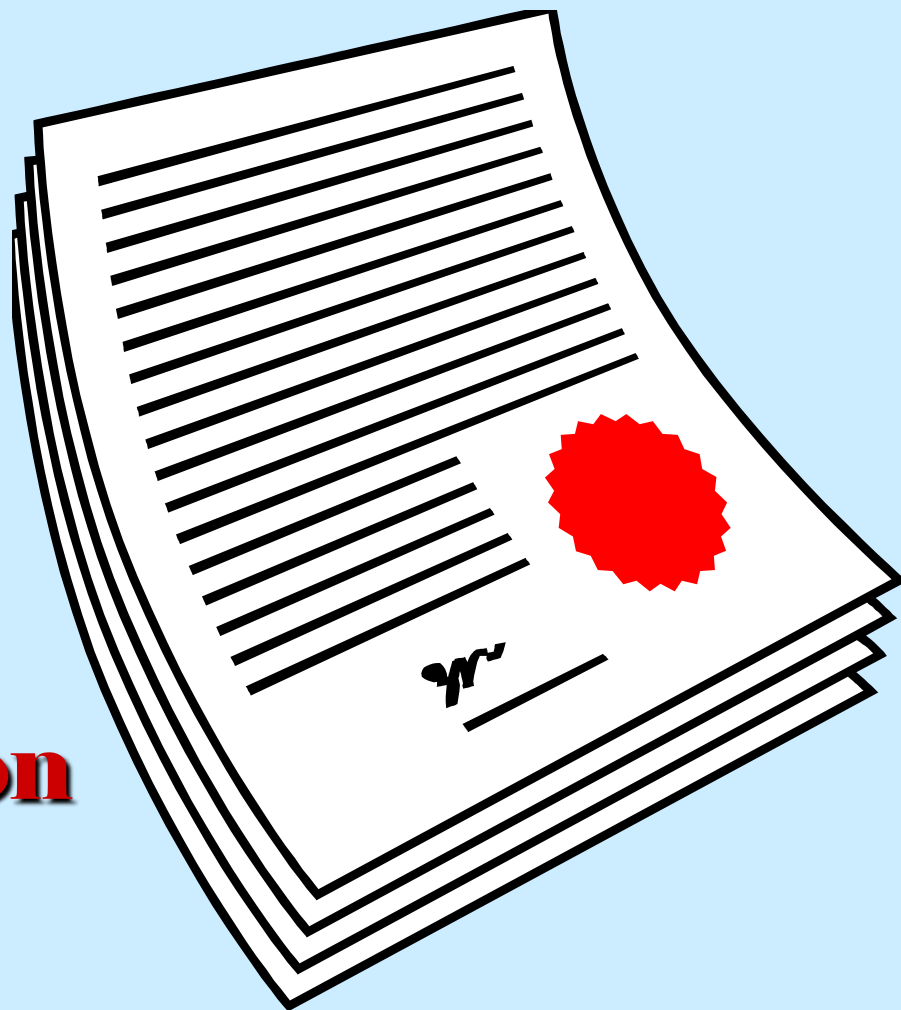


Hull Public Schools Special Education Overview

March 7, 2016



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 3 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.)

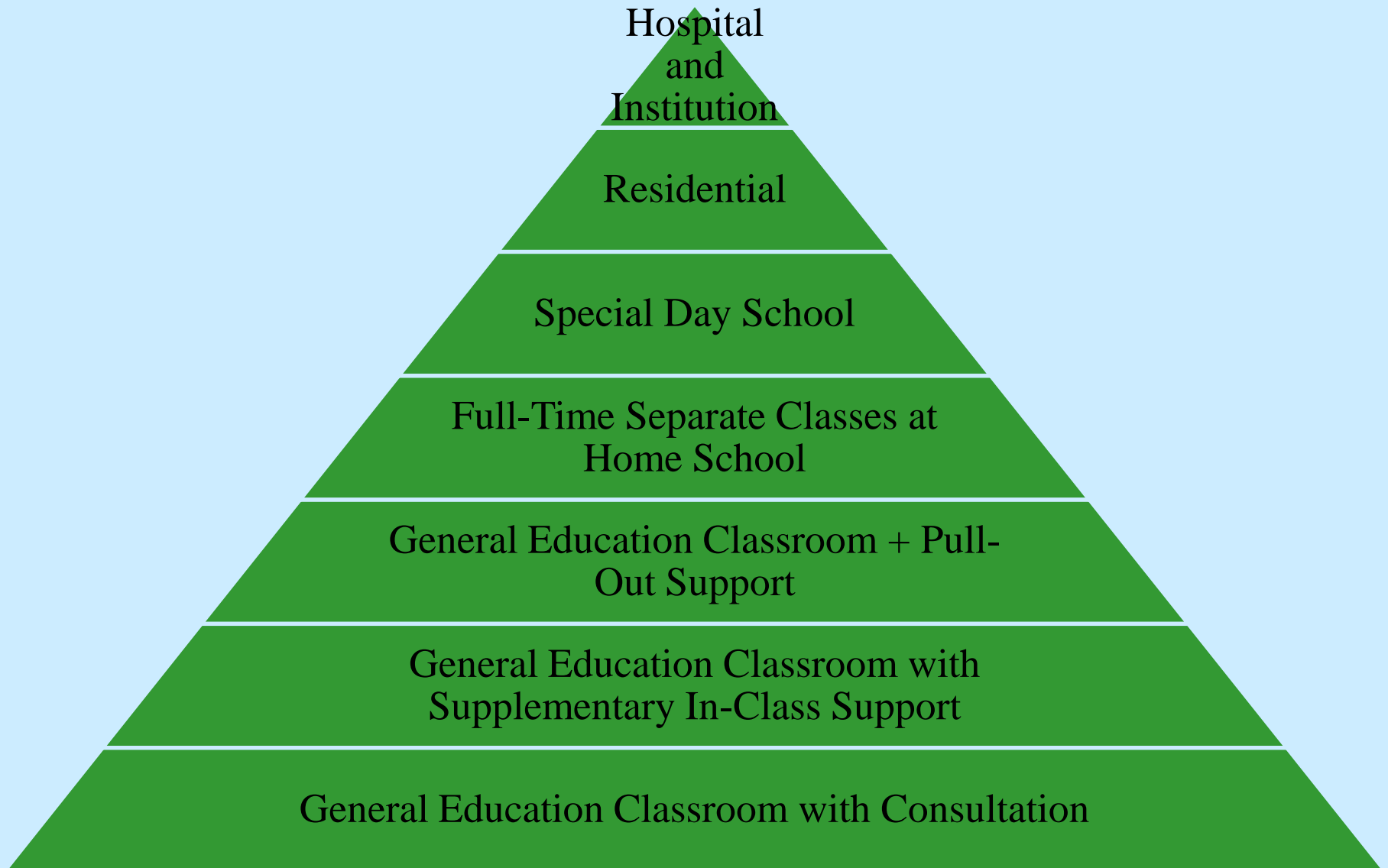
- Team meetings may take place for many other reasons:
 - IEP goals are not on track for being met, or have been exceeded
 - Additional services are determined to be needed
 - Student is not making progress in school
 - During transitions from building to building or program to program

