



Transportation as a Related Service on the IEP

WLWV Student Services

Traveling to and from school is an important part of a student's overall school experience. The concept of *Least Restrictive Environment* applies to transportation settings as well as the rest of the child's school day. The opportunity to be around non-disabled peers is an important part of social development. Additionally, the goal is always to *move students toward greater independence and inclusion* in all parts of their school experience.

Adding Transportation as a Related Service is an IEP team decision. *The team should carefully reconsider the need for transportation at each annual IEP meeting.*

IEP teams should consider the following factors, looking for significant concerns in one or more areas:

Levels of Independence

- How independently is the student able to move around the school?
- How independently is the student able to move around the community as compared to other children his/her age?
- Is the student able to follow directions within large groups?
- Has the team used visual supports and teaching the bus routine to support the student's independence on a general education bus?

Safety concerns

- Is the student exhibiting aggressive behavior in the school setting or on a general education bus?
- Is the student able to stay in an assigned seat?
- Have behavior supports or accommodations been considered and implemented to deal with the safety concerns on the general education bus?

Mobility concerns

- Does the student require a wheel chair lift or other mobility equipment during transportation?

Sensory concerns

- Does the student have significant difficulties with sensory (i.e. sound, movement, large groups)?
- Have supports and accommodations been considered to help the student with diminishing the sensory overload on the general education bus (i.e. headphones, sitting in the front)?

Note: If the district designates a SPED placement in a location other than the student's neighborhood school, transportation may be added even if the above factors are not significant.

Remember – all students are entitled to a full day of school. **Students receiving specialized transportation should not be arriving late or leaving early** (unless it is specifically outlined in the IEP). Other districts have been successfully sued for violating a student's civil rights by having them board the bus early...

If you have further questions about how to determine whether a student needs Transportation as a Related Service on the IEP, contact Josh Flosi (x7006).

If the IEP team has decided to add Transportation as a Related Service, contact Ruth Zollner (x7098). She will coordinate with the bus company. It generally takes 5 school days for the bus company to set up a new transportation route.