

# Semester Pass **Overview**



The MBTA's **Semester Pass Program** lets Boston-area students buy special semester-length passes discounted at 11% through their college or university.

Starting in fall 2019, the MBTA is updating its payment policy from **prepaid to post-paid**, letting schools manage account sales more flexibly, and giving more students the opportunity to place orders for discounted passes.

# Key Changes

The Semester Pass Program offers students discounted subway, bus, Commuter Rail, and ferry passes. Students place orders through schools, which pay the MBTA on students' behalf.

Semester Pass orders are due by the 15th of the month before the start date of each pass. For a pass that begins September 1, schools must submit orders by August 15.

The MBTA has previously required payment before shipping cards to colleges and universities, often prompting schools to set very early deadlines for students – sometimes many months in advance. To give schools more flexibility, and give students more time to place orders and participate, the MBTA is switching to a post-paid program. This update may improve program operations for schools in several ways:

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01

**Orders are due to the MBTA by the 15th of the month before the start date of each pass,** but schools can order more passes than they need to provide for students that order after this first MBTA deadline. Schools do not need to pay for the passes at this time. Unused and unsold inventory is due back to the MBTA by the second Wednesday of the start of the Semester Pass month.

02

**As inventory allows, schools may request additional Semester Passes** (if they run out of excess inventory) up through the last day of the month preceding the start of the passes. (August 31 for September passes). This can be done by calling customer service at 888-844-0353 or emailing [passprogram@mbta.com](mailto:passprogram@mbta.com).

03

Schools may continue to sell Semester Passes to students through the first week or so of the passes' validity.

04

Final invoices are adjusted based on unsold and unused inventory received by the MBTA, and these bills are finalized for schools within 5-7 business days.

05

Full payment for the Semester Passes is due by the final day of the first benefit month via ACH, Paymode, or check.

## Program Benefits

The MBTA's new post-paid Semester Pass terms are designed to give schools more time to collect student orders and payments on existing semester products.

This added flexibility will open up the Semester Pass discounts to students who need extra time to explore transit options, put in shifts at student jobs, or receive financial aid or loan disbursements. Additionally, students who do not arrive on campus until the first few days of the semester will still have the ability to access Semester Passes through their school.

# Key Dates and Deadlines

Semester	Semester Pass Benefit Period	Order Period Opens	Deadline for Order	Deadline for Returns	Final Bill Issued	Adjusted Payment Due
Fall 1	Sep–Dec (4 month)	6/1/19	8/15/19	9/11/19	9/20/19	9/30/19
Fall 2	Oct–Jan (4 month)	6/1/19	9/15/19	10/9/19	10/18/19	10/31/19
Spring 1	Jan–Apr (4 month)	10/1/19	12/15/19	1/8/20	1/17/20	1/31/20
Spring 2	Jan–May (5 month)	10/1/19	12/15/19	1/8/20	1/17/20	1/31/20
Spring 3	Feb–May (4 month)	10/1/19	1/15/20	2/12/20	2/20/20	2/29/20

Spring semester dates are subject to future revision