



**Public Schools
Any Town, ST**

2025-26 Special Education Trend Report



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Special Education Trend Report for 2025-26

Any Town, ST

Attached is the NESDEC *Special Education Trend Report* for your school district. We appreciate your participation in the *Special Education Trend Report* and look forward to providing this information regarding your district's Special Education services in future years.

Available free of charge exclusively to NESDEC affiliates on an annual basis, the *Special Education Trend Report* is a planning and decision-making tool for Superintendents and other school district leaders. The *Report* is designed to serve as a straightforward gauge of Special Education service delivery, staffing and expenditure levels.

Tips for using the *Special Education Trend Report*:

Check for Accuracy: The *Special Education Trend Report* tables, charts and graphs are developed using data and information provided by your school district. Check to see that the data used to generate the *Special Education Trend Report* has been accurately reported to NESDEC and/or accurately transferred from the data submission form submitted by your district. If you suspect inaccuracies, please notify NESDEC immediately so we can resolve any issues. Some districts report data as of October 1; others as of December or January. The date for your district is noted on the report. Please note that the data for 2025-26 is estimated (indicated by an "e"), since at the time of the report the academic year had not yet been completed. This estimated data can be updated when the data submission forms for 2026-27 are sent out to districts.

Total Number of IEP's: While the total number of district IEP's may vary from year to year, large year-to-year fluctuations might warrant further investigation. Could the increase or decrease be the result of a change in programs, procedures, personnel or budget? Could the change be attributable to changes in demographics? Is the change due to an anomaly that will likely even out in the future?

Total General Education and Special Education Expenditures (excluding fringe benefits): As one might expect, depending upon the economic climate, total district expenditures can be expected to go up or down from year to year. It is not unusual for general education expenditures and special education expenditures to trend fairly closely to one another. However, if general education expenditures are flat or declining while special education expenditures are rising (or vice-versa), it might be prudent to investigate in order to be able to explain the phenomenon and estimate the long-term trend.

Special Education Expenditures as a % of Total District Expenditures: Special Education expenditures expressed as a percentage of total district expenditures can be calculated in various ways. The *Special Education Trend Report* uses district-provided data excluding fringe benefits (i.e., employee health insurance). The percent of the total expenditures attributed to special education (sometimes referred to as “Direct Special Education Costs”) can vary from state to state. In order to compare local special education expenditures to the “average” special education expenditures derived by the state, school leaders are encouraged to check with their state education agency.

Outside Special Education Placements and Collaborative Placements: Many school districts provide services for lower incidence special education students through outside placements or through collaboratives, cooperatives or consortiums. Depending upon the required level of service, the cost of both collaborative and outside placements can be many times the average cost of a general education student. It is useful to know the reason(s) behind an upward or downward trend in outside placement and/or collaborative expenditures. Collaborative placements are generally viewed as a way to offer high quality, cost-effective services to lower incidence children. On an average per pupil basis, outside placement expenditures tend to be higher than collaborative placements. If this is not borne out by your *Special Education Trend Report*, you might wish to explore the reason(s) why.

Collaborative and Outside Placement Expenditures as a % of Total Special Education Expenditures (excluding fringe benefits): The cost of collaborative and outside placements as a percent of total special education expenditures can be used to examine how the district is serving low incidence special education students. While these costs can vary widely from district to district, it may be worth exploring the possibility that some children in outside placements could receive comparable high-quality services in a less costly existing, or newly created, collaborative setting.

Number of IEP’s per Special Education Paraprofessional and/or Teacher Assistant: School districts work very hard to keep special education identified students in the least restrictive educational setting. Assigning paraprofessionals or teacher assistants to classes where students need additional help and support is a common strategy for keeping students in the “mainstream”. To what extent paraprofessionals and assistants impact special education costs is an important consideration as leaders organize special education service-delivery. The typical range for this indicator appears to be 5 to 8 IEP’s per special education paraprofessional/teacher assistant.

Collaborative/Consortium Membership

According to the information submitted to NESDEC, your school district is a member of the following consortiums or collaboratives:

- CASE Collaborative
- LABB Collaborative

Final Notes Regarding Your District’s Special Education Trend Report:

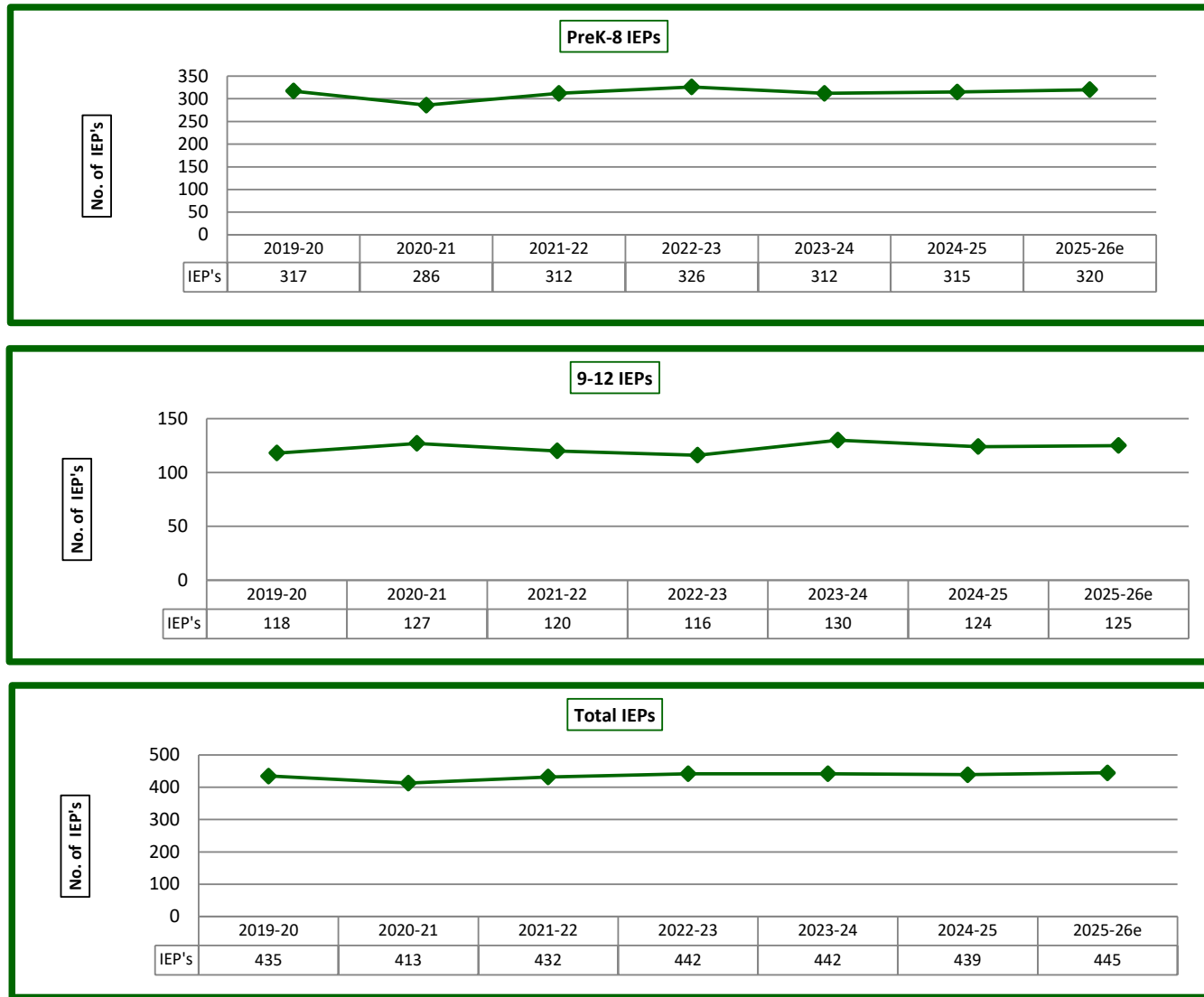
Your *Special Education Trend Report* is based upon October 1 information.

Your district’s *Report* is generated based upon Seven data points; that is, the change over Six years.

A comments section can be found at the end of the report.



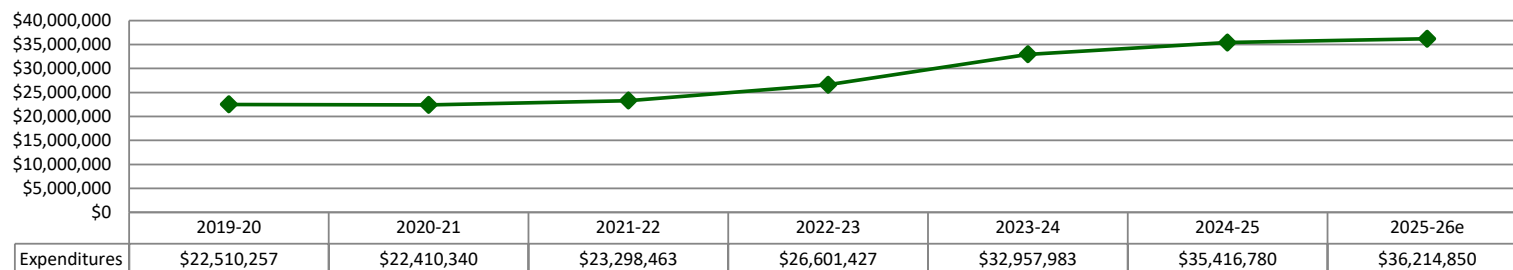
Number of Students on IEP



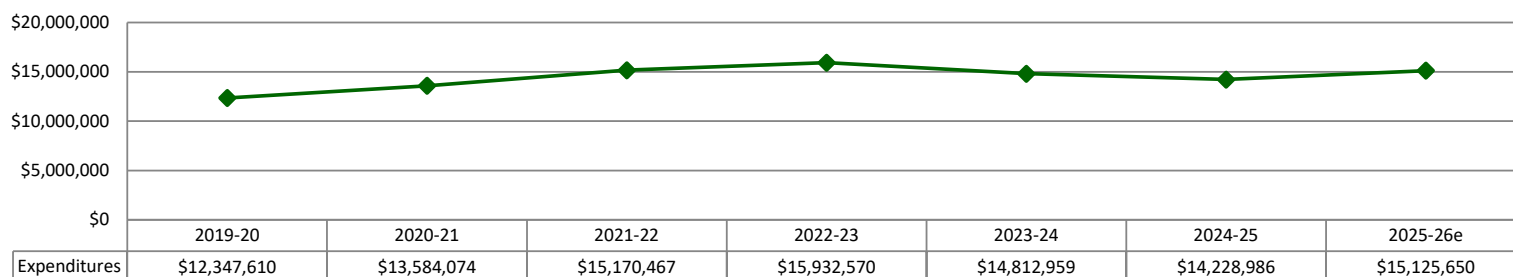


General and Special Education Expenditures

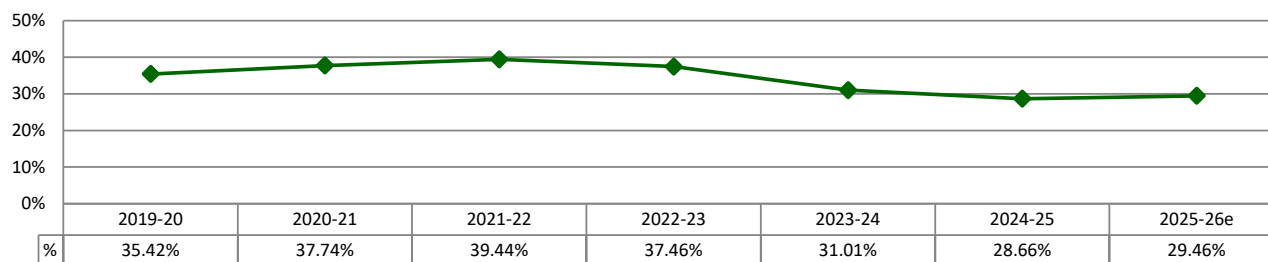
