

SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION COST SAVINGS INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND

For the past several years the Massachusetts Legislature and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education have funded initiatives to reduce the cost of out of district Special Education transportation. A State Wide Task Force focusing on transportation costs was established 12 years ago. Members on this task force represent DESE and 7 professional associations. This initiative has resulted in significant savings over the years.

CURRENT CONTRACT

The Massachusetts Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) was awarded a two-year contract from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to sustain on-going efforts of the State Special Education Taskforce. MAPT, in coordination with the Task Force, will create an outreach plan to promote the project and general participation across the state, using presentations, training sessions, conference calls and stakeholder websites.

DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION REVIEWS

Funding has been provided to conduct special education transportation reviews for interested districts with a 50% contribution from the district. This is only for special education transportation services. MASBO will still continue to support regular education transportation reviews.

A website was developed to provide districts the October 1 DESE SIMS data. The purpose of this website is to enable districts to see if the potential to share exists.



WHY USE THIS SITE

- ▶ Provides another resource for you when setting up transportation services.
- ▶ The website identifies districts near you sending students to the same program.
- ▶ The October 1 data will identify all districts sending students to a particular program.
- ▶ Also helpful in arranging transportation for homeless students.
- ▶ Various documents, reports and presentations are also available on the site.

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