

Change to subsidy options

October 2023

Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions



The Private Vehicle Conveyance subsidy will close at the end of 2023. All families still eligible for a subsidy should apply for the School Drive Subsidy to continue to receive payments beyond 2023

Overview

Transport for NSW manages a number of subsidised and free travel arrangements for families of school children across NSW.

The Private Vehicle Conveyance (PVC) Subsidy was replaced with the School Drive Subsidy in 2017, however current PVC participants at the time were offered continuing access for a number of years as part of a grandfathering arrangement. As part of this arrangement, it was intended that students would transition to the replacement program, the School Drive Subsidy, when they reached transition points such as moving from primary school to high school.

There are currently very low volumes of active PVC participants as most students have ceased using the scheme. Also, most families are scheduled to end their entitlement soon, or would be financially better off moving to the School Drive Subsidy. For these reasons, the **PVC subsidy will end at the end of 2023** for current recipients.

FAQs

Why is the PVC subsidy ending?

The PVC subsidy was replaced with the School Drive Subsidy (SDS) in 2017. Since this time, many families have either transitioned to SDS or rolled off the program as children finished schooling or reached reapplication transition points, and the number of PVC recipients is now very small.

When is PVC ending?

The Private Vehicle Conveyance Subsidy will close at the end of 2023. Your last PVC payment will be for semester 2 2023, unless you choose to apply for the School Drive Subsidy for Semester 2.

Semester 2 payment times will be processed as normal, after the end of Term 4. All PVC records will then be closed.

To continue to receive a subsidy beyond 2023, you will need to apply and be accepted as eligible for the School Drive Subsidy.

What is the School Drive Subsidy?

The School Drive Subsidy is available in areas where there is limited or no public transport. The subsidy is intended to partly offset the cost of using a private vehicle to drive an eligible student all or part of the way to school.

You can find more information about SDS, including eligibility information, subsidy rates and other school travel programs at transportnsw.info/school-students

What are the differences between PVC and SDS?

The former Private Vehicle Conveyance (PVC) subsidy was based on a model where payments were calculated per 'student', whereas the School Drive Subsidy is calculated 'per household'. This means, a payment is calculated for the school run for all students being driven.

Eligibility criteria for the School Drive Subsidy align closely with those used for free school passes (or bus passes), providing a fairer and more consistent set of travel guidelines across all schemes for all families.

What do families need to do to continue to receive a subsidy beyond 2023?

Families are welcome to apply for the School Drive Subsidy (SDS) to continue to receive a subsidy, if you are still eligible.

You are able to apply for SDS at any time, through to the end of Term 2, 2024. Applying for SDS early means you will be able to check your eligibility and be set up in the system.

- To be considered for an SDS payment for semester 2, 2023, instead of your usual PVC payment, please apply by the end of semester 2, 2023.
- To be considered for an SDS payment for Semester 1, 2024, you must apply no later than end of Term 2, 2024. You will still be able to claim your usual PVC payment for Semester 2, 2023.

How do I apply for SDS?

Applying for the School Drive Subsidy can be done easily online at transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/ticket-eligibility-concessions/school-student-travel/apply-for-school-drive-subsidy

What information do I need to provide to complete an SDS application?

When completing an SDS application, you must complete the form online.

To complete your application you will need:

- details of your school journey (driving all your eligible students) on the application form,
- a valid email address as we will notify you by email of the outcome of your application, and
- your bank account details.

Applications must be made by a parent or legal guardian (even if the student is aged 16 years or over).

Note: If additional information needs to accompany the application the documents should be prepared or scanned before starting the online application.

What are the eligibility guidelines/criteria for SDS?

There are a number of eligibility criteria a student must meet to be eligible for SDS, including age, residential address, accessibility of other transport service options and distance from residence to school or transport pick up point.

For the full eligibility guidelines, please visit transportnsw.info/sds-terms

What are the subsidy rates under SDS and how are they calculated?

School Drive Subsidy Payments are calculated based on:

- the distance of your approved one-way daily school journey in kilometres for all your eligible students,
multiplied by
- the School Drive Subsidy daily rate per kilometre,
multiplied by
- the number of days the student attends the school during the semester (January to June or July to December).

Note: The per kilometre rate is based on a return journey being made each day. If the journey is only made one-way per day, then the per kilometre rate will be halved.

The current School Drive Subsidy daily rate is **\$0.72** per kilometre for travel by car, or **\$0.36** per kilometre for travel by motorcycle or boat. This rate is adjusted every year.