

Definitions for Open Data – Student Headcount by Special Needs Category

Column	Definition
[Definition of extract]	<p>This extract contains a headcount of students by special needs category.</p> <p>The information is available at the provincial, district and school levels, and is based upon September enrolment data collections.</p> <p>The data in this table begins with the school year 1996/1997. Independent school level data is only available from the 2013/2014 school year onward, which is when the ministry began requiring the information through its 1701 Data Collections (see History of Special Needs Data Collection document for more information).</p>
[Technical Notes]	<p>Although students can register at more than one school, headcount reports are constructed by assigning each individual to only one school – often referred to as the ‘authority school’. This is done to avoid counting a student more than once.</p> <p>From 2006/2007 onwards, an authority school is primarily determined by the September enrolment collection record where the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) count for a student is highest (e.g., the student takes most of their classes at that school). Prior to 2006/2007, facility type was the key factor used to determine ‘authority school’ (e.g., standard school enrolments are given priority over distance learning school enrolments).</p> <p>For historical information, including changes to and additions of new categories, see the companion document History of Special Needs Data Collection.</p>
[Key References]	<p>Ministry of Education: Reporting on K-12 Glossary of Terms</p> <p>Ministry of Education: September K-12 Data Collection <i>The Instructions for Form 1701 (PDF) documents are a particularly helpful resource for understanding this data.</i></p> <p>Public Independent/Offshore</p> <p>Special Education Services: Manual of Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines</p> <p>Special Education Services Category Checklists – 2010</p> <p>K-12 Funding - Special Needs</p>
SCHOOL_YEAR	<p>The school year that commences on July 1 and ends the following June 30.</p> <p>For this dataset, the earliest school year is '1996/1997'.</p>

Column	Definition
DATA_LEVEL	<p>Use this column to select counts at the province-, district-, or school-level.</p> <p>Values: 'Province Level' 'District Level' 'School Level'</p>
PUBLIC_OR_INDEPENDENT	<p>Use this column to select only public schools, independent schools, or both school types.</p> <p>Values: 'BC Independent School' 'BC Public School' 'Province-Total' (= a rollup of both school types)</p>
DISTRICT_NUMBER	<p>The current number of the school district. This does not include independent school authorities.</p> <p>This value is a 3-digit string (e.g., 005, 023). However, leading zeros may be automatically removed when opening the file in Excel. See <i>Working with the Special Needs Headcount extract</i> guide for tips on how to prevent this from happening.</p> <p>For the actual name of the district, please see the column DISTRICT_NAME.</p>
DISTRICT_NAME	<p>The current name of the school district or independent school authority.</p> <p>For the number of the school district, please see the column DISTRICT_NUMBER.</p>
SCHOOL_NUMBER	<p>The current eight-digit numerical identifier assigned to the school by the Ministry of Education. This is also known as the Mincode ("Ministry Code").</p> <p>The first three digits are often the district number (geographic district number). However, leading zeros may be automatically removed when opening the file in Excel. See <i>Working with the Special Needs Headcount extract</i> guide for tips on how to prevent this from happening.</p> <p>For the actual name of the school, please see the column SCHOOL_NAME.</p>
SCHOOL_NAME	<p>The current name of the school.</p> <p>For the number of the school, please see the column SCHOOL_NUMBER.</p>

Column	Definition
DIVERSE_ABILITIES_CODE	<p>The single-letter code for the Diverse Abilities category into which students are enrolled, according to the September enrolment collection for that school year.</p> <p>Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'A' (= Physically Dependent) 'B' (= Deafblind) 'C' (= Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disability) 'D' (= Physical Disability/Chronic Health Impairment) 'E' (= Visual Impairment) 'F' (= Deaf or Hard of Hearing) 'G' (= Autism Spectrum Disorder) 'H' (= Intensive Behaviour Interventions/Serious Mental Illness) 'J' (= former name of Category Q – Learning Disability) 'K' (= Mild Intellectual Disability) 'M' (= former name of Moderate Behaviour Support, which is now incorporated into Category R) 'N' (= former name of Mental Illness, which is now incorporated into Category R) 'P' (= Gifted) 'Q' (= Learning Disability, formerly category J) 'R' (= Moderate Behaviour Support/Mental Illness, formerly categories M and N)
DIVERSE_ABILITIES_DESCRIPTION	<p>The full name for the Diverse Abilities category into which students are enrolled, according to the September enrolment collection for that school year.</p> <p>Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Autism Spectrum Disorder' 'Behaviour Disorder – Moderate' 'Behaviour Disorder – Rehabilitation' 'Deaf or Hard of Hearing' 'Deafblind' 'Gifted' 'Intensive Behaviour Interventions or Serious Mental Illness' 'Learning Disability' 'Mild Intellectual Disability' 'Moderate Behaviour Support / Mental Illness' 'Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disability' 'Physical Disability or Chronic Health Impairment' 'Physically Dependent' 'Severe Learning Disabilities' 'Visual Impairment'
NUMBER_OF_STUDENTS	The total number of students reported in the Diverse Abilities category.