Common Lottery Board Quarterly Meeting

JANUARY 22, 2026

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Common Lottery Board Roll Call

	Member	Organization
Voting Members	Paul Kihn	Deputy Mayor for Education
	Peter Anderson	Washington Latin PCS
	Daniela Anello	DC Bilingual PCS
	Chyanne Eyde	DC Public Schools
	Shannon Hodge	KIPP DC PCS
	Cinthia Ruiz	DC Public Schools
	Cyrus Verrani	DC Public Schools
Non-Voting Members	Michelle Walker-Davis	DC Public Charter School Board
	Antoinette Mitchell	Office of the State Superintendent for Education
	Megan Dho	My School DC

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Agenda

01 | EdFEST 2025 Recap

02 | SY26-27 Application Trends

03 | Outreach Plan and Strategies

04 | LEA Update & Policy Discussion

05 | FY26 Annual Goals Update

06 | Upcoming Events & Next Meeting

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EdFEST 2025 Recap

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EdFEST 2025 Overview

Despite a 10-day delay in launching EdFEST registration, we exceeded last year's attendance numbers at both events.

- **5,509** total attendees
- **NEW** venue for EdFEST (PK3 – Grade 8) for the first time in 10+ years

EdFEST	Attendees		
	General	Exhibitor	Total
Grades 9-12	1,725	242	1,967
PK3 – Grade 8	2,932	610	3,542
Total	**4,657**	**852**	**5,509**

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EdFEST 2025: Grades 9-12 Attendance by Ward of Residence

Ward	2024	2025	1 Yr Difference
Ward 1	17 (4%)	14 (3%)	-3
Ward 2	9 (2%)	10 (2%)	+1
Ward 3	15 (4%)	16 (4%)	+1
Ward 4	42 (11%)	51 (12%)	+9
Ward 5	96 (24%)	78 (18%)	-18
Ward 6	35 (9%)	40 (9%)	+5
Ward 7	73 (18%)	111 (25%)	+38
Ward 8	77 (19%)	95 (22%)	+18
Total*	401 families	438 families	+37

*Total includes out-of-state and unknown Ward residents.

EdFEST 2025: PK3 – Grade 8 Attendance by Ward of Residence

Ward	2024	2025	1 Yr Difference
Ward 1	54 (7%)	75 (10%)	+21
Ward 2	13 (2%)	14 (2%)	+1
Ward 3	21 (3%)	26 (3%)	+5
Ward 4	167 (21%)	153 (21%)	-14
Ward 5	160 (20%)	172 (23%)	+12
Ward 6	104 (13%)	78 (10%)	-26
Ward 7	141 (18%)	106 (14%)	-35
Ward 8	90 (11%)	69 (9%)	-21
Total*	796 families	745 families	-51

*Total includes out-of-state and unknown Ward residents.

EdFEST 2025 Exit Survey Results

Response from:	Questions:	2023			2024			2025		
		PK3-8th Grade	9th - 12th Grade	Total	PK3-8th Grade	9th - 12th Grade	Total	PK3-8th Grade	9th - 12th Grade	Total
Attendees	Overall Satisfaction	94%	75%	**85%**	94%	78%	**92%**	84%	90%	**86%**
	Found the event helpful	98%	96%	**97%**	98%	92%	**97%**	98%	99%	**98%**

EdFEST (PK3 – Grade 8) Attendees: n = 444 responses

EdFEST (Grades 9-12) Attendees: n = 257 responses

Response from:	Questions:	2023			2024			2025		
		PK3-8th Grade	9th - 12th Grade	Total	PK3-8th Grade	9th - 12th Grade	Total	PK3-8th Grade	9th - 12th Grade	Total
Exhibitors	Overall Satisfaction	100%	83%	**92%**	92%	81%	**90%**	74%	84%	**77%**
	Found the event extremely or well organized	77%	67%	**72%**	84%	75%	**82%**	69%	89%	**75%**
	Found our communication before the event helpful or very helpful	95%	100%	**97%**	99%	100%	**99%**	88%	98%	**91%**

EdFEST (PK3 – Grade 8) Exhibitors: n = 50

EdFEST (Grades 9-12) Exhibitors: n = 20

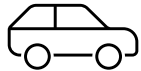MY SCHOOL DC
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EdFEST 2025 Key Components

- Event Venues & Flow

- High School Info Sessions

- Security & Access

- Transportation/Parking

- Vaccinations

- Attendance Tracking & EventPlanner

- Budget

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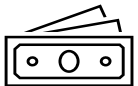
EdFEST 2025 Recap + EdFEST 2026 Discussion

