

Education



Wisconsin public schools educate about **118,000 students with disabilities**. Students with disabilities represent **14%** of the total student population.

- Research clearly shows that more than **99% of students** – including those with the most significant intellectual disabilities – **can learn grade-level content in the general education curriculum and achieve proficiency on grade level standards with the appropriate supports**.
- **Poor educational preparation of students with disabilities translates into a lifetime of high unemployment, lower wages,** and greater reliance on public benefit programs.

In a 2018 Survival Coalition survey¹ of almost 600 parents of students with disabilities:

58%

58% indicated concern for their child's future due to lack of special education funding.

47%

47% reported their child was more socially isolated in school

38%

38% reported a reduction in special education supports and resources



35%

35% say their child is not making the same progress in the last 1-2 years.

15%

15% said their child was placed in a more restrictive setting.

Recommendations



Support the Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) budget proposal to increase special education categorical aid funding to 60% of costs, up from 26% addressing a decade long funding freeze.



Enhance the current school accountability system to ensure that schools of all kinds – public, voucher, charter, County Children with Disability Education Boards (CCDEBs) report similar data regarding academic achievement and educational experiences of students with disabilities that allows families to make informed choices and compare between options.



WISCONSIN BOARD FOR PEOPLE
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

¹ http://www.survivalcoalitionwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/SurvivalCoalitionReportBooklet0518_Final.pdf

² Community conversations have proven to be an extremely successful strategy for raising community and employer expectations for youth with disabilities, cultivating local commitment and getting youth jobs. These conversations would require participation from area employers, community leaders and other stakeholders.