

# Facts for Families

ABOUT THE ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT November 2022



## FACT 1

**The Issaquah School District has 26 schools, with around 20,000 students. During the 2021-2022 school year, 1,547 students had 504 plans and 1,869 had IEPs.**

ISD covers over 110 square miles and 7 different cities. There are many moving parts, departments, and programs. Here are some resources that offer an overview about the district:

### About the ISD

<https://www.isd411.org/about-us/about-us-overview>

### Special Services Department

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education>

### Student Interventions Department

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/counseling-and-mental-health>

### ISD Annual Community Report

<https://www.isd411.org/about-us/reports-and-surveys/annual-community-report>

### WA Report Card for ISD

<https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/100111>

## FACT 2

**The Issaquah School District School Board hires and monitors the Superintendent, who oversees Assistant Superintendents, a cabinet of Executive Directors, and over 2,900 full and part time staff.**

Here are links and contacts for district leadership:

### School Board

<https://www.isd411.org/about-us/school-board/meet-the-board>  
[schoolboard@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:schoolboard@issaquah.wednet.edu)

### Individual Contacts

Heather Tow-Yick  
Superintendent  
425-837-7023 [towyickh@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:towyickh@issaquah.wednet.edu)  
<https://www.isd411.org/about-us/superintendent>

Donna Hood  
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
425-837-7060 [hoodd@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:hoodd@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Dr. Dana Bailey  
Assistant Superintendent of Special Services  
425-837-7085 [baileyd@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:baileyd@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Susan Mundell  
Executive Director of Elementary Education  
425-837-7025 [mundells@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:mundells@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Melinda Reynvaan  
Executive Director of Elementary Education  
425-837-7025 [reynvaanm@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:reynvaanm@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Sherri Kokx  
Executive Director of Middle School Education  
425-837-7072 [kokxs@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:kokxs@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Andrea Zier  
Executive Director of High School Education  
425-837-7050 [ziera@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:ziera@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Alaina Sivadasan  
Executive Director of Equity  
425-837-7204 [sivadasana@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:sivadasana@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Rich Mellish  
Executive Director of Teaching and Learning  
(Curriculum and Instruction)  
425-837-7128 [mellishr@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:mellishr@issaquah.wednet.edu)

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Pam Ridenour  
Director of Student Interventions  
Section 504/ADA Coordinator  
425-837-7157 [ridenourp@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:ridenourp@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Coleen Xaudaro  
Director of Transportation  
425-837-6333 [xaudaroc@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:xaudaroc@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Lesha Engels  
Executive Director of Communications and Digital  
Strategy  
425-837-7004 [engelsl@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:engelsl@issaquah.wednet.edu)

## FACT 3

**Who do I contact for help? Start with your child's teacher, special education teacher, case manager, or school counselor. Concerns can also be brought to your IEP team, the Principal, or ISD Administrators.**

### For assistance with 504s

School counselors act as 504 coordinators at ISD schools. If you have questions about 504 accommodations, contact your child's school counselor or the building principal. If you need to speak to a district administrator about your child's 504 accommodations, contact Pam Ridenour, Director of Student Interventions, (contact info above).  
<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/counseling-and-mental-health/section-504>

Dr. Dana Bailey  
Assistant Superintendent of Special Services  
425-837-7085 [baileyd@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:baileyd@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Sharine Carver  
Executive Director of Special Services  
425-837-7085 [carvers@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:carvers@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Joan Lawson  
Director of District Programs  
425-837-7090 [lawsonj2@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:lawsonj2@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Tammy Unruh  
Director of Secondary Education  
425-837-7031 [unruht@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:unruht@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Dr. Jameson Moore  
Director of Elementary & ECE Education  
425-837-7143 [mooreh@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:mooreh@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Spenser Phelan  
Integrated MTSS Director  
425-837-7228 [phelans@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:phelans@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Teresa Cowan  
Principal on Special Assignment, ACT  
425-837-6397 [cowant@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:cowant@issaquah.wednet.edu)

### For assistance with IEPs

Special education services are governed by federal and state laws. All IEP issues are handled by your child's IEP team – of which you are an important member. Your main point of contact for the IEP team will usually be the **special education teacher**, but sometimes it can be another individual at the school or in the district (this is referred to as a "**case manager**"). You can **call an IEP team meeting anytime** to discuss concerns or ask questions. We recommend doing this in writing and cc'ing your building principal.

