Budget Work Session: Special Education 2020-21
The mission of the Special Education Department is to support diverse learners and to foster an inclusive culture within our schools and community. Through a network of supports, students with disabilities are empowered to identify, pursue, and fulfill their personal aspirations as they participate in our global society.
717 students, age 5-21, receive special education services (10/2/19)

- In District Programs: 630
- Placed in programs outside of the district: 50
- Parentally-placed in private schools: 33
- Home-schooled, at parent choice: 4
604 Students (age 6-21) in District Programs

- 405 students in General Education for more than 80% of the day
- 168 students in General Education for 40-79% of the day
- 31 students in General Education for less than 40% of the day

In General Education for more than 80% of the day
In General Education for 40-79% of the day
In General Education for less than 40% of the day
PCSD Students Receiving Special Education Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>717</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In-district: Range of Services

- Related Services (i.e. speech/language, physical therapy, occupational therapy)

- Supplemental supports (Resource Room)

- Consultant Teacher/Integrated Co-taught classes (special education providing support in general education class)

- Special classes (max of 8, 12 or 15 students with special education teacher)
4-Year Graduation Rates for Students with Disabilities (August 2019)

Graduation Rate (diploma)

PCSD: 73%
NYS: 61%
18-19 (as of August): Outcomes, after 4 years of HS

- Local Diploma: 3
- TASC (GED): 1
- Still enrolled: 7
- Credential: 1
- Dropped out: 2
- Regents Diploma: 20
- Regents w Advanced Designation: 7

Total: 34
Central Student Services: Special Education Office (410-2251)
Central Student Services: Special Education Office (410-2251)

- District office team to support District Committee on Special Education (administrative and clerical support)

- Interpreters (for students or parents), contracts, legal fees

- Summer CSE work (i.e. extra hours for evaluators and teachers)
Central Student Services: Speech/Language (420-2255) and Adapted Physical Education (420-2256) Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018-2019</th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
<th>2020-2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bar chart showing the increase in services over three years.
Central Student Services: Speech/Language (420-2255) and Adapted Physical Education (420-2256) Services

- 13 Speech/Language Therapists and 3.5-4 APE teachers
- Services provided to students across all nine buildings
- Salaries and supplies/materials
- Speech/Language Pathologist licensing fees – allows the District to receive Medicaid reimbursement for eligible services to offset the cost of these services
Central Student Services: Outside Placements and Services

- 2018-2019: 4,500,000
- 2019-2020: 6,000,000
- 2020-2021: 6,500,000
Central Student Services: Outside Placements and Services

- PPS Private Schools (430-2252)
- BOCES Placements (430-2253)
Central Student Services: PPS Private Schools (430-2252)

- Private special education schools (CSE places students in these programs)
  - Hillside – Crestwood
  - Mary Cariola Children’s Center
  - Norman Howard School
  - School of the Holy Childhood
  - Villa of Hope

- Tuition charges for special education services for resident students who attend private schools outside of Pittsford
Central Student Services: BOCES Placements (430-2253)

BOCES-provided special education programs and services

- District-based classes
- Bird/Morgan School
- Creekside program
- O’Connor Academy
- E-start program
- Related services (i.e. speech, OT, PT)

BOCES also provides services to parentally placed students in private schools in Pittsford (billed to districts of residence)

- Allendale Columbia
- St. Louis
- Trinity Montessori
Out of District Placements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-18</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-20</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(anticipated)

Number of Students  Percentage
Special Education-specific funding sources: Federal Grant (school age and preschool)

- Required percentage must support students in private schools in Pittsford.
- Required sub-allocations must be sent to private special education schools.
- Supports special education costs such as:
  - staff to oversee CSE functions at each building
  - assistive technology devices and support for students
  - professional development for staff
  - unique supplies needed for individual students (i.e. specialized furniture, Braille reader, etc.)
  - administrative expenses to oversee preschool special education functions
Federal Special Education grant allocation history
Special Education-specific funding sources: Medicaid reimbursement

- District can claim reimbursement for certain medically-necessary services (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech/Language Therapy)

- 17-18 school year: PCSD received $41,039 in paid claims

- 18-19 school year: PCSD received $178,995 in paid claims (included cost settlements to reconcile 3 years of underpayment)

- 19-20 school year: PCSD has received $45,087 to date
Special Education-specific funding sources: 
**STAC Public High Cost Aid**

- Supports costs for individual students in district or BOCES programs over a specified cost threshold (varies year to year)

- **17-18**: PCSD received $787,240 in public high cost aid (paid during the 18-19 school year)

- **18-19**: PCSD received $439,242 in public high cost aid (paid during the 19-20 school year)
Special Education-specific funding sources: **STAC Private Excess Cost Aid**

- Provides reimbursement for a portion of private special education tuition

- 17-18 school year: PCSD received $296,218 in private excess cost aid (paid in the 18-19 school year)

- 18-19 school year: PCSD received $283,160 in private excess cost aid (paid in the 19-20 school year)
Special Education: Budget Challenges

- Increasing number of students requiring special education services over time and changing needs result in need to adjust and expand programs

- Increasing outside placement expenses as tuition costs and needs of students rise

- Waiting lists for outside placements and the need to continue to program for students while awaiting a program

- Unpredictable nature of outside placement projections (i.e. move-in’s, changing student needs mid-year, etc.)

- Unknown federal grant allocation totals until late spring/early summer
Special Education: Budget Efficiencies

- Continuous improvement of Medicaid claiming processes -> increase in Medicaid reimbursement to offset related service costs

- Expanding upon and improving in-district programs and services allows us to hold outside placement referrals relatively constant as our overall numbers increase

- Full day K has decreased our need to support kindergarten students in full-day special class programs (maintain students in kindergarten classes with support services in their neighborhood schools)