

**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**



Department of
Human Service Programs

DHSP Afterschool Programs 2026-27 Lottery Update



September 2026

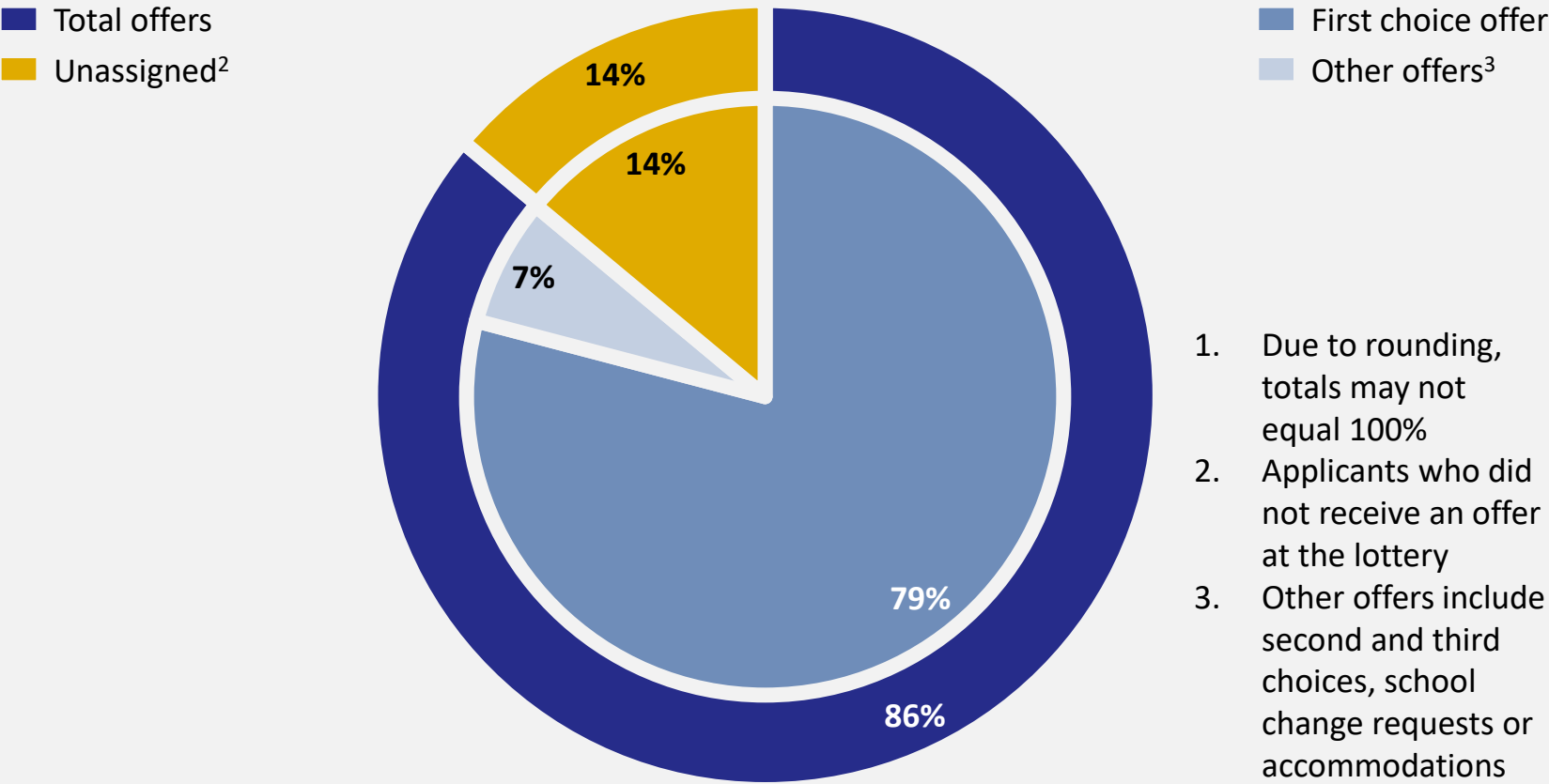
Executive Summary

- Recognizing how important dependable afterschool care is for Cambridge families, we remain committed to providing clear, transparent updates on the Afterschool Lottery.
- More than 85% of all applicants received an offer for the 2026-27 school year, with nearly 80% receiving their first choice.
- Recruiting and keeping Out-of-School Time staff continues to affect our ability to meet families' afterschool needs. Hiring shortages affected 107 applicants who had received offers, and four Community Schools classrooms opened late while we hired enough staff to run them safely. As of this report, three of the four have reopened.
- The waiting pool is within its typical range: 267 applicants as of September 2026, compared with 193 in August 2025 and 334 in August 2024.
- Because demand remains uneven across program offerings, many classrooms are at or above capacity while others have open seats. This underscores the importance of matching supply to caregiver needs.
- The lottery continues to meet its core policy goal of diversifying enrollment through the priority income group while keeping access strong overall: offer rates were 91% for the priority group and 83% for the general group.
- We continue to focus on meeting the needs of students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 Plans. They make up about one in five lottery applicants and receive offers at a higher rate than other applicants (90% vs. 85%). Of these students that were placed:
 - 25% were placed with no enrollment hold.
 - 57% had their hold released and enrolled with supports in place before the school year began.
 - 18% remain on an enrollment hold until DHSP secures the supports they need to attend safely.
- The lottery also continues to give families continuity and consistency.
 - Guaranteed applicants (re-enrollments) had a 100% offer rate, and 89% of multi-child households had all their children receive the same outcome, either an offer or the waiting pool.