For help beyond your IEP team, here are the district special education contacts for the district:

Dr. Luisa Sanchez-Neilson  
Early Childhood Coordinator  
425-837-5175 [sancheznilsenl@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:sancheznilsenl@issaquah.wednet.edu)

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## FACT 4

### How many students with disabilities are there in the ISD?

**3,416 students had IEPs or 504s the ISD, which is 17.3% of the ISD student body.**

An overview about ISD can be found in OSPI's Washington State Report Card. This is searchable by district or by individual school:  
<https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/100111>

#### Who is enrolled in the ISD?

Total: 19,738 Students  
1,437 were multi language learners  
2,348 were low-income  
250 were Pre-K students  
1,547 had 504 plans  
1,869 had IEP plans

#### How are ISD students doing overall on state tests?

76% overall were proficient in English Language Arts  
70% overall were proficient in math  
63% overall were proficient in science

#### How are ISD 3rd graders doing on state tests?

75.8% were proficient in English Language Arts  
79.4% were proficient in math  
(state science test is not taken by 3rd graders)

#### How are ISD 8th graders doing on state tests?

75.8% were proficient in English Language Arts  
65.7% were proficient in math  
67.3% were proficient in science

#### State test scores for low income students

40.4% were proficient in English Language Arts  
31.0% were proficient in math  
32.3% were proficient in science

#### State test scores for hispanic students

53.7% were proficient in English Language Arts  
42.1% were proficient in math  
39.7% were proficient in science

#### State test scores for black students

41.4% were proficient in English Language Arts  
29.7% were proficient in math  
28.0% were proficient in science

#### State test scores for students with 504s

69.4% were proficient in English Language Arts  
56.2% were proficient in math  
49.3% were proficient in science

#### State test scores for students with IEPs

27.4% were proficient in English Language Arts  
21.6% were proficient in math  
26.6% were proficient in science

**Note:** data is from the last school year (2021-22)

## FACT 5

### Opportunity gaps in high school: Data shows significant differences in the academic performance of ISD students with disabilities compared to their non-disabled peers.

Here is data with a particular focus on our district's 3 large high schools:  
<https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/100111>

#### ISD Graduation Data for the "Class of 2021":

ISD's graduation rate overall was 96%. The graduation rate for students with 504s was

slightly lower, 94%. The graduation rate for students with IEPs was much lower, 76%.

In 2021, 44% (12 out of the 27) of ISD seniors who dropped out of school were students with

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disabilities (IEPs + 504s). In the ISD, students with IEPs and 504s make up 17.3% of the ISD student body overall.

There were 1,527 students in the class of 2021 in our school district. OSPI data shows that 33 seniors continued in school for additional terms and 27 dropped out of school. There were 216 students in the class of 2021 who had 504 plans. OSPI data shows that 202 of seniors with 504s graduated on time, 7 continued for additional terms, and 7 dropped out of school.

There were 114 students in the class of 2021 who had IEPs. OSPI data shows that 87 graduated on time, 22 continued on for additional services and 5 dropped out of school.

## How many 9th graders are “on track”?

OSPI measures how many 9th graders are on track. A student is considered to be “on track” if they pass all courses attempted in their first year of high school. There is a noticeable downward trend in recent years for Issaquah students with IEPs and 504s in this category. For the last school year, OSPI reports that:

- 77.2% of ISD 9th graders were “on track”.
- 64.7% of ISD 9th graders with 504s are “on track” (compared to 78.8% of non-504 students). Notice the 14 point gap.
- 48.9% of ISD 9th graders with IEPs are “on track” (compared to 79.9% of non-IEP students). Notice the 31 point gap.

## How are students with IEPs performing academically at ISD’s 3 large high schools?

OSPI measures the academic performance of students using multiple state assessments, including the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the

Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science, and the Washington Access to Instruction and Measurement. The following scores are from the 2021-2022 school year and represent the percentage of students with IEPs who are meeting grade level standards.

