



Book	Policy Manual
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### **REVISED POLICY - VOL. 35, NO. 1 - NOVEMBER 2022**

#### **8600 - TRANSPORTATION**

Day-to-day transportation for all students served by the Cooperative for whom transportation is a related service and who attend school in the school corporation the student would attend if **s/he the student** did not have a disability shall be provided **[x]** by the school corporation which the student would attend if **s/he the student** did not have a disability. **[ ] by the Cooperative. [x]** as indicated in the Cooperative Agreement. **[END OF OPTION]**

A child whose case conference committee has determined **s/he that the student** will attend a school outside the boundaries of the school corporation in which **s/he the student** lives or has enrolled as a transfer student shall receive transportation as a related service that shall be provided **[x]** by the school corporation which the student would attend if **s/he the student** did not have a disability. **[ ] by the Cooperative. [x]** as indicated in the Cooperative Agreement.

Each September, the Cooperative must review the Cooperative's school bus routes and school bus safety policies to improve the safety of students and adults.

A special purpose bus is any motor vehicle designed and constructed for the accommodation of more than ten (10) passengers that meets the Federal school bus safety standards, except the requirement for stop arms and flashing lights, and that is used by the Cooperative for transportation purposes not appropriate for school buses. A special purpose bus is not required to be constructed, equipped, or painted as specified for regular school buses. **A special purpose bus is not subject to the limitation placed on a school bus of traveling no more than 200 miles out of state.**

**A special purpose bus may not be used to provide transportation of school children between their residence and school except for persons enrolled in a special program, i.e., for the habilitation or rehabilitation of students with developmental disabilities, orthopedic impairments, or multiple disabilities, between their residence and the school.**

**[x]** A special purpose bus **or an appropriate vehicle** may be used for transportation of students from one school to another school **or between the student's residence and the school.**

[ x ] A special purpose bus or appropriate vehicle may be used to transport students and their supervisors, including coaches, managers, and sponsors to athletic, other extracurricular school activities, and field trips.

[ ] [OPTIONAL]

A special purpose bus may be used to transport homeless or foster students. If more than seven (7) students are being transported to schools in the same Cooperative, a school bus or a special purpose bus must be used. If seven (7) or fewer students are being transported to schools in the same Cooperative, a special purpose bus or an "appropriate vehicle" may be used to transport the students. The driver must meet the qualifications for the driver of a school bus or special purpose bus set forth in State statute, as applicable, if a school bus or special purpose bus is used.

An "appropriate vehicle" is defined as a vehicle that:

- A. is owned by the Cooperative or contracted for by the Cooperative and
- B. has a seating capacity of not more than eight (8) fifteen (15) passengers including the driver.

The term "appropriate vehicle" includes a car, truck, sport utility vehicle, or minivan, or van.

[END OF OPTION]

[START OF OPTION]

[ x ] A special purpose bus may be used to transport students for career and technical education programs. If more than seven (7) students are being transported to or from a career and technical education program, a school bus or a special purpose bus must be used. If seven (7) or fewer students are being transported to or from a career and technical education course an appropriate vehicle may be used to transport the students. The driver of the vehicle used to transport students to or from technical education programs must meet the qualifications for a driver of a school bus or special purpose bus set forth in State statute, as applicable, if a school bus or special purpose bus is used. A special purpose bus may be used to transport students from school to school or to/from school and a career and technical education program but may not be used to transport students between their residence and a career and technical education program.

An "appropriate vehicle" is defined as a vehicle that:

- A. is owned by the Cooperative or contracted for by the Cooperative; and
- B. has a seating capacity of not more than eight (8) fifteen (15) passengers including the driver.

The term "appropriate vehicle" includes a car, truck, sport utility vehicle, or minivan, or van.

[END OF OPTION]

If the special purpose bus or appropriate vehicle has a capacity of less than sixteen (16) passengers, the operator must be at least twenty-one (21) years old, pass an expanded criminal history check and expanded child protection index check, and hold a valid operator's, chauffeur's, commercial driver's, or public passenger chauffeur's license. If the special purpose bus has a capacity of more than fifteen (15) passengers or is used to provide transportation: 1) between an individual's residence and the school for an individual enrolled in a special program for the habilitation or rehabilitation of persons with a development or physical disability, and, if applicable, the individual's sibling, 2) between an individual's resident and the preschool facility site for preschool children who attend preschool offered by the Cooperative, or 3) between an individual's residence and the program for persons with a developmental disability for persons with a development disability, the operator must meet the requirements of a regular school bus driver.

- A. between an individual's residence and the school for an individual enrolled in a special program for the habilitation or rehabilitation of persons with a development or physical disability, and, if applicable, the individual's sibling,

- B. between an individual's resident and the preschool facility site for preschool children who attend preschool offered by the Cooperative, or
- C. between an individual's residence and the program for persons with a developmental disability for persons with a development disability, the operator must meet the requirements of a regular school bus driver.

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[ ] The Board may enter into a fleet contract with a fleet contractor under the provisions of Indiana law and such contracts may include a provision allowing the school bus drivers to be eligible for life and health insurance benefits and other fringe benefits available to other Cooperative personnel.

[ ] The Board may enter into a fleet agreement with a transportation network company (TNC) to transport Cooperative students if the Cooperative conducts an expanded criminal history check and expanded child protection index check for every TNC driver who will transport Cooperative students.

[ ] The Board of Managers may enter into an agreement with an agency or organization serving persons with a developmental disability in which a school bus or special purpose bus used by the Cooperative may be used to transport persons with a developmental disability who are at least two (2) years of age to and from programs for persons with a developmental disability.

[ x ] The Board may allow, by written authorization, the use of school bus or a special purpose bus for the transportation of adults at least sixty-five (65) years of age or adults with developmental or physical disabilities.

The Board authorizes the installation and use of video recording devices in the school buses to assist the drivers in providing for the safety and well-being of the students while on a bus.

If the vehicle is equipped with safety belts that meet the standards stated in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 208 (49 CFR 571.208) and are standard equipment installed by the manufacturer, then each occupant shall have a safety belt properly fastened around his/her body at all times when the vehicle is in forward motion, as required by State statute.

If a school bus driver must load or unload an elementary school student at a location that requires the student to cross a roadway that is a U.S. route or State route, the Director shall present the school bus route to the Board for approval.

I.C. 9-13-2-161 ("school bus" defined)

I.C. 9-19-10-2 (use of safety belt by motor vehicle occupants)

I.C. 9-21-12 (school bus operation)

I.C. 20-18-2-1.7 (definition of appropriate vehicle)

I.C. 20-26-5-4(a)(5) (purchase of buses) and (8) (employ drivers)

I.C. 20-27-3 (State School Bus Committee)

I.C. 20-27-5-6 (definition of appropriate vehicle)

I.C. 20-27-9 (use of school buses)

I.C. 20-27-12

I.C. 36-1-7-2

49 C.F.R. Part 571

49 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.

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