



Common Lottery Board Quarterly Meeting

July 30, 2026

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

Agenda

- 01 | SY26-27 Lottery Survey Data
- 02 | FY26 Goals Review & Assessment
- 03 | FY27 Annual Goals
- 04 | **Legislative Update: School Closure Preference Hearing**
- 05 | **Policy Update: MSDC Policy Guide Adoption**
- 06 | **Equitable Access Analysis and Findings**
- 07 | **Key Dates & Next Meeting**



SY26-27 Lottery Survey Data

Applicant Survey Responses

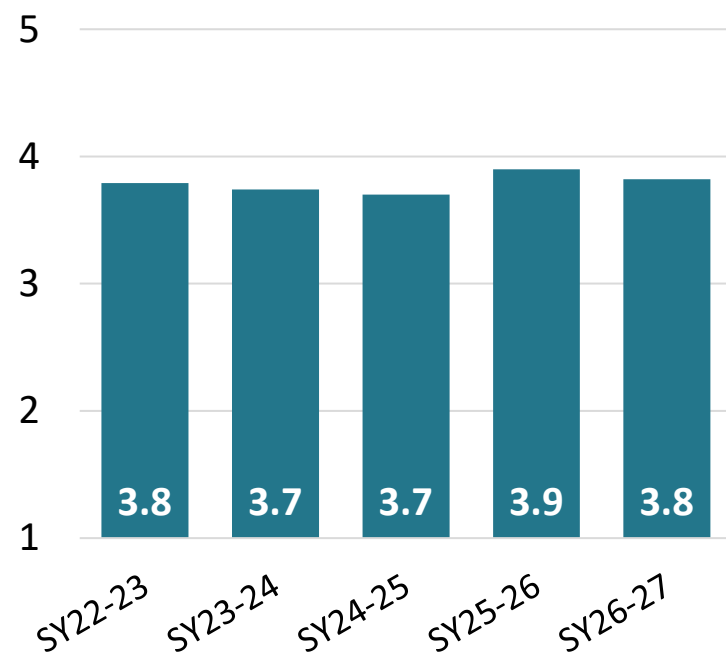
We saw a slight drop in survey responses this year, but the overall response rate was comparable to years past.

Year	Survey Responses	Applicants	Response Rate
SY22-23	2,739	22,211	12%
SY23-24	1,602	22,912	7%
SY24-25	1,585	23,312	7%
SY25-26	1,842	22,443	8%
SY26-27	1,543	20,987	7%

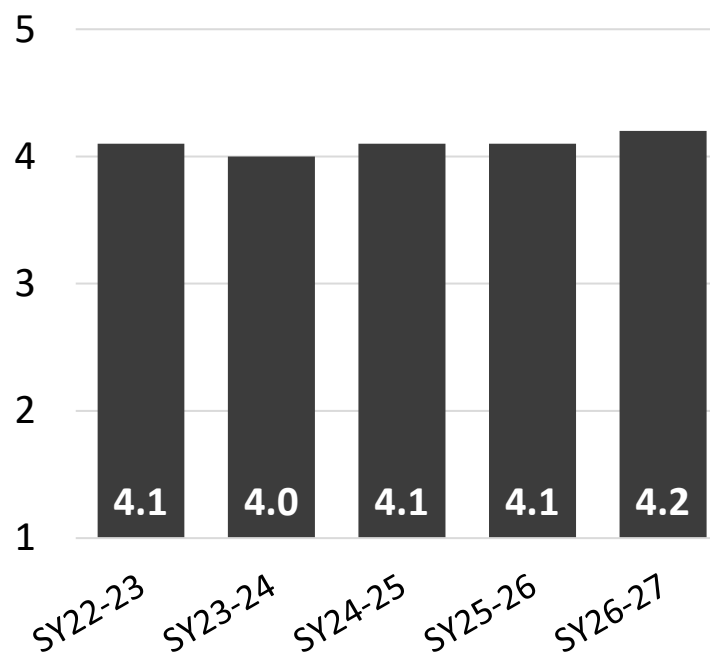
Applicant Satisfaction with MSDC

Satisfaction took a step forward with the My School DC hotline, while general satisfaction with both lottery results and the My School DC took a slight step back this year.

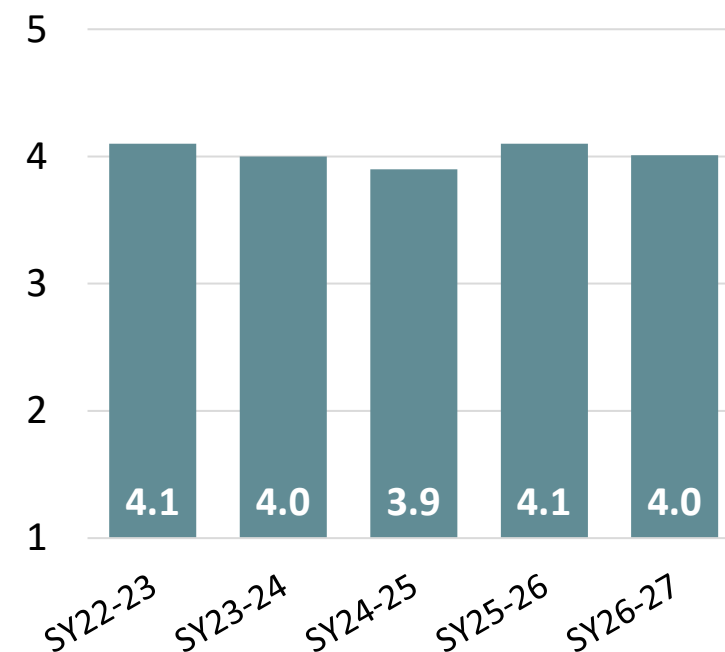
Satisfaction with lottery results



Usefulness of MSDC hotline



Satisfaction with MSDC



Satisfaction Deep Dive: Lottery Results

Satisfaction with lottery results showed a slight decline in Ward 2, 3, and 8. Consistently lower satisfaction with results are primarily from applicants living in Wards 1, 4, and 6.

Open Ended Response Themes:

- Matches
 - “Explain why my child wasn’t [matched].”
 - “Show a realistic odds for each school.”
- Waitlists
 - “[Waitlists] shouldn’t move backwards.”

Lottery Results Satisfaction by Applicant Home Ward

Home Ward	2025-26	2026-27	YoY Change
8	4.3	4.2	-0.1
7	4.0	4.0	-
6	3.6	3.6	-
5	3.8	3.8	-
4	3.6	3.6	-
3	3.8	3.6	-0.2
2	4.3	4.0	-0.3
1	3.6	3.6	-

Satisfaction Deep Dive: My School DC Process

While overall satisfaction with lottery remained at a 4.0 (“very satisfied”), applicant ratings declined slightly in Wards 5, 7 and 8 and more significantly in Ward 2 this year.

