *If funding is offered in future years, will awards be made from the current wait list?*

Answer: No. If funding is available in future years, we will issue a new announcement and applicants will need to reapply.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.8: *Is the application given a random number, or is each bus on that application given a random number?*

Answer: Each application is given a random number.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.9: *How many rebates will be available?*

Answer: The program has \$3 million in funding available. The exact number of rebates will depend on the size and number of buses that are selected for funding.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.10: *This pilot does not require documentation that buses will be replaced significantly earlier than they otherwise would have been. How can EPA claim credit for emissions reductions that might have occurred anyway?*

Answer: While it is not possible to know the exact intent or future plans of all school districts, the program is structured so that buses ordered prior to the date of the Selection Letter are not eligible. This ensures that EPA is only paying for activities that have not yet occurred.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.11: *Is this a Regional or a National Program? Is funding allocated by state?*

Answer: The Clean Diesel Rebate program is a national program and is not allocated by state.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.12: *Are states with a higher population allotted more funding than lower populated states?*

Answer: No. This is a national program, and applicants are selected at random from the entire pool of applicants.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.13: *Are applicants disqualified from taking grant program money from other state or local programs for buses in this program?*

Answer: No. The applicant portion of funding may consist of funds from state and local grant programs, or other third-party funding and financing. However, buses that are funded or financed in part with federal funds are not eligible to receive rebates under this program. Therefore, if you are receiving state or local funds for bus purchases, you should ensure that the state or local program is not federally funded (e.g. EPA's State Clean Diesel Grant Program, EPA's National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program, DOT's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), etc...).

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.14: *If we are selected for the rebate and, prior to submitting a P.O. our local funding changes to the point we are unable to make the purchase, can we back out without penalty?*

Answer: Yes, you would be able to remove your application from the rebate process. There would be no obligation to continue.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.15: *We are a school district. We are not sure what to enter on the application in the Eligible Entity Type field.*

Answer: That field is for private applicants only. If you are a public school district, you should leave that field blank. Private applicants must use that field to enter the type of entity with which they have a contract to provide transportation services to a specific school district. For example, an applicant named ABC Bus Company that has a contract with Anywhere Public School District to provide busing services to their schools would select "Local Govt/Agency" from the Eligible Entity Type drop down menu, and then enter Anywhere Public School District in the Eligible Entity Name cell.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.16: *Can a group of eligible entities submit a joint application (e.g., five school districts applying for one replacement bus each)?*

Answer: No. Each applicant must apply separately, and must be the owner of the bus(es) on that application.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.17: *If an application is submitted for the maximum number of replacements (five), does that hurt our chances in the selection process?*

Answer: No, the number of buses targeted for replacement does not factor into the selection process. Applications will be selected through random number generation process. Funds are reserved for each applicant as selected until available funds are exhausted. The remaining applicants will be placed on the wait list in the order in which they were selected.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.18: *If we apply for five buses but then decide we can only afford two, will all rebate funds be declined?*

Answer: No. A selected applicant will not be obligated to utilize all the requested replacements. The quantity may be adjusted downward after selection, but not upward. Any funding that becomes available due to that adjustment will be made available to the next wait-listed applicant. However, we highly encourage school districts to apply only for the number of buses they actually plan to purchase.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.19: *If an applicant plans to replace five buses, are they allowed to submit five applications for one bus each to increase their odds of being selected?*

Answer: No. Applicants are only allowed to submit one application. Please see Section 3 of the Program Guide.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.20: *If an applicant has two buses that meet the replacement requirements (engine year, mileage, etc.), can they apply the rebate from two buses to the purchase of one new bus? This particular applicant has consolidated some routes, and has a surplus of buses.*

Answer: No, it is not possible to use two rebates toward the purchase of one bus.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.21: *What is the timeframe for purchasing and receiving replacement buses?*

Answer: Selected applicants must complete the following steps to receive reimbursement.

