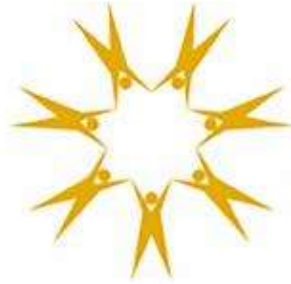




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*Department of*  
**Human Service Programs**

## **DHSP Afterschool Programs 2025-26 Lottery Update**



September 2025

# Executive Summary

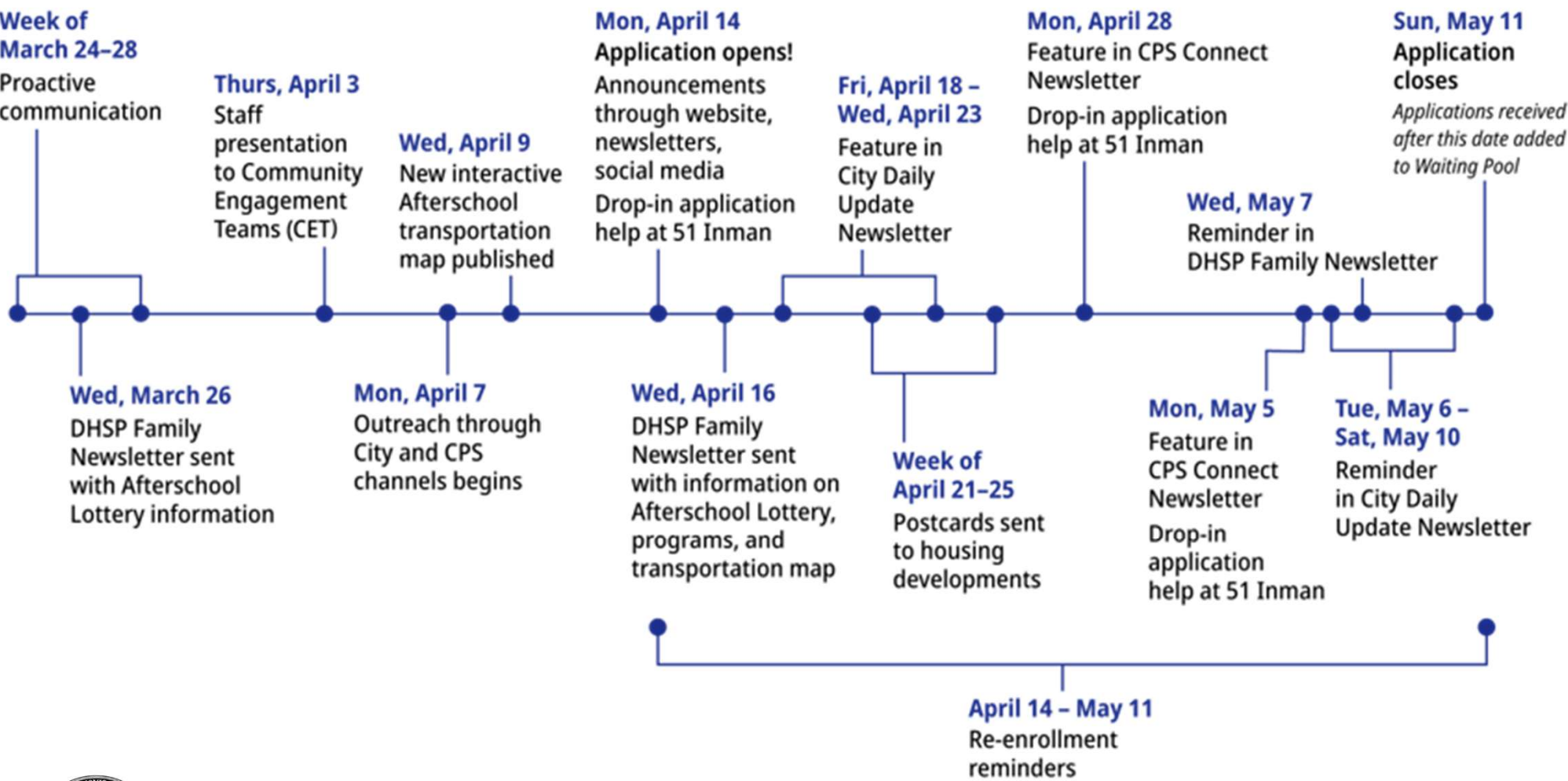
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- Recognizing how important dependable afterschool care is for Cambridge families, we remain committed to providing clear, transparent updates on the Afterschool Lottery.
- In a year that brought significant changes, including the closing of the Kennedy-Longfellow School, we're pleased to report that overall capacity remained level relative to the 2024-25 school year and that ~90% of all applicants received an offer for the 2025-26 school year, with over 80% receiving their first choice.
- At the same time, the number of students in the waiting pool has declined relative to this point in time last year, decreasing from 334 applicants in August 2024 to 193 applicants in August 2025.
- Because demand remains uneven across program offerings, many classrooms are at or above capacity while others have available seats, underscoring the importance of matching supply to caregiver needs.
- The lottery continues to achieve its core policy goal of diversifying enrollment through the priority income group while maintaining strong access overall, with offer rates for both income groups exceeding 87%.
- Meanwhile, we continue to focus on meeting the needs of students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 Plans, which comprise about one-in-five lottery applicants:
  - About half of these students received an enrollment hold, which preserves the child's seat while DHSP Inclusion staff complete an assessment to identify needed supports.
  - By the end of the summer, over 60% of these enrollment holds were released, and these students were enrolled in the placement they were offered.
- The lottery also maintains its goals of providing families continuity and consistency, with offer rates to guaranteed applicants (re-enrollments) at 100% and most multi-child households receiving consistent lottery outcomes (e.g., offer or waiting pool) for all their children.

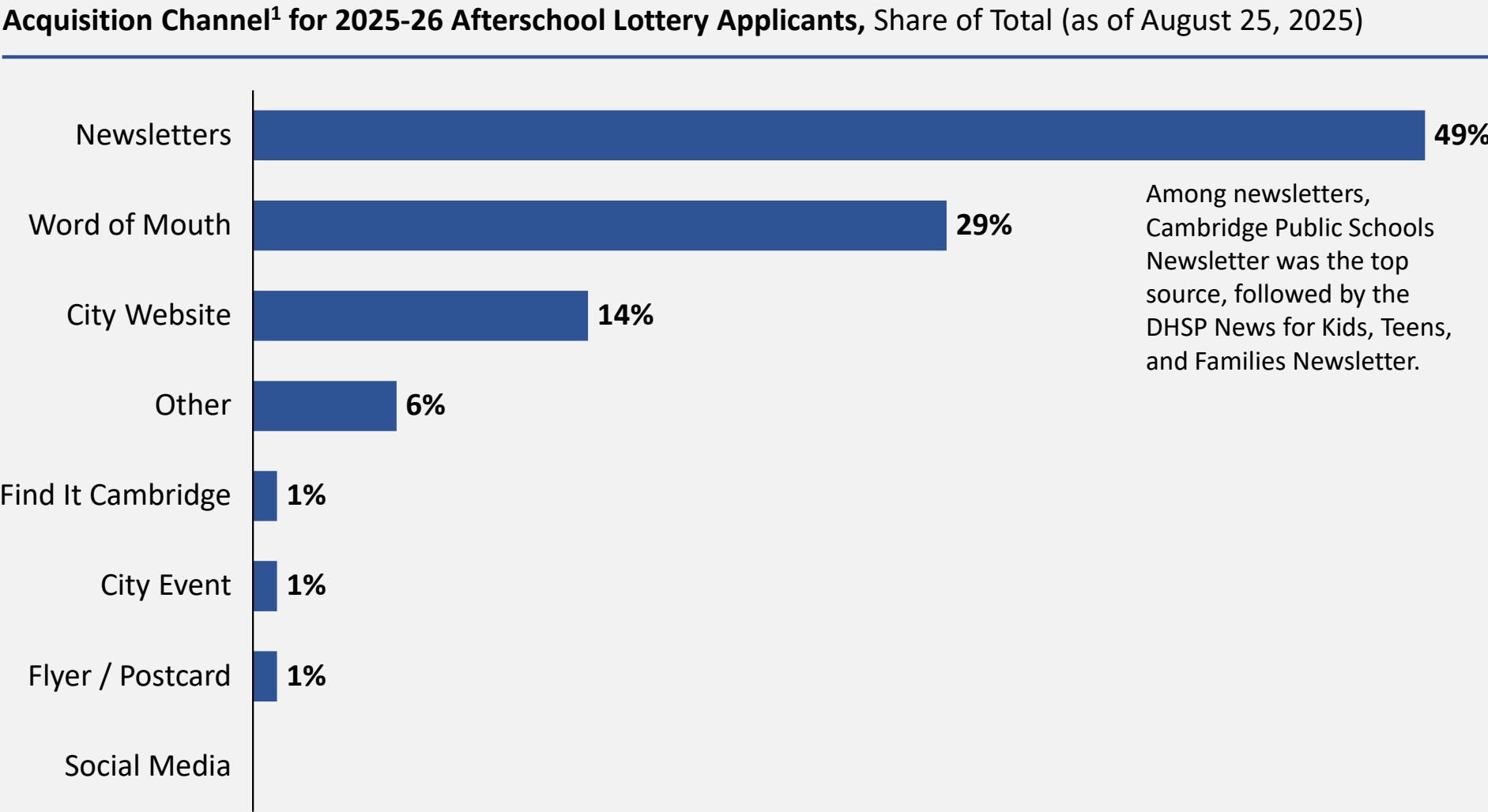


# Proactive outreach helped make families aware of the DHSP Afterschool Lottery and encouraged them to apply (or re-enroll) by the deadline:

