

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Medi-Cal Billing Option Program Transportation Claiming Guide

I. What is Needed to Bill for LEA Covered Medical Transportation?

In order to bill for LEA covered medical transportation services through the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program, the LEA ***must***:

- Provide transportation in a medical vehicle that contains lifts, ramps, and restraints.
- Document the need for LEA covered medical services and LEA covered medical transportation services in the student's IEP/IFSP.
- Provide a transportation trip log that includes the trip, mileage, origination point and destination point for each student, student's full name, and date transportation was provided.
- Review school attendance records to verify that the student was in school and received an approved LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program covered medical service, other than LEA covered medical transportation, on the date the transportation was provided.

Note: Prior to claiming reimbursement for transportation, providers must verify all items above.

II. Documentation Requirements

Providers are required to include all of the following information in the record of each student to bill LEA covered medical transportation services:

- The student's first and last name and date of birth.
- The general service category - (transportation).
- The date of service that LEA covered medical transportation service was provided.
- The total number of miles (only if billing for mileage)
- The origination point and destination point.
- Documented verification that the student was in school and received a school-based service other than transportation on the date the transportation was provided.

Note:

- It is critical that providers verify that a student received an allowable LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program covered medical service on a particular day before billing for LEA covered medical transportation services for that day.
- When seeking reimbursement for transportation the address of the origination point and destination point must be documented in the student's record and trip log.

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III. Provider Qualifications

A school-employed or school-contracted driver must deliver LEA covered medical transportation services.

IV. How to Calculate Mileage

The mileage for LEA covered medical transportation services can be calculated and documented by the following methods:

- 1) The vehicle odometer readings at the beginning and end of the trip.
 - When using this method, the LEA will calculate the mileage based on the odometer reading when the student boards the vehicle (origination point) and when the student exits the vehicle at their final destination (destination point).
- 2) By using mapping software such as Google Maps, Map Quest, Yahoo, etc. to measure the distance between the origination and destination points for the specified trip.
 - When using this method, you will calculate the mileage based on a direct route from the origination point to the destination point.
 - A print out of the mapped route must be retained in the student's record.

Regardless of how your LEA chooses to calculate mileage, the LEA must have a trip log from the transportation provider describing the origination point and destination point.

- The LEA may bill for a trip without billing mileage.

V. Billing for LEA Covered Medical Transportation Services

LEA covered medical transportation services include a per-trip component and a mileage component. These two components must be billed separately using the following procedure codes:

The current maximum allowable reimbursement rate for a one-way trip is \$18.54. Providers bill one-way trip as one unit of service (a round trip is two units).

- Procedure code T2003 with the TM (IEP) or TL (IFSP) modifier will be used to bill for each one-way trip.
- A trip may be billed without mileage.
- The current maximum allowable reimbursement rate for mileage is \$1.30/mile.
 - Multiply the total trip mileage by the mileage rate.
 - Procedure code A0425 with the TM (IEP) or TL (IFSP) modifier will be used to bill for mileage.
 - Mileage may not be billed without a trip.

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Scenario

A student travels 12 miles each way to school on a wheelchair van, measured by the vehicle odometer readings at the origination and destination points. The LEA covered medical transportation is listed in the student's IEP. On March 1, the student receives an allowable LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program covered medical service at his school, which is also listed in his IEP. The school maintains the required documentation in order to bill both the LEA covered medical transportation and the LEA health service to Medi-Cal.

VI. Billing Example

- Procedure code T2003 and modifier TM (IEP) are used to bill the LEA covered medical transportation (trip), which is identified in the student's IEP.
- The reimbursement rate for a trip is \$18.54/trip. Since this is a round trip, there are two trips or units. Trip claim = 2 x \$18.54 = \$37.08
- Procedure code A0425 and modifier TM are used to bill the LEA covered medical transportation (mileage), which is identified in the student's IEP.

The reimbursement rate for mileage is \$1.30/mile.

