



Special Education Spending Analysis for MARB

Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, Superintendent
January 27, 2021



Executive Summary



Overall special education picture:

- As of SY21-22, Hartford Public Schools (HPS) serves 17,238 students in-district and outplaced, 3,585 (20.8%) of whom require special education services (slides 4, 5)
- HPS spends \$62M on in-district special education services to serve 3,139 students (~88% of all HPS SWD students in SY21-22) – which is proportionally less than we see in other similarly-sized urban districts (slides 7 and 8)
- HPS spends \$42M on out-of-district placements for 536 students (SY20-21) - including Hartford students in HPS schools and in non-HPS magnets schools (slide 9)
- In addition to students served in-district, or in out-of-district placement, there are 894 Hartford students with disabilities currently attending non-HPS magnet schools (as of SY21-22), 560 (as of SY20-21) enrolled in Open Choice districts, and 161 enrolled in Charter / Other (as of SY21-22) who require special education services that HPS is responsible for paying- with limited input or control of costs- totaling \$31.2M as of SY20-21 (slide 9)

Non-HPS Magnets & Open Choice

- Enrollment of Hartford students attending non-HPS magnets has been growing each year, up 18% from FY18, and the proportion of students requiring special education services has grown even higher- up 35% since FY18 (slide 10)
- Open Choice enrollment has dropped, but the proportion of students requiring special education services has grown 30%, and now outpaces the overall HPS SWD identification rate (25.3% vs. 20.8%) (slide 10)
- Hartford has experienced a 57% increase in total special education tuition costs for students in non-HPS Magnets / Open Choice (slide 9)
- These trends are likely to continue – both in terms of overall enrollment increases (especially if there are changes or expansions to enrollment caps as a result of ongoing Sheff litigation negotiations) and in special education rate increases, as a response to the pandemic

HPS Outplacement:

- 70% of HPS outplacements are students with ED, Autism, or OHI disability types (slide 12), and 55% of all placements are for HS students (slide 13)
- HPS has developed specialized in-district programming to reduce reliance on outplacement setting for those disability and student types; the three current programs (iGoal, RISE, and STEP) serve 286 students and saves HPS an estimated \$34.2M year in additional outplacement costs (slides 14 and 15)
- HPS has plans to increase existing in-district programs, and explore new programs and in-house supports, to reduce further outplacement by an estimated \$10M by 2026 (slide 16 & 17)
- Challenges exacerbated by the pandemic have impeded Hartford's efforts to effectively scale in-house programs; Hartford is investing stimulus funds to try to mitigate challenges (slide 18 & 19)

Other challenges facing HPS

1. *Insufficient revenue:* The total cost of special education services that HPS is responsible for totaled \$135M in SY20-21. Combined federal and state revenue for special education totaled \$62M – leaving \$73M, or 54% of the total cost of special education, on Hartford's local revenue sources (slide 20)
 2. *Disproportionate impact of Open Choice:* The Open Choice funding system is particularly problematic for Hartford Public Schools: (1) HPS receives fewer state dollars (via ECS) for students enrolled in Open Choice districts, (2) Hartford is responsible for 100% of special education costs for Hartford students in Open Choice, but lacks the resources to be actively involved in decisions about service placement or costs, and (3) per-pupil special education costs for students in Open Choice outpaced per-pupil costs for non-HPS magnet students, and has grown 24% in the last 5 years (slide 21)
- Therefore, legislative action should be focused on increasing state-level funding for special education services (particularly for high-cost students), providing resources to enable more oversight and input by Hartford Public Schools into Open Choice special education decisions, and increased cost-sharing for students enrolled in Open Choice (either by the state, or by the receiving district) (slide 22)

Definitions of Settings Serving Hartford-Resident SWD



SWD In...	Served by...	In-district or out-of-district?	Charge HPS special education tuition?	Does HPS have control over decisions / cost?	Description
HPS Schools	HPS Schools	In-district	No	Yes	Students who are served directly by HPS through inclusion/resource models, related services only, or self-contained models (iGOAL, RISE, STEP). Also includes Early Childhood Development Center and Integrated PreK.
HPS Schools or non-HPS Magnet Schools	Outplacement providers	Out-of-district	Yes	Yes	Students served by a private or public outplacement provider. Public outplacement providers include ACES, CREC, OPP, East Hartford (Woodland), Manchester (Manchester Regional Academy), Farmington (FTVA), Glastonbury (LINKS). HPS is a part of outplacement decisions both for students in HPS schools and students in non-HPS Magnet schools.
Non-HPS Magnet Schools	Non-HPS Magnet Schools	Out-of-district	Yes	No	Students who are served directly by the Magnet school that they attend. Magnet schools that serve HPS SWD include CREC, LEARN, and Bloomfield.
Non-HPS Open Choice Schools	Non-HPS Open Choice Schools	Out-of-district	Yes	No	Students who are served directly by the Open Choice school that they attend.
Non-HPS Open Choice Schools	Outplacement providers	Out-of-district	Yes	No	Students who attended an Open Choice school and are then outplaced to a public or private outplacement provider.
Non-HPS Charter Schools	Non-HPS Charter Schools	Out-of-district	Yes	No	Students who attend a Charter school, either Achievement First or Jumoke.
Other	Other	Mostly out-of-district	Yes	Varied	Students who attend other programs who charge HPS special education tuition, including OPPportunity Academy, Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers, Detention Centers, or DCF. This makes up a very small portion of SWD.