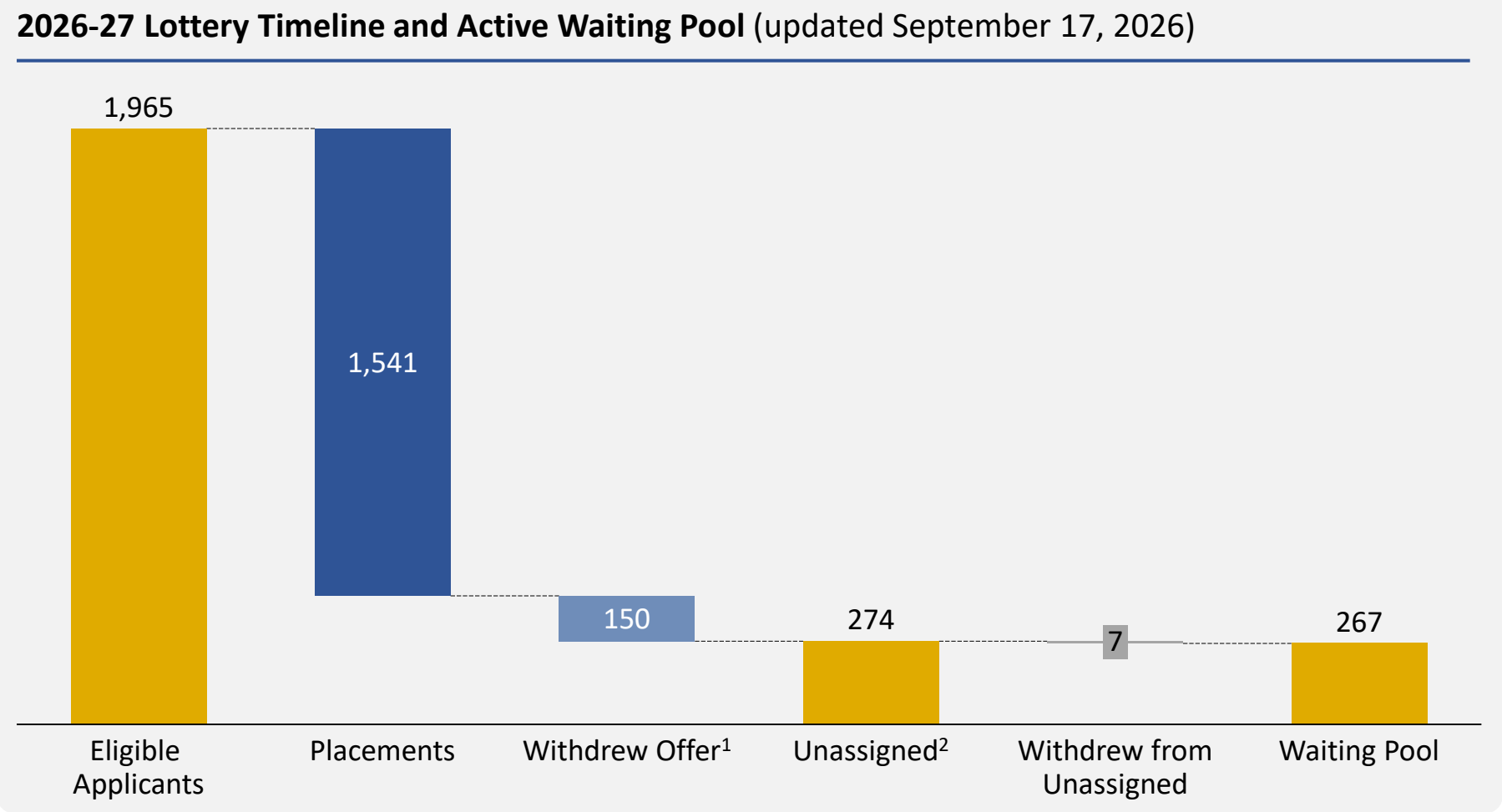


We are pleased to show that more than 85% of all applicants received an offer through the lottery, with nearly all receiving their first choice

2026-27 Lottery Offers, as a Percent of All Eligible Applicants (updated September 17, 2026)¹



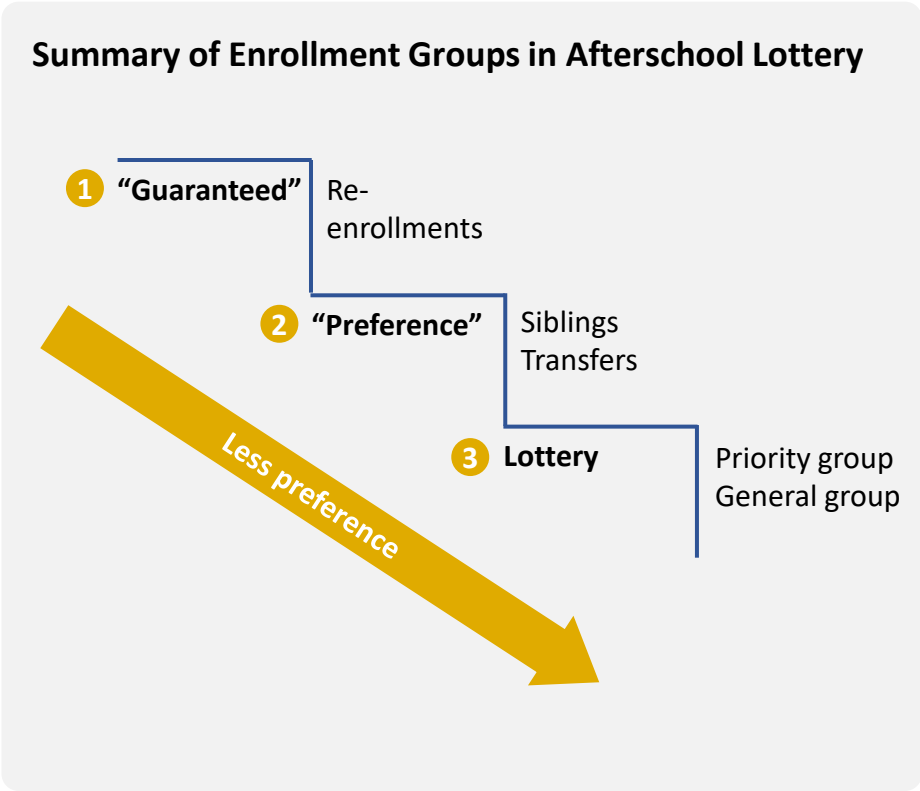
As expected, some applicants who received an offer later withdrew, but there continues to be over 250 applicants in the waiting pool



