

SY26 Eighth Grade Field Trip Proposal:

*Actualizing the District's
equity policy*

September 16, 2025





Policy 7:12 Ensuring Racial and Educational Equity

The Board has adopted this policy to: (1) eliminate racial inequities and systemic disparities; (2) create and ensure equitable educational opportunities for all students, especially those who have historically been underserved in District 97 and public education settings; and, (3) support families in effectively navigating the services that are available to them so that they feel a sense of belonging in the District, and know that the District will meet their student's and family's particular needs. This policy establishes a systematic, proactive, and preventative framework for the elimination of racism and cultural bias as factors affecting student achievement and learning experiences, and promotes environments that intentionally welcome, respect and value diversity and inclusion. The purpose of this policy is to establish actions that District 97 shall take to address disparities in educational opportunity and achievement. We resolve to eliminate opportunity gaps at every level of our organization, through policy, procedure and practice.

Policy 6:240 Field Trips

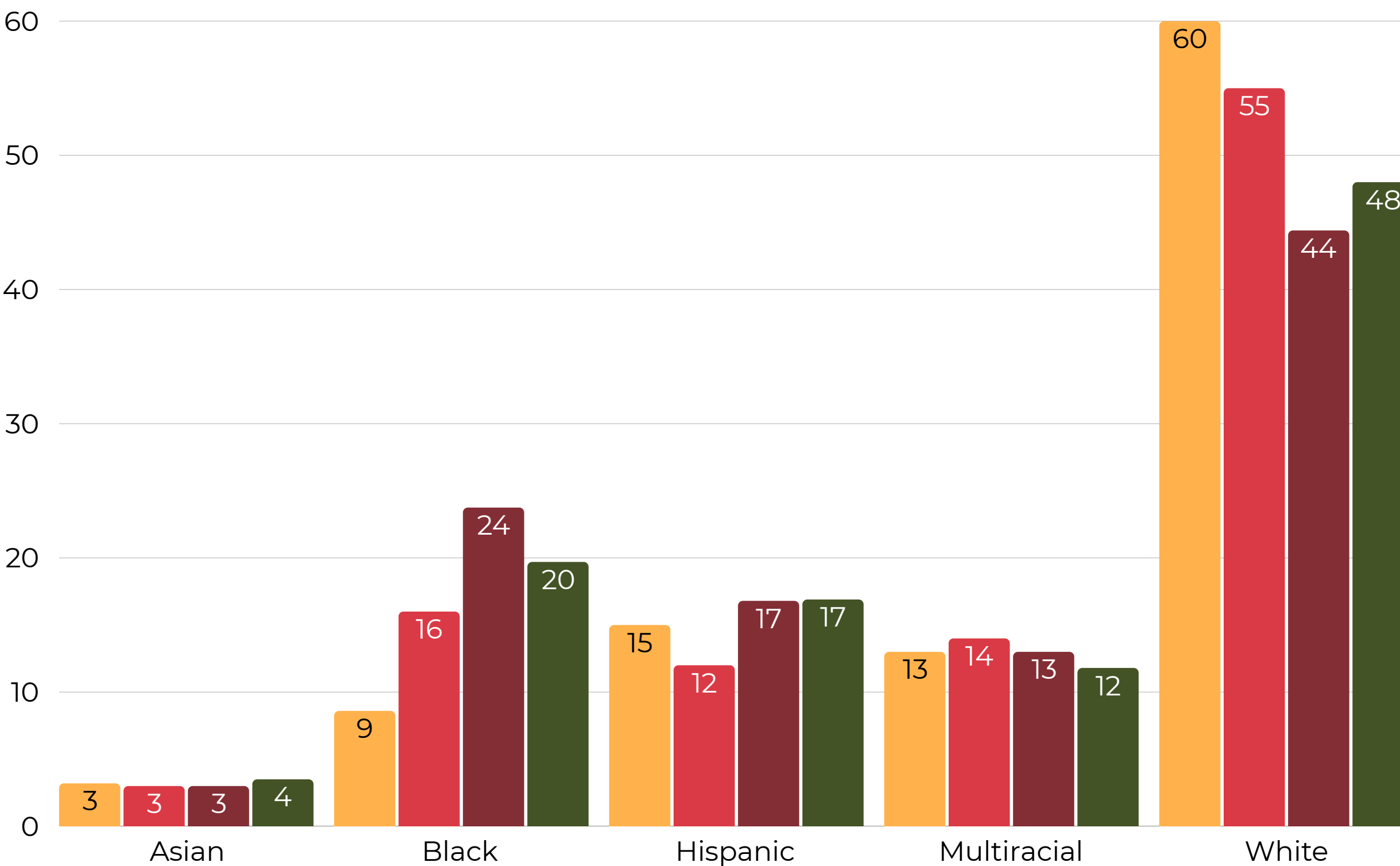
Parents/guardians of students: (1) shall be given the opportunity to consent to their child's participation in any field trip; and (2) are responsible for all entrance fees, food, lodging, or other costs, except that the District will pay such costs for students who qualify for a fee waiver under Board policy 4:140, Waiver of Student Fees.



