



Travel assistance for students in Further Education (FE) 2015/16

If you live in East Sussex, we will use the information that you provide on the PS1 form to assess whether you are eligible for assistance with travel from East Sussex County Council for the academic year 2015/16.

Eligibility is assessed on:

- Being in receipt of either a specified means tested benefit, or Child Tax Credit (but with no Working Tax Credit unless receiving the maximum level) assessed on an income below £16,190 (see 'Guidance notes' for more information on income details) **and**
- attending college full time (that is a minimum of 12 hours supervised study per week) **and**
- living three miles or more from the *nearest appropriate FE provision.

*The nearest appropriate FE provision is defined as the college or sixth form closest to the home address that offers an appropriate course based on your career aims (questions 38 – 40). For instance, if you have chosen to study AS Levels at a college further than 3 miles from your home and there is a college within 3 miles of your home address that offers AS Level courses that would enable you to follow your intended career or a chosen course at a higher level, then you may not be awarded travel assistance. If you have chosen to attend a college other than your nearest, please answer question 30 with your reasons so that we can make an informed decision on your eligibility.

Those qualifying will be offered one of the following:

- a free bus pass
- a free place on a hired school vehicle
- a grant towards travel costs.

If you use **public bus services** you will normally be offered a **Freedom bus pass**. This gives you free travel during term time only on most services in the county and on specific services that travel outside the county. By stating the number of the bus service that you intend to use, we will be able to decide whether the Freedom bus pass is the best option for you. (See questions 31 & 32). If you attend a college in Brighton & Hove and can travel to college using a Brighton & Hove bus service, you will be given a pre-paid Brighton & Hove Bus ID card. This will allow you to travel free of charge on all Brighton & Hove services (except night buses).

If you attend a school with a sixth form and are eligible for travel, you may be offered a free place on a hired school vehicle. If you intend to use a specific school service, please state this on the application form (question 32). Once your application is assessed, a place on the vehicle (subject to availability as pupils of school age take priority) will be reserved for you and you will be notified by letter.

If the bus you use is not a school vehicle, does not accept the Freedom bus pass or you travel by train, you will receive a travel grant. The amount of grant payable to you is based on the distance from your home to the nearest appropriate FE provision.

Train users can benefit from a discounted season ticket rate. You will need a 'Sussex Student Card'. A separate form is required for the 'Sussex Student Card' which can be sent to you upon request and forms will also be available from colleges. The form can also be downloaded from connexions360.org.uk Sussex Student Card holders can buy season tickets for periods of at least one month online from southernrailwaytickets.com and will be discounted by one third. Please note that the discount is not available on tickets bought from station ticket offices.