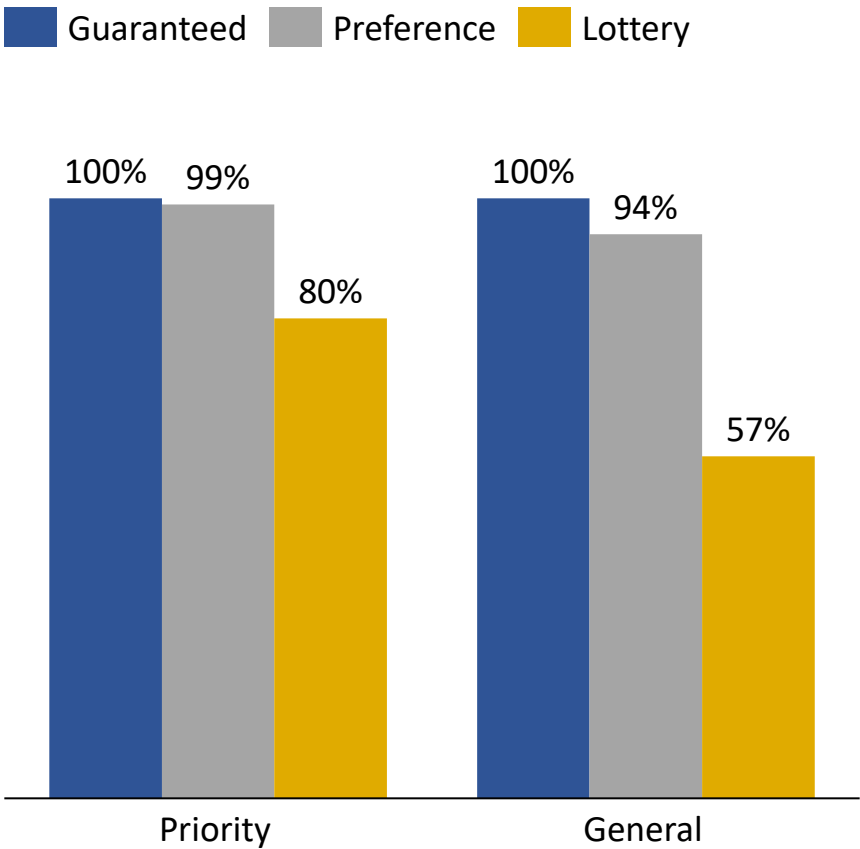
**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

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

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

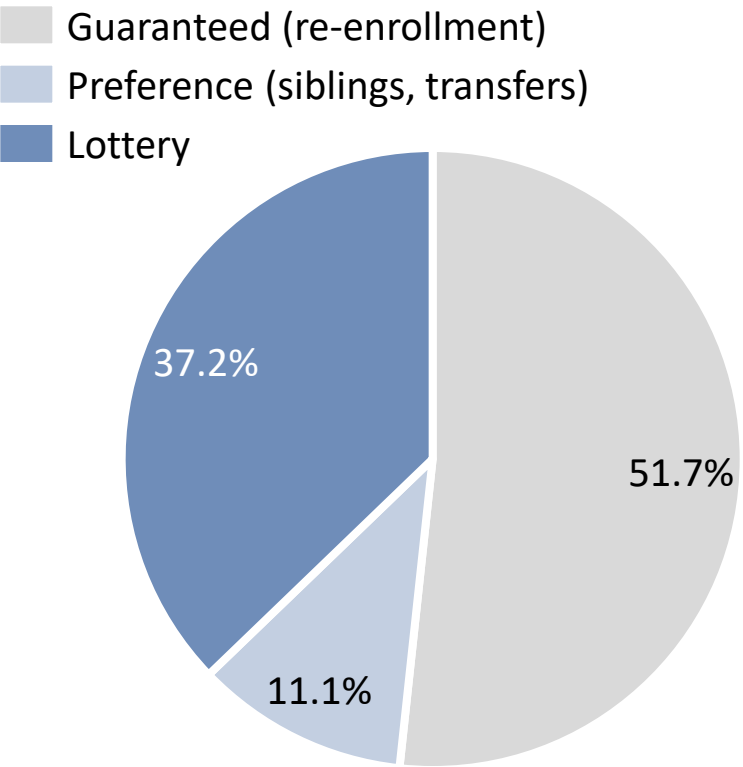


2026-27 Offer Rates by Enrollment and Income Group
(updated September 17, 2026)

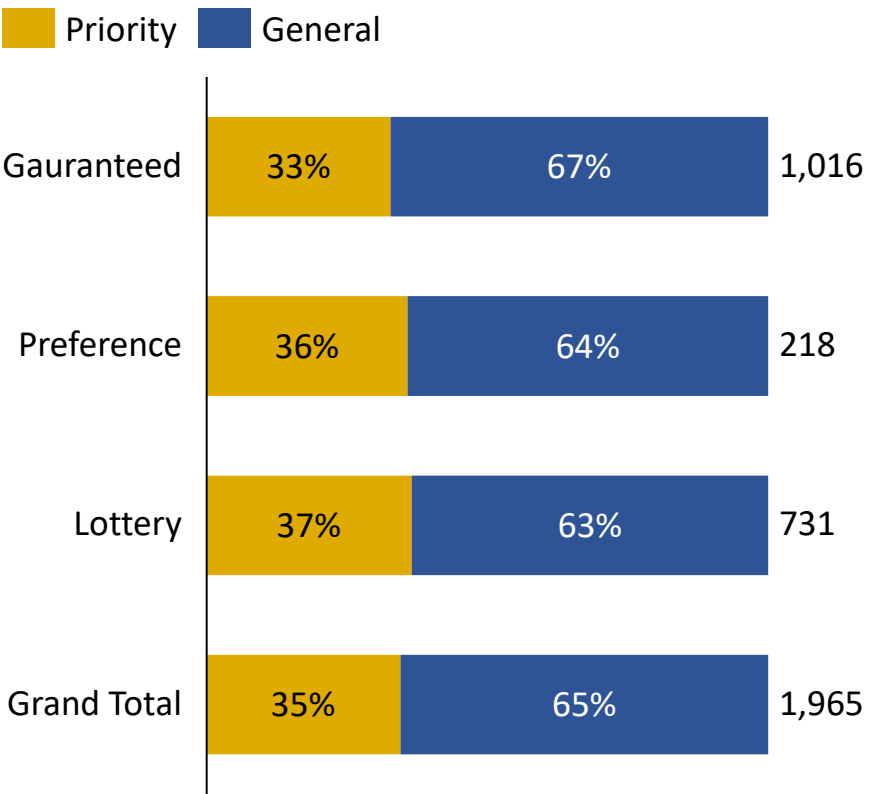


... And priority and general applicants are evenly distributed across different enrollment groups:

2026-27 Lottery Applicants by Enrollment Group,
Share of All Eligible Applicants (as of Sep 17, 2026)

