

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – PARENTALLY PLACED STUDENTS

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Q1: WHAT IS THE CITATION FOR COLLECTING PARENTALLY PLACED STUDENT COUNTS?

A: 34 CFR § 300.705(b)(3)(i)

Q2: WHICH PEAS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT PARENTALLY PLACED STUDENT COUNTS?

A: This is only applicable to traditional school districts that have **nonprofit** private schools within their district boundaries and home-schooled students that live within their district boundaries. If your district's boundary overlaps with another district, only report private school counts for the grades your district serves.

This does not apply to charter schools, secure care facilities, state institutions, accommodation districts, transporting districts, and county regional districts as these entities do not have any boundaries.

Q3: WHAT IS THE CRITERIA FOR REPORTING PARENTALLY PLACED STUDENTS?

A: Students must be enrolled in non-profit **private elementary or secondary schools**, residential schools, or homeschooled and participating in a kindergarten program or grades one through twelve.

Q4: IS THE PARENTALLY PLACED STUDENT COUNT A COUNT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS ONLY OR ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED ON OCTOBER 1?

A: Districts should report all students aged 3-21 enrolled on October 1 in a kindergarten program or grades 1 through 12, not only those receiving special education services.

Q5: IF A PARENTALLY PLACED STUDENT IS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES, WOULD THIS STUDENT BE INCLUDED IN THE ELIGIBLE COUNT(S)?

A: Yes, a parentally placed student that is receiving special education services on an ISP over the October 1 count date would be considered eligible and should be included in this count as well as the October 1 SPED count.

Q6: IF A PARENTALLY PLACED STUDENT WAS FOUND ELIGIBLE WITH AN EXPIRED EVALUATION, WOULD THAT STUDENT BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE?

A: **No, a student with an expired evaluation cannot be included as eligible and would not be guaranteed equitable services. In determining eligibility for parentally placed students, the PEA must undertake activities similar to the activities taken for the agency's public-school children regulated under 34 C.F.R. § 300.131.**

Q7: DO PRIVATE SCHOOLS INCLUDE APPROVED PRIVATE SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS?

A: Respective to the grades served, any student that has been parentally placed in a **nonprofit private elementary or secondary school** or residential treatment center (RTC) over October 1 should be included in the parentally placed student count by the district in which the approved private school resides.

For a complete list of approved private day schools and residential treatment centers, select "[Private & Public Programs](#)" on the ESS website.

Q8: WHERE CAN I FIND A LIST OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS WITHIN MY DISTRICT BOUNDARIES?

A: The ADE does not maintain a list of all private schools in Arizona. The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) provides a private school search tool on their website (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/>). This tool is not endorsed by the ADE. You can also look up private schools in the yellow pages of the phone book.

Q9: HOW CAN I DETERMINE A PRIVATE SCHOOL'S NON-PROFIT STATUS?

A: You can determine if a private school is non-profit by asking them directly or you can go through the Arizona Corporation Commission website at <http://www.azcc.gov> to look up the corporation name.

Q10: WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE ANY PRIVATE SCHOOLS WITHIN MY DISTRICT BOUNDARIES?

A: If you do not have any private schools within your district boundaries, then you will only report your home-schooled student count, if any. If you don't have any private school students or home-schooled students to report, then you will indicate such by entering zero (0) in the field of the ESS October 1 Data Collection application that asks for the total enrollment count for private school and home-schooled students.

Q11: WHAT OBLIGATION, IF ANY, DO DISTRICTS HAVE TO SERVE 3-5-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN WHO ARE PARENTALLY PLACED IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS?

A: A PEA's obligation to serve children aged three through five under the equitable services provisions depends on whether a child is enrolled in a private school or facility that meets the definition of "elementary school" in the IDEA and the final regulations. "Elementary school" is defined in 34 CFR §300.13 as a nonprofit institutional day or residential school, including a public elementary charter school that provides elementary education, as determined under State law. Arizona state law defines elementary grades as kindergarten programs and grades one through twelve. Preschool programs at a private school or facility or homeschooled do not fall under the definition of elementary school. Accordingly, three- through five-year-old children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in a private school or facility that meets the State's definition of "elementary school" would be considered parentally placed and the equitable participation provisions would apply.

A child aged three through five enrolled by his or her parents in a private school or facility that does not meet the State's definition of "elementary school" would not be eligible to be considered for equitable services. However, the State's obligation to make FAPE available to such a child remains. Section 612(a)(1) of the IDEA requires that States make FAPE available to eligible children with disabilities aged three through 21 in the State's mandated age range (34 CFR §300.101). Because many PEAs do not offer public preschool programs, particularly for three- and four-year-olds, PEAs often make FAPE available to eligible preschool children with disabilities in private schools or facilities in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.145 through 300.147. In these circumstances, there is no requirement that the private school or facility be an "elementary school" under State law.

In some instances, a PEA may make FAPE available in the private preschool program that the parent has selected. If there is a public preschool program available, the PEA of residence may choose to make FAPE available to a preschool child in that program. If the group of persons making the placement decision, as specified in 34 CFR §300.116(a)(1), places the child in a public or private preschool program and the parents decline the public agency's offer of FAPE because they want their child to remain in the private preschool program they have selected, the public agency is not required to provide FAPE to that child. The parent may challenge the public agency's determination of what constitutes FAPE for their child using the State complaint and due process procedures available under IDEA.

Q12: WHO CAN I CONTACT TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS WHO RESIDE WITHIN MY DISTRICT BOUNDARIES?

A: Parents of home-schooled children are required to register with the county superintendent's office. Contact information for these offices can be found on the [County Educational Service Agencies](http://www.azed.gov/adeinfo/cesa/) webpage (<http://www.azed.gov/adeinfo/cesa/>).

Q13: HOW DO I REPORT THE PARENTALLY PLACED STUDENT COUNT IF MY DISTRICT BOUNDARIES OVERLAP WITH ANOTHER DISTRICT'S BOUNDARIES?

A: If your district's boundaries overlap with another district's boundaries, then only report the parentally placed students in private schools for the grade range that your district serves. The home school count would only apply to home-schooled students who reside within your district boundaries.

Q14: WHAT ABOUT HEAD START PROGRAMS? ARE THEY CONSIDERED PRIVATE SCHOOLS?

A: The primary determination of whether a student should be counted or not under parentally-placed counts is determined on whether they meet the definition of "elementary school" detailed in question 11.

Q15: SHOULD EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT (ESA) STUDENTS BE INCLUDED IN THE OCTOBER 1 COUNT AND IF SO, HOW?

A: Students on an ESA program are eligible for proportionate share funding and thus can be included in the parentally placed student count. **ESA students who attend non-profit private elementary or secondary schools within the district's boundaries must be reported in Parentally Placed Private School (PPPS) count. ESA students who are homeschooled on an ESA may not be reported to the County School Superintendent but must be counted in PPPS count for your district.**

Q16: WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO REPORT ELIGIBLE COUNTS BY AGE GROUP?

A: Parentally placed students who have been evaluated and determined eligible for special education services must be reported in the appropriate age group to calculate proportionate share amounts **for the IDEA Basic and IDEA Preschool grants**. While the data collection does specify three- and four-year-old students, they would have to be classified as participating in a kindergarten program or a school-age grade in order to be counted in this data collection.