Bringing the Portrait to Life

A Community Learning and Entrepreneurialism Update

SY25 GOAL AREA 4:
We Learn Everywhere

August 12, 2025

District 97 Transformation Goals

We Learn, Lead and Celebrate Together

Our District Culture
ALL Employee Professional Learning

We Design for ALL

Elementary Core Instruction Foundations
Middle School Redesign

We Align Resources

Master Facilities Plan
Comprehensive Safety Plan

We Learn Everywhere

Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate
Early Childhood Education

Meet the CLE Team

2025-26

Marvin Childress
Community Learning and Entrepreneurialism Coordinator

***Dr. Eboney Lofton**
Chief Learning Innovation Officer

Michele Suedbeck
Early Childhood Student Services Coordinator



Collective Interests of the Oak Park Community
Student, family and community voice

↓

District 97 Board of Education
Seven democratically-elected representatives who set policy

↓

Board Policy 7:12: Ensuring Racial and Educational Equity

↓

Superintendent
Hired to develop and implement action plans and procedures

↓

Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate

Click here to view a detailed organizational chart for District 97. Online staff directories can be accessed by clicking the teams listed in the green boxes below.

Core Instruction

All Instructional Leaders
Elementary School
Middle Schools

Operational Excellence

Communications and Engagement
Data Analytics and Research
Finance and Operations
Superintendent's Office
Human Resources
Technology
Safety

Community Learning and Entrepreneurialism

Out-of-School Time Access
Partnership Agreements
Early Childhood

Effective July 1, 2023

Our Why



Our Agenda

01 THE PORTRAIT IN ACTION: SUMMER UPDATES

02 CLUBS, SPORTS AND MUSIC PROGRAMS

03 EARLY LEARNING

Our Portrait Dimensions in Action

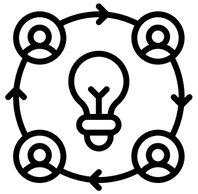
“We Learn Everywhere”

Our Portrait

The following 8 dimensions represent the culmination of this community engagement process. Each word was carefully chosen by the Teacher Design Team to reflect both their educational expertise and the priorities and preferences of community members.



Portrait Development



Community Visioning

FOCUS

Robust engagement to develop the Portrait, prioritizing the voices of affinity groups to ensure equitable representation

OUTCOME

Competency-based Portrait that reflects the vision and values of the Oak Park community



Aligning Voices and Vision to Learning Standards

FOCUS

Digging deep with youth to understand their lived experiences; aligning Portrait dimensions to learning standards

OUTCOME

Alignment between defined standards and community vision; areas of immediate focus based on student feedback



Cross-Agency Partnerships

FOCUS

Piloting the Portrait as a community framework for youth development and learning everywhere

EXAMPLES

Collaboration with community partners (e.g., Oak Park Education Foundation, Park District of Oak Park)



Innovation Incubator (Future Work)

FOCUS

Future-oriented strategies to expand the impact of the Portrait framework (e.g., Portrait signature experiences, Youth Advisory Council, family learning design)

2023-24 | **2024-25** | **2025-26**

Our Portrait in Action: Summer Learning

District 97 summer school relies on innovation

'We're kind of extending the school year'

by **Gregg Voss** July 8, 2025



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Clarification

July 15, 2025

In a One View printed last week in about Oak Park leadership, July 9],

Read more



Gus Boudros, 53

8 Programs
~940 Students
53+ Teachers

Notes: May include double-counts of teachers and students who participated in more than one program. The number of students and teachers are estimated pending Music Camp completion.

By the numbers

Our Portrait in Action: Summer Learning

2025 SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS

District 97 is excited to announce our summer programming for 2025!

Responding to a call for innovative learning, our summer programs offer a mix of subject matter. We hope your student will find a summer program that helps them continue to grow and also enjoy with other students.

Some programs are open for all students in a particular grade level, while others are intended for focused student groups by invitation. Each description provides the details necessary to determine if the program is right for your student.

