



**TOM TORLAKSON**  
State Superintendent  
of Public Instruction

# Educating Students with Disabilities in California



## Moving the Needle: Improving Outcomes for Students with Autism in California

**Kristin Wright, Director  
Special Education Division  
California Department of Education  
California Autism Professional Training and  
Information Network (CAPTAIN) Annual Summit  
January 23, 2018**



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# California's "Why" in the Education Code



“Each child is a unique person, with unique needs, and the purpose of the education system of this state is to enable each child to develop all of his or her own potential.”

*California Education Code, Section 33080,  
Purpose of the Educational System*



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# Federal Backdrop: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- Protects the rights of children with disabilities
  - Ensuring students with disabilities have access to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment.
  - Ensuring schools must teach students with disabilities in a general education classroom whenever possible.
- Gives parents a voice in their child's education
  - Procedural Safeguards ensure parents specific rights and protections



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# Special Education Taskforce Recommendations

- The need for one unified, coherent system of education supporting all students
- The need for **all** educators to be prepared to work effectively with **all** students
- Statewide commitment to serve **all** students and recognize **all** students are general education students first



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# California Students with Individualized Education Programs by *Primary Disability Category*

| <b>Disability</b>                           | <b>Number of Students</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Specific Learning Disability (SLD)</b>   | 293,231                   | 38.87             |
| <b>Speech or Language Impairment (SLI)</b>  | 160,024                   | 21.21             |
| <b>Autism (AUT)</b>                         | 104,573                   | 13.86             |
| <b>Other Health Impairment (OHI)</b>        | 90,195                    | 11.96             |
| <b>Intellectual Disability (ID)</b>         | 43,978                    | 5.83              |
| <b>Emotional Disturbance (ED)</b>           | 24,560                    | 3.26              |
| <b>Orthopedic Impairment (OI)</b>           | 11,153                    | 1.48              |
| <b>Hard of Hearing (HH)</b>                 | 10,528                    | 1.4               |
| <b>Multiple Disability (MD)</b>             | 6,887                     | 0.91              |
| <b>Visual Impairment (VI)</b>               | 3,565                     | 0.47              |
| <b>Deafness (DEAF)</b>                      | 3,346                     | 0.44              |
| <b>Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)</b>         | 1,689                     | 0.22              |
| <b>Established Medical Disability (EMD)</b> | 497                       | 0.07              |
| <b>Deaf Blindness (DB)</b>                  | 111                       | 0.01              |

Students with  
Disabilities Total  
Population for  
Ages 0 to 22: 754,337  
Source: California  
Special Education  
Management  
Information System  
(CASEMIS)  
December 2016



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## Snapshot: Who are our students with disabilities (SWD) in California?

Of the more than 754,337 SWD ages 0 to 22

- Nearly half (49 percent) are between the ages of 6 to 12
- Boys comprise 68 percent
- English Learners comprise 29 percent
- Top 3 **primary** disability categories:
  - ✓ Specific Learning Disability (38.87 percent)
  - ✓ Speech and Language (21.21 percent)
  - ✓ Autism (13.86 percent) ←



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# California Department of Education Special Education Division Special Education Enrollment by Autism as Primary or Secondary Disability

December 2010 Reporting Cycle: 69,022

December 2011 Reporting Cycle: 75,507

December 2012 Reporting Cycle: 82,855

December 2013 Reporting Cycle: 89,509

December 2014 Reporting Cycle: 96,036

December 2015 Reporting Cycle: 102,784



**December 2016**  
**110,486 Students**

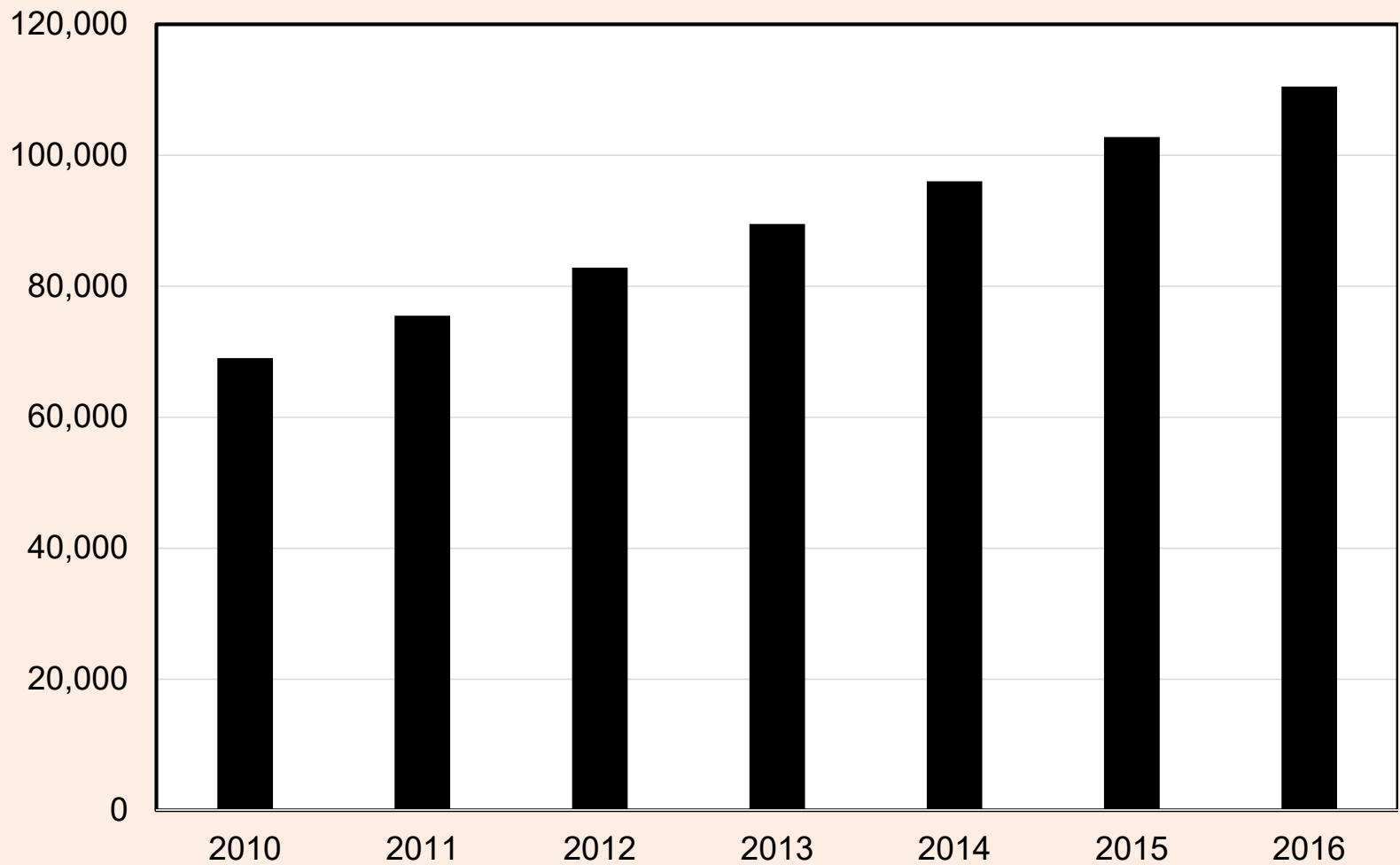
**14.65 Percent of Total Special Education Population**

Students with Disabilities  
Total Population for Ages 0 to 22: 754,337  
Source: CASEMIS December 2016



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# Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder in California Schools