Total General Education Expenditures (excluding fringe benefits)



Total Special Education Expenditures (excluding fringe benefits)

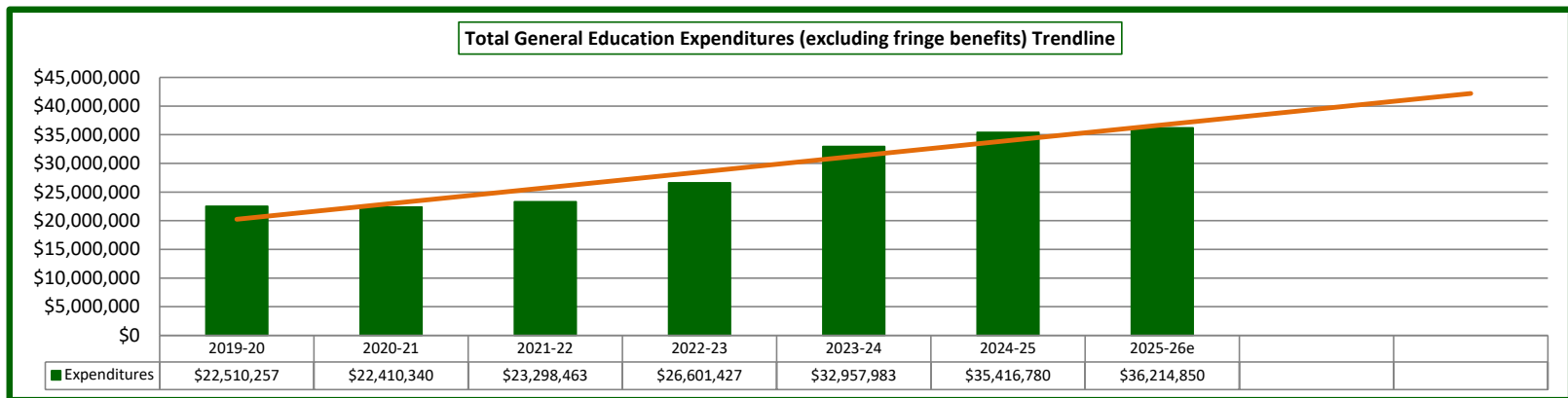
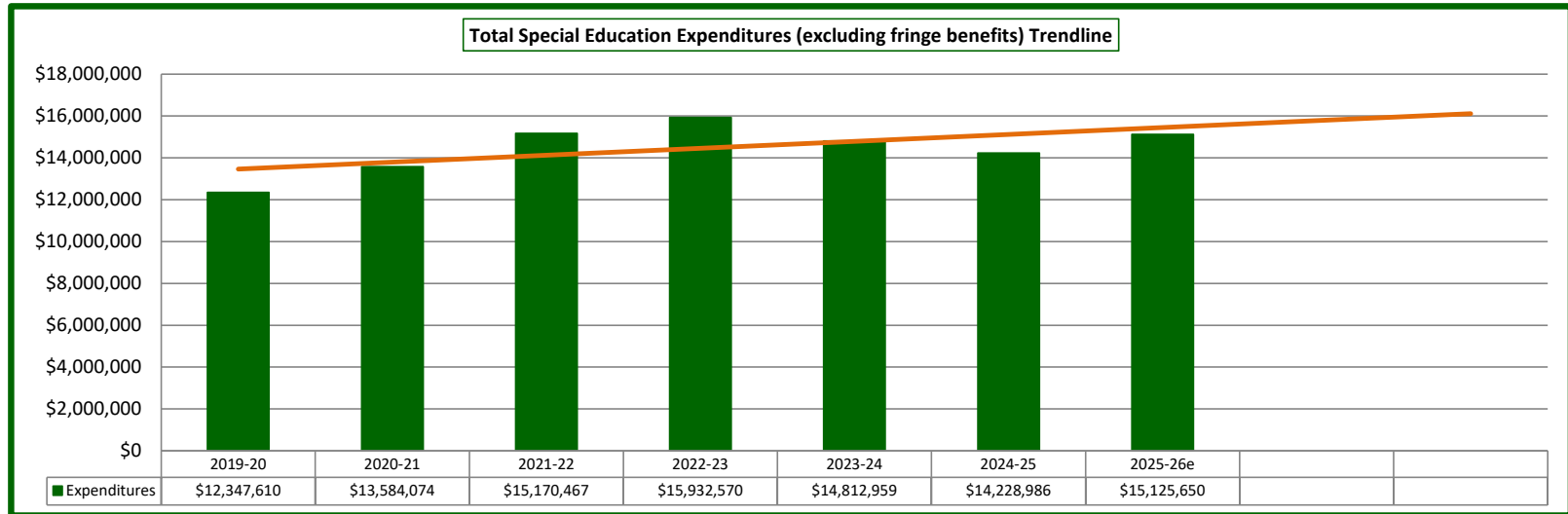


