



# Getting to Know Exceptional Student Services (ESS)

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Kim Rice, Ed.D.

OIE Policy and Program Updates (P&P) Convening

August 19, 2024

# THE WHY AND WHAT

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# WHY DO WE PROVIDE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES?

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## Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- The IDEA makes a free appropriate public education (FAPE) available to eligible children with disabilities aged 3–21 and ensures special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs are provided
- FAPE is intended to prepare children with disabilities for further education, employment, and independent living
- FAPE is provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, without charge to parents, and in conformity with an IEP

## HOW DOES ADE/ESS ENSURE A FAPE IS PROVIDED?

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### General Supervision

The IDEA requires SEAs to implement a system of General Supervision

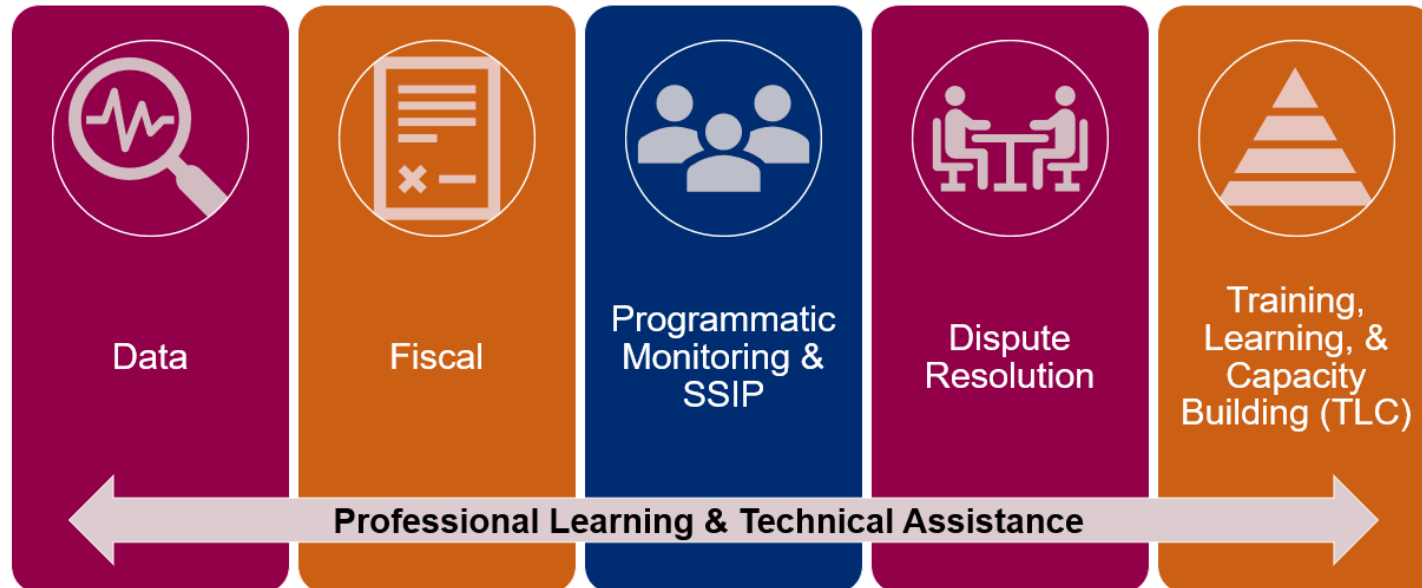
- Outlines the SEA's accountability for enforcing the implementation of the IDEA and ensuring continuous improvement that results in ***improved educational and functional outcomes***
- Ensures PEAs can provide a FAPE to children with disabilities

## WHY ARE GENERAL SUPERVISION SYSTEMS NEEDED?

- Children with disabilities are in a safe and supportive environment where developmental and educational milestones can be achieved
  - Services are being provided
  - Services provided are individualized and appropriate
  - Program Requirements are met
- Funds are used wisely
  - Parents are involved and engaged
  - Youth are leaving high school ready to be a productive member of society

