

# 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 U.S. children ages three to 17 have a developmental delay or disability. Boys and children in low-income families are more likely to have a delay or disability than girls or 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>

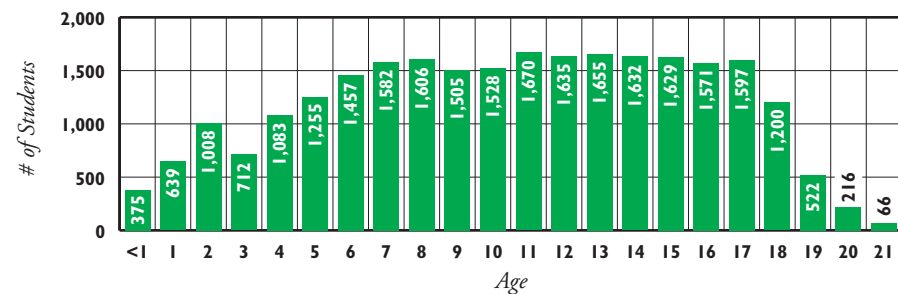
Despite this progress, children with developmental delays and disabilities (approximately 13% of the U.S. public school population) are still less likely to reach academic proficiency targets, graduate from high school, or attend college than students without disabilities. They are also more likely to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

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

In 2016 in Rhode Island, 10% of students receiving special education services met expectations on the third grade English language arts section and 15% on the third grade math section of the *Partnership for Assessment for College and Careers (PARCC)* assessment, compared with 44% and 48% of students without special education needs, respectively.<sup>8</sup>

In Rhode Island, the four-year graduation rate for the class of 2016 was 63% for students receiving special education services, compared to 89% 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 2016



Source: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, Early Intervention enrollment, June 30, 2016. Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of Diverse Learners, Special Education Census, June 30, 2016. Includes parentally-placed students.

◆ As of June 2016, there were 19,953 students ages six to 21 (14% 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, 18% had a health impairment, 12% had a speech/language disorder, 11% had an autism spectrum disorder, 8% had an emotional disturbance, 5% had a developmental delay, 4% had an intellectual disability, and 3% had other disabilities.<sup>10</sup>

◆ As of June 2016, 72% 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, 23% 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> Since 1990-1991, the percentage of students ages six to 21 receiving special education services in the U.S. who spent most of the day (80% or more of time) in general education classrooms has nearly doubled.<sup>12</sup>

◆ Of Rhode Island students receiving special education services in June 2016, 67% were boys and 33% were girls; 48% were low-income (receiving free or reduced-price lunch) and 52% were not low-income; 57% were White, 27% were Hispanic, 9% were Black, 4% were Two or more races, 2% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% were Native American; and 8% were English Language Learners.<sup>13</sup>

# K-12 Students Receiving Special Education Services

Table 45.

### Students Ages 6 through 21 Receiving Special Education Services by Primary Disability, Rhode Island, 2016

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	3,257	54	*	46	58	107	*	66	14	363	11%
Bristol Warren	3,261	53	12	*	40	120	17	75	*	335	10%
Burrillville	2,345	48	15	23	50	132	11	37	*	324	14%
Central Falls	2,518	25	26	31	77	258	26	49	18	510	20%
Chariho	3,145	53	28	10	64	114	12	20	12	313	10%
Coventry	4,496	52	27	54	122	277	31	35	24	622	14%
Cranston	10,074	181	55	107	338	499	40	64	28	1,312	13%
Cumberland	4,459	76	25	43	99	213	26	97	29	608	14%
East Greenwich	2,371	50	28	21	50	60	12	33	12	266	11%
East Providence	5,187	89	31	77	145	283	36	59	22	742	14%
Exeter-West Greenwich	1,574	32	*	*	25	35	*	48	*	171	11%
Foster	280	*	0	0	*	*	0	16	*	32	11%
Foster-Glocester	1,144	17	0	*	24	44	*	*	*	109	10%
Glocester	550	*	*	0	*	10	*	16	*	41	7%
Jamestown	478	12	*	*	17	16	*	*	0	64	13%
Johnston	3,141	62	25	30	121	249	17	45	14	563	18%
Lincoln	2,905	44	23	32	79	155	11	52	13	409	14%
Little Compton	244	*	*	0	*	12	*	*	*	26	11%
Middletown	2,259	39	*	39	71	103	24	39	10	334	15%
Narragansett	1,263	21	16	21	42	90	*	21	10	226	18%
New Shoreham	113	*	*	*	11	0	*	*	*	23	20%
Newport	2,103	30	11	31	46	154	25	39	20	356	17%
North Kingstown	3,925	53	32	49	48	155	19	79	19	454	12%
North Providence	3,474	61	60	33	100	221	15	66	22	578	17%
North Smithfield	1,700	24	*	18	39	93	*	35	*	231	14%
Pawtucket	8,868	127	95	83	186	577	56	176	30	1,330	15%
Portsmouth	2,443	40	11	36	92	108	*	25	16	336	14%
Providence	23,856	210	225	342	462	1,392	172	601	106	3,510	15%
Scituate	1,356	20	*	*	21	57	*	27	*	143	11%
Smithfield	2,336	37	16	21	32	120	*	11	*	251	11%
South Kingstown	3,115	54	15	23	77	83	16	55	20	343	11%
Tiverton	1,797	45	*	16	45	99	*	24	10	250	14%
Warwick	8,817	205	77	123	289	507	38	81	40	1,360	15%
West Warwick	3,426	80	44	82	93	195	26	29	*	558	16%
Westerly	2,795	48	21	35	104	130	15	43	22	418	15%
Woonsocket	5,801	128	79	107	289	417	77	161	29	1,287	22%
Charter Schools	6,612	55	36	55	144	394	12	120	*	822	12%
State-Operated Schools	1,734	13	0	32	44	109	*	0	54	256	15%
UCAP	137	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	24	18%
Department of Corrections	NA	0	0	23	12	18	0	0	0	53	NA
Four Core Cities	41,043	490	425	563	1,014	2,644	331	987	183	6,637	16%
Remainder of State	89,833	1,592	627	1,027	2,369	4,466	463	1,252	418	12,214	14%
Rhode Island	139,359	2,150	1,088	1,677	3,571	7,637	810	2,359	661	19,953	14%

#### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), Office for Diverse Learners, Special Education Census June 30, 2016. 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 2015-2016 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/or have traumatic brain injury.

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

Charter schools include Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy, Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter 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, RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, Segue Institute for Learning, Sheila "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, Southside Elementary Charter School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and 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 187.