



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
September 1, 2026

Youth Ride Free on CATA Year-Round

CATA is expanding its Free Summer Youth Pass program to a year-round benefit.

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) Board of Directors voted yesterday to extend the Free Summer Youth Pass program to a year-round benefit.

Historically, CATA has offered a free Summer Youth Pass for school-aged riders who were not otherwise eligible for free fares. Ridership data presented to the Board showed a significant increase in youth trips during the free months. During the first three free months of summer 2026 (May–July), youth riders took 2,891 trips using the Free Summer Youth Pass, averaging 964 trips per month. In comparison, during the preceding paid period from September 2025 through April 2026, youth riders took 1,039 trips total, averaging 130 trips per month.

The introduction of a year-round Free Youth Pass creates greater opportunities for the youth in our community to access after-school activities, jobs, libraries, parks, and other resources across the region.

“We saw a strong utilization of the Free Summer Youth Pass program,” said Todd Horsley, CATA CEO, “and we’re excited to extend it into a year-round benefit that will make it easier for our local youth to access the opportunities and resources our community offers.”

The Free Youth Pass offers unlimited access to all CATABUS and CATAGO! routes for kids and teens in high school and younger.

Contact CATA Customer Service to learn how to get your Free Youth Pass.

Youth who had the Free Summer Youth Pass will need to get a new Free Youth Pass starting today. Anyone who has already purchased a Youth Pass for September 2026 should contact CATA customer service for a refund.

The images below are available for media use.



cata_youth_rider_bus_01.jpg

A student steps off a CATABUS at a neighborhood stop.



cata_youth_riders_stop_02.jpg

Students walk from a CATA bus stop shelter, carrying sports equipment and backpacks

About CATA

The Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) is a municipal authority serving five Centre Region municipalities: State College Borough and the townships of College, Ferguson, Harris, and Patton. Our mission is to deliver safe, reliable, accessible, and affordable transportation, provided in a courteous and environmentally, fiscally, and socially responsible manner.

Media Contact

Nancy Osborn
Public Relations and Marketing Specialist
nosborn@catabus.com | (814) 238-2282 x5141

Connect with CATA

Website: <https://catabus.com>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rideCATABUS/>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ridecatabus/>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/catabus/>