

Central Services: Special Education

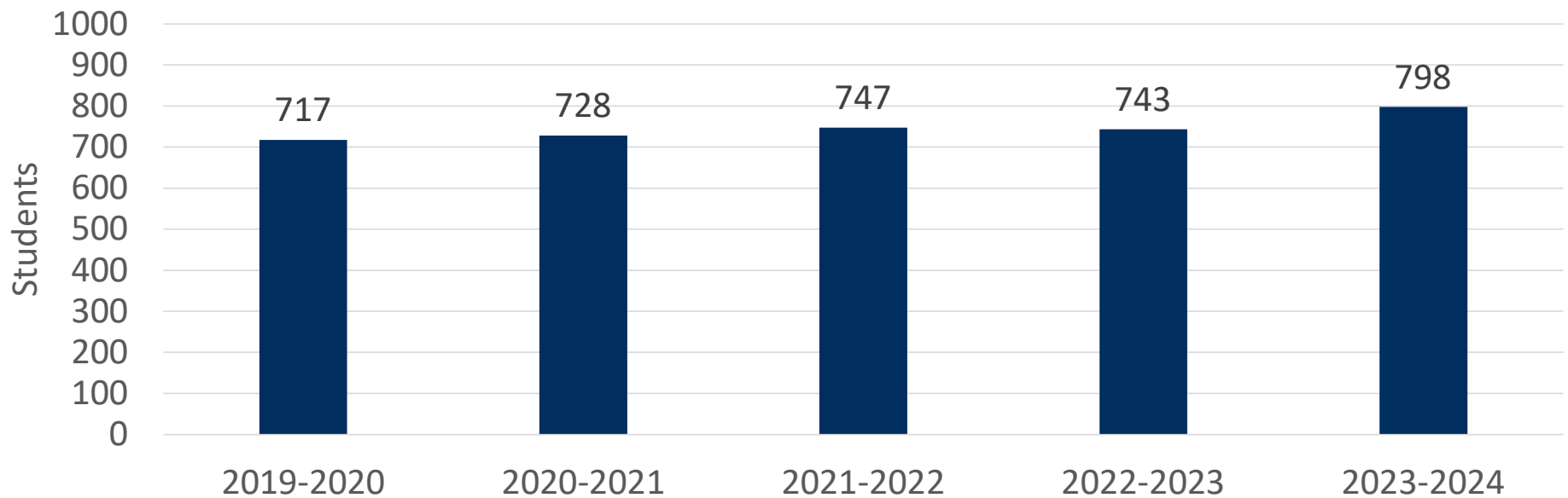


**Budget Work Session
February 27, 2024
Elizabeth Woods, Director of Special Education**

Background Information

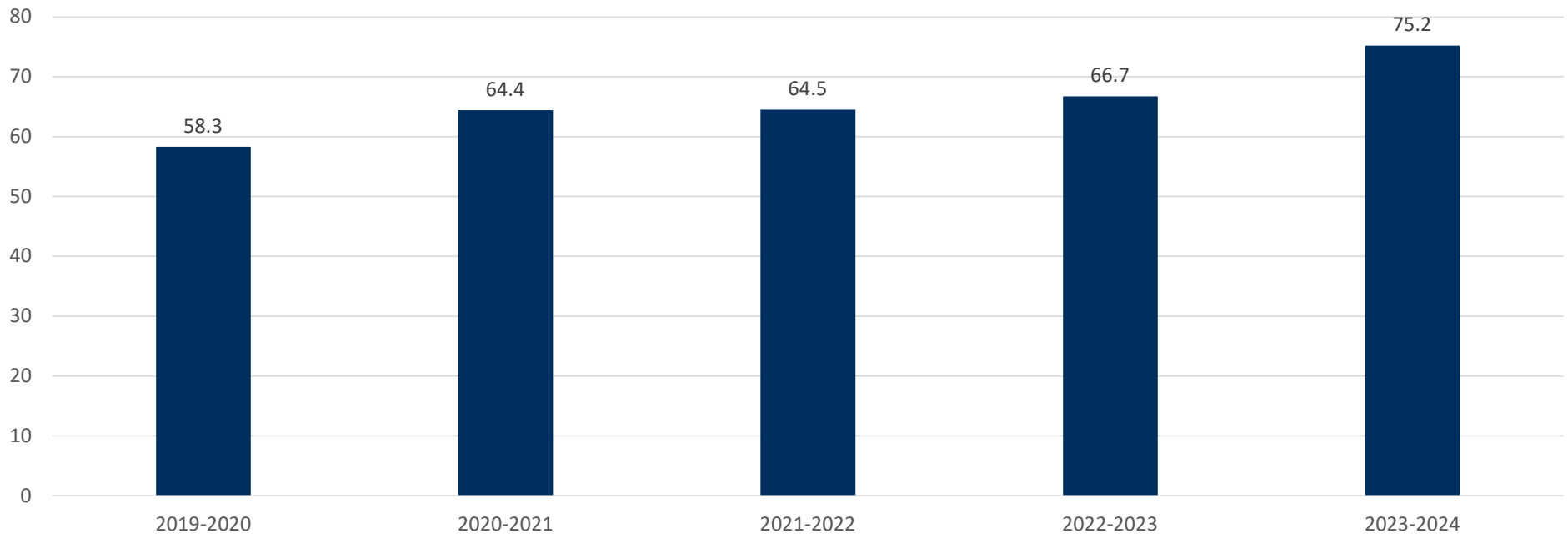
- Special Education programs and services are recommended/arranged for preschool-age students and provided to all school-age students who reside or attend a private school within the District
- Special Education Department fosters an inclusive culture by working to provide supports in general education settings whenever appropriate and by supporting inclusive clubs and activities (such as Best Buddies and Unified Sports)
- The salaries for the majority of special education providers (including special education teachers and paraprofessionals) and their supplies/materials are included in the individual building budgets

Students Receiving Special Education Services (age 5-21)

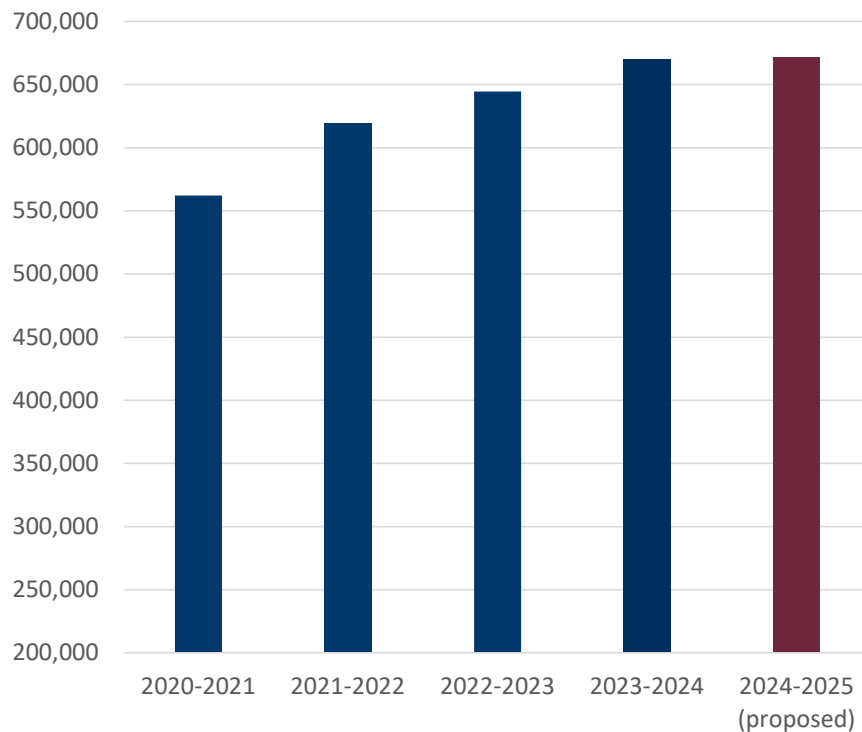


Increase in General Education Settings

% of Students with Disabilities in General Education Settings for 80% or more of School Day

