



OFFICE OF THE
STUDENT
ADVOCATE

**Updated School Year
2016-17
Quarter 3 Report**



The Challenge

Navigating the public education system in DC can be daunting. Understanding how the public education system should work for our individual students and families can be complex.

The Role of the Student Advocate

The mission of the Office of the Student Advocate is to support and empower DC residents to achieve equal access to public education through advocacy, outreach, and information services.



IN OUR WORK:

We provide step-by-step assistance for students, parents, families, and community members to be informed, be connected, and be empowered.

HOW OUR WORK SUPPORTS FAMILIES

Stakeholder & Community Engagement

Partner with stakeholders to address systemic issues.

Requests for Assistance

Provides direct insight into the needs of students and families.

Resources for DC Families

Information obtained through RFAs and stakeholder engagement is used to develop relevant trainings, resources, presentations, and workshops to support the needs of District families

Our Approach:

Shift the balance of power in favor of our community members by convening stakeholders at all levels around topics of community importance

Develop and support the knowledge base of students, parents, and community stakeholders

Ensure that family and community perspectives are included in all relevant public education conversations

Mobilize community-level leadership in grassroots education advocacy

Strategic Goals & Resource Supports

In Our Work:

Our office aims to directly represent the voice of families and communities.

To do this work, our office collaborates with and builds alliances and partnerships within our communities with the support of parents, government agencies, community-based organizations, and educators. Through advocacy and engagement, our office works to eliminate barriers to collaboration.

We aim to foster the development of collaborative partnerships with government and community members to recommend and implement effective policies, programs, resources, and relationships that benefit our students and the continued improvement of our education system.

