

# Examining Data to Inform Policy and Practice: An Analysis of the Federal Civil Rights Data Collection

**Lauren Morando Rhim,** Executive Director and Co-Founder

Goodbye, National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools.

Hello,
Center for
Learner Equity.



### **Our Mission**

We are committed to ensuring that students with disabilities, particularly those in under-resourced communities, have the quality educational opportunities and choices they need to thrive and learn. We accomplish this through research, advocacy, coalition formation, and capacity building with national, state, and local partners.



Document and Communicate Facts



**Inform Policy** 



**Develop Coalitions** 



**Build Capacity** 

#### **Presentation Overview**

- Objective
- CRDC Overview
- 2017–2018 Findings
  - Enrollment Trends and Variances
  - Enrollment Composition
  - Education Setting
  - Discipline and Engagement of Law Enforcement
  - Specialized Charter Schools
- Questions via the chat box



### **Objective:**

Conduct a secondary analysis of the federal Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) to understand the status and experiences of students with disabilities in traditional and charter public schools on key indicators of access and instructional opportunities over time



Are data from 2017-2018 relevant in light of COVID-19?

Yes! Disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and documented increases in charter school enrollment mean it remains important to track the degree to which:

- students with disabilities are accessing charter schools
- understand the characteristics of students and their experiences prior to the pandemic to examine shifts as schools focus on recovery

#### Publish Reports and Tableau Data Files 2012 – 2018



#### Key Trends in Special Education in Charter Schools:

A Secondary Analysis of the Civil Rights Data Collection 2011–2012



October 2015

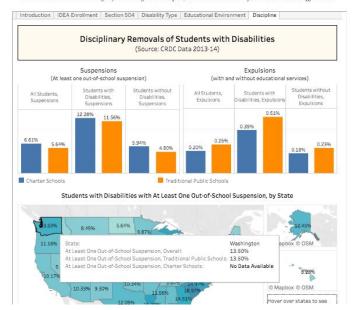
Lauren Morando Rhim, Jesse Gumz, and Kelly Henderson



#### Interactive Report on the Status of Special Education in Public Schools across the U.S.

The interactive data visualization below is an additional resource to our most recently released report on the state of special education in charter schools and traditional public schools, as seen from the analysis of the CRDC and IDEA data collected by the U.S. Department of Education. With this visualization, we aim to further our goal of establishing and communicating the facts about special education, as well as informing both policy and practice to ensure equity for students with a range of learning differences.

Learn more about our findings by reviewing the full report, the executive summary, and the methodology section!



#### What is the Civil Rights Data Collection?



The purpose of the CRDC is to obtain data authorized under the statutes and regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the **Education Amendments of** 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. and under the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. § 3413).



The CRDC collects data on leading civil rights indicators related to access and barriers to educational opportunity from preschool through 12th grade

# **CRDC Overview**





### School Types Included in the 2017-18 CRDC Sample

School Type	Number of Schools	Percent of Schools
Traditional	89,264	92.7%
Charter	7,036	7.3%
Alternative	3,335	3.5%
Magnet	4,123	4.3%
Special Education	1,998	2.1%





Over 330,000 students with disabilities have chosen to enroll in charter schools across the country

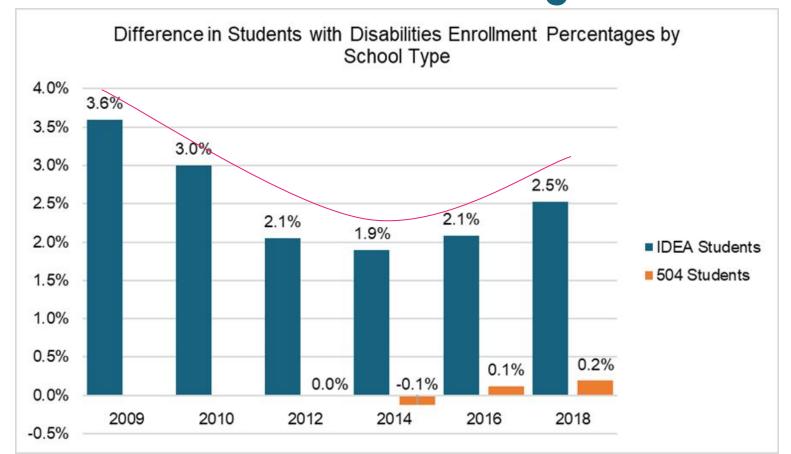


More Students Eligible for Special Education Overall 13.2% in Traditional Schools (12.9% in 2016) 10.7% in Charter Schools (10.8% in 2016)

