

Disproportionality: A Definition

Disproportionality is the *inappropriate* overrepresentation and over-identification of *ethnic minority children* in special education. The disproportionality is in the relationship or association between a child's race or ethnicity and the numbers and type of special education classification and placement that result.

(Technical Assistance Center on Disproportionality, 2010)

DRAFT

Proposed Policy Statement on Disproportionality Mount Diablo Unified School District

The Mt. Diablo Unified School District is committed to becoming a district in which all students, staff and community respect cultural, racial and economic diversity and all students are recognized and supported for their individuality and culture. The District recognizes that the overrepresentation of certain ethnic minority students in special education and in the disciplinary system is a nationwide problem and that multiple factors contribute to disparities in academic achievement, socio-emotional adjustment and behavior between student sub groups. The causes of disproportionality are complex and cross many social systems and the district recognizes that inappropriate identification and placement of students in special education can have long-term deleterious effects. The District is committed to examining the root causes of disproportionality to ensure that race, ethnicity, gender and socio-economic status are not predictors of which students will be referred for special education services or to the disciplinary system and partnering with health and human service agencies to correct these persistent patterns.