Open-Ended Response Themes:

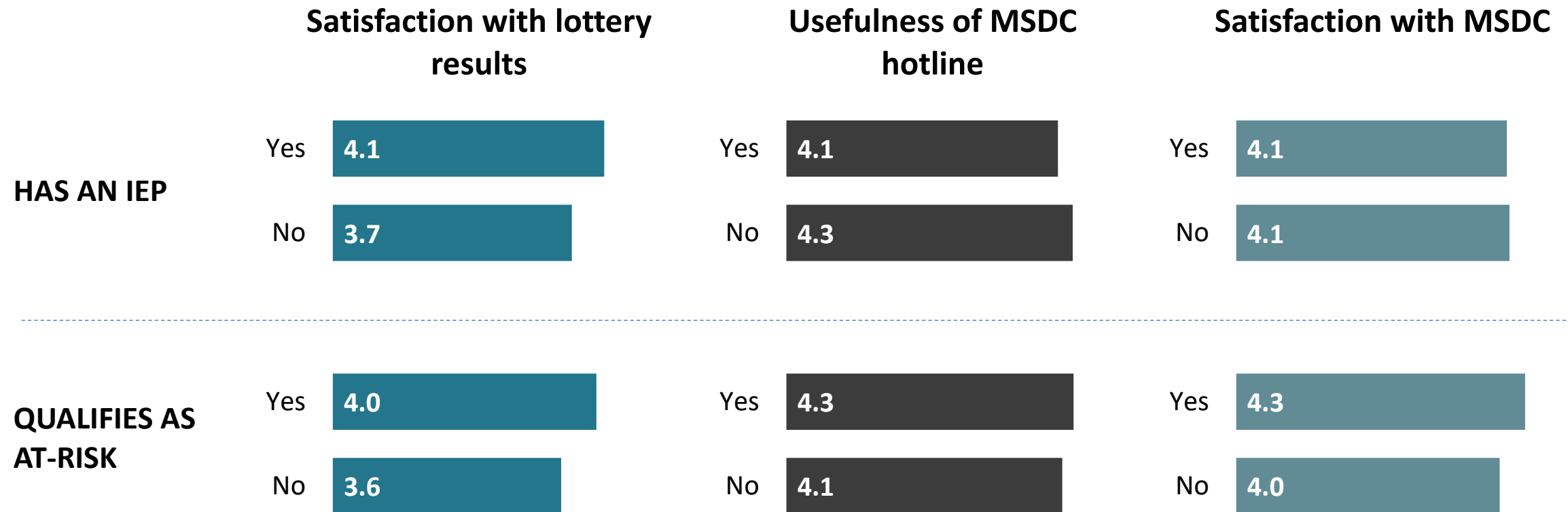
- “Need all school information in a single Location.”
- “... the lottery system is inherently inequitable, and no amount of process improvement can fix that without structural Change.

My School DC Satisfaction by Applicant Home Ward

Home Ward	2025-26	2026-27	YoY Change
8	4.5	4.3	-0.2
7	4.2	4.1	-0.1
6	4.0	4.1	+0.1
5	4.1	4.0	-0.1
4	4.1	4.1	-
3	4.0	4.0	-
2	4.4	4.1	-0.3
1	3.9	3.9	-

Responses from Applicants with an IEP and/or At-Risk

Applicants reporting their child has an IEP or might qualify as “at-risk of academic failure” reported an improved experience over last year and a higher satisfaction rate than the total applicant pool.

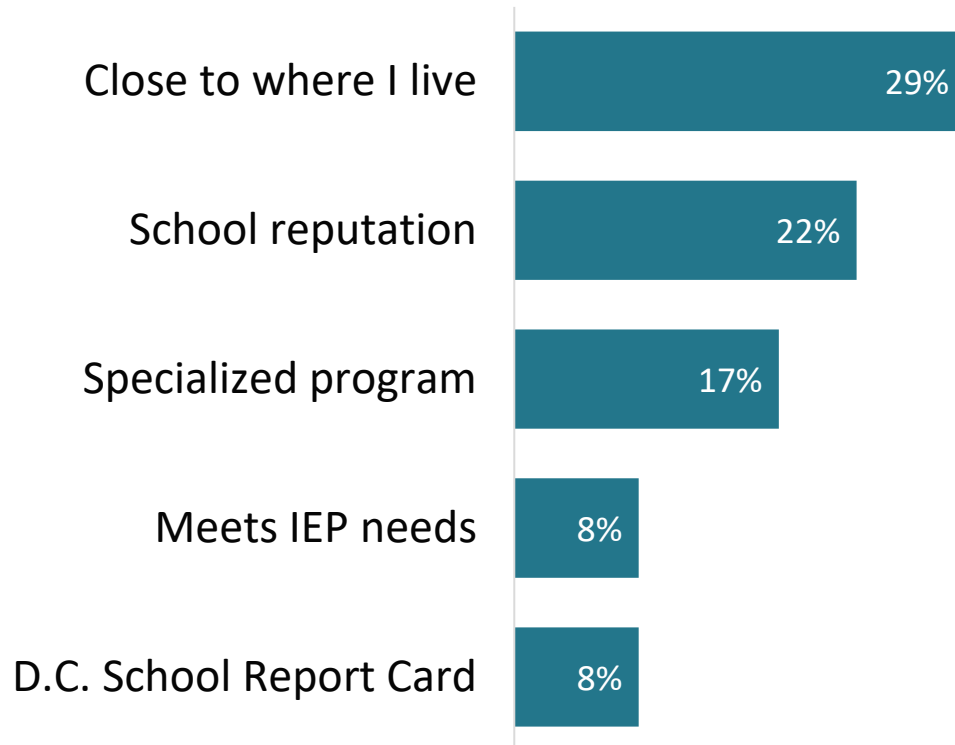


Note: Excludes responses from those who indicated “prefer not to answer” due to small sample size.

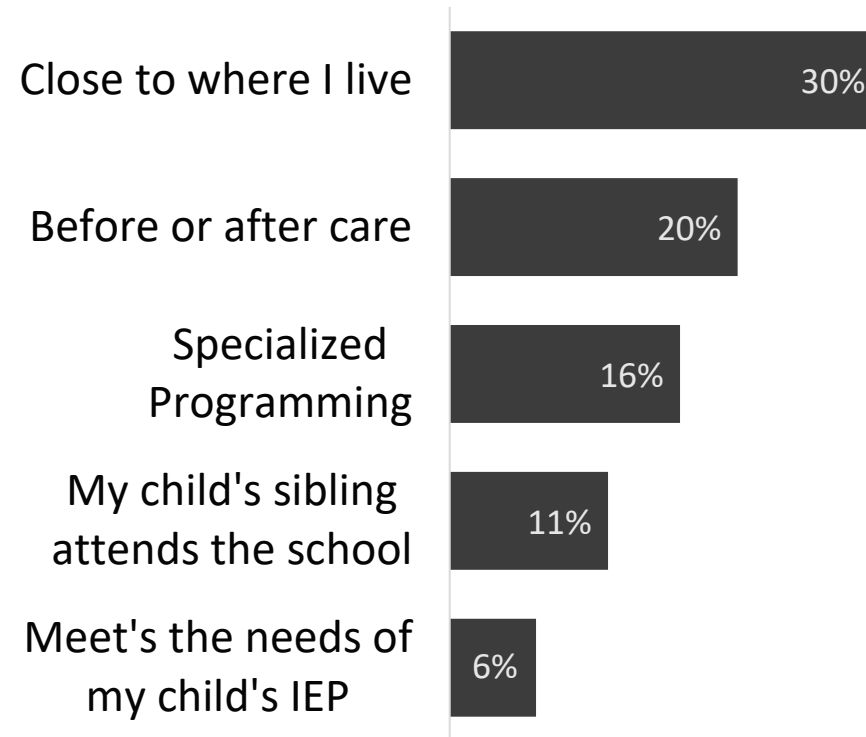
Proximity To Home Remains Key Decision Factor

For the first time, the D.C. School Report Card entered the top five factors applicants consider when choosing which schools they should apply to in the lottery.

