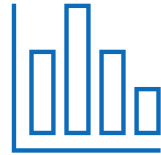




Special Education Updates with Kristin McGuire

Agenda



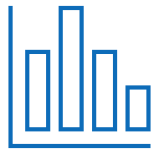
Data



General Updates



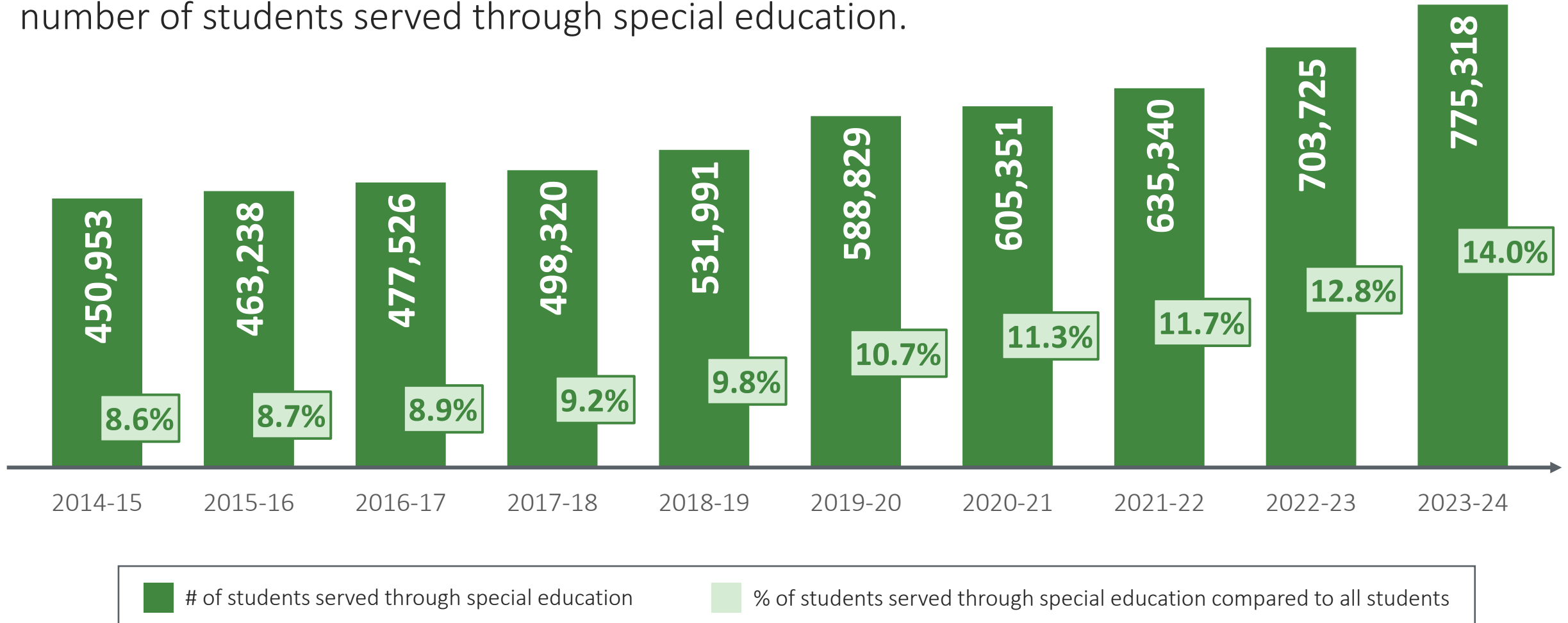
Frequently Asked Questions



Data

The number of students served through special education continues to increase year over year.