Quarter 3

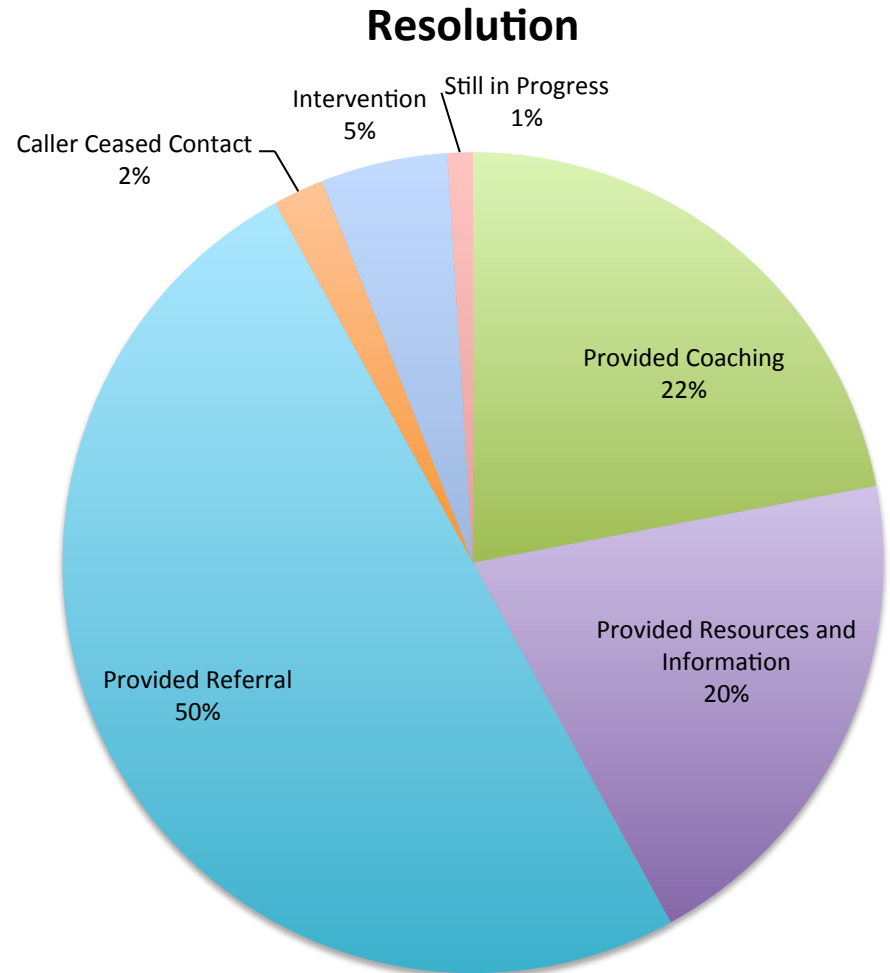
February 1st – April 30th



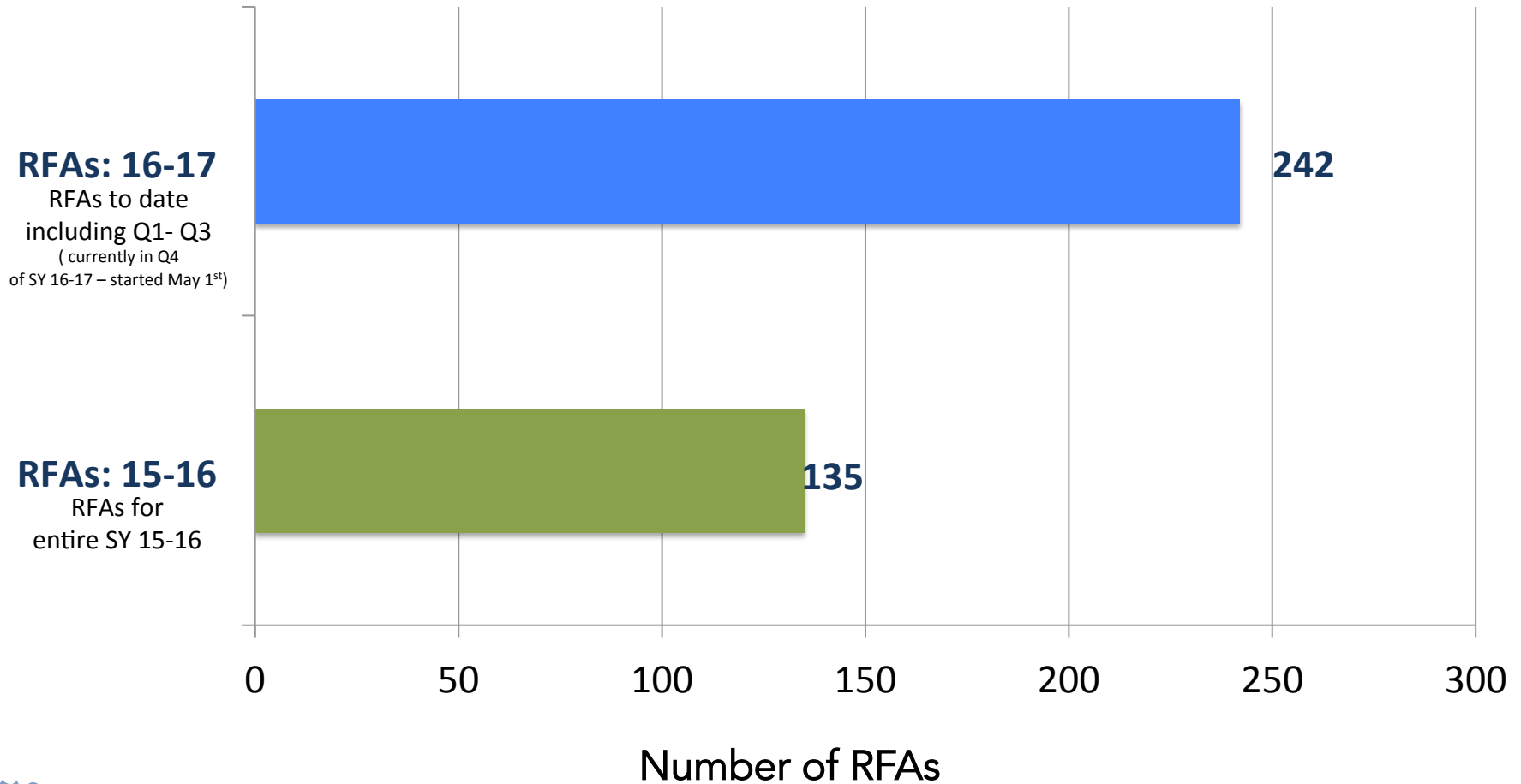
Request for Assistance (RFAs) – Quarter 3 Breakdown

