Special Education Program Review

Findings and Recommendations Presentation

Board of Education Haldane Central School District

September 19, 2023
Public Consulting Group

PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP

Solutions that Matter

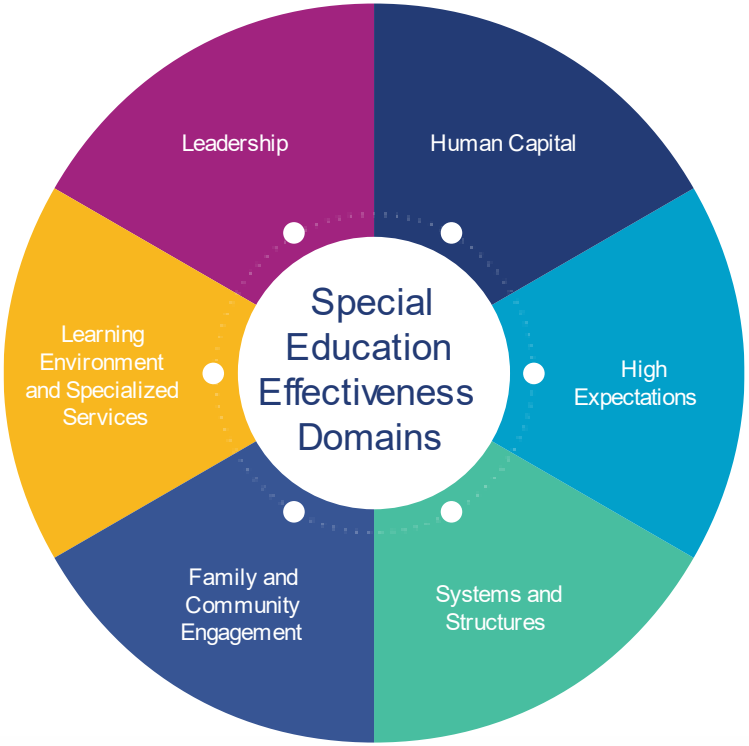
Agenda

- Introductions and Project Overview
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Action Plan Development and Timeline
- Question and Answer



Introductions and Project Overview

PCG's Special Education Effectiveness Domains



- **Human Capital** – *Investing in people from recruitment to retirement*
- **High Expectations** – *Increasing expectations of students with disabilities by presuming competence*
- **Systems and Structures** – *Defining expectations for service delivery, resource allocation, and data management infrastructure to guide data-driven decisions*
- **Family and Community Engagement** - *Coordinating efforts with families and community organizations to improve results*
- **Learning Environment and Specialized Services** - *Delivering instruction and interventions within an inclusionary framework and IEP fidelity*
- **Leadership** – *Embracing partnerships to make informed decisions and provide equitable opportunities for all students*

Research Questions

Curriculum and Instruction

- To what extent does HCSD implement a rigorous process to systematically monitor the educational benefit of special education services to students?
- Is there a consistent "golden thread", or supporting body of evidence, that connects the existence of a student's disability with Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance statement, identified learner characteristics, inclusion needs, and selected accommodations for instruction and assessment?
- How do Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams determine services and placement?

Family and Community Engagement

- What are the strengths and opportunities for improvement with respect to the district's Learning Differences Committee and partnership with the school district?

Research Questions - continued

Budget and Staffing

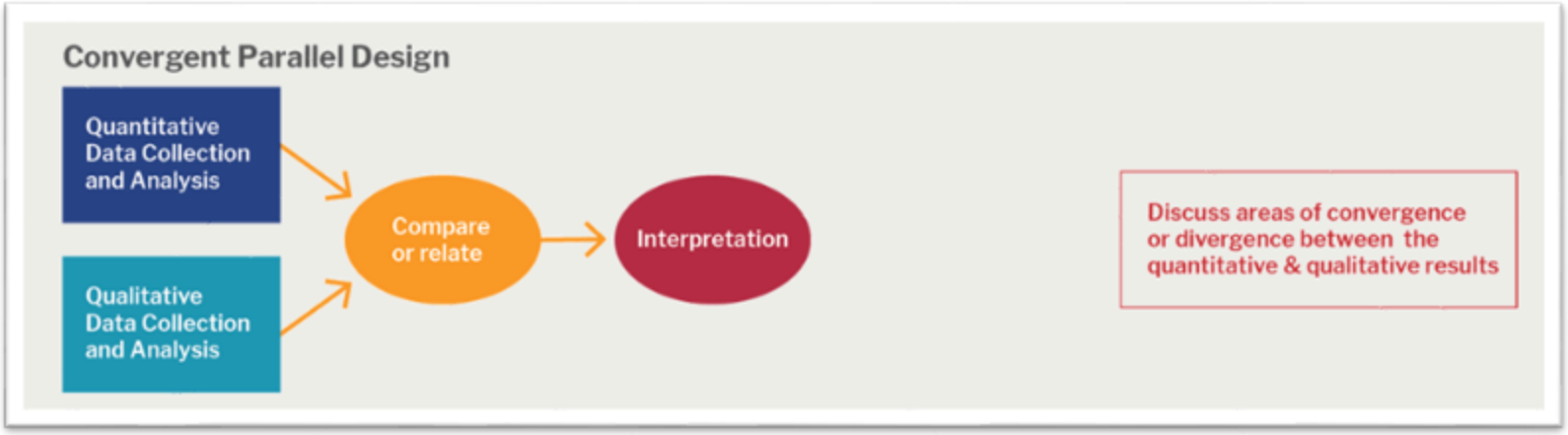
- What are the cost drivers of the district's special education budget? Where have there been notable changes over the past three school years?
- How does the district's expenditures for students with IEPs, per pupil, compare with peer districts?
- How does the district staff its special education programs at the elementary school, the middle school, and the high school?

Systems and Structures

- How is the district's continuum of services organized? To what degree do students with disabilities have access to general education curriculum? How are inclusive practices employed?
- What variations exist between the elementary school, the middle school, and the high school regarding service delivery and documentation? To what extent are individual schools meeting compliance and outcomes requirements?
- To what extent does HCSD meet federal and state compliance regulations?
- How has HCSD's school and district leadership fostered a culture that is focused on improving outcomes and post-secondary preparation?

Methodology

- Mixed-methods research design study
  - Employed to produce a robust description and interpretation of the data and make quantitative results more understandable
  - Strategically integrates or combines rigorous quantitative and qualitative research methods



- Questions and protocols designed in collaboration with HCSD to ensure aligned with 1) District's areas of focus, and 2) Best practices literature

Data Collection

Focus Groups and Interviews

12 focus groups and interviews, 45+ participants

2 in person student file review focus groups, 6+ participants

Stakeholder Surveys

34 parent survey participants

59 staff survey participants

Classroom Observations

All 3 schools

4-6 classrooms per school

Data & Document Analysis

Over 20 district documents and data trend analysis

Findings

State Performance Plan (SPP) and HCSD's Results Driven Accountability (RDA)

