

1. **Students with SLD drop out of high school at nearly three times the rate of all students.** The top reason students with SLD drop out? 57% cited disliking school or having poor relationships with teachers or peers.
2. **Students with learning disabilities like dyslexia have a three times higher risk of attempting suicide.** — *Source: Suicidality, School Dropout and Reading Problems Among Adolescents. Journal of Learning Disabilities, vol. 39,6: pp 507-514. First published Nov. 1 2006.*
 - 89% of suicide notes have dyslexic-type spellings in them. — *Source: Learning Disabilities and Adolescent Suicide. Journal of Learning Disabilities, Vol. 30, 6: pp 652-659. Published first Nov. 1, 1997.*
3. **Children with learning and attention issues are as smart as their peers, but they are significantly underrepresented in gifted programs and AP courses.**
 - Nationwide only 2.7% of students in gifted and talented programs in 2013-2014 were identified with disabilities and received special education.
 - Tennessee had the highest percentage of gifted students with IEPs, at 18%.
 - Rhode Island had no gifted students with IEPs and in four other states fewer than 1% of gifted students had IEPs (FL, HI, LA, VT). *Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Civil Rights Data Collection for the 2013-2014 School Year (2016).*
4. **Researchers believe that 85% to 90% of students with IEPs can meet the same graduation standards as all other students—if they receive specially designed instruction and appropriate supports and accommodations.** *Source: Achieve & U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Educational Outcomes (2016). Diplomas that matter: Ensuring equity of opportunity for students with disabilities.*
 - Yet in 2014–2015, only about two-thirds (64.6%) of students with disabilities graduated with a regular diploma, compared to 83.2% for all students. *Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics (2016). Common Core of Data: Public high school 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR), by race/ethnicity and selected demographics for the United States, the 50 states, and the District of Columbia: School year 2014–15.*

5. **Young adults with learning disabilities enroll in four-year colleges at half the rate of the general population.** Their completion rate for any type of college is 41%, compared to 52% of all students.

6. **Learning and attention issues affect children from all income levels, but low-income children are more likely to be identified as having SLD.**
 - A recent study of special education in Massachusetts found that low-income students were much more likely to be identified with a disability if they attended school in a relatively high-income district than if they attended school in a relatively low-income district, suggesting that low-income students may be over-identified with disabilities. *Source: Almazan, S., Marshall, D. S. (2016). School vouchers and students with disabilities: Examining impact in the name of choice. Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates.*

 - **Disability identification rates are often disproportionate to the overall enrollment rates for students in different racial or ethnic groups.** For example, African American students made up nearly 16% of public school students nationwide and 20% of students identified with SLD in 2013–2014. That year, Asian students made up nearly 5% of public school students, but only 1.5% of students with SLD. *Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). The Condition of Education 2016 (NCES 2016–144); U.S. Government Accountability Office (2016). School choice: Private school choice programs are growing and can complicate providing certain federally funded services to eligible students (GAO-16-712); U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). The Condition of Education 2016 (NCES 2016–144); Evergreen Education Group (2015). Keeping Pace with K-12 Digital Learning: An Annual Review of Policy and Practice (12th Edition); Magnet Schools of America (2015). Facts about magnet schools; U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (2014). Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program (PFI-NHES:2003, 2007, and 2012).*

 - Nationwide, English language learners (ELLs) made up 9% of all public school students but 12% of students identified with SLD in 2013–2014. When ELLs struggle with academics, it is often very challenging to discern whether the difficulties are due to second-language acquisition, a learning disability or both.