



December 11, 2023

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

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

**Question:** Are all EPA Clean School Bus eligible replacement bus types (electric, CNG, and propane) eligible replacement buses under ACT School Bus?

**Answer:** The ACT School Bus Program is strictly an electric school bus program, and therefore ACT School Bus funding can only be used to support electric school buses and associated expenses.

**Question:** Are schools that use minivans for bus routes as opposed to big yellow school buses eligible?

**Answer:** Yes, minivans are eligible for MassCEC funding through this program as long as a school district is purchasing at least one Type A, C, and/or D electric school bus.

**Question:** Are multi-function school buses used for athletic and field trips in addition to bus routes eligible?

**Answer:** Yes, buses used for activities such as athletic trips and field trips are eligible under this program as long as the buses are also used for traditional school bus routes.

**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:** Is there a minimum horsepower? Do the new vehicles need to be the same horsepower as the scrapped vehicles?

**Answer:** MassCEC has not outlined a minimum horsepower requirement.

**Question:** We would be looking to replace minivans that transport students. Do they have to be fully electric, does the grant if approved cover the cost of minivan replacement and installation of charging stations?



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**Answer:** Yes, if you are looking to replace vans, they must also be fully electric. To be eligible for replacement minivans, applicants must also be replacing Type, A, C, and/or D buses. The applicant can propose funding allocation however they see fit, as long as the budget items fall within the eligible expenses outlined in the RFP.

### **Award Overview (Page 5 of the RFP)**

**Question:** Are MassCEC funds coming from a federal grant program?

**Answer:** MassCEC funds will be comprised of a mix of state and federal funding. For awardees' purposes, EPA federal funding and MassCEC funding are intended to be "stackable," and MassCEC will work with awardees to achieve that outcome.

**Question:** We know that the Accelerating Clean Transportation School Bus Deployment Program is stackable with federal funds, but we are looking to confirm that the program can be stacked with the EPA federal program.

**Answer:** Yes, ACT School Bus funding is intended to complement federal funding such as EPA Clean School Bus funding and EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Act funding.

**Question:** What is the maximum amount a town could receive through MassCEC?

**Answer:** For this open round, the maximum funding amount is \$2.5M per award.

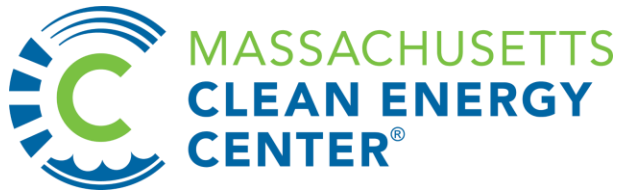
**Question:** What is the maximum vehicle/infrastructure funding?

**Answer:** In order to be eligible for funding, applicants must replace at least one traditional bus with a Type A, C, and/or D electric. However, ACT School Bus funding is intended to be flexible, and may be allocated however the awardee prefers (within the bounds of eligible expenses). For example, if the awardee is awarded the full \$2.5 million, they may choose to allocate \$2 million towards infrastructure and \$500,000 towards the electric buses.

**Question:** Does flexible funding mean this is a grant that does not have to be paid back? And can it be used to purchase a bus, related tech, or to update depots?

**Answer:** Correct, the grant does not need to be paid back. And yes, the funding can be used for expenses including the buses, electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), and depot upgrades.

**Question:** The program is aimed at school districts to secure funding for future electric school bus deployment projects. How do Awardees select an electric school bus manufacturer to



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provide ESBs with the grant money? Is there a separate RFP process for OEMs to be considered for selection?

**Answer:** We are not involved in the process of matching school districts with dealers. That selection process is one that school districts in Massachusetts go through following Massachusetts General Laws on procurement. If a school district applies to our program and has not identified an OEM yet, we can advise school districts on various procurement pathway options and review models that meet your district's specific needs.

**Question:** Does MassCEC intend to provide state funding for EV school buses in future years or is this still to be determined? Is the intent to continue to allocate some of the funds to previously non-prioritized districts into the future?

**Answer:** MassCEC is exploring the potential to run subsequent rounds of ACT School Bus in future years, but at this point has not committed to doing so.

## Miscellaneous

**Question:** For how long does a recipient need to complete the reporting requirements (monthly meetings, quarterly reports)?

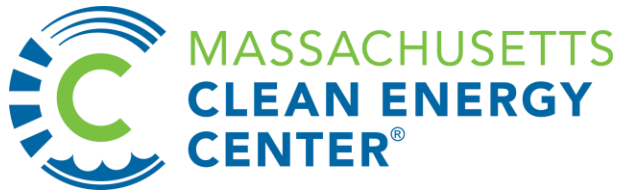
**Answer:** We expect these projects to run anywhere from 24 to 36 months, but this is subject to change depending on project needs. Reporting is intended to continue through the first 6 months of Deployment.

**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.

**Question:** In a hypothetical scenario, Say X Town is successful with the EPA rebate in early 2024 and then applies for additional MassCEC funding in the Spring and is not successful. Would the town be able to apply for MassCEC funding in future years if they are successful with the rebate in Round 3? Or is a town only eligible for MassCEC funding in the year of success with the EPA rebate?

**Answer:** Applying to the previous round of ACT School Bus does not preclude you from applying to this current round of the program. Additionally, though MassCEC will prioritize school



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districts that receive Clean School Bus funding, any public school district in MA is eligible to apply for the ACT School Bus Fleet Deployment Program.