

Promoting Student Achievement for Students with Disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment

Georgia Department of Education
Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports
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"We will lead the nation in improving student achievement."

Agree or Disagree

- Read each statement concerning students with disabilities (SWD) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) and decide if you agree or disagree. Place a check in the appropriate box.

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Essential Questions

- Why is it important to educate students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment?
- What is the current level of performance of my school on the rubric for the Standards Based Classroom?
- What can the schools in your district do to promote academic achievement for students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment?
- What resources are available to support my school?

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Why LRE? Why Now?

- Teachers want to know how to divide time, resources, & their efforts to effectively address their students' needs
- Increase in diverse learners in each classroom
- A growing number of teachers agree that two is better than one!
- Evidence of research indicates that collaborating in the classroom increases student achievement

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Why LRE? Why Now?

- Provides powerful support for the professionals who teach
- Wider range of instructional alternatives for all students
- Reduces fragmentation of learning
- Enhances the participation of students with special needs as full classroom members

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Why LRE? Why Now?

- SWDs can be grouped with other struggling students through Response to Intervention (RTI)
- Wider range of instructional alternatives are used for all students
- Conditions are created in which students with disabilities and other groups can make AYP
- Reduces stigma for students

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Why LRE? Why Now?

90/80 Benchmark

USDOE ranks states based on 90% of students with disabilities being educated in a general education classroom at least 80% of the day.

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Why LRE? Why Now?

- IDEA and NCLB requirements:
 - Gives students access to highly qualified subject-matter teachers (HQT)
 - Least Restrictive Environment
 - Access to general education curriculum
 - Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

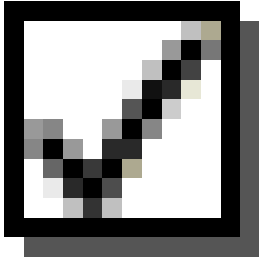
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LRE Definition from IDEA

- *“...providing appropriate special education and related services and aids and supports in the regular classroom, to such children, whenever appropriate...”*

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Check it out!



Using the rubric for The Standards Based Classroom, decide where each school in your district is functioning in each of the concepts.

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Plan for Increasing LRE for SWD

Schedule SWDs in the LRE

Train school leaders on the LRE Project

Train school leaders on effective inclusion strategies

School leaders train co-teacher pairs on effective co-teaching and co-planning strategies

Incorporate co-teacher rounds at local schools in order to offer teachers guided practice in co-planning and co-teaching

Frequent observations of co-teaching classes by school leadership

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Available Resources

- GaDOE website
- Co-teaching DVD
- DOE Scheduling manual
- ElluminateLIVE! Webinars
- Individualized guidance by DOE consultants

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For more information...

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