

Transportation as a Related Service

Some students with disabilities require transportation as a related service on their IEPs.

An IEP team must make the determination whether or not a student is eligible for this service. The team must consider how the disability affects the need for transportation, including whether the disability prevents a student from using the same transportation provided to their nondisabled peers with or without accommodations. Some special considerations include:

- No one individual may approve or deny transportation as a related service;
- Individualized transportation decisions require collaboration and consensus among and between parents, the student (as appropriate), local educational agency representatives, educators and transportation personnel;
- Transportation service is not provided based on the parents' preference or convenience, or because they have no access to other reliable transportation;
- Transportation service is based entirely on a student's need for transportation in order to access the general curriculum. Generally, this is based on comparing the student to similar aged peers and how they access school. For example, if the peers usually walk to school, and the student is unable to do this safely, or if the other students usually ride a bus and the student is unable to ride a general education bus safely, he or she may need specialized transportation;
- Students who can ride the general education bus with accommodations do not need specialized transportation, Accommodations to consider:
 - Priority seat assignment,
 - seat belt or vest,
 - assistance on/off bus – stairs,
 - development of a Health Care plan,
 - development of an emergency evacuation plan,
 - development of a behavior contract

The team must consider all of the student's unique needs on a case-by-case basis, including but not limited to mobility, need for supervision, health issues, intellectual needs, safety concern, dangerous behavior, communication needs, etc.