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Big B Add-on Day
September 10-11, 2014   New Orleans, LA

Preliminary Trends on State Policy and Practices on Students With Disabilities Enrolled in Online Learning: Challenges and Implications for Reporting *IDEA* Data

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Bruce Bull
IDEA Data Center, Consultant

Kellie Kim
IDEA Data Center, WestEd

Dona Meinders
IDEA Data Center, WestEd

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Overview of the Session

Outcomes of the session

- Learn about state policies and definitions of online learning and preliminary data from interviews of selected states on their data collection practices

- Engage in facilitated discussions on similarities, differences, and needs of practices of collecting and reporting data on students with disabilities (SWDs)

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Educational Environments Online Learning Workgroup Members

- Bruce Bull, Spedsis-IDC Consultant
- Danielle Crain, Westat
- Bill Huennekens, AEM
- Kellie Kim, WestEd
- Dona Meinders, WestEd

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Educational Environments Online Learning Workgroup Members (cont.)

- Swati Nadkarni, Westat
- Nancy O'Hara, University of Kentucky
- Ellen Schiller, SRI International
- Chris Thacker, University of Kentucky

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Workgroup Activities

- State Policy Scan

- State Interview Findings

- White Paper

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State Policy Scan

- Selection criteria

- Overview of terms and definitions

- Preliminary findings

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State Telephone Interviews

- Selection process

- Interview process

- Interview questions

- Initial key findings

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Selection Criteria

- States that require online experience for high school graduation

- States with the highest online course enrollments in 2011/12 school year*

- States with a particular interest in online learning

* Data based on iNACOL Fast Facts published in 2013

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Terms and Definitions

- Online learning

- Blended learning

- Distance learning

- Online learning schools

- Digital learning

- eLearning

- Virtual instruction

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Common Definitional Features

- An interactive computer-based and internet-connected learning environment;

- Students are separated from their teachers by time or location, or both;

- Certified teachers required; and

- Distinguishes between schools and courses, and full and part time options

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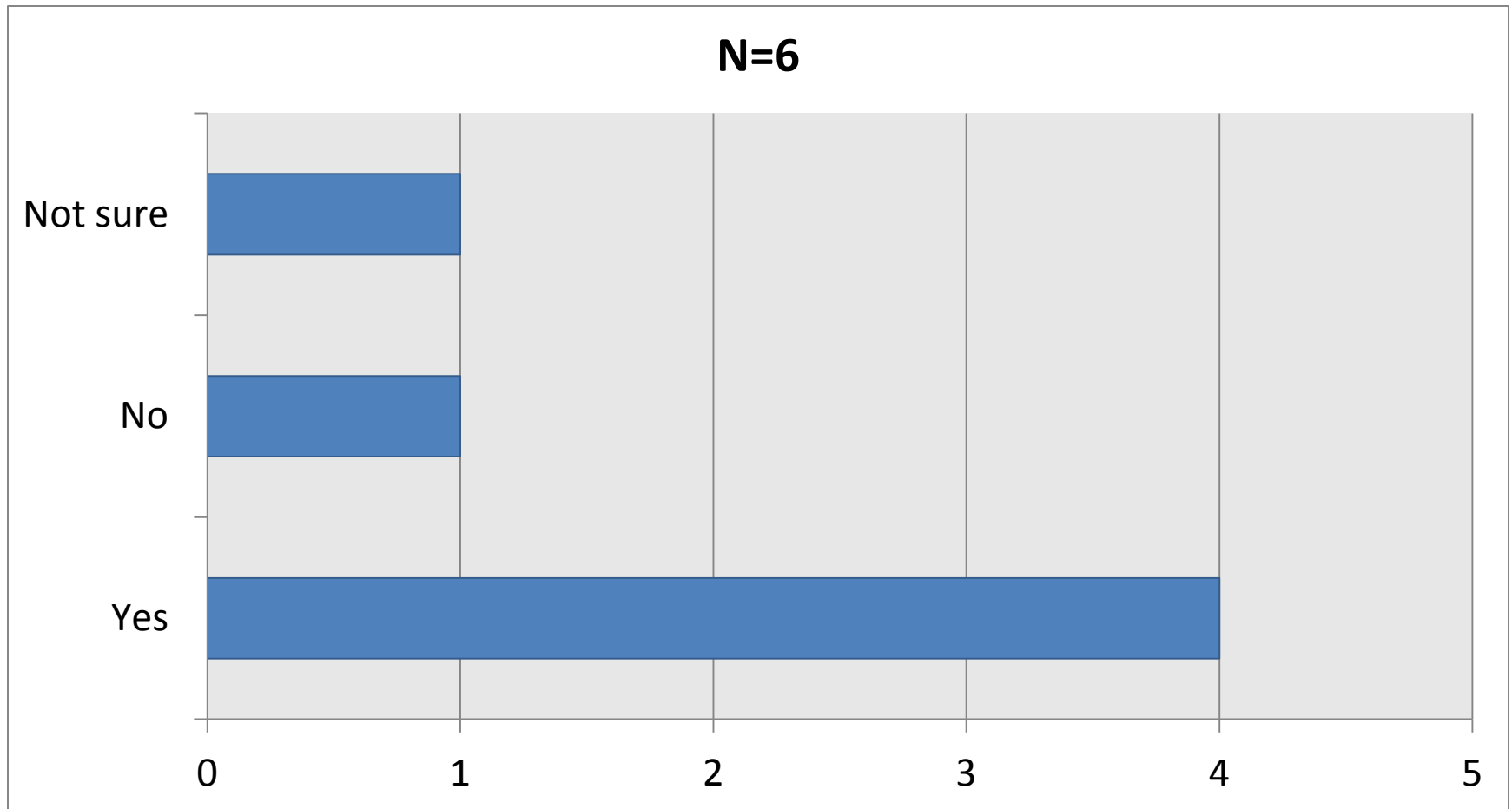
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Preliminary Topics Identified in Policy Scan

