

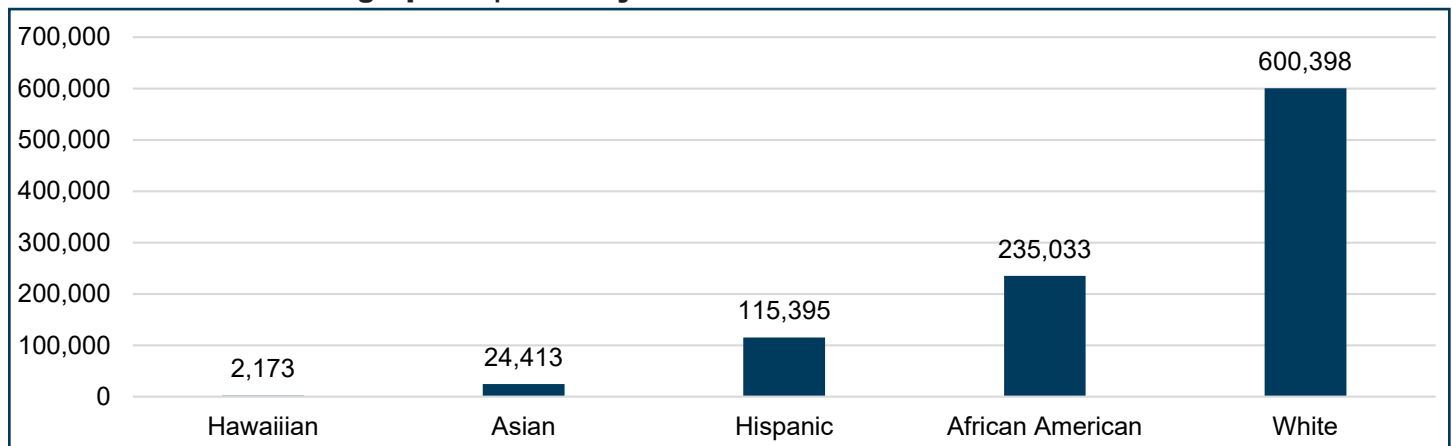
# Mapping Tennessee Education

## Student demographics in school year 2019-20

Each year the Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) publishes interactive maps with demographic data for each Tennessee public school district and school overlaid on a map of House and Senate legislative districts. By clicking on the map, users can view information about a district's or school's student population, including the number of students with limited English proficiency, students with disabilities, and students who are economically disadvantaged.

In school year 2019-20, of the 977,412 total preK-12 students in Tennessee, about 61 percent were white, 24 percent were African American, and 12 percent were Hispanic.

**Exhibit 1: Student demographics | School year 2019-20**



## Limited English proficiency

In school year 2019-20, about 7.7 percent of students were identified as English Learners (EL). An EL student is one who is unable to communicate fluently or learn effectively in English, who often comes from a non-English speaking home and/or background, and who typically requires specialized or modified instruction in both the English language and in their academic courses. The Basic Education Program (BEP) provides funds for one EL instructor position for every 20 students identified as EL, and one EL translator position for every 200 students identified as EL.

