

What is LRE?

Least Restrictive Environment means that students with disabilities are educated with their nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate. Removal from the general education environment should only occur when the nature or severity of the disability prevents success even with supplementary aids and services.

Key Takeaways: Parents

✓ What does this look like in practice:

- For some students, LRE may mean:
 - Participating all day in general education with accommodations
 - Receiving support from a special education teacher in the classroom
 - Leaving the classroom for a short period of specialized instruction
 - Participating in a combination of general education and special education settings
- For other students with more significant needs, LRE may include:
 - A resource room for part of the day
 - A specialized classroom
 - A separate educational setting when necessary to provide FAPE
- The important question is not "Where do other students with this disability receive services?" but rather:
 - "What placement is appropriate for this individual student?"

✓ What should schools consider before removing a student from the General Education Classroom?

- Accommodations
- Modifications
- Assistive Technology
- Behavior Supports
- Specialized Instruction
- Additional Adult Support

The Team should discuss whether these supports could allow the student to be successful in a less restrictive environment

✓ What rights do Parents Have?

As a parent, you are an important member of the Case Conference Committee (CCC):

- Participate in Placement Decisions
- Review Data and ask questions
- Request Additional Discussion

What LRE does NOT mean:

- ✗ "Every student should be in general education all day."
- ✗ "Students with the same disability should be placed together"
- ✗ "A student's behavior automatically means they need a more restrictive placement."
- ✗ "Schools can make placement decisions based on staffing or schedules"

Key LRE Questions to Ask

- Why is this placement being recommended? What data supports this?
- What supports will my child receive in the general education environment?
- What happens if my child is not making the expected progress?
- What other placements could be considered?

LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Legal Foundations

- **IDEA 2004:** Federal law requiring LRE as part of FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education).
- **Article 7 (511 IAC 7-42-10):** Indiana's special education regulations enforce the LRE requirements.



Warning Signs LRE might need to be discussed

1. Your child is spending increasing amounts of time outside general education
2. You are not sure why services are occurring in a separate setting
3. Your child is being excluded from field trips, specials, or other activities
4. Your child is not making progress despite supports
5. You believe additional supports could allow greater participation with peers

****If any of the above are true, contact the school to set up a Case Conference**



Questions?

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