



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Brian Kavanagh

Student OMNY Card

BRIAN KAVANAGH September 20, 2024

| ISSUE: **MTA (METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY)**



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

Adriano Espaillat United States House of Representatives, District 10

Kristen Gonzalez New York State Senate, District 59

Jerrold Nadler United States House of Representatives, District 11

Chris Marte New York City Council, District 1

Harvey Epstein New York State Assembly, District 74

Brian Kavanaugh New York State Senate, District 27

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

Charles Fall New York State Assembly, District 61

Manny de los Santos New York State Assembly, District 72

Rebecca A. Seawright New York State Assembly, District 76

Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala New York City Council, District 8

Grace Lee New York State Assembly, District 65

Alex Bores New York State Assembly, District 73

Micah Lasher Nominee for New York State Assembly, District 69

Carmen de la Rosa New York City Council, District 10

Deborah Glick New York State Assembly, District 66

Tony Simone New York State Assembly, District 75

Jordan Wright Nominee for New York State Assembly, District 70