

Bee-Line Bus Field Trip

As a culminating activity, participants will use their trip planning information to take a field trip on a Bee-Line bus. They will visit the MetroCard Van and apply for a Reduced Fare MetroCard.



Travel Skills Instruction

*Connecting to Community
Involvement*

**B.E.A.T.
PLUS**

Be Educated About Transit
A Travel Skills Development Program

TO SCHEDULE CLASSES:

Office for People with Disabilities
(914) 995-2959
ammi@westchestercountyny.gov

Department of Public Works and Transportation
(914) 995-1621
mbb4@westchestercountyny.gov

Westchester
County

George Latimer, County Executive
Evan Latainer, Director
Office for People with Disabilities
Hugh J. Greechan, Jr., P.E., Commissioner
Dept. of Public Works and Transportation

**B.E.A.T.
PLUS**

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Development Program



Be Educated About Transit A Travel Skill Development Program

Autonomous, safe travel is a vital component in every person's daily life. Independent travel on the Bee-Line allows individuals to take advantage of independent living situations, as well as seek more productive employment.



For a special education student, learning how to travel independently can be the cornerstone in developing successful life skills. For the developmentally disabled, transitional skills training continues with day habilitation and vocational/supported work programs. This type of community involvement can enhance an individual's quality of life and improve self-esteem.

To assist educators and service providers in incorporating travel skills development into the daily curriculum, the Westchester County Office for People with Disabilities and the Department of Public Works and Transportation created B.E.A.T. Plus, a Travel Skill Development program.

What is the goal of the B.E.A.T. Plus program?

Independent travel skills instruction is mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as an integral part of a transitional service curriculum. The goal of the B.E.A.T. Plus program is to bring hands-on travel skills development into the special education classroom or service providers' daily activities. This program assists educators in obtaining the tools needed to incorporate travel skills development into their core curriculum.

B.E.A.T. Plus is a program structured to educate both students and staff on the key independent travel skills required to ride the Bee-Line Bus System. It consists of six classroom sessions and concludes with a Bee-Line bus field trip. Each session deals with a specific travel enabling skill. The Sessions are as follows:

Introduction to B.E.A.T. Plus: Participants and staff will get a preview of the travel skills covered during each session of the B.E.A.T. Plus Program.

Be Educated About Transit: The core program is a 40-minute interactive presentation. It reviews bus safety rules, familiarizes participants with proper bus behavior, and reinforces the key passenger skills needed to successfully ride the Bee-Line bus. An activity book and teachers guide is provided to reinforce key concepts.

Exploring the Ride Guide: This lesson will explore important riding information found at the bus stop. Participants will learn how to read the bus stop's Ride Guide panel to identify the bus route, bus times and the special service messages specific to a bus stop. Participants will also learn how to find the Holiday Service schedule.

Map Reading Session: Using local street and Bee-Line system maps, participants will learn to recognize familiar streets and landmarks (home, school, library, shopping centers) and to identify the bus routes serving the area.

Trip Planning Session: Participants will learn the skills needed to plan a bus trip. The group will use the Bee-Line System's website, bus schedules and information phone line to plan a bus trip from their respective school/center to the MetroCard Van. At the Van they can apply for a Reduced Fare MetroCard.

Pedestrian, Parking Lot and Bicycle Safety Session:

The presentation will help participants and educators to:

- Learn safe street crossing skills and techniques.
- Identify the most common situations that increase the chances of being hit by a car.
- Learn the best strategies to take control of potential dangers.
- Review the skills of navigating a parking lot safely.

Metro-North's TRACKS (Together Railroads and Communities Keeping Safe) Session:

As a partner, Metro-North's TRACKS (Together Railroads and Communities Keeping Safe) Program brings an in-person safety presentation into the classroom. This presentation demonstrates to the class how to be safe near and around, tracks, platforms, trains, railroads and grade crossings.