1. What additional feedback or thoughts do you have on EdFEST 2025?

2. As we look forward to planning for EdFEST 2026, what changes or recommendations come to mind?

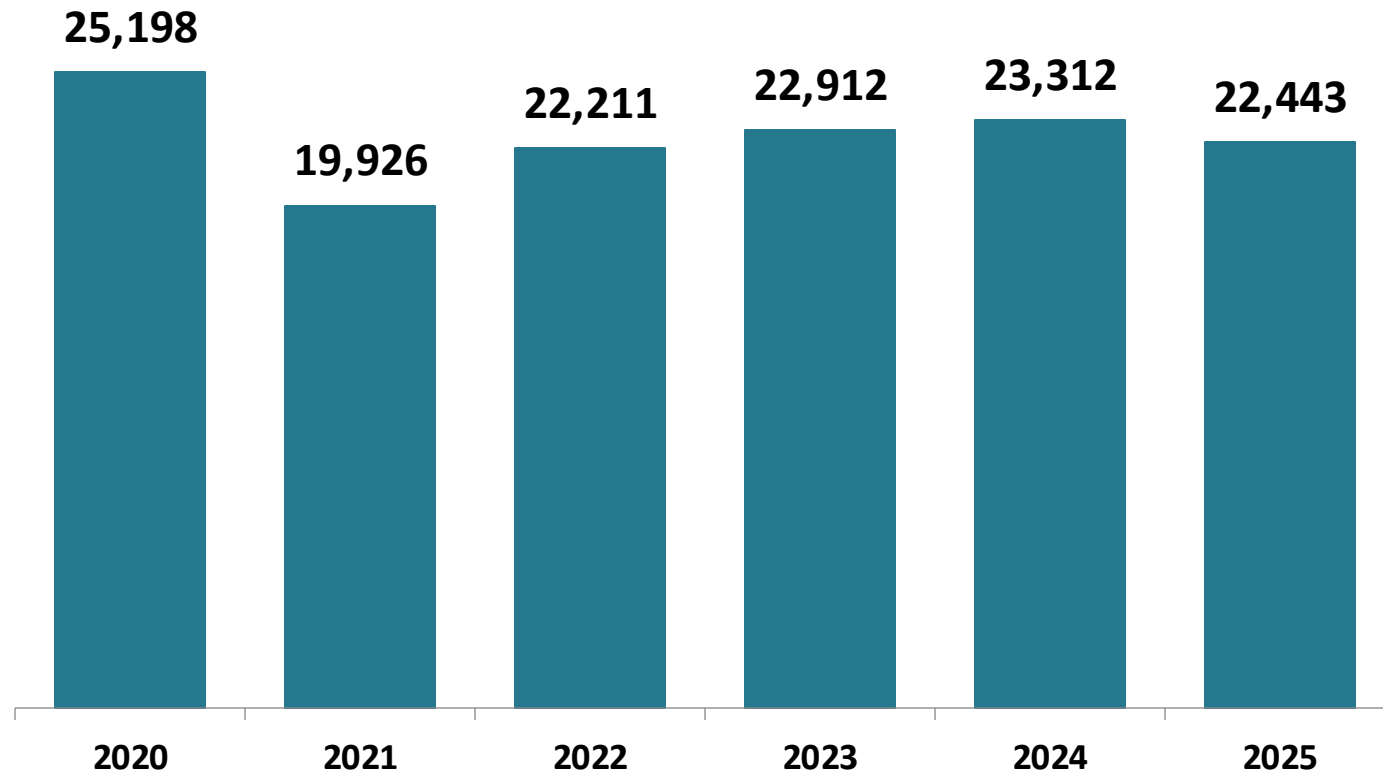3. Based on EdFEST 2025 venue issues and DC unknowns, how would you recommend we proceed for EdFEST 2026?

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SY26-27 Application Trends

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How many Applicants Enter the Lottery Each Year?

Over 22,000 applicants have entered the lottery each year since 2022 and a similar number is anticipated this year based on current application trends.

In 2025, the number of unique applicants decreased from the prior two years.

Year	Applicants
2020	25,198
2021	19,926
2022	22,211
2023	22,912
2024	23,312
2025	22,443

