



OFFICE OF THE  
STUDENT  
ADVOCATE

*District of Columbia Office of the Student Advocate supports students, parents, and families in their advocacy through parent education, one-on-one coaching, resource supports, and trainings in order to amplify the voices of families and communities in processes and decision-making; to provide avenues for access to resources and understanding systems; and to support power families and communities already possess.*



# School Year 2018-19

## Quarters 1 and 2 Report



202-741-4692



student.advocate@dc.gov

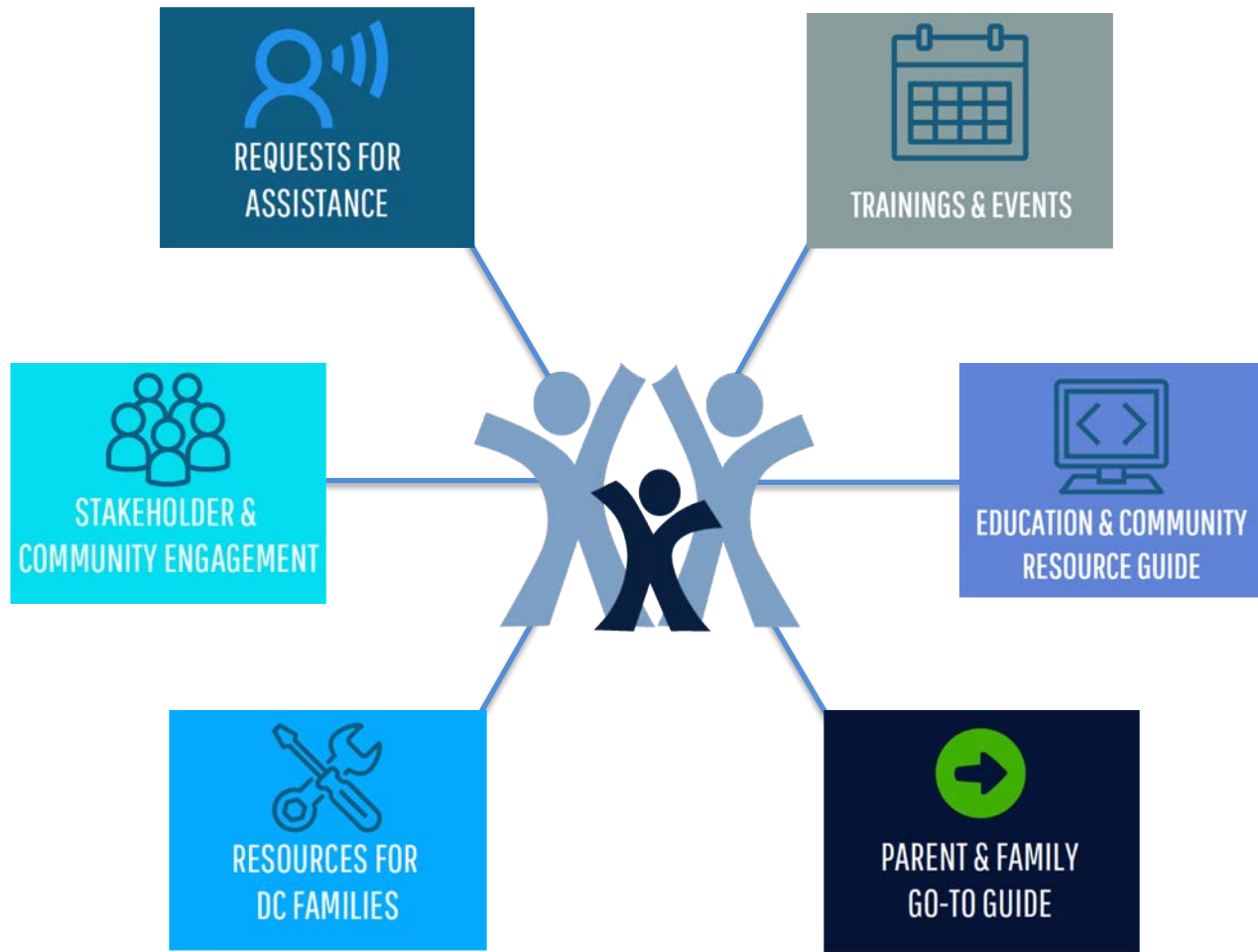


<http://studentadvocate.dc.gov>



@DC\_Advocate

# What We Do



We work in partnership to equalize the balance of power between families and schools by increasing family voice, access, and power in our system of public education. We achieve this goal by ensuring families are connected to resources and supports, informed of their rights, and understand how the system works.

# Request for Assistance (RFA) Line



Our Request for Assistance line, a “311” system for public education, operates LIVE 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday. Reach us at [202-741-4692](tel:202-741-4692) for resources, referrals, and one-on-one coaching on all DC public education issues.

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## Education and Community Resource Guide

