Nationwide, 12.2% of public school students received special education in 2013–2014.

In Connecticut, 12.2% of public school students received special education that year.

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>Connecticut</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24,241 children were identified in 2015-2016 with specific learning disabilities (SLD) in Connecticut, where they accounted for the largest of the 13 disability categories covered under special education law.

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 ncld.org/stateofld
### Educational Environment

As detailed in this chart, many students receiving special education spend 80% or more of the school day in general education classrooms. Inclusion can improve outcomes—if teachers have the skills needed to help diverse learners.

![Graph showing % SLD and % OHI in Connecticut vs. National data from 2015-2016](chart.png)

### Discipline

Nationwide, students with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be suspended as those without disabilities, and the loss of instructional time increases the risk of academic failure and school aversion.

**In Connecticut students identified with SLD or OHI accounted for 64.0% of students with disabilities who received out-of-school suspensions in 2014-2015.**

### 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 with a certificate of completion—instead of a regular diploma—or drop out altogether. Here’s a look at outcomes for students receiving special education in Connecticut, where 87.2% of all students graduated in 2014-2015.

**Data from 2014-2015**

### State Literacy Laws

Connecticut law requires reading assessments in grades K–3. Struggling readers will be retained in third grade if they do not participate in an intervention, but principals can recommend students for exemption.

Connecticut also has a law that recognizes dyslexia within an IEP and requires teachers to complete coursework or professional development in dyslexia to be certified.

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Sources: [IDEA 618 data](https://idea.gov), [Civil Rights Data Collection](https://ocr.gov), and [White House graduation data](https://whitehouse.gov).

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