

Monitoring Compliance on Disproportionality: How Do You Focus?



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75 Minutes

What We Proposed:

- Participants will engage in an active discussion of the concepts and practices of Focused Monitoring as it relates to a state's General Supervision activities as indicated in the provisions of IDEA 2004. The presenters will use examples from states that are using a Focused Monitoring model to monitor LEA compliance on Disproportionality to guide participant interaction.

Premises

- Accountability in special education requires a system of general supervision that is monitored in systematic ways.
- Monitoring is being conceptualized in the context of IDEA'04 and the SPP
- Disproportionality, as used here, has a Broad Definition (not just SPP)
- Nondiscriminatory Testing is Not the Key Issue



The BIG 6 of Accountability (and Continuous Improvement)

1. **Consensual, Measurable Priorities (everything flows from ...)**
2. **Effective Policies, Procedures, and Practices**
3. **Data on Program Processes and Results (disaggregable into meaningful units for analysis)**
4. **Targeted Training and Technical Assistance (with measurable indicators of implementation and results)**
5. **Effective, Responsive Dispute Resolution Process**
6. **Meaningful Focused Monitoring, Corrective Actions, Incentives, and Sanctions**

What is Focused Monitoring (FM)?

"A process that purposefully selects priority areas to examine for compliance/results while not specifically examining other areas for compliance to maximize resources, emphasize important variables, and increase the probability of improved results."

Concept vs Models

- Focused Monitoring is a **concept** (or concepts) supported with premises, assumptions, and values.
- Each state/local program has developed a **FM model** based on their needs and context.

1 concept → variety of models (CA, LA, FL, NM, etc.)

Compliance

**Compliance = (FAPE)
Educational Processes
&
Educational Benefit
(results)**

Results/Outcomes of Focused Monitoring

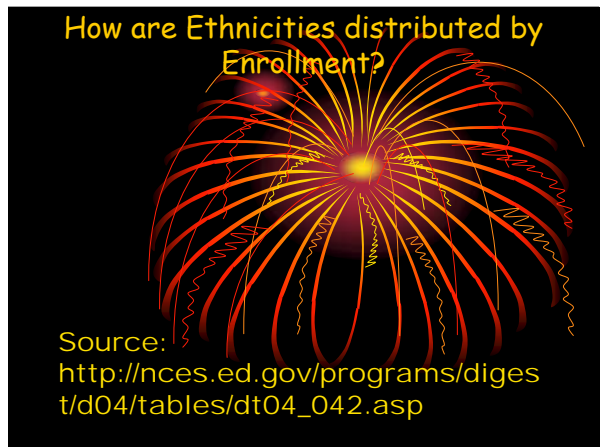
- ✓ Stakeholders continuously involved
- ✓ Public process raises awareness
- ✓ Resources wisely used
- ✓ Results continuously IMPROVE

