

Budget Work Session: Special Education 2020-21

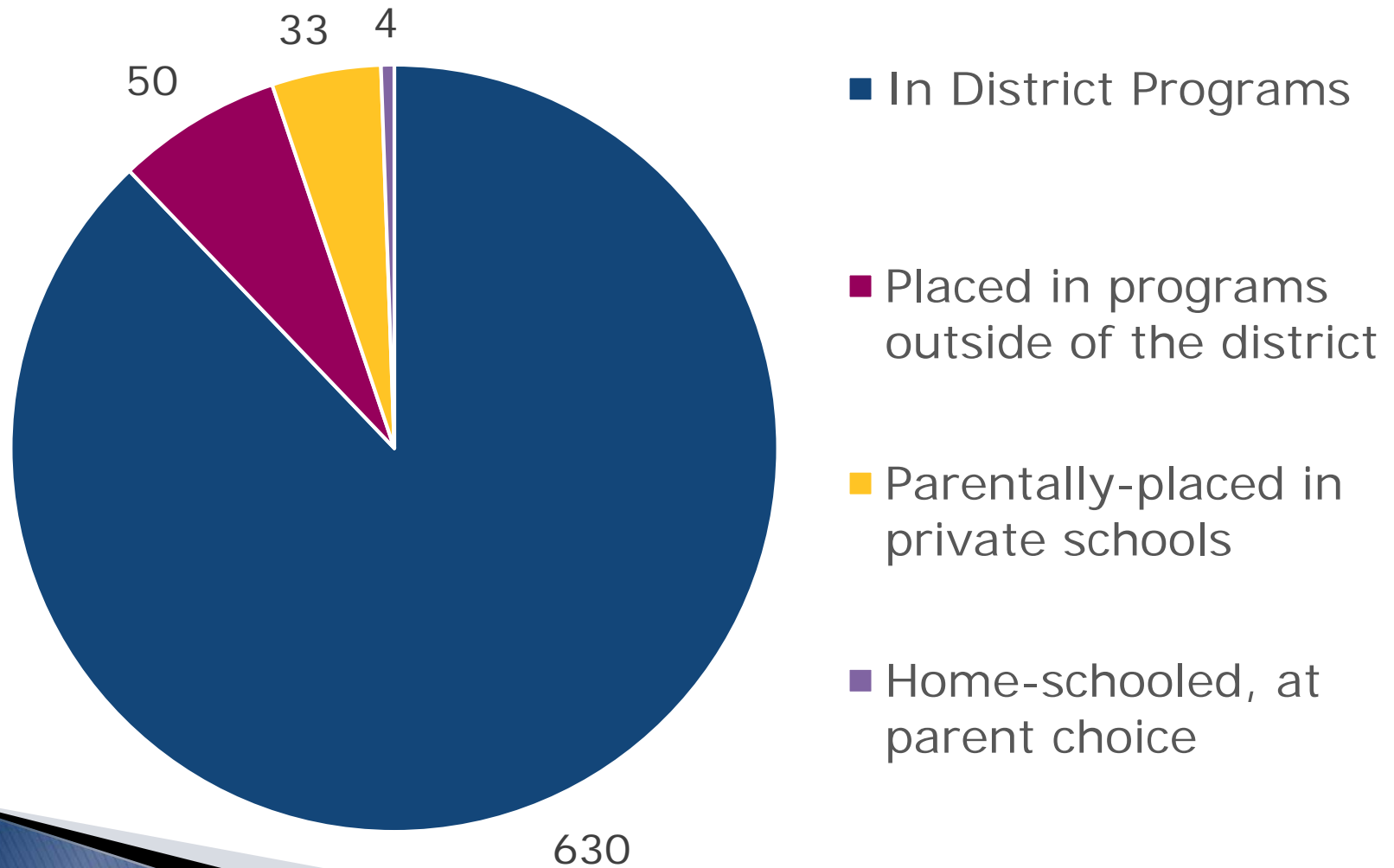


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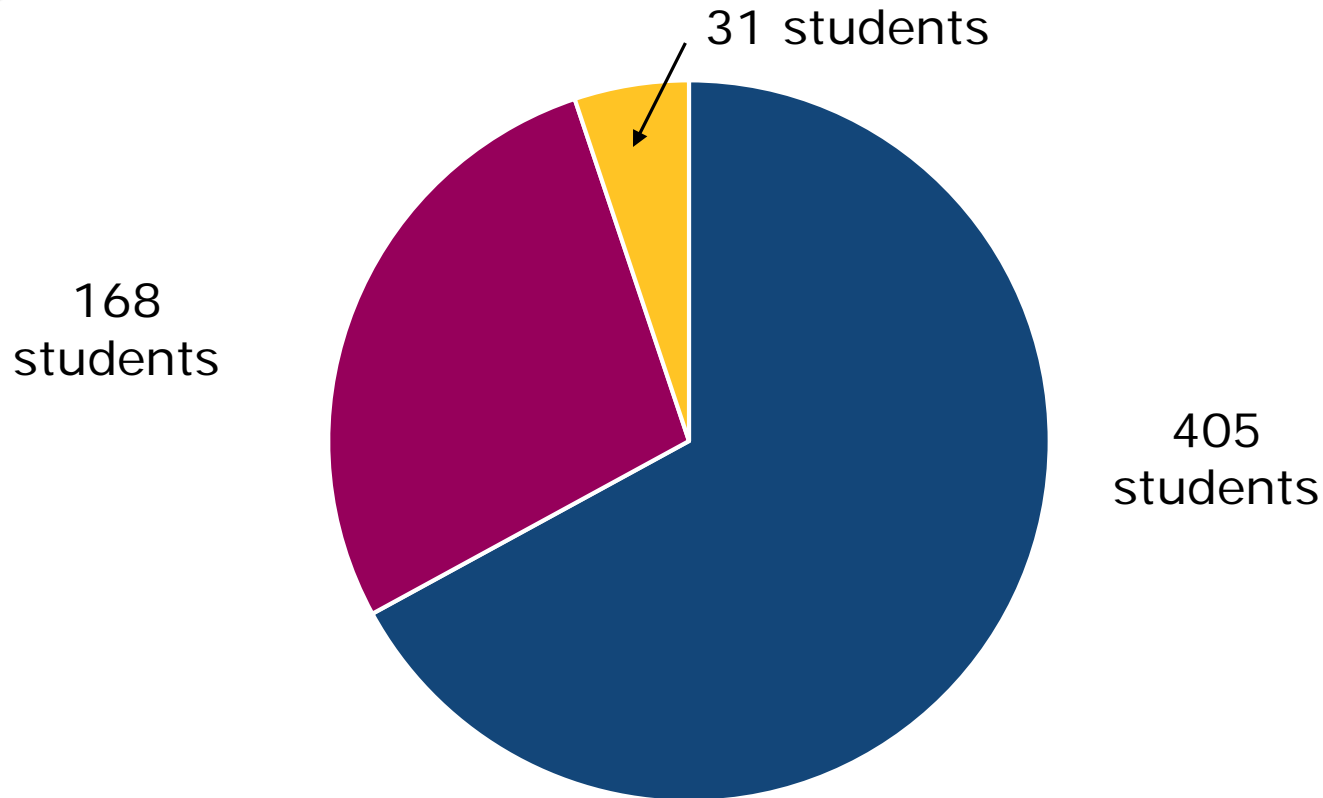
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The mission of the Special Education Department is to support diverse learners and to foster an inclusive culture within our schools and community. Through a network of supports, students with disabilities are empowered to identify, pursue, and fulfill their personal aspirations as they participate in our global society.

717 students, age 5-21, receive special education services (10/2/19)

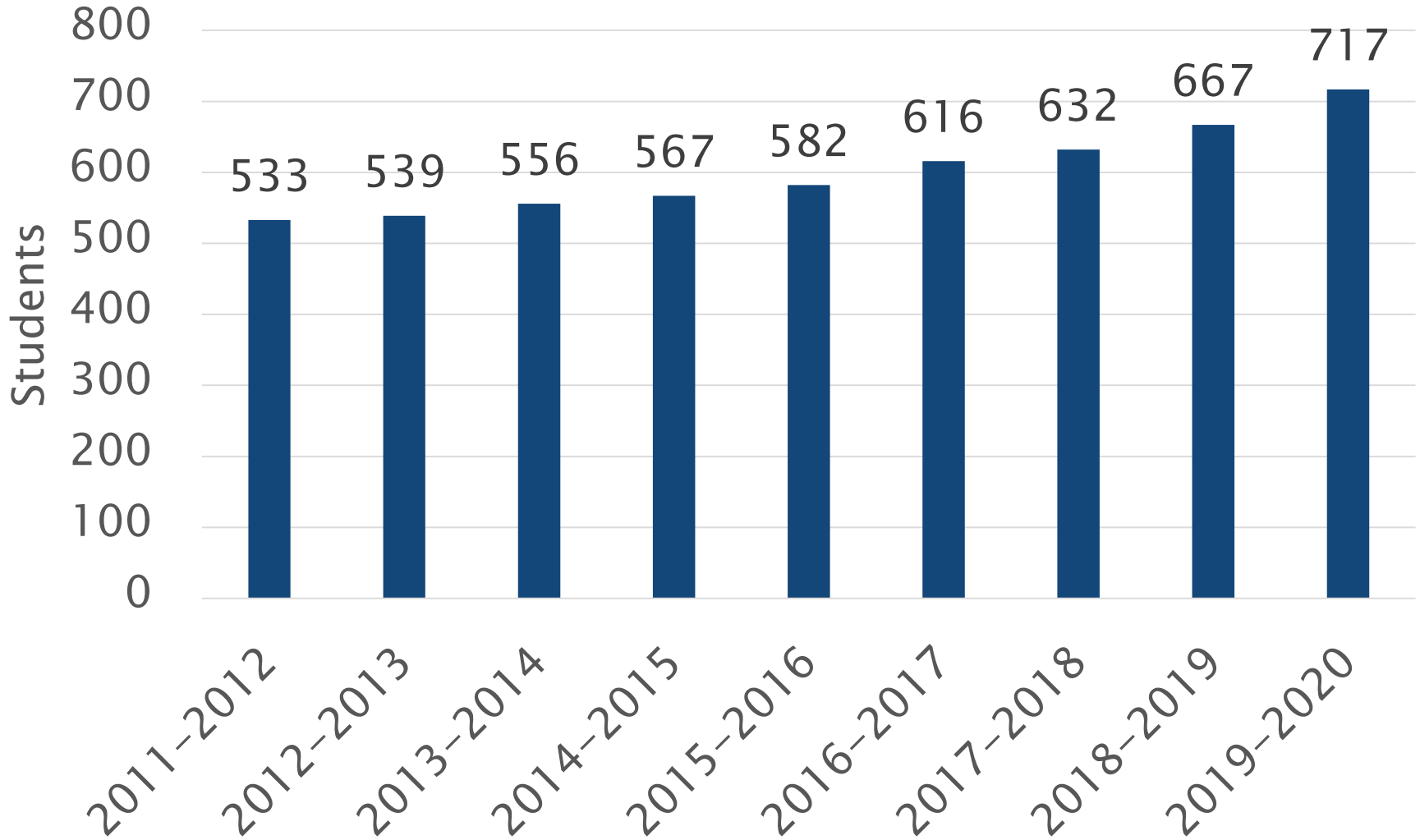


604 Students (age 6-21) in District Programs




- In General Education for more than 80% of the day
- In General Education for 40-79% of the day
- In General Education for less than 40% of the day

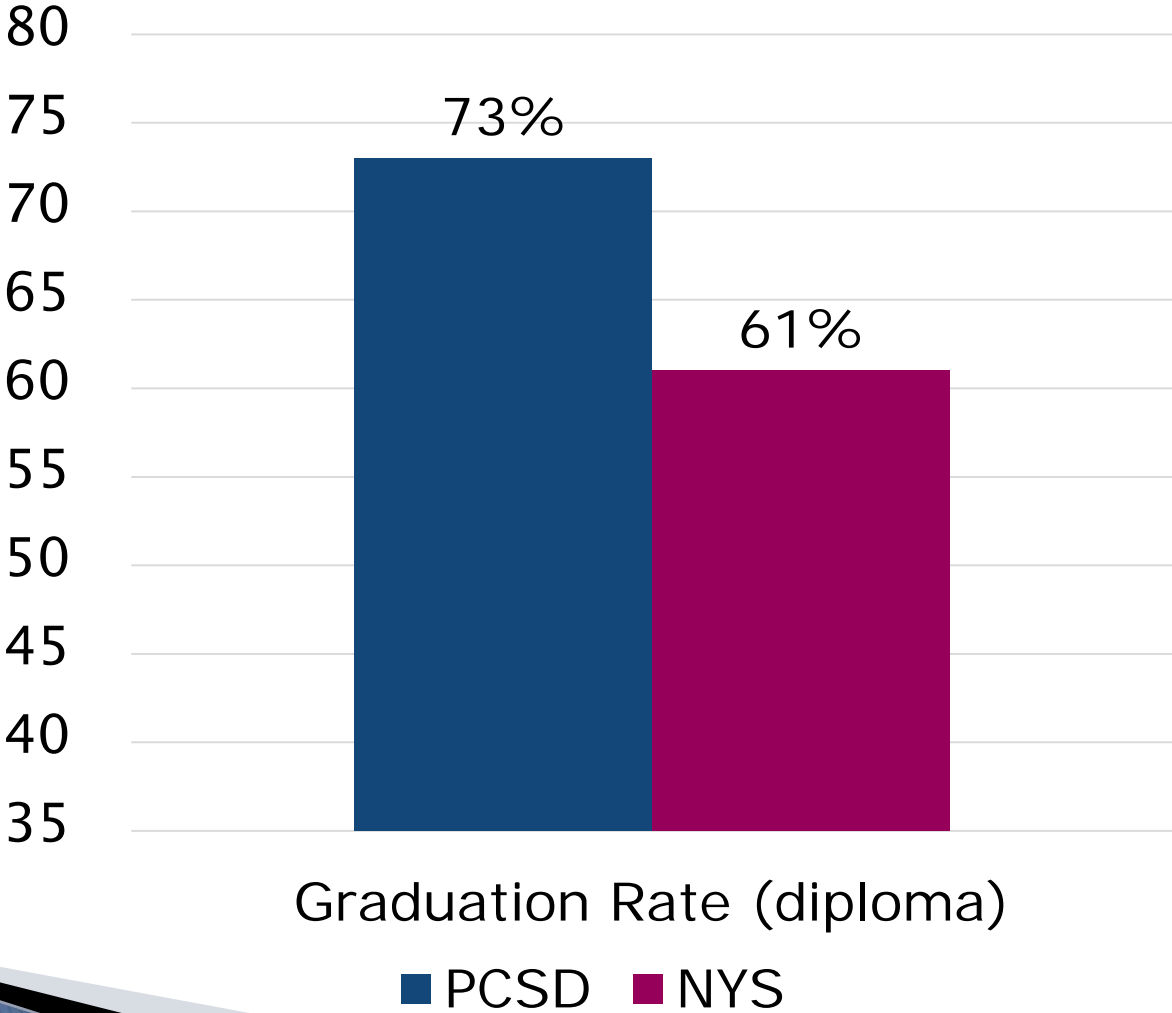
PCSD Students Receiving Special Education Services



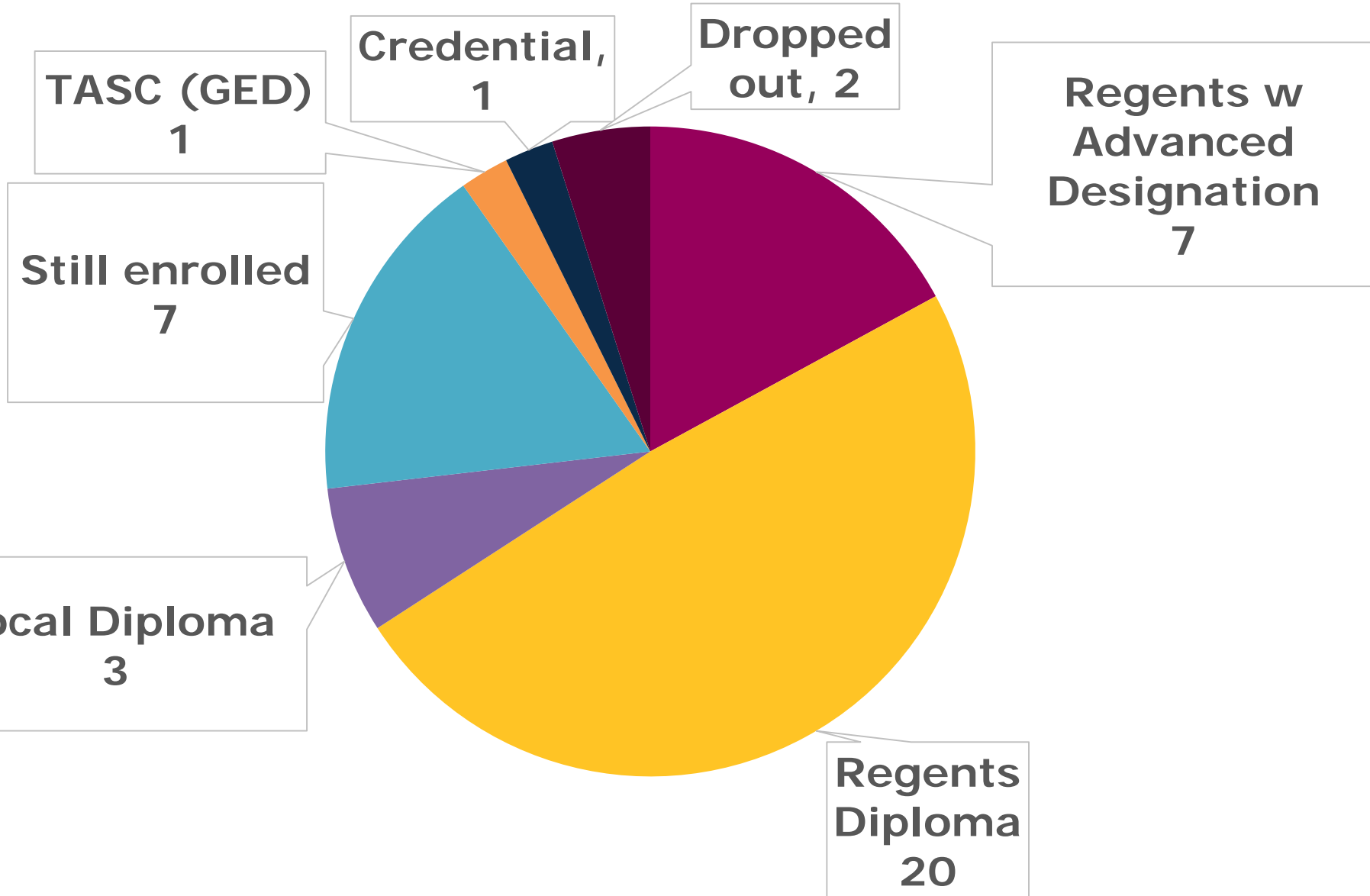
In-district: Range of Services

- ▶ Related Services (i.e. speech/language, physical therapy, occupational therapy)
 - ▶ Supplemental supports (Resource Room)
 - ▶ Consultant Teacher/Integrated Co-taught classes (special education providing support in general education class)
 - ▶ Special classes (max of 8, 12 or 15 students with special education teacher)
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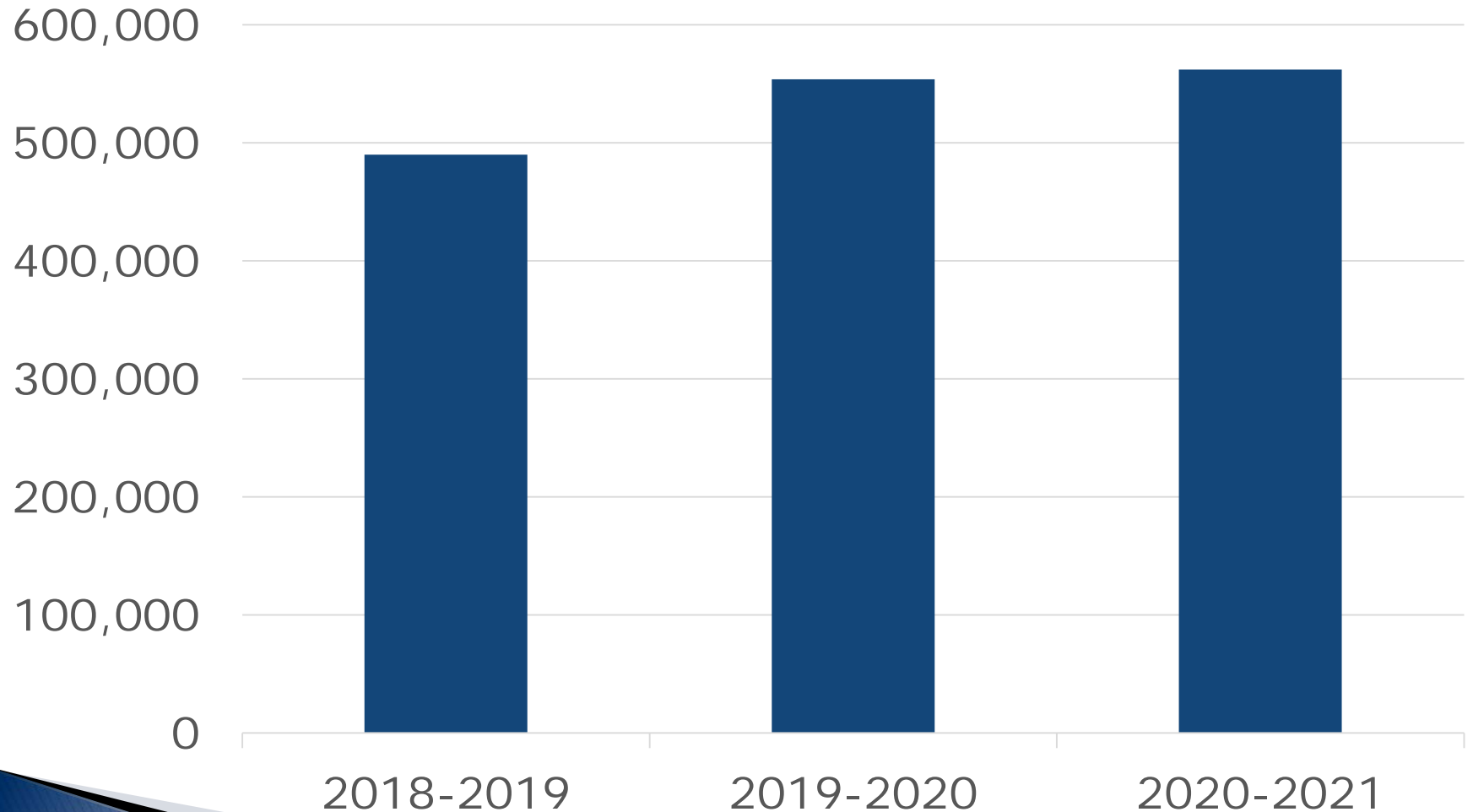
4-Year Graduation Rates for Students with Disabilities (August 2019)



18-19 (as of August): Outcomes, after 4 years of HS



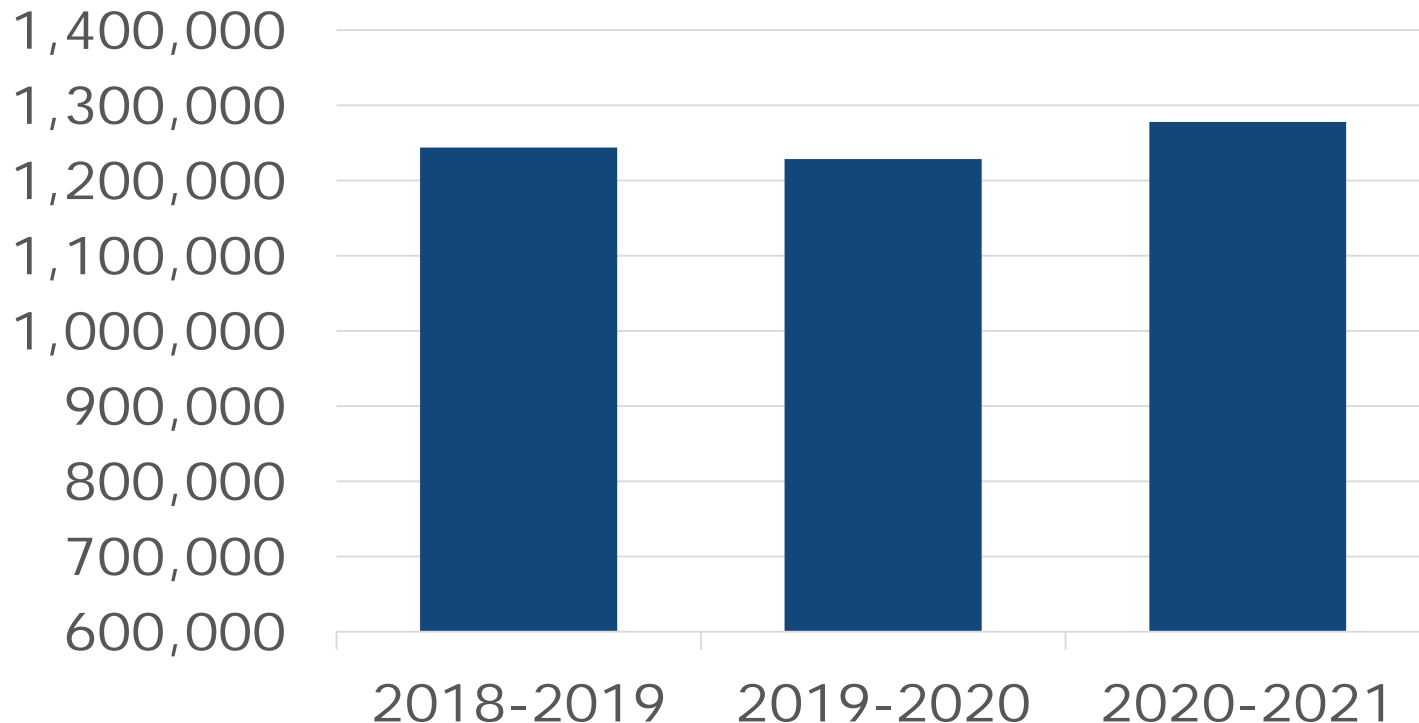
Central Student Services: Special Education Office (410-2251)



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- District office team to support District Committee on Special Education (administrative and clerical support)
- Interpreters (for students or parents), contracts, legal fees
- Summer CSE work (i.e. extra hours for evaluators and teachers)

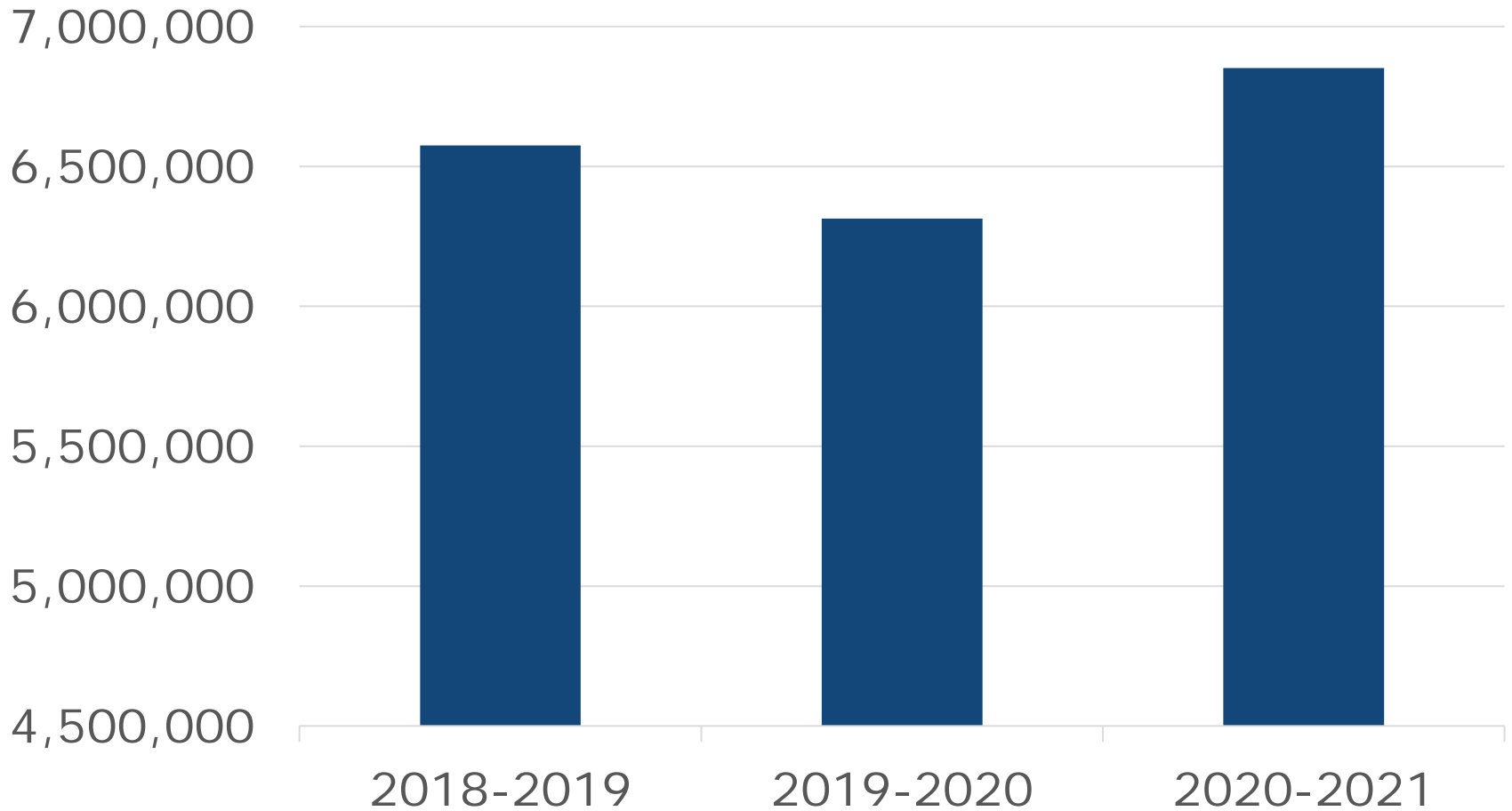
Central Student Services: Speech/Language (420-2255) and Adapted Physical Education (420-2256) Services



Central Student Services: Speech/Language (420-2255) and Adapted Physical Education (420-2256) Services


- ▶ 13 Speech/Language Therapists and 3.5-4 APE teachers
- ▶ Services provided to students across all nine buildings
- ▶ Salaries and supplies/materials
- ▶ Speech/Language Pathologist licensing fees – allows the District to receive Medicaid reimbursement for eligible services to offset the cost of these services

Central Student Services: Outside Placements and Services



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- ▶ PPS Private Schools (430-2252)

 - ▶ BOCES Placements (430-2253)
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Central Student Services: PPS Private Schools (430-2252)

- ▶ Private special education schools (CSE places students in these programs)
 - Hillside – Crestwood
 - Mary Cariola Children's Center
 - Norman Howard School
 - School of the Holy Childhood
 - Villa of Hope

- ▶ Tuition charges for special education services for resident students who attend private schools outside of Pittsford