# COMPONENTS OF ARIZONA'S SEA GENERAL SUPERVISION SYSTEM

## ESS General Supervision



# WHO WE SERVE

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# STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (SWD) IN ARIZONA

## Preschool

9,567 SWD

354 Native American SWD

## Kindergarten–Grade 12

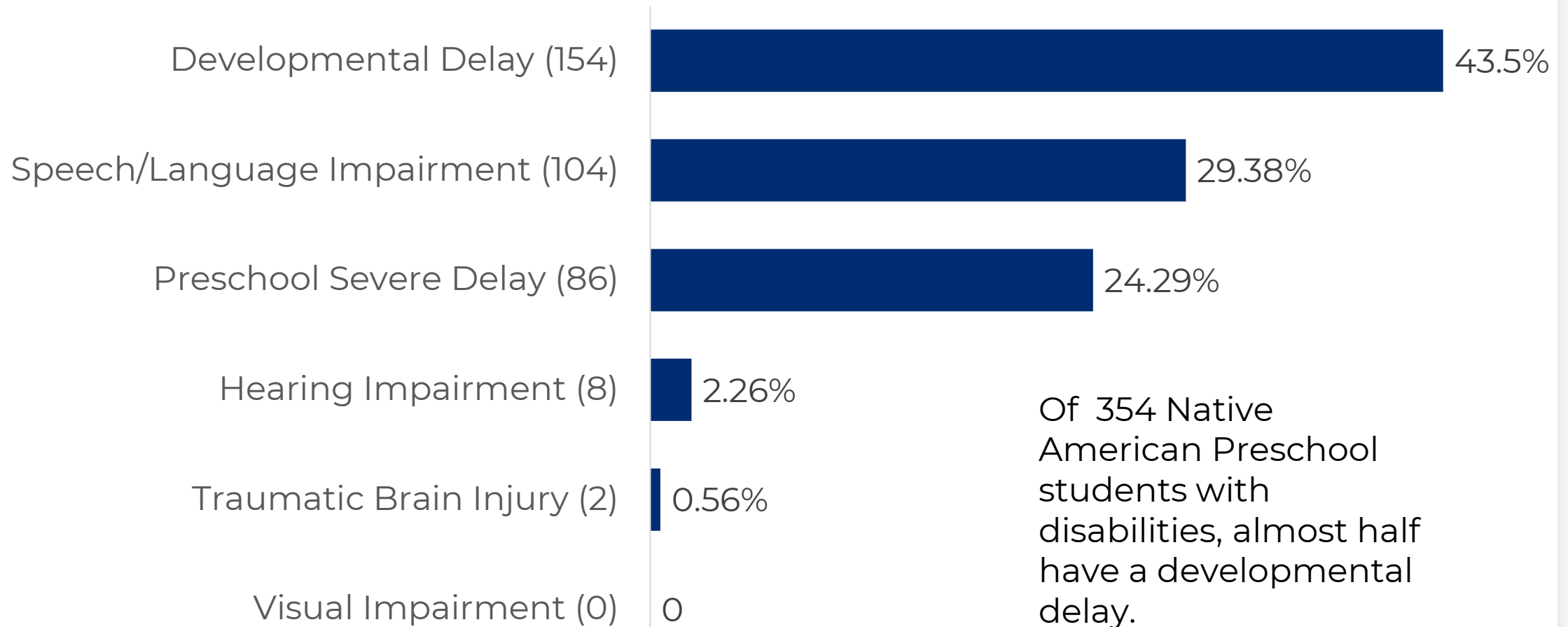
144,462 SWD

7,649 Native American SWD



