



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2025

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Eligible 6th-12th Grade Students in Alameda County Can Apply Now for Free Transit Passes for New School Year

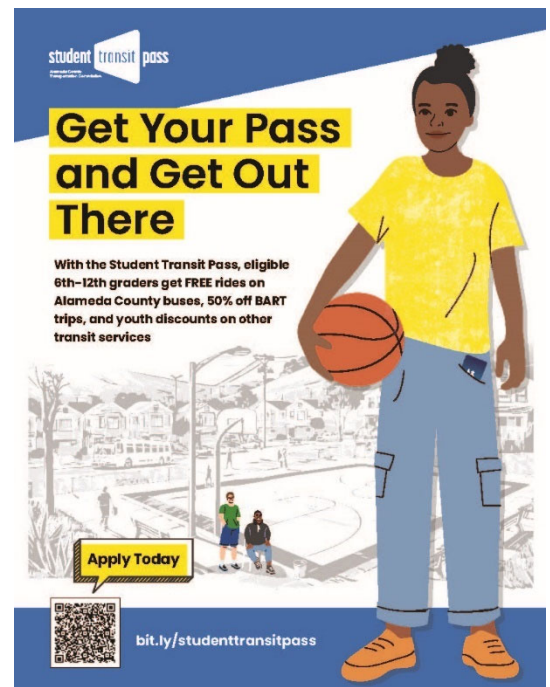
Eligible students can travel to school, work, and beyond on AC Transit, Union City Transit, and Wheels buses-- 50% off BART trips, too. Students are encouraged to apply now.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, Calif. – The [Alameda County Transportation Commission](http://www.AlamedaCTC.org) (Alameda CTC) is excited to launch the 10th year of its [Student Transit Pass \(STP\) Program](http://www.AlamedaCTC.org), which provides eligible 6th-12th graders across Alameda County with unlimited free bus rides on AC Transit, Union City Transit, or Wheels and 50% off BART fares.

During the 2023-24 school year, over 30,000 students at over 132 schools participated in the program, taking nearly 1.8 million free bus rides. This year, Alameda CTC anticipates that over 63,000 students at 165 middle and high schools will be eligible for the pass. Students and families are encouraged to apply now for the new school year.

"The Student Transit Pass Program is a powerful example of how Alameda CTC delivers on its promise to voters to expand access and improve mobility for all," remarked Commission Chair and Alameda County District 1 Supervisor David Haubert. "By removing transportation barriers for students, we're not only helping them succeed in school—we're also investing in a more vibrant and connected future for Alameda County. I'm proud of Alameda CTC's leadership in building programs that truly make a difference in people's daily lives."

Funded by local transportation sales tax measure Measure BB, the program began as a pilot in 2016 at just eleven schools. As of 2024, every eligible school in Alameda County is now participating, ensuring students have access to free bus transportation up through high school graduation. The program supports students traveling to school, jobs, and extra-curricular activities by providing reliable, accessible, and affordable transportation options.



Help spread the word—download free flyers, posters, and graphics in multiple languages from the STP website's Admin and Partner Resources page.

Apply Today

Eligible students should apply by visiting the ["Apply for a Pass" page](#) of STP website and selecting their school's application. Student eligibility varies by school district:

- Universal Districts: All 6th-12th graders at the Alameda County Office of Education, Emery Unified, Livermore Valley Joint Unified, and Oakland Unified can apply.
- Means-Based Districts: In all other Alameda County school districts, students whose families meet the [California Department of Education's free or reduced-priced meal income eligibility guidelines](#) may apply.

The application takes just a few minutes to complete and can open up an entire year of free and discounted transit options.

Why the Pass Matters

According to an annual survey of site administrators (staff members at schools who support program promotion, enrollment, and operations), having the pass means more students have access to reliable transportation, students can be more independent, and families face fewer transportation-related financial burdens.

Educators across Alameda County say the pass has made a meaningful difference for students and families:

"Many of our students live several miles away from school, and without the bus, they can be traveling on foot or by bike/scooter for an hour in the dark part of the year," observed a Fremont Unified counselor. "The bus pass system makes school transportation safe for students and gives peace of mind to working parents and those without cars."

"The Student Transit Pass significantly improved students' punctuality and independence in commuting to school, contributing to increased attendance rates and supporting broader educational equity goals," praised an Oakland Unified administrative employee.

Help Spread the Word

Alameda CTC invites school staff, local agencies, community groups, and media outlets to help amplify this opportunity. Flyers, posters, social media graphics, and web banners—available in multiple languages—can be downloaded from the ["Admin and Partner Resources" page](#) of the STP website.

Please share these materials online, on campus, and in your community to ensure every eligible student benefits from this program.

About the Alameda County Transportation Commission

The mission of the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) is to plan, fund and deliver transportation programs and projects that expand access and improve mobility to foster a vibrant and livable Alameda County. Governed by a 22-member Commission, Alameda CTC manages the county's one-cent transportation sales tax and serves as the county's congestion management agency. In the most recent fiscal year, the agency carried out \$405 million in transportation improvements that create jobs, enhance mobility and enrich communities.

Learn about current transportation [projects and programs](#) and learn about [Measure BB](#), which voters passed in November 2014. Visit [Alameda CTC's website](#) to learn more, and follow Alameda CTC on [Facebook](#) and [X](#).

About the Student Transit Pass Program

Eligible 6th- 12th graders at over 160 schools throughout Alameda County can apply for the Student Transit Pass (STP), which provides unlimited free rides in their local area on Alameda County buses, as well as 50% off BART and discounts on other transit systems. The program is funded through Measure BB (the local transportation sales tax measure) and managed by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) to support the traveling needs of Alameda County students and promote efficient, cost-effective transit options. Interested students can learn more and apply on the STP website: <https://www.alamedactc.org/programs-projects/studentpass>.