Does your child have a disability and ride a school bus? Here’s what you need to know.

Does your child get special education at school because of a disability?

At least once a year the school will have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting. This is called an IEP Team meeting. (It used to be called an M Team and some people still use this name.) This meeting decides what help the school will give your child.

The IEP Team is a group of people who will decide what kind of help your child will get. You are a member of the IEP Team. It is important for you to attend the meetings. You know more about your child than anyone else does. You should go to the IEP meetings if you want to help decide how the school will help your child.

What happens when the IEP Team meets?

At the meeting, the team will decide what your child will be taught. They will decide what kind of help your child will get from the school.

They also decide if your child will get transportation. This can be travel to and from school or between schools. It can be travel in and around the school buildings or even special equipment like ramps. The IEP Team should make sure that children with disabilities get any extra help they need on the bus. If your child is going to ride the school bus, make sure he or she will be safe.

Make sure the school knows about your child’s special needs. Make sure any decisions about transportation are written in your child’s Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Does your child need a bus with a lift because he or she is in a wheelchair? Does the bus need equipment so the wheelchair won’t roll around? Tell the IEP Team.

Does your child need air conditioning or heating because of medical problems? Tell the IEP Team the bus needs this equipment.

Can your child sit safely in the bus? Does your child need a seat belt? Does your child need special seating? Tell the IEP Team.

Does your child need help getting on and off the bus? Does someone need to check to make sure your child gets off the bus? Does someone need to meet your child when he or she gets off the bus? Is it okay for the driver to leave your child if no one is there to meet him or her? Tell the IEP Team.
The law says that the school has to give children with disabilities the help they need to learn. The IEP Team should decide what each child needs. Make sure the IEP Team knows what your child needs and writes it into the plan.

Need help with special education? These agencies may be able to help.

**Special Education Action Network of Tennessee (SPAN-TN)**
(615) 321-5699

**Tennessee Protection and Advocacy**
(615) 298-1080

**Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP)** 1-800-280-7837

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**Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands**
gives free legal help to people who have low income or are over age 65.

1-800-238-1443

It’s a free call.

**NOTE:** This pamphlet is not meant to take the place of advice from a lawyer. All cases are different and need individual attention. August 2001
Tennessee Legal Aid/
Legal Services Offices

Legal Aid Society
of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands

1-800-238-1443
Offices in Clarksville, Columbia, Cookeville, Gallatin, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Oak Ridge, and Tullahoma

West Tennessee Legal Services

Jackson Office 1-800-372-8346
Dyersburg Office (731) 285-8181
Huntingdon Office (731) 986-8975
Selmer Office (731) 645-7961

Memphis Area Legal Services

Memphis Office 1-888-207-6386
Covington Office (901) 476-1808

Legal Aid of East Tennessee

Knoxville Office (865) 637-0484
Johnson City Office 1-800-321-5561
Kingsport Office 1-800-821-1309
Chattanooga Office 1-800-572-7457
Cleveland Office 1-800-445-3219