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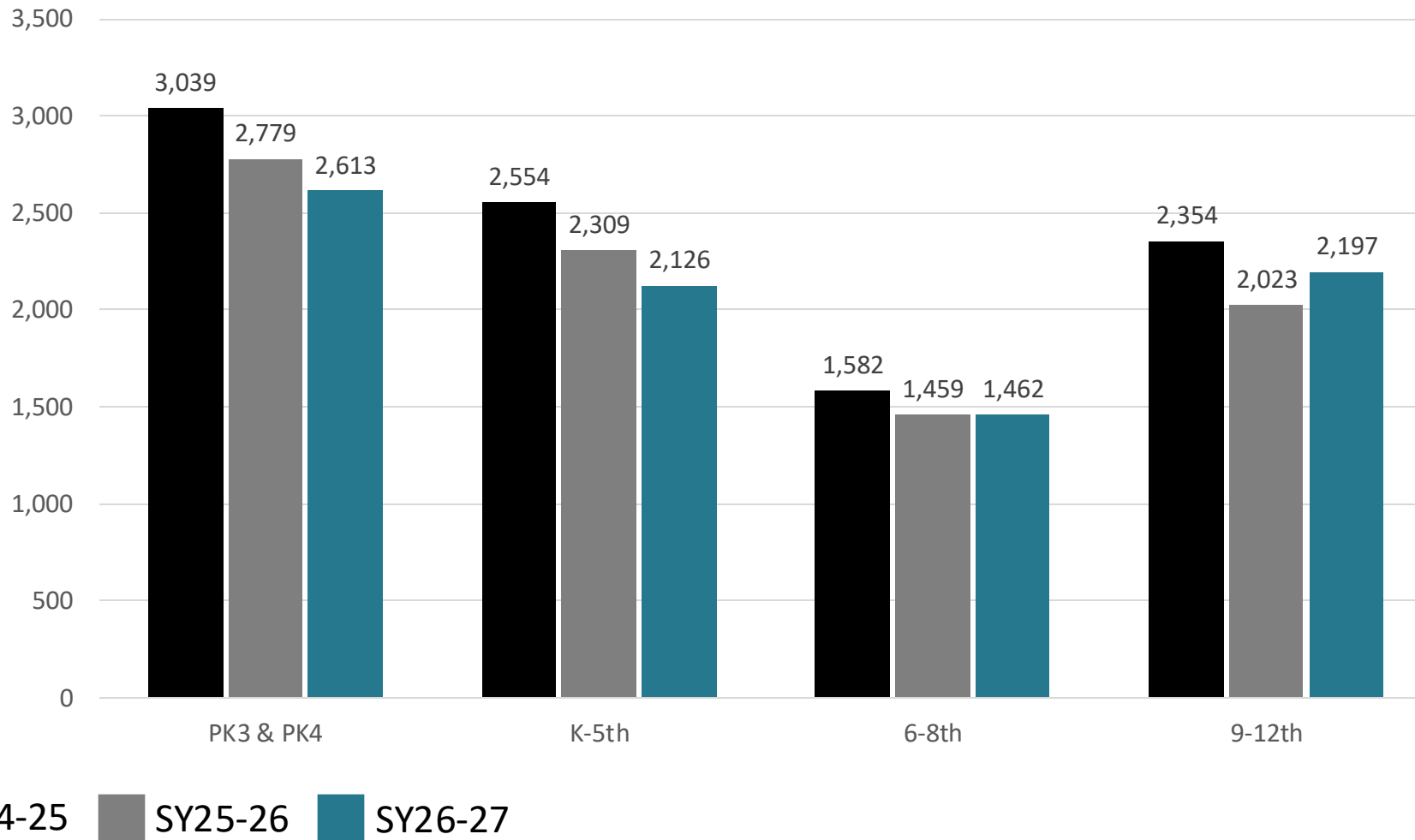The Public School Lottery

Total Submitted Unique Applicants

Overall submitted applicants are comparable to the same period last year (-172, -2%), and significantly behind SY24-25 (-1,131, -12%).
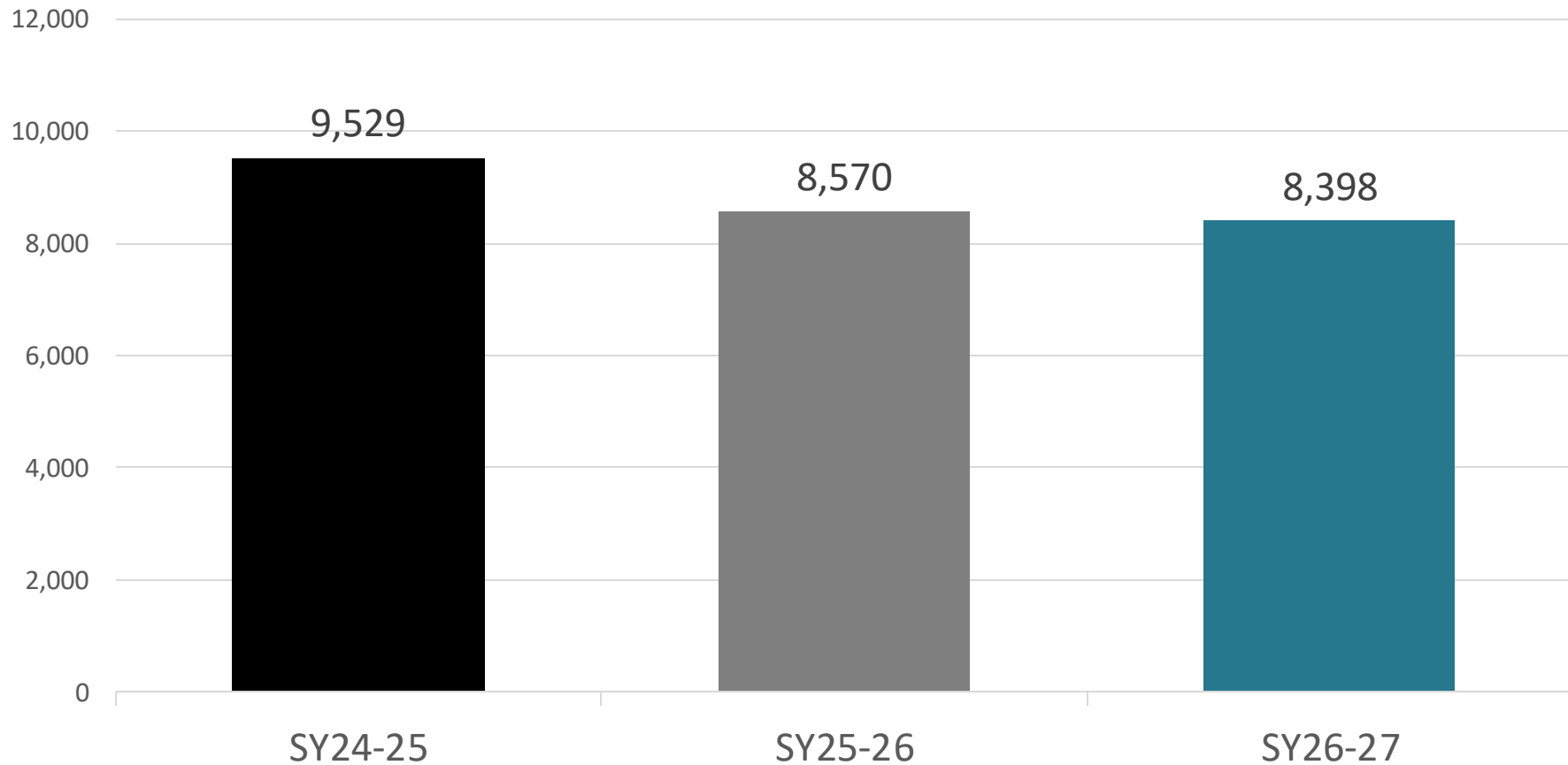
Total Submitted Unique Applicants by Grade Band

