



Air Resources Board



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January 5, 2009

Mail-Out #MSC 09-01

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: LOWER-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM ADVISORY 08-006
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS FOR NEW REPLACEMENT SCHOOL BUSES
(LAST UPDATED DECEMBER 2008)

This policy advisory provides air districts and public school districts participating in the Lower-Emission School Bus Program guidance regarding eligible applicants for new replacement school buses.

Background

Since the creation of the program, Lower-Emission School Bus Program funding has targeted replacing the oldest school buses in the state and retrofitting in-use buses, to ensure that the program reduces children's exposure to smog-forming and cancer-causing pollution. School bus replacement funds have always been oversubscribed, going almost exclusively to public school districts. Since there are other public entities that provide public, K-12, student home-to-school transportation, clarification of which public entities are eligible to participate in the replacement portion of the Lower-Emission School Bus Program is needed.

Eligible Applicants

Public School Districts: The 2008 Lower-Emission School Bus Program Guidelines (Guidelines) describe eligible applicants for replacement funds as "Public school districts in California that own their own buses..." This includes public school districts that own their buses but contract with a County Office of Education or private contractor for maintenance and operations.

Joint Power Authorities: The 2008 Guidelines also state "Where a Joint Power Authorities (JPA) has been formed by several public school districts, and the JPA holds ownership of the school buses, then the JPA is also eligible to participate."

Public Charter Schools: The intent of this advisory is to clarify that other public entities that provide public, K-12, student home-to-school transportation are also eligible to receive funding for the replacement of older school buses provided the buses to be

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replaced meet the requirements of the Lower-Emission School Bus Program. One such entity is public charter schools.

County Offices of Education acting as a public school district: County Offices of Education are not public school districts. However, there are circumstances where a County Office of Education acts as a public school district such as taking over and operating a 'failing' public school or operating a public school for any other reason. In these cases, County Offices of Education are eligible to receive funding for the replacement of older school buses provided the buses to be replaced meet the requirements of the Lower-Emission School Bus Program.

Ineligible Applicants

School Transportation Contractors: School transportation contractors are not eligible to apply for school bus replacement funds. This includes County Offices of Education under contract to provide public, K-12, student home-to-school transportation.

Non-Profit Agencies, Private Schools, and Private Companies: Also, school bus purchases by non-profit agencies, private schools, and other private companies are not eligible for State program funding.

If you have questions regarding the Lower-Emission School Bus Program Advisory 08-006 Eligible Applicants for New Replacement School Buses, please contact Ms. Lisa Jennings, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 322-6913 or ljennin@arb.ca.gov .

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert H. Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

cc: Ms. Lisa Jennings
Air Pollution Specialist
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