Presentation to the Commission on Special Education Funding

November 14, 2022

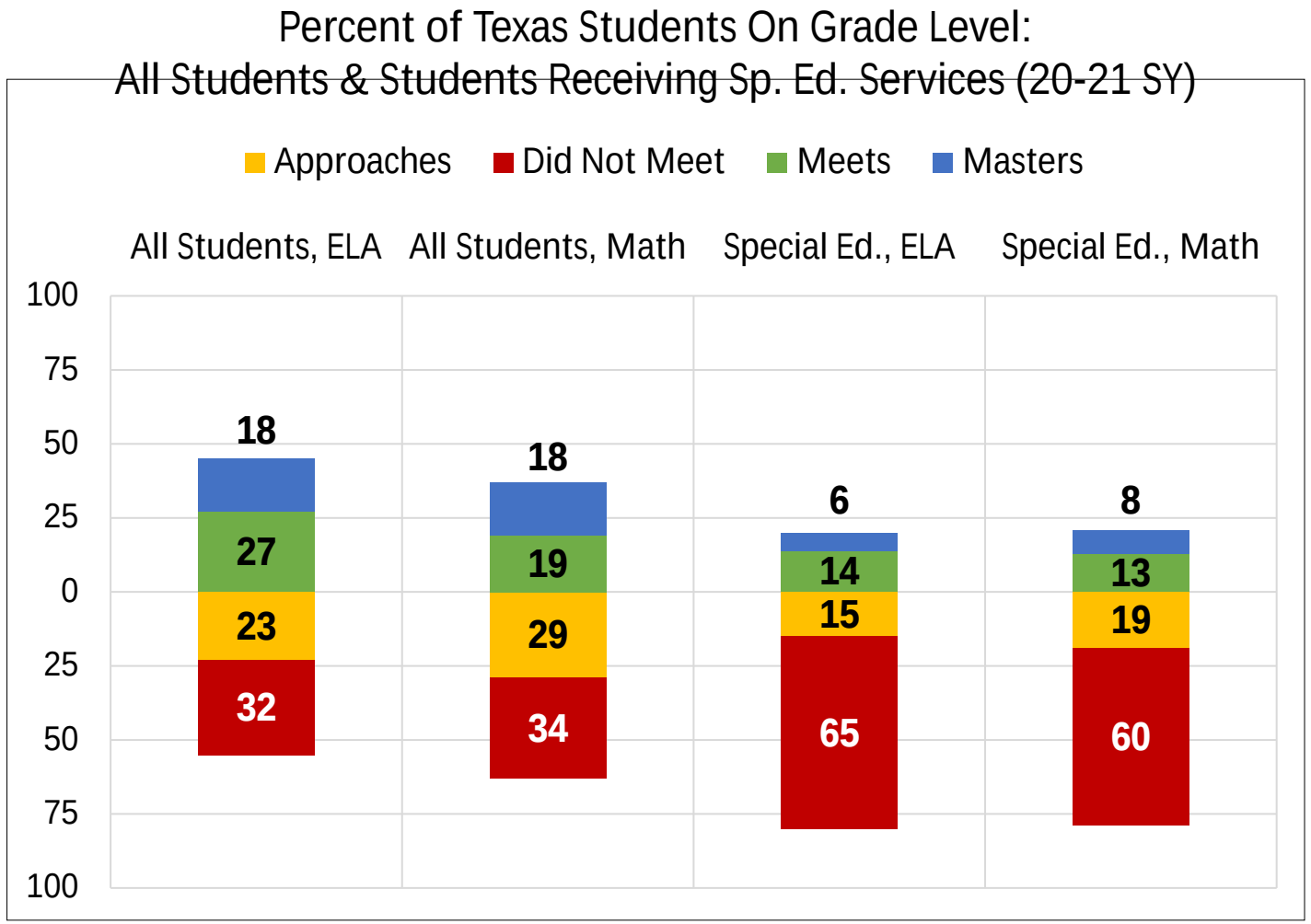
Topics:

1. Current Status in Texas
   - Students Served
   - Students On Grade Level

3. Principles We Recommend:
   - Special education is a service, not a

Percent Students On Grade Level

- Given the distribution of students in special education, 80% of students receiving special education can perform on grade level, if given appropriate support.
- Currently, about 20% of special education students are on grade level.



Sources & method: see slide 14.

