



# Students with Disabilities In California

Sacramento County Office of Education  
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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction



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State Superintendent  
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California Education Code, Section 33080  
Purpose of the Educational System

**“Each child is a unique person, with unique needs, and the purpose of the education system of this state is to enable each child to develop all of his or her own potential.”**





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## United States Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - 2004

Guarantees a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

**“FAPE in the LRE”**

**.....or in other words “the most inclusive environment”**



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IDEA says: Every child with a disability has the right to be educated with their grade-level peers without disabilities

It also says we must offer a full continuum of education placements



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## Education's Ultimate Goal: Prepare Future Citizens for College and Career Leading to Employment

Mission: California will provide a world-class education for all students, from early childhood to adulthood. The Department of Education serves our state by innovating and collaborating with educators, schools, parents, and community partners. Together, as a team, we prepare students to live, work, and thrive in a multicultural, multilingual, and highly connected world.



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## Number of Students with Disabilities in California

- For the 2017-18 school year **774,665 students with disabilities** ages 0-22 were served in California's public school system
- This represents **11.2 percent** of California's total student population of **6,220,413**



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## California Students with Disabilities Whose Primary or Secondary Disability is Autism

December 2010 Reporting Cycle: 69,022  
 December 2011 Reporting Cycle: 75,507  
 December 2012 Reporting Cycle: 82,855  
 December 2013 Reporting Cycle: 89,509  
 December 2014 Reporting Cycle: 96,036  
 December 2015 Reporting Cycle: 102,784  
 December 2016 Reporting Cycle: 110,486



**December 2017 118,490 Students**

**15.3 Percent of Total Special Education Population**

Students with Disabilities  
 Total Population for Ages 0 to 22: 774,665  
 Source: CASEMIS December 2017

(Increase of 8,004 students or 7.25 percent from last reporting cycle)



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## Educational Placement by School Type of California Students with Disabilities

No School	6,246
Public Day School	658,646
Public Residential School	214
Special Education Center or Facility	8,504
Other Public School or Facility	5,563
Continuation School	5,683
Alternative Work Education Center/Work Study Program	666
Independent Study	1,548
Juvenile Court School	1,297
Community School	2,081
Correctional Institution or Incarceration Facility	163
Home Instruction	2,121
Hospital Facility	264
Community College	226
Adult Education Program	1,848
Charter School (Operated by a LEA/District/COE)	29,699
Charter School (Operated as a LEA/District)	26,734
Head Start Program	1,516
Child Development or Child Care Facility	2,879
State Preschool Program	1,708
Private Preschool	549
Extended Day Care	176
Nonpublic Day School	11,355
Nonpublic Residential School	711
Private Day School (not certified by Special Education Division)	2,258
Private Residential School (not certified by Special Education Division)	22
Nonpublic	120
Parochial School	1,868
Total	774,665

School Type Definitions  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/ds/ca/semis.asp>  
 CASEMIS Guide p.12-15

Students with Disabilities Population for  
 Ages 0 to 22: 774,665  
 Source: CASEMIS December 2017

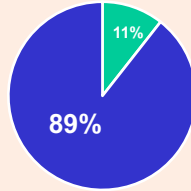


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**Students with Disabilities are Members of Multiple Student Groups**

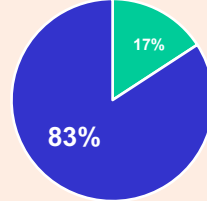
Source CALPADS data 2017-18  
Total Student Population = 6,238,313

**All Students**



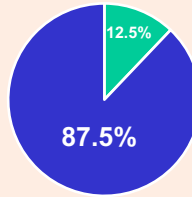
Note: No overall percentage change in SWD from December 2016

**English Learners**



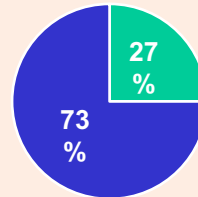
Note: 1 percent increase in SWD from December 2016

**Socioeconomically Disadvantaged**



Note: 0.5 percent change in SWD from December 2016

**Foster Youth**



Note: 2 percent increase in SWD from December 2016

Green = Students with IEPs  
Blue = Students without IEPs



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**Students with Disabilities in Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Student Groups**

