



# *National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.*

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August 10, 2009

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Attention: Education Desk Officer

RE: Various Data Collections

The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the data collections published in the Federal Register on June 9, 2009.

On behalf of our members – the state directors of special education in the states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Agency, the Bureau of Indian Education, the U.S. federal territories and the Freely Associated States, we submit these comments in response to proposed changes to the tables that are used to submit data that is required to be reported to the U.S. Department of Education under Section 618 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

1. Data Collection 4059 – Table 1 Students with Disabilities Receiving Services

NASDSE agrees with OSEP's decision to eliminate the category 22 and over. We appreciate OSEP's efforts to look for places where data elements that are not yielding useful data can be eliminated.

2. Data Collection 4061 –Table 2 Personnel

NASDSE agrees with OSEP's decision to hold off making any changes to Table 2 pending the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

3. Data Collection 4062 – Table 5 – Disciplinary Removal

NASDSE has previously expressed its concern in written comments regarding the collection of data on in-school suspensions of students with disabilities. The concern around in-school suspensions is that they have become a tool to avoid the reporting consequences connected to out-of-school suspensions and we believe that is a legitimate concern. However, we have heard from many states and local districts that ensure that students who receive in-school suspensions continue to receive educational support from teachers and educational services as required by their IEPs. In sum, the nature of in-school suspensions varies considerably from district to district and the reporting of in-school suspensions in all likelihood varies as a result, thus making comparisons from district to district difficult at best. The data collected on in-school suspensions does not give an

accurate picture of time spent away from teaching and learning and educational supports for students with disabilities nor does it provide comparison data for students without disabilities. For these reasons, we believe that collection of this data is not useful and NASDSE's recommendation is that the data collection of in-school suspensions be eliminated.

We thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me at [bill.east@nasdse.org](mailto:bill.east@nasdse.org) or at (703) 519-3800, ext. 322 or NASDSE's director of government relations, Nancy Reder, at [nancy.reder@nasdse.org](mailto:nancy.reder@nasdse.org) or at (703) 519-3800, ext. 334 if you have any questions regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill East".

Bill East, Ed.D.  
Executive Director