Special Education Expenditures as a % of Total District Expenditures (excluding fringe benefits)



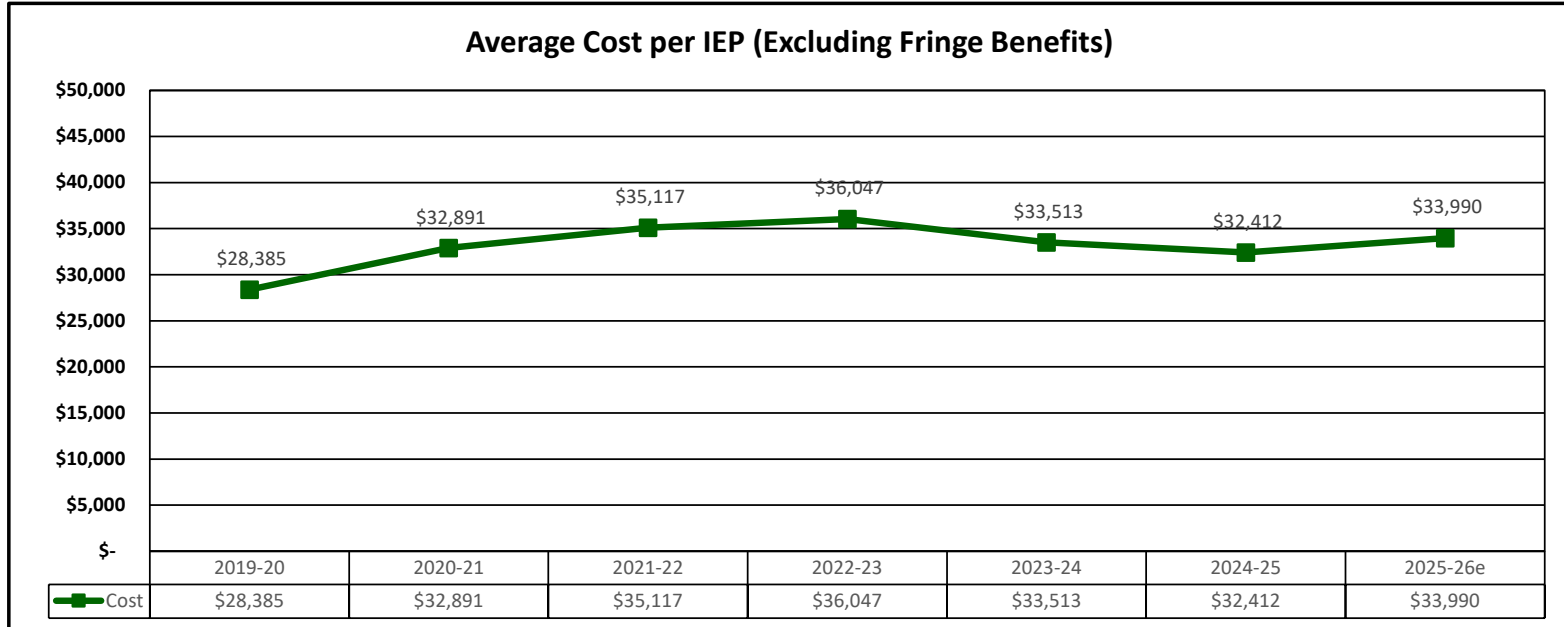


General and Special Education Expenditures Trendline

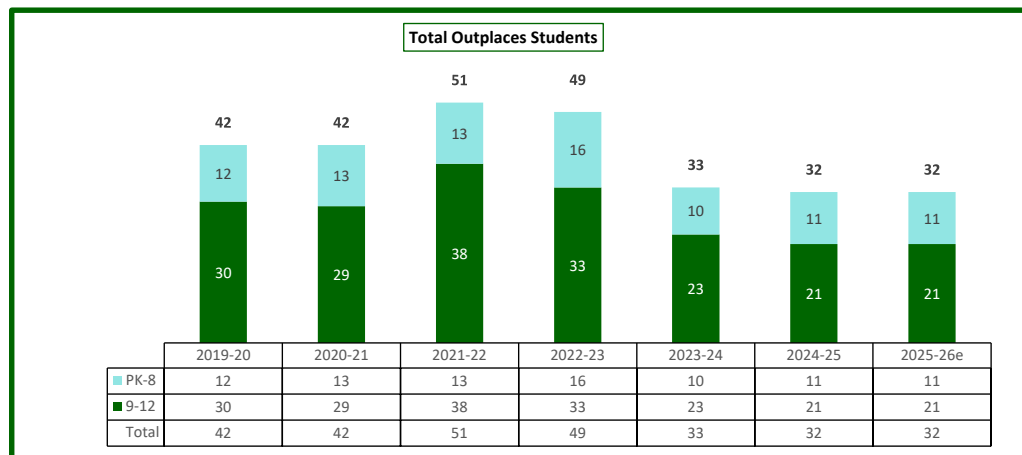
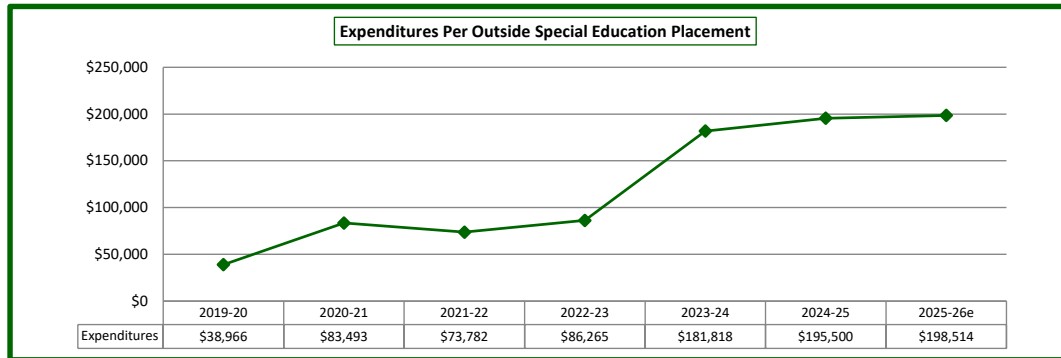
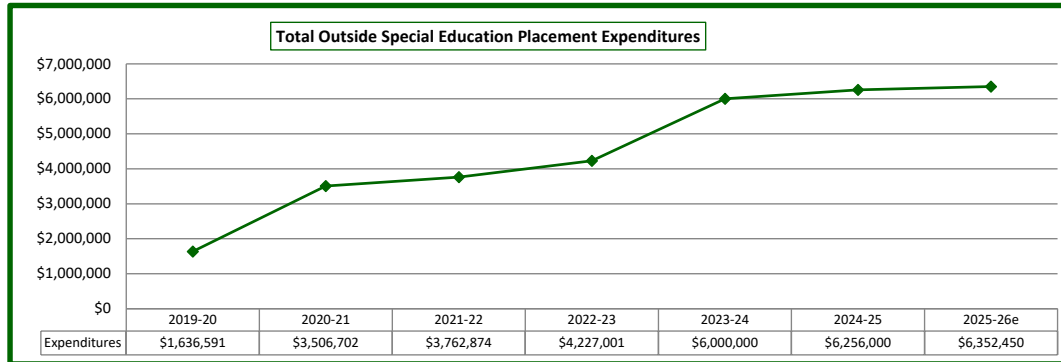




