

A Rider's Guide Student Edition

August 2023



Produced by Customer Experience

The MBTA is pleased to welcome new and returning students and to help them get to where they need to go!

A Rider's Guide *Student Edition*

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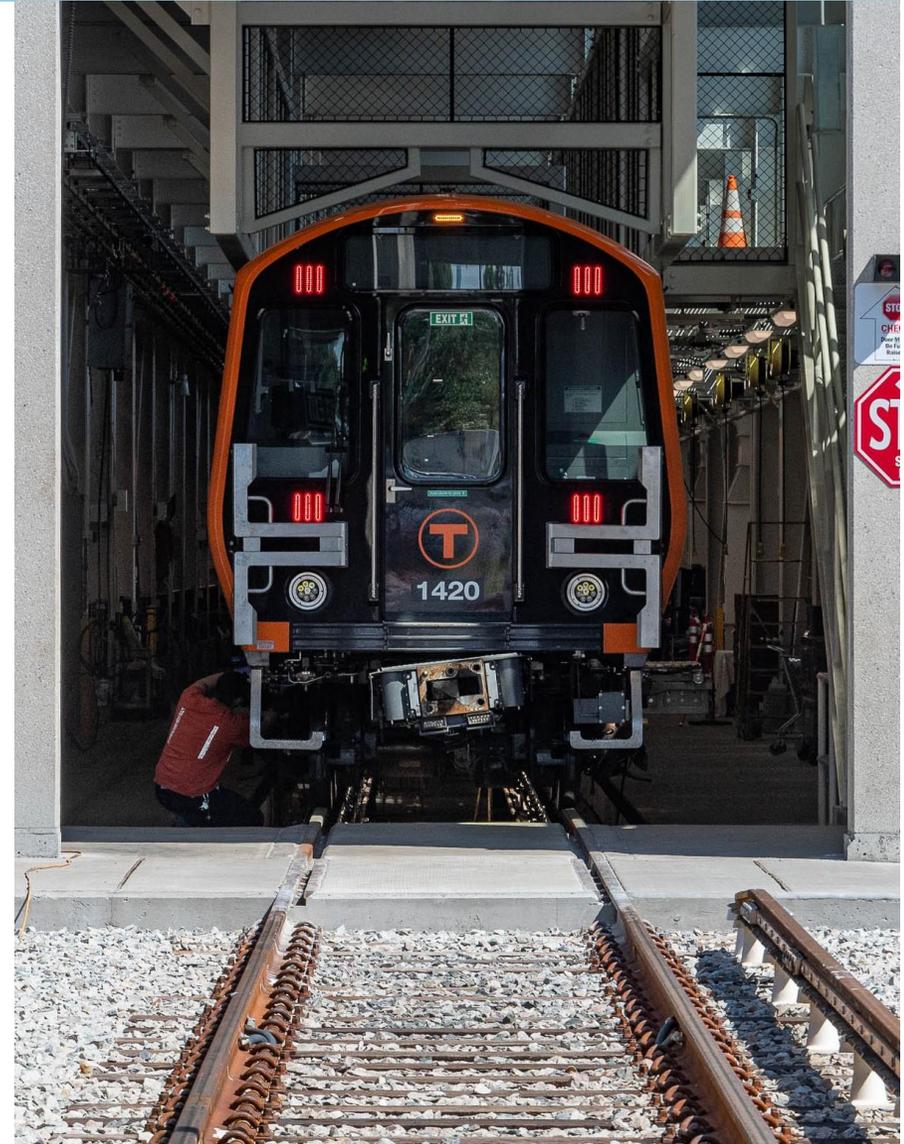
Welcome & Overview of the MBTA

Welcome Students! The MBTA is proud to serve our city's students to help ensure you get to where you need to go to take advantage of all that the Boston area has to offer!

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, more commonly known as the T, is one of the oldest public transit systems in the United States. It's also the largest transit system in Massachusetts. The T serves more than 200 cities and towns throughout Massachusetts. From the Commuter Rail to the subway and buses that operate within Greater Boston, the T offers a variety of affordable ways to explore the city and beyond.

- The T is a safe and cost-effective means of travel for students in the area.
- The MBTA is one of the fastest and easiest ways to get around Boston.
- The T is committed to working together with you to keep traveling on public transportation safe.

The MBTA is committed to working with the City of Boston and all our municipal partners to provide our riders with alternative travel options during any service disruptions. ***A Rider's Guide Student Edition*** is a tool to provide you with options and information to inform your travel needs.