114

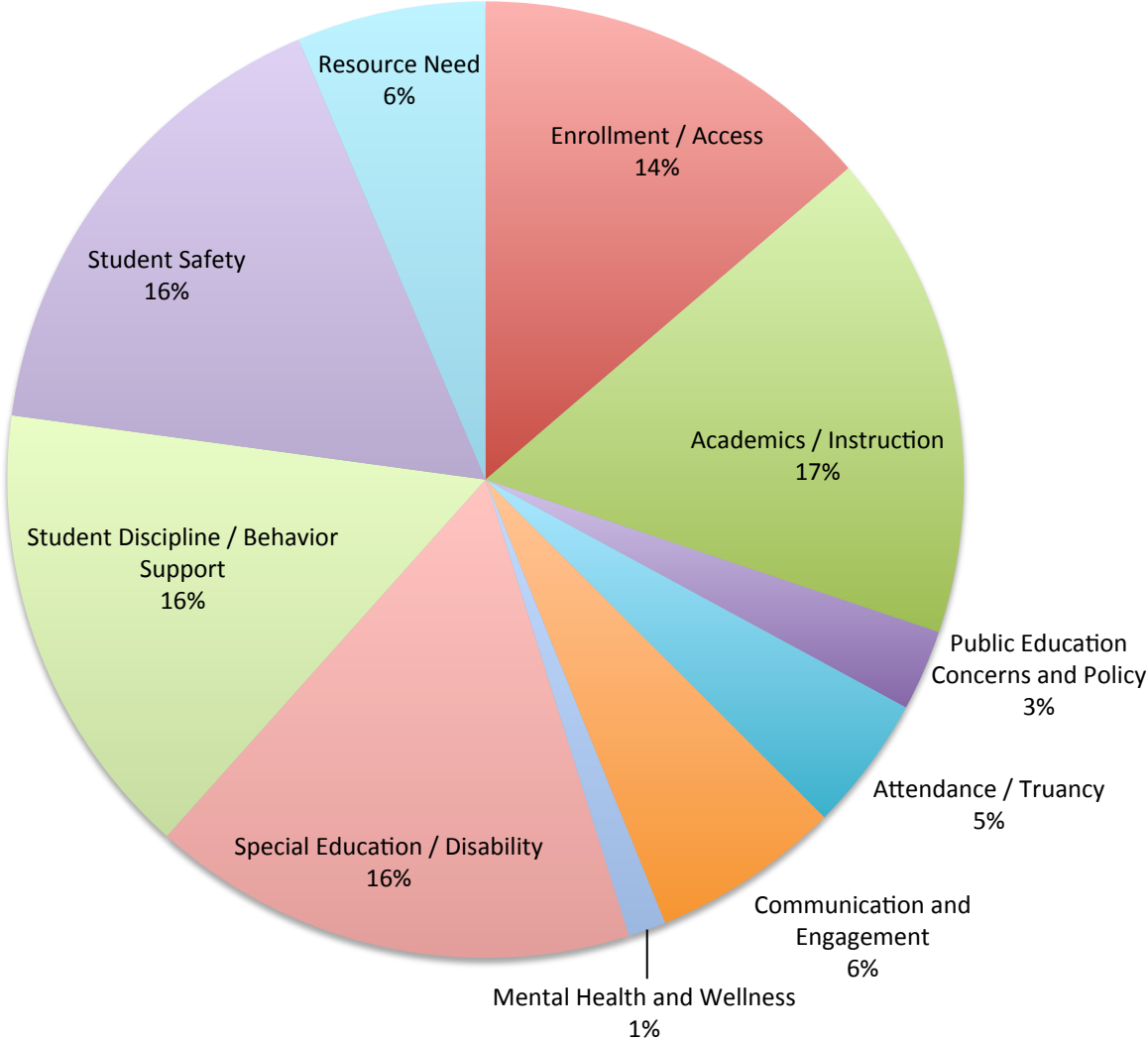
Quarter 3
Requests for
Assistance



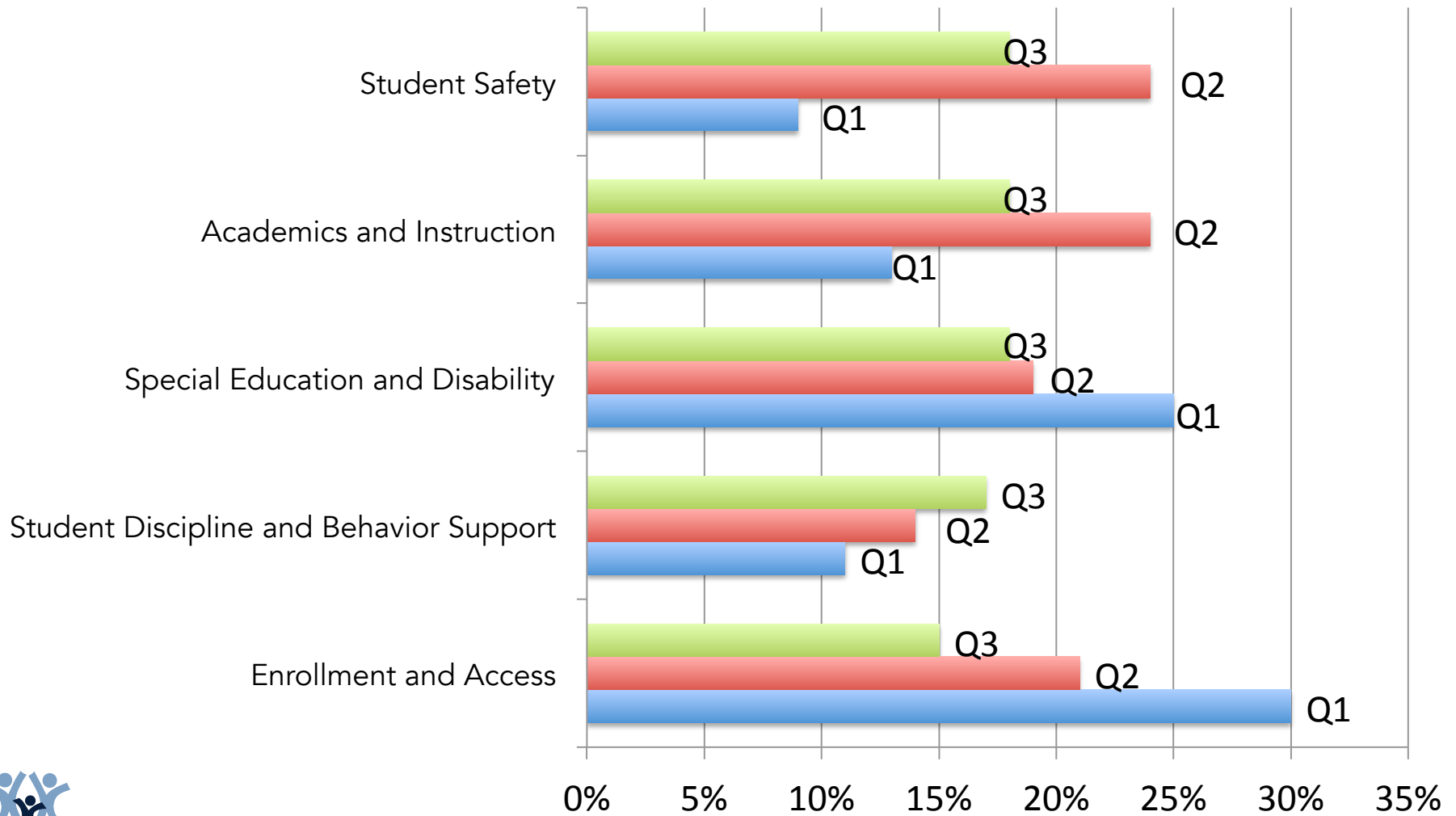
Request for Assistance (RFAs) School Year Comparison