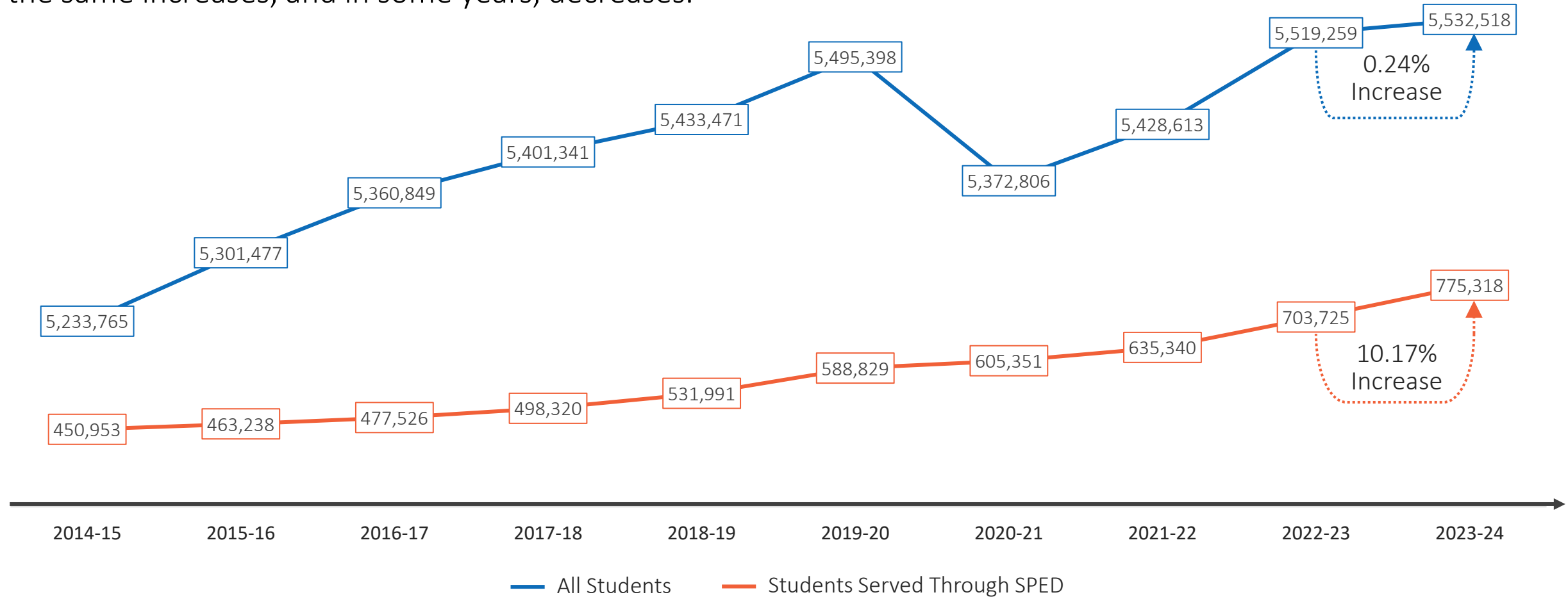
Since the 2014-15 school year, there's been a **72% increase** in the number of students served through special education.



Source data from a. Speced_dis_student23f by unique studentid total is and Windham submission. Dataset was collected as Enrollment in Oct Fall, 2023.

Increase in special education identification

Special Education identification continues to increase, while the student population in Texas does not show the same increases, and in some years, decreases.

