



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (GADOE)

Office of Technology Services - Technology Management

**FY2019 FTE Guidelines for Special Education
Environments: Ages 6 through 21**

Children with Disabilities Ages 6-21 by Educational Environment

When reporting **Special Educational environments for children ages 6 through 21**, use the following decision rules to determine which environment to use when reporting each child. Please note the order of the categories for children with disabilities ages 6-21 does *not* reflect a continuum from least to most restrictive. All counts should represent the setting in which children with disabilities have been placed for educational services.

Calculating Time in Regular Education Classrooms

When determining the amount of time a child is in the regular classroom, you must divide the number of hours the child spends inside the regular classroom by *the total number of hours in the school day (including lunch, recess and study periods)*. The result is multiplied by 100. **The time spent outside the regular classroom receiving services unrelated to the youth's disability (e.g., time receiving LEP services) should be considered time inside the regular classroom.**

Educational time spent in age-appropriate community-based settings that include individuals with and without disabilities, such as college campuses or vocational sites, should be counted as time spent **inside the regular classroom**.

The educational environments categories are defined as follows:

- **Environment '1'** In the regular classroom **at least 80%** of the time. Give an unduplicated total of children who are inside the regular classroom for **at least 80%** of time. These are children who received special education and related services outside the regular classroom for **less than 21%** of the school week. This may include children with disabilities placed in:
 - Regular class with special education/related services provided within regular classes;
 - Regular class with special education/related services provided outside regular classes, such as small group special education classes for a portion of the day.

- **Environment '2'** In the regular classroom **at least 40%** of the time but **no more than 79%** of the time. Give an unduplicated total of children who are inside the regular classroom between **40% and 79%** of the school week. These are children who received special education and related services outside the regular classroom for at least 21% but no more than 60% of the school week. **Do not include children who are reported as receiving education programs in public or private separate schools or residential facilities.** This may include children with disabilities placed in:
 - Small group special education class with special education/related services provided within small group special education class; or
 - Small group special education class with part-time instruction in regular class.

- **Environment '3'** In the regular classroom **less than 40%** of time - Give an unduplicated total of children who are inside the regular classroom for **less than 40%** of the school week. These are children who received special education and related services outside the regular classroom for more than 60% of the school week. **Do not include children who are reported as receiving education programs in public or private separate schools or residential facilities.** This may include children with disabilities placed in:
 - Small group special education classrooms with part-time instruction in a regular class; or

- Small group special education classrooms with full-time special education instruction on a regular school campus.
- **Environment '4'** *Public Separate Facilities:* Special education and related services for **greater than 50 %** of the school week in public separate day-school facilities (e.g., the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, GNETS center-based program).
- **Environment '5'** *Private Separate Facilities:* Special education and related services in *private* separate day school facilities at public expense for **greater than 50 %** of the school week.
- **Environment '6'** *Public Residential Facilities:* Special education and related services in public residential facilities for **greater than 50%** of the school week. This includes residential State Schools and Department of Human Resources (DHR) operated facilities.
- **Environment '7'** *Private Residential Facilities:* Special education and related services in private residential facilities at public expense for **greater than 50 %** of the school week.
- **Environment '8'** *Correctional Facilities:* Give an *unduplicated* total of children who received special education in correctional facilities. This data is intended to be a count of all children receiving special education in:
 - Short-term detention facilities (community-based or residential); or
 - Correctional facilities
 - Do not report children ages 6-11 in this environment
- **Environment '9'** *Hospital/Homebound:* Give an *unduplicated* total of children who received special education and related services in a homebound/hospital environment. These data are intended to be a count of all children receiving special education in: Hospital programs; or Homebound programs. Use Environment 9 for students receiving Home- based services also.
- **Environment '0'** *Parentally Placed in Private School:* Give an *unduplicated* total of children who have been enrolled by their parents, or guardians, in regular parochial or other private schools, **and**
 - whose basic education is paid through private resources, **and**
 - who receive special education and related services at public expense from a local education agency, or an intermediate educational unit, under a service plan.

Include students whose parents chose to home school the student(s), but who receive special education and related services at the public expense. Do not include children who are placed in private schools by the local education agency (school system).