

The purpose of this policy is to define who is eligible for special transportation considerations, to establish a process for participation in the IEP or accommodation plan as a related service, and to establish some guidelines and expectations for resolution of problems should they occur.

This policy will apply to all students eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and/or under IDEA (special education) laws and regulations. However, eligibility under Section 504 or placement in a special education program does not automatically qualify a student for special busing considerations. Some students may be required to ride a regular bus while others may not qualify for busing and may be required to walk to school.

Transportation of students with disabilities is defined as “transportation to and from school with special transportation accommodations.” Special transportation will be made available to students when the IEP or accommodation committee determines that the regular transportation impedes the district’s ability to meet the student’s educational needs or when a student’s physical impairment prohibits the use of a regular bus.

Students transported with special transportation provisions will be picked up and delivered as close to home as is reasonable and safe.

Requirements for special transportation consideration shall not be recommended or finalized without the direct involvement in the IEP or accommodation plan of the transportation director or designee. The transportation director or designee will be involved in the determination of the type of vehicle to be used, be appraised of unique medical problems, and be provided emergency information with the secondary authorization identified in the event parents or guardians are unavailable in a crisis.

Students will be required to follow all the standard safety rules and regulations. Any student suspended from the bus is required to provide their own transportation to and from school during the suspension period. Building administrators are expected to work with the student, the family, and the district transportation director in the resolution of discipline issues. In cases where a long term removal from a bus is anticipated, the IEP or accommodations committee must reconvene to discuss alternative methods of supervision, transportation, or both.

Students receiving special busing services and anticipating a change of address to another location within the district must give sufficient notice to the transportation director to allow for route adjustments. The rerouting of the bus may take a varying number of days to accomplish.

Transportation services for students with disabilities shall be planned to provide comparable travel time for the students as compared to the travel time for non-disabled peers. Students being transported shall have as minimal a travel time as possible depending on available equipment, the home location, and the attendance location.

The transportation of animals which accompany a student with disabilities shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the student's IEP or accommodation committee and shall be stated in the IEP document or accommodation plan. The need for such shall be justified in writing by qualified medical personnel and will be deemed necessary in the student's IEP or accommodation plan. The certification, training and immunization of the animal shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the student's IEP or accommodation committee and shall be stated in the IEP document or accommodation plan. It will be the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian to provide required documentation and releases from liability associated with injury/damage caused by or to the animal. Documentation must be renewed annually prior to the beginning of the school year. In no case shall an animal be transported which endangers students or staff.

Transportation of special personnel, i.e., medical/nursing personnel, shall be authorized by the transportation director. The need for such shall be justified in writing by qualified medical personnel, verified by the district's school nurse, and will be deemed necessary in the student's IEP or accommodation plan.

Students eligible for transportation services under Section 504 will be required to provide medical documentation supporting their need for those special services, which shall be determined in collaboration with the transportation director or designee, shall be documented in the student's accommodation plan, and shall follow all policies applicable to special education students.