



School Student Transport Scheme

The School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) provides eligible school students with free or subsidised travel from home to school.

The scheme includes:

- Free travel to and from home and school on approved train, bus, ferry and light rail services during school term.
- Discounted travel on buses between home and school with a School Term Bus Pass.
- Free travel on NSW TrainLink Regional services and long distance coach services for boarding school students.
- Subsidised travel to and from school in private vehicles in areas where there is no public transport available.

Students with a disability who are unable to travel to and from school under the School Student Transport Scheme may be eligible for assistance under the Department of Education Assisted School Travel Program.

What will my free school travel pass look like?

Depending on where they are travelling, students may receive a free school travel pass, School Opal card or both.



Free school travel passes and School Term Bus Passes are issued by operators to students travelling on buses outside the Opal network. Some operators in rural and regional areas may choose not to issue passes to students.

Using your school travel pass

School travel passes can only be used for approved travel on school days between the student's home and school/TAFE college between 6.30am and 7pm (6.30am and 9.30pm for TAFE students).

Free school travel passes do not include travel to and from:

- before and after school care or child-minding premises
- before and after school activities
- school excursions
- sports events
- work experience
- Vocational Education and Training (VET) at a location away from where the student is enrolled
- multi-campus high schools, weekend schools, pre-schools or mini-schools (except for full-time geographically isolated distance education students).
- Student must comply with the Student Codes of Conduct.

How to apply

To apply for a school travel pass, go online and complete the application form at

transportnsw.info/school-students

Please note, you will need a valid email address to complete the form.

Applying

Step 1. Parents (or students aged 16 or over) first fill in the online application form.

Step 2. Note down your N or UN number

Step 3. Follow the steps provided on the screen to submit your application to your school for endorsement

School endorsement

After you have submitted your application, your school will receive the information from the Department of Transport for endorsement. The address they have on record has to match your application address.

Processing your application

Transport for NSW will process the application.

Issuing free school travel passes

If your application is successful:

- For travel in rural and regional areas, a school travel pass is sent, if the operator issues passes. For rural/regional students, please contact the operator(s) directly to find out when and where the student's pass(es) will be sent. Note: some operators in rural/regional areas do not issue passes.
- Surfside Bus Passes are sent to Mt St Patrick College at the commencement of the year and issued by the school. Students will be notified via the Student Bulletin that the bus passes are available for collection and it is their responsibility to check with the front office if their bus pass has arrived. Other bus companies in the area tend to hand the bus pass out on the individual buses.
- Students can travel on the bus without payment whilst they wait for their pass.

The application process may take several weeks and you will be informed of the outcome of your application by email.

If parents live separately (shared parental responsibility)

In a shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody), a student can apply for subsidised travel from both parents' addresses.

A separate application form should be completed for each address. You do not need to provide a court order or statutory declaration to Transport for NSW for shared parental responsibility situations. However, Transport for NSW in its discretion reserves the right to request these or further evidence documents if required for the purposes of determining eligibility for subsidised travel from both parents' addresses.

What happens once I have submitted my application?

Once your application is processed, you will be informed of the outcome of your application by email.

If your application is successful you will receive a school travel pass or a School Opal card. If you already have a School Opal card, your details will be updated on your existing card.

If your application is unsuccessful, or if further information is required, you will receive advice by email.

Unsuccessful applications

Students who are not eligible for a free school travel pass can:

- purchase a School Term Bus Pass
- travel on child fares
- request a review

Re-apply or update your details

If a student's details change, they need to re-apply or update their details with Transport for NSW.

Students need to re-apply when they:

- Are changing school or campus
- Are changing home address
- Are changing their name
- Have received an expiry notification but have special circumstances.

Students need to update their details when they are

- requesting a new transport operator

To re-apply or update your details please click on the 'Update student details' button.

For rural/regional students, if the re-apply or update application is successful, a new school travel pass (or passes) will be sent to the school/college by the transport operator(s), or in some cases to your home address. Please contact the operator(s) directly to find out when and where the student's pass(es) will be sent.

School Drive Subsidy

The School Drive Subsidy is administered by Transport for NSW and is available to NSW residents in areas where there is no public transport, to drive an eligible student all or part of the way to school. The subsidy is only intended to partly offset the cost of using a private vehicle to drive the eligible student and is not intended to cover all costs.

The subsidy is for driving school students to school or to the nearest transport pick up point, by car, motorcycle or boat.

To apply for the School Drive Subsidy, you simply need to give the Department of Transport details of your school journey for all your eligible school students. They will automatically calculate for you the distance you have to travel from home to school (or to the nearest transport pick up point) as well as the amounts you'll be paid. This will be based on the number of kilometres you're approved for and a flat rate per kilometre.

Subsidy payments are made twice yearly after the end of the semester, usually in February and August, for the preceding semester. The amount paid per semester is based on the distance of your regular school trip for all of your eligible school students, and on each student's school attendance.

You can apply for the subsidy at any time during the school semester (January to June or July to December) for the current semester. The latest you can apply is the last day of Term 2 or Term 4.

Once your application is complete and has been accepted, there's nothing more to do. You'll automatically receive a subsidy payment twice a year until a student comes to the end of Year 6 or Year 12, and then you'll have to apply again for any remaining students, as your journey is likely to change.

Applications can be made at - <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/home#/schoolDriveSubsidy>

Local Bus Companies:

Brunswick Valley Buses – 6680 1566 <https://brunswickvalleycoaches.com/> (Ocean Shores, Brunswick Heads, Mullumbimby)

Gosels Buses – 6677 9394 (Fernvale, Wardope Valley, Dundee +)

J & B Buses – 6677 9257 (Murwillumbah, Tweed Coast)

Murwillumbah Bus Company - 6672 6222 (Uki, Mt Burrell, Murwillumbah)

Parsons Buses – 6672 2353 <https://parsonsbuses.com.au/> (Cabarita, Clothiers Creek, Condong, Tweed Valley Way, Stokers Siding, Burringbar, Pottsville, Sleep Hollow)

Surfside Buses - <http://www.surfside.com.au/> (Kingscliff, Tweed Heads, Tumbulgum)

Vimkind Buses – 6672 2842 (Tomewin, Dungay, Campbells Road)