



Māori-medium Schools (MMS) school transport assistance Funding rates for 2026/27

Māori-medium school transport assistance funding is paid to kura boards quarterly in advance and is reviewed on an annual basis.

Kura are required to use this funding to provide school transport assistance to all eligible ākonga.

Funding rates

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

MMS Rates	2026/27	
	No driver wage uplift applied*	With driver wage uplift applied*
Rural/EQI 479-569 (per-student rate)	\$11.6589	\$11.9759
Rural/ EQI 344-478 (per-student rate)	\$8.6748	\$8.9106
Urban/ EQI 479-569 (per-student rate)	\$8.4230	\$8.6520
Urban/ EQI 344-478 (per-student rate)	\$6.8013	\$6.9902
Quarterly admin rate	\$3.35 per eligible ākonga	\$3.35 per eligible ākonga

* 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 kura is paid is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{(\text{Per-student rate} \times \text{Number of eligible ākonga} \times \text{Annual gazetted school days})}{4} + (\text{number of eligible ākonga} \times \text{Quarterly admin rate}) + \text{GST}$$