Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities

TEA Ex-Officio Report

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SWD Data Update

Special Education Identification has Significantly Increased

Since 2013, Texas has seen 37.59% growth in the number of special education students.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). Digest of Education Statistics, 2015 (NCES 2016-014), Chapter 2. and http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=64 (* represents not yet published)

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Special Education Evaluations Serve as a Leading Indicator for Total Special Education Representation

The decline in 2019-20 evaluations may be at least partially the result of COVID school closures in March 2020.

Almost one-third of students with disabilities are students with a specific learning disability.

SY 2020-2021

There has been an almost 1 billion dollar increase in Special Education Spending.

27% increase in Special Education Funding in four years.

Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates

State
Special Education

Source:https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/acctres/completion/2019/state.html

College, Career, and Military Readiness

State
Special Education

2018-2019 Texas College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) Graduates

Gaps between **special education** and **general education** students grow throughout their schooling.

This chart notes the trend in reading scores, for the percent of students approaching grade level during 2020-2021 SY.

Legislative Update

Legislative Update

Senate Bill 1716

- SSES expanded to all students with an IEP in grades PK-12.
- Prioritizes students for whom the LEA is eligible to receive the compensatory education allotment.

Legislative Update

Senate Bill 89

- Requires LEAs to include certain documentation in a student's IEP
- If the requirements of the bill have already been met through the contingency planning process, no further action is required of LEAs.

Legislative Update

House Bill 4545

- Relating to the assessment of public-school students, the establishment of a strong foundations grant program, and providing accelerated instruction for students who fail to achieve satisfactory performance on certain assessment instruments.
- CoE has rule making authority
- Implications for monitoring include additional review of operating procedures, additional desk review component, and verification of implementation of HB 4545 through monitoring activities.

Legislative Update

House Bill 1252

- Extends the statute of limitations for requesting a special education impartial due process hearing to two years for hearings requested on or after September 1, 2022.
- CoE has rule making authority.

Legislative Update

House Bill 785

- Requires additional action on the part of LEAs for students receiving behavioral services
- Implications for monitoring include additional review of operating procedures, additional desk review component, and verification of implementation of HB 785 through onsite activities.
- CoE has rule making authority

Legislative Update

Senate Bill 776

- Relating to the creation of an inclusive sports program by the University Interscholastic League to provide students with intellectual disabilities access to team sports.
- UIL has rule making authority

Legislative Update

House Bill 159

- Relating to training and staff development for primary and secondary educators to enable them to more effectively serve all students.
- SBoE has rule making authority

Legislative Update

House Bill 2256

- Relating to creating a bilingual special education certification to teach students of limited English proficiency with disabilities.
- SBEC has rule making authority

Legislative Update

Senate Bill 40

- Relating to the provision of telehealth services by certain health professionals licensed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Legislative Update

House Bill 1525

- Creates legislative commission to review special education funding.
- Creates grant programs for dyslexia and Autism.

Legislative Update

Additional appropriation from the Texas 87th Legislature of $44M

- Additional funding to flow to LEAs to support Special Education programming
- Same state requirements for expenditure apply

Legislative Update

American Rescue Plan of 2021

- Additional funding of $275M to flow to LEAs to support IDEA implementation

Appendix

Supplemental Special Education Services – SSES

SSES.tea.Texas.gov

Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES) are **online accounts** for families of K-12 students with **significant cognitive and complex disabilities** that have been impacted by COVID-19 school closures.

Who qualifies?

- Enrolled in a K-12 Texas public school during **2019-2020** and **2020-2021**
- Students with significant cognitive and complex disabilities who need help accessing the general curriculum.
  - Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, blind and visually impaired, deaf and hard of hearing
- Priority to low-income families
- Eligible for STAAR Alternate 2

What is it?

- Online accounts in a digital marketplace
- Families shop for goods and services using **the $1,500 per student in their digital wallet**
- Supplement and bolster services a child is already receiving in school
- 18,000 accounts are available through Spring 2022

What can you buy?

- Tutoring
- Educationally related services (OT, PT, BCBA, SLP)
- Textbooks, curricular resources, or other instructional materials
- Computer hardware, software, or other technological devices that are used for educational needs

TEA

Supplemental Special Education Services

Supplemental Special Education Services: Family Feedback

"The SSES Program has helped my child with supplemental study materials at home to help him **practice and expand his skills** during school closure and at home learning. The biggest impact the SSES Program has had for my student is that he was encouraged to do supplemental work because he saw that TEA considered his learning loss and sent materials especially for him. Additionally, we were able to order math and reading supplies that **we have been able to use to expand on and surpass his math and reading IEP goals**."

"extremely excited to see the new learning materials. The **he loves to learn** and she loves to see that she makes other appy when she shows what she knows. This generous grant is come true for the whole family. **We are very grateful**."

Supplemental Special Education Services: Family Purchases

o get **sensory**
at helps him to
im on his rug
sensory toy.

The SSES program has provided funds that are used for my son's **ABA therapy**. Our BCBA works directly with his IEP goals set forth by the school. ABA also provides tools for my husband and I to be the best parents we can be for our son. Through the use of strategies, we can capitalize on our son's strengths and preferences.

Thanks to the SSES Program, our son Max, who has hearing and vision loss was able to purchase a **larger laptop** that makes doing his school work much easier for him. He has a larger computer screen, more features to help him and **better audio**. This has been a HUGE blessing for him. THANK YOU!

Supplemental Special Education Services: By the Numbers

9,406 students have accounts on ClassWallet.

Nearly **44,000 educational items** have been approved and purchased.

Over **10,500 educational orders** have been approved and purchased.

Over **315 additional services** invoices approved.

Data from July

Supplemental Special Education Services: The Numbers

Online accounts of
$1,500
per eligible K-12 student.

(Families with multiple eligible students qualify for a $1,500 credit for each eligible student)

Approximately
18,000
accounts will be made available.

(These accounts are available through Spring 2022)

Students must have been enrolled K-12 in Texas public school during **2019-2020** and must be enrolled in Texas public school in **2020-2021**.

Supplemental Special Education Services: How Does SSES work?

1

- Families apply through TEA website

2

- TEA approves (yes or no) that the student meets/does not meet eligibility.
  - Provides an approved family directions and link to access their online account.
  - If a family appeals non-approval, they will be referred to the SSES Team for guidance.

3

- Family registers for the online account.
  - Once a family successfully registers, they will have immediate access to the online account and the marketplace in which it can be used.
  - Families do not have access to actual money, and the account is only accessible through the online portal and available to use with approved vendors, goods, and services within the portal.

SSES Outreach Campaign

on: 18,000 accounts created by September 30th, 2021.

paign:

- LEA "Kits" with exact messaging (In English and in Spanish)
  - Flyers (backpack stuffer)
  - Letters/emails to eligible students
  - Sample Text messages

- LEAs have been provided with lists of eligible students through the ASCEND platform.

SSES Outreach Campaign

SPEDTEX
Special Education Information Center

Web & Phone Support for Stakeholders:

- Phone Support
- Chat Support

Portal for Stakeholders:

- Personalized Profile
- Calendar of All Stakeholder Events
- Mini Trainings
- Resources
- Information on Focus Groups and Committees

Thank you!