

Calculating Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) using the Verification Calculator

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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

LRE Verification Calculator

- The 2011-12 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

$$\frac{\text{\# of mpw student spends in gen. ed. setting}}{\text{Total mpw of regular instructional time}} \times 100$$

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.

Scenario 1 (Ages 6-21)

- 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.

Salmon Creek

Elementary Building Name: **Washington Elementary**

[Link to instructions](#)

Start Time	End Time			
8:30	2:45 PM	6.25		School Day Hours
Enter Lunch Time as minutes		5.92		
	20	5:55		School Day Hours - Lunch excluded
Minutes per Day		355	X	5
				1775
				Days at this Schedule

Start Time	End Time			
		0.00		School Day Hours
Enter Lunch Time as minutes		0.00		
		0:00		School Day Hours - Lunch excluded
Minutes per Day		0	X	
				0
				Days at this Schedule
Total Minutes per week		1775		
				OK

Total Minutes per week **1775**

School Name
Washington Elementary

1775	Minutes per week					
LRE Table 1	1,420	to	1,775	0	to	355
LRE Table 2	710	to	1,419	356	to	1,065
LRE Table 3	0	to	709	1,066	to	1,775
	Time in General Ed. Setting			Time in Special Ed. Setting		

Scenario 2 (Ages 6-21)

- 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).

Salmon Creek

High School Building Name: **Sockeye High**

[Link to instructions](#)

Start Time	End Time			
7:45	2:50 PM	7.08		School Day Hours
Enter Lunch Time as minutes	30	6.58		
		6:35		School Day Hours - Lunch excluded
Minutes per Day		395	X	4
				Days at this Schedule
				1580

Start Time	End Time			
9:45	2:50 PM	5.08		School Day Hours
Enter Lunch Time as minutes	30	4.58		
		4:35		School Day Hours - Lunch excluded
Minutes per Day		275	X	1
				Days at this Schedule
				275
Total Minutes per week	1855			OK

Total Minutes per week	1855
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School Name
Sockeye High

1855	Minutes per week					
LRE Table 1	1,484	to	1,855	0	to	371
LRE Table 2	742	to	1,483	372	to	1,113
LRE Table 3	0	to	741	1,114	to	1,855
	Time in General Ed. Setting			Time in Special Ed. Setting		

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 [includes a majority, at least 50 percent, of nondisabled children (i.e., children not on IEPs)]? This category may include, but is not limited to: Head Start; kindergarten, preschool classes offered to an eligible pre-kindergarten population by the public school system; private **kindergartens** or preschools; and group **child development center** or child care.

YES

NO

If YES, determine the following: How many hours does the child attend a regular early childhood program?

If NO, determine the following: Is the child attending a special education program?

10 or more hours per week

Less than 10 hours per week

If YES

If NO

If 10 or more hours per week: Where does the child receive the majority of special education and related services?

If less than 10 hours per week: Where does the child receive the majority of special education and related services?

CEDARS LRE Code:

Is the child receiving the majority of special education and related services in the residence of the family or caregiver?

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

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

35 = Separate Class
16 = Separate School
15 = Residential Facility

Definitions:

35 = class with less than 50% nondisabled children. This category may include, but is not limited to programs in: regular school buildings, trailers, portables, child care facilities, hospital facilities—out patient, other community based settings.
16 = Designed for students with IEPs.
15 = residential school or medical facility—inpatient.

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.

Roberto

[Link to instructions](#)

Early Childhood (Ages 3 to 5) LRE Calculator - Student 1

[Link to EC LRE training](#)

Student 1 SSID #:

If there are no students with IEPs who are ages 3 through 5 in the district, put an X in the box below:

Total # of children in this child's instructional program:
Total # of children with IEPs in this child's instructional program:
% of children with IEPs in this child's instructional program:

Is this a regular early childhood program? **Complete Section B**

Section A (Regular EC Instructional Program)

Start time for this child:
End time for this child:
Time spent for lunch (if applicable):
of days per week at this schedule:

Start time for this child:
End time for this child:
Time spent for lunch (if applicable):
of days per week at this schedule:

How many hours per week does this student attend the program?

Where does child receive the majority of special education and related services? (click on cell & use drop down menu)

Use CEDARS LRE Code:

Section B (Special Education Instructional Program)

Click in the yellow box below and use the drop down menu to select the most appropriate category that best represents the specific type of special education program in which the child participates. Start at the top of the list and, reading down, select the first category that describes the child's program. A more detailed description will appear below the yellow box. Use this description to confirm that you have made the appropriate selection.

Separate class with a majority (more than 50%) of children with IEPs. Separate class examples include, but are not limited to: regular school buildings; trailers or portables outside regular school buildings; child care facilities; hospital facilities on an outpatient basis; other community-based settings. Report the child in this category even if the child also receives special education services in the home or in the service provider location or some other location.

Use CEDARS LRE Code:

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.

Giovanni

[Link to instructions](#)

Early Childhood (Ages 3 to 5) LRE Calculator - Student 3

Student 3 SSID #:

Total # of children in this child's instructional program:
Total # of children with IEPs in this child's instructional program:
% of children with IEPs in this child's instructional program:

Is this a regular early childhood program? **Complete Section B**

Section A (Regular EC Instructional Program)	
Start time for this child:	<input type="text"/>
End time for this child:	<input type="text"/>
Time spent for lunch (if applicable):	<input type="text"/>
# of days per week at this schedule:	<input type="text"/>
Start time for this child:	<input type="text"/>
End time for this child:	<input type="text"/>
Time spent for lunch (if applicable):	<input type="text"/>
# of days per week at this schedule:	<input type="text"/>
How many hours per week does this student attend the program?	<input type="text" value="0.0"/>
Where does child receive the majority of special education and related services? (click on cell & use drop down menu)	<input type="text"/>
Use CEDARS LRE Code:	<input type="text"/>

Section B (Special Education Instructional Program)
Click in the yellow box below and use the drop down menu to select the most appropriate category that best represents the specific type of special education program in which the child participates. <u>Start at the top of the list</u> and, reading down, select the first category that describes the child's program. A more detailed description will appear below the yellow box. Use this description to confirm that you have made the appropriate selection.
<input type="text" value="e. Other (service provider location or some other location)"/>
Service provider location - children who received all of their special education and related services from a service provider or some other location that is not in any other category, and who did not attend an early childhood program or a special education program provided in a separate class, separate school, or residential facility. For example, speech instruction provided in private clinicians' offices, clinicians' offices located in school buildings, hospital facilities on an outpatient basis, or libraries and other public locations. Do not include children who also received special education services at home.
Use CEDARS LRE Code: <input type="text" value="36"/>

LRE 3-5 – Key Concepts

- 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

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