

# CELEBRATING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)



## SEPTEMBER 2025

### Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) & Inclusion



#### DISABILITY HIGHLIGHTS: DEAFNESS AND HARD OF HEARING

**Deafness** - A hearing impairment so severe that a child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

**Hard of Hearing:** An impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance but is not included under the definition of "deafness".

#### MONTHLY FOCUS:

*Side-by-Side: The Power of Inclusive Classrooms and Communities*

#### DISABILITY RECOGNITION

- National Guide Dog Month
- National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
- Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month
- National Deaf Awareness Month

#### DAYS OF RECOGNITION

- Sep 7 - Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Day
- Sep 9 - International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day
- Sep 21 - World Alzheimer's Day
- Sept 23 - International Day of Sign Languages (United Nations)
- Sep 28 - International Day of the Deaf/World Deaf Day
- Last week of Sept - International Week of the Deaf

Exploring the concept of LRE and its importance in ensuring students with disabilities are educated with their non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate.

#### Least Restrictive Environment:

"...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 not disabled, and special classes, separate schooling or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily."

[20 U.S.C. Sec. 1412(a)(5)(A); 34 C.F.R. Sec. 300.114; Cal. Ed. Code Sec. 56342(b).]



## POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Highlight Inclusive models within your district/SELPA.
- Host professional development sessions for staff on LRE.
- Offer student-led presentations on inclusion and accessibility.
- Host an art contest focused on inclusion and accessibility.
- Do a “word of the day” activity with terms like “IEP,” “inclusion,” or “accessibility.”
- Launch a school-wide disability awareness week.
- Create and share classroom rules for inclusion and respect.
- Display “50 Years of IDEA” fact posters around campus.
- Invite alumni with disabilities to share their educational journey.
- Partner up students for a collaborative activity with inclusive goals.
- Host a lunch mixer for general and special education classes.
- Launch a "Kindness Campaign" led by students.

To share your celebration ideas/activities with us, please email: [IDEA50@selpa.info](mailto:IDEA50@selpa.info)



**CLICK TO**  
**WATCH A VIDEO**  
**ON LRE**

*“Early segregation does not merely predict later segregation; it almost ensures it.”*

*-Dr. Erik Carter*  
*Vanderbilt University*

## STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF SUPPORT HIGHLIGHT

(Click on the pictures to access resources)

### SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE PRACTICES (SIP)



### CA COLLABORATIVE FOR IMPACTFUL PATHWAYS (CCIP)

