



School Transport Guide

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General principles of school transport in the City of Rauma

School transports in Rauma are decided in accordance with sections 6 and 32 of the Basic Education Act and the principles approved by the local Education and Culture Committee. This transport guide defines the criteria according to which the City of Rauma's Education, Culture and Leisure Division organises a commute to school entitling to free transportation, escorting or assistance. The guide also defines the right to free school transport for pre-school education and the roads classified as dangerous.

Legislation on school transport

Determining the student's school location

In the municipality, teaching should be arranged in such a way that the students' commutes are as safe and short as possible, taking into account the location of housing, schools and other places where teaching is organised, as well as transport connections. (Basic Education Act section 6)

The municipality assigns to the child of compulsory education age and other persons receiving the education, in accordance with section 1 of this Act, a local school or other suitable place, where, in accordance with section 4, subsections 1 and 2 of this Act, teaching is provided in the student's own language in which the municipality is obliged to arrange the teaching. (Basic Education Act section 6)

A student receiving pre-primary education may also be assigned a day-care facility as referred to in section 4, subsection 1, meeting the corresponding conditions or another suitable pre-primary education facility. (Basic Education Act section 6)

A pre-primary education student is assigned a pre-primary education place by a decision made in the Education, Culture and Leisure Division of the City of Rauma. In the city of Rauma, a primary education student's local school is usually considered to be the school closest to the student's place of residence entered in the population register. In some cases, by decision of the Education, Culture and Leisure Division, another school can be designated as a local school.

At the Rauma Teacher Training School and the Rauma Freinet School, the organiser of teaching is other than the City of Rauma, so the City of Rauma Education, Culture and Leisure Division does not process school transport applications for the schools mentioned above.

A prerequisite for a school transport benefit is that the student attends the local school assigned to them. School transport is not arranged to a secondary school location where the guardian has applied or to a school location for a student studying in special classes.

In addition to preschool education, children in need of early childhood education are not entitled to preschool transport.

The primary basis for school transport is the commute from the home address, i.e. the permanent place of residence entered in the population register, to the place of pre-primary or basic education. The school commute is measured by the shortest walkable public route available, and the trip is measured from the student's home gate to the school gate. The measurement is based on the City of Rauma's map programme, which can be found at opaskartta.rauma.fi/IMS/en/Map, or on another reliable method.

A school transport benefit is granted to a student in joint care only from a place of residence entered in the population register to a local school (The Supreme Administrative Court decision of 14 March 2006).

Even in dual residence, the child has only one official place of residence, on the basis of which the municipality indicates the local school (Act on Child Custody and Right of Access (190/2019) 1.12.2019).

The municipality or the education provider is not obliged to arrange or finance school transport benefit in the education referred to in section 4 of the Act on Compulsory Education, i.e. after basic education.

School transport

A school transport refers to a student's daily commute between home and school, which the student travels to and from the school (Finnish National Agency for Education School Transport Guide 2021).

If the student receiving basic education has a school commute longer than five kilometres, the student is entitled to free transport. If a student receiving pre-primary education has a distance from home to pre-primary education or from early childhood education referred to in the Act on Early Childhood Education to pre-primary education longer than five kilometres, the student has the corresponding right to free transportation from home directly to pre-primary education or from early childhood education to pre-primary education and from pre-primary education to home or early childhood education. (Basic Education Act section 32)

A student receiving basic education or pre-school education is also entitled to free transport when the above-mentioned commute, taking into account the student's age and other circumstances, becomes too difficult, strenuous or dangerous for the student. The alternative to free transport is to provide sufficient assistance for the transport of the student. (Basic Education Act section 32 30.12.2020/1216)

The student's daily school commute, including waiting times, arranged in accordance with subsection 1, cannot exceed two and a half hours. If the student has reached the age of 13 at the start of the school year, the school commute cannot exceed three hours. (Basic Education Act section 32 24.6.2010/642)

If a student is admitted to a school other than the one referred to in section 6, subsection 2, a condition for admission may be that the parent or guardian is responsible for the costs incurred in transporting the student. If a child receiving pre-school education participates in early childhood education arranged in another municipality as referred to in section 6 subsection 4 of the Early Childhood Education Act, the organiser of the education has the right to require that the child's guardian is responsible for the costs incurred in transporting the child between the place of early childhood education and pre-school education. (Basic Education Act section 32 13.7.2018/542)

A student waiting for transport must be provided with the opportunity for guided activities.