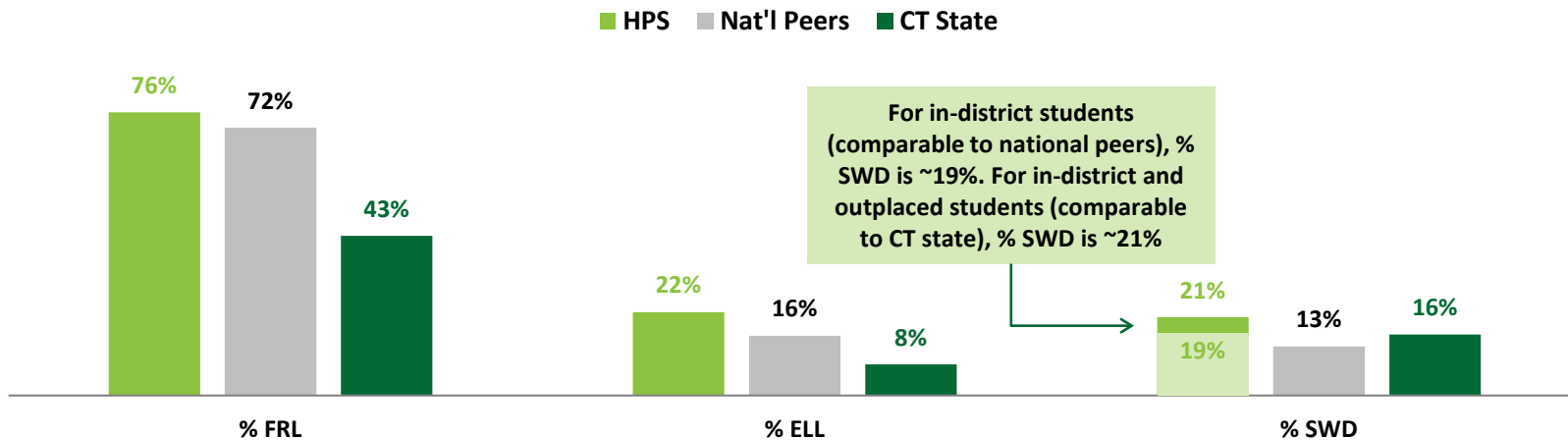
The "Choice System" includes a combination of Magnet, Open Choice, and Charter schools

Hartford Student Population and Comparisons



Hartford serves a higher-needs student population than most other districts in CT and similarly-sized national urban peers

% Student Demographics



Notes:

HPS: Student demographic data from PSIS Oct 2021. HPS counts include in-district students only; for the 21% SWD, HPS counts also include HPS outplacement (from SEDAC).

National Peers: ERS Internal Database. In-district only. Urban districts include 11 national urban districts with > 50% FRL students: Aldine, Austin, Baltimore City, Cleveland, Denver, DC, Duval, Fort Worth, Indianapolis, Palm Beach, Tulsa

CT State: EdSight.ct.gov, SY2020-21

Special Education Identification Rates



Hartford's special education identification rate has been rising slowly over the last 5 years- and is expected to stay stagnant or increase as a result of the ongoing pandemic

	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
Percentage of in-district students needing special education services	16.4%	17.1%	17.8%	18.4%	18.7%
Percentage of total HPS enrollment (in-district & outplaced) needing special education services	18.8%	19.5%	20.3%	20.9%	20.8%

Notes: Percentage of total HPS enrollment includes: In-district from PSIS and outplacement from SEDAC. It does not include Judicial Centers or OPPortunity Academy

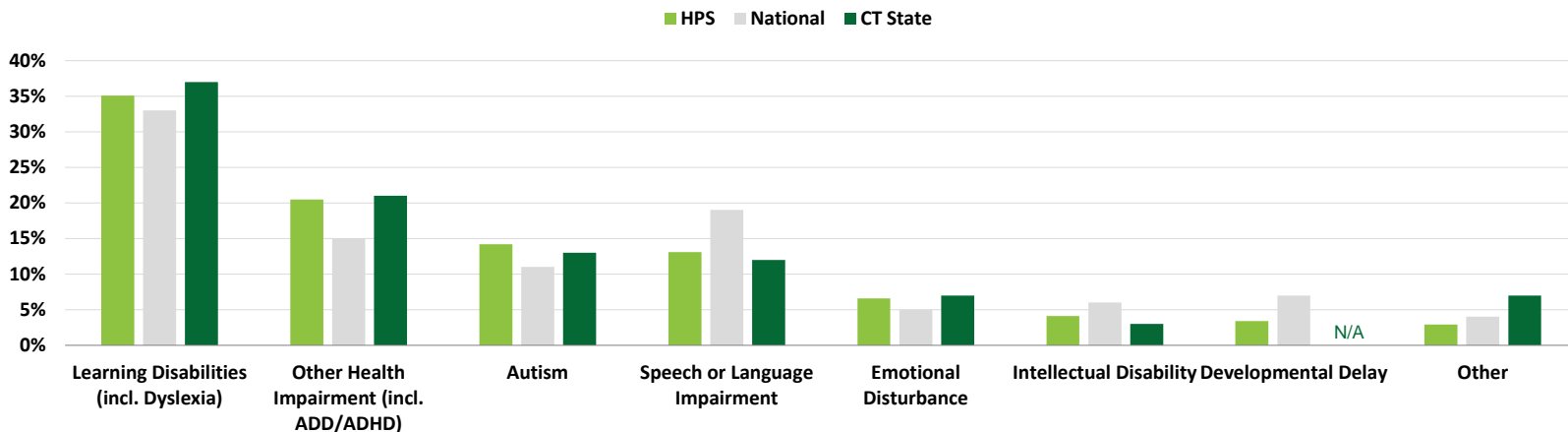
Sources: PSIS, SEDAC

Hartford Student Population and Comparisons



HPS' special education population looks similar to the profile of CT state, though nationally has slightly higher proportions of students with OHI and Autism disorders

Special Education Students, by % Disability Type



Notes: "Other" includes Multiple Disabilities, Hearing Impairment, Visual Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Orthopedic Impairment

HPS: Disability type data from Frontline fall 2021 for HPS schools and outplacement. Does not include Birth to Three, Detention Centers, OPPortunity Academy, or non-HPS Magnet or Charter.

