

The School Opal card

The School Opal card gives eligible students free or discounted travel between home and school using trains, trams, bus, ferry and light rail services you nominate 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 K-2 (Infants)

There is no minimum distance.

Years 3-6 (Primary)

More than 1.6km straight line distance or at least 3.2km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)

More than 2.0km straight line distance or at least 3.2km walking.

1 If you are living in a remote area, you may be eligible for a School Opal card even if you live closer to your nearest school than the minimum distance for the area. Contact us.

Who needs to apply

A new application is only needed 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 that December at nswtransport.nsw.gov.au/school.

How to apply

Applications for next year open at the start of Term 4 this year.

Step 1

Once the new school has confirmed your ONSP's enrolment, complete the application at nswtransport.nsw.gov.au/school.

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 in the application.

1 A parent is guaranteed to apply for students 17 years and under. Students 18 years and over apply for themselves.



Better together

The School Opal card is only for travel to and from school. So it's a good idea to get a ChildOpal-Opal card for travel after school, on weekends or during school holidays.

ChildOpal-Opal card benefits

- Continuous travel across the Opal network
- Adult price instead of the adult peak purchase each week
- 10 transfer discount for every transfer between modes (pedestrian, ferry, bus or light rail) on part of the journey within 60 minutes from the last leg off
- 10 cent top-up discount to the price of the last leg of the journey when using the card to travel.

Find out more at transport.nsw.gov.au/school or pick one up from an Opal reader to find a location in your area. Call 1300transport.nsw.gov.au.

1 See website nswtransport.nsw.gov.au/school for more information about the ChildOpal-Opal card.

Transport for NSW will only apply the maximum transfer discount if you are using the card to travel between modes of transport.

For more information about the ChildOpal-Opal card, visit transport.nsw.gov.au/school or call 1300transport.nsw.gov.au.



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 taking 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 K-2 (Infants)

There is no minimum distance.

Years 3-6 (Primary)

More than 1.6km straight line distance or at least 3.2km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)

More than 2.0km straight line distance or at least 3.2km walking.

Who needs to apply

You only need to apply if the student has never been approved for free school travel before. Students in a school providing non-subsidised transport (e.g. private) should submit a separate application for their application.

How to update your details

You need to update details regularly unless if the student is changing their name, address, school or transport. If they Transport for NSW, you will update them at nswtransport.nsw.gov.au/school.

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, to or from other places, an weekend or during school holidays. Students will need to pay to travel.

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/school.

How do I apply if the student needs to travel more than 100km from the nearest school?

Each parent (or the student if aged 18 or over) needs to apply separately for each school. The same minimum distance apply.

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 4 this year.

Step 1

Once you have enrolled your child at the new school, apply online for your school details and confirm which bus company the student needs to travel with between home and school. You can apply online at nswtransport.nsw.gov.au/school.

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 not, we will tell you what the company who they need a school travel pass (if needed) or your to find in. In some cases, the bus company will contact you directly about school travel arrangements.

A parent is guaranteed to apply for students aged 17 years and under. Students aged 18 years and over must apply for themselves.

What my card will look like



Want to know more?

For more information, visit transport.nsw.gov.au/school.

For help in your language, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 326.

NSW Government logo.

