What is a Specific Learning Disability (SLD)?

An SLD is a brain-based disorder that affects an individual’s ability to read, write, and do math (e.g., dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia). Students identified with SLD receive special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a law that provides a free and appropriate public education to children with disabilities. Of the 13% of the U.S. school-age population who received disability services under IDEA in the 2020–2021 academic year, 34% received services for SLD as the primary disability.

NJ Students with SLD (71,161) represent the largest proportion of students served under IDEA (223,903) in 2020 – 2021.

NJ Racial / Ethnic Demographics, 2020 – 2021

Graduation Rates, 2019 – 2020

Totals: 

NJ Grads

IDEA: 91%  
SLD: 82%  
91%  
8%  
7%  
Diploma  
Certificate  
Dropped

- Data missing or too low quality to include.

For full State Snapshot citations and more info, visit NCLD.org