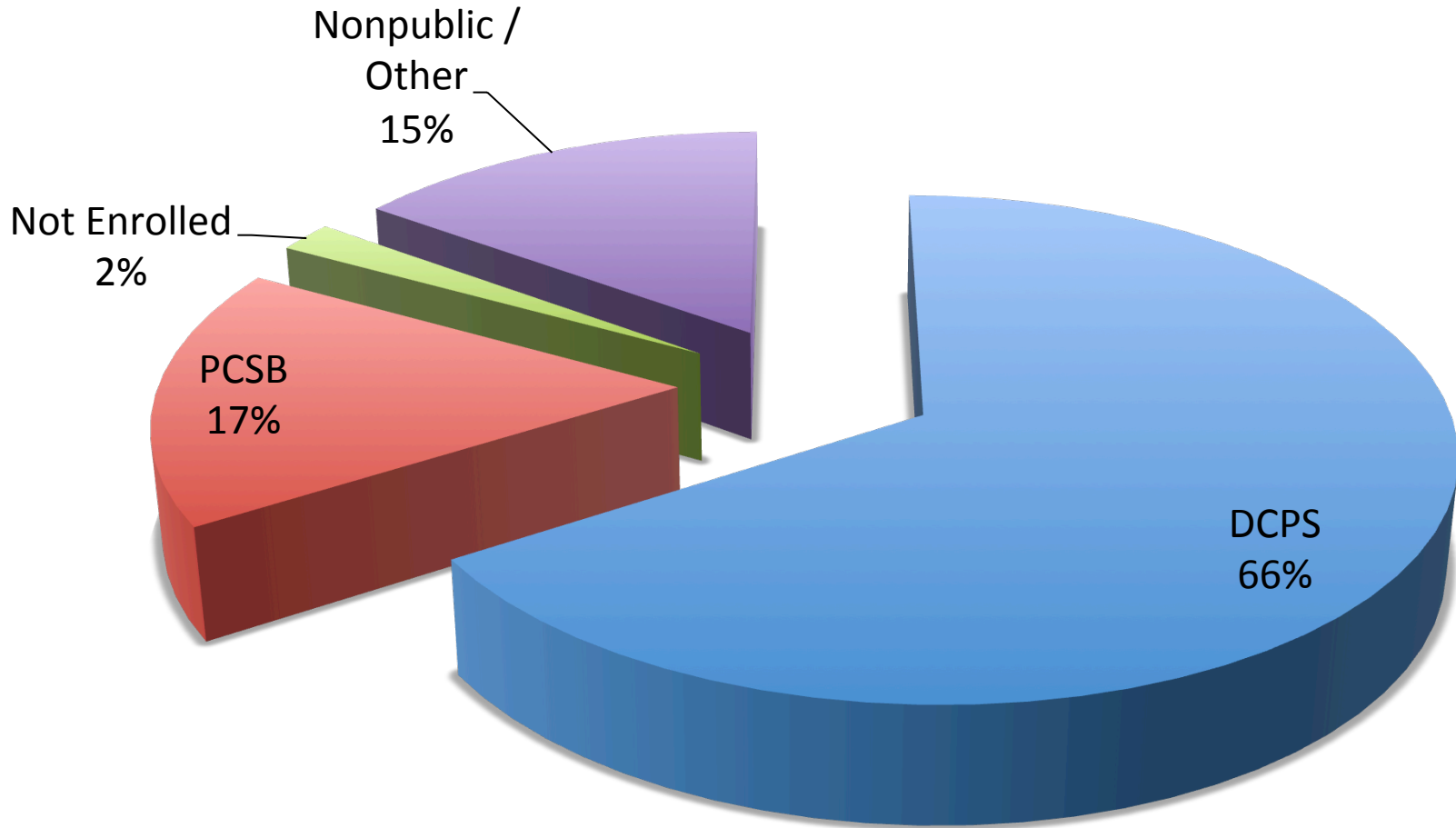
RFA Quarter 3 Topic Area



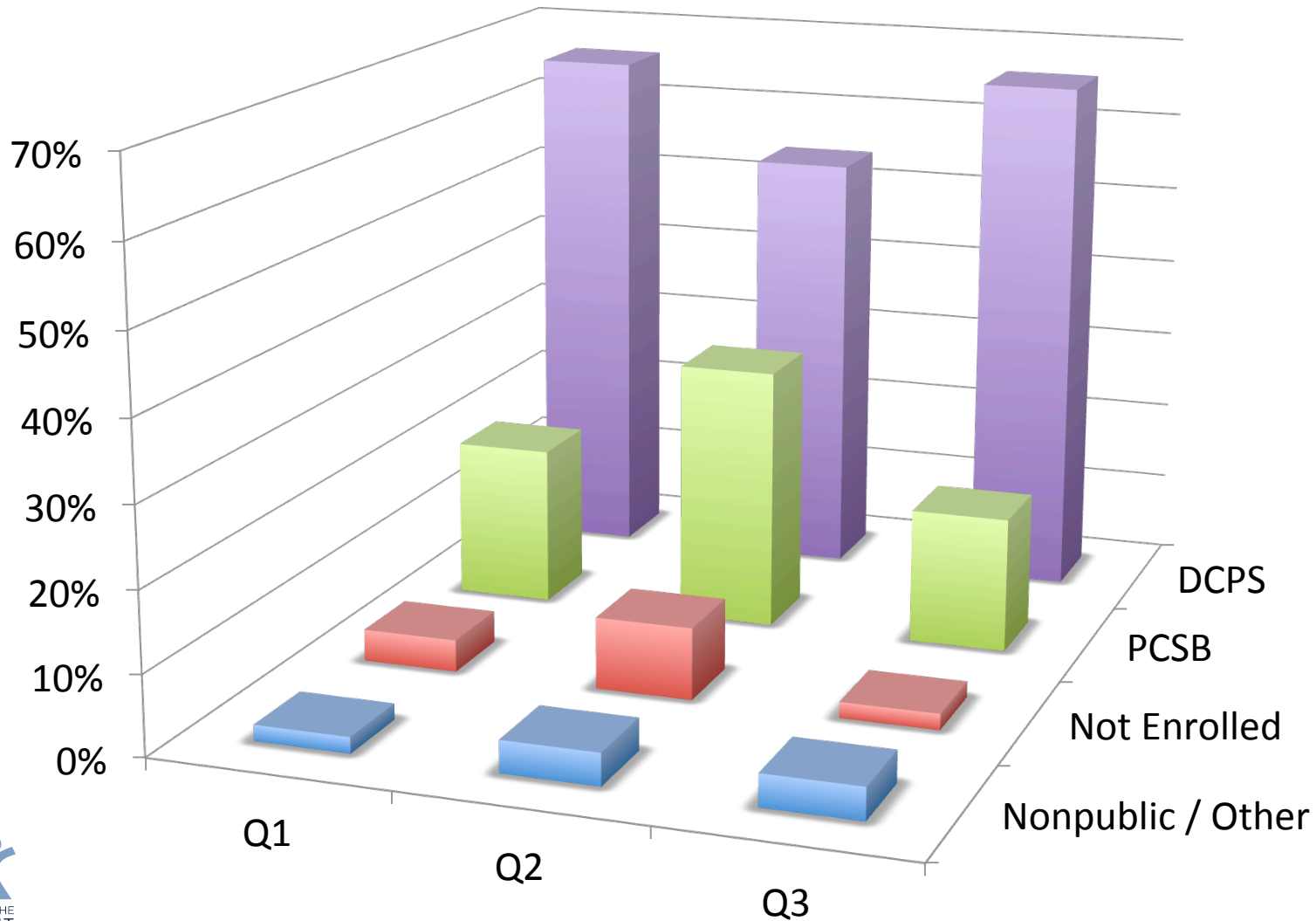
Request for Assistance (RFAs) – Quarter 3 Breakdown



