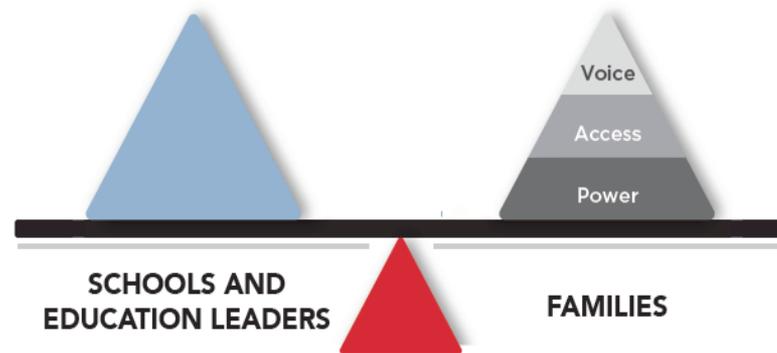




# OFFICE OF THE STUDENT ADVOCATE

*District of Columbia Office of the Student Advocate supports students, parents, and families in their advocacy through parent education, one-on-one coaching, resource supports, and trainings in order to amplify the voices of families and communities in processes and decision-making; to provide avenues for access to resources and understanding systems; and to support power families and communities already possess.*



## School Year 2018-19 Quarter 3 Report



202-741-4692



student.advocate@dc.gov

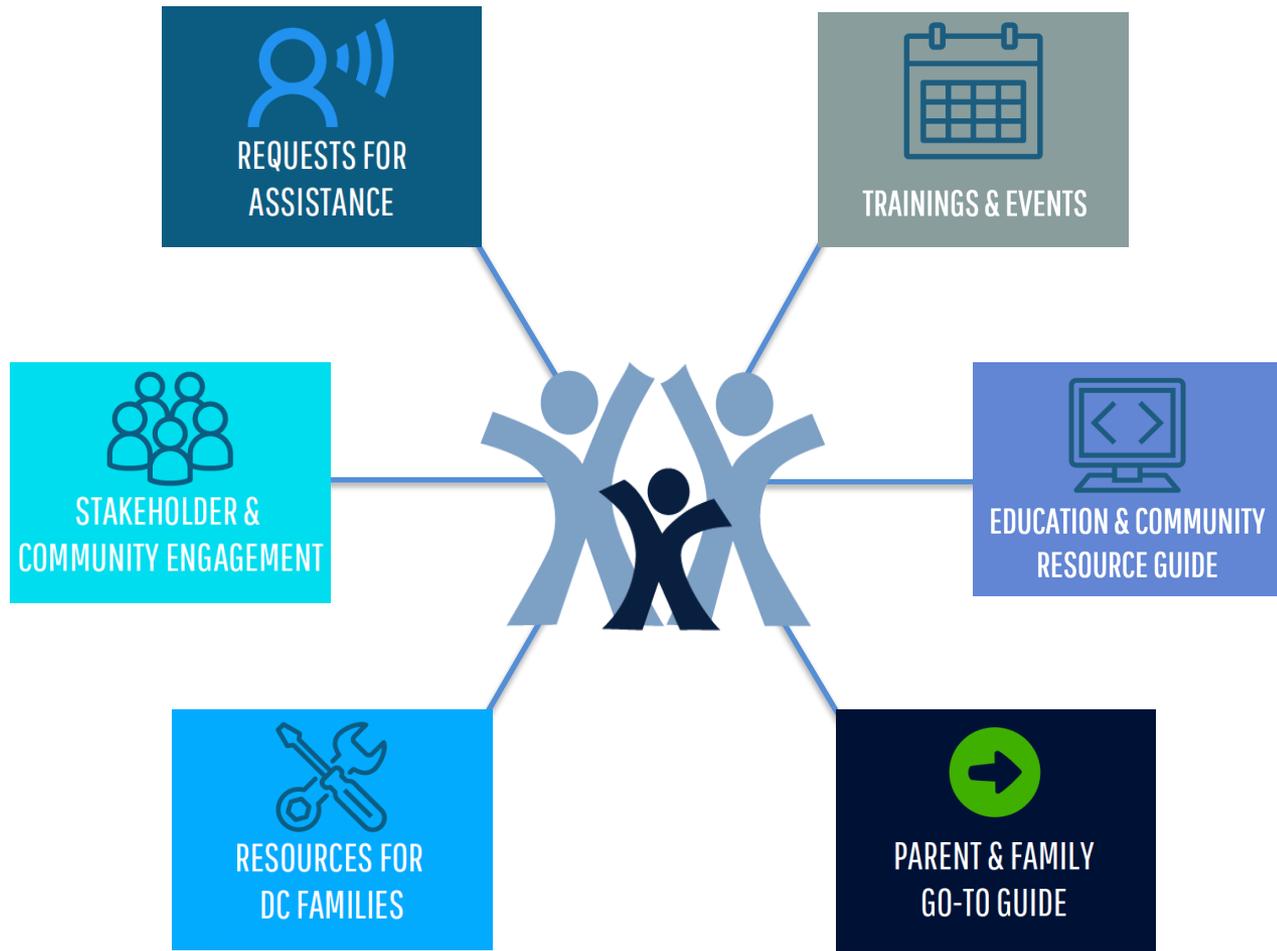


<http://studentadvocate.dc.gov>



@DC\_Advocate

# What We Do



We work in partnership to equalize the balance of power between families and schools by increasing family voice, access, and power in our system of public education. We achieve this goal by ensuring families are connected to resources and supports, informed of their rights, and understand how the system works.

# Request for Assistance (RFA) Line

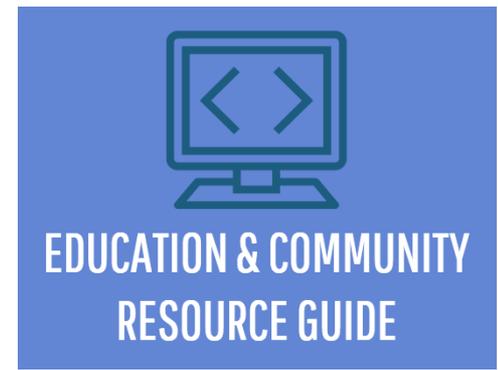


Our Request for Assistance line, a “311” system for public education, operates LIVE 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday. Reach us at [202-741-4692](tel:202-741-4692) for resources, referrals, and one-on-one coaching on all DC public education issues.

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## Education and Community Resource Guide

Our Online Education & Community Resource Guide is a continuously evolving resource that has more than 400 resource listings organized into 20 category areas. The first publicly available citywide initiative of its kind, the guide provides students, parents, families, and communities across all 8 wards with a roadmap to getting started in navigating the public education landscape in DC.



# Information and Advocacy Resources & Tools

We have a wealth of resources and interactive tools on a variety of topic areas available on our website, [studentadvocate.dc.gov](http://studentadvocate.dc.gov), including:

- Advocacy & Lobbying
- Attendance & Truancy
- Behavioral & Mental Health
- Bullying
- Effective Communication
- Enrollment
- Graduation Requirements
- Homelessness
- Parent Leadership
- Right to Know Ask Sheets
- Safe Passage
- Special Education
- Student Leadership
- Testing & Assessment
- Parent & Family Go-To Guide



## Annual and Quarterly Reports

Yearly, our office submits an annual report summarizing the office's work during the previous academic year. We also include our vision for family engagement and equity and offer recommendations to address the city's top public education concerns. Our quarterly reports summarize office activities every 90 days.

Both are available on our website.

# Trainings and Events

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Our trainings and outreach efforts allow us to connect with families and communities around topic areas of interest.

Visit <https://sboe.dc.gov/page/training-events> for trainings/ events, both past and upcoming.

