
SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

LEARNINGS FROM AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MAY 6, 2021





Gratitude and Welcome

Agenda

1. Learnings 2020-21
2. Division Demographics: Who do we serve, where, and how?
3. Budget Update
4. Focus Areas for 2021-22: Imperatives for our work



IDENTITY FIRST AND PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE

Recommendation:

Use People First Language (i.e., a student with a disability, or an IEP)

- ☐ We strive to create safe and welcoming spaces for all of our students
- ☐ The words we use impact the type of environment we build for our students
- ☐ We seek to remove stereotypes and outdated terms that can marginalize and label students.



LEARNINGS/PROGRESS FROM 2020-21

Pivoted to Distance Learning Model-maintained programs and services

Updated English Language Reclassification Process for EL students with an IEP

Aligned referral processes for Middle College, PHS, and Adult School for students with IEPs

Maintained assessment timelines and began implementation of Patterns of Strengths and Weaknesses Assessment

Developed Special Education Plan and will align target areas to strategic LCAP goals

Completed Parent Thought Exchange/ Parent Forums in new ways

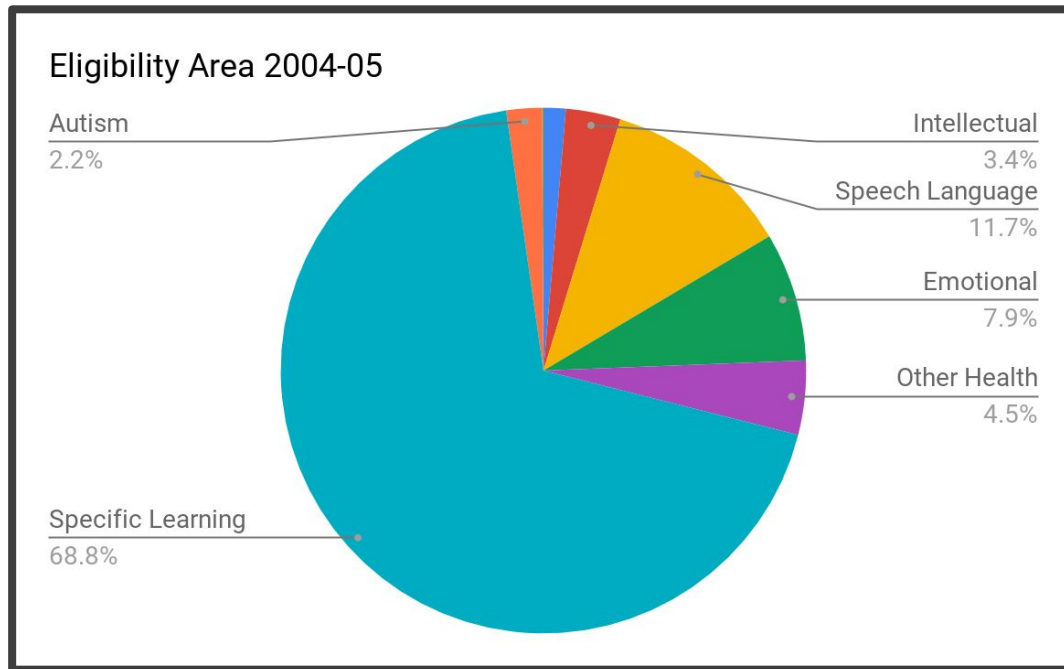
Assessed Mental Health Continuum and Needs

Worked collaboratively to ensure we can meet student need in the Least Restrictive Environment

