



## **ASTSBC SCHOOL BUS RFSO ADMIN FEE REPORT**

January 2025

**Preface:** Prior to ASTSBC management of an RFSO for school buses in the province of British Columbia each school district developed their own specifications and negotiated the purchase of their approved MoE funded buses individually. Prior to 2012 a small group of school districts joined forces and participated in a joint RFSO for school bus. The benefits were shared with the MoE and an agreement was made between the MoE and the ASTSBC to work together and provide a provincial RFSO for MoE funded school bus purchases. The first full provincial RFSO began in 2012. Collaborating has resulted in a better spec'd school bus and larger purchasing numbers leading to reduced overall pricing. An Administration fee was agreed upon between the MoE and ASTSBC to manage the provincial school bus RFSO. Agreed upon guidelines were put in place for the use of the admin fee to benefit the school bus transportation service stakeholders of British Columbia and school bus assets in the province BC.

**ASTSBC:** ASTSBC is a non-profit society.

**Our Vision** is to be the Centre of Excellence that empowers the student transportation industry.

**Our mission** is to be the Center of Excellence that empowers the student transportation industry by setting the highest standards in safety, reliability, and sustainability. We drive innovation, foster collaboration, and promote best practices to enhance the school transportation experience for every student. Through advocacy and professional development, we aim to support a system that ensures the well-being and educational success of all students.

**RFSO Administration Guidelines:** The Capital Management Branch has stipulated that the monies from the administration fee should be spent on education and training for those individuals involved with school district transportation.

### **Highlights of RFSO Administrative Fee Projects and Benefits:**

One of our most recent highlights is a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and the Association of School Transportation Services of BC (ASTSBC) formalizing our commitment to collaborate on improving school bus transportation for First Nation students and addressing mutual interests in safety and efficiency. One of the initiatives to fulfill this agreement is the provision of the ASTSBC SBELT (School Bus Entry Level Training) for first nations so that they can acquire their class 2 or 4 license, enabling them to provide school bus transportation services to their communities.



## Highlights of RFSO Administrative Fee Projects and Benefits Cont.:

Some additional projects and benefits are:

<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION OR BENEFIT</b>	<b>BENEFACTORS OF THE PROJECT</b>
Consistent Base Bus Specifications	BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities, Ministry of Education
Overall reduced bus prices	BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities, Ministry of Education
School Bus Services - Best Practices Manual	ASTSBC Members which consist of School Bus Transportation Specialists from Directors to Managers, Dispatchers, Mechanics plus.
Canadian National Association of Pupil Transportation professional development series.	School Bus Transportation Specialists from Directors, Managers, Dispatchers, Mechanics and Trainers plus.
Specialized School Bus Technician/Mechanic Training	Open to all School District Technicians/Mechanics
School Bus Electrification Support & Data Collection	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, Federal Government of Canada, BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities
Grant Applications & Management (ZETF, EMILI)	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, Federal Government of Canada, BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities
School Bus Driver Training Program	BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities, FNEEC (First Nations Education Steering Committee)
Annual Provincial Conference	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, Transport Canada, BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities, BC Canadian Vehicle Safety Enforcement.
Canadian Pupil Transportation Conference	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, Transport Canada, BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities, BC Canadian Vehicle Safety Enforcement.



Electric School Bus Charger and Energy Management Software RFSO	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, Federal Government of Canada, BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities
D250 Support and Committee Participation	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transportation, Transport Canada, BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities
Transport Canada School Bus Safety Task Force Participation	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transportation, Transport Canada, BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities
Heavy Duty Technician/Mechanic Scholarship program	Ministry of Education, BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities
School Bus Entry Level Training Program	BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities, FNEC (First Nations Education Steering Committee)
School Bus Specialists Networking listservs and opportunities	BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities,
School Bus Safety Week Campaign Resources	BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities,
BC Driver Recruitment Campaign	BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities,
Ongoing support and consultation for Bus Route Optimization	BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities,
Members website with multiple resources	BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities,
Create and maintain relevant partnerships to enhance student safety and school transportation best practices within the province of British Columbia. Remain current on relevant trends, challenges and solutions.	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transportation, Transport Canada, BC Public School Districts, Independent Schools, Band Operated School Authorities, FNEC (First Nations Education Steering Committee)

**RFSO Administration Fee Details:** Please see the detailed annual RFSO report included, as requested.

Prior to 2017 there was an ASTSBC MoE rep. on the ASTSBC executive who invoiced, collected, deposited and tracked the RFSO Admin fees from Public Schools based on admin fee calculations completed by the MoE, as well as from the Band and Independent school authorities. Following 2017 the ASTSBC began invoicing, collecting, depositing and tracking these records, therefore records prior to 2017 are less detailed and accessible.



As per the reports attached years 2013 and 2014 do not have the data as requested. According to our records 2013 was the year that no public-school bus purchases were provided MoE capital, hence you will not find any data for 2013. The 2014 data was not readily accessible with district admin fee breakdowns; however, we know that 12.6 million was budgeted for 2014 which is equivalent to \$252,000 in administrative fees.

**Conclusions and Looking Forward:** The ASTSBC places significant value in its mutually beneficial relationship with the Ministry of Education's Capital Branch and understands there is a new structure with the Ministry of Infrastructure now responsible for the Capital planning and procurement for schools, hospitals and health facilities, post-secondary institution student housing, and other important social infrastructure to support growing communities throughout the province. We look forward to providing the same School Bus RFSO services for the Ministry of Infrastructure managed by subject matter experts and believe we have shown the great value in working with ASTSBC for the School Bus Industry stakeholders of British Columbia. ASTSBC will continue to be available and open to collaboration regarding the School Bus RFSO administration fee now with BC's newest Ministry of Infrastructure. We look forward to continuing to provide these important services and would like to welcome the new Ministry to the BC team.