

## Building a Continuum of Services around Accessible Transportation to Support Transition

**3rd Annual Hartwick Symposium on  
Postsecondary Education & Intellectual  
Disabilities**

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Easter Seals Project ACTION



## Today's Agenda

- Overview of Easter Seals Project ACTION
- An Opportune Time to Integrate Transportation Education in School Reforms
- Strategies to Build a Continuum of Transportation Education
- Discussion: What are you doing in your community?

## Easter Seals Project Action (ESPA)

- **Mission:** promote universal access to transportation for people with disabilities...
- Supports Transportation and the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
- Begun by Congress twenty three years ago to **build bridges** of understanding between the Transportation and Disability Community
- Cooperative Agreement funded by the **Federal Transit Administration and Administered by Easter Seals**
- Aligned with **Easter Seals** work to improve the lives of children, youth, and adults with disabilities

## ***Four Functional Areas to Help Local Organizations Build Accessible Transportation Capacity***

- **Training Events** – travel training, webinars, online training
- **Technical Assistance** – 800#, email, in-person coalition building events
- **Applied Research** – fund catalyst and gap filling programs to stimulate academic inquiry and leverage new product development
- **Outreach** – build awareness & create partnerships

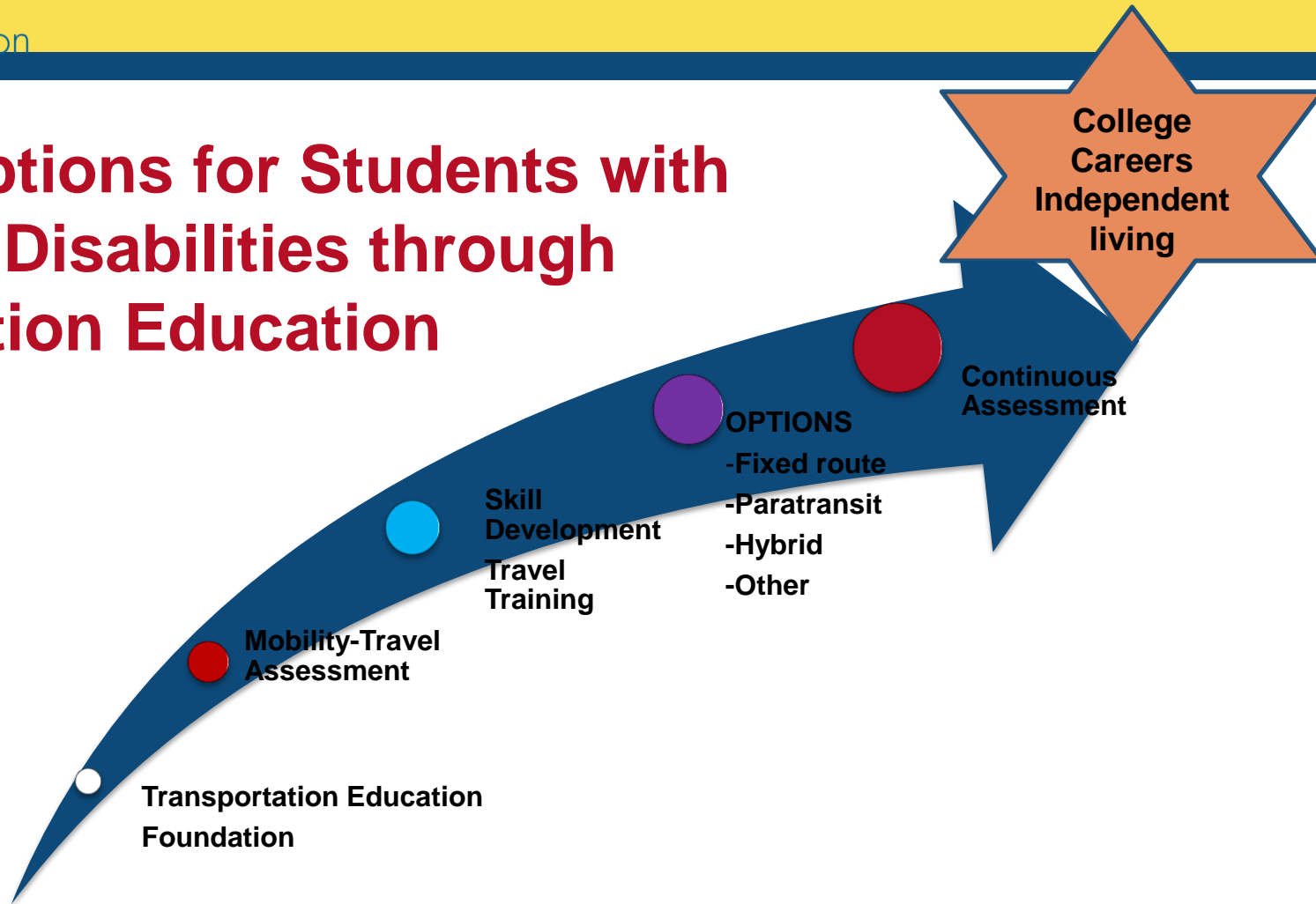


## Voices from Youth

*I feel like I am independent. I don't need to depend on my mom and dad to take me places. Now I can ride the bus to get to my job and to the movies with my friends*

