

SPECIAL EDUCATION

*Why does it cost so much?
What can we do about it?*

Sources:

MASS Special Needs Task Force

HWRSD Special Education Data

MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Federal & State Disability Laws

- Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA – 2004)
 - Free & appropriate education in least restrictive environment
 - Inclusion
 - Evaluation & team development of IEP

Federal & State Disability Laws

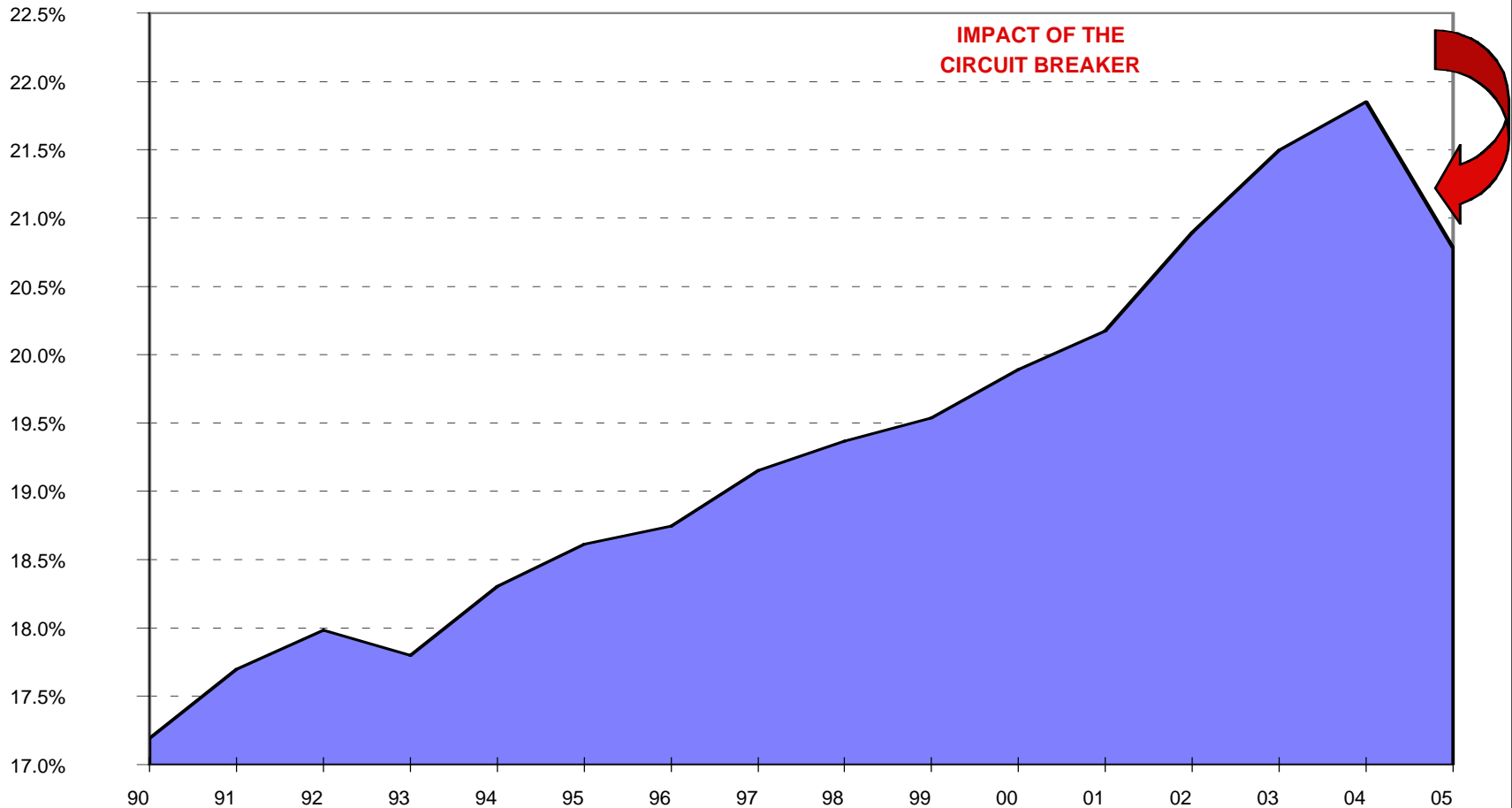
- MA General Law 71B & 603 CMR 28.00
 - Free & appropriate education in least restrictive environment
 - Inclusion
 - Evaluation & team development of IEP
 - Access to general curriculum & state frameworks