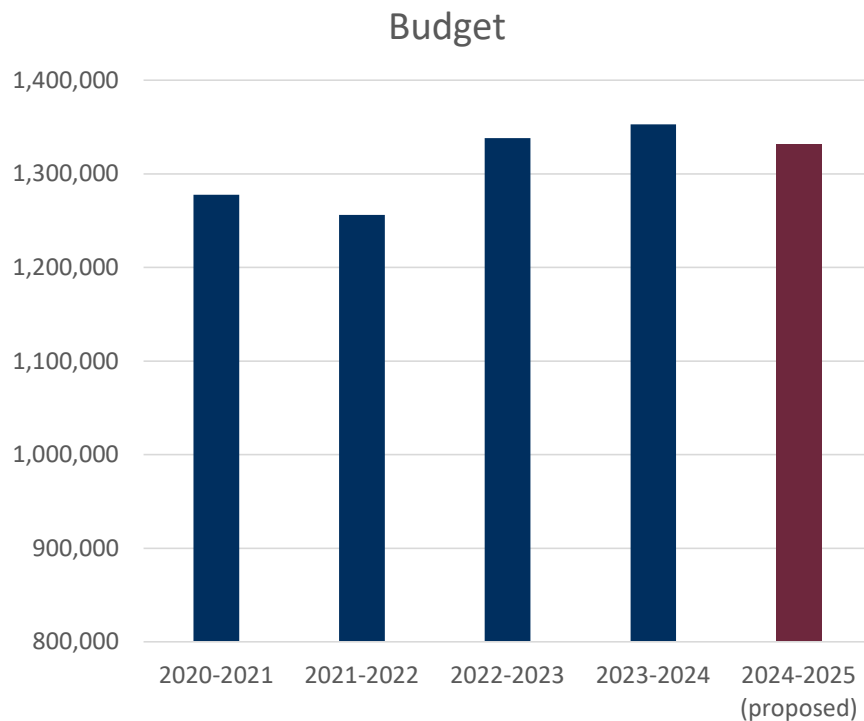


Budget History: Special Education Office



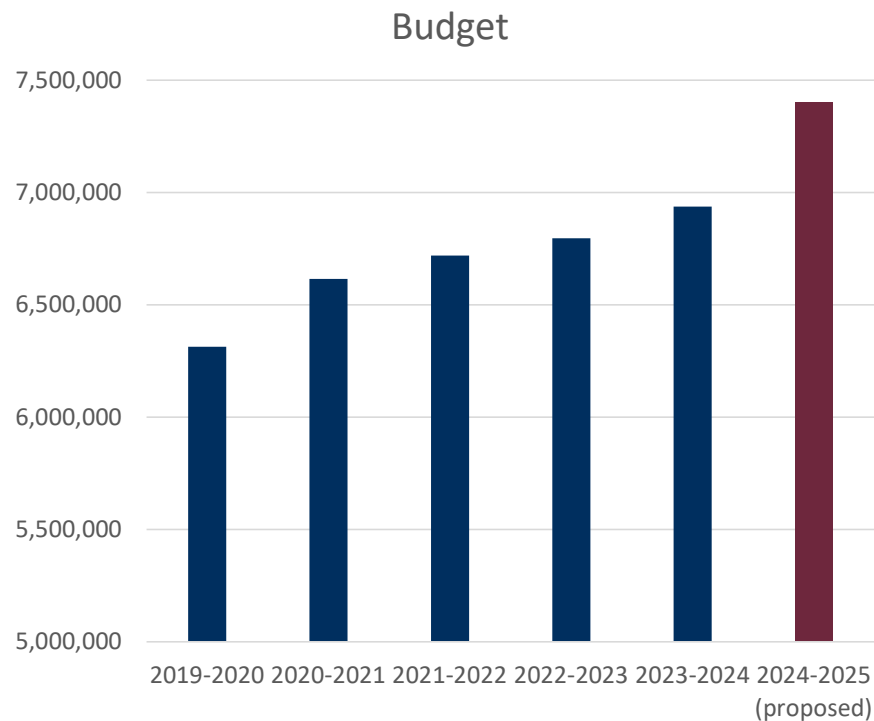
- District Office team (clerical and administrative support) to oversee Special Education programs and processes
- Interpreters, Contracts, Legal Fees
- Summer evaluations and required meetings

