

Transport Webinar Questions and Answers

1. How do I apply for Home to School SEND Transport in Essex?

There is an application form to complete which can be downloaded from the Essex County Council website. [School transport: Apply for school transport - Essex County Council](#)

Application Form: [SEND school transport application form \(ctfassets.net\)](#)

You can also visit the Local Offer page, which contains lots of useful resources to support your child/young person with Home to School Transport - created by Essex Family Forum and Edith Borthwick School.

[SEND Home to School Transport: Useful Resources - Essex Local Offer](#)

2. Can I request Home to School SEND Transport if my child/young person DOES NOT have an Education, Health and Care Plan?

The law doesn't state your child/young person needs an Education Health and Care Plan to qualify. If you name a school that the Local Authority does not consider to be the nearest suitable school it is more difficult to be granted transport.

3. My child is in Post 16 (Year 12+) education but cannot use public transport independently – do they qualify for Home to School SEND Transport?

*The Local Authority has a statutory duty (**statutory = must**) to provide Home to School Transport to eligible students up to the end of statutory school age (end of Year 11). Between the ages of 16 to 19 there is no statutory duty to provide transport, but many Local Authorities (including Essex) continue to do so. **However, there will be a charge for this transport.***

4. My child cannot walk to their school independently or use public transport independently due to their special educational needs; I have younger children who attend a different school and cannot be in two places at once.

In this instance, Section 219 of the Equality Act may be considered (discrimination); a child of a similar age would be able to walk to school/take public transport independently. This will depend on your individual circumstances

5. Who tells you what transport your child will get and how do they decide?

Most Local Authorities will provide a place on a shared transport (normally a mini-

bus). They can consider individual circumstances and agree to provide a personal transport budget – usually in the form of payment for the mileage. This payment might not cover the cost of the journey if the shared transport option is cheaper.

6. What consideration is given to my child's Medical Needs?

Any arrangements for Home to School Transport must be safe, and any staff must be suitably trained.

7. I agreed to receive mileage payment previously, do I have to continue with that every year?

No – you have to consent each year or if you move.

8. We have established childcare – can we request transport is made to and from the childminder's address for some of the week?

*The law states it is **Home** to School transport from where the child is normally resident – there is no obligation for the Local Authority to agree to a different address. If the childminder lived next door or in the same road, it would be hard to argue it was an "inefficient" use of resources.*