



March 9, 2023

Ref #: 288635

VIA EMAIL

Dear: Band-Operated School Authorities

Re: School Bus Purchasing

The Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC) and Association of School Transportation Services of BC (ASTSBC) conducted a Request For Standing Offer (RFSO) for school buses. Vendors were invited to submit standing offer prices for various types of buses. Effective April 3, 2023 the RFSO and other supporting documents are available on the [ASTSBC website](#) at the “*Bus Standing Offer*” link.

Note this is not a bulk purchase of school buses, as the ASTSBC has only secured standing offer prices for school buses from April 3 2023 to May 15, 2023. The prices are “Free on Board” for each purchaser’s receiving location and includes delivery, packaging, crating and unloading costs anywhere in BC.

Band-operated schools planning to purchase buses are to contact vendors directly and enter into contracts to purchase from the vendor of their choice using the “Draw Down Form” mechanism described in the RFSO. Band-operated schools intending to purchase electric school buses are recommended to first contact ASTSBC for potential supplementary funding opportunities before contacting bus vendors.

The ASTSBC will invoice band-operated schools, just as they will invoice independent schools and public boards of education, for two percent (2%) of their bus purchase price to defray costs of administering this initiative. Band-operated schools in arrears of their administration fee payment from purchases under previous RFSOs will be ineligible for this standing offer procurement.

If you have any general questions, please contact me at Geoff.Croshaw@gov.bc.ca. If you have specific questions, you can email the ASTSBC’s RFSO Committee at rfso@astsbc.org.

Sincerely,

Geoff Croshaw,
A/Director, Minor Capital Projects, Programs and Finance Unit

cc: Capital Management Branch
Frank Marasco, Manager, Association of School Transportation Services of BC