

**TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Governing Board desires to meet the transportation needs of students with disabilities to enable them to benefit from special education and related services. The district shall provide appropriate transportation services for a student with disabilities when the district is the student's district of residence and the transportation services are required by his/her individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation plan.

*(cf. 0430 - Comprehensive Local Plan for Special Education)*

*(cf. 3540 - Transportation)*

*(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)*

*(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)*

*(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)*

The specific needs of the student shall be the primary consideration when an IEP team is determining the student's transportation needs. Considerations may include, but are not limited to, the student's health needs, travel distances, physical accessibility and safety of streets and sidewalks, accessibility of public transportation systems, midday or other transportation needs, extended-year services, and, as necessary, implementation of a behavioral intervention plan.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide IEP teams with information about district transportation services in order to assist them in making decisions as to the mode, schedule, and location of transportation services that may be available to each student with disabilities. The IEP team may communicate with district transportation staff and/or invite transportation staff to attend IEP team meetings where the student's transportation needs will be discussed.

Transportation services specified in a student's IEP or Section 504 plan shall be provided at no cost to the student or his/her parent/guardian.

*(cf. 3250 - Transportation Fees)*

If a student whose IEP or accommodation plan specifies transportation needs is excluded from school bus transportation for any reason, such as suspension, expulsion, or other reason, the district shall provide alternative transportation at no cost to the student or parent/guardian. (Education Code 48915.5)

*(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)*

*(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))*

When contracting with a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency to provide special education services, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the contract includes general administrative and financial agreements related to the provision of transportation services if specified in the student's IEP. (Education Code 56366)

*(cf. 6159.2 - Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School and Agency Services for Special Education)*

**TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall arrange transportation schedules so that students with disabilities do not spend an excessive amount of time on buses compared to other students. Arrivals and departures shall not reduce the length of the school day for these students except as may be prescribed on an individual basis.

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*  
*(cf. 3541 - Transportation Routes and Services)*

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any mobile seating devices used on district buses are compatible with bus securement systems required by 49 CFR 571.222. (Education Code 56195.8)

*(cf. 3542 - School Bus Drivers)*

As necessary, a student with disabilities may be accompanied on school transportation by a service animal, as defined in 28 CFR 35.104, including a specially trained guide dog, signal dog, or service dog. (Education Code 39839; Civil Code 54.1-54.2; 28 CFR 35.136)

*(cf. 6163.2 - Animals at School)*

When transportation is not specifically required by the IEP or Section 504 plan of a student with disabilities, the student shall be subject to the rules and policies regarding regular transportation offerings within the district.

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

## TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (continued)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

39807.5 *Payment of transportation cost*  
39839 *Guide dogs, signal dogs, and service dogs on bus*  
41850-41854 *Allowances for transportation*  
48300-48315 *Alternative interdistrict attendance program*  
48915.5 *Expulsion of students with exceptional needs*  
56040 *No cost for special education and related services*  
56195.8 *Adoption of policies*  
56327 *Assessment for special education and related services*  
56345 *Individualized education program*  
56365-56366.1 *Nonpublic nonsectarian schools or agencies*

CIVIL CODE

54.1-54.2 *Service animals*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

15243 *Physically handicapped minors*  
15271 *Exclusion from report*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1400-1482 *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.104 *Definitions*

35.136 *Service animals*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

104.4 *Equal opportunity under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504*

300.1-300.818 *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, especially:*

300.34 *Transportation defined as related service*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 49

571.222 *Federal requirements for bus securement systems*

*Management Resources:*

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Special Education Transportation Guidelines

*Pupil Fees, Deposits and Other Charges, Fiscal Management Advisory 12-02, April 24, 2013*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Protecting Students with Disabilities: Frequently Asked Questions About Section 504 and the Education of Children with Disabilities, 2009

Questions and Answers on Serving Children with Disabilities Eligible for Transportation, 2009

WEB SITES

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

Policy  
adopted: April 14, 1997  
revised: October 26, 1999  
revised: February 28, 2017

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Visalia, California

## **Business and Noninstructional Operations**

### **TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Transportation for students with disabilities shall be provided in accordance with a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation plan.

*(cf. 3540 - Transportation)*

*(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program (IEP))*

*(cf. 6164.4 - Identification of Individuals for Special Education)*

*(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education under Section 504)*

If a disabled student is excluded from school bus transportation, the district shall provide alternative transportation at no cost to the student or parent/guardian provided that transportation is specified in the student's IEP. (Education Code 48915.5)

*(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)*

*(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Individuals with Disabilities))*

When contracting with a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency to provide special education services, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the contract includes general administrative and financial agreements related to the provision of transportation services if specified in the student's IEP. (Education Code 56366)

*(cf. 6159.2 - Nonpublic Nonsectarian School and Agency Services for Special Education)*

Guide dogs, signal dogs and service dogs trained to provide assistance to disabled persons may be transported in a school bus when accompanied by disabled students, disabled teachers or persons training the dogs. (Education Code 39839)

Regulation

adopted: April 14, 1997

Revised: October 26, 1999

Revised: July 12, 2004 – Board Policy Committee

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Visalia, California