- Eligibility for participation in online learning

- Online experience as high school graduation requirement

- Determining appropriateness of online learning instruction for SWDs

- Provision of special education and related services in online learning

- Reporting requirements

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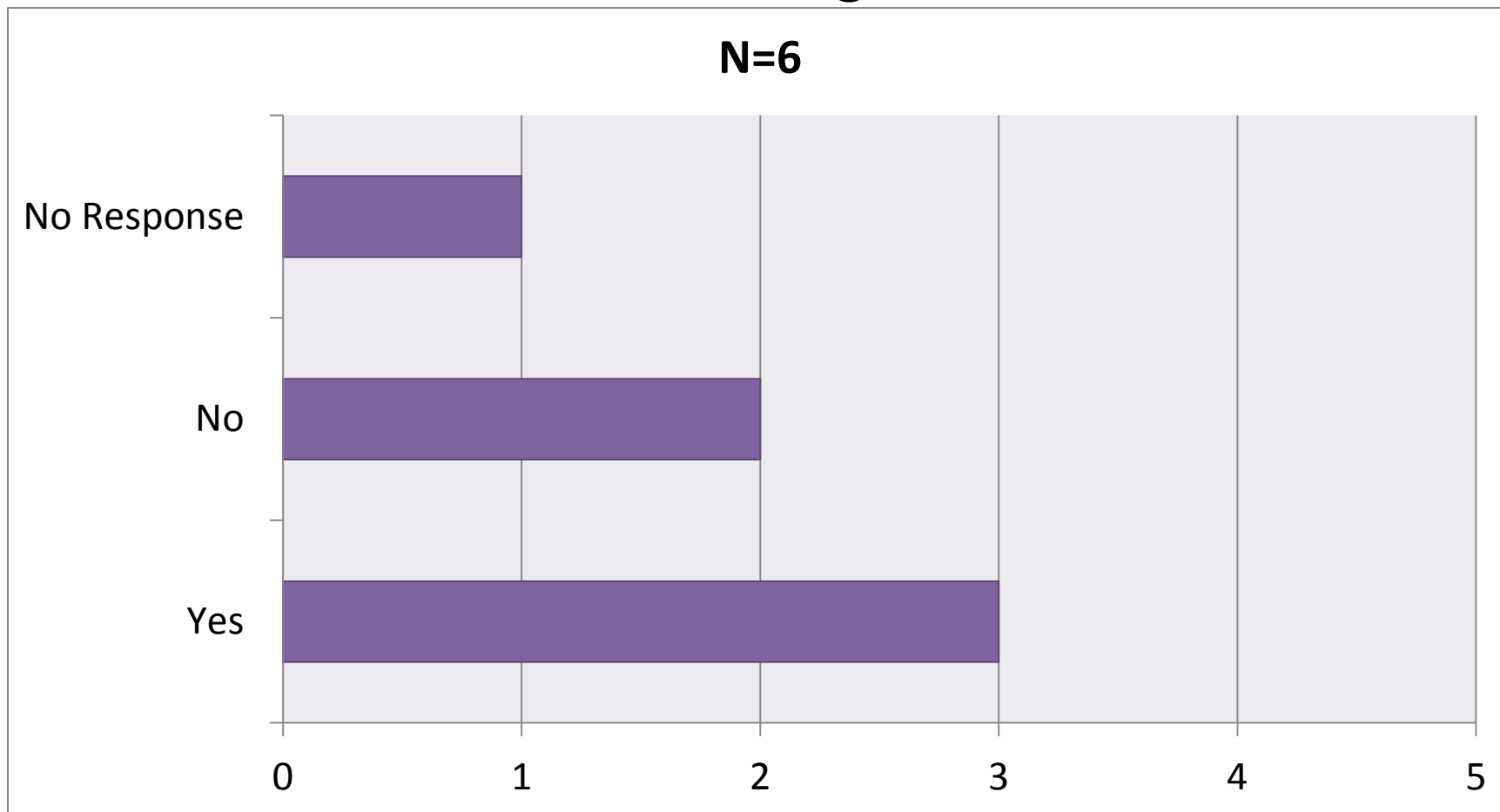
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Interview Topics

- Definitions

- Eligibility and participation

- Data collection and reporting

- Use of data collected on SWDs in online learning

- Challenges and barriers

- Needs for additional resources

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Does your state have a definition of online learning?

N=6

	0	1	2	3	4	5
Not sure						
No						
Yes						

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Does your state have guidance on collecting and reporting data on SWD in online learning?

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Can you link your student-level information with online course information?

