

Central Services: Special Education



Budget Work Session

February 25, 2025

Elizabeth Woods, Director of Special Education

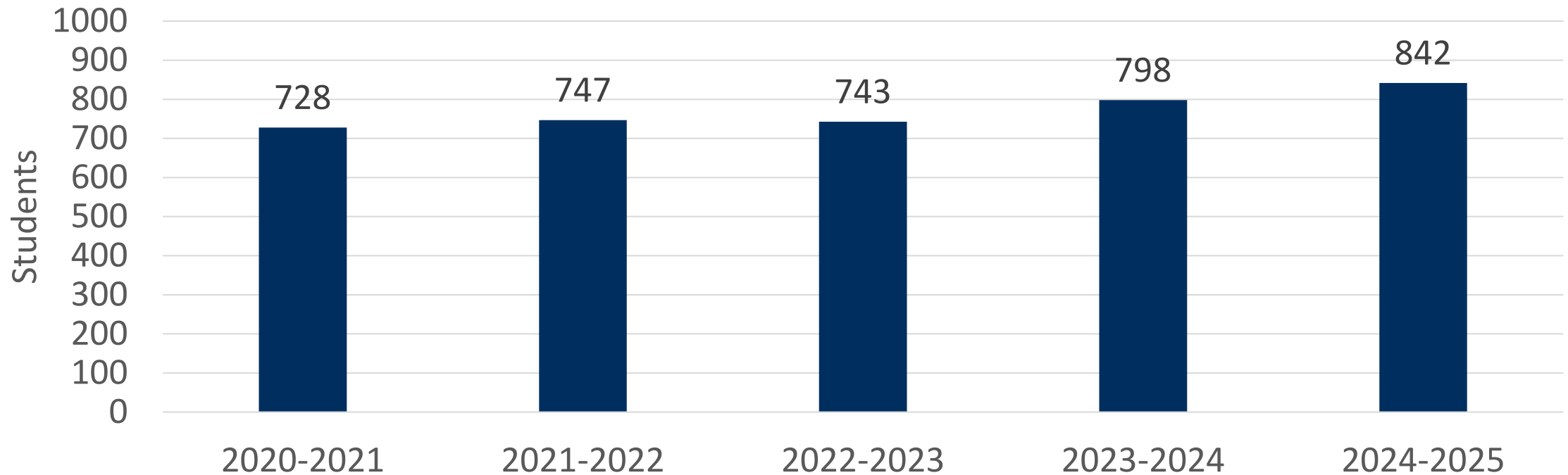
Background Information: Pittsford Special Education Department

- **Supports diverse learners and fosters an inclusive culture**
- Recommends and *arranges* programs and services for preschool-age students
- Recommends and *provides* programs and services to all school-age students (ages 5 to 22) who reside in or attend a private school within the District
- Supports and provides extracurricular and inclusive opportunities for students (including Unified Sports and Best Buddies, for example)

