



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1970

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Sen. Mike Simmons - Ram Villivalam

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.206 new

Amends the School Code. Provides that, subject to appropriation, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, the State Board of Education shall award grant money in the form of a voucher of \$125,000 to a school district that submits a grant application to the State Board to be applied on the total purchase price of an electric school bus to effectively lower the purchase price of the electric school bus to the school district. Sets forth eligibility requirements for a school district to receive a grant. Provides that the State Board of Education shall annually disseminate a request for applications for grants towards the purchase of a electric school bus grant and applications shall be accepted on an annual basis. Provides that if the appropriation for grants under this Section for a given fiscal year is less than the amount required to fund all applications for grants, the State Board of Education shall give priority to school districts designated as Tier 1 or Tier 2 that do not have any electric school buses. Sets forth the application requirements. Allows the State Board of Education to adopt any rules necessary for the implementation of the provisions. Effective immediately.

LRB104 10794 LNS 20875 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 2-3.206 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.206 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.206. Grants for replacing an old school bus with  
8 electric school bus.

9 (a) As used in this Section, "electric school buses" means  
10 a battery-powered electric bus operated solely by electricity  
11 that has zero tailpipe emission of carbon dioxide and other  
12 pollutants.

13 (b) Subject to appropriation, beginning with the 2025-2026  
14 school year, the State Board of Education shall award grant  
15 money in the form of a voucher of \$125,000 to a school district  
16 that submits a grant application to the State Board of  
17 Education. The vouchers are to be applied on the total  
18 purchase price of an electric school bus to effectively lower  
19 the purchase price of the electric school bus to the school  
20 district. The actual funds of \$125,000 shall be disbursed to  
21 the school district when the school district appropriates the  
22 remainder of the purchase price of the electric school bus  
23 from its own budget.

1       The school district shall not have a current or pending  
2 application for the United States Environmental Protection  
3 Agency's Clean School Bus Program or the Illinois  
4 Environmental Protection Agency's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan  
5 in the 2025-2026 year.

6       The vouchers shall only be awarded to a school district  
7 purchasing a full size 66 or greater passenger electric school  
8 bus that will replace an old school bus for each electric  
9 school bus. The old school bus may be any internal combustion  
10 engine using any fuel type, including gasoline, diesel,  
11 propane, or compressed natural gas. To be eligible, the old  
12 school bus must:

13       (1) be a 2014 model year or older;

14       (2) be applicant owned with no lienholder;

15       (3) be class C or D;

16       (4) be 66 passenger or greater;

17       (5) have been used by the school district for at least a  
18 year; and

19       (6) be decommissioned from further service, scrapped, and  
20 not resold immediately after purchase and operation of the  
21 replacement electric school bus.

22       (c) The State Board of Education shall annually  
23 disseminate a request for applications for grants to be  
24 disbursed in the form of vouchers in the amount of \$125,000  
25 towards the purchase of a electric school bus grant and shall  
26 accept applications on an annual basis. The State Board of

1 Education shall establish procedures for submitting requests  
2 for grants and issuing vouchers to approved applicants.

3 If the appropriation for grants under this Section for a  
4 given fiscal year is less than the amount required to fund all  
5 applications for grants, the State Board of Education shall  
6 give priority to school districts designated as Tier 1 or Tier  
7 2 pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (g) of Section  
8 18-8.15 of this Code that do not have any electric school  
9 buses.

10 (e) The application for grants under this Section must  
11 include the following information:

12 (1) the number of full size electric school buses, if  
13 any, and full size fossil fuel-powered school buses the  
14 school district currently possesses; and

15 (2) a plan detailing how the school district will  
16 properly maintain, charge, and store the electric school  
17 bus once purchased.

18 (f) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
19 necessary for the implementation of this Section.

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
21 becoming law.