



Exceptional Learners Parent's Guide:

PROVIDING YOUR CHILD A SAFE RIDE BACK TO SCHOOL

While transportation may look different for the school year 2020-2021, the school bus or school van transporting your child has not changed. School transportation is still the safest and most efficient means of bringing children to school each and every day.

Getting an early start is the key! It is important that your school transportation provider is involved early in the planning process. Transportation for students with disabilities must be planned before the first day of school in order to ensure a safe ride and guarantee the necessary equipment is available. In all scenarios, transportation will depend on what is required at the local level and what policies have been adopted by the school entity. All parties involved in planning the transportation for exceptional learners should always recognize that the "I" in the student's IEP (Individualized Education Program) stands for the "individual." Here are some great tips to keep in mind as we approach the reopening of school:



RIDE SMART

- Follow your school's social distancing guidelines in your school's Health and Safety Plan.
- As a parent/guardian, be sure to let your driver know what Personal Protective Equipment is working best for your child.
- Our drivers will observe the guidelines established for driver Personal Protective Equipment through your school district's Health and Safety Plan and/or state guidance.
- Hand sanitizer and/or disposable wipes will be made readily available following any local or state requirements.
 - Please let your driver know if your child has any sensitivity to these products.
- Parents should check their child's temperature before he/she boards the school bus/school vehicle.
- Please do not send a sick child to school.



RIDE SAFE

- Extra attention will be given to disinfecting high touch areas such as entrance handrails, tops of seats, passenger occupied seats, and wheelchair hardware.
- Child Safety Restraint - Your child's driver will review safety vest cleanliness and practice to keep vests on the vehicle.
- Please pay extra attention to the cleanliness of items traveling with your child - for example, backpacks on wheelchairs, trays on wheelchairs; oxygen tanks; personal items on the wheelchair, etc.
- Be sure to notify your driver if your child has an allergy or sensitivity to cleaners. An odorless cleaner may be substituted if necessary.
- To provide proper ventilation for students while riding the bus a vehicle's windows may be opened and/or air conditioning may be used.



RIDE WITH CONFIDENCE

Your school bus transportation provider recognizes that one size will not fit most and will work to ensure everyone is going the extra mile to provide your student with safe transportation.

Your school bus transportation provider understands there will be challenging situations and will do everything possible to make transportation of your child convenient and comfortable.

Student "practice" visits may be necessary to ensure student comfort. For example, a visit from their driver and/or aide wearing a mask while with a parent, may help ease the student into the new process.