IDEA Preschool Educational Environments

(Indicator 6) Technical Documentation

Version 1.0

December 2025

Department of Education & Workforce

Revision History

The revision history section provides a means for readers to easily navigate to the places where updates occurred from prior years. RED underlined text indicates significant changes and updates for additions and ~~RED text with strikethroughs~~ indicates deletions. Minor changes—such as typos, formatting and grammar corrections—are not marked.

Date	Effective	Description

Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code require districts to report data to EMIS and to verify and approve all EMIS data. Districts should review and verify data before the close of the different data collections. This verification should include all relevant reports, including those in the General Issues Reports.

The Department uses the data for this indicator to evaluate valid and reliable data reporting. The Secure Data Center (SDC) is an interactive tool that allows districts to review data well before it is final. ***The local education agency (LEA) is responsible for data verification and validation. The SDC has now been expanded for districts and schools to review Special Education Indicator Data in addition to all relevant EMIS reports.*** The EMIS Validation and Report Explanations webpage lists current Level 1 and 2 report explanations as well as a list of General Issues Reports that should be used to validate data. Another resource to validate data for students who cross LEAs is the Ohio District Data Exchange (ODDEX).

Secure Data Center Reports Breadcrumb Trails

Indicator 6

Report Portal > Secure Data Center > Special Education Indicators > **Preschool Educational Environments (to be released in future)**

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Introduction

Section 1416(a)(3) of the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Section 1416 (a) (3)](#) requires states to report on the preschool educational environments of students with disabilities. In Ohio, this requirement is addressed through **Indicator 6**, a key component of the state's special education accountability system.

Indicator 6 measures the percentage of children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), specifically, aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program and:

- Served inside the **regular early childhood program** and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program (Indicator 6a),
- Served inside **separate special education class, separate school, or residential facility** (Indicator 6b), or
- Receiving special education and related services in the **home** (Indicator 6c).

This technical document provides a comprehensive overview of Indicator 6, including who is included in the calculation, how the indicator is calculated, the reports in which the data appears, and the data sources used by the Department, such as the Education Management Information System (EMIS). The goal is to clarify the processes for collecting, analyzing, and reporting data to ensure compliance with federal guidelines and support informed decision-making by stakeholders.

The IDEA [Part B State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR)](#) define the data sources and measurement criteria for all indicators. The Department calculates Indicator 6 using data submitted through EMIS.

Reports Utilizing Indicator 6 Data

Indicator 6 data is featured in several key reports that support monitoring and accountability of special education services:

- **Special Education Profile**– Provides detailed district and community-school level data.
- **Annual Performance Report (APR)**– Submitted to the U.S. Department of Education.
- **Public Indicator Report**–Publicly posted to promote transparency.
- **Special Education Rating**– Evaluates the performance of Ohio's districts and schools.

Each of these reports plays

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a vital role in assessing and improving educational outcomes for students with disabilities in Ohio.

Business Rules

Determining Students included in Denominator

Indicator 6 includes students with disabilities who are aged 3, 4, and 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program, based on their **district of residence**.

This indicator uses data from the Part B Child Count and Educational Environment (FS089), which includes:

- An unduplicated count of children with disabilities aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program. Exclusion of closed, inactive, or future Local Educational Agencies (LEAs),
- Assignment of each child with a disability to only one LEA, and
- Inclusion of only those LEAs responsible for educating children with disabilities as of the October 31 effective date.

