

Glenn County Special Education Local Plan Area**SELPA Administrative Regulation****Transportation for Students with Disabilities****Rationale**

Whenever possible, students with disabilities will ride the regular school bus to and from school. When the disabling condition of a pupil is such that the pupil requires special transportation services in order to benefit from their educational program, the IEP Team has the responsibility to include transportation services in the IEP as a related service.

As specified in the Code of Federal Regulations Section 300.34, specialized transportation for a disabled pupil is defined as a related service to be provided as "required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education." "Specialized transportation includes:

- travel to and from school and between schools
- travel in and around school buildings and
- specialized equipment (such as special or adapted buses, lifts and ramps),

if required, to provide special transportation for a child with a disability.”

Specialized Transportation Options

Specialized transportation service generally refers to any transportation arrangement, in excess of riding the regular school bus to and, or from a regularly scheduled school bus stop, that is determined by an IEP team. Specialized transportation services may include but are not limited to the following:

1. to and from home and the school of attendance,
2. between schools for purposes specified in the IEP
3. to and from work stations when specified in the IEP
4. to and from designated therapy sites in Glenn County
5. to and from a Mental Health service

IEP Procedures

It is the responsibility of the IEP Team to determine when transportation services should be included in the IEP as a related service. The decision must be made on a case by case basis and be based on the unique needs of the student and the basic concept of least restrictive environment.

Step 1: The IEP Team will consider student needs including, but not limited to the following:

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1. Medical Diagnosis and Health Needs:
 - Does the student have significant limitations in strength, vitality or alertness that prevent him/her from riding the regular bus?
 - Does the student have a medically fragile condition that prevents them from riding the regular school bus?
 - Does the student have special medical equipment that must be transported on a specialized school bus?

2. Physical Needs:
 - Does the student have a wheel chair requiring a special securement system on the school bus?
 - Does the student have a visual impairment that prevents him/her from riding the regular school bus?
 - Does the student have a hearing impairment that prevents him/her from riding the regular school bus?

3. Safety Needs:
 - Does the students' disability or level of functioning prevent them from being able to travel to school independently?
 - Does the students' disability or level of functioning prevent them from being able to travel to and wait independently at a regular school bus stop?

4. Behavioral Needs:
 - Does the student have a behavior plan that requires certain transportation services?
 - Is the student's behavior, after implementing a behavior plan, so severe that s/he cannot ride the regular school bus?

5. Program Location:
 - Is the student required to attend a program outside of the district of residence geographic boundary?
 - Does the student require special transportation in order to access services designated on the IEP e.g. occupational therapy, physical therapy, mental health related service, etc?
 - Does the student require special transportation in order to access a Non-public school placement?

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6. Other needs may also be taken into consideration when the IEP team discusses a pupil's placement and transportation needs.

Step 2: The IEP Team will determine whether the student is able to ride the regular bus without the need for accommodations.

Step 3: If the student is unable to ride the regular bus without accommodations, the IEP Team will determine if the student can ride the regular bus with accommodations, including, but not limited to, the following:

- special seating arrangements – consider having the student sit alone, in close proximity to the driver or with a peer buddy
- behavior interventions – have support staff identify possible causes of behavior problems, including the effects of medications, and create an intervention plan
- special reinforcers –implement a reward system for good behavior
- encourage replacement behaviors – give the student a toy or activity to keep their attention during the ride
- Add adult supervision – have an instructional assistant ride the bus with the student
- Regular bus picks student up at street address or door in lieu of regularly designated bus stop
- Restraint – this is a last resort if the other options do not work

Accommodations will be indicated in the IEP as appropriate.

Step 4: If the student is unable to ride the regular bus with accommodations, the IEP Team will include specialized transportation in the IEP.

Specialized transportation should be described in sufficient enough detail to inform the parties of how, when and from where to where transportation will be provided and, where arrangements for the reimbursement of parents are required, the amount and frequency of reimbursement.

