



# Local Special Education Determinations Rubric

FFY 2024

## Abstract

This rubric outlines the criteria the New Jersey Department of Education uses to make annual determinations about the performance of each Local Educational Agency's (LEA) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024.

New Jersey Department of Education

[OSEdata@doe.nj.gov](mailto:OSEdata@doe.nj.gov)

## Contents

About This Rubric .....	2
Factor A: SPP/APR Indicator 4B Performance (Longterm Suspensions) .....	2
Factor B: SPP/APR Indicators 9 & 10 Performance (Disproportionate Representation).....	2
Factor C: SPP/APR Indicator 11 Performance (Child Find) .....	3
Factor D: SPP/APR Indicator 12 Performance (Age 3 Transition) .....	4
Factor E: SPP/APR Indicator 13 Performance (Age 16 Transition) .....	4
Factor F: Compliance with Alternate Assessment (DLM) Participation Rate Cap.....	5
Factor G: SPP/APR Indicator 5A Performance (LRE) .....	5
Factor H: Successfully Addressed Noncompliance Within 1 Year .....	6
Factor I: SPP/APR Indicator 8 and/or 14 Participation.....	6
Factor J: Data Quality.....	6
Factor K: Timely IDEA Part B Grant Submissions .....	7
Critical Requirement: Special Education Data Submission.....	7
Overview .....	7
The Multi-Year Cascade Effect .....	8
What This Means for Your District .....	9
Action Required .....	9

## About This Rubric

---

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) uses this rubric to evaluate each Local Educational Agency's (LEA) performance and compliance with the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) Part B for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024. This evaluation determines whether each LEA meets requirements, needs assistance, needs intervention, or needs substantial intervention in administering special education services.

**How the Rubric Works:** LEAs are assessed across 11 factors (A through K) covering SPP/APR indicator performance, data quality, compliance timelines, and federal reporting. Each factor includes multiple performance conditions, and LEAs receive points based on which condition applies to them. Some factors may be marked “Not Applicable” if they do not apply to the LEA’s circumstances. The total points across all applicable factors determine an LEA’s final determination level.

**How to Use This Document:** Review each factor to identify which condition describes the LEA’s performance. Note the corresponding point value. If you have questions about how a factor applies to an LEA or need support improving performance, contact the NJDOE Office of Special Education at [OSEdata@doe.nj.gov](mailto:OSEdata@doe.nj.gov).

### Factor A: SPP/APR Indicator 4B Performance (Longterm Suspensions)

---

Factor A examines the likelihood that students with disabilities from a specific racial/ethnic group are suspended for more than 10 days.

Points	Condition
8	The LEA met Indicator 4B minimum N- and cell size requirements for evaluation in the most recent year and was not identified with significant discrepancy.
2	The LEA met Indicator 4B minimum N- and cell size requirements for evaluation in the most recent year and was identified with significant discrepancy.
0	The LEA was evaluated and identified for significant discrepancy for two consecutive years, including the most recent
Not Applicable	The LEA did not meet Indicator 4B minimum N- or cell size requirements for evaluation in the most recent year.

**Data source:** Student Safety Data System, school year (SY) 2023-24, and NJ SMART Student Management and Special Education Data Submissions, Fall 2023

### Factor B: SPP/APR Indicators 9 & 10 Performance (Disproportionate Representation)

---



**Data Submission Requirement**

**LEAs that did not submit Special Education data in 2024** will receive **0 points** for this factor regardless of the conditions below. See “Critical Requirement: Special Education Data Submission” on page 7 for details.

Factor B addresses disproportionate representation when the likelihood, or risk, of identification or placement is three times greater for one racial/ethnic group than it is for all other students within the district for three consecutive years.

Points	Condition
8	At least one racial or ethnic group within the LEA met Indicators 9 or 10 minimum N- and cell size requirements for evaluation in the most recent year and the LEA was not identified with disproportionate representation.
2	The LEA was identified for disproportionate representation in the most recent year and was found compliant following a review of policies, practices, and procedures.
0	The LEA was identified for disproportionate representation in the most recent year and was found not compliant following a review of policies, practices, and procedures.
Not Applicable	No group within the LEA met Indicator 9 or 10 minimum N- or cell size requirements for evaluation in the most recent year.

**Data source:** NJ SMART Student Management and Special Education Data Submissions Fall 2024, 2023, and 2022.

### Factor C: SPP/APR Indicator 11 Performance (Child Find)



**Data Submission Requirement**

**LEAs that did not submit Special Education data in 2025** will receive **0 points** for this factor regardless of the conditions below. See “Critical Requirement: Special Education Data Submission” on page 7 for details.

This factor measures LEA compliance with initial evaluation timelines.

Points	Condition
6	The LEA met the State-mandated timeline for evaluation and IEP implementation for 100% of students with parental consent to evaluate.
5	<b>For LEAs that reported six (6) or more students with parental consent to evaluate:</b> The LEA met the State-mandated timeline for evaluation and IEP implementation for 95.0% to 99.9% of students. <b>For LEAs that reported five (5) or fewer students with parental consent to evaluate:</b> The LEA met the State-mandated timeline for all but one (1) student.
4	The LEA met the State-mandated timeline for evaluation and IEP implementation for 80.0% to 94.9% of students.
3	The LEA reported delayed IEP implementation for all students with parental consent to evaluate; all reported delays were due to valid reasons.
1	<b>For LEAs that reported six (6) or more students with parental consent to evaluate:</b> The LEA met the State-mandated timeline for 50.0% to 79.9% of students.
0	<b>For LEAs that reported six (6) or more students with parental consent to evaluate:</b> The LEA met the State-mandated timeline for evaluation for fewer than 50.0% of students. <b>For LEAs that reported five (5) or fewer students with parental consent:</b> The LEA failed to meet the State-mandated timeline for two (2) or more students.

Points	
<b>Not Applicable</b>	The LEA reported no students with parental consent to evaluate for special education services during the reporting period.

**Data source:** NJSLEDS Special Education Data Submission, Fall 2025.

### Factor D: SPP/APR Indicator 12 Performance (Age 3 Transition)



#### Data Submission Requirement

**LEAs that did not submit Special Education data in 2025** will receive **0 points** for this factor regardless of the conditions below. See “Critical Requirement: Special Education Data Submission” on page 7 for details.

This factor measures whether LEAs develop and implement IEPs by a child’s third birthday for children transitioning from Early Intervention (Part C) ([34 C.F.R. § 30.124\(b\)](#)).

Points	Condition
<b>6</b>	The LEA met the Federal timeline for evaluation and IEP implementation for 100% of children referred from Part C.
<b>5</b>	<b>For LEAs that reported six (6) or more Part C referrals:</b> The LEA met the Federal timeline for evaluation and IEP implementation for 95.0% to 99.9% of children. <b>For LEAs that reported five (5) or fewer Part C referrals:</b> The LEA met the Federal timeline for evaluation and IEP implementation for all but one (1) child.
<b>4</b>	The LEA met the Federal timeline for evaluation and IEP implementation for 80.0% to 94.9% of children referred from Part C.
<b>3</b>	The LEA reported delayed IEP implementation for all Part C referrals; all reported delays were due to valid reasons.
<b>1</b>	<b>For LEAs that reported six (6) or more Part C referrals:</b> The LEA met the State-mandated timeline for evaluation for 50.0% to 79.9% of children.
<b>0</b>	<b>For LEAs that reported six (6) more Part C referrals:</b> The LEA met the evaluation timeline for fewer than 50% of children. <b>For LEAs that reported five (5) or fewer Part C referrals:</b> The LEA failed to meet the evaluation timeline for two (2) or more children.
<b>Not Applicable</b>	The LEA reported no Part C referrals during the reporting period.

**Data source:** NJSLEDS Special Education Data Submission, Fall 2025.

### Factor E: SPP/APR Indicator 13 Performance (Age 16 Transition)

This factor addresses the percentage of students with IEPs aged 16 and above whose IEPs include appropriate measurable postsecondary goals and required transition components.

Points	Condition
<b>4</b>	The LEA ensured that 100% of IEPs monitored included all required postsecondary components and documented student participation.
<b>3</b>	The LEA ensured that at least 95% of IEPs monitored included all required postsecondary components and documented student participation.
<b>2</b>	The LEA ensured that 80.0% to 94.9% of IEPs monitored included all required postsecondary components and documented student participation.

Points	
<b>1</b>	The LEA ensured that 50.0% to 80.0% of IEPs monitored included all required postsecondary components and documented student participation.
<b>0</b>	The LEA ensured that fewer than 50.0% of IEPs monitored included all required postsecondary components and documented student participation.
<b>Not Applicable</b>	The LEA was not included in this year’s monitoring cohort or does not serve students in grades 10 and above.

**Data source:** State monitoring database, SY 2024-25.

## Factor F: Compliance with Alternate Assessment (DLM) Participation Rate Cap

Factor F measures LEA compliance with the federal requirement that no more than one percent (1%) of the total number of tested students participate in alternate state assessments ([34 C.F.R. § 200.6\(c\)\(2\)](#)).

Points	Condition
<b>4</b>	The LEA kept participation in the DLM to less than 1%, in all content areas (English language arts, mathematics, and science).
<b>3</b>	1 to 1.24% of students to participate in one or more content-area DLM.
<b>2</b>	1.25 to 1.49% of students to participate in one or more content-area DLM.
<b>1</b>	1.5 to 1.99% of students to participate in one or more content-area DLM.
<b>0</b>	Participation in one or more content-area DLM to reach 2%.
<b>Not Applicable</b>	This factor is applicable to all LEAs.

**Data source:** Assessments, SY 2024-25

## Factor G: SPP/APR Indicator 5A Performance (LRE)



### Data Submission Requirement

**LEAs that did not submit Special Education data in 2024** will receive **0 points** for this factor regardless of the conditions below. See “Critical Requirement: Special Education Data Submission” on page 7 for details.

Factor G examines the percentage of students receiving services in the least restrictive environment (LRE) alongside their non-disabled peers for 80% or more of the school day.

Points	Conditions
<b>4</b>	The LEA served at least 60% of K-12 students with IEPs inside the general education class 80% or more of the day.
<b>3</b>	The LEA served between 45 and 59.9% of K-12 students with IEPs inside the general education class 80% or more of the day.
<b>1</b>	The LEA served more than 30% but less than 45% of K-12 students with IEPs inside the general education class 80% or more of the day.

Points	
0	The LEA served 30% or less of K-12 students with IEPs inside the general education class 80% or more of the day.
<b>Not Applicable</b>	This factor is applicable to all LEAs.

**Data source:** NJ SMART Special Education Data Submission, Fall 2024

### Factor H: Successfully Addressed Noncompliance Within 1 Year

Factor H measures whether LEAs correct the noncompliance identified as soon as possible, and in no case later than one year from the date of written notification.

Points	Condition
4	The LEA was compliant on all applicable indicators in the previous accountability cycle.
1	The LEA was identified for noncompliance in the previous accountability cycle and corrected all issues of noncompliance within one year.
0	The LEA was identified for noncompliance in the previous accountability cycle and did not correct all issues of noncompliance within one year.
<b>Not Applicable</b>	This factor is applicable to all LEAs.

**Data source:** State monitoring database.

### Factor I: SPP/APR Indicator 8 and/or 14 Participation

Factor I measures whether LEAs comply with all requests when selected to participate in Indicator 8 (Parental Involvement) or Indicator 14 (Post-School Outcomes).

Points	Condition
2	The LEA was included in the cohort for Indicator 8 and/or 14 and submitted all required materials by the deadline.
0	The LEA was included in the cohort for Indicator 8 and/or 14 and failed to submit required materials by the deadline.
<b>Not Applicable</b>	The LEA was not included in the cohort for either Indicator.

**Data source:** [insert here]

### Factor J: Data Quality



#### **Data Submission Requirement**

**LEAs that did not submit Special Education data in 2024** will receive **0 points** for this factor regardless of the conditions below. See “Critical Requirement: Special Education Data Submission” on page 7 for details.

This factor evaluates the LEA’s submission of accurate and complete student records to produce the State’s Child Count dataset for the reporting year.

Points	Condition
2	The LEA’s data submissions used for Child Count did not contain errors.

Points	Condition
1.5	One of the LEA's data submissions used for Child Count contained errors, but neither had an error rate that exceeded 1.5%.
1	Both of the LEA's data submissions used for Child Count contained errors but neither had an error rate of more than 1.5%.
0.5	At least one of the LEA's data submissions used for Child Count had an error rate greater than 1.5%.
0	The LEA failed to upload and/or certify at least one of the two data submissions used to calculate Child Count.
<b>Not Applicable</b>	This factor is applicable to all LEAs.

