

2024-2025 Indicator 8:

Special Education Parent Involvement Survey Brief



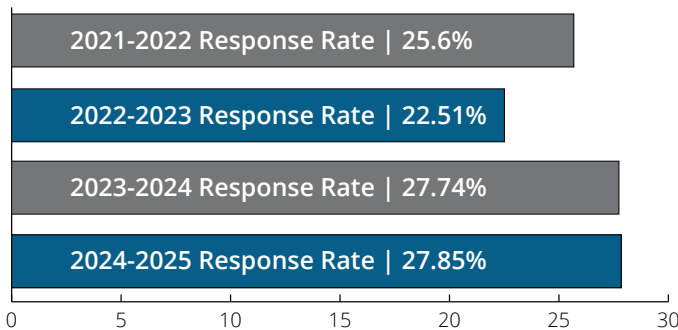
Overview

This brief summarizes the findings from the 2024–2025 Indicator 8 survey, which measured the effectiveness of schools in supporting parent involvement in the special education process. Results include statewide and local education agency (LEA) data on survey response rates and parental involvement scores. LEAs are surveyed in two cohorts that alternate every year, except for our four largest school districts: Alpine, Davis, Granite, and Jordan School District.

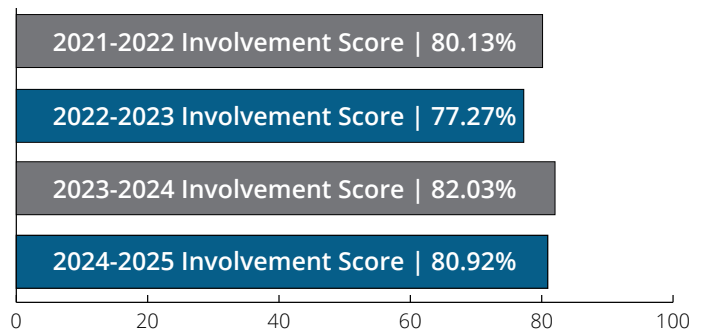
The response rate target was **21%** for both the State and LEAs, serving as a measure of family engagement and potential home-school collaboration. The parental involvement score, based on 12 survey items, reflects the extent to which LEAs engaged families in decision-making. The target score can vary annually. For the 2024–2025 survey, the target was **79.19%**.

Of the 78 LEAs surveyed, 73 met the response target, and five did not. Of the five, four LEAs were within four responses away from their target, and only one LEA was within nine responses from reaching its target. The graphs below show progress in increasing response rates and parent involvement scores:

Response Rate



Parent Involvement Score



Focus Areas for Strengthening Parent Engagement

Although there was an increase in the response rate, a decrease was observed in the parent involvement score. LEAs should review their reports to identify their next steps. Reports can be found in the Utah Program Improvement Planning System (UPIPS).

Survey results identified key opportunities for enhancing parent-school collaboration, particularly in communication and IEP planning. Of the 12 questions on the Indicator 8 survey, Questions 3 and 12 consistently received the lowest scores, highlighting specific areas where families felt less supported:

- **Question 3:** The teacher(s) keep(s) in touch with me regularly about my child’s progress.
- **Question 12:** At the individualized education program (IEP) meeting, we discussed how my child would participate in state and district testing.

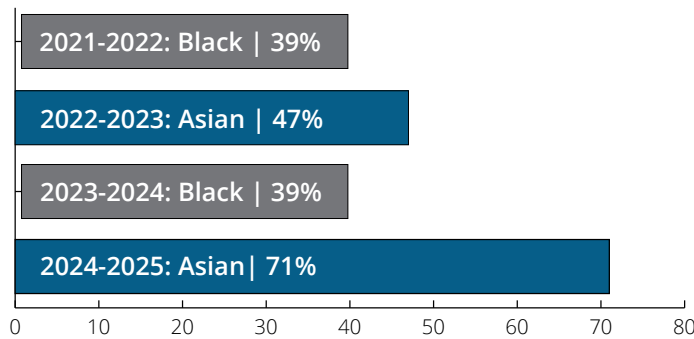
These results suggest a need for improved ongoing communication between educators and families, as well as more thorough discussions around assessment participation during IEP meetings.

Demographic Insights

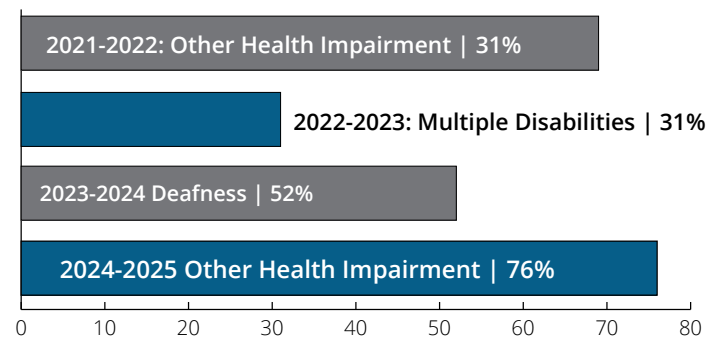
Each year, the Indicator 8 survey data are disaggregated to identify student groups whose families report lower levels of engagement in the special education process. These insights highlight potential equity gaps and opportunities for more targeted support.

For the last four survey years, the graphs below show the racial group and the disability category with the lowest average parental involvement scores:

Racial Group



Disability Category



State Targets and Progress

As Utah continues to engage and empower all families, efforts to increase access for families who remain underrepresented in survey responses will be assessed, and the feedback gathered will continue to inform future supports, professional learning, and technical assistance opportunities.

Support Cohorts for LEAs

To support LEAs that did not meet their targets, the Utah State Board of Education's (USBE) School Improvement Program and Special Education Parent Engagement Specialist partners with LEAs and families to raise awareness of the survey and promote effective engagement practices through the formation of support cohorts. LEAs in the current survey administration cohort are selected for a support cohort when they fail to meet their response target, parent involvement score target, or both.

In the 2024–2025 survey cycle, 14 LEAs participated in the cohorts. Of those, six were successfully removed from their cohort by meeting their target response and parent involvement scores.

In addition to the exit status, 10 of the LEAs improved both their response and parent involvement scores. Three of the remaining four improved their response scores, while the other LEA improved its parent involvement score.

For more information, contact the School Improvement Program and Special Education Parent Engagement Specialist, Susie Estrada, by email at susie.estrada@schools.utah.gov.