

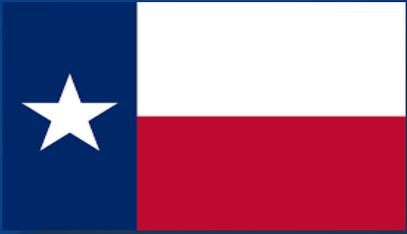
Texas School for the Deaf



Texas Commission on Special Education Funding

Claire Bugen, Superintendent
Justin Wedel, CFO

June 27, 2022



TSD: A state agency that provides public education to a 100% special education population



- Texas Education Code Dual Mission §30.051-30.059:
 - Comprehensive day and residential programs for deaf and hard of hearing students, age 0-22, including those with multiple disabilities
 - Serve as a Statewide Educational Resource Center on Deafness providing outreach, technical assistance and short term programs to students, families, and school districts statewide.

Quick Facts



TSD...

- Is the oldest continuously operating public school in Texas
- Opened in 1856 with 4 students; last year enrollment was 533 on campus and an additional 482 students served by the Statewide Outreach Center
- Serves students from birth through age 22
- Provides short-term programs for students enrolled in public school across Texas
- Provides year-round residential and day school programming



School Governance

TSD's nine member Governing Board is appointed by the Governor, and by statute, functions like the board of a local school district.

TSD's board must be 51% Deaf – at least five members must be Deaf – and include:

- At least 1 person who is an alumnus of the school
- At least 3 persons who are parents of a Deaf person
- At least 3 persons who are experienced in working with Deaf persons



Shawn P. Saladin
(President)



Heather Withrow
(Vice President)



Sha Cowan
(Secretary)



David Saunders



Dina Lynne Moore



Christopher Moreland



Darlene "DJ" Nobles



Keith Sibley



More than a school

- A place where students are immersed in a rich, bilingual language (English/ASL) environment
- A unique opportunity for students to form an identity based on their personal strengths and abilities rather than their disabilities
- Exposure to Deaf role models that assist in building a strong, positive identity





Students Enrollment

| Regular School Year Programs | 2021 - 2022 |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Parent Infant Program | 21 |
| Pre-School | 13 |
| Pre-K | 7 |
| K – 5 (Elementary) | 136 |
| Middle School | 95 |
| High School | 196 |
| ACCESS (Transition Program) | 65 |
| Total | 533 |

| Summer Programs | 2020 - 2021 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Extended Year Services Program | 83 |
| Summer Camps and Programs | 44 |
| Summer Camps and Programs Non-TSD | 68 |
| Early Childhood Education | 6 |
| Parent Infant Program | 16 |
| Accelerated Instruction | 33 |
| Other Short-Term Programs | 232 |
| Total | 482 |

