





State Performance Plan (SPP)/ Annual Performance Report (APR) 2020-2025

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



IDEA STATE PERFORMANCE PLAN STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



Indicator 6 – Preschool Least Restrictive Environment

Agenda Preschool Least Restrictive Environment



Frequently Used Terms for Preschool Least Restrictive Environment

Indicator 6 How the Measurement Works

Indicator 6 Data in New York State (Trends and Comparisons)

Indicator 6 Improvement Activities

Indicator 6 Proposed Target Setting

Next Steps and Closing

Frequently Used Terms in the Presentation



Term	Description
State Performance Plan or SPP	Evaluates the state's efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of the IDEA and describes how the state will improve its implementation
Federal Fiscal Year or FFY	Federal Government Fiscal Year (October 1 – September 30)
Indicator 6	SPP Indicator 6 measures Preschool Least Restrictive Environment
Indicator 6A	Indicator 6A measures preschool services in a regular early childhood program
Indicator 6B	Indicator 6B measures preschool services in a separate special education class, separate school or residential facility.
Indicator 6C	Indicator 6C measures preschool services in the home setting
Baseline	Data starting point to measure improvement overtime
Targets	Performance Objectives set for SPP Measurements
Annual Performance Report (APR) Reported Data	Data reported to the United States Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) against the state's targets
Data Equated to New Measurement	Submitted Data recalculated using the components of a new measurement



A preschool child with a disability is entitled to all the rights and protections guaranteed under Part B of the IDEA, including the right to be educated in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

4



Part B LRE requirements state a strong preference for educating children with disabilities in regular classes alongside their peers without disabilities.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

January 9, 2017

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to reaffirm the position of the U.S. Department of Education (ED or Department) that all young children with disabilities should have access to inclusive high-quality early childhood programs where they are provided with individualized and appropriate supports to enable them to meet high expectations. Over the last few years, States and communities have made progress in expanding early learning opportunities for young children, with all but four States investing in free public preschool programs. The Federal government, while aligning with the movement of States, has led several efforts to increase access to and the quality of early childhood programs, such as the Preschool Development Grants and expansion of Head Start. States have focused on improving the quality of early learning programs, including the development of early learning program standards and incorporating these into Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS).

In September 2015, ED and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a policy statement on promoting inclusion in early childhood programs to set a vision on this issue and provide recommendations to States, local educational agencies (LEAs), schools, and public and private early childhood programs.³ Despite the expansion of early childhood programs, there has not yet been a proportionate expansion of inclusive early learning opportunities for young children with disabilities. Given this concern and the ED-HHS policy statement on early childhood inclusion, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is updating the February 29, 2012, Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) to reaffirm our commitment to inclusive preschool education programs for children with disabilities and to reiterate that the least restrictive environment (LRE) requirements in section 612(a)(5) of the Individuals with Disabilities

¹ Walter N. Ridley Lecture: Pre-Kindergarten Access and Quality are Essential for Children's Growth and Development (November 2, 2016), available at: http://www.ed.gov/news/speeches/walter-n-ridley-lecture-pre-kindergarten-access-and-quality-are-essential-childrens-growth-and-development. For more detailed but less recent information on State investments in public preschool see: Barnett, W.S., Friedman-Krauss, A., Gomez, R.E., Squires, J.H., Clarke Brown, K., Weisenfeld, G.G., & Horowitz, M. (2016). The state of preschool 2015: State preschool yearbook. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.



The United States Department of Education January 2017 Guidance Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) related to Preschool Least Restrictive Environments (LRE) (PDF) is an effective resource to highlight the importance of preschool inclusion and outline the IDEA preschool least restrictive environment requirements.

² QRIS statewide systems are implemented in over half of the States and others are developing such systems. ED and the of Department of Health and Human Services have supported States in further developing such systems under Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge and the Child Care Development Fund. For more information see: https://grisguide.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?do=grisabout.

³ See U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services Policy Letter on the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs (September 14, 2015), available at: http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/earlylearning/joint-statement-full-text.pdf.

Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs: U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services





 "Inclusion in early childhood programs refers to including children with disabilities in early childhood programs, together with their peers without disabilities; holding high expectations and intentionally promoting participation in all learning and social activities, facilitated by individualized accommodations; and using evidence-based services and supports to foster their development (cognitive, language, communication, physical, behavioral, and social-emotional), friendships with peers, and sense of belonging. This applies to all young children with disabilities, from those with the mildest disabilities, to those with the most significant disabilities." U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education, *Policy Statement on Inclusion of* Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood **Programs** (2015)

Indicator 6 — <u>Preschool LRE FFY 2013-19 Measurement</u> Targets are established by the State with Stakeholder Input



Percent of children aged 3 through 5 with individualized education programs (IEPs) attending a:

A. Regular early childhood program and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program.



Improvement = Increase over Baseline

B. Separate special education class, separate school or residential facility.



Improvement = Decrease over Baseline

For data collection purposes, a Regular Early Childhood Program is a program that includes a majority (at least 50 percent) of children who do not have IEPs and that may include, but is not limited to:

- Head Start;
- Kindergartens;
- Preschool classes offered to an eligible pre-kindergarten population by the public school system;
- Private kindergartens or preschools;
- Group child development centers or child care.

Indicator 6 – <u>Preschool LRE FFY 2020-25 Measurement</u> Targets are established by the State with Stakeholder Input



Percent of children with individualized education programs (IEPs) aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program attending a:

A. Regular early childhood program and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program.



Improvement = Increase over Baseline

B. Separate special education class, separate school or residential facility.



Improvement = Decrease over Baseline

C. Receiving special education and related services in the home.



Improvement = Decrease over Baseline

New Measurement: States must report only those five-year-old children with disabilities who are enrolled in preschool programs in this indicator.

New Measurement Component: Home Environment. "Home" is the "unduplicated total who received the majority of their special education and related services in the principal residence of the child's family or caregivers, and who attended neither a Regular Early Childhood Program nor a Special Education Program provided in a separate class, separate school, or residential facility.

States may choose to set one target that is inclusive of children ages 3, 4, and 5, or set individual targets for each age.





- Data is collected for all children in New York
 State who meet the age requirements.
- Sampling is not allowed.
- Preschool environment data is reported annually as a "snapshot" or "point in time" as of the first Wednesday in October (BEDs Day).

Code	Preschool Least Restrictive Environment Code Description
PS04	Separate Class
PSo ₅	Separate School
PSo6	Residential Facility
PS07	Home
PSo8	Service Provider Location or some other location that is not in any other code
PS09	Attending a regular early childhood program for 10 or more hours a week and receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program
PS10	Attending a regular early childhood program for 10 or more hours a week and receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in some other location
PS11	Attending a regular early childhood program for less than 10 hours a week and receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program
PS12	Attending a regular early childhood program for less than 10 hours a week and receiving the majority of hours of special education and related services in some other location



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Facilitator check for understanding on the SPP measurement for Indicator 6 and how the data is used to measure results or outcomes in LRE.













