

# Office of the Superintendent



March 9, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the proposed elimination of fares for KCATA riders in Kansas City, MO. Full implementation of this change would have a swift and positive impact on a significant percentage of our families. By extension, this decision will help drive Kansas City Public Schools towards achieving the goals set out for us by our community.

Many of our families and students depend on mass transportation to meet their basic needs. They use KCATA to get to and from jobs, school, and events that are held after school and on the weekends. They ride the bus to go to the library, the grocery store and health care providers. My team and I recognized the critical role that KCATA plays in the daily lives of our students and their families. We joined with several other school systems and KCATA to spearhead a partnership to provide free bus passes for our students in order to help them pursue extra-curricular and career opportunities. Since the launch of that initiative, our students have used their passes to take more than 51,000 trips across KCMO.

I see the tangible benefit that the free bus passes have had for our students and I am convinced that that opportunity should be extended to our entire community. I understand that this requires a considerable investment, but I am confident that that money will be returned with interest. Eliminating bus fares will increase job opportunities, boost our local economy and make our bus system safer. It would truly be a win-win for our entire city.

Yours in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Bedell".

Mark T. Bedell, Superintendent