

## Child Passenger Safety on School Buses



NATIONAL TRAINING



REAR-FACING  
CSRS



FORWARD-FACING  
CSRS



SCHOOL BUS  
CSRS



SEAT BELT



## Handout • CSRS and Students with Disabilities

### INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

- The **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** (IDEA) lays the foundation for educational rights of children with disabilities.
- It is through IDEA that children with disabilities are entitled to an IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan, pre-birth to 3) and an IEP (Individualized Education Plan, age 3 to 21).
  - Transportation is legally regarded a “related service” on a child’s IEP. Therefore, all aspects of the law apply to the time a student spends in transport.
  - Since IEP/IFSP are overall education documents, the topic of transportation can be (and too often is) easily overlooked.
- All children with an IEP/IFSP should be given an Individualized Transportation Assessment (ITA) that considers the child’s transportation needs.
- If the ITA finds that any transportation modifications are necessary, an Individualized Transportation Plan (ITP) should be documented as well.
- Some students who need transportation accommodations don’t meet the qualifications under IDEA. These students have rights for transportation accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which protects equal access rights for students.
  - The needs of students with a Section 504 Plan tend to be less involved than those of children who fall under IDEA, but since these students may require transportation accommodations, similar transportation plans should be prepared for these students as well.

### AAP POLICY STATEMENT

- AAP’s policy statement on the school transportation of children with special healthcare needs can be found at:

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/141/5/e20180513/37887>

## NEEDS THAT NECESSITATE THE USE OF CSRS



## ADAPTIVE CSRS

The CSRS model shown features extra support including an **abductor**, **recline wedge**, **body supports**, **height adjusters** and **adjustable head rests**.



## WHAT IS RELEVANT TO TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS?

### RELEVANT

- ✓ Physical challenges
- ✓ Behavioral, emotional or communication issues
- ✓ Positioning and mobility needs
- ✓ Rescue/quick-relief medications
- ✓ Sensory issues.

### NOT RELEVANT

- ✗ A child's complete medical history
- ✗ A child's specific diagnosis
- ✗ A child's family history
- ✗ All medications a child takes

## SAFETY VEST FOR BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION

If a safety vest is used for a child for the sole purpose of behavior modification, it is important to demonstrate that the transporter has taken this step while respecting the student's right to ride in the LRE (least restrictive environment possible).

### DO

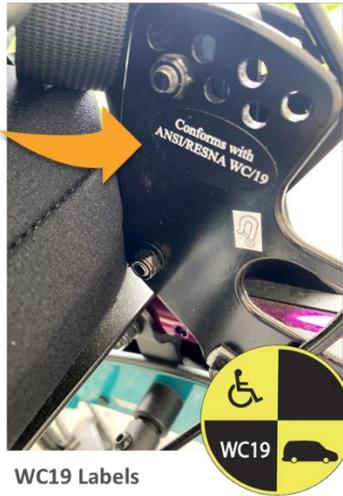
- ✓ Try all other interventions.
- ✓ Stress that safety vests meet FMVSS 213.
- ✓ Reassess needs at a later date.
- ✓ Involve the full IEP/IFSP team.

### DON'T

- ✗ Jump immediately to a CSRS.
- ✗ Call them "harness" or "restraint"
- ✗ Make modifications to the CSRS.
- ✗ Decide unilaterally, without input of all IEP/IFSP team members.

## WHEELCHAIRS ON SCHOOL BUSES

- Experts, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, note that it is always safer for a child who rides in a wheelchair to transfer to a school bus seat (using an appropriate CSRS) for transit.
- Therefore, whenever possible, the child's transportation plan should indicate that the child should ride in a CSRS whenever possible—that is, whenever the child's size, medical condition, and the capabilities of the bus staff allow it. Staff must be trained to conduct the transfer properly.
- If a wheelchair must be used on the bus, use one that's transit-ready, meeting voluntary standard WC-19, whenever possible.
- WC-19 wheelchairs have been tested to confirm they are crashworthy and have the features shown.



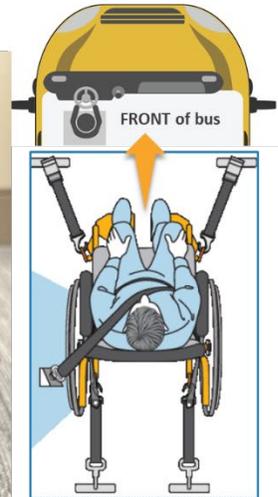
WC19 Labels



Ample openings for occupant restraint system



Securement point label



Four-point securement

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## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- **Safe Travel for All Children** is designed to serve as an enrichment course for CPSTs who are interested in learning more about specialty and adaptive transportation.
  - Visit [preventinjury.pediatrics.iu.edu](http://preventinjury.pediatrics.iu.edu) for more information.

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## PROGRESS CHECK

- What information about a child with disabilities is important for a transporter to know?
  
- What are the advantages and challenges of using an adaptive CSRS on a bus?
  
- What should be considered before using a CSRS for behavioral challenges?

