



# About Us

## Issaquah Special Education PTSA

2.6.13

# Our Philosophy

## Vision

- Students with disabilities in the ISD will receive a high-quality education that enhances their well-being, meets their individual needs, and prepares them for the future

## Mission

- Our mission is to build community, empower families, and advocate for students with disabilities in the Issaquah School District

## We serve

- We support ALL students with disabilities or suspected disabilities residing within the Issaquah School District boundaries, and their families



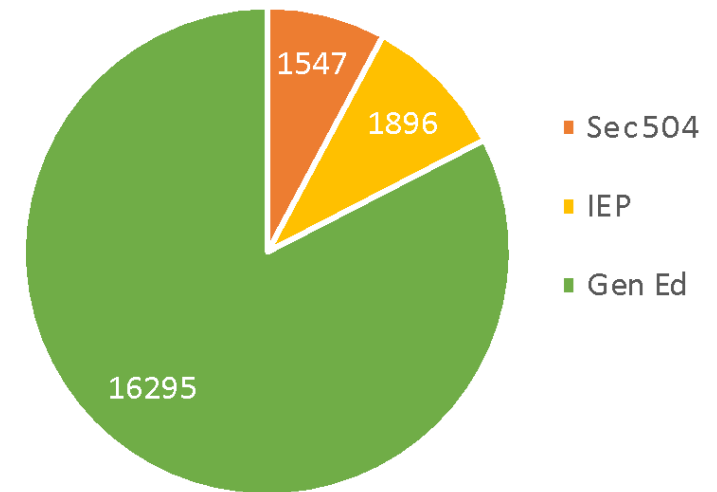
# IEP and 504 Students (17%)

2021 – 2022 School Year  
Source: OSPI data

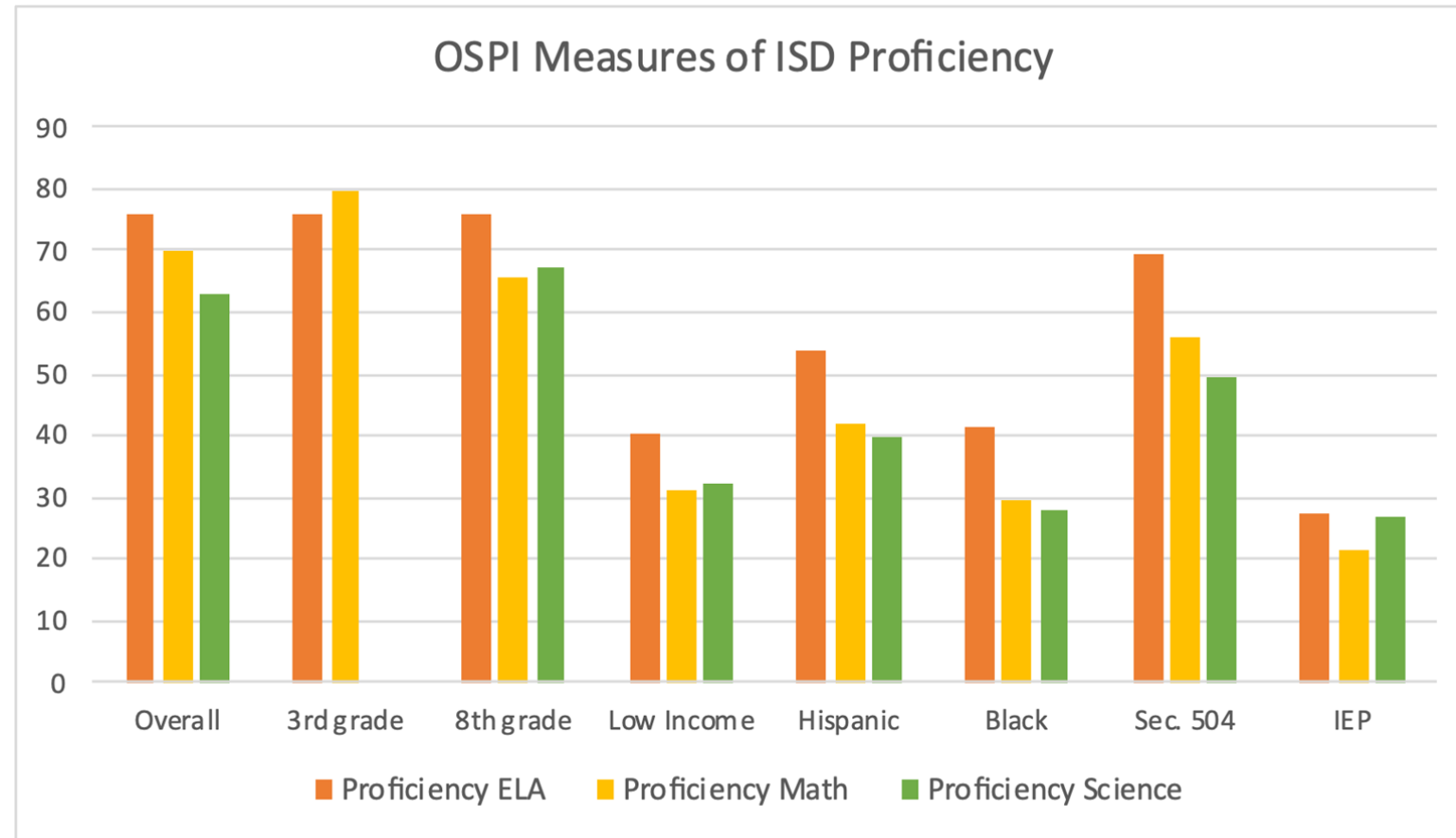
## Enrollment

Sec 504	1547
IEP	1896
Gen Ed	16295
Total	19738

2021 Enrollment



# Special Ed Students are lagging



## 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



# Why did we form?

## **There was no existing organization like this.**

- Students and families can feel isolated and unheard
- The disabilities community is spread across 26 ISD schools

