

CANADIAN ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS BUYERS GUIDE



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Acronyms & definitions

- V2X** **Vehicle-to-Everything:** A technology that enables the electric car battery to send power to another entity, for example the power grid Vehicle to Grid (V2G) or to a building Vehicle to Building (V2B) or another vehicle (V2V) among others. This technology supports energy sharing, grid stability and backup power.
- AC** **Alternative Current:** Alternative current is a power flow that can change the direction of energy flow. It is often used for energy currents in homes and businesses. Most electric vehicles supply AC power from the charger to the vehicle, where the power is then converted internally to direct current or DC.
- DC** **Direct Current:** The opposite of AC, this is a power flow where the energy flows only in one direction and is how a battery stores energy. Electric vehicle batteries require direct current to charge and retain energy.
- DCFC** **Direct Current Fast Charging:** A term that applies to DC charging and is a high-speed charging method that allows energy to flow directly to an electric car's battery. This method of charging reduces charge time and power loss.
- kWh** **Kilowatt-Hour:** kWh is a unit of energy that measures the battery capacity and electricity usage of electric vehicles. It measures how much energy a battery can store and how much of that energy can be used during driving.
- CCS** **Combined Charging Systems:** A common charging adaptor that supports both AC and DC charging methods through its single connection port. It is the most common charger used in North America and with electric school buses.
- LV2** **Level 2 Charging** is a slower charging option that typically uses AC power and is commonly used in homes, workplaces, and public charging spaces. It can allow for a full charge of a vehicle battery after a few hours.
- LV3** **Level 3 Charging** is the fastest type of charging. It uses direct current to rapidly recharge a vehicle. It is mainly found at public charging stations, depots, and often found along highways as it allows for much faster charging times than level 2 charging.

What is this guide

The Ecology Action Centre and the Conversation Council of New Brunswick have co-authored this guide to showcase 2026 electric school bus models available for purchase in Canada. Our goal is to facilitate electric school bus adoption and integration into communities. We hope the guide supports bus operators in their electric school bus procurement and research.

Disclaimer

Please note: This guide was published in May 2026. Some information—particularly bus manufacturers and models available, prices, and charging compatibility—may be out of date. We recommend verifying details with the manufacturer before purchase.

Assistance in reading this guide

We recommend exploring all types, all chargers, and consulting with the acronym list as needed. To verify and find further information about the manufacturers, visit their website. We welcome you to inquire with the authors of the report for further information.

About the Orgs



Ecology Action Centre

The Ecology Action Centre is an environmental charity based in Nova Scotia. We take leadership on critical environmental issues from biodiversity protection to climate change to environmental justice. Grounded in over five decades of deep environmental change work and fuelled by love and grief, EAC takes a 50-year perspective on what is needed to build towards a time of thriving and flourishing. We work to equip human and ecological communities for resilience and build a world where ecosystems and communities are restored not just sustained.

AUTHOR FROM THE EAC:

Abby Lefebvre, Energy Coordinator with the Ecology Action Centre



Conservation Council of New Brunswick
Conseil de conservation du Nouveau-Brunswick

The Conservation Council of New Brunswick is New Brunswick's oldest province-wide environmental organization, providing science-based advocacy, public education, and community engagement since 1969. As a trusted and respected voice on environmental issues, CCNB engages with communities, governments, and industry to promote policies and practices that safeguard a healthy environment and sustainable future. By combining research, education, and action, we inspire New Brunswickers to build a resilient and environmentally healthy future for generations to come. Central to our mission is empowering citizens and deepening their connection to nature.

AUTHOR FROM THE CCNB:

Erinn Sharpe, Engagement Coordinator with the Conservation Council of New Brunswick



About IC, in the company's own words:

Driven by purpose and inspired by people, IC Bus leads the way in bus manufacturing by building innovative, reliable vehicles designed to meet the needs of every journey—whether it's getting students safely to school or connecting communities for daily adventures. We see every bus as a solution, shaped by our commitment to quality and care for everyone who steps aboard. With industry-leading solutions, we're focused on delivering an unparalleled experience, ensuring every ride is safe, smooth, and supported at every turn.

