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According To National Prevalence Estimates, How Many Exceptional Students Would We Expect To Find In schools across the country? Understanding the number and distribution of exceptional students is vital for educators, policymakers, and families to ensure appropriate resources, support systems, and inclusive educational practices are in place. This article delves into the prevalence of exceptional students in the United States, the criteria used to identify them, and the implications for educational planning and policy.

Understanding Exceptional Students: Definition and Classifications

What Are Exceptional Students?

Exceptional students are individuals who demonstrate unique learning needs, abilities, or challenges that require specialized instruction, services, or accommodations. The term encompasses a broad spectrum of learners, including those with disabilities, giftedness, or other exceptionalities.

Categories of Exceptional Students

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) delineates several categories under which students may qualify as exceptional:

- Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD)
- Speech or Language Impairments
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairments
- Visual Impairments

