

Dome School Transport Network

Guidelines for school communities

About our Network

Our Network is different from many districts in that our four schools have combined to manage our own transport operation. The Network receives funding directly from the Ministry of Education and it is then used to help our students get to school.

About the Network rules

Our Network is governed by a set of rules agreed to by the Network Committee which is made up of two people from each school. The Committee has developed a set of rules that determine how assistance is provided. From time to time the Committee reviews the rules to consider whether they continue to represent a fair level of assistance for children getting to school.

In reading these rules parents should remember that the responsibility to get a child to school remains with them. The Network can and does provide help, but in no way should there be an expectation of a door-to-door service for everyone across the district. School transport assistance can and does change in response to student locations, route timetables, vehicle loading and financial restrictions. Whilst funding does not allow us to provide assistance to every single family, we are confident that our rules provide a much higher level of service than would be provided by the Ministry of Education if they were running our Network. As a rough guide, families should expect to transport their children up to 2km to get to the nearest bus service.

Exceptions and extensions

Whilst the rules do cover the majority of situations within our Network there is always the opportunity to exercise flexibility where necessary. In some cases the Committee may approve an exception to the rules; this occurs after the school involved makes a written request. In other cases schools or parents have decided to fund the cost of a route extension themselves. These exceptions and extensions can sometimes give the appearance that one family is being treated differently to another, whereas in fact the Committee is committed to providing assistance fairly and consistently across the Network. If your family has any concerns about the way in which school transport is provided in our district we encourage you to express your concerns in writing to the Committee, or talk directly to your principal.

The Rules

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Distance to school

The first and most important rule is the minimum distance required for a student to be eligible for some assistance. For students in Year 9 and older, the distance is 4.8km. For all other students the distance is 3.2km. In the event that there is already space on a bus, students living too close to school may be picked up. Should the bus become full, these students will need to be transported to school in some other way.

2km rule

When traveling along a side road we will extend a bus route to within 2km of the last family unless there are multiple families living within that last 2km. Extending a service to the driveway of every family would be very expensive. We also have a rule that states that the bus will not travel more than 2km beyond the second-last family – this is to ensure we operate our Network in a cost-effective way. Families affected by this rule are able to access financial assistance from the Ministry of Education to cover the cost of transporting their children to the bus.

Designing routes

When designing a bus route we also consider route timing and the nature of the road being travelled on. In some cases extending a route along a side road would mean the first children on the bus would be boarding too early. In other cases a rough rural road adds unnecessary discomfort to existing passengers. In these cases families are encouraged to apply to the Ministry for assistance to get to the school bus route.

Safety

When designing bus routes we always take safety into account. Whilst it is true that there is no such thing as a “safe road,” we do try and make decisions with safety in mind. As a result of this a bus turning point may be moved further away or closer to school, depending on the most sensible road conditions.

Our dedication to provide a safe service extends to the issue of standees – our Network does not allow them at any time. In the event that an increase in students would result in children standing, our drivers are instructed to deliver their passengers to school before returning to collect any extras. This is for the safety of all of our children.

