## **Transport Assistance Eligibility**

The Department of Education and Training (DET) recognises there may be additional challenges to parents or carers of some students with disabilities in fulfilling their responsibility to arrange transport between home and school due to the impact of the student’s disability and family circumstances. School transport assistance is available to eligible students between home and school at the start and end of the student’s school day.

Assistance will not be considered through this program, where a student is:

* living at a postcode other than 4000-4895
* attending TAFE; work experience; school camps; excursions or sporting activities
* travelling between schools during the student’s school day
* visiting Australia as an exchange student; on a tourist or visitor visa and **not** issued with a *Confirmation of Enrolment* from Education Queensland International
* enrolled in a school outside the state of Queensland; a non-state school other than Barrett Adolescent Special School, Autism Queensland (Sunnybank or Brighton) or The Glenleighden School.
* does not meet eligibility as outlined below.

Eligibility for transport assistance is assessed according to 2 criteria: **Criteria 1** – **Disability** and **Criteria 2** – **Enrolment**. Where it is clear the student will not meet Criteria 1 and is therefore not eligible, applications are not required unless specifically requested by a parent or carer, relevant stakeholder or DET officers.

**Criteria 1 – Disability**

The student must meet one of the following:

1. has a disability that is Education Adjustment Program (EAP) (http://education.qld.gov.au/students/disabilities/adjustment/) verified or awaiting EAP verification
2. Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) (https://oneportal.deta.qld.gov.au/Students/LearningandDisabilitySupport/Documents/guidelines-provision-early-childhood-development-programs-services.doc) (DET employees only) – a prior to prep aged child attending an approved ECDP
3. \*Non-EAP Verified – has a disability as defined by the *Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)1992 (Commonwealth) (http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2014C00013)* that does not meet one of the 6 EAP verification areas
4. Enrolled at the Barrett Adolescent Centre Special School
5. Attends one of the following Specific Purpose Schools:
   1. Autism Queensland Schools (Brighton or Sunnybank)
   2. Tennyson Specific Purpose School
   3. The Glenleighden School
   4. an approved Hospital school

**Criteria 2 – Enrolment**

The distance between the student’s home and school by the shortest trafficable route is \*measured and identifies the student is or will be enrolled at one of the following:

1. the nearest state school to their place of residence
2. the nearest state school with specialised support in the area of their disability to their place of residence as outlined in the *Directory of Special Education Programs* *in Queensland State Schools*) (http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/learning/disability/docs/sedirectory.xls)
3. a state school other than A or B however \*\*exceptional circumstances may require consideration.

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| **\**Transport Assistance Distance Check* process**  Central Office School Transport Unit officers complete distance check requests using a specialised mapping program using program specialisation information as per the current *Directory of Special Education Programs in Queensland State Schools (http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/learning/disability/docs/sedirectory.xls).*   * Home to school distances are used in determining student eligibility for transport assistance * Distances between transport addresses (other than the student’s home) and schools can be requested as needed for transport arrangements. |

**\*\*Exceptional Circumstances**

The following exceptional circumstances may be considered in determining the student’s eligibility where:

* attending a school **other** than the nearest school or nearest school with specialised support in the area of the student’s disability; such as larger cluster programs, Alternative Education Programs (AEP’s)
* transport arrangements **exceed** the procedure conditions
  + - * cost – fares above $400 GST inclusive per week (for student / student and individual escort)
      * time – journey time (one way) is more than one hour and 15 minutes
      * multiple addresses – where arranging travel to multiple addresses would have an unfavourable impact on other transported students or the transport operator
* **maintaining program continuity** is essential for their education and / or wellbeing. For example students in:
  + - * **Out of Home Care (OOHC)** (http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/healthy/student-out-of-home-care-policy.html)living in temporary care arrangements
      * the final year of a sector of schooling (eg. Year 6 or Year 12) who move and the enrolled school is no longer the nearest school or nearest school with a specialised program in the area of their disability
      * a split parenting arrangement where both parents moved and the enrolled school is no longer the nearest school or nearest school with specialised support in the area of the student’s disability
      * a **transition program** between schools or schooling sectors occurs eg. between primary and special school (ONLY for the transport between home and school)
    - circumstances **other** than those above that meet the following principles of:
      * equity of access to education for students with disabilities
      * strengthening the capacity of individuals, families and communities
      * responsible use of available resources.

Exceptional circumstance applications may be approved with specific conditions such as a limited time frame or for a set purpose.

**Eligibility Outcomes**

