

Rightful Presence for Children with Disabilities in California

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Framework for Inclusion

- Continued Rightful Presence and Inclusion Priorities
- The California Department of Education (CDE) encourages alignment with the federal Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities
- The CDE plays a vital role with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements in California



Photo Credit: Gates Early Education Center (Preschool DLL), Los Angeles

Least Restrictive Environment Data

From the 2022 American Community Survey, the US Census Bureau estimated that 4.81 percent of all children under 18 in the United States have a disability, and 3.98 percent of children under 18 in California have a disability.

In 2022–23, 37 percent of children in California with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) ages three to five received services in a regular education program, while 63 percent received services in a separate special education program.

Children with Disabilities (CWD) Enrollment in California State Preschool Program (CSPP) and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) by Race or Ethnicity

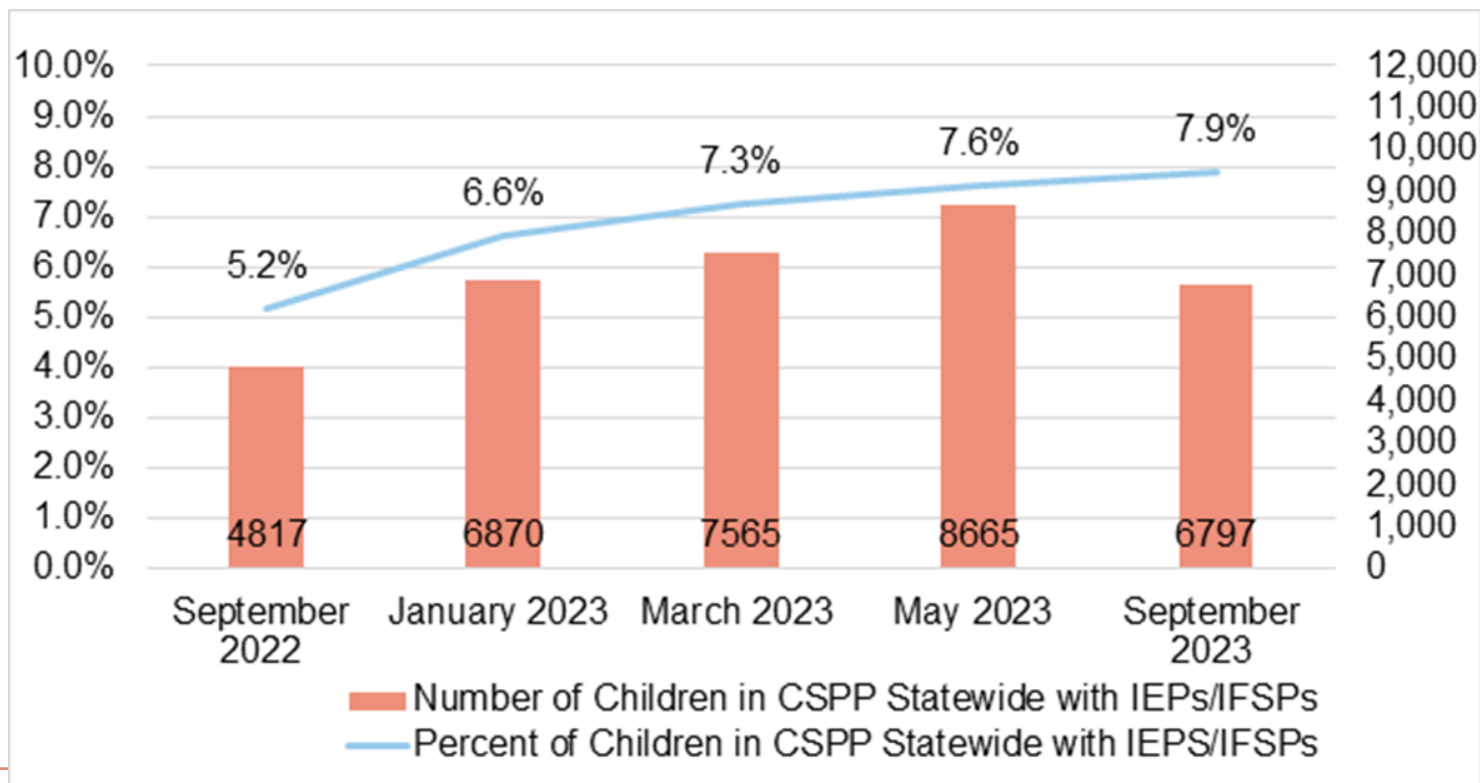
Race/Ethnicity	Total Number of 3- and 4-Year-Old Children with Disabilities in CA	Percent of 3- and 4-Year-Old Children with Disabilities Enrolled in CSPP	Percent of Children with Disabilities Enrolled in TK Inclusive Settings
American Indian or Alaskan Native	221	18.1%	16.7%
Asian	5,173	12.5%	17.5%
Black or African American	2,617	15.1%	15.9%
Hispanic	31,566	18.5%	16.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	152	25.0%	18.2%
Two or More Races	1,725	3.9%	16.7%
White	8,976	13.4%	18.8%
All Children	53,743	8,368, (15.5%)	16,979, (17.1%)

California's Policy Investments to Support Greater Inclusion

CSPP Access

- All CSPP contractors must set aside and reserve 5 percent of their funded enrollment, for both part-day and full-day programs, for children with disabilities.
- The set aside supports with mid-year enrollment and ensuring there are spaces for children with disabilities.
- The CDE is hopeful for future alignment with federal Head Start requirements by increasing the set aside to 10 percent.

California's Policy Investments to Support Greater Inclusion: CSPP Access for CWDs



Policy Investments to Support Inclusion: Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) Funding

Since 2019, California has contributed \$275 million for the expansion of inclusion.

- Ongoing professional development (PD) and resource development
- Facility modifications and construction
- Adaptive equipment
- Support for Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- State-level systems- and capacity-building efforts utilizing practice-based strategies (Communities of Practice, PD Webinars, Professional Learning for Coaches)
- Promoting child outcomes and program quality with CLASS

California's Policy Investments to Support Greater Inclusion: IEEEP Key Achievements

- Increased Enrollment of CWDs
- Creation of New Partnerships
- Installation and Implementation of Adaptive Equipment
- Increased PD
- Construction and Renovation Projects
- Increased Access to Inclusive Settings



Photo Credit: Paso Robles Unified School District

California's Policy Investments to Support Greater Inclusion

- Impact Inclusion Workgroup
- California Early Childhood Special Education Network (CaIECSE)
- Supporting Inclusive Practices (SIP)
- Partnership for Effective Practices in Transition and Inclusion



Photo Credit: Hayward Unified School District

Questions?



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