Mileage cost = \$1.30 x 24 = \$31.20

Calculating Transportation Services								
	Trip Claim		Mileage Claim		Total Claim		Federal Reimbursement (50% FMAP*)	Amount Reimbursed
Trip with mileage	\$37.08	+	\$31.20	=	\$68.28	÷	.50	\$34.14
Trip without mileage	\$37.08	+	No Mileage	=	\$37.08	÷	.50	\$18.54

* FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) – The federal government's share of a state's expenditures for Medicaid. The FMAP is determined annually for each state.

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Scenario 1 –

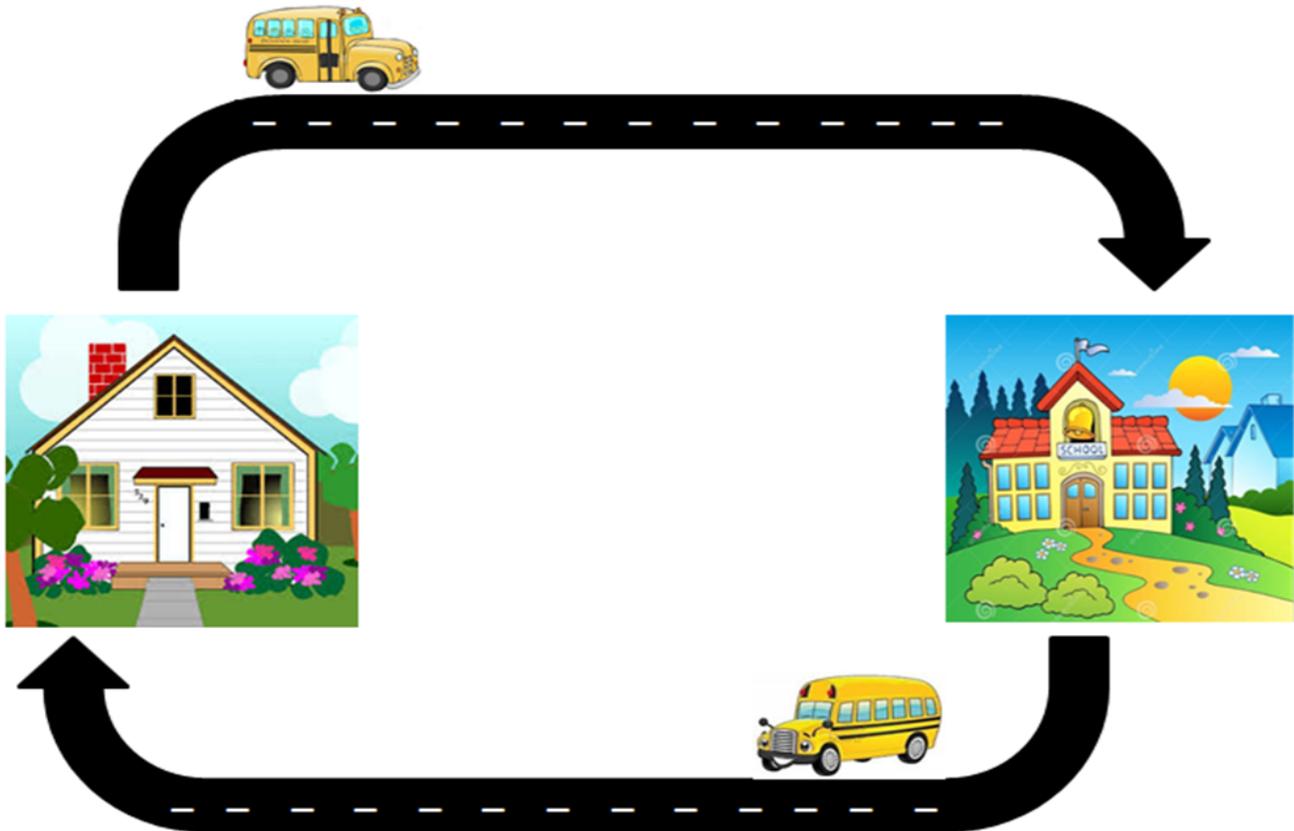
Transportation from home to school and school to home

An allowable LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program covered medical service, other than transportation, is provided at school and both transportation and medical service are listed in the student's IEP/IFSP.