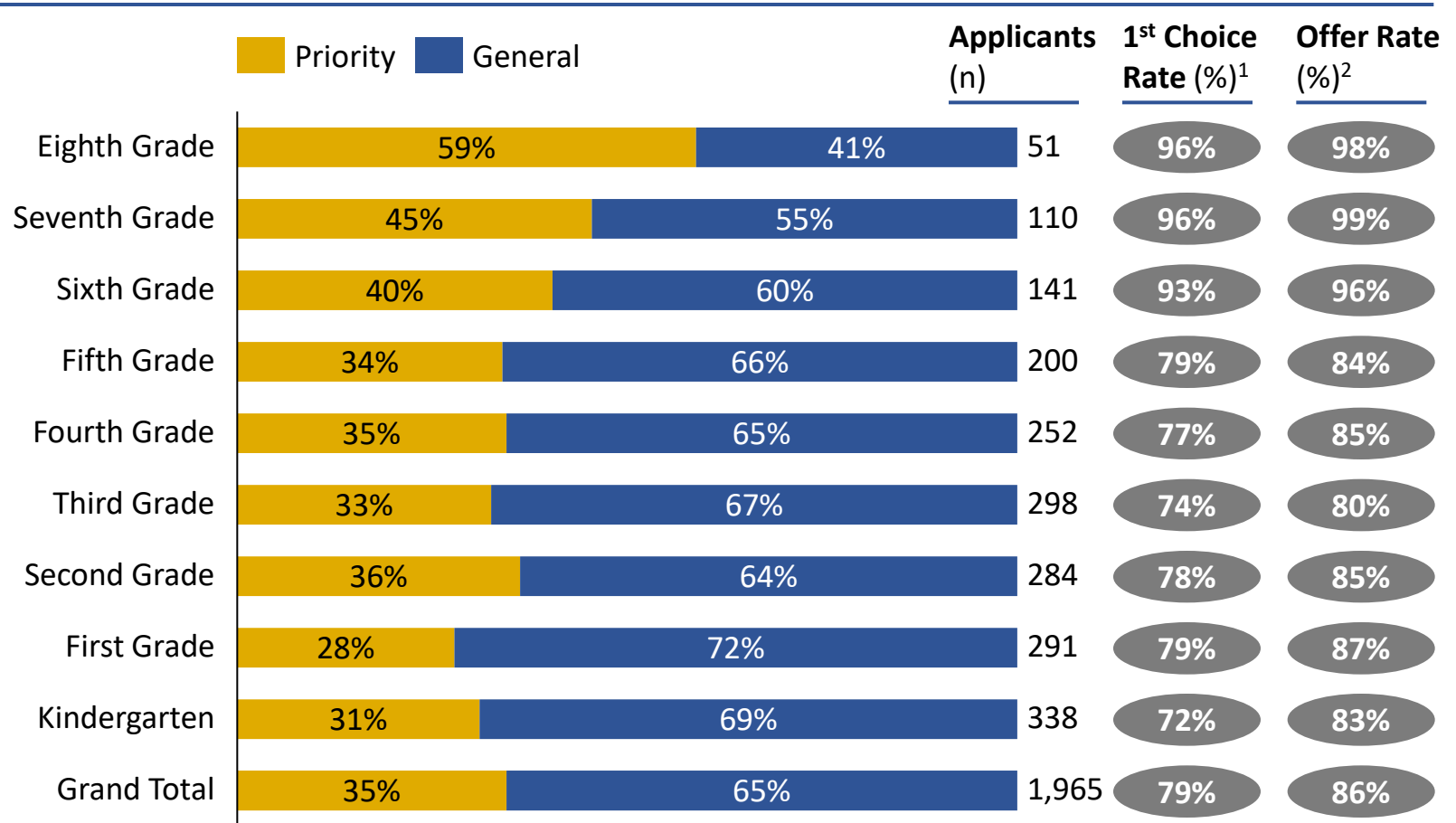


2026-27 Enrollment and Income Group,
Share of All Eligible Applicants (as of Sep 17, 2026)



The share of priority applicants increases as the applicant pool ages, but younger grades continue to attract the most applicants overall

Applications by Grade (Share of All Eligible Applicants, %)

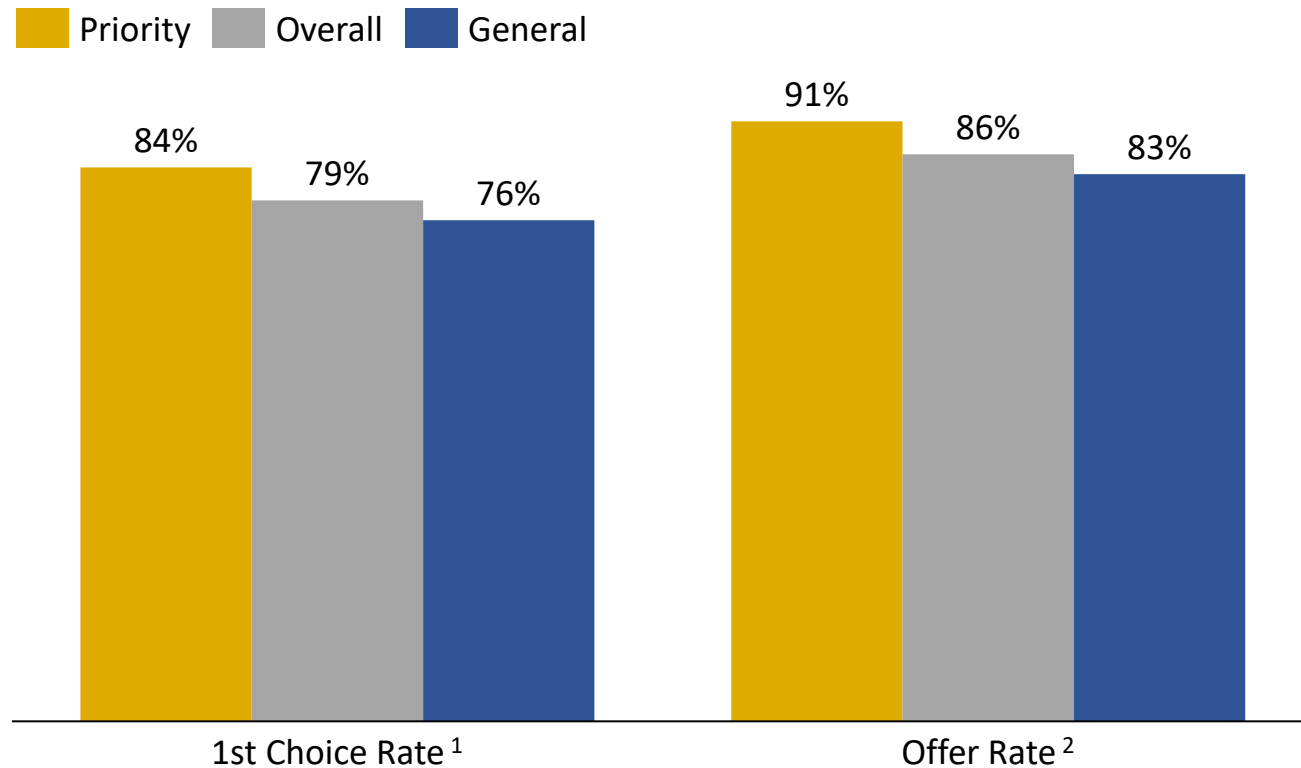


**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

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

Offer rates remain high across the general applicant pool and overall

2026-27 Offer Rates by Income Group (updated September 17, 2026)



