

Fact sheet: School Opal card

The School Opal card provides free travel to school aged students between home and school on weekdays under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) across the Opal public transport network.

School Opal card can be used:

- On approved travel on school days between the student's home and school, and
- For travel between 06:30 and 19:00 weekdays (21:30 for TAFE school students).



Who is eligible?

To be eligible a student must be a resident of NSW plus:

- Infant student (K-2) older than 4 years and 6 months who lives any distance between home and school; or
- Primary student (Years 3-6) who lives more than 1.6km (straight line) from school, or 2.3km or more by the most direct practical walking route; or
- Secondary student (Year 7-12) who lives more than 2km (straight line) from school, or 2.9km or more by the most direct practical walking route; or
- TAFE student under 18 years of age at 1 January of the year of application and enrolled in a full-time TAFE course for a minimum of 20 hours a week, and is not employed, lives more than 3.2km from the college by the most direct practical walking route, and attends the college closest to their home where enrolment is available.

School Opal Cards enable a student to travel on:

- Mode(s) of transport most applicable for the student's travel requirements; train or bus or both. For bus travel, cards are restricted to individual or a combination of bus operators.
- Approved ferries; and
- School days only.

For travel outside school hours or days a Child/Youth Opal card is available and provides concession fares and other Opal benefits.

How do parents/students get a School Opal card?

Students with school travel passes this year will not need to apply for a School Opal card *unless* they are changing schools or their home address or moving from year 2 to 3 or year 6 to 7.

Those students who do not need to apply will have a School Opal card sent to their school for the beginning of the first term in 2016.

For new applications or for students with changing circumstances, the parents, guardians or students over 16 years are required to fill in a form online at www.transportnsw.info/school-students

After filling in the online application they print it off and take it to the school to endorse. Transport for NSW has the data online from the application and waits for the school to then endorse the application and will mail the School Opal card to the applicant's home address.