

Implementation of Special Education and Related Services for Children with Disabilities



OFFICE FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN – JANUARY 2023

Implementation of Special Education and Related Services

2021-2022 School Year

Executive Summary

Ohio's superintendent of public instruction annually reports on the status of implementation of special education and related services for children with disabilities, which includes the number of children identified with disabilities and the number of identified children receiving services.

Key findings in this report:

- Students with disabilities account for 16% of all Ohio's preschool and school-age students, which includes all children ages 3 through 21.
- In the 2021-2022 school year, 99.2% of all eligible students received services.
- Among all students with disabilities ages 3-21, the largest category of disability reported was "specific learning disabilities," with more than 35% of students with disabilities in this category during the 2021-2022 school year.
- More than 65% of school-age students with disabilities ages 6-21 were reported as spending at least 80% of the school day in regular classrooms.

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% of all Ohio's preschool and school-age students, which includes all children ages 3 through 21.³ As of Oct. 31, 2021, there were 275,086 students reported to the Ohio Department of Education who were identified with disabilities and eligible to receive special education or related services. In the 2021-2022 school year, 272,839 eligible students received services, amounting to 99.2% of all students identified as eligible for special education being served.⁴

Districts reported 2,247 total students as eligible for, but not receiving, special education services, which accounts for less than 1% 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.

¹ Ohio Revised Code Section 3323.02

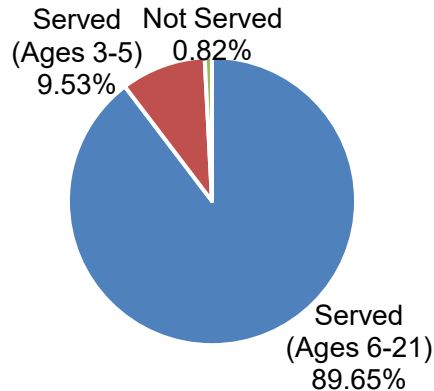
² Data collected from the Ohio Central School System is reported outside of EMIS.

³ Based on full time equivalent total of state enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year.

⁴ The number of students receiving services is based on the headcount of students with disabilities as of Oct. 31, 2021, certified as part of the annual Federal Child Count submitted 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).

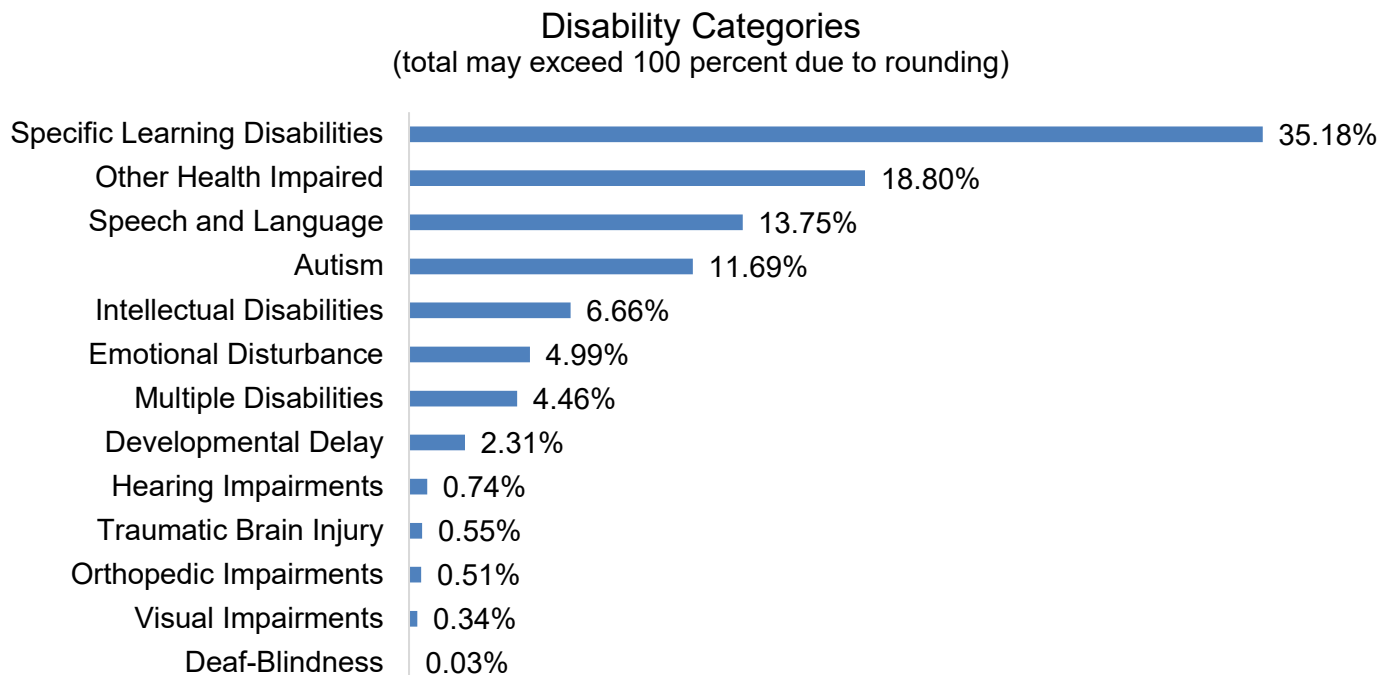
Figure 1. Percentage of all Ohio students eligible for special education and related services by whether they are receiving those services.

All Ohio Students Eligible for Special Education and Related Services



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 95,991 students. Additionally, students identified 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 2021-2022 school year.

Figure 2. Percentage of all Ohio students identified in each disability category.



More than 65% of school-age students with disabilities ages 6-21 were reported as spending at least 80% of the school day in regular classrooms (see Figure 3). The remaining students either spent 40-79% of the school day in regular classrooms, spent less than 40% 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 in Ohio receiving services by setting.

School-Age Children Receiving Services by Setting