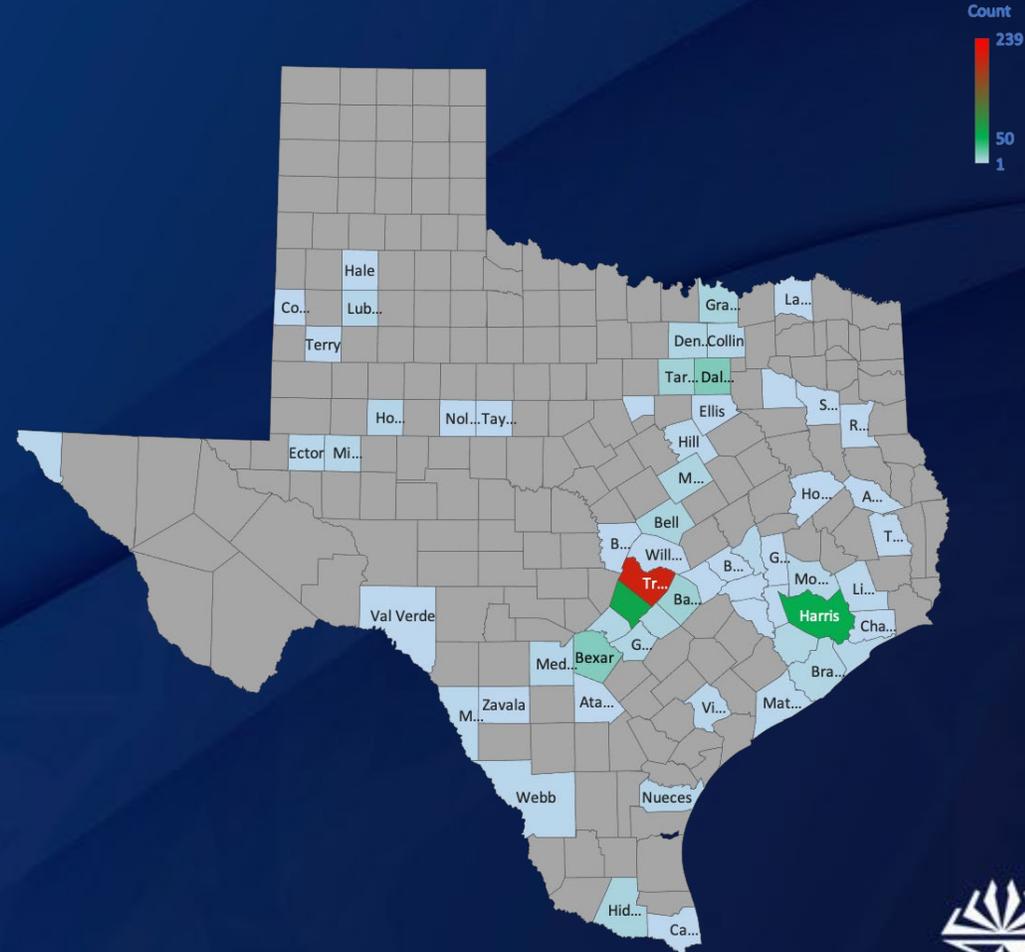


Counties and School Districts Served

County Enrollment 2021-2022

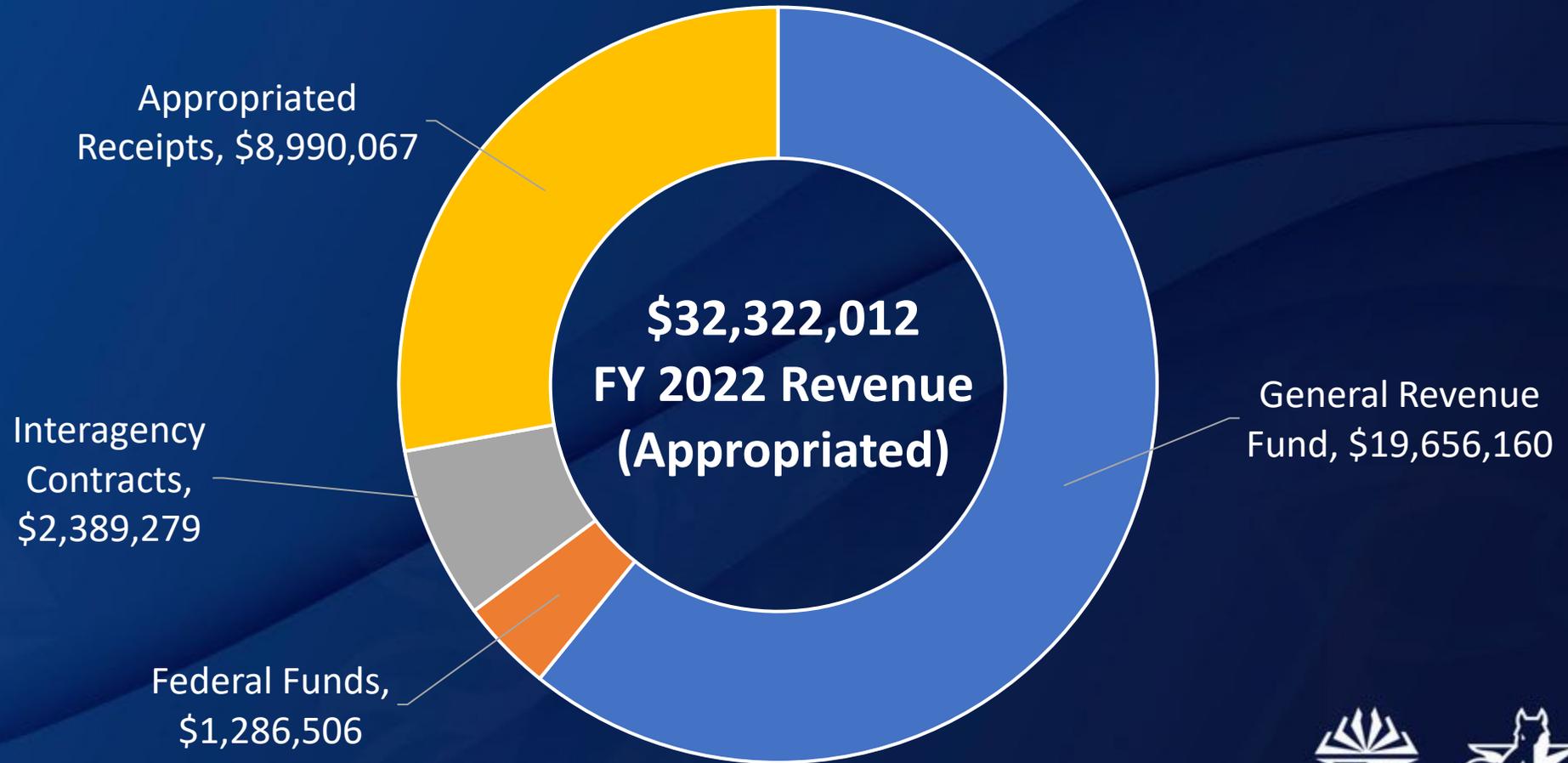
School Year 2021-2022

- Students came from 64 counties representing approximately 122 school districts from across the state