National: NCES, SY2019-20

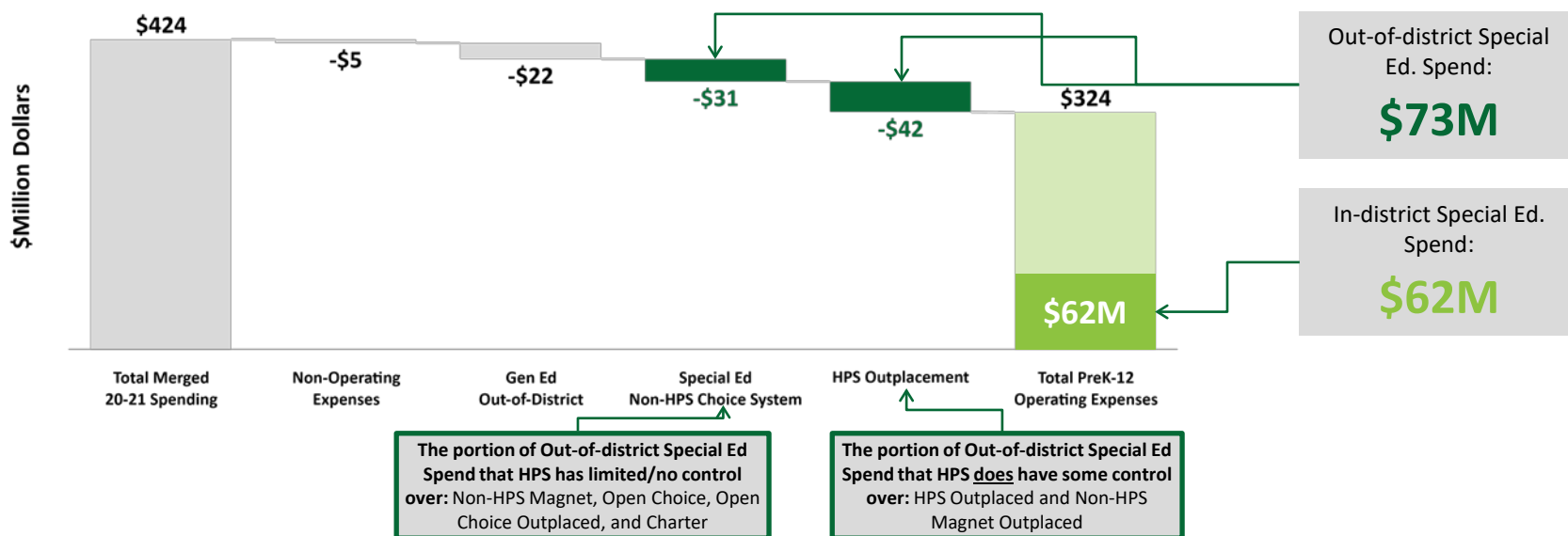
CT State: EdSight.ct.gov, SY2020-21

Hartford Student Population and Comparisons



Hartford spends a total of \$135M on special education students (\$73M out of district and \$62M in district)

HPS' 2020-21 Special Ed. Spend



Notes: Non-Operating includes onetime legal settlements, capital expenses, building leases and indirect costs. Gen Ed Out-of-District includes Adult Education provided by HPS. To enable comparison to peers, Total PreK-12 Operating includes \$6.9M in Food Service expenditures (these expenses are managed by a third party in HPS while other districts manage them within their expenditures included in this analysis). Special Ed Out-of-district includes Magnet, Open Choice, Charter, and Other (OPportunity Academy, Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers).

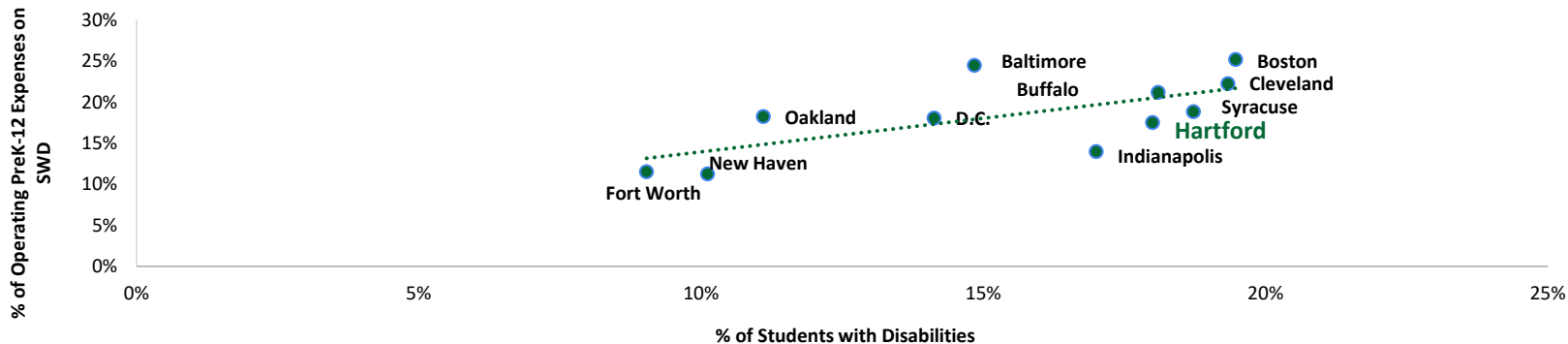
Source: HPS 20-21 Merged Payroll & Expenditures files

In-district HPS Special Education Spending, compared to peers



Compared to peer districts, Hartford spends less on in-district special education services as a portion of its overall budget, and on total special education dollars per pupil

Spend on Students with Disabilities by Population Size



District	Hartford	Median	Indianapolis	Fort Worth	Oakland	New Haven	Syracuse	Cleveland	Baltimore	Buffalo	Boston	D.C.
% SWD	18%	16%	17%	9%	11%	10%	18%	19%	15%	18%	19%	14%
\$pp on Special Ed.	\$19,877	\$20,901	\$13,801	\$13,808	\$16,549	\$17,632	\$20,543	\$21,260	\$24,527	\$25,090	\$25,235	\$26,917

Sources: HPS 20-21 Merged Payroll & Expenditures files. ERS internal database.

Historical out-of-district SWD costs



While HPS outplacement costs make up 60% of all out-of-district tuition payments, SWD payments for non-HPS Magnet and Open Choice SWD are growing rapidly, and expected to continue increasing

Year	HPS outplaced students (students in HPS or non-HPS Magnets)	HPS outplacement costs per year	# Hartford SWD students served in non-HPS Magnet schools	# Hartford SWD students served in Open Choice schools	# Hartford SWD outplaced from Open Choice schools	SWD costs for Hartford students served in non-HPS Magnet / Open Choice settings	# Hartford SWD students served in non-HPS Charter schools and Other programs*	SWD costs for Hartford students served in non-HPS Charter schools and Other programs*	Total out-of-district SWD costs
2017-18	533	\$40.5M	643	398	32	\$18.7M	194	\$2.4M	\$61.6M
2018-19	579	\$42.8M	722	485	38	\$22.7M	184	\$2.3M	\$67.8M
2019-20	571	\$42.8M	805	486	45	\$26.6M	190	\$1.8M	\$71.3M
2020-21	536	\$41.4M	869	514	46	\$29.4M	188	\$1.8M	\$72.6M
2021-22	446	<i>Not yet available</i>	894	<i>Not yet available</i>	<i>Not yet available</i>	<i>Not yet available</i>	161	<i>Not yet available</i>	<i>Not yet available</i>
FY17-21 Growth	0.6%	2.3%	35.1%	29.1%	43.8%	57.5%	-3.1%	-25.8%	17.9%