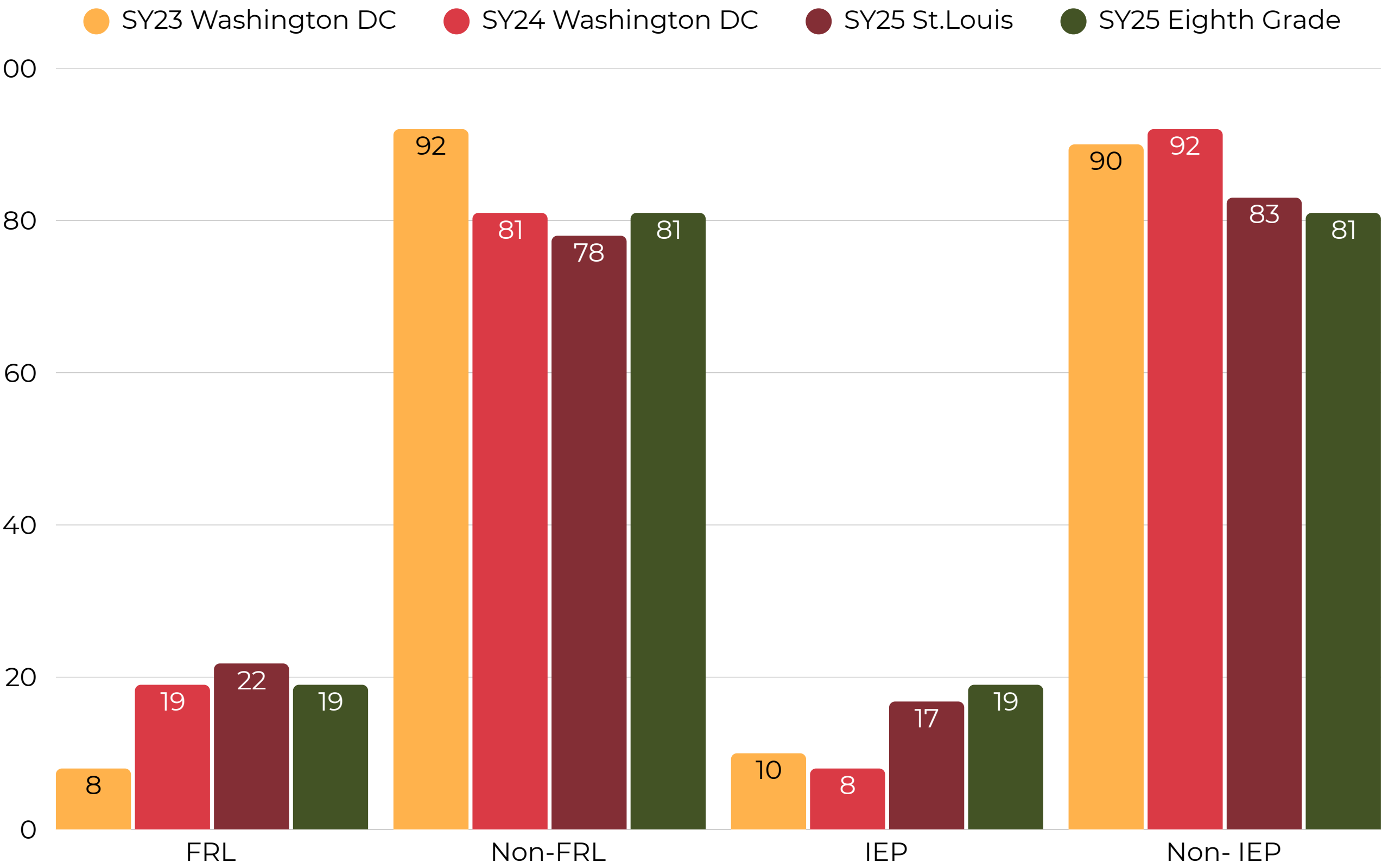
SY25 Eighth Grade Field Trip: Recap

Demographic Data: Eighth Grade Field Trips SY23-SY25

● SY23 Washington DC ● SY24 Washington DC ● SY25 St.Louis
● SY25 Eighth Grade Class



