A young boy with light brown hair and glasses is sitting at a table, looking towards the camera. He is wearing a red, white, and blue striped polo shirt. In front of him is a white tray containing several colorful, round objects, possibly small toys or snacks. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

TCASE Interactive

Justin Porter Ed.D.
State Director, Special Education
July 7th, 2021

“

Together, we are committed to high expectations and strong systems that achieve equitable outcomes for every student with a disability.

”

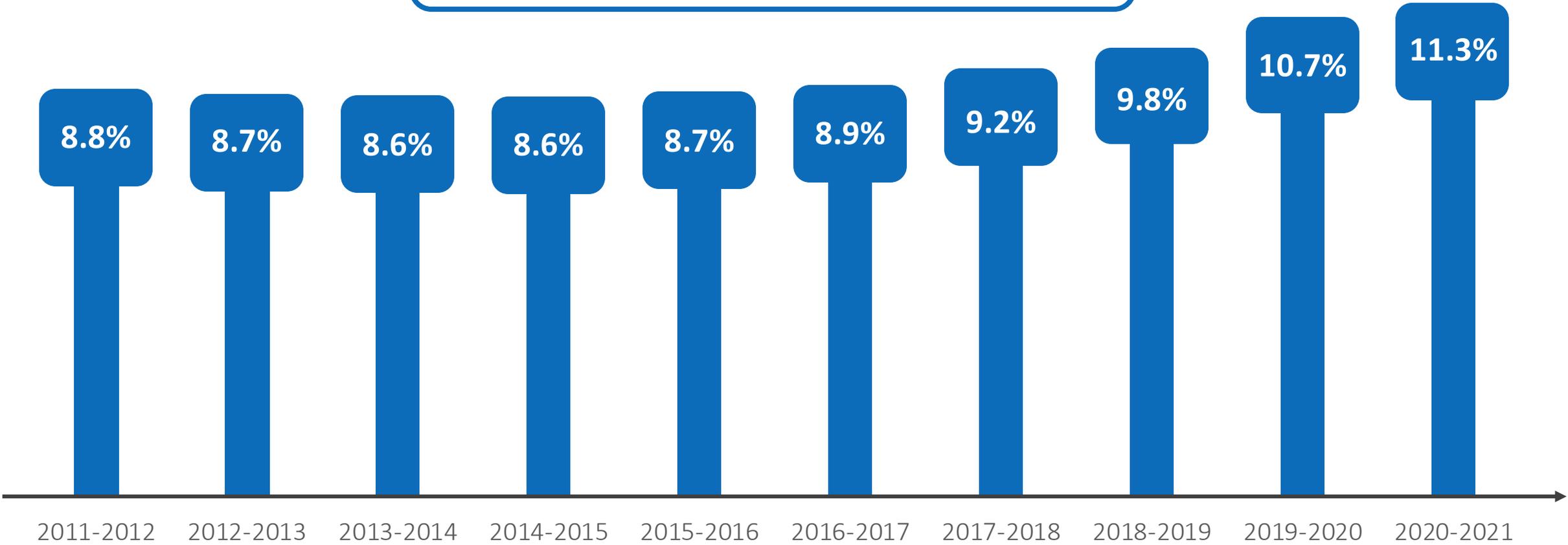


SWD Data Update



Special Education Identification has Significantly Increased

Since 2013, Texas has seen **37.59% growth** in the number of special education students.

