

What types of assistance can a student receive?

This fact sheet outlines the different ways in which school transport assistance is provided for students who do not have special education needs (for information about transport assistance for special needs students see fact sheet 5: *How is transport assistance provided for students with special needs?*), and how it is decided which type of assistance an eligible student will receive. The information contained in this fact sheet is current as at June 2009.

Overview

Whether or not a student is **eligible** for assistance depends on the distance from home to their nearest appropriate school, even if they do not attend it. This reflects the government's commitment to helping students access education at their nearest school. An eligible student's **entitlement**, or the actual assistance they receive, depends on the distance from home to the school they attend.

What distance will a student receive assistance for?

The distance for which an eligible student receives assistance depends on which school they attend – the nearest appropriate school or a different school. If the student attends the nearest appropriate school, their entitlement is calculated from their home to the school. If the student attends a different school, their entitlement is calculated from the boundary of the school's Transport Entitlement Zone (TEZ) (see **Fact Sheet 2: What if a student doesn't attend the nearest school?**).

School transport is a **shared responsibility** between the Ministry and the caregiver, and the Ministry does not necessarily provide a door-to-door service for eligible students. This means that bus students may be expected to make their own way or be conveyed by the caregiver for up to 1.6 kilometres from the home or TEZ boundary to the bus service. Similarly, caregivers in receipt of a conveyance allowance are not subsidised for the first 2.4km of each journey.

What types of assistance are there?

The diagram below shows the three programmes for school transport assistance. **A student can receive assistance under one programme only.**

Daily programme – Ministry-contracted buses and/or Conveyance Allowance. **The majority of eligible students fall into this programme.**

Direct Resourcing funding programme – entitlement is paid directly to the school board, which is then responsible for arranging school transport.

Māori Medium School funding programme – entitlement is paid directly to the school board, which is then responsible for arranging school transport.

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:

www.minedu.govt.nz/schooltransport

Which funding programme will an eligible student be in?

The majority of eligible students will fall into the Daily Programme, which provides school buses and/or conveyances allowances for eligible students.

However, if a student attends a school that receives Māori Medium School Funding or Direct Resourcing, the school board is paid directly and organises transport assistance for the student. You can ask your school whether they are receiving Direct Resourcing or Māori Medium School funding.

Definitions

Maori Medium School

- A Maori Medium School is a Kura, Kura Kaupapa Maori, Warekura or designated character school providing education in Te Reo Maori established under Section 155 or Section 156 of the Education Act 1989. Maori Medium Schools receive school transport funding directly and provide their own transport services.

Direct Resourced School

- A Direct Resourced School is a school whose Board of Trustees has chosen to receive its school transport funding directly and to provide its own school transport services.

The Daily Funding Programme: A place on a school bus or a conveyance allowance?

New Zealand has a very good safety record for school buses, and for this reason the Ministry of Education supports transport assistance in the form of school buses where possible. If a Ministry-administered bus service is available, or the Service Agent considers it appropriate to extend or establish a bus service, the eligible student is offered a place on a school bus. However, sometimes students will live in areas where school buses do not run, in which case a conveyance allowance is paid to the caregiver to assist with the cost of transporting the student.

The following guidelines are usually followed to decide what type of assistance an eligible student will get within the transport entitlement zone of the school attended:

- ◆ **If there is a school bus route running within 2.4km of the student's home** (home or midpoint – see **Fact Sheet 2: *What if a student doesn't attend the nearest school?***): assistance will be a place on a school bus.
- ◆ **If there is no school bus route running in the area:** assistance will be a conveyance allowance to assist with the cost of transporting the student from their entitlement location to school and back.
- ◆ **If there is a school bus route in the area but student lives more than 2.4km from the route:** assistance will be a conveyance allowance to assist with the cost of transporting the student from their home to the bus, and also a place on the school bus. Note that the first 2.4km of the journey is unpaid.

For more information on school bus services, see **Fact Sheet 6: *What should I know about school bus services?***

For more information on the conveyance allowance, see **Fact Sheet 10: *What is the Conveyance Allowance and who can receive it?***

Looking for more information on school transport assistance?

Then visit our website at: www.minedu.govt.nz/schooltransport

To find out more about the policy outlined in this document, you can talk to your school or contact your local Service Agent (contact details can be found at the above web address).