

# Transport for NSW

## Fact sheet: The School Opal card

### Who's eligible?

To be eligible for a School Opal card, students need to be NSW residents and may need to live a minimum distance away from their school:

- Years K-2 (Infants) there's no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.

Students completing secondary studies at TAFE, boarding school students and students temporarily in Australia may also be eligible for a School Opal card. The eligibility criteria for these students is available at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students).

A School Opal card is provided to eligible students who need to travel within the Opal network. Paper travel passes are issued to eligible students who need to travel outside the Opal network.

### Who needs to apply?

Most students or parents won't need to apply for the School Opal card. The School Opal card will be sent to a student's school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2016.

However, a new application is required if:

- The student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
- The student is progressing from Year 2 to 3, or Year 6 to 7.
- The student is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school.
- The student's personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Applications must be made by a parent or guardian for children aged 15 years and under. Applications must be made by the student if aged 16 years or older.

### How to apply

**Step 1** Complete the application at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students).

**Step 2** Print, sign and submit the form to the school for endorsement.

**Step 3** The school will then forward the application to Transport for NSW for processing. Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the School Opal card to the home address given in the application.

The application may take several weeks and the applicant's email address is required.

### If the student doesn't qualify for free travel

They may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.

Apply at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students).

### Find out more

For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), please visit [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students).

new School Opal card. Schools can continue to follow their current processes for students who have lost their pass.

### **Online eligibility assessment**

The new online application portal will automatically assess eligibility based on distance rules.

### **Same eligibility rules**

The eligibility rules for subsidised school travel remain the same for travel inside and outside the Opal network. Students may need to live a minimum distance away their school:

- Years K-2 (Infants) there's no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking distance or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking distance or further.

Schools can find out more about the School Student Transport Scheme at [transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/schools](http://transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/schools)

### **How you can help?**

- Display the enclosed poster on the school noticeboard.
- Distribute the flyers to students and parents.
- Encourage applicants to go online to apply for 2016 travel in the Opal network via your communication channels. The application is available at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students). Paper forms that have already been completed and submitted to Transport for NSW or a transport operator will be processed and do not need to be resubmitted.
- Responsibly dispose of any remaining blue SSTS application forms.
- Add digital tiles and banners to add to your website when they arrive via email.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Passes and Schemes on 02 9891 8900 or 1800 227 774.

Thank you for your support.

### **Transport for NSW**