
Exceptional Student Education Growth: Students Ages 19-22+ 1997 through 2010

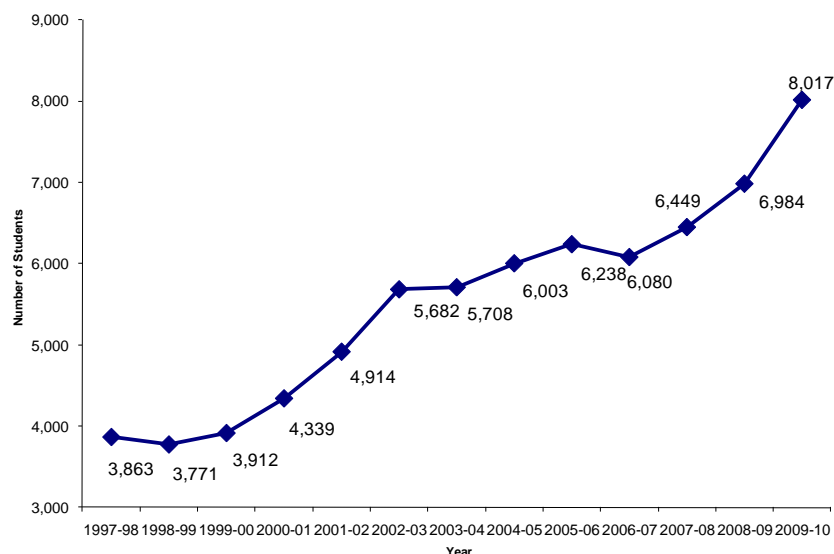
Background

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires that districts provide a free appropriate education (FAPE) to all students who have not reached age 22 and who have not earned a regular high school diploma.
- Any student who graduates with a credential other than a standard diploma and who chooses to continue to receive FAPE can continue to generate funding through the FEFP until the student receives a standard diploma or “ages out.”
- Students with disabilities “age out” when they reach age 22 **or** complete the school year in which they turn 22, depending on district policy.

Data

- Child count data reveal the population of students with disabilities ages 19-22+ has grown 112.6 percent from 1997-98 through 2008-09, from 3,863 to 8,107. Growth is displayed in Figure 1.
- Students with disabilities ages 19-22+ make up 2.1 percent of the total population of students with disabilities and seven percent of the total population of students with disabilities with a matrix rating of 254 or 255—those requiring the most intense services.
- While approximately seven percent of all students with disabilities are reported in programs 254-255, 29 percent of the students with disabilities ages 19-22+ are in these high cost factor programs.
- Forty-five percent of the students ages 19-22+ are in programs for the intellectually disabled; twenty-seven percent in programs for specific learning disabled; nine percent in programs for emotional/behavioral disordered; eight percent in programs for autism spectrum disorder; two percent in programs for speech or language impaired.
- Ten percent of students ages 19-22+ have either physical or sensory impairments (visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, dual sensory impaired, orthopedically impaired, other health impaired, traumatic brain injured or hospital/homebound).

Figure 1: Growth in Students with Disabilities Ages 19-22+, 1997-98 through 2009-10



Source: Survey 9, December 1, 1997 through 2005 and Survey 2 October 2006 through 2009