

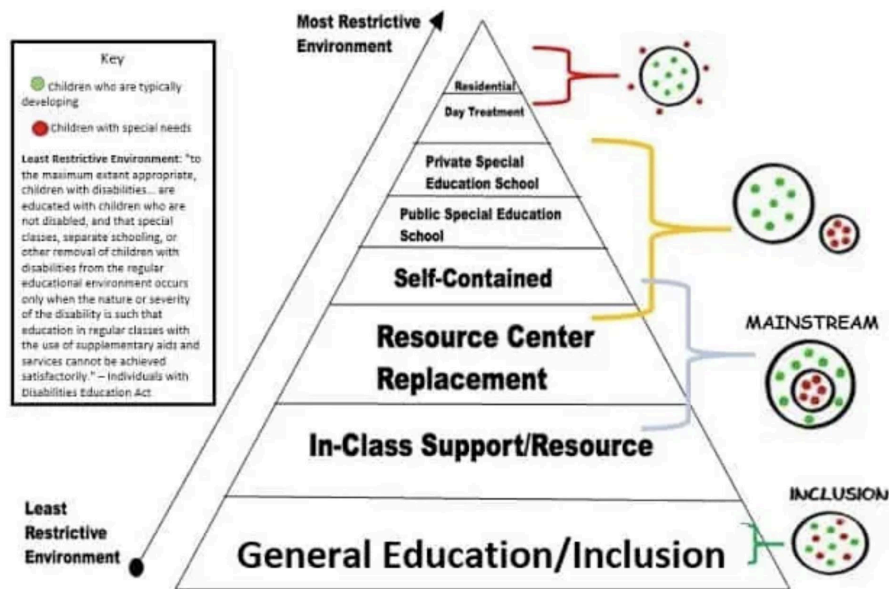


Wayne STEM Academy *Experience the SPARK!*

Least Restrictive Environment

LRE:

One of the most important components of IDEA is the legal requirement that a child be educated in the least restrictive environment (LRE). IDEA also states that students with disabilities are entitled to be educated with students who do not receive special education services, to the maximum extent appropriate. To determine a student's placement, IDEA requires that the IEP team consider the supplementary aids and services a student may need in the general education classroom to be successful. The law also states that students should only be removed from the general education classroom if supplementary aids and services in the general education classroom do not meet the student's unique needs.



The IEP team, including the parents, might consider whether the environment:

- Supports a student's progress and growth academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally.
- Provides students with access to the general education curriculum.
- Provides students with opportunities to learn both academic and social skills.
- Eliminates barriers and provides access to the learning environment through the use of supplementary aids and services.
- Provides ample opportunities to engage meaningfully with non-disabled peers.
- Provides opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities (such as track and field or LEGO club) as well as other nonacademic activities (such as school dances and football games).



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A student's placement is decided annually by the IEP team, during the student's IEP meeting. The placement determination is a team decision that requires input from all members of the student's IEP team. Because parents or guardians are an integral part of the IEP team, they should always be included in the placement determination process.

To determine a student's placement, the IEP team discusses the student's individualized program, which consists of goals, instruction, related services, and any support the student needs to make meaningful progress academically and socially. The first educational placement all IEP teams must consider is the general education classroom.