

MTSU Sped Collaborative

**Tennessee Department of Education
Division of Special Education &
Student Supports**

July 2025



DISCLAIMER – Generative AI Tools

The State of Tennessee does not currently permit the use of Generative AI tools, such as Otter, in meetings hosted on state resources. Meetings with contractors, vendors, and subrecipients are not public meetings and may involve discussion of protected state data. Generative AI tools are not adequately regulated and are designed to train on data that is collected and may misrepresent data or release protected data to the general public. While the State supports your desire to maintain documentation of the meeting and what you learn, please respect our decision to safeguard information and do not attempt to use tools such as these. If you choose to use a tool such as this, the State will block that tool from the meeting.



Tennessee Department of Education Updates

Special Education

SNAPSHOT



Education in Tennessee

971,741 TOTAL STUDENTS

133,836 STUDENTS with DISABILITIES



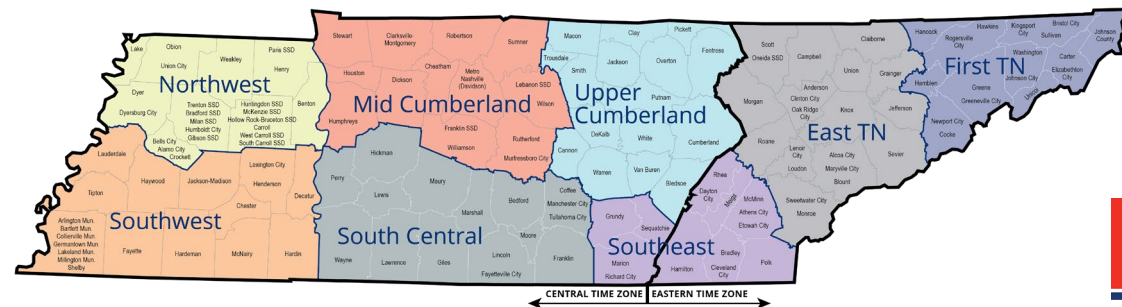
- 29% Economically disadvantaged
- 9% English learners
- 15% Students with disabilities

