# PAVE Choosing Your School Survey Results Fall 2023

PAVE

# Choosing Schools in DC

**DC has a system of choice – meaning all DC students have a right to their in-boundary school, but can enter MySchoolDC lottery to attend an out-of-boundary DCPS school or a public charter school**

**Majority of DC parents participate in MySchoolDC:**

- Almost **three-quarters** of DC students **do not attend their neighborhood public school**, opting instead to apply through the common lottery to attend a traditional public school, a citywide school, or charter school
- On average, **in-boundary enrollment is higher in wealthier areas**
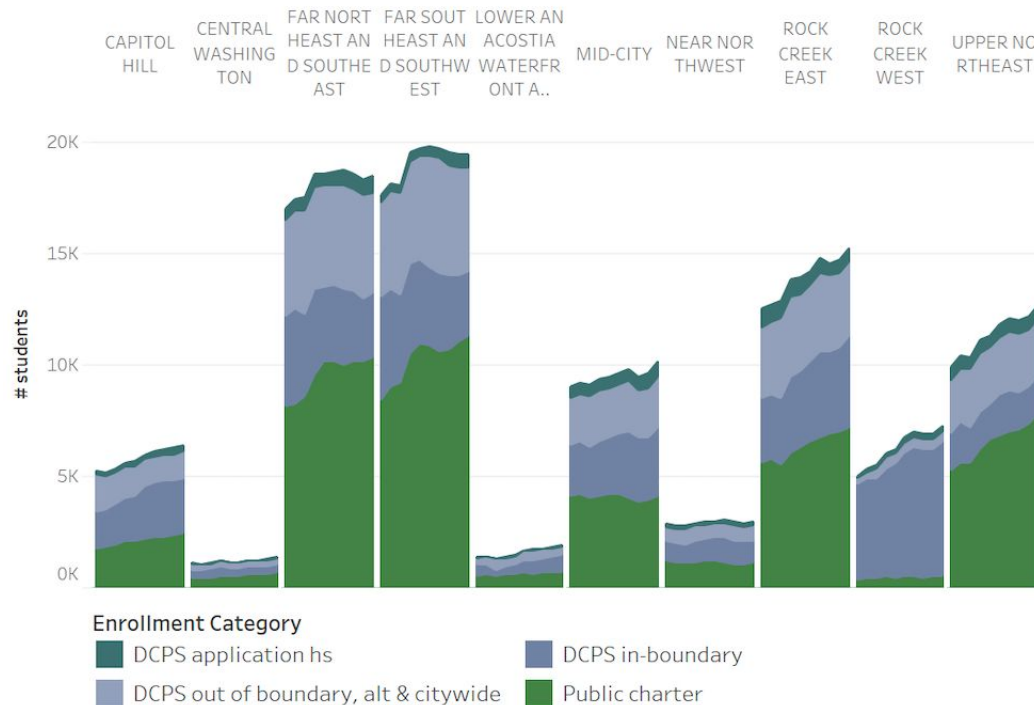
# What is the goal of the survey?

**Opportunity to hear from 126 parents and caregivers across the District on their experiences with school facilities to answer the following questions:**