**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

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 by Income Group and First-Choice Program/Site		All Eligible Applicants					Priority		General	
		1st Choice Placement		Declined Offers ²		1 st Choice Apps (#)	1 st Choice Rate (%) ⁴	Offer Rate (%) ⁵	1 st Choice Rate (%) ⁴	Offer Rate (%) ⁵
		Placed Elsewhere ¹	Unassigned ³							
Childcare Afterschool	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (K-5)	39	16	8	18	81	78%	96%	39%	69%
	Peabody (K-5)	47	18	5	13	83	65%	86%	57%	83%
	Morse (K-5)	34	12	8	5	57	79%	93%	52%	79%
	Fletcher Maynard (K-3)	19	5	5	31	31	76%	88%	50%	67%
	Childcare Afterschool Subtotal	139482144				252	74%	91%	48%	76%
Community Schools	Graham and Parks (K-5)	55	5	19	37	116	68%	74%	63%	67%
	Peabody (K-5)	1109915				143	78%	87%	86%	91%
	Cambridgeport (K-5)	101	14	27	145	145	72%	79%	79%	82%
	Tobin (K-5)	104	11	13	43	171	74%	86%	64%	71%
	Amigos (K-5)	64	6	11	32	113	82%	89%	54%	66%
	Morse (K-5)	102	7	18	129	129	86%	86%	82%	86%
	Haggerty (K-5)	58	6	15	83	83	69%	85%	77%	81%
	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (K-5)	77	7	14	26	124	86%	93%	71%	77%
	Fletcher Maynard (K-5)	50	6	62	62	62	83%	91%	88%	88%
	Community School Subtotal	7215195219				1,086	77%	86%	72%	78%
Youth Centers	Gately (4-8)	101	8	7	120	120	85%	94%	93%	95%
	Frisoli (4-8)	95	99	99	99	99	98%	100%	98%	100%
	Russell (4-8)	103	5	115	115	115	94%	94%	93%	98%
	Moore (4-8)	46	49	49	49	49	95%	100%	100%	100%
	Youth Centers Subtotal	34517				383	93%	97%	95%	97%
KOED	King Open Extended Day	22717				244	100%	100%	100%	100%
Grand Total		1,432150274				1,965	84%	91%	76%	83%

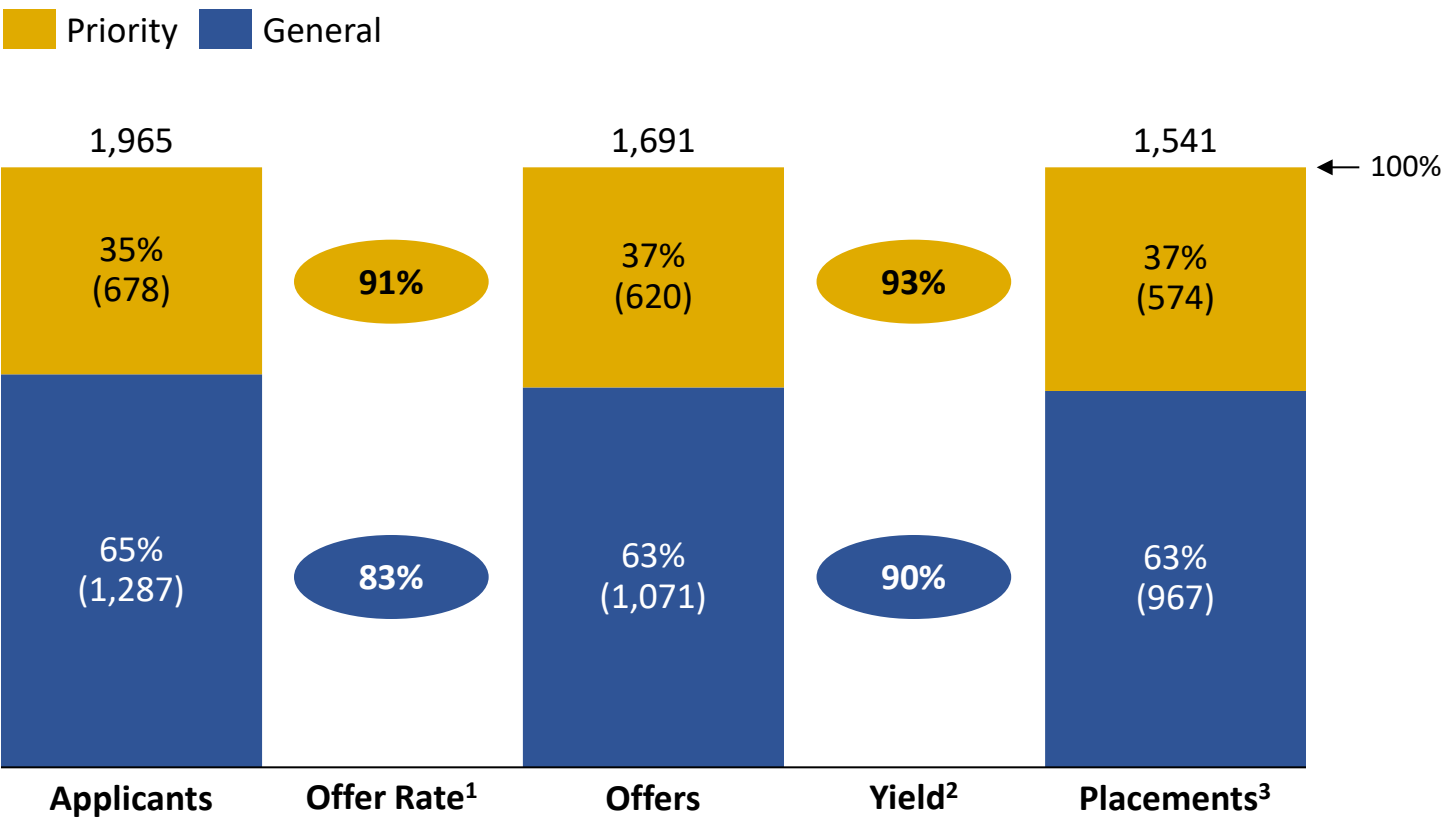


**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

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

2026-27 Lottery Applicants, Offers and Placements by Income Group
(updated September 17, 2026)



