

# K-12 Students Receiving Special Education Services

## DEFINITION

*K-12 students receiving special education services* is the percentage of students ages six to 21 who received special education services in Rhode Island public schools or who were placed in private special education programs by their district of residence.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Early and accurately targeted special education services help students with developmental delays and disabilities improve their academic achievement and prevent grade retention.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 15% of children ages three to 17 have a developmental delay or disability. Children in low-income families are more likely to have a delay or disability than children in higher-income families.<sup>2</sup>

The federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* guarantees a free appropriate public education to every child with a disability. Prior to passage of the original 1975 federal law, many children with disabilities were excluded from public school. Since passage, outcomes for children with disabilities have steadily improved. More students with disabilities are being educated in neighborhood schools, included in general education classrooms, reaching proficiency standards, graduating from high school, enrolling in post-secondary education programs, and becoming employed as

adults.<sup>3</sup> In recent years, more children are receiving special education services earlier (in grades K-3).<sup>4</sup>

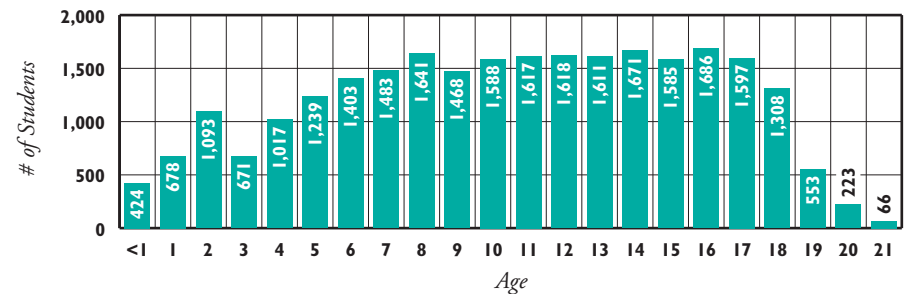
Despite this progress, children with developmental delays and disabilities (approximately 13% of the U.S. public school population) are still less likely to reach academic proficiency targets, graduate from high school, or attend college than students without disabilities. They are also more likely to be suspended from school.<sup>5,6</sup>

The federal *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* requires states to continue reporting the performance of students with disabilities on standardized assessments to inform accountability and action plans.<sup>7</sup>

In 2015 in Rhode Island, 10% of students receiving special education services met expectations on the third-grade English language arts section and 12% on the third grade math section of the *Partnership for Assessment for College and Careers (PARCC)* assessment, compared with 42% and 41% respectively of students without special education needs.<sup>8</sup>

In Rhode Island, the four-year graduation rate for the class of 2015 was 68% for students receiving special education services, compared to 88% for students not receiving these services. Some students enrolled in special education may take additional time to graduate.<sup>9</sup>

Students Ages Birth to 21 Receiving Early Intervention and Special Education Services, Rhode Island, June 2015



Source: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, Early Intervention enrollment, June 30, 2015. Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of Diverse Learners, Special Education Census, June 30, 2015. Includes parentally-placed students.

- ◆ As of June 2015, there were 20,800 students ages six to 21 (15% of all kindergarten through grade 12 students) receiving special education services through Rhode Island public schools. Thirty-eight percent of these students had a learning disability, 17% had a health impairment, 13% had a speech/language disorder, 10% had an autism spectrum disorder, 9% had an emotional disturbance, 6% had a developmental delay, 4% had an intellectual disability, and 3% had other disabilities.<sup>10</sup>
- ◆ As of June 2015, 73% of students ages six to 21 receiving special education services in Rhode Island were in a regular class for 80% of the day or more, 21% were in a regular class for less than 80% of the day, 5% were in a separate school, and 1% were in a residential facility, a correctional facility, were home-bound, or were hospitalized.<sup>11</sup> Over the past two decades, the percentage of special education students ages six to 21 who spent most of the day (80% or more of time) in general education classrooms nearly doubled nationwide.<sup>12</sup>
- ◆ Of students receiving special education services in June 2015, 68% were boys, 59% were low-income (receiving free or reduced-price lunch), 42% identified as Hispanic or a racial/ethnic category other than White, and 8% were English Language Learners.<sup>13</sup>

# K-12 Students Receiving Special Education Services

Table 43.

