

Supporting Students in Temporary Housing:



The Role of Transportation for Students in Temporary Housing in NYC

Presented By: NYS-TEACHS and

NYC Public Schools, Office of Pupil Transportation and
Office of Students in Temporary Housing & Foster Care

Thursday, March 20, 2025, 9:30-11:00 am

Webinar Format



- Today's session will be recorded.



- Your microphone will be automatically muted.



- Your camera will be automatically disabled.



- The in-webinar chat will only allow you to communicate with the panelists and the host.



Housekeeping



- Poll questions will be launched periodically throughout the session. Additional questions will require you to respond in the chat.
- We won't be able to answer questions about specific situations in the chat, but you can put your questions in the Q and A tab and we welcome you to call the Help Line to discuss these issues at 800-388-2014.
- The Help Line is open 24 hours a day. Specialists are available from 9:00am – 5:00pm. If you leave a message, you will be called back by the next business day.
- Following today's webinar, the recorded session and attachments will be posted/accessible.

Who We Are

NYC Public Schools, Office of Students in Temporary Housing and Foster Care (STH/SFC)

- Provides technical assistance and works directly with schools and students in temporary housing, including those in shelters
- Provides services which students are entitled to under the McKinney Vento Act and Chancellor's Regulation A-780

NYC Public Schools, Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT)

- Provides transportation services to students in temporary housing (STH) are entitled to under the McKinney Vento Act and Chancellor's Regulation A-801.



Our Presenters and Panelists for Today

Daniella Inga

OPT Director for Transportation of Students in Temporary Housing and Foster Care

Shloime Weinstein

OPT STH and SFC Lead Support

And from the Office of Students in Temporary Housing & Foster Care

Corrine Christison

Director of Interagency Collaboration

Wen Peguero

STH / Foster Care Interagency Coordinator

Who Is In The Room?

Are you a...

- School-based STH Liaison (1st Year)
- School-based STH Liaison (2-4 years)
- School-based STH Liaison (5+ years)
- Transportation Coordinator
- Other School/District Staff
- Shelter based Community

Coordinators



Which borough do you work in?

- * Bronx
- * Brooklyn
- * Manhattan
- * Staten Island
- * Queens
- * across boroughs
- * outside NYC

Session Outcomes



By the end of today's webinar, participants will be able to:

- Describe the transportation provisions in the McKinney-Vento Act and the Chancellor's Regulation A-780 and A-801.
- Identify the benefits of providing transportation to students experiencing homelessness.
- Learn how to support families with arranging transportation for eligible students.
- Access resources that support decision-making around transportation.

Today's Agenda



Welcome! Who is in the Room?



Transportation Provisions in the McKinney-Vento Act and Chancellor's Regulations



Step by Step Guides for Arranging Transportation



What is New and Who to Contact



Checks for Understanding



Summary, Resources and Survey



NYSTEACHS.org

The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students



MEASUREMENT
INCORPORATED

Introduction: Transportation of School Children in NYC

In accordance with **Chancellor's Regulation A-801***, NYCPS provides transportation to all eligible New York City students in public, charter, and non-public schools. In partnership with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and our school age and preschool bus companies, our mission is to ensure safe and reliable transportation to and from school.



* Link to Chancellor's Regulation A-801 with translations: [Volume A Regulations \(nyc.gov\)](#)

Why is Transportation an Important Benefit for Students?



Please put your answer in the chat.