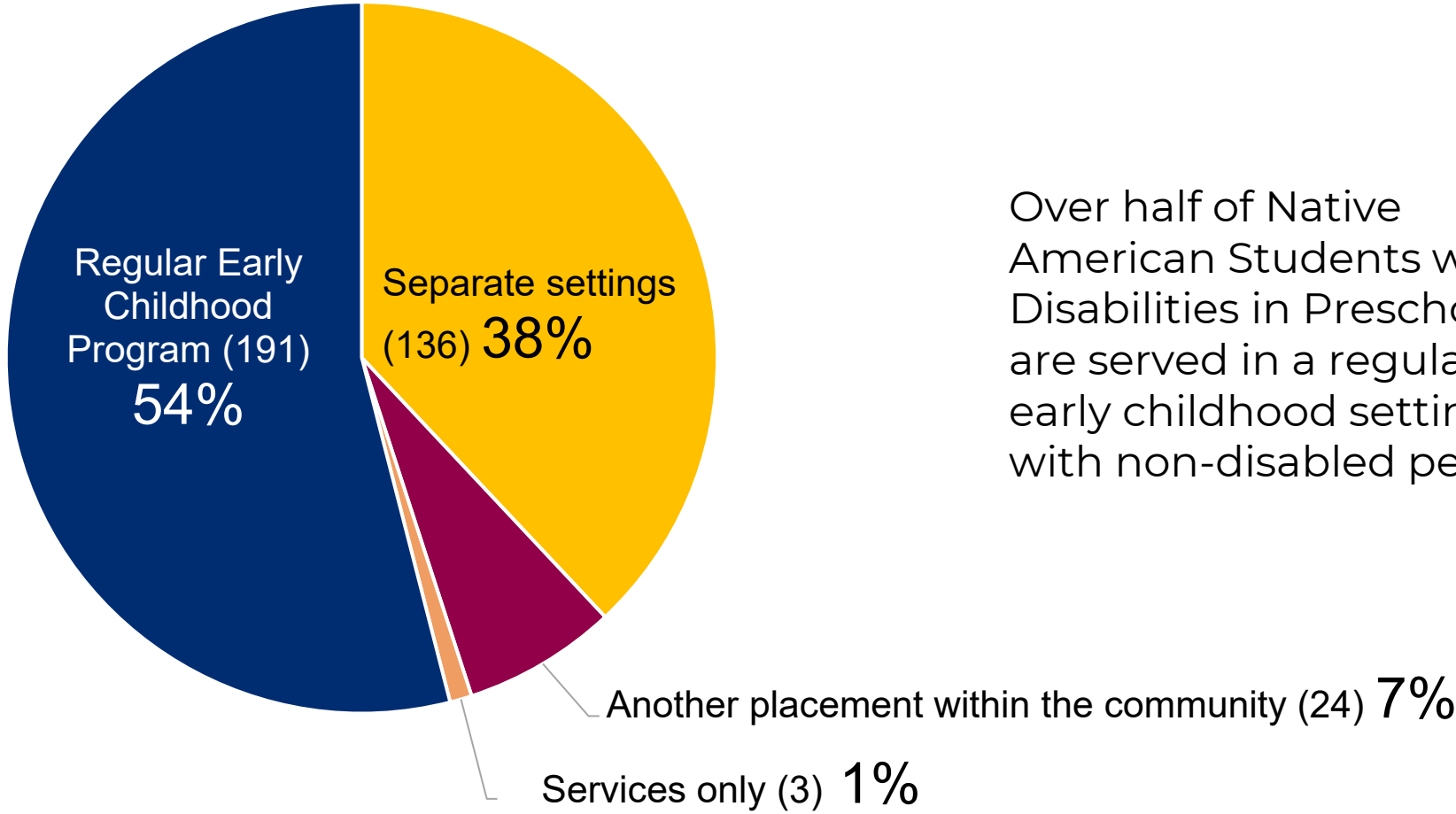


# Native American Students with Disabilities by Disability Category: Preschool



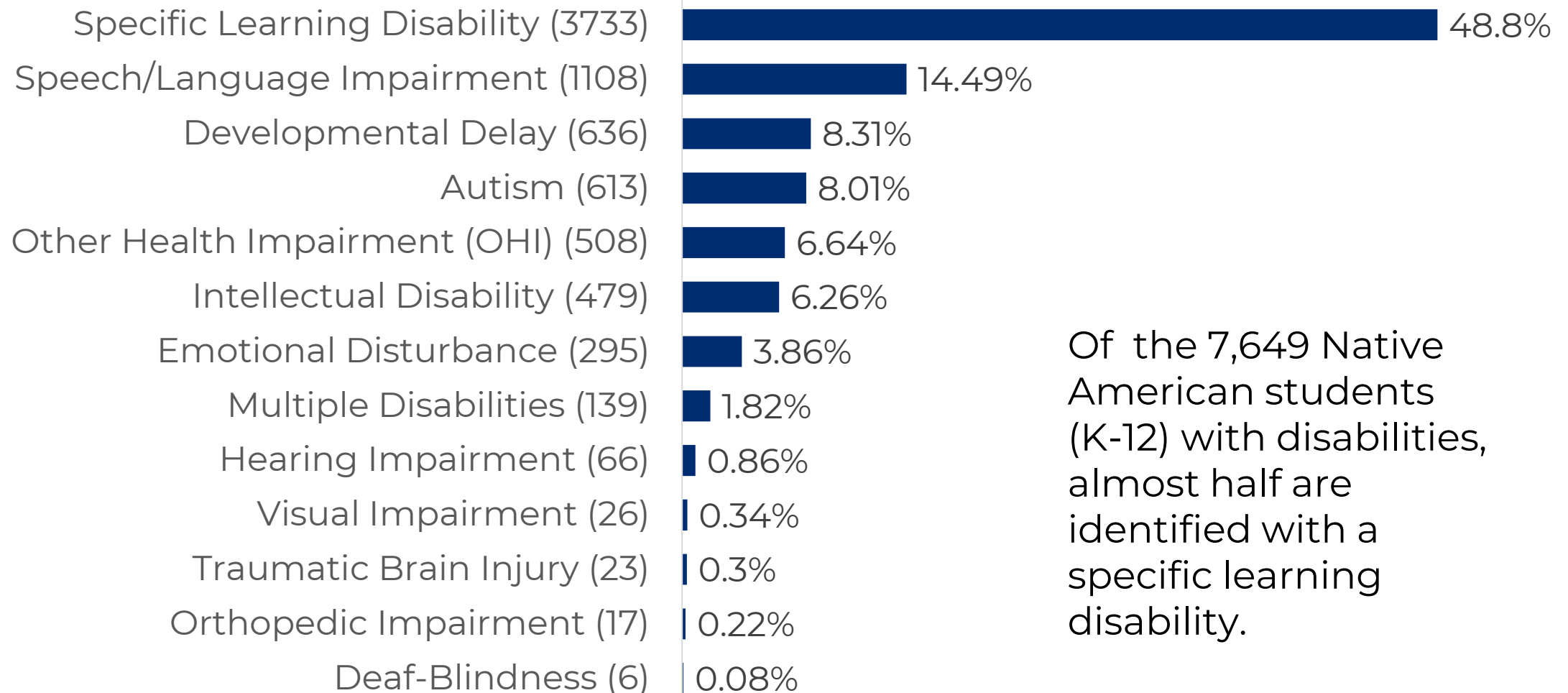
October 1 Count (2023–2024)

