

HOW IEP TEAMS DETERMINE THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT (LRE)

The Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) means students with disabilities learn with their non-disabled peers as much as appropriate. A student is removed from general education only if, even with supports, they cannot make meaningful progress there.

Three Questions Every IEP Team Must Ask

1



What does the student need to learn?

This centers the team on the instructional goal, not the placement. Teams identify:

- skills
- behaviors
- content the student needs to make progress

2



What supports and services will help the student learn?

Before discussing placement, teams identify the student's needed:

- accommodations
- supplementary aids
- assistive technology
- para support
- related services
- teaching techniques

3



In which setting can the student learn best with those supports?

The team selects the **least restrictive setting** where the student can:

- access instruction
- participate with peers
- make progress **using the supports already identified**

LRE ensures students receive the supports they need in the most inclusive setting where they can thrive.

