



Air Resources Board



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TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: LOWER-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM ADVISORY 09-001
SCHOOL BUS EQUIPMENT OPTIONS (LAST UPDATED APRIL 2009)

This policy advisory discusses the level of justification required to support many of the options available on school buses. All school buses must be purchased using a California Approved Bid (CAB). See School Bus Advisory 08-005: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/bonds/schoolbus/advisory/advisory.htm>.

A transit style, model year 2008, diesel-fueled school bus costs approximately \$140,000, including sales tax. Per the 2008 Lower-Emission School Bus Program (LESBP) Guidelines, maximum program funding CANNOT exceed \$140,000 per bus. For all but pre-1977 school buses there is a \$25,000 match requirement. Below are examples of school bus costs and the approximate amounts that the LESBP will pay with the required \$25,000 match.

<u>Type of Bus</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>	<u>Required Match</u>	<u>Approximate Amount LESBP Will Fund</u>
Diesel	\$140,000	\$25,000 match	\$115,000
CNG	\$160,000	\$25,000 match	\$135,000
Hybrid or Alt fuel	\$200,000	\$25,000 match + \$35,000 additional funds from school district or air district	\$140,000

Many school bus quotes include options. The Air Resources Board (ARB) does not restrict the options on buses paid for by funds other than LESBP funds. There are restrictions on the options that are allowed to be paid for with LESBP funds: NOT every option is eligible for funding. Table 1 and Table 2 below identify: 1) options that can be paid for with LESBP funds and 2) options that cannot be paid for with LESBP funds.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Table 1: School Bus Options for School Bus Grant Amounts EQUAL TO or LESS THAN \$115K for a diesel bus, \$135K for a CNG bus, or \$140K for a hybrid or alternatively-fueled bus	
Options that CANNOT be paid for with LESBP funds	Options that CAN be paid for with LESBP funds (WITHOUT written justification or case-by-case approval from the ARB)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended Warranties • Aluminum Wheels • 10" Brakes • Surveillance Camera Systems • DVD and Video Entertainment System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transmission Retarder • Air Conditioning • Automatic Tire Chains • All Options OTHER THAN Those Listed in Left Column

Table 2: School Bus Options for School Bus Grant Amounts MORE THAN 115K for a diesel bus, or 135K for a CNG bus	
Options that CANNOT be paid for with LESBP funds	Options that CAN be paid for with LESBP funds (WITH written justification¹)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended Warranties • Aluminum Wheels • 10" Brakes • Surveillance Camera Systems • DVD and Video Entertainment System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transmission Retarder • Air Conditioning • Automatic Tire Chains
	<p>Options that CAN be paid for with LESBP funds (If approved by ARB on a case-by-case basis)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Options OTHER THAN Those Listed in Left Column

¹ **Written justification** must be retained in the project file and adhere to one or more of the following :

- The bus to be replaced (old bus) is equipped with this option
- It is common/consistent with the fleet
- It is required for safety
- It is necessary for the bus route
- Funding from LESBP CANNOT exceed \$140,000, therefore, for Hybrid or Alternatively fueled buses, all options excluding those in the left hand column in Table 2 can be included on the bus without written justification

Air districts, please submit your case-by-case approval request with your written justification directly to the Air Resources Board, MSCD Lower-Emission School Bus Program, Post Office Box 2815, Sacramento, California 95812.

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If you have any questions regarding this Lower-Emission School Bus Program Advisory, please contact Mr. Warren Hawkins, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 324-6771 or email at whawkins@arb.ca.gov .

Sincerely,

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Robert H. Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

cc: Mr. Warren Hawkins
Air Pollution Specialist
Planning and Regulatory Development Section