



MSDE Public Website of State Performance Plan Results

Local School System Results for Special Education

Maryland: Indicator 9

Percent of districts with disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services that is the result of inappropriate identification.

Results

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
State Baseline:	-	0.00%	-	-	-	-	-
State Target:	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
State Results:	-	-	0.00% Target Met	0.00% Target Met	0.00% Target Met	-	-

Narrative Description of Indicator

The State will use its 618 data, collected the last Friday in October, 2008, from each of the 24 local school systems, and reported in the 2008 *Maryland Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data and Related Tables*.

Definition of “Disproportionate Representation” and Methodology

Disproportionality is defined as having students in a particular racial/ethnic group (i.e., American Indian, Asian, African American (not Hispanic), Hispanic or White (not Hispanic), being at a considerably greater or lesser risk of being identified as eligible for special education and related services than all other racial/ethnic groups enrolled either in the local school system (LSS) or in the State.

Maryland identifies disproportionate representation using a weighted risk ratio calculated according to the instructions provided in the IDEA publication, “Methods For Assessing Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality In Special Education: A Technical Assistance Guide.” <http://www.ideadata.org/docs/Disproportionality%20Technical%20Assistance%20Guide.pdf>

Over-representation

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) identifies local school systems with a weighted risk ratio of 2.0 or above, in a particular racial/ethnic group, as disproportionate.

Under-representation

The MSDE identifies local school systems with a weighted risk ratio of 0.5 or below, in a particular racial/ethnic group, racial/ethnic group, as disproportionate.

Identification of Disproportionality

In addition to meeting the weighted risk ratio of 2.0 or above for over-representation, and -0.5 or below for under-representation, the local school systems must meet the criteria for the minimum “n” size which is determined using the rubric method based on the LEA’s total enrollment. The “n” sizes are as follows:

- LEA total enrollment less than 8,999 = “n” size 15
- LEA total enrollment 9,000 to 34,999 = “n” size 20
- LEA total enrollment 35,000 to 79,999 = “n” size 25, and,
- LEA total enrollment more than 80,000 = “n” size 30

Using the criteria established above, the State determined that 2 local school systems were identified as meeting the data threshold for disproportionate over-representation and no school district was identified as meeting the data threshold for disproportionate under-representation.

In previous reporting periods, an “n” size of 20 has been used for all local school systems regardless of enrollment size. Maryland has a wide range in the numbers of total students enrolled in each local school system (2,279-138,147) and a similarly wide range of students with disabilities (343-16,485). Because of this wide range of enrollment across school systems, MSDE utilized a rubric

method which considers enrollment size to assist in assigning “n” sizes. A change in “n” size from 20 for all local school systems to a range of 15 to 30 based on the enrollment in the local school system was agreed upon. In addition, the weighted risk ratio was changed from 1.5 to 2.0. Systems with a weighted risk ratio of 1.5-1.9 will be considered “at risk” for disproportionality and will be required to review their policies, procedures and practices to ensure that appropriate identification procedures are in place.

Other Data for this Indicator

Based on the totality of the analyses of data from the MSDE Student Services Information System, using the measuring criteria “n” cited above, and the analysis of the results of on-site and off-site monitoring, local school systems’ self-assessments, Due Process Complaints and written State complaints, MSDE met the target for this Indicator. No local school systems were identified with disproportionate representation of any racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services that is the result of inappropriate identification.