High School applications are slightly ahead, while Early Childhood and Elementary grades lag behind previous years.
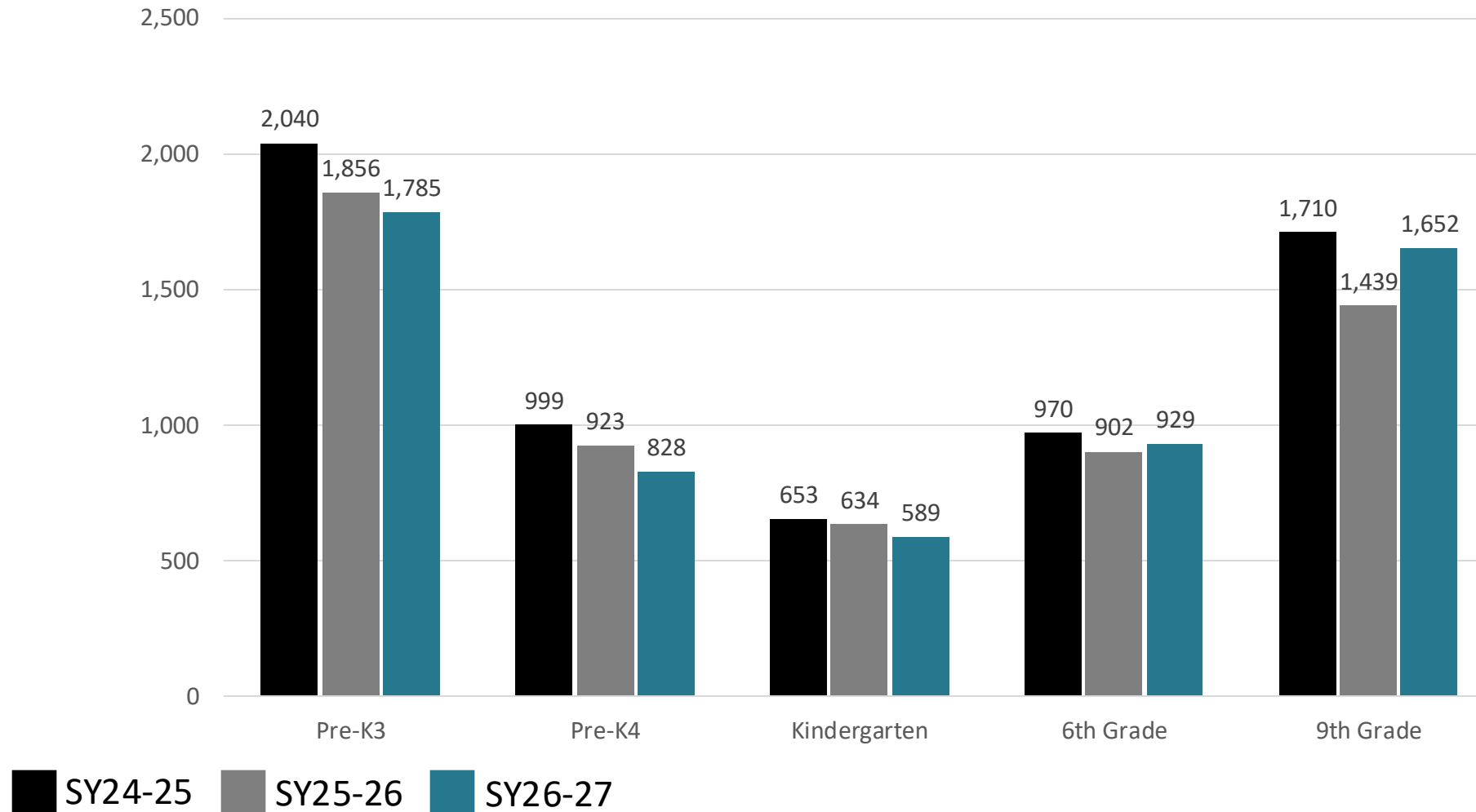

