

What if a student doesn't attend the nearest school?

This fact sheet contains information about Transport Entitlement Zones, how they are established and the effect they have on the provision of school transport assistance. This information is current as at June 2009.

Overview

Once a student has been assessed as **eligible** for school transport assistance, they are then provided with an entitlement which may take the form of a conveyance allowance, a place on a school bus, or a combination of both. A student is **entitled** to receive assistance only within the Transport Entitlement Zone (TEZ) of the school they attend. Students living outside of their school's TEZ must make their own way to the TEZ boundary or be conveyed by the caregiver before receiving assistance. A diagram explaining this appears on Page 2.

How are Transport Entitlement Zones established?

Most TEZs are based on the halfway points between neighbouring schools of the same type. For example, a secondary school's TEZ is generally based on the halfway points between that school and each of the neighbouring secondary schools. In some cases the TEZ will be quite large due to the distance between neighbouring schools.

Year levels and the special character of a school are taken into account when establishing the halfway points between schools. Sometimes a school will have different TEZs at different year levels depending on the types of schools in the local area.

What if a student lives outside their school's Transport Entitlement Zone?

The establishment of a TEZ does not prohibit the enrolment of students in any given school. The TEZ only determines the point from which eligible students are entitled to receive assistance. The following scenarios are possible:

- If an **eligible** student lives within the TEZ of their school they are entitled to assistance from home to school, as described in *Fact Sheet 1 – Who is eligible for school transport assistance?*
- If an **eligible** student lives outside the TEZ of their school they will need to make their own arrangements to get to the TEZ boundary. Assistance will then be provided as described in *Fact Sheet 4 – What types of assistance can a student get?*

These scenarios are further described on Page 2.

Can bus routes be extended?

For ineligible and out-of-TEZ students a bus route can be extended through discussion with the Bus Operator and Service Agent for Ministry-contracted routes, or the direct resourced school, as appropriate. There may be additional costs involved which must be met by caregivers or the school community. The Ministry is not responsible for negotiating route extensions or for meeting any additional costs involved.

School Transport: What You Need To Know

The following fact sheets about school transport are available:

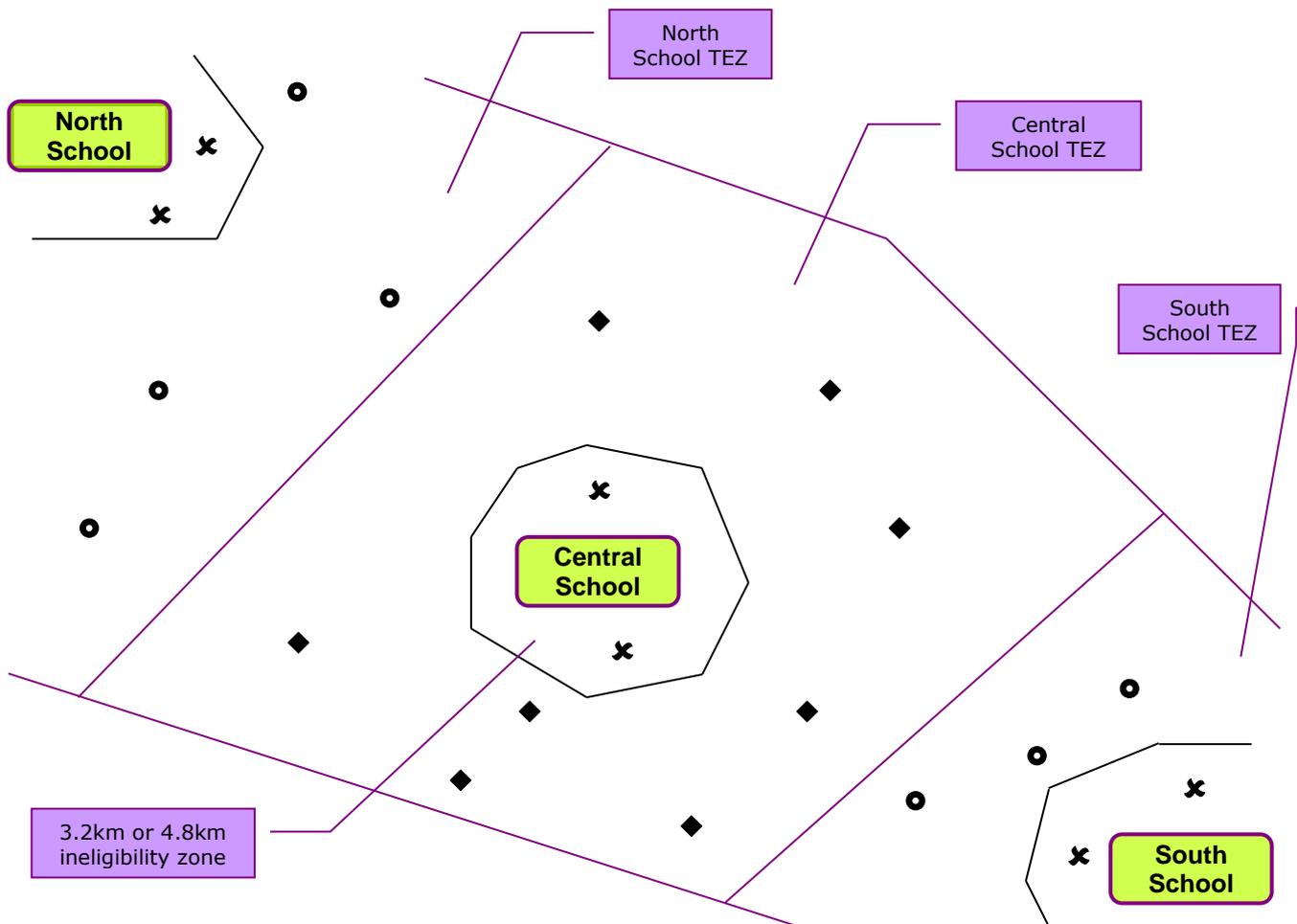
1. Who is eligible for school transport assistance?
2. What if a student doesn't attend the nearest school?
3. What if the nearest school doesn't offer education in the desired language?
4. What types of assistance can a student get?
5. How is transport assistance provided for students with special needs?
6. What should I know about school bus services?
7. Student behaviour on buses: What is expected?
8. What is good practice for school bus safety?
9. Who has a responsibility for school bus safety?
10. What is a Conveyance Allowance and who can receive it?
11. Who can I contact about school transport?
12. How are bus routes designed?

For more information visit our website at:

www.minedu.govt.nz/schooltransport

How is assistance provided within a Transport Entitlement Zone?

The following diagram describes how assistance is provided in the context of a TEZ, using students attending “Central School” as an example.



How is transport assistance provided for students attending “Central School”?

- ✘ these students are ineligible for school transport assistance because they live too close to their nearest school, as described in *Fact Sheet 1 – Who is eligible for school transport assistance?*
- these students must make their own way to the TEZ boundary before receiving assistance. From the TEZ boundary they will receive assistance in the form of a conveyance allowance and/or place on a school bus.
- ◆ these students will receive school transport assistance from their home to school in the form of a conveyance allowance and/or place on a bus, as described in *Fact Sheet 4 – What types of assistance can a student get?*

Can Transport Entitlement Zones be altered?

In most cases, the TEZ is based on the halfway points between neighbouring schools. However, in some situations there may be a valid reason for a TEZ to be permanently altered. Examples of this include:

- A mountain road between a community and the nearest school which is often closed due to snow
- An exceptionally dangerous road between a community and the nearest school, whilst a safe road exists between the community and the more distant school.

If a school feels they have a reason for their TEZ to be altered they should contact their Ministry Local Office in the first instance. The Local Office can provide further information on the TEZ review process.