

# EL CAMINO REAL ALLIANCE

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** August 26, 2021

### **AGENDA ITEM:**

Discuss and Vote on Bus Passes

### **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE:**

Many of our free and reduce students use public transit to get to school. Two years ago, we began a program to provide qualified students with a free bus pass to get to school. Today, many of our students continue to use public transportation, so much so, that Officer Miranda had to advocate for an extra bus to stop by our area, in order to accommodate the increased demand from our students.

The 2021-22 academic school year, 49% of our student body population resides outside the school boundaries, and for those students, having reliable transportation is an essential part of not only being able to attend school, but also being able to do well academically. Pre-Covid the Bus Pass/Tap Card program helped students improve their attendance, with 100/242 students that were enrolled on the program having a 99% attendance rate, while the rest of the students were able to maintained a 95% attendance rate. The program also helped students improve their academic GPA, with 60% of the students seeing an increase in their overall grades.

Post-Covid we want to continue providing that support to our students who live outside our area. In doing so, students should be able to keep or increase their current attendance rate and maintain or improve their current grades. Continuing the program will also ease the transition of coming back in person. Parents and students will not have to worry or stress about transportation for their child.

### **PERSONNEL INVOLVED:**

Administrators, Intervention Team, Teachers, Business Office for the purchase of the passes.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS (IF ANY):**

As of right now, the bus passes are free of cost for K-12 students. However, once that program expires, the school will need to start paying for the bus passes. The cost will be \$24 per month per student. We average about \$3,000 - \$5,000 per month. \$30,000-\$50,000 per school year.

### **IMPACT ON SCHOOL MISSION, VISION OR GOALS (IF ANY):**

Providing the bus pass to qualified students enhances and improves the support we provide to our students and alleviates the anxiety and stress students experience in trying to find a way to get to school or around the community. The students and parents have appreciated our ability

to have this type of program at the school and it will make for a smooth transition to in-person instruction.

**OPTIONS OR SOLUTIONS:**

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Agree to provide the bus pass to the free and reduced students. This will create an equitable environment for our out of district students. It will also service the nearby communities that send many students to ECR.

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

Motion to approve bus passes for qualifying students.