Indicator 6 New York State Data



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Explanation Indicator 6 FFY Data in the Annual Performance Report (APR)

Data years presented will reflect the data NYSED submits to the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in the APR which covers the federal fiscal year (FFY) period

The Indicator 6 data sample is collected on a "point in time" basis

The FFY 2020 APR is submitted to OSEP

October 2020

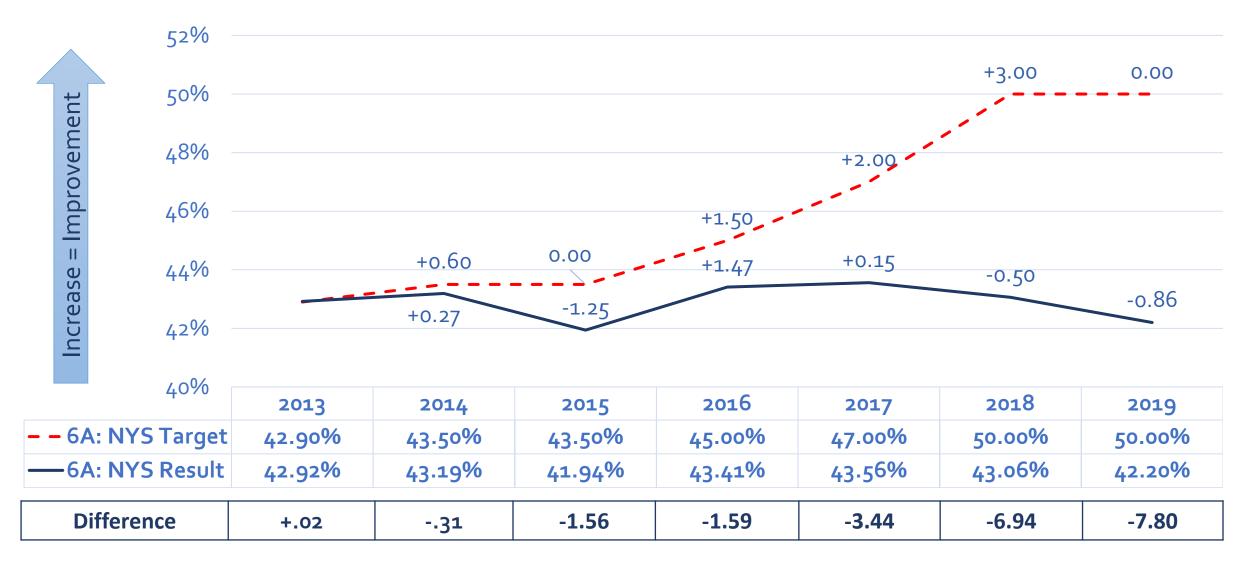
FFY 2020 APR

February 2022

The October 2020 Preschool LRE Data is included in the FFY 2020 APR

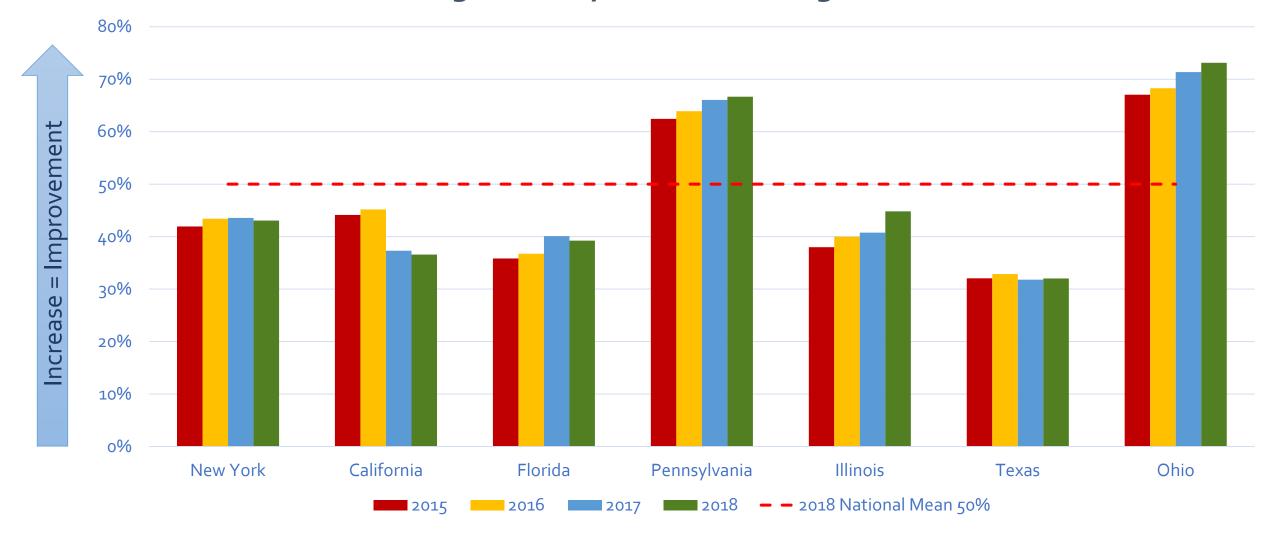
New York State SPP 2013-19 Targets and Actuals Indicator 6A: Regular Early Childhood Program





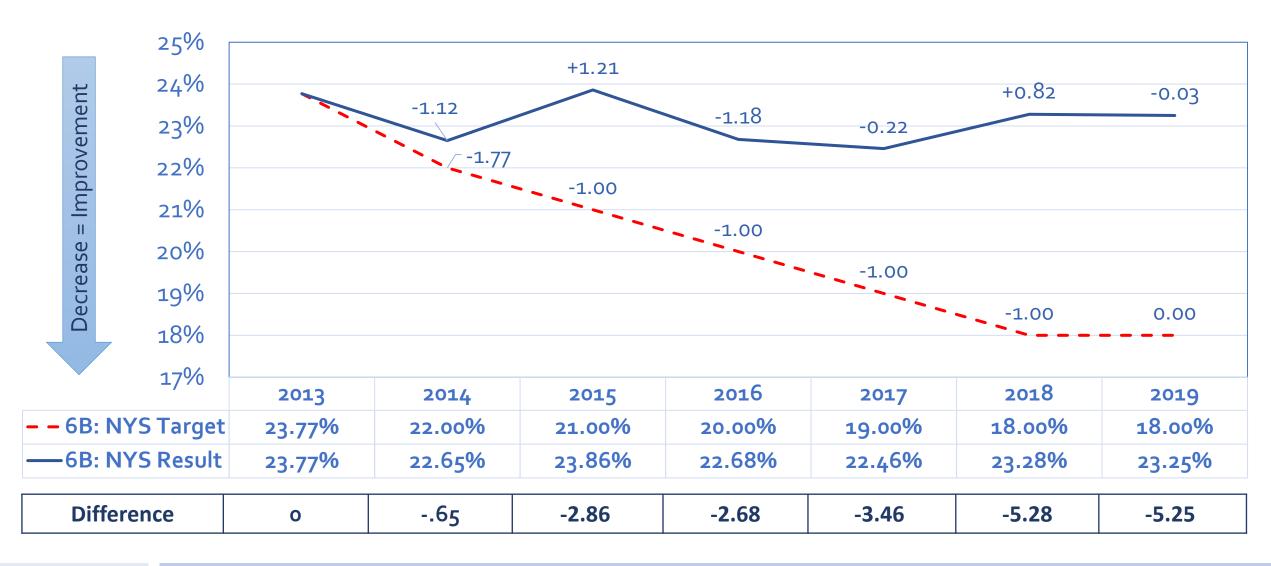
7-PAK States Results Comparison Indicator 6A: Regular Early Childhood Program