Notes: **Other programs** includes mostly OPPortunity Academy, as well as Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers and Detention Centers

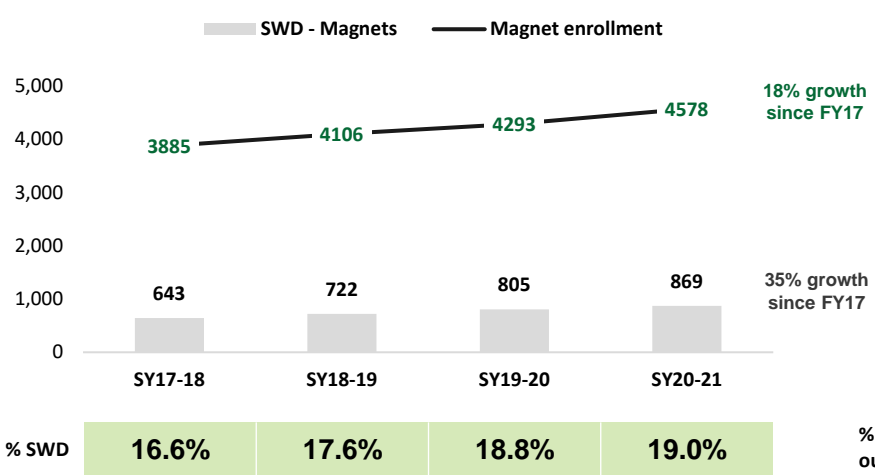
Sources: For student counts, HPS Outplaced, Magnet, Charter, and Other from SEDAC (Oct 1 snapshot); Open Choice from Finance Department tuition file (cumulative). For tuition amounts, all are from the Finance Department's tuition file.

Out-of-District Special Education Enrollment

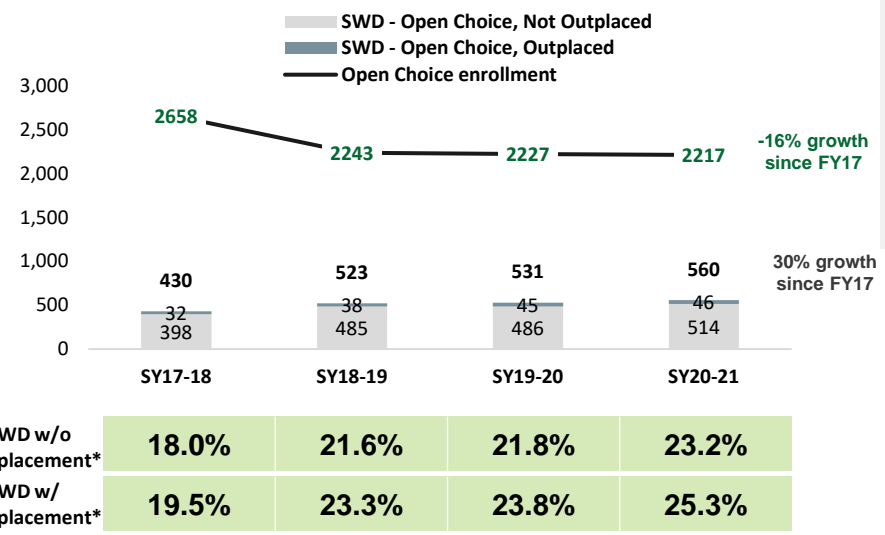


The proportion of Hartford students in non-HPS magnets or Open Choice schools that require special education services has grown 30%+ in the last 4 years

Non-HPS Magnets



Open Choice



Notes: Magnet and Charter total and special ed counts are an Oct 1 Snapshot. Magnet counts do not include outplacement, since that is reported as part of HPS Outplacement.
 *Open Choice special ed counts are cumulative for the entire year, since are only tracked through tuition bills. Because special ed percentages for Open Choice are based on cumulative special ed counts but snapshot total enrollment counts, these may be overstated.
 Sources: Magnet: PSIS R2 (total) and SEDAC (SWD); Open Choice: PSIS R2 (total) and Finance Department's tuition file (SWD)

HPS Outplacement Enrollment & Costs



Meanwhile, students placed in out-of-district settings by HPS has been decreasing every year for the last five years

Year	# of HPS outplaced SWD	% of all HPS SWD who are outplaced	Outplacement special ed tuition per year
2017-18	533	12.8%	\$40.5M
2018-19	579	13.4%	\$42.8M
2019-20	571	13.4%	\$42.8M
2020-21	536	13.0%	\$41.4M
2021-22 (YTD)	446	11.4%	Not yet available

Notes: The % of all SWD students who are outplaced is out of the total of HPS students served in-district (from PSIS October 1st snapshot) or outplaced (from SEDAC). None of the numbers in this table include Open Choice students who are outplaced.

