



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

131 Livingston Street, Room 301, Brooklyn, New York 11201
CEC15@schools.nyc.gov | tel. 718-935-4267 | CECD15.org

Resolution approved by vote of council at October 8, 2024 Business Meeting.

CEC15 RESOLUTION TO ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO OMNY CARDS FOR ALL NYC PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

The District 15 Community Education Council (CEC15) held a meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2024. After reviewing all the evidence and facts, CEC15 passed the following amended resolution:

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) provides Student OMNY cards^[1] to replace Student MetroCards, granting students access to public transportation 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, with four rides per day, on all MTA subway lines, local, limited, and certain buses, as well as the Staten Island Railway, the Roosevelt Island Tram, and the Hudson Rail Link, including free transfers; and

WHEREAS, transportation eligibility for Student OMNY cards is currently based on a student's grade level and the distance between home and school, which excludes students who live less than 0.5 miles from their school,^[2] regardless of their need for public transportation for extracurricular activities, after-school employment, or other essential commitments; and

WHEREAS, many students participate in afterschool activities, academic enrichment and related services, and other essential commitments that are more than 0.5 miles from their homes, requiring reliable and accessible public transportation; and

WHEREAS, access to public transportation provides teens with essential independence, mobility, and the ability to make choices that support their educational and professional growth, making reliable public transportation crucial for students' access to these opportunities and essential commitments; and

WHEREAS, the city's initiatives to expand youth career pathways and job training programs across all boroughs^[3] has resulted in a growing need for reliable public transportation to connect students to educational, career, and economic opportunities that are increasingly dispersed throughout New York City; and

WHEREAS, many students, including those with disabilities, face challenges in accessing public transportation due to the limitations of current eligibility rules, which do not account for geographic barriers, safety concerns, or the need for accessible transportation options; and

WHEREAS, students with disabilities who receive specialized busing as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) are excluded from receiving Student OMNY cards,^[4] limiting their ability to participate fully in afterschool programs, extracurricular activities, and weekend events; and

WHEREAS, the current policy of providing only one form of transportation (either bus or OMNY card) to students with disabilities under Chancellor's Regulation A-801 is outdated and discriminatory, as it does not reflect the expanded capabilities of the new Student OMNY card system, which offers 24/7 access and increased flexibility,^[5] and

WHEREAS, the policy of offering only Special Program 2-Trip OMNY^[6] passes as an alternative for students who are not eligible for regular Student OMNY cards is inadequate and inequitable. These 2-Trip passes, restricted to specific conditions, do not provide the same level of flexibility and access as the standard 4-trip OMNY cards, leaving many students without sufficient transportation options for their educational and personal development needs; and

WHEREAS, the application process for obtaining Special Program 2-Trip OMNY passes is complex and burdensome for parents and guardians, creating additional barriers for families who may already be struggling to navigate the educational and transportation systems. There is a need for clearer, more accessible information on eligibility and application procedures to ensure all families can exercise their rights to transportation assistance; and

WHEREAS, the equitable distribution of Student OMNY cards is essential for ensuring that all students, including those from low-income households and those with disabilities, have the opportunity to participate fully in educational and extracurricular activities without financial or logistical barriers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council of District 15 (CEC15) demands that NYCPS, in collaboration with the MTA, provide Student OMNY cards to *all public-school students*, regardless of the distance they live from their schools or their eligibility for school busing, to support their educational, extracurricular, and personal development needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that until OMNY cards are equally available to all students, NYCPS provide comprehensive, multilingual guides for families to better understand their transportation rights and the application process for Special Program 2-Trip OMNY passes, ensuring that families can easily access necessary transportation support for their children regardless of the OMNY pass to which they are currently entitled to receive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYCPS and the MTA ensure that students with disabilities who receive specialized busing as part of their IEPs are also eligible to receive

Student OMNY cards to access public transportation for activities beyond regular school hours, without being forced to choose between transportation options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chancellor’s Regulation A-801 be reviewed and amended to eliminate discriminatory policies and ensure that all students, regardless of disability status, residential distance from school, or school busing eligibility, have equal access to public transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that future Student OMNY cards be produced with durable, waterproof materials to prevent damage and reduce the need for replacements, ensuring reliable access for all students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NYCPS, in partnership with the MTA, actively engage with parents, educators, and advocates to address and resolve any issues related to the distribution and use of Student OMNY cards, ensuring that the system supports the diverse needs of the city’s student population.

This resolution was duly adopted by Community Education Council 15 on October 8, 2024, by a vote of the members present, including: Antonia Ferraro Martinelli, Leslie King, Vanessa Gonzalez Ueoka, Katina Rogers, Jonathan Davis, Hans Arrieta, Donalda Chumney and Kwame Egerton.

^[1] <https://omny.info/students> - OMNY Information

^[2] <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/transportation/bus-eligibility> - NYC DOE Transportation Eligibility

^[3] <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/944-23/mayor-adams-citywide-action-plan-build-inclusive-career-pathways-youn-people#0> - Plan to Build Inclusive Career Pathways for Young People

^[4] <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/transportation/bus-eligibility> - Curb-to-School or Specialized Transportation Eligibility

^[5] https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-801-9-5-2000-final-combined-remediated-wcag2-0.pdf?sfvrsn=cb0ffebd_84 – Regulations of the Chancellor – Pupil Transportation

^[6] <https://infohub.nyced.org/in-our-schools/operations/transportation-resources-for-schools> - Types of MetroCards Available for Students