**What is Travel Training?**

Travel Training is comprehensive instruction delivered by Travel Trainers on a one-to-one basis that teaches students with disabilities how to travel independently on public transit. Travel Training focuses on the public transit routes that students would take between home and school. It is a fundamental precursor to achieving self-determined transition outcomes in education, employment, independent living and community integration.

**Why is this important?**

For students with disabilities, attainment of post-school employment, higher education, and independent living goals is influenced by the availability of transportation and the ability of students to safely use public transportation options.

**Testimonials**

"Travel training allowed my son to become more independent and more positive about himself. He is now more confident. As a parent I wanted my son to learn how to travel and be independent and now that he is travel trained I don’t have to drive him everywhere he wants to go. He travels to school, to work, to his friend’s house and even to the movies."
– Ms. Upchurch (Parent)

"I decided to travel on my own. It feels good to travel by myself and it makes me happy to know my way around. I catch the bus to school and to work!"
– Demetrius (Student)

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– Ms. Buckner (Educator)

"Travel training allows students the opportunity to increase and build self-esteem and increases their awareness of the community. Travel training builds their sense of self and belonging to the greater community while they learn life skills. Now they can feel as though they can do anything anyone else does."
– Mr. Brown (Employer)

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Can I refer my child to be travel trained or does the school have to do it?**
Parents may request their child be travel trained, in addition to educators within the school. The student can also refer him/herself.

**How many students are trained at a time?**
Each student is trained individually.

**How long is the training?**
The travel training process takes a maximum of 13 consecutive school days. This includes up to 3 days of assessment within the school and up to 10 days of community travel based instruction.

**Who pays for my child to ride public transportation?**
Chicago Public Schools will provide CTA bus passes and permits for students during the regular school year as well as extended school year. This applies to students who are in the training period and students who are successfully riding independently.

**If the student does not demonstrate readiness for self-travel, can they be referred again for travel training services?**
Yes, after 60 school days if the student has acquired the identified readiness skills necessary for travel training.

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**MISSION**
The CPS Travel Training Program will provide travel instruction for the purpose of teaching students with disabilities to travel safely and independently.

**VISION**
The CPS Travel Training Program will advocate for all students with disabilities to have the opportunity to participate in Transportation Education and learn to travel using public transportation to reach his or her travel objectives.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

✓ Age 14 and above and/or transitioning to high school
✓ Students receiving transportation as a related service on their Individual Education Program (IEP)
✓ Minimum 80% attendance rate for current school year
✓ If disciplinary history, decision is made by the travel training team (safety is a priority)
✓ If the student is recommended for self-travel at the completion of training, an IEP revision meeting will be scheduled to discuss changing school bus services to CTA fare cards to reflect the student is traveling to and from school independently using public transportation.

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