Percentage of Students with Disabilities for all Populations: 11.2%

Free or Reduced Price Meal	Number of Students	Percentage
With IEPs	468,404	13%
Without IEPs	3,275,966	87%
<b>Foster Youth</b>		
With IEPs	9,388	27%
Without IEPs	25,211	73%
<b>English Learners</b>		
With IEPs	211,597	17%
Without IEPs	1,061,221	83%

December 2017 CASEMIS and DataQuest

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## Students with Disabilities Enrollment 2005–06 to 2017–18

Year	All K–12 Students	K-12 Students receiving special education services	Percent of All Students	Total number of students birth through age twenty-two receiving special education services
2005–06	6,312,102	625,067	9.9	683,178
2006–07	6,286,943	619,982	9.9	679,648
2007–08	6,275,469	616,364	9.8	677,875
2008–09	6,252,031	613,833	9.8	678,105
2009–10	6,190,425	614,031	9.9	680,164
2010–11	6,217,113	612,443	9.9	678,929
2011–12	6,214,204	618,239	9.9	686,352
2012–13	6,226,989	626,036	10.0	695,173
2013–14	6,236,672	635,467	10.2	705,308
2014–15	6,235,520	647,044	10.4	717,961
2015–16	6,226,737	661,798	10.6	734,422
2016–17	6,228,235	680,181	10.9	754,337
2017–18	6,220,413	699,122	11.2	774,665

December 2017 CASEMIS and DataQuest

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## Students with Disabilities by Disability 2017–18

Disability	Number of Students	Percentage
Specific Learning Disability (SLD)	297,468	38.4
Speech or Language Impairment (SLI)	161,485	20.8
Autism (AUT)	112,318	14.5
Other Health Impairment (OHI)	97,426	12.6
Intellectual Disability (ID)	43,855	5.7
Emotional Disturbance (ED)	24,936	3.2
Orthopedic Impairment (OI)	10,453	1.3
Hard of Hearing (HH)	10,633	1.3
Multiple Disability (MD)	7,161	0.9
Visual Impairment (VI)	3,487	0.4
Deafness (DEAF)	3,242	0.4
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)	1,618	0.2
Established Medical Disability (EMD)	468	0.06
Deaf Blindness (DB)	115	0.01

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## California Students with Disabilities by Ethnicity Compared to All Students by Ethnicity 2017–18

Ethnicity	# of Students with Disabilities	% of Students with Disabilities	# of All Students	% of All Students
Hispanic or Latino	439,708	56.76%	3,376,591	54.28%
American Indian or Alaska Native	5,436	0.7%	32,500	0.52%
Asian	49,709	6.42%	721,394	11.59%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2,869	0.37%	28,920	0.46%
African American	62,779	8.10%	340,841	5.47%
White	183,638	23.71%	1,442,388	23.18%
Two or More Races	30,499	3.94%	277,779	4.46%
Grand Total	774,665	100.00%	6,220,413	100.00%

December 2017 CASEMIS and DataQuest

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## Preschool Students with Disabilities 2017-18

- In 2017-18, there were 86,169 preschool students with disabilities receiving special education in California
- Preschool students are defined as children with disabilities ages 3-5
- Last year, California experienced a 7.87% drop in preschoolers being educated in inclusive settings

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## Preschool Students by Disability 2017–18

Disability	Percent of Students
Speech or Language Impairment (SLI)	59.6
Autism (AUT)	24.0
Intellectual Disability (ID)	3.9
Other Health Impairment (OHI)	3.8
Orthopedic Impairment (OI)	1.5
Hard of Hearing (HH)	1.4
Multiple Disability (MD)	1.0
Specific Learning Disability (SLD)	0.73
Established Medical Disability (EMD)	0.53
Deafness (DEAF)	0.46
Visual Impairment (VI)	0.34
Emotional Disturbance (ED)	0.12
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)	0.09
Deaf Blindness (DB)	0.01

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## IDEA: Special Education Indicators