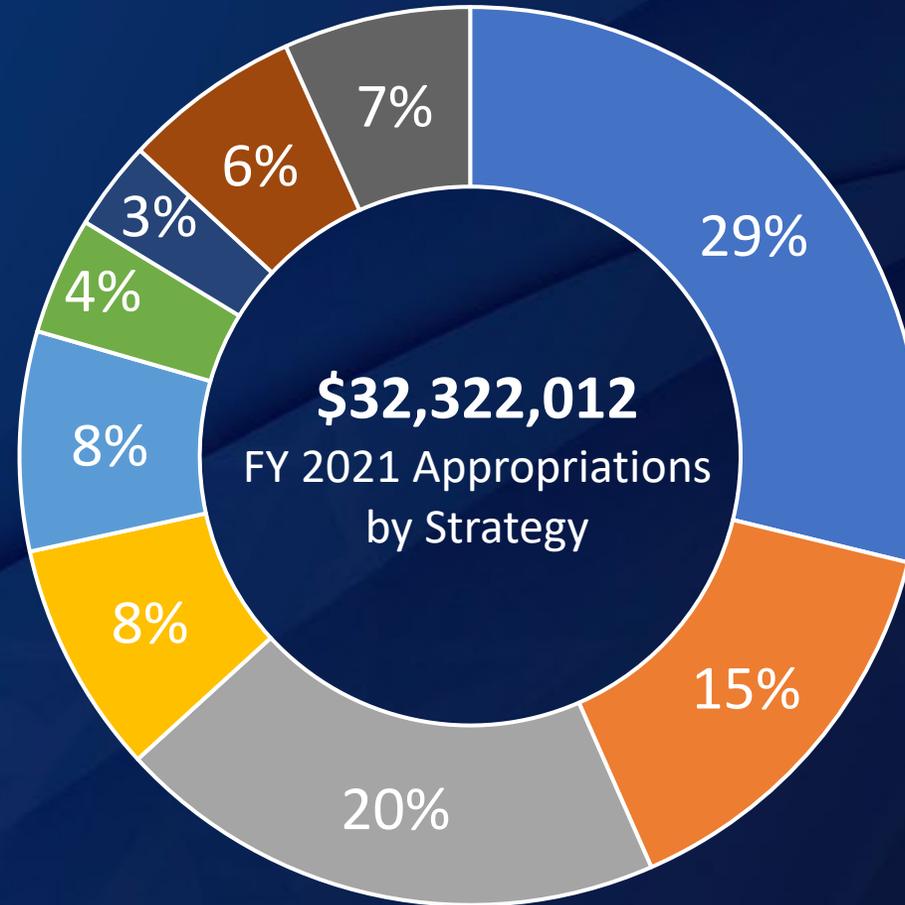
How we are funded





GR Funding by Strategy

- Classroom Instruction
- Residential Program
- Related and Support Services
- Career and Transition Programs
- Student Transportation
- Specialized Assistance
- Statewide Outreach
- Central Administration
- Other Support Services





IDEA Special Education Funding

| Grant Title | 2017 – 18 | 2018 – 19 | 2019 – 20 | 2020 – 21 | 2021 - 22 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| IDEA-C ECI | \$ 5,712 | - | - | \$ 4,811 | \$ 4,759 |
| IDEA-B Formula | \$ 296,949 | \$ 290,481 | \$ 284,271 | \$ 295,710 | \$ 293,625 |
| IDEA-B Discretionary (Deaf) | \$ 388,000 | \$ 408,709 | \$ 388,033 | \$ 388,000 | \$ 388,000 |
| IDEA-B Discretionary 1-4 * | \$ 457,679 | \$ 457,679 | \$ 457,679 | \$ 457,679 | \$ 457,679 |
| IDEA-B Preschool | \$ 19,028 | \$ 17,219 | \$ 17,278 | \$ 17,302 | \$ 22,367 |
| IDEA-B Formula ARP | - | - | - | - | \$ 21,532 |
| IDEA-B Preschool ARP | - | - | - | - | \$ 776 |
| Total | \$ 1,167,368 | \$ 1,174,088 | \$ 1,147,261 | \$ 1,163,502 | \$ 1,188,738 |

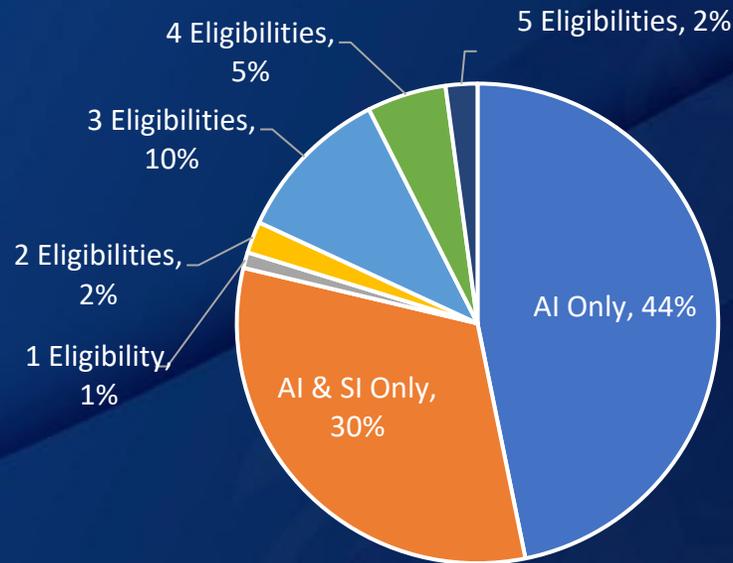
* Ref: 79th Legislative Session, SB1, Art. III-10, Texas Education Agency, Rider 24



Student Eligibility

- All current and prospective students are entitled to FAPE under IDEA
- The cost of service delivery varies according to the individual needs and the corresponding impact of student's eligibilities

Eligibilities 2020 - 2021



Eligibilities include: autism, deaf-blindness, auditory impairment (Deaf), intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, learning disabilities, speech impairment, traumatic brain injury, and visual impairment



Funding Considerations

- TSD, as a state agency, is reliant upon steady General Revenue (GR) appropriations to cover both fixed and variable costs of operation
- Prior to HB 3456 (87th) (White/Eckhardt) – TSD was subject to mandatory budget reductions, which compromised our continued Maintenance of Effort
- In the absence of significant increases of GR or IDEA funds, TSD has had to maximize MAC / SHARS revenue to fund current service needs
 - Changes to federal reimbursement percentages could impact this (TSD's preference would be to not rely on 3rd party financing solutions)



