

# Post 16 transport statement

September 2008



## Policy statement for students in further education aged 16-18, and continuing students aged 19 (2008-2009)

- Foreword

This statement has been drawn up by the East Sussex Transport Partnership which comprises groups with an interest in transport.

- Commitment

The providers of post-16 education in East Sussex believe in the principle that no student aged 16-19 should be deprived of the opportunity to benefit from post 16 education 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 adequate provision and that the students in greatest need are given resources to enable them to travel between home and college.

- Financial support for students

Education Maintenance Allowances (EMA) are available for Year 12 and Year 13 students. Application forms are available in schools and colleges. Further education colleges have their own support policies for students who do not qualify for EMA's and details are available from the individual colleges on their respective websites.

- Transport services & help towards travel costs

➤ Students from families in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit up to £15,575
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

are entitled to help with transport from the County Council, if they have to travel over three miles to the nearest appropriate FE provision. The nearest appropriate FE provision is defined as the nearest establishment which provides a course to enable the student to achieve their aim of gaining a place on their desired Higher Education course or career.

Help is provided in one of the following ways:

- a free seat on a vehicle hired by the County Council (available only to students attending sixth forms at maintained secondary schools)
- a season ticket on certain public bus services
- an annual grant based on distance between home and college:

3 - 5 miles	£150	5 - 7 miles	£300
7 - 10 miles	£450	over 10 miles	£600

- **Transport services & help towards travel costs (continued)**

- For students attending colleges/sixth forms in Brighton and Hove the grant will be restricted to the cost of weekly bus tickets on Brighton and Hove buses

Application forms (PS1) for assistance with travel from Children's Services are available from the colleges or from the Admissions and Transport Team at County Hall. It can also be downloaded (in pdf) from our website [eastsussex.gov.uk/schooltransport](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/schooltransport)

➤ Individual colleges also provide some transport help. Details are given below. Colleges will also provide students with individual advice. The email contact points in the colleges are: -

Sussex Downs College (Eastbourne)	<a href="mailto:info@sussexdowns.ac.uk">info@sussexdowns.ac.uk</a>
Sussex Downs College (Lewes)	<a href="mailto:info@sussexdowns.ac.uk">info@sussexdowns.ac.uk</a>
Sussex Downs (Park)	<a href="mailto:info@sussexdowns.ac.uk">info@sussexdowns.ac.uk</a>
Hastings College	<a href="mailto:studentadvisers@hastings.ac.uk">studentadvisers@hastings.ac.uk</a>
Plumpton College	<a href="mailto:enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk">enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk</a>
Bexhill College	<a href="mailto:studentservices@bexhillcollege.ac.uk">studentservices@bexhillcollege.ac.uk</a>

➤ Students with special needs may also 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, but provision will not be made for pre-course visits. Eligibility will be determined on the specific recommendation of the Connexions Advisor (Special Needs) and other evidence of need may also be required. 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.

➤ Colleges may be able to provide additional help to students experiencing transport difficulties not covered by this statement. Students in this position should contact their college direct.

➤ Students attending schools with sixth forms where hired vehicles are available can purchase a seat by applying to the Passenger Transport Team (☎01273 481860) in Transport and Environment department. The cost of a seat in 2008/09 is £96 per term (based on a six term year).

- **How long will help be given?**

Help will normally be limited to a maximum of two college years although exceptional help for retakes or additional courses will be considered individually.

- **Specific transport initiatives**

For students with special needs, transport may be provided up until the age of 21 and beyond if necessary to enable students to complete courses. Beyond that age it will be for the Adult and Social Care department of the County Council to consider whether to provide assistance with transport.

#### **Pathfinder weekly bus tickets**

The East Sussex Pathfinder scheme offers weekly bus tickets at reduced rates for students using public bus services. The weekly cost of the ticket will be subsidised by £3 per week and will cost £11 per week. Identity cards are needed to purchase a Pathfinder ticket and an application should be obtained from participating colleges or contact the Passenger Services at County Hall. For more information visit [eastsussex.gov.uk/publictransport](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/publictransport)

#### **Rail fares - Sussex Student Card**

Post 16 students in further education can obtain rail tickets offering one third off rail fares subject to a minimum cost of £8 per week. Travel must also be for a minimum of one month. Students will need to obtain an identity card before they can apply for a rail card online. Application forms can be obtained direct from schools/colleges or downloaded from our website (use the same link as above). Please also visit [southernrailway.com/further-ed](http://southernrailway.com/further-ed) for further details.

#### **Lunchtime bus links - Plumpton College**

A bus service to Lewes is available for students at Plumpton College without timetabled activities in the afternoons to return home at lunchtime or travel to afternoon employment.

#### **Boarding facilities**

Plumpton College offers limited boarding facilities for students. The general expectation is that students living within 12 miles will not be given boarding provision unless there are extenuating circumstances. Account is also taken of the bus network.

Other colleges may have limited boarding facilities for students unable to travel daily.

#### **Additional help for students attending Hastings College**

Some Hastings College students can apply for additional help with transport costs if they live over two miles from the college. Full details of rates and eligibility are available from the college.

The college also provides a shuttle bus to operate between the college and the rail station. Again details of the bus are available from the college.

### Independent journey training

Sussex Downs (Lewes) is piloting a scheme to train students with special needs to undertake the journey between home and college independently.

- [Planning your journey](#)

For timetable information call Traveline on: 0870 608 2 608 or visit [www.traveline.info/index.htm](http://www.traveline.info/index.htm)

## Annex A

<p>Transport policy statement for students aged 16-18 in further education and continuing students aged 19 and over</p>
<p>Name of Local Authority: East Sussex</p> <p><b>Department Responsible: Children's Services Authority (CSA)</b></p>
<p>1. Summary of policy statement and main objectives</p>
<p><b>See attached policy statement</b></p>
<p>2. Please provide details of all concessionary fares, discounts, subsidies, passes or travel cards available for students aged 16–19 and who provides them. Please provide details of any costs to the student.</p>
<p>See attached policy statement.</p>
<p>3. What times during the day can students use their travel pass or obtain concessionary fares?</p>
<p>See attached policy statement.</p>
<p>4. Please confirm that support will continue to be made available to students who reach 19 whilst continuing on a course.</p>
<p>Confirmed.</p>
<p>5. How will students be assessed to see if they are eligible for support? e.g., means testing or must they be on benefits?</p>
<p>See attached policy statement.</p>

<b>6. What help do you provide for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including those over 19 or students facing other difficulties in following their courses?</b>
See attached policy statement.
<b>7. Do you provide mobility/independence training for students who face difficulty with transport?</b>
Not automatically. Colleges will be able to provide individual advice as to the support they give.
<b>8. When should students start to apply for transport support?</b>
Students wishing to apply for support should contact the CSA now.
<b>9. What help can students apply for if they need to travel to a course that is beyond your LA area?</b>
Assistance is given to the designated establishment which might be in another CSA area.
<b>10. What help is available for students who attend a further education institution which is beyond daily travelling distance and they need to stay away?</b>
Students with special educational needs, supported by the CSA, may qualify for transport assistance at the beginning and end of the week or half term.  The national Residential Support Scheme may provide some assistance to eligible students. Further information can be obtained by ringing 0161 234 7078 (surnames A-F), 0161 234 7079 (surnames G-M) and 0161 224 7078 (surnames N-Z).
<b>11. Please provide information about all points of contact for students seeking transport support, e.g. LA/college, bus company contact. Please include any websites and e-mail addresses.</b>
See attached policy statement.

