



To: Mr. Atkins, Acting Superintendent
Ms. Malone, Chairperson of the Board
Members of Newport Board of Education

April 22, 2026

April is recognized nationally as Autism Awareness Month. Autism continues to be one of the fastest-growing disability categories in education. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 1 in 36 children in the United States is identified with autism, reflecting a significant increase over the past decade. In 2010, national estimates indicated that approximately 1 in 68 children were identified with autism in the United States. This growth has important implications for school systems as we plan for staffing, training, and specialized support.

Within our district, autism represents a significant portion of the special education population. As of April 2026, approximately 17% of students receiving special education services are identified under the Autism eligibility category, making it one of the most prevalent disability classifications.

Enrollment Snapshot:

September 2025: 224 Students
October 2025: 229 Students
November 2025: 229 Students
December 2025: 228 Students
January 2026: 225 Students
February 2026: 214 Students
March 2026: 219 Students
April 2026: 230 Students

Special Education Population

Autism- 17%
Developmental Delay- 18%
Emotional Behavioral Disability- 10%
Functional Mental Disability- 2%
Hearing Impaired- 1%
Mild Mental Disability- 9%
Multiple Disability- 3%
Orthopedic Impairment- 1%
Other Health Impairment- 14%
Specific Learning Disability- 10%

Speech and Language Impairment- 15%
Visually Impaired- <1%

Alternate Service Locations:

Regional School Programs - <10 Students
Home/Private School Students - 0 Students
Newport School of Innovation- <10 Students
Newport Regional School - <15 Students

Current Non-Resident Student Population- 9 students

504 Programming Rates – 38 Students

Respectfully Submitted,
Kerri Johns-Niemann