

## Significant Disproportionality

The WDPI followed Westat recommendations for the formulas below. The WDPI considered multiple factors in defining significant disproportionality, including the population size, size of individual LEAs, and composition of State population. The determination of significant disproportionality by race or ethnicity is based solely on a collection and examination of data and not on a LEA's policies, procedures, or practices.

### 1. Special education identification

**Annual determination of significant disproportionality of racial and ethnic groups with respect to the identification of children as children with disabilities.** The WDPI annually identifies LEAs with significant disproportionality in overall special education identification. LEAs are identified via statistical analysis using the following criteria:

**Minimum cell sizes:** To be identified for significant disproportionality based on statistical data, a racial or ethnic group must have at least 10 students with disabilities and a total enrollment of 100 students for any given racial group.

**Risk Ratio of 4.0 or Greater:** In calculating the risk ratio for significant disproportionality, WDPI uses the calculator developed by Westat for risk ratio (risk for a racial/ethnic group for students with disabilities / risk for comparison group for students with disabilities) with a comparison group being the remaining race/ethnic categories.

**Risk of 1.0% or Greater than White Students (State Risk):** Because white students have been the unit of comparison used by the National Research Council in their analysis of this issue, their risk level for the state is used as the comparison group for this second factor. For each racial group, significant disproportionality may be considered where the risk level for the given group exceeds the state's risk level of white students in that category by at least one percent. This additional measure also ensures that LEAs will not be considered for the highest level of review where the risk for a given group is low.

**Multi-year analysis:** LEAs must meet the criteria, above, for three years in a row.

### 2. Eligibility categories

**Annual determination of significant disproportionality of racial and ethnic groups with respect to the identification of children as children with a particular disability.** The WDPI annually identifies LEAs with significant disproportionality in particular disability categories (cognitive disabilities, specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbance, speech or language impairments, other health impairments, and autism). If the WDPI identifies a concern or has reason to believe that there are issues with other disability categories (i.e., through written complaints, due process filings, etc.), then the WDPI explores the concerns with those categories<sup>1</sup>. LEAs are identified via statistical analysis using the following criteria:

**Minimum cell sizes:** To be identified for significant disproportionality based on statistical data, a racial or ethnic group must have at least ten students with the particular disability and a total enrollment of 100 students for any given racial group.

**Risk Ratio of 4.0 or Greater:** In calculating the risk ratio for significant disproportionality, WDPI uses the calculator developed by Westat for risk ratio (risk for racial/ethnic group for

disability category / risk for comparison group for disability category) with a comparison group of the remaining race/ethnic categories.

**Risk of 1.0% or Greater than White Students (State Risk):** Because white students have been the unit of comparison used by the National Research Council in their analysis of this issue, their risk level for the state is used as the comparison group for this second factor. For each racial group, significant disproportionality may be considered where the risk level for the given group exceeds the state's risk level of white students in that category by at least one percent. This additional measure also ensures that LEAs will not be considered for the highest level of review where the risk for a given group is low.

**Multi-year analysis:** LEAs must meet the criteria, above, for three years in a row.

### 3. Settings/Placements

**Annual determination of significant disproportionality of racial and ethnic groups with respect to the placement of children with disabilities.** The WDPI annually identifies LEAs with significant disproportionality in the placement in particular educational settings of children with disabilities.

LEAs are identified via statistical analysis using the following criteria:

**Minimum cell sizes:** To be identified for significant disproportionality based on statistical data, a racial or ethnic group must have at least ten students within the particular educational setting and a total enrollment of 40 students with disabilities for any given racial group.

**Risk Ratio of 4.0 or Greater:** In calculating the risk ratio for significant disproportionality, WDPI uses the calculator developed by Westat for risk ratio (risk for racial/ethnic group within a particular educational setting/risk for comparison group within the setting) with a comparison group of the remaining race/ethnic categories.

**Risk of 1.0% or Greater than White Students (State Risk):** Because white students have been the unit of comparison used by the National Research Council in their analysis of this issue, their risk level for the state is used as the comparison group for this second factor. For each racial group, significant disproportionality may be considered where the risk level for the given group exceeds the state's risk level of white students in that particular setting by at least one percent. This additional measure also ensures that LEAs will not be considered for the highest level of review where the risk for a given group is low.

**Multi-year analysis:** LEAs must meet the criteria, above, for three years in a row.

### 4. Discipline

**Annual determination of significant disproportionality of racial and ethnic groups with respect to the discipline of children with disabilities.** The WDPI annually identifies LEAs with significant disproportionality in the incidence, duration, and type of disciplinary actions, including suspensions and expulsions. LEAs are identified via statistical analysis using the following criteria:

**Minimum cell sizes:** To be identified for significant disproportionality based on statistical data, a racial or ethnic group must have at least ten students in the disciplinary category and a total enrollment of 40 students with disabilities for any given racial group.

**Risk Ratio of 4.0 or Greater:** In calculating the risk ratio for significant disproportionality, WDPI uses the calculator developed by Westat for risk ratio (risk for racial/ethnic group for disciplinary category / risk for comparison group for disciplinary category) with a comparison group of the remaining race/ethnic categories.

**Risk of 1.0% or Greater than White Students (State Risk):** Because white students have been the unit of comparison used by the National Research Council in their analysis of this issue, their risk level for the state is used as the comparison group for this second factor. For each racial group, significant disproportionality may be considered where the risk level for the given group exceeds the state's risk level of white students in the disciplinary category by at least one percent. This additional measure also ensures that LEAs will not be considered for the highest level of

review where the risk for a given group is low.

**Multi-year analysis:** LEAs must meet the criteria, above, for three years in a row.