

Your Child's Special Needs

A Trail Map for Parents

1 Recognition and Referral

School-readiness starts in infancy, so don't delay. If you have concerns about your child, call your school district's special ed department and ask about a screening for special needs.

GOAL: A REFERRAL for professional evaluation by a public agency or private practitioner.

2 Professional Evaluation

An evaluation, performed by a speech-language pathologist (see asha.org), child psychologist or other child development professional, helps you understand your child's needs and how to advocate for them.

GOAL: A PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION for your child.

3 Planning

After an evaluation, a team of professionals can produce an individualized education and support plan, specifying:

- Developmental goals
- Specialized instruction and accommodations
- Services needed, such as speech-language therapy, occupational therapy or counseling

GOAL: An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for pre-school kids or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for school-age kids.

4 Treatment and Accommodations

13% or roughly 6 million of the 54 million U.S. K-12 students receive special ed or services from teachers, therapists, counselors and other professionals. Sessions may be face-to-face, but live online interactions are increasingly being used to overcome barriers of distance, schedules and experts' availability.

GOAL: PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS as specified in your child's IFSP or IEP.

5 Progress and Assessment

An annual IFSP or IEP meeting is held to review student progress and set new goals.

GOAL: Attend annual IEP meeting to discuss progress and SET NEW DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS.

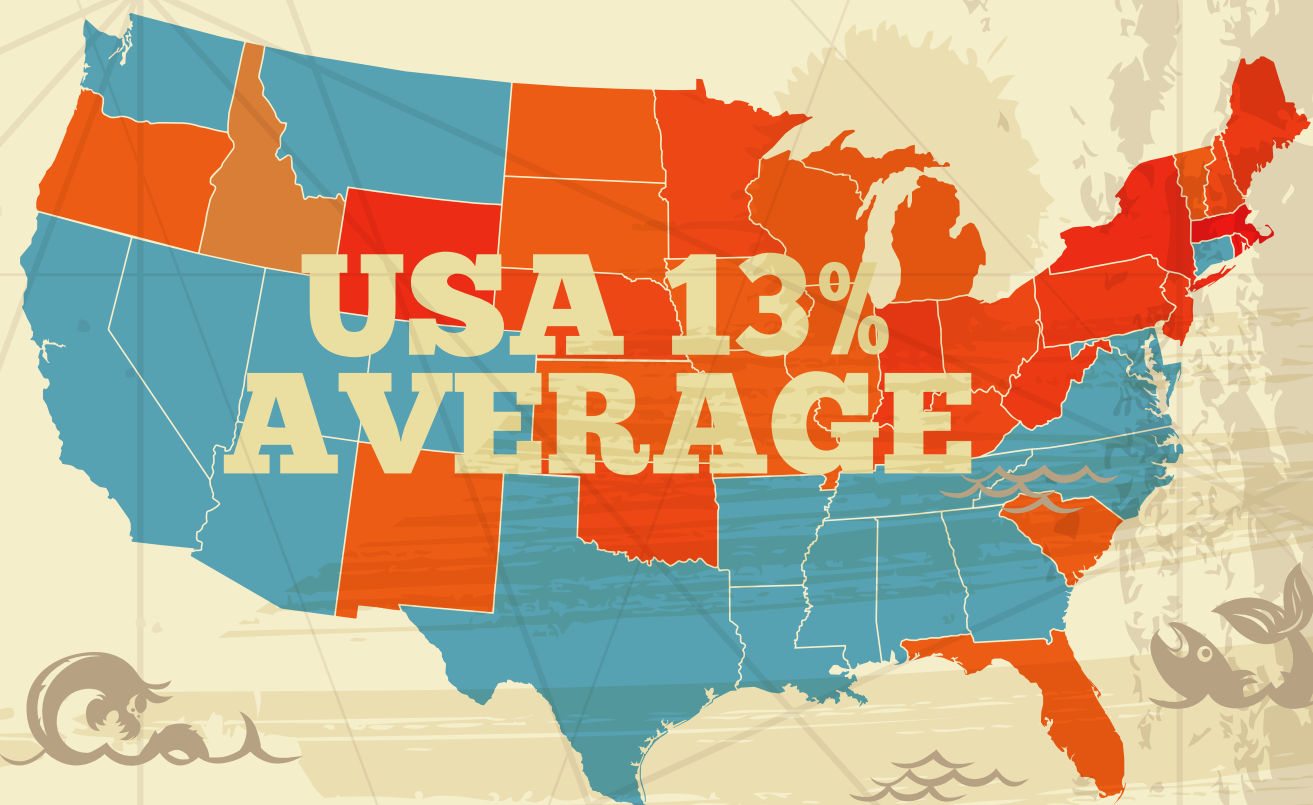
6 Re-evaluate

Students receiving special ed or services are re-evaluated every 3 years or sooner. Each year, students with special needs who complete all their goals are re-evaluated and are able to return to general education.

GOAL: A REVIEW of the bigger picture of a student's diagnosis and treatment.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

9% - 13% + 18%



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PresenceLearning is the leading provider of live online therapy services for kids with special needs.

"Is my child's speech-language development typical?"

plearn.co/KIDinsight offers a free screening tool to determine when to be concerned and what to do next.