

## How To Use This MTA MetroCard Letter Writing Kit

On the following pages, we've provided you with:

- 1) Some Facts about the Student MetroCard Crisis
- 2) A letter template that has been filled out with suggestions
- 3) A blank letter template

You can use our tips and facts from the first page, but be sure to express your own views on the matter. Please feel free to take our suggestions or leave them. You should fill out your letters in a way that works for you.

The template is only a suggestion. If filling in the blanks and sending it doesn't work for you, try using it for your rough draft and then copying it on notebook paper by hand. Or you could also choose to type up your letter and print it, or send it as an email.

Please consider submitting these letters as testimony. The Straphangers Campaign is collecting this via their website. If you have typed your letters, you can upload the text as part of their testimony tool kit. Please go to their general website [www.straphangers.org](http://www.straphangers.org) and follow the links to the appropriate page. If you have written your letter by hand, please consider sending an extra copy to them to bring with them to the local hearings. These can be sent to:

NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign  
9 Murray Street, 3rd floor  
New York, NY 10007

You might want to also think about going to a hearing in your part of the city. Please look for the hearing days and times at <http://www.mta.info/news/pdf/hearings.pdf>

## Some Facts About the Student MetroCard Crisis

The MetroCard crisis is a very real problem affecting families across the five boroughs, but if we speak out, it can also be an important opportunity to make a difference! We encourage you to mail your letters and submit them to Straphangers Campaign as public testimony to help get your passes back. For more information, please see [www.straphangers.org/studentpasses](http://www.straphangers.org/studentpasses).

There are SO many reasons why students need to be able to take transit to school:

- New York is considered one of the greenest cities in the country because so many people use walking, cycling, the subway, and buses to get around.
- Getting to work, only 23% of New Yorkers drive - the rest take public transit, walk, or bike.
- Even carrying all those commuters, New York's mass transit system results in only 3% of its total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions!
- We also get exercise when we take transit – we walk to and from the bus and subway, and that's good for our health.
- The Department of Transportation estimates that 80% percent of students walk and take public transportation to school – and Middle and High School students know how important transit it to their daily commutes.
- New York City students deserve to be part of our sustainable, healthy transit choices – so many of you take transit to get around. Right now, over 400,000 NYC students receive free MetroCards, and more than 160,000 get half-fare cards.

As you write your letter, try to be constructive and in favor of things rather than against them. Some facts you could include that we've learned from the Straphangers Campaign:

- Costs could range from about \$343 for each half-fare child to as much as \$890 a year for fare-free students.
- Forcing families to pay for student MetroCards will greatly reduce the access of students to extracurricular activities, sports, culture, and the life of the city.
- Student travel has been subsidized on the city's buses and subways since the 1940s. Up until 1995, the State and the City paid for the entire costs of passes. In 1995, the subsidy was changed to one-third each by the State, City and MTA.
- The MTA says it cost \$214 million a year to provide student MetroCards. The agency is now only receiving \$70 million in State and City support.

[Elected official's name]

[Elected official's address]

[Elected official's address]

[Elected official's address]

[Date]

Dear [Elected official's name] :

I am a student at [your school] in [your borough] . I am very

worried about the proposed cuts to the Student MetroCards. I take the

[bus or subway line] and without a reduced fare,

it will be hard for me to get to school every day.

[Fill out this section with any personal reasons why you are concerned

about the cuts to Student MetroCards. You can include how much extra

money it would cost your family. You can also add that you are not the

only one – over 500,000 students rely on those cards, and you all

deserve a free or reduced ride to school!]

Sincerely ,

[Your name]



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Sincerely,

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