

Least Restrictive Environment

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS OF
PRESCHOOLERS WITH DISABILITIES



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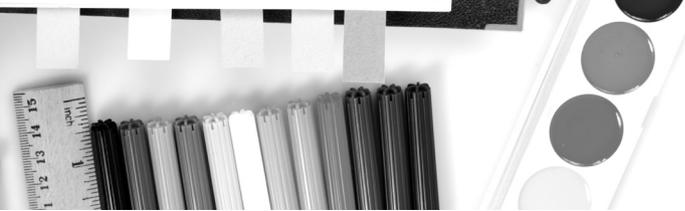
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Least Restrictive Environment means that a child with disabilities should be educated along with children without disabilities, to the greatest extent possible. The Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has set forth guidelines for educators to provide special education services in an environment that will best meet student needs so that the child is successful.

WHAT ARE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

- Provide services to students with disabilities ages 3-21
- Ensure parents understand LRE and are involved in the decision making
- Document the team's LRE decision on the Individual Education Plan (IEP)

HOW IS LRE DETERMINED?

The IEP team (which includes parents) considers the type, frequency and intensity of supports and services needed. The team then determines what location services will be provided to best meet the needs of the student.

WHAT ARE THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES PROVIDED?

- Kindergarten, public or private
- Preschool classes, public or private
- Group child development center or child care
- Home, clinic or hospital
- Residential facility
- Special school

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- School districts are not responsible for providing services to students who live outside of district boundaries.
- School districts are not responsible for providing services to home-schooled or parentally placed private school students.
- Whenever appropriate, a student should receive services in the preschool classroom or childcare setting they are already attending.
- The type, amount and location of services are determined based on student needs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

South Dakota Department of Education
Special Education Programs
doe.sd.gov/oess/sped.aspx
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