

# Central Services: Special Education



**Budget Work Session**

**February 24, 2026**

**Elizabeth Woods, Director of Special Education**

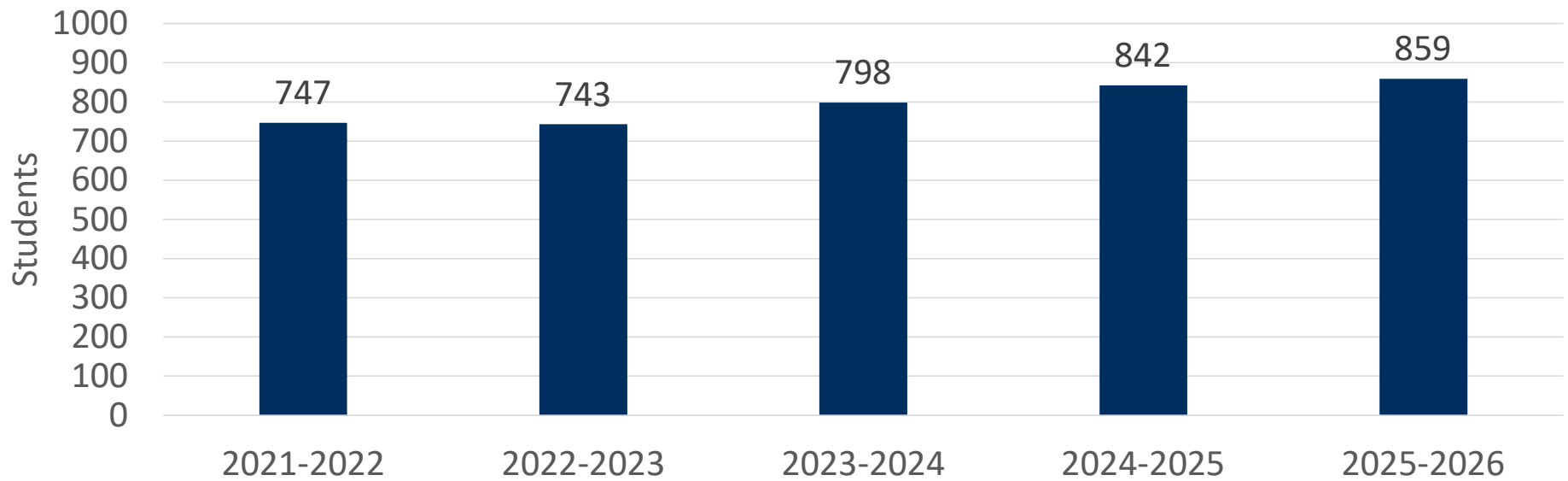
# Background Information: Pittsford Special Education Department

- **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)

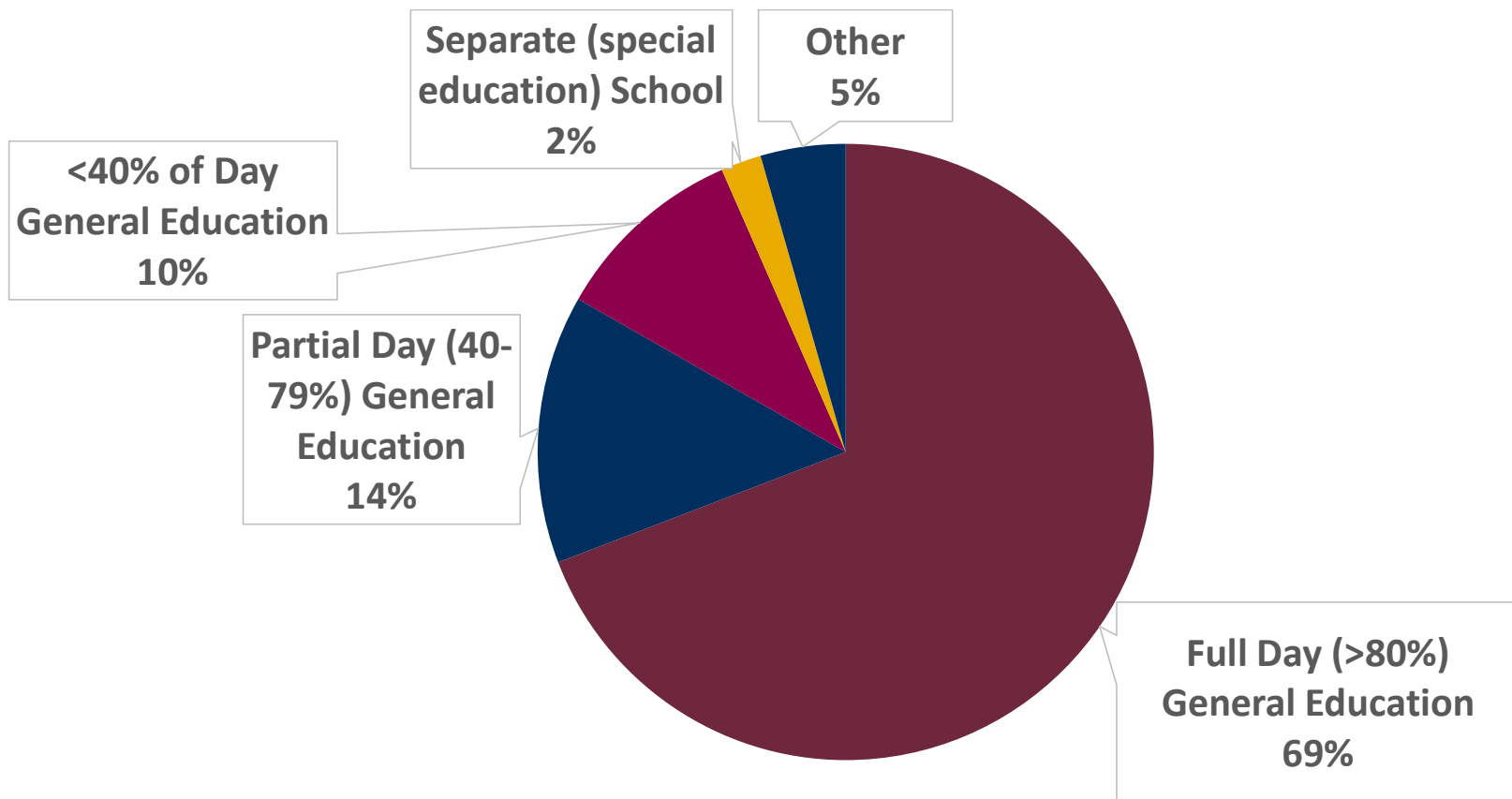
# Background Information: Special Education Budgeting