Legend: SY24-25 (black), SY25-26 (gray), SY26-27 (teal)

Grade Band	SY24-25	SY25-26	SY26-27
PK3 & PK4	3,039	2,779	2,613
K-5th	2,554	2,309	2,126
6-8th	1,582	1,459	1,462
9-12th	2,354	2,023	2,197

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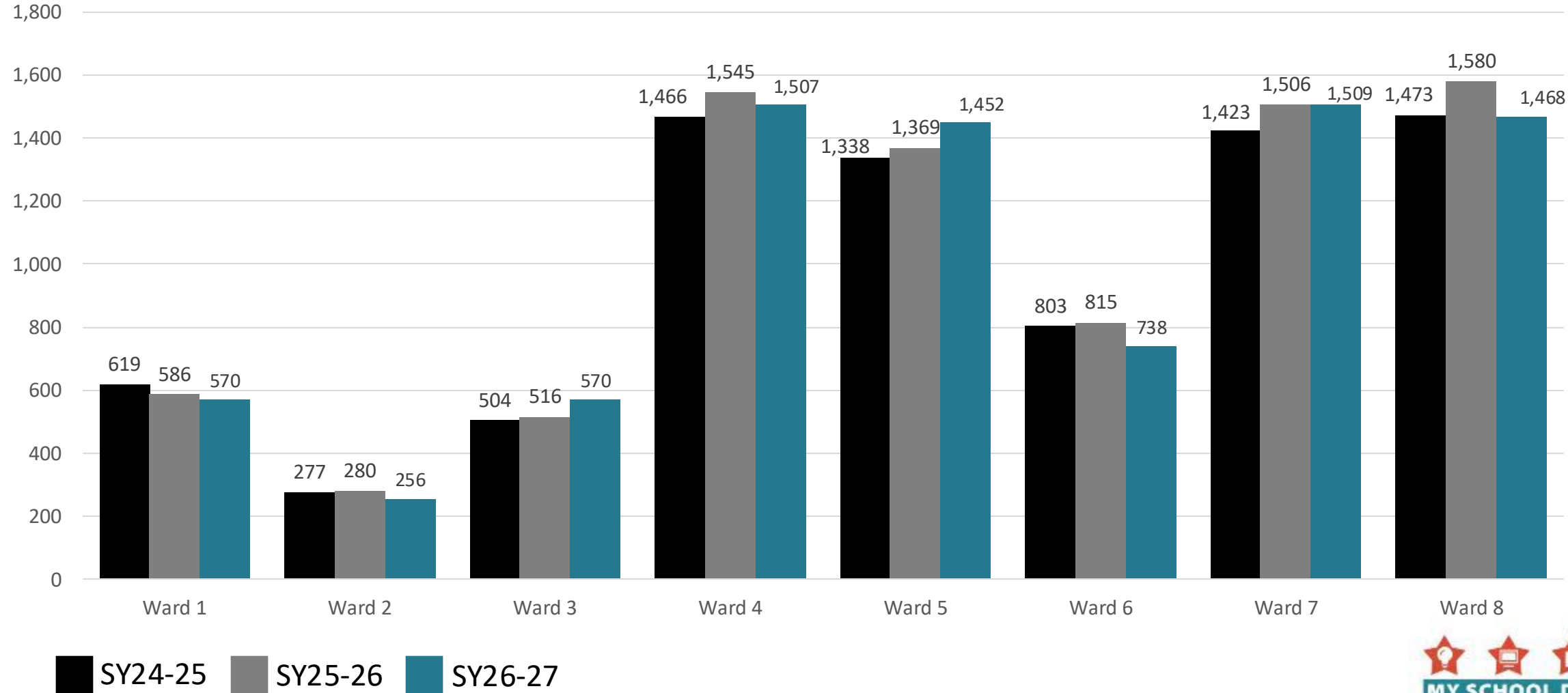
Data compares 1/19/2024 vs. 1/20/2025 vs 1/20/2026.

Total Submitted Unique Applicants by Entry Grade

9th grade (as of Tuesday) had more submitted applications over last year (+213, +15%) while Pre-K4 (-95, -10%) lags behind the last two years.

Data compares 1/19/2024 vs. 1/20/2025 vs 1/20/2026.

Total Submitted Unique Applicants by Ward

Ward	SY24-25	SY25-26	SY26-27
Ward 1	619	586	570
Ward 2	277	280	256
Ward 3	504	516	570
Ward 4	1,466	1,545	1,507
Ward 5	1,338	1,369	1,452
Ward 6	803	815	738
Ward 7	1,423	1,506	1,509
Ward 8	1,473	1,580	1,468

■ SY24-25   ■ SY25-26   ■ SY26-27

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Data compares 1/19/2024 vs. 1/20/2025 vs 1/20/2026.

