LIFESAVERS
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School Transportation for Children with Special Health Care Needs: During a Pandemic & Beyond

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“Individuals with Disabilities Education Act” (IDEA)

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ensures equality of education.

- Children with disabilities are entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) requires integration of children with disabilities with non-disabled peers.

- Individualized Education Program (IEP) specifies required special education and related services.
IDEA Definition of the Related Service Transportation

“Transportation (Part B) includes—

(i) Travel to and from school and between schools,

(ii) Travel in and around school buildings, and

(iii) Specialized equipment (such as special or adapted buses, lifts, and ramps), if required to provide special transportation for a child with a disability. (34 CFR §300.34 (c)(16))”
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Assistive Technology Device

- Includes equipment, acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized.
- Requires improving functional capabilities of an individual child with a disability, and
- Is determined and documented at the IEP meeting.

Note: Specialized equipment should be in good working condition.
Assistive Technology Service

- Evaluating the needs of a child with a disability.
- Purchasing, and leasing equipment.
- Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, retaining, repairing, or replacing equipment.
- Coordinating agency interventions, or services.
- Training or technical assistance for a child with a disability or family, if appropriate, and
- Training or technical assistance for professionals.
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Determination of Eligibility for the Related Service Transportation

- It is the responsibility of the IEP team to discuss eligibility for the related service transportation.
- The IEP team meeting should include all personnel necessary to make an informed decision.
- Mode of transportation should be discussed during the child’s evaluation.
- IEP transportation service differences of opinion require specific action.
- Medicaid funding is billable for eligible students receiving an approved health related service in school.
- IEP related service transportation must be provided at public expense.
Parents are entitled to be IEP team members.

Parents provide pertinent information about their child’s development, and disability.

Professionals play a significant role in helping parents to prepare for an IEP meeting.

Parents have the right to fully participate at IEP meetings regarding their child’s special education and related services.
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Transportation IEP Team Topics for Discussion

- Climate Control Vehicle
- Diastat Transport & Administration
- Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders
- Epi-Pen Transport & Use
- Length of Ride Time
- Medication Transport & Use
- Nursing Services
- Oxygen Transport & Use

- Participation in Evacuation Drills
- Pick-up and Drop-off Location
- Service Animals
- Specialized Equipment
- Specialized Personnel
- Specialized Seating
- Supervision
- Vagus Nerve Stimulator (VNS)
“Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act” Information Sharing and Confidentiality

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law affording parents the right to have access to their children's education records, seek records amendments, and some control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information.

- FERPA permits the sharing of information when there is a “legitimate educational interest” to do so.

- FERPA allows individuals responsible for the transportation of children with disabilities to receive individual child specific information.
The Crossroads of Navigating, Advocating, and Assisting Parents at IEP Meetings is Knowing that You Can Make A Significant Difference!