At that time, 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 the goals and services, the Team determines a placement in the Least Restrictive Setting, (LRE).

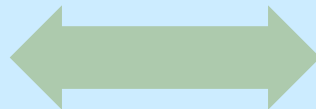
Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)



Regular Education



HPS Special
Education Program



Collaborative/Private
Placement

HPS Initial Evaluations

- In FY 15, there were a total of 76 initial referrals to special education.
- Of the initial referrals made in FY 15, 64 % were found eligible for special education.

HPS Re-evaluations

- In FY 15, there were a total of 64 re-evaluations.
- Of the re-evaluations in FY 15, 83 % were found eligible for special education.

Number of Out-of-District (OOD) Students FY11-FY15

School Year	# of Students in OOD Placements
FY 13	21
FY 14	22
FY 15	28
FY 16	23
FY 17 (Anticipated)	22

Special Education Transportation

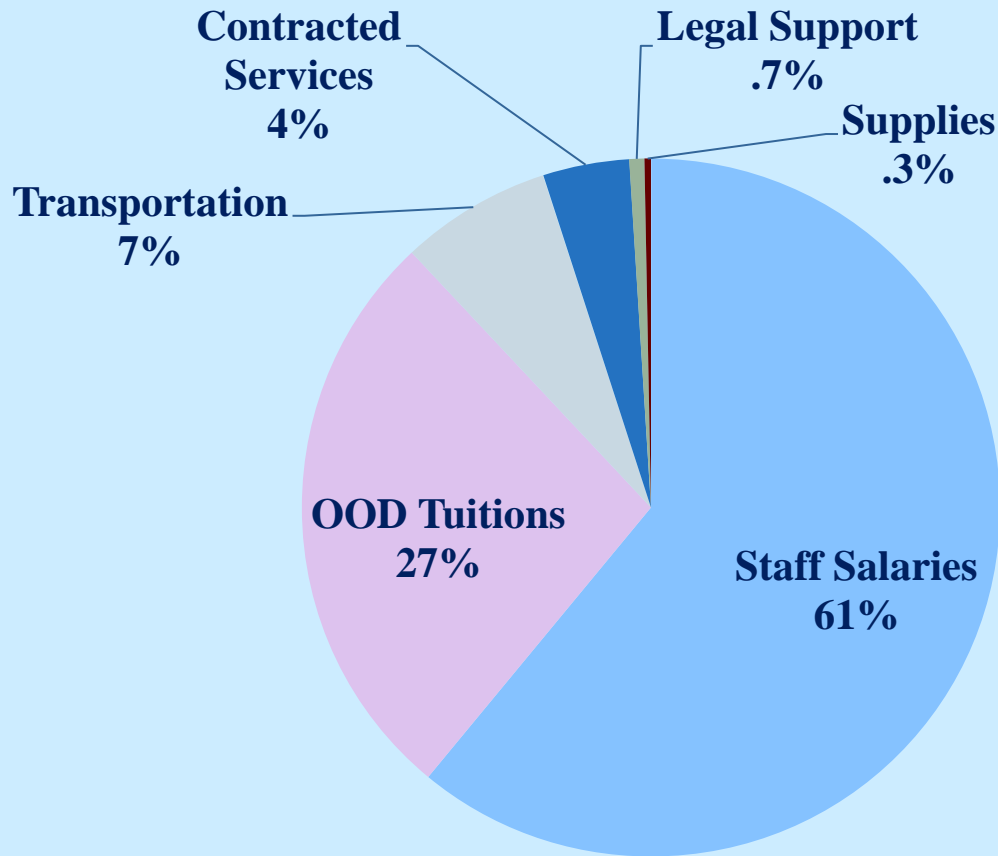
- HPS is required to provide transportation to OOD students as well as some students attending Hull programs, based on their disability.
- There are no reimbursement or grant programs to subsidize transportation costs.

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 may range from ~\$35,000 to ~\$170,000, depending on the placement.
 - Transportation ranges from ~\$20/student/day to ~\$200/student/day.

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.

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

Reasons for Offering Programs in HPS?

- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Educated in Student's Own Community
- Cost Avoidance
- Access to Peers/Social Events
- Continued Access to Inclusion in General Education Setting

QUESTIONS?