



# Exceptional Student Services

## ADE Updates

SEAP Meeting, January 24, 2023

# Arizona 2022 IDEA Part B Determination

Annual determination issued by the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) of Arizona's implementation of the requirements of IDEA Part B.



# Arizona 2022 IDEA Part B Results-Driven Accountability (RDA) Matrix

## Scoring

- Results: 8 out of 16 points = 50%
- Compliance: 14 out of 18 points = 77.78%
- Overall Percentage = 63.89%

2022 Determination is **Needs Assistance** in implementing the requirements of IDEA Part B

# Determination Components: RDA Matrix

# RDA Matrix: Results Elements

- Reading National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Assessment in grades 4 and 8
- Math National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Assessment in grades 4 and 8
- Participation in Reading and Math Assessment in grades 4 and 8
- Dropout
- Graduation





# RDA Matrix: Compliance Indicators

- Significant discrepancy, by race/ethnicity, in suspension/expulsion rates and policies, procedures, or practices that do not comply with specified requirements (Indicator 4B)
- Disproportionate representation of race/ethnicity in special education identification due to inappropriate identification (Indicator 9)
- Disproportionate representation of race/ethnicity in specific disability categories due to inappropriate identification (Indicator 10)
- Timely initial evaluation (Indicator 11)
- IEP developed and implemented by third birthday (Indicator 12)
- Secondary transition documentation in the IEP (Indicator 13)
- Timely and accurate State-reported data
- Timely state complaint decisions
- Longstanding noncompliance
- Specific conditions
- Uncorrected identified noncompliance



# RDA Matrix Scoring

## Overall

- Full points = 2
- Partial points = 1
- No points = 0
- Not applicable = N/A

## Results

- NAEP, graduation, and dropout scores for each SEA were rank-ordered and determined using **tertiles**

## Compliance

- Points were awarded if data was valid and reliable; also based upon reported percentage within a compliance scoring band
  - 2 = > 95%, 1 = 94% - 75%, 0 = < 75%, NVR, or did not report

# Arizona 2022 Determination Notes





# RDA Matrix: Notes

## Results Elements

- “N/A” score for participation in grades 4 and 8 due to impact of COVID-19 on standardized testing in SY 2020–2021
- 0 score = grade 4 math assessment on NAEP from SY 2018–2019
- 0 score = dropout percentage from SY 2019–2020 (22.39%)

## Compliance Indicators

- 0 score = Ind. 4B (suspension/expulsion by race/ethnicity) due to data “not valid and reliable” (NVR)
- 0 score = secondary transition in the IEP (61.94%)
- No longstanding noncompliance
- All other compliance scored at “2” or N/A

# Deeper Dive into “NVR” Score on Indicator 4B

- On FFY 2020 SPP/APR, Arizona reported a significantly lower number of suspension/expulsion incidents for SWD
- During the SPP/APR clarification period in May 2022, OSEP requested additional information regarding the decrease in disciplinary incidents
- The SEA provided the following reasons:
  - Move to virtual instruction during COVID-19 (which reduced disciplinary incidents in general) and adoption of a bill that allows instructional time to be made up any time throughout the year (A.R.S. 15-901.08)
  - Alternative education programs acting as an intermediary, allowing for students to receive instruction in a variety of settings in lieu of a suspension or expulsion (A.R.S. 15-841)
- In multiple discussions with OSEP and eventually the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) from June through December 2022, the shift to virtual instruction was not a focus.
- The statutorily defined “alternate education program” was of concern because OSEP was unclear whether incidents of students participating in these programs were reported as in- and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions.
- This “underreporting” of incidents *“affects the accuracy...and therefore affects the validity and reliability of the data collected for Indicators 4A and 4B.”*

# How NVR Problem with Indicator 4B Is Being Addressed

- OSEP provided a formal letter on 1/4/23 providing clarification on the voiding of Indicator 4B data and instructions on next steps

State must either:

1. Provide an explanation regarding how the data from FFY 2020 accurately reflect the number of disciplinary incidents, consistent with reporting directions or
2. Provide an explanation regarding how the data collection and reporting have been revised to ensure their data is valid and reliable

## Proposed Resolution

- Following discussion with OSEP and the OGC, #1 is not a viable option. The SEA does not have reporting defined explicitly for alternative education programs
- In order to revise the data collection and reporting system for SY 2023–2024, ADE/ESS has done the following
  - In December 2022, issued two memos outlining a shift to collect discipline data via AzEDS and not a separate software application and will require PEAs to specifically submit discipline data for students reassigned to an alternative education program

# “Needs Assistance” Determination Requirements

- Arizona has been advised of available sources of technical assistance, including OSEP-funded TA centers and other resources, and is required to work with appropriate entities.
- Arizona has been directed to determine the results elements and/or compliance indicators and improvement strategies on which it will focus TA to improve performance.
- Arizona has been encouraged to access TA for elements with a score of 0.
- ADE/ESS will report TA sources from which the State received assistance and actions taken on the FFY 2021 SPP/APR.







# Questions?

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