



Denfeld High School Black Student Association Speeches for Transit Equity Day 2025

February 4, 2025 | Denfeld High School, Duluth, MN

Hi, everybody, my name is Bella Green and I'm a freshman here at Denfeld High School. I'm here today to talk about the importance of using our student IDs as DTA bus fare. As you know, getting to and from places you need to go to is very important, as well as having reliable transportation whether you are a mother, father, teacher or, in our case, a student. Sometimes students, especially ones with low-income, struggle with reliability issues. For example, I myself have struggled with not having bus fare for several days. Having IDs as DTA bus fare not only takes away that worry but helps improve student attendance, as well gives students access to other opportunities outside of school hours. Having your student ID work for bus fare takes away that worry of knowing people don't have to rely on others to get you where you need to be. So I want to thank everyone who was a part of this amazing opportunity we have been given.

Hello all, my name is Latasaija Garner and I am a junior here at Denfeld. Besides being on the Black Student Association Board here at Denfeld, I am a National Honor Society member, along with a link crew member, junior rotarian, cheer captain, student government representative, and a Denfeld stepper. And more recently I have took on the title of Student School Board Representative, which means the topic of free and equitable transportation lies heavy on my heart. Even though I myself do not use DTA public transit anymore, this topic is still of great importance to me. I know many friends, peers, even adults who struggle with getting transportation and that is not okay. No one in this world, especially students, should have to worry about how they are going to get to school or to their activity or home. I know many students who face immense financial burdens and cannot afford public transportation. This causes students to miss school or even the things they love like their sports due to financial barriers. This is all beyond their control and is extremely unfair. Free and equitable transportation should be for everyone; it is a right not a privilege. It also removes a major obstacle for low-income families and provides the opportunity for all students to succeed and thrive. By investing in free and equitable transportation it shows our students that we value their education, safety, and wellbeing. Thank you.