Our Online Education & Community Resource Guide is a continuously evolving resource that has more than 400 resource listings organized into 20 category areas. The first publicly available citywide initiative of its kind, 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.



# Information and Advocacy Resources & Tools

We have a wealth of resources and interactive tools on a variety of topic areas available on our website, [studentadvocate.dc.gov](https://studentadvocate.dc.gov), including:

- Advocacy & Lobbying
- Attendance & Truancy
- Behavioral & Mental Health
- Bullying
- Effective Communication
- Enrollment
- Graduation Requirements
- Homelessness
- Parent Leadership
- Right to Know Ask Sheets
- Safe Passage
- Special Education
- Student Leadership
- Testing & Assessment
- Parent & Family Go-To Guide



## Annual and Quarterly Reports

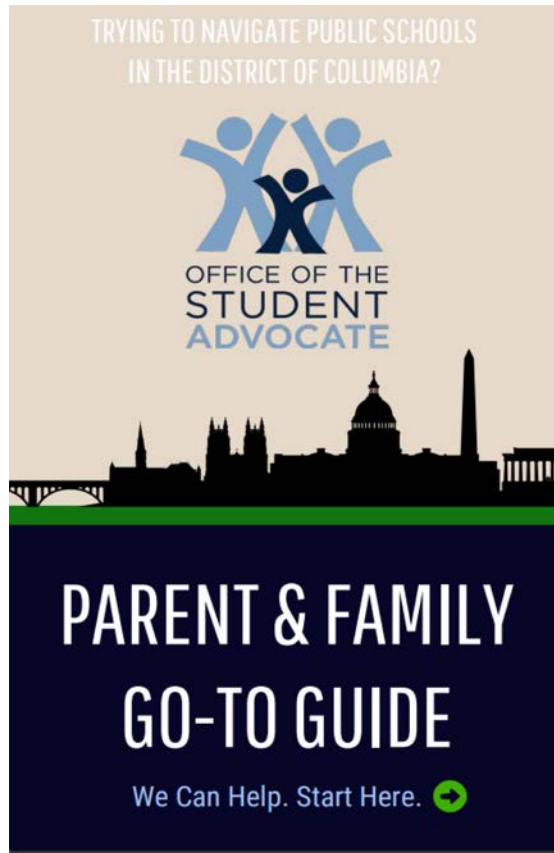
Yearly, our office submits an annual report summarizing the office's work during the previous academic year. We also include our vision for family engagement and equity and offer recommendations to address the city's top public education concerns. Our quarterly reports summarize office activities every 90 days.

Both are available on our website.

# Our Go-To Guide

Our Go-To Guide includes some information and resources we offer on our website in one handy document.

*Topics include:*



- Public Education in DC
- Achievement
- Behavior
- Attendance
- Enrollment
- Special Education
- Additional Resources

# Trainings and Events



Our trainings and outreach efforts allow us to connect with families and communities around topic areas of interest.

