Preschool Special Education Guidance
Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) (Indicator 6)

IDEA includes a strong preference for children with disabilities to be educated alongside their peers without disabilities. Over 30 years of research tells us children with disabilities make significant developmental and learning gains in inclusive settings (Grisham-Brown, Pretti-Frontczak, Hawkins, & Winchell, 2009); and, children without disabilities also show positive developmental outcomes in inclusive settings (Diamond & Huang, 2005). This guidance document spotlights the LRE codes Indiana uses when special education services are provided to children attending a Regular Early Childhood Program.

Over the past few years, there has been some confusion about which LRE codes to use when children attend a Regular Early Childhood Program (e.g., child care, Head Start, On My Way PreK program, etc.).

This confusion has led to some errors in determining and reporting the correct LRE code. The Decision Tree for Coding Early Childhood Special Education Environments [QR Code on back], has helped to eliminate some of this confusion, and we hope the following information will eliminate further confusion.

Answering these two questions can help lead to the correct LRE Code

1. How many hours is the child attending a regular Early Childhood program?
2. Where are the majority of services being delivered?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># Hours/week in a Regular Early Childhood Program</th>
<th>Majority of special education services delivered in:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 10</td>
<td>LRE Code 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 10</td>
<td>LRE Code 26</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Let’s Practice!

If a student attends three hours of regular early childhood programming at a public school, as well as attends a community-based preschool an additional 17 hours each week, and the services are mostly provided at the back table in an inclusive classroom setting, what is this student’s LRE?

1. Less than 10 hours/week (<10 hrs/wk); or
2. 10 or more hours/week (≥10 hrs/wk)

(Narrows it down to 26 or 27)

1. In the Regular Early Childhood Program classroom alongside his/her peers without disabilities and as part of typical classroom activities (In Classroom); or
2. In some other location which may include, pull-out, 1:1 therapy setting, special education or resource room classroom, in the same room as the regular EC program but not with peers (Some other location)
We want to hear from you!

Just as each individual is unique, so are the supports we educators provide to our students. Preschool is no exception, and many situations are specific to our preschool environments. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has partnered with the Early Childhood Center to gain a better understanding of the information and resources you are looking for. We want to hear from you, so please take a moment to think about those tough situations and complete this survey. We plan to use this information to bring you resources via Moodle providing PGP points!

LRE Q and A

Q: Why would providing services at a back table in the classroom be considered a change in LRE, if the child is still in the classroom with peers?

A: This is a change in LRE if the services are provided at a time peers are working together and the student with an IEP is brought to the back of the room/table without peers (another location other than with peer interaction).

Q: If a student is five years old in kindergarten, and parentally placed in the homeschool setting, what is his/her LRE?

A: This student would be a 38 through the December 1, 2019 count. After this date, all Kindergarteners will be coded as school-aged for LRE under a new federal rule. More details will be released from the Office of Special Education at a later date.

What’s up?

September: Webinar – Let’s Talk LRE! We will walk through a few situations and process out loud how we arrived at a certain LRE.

October: Begin seeing Short Shares and LRE answers to survey questions posted on Moodle

November: Here we come! Preschool Roadshow time! Look for dates to come out this month!

Resource Roundup

Looking for learning updates from the Indiana Department of Education? Interested in the latest Early Childhood resources, updates, research, events, and spotlight work being done around the state? Sign up using this link or QR Code!

Looking for updates from the Office of Special Education? Have you heard the buzz about Moodle, but cannot remember how to sign up? Use this link or the QR Code below for website access, instructions, and access code!