Stability is Key for Students in Temporary Housing



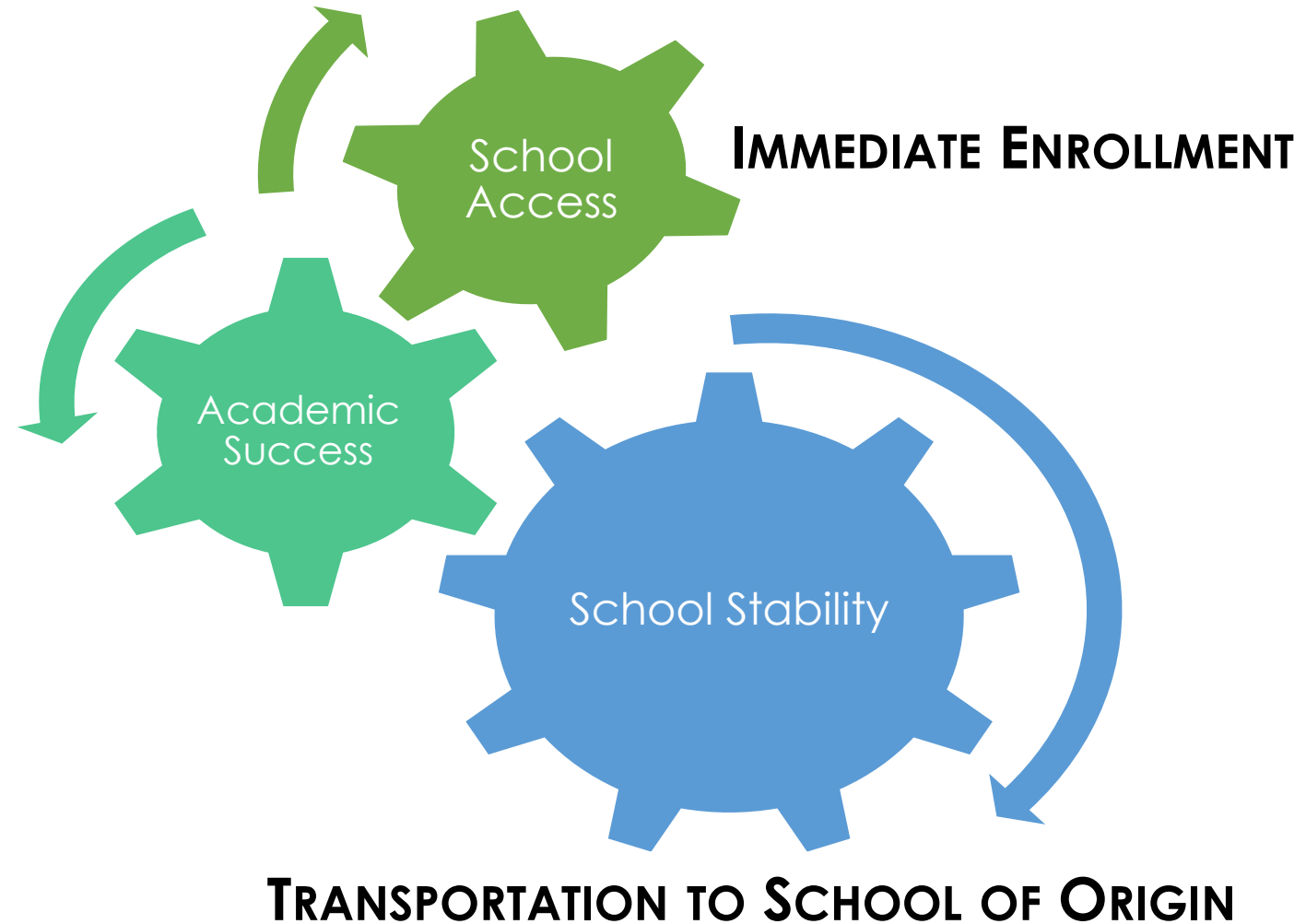
School stability

- Affects **academic achievement**
- Impacts **social/emotional learning**
- Mitigates the **effects of stress** caused by loss of housing

Transportation plays a major part in ensuring school stability!