# Native American Students with Disabilities by Least Restrictive Environment Preschool



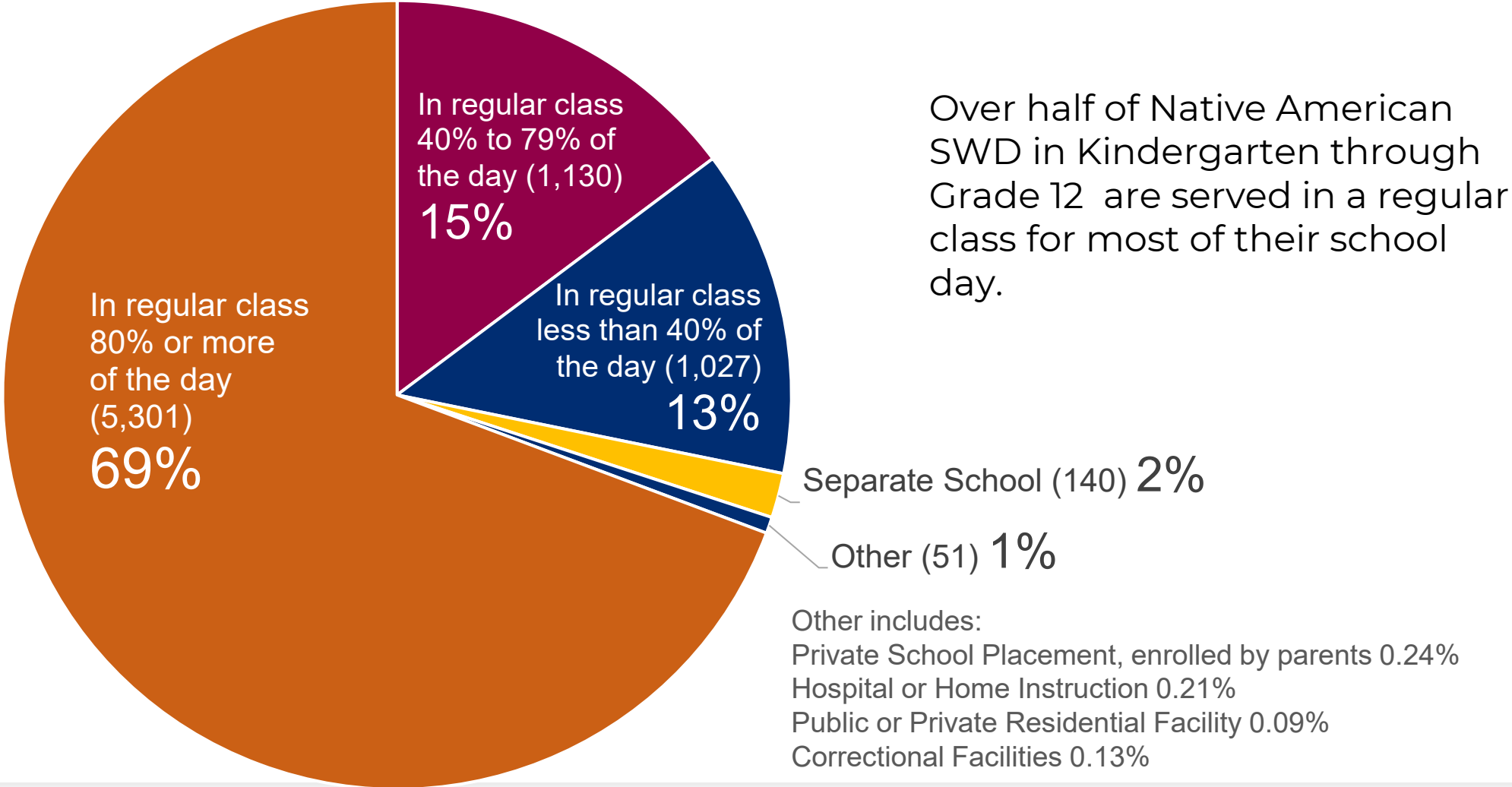
Over half of Native American Students with Disabilities in Preschool are served in a regular early childhood setting with non-disabled peers.

# Native American Students with Disabilities by Disability Category: K-12



Of the 7,649 Native American students (K-12) with disabilities, almost half are identified with a specific learning disability.

# Native American Students with Disabilities by Least Restrictive Environment K-12



## Post School Outcomes Engagement Rates for Native American SWD

- 7%** Enrolled in other postsecondary education or training (28)
- 10%** Some other employment (40)
- 13%** Enrolled in higher education (54)
- 28%** Competitive employment (114)
- 43%** Not engaged (177)



# HOW WE SUPPORT

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# ESS Acronyms



**Exceptional  
Student  
Services**

## **Educational Acronyms in AZ**

Revised June 2024



**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**

# ESS Supports and Resources



## Exceptional Student Services Supports and Resources

Exceptional Student Services (ESS) ensures that public education agencies in Arizona have special education programs, policies, and procedures that comply with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its implementing regulations, and that eligible children and youth with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). ESS provides professional learning opportunities, provides technical assistance to schools, supports the needs of families of students with disabilities, monitors schools for compliance with the regulations that implement the IDEA, and administers the IDEA Entitlement grant.