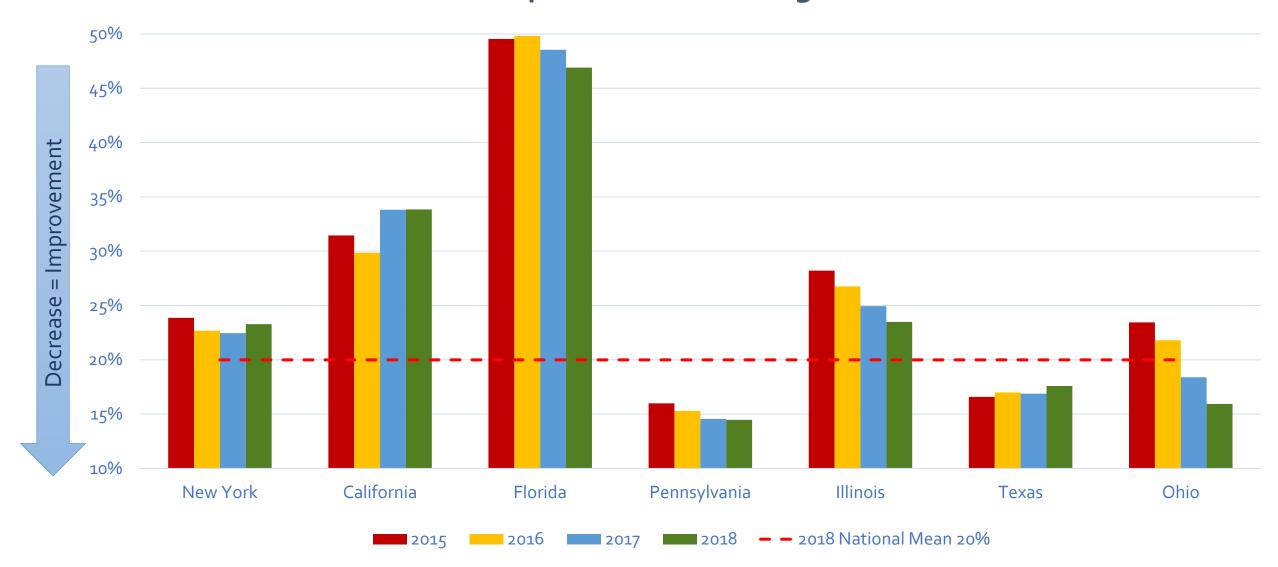
New York State SPP 2013-19 Targets and Actuals Indicator 6B: Separate Class, School or Facility





7-PAK States Results Comparison Indicator 6B: Separate Class Setting





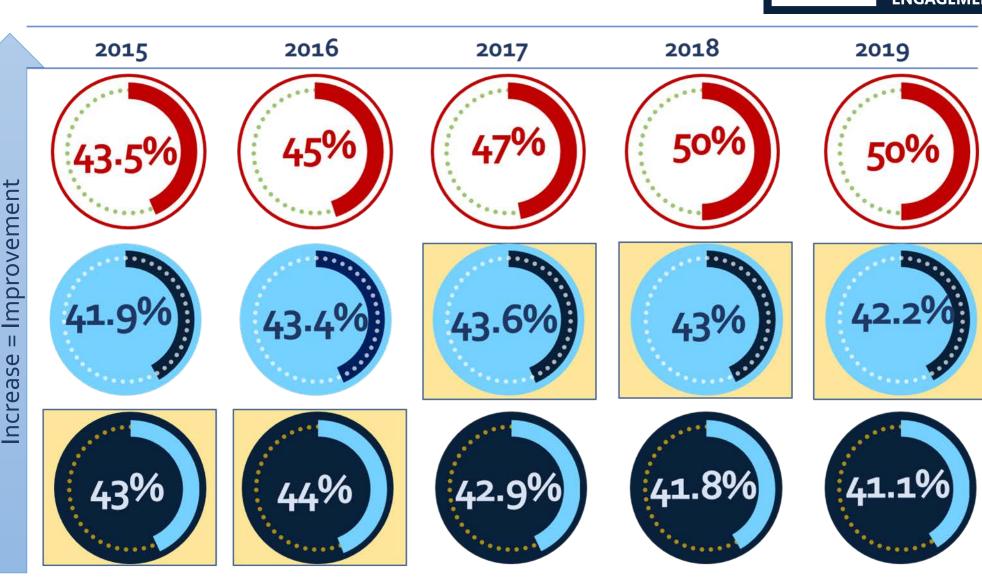
6A Regular Early Childhood Program: Old vs New Measurement





Old Measurement (includes 5-year-olds in Kindergarten)

New Measurement (excludes 5-year-olds in Kindergarten)



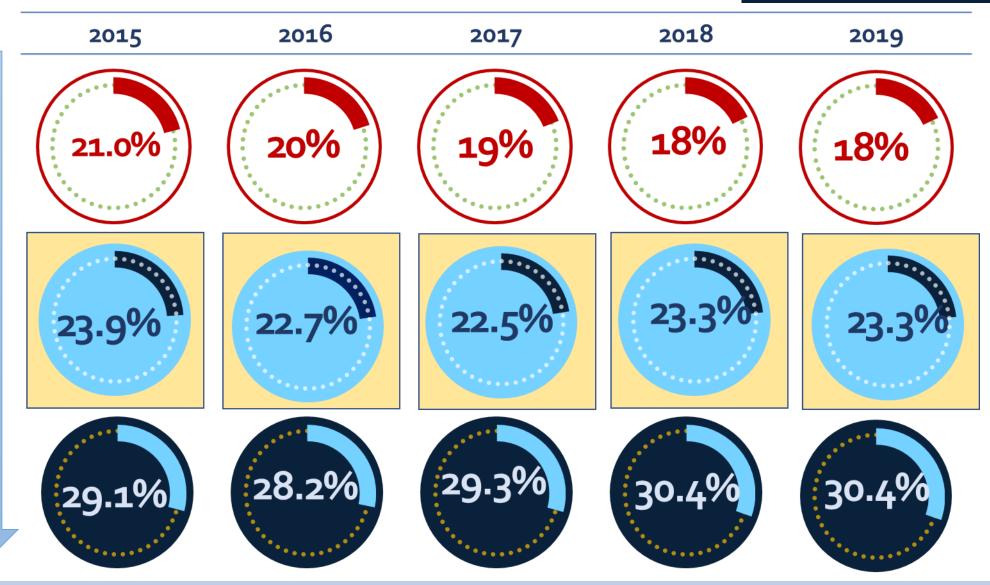
6B Separate Class Setting: Old vs New Measurement





Old Measurement (includes 5-year-olds in Kindergarten)

New Measurement (excludes 5-year-olds in Kindergarten)



= Improvement





Past Trend and State/National Comparison Data

1) What did the Indicator 6 Statewide SPP data tell us?

2) How should we use the data to inform our target-setting and improvement activities?