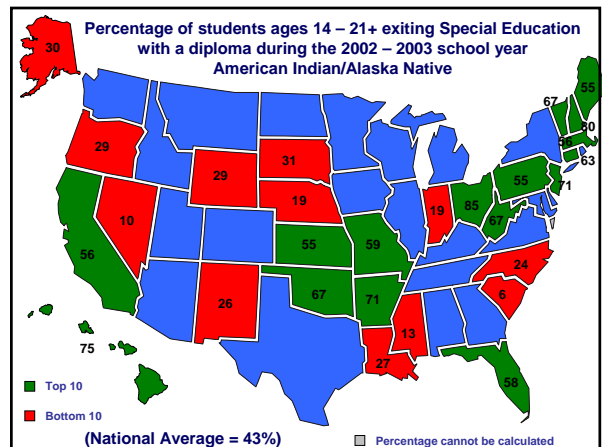
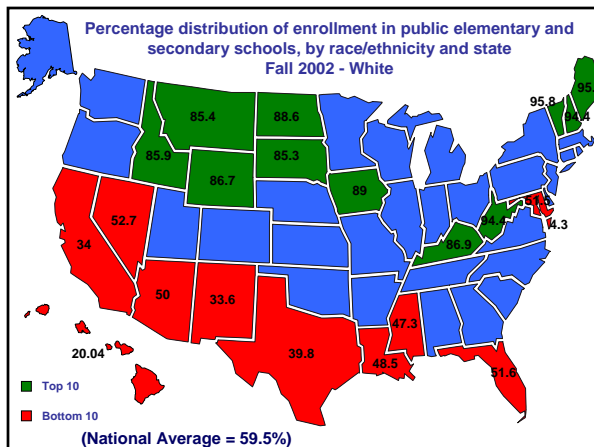
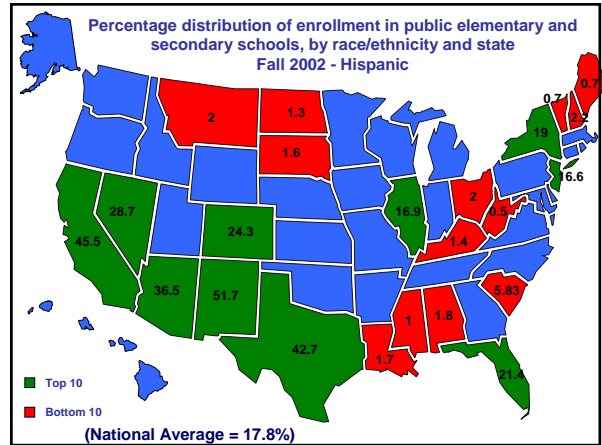
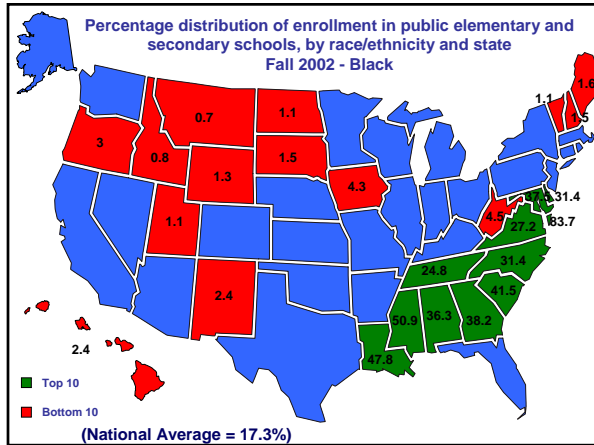
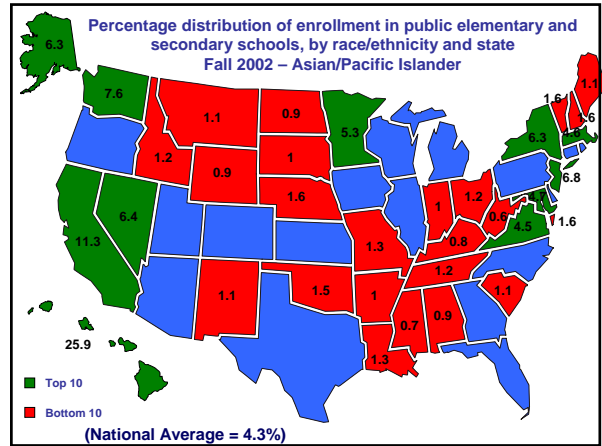
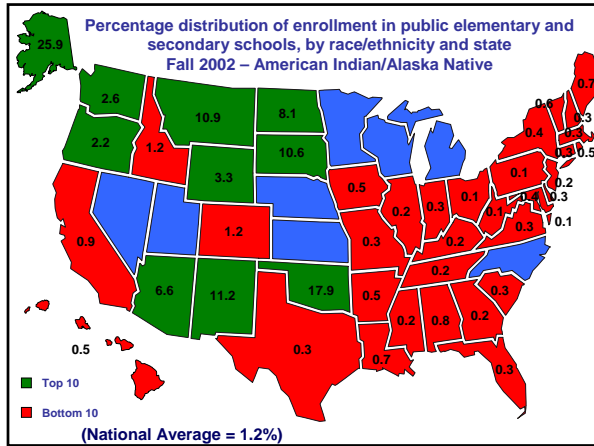
20 OSEP Indicators*

