

# District RISE Part 2:

# Features Reflection

## Focus Area 1: *Placement* and *Settings*

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## RISE Frame of Reference:

* **“All means all”** specifically includes all students with significant cognitive disabilities.
* **Placement** is in same grade general education classes and other inclusive settings in neighborhood schools.
* **Student-centered** strengths-based approaches for inclusive education occur within the general education curriculum, classes, lessons, activities, and routines.
* **Specially-designed instruction** occurs within general education instruction, classes, activities, and routines.
* **Barriers to inclusive education** exist within systems and environments, not within students or staff.

## RISE Part 2: Team Process

1. Read and discuss each set of features
2. Rate your system on each set of features using the rubric
3. Determine system priorities

To what extent does your districtwide system

have this Set of Features in place to support an inclusive system of education?

**1**

**Some** features are in place for **some** students, but **not yet for** students with significant cognitive disabilities.

**2**

**Most** Features are in place for **most** students, but **not yet for** students with significant cognitive disabilities.

**3**

**Most** Features are in place for **most** students, including for **some** students with significant cognitive disabilities.

**4**

**Most** Features are in place for **most** students, including **most** students with significant cognitive disabilities.

**5**

**All** Features are in place for **all** students, including **all** students with significant cognitive disabilities.



## Focus Area 1: *Placement* and *Settings*

*Placement and Settings* describes the **mission and vision statements, mindset,** and qualities of **district education leaders** that are essential to **neighborhood general education school and class placements,** as well as access to all instructional and extracurricular activities for all students, including students with significant cognitive disabilities. This Focus Area also describes **effective general education settings.** It includes an examination of **district personnel practices,** and how the **district evaluates, monitors, and improves** their technical assistance and coaching to support **improvement planning** and **implementation practices** to support placement of students in general education schools and classes.

Note: The term neighborhood school refers to the public school that a student would attend if they did not have a disability.

### 1.1 To what extent does your districtwide system facilitate *Mission and Vision Statements* that:

1. respect **diversity of human variability** in all interactions
2. recognize the **presumption of competence** of students with significant cognitive disabilities (SwSCD) consistent with the philosophy that every student can learn
3. ensure all general education students with and without disabilities are demonstrating **progress** in age-grade level general education classes at their neighborhood schools\* or school of choice
4. ensure all general education students with and without disabilities are **equal and valued contributing members** of their class and school communities
5. commit to **each school being accountable** for demonstrating progress of all students in age-grade level general education curriculum at their neighborhood schools\*

Rating Scale

**1**

**Some** features are in place for **some** students, but **not yet for** students with significant cognitive disabilities. **2**

**Most** Features are in place for **most** students, but **not yet for** students with significant cognitive disabilities.**3**

**Most** Features are in place for **most** students, including for **some** students with significant cognitive disabilities.**4**

**Most** Features are in place for **most** students, including **most** students with significant cognitive disabilities.**5**

**All** Features are in place for **all** students, including **all** students with significant cognitive disabilities.

#### [Add Focus Area 1.1 rating to summary table](#_Focus_Area_1.1:)

### 1.2 To what extent does your districtwide system facilitate an *Inclusive Mindset* that:

1. demonstrates an **unwavering belief** in the importance of inclusive education for improving student outcomes
2. is **informed by the research** documenting the unintended negative consequences of segregated education
3. demonstrates an understanding that each person **experiences the education system differently** based on their personal background, including abilities; race; gender; cultural, ethnic, and linguistic diversity; and socio-economic status
4. honors the understanding that education services are provided to **empower students** with and without disabilities to be **fully valued and participating members** of inclusive communities during and after exiting the education system, rather than to “fix” or eliminate a disability
5. views **all students as general education** students with special education as a service delivered in general education settings
6. demonstrates the understanding that **challenging behavior** is a method of communication that can be effectively addressed within neighborhood schools\* and general education classes
7. demonstrates a **commitment to change** any policy or procedure that is a barrier to placement of SwSCD in their neighborhood schools\* and general education classes

Rating Scale

**1**

**Some** features are in place for **some** students, but **not yet for** students with significant cognitive disabilities. **2**

**Most** Features are in place for **most** students, but **not yet for** students with significant cognitive disabilities.**3**

**Most** Features are in place for **most** students, including for **some** students with significant cognitive disabilities.**4**

**Most** Features are in place for **most** students, including **most** students with significant cognitive disabilities.**5**

