



# SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

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**Candice Boyd | Director of Special Education**

**May 9, 2023**



# Agenda



- What is Special Education for SLPS?
- Special Education Services
- Enrollment
- K-12 Placements
- Strengths | Areas of Growth | Next Steps
- Questions



# OVERVIEW



- 1. The Office of Special Education is a department within the St. Louis Public Schools and is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, also known as IDEA.**
- 2. The Office of Special Education is the city's LEA. With that responsibility, we are obligated to ensure FAPE is accessible to city residents from ages 3-21, that are not enrolled in a charter school.**
- 3. Our goal is to improve outcomes for children and ensure access to fair, equitable, and high-quality education and services.**
- 4. Special education refers to a range of services that can be provided in different ways and in different settings. There's no "one size fits all" approach to special education. It's tailored to meet the needs of students with disabilities.**
- 5. Federal law states that students with disabilities should be educated with their nondisabled peers, in their neighborhood schools (the schools they would attend if not disabled), to the maximum extent appropriate. This is known as the least restrictive environment (or LRE).**
- 6. The Office of Special Education provides a Continuum of Special Education Services and Support Programs to meet the requirements of LRE.**
- 7. The services and supports for one student may be very different from those of another student. The goal is to provide the child with the resources they need to make progress in the general education curriculum.**