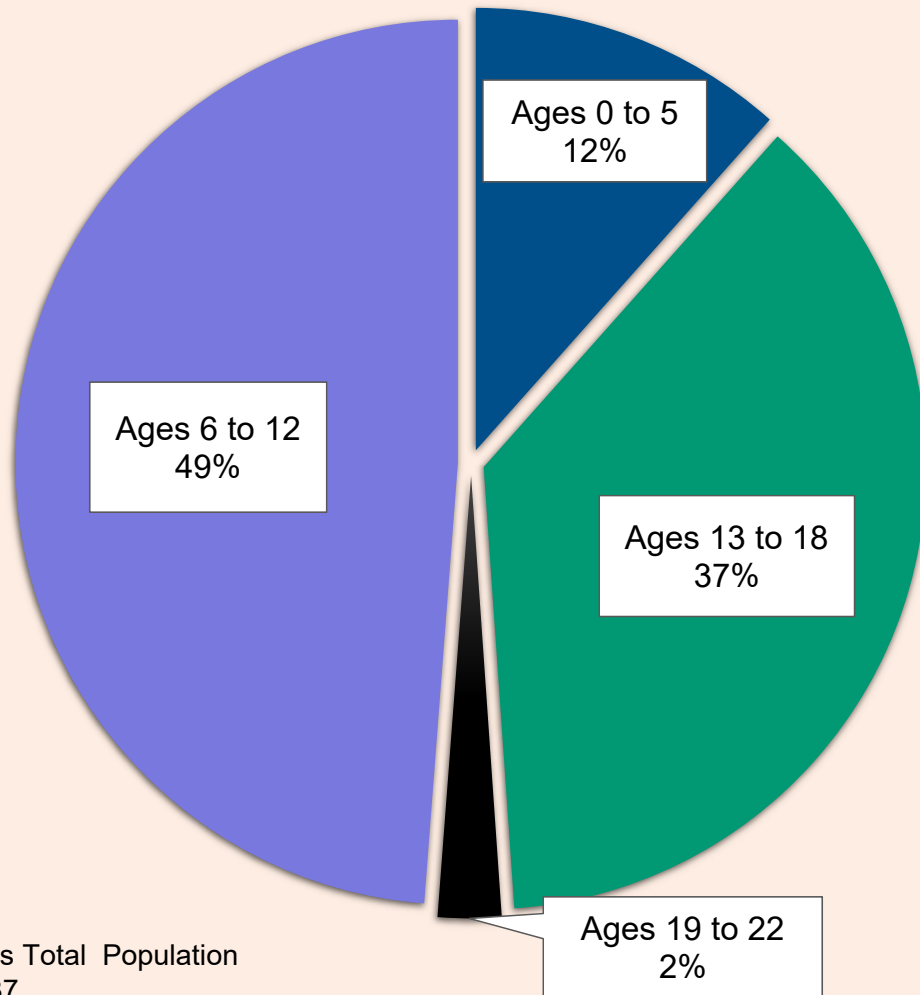
Total Students with Autism as Primary or  
Secondary Disability for Ages 0 to 22: 110,486  
Source: CASEMIS December 2016





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# California Students with Disabilities by Age

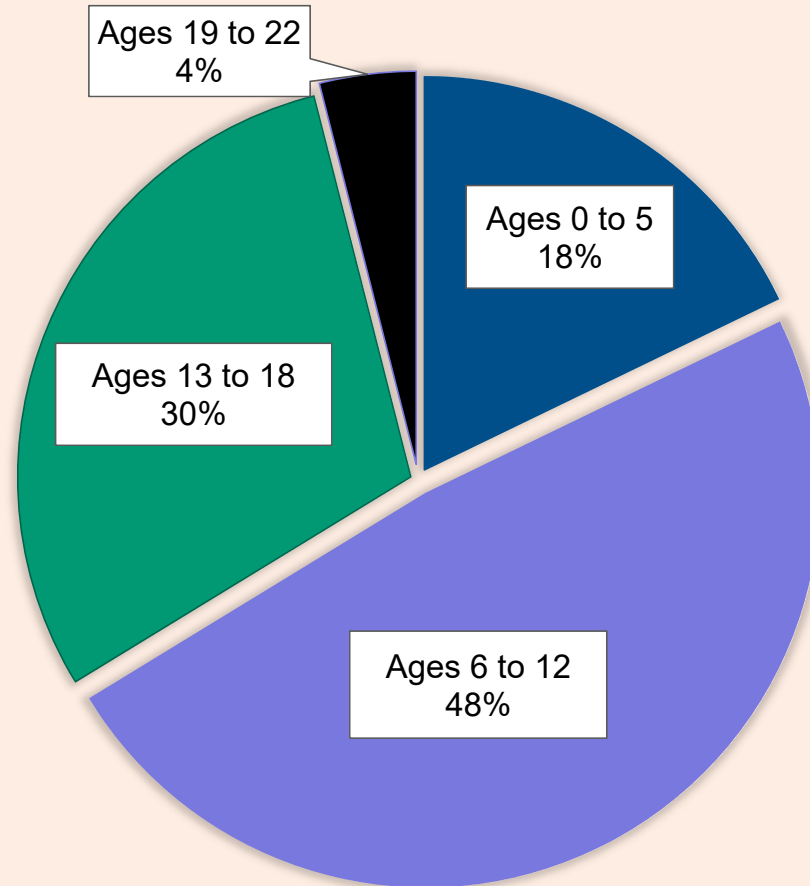


Students with Disabilities Total Population  
for Ages 0 to 22: 754,337  
Source: CASEMIS December 2016



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# California Students with Autism by Age

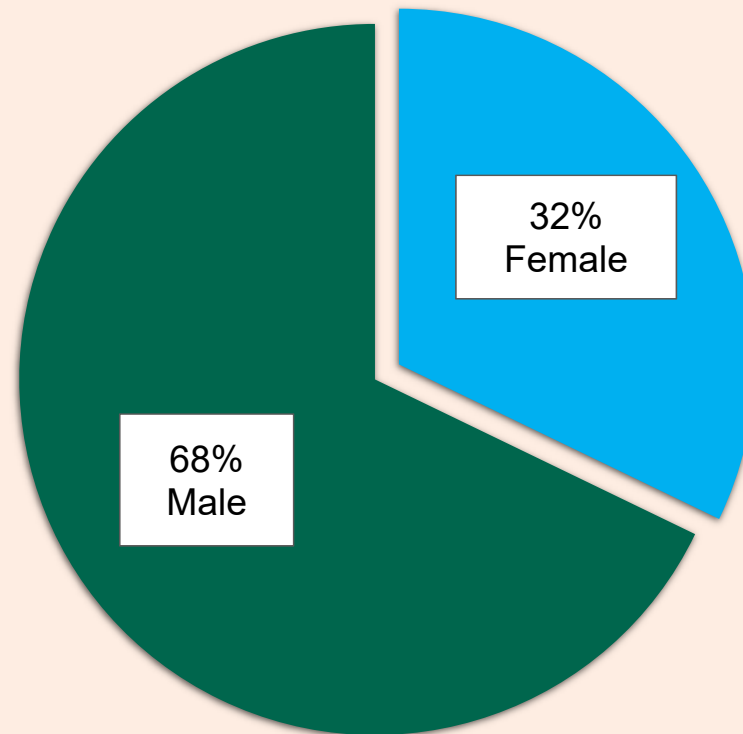


Total Students with Autism as Primary or  
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Source: CASEMIS December 2016



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# California Students with Disabilities by Gender

