

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 301, *approved January 20, 2026*
Senate, No. 3447 (*Second Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** establishing the Special Education Transportation Task
2 Force.
3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*
6
7 1. As used in this act, “school bus” means every motor vehicle
8 operated by, or under contract with, a public or governmental
9 agency, or religious or other charitable organization or corporation,
10 or privately operated for compensation for the transportation of
11 children to or from school for secular or religious education, which
12 complies with the regulations of the Department of Education
13 affecting school buses, including “School Vehicle Type I” and
14 “School Vehicle Type II” as defined pursuant to R.S.39:1-1.
15
16 2. a. There is established the Special Education Transportation
17 Task Force. The purpose of the task force shall be to study and
18 make recommendations on best practices for the transportation of
19 students who receive special education and related services,
20 including identifying and responding to medical and behavioral
21 emergencies experienced by these students.
22 b. The task force shall consist of the following ¹**[18]** ²**[22¹]**
23 **23²** members:
24 (1) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee;
25 (2) the Director of the Office of Special Education within the
26 Department of Education, or a designee;
27 (3) the Special Education Ombudsman, or a designee;
28 (4) the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or
29 Developmental Disabilities and their Families, or a designee; and
30 (5) ¹**[14]** ²**[18¹]** ^{19²} public members appointed by the
31 Governor, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education,
32 who shall include the following:
33 (a) a representative from the New Jersey School Boards
34 Association, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators,
35 the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, ¹**[and]**¹ the
36 SPAN Parent Advocacy Network ¹, Disability Rights New Jersey,
37 the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, the New
38 Jersey Education Association, ²the New Jersey Association of

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted September 30, 2024.
²Assembly AED committee amendments adopted December 18, 2025.

1 School Business Officials² and ²【ASAH¹】 the New Jersey
2 Association of Special Education Partner Schools²;

3 (b) a ²【nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist】 nurse
4 practitioner or clinical nurse specialist² with special education
5 experience;

6 (c) a physical therapist with experience in transportation safety
7 specific to the physical requirements of various physical disability
8 classifications;

9 (d) a behavior specialist with experience addressing the risks
10 associated with autism or emotional regulation impairment
11 classifications, and strategies to address those risks;

12 (e) an individual employed by a school district in the State as a
13 director of special education services;

14 (f) two individuals who serve on child study teams at public
15 schools in the State;

16 (g) two individuals who serve as bus aides on school buses that
17 provide transportation to students who receive special education
18 and related services; and

19 (h) two parents with children who have received or are receiving
20 special education and related services that include transportation
21 services.

22 c. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled
23 in the same manner as the original appointments were made.

24 d. The task force shall organize within 90 days of the date of
25 enactment of this act. The task force shall select a chairperson and
26 a vice-chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a
27 secretary who need not be a member of the task force. A majority
28 of the membership of the task force shall constitute a quorum for
29 the transaction of task force business. The task force may meet and
30 hold hearings at the place or places as it shall designate.

31 e. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
32 but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
33 performance of their duties as members of the task force within the
34 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
35 force for its purposes.

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37 3. a. The Department of Education shall provide ¹【such】¹
38 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and
39 ¹【such】¹ professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its
40 work.

41 b. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
42 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
43 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
44 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

45
46 4. a. It shall be the duty of the task force to study and make
47 recommendations as to best practices for the transportation of

1 students who receive special education and related services¹]. The
2 task force shall also make recommendations as to] , which shall
3 include:

4 (1)¹ appropriate policies and training of school staff and school
5 bus staff that address preventing, identifying, and responding to
6 medical and behavioral emergencies that occur while transporting
7 students who receive special education and related services on a
8 school bus¹;

9 (2) certification requirements for school bus drivers, school bus
10 aides, and ²[schools] school² nurses that transport students who
11 receive special education and related services; and

12 (3) school transportation as a component of the Individualized
13 Education Program process¹.

14 ¹b.¹ In making its recommendations, the task force shall:

15 (1) review best practices in other states;

16 (2) review current school transportation policies specific to
17 students who receive special education and related services; and

18 (3) identify areas of concern for the transportation of these
19 students, including those related to safety, access to necessary
20 equipment, communication with parents and legal guardians, and
21 staffing needs.

22 ¹[b.] c.¹ The recommendations described in ¹[subsection a.
23 of]¹ this section may include proposals for specific statutory
24 changes and methods to foster cooperation between parents and
25 school districts in providing appropriate transportation services to
26 students who receive special education and related services.

27
28 5. The task force shall issue a report of its recommendations to
29 the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
30 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature no later than 12 months after the
31 organization of the task force.

32
33 6. This act shall take effect immediately and expire upon the
34 issuance of the report by the task force pursuant to section 5 of this
35 act.

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38
39
40 Establishes Special Education Transportation Task Force.