



May 28, 2024

## **ACT School Bus Fleet Deployment Program RFP Questions and Answers**

### **Eligibility and Prioritization (Page 5 of the RFP)**

**Question:** Are independent schools (registered 501c3) eligible for this funding?

**Answer:** Private and independent schools are not eligible for ACT School Bus funding. Eligible applicants include public school districts, including charter schools, and that have a [NCES District ID](#). Note that private school bus transportation contractors can only apply on behalf of their associated Massachusetts public school district(s).

**Question:** Where can you find if a community qualifies as an EPA Priority District?

**Answer:** This information is available on the Clean School Bus 2023 Rebate page. Click [here](#) to view 2023 Rebate Priority List.

**Question:** Is there a minimum number of vehicles required to apply for the ACT Fleet Deployment Program?

**Answer:** There is no minimum vehicle requirement.

**Question:** What type of vehicles are eligible under this grant?

**Answer:** Type A, C, and D school buses are all eligible. 7D vans are also eligible if your project includes EPA-funded (or MCEC funded) Type A, C, or D school buses.

**Question:** What are the eligible governing vehicle weight restrictions (GVWR)?

**Answer:** GVWR are the same as those outlined in the EPA Clean School Bus program, i.e., the replacement buses must “have a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 10,001 lbs. or more.” 7D electric vans are also eligible under ACT School Bus if an applicant is also replacing Type A, C, and/or D buses.

**Question:** Can a school district apply for an ACT School Bus grant if the district is in the process of securing or has secured a MakeReady award from their utility?

**Answer:** Yes, school districts that have received or plan to receive a MakeReady award are still eligible for ACT School Bus funding. That said, the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) has ruled that any entity that receives MakeReady funding for chargers and/or infrastructure cannot stack that MakeReady funding on those same budget line items with



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ACT School Bus funding. For example, if a school district receives \$100 from their utility's MakeReady Program and then requests an additional \$50 from MassCEC towards line items that are covered by MakeReady, the MakeReady award will be reduced to \$50, and the total amount that the school district would receive is \$100 in total for those line items. Please note that currently, Eversource has maximized the MakeReady award potential for medium and heavy-duty vehicles. National Grid is still offering MakeReady funds for medium and heavy-duty vehicles.

### **Application Process (Page 6 of RFP)**

**Question:** Can one applicant submit multiple applications?

**Answer:** Each school district may only submit one application. If you are working with a private transportation provider, your provider may submit the application on your behalf.

**Question:** After the Questions and Answers period has closed, can folks still submit questions?

**Answer:** We will continue to be available to answer questions on the Program, but the responses will not be posted to our website. Please contact [CleanTransportation@masscec.com](mailto:CleanTransportation@masscec.com) with additional questions.

### **Funding Overview (Page 2 of RFP)**

**Question:** Is there a minimum amount of funding that an applicant must request?

**Answer:** There is no minimum funding amount that applicants can request. The maximum amount an applicant can request is \$2 million.

**Question:** How much total funding is available in this round?

**Answer:** MassCEC has not specified the total amount of funding allocated towards this third round of programming. That said, the maximum amount that MassCEC will award per project is \$2 million.

**Question:** Is there a cost share requirement or expectation? Will the program fund the total cost of an electric school bus?



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**Answer:** There is no cost share requirement, but MassCEC does not anticipate that the ACT School Bus funding could cover a full contract, depending on the size and scale. Our grants are not intended to be stand-alone (due to the amount of funding we can provide). We would like schools to know the outcome of their EPA Clean School Bus application before the ACT School Bus application closes.

## **Miscellaneous**

**Question:** Are there resources for private schools, even if funding isn't available?

**Answer:** While private schools are not eligible for ACT School Bus, MassCEC encourages you to refer to our [Mass Fleet Advisory Program page](#). This is a free full fleet electrification advisory services program that private fleets are eligible to enroll in.

**Question:** Is this a competitive grant?

**Answer:** Yes, this is a competitive grant.