- 1) Within 90 days of the date of the Selection Letter, the selectee must submit a purchase order for new school bus(es). Note: The date of the purchase order cannot pre-date the date of the selection letter.
- 2) Within nine months of the date of the Selection Letter, the selectee must
 - a. accept delivery of the new bus(es)
 - b. scrap the old bus(es)
 - c. submit a "Payment Request" form
 - d. submit documentation of scrappage of the old bus(es)

EPA will review the submitted information to determine that all terms & conditions have been met. See Sections 8 through 13 of the Guide for additional information.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.22: *How long does a selectee have to purchase their new bus?*

Answer: Selectees have nine months from the date of the Selection Letter to complete all of the following:

- a. purchase new bus
- b. take delivery of new bus
- c. scrap the old bus
- d. submit a request for payment to EPA along with documentation of scrappage

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.23: *How can we participate if we cannot order buses until a bid has been requested?*

Answer: The purchase order cannot pre-date the date of the Selection Letter, but there is no requirement for the timing of the bidding process. If selected, Selectees must submit a purchase order to EPA within 90 days of the date of the Selection Letter.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.24: *Can a school district substitute a "letter of intent to purchase" for an actual purchase order?*

Answer: No. The new bus must be ordered no later than 90 days after the date of the Selection Letter. See Section 8 of the Guide for additional information.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.25: *What will happen if the buses are ordered, but delivery is delayed causing us to miss the deadline for submitting the information required to receive our reimbursement?*

Answer: We will address specific situations such as delivery delays on a case-by-case basis.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.26: *How long will it take to receive the rebate after we submit the final documents?*

Answer: After the documentation package has been received and reviewed to determine completeness, it may take up to 3 weeks for reimbursement. The rebates will be processed electronically. Selectees who fail to meet the required terms and conditions of the program in the designated timeframe will forfeit all reserved funds. See Section 12 of the Guide for additional information.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.27: *Does an applicant need both a DUNS number and an Employee Identification number?*

Answer: Yes, both numbers are required.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.28: *If an organization receives a rebate, will the recipient need to fill out forms such as SF 425, non-collusion, etc.?*

Answer: No. Applicants will have to fill out a payment request form which will be provided to Selectees.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.29: *We do not have bus registrations in our state, only titles. What do we do regarding the registration requirement?*

Answer: Per Section 2 of the Program Guide, if vehicle registration is not required by law in the state where the vehicle operates, the applicant must submit documentation that registration is not required in its jurisdiction.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.30: *Can we send copies of the titles and registration documents, or are the originals required?*

Answer: You should scan and submit copies of the title and registration of the buses. Please do not send the originals.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.31: *We are a school bus company that operates in many states around the country. If we plan on taking vehicles out of service in one area, do the replacement/new vehicles need to be put into service in the same area or under the same contract or can we put them into service at another one of our locations as long as we meet all the other requirements?*

Answer: As long as the new school bus meets all requirements, including the requirement to operate in the same manner and over similar routes as the original school bus, it can be put into use in a different area of the country or under a different contract.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.32: *We have multiple subsidiaries. Can we submit the application under the parent company even though the buses being replaced are owned and operated by one of our wholly owned subsidiaries?*

Answer: Yes. Please submit a letter of explanation if the name on the bus title is different than the name on the application and include the relationship between the parent company and the subsidiary.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.33: *Can we submit applications for more than one of our wholly owned subsidiaries?*

Answer: No. The applicant in this case is the parent company, which may submit only one application on behalf of all subsidiaries.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.34: *We are looking at the column called "Idling Hours," but are not sure how to do the calculation. In terms of "frequency of use," 3 of the buses are used 6 of 7 days and 2 are used 5 of 7. They are school buses and are in use for 5 hours a day.*

We could not determine if you meant the calculation to be "hours sitting there with the engine on and the bus not moving" or "engine off and the bus not servicing students." We have figures pertaining to annual miles as well as annual fuel consumption for each bus.

Answer: Idling hours are the hours per year that the bus has its engine on, but is not moving. If you do not keep records of idling hours, please submit the most accurate information you have. You could estimate the number of hours per day that the bus idles, and multiply that by the days per year the bus operates.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.35: *We understand we must submit the titles and the registrations for each bus being replaced. The registrations are no problem, but we have searched everywhere and no one in the District can locate the titles. The two people who might have known retired several years ago and are no longer reachable. Recently, when a bus was scrapped, our Bus Garage Coordinator signed a waiver because there was no title available. Is this possible here?*

Answer: No. Titles are required for proof of ownership of the bus being replaced. Often the State DMV keeps copies of vehicle titles, so check with your State offices to see if duplicate titles are available.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.36: *We are a school district that owns our buses. We do not lease our buses from a company. Do we need to fill out the following section of the application (Eligible Entity Type, Eligible Entity Name, Eligible Entity Location)?*

Answer: No. Applicants who are private entities need to fill in those fields to demonstrate they have a contract with a public school district and are therefore eligible. If you are a public school district, you may leave those fields blank.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.37: *Can the National Clean Diesel School Bus rebates be combined with California's Hybrid Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project?*

Answer: The applicant portion of funding for the Clean Diesel Rebate Program may consist of funds from state and local grant programs (such as California's Hybrid Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project), or other third-party funding and financing. However, buses that are funded or financed in part with federal funds are not eligible to receive rebates under this program.

