

## **Least Restrictive**

According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, students with special needs are to be provided a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. The special education criteria for least restrictive is that students with special needs are to be placed into regular education to the maximum extent possible.

The state of Illinois tabulates data from students' Individualized Education Plans (IEP) to determine each district's percentage of time special education students are receiving instruction within the general education classroom. Districts should be actively working towards including students with special education needs in the general education setting to the maximum extent possible.

Fenton data from the 2011-2012 school year indicated that 22.2% of Fenton's special education student population received 80% or more of their instruction outside of the general education environment. Fenton's goal is to increase the percentage of time special education students are receiving instruction in the general education environment. Fenton is dedicated to increase this percentage by 6% during the 2013-14 school year and beyond.

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