

**Leader Considerations: Outside Placements**

* How many students are placed out of the LEA?
  + - What types of special education supports do these students receive?
    - What are the disability categories for these students?
    - In what grades are these students?
    - In what schools/facilities are these students placed?
* Regarding the students above, do you have programs to support other students who need the same types (if at a lesser level of intensity) of special education supports in your LEA, including ESY?
* If there is a predominant type of support represented in out-of-LEA placements, what ongoing professional development exists to prepare staff for working with students with those support needs? What professional development planning needs to occur?
* What budgetary amount is currently allocated to all students in out-of-LEA placements (including tuition, transportation and any additional supports provided)?
* What data do IEP teams look at before considering if an out of LEA placement is appropriate? Is there a uniform set of considerations prior to determining if the placement is appropriate? Is a protocol followed by IEP teams in an effort to exhaust all potential remedies before considering an out of LEA placement? What is it?
* Do you meet with the LEA’s business manager and other LEA leadership to discuss cost analyses with regards to LRE improvement strategies?
* Who makes the decisions about student placement and supports when significant funding will likely be involved? Is it the IEP team/special education department or the business office?
* Do you have ongoing communication with outside placement to determine when a return to the LEA is an appropriate consideration? Using what data?
* Does the LEA and IEP team plan for a student’s transition back to the district when appropriate? Are all necessary stake holders part of this planning?
* What secondary transition activities exist to help prepare students for post school success with regards to students who are placed outside of the LEA?
* What ongoing professional development exists to prepare school staff for the needs of students in an effort to prevent out-of-LEA placements as well as for the return of students who were previously placed out of the LEA?
* What parent/caregiver training may be needed as part of transitioning students back to their home LEA?
* Is it understood that the LEA of residence is ultimately responsible for all of the educational supports and services provided, regardless of placement? How do you ensure this?