



State of Arizona Department of Education



Memorandum

Date: July 1, 2019
To: Public Education Agency (PEA) Special Education Administrators
From: Exceptional Student Services – Operations Unit
Subject: Accurate Special Education Least Restrictive Environment Reporting

Exceptional Student Services (ESS) has fielded questions throughout the year relating to students receiving special education (SPED) services' least restrictive environment (LRE) reporting. ESS has developed an infographic that helps delineate time spent inside the regular classroom against time spent outside the regular classroom. It can also be applied to help delineate appropriate LRE reporting for students in educational environments.

Some of the factors that should be considered whether time is inside or outside the regular classroom are included but not limited to:

- Location of the classroom (examples)
 - o Designated classroom or other location within the school building or campus
 - o SPED resource or special class

- Once location is determined, reporter can review the student characteristics of a classroom
 - o Makeup of the enrolled students in the class: 50% or more non-disabled vs. students with disabilities

Based upon this information, PEAs can help determine what is considered time inside and outside the regular classroom and adequately proportion the time of a student to the appropriate LRE codes of A, B, or C.

For reference, below are the LRE codes¹ in question:

Grade	LRE Code	Description	Eligible for State Aid	Eligible for Federal Funding	Self-Contained or Resourced
K-12	A	Inside Regular Class 80% or more of the day. (These are children who received special education and related services outside the regular class for less than 21% of the school day.) This may include children placed in: regular class with special education/related services provided within regular classes; regular class with special education/related services provided outside the regular classes; or regular class with special education services provided in resource rooms.	Yes	Yes	Resourced
K-12	B	Inside Regular Class for not more than 79% of day and no less than 40% of the day. (These are children who received special education and related services outside the regular class for at least 21% but no more than 60% of the school day.) This may include children placed in: resource rooms with special education/related services provided within the resource room; or resource rooms with part-time instruction in a regular class.	Yes	Yes	Resourced
K-12	C	Inside Regular Class less than 40% of the day. (These are children who received special education and related services outside the regular classroom for more than 60% of the school day.) This may include children placed in: self-contained special classrooms with part-time instruction in a regular class; or self-contained special classrooms with full-time special education instruction on a regular school campus.	Yes	Yes	Self-Contained

For questions or concerns, please contact ESSOperations@azed.gov.

¹ ED Facts Submission System, FS002-Children with Disabilities (IDEA) School Age File Specifications (2017). Retrieved from <https://www2.Ed.gov/about/inits/ed/edfacts/eden/non-xml/fs002-14-0-docx>