



## Part 2:

# What is a placement change in special education?

This tip sheet defines special education placement settings and what may cause a change in placement for your child. Part 1 explains placement and how it is decided.

### Determining the placement setting

Placement settings are defined by the amount of time your child spends away from the general education classroom and in a special education setting. For higher placement levels, more time is spent in a special education setting. This is considered a more *restrictive* setting.

*See Part 1 of this tip sheet for an explanation of Least Restrictive Environment.*

### Your child's IEP team and placement

Your child's placement is typically reviewed during their annual Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting. As your child's needs change, their special education services and placement may change. If they require more services, their placement setting may increase. If they require less services, their placement setting may decrease.

Placement is written into your child's IEP. It should only change because the type and frequency of services has changed. You have the right to disagree with the placement decision in writing on a Prior Written Notice provided by the school.



**There are eight special education placement settings defined by federal law (IDEA). The most common ones are 1 to 4.**

### **Setting 1**

The student is away from the general education classroom for 1 to 20 percent of their school day. It might look like curriculum modifications and support in the general education room and a pull out for specialized reading instruction.

### **Setting 2**

The student receives special education services, typically in a resource room, for 21 to 60 percent of the day. It might look like attending morning meeting in the general education room, working in a resource room on academics, then attending daily music or gym with general education students.

### **Setting 3**

The student spends 61 percent or more of their school day away from the general education room. It might look like spending most of their day in a center-based program or resource room, then attending gym with general education students.

### **Setting 4**

The student receives services in a separate facility (off the school campus) for more than 50 percent of their school day. It might look like attending a separate site school for the entire or part of the school day.

*If you have more questions about your child's special education placement, call PACER at (952) 838-9000 and ask to speak with an Advocate or visit [pacer.org](https://pacer.org).*