

# Special Education & Pupil Personnel Services



PROPOSED BUDGET 2017-2018



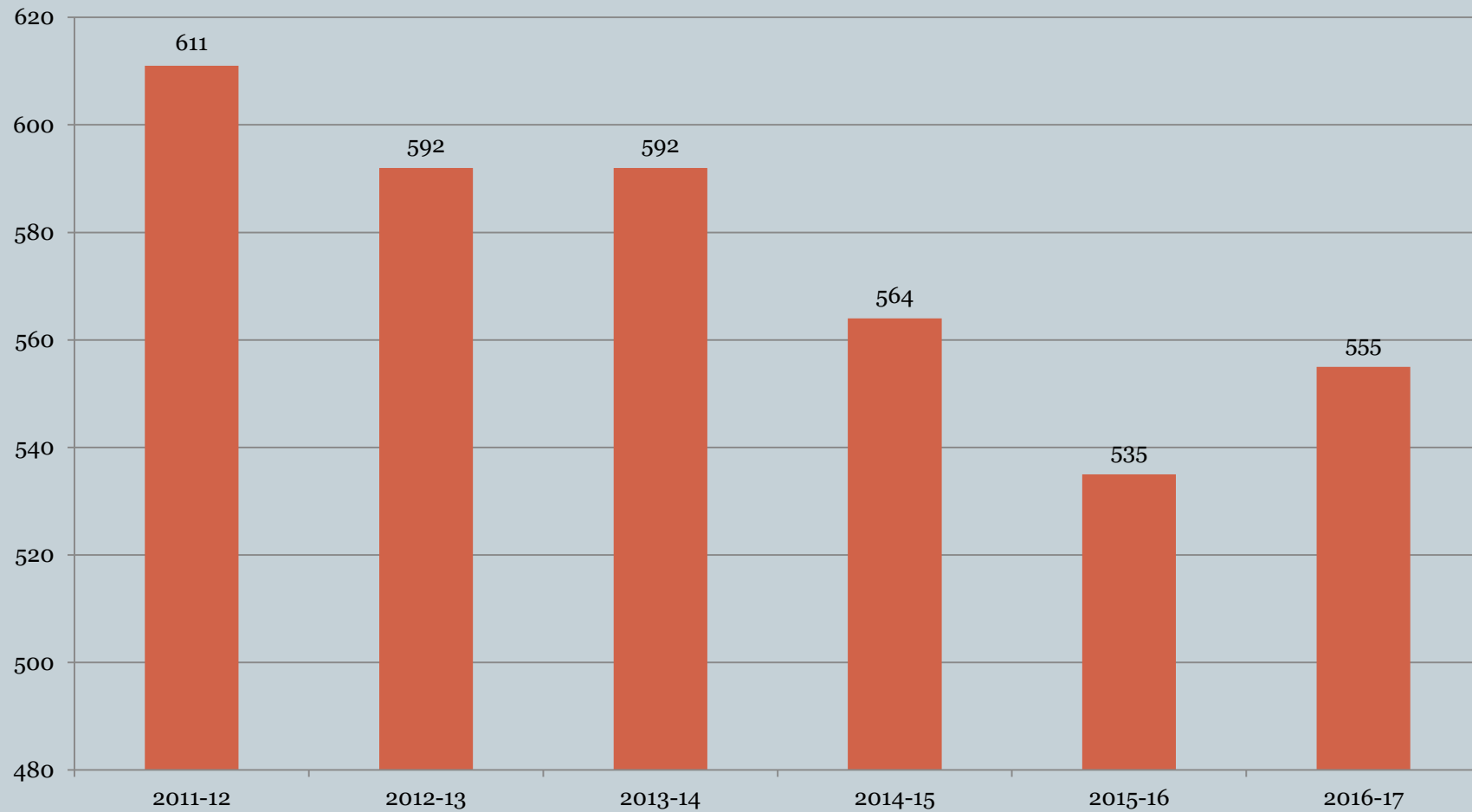
Laura M. Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services

