



New School Bus Eligibility Criteria Commencing Term 1, 2024

In August 2022, the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee released the *Bus Fair – The report of the inquiry into the Student Transport Assistance Policy framework* (the Report). Following the recommendations made by the Report, the Minister for Transport has approved several amendments to the School Bus eligibility criteria.

The below criteria will be effective commencing Term 1, 2024 of the school calendar year. Further information on eligibility criteria can be found in the [STAP and Operational Guidelines](#).

- **Secondary School Election Rule**

From 2024, where a student completes Year 6 at a primary school (not part of a school offering secondary year levels) they are eligible for transport assistance to either their nearest appropriate senior high school or nearest appropriate district high school for Year 7.

At the request of the Department for Education the Election Rule has been deferred until 2025 for Wandering Primary School, Coorow Primary School, Bindoon Primary School, Lancelin Primary School, Kukerin Primary School, Calingiri Primary School and Yerecoin Primary School. For these primary schools the current eligibility and complimentary rules will apply for the 2024 school year.

Refer to Paragraph 5.1.2 Nearest Appropriate School for further information.

- **School Local-Intake Areas**

Eligibility rules have been amended to remove the disconnect between Nearest Appropriate School and a student's requirement to enrol at a school with a 'local-intake area'.

In consultation with the Department of Education, students attending a government school where they reside within the local intake area will be assessed as Eligible. Transport Assistance may be by way of an orange school bus or conveyance allowance.

Refer to Paragraph 5.1.6 – School Local-Intake Areas

- **Regional Town Transport Boundaries**

Where an application for student transport assistance is approved to a school located within a Regional City or Town where there is a designated Public Transport Area (eg Bunbury, Albany), eligibility will now be extended to where there are multiple schools of the same denomination within the transport boundary.

Eligibility will be determined by distance to the requested school being greater than 4.5km from the student's residence.

Where the transport solution includes the Regional Town Service the transfer will be at a designated location and student will be required to pay the student concession fare.

Refer to Paragraph 5.1.7. – Public Transport Areas

- **Social, Economic, Financial and Community Factors**

In rural and regional areas, a nearest appropriate school for transport assistance purposes might not be the same town or centre where a family has well established for social, working, health care and community recreational networks, where this town also has a school.

When determining nearest appropriate school, where a family resides a similar distance (up to 5 kms) from two or more schools, consideration will be given to social, economic, financial and community factors,

All transport solutions will be bound by the defining principle of no adverse impacts on the broader cohort of travelling students in the region attending their nearest appropriate school.

This means where families reside outside the traditional catchment area for a school bus, transport assistance may be in the form of a conveyance allowance to meet the bus on route or the payment of a conveyance to drive a student to school where no service exists.

Evaluation of eligibility under this rule may require families to provide written evidence to support their claim.

Refer to Paragraph 5.2.2. Social, Economic, Financial and Community Factors