

# Equity in Inclusion

# Issue Brief



**Issue Brief**  
Equity in Inclusion

**Critical Role of Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)**

**Related History to this Topic**

- Board of Ed. of Hendrick Hudson Central School Dist. v. Rowley 458 U.S. 176 (1982)
  - First decision in a special education case by the U.S. Supreme Court
  - Defined free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment
- IDEA Sec. 300.114 defines LRE requirements

**Why Support this Topic?**

- In the development of an IEP, decisions must be made regarding where a child spends their school day and how the services are provided
- In Florida, schools have been challenged to improve LRE placement practices
- The Best Practices in Inclusive Education (BPIE) is an internal assessment required every 3 years in Florida per Section 1003.571(3)(f), F.S.<sup>1</sup>

**What can you do to advocate for LRE?**

- Inquire to how your school district measures up when it comes to serving students in the least restrictive environment
- Work together with your school team to ensure that students with disabilities are receiving services and appropriate supports in the LRE
- Share student success stories with the educational stakeholders in your district

**Definitions**

- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE): The placement in which an individual student can be taught and make progress in the general education curriculum to the maximum extent possible. The IEP team must consider the continuum of alternative placements and ensure that that the needs of students with disabilities are met!
- Inclusion: Section 1003.571(3)(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.) formally defines inclusion. Further, it is the practice of educating all students together (i.e., the students with disabilities and students without disabilities) and students with disabilities are able to access the general curriculum!

Sources:  
1. Florida Department of Education Technical Assistance Paper: Least Restrictive Environment Considerations Related to Individual Educational Plans (2016)  
Florida Technical Assistance 2016/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100  
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# SEALS

# Equity in Inclusion-The Critical Role of Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)



## What Does LRE Mean:

- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE): The placement in which an individual student can be taught and make progress in the general education curriculum to the maximum extent possible. The IEP team must consider the continuum of alternative placements and ensure that the needs of students with disabilities are met.
  - Inclusion: Section 1003.57(1)(a)2., Florida Statutes (F.S.) formally defines inclusion. Further, it is the practice of educating all students together (i.e., the students with disabilities and students without disabilities) and students with disabilities are able to access the general curriculum.
- \* Least restrictive environment (LRE) isn't a place; it's a principle that guides each exceptional student's educational program.

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# Equity in Inclusion-The Critical Role of Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)



## Why equity? Why now?

- Both equality and equity aim to ensure basic fairness.
- With equality, the end goal is simple fairness – everyone has the same starting point and is treated exactly the same.
- With equity, each person is given what they need to be successful, based on their unique abilities and needs.

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# Equity in Inclusion-The Critical Role of Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)



## What can you do to advocate for LRE?

- Inquire as to how your school district measures up when it comes to serving students in the least restrictive environment.
- Work together with your school team to ensure that students with disabilities are receiving services and appropriate supports in the LRE.
- Share student success stories with the educational stakeholders in your district.

# Equity in Inclusion-The Critical Role of Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)



## 7 Tips for Achieving Equity in Special Education

by Dr. Kurt Hulett

- Tip 1: Principal Leadership
- Tip 2: Develop Truly Individualized and Quality IEP's
- Tip 3: Use Online and Blended Learning Options
- Tip 4: Let Data Drive Instruction and Intervention
- Tip 5: Thorough and Individualized Lesson Planning
- Tip 6: Establish High Standards for Each Child
- Tip 7: Motivation and Enthusiasm

# Questions?

