

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Special Education Discipline data collection?

Section 618(a)(I)(A)(vii) of IDEA requires that states report the number of children with disabilities by their demographic information (Disability/Race/Gender/ELL Status) who were subject to the following discipline events:

- Unilateral Removals by School Personnel for drugs, serious bodily injury, or weapons.
- Removal Based on a Hearing Officer's Determination regarding likely injury
- In-School and Out-of-Suspensions
- Expulsions with and without education services

How are children with disabilities defined per IDEA?

Children having intellectual disability; hearing impairment, including deafness; speech or language impairment; visual impairment, including blindness; serious emotional disturbance (hereafter referred to as emotional disturbance); orthopedic impairment; autism; traumatic brain injury; developmental delay; other health impairment; specific learning disability; deaf-blindness; or multiple disabilities and who, by reason thereof, receive special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) according to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Where can I find Discipline Action Interchange documentation?

Discipline Action Interchange documentation including Deadlines, File Layouts, Business Rules, Template, Trainings, Exception Template and Instructions, and Additional Resources may be found here http://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/inter_sped-discipline.

What is the record expectation?

Each record represents a single discipline event.

What is the allowable date range for reportable Incidents?

Reportable Incidents may span between July 1st, 2016 through June 30, 2018. An exception is needed if Incident occurred in prior year.

What is the allowable data range for reportable Actions?

Reportable Actions may span between July 1st, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

What is an Incident Identifier and may it be duplicated?

The Incident Identifier is a ten digit number assigned to each incident by each reporting entity (Admin Unit/School District). The Incident Identifier may be duplicated in cases where a student incurs more than one action associated with the incident or more than one student is involved in the incident.

What is an Action Identifier and may it be duplicated?

An Action Identifier is a unique ten digit number assigned to each discipline action by each reporting entity (Admin Unit/School District). An Action Identifier MUST be unique, unduplicated, and cannot match the Incident Identifier.

What Discipline Actions are reported?

There are two types of Actions reported.

- **Disciplines:**
 - In-School Suspensions
 - Out-of-School Suspensions
 - Expulsions: With and Without Services
- **Removals:**
 - Unilateral Removal By School Personnel
 - Reason: Drugs, Weapons or Serious Bodily Injury
 - Unilateral Removal By A Hearing Officer

What Discipline Action requires a Removal Reason and what are the Removal Types?

The only discipline event which requires a Removal Reason is a Unilateral Removal by School Personnel to an IAES for Drugs, Serious Bodily Injury, or Weapons. Removal by a Hearing Officer does not use removal types.

How should a student who was removed by school personnel for drugs, serious bodily injury, or weapons and was NOT sent to an IAES be reported?

The student should be reported as Suspended or Expelled.

When should a Discipline be reported?

A Discipline should be reported when a student in Special Education receives an in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or expulsion for at least a half a day or more.

When should a Removal be reported?

A removal should be reported in the rare event that a student is unilaterally removed by school staff (because they brought a weapon or drugs to school or caused serious bodily injury) or by a hearing officer to an Interim Alternative Educational Setting (IAES) for no more than 45 days.

What are the Discipline exclusions?

Exclude students who were moved from their current educational placement as a result of a decision by the IEP team to change student's placement. (e.g. if following a discipline offense, the IEP team meets and determines that the child's current placement is not the least restrictive environment for that child, and therefore makes a permanent change in the child's IEP placement, do NOT report the child in this file. Exclude students who have cumulatively been suspended for less than half a school day. Exclude parentally-placed private school students.

What are the Removal exclusions?

Exclude students who were moved from their current educational placement as a result of a decision by the IEP team to change a student's placement. (e.g. if following a discipline offense, the IEP team meets and determines that the child's current placement is not the least restrictive environment for that child, and therefore makes a permanent change in the child's IEP placement, do NOT report the child with a Unilateral Removal. Exclude parentally-placed private school students from this file. Exclude students who were removed by school personnel for drugs, weapons, or serious bodily injury and were NOT sent to an IAES.

What is the Discipline Action Length?

The length, in days, of the discipline action (suspension, expulsion, or removal). It may not exceed 365 days for any 1 student so a student with multiple records (actions) must have a total length of 365 or less.

Are instances reported in cases where the cumulative action length is less than half a school day?

No, only report instances where the cumulative school days equal half a school day.