N-6

A horizontal bar chart showing responses:
- Yes: 4
- No: 1
- No Response: 1

X-axis scale: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

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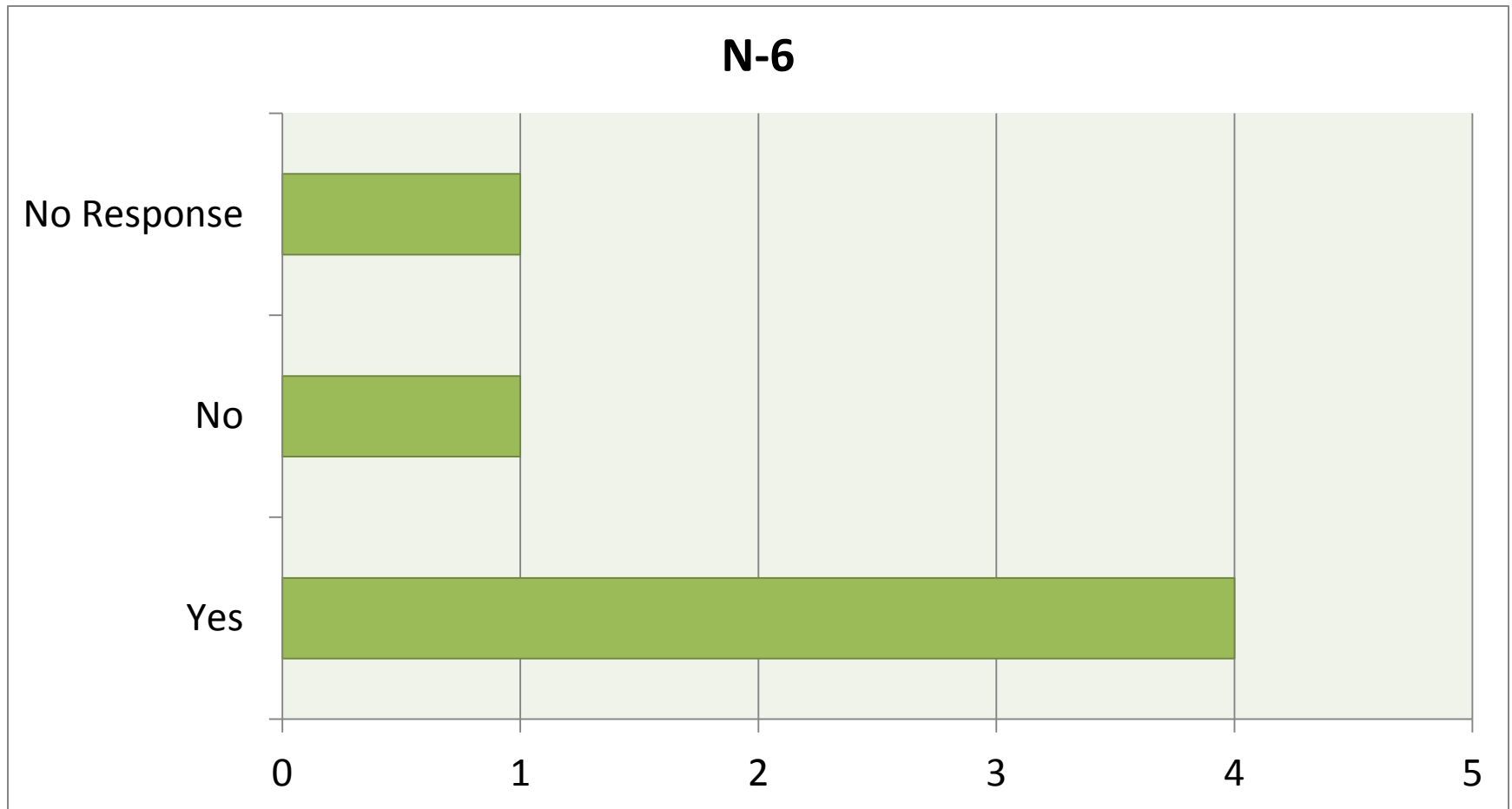
Are there data about SWD participation in online learning that you do not collect that you would like to?

