

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: EAC

Responsible Office: OFFICE OF OPERATIONS, TRANSPORTATION DIVISION, DIVISION OF SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for the safe transportation of Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) students with disabilities as required by State and federal laws and regulations.

B. BACKGROUND

The Director of Transportation or the Director's designee is tasked with the responsibility of daily operational issues related to all aspects of transportation services for AACPS students with disabilities. These services shall be supplied in accordance with the procedures identified in Section D, below.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. *Transportation* – includes:

- a. Travel to and from school;
- b. Travel between schools;
- c. Travel in and around school buildings; and
- d. Specialized equipment, if required, to provide special transportation to a student with a disability.

D. PROCEDURES

1. Transportation shall be provided to students with disabilities, in accordance with the Section 504 Plan or Individual Education Plan (IEP) of the student.
2. Students with disabilities shall receive the same transportation services as students without disabilities, unless the Section 504 Plan or IEP Team determines otherwise.

3. The Section 504 Plan or IEP Team, in determining if a student's disability affects their requirements for transportation, shall consider whether the disability prevents the student from:
 - a. Using the same transportation provided to students without disabilities; and
 - b. Accessing educational programming in the same manner as students without disabilities.
4. AACPS shall ensure that:
 - a. Any transportation service included in a student's Section 504 Plan or IEP as a related service is provided at public expense and at no cost to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s); and
 - b. The student's Section 504 Plan lists specialized transportation as an accommodation or IEP describes the transportation arrangement.
5. For some students with disabilities, integrated transportation may be achieved by providing needed accommodations to address each student's unique needs. Such accommodations shall be provided at public expense and at no cost to parents/guardians.
6. Daily transportation shall be provided under the same conditions provided to students without disabilities, or when feasible to provide transportation with existing equipment or contracts.
7. When mutually agreed to, the school system may provide cost effective reimbursement to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student with disabilities for expenses related to the transportation service.
8. Where specialized transportation services are required, bus stops shall be located at the nearest accessible location in recognition of the disability impact. The IEP Team, in collaboration with the Transportation Division, shall determine accessibility.
9. Students enrolled in Maryland State Department of Education approved residential programs offering residential programming shall be eligible for transportation:
 - a. Five-day residential: to and from their homes on weekends.
 - b. Seven-day residential: reimbursement for the expenses associated with four round-trips between home and school each school year.

Regulation History: Issued 02/06/13; Revised 09/30/25

Note Previous Regulation History: Replaces Regulation AR700.03, issued 07/06/83 and revised 03/07/90, 01/08/97, 04/05/06

Legal References: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Section 8-410 of the Education Article; COMAR 13A.06.07