Dear Principal

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

What is the Private Vehicle Conveyance (PVC) subsidy?

- PVC is a subsidy available to parents or guardians who drive students to school or a public transport pick up point.
- PVC is only available to the nearest public transport pick up point or to school where no other transport options are available.
- Applications for 2016 and for term one 2017 are due by 20 December 2016.
- From 20 December 2016, the PVC subsidy will be phased out and replaced with the new School Drive Subsidy.
- The last date for any PVC subsidy applications is 20 December 2016.

What is the School Drive Subsidy?

- School Drive Subsidy is the new subsidy available to parents or guardians who drive students to school or a public transport pick up point.
- School Drive Subsidy is only available where there are no other public transport options.
- School Drive Subsidy applications open on 17 January 2017.

What is changing for schools?

- Schools will continue to provide attendance records twice a year for PVC and for the School Drive Subsidy.
- Payments will be made directly to the parents or guardians of students approved for the School Drive Subsidy.

What is changing for parents and guardians?

- Applications for PVC close on the last day of term four, 20 December 2016. No applications will be accepted after this date.
- From 17 January 2017 customers will only be able to apply for the School Drive Subsidy.
- 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’.
- A flat per kilometre rate will apply to the School Drive Subsidy and will be adjusted annually.
- PVC subsidy rates will not be adjusted annually. The PVC subsidy rates will remain fixed at 2017 levels.
- The requirement to do a special return trip to and from home each morning and afternoon will be removed for the School Drive Subsidy.
- The 300km per trip payment cap will be removed for the School Drive Subsidy.
• The limit of eight trips per year for distance education students to attend mini-schools during term time will be removed for the School Drive Subsidy.
• School Drive Subsidy payments can only be made directly to the parents and guardians who have applied.
• Parents and guardians can check the website for full details on changes, eligibility and distance requirements at transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive

What is changing for third parties?
• Payments will be made directly to the parents or guardians of students approved for the School Drive Subsidy.
• Third parties can still convey students for both PVC and School Drive Subsidy. The change means that Transport for NSW will no longer support direct payments to their accounts under the School Drive Subsidy.
• While a customer remains on PVC current payment arrangements will remain in place.

Top questions for parents and guardians

1. Who is eligible for the School Drive Subsidy?
To be eligible for the subsidy, minimum distance requirements apply as shown in the table below, as well as other criteria (see transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive for full details).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School year Band</th>
<th>Minimum distance from home to school/TAFE</th>
<th>Minimum distance from home to the nearest transport pick up point (where available)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants + Primary (Years K-6)</td>
<td>More than 1.6 km straight line distance OR at least 2.3 km walking distance</td>
<td>A N D More than 1.6 km straight line distance OR at least 2.3 km walking distance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary (Years 7-12)</td>
<td>More than 2.0 km straight line distance OR at least 2.9 km walking distance</td>
<td>More than 2.0 km straight line distance OR at least 2.9 km walking distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE</td>
<td>More than 3.2km walking distance</td>
<td>More than 2.0 km straight line distance OR at least 2.9 km walking distance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Which will be better – PVC or School Drive Subsidy?
Parents and guardians should check which scheme is better for their individual circumstances by using the online comparison calculator at transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive

It depends on:
• how many children are on the scheme
• the type of school attended (boarding school, day school or mini-school)
• the distance they need to drive
• if additional children from the same household will be travelling in the same car for school trips in the future.

3. Where do parents and guardians find the distance they are currently approved for under the PVC scheme?
Parents and guardians would have received confirmation of their PVC entitlement when it was first approved. Letters will be sent to current customers on PVC with information about the changes. Most letters will also include their current approved kilometre distance.
Parents and guardians are also able to request their current approved kilometre distance by contacting the Transport for NSW Concessions team on student@transport.nsw.gov.au

4. What action can parents and guardians take if they do not agree with the current kilometre/distance they have been approved for on PVC?

Parents and guardians are able to request a review of their application by contacting the Transport for NSW Concessions team on student@transport.nsw.gov.au

5. Can parents and guardians stay on the PVC subsidy?

If parents and guardians have the PVC subsidy (or apply on or before 20 December 2016 and are successful) they can choose to stay on it. They do not need to take any action.

However, if any circumstances change for any one of the students receiving a subsidy, parents and guardians will need to apply for the School Drive Subsidy or choose to stay on the PVC subsidy.

Change in circumstances include:
- change of school
- change of home address.

6. Can parents and guardians return to PVC at a later date?

No. Once a parent or guardian has changed to the School Drive Subsidy they cannot go back onto the PVC subsidy. After 20 December 2016 no more applications for PVC will be accepted. This includes any updates or re-applications.

7. Can parents and guardians have both PVC and School Drive Subsidy?

No. A household cannot have both the PVC subsidy and the School Drive Subsidy. For example, it is not possible to have one child on the PVC subsidy and another on the School Drive Subsidy.

8. Can applications be made for the PVC subsidy after 20 December 2016?

No. Unfortunately PVC applications cannot be considered after 20 December 2016. This includes situations where:
- the parent, guardian or school was unaware of the closing date
- the parent or guardian was unaware they may have been eligible for PVC, such as not finding out about PVC until the school term started in 2017, after PVC closed on 20 December 2016.

9. Can parents and guardians apply for any subsidy for school travel in 2016 after 20 December 2016?

No. Unfortunately applications for PVC cannot be accepted after 20 December 2016. See answer above (Q.8)

School Drive Subsidy applications open from 17 January 2017 for student travel in 2017 and beyond. The School Drive Subsidy is not available retrospectively for 2016 school travel.

10. Can School Drive Subsidy payments be made to someone else on behalf of a parent or guardian?

No. School Drive Subsidy payments can only be made directly to the parents and guardians who have applied.

11. Is there a review process?

Yes. Parents and guardians are able to request a review of their application by contacting the Transport for NSW Concessions team on concessions@transport.nsw.gov.au