



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Nebraska Indicator 4 Updates Q & A

The following changes have been made to the calculations for SPP/APR indicators 4A and 4B,

- Removing the minimum cell size (numerator), previously it was ten.
- Increasing the n-size (denominator) from 30 to 40.
- Decreasing the threshold from 5% to 3%

The Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education's Equity team will be using this modified methodology for its Spring 2024 findings. Stakeholders provided feedback and questions on October 17, 2023. The feedback was taken into consideration, the questions are answered below.

- **Will this now flag schools that have a minimum size?**
 - The federal regulation requires that all LEAs which have a minimum size and meet the threshold set by the state are flagged. We are merely changing the minimum size.
 - The proposed changes eliminate the minimum cell size (numerator) and increases the minimum n size (denominator) from 30 to 40 to increase the reliability of the results. This means there must be at least 40 students in special education for a district (4a) or must be at least 40 students of a specific race/ethnicity (4b) to complete a calculation for that district.
- **Will this create issues for small districts?**
 - This will not create issues for smaller districts, as the proposed changes increase the n size (denominator) from 30 to 40 for 4a and 4b calculations. Eliminating the minimum cell size (numerator) will not create issues for smaller districts either, see more information below.
- **Have you looked at the current data with eliminating the minimum cell size to see what that does to the current numbers?**
 - With the proposed changes to eliminate the cell size, increase the n size from 30 to 40, and decrease the threshold from 5% to 3%, it would be impossible for a district to be identified with an indicator 4 finding with only one student who was long-term suspended (out of school suspended and/or expelled more than 10 days) because 1 student out of 40 is 2.5%, which is below Nebraska's 3.0 threshold.
 - In the most recent SPP/APR submission (data from 2021-22), Nebraska excluded 235 of 244 LEAs from calculations due to a small cell size or n size. Only 9 districts exceeded 10 long-term suspensions; the other 235 were excluded from calculations; and none were identified with significant discrepancies.
 - Based off the 2021-22 data, Nebraska could include the previously excluded 235 districts by eliminating the minimum cell size without changing the results dramatically. We looked at the 2021-22 data with the new methodology, and we found that 6 districts would be flagged for indicator 4b and 1 district for indicator 4a.

SPED

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- **When would these changes be in effect?**
 - The calculations will be completed using the updated methodology in April 2024
- **The specific racial group of black/African American's data was discussed, but other racial/ ethnic groups were not. How will this change affect data for those groups?**
 - Our analysis of the 2021-22 data with the new methodology, shows that Nebraska would have had eleven findings in six districts. Four districts would have been identified for over suspension of Black/ African American students with disabilities, two for over suspension of Hispanic students with disabilities, two for over suspension of students with disabilities of two or more races, one for over suspension of White students with disabilities, one for over suspension of American Indian students with disabilities, and one for overall over suspension of students with disabilities.
 - By working with the four districts over-suspending Black students with disabilities would help us to address Nebraska's statewide over-suspension of Black students, which ranks among the largest in the nation. By working with districts like those in the other groups would help us to address other important, but more localized issues of over suspension.