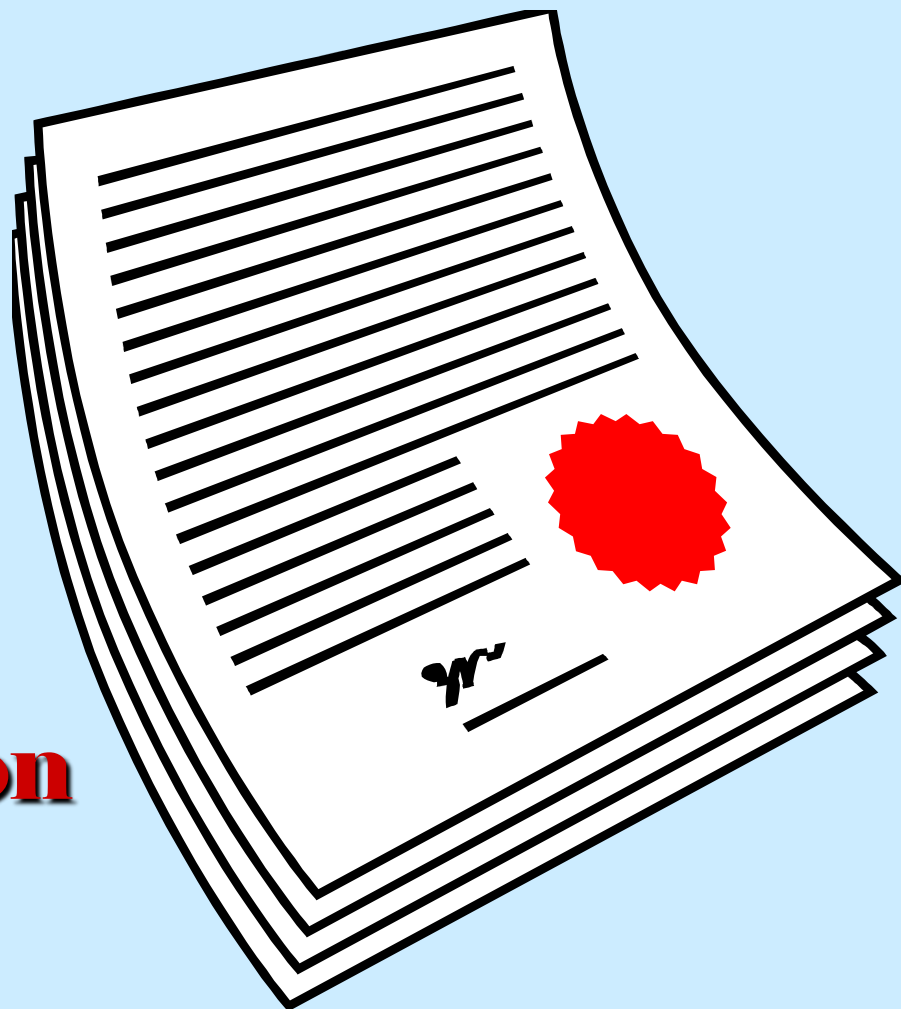


Hull Public Schools Special Education Overview

April 10, 2017



Hull Public Schools (HPS) Special Education Budget

Purpose of the presentation is to provide an overview of:

- the special education process,
- the components that drive the budgetary needs, and
- why the budget fluctuates.

Why Special Education?

- It is a legal and mandated obligation for all school districts.
- Schools must provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (F.A.P.E.) to all students.
- Governed by *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004* (IDEA) and closely tied to *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB).
- Governed by MA General Law Ch. 71 B and by the MA Regulations under 603 CMR 28.

Special Education Process

Team process to meet the needs of students with disabilities beginning at age 2.9 and ending at age 22 that consists of the following steps:

- Referral for an evaluation due to a suspected disability
- Receive signed consent from parent/guardian for an evaluation
- Complete testing
- Hold a team meeting/determine eligibility
- Develop an Individual Education Program (IEP) upon eligibility (formally written by liaison and mailed to parents)
- Receive signed consent to implement the IEP
- Hold annual Team meetings to update IEP
- Reevaluate every three years

Special Education Process (cont.)

- The 10 disability categories that are recognized in education include:
 - Autism
 - Developmental Delay
 - Intellectual
 - Sensory
 - Neurological
 - Emotional
 - Communication
 - Physical
 - Specific Learning
 - Health