Central Student Services: BOCES Placements (430-2253)

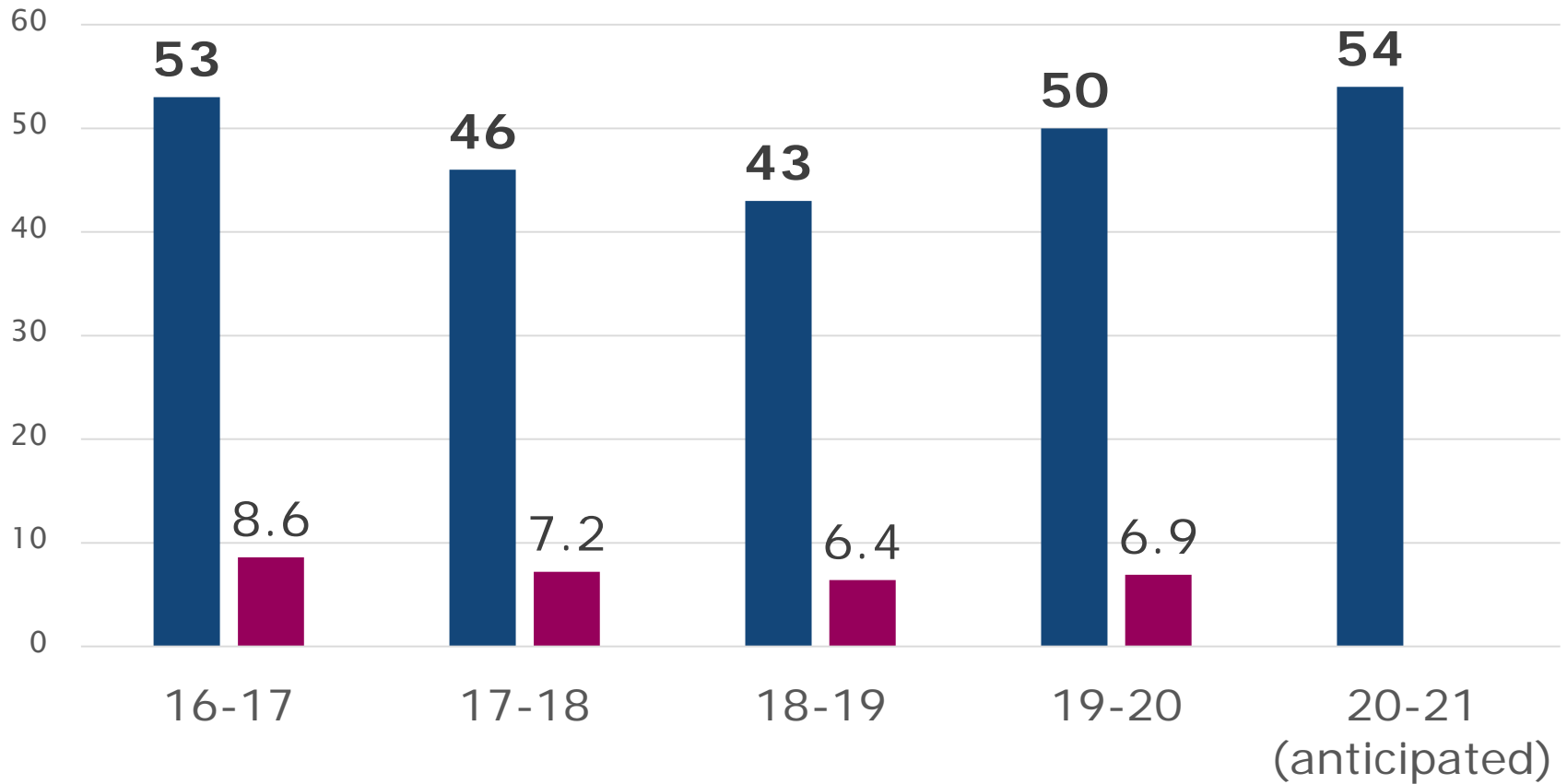
BOCES-provided special education programs and services

- District-based classes
- Bird/Morgan School
- Creekside program
- O'Connor Academy
- E-start program
- Related services (i.e. speech, OT, PT)

BOCES also provides services to parentally placed students in private schools in Pittsford (billed to districts of residence)

