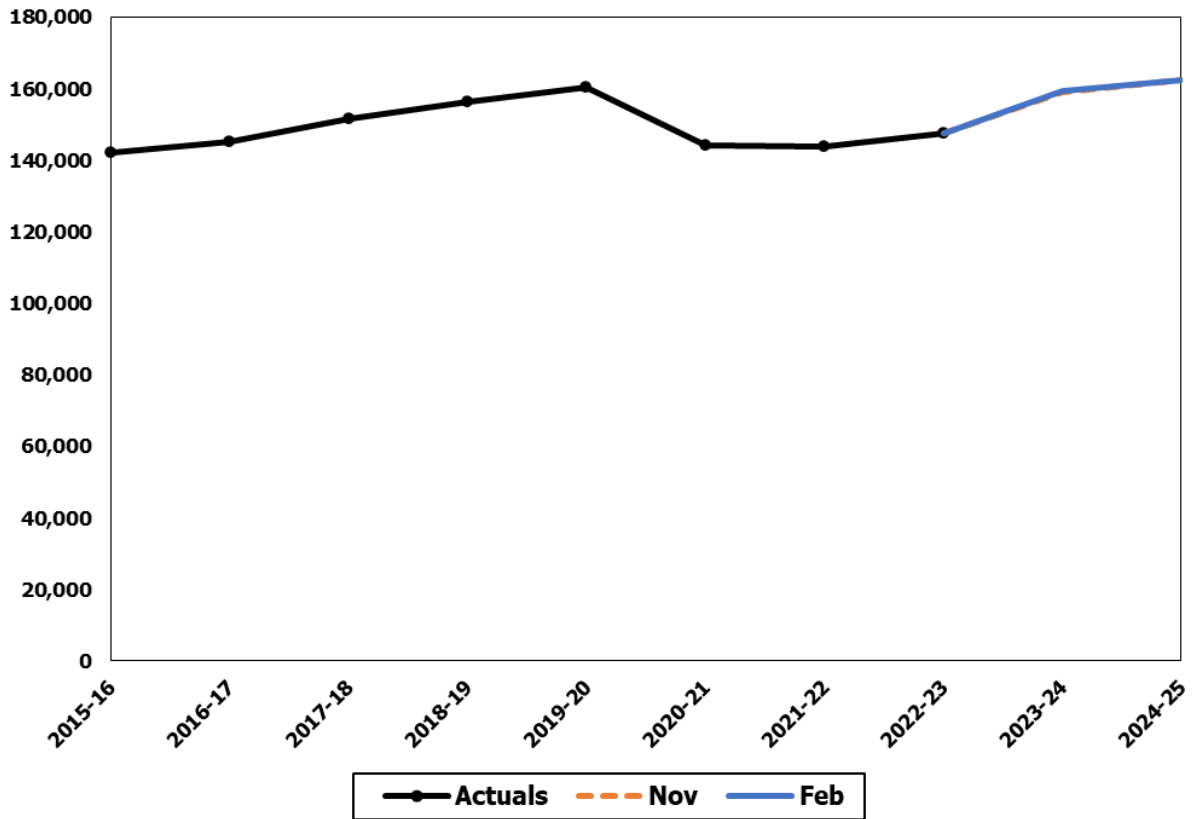


**Special Education Average Annual Enrollment (HC)  
(Age 3-PreK and State-Funded Age K-21)**



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	Nov-23 Forecast	Feb-24 Forecast	Nov to Feb Difference	Percent Difference
2023-24	159,136	159,487	351	0.2%
2024-25	162,222	162,274	52	0.0%

Compared to November, the February 2024 forecast is up an average of 202 students, which is on par for the 2023-25 Biennium.

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### Tracking the Current Forecast

Month	Nov-23		Variance	Percent
	Forecast	Actual		Variance
Nov-23	160,940	159,892	-1,049	-0.7%
Dec-23	162,482	161,445	-1,037	-0.6%
Jan-24	163,832	162,642	-1,190	-0.7%

The reported Special Education enrollment is 0.5 percent lower than the November forecast for the most recent actuals. Special Education 3-PreK enrollment is tracking 0.6 percent below forecast, while the tracking of K-21 is 0.7 percent below forecast. 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	2015-16	141,992		
	2016-17	145,006	3,014	2.1%
	2017-18	151,515	6,509	4.5%
	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	159,487	11,873	8.0%
	2024-25	162,274	2,787	1.7%

The Special Education forecast declined by 10.2 percent in the 2020-21 school 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 the significant year-over-year growth in 3-PreK as it recovers 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 8.0 percent in the 2023-24 year. The forecast assumes growth of 1.7 percent in the 2024-25 year.

#### *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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