

2021 Bendigo School Bus Travel

PARENT/GUARDIAN SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION FOR NEW ENROLMENTS

The Department of Education and Training's School Bus Program (SBP) assists families in **rural and regional Victoria** by transporting students to school. The Coordinating School for the program, is Bendigo South East Secondary College.

This program services both government and non-government schools and the Department of Education and Training (DET) sets the policy regarding student travel on these country buses.

SBP country buses do not fall into the same category as public buses.

Applications for country bus travel must be made online and approval granted for travel using Department of Transport's (formerly PTV) School Bus Management System (SBMS).

In this information pack you will find SBMS Quick Reference Guides to assist you with making an application for country bus travel, together with general advice relating to public services.

To do a Pre-Application Check, go to: <https://schoolbusapplication.ptv.vic.gov.au/> NB. **This step is not an approval for travel process.** Pre-Application Checks provides you with information about the SBP services available to you. It does not assess eligibility.

Applications for 2021 SBP travel open in Term 4, 2020. To avoid disappointment, new and returning families are encouraged to apply/renew travel for 2021 as early as possible in Term 4. Application and renewal processing will occur late December.

1. To be eligible for the SBP, students:
 - Must reside more than **4.8km radius of, and attend their nearest designated neighbourhood school/campus appropriate to their year level**, with 'nearest' being measured by the shortest practicable route, driveable by car, from the student's residential driveway to the school administration gate. This applies for government and non-government student travellers;
 - Are required to **use public transport where a service is available within 1.6km** (measured by shortest practicable route) of their home or closer to their home than the nearest school bus service. This applies to eligible and fare paying travellers.
2. Students **bypassing their nearest designated neighbourhood school/campus appropriate to their year level**, may apply for country bus travel as a **fare paying traveller** upon payment of a term fare of **\$120** per student and providing there is spare seating capacity available on the appropriate service.
3. Where there is no spare capacity on a service, a **student will be waitlisted** and/or where appropriate, be allocated to the next available service.

It is the family's responsibility to ensure that their SBMS account details are current including notifying DoT if travel is no longer required, or if the student's circumstances have changed ie moved residence or school, and ensure that emergency contact information is current.

For further assistance with SBMS, SBP travel enquiries and the application process, please call DoT's Customer Help line on **1800 800 007**

SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A student must meet all of the criteria detailed below to be eligible for free government school bus travel.

Public Transport:

Students are expected to use public transport where a service is available within 1.6km (measured by shortest practicable route) of their home or closer to their home than the nearest school bus service. This applies to eligible and fare paying travellers.

Priority of Access to Services:

- **FIRST PRIORITY** – eligible students with prior rights ie existing travellers
- **SECOND PRIORITY** – eligible government school students
- **THIRD PRIORITY** – eligible non-government school students
- **FOURTH PRIORITY** – students with exemptions (both government and non-government)
- **FIFTH PRIORITY** – fare paying government and non-government students (\$120 term fare per traveller). *These travellers are bypassing their designated neighbourhood school.*

For more information regarding the Department of Education & Training's *School*

Bus Program Policy and Procedures 2016, please go to:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/transport/Pages/schoolbus.aspx>

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT (DoT) PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES & BENDIGO STUDENT BUS PASSES (MyKi cards)

DoT's public services operate throughout the city and outlying suburbs and townships. In addition to these services, there are multiple School Town Specials (STS) that operate during school times only, where regular town transit services do not meet school time requirements. These buses are MyKi operated fare paying services.

Students residing in the outlying suburbs/towns of Huntly, Epsom, Maiden Gully, Strathfieldsaye and Heathcote have access to either the public services or school town specials. These services are run by various operators:

- Strathfieldsaye – Route 70 Strathfieldsaye (Whitmores Bus Lines)
- Bendigo, Kangaroo Flat, Maiden Gully, Huntly, Epsom etc. – combination of town services and STSs (Christians Bus Company)

To use these services, students must apply for a student bus pass ie. MyKi pass. For more information on DoT's public services, including the ***School Student ID and Student Pass application form*** please go to www.ptv.vic.gov.au, and for more information on School Town Specials please contact Christians Bus Company on 03 5443 9333.

DoT STUDENT BUS PASSES (Bendigo Student Bus Pass – MyKi):

A Bendigo Student Pass is \$235 p/year or \$118 half year, plus \$9 for the Student ID card. These fees are based on 2020 charges and are subject to change. It is the family's responsibility to research the public service/s, including connections and fees based on their individual needs. Applications are made through DoT and submitted via the local DoT Hub which is located in the Bendigo Marketplace.

Please note - Students who reside more than 4.8km of their nearest school of the same denomination and year level offering, and travel on public transport to their attending school, **may** be able to apply for conveyance allowance to assist with this cost if they meet the free travel eligibility criteria as set out by the School Bus Program. For more information on the Department's Conveyance Allowance please go to:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/safety/Conveyance%20Allowance%20Policy.pdf>

If you require any clarification or further advice on the above, please contact the Bendigo School Bus Coordination Office on the telephone number or email listed below.

BENDIGO SCHOOL BUS COORDINATION OFFICE

PH: 4433 4317

EMAIL: BUSCOORD@BSE.VIC.EDU.AU