

ECSE Educational Environments Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Last update: 9/18/2013

1. What are the educational environment data categories for early childhood special education (effective 2010-11)?

- 00A4 Children with disabilities receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program (and the child attends a regular early childhood program at least 10 hours per week)
- 00A5 Children with disabilities receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in some other location (and the child attends a regular early childhood program at least 10 hours per week)
- 00A6 Children with disabilities receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program (and the child attends a regular early childhood program less than 10 hours per week)
- 00A7 Children with disabilities receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in some other location (and the child attends a regular early childhood program less than 10 hours per week)
- 00B1 Separate class
- 00B2 Separate school
- 00B3 Residential facility
- 00B4 Home
- 00B5 Service provider location

Definitions, instructions and examples for determining the appropriate category are available at the following web address <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/DataCoord/EdEnvironments.html>.

2. Do the educational environments replace the IDEA placement categories for children in ECSE?

NO. State and federal regulations still require that the child's placement be based upon the IEP and reflect the services that are provided for in the IEP. The IDEA ECSE placement categories have not changed and are listed below. Definitions of the placement categories are included in the State Plan for Special Education, <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divspeced/stateplan/index.html>.

- Home
- Itinerant Services Outside the Home
- Early Childhood Setting
- Early Childhood Special Education Setting
- Separate School
- Part Time EC / Part Time ECSE Setting
- Residential Facility

- 3. Several of the ECSE placement categories have the same name as the educational environment categories. Can we make the assumption that a placement of “Home,” “Separate School” or “Residential Facility” equates to the educational environment of the same name?**

NO. The placements look at where the child is receiving services, while the educational environments first look at participation in a regular early childhood program. Therefore, while a child may be receiving services in the home, the child may also be attending a regular early childhood program, in which case the placement would be home, but the educational environment would be one of the regular early childhood program environments (00A4-00A7).

- 4. Does the child’s placement still have to be documented on the IEP?**

YES. The requirements for documenting the IEP team’s decision regarding placement on the IEP have not changed.

- 5. Does the educational environment category need to be documented on the child’s IEP?**

NO. The new categories should not be documented on the IEP, as these categories reflect not only the services that are listed in the IEP, but also regular education services that the child is receiving that are not required by the IEP or provided or paid for by the LEA. However, the LEA must have a system for documenting the district’s determination of the child’s “educational environment” for reporting purposes. A worksheet has been developed that districts may use for documenting the educational environment. The worksheet can be located at the following web address:
<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/DataCoord/EdEnvironments.html>.

- 6. What does “Receives majority of special education services in regular program” mean?**

This means that the child receives at least half of his/her special education services in a classroom/setting/physical location where there are nondisabled peers.