

Frequently asked questions

Where can I receive a new Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card?

Request a Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card from your school's ID administrator.

How do I use my card?

Tap your Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card on the faregate or farebox target on Metro Rail and Metro Bus. For your safety, always tap your card. Flashing the card to ride is never permitted.

Can I let someone else use my Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card?

No, your card is for your use only and is not transferrable.

What if I lose my card?

Request a new Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card from your school's ID administrator. The lost card will be reported to Metro and will no longer be active. You will not be charged for a replacement Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card, but you must pay the regular fare until you receive a replacement card.

Can I add value to my Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card?

No, you cannot add value to your Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card.

When does my old card expire?

Replace your card from the previous school year by the end of September of the current school year.

Other questions?

- Call the DDOT School Transit Office at **202-673-1740**
- Visit **kidsridefree.dc.gov**



Our high barrier faregates provide a more secure way to enter and exit the Metro Rail system.

No card, no free ride

If you forget or lose your Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card, you'll need to pay the regular fare until you find it or get a replacement. To request a new Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card, just check in with your school's ID administrator.

Using your card matters

Your card helps us count how many people ride our buses and trains. If things get crowded, we can plan for more service. If you don't have your Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card, we may ask what school you attend.

A partnership of:



[Kidsridefree.dc.gov](https://kidsridefree.dc.gov)

DC Student Ride Guide

School Year 2025-2026



**Students ride free
when they tap and go!**

Students ages 5 through 21 who are enrolled in a DC public school, public charter school or private school or youth in the care of the District can ride Metro Bus and Metro Rail to school and school-related activities in DC for FREE.

Program eligibility

To be eligible, students must:

- 1 Be a resident of the District of Columbia.
- 2 Be aged 5 through 21.
- 3 Be enrolled in an elementary or secondary public, private, charter or parochial school located within the District of Columbia or youth in the care of the District of Columbia.

When you can use your card

- The Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card is active upon receipt and good until September 30, 2026.

NEW: For students 13+, who use an iPhone and Apple Watch, you can now convert your plastic card to a digital card in Apple Wallet.

- 1. Open the Wallet app on your iPhone and tap the +.
- 2. Choose **Transit Cards**, then choose **SmarTrip**.
- 3. Tap **Transfer Existing Card**.
- 4. Provide your card and account information, then accept the SmarTrip terms and conditions.
- 5. On a flat surface, place your card against the back of your phone.

You're done! Your Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card in Apple Wallet is now ready for use. The Kids Ride Free SmarTrip card will no longer work. Android version coming soon.



Metro's new bus network is here!

It's a major milestone in improving bus service for the region. Learn more, plan a trip and explore resources at wmata.com/BetterBus.