



## Community Education Council 24

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### RESOLUTION #192

#### To Ensure Fair and Reliable Transit Access for All NYC Public School Students

Sponsor: Matthew J. Crescio

Co-Sponsor: Aliya Bonar, Kate Barvels, Elizabeth Fortunato, Manisha Jain, Gina Liberta, Felicity McHugh

Date Presented: February 24, 2026

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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;<sup>1</sup> 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 opportunities throughout New York City; and

**WHEREAS,**

**families across District 24 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, sports , 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;<sup>2</sup> and**

**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**Student OMNY cards may be flagged for alleged "misuse" based on vague, unpublished criteria established by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), after which NYCPS may direct schools to deactivate such cards;<sup>3</sup> and**

**WHEREAS,**

**students with complex living arrangements, caregiving responsibilities, or nontraditional schedules , or who may participate in after school sport activities 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;

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

that the Community Education Council of District 24 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 Community Education Council District 24 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 24 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.

### **References**

<sup>1</sup> NYCPS Bus Eligibility Guidelines (NYCPS Transportation – Bus Eligibility)

<sup>2</sup> Chancellor's Regulation A-801 (Transportation of Pupils), last updated 2000

<sup>3</sup> Gothamist article regarding Student OMNY enforcement and privacy concerns

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## **VOTE (CEC District 24) – Roll Call (Check One Per Member)**

Matthew Crescio: x Support  Does Not Support  Absent  Abstain

Gina Liberta: x Support  Does Not Support  Absent  Abstain

Anna Karwoska: x Support  Does Not Support  Absent  Abstain

Felicia McHugh: x Support  Does Not Support  Absent  Abstain

Brian Augustine: x Support  Does Not Support  Absent  Abstain

Manisha Jain: x Support  Does Not Support  Absent  Abstain

Elizabeth Fortunato:  Support  Does Not Support x Absent  Abstain

Kate Barvels: x Support  Does Not Support  Absent  Abstain

Aliya Bonar: x Support  Does Not Support  Absent  Abstain

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The CEC24 members voted and approved Resolution No. 192 at the February 24th CEC24 Meeting.

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