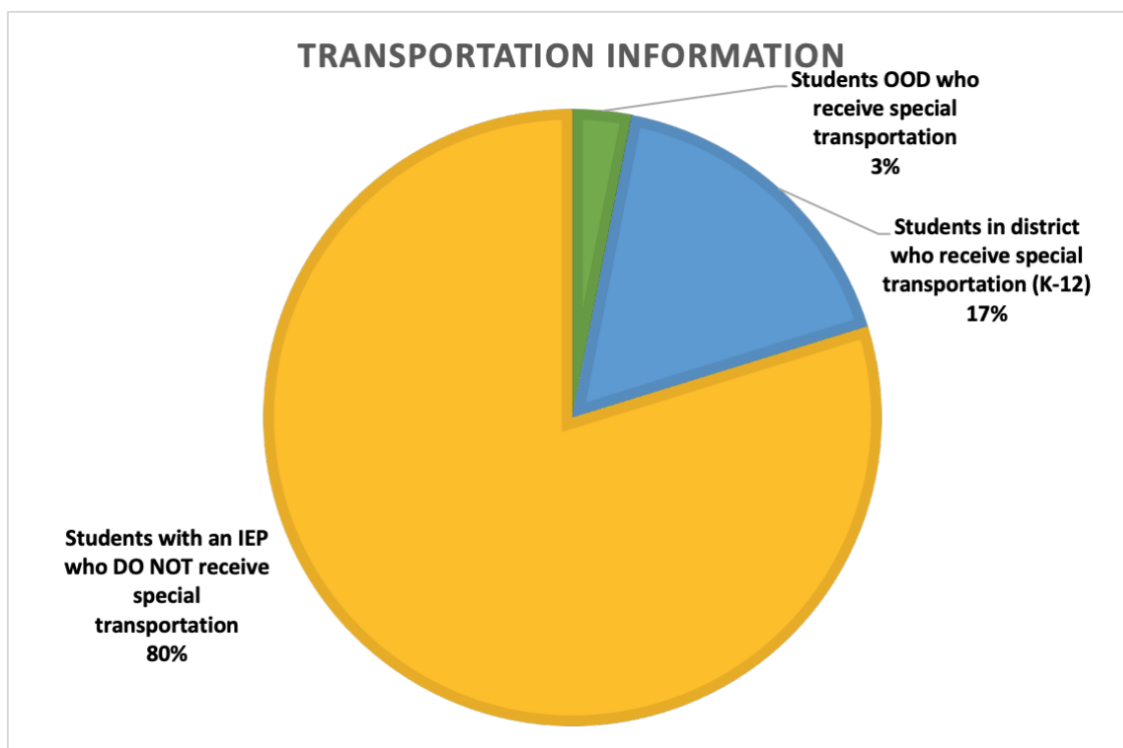


Old Bridge Township Public Schools

Office of Special Services

Procedures for Transportation Implementation as part of the IEP process

Specialized Transportation accommodations are implemented as part of the Initial IEP process or an Annual IEP Review. As of November 2021, 80% of students who have an IEP are provided transportation to and from school without any specialized transportation accommodations. 17% of our student population identified as needing special education and/or related services are provided with specialized transportation (inclusive of preschool students). The remaining 3% of students who receive special education and/or related services are transported to an Out-of-District (OOD) placement. All students who attend an OOD placement receive specialized transportation due to the needs identified in their IEPs. Please see the breakdown below:

