

Transportation Determination when developing an IEP

The Team shall determine whether the student requires transportation because of his or her disability in order to benefit from special education.

Transportation is considered a related service under the Federal statute and needs to be provided to ensure that students receive educational benefit from special education.

Regular transportation is the typical way students get to school. Team members must ascertain whether the disability(ies) prevents the student from getting to the local school in the same manner as the student's nondisabled peers would get to the local school.

- A. If the nondisabled peers in the student's neighborhood walk to the school, then does the student's disability(ies) prevent the student from walking to school?
- B. If the nondisabled peers in that student's neighborhood ride a bus to the school, then does the student's disability(ies) prevent the student from riding the yellow _____

NO

YES

Recommend regular transportation.

Special transportation is required as a result of the disability.

As the exact placement for the student is not yet known and as IDEA's strong preference is for students to be educated in the general education environment in their neighborhood schools, the Team responds to the transportation questions based on the assumption that the student will attend the local school.

If after a placement decision is made, the student is placed away from the local school, the school district will be required to provide transportation.

As with other services, transportation should be provided in the least restrictive environment. Therefore, the Team should always discuss first whether the student can be safely transported in a regular transportation vehicle with some accommodations or assistance due to the student's disability(ies).

Consider all accommodations/supports for student to ride the regular school bus to school along with the student's nondisabled peers. (ex., assist on/off, alternative bus stop, monitor while riding, seat assigned, etc.)

Provide appropriate accommodation on the regular transportation.

Only if modified regular transportation is not a reasonable alternative should the Team move on to recommend a special transportation vehicle with accommodations / supports

The Team must carefully review and include in the IEP any needed modifications, specialized equipment or precautions for this type of transportation. Furthermore, the Team has been given, under state regulation, specific transportation related issues to discuss and record within a student's IEP when special transportation is recommended. Team members should be prepared to specify the following:

1. Whether a student who uses a wheelchair should regularly transfer in and out of a conventional vehicle to or from a wheelchair for therapeutic or for independence training;
2. Whether the student requires assistance in or out of the home, on or off the vehicle, and in or out of school;
3. Whether the student has a particular need or problem that may cause difficulties during transportation.