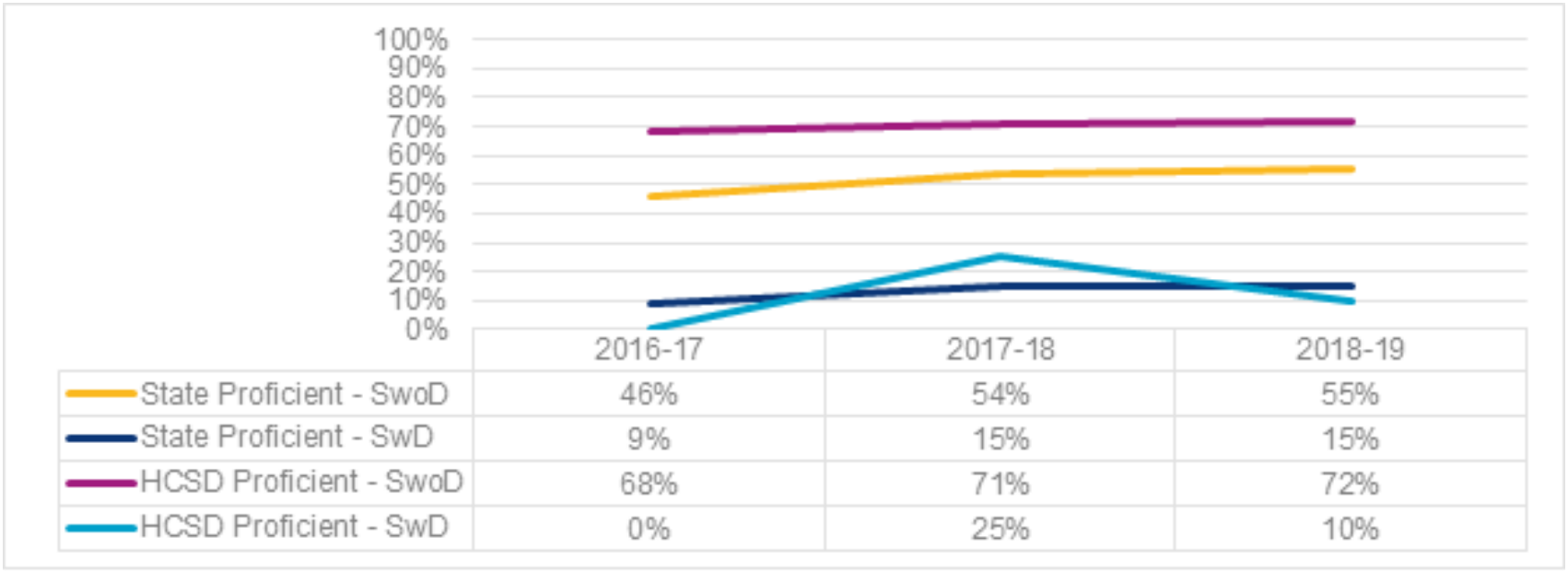
Strengths

- Education Setting (80%+)
- Graduation Rate

Opportunities for Improvement

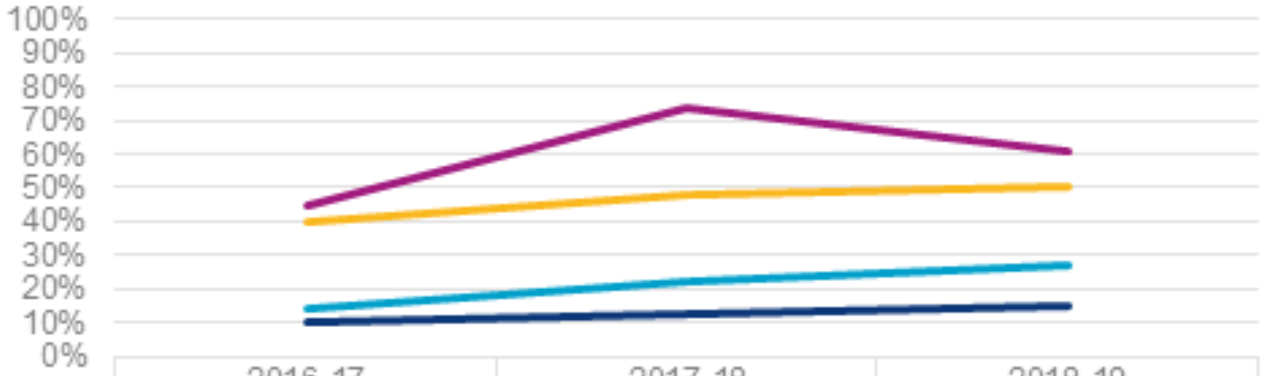
- Achievement Outcomes
- Risk Ratios for Overidentification
- Risk Ratios for Educational Setting
- Educational Setting

Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient on Grades 4 and 8 ELA, 2016-17 to 2018-19



	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
State Proficient - SwoD	46%	54%	55%
State Proficient - SwD	9%	15%	15%
HCSD Proficient - SwoD	68%	71%	72%
HCSD Proficient - SwD	0%	25%	10%

Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient on Grades 4 and 8 Math, 2016-17 to 2018-19



