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# Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education

## Quarter 2 Report

**DC** Office of the  
**Ombudsman**  
for Public Education



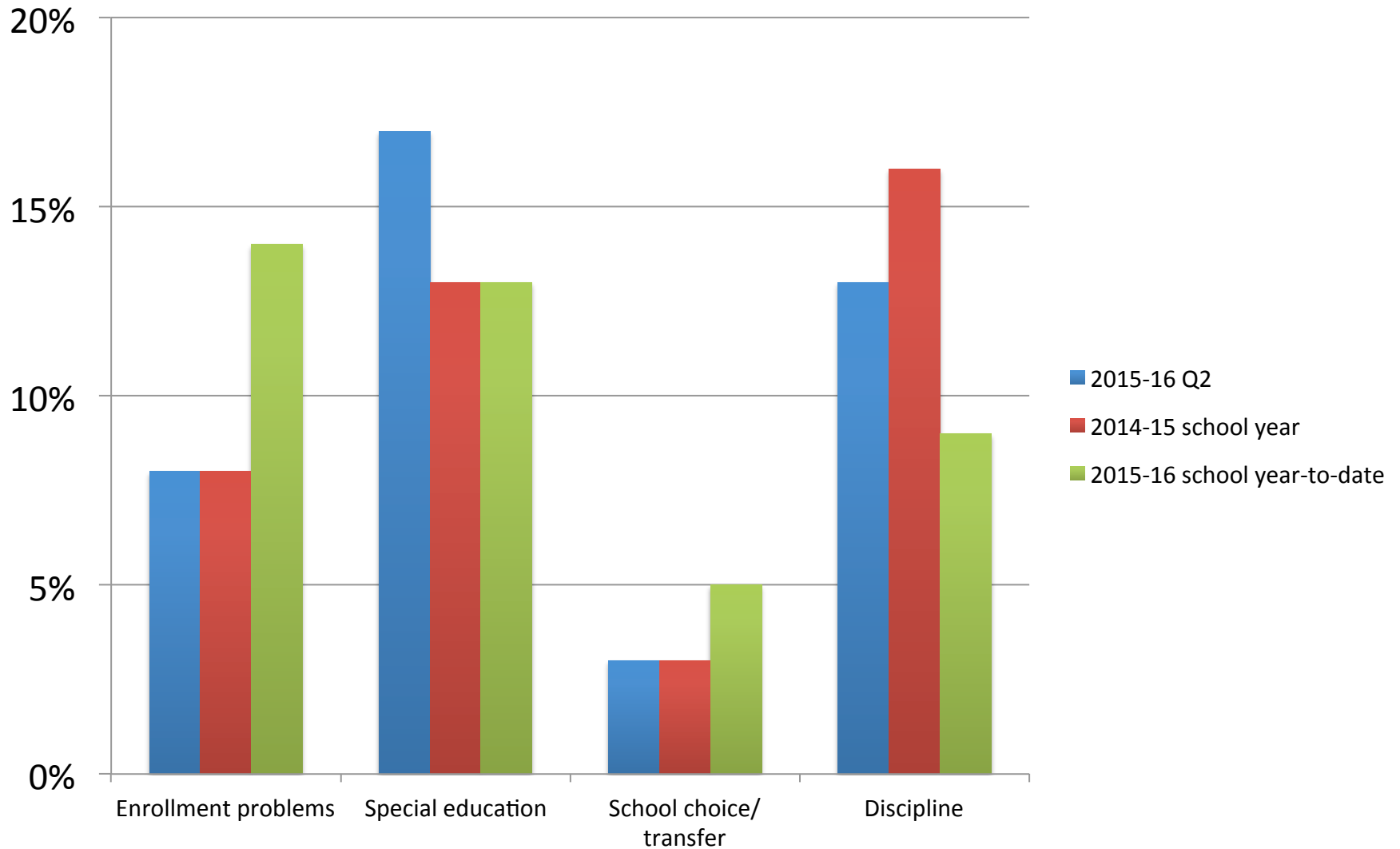
# Current Caseload

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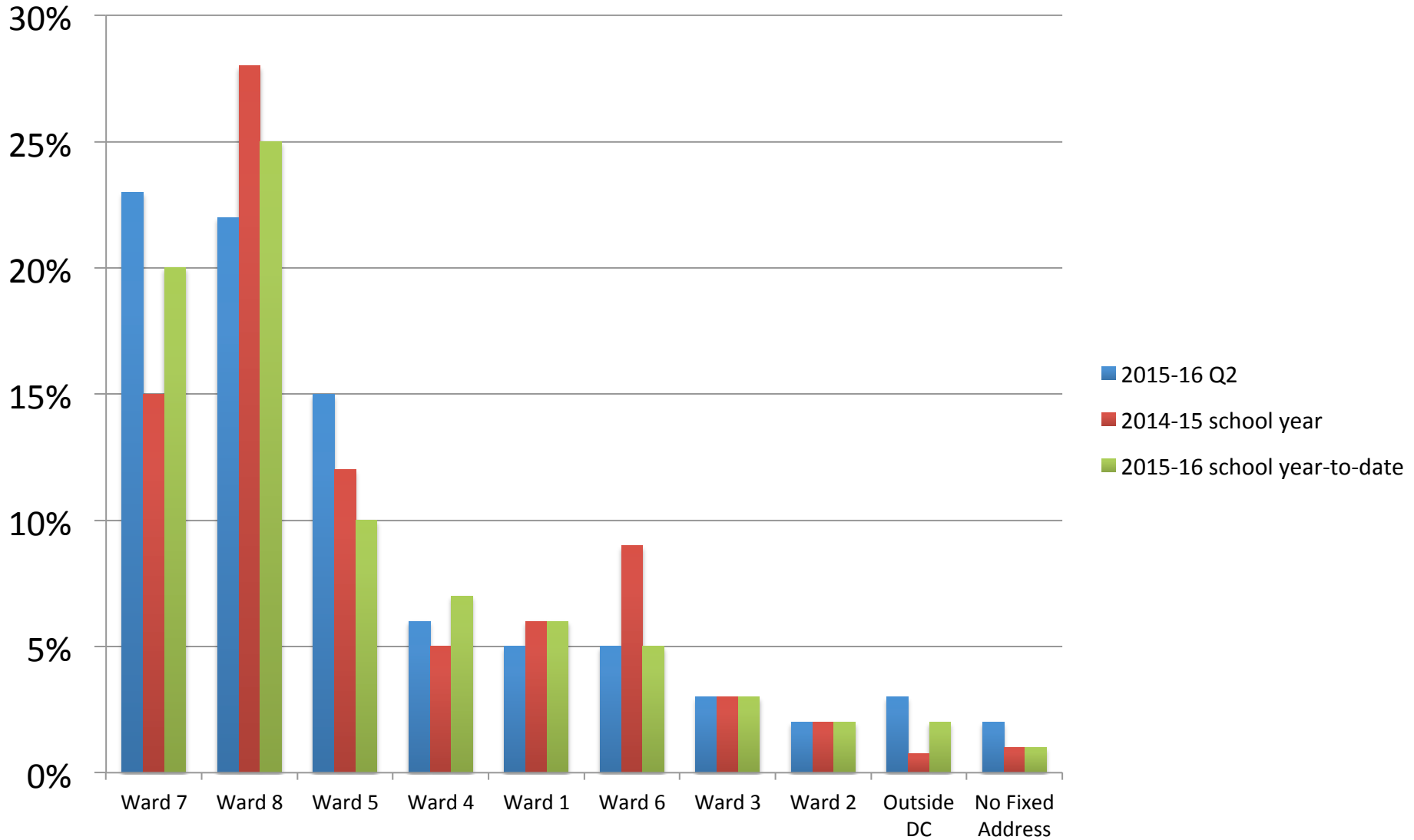
Total number of complaints represents a 13% increase compared to the same period of time in previous years:

- SY 2015-16: 106 cases in Quarter 2
- SY 2014-15: 94 cases in Quarter 2
- Total cases: Q1 and Q2 of this year: 250  
(Quarter 2 is defined as November 1, 2015-January 31, 2016)

# Top Complaints

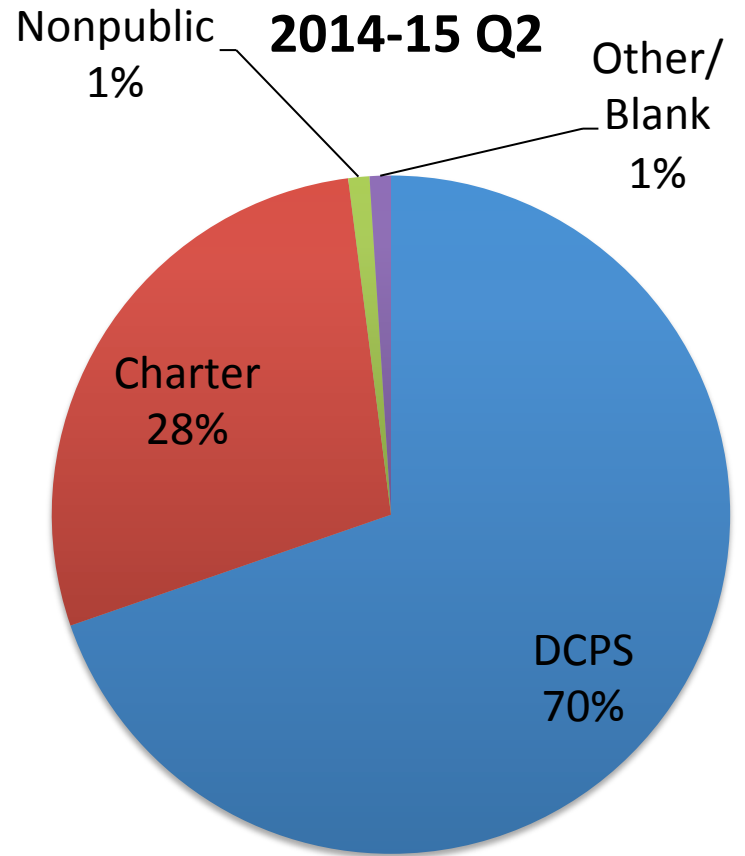
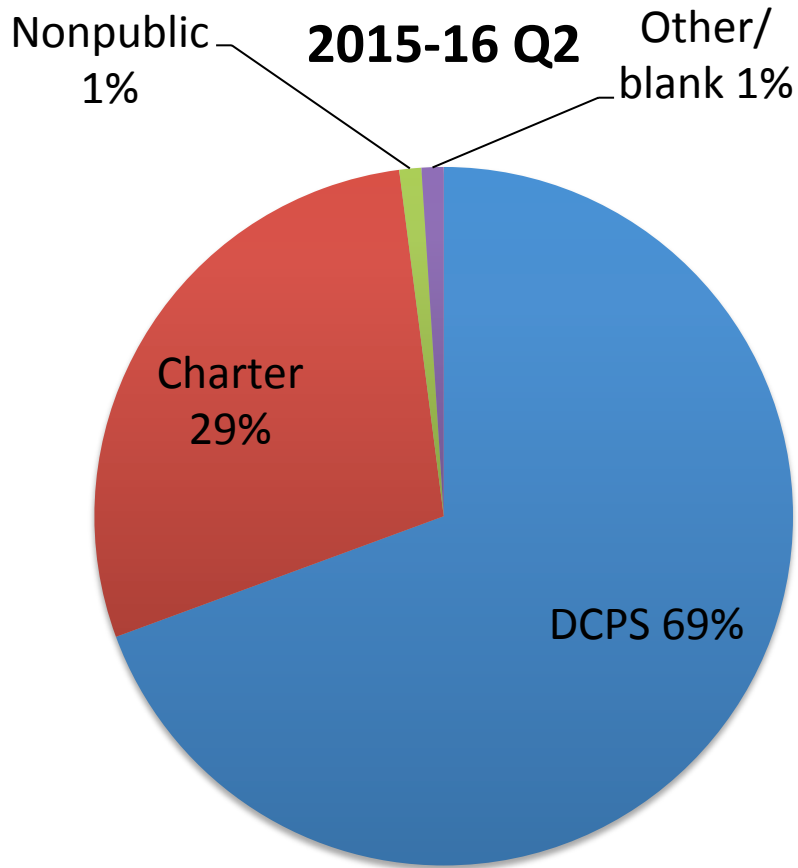


# Complaints by Ward

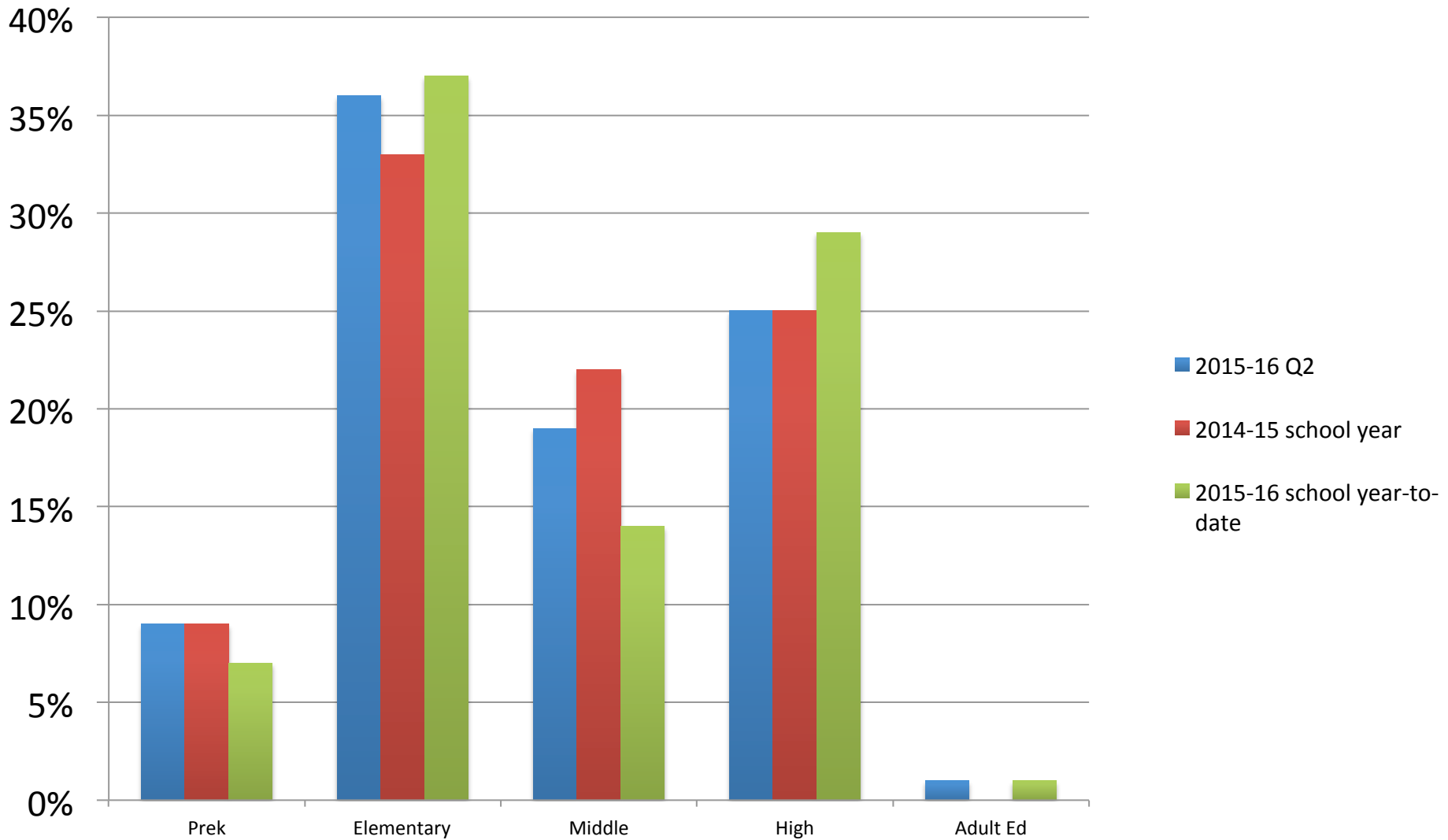


# School Type

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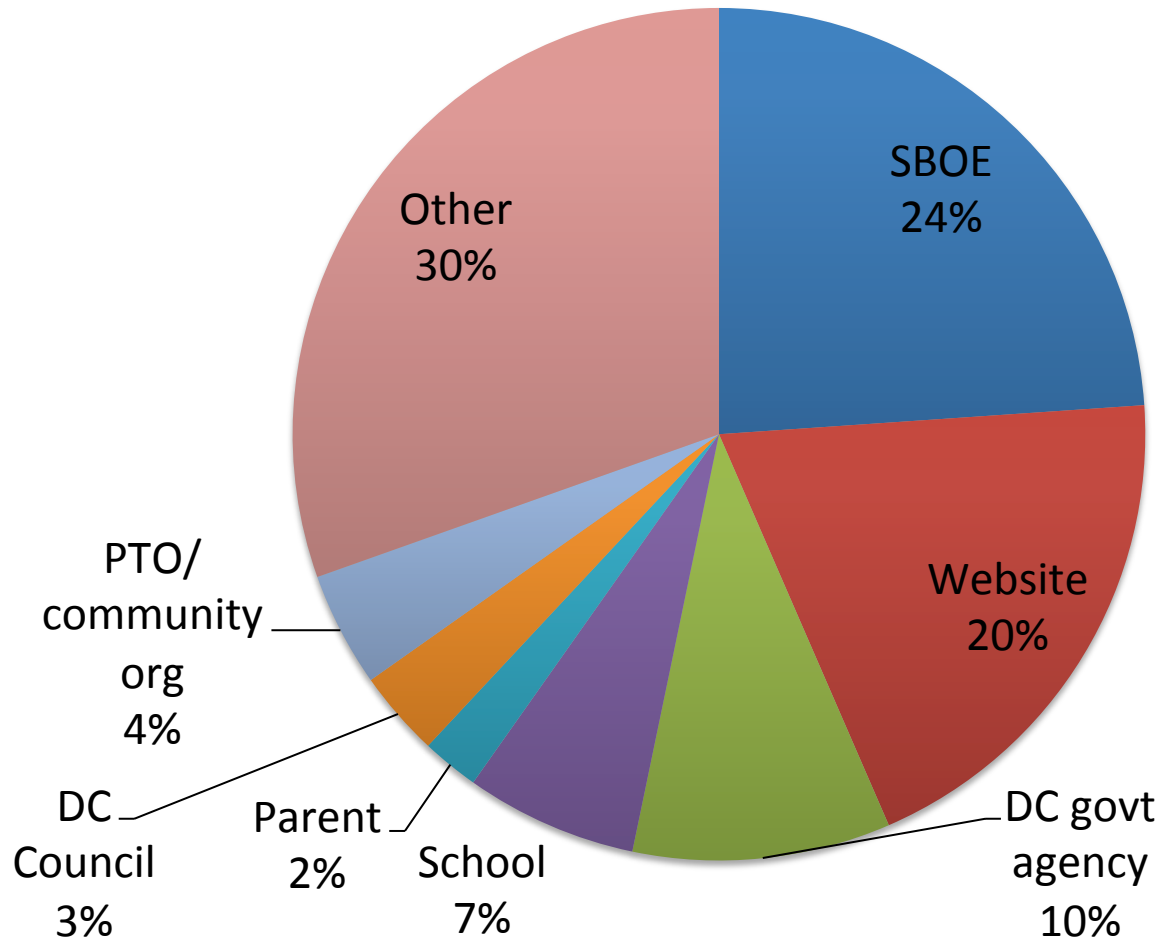
# Grade Level



# Referral Sources

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2015 – 16 Q2



# Trends and Systemic Issues

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## Notable trends:

- There is an increase in discipline and special education cases compared to previous years.

## Systemic issues we are currently working on:

- Discussing concerns with DCPS attendance regarding a student who was withdrawn from his out-of-boundary school by a juvenile detention center.
- Discussing concerns with DCPS regarding their 20 unexcused absences withdrawal policy.
- Part of a workgroup convened by GW Law School to propose key revisions to Chapter 25.



# Community Engagement Efforts in Q2

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- Moderated panel entitled “Engaging Families as Partners in Education” with the Carnegie Institution for Science; DC STEM Network on November 5, 2015.
- Invited to serve on a panel with District of Columbia Association for Special Education (“DCASE”) regarding special education to take place on February 16.
- Serving as Co-Chair of the Education Committee of the United States Ombudsman Association.

# Our Goals: Meeting Our Mandate

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## **Statute Revision Project**

Revising the Ombudsman statute to fit the current needs of our office. We performed our own legal research and a survey of Ombudsman best practices to inform our proposed revisions. Some of the proposed revisions include: revising the timeline for submission of the annual report to the State Board from 90 days to 120 days; proposing minor amendments to the required data for reporting, and revising language regarding access to student records, for example.