

# EQUITY

SIGNIFICANT DISCREPANCY IN DISCIPLINE  
RATES OF SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS



## NJDOE RESOURCES



Guidance and resources are available to enhance "[Conditions for Learning](#)".



[Access resources](#) to ensure equity and inclusion for students with disabilities.



[Technical assistance for LEAs](#) is available on the achievement and compliance indicators.



Evaluate needs and supports through the [Behavior Supports and Interventions website](#).

### FOCUS QUESTION

## Are students with disabilities receiving equitable services and supports?

### DEFINITION

This compliance indicator assesses if a local educational agency (LEA) has significant discrepancies in suspension and expulsion rates among students with disabilities across specific racial/ethnic groups and whether LEA policies contribute to these discrepancies.

The New Jersey Department of Education calculates this by comparing the suspension rates of students with disabilities from each racial/ethnic group to 2.5 times the statewide rate. If an LEA's rate exceeds this threshold, it is identified as significantly discrepant. A review follows to ensure that LEA policies related to IEPs, behavioral interventions, and procedural safeguards are compliant.

### DATA SOURCE


School Safety Data System (SSDS)


## CALCULATION

### Step 1:

Does the LEA meet the minimum cell size for number of students suspended (NJ Cell Size:  $\geq 3$ )?

Did the LEA meet the minimum n-size of students with disabilities (NJ N-Size:  $\geq 20^*$ )?

If no, the LEA received "not applicable". Do not proceed to step 2. 

If yes to both questions, proceed to step 2. 

### Step 2:



Total number of suspensions for students with disabilities (SWD) by race and ethnicity as reported by the LEA



Total number of SWD by race/ethnicity in the LEA



**LEA's Suspension Rate for SWD by race/ethnicity**

### Step 3:

Compare the LEA's suspension rate for SWD by race/ethnicity to that of 2.5x the state rate.

Is the


Suspension Rate for SWD by Each Race/Ethnicity Group




2.5x the State Rate\*\* (state rate of suspension = .57)



### Step 4:

If no, the LEA is found to be compliant. 

If yes, for any of the categories, then the district is identified as "noncompliant". 

\*"n-size" refers to the minimum number of individuals (students, in this case) that must be present in a particular group or category for statistical analysis to be valid.

\*\* The state rate changes each year in response to updated data