For further Information on IC buses
please visit: icbus.com/electric



Electric Ce Series S (1)

BUS TYPE  C

V2X COMPATIBLE  Yes, available

PUPIL CAPACITY  Up to 78

RANGE  Up to 271 km

BATTERY SIZE  210 kWh

CHARGING COMPATIBILITY  Standard AC and DCFC charging ready

HEATING/ COOLING  • A/C optional
• Electrical heating standard
• Fuel-operated heating optional

WARRANTY  Offering a multi-tiered warranty covering key components, with extended protection for the battery and shorter coverage periods for the vehicle body and overall system. Coverage for defects in materials and workmanship, with terms aligned to manufacturer warranties and standard usage conditions.

Electric Ce Series S (2)

BUS TYPE  C

V2X COMPATIBLE  Yes, available

PUPIL CAPACITY  Up to 78

RANGE  Up to 321 km

BATTERY SIZE  315 kWh

CHARGING COMPATIBILITY  Standard AC and DCFC charging ready

HEATING/ COOLING  • A/C optional
• Electrical heating standard
• Fuel-operated heating optional

WARRANTY  Offering a multi-tiered warranty covering key components, with extended protection for the battery and shorter coverage periods for the vehicle body and overall system. Coverage for defects in materials and workmanship, with terms aligned to manufacturer warranties and standard usage conditions.

About Ride, in the company's own words:

Real Innovation Delivered with Excellence, RIDE is the U.S. spinoff of BYD, focusing on transportation solutions in the U.S. and Canada. BYD is the only EV maker to master battery, electric motors, and vehicle control technologies. BYD's proprietary Iron Phosphate batteries are the heart of our company. As a leader in clean energy solutions, RIDE has a positive impact on our communities and the environment.



The Achiever

BUS TYPE  A

V2X COMPATIBLE  Yes

PUPIL CAPACITY  Up to 30

RANGE  Up to 169 km

BATTERY SIZE  156 kWh

CHARGING COMPATIBILITY 

- CCS Combo DC / J1772 AC
- Charging Capability, Bi-Directional (V2G)
- Level 2 - Up to 19.2 kW AC - 8-9 hrs.
- Level 3 - Up to 110 kW DC - 1-2 hrs.

HEATING/ COOLING 

- Electric Heating standard
- Diesel Optional

WARRANTY  12-year Battery Warranty; 5 years for chassis, and one (1) year comprehensive warranty for entire bus (from bumper-to-bumper).

The Dreamer

BUS TYPE  D

V2X COMPATIBLE  Yes

PUPIL CAPACITY  Up to 78

RANGE  Up to 249 km

BATTERY SIZE  255 kWh

CHARGING COMPATIBILITY 

- CCS Combo DC / J1772 AC
- Charging Capability, Bi-Directional (V2G)
- Level 2 - Up to 19.2 kW AC - 14.5-15 hrs
- Level 3 - Up to 110 kW DC - 2.5-3 hrs

HEATING/ COOLING 

- Electric Heating standard
- Diesel Optional

WARRANTY  12-year Battery Warranty; 5 years for chassis, and one (1) year comprehensive warranty for entire bus (from bumper-to-bumper).



For further Information on RIDE buses
please visit: ride.co/school-buses



The Creator 188 kWh

BUS TYPE  C

V2X COMPATIBLE  Yes

PUPIL CAPACITY  Up to 77

RANGE  Up to 200 km

BATTERY SIZE  188 kWh

CHARGING COMPATIBILITY 

- CCS Combo DC / J1772 AC
- Charging Capability, Bi-Directional (V2G)
- Level 2 - Up to 19.2 kW AC - 15 hrs
- Level 3 - Up to 110 kW DC - 2.5 hrs

HEATING/ COOLING 

- Electric Heating standard
- Diesel Optional

WARRANTY  12-year Battery Warranty; 5 years for chassis, and one (1) year comprehensive warranty for entire bus (from bumper-to-bumper).