**?** What factors do parents prioritize when choosing a school for their children?

**?** How often do students move and/or change schools?

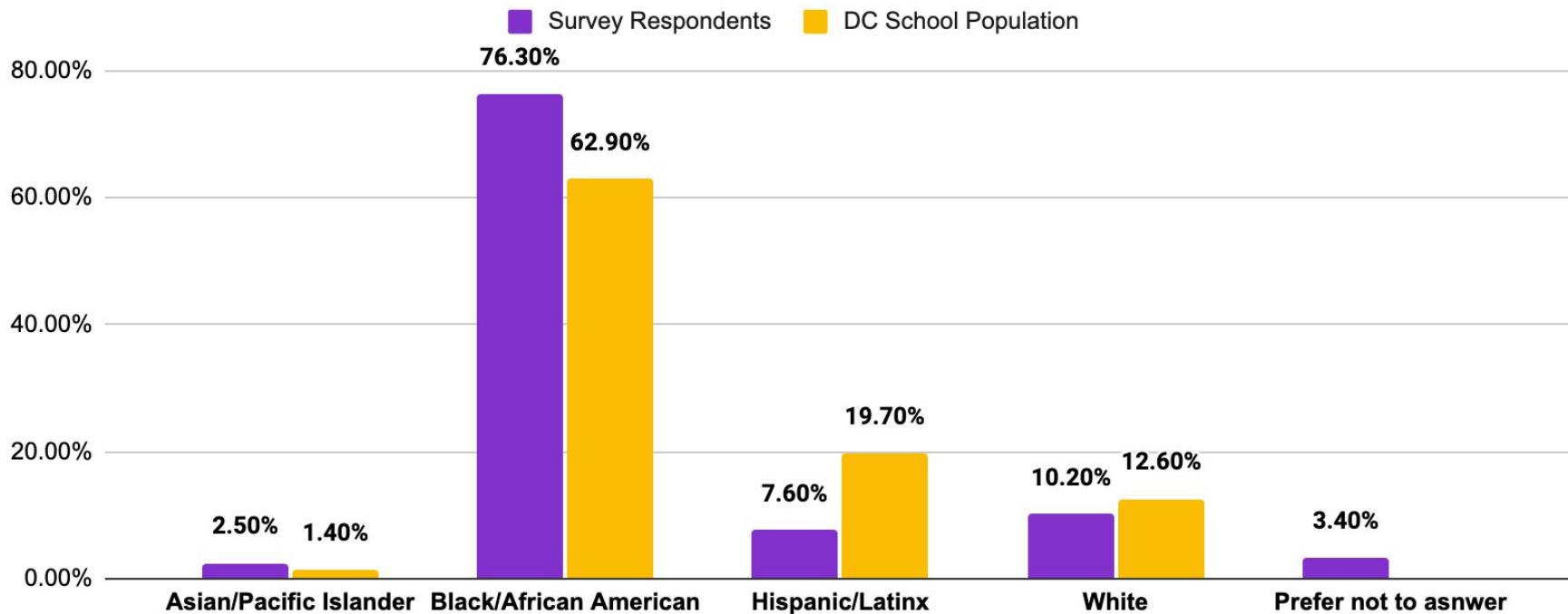**?** What are parents still looking for in the DC school system?

# Survey Participants

# Race & Ethnicity

**Legend:** 🟪 Survey Respondents  🟨 DC School Population

| Category | Survey Respondents | DC School Population |
|---|---|---|
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 2.50% | 1.40% |
| Black/African American | 76.30% | 62.90% |
| Hispanic/Latinx | 7.60% | 19.70% |
| White | 10.20% | 12.60% |
| Prefer not to asnwer | 3.40% | |

# Ward of Residency

■ Survey Respondents　　■ DC School Population

| Ward | Survey Respondents | DC School Population |
|------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Ward 1 | 5.70% | 9.20% |
| Ward 2 | 1.60% | 2.90% |
| Ward 3 | 2.50% | 6.50% |
| Ward 4 | 9.20% | 16.90% |
| Ward 5 | 18.60% | 15.00% |
| Ward 6 | 6.60% | 7.10% |
| Ward 7 | 22.90% | 19.60% |
| Ward 8 | 32.80% | 22.50% |
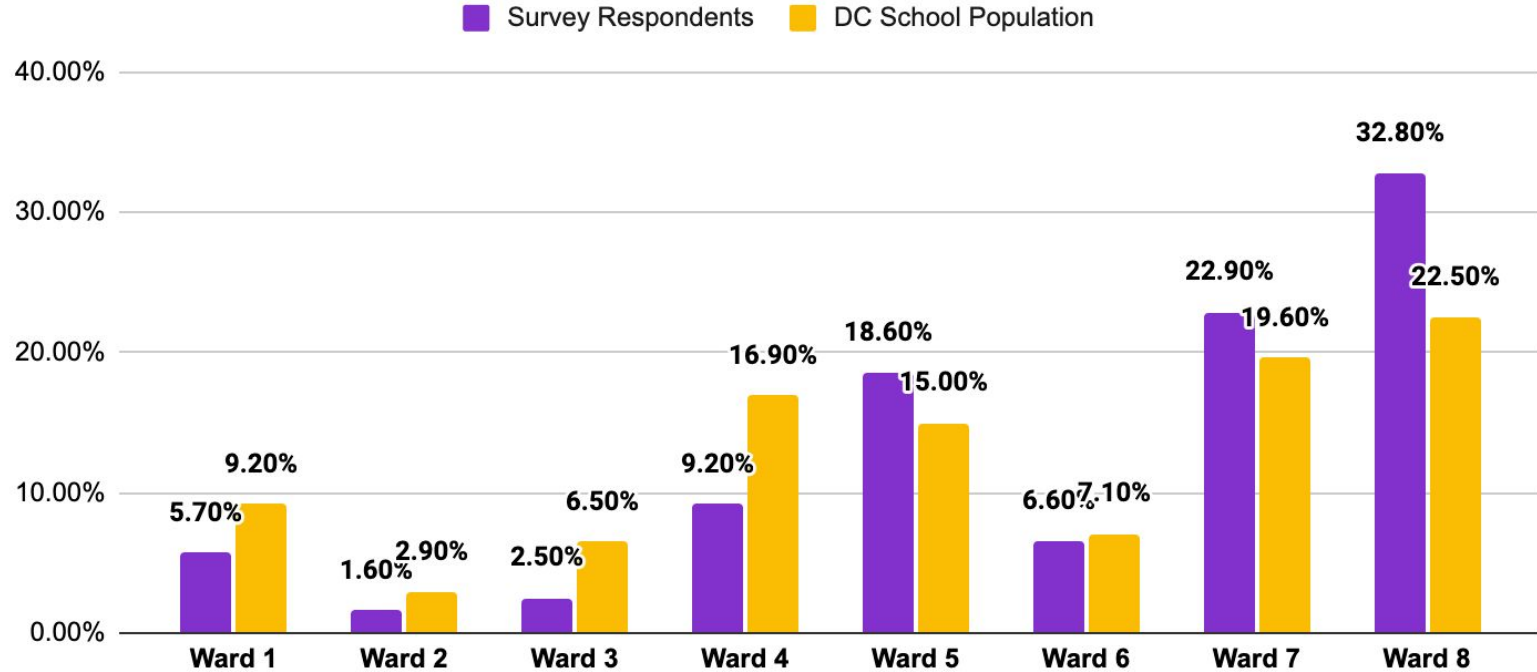
**Where Students Attend Schoool**

