

FRESNO COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

Policy No.: 85-05

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Policy Title: Pupil Transportation

1. The SELPA shall ensure that the concept of “Least Restrictive Environment” (LRE) applies to the transportation of students with special needs as operationalized by its member LEAs. When an IEP team determines that transportation is not a necessary related service, the child’s parent/guardian shall choose the mode of travel to and from school from the options available to general education students. When addressing transportation as a related service, there are two categories of students with special needs to be considered:
 - ◆ Those for whom transportation is a related service, but delivering that service does not require any accommodation. These students can ride with their peers with no special needs.
 - ◆ Those for whom transportation is a related service and accommodation is necessary to ensure they can access educational services.
2. If transportation services are to be provided for students receiving special education programs or services, appropriate designation must be indicated on the IEP of the student. It is the responsibility of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to determine that transportation is required to assist the student in benefiting from special education services.

Transportation services for special education students may be provided by the regular transportation system of an LEA, specially designed vehicles operated by an LEA, contracts with other public or private agencies or by payment in lieu of transportation to parents or other qualified individuals. The responsibility for providing and paying for transportation services may vary according to the circumstances related to individual placements of students.

The following listing, which is not all inclusive, identifies the most common situations which may require that transportation be provided and identifies the LEA/s responsible for providing and paying the costs of the service.

- A. For students who are residents of the school district which operates the special education program in which the student has been placed, the district of residence must provide and/or pay for the transportation.
- B. For students who are residents of one school district, but have been placed through the IEP process to receive service in another district or SELPA, the district of residence is responsible to provide and/or pay the transportation costs.

- C. For students who are residents of a school district or reside in an LCI or FFH within a school district, and are placed through an IEP in a Nonpublic school or Agency, the district making the placement is responsible to provide *and/or* pay the costs for the transportation.
- D. For students who reside in school districts within the SELPA, but are assigned through the IEP process to programs for which the county office is given responsibility shall,
 - 1. Wherever possible, pupils with disabilities shall be transported by regular transportation to classes and programs.
 - 2. Pupils placed in special classes operated by the Fresno County Office of Education shall, whenever possible, be transported by regular district transportation.
 - 3. Students transported to special day classes outside of their district of residence and there being no other available means, shall be provided transportation, a) under the Fresno County Office of Education Master Transportation Contract, or b) with private drivers or parents in isolated cases.

If this is not feasible, then the county office has the responsibility to apply all state transportation revenues received to reduce excess costs. The school districts in the county are responsible for the excess costs of transportation services provided by the SELPA in accordance with the SELPA's Transportation Billback policy as identified in the Funding Allocation Plan (FAP).

- E. Transportation will be provided to and from sites or clinics where a student is scheduled to receive a related service that is included in the student's IEP. The district of residence is responsible for the cost.
- 3. The local education agencies that comprise the Fresno County SELPA and that provide special transportation for students with disabilities shall ensure compatibility between mobile seating devices when used, and the securement systems required by Federal Motor Vehicle safety standard No. 222 (49 C.F.R. 571.222).

Each entity providing transportation shall ensure that all school bus drivers have received training in the proper installation of mobile seating devices in the bus securement systems.

Reference: E.C. 56195.8 (b)(5)

03/14/85
Rev. 01/05/90
Rev. 12/15/92
Rev. 01/26/96
Rev. 04/14/03