

Illinois State Board of Education

Early Childhood Special Education Educational Environments Codes

The Office of Special Education Programs has changed data reporting for preschool educational environments. The following information describes the new codes and how they must be used in reporting educational environments.

When reporting educational environments for children ages 3 through 5, use the following decision rules to determine which environment to choose. Please note that the order of the categories for children with disabilities ages 3 through 5 does *not* reflect a continuum from least to most restrictive.

Definition of a regular early childhood program – a program that includes at least 50 percent nondisabled children.¹ Regular early childhood programs include, but are not limited to:

- **Head Start**
- **Kindergarten**
- **Private preschools**
- **Early Childhood Block Grant/Preschool for All programs**
- **Blended classrooms**
- **Private kindergartens² or preschools**
- **Group child development center or child care**

Attendance at an early childhood program need not be funded by IDEA, Part B funds.

1. The first factor to consider is whether the child is attending a Regular Early Childhood Program as defined above. If so, report the child under Codes 30 or 31; or Codes 32 or 33 as directed below. If the child does not attend a Regular Early Childhood Program at all skip to instruction #2, below.

Codes 30 and 31 are for children attending a Regular Early Childhood Programs at least 10 hours/600 minutes or more per week.

If the child attends a Regular Early Childhood Program at least 10 hours/600 or more minutes per week, refer to the criteria listed under Instruction #3, titled “Reporting Special Education and Related Services Environment,” to identify

¹ The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recognizes this definition does not align with that given in Section 226.730 of the rules for special education; however, this agency (ISBE) does not have the authority to alter federal reporting requirements. Therefore, for collection purposes we must report Early Childhood educational environment data in accordance with the federal requirements.

² Include children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in a private elementary school and receiving special education and related services in accordance with a services plan. The private elementary school must be a nonprofit institutional day or residential school, including a public elementary charter school, that provides elementary education, as determined under State law.

which of Codes 30 or 31 best represents the environment in which the child receives the majority of hours of special education and related services.

Codes 32 and 33 are for children attending Regular Early Childhood Programs less than 10 hours/599 minutes or less per week, refer to the criteria listed in Instruction #3, titled "Reporting Special Education and Related Services Environment," to identify which of Codes 32 or 33 best represents the environment in which the child receives the majority of hours of special education and related services.

2. If the child does not attend a Regular Early Childhood Program as defined above, the child should be reported within Code 23, 24, 25, 26, 27. Such children would be either "Attending a Special Education Program (Codes, 23, 24, or 25), OR "Attending **neither** a Regular Early Childhood Program **nor** a Special Education Program" of any kind, in which case the child would be receiving special education and related services either at home (Code 26) or in a Service Provider Location or some Other Location (Code 27)

If the child attends a Special Education Program, as defined below, report the child under Code 23, 24, or 25.

Special Education Program. A Special Education Program includes less than 50 percent nondisabled children. Special Education Programs include, but are not limited to:

Code 23 - Special education classrooms in

- regular school buildings;
- trailers or portables outside regular school buildings;
- child care facilities;
- hospital facilities on an outpatient basis;
- other community-based settings

Code 24 - Separate schools

Code 25 - Residential facilities

Report the child in one of the above 3 Codes even if the child also receives special education services in the home (Code 26) or in the service provider location or some other location (Code 27)

If the child attends neither a Regular Early Childhood Program nor a Special Education Program, as defined above, the child is to be reported in either:

Home. If the child attends **neither** a Regular Early Childhood Program **nor** a Special Education Program, the next factor to consider is whether the child receives some or all of his/her special education and related services in the

home. Report the child in this category (Code 26), even if the child also receives special education and related services in a service provider location or some other location that is not in any other category (Code 27).

Service provider location or some other location not in any other category. If the child attends neither a Regular Early Childhood Program nor a Special Education Program and does not receive any special education and related services in the home report the child in Code 27.

3. Reporting Special Education and Related Services Environment:

Code 30 – Regular Early Childhood Program: Child receives the majority of hours of special education and related services the Regular Early Childhood Program (and the child attends a Regular Early Childhood Program at least 10 hours/600 minutes or more per week). *Fund Codes A, E, J, K, L, P and X*

Code 31 – Regular Early Childhood Program: child receives the majority of hours of special education and related services in some other location (and the child attends a Regular Early Childhood Program at least 10 hours/600 minutes or more per week). *Fund Codes A, E, J, K, L, P and X*

Code 32 – Regular Early Childhood Program: child receives the majority of hours of special education and related services in Regular Early Childhood Program (and the child attends a Regular Early Childhood Program less than 10 hours/599 minutes or less per week). *Fund Codes A, E, J, K, L, P and X*

Code 33 – Regular Early Childhood Program: child receives the majority of hours of special education and related services in some other location (and the child attends a Regular Early Childhood Program less than 10 hours/599 minutes or less per week). *Fund Codes A, E, J, K, L, P and X*

Code 23 – Special education Program - Special Education Class: child receives all special education instructional and/or related services in a program with less than 50 percent nondisabled children. (Do not include children who also attended a Regular Early Childhood Program. These children should be reported under Codes 30, 31, 32 or 33.) *Fund Codes A, E, J, and X*

Code 24 - Special education Program - Separate School: child receives all special education instructional and/or related services in a public or private day school designed specifically for children with disabilities. (Do not include children who also attended a Regular Early Childhood Program. These children should be reported under Codes 30, 31, 32 or 33.) *Fund Codes A, E, J, X and for Fund Codes B and F only with facility number 001-399, or 600-699 or 950-999*

Code 25 - Special Education Program - Residential facility: child receives all special education instructional and/or related services in a publicly or privately

operated residential school or residential medical facility on an inpatient basis. (Do not include children who also attended a Regular Early Childhood Program. These children should be reported under Codes 30, 31, 32 or 33.) *Fund Code H, and Fund Codes B and F only with facility number 400-599 or 700-949 as well as Fund Codes A and E that are placed in a hospital or Department of Human Services (DHS) Facility (i.e., School for the Deaf)*

Code 26 - Home: child receives all special education and related services in the principal residence of the child's family or caregivers (including babysitters), and who attended neither a Regular Early Childhood Program nor a Special Education Program provided in a separate class, separate school or residential facility. Include children who receive special education both at home and in a service provider location or some other location that is not in any other category. *Fund Codes A, E, P and X*

Code 27 - Service provider location or some other location that is not in any other category: Child receives all special education and related services from a service provider or some other location that is not in any other category, and who attended neither a Regular Early Childhood Program or a Special Education Program provided in a separate class, separate school, or residential facility. For example, speech instruction provided in: private clinicians' offices, clinicians' offices located in school buildings, hospital facilities on an outpatient basis, and libraries and other public locations. *Fund Codes A, E, K, L, and X*