Survey Respondents    DC School Population

| | Ward 1 | Ward 2 | Ward 3 | Ward 4 | Ward 5 | Ward 6 | Ward 7 | Ward 8 | Not sure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Survey Respondents | 3.90% | 3.90% | 2.90% | 8.30% | 21.90% | 13.70% | 14.60% | 21.50% | 9.30% |
| DC School Population | 7.80% | 7.50% | 7.80% | 16.90% | 19.20% | 7.90% | 15.90% | 16.90% | |

# Type of School Attended



Bar chart showing type of school attended:

- In-boundary DCPS School: 29.70%
- Out-of-boundary DCPS School: 21.30%
- Public Charter School: 43.10%
- Private/Parochial School: 4.90%
- Daycare: 1.00%

**52%** of DC students attend a **DCPS school** vs. **48%** of DC students attend a **public charter school**

# Receives Government Services & Supports



**Comparatively:**
*About **48%** of DC students are considered "at-risk"*

49.2%

50.8%

● Receives services    ● Doesn't receive services
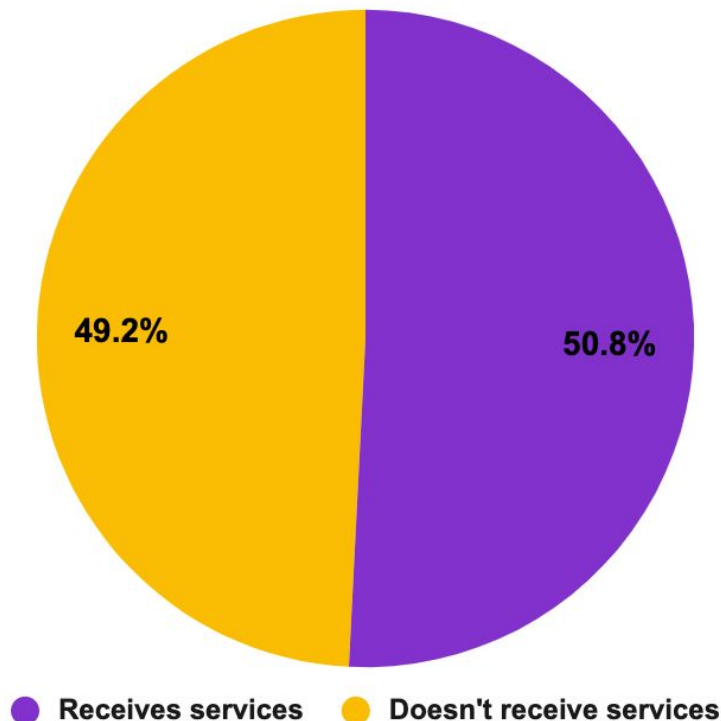
*Note: A student is considered at-risk if they are experiencing homelessness, are in the foster care system, quality for TANF and/or SNAP, and/or are at least one year older than the high school grade for which they are enrolled*