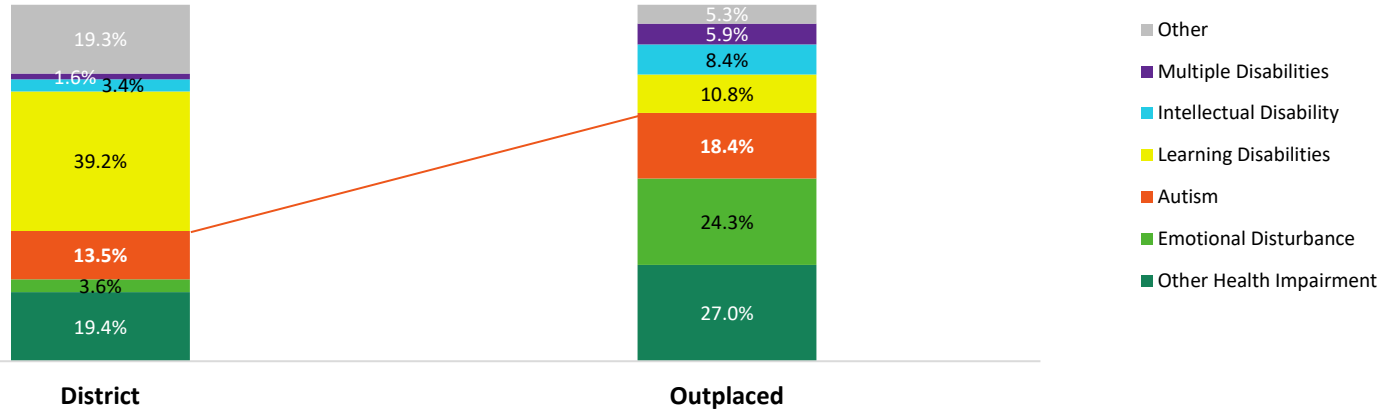
Sources: PSIS, SEDAC

Placement & Disability Type



Students with OHI (incl. ADD/ADHD), Emotional Disturbance, and Autism diagnoses account for 70% of all outplaced students

Students with Disabilities by Placement & Disability Type, FY22 % of SWD



Notes: "Other" includes Hearing Impairment, Visual Impairment, Speech Language Impairment, and Traumatic Brain Injury

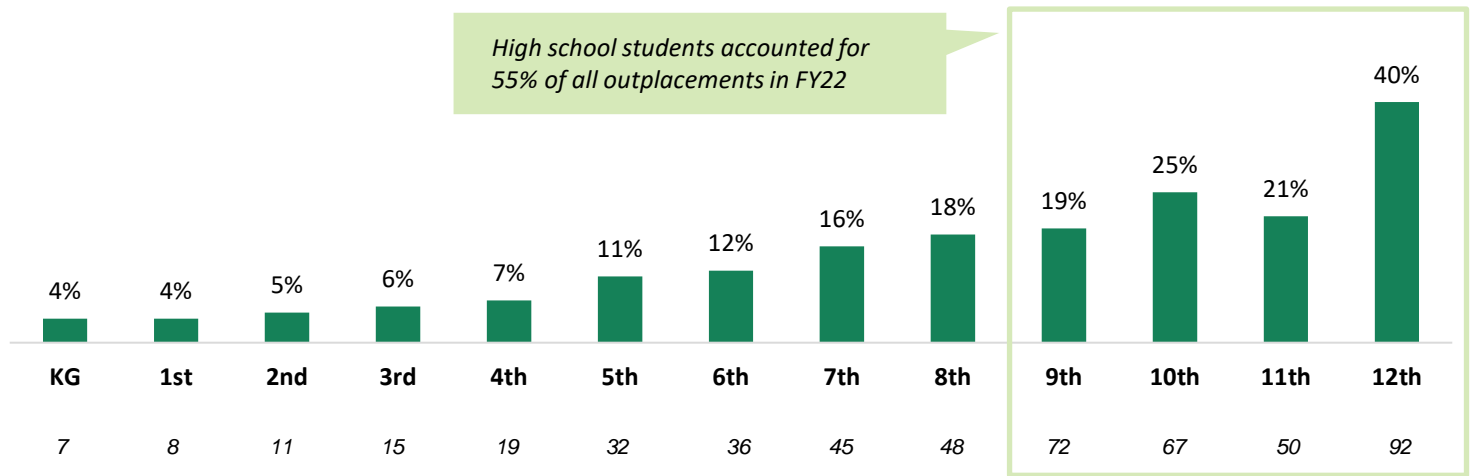
Sources: HPS Frontline file Fall 2021



Outplacement by Grade

The rate and concentration of outplacement is highest at high school

Percent of SWD in outplacement settings, by grade FY22



Notes: Frontline data is collected at different time of year than PSIS, but includes more detailed disability and student information; data will not match exactly with data using PSIS numbers
 Sources: HPS Frontline file Fall 2021

Specialized in-district programs



HPS has been developing specialized in-district programs to serve its highest-need special education students effectively, and reduce reliance on outplacement

Program	Student population	School Location	Student enrollment				
			SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
STEP	Students 18-22 that have completed high school credits, but require additional functional living skills to be an active member in the community	HS: HPHS	20	31	36	34	33
iGOAL	Students with complex learning, behavioral, cognitive and/or neurodevelopmental profiles	ES: Burns, BTN, MD Fox, Parkville, ELAMS, Rawson MS: Kennelly, Milner HS: HPHS, Weaver	185	195	203	195	181
RISE	Students in need of increased social, emotional, and behavioral supports with access to the mainstream environment	MS: MLK ES: West Middle HS: HPHS, Bulkeley North	80	67	79	57	72

Notes: Note that this is a snapshot in time and that enrollment for these programs fluctuates significantly throughout the year.

Sources: 2021-22 enrollment is based off of the most recent data from the special education department. Enrollment for other years is based on PSIS Oct 1 enrollment counts.

In-district SPED Program Costs



Currently, the programs serve close to 300 students, that if outplaced, would cost the district \$34M more to serve in outplacement settings

Program	# of Students Served SY21-22	Total Cost to HPS	Analogous Outplacement Cost	Incremental Cost to Serve in Outplacement
STEP	33	\$2.6M	\$5.1M	\$2.5M
iGOAL	181	\$10.0M	\$37.0M	\$27.0M
RISE	72	\$4.0M	\$8.7M	\$4.7M
Total	286	\$16.6M	\$50.8M	\$34.2M

Notes: Total cost to HPS includes staffing (teachers and paraprofessionals) and transportation costs; excludes central staffing, overhead & materials

Sources: MARB Presentation (Nov 18, 2021) and district data

Effective School Solutions (ESS)



Hartford has also invested stimulus dollars to bolster supports & services in existing programs that could bring additional students back to the district

Year	ESS Program Status	Funding
2021–22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identify and bolster gaps in district’s MTSS framework to help prevent outplacements › <u>Deprioritized</u>: Focus area 1: Provide districtwide professional learning and coaching to expand educator toolkit for mental health support (Tier 1) › Focus Area 2: Set up intensive Tier 3 clinical programs at 6 middle schools › Acknowledgement of student social emotional wellbeing as main focus 	\$1.5M
2022–23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus professional development efforts on the staff serving these high-risk 9th graders • Shift a portion of resources to build Tier 3 programming at the HS level to support students who matriculate from the Year 1 programs 	
2023–24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With program well established, focus on returning a cohort of students from out of district where clinically appropriate • Continue prevention and PD efforts at MS and HS • Build and implement clear plan for long-term sustainability of the program 	