## Outreach Timeline for the 2025-26 Afterschool Lottery



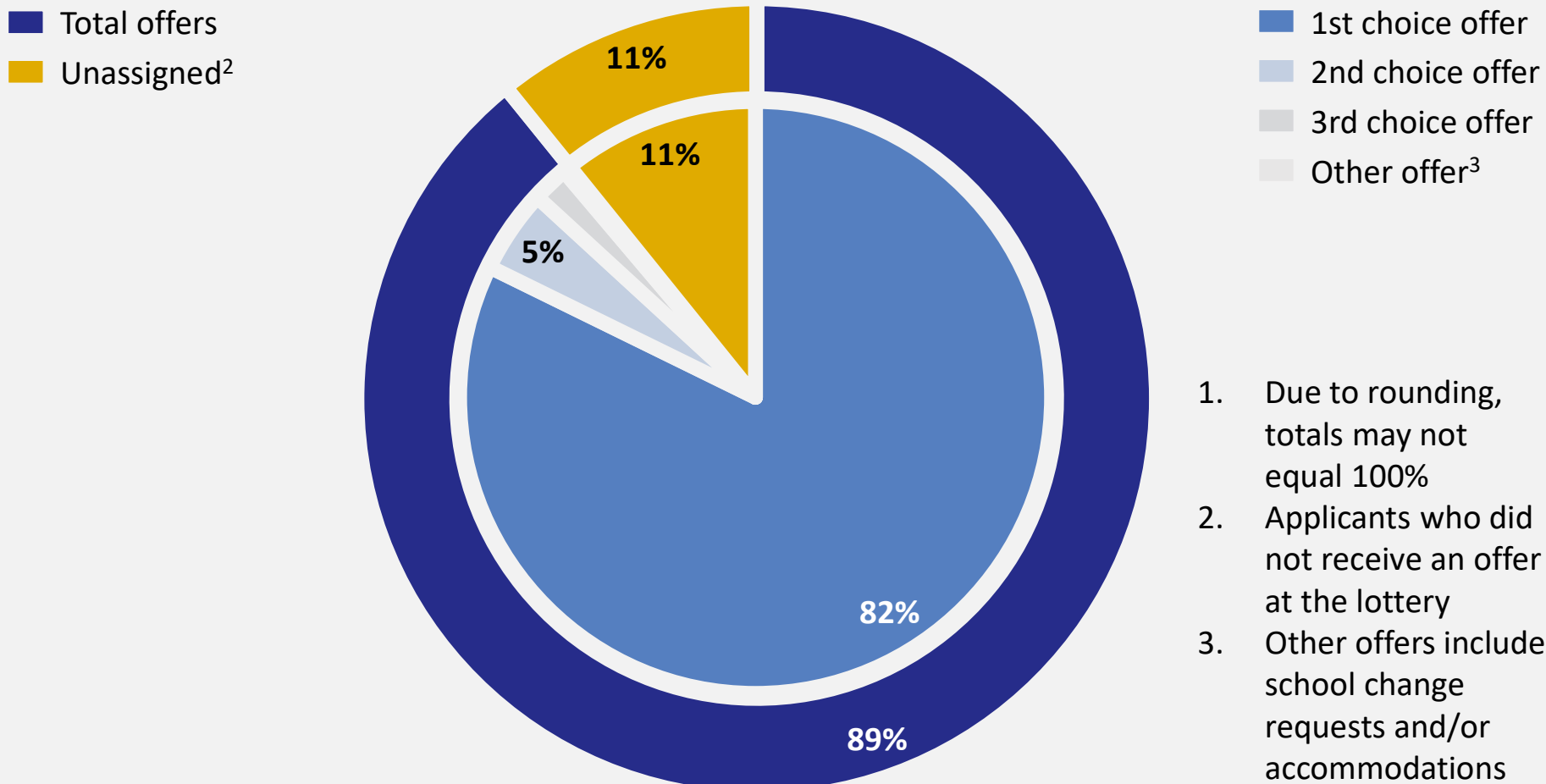
# ... And most families learned about the lottery application through newsletters or word of mouth:



1. Data based on responses to question included in the 2025-26 application: *How did you learn about the DHSP Afterschool Lottery?*

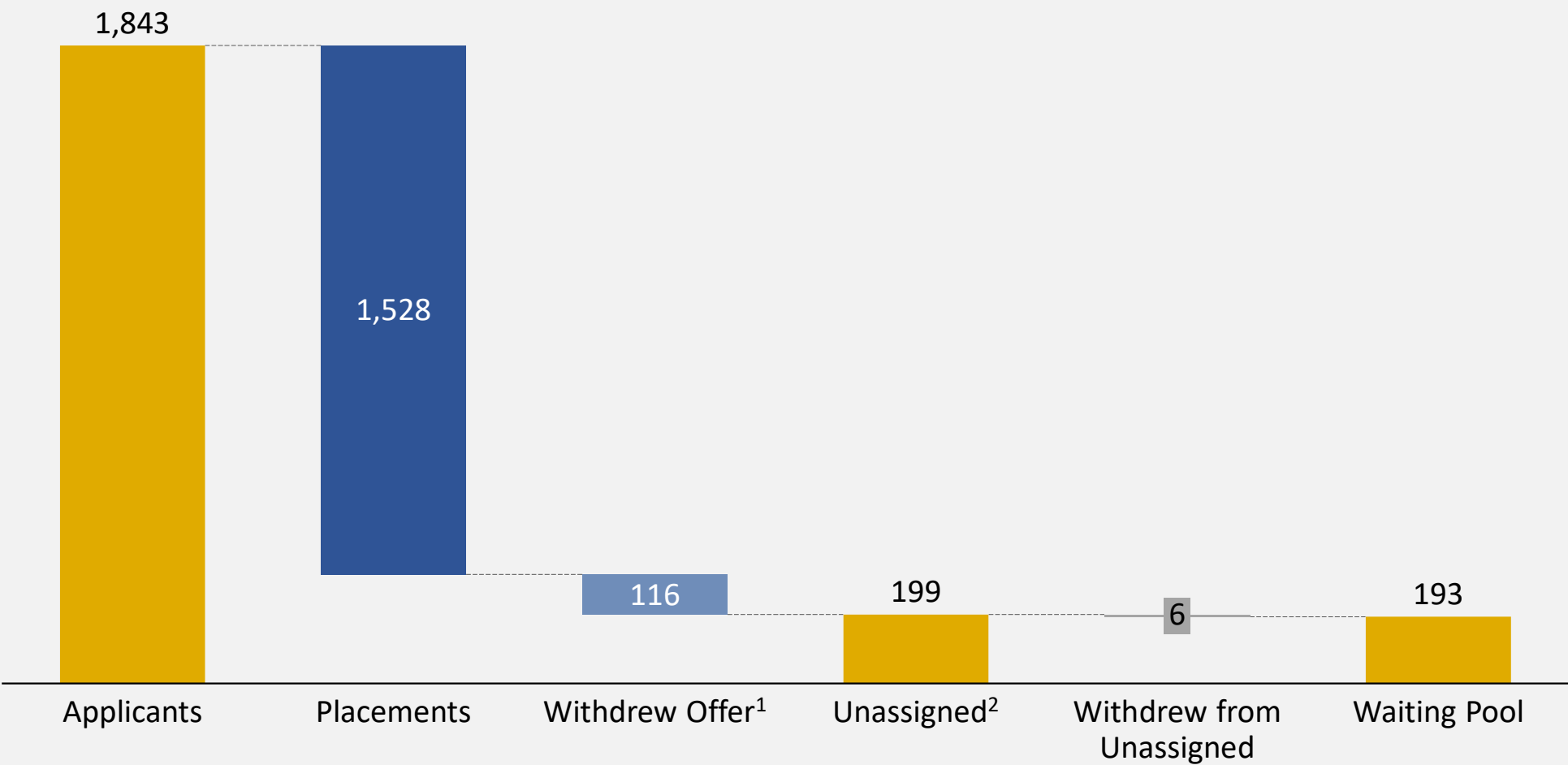
**We are pleased to show that nearly 90% of all applicants received an offer through the lottery, with 80%+ receiving their first choice:**

**2025-26 Lottery Offers, as a Percent of Total Applicants (updated August 25, 2025)<sup>1</sup>**



As expected, some applicants who received an offer later withdrew, leaving 193 applicants in the waiting pool at the end of August:

2025-26 Lottery Timeline and Active Waiting Pool (updated August 25, 2025)

