

SSD AT A GLANCE

Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County was formed in December 1957 after St. Louis County voters approved a referendum establishing a countywide local school district to support the educational needs of children with disabilities. The District is unique in that:

- The referendum also established a separate tax levy to fund the District; and
- This progressive approach to educating children with disabilities was put in place more than 17 years before the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted in 1975 by Congress mandating that children with disabilities have the right to a free appropriate public education.



The scope of the District's services is enormous. Today SSD provides services to more than 24,000 students — or one out of six public school students in St. Louis County — and SSD staff work in more than 265 schools throughout St. Louis County. With a geographic reach of more than 510 square miles, SSD impacts the lives of more students over a wider area than any other school district in the county.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

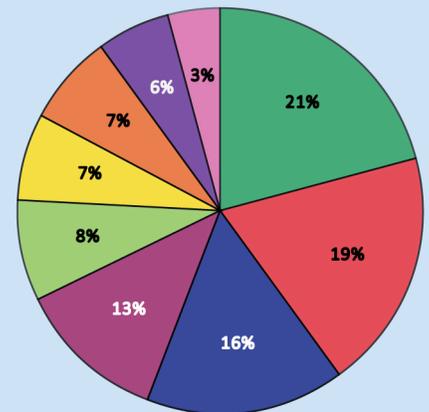
The vast majority of SSD's special education students — some 97 percent — attend the same neighborhood school that their non-disabled peers attend. This means SSD brings the necessary special education services to the students rather than the reverse. The result is an inclusive educational environment in which both disabled and non-disabled students benefit from interaction and friendship with one another. Students with more significant disabilities are educated in one of the District's five special education schools. SSD also provides a variety of related services to students with special needs.



TECHNICAL EDUCATION

SSD operates two technical high schools — North Technical High School in Florissant and South Technical High School in Sunset Hills — that offer more than 30 career and technical education programs for high school students throughout St. Louis County.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS BY DISABILITY 2017-2018



Other health impairment	....	21% (4,735)
Learning disabilities	.....	19% (4,494)
Speech impairment	.....	16% (3,765)
Autism	.....	13% (3,054)
Emotional disturbance	.....	8% (1,744)
Intellectual disability	.....	7% (1,598)
Young child with a developmental delay	.....	7% (1,513)
Language impairment	.....	6% (1,453)
Other	.....	3% (741)

Total number of students receiving special education ... 23,097



"The highlight of my life was when SSD was established. The services SSD provides allows so many children to have successful lives."

— Josephine Piazza Milton, one of the founders of SSD