Visit <https://sboe.dc.gov/page/training-events> for trainings/events, both past and upcoming.

# SPED Workshop Series

**1 Know Your Rights Discussion**  
Lead by our team at Office of the Student Advocate on everything you need to know for your student(s) about special education

**2 Individualized Mini-Sessions**  
One-on-one mini-sessions with various partners who work in the special education space in DC who can help in answering your specific questions about the needs of your student(s)

**3 Special Education Resources**  
Lists of special education resources for you and your student(s), including 504 plans v. IEPs, how to make a request for evaluation, annual reviews, and connections for organizational support

**Special Education Workshop Series**  
OFFICE OF THE STUDENT ADVOCATE  
in conjunction with Karen William, President of the DC State Board of Education (SBOE); Markus Batchelor, Ward 8 Representative for SBOE; OSSE's State Advisory Panel on Special Education; KIPP DC; PAVE; Ward 7 Education Council; East River Family Strengthening Collaborative; Ward 8 Education Council; and Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative

RSVP here:  
<https://bit.ly/2R0VQra>

Date: Monday, December 3, 2018  
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Location: KIPP DC Benning Campus  
4801 Benning Road SE  
Washington, DC 20019

Dinner will be provided. Environment is child-friendly.

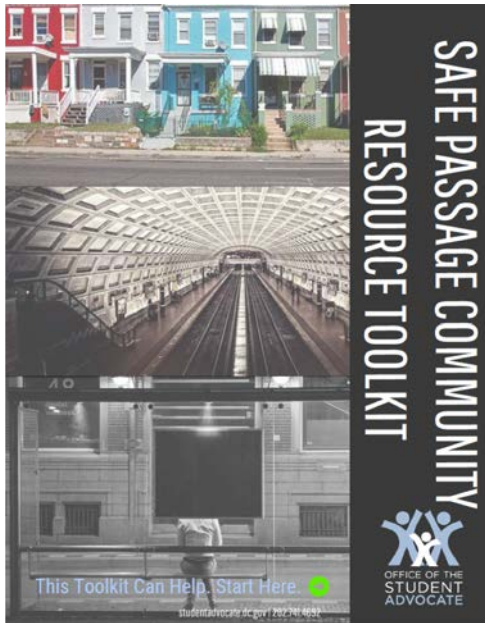
PAVE PARENTS AMPLIFYING VOICES & EDUCATION  
KIPP DC  
WARD 7 EDUCATION COUNCIL  
WARD 8 EDUCATION COUNCIL  
EAST RIVER  
SBOE  
OFFICE OF THE STUDENT ADVOCATE

Our presentation and webinar, “Transforming Emotions to Effective Advocacy: Understanding the Issues Surrounding Special Education Rights in DC”, are available on our website.

- Right to Know on SPED
- Right to Know on RTI
- SPED Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions
- DC SPED resources
- Understanding the Difference between 504s and IEPs

Resources available at [studentadvocate.dc.gov](http://studentadvocate.dc.gov)  
under [Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools](#) section.

# Safe Passage Work



- Re-convened our safe passage working group, with a focus on Ward 8
- Revamped our Safe Passage Community Resource Toolkit

