

Asking Questions About Special Education



What is Special Education?

- Special education is designed to meet the unique needs of a student with a disability
- This is done through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- The IEP can be for one student or multiple students
 - The IEP will also state if a student needs counseling, physical therapy, speech therapy, or transportation to and from school!



How does a student receive Special Education?

- Students qualify for special education services through the “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act” (IDEA)
- Must have one of 13 qualifying disabilities:
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Deaf-Blindness
 - Deafness
 - Emotional Disturbance
 - Hearing Impairment
 - Intellectual Disability
 - Multiple Disabilities
 - Orthopedic Impairment
 - Specific Learning Disability
 - Speech or Language Impairment
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Visual Impairment, including Blindness
 - Other Health Impairment



Sample Research Questions:

- Did the COVID-19 pandemic affect the number of students receiving special education services in any school settings?
- Are there parts of the country with greater prevalence of students needing special education services?



Child Count in Various Educational Environments

[Department of Education Data - Child Count and Educational Environment](#)

1. Click the link
2. Click on the year's data you want to see
3. Download the dataset!

This set will show you the number of children receiving special ed services broken down by state, grade level, and educational setting.

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CSV 2022 **DOWNLOAD**

CSV 2021

CSV 2020

Part B of *IDEA* provides funds to states to assist them in providing free appropriate public education (FAPE) to children ages three through 21 with disabilities who are in need of special education and related services.

Child Count and Educational Environments

[Data Notes](#)

[Data Documentation](#)

Hide

There are no views created for this resource yet.

Additional Information

Year

Year

Year	State Name	SEA Education	SEA Disability	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5 (Early American Indian/Asian - Early Black or African American/Hispanic/Latino)	Two or More	White - Early Female - Early Male - Early EL Yes - Early EL No - Early Age 3 to 5	Age 6
2022	Alabama	Correction	All Disability						

childcountandedenvironment2022



How to Use This Data to Answer Research Questions

- Did the COVID-19 pandemic affect the number of students receiving special education services in any school settings?
 1. Under “year,” scroll back to find dataset from 2019
 2. Find data for which state and school settings you wish to study
 3. Compare to datasets from 2020 and 2021 for the same state and school setting
 4. Evaluate the data and look at the trends – were more or less students receiving services?



How to Use This Data to Answer a Research Question

- Are there parts of the country with greater prevalence of students needing special education services?
 1. Choose a few regions of the country you want to study (i.e. the northeast, the south, Midwest, west coast, etc.) and a year of data you wish to look at
 2. Look at the prevalence of special education across different regions and compare
 3. To dive even deeper... are there certain educational environments in certain regions where more students receive special education?

Sample Research Questions:

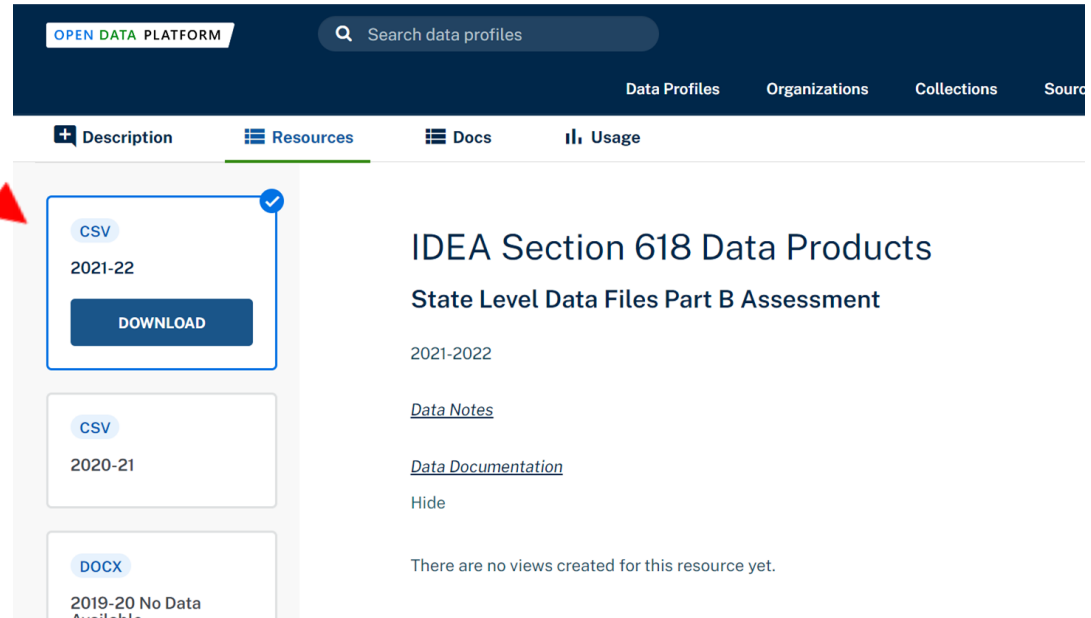
- Does any grade level receive more accommodations in a subject than others? What factors could affect this?
- Are there any states where a grade level receives more accommodations than another?

