Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) refers to the setting where a child with a disability receives a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) designed to meet his or her educational goals, alongside peers without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate.

“IDEA’s strong preference that, to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities be educated in regular classes with their nondisabled peers with appropriate supplementary aids and services.”
34 C.F.R. Part 300; 64 Fed. Reg. 12470

“Before a disabled child can be placed outside of the regular educational environment, the full range of supplementary aids and services that if provided would facilitate the student’s placement in the regular classroom setting must be considered.”
34 C.F.R. 300; 64 Fed. Reg. 12471
The continuum of program options shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, all of the following or any combination of the following:

(a) Regular education programs
(b) Resource specialist program
(c) Designated instruction
(d) Special classes
(e) Nonpublic, nonsectarian school services
(f) State special schools
(g) Home/Hospital
(h) Residential treatment center

(California Education Code §56361)

Request for placement in an inclusive setting cannot be denied on the basis of:

- Financial ability of school to render services
- Category of disability
- Configuration of delivery system
- Difficulty in coordinating all agencies/services
- Availability of educational or related services
- Availability of space
- Administrative convenience


To provide an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment, your child may need:

- Related services
- Services and supports
- Training (student, parent, teacher, providers)
- Accommodations and modifications

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