

Indicator 4A - Significant Discrepancy Definition

Significant Discrepancy: A rate ratio exceeding 2.50 in the out-of-school suspension/expulsions (OSS) greater than 10 days of students with IEPs. Rate ratios provide a comparison of districts’ rates of suspensions/expulsions for students with IEPs to the state’s rate of suspensions/expulsions for students with IEPs. There is no minimum n–size or cell–size requirement.

Methodology:

The Office of Special Education Services (OSES), identifies districts with significant discrepancies in the rates of long-term suspensions and expulsions through the following steps:

Using data collected from Table 5 –Report of Children with Disabilities subject to Disciplinary Removals and Table 1 – Child Count (both from previous year), the OSES employs a rate ratio comparing the rate of students with IEPs in district *x* for receiving out-of-school suspensions totaling more than ten days to the rate of all students with IEPs in all districts. The rate ratio is calculated by:

$$\text{Rate Ratio (RR)} = (a/b)/(c/d)$$

	OSS > 10 days	Child Count
Students with IEPs in District	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>
Students with IEPs in State	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>

a = Total students with IEPs in LEA with more than 10 days of OSS

b = Total students with IEPs in LEA’s Child Count

c = Total students with IEPs in State with more than 10 days of OSS

d = Total students with IEPs in State’s child count

Formula Summary:

{(Total students with IEPs in LEA with OSS days greater than 10) / (Total students with IEPs in LEA’s Child Count)} / {(Total students with IEPs in State with OSS greater than 10 days) / (Total students with IEPs in State’s child count)}

Note: As indicated in the definition of significant discrepancy, this calculation is conducted without respect to group or subgroup size; therefore, no LEAs are excluded from the calculation of the rate ratio.

The LEAs that have a rate ratio exceeding 2.50 are required to review their policies, procedures, and practices to determine whether they contributed to the significant discrepancy. To accomplish this, LEAs must complete and submit thorough self-assessment documentation to determine whether or not LEA policies, procedures, and practices relating to the development and implementation of IEPs, the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports, and procedural safeguards to ensure compliance with the IDEA, as required by 34 CFR § 300.170(b) contributed to the significant discrepancy. Once submitted, the OSES reviews the self-assessment documents and may require additional information or other technical assistance activities to determine whether or not LEAs will be issued a finding pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(22) and be required to revise their policies, procedures and practices as outlined by the IDEA regulations governing suspensions and expulsions of students with disabilities.