RFA Numbers by Sector Quarter 3

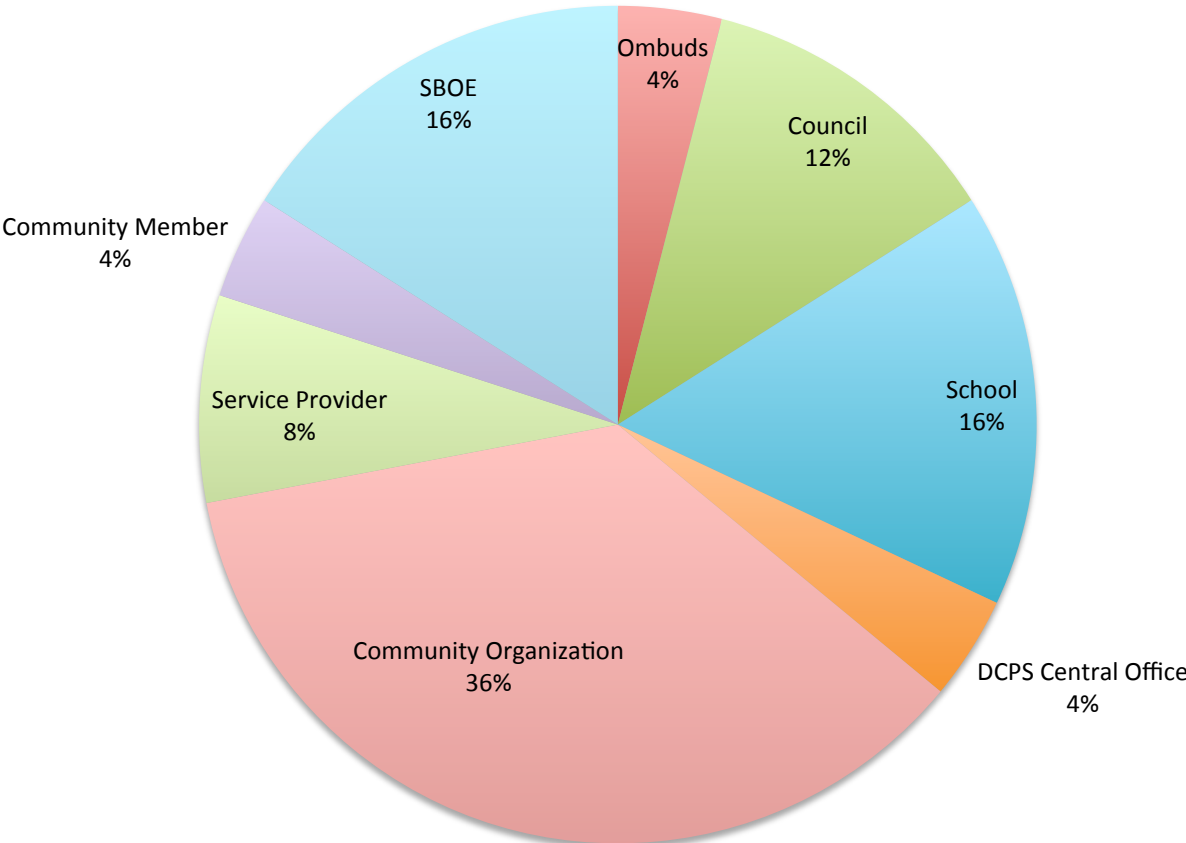


RFA Numbers by Sector All Quarters

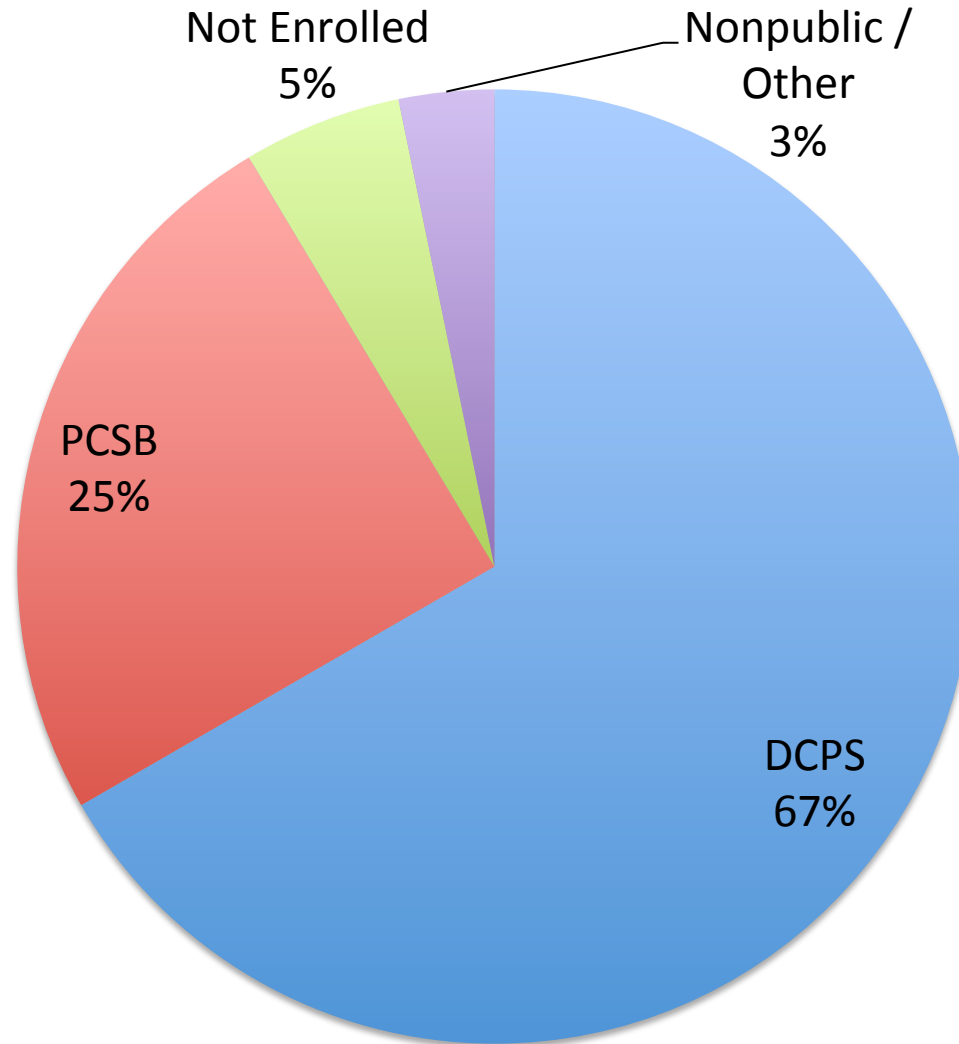