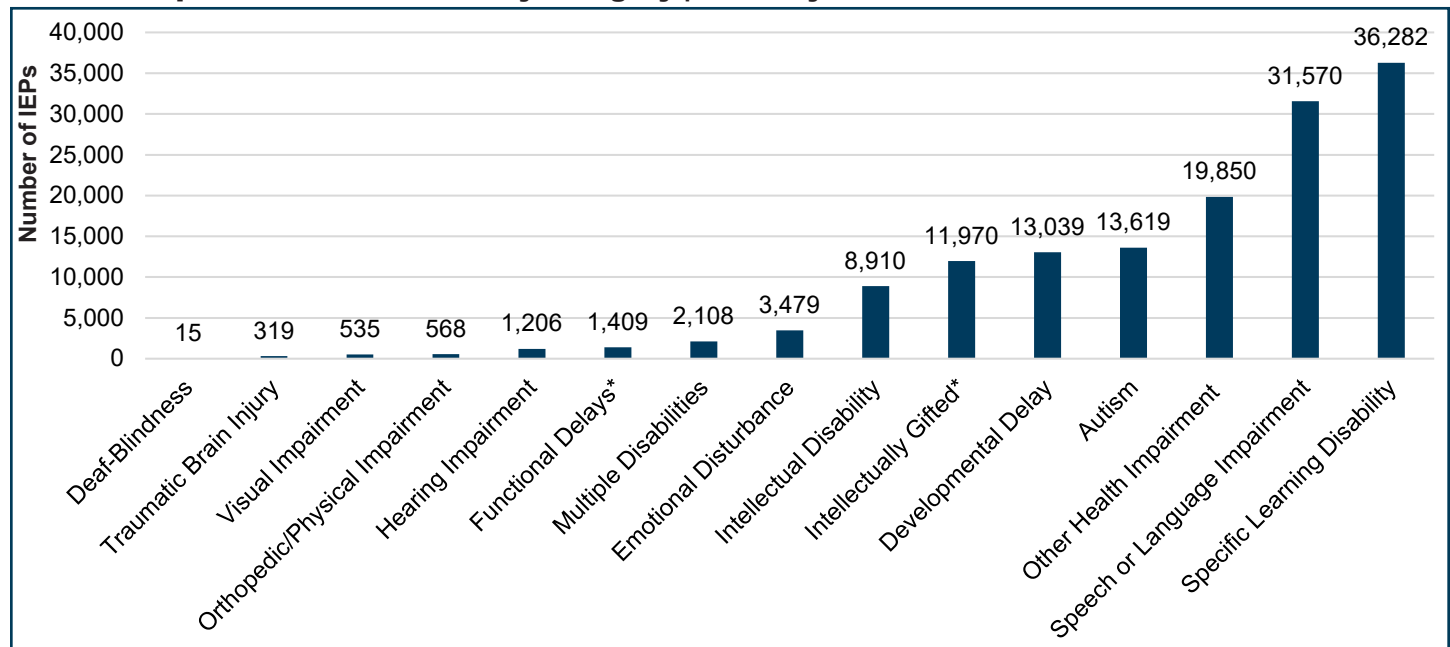
There are a variety of terms used to refer to these students, including, but not limited to, English Learners (EL), English Language Learners (ELL), Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, or English as a Second Language (ESL) students.

## Students with disabilities

Tennessee students with disabilities receive special education services. The term "special education" generally refers to programs designed to serve children with mental and physical disabilities. Tennessee policy requires school districts to provide special education services sufficient to meet the needs and maximize the capabilities of children with disabilities.

Local school districts receive funding to provide special education services through the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) formula grants and through the BEP. In school year 2019-20, about 13 percent of Tennessee Students received Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) through special education services.

**Exhibit 2: Special education IEPs by category | School year 2019-20**



Note: \* Functional delays and intellectually gifted are two state-recognized disability categories and are not recognized under IDEA.

## Economically disadvantaged

Economically disadvantaged students are identified for multiple purposes, such as:

- determining their eligibility for programs like free or reduced-price meals,
- monitoring schools' accountability for meeting their academic needs, as required under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, and
- providing BEP funding for school districts to meet their educational needs.

Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, economically disadvantaged students (or "at risk" students) are defined – for purposes of school accountability and BEP funding – as those who are directly certified for specific state and federal assistance programs, and those who are identified as homeless, migrants, or runaways as well as students in foster care. In school year 2019-20, 30.6 percent of students in Tennessee were identified as economically disadvantaged. The BEP allocated \$915.25 per at-risk student in fiscal year 2020.

For more information, see OREA's Mapping Tennessee Education website at [tncot.cc/mappingeducation](http://tncot.cc/mappingeducation).