Example

The specially adapted vehicle picks up the student at home and takes the student to school covering a distance of seven (7) miles. The same vehicle takes the student back from school to home covering another seven (7) miles.

Calculating Transportation Services							
Trip Claim 2 x \$18.54	+	Mileage Claim 14 x \$1.30	=	Total Claimed	x	Federal Reimbursement (50% FMAP)	Amount Reimbursed
\$37.08	+	\$18.20	=	\$55.28	x	.50	\$27.64



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Scenario 2 –

Transportation from school to service location and service location to home

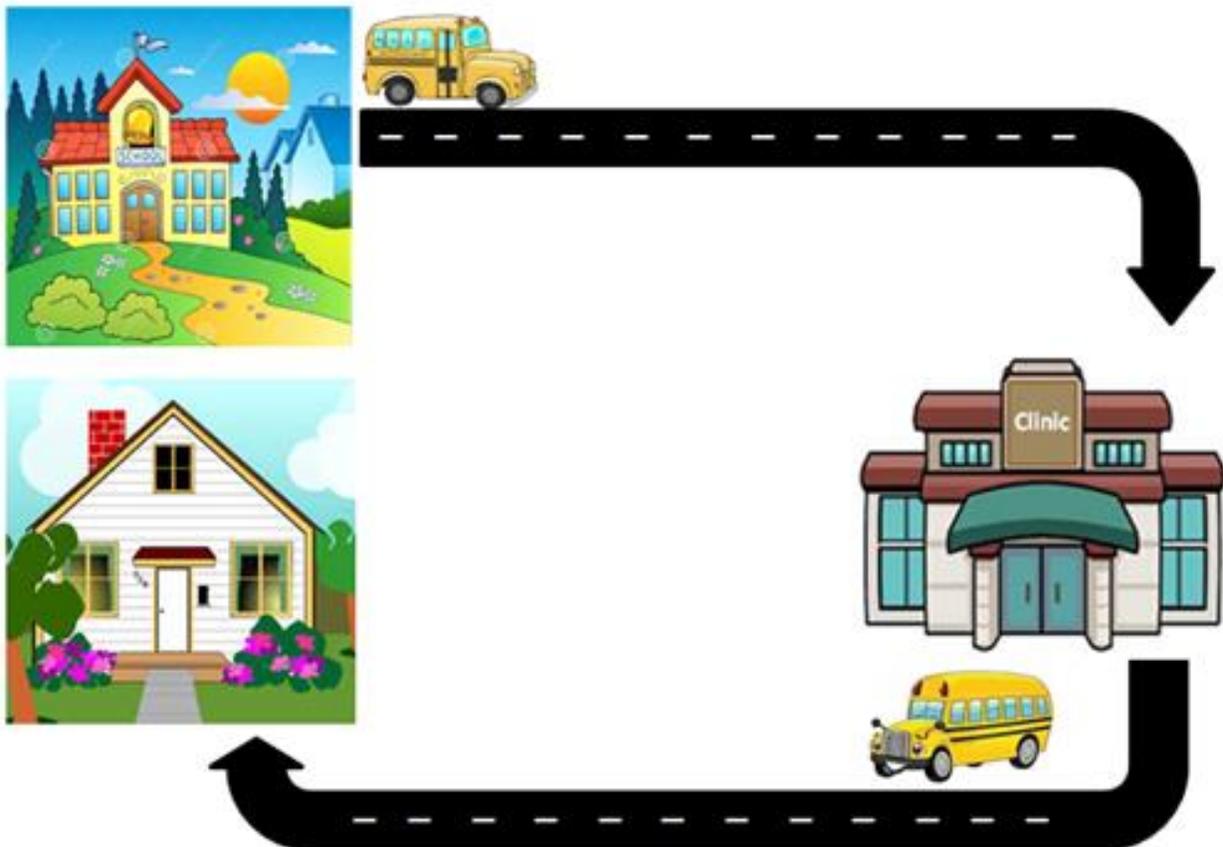
An allowable LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program covered medical service, other than transportation, is provided at the service provider's facility and both transportation and medical service are listed in the student's IEP/IFSP.

