

Dedham Public Schools
*Special Education and the Pandemic:
A Year in Review*

School Committee Meeting

March 17, 2021

Presented By: Liza O'Connell

Agenda



**COVID-19
CHALLENGES**

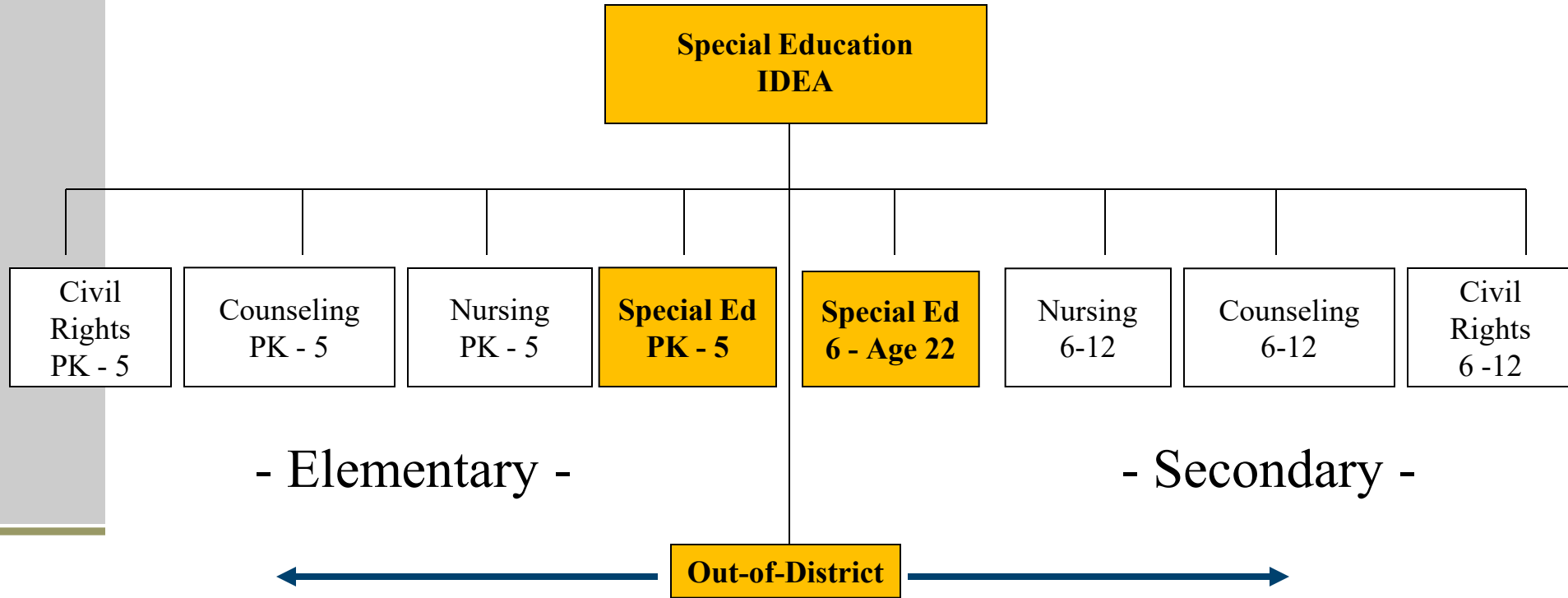
INITIATIVES

**FISCAL
CONSIDERATIONS**

**LESSONS
LEARNED**

Special Education

A Mandated Subset of Student Services



A Year Like No Other....



DPS Enrollment Trends (October 1 Data)