# Parents Who Entered Child in School Lottery



No
26.3%

Yes
73.7%
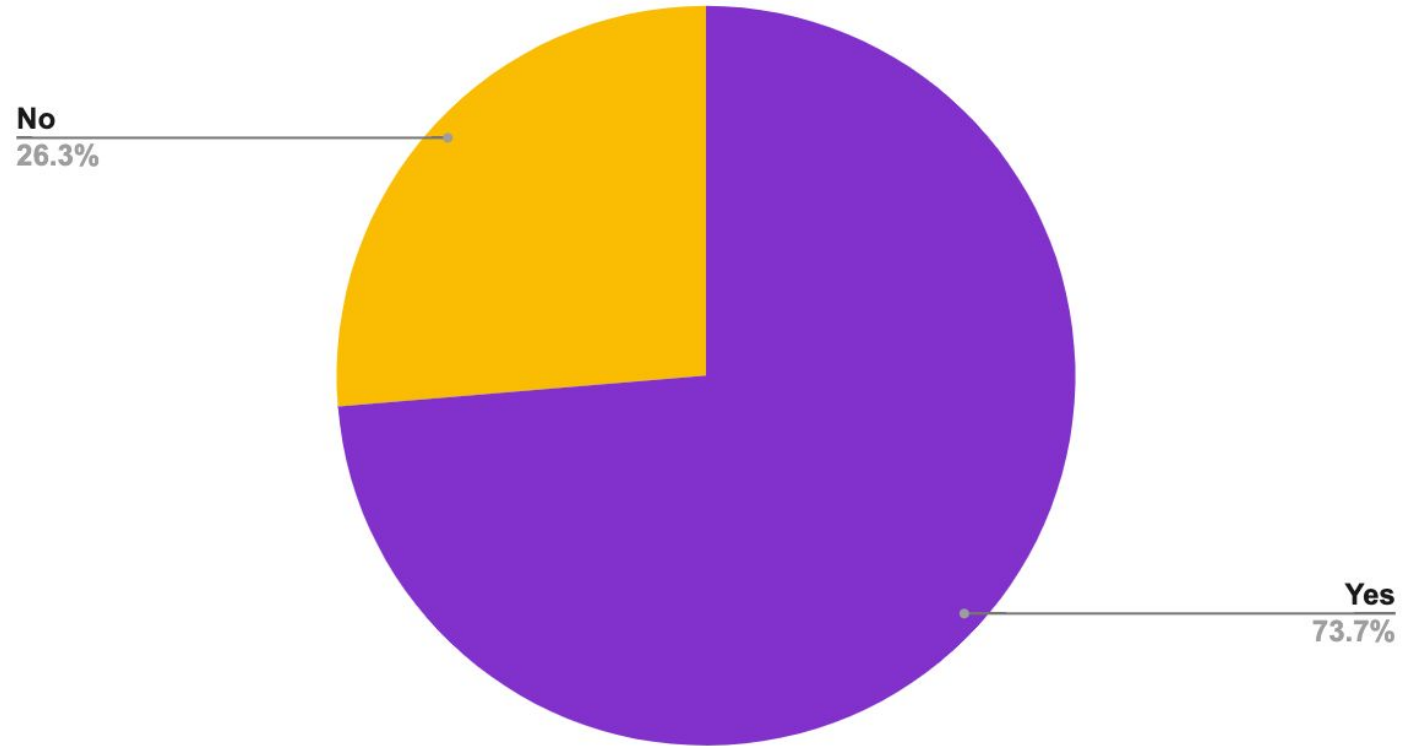
# Factors Influencing Choice

# What Influences Parents' Decisions?

**Parents were asked to rank various factors on a scale of 1 to 4,** with 1 being "this was one of my top priorities" and 4 being "I didn't consider this factor", when choosing to send their child(ren) to their current schools

**These factors included:**

- Results from the school lottery
- Public transportation options
- Distance from home
- Distance from parent/guardian job
- In-school program/curriculum options
- OST programs
- Special education services
- Wraparound services and supports
- Safety in and around the school building
- Quality of school building and facilities

- School culture and climate
- Feeder pattern
- Diversity of school of community
- School academic results
- School's reputation/what has been heard from other parents
- Class size/student-teacher ratios
- Teacher and staff retention and experience

# Top Influential Factors

**Survey respondents ranked the following factors as their most influential (ranked 1st):**

1. **Safety in and around the school building** - *traffic, sidewalks, locks on doors, etc* **(65.3%)**
2. **In-school program/curriculum offerings** - *specialized school programs* **(64.8%)**
3. **School culture and climate** **(63.2%)**
4. **School academic results** - *PARCC, DC School Report Card, graduation rates, college acceptance rates* **(55%)**
5. **School's reputation** **(53%)** and **teacher & school staff retention and experience** **(53%)**