#1 Factor in applying



#1 Factor in enrolling





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Annual Goals Review

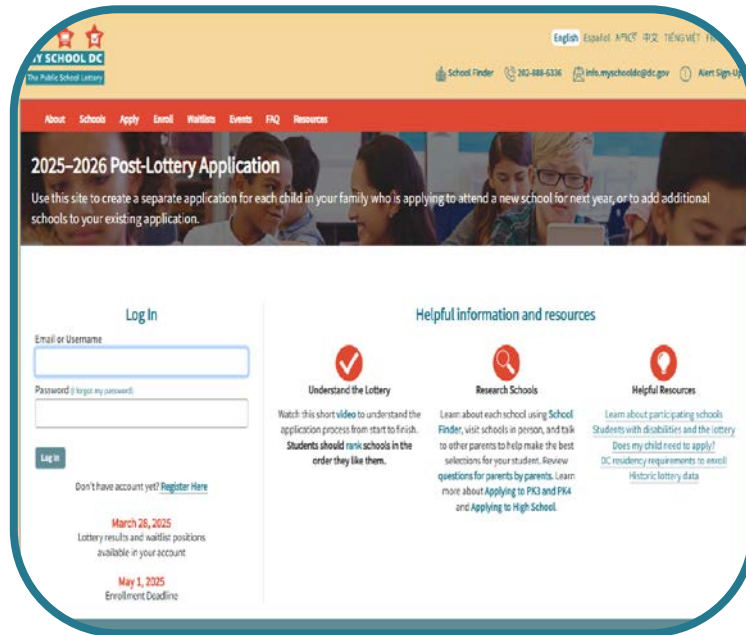
	FY26 Annual Goals	Results	Notes
Annual Goals	Modernize our parent-facing application to ensure its stability and enhance the user experience, via intra-agency or contracted resources, by December 2026.		In progress; currently on track.
	Develop new MSDC 5-year Strategic Plan		Needs refinement before adoption.
Recurring Goals	Achieve 4.4+ on ease of application across mobile and desktop		4.4 rating mobile and desktop.
	Achieve 4.3+ on applicant, staff and Parent Advisory Committee satisfaction ratings		4.0 applicant; 4.4 staff; 4.7 PAC
	Decrease post-lottery applications by 2% (by June 30)		Decrease of 12% as of 6/22
	Decrease post-lottery at-risk applications (for SY25-26) by 2%		Increase of 9%; 3,740 vs. 2,975
	Attain 2% ward parity in applicants v. total public school enrollment in every ward		Achieved everywhere but Ward 8 w/ 4% gap
	Maintain enrollments outside the MSDC process at <0.2% of total enrollment from participating LEAs		<0.1% achieved.
	Achieve 90%+ satisfaction from EdFEST attendees & 5,000+ in attendance between the two events.		86% - satisfaction; 5,509 attendees
	Retain 99%+ school participation		12

2026 Annual Goals

Application 2.0

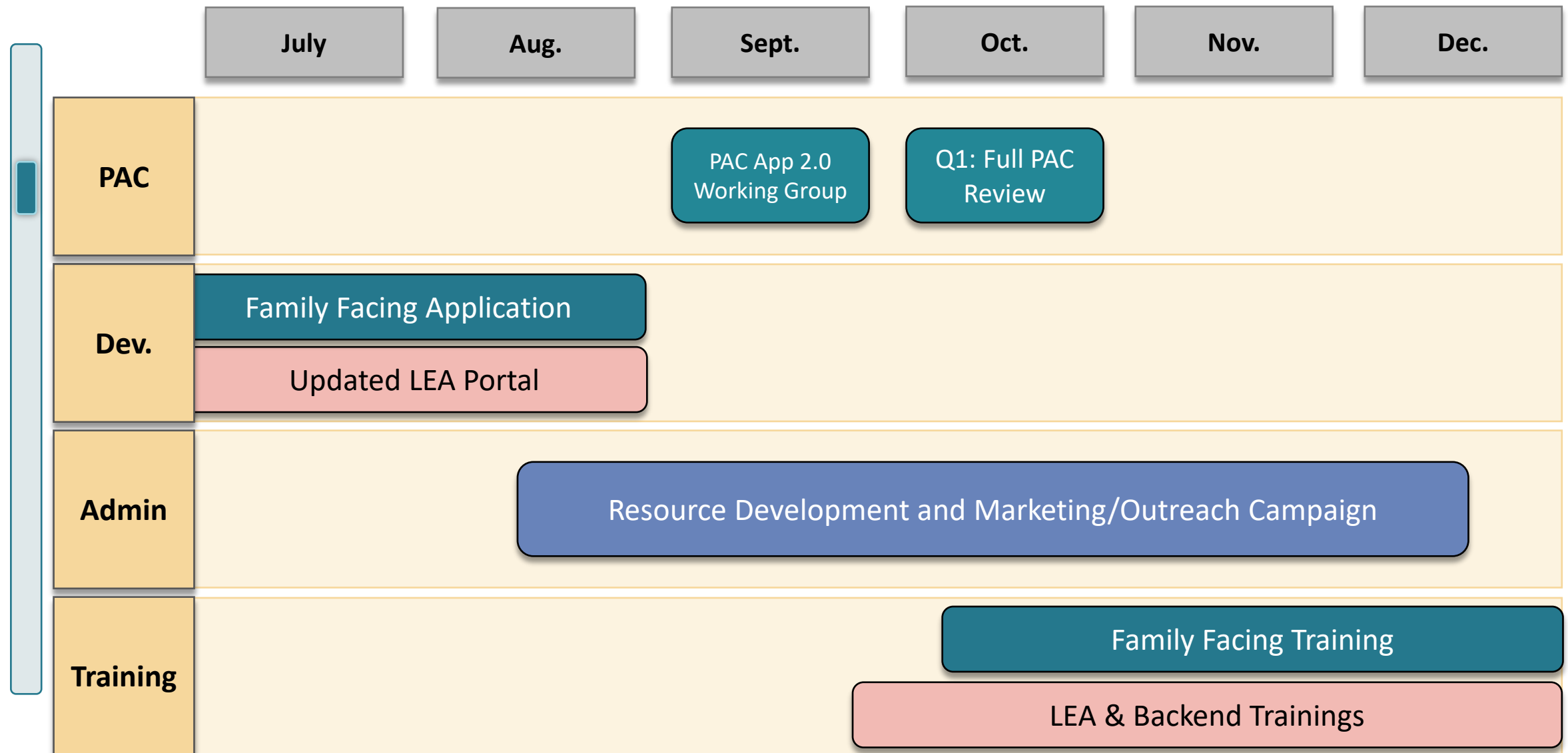


Status: In Progress



- **GOAL** = Modernize our parent-facing application by December 2026.
- **OUTCOME** = Application build underway alongside planning for release.