Please register for each program by March 31, 2025, unless otherwise noted. See the next page for online registration information or scan the QR code.

We look forward to a great summer experience together!

STEM PROGRAMS

Summer Robotics Camp
Grades 4-5

This camp provides an introduction to the exciting world of designing, building, and programming robots, and aims to foster creativity and innovation while developing valuable STEM skills.

Location: Brooks or Julian Middle School (TBD)

June 9-13, 2025
8:30-11:30am (M-F) or 12:30-3:30pm (M-F)

Access to Algebra: Bridge Course
Grades 5-7
Students who are currently accelerated in math are not eligible.

This program is offered to all eligible students in Grades 5-7 to ensure a pathway to Integrated Math I (Algebra) by 8th grade. Students are provided additional instructional time to engage in course content before advancing to the next level of mathematics.

Location: Homeschools

Trimester 3: March 3 - June 4, 2025
Schedule set by schools (M-F)
5th Grade Students only

Location: Brooks or Julian Middle School (TBD)

Summer: June 9-27, 2025
8:00-10:00am (M-F) or 10:00am-12:00pm (M-F)

Middle School Math Review
Grades 5-7

For students who are interested an opportunity to review grade level Illinois Learning Standards in mathematics during the summer to maintain content and skills learned throughout the school year.

Location: Brooks or Julian Middle School (TBD)

June 9-27, 2025
8:00-10:00am (M-F) or 10:00am-12:00pm (M-F)

ENHANCED EDUCATION

Extended School Year
PreK (Age 3)-Grade 7
Students with IEPs (as recommended by D97 special education teams)

This program supports the maintenance of skills among students who are at risk of regression or for students with disabilities to attain the critical skills essential to the student's continued progress.

Location: TBD

June 9 - July 3, 2025
8:00am-12:00pm (M-F)

Summer FUNdational Camp
Grades K-2
Students who have been recommended to receive further academic support in reading and math

This program provides a half-day, two-week, high-impact tutoring program focused on foundational early literacy and math skills.

Location: TBD

June 9-27, 2025
8:00am-12:00pm (M-F)



LANGUAGE & MUSIC

Multilingual Summer Boost
Grades K-7
Students with ACCESS scores between 1.0 and 3.0

This summer programs helps maintain and improve English proficiency in the areas of speaking, writing, and reading (while supporting the maintenance of home language).

Location: TBD

June 9 - July 3, 2025
8:00am-12:00pm (M-F)

Summer Music Camp
Grades 4-8

This creative summer camp provides students with additional music experience that complements what they are learning in our general music and instrumental music programs.

Location: Brooks or Julian Middle School (TBD)

July 28 - August 1, 2025
8:00am-3:00pm (M-F)



EXPLORING THE FUTURE

Middle School Explore! Program
Grades 5-7
Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch

This program is an introduction and exploration of college and career interests. Students will experience high-impact tutoring and acceleration opportunities at Brooks Middle School along with exploratory programs such as College for Kids at Triton College where students can select majors and minors in various fields, receiving direct instruction from college instructors and engaging in hands-on activities. In addition, students will enjoy field trips to enhance their program experience.

Location: Brooks or Julian Middle School (TBD)

June 9-27, 2025
9:00am-4:00pm

Week One	
9:00-11:00am	High-impact tutoring and acceleration
11:00am-11:30am	Travel to Triton College
11:30am-12:15pm	Lunch
12:15-3:15pm	College for Kids
3:15-3:45pm	Brooks or Julian Middle School (TBD)
Week Two	
9:00-11:00am	High-impact tutoring and acceleration
11:00-11:30am	Travel field trips
11:30am-3:15pm	STEM focused interactive field trips and lunch
3:15-3:45pm	Brooks or Julian Middle School (TBD)
Week Three	
9:00-11:00am	High-impact tutoring and acceleration (drop-in)
11:00am-3:45pm	STEM Camp Opportunities TBD

PARTNER PROGRAMS

Park District of Oak Park Summer Camp
Grades K-4
Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch

In partnership with the Park District of Oak Park, D97 students are provided access to two weeks of summer camp.

