



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5575

Introduced 2/13/2026, by Rep. Kevin John Olickal

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/14-20 new

Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Requires each school district to provide transportation to all students with an Individualized Education Program, based solely on the student's eligibility for special education. Provides that the transportation shall be provided at no cost and is presumed necessary for a free appropriate public education. Provides that the type, method, route, and accommodations for transportation shall be individualized to the student's needs. Sets forth how mileage shall be determined and verified. Requires school districts to maintain mileage records, provide the mileage records to parents or guardians within 10 business days of request, and include the mileage records in the student's educational record. Establishes transportation restrictions for school districts. Allows parents or guardians to seek relief for the failure to provide transportation as a denial of a free appropriate public education. Allows the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the provisions. Effective July 1, 2026.

LRB104 20745 LNS 34249 b

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 14-20 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/14-20 new)

7 Sec. 14-20. Transportation for Students with
8 Individualized Education Programs.

9 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that
10 every child with a disability who is eligible for special
11 education services receives meaningful and equitable access to
12 a free appropriate public education. Transportation is a
13 necessary related service under federal and State law and
14 shall be provided consistently, equitably, and without
15 discrimination across all school districts in this State.

16 (b) As used in this Section:

17 "School district" means any local educational agency
18 subject to this Code.

19 "Specialized transportation" includes
20 wheelchair-accessible vehicles, door-to-door service, travel
21 aides, supervision, adapted seating, or other accommodations
22 required for safe transport.

23 "Transportation" means travel necessary to ensure access

1 to education for a student with an Individualized Education
2 Program, including:

3 (1) travel to and from the student's residence;

4 (2) travel between multiple school buildings or
5 educational sites;

6 (3) travel to and from any school attended, including
7 public, private, charter, magnet, proprietary, or other
8 nonpublic schools; or

9 (4) travel to and from any school, program, or
10 educational site located within 6 miles of the public
11 school where the student receives special education
12 services, without regard to whether attendance is related
13 to the student's disability, Individualized Education
14 Program services, or placement.

15 (c) Each school district shall provide transportation to
16 all students with an Individualized Education Program, based
17 solely on the student's eligibility for special education,
18 regardless of:

19 (1) disability category or severity;

20 (2) educational placement or instructional setting;

21 (3) type of school attended; or

22 (4) whether transportation is listed in the
23 Individualized Education Program.

24 Transportation shall be provided at no cost and is
25 presumed necessary for a free appropriate public education.

26 (d) Transportation shall include, at a minimum:

1 (1) transportation to and from the student's residence
2 and any school attended;

3 (2) transportation between schools or educational
4 sites;

5 (3) transportation to and from any public, private,
6 proprietary, or nonpublic school or educational site
7 located within 6 miles of the public school where the
8 student receives special education services, including
9 general education, enrichment, vocational training, dual
10 enrollment, religious instruction, or other lawful
11 educational purposes; or

12 (4) transportation to access evaluations, therapies,
13 instructional programs, or services identified in the
14 Individualized Education Program.

15 Eligibility shall not depend on a connection between the
16 destination and the student's disability or Individualized
17 Education Program services. Nothing in this Section requires
18 the district to fund private school tuition or instructional
19 costs.

20 (e) The type, method, route, and accommodations for
21 transportation shall be individualized to the student's needs.
22 A school district shall not deny or limit transportation due
23 to:

24 (1) availability of parental transportation;

25 (2) distance rules applicable to general education
26 students;

1 (3) governance, ownership, or funding of the school
2 attended; or

3 (4) administrative convenience, staffing shortages, or
4 cost considerations.

5 (f) Mileage shall be determined and verified as follows:

6 (1) by the shortest publicly accessible driving route;

7 (2) by GPS or digital mapping platforms approved or
8 commonly used by the State Board of Education;

9 (3) from the primary public entrance of the student's
10 public school to the primary public entrance of the
11 destination;

12 (4) at the point of the Individualized Education
13 Program development or revision, upon placement or service
14 changes or upon written request by a parent or guardian.

15 Temporary traffic, construction, or detours shall not deny
16 eligibility; and

17 (5) in conflicting calculations, the measurement most
18 favorable to the student applies. Transportation continues
19 during disputes.

20 (g) School districts shall maintain mileage records,
21 provide the mileage records to parents or guardians within 10
22 business days of request, and include the mileage records in
23 the student's educational record.

24 (h) A school district shall not:

25 (1) limit transportation solely to home-to-school
26 routes;

1 (2) require parents or guardians to transport
2 students;

3 (3) deny transportation based on public, private, or
4 proprietary status of the school;

5 (4) require proof that attendance is necessary for the
6 Individualized Education Program;

7 (5) manipulate routing or mileage to exceed 6 miles;

8 or

9 (6) deny transportation based on disability, behavior,
10 attendance, or cost.

11 (i) Failure to provide transportation as required
12 constitutes a denial of a free appropriate public education.

13 Parents or guardians may seek relief through:

14 (1) the Individualized Education Program process;

15 (2) filing an administrative complaint with the State
16 Board of Education; or

17 (3) a due process hearing under Section 14-8.02 of
18 this Code.

19 Transportation shall continue during any dispute.

20 (j) The State Board of Education may adopt rules necessary
21 to implement this Section, as long as it does not limit or
22 diminish transportation rights guaranteed in this Section.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
24 2026.