# Top Influential Factors by Race

### Black/African American Respondents

1. **In-school program/curriculum offerings (65.9%)**
2. **Safety in and around school building (65.9%)**
3. **School culture and climate (61.6%)**
4. **School's reputation (55.1%)**
5. **Class size and student/teacher ratios (55.1%)**

### Hispanic/Latinx Respondents

1. **In-school program/curriculum offerings (66.6%)**
2. **Safety in and around school building (66.6%)**
3. **Diversity of students (66.6%)**
4. **School facilities (61.1%)**
5. **School culture and climate (61.1%)**

### White Respondents

1. **Distance from home (72.7%)**
2. **School culture and climate (68.2%)**
3. **In-school program/curriculum offerings (54.5%)**
4. **Diversity of students (54.5%)**
5. **Safety in and around school building (45.4%)**

*Note: The sample of Asian/Pacific Islanders was too small for comparison (N = 5)*

# Top Influential Factors by Income (Services Received)

## Receives Govt Services & Supports

1. **Safety in and around school building (74%)**
2. **In-school program/curriculum offerings (62%)**
3. **Teacher retention (62%)**
4. **School's academic results (60%)**
5. **School's reputation (59%)**

## Doesn't Receive Govt Services & Supports

1. **School culture and climate (69.5%)**
2. **In-school program/curriculum offerings (66.3%)**
3. **Safety in and around school building (52.2%)**
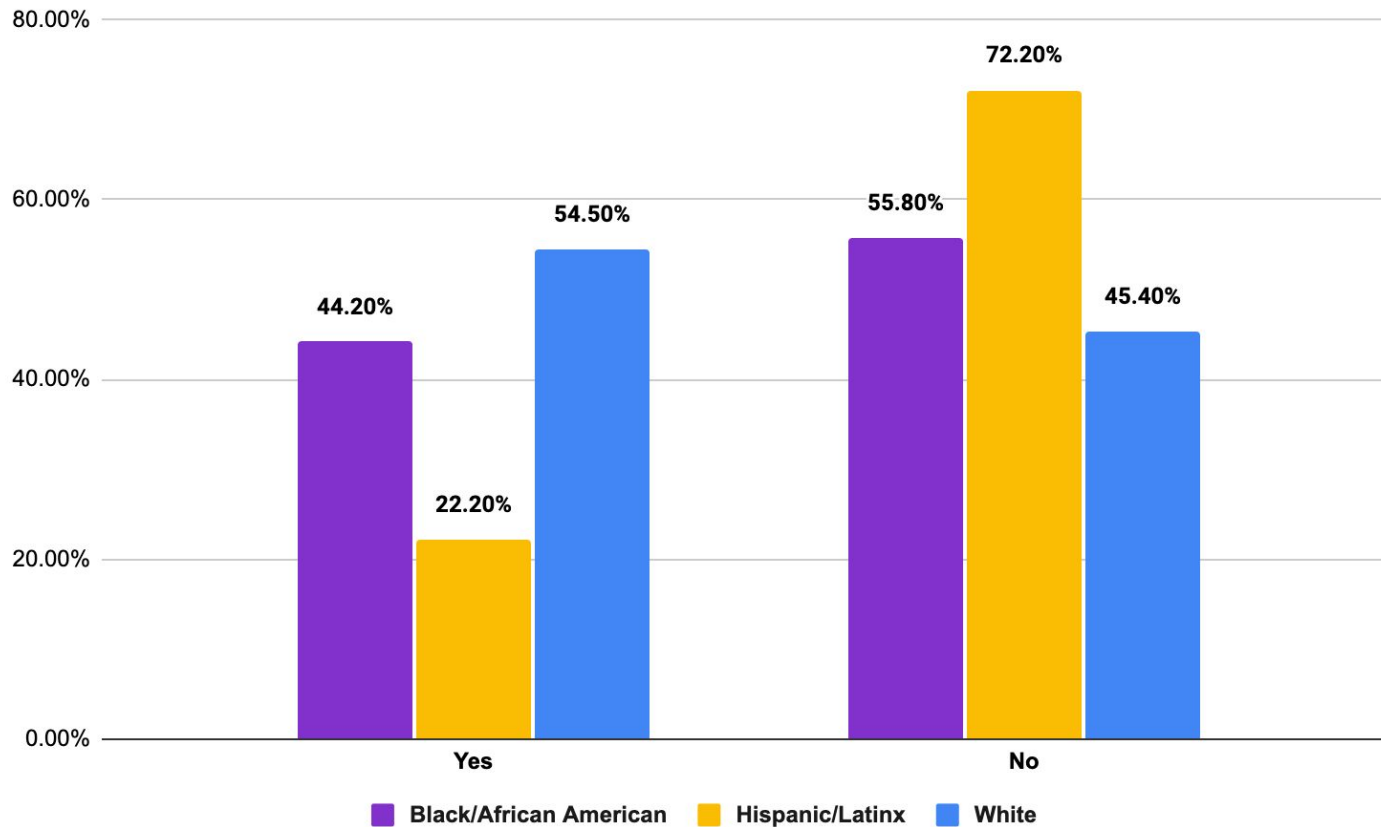4. **Distance from home (47.8%)**
5. **Diversity of students (47.8%)**