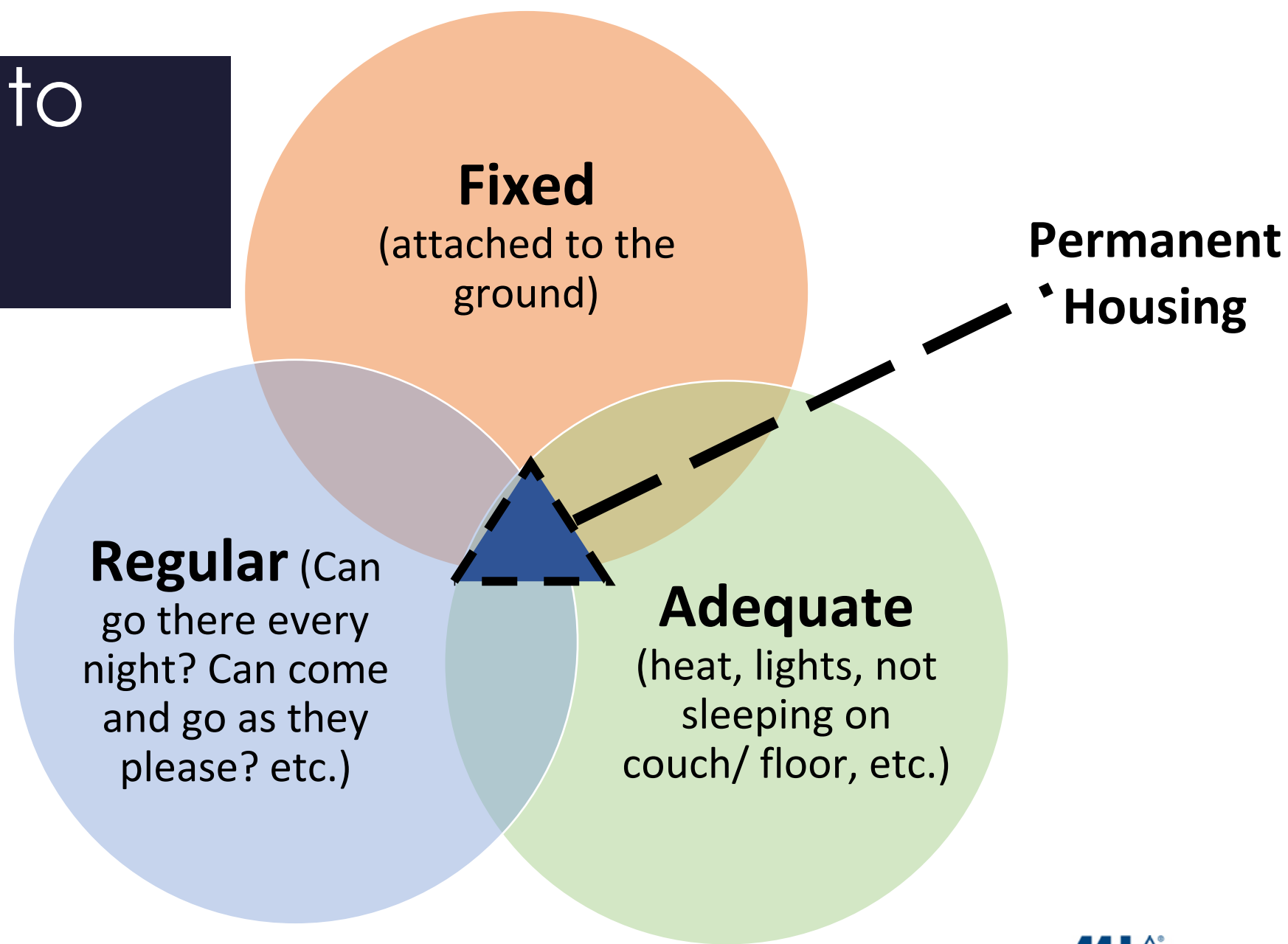
McKinney-Vento Act and NY Guidance

- McKinney-Vento Act-Federal Law established in 1987, Reauthorized in 2015 as part of ESSA
- NY State Education Law 3209
- NYC Chancellor's Regulation A-780



McKinney-Vento Definition of Homelessness

The term “homeless child or youth” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate primary nighttime residence.



Homelessness: Living Conditions

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason (**Doubled-up**)
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Living in a public or private place not designed for sleeping
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc.
- Unaccompanied youth living in circumstances described above

Education Law §3209(1)(a); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(1); see also 42 USC §11434A(2)(B)(i)

Why Transportation is Addressed

- The McKinney-Vento Act is intended to remove **barriers** between students and their participation in school life.
- The lack of transportation may act as a barrier in getting to school, affecting the attendance of many students in temporary housing. The inclusion of transportation in the McKinney-Vento Act enhances students 'opportunity **for academic success**.
- It is **up to school districts** to figure out how to address the barrier of transportation.



Education Law §3209(1)(a); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(1); see also 42 USC §11434A(2)(B)(i)

How Have You Facilitated Transportation for Students in Temporary Housing?



Please put your answer in the chat.

Chancellor's Regulations & Rights of STH

As per Chancellor's Regulation A-801 and A-780, students in temporary housing (STH) are exempt from grade and distance requirements and eligible for transportation while temporarily housed and through the remainder of the school year in which they become permanently housed.

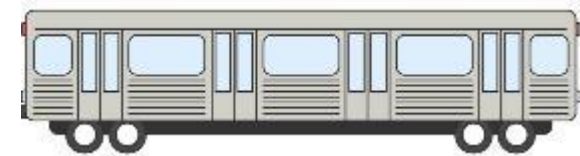
Students transitioning to permanent housing are also eligible for transportation for an additional year if entering the final grade for their school.