If you are receiving state or local funds for bus purchases, you should ensure that the state or local program is not federally funded (e.g. EPA's State Clean Diesel Grant Program, EPA's National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program, DOT's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)).

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.38: *We are a public school district but the buses we operate are owned by the state. Who should sign the letter on behalf of the state authorizing us to participate?*

Answer: The signature on the official letterhead of the state agency that owns the buses must be from an authorized representative of the state agency. The applying district must submit the signed letter as well as proof of ownership showing that the state agency owns the buses.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

A.39: *Are both the title and registration required for school buses?*

Answer: Yes, we ask for both the title and registration. Public school districts with state-owned buses will need to submit both documents showing state ownership along with authorization from the state to participate in the program.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

A.40: *When will the selection process take place?*

Answer: The application submission period closes on November 17. The selection and notification should be done by mid-December.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

A.41: *How do we show that a bus is used three days a week if it accumulated less than 10,000 miles in the past 12 months?*

Answer: By signing the application form, you are certifying that you are bus qualified. If not qualified by 10,000 miles, you are qualified by being used three times a week. If you are selected, EPA will verify.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

A.42: *What happens if the applicant's funding isn't approved?*

Answer: If you have budgetary constraints where you have to lower the number of buses or drop out, we can work with you. There is no penalty for having to drop out, but we encourage applicants to make a close estimate at the time of submission.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

A.43: *When must new buses be purchased after December notification of selection?*

Answer: Selectees have 90 days from the date selection letter is received to initiate the purchase order and send it back to EPA.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

A.44: *Can you submit more than five buses in the application and then select five from the submitted list?*

Answer: No, you cannot submit more than five buses on your application. EPA allows only one application per applicant with a maximum of five buses. The five buses listed on the application are the five that must be replaced.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

A.45: *If selected for a rebate, when would we receive payment?*

Answer: Payment should be sent out within a week of review of the paperwork. This will likely take nine months from the date you receive the selection letter from EPA.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

A.46: *If a selectee drops out, how will that money be awarded?*

Answer: Applicants will be put on a wait list in the order in which they were selected. If a selectee drops out, EPA will go to the next person on the wait list.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

A.47: *Will each bus be awarded by the lottery or is the lottery for the entire application?*

Answer: All buses listed on the application would be funded. Awards are done per application, not per bus.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

A.48: *If we have an old bus that is still in service, would we purchase a new 2014 engine bus and then apply the rebate to the cost of the new bus?*

Answer: Yes, you would have to purchase the new bus and then apply the rebate toward its cost.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

A.49: *The buses I am listing are district owned and have state issued registration numbers. What other registration forms are required for attachment since we are just issued those numbers by the highway patrol?*

Answer: Per Section 2 of the Program Guide, if vehicle registration is not required by law in the state where the vehicle operates, the applicant must submit documentation that registration is not required in its jurisdiction. A copy of the vehicle title and registration must be submitted with the application package. If vehicle registration is not required by law in the state where the vehicle operates, the applicant must submit documentation that registration is not required in its jurisdiction.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

A.50: *How can I obtain a copy of a PDF application form that is editable on my computer, so that I can type in the values?*

Answer: An editable copy of the rebate application, including open fields for applicants to type in their information into blank cells, is available at: www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/documents/2014-clean-diesel-rebate-application.pdf. If you are having difficulty typing directly into this form, you may need to download the pdf to your computer to open it locally, or update your PDF viewing software.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

A.51: *Should applicants complete the funding year, target fleet, and rebate type fields on the application form?*

Answer: The funding year, target fleet, and rebate type fields that appear on the school bus rebate application above the Applicant Information Section do not need to be completed by rebate applicants.

Date Posted: 11/17/2014

A.52: *Our school district covers several counties. Do we submit applications at the county-level or one application at the district-level?*

Answer: The school district is the applicant. If the buses operate in multiple counties, use the location of the school as the county on the application.

