



Presentation Materials
 March 5, 2026

Selected Data Points: Identification Rates, Placements, Staffing, and Spending

Table 1. Overall Disability Identification Rates, by region of residence, SY2025

Superintendent Region	# of Resident Students	% of Resident Students w/ IEP
Aroostook	8,771	20.5%
Penquis	21,087	22.5%
Washington	3,879	22.3%
Hancock	6,790	21.8%
Midcoast	12,163	22.6%
Western ME	26,057	21.0%
Cumberland	39,726	18.3%
Kennebec	23,421	21.2%
York	28,260	19.5%
Educ in Unorg Terr	827	20.7%
Statewide	170,154	20.5%

Table 2. Placement Settings of Students with IEPs

# of Students	KG-5 (n=16,478)	6-12 (n=18,152)
Regular classroom \geq 80% of the day	62%	52%
Regular classroom 40%-79% of the day	24%	33%
Regular classroom < 40% of the day	11%	11%
Separate school	2%	3%
All other	<1%	<1%

Note: Statewide, 60% of students with a disability are economically disadvantaged. Students from economically disadvantaged households are almost twice as likely to be identified as having a disability (27% vs 15%, chi-sq 4,103, p<0.001).

Table 3. Statewide, rates of disability identification, by type and grade level SY2025

Type	PK (n=228)	KG-5 (n=16,478)	6-12 (n=18,152)
Specific learning disability	-	17% (2,845)	35% (6,304)
Other health impairment	5% (12)	23% (3,790)	27% (4,953)
Speech or language impairment	47% (107)	30% (4,870)	4% (662)
Autism	23% (52)	17% (2,729)	12% (2,142)
Multiple disabilities	3% (6)	6% (949)	9% (1,698)
Emotional disturbance	<1%	4% (638)	9% (1,616)
Intellectual disability	<1%	2% (299)	4% (656)
Developmental delay	21% (48)	1% (243)	<1%
Hearing impairment, Orthopedic impairment, Traumatic brain injury, Visual impairment, and Deaf-blindness	Each of these disability categories is identified in less than 1% of students at all grade levels.		

Table 4. Special Education Staffing Levels by Superintendent Region

	Number of students with Disabilities	Spec Ed Teacher FTE	Disabled Students per SpEd Teacher	SpEd Tech FTE	Disabled students per SpEd Tech
Aroostook	1,797	102.7	17.5	231.3	7.8
Penobscot/Piscataquis	4,705	259.7	18.1	779.0	6.0
Washington	820	60.0	13.7	166.9	4.9
Hancock	1,417	100.9	14.0	282.2	5.0
Midcoast	2,589	179.0	14.5	418.0	6.2
Western ME	5,386	309.0	17.4	717.1	7.5
Cumberland	7,121	524.8	13.6	931.8	7.6
Kennebec	4,622	253.1	18.3	667.4	6.9
York	5,273	353.9	14.9	767.0	6.9
Statewide	33,732	2,143.1	15.7	4,960.7	6.8

*Based on attending counts of students with disabilities for SY2025 and staff data for SY2025.

Table 5: Regular and Special Education Expenditures, Statewide and by Region

	Resident students	Resident students w IEPs	Regular Ed spending per pupil	Spec Ed spending per all pupils	Spec Ed spending, per disabled student	Ratio of SpEd to Regular Spending
Aroostook	8,932	1,801	5,664	2,596	12,874	2.3
Penquis	21,435	4,660	6,425	3,108	14,296	1.9
Washington	3,914	933	7,563	3,185	13,360	1.8
Hancock	6,928	1,424	8,528	4,256	20,704	2.4
Midcoast	12,313	2,759	8,611	4,555	20,327	2.4
Western ME	26,039	5,476	6,184	4,053	19,271	3.1
Cumberland	40,148	7,152	8,559	3,800	21,334	2.5
Kennebec	23,749	5,012	6,640	3,159	14,968	2.3
York	28,260	5,431	7,579	3,736	19,438	2.6
Statewide	171,717	34,648	7,335	3,649	18,083	2.5

Table 6: Special Education Tuition Expenditures, Statewide and by Region

	% (#) of Resident Students in a district with no school	Tuition, Total, per disabled student	Tuition to Private School, per disabled student	Tuition to private school as % of total special ed spending
Aroostook	3.7% (330)	798	566	4.4%
Penquis	0.9% (195)	1,552	588	4.1%
Washington	10.8% (424)	2,288	191	1.4%
Hancock	0%	1,385	799	3.9%
Midcoast	1.8% (227)	1,659	1,287	6.3%
Western ME *	0.4% (100)	3,635	3,402	17.6%
Cumberland	0%	1,180	1,109	5.2%
Kennebec	0.1% (31)	1,485	1,316	8.8%
York	0%	1,650	1,602	8.2%
Statewide	0.8% (1,307)	1,792	1,457	8.0%

* Lewiston is a strong driver of the Western ME pattern: 23% of Lewiston’s special education budget goes to private school tuition payments (\$6,221 per disabled student).

Of the 235 districts with special education spending and disabled resident students in SY2025: 192 districts operated at least one school and 43 did not operate schools. In SAUs that operated schools, the median Special Education spending per disabled student was \$17,156. In SAUs without schools, the median Special Education spending per disabled student was \$8,795.

Table 7. Special Education Expenditures for Special Services (Related Services)

	Special services as % of all SpEd spending	Special services spending, per IEP student	Speech & Hearing: % of special services	Attendance/ Social work: % of special services	Psych. Services: % of special services	OT: % of special services
Aroostook	16.2	2,083	33.3	20.3	10.6	21.2
Penquis	17.0	2,425	41.9	20.0	13.5	18.6
Washington	10.8	1,446	51.7	3.1	13.1	21.9
Hancock	16.2	3,353	48.7	11.2	11.3	20.8
Midcoast	19.6	3,983	31.3	30.0	12.9	19.7
Western ME	12.8	2,466	33.2	18.8	21.2	15.5
Cumberland	23.6	5,027	30.9	24.5	19.0	17.0
Kennebec	19.6	2,931	38.0	15.6	18.0	14.4
York	21.3	4,142	32.0	22.6	17.8	16.4
Statewide	19.0%	3,429	34.4%	21.5%	17.2%	17.1%

Table 8. SAU-level special education spending, FY2025:
 mean (median) and range, statewide and by region

	Regular Education Spending, Per pupil (all)	Special Education Spending, Per Student w an IEP
Aroostook	7,621 (6,394) 4,092 – 15,367	11,221 (11,665) 0 – 19,185
Penquis	7,752 (7,674) 4,520 – 14,540	13,714 (13,720) 0 – 30,796
Washington	9,507 (9,296) 3,627 – 17,877	12,657 (11,915) 576 – 45,866
Hancock	12,073 (10,622) 5,271 – 34,454	22,261 (20,670) 3,609 – 42,832
Midcoast	11,350 (10,435) 5,887 – 25,435	20,599 (19,223) 0 – 57,100
Western ME	8,016 (6,425) 3,874 – 19,338	18,247 (18,078) 0 – 48,832
Cumberland	9,404 (9,297) 5,586 – 16,148	21,674 (20,048) 5,659 – 35,127
Kennebec	7,847 (6,982) 2,954 – 14,922	12,430 (13,617) 0 – 24,004
York	7,997 (8,156) 5,153 – 11,563	21,155 (21,785) 10,680 – 31,395
Statewide	9,159 (8,585) 2,954 – 34,454	16,282 (15,866) 0 – 57,100
All SAUs with schools (N=192)	--	17,980 (17,156) 3,608 – 45,866
All SAUs without schools (N=43)	--	11,728 (8,795) 147 – 57,100