



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 12, 2018

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Jamie Wolfe, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: HS1 for HCR 34 Task Force to Investigate Cost of Special Education

The proposed legislation was Report Out of the House Education Committee on 5/9/18. This bill creates a task force to define the reasons behind the “dramatic” recent rise in special education and funding, study the issues related to funding, recommend strategies to reduce costs (the savings from which will be reinvested in special education, yet this will somehow reduce costs) and study and recommend standards and oversight to ensure that programs and services are delivered in a cost effective manner. The Task Force includes many representatives from the DDOE and school administration, four at large members appointed by legislators, one Governor’s appointee, a representative from the teacher’s union, three parents, a representative from GACEC and a representative from the Special Education Strategic Advisory Council.

It is worth noting that the percentage of students in Delaware with IEPs is around 15%, which is entirely consistent with national averages (see attached document from US DOE). Special education services cost more than traditional services; special education services will continue to represent a fairly large piece of any education budget. The increase nationally and in Delaware of children with special education needs is a complex issue that may be beyond the capacity of this Task Force. The SCPD recommends involving the Statewide ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, as well as representatives from DPH, and other state agencies to gain a better understanding of Delaware’s demographics and health trends.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position on the proposed legislation.

cc: Ms. Laura Waterland, Esq.
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

HS1 for HCR 34 Task Force cost spec ed 6-12-18

New ED Data Express is coming. Share your input in this short survey.



ED Data Express:
Data about elementary & secondary schools in the U.S.

You are here: [Data Elements](#) » [State Facts and Figures](#) » [Students](#) » [Student Characteristics](#) »

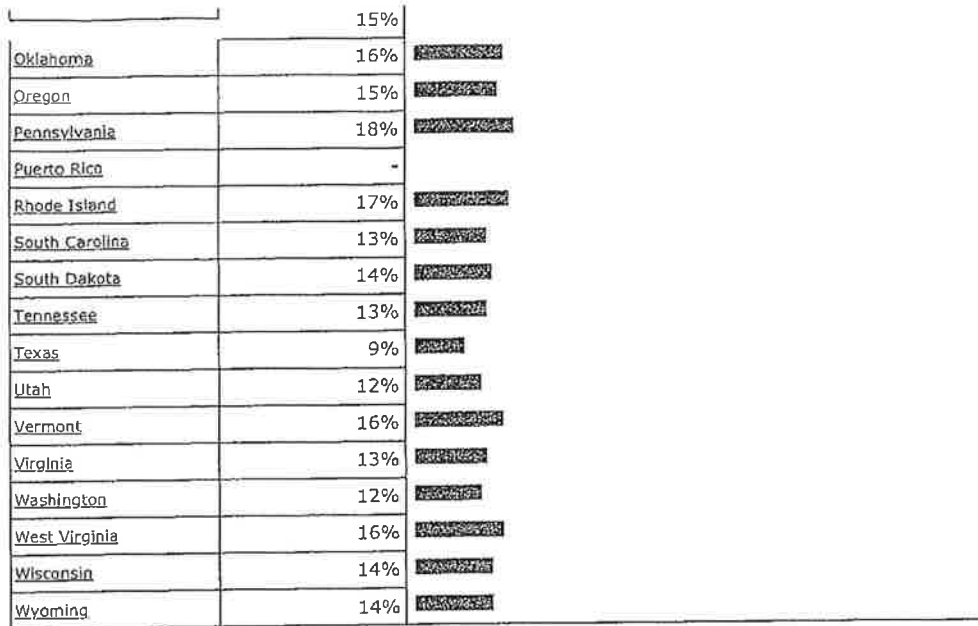
Percent Children with Disabilities: 2015-16 ¹

The percentage of students participating in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and designated as special education students under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. [[More about...](#)]

[Graphs & Tables](#) [Data Mapping](#)

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State	Value	
National	†	
Alabama	7%	
Alaska	14%	
Arizona	12%	
Arkansas	12%	
California	12%	
Colorado	-5	
Connecticut	14%	
Delaware	15%	
District of Columbia	15%	
Florida	13%	
Georgia	12%	
Hawaii	11%	
Idaho	10%	
Illinois	15%	
Indiana	16%	
Iowa	13%	
Kansas	14%	
Kentucky	14%	
Louisiana	13%	
Maine	17%	
Maryland	12%	
Massachusetts	17%	
Michigan	13%	
Minnesota	15%	
Mississippi	14%	
Missouri	14%	
Montana	12%	
Nebraska	15%	
Nevada	12%	
New Hampshire	-5	
New Jersey	16%	
New Mexico	15%	
New York	-5	
North Carolina	13%	
North Dakota	13%	
Ohio		



Key	
†	this symbol means not applicable.
-	this symbol means data value was not available.
n<	this symbol means that the data have been suppressed.
#	this symbol means data value rounds to zero.
‡	this symbol means reporting standards not met.

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