- **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

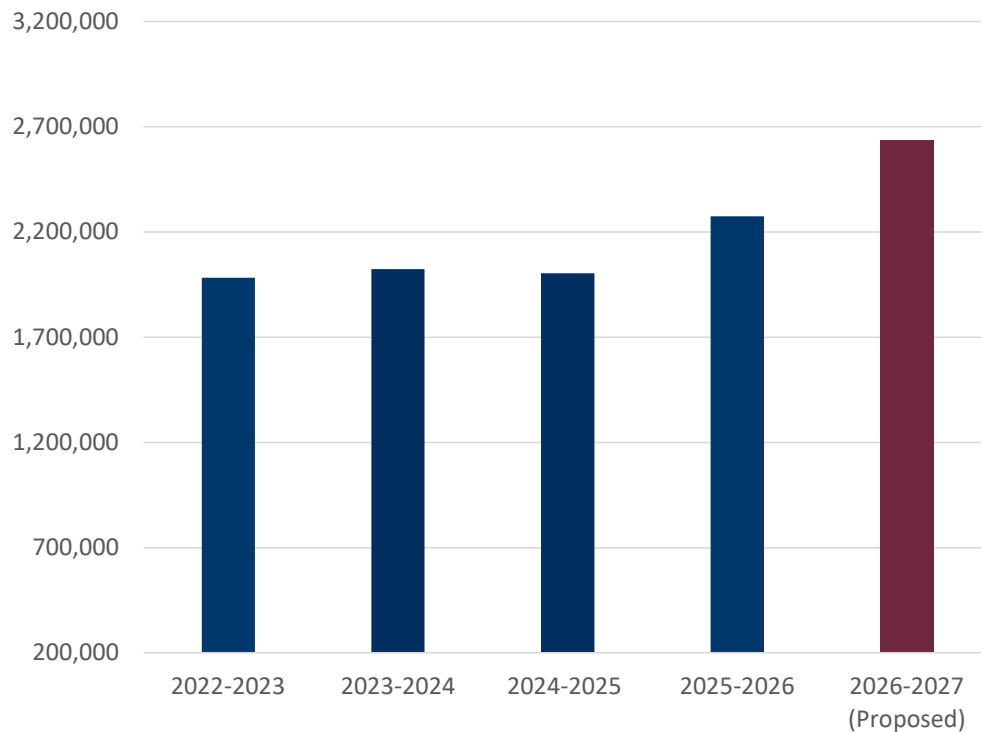
# Students (age 5-22) Receiving Special Education Services