Grade level	STH Transportation eligibility
Pre-K	Eligible for busing* or OMNY pass
Grades K to 6	Eligible for busing* or OMNY pass
Grades 7 and 8 w/IEP	Eligible for busing* or OMNY pass
Grades 7-12 no IEP	Eligible for a student OMNY pass, only
Students with an IEP that recommends specialized transportation	Eligible for curb to school busing.

**resides more than 0.5 mile from their school*

These rights pertain to students in ALL schools (district, charter & private)
More information found on the [Transportation Rights page](#).

Step by Step Guides for Arranging Transportation for Students in Various Housing Situations



Requesting busing for eligible students residing in temporary housing and transitioning to permanent housing

DHS Shelter

Other temporary housing

Transitioning to permanent housing



NYSTEACHS.org

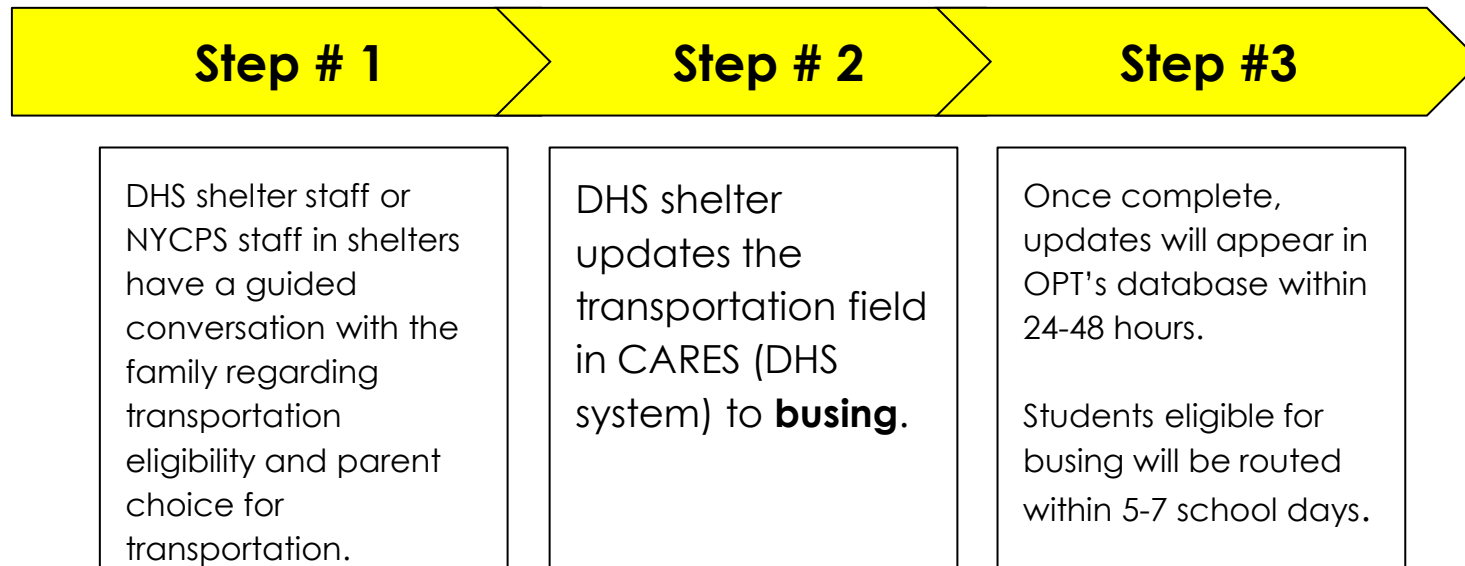
The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students



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Busing: Students in DHS Shelter

Students in a DHS shelter that reside more than 0.5 miles from their school and are in grades K to 6 or 7th or 8th grade with an IEP are routed via an **automated process**.