Difference between Sectors Increasing 2.5% for Students w/Disabilities (IEP)(2.1% in 2016) 0.2% for Students w/Section 504 Plans (0.1% in 2016)

More Students with Disabilities in LEA Charters 11.2% LEA Charters 9.9% Charters Part of an LEA

# After Period of Decreasing, Difference Between Sectors is Increasing



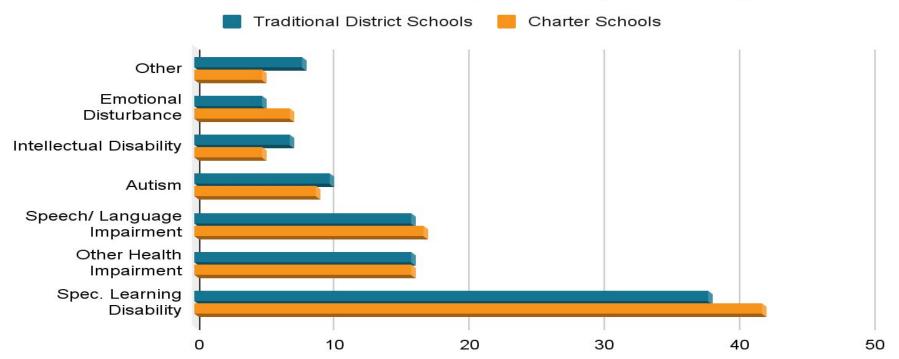
# Enrollment Composition





# Similar Profile of Students with Some Notable Variances (i.e., ED, ID, ASD, SLD, and aggregate low incidence)

#### 2017-2018 Enrollment By Primary Disability



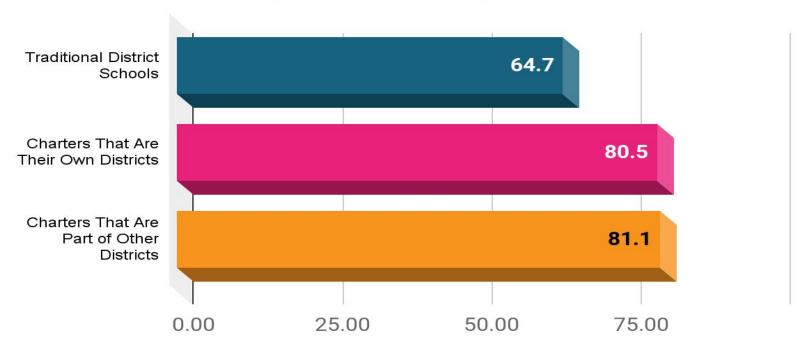
# Educational Placement





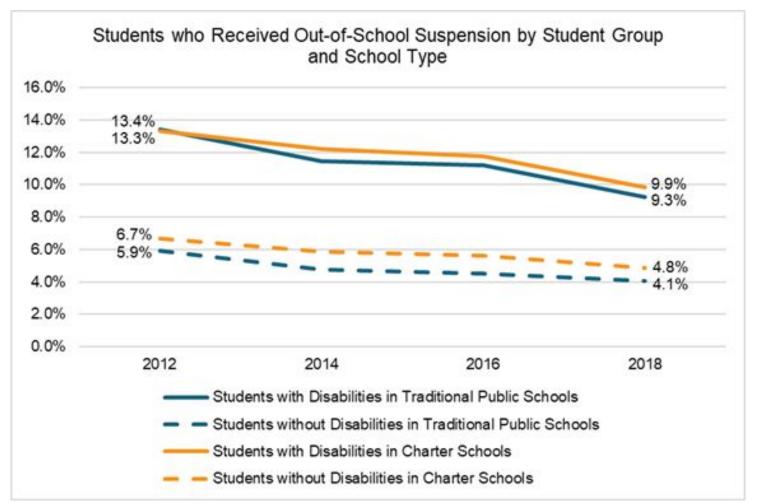
# Charter Schools Continue to Educate a Greater Proportion of Students in General Education Classrooms

2017-2018 Percentage of Students Placed in General Education Setting Over 80% of Day (National)



