

What is Significant Disproportionality?

Significant Disproportionality (Sig Dis) occurs when students from specific racial or ethnic groups are identified for special education, placed in restrictive settings, or disciplined at significantly higher rates than their peers. This issue highlights inequities in systems that impact student outcomes and requires Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to take action to ensure fairness and equity for all students.

Why is Addressing Significant Disproportionality Important?

- **Equity:** Ensures all students are treated fairly and have access to appropriate educational opportunities.
- **Improvement:** Helps LEAs identify and address systemic issues impacting student success.
- **Compliance:** LEAs meet federal requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

How is Significant Disproportionality Addressed Through the CIM Process?

The Compliance and Improvement Monitoring (CIM) process, developed by the California Department of Education (CDE), supports LEAs in addressing significant disproportionality by providing tools, resources, and technical assistance to:

- **Gather and Inquire:** Collect and review information to find where there are differences or gaps in how students are identified, placed, or disciplined.
- **Investigate:** Figure out why these differences are happening, like limited support for learning, communication challenges, or unfair policies.
- **Plan:** LEAs create a detailed plan with timelines and steps to address identified problems.
- **Implementation:** Schools put the plan into action, track progress, and make adjustments if needed.

What Support is Provided for Significant Disproportionality?

- LEAs receive specific technical assistance to address disproportionality through structured interventions, resources, and training.
- Technical assistance providers work closely with LEAs to guide the implementation of corrective actions and improvement plans.

Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS)

LEAs identified with significant disproportionality must reserve 15% of their IDEA funds to provide additional support through CCEIS. These funds are used to:

- Provide professional development,
- Implement academic and behavioral interventions, and
- Address factors contributing to significant disproportionality.

How Does Addressing Significant Disproportionality Support Improvement?

- Improve equity and access for all students
- Support early interventions to meet students' academic and behavioral needs
- Create fair, inclusive systems to promote student success

Resources

To access additional resources on the Compliance and Improvement Monitoring (CIM) process visit: <https://caltan.info/monitoring>