



## Using LRE Data to Improve Outcomes

As you start the new year and are planning your priorities and resource allocation for the 2020-21 school year, consider reviewing data on the educational environments, or instructional placements, of children and youth with disabilities. Increasing access to core instruction with peers without disabilities allows children and youth with disabilities to access the content and standards on which statewide assessments and graduation requirements are based, which in turn can contribute to improvements in their educational outcomes.

The following are some tips to consider as you review educational environment data for children and youth with disabilities:

- Pull data on where children and youth with disabilities are receiving educational services—*What percent of the day are they receiving services in a general education environment?*
- Use data from multiple years to determine trends—*Has there been a change in the environments in which children and youth with disabilities are receiving educational services?*
- Look at data by school, school type, and grade levels—*Do the data reveal any unique trends or characteristics?*
- Look at data across different subgroups, such as gender, race/ethnicity, and disability categories—*Are children within particular subgroups more likely to be removed from the general education environment?*
- Review state assessment performance data for children and youth with disabilities, based on access to general education environments—*Are children in each environment making progress in the curriculum? If children and you are not making progress, consider whether they are receiving the appropriate individualized supports they need to make progress. What are the needs of the staff in those environments to support children and youth with disabilities to make progress?*

Information gleaned from review of educational environments data can be helpful when you are identifying the needs in your district (e.g., related to curriculum and instructional programs, professional development and technical assistance, staffing, prioritizing the use of funds)—all with a goal toward improving outcomes for children and youth with disabilities.

For more information and resources, visit <https://ideadata.org/resources>