

Addressing Significant Disproportionality

Partner with experts from the American Institutes for Research[®] (AIR) to address requirements in the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) to strengthen processes for identifying and addressing significant disproportionality in special education. Our comprehensive set of services are designed to enhance the skills of state and local education agency staff, school teams, and families in using high-quality data to strategically plan and implement improvement efforts that address factors contributing to significant disproportionality.



Our Approach

AIR's team of experts provides customized training and ongoing coaching supports that meet your team's needs, is grounded in your context, and aligns to the purpose of the IDEA -- to provide a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment for students with disabilities.

Our Services

Whether at the state, district, or individual school level, our services build collaborative processes that bridge general and special education and engage families to create a unified vision for education and achieve the mission of a free appropriate public education for all students, including students with disabilities.

Strategic Supports for States and Districts

Services for state and district teams include building staff capacity to collect, report, analyze, and use data to plan and implement improvement efforts that address the factors that contribute to significant disproportionality.

State Team Services

- Bringing together state education agency staff to review and refine their data systems and structures to collect, analyze, and interpret data to inform stakeholder discussions and address significant disproportionality.
- Evaluating and refining standard methodology for identifying significant disproportionality.
- Integrating data systems and performing data-quality checks.
- Interpreting results across IDEA indicators.
- Using data to identify significant disproportionality and the contributing factors.
- Reviewing cell and n sizes, thresholds, risk ratios, and standards for reasonable progress.

District & School Team Services

- Using data from multiple sources to conduct a root cause analysis and identify factors that contribute to significant disproportionality.
- Creating data visualizations to effectively use data and foster stakeholder discussions about contributing factors.
- Reviewing and updating (if appropriate) policies, programs, and practices.
- Partnering with families to design strategic improvement plans.
- Selecting and implementing practices, programs, and/or frameworks.
- Designing evaluation approaches to support implementation, continuous improvement, and impact of the improvement plan.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about how our team can support your work, please contact SigDis@air.org.