2026-27 Ward Parity to Date

Ward	Total Public-School Enrollment by Ward of Residence (SY24-25)	Applicants by Ward of Residence (SY26-27)	Current Difference
1	8%	7%	-1%
2	3%	3%	-
3	7%	7%	-
4	17%	19%	+2%
5	16%	18%	+2%
6	8%	9%	+1%
7	20%	19%	-1%
8	22%	18%	-4%

Data as of 1/20/2026.

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Apply Phase – Outreach & Marketing Overview

Email & Text Alerts

Phone Banking

Advertising: Print, Radio, TV, Digital, Bus, and Rail

PAC, LEA and Partner Toolkits
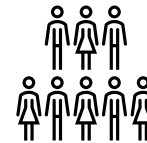
Community Presence: Lottery Info/App Support and Lottery 101 Sessions

| Apply Phase Phone Banking Dec. 15 – Jan. 20 | Apply Phase Alerts (Emails & Text Messages) Dec. 15 – Mar. 2 | Apply Phase Paid Advertising Begins Jan. 13 (moved up from Jan. 20) | Started Not Submitted Phone Banking & Alerts Jan. 20 – Feb. 2(HS) Feb. 17 – Mar. 2(PK3-8) |

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Upcoming Public-Facing Lottery Support Events

We have wrapped 70 lottery outreach events and activations and currently have 29 additional lottery outreach events and activations scheduled between now and March 2 (with more being scheduled).
If you have specific community orgs you'd like us to partner with, please email Chelsey to coordinate next steps.

Virtual Lottery 101 Events
(RSVP Required)

Jan. 27, 2026
8 p.m.

Feb. 25, 2026
8 p.m.

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Lottery Information and Application Support Sessions in January

H Street DHS Service Center
645 H Street, NE
Monday, January 12, 2026
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Congress Heights DHS Service Center
4049 South Capitol Street, SW
Tuesday, January 13, 2026
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Taylor Street DHS Service Center
1207 Taylor Street, NW
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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Lottery Information and Application Support Sessions in February

H Street DHS Service Center
645 H Street, NE
Monday, February 9, 2026
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Fort Davis DHS Service Center
3851 Alabama Avenue, SE
Tuesday, February 10, 2026
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Anacostia DHS Service Center
2100 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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Outreach and Engagement Strategies

What, if any, additional ideas do you have to enhance our outreach and communication efforts for the 2026-27 School Lottery Application given current application trends?

**LEA Update & Policy
Review/Discussion**

Capital Village PCS - School Closure

Background

- ❖ On 3/8/23, PCSB placed Capital Village PCS on its Financial Monitoring List due to its declining enrollment and below-target actual and budgeted financial indicators.
- ❖ To address increasing concerns, PCSB placed Capital Village on a **Financial Corrective Action Plan (FCAP)** on 10/28/24. It was amended on 6/3/25 to address a missed FCAP target.
- ❖ On 4/7/25, PCSB issued its 5-Year Charter Review Report, recommending to conditionally continue Capital Village's charter.
- ❖ On 11/17/25, PCSB informed MSDC that the school missed FCAP targets and was considering a recommendation for revocation.
- ❖ On 12/4/25, the Capital Village PCS Board voted to relinquish its charter and cease operations at the end of SY25-26.

My School DC Response/Actions

- ❖ MSDC removed Capital Village from its SY26-27 lottery application before the application was launched

- ❖ MSDC also removed the LEA from our online resources.

- ❖ Capital Village PCS representatives attended the PK3 – Grade 8 EdFEST event to inform current families that they need to apply to a new school for SY26-27.

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MSDC Current Policy: LEAs with Uncertain Operating Status

Current Policy Language

If the operating status of a campus or LEA is uncertain, MSDC should <u>recommend</u> that the LEA make zero seats available in the lottery. This will prevent students from being matched with the school while allowing the school to generate waitlists, which can be utilized if the school remains open. Making zero seats available minimizes the negative impact of any closure, consolidation, or acquisition on new students.

Challenges

1) Does not define what makes a campus or LEA's operating status uncertain using available metrics
2) Relies on the LEA telling us if their status is uncertain or MSDC investing valuable time and energy to chase down that information since it is rarely publicly posted
3) Only recommends action, rather than mandating action to protect students.

Current Policy Goal & Objectives

GOAL = To safeguard the lottery's smooth operations and stability by ensuring MSDC is informed about schools with uncertain operating status in time to take corrective action to protect families' interests.

Objectives	Metrics or Method of Implementation
Define what threshold (or available metrics) make a school's operating status "uncertain" enough to warrant lottery action.	Failure to meet conditions for charter continuance (per charter review process) *
Ensure MSDC is informed about schools with uncertain operating status in time to take corrective action BEFORE the lottery application is released (optimally) or the lottery runs.	Consultation with PCSB staff*
Protect families from applying and being matched to schools that may close.	Remove seats from lottery
Protect LEAs so they have new students to enroll if they remain open.	Still allow families to apply to the LEA and add all applicants to their waitlist. If the LEA stays open, they can extend enrollment offers from their waitlist.
Make sure the policy is cross-sector in its focus.	None yet identified.

