

Department of Special Education

2026 - 2027 Budget



March 2026

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Director of Special Education and Grant Writing

Overview

1. Special Education Programming
 - a. In-District
 - b. Out-of-District
2. Curriculum
3. Training/Initiatives

Special Education Programming

IN-DISTRICT

Current Special Education Programs and Staff

- **Programs:** Consultant Teacher (CT), Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT), Special Class (SC) 15:1 Math, Special Class (SC) 15:1 Study Skills, Special Class (SC) 12:1+1, Special Class (SC) 8:1+1, Pre-Kindergarten Special Class in an Integrated Setting (SCIS)
- **Total School-Aged Students with IEPs:** 314 (vs. 356 in 2024-2025)
- **Staff:**
 - 3 Speech/Language Pathologists
 - 1.5 Occupational Therapists
 - 0.5 Physical Therapists
 - 4 School Social Workers
 - 2 Full-Time School Psychologists and 2 Part-Time School Psychologists
 - 7 School Counselors
 - 29 Special Education Teachers
- **Average Special Education Teacher-to-Student Ratio:** 11:1
- **State Allowable Special Education Teacher-to-Student Ratio:** 20:1

Primary Education Center Projections

- **Current Programs:** Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT), Consultant Teaching (CT), 12:1+1 Special Class, 8:1+1 Special Class, Pre-School Special Class in an Integrated Setting (SCIS)

- **Students with IEPs:** 38 (vs. 40 in 2025-2026)

- **Staff:**
 - 7 Special Education Teachers
 - 1.5 Speech/Language Pathologists
 - 1.0 Occupational Therapist (31 students)
 - 0.15 Physical Therapist (16 students)
 - 1 School Social Worker
 - 1 Guidance Counselor
 - 0.8 School Psychologist (Shared with Middle School)

	Consultant Teaching	Integrated Co-Teaching	12:1+1 Special Class	8:1+2 Special Class	Total
Kindergarten	5	4	3	1	13
1st Grade	3	3	3	1	10
2nd Grade	6	5	1	3	15
Total	14	12	7	5	38

- **No changes in programming or staffing from 2025-2026**

Intermediate Education Center Projections

- **Current Programs:** Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT), Consultant Teaching (CT), 12:1+1 Special Class

- **Students with IEPs:** 49 (vs. 55 in 2025-2026)

- **Staff:**
 - 6 Special Education Teachers
 - 0.4 Speech/Language Pathologists (28 students)
 - 0.2 Occupational Therapist (15 students)
 - 0.15 Physical Therapist (17 students)
 - 1 School Social Worker
 - 1 Guidance Counselor
 - 0.8 School Psychologist (Shared with Middle School)

	Consultant Teaching	Integrated Co-Teaching	12:1+1 Special Class	Related Service Only	Total
3rd Grade	5	5	3	0	13
4th Grade	8	5	2	1	16
5th Grade	12	8	0	0	20
Total	25	18	5	1	49

- **No changes in programming or staffing from 2025-2026**

Middle School Projections

- **Current Programs:** Consultant Teaching (CT), 15:1 Special Class - Study Skills, 15:1 Special Class - Math, 12:1+1 Special Class
- **Students with IEPs:** 65 (vs. 69 in 2025-2026)
- **Staff:**
 - 7 Special Education Teachers
 - 0.5 Speech/Language Pathologists (31 students)
 - 0.1 Occupational Therapist (17 students)
 - 0.08 Physical Therapist (5 students)
 - 1 School Social Worker
 - 2 Guidance Counselors
 - 0.4 School Psychologist (Shared with with PEC and IEC)
- **No changes in programming or staffing from 2025-2026**

	CT - ELA	CT - Math	CT - Social Studies	CT - Science	15:1 Special Class - Study Skills	12:1+1 Special Class	Totals
6th Grade	16	15	10	10	12	3	21
7th Grade	16	18	17	17	17	0	21
8th Grade	22	22	22	22	22	2	23
Total							65

High School Projections

- **Current Programs:** Consultant Teaching (CT), 15:1 Special Class - Study Skills, 12:1+1 Special Class

- **Students with IEPs:** 102 (vs. 107 in 2025-2026)

- **Staff:**

- 7 Special Education Teachers
- 0.1 Speech/Language Pathologists (14 students)
- 0.03 Occupational Therapist (3 students)
- 0.04 Physical Therapist (1 student)
- 1 School Social Worker
- 3 Guidance Counselors
- 0.5 School Psychologist (contracted)

