



Promoting Advancement Through Transit Help (PATH) to Education Act

Senator Blunt Rochester (D-DE) and Senator McCormick (R-PA)

Endorsed by: Association of Community College Trustees, Today's Students Coalition (formerly Higher Learning Advocates), National College Attainment Network, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Student Veterans of America, Transport Workers Union of America, DART First State, Delaware State University, Delaware Technical Community College, the Delaware Head Start Association, River Valley Community College, and White Mountains Community College.

A Connection to Education

While access to higher education through the [enrollment](#) process continues to improve, physical access to post-secondary education is often neglected. Reliable transportation is critical to ensuring Americans have access to continued education in all communities. However, it has been reported that only [57 percent](#) of community college primary campuses have transit stops within walking distance, and [1 in 8](#) students reported missing class due to transportation issues. As students combat barriers to continued education, transportation should not inhibit their success. Pathways to success in education start at an early age. Just [3 in 7](#) of Head Start centers have a public transit stop within walking distance. Public transit providers, higher education institutions, and Head Start centers have an opportunity to collaborate and ensure that students have reliable transportation options to further their academic success.

Senator Blunt Rochester is introducing the *PATH to Education Act* to create Department of Transportation assistance devoted to partnerships between transit providers, higher education institutions, and Head Start centers, because American students should be afforded every opportunity to succeed.

The PATH to Education Act authorizes Department of Transportation (DOT) assistance for certain educational institutions to:

- Expand public transportation infrastructure (physical stops) to extend existing transit routes to reach Head Start centers and eligible colleges;
- Better align transit schedules to meet program and class times; and
- Ensure public transportation costs are not a barrier to getting to class.
- Under the bill, federal Head Start programs, as well as community colleges, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and colleges with high numbers of Pell Grant-eligible students would be eligible, to target the bill towards populations least likely to have car access.

For questions or to cosponsor, please contact Sophie Boumsidia in Sen. Blunt Rochester's office, Sophie_Boumsidia@bluntrochester.senate.gov.