SUFFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS | From Classroom to Community!

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Student Transportation & Resource Cards:
Safety in Every Scan—Coming January 2026

Dear Suffolk Public Schools Families,

Beginning in January 2026, Suffolk Public Schools will introduce the S.T.A.R. Card (Student Transportation and Resource Card) program—an exciting initiative designed to enhance student safety, improve daily routines, and strengthen accountability across our schools. Each S.T.A.R. Card will serve as a student identification badge, supporting our commitment to creating a safe, connected, and efficient learning environment for every child. **Two schools—Southwestern Elementary School and Forest Glen Middle School—began piloting the S.T.A.R Card system this Fall.** Following the pilot phase, the program will expand across the division. **By the end of the 2025–2026 school year, all 14,500 pre-K through 12th-grade students will receive a S.T.A.R Card, badge holder, and school-issued lanyard. Students will be expected to wear their cards visibly during the school day.**

During Phase I, students will begin using their S.T.A.R Card for bus transportation. Students will scan their cards when boarding and exiting the bus, allowing the division to maintain accurate ridership records. This process enhances safety and accountability while ensuring students arrive and depart as expected. In addition to transportation, the S.T.A.R Card will serve as a secure form of identification within the school building. All students will be required to wear their badge visibly at all times during the school day, as it will assist during reunification efforts and other safety procedures, helping staff quickly and accurately identify students when needed.

Suffolk Public Schools is also exploring opportunities to expand the capabilities of the S.T.A.R Card to support additional school services. In the future, students may be able to use their cards to check out books and materials in the media center, purchase meals in the cafeteria, and scan for attendance during late arrivals or early dismissals. These enhancements would make the S.T.A.R Card an even more convenient and efficient tool for students.

The S.T.A.R Card represents Suffolk Public Schools' continued commitment to student safety, innovation, and operational excellence. We are excited about the many benefits this program will bring to our students and families and look forward to sharing updates as the rollout continues. Additional details and information will be forthcoming to ensure each family is ready and prepared for the next steps.

If you have questions about the S.T.A.R Card program, please contact Suffolk Public Schools at 757-925-6750.

Sincerely,
Suffolk Public Schools

-An official document from the Suffolk Public School District-