  
#DCSafeRoutes

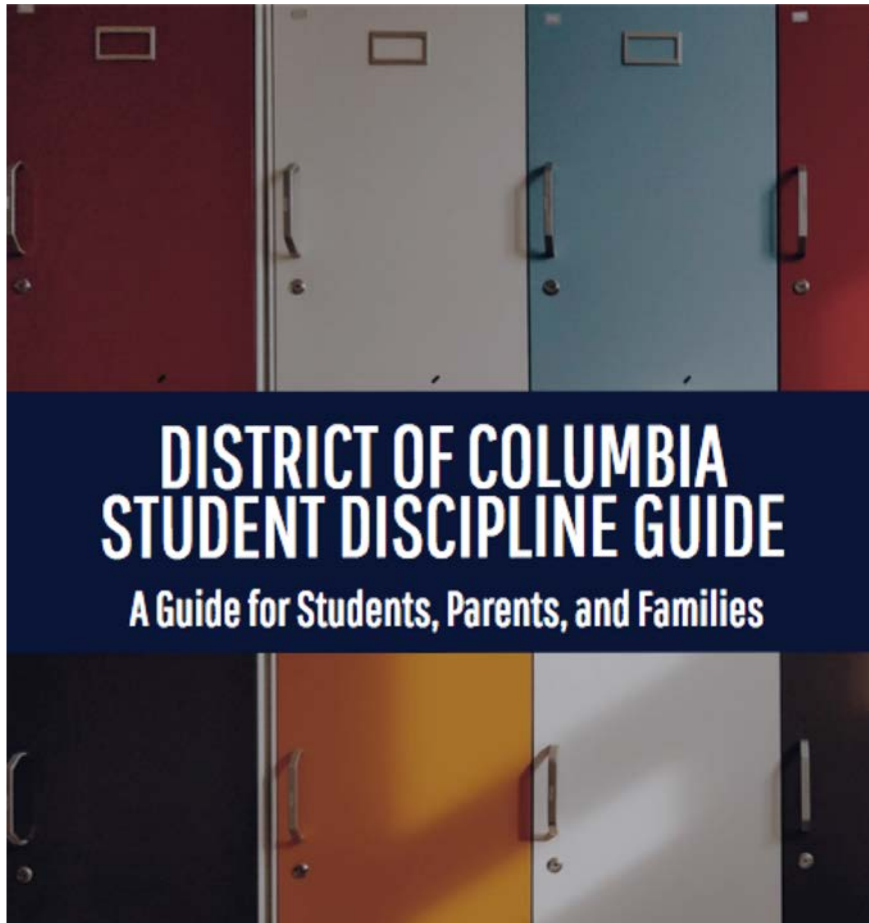
- Held stakeholder conversations with school leaders about building out safe passage programs or implementing safe passage models
- Organized safe passage community canvassing and asset mapping





# Discipline Resource

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In 2018 the Council of the District of Columbia passed the Student Fair Access to School Amendment Act. The law makes it easier for students and families to move forward after an incident. Families often feel alone and overwhelmed when figuring out how to move forward after the school makes a discipline decision for their student. All students and families should know their rights whether or not they seek to challenge a disciplinary decision

The guide explains new rules for school discipline that all public schools must follow under DC law.

The guide, created in partnership with The Every Student, Every Day Coalition, will be posted to our website under [Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools](#).

# Equitable Family Engagement

## Equitable Family Engagement in Policy

How to Better Serve Students by Including Family Voice in Policy Making

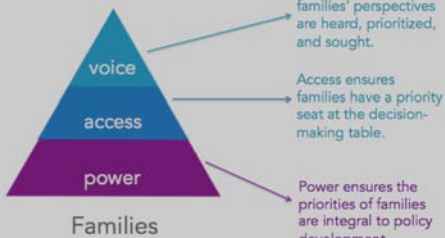
Office of the Student Advocate

Faith Gibson Hubbard, Chief Student Advocate  
Dan Davis, Student Advocate  
Tiffany Wilson, Program Associate

Community Schools National Forum 2018 (Baltimore, Maryland)

In May 2018 we shared our work regarding equitable family engagement at the Community Schools National Forum in Baltimore, MD. In our workshop, we were able to highlight the need for family partnership by conducting a root cause analysis with our 50 workshop participants in order to connect the lack of voice, access, and power to systemic disparities.

### Defining and Supporting Equity



Voice ensures that families' perspectives are heard, prioritized, and sought.

Access ensures families have a priority seat at the decision-making table.

Power ensures the priorities of families are integral to policy development.

