

Priority Notice from the Maine Department of Education



Maine Clean School Bus Program – Winter Edition



Winter is a good time to make plans for your electric school bus (ESB) deployment. Whether you received funding through the first federal [US EPA grant opportunity](#) or are getting your ducks in a row for the next round, the Maine Department of Education's [Clean School Bus Program](#) can help you prepare your school bus charging plans for later this year.

There are many factors to consider when choosing charging equipment that meets your bus needs, including:

- **Operations:** getting students to and from school is the number one priority. Your bus charger should be the right size to support your morning and afternoon school runs.
- **Cost:** charging equipment and installation costs can vary from a few thousand dollars to \$50,000 or more. Make sure you are not buying more charging capacity than you need. Thankfully, most schools considering electric school buses can use an inexpensive Level 2 charger.
- **Bus Specifications:** your charger must meet the technical requirements for your bus. While some buses may – at first glance - seem to need expensive high-power fast chargers,

inexpensive Level 2 chargers will usually work just fine.

- Site and Utility: your building wiring and your electric utility will need to have sufficient capacity to support your bus charger. Engaging with your electrician and utility early in the process can help avoid headaches later.

It might sound complex, but we can help you find the right solution for your project. The Department of Education offers FREE 3rd party technical assistance to any school in Maine considering a school bus program. And we'll hold a webinar on February 15th ([register here](#)) to help build your knowledge about ESB charging. Details are below.

School Bus Charging Webinar

[Register here](#) and join us on February 15th at 10am for a webinar about Electric School Bus Charging in Maine.

In this 90-minute session, we will cover:

- ESB Charging Basics: Level 2 and Level 3 charger choices
- Charger planning and installation: siting, specification, and utility concerns
- Operations: charging management and maintenance
- Other opportunities: Charging and Electrification as a Service, other grants and rebates
- The future of charging: V2G, microgrids, and renewable energy
- Q&A: Answering all of your questions!

Advanced registration is required – [register here](#) to join us on February 15th! We encourage you to invite your school facilities manager and transportation director to attend.

Free Technical Assistance to Maine Schools

VEIC is a national leader in ESB deployment and has been working with Mount Desert Island to evaluate operations of the first ESB in Maine. VEIC can help with all stages of the bus electrification process, from reviewing your plan, to providing feedback on vendor proposals, to helping you work through operational questions. Please [fill out this brief survey](#) (less than 2 minutes) to request free technical assistance, or contact VEIC's Maine Clean School Bus Team directly at:

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