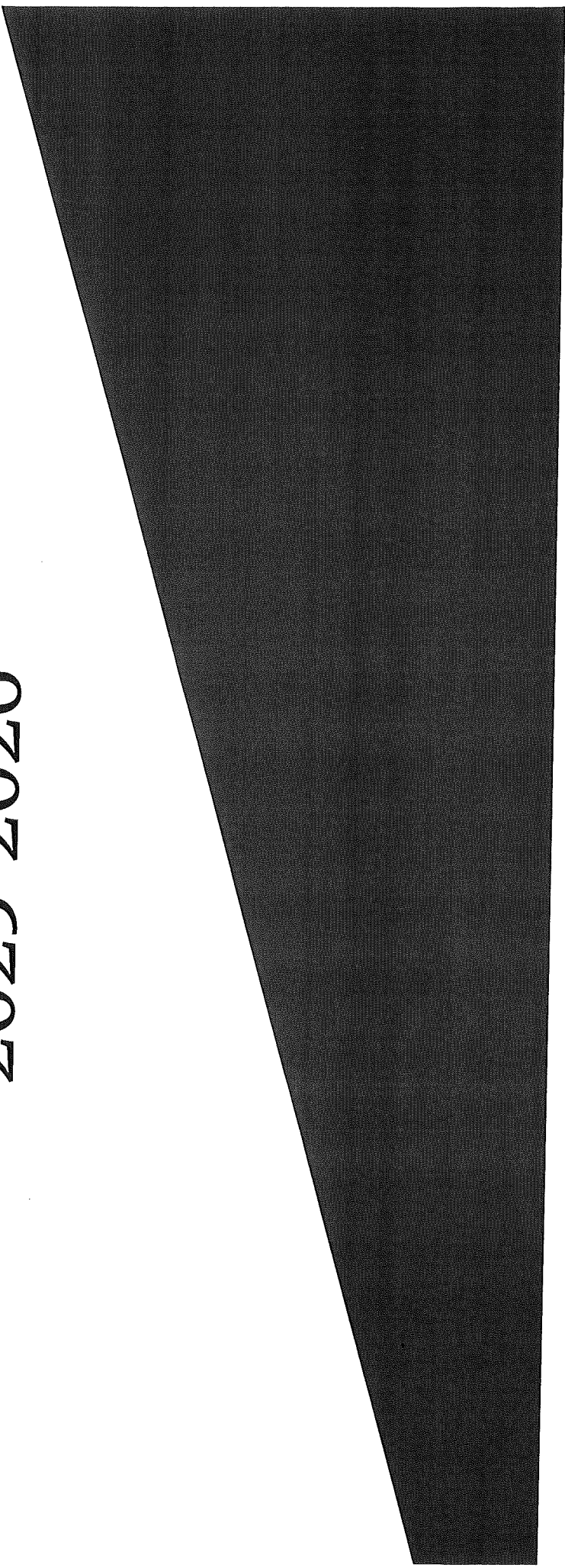


Department of Special Services 2025-2026



Staff/Programs

Department of Special Services Administration

Ms. Kim Conti

Director of Special Services

Ms. Stefannie Buthorn

Mr. Joseph Seugling

Supervisors of Special Services

Coming January 2026:

Welcome

Ms. Sherifaat Rouleau

Supervisor of Special Services

Department of
Special Services
Office Team

Accountant
(Works with Business Office)

12 month Secretaries

10 month Secretary

The Child Study Team and Related Service Providers

Dispersed throughout the district in school buildings. Child Study Team members are also responsible for students attending Out of District Schools.

**Learning Disability Teacher
Consultants (LDTs)**

School Social Workers

School Psychologists

Speech-Language Specialists

Occupational Therapists

Physical Therapists

Behaviorist

Special Education Teachers

- **Resource Program (In Class and Out of Class)**
- **Autism**
- **Emotional Regulation Impairment**
- **Mild to Moderate Learning and/or Language Disabilities**
- **Multiple Disabilities**
- **Preschool Disabilities**

Support Staff

Paraprofessionals

- Classroom aides per NJAC:6A:14
- Personal aides per IEP
- Shared aides per IEP

Behavior Technicians

- Building based
- Personal BT per IEP
- Shared BT per IEP

Programs

In-District

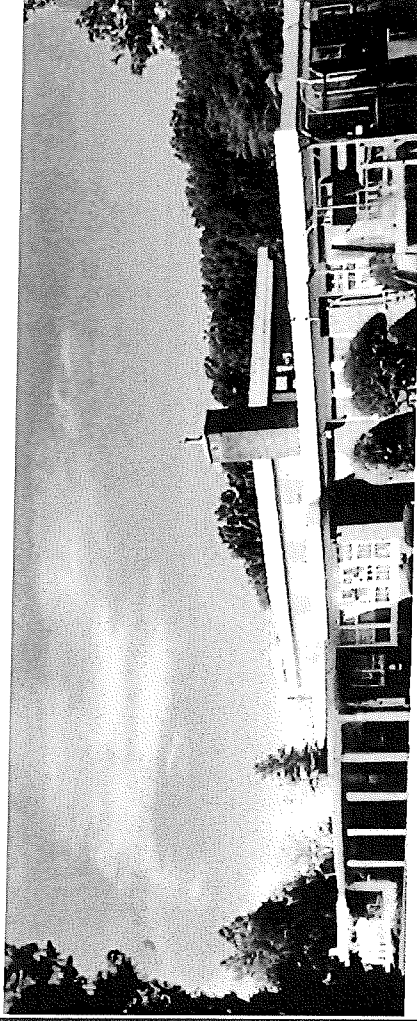
- In-Class Resource (ICR)
- Out of Class Resource (OCR)
- Autism
- Emotional Regulation Impairment (ERI)
- Mild to Moderate Learning and/or Language Disabilities (MM/LLD)
- Multiple Disabilities (MD)
- Preschool Disabilities (PSD)

Out of District

Home Instruction (Districtwide)

