

**Illinois State Board of Education**  
**Guidance for Preschool for All/Early Childhood Special Education**  
**Blended Classrooms**

**When Teacher Holds a Professional Educator License with Self Contained  
General Education Birth through Grade 3 Endorsement and ECT Approval**

- Teacher and assistant salaries are paid by PFA
- Class size is 15-20 children with teacher and aide. Class size may differ depending on the number of children with IEPs in the class and their individual needs according to the IEP. No more than 20 children in the classroom.

**When Teacher Holds a Professional Educator License with Self Contained  
General Education Birth through Grade 3 Endorsement  
(no ECT Approval)**

- Teacher and assistant salaries are paid by PFA
- Class size is 20 with teacher and aide
- Children with IEPs receive special education
  - a. From an ECSE qualified teacher in the same classroom (2 teachers and assistant - team teaching)
  - OR
  - b. From an itinerant ECSE qualified teacher

**In Either Case:**

- All special education services, supports, accommodations and modifications are paid for by special education funds.
- Ratio of children without disabilities/with disabilities is maintained at 70/30 (not counting IEPs for speech only).
- Special education and related services are integrated into the natural activities and structure of the day. Children are not “pulled out” of the classroom and classroom activities to receive special education services (according to the IEP).
- Continue to serve the number of children for which PFA funding is provided. There should be no less children served or staff employed because of blending classrooms.