Quarter 3

Organizational Referrals to Our Office



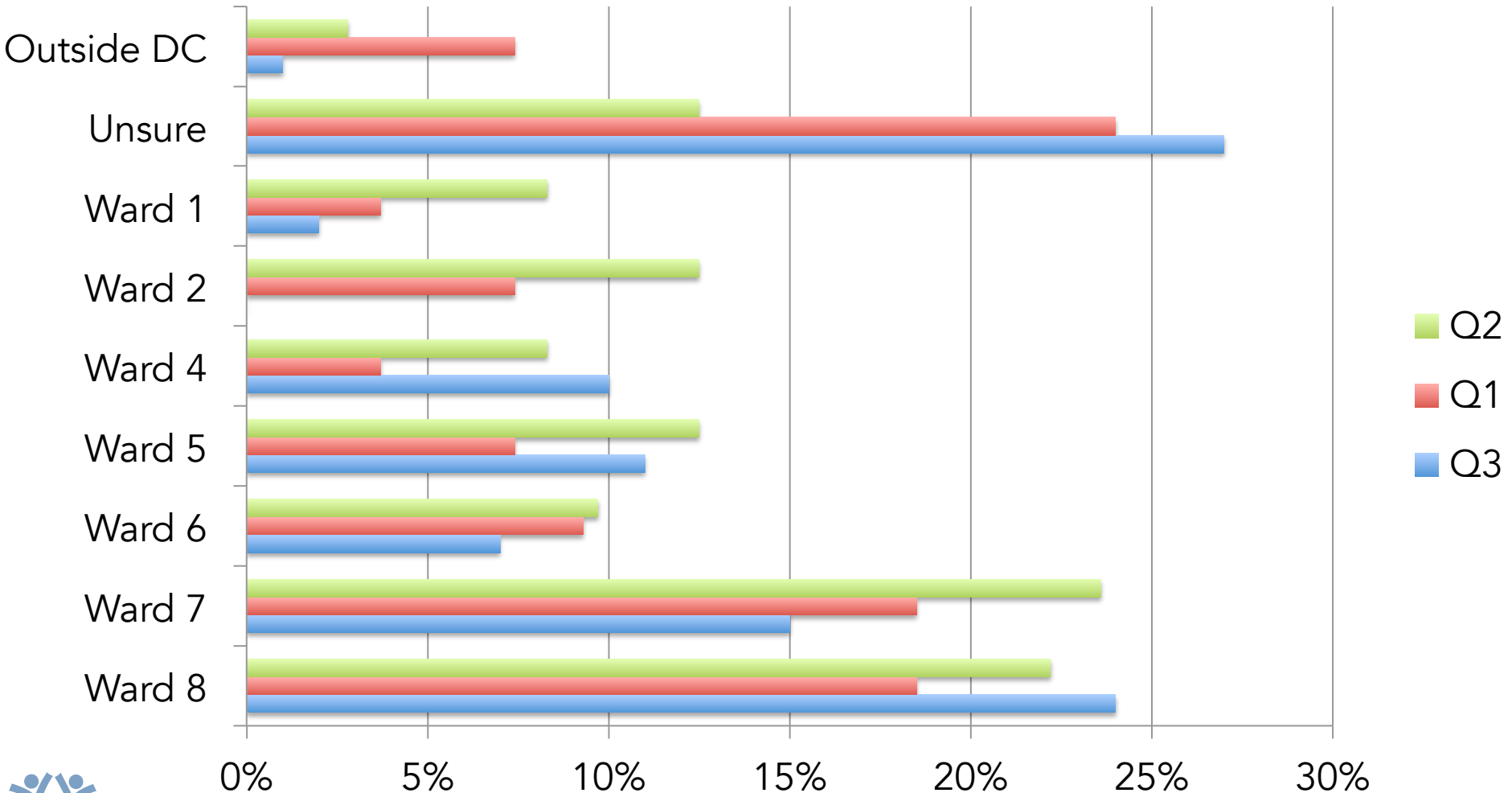
SY 16-17 to Date (Q1 – Q3) RFAs by Sector