A representative from the Transportation Department will be invited to attend IEP meetings for students who require special transportation arrangements such as: adaptive or assistive equipment, specialized medical equipment, specialized monitoring or assistance, positive behavior interventions, etc. School bus drivers will be informed and properly trained whenever the IEP addresses special transportation needs for a student.

Non-public School Requirements

Students who are in residential placements and attend non-public schools are entitled to transportation services to and from their parent's home at specified times during the year.

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Whether the child is allowed to visit home during school breaks is dependent in part on rules established by the residential placement and limitations imposed by the court or placing agency. While there is no specific requirement with regard to the frequency of these visits, IEP Teams should give primary consideration to major school breaks during the school year based on the NPS school calendar. When students are not allowed to leave the residential placement, the IEP Team will consider providing transportation for the parents to make a reasonable number of visits to the student based on the NPS school calendar.

Service Delivery

It is the responsibility of the District of Residence to make arrangements for all transportation services described in the student's IEP. The District may provide service themselves, through contract arrangement with another public or private agency or by paying the parent for providing in lieu services. When arranging transportation from the Glenn County Office of Education, the District will submit each request in writing and provide information as requested by the Transportation Department.

Bus routes shall be, wherever possible, via the shortest distance, considering safety in operation, safety at bus stop locations and pupil time on bus. Scheduled bus stops shall be established in accordance with specific requirements of special needs pupils.

Mode of Service – The LEA providing transportation service will determine the method of providing transportation services.

Scheduling – Students with disabilities are entitled to arrive at and depart school at the same time as general education students. The use of alternative starting times for special education students at a site can lead to program compliance concerns. Pupils receiving special education and related services must be provided with an educational program in accordance with their IEP for at least the same length of time as the regular school day for their chronological peer group, unless otherwise stated in a student's IEP.

Transportation to and from related services, e.g. occupational therapy, physical therapy, mental health counseling, etc., will be scheduled during the school day to the extent appropriate. When related services cannot be provided during the school day, transportation will be provided before or after the school day.

Length of Ride – The length of ride for disabled students should be similar to that of non-disabled students except in cases where the distance to a student's home exceeds that of the other students and where a student attends a program outside his neighborhood school or district of residence.

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In cases where a student attends a program outside his/her district of residence, the IEP Team will review the student's placement annually to determine if a placement closer to the student's residence would be appropriate.

Wheel Chairs

Special Education busses used to transport physically disabled students in wheel chairs shall be equipped with proper securement devices. Bus drivers will be trained in the use of equipment and proper securement procedures.

Medications

Medications to be taken by the student while at school shall not be transported on a school bus in any manner including student bags or backpacks. It is the responsibility of the parent to transport their child's medication to and from school. Medications may be transported on the school bus for students who self administer medications and students who require that medications be available for emergency purposes, provided that the parents provide all required information from the child's physician, the school has developed an appropriate health plan and staff, including bus drivers, have been informed and, when necessary trained, in proper procedures regarding the student's individual needs.

Discipline and Behavior Interventions

Students with disabilities are subject to the same rules of discipline governing regular transportation, unless the student has a behavior plan indicating otherwise. School bus drivers will be trained to implement positive behavior interventions as indicated in a student's behavior plan.

Suspension

During the period of any exclusion from bus transportation, pupils must be provided with an alternative form of transportation at no cost to the pupil or parent in order to be assured of having access to the required special education instruction and services (EC 48915.5).

EC 48915.5(c) reads: "If an individual with exceptional needs is excluded from school bus transportation, the pupil is entitled to be provided with an alternative form of transportation at no cost to the pupil or parent or guardian provided that transportation is specified in the pupil's individualized education program."

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In Lieu Transportation

When the district is unable to provide the necessary transportation services for a student, they make enter into an agreement with the parent to provide services in lieu of transportation. Parents who agree to provide in lieu services for their child will be reimbursed for their mileage at the same rate as district employees.