**All** Features are in place for **all** students, including **all** students with significant cognitive disabilities.

#### [Add Focus Area 1.2 rating to summary table](#_Focus_Area_1.1:)

### 1.3 To what extent does your districtwide system facilitate *Placement in Neighborhood Schools\** that:

1. **communication and collaboration** across all personnel and departments indicating that placement in neighborhood schools\* is expected across the system
2. **collective responsibility and collaborative decision-making** among all school personnel, families, and community members knowledgeable about individual students to maintain the placement of all students in neighborhood schools\*
3. annual monitoring and public reporting of disaggregated data on **school placement patterns** (Pre-K to 21) for SwSCD to identify and disrupt structures that are barriers to placement of students in inclusive preschools and neighborhood schools \*
4. schools reflecting the **natural proportions** of students with disabilities within the community from which the schools draw enrollment
5. an **IEP review process** that requires goals and strategies for moving SwSCD to their neighborhood schools\*
6. multi-year plans to **develop capacity** across schools to **return SwSCD** from out-of-district and regional placements to **neighborhood schools\***
7. general education students with and without disabilities **being** **transported together, arriving, and departing** to and from the same community/school location at the same time

Rating Scale

**1**

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**All** Features are in place for **all** students, including **all** students with significant cognitive disabilities.

#### [Add Focus Area 1.3 rating to summary table](#_Focus_Area_1.1:)

### 1.4 To what extent does your districtwide system facilitate *Placement in General Education Classes* with:

1. **communication and collaboration** across all personnel and departments indicating that placement in general education classes is expected across the school
2. **collective responsibility and collaborative** **decision-making** among all school personnel, families, and the community to maintain the placement of all students with disabilities in general education classes
3. all **SwSCD assigned to general education classes prior** to the assignment of other general education students, which is followed by personnel scheduling to meet student needs
4. all SwSCD **in general education classes** with age-grade level peers for 80% of the school day
5. **natural proportions** of students with disabilities within each class reflecting the same proportions as the community from which the schools draw enrollment
6. IEPs that include goals and strategies for **increasing the time** SwSCD are in general education classes
7. monitoring of **cultural and linguistic relevance of family resources** and supports related to the importance of placement and inclusive practices for SwSCD in general education classes
8. SwSCD participating with their age-grade level classmates in the same general education **community-based learning opportunities**
9. SwSCD **progress through the grades** along with their classmates

Rating Scale

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#### [Add Focus Area 1.4 rating to summary table](#_Focus_Area_1.1:)

### 1.5 To what extent does your districtwide system promote *Effective General Education Settings* that:

1. **are fully accessible** for all students with or without disabilities
2. demonstrate that all students’ **contributions are valued,** and they are **equal members** of their school, class, and age-grade level communities
3. are **universally designed** to ensure equal access to all district and school programs, services, and extra-curricular activities for SwSCD along with their classmates who do not have disabilities
4. include school personnel, peers, and family members who are taught to be **effective communication partners** for students using AAC systems
5. reflect the use of **various configurations** of individualized support and modifications during general education classes, lessons, activities, and routines to meet the needs of SwSCD and keep them in general education classes
6. enable implementation of IEP **transition goals** for SwSCD in **grades 6-12** within general education classes, lessons, activities, and routines
7. enable implementation of IEP **transition goals** for SwSCD (**18-21 years**) in post-secondary education and other community settings with their same age-grade level peers

Rating Scale

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#### [Add Focus Area 1.5 rating to summary table](#_Focus_Area_1.1:)

### 1.6 To what extent does your districtwide system promote *Supports and Services* that:

1. enable each student to **make progress** in the age-grade level curriculum and essential skills for participation in school and community life with instruction embedded within general education classes, lessons, activities, and routines
2. provide **continuous support for multimodal communication** among age-grade classmates and adults across general education classes, lessons, activities, and routines
3. facilitate the **sharing and monitoring of discipline-specific practices** among teachers, related service providers, paraprofessionals, other faculty and staff, and families for use during general education classes, lessons, activities, and routines and at home
4. use **flexible staffing models** and **natural support networks** that increase the time SwSCD are in general education classes, lessons, activities, and routines
5. provide individualized behavior supports that **return SwSCD** to neighborhood schools\* and/or general education classes, lessons, activities, and routines
6. address the **individualized transition needs of SwSCD** (18-21 years) and result in competitive employment, community living, and community engagement
7. ensure all SwSCD are included in all **district accountability systems**, regardless of the location and type of services they receive

Rating Scale

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#### [Add Focus Area 1.6 rating to summary table](#_Focus_Area_1.1:)

