Calculating Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) using the Verification Calculator

Presented by
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Disclaimer

Training provided today is meant to supplement and not supplant reading bulletins and accompanying documents; guidance from the U.S. Department of Education; chapter 392-172A WAC; Part 300 of the federal regulations; and, the Individuals with Disabilities Act. This presentation and/or materials should be viewed and applied by users according to their specific needs. The presentation should be used as guidance and is not intended as legal advice.

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Objectives

- Overview of LRE
- LRE for Special Education Students Ages 6-21
- LRE for Special Education Students Ages 3-5
- Review changes to the reporting categories for early childhood LRE
- Share resources to assist teams in accurate reporting of LRE data
- Practice determining LRE codes with sample students*
Reporting Requirements

- State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators 5 and 6
- Districts report federal Child Count data through the Comprehensive Education Data and Research System (CEDARS)
- LRE is an element of the Child Count data
- Child Count data reflect the status of each eligible student enrolled on November 1
- Required verification activity in the iGrants Form Package 267 Application
The 2012-13 Federal Fund Application (form package 267) includes an LRE verification calculator.

The purpose of this calculator is twofold:
– To verify that districts are calculating LRE codes correctly; and
– To provide a template that district staff can use to calculate LRE codes.

The calculator includes sections for students ages 3-5 and students ages 6-21.
LRE for students ages 6-21

**Indicator 5:** Percent of children with IEPs ages 6 through 21:

A. Inside the regular class 80% or more of the day (LRE Code 1);

B. Inside the regular class less than 40% of the day (LRE Code 3); or

C. Served in public or private separate schools, residential placements, or homebound or hospital placements (LRE Codes 28, 29, and 8). *(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A))*
LRE ages 6-21

\[
\frac{\text{# of mpw student spends in gen. ed. setting}}{\text{Total mpw of regular instructional time}} \times 100
\]
## Numerator - Scenario 1 (Ages 6-21)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Projected Date for Initiation of Services</th>
<th>Anticipated Frequency</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Position(s) Responsible for Providing Instruction</th>
<th>Position(s) Responsible for Monitoring Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>3/14/12</td>
<td>40 min/week</td>
<td>Sp. Ed.</td>
<td>3/14/13</td>
<td>SLP</td>
<td>SLP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Numerator - Scenario 2 (Ages 6-21)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Projected Date for Initiation of Services</th>
<th>Anticipated Frequency</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<td>3/14/13</td>
<td>SLP</td>
<td>SLP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Numerator - Scenario 3 (Ages 6-21)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Projected Date for Initiation of Services</th>
<th>Anticipated Frequency</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Position(s) Responsible for Providing Instruction</th>
<th>Position(s) Responsible for Monitoring Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>3/14/12</td>
<td>300 min/week</td>
<td>Sp. Ed.</td>
<td>3/14/13</td>
<td>Sp. Ed. Teacher</td>
<td>Sp. Ed. Teacher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Calculating LRE for Ages 6-21

The LRE Calculator will assist districts in calculating the instructional minutes per week for each building in the district.

This becomes the denominator of the LRE calculation for individual students in that building.
Washington Elementary School in the Salmon Creek School District begins instruction at 8:30 in the morning. Students receive a 40 minute break from 11:20 to 12:00, half of which is for lunch and the other half for recess. Students are dismissed from school at 2:45 pm.
First period instruction at Sockeye High School in the Salmon Creek School District begins at 7:45 in the morning. Students receive a 30 minute lunch break. Students are dismissed from school at 2:50 pm. Sockeye has a two-hour late start for students every Wednesday (first period begins at 9:45).
LRE 6-21 – Key Concepts

- LRE codes for individual students ages 6-21 are reported in terms of the percent of the regular instructional time that the student spends in a general education setting.

- A general education setting is a setting in which typically-developing peers are present.

- In order to calculate LRE accurately, districts must ensure that the location of service delivery is clearly indicated in each student’s IEP (as required by WAC 392-172A-03090 (1)(i)).
Early Childhood LRE (students ages 3-5)

Indicator 6: Percent of children ages 3 through 5 with IEPs attending a:
A. Regular early childhood program and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program; and
B. Separate special education class, separate school, or residential facility.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A))
Decision Rules to Determine Categories

First consider whether the child is attending a Regular Early Childhood Program:

- at least 50 percent children without disabilities (children who do NOT have IEPs)
Examples of Regular Early Childhood Programs

- Head Start
- Kindergartens
- Public preschool classes
- Private kindergartens or preschools
- Child development center or child care program
EC LRE (students ages 3-5)

For children who attend a Regular Early Childhood Program, the IEP team will also determine where the *majority* (*more than 50%*) of their special education and related services are delivered.

