North Carolina's Significant Disproportionality Determination Process
Revised March 2012
Revised January 2014

Identification: Data are analyzed by race/ethnicity for an LEA's overall disability population and in specific disability categories, including: autism; intellectual disability (mild); other health impairment; serious emotional disability; specific learning disability; and speech-language impairment.

Process:

Step 1: Determine an LEA's "N" size ≥ 30 for a given race/ethnicity for the overall population or disability category being considered. For an LEA with an "N" size ≥ 30 go to step 2. For an LEA with an "N" size < 30, stop.

Step 2: Determine if an LEA has disproportionate representation for the current year.
 For an LEA with "N" ≥ 30 (see step 1 above) - ≥ 3.0 risk ratio = disproportionate representation.
If an LEA has disproportionate representation for the current year, go to Step 3. If not, stop; an LEA does not have disproportionate representation and, thus, does not have significant disproportionality nor does it receive a warning.

Step 3: Determine if an LEA has had disproportionate representation for three (3) consecutive years. If an LEA has had disproportionate representation for 3 years, go to Step 4.   If not, stop; an LEA receives a warning for the current year and is in danger of having significant disproportionality in future years.

Step 4: Determine if an LEA's current disproportionate representation has decreased, remained the same or increased from the previous year.
If an LEA's disproportionate representation has decreased, remained the same, or increased from the previous year, and its risk ratio is > 5.0, the LEA is determined to have significant disproportionality for the current year.
If an LEA's disproportionate representation has decreased, remained the same or increased from the previous year and the LEA now has a risk ratio ≤ 5.0, the LEA receives a warning for the current year and is in danger of having significant disproportionality in future years.

Note: In accordance with North Carolina's approved waiver under ESEA Flexibility its subgroup "N" size, which is used in the determination process, changed from ≥ 40 to ≥ 30 in 2013-14.