# Moving Schools

# Besides your child's transitions from elementary, middle, and high school, has your child ever moved schools?
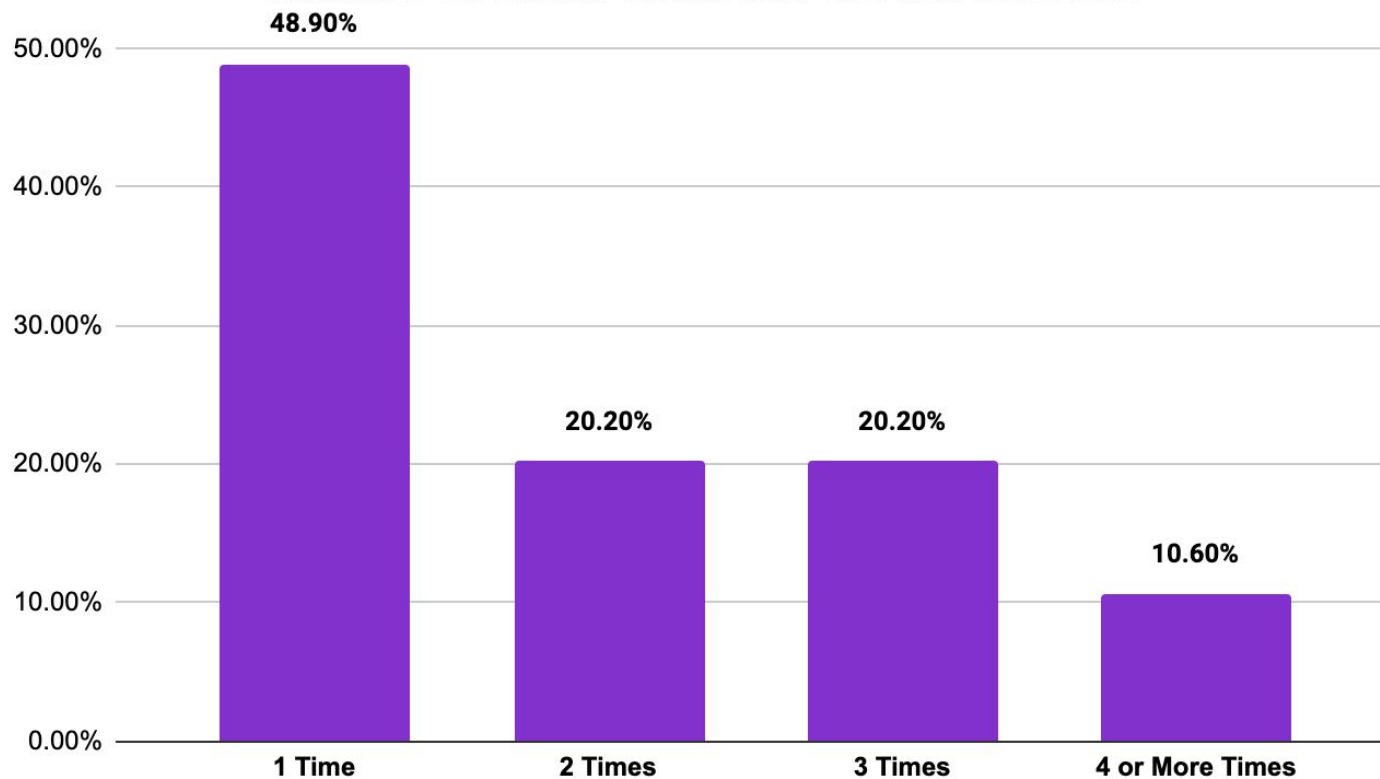