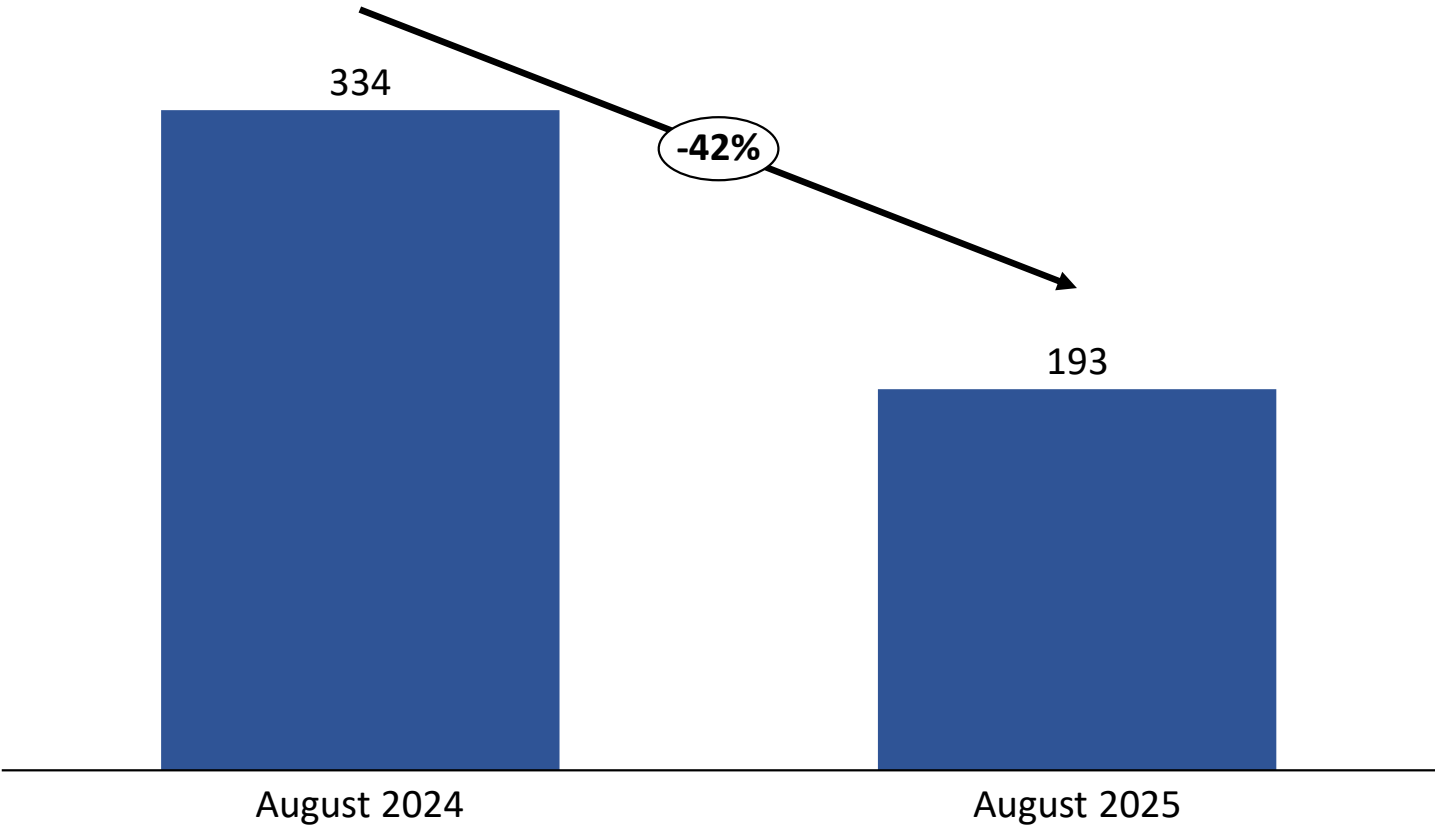


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1. Applicants who received an offer but later withdrew from the lottery  
2. Applicants who did not receive an offer at the lottery

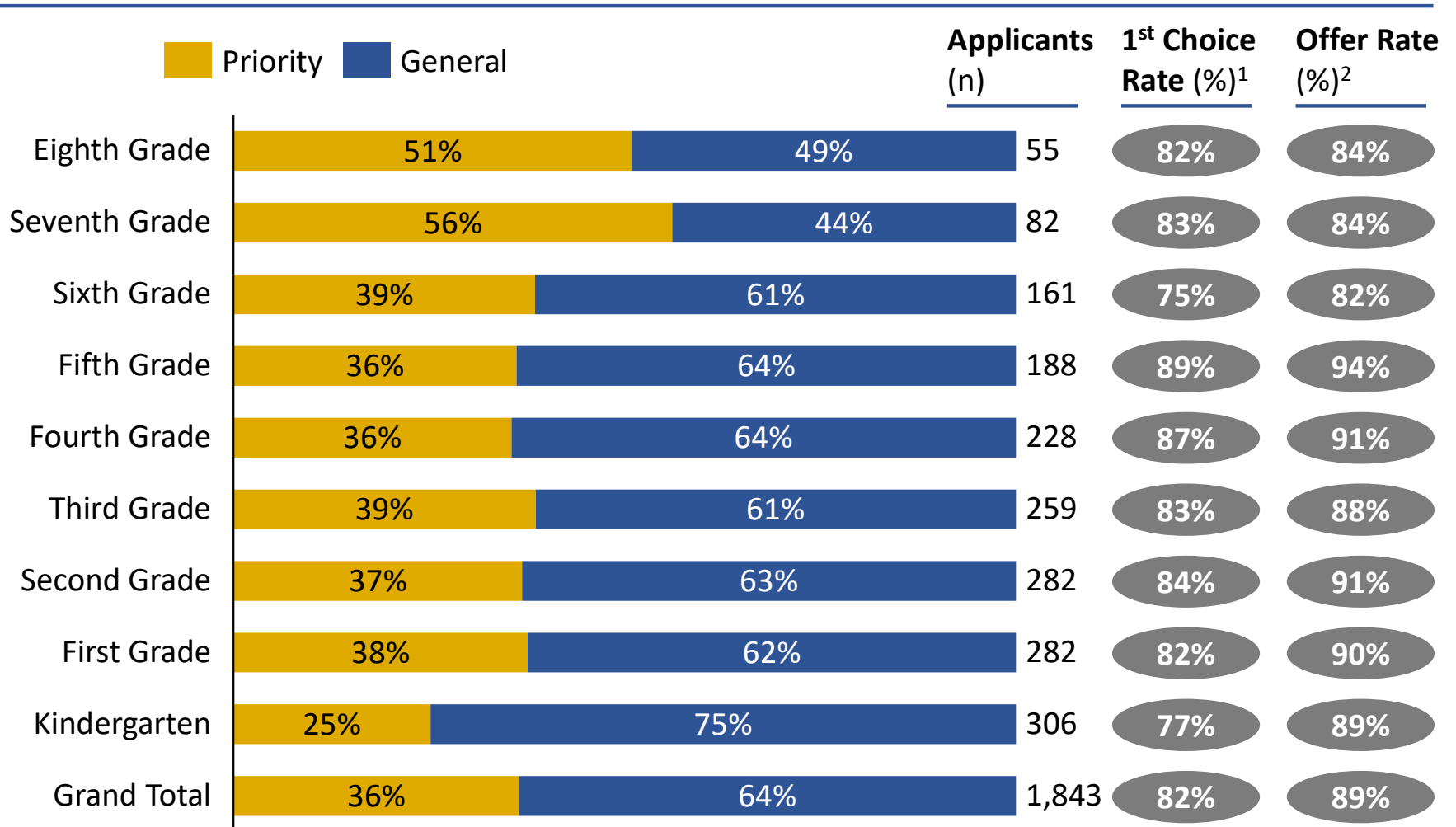
... Which is a much smaller waiting pool when compared to the same point last year:

Afterschool Lottery Active Waiting Pool, August 2024 and August 2025



# While younger grades attracted the most applicants, offer rates were high across the board:

**Applications by Grade** (Share of Total Applicants, %)



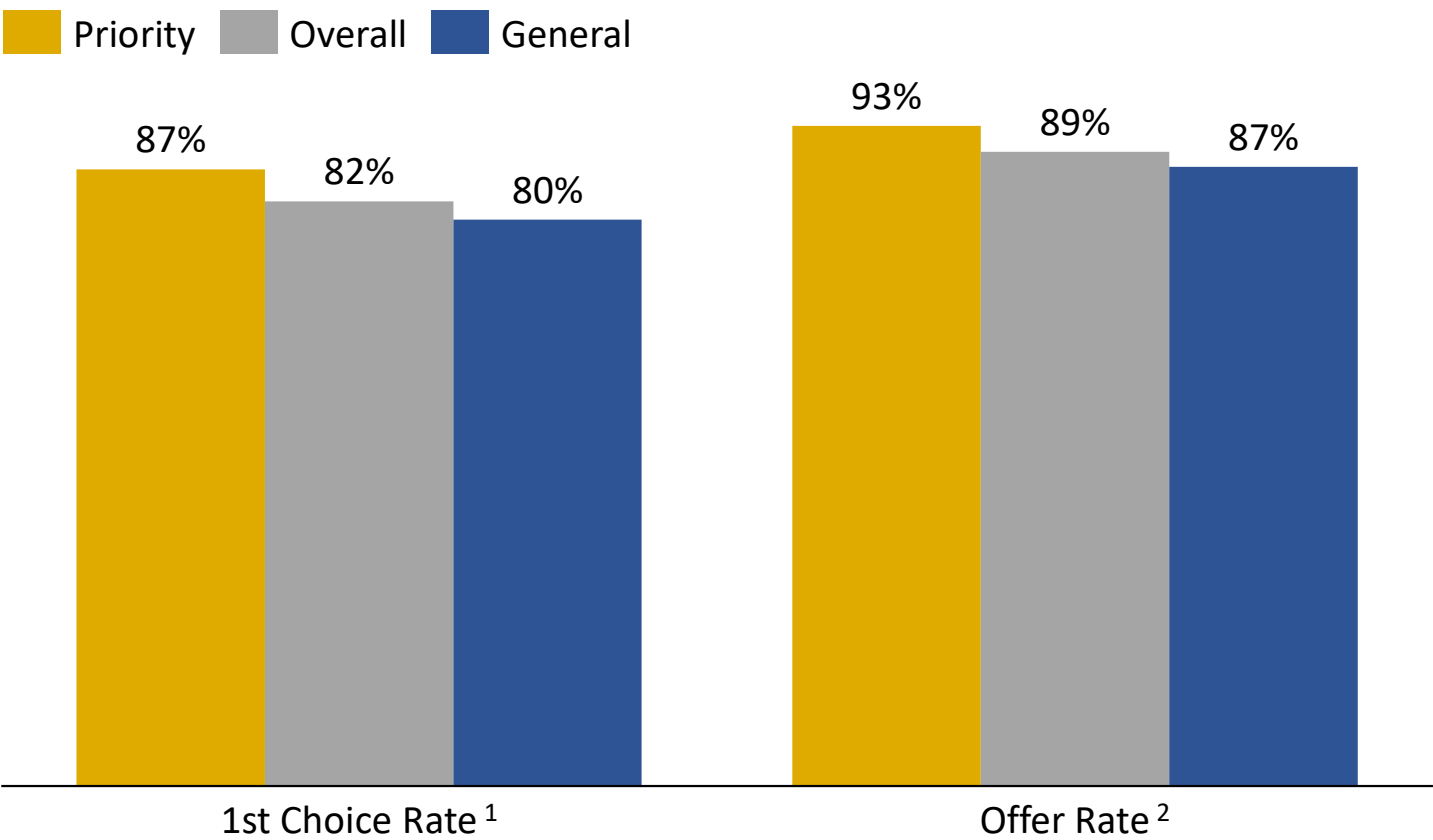
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1. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer to that site
2. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer there or elsewhere



# While highest for priority applicants, offer rates remained high for the general applicant pool and overall:

2025-26 Offer Rates by Income Group (updated August 25, 2025)



1. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer to that site  
2. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer there or elsewhere

## ... A pattern that's consistent across most programs and sites:

Offer Rates <sup>1</sup> by Income Group and First-Choice Program/Site		All Applicants				Priority		General		
		1st Choice Placement	Declined Offers <sup>2</sup>	Placed Elsewhere <sup>1</sup>	Unassigned <sup>3</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice Apps (#)	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice Rate (%) <sup>4</sup>	Offer Rate (%) <sup>5</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice Rate (%) <sup>4</sup>	Offer Rate (%) <sup>5</sup>
Childcare Afterschool	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (K-5)	44	17	69	69	77%	81%	65%	72%	
	Peabody (K-5)	47	10	13	72	81%	88%	53%	78%	
	Morse (K-5)	43	14	63	63	92%	96%	58%	92%	
	Fletcher Maynard (K-3)	26	10	7	43	69%	84%	36%	82%	
	Childcare Afterschool Subtotal	160	38	8	41	247	80%	87%	57%	80%
Community Schools	Graham and Parks (K-5)	64	6	14	24	108	86%	91%	63%	74%
	Peabody (K-5)	125	14	10	153	153	98%	100%	86%	91%
	Cambridgeport (K-5)	106	7	14	10	137	95%	100%	83%	90%
	Tobin (K-5)	81	5	7	100	100	83%	97%	88%	91%
	Amigos (K-5)	72	14	7	13	106	93%	97%	64%	84%
	Morse (K-5)	91	10	106	106	100%	100%	86%	88%	
	Haggerty (K-5)	65	16	5	90	90	67%	92%	80%	96%
	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (K-5)	80	6	22	110	110	86%	95%	76%	76%
	Fletcher Maynard (K-5)	38	40	40	40	96%	100%	100%	100%	
	Community School Subtotal	722	56	71	101	950	89%	97%	79%	86%
Youth Centers	Gately (4-8)	91	6	18	118	118	71%	79%	87%	88%
	Frisoli (4-8)	79	8	9	20	116	82%	92%	67%	71%
	Russell (4-8)	110	5	14	131	131	83%	85%	89%	91%
	Moore (4-8)	46	5	54	54	88%	88%	100%	100%	
	Youth Centers Subtotal	326	25	55	419	419	80%	87%	85%	87%
KOED	King Open Extended Day	213	12	227	227	98%	98%	100%	100%	
Grand Total		1,421	107	116	199	1,843	87%	93%	80%	87%

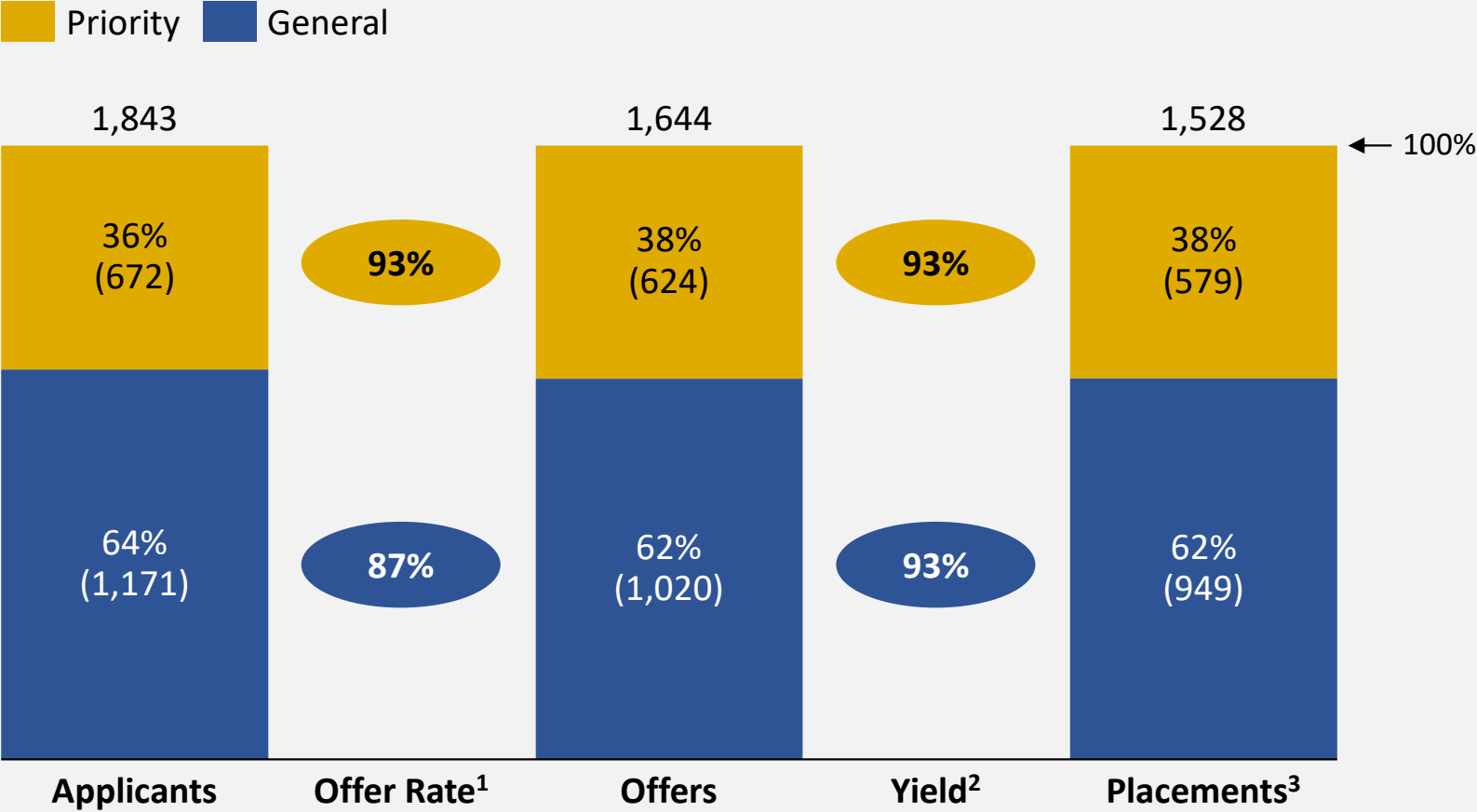


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1. Indicates applicants who received an offer but not for their first-choice site
2. Includes both first-choice offers that were declined and offers to other sites that were declined
3. Indicates applicants who did not receive an offer
4. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer to that site
5. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer there or elsewhere

# The lottery continues to facilitate low-income enrollment, and it does so with similarly high offer rates across income groups:

2025-26 Lottery Applicants, Offers and Placements by Income Group  
(updated August 25, 2025)



1. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer there or elsewhere  
2. Share of applicants who received an offer and did not withdraw  
3. Count of applicants who accepted their offer