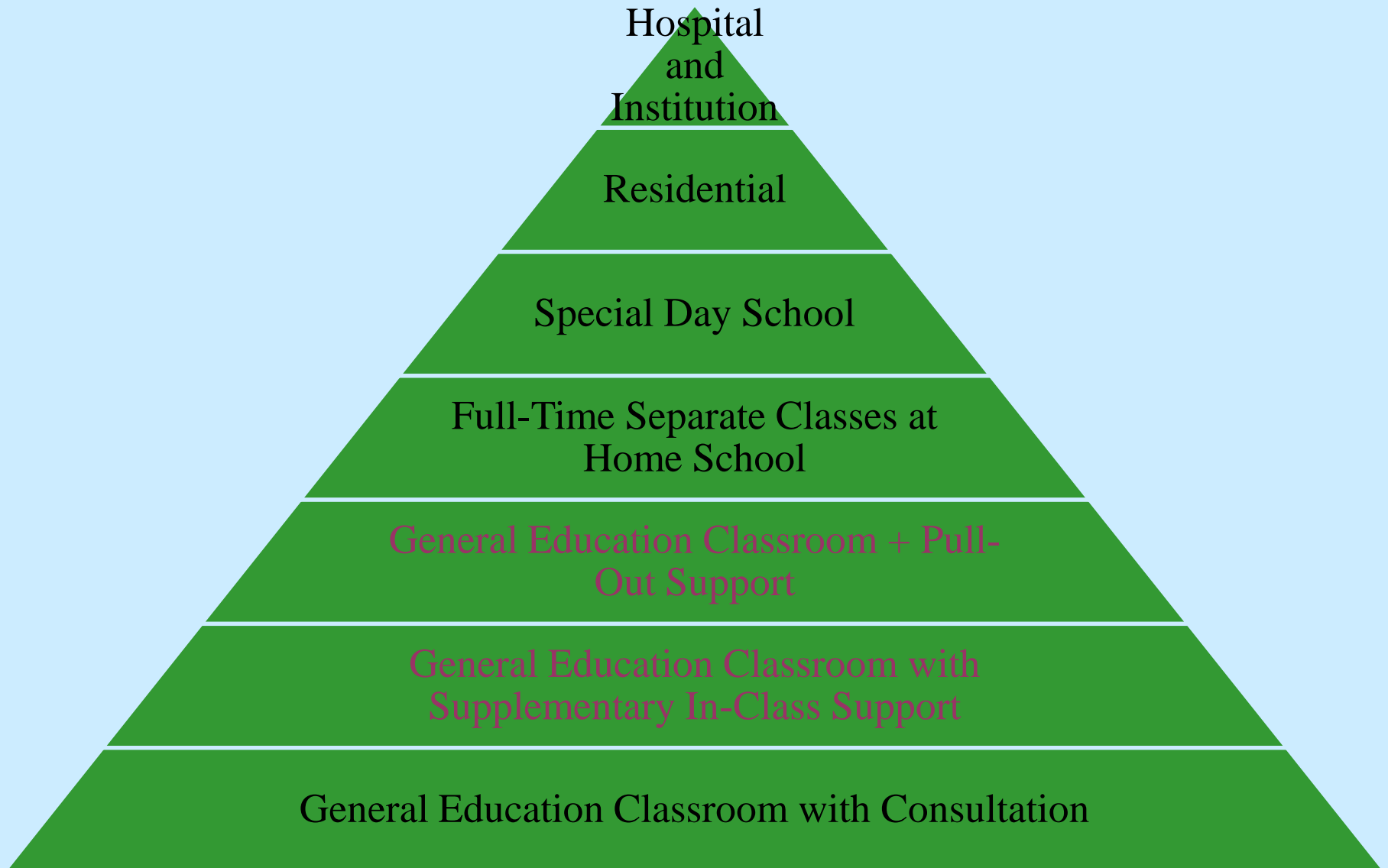
Special Education Process (cont.)

- At times the Team will reconvene for other reasons:
 - IEP goals are not on track for being met or have been exceeded
 - Additional services are determined to be needed
 - Student is not making progress in school
 - During transition from building to building or program to program
- After a reconvene meeting, the IEP is often revised or amended.

Individual Education Programs (IEPs)

- Goal-oriented services are written into the IEP as agreed upon by the Team.
- Services include OT, PT, Speech Therapy, Counseling, O&M, TVI, etc.
- Services may be delivered as consultation or as direct services within the general education classrooms, in a small group pull-out setting, or an individual pull-out setting.
- At Team meetings, based on goals and services, the Team determines a placement in the Least Restrictive Environment, (LRE).

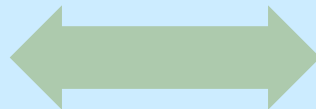
Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)



Regular Education



HPS Special
Education Program



Collaborative/Private
Placement

HPS Initial Evaluations

- In FY16 there were a total of 61 initial referrals to special education.
- Of the initial referrals made in FY16, 44% were found eligible for special education.

HPS Reevaluations

- In FY16 there were a total of 57 reevaluations.
- Of the reevaluations in FY16, 65% were found eligible for special education.