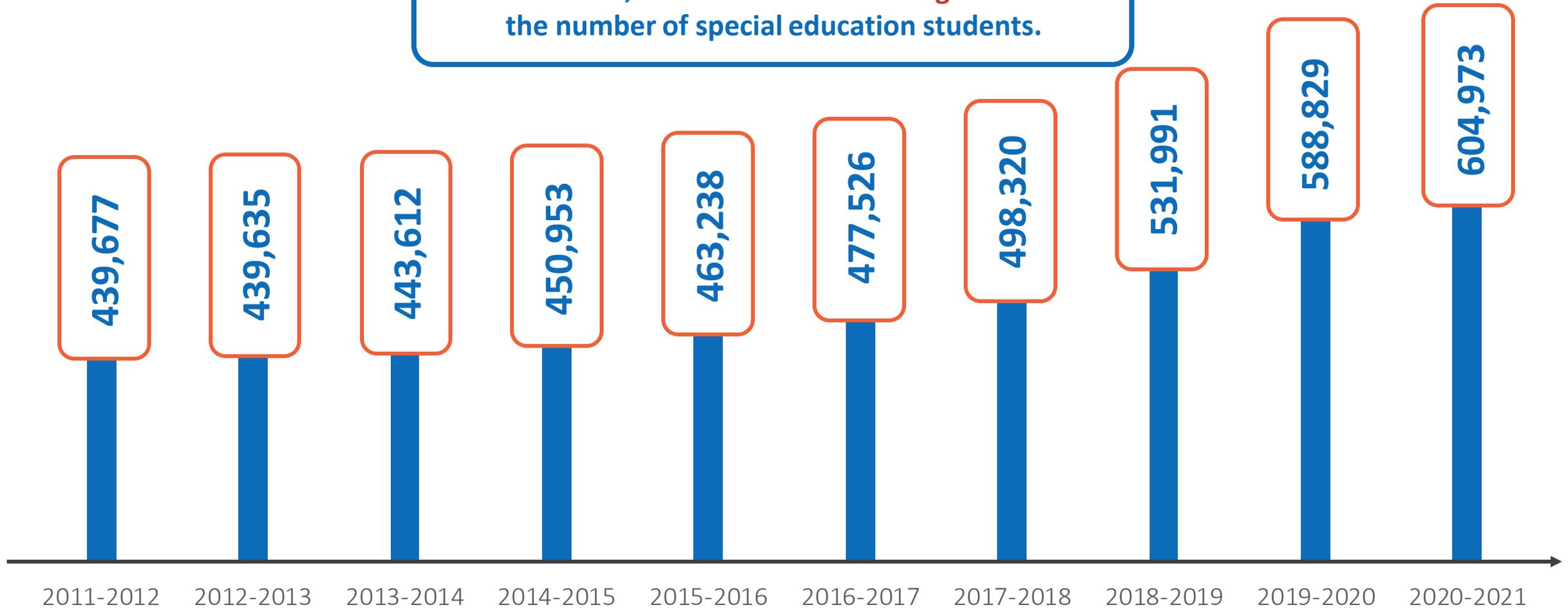


SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). Digest of Education Statistics, 2015 (NCES 2016-014), Chapter 2. and <http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=64> (* represents not yet published)



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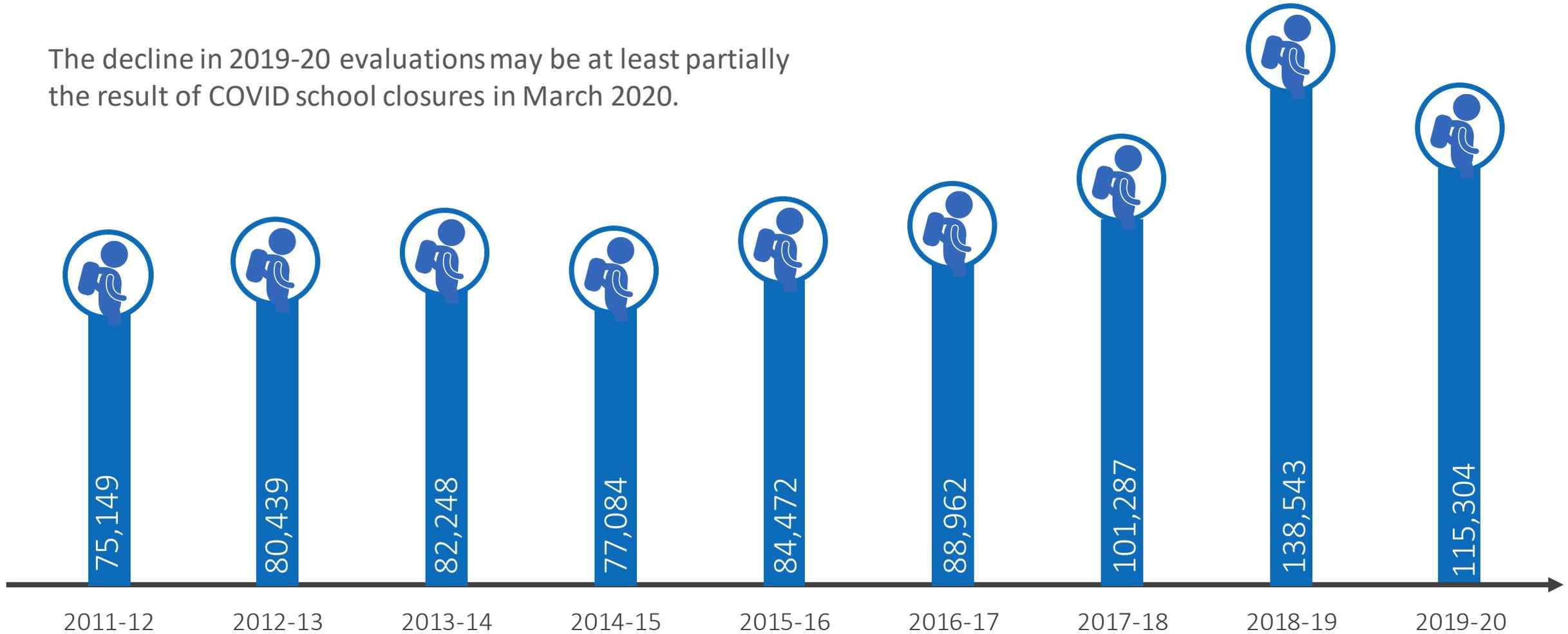


SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). Digest of Education Statistics, 2015 (NCES 2016-014), Chapter 2. and <http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=64>