*Spontaneous Choice*

# Creating Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities through Transportation Education



## A Poll - What do you Know about Accessible Transportation in your Community?

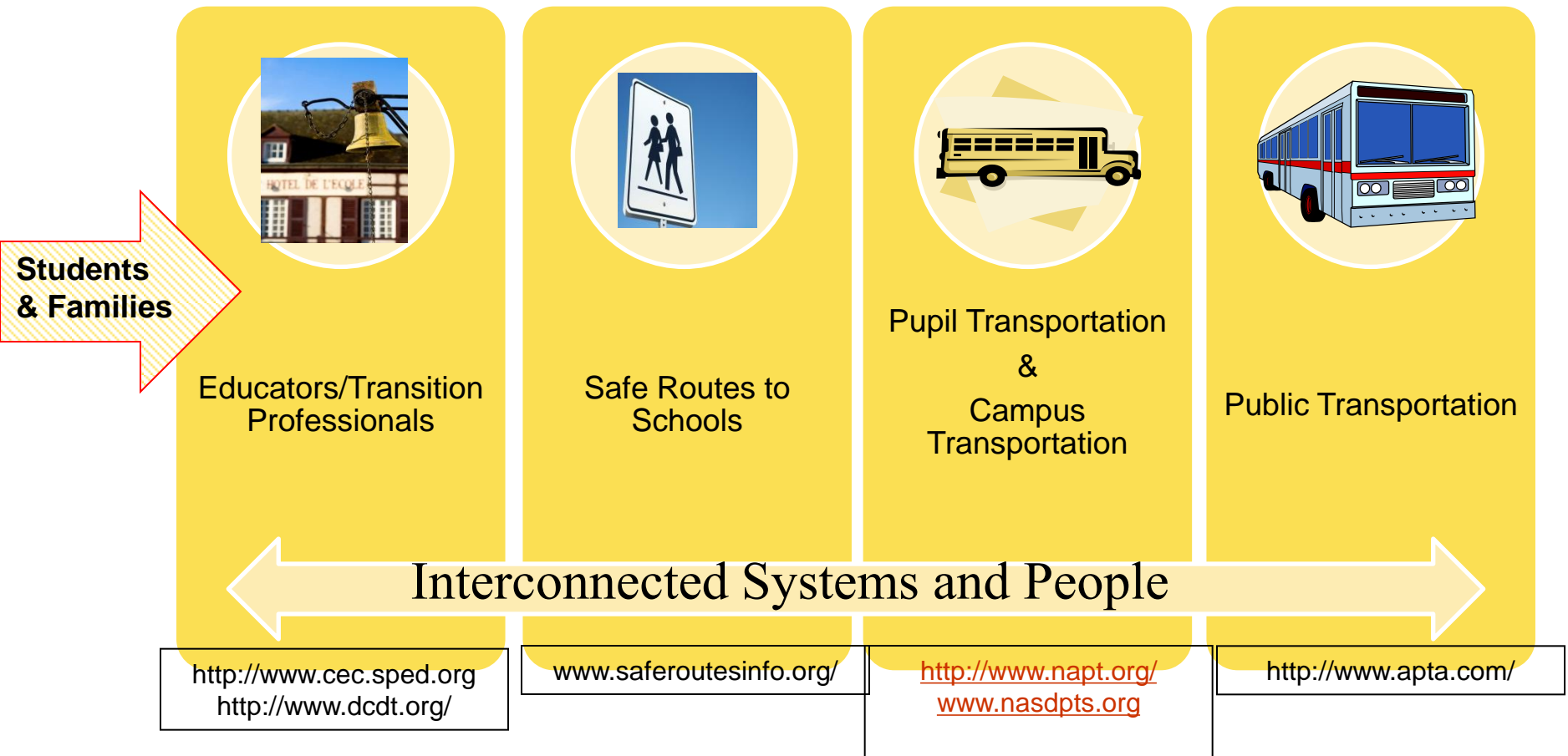
Think about the various transportation providers in your community. What do you know about the services they provide?