Indicator 6 Disaggregated Data in NYS

Consideration of data by Race & Ethnicity, School District Needs Resource Capacity and County Region

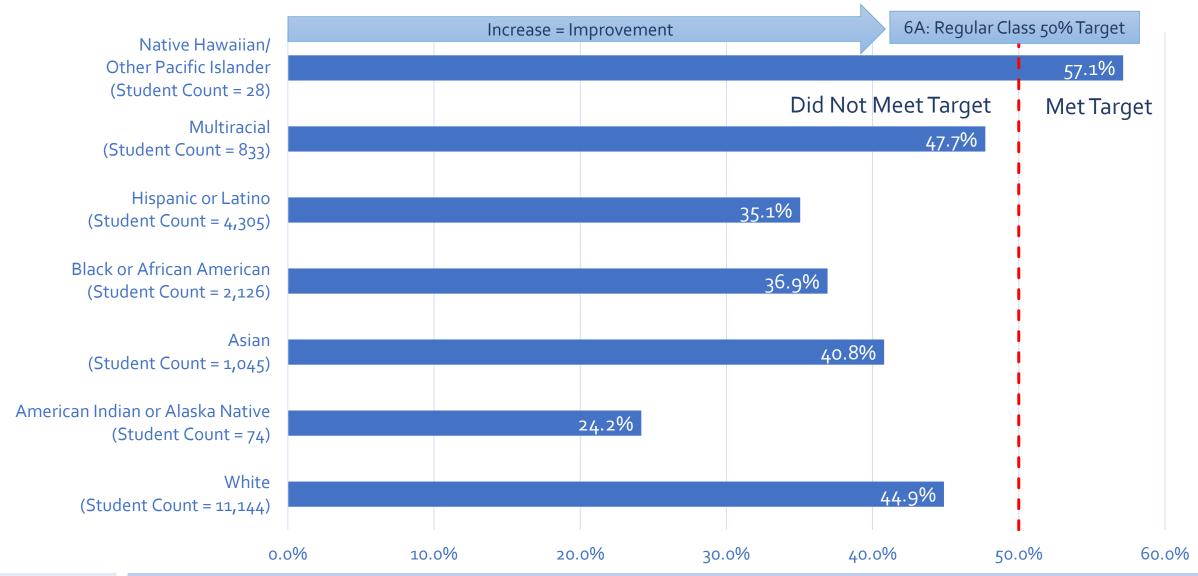


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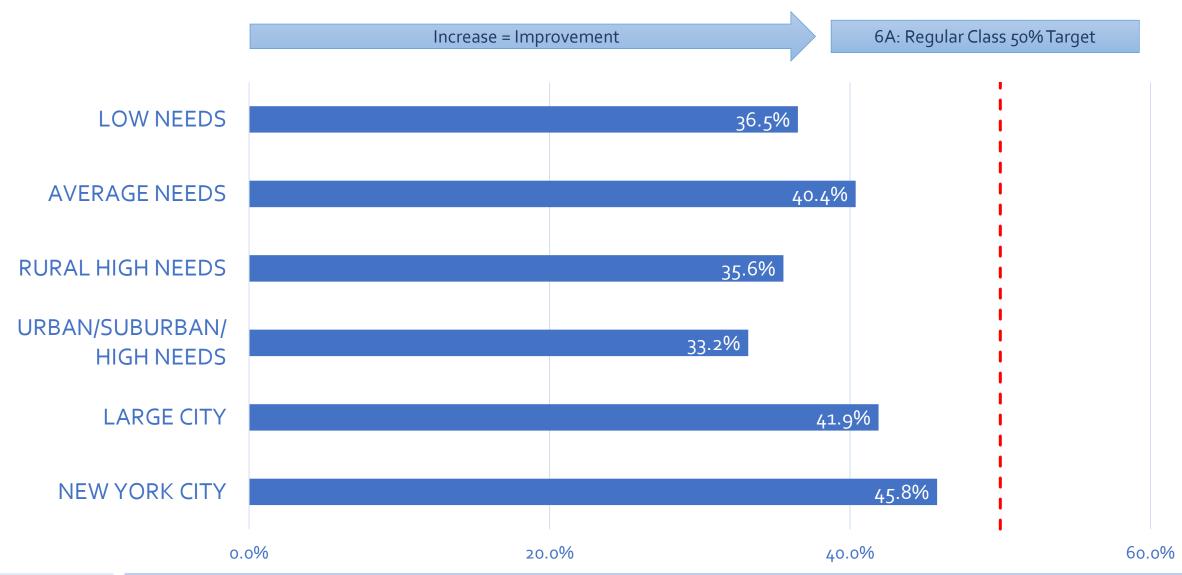
Indicator 6A: Regular Class Setting Student Data by Race and Ethnicity (FFY 2019)

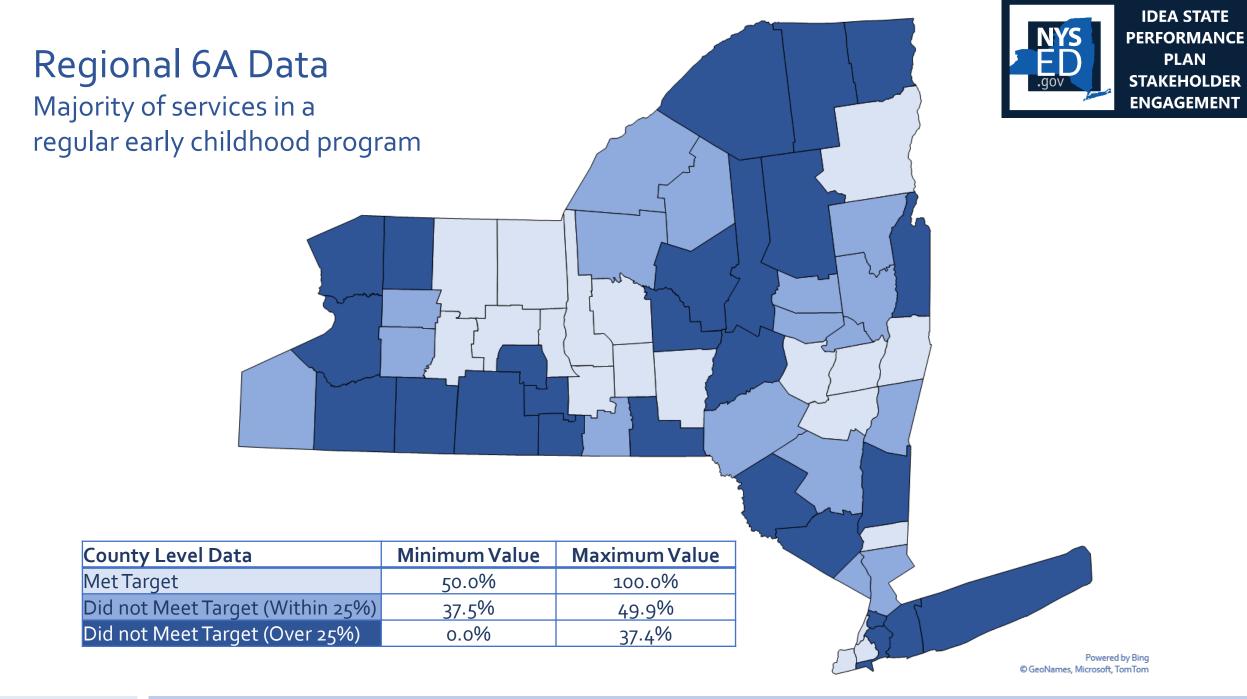




Indicator 6A: Regular Class Setting Needs/Resource Capacity FFY 2019













- 1) What did the Indicator 6A disaggregate SPP data tell us?
- 2) How should we use the data to inform our target-setting and improvement activities?