Date Posted: 11/17/2014

B. Eligibility

B.1: *Are private schools eligible for replacement funding?*

Answer: No. Private schools and other organizations that operate buses are not eligible apply to this rebate program, unless the school buses on the application are operated under a contract with an eligible entity.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.2: *Does the current contract have to be with a school or district, or can it be a corporate account?*

Answer: Private entities are eligible if they have an existing and executed contract with a regional, state, local or tribal agency to provide transportation services to a specific public school district at the time of application. Please refer to Section 2 of the Program Guide for additional information.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.3: *Is the program open to both public and private school systems?*

Answer: Please refer to Section 2 of the Program Guide for a specific list of eligible entities.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.4: *Can a contractor who has received EPA funds in the past apply?*

Answer: Yes. All eligible applicants with eligible buses are welcome to apply.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.5: *Is this rebate program only for Tribal schools?*

Answer: Eligible entities include regional, state, local or tribal agencies with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality, including school districts and municipalities. Private entities are also eligible under certain circumstances. Please refer to Section 2 of the Program Guide for complete eligibility information.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.6: *If we transport mainly adults, but do transport a few children on buses, can we apply for the rebate?*

Answer: No. A school bus, for the purpose of the 2014 School Bus Replacement Rebate Program, is defined as a vehicle used for the purpose of transporting 10 or more preprimary, primary or secondary school students to schools or homes. The school bus must have accumulated at least 10,000 or more miles over the most recent 12 months OR been in use at least three days per week during the current school year.

Applicants are required to certify in the Rebate Application that the school bus(es) to be replaced meet these operational requirements.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.7: *We operate in multiple locations. Do the replacement buses need to be placed into service under the same contract as the original buses?*

Answer: Section 3 of the Program Guide specifies that replacement buses must operate in the same manner and over similar routes as the original school bus. There is no specific requirement that the replacement bus must be under the same contract as the original bus, as long as all other requirements are met.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.8: *One of the requirements was that the bus be used to transport students between school and home. We co-op our sports programs with another school. Does that mean we cannot use this bus to transport between schools?*

Answer: Buses must be used to transport students to schools OR homes, not necessarily between schools and homes. If the bus in question transports students to schools, it is eligible as long as it meets other stated requirements such as annual mileage and engine model year.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.9: *How are the “most recent twelve months” calculated?*

Answer: Depending on when the application is submitted, you may use either the most recent twelve months from October 2013 – October 2014, or November 2013 – October 2014.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.10: *Does the program cover engines that meet .02 NOx standard or will engines that certify at .04 be covered also?*

Answer: Eligibility for this rebate program is based on the model year of the engine being replaced, NOT the NOx standard for the engine. School buses eligible for replacement must be powered by an engine with model year– 2006 and older. New replacement vehicles must be powered by a certified 2014 or newer model year engine, or operate solely on electricity.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.11: *Do school buses that operate on alternate fuels such as propane qualify as an eligible replacement vehicle?*

Answer: Yes. All replacement buses must be powered by a certified 2014 or newer model year engine, or operate solely on electricity. Eligible replacement school buses may operate using conventional diesel (ULSD), battery or hybrid drive trains, or alternative fuels. Propane is considered an alternate fuel.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.12: *Are there options for biodiesel (fuel) in this program or is it strictly hardware related?*

Answer: This funding opportunity is to replace an existing diesel school bus with a new school bus. Please see the Program Guide for specific vehicle replacement requirements.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.13: *Is the conversion of a school bus from diesel to CNG eligible for this rebate?*

Answer: No. The School Bus Replacement Rebate Program is for replacements only and not conversions.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.14: *Can I purchase a new gasoline bus as a replacement vehicle?*

Answer: No. Gasoline buses are not eligible in this program.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.15: *Will alternate fuels being given any additional consideration?*

Answer: Alternative fueled buses are eligible as a replacement vehicle, but do not receive additional funding or priority over replacement diesel buses.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.16: *Would we qualify for this rebate if we did a lease-purchase for 2 buses instead of purchasing them outright?*

Answer: No. Lease-purchases are not eligible for this funding opportunity.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.17: *We have 'activity' buses that take students on field trips, between schools for various activities, and to athletic events. Would these activity buses qualify for this program?*

Answer: One requirement of the program is that buses must be used for the purpose of transporting 10 or more preprimary, primary, or secondary school students to schools OR homes, not necessarily both. It is possible that these buses could qualify, as long as they meet the other eligibility criteria, including usage minimums that are described in the program guide.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.18: *We are a school bus service provider that services multiple school districts. We are submitting an application for 5 buses, but the buses service different school districts. In order to fill out the Eligible Entity Requirement, do we need to supply all districts for which the buses will service? If so, where should they include the four other School Districts if we are limited to only one application? Do we need to include copies of contracts for each entity?*