Special Education Programs by Building

Battle Hill Elementary



**5- Mild to Moderate Learning and/or Language
Disabilities**

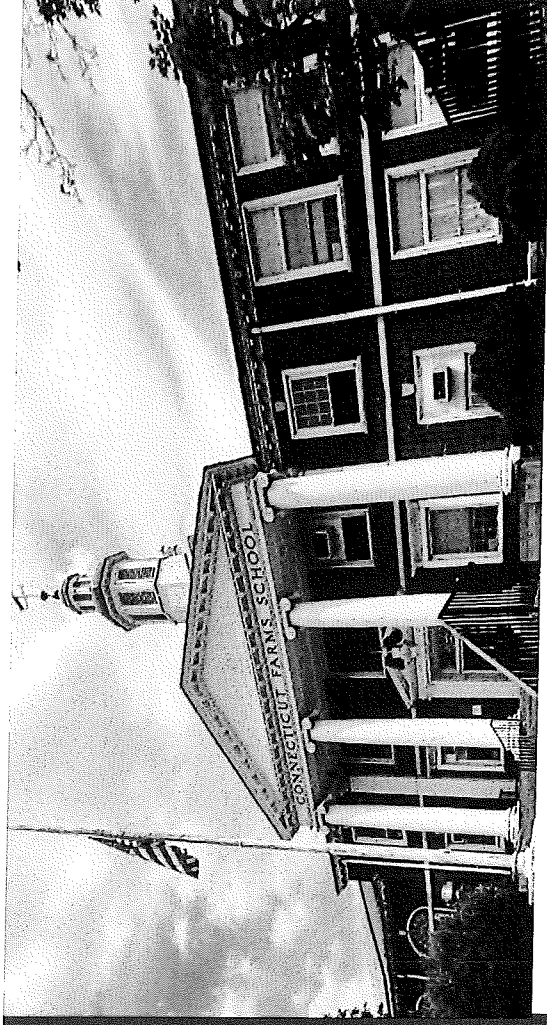
2- Preschool Disabilities

**1- Multiple Disabilities
In-Class Resource**

Out of Class Resource

Special Education Programs by Building

Connecticut Farms Elementary



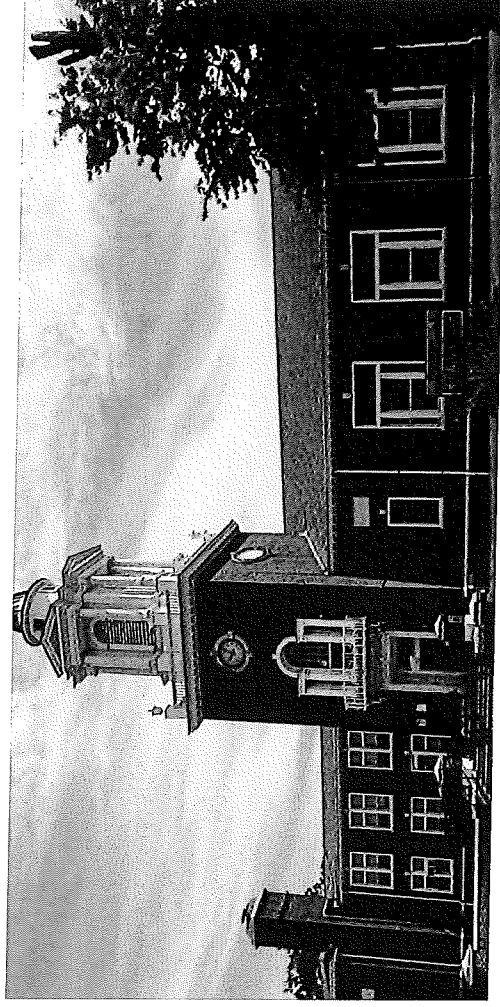
5- Autism

2- Preschool Disabilities

In-Class Resource

Special Education Programs by Building

Franklin Elementary



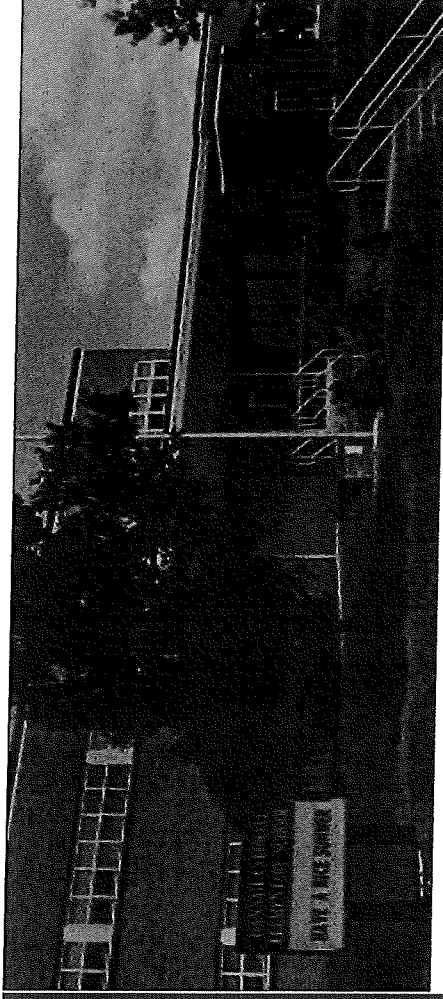
2-Autism

1-Preschool Disabilities

In-Class Resource

Special Education Programs by Building

Hannah
Caldwell
Elementary



2-Autism

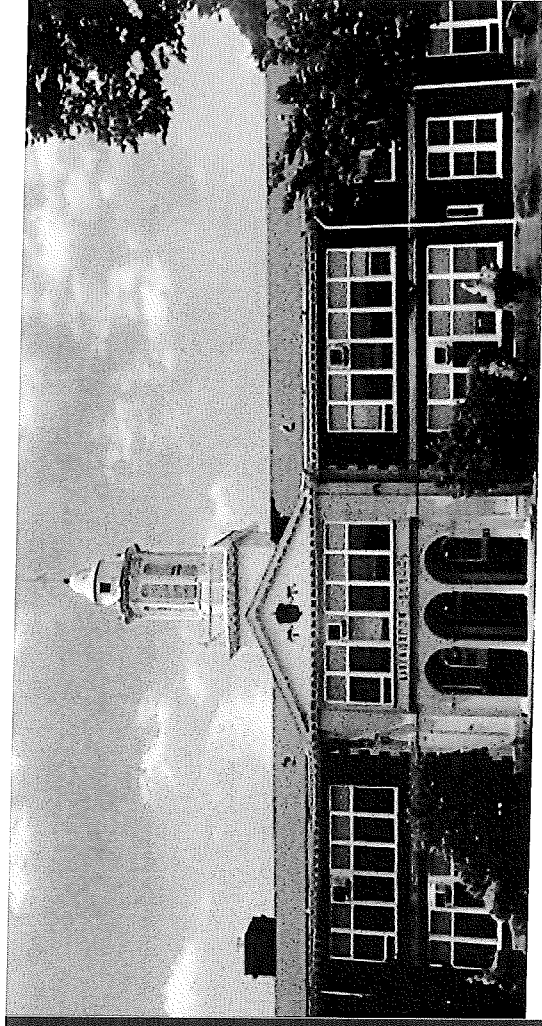
2-Emotional Regulation Impairment

1-Preschool Disabilities

In-Class Resource

Special Education Programs by Building

Livingston Elementary

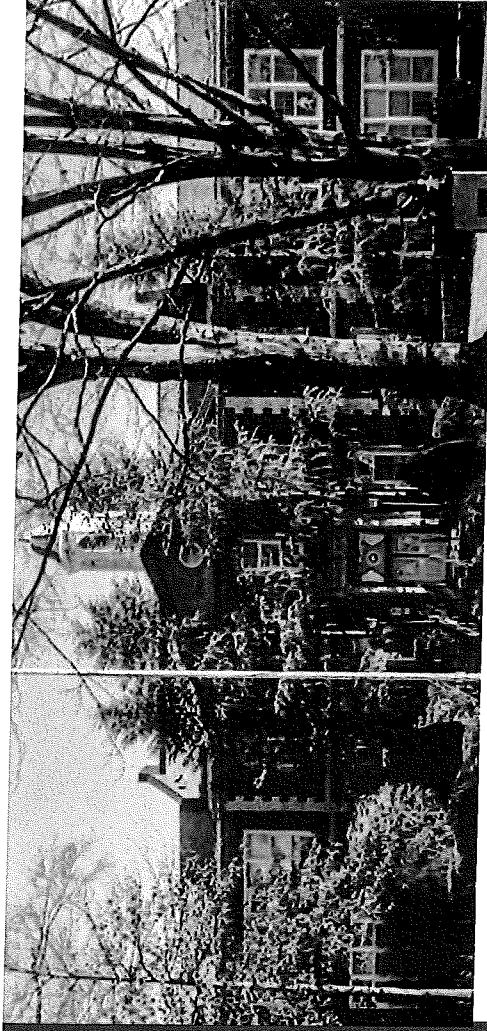


2-Autism

**1-Preschool Disabilities
In-Class Resource**

Special Education Programs by Building

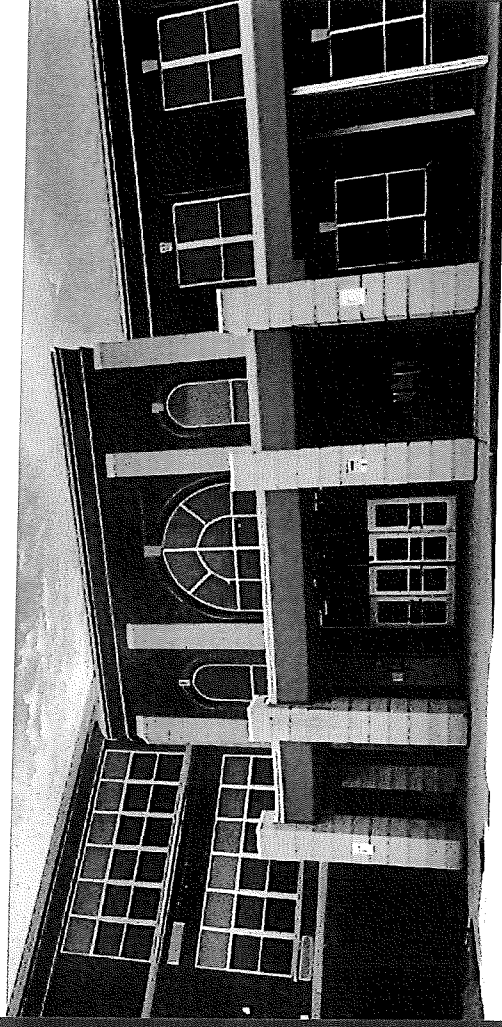
Washington Elementary



1-Preschool Disabilities In-Class Resource

Special Education Programs by Building

Jefferson Elementary



**2- Mild to Moderate Learning and/or Language
Disabilities**

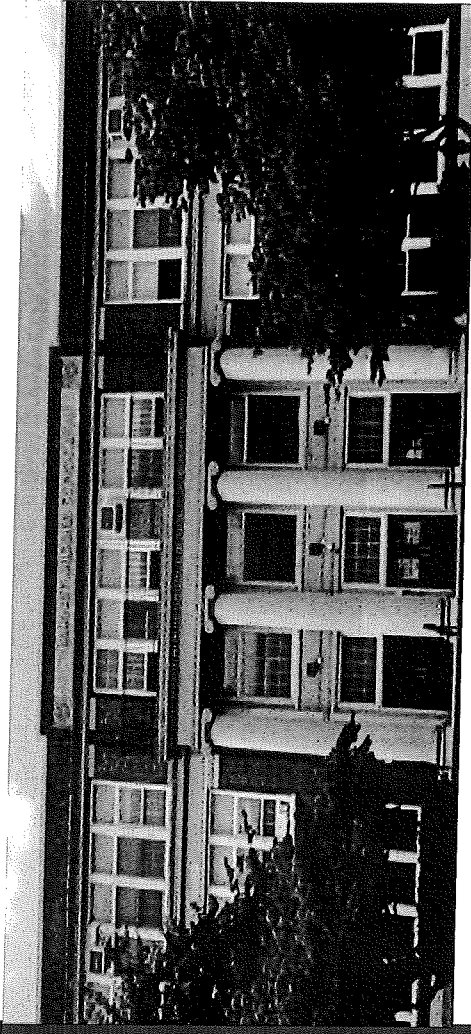
1- Autism

In-Class Resource

Out of Class Resource

Special Education Programs by Building

Burnet Middle School



**2- Mild to Moderate Learning and/or Language
Disabilities**

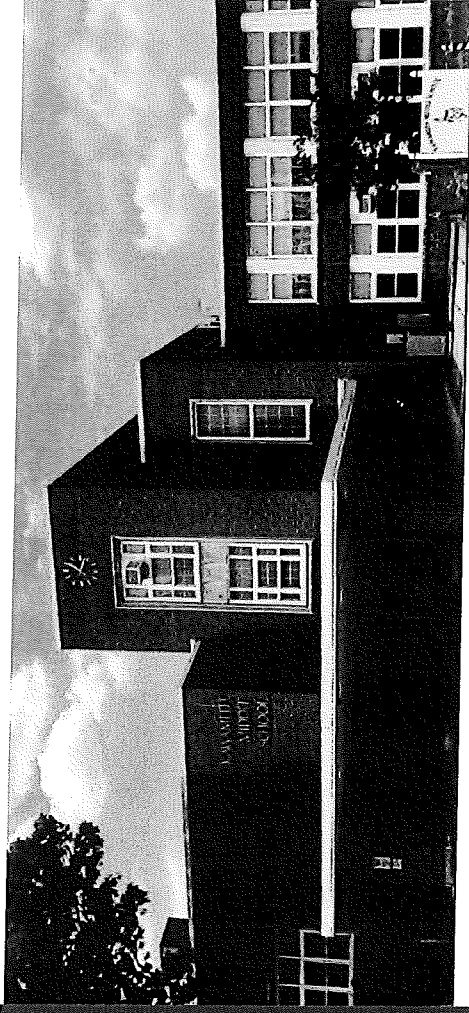
2- Multiple Disabilities

In-Class Resource

Out of Class Resource

Special Education Programs by Building

Kawameeh Middle School



**1- Mild to Moderate Learning and/or Language
Disabilities**

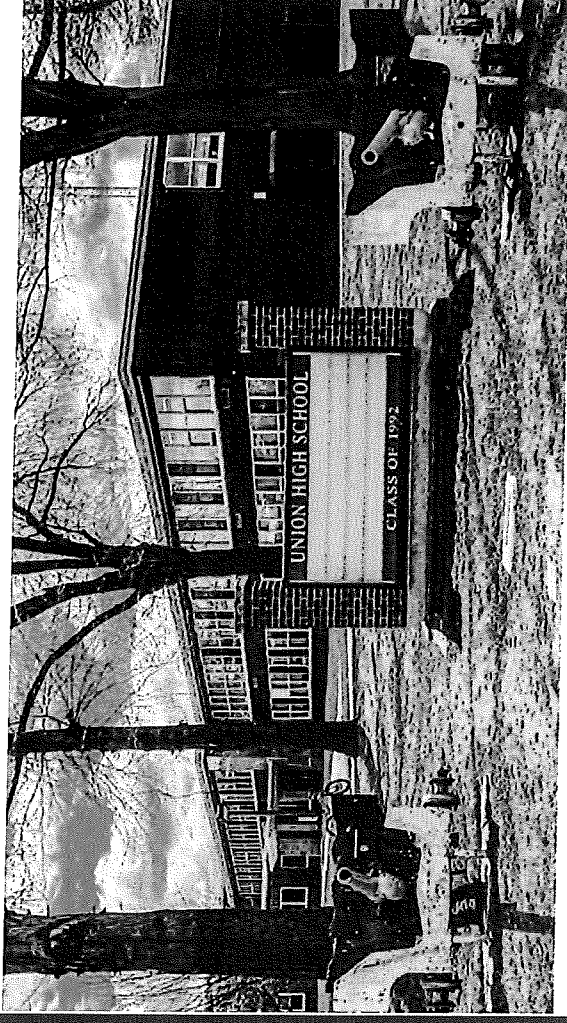
1- Autism

In-Class Resource

Out of Class Resource

Special Education Programs by Building

Union Senior High School



2-Autism

3-Emotional Regulation Impairment

2 - Multiple Disabilities

In-Class Resource

Out of Class Resource

Students

Student #s

Anticipated increase in the near future due to new referrals.