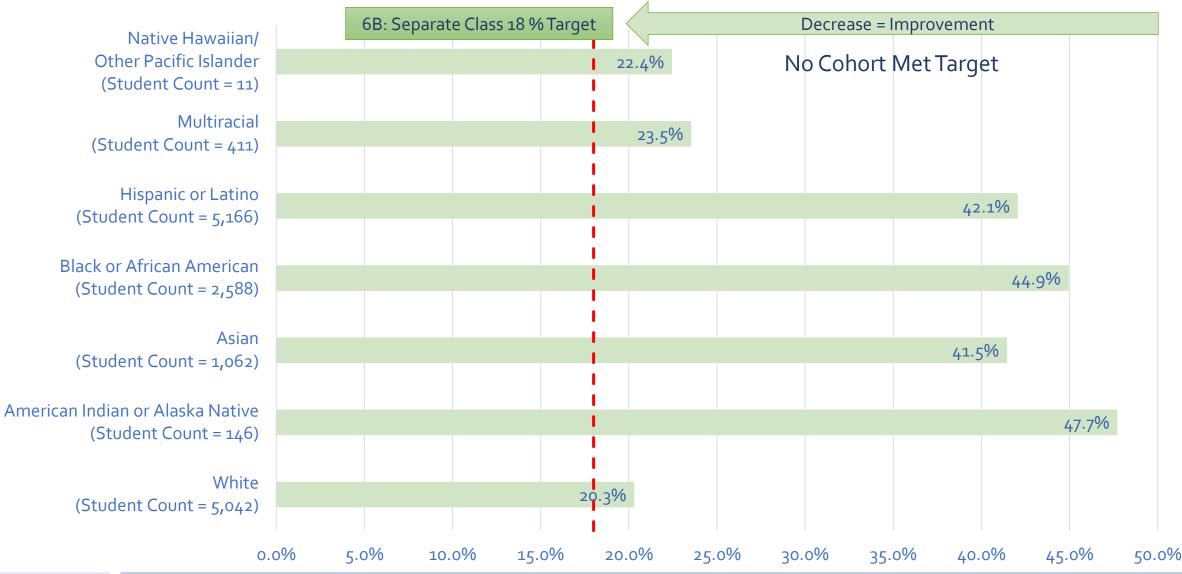


Stakeholder Discussion



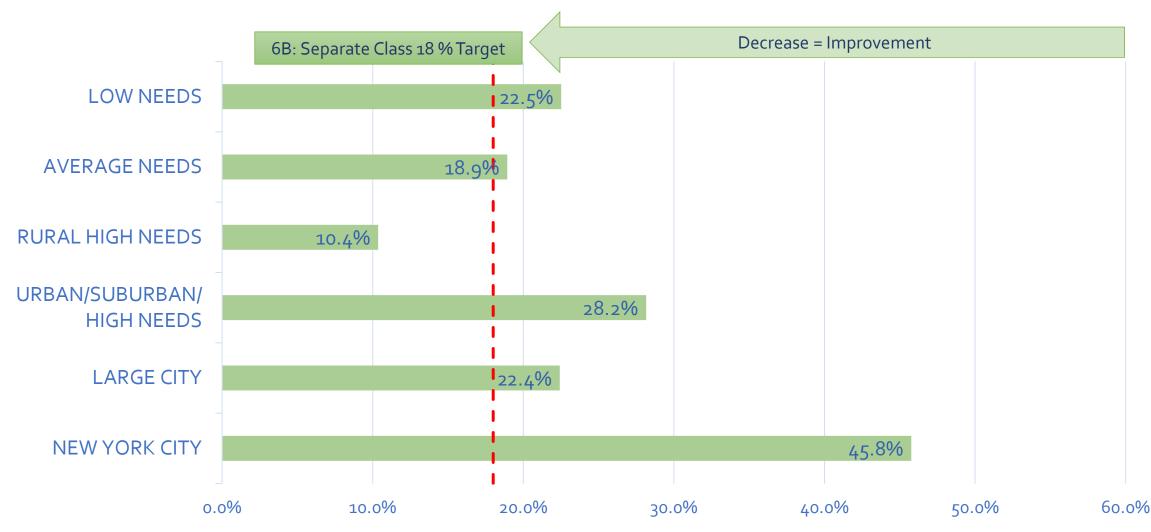
Indicator 6B: Separate Class Setting Student Data by Race and Ethnicity (FFY 2019)

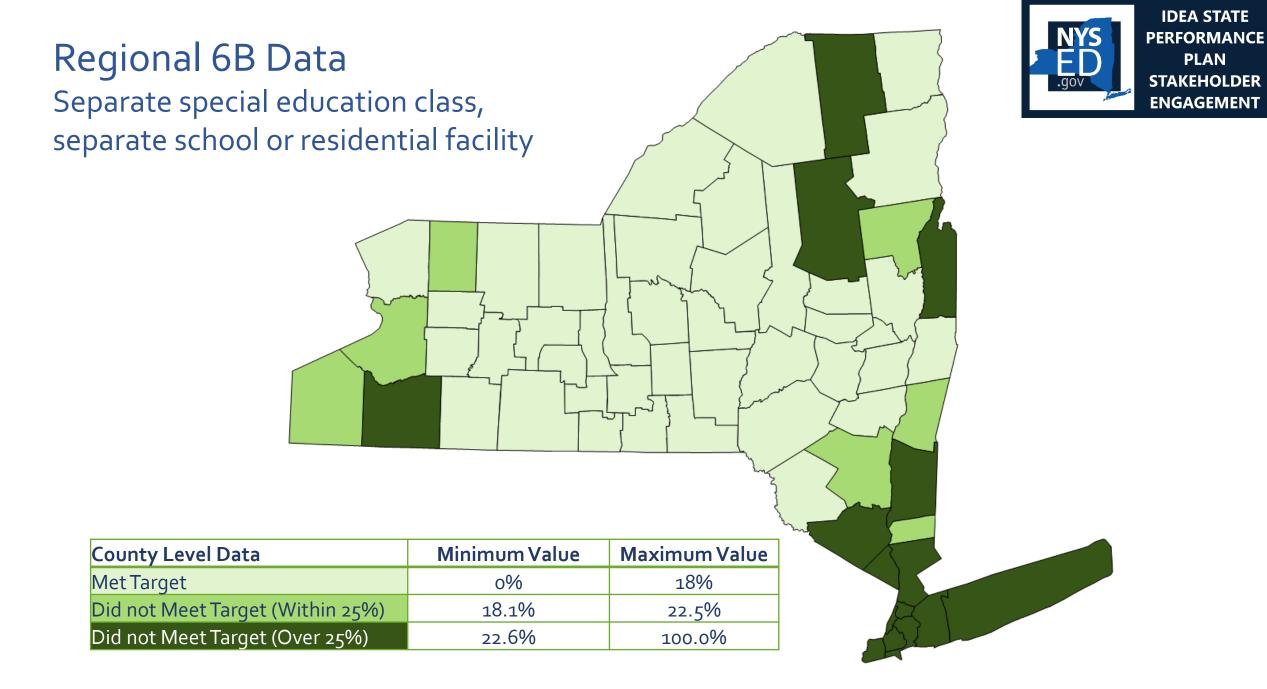
















6B Disaggregate Data

- 1) What did the Indicator 6B disaggregate SPP data tell us?
- 2) How should we use the data to inform our target-setting and improvement activities?

