

Transport policy statement for learners of sixth form age and continuing learners aged 19+.

1	<p>Summary of policy statement and its main objective</p> <p>The providers of post 16 education in East Sussex believe that limited discretionary travel assistance should be targeted at the most vulnerable learners. The providers have, therefore, developed policies which ensure there is provision for students in greatest need by assisting in whole or in part towards the cost of transport.</p> <p>The government has increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training, requiring them to continue until they reach their 18th birthday.</p> <p>This does not mean young people have to stay in school to continue in education or training. Options include full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider, full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training or an apprenticeship. As a result, any transport support given to students up to and including Year 11 does not extend beyond compulsory school age.</p>
2	<p>Types of assistance available</p> <p>Seats on coaches serving schools with sixth forms Students attending schools with sixth forms, where hired vehicles are available, can purchase a travel permit. The cost from September 2015 is £124 per term (based on a six term year). The charge will be waived for students from low income families meeting the eligibility criteria (see section 4). Full details of the scheme are available from the Client Services Transport Team on 01273 335088.</p> <p>Bus season tickets Some students may be issued with a free bus season ticket if they meet the eligibility criteria (see section 4). This will be the case for most students attending courses in Brighton and Hove who are able to travel to and from college on a Brighton & Hove bus service and other students travelling solely on a Brighton & Hove bus service. We will issue a Freedom Ticket to students who travel on other bus services in the county.</p> <p>Travel grants Some students from low income families may qualify for a grant towards their travel costs. The grant may not cover the full cost of travel. Please see the eligibility criteria in section 4 for more information.</p> <p>Link transport Some students (those living in the most rural locations) may be assisted to get to their nearest bus pick up point or railway station provided they attend the nearest appropriate provision. Contact the Admissions and Transport Team within the Children's Services Department at County Hall for more details.</p> <p>College provision Some colleges provide their own transport. Details of this can be obtained direct from the colleges and contact details can be found in section 10.</p> <p>Concessionary rail and bus tickets <u>Rail</u> - Further Education students aged 16-19 are able to obtain season tickets offering one third off fares subject to a minimum cost of £8 per week and travel for a minimum of one month. Students will need to obtain a Sussex Student Card (application forms obtainable from www.connexions360.org.uk or Admissions and Transport Team) before they can apply for a season ticket at southernrailwaytickets.com This scheme is provided at the Council's discretion and is currently due to cease in July 2016.</p>

	<p>Bus – Under 19's can buy the East Sussex Freedom bus Ticket for £16* per week. This gives 7 days unlimited travel on most bus routes in East Sussex. A Choice iD Card is required which is obtainable from participating colleges and East Sussex libraries. For more information visit www.connexions360.org.uk/choice * subject to change each April</p> <p>Some bus companies operate their own discount scheme so we advise students to check which deal suits them best before committing to the Freedom ticket. Please call 0345 60 80 193 or visit www.eastsussex.gov.uk for advice about public services.</p> <p>3i-D Card – the 3i-D enables 16-19 year olds to prove their age, which ensures they pay the correct bus fare for their age and can be used in shops and leisure providers to obtain discounts and special offers. To find out more visit www.3i-d.co.uk</p>						
3	Support for students who reach the age of 19 whilst continuing on a course						
	Where students receive support it is usually provided up until age of 19 (subject to a normal maximum of two years) but will continue until students complete their course.						
4	Eligibility for support						
	<p>Students from families in receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income Support • income-based Jobseekers Allowance • income-related Employment and Support Allowance • support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 • the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit • Child Tax Credit assessed on an Income of £16,190 or less (but not Working Tax Credit unless there is <u>no</u> reduction due to level of earnings) • Universal Credit. <p>are entitled to help with transport from the County Council, if the distance between home and the nearest appropriate provision is over three miles measured by the shortest walking distance.</p> <p>What does nearest appropriate FE provision mean? – This is the college or sixth form closest to the home address which offers a course enabling a student to follow his/her chosen career, or to go on to university. If a student then studies at a college or sixth form that is not the nearest, they may not qualify for support.</p> <p>In addition, the course normally needs to run for a minimum of one academic year and needs to be on a full time basis. Assistance will normally be provided for a maximum of two years.</p>						
5	What support is available						
	<p>Help is provided in one of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ a free seat on a vehicle hired serving a school sixth form in East Sussex ➤ a season ticket on certain public bus services ➤ an annual grant payable in three installments. There are three levels of grant which are based on the distance from home to college measured by the shortest walking distance. <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td><u>Level 1</u> (distance between 3 - 7 miles)</td> <td>£300 per year (£100 per term)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Level 2</u> (distance between 7 - 10 miles)</td> <td>£450 per year (£150 per term)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Level 3</u> (distance over 10 miles)</td> <td>£600 per year (£200 per term)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Students who choose to use their own transport instead of a suitable public service will be paid either the correct level of grant or the cost of a bus season ticket (whichever is most cost effective for the local authority).</p>	<u>Level 1</u> (distance between 3 - 7 miles)	£300 per year (£100 per term)	<u>Level 2</u> (distance between 7 - 10 miles)	£450 per year (£150 per term)	<u>Level 3</u> (distance over 10 miles)	£600 per year (£200 per term)
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The application form (PS1) is available online at www.connexions360.org.uk/education in colleges and from the Admissions and Transport team at Children's Services Department, PO Box 4, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UE.

Students not meeting the County Council's criteria for travel support but who still have genuine money difficulties, may be able to get a bursary from their school or college. The school or college will decide on the amount, and how the bursaries are paid. Ask your tutor or student support office at your college for more details.