Times and locations in Oak Park are dependent upon each summer camp.

Important Information

Registration by March 31, 2025:

Register online at www.op97.org or scan the QR code.

Class Locations:
- TBD

Have additional questions?

For more information, call us at (708) 524-3000 or visit op97.org/teach-learn/summer-programs.

The desire for learning leads to continued growth.

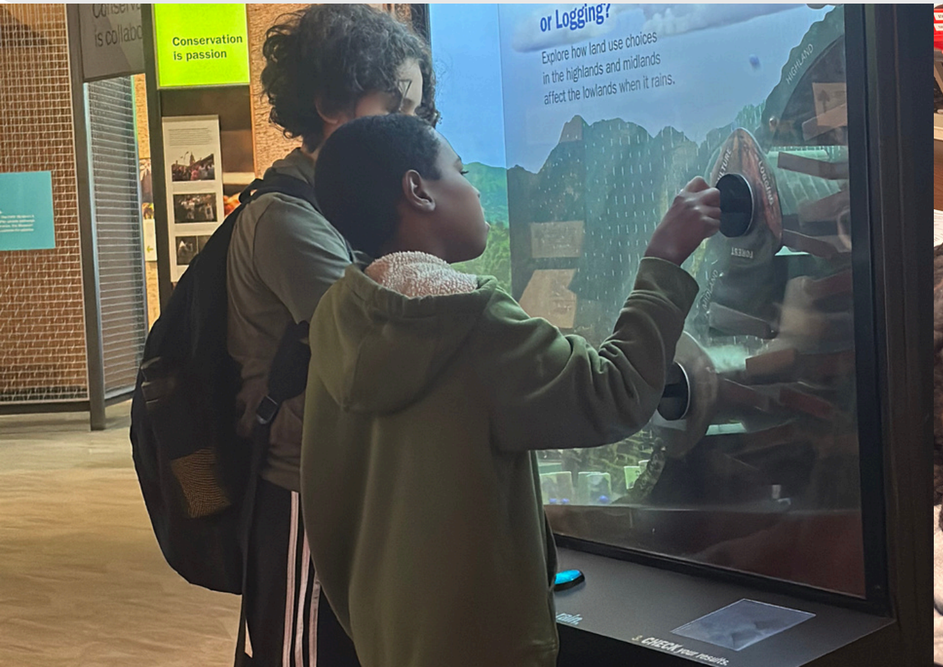
Portrait Partnerships in Action: Triton College

