



# Enrollment Survey Results

April 2025



# A First-of-its-Kind Study

- New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) today shares the findings of a first-of-its-kind research study aimed at understanding how families make school choices in New York City.
- This effort is not only a bold stand for transparency, but an impactful way to reach and survey the families NYCPS is less likely to hear from.
- Implementing this feedback – both positive and negative – is a strong example of the Adams administration and Chancellor Aviles-Ramos' commitment to ensuring New York City students get the world-class education they deserve.

# Background

- To better understand how families make school choices, the Office of Policy and Evaluation (OPE) administered two surveys in summer 2024 to:
  - Families of **former** students, who were enrolled in a NYCPS school and left (1,639 respondents)
  - Families who applied to an NYCPS school but **never** enrolled (404 respondents)
- Slides highlighted in this deck reflect results from both surveys with more focus on the former population, which are weighted to account for non-response bias.
- HITStrategies also conducted focus groups in fall 2023 on similar topics with current and former NYCPS parents.

# Topline

Across survey items, respondents of all backgrounds expressed a desire for:



safe schools



academic rigor, and



a supportive and welcoming environment.

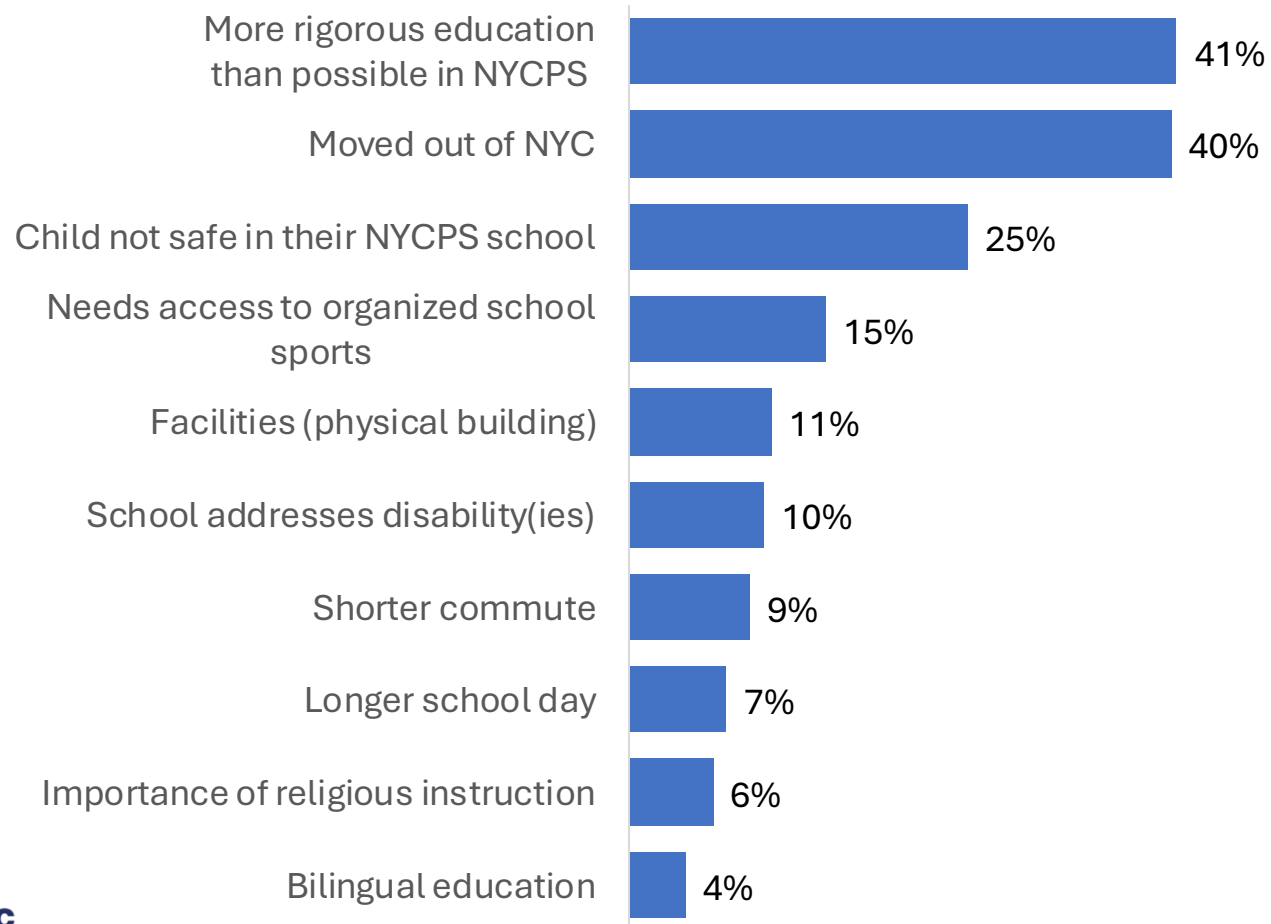


# Why are students not in an NYCPS school?

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# Former respondents were most likely to say that their child was no longer enrolled in an NYCPS school because they wanted a more rigorous education, moved out of NYC, or because of safety concerns.