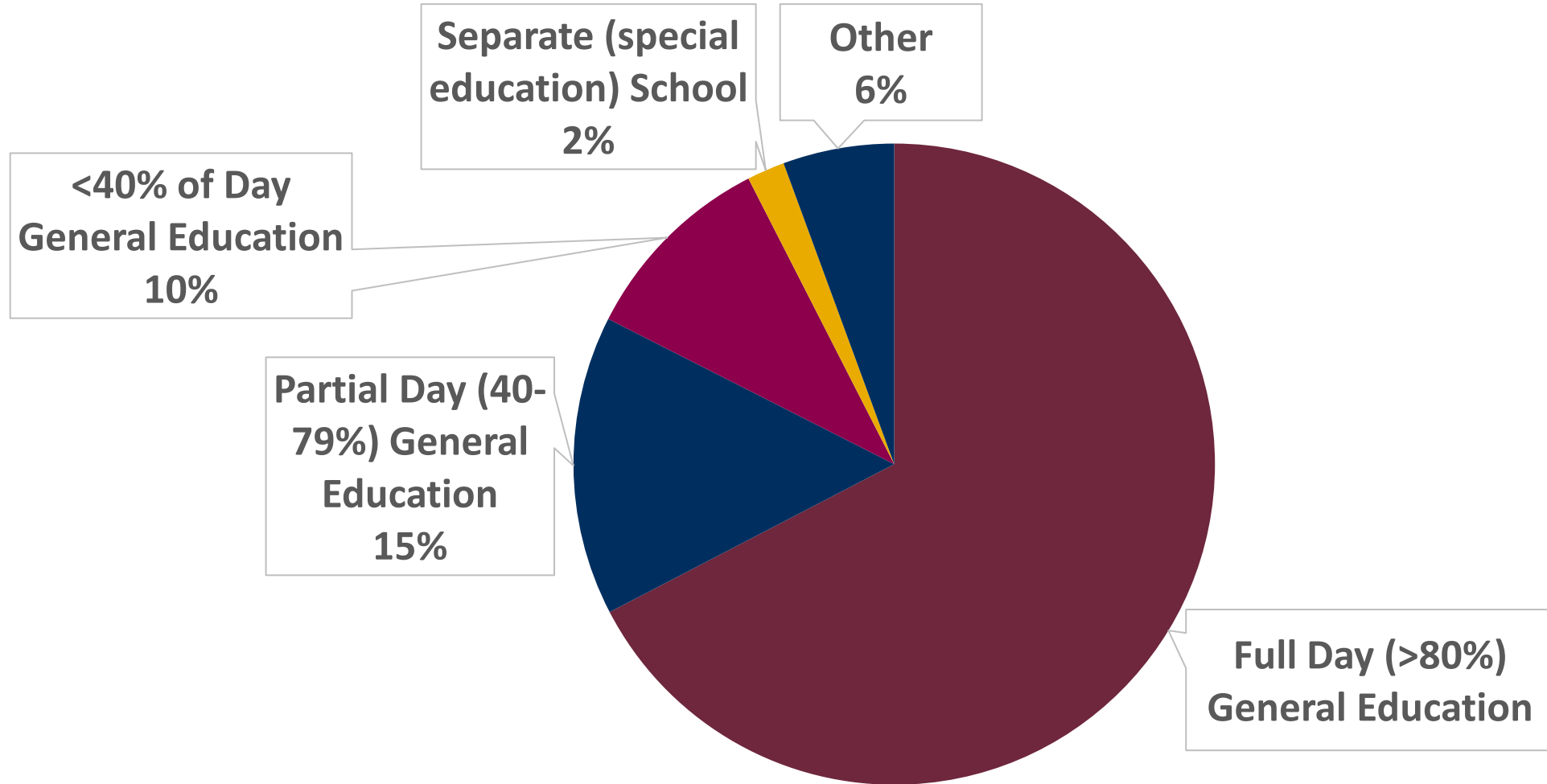
Background Information: Special Education Budgeting

- **Salaries** for the majority of **special education providers** (including special education teachers and paraprofessionals) are included in the **individual building budgets**
