

Electric School Bus Deployment Program Report

Minn. Stat. § 216C.374, subd. 10

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Report Prepared By

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Program Summary

The Electric School Bus Deployment Program (Minn. Stat. § 216C.374) was established by the Legislature in the 2023 session with the purpose of providing grants to accelerate the deployment of electric school buses by school districts and to encourage schools to use vehicle electrification as a teaching tool that can be integrated into the school's curriculum. The Legislature allocated \$13 million in funding, \$7 million from the Renewable Development Account, and \$6 million from the General Fund.

The program provides two different types of funding opportunities:

- Electric School Buses and Other Equipment Grants to cover a portion of the cost of bus and charger purchases.
- Planning and Technical Assistance Grants to provide funding for applicants to receive assistance with federal grant applications and planning activities.

The law states that the Department of Commerce (Commerce) must administer an open application process at least twice annually until December 31, 2026, or until all \$13 million allocated to the program is awarded, whichever comes first.

Grant Amounts Awarded

The Electric School Buses and Other Equipment round of funding for 2024 opened on October 28, 2024 and, at time of publishing this report, is still ongoing. Commerce expects to award these grants in late January 2025. This application round has \$6 million available to be awarded.

The Planning and Technical Assistance Grant round for 2024 closed its application window on October 23, 2024. The program has awarded funding to the applicant listed below in Table 1 and is currently in the contracting process.

Table 1: List of Awardees for Planning and Technical Assistance Grant

School District/Organization Name	Funding Source	Award Amount
ISD 622 (North St. Paul-Maplewood Oakdale Public School	General Fund	\$6,400
District)		

Remaining Balance

As of November 30, 2024, the remaining account balances are \$5.8 million (General Fund) and \$6.8 million (Renewable Development Account). The Electric School Bus equipment round closed on December 17, 2024. Six applications were received totaling over \$5 million in requested funds.