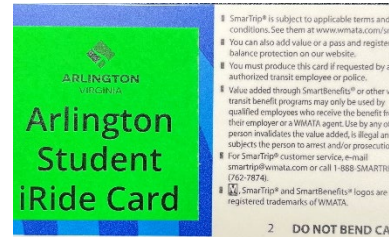


APS iRide Student Fare Free Program

Students can travel fare free on all Arlington Transit (ART) bus routes and on limited Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrobus routes with a registered **iRide SmarTrip card**. The program makes travel around Arlington easier for students. Students now have more options for travel to and from school, commuting for after school activities or perhaps socializing on the weekend.



- Students with existing iRide SmarTrip cards can automatically participate in the fare free program and do not need to perform any additional steps.
- If a student does not have an iRide SmarTrip card and would like one, they will need to either contact the [Transportation Coordinator \(TC\) at their school](#) or visit a [Commuter Store](#).
- For additional details, please see below for frequently asked questions.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who is eligible to participate?

If I don't have an iRide SmarTrip card, where can I get one?

What do I need to get an iRide SmarTrip card from a Commuter Store?

I already have an iRide SmarTrip card from last year. Can I ride ART and the limited Metrobus service for free?

What if I was issued an iRide SmarTrip card prior to School Year 2023-24?

When and where can I ride for free?

Where can I find more information on the available bus routes?

What should I do if my trip takes me outside of Arlington County on unapproved Metrobus routes?

How can I get a standard SmarTrip card?

What happens if I use my iRide SmarTrip card to ride a Metrobus outside of Arlington County?

Can I also ride Metrorail for free?

Does the iRide SmarTrip card need to be registered?

I lost my iRide card, may I get another one?

I lost my iRide card again, may I get another?

What if I lost my iRide SmarTrip card and it was loaded with additional fare?

If I am new to public transportation, how do I ride the bus?

Are there any bus routes that support specific APS schools?



Who is eligible to participate?

All students are eligible, but the program is mainly aimed at middle and high school students. APS recommends that elementary students and families follow the guidelines provided by [Arlington County's Child and Family Services Division](#). Any child 8 years or younger should not be left alone for any period of time and must be accompanied by an adult to ride public transportation. [\(Return to TOC\)](#)

If I don't have an iRide SmarTrip card, where can I get one?

Students have two options for acquiring an iRide SmarTrip card.

- 1) Contact the school's [Transportation Coordinators \(TC\)](#). The TC will assist with applying for an iRide SmarTrip card. TCs will also distribute the cards to students. [Allow for a two-week turnaround.](#)
- 2) Students may visit a [Commuter Store](#) located at the Ballston Metro, Crystal City Metro, Shirlington Bus Station, Rosslyn Metro or the Mobile Commuter Store. [\(Return to TOC\)](#)

What do I need to get an iRide SmarTrip card from a Commuter Store?

All students must provide their APS issued student identification card when applying for an iRide SmarTrip card. Students without an APS student identification card must provide proof of enrollment, specifically their student identification number. Proof of enrollment and a student identification number are available through the student information systems: [ParentVUE](#) or [StudentVue](#). [\(Return to TOC\)](#)

I already have an iRide SmarTrip card from last year. Can I ride ART and the limited Metrobus service for free?

Yes, the Fare Free Program will be available to all APS students with existing iRide SmarTrip cards. [\(Return to TOC\)](#)

What if I was issued an iRide SmarTrip card prior to School Year 2023-24?

All iRide SmarTrip cards issued prior to SY2023-24 are still eligible for the Fare Free Program so students can continue to use their existing cards and do not need to reapply for a new card. All cards issued prior to SY2023-24 were registered with WMATA to the individual student and therefore accessible only by the student not APS. [\(Return to TOC\)](#)

When and where can I ride for free?

