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Report: Blacks Likely To Be Special-Ed Students

Baltimore (AP) — A new report prompted by complaints by the NAACP reveals a big disparity in the way minority and white children are educated in the nation's public schools.

It finds that black students are nearly three times as likely as whites to be labeled "mentally retarded" and in need of special education services. The research suggests kids in special ed are subject to less demanding schoolwork, more restrictive classrooms and isolation from their peers.

The report out today is a compilation of 14 studies being released by The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University.

Co-author Daniel Losen says complaints by the Baltimore-based NAACP that school systems were placing too many black students in special ed classes and too few in gifted classes prompted the studies.