

# Taking *an* Evaluative View

- SPECIAL EDUCATION

As Ohio's children continue to grow, their success is, in large part, a reflection of their earliest experiences. The same kids who are behind in kindergarten and third grade continue to fall behind in eighth grade, and are less likely to graduate high school and struggle to obtain a credential or degree. Ohio's most vulnerable children often find themselves in the juvenile justice system. When children are not positioned for success early, Ohio pays later.



# Special Education

**Special Education services are provided to students ages 3 to 21 and are guided by both federal (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and state (Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities) requirements.**

In Ohio, of the 1,674,341 children served in the public school system, 244,777 (15%) are students with a disability who are being educated in consideration of their individual differences, so they can reach their highest level of success in school.

**The following are the categories of disability defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):**

1. Autism
2. Blind and Visually Impaired
3. Deaf and Hearing Impaired
4. Deaf-Blindness
5. Developmental Delay
6. Emotional Disturbances
7. Intellectual Disability
8. Multiple Disability
9. Orthopedic Impairment
10. Other Health Impairments
11. Specific Learning Disability
12. Speech or Language Impairment
13. Traumatic Brain Injury

**In Ohio, 15% of STUDENTS served in the public school system are receiving special education services.**

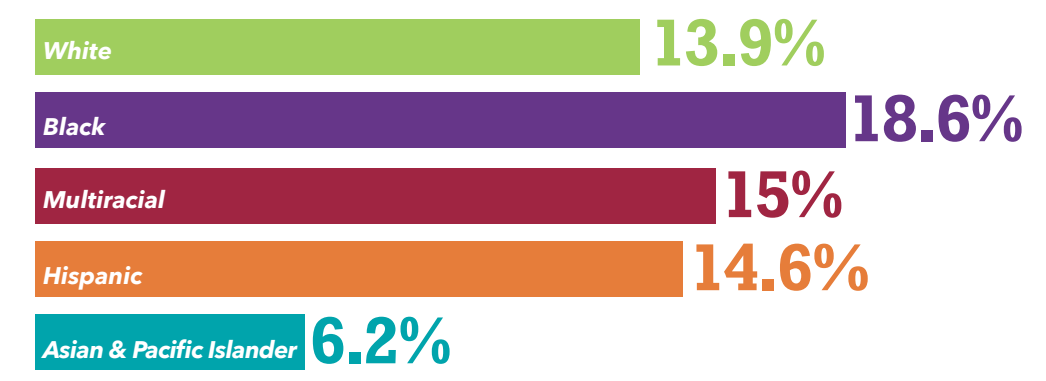
**FY17 Percentage of ENROLLED STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY by Race**

Race & Ethnicity	# of Students Enrolled	# of Students with a Disability	% of Students with a Disability
White	1,178,393	164,181	13.9%
Black	278,839	51,729	18.6%
Multiracial/Other	83,803	12,726	15%
Asian	38,204	2,280	6.0%
Hispanic	91,724	13,350	14.6%
Pacific Islander	1,308	160	12.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2,070	351	17%
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>	<b>1,674,341</b>	<b>244,777</b>	<b>14.6%</b>

Data Source: Ohio Department of Education

# Special Education

**FY17 Percentage of ENROLLED STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY by Race**



**FY17 Students with DISABILITY-EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE by Race**

Race & Ethnicity	# of Students	% of Students by Race
White	8,594	0.7%
Black	5,442	2.0%
Multiracial/Other	1,084	1.3%
Asian	45	0.1%
Hispanic	637	0.7%
Pacific Islander	10	0.8%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	19	0.9%

Emotional disturbance is a condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects a child's educational performance:

1. An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors.
2. An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers.
3. Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances.
4. A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression.
5. A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

Reflection

**BLACK STUDENTS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES BASED UPON EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE. WHAT ROLE MAY THE INCIDENCE OF TRAUMA PLAY IN THIS DISPARITY?**

**WHAT ROLE MAY IMPLICIT BIAS PLAY IN THIS DISPARITY?**



# Special Education

## FY17 Students with DISABILITY-DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY by Race

Race & Ethnicity	# of Students	% of Students by Race
White	3,278	0.3%
Black	936	0.3%
Multiracial/Other	259	0.3%
Asian	112	0.3%
Hispanic	297	0.3%
Pacific Islander	10	0.8%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	110	5.3%

Note: According to the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities, a student with a developmental delay is a child 3 to 5 years old that an evaluation team of qualified professionals determines is experiencing a delay in one or more of the following areas: physical development; cognitive development; communication development; social or emotional development; or adaptive development.

## FY17 Students with DISABILITY-SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY by Race

Race & Ethnicity	# of Students	% of Students by Race
White	62,455	5.3%
Black	20,944	7.5%
Multiracial/Other	4,779	5.6%
Asian	560	1.5%
Hispanic	6,093	6.6%
Pacific Islander	70	5.4%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	151	7.3%

Note: Specific learning disability means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. Specific learning disability does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of intellectual disability, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

**WHAT MORE DO WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND TO DETERMINE WHY DISPARITIES APPEAR IN SOME CATEGORIES OF DISABILITY AND NOT OTHERS?**

**HOW CAN WE BETTER SUPPORT CHILDREN OF COLOR BEFORE THEY ENTER SCHOOL TO REDUCE THE NEED FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES FOR THESE CHILDREN?**

## Special Education:

### SOURCES

Ohio Department of Education, Special Education-Disability Specific Resources <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Students-with-Disabilities>

### DATA SOURCE

Ohio Department of Education

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# Join Us.

Groundwork  
OHIO



*Ohio Early Childhood Race & Rural Equity Report*

[GroundworkOhio.org](http://GroundworkOhio.org)



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