

Directly resourced school transport assistance

Funding rates for 2026/27

The Ministry establishes the most effective combination of bus routes and individual conveyance allowances to transport the school's eligible students. The funding is paid to the school board based on the Ministry designed bus routes.

The three components of the funding formula for each bus route are:

- a fixed base amount per day
- a national per kilometre rate
- a quarterly administration rate

Funding rates

The following rates apply from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027:

DR Rates	2026/27	
	No driver wage uplift applied*	With driver wage uplift applied*
Base rate per day	\$90.9101	\$93.3849
Per kilometre rate	\$3.9640	\$4.0736
Quarterly admin rate	\$176.00	\$176.00

* In January 2023, extra funding was made available to ensure that the wage rates of rural school bus drivers did not fall out of step with the wage rates of public transport bus drivers. This funding has been applied in regions where public transport wages are demonstrably higher than comparable school bus services, and where the region has already applied wage increases.

These rates are reviewed annually. The review considers changes in transport costs and takes account of the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency index data and processes to calculate any adjustment for movements of input costs.

How the funding is worked out

The quarterly amount the school is paid for each route is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{(\text{Base rate} + (\text{Daily kilometres} \times \text{Per kilometre rate})) \times \text{Annual gazetted school days}}{4} + \text{Quarterly admin rate} + \text{GST}$$