
Special Education

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The Arkansas Department of Education - Special Education Unit complies with the Federal Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the APSAFM provides square footage guidelines to comply with the educational program requirements. IDEA requires a District to provide a full continuum of services in a student's neighborhood/home school to the greatest extent possible in the Least Restrictive Environment.

The Rules and Regulations Governing Special Education and Related Services: Procedural Requirements and Program Standards provide eligibility criteria for students with disabilities to meet the Least Restrictive Environment requirement for all special needs students. These criteria assist in differentiating the type and number of spaces that are needed in each school to address the facility needs for students with disabilities. As each School District is planning for specific educational program needs in its new or renovated facilities, identifying the number of students in each of these options is important to provide appropriately the unique space requirements. The terms used to establish eligibility criteria are provided as part of this document to assist in identifying all of the students who need to be considered in the facility program needs.