**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

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

... which is also consistent across most programs and sites

Offer Rates by Income Group and First-Choice Program/Site		Placements			Applications	Priority		General	
		Priority General			1 st Choice Apps (#)	1 st Choice Rate (%) ¹	Offer Rate (%) ²	1 st Choice Rate (%) ¹	Offer Rate (%) ²
Childcare Afterschool	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (K-5)	45%	55%	44	81	78%	96%	39%	69%
	Peabody (K-5)	81%	19%	21	83	65%	86%	57%	83%
	Morse (K-5)	51%	49%	39	57	79%	93%	52%	79%
	Fletcher Maynard (K-3)	47%	53%	47	31	76%	88%	50%	67%
	Childcare Afterschool Subtotal	52%	48%	151	252	74%	91%	48%	76%
Community Schools	Graham and Parks (K-5)	34%	66%	67	116	68%	74%	63%	67%
	Peabody (K-5)	28%	72%	111	143	78%	87%	86%	91%
	Cambridgeport (K-5)	17%	83%	88	145	72%	79%	79%	82%
	Tobin (K-5)	74%	26%	50	171	74%	86%	64%	71%
	Amigos (K-5)	18%	82%	61	113	82%	89%	54%	66%
	Morse (K-5)	29%	71%	66	129	86%	86%	82%	86%
	Haggerty (K-5)	22%	78%	112	83	69%	85%	77%	81%
	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (K-5)	33%	67%	127	124	86%	93%	71%	77%
	Fletcher Maynard (K-5)	31%	69%	108	62	83%	91%	88%	88%
	Community School Subtotal	30%	70%	790	1086	77%	86%	72%	78%
Youth Centers	Gately (4-8)	55%	45%	101	120	85%	94%	93%	95%
	Frisoli (4-8)	39%	61%	109	99	98%	100%	98%	100%
	Russell (4-8)	37%	63%	52	115	94%	94%	93%	98%
	Moore (4-8)	31%	69%	108	49	95%	100%	100%	100%
	Youth Centers Subtotal	41%	59%	370	383	93%	97%	95%	97%
KOED	King Open Extended Day	47%	53%	230	244	100%	100%	100%	100%
Grand Total		37%	63%	1,541	1965	84%	91%	76%	83%

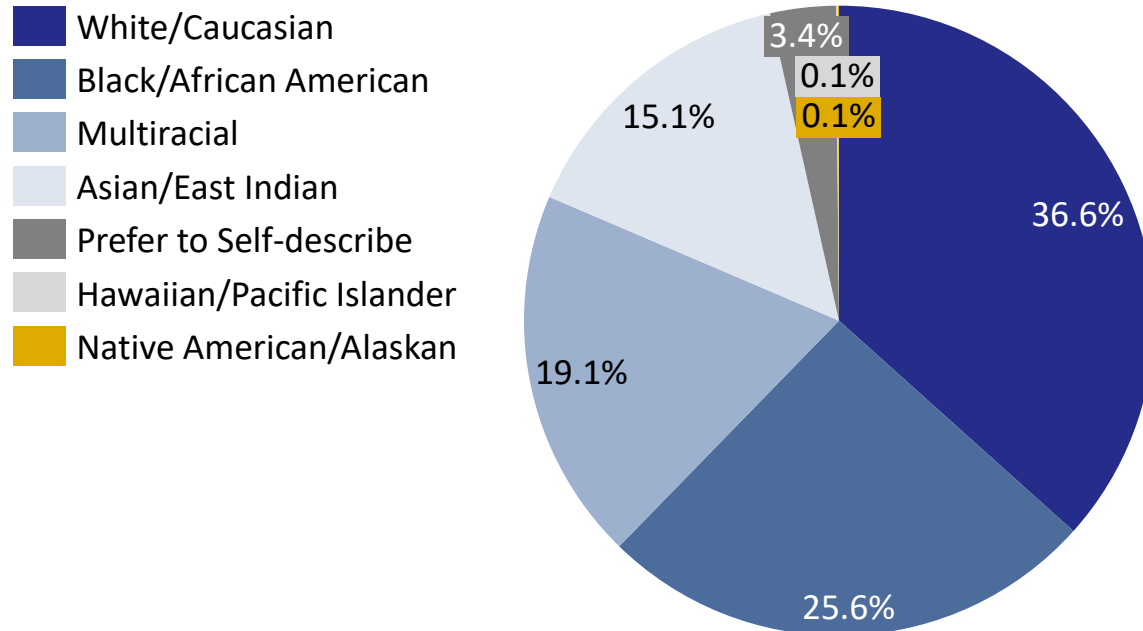


**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

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 also attracts a diverse applicant pool...

2026-27 Lottery Applicants by Race, Share of All Eligible Applicants
(as of September 17, 2026)



