

Reginald McNeil

Chief Operating Officer

July 8, 2021

Dear School District of Philadelphia Parents and Families,

This letter is to provide an update on Transportation Services for your child in the upcoming school year. Starting this fall, School District of Philadelphia (SDP) students who use Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) for school transportation will transition to using a new, no-cost Student Fare Card instead of student Transpasses. Eligible students will receive their Fare Card when they return to in-person learning on the first day of school and should use the card to get to and from school during the school year. The Student Fare Card will remain active as long as the student remains eligible and enrolled in that school. **Student riders will be able to ride SEPTA for free on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 -- the first day of school.**

The SEPTA Student Fare Card is a contact-free, reusable chip card that students can “tap” up to eight times per day on school days, between the hours of 5:30am and 8:00pm on any bus, trolley or subway. If a student prefers to utilize Regional Rail, they can upgrade their student Fare Card at designated SEPTA stations for about \$10 per 5-day school week.

The health and well-being of our students remains our top priority and both SDP and SEPTA are committed to ensuring that they are in safe environments throughout their school day. SEPTA has increased safety measures by adding security guards along the Market-Frankford Line, which is SEPTA’s busiest line, and heavily utilized by students to get to school. The Authority has also initiated station cleaning and maintenance efforts at stations along the Market-Frankford and Broad Street Lines. Crew members will spend the overnight hours deep cleaning stations and vehicles, and performing maintenance work including, elevator repair, painting, power washing, and installing new lighting and signage. All vehicles are well-ventilated with a combination of efficient HVAC systems and doors opening frequently for customers boarding and exiting. SEPTA continues to follow CDC and TSA guidelines regarding mask requirements and other COVID-19 safety protocols on public transportation.

Through the City of Philadelphia’s [Safe Routes Philly](#) free program, students and families can also access transportation safety lesson plans, activities, and resources in English and Spanish, so they can gain the knowledge and skills they need to travel safely to and from school. For more information, please visit the District’s [SEPTA Student Fare Card webpage](#).

We look forward to seeing you and your children in the fall!

Sincerely,



Reggie McNeil
Chief Operating Officer