

Metro ORCA Card Things to Know!



Starting this year Metro will be using a new pass system called ORCA. The old passes were valid for a 3-4 month period. The new ORCA card is much different, easy to use and is similar to a debit card.

Some of the new ORCA card advantages include:

- The ORCA card is issued to students once and will be used for the entire time the student is eligible for a bus pass within Bellevue School District.
- Each month, ORCA cards are loaded with a bus pass good for one month of bus service on King County Metro buses only.
- Parents or students can load the ORCA card with a bus pass from another transit agency or put funds on the ORCA card for use during the summer on other transit systems such as Sound Transit or the Washington State Ferry System. During the school year, when a card has a bus pass loaded on it, a student may use other transit services, but any fare cost over a \$.75 value will have to be paid by the student by loading funds on the card or paying the difference in cash on the bus.
- If an ORCA card is lost it can be replaced for a \$10 fee. Lost cards will be automatically deactivated.

Some of the issues parents & students need to be aware of are:

- Activating a bus pass on an ORCA card takes 3-5 school days after being issued at school.

- Non-use of an ORCA card for an entire month could result in deactivation. BSD will have access to reports from Metro showing which ORCA card(s) are not being used.
 - District policy is that a student must use their bus pass 3 days each week to remain eligible.
 - Failure to use a bus pass during a one month period is justification for BSD Transportation to deactivate the pass for the remainder of the school year.
 - An ORCA card can be reactivated the next school year if a Reactivation Request form, available at school, is signed by the parent and sufficient justification is provided.
- If a student voluntarily requests deactivation of their ORCA card they may have it reactivated again, when needed, provided they are still otherwise eligible without penalty.
- Students will be required to validate that they have their ORCA card in hand twice a year; in November and February. Failure to show their ORCA card will result in the pass being deactivated.
- Students issued a parking pass will not be issued an ORCA card
- The ORCA card will not be loaded with a bus pass for the months of July and August.
- When ORCA cards are issued initially in August they will be valid starting in September. Students will receive Metro bus tickets to cover Metro transportation for August 30-31.
- ORCA cards issued prior to the end of the first week of school each year will be pre-loaded with a bus pass for the months of September through October. After that time, it will take 3-5 school days after a card is issued, before it will be usable on a bus.

Please see a complete list of polices included with the registration forms.