

Transportation of Students with Disabilities

Transportation shall be provided as a related service when a student with a disability requires special transportation in order to benefit from special education or to have access to an appropriate education placement. Transportation for a student with a disability is subject to the same safety requirements placed on transportation services offered to the general student population. Transportation is defined as:

- (a) travel to and from school and between schools;
- (b) travel in and around school buildings or to those activities which are a regular part of the student's instructional program;
- (c) specialized equipment (such as special or adapted buses, lifts, and ramps) if required to provide special transportation for a student with disabilities.

The Evaluation Team who develops the disabled student's Individualized Education Program will determine on an individual basis when a student with a disability requires this related service. Such recommendations must be specified on the student's IEP. Only those children with disabilities who qualifies for transportation as a related service under the provisions of the IDEA shall be entitled to special transportation. All other children with disabilities in the District have access to the District's regular transportation system under policies and procedures applicable to all students of the District. Utilizing the District's regular transportation service shall be viewed as a "least restrictive environment."

IEP Provisions

The IEP team, must specify the criteria used in arriving at its determination. Likewise, specific information about the student's needs, i.e., special health conditions of the child, and other considerations unique to this student must be stated on the IEP. If transportation is discontinued as a related service for the child, an IEP meeting must be convened with parents participating to discuss reasons for the IEP team's recommendation. Transportation when provided as a related service shall be at no cost to the disabled student or his/her parent.

Location of Pick Up and Drop Off Points

Parents shall be advised at the IEP meeting that pick up and delivery of eligible students will be from the child's home or closest bus stop to the school where enrolled. Pick up and delivery to other locations than the student's home requires advance approval by the Director of Special Education and consideration will be given only for permanent locations.

Temporary changes, impacting the scheduling of buses, may or may not be approved.

Mode of Transportation

One of the District's special education buses will be the preferred mode of transportation. Exceptions may be made in situations where buses are prohibited from entering certain subdivisions due to inadequate turning space or distance from school may seriously impact bus scheduling. In such situations, other arrangements such as an individual transportation contract may be arranged with the parents. Such voluntary agreement shall stipulate in writing the terms of reimbursement.

Under individual transportation contract arrangements, parents shall provide the District with verification of the driver's valid driver's license and adequate automobile insurance coverage. It is recognized that the District has an obligation to furnish transportation for those children with disabilities requiring this related service.

Suspension Procedures

District policies and procedures on bus suspension for all students shall apply equally to children with disabilities riding the regular bus routes. However, when a student with a disability requires transportation as a related service, suspension action requires an IEP committee review as prescribed in District Policy #3300. It is recommended that suspension of transportation services not exceed ten days in any given school year. Should suspension exceed the five days, an IEP meeting should be called to review the student's program and placement.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for child study teams to follow when transportation is recommended as a related service for children with disabilities.

Cross Reference: 3300 Student Discipline

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C 1401 (17)
§ 20-7-442, MCA Out-of-state placement of children with disabilities
- payment of costs
10.16.2107, ARM Transportation for special education children

Policy History:

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