## Students Ages 6 through 21 Receiving Special Education Services by Primary Disability, Rhode Island, 2015

SCHOOL DISTRICT	TOTAL # OF STUDENTS	AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER	DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY	EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE	HEALTH IMPAIRMENT	LEARNING DISABILITY	INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY	SPEECH/LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT	OTHER	TOTAL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	% STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION
Barrington	3,258	53	10	42	52	110	11	66	18	362	11%
Bristol Warren	3,296	58	22	18	39	109	18	81	*	353	11%
Burrillville	2,324	45	16	22	47	114	14	63	*	329	14%
Central Falls	2,622	27	19	35	81	269	25	63	16	535	20%
Chariho	3,256	48	29	13	55	124	12	27	13	321	10%
Coventry	4,588	54	39	51	108	305	25	36	26	644	14%
Cranston	10,032	177	66	102	318	497	37	77	30	1,304	13%
Cumberland	4,460	72	21	42	113	211	26	119	28	632	14%
East Greenwich	2,331	47	27	13	50	57	10	38	15	257	11%
East Providence	5,158	89	42	81	145	281	33	80	24	775	15%
Exeter-West Greenwich	1,596	30	*	*	26	43	*	55	*	187	12%
Foster	282	*	0	0	*	*	*	18	*	33	12%
Foster-Glocester	1,110	14	0	*	23	44	*	*	*	108	10%
Glocester	522	*	*	*	10	*	*	21	*	46	9%
Jamestown	475	11	*	*	16	17	*	*	*	62	13%
Johnston	2,973	65	37	31	129	279	14	45	15	615	21%
Lincoln	2,973	44	35	34	73	135	13	73	13	420	14%
Little Compton	250	*	*	0	*	17	*	*	*	35	14%
Middletown	2,266	36	*	40	63	118	22	53	12	351	15%
Narragansett	1,287	23	14	22	46	83	*	31	*	231	18%
New Shoreham	116	*	*	0	11	0	*	*	*	24	21%
Newport	2,024	28	15	28	39	144	24	49	11	338	17%
North Kingstown	3,898	52	52	42	56	148	17	93	13	473	12%
North Providence	3,470	56	63	48	102	208	14	81	22	594	17%
North Smithfield	1,731	24	*	18	43	85	11	45	*	238	14%
Pawtucket	8,937	131	106	90	184	558	57	189	30	1,345	15%
Portsmouth	2,529	44	*	47	98	126	*	25	13	367	15%
Providence	23,768	211	259	390	418	1,533	177	660	101	3,749	16%
Scituate	1,366	19	*	*	27	58	*	41	*	161	12%
Smithfield	2,336	36	17	13	30	103	12	25	*	242	10%
South Kingstown	3,205	55	28	33	84	85	18	67	21	391	12%
Tiverton	1,745	45	*	24	35	113	11	34	13	280	16%
Warwick	8,836	219	85	124	313	585	40	120	46	1,532	17%
West Warwick	3,356	80	49	79	68	189	26	43	12	546	16%
Westerly	2,918	46	33	39	99	123	15	53	23	431	15%
Woonsocket	5,973	125	103	102	288	388	74	187	36	1,303	22%
Charter Schools	5,385	43	35	55	137	366	*	128	*	777	14%
State-Operated Schools	1,762	15	0	71	63	129	*	0	61	341	19%
UCAP	137	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	20	15%
Department of Corrections	NA	0	0	20	8	20	0	0	0	48	NA
Four Core Cities	41,300	494	487	617	971	2,748	333	1,099	183	6,932	17%
Remainder of State	89,967	1,582	750	1,029	2,329	4,523	458	1,577	434	12,632	14%
Rhode Island	138,551	2,134	1,272	1,792	3,508	7,806	799	2,804	685	20,800	15%

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), Office for Diverse Learners, Special Education Census June 30, 2015. Data do not include parentally placed students. The denominator (number of students) is the "resident average daily membership" (RADM) for grades K-12 in the 2014-2015 school year provided by RIDE.

Due to changes in methodology, *K-12 Students Receiving Special Education Services* in this Factbook cannot be compared with Factbooks prior to 2015. Data about preschool students receiving special education services can be found in the *Children Receiving Preschool Special Education Services* indicator.

\* Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These students are still counted in district totals and in the four core cities, remainder of the state, and state totals.

NA indicates that no data are available.

Totals of students and percentages of students receiving special education may not sum due to rounding.

The category "other" includes students who are blind/visually impaired, deaf, deaf/blind, hearing impaired, multi-handicapped, orthopedically impaired, and those with traumatic brain injury.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Independent charter schools reported for this indicator are Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy, Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep, The Compass School, The Greene School, Highlander Charter School, International Charter School, The Hope Academy, Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community, Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School, Segue Institute for Learning, Sheila "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, Southside Elementary Charter School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and The Village Green Virtual Charter School.

State-operated schools are William M. Davies Career & Technical High School, DCYF Schools, Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center and Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

References are on page 183.