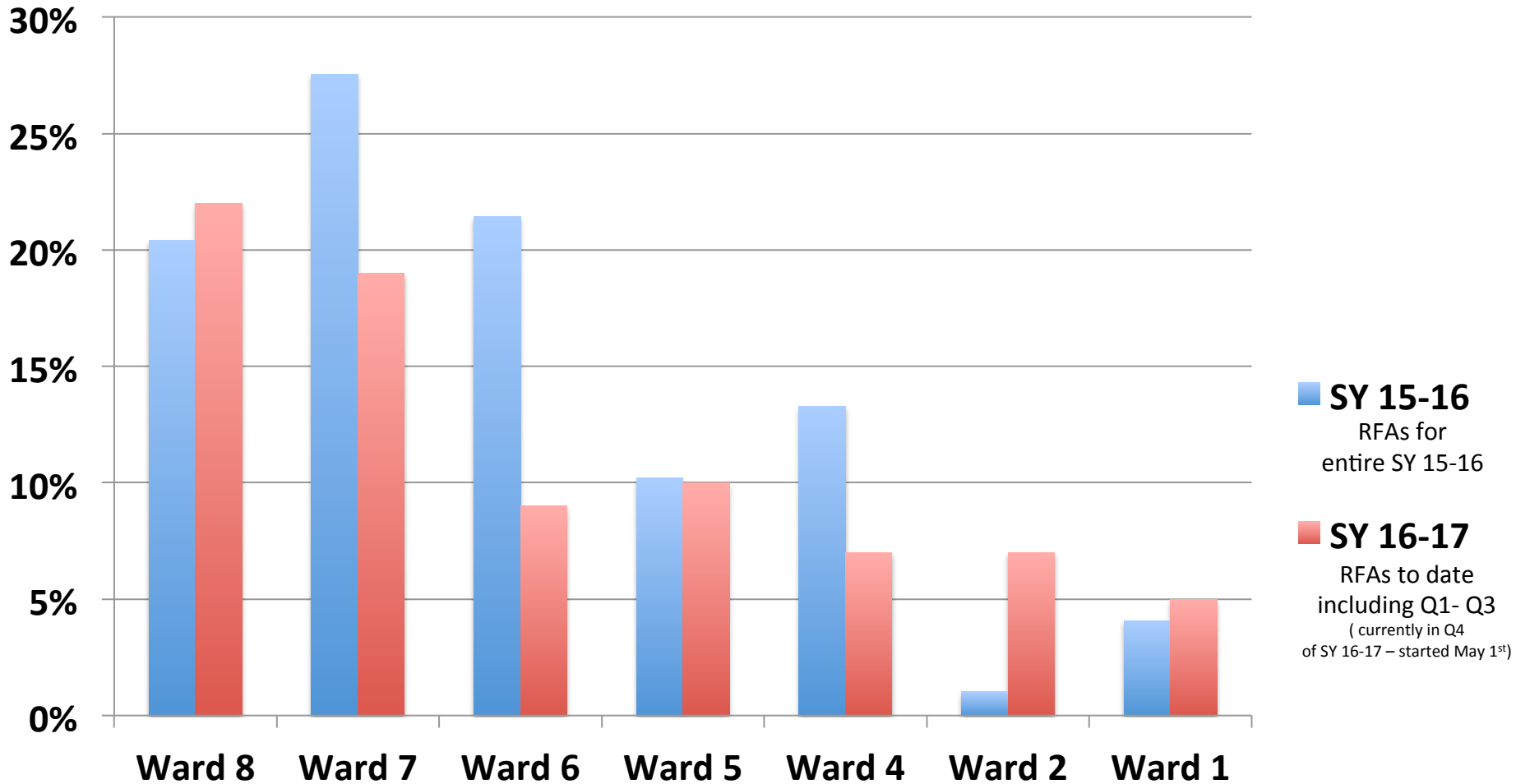
RFAs by Ward Breakdown and SY Comparisons

RFAs SY 16-17 Quarters 1-3

Ward Breakdown



RFAs by SY 15-16 & SY 16-17 Ward Breakdown Comparison



Where We Are Today

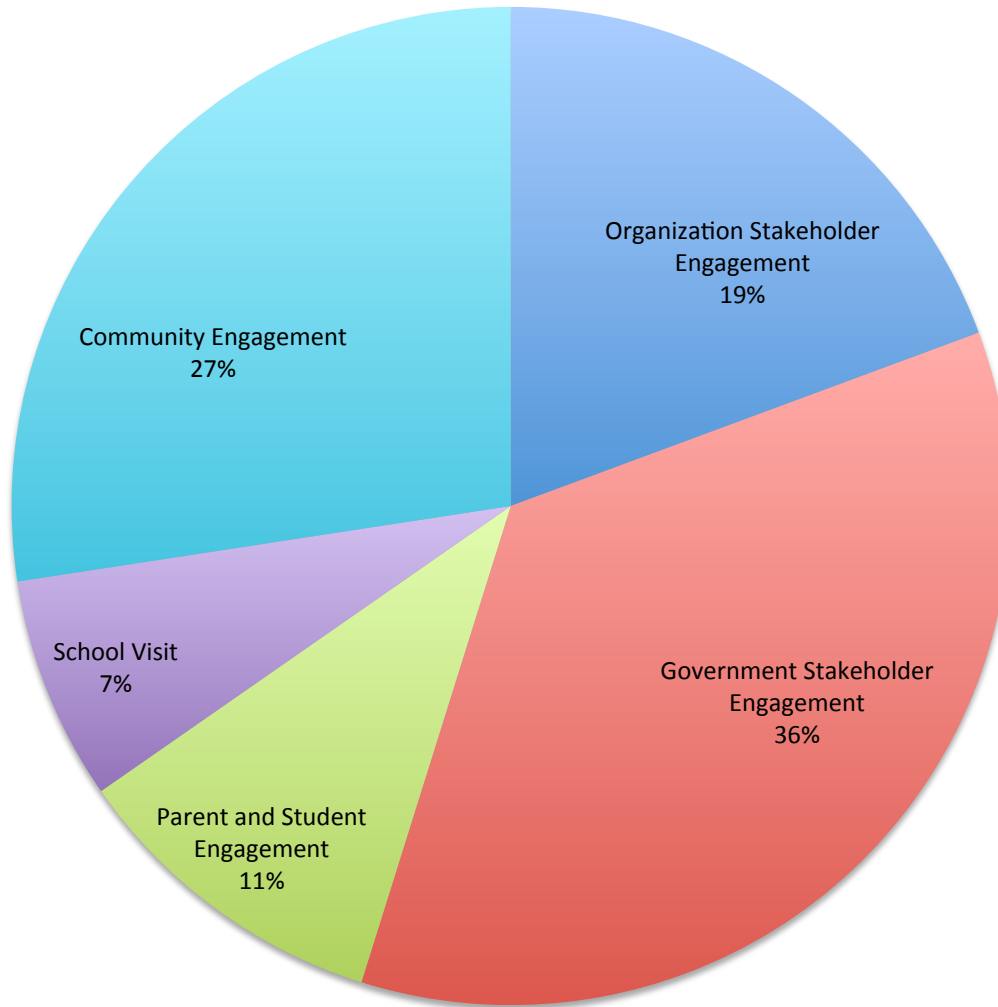
To date, for SY 2016-17, Quarter 1-3:

...we have supported 242 individuals through our Request for Assistance (RFA) process. This accounts for an increase of over 56% from where we were last year.

As we move into Quarter 4, we anticipate RFA numbers to increase; resulting in our office more than doubling the number of families served through this process.