Busing: Students in Other Temporary Housing

Other temporary housing includes families residing in a:

- HERRC shelter
- Domestic Violence Shelter (DV)
- A shelter or transitional shelter OR
- A hotel/motel, a car bus or train or an abandoned building or
- Doubled-up (residing with friends or relatives)



Busing: Students transitioning to permanent housing

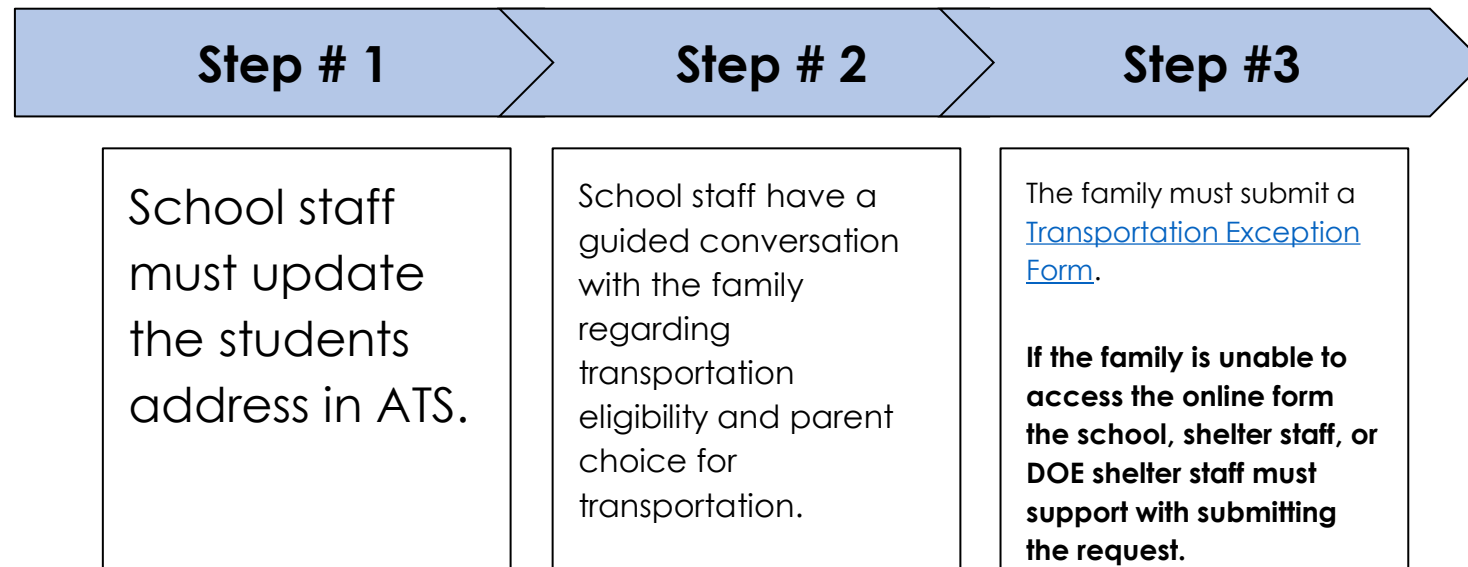
Students Transitioning to Permanent Housing

Students transitioning to permanent housing may be eligible for transportation (busing or OMNY pass) for the remainder of the school year in which permanently housed and an additional year if entering the final grade for their school.



Busing: Students Other Temporary Housing or transitioning to permanent housing

This process is for students that reside more than 0.5 mile from their school and are in Pre-k (w/o IEP), grades K to 6, 7th and 8th grade with an IEP.



Busing Exception Request Form

A new transportation exception request must be submitted for students eligible for busing who experience a change in **address** or **enrollment**.

Link to the online form available in SupportHub here:

[NYC Public Schools](#)



Q How can I help you today?

I need to request an exception to transportation eligibility.

If a student is not eligible for transportation, an exception can be requested in the following circumstances.

- The student is in temporary housing.
 - For students in Department of Homeless Services (DHS) shelters grades K to 6, a busing exception request is not required.
- The student is in foster care.
- The student transferred from temporary housing to permanent housing.
- There is a hazard or obstruction that makes walking to the school, current bus stop, or public transportation unsafe for the child.
- The student is a victim of or was involved with a crime, and/or has an Order of Protection, and needs transportation to address the situation.
 - This exception requires the order of protection or police report attached to the request.
- The child already receives busing, and the child's parents/guardians have a joint custody agreement and would like to receive transportation to both addresses.

Students with busing recommended on their IEP do not need to complete an exception request.

If you have further questions, visit our [Exceptions to Transportation Eligibility](#) page or email busingexceptions@schools.nyc.gov.

To request an exception to transportation eligibility for a student that is experiencing one of the above circumstances, click "Create Ticket" below.

