

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

What is it and Why is it Important?

Education in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

- √ To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are non-disabled; and
- √ that special classes, separate school, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only if the nature of severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Ideas for the team to consider:

- √ If it is appropriate for _____ to participate in the general education curriculum, then identify the areas of general education curriculum where _____ will participate.
- √ If it is determined that it is not appropriate for _____ to participate in the general education curriculum as a result of _____'s disability, what is the rationale for this decision?
- √ If it is determined that it is not appropriate for _____ to participate in the general education curriculum as a result of _____'s disability, how will _____ have the opportunity to interact with non-disabled peers?

Least Restrictive Environment Continuum

General Education Classroom



General Education Classroom with Support



Resource Support



Self-Contained Classroom



Public Day School (Circuit Breaker)/ Private Day School (Hammitt)



Residential Placement



Homebound Placement



Documentation of Placement Decisions on the IEP

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LRE Placement:

- √ is determined at least annually by the IEP team.
- √ is based on the IEP information.
- √ should be as close as possible to the child's home.
- √ should take into consideration any potential harmful effects of the placement.

Additional LRE Considerations

All Kids Are
General Education Kids
First!

Special Education is a
Service, **NOT** a Place!

Placement Should Be
Based on **NEED**,
Not on Disability **Label**.

How Data impacts LRE

- √ Staff should be asked to collect and report on specific measurable and clearly defined data relating to student achievement and/or behavior. This specific data is an important piece when making decisions regarding least restrictive environment.
- √ Examples of Data
- √ An example of data that is not helpful: "John is just awful in my class all the time."
- √ An example of data that is helpful: "John yells out swear words an average of 12 times per day."
This data was collected over a two week time period and was noted to occur in all settings during all times of the day.
- √ How LRE links to Response to Intervention (RtI) and Problem Solving
- √ References
- √ ISBE Memorandum, April 10, 2003,
- √ Guidance: Appropriate Procedures for Determining Placement in the Least Restrictive Environment and Identifying and Providing Appropriate Special Education and Related Services, www.ISBE.net, Special Education, Archived Documents

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