

**Community Education Council 19**  
**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<sup>1</sup>; 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 student's 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<sup>2</sup>; 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**WHEREAS**, student OMNY cards are often flagged for "misuse" by the MTA based on vague and unpublished guidelines, NYCPS is notified of these cards and directs schools to deactivate them<sup>3</sup>; 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; and

**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: and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the above resolution was unanimously voted and passed on March 11, 2026, by the following Community Education Council of District 19 members: Joyce French, Kimberly Washington, Kimberly Ford, Evelyn Pugh, Tion Prescott, Krissy Garcia, Shandale Franklin, Simone Phillips-Webster and Amber Lewis.

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

<sup>2</sup> [https://pwsblobprd.schools.nyc/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-801-9-5-2000-final-combined-remediated-wcag2-0.pdf?sfvrsn=cb0ffe8d\\_84](https://pwsblobprd.schools.nyc/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-801-9-5-2000-final-combined-remediated-wcag2-0.pdf?sfvrsn=cb0ffe8d_84)

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