



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Transportation is a huge barrier for students with disabilities. There are more options for those who are competitively employed, Vocational Rehabilitation and IRWE's (Impairment Related Work Expenses), for example.

Many transportation services have reduced fare programs for people with disabilities. Check with your local mass transit programs to see if you are eligible for this cost-saving benefit! Here are some links to where you can find some of your local services:

- <http://www.tn.gov/tdot/article/public-transit-services>
- <http://www.apta.com/resources/links/unitedstates/Pages/TennesseeTransitLinks.aspx>

If the student is on Social Security, check into the PASS or IRWE Work Incentives. You can find more information on these programs here: <https://www.ssa.gov/redbook/eng/ssdi-and-ssi-employments-supports.htm>. When a student is unpaid and spends their day at a Community-Based Job Training Site, teachers, parents and students have to brainstorm additional options.

Here are some questions you may consider during the student's planning meetings:

- Does the student have a driver's license?
 - If the student does not have a license, could they obtain one?
 - Does the student have access to a vehicle to drive?
 - Could the student purchase a vehicle? A PASS (Plan for Achieving Self-Support through Social Security) could possibly be used to cover the down payment.
- Is there mass transit in the area?
 - Does the student know how to navigate the mass transit?
 - Is the student willing to learn to ride the mass transit? Some community agencies and mass transit programs teach people with disabilities to use mass transit.
- Is there paratransit (ex: AccessRide) available?



- Could the student take a cab to and from their job training site/employment site?
- Could the student walk or bike to their job training site/employment site?
- Could the student carpool with other students to the site?
- Could the student vanpool with other students to and from the site?
- Does the training/job site have additional ideas and resources regarding transportation? Do they have employee transportation benefits the student could utilize?
- Are there other employers nearby whose employees take a similar route? Maybe everyone could start a vanpool?
- Is there someone who could drive the student to and from the training site?
 - People they live with?
 - Family?
 - Residential program staff?
 - Neighbors?
 - Fellow church members?
 - Friends and their families from groups like Best Buddies and Special Olympics that work in the job site area?
- If you don't know anyone who could drive the student, could you find a driver?
 - Where would the student advertise (newspaper, online Facebook groups, local colleges, church bulletin, etc.)?

Other ideas: _____
