



Where Will My Child's IEP be Implemented?

Decisions about your child's educational placement are made by the IEP Team. The entire team will meet and consider the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and a variety of placement options that will provide your child with an appropriate educational program. The IEP Team must identify and document each placement considered and the reasons for the placement chosen. The general education classroom is considered to be less restrictive, and a self-contained special education is considered to be more restrictive.

LRE - Continuum of Placements

Each school division must provide a wide variety, or continuum, of alternative placements so that each child with a disability will have an appropriate educational program.

This continuum includes:

- general education classes;
- special education classes;
- special education schools (private/residential);
- home-based instruction;
- homebound instruction when instruction is made available to children who are confined for periods that would prevent normal school attendance; and based on certification of need by a licensed physician or clinical psychologist; and
- instruction in hospitals and institutions, including state facilities.

This continuum of alternative placements also:

- must provide for supplementary services provided within general education classes;
 - must include integrated service delivery, which occurs when some or all goals of your child's IEP are met in general education classes with similar-age children;
 - must be based on the individual needs of your child, not a single model used for a specific population or category of children with disabilities;
 - must be documented by the identification of each alternative considered and the reasons for the placement chosen; and
 - must provide for an educational program, if appropriate, with similar-age children.
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Important to Note:

Access to the general education curriculum is required if your child's goal is to graduate with a standard or advanced standard diploma. Your child should be taught and assessed based on the Standards of Learning (SOL) regardless of the setting in which your child receives educational services. Your child may receive support and accommodations to access the curriculum and content standards.

The SOL guides the content for what your child is expected to learn in each grade for reading, math, science, and social studies. Modifications change these expectations. A modification of the curriculum results in your child receiving different instructional content, thus not being adequately prepared to take the SOL assessments that lead to a verified credit (credit awarded when the child successfully completes a course and achieves a passing score on the associated SOL test or a substitute assessment approved by the Virginia Board of Education). Your child will not be able to earn a standard or advanced studies diploma without the required verified credits.