- Professional development, supplies and materials to support in-district special education teachers, programs and services are also included in individual building budgets

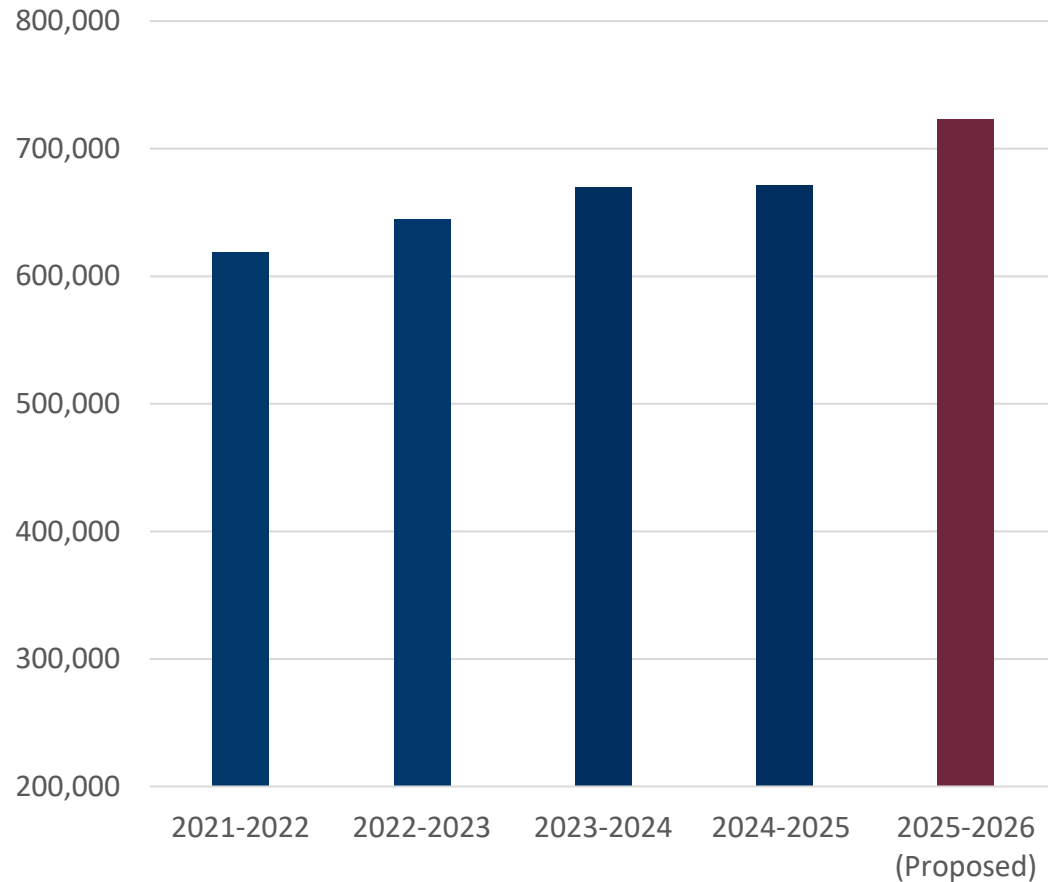
Students (age 5-22) Receiving Special Education Services



