

A Guide to Transportation for Preschool Students with Disabilities

Transportation is one of the many important services that an Local Education Agency (LEA) may have to provide to allow access to special education and related services required for preschool children with disabilities.

This document outlines rules and laws on the topic of transportation of students with disabilities and guidance on how to complete Section 8 of the individualized education program (IEP), Transportation as a Related Service.

Rules and laws relating to the transportation of preschool children with disabilities include:

[Ohio Administrative Code 3301-83-17](#)

- (A)(6) Resident pre-school special needs children are to be transported to school district pre-school special education programs within the district and outside the district if assigned by the school district of residence. If transportation is necessary for pre-school special needs children to receive a free and appropriate education, it must be provided at no cost to the parent or guardian.

[Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities 3301-51-01\(B\)\(54\)](#)

- “Transportation” includes:
 - a) Travel to and from school and between schools.
 - b) Travel in and around school buildings.
 - c) Specialized equipment (such as special or adapted buses, lifts and ramps), if required to provide special transportation for a child with a disability.

[Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities 3301-51-10\(A\)\(3\)](#)

- Transportation means travel to and from school, between schools, and in and around school buildings and may include the following:
 - a) Travel to and from school, between schools, and in and around school buildings during normal school hours and outside of normal school hours if included on the individual education program.
 - b) Specialized equipment, such as special or adapted vehicles, lifts and ramps, if required to provide special transportation for a child with disabilities.
 - c) Fitting and/or retrofitting vehicles with specialized equipment, such as car seats, securement systems and harnesses.
 - d) Employment of aides for particular special education vehicles if deemed necessary by the school district.
 - e) Alternative pick-up and drop-off locations, such as the curb, driveway or front door of the child's home, if determined to be appropriate based upon the individual needs of the child.
 - f) Other travel that may be arranged by the school district with no reimbursement from the state.

[Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities 3301-51-11\(K\)](#)

- Preschool transportation: Transportation shall be listed as a related service on a preschooler's IEP if the IEP team determines that transportation is required for the child to access and benefit from special education.

Guidance for completing the IEP form, Section 8, Transportation As A Related Service

Taken from Individualized Education Program (IEP) PR-07 Form, Section 8:

8 TRANSPORTATION AS A RELATED SERVICE

Does the child require special transportation? YES NO

Does the child need transportation to and from services? YES NO

Does the child need accommodations or modifications for transportation? YES NO

If yes, check any transportation accommodations/modifications below that the child needs:

The bus driver will be notified of the child's behavioral and/or medical concerns Aide (for transportation only)

Specially Adapted Vehicle Wheelchair lift Safety Vest Car Seat Securement Systems

Other

Specify:

Listed below is guidance for how to respond to each question on the IEP form. Please note that the order of the questions below has been changed to more accurately address the transportation needs for a preschool child with a disability:

Q: Does the child need transportation to and from services?

- **The question appears as the second question on the IEP form, however, is addressed first for a preschool child with a disability.**
- This question refers to services the IEP team has determined the child requires as part of his or her IEP. The district must provide access to those services in the location that is required by the IEP.
- If the child is receiving services at home, answer "no." If the child receives services in any other location and requires transportation, then answer "yes."
- Even if another agency/entity is providing transportation, the district should answer "yes" on the IEP to this question to indicate the child requires transportation to access a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). The district should list whoever is providing the transportation under the third question, *Other* box. For example, state "Head Start is transporting the child from home to school and back," or "Parents are transporting the child from home to school and back."

Q: Does the child require special transportation?

- **This question appears as the first question on the IEP form, however, is addressed second for a preschool child with a disability.**
- **This question refers to specialized equipment, accommodations and/or modifications for transportation.** Refer to [3301-51-10\(A\)\(3\)](#) to determine if the child needs *special* transportation.
- If the IEP team determines the answer to this question is "yes," then the answer to the question, **Does the child need accommodations or modifications for transportation?** also should be "yes."
- If the IEP team determines the answer to this question is "no," then this means the child is provided his or her services at *home* and/or the child does not need any specialized transportation (such as the child exceeds the height/weight requirements for a safety harness).

Q: Does the child need accommodations or modifications for transportation?

- **This question also refers to specialized equipment, accommodations and/or modifications for transportation.** Refer to [5501-51-10\(A\)\(3\)](#) to determine if the child needs *special* transportation.
- **If the IEP team determined the answer to the previous question “Does the child require special transportation?” was “yes”, then the answer to this question also should be “yes.”** Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate what special transportation is needed.
- **If the IEP team determined the answer to the previous question “Does the child require special transportation?” was “no”, then the answer to this question also should be “no.”**
- **Note: If the IEP team determined the answer to the question “Does the child need transportation to and from services?” was “yes”, then** check the *Other* box and list who is providing the transportation. For example, state "Head Start is transporting the child from home to school and back," or "Parents are transporting the child from home to school and back."

For additional information please refer to:

- education.ohio.gov
- Search keywords: Preschool Children Eligible for Special Education Frequently Asked Questions
- Office of School Transportation: (P) 877-644-6338, ext. 64230 schoolbus@education.ohio.gov