

School Student Travel



School student travel information for parents and students

School Travel Passes

Applications are now open for 2025 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel.

Students in the Opal network applying for an Opal card (including a Term Bus Pass) for the first time will receive their School Opal card at their nominated postal address from mid-January 2025.

Students who require a School Opal card or travel pass but have not yet applied need to [apply](#) or [update](#) their details as soon as possible.

In the Opal network, students should travel with a Child/Youth Opal card until they receive their valid School Opal card. If outside Greater Sydney, parents should contact their [local bus operator](#) to discuss their travel needs.

Students living in rural and regional areas will receive their travel pass from their nominated transport operator. It may be issued via their school or be sent directly to them at home. **Note:** some rural and regional operators do not issue travel passes. Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

Terms of Use

Students using School Opal cards must tap on and tap off in line with the [Opal terms of use](#).

This includes travel within the approved times between 6.30am and 7.00pm from Monday to Friday on school days only. Students must use their Child/Youth Opal card for any travel outside these times.

All students are required to comply with the [Student code of conduct](#). The code of conduct aims to ensure the safety and well-being of school children and other passengers. It is important that parents ensure their child is aware of this, as failure to comply with the code of conduct can result in a suspension from travel.

Mail sent from the Stakeholder Liaison Team, Customers Systems and Operations.



The School Opal card

The School Opal card gives eligible students free or discounted travel between home and school using metro, train, 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 2.3km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)

More than 2.0km straight line distance or at least 2.9km walking.



If you live too close to be eligible for free travel, you may still qualify for a School Term Bus Pass, which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.

Who needs to apply

A new application is only required if the student has not had a School Opal card before.

If the student already has a School Opal card and is changing schools, campuses or home address, you will need to update their Opal card for the new school year before mid-December at transportnsw.info/ssts-update

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 child's enrolment, complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students

Step 2

The school endorses your application.

Step 3

Once Transport for NSW has approved the application, a School Opal card will be sent to the address provided on the application.



A parent or guardian must apply for students 15 years and under. Students 16 years and over can 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 Child/Youth Opal card for travel after hours, on weekends or during school holidays.

Child/Youth Opal card benefits

- Concession fares across the Opal network
- Half-price travel after eight paid journeys each week*
- \$1 transfer discount for every transfer between modes (metro/train, ferry, bus or light rail) as part of one journey within 60 minutes from the last tap off†
- Set auto top up and link it to your credit or debit card so there's always enough value on the card to travel.

Find out more at transportnsw.info/opal or pick one up from an Opal retailer. To find a retailer in your area visit transportnsw.info/opal-retailers



Secondary students aged 16 and over can travel with a Child/Youth Opal card when carrying a Transport Concession Entitlement Card. To apply contact your school or institution.

* Excluding Sydney Airport station access fee.

Privacy

For information on how we handle personal information please refer to the Opal Privacy Policy at transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/opal/opal-privacy-policy and the School Pass Terms transportnsw.info/school-pass-terms

