

**Office of Comprehensive Services  
Annual Report to the General Assembly**

***Special Education Services  
Funded Under the Comprehensive Services Act***

December 2012

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**Report Mandate**

The 2012 Appropriation Act, Item 274 N, requires:

*2. The Office of Comprehensive Services shall report on funding for special education day treatment and residential services, including but not limited to the number of children served annually, average cost of care, type of service provided, length of stay, referral source, and ultimate disposition.*

*3. The Office of Comprehensive Services shall report the information included in this paragraph to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees beginning September 1, 2011 and each year thereafter.*

The Office of Comprehensive Services requested approval to delay submission of this report until December 15 to allow inclusion of FY12 data.

**Background**

CSA is responsible for the funding of special education services delineated in a child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) which specifies placement in a private day special education facility or a private residential facility. In addition, CSA funds the educational costs of residential programs when students with disabilities are placed for non-educational reasons, e.g., when a FAPT places a student in a residential treatment program to meet needs that are not associated with his/her educational disability.

The SEC approved definitions of specific service categories in June 2008. The following three service categories represent services to meet the special education needs of students with disabilities:

**Special Education Private Day Placement:** Services for children who are receiving services for purposes of special education and related services; these services include approved private day schools. These children are living at home, in the home of extended family, in a regular foster family home, in a specialized or therapeutic foster care home or in an independent living arrangement.

**Congregate educational services - for Medicaid funded placements:** Educational services provided to children who are living in a congregate care program (*e.g., group home or residential facility*). Educational services, when provided in addition to congregate/residential care, that is designed to meet the needs of children who have special educational needs and/or behavioral disorders, who are unable to function adaptively in the public school system, and who are not able to live at home, with extended family, in a regular foster family home, in a specialized or therapeutic foster care home, or in an independent living

arrangement. The child is Medicaid eligible and placed in a Medicaid facility, but Medicaid funds cannot be used to pay for the educational services.

**Congregate educational services for Non-Medicaid funded placements:** Educational services provided to children who are living in a congregate care program (*e.g., group home or residential facility*). Educational services, when provided in addition to congregate/residential care, that is designed to meet the needs of children who have special educational needs and/or behavioral disorders, who are unable to function adaptively in the public school system, and who are not able to live at home, with extended family, in a regular foster family home, in a specialized or therapeutic foster care home, or in an independent living arrangement. The child is not eligible for Medicaid or is not placed in a Medicaid funded placement because appropriate Medicaid programs are not available to meet the child’s needs.

**Source of Data**

Two sources of data were utilized for this report. Expenditures were derived from locality “Pool Reimbursement Request Reports;” demographic data were derived from the “CSA Data Set” final submission.

**Funding**

In accordance with federal regulation, §300.114 *LRE Requirements*, a state must not use a funding mechanism by which funds are distributed on the basis of the type of setting in which a child is served and which may result in the failure to provide appropriate services as required by the child’s IEP. Thus, private special education services funded by CSA, i.e., private day school placements, private residential school placements, and special education services associated with residential placements made for non-educational reasons, are not subject to the incentive match rate system. These services are reimbursed at the neutral, or base, local match rate.

The Appropriation Act prescribes the local base match as follows:

“Local Match. All localities are required to appropriate a local match for the base year funding consisting of the actual aggregate local match rate based on actual total 1997 program expenditures for the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families.”

**Total CSA Net Expenditures for Education Services**

Service Category	FY10	FY11	FY12
Private Special Education Day School	\$81,397,866	\$86,117,113	\$93,689,949
Congregate Education*	\$38,636,801	\$37,744,485	\$39,801,254
<b>Total Special Education Services</b>	<b>\$120,034,667</b>	<b>\$123,861,598</b>	<b>\$133,491,203</b>

\**Congregate Education includes education services associated with residential placements made for non-educational reasons and private residential placements based upon a student’s IEP. Some expenditures reflect costs for students who do not have special education needs.*

**Average Cost of Care**

The average cost of care represents total expenditures divided across the number of youth receiving that service. The average annual costs for special education services are displayed in the table below:

**Average Annual Cost Per Youth**

Service Category	FY10	FY11	FY12
Private Special Education Day School	\$28,824	\$29,923	\$32,573
Congregate Education*	\$19,733	\$21,868	\$23,573

\*Congregate Education includes education services associated with residential placements made for non-educational reasons and private residential placements based upon a student's IEP.

The average per diem cost per youth represents total expenditures for the service divided across the total number of days the service was funded.