No
42.8%

Yes
57.2%
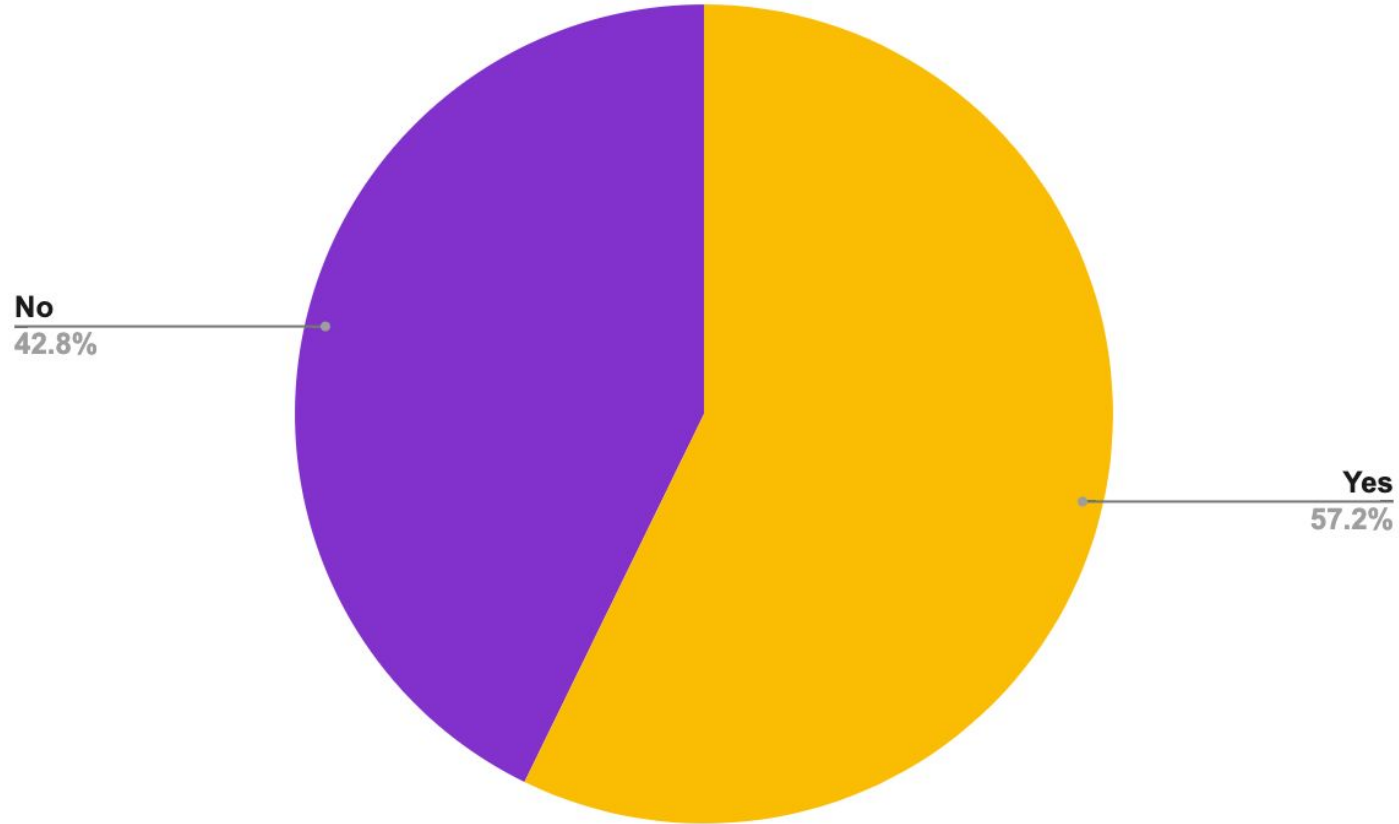
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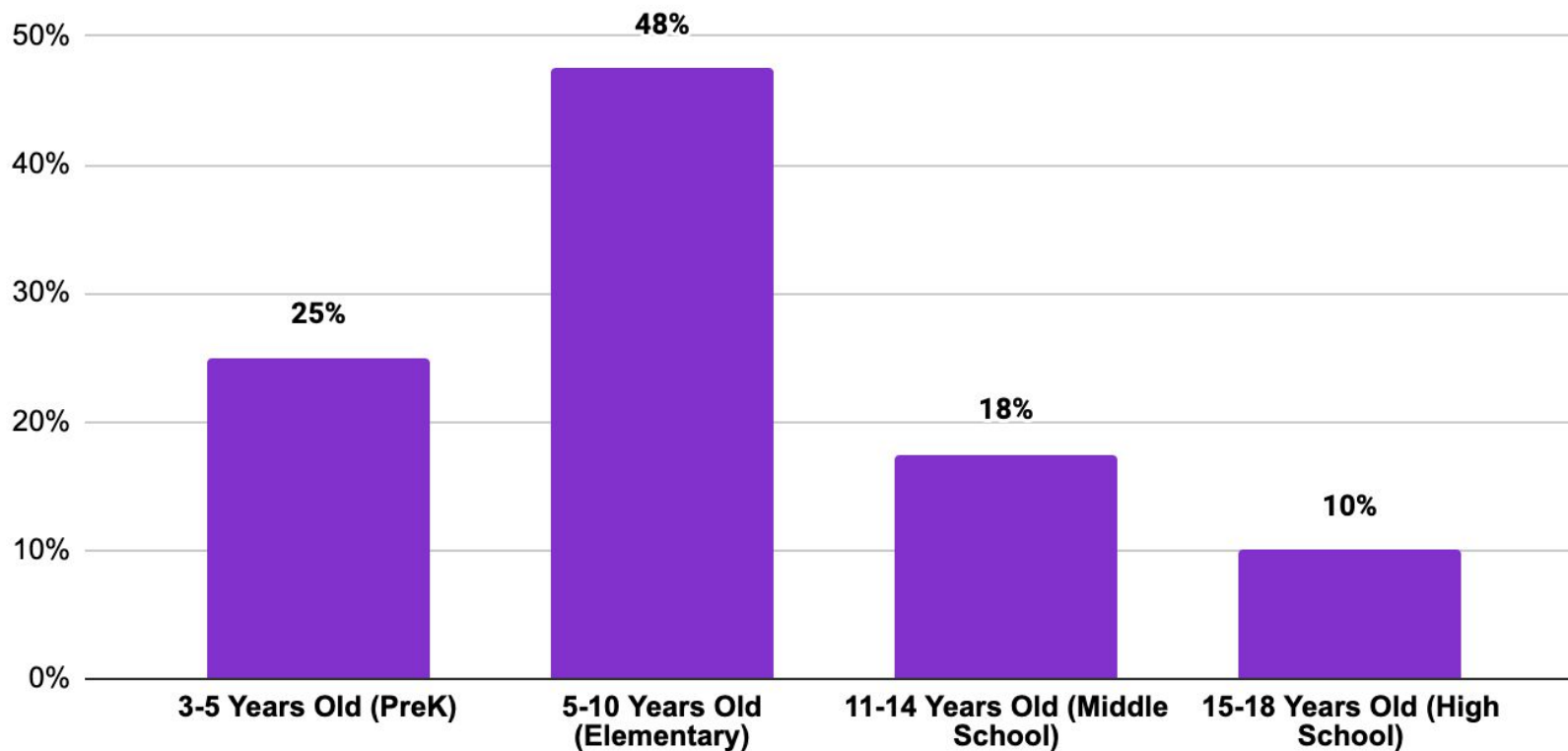
Number of times child has moved schools