Example

The specially adapted vehicle picks up the student at school and takes the student to the service provider covering a distance of eleven (11) miles. The vehicle takes the student from the service provider to home covering another fifteen (15) miles.

Note: In this example, transportation from home to school is not covered because an allowable LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program covered medical service was not provided at the school.

Calculating Transportation Services							
Trip Claim 2 x \$18.54	+	Mileage Claim 26 x \$1.30	=	Total Claimed	x	Federal Reimbursement (50% FMAP)	Amount Reimbursed
\$37.08	+	\$33.80	=	\$70.88	x	.50	



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Scenario 3 –

Transportation from school to service location and service location to school

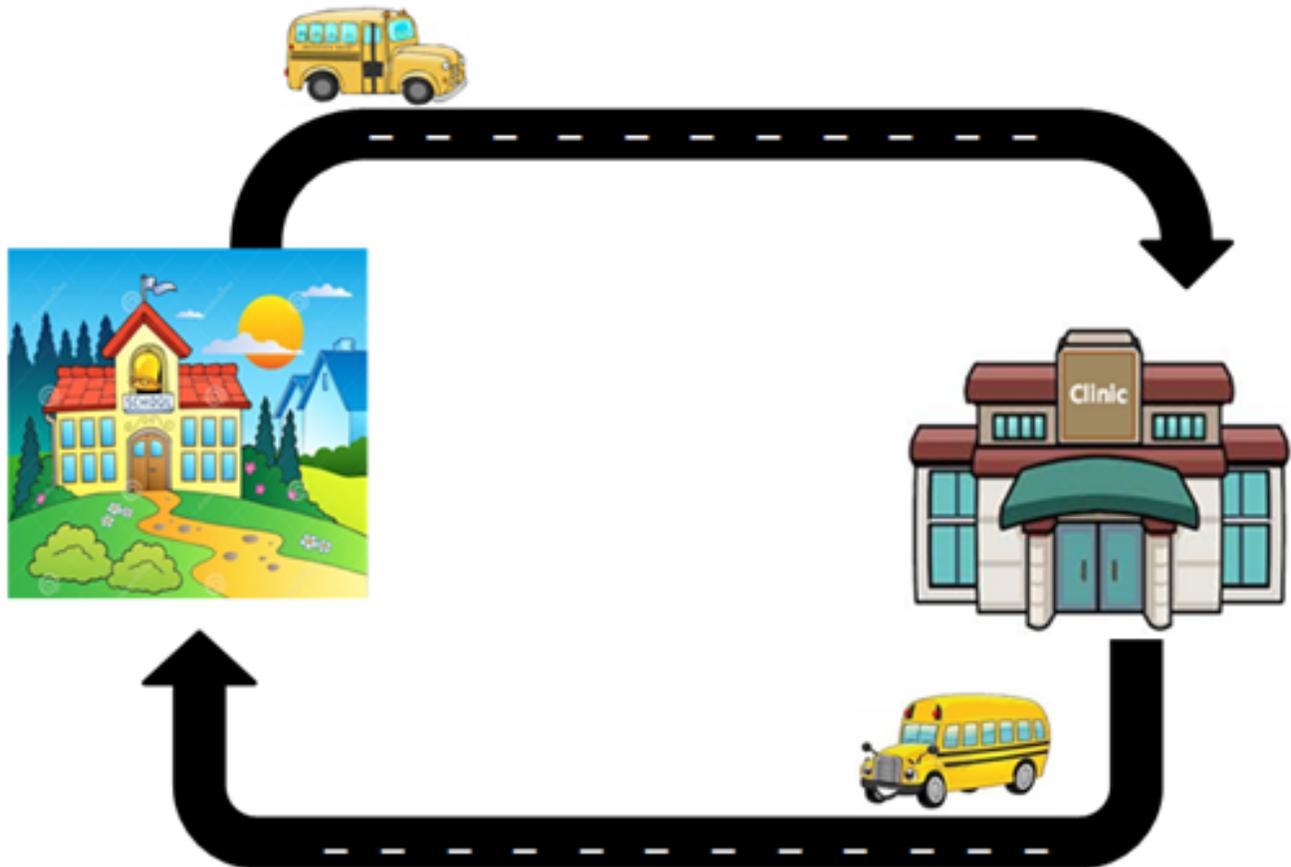
An allowable LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program covered medical service, other than transportation, is provided at the service provider's facility and both transportation and medical service are listed in the student's IEP/IFSP.