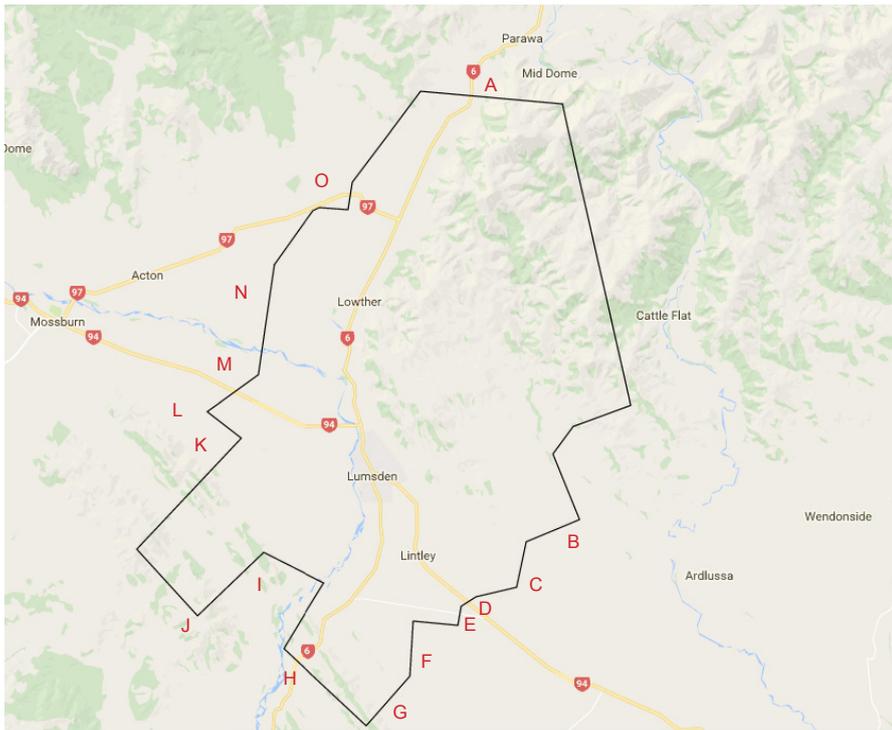
Travelling beyond your nearest school

Within our Network we strongly believe that all our schools provide a top-class education and we encourage children to attend their nearest appropriate school. In the event that a parent wishes to consider a more distant school and access school transport assistance they must:

- meet with the principal of the nearest school to discuss concerns; and,
- complete an agreement with both schools seeking approval from the Network Committee; and,
- pay a fare to the Network.

In the event that a family is unwilling to pay a fare they are able to avoid doing so by travelling to the TEZ boundary between schools where their child will be able to ride the bus if there is sufficient space.

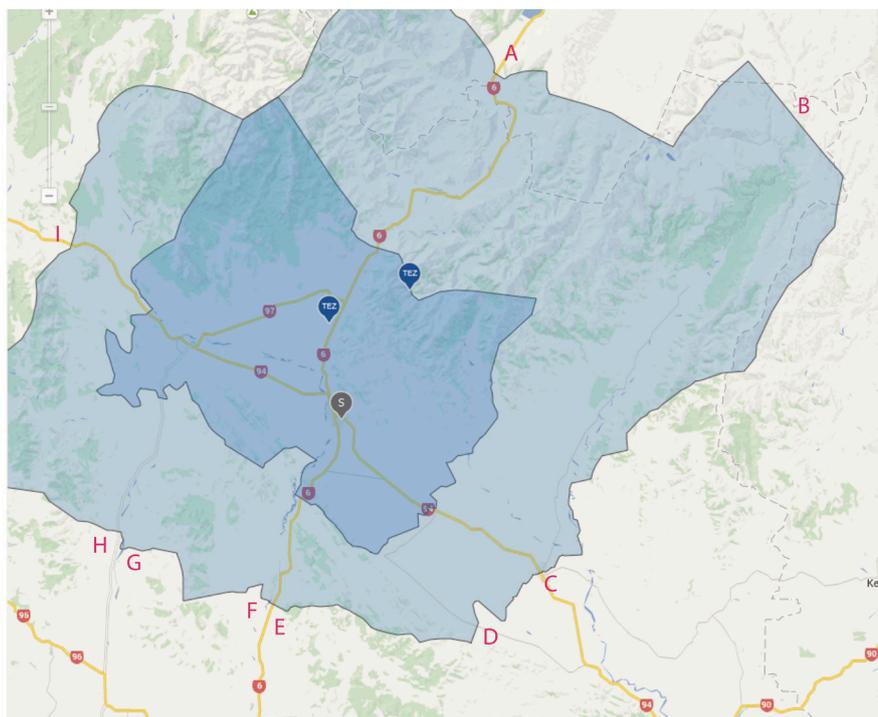
TEZ map for Lumsden School



Legend

- A. 966 Athol-Five Rivers Hwy
- B. Long Ridge Rd, 700m south of Biggar Road
- C. Old Balfour Road, 2km north of St Patricks Road
- D. Lumsden-Riversdale Hwy, 700m east of Brown Road
- E. Josephville-St Patricks Road, just east of Brown Road
- F. 262 Dryridge Road
- G. 550 Josephville-Glenure Road
- H. 1100 Lumsden-Dipton Hwy
- I. Dipton-Castlerock Road, 2.2km south of Sutherland Road
- J. Cumming Road, 2.4km
- K. 647 Sutherland Road
- L. 149 Edwards Road
- M. Mossburn-Lumsden Hwy, 500m west of Edwards Road
- N. 500 Ellis Road
- O. 1666 Mossburn-Five Rivers Road

TEZ map for Northern Southland College



Legend

- A Garston township
- B End of Waikaia Valley
- C Riversdale township
- D Waimea Valley Road at Nine Mile Road
- E 359 Dipton-Winton Hwy (SH6)
- F S Hillend-Dipton Rd, 1km north of Dipton Bush Road
- G 1890 Avondale Road
- H 1615 Wreys Bush Mossburn Road
- I Te Anau-Mossburn Hwy at Chewings Rd

Note

Light blue shaded area describes TEZ for Yr 9 to 15
Darker blue shaded area describes TEZ for Yrs 7 and 8