

Reporting Tool: Creating a Weighted Average Length of Stay

Related Consolidated State Performance Report Tables and ED*Facts* File Specifications

Consolidated State Performance Report Tables:

- Programs and facilities (tables 2.5.1.1/2.5.3.1)

Purpose of this Tool

This tool provides step-by-step examples that are designed to guide the calculations for reporting the average length of stay of programs or facilities, per the following guidelines requested in the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR):

- The average length of stay should reflect the stay within the given reporting year, not the average length of stay for the program or facility overall.
- Thus, no average length of stay can be greater than 365 days, because 365 is the maximum number of days within the reporting year.
- For students whose stays have spanned multiple reporting periods, count only the number of days (including week and weekend days) that occurred within the reporting year.

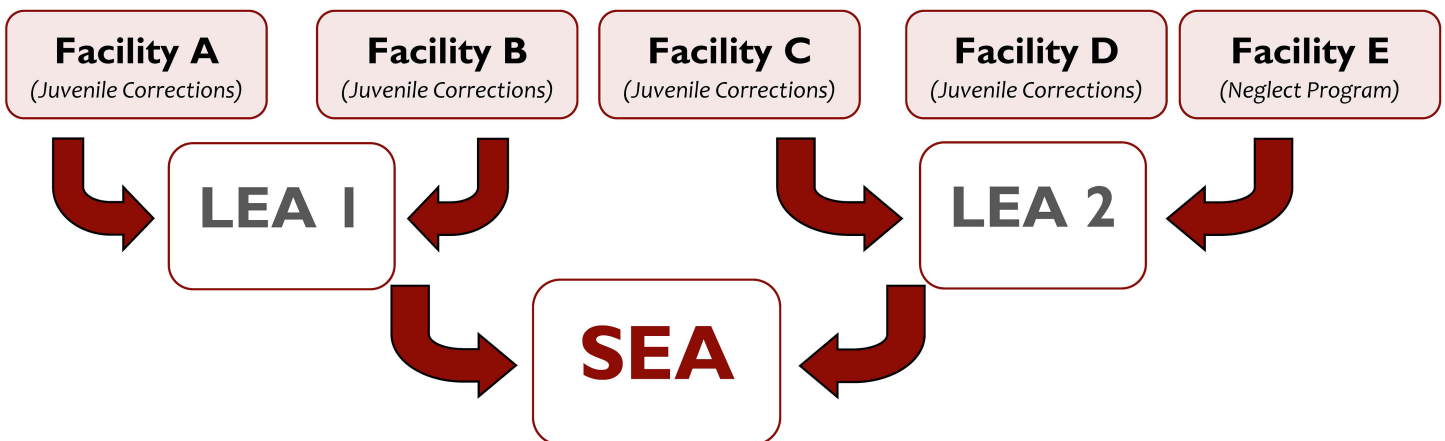
Calculating the Average Length of Stay for Title I, Part D Programs

The average length of stay can be calculated several ways, depending on the type of data that are collected by the State.

- **Calculating a basic average.** If local education agencies (LEAs), State agencies (SAs), and State education agencies (SEAs) have access to student-level data as part of the data collection process, then the average calculation should be straightforward and the student-level data should be used to calculate a basic average length of stay across all students.
- **Calculating a weighted average.** If, however, the LEA, SA, or SEA has aggregated information from the facilities or programs instead of student-level data, then the average length of stay should be weighted by the number of students at both the agency level and the State level. This method provides a more accurate estimate for the average length of stay of students across facilities.

Exhibit 1 shows the data collection process from the facility to SEA level, which is also demonstrated in the step-by-step directions for calculating average length of stay following the exhibit.

Exhibit 1: Data Collection and Reporting Hierarchy from an Individual Facility to SEAs



Example: Calculating the Weighted Average Length of Stay for Subpart 2 Programs

This example applies equally across subpart 1 and subpart 2 programs.