Florida Funding Model

- Funds special education as a service, not a setting.
- Five domains are used to group the types of services.
- Five levels are used to describe the nature and intensity of services within each domain:
    1. Curriculum & Learning Environment
    2. Social or Emotional Behavior
    3. Independent Functioning
    4. Health Care
    5. Communication

Florida’s FES-UA: Student Eligibility

The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA) is an ESA for students 3 – 12 years old, through grade 12 or age 22, whichever comes first, with following diagnoses:

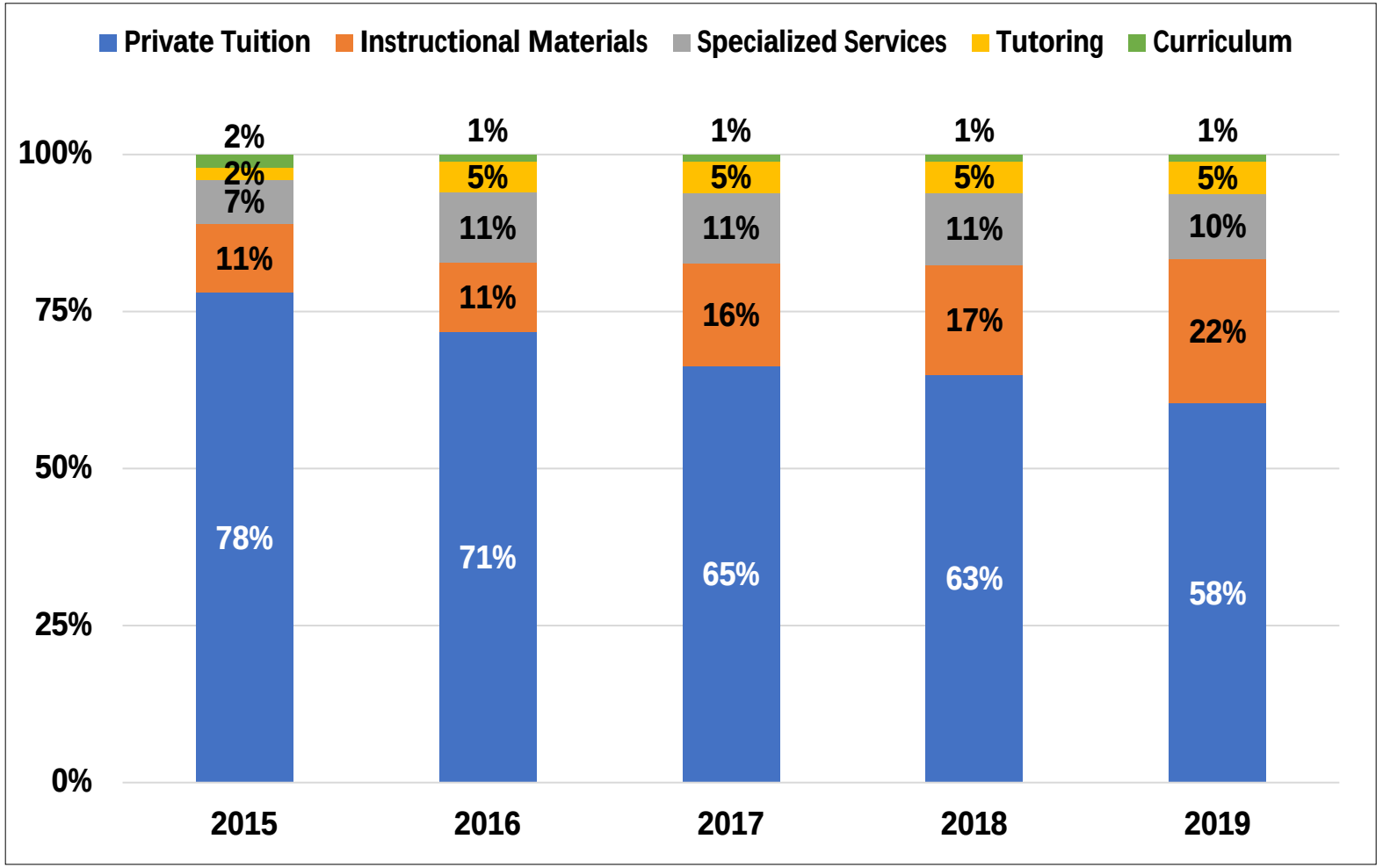
-

Florida’s FES-UA: Students

Students, by Diagnoses
Diagnosis

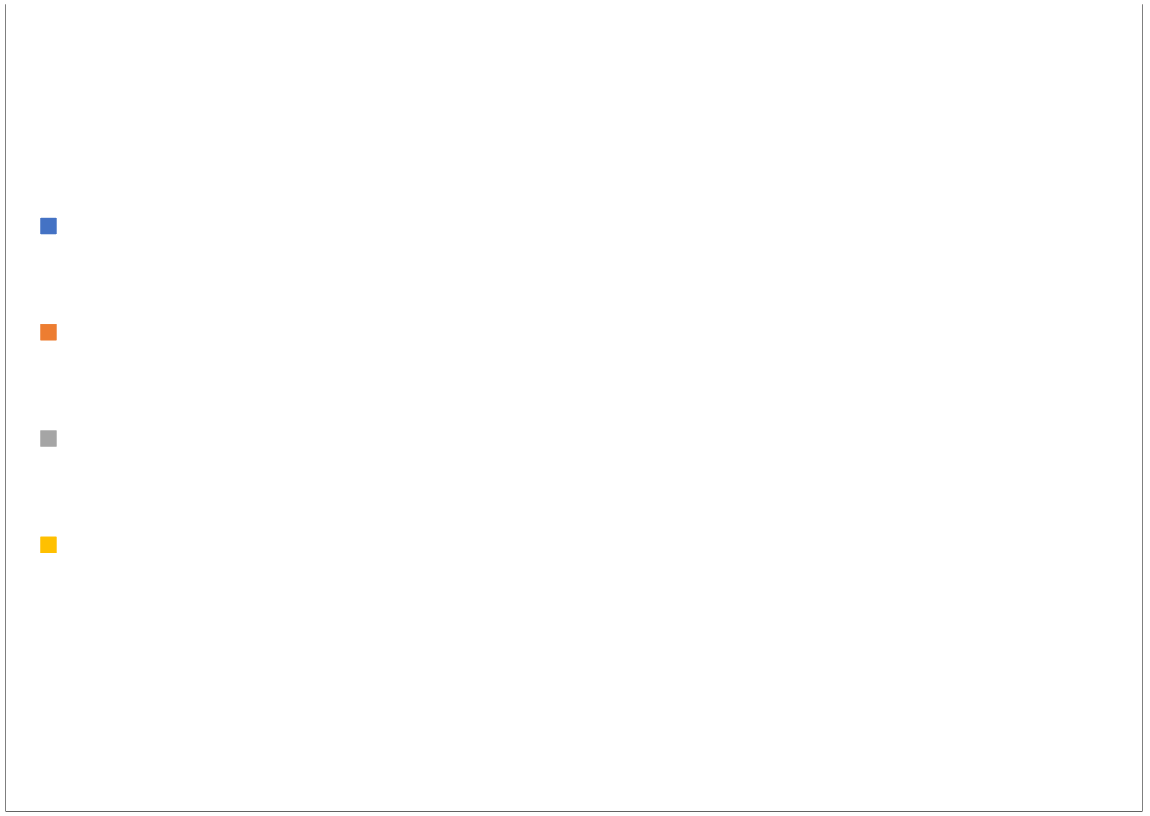
Florida's FES-UA: Spending Patterns

- Over time, families make purchases from multiple categories.
- Families are willing and able to customize their child's education.



Principles We Recommend

1. Special education is a service, not a setting.
2. Empower families to support unique needs & abilities.
3. Consider data from Supplemental Special Education Services