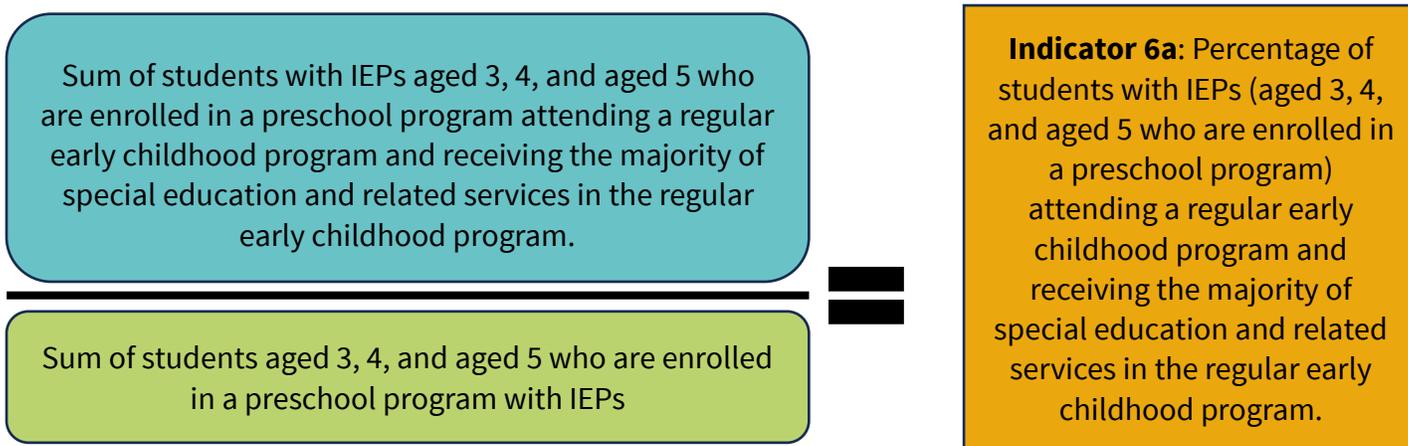# Indicator 6a: Inside the Regular Early Childhood Program

Definition: Measures the percentage of students with IEPs (aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program) attending a regular early childhood program and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program.

Calculation: Divide the number of students with IEPs (ages 3-5 in preschool) attending a regular early childhood program and getting most special education services there by the total number of IEP students in that age group.

Additional Details:

- **Code Section**: IDEA Section 1416 (a) (3)
- **Grade Levels**: Preschool
- **N-Size /Cell Size**: None

Figure 2. Visual of Indicator 6a Calculation

Sum of students with IEPs aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program attending a regular early childhood program and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program.

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Sum of students aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program with IEPs

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Indicator 6a: Percentage of students with IEPs (aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program) attending a regular early childhood program and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program.

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Indicator 6b: Separate Special Education Class, Separate School, or Residential Facility
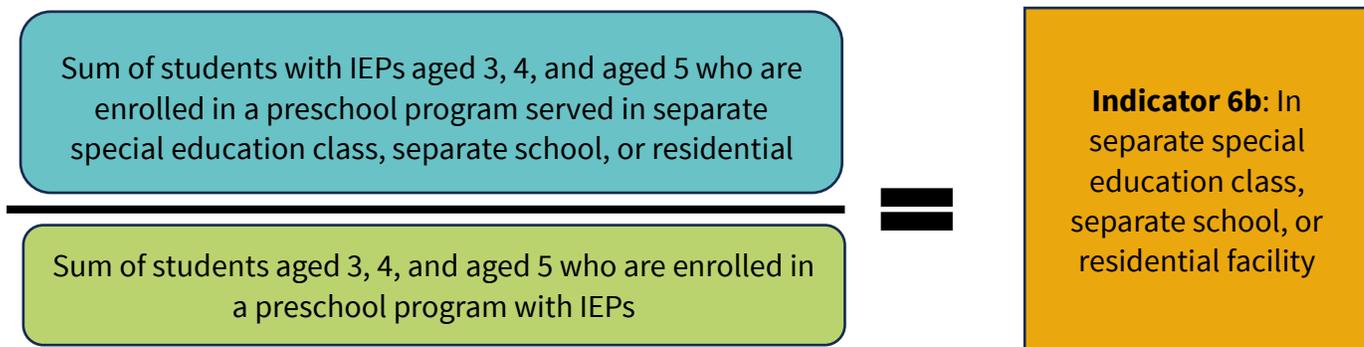
Definition: Measures the percentage of students with IEPs (aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program) served in separate special education class, separate school, or residential facility.

Calculation: Divide the number of students with IEPs (aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program) served in separate special education class, separate school, or residential facility by the total number of students with IEPs in that same age group.

Additional Details:

- **Code Section**: IDEA Section 1416 (a) (3)
- **Grade Levels**: Preschool
- **N-Size / Cell Size**: None

Figure 3. Visual of Indicator 6b Calculation

$$\frac{\text{Sum of students with IEPs aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program served in separate special education class, separate school, or residential}}{\text{Sum of students aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program with IEPs}} = \text{Indicator 6b: In separate special education class, separate school, or residential facility}$$

Indicator 6c: In the Home

Definition: Measures the percentage of students with IEPs who are aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program, receiving special education and related services n the home.

Calculation: Divide the number of students with IEPs (aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program) receiving special education and related services in the home by the total number of students with IEPs in that same age group.

