



CATA STUDENT ID PROGRAM

STUDENTS SAVE WHEN THEY RIDE CATA!

A CATA Student ID is an easy way to show that you are eligible for discounted student fares on most CATA services. Students in middle school and above can use a CATA Student ID or valid school ID to verify their eligibility for the student fare.

The 2026–2027 CATA Student ID is valid from Aug. 1, 2026 through Sept. 30, 2027.

Who can get a CATA Student ID?

Students in middle school and above who are enrolled in a local educational or vocational school are eligible for a free CATA Student ID. A valid school identification card may also be used in place of a CATA Student ID.

How can I get a CATA Student ID?

CATA Student IDs are free to participating local schools each school year. Check with your school office to receive one.

If your school does not distribute CATA Student IDs, you can obtain a card at the CATA Transportation Center, CATA Administrative Offices or the Capital Area Multimodal Gateway.

When and where can I use my CATA Student ID?

A CATA Student ID provides discounted fares on most CATA services, with the exception of Spec-Tran and Meridian Redi-Ride.

Students with a CATA Student ID or valid school ID pay 60 cents on all fixed-route services and Delhi Redi-Ride. Discounted fares on other eligible paratransit services range from \$1 to \$1.50.

After presenting or using your CATA Student ID or valid school ID, you may pay the discounted fare using cash, a pass or a ride card at the farebox.

Students without a CATA Student ID or valid school ID must pay the regular fare.

Do I need exact change?

Exact change is recommended. If you pay more than the required fare, the farebox will issue a CATA Cash Card for the remaining balance. You can use the card to pay for future rides on any fixed-route bus.

Can I use contactless payment and still receive the student fare?

Yes, but your CATA Student ID cannot be used directly as a contactless payment method. To receive the discounted student fare when paying contactless, you must first obtain a discount entitlement.

You can obtain a discount entitlement by completing the online discount validation form at cata.org/DiscountValidationForm or by visiting the CATA Transportation Center, CATA Administrative Offices or the Capital Area Multimodal Gateway. A valid school ID and/or other qualifying documentation is required.

Once the discount entitlement is applied, you can receive the student fare when using eligible contactless payment options, including tapping a debit or credit card, phone via Apple Pay or Google Pay, smartwatch or mobile tickets through the CATA Mobile Pay or Transit apps. For fare information, visit cata.org/Fares.

How else can my CATA Student ID save me money?

Your CATA Student ID makes you eligible to purchase discounted student passes, which can save you even more money. Passes can be purchased online at cata.org or at participating pass vendors listed on our website.

Are there any restrictions to the CATA Student ID's use?

Your CATA Student ID cannot be used by anyone else. You must also follow CATA's rules while riding the bus or while on CATA property. Any abuse of the CATA Student ID or its privileges can result in the card being revoked and not replaced.

CATA RULES

The following is prohibited on any CATA vehicle or on any CATA property

1. Eating, drinking or open beverage containers aboard CATA vehicles; smoking, including e-cigarettes (except in designated areas).
2. Possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal substances.
3. Weapons of any kind (except lawfully carried firearms), or possession of any hazardous material or item.
4. Disorderly, loud or disruptive behavior, including, but not limited to:
 - a. obscene, threatening, inciting or insulting language or gestures.
 - b. running, yelling or throwing objects.
 - c. spitting, littering, vandalism or graffiti.
 - d. fighting, mock fighting or roughhousing.
 - e. standing, sitting or walking in a way that inconveniences, obstructs or interferes with others, i.e., blocking doors, feet on seats, etc.
 - f. any action that may interfere with or disrupt the safe operation of CATA vehicles and properties.
5. Loitering. At the CTC, passengers must board the first-available bus or leave the premises.
6. Use of sound-producing devices without the use of personal headphones.
7. Panhandling, soliciting, harassing, annoying or intimidating any person.
8. Lack of proper attire, i.e., shirts and shoes.
9. Bicycling, rollerblading or skateboarding; wearing skates on CATA vehicles.
10. Animals, except those used for service, i.e., guide dogs or those transported in a suitable crate or container.

PROTECT YOUR CATA STUDENT ID

In order for the farebox to read the magnetic strip on the back of the CATA Student ID, it must be in good condition. Your card can become invalid if damaged.

- Do not bend your CATA Student ID.
- Keep it away from heat and out of the sun.
- Do not get your CATA Student ID wet.

For more information, visit cata.org/StudentID.