

**Washington State 2012-13 Special Education Indicators and Outcomes:
State Comparisons under Washington Educational Health Indicators Framework**

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Executive Summary

Using information gathered from the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (USDOE OSEP), special education indicators for Washington State were charted from FFY 2005-2012.¹ Data on special education indicators revealed that our state had long-standing trends of poor special education outcomes, confirming recent notification from USDOE (June 2014) that Washington State needed to improve special education outcomes, particularly around achievement.

To see how Washington's performance compared against other states and national rankings, additional information was collected from the USDOE OSEP Annual Performance Review which monitors 18 Special Education Student Indicators across all 50 states.² To initiate shared discussions around Washington's special education achievement, an existing K-12 framework was used to make comparisons.

Using the framework and indicators that were developed for Washington Education Health Indicators³ as "a common guide" for comparisons, Washington State's special education data was grouped across six domains with eight indicators: Student Achievement, Elementary Literacy, High School Readiness, High School Graduation, Post-Secondary Outcomes, and Key Special Education Indicators- Time special education students spend in a regular education class (known as Least Restrictive Environment) and Parent involvement in their child's special education, requirements under state and federal regulations.

Eight Peer States used for Washington's special education comparisons.

To integrate into the current work being done by Washington State Board of Education and to provide meaningful special education comparisons among states, 2012-2013 data from Washington State's Special Education Indicators was compared to the same special education indicators for "Eight Peer States" (ESSB 5491): Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Additionally, comparisons were made for Student Achievement and two Special Education Indicators- Least Restrictive Environment and Parent Involvement, which have direct impact on special education outcomes.

Washington's 2012-13 Standings in Special Education Indicators

- 1. Student Achievement:** Washington was **last** of Peer States and in 46th place of 50 states- in the lowest 10% of states.⁴
- 2. Elementary Literacy:** In 4th Grade Reading, Washington was 7th place among Peer States.
- 3. High School Readiness:** In 8th Grade Reading and Math, Washington was **last** among Peer States.
- 4. High School Graduation:** Washington was 5th among Peer States.
- 5. Post-Secondary Outcomes:** Washington was **last** among Peer States.
- 6. Other Key Special Education Indicators** (not tracked under ESSB 5491 indicators)
 - **Least Restrictive Environment:** Washington was 8th among Peer States and 46th place of 50 states- in the lowest 10% of states.
 - **Special Education Parent Involvement:** Washington was **last** among Peer States and in 50th place for 50 states - placing last in the lowest 10% of 50 states.

¹ USDOE OSEP Washington State Special Education Trends, FFY 2005-2012. (Attachment)

² USDOE OSEP APR State Monitoring, FFY 2005-12 <https://www2.ed.gov/fund/data/report/idea/partbspap/allyears.html>

³ Passage of ESSB 5491 created indicators to measure state education health across several domains which are monitored by the Washington State Board of Education. Indicators compare Washington against "8 Peer States" and "Lowest 10% of 50 States".

⁴ Colorado data was invalidated and 4 states tied for 50th or last place for the "Lowest 10% of 50 states".

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**Cross Walk between WA Data Indicators:
ESSB 5491 Education System Health and OSEP State Special Education**

ESSB 5491 Ed. Health Indicators	OSEP Special Ed. Indicators	Variances between indicators
A. Student Achievement		
In overall data for “Target Students”	Indicator 3A: Meets AYP/AMO for disability subgroups – all grades	Nothing under ESSB 5491
B. Elementary Literacy		
3rd grade Literacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSP Reading Proficiency 	Indicator 3C: Grade 4 proficiency rate for special ed. students against grade level, modified and alternate academic achievement standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Proficiency * <p>* See notes on page 5.</p>	<p>*Because of different state assessments used by 8 Peer States, the proficiency gaps between special ed. and non-special ed. student scores better reflect the outcomes.</p> <p>OSEP data uses 4th grade assessments, not 3rd grade or English language proficiency.</p>
C. High School Readiness		
8th Grade High School Readiness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSP Proficiency (on all assessments) 	Indicator 3C: Grade 8 proficiency rate for special ed. students against grade level, modified and alternate academic achievement standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading & Math Proficiency* <p>*See notes on page 6</p>	<p>*Because different state assessments used by 8 Peer States, the proficiency gaps between special ed. and non-special ed. student scores better reflect the special education outcomes.</p> <p>OSEP data is on Reading and Math scores, not all 8th grade assessments or English Language proficiency.</p>
D. High School Graduation		
High School Graduation	Indicator 1: % special ed. students graduating from high school with a regular diploma.	No variances.
E. Post-Secondary Outcomes		
Post-Secondary Attainment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P.S. Educ./Empl. (Qtr. 2) P.S. Educa./Empl. (Qtr. 4) 	Indicator 14B: % youth no longer in secondary school, had IEPs in effect when they left school and within 1 year of leaving school were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolled in higher ed. or competitively employed. 	OSEP indicators measure do not measure attainment for 26 yr. olds or by quarters.
F. Other Key Special Education Indicators		
Nothing in WA’s Ed. System Health Indicators	Indicator 5A: % of special ed. children, age 6-21, served inside the regular class 80% or >of the day.	Least Restrictive Environment: Special ed. students need time in regular class for general ed. curriculum, achievement, and AYP.
Nothing in WA’s Ed. System Health Indicators	Indicator 8: % of special ed. parents reporting school facilitated their involvement in improving services for their children	Parent Involvement: So that special ed. students are making progress, parents are considered partners in the special ed. process.

A. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Special Education Annual Achievement Progress (AYP/AMO)

Indicator 3A: Percent of schools districts with disability subgroup that makes AYP or meets AMO targets.

Washington State compared to 8 Peer States in 2012-13

Ranking	State	% of LEAs makes AYP/ meets AMO for Special Ed.
1	Minnesota	83.1 %
2	North Carolina	70.9 %
3	New Jersey	29.18 %
4	Virginia	25.4 %
5	Connecticut	20.0 %
6	Massachusetts	17.0 %
7	Maryland	8.0 %
8	Washington	1.5 %
*	Colorado	Data was invalidated.

Source: USDOE Office OSEP FFY 2012-13 Data: Washington vs. 8 Peer States from WA Education Health Indicators

Washington State ranking-in lowest 10% of 50 states* in 2012-13

Ranking	State	% of LEAs makes AYP/ meets AMO for Special Ed.
41	Maryland	8.0 %
42	Mississippi	7.8 %
43	Ohio	4.1 %
44	Arizona	2.9 %
45	Alabama	2.2 %
46	Washington	1.5 %
47	Florida	1.0 %
48	New Mexico	0.92 %
49	Missouri	0.6 %
50	Idaho	0 %
50	Montana	0 %
50	Oregon	0 %
50	South Carolina	0 %

Source: USDOE OSEP FFY 2012-13 Data: Washington's ranking- in lowest 10% of 50 states from WA Education Health Indicators

*Note: There were four states tied for 50th last place of 50 states and two states with either invalidated or had unreported data.

Additionally, Washington's data of 1.5% for 2012-13 was reported to be baseline reporting. Prior years reported more districts meeting AYP/AMO: 2007-08 was 2.01%; 2008-09 was 2.07%; 2009-10 was 3.9 %; 2010-11 was 10.7%; 2011-12 was 17%.

(Note: Recently submitted data for 2013-14 reflects **0%** AYP/AMO.)

B. ELEMENTARY LITERACY

Special Education Elementary Literacy

Indicator 3C: Percent of special ed. students scoring “proficient” on state 4th grade Reading assessments.

Note: Because of variances in state assessments used in 2012-13 (state-specific assessments based on state standards or Common Core), the proficiency gaps between special ed. and non-special ed. student scores were used for state comparison purposes, allowing for “apples-to-apples” comparisons.

Special Education 4th Grade Reading in 2012-13

Proficiency Gap Ranking	State	% Special Ed. proficiency	% Non-Spec. Ed. proficiency	Proficiency Gap between Special Ed. and Non-Special Ed.
1	Maryland	66.0 %	88.0 %	22
2	North Carolina	18.0 %	45.0 %	27
3	Minnesota	26.0 %	54.0 %	28
4	New Jersey	29.0 %	59.0 %	30
5	Connecticut	45.0 %	78.0 %	33
5	Virginia	37.0 %	70.0 %	33
6	Massachusetts	16.0 %	54.0 %	38
7	Washington	31.0 %	72.0 %	41
8	Colorado	22.0 %	68.0 %	46

Source: USDOE OSEP FFY 2012-13 Data: Washington vs. 8 Peer States from WA Education Health Indicators

C. HIGH SCHOOL READINESS

Special Education High School Readiness

Indicator 3C: Percent of special ed. students scoring “proficient” on state 8th grade Reading/Math assessments.

Note: Because of variances in state assessments used in 2012-13 (state-specific assessments based on state standards or Common Core), the proficiency gaps between special ed. and non-special ed. student scores were used for state comparison purposes, allowing for “apples-to-apples” comparisons.

Special Education 8th Grade Reading in 2012-13

Proficiency Gap Ranking	State	% Special Ed. proficiency	% Non-Spec. Ed. proficiency	Proficiency Gap between Special Ed. and Non-Special Ed.
1	Connecticut	57.0 %	86.0 %	29
2	North Carolina	11.0 %	43.0 %	32
3	Minnesota	21.0 %	54.0 %	33
4	New Jersey	46.0 %	82.0 %	36
5	Massachusetts	41.0 %	79.0 %	38
6	Maryland	41.0 %	81.0 %	40
7	Virginia	30.0 %	71.0 %	41
8	Colorado	19.0 %	67.0 %	48
9	Washington	18.0 %	67.0 %	49

Source: USDOE OSEP FFY 2012-13 Data: Washington vs. 8 Peer States from WA Education Health Indicators

