

## Update on Back to School with Opal

### Schools will receive Opal Cards from 27 January 2016.

Eligible school students can 'tap' into Opal with the School Opal card from the beginning of Term 1 2016.



Consignments of School Opal cards for students who had a travel pass in 2015, and are eligible for travel in 2016 under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS), should arrive at schools from 27 January 2016.

However, certain eligible students will need to apply for a School Opal card :

- students changing schools or campuses,
- students updating personal details,
- students going from year 2 to 3 or from year 6 to 7, and
- new applicants or students who have not yet applied.

Parents of these eligible students will need to submit an application via [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students), and will have their School Opal cards posted to their home address in the first two weeks of term one 2016.

Students or parents can contact 131 500 or [concessions@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:concessions@transport.nsw.gov.au) for more information or if their cards don't arrive within the first two weeks.

Parents or guardians, and students who are eligible for SSTS travel and have not already received a card, should be directed to apply online at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students)

Schools need to endorse the application forms and return them to Transport for NSW within the first two weeks of term to ensure eligible students can get their School Opal cards as quickly as possible.

Schools are only required to endorse the enrolment status, year level and home address of students. Schools are not required to indicate the nominated transport mode and operator. Transport for NSW is responsible for managing SSTS compliance.

Important information about travelling with Opal:

- The School Opal card is only for travel to and from school on approved modes of public transport.
- The School Opal card doesn't cover travel to activities away from school, such as, after school care, sport and school excursions.
- Remember: A grace period applies at the start of each new school year, where school students who have been approved for SSTS travel can travel without a valid pass while new passes are being issued. Students must be in school uniform or be able to provide evidence (such as a school ID or school books) that they are travelling to or from school during this time.

- Students should use a Child/Youth Opal card for travel after hours, on weekends, during school holidays or activities away from school.

After two weeks of receiving your School Opal cards, please return any cards unable to be issued to students to:

Transport for NSW  
Locked Bag 5085  
Parramatta NSW 2124

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**Please Note:** The instructions above are specifically for Schools within the Opal Network.

### **Application process for students travelling both inside and outside the Opal network**

Students travelling inside and outside the Opal network will need to follow the application process for both a School Opal card and a school travel pass. Schools should send the endorsed School Opal card application form to Transport for NSW and the endorsed Application Form for Subsidised Travel and Update of Student Details to the appropriate operator.

### **Application process for travel outside the Opal network**

Parents, guardians and students cannot apply online at this stage and should obtain a paper application form available from their school or TAFE.

A separate application must be lodged for each part of the journey taken with a different transport operator. For example, a journey on a bus and a train requires two applications; however, a journey on two separate services run by the same operator requires only one application.

If the application is successful, the school travel pass(es) will be issued by the transport operator and sent to the schools for distribution.

### **Behaviour matters**

Please remind students that free travel is a privilege that can be taken away if official Codes of Conduct aren't followed. In summary, students should remember to:

- Tap on and tap off every time.
- Offer their seat to paying customers without being asked.
- Respect transport staff, transport property and fellow travellers.
- Be mindful of safety at every stage of a transport journey.
- Always travel with a valid ticket.
- Student Codes of Conduct are available at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students).

# School students

Tap into



Applications now being accepted.  
Find out if you're eligible today.



Visit [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students)