App 2.0 Update



2026 Annual Goals

5-Year Strategic Plan

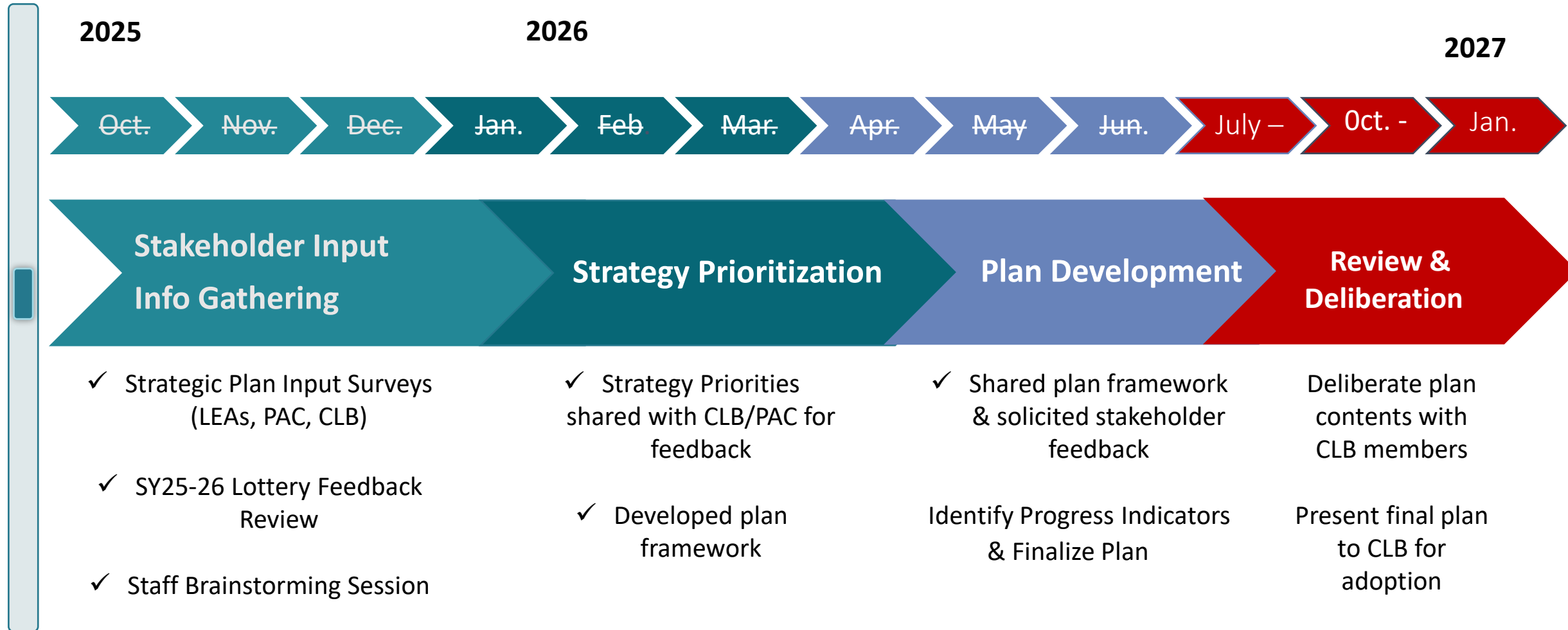


Status: Achieved



- **GOAL** = : Develop new MSDC 5-year Strategic Plan.
- **OUTCOME** = Draft Plan Developed; Needs further Board review and deliberation prior to adoption.

Strategic Planning Timeline & Status



2026 Recurring Goals: Survey Results

Ease of Application
Access



Status: Achieved

GOAL = 4.4 rating | OUTCOME = 4.4

Applicant, School
Staff, & PAC
Satisfaction Ratings



Status: Partially Achieved

- **GOAL =**
 - 4.3+ Satisfaction
- **OUTCOME =**
 - 4.0 Applicant Rating
 - 4.4 Staff Rating
 - 4.7 PAC Rating

2026 Recurring Goals: Lottery Participation

Decrease Post-Lottery Applications



Status: Achieved

GOAL = 2% decrease
OUTCOME = 12% decrease

Decrease At-Risk Post-Lottery Applications



Status: Not Achieved

GOAL = 2% decrease
OUTCOME = 9% increase

Ward Parity with Applications



Status: Partially Achieved

GOAL = w/in 2% in every ward
OUTCOME = achieved in every ward, but Ward 8 w/4% gap.



2026 Recurring Goals: Other Program Goals

Limit enrollments
outside MSDC process



Status: Achieved

GOAL = <0.2%
OUTCOME = <0.1%

EdFEST attendance &
satisfaction



Status: Partially Achieved

GOAL = 90% satisfaction & 5,000+ attendees
OUTCOME = 86% & 5,509 attendees

LEA Participation in
the Lottery



Status: Achieved

GOAL = 99% participation

	Draft 2027 Annual Goals	New Goal	Updated Goal
New Goal	Successfully launch “App 2.0” in December 2026 and complete development of midyear application for launch in SY27-28 so we have a fully integrated new lottery application.		Y
	Adopt new 5-year strategic plan for implementation starting in 2027.		Y
Recurring Goals	Achieve 4.4+ on ease of application across mobile and desktop	N	
	Achieve 4.3+ on staff and Parent Advisory Committee satisfaction ratings and maintain applicant satisfaction rating at 4.0+.	N	
	Decrease post-lottery applications by 2% (by June 30)	N	
	Decrease post-lottery at-risk applications (for SY27-28) by 2%	N	
	Attain 2% ward parity in applicants v. total public school enrollment in every ward	N	
	Maintain enrollments outside the MSDC process at <0.2% of total enrollment from participating LEAs	N	
	Achieve 90%+ satisfaction from EdFEST attendees & 5,000+ in attendance between the two events.	N	
	Retain 99%+ school participation	N	



Legislative Update: School Closure Preference Hearing

School Closure Preference Legislation

Takeaways from the Council Hearing:

- 1) Most everyone advocated for some changes or enhancements to be made to the legislation
 - **Most popular suggested change = changing mandate for all charters to apply the preference to an opt-in**
- 2) PAC's opposition to the preference was highlighted in several ways (PAC members and OSSE testimony).
- 3) Several witnesses raised similar concerns and advocacy points:
 - **Concerns with the lack of consultation with MSDC and other stakeholders;**
 - **Advocacy for the preference to be made available to DCPS to make it more sector neutral;**
 - **Advocacy to table the legislation until more evaluation is done on the need and potential outcomes.**
- 4) A few LEA witnesses mentioned the need for funding to support the instructional needs of students coming from closed schools.
- 5) Several advocacy groups also suggested structuring the preference in a similar way to the equitable access preference.

Next Steps/Outcome:

Council reports it does not intend to take further steps to move the legislation forward at this time.

Many thanks to our PAC & CLB members for their engagement on this important issue!



Policy Update: MSDC Policy Guide Adoption

Board Vote: MSDC Policy Guide

Update:

- There are no new policies or policy changes being proposed to our MSDC Policy Guide this year.

Board Vote:

- Is everyone in favor of adopting the SY27-28 MSDC Policy Guide, as shared with you prior to this meeting?





Equitable Access Preference Impact Analysis

Evaluating the Impact of the Equitable Access Preference in the DC Lottery

Michael Quinn¹

¹The Maxwell School of Syracuse University

I am grateful for the generous support of Blueprint Labs, which made this research possible. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent views of My School DC, OSSE, or Blueprint Labs.

Did Equitable Access (EA) Expand Access?

➤ What is Equitable Access?

- Participating schools give students who qualify as being “at-risk” an admissions preference or designated seat.

➤ Why is it Difficult to Evaluate?

- Matching depends on everyone's choices, available seats, and assignment rules.
- All three “inputs” change together: changes in matches do not isolate the rules alone.

➤ Questions and Approach

1. What drove changes in EA school matches, and who benefited?

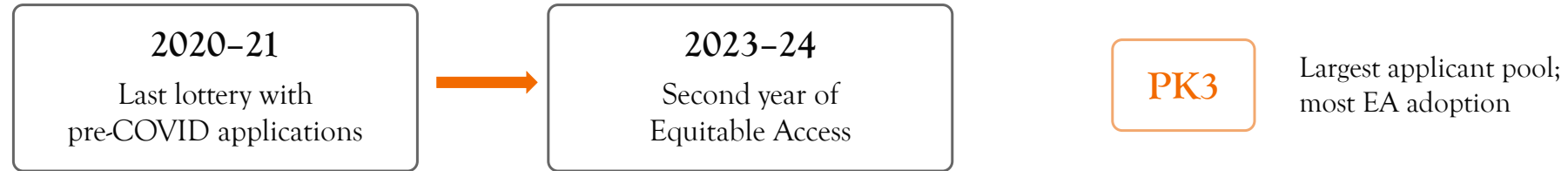
Calculate counterfactual lotteries to separate the effects of rules, capacity, and demand.

2. Do At-Risk students enroll once matched – and persist after enrolling?

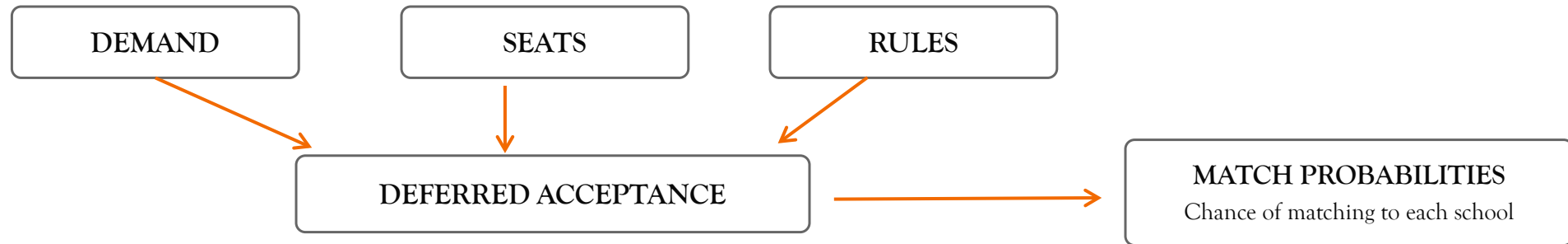
Use random lottery offers.

