



About The Big Yellow School Bus Program

Big Yellow School Bus, a partnership between the Bank of America Charitable Foundation and the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), is a new grant program to help schools meet the costs of providing educational field trips to cultural institutions and events across Massachusetts for their students. This program meets a growing need to help schools fund organized field trips to art and science museums, historic sites, and music and theatre performances, which are often eliminated due to the pressures of dwindling budgets.

Exposure to creative learning at cultural institutions is critical to a child's academic development. These visits help foster creativity and innovation, which Governor Deval Patrick's 21st Century Skills Task Force identifies as among the most important skills for students to develop today. Big Yellow School Bus is designed to foster partnerships between schools and cultural institutions, so students across the state can explore their creativity and experience all that Massachusetts' cultural life has to offer. Funded by Bank of America and the MCC, the program invites any PreK-12 school in Massachusetts to apply for a \$200 grant to be utilized during the 2008-2009 school year. Grants provided by the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will support schools with a high percentage of low-to-moderate income students, as well as schools focused on students with special needs.



Program Guidelines

Big Yellow School Bus provides \$200 grants to help schools meet the costs of educational field trips to nonprofit cultural institutions and events across the Commonwealth for their students. Field trips must include a cultural component (e.g., trips to art and science museums, historic sites, and music and theatre performances). Grants provided by the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will support schools with a high percentage of low-to-moderate income students, as well as schools focused on students with special needs.

Eligibility

Any Massachusetts school (public, charter, parochial, or independent) serving grades PreK-12 is eligible to apply. The field trip must involve travel to a nonprofit arts or cultural performance, exhibit, activity or program in Massachusetts. Filed trips must be completed by June 30, 2009. Schools that have already received a Big Yellow School Bus grant within the same school year are ineligible to apply again. Only one grant will be awarded per school per year.

Application Deadline and Notification

There is no application deadline. Applications are reviewed on a first-received, first-funded basis until all available funds have been awarded. Within one week of receipt of the application, you will be notified via email about the status of your application. If your application is approved, you will receive instructions on how to complete a contract package that then gets mailed to the MCC. Within 30 days of receiving the completed contract package, your \$200 grant will be disbursed. Incomplete, faxed, or e-mailed applications will not be accepted.

Frequently Asked Questions

What qualifies as a "cultural field trip"?

Cultural field trips are to nonprofit organizations that provide programs in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences, such as art and science museums, historic sites, and music and theatre performances. Activities can include performances, educational tours and exhibitions. Types of trips that DO NOT qualify for funding are sporting events, amusement parks, monster truck rallies, and shopping malls.

We want to go on another field trip. Can we apply for another grant?

No, only one grant will be awarded per school per year.

When will our school receive the money?

You can expect to receive your grant within 30 days after the MCC has received your completed contract package. Prompt submission of the grant contract will expedite your receipt of the grant.

We submitted our contract package but have not yet received our payment. Where is the money?

Funds granted to public schools will be in the form of an electronic transfer to the treasurer of your city or town. If you have not received payment, please check with your town Treasurer's Office. They may have the funds held in the Arts Lottery Fund. If approved for a grant, please notify your town's treasurer that the payment will arrive within 30 days, so they are aware the money is coming to you.

Who can I contact for more information?

Lauren Johanson, Program Administrator, 617-727-3668 x264

Go to <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications/bigyellowapp.asp> to fill out the simple on-line application form for the Big Yellow School Bus Program.