Federal & State Disability Laws

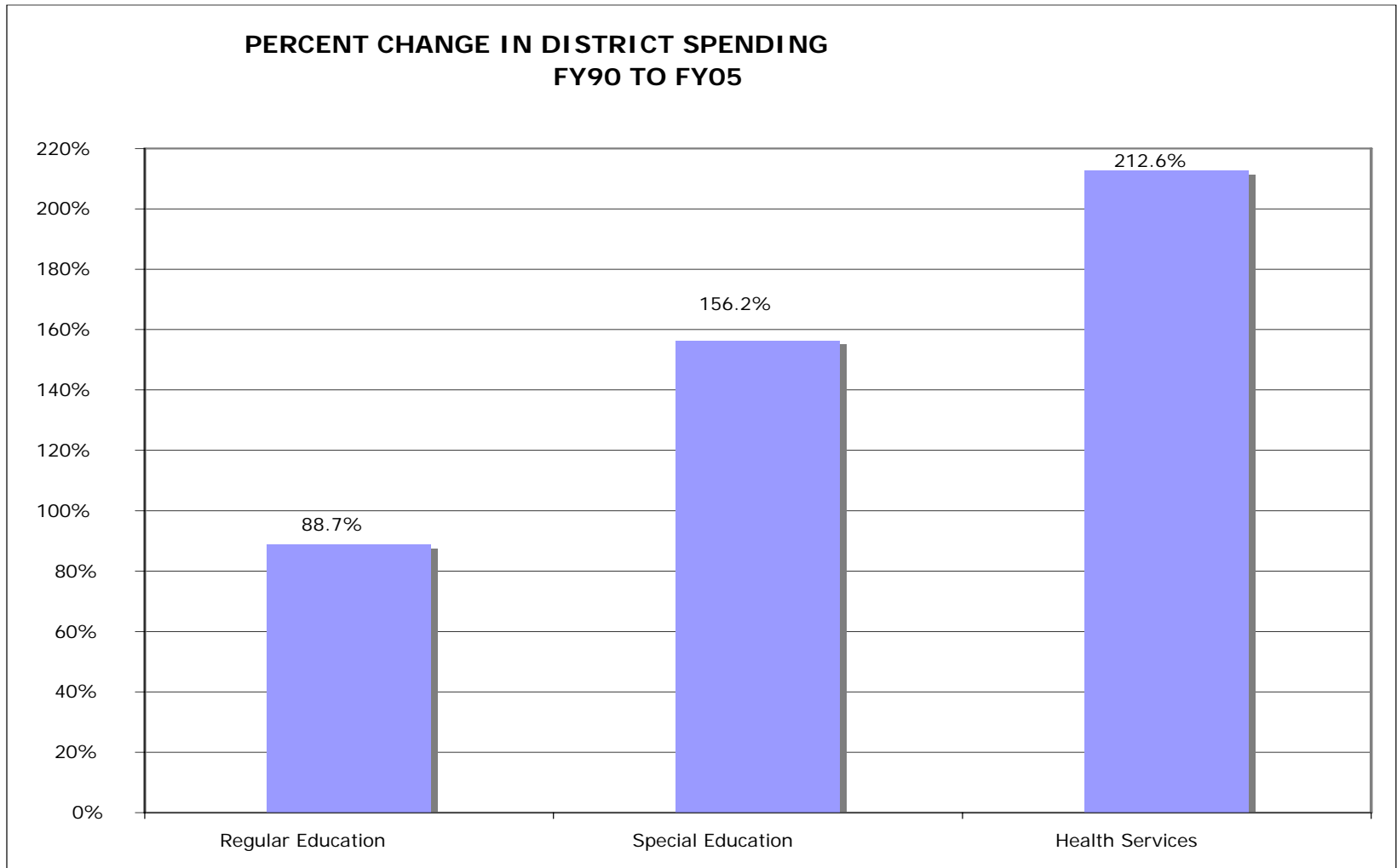
- **Federal Rehabilitation Act: Section 504**
 - Provide equal opportunity and access for all people with disabilities (regular education)
- **Americans with Disabilities Act: 1990**
 - Mandate for elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities

Costs are Increasing

**SPECIAL EDUCATION AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT EXPENDITURES FY90-FY05**

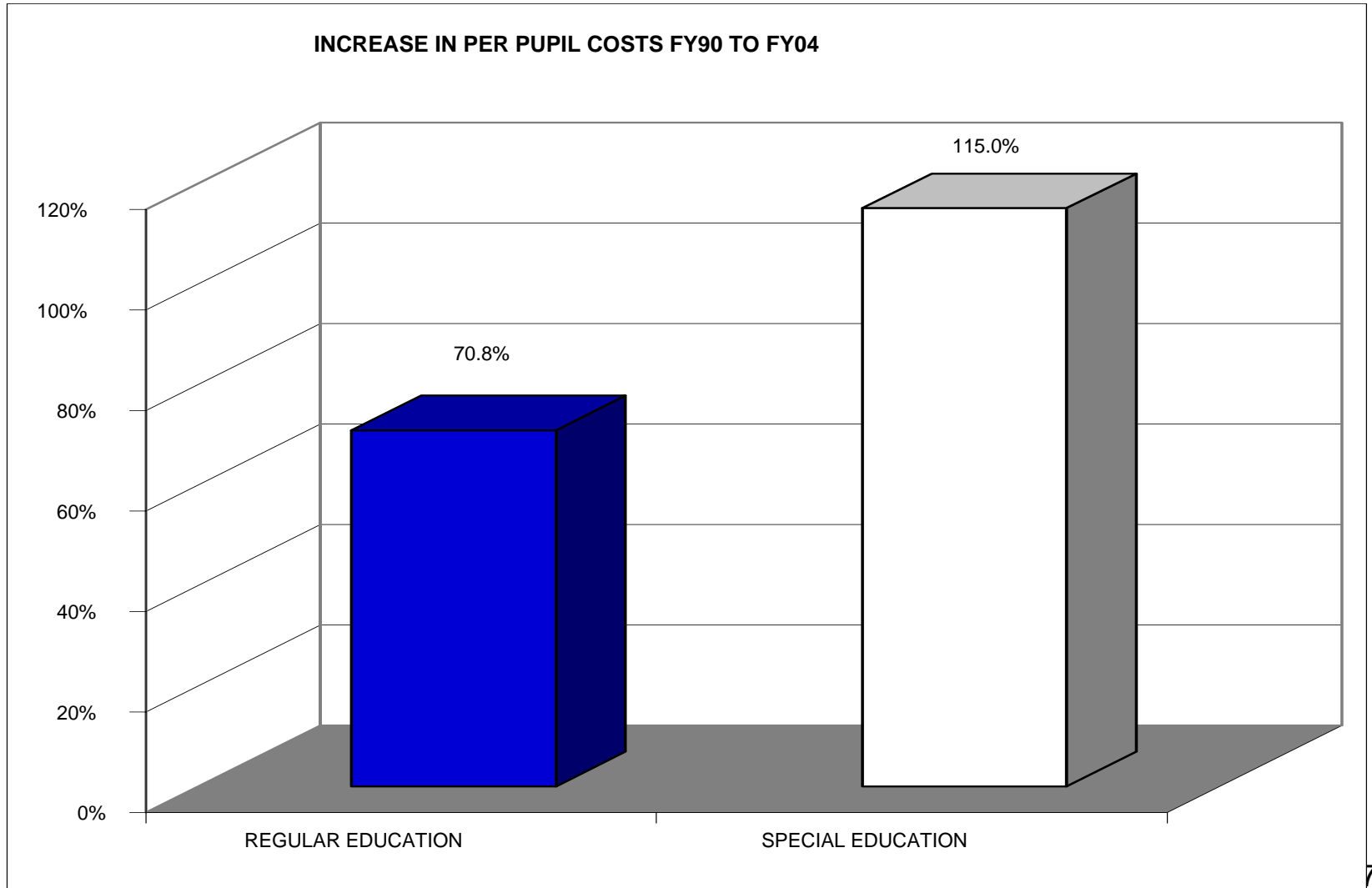


Cost Increases: % Change in District Spending



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Cost Increases: % Increase in Per Pupil Costs



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Reasons for Increased Needs/Costs

- Advances in medical technology
- Deinstitutionalization of special needs students & privatization of services
- Consequences of a higher percentage of children living in poverty
- Increase in families experiencing social and economic stress

Related Trends

- FY 90 – FY 05
 - 213% increase in nursing and health related care costs
- FY 83 – FY 05
 - 181% increase in confirmed child maltreatment cases
- FY 92 – FY 06
 - 197% increase in 0-3 year olds with significant disabilities served by early intervention

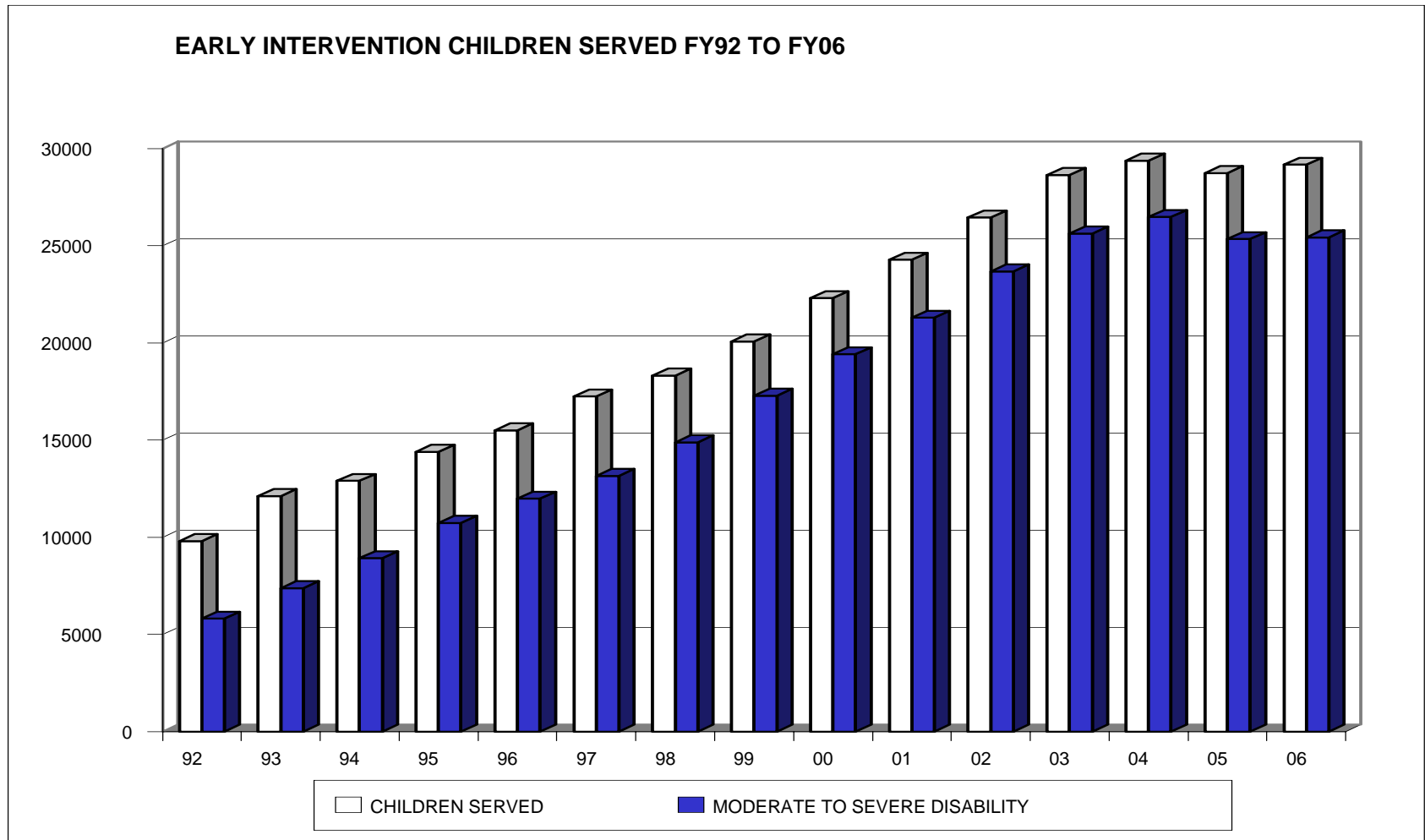
The Reality

A significant factor in the increase in costs has been the rapid rise of children with moderate and serious disabilities in early intervention and pre-school programs.