Answer: A private applicant needs to list only one of the school districts with which it has a contract for the application to be deemed eligible. You can include buses under contract with different school districts in the same application. Private applicants do not need to include copies of contracts with their application, but EPA reserves the right to request additional supporting documentation, if needed, at a later date.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

B.19: *Is there any funding available for bus fleets that are not associated with school districts?*

Answer: No. The 2014 School Bus Replacement Funding Opportunity will only provide financial assistance to public and private fleet owners for the replacement of older school buses with new, cleaner school buses. An eligible school bus is defined as a vehicle used for the purpose of transporting 10 or more preprimary, primary or secondary school students to schools or homes.

Date Posted: 10/28/2014

B.20: *Can funds be used to offset the cost of a school bus that was purchased before the rebate is awarded if the bus has not been used?*

Answer: No, applicants must be selected and receive an official selection letter before purchasing the replacement school bus. The date of the purchase order cannot pre-date the date of the selection letter.

Date Posted: 10/28/2014

B.21: *Are trolleys eligible vehicles for the School Bus Replacement Rebate Program?*

Answer: No, trolleys are not eligible to participate in the school bus rebate program.

Date Posted: 10/28/2014

B.22: *Is an entity eligible if the school bus purchase requires bond approval?*

Answer: If funding is not available at the time of selection, your application could be withdrawn from the rebate process. There would be no obligation to continue.

Date Posted: 10/28/2014

B.23: *Are there any accommodations for school districts in small geographic areas with fleets that do not run 10,000 miles a year?*

Answer: If the proposed bus to be replaced has not accumulated 10,000 miles over the most recent 12 months, it must have been in use for at least three days per week during the current school year. There are no other provisions for eligibility available.

Date Posted: 10/28/2014

B.24: *Can the rebate be used to retrofit existing school buses?*

Answer: No, rebates cannot be used for retrofits under the School Bus Replacement Rebate Program. Rebates provided through this funding opportunity are limited to vehicle replacements. Retrofits are eligible under other DERA funding opportunities such as the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program.

Date Posted: 10/28/2014

B.25: *Are federally owned buses eligible?*

Answer: No, we are a federal program and cannot fund other federally owned buses.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

B.26: *Can we still apply and be awarded if our school district leases our buses from a transportation contractor?*

Answer: If your school uses a private transportation company, you cannot apply for the rebate. The company can apply for up to five buses so long as they have a contract with a public school district at the time of application.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

B.27: *Is there a target engine year(s) that the EPA is looking to replace?*

Answer: Any engine year 2006 or older can apply. The replacement must be 2014 or newer.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

B.28: *The buses I am listing do not travel 10,000 miles, but are route buses that are used 5 days a week during the school year. Do I need to note that somewhere since they are under 10,000 miles?*

Answer: By signing the application form, you are certifying that you are bus qualified. If not qualified by 10,000 miles, you are qualified by being used three times a week. If you are selected, we will verify that.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

B.29: *Are gasoline buses eligible?*

Answer: Gasoline buses are not eligible for replacement, regardless of age. Only diesel-powered Class 3 through Class 8 school buses powered by a 2006 or older engine model year are eligible for replacement.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

B.30: *A school district would like to replace an eligible diesel school bus with a new CNG-powered school bus. However, there is no current CNG-powered school bus that the same or smaller vehicle class as the one being replaced. Could we order the larger school bus if pursuing CNG fuel?*

Answer: No. Replacement school buses must be the same or smaller vehicle class, regardless of the new fuel type.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

B.31: *Are there any grants/rebates that are available to public school districts to replace their older nonroad diesel equipment?*

Answer: No. The 2014 School Bus Replacement Funding Opportunity will provide financial assistance to public and private fleet owners only for the replacement of older diesel school buses with new, cleaner school buses. Vehicles listed for replacements must be diesel-powered Class 3 through Class 8 school buses powered by a 2006 or older engine model year are eligible for replacement.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

B.32: *Is a bus with a remanufactured engine eligible for replacement?*

Answer: As long as a school bus is powered by a 2006 or older model year engine it is eligible for replacement.

