

Profile of Children and Youth Enrolled in Special Education

Nevada

On December 1, 2002, 42,532 children ages 3 to 21 were enrolled in special education. The most prevalent disability among Nevada students was a learning disability. About 53 percent of the special-education students ages 17 to 19 received a regular diploma (22.7 percent) or an adjusted diploma or certificate (30.0 percent) in 2001-2002.

Counties

Clark and Washoe counties had the highest numbers of students enrolled in special education, 27,713 and 7,369, respectively.

Significant Factors

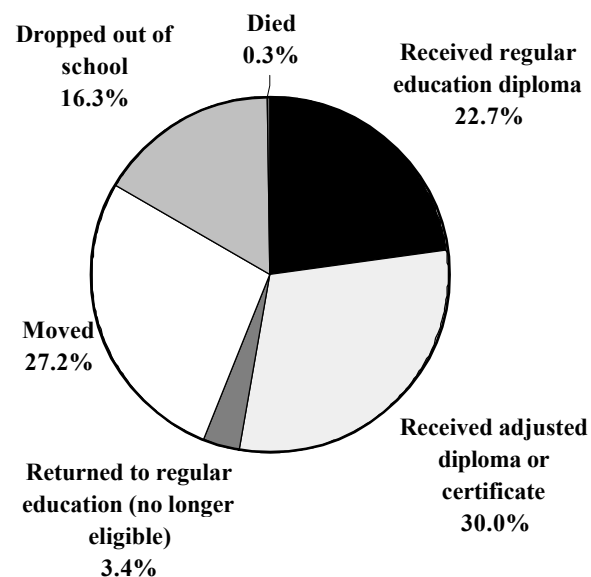
A recent article which summarized the progress of special education over a 25-year period revealed that the high school graduation and college enrollment rates of students with disabilities have increased.¹

Many factors play a role in children's academic achievement, including parents' expectations.² However, for parents of children with disabilities ". . . finding the appropriate balance between high expectations for achievement and a realistic assessment of aptitude and potential, in light of students' disabilities, may be particularly challenging . . ."³ Findings from the Special Education Elementary Longitudinal Study (SEELS), a six-year study (1999-2005) sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, revealed that in 2000, 65.1 and 19.5 percents of parents, respectively, definitely expected their child with disabilities to graduate from high school and to definitely graduate from a four-year college.⁴ Parents of children with a speech/language impairment were the most likely to expect their child to graduate.⁵

Definition

*"Special education' means instruction designed to meet the unique needs of a pupil with a disability."*⁶

**Percentage of Special-Education Students
Ages 17, 18, and 19 Exiting Special
Education in Nevada: 2001-2002**



Source: Nevada Department of Education, Office of Special Education, February 2003, "2003 Nevada Education Book," available online at: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/71st/Interim/StatCom/Education/Data%20Book/SEC1> as of 9/17/03.

Profile of Children and Youth Enrolled in Special Education Continued

Enrollment of Special-Education Students Ages 3-21 in Nevada by Disability Categories: December 1, 2002

| School District | Learning Disabled | Speech | Developmentally Delayed | Emotionally | Mentally | Autistic | Aurally | Orthopedically Impaired | Visually | Traumatic Brain Injured | Deaf/Blind | Other Health Impaired | Multiple | Total |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|---------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------|--------|
| Carson City | 708 | 254 | 41 | 46 | 42 | 12 | 22 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 58 | 14 | 1,216 |
| Churchill | 378 | 100 | 60 | 39 | 25 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 33 | 2 | 668 |
| Clark | 15,151 | 4,983 | 1,699 | 1,448 | 1,299 | 682 | 326 | 260 | 104 | 120 | 4 | 1,031 | 606 | 27,713 |
| Douglas | 485 | 197 | 25 | 29 | 35 | 18 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 49 | 14 | 876 |
| Elko | 693 | 245 | 25 | 8 | 61 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 25 | 15 | 1,107 |
| Esmeralda | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Eureka | 29 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 |
| Humboldt | 361 | 65 | 51 | 11 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 524 |
| Lander | 92 | 17 | 12 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 139 |
| Lincoln | 62 | 20 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 113 |
| Lyon | 503 | 242 | 120 | 33 | 34 | 14 | 20 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 76 | 27 | 1,088 |
| Mineral | 103 | 38 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 163 |
| Nye | 577 | 100 | 73 | 79 | 32 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 22 | 960 |
| Pershing | 120 | 24 | 16 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 186 |
| Storey | 66 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 96 |
| Washoe | 4,169 | 911 | 459 | 328 | 380 | 127 | 113 | 54 | 38 | 40 | 0 | 637 | 113 | 7,369 |
| White Pine | 153 | 53 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 240 |
| NYTC* | 20 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 28 |
| NEVADA | 23,679 | 7,264 | 2,607 | 2,048 | 1,959 | 904 | 511 | 374 | 178 | 182 | 5 | 1,998 | 823 | 42,532 |

*NYTC = Nevada Youth Training Center.

Source: Nevada Department of Education, 2003, "Student Bulletin and Licensed Personnel Information," *Research Bulletin*, available online at: <<http://www.nde.state.nv.us/admin/deptsuper/fiscal/research.html>> as of 12/1/03.