Projected Expansion & Cost Savings



If Hartford can implement and expand these programs effectively, it could lower future outplacement costs by nearly \$10M

<i>Projected Expansion & Savings Estimates</i>	STEP	iGOAL	RISE	<i>Total</i>
# of New Students Served <i>(Planned for 2022-26)</i>	80	40	20	140
Savings per Program <i>(Note: Assumes 80% of students would otherwise be served in outplacement settings)</i>	\$4.8M	\$4.8M	\$1.1M	\$10.6M

Current Implementation Challenges



There are significant challenges that impact Hartford's ability to execute on these strategies that remain a major focus area for HPS recovery and redesign

01. Staffing Shortages

Hartford, like many systems, is facing a dire staffing shortage, particularly for classroom and special education teachers, impacting the system's ability to stand up specialized programs (that require highly skilled and experienced staff) and it exacerbates challenges in Tier 1 instruction that can lead to over-identification.

02. Higher Needs due to COVID

We expect student need to increase, in the short-term, and require more intensive services and outplacements. This could also pull attention away from capacity-building and longer-term program design and into crisis response and intervention.

03. Lacking Foundational Tier 1 & 2 Supports

Hartford has lacked supports- such as high-quality Tier 1 curriculum and professional learning, and structures for MTSS- that are designed to serve students before their needs become too great and require more intensive, and costly, intervention

	Attrition Rate ^[1]	Vacancies to Start the Year ^[2]	Annual Vacancies (Estimated) ^[1]
Classroom Teachers	13.1%	47.6	135
Special Education Teachers	11.8%	11.3	26
Speech and Language Pathologists	N/A	10.8	N/A

Sources:

^[1] ERS human capital analyses.

^[2] First Day Vacancy data from HPS.

Investments



HPS is investing stimulus dollars to improve general education instruction, mitigate staffing challenges, and build out a strong MTSS system

Investment Detail	Example investments	Total Budget in ESSER II & III
Curriculum and coaching supports for improving classroom instruction	Coach positions; ANet partnership; new curriculum (K-3 literacy, upper grade math)	\$20.2M
MTSS resources & staffing	Resource teachers; MTSS data systems	\$5.1M
Special education in-district program resources and supports	ESS contract	\$1.5M
Recruitment, hiring and placement	Recruitment, retention, and transfer bonuses; Office of Talent Management positions	\$12.7M
Pipeline Development	Teacher pipeline contract; Higher Ed partnership contracts for student teaching and substitute teaching	\$1.3M
Total		\$40.8M (28% of total)

For detailed ESSER II & III spending categories, see the ESSER II board presentation [here](#) and the ESSER III presentation [here](#).

Sources: HPS ESSER and ARP planning documents.

1. Insufficient special education revenue



Hartford only receives \$60M in special education revenue through federal and state grants and reimbursements, leaving more than 50% of the cost for HPS to cover with local funds

Special Education Costs	SY20-21	Special Education Revenue	SY20-21
Special Education Out-of-District	\$31M	IDEA Part B	\$6.8M
HPS Outplacement	\$42M	Excess Cost Grant	\$10.1M
In-district Special Education	\$62M	Medicaid	\$2.6M
Total	\$135M	Tuition billing for non-HPS students for special education services	\$1M
		22% of ECS ¹	\$41.4M
		Total	\$62M
		Gap remaining	\$73M

¹Source: CT Voices (https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SPED_Just-Research.pdf)

Revenue Source: <https://www.hartfordschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Superintendents-HPS-Adopted-2021-22-Operating-Budget-web.pdf>



2. Impact of Open Choice

Hartford students in Open Choice pose a disproportionate financial burden to Hartford Public Schools

Year	# SWD students served in non-HPS Magnet schools	Per-Pupil Magnet SWD Student Costs	# SWD students served in Non-HPS Open Choice schools	# SWD outplaced by Non-HPS Open Choice Schools	Per-Pupil Open Choice SWD Costs (not including outplacement)	Per-Pupil Open Choice Outplaced SWD Costs
2017-18	643	\$13.9K	398	32	\$18.2K	\$76.9K
2018-19	722	\$14.9K	485	38	\$18.6K	\$75.7K
2019-20	805	\$15.0K	486	45	\$22.4K	\$81.2K
2020-21	869	\$16.1K	514	46	\$22.6K	\$80.4K
<i>FY17-21 Growth</i>	35.1%	16.2%	29.1%	43.8%	24.3%	4.6%

Revenue Impact: Hartford receives roughly \$7.8K fewer dollars from the state for students enrolled in Open Choice settings¹

Notes: Magnet per-pupil costs use a Snapshot of special ed counts (from SEDAC), whereas Open Choice per-pupil costs use cumulative special ed counts (from the Finance Department's tuition file). Therefore, this is a conservative estimate of the per-pupil gap between Magnet and Open Choice.

¹Revenue impact estimate is based on a 50% reduction in the ECS amount that Hartford Public Schools receives for Hartford students enrolled in an Open Choice district setting

Sources: SEDAC, Finance Department's tuition file

Legislative Recommendations



In order to address the funding inequities raised, and the disproportionate impact on HPS, we recommend focusing legislative action around three core funding issues

1

Increase share of special education funding from CSDE – including fully funding Excess Cost Grant

2

Provide additional funding for Hartford to play more active oversight and advisory role in PPT meetings for students in Open Choice settings

3

Decrease burden for special education costs on sending districts in the Choice system – either by increasing state aid, or creating more cost sharing between sending and receiving districts (Note: this is especially important for Open Choice)

APPENDIX





a) How does the sending district (HBOE) verify residency of Open Choice students on an annual basis? (Both special education students and nonspecial education students)

Students participating in the Regional School Choice process in Hartford Public Schools register at their magnet school through PowerSchool Enrollment and providing documentation of:

- Proof of Guardianship
- Proof of Residency
- Proof of Age

Please note that the SDE requires that students confirm their residency each year. HPS school staff send parents a returning student form to confirm their address or change with proof of address documentation.

