

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE): What It Means for Your Child

(Bison Bridge Behavioral Insights Parent Resource K12 Edition)

What Is LRE?

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) is a key principle in special education law. It means that students with disabilities should learn in settings with their nondisabled peers **as much as possible** while still getting the support they need to succeed.

LRE isn't a place it's a principle. The IEP team must decide what placement allows your child to make meaningful progress **with the right supports** in place.

LRE in Practice: What It Can Look Like

There is no onesizefitsall setting. The right environment depends on each student's individual needs and goals.

Examples of LRE Options:

General education classroom with accommodations

Coteaching or inclusion support with a special education teacher

Resource room instruction for part of the day

Specialized classrooms for more structured learning or behavioral support

Separate school or program for students with intensive needs

 The law favors starting in the general education setting and moving to more specialized settings **only if necessary**.

How the IEP Team Decides Placement

The IEP team must consider:

Your child's **goals and present levels of performance**

Whether accommodations or supports can meet their needs in the general education classroom

The impact of the setting on your child and other students



Whether progress can be made in a less restrictive setting with **supplementary aids and services**

Placement is based on **services needed** not a specific classroom or disability label.

LRE Is Reviewed Every Year

Your child's placement is not permanent. It must be reviewed at least annually. If your child is not making progress, the team should consider different levels of support not just change the setting without revisiting goals and strategies.

What Parents Say

"I thought the special ed room was automatic but we had options."

"Inclusion worked when we had the right supports not just placement."

"The team listened when I said my child was ready to try more time in general ed."

Parent Reflection Space

Where is my child learning right now?

Are they included in the classroom and activities with peers?

Are their current supports helping them make progress?

Could more supports help them succeed in a less restrictive setting?

Important Reminder

LRE is about balancing support with access. Every child has the right to be included with their peers **to the greatest extent appropriate**. You are an equal member of the team and can ask for explanations, data, and options during any placement discussion.

To learn more about LRE, visit www.ksde.org or speak with your child's special education team.