

# New Jersey Inclusion Resources for Families

The following organizations can provide *information and training* about inclusion: legal requirements, developing an IEP for inclusion and advocacy strategies to secure inclusive services for your child. The organizations with an \*asterisk beside them also have limited resources to *support parents at IEP meetings* regarding inclusion. On the inside is your step-by-step guide to the **Least Restrictive Environment**.



The Arc of New Jersey  
985 Livingston Avenue  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
(732) 246-2525 ■ [www.arcnj.org](http://www.arcnj.org)

New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services  
for the Autism Community (COSAC)  
1450 Parkside Avenue, Suite 22  
Ewing, NJ 08638  
(609) 883-8100 ■ 1(800) 4-AUTISM ■  
[www.njcosac.org](http://www.njcosac.org)

New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities  
PO Box 700  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0700  
(609) 292-3745 ■ [www.njcdd.org](http://www.njcdd.org)

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of NJ\*  
35 Halsey Street, 4th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102  
(973) 642-8100 ■ 1(800) 654-SPAN ■  
[www.spannj.org](http://www.spannj.org)

Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey, Inc.\*  
354 South Broad Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
(609) 392-4004 ■ [www.cpodnj.org](http://www.cpodnj.org)

Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey  
429 River View Plaza  
Trenton, NJ 08611  
(609) 392-4900 ■ 1(800) 336-5843 ■  
[www.efnj.com](http://www.efnj.com)

Family Support Center  
2516 Route 35 North  
Manasquan, NJ 08611  
1(800) FSC-NJ10 ■ [www.familysupportnj.com](http://www.familysupportnj.com)

New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education\*  
9 Auer Court, Suite H  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-5847  
(732) 613-0400 ■ [www.njcie.org](http://www.njcie.org)

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental  
Disabilities/ UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson  
Medical School  
335 George Street, PO Box 2688  
New Brunswick, NJ 08903-2688  
(732) 235-9300 ■ [rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter](http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter)

BEAM of Burlington / Monmouth \*  
309 Wichita Trail  
Browns Mills, NJ 08015  
Monmouth: (732) 792-0594 ■ Burlington:  
(609) 893-5177 ■ e-mail: [peg-kin@yahoo.com](mailto:peg-kin@yahoo.com)

Spina Bifida Association of the Tri-State Region\*  
84 Park Avenue  
Flemington, NJ 08822  
(908) 782-7475 ■ [www.sbatsr.org](http://www.sbatsr.org)

Brain Injury Association of New Jersey\*  
1090 King George Post Road, Suite 708  
Edison, NJ 08837  
(800) 669-4323 ■ [www.bianj.org](http://www.bianj.org)

(Resources continued on back cover)

# Least Restrictive Environment: Step by Step

## Step 1

Have my child's educational goals and objectives been developed prior to the placement recommendation? Are the goals clearly stated and are the objectives measurable?

if YES

proceed to the next step!



Inform team members of this and state that it is unacceptable, and that you expect clear and measurable goals and objectives for your child before any decision of placement.

if NO

this is a **VIOLATION** of IDEA.

## Step 5

Have ALL possible services and supports been considered to meet the individual needs of my child in the regular classroom?

if YES

regular class placement must be available as an option, proceed to the next step!

if NO,

this is a **VIOLATION** of IDEA.

Look at all aids and services that exist that can provide support. In-district resources are not the only resources to be considered. Plan for your child to be placed in the regular class with whatever supports the team can envision to enable the student to succeed.

## Step 6

In comparison to a special class, have the benefits of the regular class placement been examined? What benefits are there to my child with a disability? What benefits are there to the non-disabled children?

if YES

regular class placement must be available as an option, proceed to the next step!

if NO,

this is a **VIOLATION** of IDEA.

The child with the disability does not have to learn what the other children are learning. Interaction with non-disabled peers is a legitimate benefit.

## Step 2

Have my child's educational needs (as expressed in the evaluation) been accurately addressed by the proposed educational goals and objectives?

if YES proceed to the next step!

if NO this is a **VIOLATION** of IDEA.

