Transport for NSW

Active Routes to School

Get Kids Active

September 2025

Transport for NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.

Active Routes to School is an educational and behaviour change initiative which encourages primary school students and their families to walk or ride to school.

Transport for NSW partners with the Department of Education and NSW councils to provide fully funded, in-classroom lessons for Year 5 students. These lessons empower students to design their own active travel routes to school.

Initiative objectives

- Increase children's physical activity
- Improve safety around school and complement road safety education
- Reduce car dependence
- Identify safe walking and riding routes
- Equip children with skills to navigate their neighbourhood and assist in the transition to new high school travel patterns.

About the initiative

Year 5 students participate in three one-hour classroom lessons delivered by the NSW Department of Education's Environmental Education Centres. The lessons:

- Align with the NSW curriculum (Geography, Mathematics, PDHPE)
- Include Aboriginal knowledge and road safety education
- Encourage critical thinking, mapping, and spatial awareness
- Teach students to identify and map real-world travel routes, later transformed into GIS maps by council officers to share with the school community
- Enable real neighbourhood change through local council delivery of line marking and wayfinding on the routes proposed by the students.

How to apply

NSW councils can apply for the Active Routes to School grant through the NSW Government Grants and Funding website.

Applications must include:

- Nominate a council officer that will work with Transport and their nominated school to ensure the success of this initiative.
- Include a letter of support from the relevant local primary school to be involved in the initiative.
- Articulate the demand and/or interest in walking and riding within the school catchment.

Grant details

- Up to $50,000 per application
- Funding covers: GIS mapping, and on-street wayfinding
- Classroom lesson costs are separate to the grant and covered through Transport's partnership with the Department of Education.

Council deliverables

- Partner with local primary schools, Environmental Education Centres, and GIS staff to support lesson development and mapping
- Conduct road safety checks on preferred routes
- Endorse the walking/riding routes
- Produce and distribute Active Routes to School maps
- Install on-street wayfinding (where applicable) to support safe and visible travel routes for students.

Contact us

activetransport@transport.nsw.gov.au

https://www.nsw.gov.au/getkidsactive

231 Elizabeth Street
Sydney, NSW 2000