

School Travel

Stay up to date with Opal and ticketing changes for school travel



Updated brochures now online

Following brochures going online and feedback received, we have updated our brochures to reduce the size and graphics so they are more user-friendly.

Brochures are available on the SSTS website under Facts and Brochures at <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/#/usefulFormsAndInformation>

The School Opal card

The School Opal card gives eligible students free or discounted travel between home and school using trains, buses, ferries and light rail services pre-approved in your application.

Who can apply?
To be eligible for a School Opal card, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school.

Years 6-2 (Infants)
There is no minimum distance.

Years 3-4 (Primary)
More than 1.6km straight line distance or at least 2.5km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)
More than 2.0km straight line distance or at least 3.0km walking.

Who needs to apply
A new application is only required if the student has not had a School Opal card before.
If the student already has a School Opal card and is changing schools, transport or home address, you will need to update their Opal card for the new school year before their Opal card expires at apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts.

How to apply
Applications for next year open at the start of Term 1 this year.

Step 1
Once the new school has confirmed your child's enrolment, complete the application at apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts.

Step 2
The school submits your application.

Step 3
Once Transport for NSW has approved the application, a School Opal card will be sent to the address provided on the application.

Child/Youth Opal card benefits

- Concession fares across the Opal network
- Half price travel after eight paid journeys each week*
- 20 transfer allowance for easy transfer between modes (intermodal, ferry, bus or light rail) on part of your journey within 60 minutes from the last leg off†
- Set rules for use and time to your credit or debit card to fund it always enough when on the card to travel.

Find out more at transport.nsw.gov.au or call one of our Opal helpline. To find a retailer in your area visit transport.nsw.gov.au

NSW Transport

Rural and regional school travel

Apply online for free school travel to rural and regional NSW. You only need to complete one form, even for journeys using more than one operator.

Who can apply?
To be eligible for free school travel, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school.

Years 6-2 (Infants)
There is no minimum distance.

Years 3-4 (Primary)
More than 1.6km straight line distance or at least 2.5km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)
More than 2.0km straight line distance or at least 3.0km walking.

Who needs to apply
You only need to apply if the student has never been approved for free school travel before. Students do a shared parental responsibility situation in a joint custody shared custody situation or a joint custody shared custody situation.

How to update your details
You need to update student details online if the student is changing their name, address, school or transport operator. You can update them at apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts.

How to apply for free travel for the first time
You can apply for free school travel for next year from the start of Term 1 this year.

Step 1
Once you have received your child at the new school, apply online for giving your home address and telling us which bus company the student needs to travel with between home and school. You can apply online at apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/parental-responsibility.

Step 2
The school then confirms to us that your details are correct.

Step 3
We will then work on your application. You will get an email confirming if the student is approved for free travel. If so, we will tell you which bus company they need to school (over 600 schools) to your school or, in some cases, the bus company will contact you directly about travel arrangements.

A parent or guardian must apply for students aged 11 years and under. Students who are 14 years and over must apply for themselves.

Frequently asked questions
Does the approved free travel include travel outside school hours?
Approved free school travel is only for travel to and from school. In for travel after hours, on weekends or during school holidays, students will need to buy a ticket.

What if there's no public transport in my area?
In areas where there is no public transport, you may be able to get a subsidy for driving the student to school. For details, visit transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts.

How do I apply if the student needs to travel more than 100km because the parents live separately?
Each parent (or the student if aged 16 or over) needs to apply separately for each address. The same minimum distance apply.

What my card will look like

Want to know more?
For more information, visit transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts
For help in your language, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 158.

NSW Transport