- Allendale Columbia
- St. Louis
- Trinity Montessori

Out of District Placements

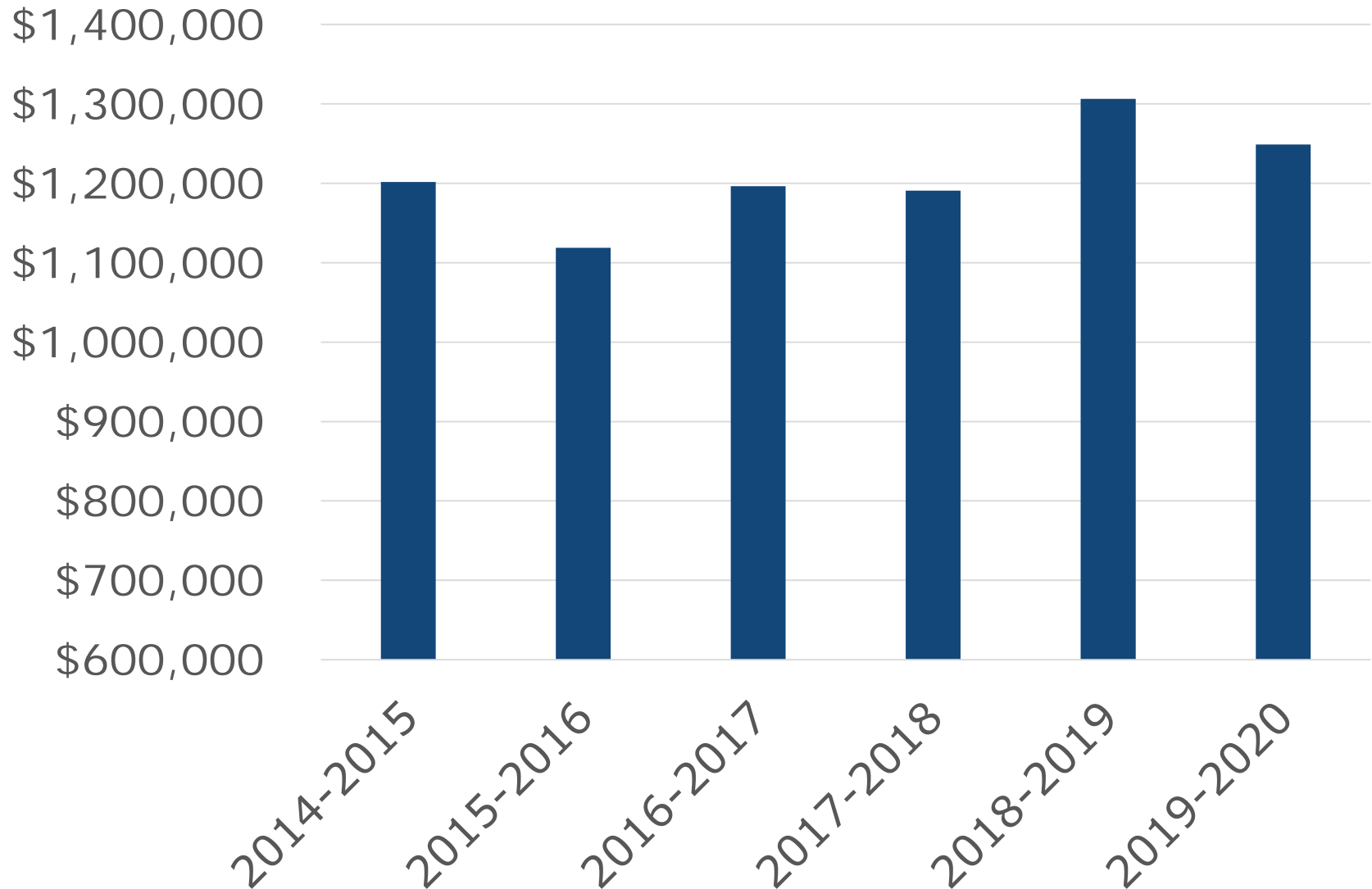


■ Number of Students ■ Percentage

Special Education-specific funding sources: **Federal Grant (school age and preschool)**

- Required percentage must support students in private schools in Pittsford
- Required sub-allocations must be sent to private special education schools
- Supports special education costs such as:
 - staff to oversee CSE functions at each building
 - assistive technology devices and support for students
 - professional development for staff
 - unique supplies needed for individual students (i.e. specialized furniture, Braille reader, etc.)
 - administrative expenses to oversee preschool special education functions

Federal Special Education grant allocation history



Special Education-specific funding sources: **Medicaid reimbursement**

- District can claim reimbursement for certain medically-necessary services (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech/Language Therapy)
- 17-18 school year: PCSD received \$41,039 in paid claims
- 18-19 school year: PCSD received \$178,995 in paid claims (included cost settlements to reconcile 3 years of underpayment)
- 19-20 school year: PCSD has received \$45,087 to date

Special Education-specific funding sources:

STAC Public High Cost Aid

- Supports costs for individual students in district or BOCES programs over a specified cost threshold (varies year to year)
- 17-18: PCSD received \$787,240 in public high cost aid (paid during the 18-19 school year)
- 18-19: PCSD received \$439,242 in public high cost aid (paid during the 19-20 school year)

Special Education-specific funding sources:

STAC Private Excess Cost Aid

- Provides reimbursement for a portion of private special education tuition
- 17-18 school year: PCSD received \$296,218 in private excess cost aid (paid in the 18-19 school year)
- 18-19 school year: PCSD received \$283,160 in private excess cost aid (paid in the 19-20 school year)

Special Education: Budget Challenges

- ▶ Increasing number of students requiring special education services over time and changing needs result in need to adjust and expand programs
- ▶ Increasing outside placement expenses as tuition costs and needs of students rise
- ▶ Waiting lists for outside placements and the need to continue to program for students while awaiting a program
- ▶ Unpredictable nature of outside placement projections (i.e. move-in's, changing student needs mid-year, etc.)
- ▶ Unknown federal grant allocation totals until late spring/early summer

Special Education: Budget Efficiencies

- Continuous improvement of Medicaid claiming processes
-> increase in Medicaid reimbursement to offset related service costs
- Expanding upon and improving in-district programs and services allows us to hold outside placement referrals relatively constant as our overall numbers increase
- Full day K has decreased our need to support kindergarten students in full-day special class programs (maintain students in kindergarten classes with support services in their neighborhood schools)

Questions?