Planning Your Trip

Trip Planner Tool [MBTA.com/trip-planner](https://www.mbta.com/trip-planner)

Use our Trip Planner to get line and mode recommendations for your most common trips.

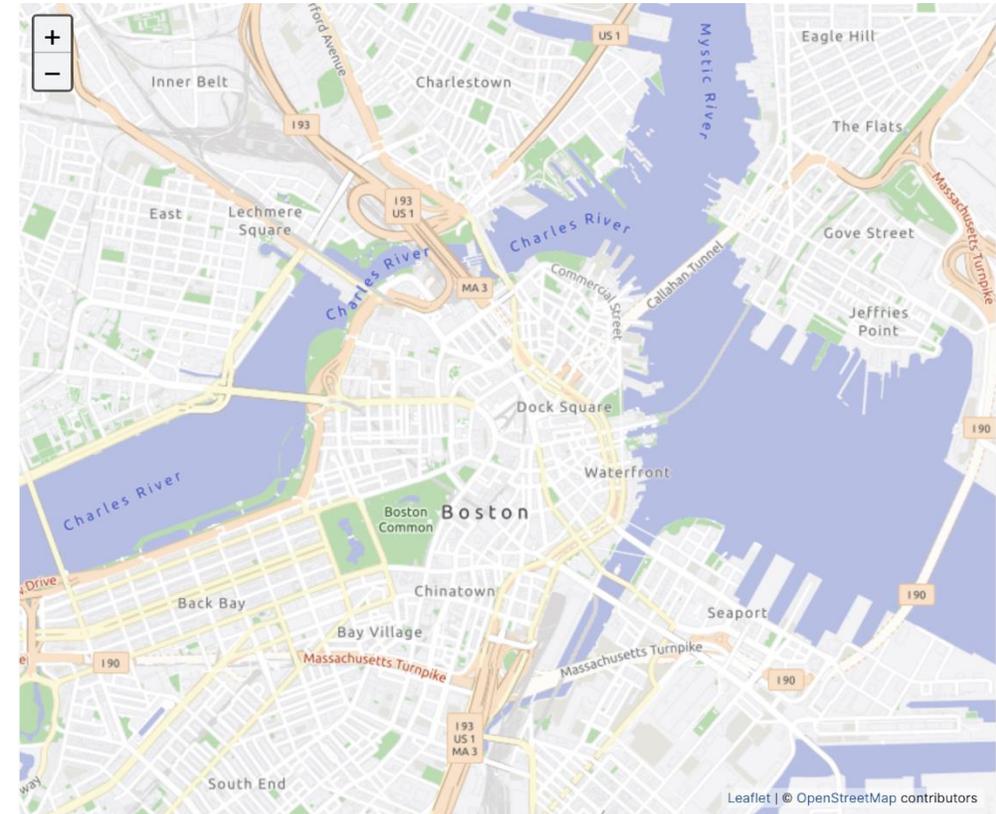
Hours of Operation

Most bus and train service starts at 5 AM and ends at 1 AM, with some bus service on busy routes starting as early as 3:30 AM. Schedules depend on the type of transportation and day of the week. The service runs more frequently during weekday rush hours (7 – 9 AM and 4 – 6:30 PM) than at other times.

Get T-Alerts [MBTA.com/alerts](https://www.mbta.com/alerts)

Tell us about your regular trips and receive text or email alerts that are relevant to you, at times when you want them.

Transit Ambassadors are available to assist riders in stations.





MBTA Map & Back-to-School Guide

BACK-TO-SCHOOL GUIDE TO RIDING THE T

The MBTA is pleased to welcome NEW and RETURNING Students! Wherever you're going in Greater Boston, the T can help get you there.

BEGINNER'S GUIDES:



Student, Visitor, Bus, Subway and Commuter Rail Guides

HOURS OF OPERATION

[MBTA.com/Schedules](https://www.mbta.com/schedules)

