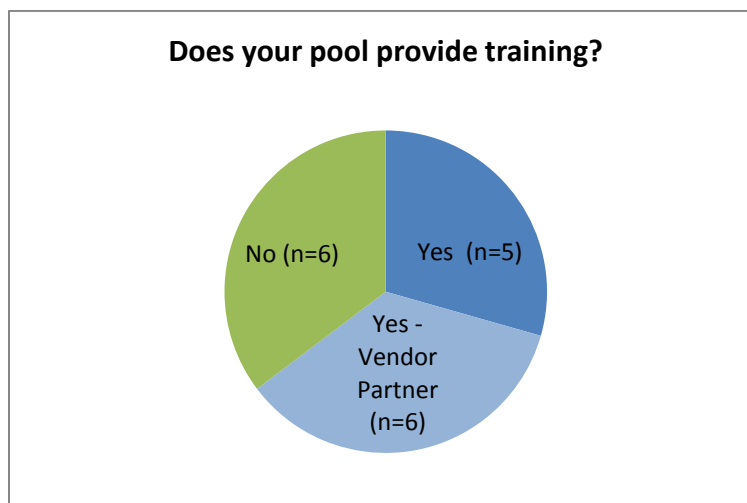


## Survey Results: Managing special needs students

Survey date: April 30, 2018  
Survey outreach: 90 AGRiP member pools  
Report date: May 3, 2018  
# Responses: 17  
# States represented: 13

**Does your pool provide training for safely managing special needs students in the classroom and/or during transportation?**



### **If yes, briefly describe the training conducted**

- We do not provide training on how to individually manage special needs students. We DO provide training/assessments around the setup of the classroom (tables, chairs, items that can be thrown or pulled over etc).
- The pool does provide training, but only by request and only for the transportation portion. We have partnered with School Bus Safety Company to provide the training materials. The pool Loss Control Consultant will conduct the training with the member district.
- We use SafeSchools as an online video training resource for our districts. Some of the videos are "Special Education: Lifts and Transfers" and another is "Special Education: Safety in the Classroom." We don't necessarily directly train them on the topic, but we have resources to push out.

- Our pool does not currently provide training for safely managing special needs students in the classroom and/or during transportation. This is due to the highly specialized expertise it requires to provide this type of training. However, we have partnered with special needs consultants that do have this expertise to better educate our Loss Control team on behaviors to look for, and suggestions for paraprofessionals on how to reduce work-place injuries. We have also developed, in partnership with a local law firm, a SafeSchools course that outlines our state's Seclusion & Restraint law, as well as provide a SafeSchools Exceptional Child course free of charge to our members. These courses are great training opportunities for employees.
- We offer Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NCI) training to our risk pool members. The training focuses on research-based interventions designed to help de-escalate and if necessary, disengage from or restrain, out-of-control, disruptive and assault individuals. These skills are equally applicable in both classroom and transportation situations.
- We provide presentations on "What School Districts Need to Know to Avoid Student Restraint Litigation." Our risk control manager does provide training on the state law around restraint. This does not teach how to restrain students, but what the law in our state allows and does not allow.
- Yes, we provide such training. Here is a short description:
  - *Safe Work Practices for IAs/Paras*: Includes common injuries (bites, hits, arm drops) and preventative measures, proper body mechanics, safe lifting techniques, and safe transfer techniques for Instructional Assistants and Para Educators.
  - *Wheel Chair Safety for Spec. Ed. IAs/Paras*: Includes common injuries (lifting, carrying, use of wheelchair) and prevention, proper body mechanics, safe lifting and transfer techniques, wheelchair inspections, and resources for Instructional Assistants and Para Educators.
  - *Compassion Fatigue*: Addresses the emotional side of caring for special needs children, including awareness, recognition and prevention.
- We provide free of cost loss control services to our members. In addition, we provide a safety library, streaming training videos and online courses.
- We have videos through our partnership with SafeSchools. We also have publications that discuss this topic, and are working on finalizing videos to further educate members.
- We make available training on handling of special needs students, we have also done training for the transportation departments. Training is handled via our various vendors.
- The pools provide the following training that could be used for special needs students:
  - *Interventional Strategies (verbal)* This class is designed for teachers and administrators that may need to deal with disruptive or aggressive behavior from students. General workplace violence issues are discussed, along with recognition of persons that may be prone to disruptive or violent outbursts. Non-physical intervention techniques will be reviewed, as well as preparing yourself for physical intervention if necessary. For actual physical interventional training and defensive maneuvers, please refer to Verbal & Physical Interventional Techniques class. Approximate class time: 90 minutes.
  - *Interventional Strategies for Bus Drivers (verbal)* This class is very similar to the above class, except that the unique environmental conditions of a school bus and the challenges they present are emphasized. Approximate class time: 90 minutes.
  - *Safe Lifting for Aides/Para-Professionals* This program is designed for educational professionals such as teachers, teacher's assistants and aides that may be required to lift, hold and transfer special needs children with physical disabilities. This

program emphasizes back safety, proper transfer techniques and awkward lifting situations. Participants will learn general back safety and how to minimize stress on their back while caring for students that may need to be lifted. Approximate class time: 90 minutes.

- *Verbal and Physical Intervention Techniques* This class expands the Verbal Interventional Strategies Class by including basic physical restraint and defensive release techniques. The first part of the class details recognizing students that are in conflict and offering interventional techniques to reduce the crisis. The next stage is dealing with conflicts verbally in an effort to de-escalate the situation without physical force. Finally, basic restraint and defensive release techniques are reviewed in detail. Participants will be required to practice and demonstrate each technique effectively. A review of unacceptable techniques is also conducted. This class is strictly limited to 16 participants. Approximate class time: 4 hours (cannot be shortened).
- *School Bus-Transporting Students with Special Needs* Transporting and interacting with special needs children can be rewarding and challenging. Drivers must have the skills, knowledge and patience to handle a variety of issues. This class is an overview of how to deal with various situations you may encounter when providing these services. The class will include a review of common physical and mental disabilities. Bus driver responsibilities will be discussed, including communicating with the student, staff and parents. Proper loading and unloading techniques, basic wheelchair loading and securing and emergency situations are also covered. Approximate class time: 2 hours.
- *School Bus-Loading & Securing Students in Wheelchairs* Proper loading and securing of the wheelchair and student is essential for safety. This class focuses on ensuring the comfort and safety of the student through proper use of approved tie down and anchoring systems. A review of general IEP issues, power lift operations, loading/unloading procedures and common tie downs is provided. Hands on training using the district tie downs will be provided (time permitting). Maximum class sizes must be adhered to in order to provide hands on training opportunities. Approximate class time: 2 hours.