Total # of Students Receiving Special Education and Related Services

1413*

Increase of approximately 24.27%

since 2020-2021 School Year

2024-2025 - 1391

2023-2024 - 1382

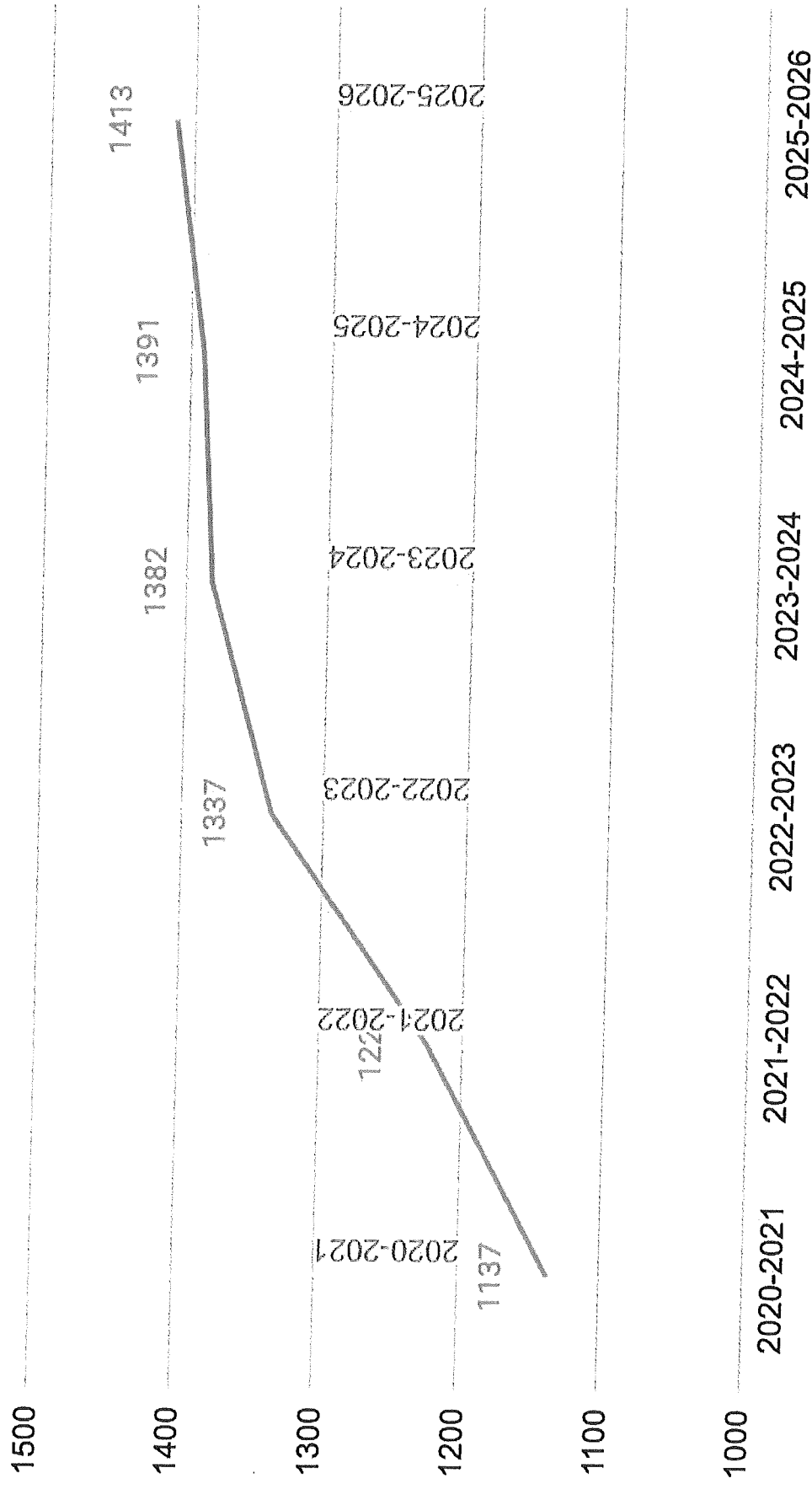
2022-2023 - 1337

2021-2022 - 1224

2020-2021 - 1137

***#s based on year to date school year is not complete**

Classification Rates



Classification Rate

Rate based on information from the
23-24 school year

2023-2024

District 16.62%

State 19.3%

(Current District Classification
Rate 18.2% as of 12/10-State
Rate Not Yet Released)

Student #s by Classification Category

3- Auditory Impairment

268 - Autism

50 - Intellectual Disability

230 - Communication Impairment

71 - Emotional Regulation Impairment

27 - Multiple Disabilities

296 - Other Health Impairment

104 - Preschool Child with a Disability

303 - Specific Learning Disability

4 - Traumatic Brain Injury

5 - Visual Impairment

52 - Eligible for Speech-Language Services

Referrals

*Referrals are ongoing throughout the school year. Referrals may be made at any time.

7/1/25 until 12/10/25

Referrals: 144*

Early Intervention

28

Parent Referrals

83

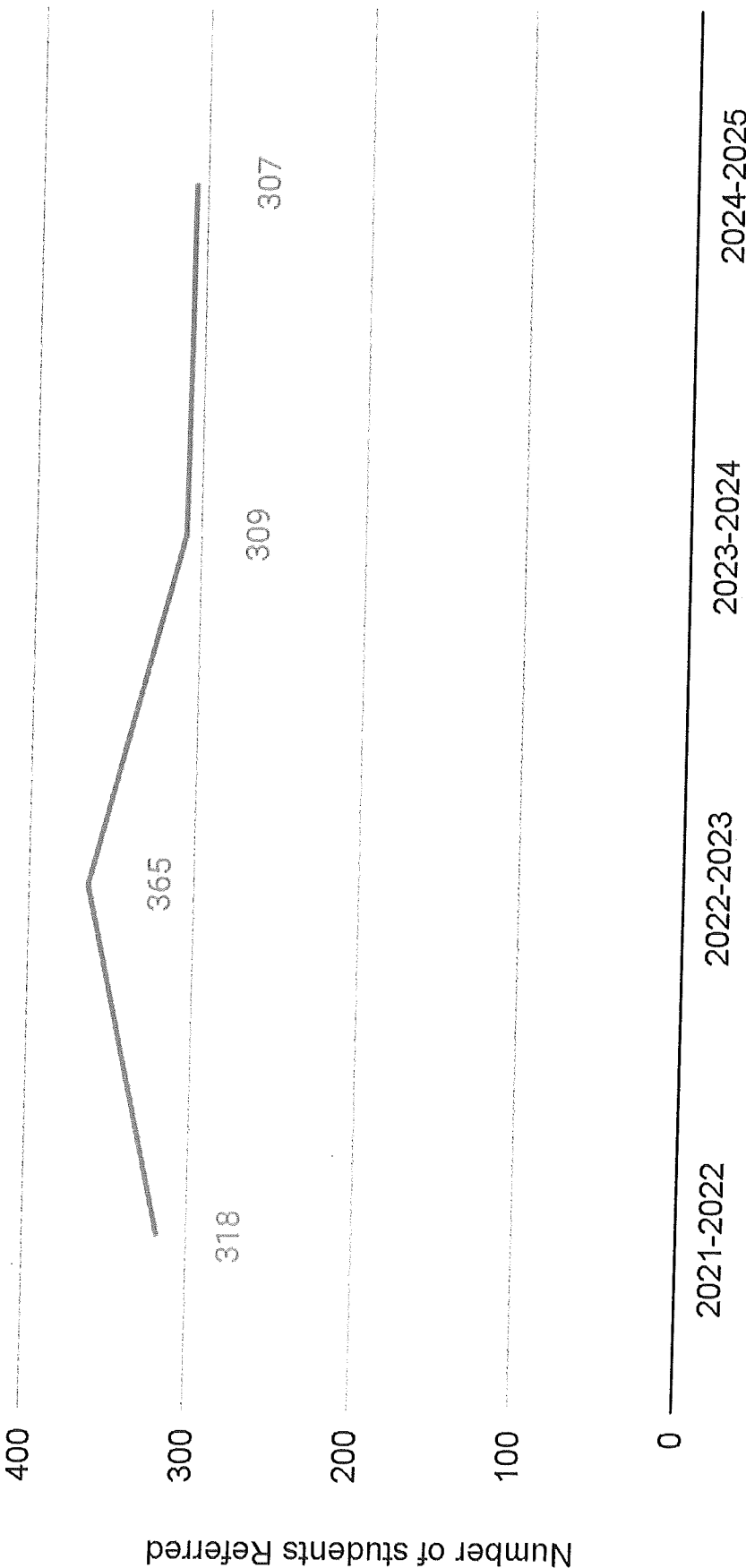
District Referrals

33

Referral Rates Previous 4 Years

School Year	Early Intervention	Parent Referral	District Referral	Total
2021-2022	27	178	113	318
2022-2023	60	211	94	365
2023-2024	32	188	89	309
2024-2025	30	193	84	307

Number of Students Referred per School Year



Referral Process:

Who can refer?

