

AMESVI – website – cane purchase May, 2016

Hi All,

Do school districts purchase mobility canes for students when they have an IEP objective about cane use? And what is the justification one would give to a district for purchasing it? I've heard the counter argument that canes are like hearing aides and wheelchairs and parents/insurance cover the cost as the need goes beyond the school day.

Thanks,
Kim

Hi Kim,

The districts I work in have purchased canes. The Carroll Store gives a 10% discount to school districts. <http://www.carroll.org/store/canes-accessories>
Contact terri.feingold@carroll.org

Sometimes the parents also purchase a back-up cane, and/or I have them request a free cane from NFB <https://nfb.org/free-cane-program>

I could be wrong, but I don't believe medical insurance covers canes.

Laura

Laura's comments have been my experience, as well. To add to this, the school district will usually cover one cane per school year - sometimes with the caveat that the cane remain at the school when the student leaves for the day. Parents like the idea of having a backup and/or a device their child can also use at home. Of course there are several scenarios on this same theme!

Kusala

Hi Kim,

The school districts I work in all purchase canes for students. The justification I use is safety for the student. I was also advised to put it the IEP accommodations, separate from goals/objectives, and to write the language so that the cane can be replaced before 1 year if the student outgrows it. As many of my families cannot easily afford a cane, the free NFB cane, as Laura mentioned, is a good backup, though it is much more fragile, especially for littler ones. But NFB does allow for one free cane every 6 months.

Ruth