

**Office of Data System Management
Early Childhood Special Education
Educational Environments
Questions and Answers
October 16, 2014**

Q. What about a co-op program our district is a part of, but is in a different school district? Would that be a separate class or separate school?

A. It depends on the results of going through the decision tree. If the child is not attending a regular early childhood program and is attending a special education program in a different school district, the educational environment would more likely be separate class than separate school. There are very few “separate school” programs in the state for early childhood special education. Also, just a reminder that the general rule is that the district providing the services will report the children.

Q. We use the Special Learning Center in Jefferson City for our ECSE services. It is for students with disabilities and is not on our campus. Is this a separate class or separate school?

A. Generally, the Special Learning Center would be considered a separate school.

Q. We have questions about Mother's Day Out or 1 hour a week playgroups. Are those considered Regular Early Childhood Program?

A. Short-term child care or playgroups would generally not be considered a regular early childhood program for purposes of the determining the educational environments.

Q: Are babysitters or in-home daycares considered regular early childhood programs?

A: They can be, but could also be considered “home.” The definition of the Home category reads as follows: Children with disabilities who receive special education and related services in the principal residence of the child’s family or caregivers, and who do not attend an early childhood program or a special education program provided in a separate class, separate school, or residential facility. Include children who receive special education both at home and in a service provider location. The term caregiver includes babysitters.

Q. Do you consider daycare centers a preschool?

A. Generally, yes, but see question above regarding “home.”

Q. Our classroom teachers are dually certified in EC and ECSE therefore the regular education teacher and the special education teacher. If the child is receiving specialized instruction inside the regular education classroom, but separated from their regular education peers, is that considered 'some other location'?

A. This depends on the extent of the separation. If there is no interaction with peers, then it would be “some other location.”

Q. If your ECSE classrooms are integrated (formerly reverse mainstream) with 50% children with IEPs and 50% children without IEPs, is that considered a regular education program?

A. Yes

Q. How do you determine 'majority' if there is equal amount of time in the regular education program and in another location?

A. If the special education time is split evenly, report that the majority of services are in the regular early childhood program.

Q. Does it matter if your ECSE program is located in your elementary school building and not a separate building?

A. The location of the classroom doesn't matter as much as the percentage of nondisabled peers that are in that classroom.

Q. We have students attending our local Head Start that actually live in a different district but we provide itinerant services for them since they are in our district. Would they be NR?

A. Yes, code non-resident children that you serve with the NR residency status code.

Q. For educational environments, 50%/50% special vs. regular education children is considered a regular early childhood program. Would that criteria also be considered an early childhood setting for placement purposes?

A. Yes

Q. We have a regular education preschool with special education students, does it matter if the teacher is certified to be counted as regular education?

A. It depends on where the special education services are provided, and by whom.

Q. Where will the links be posted to access the Educational Environments Information on slide 13 (resources slide)?

A. Resources that were discussed in the webinar, as well as a link to the recording, are available at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/data-system-management/special-education-data/data-collections>