

Navigating Early Childhood Special Education (Preschool)

Kelsey Biswanger
Early Childhood and Youth Training Specialist



1

Agenda

- Preschool Development
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Least Restrict Environment (LRE)
- Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)
- Inclusion
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Procedural Safeguards



2

Agenda

- **Preschool Development**
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Least Restrict Environment (LRE)
- Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)
- Inclusion
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Procedural Safeguards



3

Preschool

- A foundation for cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills
- PreK for All
- Federal Indicators
 - Indicator 6: Preschool Educational Environments (ages 3 through 5 in Preschool)
 - Indicator 7: Preschool Outcomes
 - Indicator 8: Parent Involvement



4

Agenda

- Preschool Development
- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**
- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Least Restrict Environment (LRE)
- Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)
- Inclusion
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Procedural Safeguards



5

Special Education in Preschool

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (**IDEA**)

Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (**MARSE**)



6

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Part A – general provisions

Part B – assistance for all children with disabilities

- special education for ages 3-21
- section 619 is specific to preschool

Part C – birth to age 3.

- early intervention

Part D – national activities to improve education of children with disabilities

7

IDEA | Part B | Section 619

- Makes a free appropriate public education (FAPE) available to all children with disabilities 3 to 5 years of age
- Supplement to Part B to further assist states to educate preschool children (3 to 5 years) with identified developmental delays and disabilities by providing special education and related services in accordance with Part B requirements
- Provides an option to serve children, age 2, who will be turning 3 during the school year, allowing a more cohesive and less disruptive transition to a new setting

8

Agenda

- Preschool Development
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- **Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)**
- Least Restrict Environment (LRE)
- Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)
- Inclusion
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Procedural Safeguards

9

IDEA | Free Appropriate Public Education

Free — “without charge” to parents or children

Appropriate — “in keeping with an individualized education program”

Public — “at public expense, under public supervision and direction”

Education — “preschool, elementary.. .or secondary school...”



10

IDEA | FAPE

- Create an Individualized Education Program (IEP) based on the student’s identified needs
 - Provide services that meet the unique needs of the student
 - Personalize accommodations and/or modifications
 - Discuss Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Provide access to non-academic and extracurricular activities



11

Agenda

- Preschool Development
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- **Least Restrict Environment (LRE)**
- Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)
- Inclusion
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Procedural Safeguards



12

IDEA | Least Restrictive Environment

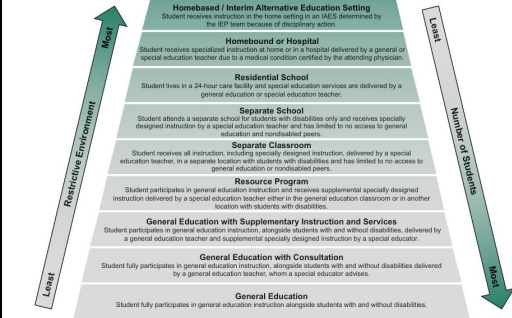


"To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are nondisabled, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily."



13

LRE | Placement Continuum



Homebased / Interim Alternative Education Setting
Student receives instruction in the home setting in an IAES determined by the IEP team because of disciplinary action.

Homebound or Hospital
Student receives specialized instruction at home or in a hospital delivered by a general or special education teacher due to a medical condition certified by the attending physician.

Residential School
Student lives in a 24-hour care facility and special education services are delivered by a general education or special education teacher.

Separate School
Student attends a separate school for students with disabilities only and receives specially designed instruction by a special education teacher and has limited to no access to general education or nondisabled peers.

Separate Classroom
Student receives all instruction, including specially designed instruction, delivered by a special education teacher, in a separate location with students with disabilities and has limited to no access to general education or nondisabled peers.

Resource Program
Student participates in general education instruction and receives supplemental specially designed instruction delivered by a special education teacher either in the general education classroom or in another location with students with disabilities.

General Education with Supplementary Instruction and Services
Student participates in general education instruction, alongside students with and without disabilities, delivered by a general education teacher and supplemental specially designed instruction by a special educator.

General Education with Consultation
Student fully participates in general education instruction, alongside students with and without disabilities, delivered by a general education teacher, where a special educator advises.

General Education
Student fully participates in general education instruction alongside students with and without disabilities.



