

Travel Training for Students with Disabilities to Increase Accessibility and Ridership

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Background of Laketran

- Lake County, Ohio
- 25-45 miles east of Cleveland
- 230,000 population
 - suburban/rural mix

Laketrans Family of Services

Family of Services	2009 Ridership
Local Fixed Routes (6)	328,000
Dial-a-Ride d2d demand response	310,000
Commuter Express (4)	204,000
Travel Training	
Individuals	26 participants (34 trainings)
Community Groups	27 participants (5 trainings)
School programs	299 students (32 trainings)

Initial Goals of Travel Training

- Increase Accessibility through Education
- Transition Dial-a-Ride riders to Fixed Route
- Community Bus Familiarizations demonstration
- Target Demographics:
 - Seniors
 - Adults with Disabilities
 - Families

Challenges to initiate Travel Training

- No ADA eligibility requirements to ride Dial-a-Ride
- HHS/MRDD agencies not located on fixed routes
- Fare structure & hours of operation didn't incent transition
- Weather
- No budget was dedicated to Travel Training program

New Freedom with a New Focus

- Make all Travel Training functional
 - Focus on SWD and Mental Health
- Create an Assessment Tool
- Use goals that align with
 - Daily living skills
 - Employment
 - Transition goals for SWD

Be the Solution for Schools

- Curriculum
- Individual Education Plan (IEP)
 - Meet IEP goals for teacher/students/parents
- DOE Indicators – performance data
 - Transition Service
 - Post-secondary Outcomes

Create Curriculum

- Meet Curriculum Standards
- Be Flexible
- Visual
- Interactive



Transition Drives the IEP

- All SWD have an IEP
 - Future Planning
 - Post-secondary Transition Goals
 - Daily Living/Life Skills
- Transportation as a Related Service

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TRANSPORTATION AS A RELATED SERVICE

Does the child have needs related to their identified disability that require special transportation?

YES NO

Does the child need accommodations or modifications for transportation?

YES NO

If yes, check any transportation accommodations/modifications that are needed.

- The bus driver will be notified of the child's behavioral and/or medical concerns
- Specially Adapted Vehicle
- Wheelchair lift
- Bus Aide
- Securement Systems
- Car Seat
- Harness
- Other Specify: _____

Does the child need transportation to and from provider services?

YES NO

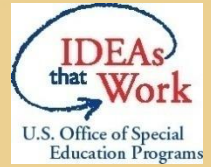
Sample Scenario of Post-Secondary Goals



Jane D.

Jane D. has cerebral palsy, poor fine motor skills, uses a power chair, and requires full-time assistance for daily personal needs. She is verbal and others understand her easily. Jane enjoys interacting with children, especially babies. She wants to get married and have a family. Through interviews and other types of transition assessment, Jane expressed her desire to work with children.

Sample Scenario of Post-secondary Goals



Post-secondary Goals

Education/Training: *“Jane will audit childcare/early childhood classes at the local Career Tech Center with a full-time HTS”.*

Employment: *“With the help of a full-time HTS, Jane will job shadow in 3 childcare/daycare programs”.*

Independent/Adult Living - Short-term: *“Jane will live in a group home and utilize public transportation to participate in her classes and job shadowing experiences”.*

Independent/Adult Living - Long-term: *“Jane will get married, have children, and work and live in Ohio”.*

Indicator 13 - Transition

- Indicators – measure & report success of IEP
- Adaptive Behavior Skills Assessment
 - Indicators are evaluated based on skill level (ie. Mastered, Satisfactory, Needs Improvement)
 - Example Indicators:
 - Able to identify professional services in community
 - Able to make purchases over \$1.00

Additional Incentives

- Use public transit for “field trips”
- Created Reduce Fare Card for Students with Disabilities
 - Increases accessibility



Working with Schools

- Directors of Special Education
- Special Education Teachers
- Transition Coordinators
- Teachers Aides
- Job Coaches
- Parents/Guardians

Accessibility is more than Amenities

Public Transportation: The Route to Freedom. A Transportation Education Program for Students with Disabilities in Grades 8-12 [CD and DVD]

<http://projectaction.easterseals.com>



Financial Incentive is a Win-Win

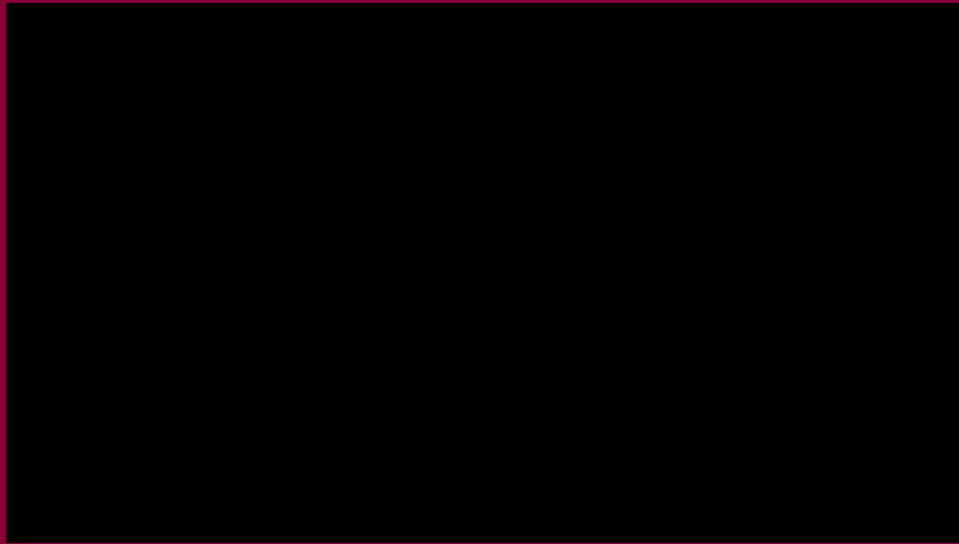
Jane works part-time, 4 days a week

	Student Rides DAR	Student Rides LFR
Student Out of Pocket Expense	8 trips @ \$2.50/each way	8 trips @ \$.75/each way
	Weekly Cost \$20.00	Weekly Cost \$6.00
	Annual Cost \$1040.00	Annual Cost \$312.00
	Student Saves	\$728.00 Annually
	Student Rides DAR	Student Rides LFR
Laketran Cost Reduction	8 trips @ \$29.84/each way	8 trips @ \$7.13/each way
	Weekly Cost \$238.72	Weekly Cost \$57.04
	Annual Cost \$12,413.44	Annual Cost \$2,966.08
	Laketran Saves	\$9,447.36 Annually

Market Yourself

- Message on-hold for call center
- “How To Ride” brochure & video
- Travel Training brochure
- Website presence
- Offer program presentations to area agencies
- Get involved in Transition Planning
- Hire students with disabilities
- Brand the program
 - “We’re Going Where You’re Going”

Mentor High School



Soundtrack by local Cleveland artists -- Call Us Kings

Travel Training Resources

www.projectaction.org

Easter Seals Project Action

www.nsttac.org

National Secondary Transition Technical
Assistance Center

www.nichcy.org

IDEA, training modules

www.laketrans.com/tools

Laketrans Travel Training