



Department of
Children & Youth

Department of
Education &
Workforce

ANNUAL REPORT

on Preschool Children with Disabilities

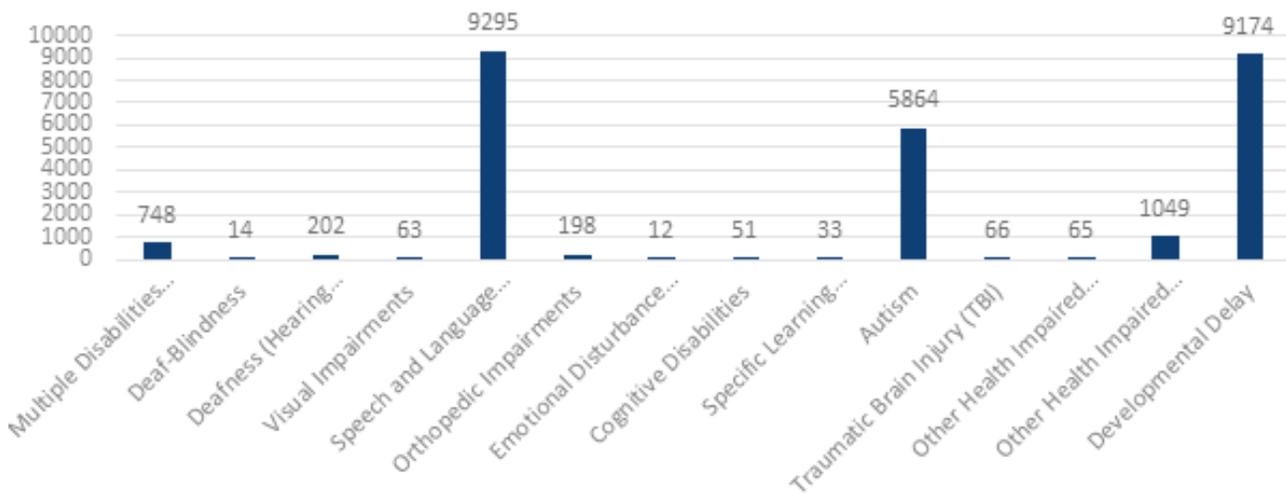
State Fiscal Year 2024



JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Ohio’s public school districts provide special education services to children with disabilities as early as preschool. Every year, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) in collaboration with the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) reports the number of preschool children who received state-funded special education services during the previous year.

Number of Children Provided Preschool Services in Each Disability Category
Total Count = 26,834



The 2023-2024 school year had an overall increase of 1,811 (7.2 percent) preschool children receiving special education services compared to the prior year. Developmental delay and speech and language impairment are the most common disability categories among preschool-age children. More than 68.82 percent (18,469) of children served in preschool special education receive services under one of these two eligibility categories. Autism accounted for 21.85 percent of the total; and the category multiple disabilities combine with other health impairment – Minor made up another 6.7 percent.

Data for this report were taken from the Education Management Information System (EMIS) and are reported annually by public school districts and Educational Service Centers. This report uses full-time equivalent (FTE) count data, which is the same data used for calculating the state preschool special education funding distributed to districts. Because these data are not finalized until later summer/early fall each year, the current report uses State Fiscal Year 2024 data.

[Ohio Revised Code 3323.20](#) requires this report.

Electronic report of preschool children receiving paid services.

Annually on the first day of July, DEW in consultation with DCY, shall electronically report to the General Assembly the number of preschool children with disabilities who received services for which DEW made a payment to any provider during the previous fiscal year, disaggregated according to each area of developmental deficiency identified by DEW for the evaluation of such children.

More information about Ohio public preschools is available on the [Ohio Department of Children and Youth website](#), by searching under, “For Providers” or “For Families,” and selecting Early Care and Education.