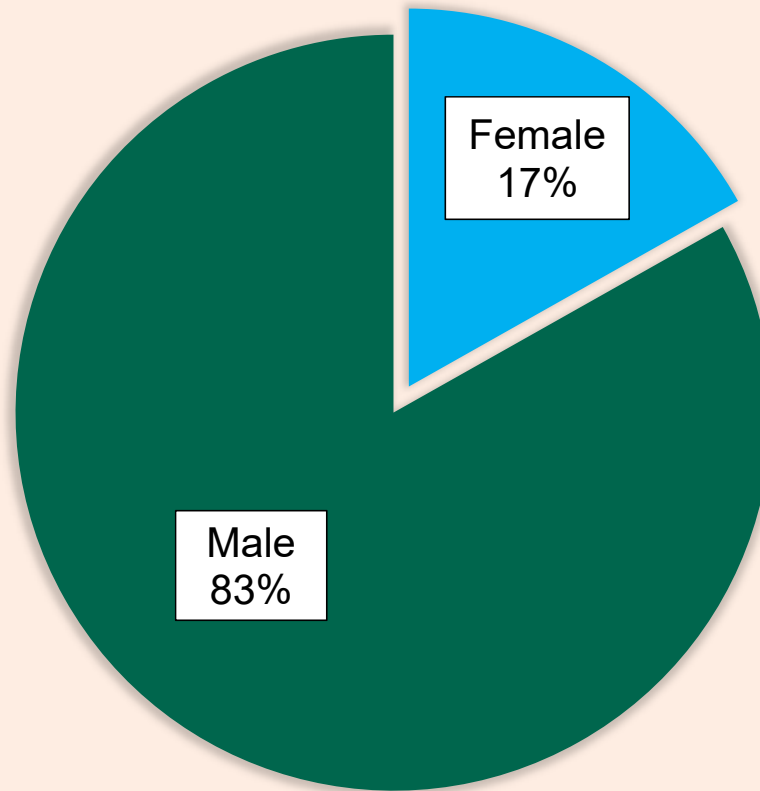


Students with Disabilities Total Population  
for Ages 0 to 22: 754,337  
Source: CASEMIS December 2016



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# California Students with Autism by Gender

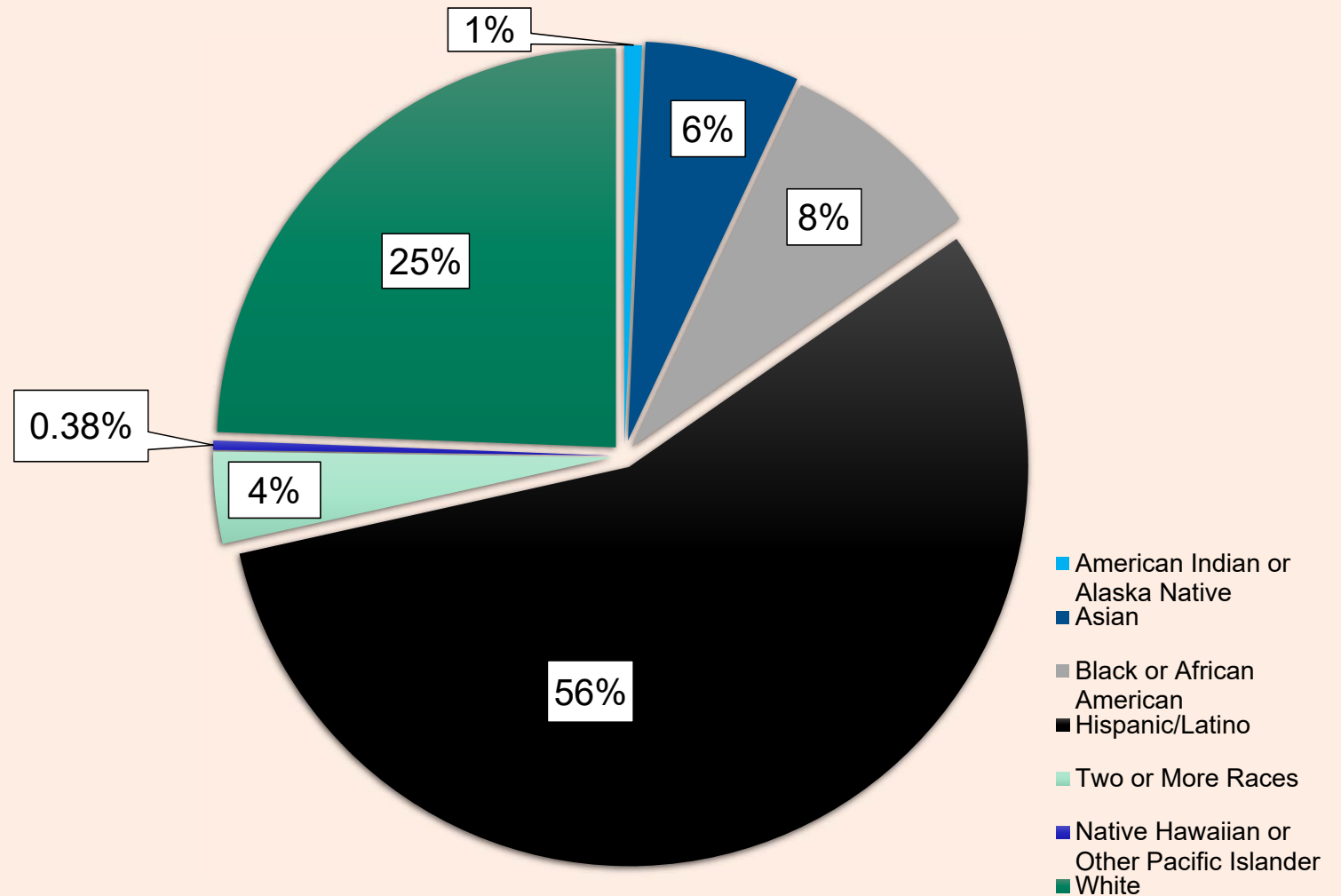


Total Students with Autism as Primary or  
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Source: CASEMIS December 2016



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# California Students with Disabilities by Race/Ethnicity

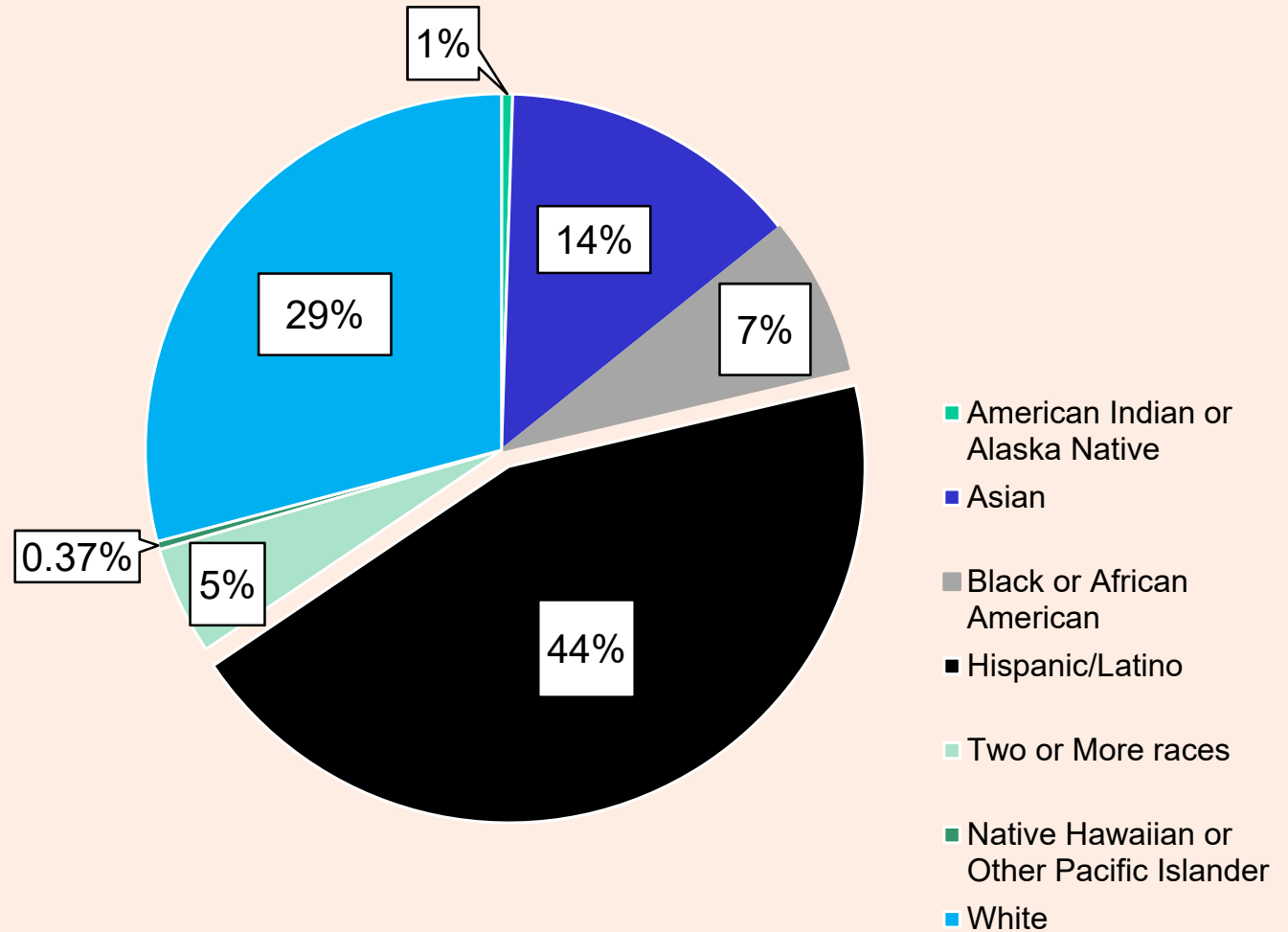


Students with Disabilities  
Total Population for Ages  
0 to 22: 754,337  
Source: CASEMIS  
December 2016