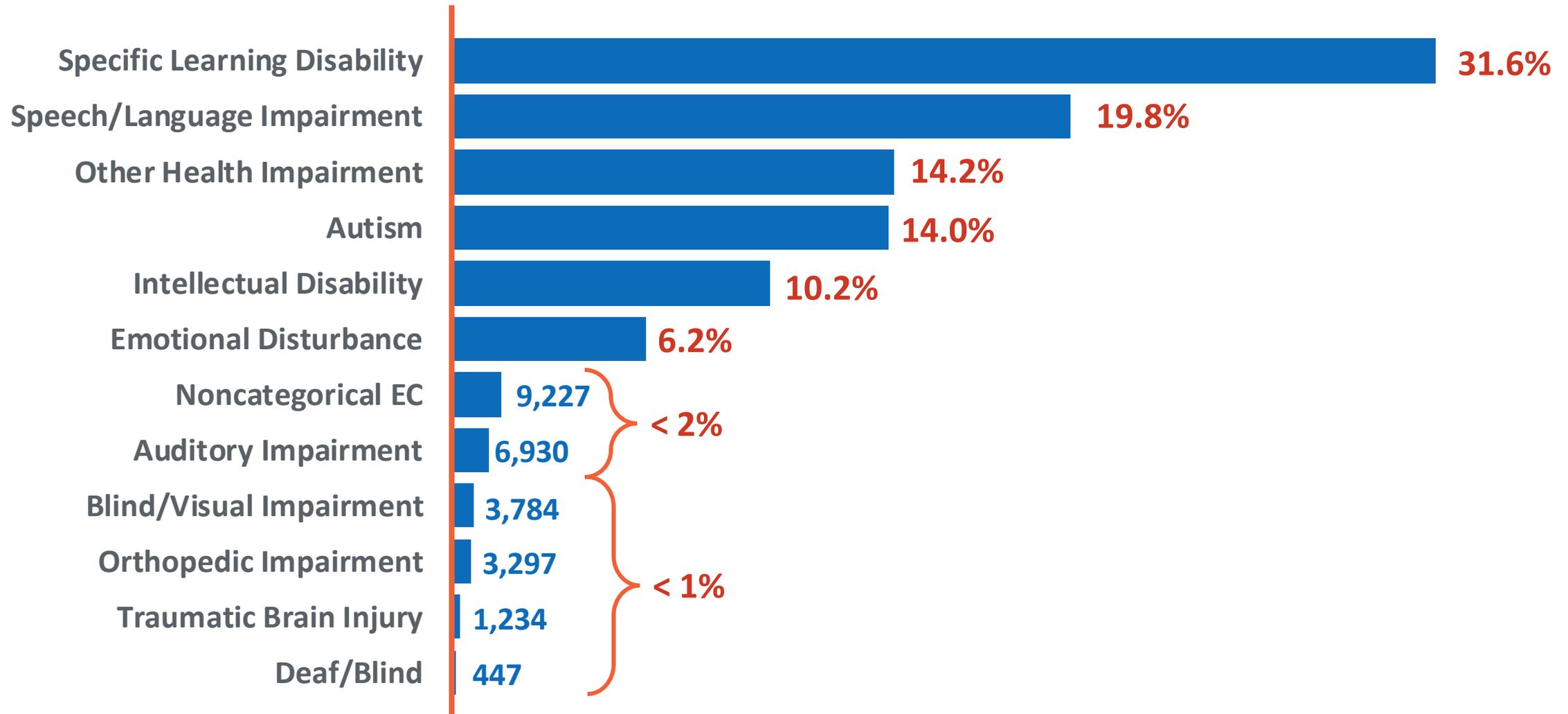


Special Education Evaluations Serve as a Leading Indicator for Total Special Education Representation

The decline in 2019-20 evaluations may be at least partially the result of COVID school closures in March 2020.



Almost one-third of students with disabilities are students with a specific learning disability.