Date Posted: 11/17/2014

B.33: *Is our 9,600 lbs. short bus eligible if it meets other requirements except for the specified 10,000 lbs?*

Answer: No. The bus must be a class 3 - 8 to be eligible for replacement, so it must weigh at least 10,001 pounds. Vehicle class is a set definition, categorized by the gross vehicle weight rating that the vehicle is assigned when it is manufactured.

Date Posted: 11/17/2014

C. Vehicle Replacement and Scrappage Requirements

C.1: *The program states that an applicant can submit a single application for up to five buses. Are the program's rebate amounts per bus or per applicant?*

Answer: The rebate amount is per each eligible bus, up to a total of five. For example, the rebate for five class 8 buses would be \$125,000.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.2: *If the new bus cost is more than the rebate, will we still receive the rebate?*

Answer: Rebate funds are determined based on the Class of the new vehicle, regardless of the purchase price of that vehicle.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.3: *The program guide states that a larger bus cannot be purchased. Does larger refer to engine size or capacity size?*

Answer: All replacement buses must be the same or smaller vehicle class as the original school bus, and operated in the same manner and over similar routes as the original school bus.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.4: What are the Class Definitions?

Answer: The Gross Vehicle Weight Rating as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations is the value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum design loaded weight of a single vehicle.

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) Classes & School Bus Types

Class	Gross Vehicle Weight Rating
Class 3	10,001 – 14,000 lbs.
Class 4	14,001 – 16,000 lbs.
Class 5	16,001 – 19,500 lbs.
Class 6	19,501 – 26,000 lbs.
Class 7	26,001 – 33,000 lbs.
Class 8	33,001 lbs. +

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.5: The application lists Classes 8A and 8B, the FAQ only refers to a class 8 - what is the difference?

Answer: Class 8a buses have a GVWR of 33,001-60,000 lbs. Class 8b buses have a GVWR of 60,001 and over. Both are eligible under this program.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.6: What are the differences between the bus classes?

Answer: Bus classes vary based on the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating. Please refer to Section 4 of the Program Guide for additional information.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.7: If a Class 7 bus is replaced with a Class 7, does it matter if the passenger count per bus increases or decreases?

Answer: No.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.8: Why can't a smaller bus be replaced with a larger one if the rebate provided is based on the smaller bus?

Answer: The purpose of this funding opportunity is to reduce diesel emissions. Generally, larger vehicles emit more emissions than smaller ones, so replacing a smaller bus with a larger one could have a net increase of emissions.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.9: Can I replace three buses in my fleet that are used as spare buses? They are operated at least 3 days per week, but did not log 10,000 miles over the past 12 months. After these three buses are off the road then three other buses will become spare buses. Would we still qualify?

Answer: As long as the bus meets all of the other requirements (including engine model year requirements), these buses would be eligible.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.10: *Can a company scrap a front engine bus and buy a rear engine bus of the same size?*

Answer: An eligible replacement bus must meet all requirements in Section 3. The requirements do not refer to placement of the engine on the vehicle.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.11: *Are there reference pictures for the scrapping of the engine and chassis?*

Answer: Sample scrappage photos are included in Appendix E of the Program Guide.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.12: *Can the frame be partially cut in half to allow the bus be towed to the scrap yard? Cutting the frame completely in half will make it very difficult to tow the bus.*

Answer: The purpose of the scrappage requirements is to ensure that the bus is permanently disabled, and can no longer be used as a vehicle. EPA will work with selectees to resolve any unique situations to ensure that the bus is permanently disabled.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.13: *Cutting the chassis in half is different than cutting the frame rails in half. Which is required?*

Answer: While the program guidance does say "cutting the chassis rail in half", the intent is to ensure that the chassis is permanently disabled and can no longer be used as a bus chassis. Typically, to disable the chassis, the frame is cut through on each side at a point located between the front and rear axles.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.14: *Must the school bus being replaced be currently in use?*

Answer: Yes. The school bus must have accumulated at least 10,000 or more miles over the most recent 12 months OR been in use at least three days per week during the current school year.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.15: *Must the replacement bus be new?*

Answer: Used buses are allowed, as long as they meet all of the eligibility requirements, including a 2014 model year engine.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.16: *Are engine repowers eligible (e.g. reuse the chassis, and only scrap the engine)?*

Answer: No. This program requires that the entire vehicle be scrapped.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.17: *Why do we need to report annual miles traveled and annual fuel consumption? What should I do if I do not know this information?*

Answer: This information is required so EPA can calculate the emission reductions from the school bus replacement. Applicants should do their best to obtain the most accurate information possible.

