

Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Annual Report



**Ohio Department of
Education & Workforce**

2024



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

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Executive Summary

Named for State Representative and special education advocate Jon Peterson, the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship was created in 2012 by the Ohio General Assembly. The program awards scholarships to parents of children in kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having a specific disability. Students are evaluated, an Evaluation Team Report (ETR) is created, and an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed, which details the required special education and/or related services for the student.

The Jon Peterson Scholarship (JPSN) allows a parent to choose the school or educational setting that best meets their child's needs. Parents may select from several types of approved program providers. Children may attend a chartered nonpublic school, receive services from a private business or organization, or attend a public district that is not their public school district of residence.

Once eligible students are awarded a scholarship, they must meet the assessment requirements per their grade level to renew the scholarship annually.

The JPSN program is authorized under [Ohio Revised Code 3310.51](#) and [Ohio Administrative Code 3301-101](#).

This report outlines student participation and expenditures for fiscal year 2024. Key findings include:

- During the 2023-2024 school year, 8,551 students utilized the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship program.
- For the last 10 years, the growth of the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship has been steady, increasing from 336 to 500 approved providers participating in the scholarship program.
- Students enrolled in the JPSN scholarship program during the 2023-2024 school year resided in 495 school districts in Ohio. This represents over 80 percent of Ohio's school districts.

Scholarship Award Categories

The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship provides students with scholarships based on each student's disability category. Thirteen disability categories recognized by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) are organized into six funding levels. Maximum funding levels for each category of disability and calculations are included in [Section 3317.022](#) of the Ohio Revised Code. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition or related support services.

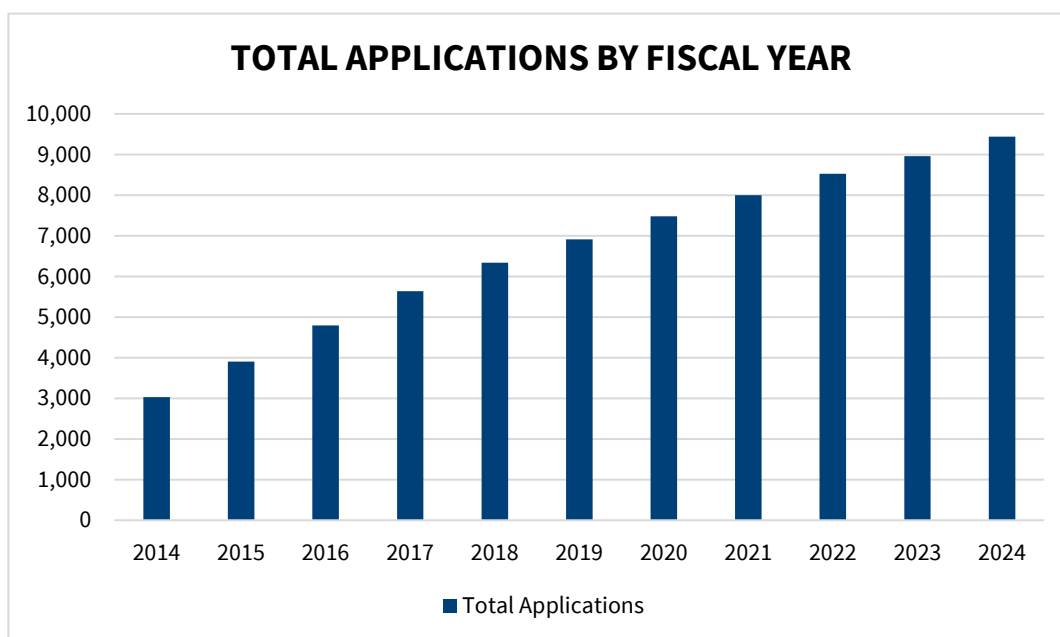
FY 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

#	Category Name	Maximum Dollar Amount per Year
1	Speech or Language Impairment*	\$8,941
2	Specific Learning Disability, Intellectual Disability, or OHI-minor	\$11,632
3	Hearing Impaired or Emotional Disturbance	\$17,863
4	Vision Impaired or OHI-major	\$21,433
5	Orthopedic Impairment or Multi-handicapped	\$26,480
6	Autism, Traumatic Brain Injury, or Hearing and Vision Impaired	\$30,000

*Category 1 (Speech or Language Impairment) students may only utilize their scholarship to pay for related and therapy services.

