

Education and Disability

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”
- Marian Wright Edelman

Students with disabilities represent approximately 14% of the total student population in the United States.

Since 1991-1992, the number of students with disabilities ages 6 to 21 served under the IDEA has risen 28.4%.

What is the IDEA?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act states that students with disabilities must receive an education in the “least restrictive environment.”

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In 2004, 21% of adults with a disability had not graduated from high school, versus only 11% of adults without a disability.
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There are about 1.2 million students in Virginia -- 175,000 (15%) of these have disabilities
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What about Virginia?

- ❖ 47 % of students with disabilities have a specific learning disability — more than 27% of students with learning disabilities drop out of high school.
- ❖ 6% of all undergraduate college students in the US report having a disability.
- ❖ 40% of full-time college freshmen reported having a learning disability in 2000.

- ❖ The top three disabilities of students served in Virginia Schools are Learning Disabilities (38.5%), Speech or Language Impairment (18%), and Other Health Impairment (14%).
- ❖ There are over 14,000 (8.4%) students in Virginia with Developmental Delay.
- ❖ About 12% of Virginia students with disabilities have a severe Developmental Disability (i.e. Mental Retardation, Severe/Profound Disability, Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Multiple Disability, Traumatic Brain Injury.)
- ❖ Between 1990-91 and 2001-02, the number of students with disabilities enrolled in public schools in Virginia increased almost 50%.

These Disability Fast Facts are a product of the Virginia Board's Policy Fellowship Program. Copies may also be downloaded from the Board's website. Duplication and distribution is encouraged.