MARB Questions



Note that the answers to questions b-d differ significantly depending on whether an HPS student is enrolled in a non-HPS Magnet or non-HPS Open Choice school. For more information, see the School & State Finance Project’s Special education Services for Schools of Choice FAQ document [here](#).

b) What magnets, districts, and/or charters invite the sending district to be present at the IEP meeting for the special education child?

- Interdistrict magnet schools: The planning and placement team (PPT) meeting is held by the sending district (HPS), which must invite representatives of the student’s LEA.
- Open Choice program districts: The PPT meeting is held by the receiving district, and HPS has not been invited to join.
- Charters: *Same as for Magnets*

c) How is the sending district notified of a student being “placed” in an out-of-district program by the receiving district, magnet, etc.?

- Interdistrict magnet schools: HPS is the LEA for students attending a magnet, so HPS representatives are part of the PPT to make the decision to send students to an out-of-district program.
- Open Choice program districts: HPS is not a part of the PPT meetings and is not “notified” of a student being placed in an out-of-district program by the Open Choice school until HPS receives the tuition bills.
- Charters: *Same as for Magnets*

MARB Questions



d) How is the sending district notified of a student being identified as needing special education services by the receiving district, magnet, etc.?

- Interdistrict magnet schools: If an initial referral is made for an HPS student, an HPS representative schedules the PPT and attends the PPT's.
- Open Choice program districts: Since HPS is not part of the process, they are not notified if a student is being referred to the PPT.
- Charters: *Same as for Magnets*



e) What legislative changes to the Open Choice program would HPS recommend to improve the district's ability to manage special education costs?

1

Increase share of special education funding from CSDE – including fully funding Excess Cost Grant

2

Provide additional funding for Hartford to play more active oversight and advisory role in PPT meetings for students in Open Choice settings

3

Decrease burden for special education costs on sending districts in the Choice system – either by increasing state aid, or creating more cost sharing between sending and receiving districts (Note: this is especially important for Open Choice)

Summary of Data Requests



Section *a* through *h*:
In-district data



Data Requests a), b), c): In-district students



	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
a) Total number of in-district students attending Hartford public schools	19,558	19,151	18,272	17,194	16,792
b) Total number of in-district students identified as needing special education services	3,208	3,268	3,248	3,166	3,139
c) Percentage of in-district students needing special education services	16.4%	17.1%	17.8%	18.4%	18.7%

Notes: “In-district” includes all schools within Hartford Public Schools, including in-district self-contained programs (iGoal, STEP, RISE), PreK Special Ed, HPS Satellite Program, and New Visions. It does not include a small number of students in OPPportunity Academy or Detention Centers.

Sources: PSIS Oct 1 enrollment

Data Requests d), e): HPS Outplaced students



	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
d) Total number of in-district special education students requiring out of district placement for services	533	579	571	536	446
e) Percentage of in-district students requiring out of district placement services	14.2%	15.1%	15.0%	14.5%	12.4%

Notes: This does not include OPPortunity Academy, which is an alternative education program rather than outplacement.

Sources: SEDAC

Data Requests f), g): In-district costs



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
f) Total costs for in-district special education services	\$73,133,827	\$71,794,145	\$76,794,039	\$74,643,036	\$74,451,510
In-district special education students	19,558	19,151	18,272	17,194	16,792
g) Per pupil costs for in-district special education services	\$3,739	\$3,749	\$4,203	\$4,341	\$4,434

Notes: Costs include Special Education teachers, Paraprofessionals, Transportation, and All Other Costs (which includes fringe benefits). See past MARB materials linked below for additional detail. Note that these costs are higher than elsewhere in the presentation due to ERS identifying fewer expenditures as dedicated Special Education costs, for the purposes of comparison across districts, than districts might identify.

Sources: [MARB meeting minutes 11.18.21](#), page 76

Data Request h)



h) Table displaying student totals by disability classification, in accordance with IDEA, illustrating 5-year trends by classification

Disability	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
Learning Disabilities	36.0%	39.6%	38.9%	39.8%	37.9%
OHI (incl. ADD/ADHD)	19.6%	19.8%	19.2%	19.0%	19.1%
Speech or Language Impairment	15.2%	14.9%	14.9%	14.6%	14.7%
Autism	11.2%	12.9%	12.6%	12.6%	13.2%
Developmental Delay	6.9%	2.5%	4.2%	4.8%	6.2%
Emotional Disturbance	4.9%	3.5%	3.9%	3.7%	3.6%
Intellectual Disability	3.7%	3.9%	3.7%	3.5%	3.4%
Other	2.5%	2.9%	2.5%	2.1%	1.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Notes: “Other” includes Multiple Disabilities, Hearing Impairment, Visual Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Orthopedic Impairment. This is for in-district special education students only (not outplacement, OPPortunity Academy, or Judicial Centers).

Sources: Frontline

Data Request i)



i) Listing of in-district special education programs and number of students served by each, illustrative 5-year trends.

Program	Student population	School Location	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
STEP	Students 18-22 that have completed high school credits, but require additional functional living skills to be an active member in the community	HS: HPHS	20	31	36	34	33
iGOAL	Students with complex learning, behavioral, cognitive and/or neurodevelopmental profiles	ES: Burns, BTN, MD Fox, Parkville, ELAMS, Rawson MS: Kennelly, Milner HS: HPHS, Weaver	185	195	203	195	181
RISE	Students in need of increased social, emotional, and behavioral supports with access to the mainstream environment	MS: MLK ES: West Middle HS: HPHS, Bulkeley North	80	67	79	57	72

Notes: 2021-22 enrollment is based off of the most recent data from the special education department. Enrollment for other years is based on PSIS Oct 1 enrollment counts. Note that this is a snapshot in time and that enrollment for these programs fluctuates significantly throughout the year.

Section *j* through *l*: Out-of-district data



j) Out-of-District data for each of the above items a) through h). Out-of-district data can be listed in the aggregate for all students attending Open Choice programs and data by individual magnet school, school district, and charter school.

