



Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Data Errata - Data Changes after DPI Publication October 1 Child Count

Last Updated 1/13/2021

Student Data

The IDEA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) tests include a comparison of per pupil expenditure costs. To determine per pupil expenditures, DPI uses the data submitted by the LEA through their Student Information Systems (SIS) to WISEdata regarding their October 1 Child Count of students with disabilities. The October 1 Child Count reflects the number of students enrolled in the LEA's public schools who had active IEPs and students parentally placed in private schools within the LEA who had active Services Plans on October 1 of that year.

The October 1 Child Count number used in the MOE report is the LEA's "official" DPI snapshot number. This snapshot is usually taken in December and captures the data that existed in WISEdash at that time. Although the snapshot is taken in December, it reflects the number of students who had IEPs in which the start and end date of the IEP crossed October 1.

Unusual Decrease in Students with Disabilities

Each year, during the MOE eligibility testing phase, DPI will identify LEAs who saw a decrease in October 1 Child Count numbers greater than 10%.

To meet IDEA MOE eligibility or compliance, an LEA has to pass one of four expenditure comparison tests by spending the same or more than a previous year on special education and related services. Two of the tests are based on a per student capita – and if the student count is incorrect, then these two tests cannot be used to determine compliance. In addition, the MOE exception amount generated by a decrease in students with disabilities will be disallowed.

If the snapshot number is not the correct count, it can be fixed in WISEgrants (but not in WISEdash). To make this correction, the LEA must submit a "data errata" letter to DPI.

Data errata letters for October 1 Child Count corrections

LEAs submit errata on school district letterhead through the [WISEadmin Portal](#). It is imperative that the letter does not include any student-specific data (PII) for confidentiality and privacy reasons.

Once DPI approves the errata PDFs in the WISEadmin Portal, they are posted to the DPI website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/cst/data-collections/data-errata>.

PLEASE use this text when putting together the October 1 Child Count data errata letter (example of a [published letter](#) from FY 2018-2019 which used the following template):

LEA Letterhead

Current Date

Michelle Jones
Department of Public Instruction
125 South Webster Street
PO Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Ms. Jones:

This letter is to correct the School District of [LEA Name]'s October 1 Child Count Data.

DPI's WISEdash snapshot is showing a count of [xx] students on the October 1 Child Count for the [XXXX-XXXX] school year. The correct WISEdash October 1 Child Count number should be [#].

*Of those [#total] students, [#] were students ages 3, 4 and 5 on October 1.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

After the letter is approved by DPI, the October 1 Child Count in WISEgrants will be updated to match the count identified in the data errata letter. A reminder that this letter does not change the snapshot number in WISEdash.