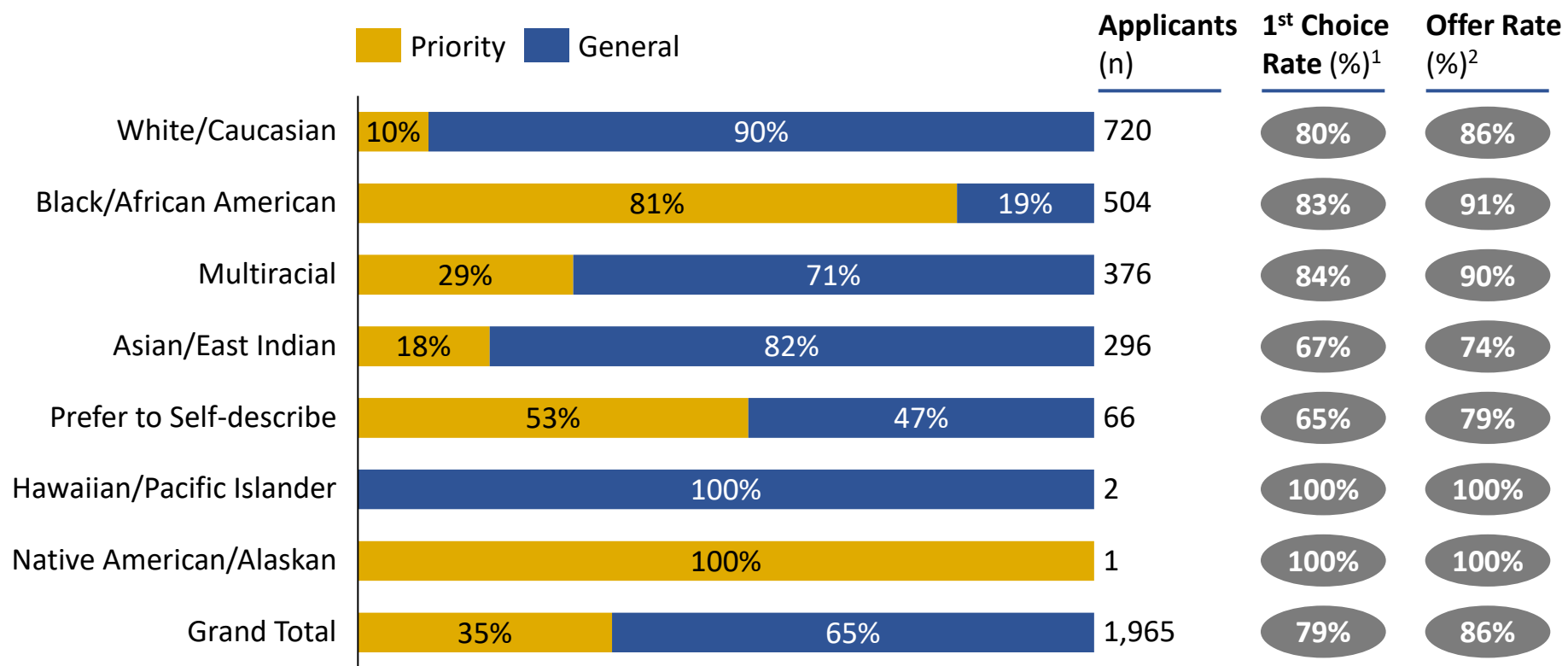
We are sharing this data to help understand the applicant pool and lottery outcomes by different demographics. Race is not considered in the lottery process and does not impact placement odds.



**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

... And the priority income group helps diversify placements

Applications by Race (Share of All Eligible Applicants, %)



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

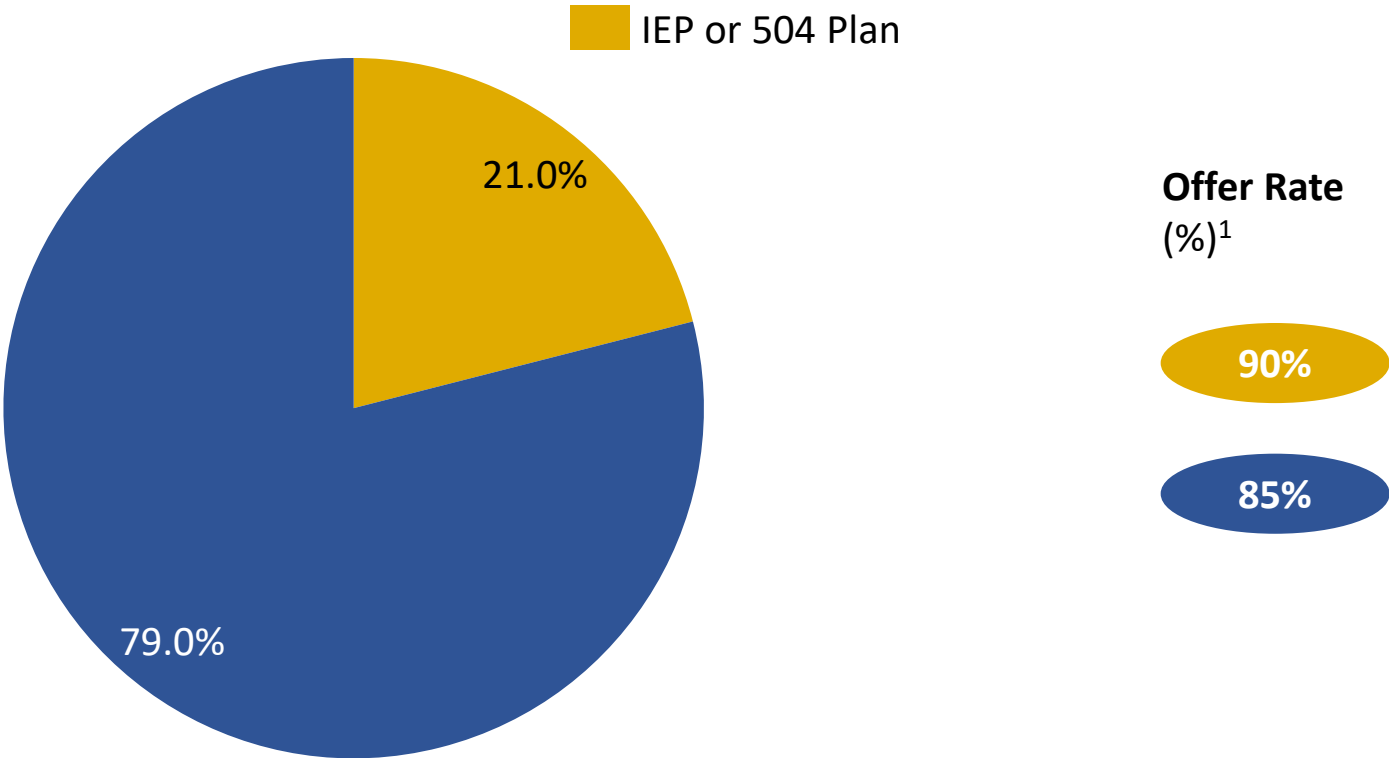


**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

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

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:

2026-27 Lottery Applicants by Self-Reported IEP or 504 Plan Status,
Share of All Eligible Applicants (as of September 17, 2026)