Decomposition Approach

1. Comparison

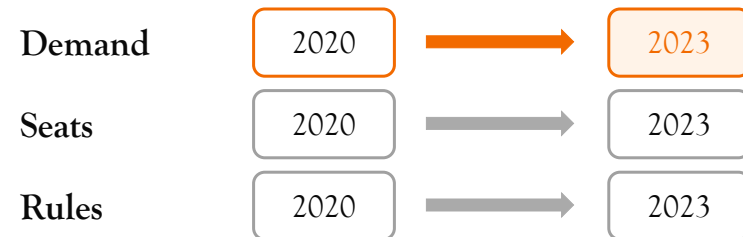


2. Reconstruct the Lottery



Deferred Acceptance is deterministic: these three inputs determine assignments

3. Run Counterfactual Lotteries



Change one input while holding the others fixed.
Repeat for every combination.

Shapley decomposition assigns the total change to demand, seats, and rules

What Changed Between 2020–2023?

➤ Capacity Increased, Especially at EA Schools

- Total: 6,274 → 6,631 ↑ 6%
- EA Schools: 870 → 1,019 ↑ 17%

➤ Unique Applicants Fell; At-risk Share Stable

- Total Applicants: 5,678 → 4,747 ↓ 16%
- % At-Risk: 39.2% → 39.3%

➤ Among Applicants to EA schools, match rates changed

- At-Risk Applicants: 22% → 38%
- Non-At-Risk Applicants: 25% → 28%

What Drove the Change in Match Rates: Capacity, Demand, or EA Rules?

Key Findings

➤ **EA Modestly, but Meaningfully, Expanded Access for At-risk Students**

- Large increase in offer rates to the targeted schools
- Modest increase in matching to first choice.
- Ranking behavior did not change unusually around implementation

➤ **The Effect of EA Rules was Driven by a Subset of EA Schools**

- Rule did not “bind” at some schools that serve a high share of at-risk students.
- Schools still benefited even if the “reserved share” of seats was below historic shares.

➤ **Enrollment and Persistence**

- At-Risk applicants are as likely as non-at-risk applicants to accept an EA school offer
- At-risk applicants are as likely to stay at an EA school after enrolling

At-risk Offer Rates at EA Schools Rose Sharply Post Reform

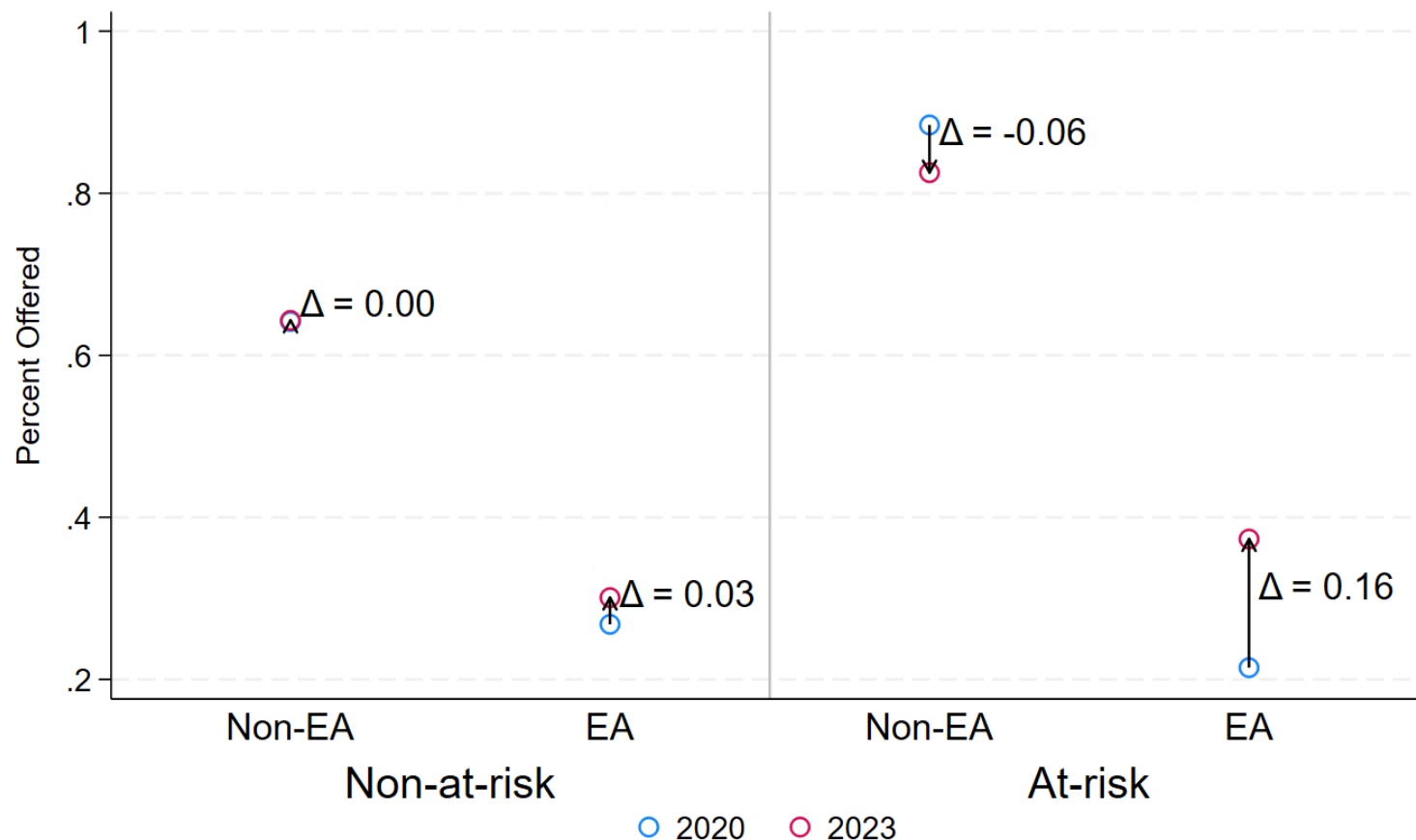
Figure 1. Total Change in Offer Rates, 2020 - 2023

For non-at-risk applicants:

- Little change

For at-risk applicants:

