



LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT (LRE)

Legal Authority:

Each district must ensure that to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities are educated with children who are nondisabled and (that) special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only if the nature of severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. 34 C.F.R. 300.1114(a)(2)

The regulations require the district to justify the placement as the least restrictive environment. This is demonstrated by: (1) describing the placement, (2) explaining the necessity of the restrictiveness of a placement outside of general education based on the nature and severity of the student's disability.

What do we look for when monitoring LRE in file reviews?

- (1) Does the LRE clearly describe **WHY** the nature and severity of the student's disability is such that s/he must be removed from general education to receive services?
- (2) Does the IEP describe **what the student is missing** when not participating with nondisabled peers in the general education class?
- (3) Does the LRE **match the service grid** information?

COMPLIANT

Rick needs intensive social skills instruction and practice in a small group situation in order to improve his ability to resolve conflict and cooperate with peers. He will receive this instruction from the social worker and EBD teacher during his study hall.

NON-COMPLIANT

Rick will spend no less than 79% of his school day in a general education setting with his peers. He will receive the majority of his special education services in the general education setting.

COMPLIANT

Due to Kim's significant information processing deficits in the areas of auditory acquisition and organization related to sequencing words, she needs small group reading instruction with repeated directions in multiple formats. Therefore, she will be removed from general education reading to receive this instruction.

NON-COMPLIANT

Kim needs a quiet environment with few distractions in order to progress in her academics. She will also use the resource room to organize her materials and complete classroom assignments.