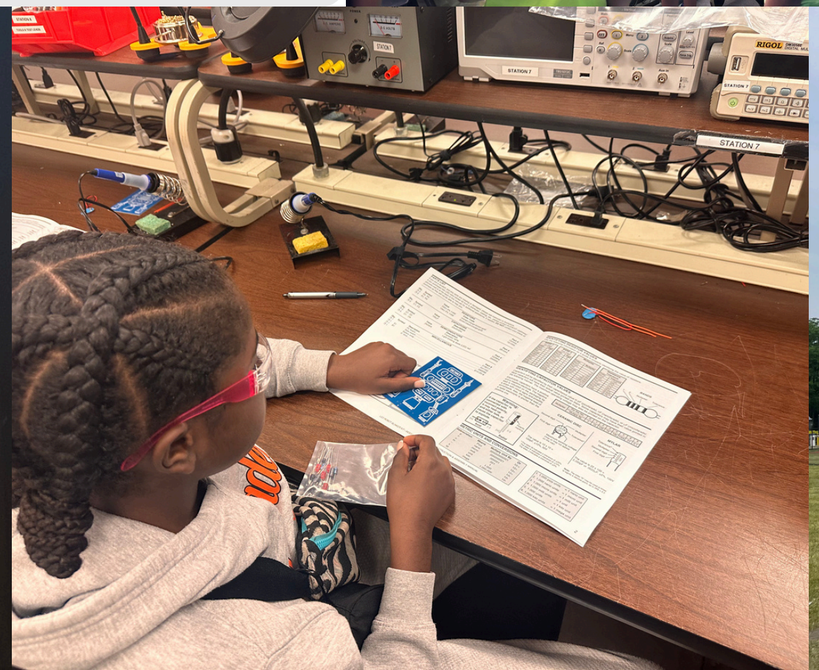
Career Explorer

Graduates will explore a wide range of careers and their qualifications, including college and non-college/trade pathways. Through experiential learning and relationship development, they will practice behaviors and skills that are important for work, and connect with their own interests and passions.











Portrait Partnerships in Action: Oak Park Education Foundation



Fridays with OPEF!

Visit to the Perkins and Will Architecture Firm, the architects responsible for the CRC.

Visits from Edwin Holmes, healthcare informatics manager, and Alderman Gregory Mitchell - both are graduates of Grambling University