## ... A pattern that's consistent across most programs and sites:

Placements and Offer Rates <sup>1</sup> by Income Group and First-Choice Program/Site		Placements			Applications	Priority		General	
		<div><div></div> Priority</div>	<div><div></div> General</div>		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice Apps (#)	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice Rate (%) <sup>1</sup>	Offer Rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice Rate (%) <sup>1</sup>	Offer Rate (%) <sup>2</sup>
Childcare Afterschool	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (K-5)	<div><div></div></div> 49%	<div><div></div></div> 51%	49	69	77%	81%	65%	72%
	Peabody (K-5)	<div><div></div></div> 56%	<div><div></div></div> 44%	50	72	81%	88%	53%	78%
	Morse (K-5)	<div><div></div></div> 52%	<div><div></div></div> 48%	44	63	92%	96%	58%	92%
	Fletcher Maynard (K-3)	<div><div></div></div> 85%	<div><div></div></div> 15%	26	43	69%	84%	36%	82%
	Childcare Afterschool Subtotal	<div><div></div></div> 57%	<div><div></div></div> 43%	169	247	80%	87%	57%	80%
Community Schools	Graham and Parks (K-5)	<div><div></div></div> 27%	<div><div></div></div> 73%	70	108	86%	91%	63%	74%
	Peabody (K-5)	<div><div></div></div> 29%	<div><div></div></div> 71%	139	153	98%	100%	86%	91%
	Cambridgeport (K-5)	<div><div></div></div> 27%	<div><div></div></div> 73%	121	137	95%	100%	83%	90%
	Tobin (K-5)	<div><div></div></div> 31%	<div><div></div></div> 69%	99	100	83%	97%	88%	91%
	Amigos (K-5)	<div><div></div></div> 36%	<div><div></div></div> 64%	72	106	93%	97%	64%	84%
	Morse (K-5)	<div><div></div></div> 20%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	101	106	100%	100%	86%	88%
	Haggerty (K-5)	<div><div></div></div> 32%	<div><div></div></div> 68%	69	90	67%	92%	80%	96%
	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (K-5)	<div><div></div></div> 20%	<div><div></div></div> 80%	82	110	86%	95%	76%	76%
	Fletcher Maynard (K-5)	<div><div></div></div> 65%	<div><div></div></div> 35%	48	40	96%	100%	100%	100%
	Community School Subtotal	<div><div></div></div> 30%	<div><div></div></div> 70%	801	950	89%	97%	79%	86%
Youth Centers	Gately (4-8)	<div><div></div></div> 34%	<div><div></div></div> 66%	95	118	71%	79%	87%	88%
	Frisoli (4-8)	<div><div></div></div> 62%	<div><div></div></div> 38%	81	116	82%	92%	67%	71%
	Russell (4-8)	<div><div></div></div> 29%	<div><div></div></div> 71%	113	131	83%	85%	89%	91%
	Moore (4-8)	<div><div></div></div> 47%	<div><div></div></div> 53%	55	54	88%	88%	100%	100%
	Youth Centers Subtotal	<div><div></div></div> 41%	<div><div></div></div> 59%	344	419	80%	87%	85%	87%
KOED	King Open Extended Day	<div><div></div></div> 48%	<div><div></div></div> 52%	214	227	98%	98%	100%	100%
Grand Total		<div><div></div></div> 38%	<div><div></div></div> 62%	1,528	1843	87%	93%	80%	87%



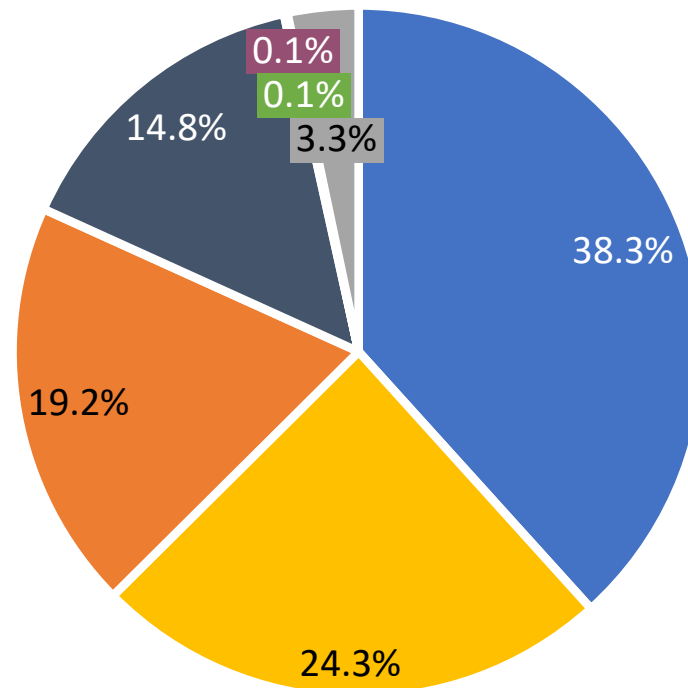
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1. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer to that site
2. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer there or elsewhere

# The lottery continues to attract a diverse applicant pool:

**2025-26 Lottery Applicants by Race, Share of Total Applicants**  
(as of August 25, 2025)

- White/Caucasian
- Black/African American
- Multiracial
- Asian/East Indian
- Native American/Alaskan
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Prefer to Self-describe



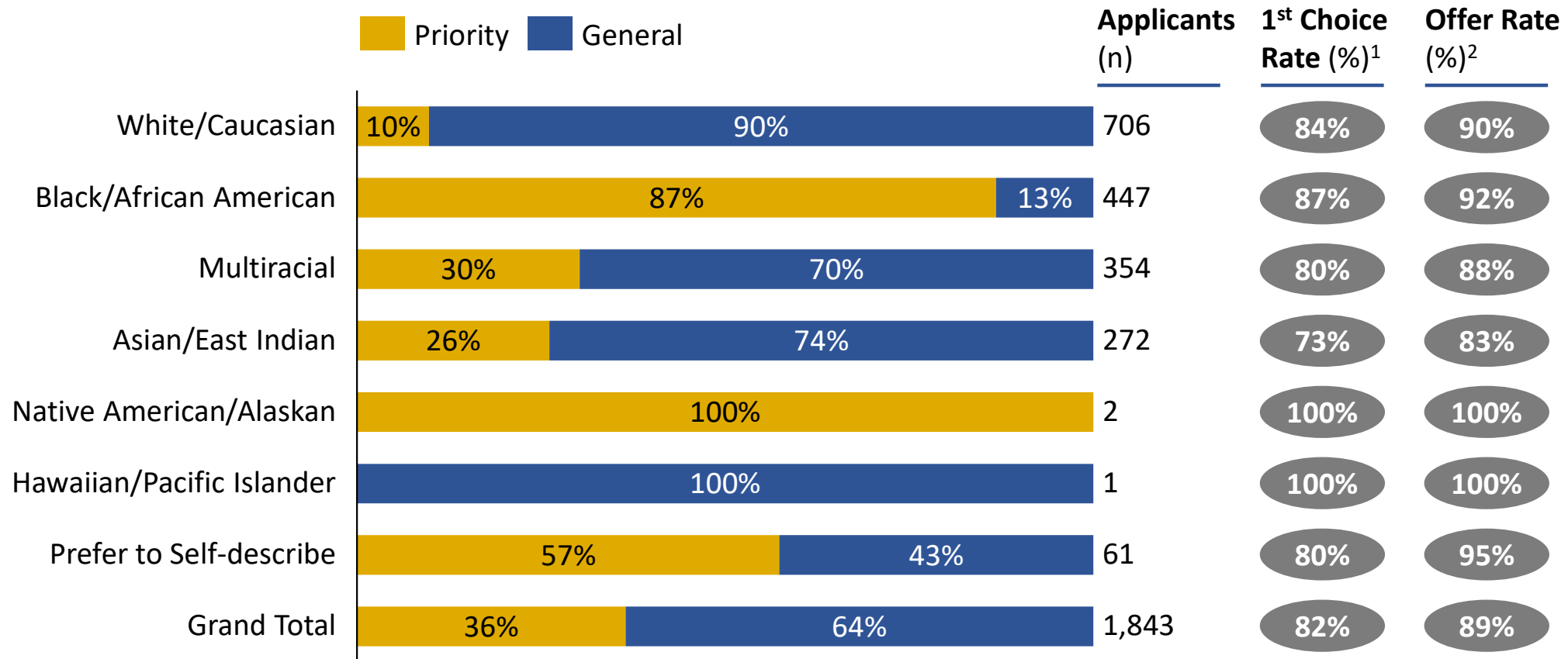
We are sharing this data to help you understand the applicant pool and lottery outcomes by different demographics. Race is not considered in the lottery process and does not impact placement odds.



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## ... And the priority income group helps diversify placements:

### Applications by Race (Share of Total Applicants, %)



We are sharing this data to help you understand the applicant pool and lottery outcomes by different demographics. Race is not considered in the lottery process and does not impact placement odds.

