

Changes to Calculation of Indicators 9 and 10

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) recognizes that educators, students, and families are facing unprecedented circumstances and challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, however, the U.S. Department of Education has not granted waivers related to the examination and identification of disproportionate representation, and we must therefore proceed with notification of each Administrative Unit's (AUs) status regarding disproportionate representation in special education.

In an effort to address disproportionality in Colorado more effectively, the CDE has changed how it calculates data for Indicators 9 and 10. The goal is to align the calculation of Indicators 9 and 10 with Significant Disproportionality. A presentation was provided to the State Director's Leadership Team (SDLT) in November 2021, describing the changes to how Indicators 9 and 10 will be calculated. Below are some key components that summarize the changes.

What is different for Indicators 9 and 10?

1. Starting with SY2021-22 December count data, the CDE will use the same risk ratio and alternate risk ratio methods to measure disproportionate representation for Indicators 9 and 10 that are used to identify Significant Disproportionality.
2. The CDE will examine one-year of child count data with a risk ratio threshold of 4.0, to identify disproportionate representation for Indicators 9 and 10, as opposed to the examination of three consecutive years of data used to identify Significant Disproportionality. The change in methodology for Indicators 9 and 10 will enable AUs to sooner identify and correct marked or urgent areas of disproportionality.
3. If an AU exceeds the risk ratio threshold of 4.0 for Indicators 9 or 10, the CDE will be required to determine if the disproportionate representation is the result of inappropriate identification through an examination of data and review of the AU's policies, practices, and procedures.

The following link provides additional information about the changes to Indicators 9 and 10. https://www.cde.state.co.us/cd_esp/ind_910_changes

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, CDE will work with AUs to address challenges in meeting disproportionate representation in special education, related to school closures, staff availability, or other related issues. The CDE is willing to provide support to AUs through this process. The CDE appreciates your dedication to improving outcomes for students with disabilities.

For information on Indicators 9 and 10, please contact [Orla Bolger](#).

Colorado Department of Education

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