

What's new

From 12 May 2016, applications for free school travel in rural and regional NSW will need to be completed online instead of using paper forms.

This change makes it easier to apply, as you only need to complete one form that covers all situations, including journeys that involve multiple transport operators.

It's also easier for schools and bus operators, as Transport for NSW will now handle the applications.

This change only affects the application process; no changes to any public transport services are planned.

Who can apply

To be eligible for free school travel, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school:

Years K-2 (Infants)
There's no minimum distance.

Years 3-6 (Primary)
1. 6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)
2. 0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking.

Who needs to apply

A new application is only required if the student has never been approved for free school travel before.

However, you need to update student details online if the student:

- Is moving from Year 2 to Year 3
- Is moving from Year 6 to Year 7
- Is changing schools or campuses
- Is changing address

How to update your details

If the student has already been approved for school travel and their address, school or name changes, or the student is entering Years 3 or 7, you will need to update your details at apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updatedetails.

How to apply for free travel for the first time

Applications for 2017 open from the start of Term 4, 2016.

Step 1

Once you have confirmed your 2017 school enrolment, complete the online application form at transportsw.info/school-students, nominating your home address and which bus company or transport operator the student needs to travel between home and school.

Step 2

Print, sign and date the completed application, then return it to the student's school for endorsement.

Step 3

The school then sends the endorsed application to Transport for NSW. You will receive an email confirming the outcome of your application. If the application is approved, Transport for NSW will inform your local bus or transport operator who may send a school travel pass (where applicable) to the student's school, or in some cases will contact you directly about travel arrangements.

A parent or guardian must apply for students 15 years and under. Students 16 years and over must apply for themselves.

Frequently asked questions

Can I still apply using a paper form?

Carbon copy forms are no longer being accepted after Term 2, 2016. To download a paper form visit apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts.

How can I apply if I don't have internet access?

Call 131 500 for assistance with your application.

Does the approved free travel include travel outside school hours?

Approved free school travel is only for travel to and from school. So for travel after hours, on weekends or during school holidays, students will need to purchase a ticket.

What if there's no public transport in my area?

In areas where there is no public transport, eligible NSW residents may receive a subsidy for transporting the student to school by private vehicle. For details visit transportsw.info/school-students.

How do I apply if the student is in a shared parenting situation and needs to travel from two addresses?

Each parent (or the student if aged 16 or over) needs to make a separate application for each address. The same eligibility criteria apply.

