

Continuum of Placement Options Under the IDEA

IEP teams must place a child with a disability in the least restrictive environment that's appropriate for the student. The continuum begins with full integration in the general education classroom with no supplementary aids or services and proceeds to increasingly restrictive settings. This chart reviews possible placement options on the LRE continuum from 1 being the least restrictive to 9 being the most restrictive.

1. General Education classroom

On a full-time basis, the student is placed in the classroom he would attend if he did not have a disability. The student does not receive supplementary aids or services. A special education teacher may monitor the student on a daily or weekly basis.

2. General education classroom with accommodations and modifications

The student attends a general education classroom on a full-time basis. He receives accommodations and modifications to the instructional program.

3. General education classroom with individualized instruction

The student attends a general education classroom on a full-time basis. He receives specialized instruction in that classroom during a portion of the day.

4. General education classroom with pull-out services

The student attends a general education classroom for most of the school day. He receives specialized instruction for part of the day in a resource room or self-contained classroom.

5. Part time in general education classroom with most of the day in another setting

The student attends a general education classroom for part of the school day. He receives specialized instruction in another setting (resource room or self-contained classroom) for most of the day.

6. Self-contained special education classroom

The student attends a regular public school. But he attends a self-contained classroom only for students with disabilities. The student has opportunities for participation with nondisabled peers in nonacademic and extracurricular activities.

7. Special day school

The student does not attend a regular public school. He attends a separate school solely for students with disabilities, usually with no opportunity to participate with nondisabled peers.

8. Residential treatment facility or hospital

The student receives treatment, instruction, and services at a facility where he resides or in a hospital, usually because the student's disability causes him to require round-the-clock services to make educational progress.

9. Home instruction

The student receives all his instruction at home from an itinerant teacher, usually on a temporary basis due to severe medical or psychological issues. The student is likely to have little to no interaction with other students.