# Where Students Receive Special Education Services (2025-2026)

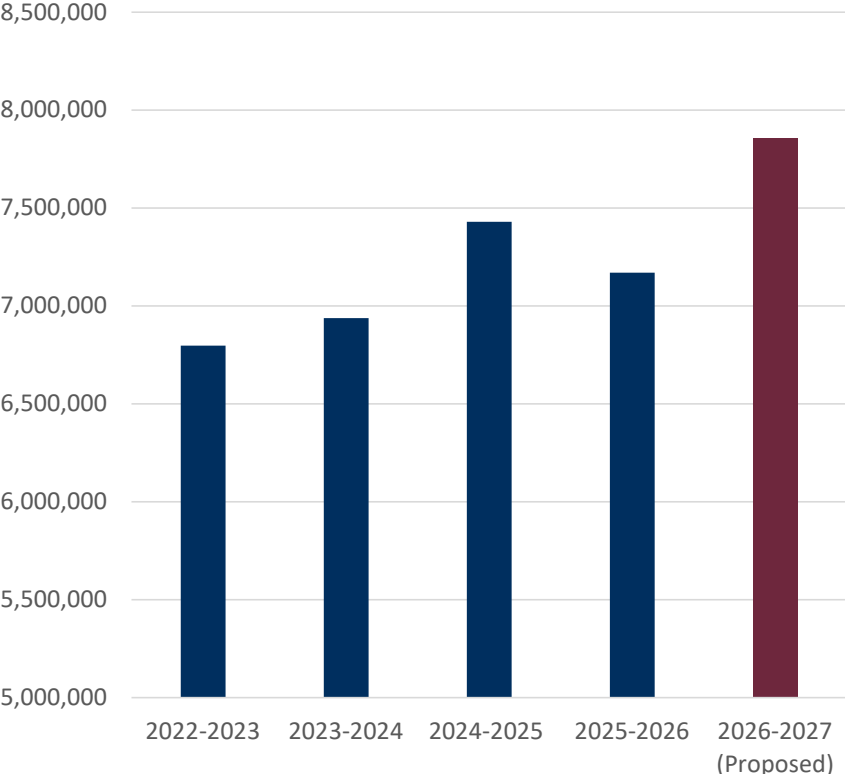


# Budget History: Special Education



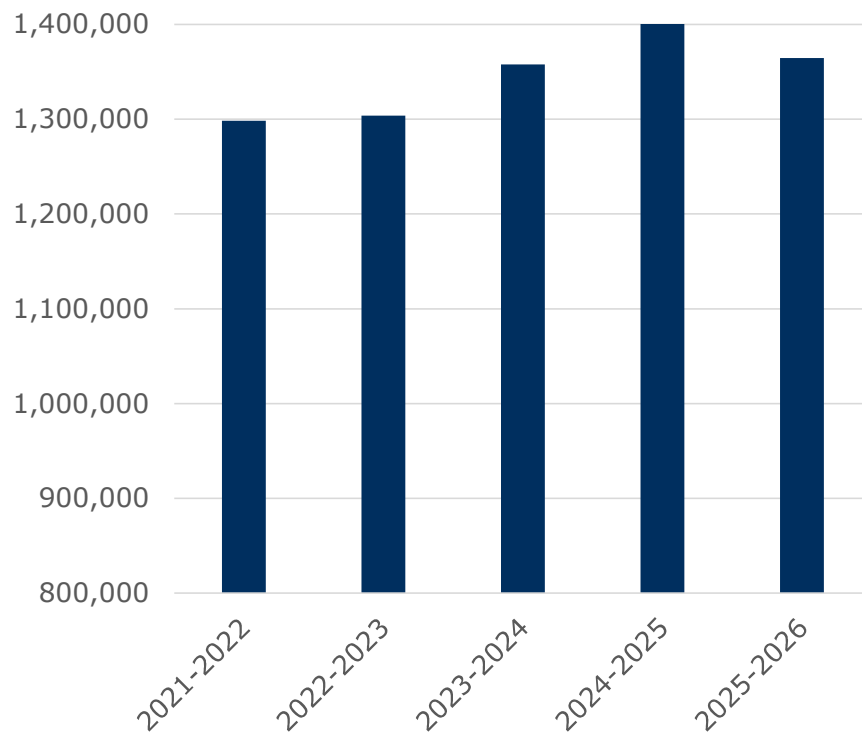
- **Special Education Office and Speech/Language and Adapted Physical Education Services** have been moved into a single code for 26-27
- Budget History includes **total** of the two previous budget codes
- 3 Occupational Therapists and 2 Physical Therapists have been added, as part of multi-year plan to move these positions from BOCES to PCSD

# Budget History: Outside Placements and Services



- BOCES Special Education programs and services provided to Pittsford students, including 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 following school 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 claims reimbursement for certain medically-necessary services (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech/Language Therapy)
- **\$69,412** received during 24-25 school year
  - \$16,617 decrease as compared to the previous school year
- Varies each year depending on # of Medicaid-eligible students, services and providers

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

- **\$1,026,775** STAC aid received during the 24-25 school year
  - \$592,831 in public high cost aid and \$433,944 in private excess cost aid
  - \$39,744 increase in from the previous year
- Based on student placement expenses from the 23-24 school year

# 2025-2026 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
- Hired 3 Occupational Therapists and 2 Physical Therapists as part of the multi-year plan to transition away from BOCES providers for in-district students and programs – PCSD and BOCES providers are working collaboratively as a strong, student-centered department

# 2025-2026 Department Challenges/Obstacles

- Significant increase in BOCES tuition costs are projected for 26-27, due to multiple factors including increases in Health Insurance costs affecting the BOCES Budget
- Continuation of waitlists for the most specialized out of district placements
- Continued staffing challenges in certain areas, including substitute and leave coverage for special education teachers, related service providers and paraprofessionals

# Proposed Budget: 2026-2027 Changes

- Central Services budget reflects consolidation of previous budget codes for **Office** and **Services** into the **Special Education** code
- Significant increases in BOCES tuition costs for specialized programs

	2025-2026	2026-2027	Change
Special Education (Office and Services)	2,273,771	2,635,977	15.9%
Out of District	7,169,781	7,859,591	9.6%
<b>Total Central Services: Special Education</b>	<b>9,443,552</b>	<b>10,495,568</b>	<b>11.1%</b>

# Discussion

- Any questions?