

Illinois Medicaid FY22 Annual Cost Report: Special *Versus* Specialized Transportation

SPECIAL

Historically, districts have been able to submit costs for students who have “Special” transportation identified as a needed service in a student’s IEP for state and Medicaid reimbursement purposes. This included door-to-door and bus aide monitoring supports.

Transportation	
Check all that apply	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Special transportation is required to and from schools and/or between schools.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Special transportation is required in and around school buildings.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Specialized equipment (such as special or adapted buses, lifts, and ramps) is required.

With the recent change to the Illinois Medicaid State Plan Amendment, the federal government has clarified that for **Medicaid reimbursement**, districts can only submit claims for students who require “Specialized” transportation as a service in their IEP. “Specialized” transportation requires a student to need a **physical modification** to the bus, such as wheel chair lift, harness, or a ramp. Only students with “Specialized” transportation identified on their IEP can ride the same route, or districts will not be able to submit claims for Medicaid reimbursement.

SPECIALIZED

Transportation	
Check all that apply	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Special transportation is required to and from schools and/or between schools.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Special transportation is required in and around school buildings.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Specialized equipment (such as special or adapted buses, lifts, and ramps) is required.

This is the first time districts have had to track the difference between “Special” and “Specialized” transportation services for Medicaid reimbursement. If a district plans to submit “Specialized” transportation claims for Medicaid reimbursement, then a tracking system of bus logs and routes specific to students who only have “Specialized” transportation identified in their IEP will need to be developed to ensure that no “special” transportation students ride the same route.

Some districts may chose to not submit “Specialized” transportation claims for Medicaid reimbursement due to the restriction of only having students who require a physical modification to ride the same bus route. Larger districts may decide to adjust their routing and documentation processes to meet the requirement to capture a larger percentage of Medicaid reimbursement. Individual districts are able to decide how they want to address this issue moving forward.

The IAASE Medicaid Committee understands that this interpretation of Specialized transportation is not in alignment with the current Illinois U-200 Local Education Agency handbook. Once the Illinois Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) is passed, we expect that an updated handbook will be published to reflect these changes.

Districts will need to contact the Public Consulting Group (PCG) directly for the specific guidance regarding documenting for “Specialized” transportation for Medicaid reimbursement.

Contacting PCG
Toll-free hotline (833) 976-1847
Email: ilmac@pcgclaimingsystem.zendesk.com