**Average Per Diem Cost Per Youth**

Service Category	FY10	FY11	FY12
Private Special Education Day School	\$116	\$117	\$128
Congregate Education*	\$100	\$112	\$119

\*Congregate Education includes education services associated with residential placements made for non-educational reasons and private residential placements based upon a student's IEP.

**Number of Youth Served**

The number of youth served under the Comprehensive Services Act, or the census, is a cumulative number of all youth who received the service at any point of time in the fiscal year.

**Total Number of Youth Served**

Service Category	FY10	FY11	FY12
Private Special Education Day School	2,824	2,878	2895
Congregate Education*	1,958	1,726	1764

\*Congregate Education includes education services associated with residential placements made for non-educational reasons and private residential placements based upon a student's IEP.

**Length of Stay**

The length of stay for children receiving services is determined based on the number of days between the start date and end date for which the service was funded under the CSA during the fiscal year.

**Average Days of Service by Youth per Fiscal Year**

Average Days of Service Per Youth	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12
Private Special Education Day School	253	248	255	255
Congregate Education*	192	197	196	198

\*Congregate Education categories include education services associated with residential placements made for non-educational reasons and private residential placements based upon a student's IEP.

**Referral Source**

The referral source is defined as the agency responsible for directing a youth for pool funded services, i.e., the agency making the initial referral of the youth to the local CSA team. As each youth may receive multiple services, the initial referral to CSA may not be directly related to the service received.

**Referral Source to CSA**

	Private Day School			Congregate Education*		
	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY10	FY11	FY12
Social Services	12%	12%	13%	50%	49%	49%
Education	78%	80%	79%	28%	25%	24%
Juvenile Justice	2%	2%	2%	9%	12%	13%
Community Services Board	3%	3%	4%	8%	9%	11%
Family	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%
Health Dept	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interagency Team	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Other	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	1%

*Percent represents the number of youth referred to CSA by each agency out of the total number of youth receiving the identified service.*

*\*Congregate Education categories include special education services associated with residential placements made for non-educational reasons and private residential placements based upon a student's IEP.*

**Case Disposition**

OCS collects data regarding the “primary reason for discharge from CSA.” Youth discharged from CSA during the program year are those who cease to receive services funded under the CSA.

Because youth may receive multiple services, the reason for discharge from CSA may not be directly related to the specific service indicated. Further, because the response options are not clearly defined, may overlap one another, and are subjectively determined, these data should be considered with caution. For example, a student for whom the IEP team determined private special education school placement is no longer necessary would require a revision to the IEP and an appropriate reason for discharge could be “IEP revised.” However, other appropriate reasons for discharge might just as likely be “less intensive care,” “service not needed,” or “service goals obtained.”

The chart below displays the percent each discharge reason represents of all discharges from CSA for each of the services provided to students with disabilities:

**Reason for Discharge from CSA**

Primary Reason for Discharge	Private Day School			Congregate Education		
	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY10	FY11	FY12
More intensive care	12%	1%	1%	9%	1%	0
Less intensive care	4%	5%	4%	<1%	1%	1%
Service not needed	19%	20%	20%	14%	16%	20%
Service not available	5%	2%	1%	5%	<1%	0
Family declined service	<1%	1%	0%	<1%	2%	1%
Service goals obtained	9%	14%	19%	9%	12%	14%
Youth ran away	<1%	0	0%	1%	<1%	0
Youth non-compliant	6%	5%	5%	3%	2%	4%
No progress toward goal	<1%	0	0%	<1%	<1%	1%
Committed to DJJ	1%	3%	2%	1%	5%	5%
Youth returned home	2%	<1%	2%	14%	12%	11%
IEP revised	5%	11%	10%	<1%	3%	1%
Provider terminated service	<1%	<1%	1%	0%	0	0
Provider unable to meet needs	0	0	0%	<1%	0	0
Dissatisfaction with provider	0	0	0%	0	0	<1%
Provider license issues	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Other funding source	<1%	2%	1%	<1%	3%	5%
Family moved	20%	23%	22%	8%	10%	10%
Family decision	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	3%
Adoption	<1%	1%	3%	1%	1%	2%
Custody changed	1%	<1%	1%	5%	6%	5%
Youth death	0	<1%	1%	0	<1%	<1%
Aged out of service	6%	5%	8%	14%	18%	14%

Note: Totals do not equal 100% due to rounding.

\*Congregate Education categories include education services associated with residential placements made for non-educational reasons and private residential placements based upon a student's IEP.