- Parents/Guardians
- School District's Instructional, Administrative and Other Professionals
- State/Community Agencies: Department of Education or agencies concerned with child welfare

Referral Process:

A parent or guardian of a child in the district may request a referral to the Child Study Team by contacting the building principal or by sending a signed written request for CST evaluation for your child to the attention of Ms. Kim Conti, Director of Special Services:

Kim Conti
Department of Special Services
2369 Morris Avenue
Union, NJ 07083

Signed written requests sent via email will be accepted if the email contains a photo of the signed request or a scanned attachment of the signed letter.

Referral Process:

How is it communicated?

Media: Ex. Social Media,
Television

Child Find Process:
Examples: Physician Offices,
Daycares, Display of Child
Find Flyers in public schools,
nonpublic schools, shelters

Websites:
district/buildings

Referral Process:

Part of Continuum

Referrals for CST evaluation are part of the continuum of supports available to all students

- Intervention and Referral Services
- School Counseling
- Tiered System of Supports
- 504

Referrals for CST evaluation are available for the identification of need for evaluation for the consideration of the presence of an educational disability

Special Services Expenditures

Expenditures

CNTRCTD CST Eval...

0.4%

Extra Pay Expenditu...

3.6%

Contract RLTD Servi...

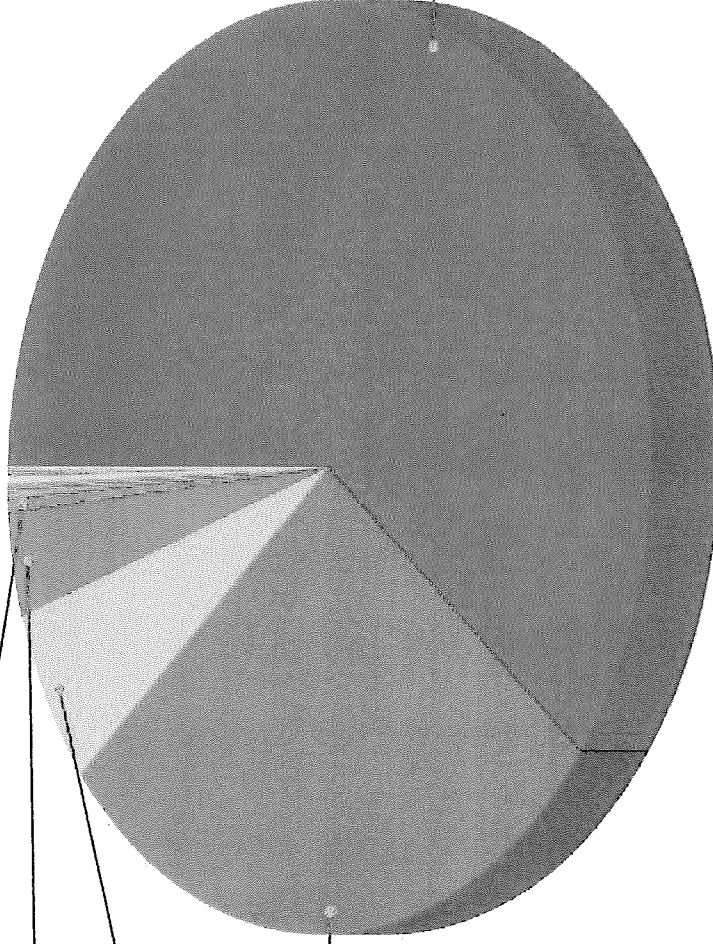
6.2%

CNTRT Transportation

28.2%

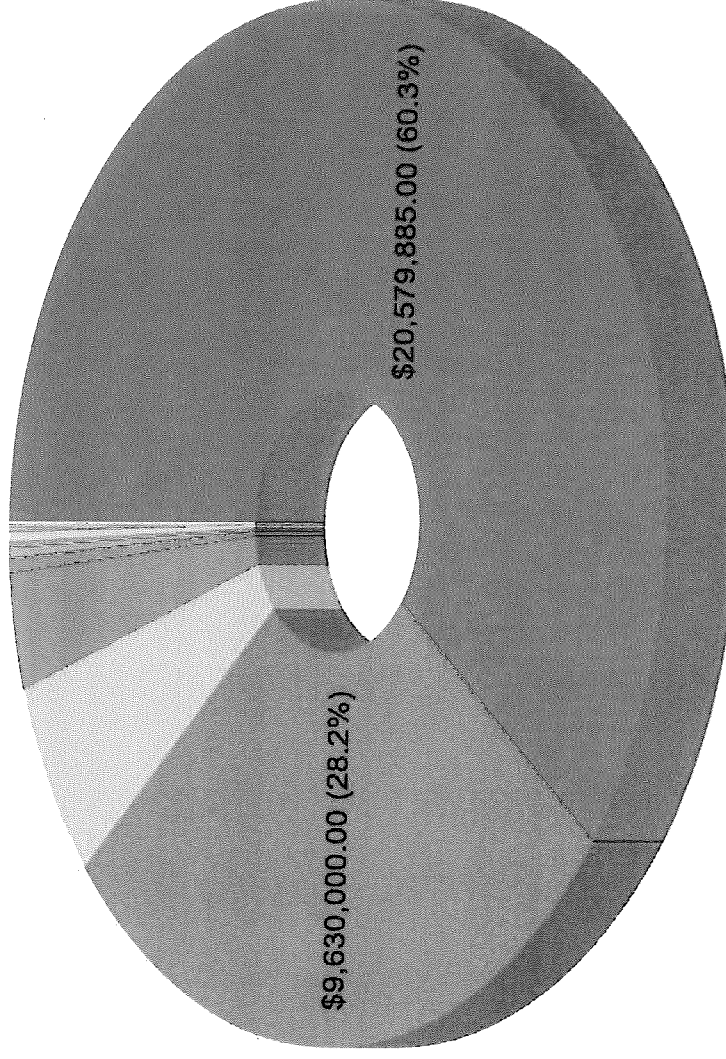
Out of District Tuitions

60.3%



Expenditures

- Out of District Tuitions
- Contracted Service Transportation
- Contract Related Services
- Extra Pay Expenditures
- Contracted CST Evaluations
- Contracted Service Special Services Transportation
- Institutional Instruction
- Student Related Services Supplies
- Program Supplies
- Special Services Non-Instructional Supplies
- Technology Supplies Instructional
- Staff Development (In District)
- Postage
- Special Services Travel Staff Development (Out of District)
- Special Services Dept Expense (Miscellaneous)



Budget Item	Expenditures
Out of District Tuitions	\$20,579,885.00
Contracted Service Transportation	\$9,630,000.00
Contract Related Services	\$2,126,500.00
Extra Pay Expenditures	\$1,244,400.00
Contracted CST Evaluations	\$141,000.00
Contracted Service Special Services Transportation	\$75,000.00
Institutional Instruction	\$50,000.00
Student Related Services Supplies	\$66,000.00
Program Supplies	\$78,100.00
Special Services Non-Instructional Supplies	\$41,000.00
Technology Supplies Instructional	\$43,300.00
Staff Development (In District)	\$21,500.00
Postage	\$5,300.00
Special Services Travel Staff Development (Out of District)	\$9,000.00
Special Services Dept Expense (Miscellaneous)	\$1,500.00
Total	\$34,112,485.00

Out of District Tuition

Total \$20,579,885.00

Total # of Placements

2025-2026 176 Students

Last 5 years

2024-2025 - 175 Students

2023-2024 - 172 Students

2022-2023- 173 Students

2021-2022 - 153 Students

Special Services Revenue

IDEA-B Grant

Approximately

\$2 million

**Use the funds for
Out of District Tuitions**

Extraordinary Aide