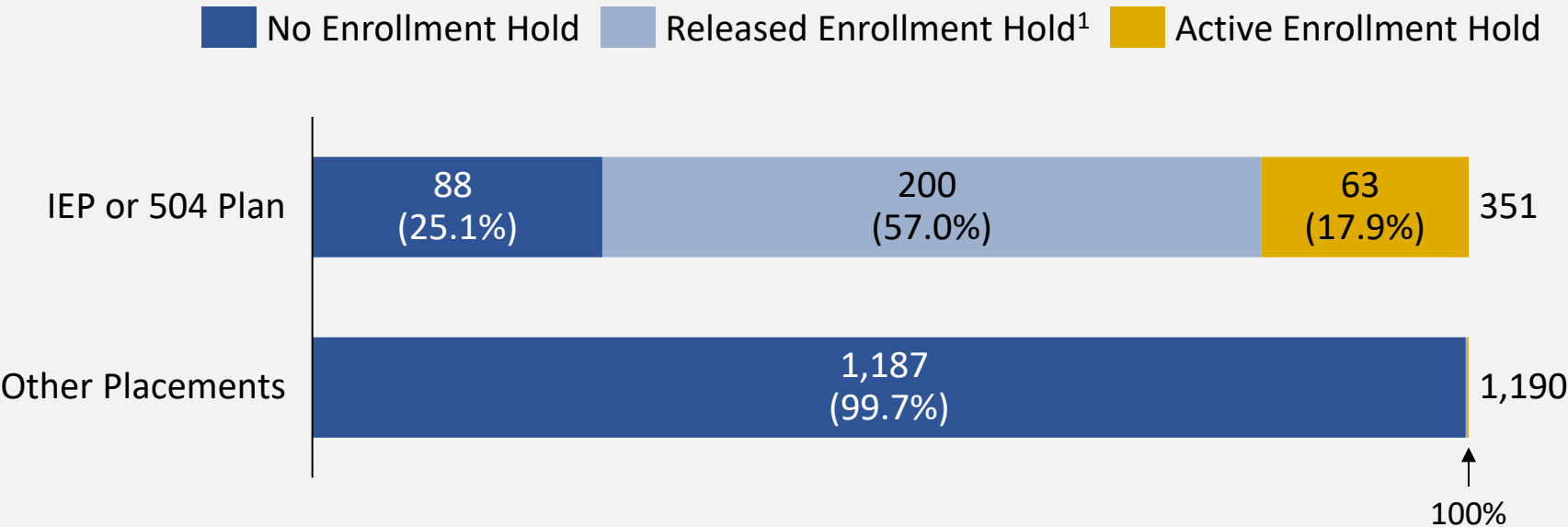
1. Share of applicants who selected the site as their first-choice and received an offer there or elsewhere (may have withdrawn post-offer)

Almost 75% of these students received an enrollment hold, and by the fall we'd released the vast majority of them

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.

2026-27 Enrollment Holds by Self-Reported IEP or 504 Plan Status

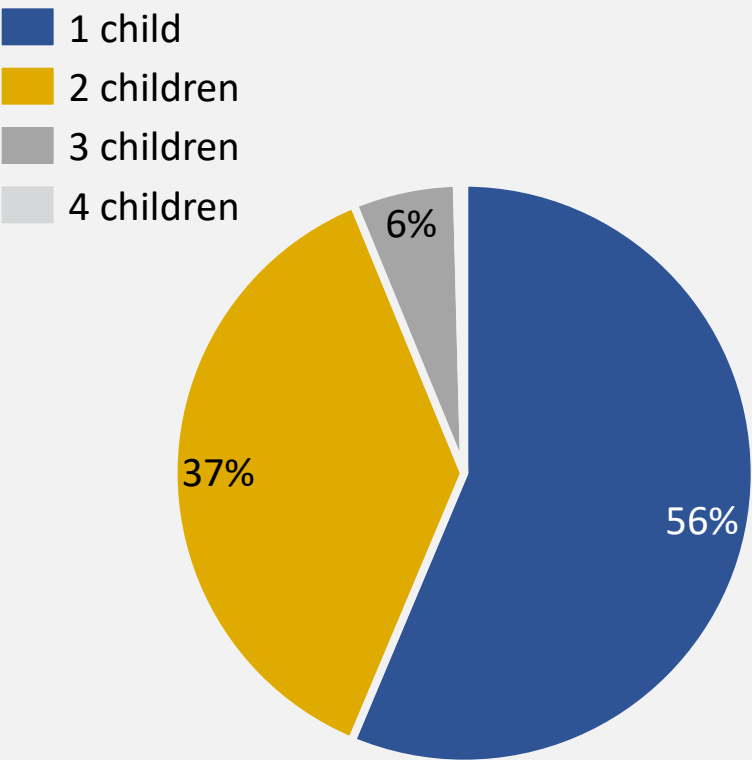
Share of Total Placements (as of September 17, 2026)



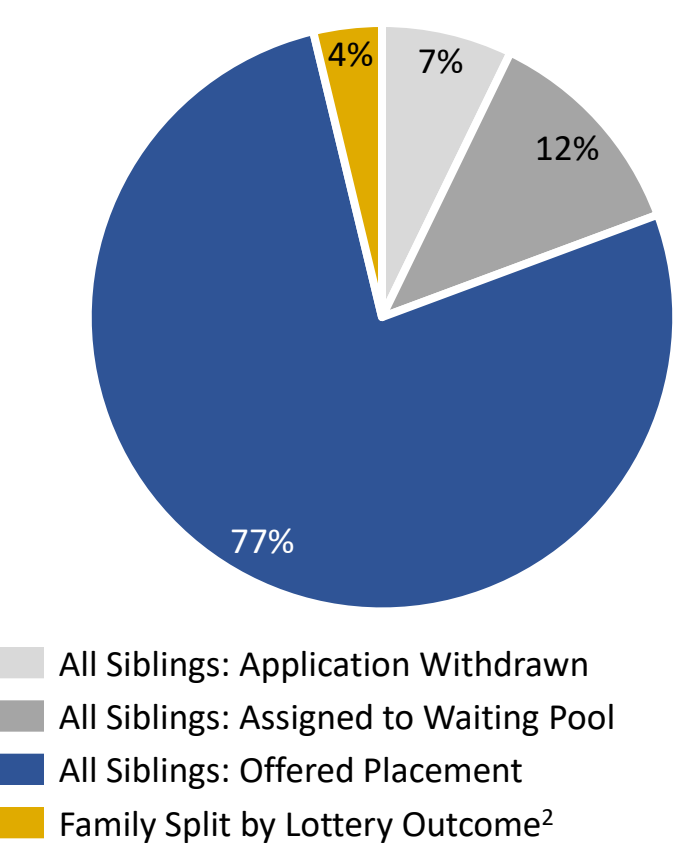
1. Includes all enrollment holds lifted before the start of the school year

The afterschool lottery continues to serve families of all sizes, with siblings in over 75% of families receiving a placement simultaneously

2026-27 Lottery Applicants by Family Size
(updated September 17, 2026)



2026-27 Lottery Outcomes by Family Size¹
(updated September 17, 2026)



**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

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