

Disproportionate Representation Frequently Asked Questions

I just completed the monitoring process—why must I go through this process again?

Each year the State is required to report and monitor LEAs with disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education.

Will I be required to allocate 15% of my budget for Early Intervening Services?

No. Only LEAs identified with Significant Disproportionality are required to reserve 15% for Early Intervening Services. LEAs with ratios greater than 3.0 for two consecutive years are identified with significant disproportionality.

What is the data report?

The data report is designed to provide a snapshot of LEA performance in SPP Indicators 9 (Disproportionality – All Disabilities) and Indicator 10 (Disproportionality – By Disability Category). This Report utilizes Single Record Student Database (SRSD) population and Michigan Compliance Information System (MI-CIS) disability data to compute Weighted Risk Ratios by Operating and Resident District for each LEA by disability and race. We then examined the two WRRs calculated (Operating and Resident District) and chose the best of the two. In order to be included in the analysis, districts needed to have 30 or more students with disabilities and 10 or more students in the racial/ethnic and disability group of interest.

What is the Weighted Risk Ratio (WRR)?

WRR is used to assess the risk that students of a particular racial/ethnic category are over-represented among students receiving special education or related services. The Weighted Risk Ratio weights district level risk according to the racial/ethnic composition of the state. *(Please see page 16 of this Guide for the equation.)*

<https://www.ideadata.org/docs/Disproportionality%20Technical%20Assistance%20Guide.pdf>

What is the Alternate Risk Ratio (ARR)?

The Alternate Risk Ratio also assesses risk of over-representation in special education or related services. The ARR uses District Level risk in the numerator and State level risk for the comparison groups in the denominator. ARR is utilized to overcome the problem of small numbers in the comparison groups. *(Please see pages 21-22 for the equation.)*

<https://www.ideadata.org/docs/Disproportionality%20Technical%20Assistance%20Guide.pdf>

What is the difference between Operating and Resident? Operating refers to the students being served by LEA. Resident refers to the students living in LEA's attendance area but do not necessarily attend LEA.

Why have the numbers been calculated using the Operating and Resident District data?

The WRRs were calculated using both Operating and Resident District data because of the limitations of using one or the other. Using operating district data over identifies

districts with center based programs. Utilizing Resident district data places students receiving services in Public School Academies and schools of choice back in the districts where they live and not where they receive services.

Why are WRRs used to assess disproportionality?

WRR are used to assess disproportionality because it adjusts for comparison group variability by weighting the results by state racial/ethnic composition and allows for comparison of districts.