

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
April 20, 2017  
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: Least Restrictive Environment and Educational  
Placement for Students with Individualized Education Programs

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's Bureau of Special Education (BSE), has reviewed and revised the Basic Education Circular (BEC): Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and Educational Placement for Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), issued July 1, 2002. The revised version has replaced the previous version with the same name.

The revised BEC updates the LRE requirements for determining the placement of school-age students with disabilities as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Title 22 Pennsylvania Code, Chapter 14 Special Education Services and Programs, along with the required technical assistance, training, and monitoring activities the state educational agency will provide to local educational agencies (LEAs) to assist them in meeting state established LRE targets. In addition, this BEC deletes information regarding the Gaskin v. Pennsylvania settlement agreement (2005) that expired in 2010.

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), tab "View the Basic Education Circulars (BECs)".

[Pennsylvania Department of Education  
www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov)

Includes information on the department, teaching in the state, education reform initiatives, libraries, teacher certification, school profiles and employment.

If you have any questions concerning this BEC, LRE, or educational placement for students with IEPs, please contact John Gombocz at 717.772.3745 or [jgombocz@pa.gov](mailto:jgombocz@pa.gov).