### Skyline High School

- ELA scores for Students with Disabilities 53.3% proficiency (compared to 88% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for Students with Disabilities 20% proficiency (compared to 71.3% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for Students with Disabilities 38.2% proficiency (compared to 79.5% for non-disabled peers)

### Issaquah High School

- ELA scores for Students with Disabilities 28.9% proficiency (compared to 87.6% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for Students with Disabilities 13.3% proficiency (compared to 69.8% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for Students with Disabilities 9.5% proficiency (compared to 12.6% for non-disabled peers)

### Liberty High School

- ELA scores for Students with Disabilities 24.1% proficiency (compared to 85.5% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for Students with Disabilities 20% proficiency (compared to 60.9% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for Students with Disabilities 10.3% proficiency (compared to 59.4% for non-disabled peers)

**Note:** data is from the 2021-2022 school year

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## FACT 6

**Opportunity gaps among elementary schools: Data shows significant differences in the academic performance of ISD students with disabilities compared to their non-disabled peers, and these differences also vary among the district's 16 elementary schools.**

OSPI's Washington State Report Card also contains data on academic performance for students in elementary schools, which can be found here:

<https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/100111>

### Apollo Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 15.4% proficiency (compared to 80.7% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 38.5% proficiency (compared to 78% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for students in special education 27.3% proficiency (compared to 75.8% for non-disabled peers)

### Briarwood Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 23.3% proficiency (compared to 77.1% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 16.7% proficiency (compared to 74.6% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for students in special education 40% proficiency (compared to 78.6% for non-disabled peers)

### Cascade Ridge Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 52.6% proficiency (compared to 92.8% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 57.9% proficiency (compared to 89.6% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for students in special education are not available (compared to 90.9% for non-disabled peers)

### Cedar Trails Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 18.2% proficiency (compared to 75.1% for non-

disabled peers)

- Math scores for students in special education 36.4% proficiency (compared to 78.5% for non-disabled peers)
- *Science scores for students in special education are not available*

### Challenger Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 13% proficiency (compared to 85.5% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 13% proficiency (compared to 82.5% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for students in special education 40% proficiency (compared to 82.1% for non-disabled peers)

### Clark Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 18.0% proficiency (compared to 70.4% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 26% proficiency (compared to 70.5% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for students in special education 25% proficiency (compared to 74.2% for non-disabled peers)

### Cougar Ridge Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 36.4% proficiency (compared to 91.5% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 50% proficiency (compared to 88.2% for non-disabled peers)
- *Science scores for students in special education are not available*

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## Creekside Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 32.1% proficiency (compared to 84.4% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 25% proficiency (compared to 85.9% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for students in special education 25% proficiency (compared to 79.1% for non-disabled peers)

## Discovery Elementary

*Scores are not available for ELA, Math or Science scores.*

## Endeavor Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 31.6% proficiency (compared to 87.3% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 21.1% proficiency (compared to 90.0% for non-disabled peers)
- *Science scores for students in special education are not available*

## Grand Ridge Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 17.6% proficiency (compared to 85.8% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 20.6% proficiency (compared to 88.4% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for students in special education 29.4% proficiency (compared to 83.3% for non-disabled peers)

## Issaquah Valley Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 26.7% proficiency (compared to 66.1% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 20% proficiency (compared to 68.8% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for students in special education are not available.

## Maple Hills Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 32.4% proficiency (compared to 82% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 29.4% proficiency (compared to 76.7% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for students in special education 27.3% proficiency (compared to 76.5% for non-disabled peers)

## Newcastle Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 35.7% proficiency (compared to 73.9% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 25% proficiency (compared to 79.8% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for students in special education 45.5% proficiency (compared to 74.4% for non-disabled peers)

## Sunny Hills Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 42.1% proficiency (compared to 88.3% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 31.6% proficiency (compared to 85.8% for non-disabled peers)
- *Science scores for students in special education are not available*