# Resources and Tools



RESOURCES FOR  
DC FAMILIES



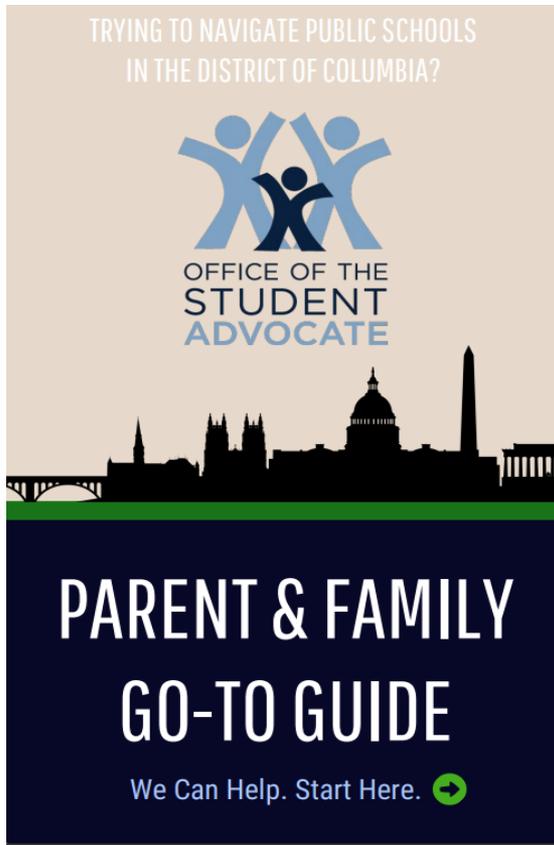
PARENT & FAMILY  
GO-TO GUIDE

Our resources allow all stakeholders to better understand our public education system and a broad range of education-related topics.

Visit <https://sboe.dc.gov/page/advocacy>  
to access our resources and tools.

# Our Go-To Guide

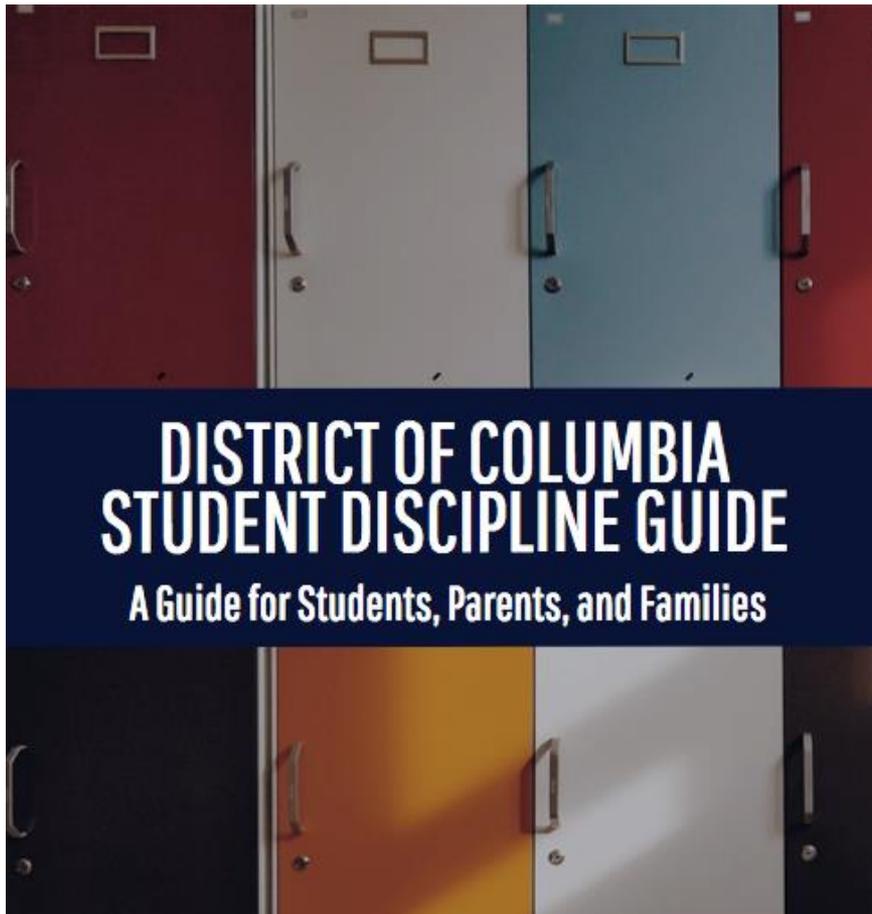
Our Go-To Guide includes some information and resources we offer on our website in one handy document. **Topics include:**



- Public Education in DC
- Achievement
- Behavior
- Attendance
- Enrollment
- Special Education
- Additional Resources

# DC Student Discipline Guide

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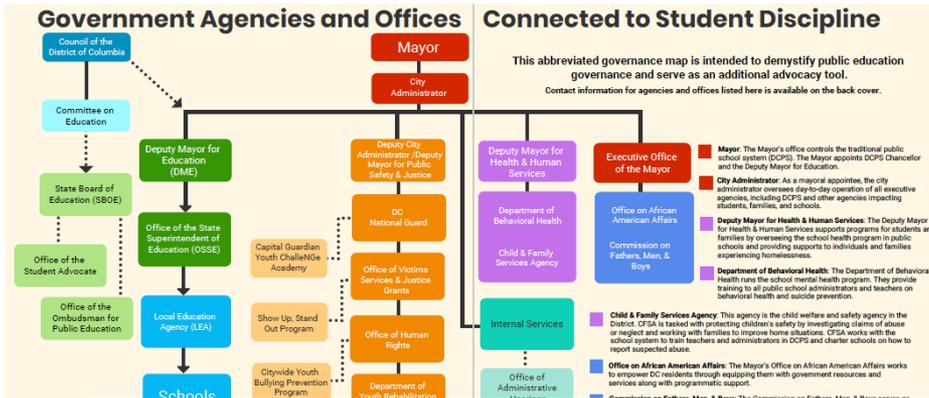


In 2018 the Council of the District of Columbia passed the *Student Fair Access to School Amendment Act*. In response, The Office of the Student Advocate created and released the District of Columbia Student Discipline Guide. The guide is a helpful resource created for students, families, and school staff that explains new rules that all public schools must follow under DC law.

Developed in partnership with the Every Student, Every Day (ESED) Coalition and the Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education, the guide helps students and families understand their rights and provides a roadmap for advocacy around student discipline.

The guide is posted to our website under [Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools](#).

# DC Student Discipline Guide



## The District of Columbia Student Discipline Guide covers the following topics:

- School Discipline Law
- Terms to Know: Uniform Legal Definitions
- Know Your Rights: Limits on Duration of Disciplinary Removals
- Know Your Rights: Student Exclusion Protections
- Know Your Rights: Access to Education During Exclusion
- Alternative Disciplinary Responses
- Government Agencies & Offices Connected to Student Discipline
- Self-Advocacy
- Conversation Starters: Questions to Ask
- Terms to Know: General Terms
- Numbers to Know

### School Discipline Law

#### Student Fair Access to School Amendment Act of 2018

For full access to the act follow the link → <https://code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/laws/22-157.html>

August 25, 2018 | SY2019-2020 | SY2020-2021

School policies must comply with new law. | limits for exclusionary discipline in elementary/middle schools go into effect | limits for exclusionary discipline in high schools go into effect

Schools CAN	Schools CANNOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Suspend a student for use of violence</li> <li>✓ Suspend a student for the remainder of the school day for disciplinary reasons in emergency circumstances</li> <li>✓ Exclude a student from extracurricular activities (like athletics) for disciplinary and academic reasons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Suspend pre-K students</li> <li>✗ Suspend or expel a student for failure to attend school</li> <li>✗ Require a parent to accompany the student or attend a conference in order to return after an out-of-school suspension</li> <li>✗ Suspend out-of-school for longer than five consecutive school days for grades K-5, ten consecutive school days for 6-12</li> <li>✗ Deny a student access to academic work during suspension or deny the right to earn credit toward promotion or graduation</li> </ul>

If your student has special needs, they have additional rights than those listed in this guide. Learn more about them here: <https://sboe.dc.gov/node/113532>

### Self Advocacy

#### Who's Who: Figuring Out Where to Get Help

Every LEA in the District has its own mix and models of how schools run – from school-based staff and central office leadership responsible for student behavior. For more details, reference your student handbook for clarity on the process.\*

Start Here ← This is an example of where to start within DCPS.

\*Handbooks for public charters can be found via the DC Public Charter School Board "Find a Charter School" tool. Follow the link for access: [www.dcpchs.org/find-a-school](http://www.dcpchs.org/find-a-school)

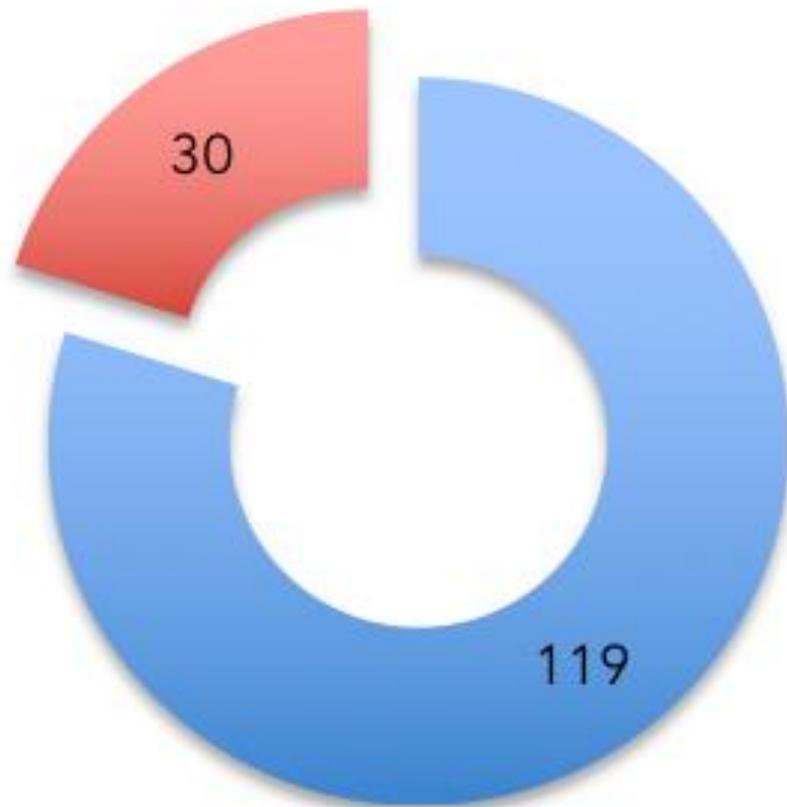
In these situations we encourage you to know your rights, the details of the process, and to seek out support. Several community resources are located on the back of this guide.

# Quarter 3

February 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>



# Q3 Calls Received



149

■ operating hours

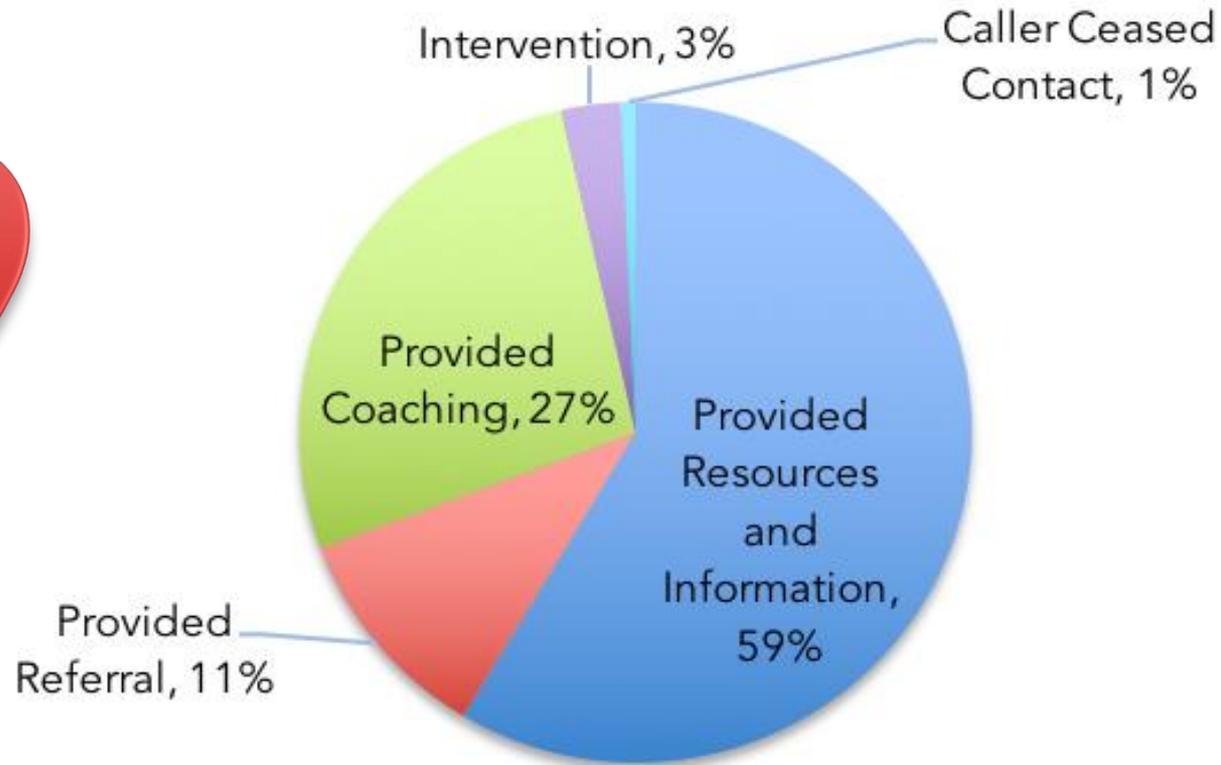
■ non-operating hours

# Requests for Assistance (RFAs) – Quarter 3 Breakdown

119

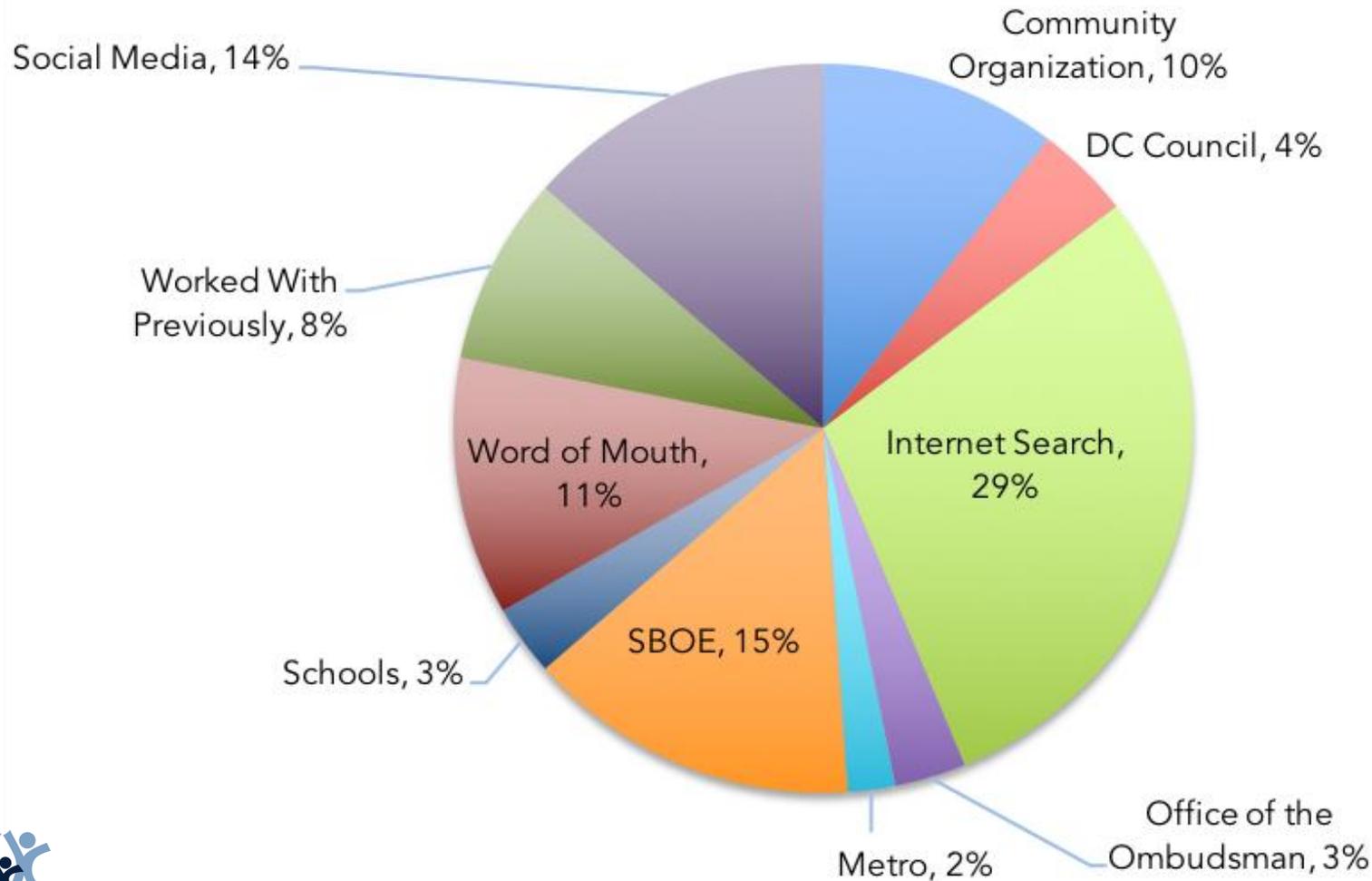
Quarter 3  
Requests for  
Assistance

## Q3 Resolutions

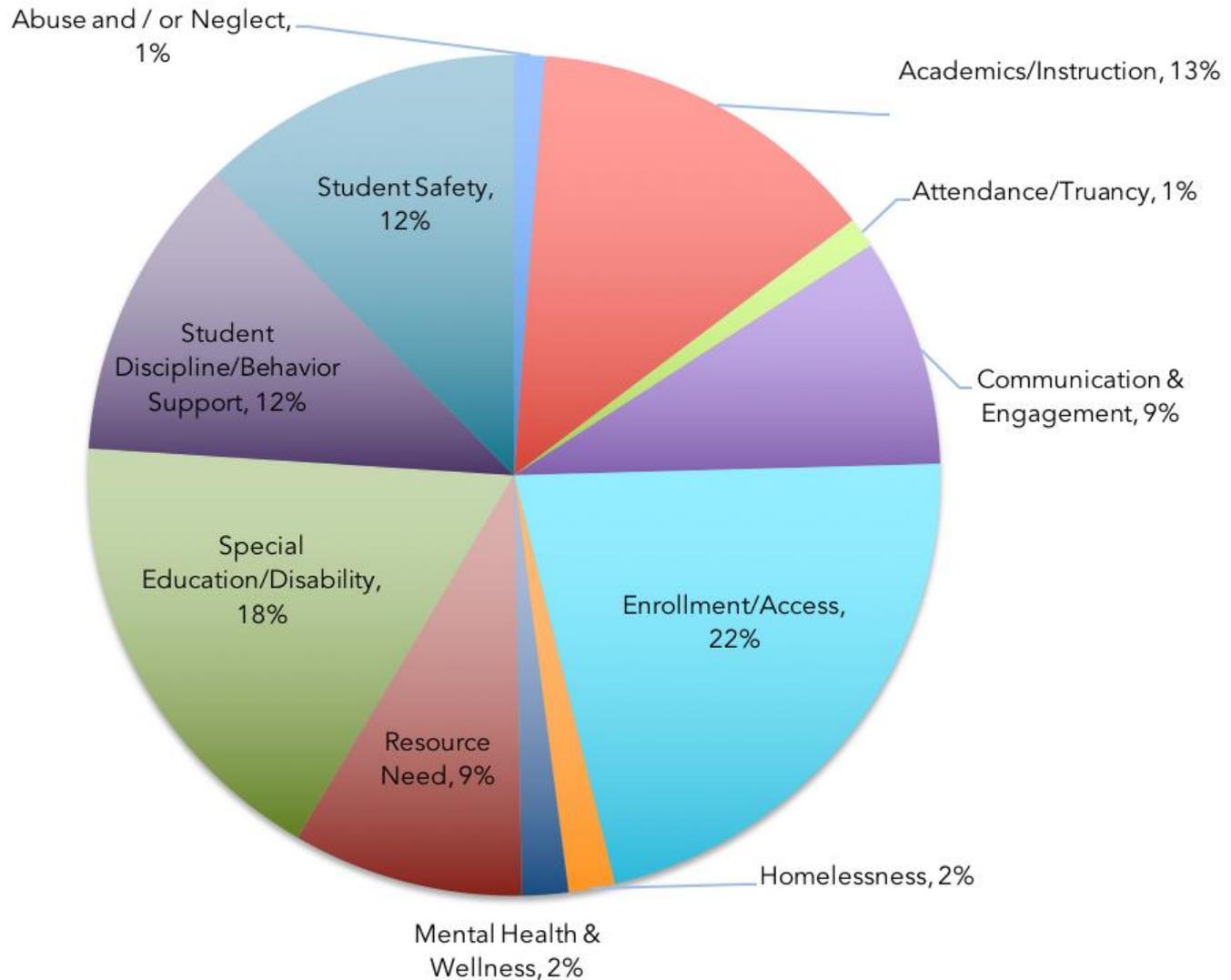


# Quarter 3

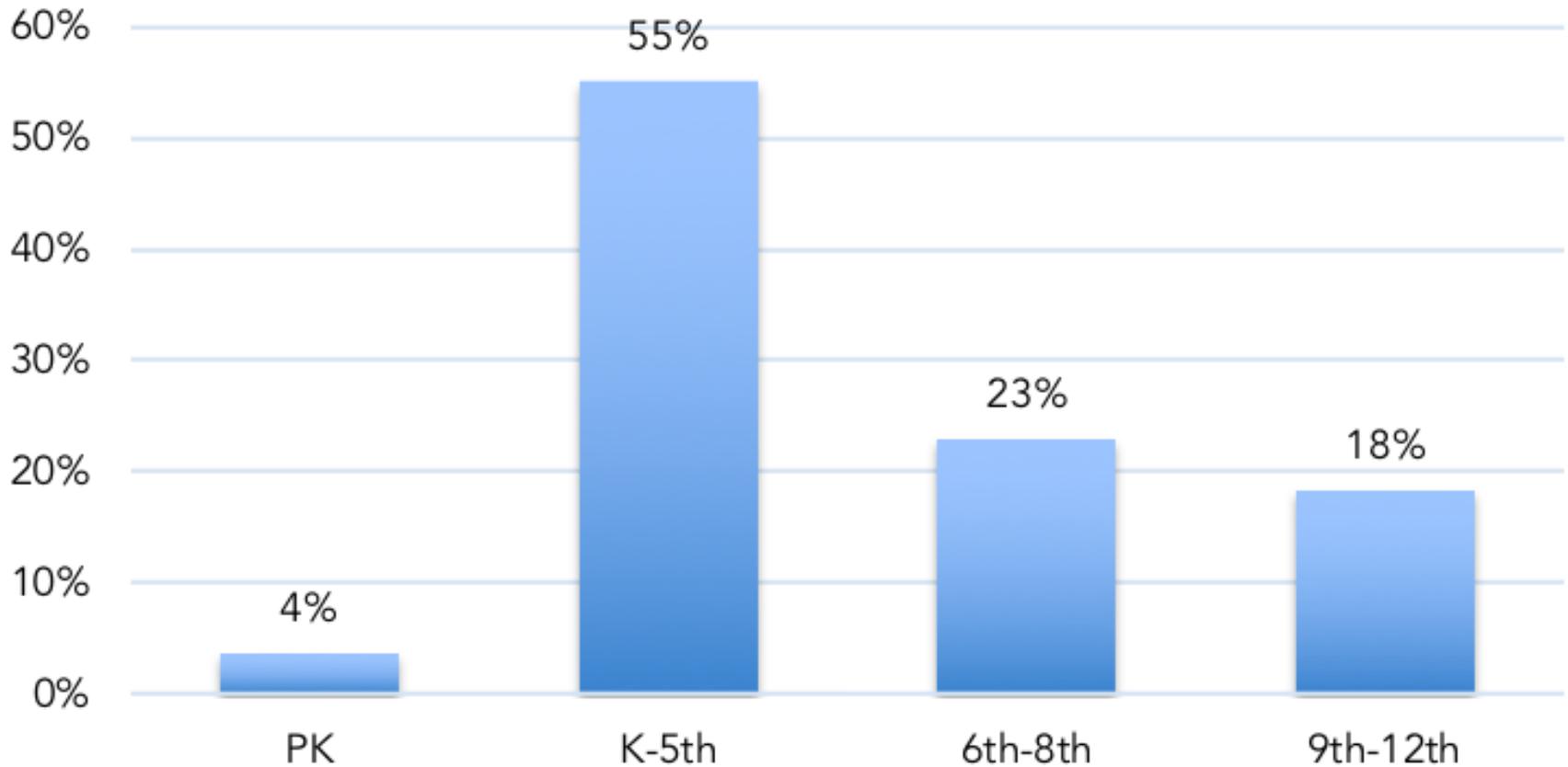
## Origin of Referrals to Our Office



# RFA Quarter 3 Topic Areas

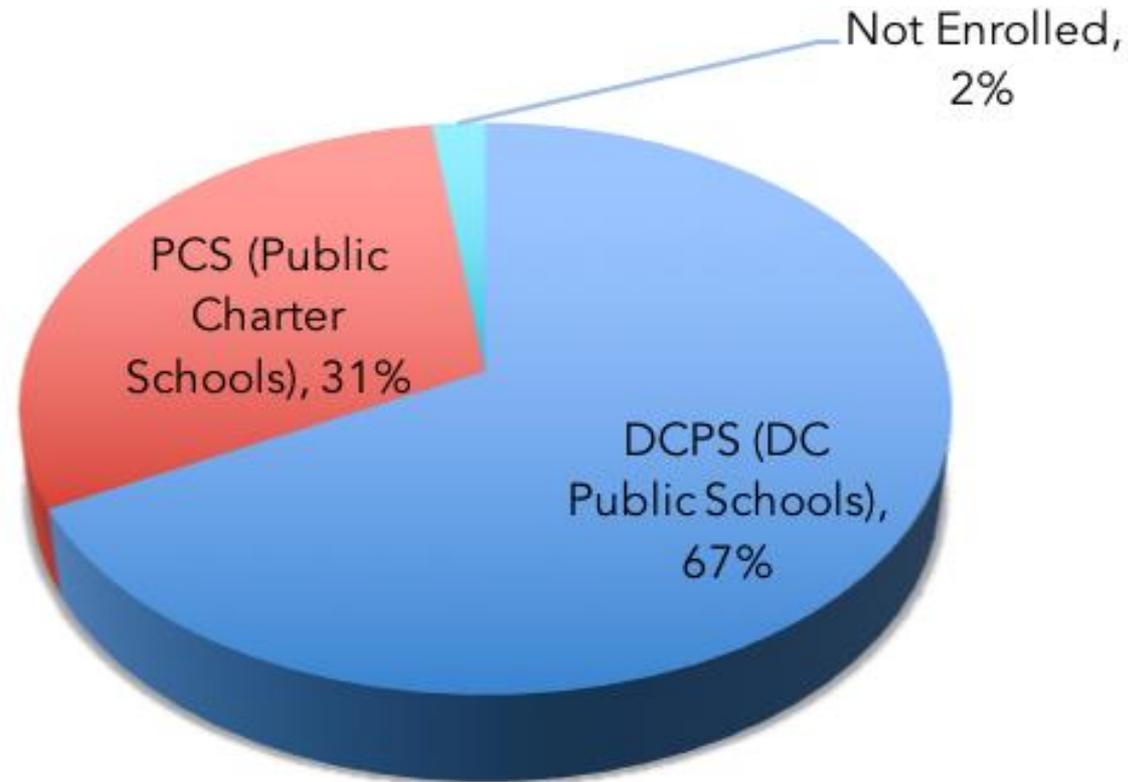


# RFA Numbers by Grade Band Quarter 3

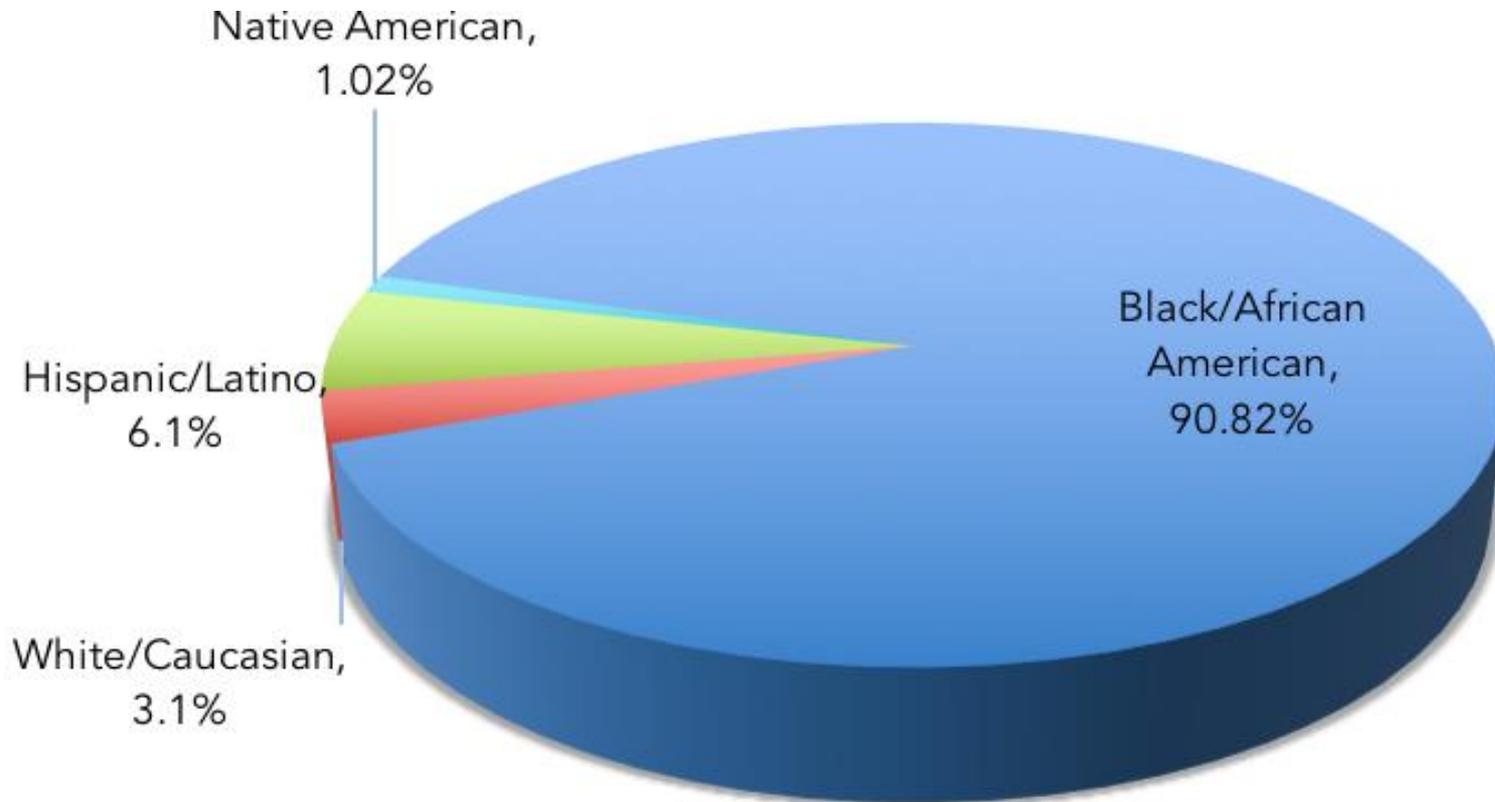


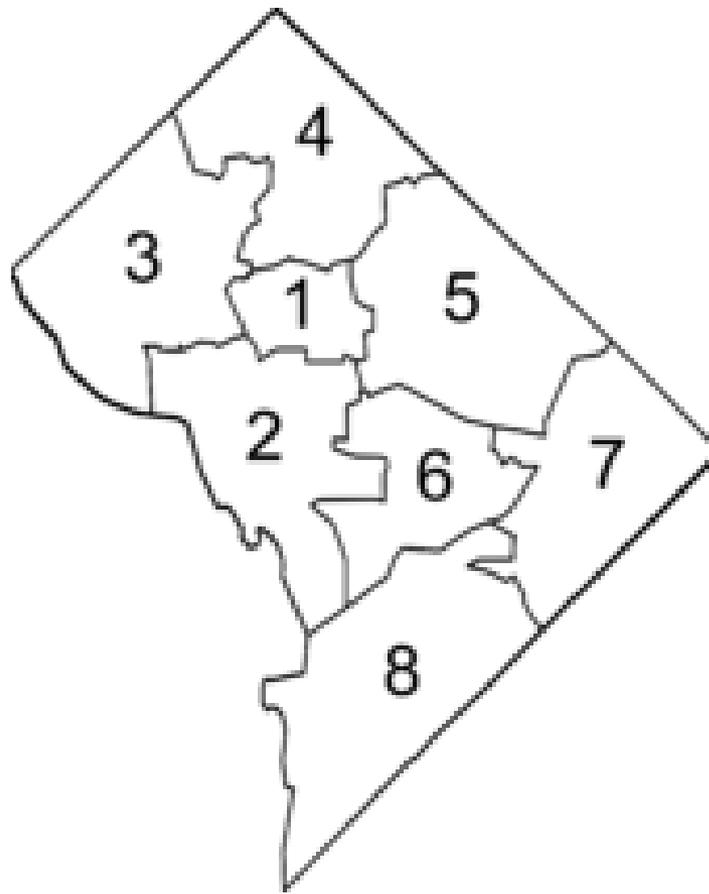
\*Data included reflects number of RFAs associated with a public school, either DCPS and public charter.

# RFA Numbers by Sector Quarter 3



# RFA Numbers by Race Quarter 3



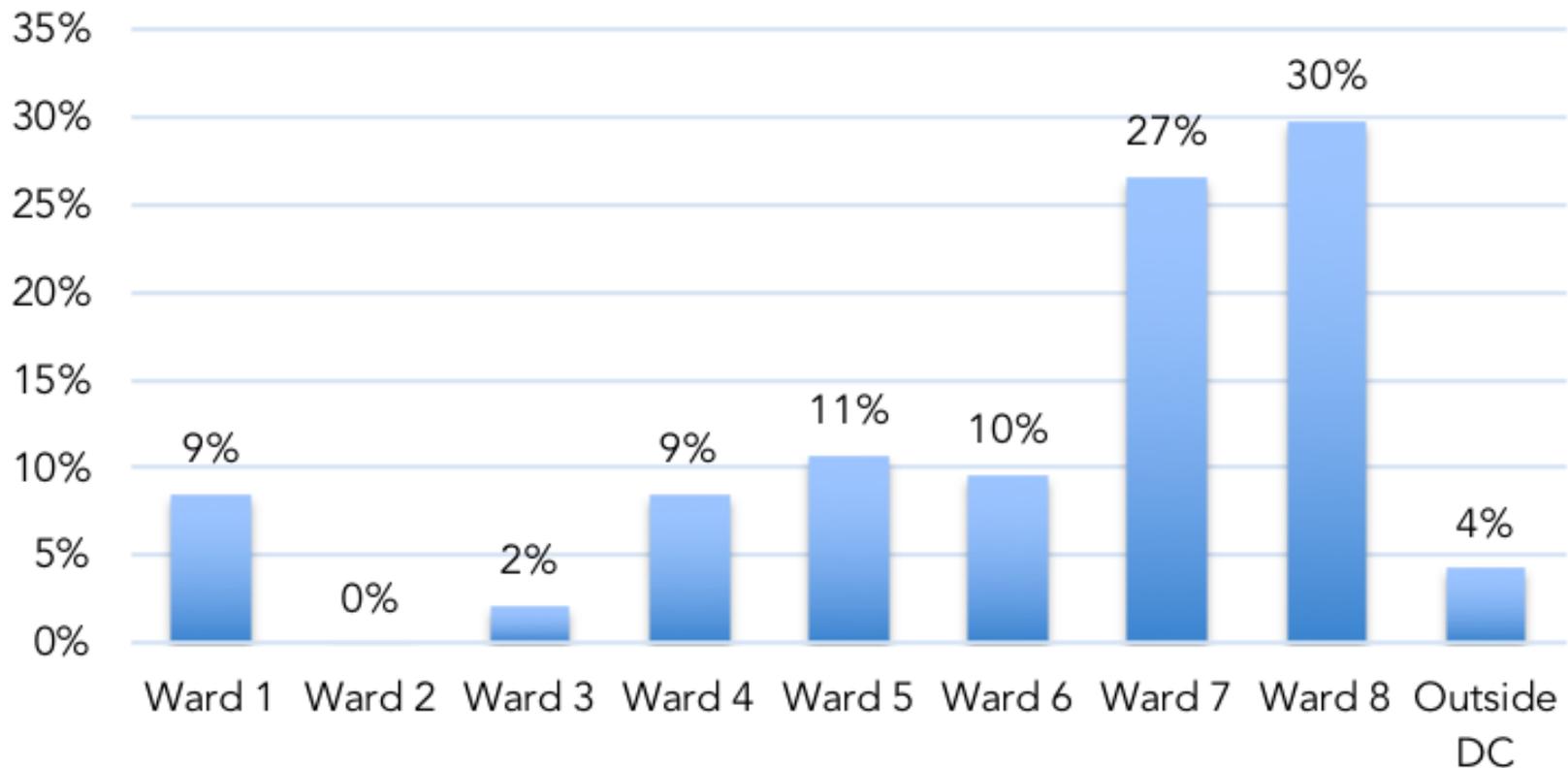


# RFAs by Ward Breakdown

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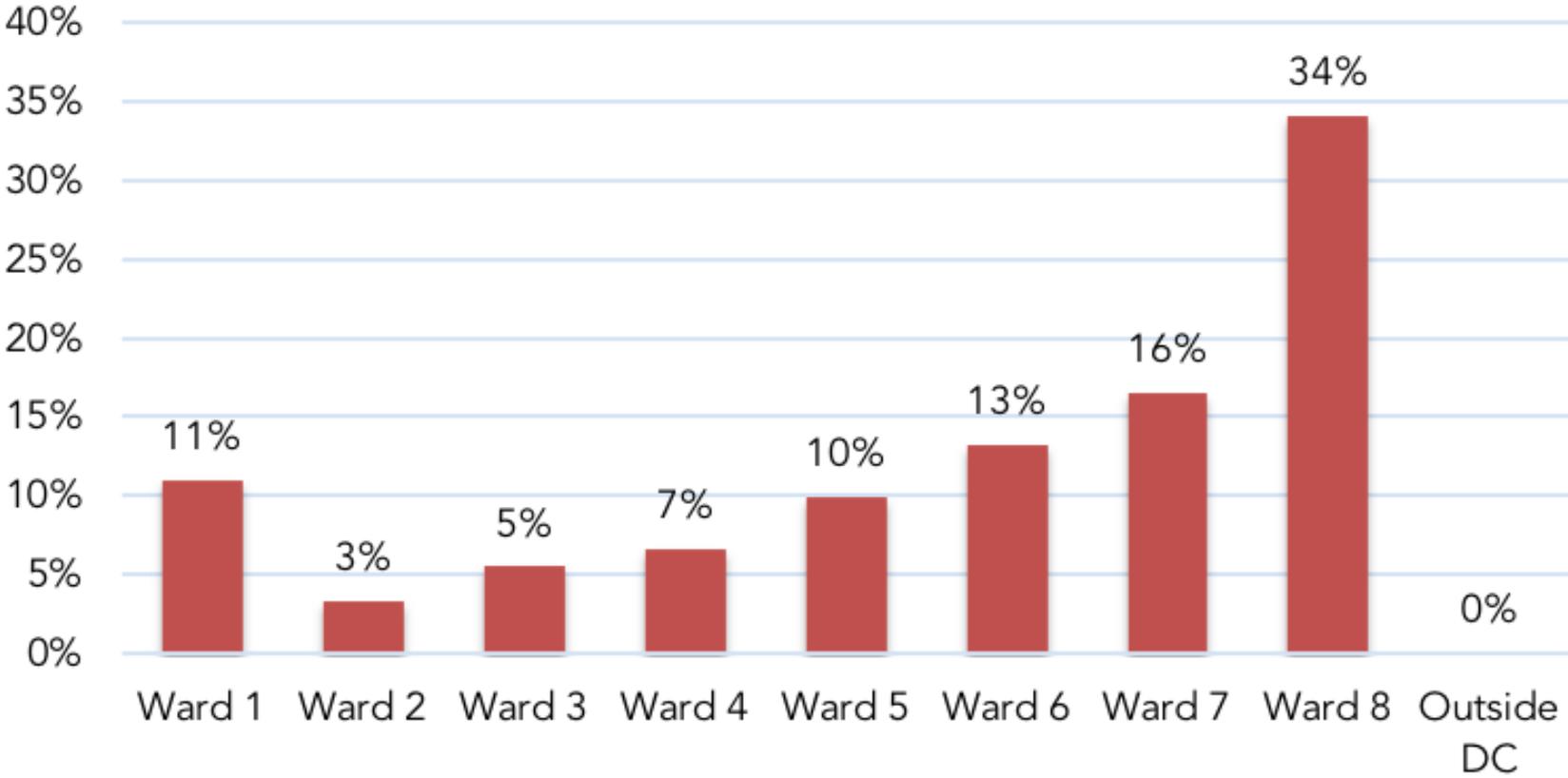
# RFA's SY 18-19 Quarter 3

## Ward of Residence Breakdown



\*Data included reflects the number of total RFAs.

# RFAs SY 18-19 Quarter 3 School Ward Breakdown



\*Data included reflects number of RFAs associated with a public school, either DCPS and public charter.