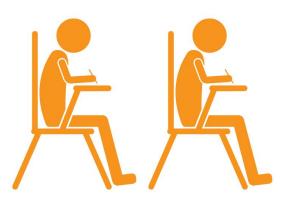


#### Overall, Suspensions are Decreasing

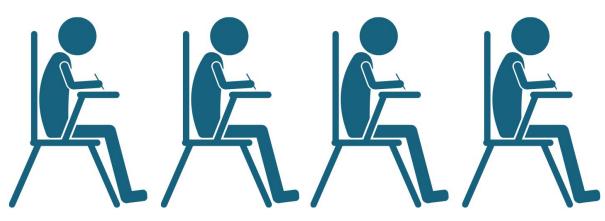


### **Disproportionality Persists Across Sectors**

STUDENTS WITHOUT DISABILITIES



**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** 



In-School Suspension
4.7% Traditional Schools
2.5% Charter Schools

Out-of-School Suspension 4.1% Traditional Schools 4.8% Charter Schools **In-School Suspension** 

8.3% Traditional Schools

4.4% Charter Schools

**Out-of-School Suspension** 

9.3% Traditional Schools

9.9% Charter Schools

### Disproportionality of Law Enforcement Referrals

STUDENTS
WITHOUT DISABILITIES

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** 

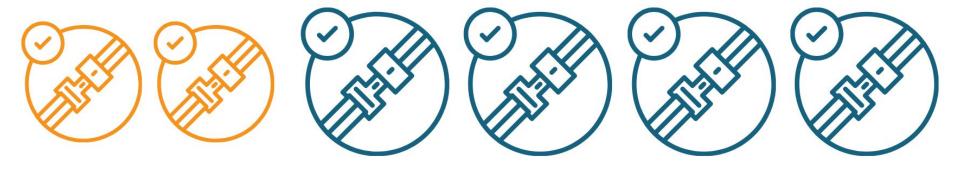


0.4% Traditional Schools 0.1% Charter Schools 0.9% Traditional Schools (58,695) 0.3% Charter Schools (1,037)

### **Disproportionality of Student Restraints**

## STUDENTS WITHOUT DISABILITIES

#### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



0.03% Physical - Traditional 0.04% Physical - Charter

0.005% Mechanical - Traditional 0.001% Mechanical - Charter

0.86% Physical - Traditional (54,208) 0.48% Physical - Charter (1,596)

0.023% Mechanical - Traditional (1,470) 0.007% Mechanical - Charter (23)



