



Illinois State Board of Education

Early Childhood Block Grant Administrative Rules:

The purpose of this document is to clarify best practice regarding administrative rule 235.30 (6) " applicants must provide a description of the provisions to be made to allow for the participation of children with disabilities in the program" for purposes of correct implementation.

- Recommended at least 10%, but not more than 30%, of each classroom's enrolled children have disabilities (a child with a diagnosed disability other than speech only, that has completed a formal assessment, has an IFSP or IEP and is receiving [or is eligible for] support services).
- The maximum number of students in the classroom is 20. The total number of students could be reduced depending on the needs of the children with IEPs. Minimum students for PFA classrooms is 15.
- Students with IEPs are active members of the classroom. Strategies, supports, and services identified in IEPs are provided in the classroom and are embedded into classroom play, activities, and routines, resulting in minimal transitions.
- Community based programs are working with LEAs to develop an MOU to ensure their students are being referred, evaluated and provided services. LEAs also reach out to community programs in order to develop a relationship to ensure Child Find requirements are fulfilled.
- Program mission statements reference that all students can be included and educated in the program.
- Individualization occurring in the classroom is based on IEP goals and accommodations.
- Programs refer to the ["Inclusion Model" guidance document](#) to ensure the teacher(s) is appropriately licensed. Administration and staff participate in professional development training, internal and external, related to providing services to children with IEPs in the regular early childhood classroom and supporting families through the identification and evaluation process.
- The LEA is responsible for funding and providing the special education services.
- The preschool least restrictive environment initiative for ISBE is Early CHOICES, who provides training and technical assistance on inclusive practices. Their tools and supports can be found at www.eclre.org