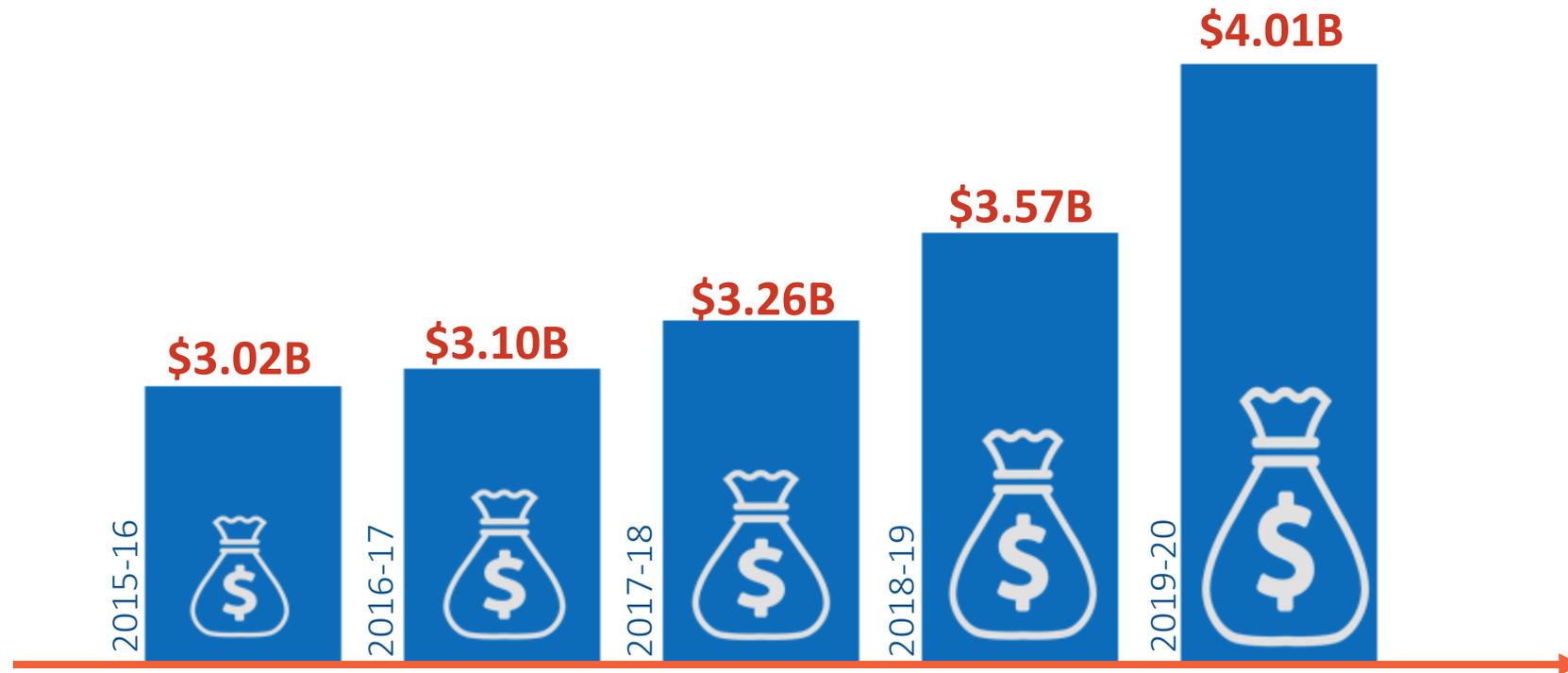


SY 2020-2021



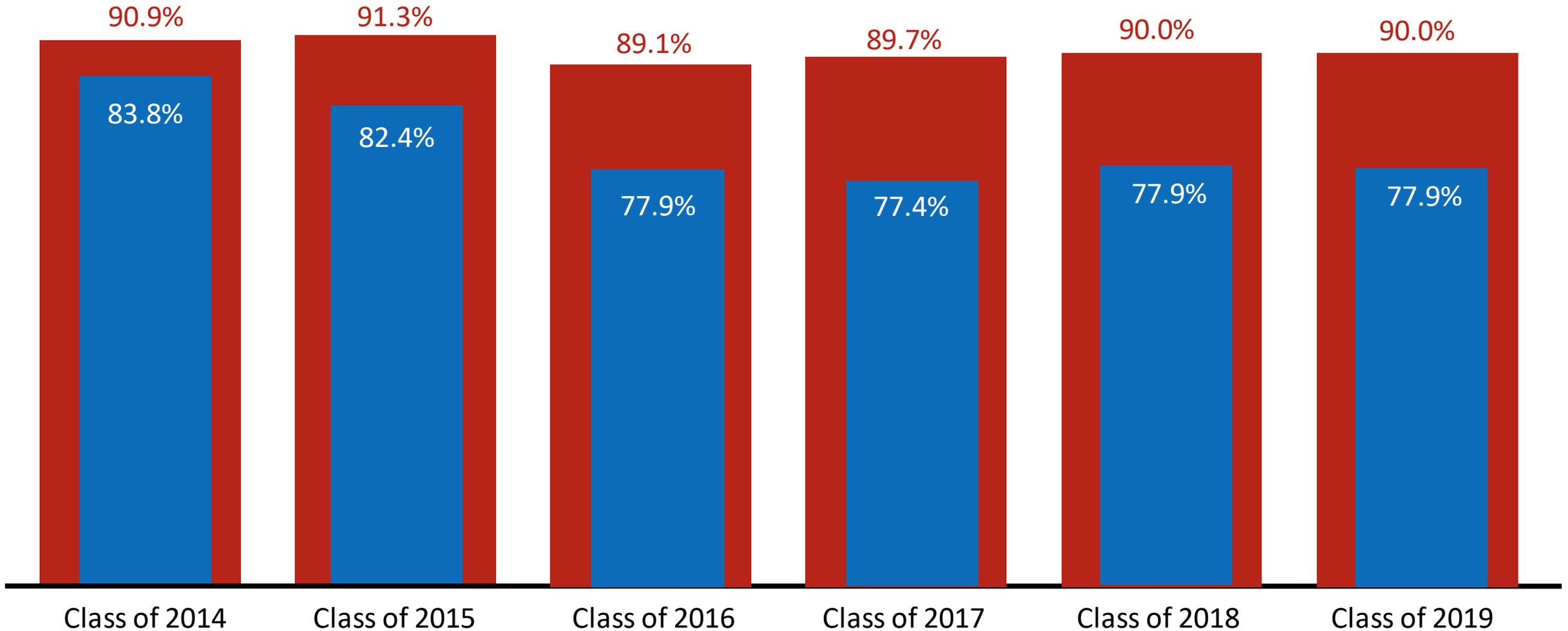
There has been an almost **1 billion dollar** increase in Special Education Spending.

27% increase in Special Education Funding in four years.



Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates

State
Special Education

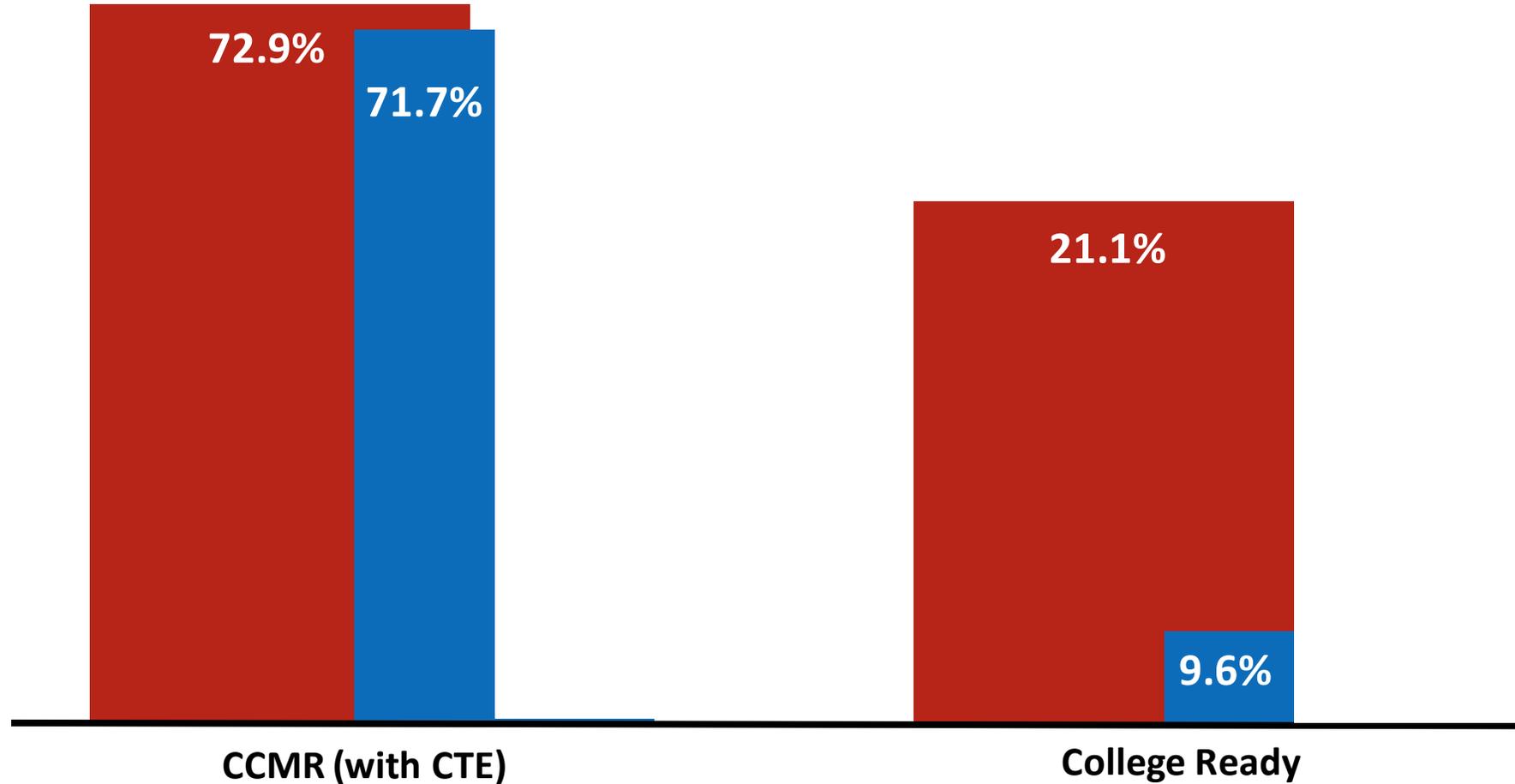


Source: <https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/acctres/completion/2019/state.html>



College, Career, and Military Readiness

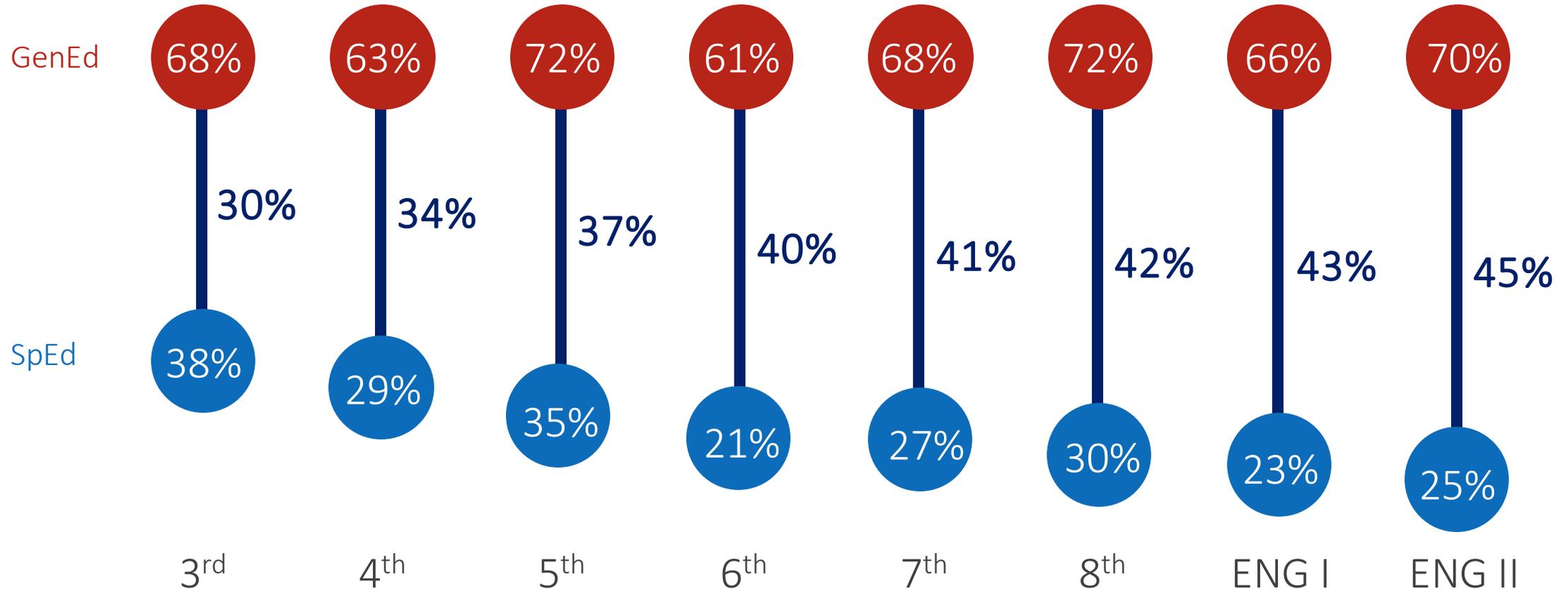
State
Special Education



2018-2019 Texas College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) Graduates



Gaps between **special education** and **general education** students grow throughout their schooling.



This chart notes the trend in reading scores, for the percent of students approaching grade level during 2020-2021 SY.

