

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

February 27, 2018

PENN\*LINK

TO: School District Superintendents  
School District Special Education Directors  
Charter School Chief Executive Officers  
Charter School Special Education Directors  
Intermediate Unit Executive Directors  
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors

FROM: Ann Hinkson-Herrmann, Director  
Bureau of Special Education

SUBJECT: Revised Basic Education Circular: Placement Options for Special Education

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's Bureau of Special Education has reviewed and revised the Basic Education Circular (BEC): Placement Options for Special Education, issued September 1, 1997. The revised version has replaced the previous version with the same name.

The purpose of the revised BEC is to review a variety of special education service and placement options available to local educational agencies (LEAs) through arrangement with other public agencies or private organizations. In addition, the BEC outlines the responsibilities of LEAs when they choose to utilize other public or private agencies for the provision of special education and related services.

The revised BEC also reflects the change in terminology as a result of Rosa's Law (Pub. L. 111-256), signed in 2010, which amended the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by substituting "intellectual disabilities" for "mental retardation" in sections 601(c)(12)(C) (20 U.S.C. 1400(c)(12)(C)) and 602(3)(A)(i) and (30)(C) (20 U.S.C. 1401(3)(A)(i) and (30)(C)).

A copy of this BEC can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website at [www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov), Policy and Funding, BECs.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact John Gombocz at 717.772.3745 or [jgombocz@pa.gov](mailto:jgombocz@pa.gov).