(Ex-aid)

Approximately

\$3.8 million

**Reimbursement for
Extraordinary Expenditures**

Around the **U** in Special Services

Community Based Instruction (CBI)

Community-Based Instruction
functional skills are taught to
students with disabilities in
real-life community settings rather
than just the classroom. It focuses
on hands-on learning experiences
in natural environments like
grocery stores, public
transportation, and other
community venues, helping
students develop practical skills
for greater independence.

Work Based Learning (WBL)

Work Based Learning sites are off-campus locations where students gain hands-on experience in real-world work environments, typically in partnership with community businesses.

School Enterprises

*School Enterprises
student-run or
school-managed
businesses located on
campus that provide
similar work-based
skill development
within a school setting.*

CBI/WBL
District
Sites
BMS

Coffee Corner

Main Office

School Store

Cafeteria

Print Room

CBI/WBL/
School Enterprises
District
Sites
UHS

Copy Th@t

Farmers Café

Farmer's Crafty Corner and Print
Shop

Farmer's Laundry Service

Main Office

Attendance Office

Cosmetology

Library/Media Center

Athletics

CBI/WBL/
School Enterprises
District
Sites
Community

Pomptonian Food Services

Sorriso Kitchen

Applebees

Walgreens

Kean University Food Services

YMCA

Shop Rite

Picnic at Rapkin Park

Yearly event facilitated by district staff and supported by community organizations, including the Township of Union Fire Department, Police Department , Parks and Recreation Department, and Special Olympics.

Picnic at Rapkin Park

Last May, students enjoyed the beautiful Spring day at the Community Based Instruction picnic held in Rabkin Park. The event provided a great opportunity for Township students to socialize and practice community based skills. To accomplish this the activities fostered the chance for students to meet with students from other schools, engage in shared interests, and to demonstrate learned skills in a larger and interactive community environment.

Learning Ally

District has funded 3 schools, NJDOE/Learning Ally grant has given 7 other schools in district access

Available for eligible students enrolled in Township of Union Public Schools.

World's largest library of audiobooks

with, novels, fiction, non fiction,

textbooks, grade leveled, with different

languages. Texts are human read, with

most books also having text displayed

while being read aloud. Student access

is broad, the only justification is that

there is an identified *reading weakness*,

for any student, general education or

special education. Staff can assign

books directly to eligible students, and

items are available via use of phone,

chromebook, or tablet for ease of access

and use.

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools Grant

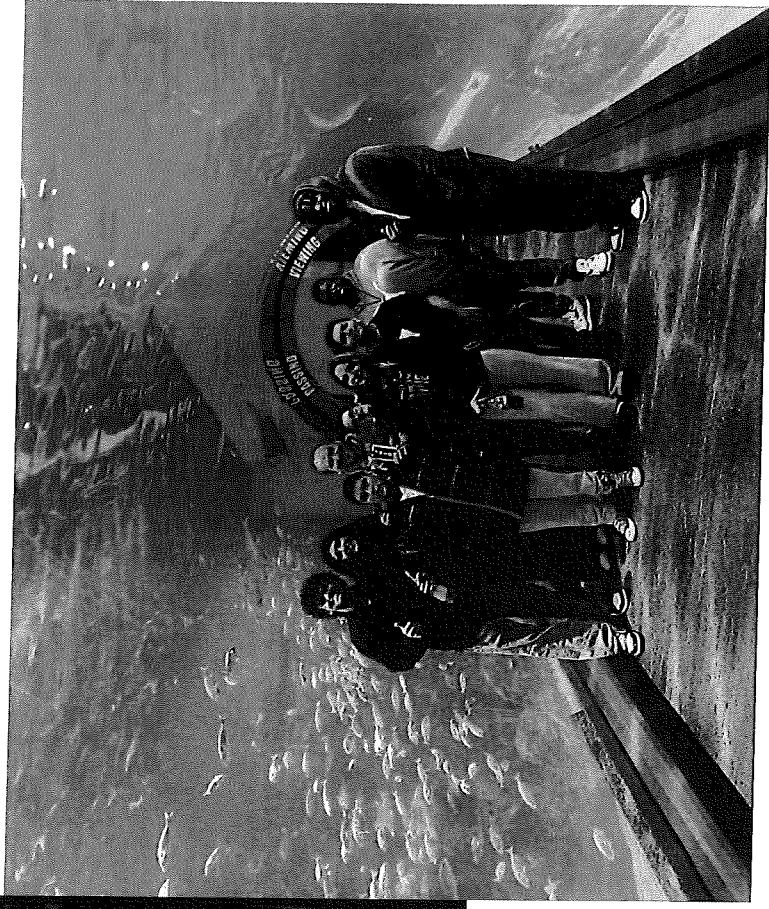
District Schools have applied for and received grants for the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools (UCS) is a program that aims to bring students of all abilities together to build inclusion, promote friendship, and create a school community where everyone feels valued and connected.

