

Denver Public Schools

DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES

TEL 720-423-3437

FAX 720-423-3599

TTY 720-423-3741

WEB <http://sts.dpsk12.org/>



FIELD TRIPS

As school staff begin scheduling fieldtrips and other extracurricular activities, we wanted to remind you of the special considerations in planning activities to include all of your students.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act ensure the access of children with disabilities to the academic, non-academic and extracurricular activities of your school. These laws require that students with disabilities be placed, to the maximum extent appropriate, in the least restrictive environment (LRE) and that they participate in activities to the greatest extent appropriate with non-disabled peers. The range of activities that a typical student might participate in includes off campus field trips and/or special events scheduled outside of the school day, such as an overnight trip or Saturday competition. Before scheduling an activity outside of the school building, it is important that staff members:

- Confirm that the building where the event is taking place is accessible to all students. In particular, this is an important point to remember when you are scheduling an activity for more than one classroom or a city wide activity. It is important that educators ask the right questions. For example, only certain entrances and areas of the State Capitol are accessible. Therefore, it is important to ask which building entrances will be open for the students and confirm that all the scheduled events or activities are accessible by elevator, ramps, etc. It is never appropriate to limit a child's participation because of his/her disability. For example, it is not appropriate to have one child wait in the lobby while his/her peers travel by steps to view the other half of an exhibit on the second floor.
- Inform transportation of all special requirements, such as the need to transport two students who have wheel chairs or one student who has crutches among a total of twenty students who will be participating in an activity. Children with disabilities should not ride a different bus or be segregated from their typical peers. The ride to and from the event is part of the learning experience, as students share the excitement of the anticipated event, discuss what they have learned on the way home or experience the camaraderie of a competition.