

School Drive Subsidy

The School Drive Subsidy is administered by Transport for NSW and is available to NSW residents in areas where there is no public transport, to drive an eligible student all or part of the way to school. The subsidy is only intended to partly offset the cost of using a private vehicle to drive the eligible student and is not intended to cover all costs.

The subsidy is for driving school students to school or to the nearest transport pick up point, by car, motorcycle or boat.

If you are applying for a School Drive Subsidy where there is no public transport (government or private operators) available to transport an eligible student for all or part of the journey to school or college, you will need to complete and submit a School Drive Subsidy application form which is available at:

www.transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive.

How it works ?

To apply for the School Drive Subsidy, you simply need to give us details of your school journey for all your eligible school students. We will automatically calculate for you the distance you have to travel from home to school (or to the nearest transport pick up point)

The amount paid per semester is based on the distance of your regular school trip and a flat rate per kilometre, as well as on each eligible student's school attendance. Payments are made twice a year after the end of the semester, usually in February and August.

Applying for the subsidy during the school semester must be done by the last day of Term 2 for semester one payments, or the last day of Term 4 for semester two payments.

Once your application is complete and has been accepted, there's nothing more to do. You'll automatically receive a subsidy payment twice a year until a student comes to the end of Year 6 or Year 12, and then you'll have to apply again for any remaining students, as your journey is likely to change.

Who's eligible for the School Drive Subsidy ?

Eligibility criteria for:

- Students from Kindergarten - Year 6
- Secondary school students from years 7-12
- TAFE students
- Non-Australian residents and students temporarily in Australia
- Boarding school students and weekday boarders attending day school
- Distance education students attending mini-schools
- Travel restrictions

Students from Kindergarten-Year 6 are eligible if:

- They are a resident of NSW, or an overseas student eligible for free government education.
- Aged 4 years 6 months or older.
- From their home address:

- the distance to school exceeds 1.6 km (straight line distance) or is at least 2.3 km walking distance.
- the distance to the nearest transport pick up point (where available) exceeds 1.6 km (straight line distance) or is at least 2.3 km walking distance.

Note: Pre-school children are not eligible for subsidised travel between home and school under the School Drive Subsidy.

Where public transport is available at the prescribed minimum distance from home, eligible students may also be entitled to a free school travel pass under the School Student Transport Scheme. Details are given during the application process for the School Drive Subsidy.

Non-Australian residents and students temporarily in Australia:

Certain non-Australian residents and students temporarily in Australia are eligible for the School Drive Subsidy, depending on their visa subclass. You will need to quote the student's visa subclass number when applying for the School Drive Subsidy, in addition to meeting the standard eligibility criteria.

Medical condition or another special circumstances

If the student has a medical condition, you should complete and submit an SSTS medical report and certificate (PDF 185KB) opens in new window with your application. If you're applying online, you can attach this completed form electronically as part of the online process.

Initial applications on medical grounds may be approved for up to 12 months with the form completed by your general practitioner. Subsequent applications require a more comprehensive report from a medical specialist demonstrating how the student's medical condition prevents him/her from walking to and from the bus stop or prevents the student from travelling by public transport. Subsidised travel on medical grounds does not apply to a one-off injury or a minor, temporary or irregular condition.

If other special circumstances apply (e.g. pedestrian safety concerns), you will need to attach supporting evidence with your application. If you're applying online, you can attach this electronically as part of the online process.

If parents live separately (shared parental responsibility)

In a shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody), a student is eligible for subsidised travel from both the parents' addresses, subject to meeting the normal eligibility criteria.

The School Drive Subsidy for eligible students who are in a Shared Parental Responsibility is paid to each parent/guardian on a percentage basis of the overall actual attendance days provided by the child's/children's school.

A separate School Drive Subsidy application should be made by each parent for each address.

You may need to provide a court order or statutory declaration to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) for shared parental responsibility situations.

If you are in a shared parental responsibility situation and you change your address, you must submit a change application.

Travel restrictions:

The subsidy is for driving school students to school or to the nearest transport pick up point, by car, motorcycle or boat.

How to apply for the School Drive Subsidy

Everything's online

The online application covers:

- Students from Kindergarten - Year 6
- Secondary school students from years 7-12
- TAFE students
- Non-Australian residents and students temporarily in Australia
- Boarding school students and weekday boarders attending day school
- Distance learning students attending mini-schools

The application form takes around 10-15 minutes to complete. You'll need an email address* and have your bank account details handy to complete the form.

Note: Subsidy payments can only be made into the parent/guardian's own bank account, not into an account held by a third party (e.g. a bus operator hired by parents from pooled resources or a school).

You simply fill in the online application form outlining your school driving journey and the student's details. We will notify you by email of the outcome of your application. See [What happens once I submit my application?](#)

**** If you don't have access to the internet you can ask at the school to download and print a paper application form (pdf 211KB)***

School Drive Subsidy Parent Portal

When you first apply for the School Drive Subsidy, you will be provided with login details to access the School Drive Subsidy Parent Portal. This means you can:

- Check the status of your application
- See details of your approved journey(s)
- Check the status of your payments
- Manage your contact and payment details
- Update your application if you change address or a student changes school
- Request a review of a journey

Download the [School Drive Subsidy Parent Portal Handy Information Guide](#) to see how you can manage your applications, journeys and payments online.

What happens once I submit my application?

Step 1. After you've applied, we'll notify you by email if your application has been provisionally approved. If your situation is relatively simple, we may be able to let you know immediately. If your situation or your school journey is complex, it may take additional time for us get back to you, however, this does not affect the application commencement date or payment dates as payments are made following the end of each semester based on attendance data provided by schools.

If we tell you that a student is 'Provisionally approved' this means that the student has been approved, subject to us receiving confirmation of school enrolment and the student's attendance record from the school at the end of the semester.

Step 2. Once your application has been provisionally approved, we will then calculate the distance of your approved journey. You'll be able to see this in the School Drive Subsidy Parent Portal. You don't need to do anything further.

Step 3. After the end of the semester (June or December), the student's school will advise us how many days the student has attended school during the semester. Based on this information, we can work out how much your subsidy payment will be.

Step 4. Once we've calculated your subsidy amount for the preceding semester, we'll pay it into your nominated bank account. This usually happens around August and February.