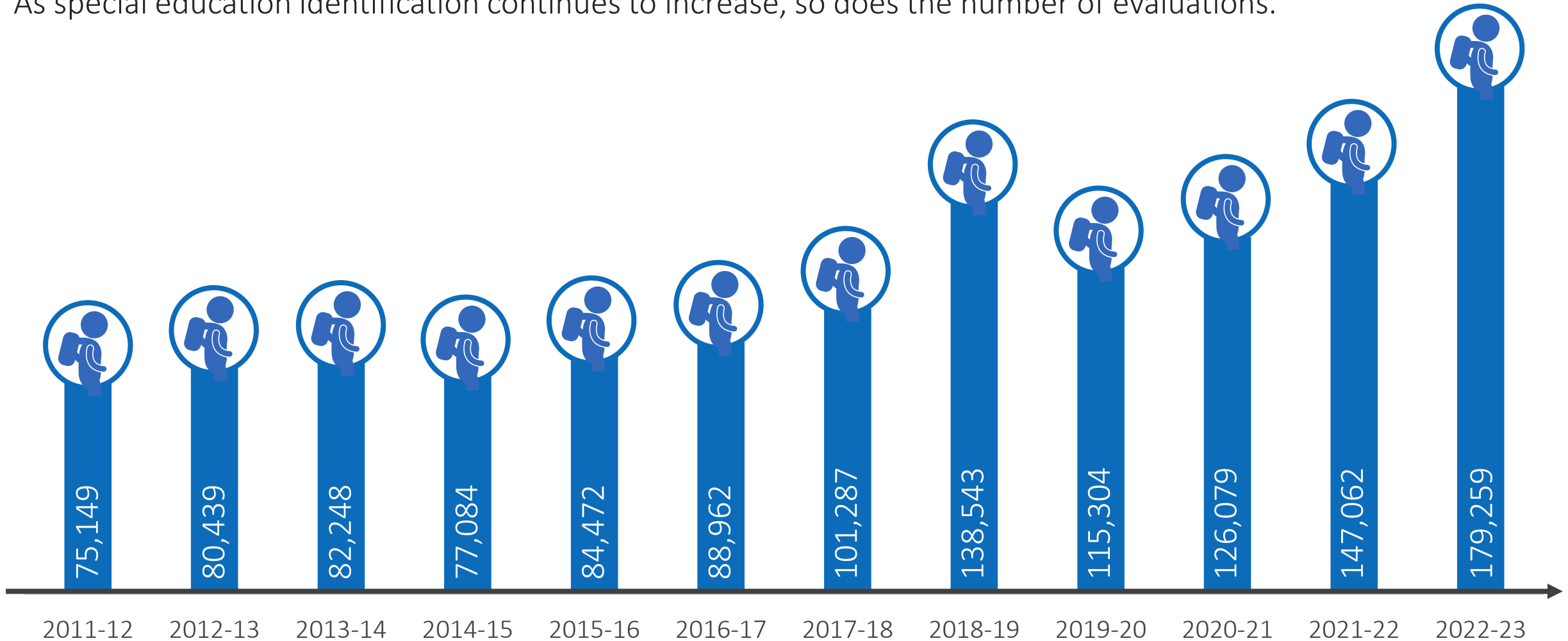


Note: Graphs are not on the same scale this is to show the change in student populations year over year.

Source data from a. Speced_dis_student23f by unique studentid total is and Windham submission. Dataset was collected as Enrollment in Oct Fall, 2023.

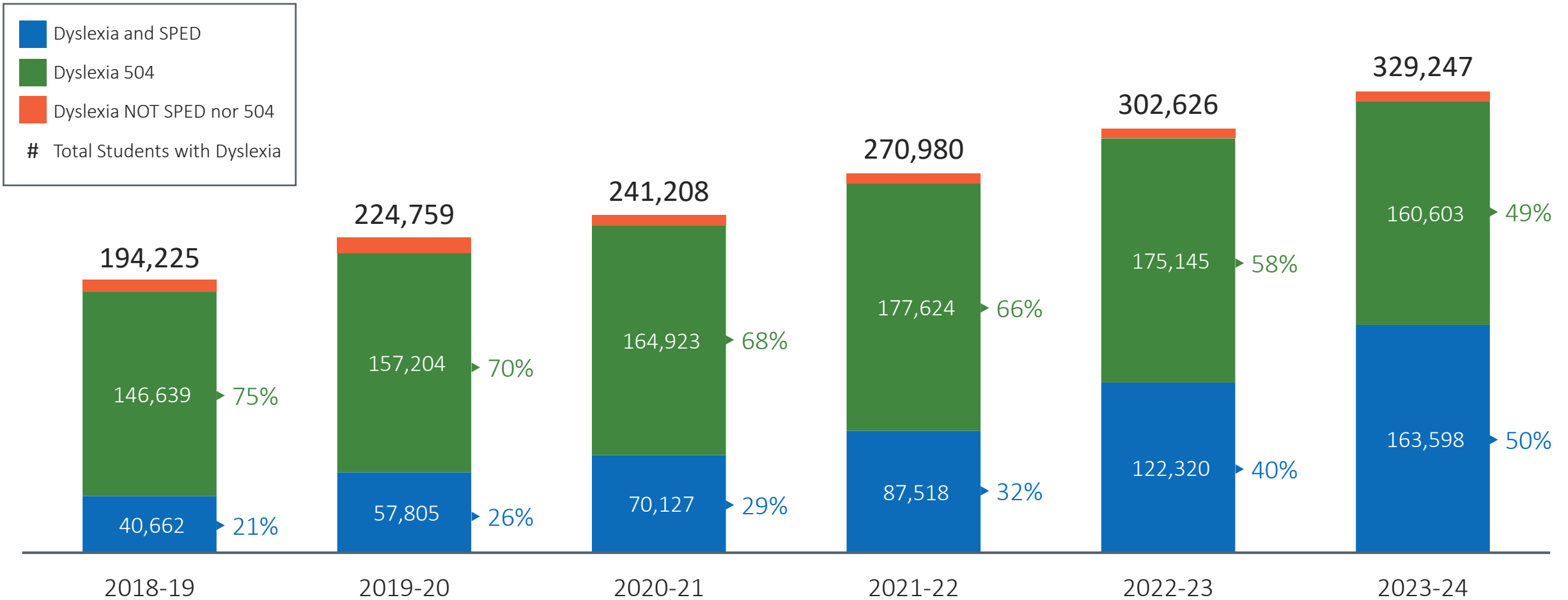
Special Education Evaluations Serve as a Leading Indicator for Total Special Education Representation

As special education identification continues to increase, so does the number of evaluations.



