

## Handout 8

### Selected Resources of More Information on Significant Disproportionality

A considerable amount of information is available online about disproportionality. It's a longstanding issue in special education. We've listed a dozen or so of the most recent resources below, with emphasis on materials produced *after* the final regulations on disproportionality were published in 2016.



#### **For General Audiences: Basics 101**

##### ***5 Things to Know about Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Special Education*** (2017, January)

Quick, online read to get you started.

<https://www.childtrends.org/child-trends-5/5-things-know-racial-ethnic-disparities-special-education/>

##### ***Dropout Nation*** (2-hour Frontline special on PBS, 2012)



The show investigated the causes, challenges, and potential solutions of the epidemic of teens dropping out of high school. You can view the show online at:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/dropout-nation/>



##### ***Early Childhood Suspensions & Disproportionality: An Issue that Impacts Everyone!*** |

Video | (2017, July), Keynote presentations at the 2017 OSEP Leadership Conference.

Dr. Rosemarie Allen from the Metropolitan State University of Denver presents this dynamic keynote presentation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86zj3Zl9mg8>

##### ***A First Look: Key Data Highlights on Equity and Opportunity Gaps in Our Nation's Public Schools***

(2016, October). From the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/2013-14-first-look.pdf>

##### ***Serving on Groups*** (Online training modules in English and Spanish)

Want to make a difference in your community by serving as a member of a decision-making group? These materials will discuss what kinds of groups there are, how to become involved, the role of families in decision-making groups, how to understand data as information, and much more.

<http://www.servingongroups.org/guidebook>

#### **What Materials are Available from Your State?**

It's helpful to explore what resources and guidance your state has made available on disproportionality in special education—especially how it has defined key terms, its progress in implementing the standard methodology, and early results. To find out, we suggest you:

- **Contact the Parent Center** that serves your state, assisting parents of children with disabilities by offering training and leadership. Find your Parent Center at: <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/>
- **Turn to Google** or your preferred online search engine. Search by terms such as “disproportionality Maryland” (obviously, you'd substitute the name of your state). See what comes up.

## From the U.S. Department of Education



### ***Disproportionality and Equity: Resources from the U.S. Department of Education***

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) funds technical assistance centers that provide support to states on issues related to disproportionality and equity in education. You'll find those centers listed here. You can also access OSEP's virtual symposium on significant disproportionality, which currently includes two webinars on the subject. <https://www.osepideasthatwork.org/federal-resources-stakeholders/disproportionality-and-equity>

### ***Significant Disproportionality: Essential Questions and Answers*** (2017, March)

Substantive, detailed, definitive. Not for beginners.

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/significant-disproportionality-qa-03-08-17-1.pdf>

### ***Dear Colleague Letter: Preventing Racial Discrimination in Special Education*** (2016, December)

Especially important for school systems and Parent Centers to read.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201612-racedisc-special-education.pdf>

### ***Data Snapshot: School Discipline*** (2014, March)

From the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-discipline-snapshot.pdf>

### ***On the Legal Limits of Using Restraint or Seclusion***

This suite of resources comes from the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education.

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/restraint-seclusion-ed2016/>

### ***Webinar | IDEA Behavioral Support and Discipline***

In this CPIR webinar, Renee Bradley, of OSEP, is joined by representatives from Parent Centers, protection and advocacy agencies, and state directors of special education to unpack an important "Dear Colleague" letter released by OSEP regarding behavior and school discipline, and discuss its impact on the field.



<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/webinar-oser-dcl-idea-behavioral-support-and-discipline/>

### ***School Climate and Discipline***

This page of resources at the U.S. Department of Education is really a suite of resources that connects you with the latest data and thinking on suspension and expulsion of students from school. The basic message is "Rethinking Discipline" in order to create safe and positive school climates.

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/index.html>

### ***School Climate and Safety***

Another data snapshot from the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, based on the 2015-2016 Civil Rights Data Collection. Washington, DC: Author.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/school-climate-and-safety.pdf>