

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 28

Resolution to Ensure Fair and Reliable Transit Access for All NYC Public School Students

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WHEREAS, students who live within one-half mile of their school, students who receive yellow bus service, and students with disabilities using alternative New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) transportation are currently not eligible to receive a Student OMNY card;¹ and

WHEREAS, many students participate in after-school programs, extracurricular activities, internships, employment, family responsibilities, and enrichment opportunities that require the use of public transportation regardless of distance from school or transportation eligibility; and

WHEREAS, students benefit from access to public transportation regardless of whether school is in session, as educational opportunities extend beyond the school day and school calendar and include libraries, museums, cultural institutions, tutoring programs, college access programs, career exploration, civic engagement, and community-based learning opportunities throughout New York City; and

WHEREAS, families across District 28 experience diverse economic circumstances, and the cost of public transportation can present a significant burden for students who must travel multiple times per day or across boroughs; and

WHEREAS, access to public transportation supports students' independence, life skills, and ability to participate fully in educational, cultural, and workforce development opportunities citywide; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor's Regulation A-801, last substantively updated in 2000, does not reflect the transportation needs, realities, or equity considerations facing students today;² and

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WHEREAS, Student OMNY cards may be flagged for alleged “misuse” based on vague, unpublished criteria established by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), after which NYCPS may direct schools to deactivate such cards;³ and

WHEREAS, students with complex living arrangements, caregiving responsibilities, or nontraditional schedules may be disproportionately impacted by card deactivation without adequate notice, transparency, or guaranteed replacement; and

WHEREAS, there is no publicly available, standardized NYCPS procedure ensuring students are promptly informed of deactivation decisions or provided with timely replacement Student OMNY cards; and

WHEREAS, Student OMNY cards are often less durable than standard OMNY cards, are easily damaged, and are frequently in limited supply at schools, resulting in delays that leave students without lawful transit access; and

WHEREAS, students who lack access to public transportation may face increased risks related to absenteeism, safety, fare enforcement, and broader socioeconomic vulnerabilities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council of District 28 calls upon New York City Public Schools (NYCPS), in collaboration with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), to provide Student OMNY cards to all NYC public school students, without limitation or exclusion based on distance from school, transportation eligibility, attendance status, program type, or housing circumstance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC District 28 urges NYCPS to amend Chancellor’s Regulation A-801 to reflect modern student transportation needs and ensure equitable access to public transportation for all students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council of District 28 calls on NYCPS to ensure that all NYC public school students, without limitation or exclusion based on distance from school, transportation eligibility, attendance status, program type, or whether a school building is open or closed, are provided with active Student OMNY cards year-round, including during weekends, holidays, summer months, and other non-instructional periods, so that students may access the full range of educational, cultural, enrichment, employment, and community-based opportunities available to them throughout New York City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYCPS establish clear, transparent, and publicly available procedures governing the review, notification, appeal, and replacement of Student OMNY cards flagged for misuse to ensure students are not unfairly or abruptly deprived of transit access; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that future Student OMNY cards be produced using durable plastic materials comparable to standard OMNY cards to reduce damage, loss, and the need for frequent replacement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYCPS reform the Student OMNY fulfillment and replacement system to ensure schools can promptly and reliably provide functioning cards without interruption to students' education, safety, or opportunity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council of District 28 formally acknowledges and thanks the Community Education Council of District 30 for its leadership and advocacy in advancing student transportation equity through Resolution #194, which informed and strengthened this resolution.

1. NYCPS Bus Eligibility Guidelines
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/transportation/bus-eligibility>
2. Chancellor's Regulation A-801 (Transportation of Pupils), last updated 2000
<https://pwsblobprd.schools.nyc/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-801-9-5-2000-final-combined-remediated-wcag2-0.pdf>
3. Gothamist – *NYC Schools Crack Down on Student OMNY Card Abuse, But Privacy Advocates Raise Concerns*
<https://gothamist.com/news/nyc-schools-crack-down-on-student-omny-card-abuse-but-privacy-advocates-raise-concerns>

Reference Resolution:

CEC District 30 – Resolution #194

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