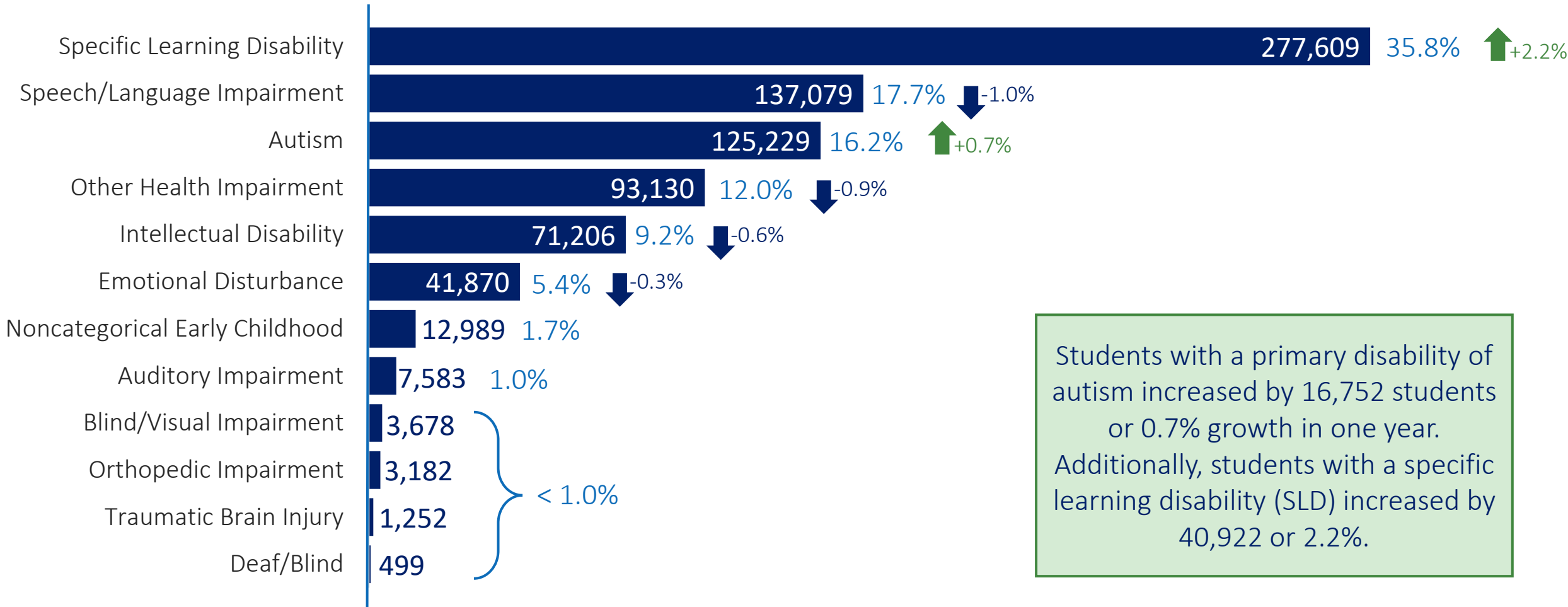
Students identified with dyslexia continues to increase.

In the past 5 years, there has been an almost 70% increase of students identified with dyslexia. Additionally, the percent of students with dyslexia and served through special education **has more than doubled** since the 2018-19 school year.



Primary Disabilities of Students Served Through Special Education

Data from the 2023-2024 School Year



NOTE: The smallest 6 primary disabilities had less than a 0.1% change or stayed the same from last year.

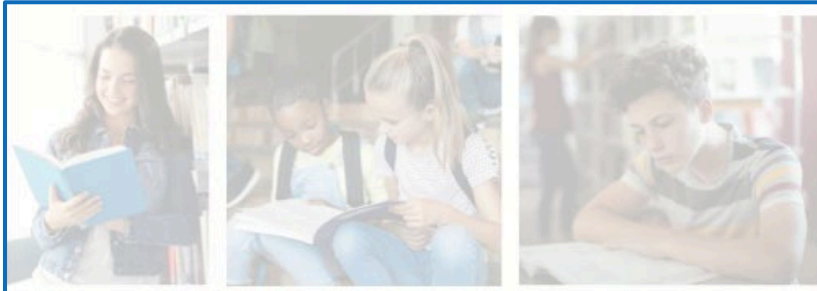
Source data from a. Speced_dis_student23f by unique studentid total and Windham submission. Dataset was collected as Enrollment in Oct/Fall, 2023.