# District Priorities

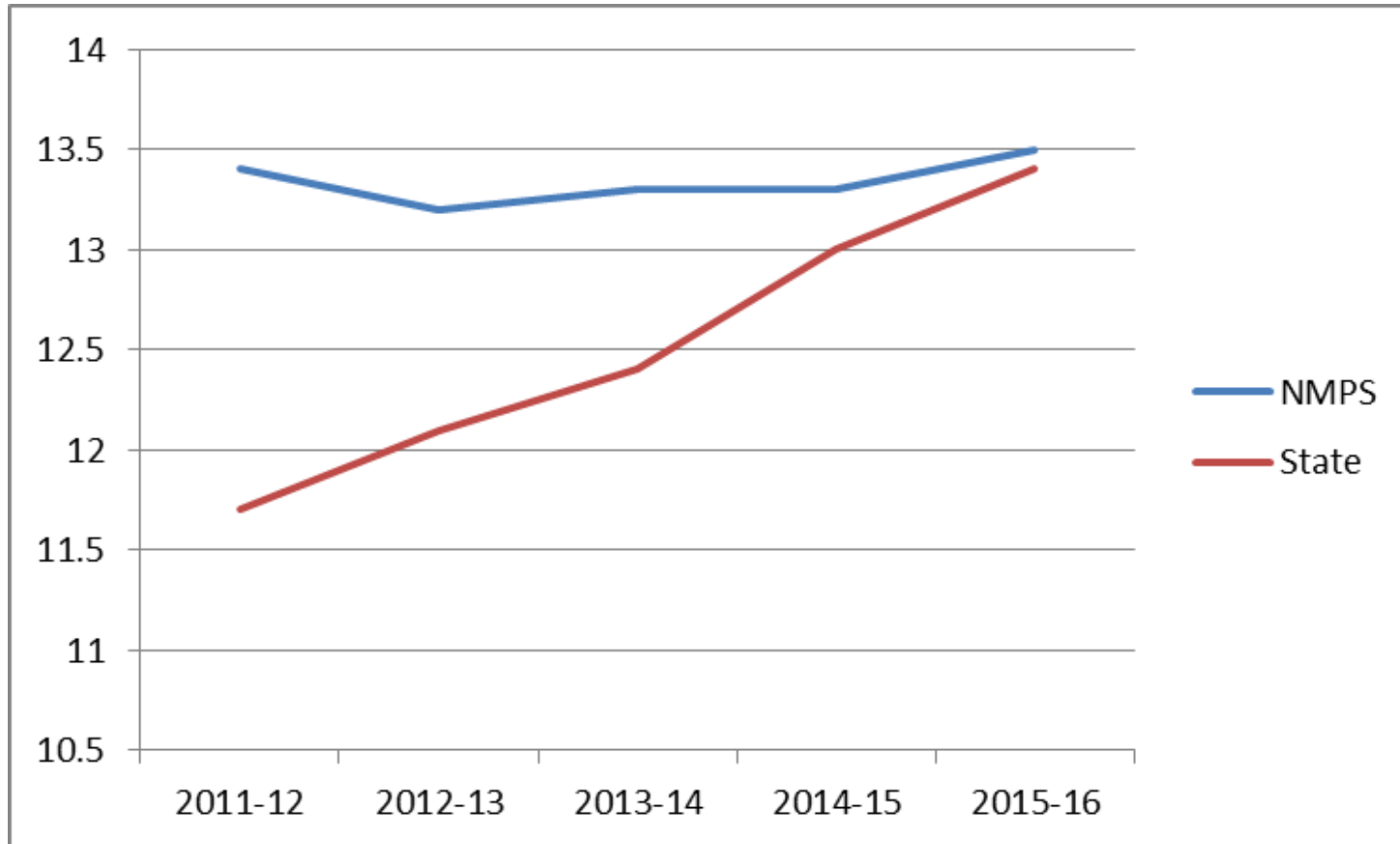


- Increase special ed students time in general ed classes (TWDP) through co teaching & collaboration
- Increase implementation of best practices in specialized instruction through continued professional development
- Improve academic performance in reading, writing and mathematics
- Increase services for students with significant mental health needs
- Improve student preparation for transition from school to post secondary settings