Average Cost per IEP



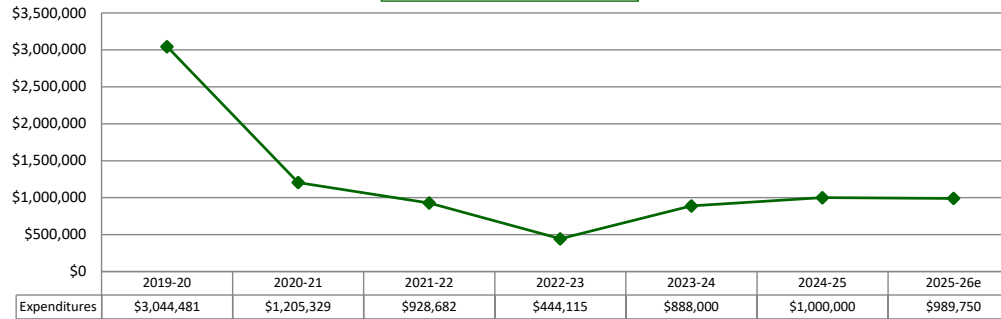
Outside Placements



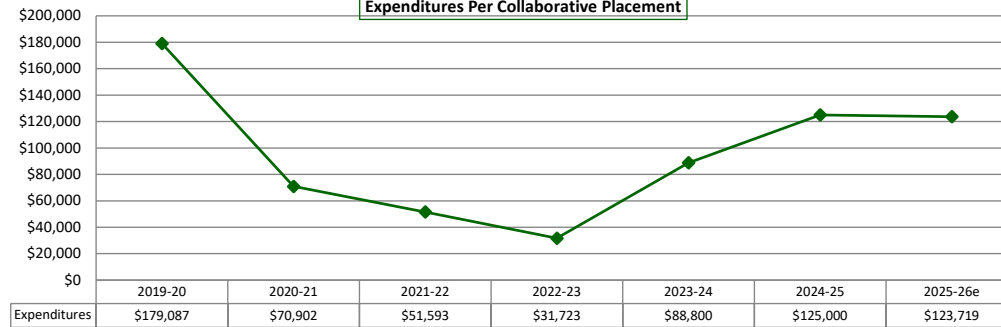


Collaborative Placement

Total Collaborative Expenditures



Expenditures Per Collaborative Placement

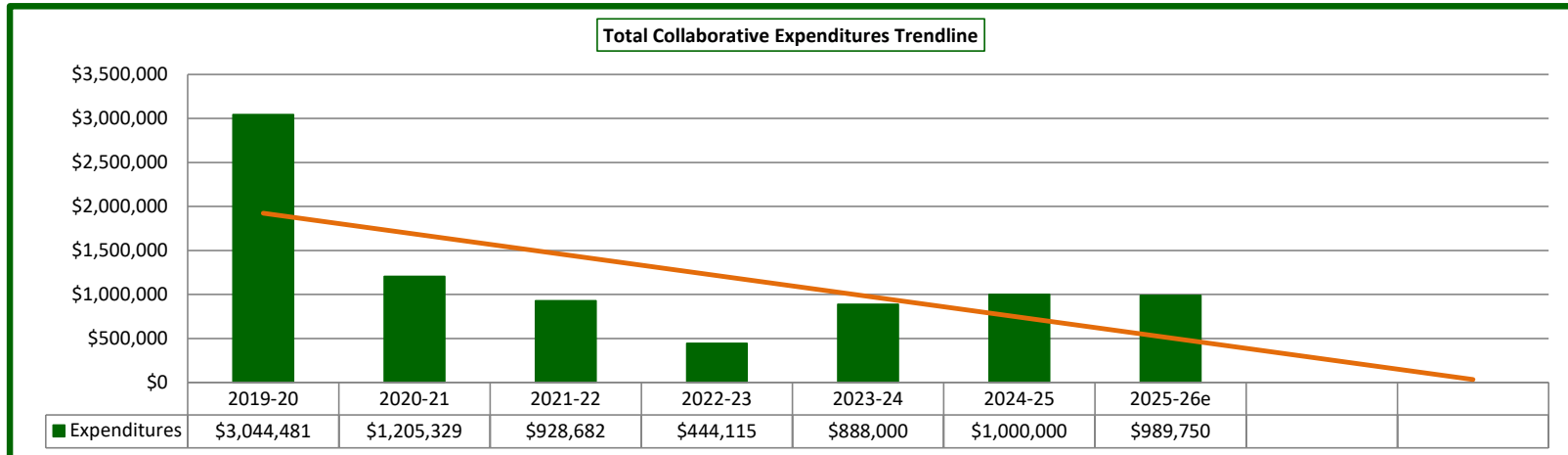
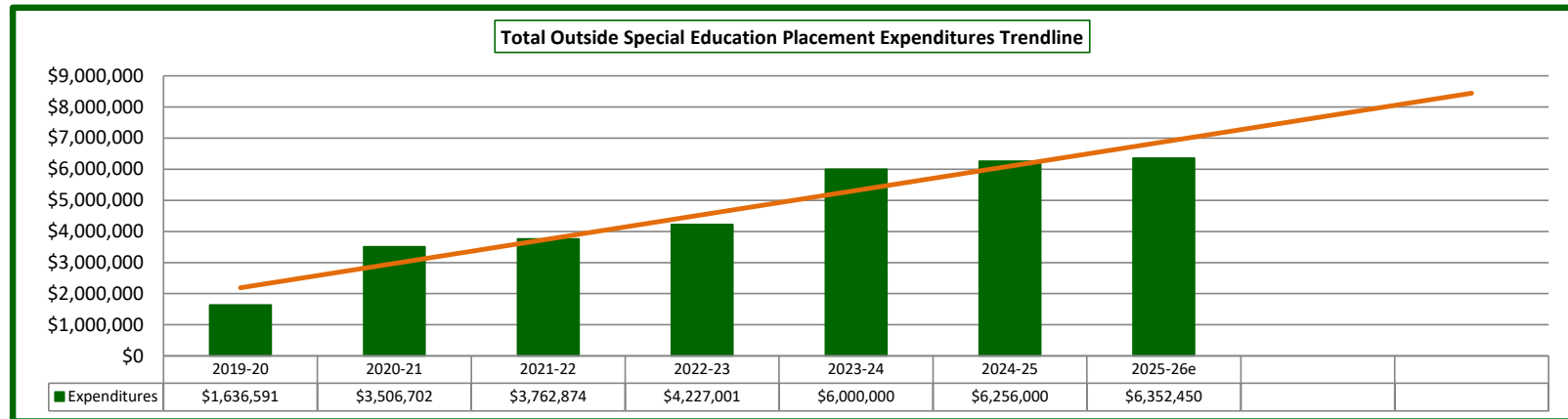