Children Receiving Special Education Accommodations Broken Down By Subject and Grade Level

[Child Count By Subject and Type of Assessment](#)

1. Click the link
2. Click on the school year you want to see data from
3. Download the dataset!

This set will show you what subjects children are receiving services in and if they are receiving accommodations or are exempt from assessment.



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+ Description Resources Docs Usage

CSV
2021-22
DOWNLOAD

CSV
2020-21

DOCX
2019-20 No Data Available

IDEA Section 618 Data Products

State Level Data Files Part B Assessment

2021-2022

[Data Notes](#)

[Data Documentation](#)

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There are no views created for this resource yet.

How to Use the Dataset

Subject and Type of Accommodations

State

School Year

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S		
				Math IEP Regular Assessm ent with Accomm odations	Math IEP Regular Assessm ent without Accomm odations	Math IEP Alternate Assessm ent Alternate Std Achievem	Math IEP Medical Exemptio ns	Math IEP Non Participa nts	ProfandAb	ProfandAb	ProfandAb	ProfandAb	odations	odations	Reading IEP Alternate Assessm ent Alternate Std Achievem ent Total	Reading IE ns	Reading IEP Medical Exemptio ns	Reading IEP Non Participa nts	ProfandAb	ProfandAb	ProfandAb
5	Year	State	Grade																		
6	2021-2022	ALABAMA	3	4941	2172	628	7	71	432	637	59	4941	2177	628	x		7	63	673	816	
7	2021-2022	ALABAMA	4	5232	1888	615	2	102	253	454	118	5187	1936	615	x		2	97	566	730	
8	2021-2022	ALABAMA	5	5332	1631	643	7	113	247	276	122	5295	1674	645		6	7	98	434	457	
9	2021-2022	ALABAMA	6	5124	1643	650	8	161	174	190	187	5083	1698	651	x		8	142	429	369	
10	2021-2022	ALABAMA	7	4868	1728	661	5	216	80	98	191	4855	1748	663	x		5	207	320	319	
11	2021-2022	ALABAMA	8	4630	1647	682	4	244	66	80	42	4610	1679	688		0	4	227	466	320	
12	2021-2022	ALABAMA	HS	2537	1516	606	6	369	86	24	191	2285	1323	602		0	6	817	140	38	
13	2021-2022	ALASKA	3	952	294	55	2	247	59	75	x	945	303	55		0	2	245	32	56	x
14	2021-2022	ALASKA	4	1029	233	54	1	212	39	37		1035	231	54		0	1	208	45	36	x
15	2021-2022	ALASKA	5	1112	211	46	3	233	83	65	x	1111	221	45		0	3	225	87	64	
16	2021-2022	ALASKA	6	929	207	62	0	270	31	26		917	218	62		0	0	271	60	38	
17	2021-2022	ALASKA	7	889	167	81	2	300	26	10		890	175	81		0	2	291	38	19	
18	2021-2022	ALASKA	8	873	174	64	0	294	10	6	x	869	171	64		0	0	301	33	32	



How to Use This Data to Answer a Research Question

- Does any grade level receive more accommodations in a subject than others? What factors could affect this?
 1. Choose a school year's data to study and choose 2 (or more) grade levels to compare between.
 2. Choose a subject (listed across the top of the dataset) that you want to look at.
 3. Compare the number of students in each grade level who received accommodations in the subject (can dive deeper and look at what accommodations they received)



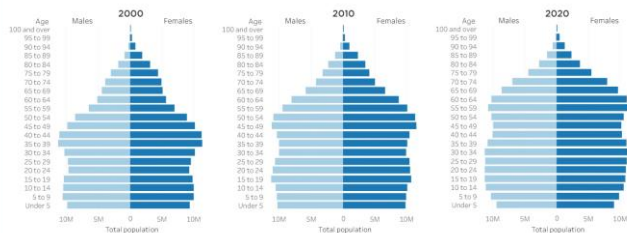
How to Use This Data to Answer a Research Question

- Are there any states where a grade level receives more accommodations than another? (ex. Do third graders in PA or OH receive more accommodations? In which subject do they have more accommodations?)
 1. Choose a grade level that you are interested in studying and choose the states you want to compare between.
 2. Look at how many students in each grade level receive accommodations and compare
 3. To dive deeper... look at each subject and see if there are any differences between them!



Population Data: Children

Figure 2.
Population Pyramids for the United States: 2000, 2010 and 2020
(In millions)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1), 2010 Census Summary File 1 (SF1) and 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC).

The example research questions provided and the ones you may come up with might require you to look at population data to determine prevalence or percentages! You can use these tools to help your research:

Children's Bureau: Child Population Data:

<https://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite/population/index>

Public School Enrollment Reports (by grade level):

<https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/Enrollment/Pages/PublicSchEnrReports.aspx>