



Exceptional Student Services

Memorandum

To: Special Education Administrators
From: Operations
Date: December 29, 2022
Re: Discipline Data Reporting for Students with Disabilities

Exceptional Student Services (ESS) recently disseminated [technical assistance that outlines how discipline information will be submitted](#) for students with disabilities in fiscal year 2024 and beyond. This guidance clarifies discipline information reporting procedures that are required to be collected under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), sections 616 and 618.

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires discipline data submissions to be generated using information provided by public education agencies (PEAs) and originating at an individual student level. Arizona statute¹ permits PEAs to operate alternative education programs that act as an alternative to suspension or expulsion in consultation with their local governing boards. These programs will now be allowed to be explicitly reported in AzEDS in fiscal year 2024.

OSEP requires that IDEA data submissions represent aggregated data on all instances in which a PEA removes a child with a disability from his/her regular educational placement for disciplinary purposes. Accurate data submission is necessary to ensure that all eligible children with disabilities are served appropriately and equitably. To support accurate reporting and in response to feedback provided by OSEP to Arizona, beginning in fiscal year 2024, ESS will require PEAs to submit discipline data for pupils who are reassigned to an alternative education program as an alternative to a suspension or expulsion or who are placed into an alternative to a suspension program.

Moving forward, ESS will spot-check discipline data provided by PEAs to ensure that information is being reported accurately for federal submissions.

If you have any questions regarding this requirement, please [email ESS Operations](#).

¹ [A.R.S. § 15-841](#)