

# Specialized Transportation

Reimbursement for Specialized Transportation costs is an option available through the quarterly [Administrative Activity Claims](#).

## What is School-Based Specialized Transportation?

- School-based specialized transportation is defined as transportation to a medically necessary service that is provided pursuant to the IEP of an enrolled Medicaid beneficiary and provided in a ***specially adapted vehicle that has been physically adjusted or designed to meet the needs of the individual student*** under IDEA.
- Both the need for specialized transportation and the need(s) for health-related service(s) must be listed in the student's IEP.

## Vehicle Requirements

**Must be a specially adapted vehicle (bus, van, or other) that is physically modified or designed to accommodate the student's disability/needs.**



### Examples of Qualified Adaptations:

- ✓ Special harnesses (e.g., 3- or 5-point harness)
- ✓ Wheelchair lifts or ramps
- ✓ Specialized environmental controls (e.g., climate, sound)
- ✓ Specialized suspension systems
- ✓ Other physical modifications to meet specific student needs

## What Does Not Qualify as Specialized Transportation:

- ✗ Basic seat belts (even when not 'normally' installed in a school bus)
- ✗ Size/weight appropriate BESE (belt-enforced seat) seat (includes car seats, booster seats, etc.)
- ✗ Changes to bus routes (e.g. for shorter distance/time on bus)
- ✗ Using a smaller/larger vehicle without specific physical adaptations/equipment for the student (e.g. fewer students and distractions)
- ✗ Special seating assignments (e.g. first row)
- ✗ The presence of an aide/monitor/caregiver
- ✗ Physical adaptations to accommodate an aide/monitor/caregiver

**Note:** *If an aide is attending to the medical needs of the student, they can be considered for participation in RMTS and for reimbursement for the cost of those personal care or nursing services through the direct service reimbursement program.*



## **Expenditure Reporting**

### Claimable Expenditures Include:

- Payments to a transportation provider or company
- The rent or lease of specialized vehicle(s)
- Salaries of drivers of specialized transportation vehicles owned, rented, or leased and operated by the LEA
- Maintenance and repair costs for specialized transportation vehicles owned/rented/ leased and operated by the LEA
- LEAs can claim the costs incurred to reimburse parents/guardians who provide IEP-prescribed transportation in their own vehicle, as long as all vehicle and IEP requirements are met

## **Student Statistics Reporting**

### Two statistics (counts of students) are reported:

#### 1. Total Students Who Receive a Specialized Transportation Service:

The LEA Specialized Transportation Population must include all students who are transported in a vehicle that is specially equipped or physically adapted/modified to accommodate students with specialized medical needs, regardless of whether the students themselves have specialized medical needs. This means that **any students riding in that vehicle for any reason** are counted and reported in this statistic. Count Medicaid and non-Medicaid students.

#### 2. Total students who receive a specialized transportation service pursuant to their IEP for a medical reason:

This is a subset of #1. In this statistic, only include students who have qualified specialized transportation included in their IEP. Count Medicaid and non-Medicaid students.

## **Supplementary Medicaid Specialized Transportation Student List (annual)**

Due September 30 following the end of each school year (e.g. FY26 report is due 9/30/26). Instructions and an example report are included in the [LEA Instruction Guide for Administrative Activity Claiming](#).

### Required Information for annual Medicaid Specialized Transportation Student List:

- ✓ Student First Name
- ✓ Student Last Name
- ✓ Student Medicaid ID
- ✓ Student Unique Student ID (either LEA's student ID or SASID)
- ✓ Start Date for Specialized Transportation
- ✓ End Date for Specialized Transportation (leave blank if not specified/unknown)
- ✓ Brief description of specialized transportation accommodation(s) (e.g. wheelchair lift, 3-point restraint harness)

