



March 13, 2024

Ref #: 297485

VIA EMAIL

Dear: Independent 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 March 25, 2024 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 March 25, 2024 to May 31, 2024. The prices are “Free on Board” for each purchaser’s receiving location and includes delivery, packaging, crating and unloading costs anywhere in BC.

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

If you have specific questions regarding bus ordering or supplementary funding processes, please email the ASTSBC’s RFSO Committee at rfs@astsbc.org

Sincerely yours,

Michael Nyikes
Director, Minor Capital Projects, Programs and Finance

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