Demographic Data: Eighth Grade Field Trips SY23-SY25

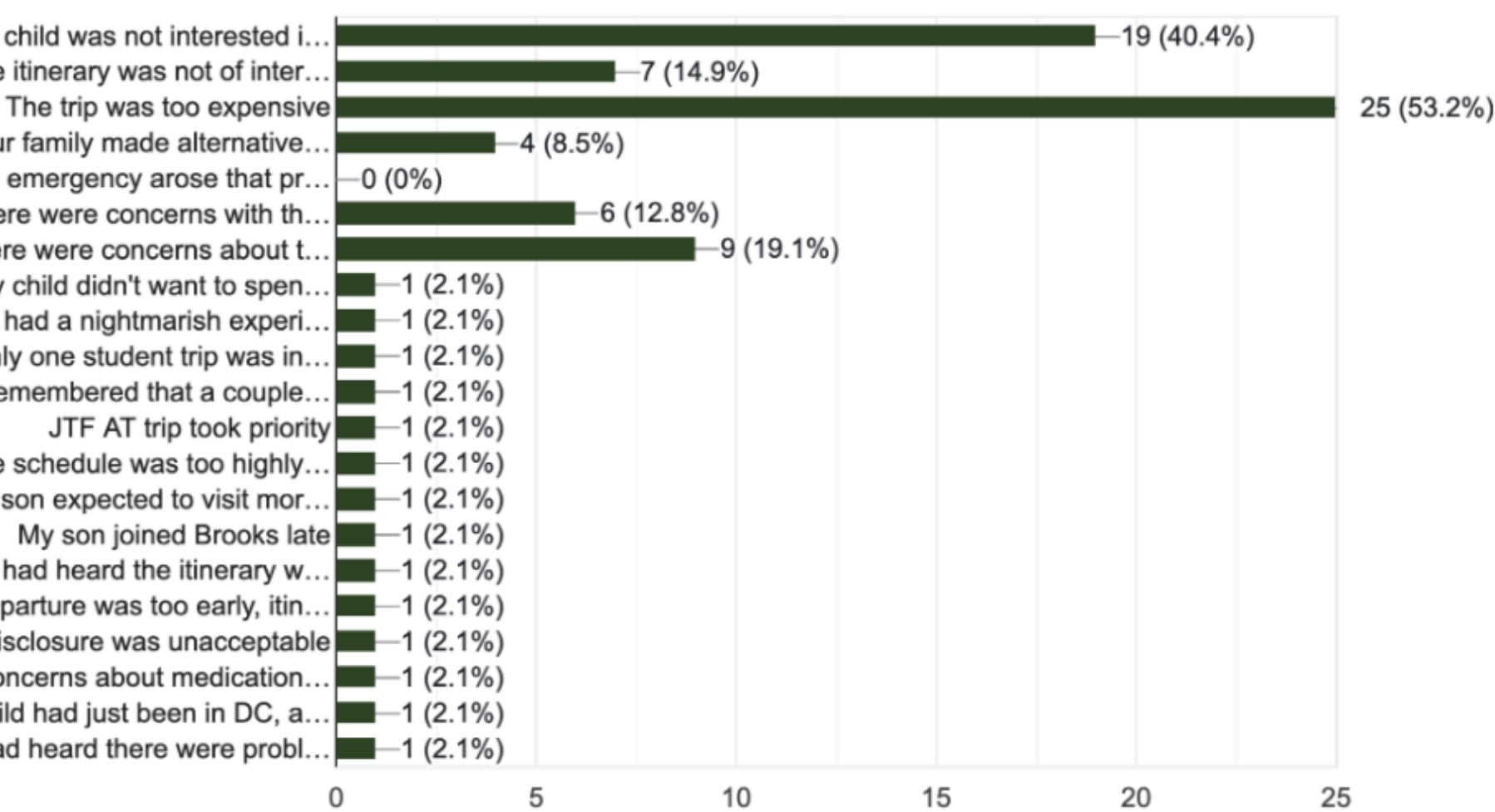


Field Trip Equity and Access Survey Responses

SY24 Survey Data

Please share any barriers to your child attending the 8th grade field trip to Washington D.C.

