

# 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 1003.57(1)(f), F.S.<sup>2</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<sup>1</sup>
- 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<sup>1</sup>

#### Sources:

1. Florida Department. Of Education Technical Assistance Paper: Least Restrictive Environment Considerations Related to Individual Educational Plans (2016).
2. Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) [floridainclusionnetwork.com](http://floridainclusionnetwork.com)
3. Photo Credit: Omaha World-Herald