

# School Transport Assistance

## INFORMATION FOR CAREGIVERS

### What is School Transport Assistance?

School Transport Assistance is provided by the Ministry of Education to help parents overcome barriers to education and meet their responsibility to get their children to school. This assistance is provided when distance and/or accessibility may be a barrier for students attending the closest school that they can enrol at. Students must meet certain criteria to qualify for school transport assistance.

### What's the eligibility criteria for School Transport Assistance?

There are three eligibility criteria that students must meet to qualify for School Transport Assistance:

<p><b>Criteria 1</b></p>	<p>The school must be the <b>closest state or state-integrated school</b> where the student can enrol.</p> <p>For students attending Maori medium schools – which must either deliver Te Reo at Level 1, or at Level 2 and 51% or more of instruction is in Te Reo – whichever Maori medium school is chosen will be considered the closest, in recognition of the importance of iwi and hapu affiliation to a Maori-medium education.</p>
<p><b>Criteria 2</b></p>	<p>Students must <b>live more than a certain distance</b> from the school, depending on their year level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years 1-8: at least 3.2 kilometres from the school</li> <li>• Years 9-13: at least 4.8 kilometres from the school</li> </ul> <p>These distances are measured by the shortest public road or pedestrian route from the home roadside gate to the school's front gate.</p>
<p><b>Criteria 3</b></p>	<p>There must be <b>no suitable public transport</b> options.</p> <p>Suitable public transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• travels within 2.4km of the roadside gate of the student's home</li> <li>• travels within 2.4km of the closest appropriate school</li> <li>• departs after 7am and arrives before school starts</li> <li>• leaves no later than one hour after school finishes</li> <li>• does not require the student to change buses more than once</li> </ul>

Check out the School Transport Assistance [video](#) on the Ministry of Education's website for more information.

## How do I apply for school transport assistance for my child?

To apply you'll need to speak to your child's school. Every school has a Bus Controller who will be able to advise you on whether your child is eligible for school transport assistance and what school transport options are available.

If your child is eligible, they may be able to get a place on a school bus if there is one that travels near your child's home. If there isn't a bus, you may be paid a conveyance allowance to assist with your transport costs. The school's Bus Controller will assist you with applying for a conveyance allowance.

## Can my child get school transport assistance if they don't attend their nearest school?

If a student who is eligible for transport assistance to their closest school, decides to attend a school that is further away, they may still be able to access school transport assistance. In these situations, the transport assistance would only be in the form of a place on a school bus within the chosen school's Transport Eligibility Zone (TEZ) i.e. caregivers are not entitled to a Conveyance Allowance.

To see if your child qualifies for assistance, the Ministry uses its eligibility criteria again. If your child doesn't attend their closest school, they will be assessed based on the distance between the chosen school and its TEZ boundary.

Your child's chosen school will let you know if your child qualifies for transport assistance.

Please note that parents or caregivers are responsible for transporting their child to the pick up/drop off bus stop within the chosen school's TEZ. This bus stop must be an existing school bus stop as school bus routes are only designed around students who are attending their closest school. School bus routes are not altered for students who are not attending their closest school.

For more information, check out the Transfer of Eligibility factsheet available on the Ministry of Education's website ([www.education.govt.nz](http://www.education.govt.nz)).

## I have shared custody of my child. Can my child still get school transport assistance?

Yes, if you have shared custody of your child and meet the eligibility criteria from at least one of your child's home addresses. However, if the assistance is a conveyance allowance, it can only be paid to one caregiver.

## More information

- Talk to your child's school Bus Controller
- Ministry of Education's [website](#)

