

Section Three: Educational Environment

Educational environment refers to the extent to which students with disabilities receive special education and related services in classes or schools with their non-disabled peers. Research has shown that students with disabilities who are educated in the *least restrictive environment* show increased motivation, higher self-esteem, improved communication and socialization skills and greater academic achievement than those students in a more restrictive, or segregated, environment.

Educational environments for students ages 6 through 21 can be generally classified into four settings:

1. Students receiving special education or related services inside the general classroom 80% or more of the time,
2. Students receiving special education or related services inside the general classroom 40% to 79% of the time,
3. Students receiving special education or related services outside the general classroom less than 40% of the time, and
4. Students receiving special education or related services in a separate educational facility.

Percent of Students with IEPs in Various Educational Environments

	2010-2011				2011-2012				2012-2013			
	% of Time Inside the General Classroom			Separate Facility	% of Time Inside the General Classroom			Separate Facility	% of Time Inside the General Classroom			Separate Facility
	≥80%	40-79%	<40%		≥80%	40-79%	<40%		≥80%	40-79%	<40%	
District	63.6	18.0	14.4	4.0	61.6	19.0	14.2	5.3	58.0	19.5	15.0	7.6
Cooperative	64.0	17.5	14.5	4.0	62.3	18.3	14.2	5.1	59.2	18.7	14.9	7.2
All Unit Districts*	54.8	26.1	13.8	5.4	55.3	25.6	13.5	5.6	54.9	25.1	12.8	7.2

Educational Environments for Selected Disabilities

		Inside	Inside	Inside	Separate Facility
		≥80%	40-79%	<40%	
Autism	District	31.3	26.8	35.8	6.1
	All Unit Districts*	36.9	23.1	26.6	13.3
Emotional Disability	District	14.7	17.8	27.9	39.5
	All Unit Districts*	29.2	21.0	19.5	30.3
Intellectual Disability	District	1.4	19.4	73.6	5.6
	All Unit Districts*	5.5	31.3	51.0	12.2
Other Health Impairment	District	65.5	17.7	11.8	5.0
	All Unit Districts*	55.2	28.2	10.5	6.2
Specific Learning Disability	District	65.8	26.9	3.6	3.6
	All Unit Districts*	54.7	36.2	6.9	2.2
Speech or Language Impairment	District	81.6	10.6	2.4	5.3
	All Unit Districts*	92.4	2.0	1.0	4.6

Educational Environments by Race / Ethnicity

	Inside	Inside	Inside	Separate Facility
	≥80%	40-79%	<40%	
White	61.0	16.8	13.9	8.3
Black	46.5	29.5	17.0	6.9
Hispanic	55.5	28.1	12.5	3.9
Asian	60.0	4.0	30.0	6.0
Native American	50.0	16.7	16.7	16.7
Native Hawaiian	60.0	0.0	40.0	0.0
Two or More Races	62.4	16.5	15.3	5.9