



# THE CITYWIDE COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT 75

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## Resolution #21

### Ensuring Respectful and Legally Protected Accommodations for Parents and Caregivers with Disabilities

Sponsored by Elijah Hobbs

**WHEREAS**, the NYC Department of Education (DOE) and the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) are responsible for providing equitable, accessible, and legally compliant transportation services to students with disabilities and their families including ensuring that all caregiver-related accommodations are consistently communicated, implemented, and enforced across all DOE-contracted vendors;

**WHEREAS**, many students in District 75 are supported by caregivers who also live with disabilities—including blindness, limited mobility, chronic illness, and other conditions protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and whose disability-related needs must be accommodated independently of the services provided to the child;

**WHEREAS**, caregivers with disabilities are legally entitled to reasonable accommodations to support their role in safely accompanying and transitioning their child to and from DOE-provided transportation services and these accommodations must follow the caregiver and child across all school-year, after-school, and summer programming without requiring repeated resubmission;

**WHEREAS**, current DOE and OPT practices often place the burden of accommodation on the child—such as assigning a transportation paraprofessional (para) to address a need that belongs to the caregiver—rather than providing the caregiver with the appropriate accommodation they are legally entitled to creating both legal and practical conflicts, as caregiver accommodations cannot be substituted with IEP services intended solely for the student;

**WHEREAS**, families report that accommodations for caregivers are frequently disrupted by vendor changes, seasonal transitions (e.g., summer school), or lack of internal coordination, forcing them to resubmit documentation or face unsafe conditions despite federal requirements that public entities maintain continuity of accommodations and proactively communicate them to any contracted personnel responsible for implementation;

**WHEREAS**, requiring families to repeatedly justify or reapply for the same accommodation across programs is inequitable, increases trauma, and directly contradicts federal disability rights law by placing an unnecessary administrative burden on caregivers and creating preventable risks during transportation transitions;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Citywide Council for District 75 urges the NYC Department of Education and the Office of Pupil Transportation to:

- Affirm the rights of caregivers with disabilities to receive reasonable accommodations in their own capacity—without substituting the child's support (e.g., a paraprofessional) as a workaround for unmet caregiver needs and to recognize that caregiver accommodations must be implemented regardless of which parent or guardian accompanies the student on any given day.
- Prohibit the practice of assigning transportation paraprofessionals to compensate for failure to provide legally required accommodations to caregivers, unless the para is also a documented IEP support for the child and ensure that DOE clarifies this distinction to all transportation vendors during mandatory training.

- Create a centralized system that ensures caregiver accommodation requests—once approved—are proactively maintained and transferred across vendors, school years, and programs (e.g., summer school, after-school), without requiring resubmission including a vendor-to-vendor electronic handoff process with mandatory confirmation of receipt.
- Require transportation staff to follow communication protocols (e.g., phone call or SMS alert at least 10 minutes prior to arrival) for families who need advance notice due to disability and ensure this requirement is included in vendor contracts and enforced during both morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off.
- Implement standardized procedures for safe handoff at building entrances when a caregiver cannot wait curbside, with trained personnel assisting the transition including situations where street conditions or traffic prevent the bus from pulling directly to the curb.
- Mandate ADA and disability awareness training for all bus drivers, matrons, and vendor staff, including specific modules on caregiver accommodations and respectful communication modules on caregiver accommodations and respectful communication [RED: and require DOE to verify annually that all staff assigned to D75 routes have completed this training.
- Establish an oversight and accountability process, including a parent-facing reporting mechanism and an annual public report detailing accommodation requests, compliance, and remediation outcomes and requiring corrective action plans for vendors who fail to comply with ADA-related obligations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Council affirms that protecting the dignity and legal rights of caregivers with disabilities is not optional—it is a civil rights obligation—and urges DOE to institutionalize practices that respect and sustain those rights across all transportation services.

This Resolution was approved at Citywide Council for District 75 Calendar Meeting held on December 3rd, 2025 by a vote of 10 yes. Members present including: Christi Angel, Johanna Gomez, Stefannie Bonilla, Rebecca Ally, Michelle White, Masuma Akter, Elijah Hobbs, Gisselle Ramirez, Jessica Rivera and Sharon Stewart.