

E **K. C.** **L** **D** **B**

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As of 2006 (U.S. Department of Education, 2006a), approximately six million U.S. students with disabilities (Ages 6–21) were being served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA). Approximately 54% had their primary placement (80% of the time or more) in general education classes (U.S. Department of Education, 2006b). Although this represented a 21% increase since 1990 (see Figure 1), variability across states remained wide, ranging from under 10% in Virginia to nearly 78% in North Dakota. Variability across disability categories was similarly wide. For example, over 84% of students identified with specific learning disabilities had their primary placement in general education classes, whereas less than 16% with intellectual disabilities (labeled by the federal government as mental retardation) had primary placements in general education.

Personnel (e.g., special educators, related services providers, paraprofessionals) represents a key resource to support the education of students with disabilities across settings. To explore relationships among personnel utilization in full-time equivalents (FTEs) and general class placement rates, we compiled data from federally reported sources to present a series of ratios and correlations (Sable & Noel, 2008; U.S. Department of Education 2006a, 2006b, 2006c, 2006d). These data may begin to illuminate the availability of personnel supports for students with disabilities (see Table 1).

The ratio of special educator FTEs to the number of students with disabilities in the United States receiving special education in 2006 was approximately 1:15 (U.S. Department of Education, 2006a, 2006c). Individual states ranged from below 1:11

Table 1 State Data on Students With Disabilities (Ages 6–21), Total Enrollment for K–12, and Personnel FTE Ratios for 2006

State	No. students with disabilities	% with disabilities in general education ^a	No. special educator FTEs	No. with disabilities per special educator FTE	Total student enrollment per special educator

Errata: Three states' numbers under the column Total student enrollment per special educator FTE are incorrect. The correct numbers are OH 92.9, PA 91.6, and VT 86.1.

1 Continued

State	No. students with disabilities	% with disabilities in general education ^a	No. special educator FTEs	No. with disabilities per special educator FTE	Total student enrollment per special educator FTE	No. special education paraprofessional FTEs	No. students with disabilities per paraprofessional FTE	No. special education paraprofessional FTEs per special educator FTE
NE	39,947	69.9	2,320	17.2	121.0	3,174	12.6	1.4
NV	42,561	58.9	2,586	16.5	162.5	1,796	23.7	0.7
NH	28,494	65.0	2,656	10.7	75.7	5,484	5.2	2.1
NJ	230,327	40.6	19,062	12.1	68.3	1,644	140.1	0.1
NM	41,617	50.8	2,433	17.1	132.5	2,908	14.3	1.2
NY	391,773	53.1	39,888	9.8				

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