# Child's age when moving schools

# Main Reasons for Moving Schools

**Parents listed these factors as the top reasons for moving schools (outside of transitions):**
1. School culture and climate **(38.7%)**
2. Teacher and school staff retention **(32%)**
3. Safety in and around the school building **(29.3%)**
4. School academics **(26.7%)**
5. Special education services and supports **(26.7%)**

**To explore:**
*What are the academic and emotional/developmental impacts of moving schools?*

# Sibling Factors

# Understanding Siblings as an Influential Factor

- A **majority of parents (62.5%)** reported that they sent at least one of their children to the **same school** as another one of their children
- **37.5%** of parents reported that they **did not send** their child to the same school

**Why parents sent their children to the same school(s)**

- Good experience with school (82.9%)
- School relationships (74.3%)
- Availability of school offerings (45.7%)
- Transportation (25.7%)

**Why parents did not send their children to the same school(s)**

- Majority cited differing needs for their child (45.5%)
- Availability of school offerings (31.8%)
- they moved (27.3%)
- Didn't have good relationship with other child (22.7%)

# Creating a Supportive & Stronger Education System

**Parents were asked: What are you still looking for in an education system to help your children thrive? for their children?**

**Top responses:**

1. **Culturally relevant curriculum** that is based in best practices (i.e. science of reading) and **strong instruction** in every classroom at every grade level **(56.1%)**
2. Expanded access to **college credit, career certifications, and/or workforce programs** (apprenticeships, job training, internships, etc.) **(46.2%)**
3. Schools that provide **wrap-around services** (mental and physical health care, meals, laundry, connections to other community-based organizations for family services, etc. **(45.5%)**
4. Attracting and retaining a **strong teacher workforce (41.7%)**
5. **Exposure to other cultures and places** around the world/study abroad programs **(40.9%)**