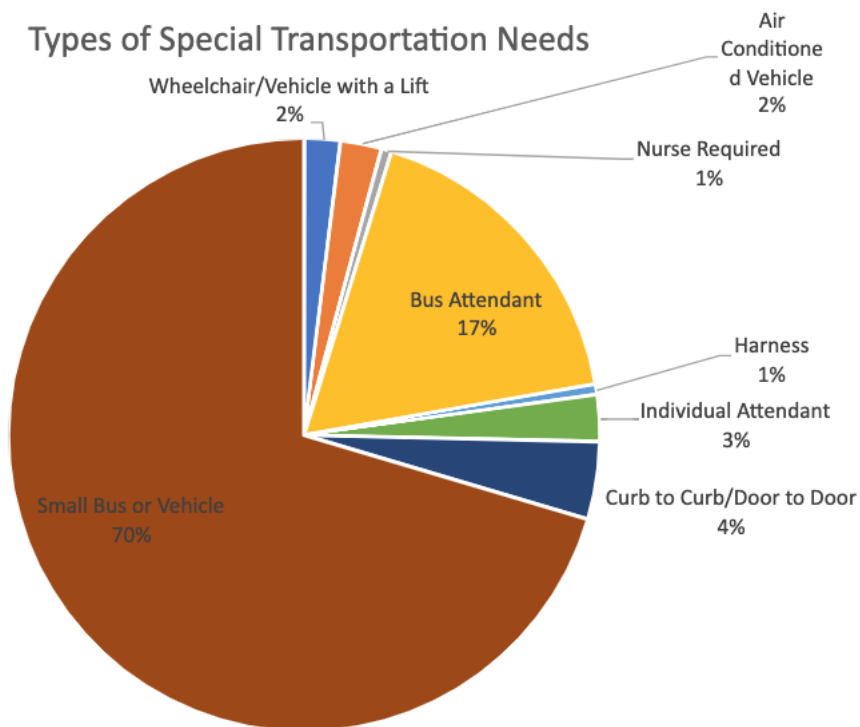


Currently, 282 K-12 students receive some form of “Specialized Transportation.” Students who receive some sort of specialized transportation are provided with one or more of the following: *Air Conditioning on the bus; Wheelchair Lift; Nurse on Bus; Bus Attendant; Independent Attendant; 5 point-harness (aka Kiddie Cam); Curb to curb or door to door/or small bus vehicle.*

For the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, the Department of Special Services created a “Special Transportation Form” which is reviewed with the parents during an annual IEP meeting to guide the conversation of the potential need for Specialized Transportation as part of the IEP. As part of any IEP meeting, the Case Manager, Parent, or other member of the IEP Team can review student transportation needs as well as review the school, program, or placement suggestions with the parent.

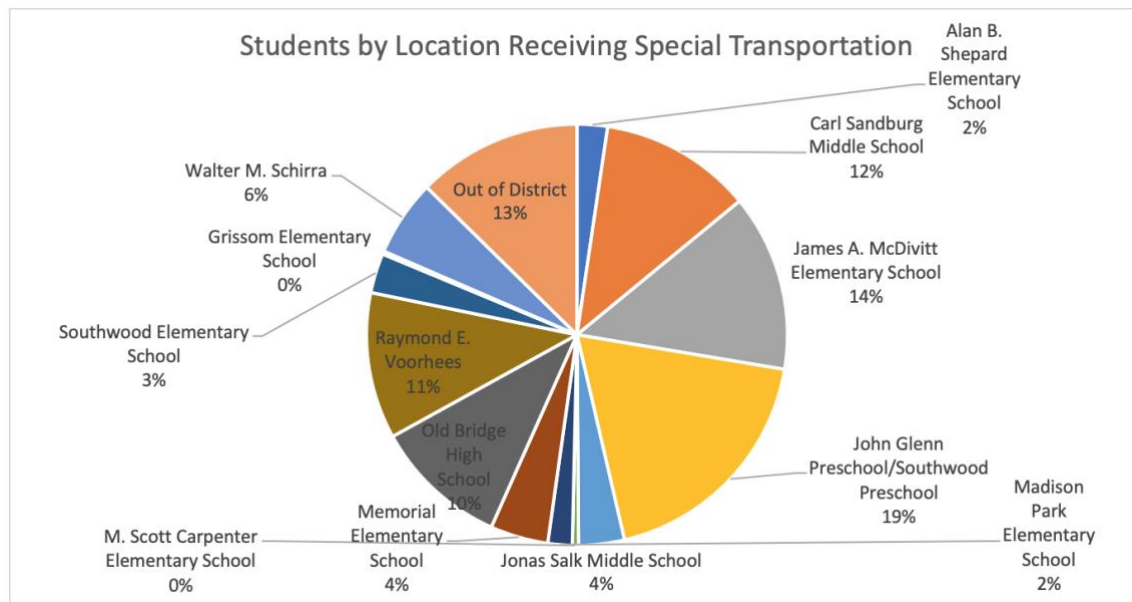
The transportation needs, as identified by the IEP Team, are placed in the students’ IEP under the accommodations section and becomes part of the IEP through either a parent signature or after fifteen (15) days pursuant to NJAC 6A-14 (New Jersey Special Education Code). The Department of Special Services sends the IEP to the Department of Transportation where it is reviewed by the Director of Transportation