# New Milford Special Education 2011-2016 CSDE Enrollment Information K-12 Oct. 1 Counts



## K-12 Students with Disabilities - State Comparison % of Special Education



## Preschool Special Ed Population – 4 year Comparison, Oct. 1

School	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
# Special Ed Students	31	30	35	48
# of programs	JPS -1 NES – 1 HPS - 1	HPS – 2 NES - 2	HPS – 2 NES - 2	HPS – 2 NES – 2.5

# Litchfield Hills Transition Center Enrollment– 4 year Comparison, Oct. 1



- Services 18-21 year old students who require sp ed programming

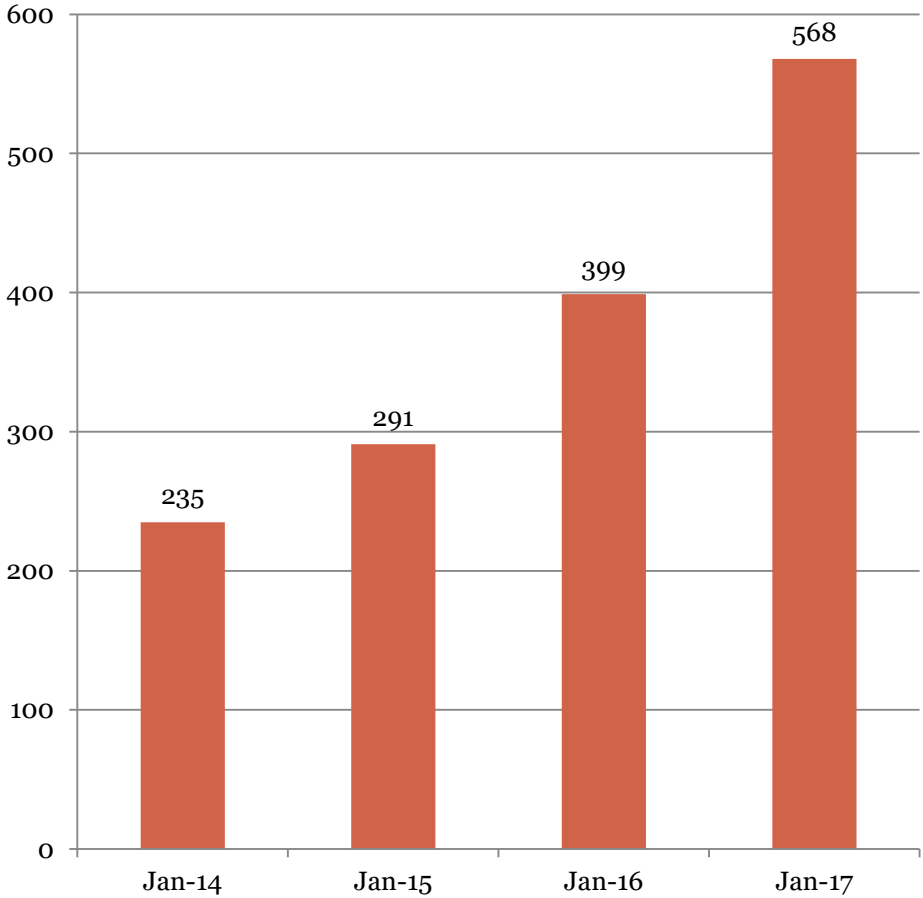
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 projected
NMPS students	10	10	17	18	19
Tuition students	1	1	0	1	1
Total	11	11	17	19	20

# Numbers Do Not Represent Needs



- More complex students
- More mental health issues and early diagnoses (anxiety, mood disorders, bipolar, autism)
- increased legislative demands and accountability
- Significant increase in # of Planning and Placement Team Meetings (PPT's)
  - demands on staff, time away from classroom
  - Increase in paperwork and accountability
  - Increased CSDE directives and compliance mandates

# July 1 – Jan 1 PPT's Year-to-Year Comparison





# Co-Teaching



- **What is it?**

- Co-teaching is a service delivery model. Where two or more professionals (typically a special ed and general teacher) are the participants in co-teaching.
- Co-teachers share instructional responsibility and accountability for a single group of students for whom they both have ownership.