Clarify educational needs and goals. Inform team members that these must be determined before a specific placement is considered.

## Step 3

Have the special education, related services and assistive technology devices or services my child needs been determined prior to the placement decisions?

if YES proceed to the next step!

if NO this is a **VIOLATION** of IDEA.

Identify the special education, related services and assistive technology devices or services your child needs. Make sure there is a "direct relationship between the present levels of educational performance ... and the specific education and related services to be provided."

## Step 4

Has the regular class with appropriate supports been examined as the first possible placement option? Has it been examined, not as it currently exists, but as it might be modified?

if YES proceed to the next step!

if NO, this is a **VIOLATION** of IDEA.

According to the state's LRE policy memorandum, "Each placement option is examined not only as it currently exists, but as it might be modified. Regular class placement is examined as the first option..."

## Step 7

Unless there is a clear cut reason why my child's needs cannot be met, my child should be placed in the regular class with supports. Are the supports being provided? Are there opportunities for interactions with children without disabilities?

if YES continue to monitor the program for increased opportunities, especially considering supports that may help increase interaction.

if NO, this is a **VIOLATION** of IDEA.

Examination of all areas of the daily school environment should be made to identify opportunities for academic and nonacademic interactions, and written into the IEP.

The following organizations can provide free legal representation in certain cases to secure inclusive services for your child.

Community Health Law Project  
225 East State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
(609) 392-5553

New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc.  
210 South Broad Street, 3rd Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
(609) 292-9742 ■ 1(800) 922-7233 ■  
[www.njpanda.org](http://www.njpanda.org)

Education Law Center  
60 Park Place, Suite 300  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Voice: (973) 624-1815 ■ TTY: (973) 624-4618  
■ [www.edlawcenter.org](http://www.edlawcenter.org)

Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia  
125 South 9th Street, Suite 700  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 627-7100 ■ e-mail: [pilcop@pilcop.org](mailto:pilcop@pilcop.org)

The following state agencies can provide information and training for parents and professionals about inclusion.

Child Care:  
New Jersey Department of Human Services  
Special Needs Child Care Project  
PO Box 700  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0700  
(609) 292-8444 ■  
e-mail: [janevoorhees@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:janevoorhees@dhs.state.nj.us)

Early Intervention (Birth to 3)  
Family Link Early Intervention Collaborative  
2333 Morris Avenue, Suite A20  
Union, NJ 07083  
(908) 964-5303 ■ [www.njeis.org](http://www.njeis.org)  
(Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union, Warren)

Mid-Jersey CARES REIC  
2 King Arthur Court, Suite 3  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
(732) 699-0944 ■ [www.cnjmchc.org](http://www.cnjmchc.org)  
(Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset)

Helpful Hands NREIC  
65 Willowbrook Boulevard, 2nd Floor  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
(973) 256-8484 ■ [www.nreic.org](http://www.nreic.org)  
(Bergen, Hudson, Passaic)

Southern Regional Early Intervention Collaborative  
Winslow Professional Building  
339 South Route 73, Suite 6  
Berlin, NJ 08009  
(856) 768-6747 ■ [www.njeis.org](http://www.njeis.org)  
(Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem)

New Jersey Department of Education Learning Resource Centers (Preschool through High School)

Learning Resource Center North  
240 South Harrison Street, 6th Floor  
East Orange, NJ 07018  
(973) 414-4491 ■ [www.state.nj.us/njded/lrc/](http://www.state.nj.us/njded/lrc/)

Learning Resource Center Central  
2351 Route 130 South  
Dayton, NJ 08810-1012  
(732) 274-5570

Learning Resource Center North Satellite  
322 American Road  
Morris Plains, NJ 07950  
(973) 631-6345 ■ [www.state.nj.us/njded/lrc/](http://www.state.nj.us/njded/lrc/)

Learning Resource Center South  
606 Delsea Drive  
Sewell, NJ 08080  
(856) 582-7000 ■ e-mail: [lrc@eirc.org](mailto:lrc@eirc.org)