

DATE: July 15, 2025

TO: Households of Students Attending Bais Yaakov, Talmudical Academy, & Torah Institute

MEMO: Important Updates to MTA Student Fares for 2025-2026 School Year

We hope this note finds everyone well and having a safe and relaxing summer.

From an MTA school transportation perspective, the 2024-2025 school year was one during which we experienced growth and expansion, but it also had a fair share of inconsistent service and frustration. The MTA 92 Route expanded into some new areas of the community in an effort to serve more households. The route was also divided in half (for three of the four campuses) in an effort to cut down the travel time for most riders and offer a more efficient route. Despite those efforts, due to MTA personnel changes and challenges with in-route driver communication, the service (especially in the morning) was often less than stellar for many households that rely on the MTA 92 Route for the school transportation of their children.

We have been working very hard with all levels of the MTA to get the schedule, routes, and drivers back on track in a manner that will be far less frustrating and far more efficient and productive for the community households come September. Over the week or so, the updated schedules (and routes) will be confirmed by the MTA and the schools, and then the schools will disseminate it with their parent bodies accordingly.

As it relates to the MTA Student Fare we are pleased to share the following news release:

• FREE BUSING FOR STUDENTS 12 & UNDER: Taking effect at the end of July and in place for the start of school, all students age 12 years old and under will be allowed to ride MTA buses (Route 92 and all other MTA buses) for FREE - no charge or bus fare. Students age 13 and above will continue at the student fare of \$1.50.

Additionally, here is another important update:

- BUS TOKENS INSTEAD OF PAPER PASSES: As of the end of August, the MTA will no longer accept the single-use prepaid paper bus passes on any MTA bus. In its place will be MTA tokens, sold for \$15 for a 10-pack.
- Our office will be offering the sale of the token packs just as we did for the paper bus passes. Anyone who has unused bus passes, can return them to us and we can exchange them for tokens. Please follow this link to submit the form to initiate an exchange of bus passes/tokens.

Please stay tuned to further updates about the MTA 92 Route and fare related information.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions at <u>mta@agudahmd.org</u>, and we wish you a safe and relaxing summer.

Rabbi Ariel Sadwin Executive Director, Agudah MD Mrs. Fayge Hackerman Community Busing Liaison