



# EPA CLEAN SCHOOL BUS



## NSTA SUPPORT for the CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM

The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) supports continuation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Clean School Bus Program (CSBP), a program authorized and appropriated for five years as part of the bipartisan Infrastructure Jobs and Investment Act (IJIA) enacted in 2021. The program is designed to accelerate adoption of zero emission and nearly zero emission school buses. To date, approximately \$3 billion has been awarded through three rounds of funding application periods. A fourth round of \$1 billion was advertised, and applications were due on January 9, 2025, but awards have not been announced, leaving that funding amount and another \$1 billion available for awards.



Currently, \$965 million from Round 2 and \$900 million from Round 3 were subjected to recent funding freezes imposed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) - shortly after inauguration. According to reports, many awardees have been able to access some funds from Round 2 in recent weeks, but right now, drawdowns for Round 3 remain completely frozen. This freeze has been extremely disruptive to our member operators, school districts, contractors, and manufacturers that budgeted, signed contracts, issued purchase orders, and made sizeable investments due to the award.



School buses are the safest and largest transportation system in the country, and they remain a uniquely American innovation. About 480,000 school buses in the U.S. transport nearly 25 million school children to and from K-12 schools every day. According to DOT statistics, school buses are the safest form of transportation over all other modes, and nationally, nearly 40% of school bus transportation is provided by private companies that contract with public school districts - these are the companies NSTA represents.



The Clean School Bus Program supports both electric buses and other clean school buses such as propane; though the majority of grant awards have gone for Electric School Buses (ESBs). Currently, ESBs operate in 47 states and in more than 250 Congressional districts across the country, much of this activity has been made possible by the Clean School Bus Program. Overall, school bus operations are the ideal platform for electrification because they have ample space for a large battery pack underneath the bus, generally have less demanding duty cycles and almost always start and end the day in the same location. ESBs have been shown to operate successfully in all types of school districts, rural, urban and suburban – and in all types of climates from the cold north to the hot south.



#### NSTA ADVOCATES FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- NSTA SUPPORTS RELEASE OF ALL GRANT/REBATE AWARDS APPROVED IN ROUND 2 AND ROUND 3 THAT HAVE BEEN FROZEN.
- NSTA SUPPORTS CONTINUATION OF THE CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM WITH AWARDS FOR THE REMAINING \$2 BILLION FOR ROUND 4 AND ROUND 5.