Annual Miles is the miles the vehicle travels per year, Annual Fuel Consumption should be entered as gallons per year, and Annual Idling Hours is the average number of hours the vehicle idles per year.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.18: *What type of documentation is needed for the annual fuel consumption and annual idling hours?*

Answer: You do not need to submit annual fuel consumption or annual idling documentation with your application, but must keep all supporting documentation you have on file for three years.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.19: *Does the bus have to be a 2006 model year or registered in 2006?*

Answer: To be eligible, the engine model year must be 2006 or older. The engine model year can be found on the label affixed to the engine itself. Don't confuse this with the vehicle model year which is on the title. The engine model year and the vehicle model year may not match.

The EPA engine family name is an 11 or 12 character number/letter designation included on the engine nameplate for all heavy-duty truck engines sold in the United States.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.20: *The line for the VIN number is not long enough so can we drop down to the next line to finish the number?*

Answer: A Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) contains 17 characters. The version of the form that is currently on the website contains spaces for 17 characters. If you're still having difficulty, you may drop down to the next line to complete the number, but make sure you are referring to the VIN, and not some other identifier.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.21: *What should I do if the engine tag is damaged and not readable?*

Answer: Please contact the engine manufacturer for assistance in obtaining the required engine-specific information.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.22: *We are having difficulty locating the family name on some of our engines. These engines are replacement engines in the buses we want to replace and do not have the family name on the tag. They are not original equipment engines.*

Answer: The model years and engine family information is required. Please contact the engine manufacturer for assistance in obtaining the required engine-specific information.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.23: *Can modifications be made to the replacement bus after acquired, assuming they comply with all relevant regulations?*

Answer: Yes, as long as they comply with the required and/or relevant regulations.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.24: *Why does the Program require the chassis to be scrapped and made unusable? An older chassis could have residual life provided it meets applicable safety standards and is repowered with a newer engine.*

Answer: The goal of this rebate program is to reduce emissions by removing older buses from the road. Allowing an entity to keep the chassis and refurbish it with a cleaner engine would result in an addition to the fleet as opposed to the replacement of a bus in the fleet, and may result in an overall emissions increase from the two buses.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.25: *Is the cost of scrapping included in the total project cost for calculation of reimbursement?*

Answer: Rebate amounts are set based on the size of the bus being purchased, not on the cost of the project.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.26: *Can we use a scrap yard that would certify that bus was scrapped?*

Answer: Scrappage may be completed by the Selectee or by a salvage yard, or similar service, provided all scrappage requirements have been met and all necessary documentation is provided.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.27: *Can we keep the bus body without the chassis and engine for training purposes?*

Answer: Yes. Equipment and vehicle components that are not part of the engine or chassis (e.g., seats, tires, etc.) may be salvaged from the bus being replaced. The engine and chassis may be sold for scrap metal, provided that the bus is disposed of in accordance with federal and state requirements for vehicle disposal.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.28: *Can we salvage the transmission and brakes?*

Answer: Yes, the transmission and brakes may be reused as they are not considered part of the engine or chassis. After a bus is properly scrapped, the scrap metal may be sold by the bus owner.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.29: *What should we do if the title does not have the same name as the present school?*

Answer: Please include a letter with your emailed application that explains why the title for the bus does not match the name on the application, including the name of the consolidated school and date of consolidation, if applicable. If the title differs from the name of the applying school because the buses listed are state-owned, include a letter on the official letterhead of the state agency that owns the bus. A template for this letter is found in Appendix C.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.30: *What should we do if the engine motor model tag is missing?*

Answer: You can get missing engine tag information to enter on the application form from the engine manufacturer. A repair shop may also provide that information.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

C.31: *Does the scrapper have to have a special license?*

Answer: No. The scrapper does not have to have a special license, but they may have to get pictures from the scrap yard to provide confirmation of appropriate scrappage.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

C.32: *Can my school bus be replaced with a diesel bus?*

Answer: Yes, you can replace your bus with a diesel bus or with an electric or propane bus.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

C.33: *How many buses can we scrap at one time?*

Answer: That depends on the scrap yard that you use. If your scrap yard allows, you may scrap up to five buses at one time.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

C.34: *Can we shred the entire engine? Isn't that better than a hole?*

Answer: Yes. When you submit proof that the engine has been destroyed, we require at least a hole to be drilled through it. If you can go above and beyond, we would not discourage it.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