## **We needed a cohesive, formal organization.**

- There were multiple individual informal groups across the district
- Chartered PTSA status and 501(c)3 status means we can have more impact

## **We want our families and students to have a voice in the ISD.**

- Create a strong and vibrant community
- Advocate for improvements and change
- Listening to students' experiences, voices, and opinions



# Formation & Activities

## Formation

- Chartered in May 2022 with 72 Charter Members
- Formed as an affiliate under the Washington State PTA
- Registered as a 501(c)3 nonprofit and charitable organization
- Set up communications on the district's "411" e-news
- Set up website and social media sites, including a public Facebook and Instagram page and a members-only Facebook discussion group

## Currently

- Getting to know key administrators in the district
- Introducing our group to other local PTAs
- Working on our community building, education and advocacy goals
- Striving to reach families and increase membership
- State level WS PTSA Special Education Committee



# Unique organization

## This PTSA is a little unique...

- ◆ We cover all schools and all grade levels
- ◆ We serve students ages 3 to 21, and their families
- ◆ We are active in a statewide PTA Special Education Committee
- ◆ We are the first districtwide PTSA in Issaquah
  - There are ten other districtwide Special Education PTAs in our state, including: Bellevue, Benton-Franklin County, Everett, Federal Way, Puyallup (Pierce Cty), Highline / Burien, Issaquah (us), Seattle, Shoreline and Tacoma.
  - There are other types of districtwide PTAs in WA, including some for music programs and a Chinese PTA in Bellevue.



# Inclusive

We Include ALL students (ages 3 to 21) with disabilities or suspected disabilities residing within the Issaquah School District boundaries

- IEP (Individualized Education Plan)
- Section 504 plan
- MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports)
- LAP/Title 1 (Learning Assistance Program)
- Speech/language services
- Mental health programs
- Juvenile justice system (Echo Glen)
- Early childhood Education (ECE)
- Outside agencies
- Homeschool
- Private school
- The Academy for Community Transition





# Current Membership

## **April 2023: 181 members**

- 16 out of 16 elementary schools
- 6 out of 6 middle schools
- 4 out of 4 high schools
- 17 Staff Members

**Important:** We encourage and promote DUAL membership. We ask our members to join both this PTSA and ALSO their family's school-based PTA.



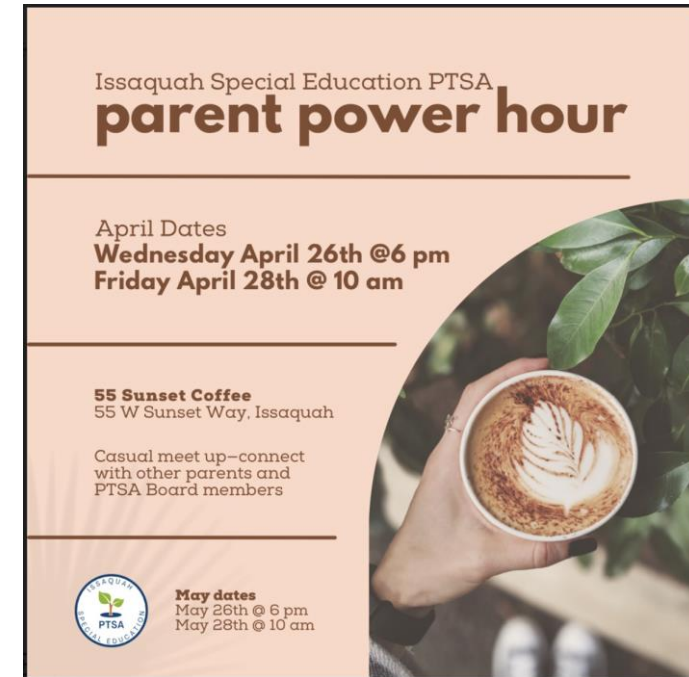
# Membership Comments

- *“This PTSA is AMAZING and so needed!!”*
- *“I am thrilled you are starting this program.”*
- *“The board of this PTSA is really amazing”*
- *“Thanks for all your work on this!”*
- *“I’m a teacher and am I’m excited to join this PTSA team!”*
- *“So excited about this PTSA.”*
- *“Thanks for putting this together!”*



# Building Community

- ★ **Daytime Parent Power Hour**
  - 4th Friday of every month
- ★ **Evening Parent Power Hour**
  - 3rd Wednesday of every month
- ★ **FB Discussion Group (members)**
- ★ **FB Page (public)**
- ★ **Quarterly Membership Meetings**
- ★ **Popsicle Appreciation Party for Members**
  - June 8th, Confluence Park, 4-6pm



# Education and Empowerment

★ Monthly “Facts for Families”

★ “Ask the Experts” Videos

- [Youtube.com/@IssaquahSpecialEducationPTSA](https://www.youtube.com/@IssaquahSpecialEducationPTSA)

★ FB Discussion Group



# Advocacy

**Goal for 2022-23:** *Help make the IEP/504 process in the ISD more family-friendly.*

- This process can be confusing and challenging
- Collecting feedback from families and students
- Partner with the ISD Special Services department
- Give special education students and families a voice



# Our request to you...

- Consider joining as a member!
- Help us reach your special education families
- Support our advocacy goal
- Share our education campaigns
- Spread the word



# Thank you.

## Any questions?

<https://www.issaquahspecialeducationptsa.org>

[www.facebook.com/groups/issaquahspecialeducationptsa/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/issaquahspecialeducationptsa/)

[@issaquahspecialeducationptsa](#)