General Updates



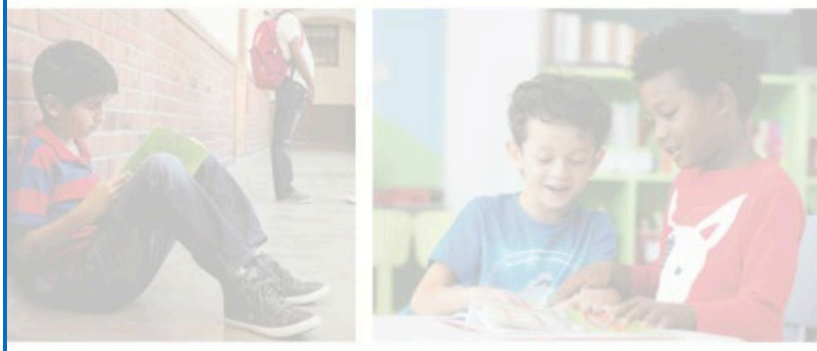
The 2024 Dyslexia Handbook is Published



THE DYSLEXIA HANDBOOK

Procedures Concerning
Dyslexia and Related Disorders
2024 Update

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 2024



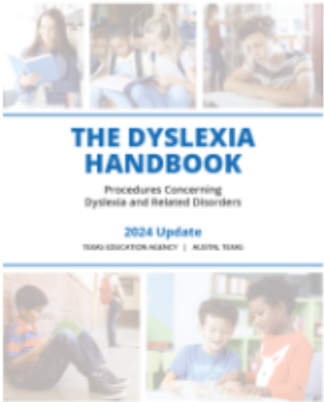
VIEW THE DYSLEXIA HANDBOOK HERE:



tea.texas.gov/dyslexia



NEW Handbook FAQ Published August 9



- **The Dyslexia Handbook - Updated on August 9, 2024** (The handbook linked here includes the Dyslexia Handbook Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), also linked below as a standalone document)
- **Manual Sobre Dislexia (The Dyslexia Handbook - Spanish)** - Spanish Handbook with the FAQs will be posted soon.



Dyslexia Resources

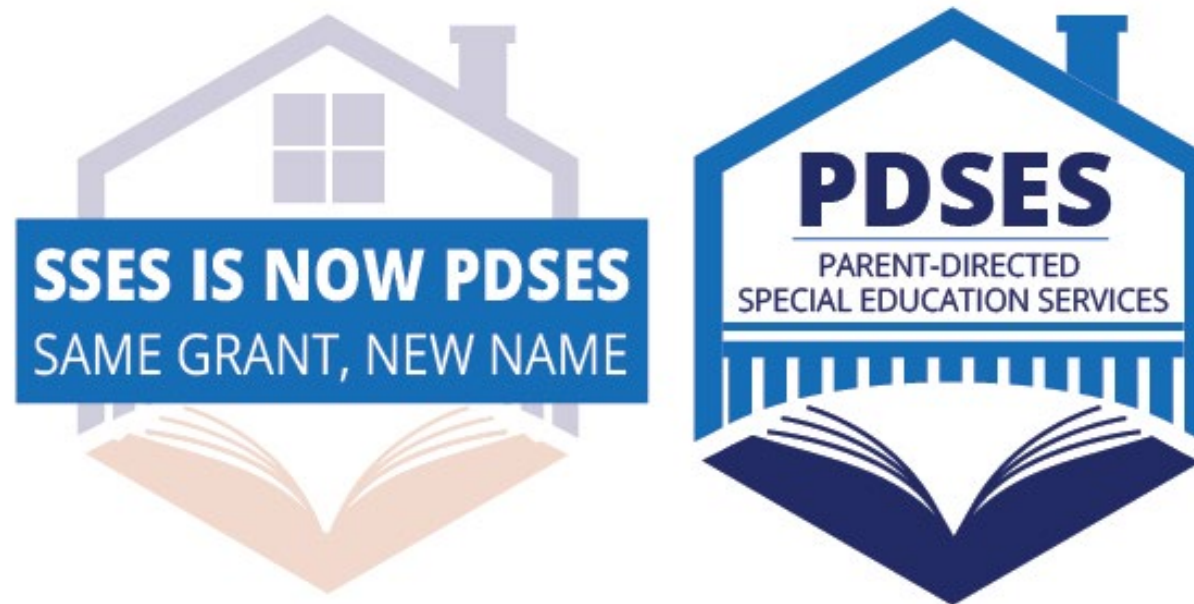
- The Dyslexia Handbook Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (New as of August 9, 2024)



Recent Commissioner Rule Updates

Check out an overview of recent commissioner rule updates with our [Back to School Updates](#) document.