Quarter 3

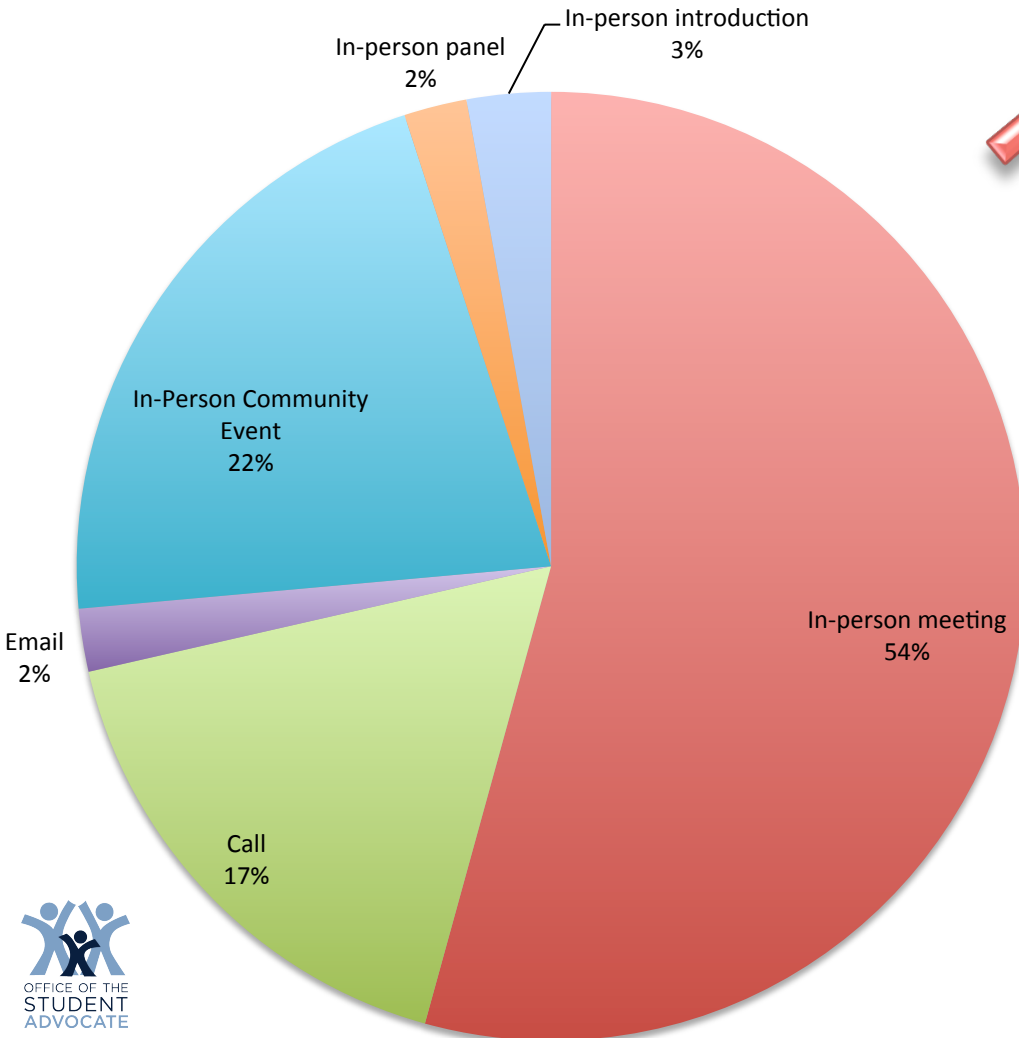
Outreach & Engagement Activities



Meetings, Panels,
& Events attended in
Quarter 3

46

Outreach & Engagement Modes SY 16-17 to Date



More than...
1,800

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

Ongoing Work

Ward-based Parent Leadership & Advocacy

focused on parent organization and leadership development in addition to advocacy training.

- Understanding How the Public Education Governance Structure Works
- Budgeting 101
- Advocacy Tools, Goal-Setting, and the establishment of Action Plans

Safe Passage

in collaboration with community, school level, and governmental entities.

More about our safe passage work can be found at:

<http://sboe.dc.gov/page/safe-passage>

Student Discipline Policy Analysis and Advocacy Toolkit

partnership with the Center for Court Excellence and the Washington Lawyers Committee.

Behavior Supports workshop planning and task force work

a workshop focused on behavior intervention plans. This will be a collaboration with a host of organizations.

Parent Leadership & Resource Toolkit

“Know Your Rights” Special Education Series

Language Access Expansion & Outreach

Resources for Families



Request for Assistance



"311 system" for public education through which we provide relevant resources, information, and appropriate agency or organization referrals to meet the specific needs of the caller. In addition to resources and referrals, the RFA line allows our office to provide one-on-one coaching to families on a variety of public education issues.

Request for Assistance Line

202-741-4692

Answered LIVE Monday – Friday from 9am to 5pm

Request for Assistance can also be submitted online at
<http://sboe.dc.gov/page/request-assistance>

Online Education & Community Resource Guide



- The online Education & Community Resource Guide is the first publicly available citywide initiative of its kind and is a continuously evolving resource that currently has more than 400 resource listings organized into 33 category areas. 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.
- This guide was developed to highlight organizations and government agencies in the sphere of public education that provide critical services to residents across DC.
- This resource serves to acknowledge the work that is already being done by countless government agencies, offices, and community-based organizations while connecting families to those vital resources in one centralized location.

Online at: <http://sboe.dc.gov/page/resource>

Advocacy Tools & Informational Resources

Our resources topics include:

- Effective Communication
- Enrollment
- Graduation Requirements
- Parent Leadership & Resource Toolkit
- Advocacy & Lobbying Toolkit
- Special Education & Other School Supports
- Student Leadership
- Testing & Assessments
- Safe Passage
- Public Education Governance Map

Our resources provide families the ability to:

1. Better understand our public education system and how it is structured,
2. Advocate effectively on their child's behalf through tools,
3. Foster good relationships between families and school officials by providing step-by-step supports on how to effectively interact, and,
4. Understand various other public education-related topics that families and communities need to know.

<http://sboe.dc.gov/page/advocacy>

Questions?