and her staff. Then transportation routes are determined for students based on bus route availability, program location, bus aide support, and the ability to safely transport students from home to their school/program (more information on bus routes is found later in this document). Please see below the breakdown of “specialized transportation” needs in the district:



As per New Jersey Department of Education Special Education Code, if the parent disagrees with the provision of a Related Services, including specialized transportation, as proposed by the district, they can exercise their rights as a parent of a special education student as outlined in NJ PRISE (Parental Rights in Special Education).

One of the main reasons for the provision of specialized transportation for Old Bridge students is the need to transport students to locations outside of their homeschools. Across Old Bridge Township Public Schools, the district’s specialized classes (including but not limited to ICR, LLD, ABA and BIP) are regionalized across our eleven (11) elementary schools. Sometimes, this makes it necessary for students to travel to a school outside of their designated home school. Please see attached the summary of programs and the locations of these programs in relation to the students homeschools. As you can see, the overall number of students who attend a regionalized specialized class in elementary and middle school in a location other than their homeschool is approximately 62.2% (163/262). Please see the further breakdown by school of students who receive specialized transportation throughout the district:



Once a student's transportation needs are reviewed through an IEP process and agreed upon by the parent, specialized transportation can be provided to a student based on their needs. A student's transportation needs are reviewed with the parent and a specialized transportation form is filled out. The finalized Annual or Initial IEP is then sent to transportation for implementation and scheduling a bus route.

How are Transportation Routes Established (54 passenger buses and small vans)

Once a student IEP outlining specialized transportation is sent to the Department of Transportation, they place the students on their respective route. In accordance with transportation procedures, all routes for both 54-passenger buses and small vans are considered a regionalized route.

At the beginning of each year, bus routes districtwide are established based on "sections" of Old Bridge Township with the Department of Transportation first scheduling a run based on a development or neighborhood and then establishing larger boundaries of areas based on the capacity of the bus and the location of the final destination (school). To the greatest extent possible, the bus routes are kept to a certain range of mileage to ensure as minimum amount of time on the bus for students. District bus routes are fluid on a year-to-year basis based on the overall number of in-district drivers and the number of contracted routes necessary to fulfill the district's transportation routes.

In some cases in areas of larger student population concentration (i.e. London Terrace Apartment complex, New Amsterdam Apartment complex, certain high density residential communities, etc.), multiple bus runs are needed to meet the needs of the children residing in those communities. Therefore, additional runs might be needed for one section of town due to the total number of students residing in those communities.

The Department of Transportation utilizes this same system of regionalized transportation routes for students necessitating specialized transportation as is done with all the other routes districtwide. When a student is scheduled for specialized transportation either at the beginning of the school year or during the middle of the year due to a transfer and/or new classification status, the student is placed on a bus route that accounts for the needs of the student (i.e. bus attendant, A/C, door-to-door transport, etc.) within the regionalized area of the town where the bus route is currently scheduled. As the school year continues, the amount of students identified as needing specialized transportation as a related service typically grows as well. If this occurs, the Transportation Department re-evaluates each route to ensure it is the most efficient and effective way of transporting students to and from home to school.