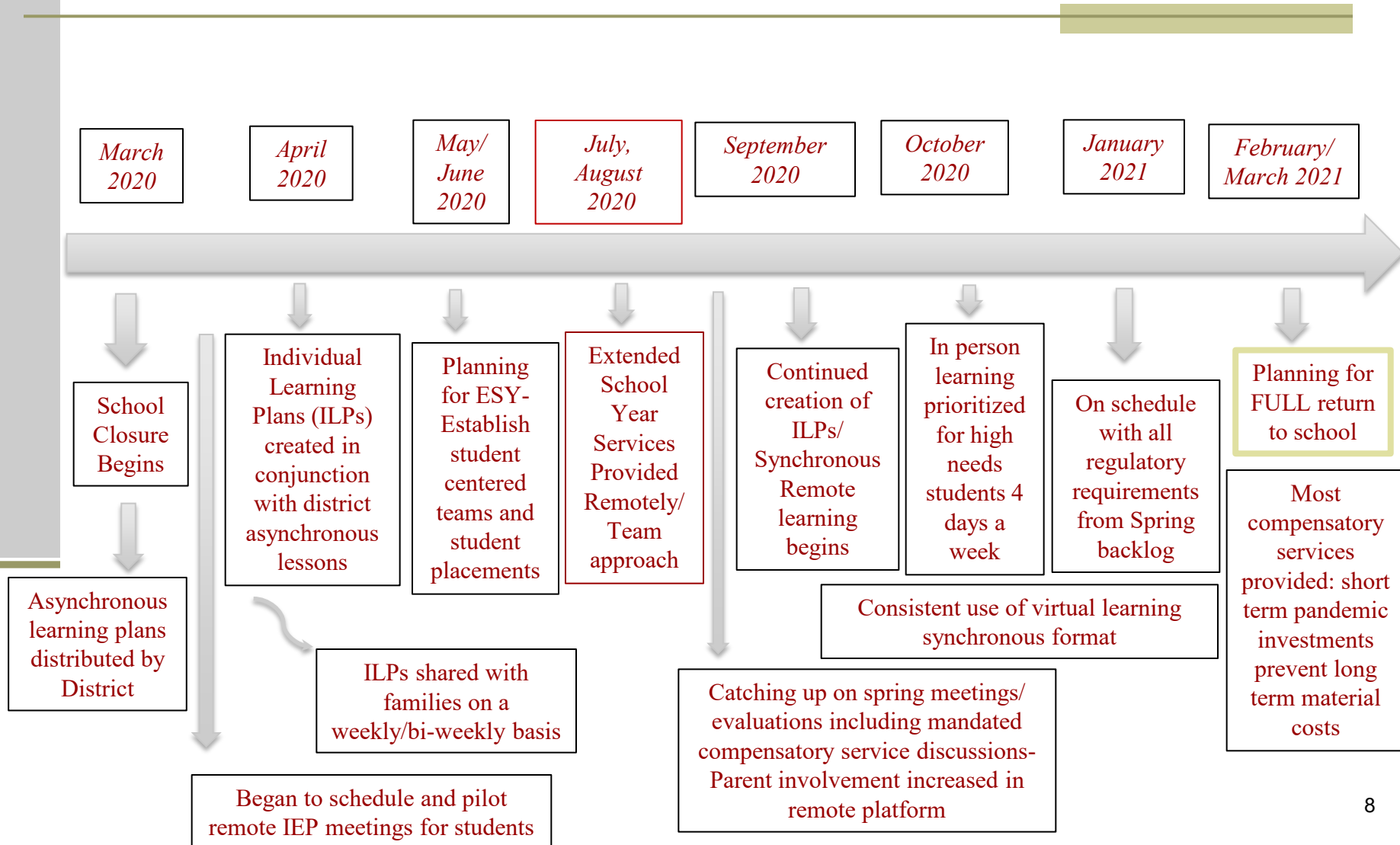
	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21
Preschool	109	112	96	97	98	129	72
Grades K-5	1287	1252	1228	1224	1194	1211	1135
Grades 6-12	1380	1384	1370	1337	1395	1396	1351
DPS Total Enrollment	2776	2748	2694	2658	2687	2736	2558
Ages 6-21 In-District SPED	486 <i>(OOD = 58)</i>	488 <i>(OOD = 55)</i>	469 <i>(OOD = 49)</i>	515 <i>(OOD = 47)</i>	538 <i>(OOD = 47)</i>	532 <i>(OOD = 45)</i>	510 <i>(OOD = 45)</i>
Ages 3-5 In-District SPED	58	55	41	56	48	40	16
Total SPED	544	543	510	571	586	572	526
Total % SPED	19.5%	19.7%	18.9%	21.4%	21.8%	20.9%	20.5%

DPS OOD Students by Grade

	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21
PK- Grade 5	10	12	12	10	11	10	10
Grade 6-12	40	33	30	30	29	31	31
Post Graduate to Age 22	8	10	7	7	7	4	4
TOTALS	58	55	49	47	47	45	45

