



11/09/2024

School transport – Upper Clutha primary schools enrolment schemes amendments

The Ministry currently provides school transport assistance in Albert Town via a bus service for eligible students enrolled at Te Kura o Take Kārara (TKTK). This includes students who live in the upper area of Albert Town whose closest school is Wanaka Primary School but who have been excluded from this school because of the current enrolment zone.

If the amendment of the schemes is approved, the Ministry will continue to provide school transport assistance within the TKTK Transport Eligibility Zone (TEZ) for only those students who are:

- enrolled at the school; and
- eligible for school transport assistance.

at the time the new enrolment scheme commences. Any new enrolments at TKTK will not be eligible for school transport assistance. School transport assistance may be provided through a place on a school bus or via a conveyance allowance. A conveyance allowance is a contribute to the cost of transporting students to school or to their nearest school bus routes.

For example, if the scheme commences on 1 January 2025 and a new entrant Year 1 student for 2025 living in the upper area of Albert Town has confirmed their enrolment at TKTK prior to this date, and would have been eligible for school transport assistance prior to the enrolment scheme commencing, then the student would be given special eligibility exception for the time they are attending the school, subject to all other circumstances remaining the same, such as where they live. This special eligibility exception would not be conferred on any of the student's siblings if they enrolled at TKTK after 1 January 2025.

Wanaka Primary School's current eligible students, as well as their students who will be deemed eligible because of the new proposed amended enrolment zone, will also be provided with school transport assistance. All students must still meet the eligibility criteria for school transport assistance.

Eligibility criteria for school transport assistance

There are three criteria that students must meet in order to qualify for school transport assistance. They are:

1. The student must attend their closest state or state-integrated school.
2. The student must live more than a certain distance from the school:
 - Years 1-8: At least 3.2 km
 - Years 9-13: At least 4.8 km
3. There must be no suitable public transport options.

There is a [video on our website](#) that helps explain the eligibility criteria for school transport assistance.



What is the difference between an Enrolment Zone and a Transport Eligibility Zone?

Transport Eligibility Zones are used for identifying the closest school that a student can enrol at. These are geographically mapped as the midpoint between schools of the same type e.g., Catholic full primary.

Enrolment schemes (school zones) are implemented at some schools to prevent them from becoming overcrowded. They also give children who live in the enrolment zone a guarantee that they can enrol at their local school. Unlike Transport Eligibility Zones, enrolment schemes are based on the demographics of the area and account for factors such as urban sprawl.

Where a student may be living in a different Transport Eligibility Zone than the school they are in the enrolment scheme for, the closest school that they can 'enrol' at will be considered the one they are eligible for (a student may not physically be able to enrol at the school whose Transport Eligibility Zone they are living in if there are enrolment schemes in their area).