

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

WHEREAS students living within a half-mile of their school, students taking a yellow bus, and students with disabilities using alternative DOE transportation are not eligible for a student OMNY card,¹ and

WHEREAS numerous students participate in after-school activities, extracurriculars, family commitments, and jobs that may require the use of public transportation even if they live close to their school or receive yellow bus service, and

WHEREAS not all families can easily afford public transportation yet some students juggle multiple commitments with have complex commutes that require the use of the maximum number of rides or more, and

WHEREAS public transportation allows teens to gain skills with navigational independence and opens up access to opportunities in other areas of the city that may assist in their personal growth, and

WHEREAS Chancellor's Regulation A-801 was last updated in 2000 and does not meet the transportation needs of students today,² and

WHEREAS student OMNY cards are often flagged for "misuse" by the MTA based on vague and unpublished guidelines, NYCPS is notified of these cards and directs schools to deactivate them,³ and

WHEREAS students with complex living situations may be unfairly flagged and experience disruptions to their use of public transportation, and

WHEREAS there is no evidence of published procedures by NYCPS handling flagged cards and properly informing students, and

WHEREAS student OMNY cards are easily damaged and in limited supply at schools causing delays in replacement, and

WHEREAS students without access to their student OMNY card may be forced to jump the turnstile, leading to increased risk of arrest and vulnerability regarding other factors like immigration status.

¹ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/transportation/bus-eligibility>

² https://pwsblobprd.schools.nyc/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-801-9-5-2000-final-combined-remediated-wcag2-0.pdf?sfvrsn=cb0ffebd_84

³ <https://gothamist.com/news/nyc-schools-crack-down-on-student-omny-card-abuse-but-privacy-advocates-raise-concerns>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED 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 alternative transportation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chancellor's Regulation A-801 be amended to ensure all students have equal access to public transportation, reflecting the transportation needs of students today, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that student OMNY cards are expanded to provide unlimited rides all year to active public school students, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that clear procedures be put in place regarding deactivation of cards flagged for misuse to ensure affected students are properly informed and given a replacement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that future student OMNY cards be produced with the same durable plastic as normal OMNY cards to ensure greater reliability and a decreased need for replacement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the fulfillment system providing student OMNY cards be reformed to ensure schools do not face a delay in waiting for new cards.