Budget History: Speech/Language and Adapted Physical Education Services



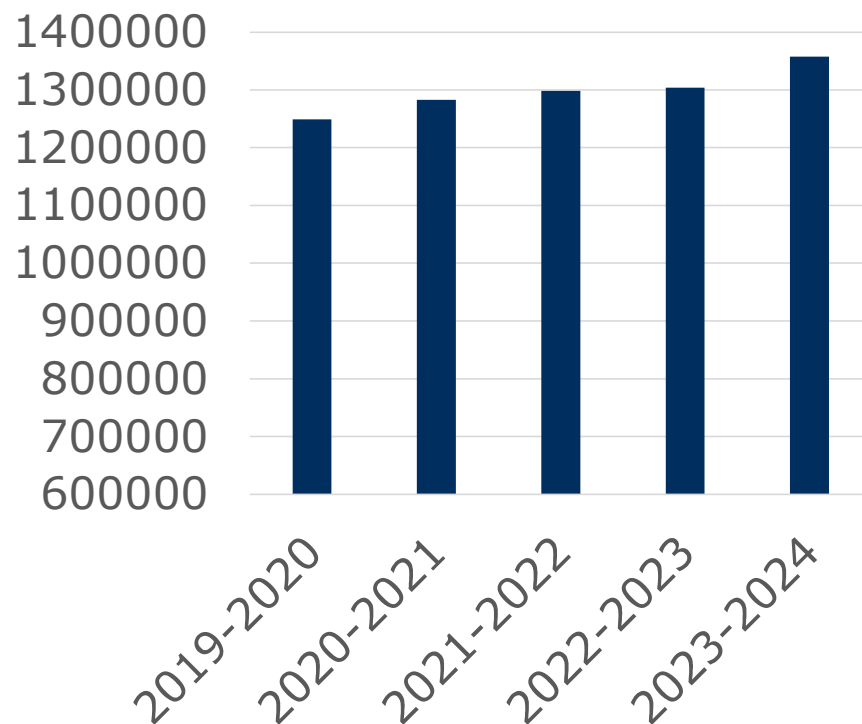
- 13.3 FTE Speech/Language Therapists and 3-4 FTE APE teachers, who provide services to students across all nine buildings, and their needed supplies/materials
- Speech/Language Pathologist licensing fees – allows the District to receive Medicaid reimbursement for eligible services to offset the cost of these services

Budget History: Outside Placements and Services



- BOCES special education programs and services to District students, including all Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy services provided in the District
- BOCES services provided to students attending private schools within Pittsford
- NYS-Approved Special Education Schools, as recommended for individual students by the District CSE

Budget Support: Federal Grant Allocation History



- Allocations are posted late-Spring for the next year
- Difficult to predict allocations but minimal changes over time
- Certain percentage is required to be distributed to private schools in Pittsford and to approved special education schools
- Supports CSE functions as well as specialized services and supplies for students

Budget Support: Medicaid Reimbursement

- District can claim reimbursement for certain medically-necessary services (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech/Language Therapy)
- Received during 22-23 school year: **\$75,223**
- \$15,157 decrease as compared to the previous school year

Budget Support: STAC Public High Cost and Private Excess Cost Aid

- 21-22 school year: PCSD received \$555,734 in public high cost aid and \$408,520 in private excess cost aid (paid in the 22-23 school year):

Total of **\$964,254**

- \$327,776 increase in aid from the previous year as we returned to our typical claiming and staff assignments following the remote and hybrid learning models during the 20-21 school year

2023-2024 Department Successes/Accomplishments

- Continued increase in general education access for students with disabilities, as we focus on improving the supports available to students within general education settings (i.e. Consultant Teacher services)
- Increase of District Assistive Technology Specialist position to full-time (paid out of federal grant funds) to improve our ability to support technology access for all in the district
- Continued provision of required programs and services, in spite of staffing and coverage challenges

2023-2024 Department Challenges/Obstacles

- Continuation of lengthy waitlists for the most specialized out of district placements, which requires creative and temporary supports for students awaiting an appropriate placement
- Continued staffing challenges in related services and paraprofessional supports, affecting in-district providers as well as BOCES and private providers, resulting in delays and gaps in service, need for providing make-up services and accessing private contracts to help meet these needs
- Increase in age of eligibility for school-age special education services from 21 to 22 (increase in cost for transition programming), without updates needed to the STAC Aid claiming process to support this increase

Proposed Budget: 2024-2025 Changes

- Central Services budget reflects increased tuition costs of BOCES and private programs, which includes the additional programming needed to support eligible students until age 22

	2023-2024	2024-2025	Change
Office	670,284	671,651	0.20%
Services	1,352,979	1,331,601	-1.58%
Out of District	6,938,384	7,403,261	6.70%
Total Central Services: Special Education	8,961,647	9,406,513	4.72%

Discussion

- Any questions?

