

# Profile of Children and Youth Enrolled in Special Education

## Nevada

On December 1, 2001, the number of children ages 3 to 21 enrolled in special education in Nevada was 38,160. The most frequent disability among Nevada’s students was “learning disability” (56.9 percent of children in special education). Less than 50 percent of the students ages 17 to 19, exiting special education received a regular diploma (20.1 percent) or an adjusted diploma or certificate (27.8 percent). Approximately 21 percent (557 students) of high school dropouts were special education students.

## Counties

Eureka, Storey, and Pershing counties had the highest percentage of students in special education.

## Significant Factors

The *Twenty-third Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individual with Disabilities Act* reveals that in 1998-1999, 57.4 percent of students, 14 years of age and older with disabilities, graduated from high school, up from 55.4 percent in 1997-1998.<sup>1</sup> The dropout rate in 1998-1999, 28.9 percent, was a decrease over the 1997-1998 rate of 31 percent. The report also noted that dropout rates varied by disability and race. Students with autism were the least likely to dropout; whereas, students with emotional and behavioral disorders were the most likely to dropout. Native Americans/Alaskan Natives had the highest dropout rate (44.0 percent), followed by blacks (33.7 percent), Hispanics (32.3 percent), whites (26.9 percent), and Asians/Pacific Islanders (18.8 percent).

## Definition

“‘Special education’ means instruction designed to meet the unique needs of a pupil with a disability .”<sup>2</sup>

**Children and Youth Enrolled in Special Education  
(Ages 3-21): December 1, 2001**

School District	Total Number of Students	Total Number of Students with Disabilities	Percent of Students in Special Education
Carson City	8,431	1,199	14.2
Churchill	4,808	662	13.8
Clark	231,655	24,497	10.6
Douglas	7,033	783	11.1
Elko	10,100	1,061	10.5
Esmeralda	107	8	7.5
Eureka	305	68	22.3
Humboldt	3,805	542	14.2
Lander	1,449	177	12.2
Lincoln*	-	62	-
Lyon	6,666	940	14.1
Mineral	872	174	19.9
Nye	5,290	887	16.8
Pershing	900	189	21.0
Storey	445	96	21.6
Washoe	56,268	6,532	11.6
White Pine	1,554	250	16.1
Nevada Youth Training Center	-	23	-
Caliente Youth Center	-	10	-
NEVADA	-	38,160	-

\*Caliente Youth Center was disaggregated from the Lincoln School District, therefore the percentage of students in special education was not calculated.

Source: “Student Bulletin and Licensed Personnel Information,” *Research Bulletin*, Vol. 43, March 2002.

# Profile of Children and Youth Enrolled in Special Education Continued

## Enrollment of Special Education Students by Top Five Primary Disability Categories: December 1, 2001

<i>School District</i>	<i>Learning Disabled</i>	<i>Speech/Language Handicapped</i>	<i>Developmentally Delayed</i>	<i>Emotionally Disabled</i>	<i>Mentally Handicapped</i>
Carson City	700	271	41	50	42
Churchill	386	102	63	38	24
Clark	13,743	4,520	1,437	1,283	1,177
Douglas	443	186	33	19	32
Elko	669	243	18	7	61
Esmeralda	5	1	1	0	0
Eureka	45	13	5	0	0
Humboldt	366	76	55	7	17
Lander	105	30	24	0	7
Lincoln	42	3	9	8	6
Lyon	489	180	86	21	26
Mineral	92	46	12	2	5
Nye	571	85	73	69	31
Pershing	133	15	20	4	8
Storey	71	14	2	5	1
Washoe	3,703	869	412	300	359
White Pine	157	57	15	0	9
NEVADA	21,733	6,711	2,306	1,822	1,805

Source: "Student Bulletin and Licensed Personnel Information," *Research Bulletin*, Vol. 43, March 2002.

## Numbers and Percentages of Special Education Students Ages 17, 18, and 19 Exiting Special Education: 2000-2001

<i>Special Education Students</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Received regular education diploma	447	20.1
Received adjusted diploma or certificate	619	27.8
Returned to regular education (no longer eligible)	75	3.4
Moved (known to be continuing education)	506	22.7
Moved (not known to be continuing education)	158	7.1
Dropped out of school	418	18.8
Died	3	0.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Nevada Department of Education, 2000-2001.