SSES Parent Quotes

Sources & Supplemental Materials

- Slide 3: TEA, Special Education Trends (March 2022) page 16
- Slide 4: TEA, 2020-21 TAPR Advanced Data Download (STATESTAAR2 dataset); for method: TEA, 2022 Accountability Manual, page 13.
- Slide 5: TAC, XIX § 89.1005; TEA, Statewide Summary of Finances, Run ID: 38754 (2021-22)
- Slide 6: Florida Department of Education, Matrix of Services Handbook (2017)
- Slide 7: Step Up For Students, ESA for Students with Unique Abilities, page 4
- Slide 8: Step Up For Students, Recipients by Diagnoses (accessed Nov. 2022); Distribution of ESA Usage, page 673
- Slide 9: Distribution of Education Savings Account Usage among Families: Evidence from the Florida Gardiner Scholarship Program (Mar. 4 2022), page 673
- Slide 10: Distribution of ESA Usage, page 660
- Slide 11: Distribution of ESA Usage, page 651, 664; Step Up For Students, Choice Enrollment in Florida's Rural Counties (2020-21 SY)
- Slide 12: TEA, SB 1716 Monitoring Update, page 11; TEA, Email, April 27, 2022.
- Slide 13: TEA, Special Education Trends (March 2022) page 23