



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;

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;

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;

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;

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;

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;

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Implement standardized procedures for safe handoff at building entrances when a caregiver cannot wait curbside, with trained personnel assisting the transition.

- Mandate ADA and disability awareness training for all bus drivers, matrons, and vendor staff, including specific modules on caregiver accommodations and respectful communication.
- Establish an oversight and accountability process, including a parent-facing reporting mechanism and an annual public report detailing accommodation requests, compliance, and remediation outcomes.

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.

DRAFT