General principles of preschool and school transport

Distance limits for school transports

The right to a school transport benefit in the city of Rauma is granted

- 1) to a pre-primary education student whose distance to a designated pre-primary education place (kindergarten/school) is more than 3 kilometres. If the student is assigned a preschool location other than the one closest to the home, then the distance between the home and the assigned preschool location is measured.
- 2) For a 1st to 2nd grade student whose school distance to the local school is more than 3 kilometres.
- 3) For a 3rd to 9th grade student whose school distance to the local school is more than 5 kilometres.

A student who has received a transport benefit in pre-primary and basic education may have to travel part of the school trip on their own to a collection site or a stop along the transport route (=excess). In the case of a pre-schooler, individual consideration is used in determining the self-reliance distance.

The excess of a basic education school trip is

- 1st to 4th grade student 2 kilometres
- 5th to 6th grade student 3 kilometres
- 7th to 9th grade student 5 kilometres

The school transport criteria for special support students are the same as for those attending their local school. The decision of special support does not automatically guarantee free school transport. The free school transport of special support students is granted for a fixed period of time.

Other school transport criteria

Dangerous commute

The student is also entitled to preschool and school transport if the school trip, taking into account the student's age and circumstances, becomes too difficult, strenuous or dangerous. Organising transportation based on the difficulty or strain of the school trip requires expert opinion.

Depending on the case, a statement may be made by a doctor, school psychologist or other expert who is in a care relationship with the child. The statement must indicate, in addition to the reasons and justifications for the need for transport, the mode of transport by which the expert recommends the transport to take place. The statement must also state clearly for which period the expert recommends that transport be arranged.

For health reasons, a student may be granted the right to free school transport. A medical certificate must also be provided. The expert opinion does not oblige the municipality to arrange transport, but it is used to help in decision-making.

In assessing the safety of school commute, the traffic conditions are examined in a versatile manner. The traffic volumes and speed limits of the roads are given the highest priority in the assessment. Dangerous traffic routes are defined in cooperation with representatives of the City of Rauma's Technical Division.

Passage on highways 8 and 12 and their crossings, passing on the Sorkka road between Haapasaarentie and Sohantie, on Pyhärannantie from the Kapasaarentie road in the direction of Pyhäranta, in Lapland on Eurajoki Road from the intersection of Uusisilantie in the direction of Eurajoki and on Murtamontie are defined as dangerous. However, the above road sections can be used for stops or other collection points for school transport.

Passage on Highways 8 and 12 and their intersections, as well as on Sorkka Road between Haapasaarentie and Sohantie, on Pyhärannantie from Kapasaarentie towards Pyhäranta, on Eurajoki Road from the intersection with Uusisilantie towards Eurajoki, and on Murtamontie, are defined as dangerous. However, these road sections may be used for stops or other collection points for school transport.

Any changes in traffic conditions, such as the construction of cyclist and pedestrian routes, will change the basis for school transport.

Applying for school transport

School transport is applied for electronically through the Wilma app. The school transport application can be found on the Wilma Applications and decisions tab. Filling an application is not possible with Wilma's mobile app, but requires Wilma's browser version.

School transport can also be applied for with a paper form signed by a guardian, which can be requested from the school, the Service Point Pyyrman or printed online from rauma.fi/school-transport.

Pre-school transport and taxi-like transport in basic education are applied for annually, unless otherwise specified in the decision. Transport for small group students in the Pohjoiskehä school and students at Naula school is applied for before starting school and when moving to lower secondary school.

Bus transportation is applied for

- grades 1 to 2 before the start of the 1st grade
- grades 3 to 6 before the start of the 3rd grade
- grades 7 to 9 before the start of the 7th grade

Any changes related to the school commute must be notified without delay to the head of the day care centre, the school or the educational administration. School transport that has been wrongly granted may have to compensate for the costs incurred in the transport.

Transports based on the guardian's application for student escort or assistance are decided on a case-by-case basis. The compensation is paid as a compensation/trip according to the ticket price of the bus confirmed by the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Applications for preschool transports must be submitted to the Wilma or the education administration by the end of May. Basic education school transports are applied for by the end of April.

Applications for transportation needs that arise later must be filled out in Wilma or as a paper application as soon as possible after the changes in information have occurred. Processing should be allocated five working days, and the processing of accident transportation should take two days.

The school transport decision is published in the Wilma. In their application, the guardian may request that the final document be sent by post. If the decision is negative, the final document is always sent to the guardian.

