School Bus Transportation of Children
With Special Health Care Needs
AAP Guidelines

Lifesavers Conference 2019
Louisville, KY

April 1, 2019
Acknowledgements

• American Academy of Pediatrics
• Denise Donaldson, CPST-I, Safe Ride News Publications
• Susan Shutrump, NAPT Special Needs Advisory Committee
• Michael LaRocco, NASDPTS, Indiana DOE
• University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute
• Marilyn J. Bull, MD Riley Hospital for Children
• Judith Talty, Automotive Safety Program, Indiana University School of Medicine
• Ben Hoffman, MD, American Academy of Pediatrics
Disclosure statement

- I have no relevant financial relationships with the manufacturer(s) of any commercial product(s) and/or provider of commercial services discussed in this CEU activity.

- I do not intend to discuss an unapproved/investigative use of a commercial product/device in our presentation.

- Images used in this presentation are for education only and do not imply an endorsement.
Objectives

- Introduce the Clinical Policy Statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics on School Bus Transportation of Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)

- Discuss how CPSTs can use this policy in the community
  - Role of the CPST in developing and implementing transportation plans

- Familiarize CPSTs in using vehicle restraints for school bus transportation

- Resources
Principles of safe transportation

• Overarching goal is to transport the child with special needs in the safest and most effective way possible

• Safety of all passengers is essential

• Essential to safe transportation is a well-constructed action plan
It takes a village to transport a child with special needs

Needs advanced thought and planning by a team of the medical home, the school home, and the family home before attending school.

- patient
- caregivers
- physician
- school nurse
- therapists
- school bus driver and aide
- school district representative
- transportation director
- school psychologist
- CPST resource
Communication is essential!

- CSHCN who are entitled to transportation:
  - should have an Individual Transportation Plan as part of the IFSP/IEP document
    - Specifies if a seat belt, child safety restraint system, or wheelchair is recommended.
    - For planning transportation, representatives of school transportation services and other school staff with appropriate knowledge and expertise should be included in the meeting
      - Consult DOE State Transportation Director
  - CPST and OT/PT should inform the parent about including transportation in the IEP
How the AAP guideline be of help?

• Provides recommendations on safe transportation as it relates to a child with a special need.
  - The inclusion of transportation personnel in the development of the IEP
  - The selection of the most appropriate seating system on the bus
  - The training of key personnel for seating, management of emergencies, communication of concerns
Principles for transporting children with special needs

• Infants, toddlers, and preschoolers should always ride in a Child Safety Restraint System (CSRS) on a school bus

• The best CSRS is the one that:
  – Fits the child (size, age, behavioral development, and medical needs)
  – Fits the school bus seat
  – Used correctly EVERY time (NHTSA)
Appropriate child safety restraint systems

- Conventional car seats (rear/forward facing)
- Large medical seats
  - Consult bus and seat manufacturer
- School bus specific add-on seats
- Travel vests
- Integrated seats for school buses
Sometimes the most appropriate selection is the child’s wheelchair

- Any child who can transfer from the wheelchair should be properly restrained on a school bus seat.
  - Wheelchair and equipment should be properly secured

- Weight recommendations for transfer from wheelchair in policy statement.
Sometimes the most appropriate selection is the child’s wheelchair

- Best practice for proper securement of a child in the wheelchair recommends:
  - Transit option wheelchair
  - Four point tiedown devices or acceptable equivalent
  - Positioning straps as needed
  - Federally approved occupant restraint system
  - Lap boards, trays removed and secured
  - Medical equipment properly secured as per the school bus, wheelchair manufacturers recommendations
Resources for safe transportation of CSHCN


  - http://wc-transportation-safety.umtri.umich.edu/ridesafe-brochure

• Search for CPST with school bus and/or special needs training at https://cert.safekids.org
Resources for safe transportation of CSHCN

• Automotive Safety Program, Riley Hospital for Children, Indiana University Health: http://www.preventinjury.org/Special-Needs

• American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement on school bus transportation of children with special needs, 2018. Available at: https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/141/5/e20180513
Questions???
Please evaluate this presentation using the Lifesavers Conference Mobile App

SELECT SESSIONS ICON ➔ SELECT APPLICABLE TRACK ➔ SELECT APPLICABLE WORKSHOP ➔ CLICK RATE EVENT BUTTON (OR) CLIPBOARD ICON