N=6

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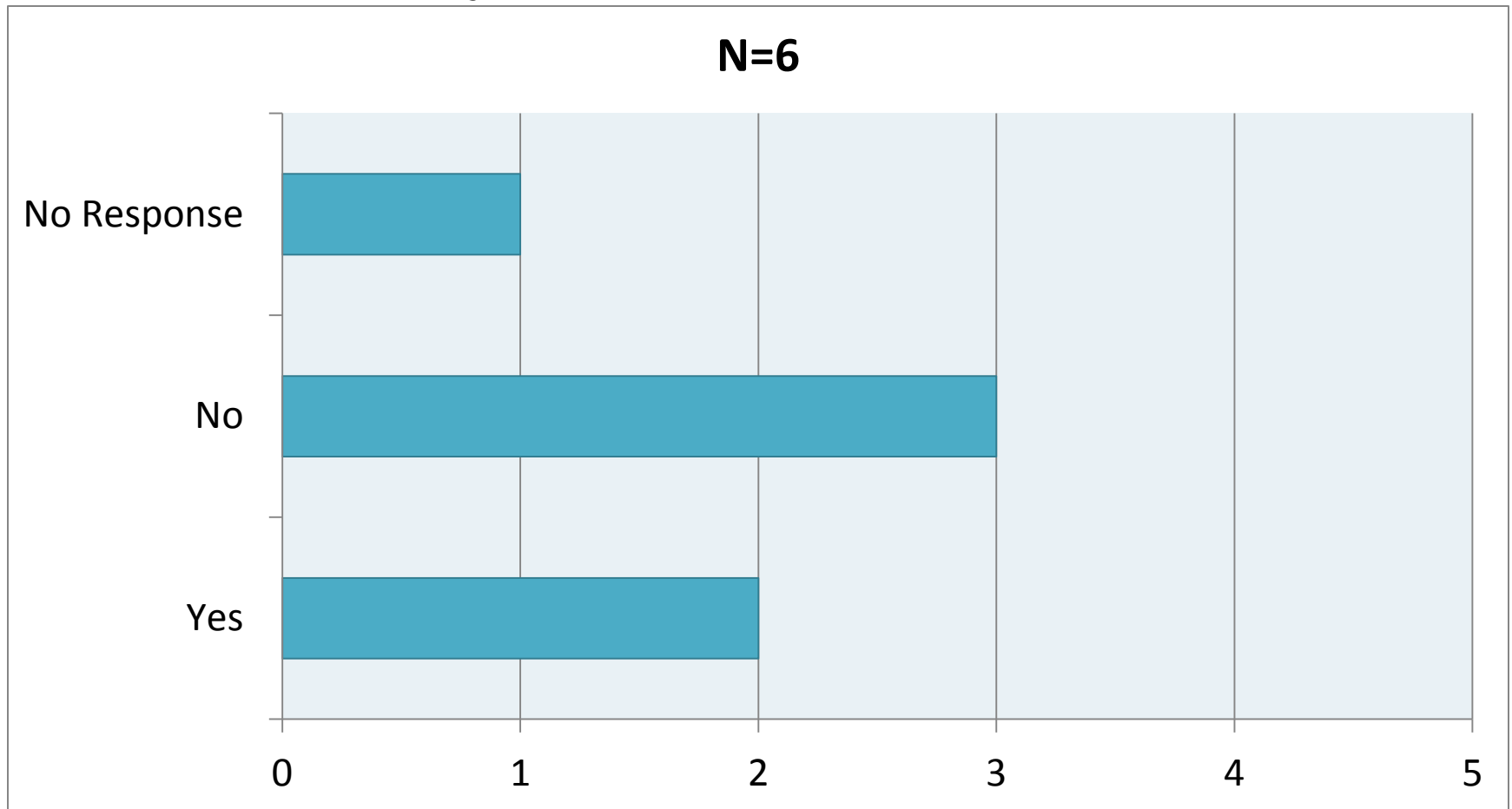
Do you think additional resources or technical assistance (TA) documents would be helpful?

