



School Bus Rights



School bus rights for children with disabilities aim to ensure that students with disabilities receive equal access to transportation and educational opportunities.

While specific transportation regulations may differ by county, federal laws such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act offer important protections for your student.

Under IDEA, students with disabilities have the right to a free and appropriate public education which includes transportation, when necessary for the student to access and benefit from their educational program.

Specialized Transportation. If a student's disability requires specialized transportation, such as a wheelchair-accessible bus, the school district must provide it. This can also include a bus aide if necessary.

Individualized Education Program. If your student has an IEP, the IEP team must consider transportation needs as a part of the IEP. This will detail any necessary transportation accommodations and support.

To learn about the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) regarding school transportation visit <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=392-172a-02095>.

If you are concerned your child is being harassed or bullied on the bus, talk to the driver and report the incident to your child's principal. You can find sample Incident Reporting Forms at <https://www.oeo.wa.gov/en/education-issues/bullying-harassment-and-intimidation>

Tips on what Parents and Guardians Should Know to Prepare:

- 1. Review your student's IEP or 504 Plan:** Check to make sure transportation needs are clearly outlined.
- 2. Create a communication plan with the school.** Identify a direct contact with the school's transportation department.
- 3. Document Concerns.** If issues arise, document them and address them promptly with the school and appropriate team members.
- 4. Know Your Student's Rights.** Learn the local and federal regulations regarding the transportation of students with disabilities in your school district. *You and your student have the right to refuse transportation services as well.*

