Almost 40% of K-12 special educators reported spending 20% or more of their time on paperwork.

This is the equivalent of a full SET work day or more per week.

Up to 7 weeks per school year lost to paperwork. (1)

Paperwork can account for up to 50% of SET time. (2)

3 ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT FOR NEARLY 1/2 OF A TEACHER’S DAY.

- Academic Instruction: 16%
- Instructional Support: 15%
- Paperwork: 12% 22%

Due to other responsibilities, SETs tend to spend less than 1/2 of the day teaching. (3)

Combined, paperwork, IEP meetings, and collaboration/consulting with peers represented 22% of an SET’s day.
Some SET administrative activities take **over twice as long** as administrators think.

Administrators' valuation

**Actual time to complete**

SETs working in self-contained settings for students with emotional/behavioral disorder spent only **32%** of the school day on instruction.

Paperwork, collaboration and consultation, and IEP meetings took up to **18%** of the SET school day.

US high school students only spend **27%** of their day on educational activities including time in class. ...and SETs are only able to spend about **20%** of class time on instruction.

**CLASS TIME**

Amount of time SETs spend on academic instruction.

17%

Amount of time SETs spend on assessment.

20%

Amount of time SETs spend on special and general education paperwork.

8%

Class time spent on assessment is **less than ¼** of the class time spent on paperwork.
Technology Can Help!

41% of NASDE/OSEP survey respondents stated that improvements in managing IEPs were due to better technology being available.

Computer technology and data systems have reportedly helped ease some administrative burdens related to Special Education requirements.

– Quote from 2016 Government Accountability Office survey

Sources


Although the data used in this report has been produced and processed from sources believed to be reliable, we cannot ensure the accuracy, adequacy, completeness, legality, reliability or usefulness of any information. It is possible that reporting errors or inconsistencies between states and years may be present in this dataset.