FARES

[MBTA.com/Fares](https://www.mbta.com/fares)
 \$2.40 - \$1.70
 \$2.40 - \$13.25

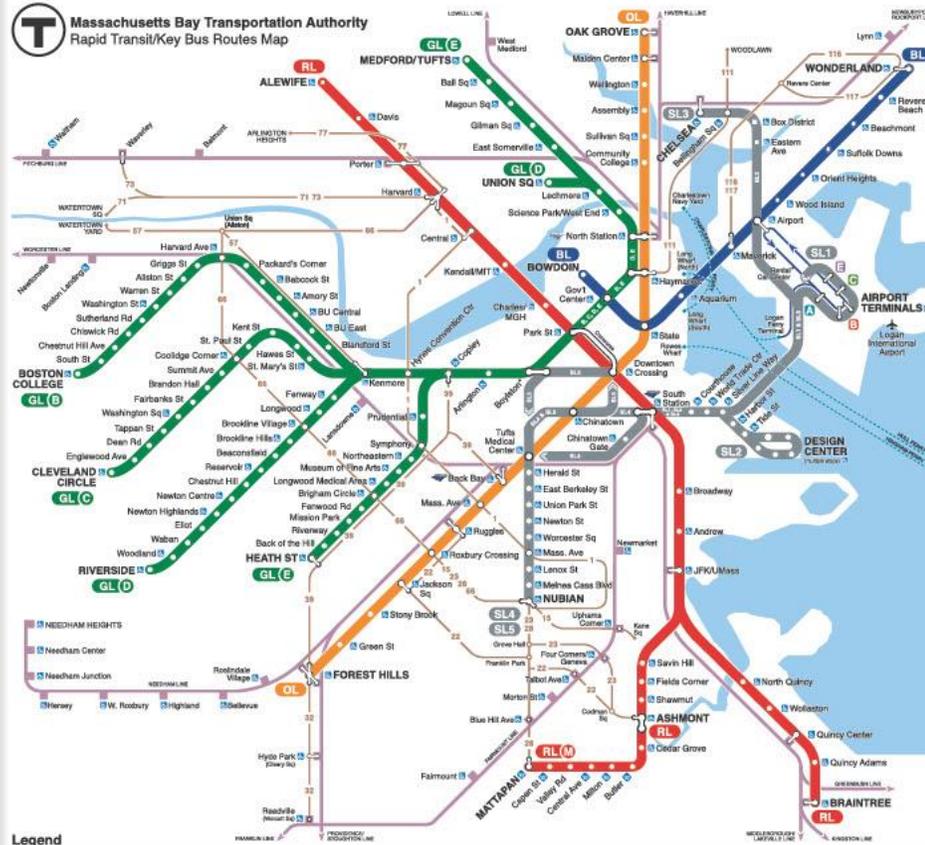
The MBTA offers a variety of reduced-fare programs to support youth and students:

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS
[MBTA.com/Studentcard](https://www.mbta.com/studentcard)

YOUTH PASS
[MBTA.com/Youth-pass](https://www.mbta.com/youth-pass)

College Student Semester Passes
[MBTA.com/Semester](https://www.mbta.com/semester)

Note: Many public schools including Boston Public Schools provide monthly MBTA student passes for students in grades 7-12.



Legend

- RED LINE
- ORANGE LINE
- GREEN LINE and branches
- BLUE LINE
- SILVER LINE and branches
- COMMUTER RAIL
- KEY BUS ROUTE
- Accessible station
- Rapid Transit transfer station
- Commuter Rail transfer station
- Free Logan Airport shuttle bus
- Amtrak service
- MBTA Customer Communications & Travel Info
- MBTA Transit Police
- Elevator/Escalator availability

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL GUIDE TO RIDING THE T

TIPS FOR TAKING THE MBTA BACK TO SCHOOL

- Take a practice trip.
- Buddy up.
- Stay alert.
- Be prepared.

RESOURCES

- To plan a trip
 [MBTA.com/Trip-planner](https://www.mbta.com/trip-planner)
- Sign up for service alerts
 [MBTA.com/Alerts](https://www.mbta.com/alerts)
- Sign up for texts and emails on service changes
 [MBTA.com/Signup](https://www.mbta.com/signup)
- Planning for accessibility
 [MBTA.com/Accessibility](https://www.mbta.com/accessibility)

TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY:



Call the Transit Police at 617-222-1212 or dial 911

DOWNLOAD MBTA SEE SAY APP



to report safety and security concerns directly to Transit Police





What Does it Cost to Ride the MBTA?

There are several ways to pay your T fare, depending on what mode you take most often. Most students use a reloadable MBTA pass or [CharlieCard](#).

- Subway 1-way: \$2.40
- Local Bus 1-way: \$1.70
- Commuter Rail 1-way: \$2.40–\$13.25, depending on how far you travel

STUDENT FARES

The MBTA offers a variety of reduced-fare programs to support youth and students:

Middle and High Schools [MBTA.com/studentcard](https://www.mbta.com/studentcard)

Youth Pass [MBTA.com/youth-pass](https://www.mbta.com/youth-pass)

College Student Semester Passes [MBTA.com/semester](https://www.mbta.com/semester)

Many public schools including Boston Public Schools provide monthly MBTA student passes for students in grades 7-12.