**1,860
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**



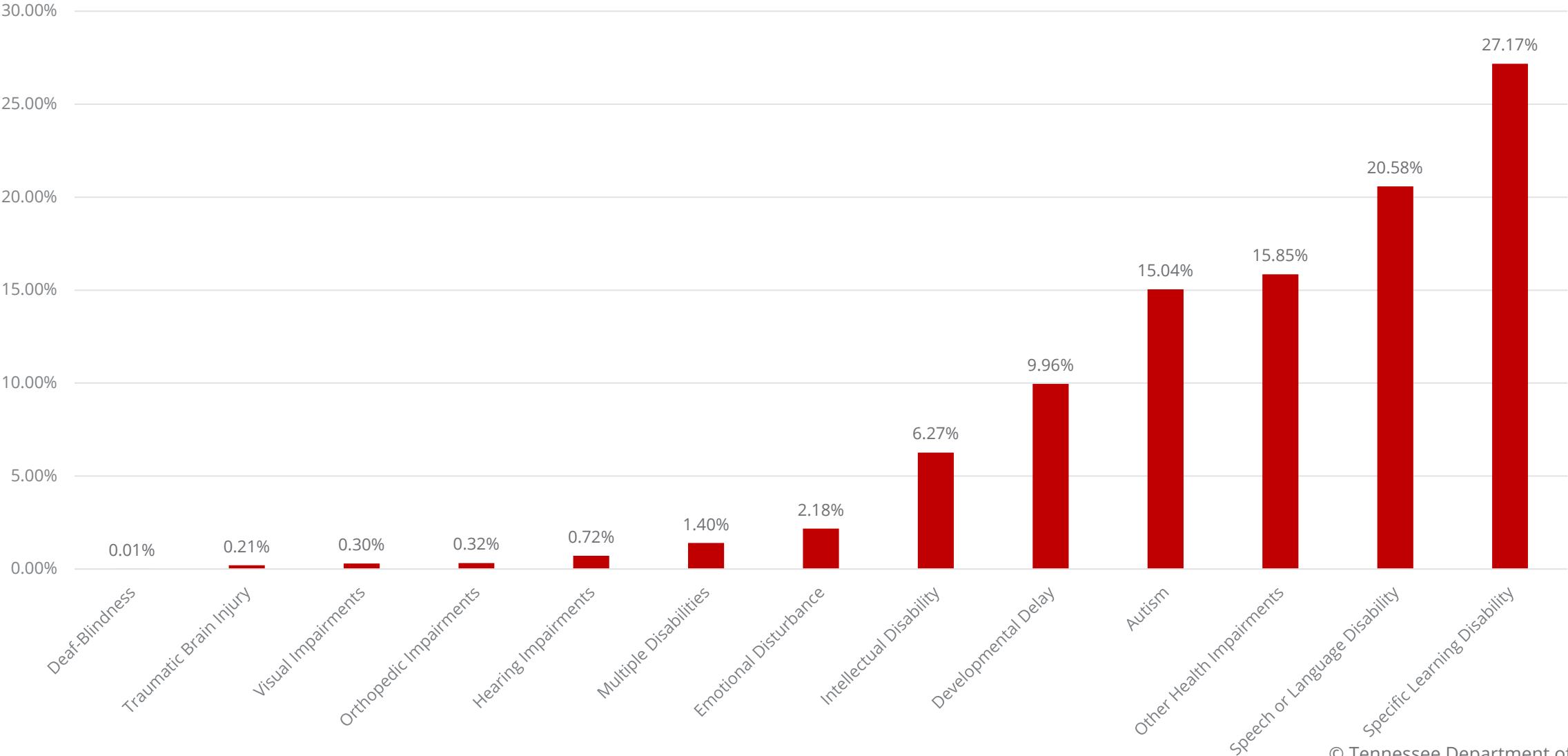
**71,551
TEACHERS**

148 DISTRICTS



December 1, 2024 Child Count

Child Count (December 1, 2024) as a Percentage



Special Education Programming Supports

Eligibility &
Evaluation

Behavioral
Supports

Low Incidence
Disabilities

Specialized
Instruction &
Inclusion

Secondary
Transition

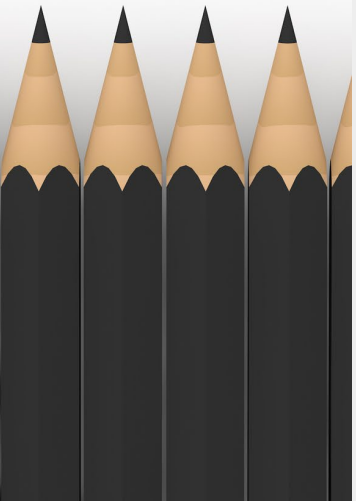
Professional
Learning

Recruitment &
Retention

Speech-Language &
Related Services

IDEA Discretionary Funds

- Behavioral Support Grants
- Preschool & K-12 IDEA Partnership Grants



SLP Tuition Waiver Program

Speech Language Pathologists

In partnership with two Tennessee university programs, the speech-language pathologist tuition waiver program provides a tuition-free pathway toward licensure and employment in a small or sparse Tennessee school district.



EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Free Access to Special Education Resources for All Districts



<https://www.specialedconnection.com/>

Online resource for guidance on special education policy and legal developments.



<https://tndoe-ds.lrp.com/login/index.php>

Online self-paced e-courses for educators on a variety of special education topics.