Visit from Samantha Fischer, research scientist from UIC





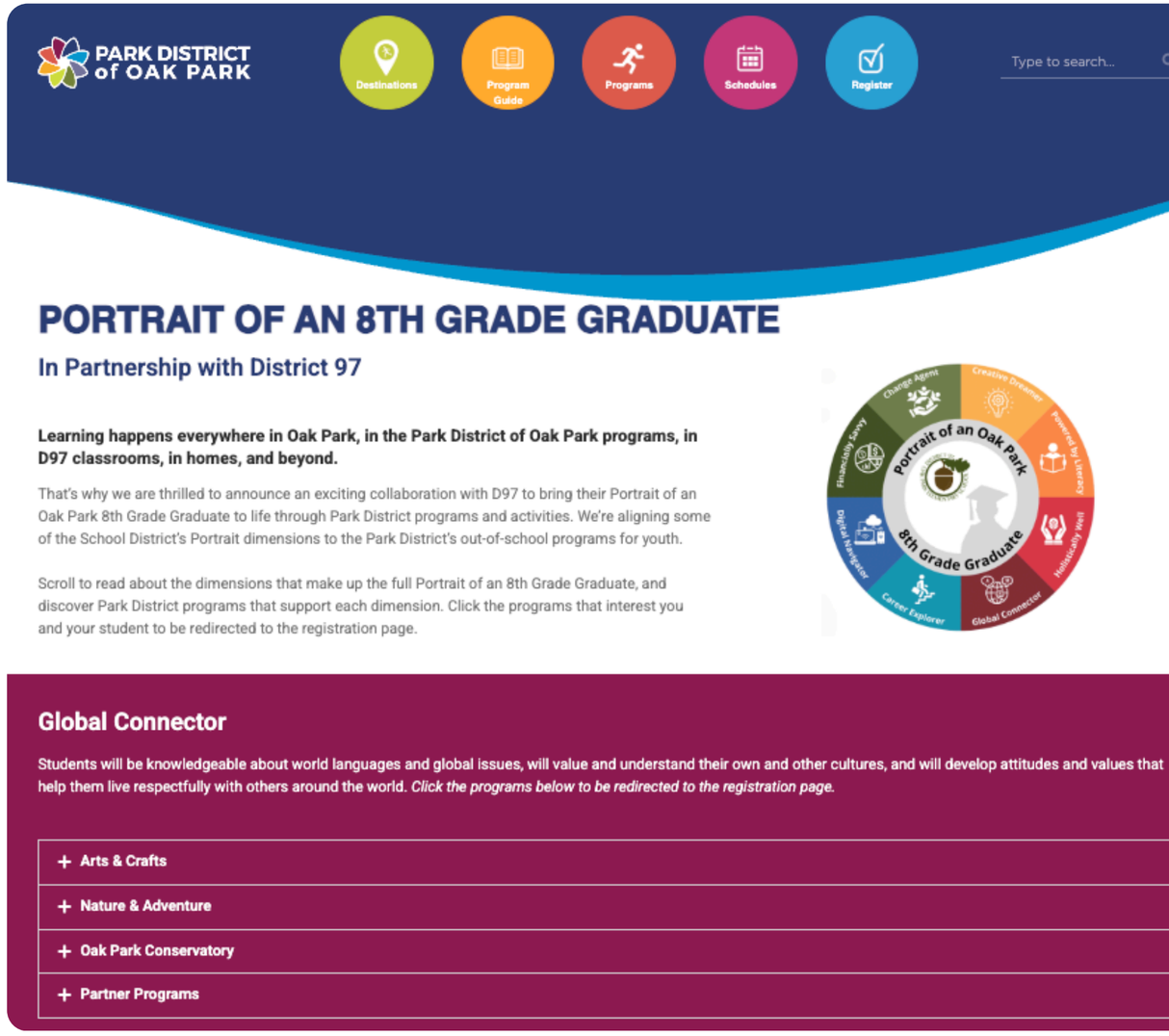


Portrait Partnerships in Action: PDOP and WSSRA

Holistically Well

Students will develop skills to self-advocate for their physical, mental and social well-being. Students will understand their changing identities and develop skills to love themselves for who they are, and others for who they are.