Middle and High School Student CharlieCards

If your middle or high school participates in the Student Pass Program, students are eligible for either an M7 Card or an S-Card at the beginning of every school year, depending on your school.

- M7 Cards are preloaded with passes paid by schools for the entire school year.
- S-Cards need to be loaded with cash value or passes by students, parents, or guardians.

For additional information and details on the M7 and S-Cards, visit: [mbta.com/studentcard](https://www.mbta.com/studentcard)

Are you a middle or high school administrator interested in learning about ordering cards and offering them to your students?

Visit: [mbta.com/student](https://www.mbta.com/student)





College Student Passes

Most colleges and universities in Greater Boston offer their students discounted MBTA fares on Semester Passes. Students can use these unlimited passes all semester long to get to class, head to work, or catch up with friends.

- Students' CharlieCard or CharlieTicket arrives loaded with the Semester Pass of their choice:
 - Semester LinkPass: Unlimited travel on subway and local bus
 - Semester Commuter Rail Pass: Unlimited travel on the Commuter Rail (up to the zone distance purchased), plus unlimited subway and local bus trips
 - Bus-only passes and ferry passes are also offered.
 - University Passes are also available, billed monthly for use throughout the entire year. Schools are billed for the rides students take.

For additional information on Semester and University Passes, visit: [mbta.com/college](https://www.mbta.com/college)

Are you a university administrator interested in learning about ordering cards and offering them to students?

Visit: [mbta.com/semester](https://www.mbta.com/semester)





Youth Pass Reduced Fare Program

The MBTA **Youth Pass Program**, in partnership with participating cities and towns, offers reduced fares on the subway, bus, Commuter Rail, and ferry to young adults who meet income eligibility requirements. The program is available to youth between 12 and 25 years old who are not enrolled in the Student Pass program, and who participate in a government benefit, alternative education, or job training program like MASSGrant, MassHealth, SNAP, or Year Up.

Learn more at [MBTA.com/youthpass](https://www.mbta.com/youthpass)



**Reduced fares,
increased opportunities**



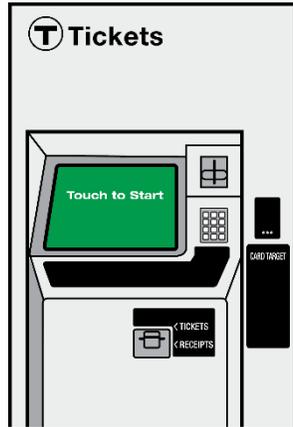
How to Use Your CharlieCard

A CharlieCard is a reusable transit fare card. You can load it with value or passes to ride the subway or bus.

Learn more at mbta.com/charliecard



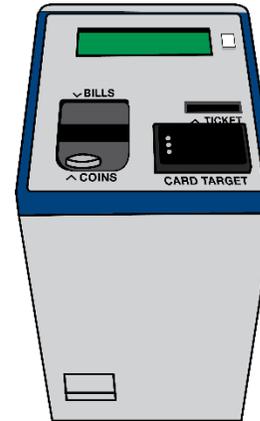
Step 1: Add



At a subway station

You can add value using a fare vending machine located inside the station.

1. Tap your card on the target.
2. Select the value or pass you want to add.
3. Pay with cash/credit.
4. Tap the card again to finish.



On a bus or street-level train

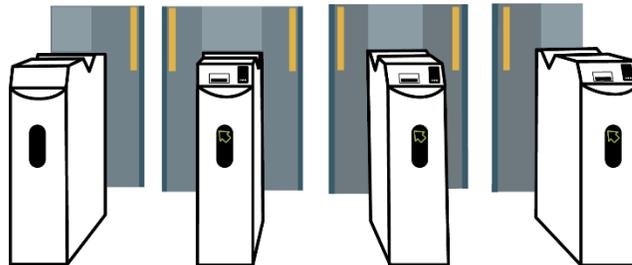
You can add value using the onboard fare box located at the front of the bus or subway car.

1. Press the white button.
2. Tap your card on the target.
3. Insert cash or coins.
4. Press the white button again.
5. Tap the card again to finish.

Step 2: Tap and Hop On

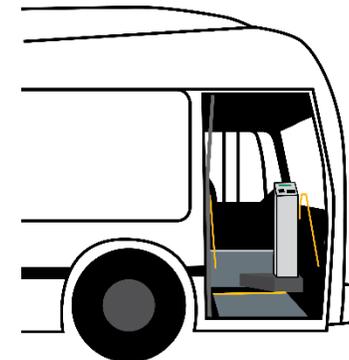
At a subway station

You can enter and pay by tapping your card on a fare gate target at the station's entrance.