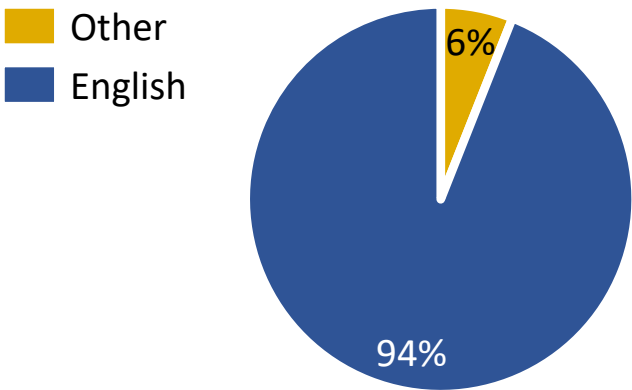


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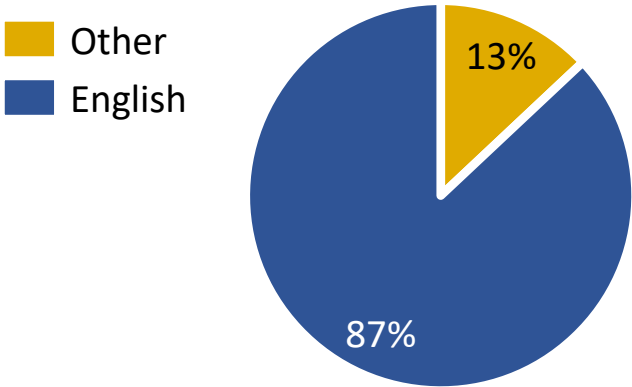
1. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer to that site
2. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer there or elsewhere

# We partnered with the CLC, CET, and others to prioritize language access because families - especially priority applicants - have diverse language needs:

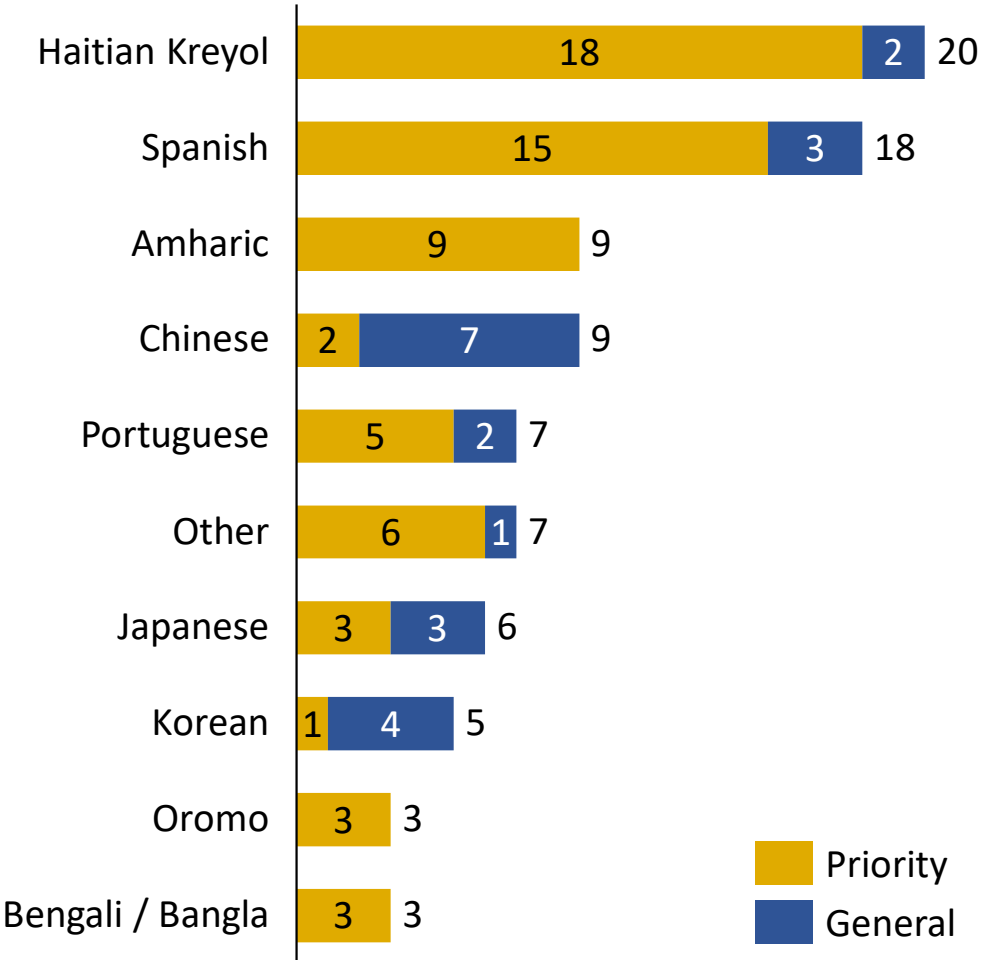
2025-26 Lottery Applicants by Preferred Language, Share of Total Applicants (as of August 25, 2025)



2025-26 Priority Applicants by Preferred Language, Share of Priority Applicants (as of August 25, 2025)



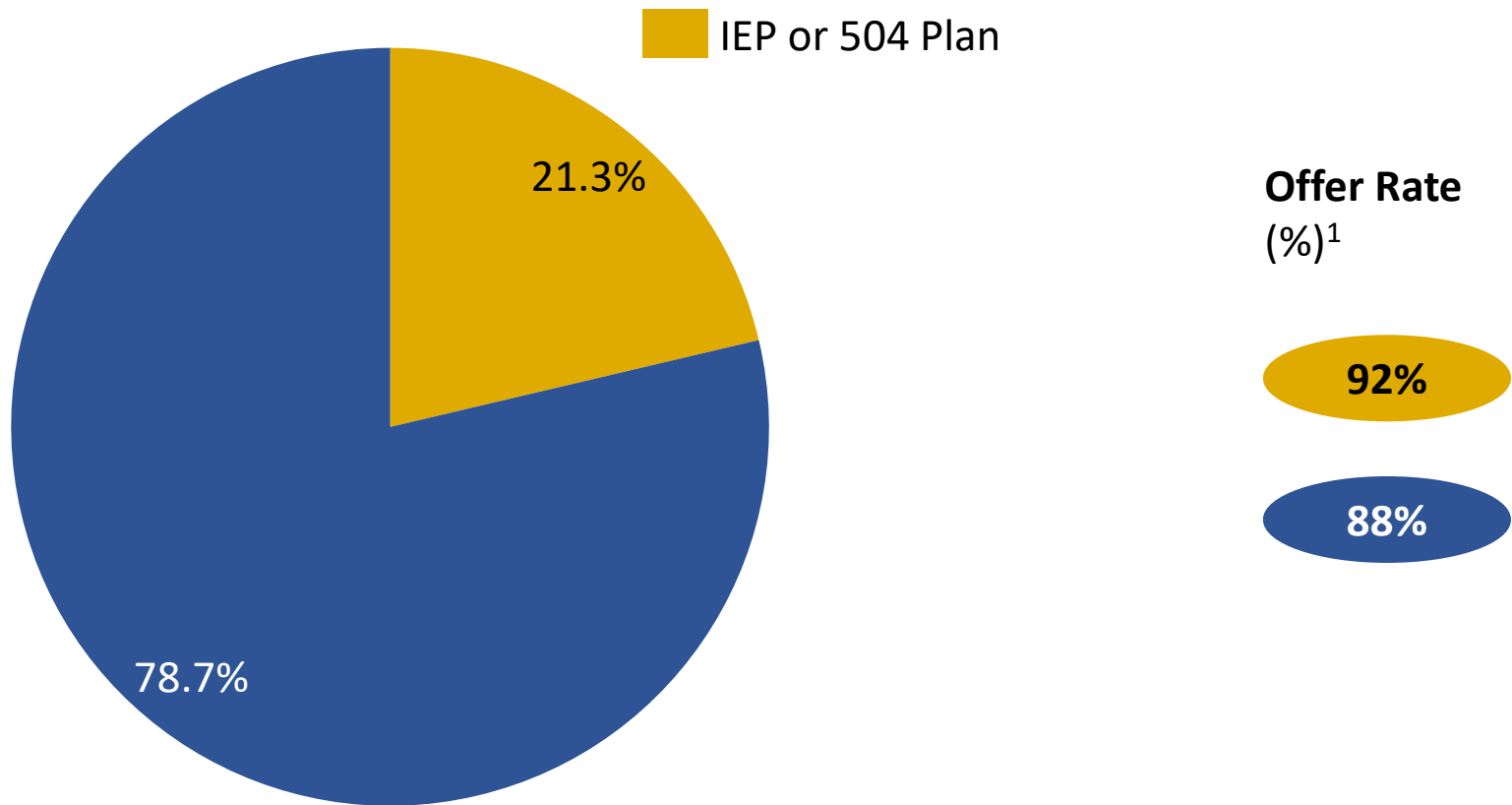
2025-26 Applicants with Other Preferred Language, Count by Income Group (as of August 25, 2025)



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# About one-in-five lottery applicants report an IEP or 504 Plan, and the lottery places these students at a higher rate than other applicants:

2025-26 Lottery Applicants by Self-Reported IEP or 504 Plan Status, Share of Total Applicants (as of August 25, 2025)



