School Bus Program

This brochure will help explain the School Bus Program and assist you in determining your child’s eligibility to travel on a school bus.

While parents/guardians are primarily responsible for getting their children to and from school, the School Bus Program assists families in rural and regional Victoria by transporting students to school. The School Bus Program services both government and non-government schools.

Categories of eligibility determine whether a student travels at no cost or travels upon the payment of a fare. Students wishing to access a seat on a bus must complete an application form and parents/guardians must agree to the conditions of travel including, if applicable, the payment of a fare.

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) administers the School Bus Program as directed by the policy. The Student Transport Unit of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) sets the policy and provides general transport advice to regional offices and schools.

To be eligible for a seat on a bus at no cost a student must:

1. Attend their closest government school or closest appropriate non-government school, which is determined by the denomination of the school
2. Reside 4.8 km or more from the school

Students are expected to access public transport if it is within 1.6 km of their home or closer than their nearest school bus service.