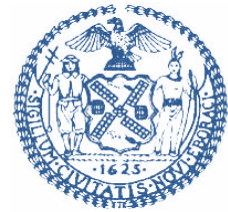


New York State Legislature



United States Congress



City of New York

September 16, 2024

Chancellor David C. Banks
New York City Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Chair and CEO Janno Lieber
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Chancellor Banks and Chair Lieber:

We are writing to you today on behalf of Manhattan public school families regarding the new Student OMNY card program. We commend the Department of Education and the Metropolitan Transit Authority for expanding the reach of this program to include nights, weekends, and a full year of access including the summertime. This was a multi-year effort that began in 2019, when the half-fare MetroCard was eliminated and replaced by full-fare MetroCards for students living 1-1.5 miles from their schools. There is no doubt that this will make a tremendous impact on students and lift a significant financial burden from their families.

After hearing from concerned parents and community members, we are writing to request that you lift the restriction on these cards for students who live within one half mile of their school, many of whom live and attend school in Manhattan, and those who take the school bus, including thousands of special education students. Since the OMNY student card can be used beyond trips to and from school, it means these students are missing out on a benefit that those who have student OMNY cards are receiving.

By expanding access to 7 days a week and 365 days a year, the new OMNY student cards will give students the freedom to go to extracurricular activities, educational opportunities, volunteer roles, summer jobs, and more without having to worry about cost. A student who might live in

Harlem, go to high school in Midtown, and have dance practice in Flatiron won't have to worry about using their student card during the school day and paying separately on nights and weekends. This is a huge win for students, and it should be applied equally to all our young people.

We sincerely appreciate your efforts to expand access to public transportation to New York families. All students should have access to the wonderful benefits of this program and we hope that you will consider lifting these restrictions that leave some families behind.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your work on behalf of all New Yorkers. We look forward to hearing your response on this matter.

Sincerely,



Keith Powers
New York City Council,
District 4



Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough
President



Harvey Epstein
New York State Assembly,
District 74



Adriano Espaillat
United States House of
Representatives, District 10



Jerrold Nadler
United States House of
Representatives, District 11



Brian Kavanagh
New York State Senate,
District 27



Kristen Gonzalez
New York State Senate,
District 59



Chris Marte
New York City Council,
District 1



Carlina Rivera
New York City Council,
District 2



Erik Bottcher
New York City Council,
District 3



Julie Menin
New York City Council,
District 5



Gale Brewer
New York City Council,
District 6




Shaun Abreu
New York City Council,
District 7



Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala
New York City Council,
District 8



Carmen de la Rosa
New York City Council,
District 10



Charles Fall
New York State Assembly,
District 61



Grace Lee
New York State Assembly,
District 65



Deborah Glick
New York State Assembly,
District 66



Manny de los Santos
New York State Assembly,
District 72



Alex Bores
New York State Assembly,
District 73



Tony Simone
New York State Assembly,
District 75



Rebecca A. Seawright
New York State Assembly,
District 76



Micah Lasher
Nominee for New York State
Assembly, District 69



Jordan Wright
Nominee for New York State
Assembly, District 70