

Planning a Field Trip: Considerations for Special Needs

When planning field trips for your class, here is a list of items to consider ensuring that all of your students can get to and return from your intended destination safely:

- Field trips need to be tied to the general education curriculum.
- All students in your class must be invited to attend the field trip.
- If you have students in your class who have accessibility needs, call ahead of time to the location you are going and inquire about the accessibility of the area (ramps, telephones, curb cuts, wheelchair accessible bathrooms, accessible entrances & exits.)
- If you plan to go on a walk, inquire about the condition of the walkway (Is it dirt, pavement, gravel? Is there a steep grade? Are there ramps and/or curb cuts?)
- Make transportation arrangements a minimum of 3 weeks ahead of time (reminder: general education pays for transportation for all students enrolled in a general education class – this may include a bus or van with a wheelchair lift.)
- Let transportation know if you have students who use or will be bringing a power or manual wheelchair or other assistive devices such as walkers, crutches, seat belt, harness, car seat, etc.
- If the student uses an assistive device (wheelchair, walker, crutches), determine if they will need assistance during the field trip and/or in the restroom. Also, ascertain if any students have medical protocols (feeding, seizures, allergies) that may need to be addressed during the field trip. If fatigue is an issue for the student, plan appropriately.