[ESS Blog](#) | [ESS Quick Links](#) | [ADE/ESS IDEA Conference](#)

### Academic Achievement and Inclusive Practices

- [AZPLS](#)
- [Math](#)
- [Special Populations](#)

### [Early Childhood Special Education](#)

- [Early Childhood Special Education Events](#)
- [Early Childhood Special Educator Resources](#)
- [Early Childhood Special Education Administration Resources](#)



## Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

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### **2024 Fall Itinerant Model**

### **Professional Learning Community Sessions**

*6 Wednesdays August 21-Oct. 2, 2024*

*No session Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> due to IDEA*

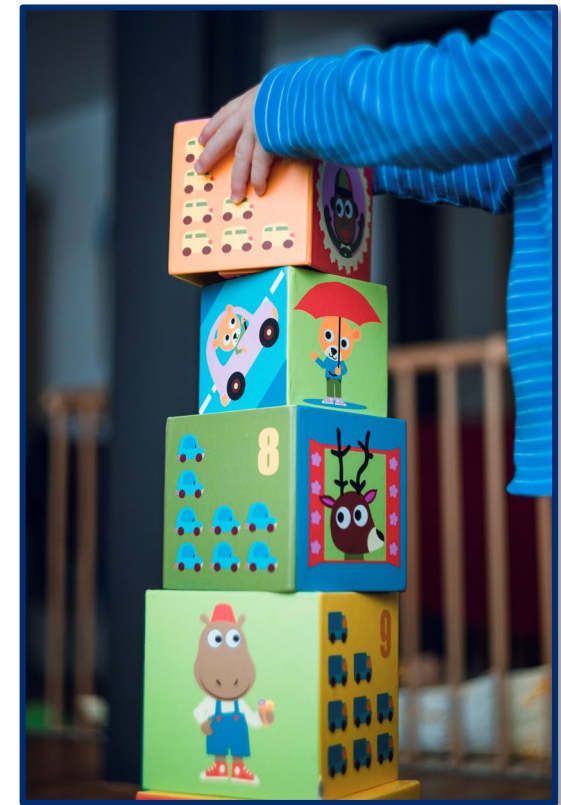
*11:30a.m.—12:30 p.m.*

### **2024 Fall Preschool Transitions**

### **Community of Practice**

*4 meetings in October or November, choose one*

[EMAIL ECSE](#) for more information



# Academic Achievement & Inclusive Practices

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[Arizona Professional Learning Series \(AZPLS\)](#)

[Universal Design for Learning](#)

[High Leverage Practices \(HLPs\)](#)

[HLP Alignment Tool](#)



# Secondary Transition

A bridge between school programs and the opportunities of adult life, including higher education/training, employment, and independent living.

[Secondary Transition Website](#)

[Secondary Transition Resources](#)

[Age-Appropriate Transition Assessments](#)

**Pre-Employment Transition Services**  
Pre-ETS

**Snapshot of Pre-ETS**

- 1 Job Exploration
- 2 Workplace Readiness
- 3 Post-Secondary Education/Training Counseling
- 4 Work-Based Learning
- 5 Self-Advocacy Skills

**About Pre-ETS**

No-Cost Employment Service provided by the Arizona Department of Economic Security Vocational Rehabilitation program for transition-age youth, 14 to 22 years old, who have a documented disability and are enrolled in an education program

**Positive Pre-ETS Experiences**

"Students start learning about what they need to have a successful transition [to adulthood]."

"...[Pre-ETS] creates excitement for their future..."

"[They] have been excited about the program..."

"[Our students] come away feeling that there is a reason for school... [and] a sense of "reality.""

"Through Pre-ETS, many students gain needed assistance and the support to further their education or training path."

"...Students feel empowered..."