# Special Education Services

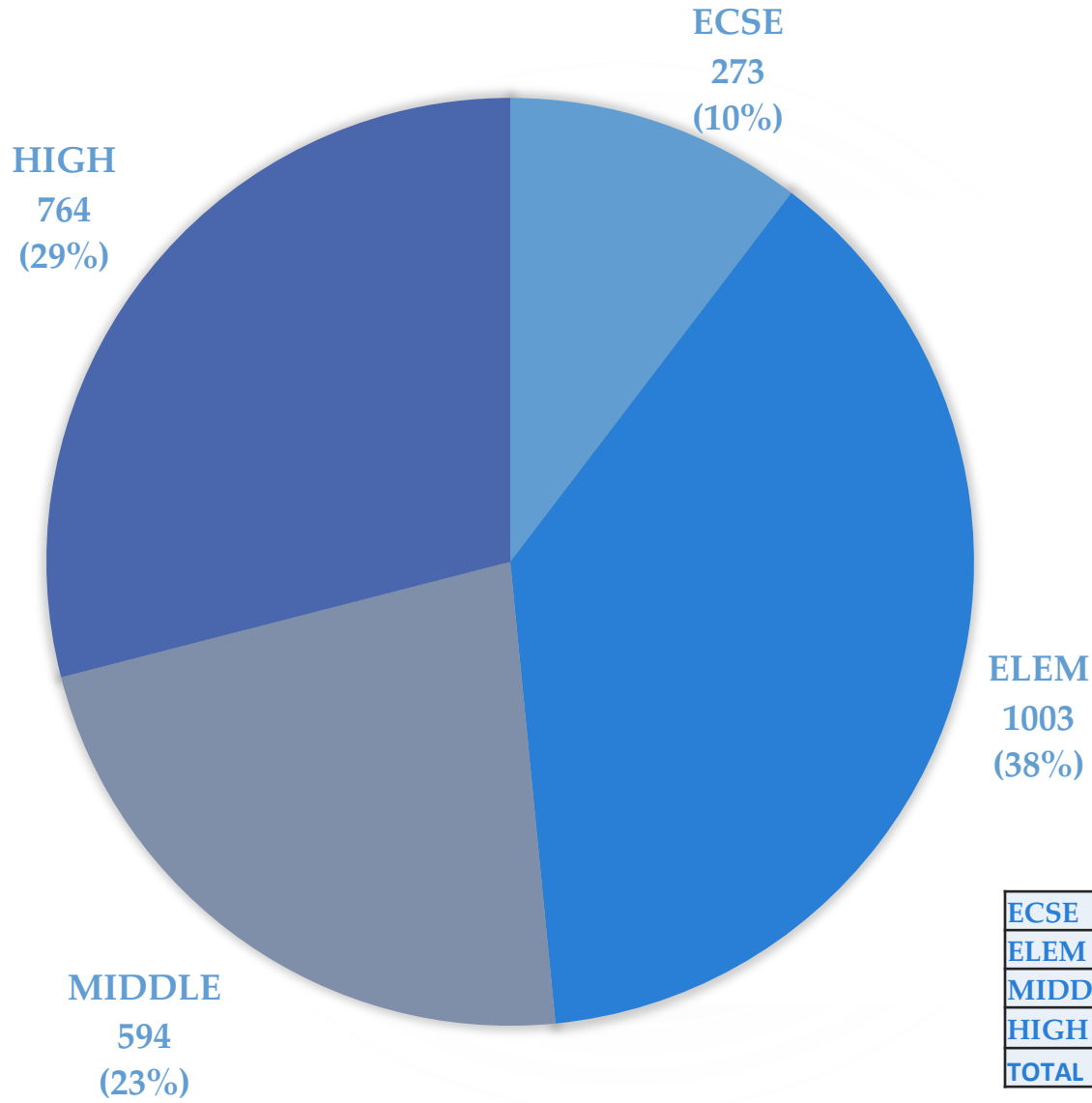


- ▶ ECSE Programs
- ▶ Building Level Sped Services (Resource, Self Contained, CT)
- ▶ Public Separate (GM, Madison, CAJT)
- ▶ Private Separates ( JTC Academy, Logos and KVC Missouri )
- ▶ Related Services (SLP, OT, PT, School Examiners/School Psychologists, Music Therapy )
- ▶ LPNs
- ▶ LEA for our state schools ( MSSD and MSB)
- ▶ Para Educators ( all levels )
- ▶ Behavior Therapists
- ▶ Transitional Services/CBC
- ▶ Autism Services/ABA Implementers/BCBAs
- ▶ Hearing/Vision Services
- ▶ Interpreters/Sign Language Services
- ▶ Non Public After School Program
- ▶ Alternative Education
- ▶ Juvenile detention center
- ▶ St. Louis City Justice Center
- ▶ Homebound





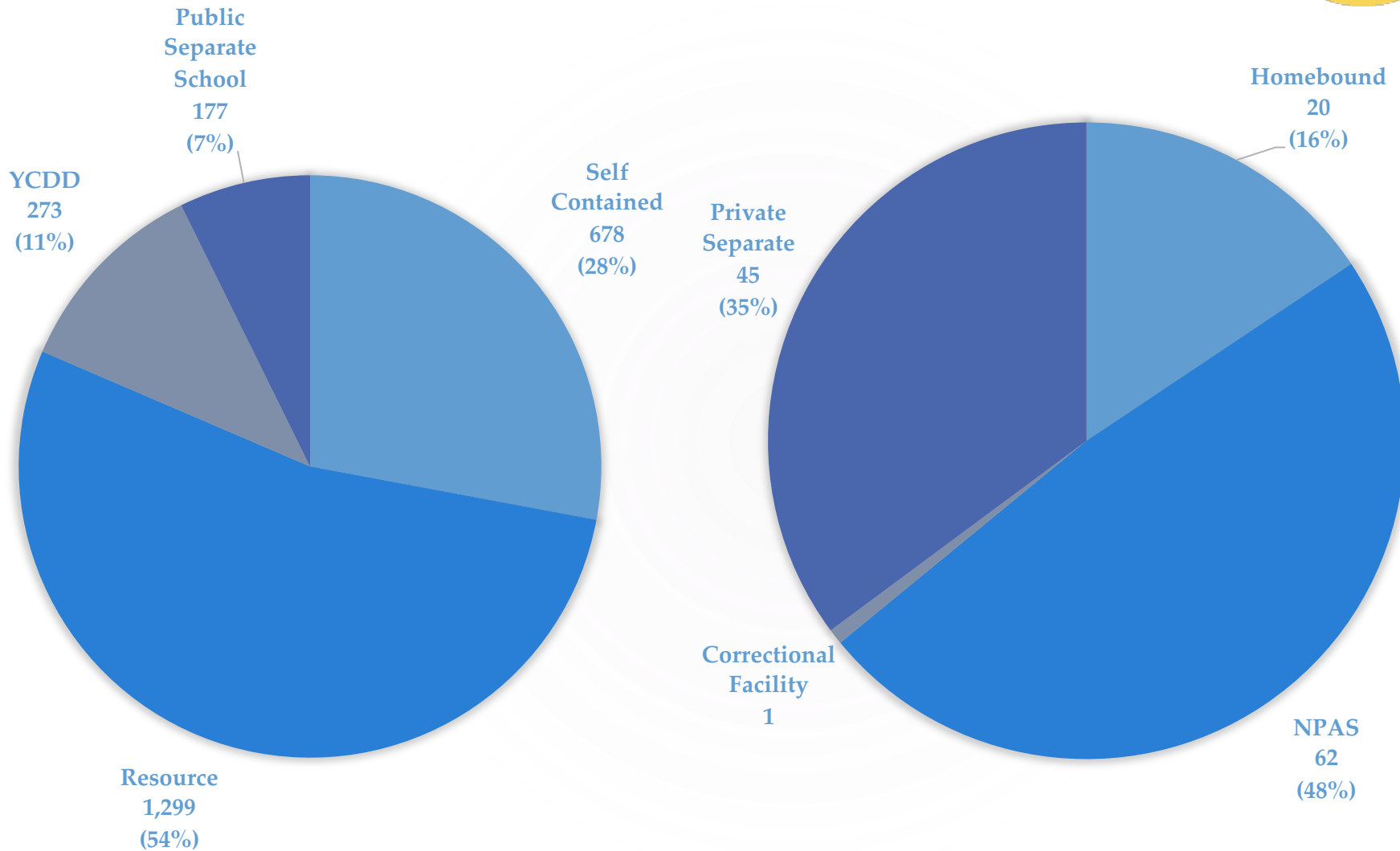
# SPED STUDENT ENROLLMENT



ECSE	273
ELEM	1003
MIDDLE	594
HIGH	764
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,634</b>



# SPED STUDENT PLACEMENT BREAKDOWN

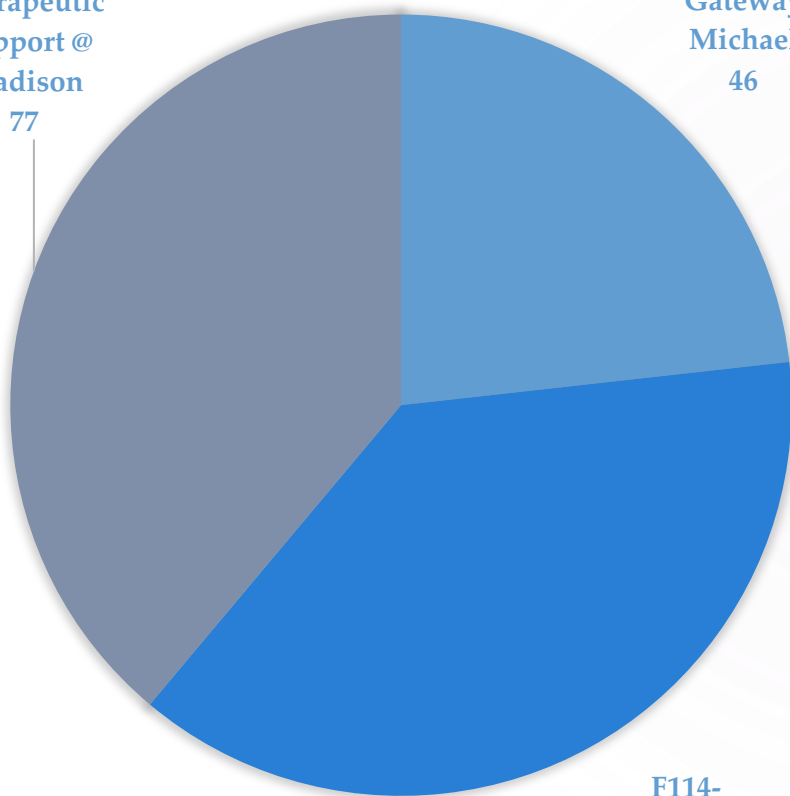




## PUBLIC SEPARATES

H699- SLPS  
Therapeutic  
Support @  
Madison

77

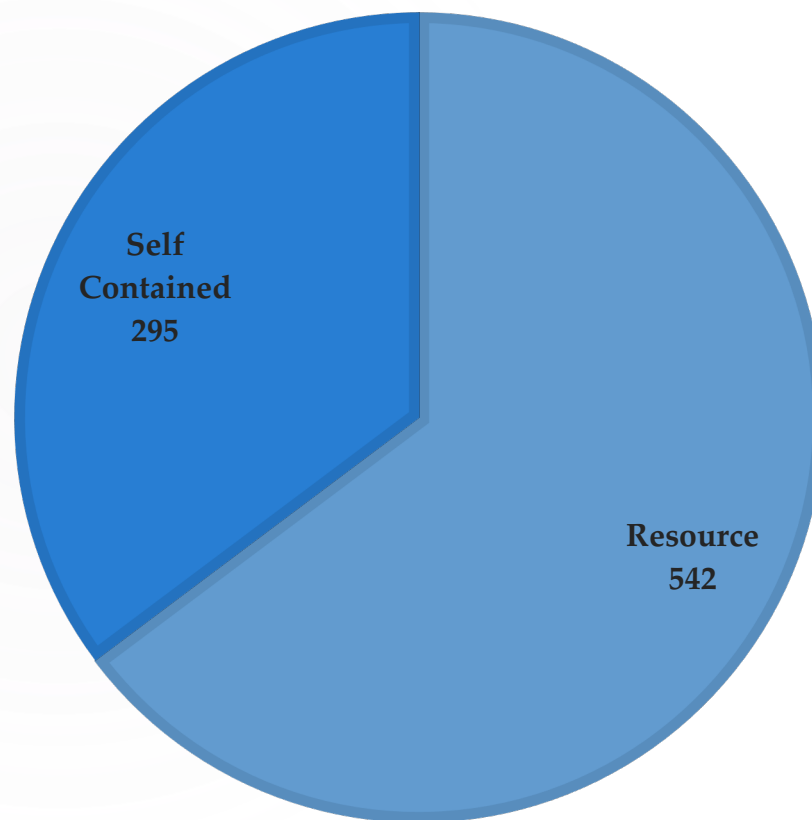


E552-  
Gateway  
Michael  
46

F114-  
Nottingham  
CAJT  
75

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPED PLACEMENT

■ Resource ■ Self Contained



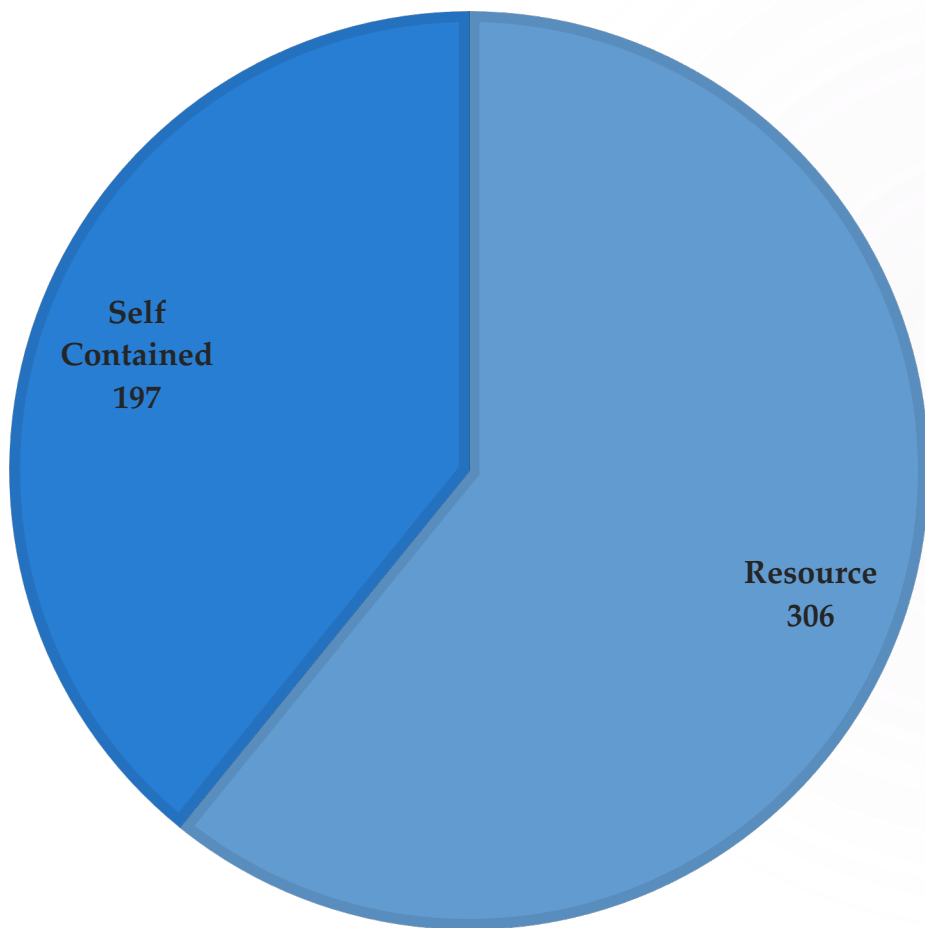
Self  
Contained  
295

Resource  
542



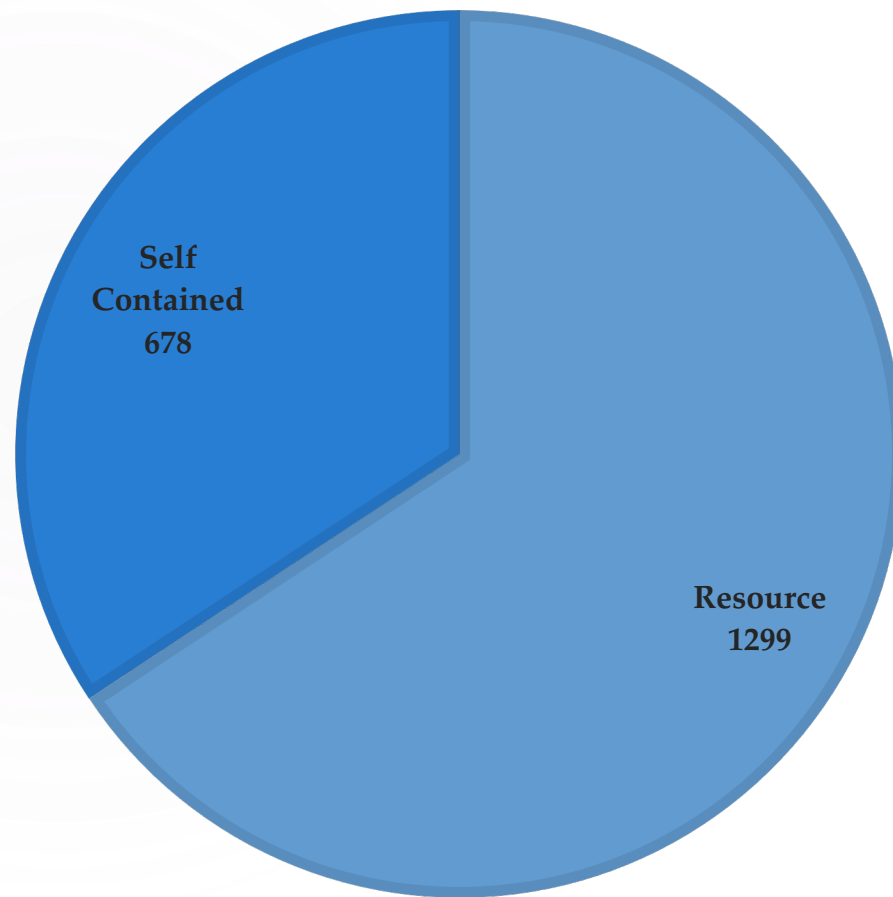
## MIDDLE SCHOOL SPED PLACEMENT

■ Resource ■ Self Contained



## HIGH SCHOOL SPED PLACEMENT

■ Resource ■ Self Contained





# Top 3 successes / Top 3 challenges for Special Education



Success	Challenges
<p>1. Spire Reading- Ms. Warren at Mullanphy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who have not shown growth in the last 2-3 years are now showing steady gains in reading</li> <li>• Every lesson comes with Reading (Decoding), Writing, and Spelling (Encoding), and Comprehension</li> </ul>	<p>1. Staffing- Shortages , especially in the areas of: SLPs and School Examiners/School Psychologists</p>
<p>2. Learn and Earn program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAJT currently has over 15 participants with 3 obtaining full time jobs once they graduate</li> </ul>	<p>2. Closure of Annie Malone Therapeutic Academy ( 14 students )</p>
<p>3. Virtual therapy -7 SLPs, 6 psychs, 2 BTs</p>	<p>3. Self Assessment with DESE for Special Education ( timelines, and file reviews )</p>



## Steps to address top 3 challenges

<b>1. Staffing</b>	<b>2. Annie Malone Closure</b>	<b>3. Self Assessment</b>
<p>Meetings were scheduled to connect with each vendor to address critical needs as we prepare for SY 23/24</p>	<p>SLPS has successfully placed via IEP team meetings, 14 students. Prior to the closure announcement, two students moved to other sites</p>	<p>From our findings with DESE, our office will maximize our PD cohorts use to address IEP compliance /IEP implementation.</p>



## Lessons Learned for Next Year

- Professional Development with practical application to be provided to all new and returning staff
- Progress monitoring collaborations to be developed from the building to central office level to quality check / quality assure IEP minutes and services



# QUESTIONS