

# Post-19 Transport

## - If you have an EHCP

The Local Authority (LA) can only consider an application for 'Travel Assistance' if you have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Whether or not you have an EHCP, we advise also viewing the [post-19 transport flowchart, on our factsheets page](#).

There are different types of post-19 setting. In this factsheet, we refer to them all as 'college'.

### What you need to know

- ❖ Even if you (the adult learner) had funded transport when you were at college, post-19 funded transport for those with an EHCP **is not an automatic right**.
- ❖ You have to apply for post-19 transport (known as 'Travel Assistance').
- ❖ Firstly, the LA will check that the shortest walking route from home to the college is **3 miles or more**, except in exceptional circumstances (e.g. for medical/mobility reasons).
- ❖ Then, the local authority (LA) has to decide if you meet the criteria for travel assistance.
- ❖ They will consider the most suitable, cost-effective type of transport to college for you.
- ❖ The LA will also check that your college course is at your **nearest suitable college**.
- ❖ Your course must be **full-time** (for the academic year 2026 to 2027 this means a minimum of 540 planned hours of study during the academic year).



### Types of Travel Assistance:

- ❖ If the LA agrees to fund Travel Assistance they may offer you:
- ❖ **Public transport:** either a bus or train pass, or:
- ❖ **A Personal Transport Budget (PTB):** if suitable, this provides financial support to make your own flexible transport arrangements to and from college, or:
- ❖ **A place on a Minibus or in a shared taxi:** if you request this type of transport your travel needs will be assessed to ensure it is safe and appropriate for you. Taxis will usually be shared with other students unless the needs assessment confirms that this would be unsuitable for you. Or:
- ❖ **Independent travel training:** Where appropriate, the aim of independent travel training is usually to support you to travel safely and independently by public transport.

### How to apply:



- ❖ You will need to complete the [WSCC Post-19 Travel Assistance eligibility criteria and application form](#) from May, in the year before your post-19 course starts.
- ❖ Or you can request a paper copy of the form: [post19travel@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:post19travel@westsussex.gov.uk)
- ❖ An officer at the LA will read your application. They will contact you to ask for financial details and benefit information (if relevant) as part of this assessment. They aim to provide a decision within 20 working days, although some applications may take longer to process.

### How the LA makes its decision

- ❖ The LA assesses each case individually, based on their [post-19 Travel Assistance Policy](#).
- ❖ They will consider whether it is necessary for the LA to provide Travel Assistance. If they decide it is necessary, they will decide on the most suitable travel assistance for you.

- ❖ The base their decision on your application form, including any supporting documentation, financial statements, and any other information you provide.

### **If the LA agrees to your application for Travel Assistance.**

- ❖ If the LA agree your Travel Assistance application, they will organise suitable transport.
- ❖ The LA will write to confirm any travel assistance arrangements they have agreed.
- ❖ The LA decides within 15 working days of seeing your college timetable (if applicable).

### **How to appeal if the LA does not agree to your application**

- ❖ If you disagree with the LA's decision about your travel assistance application, you can request a Stage 1 appeal from [post19travel@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:post19travel@westsussex.gov.uk).
- ❖ All Stage 1 appeals are considered by the Director for Education & Skills.
- ❖ You should receive a decision within 20 working days of receipt of the application form.
- ❖ If you disagree with a Stage 1 appeal decision, you can complete a Stage 2 appeal form.
- ❖ All Stage 2 appeals are considered by the Transport Appeal Panel. The Appeal Panel will meet within 40 working days of receiving the Stage 2 form. You will receive a written decision from the Appeal Panel within 5 working days of the hearing.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- ❖ Read the [Travel assistance policy for 19-25-year-olds with an Education, Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\)](#) for more detailed information about travel assistance applications.
- ❖ Is your EHCP accurate and up to date? Does it contain current information about your SEN needs, including medical/medical issues? If not, you can request changes at the annual review meeting. You can read more about this in the [annual review factsheet on our factsheets webpage](#).
- ❖ **The LA cannot agree** to travel assistance applications which are based on your parent/carer's work/other commitments.
- ❖ **The LA cannot pay for** travel to taster days, induction weeks, or medical appointments.

### **Other useful information:**

- [Contact info for Chichester College Group](#), the main group of colleges in West Sussex.
- [West Sussex Local Offer](#): A directory of information about SEND provision in West Sussex. Just type key words at the top (e.g. 'post 19 transport') for local information on any topic.

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### **Service Statement**

The role of the SENDIAS service is to ensure all parents, children and young people have access to impartial information, advice and support so they can make informed decisions related to their situation. Any information that is shared with the service is in confidence unless permission has been obtained to share this with any individuals, services and agencies that may be able to help in the circumstances. For more detail, view our [policies and privacy notice](#) on our website.

**How to contact us:** Tel: 0330 222 8555 / Email: [send.ias@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:send.ias@westsussex.gov.uk) or [cyp.sendias@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:cyp.sendias@westsussex.gov.uk) (up to age 25) / Website: [www.westsussexsendias.org](http://www.westsussexsendias.org)

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