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

Placement: Data are analyzed by seven (7) race/ethnicity categories for children with disabilities, ages 6 -21, for placement options: regular class < 40% of day and separate environments.

Definition of Disproportionate Representation in Placement: ≥ 3.0 risk ratio or alternate risk ratio for placement options: regular class < 40% of day and separate environments.

Process:

Step 1: Determination of Cell and "N" Sizes

Step 1a: Determine an LEA's cell size ≥ 10 for a given race/ethnicity for the placement option being considered.
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 calculation to determine if an LEA has disproportionate representation. For an LEA with an "N" size < 30 or a cell size of < 10 in the comparison group go to step 2 and use the alternate risk ratio calculation.

Step 2: Determination of Disproportionate Representation

Determine if an LEA has disproportionate representation for the current year, using either the risk ratio calculation or alternate risk ratio calculation (see step 1b above).
An LEA with ≥ 3.0 risk ratio or alternate risk 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 for three (3) consecutive years.
If an LEA has had disproportionate representation 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 or alternate risk 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 or alternate risk 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 or alternate risk 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 or alternate risk 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 or alternate risk ratio > 5.0, the LEA is determined to have significant disproportionality for the current year.