**Data source:** NJ SMART Student Management and Special Education Data Submissions, Fall 2024.

## Factor K: Timely IDEA Part B Grant Submissions

This factor measures LEA compliance with the timelines and submission requirements related to IDEA Part B grant in the reporting year.

Points	Condition
2	The LEA submitted its IDEA grant application and final expenditure report by the due dates.
0	The LEA did not submit its IDEA grant application and/or final expenditure report by the due dates.
<b>Not Applicable</b>	This factor is applicable to all LEAs.

**Data source:** EWEG, SFY 2025.

## Critical Requirement: Special Education Data Submission

### Overview

Factors A-D, G, and J rely on information local educational agencies (LEAs) submit through the New Jersey Department of Education's Special Education Data Submission. When an LEA fails to submit student records for a given reporting year, it receives zero (0) points on each of these factors.

*Which Factors Are Affected by Non-Submission of Special Education Data?*

Factor	Focus Area	Max Points	Requires Special Education Submission
<b>A</b>	Indicator 4B: Long-term Suspensions	8	✓ Yes
<b>B</b>	Indicators 9/10: Disproportionate Representation	8	✓ Yes
<b>C</b>	Indicator 11: Child Find	6	✓ Yes
<b>D</b>	Indicator 12: Age 3 Transition	6	✓ Yes
<b>E</b>	Indicator 13: Age 16 Transition	4	✗ No (monitoring data)
<b>F</b>	DLM Participation	4	✗ No (assessment data)
<b>G</b>	Indicator 5A: LRE Performance	4	✓ Yes

Factor	Focus Area	Max Points	Requires Special Education Submission
H	Noncompliance Correction	4	X No (monitoring data)
I	Indicators 8/14: Participation	2	X No (survey data)
J	Data Quality	2	✓ Yes
K	IDEA Grants	2	X No (grant system)

## The Multi-Year Cascade Effect

The consequences of non-submission appear on a rolling basis across multiple Determination years, not all at once. Unlike Factors E, F, H, I, and K — which draw from independent data sources and are unaffected by the Special Education data submission — Factors A, B, C, D, and G rely on SPP/APR indicators with distinct reporting timelines and lag structures. Factor J addresses the data non-submission directly.

The table below shows, for each affected factor, when a missing submission results in a score of zero. The last column uses 2025 as the non-submission year (Y) for illustration:

*Determination Year Affected by Non-Submission of Special Education Data by Factor*

Factor	Focus Area	Max Points	Determination Year Affected	Example: Determination Year Affected When Non-Submission Year (Y) is 2025
C	Indicator 11: Child Find	6	Y + 1	2026
D	Indicator 12: Age 3 Transition	6	Y + 1	2026
B	Indicators 9/10: Disproportionate Representation	8	Y + 2, Y + 3, and Y + 4	2027, 2028, and 2029
G	Indicator 5A: LRE Performance	4	Y + 2	2027
J	Data Quality	2	Y + 2	2027
A	Indicator 4B: Long-Term Suspensions	8	Y + 3	2028

The maximum points at risk in any single Determination year is 16 — the full point exposure is distributed across multiple years, not concentrated in one. The table below shows, by Determination year, which factors score zero and how many points are at risk when Special Education Data are not submitted in 2025:

*Summary of Impact by Determination Year*

Determination Year	Factors Scoring Zero	Points at Risk
2026	C, D	12 points (24%)

Determination Year	Factors Scoring Zero	Points at Risk
2027	B (Year 1 of 3), G, J	14 points (24%)
2028	A, B (Year 2 of 3)	16 points (31%)
2029	B (Year 3 of 3)	8 points (15%)

### What This Means for Your District

- **If you submit Special Education data:** You are evaluated on all applicable factors, each scored in the Determination year that corresponds to its data reporting timeline.
- **If you submit no Special Education data:** You will receive 0 points on Factors A-D, G, and J — spread across four consecutive Determination years.

### Action Required

- ✓ **Ensure timely submission** of Special Education data
- ✓ **Verify data completeness** before certification
- ✓ **Review submission requirements** prior to the Student Management fall submission
- ✓ **Contact NJSLEDS** if technical issues prevent submission