

SERIES: 2002-2003

CIRCULAR LETTER: C-8

TO: Superintendents of Schools  
FROM: Theodore S. Sergi  
Commissioner of Education  
DATE: August 20, 2002  
SUBJECT: LRE Initiative For Students With Disabilities

Each school-aged child with an intellectual disability or another disability is entitled to be educated with non-disabled children to the maximum extent appropriate. The State Board of Education has affirmed this right through its position statement, adopted January 3, 2001, on "Educating Students with Disabilities."

The Department believes that children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, should be educated with children who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate. Special classes, separate schooling, and other practices that result in the removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Although the Department recognizes that some children who present significant and/or unique needs require placement in alternate settings to meet their needs, the Department supports the belief that goals for students with disabilities are consistent with the goals for all students as defined in Connecticut's Common Core of Learning and that these goals are best achieved in the child's local school.

A unified and coordinated continuum of educational opportunities and supports, designed to address individual needs, serves and benefits all students. The Department supports educational models that promote multiple instructional strategies to the maximum extent appropriate, which encourage and accommodate students in the general environment and the total school program including extracurricular activities. LEAs should anticipate the incorporation of certain SDE requirements, professional development activities, and technical assistance to help support the intent of this memorandum.

For further information, please contact Mr. George Dowaliby, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Special Education and Pupil Services, at 860-807-2025.