Additional Details:

- **Code Section**: IDEA Section 1416 (a) (3)
- **Grade Levels**: Preschool
- **N-Size / Cell Size**: None

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Figure 4. Visual of Indicator 6c Calculation

$$\frac{\text{Sum of students with IEPs aged 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program receiving special education and related services in the home}}{\text{Sum of students 3, 4, and aged 5 who are enrolled in a preschool program with IEPs}} = \text{Indicator 6c: In the home}$$
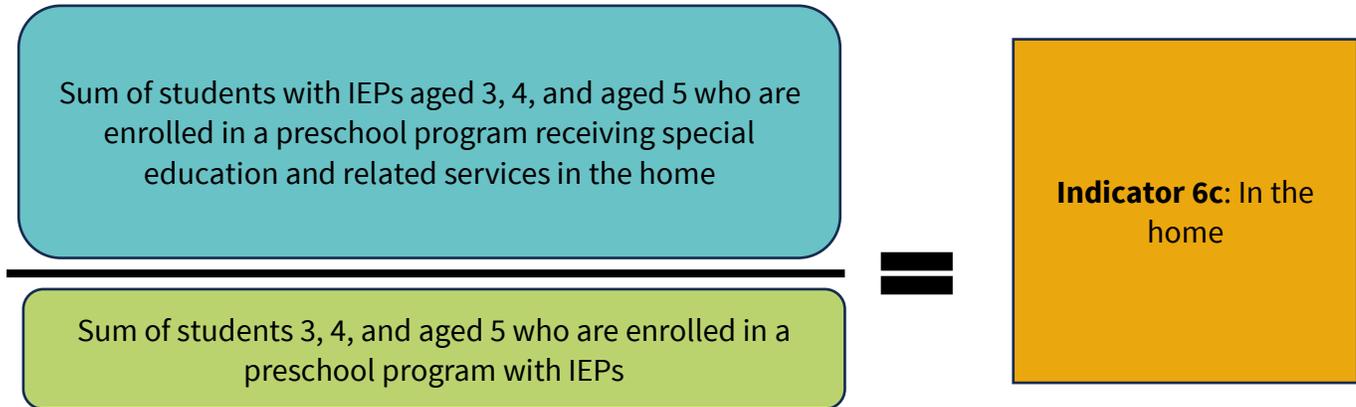
Indicator 6 Met/Not Met Status

Federal law requires states to implement a general supervision system to monitor compliance with IDEA 2004. The **Phase 2 release** of the **Special Education Profile** includes Indicator 6 data. While Indicator 6 currently does not require corrective action, educational agencies are encouraged to review their data to ensure systems are in place to meet established targets.

The Department determines whether an agency '**Met'** or did not meet ('**Not Met**') the target for Indicator 6 based on actual performance compared to the target.

The targets must be:

- Rigorous, yet attainable,
- Developed with broad stakeholder input, and
- Show improvement over the baseline by the final year.

For more information, visit Ohio's Annual Performance Report webpage.

Table 1: Indicator 6 Target

Profile Year	Data Year*	6a Target	6b Target	6c Target
2024–2025	2023-2024	≥ 73.00%	≤ 14.00%	≤ 2.20%
2025–2026	2024–2025	≥ 76.00%	≤ 12.00%	≤ 1.80%
2026–2027	2025–2026	≥ 80.00%	≤ 10.00%	≤ 1.55%

Note: "Data Year" refers to the school year from which data is used to calculate performance for the corresponding Profile year.

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Appendix A Inclusion Criteria

Students are included in the **District of Residence's** data for the following Measures/Indicators:

Indicator 6: Educational Environments

A student is counted in the calculation **if** they are reported in the Education Management Information System (EMIS) with the following criteria:

Denominator Criteria (All Students with IEPs)

A student is included in the denominator if:

- **Date of birth (GI070**) equals a date which determines their age on October 31st to be 5 or younger

- **Date Type Element (GE100) = IIEP, RIEP, TIEP, or NIEP**, AND

- Either:

  o **Outcome Beginning Date (GE140)** falls between **July 1 and October 31** of the data year, **or**

  o **Outcome End Date (GE150)** falls between **November 1 and June 30** of the data year.

Numerator Criteria

Indicator 6a (Inside regular early childhood program):

- **Outcome ID (GE120) = IE51, IE53**

Indicator 6b (Separate special education class, Separate school, or residential facilities):

- **Outcome ID (GE120) = IE60, IE62, or IE64**

Indicator 6c (Inside the home):

- **Outcome ID (GE120) = IE70**