

# Central Services: Special Education



**Budget Work Session**

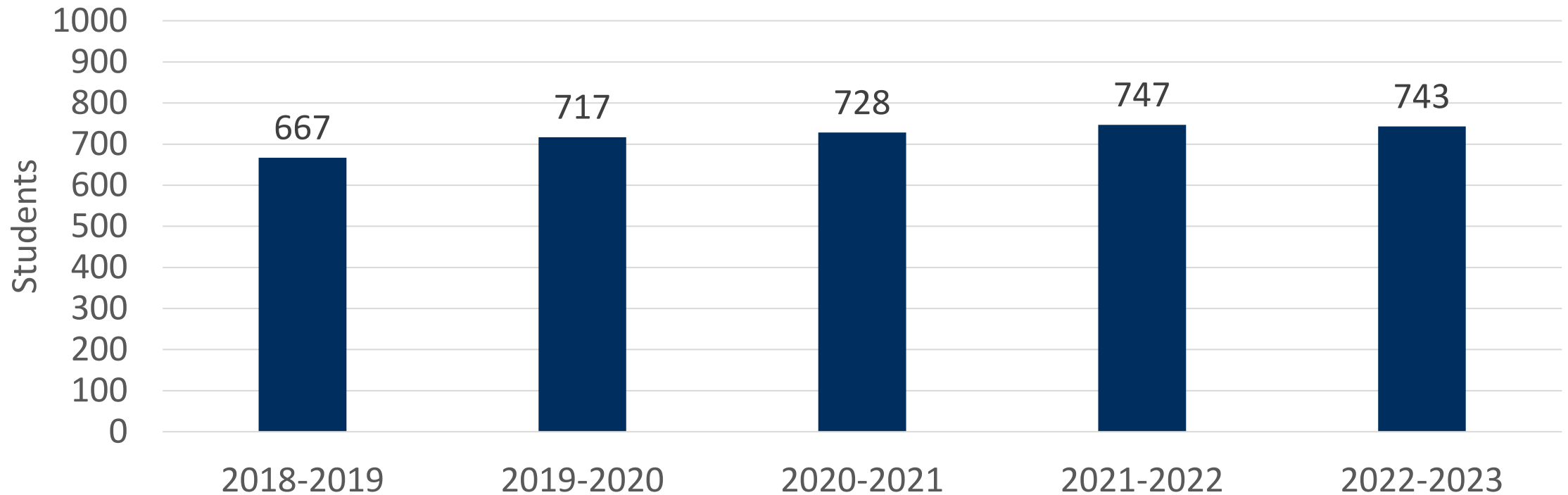
**February 28, 2023**

**Elizabeth Woods, Director of Special Education**

# Background Information

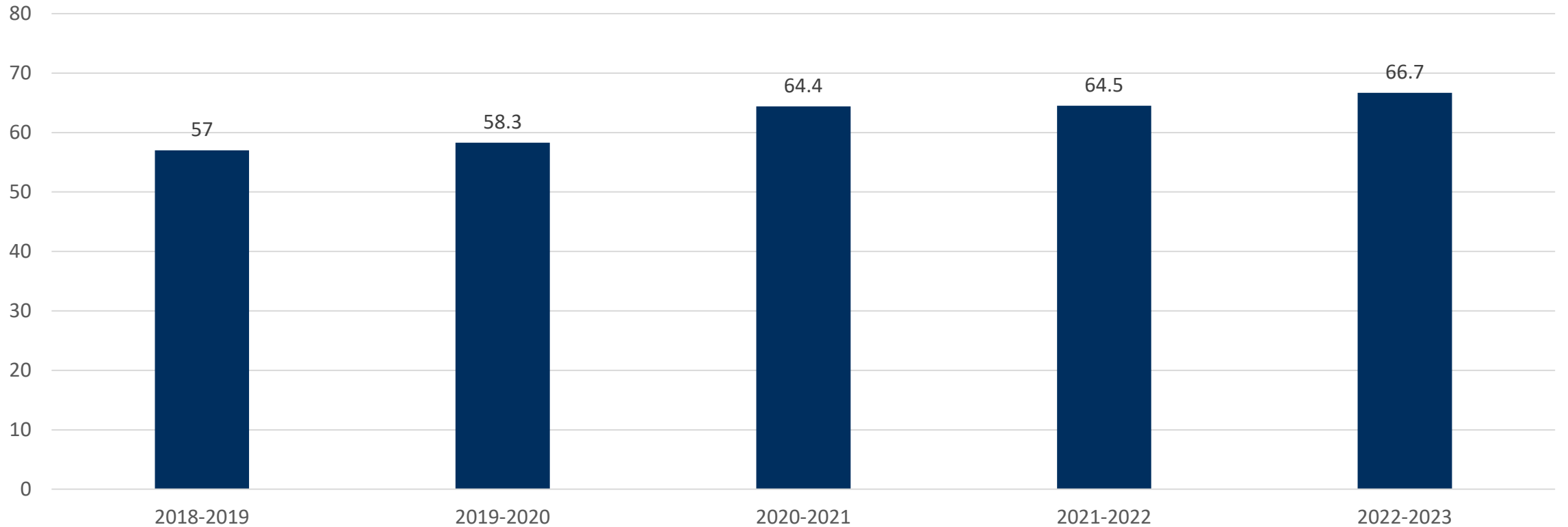
- Special Education programs and services are recommended/arranged for preschool-age students and provided to all school-age students who reside or attend a private school within the District
- Special Education Department fosters an inclusive culture by working to provide supports in general education settings whenever appropriate and also 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)

