

With regards to eligibility criteria for students to qualify for transport assistance, students should be eligible for public school bus transport to attend the school that they/their parents determine as the appropriate school for them to attend.

Eligibility should not be limited to nearest school e.g. if parents choose to enrol a child at St Joseph's Catholic school but live in Toodyay (catchment for Toodyay DHS), they should be equally entitled to public transport service to/from the school.

Bus routes should limit the time students spend waiting on the bus or for connecting buses.

With regard to the contractual arrangements with service providers, including the appropriateness of current school bus contracts, payment arrangements, and previous contractual arrangements and the manner in which they were created - it is important that communication with parents is a key deliverable/measure of performance (e.g. notice of early/late bus movements; practices in case of emergency; missed bus etc).

Where possible, bus contracts should be awarded to local businesses who employ local staff which are more likely to have knowledge of local students and their families. Staff need to be suited to working with young people, not just capable of driving a bus.