Portrait Partnerships in Action: Oak Park Public Library

Powered by Literacy

Graduates will apply research-based practices to read, analyze, evaluate and articulate information in order to make sense of, question and challenge the world around them.





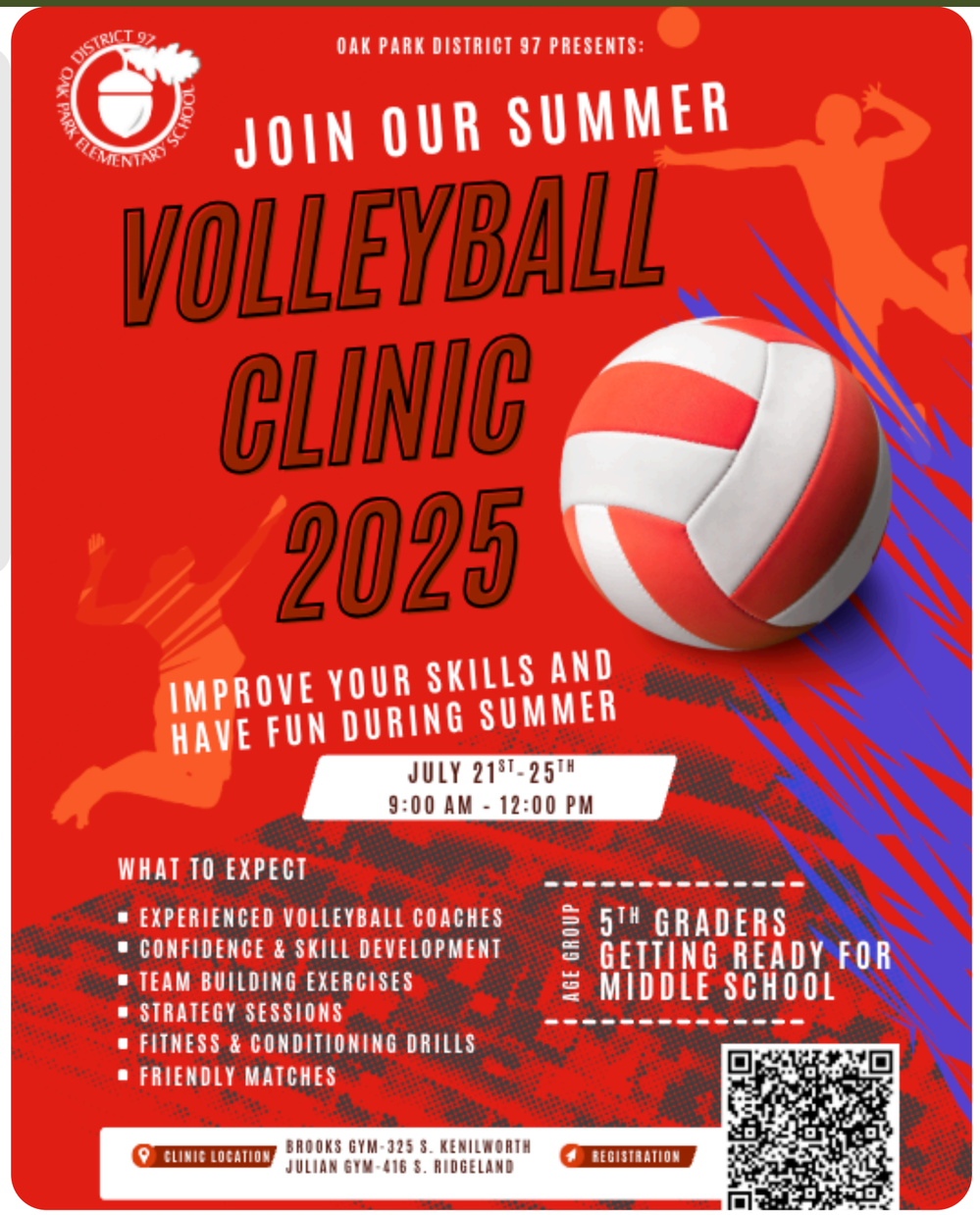
Portrait Partnerships in Action: Oak Park -River Forest Community Foundation