Number of Out-of-District (OOD) Students FY14-FY18

School Year	# of Students in OOD Placements
FY14	22
FY15	28
FY16	23
FY17 (As of 4/10/17)	25
FY18 (Anticipated)	25

Special Education Transportation

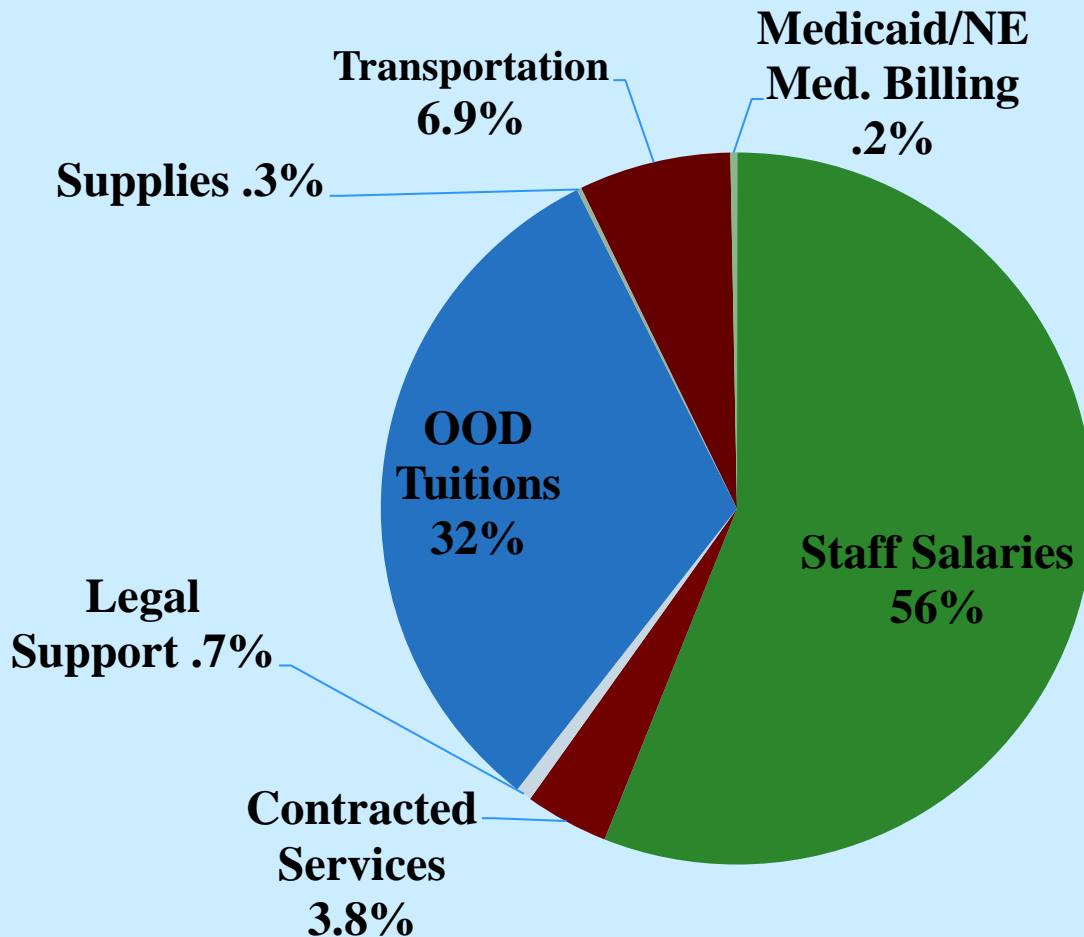
- HPS is required to provide transportation to OOD students as well as some students attending Hull programs, based on their disability.
- There are no reimbursement or grant programs to subsidize transportation costs.

OOD Costs

Tuition & Transportation

- Even though the number of students in OOD placements may be the same or less, the cost to the district may be higher.
- Why?
 - Tuitions range from ~\$30,000 to ~\$139,000, depending on the placement.
 - Transportation ranges from ~\$15/student/day to ~\$250/student/day.
 - If only one student is attending a program located in a separate setting, there is a high cost per student.

What are the Components of the Special Education Budget?



Special Education Budget Fluctuates

- **Budget is not “set”** like most programs. HPS is legally obligated to provide required services and services fluctuate for individual students over the course of a year. For that reason, the budget required for services also fluctuates.
- **Example 1:** New student with an IEP moves in, after budget is set, system must provide the services the IEP states.
- **Example 2:** Student is not making effective progress in current placement and the Team determines the need for a more restrictive placement.

Prediction of OOD Tuition for FY18

- Principals, Assistant Principals and Director of Student Services meet regularly with staff to discuss interventions for students at risk for OOD placements.
- Assistant Superintendent, Director of Student Services and OOD Coordinator meet regularly to review OOD student progress.

Prediction of OOD Tuition for FY18

- OOD Coordinator and Director of Student Services work closely with placement setting to ensure quality programming and assess readiness to return to HPS.
- 28% of current students in OOD settings were placed out of district within a year from the time they moved to Hull. We cannot predict what the needs are of the students who will move into the district.

How Can HPS Keep Costs Lower?

- Create/Strengthen Programs in HPS:
 - Response to Intervention Program (RTI)
 - Continue to build a strong collaboration between general education staff and support staff.
- In-District Specialized Programs:
 - Team Based Learning (TBL)
 - Teaching Independence and Decision Making through Educational Support (TIDES)
 - Satellite Program

QUESTIONS?