

Building Inclusive Environments:

Providing Services to Chicago's Students in the General Education Setting



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Chicago & Least Restrictive Environment



- Least Restrictive Environment, or LRE, is a major focus in Chicago special education.
- **LRE** – where students with special needs are placed into learning environments that provide services in the general education setting to the greatest extent appropriate.
- Chicago's Corey H lawsuit (1998)
- Most students with special needs in Chicago receive services in the general education or neighborhood school.

Amundsen High School



- A neighborhood school serving over 1400 students.
- Over 200 students in special education

Special Education Service Model



- **Consult**
 - a student receives accommodations in a classroom, but has no direct service with a special education teacher.

- **Collaborative Team Teaching**
 - a student receives direct services from a special education teacher in a general education classroom, where the special education teacher and general education teacher work together to provide differentiated curriculum to all students.

- **Separate Class**
 - where a student receives direct service from a special education teacher in a classroom with students who only have special needs.

- **Resource**
 - students who move from a more restrictive environment to the lesser restrictive environment receive additional one-on-one support while transitioning and also focus on independent functioning goals as well as improving specific academic outcomes.

Ensuring Appropriate Placement



- Monitor the student's case periodically with 5 week progress reports
 - ✦ Special education teachers keep track of a case load of students to monitor student progress and any change of service that may be necessary.

- Consult with teachers on student progress
 - ✦ Use of a web-based Logger system to collaborate on various student issues from attendance, behavior, academics, and even positive outcomes happening with the students.
 - ✦ Staff referrals through Logger system

- Review student's behavior, attendance, grades, and data
 - ✦ ACT, Common Core Standard benchmarking system, and psychological testing
 - ✦ Student's review their own data through a "BAG" report (behavior, attendance, grades)

- Interview the student and observe compensatory strategies that shows a student could move to a different LRE

Providing service in the LRE



- **Consultative Service**

- Graphic Organizers, visual aides, outlines, guided notes, modified worksheets, etc.
- Differentiating instruction
 - ✦ Modifying reading materials and assignments to suit a learner's needs

- **Collaborative Team Teaching**

- Co-Teaching strategies based off Dr. Marilyn Friend's research
 - ✦ Parallel teaching
 - ✦ One teach, one assist
- Accommodated assignments
- Finding alternative ways to show mastery

Providing service in the LRE



- **Separate Class**
 - Creating curriculum based on student goals and their alignment to Common Core Standards
 - Insuring small classroom sizes to maximize individual and small group instruction
 - Providing additional supports like paraprofessionals for more one-on-one instruction
 - Identifying the need for increased services

Moving forward...



- Increasing technology use in the school
 - Smart boards, Ipads, Laptops,
- Using low-level technology
 - Manipulatives, picture symbols, self-made books, etc.
- Increased transitional support for graduating seniors

Thank you.



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