

Frequently asked questions

Which will be better for me – PVC or School Drive Subsidy?

It depends on:

- How many children you have on the scheme.
- The type of school they attend (boarding school, day school or mini-school).
- The distance you need to drive.
- If you have children to add to your school trips in the future.

You should consider staying on the PVC subsidy if you're receiving a PVC subsidy for more than one child.

We suggest you check which scheme is better for your individual circumstances by using the online comparison calculator at transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive

What are the School Drive Subsidy rates?

You can find the latest rates for the School Drive Subsidy and the PVC at transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive

The deadline for new applications for the existing PVC subsidy is 20 December 2016.

Keep in mind, if you stay on the current PVC subsidy, you won't be able to add new students after 17 January 2017 without switching **all** the existing PVC students to the new School Drive Subsidy.

Need more information?

Find out more, including examples of school trips, at transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive or call **131 500**.

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SCHOOL TRIP SUBSIDY CHANGES

What's happening?

From 20 December 2016, the Private Vehicle Conveyance (PVC) subsidy will be progressively phased out and replaced with the new School Drive Subsidy.

This change will make it fairer for everyone who drives their children to school or to the nearest public transport location.

If you're a parent or guardian currently receiving the PVC subsidy, you can choose to stay on it or switch to the new School Drive Subsidy after 17 January 2017.

What are the main changes?

If you're driving one or more eligible students from the same household to the nearest public transport pick up point or to school, the new School Drive Subsidy will be paid 'per trip' (for the complete school trip). This 'per trip' payment is different from the current PVC subsidy, which is paid 'per student'.

Other differences include:

- A flat per kilometre rate (indexed annually to the cost of living) will apply under the School Drive Subsidy, unlike the flat payment per distance band in the current PVC subsidy.
- The requirement to do a special return trip each morning and afternoon will be removed.
- The 300km per trip payment cap will be removed.
- The limit of eight trips per year for distance education students to attend mini-schools during term time will be removed.
- The PVC subsidy rates will remain at 2017 levels in 2018 and beyond.
- Payments to third parties will stop (e.g. payments to a bus operator hired by parents from pooled PVC subsidy payments).

Note, you can't be on two schemes at the same time.

If you add new students after 17 January 2017, **all** eligible students will automatically go onto the new School Drive Subsidy, including existing PVC subsidy students.

How do I check which scheme is better for me?

Check the comparison calculator at transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive

What do I need to do?

If you want to stay on the existing PVC subsidy, you don't need to do anything.

Assuming the school trip doesn't change, your payments will continue for all existing students until they leave school or until you need to re-apply because a student is moving up to Year 7 at high school.

If the school trip changes because you move homes or the student changes schools, you will need to re-apply under the new School Drive Subsidy.

Remember, you can't re-apply for the PVC subsidy after 20 December 2016, but you can switch to the new School Drive Subsidy at any time after 17 January 2017.

If you want to switch to the new School Drive Subsidy, apply online at transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive

Just like the PVC subsidy, payments will be made twice a year, around August and February, based on the student's school attendance for the preceding semester.

The online application process only takes about 10-15 minutes to complete.

If you don't have access to the internet, feel free to call **131 500** for assistance.

After you've applied and been approved for the School Drive Subsidy, payments will be made automatically into your bank account twice a year.

You won't have to re-apply until a student reaches the end of Year 6, or until you next update any details — such as a change of school, school trip or address.

What happens if I stay on PVC now but want to add a new child later?

For new eligible students, you can either:

- Add the new student into the new School Drive Subsidy and also switch the existing students to the new scheme, or:
- Stay on the current PVC subsidy where existing students are covered, but not add any new students and not receive any additional subsidy.

What are the distance requirements under the School Drive Subsidy?

School year band	Minimum distance to school/TAFE		Minimum distance to the nearest public transport pick up point (where available)
Infants and Primary students (Years K-6)	More than 1.6km straight line distance OR at least 2.3km walking distance	AND	More than 1.6km straight line distance OR at least 2.3km walking distance
Secondary students (Years 7-12)	More than 2.0km straight line distance OR at least 2.9km walking distance		More than 2.0km straight line distance OR at least 2.9km walking distance
TAFE	More than 3.2km walking distance		More than 2.0km straight line distance OR at least 2.9km walking distance

You can read about these changes in more detail at transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive