

Special Education Programming Updates

Dani Mehr, Executive Director of Special Education



Our Special Education Team

SpEd Leadership: 2 Directors & 7 Supervisors supporting sites and programming

Part C and Part B Special Education Teachers: 232

Part C and Part B Itinerant Providers: 123

Paraeducators: 285



Early Childhood Special Education

- Evaluation Team: Year Round
 - Part C: Birth to Age 3
 - July 1- Jan 31: 294 Help Me Grow Referrals
 - Part B: Age 3 to 6
 - July 1- Jan 31: 242 Help Me Grow Referrals
- B-3 Home Visitors
 - Support children and families at home, daycare, and in community



Early Childhood Special Education

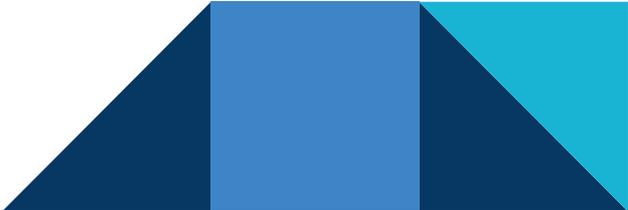
- 3's and 4's Inclusive Preschool
- Self-Contained Preschool Increases
- New role to support student needs across environments
- Increased mentorship/ lead teacher time
- Improved ECSE to Kinder Transition Process



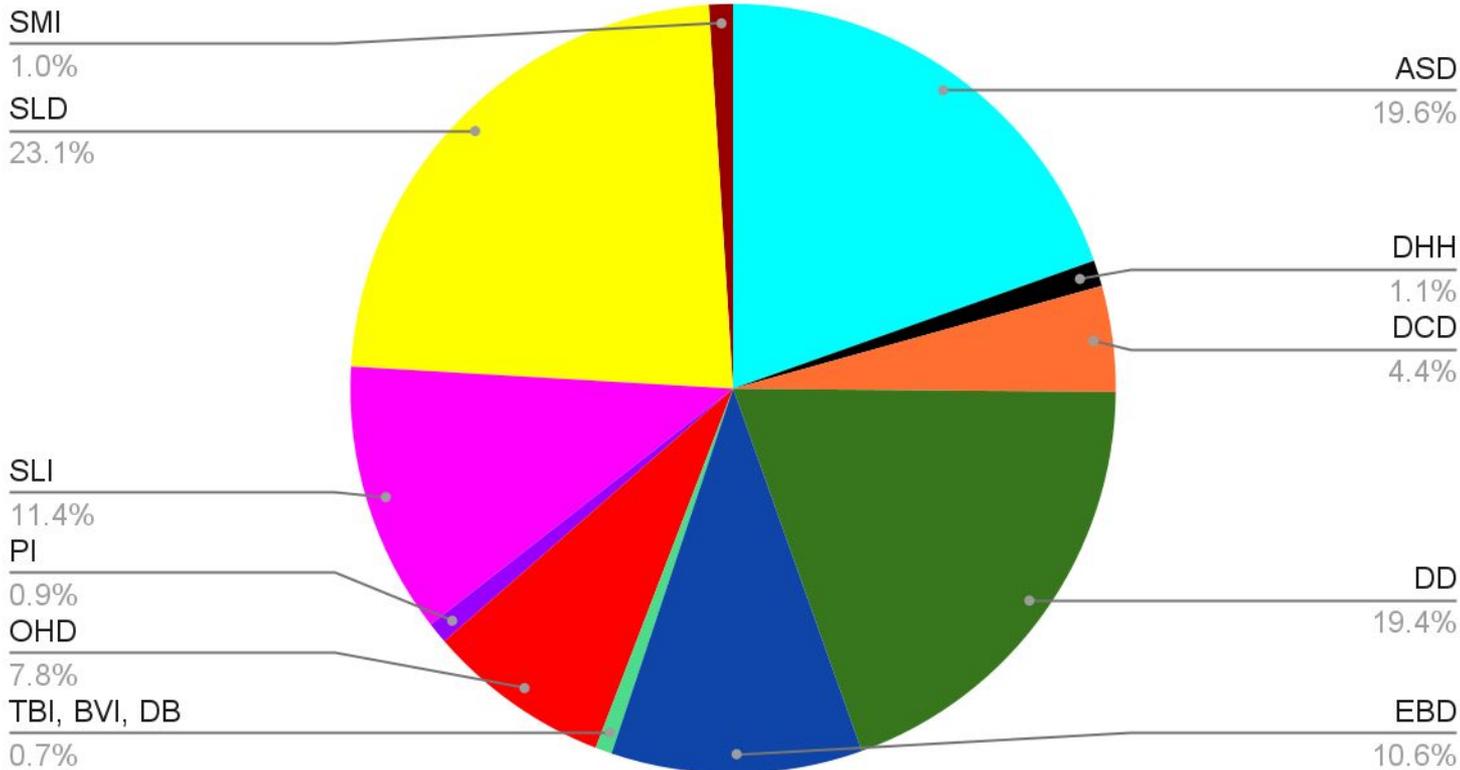
Student Federal Settings: K-12

Setting 1	Setting 2	Setting 3	Setting 4	Setting 8
<p>Student is outside the general education setting less than 21% of the day</p>	<p>Student is outside the general education setting 21-60% of the day</p>	<p>Student is outside the general education setting more than 60% of the day</p>	<p>Student is at a separate school facility, day school, or residential</p>	<p>Homebound, Home based, or Hospital</p>
<p>Elementary Clearview, Discovery, Kennedy (K-5), Lincoln, Madison, Oak Hill, Talahi, Westwood</p> <p>Middle School Kennedy (6-8), North, South</p> <p>High School Apollo, McKinley, Tech</p>			<p>Community Options 2 (CO2), InStep, Journey, Katherine Johnson Education Center</p>	<p>Service is provided according to individual need</p>

Where are the 742 Setting IV Programs?

- Journey
 - Located at Roosevelt Education Center
 - Serves students Grades 4-12
 - Students (ASD and DCD) have needs for functional academics and behavioral programming
 - KJEC
 - Located at Katherine Johnson Education Center
 - Serves students Grades K-12
 - Students have needs for social / emotional / behavioral programming, as well as academics
 - CO2 and InStep: 18-22 transition programs
 - CO2 located on St. Cloud State campus
 - InStep located at Katherine Johnson Education Center
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Child Count December 2025: 2,575



Autism Programming

ASD Prevalence Rate

Increasing needs and numbers across our community

ASD Summit last spring, resulted in ASD Pilot this fall

3 ASD Specialists



ASD: Medical vs. Educational

Medical Diagnosis

- Purpose: To diagnose a medical condition
- Licensed medical professionals make this determination.
 - May qualify a student for outside therapies and ABA
 - May access medical, community, or state services

Educational Eligibility

- Purpose: To determine if a child qualifies for special education services
- It must adversely impact educational performance.
 - Must demonstrate needs in 2 out of the 3 areas:
 - Social Interaction
 - Communication
 - Restrictive, Repetitive Behavior



AUTISM SPECTRUM

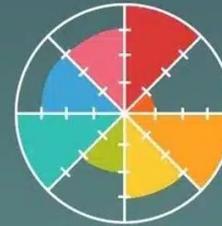
The Autism Spectrum is NOT linear



Less autistic

Very autistic

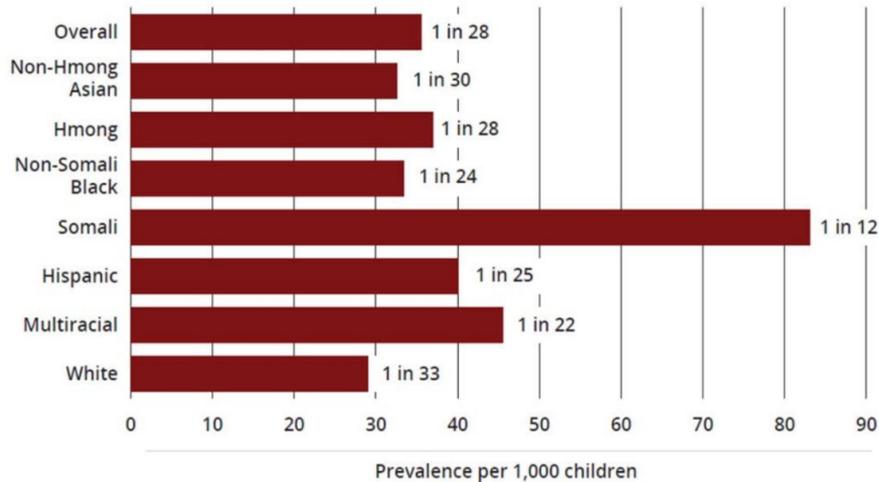
The Autism Spectrum looks more like:



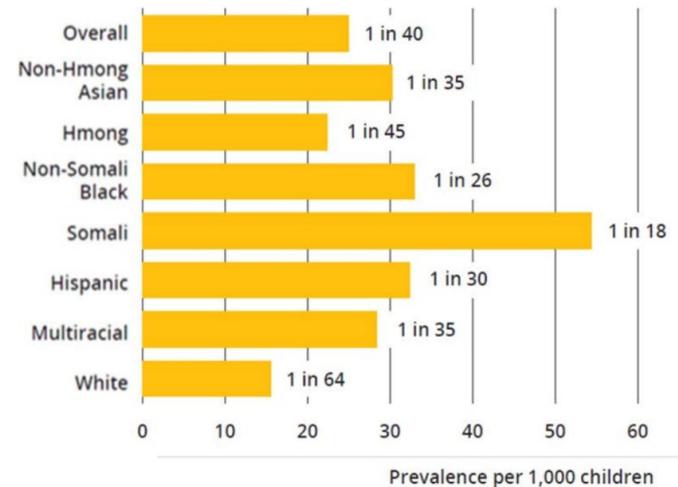
- Red: Social differences
- Orange: Interests
- Yellow: Repetitions
- Light green: Sensory sensitivities
- Teal: Emotional regulation
- Light blue: Perception
- Blue: Executive functioning
- Pink: Other

Autism Rates in Minnesota Surveillance Area by Race/Ethnicity

8-year-olds



4-year-olds



Sources: [MN-ADDM Network Detailed Findings: eight-year-olds](https://addm.umn.edu/detailed-findings/eight-year) (https://addm.umn.edu/detailed-findings/eight-year) and [MN-ADDM Network Detailed Findings: four-year-olds](https://addm.umn.edu/detailed-findings/four-year) (https://addm.umn.edu/detailed-findings/four-year)

What's Happening?

- ASD Elementary Pilot
- 5th to 6th Grade transition task force
- Staff safety task force across all age groups
- Re-Boundaries student list and staffing
- Preparing for Extended School Year
- Staffing for fall!



Licensure: Recruiting and Retaining Special Educators

Pathways

- Portfolio Cohort: Teachers who are working on Out of Field Placement (OFP) licenses are working toward special education licensure through a portfolio process, with district support: 11 teachers
- Pipeline/ Pathways Grant with SCSU: Staff who are working on master's degrees in special education: 16 teachers

Future Pathways

- Possibilities for Paraeducators/ Support Staff
- Another Round of SpEd Pathways



Partnerships within Special Education

- Fraser
- Rebalance/ Youth for Christ
- Sagent
- School Resource Officer Haas and Laker
- Community Job Sites, including Good Will and Cash Wise



MDE Review Process

Comprehensive Finance Review

Comprehensive Programming Review

- Due Process Documentation (Strong Goals and Effective Progress Reports)
- Surveys of Administrators, General Education Teachers, Itinerant Staff, Special Education Teachers, and Paraeducators
- Corrective Action on File Reviews are in progress
- Next steps: Follow Up Interviews & Site Visits



Thank you!

Questions?

St. Cloud Area
School District 