

Transportation

Students with disabilities shall be transported with nondisabled students when appropriate. Transportation as a related service may be necessary for a student to receive special education and related services as

1. Determined by the student’s CCC, and
2. Specified in the student’s IEP.

Transportation for extended school year services

Elkhart Community Schools is responsible to provide transportation necessary to enable students to attend extended school year services or related services that are provided to a student with a disability:

1. Beyond the public agency’s school calendar or instructional day;
2. In accordance with the student’s IEP; and
3. At no cost to the parent/guardian of the student; and
4. Meet the standards of the department of education.

Transportation provided by parent/guardian

The parent/guardian of a student with a disability shall not be required to provide transportation. If the parent/guardian does transport the student, pursuant to a written agreement with Elkhart Community Schools, the parent/guardian shall receive a reimbursement of not less than the per mile rate at which employees are reimbursed.

Transit time

The transit time of a student with a disability shall not exceed the transit time of nondisabled students of comparable age in the same school corporation of legal settlement. A written student-specific justification for the excess transit time must be written and placed in each affected student’s record. A local policy limiting transit time is applicable to students with disabilities.

Transportation of students in public or private residential placements

If Elkhart Community Schools places a student of legal settlement in public or private residential placement, then Elkhart Community Schools is responsible for:

1. Transportation costs.
2. Paying for the number of round trips as determined appropriate by the CCC in accordance with statutory requirements and this rule.
3. Transportation costs for home visits with a mutually agreed upon frequency, length, and timing by the residential facility, the parent/guardian, and Elkhart Community Schools.
4. Paying for the cost of a responsible adult to accompany the student during a home visit if necessary for the student’s welfare and safety.
5. If a parent/guardian travels to the residential facility, that travel may be in lieu of a student home visit.
6. If the CCC determines any of the following is essential to the student’s educational, emotional, or behavioral progress, Elkhart Community Schools must pay for the cost for the parent/guardian to travel to the residential facility.
7. The nature or severity of the student’s disability precludes home visits.
8. The residential facility provides family counseling and training essential to the student’s educational, emotional, or behavioral progress.
9. The student cannot travel home unaccompanied.
10. When a parent/guardian travels to the residential facility, Elkhart Community Schools must reimburse or pay for travel-associated costs such as meals and lodging, in accordance with the policies established for school employees.
11. At the time a residential placement is made, Elkhart Community Schools must do the following:
12. Establish guidelines and procedures concerning transportation.
13. Inform the parent/guardian of those guidelines and procedures.
14. The guidelines and procedures under 8 B must include at least the following information:
15. The modes of transportation for which payment or reimbursement will be made.
16. The methods by which transportation will be paid.
17. The length of advance notice required.
18. The travel-associated costs allowed under Elkhart Community Schools policy.

Related services

Transportation as a related service may include:

1. Travel

a. To and from the educational setting and between educational settings;

b. In and around the educational setting;

1. To and from related services that are provided outside the educational setting; or
2. For participation in nonacademic and extracurricular activities if transportation is provided to nondisabled students.
3. Any service not provided to nondisabled students, including:
4. Special bus routes.
5. Special or adapted vehicles.
6. Aides in attendances.
7. Separate or different modes of transportation such as taxi or individual transportation; or
8. Special equipment such as oxygen, lifts, and ramps.

Transportation as a related service must be provided by the:

1. Public agency, directly or by contract; or
2. Student’s parent/guardian, but only if the parent/guardian is willing to provide transportation, in which case the parent/guardian is entitled to reimbursement at the rate that employees of the public agency are reimbursed for travel expenses.

Transportation as a related service must be provided:

1. When the student:
   1. Needs assistance moving from place to place within the educational setting.
   2. Is enrolled in a school other than the school the student would attend if not disabled, including another building in the same school corporation, to another school corporation, or to a state-operated school; or
   3. Is enrolled as a residential student in a public or private residential facility.
2. When issues about the student’s special physical health, mobility, or behavior require special consideration for type of transportation safety, supervision, assistance, or time in transit, or
3. When the student:
4. Requires a shortened instructional day.
5. Needs a related service that is provided:
6. At a site other than the school attended by the student; or
7. Outside of the instructional day; or
8. For other reasons, cannot be transported with nondisabled students or needs special assistance or consideration.

Elkhart Community Schools Guidelines for determining special transportation

1. If a student possibly will require special transportation as a related service as defined above, this must be discussed as part of the CCC process.
2. A representative from the transportation department and/or a special education supervisor should be invited to the CCC meeting.
3. If the CCC agrees that the student requires special transportation as a related service, special transportation should be selected on the IEP. Additional information such as the student is transported in a wheelchair, or needs a harness, etc should be included.