*from policy proposal presented to the Board for discussion at our CLB Meeting on July 31, 2025.

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Questions for Board consideration:

1. How can MSDC better leverage outside partners (PCSB, DCPS, DME, SBOE, OSSE, etc.) to ensure potential school closures are identified prior to the application release or lottery run?

2. Is updating MSDC policy the best way to address this issue or are there other things we should focus on to improve citywide collaboration on this important issue?
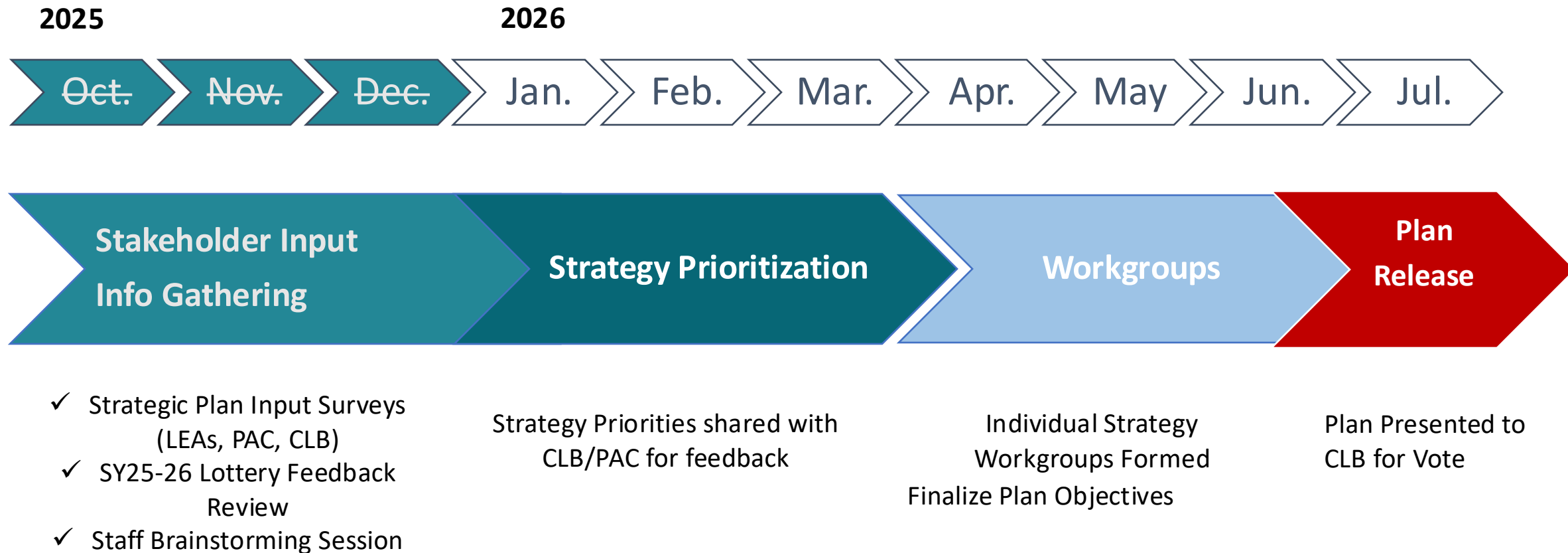
FY26 Strategic Goals Update

Strategic Planning Timeline & Status

2025   **2026**

| Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | Jun. | Jul. |

Stakeholder Input Info Gathering → **Strategy Prioritization** → **Workgroups** → **Plan Release**

- ✓ Strategic Plan Input Surveys (LEAs, PAC, CLB)
- ✓ SY25-26 Lottery Feedback Review
- ✓ Staff Brainstorming Session

Strategy Priorities shared with CLB/PAC for feedback

Individual Strategy Workgroups Formed
Finalize Plan Objectives

Plan Presented to CLB for Vote

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Stakeholder Feedback

Technology

❖Modernize application
❖Create a mobile app
❖Update website to have a more user-friendly design with simpler language and more visuals

Data & Information

❖Provide end of year report earlier
❖Make it easier to add open houses to your website

Community Outreach

❖Increase coordination w/ outside orgs
❖Host more in-person workshops and small, localized events
❖Improve effort to meet families where they are
❖Schedule one day each week for in person application support after 5pm

Enrollment Process

❖Have parents verify residency as a requirement to apply in MSDC
❖Integrate our system with schools SIS systems

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Staff Feedback/Priorities

Technology

- ❖ Modernize application to enhance the user-experience
- ❖ Update website w/ more user-friendly design

Research Priorities

- ❖ Review impact of equitable access preference and update legislation as necessary
- ❖ Study similar school district's lottery systems
- ❖ Study factors that contribute to higher match rates
- ❖ Study ways preferences are implemented and influence lottery outcomes

