

7470.1600 TRANSPORTING PUPILS WITH DISABILITY.

Subpart 1. **Services provided.** Minnesota Statutes, sections 125A.03 to 125A.24, requires school districts to provide special education and services for a school age resident with a disability. Accordingly, free transportation services must be provided to any child with a disability who requires special transportation services because of the child's disabling conditions or special program needs.

Parts 7470.1600 and 7470.1700 apply to transportation of a child with a disability, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.02, when the disabling conditions of the child are such that the child cannot be safely transported on the regular school bus route or when the child is transported on a special route for the purpose of attending an approved special education program.

Parts 7470.1600 and 7470.1700 are not applicable to parents who transport their own child under contract with a school district or nonpublic school.

Subp. 2. **Appeal process.** Any parent of a child with a disability who believes that the transportation services provided for that child are not in compliance with parts 7470.1600 and 7470.1700 may utilize the due process procedures provided for in Minnesota Statutes, sections 125A.03 to 125A.24.

Subp. 3. **Length of transit time.** The length of time a pupil with a disability is transported must be appropriate to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of the pupil. In general, a pupil with a disability should not spend more time in transit than a pupil without a disability except as may be required because of the unique location of the pupil's educational program.

Subp. 4. **Type of vehicle.** The school district shall determine the type of vehicle used to transport pupils with a disability on the basis of the disabling conditions of those pupils. These vehicles must comply with Minnesota Statutes, section 169.4504.

Subp. 5. **Additional assistance; determination.** Vehicles used to transport pupils with a disability must be equipped with a two-way communications system or have a responsible aide, or both, to provide necessary assistance and supervision that cannot safely be provided by the driver. A school district may determine that an aide is required. The determination of whether an aide is required must reflect the needs of the pupils and be based on such factors as disabilities of pupils transported, distance traveled, density of population, terrain, and any other factors that may affect the safety of the pupil passengers. Exceptions to this subpart may be made upon mutual agreement between the parents and the school district.

Subp. 6. **Special equipment.** Specially adapted seats, support, or protective devices must be provided for all pupils who require the devices to ensure their safe transportation.

These devices must be selected by the school district in consultation with the pupil's parents and on the basis of the specific needs of the individual pupil with a disability.

Subp. 7. **Wheelchair securement.** A school bus used to transport pupils in wheelchairs must be equipped with fastening devices that will hold the wheelchairs securely in a fixed position.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 169.449*

History: *20 SR 722; L 1998 c 397 art 11 s 3*

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