


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)
- 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)
- 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)
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Procedural Safeguards




5

Special Education in Preschool



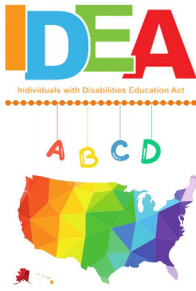
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (**IDEA**)

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)
- 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)
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Procedural Safeguards




12

IDEA | Least Restrictive Environment

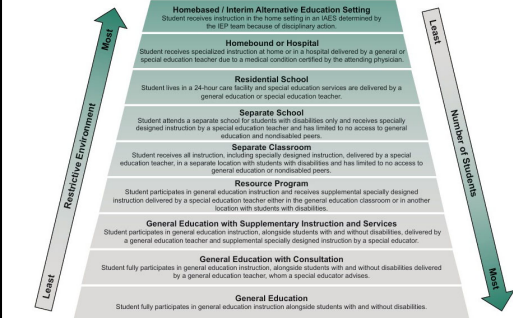


"To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are nondisabled, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs 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.

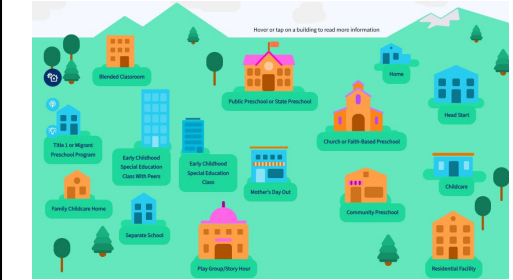
General Education with Consultation
Student fully participates in general education instruction, alongside students with and without disabilities, delivered by a general education teacher, where a special educator advises.

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

The Benefits of All Students Being Together

- Benefits for children with disabilities
- Benefits for children without disabilities
- Benefits for educators
- Benefits the community
- Benefits parents



16

Federal and State Resources



POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS (2023)

PRESCHOOL COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN (2022)

PRESCHOOL IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT (2025)



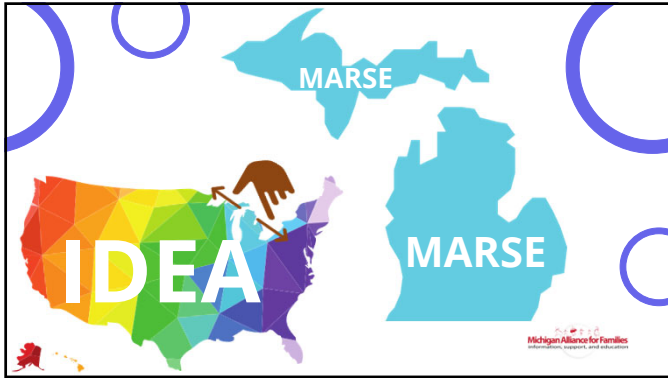
17

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)**
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Procedural Safeguards



18



19

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

20

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)
- **Individualized Education Program (IEP)**
- Procedural Safeguards

21

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

22

IEP | MAF Resources for Families

Written Resources:

- Website
- Family Matters Sheet

Online Trainings:

- Recorded Videos
- Events Calendar

Parent Mentors:

- Mentoring
- IEP Reviews

23

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)
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- **Procedural Safeguards**

24

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

25

Questions

800-552-4821 www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

26

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
 للغة العربية 248-963-0607
info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org

27

Michigan Alliance for Families

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

MICHIGAN

Department of


Education

MILEAP


Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential


early on

MICHIGAN



In collaboration with





28

10