



PRESS RELEASE

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RTD/SUSD Partnership Provides Complimentary Transit for SUSD 7th–12th Graders

Stockton, CA—San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) and Stockton Unified School District (SUSD) entered into a financial partnership that will launch a two-year pilot program to provide complimentary transit for all 7th – 12th grade SUSD students. Beginning Thursday, August 1, SUSD students will not only be able to take public transit to school, but they will also be able to use RTD to go to after-school programs, community centers, libraries, jobs, medical appointments, and more since transportation will be at no cost for them 365 days a year (excluding Commuter and RTD Van Go! service).

“SUSD is excited and thankful for the partnership with RTD,” said SUSD Superintendent John Deasy. “The no-cost two-year pilot program is critical toward the support of our youth and the reduction of absenteeism in our schools.”

“A lack of adequate transportation should never be a barrier to obtaining a good education,” said RTD CEO Donna DeMartino. “RTD is very fortunate to have so many advocates in our community, including SUSD Superintendent Deasy, who understand the value of mobility in unlocking many doors of opportunity. I also want to thank the RTD Board of Directors and SUSD Board of Trustees for supporting this partnership.”

Other cities throughout the country such as Minneapolis and Seattle have launched subsidized transit programs for students. These efforts have proven to not only improve air quality and decrease the need for additional parking structures, but have also been instrumental in increasing student attendance and bolstering grade point averages (GPA) in some circumstances. With SUSD’s increased financial commitment to transportation, RTD will track statistics related to ridership, attendance, and GPA during this two-year pilot program. Encouraged by this initial partnership with SUSD, RTD is reaching out to additional community leaders and organizations who may be interested in seeing this program expand to include other schools within San Joaquin County.

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SUSD 7th – 12th grade students can show their student photo ID to ride RTD vehicles at no cost to themselves beginning August 1. Coming soon, students with cellular phones will be able to download the Token Transit app for their complimentary transit trips.

Parents and students can learn more at www.sjRTD.com/SUSD

San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) is the regional transit provider for San Joaquin County. RTD's mission is to provide a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system for the region. For more information visit sjRTD.com, follow RTD on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or call (209) 943-1111.

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