Determining Educational Environment for Alabama’s Preschool Students with Disabilities

Is the child enrolled in a regular early childhood program?

**YES**

How many hours does the child attend a regular early childhood program?

- At least 10 hours/week
- Less than 10 hours/week

How does the child receive the majority of hours of special education and related services?

- Regular early childhood program*
- Some other location

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**NO**

Is the child attending a special education program?

**YES**

Where does the child receive the majority of hours of special education and related services?

- Separate Class*
- Separate School
- Residential facility

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**NO**

Is the child receiving the majority of special education and related services in the residence of the child’s family or caregiver?

**YES**

Home

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**NO**

Service provider location or other location not in any other category

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Please refer to federal instructions and state guidance for specific reporting requirements when using this decision tree. Report each child in only one category.

*Definitions

**Regular Early Childhood Program**

is a program that includes a majority (at least 50%) of nondisabled children (i.e., children without IEPs). This category may include, but is not limited to:

- Head Start
- LEA funded placement in private preschool
- LEA Inclusion Classes
- First Class PreK
- Preschool classes (public or private)
- Group child development center or childcare

**Separate Class**

is a special education classroom that includes a majority (at least 50%) of children with disabilities (i.e., children with IEPs). This category may include, but is not limited to, programs in:

- Regular school buildings
- Trailers/Portables
- Childcare facilities
- Hospital facilities (out-patient)
- Other community-based settings