% selecting main reasons why no longer enrolled in NYCPS school (Select up to 3)



# Reasons for enrolling in a non-NYCPS school varied somewhat depending on where a respondent’s student is currently enrolled, but rigor was the top reason for enrolling in charter and private schools.

<i>% of families (Formers) selecting main reasons why no longer enrolled in NYCPS school (Select up to 3)</i>	<b>NYC Charter</b>	<b>NYC Private</b>	<b>NYC Homeschool</b>	<b>District Outside of NYC</b>
More rigorous education than possible in NYCPS	<b>46%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>25%</b>
Moved out of NYC	3%	13%	<b>35%</b>	<b>78%</b>
Child not safe in their NYCPS school	<b>20%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>17%</b>
Need access to organized school sports	12%	14%	6%	14%
Facilities	8%	11%	5%	10%
Non-NYCPS school addresses disability(ies)	8%	9%	12%	7%
Shorter commute	12%	7%	5%	6%
Longer school day	<b>18%</b>	2%	2%	1%
Importance of religious instruction	2%	13%	4%	2%
Non-NYCPS school with bilingual education	4%	5%	2%	2%

“The **curriculum** is outstanding. They have to read for 30 minutes every night on top of their homework. So it’s **keeping them just really engaged** in school and practicing their reading.”

*-Former NYCPS parent in HIT focus group, now located in Newark, NJ*



# Why are students leaving NYC?

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# Most former respondents who moved out of NYC altogether named finding a better environment to raise kids as the primary reason, but concerns about schools were cited as frequently as housing concerns.

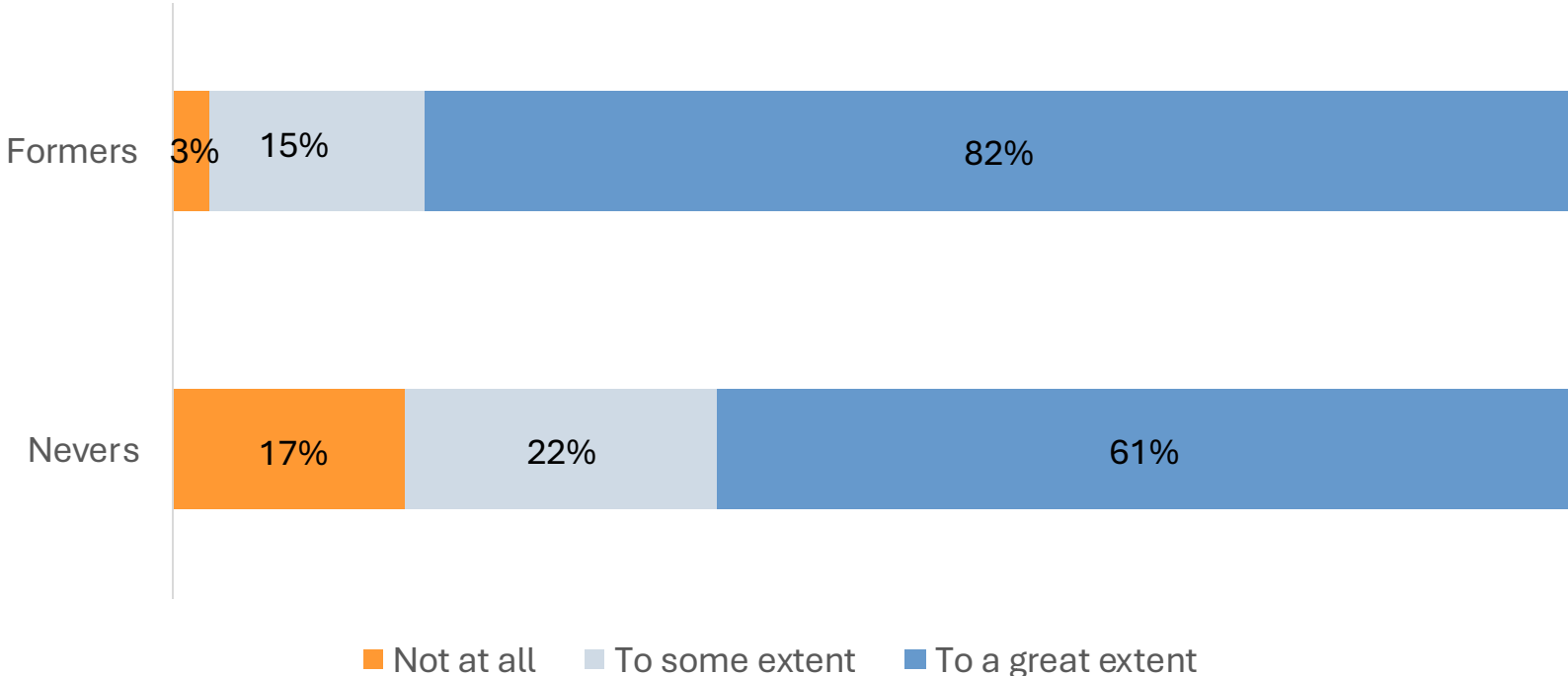
<i>Pick up to 5 reasons why you moved away from NYC.</i>	<b>Formerly Enrolled</b> <i>(% of respondents who left NYC)</i>
Better environment to raise kids	64
Concerns about schools	50
More housing space	50
Concerns about crime	42
Cheaper housing options	36
Closeness to family	21
A new job opportunity	19
Pandemic-related concerns	6

