

Least Restrictive Environment

6505.15

Least restrictive environment to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public and nonpublic 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 education 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.

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE: Director of Special Education or Coordinator and IEP Team.

TIMELINE: Students will begin special education and related services within five days of receipt of Parental Consent for Placement based upon the IEP.

MATERIALS: IEP Form, Parental Notice and Consent for Initial Placement Form.

METHODS: The IEP Team will consider all placement options prior to the placement of a student and will provide written justification for those placements. The placements may range from regular classroom instruction for the entire school day with modifications to the regular instructional program to other settings dictated by student needs. The district may also develop additional placement alternatives within the overall school program that are tailored to the needs of the individual student with disabilities. This placement may be developed by adapting or modifying existing placement alternatives based on the needs of the individual student with disabilities.

When making the placement decision the team shall:

- I. Review and discuss past educational experiences.
- II. Review current levels of educational performance.
- III. Review current education needs as documented on the IEP.

IV. Review and formulate a preliminary configuration of special education service options.

V. Review and compare the options identified in (IV) above with the need for LRE. To achieve this, the IEP Team will select the special education options which allow for the implementation of the IEP and educates the student to the maximum extent appropriate with non-disabled peers. The team shall prepare written justification for the appropriate option(s) selected and document in writing why other options were not selected.

The district will provide written notice to parents and obtain written consent from parents prior to initial placement. If the district has made available an appropriate special education program in accordance with Rule 51 for a student with a disability, and the student's parents choose to unilaterally place the child in a different setting, the district is not required to pay for the child's education in the alternative setting.

Legal Reference: §79-1110
 through Special Education Act.
 §79-1184