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Office of Civil Rights Data Shows Kids with Disabilities Face Deep Disparities

By Bebe Bode

The U.S. Education Department's Office of Civil Rights collects statistics every two years and compiles this information into what is called The Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). The most current CRDC was released on June 7, 2016, from the 2013-2014 school year. The CRDC was compiled using the following:

- Number of school districts: 16,758 (99.2% of all school districts)
- Number of schools: 95,507 (99.5% of all public schools)
- Total number of students: 50,035,744

The 2013-14 CRDC provides equity and opportunity data on a wide array of topics including:

- Bullying and harassment
- Early learning
- Pathways to college and career readiness (including access to math/science and AP courses)
- Restraint and seclusion
- School finance
- Prevalence of and student participation in interscholastic athletics
- Student discipline
- Teachers and other school personnel.



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NEW Data topics are highlighted and include:

- Chronic student absenteeism
- Availability of free or partial-payment preschool in school districts
- Educational access in justice (detention, correctional or residential) facilities
- Civil rights coordinators in school districts
- Sworn law enforcement/school resource officers in schools
- Access to distance education courses, credit recovery, and dual enrollment/dual credit programs

The CDRC report specifies that kids with disabilities are **twice as likely** to be **suspended** and they account for **two-thirds** of those **secluded or restrained** at school.

Federal officials say, “Students with disabilities are more frequently **absent** from school and continue to be **disciplined at far higher rates** than their typically-developing peers.”

The CDRC report found that academically students with disabilities are **less likely** than other kids to participate in higher level coursework like calculus and physics. The report also indicates about 1 in 5 high school students with disabilities were **held back** or **retained**.

The information below is from the [Office of Civil Rights](#) website and will link you to the current CDRC report and past reports for comparison.

2013-14 CRDC

OCR and other parts of the Department of Education will be releasing documents over the Summer of 2016 that use the 2013-14 CRDC data to provide insights into equity in school districts.

- Press Release (issued June 7, 2016)
Public announcement of availability of 2013-14 CRDC data
- First Look Report [PDF](#) (770K) (issued June 7, 2016)
A broad overview of the data from the 2013-14 CRDC in an initial report of key areas of inequity and progress



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We will be updating this page over the course of the Summer of 2016 with new reports, maps, and other documents.

Access 2013-14 CRDC Data

Data from the 2000, 2004, 2006, 2009-10, and 2011-12 CRDC surveys are available on the CRDC reporting tool at <http://ocrdata.ed.gov>. Data from the 2013-14 CRDC survey will be available on the [CRDC reporting tool](#) in **August 2016**.

If you want the data now, there are two ways to get it:

- A public-use data file containing the entire 2013-14 CRDC in CSV format can be downloaded in a [zip file](#) (25M). Warning – Large file.
- A public-use data file containing the entire 2013-14 CRDC on a disc can be requested [MS Word](#) (36K).

Over the course of the Summer of 2016, we will be adding segmented files of the 2013-14 CRDC public-use data in CSV and XLS formats that address key areas, such as Discipline, Classes & Courses, Chronic Absenteeism & Retention, and General Information.

If you want assistance regarding the data file:

- The [Public-Use Data File](#) User's Manual for the 2013-14 CRDC provides information about the purpose of the study, the target population and respondents, data anomalies and considerations, differences in the restricted and public-use data, data collection procedures, the data file structure, and data processing.
- The 2013-14 CRDC [school-level table layout](#) is also available for review.

If you are interested in obtaining a license to access the 2013-14 CRDC restricted data file, please visit the National Center for Education Statistics page for [Restricted-use Data Applicants](#).

For additional information about the CRDC, please e-mail OCR at ocrdata@ed.gov.



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