



# **Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)**

Indicators 4, 9, and 10 for Federal Fiscal Year 2025 State  
Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report

March 25, 2026

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Indicator 4: Discipline Removal Rates
- Indicators 9: Disproportionate Representation by Race/Ethnicity
- Indicator 10: Disproportionate Representation by Race/Ethnicity and Disability Categories

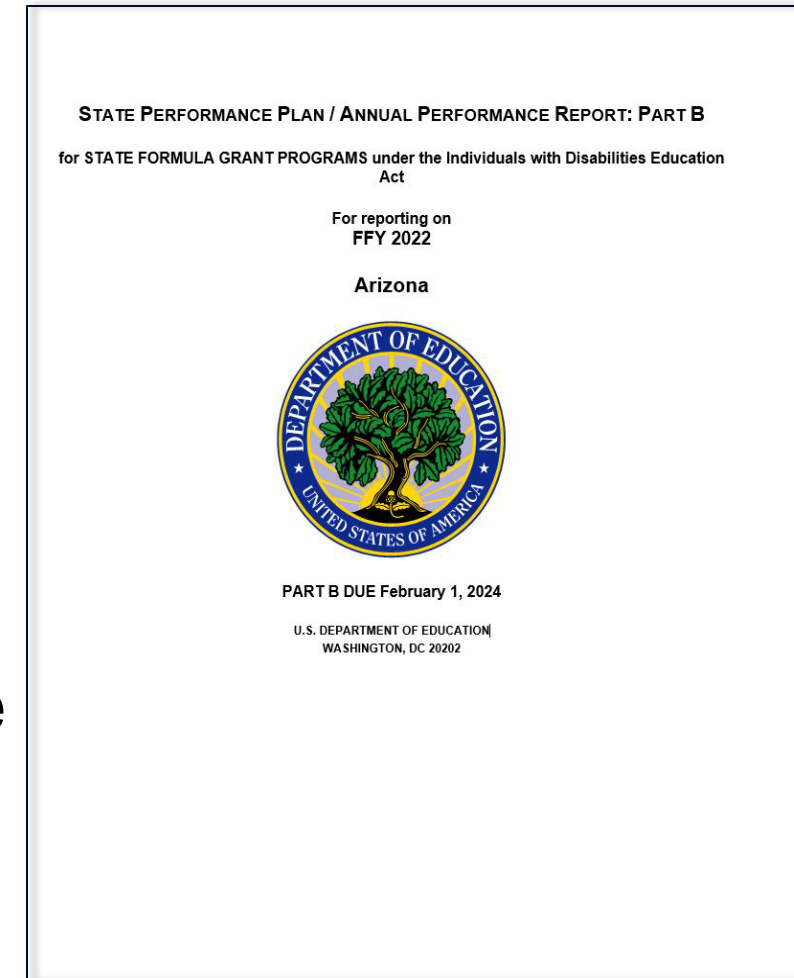


# Introduction to the SPP/APR

The State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR) comprise a required annual federal special education data collection overseen by the Office of Special Education Programs.

They are outlined under a variety of sections in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

ESS reports on portions of this information to stakeholders throughout the year.





## Indicator 4: Discipline Removal Rates

## Indicator 4: Introduction

States report the percentage of PEAs that have a **significant discrepancy, as defined by the state**, in the rate of suspensions and expulsions greater than 10 days in a school year for students with disabilities (SWD).

Two sections for the indicator:

- a) % of Public Education Agencies (PEA) with significant discrepancy
- b) % of PEAs with significant discrepancy by race/ethnicity

# Indicator 4A: Description and Data Sources

## Description

- Indicator 4A measures the percent of districts that have a significant discrepancy by race or ethnicity in the rate of suspensions and expulsions of greater than 10 days in a school year for students with IEPs (34 C.F.R. §300.170(a))

## Data Source

- Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Discipline Data Collection Tool
- ESS October 1 Special Education Child Count
  - Data lagged by one year. Data will be shown from the 2024–2025 school year

## Indicator 4A Methodology (1 of 3)

The State's definition of "significant discrepancy" and methodology:

Arizona utilizes a rate ratio methodology

Rate ratio = PEA-level suspension/expulsion rate for children with disabilities ÷ state-level suspension/expulsion rate for children with disabilities

## Indicator 4A Methodology (2 of 3)

### **Cell Size (numerator)**

The cell size is unique for children with disabilities in a PEA who were suspended or expelled greater than 10 days in a school year. There is no minimum cell size.