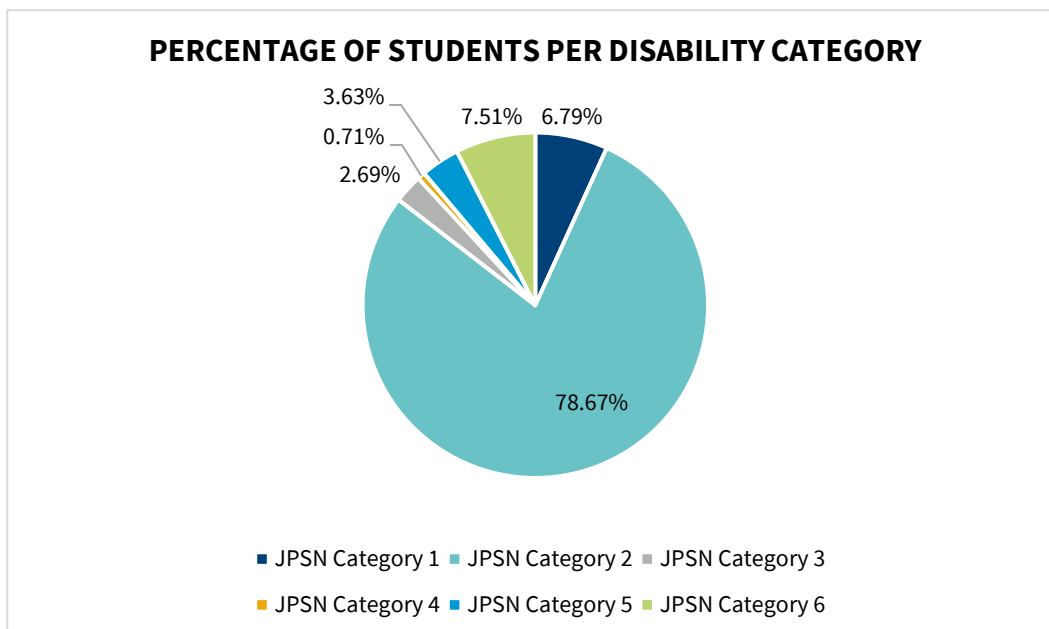
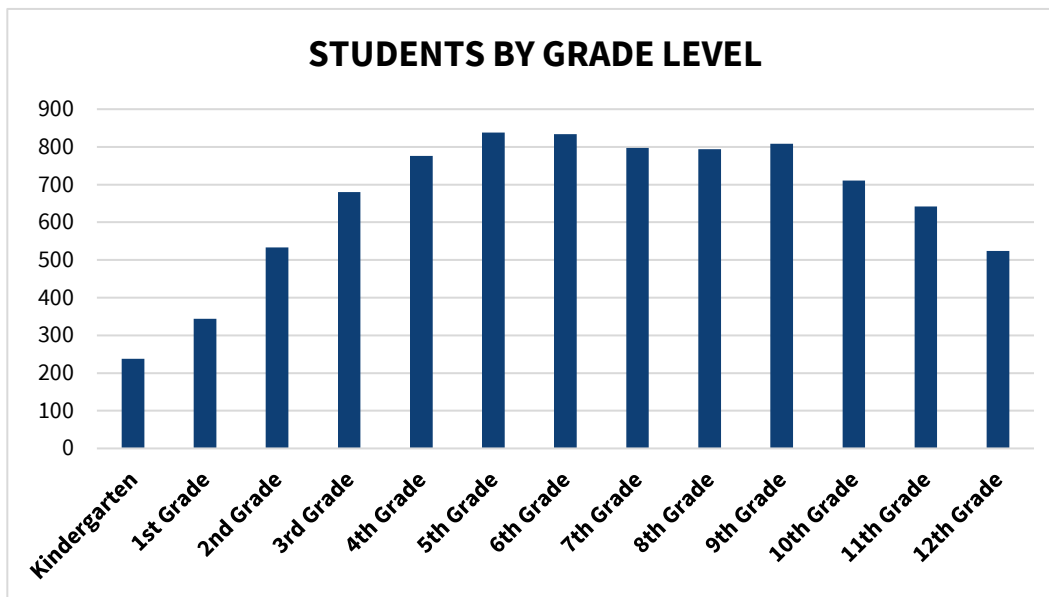
Program Participation and Expenditures

Participation in the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program has grown in recent years, with the number of applications received for the program steadily increasing over the most recent 10-year period.



2023-2024 Student Participation

During the 2023-2024 school year, 8,551 students received services from 500 approved providers through the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship program. The program drew students from 495 districts across Ohio.



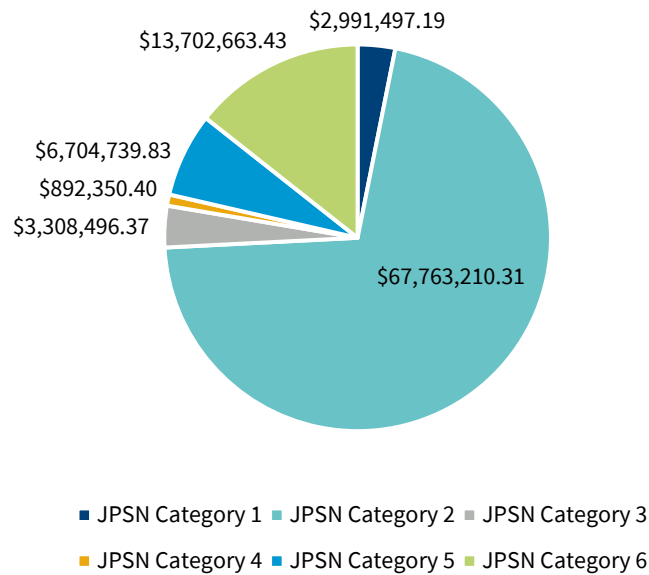
DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE

Students enrolled in the JPSN scholarship program during the 2023-2024 school year represented 495 school districts, covering over 80 percent of Ohio’s school districts. A breakdown of students per school district utilizing JPSN can be found [here](#).

Statewide Expenditures

Prior to the 2021-2022 school year, funds used to award scholarships were deducted from the district in which the student was entitled to attend school, known as the district of residence. House Bill 110, passed in 2021, eliminated the “district deduction” mechanism and established direct funding of scholarship programs through the Department of Education and Workforce.

FUNDS SPENT PER CATEGORY



Jon Peterson Special Needs Program Providers

The JPSN program had 500 approved providers in the 2023-2024 school year. Organizations that are represented in the program include chartered nonpublic schools and private providers. [A list of providers and their contact information](#) can be accessed on the Department's website.

The number of students providers serve in a given school year varies. View the [breakdown of how many scholarship recipients](#) each provider worked with in the 2023-2024 school year.