Example

The vehicle picks up the student at school and takes the student to a service provider for treatment, covering a distance of ten (10) miles. The vehicle takes the student back from the service provider to school covering another ten (10) miles.

Note: In this example, transportation from home to school is not covered because an allowable LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program covered medical service was not provided at the school.

Calculating Transportation Services							Amount Reimbursed
Trip Claim 2 x \$18.54	+	Mileage Claim 20 x \$1.30	=	Total Claimed	x	Federal Reimbursement (50% FMAP)	\$31.54
\$37.08	+	\$26.00	=	\$63.08	x	.50	



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Scenario 4 –

Transportation from home to service location and service location to school

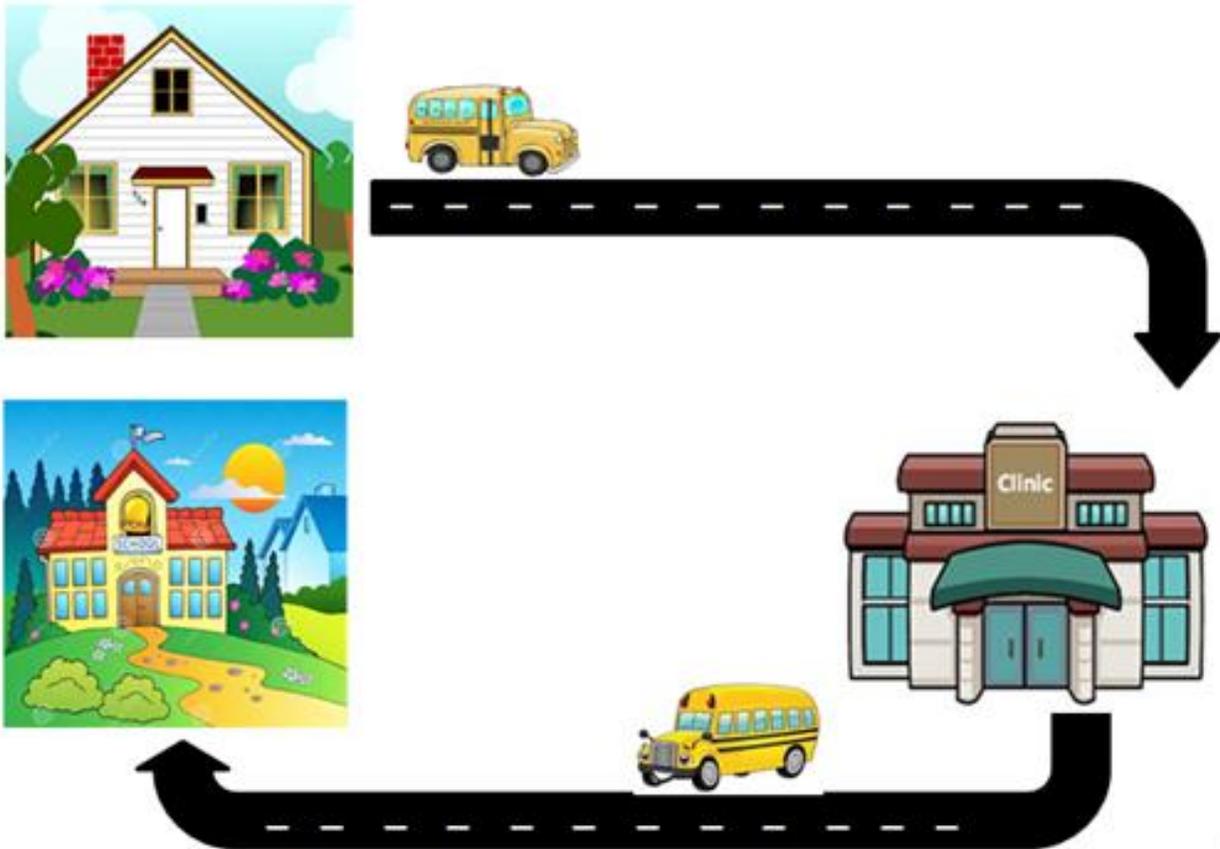
An allowable LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program covered medical service, other than transportation, is provided at the service provider's facility and both transportation and medical service are listed in the student's IEP/IFSP.

