



# Post 16 Transport Statement

September 2011



**Policy statement for learners aged 16 – 18 in further education,  
continuing learners aged 19 and over and young people aged 19 – 24  
with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.**

<b>1</b>	<b>Summary of policy statement and its main objective</b>
	<p>The providers of post 16 education in East Sussex believe in the principle that no student aged 16 to 19 should be deprived of the opportunity to continue their learning because of the lack of transport or the finance to enable them to use transport. The providers have, therefore, developed policies which ensure there is provision for students in greatest financial need by contributing towards the cost of transport to enable them to travel between home and an approved course.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Types of travel assistance available</b>
	<p><b>Seats on coaches serving schools with sixth forms</b> Students attending schools with sixth forms where hired vehicles are available can purchase a seat by applying to the Passenger Transport team in Transport and Environment Department. The cost of a seat at the time of writing was £100 per term (based on a six term year). However, this is likely to rise in September 2011. Further details will be available during the summer. The charge will be waived for students from low income families meeting the eligibility criteria (see section 4)</p> <p><b>Freedom tickets</b> Students from low income families may be able to get a Freedom ticket if they travel by bus to their course. Freedom tickets allow unlimited travel on most bus routes in the county and are free of charge to those meeting the eligibility criteria (see section 4)</p> <p>The Transport and Environment department at County Hall can provide advice about available public services. Please call them on 0345 60 80 193 or visit <a href="http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk">www.eastsussex.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Travel grants</b> Students from low income families, unable to use the bus network, may qualify for a grant towards their travel costs. Please see the eligibility criteria in section 4 for more information.</p> <p><b>Link transport</b> Some students (those living in the most rural locations) may be provided with assistance to get to their nearest bus pick up point or railway station. Contact the Admissions and Transport Team within the Children’s Services Department at County Hall for more details.</p> <p><b>College provision</b> 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><b>Subsidised rail and bus tickets</b></p> <p><b>Rail</b> - Post 16 students in Further Education 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 Admissions and Transport at County Hall or from <a href="http://www.connexions360.org.uk">www.connexions360.org.uk</a>) before they can apply for a season ticket at <a href="http://southernrailwaytickets.com">southernrailwaytickets.com</a></p> <p><b>Bus</b> – Under 19’s can buy the East Sussex Freedom bus Ticket for £14 per week. This gives 7 days unlimited travel on most bus routes in East Sussex. A Choice iD Card will need to be obtained from participating colleges and East Sussex libraries. For more information visit <a href="http://www.connexions360.org.uk/choice">www.connexions360.org.uk/choice</a></p> <p>Some bus companies operate their own discount scheme so we advise students to check</p>

	which concession best suits their circumstances before committing to the Freedom ticket.								
<b>3</b>	<b>Transport arrangements for students who reach the age of 19 whilst continuing on a course.</b>								
	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.								
<b>4</b>	<b>Eligibility for support</b>								
	<p>Students from families in receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income Support</li> <li>• Income-based Job Seekers Allowance</li> <li>• Child Tax Credit based on income of up to £16,190</li> <li>• Employment and Support Allowance</li> <li>• Guarantee element of State Pension Credit</li> </ul> <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. Help is provided in one of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ a free seat on a vehicle hired by the County Council <i>(available only to students attending sixth forms at East Sussex maintained secondary schools)</i></li> <li>➤ a season ticket on certain public bus services</li> <li>➤ an annual grant based on distance between home and college. Please note that grants will not increase for 2011/12 and will remain at the same level as in 2010/11. They are payable in three installments:</li> </ul> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3 - 5 miles</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>£156</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;">5 - 7 miles</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>£312</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7 - 10 miles</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>£468</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;">over 10 miles</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>£624</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>For students attending colleges/sixth forms in Brighton and Hove, the grant will be restricted to the cost of weekly bus tickets valid on Brighton and Hove buses.</p> <p>To apply for assistance with transport students/parents should ask for an application form (PS1) which is available from colleges or the Admissions and Transport team at Children's Services Department, PO Box 4, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1SG.</p> <p>Please note that students doing <b>Apprenticeships</b> should have reasonable expenses met in full by their learning provider.</p> <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. 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>	3 - 5 miles	<b>£156</b>	5 - 7 miles	<b>£312</b>	7 - 10 miles	<b>£468</b>	over 10 miles	<b>£624</b>
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<b>5</b>	<b>Transport assistance for students up to age 24 with learning difficulties and/or disabilities</b>
	<p>Students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities may receive additional help with transport if they are unable to access public transport services to their designated college. This will normally be provided by means of a vehicle hired by the County Council to transport the student between home and college, where possible with other students. We do not provide assistance for pre course visits or work placements.</p> <p>Each case will be considered on its own merits. Advice from the Connexions Advisors (Special Needs), or other partners where necessary, regarding career outcomes will be taken into consideration when determining eligibility for travel support. However, the final decision will rest with the County Council's Childrens Services Department (for students aged up to 21) or the Adult Services Department (for students aged 21+). Help is provided in response to assessed need, and is not means tested. Some colleges also provide additional transport help for students with special needs. This provision will be made up until age 24 or to the end of the student's course, whichever is sooner.</p> <p>Reasonable adjustments will be made to provide transport which accommodates students' individual timetables. However, when considered necessary and reasonable, students may be required to wait at college at the beginning or end of the day.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Training for independent travel</b>
	<p>Limited independence training is provided at Sussex Downs College (Lewes and Eastbourne) and Sussex Coast College to develop student's ability to use public services rather than being dependent on bespoke transport. The Council's Independent Travel and Mobility Officer can also offer assistance.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>When should I start to apply for transport support?</b>
	<p>Application forms will be available from June to enable students to apply for assistance with transport. Students should ask about help with transport as soon as they know what course they intend to undertake, and need not wait for a formal acceptance before applying.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>What if I need to travel to a course that is outside of East Sussex?</b>
	<p>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. The policies set out in sections 4 and 5 will therefore apply .</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>What help is available if my college is beyond daily travelling?</b>
	<p>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 from the College. Account is also taken of access to the College by public transport.</p>

**10 Contact information**

Organisation	Telephone number	email address	web address (www)
Post 16 support (ESCC)	01273 481240	admissions@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)	01323 637111	info@sussexdowns.ac.uk	sussexdowns.ac.uk /park
Sussex Downs College (EvOC)	01323 637637	info@sussexdowns.ac.uk	sussexdowns.ac.uk /eastbourne
Sussex Downs College (Lewes)	01273 483188	6thforminfo@sussexdowns.ac.uk	sussexdowns.ac.uk /lewes

Try out [www.connexions360.org.uk](http://www.connexions360.org.uk) This site is designed specifically for young people giving information and advice on travel, money, education and health issues.

**11 Planning for the 2012/13 Post-16 Transport Policy**

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act (ASCL) Act 2009 requires local authorities to consult young people of sixth form age and their parents as well as other stakeholders who are already consulted on the Post 16 Transport Policy statement. The provision made for 2011/12 may not be the same in 2012/13. Young people, their parents and carers as well as other stakeholders will be consulted on the County Council's proposals for post-16 transport provision in 2012/13 during the 2011/12 academic year.