

Rural School Bus Pilot Project

The Rural School Bus Pilot Project provides grants for the purchase of commercially available cleaner school bus technologies such as zero-emission (fuel cell or battery electric) and low carbon fuel options (renewable fuels). Schools in rural communities with the oldest and worst polluting fleets who traditionally have had fewer opportunities for grant funding are given funding priority, although all school districts within California are eligible to participate. Applicants can apply each program year for either one replacement bus that uses renewable fuels or up to three zero-emission buses as expansion projects.



Old bus requirements:

- Chassis must be 20 years old or older to receive funding
- Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) must be 14,000 pounds or greater
- Bus must have current CHP Certification
- Must be applicant owned

New school bus must be current model year and be either:

- Zero-Emission (battery electric or fuel cell); or
- Hybrid or Internal Combustion Engine (diesel, compressed natural gas, propane) using renewable fuel

Dates: 12/21/2016 – Summer 2025

Grant Administrator: North Coast Unified AQMD

Grant Amount:

Project Total (4 Fiscal Years): \$61,550,000



Calaveras Unified School District.
Photo courtesy: Mark Lutz/Calaveras Enterprise.

Vehicles/Equipment Funded

Zero-Emission school bus and electric charging infrastructure projects:

- Up to \$400,000 per bus, up to 3 buses per year
- Bus Types include A, B, C, and D
- Up to an additional \$5,000 for charging infrastructure per bus

Hybrid or Internal Combustion Engine school bus projects:

- Up to \$165,000 per bus, 1 bus per year
- Bus Types include A, B, C, and D
- Incremental renewable fuel costs can be included

Lessons Learned

- Purchase order processing time can be improved by utilizing a standardized required and optional equipment list.
- Dismantling activities can be improved by offering focused training on the destruction reporting requirements to dismantle and salvage yard operators.
- Global supply chain disruptions impact production schedules. Flexibility in delivery dates amongst project funding years improves expenditure targets.

Status Updates

Zero-Emission school bus and electric charging infrastructure projects:

- 33 buses have been delivered and are on the road.
- 45 buses are on order and are expected to be on the road by Spring 2021.
- 47 buses are expected to be ordered through 2020 with anticipated deliveries by Spring 2022.
- 9 charging stations have been partially funded, with an expected 12 more projects to be funded.

Hybrid or Internal Combustion Engine school bus projects:

- 13 buses have been delivered and are on the road.
- 31 buses are on order and are expected to be on the road by Spring 2021.
- 16 buses are expected to be ordered through 2020 with anticipated deliveries by Spring 2022.