

IDEA defines Least Restrictive Environments as “to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are not disabled, and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily” (Sec. 612 (a)[5]).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

South Dakota Department of Education
Special Education Programs
doe.sd.gov/oess/sped.aspx
(605) 773-3678



www.doe.sd.gov

Least Restrictive Environment

A GUIDE FOR PROVIDERS SERVING
PRESCHOOLERS WITH DISABILITIES



s h a r e
l e a r n
e x p l o r e
c a r e
h o p e
u n d e r s t a n d
b e l i e v e



www.doe.sd.gov



Division of Education Services and Support
800 Governors Drive • Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3678

5,000 copies printed at the cost of \$.12 each



south dakota
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Learning. Leadership. Service.



WHAT ARE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

- Provide services to students with disabilities ages 3-21
- Ensure parents understand LRE and are involved in decision making
- Document the team's LRE decision on the Individual Education Plan (IEP)

HOW IS LRE DETERMINED?

The IEP team (which includes parents) considers the type, frequency and intensity of supports and services needed. The team then determines what location services will be provided to best meet the needs of the student.

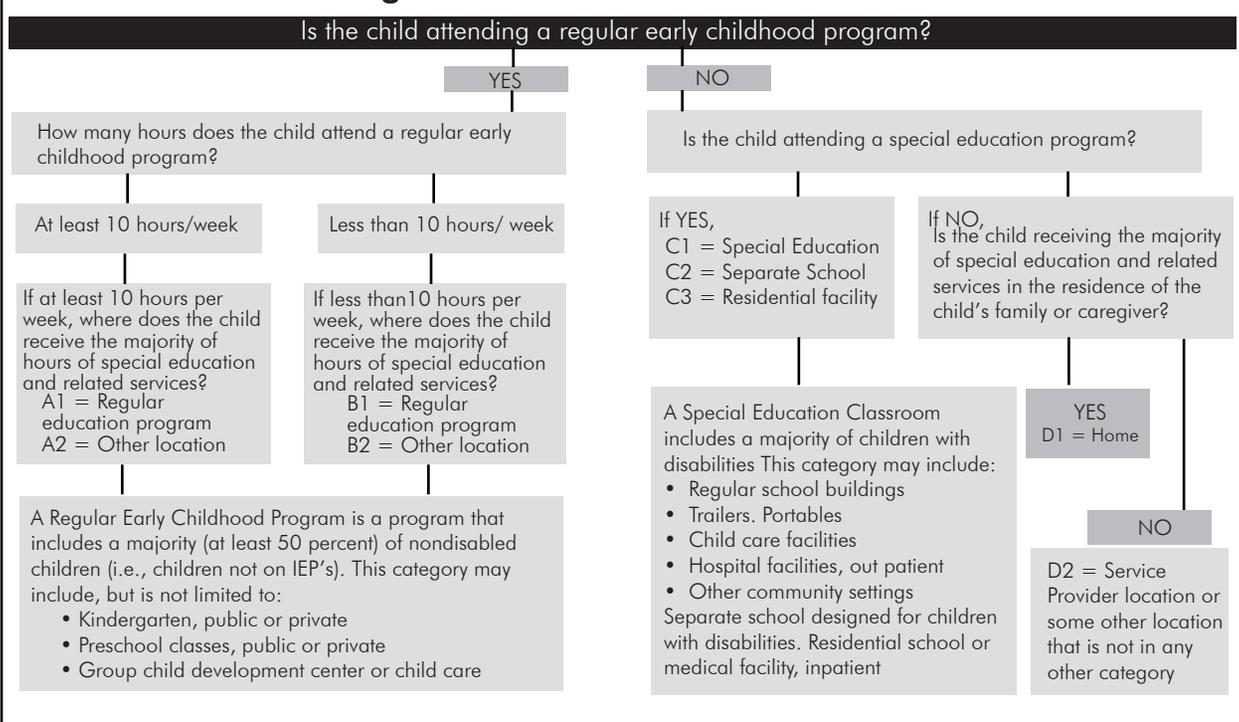
WHAT LRE OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

- Kindergarten, public or private
- Preschool classes, public or private
- Group child development center or child care
- Home, clinic or hospital
- Residential facility
- Special school

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- School districts are not responsible for providing services to students who live outside of district boundaries.
- School districts are not responsible for providing services to home-schooled or parentally placed private school students.
- Whenever appropriate, a student should receive services in the preschool classroom or childcare setting they are already attending.
- The type, amount and location of services are determined based on the student's needs.

Decision Tree for Coding Educational Environments



Age 3-5 Educational Environments

Student attends...	... and receiving the majority of hours of SPECIAL EDUCATION and related services	Campus Code
Row Set (A) Children attending a regular Early Childhood program 10 HRS or more per week, ...	(A1). ...in the REGULAR EARLY CHILDHOOD Program	310
	(A2) ...in some OTHER LOCATION (Definition: Child leaves EC Program to receive sped services)	315
Row Set (B) Children attending a regular early childhood program less than 10 HRS per week, ...	(B1) ... in the REGULAR EARLY CHILDHOOD Program	325
	(B2) ... in some OTHER Location (Definition: Child leaves EC* Program to receive sped services)	330
Row Set (C) Children attending a special education program (NOT participating in a regular early childhood program) ...	(C1) Specifically, a SEPARATE special education class	335
	(C2) Specifically, A SEPARATE SCHOOL	345
	(C3) Specifically, a RESIDENTIAL FACILITY	355
Row Set (D) Children attending neither a regular early childhood program nor a special education program (NOT Included in ROW SETS A, B, or C)	(D1) ...at HOME	365
	(D2) ...at a provider location or some other location.	375