# RFA Quarter 3 Common Topic Areas by School Ward

- Ward 1: Enrollment/Access (29%) & Student Safety (29%)
- Ward 2: Enrollment/Access (100%)
- Ward 3: Special Education/Disability (50%)
- Ward 4: Special Education/Disability (50%)
- Ward 5: Student Safety (32%)
- Ward 6: Student Safety (35%)
- Ward 7: Academics/Instruction (22%) & Enrollment/Access (22%)
- Ward 8: Student Safety (46%)

## Category Definitions

*Enrollment/Access*- Issues and questions regarding enrollment, school choice, and school access

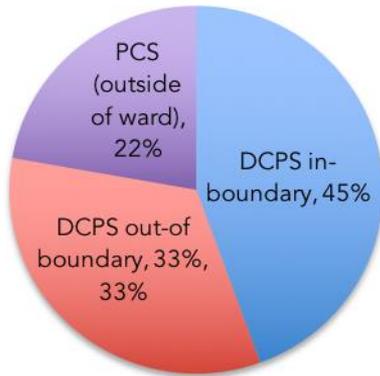
*Special Education/Disability*- Issues and questions related to support, rights, access, and resources for students with impairment that impair their physical, academic, and or mental capacity

*Student Safety*- Issues and questions regarding bullying, student environment, assault, safe passage, supervision, and facilities maintenance

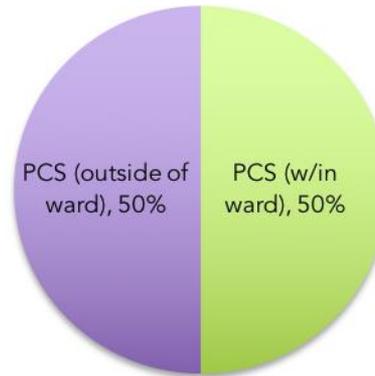
*Academics/Instruction*- Issues or questions regarding support with a school-related subject including tutoring, teaching styles, and programming