Special Education 8th Grade Math in 2012-13

Proficiency Gap Ranking	State	% Special Ed. proficiency	% Non-Spec. Ed. proficiency	Proficiency Gap between Special Ed. and Non-Special Ed.
1	New Jersey	58.0 %	78.0 %	20
2	Connecticut	59.0 %	86.0 %	27
3	North Carolina	8.0 %	36.0 %	28
4	Maryland	60.0 %	89.0 %	29
5	Virginia	27.0 %	61.0 %	34
6	Minnesota	23.0 %	59.0 %	36
7	Massachusetts	30.0 %	72.0 %	40
8	Colorado	31.0 %	72.0 %	42
9	Washington	10.0 %	54.0 %	49

Source: USDOE OSEP FFY 2012-13 Data: Washington vs. 8 Peer States from WA Education Health Indicators

D. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Special Education High School Graduation

Indicator 1: Percent of special education students graduate with regular diploma

Special Education Graduation Rates in 2011-12

Ranking*	State	Special Ed. Students	Non-Spec. Ed. Students
1	New Jersey	74.0 %	86.0 %
2	Massachusetts	69.0 %	85.0 %
3	Connecticut	64.0 %	85.0 %
4	North Carolina	60.0 %	80.0 %
5	Washington	58.0 %	77.0 %
6	Maryland	57.0 %	84.0 %
7	Minnesota	56.0 %	78.0 %
8	Colorado	54.0 %	75.0 %
9	Virginia	49.0 %	83.0 %

Source: USDOE Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) FFY 2012-13 Data: Washington vs. 8 Peer States from WA Education Health Indicators
 *Data from 2011-12 grant year was reported because information was not yet posted for 2012-13.

E. POST-SECONDARY OUTCOMES

Special Education Post-Secondary Outcomes

Indicator 14B: Percent of special education students no longer in secondary school and are enrolled in higher education or competitively employed within one year of leaving school.

Special Education Post-Secondary Outcomes in 2012-13

Ranking	State	% Special Ed. Students in Higher Ed./ Comp. Employed
1	Massachusetts	81.3 %
2	New Jersey	73.1 %
3	Connecticut	67.4 %
4	Minnesota	66.0 %
5	Virginia	62.2 %
6	North Carolina	57.0 %
7	Maryland	56.7 %
8	Colorado	50.9 %
9	Washington	47.6 %

Source: USDOE OSEP FFY 2012-13 Data: Washington vs. 8 Peer States from WA Education Health Indicators

F. OTHER KEY SPECIAL EDUCATION INDICATORS

❖ Special Education Students in General Education

Indicator 5A: Percent of special ed. students who spend 80% or \geq time in regular class- general ed.

Washington State ranking-in lowest 10% of 50 states in 2012-13

Ranking	State	% Special Ed. Students in General Ed. 80% or \geq of time
41	Utah	56.35 %
42	Maine	55.69 %
43	Illinois	53.5 %
44	Arkansas	52.88 %
45	California	52.6 %
46	Washington	52.4 %
47	New Mexico	50.4 %
48	New Jersey	47.5 %
49	Montana	47.3 %
50	Hawaii	36.0 %

Source: USDOE OSEP FFY 2012-13 Data: Washington's ranking- in lowest 10% of 50 states from WA Education Health Indicators

Washington State compared to 8 Peer States in 2012-13

Ranking	State	% Special Ed. students in General Ed 80% or \geq of time
1	Colorado	72.3 %
2	Connecticut	69.4 %
3	Maryland	67.97 %
4	North Carolina	66.2 %
5	Virginia	62.2 %
6	Minnesota	62.0 %
Nation	National Avg.	61.5 %
7	Massachusetts	59.2 %
8	Washington	52.4 %
9	New Jersey	47.5 %

Source: USDOE OSEP FFY 2012 Data: Washington vs. 8 Peer States from WA Education Health Indicators

F. OTHER KEY SPECIAL EDUCATION INDICATORS

❖ Special Education Parent Involvement

Indicator 8: Percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

Washington State ranking- in lowest 10% of 50 states in 2012-13

Ranking	State	% Special Ed. Parent Involvement
41	Maryland	47.0 %
42	North Carolina	44.2 %
43	South Carolina	40.92 %
44	Georgia, Rhode Island	40.0 %
45	Vermont	37.09 %
46	Louisiana	36.0 %
47	Oregon	35.8 %
48	West Virginia	34.4 %
49	Kentucky	31.5 %
50	Washington	20.2 %

Source: USDOE OSEP FFY 2012-13 Data: Washington's ranking- in lowest 10% of 50 states from WA Education Health Indicators

Washington State compared to 8 Peer States in 2012-13

Ranking	State	% Special Ed. Parent Involvement
1	Connecticut	87.5 %
2	New Jersey	85.5 %
3	Massachusetts	79.7 %
4	Virginia	79.3 %
5	Minnesota	70.6 %
6	Colorado	66.4 %
7	Maryland	47.0 %
8	North Carolina	44.2 %
9	Washington	20.2 %

Source: USDOE OSEP FFY 2012-13 Data: Washington vs. 8 Peer States from WA Education Health Indicators