	CT - ELA	CT - Math	CT - Social Studies	CT - Science	15:1 Special Class - Study Skills	12:1+1 Special Class	Total Students
9th Grade	27	28	27	28	27	2	30
10th Grade	26	28	26	26	25	1	29
11th Grade	12	7	11	7	9	1	14
12th Grade	5	1	22	1	23	1	26
Total						5	102

- **No changes in programming or staffing from 2025-2026**

Special Education Programming

OUT-OF-DISTRICT

BOCES Projections

- Current Programs: 6:1+1, 6:1+3, 12:1+1
- Students with IEPs: 22 (vs. 26 in 2025-2026)
- Related Services:
 - Speech/Language Therapy - 18 Students
 - Occupational Therapy - 14 Students
 - Physical Therapy - 3 Students
 - Counseling - 22 Students
 - Vision Services - 3 Students
 - Personal Care Aide - 3 Students
- Changes for 2026-2027:
 - 3 Students Graduated, 1 Student Transferred in to Lew-Port



NYS Approved Private School Projections

- Schools: Aspire, Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center, CHC Learning Center, New Directions/H. G. Lewis, Our Lady of Victory, The Summit Center, The Arc
- Current Programs: 6:1+1, 6:1+3, 12:1+1
- Students with IEPs: 26 (vs. 21 in 2025-2026)
- Changes for 2026-2027:
 - Incoming kindergarten cohort has a larger than average number of high-needs students



Non-Public Schools within District Projections

- Students with IEPs by School:
 - St. Peter's: 9 (vs. 9 in 2025-2026)
 - Sacred Heart: 2 (vs. 4 in 2025-2026)
 - Stella Niagara: 7 (vs. 6 in 2025-2026)
- Staff: 1 Special Education Teacher and 1 Aide
- Related Services:
 - Speech/Language Therapy: 0.1 (11 students)
 - Occupational Therapy: 0.03 (3 students)
 - Hearing Services: 2 students
- Changes for 2026-2027: No changes in programming or staffing from 2025-2026



Sacred Heart
Villa School
"Where Learning Begins"



Home-Schooled Students Projections

- Students: 6 Special Education Students
 - 82 Students Total
- Related Services:
 - Speech/Language Therapy: 2 Students
 - Occupational Therapy: 1 Student
 - Vision Services: 3 Students
- Changes for 2026-2027: One student is graduating. The total number always fluctuates based on parents who decide to homeschool their child.



Special Education Programming

PRESCHOOL

Pre-Kindergarten Student Projections

- Students: Currently 46 Students Total (vs. 67 students in 2024-2025)
- Lewiston-Porter Special Class in an Integrated Setting (SCIS): Projected to enroll 6 students
- Center-Based Programs: Bloom Creative Arts (1 student), The Summit Center (1 student), Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center (1 student), Bornhava (1 student)
- Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) Services: 3 students
- Preschool Itinerant Services Only:
 - Related Services
 - Speech/Language Therapy: 15 students
 - Occupational Therapy: 9 students
 - Physical Therapy: 4 students
- Changes for 2026-2027: No significant changes. Numbers fluctuate as students are found eligible.



Special Education Curriculum

Curriculum

- TeachTown

- Comprehensive program that supports the development of academic, social, language, and adaptive skills. Includes interactive activities, visual supports, data tracking, and progress monitoring.
- Used in our 12:1+1 Special Classes in all buildings



- Orton-Gillingham

- Structured, multisensory approach to reading instruction. Commonly used for students with reading difficulties, including Dyslexia. The approach is explicit, systematic, and sequential and engages multiple senses (visual, auditory, and kinesthetic/tactile).
- Used to provide an additional level of intervention for special education students who have not found success with our general education intervention programs



Special Education Training/Initiatives

Training/Initiatives

- Ukeru

- Ukeru is a trauma-informed crisis management and behavior support approach. Focuses on de-escalating challenging behaviors through empathy, communication, and supportive strategies rather than physical restraint or seclusion. Teaches staff to understand behavior as communication and to respond with verbal de-escalation, and preventative supports.



- Aide Training

- Aide Training offered through Orleans/Niagara BOCES provides foundational knowledge for aides supporting students with disabilities. The training covers key components of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), relevant special education regulations, and practical behavioral interventions and strategies. Participants learn how to effectively support student learning, promote positive behavior, and work collaboratively with teachers and related service providers to implement IEP goals in the classroom.



QUESTIONS?

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