



Office of the
State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)



Achieving Success in the Least Restrictive Environment: Capitalizing on the District of Columbia's Accomplishments



Origins of Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

FAPE:

- An educational right under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that ensures that children with disabilities are able to access the general curriculum and are prepared for further education, employment, and independent living to the same extent as their non-disabled peers.

LRE:

- A requirement under IDEA that every public agency ensure that, to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities are educated with children who are non-disabled. Special schooling, special classes, or other removal of children with disabilities from the general education environment should occur only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes, with the use of supplementary aids and services, cannot be achieved satisfactorily.



The State of LRE in the District of Columbia

- National Average for Children Placed in Separate Settings: 3%*
- Data for Comparative Jurisdiction: 3%*
- DC's Current Rate of Placements in Separate Settings: 28%**
- DC's Current Rate of Placements in Nonpublic Programs: 18%**

* - U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

** - DC FFY2010 Annual Performance Report



OSSE's Theory of Action

If the State **removes** barriers and **creates** **pathways** to maximize LEA innovation,

Then school leaders and teachers that are **best qualified** to develop solutions can **expand** best practices that support FAPE in the LRE which the District can **replicate**.

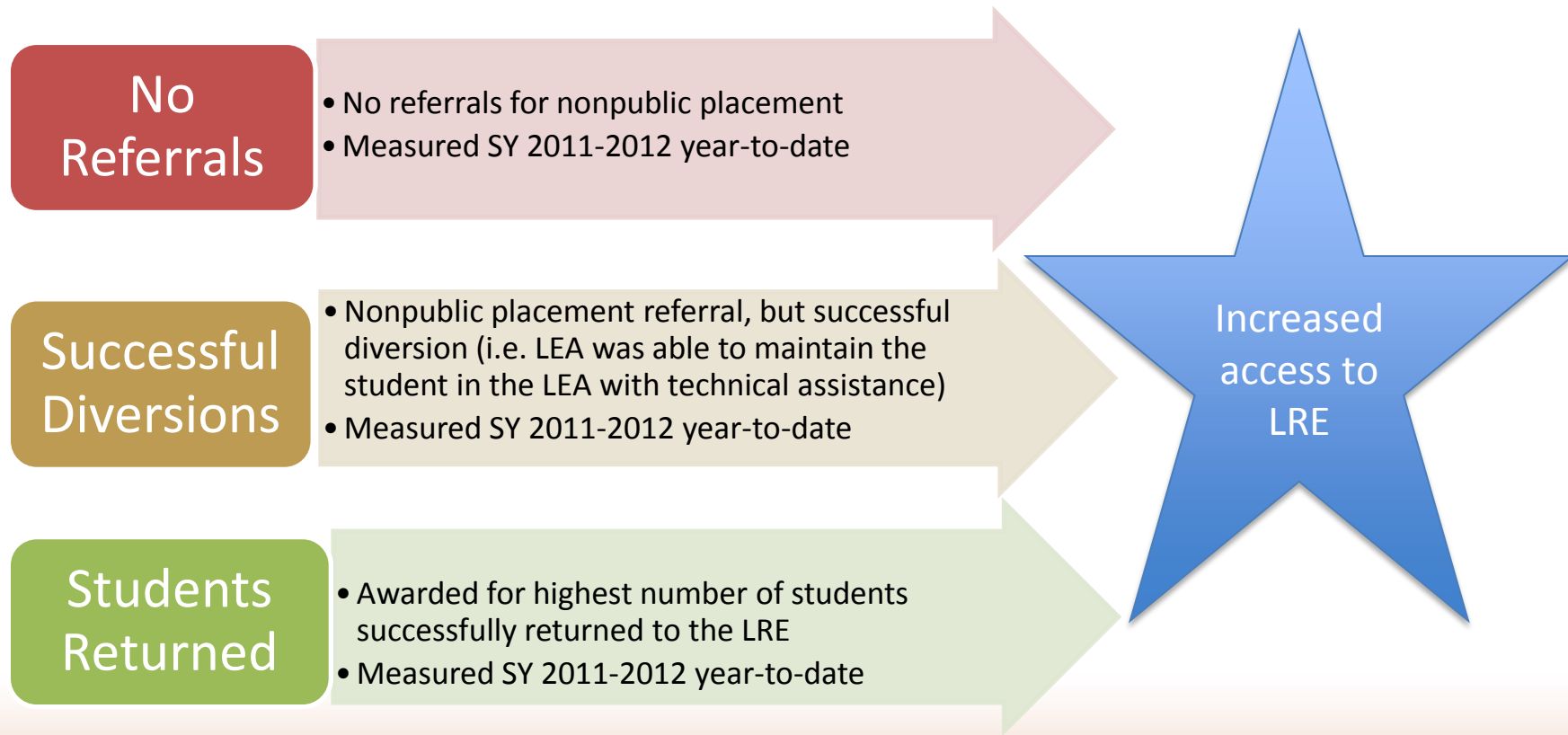


BENEFITS OF LEAs PARTICIPATING IN LRE INITIATIVE

- The intent of these contract awards is to reward LEAs and support OSSE's efforts to showcase successful LEA initiatives, thereby increasing the ability to identify best practices worthy of District-wide replication.
- By increasing access to LRE and diversion from non-public placements, the District can maximize limited resources for the betterment of all students.



LRE CONTRACT PERFORMANCE AREAS





Contract Award Criteria

- Category 1: LEAs with no referrals for outplacement: \$45,000
- Category 2: LEAs with 1 referral for outplacement: \$25,000
 - Category 2a: LEAs with 1 referral and 100% diversion rate (meaning student maintained at LEA): \$15,000 in addition to \$25,000 from #2