- $\uparrow 16$ *pp* at EA schools
- $\downarrow 6$ *pp* at non-EA schools



First-Choice Match Rates Rose Slightly for At-Risk Applicants

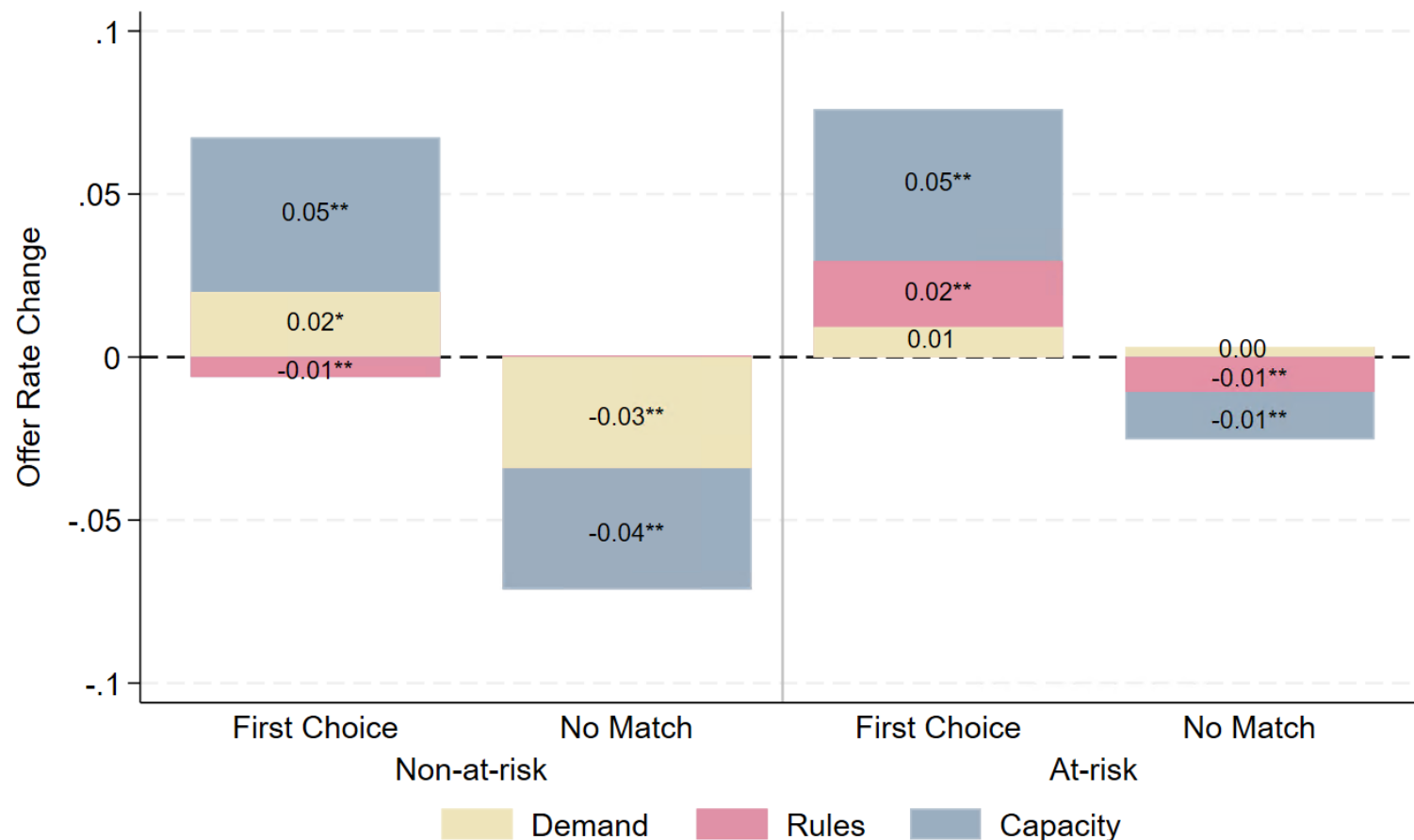
For At-Risk students, EA

- ↑ First Choice 2 pp
- ↓ Not Matching 1 pp

For Non=At-Risk students, EA

- ↓ First Choice 1 pp
- -- Not Matching

Figure 4. First Choice and No Match Rate Decomposition



Note: Pre-policy, 47% of non-at-risk and 78% of at-risk applicants received a first-choice offer; 16% and 5% received no offer.

Rule Changes Drove Most of the At-Risk Gain at EA Schools

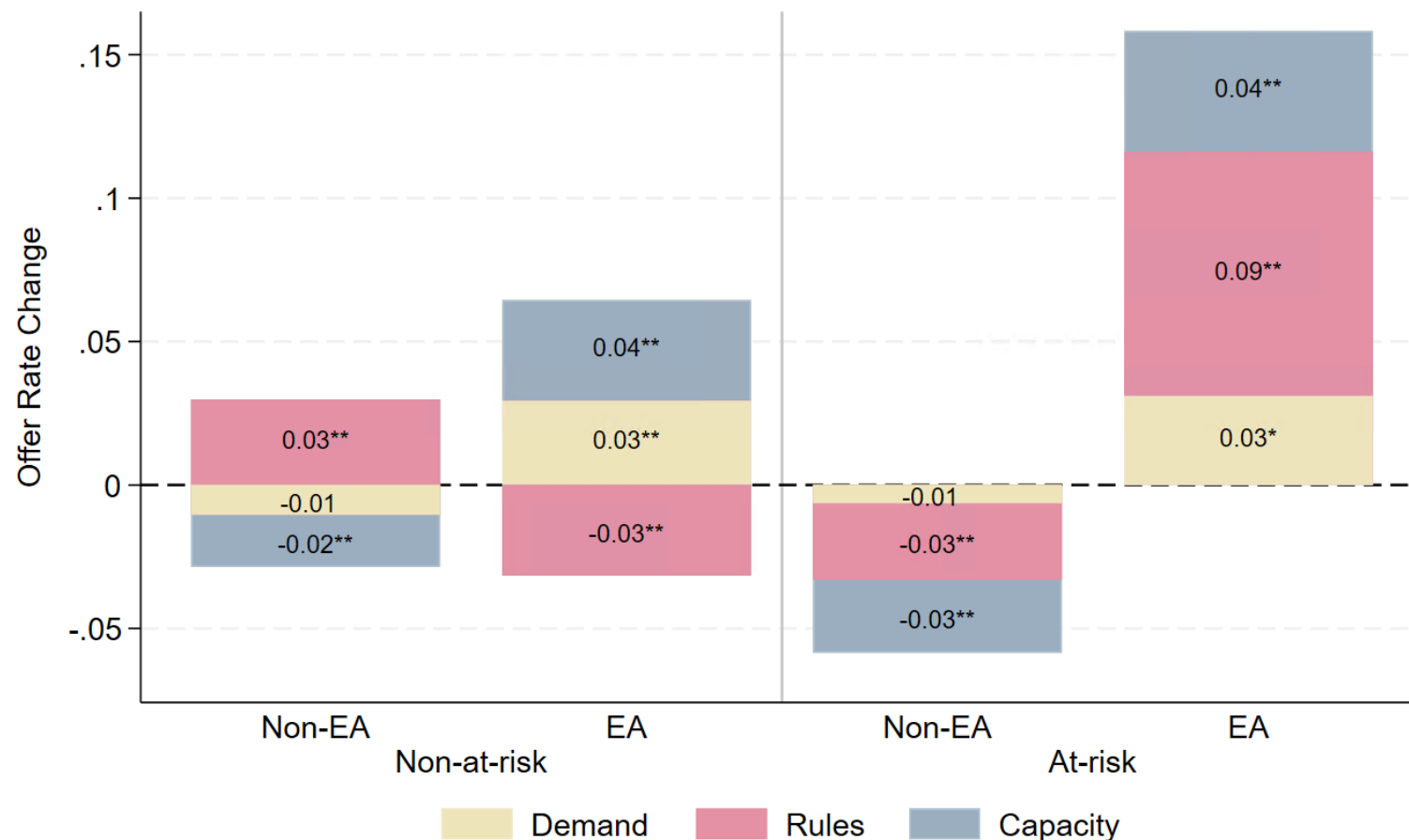
Figure 2. Offer Rate Change Decomposition, 2020 - 2023

For non-at-risk applicants:

- Rules led to crowd out
- Capacity offset it

For at-risk applicants:

- Rules $> \frac{1}{2}$ total change

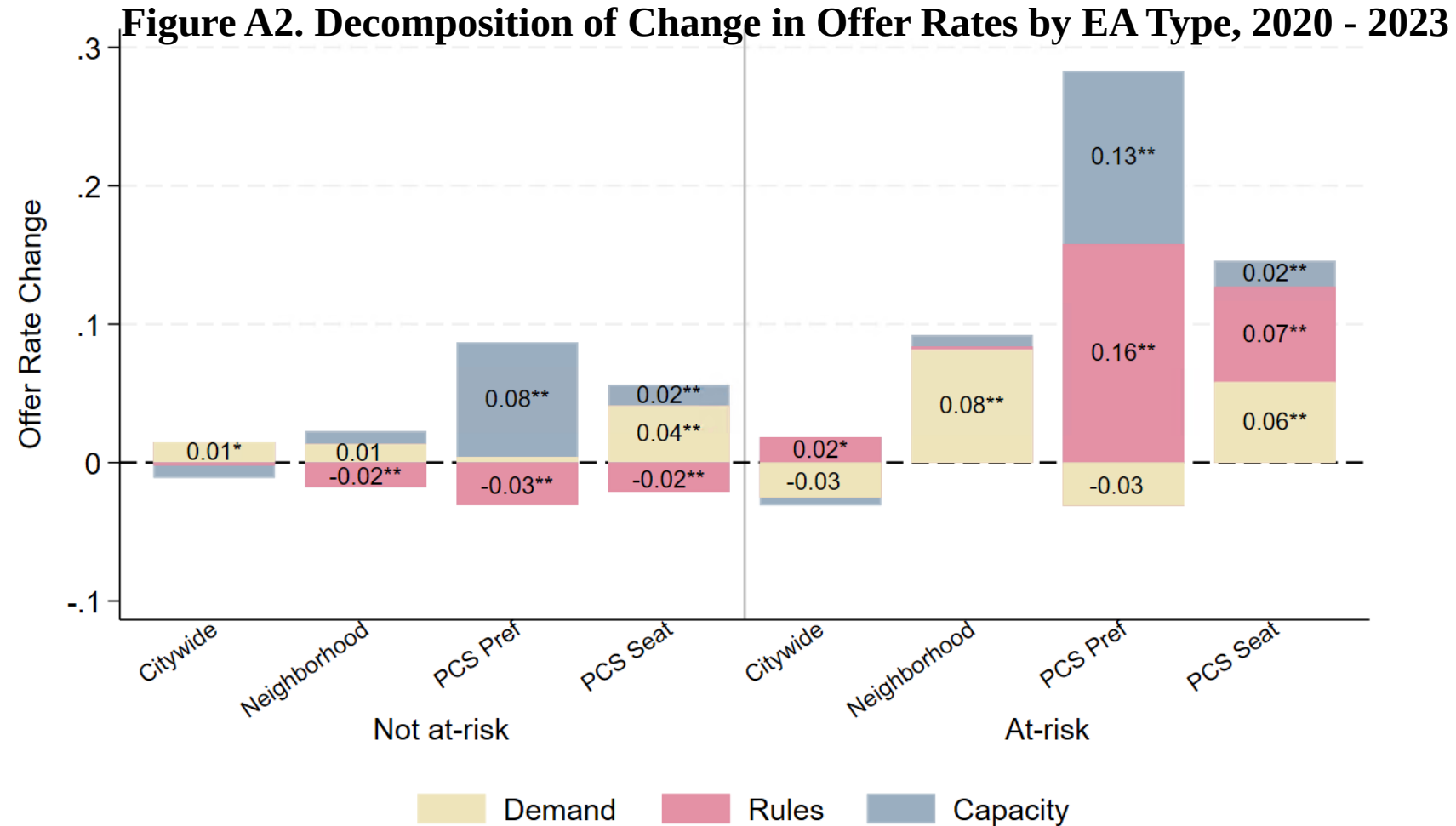


Note: *, and ** significant at 90% and 95% confidence levels (CIs). CIs are calculated through a non Parametric bootstrap.

EA Rules Bound More at Some School Types than Others

Largest rule effects at PCS
priority schools

Little rule-driven change at
citywide or neighborhood
adopters



Note: * significant at 90% confidence level

** significant at 95% confidence level

Do At-risk and Non-at-risk Applicants Enroll at Similar Rates?

EA Offer Enrollment at a MSDC School

- Non-At-Risk ↑ 14 pp
- At-Risk ↑ 22 pp

EA match is a Strong Instrument

- The instrument is relevant
- First stage F of 4,17 (Not weak)

Table 1. IV First Stage: Match to Enrollment

	FallEnroll	EAEnroll	EAEnroll xAtRisk
	(1)	(2)	(3)
EAMatch	0.141*** (0.014)	0.627*** (0.007)	0.000 (0.002)
x AtRisk	0.079* (0.038)	0.03 (0.019)	0.661*** (0.006)
$\bar{Y}$	0.69	0.14	0.02
R ²	0.02	0.57	0.66

Note: FallEnroll = 1 if a student enrolls in a MSDC school following October.
EAEnroll = 1 if Applicant enrolled in an EA school. AtRisk =1 if shared familyid
flags an applicant as AtRisk. The sample includes 6,880 PK3 and PK4 applicants
between 2018 and 2023 who applied to an EA school. * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, ***
p<0.001

Do At-risk and Non-at-risk Applicants Persist at Similar Rates?

At-Risk and non-At-Risk applicants are equally likely to stay at EA schools.

Enrolling in EA Schools increase system persistence more for At-Risk Applicants.

Table 2. IV Second Stage Result: EA Enrollment Impact on System and School Persistence

	Persist1	Persist2	EAPersist1	EAPersist2
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
EAEnroll	0.198*** (0.024)	0.160*** (0.028)	0.667*** (0.017)	0.454*** (0.023)
xAtRisk	0.163** (0.059)	0.195** (0.066)	0.010 (0.044)	0.027 (0.054)
$\bar{Y}$	0.622	0.56	0.24	0.25

Note: Persist1 = 1 if the applicant is enrolled in any MSDC school a year later; Persist2 =1 if 2 years later. EAPersit1 and EAPerst2 = 1 if the applicant is still enrolled at the EA school 1 and 2 years later. EAEnroll = 1 if applicant enrolled in an EA school. AtRisk =1 if shared familyid flags an applicant as AtRisk. The sample includes 6,880 PK3 and PK4 applicants between 2018 and 2023 who applied to an EA school. * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001

Thank You

Any Questions?

Michael C. Quinn
(mquinn07@syr.edu)



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Key Dates & Meetings

Key Dates for SY2027-28 Lottery

- **December 5, 2026** | EdFEST (Grades 9-12)
- **December 12, 2026** | EdFEST (PK3 – Grade 8)
- **December 14, 2026** | My School DC Application opens
- **February 1, 2027** | APPLICATION DEADLINE for Grades 9-12
- **March 1, 2027** | APPLICATION DEADLINE for PK3 – Grade 8
- **April 2, 2027** | Lottery results are released
- **May 1, 2027** | Enrollment Saturday at select schools
- **May 3, 2027** | Enrollment deadline for matched families



Up Next...

Common Lottery Board Meetings

- o Thursday, October 22, 2026 (2-3:30 p.m. - virtual)
- o Thursday, January 21, 2027 (2-3:30 p.m. - virtual)
- o Thursday, April 29, 2027 (2-3:30 p.m. - virtual)
- o Thursday, July 29, 2027 (2-3:30 p.m. - virtual)

