North Carolina's Significant Disproportionality Determination Process (Discipline)
April 2019

Discipline: To determine if an LEA has significant disproportionality regarding discipline of students with disabilities, ages 3-21, data are analyzed by seven (7) race/ethnicity categories for five (5) different disciplinary actions. Data analyzed include: 1) > 10-day out-of-school suspensions/expulsions (student); 2) > 10-day in-school suspensions (student); 3) 1 - 10 day out-of-school suspensions (student); 4) 1 – 10 day in-school suspensions (student); and 5) total disciplinary removals (number of incidences).

Definition of Significant Discrepancy in Discipline: ≥ 3.0 risk ratio/total removals per child ratio or alternate risk ratio/alternate total removals per child ratio for five (5) disciplinary actions identified.

Process:
Step 1: Determination of Cell and "N" Sizes
Step 1a: Determine an LEA's cell size of ≥ 10 for the type of disciplinary action.
For an LEA with a cell size ≥ 10 go to step 1b.
For an LEA with a cell size < 10 stop.
Step 1b: Determine an LEA's "N" size ≥ 30 for a given race/ethnicity for the overall population of students with IEPs. For an LEA with an "N" size ≥ 30, go to step 2 and use the risk ratio/total removals per child ratio calculation to determine if an LEA has disproportionate representation. For an LEA with an "N" size < 30 or a cell size < 10 in the comparison group go to step 2 and use the alternate risk ratio/alternate total removals per child calculation.

Step 2: Step 2: Determination of Disproportionate Representation
Determine if an LEA has disproportionate representation in a disciplinary action for the current year, using either the risk ratio/total removals per child ratio calculation or alternate risk ratio/alternate total removals per child calculation (see step 1b above). An LEA with ≥ 3.0 risk ratio/total removals per child ratio or alternate risk ratio/alternate total removals per child ratio has disproportionate representation for the current year.
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: Determination of Disproportionate Representation in Consecutive Years
Determine if an LEA has had disproportionate representation in a disciplinary action for three (3) consecutive years. If an LEA has had disproportionate representation in a disciplinary action for 3 consecutive 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: Determination of Reasonable Progress
Determine if an LEA's current risk ratio/total removals per child ratio or alternate risk ratio/alternate total removals per child ratio has decreased, remained the same or increased in each of the two prior consecutive years to determine if the LEA has made reasonable progress.
If an LEA's current risk ratio/total removals per child ratio or alternate risk ratio/alternate total removals per child ratio has decreased, remained the same or increased by a ≤ 0.2 percentage point in each of the two prior consecutive years and the LEA now has a risk ratio/total removals per child ratio or alternate risk ratio/alternate total removals per child ratio ≤ 5.0, the LEA has made reasonable progress and receives a warning for the current year and is in danger of having significant disproportionality in future years.
If an LEA's risk ratio/total removals per child ratio or alternate risk ratio/alternate total removals per child ratio has increased in each of the two prior consecutive years by a > 0.2 percentage point and/or the LEA now has a risk ratio/total removals per child ratio or alternate risk ratio/alternate total removals per child ratio > 5.0, the LEA is determined to have significant disproportionality for the current year.