

Implementation of Special Education and Related Services for Children with Disabilities



**OFFICE FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
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2020-2021 School Year

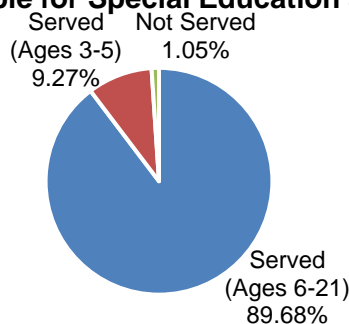
State law¹ requires that Ohio's superintendent of public instruction annually report on the status of implementation of special education and related services for children with disabilities. This includes the number of children identified with disabilities and the number of identified children receiving services. The Ohio Department of Education collects these data from districts and schools through the Education Management Information System (EMIS). This report is primarily based on data gathered from EMIS.²

Students with disabilities account for 16 percent of all Ohio's preschool and school-age students, which includes all children ages 3 through 21.³ As of Oct. 31, 2020, there were 273,859 students reported to the Ohio Department of Education who were identified with disabilities and eligible to receive special education or related services. In the 2020-2021 school year, 270,977 eligible students received services, amounting to 98.95 percent of all students identified as eligible for special education being served.⁴

Districts reported 2,882 total students as eligible for, but not receiving, special education services, which accounts for 1.05 percent of all eligible students in Ohio (see Figure 1). Students are reported as not receiving special education services despite eligibility when they are home-schooled; when their families choose to discontinue services; and/or when their families refuse services offered to them.

Figure 1. Percentage of all Ohio students eligible for special education and related services and whether they are receiving those services.

All Ohio Students Eligible for Special Education and Related Services



¹ Ohio Revised Code Section 3323.02

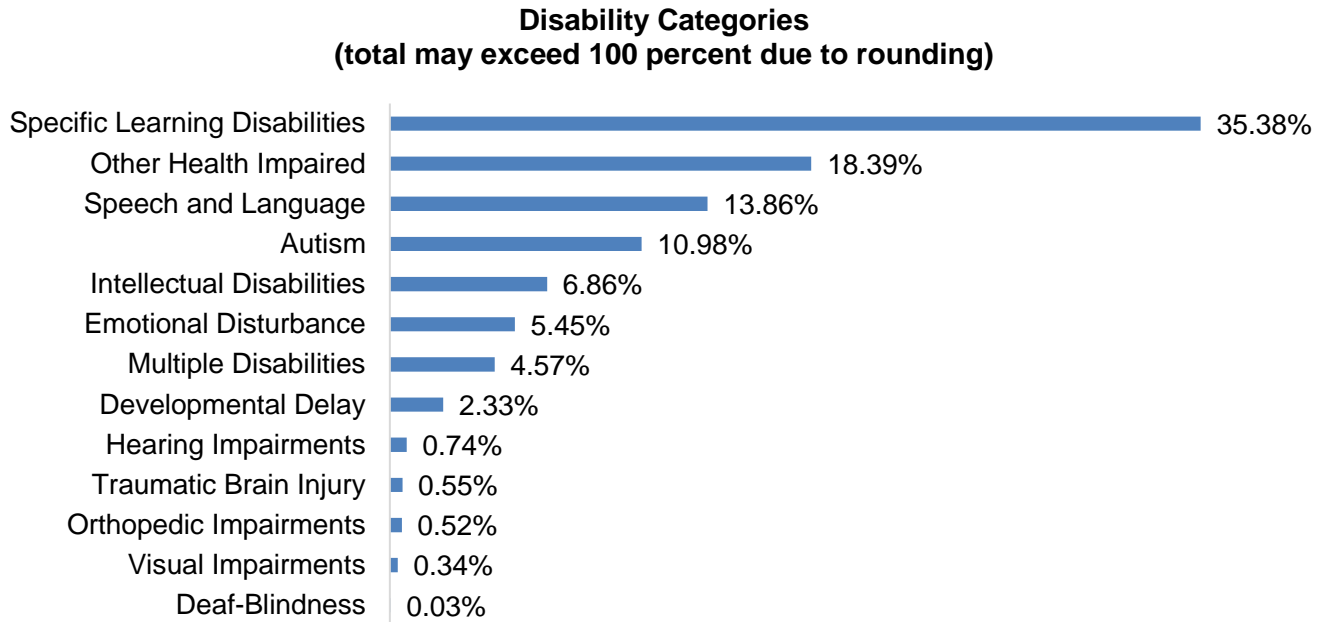
² Data collected from the Ohio Central School System is reported outside of EMIS.

³ Based on full time equivalent total of state enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year.

⁴ The number of students receiving services is based on the headcount of students with disabilities as of Oct. 31, 2020, certified as part of the annual Federal Child Count submitted annually to the United States Department of Education. The number of those eligible to receive services includes those same students, in addition to those eligible for whom services were not provided based on individualized education program outcome codes of IEDP (IEP Resulted in Due Process), IENS (IEP Complete; Not Served) and IEPR (IEP Complete; Parental Refusal).

Among all students with disabilities ages 3-21, the largest category of disability reported was "specific learning disabilities" (see Figure 2). This category consisted of 95,862 students. Additionally, students with other health impairments, speech and language impairments, autism, intellectual disabilities, emotional disturbance, multiple disabilities, developmental delay, hearing impairments, traumatic brain injury, orthopedic impairments, vision impairments and deaf-blindness were all reported during the 2020-2021 school year.

Figure 2. Percentage of all Ohio students identified in each disability category. Thirty-five percent of students ages 3-21 were identified with specific learning disabilities.



Over 64 percent of school-age students with disabilities ages 6-21 were reported as spending at least 80 percent of the school day in regular classrooms (see Figure 3). The remaining students either spent 40-79 percent of the school day in regular classrooms, spent less than 40 percent of the school day in regular classrooms, were parentally placed in nonpublic schools with services plans, were served in separate schools, or were placed in residential facilities, at home, in hospitals or in correctional facilities (collectively shown as "Other" in the graph below).

Figure 3. Percentage of school-age children receiving services by setting. Over 64 percent are in the regular classroom at least 80 percent of the day.