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# California Students with Autism by Race/Ethnicity



Total Students with Autism as Primary or  
Secondary Disability for Ages 0 to 22: 110,486  
Source: CASEMIS December 2016



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**Services  
Offered to  
Students  
with  
Disabilities  
Ages 0 to 22**

Source: CASEMIS  
December 2016

| <b>Services Offered</b>   | <b>Related Services</b> | <b>Percentage of<br/>Total Services</b> |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| Specialized Academic Instruction                                | 618,233                 | 34.33                                   |
| Language and speech   | 367,758                 | 20.42                                   |
| Vocational/Career   | 245,812                 | 13.64                                   |
| Mental Health Services  | 141,374                 | 7.85                                    |
| College Preparation   | 110,796                 | 6.15                                    |
| Occupational therapy  | 76,445                  | 4.25                                    |
| Other transition service  | 58,790                  | 3.26                                    |
| Adapted physical education                                      | 42,225                  | 2.34                                    |
| Services for Deaf Students                                      | 19,907                  | 1.1                                     |
| Intensive Individual Services                                   | 15,362                  | 0.85                                    |
| Special Services for Ages 0-2                                   | 14,494                  | 0.8                                     |
| Health and Nursing  | 13,717                  | 0.76                                    |
| Other special education/related service (must be in Local Plan) | 11,797                  | 0.66                                    |
| Services for Visually Impaired                                  | 10,445                  | 0.58                                    |
| Physical therapy  | 10,616                  | 0.59                                    |
| Individual and small group instruction (ages 3-5 only)          | 7,957                   | 0.44                                    |
| Travel training   | 7,904                   | 0.44                                    |
| Specialized services for low incidence disabilities             | 6,495                   | 0.36                                    |
| Assistive technology services                                   | 6,412                   | 0.36                                    |
| Agency linkages   | 6,082                   | 0.34                                    |
| Specialized orthopedic services                                 | 4,224                   | 0.23                                    |
| Interpreter services  | 1,844                   | 0.1                                     |
| Recreation services   | 1,082                   | 0.06                                    |
| Residential treatment services                                  | 559                     | 0.03                                    |
| Day treatment services  | 385                     | 0.02                                    |
| Reader and Note Taking  | 136                     | 0.007                                   |



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**Services  
Offered to  
Students  
with Autism  
as Primary  
or  
Secondary  
Disability**

Total Students with  
Autism as Primary or  
Secondary Disability for  
Ages 0 to 22: 110,486  
Source: CASEMIS  
December 2016

| <b>Related Service</b>  | <b>Services Offered</b> | <b>Percent of Total Services</b> |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Specialized Academic Instruction                                | 104,207                 | 29.87                            |
| Language and Speech   | 85,676                  | 24.56                            |
| Mental Health Services  | 34,963                  | 10.02                            |
| Occupational Therapy  | 33,188                  | 9.51                             |
| Vocational/Career   | 32,044                  | 9.19                             |
| Adapted Physical Education                                      | 14,430                  | 4.14                             |
| College Awareness/Preparation                                   | 10,837                  | 3.11                             |
| Other Transition Service  | 9,595                   | 2.75                             |
| Intensive Individual Services                                   | 7,357                   | 2.11                             |
| Other Special Education/Related Service (must be in Local Plan) | 3,315                   | 0.95                             |
| Travel training   | 2,647                   | 0.76                             |
| Individual and Small Group Instruction (ages 3 to 5 only)       | 2,417                   | 0.69                             |
| Health and Nursing  | 1,821                   | 0.52                             |
| Assistive Technology Services                                   | 1,750                   | 0.50                             |
| Agency Linkages   | 1,379                   | 0.40                             |
| Physical Therapy  | 917                     | 0.26                             |
| Recreation Services   | 548                     | 0.16                             |
| Services for Students who are Deaf                              | 502                     | 0.14                             |
| Special Services for Ages 0 to 2                                | 494                     | 0.14                             |
| Services for Visually Impaired                                  | 442                     | 0.13                             |
| Specialized Services for Low Incidence Disabilities             | 140                     | 0.04                             |
| Residential Treatment Services                                  | 65                      | 0.02                             |
| Specialized Orthopedic Services                                 | 53                      | 0.02                             |
| Interpreter Services  | 39                      | 0.01                             |
| Day Treatment Services  | 33                      | 0.01                             |
| Reader and Note Taking  | 3                       | 0.00                             |





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# Educational Placement of California Students with Disabilities

| School Type  | Number of Students | Percentage |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| Public Day School                                    | 643,632            | 85.32      |
| Charter School (Operated by a LEA)                   | 29,008             | 3.85       |
| Charter School (Operated as a LEA)                   | 22,078             | 2.93       |
| Nonpublic Day School                                 | 11,489             | 1.52       |
| Special Education Center or Facility                 | 8,793              | 1.17       |
| Continuation School                                  | 5,714              | 0.76       |
| No School  | 5,655              | 0.75       |
| Other Public School or Facility                      | 5,013              | 0.66       |
| Private Day School                                   | 2,942              | 0.39       |
| Child Development or Child Care Facility             | 2,901              | 0.38       |
| Community School                                     | 2,163              | 0.29       |
| Home Instruction                                     | 2,144              | 0.28       |
| Parochial School                                     | 1,858              | 0.25       |
| Adult Education Program                              | 1,696              | 0.22       |
| Independent Study                                    | 1,575              | 0.21       |
| Head Start Program                                   | 1,522              | 0.2        |
| State Preschool Program                              | 1,469              | 0.19       |
| Juvenile Court School                                | 1,383              | 0.18       |
| Private Preschool                                    | 657                | 0.09       |
| Nonpublic Residential School                         | 675                | 0.09       |
| Alternative Work Education Center/Work Study Program | 613                | 0.08       |
| Extended Day Care                                    | 355                | 0.05       |
| Hospital Facility                                    | 272                | 0.04       |
| Correctional Institution or Incarceration Facility   | 192                | 0.03       |
| Community College                                    | 210                | 0.03       |
| Public Residential School                            | 183                | 0.02       |
| Nonpublic  | 128                | 0.02       |
| Private Residential School                           | 17                 | 0          |

Students with Disabilities  
 Population for Ages 0 to 22:  
 754,337  
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 December 2016



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# Educational Placement of California Students with Autism

