

DATASPEED® Windows School Free Travel

Following is a brief summary of the **DATASPEED®** Windows School Free Travel system and a list of the new features and advantages of this opposed to the DOS School Free Travel system.

System Information

Programming Language: Visual Basic 6

Reports: Crystal Reports

Database: Access Database (optional to operate on MSDE2000/MS SQL Server or Oracle)

Connection Type: DAO (Data Access Objects)

Locking Type: Pessimistic Locking

Minimum Hardware Specifications

Operating System: Minimum of Windows 95. Windows ME is NOT recommended. Must be 32 bit, not 16 bit emulating 32 bit.

RAM: Minimum of 64MB on each terminal. The more RAM the better.

CD ROM: At least 16 speed. The faster the better

Email Browser: Outlook Express recommended as the default browser.

Hard Disk Space: At least 100 MB of free hard disk space

Printers: Must be Windows Installed printers with correct drivers installed

IDEALLY: If single user: Pentium II or above,

If Networking: Pentium or greater for workstations - Pentium II or greater as the server.

Software is provided on ACCESS (Single User) or MSDE2000 for small networks (with option to upgrade/operate on MS SQL or Oracle – which must be independently purchased and installed).

ACCESS is not recommended for networks (especially over 6 users), particularly with different operating systems installed. Clients currently running on ACCESS with networks are recommended to upgrade to MSDE2000 (incurs one off database conversion cost).

SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The ***DATASPEED*** School Free Travel System has been designed to easily manipulate your SSTS information. The system boasts the following features :

- Semester returns can be easily "dumped" onto floppy diskette or a file for submission to the M.O.T.
- Bus passes can be printed yearly, or by term or semester (selection by sex, class, code or any mix). Passes may be overprinted and/or laminated and/or on different coloured stationery. Passes can be automatically stored for later printing as new student records are created, or printed out immediately. Standard program comes compliant with BCA supplied stationery (using Dot Matrix Printer)
- If required, alphabetic 'Record of Issue' listings can accompany bus passes to the school so that they may be signed for. Because each student record contains the class/year number, passes can also be printed alphabetically within class/year.
- All students may be referenced by a file number or alphabetically, in all enquires and reports. Any student in a school can be rapidly traced, even if the file number is not known, provided as little as the first one or more letters of the surname are known.
- Revenue reporting is available at any time by schedule, fare, school or 'directorates' (the first number of the school code).
- Automatic calculation of eligibility from start and end dates of students and term start and end dates. There is a facility to work on different years without having to restore files.
- The system also allows TAFE students to be input into the system. This is handy for printing out bus passes and reports, and will not mix them into the SSTS D.O.T. dump.
- Left or cancelled student records may be deleted at any time in the following scholastic year, or left on file as long as required.
- Automatic drop-off of at years end of Year 2 students who are flagged as not eligible, Year 6 students in primary schools and Year 12 students, if required.
- Automatic bulk transfer of students with nominated class/year or code from one school to another. This is especially useful for transferring 6th graders into high school without having to re-create them.

- Future fare increases may be entered ahead of time, then old fares overwritten automatically on command. Fares may be updated automatically from 'ASCII' files prepared on any word processor or spread sheet. Revenue reports may be printed to show the difference in revenue for the old and new fares.
- New students for the following year may be entered before the current year revenue returns have been finalised. Duplicate surnames are checked when entering new students. Unlimited transactions (comments) may be kept on file for any student.
- The number of replacement passes may be logged against the student's file automatically. A history of address changes is automatically maintained for each student, and used in the semester returns reconciliation.
- Counter listings may be printed at any time with full school/student details (for use when the computer is not switched on, is being repaired or is otherwise not available).
- Also includes MOT Incremental Dump sub system – used to update 'current' students into the Ministry of Transport Website as per contract requirements.

Improvements

DATASPEED® Windows School Free Travel application includes the following 'DOS options' in the standard package:

- **TAFE Option** - allows you to keep a separate directorate for TAFE students, and calculates and stores their fares separately to the SSTS students. Also provides facility to dump TAFE data to floppy disk for the DOT return.
- **Telephone Number option** - Allows the additional field of 'telephone number' for Students
- **Duplicate Students Report** - Checks for and reports on students with the same birth date and surname, to ensure you have not entered the same students twice, and therefore illegally claiming for the same fare twice.
- **Siblings with Different Boarding Points** – Checks for students with same surname, same address, same school, but claiming a different number of sections. Thus, the operator is either over claiming the fare for one student (and risks being penalised by the DOT), or under claiming the fare for one (costing your company revenue)
- **Change of Address Option** – Computer automatically selects the highest eligible fare for any student that changes addresses in a semester (where either fare is valid for claiming). This eliminates the possibility of the operator selecting the lower fare and again, costing the company revenue.
- **Student enquiry program** – One of the advantages of moving to an access database. This program allows you to find any student in the database (in any school) by surname alone.
- **End Of Semester Reports** - This report is the BEAUTY of the year!! This report should be run immediately prior to dumping your data to check that all data is as accurate as possible. It consists of running :
 - 1 **'Global Change of Number of Sections in Schedule Update'** - this will make sure that every student has the same number of sections as the boarding point allocated (if used).
 - 2 **'Ineligible Students by Street'** - this will list any student who is ineligible according to your 'Ineligible Streets data' (if used).
 - 3 **'Duplicate students by Birthday'** - this will list duplicate students with the same name, address and birthdate.
 - 4 **'Siblings with Different Boarding Points'** - this will list students with the same name and address, but different boarding points.
 - 5 **BAD Fare Listing'** - this is the standard report in student updates which will pick up no birthdays, no postcodes, no number of sections etc.

Options Available

- **Boarding Point Option:** The section point option provides an easy and accurate way of allocating the correct number of sections to each student. Once set up correctly, it simply involves allocating each child a section point (the area where the child will board the bus) rather than having to allocate a number of sections. This eliminates the chance of error due to inconsistencies in allocating sections to students
- **Map Info Option** The Mapinfo option allows you to 'dump' nominated **DATASPEED®** School Free Travel information to Mapinfo for analysis. The data can then be imported back into the **DATASPEED®** system to update student's records. The X and Y co-ordinate data for each student can also be recorded.
- **Concession Passes System**
- **Non Commercial (School Charters Option)**

NB: Customers with either the **Concession Passes** and **Non Commercial Contract** Options in the DOS system will have their same existing options INCLUDED with their new Windows School Free Travel Software.

OWNERSHIP OF DATABASE

As ACCESS is an 'open database', **DATASPEED®** has put password protection on the database, to prevent the operator from accessing and possibly corrupting it, in order to protect the data.

If the client wants access to the database, they can purchase the passwords from us, and therefore be solely responsible for any data errors or corruptions that may occur. This is to protect us from being liable and/or responsible for any errors that may occur to the data that cannot be the fault of **DATASPEED®**.

Clients who purchase an alternative database to ACCESS (outlined above) will be totally responsible for their database, same as above. **DATASPEED®** makes no guarantee that we will be able to fix corrupt databases, as it is a Third Party property (unlike the DOS system, where **DATASPEED®** wrote the database).

NB: Clients that require more than 6 or more users are STRONGLY advised to independently purchase either Oracle or SQL Server as their database (there is an additional one off cost for the Dataspeed Software loaded onto such databases)