

FY 2008 QUESTION NUMBER: 47

QUESTION:

Provide a description of the continuum of placement options for students that would typically be placed in secondary learning centers.

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: NA

ANSWER:

The superintendent of schools has announced a revised special education proposal that would allow all special education students in grades 6 through 12 who are currently in secondary learning centers to remain there through graduation. The revised proposal phases out learning centers over a six-year period, but continues the effort to include more special education students in general education classes.

The Secondary Learning Centers provide comprehensive special education instruction and related services to students with multiple needs and various disabilities. Special education provided by the learning center is not a location but an array of services. Students are served in a combination of self-contained and co-taught classes, as well as provided opportunities to be fully included with nondisabled peers.

Students in a secondary learning center are supported through a team approach. Some of the strategies used to support students include:

- Use of assistive technology
- Multisensory instruction
- Adjusted pacing of instruction
- Curriculum adaptations

Most students that receive special education services in their home schools will access general education classes and will receive supportive services from staff that is allocated to the school as Learning and Academic Disabilities (LAD) and Resource support. The LAD program offers a continuum of services, including a combination of self-contained, co-taught classes, supported classes, and opportunities for students to be fully included with their nondisabled peers.

As students in a secondary learning center are supported through a team approach, so are students receiving services through a LAD program. The strategies listed above also are used to support LAD.