# RFA Data by School Ward & Ward of Residence

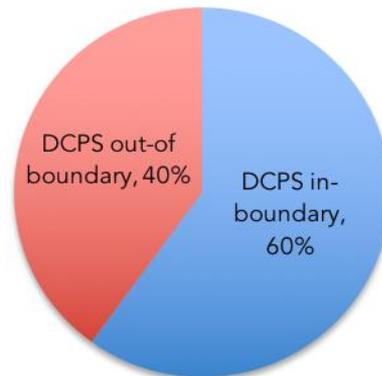
School Ward: 1



School Ward: 2



School Ward: 3

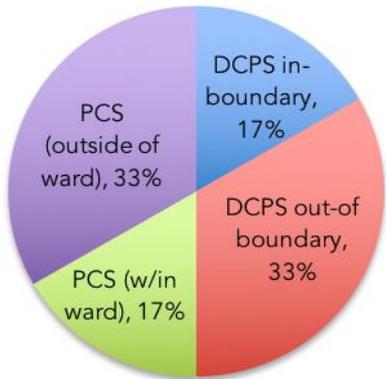


School Ward: 4

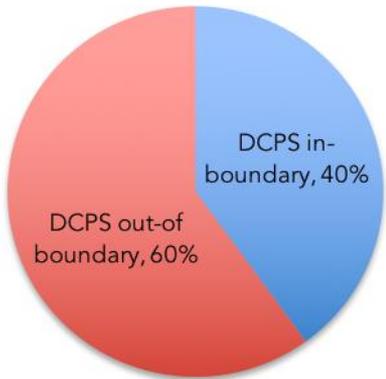


# RFA Data by School Ward & Ward of Residence

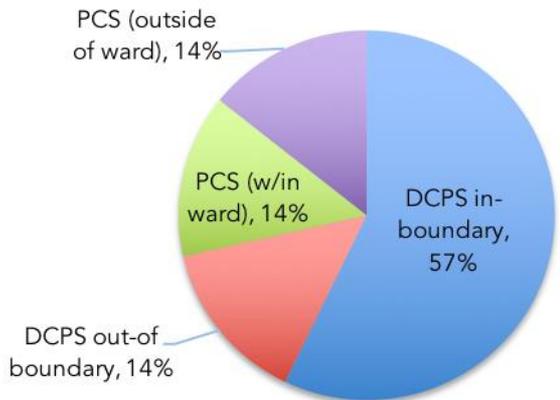
School Ward: 5



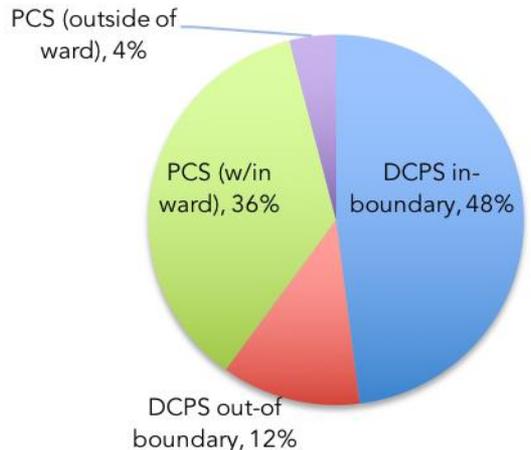
School Ward: 6



School Ward: 7



School Ward: 8



# Where We Are To Date

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# SY18-19 Impact to Date

**373**

Requests for Assistance

**78**

Meetings, Panels, School Visits, & Community Events Attended

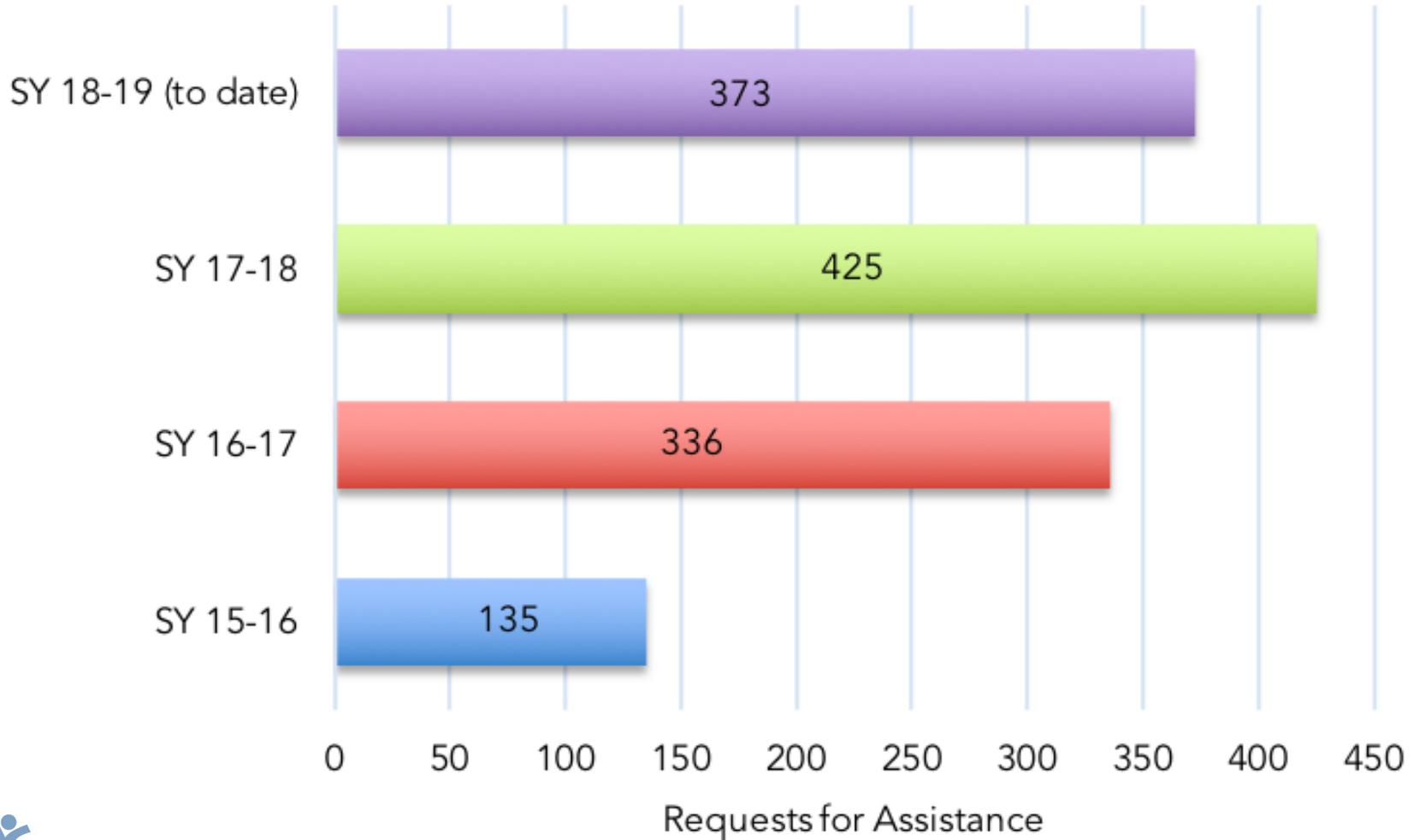
**5000+**

Individuals Touched by Office Outreach

via one of our engagement and outreach modes

\*As of 5/1/2019

# RFA School Year Comparison



# Where We Are Today

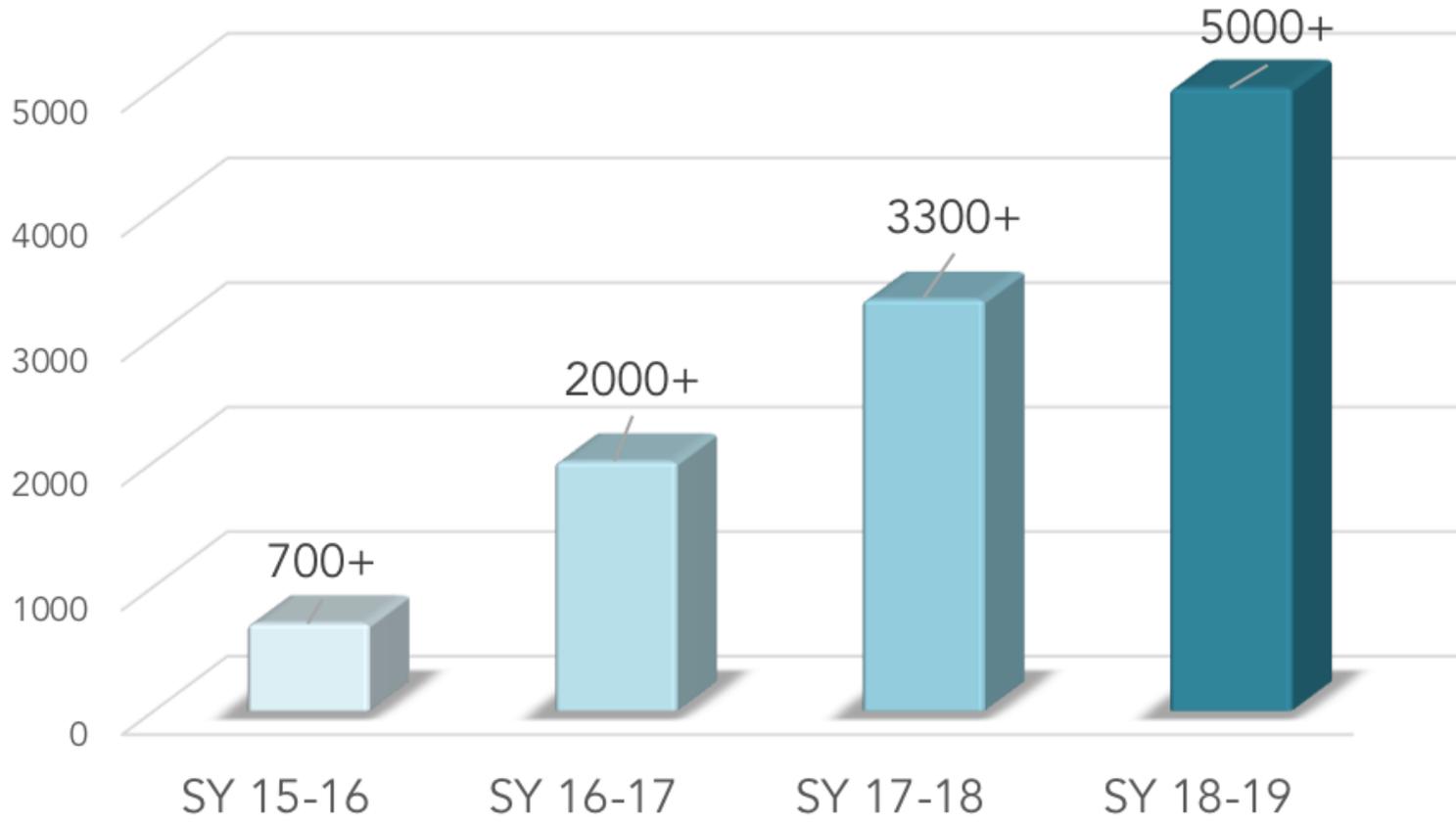
To date in SY 2018-19:

...we have supported 373 individuals through our Request for Assistance (RFA) process.

At this rate, we will exceed the number of RFAs for SY 17-18.

The RFA line is just one way we interact with families and educators...

# Outreach & Engagement by School Year Comparison



# Strategic Plan

Our FY19 strategic plan for performance details our plan to deepen and scale programmatic work and engagement with families, schools, and the community. The plan includes:

Goal #1: Increase Office Awareness and Visibility/Outreach

Goal #2: Collaborate and Expand Service Capacity

Goal #3: Parent Leadership and Advocacy

Goal #4: Improve Educational Outcomes by Effecting Systemic Change

Goal #5: Increase Student Engagement and Advocacy

# Monthly Activities

## Quarter 3

### February

- Hosted parent session on Pre-K and DC public education
- Material drops to social service and non-profit organizations
- Participated in DCPS's Black Lives Matter Week of Action
- Event: DCASE EduTour- Children's Guild

### March

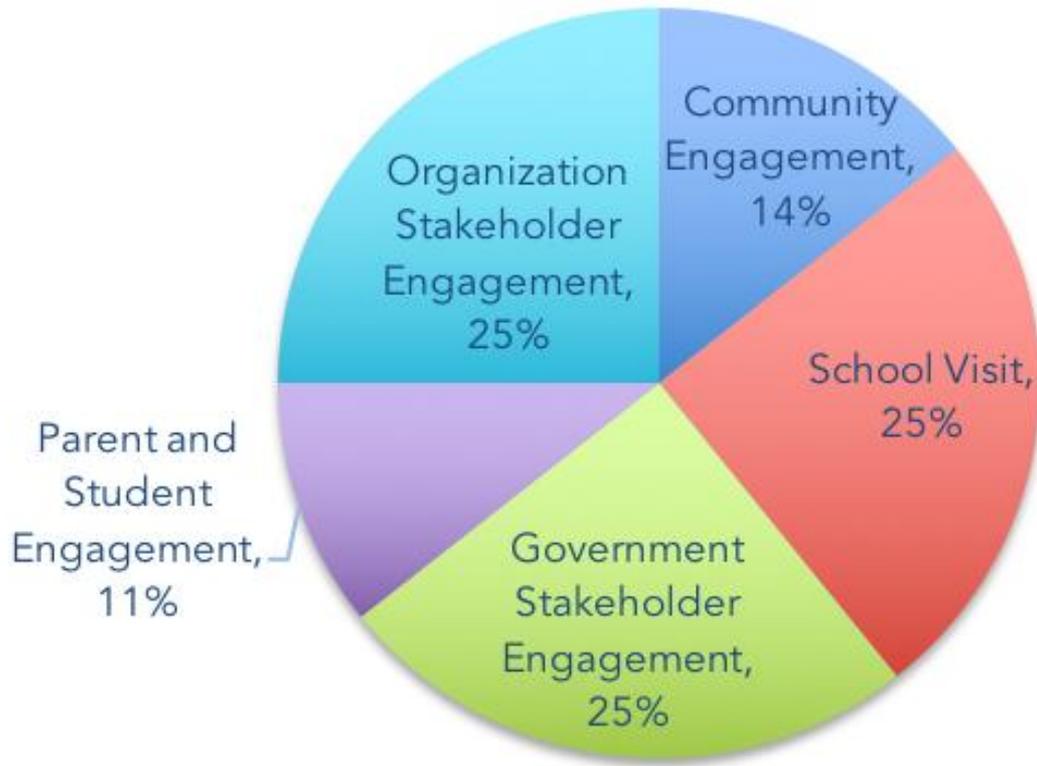
- Released DC Student Discipline Guide
- Participated as a panelist for DC Democratic State Committee: Addressing Educational Inequality in DC
- Event: Briya PCS Resource Fair

### April

- Printed Parent & Student Go-To Guide in Spanish
- Participated in Far Southeast's Annual Community Conference
- Hosted information session for child and day care providers
- Event: Center City Congress Heights Learning Walk

# Quarter 3

## Outreach & Engagement Activities



**Meetings, Panels,  
& Events attended in  
Quarter 3**

**29**

# SY 18-19

## Outreach & Engagement Modes



**More than...**

# 5000

**have been touched by our office via one of our engagement and outreach modes.**

# Questions?