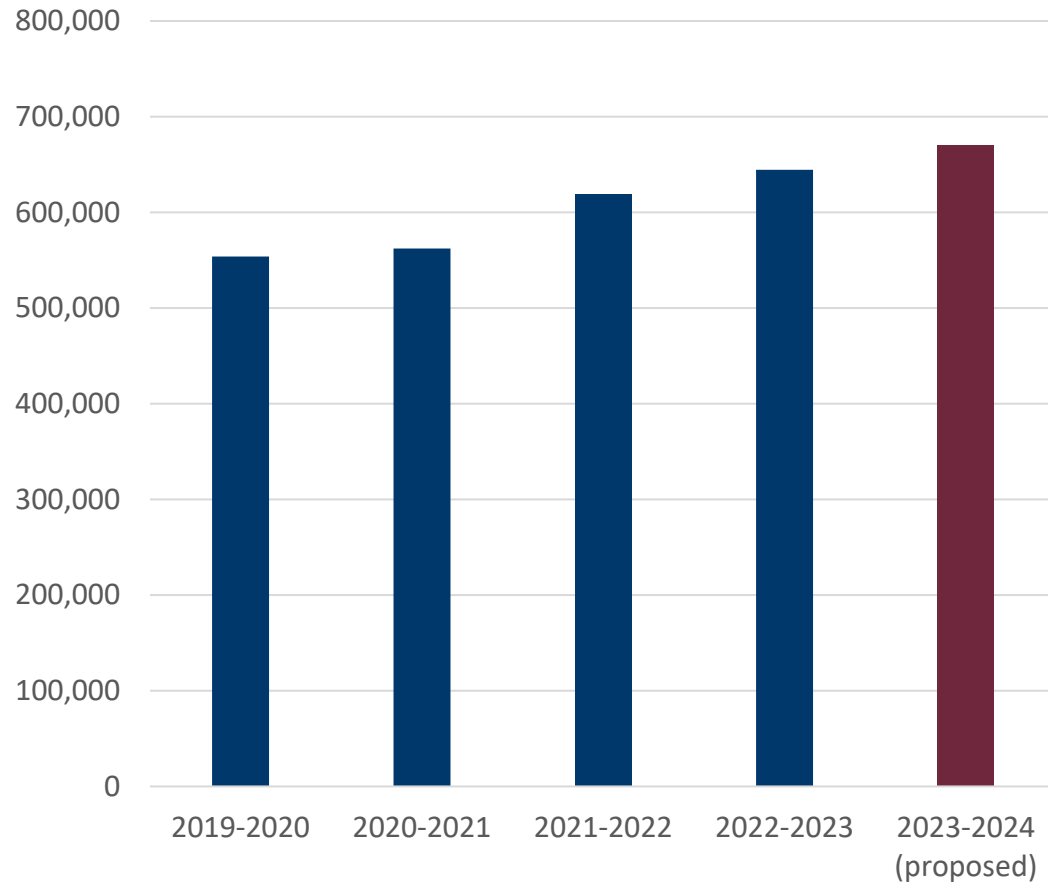


# Increase in General Education Settings

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

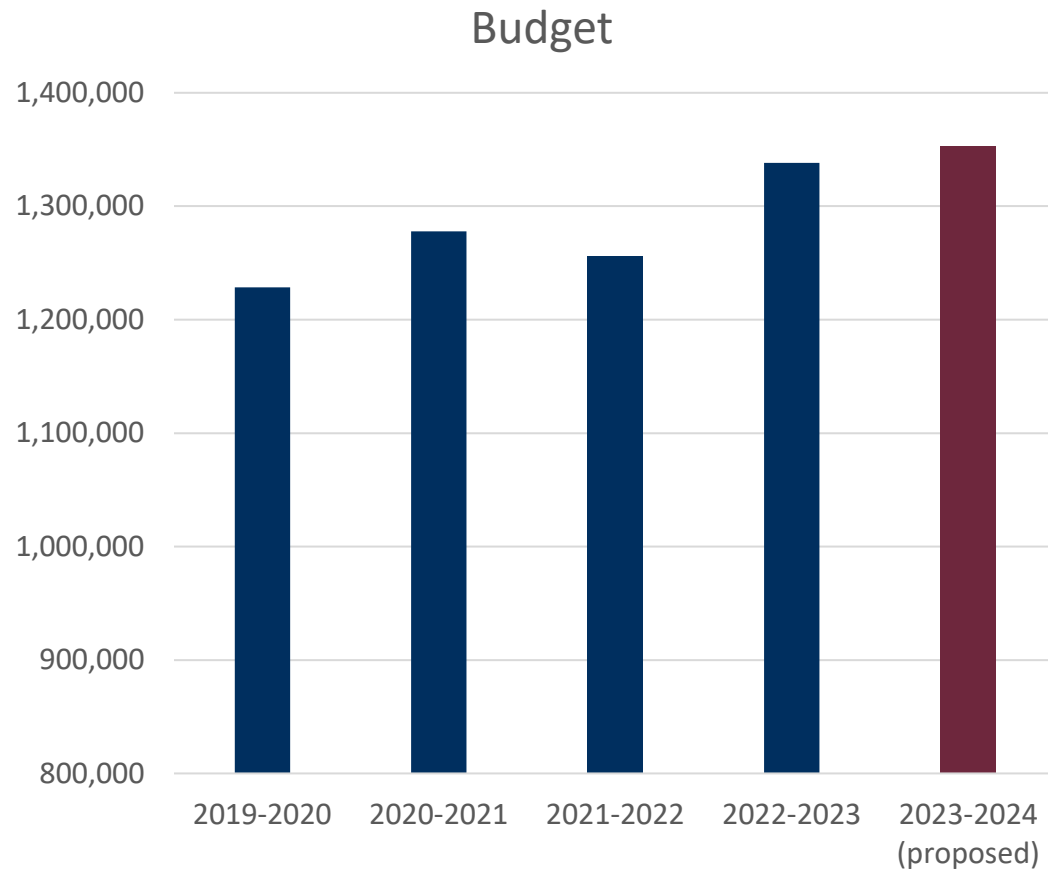


# Budget History: Special Education Office