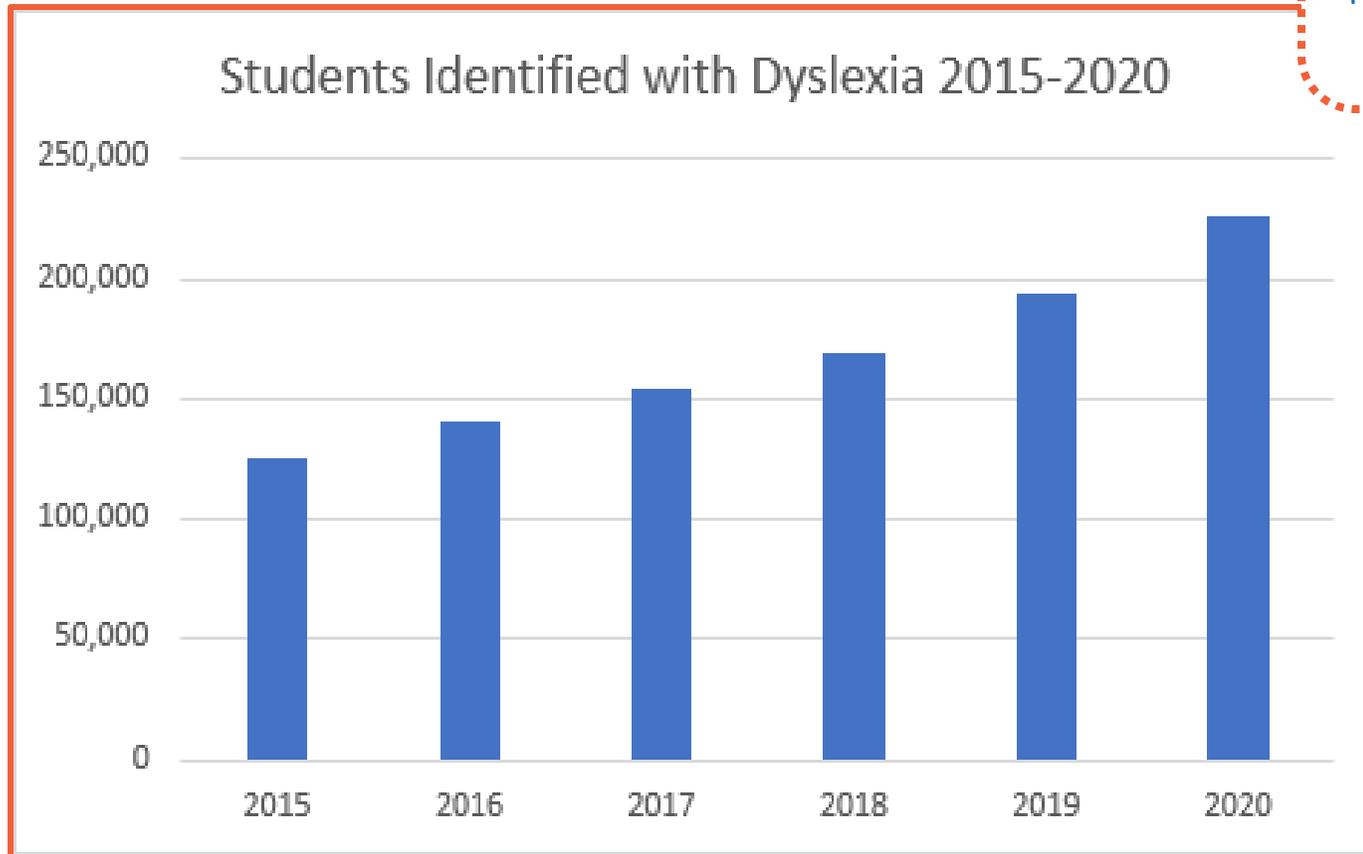


A young girl with glasses and a blue head-mounted device is reading a book titled 'Ramona Quimby, Age 8'. She is wearing a green t-shirt. In the background, another student is visible, holding a blue folder. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a classroom or library setting.

Digital Dyslexia Platform

Students identified continues to increase

Currently there are **over 225,000 students** identified with dyslexia and related disorders in Texas.



Amplio Dyslexia Intervention Platform

TEA contracted with Amplio to provide a free dyslexia digital intervention platform that includes dyslexia curricula in English and Spanish.



English and Spanish

The screenshot displays a user interface for the AmplioSpeech platform. At the top, there are tabs for 'CALENDAR', 'THERAPIST', and 'TREATMENT'. The main area shows a profile for 'Jim Smith' with contact information and a 'Measurable Annual Goal' section. Below this, there are two 'Student Participation' cards: one for 'Weekly 40 Min' with a '70% Engaged' gauge, and another for 'Weekly 30 Min'. A 'Targeted Activities' section lists 'Most Frequently Used Activities' with icons for various tasks. At the bottom, there are three summary cards: '360 Completed Sessions', '182 Individual Sessions Hours', and '60 SLPs Performed'. A table below these cards lists student names, school IDs, and birth dates. A young boy is overlaid on the interface, holding a laptop that shows a video of a student using the platform.

Measurable Annual Goals
Student Participation during Sessions



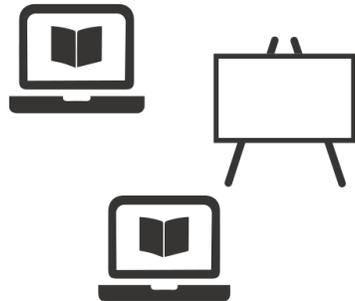
Additional Dyslexia Intervention Platform Features



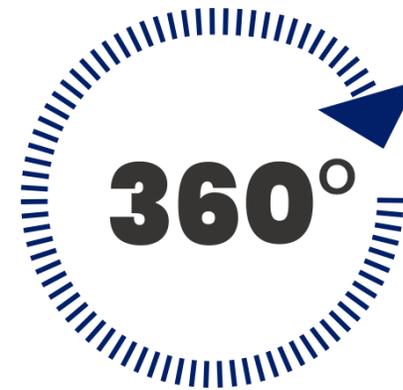
Scheduling and
Notifications



Documentation of
Student
Performance and
Progress



Whiteboard and
Screen Sharing



360° Monitoring
Dashboard for LEAs



Adaptive Data
Analytics or
Augmented
Intelligence (AI)



Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance Networks

**Child Find,
Evaluation, ARD
Supports**

**Inclusion
in
Texas**

**Texas
Statewide
Leadership for
Autism Training
(TSLAT)**

**Tiered
Interventions
using Evidence-
based Research
(TIER)**

**Texas Complex
Access Network
(Texas CAN)**

**Texas
Sensory Support
Network
(TxSSN)**

**Small
and Rural Schools
Network
(SRSN)**

**Student-
Centered
Transitions
Network
(SCTN)**

**Multiple
Exceptionalities
and
Multiple Needs
(MEMN)**

Technical Assistance

- On the horizon...
 - Integrated Content Management System
 - Integrated Learning Management System



TEA

**Supplemental Special
Education Services**

Supplemental Special Education Services – SSES

SSES.tea.Texas.gov

Link to this video: https://youtu.be/aJ_W4OSvAPw



Link to all SSES Videos: bit.ly/SSESVideos



Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES) are **online accounts** for families of K-12 students with **significant cognitive and complex disabilities** that have been impacted by COVID-19 school closures.



Who qualifies?

- Enrolled in a K-12 Texas public school during **2019-2020** and **2020-2021**
- Students with significant cognitive and complex disabilities who need help accessing the general curriculum.
 - Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, blind and visually impaired, deaf and hard of hearing
- Priority to low-income families
- Eligible for STAAR Alternate 2



What is it?

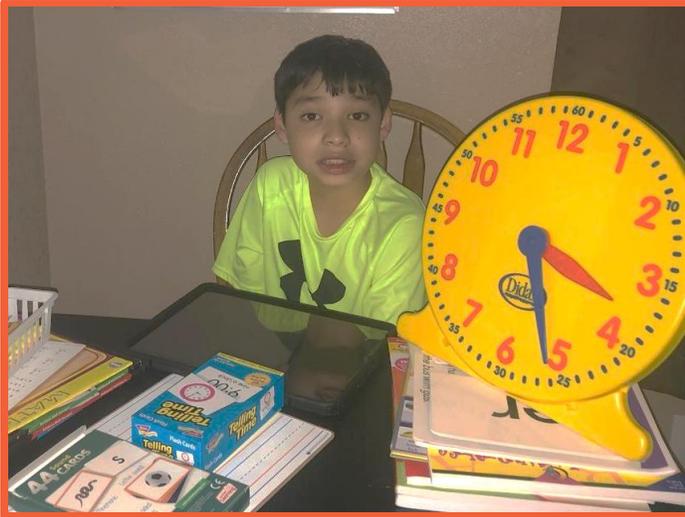
- Online accounts in a digital marketplace
- Families shop for goods and services using **the \$1,500 per student in their digital wallet**
- Supplement and bolster services a child is already receiving in school
- **18,000** accounts are available through Spring 2022



What can you buy?

- Tutoring
- Educationally related services (OT, PT, BCBA, SLP)
- Textbooks, curricular resources, or other instructional materials
- Computer hardware, software, or other technological devices that are used for educational needs

Supplemental Special Education Services: Family Feedback



“

The SSES Program has helped my child with supplemental study materials at home to help him **practice and expand his skills** during school closure and at home learning. The biggest impact the SSES Program has had for my student is that he was encouraged to do supplemental work because he saw that TEA considered his learning loss and sent materials especially for him. Additionally, we were able to order math and reading supplies that **we have been able to use to expand on and surpass his math and reading IEP goals.**

”

“

She was extremely excited to see the new learning materials. The truth is **she loves to learn** and she loves to see that she makes other people happy when she shows what she knows. This generous grant is a dream come true for the whole family. **We are very grateful.**

”



Supplemental Special Education Services: Family Purchases



My son was able to get **sensory items** from TEA that helps him to stay calm, this is him on his rug from TEA and his sensory toy.

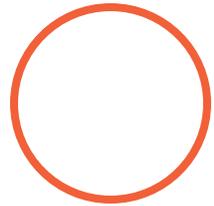


The SSES program has provided funds that are used for my son's **ABA therapy**. Our BCBA works directly with his IEP goals set forth by the school. ABA also provides tools for my husband and I to be the best parents we can be for our son. Through the use of strategies, we can capitalize on our son's strengths and preferences.

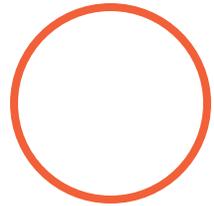


Thanks to the SSES Program, our son Max, who has hearing and vision loss was able to purchase a **larger laptop** that makes doing his school work much easier for him. He has a larger computer screen, more features to help him and **better audio**. This has been a HUGE blessing for him. THANK YOU!

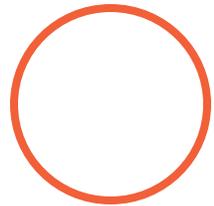
Supplemental Special Education Services: By the Numbers



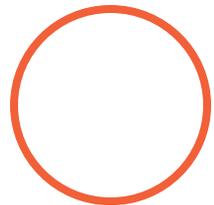
9,406 students have accounts on ClassWallet.



Nearly **44,000 educational items** have been approved and purchased.



Over **10,500 educational orders** have been approved and purchased.



Over **315 additional services** invoices approved.

Supplemental Special Education Services: The Numbers



Online accounts of
\$1,500
per eligible K-12 student.
(Families with multiple eligible students
qualify for a \$1,500 credit for each eligible
student)

Approximately
18,000
accounts will be made available.
(These accounts are available through
Spring 2022)



Students must have been
enrolled K-12 in Texas public
school during **2019-2020**
and must be enrolled in Texas
public school in **2020-2021**.

