



Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
5 August 2026

Back to School Made Easier with Free Rides Through CARTA's Read & Ride Program

CARTA and Chattanooga Public Library Encourage Students to Sign Up for Free Transportation This School Year

CHATTANOOGA, TN— As students across the Chattanooga area prepare to head back to school, the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) is reminding families about the Read & Ride Program, an opportunity for K–12 students to receive free CARTA bus rides through a partnership with the Chattanooga Public Library.

The Read & Ride Program connects literacy, learning, and transportation access by providing students with a free CARTA bus pass after signing up through the Chattanooga Public Library's Beanstack platform. The program helps students get where they need to go — including school, the library, after-school activities, community programs, and other destinations throughout CARTA's service area.

"Transportation is an important part of helping students succeed," said Charles D. Frazier, CARTA CEO. "Since launching two years ago, the Read & Ride Program has provided more than 60,000 trips to students throughout our community. Through our partnership with the Chattanooga Public Library, we are continuing to expand access and give students more opportunities to explore their community, access resources, and travel independently throughout the school year."

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade can participate by registering through the Chattanooga Public Library's Beanstack platform at <https://chattlibrary.org/beanstack/>. Once registered, students can pick up their Read & Ride pass at any Chattanooga Public Library location.

The Read & Ride Program is available year-round and is open to K–12 students. Students can use their pass to ride CARTA fixed-route buses at no cost, making it easier to access school, the library, extracurricular activities, and community destinations.

Whether students are heading to school, visiting the library, attending activities, or exploring Chattanooga, Read & Ride provides a reliable transportation option that supports learning beyond the classroom.

To sign up for Read & Ride, visit <https://chattlibrary.org/beanstack/> or visit any Chattanooga Public Library location.

To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.gocarta.org/news/read-and-ride-faqs/>.