

## About the Civil Rights Data Collection

### What is the Civil Rights Data Collection?

The Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) is a biennial (*i.e.*, every other school year) survey required by the U.S. Department of Education's (Department) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) since 1968. Similar to the 2011–12 and 2013–14 CRDCs, the 2015–16 CRDC collected data from a universe of all public local educational agencies (LEA) and schools, including long-term secure juvenile justice facilities, charter schools, alternative schools, and schools serving students with disabilities. The 2017–18 CRDC will also collect information from a universe of public LEAs.

### What is the purpose of the CRDC?

The CRDC collects data on leading civil rights indicators related to access and barriers to educational opportunity at the early childhood through grade 12 levels. The CRDC is also a longstanding and critical aspect of the overall enforcement and monitoring strategy used by OCR to ensure that recipients of the Department's Federal financial assistance do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and disability. OCR relies on CRDC data it receives from public school districts as it investigates complaints alleging discrimination, determines whether the Federal civil rights laws it enforces have been violated, initiates proactive compliance reviews to focus on particularly acute or nationwide civil rights compliance problems, and provides policy guidance and technical assistance to educational institutions, parents, students, and others. In addition, the CRDC is a valuable resource for other Department offices and Federal agencies, policymakers and researchers, educators and school officials, parents and students, and the public who seek data on student equity and opportunity.

### Under what authority does the Department conduct the CRDC?

Section 203(c)(1) of the 1979 *Department of Education Organization Act* conveys to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights the authority to “collect or coordinate the collection of data necessary to ensure compliance with civil rights laws within the jurisdiction of the Office for Civil Rights.” 20 U.S.C. § 3413(c)(1), <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/STATUTE-93/STATUTE-93-Pg668/content-detail.html>.

The civil rights laws enforced by OCR include: Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act* of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, and national origin; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination based on sex; and Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act* of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. OCR's implementing regulations for each of these statutes require recipients of the Department's Federal financial assistance to submit to OCR “complete and accurate compliance reports at such times, and in such form and containing such information” as OCR “may determine to be necessary to enable [OCR] to ascertain whether the recipient has complied or is complying” with these laws and implementing regulations. 34 CFR § 100.6(b), 34 CFR § 106.71, and 34 CFR § 104.61, located at [www2.ed.gov/policy/rights/reg/ocr/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/rights/reg/ocr/index.html). In addition, pursuant to a delegation by the Attorney General of the United States, OCR shares in the enforcement of Title II of the *Americans with Disabilities Act* of 1990, which prohibits discrimination based on disability. Any data collection that OCR has determined to be necessary to ascertain or ensure compliance with these laws is mandatory. OCR also has jurisdiction under the *Age Discrimination Act* of 1975, and the *Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act*.

OCR works with Department offices to help them effectively carry out programs of Federal financial assistance that the Secretary of Education is responsible for administering. See Sections 201, 202(g), 411(a), and 412 of the *Department of Education Organization Act* (20 U.S.C. §§ 3411, 3412(g), 3471(a), and 3472). OCR works with the Department's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, which is

responsible for administering the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* of 1965 (*ESEA*). Section 9533 of the *ESEA* (20 U.S.C. § 7913) prohibits discrimination in the administration of the *ESEA* in violation of the Fifth or Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution. In addition, Section 9534 of the *ESEA* (20 U.S.C. § 7914) prohibits discrimination in funded programs on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (except as otherwise permitted under Title IX), national origin, or disability. Thus, in addition to OCR's authority described above, the *ESEA* provides authority for the Department to mandate that LEAs respond to this data collection.

### **Who was surveyed in the 2015–16 CRDC?**

The 2015–16 CRDC includes data from every public school district and public school in the nation (approximately 17,300 school districts, 96,300 schools, and 50.6 million students).

Public schools include traditional public schools (preschool through 12th grade), charter schools, alternative schools, schools serving students with disabilities, and long-term secure juvenile justice facilities.

### **What was asked in the 2015–16 CRDC?**

The 2015–16 CRDC collected data on the following broad topics:

- Enrollment and School Characteristics
- Early Childhood Education
- College and Career Readiness
- Discipline, Offenses, Bullying and Harassment, Restraint and Seclusion
- Staff and Resources.

Most student data that were collected were disaggregated by race/ethnicity, sex, English learner status, and disability status.

Almost all of the data elements that were previously collected by the 2013–14 CRDC were collected by the 2015–16 CRDC. A complete list of data elements included in the 2015–16 CRDC can be found at [this link](#).

### **How can I access the CRDC?**

The CRDC database, with hundreds of data elements, is fully accessible to the public. All data presented are self-reported by school districts. For more information about the CRDC, please visit: <http://ocrdata.ed.gov>. In addition to the 2015–16 CRDC, data from the 2000, 2004, 2006, 2009–10, 2011–12, and 2013–14 CRDC collections are available on the site.

### **How do I contact OCR about the CRDC?**

If you have any comments or questions concerning the use of CRDC data or suggestions to improve the user-friendliness of this site, then please email OCR at [ocrdata@ed.gov](mailto:ocrdata@ed.gov) or write to:

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