

# EL CAMINO REAL ALLIANCE

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION

**BOARD MEETING DATE** October 28th, 2021\_\_

### **AGENDA ITEM:**

Metro Fareless System Initiative

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

<i>What is the Metro Fareless System Initiative?</i>	The Metro Fareless System Initiative is a two-year pilot program through which Metro partners with a school district to cover the cost of TAP cards for unlimited rides on all Metro services and participating FSI partner transit agencies. Districts are charged a flat rate for every student in the district and every student is then eligible for a TAP card. The program would give our students free access to transit through June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023.
<i>How much would access expand?</i>	<p>In 2019-2020, we had about 225 students participate in the program at a rate of 24 dollars, per student, per month. Only students on the free and reduced meal plan can apply for a free TAP card.</p> <p>We have 1,154 FRMP students this year, leaving out 2,460 student who could possibly benefit from free transit. This pilot program would allow all our students a free TAP card.</p>

### **PERSONNEL INVOLVED:**

Board Members (to approve), Executive Director (to sign), Intervention Coordinator (to organize and implement), Business Office (for payments)

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

<i>What is the total proposed budget?</i>	\$22,000
<i>Isn't Metro currently free?</i>	Metro will start charging again in January 2022 ( <a href="https://thesource.metro.net/2021/09/23/metro-board-approves-fareless-plan-for-k-14-students-and-easier-access-to-discounted-fares-for-many-riders/">https://thesource.metro.net/2021/09/23/metro-board-approves-fareless-plan-for-k-14-students-and-easier-access-to-discounted-fares-for-many-riders/</a> )
<i>How does the flat rate work?</i>	El Camino will pay a three-dollar flat rate for each student at our school based on the previous year of attendance. For this 2021-2022, we will owe 10,857 (3619x3). Our

	current ADA is 3614, so we can expect to pay 10,842 (3614x3) next year. The proposed budget is 22,000 to allow free access to transit for all students through June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023.
<i>How much would we save?</i>	In 2019-2020, we spent 30,720 (see excel attachment) from 8/20/19-3/31/20 (COVID). With over two months of school added, we could have expected to see over 10,000 added (monthly charges the three months prior were over 5,000). This modest projection estimates we would save about 30,000 per year.

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

This program is in line with our mission of wanting to “prepare our diverse student body for the next phase of their educational, professional, and personal journey” and vision to be a school that “empowers students to be independent, determined, compassionate, global citizens”.

Partnering with Metro on this pilot program will increase student access to free transit at a significantly reduced budget. The program would allow every student at ECRCHS, rather than just our FRMP students, free transit. We know an increasing percentage of students are enrolling from outside our attendance boundaries. Free transit can decrease barriers that prevent students from coming to school and promote independent living skills. Therefore, this program can further increase attendance, access to curriculum, grades, and test scores. The budget to participate in the program for the remainder of this school year and next school year is far less than the budget the board has already approved for this school year alone. In short: increased student access to free transit for a decreased budget would be provided through this program.

**OPTIONS OR SOLUTIONS:**

Approve budget for pilot program 2021-2022 through 2022-2023  
 Continue current program/method for bus program  
 Discontinue bus program after 2021-2022 (current year already approved)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S RECOMMENDATION:**

Vote to approve the budget for the two-year pilot program - Metro Fareless System Initiative

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

Pass