

Abstract

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), individuals with disabilities are supplied with free public education that is tailored towards their needs and provides some funding for special education programs in each state on top of state funding for special education. This data analyzes the correlation between funding of the special education program, special education teacher salaries, percentage of students in the public school system with Autism, and the percentage of students with Autism spending more than 80% of their time in a regular classroom in 2011. Through the use of linear regression, the data shows how there is little to no correlation between the four sets of data which disproves the belief of the special education being provided with proper funds and resources to give students with Autism the best possible public education. While figuring out correlation, calculations were made to give a 95% confidence interval for special education funding and teacher salaries while also giving hypotheses on the mean salary and funding of the program.