Let’s Get Going!

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Who we are...

**MassMobility**
- EOHHS initiative
- Statewide
- Promote mobility and access for people with disabilities, older adults, low-income individuals, and anyone else who lacks access to transportation in Massachusetts
- Share information about existing services
- Help organizations partner to fill gaps

**Easter Seals**
Easter Seals Massachusetts focuses on the full potential of every person and is changing the way the world defines and views disability by making profound, positive differences in people’s lives every day. We provide essential programs and services to children and adults with disabilities throughout the state.
Objectives

• Learn about transportation services available to people with disabilities in communities around Massachusetts

• Explore connections between transition aged youth and transportation opportunities

• Gain a greater understanding of how to effectively infuse the topic of transportation when discussing transition goals

• Highlight creative transportation initiatives around Massachusetts
What’s available?
Transit

- Fixed Route
  - Transportation Access Pass
  - Travel Training
- Paratransit
- Other services

www.mass.gov/info-details/public-transportation-in-massachusetts

www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-to-ride-transit-with-travel-instruction
Other Transportation Options

• Municipal Services
• Councils on Aging
• Volunteer Driver Programs
• Taxis and On-Demand Services
• Intercity bus, commuter rail, Amtrak
• Transportation Management Associations (TMAs)
• Employer-run services
• Find a carpool with Bay State Commute
  https://baystatecommute.com/
• Driving

www.mass.gov/im-looking-for-transportation
Making it work
Google Transit

transit.google.com

or

maps.google.com
Ride Match

www.massridematch.org
Don’t wait until the last minute

Take transportation into account from the beginning
What is transportation education?

• Transportation education creates a culture that engages students, families, educators, pupil transporters, and public transportation professionals to empower and support student learners. Transportation can begin in grade school and carries students through all their transitions, including to postsecondary education, employment and independent living.
Easter Seals Transportation and Transition Aged Youth Symposium...

• What do you see as the biggest barriers facing youth accessing different modes of transportation?

• What are the resources in your community to support the incorporation of transportation education in transition planning?

• How do you see new transportation options (Uber/Lyft) fitting into transportation education?

• How can we support sustained relationships among schools, regional transit authorities, and service providers?

• What are ways in which you have engaged parents to alleviate the fear of their child traveling independently?

• Can you identify creative IEP goals as it pertains to transportation education?
Some examples of findings from questions..

• Biggest barriers- Parental buy-in, comfort with public transportation, addressing needed skills too late, money, etc...
• Resources- MRC, ILC’s, Transportation Authorities, etc...
• New transportation options fitting in- driving evaluations, new travel training options, education around this option, etc...
• How to support sustained relationships- defining the rules of stakeholders, development of taskforces, telling stories, etc...
• How to relieve parents fears- texting/check-ins to stay connected, parent-to-parent mentoring, participate in travel training themselves, etc...
• Examples of creative IEP goals-Download driver’s manual, apply for paratransit option in community, downloading/understanding Uber/Lyft app, etc...
### Let’s Get Going!

**Planning for transportation independence**

This chart is a starting place to help ensure educators, students and families know their accessible transportation options and can take full advantage of their communities. Transportation education creates a culture that engages students, families, educators, pupil transporters, and public transportation professionals to empower and support student learners. Transportation can begin in grade school and carries students through all their transitions, including to postsecondary education, employment and independent living. There are many options to utilize, below is a graph of different opportunities. Transportation education is especially important for students with disabilities who may have fewer transportation options than their peers without disabilities. Let’s get started!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safe accessible transportation may include:</th>
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#### Public Transit

*Where do I find out about this service?*
To find out whether public transit is available in your town or region, find your transit authority on this website and then visit their website or contact them to learn what they offer in your area. [www.mass.gov/info-details/public-transportation-in-massachusetts](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-transportation-in-massachusetts)

*Why is this safe?*
Drivers are certified and trained. Drivers have been CORI checked by employer.

*How can I provide support?*
Drivers are certified and trained. Drivers have been CORI checked by employer.

*Examples of IEP goals*
Student will explore travel options in their community. Student will learn how to obtain tickets for public transit. Student will learn to understand public transit schedules.