Students with iRide SmarTrip cards can ride anytime of the week on all ART bus routes and on the following Metrobus routes that serve Arlington County:

Student iRide SmarTrip Card: Approved Fare Free WMATA Metrobus Routes — All Trips must Begin or End within Arlington County						
1A, 1B	2A	3Y	4B	7A	10A, 10B	16A, C, E, M
22A, 22F	23A, 23B, 23T	25B	26A	28A	38B	MW1

[\(Return to TOC\)](#)

Where can I find more information on the available bus routes?

Please reference the applications located online by ART and WMATA:

- [ART RealTime](#)
- [WMATA Trip Planner](#)
- [Transit App](#)
([Return to TOC](#))

What should I do if my trip takes me outside of Arlington County on an unapproved Metrobus route?

Any travel outside of Arlington County will require payment not included with the iRide Student Fare Free Program. Staff recommends that students should purchase, load monies, and register a separate standard SmarTrip card when not traveling on ART bus services or the approved Metrobus routes.

How can I get a standard SmarTrip card?

A standard SmarTrip card is available for purchase at:

- 1) Any [Commuter Store](#) located in Arlington County or
- 2) Vending machine located in [Metrorail stations](#).

Staff strongly recommends that students register their standard SmarTrip cards with WMATA. [Register SmarTrip \(Return to TOC\)](#)

What happens if I use my iRide SmarTrip card to ride a Metrobus outside of Arlington County?

Students who use their iRide SmarTrip card on Metrobus routes not listed above and routes outside of Arlington need to pay the Metrobus fare. If they do not, their iRide SmarTrip card may be disabled. ([Return to TOC](#))

Can I also ride Metrorail for free?

No, the fare-free program is not valid on Metrorail. Staff recommends that students should purchase, load monies, and register a separate standard SmarTrip card when not traveling on ART bus services or the approved Metrobus routes. Please see above for acquiring a standard SmarTrip card. ([Return to TOC](#))

Does the iRide SmarTrip card need to be registered?

All iRide SmarTrip cards issued beginning School Year 2023-24 will be registered with WMATA to an APS account. Registering the cards under one account grants APS the right to cancel cards if they are lost, stolen, or abused. ([Return to TOC](#))

I lost my iRide card, may I get another one?

Students must notify their [Transportation Coordinators \(TC\)](#) that they lost their iRide SmarTrip card. Replacement cards will only be issued to a student through the TC and students will need to reapply for an iRide SmarTrip card through their TC. [Replacement cards can take up to four \(4\) weeks to process.](#) ([Return to TOC](#))

I lost my iRide card again, may I get another?

Students will be subject to the three-strike rule. Students will be ineligible for the Fare Free Program after being issued three cards. Students must notify their [Transportation Coordinators \(TC\)](#) that they lost their iRide SmarTrip card for a second time.

Replacement cards will only be issued to a student through the TC and students will need to reapply for an iRide SmarTrip card through their TC. Replacement cards can take up to four (4) weeks to process. ([Return to TOC](#))

What if I lost my iRide SmarTrip card and it was loaded with additional fare?

All monies added to an iRide SmarTrip card are the responsibility of the card holder, not APS. If a card is lost with additional monies loaded, all monies are lost for the card holder. APS will not replace or reimburse any additional monies added by a card holder if the card is lost or stolen. ([Return to TOC](#))

If I am new to public transportation, how do I ride the bus?

Please visit the Arlington Transit page, [How to Ride](#) for planning a trip, locating bus stops, getting on and off the bus as well as courtesy and safety tips. The [WMATA Trip Planner](#) is a great resource for navigating public transportation. Please reference the [WMATA Rules and Manners](#) for the dos and don'ts of riding Metrobus. ([Return to TOC](#))

Are there any bus routes that support specific APS schools?

The ART & Metro bus routes throughout Arlington are designed to address the public transportation needs of all Arlington residents. Please reference the Arlington Transit page, [How to Ride for Students](#) for APS schools that are located along specific routes and the [WMATA Trip Planner](#) for choices when commuting to and from school. ([Return to TOC](#))

Please visit [iRide for Arlington Students](#)