Building Equitable, Inclusive Preschool Education Environments

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Agenda

• Context
• Vocabulary matters
• Tools and solutions
Context
National Inclusion Policy and Data

National Inclusion Policy

• Joint Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs

• Updated Dear Colleague Letter on Preschool Least Restrictive Environments

National Data

Percent of preschool students receiving majority of special education and related services in regular early childhood program, U.S., Outlying Areas, and Freely Associated States, school years 2014–15 to 2021–22

Percentages:
- SY 14–15: 43.1%
- SY 15–16: 44.8%
- SY 16–17: 45.2%
- SY 17–18: 44.9%
- SY 18–19: 45.5%
- SY 19–20: 43.8%
- SY 20–21: 39.8%
- SY 21–22: 41.0%

Many Factors Impact Reporting

To submit high-quality, accurate, and reliable data, state education agencies (SEAs) must work closely with local education agencies (LEAs) to understand and consider the following:

- Educational environments data originate as a result of the individualized education program (IEP) development process and the IEP teams’ placement decisions.
- What intervention practices are occurring within the settings?
- How does the LEA collect the data?
- How does the LEA report the data to the SEA?
- That the quality of the data hinges on the alignment of educational environments data to the appropriate permitted value in the FS089 EDFacts file for submission.
Vocabulary Matters
Components of Indicator 6

Indicator 6 is divided into three subindicators

- **Indicator 6A** measures the percent of children with individualized education programs (IEPs), ages 3 through 5 and not in kindergarten, attending a regular early childhood program, and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program.

- **Indicator 6B** measures the percent of children with IEPs, ages 3 through 5 and not in kindergarten, attending a separate special education class, separate school, or residential facility.

- **Indicator 6C** measures the percent of children with IEPs, ages 3 through 5 and not in kindergarten, receiving special education and related services in the home.
Components of Indicator 6

Indicator 6 is divided into three subindicators

- **Indicator 6A** measures the percent of children with individualized education programs (IEPs), ages 3 through 5 and not in kindergarten, attending a **regular early childhood program**, and receiving the **majority of special education and related services** in the regular early childhood program.

- **Indicator 6B** measures the percent of children with IEPs, ages 3 through 5 and not in kindergarten, attending a **separate special education class, separate school, or residential facility**.

- **Indicator 6C** measures the percent of children with IEPs, ages 3 through 5 and not in kindergarten, receiving special education and related services in the **home**.
Tools and Solutions
Common Education Data Standards (CEDS)

• A national collaborative effort to develop voluntary, common data standards for a key set of education data elements

• A vocabulary including standard definitions, option sets, and technical specifications to streamline sharing and comparing information
Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) (cont.)

Align

Web-based tool that allows users to
- Import or input their data dictionaries
- Align their current data to CEDS
- Compare their data dictionaries
- Analyze their data in relation to various other CEDS-aligned efforts
Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) (cont.)

Connect

Stakeholders from various types of educational organizations can use the tool to

• Answer program and policy questions
• Calculate metrics and indicators
• Address reporting requirements
IDC’s Preschool Environments Toolkit

• EDFacts—FS089
• Crosswalk
• Decision Tree
• Practice scenarios

Decision Tree for Preschool Educational Environments

- Significance of the Tree
- How to use the Tree
- The Tree in practice

Moving the Needle

• Understand the data
• Ensure integrity
• Engage in root cause analysis
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