Where Students Receive Special Education Services (2024-2025)

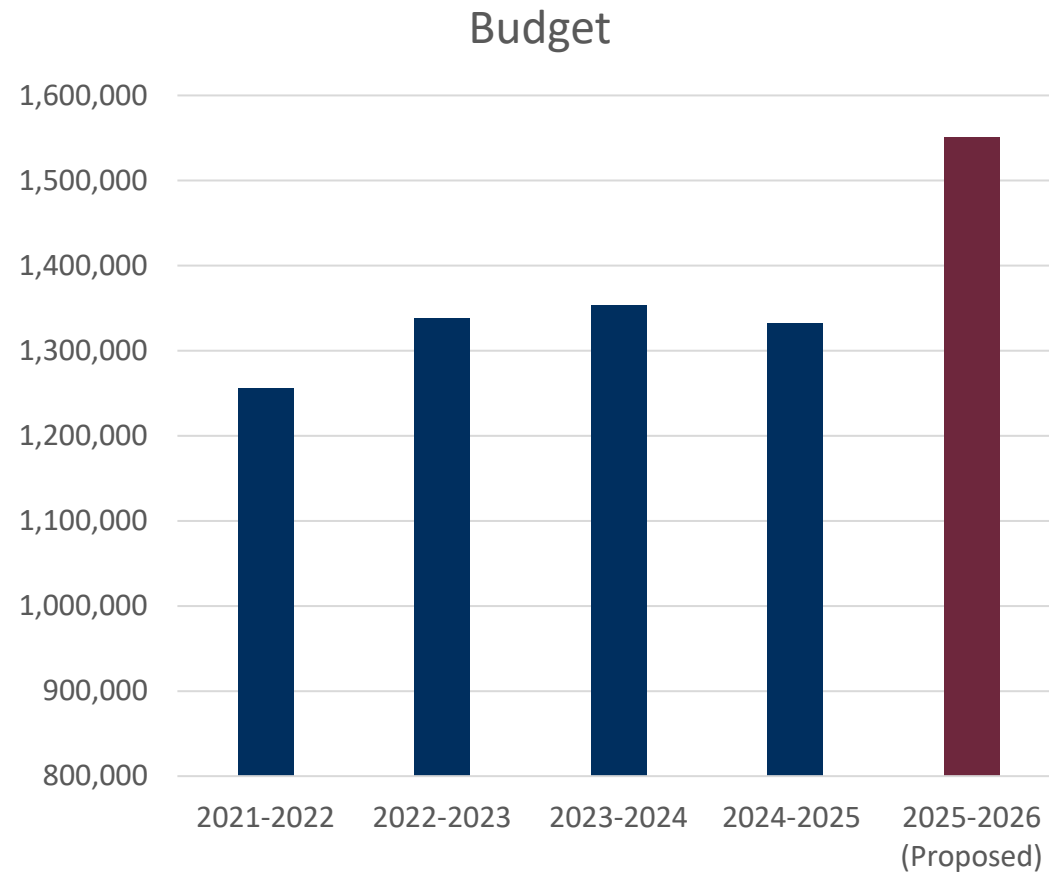


Budget History: Special Education Office



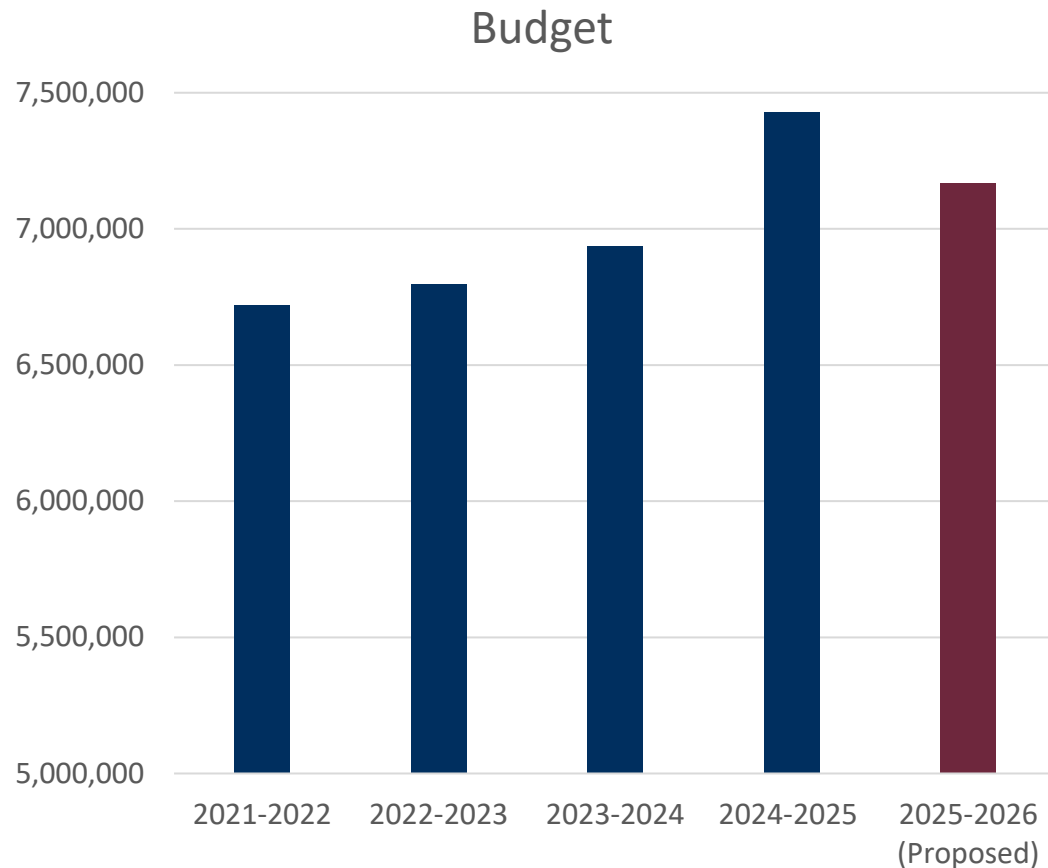
- District Office team (clerical and administrative support) to oversee Special Education programs and processes
- Interpreters, Contracts, Legal Fees
- Summer evaluations and required meetings

Budget History: Speech/Language and Adapted Physical Education Services



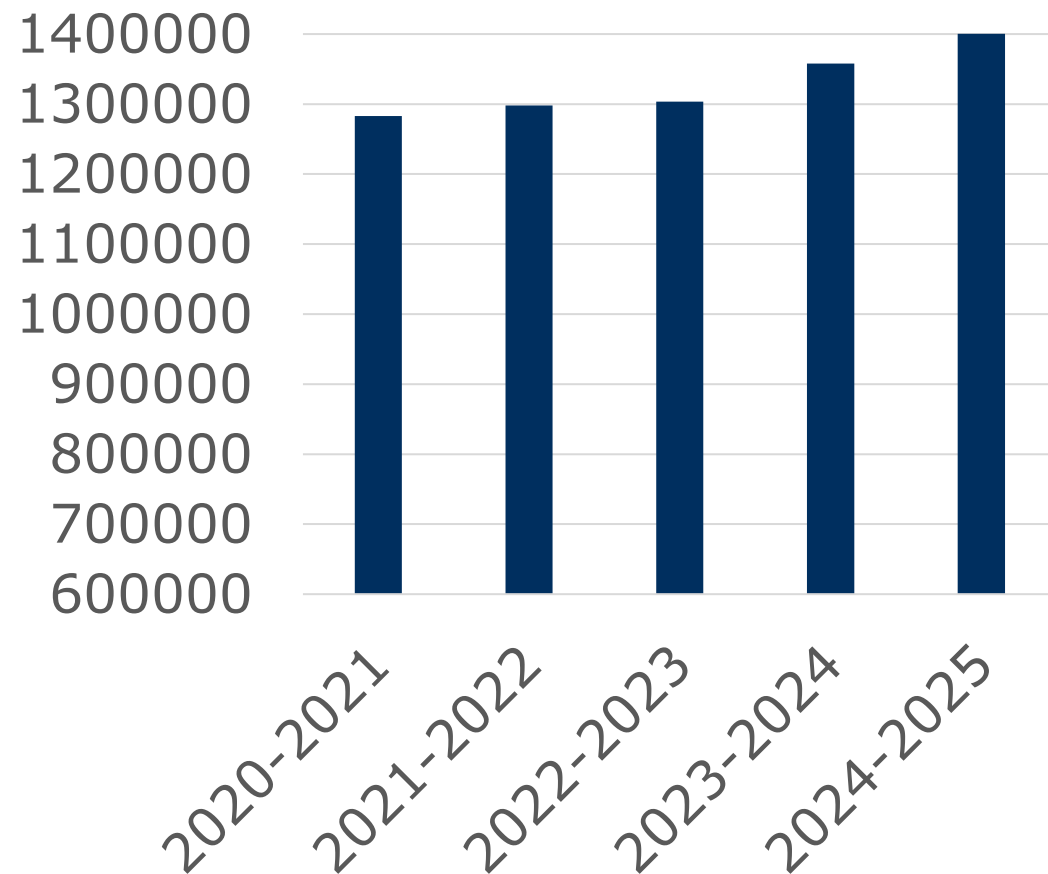
- 13.3 FTE Speech/Language Therapists and 3-4 FTE APE teachers, who provide services to students across all nine buildings, and their needed supplies/materials
- Moved 2.0 FTE (Physical Therapist and Occupational Therapist) from BOCES Code to this Central Services code to reflect hiring change

Budget History: Outside Placements and Services



- BOCES Special Education programs and services to District students, including Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy services provided in the District
- BOCES services provided to students attending private schools within Pittsford CSD
- NYSED-approved private 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 23-24 school year: \$86,029
- \$10,806 increase as compared to the previous school year

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

- STAC aid received during the 23-24 school year: **\$987,031**
- \$698,754 in public high cost aid and \$288,277 in private excess cost aid
- \$22,777 increase in from the previous year
- Based on student placement expenses from the 22-23 school year

2024-2025 Department Successes/Accomplishments

- Continued to support most students with disabilities within general education settings (i.e. Consultant Teacher services)
- Continued strong partnership with Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) with active Special Education Parent Advisory Group
- Improved efficiencies of special education procedures, allowing for more time for focused collaboration with families and school teams
- Strong participation in and support for two Varsity Unified teams (Bowling and Basketball)
- Active Best Buddies chapters across all levels

2024-2025 Department Challenges/Obstacles

- Continuation of waitlists for the most specialized out of district placements
- Staffing challenges in related services (for Pittsford, BOCES and private agencies) resulting in delays and gaps in service, need for providing make-up services and accessing private contracts to help meet these needs
- Challenges in interpreting NYSED guidance related to programming and aid claiming for students over age 21

Proposed Budget: 2025-2026 Changes

- Central Services budget reflects moving two positions from Out of District (BOCES) to Central Services to reflect in-district hiring of PTs and OTs

	2024-2025	2025-2026	Change
Office	671,651	723,205	7.80%
Services	1,331,601	1,550,566	16.44%
Out of District	7,429,781	7,169,781	-3.50%
Total Central Services: Special Education	9,433,033	9,443,552	0.11%

Discussion

- Any questions?