"When you see a metal detector, that just is a complete red flag for me. **That's a big safety issue...** So I was like, 'No, I'm not going to put my children through this!... my children are so happy now. They're like, **'Mom, we don't go through metal detectors. Mom, there's no fights like that.'** Because school is supposed to be a safe haven."

*- Former NYC Resident, PS Parent in HIT focus group*

# Both former and never respondents who moved out of NYC reported that school options mattered to a great extent in their decision to move.

To what extent did school options factor into why your family moved away from NYC?

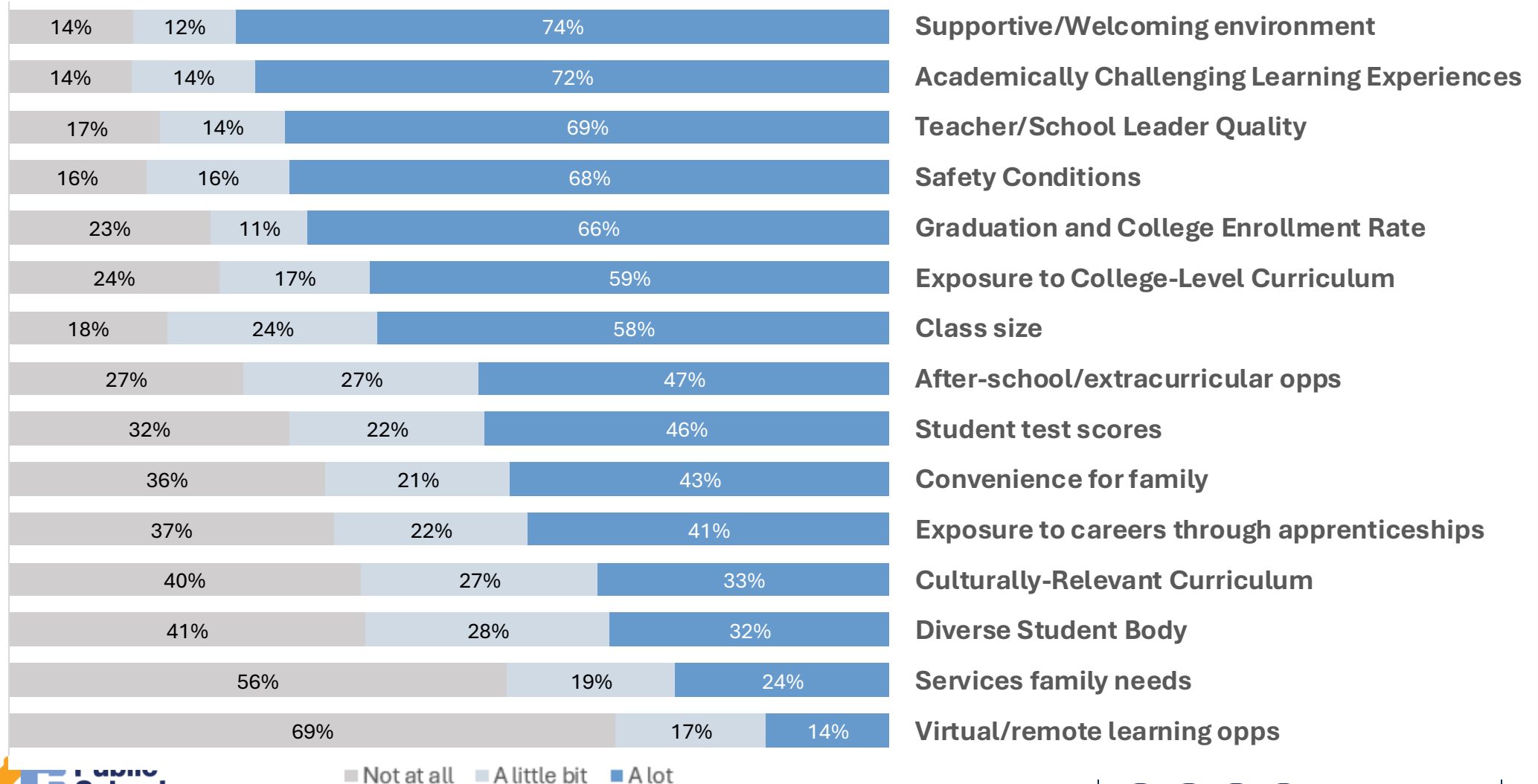


**What factors  
contributed  
to choosing their  
current school?**

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# Families expressed the importance of a supportive/welcoming environment, academically challenging learning, and teacher/school quality

How much did these factors contribute to your decision to send your child to their current school? (Formers)



# Additional Data

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While the former and never survey data is not available by district or school, the NYC School Survey and overall School Quality Reports measure and provide data on safety, rigor, and supportive environments in our schools.

Data is available by school, superintendency, and citywide:

- The School Quality Reports:  
<https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/students-and-schools/school-quality/school-quality-reports-and-resources>
- NYC School Survey Results:  
<https://secure.panoramaed.com/nycdoe/understand>

# Methodology

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# Response Rates - Former Survey

		Number of Respondents*	Total Number Invited	Response Rate
Race	Asian	109	7,151	1.5%
	Black	273	11,327	2.4%
	Hispanic	415	21,443	1.9%
	Multi-racial	124	986	12.6%
	White	369	9,531	3.9%
	Missing	190	613	31.0%
Discharge Type	Outside of NYC	390	22,062	1.8%
	Charter (within NYC)	603	13,405	4.5%
	Non-public (within NYC)	390	8,746	4.5%
	Homeschool	86	2,089	4.1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1639</b>	<b>51,601</b>	<b>3.2%</b>

# Response Rates - Never Survey

		Number of Respondents*
Race	Asian	22
	Black	69
	Hispanic	67
	Multi-racial	52
	White	110
	Missing	44
Discharge Type	Outside of NYC	36
	Charter	127
