

7 FAST FACTS

Overcoming Transportation Barriers to Employment

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Transportation is an often overlooked component of transition planning that directly impacts whether students with disabilities obtain jobs, training, and community opportunities after high school.

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Providing structured opportunities for students to practice using public transportation helps build their confidence and increases the likelihood they will participate in job experiences and employment after high school.

2

Even with strong career preparation, students with disabilities may be unable to obtain jobs if they do not have dependable, affordable, and accessible ways to get there.

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Educators play a crucial role in preparing students for commuting by including transportation questions in transition assessments and travel skills within IEP goals.

3

Research highlights that barriers like broken sidewalks, limited bus routes, and unreliable paratransit services can make it difficult for individuals with disabilities to travel independently, especially in rural or under-resourced areas.

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Addressing transportation barriers early in the transition process can remove a major obstacle to employment, helping students with disabilities achieve better post-school outcomes and greater independence.

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Social factors such as low expectations from families or schools, limited disability awareness among transit staff, and negative attitudes from drivers can discourage students from learning to travel on their own.

This fact sheet was developed by the Illinois Center for Transition and Work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign through a contract with the Illinois State Board of Education. Information presented may not reflect the position or policy of the Illinois State Board of Education.