**In a regular early childhood program 10 or more hours per week:**
- Code 14 – receives majority of hours of special education services in regular program.
- Code 17 – receives majority of hours of special education services in another location.

**In a regular early childhood program less than 10 hours per week:**
- LRE Code 18 – receives majority of hours of special education services in regular program.
- LRE Code 19 – receives majority of hours of special education services in another location.
If Child Attends Only a Special Education Program

Special Education is defined as:
- Less than 50 percent children without disabilities (i.e., children without IEPs).
- The order of the categories as listed on the table does not reflect a continuum from least to most restrictive.
Separate Special Education Program

For children who do not attend ANY regular early childhood program:

- Code 35 – special education services in separate class
- Code 16 – special education services in separate school
- Code 15 – special education services in residential facility
- Code 13 – special education services at home
- Code 36 – special education services in service provider location or some other location
Decision Tree for coding Early Childhood Educational Environments

**Is the child attending a regular early childhood program?**
- Yes: How many hours does the child attend a regular early childhood program?
  - 10 or more hours per week:
    - 10 or more hours per week: Where does the child receive the majority of special education and related services?
      - CEDARS LRE Code:
        - 14 = Reg EC Program=10 or more hrs/wk & rec SDI in Reg EC program
        - 17 = Reg EC Program= 10 or more hrs/wk & rec SDI elsewhere
  - Less than 10 hours per week:
    - CEDARS LRE Code:
      - 18 = Reg EC Program=less than 10 hrs/wk & rec SDI in Reg EC program
      - 19 = Reg EC Program=less than 10 hrs/wk & rec SDI elsewhere

**No:**
- If NO, determine the following: Is the child attending a special education program?
  - If YES:
    - CEDARS LRE Code:
      - 35 = Separate Class
      - 16 = Separate Residential Facility
  - If NO:
    - Is the child receiving the majority of special education and related services in the residence of the family or caregiver?
      - If YES:
        - CEDARS LRE Code:
          - 13 = Home
      - If NO:
        - CEDARS LRE Code:
          - 36 = Service Provider Location or some other location that is NOT in any other category
LRE Calculator – Ages 3-5

The “Ages 3-5” tab of the calculator will assist the district in calculating LRE codes for individual students.

Scenarios are presented on the following slides.
Scenario 1 (Ages 3-5)

Roberto attends a preschool program in the afternoons, Tuesday through Friday from 12:45 to 3:15. There are 15 students in this program, 9 of which have IEPs. Roberto receives his special education services in the preschool classroom.
Scenario 2 (Ages 3-5)

- Shayla attends a special education preschool program in the mornings, Monday – Thursday from 8:30 to 11:30. In this program, all students have IEPs.
- From 12:00 to 4:00 in the afternoons (Mon-Thur), and from 8:00 to 4:00 on Fridays, Shayla also attends a private preschool childcare program. She receives a 20-minute lunch in the private program. There are 13 students in the private program, 5 of whom have an IEP.
- Shayla receives her special education services in the special education preschool classroom.
Scenario 3 (Ages 3-5)

- Giovanni receives 30 minutes of special education services from an SLP in the SLP’s office, in the mornings 3 days per week.

- He also attends a community-based preschool program in the afternoons, Monday – Thursday from 12:30 to 4:00. There are a total of 12 students in this program. No lunch is provided.
Calculating LRE codes for individual students ages 3-5 is a three-part process:

1. Is the child attending a regular early childhood program?
2. If so, does the child attend the regular early childhood program for 10 or more hours, or less than 10 hours?
3. Where does the student receive the majority of his/her special education and related services?
Other Scenarios?

Questions?
References

Decision Tree, LRE Calculator, Individual Child Worksheet, Webinar/Power Point are located at:
http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/Data/FederalForms.aspx and
http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/EarlyChildhood/PreschoolLRE.aspx

CEDARS manual is located at:
http://www.k12.wa.us/CEDARS/default.aspx
Contact Information

Questions regarding this presentation should be sent to: specialeddata@k12.wa.us

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