

# KIDS RIDE FREE

by Allen Pierleoni



Sacramento Regional Transit District light rail and bus service makes it easy to get downtown.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF SACRT

**H**ere's a perk students can use: Something for nothing.

Specifically, students and youth in need of transportation have a fare-free ride at their fingertips via Sacramento Regional Transit District's RydeFreeRT program, extended through Sept. 30, 2021.

RydeFreeRT invites students and youth in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade to enjoy free passage aboard all of SacRT's transit web of light rail trains, buses and SmART Ride microtransit service, affecting 220,000 young people. RydeFreeRT is valid during the days and hours of SacRT's regular service schedule.

"Fare-free transit removes a financial barrier for young people, particularly those who have historically been underserved," says Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. "By making our kids mobile, we are opening doors to their futures."

"RydeFreeRT is critical to reducing residential isolation, especially in disadvantaged neighborhoods, and continues to help reduce barriers to reliable and accessible transportation," says SacRT Board Chair and City Councilmember Steve Hansen.

**"RydeFreeRT was such a big help during my busiest year of high school...It gave me peace of mind, knowing I could always get where I needed to go."**

Amar Sabi, College freshman

RydeFreeRT youth advocate Shanthoshi Thamilsaran knows about that knows about the newfound convenience offered by RydeFreeRT.

my job, theater rehearsals and club activities, and see my friends more often. It gave me peace of mind, knowing I could always get where I needed to go."

"Transit is readily accessible to me when I don't have any money on me or if I don't have a ride," says the high school senior. "I know that RydeFreeRT has helped youth in the

past year and will continue to do so going forward."

College freshman Amar Sabi also has plugged into the system. "RydeFreeRT was such a big help during my busiest year of high school," he says. "I was able to get to school,

Because of limited distribution of RydeFreeRT stickers due

to Covid-19, SacRT has made things convenient. Now all a student needs to ride for free is a student ID card (even if it's expired) or a RydeFreeRT card.

For students without a student ID or a RydeFreeRT card, the best bet is to get a pass at SacRT's Customer Service Center, 1225 R St., adjacent to the 13th Street Station.

SacRT continues to work to enlist the assistance of Sacramento County library branches that have curbside service, and schools transitioning back to in-person learning, with the goal of having passes available at those sites.

Youth who are experiencing homelessness or are in foster programs are also invited to ride for free, regardless of current residence or school address.

**For more information:  
[RydeFreeRT.com.](https://www.sacrt.com/RydeFreeRT)**

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