## Sunset Elementary

- ELA scores for students in special education, 41.7% proficiency (compared to 72.6% for non-disabled peers)
- Math scores for students in special education 25.0% proficiency (compared to 71.1% for non-disabled peers)
- Science scores for students in special education 27.3% proficiency (compared to 72.8% for non-disabled peers)

**Note:** data is from the 2021-2022 school year



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## FACT 7

**The Issaquah School District offers a diverse array of supports and programs for students with disabilities, their teachers, and their families.**

Here are some of the ISD programs that support students with disabilities:

### **504 Accommodations**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/counseling-and-mental-health/section-504>

### **Academy for Community Transitions (ACT)**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/special-education-programs/families/special-education/special-education-programs/academy-for-community-transition>

### **Assistive Technology**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/assistive-technology>

### **Behavior Team**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/behavior-tosas>

### **Career and Technology Education**

<https://www.isd411.org/academics/high-school-curriculum-pathways/career-technical-education-cte>

### **Counseling and Mental Health Services**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/counseling-and-mental-health>

### **Cultural and Family Partnerships**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/equity>

### **Dual Language Immersion**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/elementary-programs/dlip>

### **Early Childhood Education (Special Education)**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/special-education-programs/early-childhood-education-ece>

### **Financial Support for Families**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/counseling-and-mental-health/financial-support>

### **Foster Care Support**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/counseling-and-mental-health/foster-care>

### **Highly Capable (gifted) Program**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/gifted-highly-capable>

### **Health Services**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/health>

### **Hearing Services**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/hearing-services>

### **Home Based Services**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/special-education-programs>

### **Homeless Support Services**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/counseling-and-mental-health/homelessness>

### **LRC I (Learning Resource Center I)**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/special-education-programs>

### **LRC II (Learning Resource Center II)**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/special-education-programs>

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## **Multilingual & English Learners**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/multilinguallearners>

## **Multi-tiered Systems of Support**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/mtss>

## **Occupational Therapy**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/ot>

## **Online Learning**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/middle-high-school-programs/online-learning>

## **Outside Agency Programs**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/special-education-programs>

## **Physical Therapy**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/pt>

## **Preschool Programs**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/preschool>

## **Running Start**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/middle-high-school-programs/running-start>

## **Science Technology Magnet Program**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/elementary-programs/science-technology-magnet-program>

## **School Psychologists**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/school-psychologists>

## **Special Education**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education>

## **Speech Language Pathology**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/slp>

## **Summer School**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/summer-school>

## **Title 1/LAP (reading and math support)**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/title1lap>

## **Vision Services**

<https://www.isd411.org/programs-services/special-education/vision-services>

## **Voice Mentor Program**

<https://www.isd411.org/get-involved/voice-mentor-program>



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## FACT 8

### **The Issaquah School District abides by a set of governing policies and regulations.**

As a public school district, ISD has to abide by federal and state laws, such as IDEA and the Child Find mandate we explored in October's Facts for Families.

#### **Issaquah Policy Manual (regulations and procedures)**

These rules are divided by number and topic, with section 1000 governing the Board of Directors (school board), 2000 covers instruction, 3000 addresses student issues, 4000 governs community relations, 5000 regulates the area of Human Resources, and 6000 covers administration and management support. You'll find these topics covered in the drop-down menus on the right side of this webpage: <https://www.isd411.org/about-us/regulations>

#### **Executive Limitations**

Executive limitations are the way the school board establishes and measures the superintendent's methods and activities. These policies apply to the superintendent's "means," or the activity or process done in order to accomplish a goal, or "ends." <https://www.isd411.org/about-us/school-board/governance-policies/executive-limitations>

#### **Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation ("HIB")**

The Issaquah School District is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students that is free from harassment, intimidation or bullying. In order to ensure respect and prevent harm, it is a violation of District Regulation 3207 for a student to be harassed, intimidated, or bullied by others in the school community, at school sponsored events, or when such actions create a substantial disruption to the educational process.

Here are two resources on the district website about HIB:

Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Regulation 3207P  
<https://www.isd411.org/about-us/regulations/3000-series/3207>

Bullying Resources and Reporting Page  
<https://www.isd411.org/about-us/safety-and-security/hib>