[Create Ticket](#)

For more information see [Exceptions to Transportation Eligibility \(nyc.gov\)](#)

Specialized Transportation

Eligibility:

- Students eligible for specialized transportation includes students in grades K-12 with an IEP that recommends curb to school transportation or a 504 Accommodations Plan that lists curb to school transportation as a required service.

Service Type:

- This type of transportation utilizes vehicles that are equipped to meet the transportation accommodations and have a trained driver and attendant on-board.
- Curb to school specialized bus service pick up and drop off the student at the safest location near the student's home.

How to initiate a request for curb to school busing:

- **District 1-32 schools** must contact their [District Transportation Liaison](#).
- **District 75** schools have access
- **Non-public, private, charter schools**, must contact [CSE](#).



Accessing Student Route Information

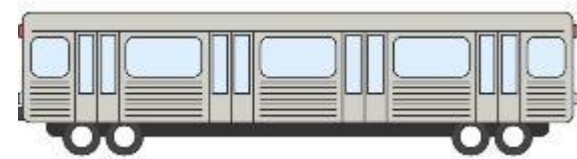


School staff can access route information using [Student Profile](#) or [OPT ridership application](#).



Families can access route information using [NYC Schools Account](#) or can contact their child's school.

Important Information



OMNY Pass for Students

How OMNY Pass works:

- One OMNY pass for all needs
- Student can take up to 4 Trips, instead of 3.
- Students can use their OMNY pass every day of the week and over the summer.
- Student can use their OMNY pass any time of the day.
- Student OMNY passes do not expire until the next school year.
- Students in temporary housing in 3K- Grade 12 not eligible for busing or awaiting route assignment can receive an OMNY Pass

INTRODUCING THE NEW
STUDENT OMNY CARD!

TAP YOUR NEW STUDENT OMNY CARD

TAP ON THE SUBWAY

TAP ON THE BUS

TAP 24 HOURS A DAY

TAP AND GET 4 FREE RIDES A DAY

TAP 7 DAYS A WEEK

YOUR NEW OMNY CARD WORKS ALL YEAR LONG

MTA

OMNY Pass for Students (cont'd)

Distribution:

- OMNY pass is distributed exclusively by the school.
- Schools distribute student OMNY passes to eligible students at the beginning of every school year, and as needed during the school year.
- Students can immediately use their OMNY pass at every subway and local, limited, and Select bus services. Student OMNY passes cannot be used on express buses.

Replacing a student OMNY pass:

- **If the pass is lost or stolen**, the school must deactivate the old pass and **immediately** provide a replacement.
- **If the pass isn't working when the student taps it**, the student should ask a station agent or bus operator to help. If the pass still doesn't work, the student must return it to their school for a replacement.



STH Parent/Guardian MetroCard

Eligibility:

- **Parent(s)/guardian(s)** of students in **3K-grade 12** not eligible for busing or awaiting route assignment can receive a monthly MetroCard to transport their child(ren) to and from school. These MetroCard's are distributed by the school.

How to request cards:

- To request MetroCards, schools must submit their request using the [Application for STH Parent/Guardian MetroCards](#)

Tips:

- Schools should submit their request for additional cards before depleting their inventory.
- To avoid delays in processing your request, schools must ensure that all the required information is provided in the form.
- Schools must only request cards for families who have requested a card to transport their child to and from school