	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
State Proficient - SwoD	40%	48%	50%
State Proficient - SwD	10%	13%	15%
HCSD Proficient - SwoD	45%	74%	61%
HCSD Proficient - SwD	14%	22%	27%

Intervention Support and Referral Processes

Strengths

- Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- Confidence in Special Education Processes

Opportunities for Improvement

- Transitioning from MTSS to a Special Education Referral
- Educational Evaluations

Specialized Services and Supports

Strengths

- Prioritizing Inclusion
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Expansion

Opportunities for Improvement

- Limited LRE
- Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) Instructional Model
- IEP Development Guidance

Special Education Leadership

Strengths

- New Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Leadership
- PPS Budget Commitments

Opportunities for Improvement

- PPS Leadership Changes
- Strategic Planning

Family and Community Engagement

Strengths

- Engaged Parents
- Close-knit Community
- Staff Dedicated to Partnership

Opportunities for Improvement

- Expectations and Services
- Communication

Budget and Staffing

Strengths

- Student-Centered Budgeting

Opportunities for Improvement

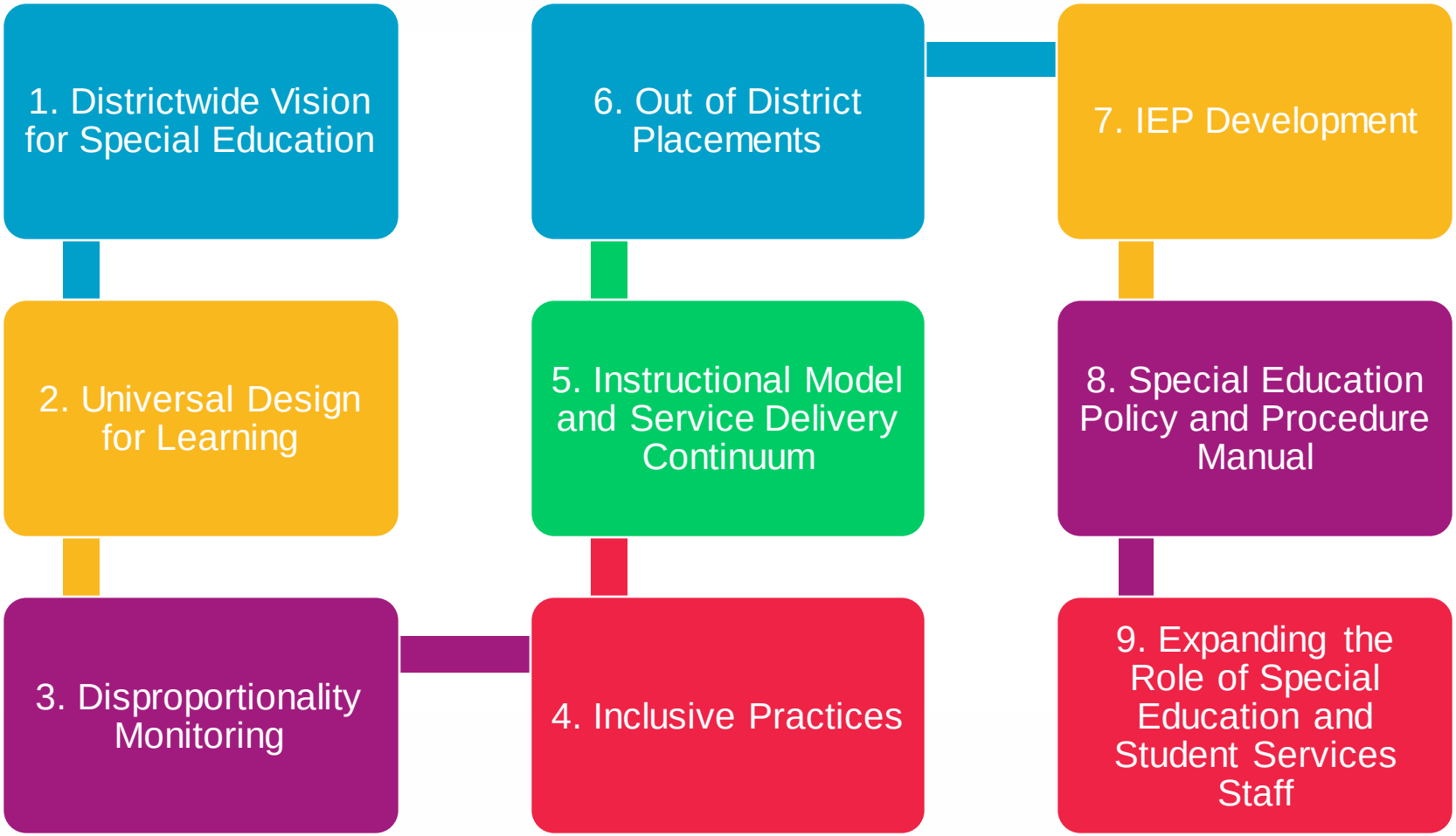
- Out of District Placements
- Cooperative District Partnerships