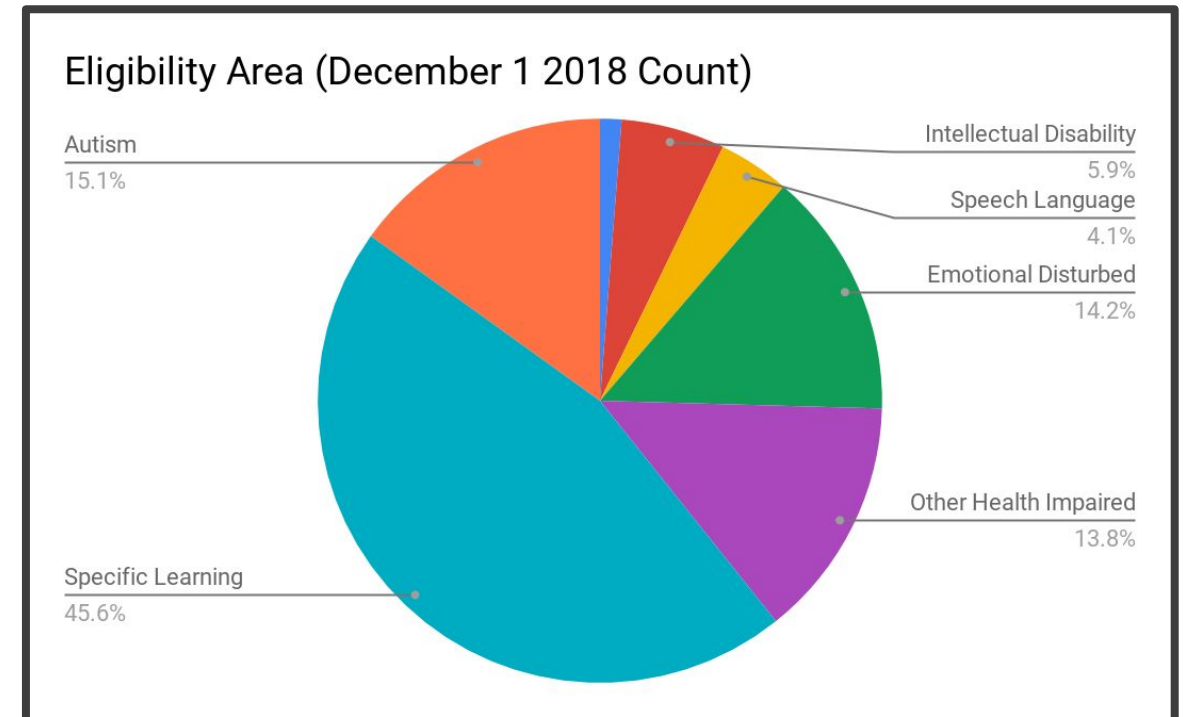
Welcomed students back in March to smiles and celebrations!



Who We Serve-Students with IEPs



of Students: 1,101



of Students: 1,003

DEMOGRAPHICS SMUHSD



Student
Distribution
by grade and
setting

9th	10th	11th	12th	Post-secondary
210	252	248	260	86

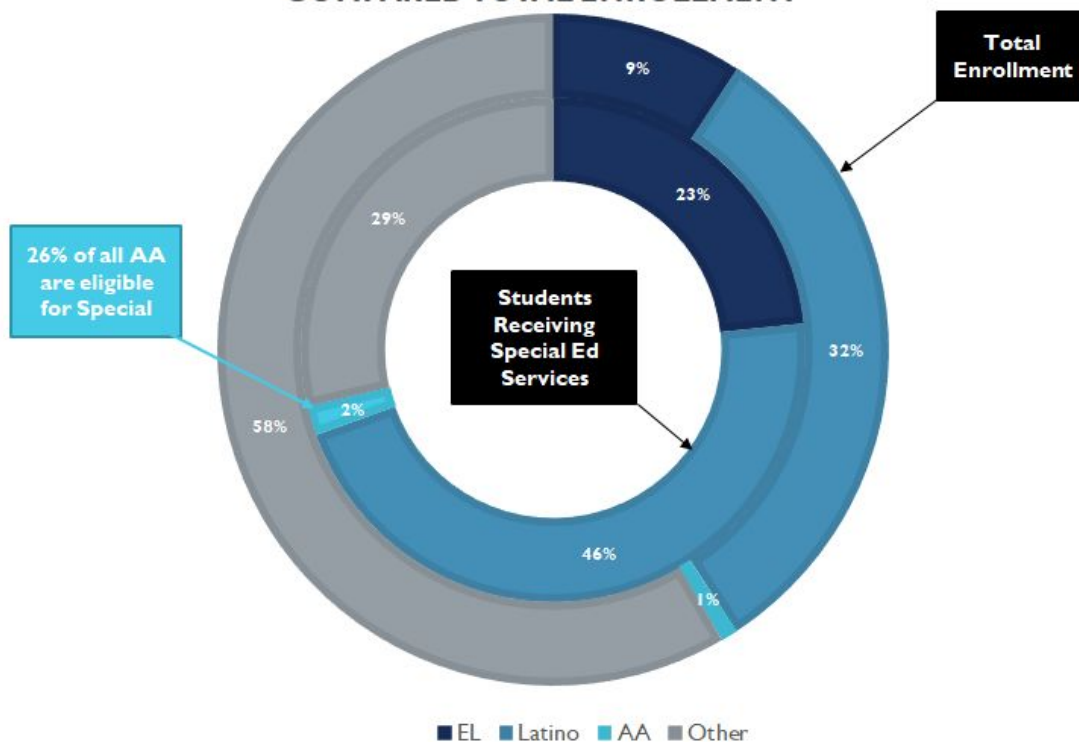
Specialized Academic Instruction (SDC)	Resource Support
287	775

