



Arkansas State Snapshot

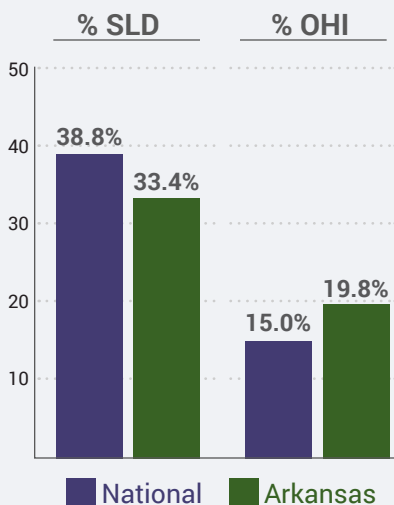
Nationwide,
12.2%

of public school students received special education in 2013–2014.

In Arkansas,
10.5%

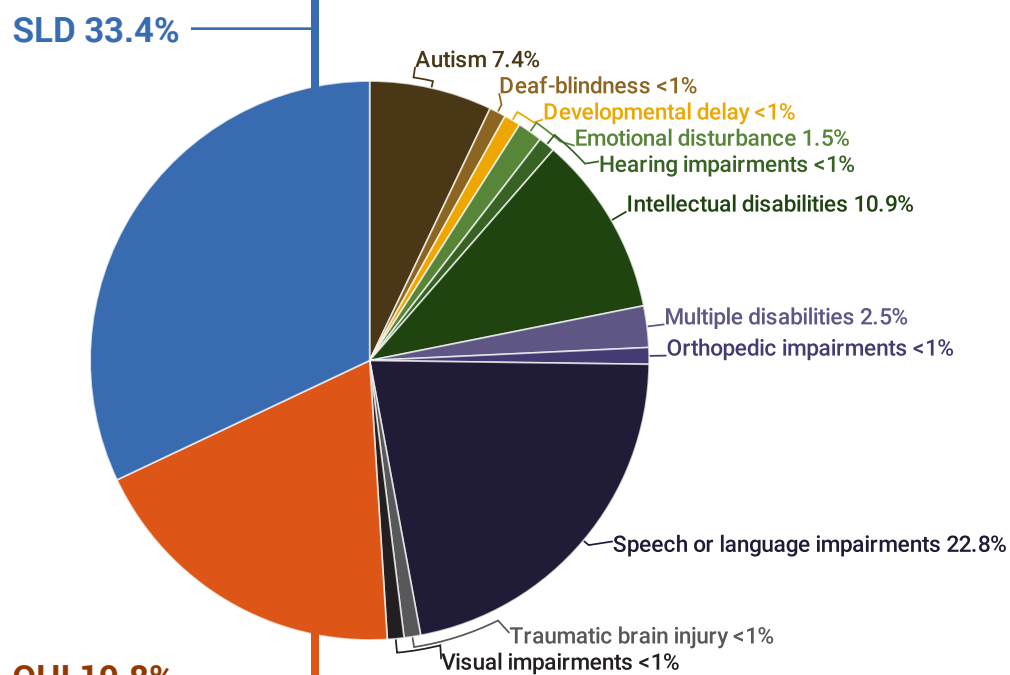
of public school students received special education that year.

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



18,448 children

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



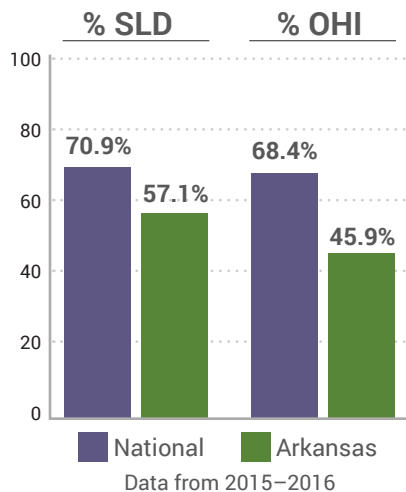
Total may not equal 100% due to rounding.

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.



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.



State Literacy Laws

Arkansas law requires reading assessments in grades K–3, plus dyslexia screenings in grades K–2, and interventions for struggling students. Students will be retained in third grade if not reading proficiently, but some students with disabilities may be exempt.

Arkansas also has a law that requires a dyslexia specialist in each district and the provision of accommodations and services to students through a 504 plan.



Discipline

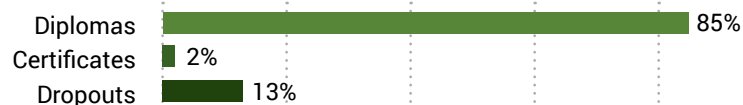
Nationwide, students with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be suspended as those without disabilities, and the loss of instructional time increases the risk of academic failure and school aversion.

In Arkansas students identified with SLD or OHI accounted for **68.7%** 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 Arkansas, where **84.9%** of all students graduated in 2014–2015.

All special education



SLD



OHI



Data from 2014–2015

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

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