

Least Restrictive Environment

Children requiring special education shall, to the maximum extent appropriate, be educated with children who are not disabled. Iowa policy governing least restrictive environment (LRE) is applicable to all education agencies having responsibilities for the provision of special education and related services for children with disabilities, including Central Rivers AEA.

Central Rivers AEA assists local education agencies (LEAs) and state operated educational programs to provide or make provision, as an integral part of public education, for a free and appropriate public education sufficient to meet the needs of all children requiring special education. This is not to be construed as encouraging separate facilities or segregated programs designed to meet the needs of children requiring special education when the children can benefit from all or part of the education program as offered by the local school district. To the maximum extent appropriate, children requiring special education shall attend general education classes and shall be educated with children who do not require special education. Whenever possible, hindrances to learning and to the normal functioning of children requiring special education within the general education school environment shall be overcome by the provision of special aids and services.

Special classes, separate schooling or other removal of children requiring special education from the general education environment shall occur when, and to the extent that the nature or severity of the educational disability is such that education in general education classes, even with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be accomplished satisfactorily. For those children who cannot adapt to the general education or home living conditions, and who are removed from the general education environment upon the request of the Board of Directors of Central Rivers AEA, the Department of Human Services shall provide residential or detention facilities and the AEA shall provide special education programs and services. The AEA shall cooperate with the Iowa Board of Regents to provide the services required.

Central Rivers AEA assures that in providing or arranging for the provision of nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities, including meals, recess periods, and other nonacademic services and activities, each child with a disability participates with children who do not have disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of that child.

Legal References:

20 U.S.C. §§ 1412(a)(5)
34 C.F.R. Pt. 300 (1999) §§ 300.26; 130; 305-308; 311;
550-556
[281] IAC §§ 41.3(5); 41.6; 41.37-41.41.44; 41.82(2)

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