NPS/NPA Placements	Out of District	SMCOE**
29	7	32

DISPROPORTIONALITY DATA 2021



% OF STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL ED SERVICES
COMPARED TOTAL ENROLLMENT



Students	# of Students	Eligible for SPED	% of Enrollment in SPED
EL	887	248	23%
Latino	3019	490	46%
AA	77	20	2%
Other	5592	304	29%
Total Enrollment	9575	1062	100%

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THOUGHT EXCHANGE WITH FAMILIES

- ***Progress Monitoring/Communication*** - Requests to check in more frequently and closely monitor progress particularly when a student is falling behind.
Recommended Action: District will improve communications with teachers about student needs.
- ***Implementation of IEP/Individual Needs of Student*** - Awareness by teachers of which students have IEPs. Reminders of stated accommodations.
Recommended Action: Case managers to inform staff to ensure implementation of the IEP across all settings.
- ***Programmatic/Curriculum*** - Prepare students for future jobs and college. Calibrate Directed Studies courses.
Recommended Action: Pursue development of “real world” classes.
- ***Social/Emotional/Physical Needs of Student*** - Keep students active. Find way to address their unique social emotional needs. Support transition into adulthood.
Recommended Action: Align Mental Health programs
- ***Distance Learning vs. In-Person Instruction*** - Comments vary from appreciation for Distance Learning to a need to return to in-person instruction.
Recommended Action: Consider ways to ‘innovate’ rather than reinstate programs and services

BUDGET UPDATE

- Expenditures tracking to 2020-2021 Budget
- Both Federal and State Funding continue to fail to meet their commitment
- Articulation for Fall 2021-working closely with partner districts to prepare for our class of 2025
- Increases in IEP service indicated intensive individual services (1:1 instructional aides) net 7 additional anticipated based on current projections
- Mental Health needs for intensive services increasing
- Increased numbers to Post Secondary Classes-net 1.0 increase in staffing



BUDGET UPDATE

■ County Placements

- Cost per ADA \$128,547 at 95% attendance
- Current number of students - 32
- Anticipated number for 21/22 FY - 32

