**DESIGNATED TRANSPORT AREA
Frequently Asked Questions**

This document will continue to be updated.Last update: 2/03/2020 4:01 pm

This document contains the most frequently asked questions about designated transport areas for Victorian government specialist schools.

**What is a designated transport area?**

The Students with Disabilities Transport Program (SDTP) provides help with travel and transport for eligible students attending specialist and integrated schools. To meet the criteria for transport help, a student must live in the designated transport area of their specialist school. Designated transport areas (DTAs) are geographic areas established around government specialist or integrated schools to ensure the efficient provision of transport services under the SDTP.

DTAs are not school zones. Parents/guardians may choose to enrol their child at any specialist school provided the child is eligible for enrolment and there is sufficient capacity at the school. However, only students residing in the DTA of the specialist school they attend are eligible for transport assistance under the SDTP.

For more information, see: [Transport for students with a disability](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/transport/Pages/sdtransport.aspx)

**How are designated transport areas defined?**

DTAs are designed to ensure that bus travel times do not exceed 120 minutes in either direction for any student. DTAs are established or amended via a process overseen by the Student Transport Unit of the Department of Education and Training.

**Which schools have DTAs?**

Most specialist schools have DTAs. There are a small number of specialist schools that do not have DTAs, generally because they are state-wide providers. This includes the deaf education schools. Students attending these schools may still be eligible for transport assistance under the SDTP. Families can contact these schools directly for information about student transport assistance.

**How can I find out if my address is in the DTA for a specialist school?**

Using a new DTA search function on the [Getting to and from school for students with a disability page](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-school-transport.aspx) of the Department’s website, families can enter their address to find which specialist school DTAs they live in. Clicking on any result will show a map of the full DTA for that school. This helps families determine if they are eligible for help with transporting their child to and from the school. Families can also contact the school directly for information about its DTA.

For more information, see:

* [Getting to and from school for students with a disability (including DTA search function)](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-school-transport.aspx)

**If the DTA search function says I live in the DTA for a particular school, does this mean my child can enrol at this school?**

DTAs are not school enrolment zones. Specialist schools have enrolment criteria that determine a student’s eligibility. To learn more about a specialist school’s enrolment criteria, you are encouraged to contact the school directly or [contact the relevant Region](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/Pages/default.aspx).

Parents/guardians may choose to enrol their child at any specialist or designated neighbourhood school provided the child is eligible for enrolment and there is sufficient capacity at the school. You can find all of Victoria’s government schools on [findmyschool.vic.gov.au](http://www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au).

**If the DTA search function says I live in the DTA for a particular school, does this mean my child is eligible for transport** **assistance?**

The DTA search function allows families to identify which school DTA/s they reside within. Residing in the DTA of the specialist school is only one of the eligibility criteria for the Students with Disabilities Transport Program (SDTP). In addition, to be eligible for the SDTP, your child must:

* meet the criteria for the [Program for Students with Disabilities](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-students-program.aspx);
* be enrolled at the school for three or more days each week; and
* be of school age and reside in Victoria.

**The DTA search function says my address is in the DTA for multiple specialist schools. What does this mean?**

If your address is within the DTA for multiple specialist schools, your child may be eligible for transport assistance if you choose to enrol your child at one of these schools. To learn more about a specialist school’s enrolment criteria, you are encouraged to contact the school directly or [contact the relevant Region](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/Pages/default.aspx).

You can find all of Victoria’s government specialist schools on [findmyschool.vic.gov.au](http://www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au).

**How do I apply for transport assistance to a specialist school?**

When enrolling your child at a specialist school, please speak with the school regarding access to transport assistance. The school will provide the relevant information and forms and may assist in completing your application.

**When do DTAs get updated?**

DTAs are reviewed if:

* a new specialist school nearby is established,
* an existing school is closed or re-located,
* the principal of a specialist school or the Department requests a review, or change to, a school’s DTA
* the demographics of an area change significantly.

DTAs are established or amended via a process overseen by the Student Transport Unit of the Department.

**Are DTAs applied differently in metropolitan and regional areas?**

No, DTAs are defined to ensure efficient transport services in both metropolitan and regional areas.