Please note that students doing **Apprenticeships** should have reasonable expenses met in full by their learning provider. Students enrolled on a short course, for example, a 16 week programme, should seek help from the course provider should the cost of travel be a barrier to attending.

6 Help for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Wherever possible, students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities should be treated in the same way as those students without i.e. in general they should walk or travel by public transport to their place of learning. A Disabled Person's Bus Pass gives free travel after 9:30am and if entitled, the Council expects students to use it if they are able and there is a suitable bus service.

In order to be considered for additional help, you will need to meet all of the criteria below. If you do not meet all four requirements, you may still be able to get help from your learning provider's Bursary Fund. You should ask at your school or college for further information.

Students with Special Educational Needs may be provided with travel assistance provided all of the following apply:

1. Where the proposed further education course or a course appropriate to the level of needs is at the nearest school/college to the student's home address;
2. The course is full time; that is a minimum of 12 hours assisted learning per week;
3. The shortest walking route to the nearest appropriate centre is more than three miles or the student has learning difficulties or a disability (evidence required) meaning that they are unable to manage the journey and their parent is not able to take them;
4. The family is able to provide proof of low income as set out in the 'Qualifying criteria' (Section 4 above)

If a student is able to meet numbers 1 to 3 of the above criteria but not number 4, parents will be charged £370 per year towards the cost of the transport or have £370 deducted from their travel budget. Second or subsequent students from the same family will receive a 25% discount.

Where help with travel is agreed, it will be by one or more of the following, as appropriate;

- A. Free place on a contract or school bus;
- B. A Personal Travel Budget (PTB)
- C. By taxi, in exceptional cases only, usually only for students with severe disabilities

To apply for help, parents or young people themselves will need to complete an application form setting out the reasons why assistance is required. www.eastsussex.gov.uk/SENDtravel

For students under the age of 21, the Children's Services Department will decide the outcome. If help is agreed, assistance may continue until the end of the academic year in which the student turns 21 years of age and not beyond. Help is provided in response to assessed need and is subject to regular review. Students wishing to undertake a new course at the same or similar level to a level of qualification already achieved may not necessarily be successful in their application for travel support.

	For students aged 21+, the decision rests with the Adult Services Department which set their own eligibility criteria.			
7	Independent travel training (ITT)			
	It is the County Council's policy to encourage young people to become more independent by developing their ability to use public transport services where possible. Students with Special Educational Needs who apply for travel assistance will be assessed to determine whether they are ready for ITT, which is provided by a centralised referral service. Travel assistance may be offered on a temporary basis with the requirement that the family engage with ITT as appropriate, according to the outcome of an assessment for suitability.			
8	When should I start to apply for transport support?			
	Application forms will be available from June 2015 and students need not wait for a formal acceptance before applying. Students with SEND have a separate application process (and deadline) and should visit the SEND Travel webpage for further information.			
9	What if I need to travel to a course that is outside of East Sussex?			
	In some cases the nearest provision is outside East Sussex. Students attending colleges out of the county may be entitled to assistance depending on whether it is the nearest provision and the course being followed. Please refer to sections 4 and 5 to find out how to qualify for support and what support is available.			
10	What help is available if my college is beyond daily travelling?			
	East Sussex students should be able to attend a college which is within daily travel distance. Plumpton College offers limited boarding facilities for students and priority is given to those students living furthest away. Account is also taken of access to the college by public transport.			
11	Contact information			
	Organisation	phone number	email address	web address (www)
	Post 16 support (ESCC)	0300 330 9472	post16.transport@eastsussex.gov.uk	eastsussex.gov.uk
	Bexhill College	01424 215245	studentservices@bexhillcollege.ac.uk	bexhillcollege.ac.uk
	Plumpton College	01273 890454	enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk	plumpton.ac.uk
	Sussex Coast College, Hastings	01424 442222	studentadvisers@sussexcoast.ac.uk	sussexcoast.ac.uk
	Sussex Downs College – (Park & Eastbourne)	030 300 39300	info@sussexdowns.ac.uk	sussexdowns.ac.uk
	Sussex Downs College (Lewes)	030 300 39200	info@sussexdowns.ac.uk	sussexdowns.ac.uk
	Beacon Community College	01825 603000	admin@beacon-academy.org	beacon-academy.org
	Hailsham Community College	01323 841468	office@hailshamcc.e-sussex.sch.uk	hailshamcc.e-sussex.sch.uk
	Heathfield Community College	01424 866066	office@heathfieldcc.e-sussex.sch.uk	heathfieldcc.e-sussex.sch.uk
	Ringmer Community College	01273 812220	reception@ringmeracademy.org	ringmeracademy.org.uk
	Rye Studio School	01797 228434	Use form found here www.ryestudioschool.co.uk/contact	ryestudioschool.co.uk
	Seaford Head School	01323 891623	reception@seafordhead.org	seafordhead.org
	Uckfield Community Technology College	01825 764844	uctcadmin@uctc.org.uk	uctc.org.uk
	Uplands Community College	01892 782135	office@uplandsc.com	uplandsc.com

12	Appeals procedure
	<p>If students are refused assistance by the County Council there is an appeals process. The first stage is to write to the Head of Admissions and Transport setting out why it is felt the decision is wrong.</p> <p>The appeal will be considered by an officer not involved in the original decision. If the student remains dissatisfied they can ask for their case to be considered by the Transport and Student Support Panel. This Panel comprises three elected County Councillors. There is no further right of appeal once the Panel has made its decision.</p>
13	Consultation
	<p>Each year local authorities are required to consult young people of sixth form age and their parents as well as other stakeholders on the Post 16 Transport Policy statement before it is finalised.</p> <p><i>Please note that the policy could be changed in the future and the current support available does not amount to a legitimate expectation that it will continue to be offered.</i></p>

Proposed