

# 2024

## **Annual Status of Implementation of Special Education and Related Services for Children with Disabilities**

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024



**Department of  
Education &  
Workforce**

# Executive Summary

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce 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 with disabilities receiving services. Key findings in this report include the following:

- Students with disabilities account for 17% of all Ohio's preschool and school-age students, which includes all children ages 3 through 21.
- In the 2023-2024 school year, 99.06% of all eligible students received services.
- Among all students with disabilities ages 3-21, the largest disability category reported was "specific learning disabilities," with 33.56% of students with disabilities in this category.
- More than 66% of school-age students with disabilities, from age 5 in kindergarten through 21, were reported as spending at least 80% of the school day in regular classrooms.

## Implementation of Special Education and Related Services

State law<sup>1</sup> requires the Department to 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 with disabilities receiving services. The Department collects this data from districts and schools through its Education Management Information System (EMIS). This report is primarily based on data gathered from EMIS.

Students with disabilities account for 17.1% of all Ohio's preschool and school-age students, which includes all children ages 3 through 21.<sup>2</sup> As of Oct. 31, 2023, there were 289,157 students reported to the Department who were identified with disabilities and eligible to receive special education or related services. In the 2023-2024 school year, 286,450 eligible students received such services, amounting to 99.06% of all students identified as eligible for special education being served.<sup>3</sup> Districts reported 2,707 total students as eligible for but not receiving special education services, which accounts for 0.94% 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Ohio Revised Code 3323.02

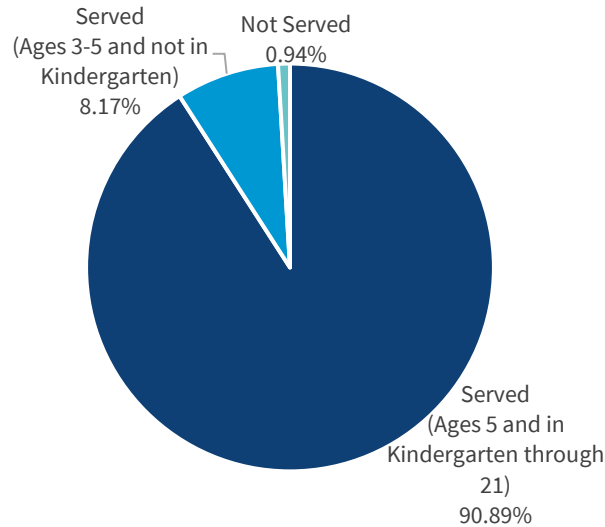
<sup>2</sup> Based on the full-time equivalent total of state enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year.

<sup>3</sup> The number of students receiving services is based on the headcount of students with disabilities as of Oct. 31, 2023, 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).

Of the 289,157 identified students with disabilities, 105,845 students, or 36.60%, received related services such as speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.

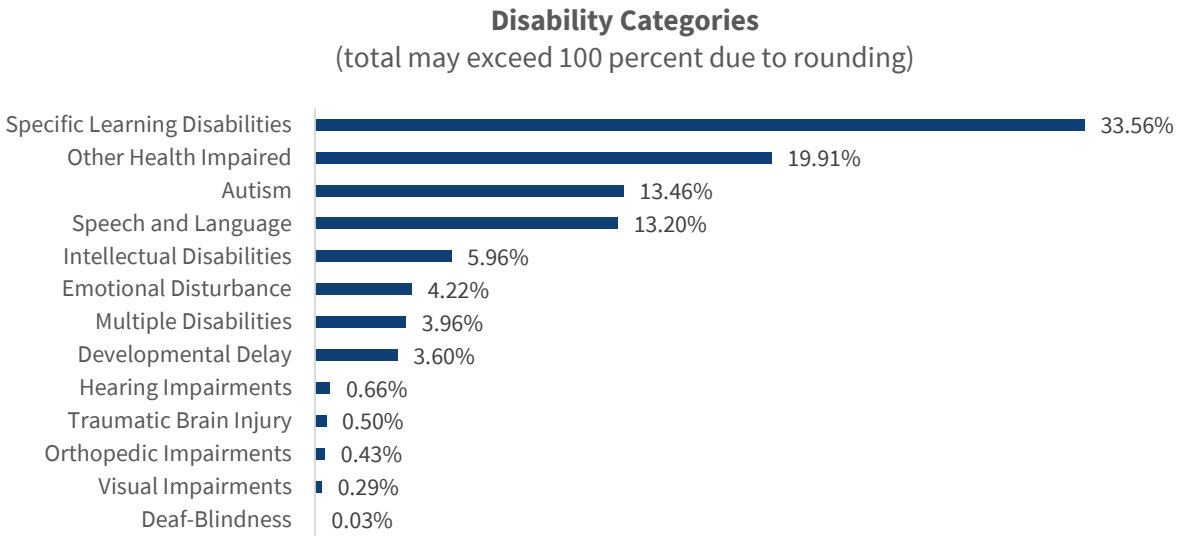
Figure 1. Percentage of all Ohio students eligible for special education and related services by whether they are receiving those services.

### 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 97,040 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 2023-2024 school year.

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



Over 66% of school-age students with disabilities ages 5 in kindergarten through 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 service 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.

