

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
October 2, 2017

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Special Education Directors
Charter School Chief Executive Officers
Charter School Special Education Directors
Intermediate Unit Executive Directors
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors
Approved Private School Executive Directors
Advocacy Groups
Other Interested Parties

FROM: Ann Hinkson-Herrmann, Director
Bureau of Special Education

SUBJECT: Significant Disproportionality Stakeholders' Submission of Written Comments

The December 2016 amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) require each state to develop a standard methodology to identify local education agencies with significant disproportionality and ensure that children with disabilities are properly identified for services, receive necessary services in the least restrictive environment, and are not disproportionately removed from their educational placements by disciplinary removals.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) recently held three statewide stakeholder forums August 29, 30, and 31 to gather verbal input that will assist in the development of the parameters used within the methodology for significant disproportionality.

In addition to gathering significant verbal input from stakeholders, PDE also intends to gather written comments pertaining to significant disproportionality. An online webinar titled *Significant Disproportionality Overview: The Big Picture* has been developed that provides federal regulation, essential information, and examples to assist with an understanding of significant disproportionality. The online webinar can be viewed at: [Significant Disproportionality Webinar](#).

Persons wishing to participate in providing written comments can access the following e-mail account at ra-edsd@pa.gov to submit written comment feedback. The comments provided will be read and will be used toward developing the parameters for the mandated standard methodology. The comment period will begin October 2, 2017 and will end November 15, 2017.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact or John Gombocz by e-mail at jgombocz@pa.gov or by phone at 717.772.3745; or Patty Todd by e-mail at patodd@pa.gov or by phone at 717.772.3260.