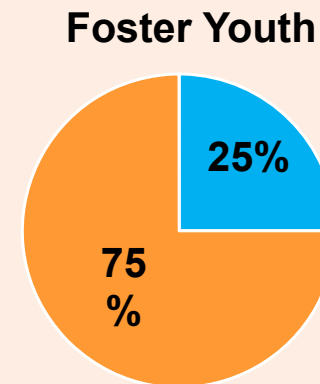
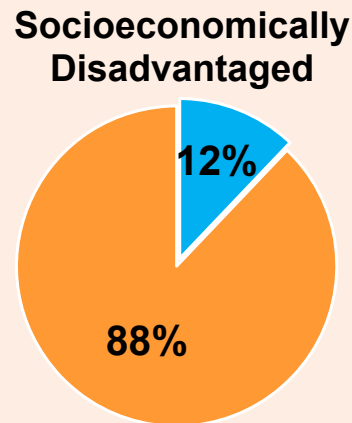
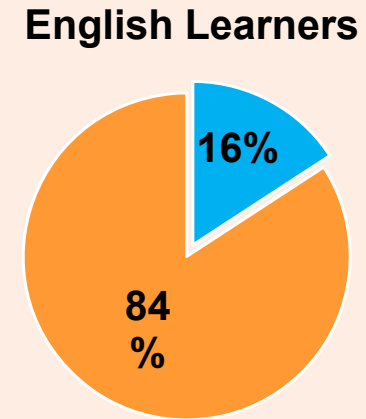
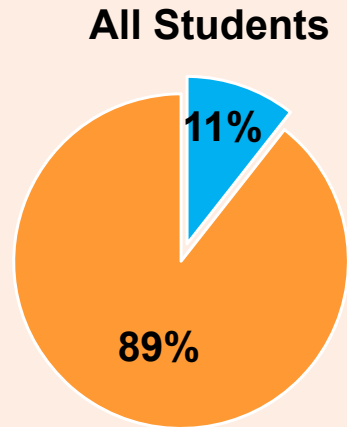
| School Type  | Number of Students | Percentage |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| Public Day School  | 93,467             | 84.60      |
| Nonpublic Day School   | 4,803              | 4.35       |
| Charter School (Operated by a LEA/District/COE)                  | 3,233              | 2.93       |
| Charter School (Operated as a LEA/District)                      | 2,451              | 2.22       |
| Special Education Center or Facility                             | 2,267              | 2.05       |
| Child Development or Child Care Facility                         | 737                | 0.67       |
| Other Public School or Facility                                  | 703                | 0.64       |
| Private Day School (not certified by Special Education Division) | 421                | 0.38       |
| Adult Education Program  | 393                | 0.36       |
| No School  | 345                | 0.31       |
| Continuation School  | 227                | 0.21       |
| State Preschool Program  | 227                | 0.21       |
| Parochial School   | 196                | 0.18       |
| Home Instruction   | 164                | 0.15       |
| Alternative Work Education Center/Work Study Program             | 161                | 0.15       |
| Head Start Program   | 146                | 0.13       |
| Nonpublic  | 104                | 0.09       |
| Private Preschool  | 99                 | 0.09       |
| Independent Study  | 97                 | 0.09       |
| Nonpublic Residential School                                     | 87                 | 0.08       |
| Community College  | 59                 | 0.05       |
| Community School   | 31                 | 0.03       |
| Hospital Facility  | 22                 | 0.02       |
| Extended Day Care  | 20                 | 0.02       |
| Juvenile Court School  | 12                 | 0.01       |
| Public Residential School  | 10                 | 0.01       |
| Private Residential School                                       | 4                  | 0.00       |

Total Students with Autism  
as Primary or Secondary  
Disability for Ages 0 to 22:  
110,486  
Source: CASEMIS  
December 2016



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## Students with Disabilities Represented in Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Subgroups Compared to Students without Disabilities

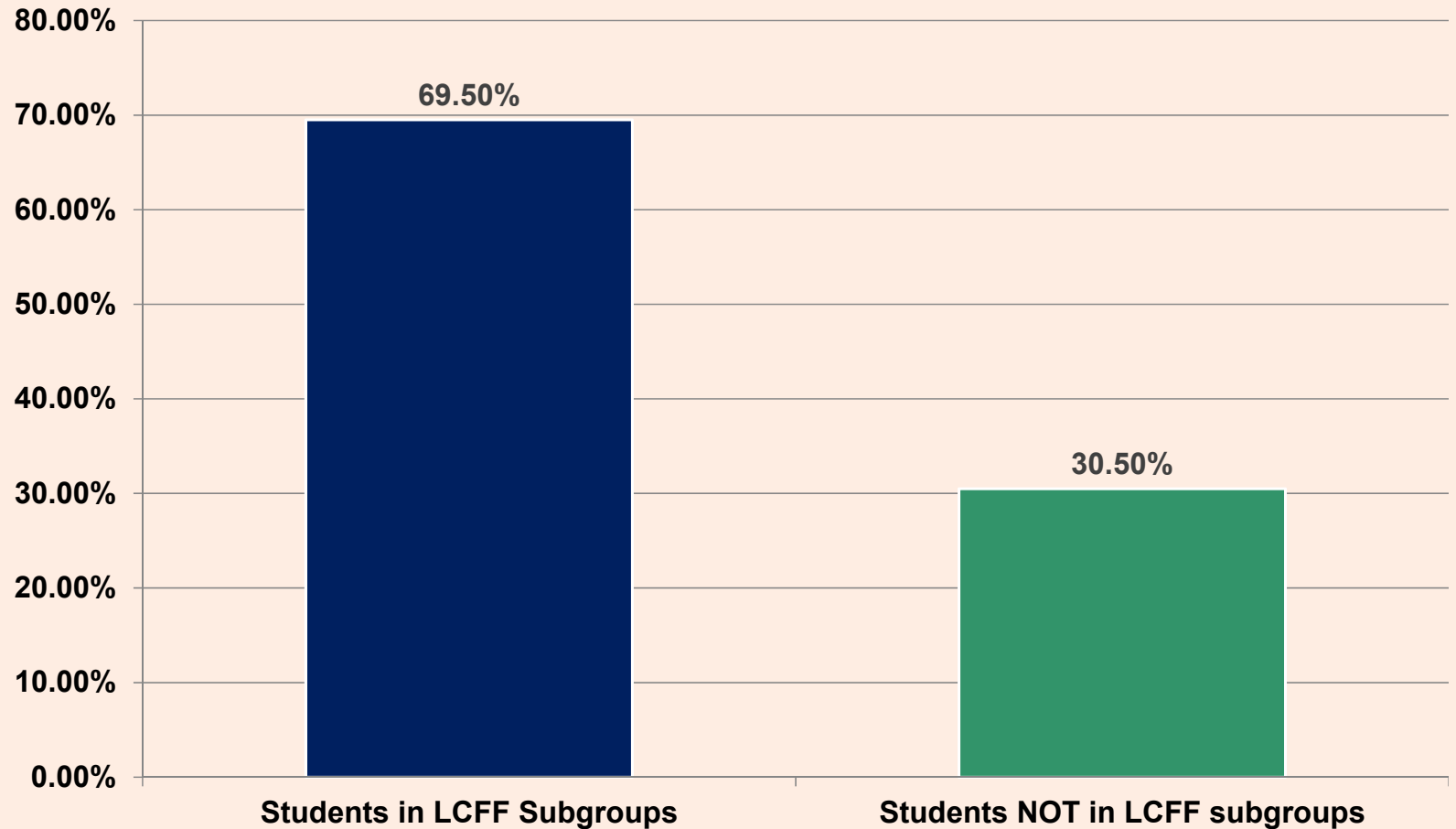


■ Students With Disabilities    ■ Students Without Disabilities



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## Percent of Students with Disabilities in One or More of the LCFF Subgroups



Source: CALPADS data 2016–17  
Total Student Population: 6,228,235



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# Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP): The Basics

- A tool for local educational agencies (LEAs) to set goals, plan actions, and leverage resources to meet those goals to improve student outcomes
- Is designed to provide LEAs and communities with more local control and make it easier to respond to the needs of students
- Makes LEAs more accountable to provide the necessary programs and resources to create a level playing field for **all** students
- Supports parent access to the LEA's budget and planning process and allows parents to help determine local priorities and approach



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# LCAP: The Basics

The LCAP is measured according to eight priorities:

1. Implementation of the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education
2. Parent involvement and participation
3. Teachers appropriately assigned and fully credentialed in the subject areas
4. Improving student achievement and outcomes along multiple measures
5. Supporting student engagement



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# LCAP: The Basics

The LCAP is measured according to eight priorities:

6. Highlighting school climate and connectedness through a variety of factors, such as suspension and expulsion rates and other locally identified means
7. Ensuring all students have access to classes that prepare them for college and careers, regardless of what school they attend
8. Measuring other important student outcomes related to required areas of study, including physical education and the arts



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# How Do We Advance the Needle?