C.35: *Can we use the scrapped bus for our vocational classes?*

Answer: No. The scrapped bus would not be able to run anymore because the engine and chassis would be destroyed. However, remaining parts can be salvaged and used.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

C.36: *Do old buses have to be salvaged or can they be traded in for a newer bus?*

Answer: Old buses have to be destroyed and the new buses have to be purchased outright.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

C.37: *We will be replacing Class 8 buses with Class 7 buses. What rebate amount should we apply for?*

Answer: If you are going with a lower class bus, your rebate will be for the greater class amount.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

C.38: *Does the scrap yard have to retain the scraped bus for three years?*

Answer: No, their paperwork certifying the scrappage is required, but they are not required to keep the bus remnants for three years.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

C.39: *What is the rebate amount for a 29,000 lb GVW bus?*

Answer: As a class 7 bus, the rebate amount is \$20,000.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

C.40: *Can we resell the remaining materials from the scrappage?*

Answer: Yes. So long as the scrappage is completed properly, you can salvage the remaining materials to resell.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

C.41: *When the bus is scrapped and the scrap yard pays for the bus, what can we use these funds for? Or do the buses go to the scrap yard at no cost?*

Answer: You can keep the scrappage funds from the scrap yard. EPA requires that certification and photos of scrappage are submitted, but everything else is at your discretion.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

C.42: *Can a bus be auctioned instead of scrapped?*

Answer: This program requires that the entire bus be scrapped or permanently disabled. The goal of this rebate program is to reduce emissions by removing older vehicles from the road. Auctioning the vehicle keeps it on the road and does not decrease overall emissions. However, as long as the engine is disabled, salvaged material from the bus may be auctioned or recycled.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

C.43: *Is there a time frame within which the new bus has to be in operation? I am a contractor with a school district and might not be in business in 2-3 years as the district is taking bids for the contract.*

Answer: Yes. Selectees must maintain ownership of the replacement school bus for three years after receipt of the rebate and the bus must be used for the purpose of transporting 10 or more preprimary, primary or secondary school students to schools or homes during that three-year period. If the replacement school bus is sold before the end of the three-year period or used for purposes other than described above, the selectee may be required to return up to the full amount of the rebate to EPA. The amount required to be returned is at the discretion of EPA, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Date Posted: 11/17/2014

C.44: *Is worn Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) documentation acceptable?*

Answer: As long as the VIN is legible the documentation is acceptable. EPA will work with selectees to resolve any unique situations to ensure that the bus is permanently disabled.

Date Posted: 11/17/2014

D. Miscellaneous

D.1: *What is the anticipated long term plan for this rebate program?*

Answer: The DERA program is subject to annual funding approval from Congress, so plans for future funding opportunities cannot be made at this time.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

D.2: *Is there any anticipated funding for rebates other than school bus replacements in the future? If so, is there any anticipated time frame for this? Are there any specific results you are looking for in order to make this a permanent rebate program?*

Answer: EPA anticipates offering additional rebate opportunities in the future to retrofit, repower or replace other types of diesel engines in various sectors. Future rebate funding opportunities will be based on program goals and available funding, among other factors.

The DERA program also offers grant funding, and information about future grants will be provided later this year. You may sign up to receive e-mail updates for notification of any future rebate or grant opportunities at www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/dera-rebate-schoolbus14.htm.

Date Posted: 10/15/2014

D.3: *Is the rebate for the full cost of the school bus replacement or a partial amount?*

Answer: Selected applicants are expected to receive between \$15,000 and \$25,000 per eligible bus, depending on the vehicle class of the bus being replaced. A Class 3 bus is eligible for up to \$15,000 and a Class 8 bus is eligible for up to \$25,000. Please see Table 1 on page 4 of the Program Guide for details.

Date Posted: 10/28/2014

D.4: *Does this program have any plans to coordinate with other school bus rebate programs in the U.S. for future funding opportunities?*

Answer: EPA anticipates offering additional rebate opportunities in the future to retrofit, repower or replace other types of diesel engines in various sectors. There are no plans to coordinate with other school bus rebate programs.

Date Posted: 10/28/2014

D.5: *If awarded a rebate, is it considered taxable income to our company?*

Answer: It is the recipient's responsibility to report income received in accordance with any/all applicable State, local, or Federal tax requirements.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014

D.6: *Is there a way to print out the slides you used in your presentation?*

Answer: Yes, the slides from the informational webinar are posted on the website.

Date Posted: 11/12/2014