At a bus or street-level train stop

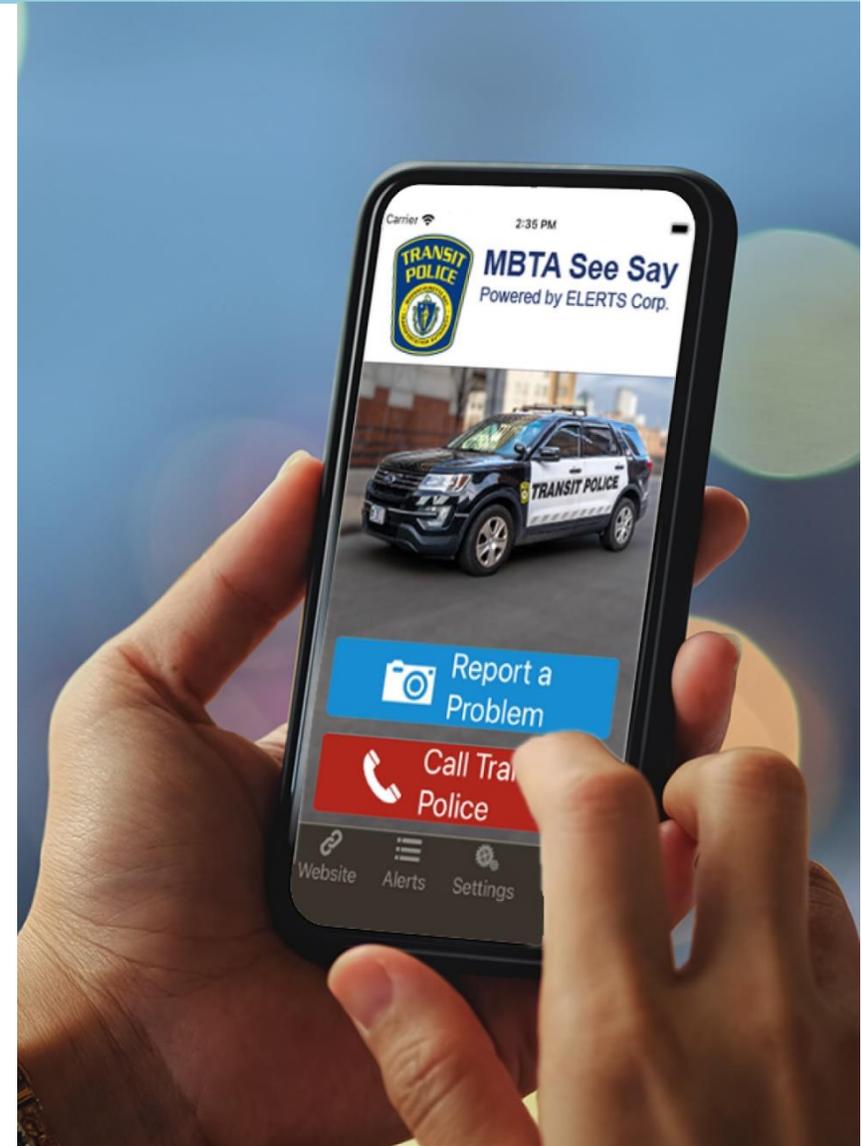
You can board and pay by tapping your card on the fare box near the front door as you enter.





Safety Tips for Students Riding the MBTA

- The best way to be safe riding the T is to stay alert.
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially if wearing headphones or using your phone.
- Stay in well-lit areas near groups of people whenever possible. When there aren't many people riding the T, try to sit close to the operator.
- Keep your phone and wallet close to your body.
- Be aware of the nearest exits and emergency call boxes at stations.
- Watch for closing doors when boarding an MBTA vehicle.
- Cross tracks and busways only at marked walkways and look both ways. Hold on to handrails while standing or walking on a moving MBTA vehicle.
- If you drop something onto the tracks, do not attempt to retrieve it.
- Lock your bike with a steel U-lock to a bike rack.
- Download the MBTA [See Say App](#) on your phone.
- To report an emergency, call 911 or [MBTA Transit Police](#) at [617-222-1212](tel:617-222-1212).





Stay Connected

Contact us:

Monday - Friday: 6:30 AM - 8 PM

Saturday - Sunday: 8 AM - 4 PM

Phone: 617-222-3200 Toll-Free: 800-392-6100

TTY: 617-222-5146

Email: MBTA.com/customer-support

Web: MBTA.com

For the latest service updates, news, and more, follow the MBTA on social media.



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[/TheMBTA](https://www.facebook.com/TheMBTA)



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