### **N size (denominator)**

The N size is unique children with a disability in the state that were suspended or expelled greater than 10 days in a school year. The N size is set at 10.

# Indicator 4A Methodology (3 of 3)

## **Rate Ratio Threshold**

The rate ratio threshold, or level at which significant discrepancy is identified, is 2, which means the PEA is 2 times above the state-level suspension/expulsion rate for children with disabilities.

## **Time Span**

The time span for the indicator 4 calculation is three consecutive years. The February 1, 2027, SPP/APR (FFY25) reviewed data from SY 2022–2023, SY 2023–2024, and SY 2024–2025.

# Indicator 4A Results

FFY	PEAs That Had a Significant Discrepancy	Number of PEAs that Met the State's Minimum Cell and N-Size	% of PEAs that had a Significant Discrepancy
2021	3	5	60.00%
2022	4	6	66.67%
2023	1	558	.18%
2024	4	574	.70%
2025	3	575	.53%

Note: Prior to FFY 2023, Arizona used a minimum cell size of 10 for Indicator 4. Beginning in FFY 2023, the minimum n-size was removed. As a result, any PEA with even one incident involving a student with an IEP who was suspended or expelled out of school for more than 10 days met the criteria to be included in the calculation.

## Indicator 4B: Description

Percent of PEAs that have a significant discrepancy, **by race or ethnicity**, in the rate of suspensions and expulsions of greater than 10 days in a school year for **students with IEPs** (34 C.F.R. §300.170(a)).

# Indicator 4B: Description and Data Sources

## Description

- Indicator 4B measures the percent of PEAs that have a significant discrepancy **by race or ethnicity** in the rate of suspensions and expulsions of greater than 10 days in a school year for **students with IEPs** (34 C.F.R. §300.170(a))

## Data Sources

- Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Discipline Data Collection Tool and ESS October 1 Special Education Child Count
  - Data lagged by one year. This data is from the 2024-2025 school year

## Indicator 4B: Calculation

The calculation of the data relies not only on a PEA being significantly discrepant but also that the PEA had policies, procedures, or practices (PPP) that contributed to the significant discrepancy that did not comply with the requirements of the IDEA. 4B differs from 4A in that both factors must be met to be used in the data calculation.

The calculation for 4B mimics that of 4A with the difference that each test is now comparing the PEA's rate of a specific race/ethnicity to the State's rate.

# Indicator 4B Results

FFY	PEAs That Had a Significant Discrepancy by Race/Ethnicity	Number of those PEAs that PPP that contribute to the significant discrepancy and do not comply with requirements	Number of PEAs that Met the State's Minimum Cell and N-Size	Percent of PEAs that had a Significant Discrepancy by Race/Ethnicity
2020	4	0	8	0.00%
2021	2	0	3	0.00%
2022	3	0	3	0.00%
2023	3	0	507	0.00%
2024	6	0	516	0.00%
2025	1	TBD*	510	TBD*

Note: Prior to FFY 2023, Arizona used a minimum cell size of 10 for Indicators 4. Beginning in FFY 2023, the minimum n-size was removed. As a result, any PEA with even one incident involving a student with an IEP who was suspended or expelled out of school for more than 10 days met the criteria to be included in the calculation.

\*TBD indicates 'To Be Determined.' Once the PEA's PPP are reviewed, ADE will determine whether the PEA is flagged for Indicator 4B.



