

## 13. School Buses

### 13.1. Considerations

A variety of vehicles are suitable to be used for accessible school transportation. This includes low floor 10 meters long regular coaches, low floor 6.7 meters long medium size buses, and low floor accessible taxis.

The school shall establish responsibility for the provision of services with the school bus operator. A special dispatch center shall coordinate scheduling and coordinate with parents in case of cancellations, emergencies and extreme weather. The use of the Nol card for students with functional limitations shall be implemented with a discount fare.

For students with functional limitations, in particular those with mobility impairments, transportation to and from school present a major obstacle due to the lack of accessible school bus vehicles. As an alternative, accessible taxis can be used.

Drivers shall be trained for hands-on instruction on how to achieve effective securement and occupant restraint.

The major obstacles for the school bus mode are the horizontal and vertical gaps between the vehicle and the road. Students using walkers and wheelchairs require boarding and securement systems. On board safety, emergency and evacuation/rescue instructions in multiple formats throughout the vehicle are required to make the trip safe, secure and stress-free for all students.

Access to an accessible school bus shall be universal and apply to the dimensions and maneuvering characteristics of all persons using mobility aids, luggage, prams/ strollers, service animals, including persons with vision, hearing and cognitive disabilities.

### 13.2. Boarding and alighting

#### 13.2.1. Vehicle type

Accessible school buses shall have a front and center low floor section with kneeling capability.

#### 13.2.2. Doors

The door opening control shall be placed on the outside of the accessible door at a maximum height of 1200 mm from the bus floor, and be operated by touch.