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For more information, visit the Pre-ETS webpage or scan the QR code below

# Assistive Technology (AT)

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Resources and professional development to help IEP teams make better decisions about assistive technology

▶ [Assistive Technology Guidance from the Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\)](#)

▶ [Definition of Assistive Technology](#)

▶ [Assistive Technology Consideration Resource Guide](#)

▶ [ADE/ESS Assistive Technology Short-Term Loan Library](#)

▶ [For Parents](#)

▶ [Assistive Technology Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

▶ [For Related Service Providers](#)

▶ [Additional Resources](#)

▶ [AT MEGA Collection](#)

# Assistive Technology

## ADE/ESS AT Short-Term Loan Library

- Free, may borrow for 4 weeks
- 4,000+ pieces of equipment and growing
- Free shipping both ways anywhere in AZ
- For public schools

## AzTAP AT Short-Term Loan Library

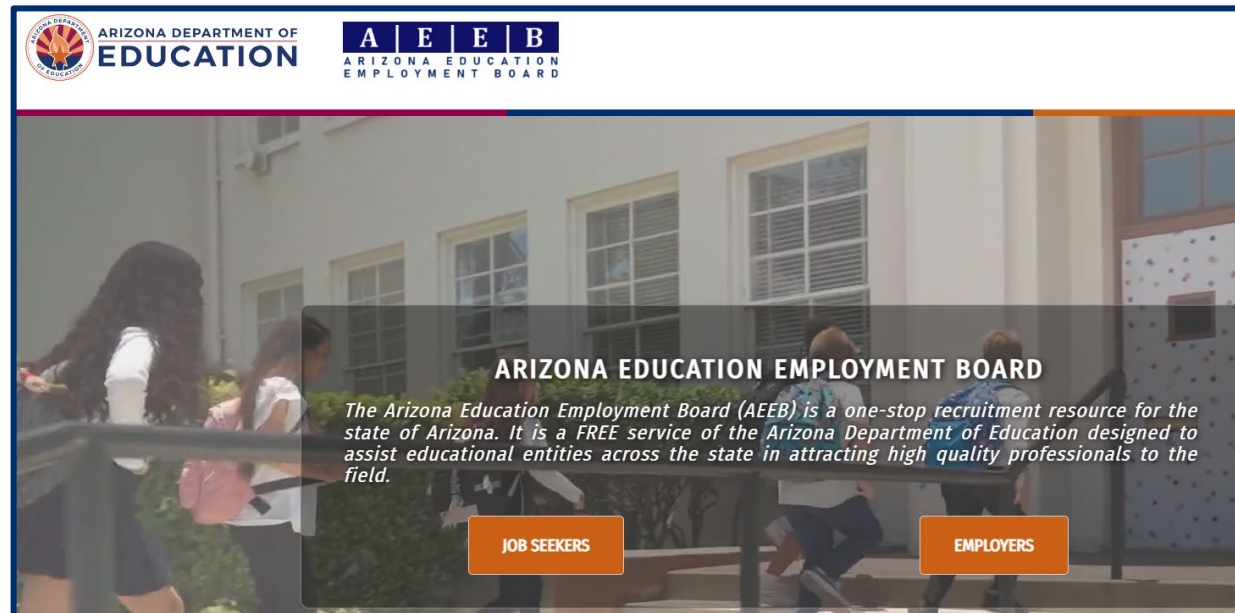
- Free, may borrow for 2 weeks
- Shared inventories with ADE library
- Free shipping both ways anywhere in AZ
- For any resident of Arizona, private and BIE schools



# ESS Recruitment and Retention

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## Special Education Teacher Certification Pathways Arizona Education Employment Board



The screenshot shows the top section of the Arizona Education Employment Board website. At the top left is the Arizona Department of Education logo, and at the top right is the AEEB logo. Below the logos is a large photograph of students walking on a school campus. Overlaid on the photograph is a dark grey text box containing the title 'ARIZONA EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT BOARD', a descriptive paragraph, and two orange buttons labeled 'JOB SEEKERS' and 'EMPLOYERS'.