14

LRE | Placement Continuum | IDEA DATA Center



Indicator 6: Preschool Educational Environments (ages 3 through 5 in Preschool)



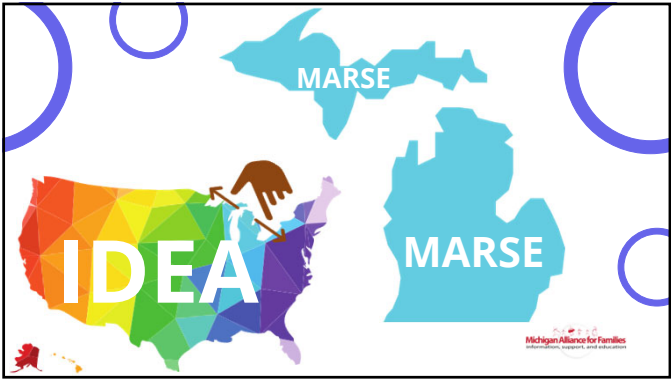
15

Agenda

- Preschool Development
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Least Restrict Environment (LRE)
- Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)
- Inclusion
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Procedural Safeguards



16



IDEA

MARSE

MARSE



17

Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)

Thirteen Categories of Eligibility

1. Autism Spectrum Disorder
2. Cognitive Impairment
3. Deaf-Blindness
4. Deaf or Hard of Hearing
5. Early Childhood Developmental Delay
6. Emotional Impairment
7. Physical Impairment
8. Other Health Impairment
9. Severe Multiple Impairments
10. Specific Learning Disability
11. Speech and Language Impairment
12. Traumatic Brain Injury
13. Visual impairment



18

Agenda

- Preschool Development
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Least Restrict Environment (LRE)
- Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)
- **Inclusion**
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Procedural Safeguards



19

Inclusion

- True belonging
- Not a place
- Not the same as classroom placement
- Not defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Not defined in the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)
- Supported by State and Federal resources



20

Inclusion | Benefits All

- Inclusion benefits children with disabilities
- Inclusion benefits children without disabilities
- Inclusion benefits educators
- Inclusion benefits the community
- Inclusion benefits parents



21

Inclusion | Federal and State Resources



POLICY STATEMENT ON INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS (2023)
PRESCHOOL INCLUSION COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN (2022)



22

Agenda

- Preschool Development
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Least Restrict Environment (LRE)
- Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)
- Inclusion
- **Individualized Education Program (IEP)**
- Procedural Safeguards



23

Individualized Education Program (IEP)



- Occurs at least annually
- Parents are an equal part of the IEP team
- The IEP Team determines services and the LRE
- Development of the IEP
- District Offer of FAPE



24

IEP | MAF Resources for Families

Written Resources:

- Website
- Family Matters Sheet

Online Trainings:

- Recorded Videos
- Events Calendar

Parent Mentors:

- Mentoring
- IEP Reviews




25

Agenda

- Preschool Development
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Least Restrict Environment (LRE)
- Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)
- Inclusion
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Procedural Safeguards**



26

Procedural Safeguards

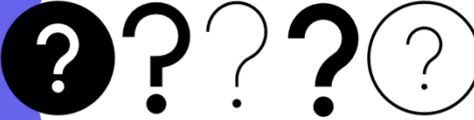
Procedural safeguards are designed to protect the rights of parents, and their child, and provide a way to resolve their disputes.

Some examples of procedural safeguards include the right to:

- Parental Consent
- Prior Written Notice
- Right to Participate in Decision Making
- Independent Educational Evaluations
- Dispute Resolution




27



Questions

800-552-4821 www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

Michigan Alliance for Families
Advocacy and Information

28

We are here to support you!

 @MichiganAllianceForFamilies
 @michiganallianceforfamilies
 /MichiganAlliance

For more information visit
www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

Call 800-552-4821
 En Español 313-217-1060
 248-963-0607 للغة العربية
info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org



Michigan Alliance for Families
Advocacy and Information

29

Michigan Alliance for Families

In collaboration with


Michigan Alliance for Families is an IDEA Grant Funded Initiative of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education (MDE-OSE); the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MILEAP); and Michigan's Federal Parent-Training and Information Center (PTIC) funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs(OSEP).

www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org
 1-800-552-4821
info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org







30