Recommendations

Recommendations Roadmap

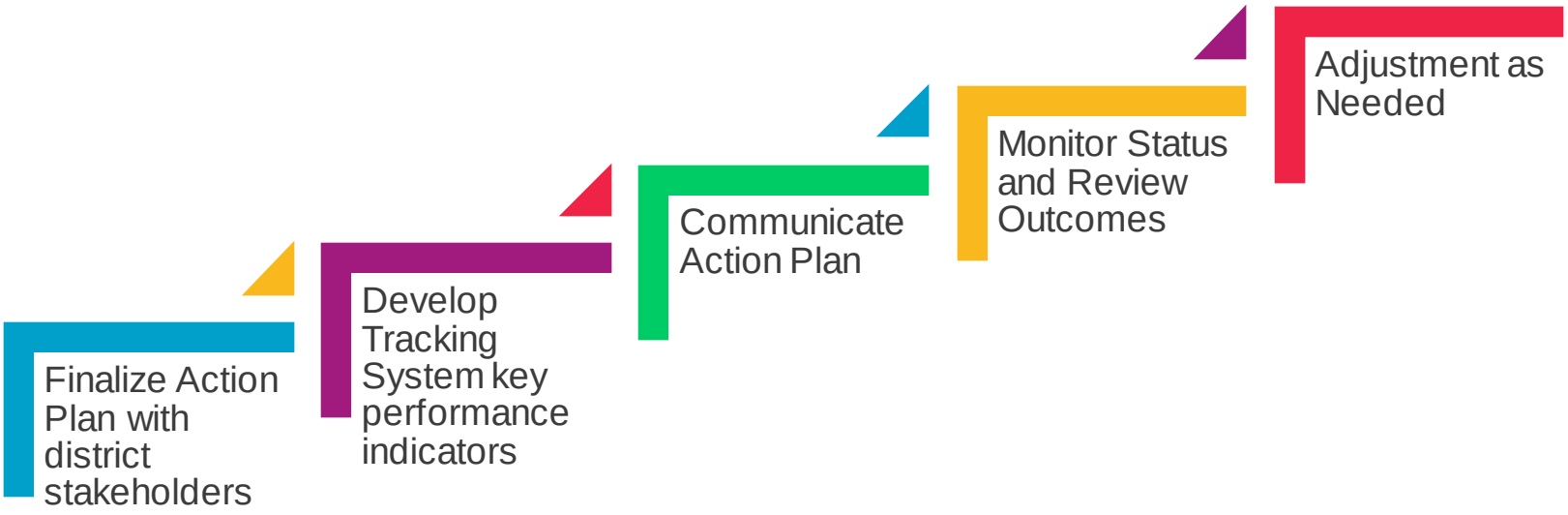
- Address areas of improvement and lead to future growth.
- Interrelated and will require a significant investment on the part of HCSD.
- Set the foundation for all other action steps from the report.
- Three-to-five-year timeline for full implementation.
- Provide flexibility of HCSD to implement spirit of the recommendation while aligning with other District initiatives.

Recommendations



Next Steps

From Strategy to Execution



Question and Answers