

# LODI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy 6159.5

## Instruction

### Least Restrictive Environment

The Lodi Unified School District Board of Education believes that special education is an integral part of the educational process and not a separate service model. Special education is a means of supporting the educational system to serve the needs of all students with disabilities.

It is the intent of the district to serve disabled students in the least restrictive environment consistent with their academic and non-academic needs. Students with disabilities shall receive their education in chronologically age-appropriate general education classrooms at neighborhood school sites unless there is an educationally compelling reason why this cannot be accomplished. Close cooperation of all school personnel is encouraged by district and site administrators to facilitate opportunities for social interaction between individuals with disabilities and non-disabled individuals.

The policy of the district is to provide a full range of program options designed to meet students' educational needs in the least restrictive environment. The determination of the least restrictive environment is based on the IEP team's consideration of each individual student's unique needs, including present levels of performance, goals and objectives, and the configuration of special education support required to implement the IEP.

Removal of students from regular classes occurs only when the nature of the student's disability is such that education in a regular class with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. To the maximum extent appropriate, individuals with exceptional needs are educated with, and participate with, non-disabled students in academic, nonacademic, and extracurricular services and activities. Students attend the school they would attend if they were not disabled unless their IEP requires other arrangements. If other arrangements are determined necessary, students are served in the nearest appropriate program to their home school.

Legal References: California Education Code  
56031 Special education  
56201  
56206  
56303  
United States Code, Title 20  
1400 et seq. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 1997

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34  
300.340-300.349 Individualized Education Programs  
300.550-300.556 Least Restrictive Environment

Policy  
adopted: 11/20/84  
revised: 12/08/98 (Renumbered from 6171.4)  
revised: 05/21/02