

Implementing Appropriate Transportation Services for Children with Disabilities

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Presenter

Linda F. Bluth, Ed.D.
Special Needs Transportation Consultant

Implementing Appropriate Transportation Services for Children with Disabilities

The Importance of Taking Inventory Regarding Your Knowledge About Transportation Services for Children with Disabilities



The Louisiana School Bus Driver Course includes Unit 6: Transporting Students with Disabilities Which Contains General Information for School Bus Driver Trainees.



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KEY CONCEPTS

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- **The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ensures equality of education.**
- **Children with disabilities are entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).**
- **The Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) requires integration of children with disabilities with non-disabled peers.**
- **The Individualized Education Program (IEP) specifies required special education and related services.**
- **Transportation is a related service for children determined to be eligible by the IEP team.**
- **The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) specifically addresses transportation within the context of the IDEA. FERPA clarifies that for individuals who have a “legitimate educational interest,” disclosures of personally identifiable information from education records is permissible under specific circumstances. This includes transportation-related service providers.**

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IDEA Definition of the Related Service Transportation



“Transportation (Part B) includes—

- (i) Travel to and from school and between schools,**
- (ii) Travel in and around school buildings, and**
- (iii) Specialized equipment (such as special or adapted buses, lifts, and ramps), if required to provide special transportation for a child with a disability. (34 CFR §300.34 (c)(16))”**

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Determination of Eligibility for the IDEA Related Service Transportation



- **It is the responsibility of the IEP team to discuss eligibility for the related service of transportation.**
- **The IEP team meeting should include all personnel necessary to make an informed decision.**
- **The mode of transportation should be discussed during the child's evaluation for IEP services.**
- **IEP transportation service differences of opinion require specific actions including informing a parent of their procedural safeguards.**
- **As with any related service, the IEP related service of transportation must be provided at public expense.**

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Role of the IEP Team Members

Each IEP team member brings important information to the IEP meeting. As team members share information and work collectively to write the child's IEP, each team members' information contributes understanding about the child's disabilities impact on transportation service needs.

IEP Discussion Topics



Allergies

Alternative Vehicle Assignment

Climate Control Vehicle

Diastat Use (Rectal and Nasal)

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders

Driver and Attendant Assignments

Epi-Pen Transport & Use

Length of Ride

Medication Transport & Use

Mobility Challenges

Nursing Services

Oxygen Transport & Use

Participation in Evacuation Drills

Pick-up and Drop-off Location/Times

Required Training (Drivers & Attendants)

Service Animals

Specialized Equipment

Specialized Seating

Supervision

Vehicle Modifications

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Letter to Smith
Office of Special Education Programs
July 12, 1995

“... In all cases, transportation should be discussed during the evaluation and IEP processes, and transportation arrangements should be included in a student’s IEP.”

OSEP 3-10
8/22/2003

Ensuring Safe and Appropriate Transportation for Children with Disabilities

“... In meetings (and correspondence) with representatives of two major national transportation associations (i.e., the National School Transportation Association, and the National Association for Pupil Transportation) these representatives have expressed concerns that transportation providers are often not included in local school district plans or training related to transporting children with disabilities.”

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Federal Guidance: USDE



[Federal Register Volume 64, Number 48 (Friday, March 12, 1999)]
[Rules and Regulations]

30. Must related services personnel attend IEP meetings? (Page 12478)

“... if the child’s evaluation indicates the need for a specific related service (e.g., physical therapy, occupational therapy, **special transportation services**, school social work services, school health services, or counseling) the agency should ensure that a qualified provider of that service either (1) attends the IEP meeting, or (2) provides a written recommendation concerning the nature, frequency, and amount of service to be provided to the child. ...”

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Federal Guidance: USDE

Federal Register Volume 64, Number 48 (Friday, March 12, 1999)]
[Rules and Regulations]

33. **Must a public agency include transportation in a child's IEP as a related service?** (Page 12479)

“In determining whether to include transportation in a child's IEP, and whether the child needs to receive transportation as a related service, **it would be appropriate to have at the IEP meeting a person with expertise in that area.** In making this determination, the IEP team must consider how the child's disability affects the child's need for transportation, including determining whether the child's disability prevents the child from using the same transportation provided to nondisabled children, or from getting to school in the same manner as nondisabled children.”

“The public agency must ensure that any transportation service included in a child's IEP as a related service is provided at public expense and at no cost to the parents, and that the child's IEP describes the transportation arrangement.”