Infant Survival Rates

Birth Years	# Weighing < 3.3 Lbs.	% Survival to Age 5	# Surviving to Age 5
1980-1985	35,000	52%	18,200
1985-1995	46,000	73%	33,600
1995-2001	55,000	90%	49,500

Early Intervention

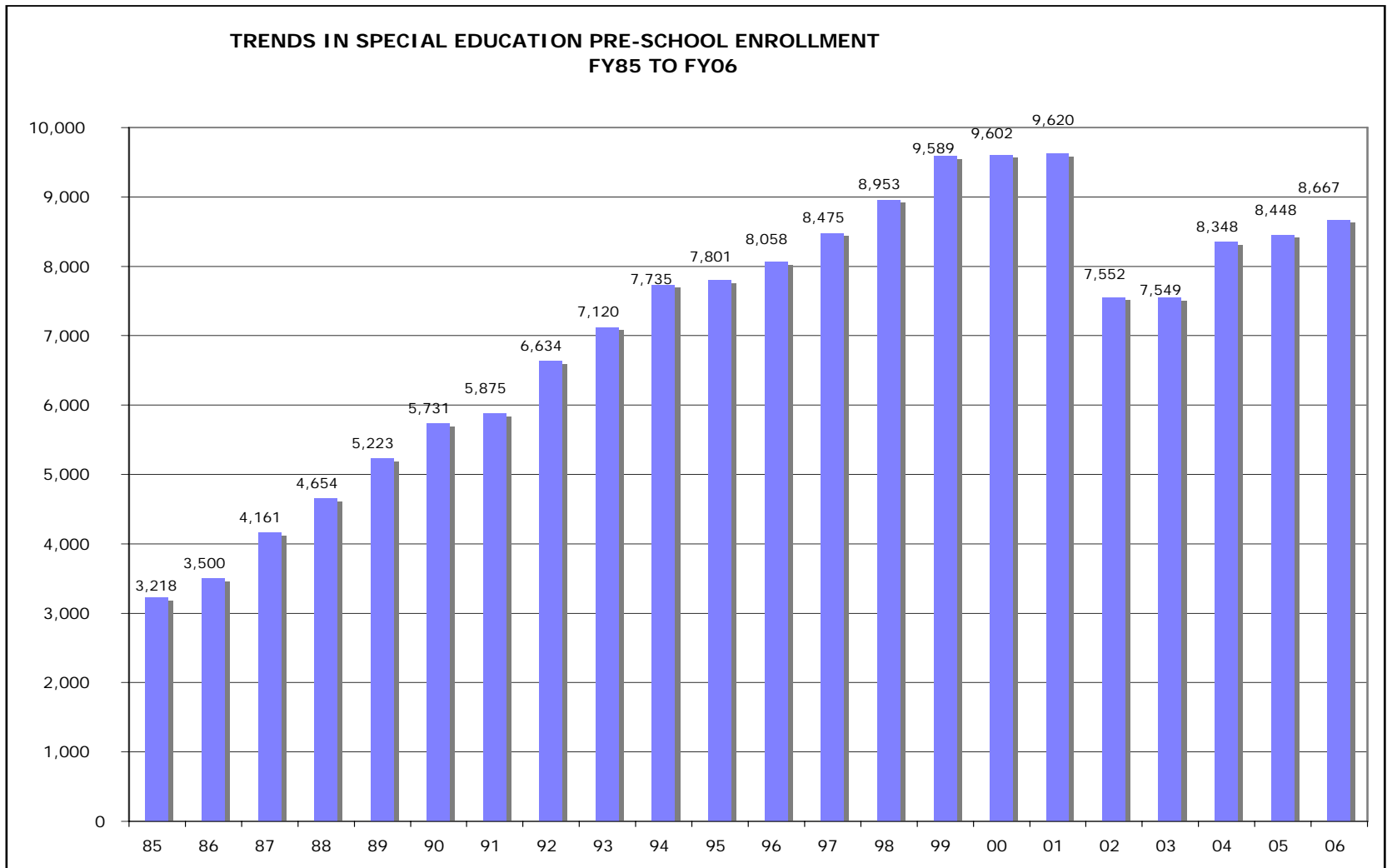


Pre-School Trends

- FY 85 – FY 01
 - 199% increase in special needs pre-school enrollments in contrast to a 20.4% increase in all other special education prototypes
- FY 02 – FY 06
 - 15% increase in special needs pre-school enrollments in contrast to a 7% increase for all other sped prototypes
- IN FY 02
 - The DESE reporting was moved back from December to October, thereby reducing the number of preschool enrollments

