

## 2023 CLEAN SCHOOL BUS (CSB) REBATES PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION SELF-CERTIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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*NOTE: Any applicant that wants to self-certify that a school district not listed on the Prioritized District List is “low-income” for the purposes of the CSB Rebates program should follow the Instructions below.*

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The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allows EPA to prioritize certain communities that will benefit from the Clean School Bus (CSB) Program. Based on the program priorities defined in the statute,<sup>1</sup> EPA has developed a list of school districts that have priority status under this funding opportunity. Please check school district prioritization statuses on the Prioritized District List, which can be found on the [CSB Rebates webpage](#).

Applicants requesting funds to replace school buses that serve a school district on the Prioritized District List will receive preference in the selection process, and if selected, be offered more funding per bus. Additionally, applicants may self-certify that school districts not listed on the Prioritized District List are “low-income”<sup>2</sup> for the purposes of the CSB Rebates Program if the school districts fall under one of the two “categories” described on the following page and receives Title I funding.<sup>3</sup> Applicants that properly self-certify will receive the same opportunity for preference in the selection process and a greater amount of funding per bus if the application is selected for funding.

### CATEGORY 1: PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS NOT REPRESENTED IN SAIFE

The U.S. Census Bureau’s Small Area Income ([SAIFE](#)) and Poverty Estimates program produces single-year estimates of income and poverty for all U.S. states and counties, as well as estimates

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<sup>1</sup> 42 U.S.C. 16091(b)(4):

In making awards under paragraph (1), the Administrator may prioritize applicants that-

- (A) propose to replace school buses that serve-
  - (i) a high-need local educational agency;
  - (ii) a Bureau-funded school (as defined in section 2021 of title 25); or
  - (iii) a local educational agency that receives a basic support payment under section 7703(b)(1) of title 20 for children who reside on Indian land;
- (B) serve rural or low-income areas; or
- (C) propose to complement the assistance received through the award by securing additional sources of funding for the activities supported through the award, such as through-
  - (i) public-private partnerships;
  - (ii) grants from other entities; or
  - (iii) issuance of school bonds.

<sup>2</sup> School districts having 20% or more students living in poverty.

<sup>3</sup> Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging academic standards.

of school-age children in poverty for 13,000+ school districts. Public school districts, including public charter school districts, not represented in SAIPE that received a Title I, Part A grant authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in the 2021/2022 academic year may self-certify their prioritization status.

*Documentation:* EPA may verify applicants' certification of Title I funding. Applicants are not required to submit this documentation at the time of application; however, EPA may contact the applicant during eligibility checks. EPA recommends providing copy of the official letter from the State educational agency (SEA) indicating division-level Title I award(s) for the 2021/2022 academic year and/or similar documents. To expedite the review processes, EPA encourages applicants to have the above verification documents ready at the time of application. If EPA reaches out to an applicant during the eligibility review and does not hear back from the applicant in a reasonable time frame, EPA may deem the application as ineligible. If an applicant is unable to sufficiently verify eligibility for self-certification, the application may be marked as ineligible for prioritization and withdrawn.

## **CATEGORY 2: SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH MORE THAN 35,000 STUDENTS OR MORE THAN 45 SCHOOLS**

Large public school districts, meaning districts with more than 35,000 students OR more than 45 public schools that are not listed on the 2023 CSB Prioritized District List may self-certify to be considered for low-income prioritization using either of the following options (please select which option you are self-certifying under):

**OPTION A:** The whole school district may self-certify as prioritized if 80% or more of all the schools within the district received a Title I grant authorized under the ESEA for the 2021/2022 academic year.

**OPTION B:** The school district may self-certify as prioritized for a sub-group of schools within the district if both of the following statements apply:

- All schools in the sub-group individually received a Title I grant authorized under the ESEA for the 2021/2022 academic year; **AND**
- All school buses requested in the application will continue to primarily serve the specific school(s) identified in the application (i.e., sub-group) as required by the terms and conditions of the award.

*Documentation:* EPA may verify applicants' certification of Title I funding. Applicants are not required to submit this documentation at the time of application; however, EPA may contact the applicant during eligibility checks. EPA recommends providing an official document certifying which schools within the school district received Title I funding for the 2021/2022 academic year. If the district is applying under Option 2A, self-certifying the entire district, please indicate (1) the number of schools within your district and (2) the number of Schools in 2021/2022 Academic Year that received Title I funding. If the district is applying under Option 2B, on behalf of a sub-group of schools within the district, please indicate which schools the buses will primarily serve (for example, rows or school names may be highlighted). To expedite the review processes, EPA encourages applicants to have the above verification documents ready at the time of application. If EPA reaches out to an applicant during the eligibility review and does not hear back from the applicant in a reasonable time frame, EPA may deem the application as ineligible. If an applicant is unable to sufficiently verify eligibility for self-certification, the application may be marked as ineligible for prioritization and withdrawn.