

Massachusetts Parent and RESOURCE GUIDE *to Learning Disabilities*



LDA
Learning Disabilities
Association of America

In Massachusetts

16.6%

of public school students received
special education services

41,987 CHILDREN

(ages 6-21) in 2018-19 in Massachusetts
were identified as having specific learning
disabilities (SLDs)



Massachusetts Learning Disabilities Laws & Guidelines

[Specific Learning Disability
Definition and Evaluation
Process \(Massachusetts DESE\)](#)

[Chapter 272 of the Acts of
2018](#) – guidelines for
screenings of SLDs, including
dyslexia

Massachusetts Resources

» [Massachusetts Department of
Elementary and Secondary
Education's Office of Special
Education](#)

» [Federation for Children with
Special Needs](#)

» [Special Education Advisory Council](#)

» [New England ADA Center](#)



Federal Laws Protecting the Rights of Students and Adults with Learning Disabilities



- » Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- » Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- » Americans with Disabilities Act
- » Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- » Every Student Succeeds Act
- » Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia Act

40%

Congress promised to fund the extra cost of special education in 1975 with IDEA

15%

The extra cost of special education that Congress appropriated in 2021

Nationwide

14% or 7 million

public school students received special education in 2017-18

Nationwide

34% or 2.38 million

public school students who received special education services had SLDs



PARENT RESOURCES

- » [What Every Parent Needs to Know About Learning Disabilities](#) (LDA of America)
- » [Developing Your Child's IEP](#) (Center for Parent Information & Resources)
- » [Understanding Special Education](#) (Understood)
- » [A Guide to the IEP](#) (U.S. Department of Education)

SOURCES

U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts Data Warehouse (EDW): "IDEA Part B Child Count and Educational Environments Collection," 2018-19.

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