Data & Information

- ❖ Create/distribute annual report
- ❖ Update data page on our website
- ❖ Improve quality and accuracy of school program information
- ❖ Increase transparency of DCPS selective HS application process

LEA Participation

- ❖ Update participation agreements (i.e., consider making it opt-out instead of opt-in)
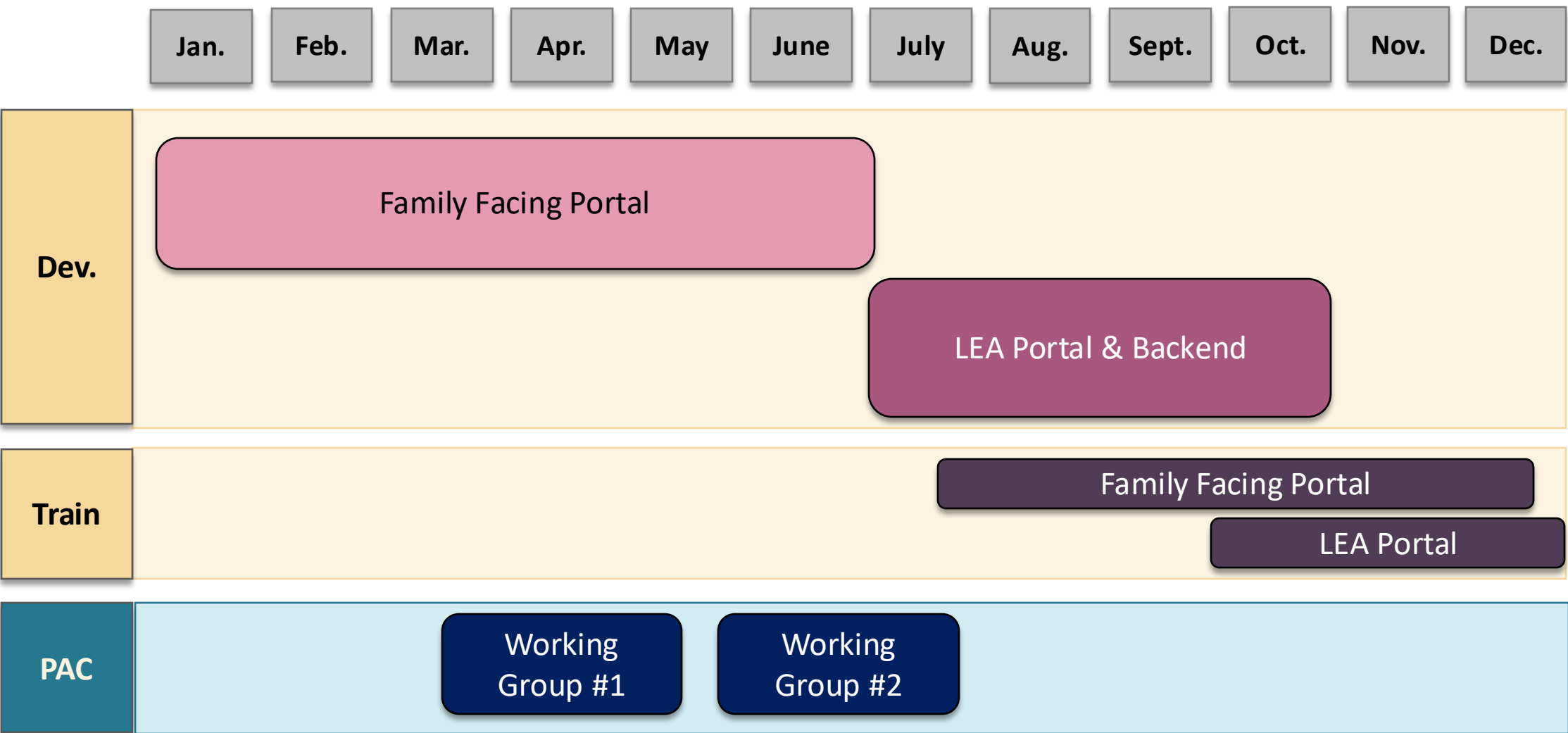- ❖ Strengthen LEA data entry requirements (i.e, closing out offers, recording enrollments, etc.)

Next Steps: Strategic Plan Development

1) **Consolidate list of strategic priorities and goals**

2) **Run draft strategic priorities and goals by PAC/CLB members at upcoming mixer to solicit more feedback & ideas**
   - Conversational Corners Activity
   - Priority Assignments
   - Questions??

3) **Identify overarching goal and prepare plan overview to share at April CLB meeting**

Application 2.0 : Development & Feedback Timeline

MSDC has begun working with OCTO on App 2.0 and developed the following project timeline.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.

Dev.

Family Facing Portal

LEA Portal & Backend

Train

Family Facing Portal

LEA Portal

PAC

Working Group #1

Working Group #2

Next Meeting

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 30, 2026
@ 2:00 p.m.

Anticipated Agenda Items:
- SY26-27 Lottery Results
- SY25-26 Audit Update
- Strategic Plan