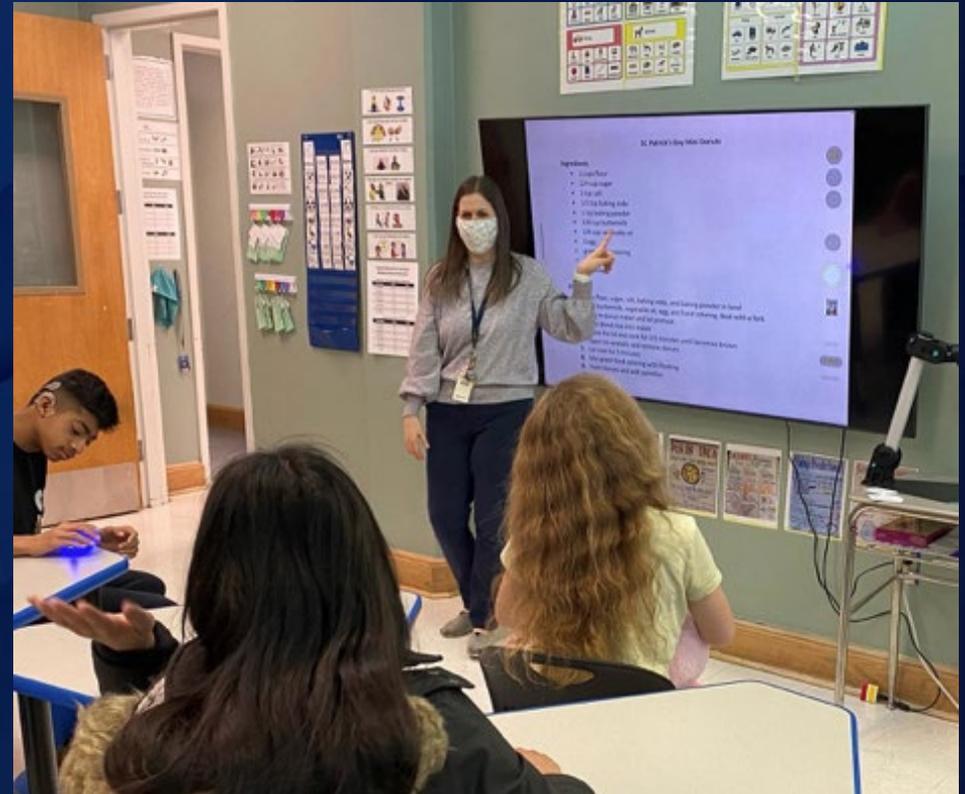
Specialized Staff Needed to Support Special Ed Students

- Academic Intervention Specialists
- ARD/IEP Facilitators
- Audiologists
- Behavior Support Staff
- Career Counselors
- Counselors
- Diagnosticians, LSSPs & SLPs
- Employment Specialists
- Hispanic Liaisons
- Interveners
- Job Coaches
- MTSS Coordinators
- PBIS Tiered Support Coordinators
- Physical & Occupational Therapists
- School Psychiatrists
- SEL Coordinators
- Social Workers
- Special Ed Teachers
- Transition Facilitators
- Visual Impairment Specialist



Challenges of Special Education Staffing for TSD Students

- Bilingual (English/ASL) requirements for all Special Ed certifications / licenses
- Shrinking talent pool for qualified special education staff (e.g. only 300 +/- new Deaf Ed teacher training graduates nationally)
- Numerous unfunded mandates place additional pressure and stressors on special education administrative and teaching staff
- High cost of living in / near Austin





Recommendations

- Provide a funding mechanism that takes into consideration the individual and varied needs of TSD students
- Consider increasing stipends and salaries for special education teaching and support staff
- Provide more reciprocity and flexibility on certification for special education teachers
- Keep TSD in mind, a state agency funded by General Revenue, as special education funding is reviewed and revised



Thank You
For Supporting
TSD