Data Requests j): a)



a) Total number of [Hartford] students attending [out of district programs]	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
Magnet	3,885	4,106	4,293	4,578	4,515
Open Choice	2,164	2,201	2,175	2,163	2,117
Open Choice – Outplaced	44	42	52	54	46
Charter	1,676	1,635	1,701	1,672	1,582
Other (CT Tech, Agricultural Science and Technology Education Center)	743	697	690	691	676

Data Requests j): b) and c)



b) Total number of [out of district students] identified as needing special education services	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
Magnet	643	722	805	869	894
Open Choice (incl. outplaced)	430	523	531	560	<i>Not yet available</i>
Charter	153	153	150	155	143

c) Percentage of [out of district students] identified as needing special education services	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
Magnet	16.6%	17.6%	18.8%	19.0%	19.8%
Open Choice (incl. outplaced)*	19.5%	23.3%	23.8%	25.3%	<i>Not yet available</i>
Charter	9.1%	9.1%	8.8%	9.3%	9.0%

Notes: Magnet and Charter total and special ed counts are an Oct 1 Snapshot.

*Open Choice special ed counts are cumulative for the entire year, since are only tracked through tuition bills. Because special ed percentages for Open Choice are based on cumulative special ed counts but snapshot total enrollment counts, these may be overstated. Open Choice counts for SY21-22 are not yet available since they are based on tuition bills that have not all yet been received as of early 2022.

Sources: Magnet and Charter students counts are from the Special Education Data Application and Collection (SEDAC); Open Choice student counts are from the Finance Department's tuition file

Data Requests j): d) & e)



	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21
Total number of Open Choice special education students	430	523	531	560
d) Total number of Open Choice special education students requiring out of district placement for services	32	38	45	46
e) Percentage of Open Choice special education students requiring out of district placement services	7.4%	7.2%	8.5%	8.2%

Notes: Open Choice special ed counts are cumulative for the entire year, since are only tracked through tuition bills. Open Choice counts for SY21-22 are not yet available since they are based on tuition bills that have not all yet been received as of early 2022. Students attending non-HPS Magnet and Charter schools that are outplaced are included as part of HPS outplacements, because HPS is part of those placement decisions.
Sources: Finance Department's tuition file

Data Requests j): f) & g)



f) Total costs for [out of district] special education [tuition] (<u>\$M</u>)	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21
Magnet	\$ 8.9	\$ 10.7	\$ 12.0	\$ 14.0
Open Choice	\$ 7.2	\$ 9.0	\$ 10.9	\$ 11.6
Open Choice – Outplaced	\$ 2.5	\$ 2.9	\$ 3.7	\$ 3.7
Charter	\$ 0.4	\$ 2.1	\$ 2.1	\$ 1.6
Total	\$ 19.1	\$ 24.8	\$ 28.8	\$ 30.9

g) Per pupil costs for [out of district] special education [tuition] (<u>\$K</u>)	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21
Magnet	\$ 13.9	\$ 14.9	\$ 15.0	\$ 16.2
Open Choice	\$ 18.2	\$ 18.6	\$ 22.4	\$ 22.6
Open Choice – Outplaced	\$ 76.9	\$ 75.7	\$ 82.1	\$ 80.4
Charter	\$ 2.9	\$ 14.0	\$ 14.1	\$ 10.2

Notes: Magnet and Charter per-pupil costs use a Snapshot of special ed counts (from SEDAC), whereas Open Choice per-pupil costs use cumulative special ed counts (from the Finance Department's tuition file)

Sources: Finance Department's tuition file

Data Requests j): h)



h) Table displaying student totals by disability classification, in accordance with IDEA, illustrating 5-year trends by classification

Magnets

Disability	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
Learning Disabilities	36.4%	38.9%	38.5%	38.1%	37.0%
OHI (incl. ADD/ADHD)	19.0%	15.9%	15.7%	15.8%	16.4%
Speech or Language Impairment	17.6%	17.9%	20.2%	20.5%	20.7%
Autism	11.4%	9.7%	9.6%	9.8%	10.9%
Developmental Delay	5.3%	7.1%	6.7%	7.1%	6.7%
Emotional Disturbance	3.4%	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%	2.2%
Intellectual Disability	3.0%	3.0%	2.7%	2.6%	3.0%
Other	4.0%	4.0%	3.6%	3.1%	3.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Charters

Disability	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
Learning Disabilities	41.8%	43.8%	41.3%	41.3%	40.6%
OHI (incl. ADD/ADHD)	19.0%	19.6%	14.0%	15.5%	14.7%
Speech or Language Impairment	18.3%	18.3%	19.3%	21.9%	20.3%
Autism	9.2%	8.5%	8.7%	7.7%	7.0%
Developmental Delay	2.0%	1.3%	4.7%	1.9%	2.8%
Emotional Disturbance	3.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%
Intellectual Disability	5.9%	5.2%	5.3%	5.2%	7.0%
Other	0.7%	2.0%	5.3%	5.2%	6.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: HPS does not have visibility into disability types for Hartford students attending non-HPS Open Choice schools

Notes: The sample size for Charter SWD is small (~150 students), resulting in potentially significant variations from year to year

Sources: SEDAC

Data Requests k)



k) How many Open Choice students are identified as needing special education services after enrollment in the receiving district, magnet etc.? List by year and by district, magnet, charter etc.

	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
Magnet (CREC, LEARN, Bloomfield)	106	127	87	97
Charter (Achievement First, Jumoke)	14	13	12	15
Other (ASTE, High Road, etc.)	1	0	3	1
Total	121	140	102	113
<i>% of SWD Enrollment in non-HPS Magnets</i>	<i>8.5%</i>	<i>9.3%</i>	<i>5.9%</i>	<i>6.1%</i>
<i>% of SWD Enrollment in non-HPS Charters</i>	<i>9.2%</i>	<i>8.5%</i>	<i>8.0%</i>	<i>9.7%</i>

Note: HPS does not have visibility into when exactly Open Choice students are identified as needing special education services

Data Requests I)



I) How many Open Choice students, regular education and special education, have returned to the sending district annually over the last five years?

Count

	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
Magnet	111	136	106	116
Open Choice	37	32	26	32
Charter	98	84	59	60
Other	60	36	12	18
Total	338	308	217	242

Percent

SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
2.9%	3.3%	2.5%	2.5%
1.7%	1.4%	1.2%	1.4%
5.8%	5.1%	3.5%	3.6%
8.1%	5.2%	1.7%	2.6%
0.8%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%

Notes: A student is considered a “returner” if they were enrolled in an out-of-district school the year prior and a Hartford school in the current year. “Other” includes students attending CT Tech and Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers

Source: PSIS and PSIS R2