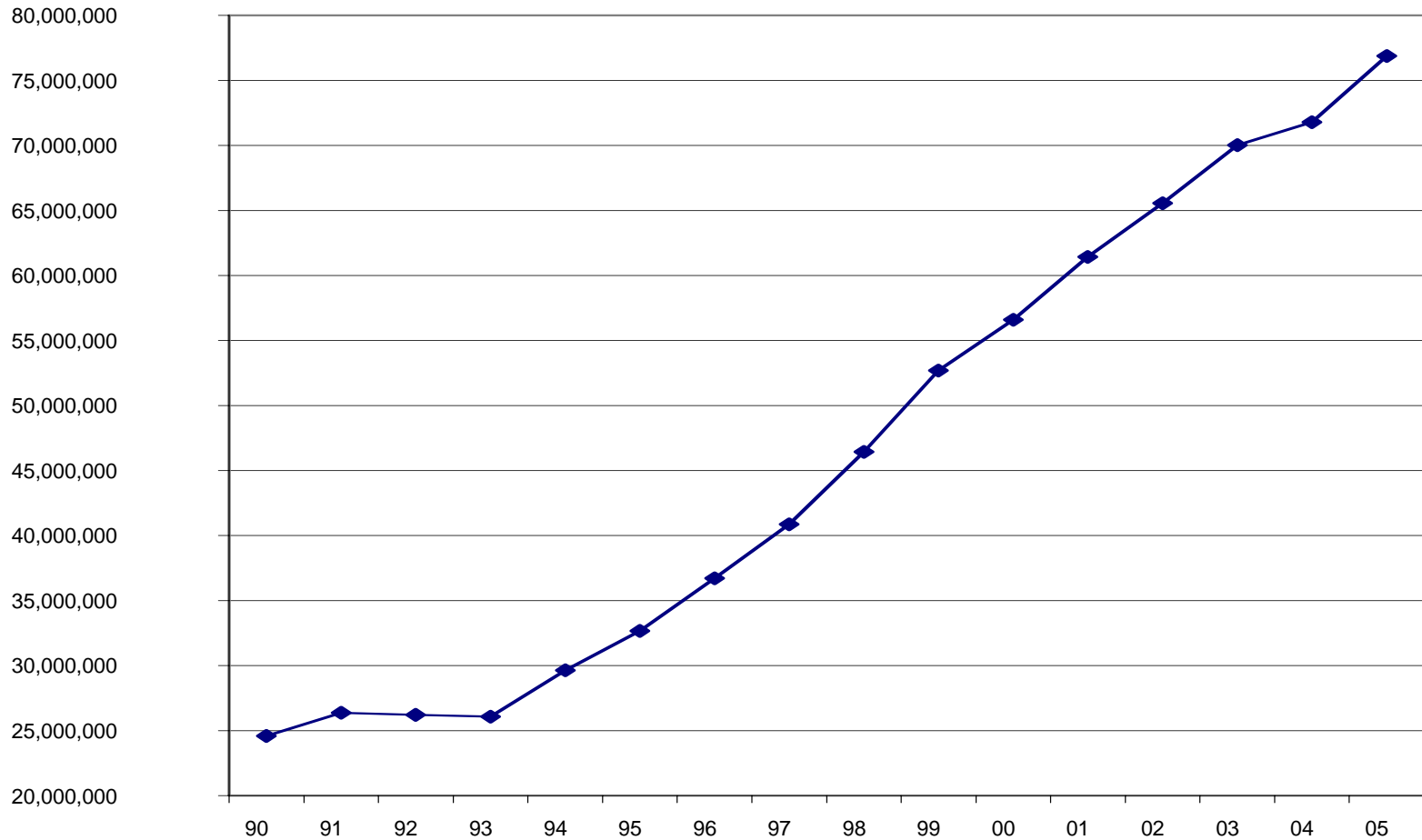
Trends in Special Education

Pre-School Enrollment FY 85-06



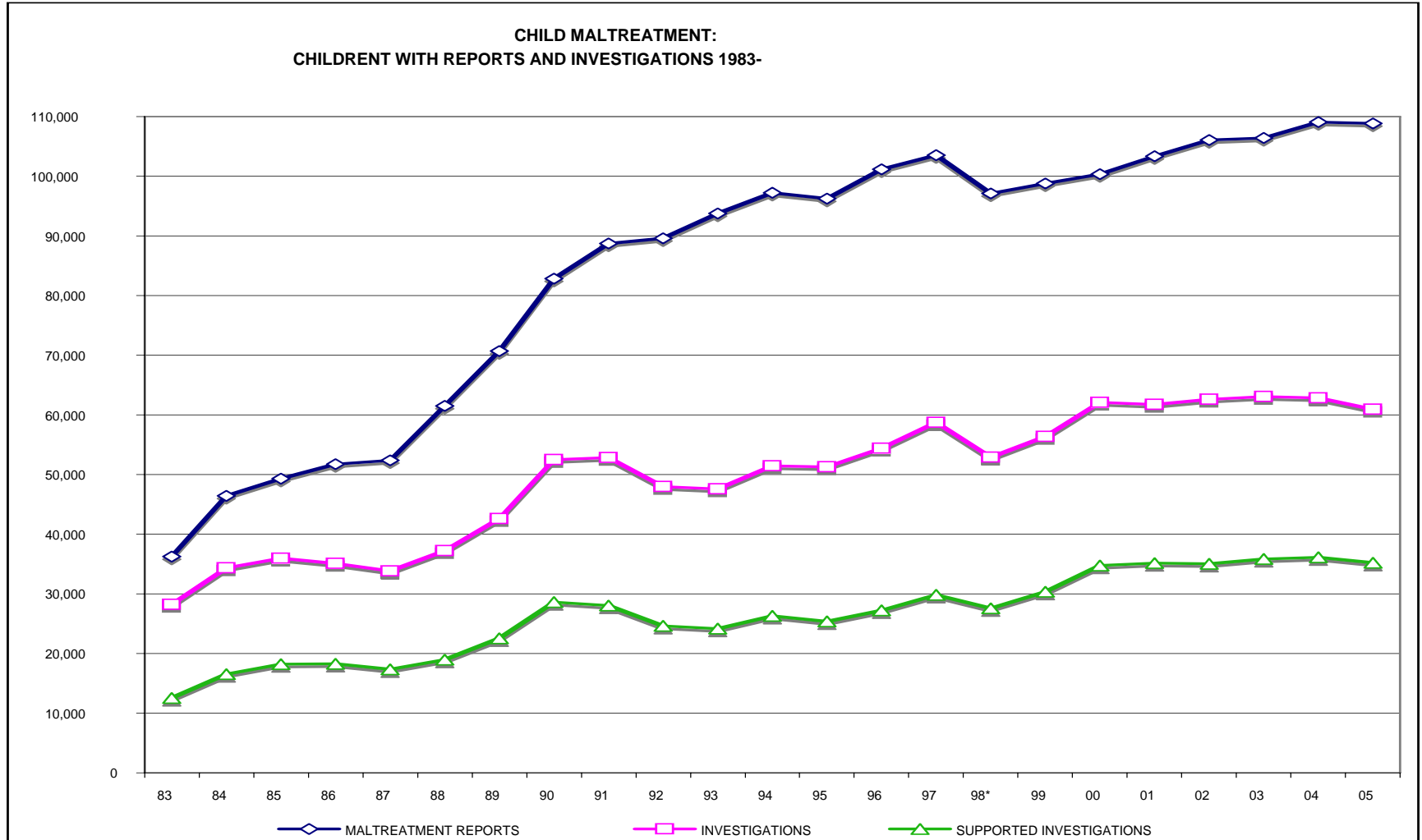
Health Costs

INCREASES IN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT HEALTH EXPENDITURES
FOR MASSACHUSETTS FY90-FY05



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Other Trends: Child Maltreatment



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Disability Categories

- Autism
- Developmental Delay (ages 3-9)
- Intellectual Impairment
- Sensory Impairment – hearing, vision, deaf, blind
- Neurological Impairment – traumatic brain injury
- Emotional Impairment – emotional disturbance
- Communication Impairment – expressive/receptive language
- Physical Impairment
- Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability

Special Education Eligibility Process

- Parent/staff member refers child for evaluation
- District mails consent within 5 days
- Parent signs and returns consent
- District completes testing and convenes team within 45 days
- Team* determines eligibility

* Team includes: SPED Chair, Teachers, Psychologist, Specialists, Parents

Special Education Eligibility Criteria

- Student has a disability
- Child is not making effective progress
- Student requires specialized instruction

HW Special Education Budget Drivers

- Increased Numbers of Students with
 - Autism Spectrum Disorders
 - Severe Special Needs
 - Social-Emotional Disabilities
- Unilateral Placements and Litigation
 - Learning Disabled Students

Children with Autism Diagnoses

	Autism	PDD-NOS	Asperger's	Total
Buker	1	4	3	8 <i>1 in 30 students</i>
Cutler	0	3	1	4 <i>1 in 75 students</i>
Winthrop	6	6	3	15 <i>1 in 22 students</i>