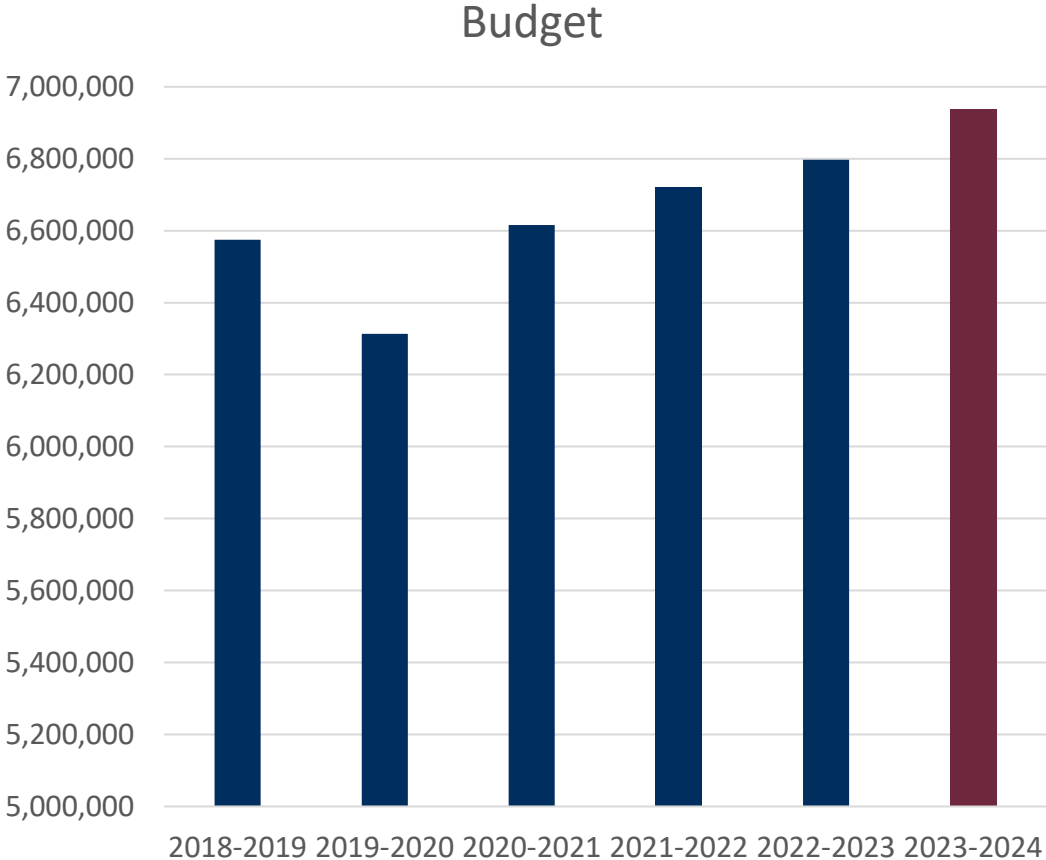
- District Office team (clerical and administrative support) to oversee Special Education programs and processes
- Interpreters, Contracts, Legal Fees
- Summer evaluations and required meetings

