



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: May 4, 2023
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **2023 Clean School Bus Grant Program**

This memorandum is to inform all school divisions about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for at least \$400 million in federal grants for cleaner school buses, reducing harmful pollution, and protecting children's health. As part of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, EPA's Clean School Bus (CSB) program will fund electric, propane, and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses that will produce either zero or low tailpipe emissions compared to their older diesel predecessors.

The EPA's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this grant program includes sub-programs for school districts and third-party applicants. The EPA is providing two separate competitions under this single NOFO to address the unique needs and concerns of diverse recipients and encourage participation in the CSB grants program. The EPA is prioritizing applications that will replace buses serving high-need local education agencies and rural areas.

Some of the key determination criteria for high-need school districts and rural areas include: school districts listed in the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) School District Estimates for 2021 as having 20 percent or more students living in poverty; rural school districts, limited to school districts identified with locale code "43-Rural: Remote" by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); and school districts that receive basic support payments under section 7703(b)(1) of title 20 for children who reside on Indian land.

School districts apply directly to the EPA for funding. The EPA will host a series of public webinars regarding this grant funding opportunity from May through August 2023 to provide

potential applicants with an overview of the NOFO and how to apply for grants. Webinar registration links will be posted on the [Clean School Bus Webinars webpage](#).

The NOFO will be open for 120 days. Applicants must submit all grant application materials to [Grants.gov](#) by: **Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 11:59PM ET**.

For questions regarding the 2023 Clean School Bus program, please contact [Vijay Ramnarain](#), Director of Support Services, or [Kerry Miller](#), Associate Director for Pupil Transportation, or call (804) 225-2037.

LC/KM/aam