

# BY THE NUMBERS

A Look at the 2019-2020 South Park School District Budget

Second Issue in a Series

## State Special Education Funding

While the South Park School District provides all students with the educational, physical, social and emotional support they deserve, funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will only cover approximately 30 percent of what the district will spend in mandated special education costs. Eight years ago, state funding covered 44 percent.

There has been a growing disparity between special education costs paid by the South Park School District and the stagnant special education subsidies received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In fact, district special education costs are expected to be approximately \$3 million more than the support received from the state. In the 2012-2013 school year, the difference between state subsidies and the district's special education costs was just \$1.4 million.

Since 2012, subsidies from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have increased by 14.3 percent, or \$161,402. Meanwhile, mandated special education program costs have increased by nearly 67 percent, or approximately \$1.7 million, over that same time period.

Governor Tom Wolf's proposed 2019-2020 budget boosts special education funding by 4.4 percent, according to the Department of Education. That is equivalent to a \$50,000,000 increase statewide. For South Park, this means an anticipated increase of \$47,000 compared to the estimated 2018-2019 total subsidy.

Special education costs paid by the South Park School District include approved private school tuition for students placed outside the South Park School District, in-district special education and gifted education services and special education transportation.

State special education subsidies are allocated dollars budgeted by the Commonwealth for special education services.

The South Park School District's special education department will continue to serve our students and meet their needs through in-district services or outside placements. Our administrators, faculty and staff help our students thrive and work diligently with the faculty and staff at approved private schools throughout southwestern Pennsylvania where South Park students learn.

Parents and community members are encouraged to contact their local lawmakers and encourage them to enhance the state's investment in all of our students. Representative Michael J. Puskaric's office can be reached at (412) 382-2009. Representative Puskaric serves on the House Education Committee. Representative Bill Kortz's office can be reached at (412) 466-1940. State Senator Pam Iovino's office can be reached at (412) 831-0250.

**Special Education Costs Paid by South Park School District & State Special Education Subsidies Since 2012-2013**

 **Costs Paid by SPSD**  
 **State Special Education Subsidy**

