In the U.S., 12.2% of public school students received special education in 2013–2014.

In Alabama, 12.2% of public school students received special education.

Rates of SLD & OHI among students receiving special education in 2015–2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% SLD</th>
<th>% OHI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

32,392 children were identified in 2015-2016 with specific learning disabilities (SLD) in Alabama, where they accounted for the largest of the 13 disability categories covered under special education law.

SLD 42.1%
- Autism 8.1%
- Deaf-blindness <1%
- Intellectual disabilities 8.3%
- Developmental delay 4.1%
- Emotional disturbance 1.7%
- Hearing impairments 1.2%
- Multiple disabilities 1.6%
- Orthopedic impairments <1%
- Traumatic brain injury <1%
- Speech or language impairments 17.3%
- Visual impairments <1%

OHI 14.0%

Children are often classified under the category of other health impairments (OHI) when ADHD is the primary reason they qualify for special education. OHI can cover other health conditions but is used here as a rough proxy for students receiving special education who have ADHD.

For more information about the challenges and opportunities for the 1 in 5 students with learning and attention issues, visit nclld.org/stateofld
Leaving High School

Students with learning and attention issues are as smart as their peers and, with the right support, can achieve at high levels. But too often students with these issues leave school without disabilities, and the loss of instructional time increases the risk of academic failure and school aversion. Here’s a look at outcomes for students receiving special education in Alabama, where 89.3% of all students graduated in 2014–2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diplomas</th>
<th>Certificates</th>
<th>Dropouts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLD</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHI</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All special education

Sources: IDEA 618 data, Civil Rights Data Collection, and White House graduation data.

State Literacy Laws

Alabama law includes a process for screening students for dyslexia and providing students with assistive technology, accommodations, and intervention through RTI.

Alabama does not have a law addressing reading by third grade, though 38 states in the country do.