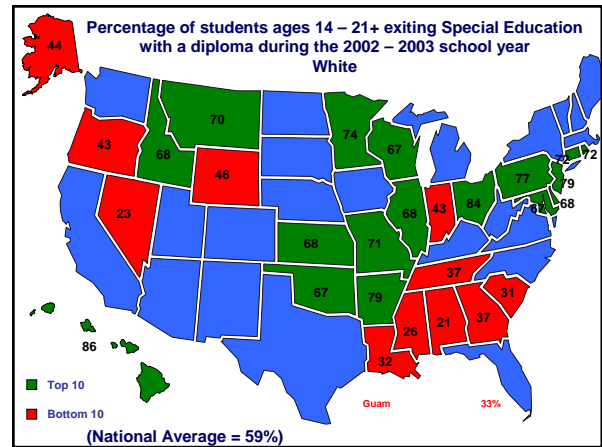
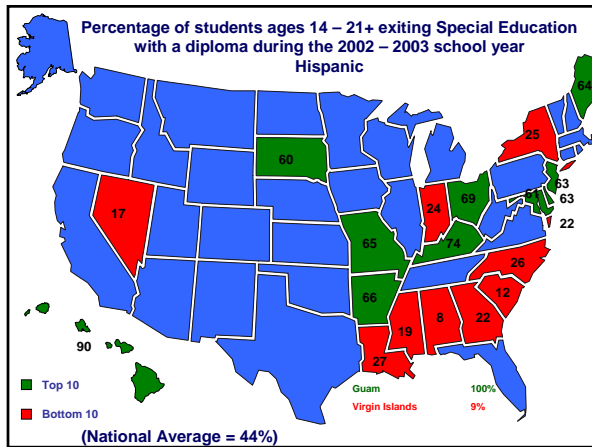
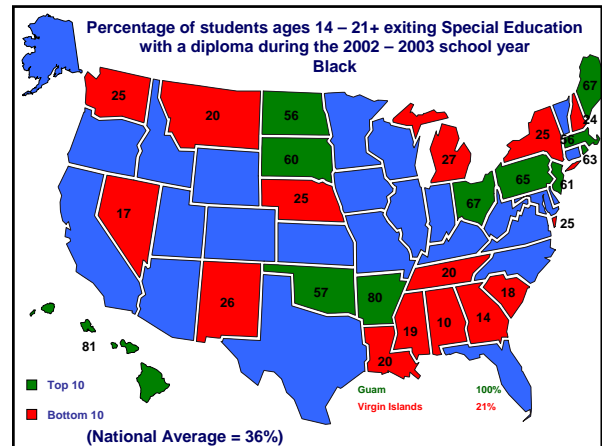
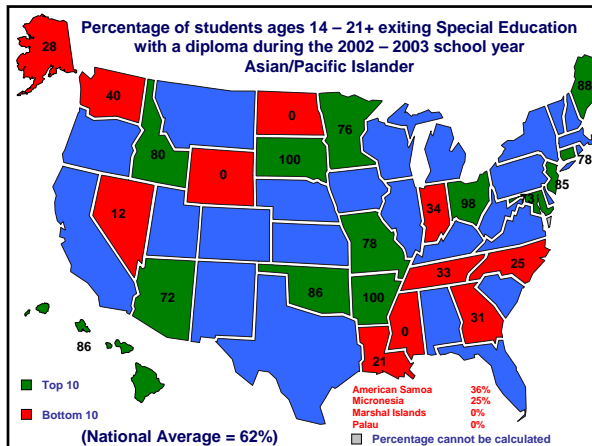
1. Diploma	10. Disproportionality+6
2. Drop-out	11. Timely Evaluations
3. Participation/Performance	12. Part C to B
4. Suspension	13. Transition Prep
5. LRE (6-21)	14. Transition (1 year)
6. LRE preschool	15. Corrected Noncompliance
7. Preschool Outcomes	16. Resolved Complaints
8. Parent Involvement	17. Due Process
9. Disproportionality	18. Resolutions
	19. Mediations
Rigorous Targets	20. Timely, Accurate Data

Key Concepts

- Data inform the system
- Data are used in determining priorities (with stakeholders)
- Data Guide Selection of LEAs/Programs
- Data bring Focus to Hypotheses of Noncompliance (about Disproportionality)







What Other Indicators could be Examined by Ethnicity ?

- Incidence of All Disabilities
- Specific Disabilities
 - Example: Mississippi - SLD & MR
 - Connecticut - MR
- Achievement (Gap & AYP)
- Least Restrictive Environment
- Suspension/Expulsion
- Others ?

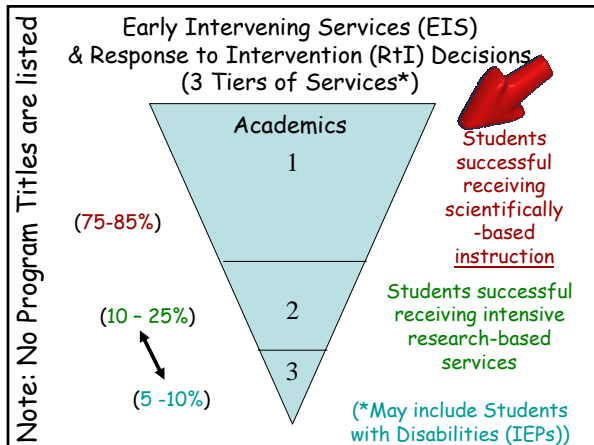
Once you have a Priority or Indicator,

1. Rank LEAs/programs
2. Select for Monitoring
3. Implement Strategies
 1. Desk Audit
 2. Self-Assessment
 3. On-Site Visit
4. Determine Noncompliance
5. Develop/Implement Corrective Actions



Focused Monitoring

- It's all about systems change
- It's requires a mindset of continuous improvement
- Stakeholders are critical at every phase and continue to be important over time
- Data become crucial tools
- Must understand general supervision
- Transition is hardest at the state level
- States must recognize their capacity and invest in building capacity
- States just need to start



Disproportionality

- Stop Admiring the Numbers
- Don't Inappropriately Identify
- Be Firm about the Numbers
- Learn How to Get Children Out (if less than 2 years) who have been questionably identified
- Do Rtl Correctly
- Make Publicly-Accessible Accountability Information Easily Comprehended