# Budget History: Speech/Language and Adapted Physical Education Services



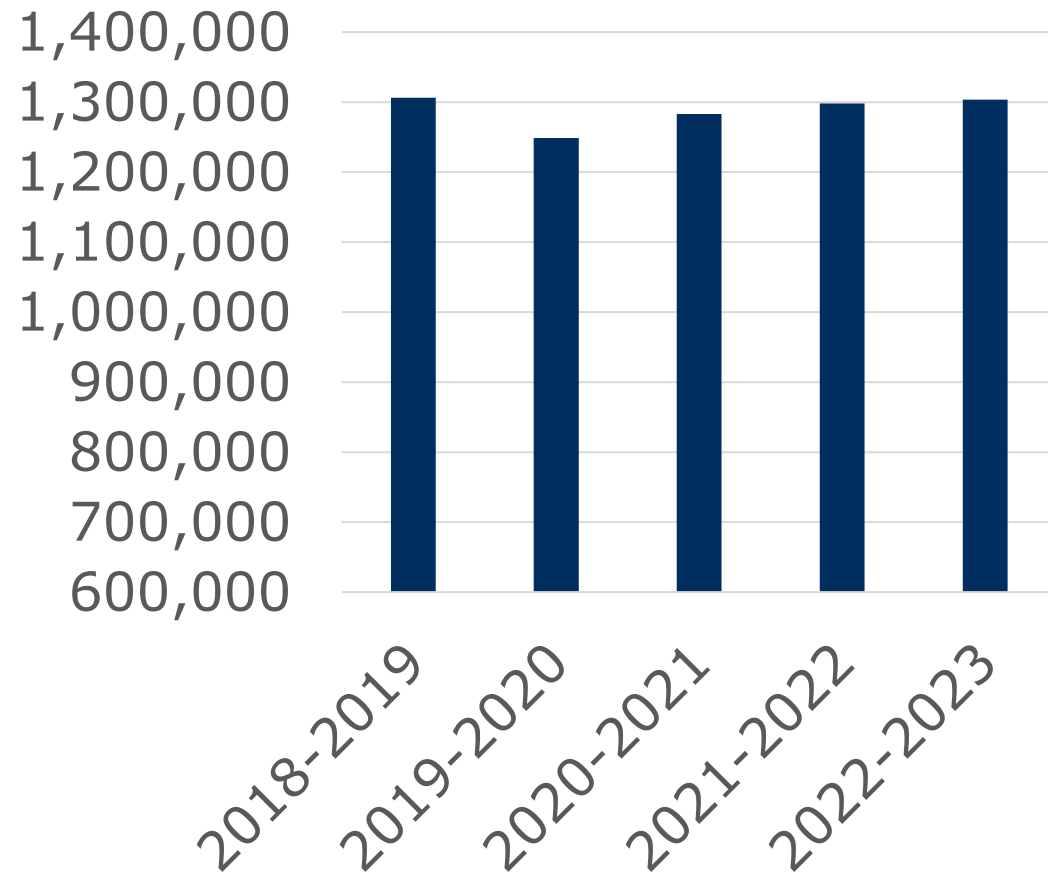
- 13.3 FTE Speech/Language Therapists and 3-4 FTE APE teachers, who provide services to students across all nine buildings, and their needed supplies/materials
- Speech/Language Pathologist licensing fees – allows the District to receive Medicaid reimbursement for eligible services to offset the cost 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 and 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 21-22 school year: **\$90,380**
- \$12,601 increase over the 20-21 school year

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

- 20-21 school year: PCSD received \$250,298 in public high cost aid and \$386,180 in private excess cost aid (paid in the 21-22 school year):

Total of **\$636,478**

- \$66,000 reduction in aid from the previous year due to claiming and staff assignment changes as a result of remote and hybrid learning models during the 20-21 school year

# 2022-2023 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)
- Transition of Assistive Technology Specialist position from a private contract to a district employee (0.5 FTE, paid out of federal grant funds)
- Best Buddies chapters established and active in all 9 buildings
- Strong partnership with reorganized and active SEPTA (Special Education Parent Teacher Association), including increased Parent Advisory opportunities

# 2022-2023 Department Challenges/Obstacles

- Lengthy waitlists for the most specialized and intensive out of district placements, which requires us to provide increased and creative supports for students awaiting an appropriate placement
- Staffing challenges in related services and paraprofessional supports, primarily in outside programs and through BOCES, resulting in delays in providing services to certain students (depending on time of year and location needed, including for preschool-age students)
- Staffing challenges around long-term substitute coverage for specialized positions (i.e. speech/language therapists, physical therapists, etc.)

# Proposed Budget: 2023-2024 Changes

- No significant overall increases for 23-24
- Budget reflects contractual salary increases and increased tuition costs in BOCES and private programs

	2022-2023	2023-2024	Change
Office	644,603	670,284	3.98%
Services	1,338,243	1,352,979	1.10%
Out of District	6,796,995	6,938,384	2.08%
Total Central Services: Special Education	<b>8,779,841</b>	<b>8,961,647</b>	<b>2.07%</b>

# Discussion

- Any questions?

