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West Virginia's IDEA Data

Developmental Disability in Time and Space

Executive Summary

This report examines temporal trends and spatial variation in independent educational plans (IEPs) documented in IDEA data in West Virginia. The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) delivers the IDEA data as a set of cross-tabulations (i.e., "pivot tables"). From these tables, it was necessary to manually compile a data set addressing the demographics, geography, and trends in the state's children on IEPs. Using the compiled data from the "student-counts" tabs, we examined trends in IEPs over time and across counties – constructing an atlas of students on IEPs and student-staff ratios.

Topic

- West Virginia's IDEA data.
- Comparing data on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) across time and space.

Key Findings

- The data on IEPs hint at an uptick statewide during the COVID-19 global pandemic.
- Roughly two-thirds of students on IEPs are male; females make up about one-third of IEPs.
- Autism, Developmental Delay, Other Health Impairments, and Specific Learning Disabilities have shown sharp increases, especially in recent years. Categorization in historical categories for developmental disabilities has declined.
- While all racial and ethnic demographics have witnessed increases in IEPs, those for minority students have risen more sharply.
- Levels of special needs staffing across counties is highly variable in the numbers of certified teachers, service personnel, and paraprofessionals; student-staff ratios are likewise variable.
- Staffing levels for students with IEPs are more strained in rural counties than in those with urban centers.

IPRPA Partnerships

Please contact the *Institute for Policy Research and Public Affairs* (IPRPA) for questions and technical assistance in pursuing any findings or recommendations outlined here.