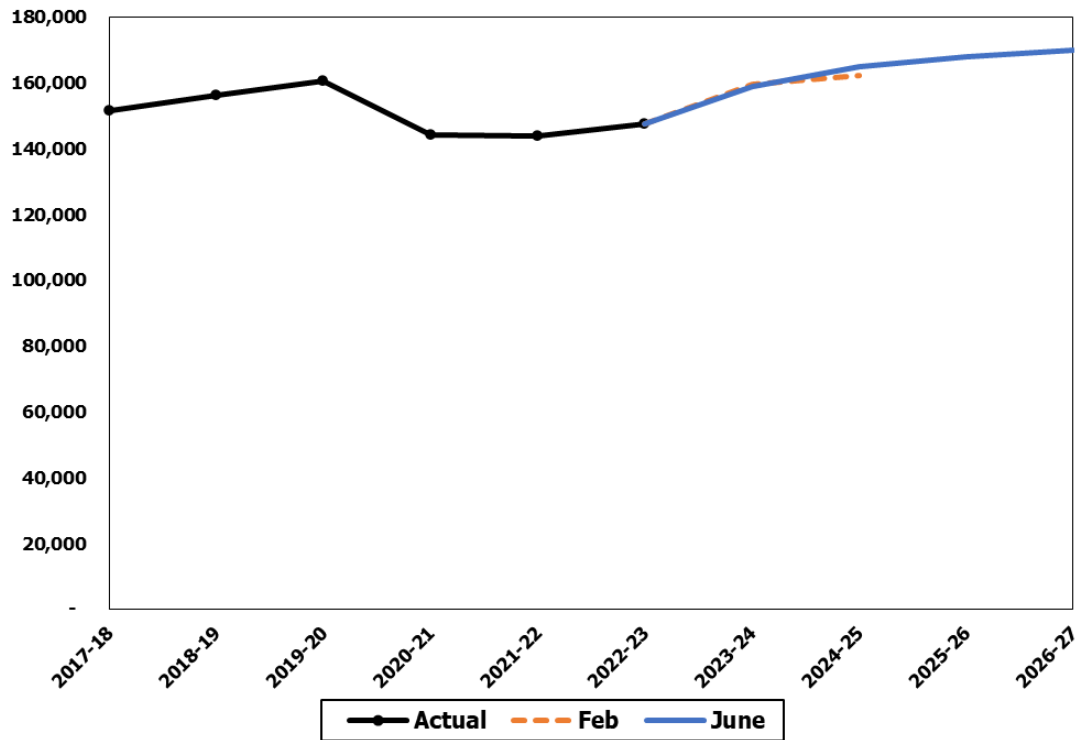


**Special Education Average Annual Enrollment (HC)
(Age 3-PreK and State-Funded Age K-21)**



The Common School Special Education forecast consists of two programs: a separately funded Age 3-Pre-Kindergarten program, and the Age K-21 school-based Special Education program, indexed to a percentage of each school district's total full-time equivalent enrollment. Up until the 2020-21 school year, Special Education also included the Age 0-2 Infant and Toddler program.

Forecast Comparisons (Academic Year Averages)

Academic Year	Feb-24 Forecast	Jun-24 Forecast	Feb to Jun Difference	Percent Difference
2023-24	159,487	158,874	-613	-0.4%
2024-25	162,274	164,829	2,555	1.6%
2025-26		167,759		
2026-27		169,976		

The June 2024 forecast is, on average, 971 students or 0.6 percent higher than the February forecast for the 2023-25 Biennium.

Tracking the Current Forecast

Month	Feb-24		Variance	Percent Variance
	Forecast	Actual		
Jan-24	162,642	162,666	24	0.0%
Feb-24	164,102	163,382	-720	-0.4%
Mar-24	165,998	164,976	-1,022	-0.6%
Apr-24	167,844	166,765	-1,079	-0.6%

The reported Special Education enrollment is 0.4 percent lower than the February forecast for the most recent actuals. The tracking data is based on reported Special Education enrollment. These numbers are slightly different from the forecasted caseload which, for those in the K-21 program, includes only students funded under the Special Education basic funding target.

Academic Year Caseload Change

	Academic Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2017-18	151,515		
	2018-19	156,201	4,686	3.1%
	2019-20	160,361	4,160	2.7%
	2020-21	144,060	-16,301	-10.2%
	2021-22	143,866	-194	-0.1%
	2022-23	147,614	3,748	2.6%
Forecast	2023-24	158,874	11,260	7.6%
	2024-25	164,829	5,955	3.7%
	2025-26	167,759	2,930	1.8%
	2026-27	169,976	2,216	1.3%

The Special Education forecast declined by 10.2 percent in the 2020-21 year. The state-funded Birth to Age 2 Special Education program shifted from OSPI to the Early Support for Infant and Toddlers program at the Department of Children, Youth and Families, reducing the 2020-21 forecast by 10,381. Also, Special Education enrollment declined due to concerns about COVID-19 and remote/hybrid school. In 2021-22, the Special Education enrollment declined slightly from the prior year, both in 3-PreK and K-age 21. The Special Education caseload grew 2.6 percent in the 2022-23 year. Enrollment increased in both PreK and K-21, with significant year-over-year growth in 3-PreK as it recovered from low pandemic enrollment. The Legislature passed HB 1436 during the 2023 session, raising the funded index for Special Education K-21 from 13 percent to 15 percent. This increased the caseload, year-over-year, by 7.6 percent in the 2023-24 year. Passage of HB 2180 in the 2024 legislative session further lifted the index to 16 percent, and the caseload is forecasted to grow, year-over-year, by 3.7 percent in the 2024-25 year. The forecast assumes year-over-year growth of 1.8 percent in the 2025-26 year and 1.3 percent growth in 2026-27.

Risks to the Forecast

The risks to the Special Education enrollment forecast are high. Special Education enrollment is subject to the same risks as the Common Schools forecast.

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