Supplemental Special Education Services: How Does SSES work?



- Families apply through TEA website



- TEA approves (yes or no) that the student meets/does not meet eligibility.
 - Provides an approved family directions and link to access their online account.
 - If a family appeals non-approval, they will be referred to the SSES Team for guidance.



- Family registers for the online account.
 - Once a family successfully registers, they will have immediate access to the online account and the marketplace in which it can be used.
 - Families do not have access to actual money, and the account is only accessible through the online portal and available to use with approved vendors, goods, and services within the portal.



SSES Outreach Campaign

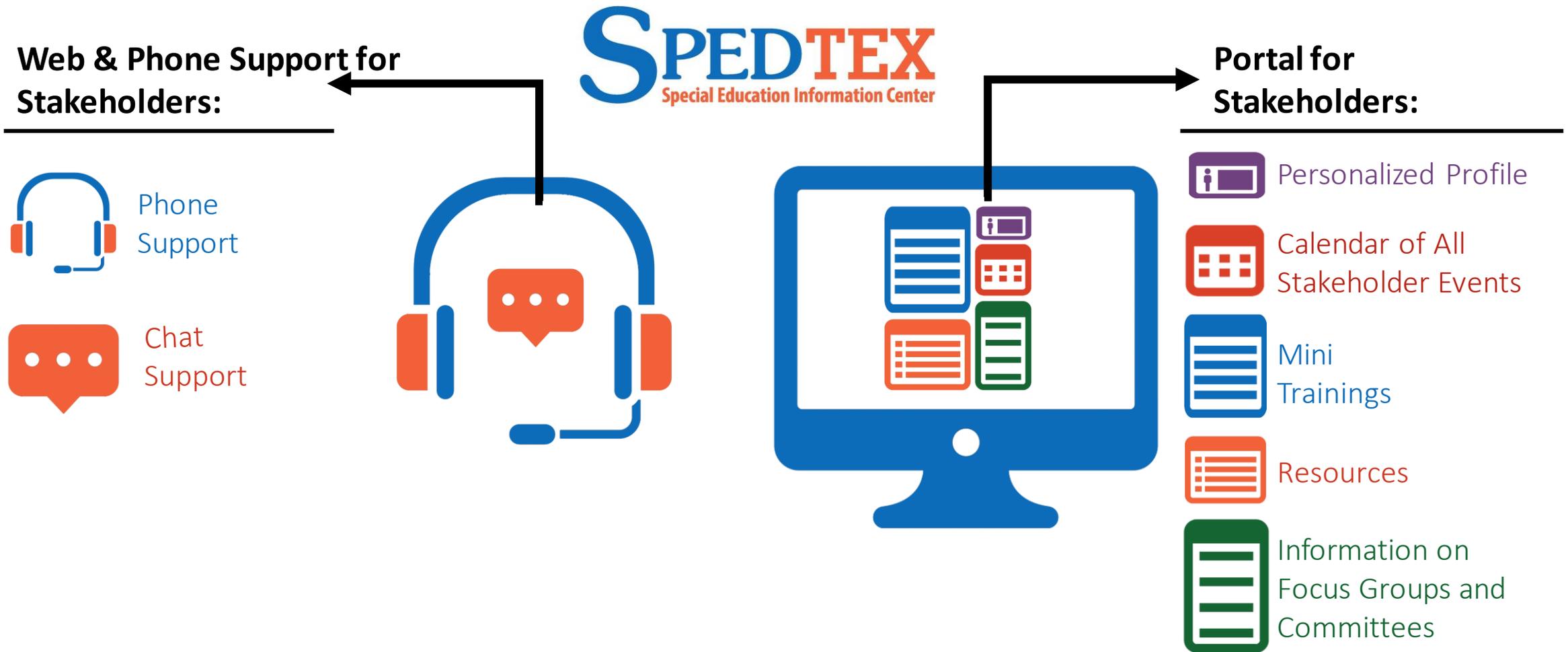
Expansion: 18,000 accounts created by September 30th, 2021.

LEA Campaign:

- LEA “Kits” with exact messaging (In English and in Spanish)
 - Flyers (backpack stuffer)
 - Letters/emails to eligible students
 - Sample Text messages
- LEAs have been provided with lists of eligible students through the ASCEND platform.

The image shows a composite of screenshots from the SSES website. At the top, there is an 'Overview of Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES)' section. Below this, there are three main informational sections: 'What is SSES?', 'Who Qualifies?', and 'What can Families Purchase'. To the right, there is a 'How to purchase goods and services for your child, once approved for SSES.' section which includes a flowchart with two main paths: 'Select and Pay for Eligible Services' and 'Buy School Supplies for your Student'. The flowchart provides step-by-step instructions for each path, from logging in to checking out. At the bottom, there is a banner for 'SSES.tea.texas.gov' with a logo and contact information.

SSES Outreach Campaign



Legislative Update

Legislative Update

Senate Bill 1716

- SSES expanded to all students with an IEP in grades PK-12.
- Prioritizes students for whom the LEA is eligible to receive the compensatory education allotment.
- ARD committees must inform parents.

Legislative Update

Senate Bill 89

- Requires LEAs to include certain documentation in a student's IEP
- If the requirements of the bill have already been met through the contingency planning process, no further action is required of LEAs.

Legislative Update

House Bill 785

- Requires additional action on the part of LEAs for students receiving behavioral services
- More to come through the rule making process

Legislative Update

Additional appropriation from the Texas 87th Legislature

- Additional funding to flow to LEAs to support Special Education programming
- Same state requirements for expenditure apply

Legislative Update

American Rescue Plan of 2021

- Additional funding to flow to LEAs to support IDEA implementation
- No additional application required

TEA



Thank you!