



Massachusetts Office on Disability

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MEMORANDUM

To: Massachusetts Public School Administrators
CC: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
From: David D'Arcangelo, Director
RE: Students with Disabilities – Access to School Field Trips and Extracurricular Activities
Date: April 26, 2017

The Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) is the Commonwealth's Coordinating Agency for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) under Executive Order 526, and is charged with providing information, training, and technical assistance and promulgating guidelines reflecting best practices, policies and procedures concerning persons with disabilities.

As we work to promote equal access for all students, school districts must make an assessment of disability access when planning day or overnight school field trips and any other extracurricular activities. When public schools schedule programs at inaccessible locations or provide separate transportation or accommodations for students with disabilities, they risk violating those students' civil rights.

Federal law Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), Title II of the ADA, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as well as state laws and regulations, require school districts to provide students with disabilities equal access to programs, services, activities, and facilities.

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), is the federal agency responsible for enforcing ADA Title II and Section 504. Please note that OCR has investigated cases involving Massachusetts school districts and access to field trips and other activities on behalf of students with disabilities.

MOD is available to offer technical assistance on providing equal access and opportunity to individuals with disabilities as well as to share information on additional resources. Please feel free to contact MOD at 617-727-7440 or mass.gov/mod/contactus if you have questions.