**Programs have the option of completing some or all of the following:*

- *Special Olympics Unified Sports: Students with and without intellectual disabilities play on the same sports teams.*
- *Inclusive youth leadership: Students with and without disabilities work together on leadership opportunities.*
- *Whole school engagement: The entire school community hears messages of inclusion, i.e. Respect Week*

Unified Activity at the Camden Aquarium



Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools Grant

The program's goal is to create school environments where all students feel accepted, respected, and included.

Participating schools during the 25-26 School Year include

- Union Senior High School
\$3,900.00
- Burnet Middle School
\$2,500.00
- Kawameeh Middle School
\$1,700.00
- Washington Elementary School
\$1,000.00

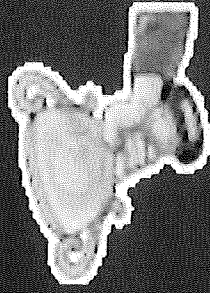
Professional Development Highlights 2025

- Technical Assistance from Office of Special Education to administrators and staff regarding equitable services and supports for students with disabilities regarding discipline (suspensions)
- Legal Training
- Verbal De Escalation and behavior strategies: Transportation and Paraprofessionals/Behavior Technicians
- Transition

Accolades and Recognitions

Positive Behavior
Supports in Schools

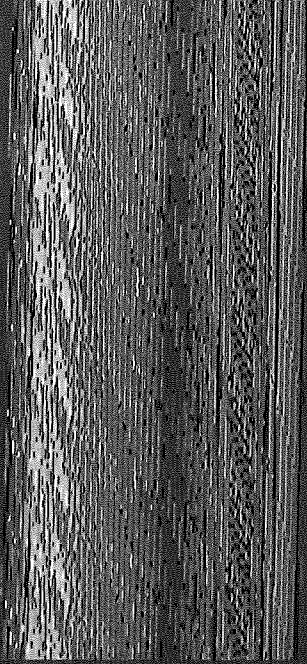
(PBSIS)



**TUPS recognized
at the Bronze
Level for
implementing
Tier 1 by
Northeast PBIS!**

1 out of 4 NJ Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG)

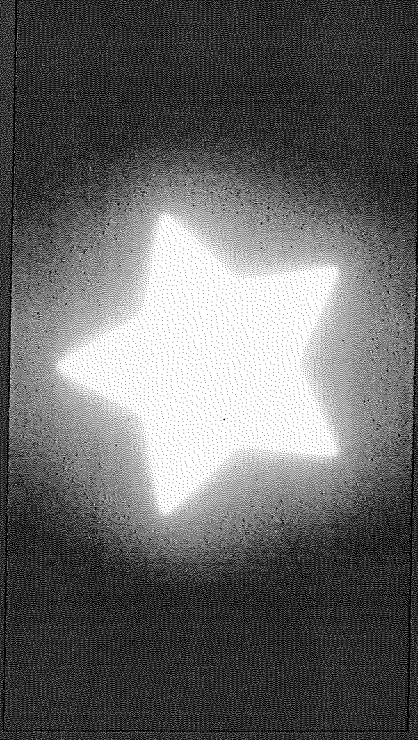


Inaugural presentation

Debbie Esposito Award given
to the Co-leaders of the TUPs
SEPAG

This award exemplifies both
parent leadership as well as
collaboration with the school
district.

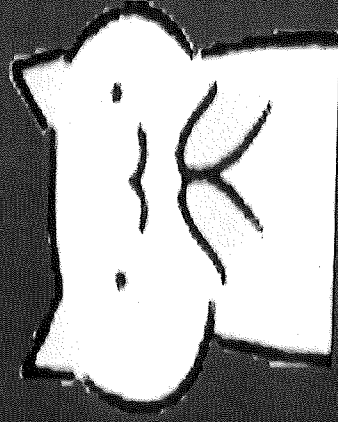
Special Olympics NJ (SONJ) Youth Summit



Special Olympics of New Jersey (SONJ) facilitated a regional conference last year for Women In Leadership. District students as well as staff and students from other districts were able to attend the event hosted at Union Senior High School.

Based on the success of the past year's Youth Summit and welcoming environment of the high school, the Special Olympics organization has requested that the Youth Summit again be held at Union High school this Spring. The topic of the Youth Summit will be "Leadership in Action".

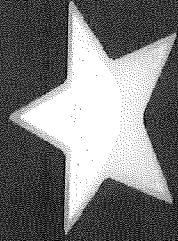
Education Leaders Network (SONJ)



Joseph Seugling 24-25 and Lauren Kohn 25-26 were selected to participate in the Education Leaders Network

A prestigious network that is a collaborative platform within Special Olympics New Jersey (SONJ) designed to foster inclusive education practices. The network brings together educators from all school levels, community members, students, and SONJ staff to discuss and address key issues related to inclusive education.

SONJ Unified Program: Cool School Challenge



Cool School Challenge, over \$7,900 was raised for Special Olympics New Jersey earning second place for the second year in a row.

Corey Baker was the top individual Cool School Challenge fundraiser in all of New Jersey for the fourth consecutive year.

Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you!

The programs and events listed in the preceding slides would not be possible without the effort, thoughtfulness, and dedication of BOE, administration, and district staff, and the contributions of the community, parents, and supporting partners.

Your support provides students to have those experiences necessary for their growth and success.

We are grateful for everyone's support.