- **Benefits**

- Students with disabilities have access to the general education curriculum and setting.
- Greater instructional intensity and differentiated instruction. Targeted instruction focused on IEP goals and objectives.
- Teachers learn from each other's expertise and expand scope of teaching capacity.
- Reduces negative stigma associated with pull-out programs.
- Students with disabilities may feel more connected with their peer group.

## 2016-17 Co-Teaching



- August 2016: “Train the trainer” model. Embedded training and support.
- 2015-2016: **23 sections** (NMHS)
- 2016-2017: **78 sections** (HPS, NES, SNIS, SMS, NMHS)

# Mental Health Needs



- Nearly 5 million children in the U.S. have some type of serious [mental illness](#) (one that significantly interferes with daily life). Institute of Mental Health, 2015.
- In any given year, 20% (1 in 5) of American children will be diagnosed with a mental illness.
- Most prevalent:
  - Anxiety disorders
  - Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
  - Mood Disorders

# NMPS Mental Health Initiatives



- Additional 2 FTE Social Workers since 2014-2015
- Members of the Regional Crisis Team
- Increased Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) .50 FTE in Grant, .50 in SNIS staffing
  - 2015-16: 7 hours per week
  - 2016-17: 21 hours per week
  - 2017-18: 35 hours per week
- FT Substance Abuse Counselor, year 2
- Therapeutic program at New Milford High School

# Why Effective School Solutions?



- **RISING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS**
- **QUALITY IN-DISTRICT EDUCATION**
- **SERVICES ALL STUDENTS**
- **PROVIDES DAILY GROUP/INDIVIDUAL THERAPY**
- **WORKS CLOSELY WITH STAFF**
- **FAMILIES**
- **DOLLARS STAYING IN DISTRICT**
- **STUDENTS GPA AND ATTENDANCE IMPROVE**
- **INCREASED PARENT SATISFACTION**
- **DISCIPLINE ISSUES DECREASE**

ESS REPORT CARD FOR:

**New Milford  
School District**

**ESS**  
EFFECTIVE  
SCHOOL  
SOLUTIONS

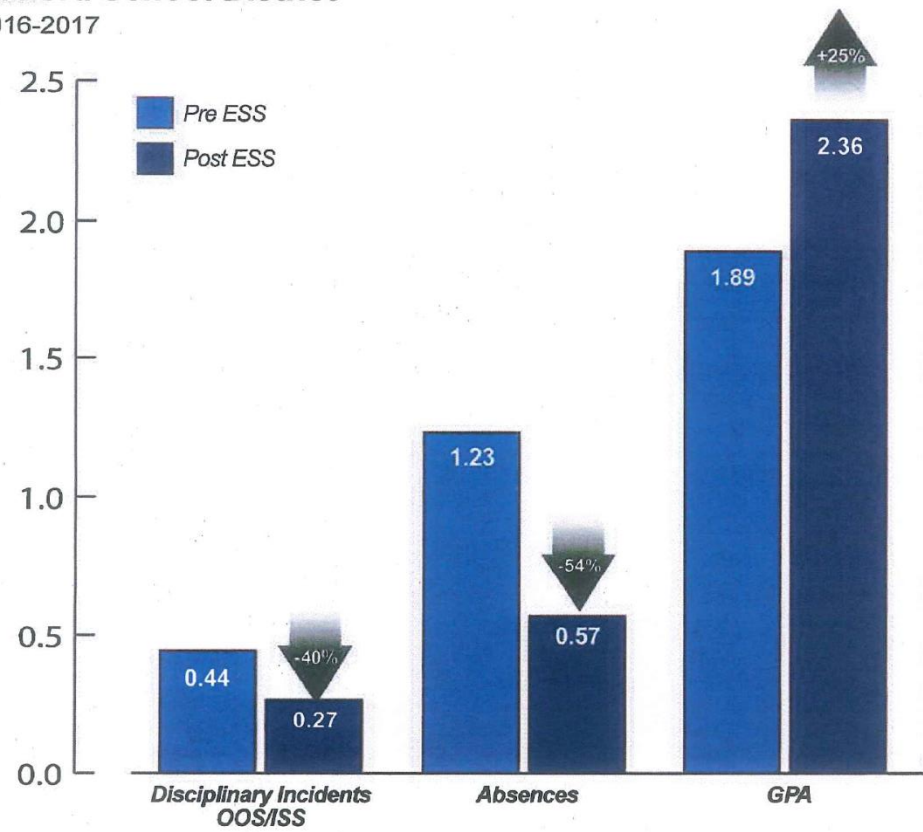
MP1 2016-2017



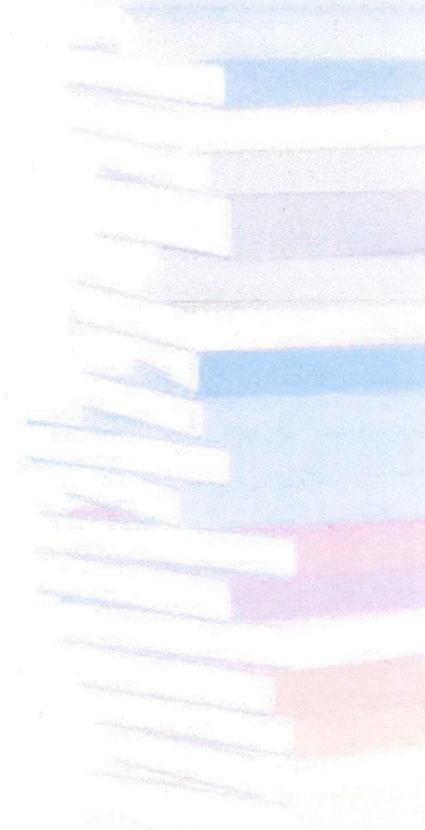
# ESS RESULTS

New Milford School District

MP 1 2016-2017



Above data represents the average of ESS high school student performance over the designated marking periods of the school year.



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# PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

School Name

Question	% Strongly Agree/Agree	% Strongly Disagree/Disagree
1. I have been treated with respect.	100%	0%
2. My family's right to privacy & confidentiality has been respected.	100%	0%
3. This program is helping my child.	100%	0%
4. I have sufficient opportunities to speak with staff.	100%	0%
5. I understand that my participation in the ESS program can help my child's behavior improve at school and home.	100%	0%
6. The counseling staff understands my family's situation.	100%	0%
7. This program is helping me cope with my child.	100%	0%