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. Graduation</b>                          | <b>8. Parent Input</b>                      |
| <b>2. Drop Out</b>                            | <b>9. Disproportionality</b>                |
| <b>3. Assessment</b>                          | <b>10. Disproportionality by Disability</b> |
| <b>4. Suspension/Expulsion</b>                | <b>11. 60 Day Timeline</b>                  |
| <b>5. Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)</b> | <b>12. Part C to Part B</b>                 |
| <b>6. Preschool LRE</b>                       | <b>13. Transition (18-22)</b>               |
| <b>7. Preschool Assessment</b>                | <b>14. Post School Outcomes</b>             |





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## Indicator 1 Graduation Rate

- Performance Indicator
- 2017 Target: 90 percent of students with disabilities will graduate high school
- 2016 Result: 65.5 percent
- 2017 Result: 65.0 percent
- Change: -0.5 percent
- Target Met: No

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## Indicator 2 Drop Out Rate

- Performance Indicator
- 2017 Target: No more than 11.72 percent of students with disabilities will drop out of high school
- 2016 Result: 13.75 percent
- 2017 Result: 11.36 percent
- Change: -2.39 percent
- Target Met: Yes

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## Indicator 3C Results Statewide Assessment Proficiency

2016

Type of LEA	ELA Target	ELA Result	Target Met	Math Target	Math Result	Target Met
Elementary School Districts	13.0%	17.6%	Yes	11.6%	14.7%	Yes
High School Districts	13.9%	18.5%	Yes	11.6%	8.2%	No
Unified School Districts and County Offices of Education	13.9%	15.7%	Yes	11.6%	12.3%	Yes

2017

Type of LEA	ELA Target	ELA Result	Target Met	Math Target	Math Result	Target Met
Elementary School Districts	14.0%	16.1%	Yes	12.6%	12.9%	Yes
High School Districts (11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Only)	14.9%	15.9%	Yes	12.6%	7.2%	No
Unified School Districts and County Offices of Education	14.9%	14.8%	No	12.6%	11.3%	No

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## Indicator 6 Preschool Least Restrictive Environment

- Performance Indicator
- Two areas are measured against 2017 targets:
  - 6A. 34.9 percent or more of students will receive services in the regular early childhood program
  - 6B. No more than 32.4 percent of students will be served at a separate special education class, school, or facility
- 2016 Results: 6A 45.19 percent/6B 29.86 percent
- 2017 Results: 6A 37.32 percent/6B 33.81 percent
- Change from 2016 to 2017: -7.87 percent/ +3.95 percent
- 2017 Target Met: 6A Yes/6B No

**Key Takeaway:** Preschool students access to regular preschool declined by 7.87 percent from 2016-2017 and students served in separate setting increased.

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## The Stars Continue to be Aligned in California

- Alignment across policy making entities to support one coherent system of education including new Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Renewed efforts and commitment to inclusion and supporting all students in their LRE
  - Preschool inclusion grants
  - MTSS Initiative: Orange County and UCLA
  - 2019 Governor’s Proposed Budget
- Addition of Special Education State Leads in Statewide System of Support



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## A Hypothesis for Consideration

If a public education system supporting and ensuring equity, access and inclusion of each and every child and student with a disability:

- Ensures children and families begin their education experience in an **inclusive, welcoming** and **supported environment** by **preschool**
- Sees as non-negotiables **communicative competence** and **reading literacy** to ensure children can communicate and demonstrate what they know, need and want
- Supports teachers, related service providers and school administrators in utilizing the principles of **Universal Design for Learning** through a **Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Framework** so all children may access their learning in the most inclusive environment
- Ensures individualized education programs (IEPs) as **early as preschool are person driven and backward mapped to employment and community inclusion**



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## Then.....

- Each and every child has an opportunity to realize their greatest potential
- We move toward a more equitable system
- Our future citizens can realize family sustaining jobs, regardless of type or severity of disability
- Everyone has the opportunity to realize their dreams

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## What can we do?

- Check our own bias about disability and label
- Ask "how" not "if"
- Model inclusion every day
- Plan with everyone in mind
  - Universal Design for Learning
- Use person first language
- Consider every child as a general education student first
- Promote student driven IEPs and self determination

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Presume  
Competence



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