

Transport Entitlement Zones (TEZs) – FAQ

What is a TEZ?

Transport Entitlement Zone (TEZ) maps are drawn based on the halfway points between schools of the same type that offer the same year level education.

A school can have more than one TEZ depending on its type and the schools that are its nearest neighbours. For example, a full primary school (year 1 to 8) may have one TEZ for year 1 to 6 students and one for year 7 and 8 students.

What are TEZs for?

The main function of TEZs is to establish the nearest school for a student and to assist in the design of efficient bus routes. TEZs also play a role in Directly Resourced (DR) school transport by designating the area in which a DR school or network can operate its own bus routes unless that school has the permission of another to pick up students in its TEZ.

Does a student have to live within a school's TEZ to attend that school?

No, provided the school a student wishes to attend does not have any restrictions on enrolment (e.g. an enrolment scheme) he or she can attend that school. If a student is eligible for school transport assistance he or she will receive school transport assistance within the TEZ of the school attended.

What is the difference between eligibility and entitlement?

TEZs establish the area within which students can receive school transport assistance to a particular school. To be eligible to receive assistance, however, a student must live further than 3.2 kilometres (if under 10) or 4.8 kilometres (if 10 or over) from their nearest appropriate school.

If a student is eligible for school transport assistance, they have a 'ticket to ride' within the zone of the school attended regardless of whether or not that school is his or her nearest. More information on eligibility and entitlement can be found in school transport Factsheets 1 & 2 on the ministry's school transport homepage www.minedu.govt.nz/schooltransport.

Why does the actual bus route for my school cross into another school's TEZ?

The mechanical way that TEZ maps are produced mean that, from time to time, while a map is accurate, it will not reflect the way school transport is actually provided in an area. This can be related to practical considerations such as the geography of a region or the limitations of the road network, or due to the fact that most bus routes service more than one school and therefore must travel in more than one zone.

Who can I talk to about TEZs?

The Ministry of Education's school transport service agents work to ensure that school transport is provided in a fair, efficient and consistent way within current policy. Service agents deal directly with schools and are available to answer questions from principals and board members about TEZs, or transport policy in general. A list of local service agents can be found on the ministry's school transport homepage www.minedu.govt.nz/schooltransport.

Can TEZs be changed?

TEZs are established in relation to other schools, so when a TEZ boundary is shifted, more than one school is affected. For a school-initiated TEZ change request to be successful, the agreement of the school that is giving part of its TEZ to the other is required. The agreement of the local and national offices of the Ministry of Education is also required.

It should be noted that generally when there are other options available, these will be preferred to a TEZ change.