

## Assistance for English as a Second Language (ESL) Students

ESL students who are enrolled full-time in an ESL course may be eligible for assistance to the nearest approved ESL facility for 12 months from the original date of enrolment in an ESL facility.

## Assistance for students with a disability

Students with a disability may be eligible for transport assistance to their nearest school, or nearest school with a specialised program in the area of the student's disability/disabilities.

All enquiries about transport assistance for these students should be directed to the school attended or the relevant Department of Education, Training and Employment regional office.

## How do I apply for assistance?

### Bus transport assistance

Application forms are available at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/schooltransport](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/schooltransport).

Alternatively, contact your local bus operator. Applications will only be accepted for the current school year.

### Conveyance allowance

Conveyance allowance application forms are available at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/schooltransport](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/schooltransport).

Alternatively, contact your local Department of Transport and Main Roads office, as shown on the next panel, to obtain an application form. Applications will only be accepted for the current school year.

### Rail travel assistance

For more information on six and twelve month student rail passes contact your local railway station or phone Queensland Rail on 3072 8377.

Safety-net eligible students should obtain a School Rail Travel Safety-Net Assistance Application from their school or nearest station. Applications will only be accepted for the current school year.

## Where can I get further information?

The information contained in this brochure is intended as a guide only and does not tell you everything you need to know about STAS.

If you need more information, visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/schooltransport](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/schooltransport) or contact your nearest Department of Transport and Main Roads office listed below.

<b>Brisbane</b>	3863 9849
<b>Cairns</b>	4045 7085
<b>Gold Coast</b>	5630 8857
<b>Ipswich</b>	3813 8613
<b>Mackay</b>	4951 8673
<b>Maryborough</b>	4121 8315
<b>Mooloolaba</b>	5452 1800
<b>Rockhampton</b>	4931 1539
<b>Roma</b>	4622 9509
<b>Toowoomba</b>	4639 0727
<b>Townsville</b>	4758 7544



# School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS)

Information for parents and guardians

Updated November 2013

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## The School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS) is:

- one of the largest assistance programs provided by the Queensland Government
- a scheme to provide assistance to eligible students who don't have a school in their local area
- administered by the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

## Who is eligible?

Primary and secondary students may be eligible for assistance under STAS if they:

- attend an approved school on a full-time basis
- are younger than 19 years of age
- are seeking transport assistance to and from one address only
- are travelling more than one trip per week
- have parents or guardians who are residents of Queensland.

Students must also meet specific criteria that applies to the type of transport assistance sought.

## What types of transport assistance are available?

### Bus transport assistance

Students using their designated service who satisfy the general conditions of the scheme may be eligible for bus travel assistance to and from school if they also meet the criteria below.

#### Distance eligible students

To be eligible for distance-based assistance:

- primary school students must live more than 3.2km from the nearest state primary school
- secondary school students must live more than 4.8km from the nearest state secondary school
- students attending non-state schools must live more than the distance criteria from both the nearest state and non-state school of the type attended.

All measurements are by the shortest trafficable route and are based on the nearest school which offers the required year level.

#### Safety-net eligible students

To be eligible for safety-net assistance:

- primary school students must live 3.2km or less from the nearest state primary school
- secondary school students must live 4.8km or less from the nearest state secondary school
- students attending non-state schools must live less than the required distance from either the nearest state or non-state school of the type attended.

All measurements are by the shortest trafficable route and are based on the nearest school which offers the required year level.

In addition a student must be listed as a dependant on the applicant's:

- Health Care Card issued by Centrelink
- Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.

Students who have a card issued in their own name, as well as students under a Child Protection Order issued by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, may also qualify for safety-net assistance.

### Conveyance allowance

In some areas it is necessary for parents to make private arrangements for the transport of their students to and from school, or to and from a bus service or train station. These families may be eligible for the payment of conveyance allowance to help with the cost of this travel.

To be eligible for conveyance allowance:

- primary school students must live more than 3.2km from the nearest state primary school
- secondary school students must live more than 4.8km from the nearest state secondary school
- students attending non-state schools must live more than the distance criteria from both the nearest state and non-state school of the type attended.

All measurements are by the shortest trafficable route and are based on the nearest school which offers the required year level.

Conveyance allowance may also be available for students who live outside the Greater Brisbane area and who attend non-state schools irrespective of the distance to the nearest state school.

Additional conveyance allowance is also available for eligible students who live on a drought-declared, primary producing property.

Eligibility for conveyance allowance is dependant on other factors such as the types of bus services operating in the area and the distance to the nearest bus service.

### Rail travel assistance

All students are eligible for travel at reduced fares on the Queensland Rail City Network.

Some students may be eligible for government funded rail travel if they qualify for safety-net assistance.

To be eligible the student must be listed as a dependant on the applicant's:

- Health Care Card issued by Centrelink
- Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.

Students who have a card issued in their own name, as well as students under a Child Protection Order issued by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, may also qualify for rail travel safety-net assistance.

### Assistance for isolated students

Increased assistance under STAS is available for students in isolated parts of the state. To be eligible for assistance under this package, students must:

- live in an isolated area as designated by the Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads
- live more than 16km from the nearest state school
- live more than 16km from the nearest approved bus service which can transport the student to school.