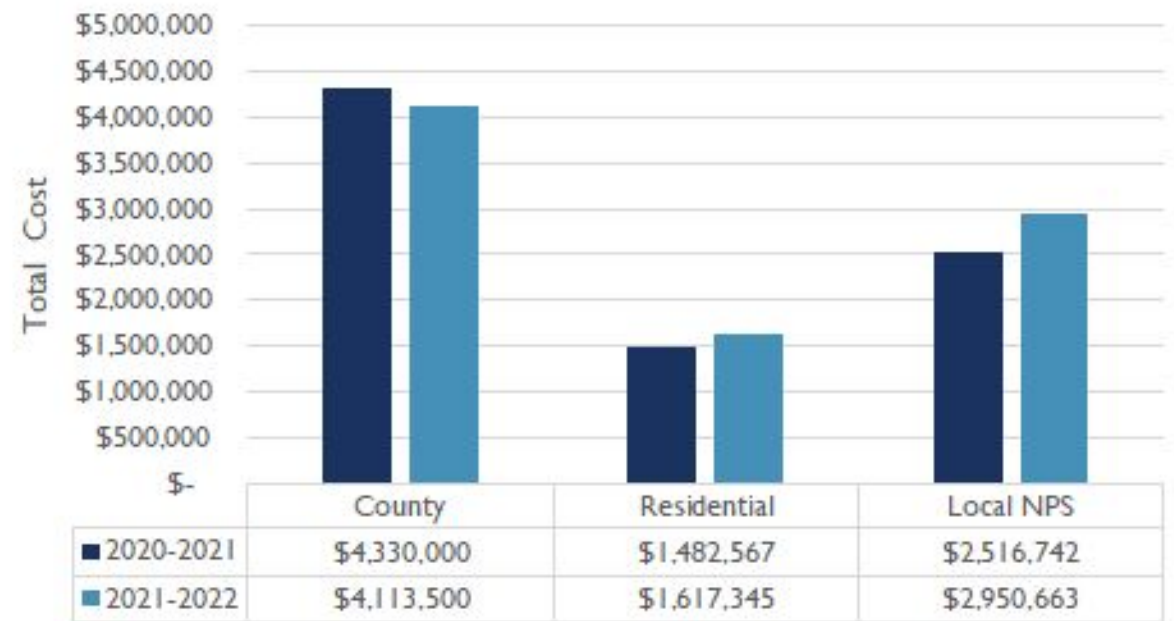
■ Residential

- Cost per ADA \$134,779
- Current number of students - 11
- Anticipated number for 21/22 FY - 12

■ Local NPS

- Cost per ADA \$86,784
- Current number of students - 29
- Anticipated number of students in 21/22 FY - 34

County, Residential, and Local NPS



Effective School Solutions (ESS) and San Mateo Union High School District are completing their first year of partnership

- ESS provides intensive therapeutic mental health services in support of two established SMUHSD programs: Therapeutic Day School (TDS) at Capuchino HS, and the Hope Program at Mills High School; in total these two programs have served 27 students with intensive emotional and behavioral challenges
- The goals of the partnership are to improve the therapeutic care provided to the district's most at-risk students, to improve students' ability to engage with their academic experience, and to help the district minimize Non-Public School (NPS) placements where clinically appropriate
- ESS has also providing professional development and support to educators district wide

2020-21 Impact Summary ESS

Uninterrupted Delivery of Therapeutic Services. Despite remote learning environment since COVID closures began, over 2,200 therapeutic interactions have been delivered, 97% of which have been virtual

Strong Student Engagement with Needed Therapy. Over 85% of students have engaged regularly with therapy.

Significant District Cost Savings. The program is helping the district to save or avoid over \$800K through the return of students from non-public school placement and the avoidance of NPS/RTC placements

Improved Educational Outcomes. Positive impact on grades (57% maintained or improved), discipline (100% maintained or improved) and attendance (61% maintained or improved).

District Wide Professional Development. ESS has delivered extensive professional development, including an overview on the Nurtured Heart SEL approach and a self-care/listening session for district clinical staff

Cost Savings Analysis

Current Program	2020-2021 School Year
NPS Returner Savings	
<i>Students in program brought back from NPS/RTC to date</i>	2
<i>Annual cost savings per student</i>	\$100,000
Total savings from NPS/RTC returners	\$200,000
Estimate of Cost Avoidance from Preventing Additional Future NPSs	
<i># of students in cohort who would otherwise be at high risk of NPS</i>	6
<i>Annual cost savings per student</i>	\$100,000
Total Additional Cost Avoidance from Future NPS Prevention	\$600,000
Cost to implement program at we are	(\$520,000)
Grand Total of Total Surplus/(Cost) from Program including both Cost Savings and Cost Avoidance	\$280,000

At this time, the ESS Program is essentially paying for itself by returning or preventing 8 students who would otherwise be at an NPS or RTC - the program is creating an estimated surplus of \$280K.

FOCUS AREAS 2021-22: SMUHSD Imperatives



Safe and Welcoming Schools

Anti-racism/equity focus to address the overidentification/disproportionate representation of Latino Students

Social emotional/mental health services and supports

Inclusive referral and assessment process

Parent communication

Authentic relationships

Include student voice



Access to Instruction

Creating access to Least Restrictive Environment and Tier I instruction

Provide supplemental curriculum and instruction

Universal screening to understand cognition

Alignment to MTSS and COST structures for Tiered support

Create an asset based approach



Supporting and Empowering Staff

Differentiated professional learning to build capacity for specialized instruction

Instructional aide learning series

Reconvene the Special Education Steering Committee

QUESTIONS?

