

# Parent's Guide to Special Education Services in the Least Restrictive Environment

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*A Shared Path to Success*

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# Least Restrictive Environment

This pamphlet will help you as a parent understand the meaning of Least Restrictive Environment, and what it means for your child and his or her educational services. School personnel will partner with you in reviewing the information provided.

Least restrictive environment (LRE) refers to the setting where a student with a disability receives an appropriate education designed to meet his or her educational needs, alongside peers without disabilities. The LRE requirements guide where a student spends his or her time at school, how services are provided, and the relationships the student develops within the school and community.

A team of individuals referred to as the “IEP Team” works together to determine placement in the least restrictive environment. You are an important member of this team and will have the opportunity to provide meaningful input as a part of the decision-making process. Additional members of the team include a school administrator, teacher, related service provider, and others.

In the illustration below you will see a continuum of educational environments for students receiving services on an Individualized Education Program (IEP). As you move across the continuum to the right, the setting becomes more restrictive. This means students in those settings are less connected with their non-disabled peers.

**Move this way only  
as far as necessary.** — — — — →

Consideration always  
starts here.



## General Education Classroom with Special Education In-Class Services

Student receives instruction in the general education classroom. Supplementary aids and services, related services, and special education teacher services are embedded within the routine. Student remains in the classroom and receives supports during classroom activities.



## General Education Classroom Special Education Pull-Out

Student receives instruction in the general education classroom. Supplementary aids and services, related services, and special education teacher services are provided in a separate location. Student is pulled out of the classroom to work with a special education provider for part of the day.

# Terminology

**General Education:** Instruction that is based on state standards and provided at no cost to the parents whose children attend a public school.

**Special Education:** Specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability. This could include:

- Related Services  
Therapy services that may include speech and language services, physical and occupational therapy, social work services, orientation and mobility.
- Special Education Teacher Services  
Services provided by a teacher certified in special education.
- Supplementary Aids and Services  
Accommodations and modifications to the environment or curriculum to support the student in the general education classroom (e.g. a wheelchair or communication device, individual assistance, break time for the student, and alternate materials).

**Individualized Education Program (IEP):** The program developed for a child with a disability. The IEP documents the special education services the child will receive based on his or her individual needs.

## Self-Contained Special Education Classroom

Student receives instruction in a separate special education classroom. All children enrolled receive services on an Individualized Education Plan. This classroom may or may not be located in the student's resident district.

Move this way as skills  
develop and grow.



## Classroom with Pull-Out Services

Student receives instruction in the general education classroom. Supplementary aids and services, and special accommodations are provided in the classroom. Student is pulled out for special instruction a portion of the day.



## Home Instruction, Hospital/Residential Programs

Student receives instruction at home or in a residential facility. Student might have physical or mental health challenges that prevent or restrict participation at school.

*This does not indicate a step-by-step placement path that must be followed in order.*

# Schools served by Char-Em ISD

**Alanson Public**  
**Beaver Island Community**  
**Boyne City Public**  
**Boyne Falls Public**  
**Central Lake Public**  
**Charlevoix Public**  
**Concord Academy Boyne**  
**Concord Academy Petoskey**  
**East Jordan Public**  
**Ellsworth Community**  
**Harbor Springs Public**  
**Pellston Public**  
**Public Schools of Petoskey**  
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