- Some of those changes include:
 - A requirement to distribute the [Overview of Special Education for Parents](#) form for suspicions of all disabilities, not just dyslexia;
 - **Copy of written FIIE report** must be provided to parent as soon as possible after completion **but no later than five school days prior to the initial ARD committee meeting** (or not later than June 30 if the evaluation timeline was at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last instructional day and less than 3 absences)
 - Aligning transition requirements from both federal and state law to age 14
 - Adding in multiple rules provisions around dyslexia and related disorders
 - The phase-in of a new eligibility category called developmental delay



The Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES) program is **now Parent-Directed Special Education Services (PDSES) program.**

The PDSES program is the same as the SSES program, just with a new name to better reflect the importance of parents as decision makers in the educational process.

[PDSES.TEA.TEXAS.GOV](https://pdses.tea.texas.gov)

- The SSES application is closed. **The application will open on February 3, 2025**, as the Parent-Directed Special Education Services (PDSES) application. The application will close on March 31, 2025.
-
- **Interest Form:** Fill out the interest form on the PDSES site to join the email list - TEA will send up to 5 emails with information on applying.

Join the Email List

The SSES application is closed. **The application will open again on February 3, 2025, as the Parent-Directed Special Education Services (PDSES) application.** If you would like to receive email updates, please fill out the interest form below to join the email list.

Join the Email List - English

Join the Email List - Spanish



Frequently Asked Questions

Evaluation



If I think my child needs a special education evaluation, what do I do?

Evaluation



Does the school have to respond to my request for a special education evaluation?

Evaluation



If the school agrees to conduct an evaluation, how long do they have to complete it?

Evaluation



Do I get a copy of the evaluation report?

Evaluation



What happens after the evaluation?

How do I know if my child qualifies for special education services?

Evaluation



What happens if I disagree with the school's evaluation report?

Identification



What disabilities qualify for special education services?

ARD Committee



Who is part of the ARD
committee for my child?

Development and Implementation of IEP



If my child qualifies for services and I consent to those services, what happens with the IEP we develop?

How will I know if my child is making progress?

Implementation of IEP



What happens if I do not agree with all elements of my child's IEP in an ARD committee meeting?

IEP



Does the school have to give me a copy of my child's IEP?



Questions about Dyslexia

Dyslexia



Why is there a separate Dyslexia Handbook when there isn't one for other disabilities?

Dyslexia



What does it mean to screen a child for dyslexia in kindergarten and grade 1?

Dyslexia



Is a dyslexia evaluation separate and apart from a specific learning disability evaluation?

Dyslexia



Is dyslexia a specific learning disability that qualifies for special education services?

Dyslexia



My child was receiving dyslexia instruction through a Section 504 plan. Why did the school say that my child now needs a special education evaluation?



Resources

- [Parent's Guide to the ARD Process](#) (in process of being revised because of commissioner rule updates)
- [Notice of Procedural Safeguards](#) (in process of being revised because of commissioner rule updates)
- [Overview of Special Education for Parents](#)
- [Texas Education Code, Chapter 29, Subchapter A. Special Education Program](#)
- [Texas Education Code, Chapter 38, Section 38.003. Screening and Treatment for Dyslexia and Related Disorders](#)
- [Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Chapter 89, Subchapter AA. Commissioner's Rules Concerning Special Education Services](#)
- [Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Chapter 74, Subchapter C, Rule 74.28. Students with Dyslexia and Related Disorders](#)
- [TEA Dyslexia Webpage](#)

Stakeholders want to know if Texas should have a statewide individualized education program (IEP) and digital platform.

Give your feedback!

- A statewide IEP digital platform means all school districts use the same IEP form with the same required content, while the digital platform is the web-based system for school districts to manage student IEPs.
- Please complete this quick survey to include your feedback!

[State Developed IEP Digital Platform Sentiment Survey](#)





Thank you!