MRMS	0	0	5	5 <i>1 in 97 students</i>
HS	1	1	2	4 <i>1 in 183 students</i>
Total	8	14	14	36

Current Out-of-District Placements for HW Students with Emotional and/or Behavioral Disabilities

Grade Level	# of Students
Grades K - 5	3
Grades 6 - 8	3
Grades 9 - PG	6

% of Out-of-district placements = 36%

Other Reasons for Increased Costs

Parent advocacy for out-of-district placements

- Private over public bias
- Proximity to Landmark
- Belief that self-contained programming is better
- Unilateral placements

Other Reasons for Increased Costs

- Increasing out-of-district tuition & transportation costs
 - Substantial salary increases for private 766 schools approved in FY07; \$2.5 million increase in tuition to 18 schools
 - Expensive “reorganizations” continue
 - Autism, communications disorders, etc.

Transportation Costs: 1995 - 2005

MA SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REGULAR EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION COSTS FISCAL YEARS 1995 TO 2005

FISCAL YEAR	SPECIAL EDUCATION			REGULAR EDUCATION		
	TOTAL SPED EXPENDITURE	ANNUAL % INCREASE	CUMULATIVE % INCREASE	TOTAL REGULAR ED EXPENDITURE	ANNUAL % INCREASE	CUMULATIVE % INCREASE
95	84,424,884			105,676,494		
96	91,321,342	8.2%	8.2%	110,671,629	4.7%	4.7%
97	97,875,680	7.2%	15.9%	115,544,145	4.4%	9.3%
98	105,075,909	7.4%	24.5%	120,782,200	4.5%	14.3%
99	116,869,372	11.2%	38.4%	128,237,343	6.2%	21.3%
00	129,429,988	10.7%	53.3%	134,736,212	5.1%	27.5%
01	138,825,076	7.3%	64.4%	144,814,174	7.5%	37.0%
02	150,500,350	8.4%	78.3%	157,102,021	8.5%	48.7%
03	159,829,896	6.2%	89.3%	158,501,890	0.9%	50.0%
04	167,616,568	4.9%	98.5%	156,608,943	-1.2%	48.2%
05	173,930,125	3.8%	106.0%	176,374,420	12.6%	66.9%
AVERAGE		7.5%			5.3%	

