

Book	Policy Manual
Section	For the Board 40-2
Title	Vol. 40, No. 2 - February 2026 New SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS WITH IEPs
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New Policy - Vol. 40, No. 2

8655 - SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS WITH IEPs

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide specialized transportation as a related service when it is necessary for a student with an individualized education program ("IEP") to receive a free appropriate public education ("FAPE"), consistent with the least restrictive environment ("LRE") requirements. Specialized transportation is defined under 34 C.F.R. 300.34(c) (16) and includes travel to and from school and between schools; travel in and around school buildings; and specialized equipment such as special or adapted buses, lifts, and ramps, if required to provide transportation for a student with an IEP.

The IEP Team shall determine whether specialized transportation is required based on the individual needs of the student and the student's access to education in the LRE, including nonacademic settings, in accordance with 34 C.F.R. 300.114 and 300.117. Transporting a student with an IEP separately from their peers shall be used only when necessary to meet the student's needs and after consideration of supplementary aids and services that could support the student on general education transportation. The IEP Team will consider whether the student can safely walk or use general education transportation to get to and from school and activities, and if not, whether disability-related medical, health, developmental, or behavioral needs necessitate specialized transportation. The IEP Team will also consider potential harmful effects on the student or the quality of services, consistent with 34 C.F.R. 300.116(d). Cost shall not be a factor in determining a student's need for specialized transportation as a related service. Any required specialized equipment or supports will be documented in the student's IEP.

Transportation options shall be selected in accordance with LRE principles and the student's documented needs and may include: general education vehicles without supplementary aids and services; general education vehicles with supplementary aids and services for specialized equipment; or specialized transportation vehicles when necessary for the student to receive FAPE. The IEP Team's determination shall address transportation to and from school and, as appropriate, nonacademic and extracurricular activities that are part of the student's IEP.

The Superintendent shall establish administrative guidelines to implement this policy and to ensure that transportation personnel receive the information necessary to carry out IEP-required transportation supports and services in compliance with Federal and State requirements.

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Legal	34 C.F.R. 300.34(c)(16), 300.114, 300.116(d), 300.117 M.C.L. 380.1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1756 A.C. Rule 340.281, 282
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Last Modified by Shelly Wascha on May 15, 2026