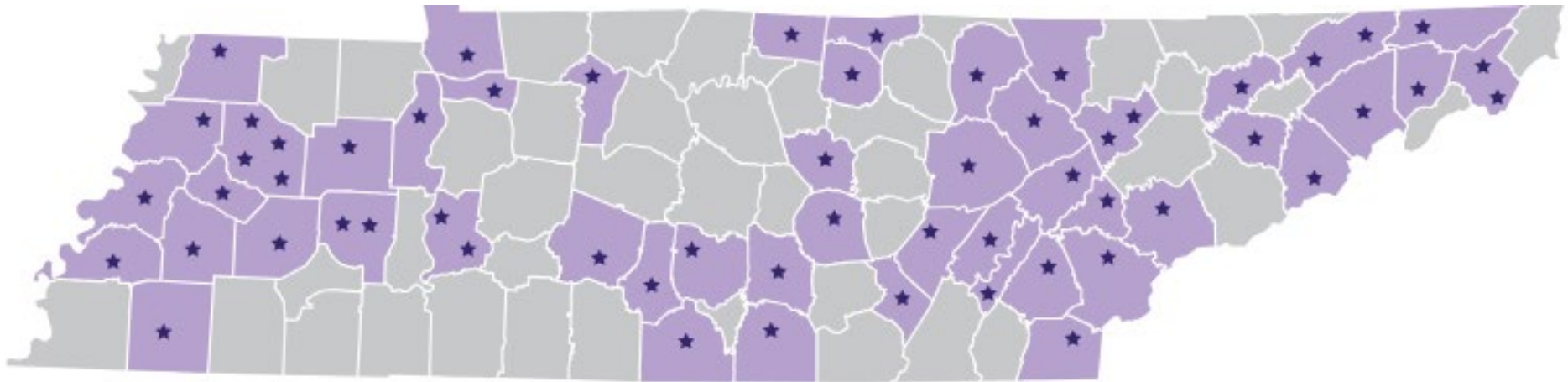


Project RAISE



SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH
IN TENNESSEE SCHOOLS

The mission of Project RAISE is to provide rural communities with access to professional mental health services for all students in the district.



<https://projectraisetn.com/>





Monthly Engagement with the Special Education & Student Support Team

- Virtual Communities of Practice for Assessment Specialists
- *Let's Talk About Speech & Language* monthly calls
- Virtual Communities of Practice on RTI² Academic + RTI² Behavior

Digital Assessment Library



- Access to an unlimited library of 42+ assessments across domains.
- Electronic administration of assessments via Q-Interactive will be included.

<https://www.pearsonassessments.com/content/dam/school/global/clinical/us/assets/dal/dals-guide.pdf>



Collaboration for Acceleration of Knowledge in Education Conference

October 27-30, 2025

Chattanooga Convention Center

Visit the [event page](#) to learn more
or to submit a proposal to present.



Tennessee Technical Assistance Network (TN-TAN)

provides school districts, administrators, educators, and families access to free high-quality training, resources, and supports designed to improve outcomes for students with disabilities, ages 3-22. See below for more information about our areas of support.

[TN-TAN website](#)

Intensive Behavior

TRIAD at Vanderbilt University Medical Center provides technical assistance for complex behavior support needs and associated training. Supports include direct instruction for staff on behavior assessment and intervention implementation, as well as ongoing coaching to help students engage within their least restrictive environments.

RTI²-A+RTI²-B

Tennessee Tiered Supports Center assists districts and schools as they build and implement an aligned student support system. The center provides training, coaching, and resources for building an aligned framework for tiered academic and behavioral supports.

Assistive Technology

The Assistive Technology Project (ATP) assists districts and staff in building capacity to provide assistive technology supports for students with disabilities. Supports include strategic action planning, professional development, direct coaching for staff, and access to AT equipment-lending libraries for assessment trials.

Autism

TRIAD at Vanderbilt University Medical Center provides training, consultation, and coaching services designed to support educators in their classrooms and develop school and system-wide supports to address needs specific to students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Secondary Transition

Transition Tennessee provides a range of services to transition stakeholders to improve in-school and post-school outcomes for transition-aged students (14-22) with disabilities. Supports include tiered technical assistance for in-school transition stakeholders and resources and services specific to educator and family needs.

Family Engagement

The Arc Tennessee partners with schools and caregivers of students with disabilities. Family Engagement provides educator training and technical assistance to schools, integrates family supports into existing school networks and strategic plans, and connects families to available services and family-friendly special education resources in order to ensure a successful school experience.

Resources

Secondary Transition

- [A Guide to the Transition-Focused IEP: Guidance Document](#)
- [A Guide to the Transition- Focused IEP: Module](#)
- [Interpreting and Utilizing Transition Assessments in Planning for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Supporting Intellectually Gifted Students: Key Transition Assessments for Success](#)
- [Work-Based Learning Course Decision Guide for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Making Connections that Influence Positive Outcomes](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for Transition Professionals: APR Indicator 14 Post-School Outcomes Survey](#)



Procedures & Guidance

- [FAQ on Providing Evaluation Reports in Accordance with Chapter 199](#)
- [Shortened School Days & Informal Removals for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [FAQ on Restraint & Isolation](#)
- [Timelines in Special Education](#)
- [Guidance for Special Education Endorsements, Course Codes, and Meeting IEP Requirements](#)



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*Your work is not easy; your work is often hard.
But your work is valued, appreciated, and makes
a difference in the lives of students.*



Thank You!

Contact Info or Questions?
Special.Populations@tn.gov

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