Example

The specially adapted vehicle picks up the student at home and takes the student to service provider, covering a distance of sixteen (16) miles. The vehicle takes the student from the service provider to school, covering another eight (8) miles.

Note: In this example, transportation from school to home is not covered because an allowable LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program covered medical service was not provided at the school.

Calculating Transportation Services							Amount Reimbursed
Trip Claim 2 x \$18.54	+	Mileage Claim 24 x \$1.30	=	Total Claimed	x	Federal Reimbursement (50% FMAP)	
\$37.08	+	\$31.20	=	\$68.28	x	.50	\$34.14



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Scenario 5 –

Transportation for multiple origination points to service location (school or service provider)

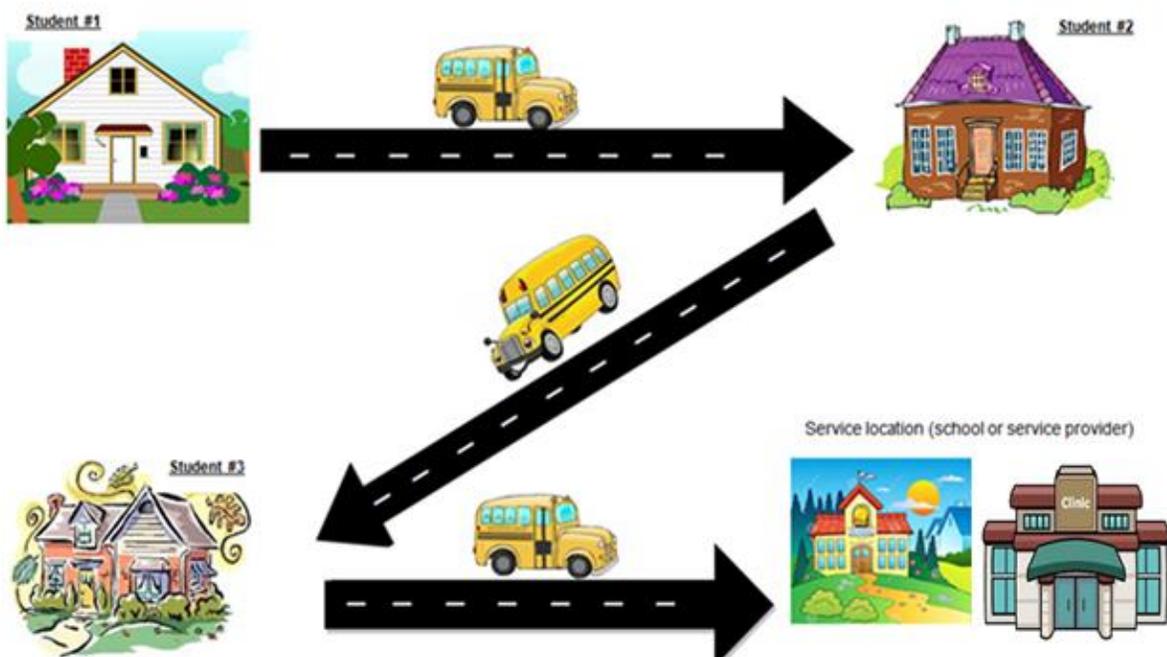
An allowable LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program covered medical service, other than transportation, is provided at the service provider's facility and both transportation and medical service are listed in the student's IEP/IFSP.

