

Transfer of eligibility

Accessing transport assistance when not attending your closest school

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

To qualify for School Transport Assistance, your child must meet the following criteria:

1. They are attending their closest school (State or State-integrated)
2. They live more than a certain distance from school:
 - 3.2km for Years 1 – 8
 - 4.8km for Years 9 – 13
3. There is no suitable public transport available

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

Can my child get 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.

Can my child catch a school bus (for which they are not eligible) from their home to meet up with their funded school bus?

This decision rests with the transport provider and the schools that the school bus services. Their decision will depend on if there is space in the school bus, and whether eligible students will be disadvantaged.

If the decision is that they can catch the non-eligible school bus, the student may be required to pay a fare for that portion of their journey to school.

What's a Transport Eligibility Zone?

A Transport Eligibility Zone (TEZ) is used to determine what is the closest school for students. Ministry funded school bus routes are designed to run within TEZs.

Most boundaries are set at the half-way point (by road) between schools of the same type i.e. between state secondary schools. If a school has students that range between Years 1-13, then they may have multiple TEZs (as different year levels have different distance criteria to meet and there may be different types of schools in the area).

What's the difference between an Enrolment Zone and a Transport Eligibility Zone?

The difference is in how the boundaries of the two zones is set.

School enrolment zones are geographically defined areas around schools. They are designed to prevent schools from becoming overcrowded.

The boundary for a Transport Eligibility Zone however, is set at the half-way point (by road) between schools of the same type, for example, between two secondary schools. They are used to determine what is the closest school for students.

For more information visit: [Education.govt.nz](https://www.education.govt.nz)

How transfer of school transport assistance eligibility works

Check out the following scenario and diagram which explains how Jon makes his way to Central High School.

Jon's closest school is North High School. Jon qualifies for School Transport Assistance (STA) as he lives far enough away from the school and there is no suitable public transport available. However, Jon decides to attend Central High School. Jon's STA is transferred to the zone of the Central High School and is reassessed. He is deemed still eligible for STA and a place on a funded school bus within the Central High School zone is found for him. Jon needs to make his own way from his home to the school bus stop within the Central High School's Transport Eligibility Zone to catch his free school bus.

