Building Equitable, Inclusive Preschool Education Environments

Smart Beginnings 2023
August 15–17, 2023

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Agenda

- Context
- Vocabulary matters
- Tools and solutions

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Context

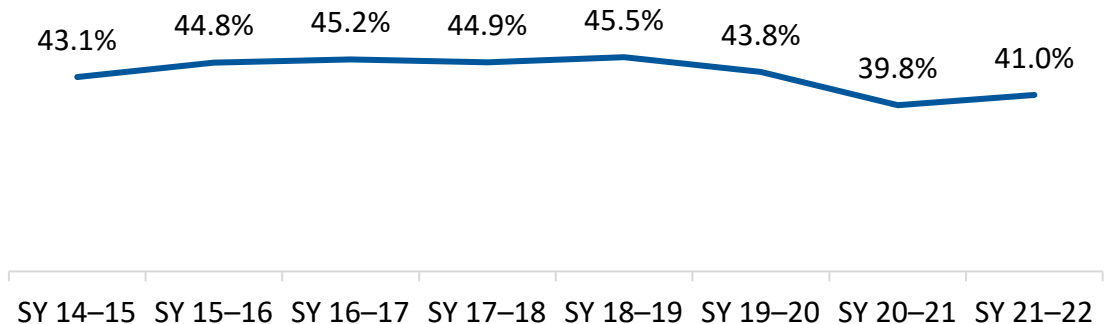# National Inclusion Policy and Data

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](#)

Source for data: U.S. Department of Education. (2023). IDEA Section 618 State Part B Child Count and Educational Environments Static Data Tables, Table 12. U.S. Department of Education Open Data Platform. https://data.ed.gov/.

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

6A

SY 14–15	SY 15–16	SY 16–17	SY 17–18	SY 18–19	SY 19–20	SY 20–21	SY 21–22
43.1%	44.8%	45.2%	44.9%	45.5%	43.8%	39.8%	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 ED*Facts* 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

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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
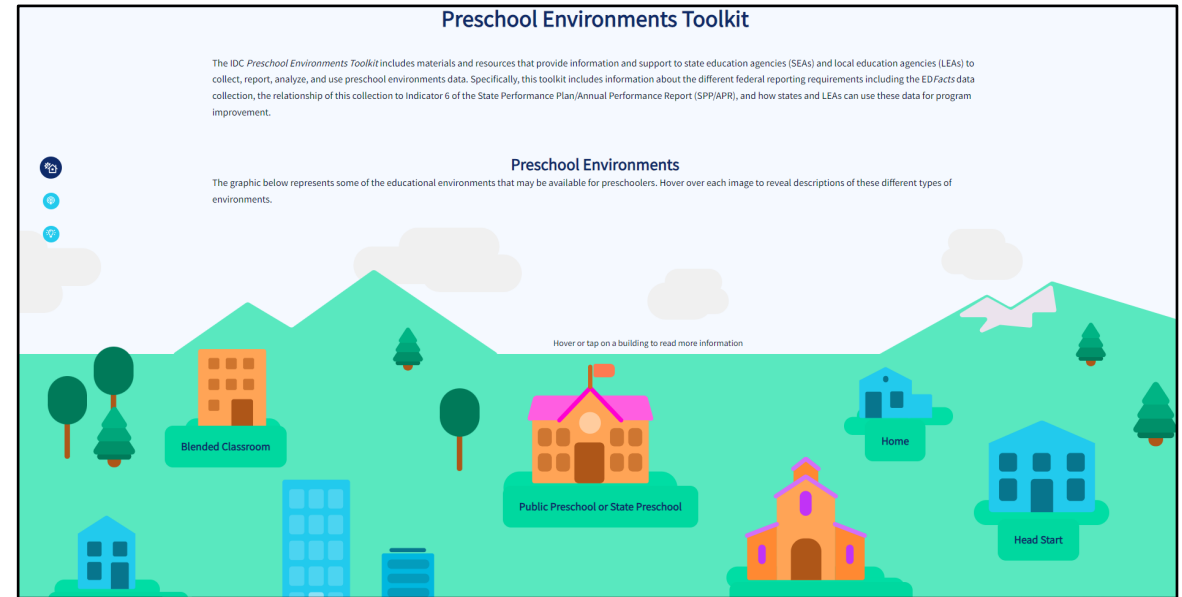
Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) (cont.)