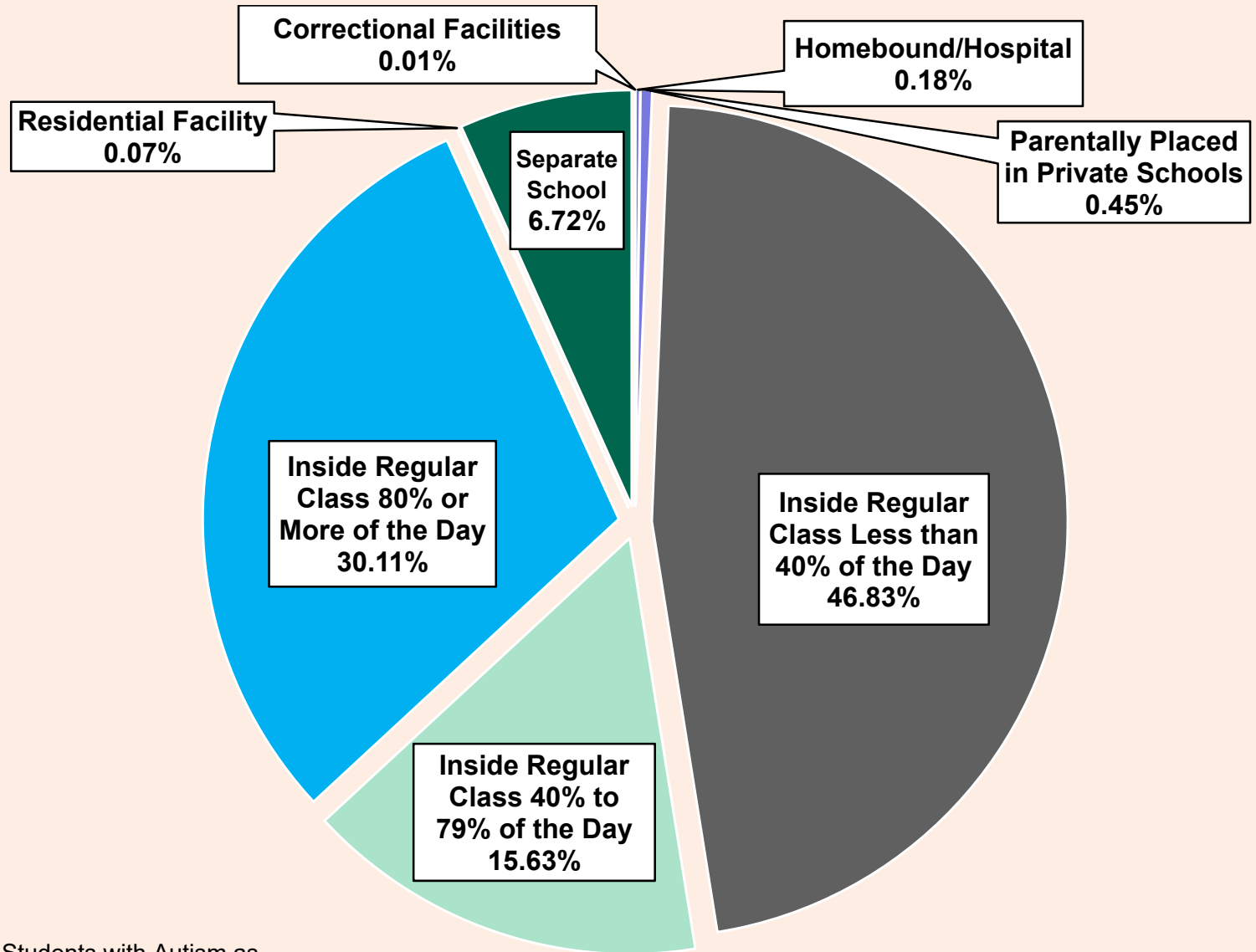
- Understand how students with disabilities and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are being represented within the LCAP so that implementation can be aligned with broader initiative(s)
- Know where you are aiming. What is the baseline data for students with ASD?
- Strategically conduct staff development and implement coaching of evidence-based practices to target those specific students and needs that can improve outcomes
- Weave training of ASD evidence-based practices into the broader initiative(s)



# California Students with Autism by Least Restrictive Environment



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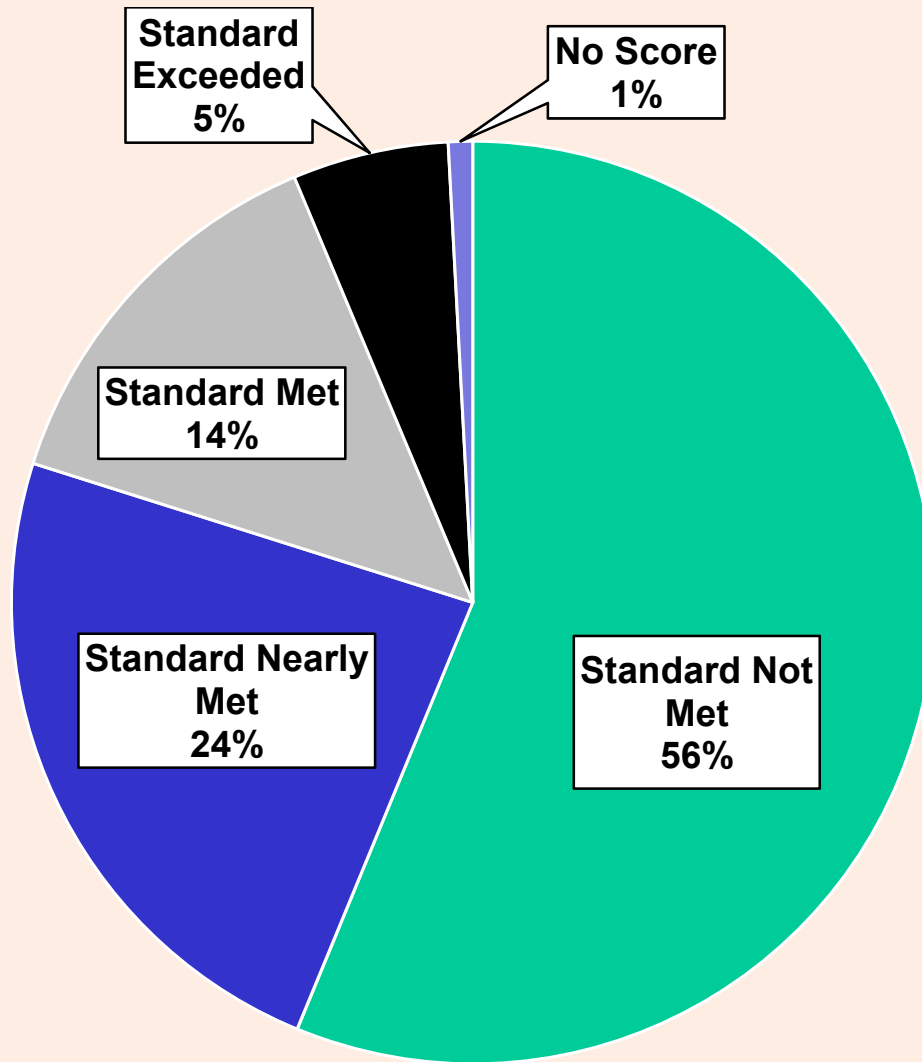


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Primary or Secondary Disability for  
Ages 0 to 22: 110,486  
Source: CASEMIS December 2016