The Creator 282 kWh

BUS TYPE  C

V2X COMPATIBLE  Yes

PUPIL CAPACITY  Up to 72

RANGE  Up to 280 km

BATTERY SIZE  282 kWh

CHARGING COMPATIBILITY 

- CCS Combo DC / J1772 AC
- Charging Capability, Bi-Directional (V2G)
- Level 2 - Up to 19.2 kW AC - 15 hrs
- Level 3 - Up to 110 kW DC - 2.5 hrs

HEATING/ COOLING 

- Electric Heating standard
- Diesel Optional

WARRANTY  12-year Battery Warranty; 5 years for chassis, and one (1) year comprehensive warranty for entire bus (from bumper-to-bumper).

Thomas Built Buses



About Thomas Built Buses, in the company's own words:

Thomas Built Buses is a leading manufacturer of school, activity, commercial and childcare buses based in High Point, North Carolina. We serve communities and schools throughout the U.S. and Canada through our network of independently owned dealerships. And as a subsidiary of Daimler Truck North America LLC (DTNA), the leading commercial vehicle manufacturer in North America, we have the resources to continually push innovation forward and put the needs of our customers first.



Jouley Gen 1

BUS TYPE  C

V2X COMPATIBLE  Yes

PUPIL CAPACITY  Up to 81

RANGE  Up to 233 km

BATTERY SIZE  246 kWh

CHARGING COMPATIBILITY  • Level 3 - DC Fast Charge
• J1772-CCSI PLUG

HEATING/ COOLING  Electric Heating only

WARRANTY  • Bus Body = 3yrs/50,000 miles
• Chassis = 3yrs/50,000 miles
• Battery Packs = 8yrs/175,000 miles / 220,000 kwh throughput per battery pack (total of 2 packs per vehicle)
• Powertrain = 5yrs/100,00 miles (eAxe)

Jouley Gen 2

BUS TYPE  C

V2X COMPATIBLE  Yes

PUPIL CAPACITY  Up to 81

RANGE  Up to 241 km

BATTERY SIZE  246 kWh

CHARGING COMPATIBILITY  • Level 3 - DC Fast Charge
• J1772-CCSI PLUG

HEATING/ COOLING  Electric Heating only

WARRANTY  • Bus Body = 3yrs/50,000 miles
• Chassis = 3yrs/50,000 miles
• Battery Packs = 8yrs/175,000 miles / 220,000 kwh throughput per battery pack (total of 2 packs per vehicle)
• Powertrain = 5yrs/100,00 miles (eAxe)



For further Information on Thomas Built Buses please visit:
thomasbuiltbuses.com/electric-school-buses/electric-bus



Watson

BUS TYPE  D

V2X COMPATIBLE  Yes

PUPIL CAPACITY  Up to 90

RANGE  Up to 222 km

BATTERY SIZE  246 kWh

CHARGING COMPATIBILITY 

- Level 3 - DC Fast Charge
- J1772-CCSI PLUG
- with AC charger option

HEATING/ COOLING  Electric Heating only

WARRANTY 

- Bus Body = 3yrs/50,000 miles
- Chassis = 3yrs/50,000 miles
- Battery Packs = 8yrs/175,000 miles / 220,000 kwh throughput per battery pack (total of 2 packs per vehicle)
- Powertrain = 5yrs/100,00 miles (eAxle)

Bluebird Buses

About Bluebird, in the company's own words:

Since 1927, Blue Bird Corporation has continued to set industry standards with its innovative design and manufacturing capabilities. Additionally, Blue Bird provides comprehensive financial solutions through Blue Bird Capital Services. Today, Blue Bird has more than 1,500 employees, Georgia-based manufacturing facilities and an extensive network of Dealers and Parts & Service facilities throughout North America. Its global presence can be seen in more than 60 countries through sales into Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and the Middle East.



