Improving Accessible Transportation Access and Choice for Students

A Cross-Grade Level Curriculum to Enhance Knowledge, Access & Choice to Public Transportation for Students with Disabilities

Welcome

The goal of this transportation education curriculum is to provide educators, transit professionals, families, and others with strategies for integrating transportation content, including travel instruction, into the educational experience for students, including students with disabilities

This curriculum will:

1. Help participants understand why transportation education is critical to students' post-secondary success, especially for students with disabilities

2. Provide a framework for transportation education from student assessment though the provision of travel instruction

3. Demonstrate how transportation and education professionals can work together to address student transportation needs

4. Provide best practices for engaging students, families, transit professionals and the community in transportation education

5. Provide resources to help educators and transportation professionals succeed in meeting student educational needs

6. Learn about transportation resources, such as mobility management systems, that can be used by educators

Target Audience

- Educators

- Public Transportation Providers

- Education Support Staff

- Pupil Transportation Providers

- Families

- Human Service Organizations

- Other Transportation Providers

- Other Key Stakeholders

About this curriculum

- Each module is intended to be interactive through:
    - Online forums to share information
    - Guiding questions with your peers
    - Learning questions as a way to test knowledge
    - Tools and supplementary materials suggested in each module

- This curriculum is intended to appeal to varying learning styles by:
    - Relying on the principles of universal design for learning (UDL) that support multiple means of presenting content, engaging learners and providing opportunities to demonstrate learning

- Multiple audiences can apply content across disciplines through:
    - Opportunities to practice, discuss and develop plans
    - Field experience that complements this online curriculum

How this curriculum was developed

- Expertise of Easter Seals Project ACTION (ESPA), funded by the US Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

- Advice from the ESPA national steering committee

- Review by FTA

- Focused input from schools, families, pupil transporters, and public transportation providers

- Pilot tested with Chicago Public Schools and the Regional Transportation Authority of northeastern Illinois

Curriculum Outline

- **Module 1:** What is Transportation Education and Why Is It Important?

- **Module 2:** Transportation Education in a School System

- **Module 3:** Engaging Students, Families, Transportation and Other Key Stakeholders in Transportation Education

- **Module 4:** Travel Instruction – Familiarization, Orientation and Travel Training

- **Module 5:** Alignment to Common Core State Standards and Instructional Activities – A Continuum of Transportation Content Across Grades

Curriculum Outline (continued)

- **Module 6:** Integrating Transportation Content into Individualized Education Programs

- **Module 7:** Data & Measuring Progress

- **Module 8:** Leveraging Partnerships through Mobility Management Systems

- **Module 9:** Glossary and Resources*
    – You may want to download this resource and have it handy as you go through the modules

What you will learn

What
- What is transportation education?

Module 1

Why
- Why is transportation education important?

How
- How does transportation education look in a school system?
- How do I engage people in the conversation on transportation education?
- How do I provide Travel Instruction?

Modules 2, 3, 4

Pedagogy
- Can I align transportation education to Common Core State Standards?
- Can I embed transportation education in learning activities?
- Can transportation education be included in student IEP?

Modules 5, 6

Data
- How to I track data on implementation?
- How does this align to in-school and post-school outcomes?
- How does this align to state and federal requirements?

Module 7

Integrated Systems
- Leveraging mobility management systems

Module 8

Resources
- Other resources
- Websites
- Glossary

Module 9

Module Components

- Each of the modules includes:

  - Content and descriptions on each slide

  - Audio, video, and accompanying transcripts to complement slide content

  - Learning activities and/or discussion questions that can be the basis of individual reflection or group dialogue about a particular module

  - Discussion questions as a way for learners to assess their understanding of content

Thank you to all those who contributed to this curriculum

- Allison Donnelly, Nathan Neely and their colleagues at Chicago Public Schools

- Michael VanDekreke & Rosemary B. Gerty - Regional Transportation Authority-Chicago

- Peggy Groce and Steve Garcia – NYC Public Schools

- Pete Meslin, Director of Transportation, Newport-Mesa Unified School District

- Bay District Schools, Florida and Aurora who shared her story

- Videographer - Karl Productions, Inc.

Thanks to Reviewers

- Jill Curry, Transition Specialist, Newton Public Schools, MA

- Christina Cooper, Ride Connection, OR

- Rachel Fichtenbaum, Mobility Information Specialist, Human Service Transportation Office, MA

- Crystal Lyons, Easter Project ACTION National Steering Committee, TX

- Deanna Wilson, Chicago Public Schools, Travel Trainer, IL

Directions for Using Modules

- Modules contain links to Microsoft word documents and PDFs that can be saved or downloaded for your use.

- After you have either viewed or downloaded a linked document, be sure you close this file, and not the entire PowerPoint. If you close the PowerPoint, instead of the specific document, this will take you back to the transportation education homepage.

- Audio and video clips are also included across modules. You may need to adjust the volume on your computer when opening these clips.

- Many of the videos require Quiktime software to play. Download this free software at http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

A Message from a Transportation Perspective

Click here to listen to an introductory message from Michael VanDekreke.

Let's Begin