Trends Among Similar Communities: % of Special Education Students

	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>
	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>
Acton-Boxborough (7-12)	15.7	13	12.8	14.5	14.3	13.5	14.1
Andover	13.3	13.2	14	15.5	15.6	15.7	16.1
Beverly	18.5	15	18.3	20.1	19.2	22	20.9
Danvers	11.1	10.8	10.9	13.4	14.3	15.3	15.8
Hamilton-Wenham	13.7	13.3	12.9	14.4	14.9	15.6	16.9
Ipswich	12.7	13.2	12.7	13.8	13.9	14	14.2
Lexington	17.4	17	15	15.2	17.3	17.9	16.4
Lincoln-Sudbury (7-12)	19.3	17.2	15.4	16.1	16.3	16.5	18.1
Lynnfield	11.5	10.6	9	9.2	10.7	11.6	11.3
Manchester-Essex	12.4	10.7	12.5	13.1	14.4	15.2	14
Marblehead	11.3	16.7	15	15.9	15.8	16.9	15.2
Masconomet (7-12)	13.7	13.7	13.4	14.3	15.1	13.2	12.9
Newburyport	14	13.7	14.6	15.2	16	16	16.9
North Andover	10.4	10.9	9.9	11.9	11.5	12.8	12
North Reading	14.2	14.1	12.3	13.8	13.4	11.1	14.2
Pentucket	14.6	12.2	12.6	11.7	15.4	15.9	14.9
Triton	11.6	9.6	9.5	10.8	11.4	12.2	11.8

% of Budget Allocated to Special Education

	<i>FY03</i>	<i>FY04</i>	<i>FY05</i>	<i>FY06</i>	<i>FY07</i>
Acton-Boxborough (7-12)	19	19.3	20.2	20.7	18.8
Andover	20.1	22	23.2	23.1	23.8
Beverly	20.8	22	23.3	18.7	23.3
Danvers	14.4	14.2	15.7	13.8	14.9
Hamilton-Wenham	17.7	18.5	19.6	20.4	23.9
Ipswich	18.5	20.6	20.6	21.9	22.4
Lexington	17.5	18.9	19.9	21.4	23.1
Lincoln-Sudbury (7-12)	14.1	16.7	17.9	17.3	19.3
Lynnfield	17.7	17.7	19.9	18.1	17.2
Manchester-Essex	17.6	18.4	17.8	19.8	19.6
Marblehead	16	16.9	16.9	15.1	15.7
Masconomet (7-12)	13.3	13.9	13.1	14.6	14.3
Newburyport	13.6	12.9	12.8	18	15.4
North Andover	18.3	19.1	20.5	22.6	22.9
North Reading	17	19	20.2	20.2	18.7
Pentucket	16.7	17.3	19	18.7	20.5
Triton	17	19.6	20.5	22.3	22.2

Number of Programs/Placements Qualifying for Circuit Breaker Funds

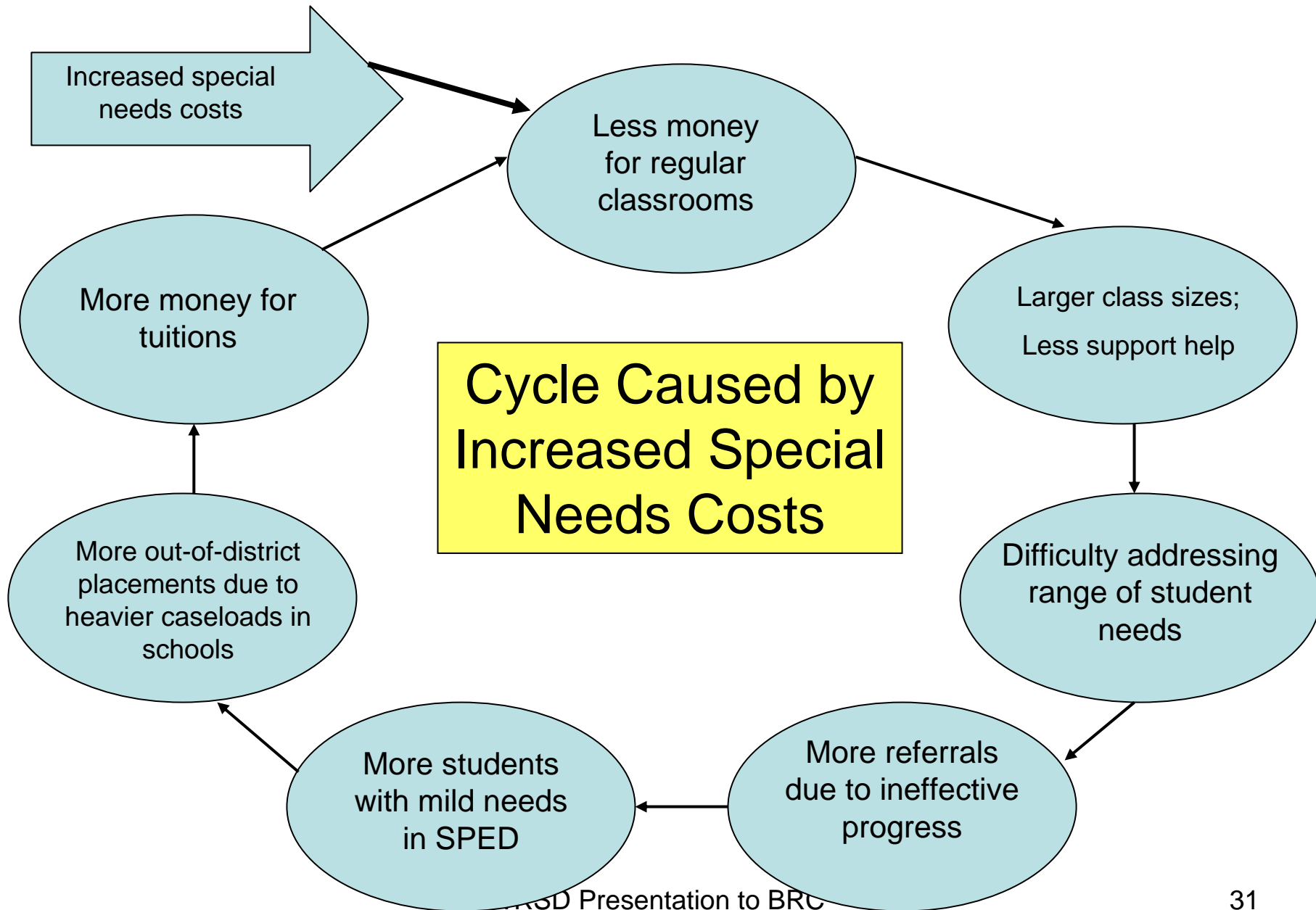
	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>CB #</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>CB #</i>	<i>%</i>
Acton-Boxborough (7-12)	391	48	12.2	408	42	10.3
Andover	933	59	6.3	949	51	5.4
Beverly	931	88	9.4	877	80	9.1
Danvers	494	44	8.9	521	41	7.9
Hamilton-Wenham	323	27	8.3	328	20	6.1
Ipswich	291	24	8.2	293	18	6.1
Lexington	948	66	7	1095	86	7.9
Lincoln-Sudbury (7-12)	243	19	7.8	262	20	7.6
Lynnfield	195	20	10.2	239	19	7.9
Manchester-Essex	168	12	7.1	191	16	8.4
Marblehead	492	25	5.1	494	33	6.7
Masconomet (7-12)	302	15	5	313	13	4.2
Newburyport	363	50	13.8	362	28	7.7
North Andover	540	63	11.7	543	51	9.4
North Reading	379	38	10	377	33	8.8
Pentucket	407	54	13.3	539	36	6.7
Triton	380	37	9.7	394	38	9.6