- Category 3: LEAs with 2 referrals for outplacement: \$15,000
 - Category 3a: LEAs with 2-5 referrals and a minimum 50% diversion rate: Additional \$15,000 in addition to \$15,000 from #3
- Category 4: LEAs serving highest population of students with IEPs and no outplacements: \$300,000
- Category 5: LEAs with highest number of students returned from outplacement: \$35,000 per student



LRE CONTRACT AWARD REQUIREMENTS

- LEA Submits High-Level LRE Spending Plan
 - Approved LRE Expenditures:
 - Staff training
 - Direct services
 - Curriculum/Materials
- LEA Submits Monthly Reimbursement Workbooks
- LEA Submits “LRE Best Practice Brief” for Publication



CONTRACT AWARD PROCESS (RESPONSIBLE PARTY DENOTED)

OSSE

Distribution of Templates

- OSSE will provide templates for:
 - Reimbursement workbooks
 - Spending Plans
 - “Best Practices” Brief

LEA

Submission of Initial Spending Plan

(May)

- Expenditures will be allowed for:
 - Staff Training
 - Direct Services
 - Curriculum/ Materials

LEA

Submission of Reimbursement Workbooks

(Monthly)

- Workbooks will be submitted monthly
- Submission procedures and format same as all other reimbursement workbooks
- OSSE will review and reconcile workbooks

LEA

Submission of “Best Practices” Brief (September)

- Each LEA will submit “Best practices” Brief
- OSSE will Compile and Publish “Best Practices”
- Publication will be Shared with all LEAs



2012 LEAs THAT QUALIFY FOR LRE CONTRACT AWARDS

Achievement Preparatory Academy	Howard University
Appletree	IDEA
Arts & Technology Academy	LAMB
Bridges	MM Bethune
Capital City	Mundo Verde
Center for Inspired Teaching	National Collegiate
DC Bilingual	Options
DC Preparatory Academy	Potomac Lighthouse
DCPS- Proper	SEED PCS
Eagle	Septima Clark
ESF	Tree of Life
Excel	Two Rivers
Friendship	Washington Latin
Haynes	Washington Yu Ying
Hope Community Academy	WMST



CONTRACT AWARD TIMELINE

May 2,
2012

OSSE
reveals
contract
awards

May 4,
2012

OSSE
contacts each
LEA with
individual
award
amount

May 14,
2012

OSSE
provides
LRE contract
technical
assistance
webinar

May 30,
2012

LEA
provides
OSSE initial
spending
plan

Monthly
(starting
June 30,
2012)

LEA submits
reimbursement
workbooks

Sept.
15, 2012

LEA
submits
"LRE Best
Practice"
brief

Sept.
30, 2012

LRE
contract
period
ends



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Questions?

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