BLUE BIRD®

For further Information on Bluebird buses please visit: blue-bird.com



Bluebird Vision Electric

BUS TYPE  C

V2X COMPATIBLE  ISO 15118-20 w/TLS 1.3 as standard

PUPIL CAPACITY  Up to 77

RANGE  Up to 241 km

BATTERY SIZE  194 kWh Li-ION NMC

CHARGING COMPATIBILITY  Standard CCS1 connector with AC and DC Fast Charging capabilities:
 • Level 2 charging in approx. 8 hrs
 • Level 3 (DCFC) charging in approx. 2 hrs

HEATING/ COOLING  • Roof or skirt mounted HV self contained A/C
 • Stepwell area heater, front of bus heaters and rear bus heaters

WARRANTY  • Bus Body/Chassis = 5 year limited warranty
 • Battery Packs = 8 year battery warranty / unlimited miles 195 MWh per pack / Total 390 MWh throughput / a minimum of 75% state of health
 • Powertrain = 5 year / 100,000 miles electric powertrain

Bluebird All American

BUS TYPE  D

V2X COMPATIBLE  Yes, optional add on

PUPIL CAPACITY  Up to 84

RANGE  Up to 241 km

BATTERY SIZE  194 kWh Li-ION NMC

CHARGING COMPATIBILITY  Standard CCS1 connector with AC and DC Fast Charging capabilities:
 • Level 2 charging in approx. 8 hrs
 • Level 3 (DCFC) charging in approx. 2 hrs

HEATING/ COOLING  • Roof or skirt mounted HV self contained A/C
 • Stepwell area heater, front of bus heaters and rear bus heaters

WARRANTY  • Bus Body/Chassis = 5 year limited warranty
 • Battery Packs = 8 year battery warranty / unlimited miles 195 MWh per pack / Total 390 MWh throughput / a minimum of 75% state of health
 • Powertrain = 5 year / 100,000 miles electric powertrain

Lion Buses



About Lion

Lion Electric, electric school buses are purpose-built, all-electric vehicles designed specifically for student transportation, offering zero tailpipe emissions and quieter operation compared to diesel buses. They feature integrated battery systems, modern safety technology, and customizable configurations, making them a leading option for school districts transitioning to cleaner, lower-maintenance fleets.

For further Information on Lion buses
please visit: thelionelectric.com



Lion C

BUS TYPE	 C
V2X COMPATIBLE	 Yes, optional add on
PUPIL CAPACITY	 Up to 72
RANGE	 Up to 250 km
BATTERY SIZE	 210 kwh
CHARGING COMPATIBILITY	 Level 1 and level 2 chargers, CCS, please contact Lion regarding charger compatibility.
HEATING/ COOLING	 Diesel Heater, AC optional
WARRANTY	 Offering a standard warranty on all bus purchases, Please contact the manufacturer for further information on their standard warranty

To the reporters' knowledge, Lion Electric is primarily only servicing Quebec. However if you are outside of Quebec and interested in Lion Buses, please visit the Lion Electric Website to inquire about possible purchase agreements.



Electric School Bus Chargers and Compatibility

CHARGER	TYPE (lvl 2 or 3)	V2X Compatible?	IC	Bluebird*	Thomas	RIDE*	Lion**
ABB	3		✓		✓	✓	✓
Alpitronic	3				✓		✓
Autel	2 or 3		✓		✓		✓
Blink	2		✓				✓
BorgWarner	3		✓				✓
BTC Power	3		✓			✓	
ChargePoint	2 or 3		✓			✓	✓
Chargetronix	2 or 3		✓				
Clipper Creek	2		✓				✓
Delta	2 or 3		✓		✓		
Detriut eFill	3				✓		
Eaton	3		✓				
EKO Energeyka	3		✓				
EverCharge	2 or 3				✓		
FLO	2 or 3						✓
Heliox	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
InCharge Energy	2 or 3	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Ingeteam	3		✓				
Kempower	3		✓			✓	✓
Lincoln Electric	3		✓				
Nurvve	2 or 3	✓					✓
Power Electronics	3		✓				
Rhombus	3						
Simens	3		✓			✓	✓
Sanki	3					✓	✓
SK Signet	3		✓				
StarCharge	2 or 3		✓				
TECO Westinghouse	3		✓				
Tellus Power Green	3		✓			✓	✓
XOS	2 or 3		✓				
Zerova	3		✓			✓	

*Bluebird and Ride have stated they are brand agnostic and can use any charger but listed are their recommended chargers.
EAC and CCNB would recommend connecting with the charger company prior to any purchase of EV chargers.

**Please check with LION manufacturer for LIONC GEN compatibility with chargers.