

Disproportionality in Alaska

EED conducts an **annual analysis** of data¹ to determine **disproportionality by race ethnicity** in the following areas:

- **Identification** of students for special education and related services;
- Identification of students in specific **disability categories**;
- **Placement** of students with disabilities in education settings; and
- **Discipline** of students with disabilities.

No Disproportionality
 $.5 < RR^2 < 2.0$

- EED will provide each district with its disproportionality annually with notification of disproportionality or risk as appropriate.
- No review or action is required, but recommendations and resources are provided.

At Risk for Disproportionality
 $RR \geq 2.0$

- EED will notify each district and provide the data indicating disproportionality.
- The district is required to complete a self assessment (or selections from a self assessment) to determine whether the disproportionality is the result of inappropriate identification or noncompliant policies, procedures or practices.
- As needed, EED conducts follow-up reviews to verify the information provided in the self assessment and review additional data.
- The district is required to correct any noncompliance identified during the self assessment and follow-up reviews.
- EED considers these data and any results of subsequent reviews when making local determinations.
- EED provides intensive TA to districts, upon request, to assist in improving policies, procedures and practices that may be resulting in disproportionality.

Disproportionality
 $RR \geq 2.5^3$

At Risk for Significant Disproportionality
 $RR \geq 3.5$

- In addition to all actions listed above for disproportionality:
 - The district is required to complete additional sections of a self assessment to determine the root cause of the disproportionality and develop an action plan for disproportionality.
 - EED will provide intensive TA to each district.

Significant Disproportionality
 $RR \geq 3.5$ for three consecutive years

- In addition to all actions listed above for disproportionality and at risk for significant disproportionality:
 - The district will be required to use 15% of its Part B grant award for coordinated early intervening services for students who are not yet identified as special education students.
 - The district will report on the students who receive services and track them for two years.
 - AKEED will conduct an onsite compliance review of policies, procedures and practices and require the LEA to report publicly on any required revisions.

¹ The data used for these calculations are data required under section 618 of IDEA. For discipline calculations, rates of suspensions and expulsions greater than 10 days are used.

² RR refers to the risk ratio calculation that AKEED has chosen to use to calculate disproportionality.

³ When Alaska identifies underrepresentation ($0 < RR \leq .33$) for identification of students for special education or specific disability categories, EED conducts additional data analyses to determine whether it is the result of inappropriate identification. Districts will be notified of underrepresentation but required actions may not apply.

Disproportionality Resources

Background: States are required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to examine data to determine whether students of certain races and ethnicities are more likely to be: identified for special education; placed in specific disability categories; placed in more restrictive settings; and disciplined. While Congress included disproportionality in IDEA 1997, IDEA 2004 strengthened the requirements for states to examine data, added a reporting mechanism (the SPP and APR), and included sanctions for significant disproportionality. More information on the requirements of IDEA related to disproportionality is available at <http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/,root,dynamic,TopicalArea,7>.

If your district is at risk for or has disproportionality, there are many resources available to assist you and your schools in analyzing data to determine root causes of and address disproportionality.

- From NYU Technical Assistance Center on Disproportionality: <http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/tacd>
 - **Equity in Education: Addressing Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality in Special Education** - This manual is intended to provide school districts with detailed data-driven processes for identifying the root causes of disproportionality in their district and ensure equitable outcomes. A major premise involves understanding **disproportionality as an outcome of policies, practices, and beliefs**. At the end of this data-driven process, school districts will be able to identify policies, practices, and beliefs implicated in their disproportionality patterns and, more importantly, develop systemwide buy-in and perspective of this equity issue.
<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter.olde/programs/TACD/documents/Equity%20in%20Education%20Manual%20FINAL%205000.pdf>
 - **Data Analysis Workbook** - This workbook provides step-by-step procedures for school districts to develop their own capacity to measure disproportionality using basic qualitative methods. <http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter.olde/index/dataanalysisworkbook.pdf>
- From NCCrest – National Center on Culturally Responsive Education Systems www.nccrest.org
 - **Preventing DISPROPORTIONALITY by Strengthening District Policies and Procedures** — An Assessment and Strategic Planning Process - http://www.nccrest.org/PDFs/district_rubric.pdf?v_document_name=District%20Rubric
 - **Equity in Special Education Placement: A School Self-Assessment** Guide for Culturally Responsive Practice - http://www.nccrest.org/publications/assessment.TOOL.formA.pdf?v_document_name=Assessment%20Tool%20form%20A
- **Response to Intervention and the Disproportionate Representation of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students in Special Education** <http://www.rtinetwork.org/learn/diversity/disproportionaterepresentation>
- The Right IDEA: <http://therightidea.tadnet.org>
- Equity Alliance at Arizona State Univ Learning Carousel: <http://ea.niusileadscape.org/lc>
- Equity Assistance Centers: www.equityassistancecenters.org
- National Center on RTI: www.rti4success.org