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**A | E | E | B**  
ARIZONA EDUCATION  
EMPLOYMENT BOARD

**ARIZONA EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT BOARD**

*The Arizona Education Employment Board (AEEB) is a one-stop recruitment resource for the state of Arizona. It is a FREE service of the Arizona Department of Education designed to assist educational entities across the state in attracting high quality professionals to the field.*

**JOB SEEKERS** **EMPLOYERS**

**Purpose:**

To prepare new special education directors for the practical operation of a special education system.

**Topics covered:**

Compliance and legal requirements

Fiscal issues

Assessment

General supervision

ADE supports and resources.



# Teach Camp for new special education teachers!

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# Special Education Learning Experiences for Competency in Teaching (SELECT)

Sponsored by the Arizona Department of Education and offered through the Institute for Human Development at Northern Arizona University

Teachers, administrators, related-service personnel, paraeducators, and other interested individuals

Free as a **professional growth** or taken as graduate credit for a fee

## Special Education Learning Experiences for Competency in Teaching Fall 2024 SELECT At-A-Glance Information

### 5 Week Online Courses

August 26th, 2024- September 27th, 2024

- ESE 502** Trauma Informed Practices  
*Sang Hee Kim, M.Ed. Class # 2230*
- ESE 503** Diagnosis and Assessment of Severe & Multiple Disabilities  
*Leila Williams, Ed.D. Class # 2231*
- ESE 506** Disability Law  
*Janine Cawthorne, Ed.D. Class # 2237*
- ESE 509** Paraeducator: Roles, Best Practices, & Perspectives  
*Maria Berecin-Rascon, Ed.D Class # 2287*

**Contact**  
928-523-1809  
select@nau.edu  
<https://nau.edu/ihd/select-program>

September 30th, 2024- November 1st, 2024

- ESE 501** Inclusive Teaching & Learning for Exceptional Children  
*Laurie Dietz, M.Ed. Class # 2228*
- ESE 502** Advanced Tier 2 PBIS & MTSS Problem Solving Systems  
*Michael Linehan, M.Ed. Class # 2229*
- ESE 503** Psycho-Educational Assessment & Interpretation  
*Philip Debons, Psy.D. Class # 2232*
- ESE 509** Secondary Transition for Students with Disabilities  
*Janine Cawthorne, Ed.D. Class # 2239*

November 4th - December 6th, 2024

- ESE 505** Collaboration in the IEP Process  
*Laurie Dietz, M.Ed. Class # 2240*
- ESE 506** Introduction to Special Education Administration  
*Maria Berecin-Rascon, Ed.D. Class # 2238*
- ESE 509** Early Childhood Speech & Language Development  
*Crystal Brooks, M.A. Class # 12391*
- DIS 526** Applications of Assistive Technology for School-Aged Individuals  
*Mitch Galbraith, OTD, OTR/L Class # 12387*



Some SELECT courses may require textbook purchase. Please reach out to **SELECT@nau.edu** to inquire about requirements for the course(s) you are interested in.





Raising  
Special  
Kids

## Programs for Professionals

- Trainings and workshops
- In-service training

## Programs and services for families

Raising Special Kids provides programs and services at no cost to families.

No eligibility determinations are required. Any parent or family member of a child with a disability can take advantage of services provided in English, Spanish, and other languages.



### Individual Consultation

Get help with your questions and concerns about health care, education, early childhood, behaviors, transition...



### Parent-to-Parent Support

Each year, more than 300 families in Arizona are connected with veteran "mentor" parents who...



### Events & Training

Increase advocacy skills, and improve your ability to work with professionals on your child's educational...



### Refugee and Asylee Mentorship Program (RAMP)

Through the Refugee & Asylee Mentorship Program, Raising Special Kids provides culturally appropriate supports and...



### NICU Parent Support

Raising Special Kids shares guidance, support, and practical information for parents who have a baby...



### Positive Family Coaching (PFC)

Raising Special Kids' Positive Family Coaching (PFC) program provides enhanced support to families of children...

# Thank You

Exceptional Student Services  
[ESSInbox@azed.gov](mailto:ESSInbox@azed.gov)

