

LIFESAVERS

National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities

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

Presenter

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

“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.**



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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.



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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.**



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Navigating the IEP Process

- **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)




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“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.**



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**The Crossroads of Navigating, Advocating, and Assisting
Parents at IEP Meetings is Knowing that You Can Make
A Significant Difference!**