



## Determining the Need for Special Transportation

The following are **some** considerations the IEP team may use to determine whether a student needs transportation as a related service:

- Can the student walk or safely access general education transportation to get to and from school? If the answer is yes, the student does not need special education transportation.
- The nature and extent of the student's disability: consider the unique disability-related issues which affect the student.
- Any special procedures required by the student, and the effect of the needed procedures to access the regular bus and route.
- The need for specialized equipment: Some students with IEPs may require specific equipment to help them get to their destination safely. For example, a wheelchair lift, booster seat, and/or safety harness.
- The child with disabilities has severe behavioral problems impacting safe transportation, and transportation is an integral part of the school-based behavioral management program.
- The child with a disability is medically fragile and requires special handling and supervision, including specific direction from medical personnel.
- Is the student's special education program directed by the IEP team to be located outside the student's regular attendance area?
- The child with a disability has a technology-dependent condition.
- The child with a disability rides to school with a nurse.

When IEP teams are considering the need for special education transportation, the team must consider supplementary aids and services to ensure the student's needs are met in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). It is essential to recognize that all children with disabilities eligible for transportation services do not require the same level of specialized intervention. While it is understood that transportation may be difficult for a parent/guardian, it is important to note that special transportation cannot be considered for a parent/guardian convenience, it is based on the disability needs of the student. To determine special education transportation needs, the IEP Team must consider the unique circumstances of the individual student. Transporting a student with special education transportation removes them from the opportunity to participate with their nondisabled peers and should be used only when necessary to meet the student's needs.

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