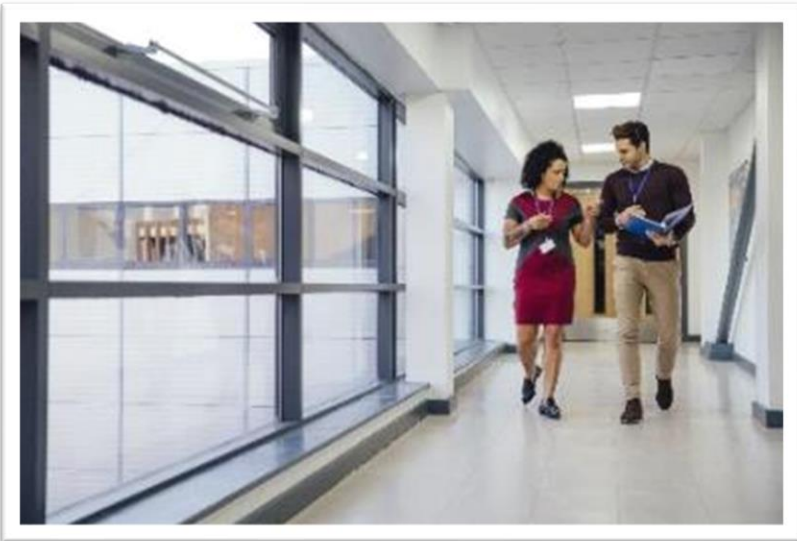


NYC Ferry Discount

- We're excited to announce a special discount code **just for high school students!** High school students can now enjoy exclusive savings on NYC Ferry tickets with the Ferry Student Discount Program, which provides opportunities for NYC High School students to access discounted NYC Ferry tickets on weekdays for the purpose of traveling to and from school. For more information please visit the [NYC Ferry website](#). If you have additional questions, please review the [FAQs](#)
- Families with students in grades 9-12 can navigate to the Transportation tile in NYCSA to request a discount code for NYC Ferry tickets. Once requested, NYCSA will display a code that parents can provide to their students to purchase discounted ferry tickets starting for the 2024-25 school year. Information on how to use the code to purchase student discount tickets can also be found on the [NYC Ferry website](#).
- For additional information on NYCSA and Student Profile, refer to the [NYCSA/FAM/Student Profile Wiki\(Open external link\)](#).

School-Based STH Liaison's Responsibilities for Providing Transportation

School-based STH liaisons must ensure that the parent or guardian of a student in temporary housing or any unaccompanied youth:



- **is fully informed of all transportation services**, including transportation to and from the school of origin, and
- is **assisted in accessing transportation to the school selected** in accordance with the best interest determination,
- works with designated school staff to update addresses in ATS.

Transportation should be arranged **within seven school days** (if not sooner) if possible.

Who to Contact for Help

■ When to contact your Transportation Liaison

- Application access and training
- Reporting late arrival of a bus to school
- Verify status on Busing Exception request submitted
- Student eligibility checks
- Help with checking OMNY pass inventory or requests submitted
- Help with entering bus stop or OMNY pass information



■ When to contact your STH Regional Manager

- Questions about eligibility and process
- Confirming the address for a student

Who Families Can Contact for Help

Contact Your Child's School when

- Your school bus is repeatedly late or repeatedly does not show up.
- You are having problems with your child's current school bus.
- You want to file a complaint against a school bus staff member.
- You want to know your child's bus route information; this information is also found in the [New York City Schools Account \(NYCSA\)](#).
- You need to request busing for your child or make a change in your child's current busing.
- You have a question about student OMNY passes.
- You need help with accommodations.
- Your child has a disability and you need to arrange for busing on their IEP or 504 Plan.

Who Families Can Contact for Help (cont'd)

Contact the Bus Company when

- Your child's school bus is late.
- Your child's school bus did not arrive today.
- You're unsure about your child's pick-up and/or drop-off times.

Contact OPT when

- You want to submit a complaint against a bus company.
- You want to report a safety concern about a school bus.
- You need help with an emergency involving a school bus.
- You want to report an accident involving a school bus.
- If you have questions about transportation reimbursement, email TransportationReimbursement@schools.nyc.gov.

STH Transportation Tool

Grade Level	Eligibility	DHS	Domestic Violence (DV), HERRC Shelter, other Temporary Housing	Transition to Permanent Housing
Preschool (PreK)	Eligible for busing if an appropriate route exists.	Transportation Exception Form Required	Transportation Exception Form Required	Transportation Exception Form Required
Grades K-6 (w/ or w/o IEPs)	Eligible for busing.	No application. DHS staff must update CARES.	Transportation Exception Form Required	Transportation Exception Form Required
Grades 7 & 8 w/ IEPs	Eligible for busing.	No application. DHS staff must update CARES.	Transportation Exception Form Required	Transportation Exception Form Required
Grades 7 & 8th w/o IEPs	Eligible for a MetroCard, only.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grades 9-12 w/ or w/o IEPs (with no mandated transportation)	Eligible for a MetroCard, only.	N/A	N/A	N/A

Checks for Understanding



Check for Understanding # 1



Who can complete the Transportation Exception request form?