Example

The specially adapted vehicle picks up the student #1 at home, drives 3 miles to pick up student #2 at home, then drives 4 miles and picks up student #3 at home. The specially adapted vehicle drives another 4 miles to drop all of the students off at the service location, covering a total distance of eleven (11) miles.

- Student #1 lives 9 miles from service location
 - The provider cannot bill more than 9 miles for student #1 for the one-way trip
 - The provider cannot include the total one-way bus route of 11 miles for student #1.
- Student #2 lives 6 miles from service location
 - The provider cannot bill more than 6 miles for student #2 for the one-way trip
 - The provider cannot include the total one-way bus route of 8 miles for student #2
- Student #3 lives 4 miles from service location
 - The provider cannot bill more than 4 miles for student #3

Note: To measure the distance between the origination and destination points for a student (e.g., student #1 lives 9 miles from service location) for the specified trip, using the direct route between the two locations, the provider may use mapping software such as Google Maps, Map Quest, Yahoo, etc. The provider may also establish the distance with a separate odometer reading.



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Scenario 6 –

Transportation from home to multiple treatment service locations on the same day
(school and service provider)

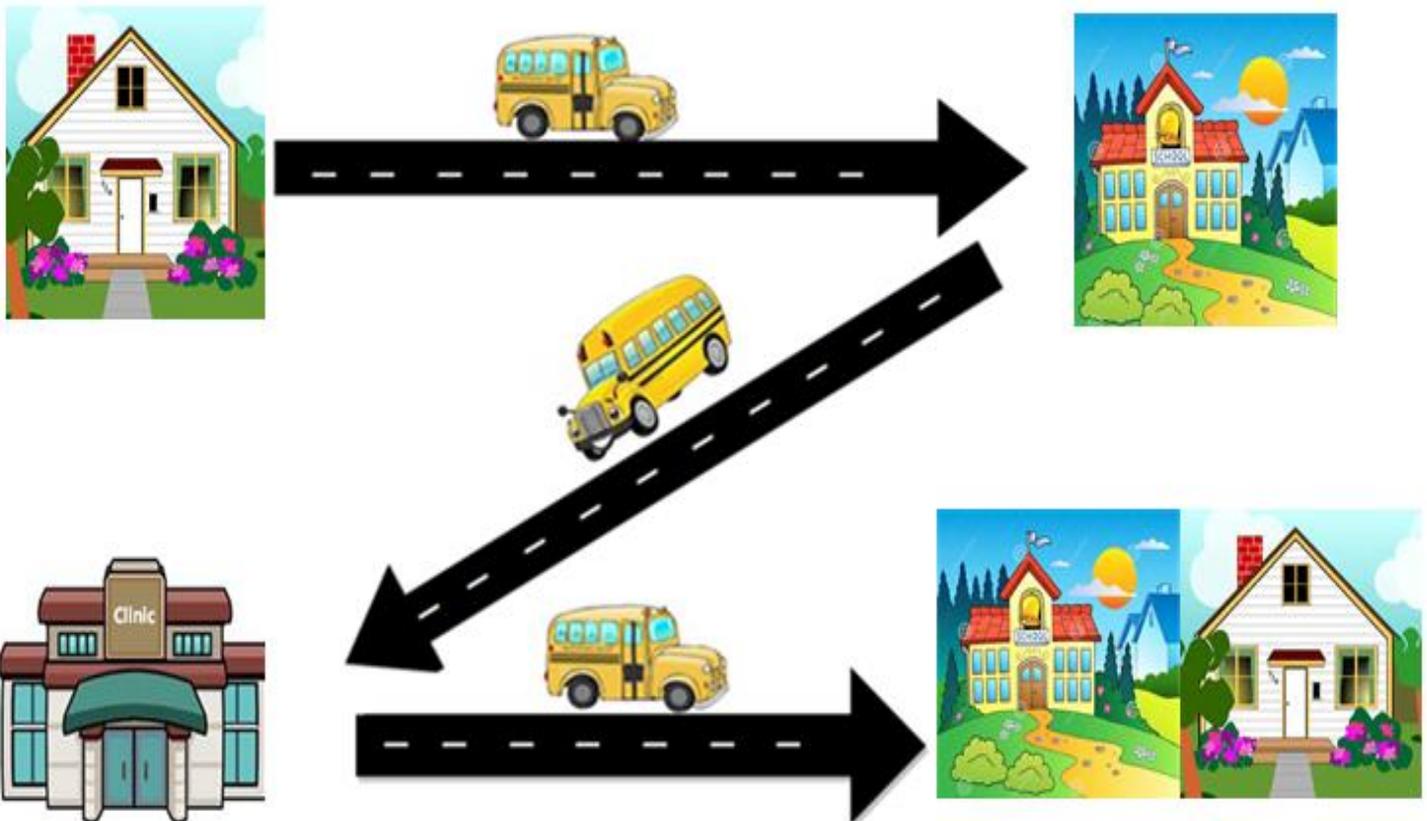
Example

The specially adapted vehicle picks up the student at home and transports the student to school where treatment service 1 is provided. Later, the student is transported from school to receive treatment service 2 from an outside service provider. The student leaves treatment service 2 and returns to school or home.

Note: The student must attend school to bill for services. Receiving treatment services at school does not count as the student attending school.

