

**COTA**

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

# ROLLING INTO **THE SCHOOL YEAR**



As the summer winds down, we're gearing up for a second successful school year with COTA's Educational Pass program! This collaboration offers **more than 85,000 students** unlimited access to COTA's fixed-route services at no cost to them – sponsored by a partnership with their respective schools and COTA.

**Here is what you need to know about the Educational Pass Program:**

## ***Year 1 Milestones\****

**85,000+** Eligible Students  
**24,827** Educational Pass Customers  
**857,861** Trips Taken  
**2,800+** COTA//Plus Trips

*Top Transit Lines*



\*Data from Sept. 15, 2022 to June 30, 2023.



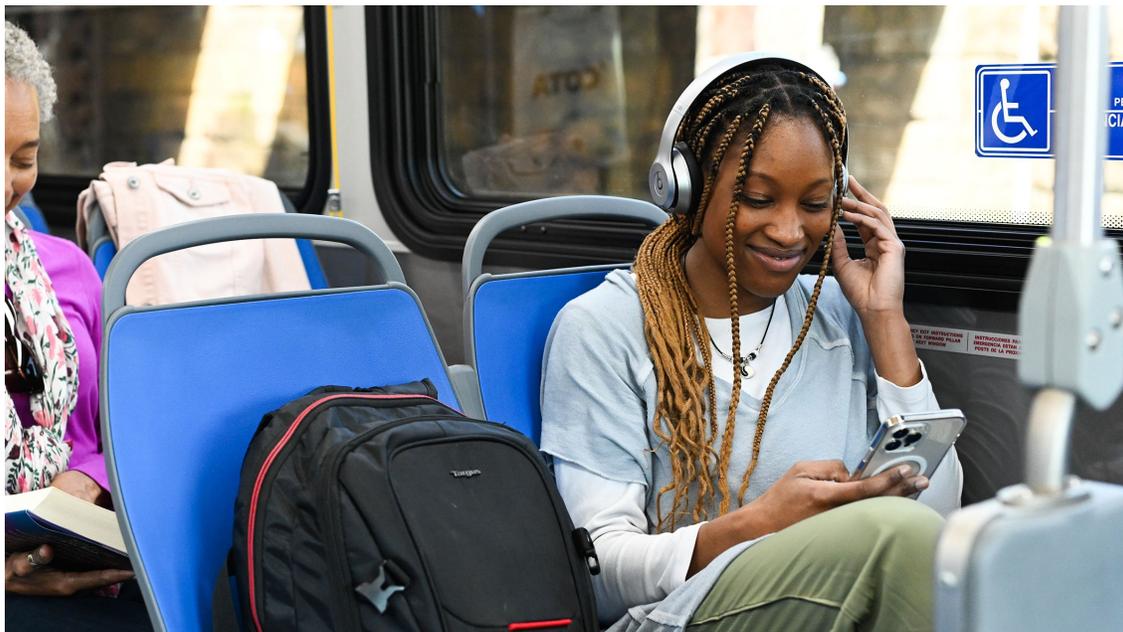
*Connecting Students All Year Long*

The Educational Pass is not just for the school year. Thousands of students have access to **summer activities** as well. This year, we provided unlimited trips to

these places and more:

- [National Veteran's Memorial and Museum](#)
- [Columbus Metropolitan Library](#)
- [The COSI Science Festival](#)
- [Stonewall Columbus Pride](#)
- [The Jazz and Rib Fest](#)

Thank you to *our partners* who provide this important benefit for students!



## ***Success at Columbus City Schools***

Our partnership with Columbus City Schools helped thousands of students get to school and accounted for more than ***225,000 trips during the 2022-2023 academic year!*** This year, we aim to exceed that record. Thanks to the renewal of this partnership, ***more than 13,000 students*** in grades 9-12 will be able to access COTA with their Student Success Cards during the 2023-24 academic year!

We are also here to help parents and students understand the benefit of the Educational Pass Program. COTA will be at the ***CCS Back to School Resource Fair, Saturday, August 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fort Hayes Campus*** (546 Jack Gibbs Blvd.). COTA experts will be available to help high schoolers understand how to navigate our system.



### ***Read & Ride***

Education continues onboard COTA through the [Read & Ride Program](#). All customers can ***access e-books, audiobooks and more at no cost*** to them, thanks to a partnership between COTA and the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Just connect to COTA's WiFi and scan the Read & Ride QR code onboard to get started.

## ***More Service This Fall***

Starting in September, COTA will offer all customers ***expanded hours with late-night service and higher frequencies on our busiest lines***. This includes more service on Lines 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 31, 102 and CMAX, and Zoo Bus will be extended to provide service every weekend through Halloween.



# ***WE MOVE TOGETHER***

***COTA's Educational Pass is available for all school districts in COTA's service area*** and creates opportunities for students to connect to community resources, to expand their learning experience or simply spend time with their friends. If your student attends a different school district and you are interested in establishing a similar program, then contact your administration to encourage them to explore this option for your school. Schools can contact Aslyne Rodriguez, Sr. Director of Strategic Partnerships, at [RodriguezAC@cota.com](mailto:RodriguezAC@cota.com) to learn more.

Thank you to all of our Educational Pass Program customers.  
We're grateful to be on this ride with you.

**Let's keep learning, *together*.**

*Joanna*  
**Joanna M. Pinkerton**  
President/CEO

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