Organisation of school transports

Transports for basic education are arranged either by using open public transport services or by taxi transport. Chartered transport by large buses can also be used as a mode of transport.

Open public transport is the preferred transport option. In this case, the student is given a travel card, which is displayed on the bus. The card is issued for one year at a time and must be stored carefully. If the card is lost or broken due to careless use, the guardian is obliged to redeem the new card. In these cases, they must contact the school immediately. A new card is issued at the request of the guardian at the discretion of the principal.

Taxi-like transport is arranged when public transport services are not appropriate or possible. Taxi-like transportation is also the main mode of transportation for preschool students.

Transport routes and timetables

According to the Basic Education Act (1998/628), the daily school trip and waiting time of a student under 13 years of age must not exceed two and a half hours. If the student has reached the age of 13 at the start of the school year, the school trip must not exceed three hours. The City of Rauma plans the transport routes so that children travelling in the same direction at the same time are connected to the same route. Morning pick-up times are announced by Wilma messages or text messages to homes a few days before school starts. Changes in the application periods are possible during the academic year due to traffic changes.

- The child must be at the designated pick-up point ready to get into the car. The child must be present as early as 5 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. If the child is late for a ride due to reasons of home, it is the guardian's responsibility to arrange a replacement transport.
- Taxi transportation is not arranged as door-to-door transportation, but the pick-up and drop-off are from an agreed place. The principle is that the student waits, not the taxi. The child will be picked up at the door only in exceptional cases and for a separately justified reason (e.g. reduced mobility, accident transport).
- Due to weather and traffic conditions, transportation may be delayed. As a result, the car will have to wait 15 minutes beyond the agreed pick-up time.
- If it has been agreed with the guardian that the child must not be left alone, but the child is not being met, the driver will take the child back to school or kindergarten.
- If it is unclear to the guardian when to use a charter car and when to use public transport or combined transport, you can contact the school secretary or transport manager or school transport dispatcher (koulukuljetukset@rauma.fi) or tel. 044 403 6666 (on site from 6.30 AM to 3 PM).

Absences and exceptions in transport arrangements

If the child does not need transportation, the guardian must notify the school transport manager and the school transport dispatcher (koulukuljetus@rauma.fi) without delay.

If the child falls ill during the school day, the primary responsibility for transport lies with the guardian. The transports follow routes and timetables planned in advance.

If the child's address or the start or end time of the morning or afternoon club changes permanently, the school transport manager and the school transport dispatcher must be notified without delay. A processing time of five (5) working days is reserved for the arrangements caused by the change.

The guardian cannot agree on exceptional transport arrangements directly with the driver.

Transportation due to personal needs is not arranged, e.g. doctor, dental care, therapies, etc. Only temporary exceptions to regular transport routes and timetables due to school activities are taken into account.

When a student's place of residence changes, he or she is assigned a primary place of study in accordance with the local school principle.

Accident and medical transport

A student may temporarily receive a travel card or taxi transportation if he or she has an accident or has an illness that requires transportation. Transportation related to accidents and illnesses is based on medical reports. On this basis, school transport is granted on a discretionary basis for the time period mentioned in the medical certificate and the guardian must submit the transport application immediately through Wilma or on a form that can be requested from the school, the Service Point Pyyrman or print out online from rauma.fi/school-transport.

In the event of an accident, the need for transport must be notified to the school as soon as possible in order to arrange the transport, and the medical statement must be delivered without delay to the School Assistant or directly to the Office Assistant of the educational sector, who handles school transport applications.

If a transport application for transport resulting from a leisure-time accident is not made and a medical certificate is not delivered, the costs of transport will be charged to the guardian.

Decision-making and contact details

Public transport

- public transportation planner Mikael Saive, tel. 044 403 7934, Mikael.saive@rauma.fi

Pre-primary and basic education school transports

- Office Assistant Paula Lahtinen, tel. 044 403 7753. paula.lahtinen@rauma.fi

Customer service and driving arrangements for school transports (daily taxi matters, exceptions and absences):

- koulukuljetus@rauma.fi (reports of changes by e-mail)
- tel. 045 739 60388 (reports of changes by sms)
- tel. 044 403 6666 (from 6.30 AM to 3 PM)

For more information, please contact:

- Virpi Kaukkila, ECEC Service manager, tel. 044 403 6324.
- Hanna Viljanen-Lehto, Basic Education Manager, tel. 044 793 3231
- Kindergarten Managers
- School Principals

Email addresses are in the form firstname.lastname@rauma.fi.