CHALLENGES

DPS COVID- 19 Pandemic Timeline



Federal & State Mandates

Legal Requirements

- *Pre-referral (Student Assistance Teams, RtI, etc.)*
- *Child Find*
- *Early Childhood*
- Evaluations and eligibility (*Additional requirements for Autism Spectrum Disorders*)
- IEPs and placement (*a Free & Appropriate Public Education in the Least Restrictive Environment, ensuring educational progress*)
- *School Discipline & Bullying Prevention*
- *Transitional Planning*
- Provision of Compensatory Services (*where regression or provision of services is jeopardized*)
- Assurances of Civil Rights
- Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

Other Pandemic Challenges

- Paradigm shift in how special education delivers a high quality education
 - Engaging children with a virtual education
 - Prioritizing consistent in-person learning for students with highest needs
 - Providing supplies, materials, accommodations for equal access
 - Meeting state and federal requirements for compensatory services
- Responding to increased mental health issues
- Meeting compensatory service mandates
- Supporting parents/guardians serving as educators

KEY INITIATIVES

DPS Key Initiatives

- Prioritizing special education students with highest needs
 - Ensuring continuity of instruction
 - Providing compensatory services where required
- Creative alternatives for specialized instruction (Instructional Learning Plans, Google slide decks, supply boxes, communication logs)
- Remote and in-person Assessment
- Targeted Professional Development
- Remote IEP Meetings; annual reviews, evaluations/re-evaluations
- Consideration of compensatory services at all IEP Meetings
- Robust Extended School Year (ESY) Services; staff provided with additional time to create alternatives for specialized instruction

Specialized Instruction Samples

Google slide decks (with live links to additional work)

Grade 2 Learning plan for the week of April 43 - 47

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Click on the day of the week to see the activities and get started!

Click to see Mrs. Morrill's technology links and passwords

Math - Monday

First Make a [Math Activity Choice](#).

Then Practice your math facts and complete an assignment on [Freckle](#).

GOOD WORK!

Extended School Year supply boxes

What is my RED BAG for?
NOW you don't need to bring your BUCKET back & forth. BUT make sure to have these items in your bag when you come to school:

- Your child should bring his/her CHARGED CHROME BOOK & headphones--but it won't fit in this bag.
- Please leave EXTRA markers, crayons, etc at HOME. There are supplies here.
- Feel free to send books that your child enjoys reading to school :)

David

Student Notebook

Geometry Mathematics

MyFundations Journal

Composition Book

Writing Folder

I want your WRITING to come back & forth to school so I can see it!

Home-school Folder

Please send to school daily.

Dry Erase Board

I have markers here.

Phonics, Reading and Writing and Math Folders can stay at home.

Specialized Instruction Samples

Instructional Learning Plan (with live links for additional work)

Thursday

5/14/20

Gen Ed Teacher [Daily Slides](#)

Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Lexia - 10+ mins <input type="checkbox"/> Practice Trick Words <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Reading Slides
Writing	Writing for the week (Use complete sentences!!)
Math	1.) Solve these problems. (This is the document for the week's worth of math.) 2.) Login to Freckle . Go to Math Practice. Fact Practice for 15 minutes. You can Get Help Here 3.) Optional: Number of the Day For this activity, choose a number between 50 and 150. Complete each activity using your chosen number either on the attached worksheet or a separate piece of paper.
Sci/SS	Landforms
Specials: P.E.	May Fitness Calendar
Speech	<i>"Record a short 2-3 minute video of telling a story about all of the activities you did last weekend. Remember you will use words that end in -ed since they are things you have already done. "I played games, I jumped in the lawn etc." Also remember to use your good "r" sound. Remember to curl your lips and lift the back of your tongue. After you make the video, send it to me! I'd love to hear what you're doing! Also listen to it yourself, how did the Rs sound? How about the past tense verbs?"</i>

Individual Student Schedules (with live individual zoom links)

Monday	
8:45-9:15	Morning Meeting
9:15-10:15	Math
10:15-10:30	Snack and screen break
10:30-10:45	Phonics - log into Lexia
11:05 - 11:35	Wilson (Leave 2S Zoom and click here)
	Screen break! Go move!
11:45-12:25	Library
12:30-1:30	Lunch and Outside break
1:25-2:10	Writing
2:15- 2:45	Check your SeeSaw Work! Click Here To Get to Seesaw!