Measure the distance between the origination and destination points for the student for the specified trip, using the direct route between the two locations, the provider may use mapping software such as Google Maps, Map Quest, Yahoo, etc. The provider may also establish the distance with a separate odometer reading.

- Origination point must take the student to or from treatment to bill for services.



Transportation Regulations and Resources

Federal Guidelines for LEA Covered Medical Transportation

- Each State administers its Medicaid program including LEA covered medical transportation in accordance with a Center for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS) approved State plan.
- Although the State has considerable flexibility in designing and operating its Medicaid program, it must comply with applicable Federal requirements:
 - **34 CFR §300.34**
 - 34 CFR §300.34 “transportation includes –
 - Travel to and from school and between schools;
 - Travel in and around school buildings; and
 - Specialized equipment (such as a special or adapted buses, lifts, and ramps) if required to provide special transportation for a student with a disability.”
 - **42 CFR §431.53**
 - 42 CFR 431.53 stipulates that a state plan must “specify that the Medicaid agency will ensure necessary transportation for recipients to and from providers and describe the methods that the agency will use to meet this requirement.”
 - **1997 CMS Technical Assistance Guide - Social Security Act § 1903 (c)**
 - Section 1903(c) of the Social Security Act provides that the secretary may not prohibit or restrict payment for medical assistance for covered services because such services are included in the student’s IEP or IFSP pursuant to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
 - **1999 State Medicaid Directors Letter**
 - Clarifies CMS’ policy regarding Federal Medicaid requirements for claiming transportation costs:

Additional information is located on the [LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program Website](#)