



TransLink
400 - 287 Nelson's Court
New Westminster, BC V3L 0E7
Canada
Tel 778.375.7500
translink.ca

South Coast British Columbia
Transportation Authority

March 15, 2022

VIA EMAIL: michel_stamant@csf.bc.ca

Michel St-Amant, Superintendent
Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique
100 – 13511 Commerce Parkway
Richmond, BC V6V 2J8

Dear Michel St-Amant,

Re: Request of free passes for SD 93 High School students across the province

A copy of your letter to Ms. Pinkerton requesting consideration of free passes for high school students across the province was forwarded to me regarding transit services provided by TransLink in Metro Vancouver.

We appreciate your feedback on the challenges faced by students and families regarding the impact of the pandemic and getting to school. As noted in your letter, the Province introduced the Kids 12 & Under Ride Free program last year to help address these issues by providing free transit for all children aged 12 and under.

Due to the pandemic, TransLink is currently facing a revenue shortfall of \$100-300 million per year. An expansion of our 12 & Under program to include youth aged 13-18 would require a revenue replacement for fares in order to keep our operations running at current levels. Additionally, TransLink does not have the authority to authorize province-wide policy, as we only oversee Metro Vancouver.

TransLink has several programs supporting youth, as we believe kids riding transit lays the groundwork for future riders. We will look for all opportunities in the future to expand transit options for youth. To find out more about our current programs, please see the TravelSmart for Schools section on our website at www.translink.ca/rider-guide/travelsmart.

Thank you for your interest in supporting transit use for your students.

Sincerely,

Kevin Quinn
CEO TransLink

Cc. Erinn Pinkerton, CEO BC Transit
Simon Couture, Coralie Mpoyo Mbayo, Jo-Ann Hebert-Jensen, Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique