



# Out of District Process and Associated Costs

# Our Values and Inclusive Approach

The Public Schools of Brookline values all of our students. We are morally and legally obligated to fully support them and provide the best possible education to meet their needs.

The PSB prides itself on its high quality in-house programming that educates our students with disabilities. We are committed to keeping students in our schools.

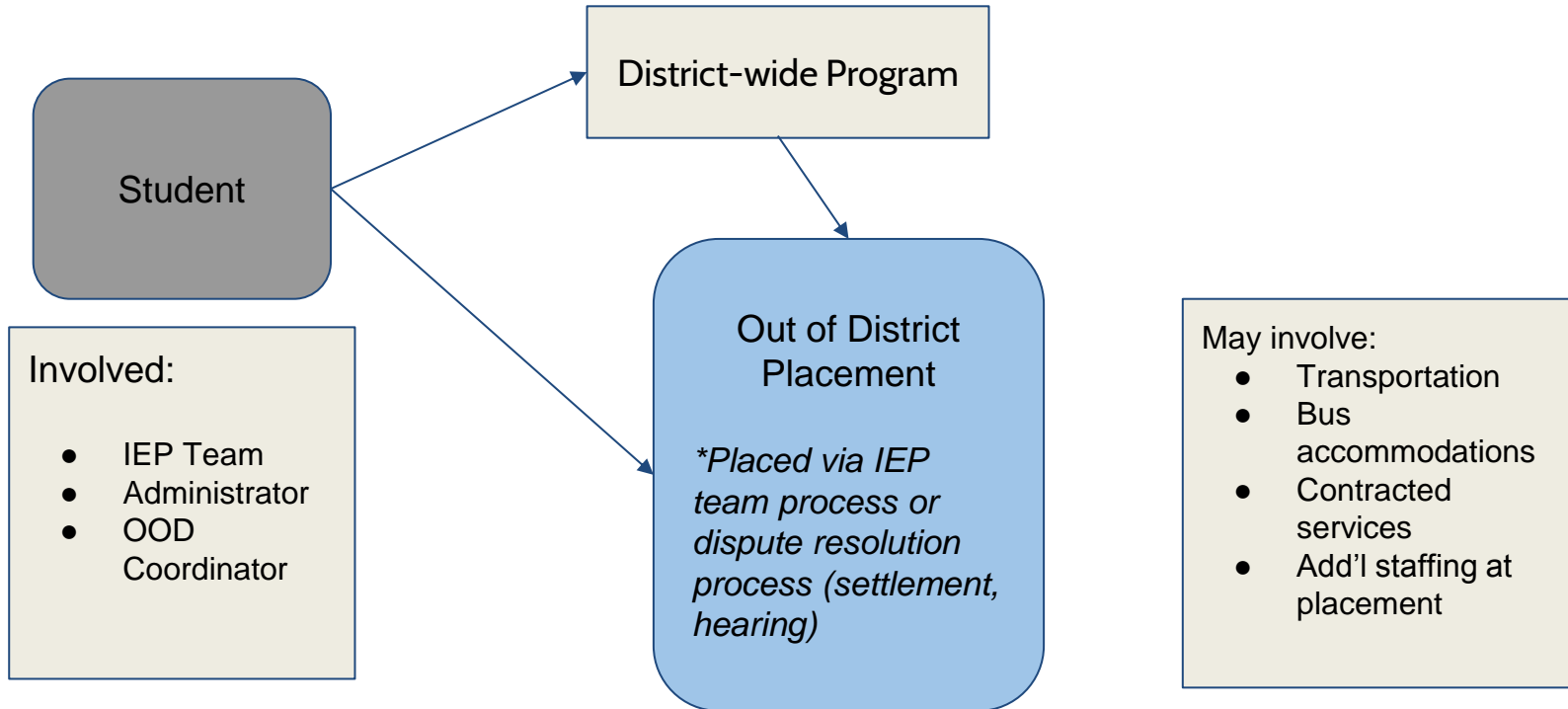
Our reputation in this area extends beyond Brookline, as others have sought to model their own programs after our own. We have developed many strategies and programs aimed at keeping our students in our building.

# Why Do We Place Students in Out of District Programs?

Students with disabilities who are unable to be educated within the public schools are still entitled to a free and appropriate public education. As a student's needs become identified and PSB cannot effectively educate the student, the Out-of-District Coordinator becomes involved and works with parents in planning for a new placement. Services are provided in other settings including collaborative and private schools.

- There are associated transportation costs and specialized care for some of our highest need students.
- DESE has developed a form of reimbursement, Circuit Breaker, which provides some fiscal support for high cost students.

# Process



# Historical Comparison: Students and Tuition Cost

| School Year   | Total # of Students | Enrolled Students with IEPS | Out of District Students | Percentage of Total Students in OOD Placements | Out of District Tuition Cost |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 2020-2021 (Projected)   | TBD                 | TBD                         | 67                       |  | \$ 6,114,708                 |
| 2019-2020 (Current)   | 7796                | 1217                        | 66                       | 0.85%  | \$ 5,781,477                 |
| 2018-2019   | 7855                | 1241                        | 68                       | 0.87%  | \$ 5,408,276                 |
| 2017-2018   | 7801                | 1215                        | 72                       | 0.92%  | \$ 5,177,104                 |
| 2016-2017   | 7695                | 1086                        | 65                       | 0.84%  | \$ 5,034,513                 |
| 2015-2016   | 7668                | 1089                        | 56                       | 0.73%  | \$ 4,676,579                 |
| 2014-2015   | 7508                | 1116                        | 73                       | 0.97%  | \$ 4,762,321                 |
| 2013-2014   | 7288                | 1092                        | 76                       | 1.04%  | \$ 5,346,415                 |
| 2012-2013   | 7112                | 1092                        | 77                       | 1.08%  | \$ 5,835,557                 |
| 2011-2012   | 6875                | 1053                        | 72                       | 1.05%  | \$ 5,507,520                 |
| 2010-2011   | 6627                | 1046                        | 77                       | 1.16%  | \$ 5,874,022                 |
| 2009-2010   | 6472                | 999                         | 71                       | 1.10%  | \$ 5,411,839                 |
| Source: DESE  |                     |                             |                          |  |                              |
| <a href="http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/gis/sped_map.aspx?orgcode=00460000&amp;">http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/gis/sped_map.aspx?orgcode=00460000&amp;</a> |                     |                             |                          |  |                              |

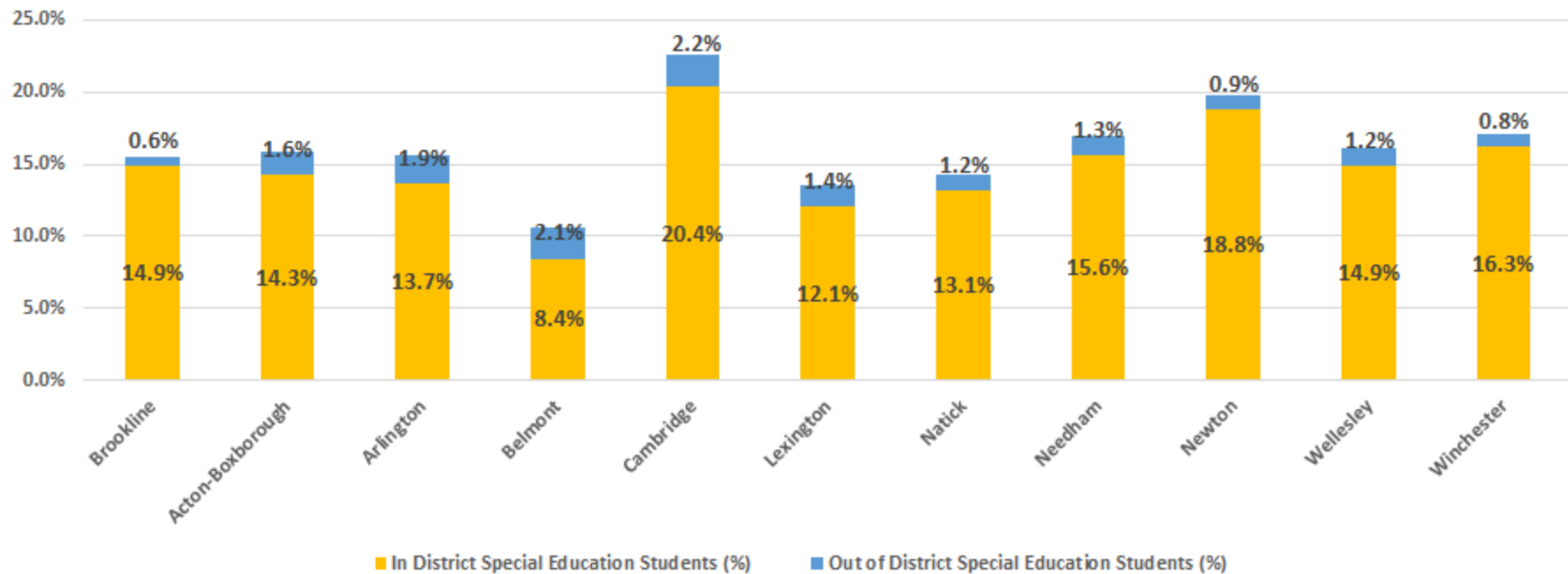
**Special Education In and Out of District Placements****2017-18**

Source: DESE Special Education Resource Allocation by district EOYR (Fiscal Year 2017-18): Edwin Analytics

Numbers based on October 1, 2017 SIMS Report

| District         | All Students (#) | Total Students on IEPs (#) | Out of District (#) | Percent of Total PSB Population SY1718     |  |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
|                  |                  |                            |                     | In District Special Education Students (%) | Out of District Special Education Students (%) |
| Brookline        | 7,852            | 1,215                      | 51                  | 14.9%                                      | 0.6%   |
| Acton-Boxborough | 5,695            | 891                        | 89                  | 14.3%                                      | 1.6%   |
| Arlington        | 5,822            | 891                        | 111                 | 13.7%                                      | 1.9%   |
| Belmont          | 4,690            | 486                        | 98                  | 8.4%                                       | 2.1%   |
| Cambridge        | 7,072            | 1,570                      | 158                 | 20.4%                                      | 2.2%   |
| Lexington        | 7,349            | 980                        | 103                 | 12.1%                                      | 1.4%   |
| Natick           | 5,573            | 789                        | 66                  | 13.1%                                      | 1.2%   |
| Needham          | 5,742            | 962                        | 76                  | 15.6%                                      | 1.3%   |
| Newton           | 13,046           | 2,554                      | 118                 | 18.8%                                      | 0.9%   |
| Wellesley        | 5,068            | 809                        | 62                  | 14.9%                                      | 1.2%   |
| Winchester       | 4,709            | 798                        | 40                  | 16.3%                                      | 0.8%   |

### SWD Enrollment by In and Out of District Placement SY2017-18 (%)



**Special Education In and Out of District Placements: Budget****2017-18**

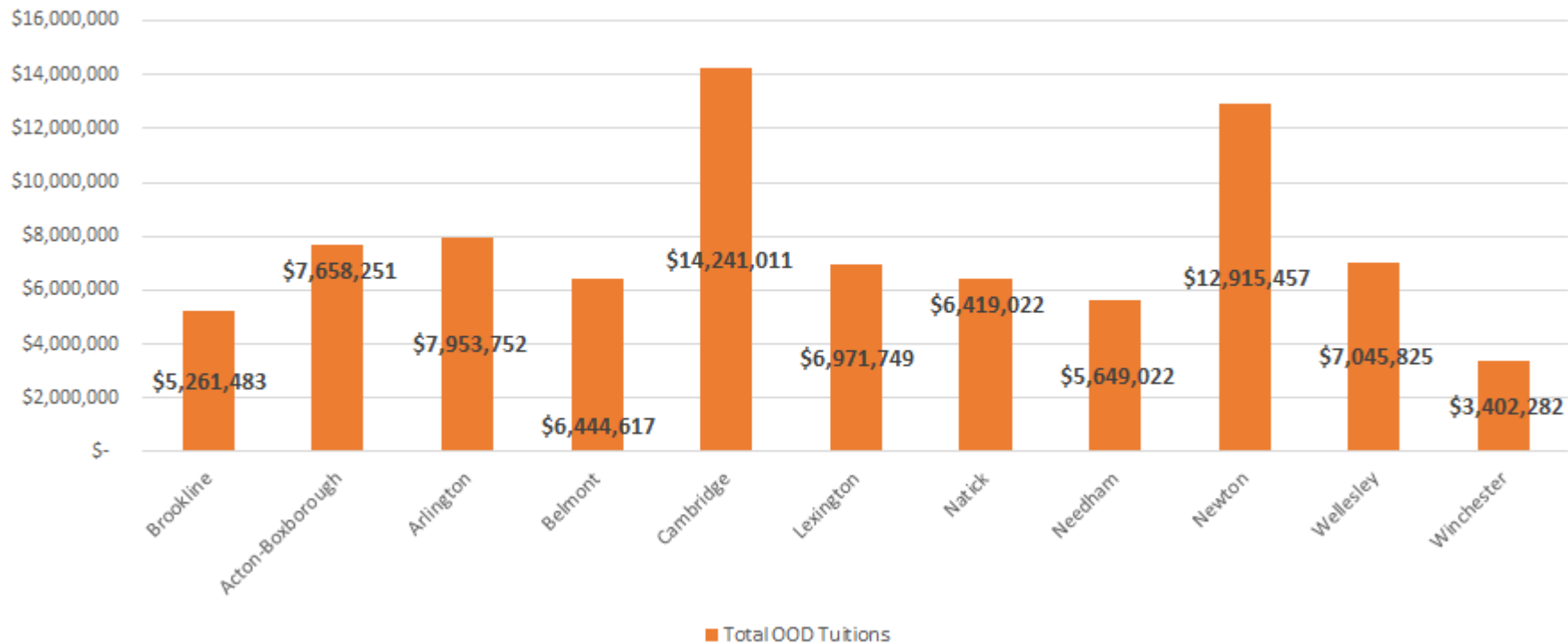
Source: DESE Special Education Resource Allocation by district EOYR (Fiscal Year 2017-18): Edwin Analytics

| <b>District</b>  | <b>Total District Operating Expenditures</b> | <b>Total OOD Tuitions</b> | <b>OOD Percent of Total Budget</b> |
|------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Brookline        | \$ 105,557,373                               | \$ 5,261,483              | 5.0%                               |
| Acton-Boxborough | \$ 90,445,893                                | \$ 7,658,251              | 8.5%                               |
| Arlington        | \$ 85,549,467                                | \$ 7,953,752              | 9.3%                               |
| Belmont          | \$ 66,904,967                                | \$ 6,444,617              | 9.6%                               |
| Cambridge        | \$ 224,453,019                               | \$ 14,241,011             | 6.3%                               |
| Lexington        | \$ 137,876,071                               | \$ 6,971,749              | 5.1%                               |
| Natick           | \$ 91,745,684                                | \$ 6,419,022              | 7.0%                               |
| Needham          | \$ 104,781,982                               | \$ 5,649,022              | 5.4%                               |
| Newton           | \$ 252,956,052                               | \$ 12,915,457             | 5.1%                               |
| Wellesley        | \$ 103,454,101                               | \$ 7,045,825              | 6.8%                               |
| Winchester       | \$ 66,570,999                                | \$ 3,402,282              | 5.1%                               |





### Total District OOD Tuitions SY2017-18 (\$)



# Types of Out of District Programs

## Description from DESE Chart of Accounts

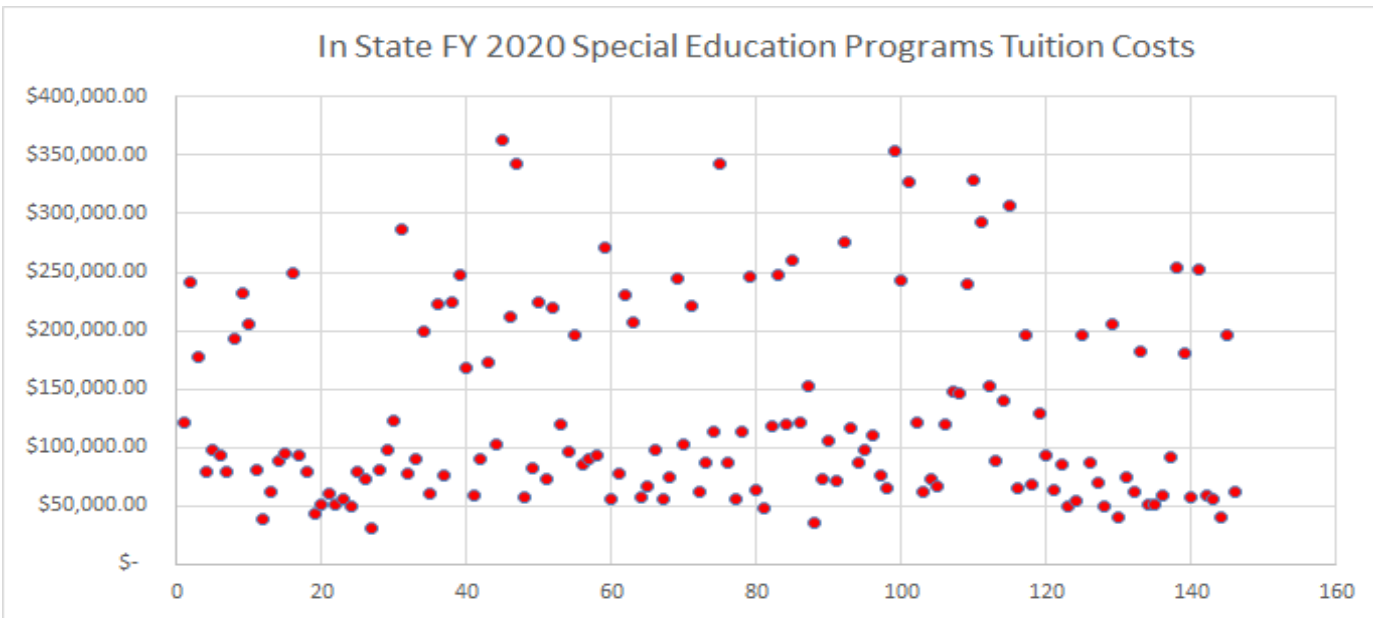
9100 Tuition to Massachusetts Schools - Tuition payments to other Massachusetts school districts for services provided to Brookline Students.

9200 Tuition to Out-of-State Schools -Tuition to Out-of-State Schools for services provided to Brookline Students.

9300 Tuition to Non-Public Schools - Tuition to Non-Public Schools for services provided to Brookline Students.

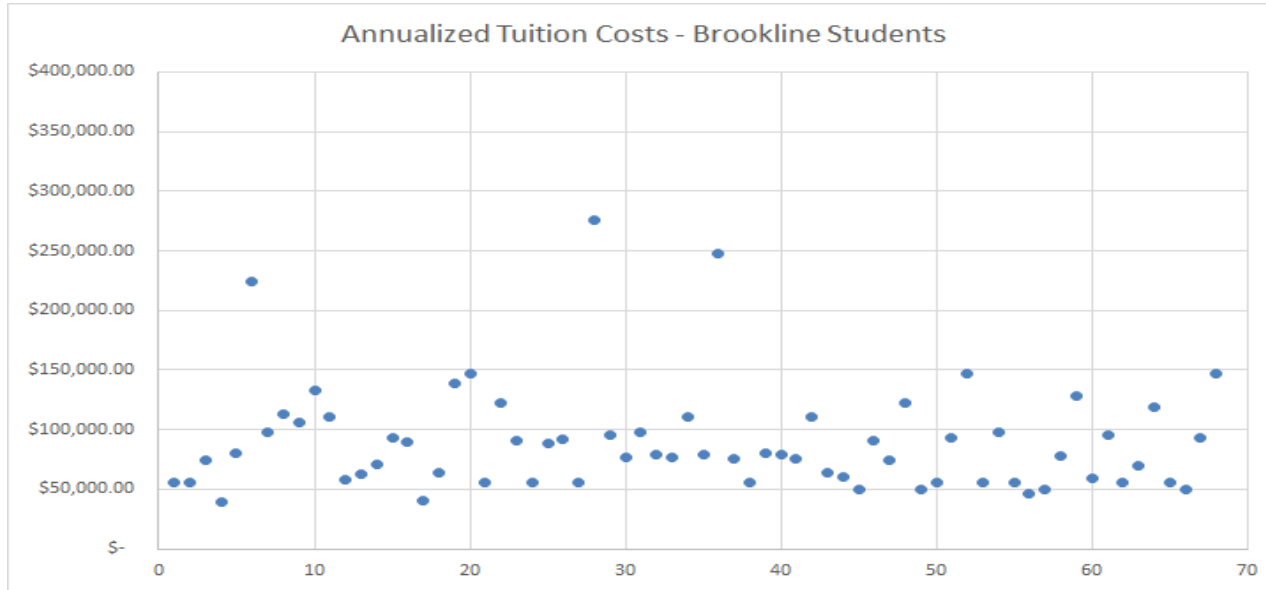
9400 Tuition to Collaboratives - Tuition payments to Collaboratives for services provided to Brookline Students.

# In State FY 2020 Tuition Costs - All DESE-approved Programs



\* All In State Annualized Tuition Cost Ranges from \$30,497 - \$363,273

# In State FY 2020 Tuition Costs - Brookline Students



\* Brookline Students Annualized Tuition Cost Ranges from \$38,842 - \$276,360

# 5 Factors that Affect Annualized Cost Increases

- 1. The Estimated Rate of Inflation for Social Services Programs.** OSD is required to set a rate of inflation, which projects the tuition rate for all approved programs, using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Employment Cost Index (ECI) to calculate the increase for the following year. The 2021 Estimated Rate of Inflation is 2.72%.
- 2. Program Reconstruction.** This price authorization category is the most common form of requesting additional funding beyond the rate of inflation. Under this review, a reconstructed Program is one currently approved by DESE, but is being modified.

# 5 Factors that Affect Annualized Cost Increases

- 3. Special Circumstances.** This type of tuition increase is directly related to salary upgrades for program staff. The program must demonstrate that they are having difficulty recruiting, hiring and/or retaining appropriately qualified personnel to staff the program
- 4. Extraordinary Relief.** These rate increase requests are typically rare. However, if a provider experiences unanticipated additional expenses (for instance a physical plant issue) that is seen as an emergency, one year request for additional funding.
- 5. New Program.** The New Program request, similar to Program Reconstruction, is a type of rate appeal developed to create entirely new programs to serve their students.

# Factors Impacting OOD Tuitions Budget

- Change in students needs or new students to district can result in additional unbudgeted Cost
- Special Education Reserve intended for changes in service level and/or new students.
- Reserve can be insufficient due to:
  - Move ins between July 1 and March 31
  - Transition from District-wide to OOD

# Factors Impacting OOD Tuitions Budget

- Students can transition to more intensive programs which are more costly
- Unilateral placements - Parents disagree with PSB placement proposal and place student at their own cost
- Settlement agreements - Ongoing disputes are finally resolved and PSB has some or all fiscal responsibility.



# Circuit Breaker Reimbursement

- The state special education reimbursement program began in FY2004 to provide funding to districts for high-cost special education students.
  - Eligibility is tied to the state average foundation budget per pupil calculated under the Chapter 70 program. In FY20, it was \$45,792.
  - The state reimburses districts at a rate of 72% above the threshold cost. This reimbursement rate has varied from 65% to 75%.
  - For example, if a student were placed at The John Doe School, where tuition was \$100,000 per year, the district's eligible reimbursement for that student would be:  $(\$100,000 - \$45,792) \times .72 = \$39,030$ . The district would be responsible for the remaining \$60,970.

# In-District Programs

- LAHB: Language Academic Home Base (Driscoll)
- TLC: Therapeutic Learning Center (CCS/FRR)
- ALC: Adaptive Learning Center (Lincoln)
- RISE: Reach for Independence in Structured Environment (Runkle)
- Bridge (BHS)
- Excel (BHS)
- RISE Community (BHS)
- Winthrop House (BHS)