



Transportation for Students with Disabilities Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to meeting the transportation needs of students with disabilities to enable them to benefit from special education and related services. The Charter School shall provide appropriate transportation services for a student with disabilities when transportation services are required by his/her individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation plan, as determined by the team.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Transportation for Students with Disabilities Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Procedures for Determining the Students Transportation Needs.
2. Establish the Charter School's Provision of Transportation Services Specified in an IEP
3. Identify the Procedures for Alternative Transportation
4. Establish the Financial Agreement for Contracting with a Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School or Agency
5. Establish the Procedures for Transportation Schedules for Students with Disabilities
6. Establish the Compatibility of Mobile Seating Devices
7. Identify the Procedures for a Service Animal and Transportation

- 1. Determination of Transportation Needs:** The specific needs of the student shall be the primary consideration when an IEP team is determining the student's transportation needs. Considerations may include, but are not limited to, the student's health needs, travel distances, physical accessibility and safety of streets and sidewalks, accessibility of public transportation systems, midday or other transportation needs, extended-year services, and, as necessary, implementation of a behavioral intervention plan.

The Executive Director or designee shall provide IEP teams with information about the Charter School's transportation services in order to assist them in making decisions as to the mode, schedule, and location of transportation services that may be available to each student with disabilities.

- 2. Providing Transportation Services:** Transportation services specified in a student's IEP or Section 504 plan shall be provided.

When transportation is not specifically required by the IEP or Section 504 plan of a student with disabilities, the student shall be subject to the rules and policies regarding regular transportation offerings within the Charter School.

- 3. Alternative Transportation:** If a student whose IEP or accommodation plan specifies transportation needs is excluded from school bus transportation for any reason, such as

suspension, expulsion, or other reason, the Charter School shall provide alternative transportation at no cost to the student or parent/guardian. (Education Code 48915.5)

4. **Financial Agreement for Contracting:** When contracting with a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency to provide special education services, the Executive Director or designee shall ensure that the contract includes general administrative and financial agreements related to the provision of transportation services if specified in the student's IEP. (Education Code 56366)
5. **Transportation Schedules:** The Executive Director or designee shall arrange transportation schedules so that students with disabilities do not spend an excessive amount of time on buses compared to other students.
6. **Mobile Seating Devices:** The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that any mobile seating devices used on the Charter School's buses are compatible with bus securement systems required by 49 CFR 571.222. (Education Code 56195.8)
7. **Service Animal:** As necessary, a student with disabilities may be accompanied on school transportation by a service animal, as defined in 28 CFR 35.104, including a specially trained guide dog, signal dog, or service dog. (Education Code 39839; Civil Code 54.1-54.2; 28 CFR 35.136)