

LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT (LRE)

The policy assures that:

- A. To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities in public or private institutions or other care facilities are educated with students who are not disabled (34 CFR § 300.550).
- B. Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of students with disabilities from the regular environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes, even with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily (34 CFR §300.550 and AAC R7-401).

DEFINITION

Supplementary aids and services as used in this section means, aids, services, and other supports that are provided in regular education classes or other education-related settings to enable the children with disabilities to be educated with nondisabled children to the maximum extent appropriate in accordance with 34 CFR §34 CFR §300.550-30.554.

Procedures include, but are not limited to:

Continuum of educational placements (34 CFR §300.551)

- 1. A continuum of alternative placements for Kindergarten – 9th grade special education and related services will include:
 - a. Regular classes with supplementary aids and services
 - b. Regular classes with resource or itinerant support
 - c. Special classes
 - d. Special schools
 - e. Home instruction
 - f. Instruction in hospitals, and
 - g. Instruction in institutions

Placement of a child with a disability (34 CFR §300.552 and AAC R7-2-401 (G))

- 3. Special education placement decision for a child with a disability will be made by a group of persons that includes:
 - (a) The parent(s)
 - (b) Persons who are knowledgeable about the child
 - (c) Persons who are knowledgeable of evaluation data, and
 - (d) Persons who are knowledgeable of placement options.
- 4. Special education placements will
 - a. Be determined at least annually
 - b. Be based on the child's IEP, and
- 5. The Southgate Academy will document consideration of any potential harmful effects of the placement on the child or the quality of services.
- 6. A child with a disability will not be removed from education in age-appropriate regular classrooms solely because of needed modifications in the general curriculum.

Nonacademic settings and services (34 CFR §300.553-300.306)

7. Children with disabilities will participate with non-disabled children in non-academic and extracurricular services and activities, which may include meals, recess periods, and the services and activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of that child.
8. The children with disabilities will have available to them the variety of educational programs and services available to non-disabled children in the areas served by the Southgate Academy in nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities in the manner necessary to afford children with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in those services and activities (34 CFR § 300.305).
9. Students with disabilities will participate with non-disabled students in non-academic and extracurricular services and activities which may include: counseling services, athletics, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interest groups or clubs sponsored by the Southgate Academy, referrals to agencies that provide assistance to individuals with disabilities and employment of students, including both employment by the Southgate Academy and assistance in making outside employment available.