#### Paratransit

*Where do I find out about this service?*
To find out whether public transit is available in your town or region, find your transit authority on this website and then visit their website or contact them to learn what they offer in your area. [www.mass.gov/topics/accessible-transportation](http://www.mass.gov/topics/accessible-transportation)

*Why is this safe?*
Drivers are certified and trained and CORI checked. Door-to-door service with physical assistance if needed.

*How can I provide support?*
School staff can assist the student in filling out the application for paratransit services.

*Examples of IEP goals*
Student will learn to apply for paratransit. Student will learn the policies and rules regarding paratransit. Student will be responsible for scheduling a ride. Student will ensure that sufficient funds are available to use service.

#### Driver’s License

*Where do I find out about this service?*
[www.mass.gov/service-details/driving-resources-in-massachusetts](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/driving-resources-in-massachusetts)

*Why is this safe?*
Professionals help people with disabilities get the accommodations they need or learn at an appropriate pace.

*How can I provide support?*
Encourage the student and family to be evaluated by a professional for the possibility of driving independently regardless of the students documented disability.

*Examples of IEP goals*
Student will begin the necessary steps to obtain their driver’s license. Student will download driver’s manual. Sign up for driver’s education classes offered by the school to obtain a learner’s permit. Secure accommodations for permit test.

#### Uber/Lyft

*Where do I find out about this service?*
Internet, smartphone application

*Why is this safe?*
Drivers are certified and trained and CORI checked. Door-to-door service with physical assistance if needed. There is also a feature where riders can share their ride so that others may track the ride.

*How can I provide support?*
Staff can assist the student in downloading the preferred app on their phone and understanding how it works.

*Examples of IEP goals*
Student will download necessary app and learn to book a ride with assistance leading to independently booking a ride.

#### Private Transit

*Where do I find out about this service?*
Internet, phonebook

*Why is this safe?*
Curb-to-curb service.

*How can I provide support?*
Staff can assist the student in identifying a private company in their local community and encourage use.

*Examples of IEP goals*
Student will identify a taxi service, schedule their own ride and move toward independent travel.

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*eastsearsels Massachusetts*
TRANSPORTATION TYPES AND TERMS

Public Transportation
Buses, trains, subways, and other forms of transportation that charge set fares, run on fixed routes, and are available to the public.

Paratransit
Includes any means of shared ride transportation other than fixed route mass transit services. However, when people use this term, they are most often referring to demand-response service.

Regional Transit Authority
The MBTA provides public transit in Greater Boston. In addition, 15 Regional Transit Authorities serve other regions of Massachusetts, from the Berkshires to the islands. Transit authorities provide fixed route, paratransit, and some times specialized services like medical shuttles. Find out which transit authority – if any – serves your town here: www.mass.gov/info-details/public-transportation-in-massachusetts

Uber/Lyft
On-demand ride-sharing/ride-hailing transportation companies.

Private transit
Other transportation services that may be able to help students get where they need to go, such as taxis or private livery companies.

Mobility Management
Community professionals who coordinate transportation services are called mobility managers. They can help identify transportation options.

Additional resources:
Ride Match: www.massridematch.org is an online, statewide, searchable database of public and private transportation options. It was designed specifically with people with disabilities (and seniors) in mind.
National Center for Mobility Management- www.nc4mm.org
National Aging and Disability Transportation Center: https://www.nadtc.org/resources-publications/transportation-education-curriculum/
MassMobility: https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massmobility
Special thank you to the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Massachusetts public school educators, Easter Seals National, MassMobility, Federation for Children with Special Needs, Partners for Youth with Disabilities, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

Life is a journey. Make the best of it.
Creative approaches expand mobility

examples from around Massachusetts
Make use of existing capacity
Unite around a shared need
Subsidize transportation providers to fill gaps
Encourage self-advocacy
Check out MassMobility’s website

• Research reports www.mass.gov/lists/massmobility-reports
• Monthly newsletter www.mass.gov/massmobility-newsletter
• Advocacy www.mass.gov/info-details/get-involved-in-transportation-planning-processes
• Information for riders www.mass.gov/im-looking-for-transportation
• Tools & best practices for organizations www.mass.gov/human-service-agencies-and-community-transportation
Thank you!

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