



Allison Neal, Founder  
Education Consultant

**Love those Statistics!**

**77.1%** NH  
Students served under  
IDEA (Individuals with  
Disabilities Education Act)  
graduate from high school

**9.5%** NH Students who  
are served under IDEA  
services ages 6-21

**6.4 million American  
Children**  
Have been diagnosed with  
ADHD

**\$14,576**  
Average cost of ADHD per  
person

**6-8 Million People**  
In America have some form  
of language impairment

**Over 50% of NASA  
employees are dyslexic**  
They are deliberately  
sought after because they  
have superb problem  
solving skills and excellent  
3D and spatial awareness

## Is it really a Learning Disability?

In the 6 years I have been working with children and families in the tutoring world, I have seen a diverse community of needs, abilities and diagnoses. I have reviewed IEP's and 504 plans, attended IEP meetings, parent teacher meetings and many educational workshops on addressing the needs of students with "specials needs." Although I have not compiled any specific data with our clients, I can say on average 4 out of every 10 students we work with, receive special education services. ["2011–12, the number of children and youth receiving services \(were\) 6.4 million, corresponding to 13 percent of total public school enrollment."](#)

Sometimes I hear from teachers, and sometimes from parents, that there is confusion about whether a child has a learning disability or is simply facing a "lack of learning." In my experience this can be one of those honest disagreements that can cause confusion and even consternation. In several cases, our tutor has questioned the assessment, and yes, it turned out that it was not LD but in fact just difficulty with one subject. And sometimes the student's teacher has correctly pointed out that a more global approach needs to be taken: exploring the possibility of LD.

Below you will find several articles and resources addressing the different sides of the conversation. Two are in direct contradiction ("Reading Instruction in Kindergarten" and "Is Common Core Too Hard for Kindergarten?") Please be assured that I am not trying to confuse you, but simply alert you to the various currents brewing within the field of education.

It is my hope that you don't find yourself in such a situation, but it's possible. However, you can rest assured that if you are involved with New England Tutors, we will be familiar with the problem and, working closely with the teacher and school counselor, able to assist in translating theory into practice.

The silver lining in this seeming cloud is that people now recognize that there are many approaches to the way we educate children. It just takes some time and work to find the right one for your child.

If you find our monthly newsletter helpful, pass it along to a friend and like us on [Facebook](#). Please give us a call at 603.953.5025 if you would like to see us tackle a specific challenge in one of our monthly newsletters.

If you have something to contribute, visit [our blog](#) or send me a note

at [allison@netutors.com](mailto:allison@netutors.com)

Allison Neal

## Half a million words in the English language

The largest language on earth, incidentally - but a third of all our writing is made up of only 20 words.

*(click on each listing above to be taken to the site)*

## Upcoming Events

March 14, 2015

Oyster River Middle School Jazz Band auction to raise funds to perform at Disney. [Learn more here.](#)

March 21, 2015

Portsmouth Christian Academy Annual auction and fundraiser. [Learn more here](#)

March 28, 2015

Partnering for Strength 2015 conference at the Grappone Center in Concord. [Learn more here](#)

April 10, 2015

Timberlane Community Band Auction and fundraiser for a scholarship fund to the performing arts center. [Learn more here](#)

April 24-May 8, 2015

SEED annual *Innovation in Bloom* silent auction and fundraiser. [Learn more here.](#)

May 9, 2015

Durham Annual Quackfest Duck race. Raising funds for *Growing Places* a non-profit Child Care Facility. A great day of fun for all ages. [Learn more here.](#)

May 16, 2015

First Annual *Supah Dupha*

## In the News

**Education News (January 30, 2012) *Mathematics Education: Being Outwitted by Stupidity*** - In 2010 approximately 2.4 million students were identified with learning disabilities—about three times as many as were identified in 1976-1977. This increase raises the question of whether the shift in instructional emphasis over the past several decades has increased the number of low achieving children because of poor or ineffective instruction who would have swum with the rest of the pack when traditional math teaching prevailed. I believe that what is offered as treatment for learning disabilities in mathematics is what we could have done—and need to be doing—in the first place. **(read more)**

**Defending the Early Years (January 13, 2015) *Reading Instruction In Kindergarten: Little To Gain and Much To Lose*** - In the United States there is a widespread belief that teaching children to read early—in kindergarten or even prekindergarten—will help them be better readers in the long-run. Unfortunately, there is no scientific evidence that this is so. How then did this idea take hold so strongly? **(read more)**

And for an opposing view:

**Thomas B. Fordham Institute (February 11, 2015) *Is Common Core Too Hard for Kindergarten?*** - A report last month from a pair of advocacy organizations, the Alliance for Childhood and Defending the Early Years, argued that “there is a widespread belief that teaching children to read early will help them be better readers in the long-run,” but that there is “no scientific evidence that this is so.” The Washington Post and its Common Core-averse education blogger, Valerie Strauss, have been particularly aggressive in highlighting this report and running pieces from both parents and teachers arguing that “forcing some kids to read before they are ready could be harmful.” **(read more)**

**Great Schools *Learning Disabilities in Children: An Overview* by Jan Baumel, M.S.** - You wonder why different professionals come to different conclusions about whether or not your child has a learning disability (LD). Why did the private assessment results say that your child has LD, but the public school disagreed? **(read more)**

## The SAT Prep Debate

New England Tutors has always recognized that each student is unique in not only his or her abilities but also goals, access to higher education, obstacles, and maturity. College is a perfect next step for many students for many reasons. And, it is not a good next step for many others for just as many reasons. We respect all students and provide consulting and services for both. For those on the path to college, the SAT and ACT are still necessary evils to the application process. Our approach to SAT/ACT prep is to look at the individual starting point and goals of each student and then craft a targeted program to attain the scores you need. We do this through one-on-one tutoring or small group instruction. We have successfully worked with students struggling with anxiety, test stress, slow processing, and mainstream to gifted. **SUCCESS WITH EVERY STUDENT !**

*Scoopah Ice Cream Festival* sponsored by New England Tutors. Stay tuned for all the details

June 7, 2015

SPCA annual *Paws Walk*  
This largest animal welfare fundraiser event held at Stratham Park. [Learn more here.](#)

For a complete list of our events [click here.](#)



## Into the Home Stretch for Class of 2015

It's going to happen...it always does. I get the call in April or May from a frantic parent. The story usually goes like this, "My student is a senior and she is failing (math, science, English, a core class) and will not graduate unless she passes. We need your help!" I have a love/hate relationship with these calls. I love that the family has found our services and we have yet another opportunity to change someone's life. I hate that the process we are forced to take is reactionary. And isn't always about helping the student gain the appropriate knowledge to graduate. Sometimes it's just about the diploma and helping them move on successfully to their next chapter in life. We respect every situation and are here to help. Call us today while we have time to help your student make the changes necessary and feel good about her abilities. We are more affordable than you think. With over 100 tutors and specialists in our network, we have the perfect match for you.

 Find us on  
**Facebook**

80 Ham Road  
Barrington, NH 03825  
phone 844-NET-UTOR  
email [allison@netutors.com](mailto:allison@netutors.com)