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SOLUTIONS



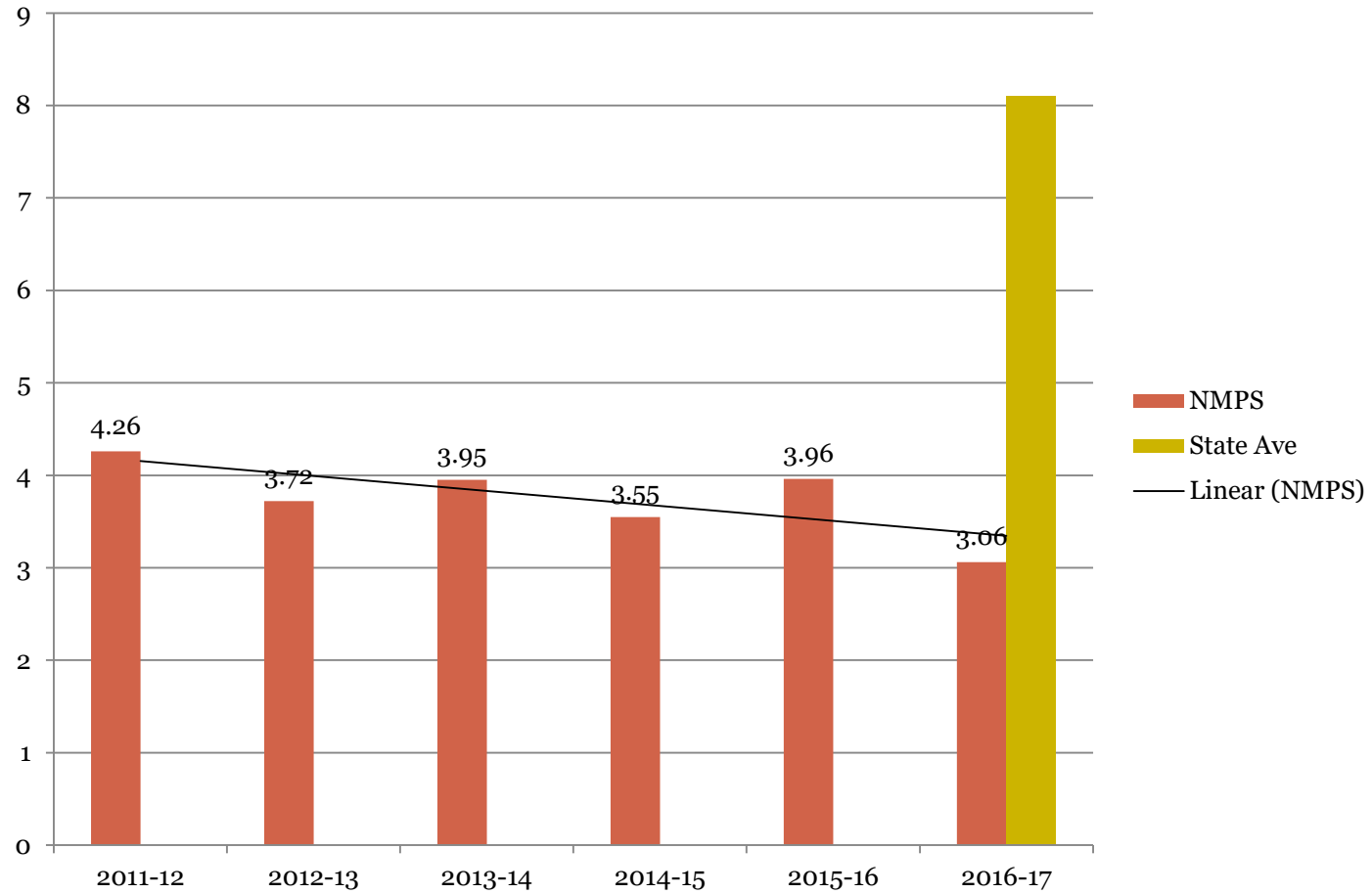
# Effective School Solutions



## **STUDENTS RETAINED IN-DISTRICT ANNUAL COST OF ESS: \$275,000.**

- average therapeutic tuition rate: \$75,000.
  - Transportation: \$26,000.
  - Summer services/related services: \$11,000.
- 
- Approx. savings per student: \$112,000.

## % of NMPS Special Education Students Placed in Out-of-District Schools



## **Increase to FT Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)**



- Increasing mental health needs
- Early intervention effectiveness
- Completes mandated FBA's (Functional Behavior Assessments)
- Provides PD for staff
- Provides parent training
- Develops individual behavior plans
- Assists staff in data collection and analysis
- Attends PPT's, case conferences

# Special Ed Dept. Chair HPS and NES (.49 FTE)

- **MANAGES MOST COMPLEX CASES**
- **HELPS MAINTAIN STUDENTS IN DISTRICT**
- **UTILIZING RESOURCES FOR MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS**
- **PROVIDES PD FOR SPECIAL ED AND GEN ED STAFF**
- **PARENT SUPPORT**
- **CHAIRING PPTS**
- **COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL TIMELINES AND COMPLIANCE**

# Impacts to the 2017-18 Budget



- Additional .5 FTE for a BCBA (.5 in the IDEA Grant)
- ESS Program, \$275,000. Annually
- K-2 Special Ed Dept Chair (.49 FTE) HPS & NES
- Reduction in Excess Cost reimbursement: \$334,990.
- Reduction in Private Transportation Costs: \$347,282.

# 2016-17 Accomplishments



- Expanded Transition Program and services for 18-21 year olds
- Therapeutic program ESS
- Increasing TWDP through collaboration and Co-Teaching
- Parents As Partners Series
  - “Nuts and Bolts of the IEP” November 2016
  - “Understanding Challenging Behavior in Young Children” Jan. 2017
  - “Building relationships with ...March 2017
  - TBD May 2017
- SEDAC
  - Errors: Oct. 1, 2016: 2 IEP’s with citations
- Autism Awareness
  - April “Light It Up Blue”
  - Awareness and Education
- Unified Sports now at SNIS, SMS, and NMHS