Total Collaborative Students

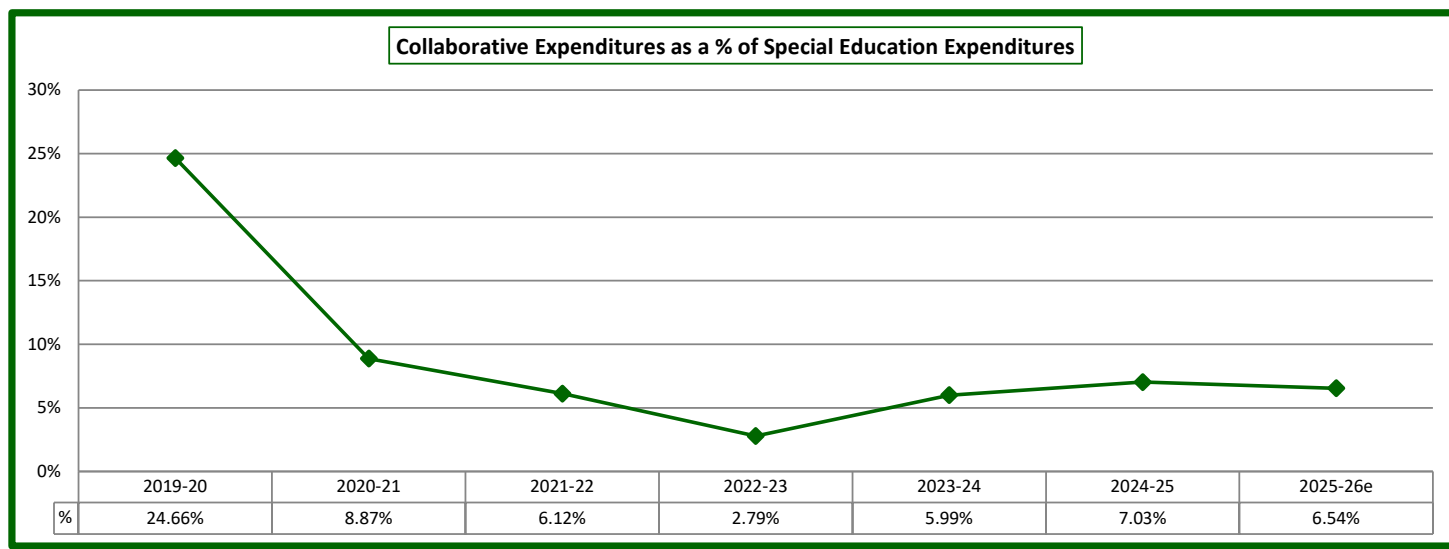
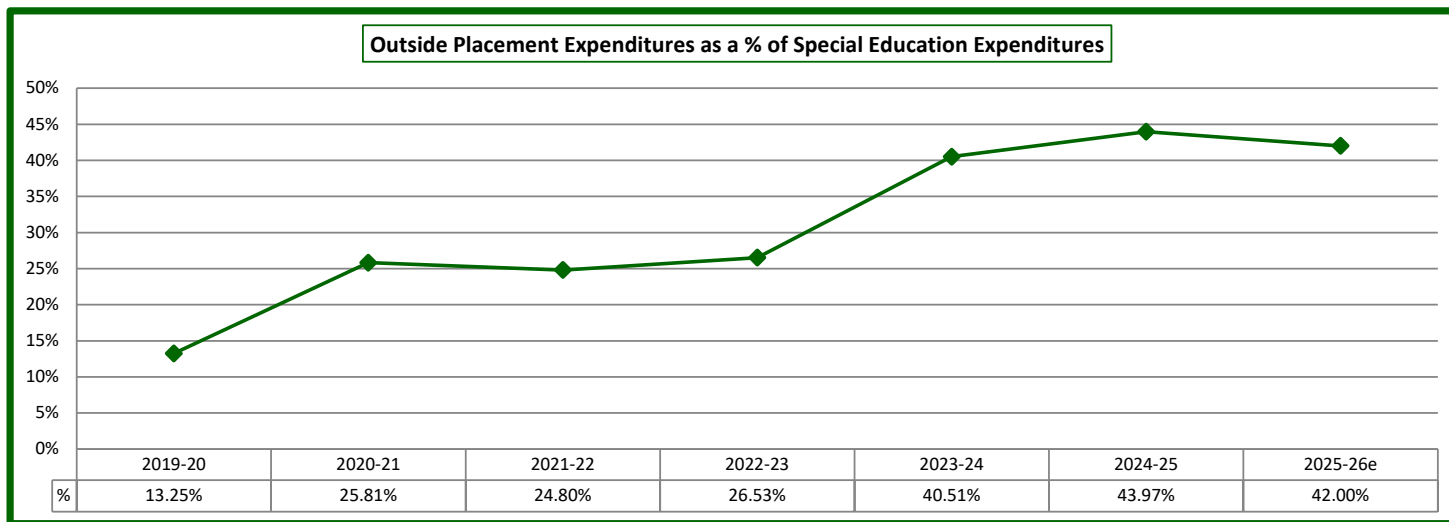




Outside Education and Collaborative Expenditures

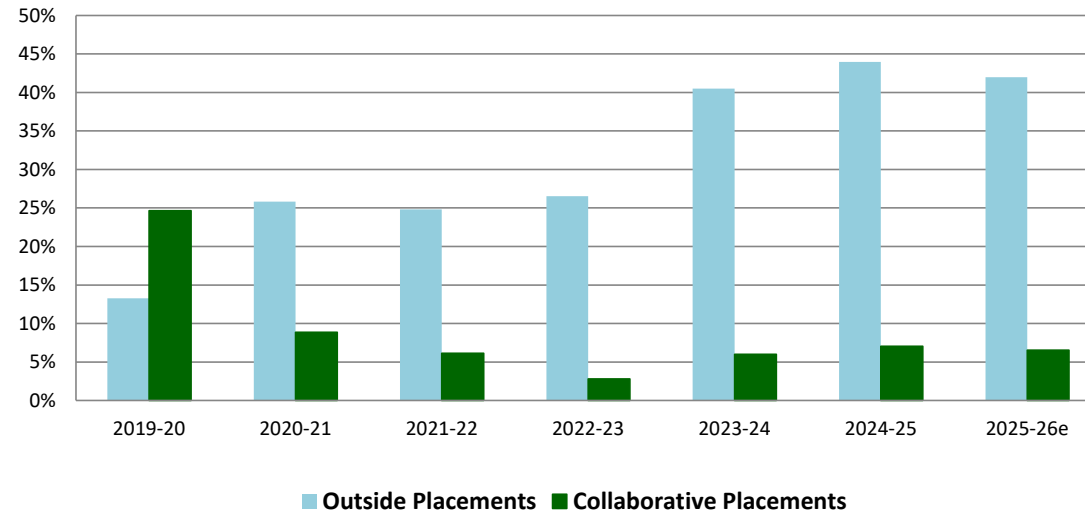


Percentage of Special Education Expenditures



Comparison Outside & Collaborative Placements

Comparison of Outside and Collaborative Placements as Percentage of Total Special Education Expenditures



Special Education Support Staff

Number of Special Education Para/Assistants

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26e
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	64.00	76.50	79.60	76.80	83.00	78.50	79.20

Number of IEP's Per Para/Assistant

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26e
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.43	5.76	5.33	5.59	5.62