- Do you know what accessible transportation services are available?
- Do you know about transportation infrastructures?
- Do you know eligibility criteria?
- Do you know costs, hours, logistics?



**Mobility Options in Your Community**. A resource mapping tool to help you analyze the accessible transportation resources in your community  
<http://www.projectaction.org/Initiatives/YouthTransportation.aspx>

# Building an Accessible Transportation Continuum for Students with Disabilities to Support Transition

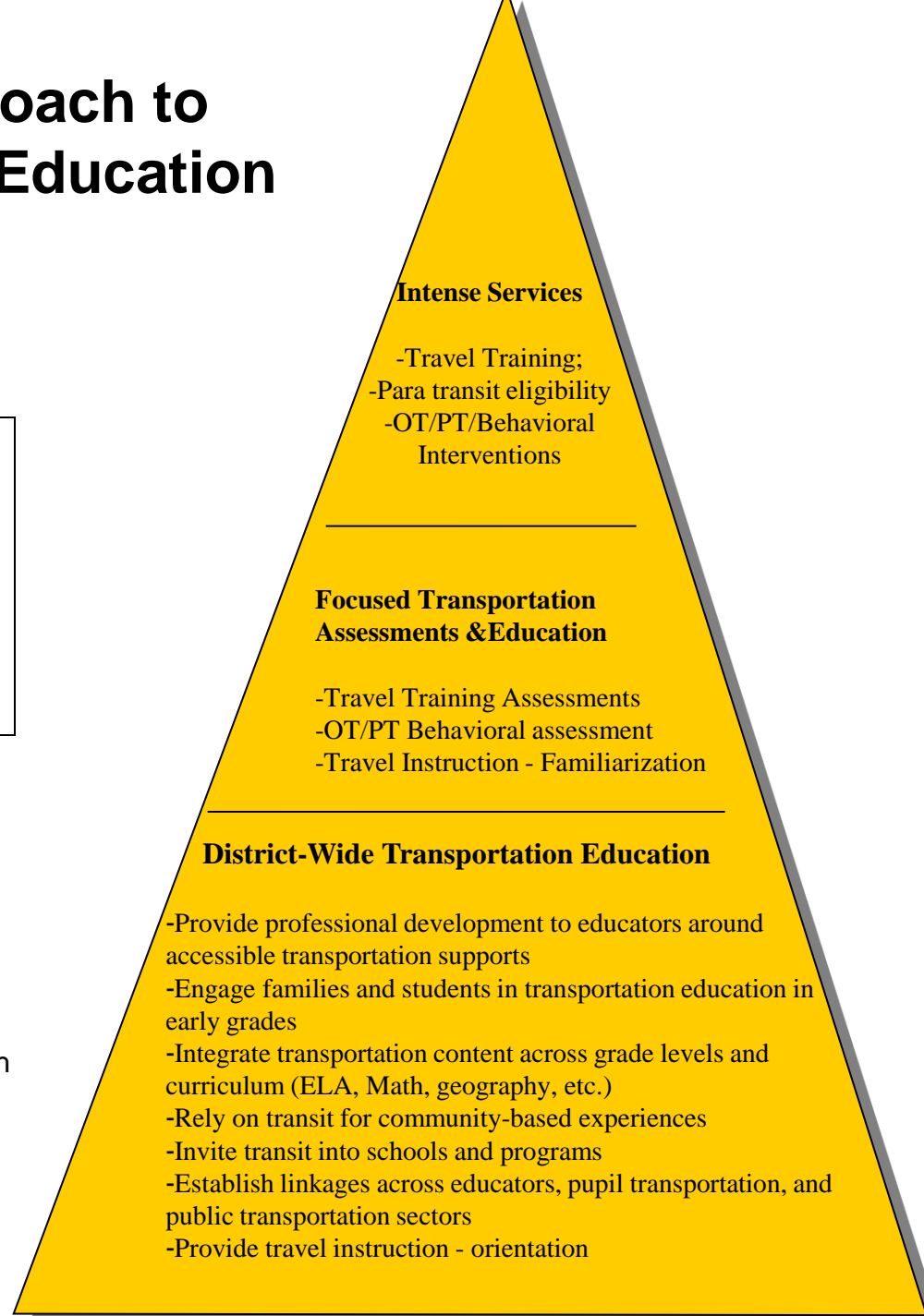




# A Tiered Approach to Transportation Education

## Moving up the Tiers

- Less numbers of students
- More defined service
- Greater time & resource commitment
- Specialized training and competence of providers