N=6

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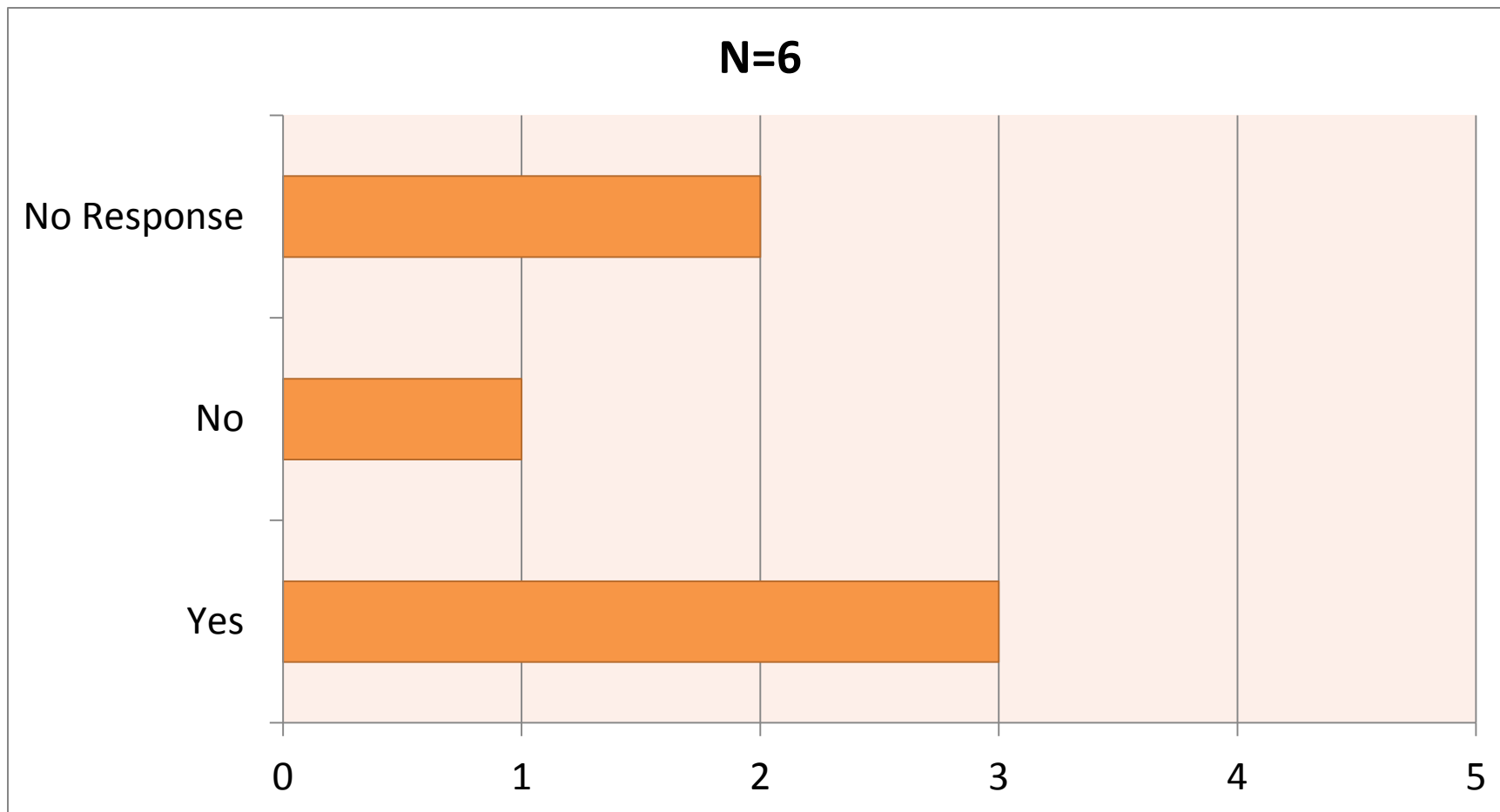
What do you think?
Poll #1

1. Does state have a definition of online learning?

   A. Yes

   B. No

   C. Not sure

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What do you think?
Poll #2

2. Are students with disabilities enrolled in online learning courses?

    A. Yes

    B. No

    C. Not sure

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What do you think?
Poll #3

3. Can you link your student-level information with online course information?

    A. Yes

    B. No

    C. Not sure

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What do you think?
Poll #4

4. Does your state have guidance on collecting and reporting data on SWD participating in online learning?

    A. Yes

    B. No

    C. Not sure

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Your Turn

Process:

- Break into small groups for 15 minutes
- Discuss the questions posed to your small group
- Record to capture key ideas, thoughts, and suggestions
- Report out to the large group

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Discussion Questions

- How does your state report and use the information collected on students taking online courses?

- What elements measure "success" of student enrolled in online learning?

- What challenges do you face when classifying SWD enrolled in online learning?

Additional Discussion Questions

- What additional resources or TA documents would be useful?

- Are there other areas or needs under the umbrella of educational environments (besides online learning) for which additional resources or TA documents would be useful?

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Final Poll

- Would you be willing to participate in a telephone interview to provide additional information on practices in your state?
  - Yes
  - No
  - If yes, give us your contact information, name, and email

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Next Steps

- Compile comments from this session
- Finalize year 1 products
- Prioritize development of tools and products in year 2

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Contact Us

Dona Meinders

- dmeinde@wested.org

Kellie Kim

- kkim@wested.org

Bruce Bull

- bruce.bull@spedsis.com

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