

# *TRANSPORTATION*

## **LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY**

Transportation services for students with disabilities are determined based on eligibility mandated under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1997, also known as IDEA. Under IDEA, students with disabilities shall be provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE). FAPE is determined by team members who agree on the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

### *TRANSPORTATION AS A RELATED SERVICE*

When transportation is required by the IEP, it is known as a related service. The IEP team shall determine the need for special education transportation as a related service individually for each student, based on the assessment information related to the student's disability. This determination, which shall be stated in the IEP, must be related to the needs of the student because of the student's disability and consideration of whether transportation is required for the student to benefit from special education. The bus driver is responsible for achieving the goal of safe transportation services for students with disabilities.

Transportation services may be provided as either school-to-school or home-to-school as determined by the IEP team. The IEP also determines the need for additional services such as assistance on the bus, therapy at other sites, the use of assistive mobility devices such as wheelchairs, and assistive devices such as safety vests.

Students who receive home-to-school transportation services must be received at the delivery address by an adult authorized by the parent or school.

Students generally require transportation if the IEP cannot be implemented at their school of residence due to the unavailability of programs and services.

Students may require transportation due to personal factors such as health, social judgment, or lack of ability to communicate.

If the IEP team determines that Transportation services will be needed, the *Data Transportation Transfer Form* of the IEP must be completed.

### *SCHOOL-TO-SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION*

For a student whose disability does not include personal factors such as health, social judgment, or lack of ability to communicate such that the safety of the student is a primary consideration, and the student requires transportation due to the unavailability of programs and services, school-to-school transportation may be generally considered appropriate to address the student's needs.

### *HOME-TO-SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION*

The following are general guidelines for IEP teams to determine the need for home-to-school transportation with the understanding that special circumstances or exceptions may be discussed and consensus reached by the IEP team:

- Home-to-school transportation for students with disabilities may be needed if the assessment information indicates that the identified disabilities are severe to the extent that they preclude the

student, when compared to same-age peers, from meeting the bus at a school or other non-resident pick-up location.

- For a student whose disability does include personal factors such as health, social judgment, or lack of ability to communicate such that the safety of the student is a primary consideration, home-to-school transportation or some other mode of transportation may be considered appropriate to address the student's needs.
- IEP teams should review assessment information and consult with the Transportation Branch and relevant health professionals, including District medical personnel, regarding the following factors in establishing the need for home-to-school transportation or some other mode of transportation:
  - Unique medical or assistive equipment, including wheelchairs or gurneys that have unique designs, configurations, or adaptation that may require special handling.
  - When the school bus equipment may require modification.
  - When the student exhibits severe behavioral difficulties and a behavior intervention plan that involves transportation is to be implemented. When behavior is an issue and an assistant is required on the bus, there must be a behavior intervention plan and behavior goals to address the need.
  - When the student is medically fragile, requires special assistance, or has other unique needs.
  - When climate control has been requested by a physician to address an identified medical need.
  - When a physician has imposed a limitation on time on the bus to address an identified medical need.
  - When the student's special communication needs are a critical factor in the effective communication of evacuation procedures and other safety issues such that accommodations or modifications applied on school-to-school transportation are insufficient.

### ***CONSIDERATION OF SOME OTHER MODE OF TRANSPORTATION***

Special circumstances related to the student's disability such as the following may lead the IEP team to determine the need for some other mode of transportation:

- Bus equipment may require modification.
- The student exhibits severe behavioral difficulties and a behavior intervention plan that involves transportation is to be implemented.
- The student is medically fragile, requires special assistance, or has other unique needs.
- Climate control has been requested by a physician to address an identified medical need.
- A physician has imposed a limitation of time on the bus to address an identified medical need.
- When the student's special communication needs are a critical factor in the effective communication of evacuation procedures and other safety issues such that accommodations or modifications applied on school-to-school transportation and home-to-school transportations are insufficient.