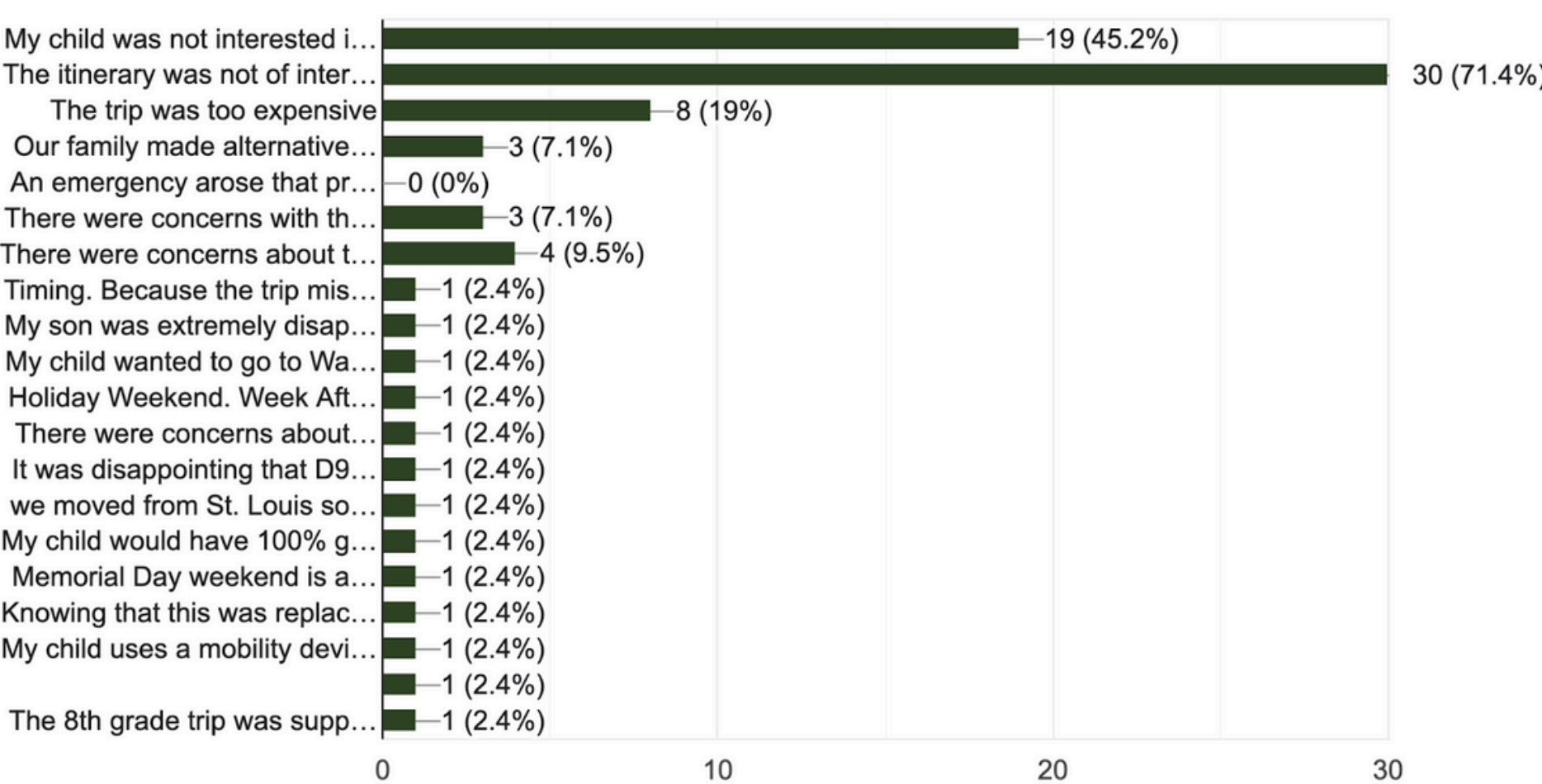
47 responses



SY25 Survey Data

Please share any barriers to your child attending the 8th grade field trip to Springfield and St. Louis:

42 responses



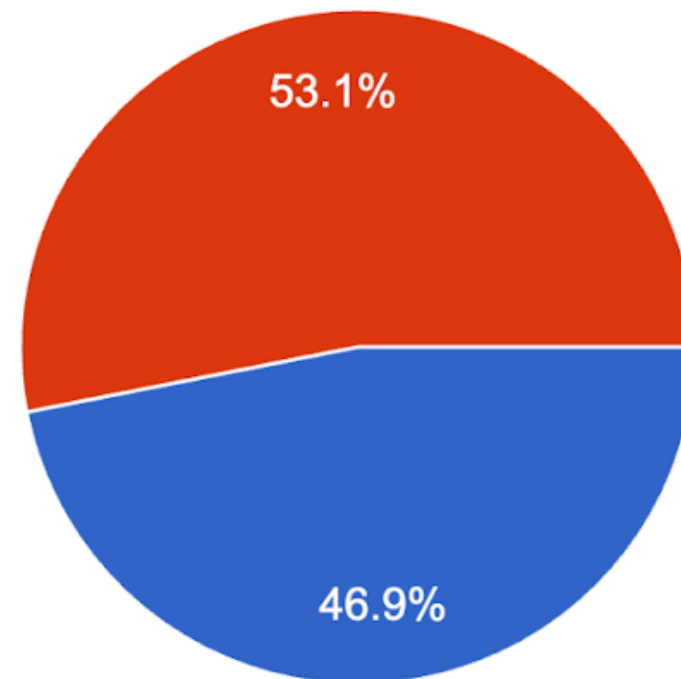
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SY26 Eighth Grade Field Trip Proposal

The student
voting results
represent
73% of the 8th
grade class

Please share which destination you would like to travel to for your class trip

437 responses



● St. Louis, MO
● Nashville, TN



This trip option aligns with the **Career Explorer dimension** of our Portrait of an Oak Park Eighth Grade Graduate. This dimension calls for graduates to explore a wide range of careers and their qualifications, including college and non-college/trade pathways.