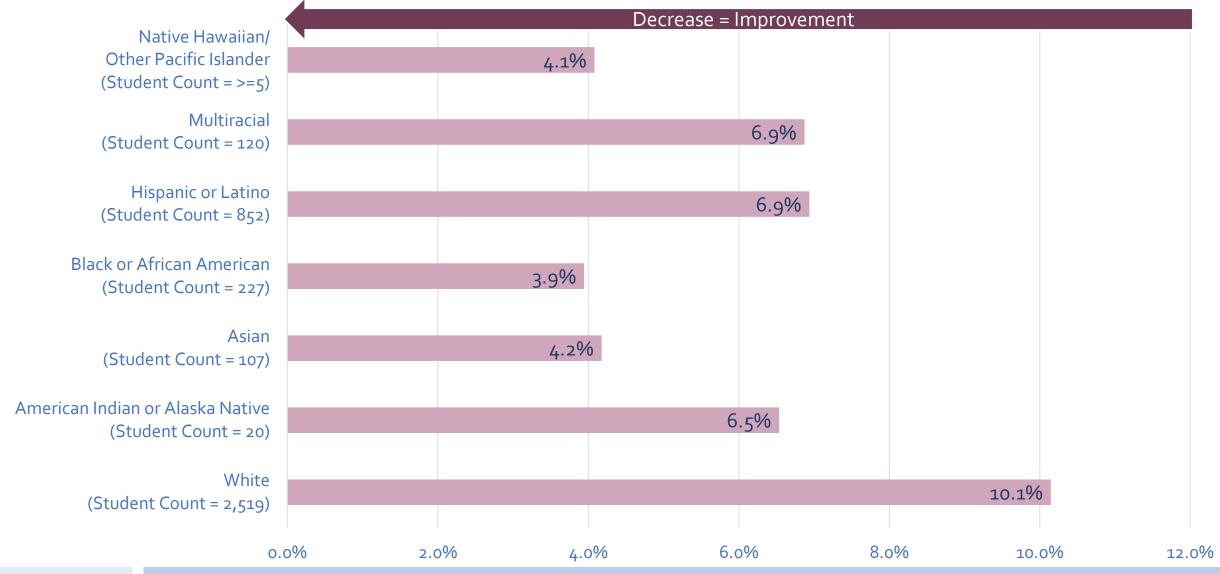






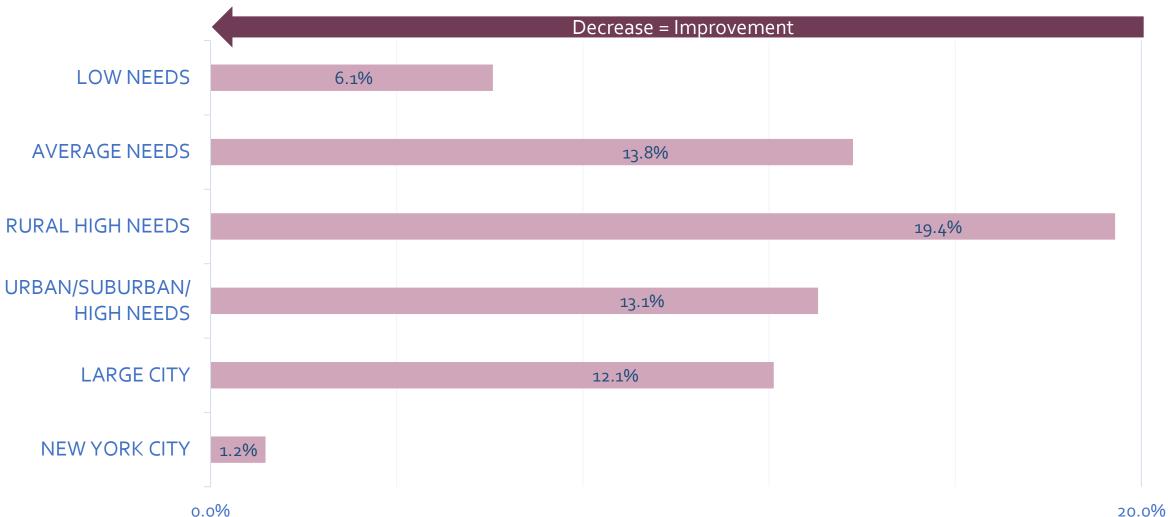
Indicator 6C: Home Setting Student Data by Race and Ethnicity (FFY 2019)











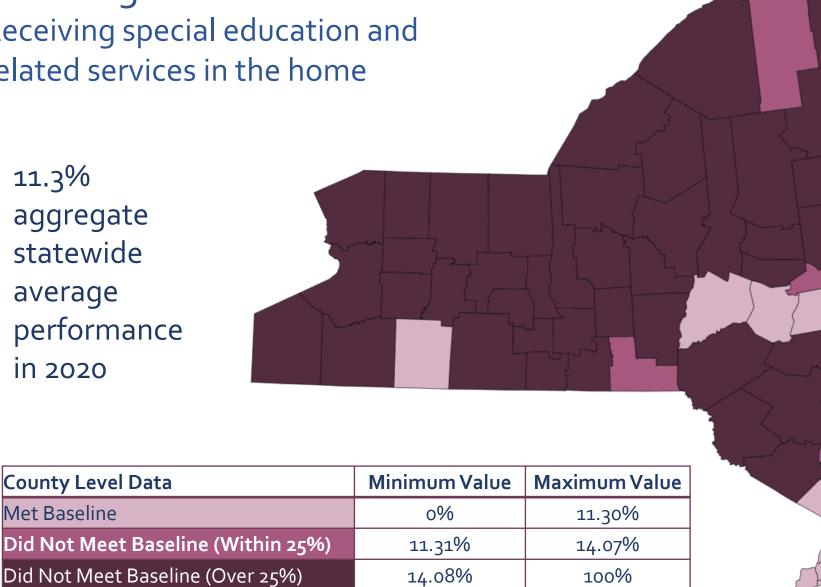


Receiving special education and related services in the home

11.3% aggregate statewide average performance in 2020

County Level Data

Met Baseline











6C Disaggregate Data

- 1) What did the Indicator 6C disaggregate SPP data tell us?
- 2) How should we use the data to inform our target-setting and improvement activities?

Stakeholder Discussion









State Performance Plan (SPP)/ Annual Performance Report (APR) 2020-2025

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



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Inclusive Programs and Activities is a Priority Area

 Providing high quality inclusive programs and activities is one of seven core principles and practices supported by research for all students with disabilities as part of New York State's Blueprint for Improved **Results for Students** with Disabilities











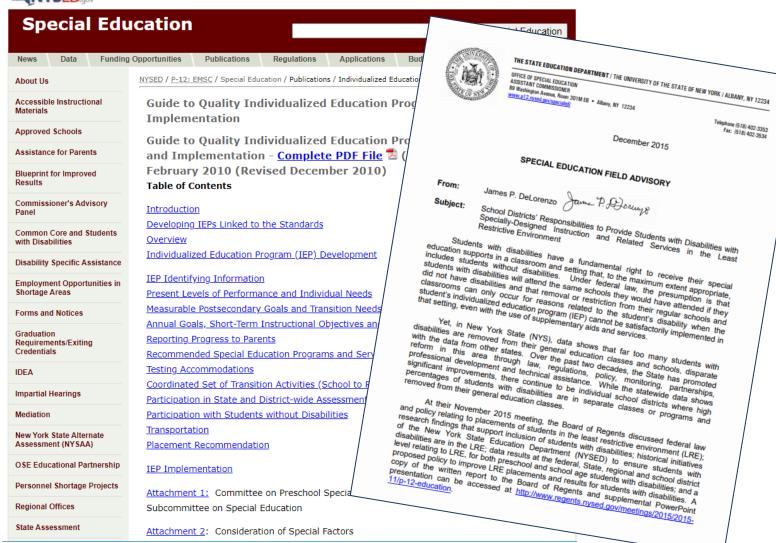
BLUEPRINT FOR IMPROVED RESULTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Office of Special Education

LRE Guidance from the Office of Special Education







The Office of Special Education published guidance on Individualized Education Program (IEP) development and School District Responsibilities to Provide Students with Disabilities with Specially-Designed Instruction and Related Services in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

Promoting Preschool Inclusion in PreK Programs



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- Joint guidance was issued in July 2021 titled "School District Responsibilities for Preschool Inclusion in Publicly Funded Prekindergarten (PreK) Programs."
- This guidance outlines that publicly funded PreK programs must be leveraged to meet preschool least restrictive environment responsibilities and ensure meaningful preschool inclusion.
- NYSED plans to support school districts in implementing blended funding and dual enrollment models in publicly funded PreK programs by issuing future guidance based on questions from the field. Questions may be submitted to SPECED@nysed.gov





OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION 89 Washington Avenue, Room 309 Et Albany, New York 12234 www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/ CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION AND EARLY LEARNING 89 Washington Avenue, Room 860 EBA Albany, New York 12234 http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction

July 2021

To: District Superintendents

Superintendents of Schools Public School Administrators Directors of Special Education Directors of Pupil Personnel Services

Chairpersons of Committees on Preschool Special Education Administrators of State-Administered Prekindergarten Programs

Approved Preschool Special Education Programs

Organizations, Parents and Individuals Concerned with Special Education

From: Christopher Surian

rybeth Casey Masubeth

Subject: School District Responsibilities for Preschool Inclusion in Publicly Funded

Prekindergarten Programs

The purpose of this field advisory is to supplement and clarify existing New York State (NYS) and federal guidance pertaining to the expectations for the inclusion of preschool students with disabilities in prekindergarten programs operated or administered by a school district (PreK) including State-administered prekindergarten programs¹ and district prekindergarten programs that are government-funded and free for those who attend it. The continued expansion of these early learning opportunities offers high-quality, developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate educational environments for young children to learn and grow. As of July 1, 2021, NYS will be investing \$970 million into State-administered prekindergarten programs. This figure will most likely be \$1 billion by the end of the 2023-24 school year due to expansion grants.

School districts must ensure resident preschool students with disabilities have equal access to enroll and attend the district's public PreK programs in accordance with NYS and federal expectations for the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the

OSE LRE Guidance: Inclusion in UPK

¹ As of the date of this memo, there are four State-Administered Prekindergarten programs for three- and fouryear old children in New York State including Targeted Prekindergarten (TPK), Universal Prekindergarten (UPK), Statewide Universal Full-Day Prekindergarten (SUFDPK), and Federal-Funded Expanded Universal Prekindergarten.

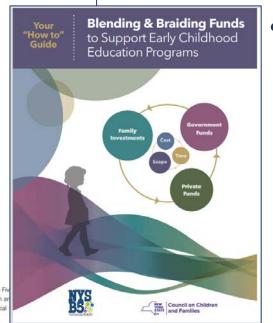
Early Childhood Cross-System Collaboration



Promoting equily and access to qualify early childhood programs for all young children and therein in NYS mysbs@ccf.ny, gov

NYSB5 Renewal Projects
2020-2022
Reference Guide

The activities described in this document are supported by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Fn Number 90TP005902, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children at Care. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.



Partnership with the New York State Council on Children and Families on the New York State Birth – Five Renewal Grant to enhance coordination and more efficiently provide access to high quality, equitable and comprehensive early care and learning environments and services essential for healthy development.

"How to Guide for Blending and Braiding Funds" was issued to assist early childhood program providers in navigating reimbursement options including integrated general and special education services.



 OSE participation in the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) which provides strategic direction and advice to the State of New York on early childhood issues.

NYCDOE Preschool Inclusion Efforts





- The New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) is implementing a comprehensive plan to promote preschool inclusion.
- As part of the NYCDOE inclusion plan, more preschool students with disabilities will receive the majority of their services in a regular early childhood classroom and the number of preschool students receiving services in a special class program will be reduced.



Office of Special Education Educational Partnership Tiered Support & Professional Development



12 Regional Partnership Centers

14 School-Age Family and Community Engagement Centers

14 Early Childhood Family and Community Engagement Centers Systems Change Work Providing a Variety of Supports to Educational Organizations in New York State

- 1 Regional Learning
 - 2 Targeted Skills/Support Groups
 - 3 Support Plans



Educational Partnership Resources



Targeted Professional Development Improvement Strategies

Educational Partnership Trainings impacting Preschool LRE include, but are not limited to:

Classroom Management Training

CPSE/CSE Chairperson Training

Creating the Individualized Education Program

Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)/Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP) Toolkit

Using the FBA/BIP Process to Support Students Needing Intensive Interventions

Function Based Thinking in Preschool

Introduction to the Behavior Pathways

Specially Designed Instruction Series

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Tier 1 & Tier 2 Team Training

Positive Solutions for Families: Pyramid Model

Preschool Special Education Process

Using the Competing Behavior Pathway to Identify Interventions



Potential New Improvement Strategies#1-#3

Amend New York State law to deem school districts approved to provide preschool Special Education Itinerant Services (SEIS) and Special Class in an Integrated Setting (SCIS) program services without separate NYSED approval.

Require districts to review their Indicator 6 data in aggregate and also by race and ethnicity. For districts not meeting Indicator 6 targets, or if a disparity is found in the race and ethnicity data, districts would be required to complete a Local District Preschool Inclusion Self-Assessment.

Create a targeted monitoring activity to review and document Committee on Preschool Special Education decision-making processes pertaining to preschool inclusion. Include documentation that the parent was informed of their child's rights to receive services in the least restrictive environment.

3



Potential New Improvement Strategies #4-#7

Streamline the existing regional need process to identify need for SEIS and SCIS programs in counties based on districts' Indicator 6 data. Streamline the existing regional need process to identify need based on a school district's endorsement of an inclusive PreK program for dually enrolled resident students. Issue a moratorium on special class expansions where least restrictive environment targets are not being met. Supplement existing guidance with additional information for blending and braiding district PreK and county preschool special education funding.



Potential New Improvement Strategies #8-#9

Amend regulation to expand the preschool continuum in New York State to include more flexible models for preschool special education delivery in the regular early childhood program environment.

9

Create a parent resource to describe the benefits of preschool inclusion and outline their child's right to receive preschool special education programs and related services in the least restrictive environment.



What activities could be considered, maintained, or strengthened to address improvements in preschool least restrictive environment?

Stakeholder Question













State Performance Plan (SPP)/ Annual Performance Report (APR) 2020-2025

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



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Target Setting Recommendation for Indicator 6

Inclusive Targets vs. Individual Targets





NYSED is Recommending One Target Inclusive of Children Ages 3, 4, and 5 for Indicator 6



- States may choose to set one target that is inclusive of children ages 3, 4, and 5, or set individual targets for each age.
- NYSED proposes to NOT establish individual targets due to the small sample size for Age 5. NYSED recommends Indicator 6 targets inclusive of children ages 3, 4, and 5.

Setting Type	Age 5 Student Count 2015-16	% 2015-16	Age 5 Student Count 2016-17	% 2016-17	Age 5 Student Count 2017-18	% 2017-18	Age 5 Student Count 2018-19	% 2018-19	Age 5 Student Count 2019-20	% 2019-20
A. Regular early childhood program	<=5	12.1	<=5	17.2	<=5	14.3	<=5	22.2	<=5	41.7
B. Separate class, school or residential facility	<=5	9.1	<=5	17.2	<=5	14.3	<=5	11.1	<=5	8.3
C. Receiving special education and related services in the home	<=5	0%	<=5	3.4	<=5	0%	<=5	0%	<=5	0%



Do you agree with NYSED's recommendation to set Indicator 6 targets inclusive of children ages 3, 4, and 5?

Stakeholder Question











Target Setting Recommendation for Indicator 6

Baseline and 2020-2025 Proposed Targets





New Baseline for Indicator 6: Preschool LRE



A. Receiving a majority of services in a regular early childhood program

2020 Reported Data Serves as New FFY 2020-25 Baseline

39.5%

New Baseline is 2.7 percentage points lower than old baseline

B. Separate special education class, separate school or residential facility

2020 Reported Data Serves as New FFY 2020-25 Baseline

29.8%

New Baseline is 3 percentage points worse than old baseline

C. Receiving special education and related services in the home

2020 Reported Data Serves as New FFY 2020-25 Baseline

11.3%

New Measurement

Proposed Targets: Indicator 6A

Percent of children with IEPs aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program attending a regular early childhood program and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program.



