

**July 10, 2024, Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Written Comments
Received between Monday, July 8th and Thursday, July 11th
Submitted via Written Comments Form**

1 I was able to listen in on the meeting, but have a new phone and believe I was muted on my end when I hit star 6. Sorry for the confusion.

Most students with IEPs and 504 plans do not qualify for transportation. The elimination of busing for IEP\504 students without transportation on their paperwork eliminates fair access to a support structure for students with disabilities that has been years in the making.

As most of you know it takes years to access, create and understand the IEP/504 resources available in a particular school. It's taken years for the student to trust the team and the team to know the student. Honestly it's wasted money to have to re-establish that at a new school, when there's a mostly empty bus (or paratransit) that that student could access at a hubbed bustop. (Hubbed being more responsible than curb to curb)

My statement may be different if the transportation resources didn't exist, but last year we had over 38000 seats in transportation available everyday. About 30,000 of them went unused. Everyday we sent out buses that were mostly empty. Many having just 2-3 students on them.

That's about 50 vacant seats. To be truthful 100% occupancy is impossible, but 4% occupancy is irresponsible. We should see this as an opportunity for the students in the IEP/504 community.

Yes there is a nationwide bus driver shortage, but then why are we letting 30,000 seats go empty everyday? That's like watering the street during a drought and is just irresponsible.

I'm just a parent quoting M. L. "King"

"It's always the right time to do the right thing"