Special Education Trends in HW and throughout Massachusetts

- Are not caused by district policy and practices but rather medical, economic, and social factors.
- Are exacerbated by the lack of adequate funding at a state and federal level for special education and early childhood programs.

As a Result of State Trends...

Districts are experiencing cost increases that seriously compromise their regular education program and the goals of education reform.



The Problem

- Is not caused by district policy and practices but rather medical, economic, and social factors.
- Is exacerbated by the lack of adequate funding at the state and federal levels for special education and early childhood programs.

MASS Special Needs Task Force Recommendations

1/2

- Need a solution that addresses the financial crisis emerging in many districts while at the same time meeting the real and substantial needs of children.
- Need a solution that does not blame the children or those working with these children and does not place the primary burden on local communities, but addresses the real causes of the problem.

MASS Special Needs Task Force Recommendations

2/2

- Provide financial relief to school districts and communities for the rising special education costs through increased aid.
- Address the medical, social, and economic issues that cause children to require special education.

What We Can Do in Hamilton-Wenham

- Provide adequate funding for regular education
- Offer a variety of academic supports for all students
 - Late Bus
 - Homework Clubs
 - After school tutoring
- Maintain full compliance with federal and state regulations to reduce costly litigation
- Develop cost effective specialized programs in district
- Utilize litigation to challenge requests/demands that exceed District's legal responsibilities

Savings & Cost Reduction Efforts Since FY 07

Cost-effective interventions implemented for our neediest students

- In-house programs
 - Intensive Primary Program
 - Academic Opportunities & ASPIRE (MS & HS)
 - Elementary/Middle School IRWL Program
 - Learning Skills
 - HS Alternative Program (STAY)

Cost Saving Programs

<u>Program</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Class Size</u>	<u>Per Pupil</u>	<u>OOD Cost Comparison</u>		<u>OD 2 Year CCC</u>	<u>OOD Cost Avoidance</u>	
				<u>1st Year</u>	<u>2nd Year</u>		<u>1st Year</u>	<u>2nd Year</u>
<u>PHASE 1: FY 08</u>								
Intensive Primary Prog. Proj.	\$117,000	4	\$29,250	\$150,300	\$228,359	\$378,659	\$33,300	\$111,359
Actual 1st Yr. Cost/ 2nd Yr. Proj.	\$132,000	6	\$22,000	\$296,020			\$164,020	
Fresh/Soph STAY Program	\$36,000	5	\$7,200	\$49,000	\$130,800	\$179,800	\$13,000	\$94,800
Actual 1st Yr. Cost / 2nd Yr. Proj	\$43,726	5	\$8,745	\$131,000			\$87,274	
<hr/>								
Projected Totals	\$153,000			\$199,300	\$359,159	\$558,459	\$46,300	\$206,159
Actual FY08 Totals	\$174,726			\$427,020			\$251,294	

What Community Members Can Advocate For

1/2

- Appropriate federal and state funding of special education
- Restructuring of “Circuit Breaker” reimbursement
 - Include “Circuit Breaker” funding of transportation
- Require private special education schools to report AYP and MCAS results
- Legislation prohibiting special education schools from accepting unilateral placements

What Community Members Can Advocate For

2/2

- Freeze on approval of additional private special education schools
- Review of the private school reconstruction request process
- Expansion of insurance reimbursement for autism services
- Ask DESE to review the ethics of advocates and private schools' practices of encouraging parents in the unilateral placement process