Typical Range = 5-8



Current 5 Year Look Back

Comments Regarding The Previous 4 School Years*

1) The district's estimated number of IEP's for the current year:	445.0
1a) The district's average number of IEPs over the MOST RECENT 5-YEAR PERIOD (excluding current year estimate):	438.8
1b) The difference between the current year's estimated number of IEP's and the MOST RECENT 5 YEARS' AVERAGE:	6.3
2) The district's estimated General Education expenditures for the current year:	\$36,214,850
2a) The district's average* annual expenditures for Gen. Ed. over the MOST RECENT 5-YEAR PERIOD (excluding current year estimate):	\$29,568,663
2b) The difference between the current year's estimated Gen. Ed. expenditures and the 5-YEAR AVERAGE:	\$6,646,187
2c) The difference between the current year's estimated Gen. Ed. expenditures and the 5-YEAR AVERAGE, EXPRESSED AS A %:	22.48%
3) The district's estimated Special Education expenditures for the current year:	\$15,125,650
3a) The district's average* annual expenditures for Special Ed. over the MOST RECENT 5-YEAR PERIOD (excluding current year estimate):	\$15,036,246
3b) The difference between the current year's estimated Special Ed. expenditures and the 5-YEAR AVERAGE	\$89,405
3c) The difference between the current year's estimated Special Ed. expenditures and the 5-YEAR AVERAGE, EXPRESSED AS A %:	0.59%
4) The district's estimated Outside Placement expenditures for the current year:	\$6,352,450
4a) The district's average* annual expenditures for Outside Placements over the MOST RECENT 5-YEAR PERIOD (excluding current year estimate):	\$5,061,469
4b) The difference between the current year's estimated Outside Placement expenditures and the 5-YEAR average:	\$1,290,981
4c) The difference between the current year's estimated Outside Placement expenditures and the 5-YEAR AVERAGE, EXPRESSED AS A %:	25.51%

***NOTE: Averages do not include current year estimates.**



6 Year Look Back

Comments Regarding The Previous 5 Years*

Base Year: 2020-21

1) The district's estimated <u>number of IEP's</u> for the current year:	445.0
1a) The district's average* number of IEP's FOR ALL PREVIOUS YEARS :	433.6
1b) The difference between the current year's estimated number of IEP's and the PREVIOUS YEARS' AVERAGE:	11.4
2) The district's estimated <u>General Education expenditures</u> for the current year:	\$36,214,850
2a) The district's average* annual expenditure level for General Education FOR ALL PREVIOUS YEARS :	\$28,136,999
2b) The difference between the current year's estimated General Education expenditure level and the PREVIOUS YEARS' AVERAGE:	\$8,077,851
2c) The difference between the current year's estimated Gen. Ed. expenditure level and the PREVIOUS YEARS' AVERAGE, EXPRESSED AS A %:	28.71%
3) The district's estimated <u>Special Education expenditures</u> for the current year:	\$15,125,650
3a) The district's average* annual expenditure level for Special Education FOR ALL PREVIOUS YEARS :	\$14,745,811
3b) The difference between the current year's estimated Special Education expenditure level and the PREVIOUS YEARS' AVERAGE:	\$379,839
3c) The difference between the current year's estimated Special Ed. expenditure level and the PREVIOUS YEARS' AVERAGE, EXPRESSED AS A %:	2.58%
4) The district's estimated <u>Outside Placement expenditures</u> for the current year:	\$6,352,450
4a) The district's average* annual expenditure level for Outside Placements FOR ALL PREVIOUS YEARS :	\$4,750,515
4b) The difference between the current year's estimated Outside Placement expenditure level and the PREVIOUS YEARS' AVERAGE	\$1,601,935
4c) The difference between the current year's estimated outplacement expenditure level and the average, EXPRESSED AS A %:	33.72%

***NOTE: Averages do not include current year estimates.**



7 Year Look Back

Comments Regarding The Previous 6 Years*

Base Year: 2019-20

1) The district's estimated <u>number of IEP's</u> for the current year:	445.0
1a) The district's average* number of IEP's FOR ALL PREVIOUS YEARS :	433.8
1b) The difference between the current year's estimated number of IEP's and the PREVIOUS YEARS' AVERAGE:	11.2
2) The district's estimated <u>General Education expenditures</u> for the current year:	\$36,214,850
2a) The district's average* annual expenditure level for General Education FOR ALL PREVIOUS YEARS :	\$27,199,208
2b) The difference between the current year's estimated General Education expenditure level and the PREVIOUS YEARS' AVERAGE:	\$9,015,642
2c) The difference between the current year's estimated Gen. Ed. expenditure level and the PREVIOUS YEARS' AVERAGE, EXPRESSED AS A %:	33.15%
3) The district's estimated <u>Special Education expenditures</u> for the current year:	\$15,125,650
3a) The district's average* annual expenditure level for Special Education FOR ALL PREVIOUS YEARS :	\$14,346,111
3b) The difference between the current year's estimated Special Education expenditure level and the PREVIOUS YEARS' AVERAGE:	\$779,539
3c) The difference between the current year's estimated Special Ed. expenditure level and the PREVIOUS YEARS' AVERAGE, EXPRESSED AS A %:	5.43%
4) The district's estimated <u>Outside Placement expenditures</u> for the current year:	\$6,352,450
4a) The district's average* annual expenditure level for Outside Placements FOR ALL PREVIOUS YEARS :	\$4,231,528
4b) The difference between the current year's estimated Outside Placement expenditure level and the PREVIOUS YEARS' AVERAGE	\$2,120,922
4c) The difference between the current year's estimated outplacement expenditure level and the average, EXPRESSED AS A %:	50.12%

***NOTE: Averages do not include current year estimates.**