

# Williamson County Board of Education



**Adopted Date:**  
8/19/02  
Rev. 8/21/06

3.4001

## SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

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1 The Board shall provide free transportation services to any student with disabilities unable to ride the regular  
2 school bus to which he/she has been assigned.

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4 Any student with a disability unable to ride a regular school bus will be entitled to ride a bus for children with  
5 disabilities subject to the following conditions:

- 6  
7 1. The Special Education Director coordinates the determination of eligibility for this service.  
8 2. The Special Education Director is authorized to require that the family physician certify in  
9 writing the disability and that special transportation services are required.  
10 3. The Special Education Director is authorized to require that the Williamson County Health  
11 Department certify the need for special transportation services.

12  
13 Any student riding a bus must be ready to board the bus when it arrives. It is the parents' duty to have  
14 someone meet the bus and call for the student on delivery.

15  
16 In cases where the child must be lifted, parents are responsible for lifting the child on or off the bus at home.  
17 At school this task is assigned by the school principal.

18  
19 The student will be picked up at and delivered to his/her permanent home address or designated stop.

20  
21 Students are expected to attend their school of zone. Beginning school year 2002-03, the Board shall  
22 provide free transportation, regardless of disability, to and from a student's zoned elementary, middle school  
23 and high school.

- 24  
25 1. Parents who wish for their child to attend an out-of-zone school must follow the guidelines in  
26 Board policy 1.703.  
27  
28 a. An exception will be made for students whose IEP Team places them at an out-of-  
29 zone **OR** out-of-county school and lists transportation as a required related  
30 service. Transportation will be provided for these students at no cost to the  
31 parents regardless of which school they attend.  
32  
33 2. As required by state and federal law, IEP Teams are expected to place students in the  
34 school of zone they would attend if not disabled.  
35  
36 a. Placement in an out-of-zone or out-of-county school shall only be made if the  
37 IEP Team can show that the school of zone cannot provide the services and  
38 supports in the student's IEP.  
39 b. The IEP Team is required to notify the Special Education Coordinator/Director  
40 in writing when placement to an out-of-zone or out-of-county school is made. If  
41 the IEP Team suspects ahead of time that such a placement recommendation  
42 is likely, the Team should invite the Special Education Coordinator/Director to  
43 attend the IEP meeting for that student.  
44 c. The Special Education Department shall determine the reason the school of  
45 zone is unable to meet the student's needs and make recommendations for  
46 correcting those problems.  
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3. Students who are in an out-of-zone school in school year 2001-02 may continue to attend that school until they would naturally transition to the next school (i.e., elementary to middle school or middle school to high school) if the IEP Team feels the current school is the best placement for this student.
- a. If the IEP Team determines that changing schools would be harmful to students age 19 and older who are currently in an out-of-zone school, those students may remain at that school until they exit school at age 22. The law requires IEP Teams to consider if a placement would have harmful effects on a student. Harmful effects can include loss of familiar surroundings, teachers and/or routine and loss of friends.
4. The Williamson County School System shall be responsible to transport students with disabilities to the educational and/or vocational destination as required by their IEP unless the parents/legal guardians of said student choose to provide the student with transportation. The Transportation Manager will endeavor to ensure that the vehicles used to transport our students are well maintained per manufacturer's recommendation, meet the guidelines set forth by the Federal Government, and are properly equipped to handle the needs of students with disabilities. The Transportation Manager will use only experienced drivers who have been screened for drugs, criminal background, driving record and hold CPR certification. These drivers must be employees of Williamson County Schools. If the IEP of the student with disabilities requires an aide to accompany the driver, the Transportation Manager will assign a Williamson County School employee to this task. The Williamson County School System is prohibited from contracting the transportation of students with disabilities with any 3<sup>rd</sup> party carrier unless approved for an individual instance by the Transportation Manager and the Director of Special Education.