Specialized Charter Schools



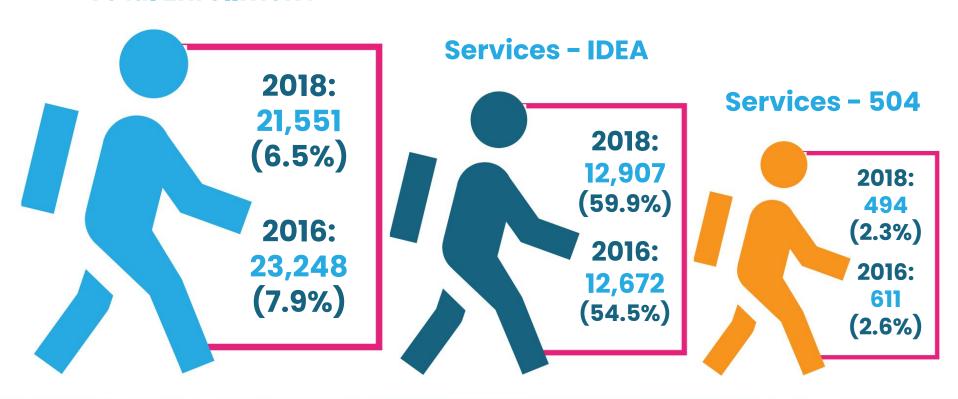


### Specialized Charter Schools are Growing in Number

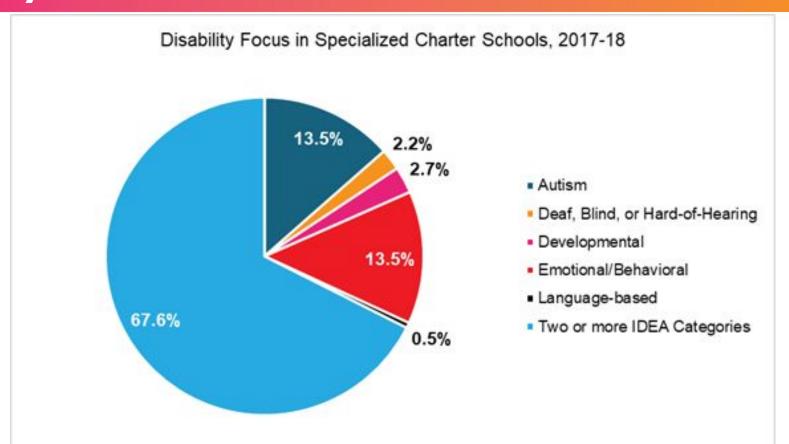
- The number of specialized charter schools increased from 165 in 2015-2016 to 185 in 2017-2018.
- The vast majority of specialized charter schools are in Florida, Ohio, and Texas.
- About 68% of specialized charter schools appear to serve students with a variety of disabilities.

#### **Enrollment of Students with Disabilities in Specialized Charter Schools**

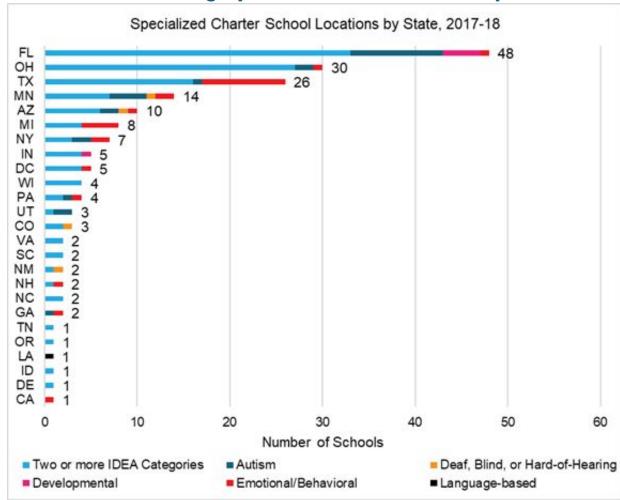
#### **Total Enrollment**



# Most Specialized Schools Educate Students with a Variety of Disabilities



#### Specialized Schools Largely Clustered in Small Group of States







The number of students qualifying for special education and related services continues to increase across the nation.



Charter schools continue to enroll a smaller proportion of students with disabilities and after a period of decreasing, the difference has increased.



The legal status of a charter school appears to influence the extent to which students with disabilities have access, most likely due to IDEA assigning responsibility for the provision of FAPE to LEAs and not schools.



Charter schools educate more students with disabilities in the general education classrooms, but traditional public schools continue to educate more students with disabilities who are typically educated in more restrictive settings.



Across the board, students with disabilities are subject to 2X to 3X more discipline (i.e., suspensions, seclusion, and restraint), and this discipline leads to notably more involvement with law enforcement.



The sub-sample of "specialized" charter schools continues to grow but remains largely clustered in FL, OH, and TX.



# Questions?

### FIVE FULL TECHNICAL BRIEFS & **DETAILED METHODOLOGY AVAILABLE NOW**





A Secondary Analysis of the Civil Rights Data Collection to Inform Policy and Practice Key Findings and Guiding Questions that Examine the Experiences of Students



with Disabilities in Charter and Traditional Public Schools

inrollment of Students with Disabilities in Charter and Traditional Public Schools





A Secondary Analysis of the Civil Rights Data Collection to Inform Policy and Practice Key Findings and Guiding Questions that Examine the Experiences of Students with Disabilities in Charter and Traditional Public Schools



**Enrollment Characteristics of Students** with Disabilities in Charter and Traditional Public Schools TECHNICAL BRIEF 2





A Secondary Analysis of the Civil Rights Data Collection to Inform Policy and Practice Key Findings and Guiding Questions that Examine the Experiences of Students with Disabilities in Charter and Traditional Public Schools



**Education of Students with Disabilities** in Charter and Traditional Public Schools by Educational Settina FECHNICAL BRIEF 3

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A Secondary Analysis of the Civil Rights Data Collection to Inform Policy and Practice Key Findings and Guiding Questions that Examine the Experiences of Students

with Disabilities in Charter and Traditional Public Schools



School Discipline and Engagement of Law Enforcement in Charter and Traditional Public Schools





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### WWW.CENTERFORLEARNEREQUITY.ORG

# Follow up Questions?

#### **Contact me:**

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# Thank you!