# Reading Achievement Levels for Students with Autism



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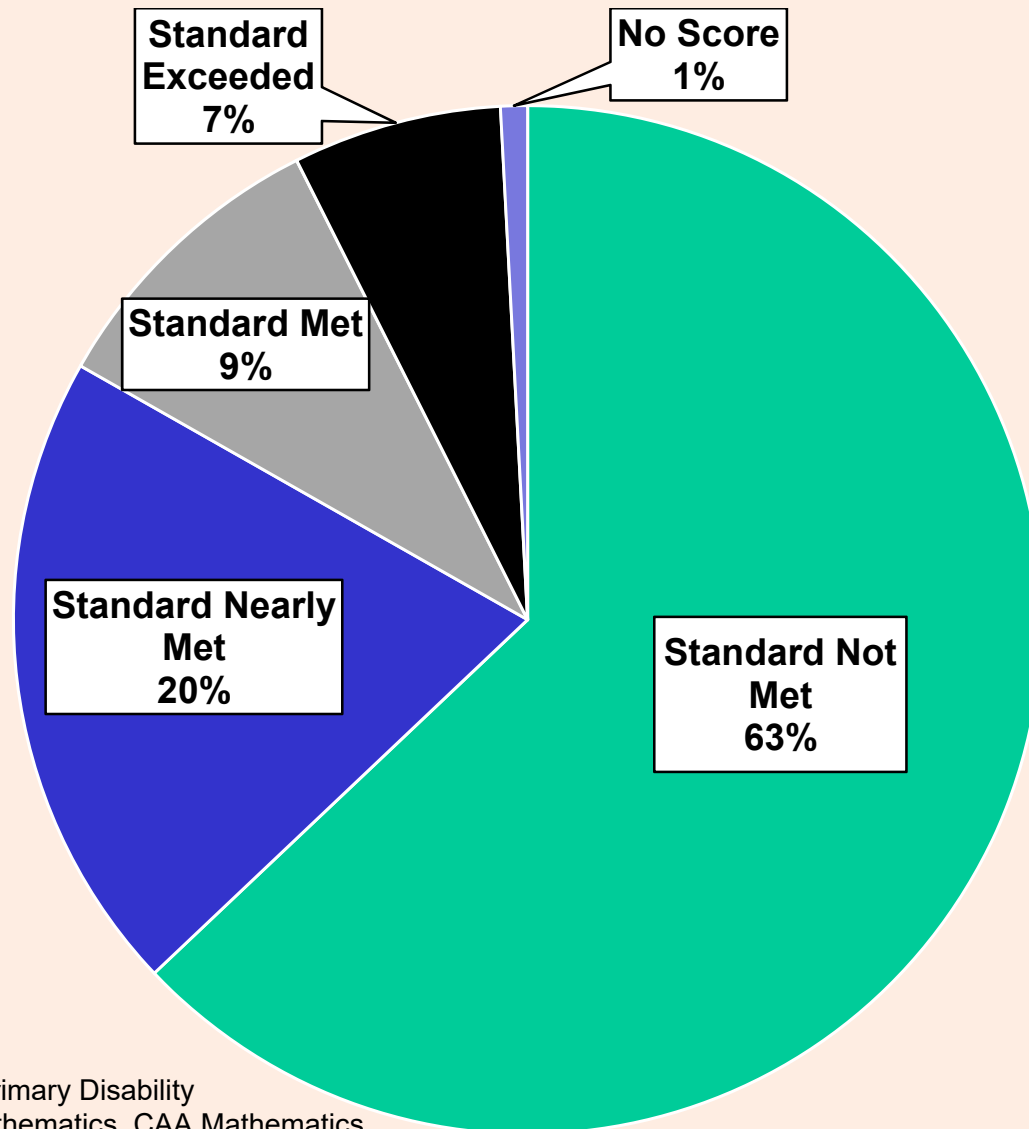


Students with Autism as Primary Disability  
Assessments: Smarter English Language Arts (ELA), CAA  
ELA, CALPADS, CAASPP 2016 P3 (FY 2015–2016)  
Standard and Alternative Assessment



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# Math Achievement Levels for Students with Autism

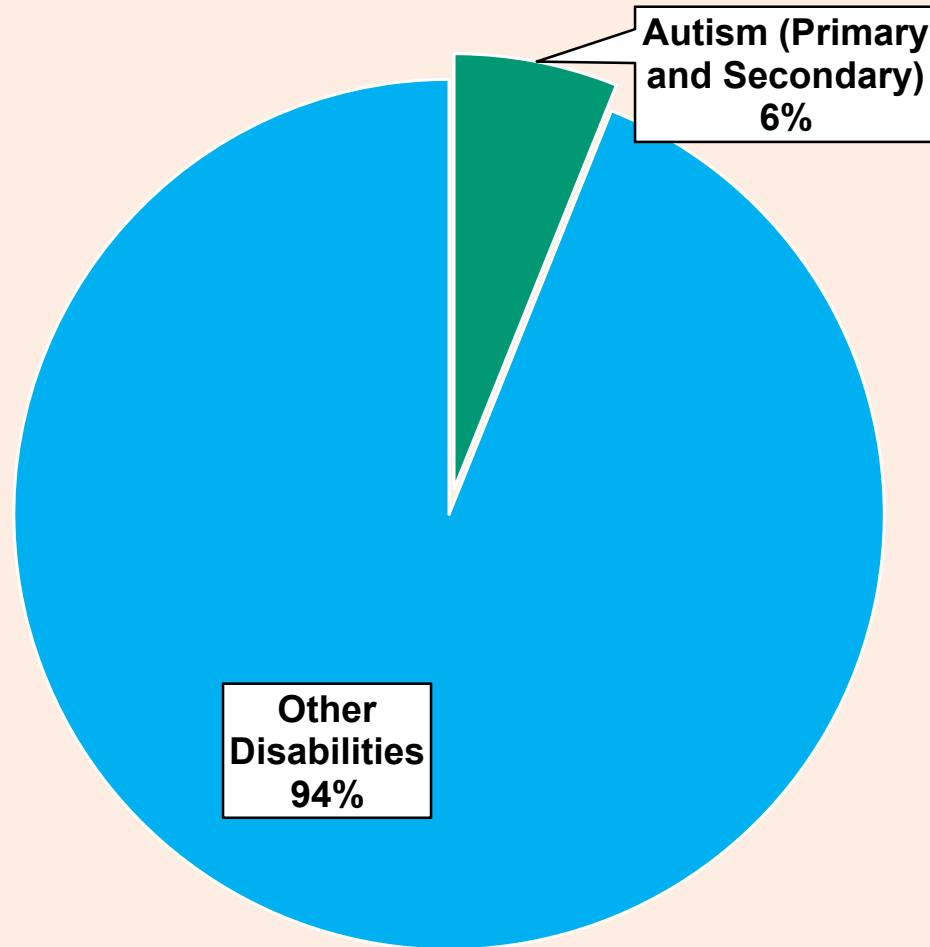


Students with Autism as Primary Disability  
Assessments: Smarter Mathematics, CAA Mathematics  
CALPADS, CAASPP 2016 P3 (FY 2015–2016)  
Standard and Alternative Assessment



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# Suspensions and Expulsions for Students with Disabilities

