

# PLACEMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If your student is still not making adequate progress after all supports, services, interventions, and best intentions are tried and exhausted, it's time to look for a more appropriate placement.

## *When should you look at a change of placement?*

A change may be needed for many reasons, such as when a student needs a therapeutic setting, or a smaller classroom with fewer distractions or more intensive individualized support. Finding a more appropriate placement may include looking outside your home school district.

**Ultimately, what matters is what your student needs to make progress and receive an appropriate education.**



## *What does the process look like?*

The process starts with a Committee on Special Education (CSE) meeting. Under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) the group making the placement decision must include the family and others who:

- are knowledgeable about the child;
- understand the meaning of his or her evaluation data; and
- know the placement options. [§300.116(a)]

The CSE will recommend possible outside placements and programs that could meet the student's unique needs in a more appropriate way.

## *Can a family visit the recommended placement prior to agreeing to the change?*

Yes, visiting a potential placement option is extremely beneficial to the process. It allows the family an opportunity to meet the teacher and team and ask questions that will help determine if the placement is appropriate for your child.

## *Can your student visit the new placement?*

Yes, including your student in the process is a positive way to help you both make informed choices. Remember: nothing about your child without your child!



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## *Questions you may want to ask when visiting a new placement:*

### **Will my student's IEP need to be updated, or will it follow my child to their new placement?**

At a minimum the IEP needs to be updated to indicate the new placement. The CSE can also choose to discuss and update the IEP to reflect any additional services, goals or supports to help the student benefit from the new placement.

### **Will my child have the opportunity to be with their typical peers?**

Unless your child is attending a program where only students with disabilities are enrolled, your child should have opportunities for socialization with neurotypical peers, special interest programs, and unstructured times. You can inquire about supports available to facilitate engagement. The goal should be to provide what is appropriate for your child.

### **Will my child still be on track to receive a Regents Diploma?**

If your child is on a Regents diploma track, ask how the new program will support your student's unique learning needs to obtain a Regents diploma.

### **If we decide to change placements, will my child still be enrolled in our home district and have opportunities to be included in after-school activities and sports?**

Yes. If the CSE has agreed that an outside placement is appropriate, then your child is still considered a student enrolled in your home district.

### **Who is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the student's IEP?**

When a student is placed outside the district, the responsibility for oversight and implementation of the IEP varies. It may be the new program, it may be the school district in which the new program is located, it may be the BOCES, or it may still be your home school district. You will want to clarify that as part of making your decision.

### **What if I disagree with the change of placement after visiting the recommended placement option?**

Speak with the CSE Chairperson about your concerns, and let them know you feel it is not a good fit for your child. If no agreement can be reached, mediation may be helpful to resolve the disagreement.

### **If I agree to the outside placement, does that mean my child will always be in an outside placement?**

No. Each year at the student's annual review meeting, the team must review the student's placement to see if it is still appropriate.

### **How will transportation be provided?**

Students who are placed in an out-of-district program by their home district will be provided with transportation to and from the placement by their home district.

Transportation may be a related service on the IEP. If special transportation accommodations are needed, you will want to discuss those at the CSE meeting prior to changing to the new placement. If the student is placed by the family in a non-public school, you will need to contact your district for their transportation policy on non-public school transportation.

*Still have questions?*

Contact us at (585) 546-1700 or [starbridgeinc.org/contact-us](http://starbridgeinc.org/contact-us)