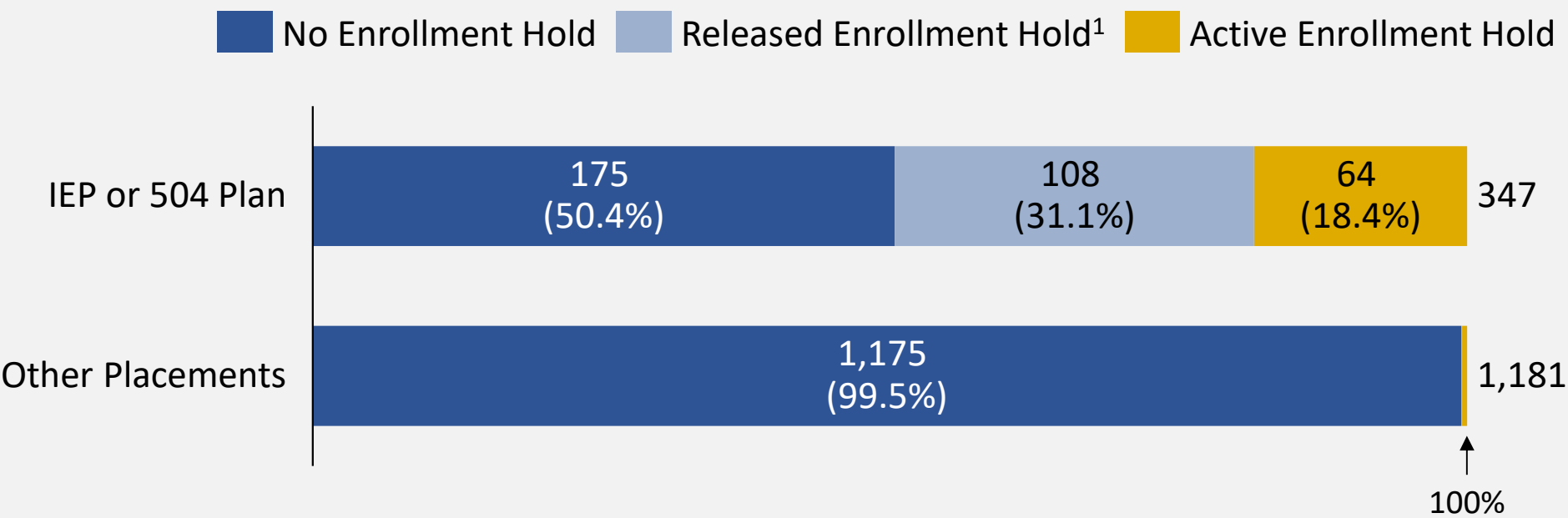
1. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer there or elsewhere (may have withdrawn post-offer)



# Half of these students received an enrollment hold, and by the end of the summer, 60% of these holds had been released:

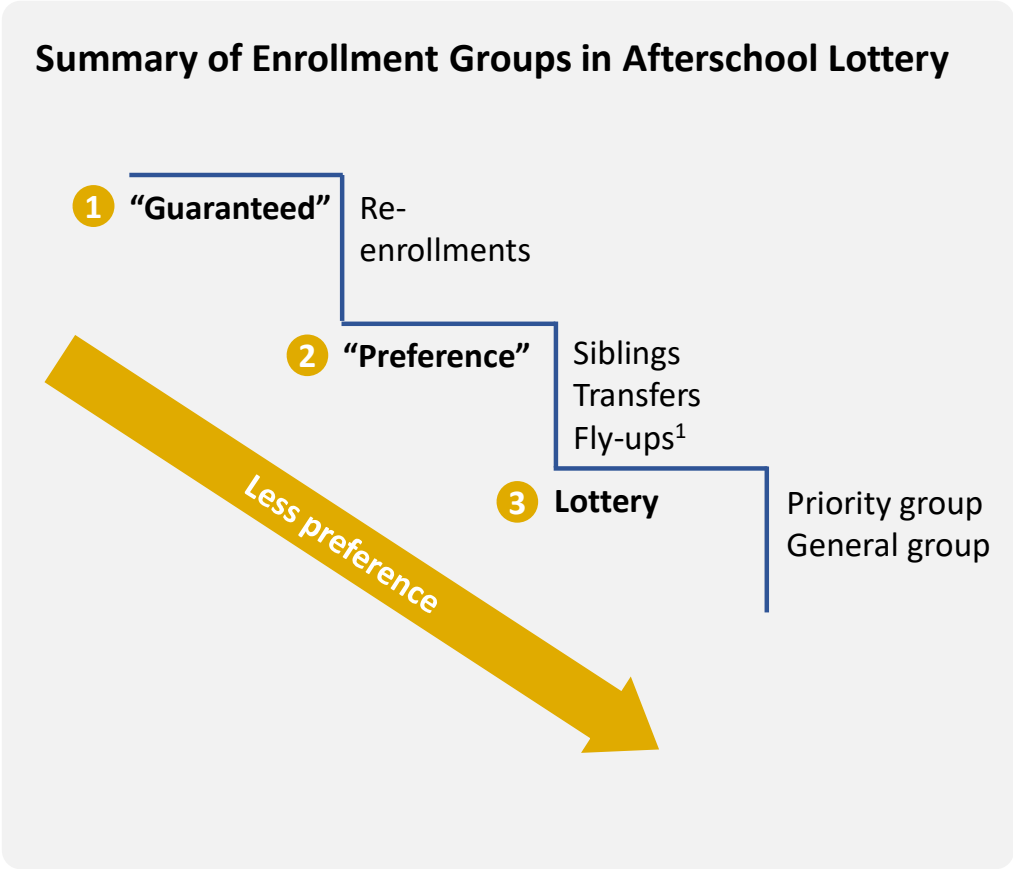
An **enrollment hold** reserves a child’s spot while staff assess the child’s needs and identify appropriate supports, ensuring the child can be successfully enrolled with the right accommodations. DHSP does not enroll a child until these supports are in place—up to and including individualized staff support.

2025-26 Enrollment Holds by Self-Reported IEP or 504 Plan Status,  
Share of Total Placements (as of August 25, 2025)

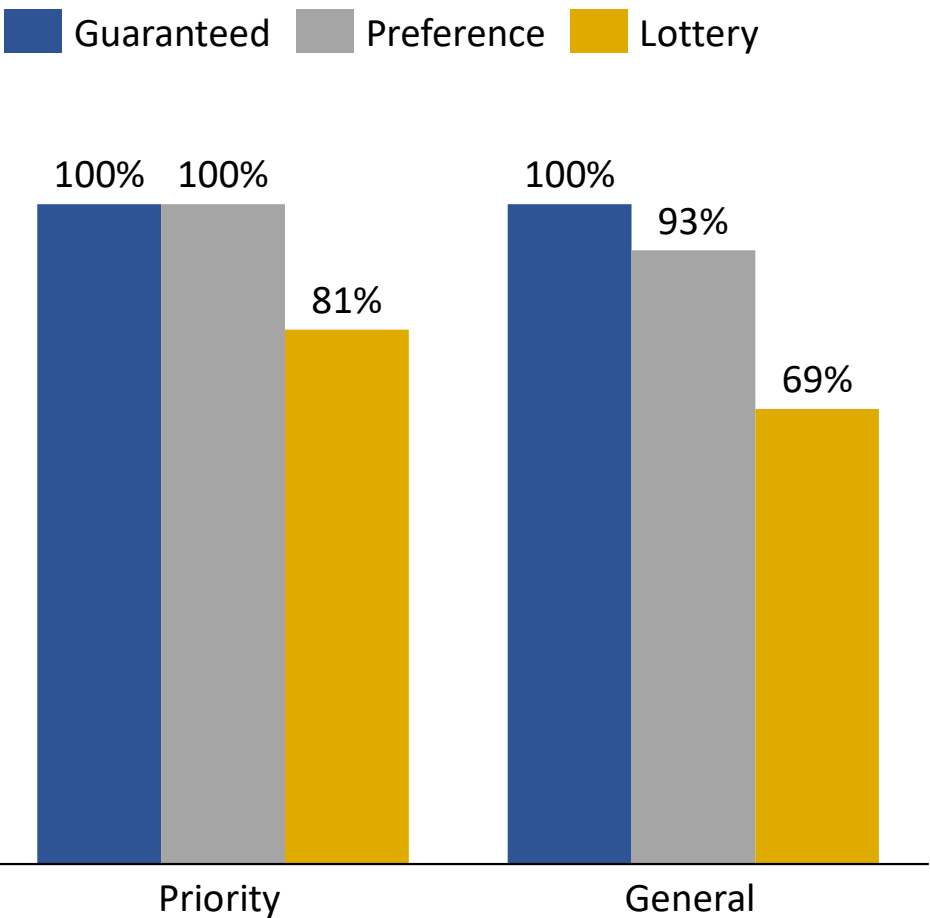


1. Includes all enrollment holds lifted before the start of the school year

# The lottery is designed to preference different types of applicants. Re-enrollment and sibling/transfer preferences allow for continuity of care:



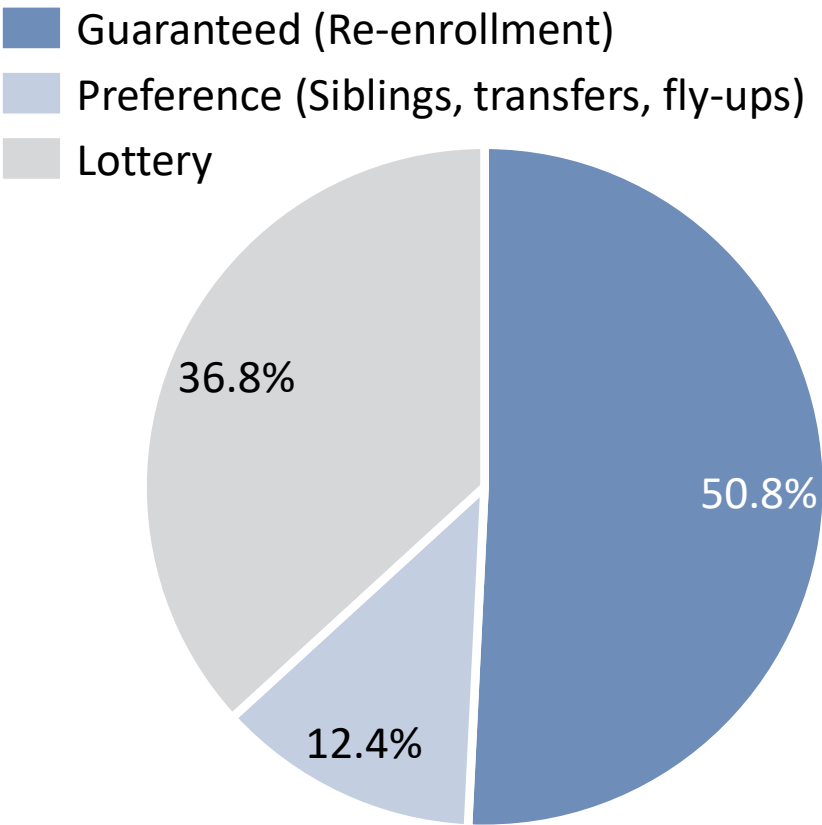
**2025-26 Offer Rates by Enrollment and Income Group**  
(updated August 25, 2025)



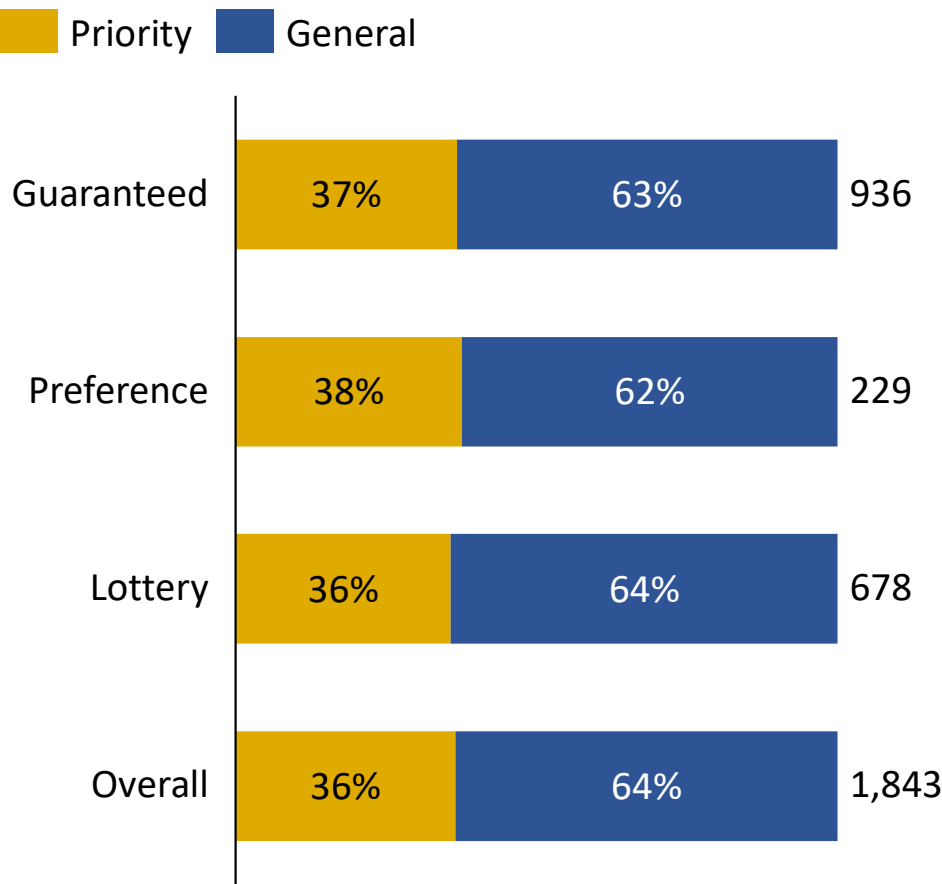
1. Fly-ups are applicants who previously attended a program that at one time, ensured placement in subsequent years, like 2023-24 three-year olds from the Tobin School enrolled at Children’s House.

# ... And priority and general applicants are evenly distributed across different enrollment groups:

2025-26 Lottery Applicants by Enrollment Group, Share of Total Applicants (as of August 25, 2025)

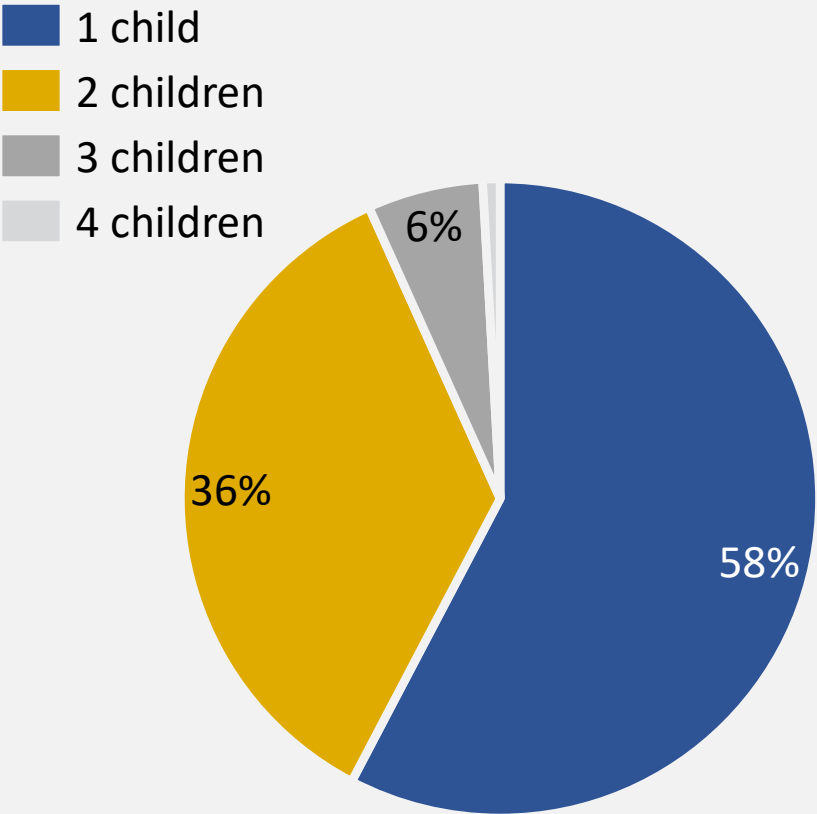


2025-26 Enrollment and Income Group, Share of Total Applicants (as of August 25, 2025)

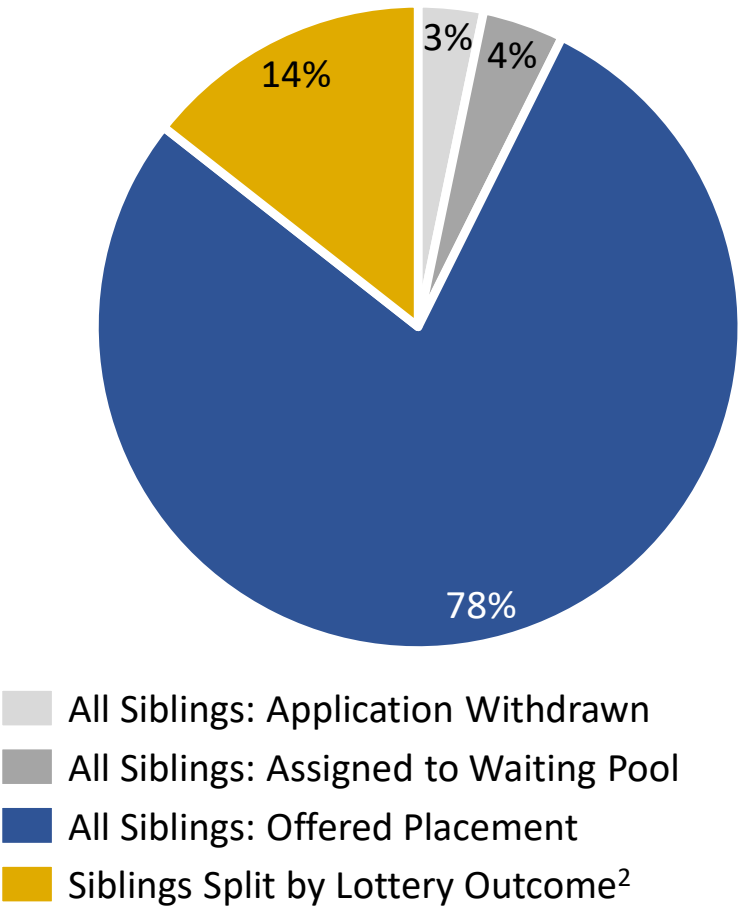


# The afterschool lottery continues to serve families of all sizes, with 78% of all siblings receiving a placement offer simultaneously:

2025-26 Lottery Applicants by Family Size  
(updated August 25, 2025)



2025-26 Lottery Outcomes by Family Size<sup>1</sup>  
(updated August 25, 2025)



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1. Excludes families with only one child
2. Siblings in these families received at least two different lottery outcomes: offered, waiting pool, or withdrawn