## Indicator 9: Disproportionality in Identification by Race/Ethnicity

# Indicator 9: Description and Data Source

## Description

- Indicator 9 measures the percent of PEAs with disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services that is the result of inappropriate identification
  - Includes racial/ethnic disproportionality data for all students aged **5 (in kindergarten) through 21** served under IDEA, aggregated across all disability categories

## Data Sources

- ESS October 1 Special Education Child Count
- Agency October 1 Child Count

# Indicator 9: Calculation

- The following calculation methods are used:
  - Risk ratio method
  - Alternate risk ratio method: used for any PEA that does not meet the minimum cell size or minimum n size. The alternate risk ratio compares the risk of a specific outcome for a specific group within the PEA with the state ratios for that specific group
- The threshold at which disproportionate representation is identified is 3.0 and above
- The number of years of data used in the calculation is three years
- The minimum cell and/or n size
  - Minimum n size = 30 (denominator)
  - Minimum cell size = 11 (numerator)

# Indicator 9 Results

FFY	Number of PEAs with Disproportionate Representation of Racial/Ethnic Groups	Number of PEAs with Disproportionate Representation of Racial/Ethnic groups that is the Result of Inappropriate Identification	Number of PEAs that Met the State's Minimum Cell and N-Size	Percent of PEAs that had a Disproportionate Representation of Racial/Ethnic Groups
2020	0	0	496	0.00%
2021	0	0	454	0.00%
2022	0	0	503	0.00%
2023	0	0	513	0.00%
2024	1	0	532	0.00%
2025	2	TBD*	537	TBD*

\*TBD indicates 'To Be Determined.' Once the PEA's PPP are reviewed, ADE will determine whether the PEA is flagged for Indicator 9.



## Indicator 10: Disproportionality in Identification by Race/Ethnicity and Disability

# Indicator 10: Description and Data Source

## Description

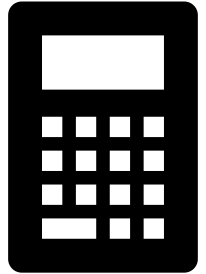
- Indicator 10 measures the percent of PEAs with disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in specific disability categories that is the result of inappropriate identification.
- Includes racial/ethnic disproportionality data for all students aged **5 (in kindergarten) through 21** served under IDEA, aggregated across all disability categories.

## Data Sources

- ESS October 1 Special Education Child Count
- Agency October 1 Child Count

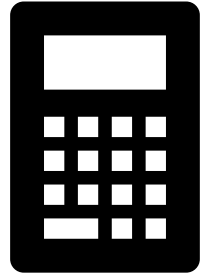
# Indicator 10: Calculation (1 of 2)

- The following calculation method is used:
  - Risk ratio method
  - Alternate risk ratio method: used for any PEA that does not meet the minimum cell size or minimum n size. The alternate risk ratio compares the risk of a specific outcome for a specific group within the PEA with the state ratios for that specific group.
- The threshold at which disproportionate representation is identified is 3.0 and above
- The number of years of data used in the calculation is three years
- The minimum cell and/or n size
  - Minimum n size = 30 (denominator)
  - Minimum cell size = 11 (numerator)



# Indicator 10: Calculation (2 of 2)

The calculation is like Indicator 9, but instead of overall special education identification, it looks at specific disability categories:



- intellectual disability (mild, moderate, severe)
- specific learning disabilities
- emotional disturbance (includes ED-P)
- speech or language impairments
- other health impairments
- autism

# Indicator 10 Results

FFY	Number of PEAs with Disproportionate Representation of Racial/Ethnic Groups in Specific Disability Categories	Number of PEAs with Disproportionate Representation of Racial/Ethnic Groups in Specific Disability Categories as a Result of Inappropriate Identification	Number of PEAs that Met the State's Minimum Cell and N-Size	Percent of PEAs that had a Disproportionate Representation of Racial/Ethnic Groups in Specific Disability Categories
2020	22	0	393	0.00%
2021	12	0	305	0.00%
2022	16	0	371	0.00%
2023	12	0	419	0.00%
2024	11	0	346	0.00%
2025	11	TBD*	394	TBD*

\*TBD indicates 'To Be Determined.' Once the PEA's PPP are reviewed, ADE will determine whether the PEA is flagged for Indicator 10.



## Contact Us

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