*Thanks again for a great year and
enjoy the remaining days of summer!*

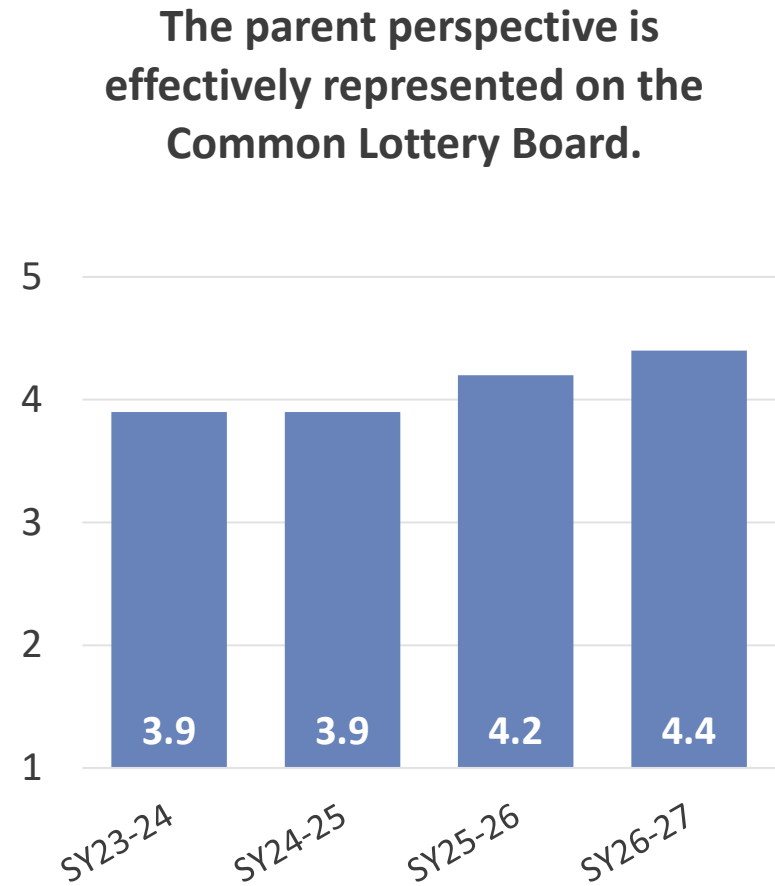
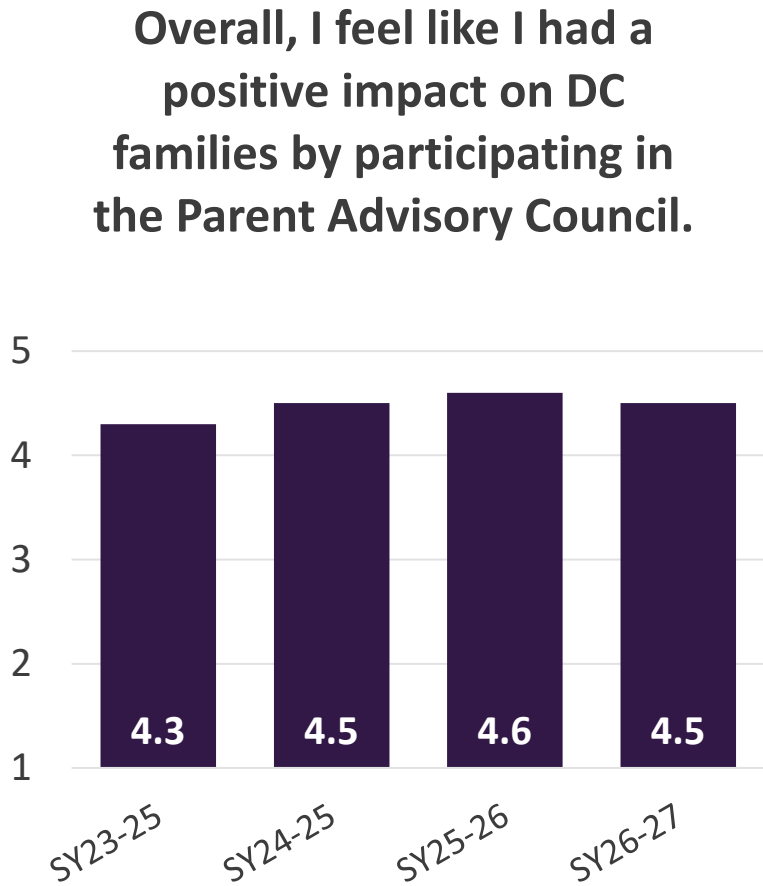
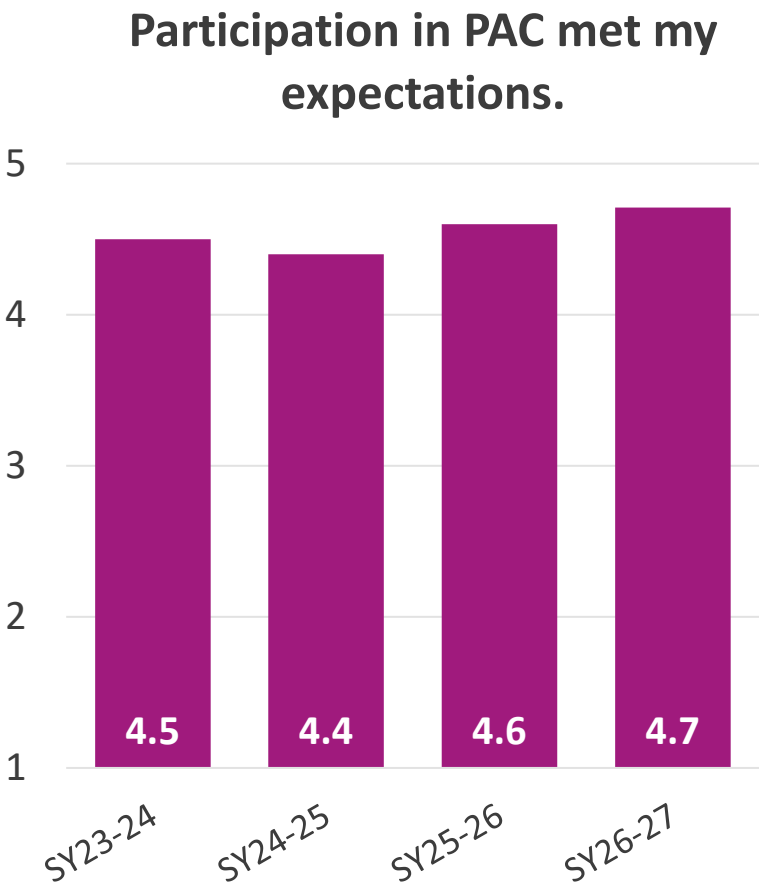




Appendix

Parent Advisory Council Survey Results

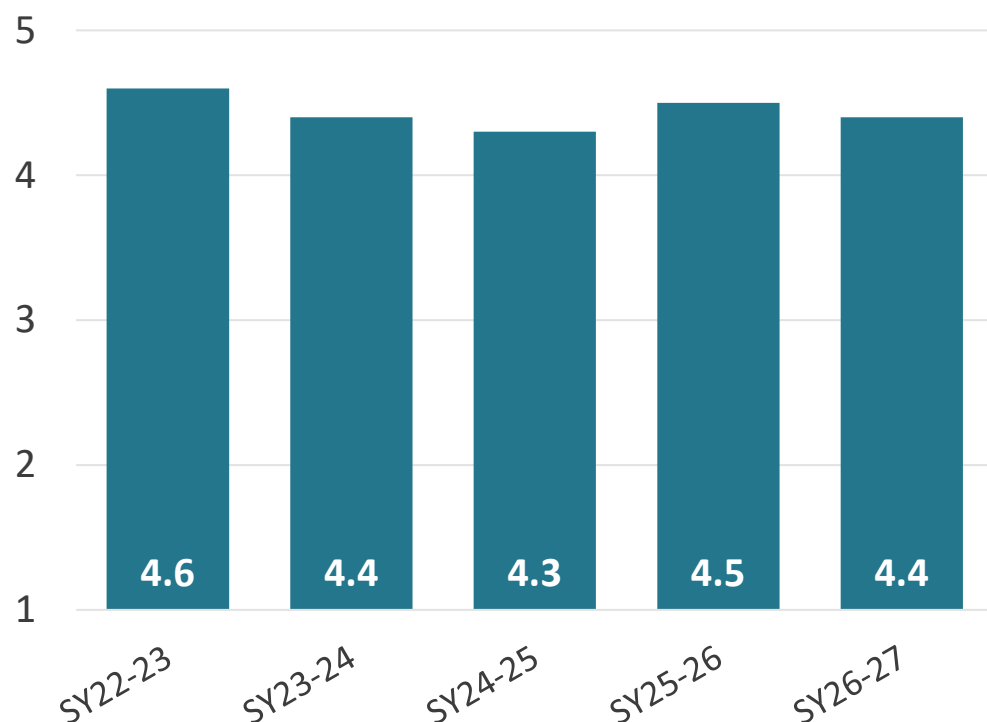
Overall PAC members report having a very positive experience.



School Staff Survey Responses

School staff provided high praise for MSDC staff's responsiveness and support, but noted a few areas for programmatic improvement.

Satisfaction with My School DC Staff Support Dipped Slightly



Open-Ended Question Response Themes:

- Need to improve public understanding of the difference between the lottery application & school enrollment:
 - Provide clearer messaging on required next steps for enrollment from the application.
- Suggestions to improve our Centralized Waitlist Management System's data access and automations:
 - Requests for clearer indications of family structures across waitlists and grades.