

TAKE ME TO
MY

LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT



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

Chapman University's Thompson Policy Institute looked at the variability in placement of students with intellectual disability and autism across 746 school districts in California. **In Orange County, only 6.3% of students with intellectual disability and 34.3% of students with autism spend 80% of their day or more in general education**, which is slightly higher than the overall California percentages, but much lower than the National percentages: 55% for students with autism and 16% for students with intellectual disabilities. (2018 Disability Summit)



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

(71 Fed. Reg. 46540, 46588 (August 14, 2006))



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

For more information or resources on LRE, contact

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Orange County Office

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