

Schools make the following commitments to students with disabilities and their families in support of LRE:

- High standards for all children
- Opportunities for children with and without disabilities to interact
- Access to general education curriculum
- Monitor of students' instruction and success
- Appropriate services and supports within the school to meet each child's needs.



### **Underlying Principles of Least Restrictive Environment**

- **A continuum of services**
- **Instruction in general education classrooms**
- **Access and progress in general education curriculum**
- **Instructional, curricular, and behavioral supports layered within the school environment**
- **Interaction with nondisabled students**

School Contact Information:



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Division of Special Education

## **LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT**

First the IEP team decides *what* services your child needs. Next, a decision must be made about *where* services will be provided. Where your child receives IEP services is his or her *placement*.

A student's placement must be in the least restrictive environment (LRE). This means children with disabilities are educated with non disabled children to the maximum extent appropriate. The IEP team must decide if your child can attend a general education class with appropriate services and supports before placing your child in separate classes or separate schools.



- Your child's placement is determined at least annually. Placement is based on your child's IEP. You are part of the IEP team.
- Generally, your child is educated in the school that he or she would attend if not disabled unless the IEP team decides another placement is necessary.
- If your child cannot be educated at his school of residence, placement must be as close as possible to your child's home.

- When looking at placement options, the IEP team must think about any harmful effect on your child or on your child's services.
- Your child may not be removed from a regular classroom because he or she needs changes to the general education curriculum.

**Parents have the right to be part of the group that decides their child's educational placement and services**



The IEP team must consider your child's individual needs and decide the least restrictive placement based on your child's needs. *What is least restrictive for each child is based on that child's individual needs.* This means that the District cannot use a "one size fits all" approach to educating children who have a disability. Decisions must be based on individual needs in the IEP, and **not** on:

- The child's disability, meaning a student can not be placed in a special school just because the child has mental retardation; this also means a student can not be placed in a special class just because a child needs extra services;
- Where the District's staff is located;
- Amount of funds that are available; or
- What is easy for the school district.

What is the Continuum of Alternative Placements?

IEP teams also look at the *continuum of alternative placements*. This means different options where children can receive services. These options include:

- A general education class
- A special education class at a general education school
- A special education school or center
- At home, in a hospital or other public or private institution

Placement in the general education classroom is the *first* option the IEP team must consider. This means, the IEP team must decide: Can your child's needs be met in the general education classroom? What aids, services, and supports does your child need to make education in the general education classroom possible? If the IEP team decides that your child's needs can be met in the general education class with services and supports, then that is the least restrictive environment.

Services and Supports

Students with disabilities can receive special education services and supports at District operated schools and Charter operated schools. These schools offer many services and supports to help your child access the general education curriculum and meet your child's individual needs. Examples of services and supports are:

- Co-planning, co-teaching, inclusion and related services provided in the general education classroom.
- Special education support provided outside of the general education classroom. These include: strategy instruction, the use of extra programs or related services.
- Special education classroom with or without participation in general education. Services may be provided in a special education classroom at a General Education School, Charter School, Magnet School, Special School or Center, Nonpublic School, Home or Hospital School, or State Residential School.