- A. Family member
- B. School or NYCPS staff
- C. Shelter staff
- D. All of the Above

Check for Understanding # 2



Students who move into permanent housing are no longer eligible for transportation.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Not sure



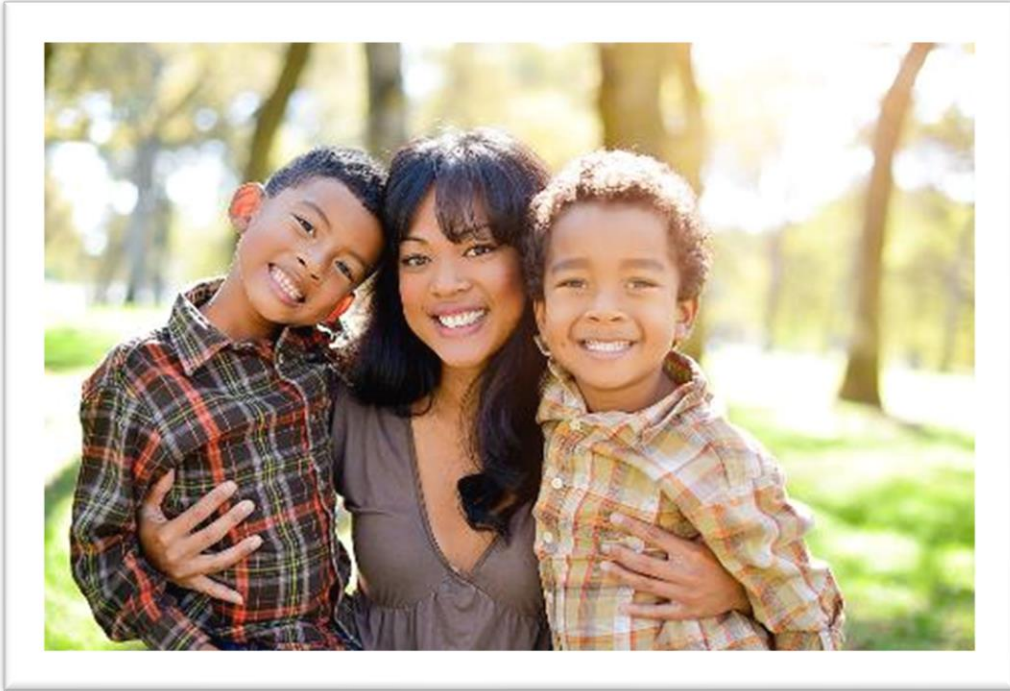
Check for Understanding # 3



A 7th grade student with an active IEP does not have transportation listed as a service. She is now staying in a shelter near her school. Is she eligible for transportation?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not sure

Check for Understanding # 4



Can a parent/guardian receive a MetroCard while the child is being routed?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not sure

Check for Understanding # 5

Can NYCPS STH shelter staff update CARES?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not sure



Check for Understanding # 6



Does a family have to submit a Busing Exception Request for a preschool student residing in a DHS shelter?

- A. Yes
- B. Yes, if the child's current IEP does not include a recommendation for specialized transportation
- C. No
- D. Not sure

Key Steps



Below are key steps to ensure STH receive the necessary transportation:

- **School staff** should:
 - make sure the student's address is updated in ATS
 - support families in submitting a busing exception request for busing eligible students
 - review their school ridership daily for route updates to share with families.
- **Parent/Guardian:**
 - should review their child's route information available in NYCSA
 - for students eligible for busing in DHS shelters, if a parent would like to update their transportation choice, they must notify DHS shelter staff so they can update CARES.

Key Take-Aways from Today's Session

What are one or two key ideas you will take away from today's session?

What action will you commit to take as a result of today's session?



Resources

- NYCPS: [Exceptions to Transportation Eligibility form \(online\)](#)
- NYCPS: [Transportation Rights](#)
- NYCPS: [Transportation Eligibility](#)
- NYCPS: [Transportation Guide for Families](#)
- NYCPS: [Safe Travel Tips](#)
- NYCPS: [NYC Schools Account](#)
- NYCPS: [NYCSA Account Set Up Guide for Parents](#)
- NYCPS: [What's New In Transportation](#)

Technical and Educational Assistance Center

- **Help Line** (800-388-2014)
- **Website** (<https://nysteachs.org>)
- **Web-Based Trainings**



NYSTEACHS.org

The New York State Technical Assistance
Center for Homeless Students

Supporting Students in Temporary Housing: Liaising Through a Social-Emotional Framework,

Thursday, March 27, 2025, 9:30am – 11:00am

- **Outreach Materials**

<https://www.nysteachs.org/order-brochures/brochures-posters>



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