Step 1. Calculating a Weighted Average at the SA and LEA Level¹

This example is based on Exhibit 1 and a case in which LEA 1 funds the following:

- Facility A, a juvenile corrections facility with 100 students who have stayed a total of 101 days on average
- Facility B, a juvenile corrections facility with 80 students who have stayed a total of 250 days on average

Calculating the weighted average of the length of stay at the LEA level involves three steps:

1. Calculate the weighted length of stay per facility by multiplying the number of students by the average length of stay in days to get the weighted length of stay for each facility.
2. Sum the weighted length of stays and the total number of students across both facilities.
3. Divide the sum of the weighted length of stays by the sum of students for facilities A and B.

Facilities should report both the duplicated and unduplicated count to their SAs and LEAs when reporting their student count data (see the note in Exhibit 2).

Exhibit 2: Example Data from Juvenile Corrections that Receive Subpart 2 Funds in LEA 1

| LEA-level Juvenile Corrections | Number of students (duplicated count)* | Average length of stay (in days) | Weighted length of stay (students × stay) |
|--|---|---|--|
| Facility A | 100 | 101 | 10,100 |
| Facility B | 80 | 250 | 20,000 |
| Total sum for LEA 1 | 180 | — | 30,100 |
| Total weighted average at LEA level | $\frac{30,100}{180 \text{ students}} = 167.22$ | | |

*Ideally, this value should be based on a duplicated student count, which includes the total number of student enrollments across the school year. Because students with multiple visits can be used to calculate the average length of stay, the duplicated count may be greater than the unduplicated count reported in the CSPR forms.

Note that in this example, taking a simple average across facilities would produce an average length of stay of 176 days (351 days/2 facilities). In a simple average calculation, the data from the smaller facility with longer stays would be weighted equally with those of the larger facility, and the average length of stay for students as a whole would be inaccurate.

¹ This calculation should be repeated at each LEA and/or SA, and for each program type (neglect, juvenile detention, etc.), as applicable. Calculating a weighted average length of stay for students at each level provides the most accurate estimate.

Step 2. Calculating a Weighted Average at the State Level

On the basis of exhibit 1, the SEA funds two LEAs, which ideally have reported the weighted average length of stay across each of their two juvenile corrections facilities (facilities A and B, and C and D, respectively).

The steps for calculating the weighted length of stay at the State level, based on LEA data, are the same as those outlined in step 1 with the facility-level data.

We recommend weighting the length of stay at the SEA level—even though portions of the calculation may be mathematically redundant from step 1—because the SEA may not have access to the specifics of the LEA calculation. Weighting the data at the SEA level is the most effective way to ensure that the data reported are as accurate as possible.

Exhibit 3 provides an example of the average length of stay calculations at the State level for juvenile corrections that receive subpart 2 funds.

Exhibit 3: Sample Data from Juvenile Corrections that Receive Subpart 2 Funds in LEAs (Across the SEA)

| SEA-level Juvenile Corrections | Number of students (duplicated count)* | Average length of stay (in days) | Weighted length of stay (students × stay) |
|--|---|---|--|
| LEA 1 (from exhibit 2) | 180 | 167.22** | 30,100 |
| LEA 2 | 60 | 290.10 | 17,406 |
| Total sum for State | 240 | — | 47,506 |
| Total weighted average at State level | $\frac{47,506}{240 \text{ students}} = 198$ | | |

*Ideally, this value should be based on a duplicated student count, which includes the total number of student enrollments across the school year. Because students with multiple visits can be used to calculate the average length of stay, the duplicated count may be greater than the unduplicated count reported in the CSPR forms.

**Same calculation as step 1.

Weighted average calculations should occur for each program or facility type (neglect, detention, etc.) and apply to both SA (subpart 1) and LEA (subpart 2) programs.

As in exhibit 2, taking a simple average across LEAs would produce an average length of stay of 229 days in juvenile corrections (457.32 days/2 LEAs). This calculation would be biased and inaccurately reflect the average length of stay for students as a whole.

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