Zoom ID:
222 222 222

[Click Here to Get to Our Class on Zoom!](#)

[Click Here To Go To Library!](#)



DPS Assessment Approaches

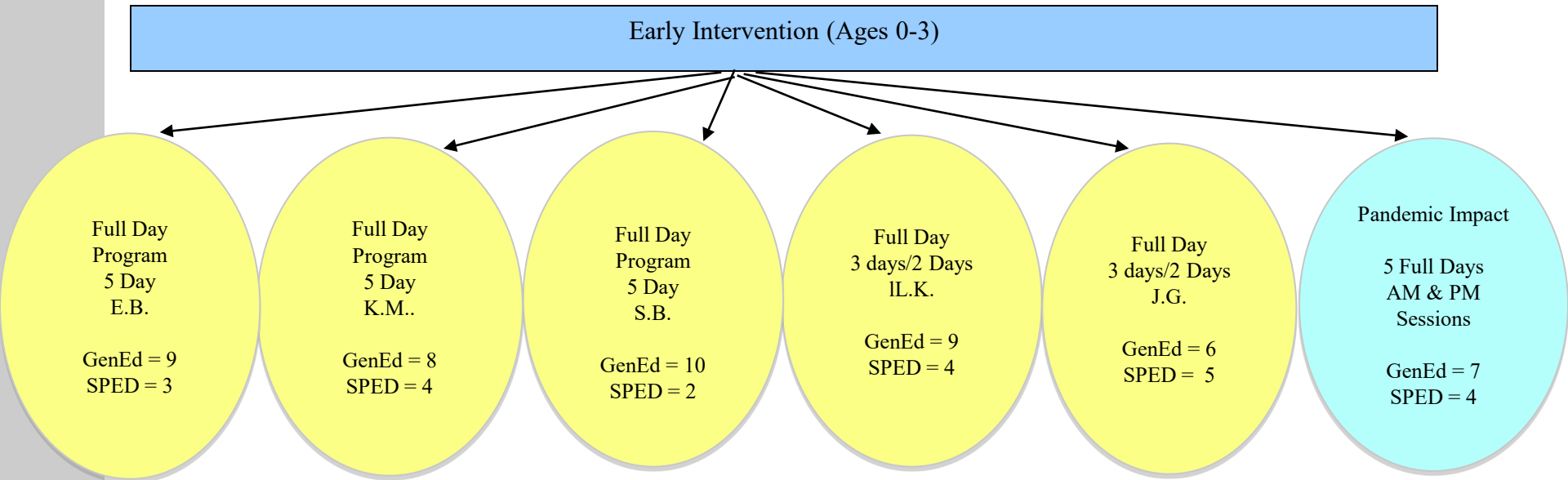
- New Thinking
 - Tele-Assessment versus face to face assessment
 - Record Reviews
 - Use of Questionnaires
 - Consideration of portfolios, projects, and performance tasks
- Contracting for in-person assessments
 - For high needs students
 - For students with serious mental health issues
- Postponing and/or Waiving Assessments
 - By mutual agreement with home and school
 - For students with serious attentional or sensory issues
 - For students who cannot manipulate specialty materials

DPS Professional Development

- Meeting IDEA Mandates during the pandemic
- SPED Powerschool Refresher Training
- SafetyCare Planning & Re-certification
- Job-Alike Sessions
 - Tips & Tricks for Remote Learning
 - District-wide Collaboration Time (*S/L, OT/PT, Specialized Reading*)
- Universal Precautions for Specialized Programs

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS

FY21 Unanticipated Preschool Expansion (Ages 3 & 4)



Program for the Advancement of Learning (PALs)

Ages 3 – 5
6 Students

FY 21 DPS Pandemic Investments

COVID-19 Priorities	Investment Costs
Short term expansion of ECEC Program	\$ 42,000
Compensatory Costs (funded by CARES, ESSER & Circuit Breaker)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Materials to support remote learning and assessment	\$ 30,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Specialized Assessment Needs (mental health)	\$32,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Compensatory Services	\$ 350,000+

RESULTS & LESSONS LEARNED

Results & Lessons Learned

- Compliance with special education mandates prevented litigation
- Remote IEP meetings promoted increased parent/guardian participation and efficiencies in the IEP meeting process
- A preemptive approach to compensatory services offset the loss of academic, therapeutic, and/or life skills
- Robust in-district special education programs and in-person learning options supported continued stability in out-of-district placements and costs.
- In-district programs strengthened by targeted professional learning opportunities

THANK YOU!!!

Discussion

and

Questions