



ISD 917

3-11-2026

Dear Minnesota Legislators,

I am writing on behalf of ISD 917 for Dakota County to share our support for Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and the important role suburban transit providers play in connecting students and families to opportunities throughout our region.

For many students, transportation is a key factor in their ability to fully participate in school and community life. Transit options help students reach part-time jobs, internships, college campuses, volunteer opportunities, and extracurricular activities that support their growth and development beyond the classroom.

Access to reliable transportation also helps students begin building independence and navigating the broader community. As young people prepare for college, careers, and adult life, the ability to access safe and dependable transportation is an important life skill and opportunity.

Suburban transit providers like MVTA help connect students and families in communities like Rosemount with destinations across the Twin Cities region. These connections support educational opportunities and help students remain engaged in activities that contribute to their academic and personal success.

Proposals that would eliminate suburban “opt-out” transit providers could reduce transportation options that students and families rely on to access these opportunities. We encourage policymakers to preserve suburban transit providers like MVTA and continue supporting transportation systems that help young people connect to education, employment, and community experiences that prepare them for the future. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our communities.

Sincerely,

Mike Zickrick
Work Based Learning Instructor
Transition Education Services Alternative
ISD #917 for Dakota County