	Private	226
	Homeschool	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>404</b>

Response rates across demographic groups could not be calculated for never enrolled respondents as NYCPS does not collect or store data on those who do not enroll in NYCPS schools.

\*Who responded to at least one question on the survey



# Survey Response Weighting

In survey research, it's common that the group of people who respond to a survey doesn't exactly match the larger population that the survey is trying to represent. To fix this, researchers use different methods to adjust the data, one of which is called "weighting." Weighting helps to make the survey results more accurate by giving more importance to the answers from groups that are underrepresented in the survey.

In this case, we used a specific type of weighting called "post-stratification weighting" for our survey of former NYCPS parents. This method works by giving more weight to responses from groups that appear less often in the survey, and less weight to those that appear more often. The idea is to adjust the survey results so they better match the real population.

Post-stratification weighting works by first knowing what the population looks like—meaning the general breakdown of different groups of people within the population. In this case, NYCPS knows the categories of where former students enrolled after attending NYCPS, so we used this information to guide the weighting.

The way the weights are calculated is by comparing the percentage of each group in the survey sample to the percentage of that same group in the overall population. For instance, if 60% of the overall population belongs to a certain group, but only 20% of our survey sample comes from that group, we adjust the data so that those 20% of respondents now have a higher weight to make them reflect the larger 60% of the population.

So, if the group is underrepresented, their responses get a bigger weight, and if the group is overrepresented, their responses get a smaller weight. The majority of the weights in the survey end up being close to 1, meaning they don't require much adjustment. In rare cases where a group is very over- or under-represented, the research team sets limits on how much the weights can change. For this survey, we didn't need to do any trimming of the weights, as everything was balanced out properly.