= Improvement 50% 48% 45.50% 43.50% 41.50% 39.50% 2015-2019 Five Year Equated Average = 42.57% Baseline 2020 2021 2023 2025 2022 2024 39.5% +2 +2 +2 +2.5 +2 4299 additional students in a regular program (2020 baseline vs 2025 proposed target) Student Impact

Target Setting Methodology Recognition that preschool LRE is a priority area

Improvement Over Baseline & Increase over Average Past Trend Data Consideration of Student Impact associated with each proposed Target

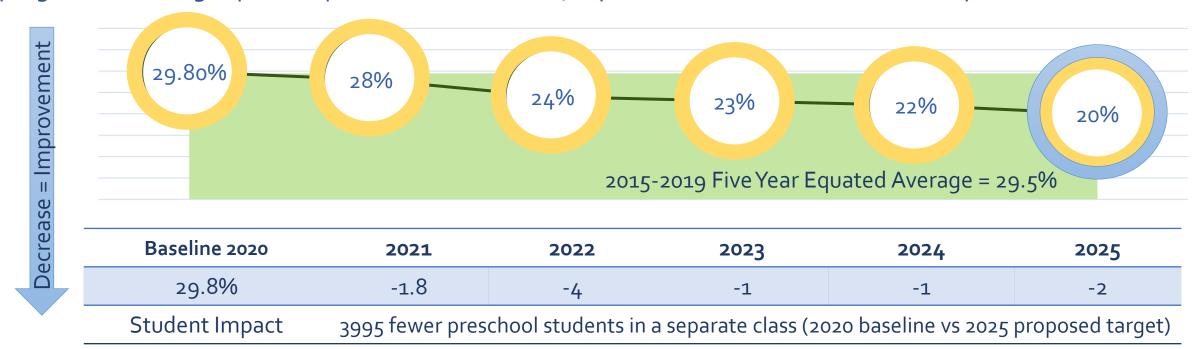


Stakeholder Question: Targets must show improvement over baseline and be rigorous but achievable. Do you feel that the proposed targets are too high, too low, or just right?

Proposed Targets: Indicator 6B

Percent of children with IEPs aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program attending separate special education class, separate school or residential facility





Target Setting Methodology Recognition that Preschool LRE is a Priority Area Improvement Over Baseline & Increase over Average Past Trend Data Consideration of Student Impact associated with each Proposed Target

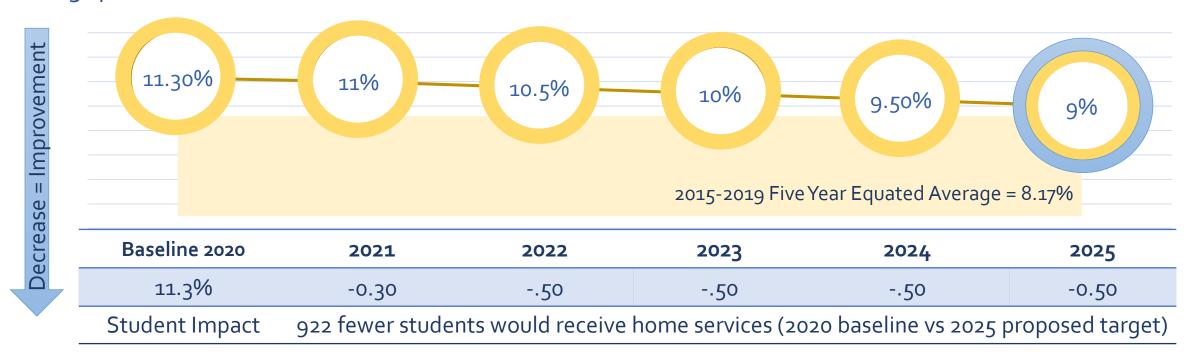


Stakeholder Question: Targets must show improvement over baseline and be rigorous but achievable. Do you feel that the proposed targets are too high, too low, or just right?

Proposed Targets: Indicator 6C



Percent of children with individualized education programs (IEPs) aged 3, 4, and aged 5 receiving special education and related services in the home



Target Setting Methodology Recognition that preschool LRE is a priority area

Improvement Over
Baseline & Consideration
of COVID-19 impact

Consideration of Student Impact associated with each proposed Target

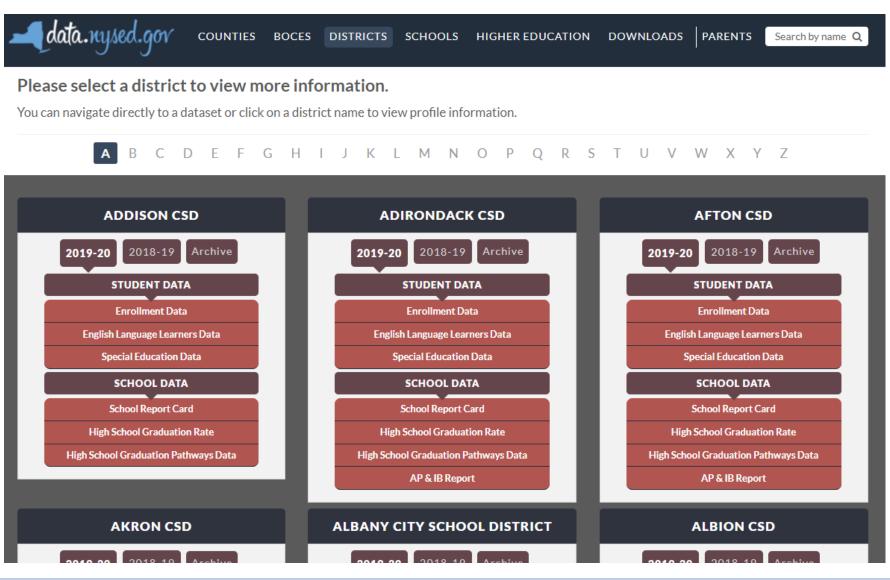
Stakeholder Question: Targets must show improvement over baseline and be rigorous but achievable. Do you feel that the proposed targets are too high, too low, or just right?

New York State School District SPP Data

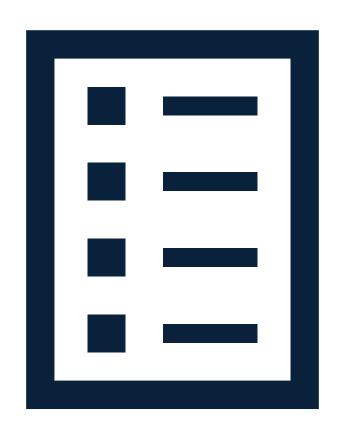


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Additional information on **SPP Indicator** data may be found in school district "Special Education Data" reports available at data.nysed.gov



Share Your Voice in our Online Survey



Each SPP Indicator has an online survey to collect input on NYS's target-setting and/or improvement activities

The online surveys are intended to collect feedback from interested stakeholders. They are available for those who are not attending a virtual meeting or for those who have additional information to share beyond the virtual meetings

Please visit the <u>SPP/APR webpage</u> to submit your survey http://www.nysed.gov/special-education/ffy-2020-2025-spp-apr

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Your Voice is Important to New York State's Efforts to Improve Outcomes for our Students with Disabilities







