

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Partnership Provides Students Free Public Transportation

*Free Student Transportation Initiative begins on March 1*

**Kansas City, January 24, 2017:** Kansas City Public Schools and the Kansas City Area Transit Authority are giving thousands of high school students access to free public transportation beginning Wednesday, March 1.

KCPS will provide students in grades 9-12 with new access cards allowing them to ride Kansas City Metro buses free of charge. The partnership is designed to work in conjunction with the current KCPS school bus system to allow students more opportunities for jobs, internships and extracurricular activities.

Superintendent Mark Bedell believes the initiative will provide students with greater academic and professional opportunities.

“This is a terrific partnership between KCPS and the ATA to provide extra perks for KCPS students. Students can opt in in order to ride the bus to experience opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise get,” Bedell said. “We are hoping more students can participate in tutoring, internships, access libraries and more. We are trying to break down any barriers to learning opportunities for our kids.”

Students at Central Academy of Excellence will be the first to participate in the pilot program beginning on March 1. The remaining five KCPS high schools will have access to the program before September 2017.

KCATA provides transportation on both sides of the state line and throughout the seven Kansas City metropolitan counties. If a parent/guardian grants permission, students will have access to all KCATA routes.

For more information regarding KCTA, please visit <http://www.kcata.org/>.

If you have questions about your student’s participation in the program, please contact your KCPS school.