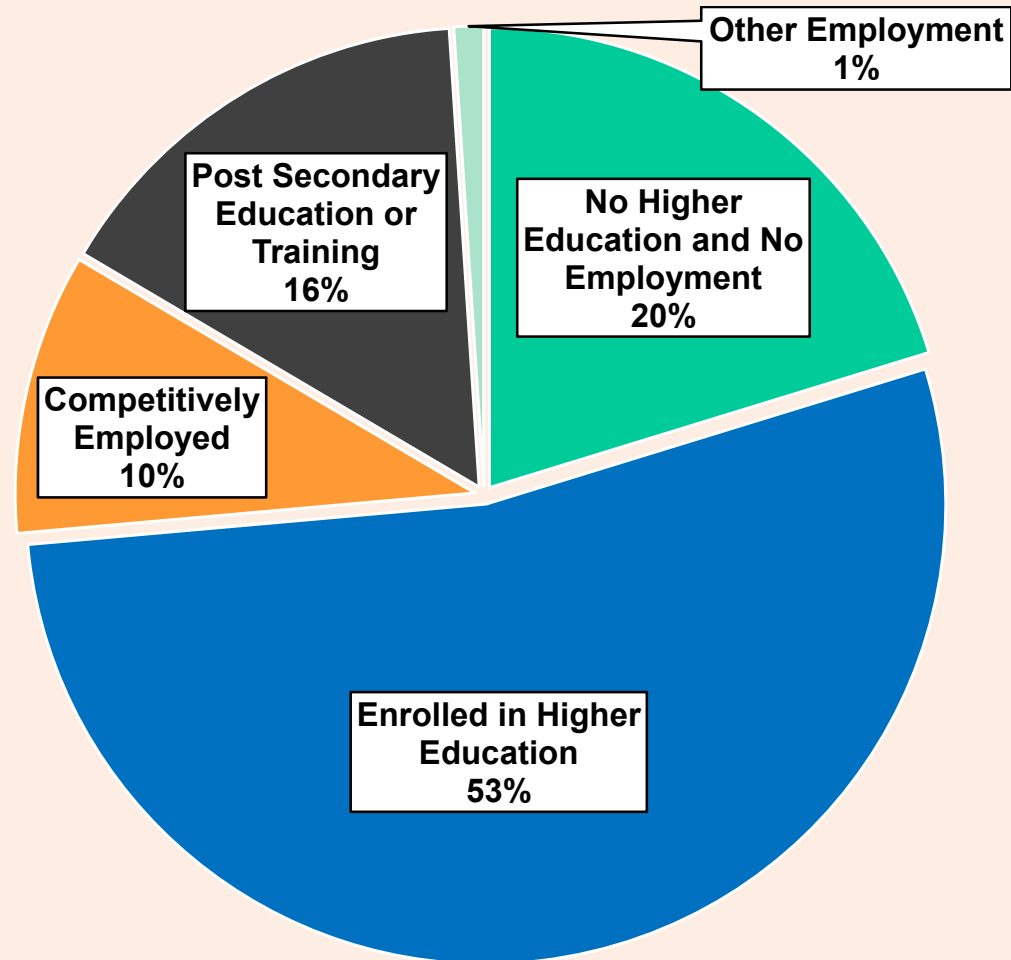


Students with Disability in Table C (Disciplinary)  
for Ages 0 to 22: 109,773 incidents  
Source: California Longitudinal Pupil  
Achievement Data System (CALPADS) 2016–17  
and CASEMIS June 2017



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# Outcomes for Students with Autism

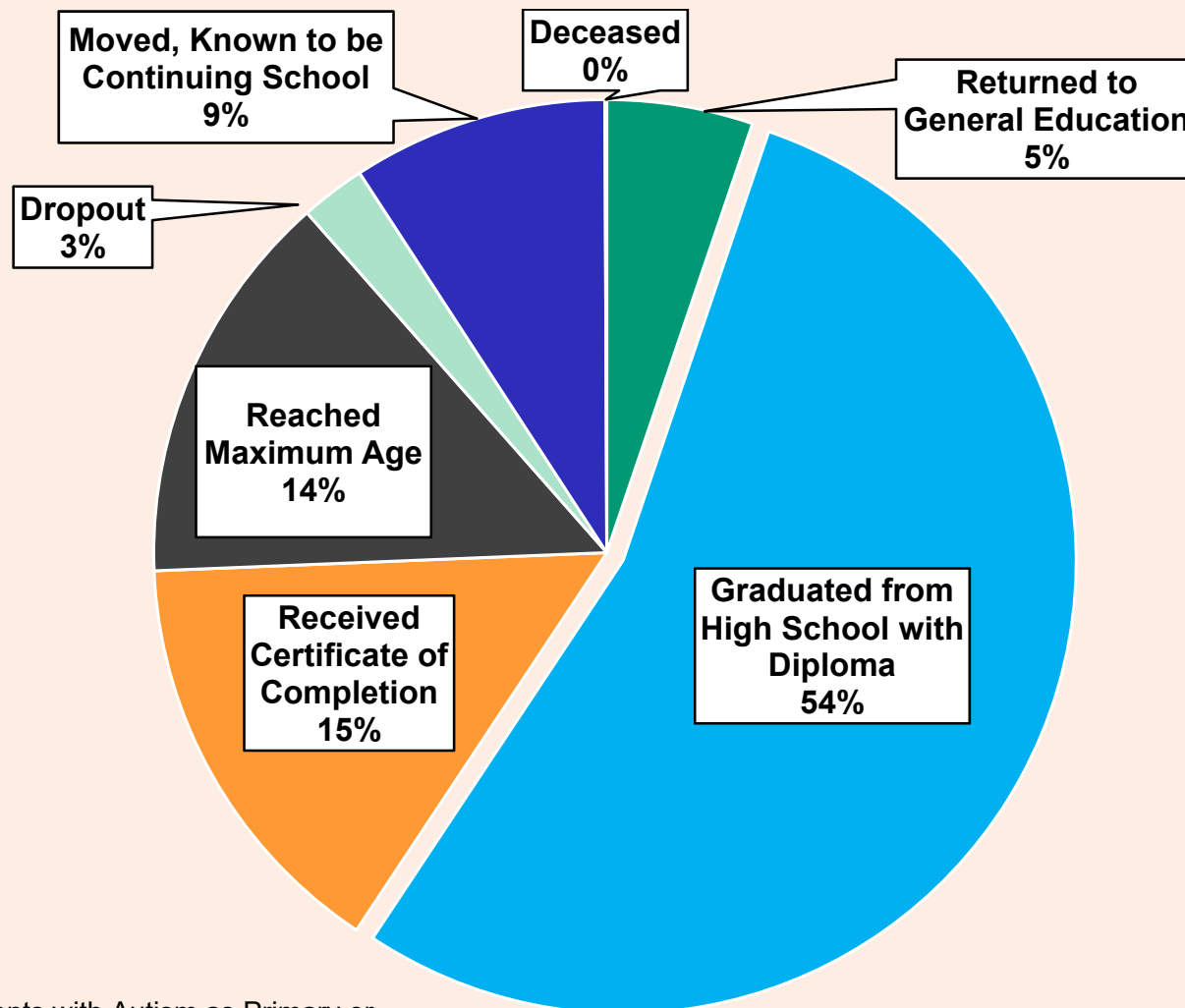


Total Students with Autism as Primary or  
Secondary Disability  
Source: CASEMIS June 2017, Table D  
Students that exit from prior years



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# Exit Reasons for Students With Autism



Total Students with Autism as Primary or Secondary Disability for Ages 16 and older: 4,528  
Single Year Exiters (Not four year cohort CDE Standard Rate)  
Source: CASEMIS June 2017



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# California's Ultimate Goal





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# What about Mapping to.....







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# Why Map to Work?

- Mapping to an employment goal establishes and supports the belief that each California student has potential and value
- Provides tangible skills and outcomes
- Encourages partnership and vision with multiple state and local agencies which collectively support individuals with disabilities throughout their lifespan



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# Changing the Culture

- A public education system culture **which promotes the belief everyone belongs** begins with:
  - Ensuring children and families begin their education experience in the most inclusive environment starting with preschool
  - Ensuring children can confidently communicate what they know, need, and want



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# Changing the Culture

- Supporting teachers, related service providers, and administrators in schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) in utilizing the principles of Universal Design for Learning through a Multi-Tiered System of Support Framework so all children may access their learning and achieve
- Developing person-centered plans that travel across system/age transitions



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## How Stakeholders Can Stay Informed About Special Education in California

- Tune in to meetings of the California Advisory Commission on Special Education  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/as/acse.asp>
- Subscribe to The EDge Newsletter  
<http://www.calstat.org/specialEdge.html>
- Tune in to bi-monthly State Board of Education meetings  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/>



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## Contact Information:

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**California Department of Education**

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**(916) 445-4602**