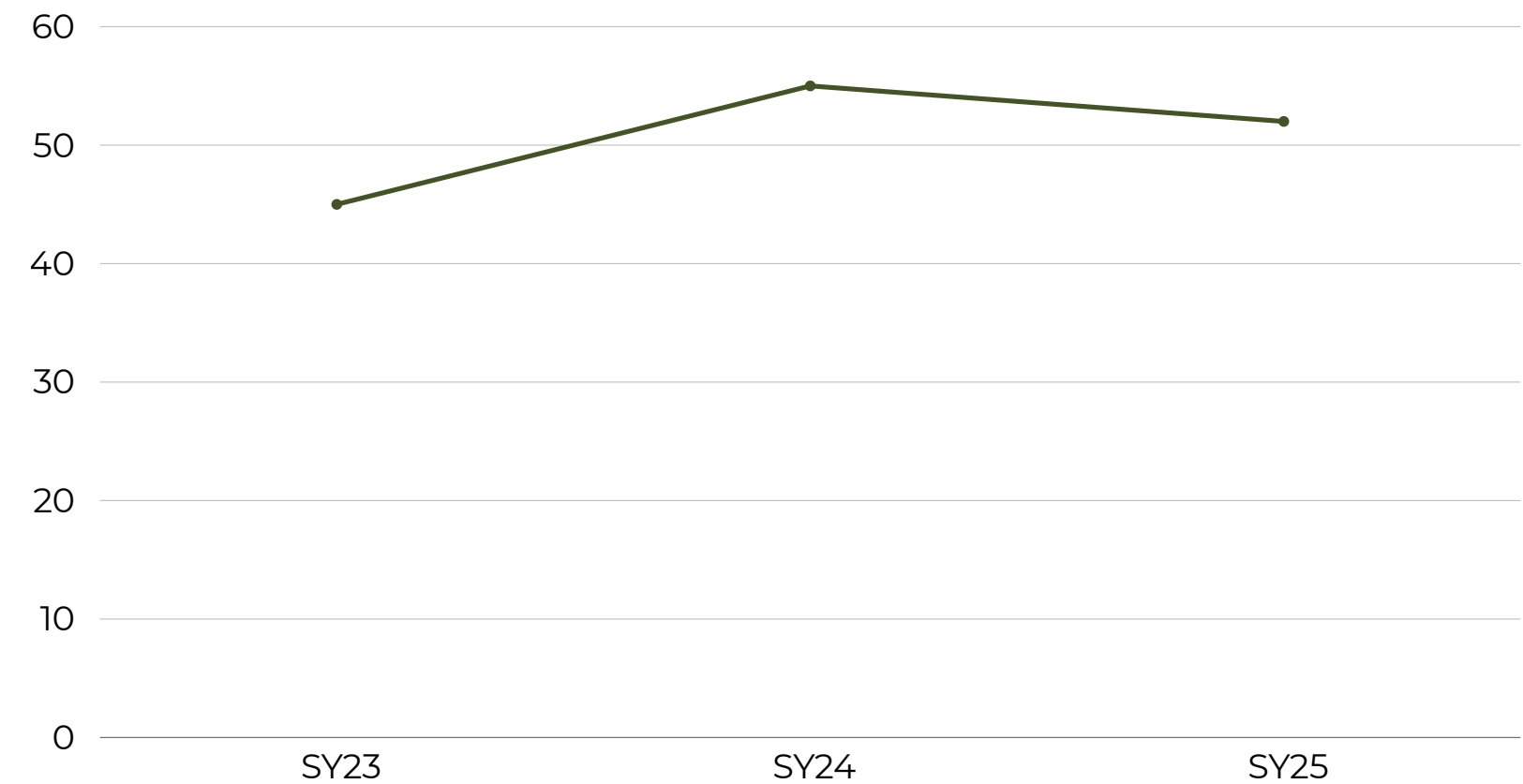
Trip Highlights:

- Fisk University Campus Tour
- Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park
- Music Row
- Planetarium

Click [here](#) for a quick video tour of Nashville

Travel time: 8 hours

Participation Rates and Financial Impact



There are currently 118 eighth-grade students who receive free or reduced-price lunch (132 students qualified for the same in SY25).

In SY24, the district expended \$106, 206* in fees for 62 students . In SY25, the district expended \$31, 254* for 46 students. The team is projecting a cost of \$63, 540* for the SY26 field trip based on the following:

- an overall reduction in the number of students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch
- an increase in the cost of the trip per student vote
- trend data that suggests participation still hovers in the 50-55% range.

*Oak Park Township provided family stipends of \$300 per student in FY24 and FY25 and will continue that practice this year as well.

Next Steps

- ✓ **Spring 2025:** Survey sent to seventh grade families soliciting ideas for the field trip destination
- ✓ **Summer 2025:** Reminder sent to rising eighth grade families
- ✓ **August 25-29:** Student voting window.
- ✓ **September 3:** Final destination announced, and travel agency selected based on student vote.
September 16: Proposal submitted to the Board of Education for discussion
September 30: Proposal submitted to the Board of Education for action
October: Final trip details, including cost breakdown, itinerary, and payment options, released to families.
November: Family Information Sessions
March 14-16: Tentative trip dates

QUESTIONS?