## **Integrating Transportation Education with Existing School Reforms Makes Sense Because:**

- Reforms provide a foundation and infrastructure
- Leverage the resources that these reforms bring (\$, people, materials, time)
- Diminish the perception of “another educational thing”

## **Align Transportation Education with other School Reforms and Business Needs**

- College and career readiness
- Common core and focus on critical thinking, communication, cooperation, communication
- Summary of Performance Requirements
- District Federal performance accountability indicators (indicators 1, 2, 13, 14)
- Vocational Rehabilitation Closure Measures
- Labor Market Needs

## Here are some Ideas....Strategies to Integrate Transportation Education

- Engage families, students, and colleagues – hold a transportation summit
  - Invite students who use transit, businesses, Voc Rehab
- Conduct resource mapping of transportation resources & travel training services – shared services (church, school, business)
- Connect with transit organizations and mobility management systems
  - Federal United We Ride – [www.unitedweride.gov](http://www.unitedweride.gov)
- Contribute to IEP goals around accessible transportation
- Invite transit professionals into events

## Strategies to Integrate Transportation Education

- Use & visit transit – field trips
- Embed transportation content into curriculum and instruction
- Look for grant opportunities to focus on accessible transportation
- Connect with local teacher education and rehabilitation preparation programs
- Integrate transportation content into professional development
- Understand travel instruction and its components
- Consider offering travel instruction services
  - Partner with human services organizations, transit agencies, State agencies

## Engage Transportation Stakeholders

- Invite pupil transportation professionals to your meetings, event, IEPs.
  - National Association for Pupil Transportation  
[www.napt.org](http://www.napt.org) and National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services  
[www.nasdpts.org](http://www.nasdpts.org)
- Organize events to address a continuum of transportation

# Yellow School Buses as the First Step

- Relationships with Pupil Transportation (National Association for Pupil Transportation [www.napt.org](http://www.napt.org) and National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services <http://www.nasdpts.org/>)
  - Simulate public buses
    - Establish fare cards
    - Use public transit signage
    - Invite public transit drivers on school grounds
    - Develop schedules and route maps
    - Provide students/clients computer route maps
    - Mimic driver alert systems on buses
    - Replicate social variance on bus

## Travel Instruction

- Travel instruction is the array, continuum, or family of services - assure comprehensive program
  - Travel orientation
  - Travel familiarization
  - Travel training

### Association on Travel Instruction

Association on Travel Instruction (ATI) - <http://www.travelinstruction.org/index.html>



Think about your role, how can you contribute to:

- Travel Orientation
  - Individual or group activity conducted for the purpose of explaining the transportation system.
- Travel Familiarization
  - Individual or group activity to facilitate use of transportation systems with a travel trainer accompanying experienced traveler(s) on a new on a new mode of transportation or route to point out/explain features of access and usability.

## Travel Training

- One-to-one short-term instruction provided to an individual who has previously traveled independently and needs additional training or support to use a different mode of travel, a different route, mode of transit, or travel to a new destination     **- or -**
- One-to-one comprehensive, specially designed instruction in the skills and behaviors necessary for independent travel on public transportation provided to an individual who does not have independent travel concepts or skills to go from point of origin of trip to destination and back

# Travel Training

- Assessment
- Planning for a trip
- Natural – Built environment – path of travel
- Boarding/deboarding
- Riding the bus

## Travel Training – Assessment Phase

- Travel Assessment – Think about how you can contribute to the assessment process
  - Comprehensive
    - Classroom data
    - Performance data
    - Family data
    - Community data

# Travel Instruction for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

- Travel orientation and familiarization important components
- Universal Design for Learning - Use of picture tools and audio supports
  - ESPA You Can Ride Publication
  - Flip cameras – route mapping
- Smart phone technology as cues for students on transit
- Buddy system or peer mentoring
- Mnemonics
- Reassessment is critical
- Raise expectations!

## Promoting Travel Training and Transportation Education – Be Engaged!

- Join the **accessible transportation for students** (ATS) online community-<http://www.espa-ncst.communityzero.com/ats>
- Sign up to receive all of ESPA notifications [www.projectaction.org](http://www.projectaction.org)
- Use Project ACTION tools and materials  
<http://www.projectaction.org/Initiatives/YouthTransportation.aspx>
- Attend online **Webinars** – forming partnerships, advocacy, etc.
- Collaborate across disciplines
  - Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Division on Career Development & Transition, National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) , National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services

## What are You Doing?

- Do you integrate transportation content into curriculum?
- Do you offer tiered transportation education services – travel instruction, travel training?
- Do you work with your pupil or campus transportation professionals?
- What about relationships with public transportation?
- Do you collect data regarding post-school outcomes and transportation?

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