



## Kindergarten Students Travelling on 'Orange' School Buses

The Department of Education (DoE) has increased the hours that Kindergarten students attend school from the existing 11 to 15 hours per week. This increase will be implemented initially in the Wheatbelt and Southwest regions only. However, in the 2013 school year, this extension to the kindergarten program will be extended throughout all kindergartens in Western Australia. The DoE have advised that this new program will be managed by students attending 2 days / 3 days across alternating weeks in a fortnight or 2 days in semester 1 and 3 days in semester 2.

Due to kindergartens operating half day routines, eligible students did not have an entitlement under the spur policy for the school bus to be deviated to their resident and families had to meet the bus on route.

Noting that the Department of Education has increased kindergarten attendance hours, and now provide standard full days, these students will now be deemed as regular travellers under the Transport Assistance Policy and will be eligible to a bus service under the policy. SBS will extend the current spur policy (based on the spur rule of 5kms for one child or up to 7.5kms for two or more children) to enable these families to receive a closer bus service within the 90 minute travelling rule. Families of kindergarten students can elect to receive a conveyance allowance between home and school in preference to a bus service, however if a family elects to receive a conveyance allowance the bus will not be re-routed to stop closer to their property for the duration of that school year.

Families of students, who are required to attend kindergarten for half days, will still be able to continue to claim a conveyance allowance for the midday journey and meet the bus to travel either in the morning or the afternoon but the bus route will not be altered.

Families with kindergarten students who are eligible for Transport Assistance can log on to the School Bus Services website [www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au](http://www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au) and complete an on-line application form for Transport Assistance.