

## **Student Travel Pass**

A Free Student Travel Pass is issued under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) & is issued to school students that meet the Ministry of Transport criteria. Application forms are available from our office & schools. For more details contact Cowra Bus Service or for the Ministry of Transport go to [www.transport.nsw.gov.au](http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au)

## **Eligibility Criteria**

As instructed by the New South Wales Ministry of transport.

To be eligible for subsidised travel under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) students should:

- Be 4 years 6 months of age or older.
- Be an infant student i.e. attending kindergarten. Year 1 and Year 2 classes, irrespective of the distance from home to school.
- Be a primary student (year 3-6), and reside more than 1.6 kilometres (radial distance) from the school attended measured on a radius from the centre of the school site, or 2.3 kilometres or more by the most direct practicable walking route to the nearest point of physical entry to the school.
- Be a secondary student (year 7-12), and reside more than 2.0 kilometres (radial distance) from the school attended, measured on a radius from the centre of the school site, or 2.9 kilometres or more by the most direct practicable walking route to the nearest point of physical entry to the school.
- Be enrolled at a registered day school.

## **Appeals Process**

- Parents/guardians of students deemed ineligible by the above criteria may appeal to the Department of Transport where they consider the health and safety of their child would suffer by not being approved for subsidised travel.
- Those who have had health and safety applications rejected by the Department of Transport may request that the decision be considered by the SSTS Appeals Panel. The Appeals Panel has the ability to overturn the original decision to reject the application. In considering such appeals the Panel is able to grant eligibility on the basis of hardship.

## **Travel for Ineligible Students**

Day or weekly travel options may also be purchased by students who live outside the SSTS eligible distance and are not eligible for free travel. Please contact our office for further information.

Travel may be purchased for the morning or afternoon journey or both & is only available for travel between the home address & the students school.

## **Lost Bus Pass**

Replacement forms for lost, stolen or damaged bus passes may be obtained by completing a replacement form (available from the bus driver or our office) & returning this to our office.

## **Student Behaviour Guidelines**

To ensure your safety and the comfort of other passengers:

### **Students will:**

- Behave safely at all times
- Respect the needs and comfort of other passengers
- Respect bus property by not marking or damaging it
- Always follow instructions about safety on the bus
- Show their bus pass or ticket to the Driver on boarding and when required

### **Students will not:**

- Distract the Driver in an emergency
- Smoke, eat or drink on the bus
- Allow any part of their body to protrude from the bus
- Fight, spit, use offensive language or place their feet on the seats
- Throw any article inside, or out of, the bus
- Alter, deface, misuse or fraudulently obtain a bus pass
- Give, lend or transfer their bus pass to another student

If you require further information or wish to lodge a complaint concerning an incident on one of our school service buses, please contact our office.

### **Safety statistics show bus travel to be the safest form of travel**

Most parents are concerned about the safety of their children traveling to and from school. Because of this, many parents elect to drive their children or have them driven by another adult. They believe their children are safest in a private car.

Research carried out by the University of Sydney in 1994, indicates that buses offer the safest mode of transport to and from school.

The findings show that buses are:

- Safer than using the family car.
- 4 times safer than walking to school.
- 55 times safer than cycling to school.

When parents were asked during the survey to rank school transport in order of safety, the car received the biggest vote of confidence. This is a very alarming misconception - especially if it leads parents to deny their children the relative safety of the bus and expose them to much greater danger in private cars.

**Care for children:** Cowra Bus Service is aware of parents' concern's with the safety of students travelling to and from school. Our company is dedicated to the utmost care of students & the general public by ensuring all aspects of our service conform to the best possible standards.

**Drivers:** Our drivers are fully licenced and hold the appropriate driver's authority issued by Transport NSW, as well as being trained to provide the highest level of service and safety.

**Fleet:** Cowra Bus Service has a fleet of buses that conform to all government requirements for Operator Accreditation.

**Maintenance Backup:** Our vehicles are thoroughly maintained through a comprehensive service program to ensure maximum efficiency and safety.