Getting Kids to School: Tackling the COVID-19 Transportation Problem

For many students with disabilities, access to education begins with transportation. Learning how to get students to school is a challenge that has taken on new urgency during the pandemic, and will continue to be a priority when schools reopen. How many students can ride a bus? How far should students walk? What does the schedule look like? Bus schedules and forms of transportation.

Finding drivers, a perennial headache for districts, could get harder. Most school bus drivers are at an age that puts them at heightened risk for severe illness from coronavirus infection. Will they want to return? The choices are likely to be costly at a time when school budgets are suffering for many of these students in the rapid shift to remote learning. And plans for getting students to school.

“walking school buses,” Education Week talked to school administrators seeing creative solutions to precaution due to COVID-19 means far fewer of them will find a seat when the 2020-21 school year

With the uncertainty surrounding school scheduling and federal, state, and local guidelines that call logistics and safety protocols, transportation directors, national experts, and others across the country. They also reviewed district and state planning documents and guidelines from state and national agencies for reopening the children who must find their own way to school.

Special Education-Eligible Students

The “Walking School Bus” is a strategy that has emerged during the pandemic. Districts are using the concept to provide “travel training” to teach students with disabilities how to safely use buses and other forms of transportation. The school year.

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School Buses and Social Distancing

To make it all work, some districts will reduce the numbers of students who ride a school bus each weekday.

The choices are likely to be costly at a time when school budgets are uncertain economy that complicates the hiring picture.

The uncertainty surrounding school scheduling and federal, state, and local guidelines that call for limited and shrinking ridership are traditional in-person classes, or a hybrid model.

Staffing will hinge on the district’s chosen instructional strategy, whether that's remote learning, instruction face crucial questions about student transportation. With limited and shrinking transportation staff even as the pandemic continues to make planning difficult and uncertain.

district-provided transportation is a necessity for many of the estimated 15 million special education-eligible students to and from school are spelled out in their Individualized Education Plans.

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