Holistically Well

Students will develop skills to self-advocate for their physical, mental and social well-being. Students will understand their changing identities and develop skills to love themselves for who they are, and others for who they are.







Portrait Partnerships in Action: Friday Night Place

Holistically Well

Students will develop skills to self-advocate for their physical, mental and social well-being. Students will understand their changing identities and develop skills to love themselves for who they are, and others for who they are.

Career Explorer

Graduates will explore a wide range of careers and their qualifications, including college and non-college/trade pathways. Through experiential learning and relationship development, they will practice behaviors and skills that are important for work, and connect with their own interests and passions.







Portrait Partnerships in Action: YEMBA

Holistically Well

Students will develop skills to self-advocate for their physical, mental and social well-being. Students will understand their changing identities and develop skills to love themselves for who they are, and others for who they are.









Clubs, Sports and Music

DISTRICT 97
OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Clubs by Dimension



Powered by Literacy: 14



Career Explorer: 0



Holistically Well: 56



Financially Savvy: 2



Change Agent: 14



Global Connector: 4



Creative Dreamer: 35



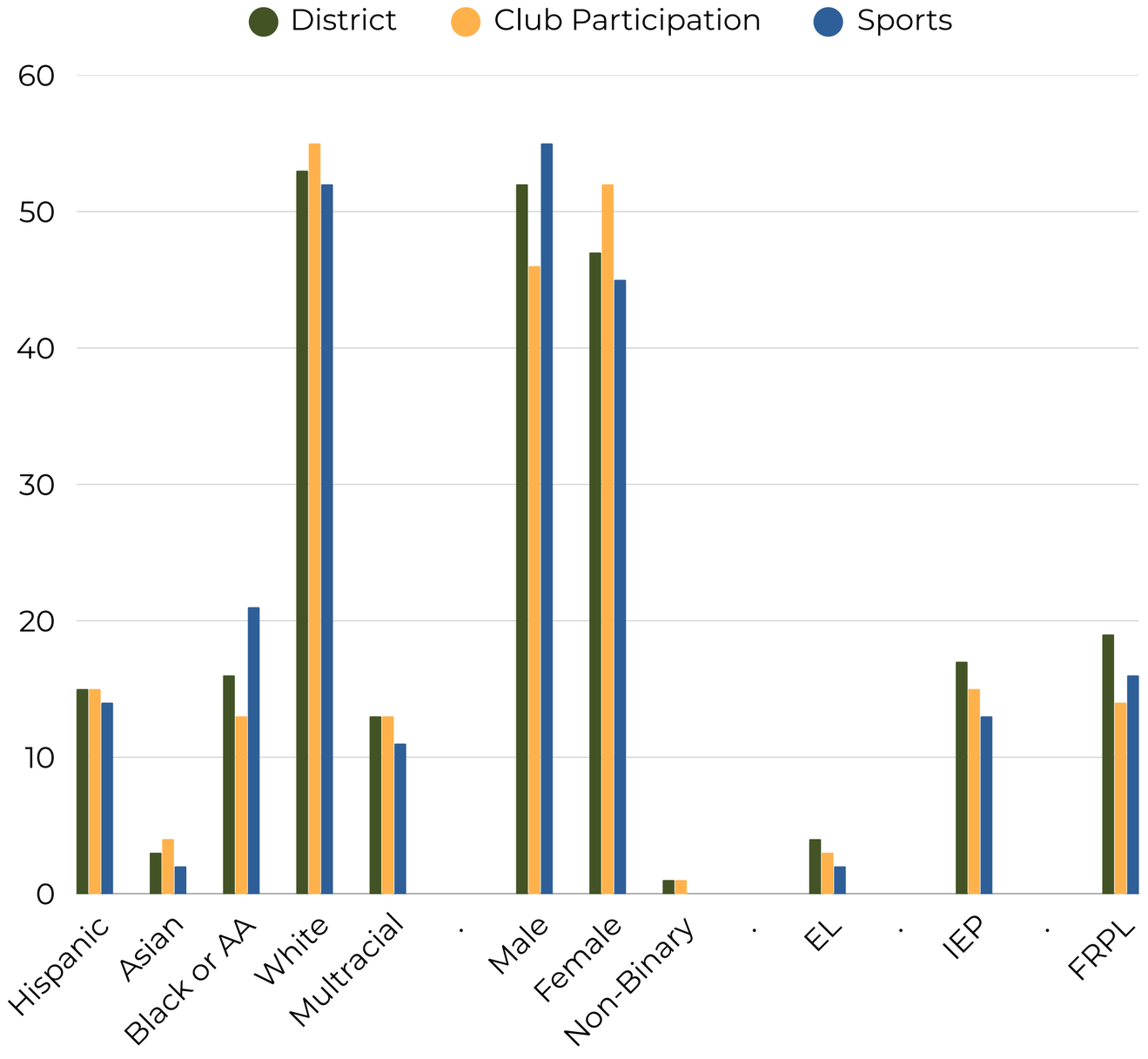
Digital Navigator: 0

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CLUBS AND SPORTS

D97 club, activity and sports participants generally mirror the overall district racial/ethnic and gender demographics.

Students with IEPs, English Learners and students eligible for free or reduced price lunch are slightly less likely to participate in clubs. Students with IEPs and English Learners are slightly less likely to participate in sports.





Early Learning

Partnerships in Action: Collaboration for Early Childhood





Equity Subcommittee Charge:

Preliminary Kindergarten Registration Data

(respondents: 398)

I had trouble finding childcare: **13.6%**

Top Three Barriers:

Couldn't find programs with open slots: **69%**
Programs were too expensive: **67%**
Waitlists were too long: **58%**

Expanding Our Impact

Innovating and Growing in SY26

- Expanding Portrait-aligned “signature experiences” for students and building a youth advisory council
- Continuing to deepen community partnerships to expand engagement around the Portrait.
- Working alongside partners to ensure equity is centered in early childhood spaces
- Continuing to stand up our equity imperative in after and before clubs, sports and activities

Questions?