



The PTA's Student Transport Assistance Policy states in some circumstances, the Department of Education (DoE) may determine that it is not in the best interests of an education support student to attend the nearest facility to their residence. A student in such a situation may be granted eligibility to a facility other than their nearest facility. These circumstances could be for educational reasons or placement for reasons of balance.

The following paragraphs describe endorsed programs for students with Autism that qualify for transport assistance.

#### Specialist Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Department of Education has approved a new system of endorsed programs for Students with Autism. This will be rolled out from 2017 to 2020 and implemented at 16 sites (eight Kindergarten to Year 6, and eight Years 7 to 12).

Each will have a Program Coordinator, three teachers and up to eight education assistants and all will be on mainstream school campuses but will provide intensive small group instruction and support for the Autism related issues and be run by specialist teachers.

Each primary program will cater for 22 to 25 students with Autism; and each secondary program will cater for 12 to 18 students with Autism.

Due to the lack of transport catchment areas noting enrolment is based on needs it is not possible to provide a dedicated 'orange' school bus network. Therefore families eligible for transport assistance will be paid a Conveyance Allowance.

Families whose children are enrolled in a Specialist Learning Program for Students with ASD at the following schools are eligible to apply for transport assistance:

- Alkimos PS
- Cooina PS in Bunbury
- Cooloongup PS
- Gosnells PS
- Heathridge PS (previously the Accelerated Learning Centre for Autism)
- Marangaroo PS
- North Mandurah PS
- Samson PS
- Ashdale Secondary College
- Eaton Community College
- Ocean Reef Senior High School
- Southern River College (previously and Autism Extension Program)

Please note: Families with previously approved eligibility under the Accelerated Learning Centre for Autism based at Heathridge Primary School may still be able to claim for transport assistance to Heathridge Primary School if they are now enrolled at the Specialist Learning Program for ASD based at this site.



### Early Intensive Intervention Program (EIIIP) - Autism

The Department of Education had previously endorsed a number of schools to provide autism specific programs for Kindergarten and Pre-primary students at nine Education Support Centres.

Again due to expanded catchment areas of this program and the lack of transport catchment areas it is not possible to provide a dedicated 'orange' school bus network. Therefore families remain eligible for the payment of a Conveyance Allowance.

Families whose children are enrolled at the following schools under EIIIP are eligible to apply for transport assistance:

- Beldon ESC
- Canningvale ESC
- Creaney ESC
- Canning Vale ESC
- Meadow Springs ESC
- Merriwa ESC
- Mt Hawthorn ESC
- South Bunbury ESC
- Spencer Park ESC (Albany)

In addition students enrolled at the following Autism extension program at the following schools are eligible to apply for transport assistance in the form of a conveyance allowance:

- Ashdale Secondary College
- Ocean Reef SHS
- South Fremantle SHS (Year 7 -10)