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
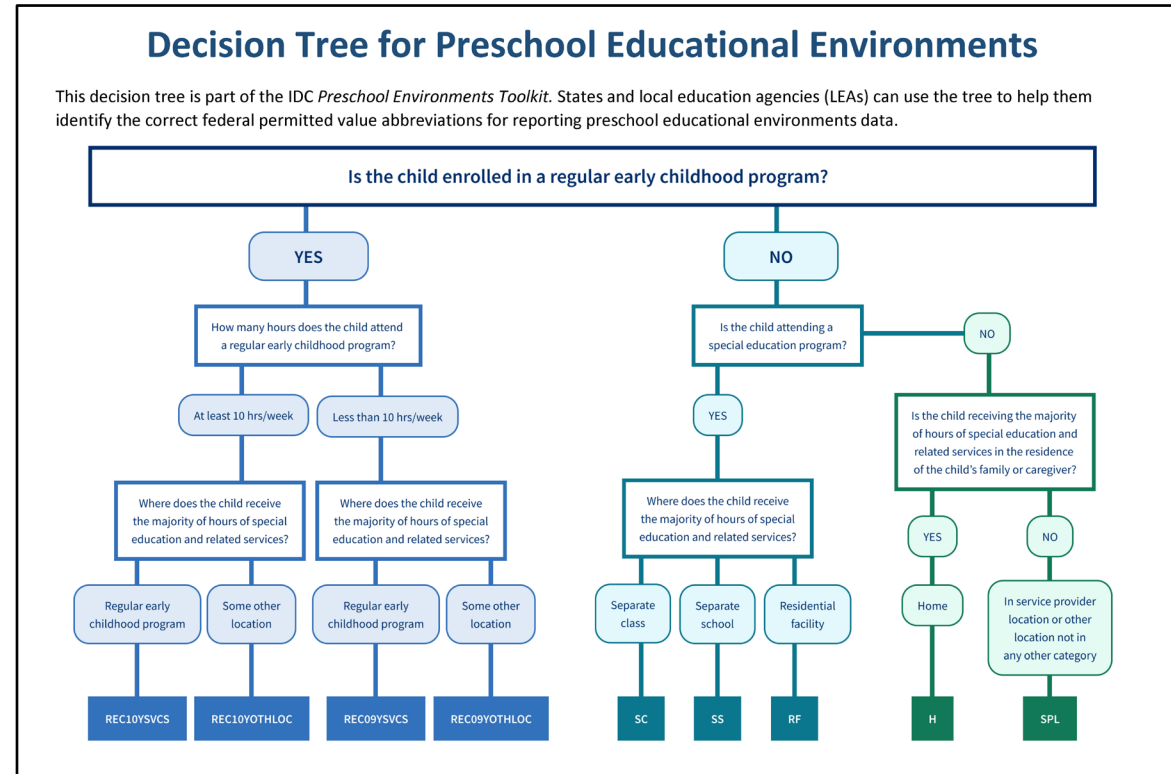
IDC's *Preschool Environments Toolkit*

- ED*Facts*—FS089

- Crosswalk

- Decision Tree

- Practice scenarios

Source for screenshot: O'Hara, N., Stroup-Rentier, V., Johnson, L., Edora, F., Walters, S., and Collins, T. (2023, January). *Preschool Environments Toolkit* (Revised). IDEA Data Center. Rockville, MD: Westat. (Original work published 2022). Accessed June 21, 2023, from https://ideadata.org/preschool-toolkit/.

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Decision Tree for Preschool Educational Environments

- Significance of the Tree

- How to use the Tree

- The Tree in practice

Decision Tree for Preschool Educational Environments

This decision tree is part of the IDC *Preschool Environments Toolkit.* States and local education agencies (LEAs) can use the tree to help them identify the correct federal permitted value abbreviations for reporting preschool educational environments data.

Moving the Needle

- Understand the data

- Ensure integrity

- Engage in root cause analysis

Contact Us

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