### 1.7 To what extent does your districtwide system promote *District Education Leaders* who:

1. **share responsibility** for a **single inclusive system** of education with structures, processes and policies that blend special and general education services
2. share responsibility across leaders and **increase the percentage of SwSCD** in general education classes in their neighborhood schools\*
3. create **safe, friendly, and welcoming** schools based on an unwavering belief in the value of inclusive education
4. implement a **professional development plan** and **align resources** to support learning by all personnel to increase the percentage of SwSCD in general education classes in their neighborhood schools\*
5. analyze district and school data to identify and disrupt potential systemic inequities demonstrated by any **disproportionality** reflected in placement data disaggregated by disability category; AAC use; eligibility for the alternate assessment, age/grade; race; gender; socio-economic status; and cultural, ethnic, and linguistic diversity

Rating Scale

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#### [Add Focus Area 1.7 rating to summary table](#_Focus_Area_1.1:)

### 1.8 To what extent does your districtwide system promote *Improvement Planning and Implementation Practices* that:

1. **convene a district leadership team** that meets at least quarterly, approaches change as a positive process, and uses implementation science methods and strategies to drive and monitor efforts for an inclusive system of education
2. are based on a clear set of **values, high expectations, and a philosophy** that every student can learn
3. demonstrate a systemic acceptance and promotion of **change as a normal** **and positive process** that uses implementation science methods and strategies for continuous improvement
4. include **reflection** on inclusive education practices by instructional personnel and other stakeholders
5. engage **families, self-advocates, and allies** from diverse backgroundsin the development and implementation of improvement plans
6. identify and remove **systemic barriers** and **increase the placement** of SwSCD in general education classes in their neighborhood schools\*
7. provide and evaluate the **impact of technical assistance and coaching** to **disrupt systemic inequities** in the placement of SwSCD
8. use **funding and other resources** to develop, implement, evaluate, and sustain placement in neighborhood schools\* and general education classes

Rating Scale

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#### [Add Focus Area 1.8 rating to summary table](#_Focus_Area_1.1:)

### 1.9 To what extent does your districtwide system promote *District Personnel Practices* that:

1. ensure all district communications use **person-first language**, unless otherwise specified by self-advocates, maintain confidentiality, and respect diversity of human variability
2. include systematic proactive **recruiting, training, and retaining strategies** informed by data and reflective practice, that ensure qualified personnel for facilitating placement SwSCD in neighborhood schools\* and general education classes
3. **braid special and general education professional development opportunities** that promote shared responsibility for placement of SwSCD in neighborhood schools\* and general education classes
4. provide **district coaches and inclusive education facilitators** with experience and expertise that support district and school personnel to provide effective services for SwSCD in general education classes in their neighborhood schools\*
5. ground all district, school, andprogram **evaluation tools** in evidence-based practices for inclusive education
6. engage in formal and informal **partnerships with universities and national experts** to build the capacity of district and school administrators, teachers, paraeducators, and advocates to support placement of SwSCD in neighborhood schools\* and general education classes

Rating Scale

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#### [Add Focus Area 1.9 rating to summary table](#_Focus_Area_1.1:)

| **Set** | **Positive Examples and Areas for Improvement** |
| --- | --- |
| **1.1 Mission and Vision** |  |
| **1.2 An Inclusive Mindset** |  |
| **1.3 Placement in Neighborhood Schools\*** |  |
| **1.4 Placement in General Education Classes** |  |
| **1.5 Effective General Education Settings**  |  |
| **1.6 Supports and Services**  |  |
| **1.7 District Education Leaders** |  |
| **1.8 Improvement Planning and Implementation Practices**  |  |
| **1.9 District Personnel Practices**  |  |

Focus Area 1: Positive Examples and Areas for Improvement

Focus Area 1: Summary Table

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Summary Table: Sets of Features for *Placement and Settings*** | **Rating** |
| **1.1 Mission and Vision** |  |
| **1.2 An Inclusive Mindset** |  |
| **1.3 Placement in Neighborhood Schools\*** |  |
| **1.4 Placement in General Education Classes** |  |
| **1.5 Effective General Education Settings**  |  |
| **1.6 Supports and Services**  |  |
| **1.7 District Education Leaders** |  |
| **1.8 Improvement Planning and Implementation Practices**  |  |
| **1.9 District Personnel Practices** |  |

## Connecting *Placement and Settings* to T-I-E-S

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **How T-I-E-S relates to*****Placement and Settings*** | **What needs to change to increase T-I-E-S for *Placement and Settings*** |
| **Time:** number/percent of schools in which SwSCD have increased time in their neighborhood schools\* and general education classes |  |
| **Instructional effectiveness:** number/percent of schools in which SwSCD receive instruction in general education classes across all subject areas |  |
| **Engagement:** number/percent of schools in which SwSCD are engaged with general education peers in lessons, class activities *and* extra-curricular activities |  |
| **Support:** support to schools that increases the number/percent of SwSCD educated in neighborhood schools\* and general education classes |  |