### Family Engagement: What It *Should* Be

"Gaps in educational opportunity and achievement will only be remedied when...parents, families, and communities are driving decision-making."  
- Every Student Succeeds Act summary by the Leadership Conference Education Fund



Espin, J.J. (2008). *Conceptualizing and Defining Family Involvement for Research: Setting New Directions*. *PowerPoint Slides*. Retrieved from <http://www.leadconf.org/leadership/2008/08/08/080808.pdf>

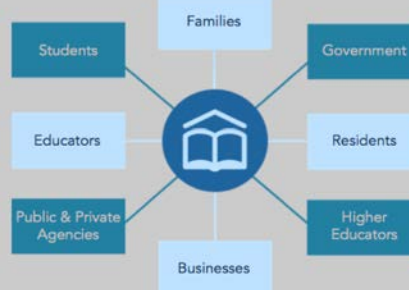
In December 2018, our office planned and brought a panel of local family engagement experts to testify on family engagement at the DC State Board of Education public hearing.

Our office is continuing our work to move forward the conversation of designing a citywide, and school level, family engagement framework. Authentic engagement of families and communities should be a mandatory part of the policy process.

Policy Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

Stakeholders	Characteristics			
	What has been their involvement in the issue?	What is their stance on the issue?	What type of power/influence do they hold?	How does this issue impact them?
Stakeholder Group #1				
Stakeholder Group #2				
Stakeholder Group #3				
Stakeholder Group #4				

### Education Stakeholders



# Citywide Bullying Workshop

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In addition to hosting our bullying workshop in April, we've added bullying resources to our website:

- Bullying Quicksheet
- Bullying Stats
- OHR's Know Your Policy Portal

A recording done with workshop participants is now available on our website under [Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools](#).

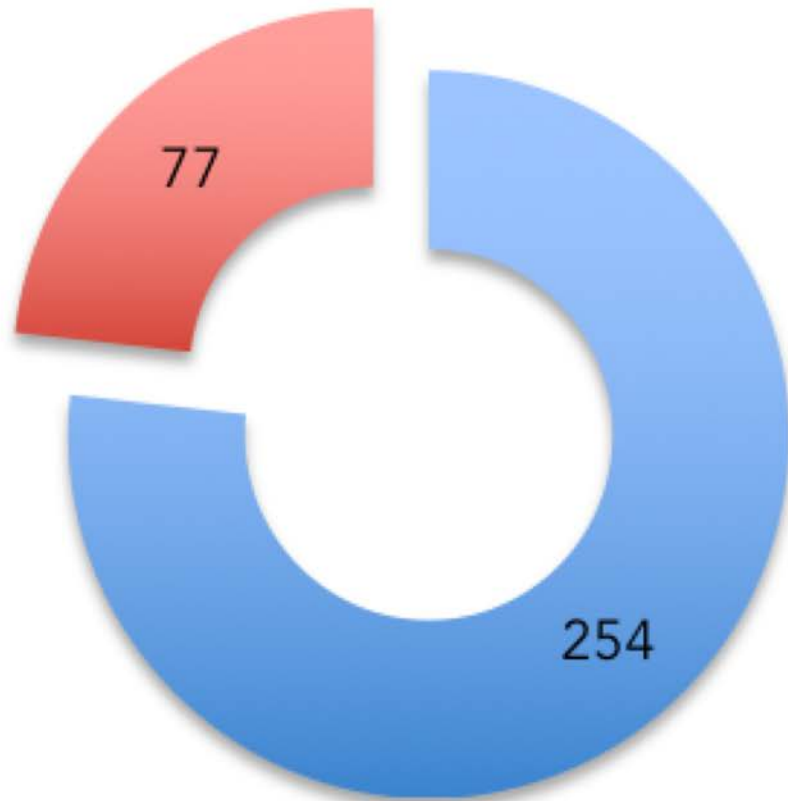


# Quarters 1 & 2

August 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup> & November 1<sup>st</sup>- January 31<sup>st</sup>



# Q1/Q2 Calls Received



**331**

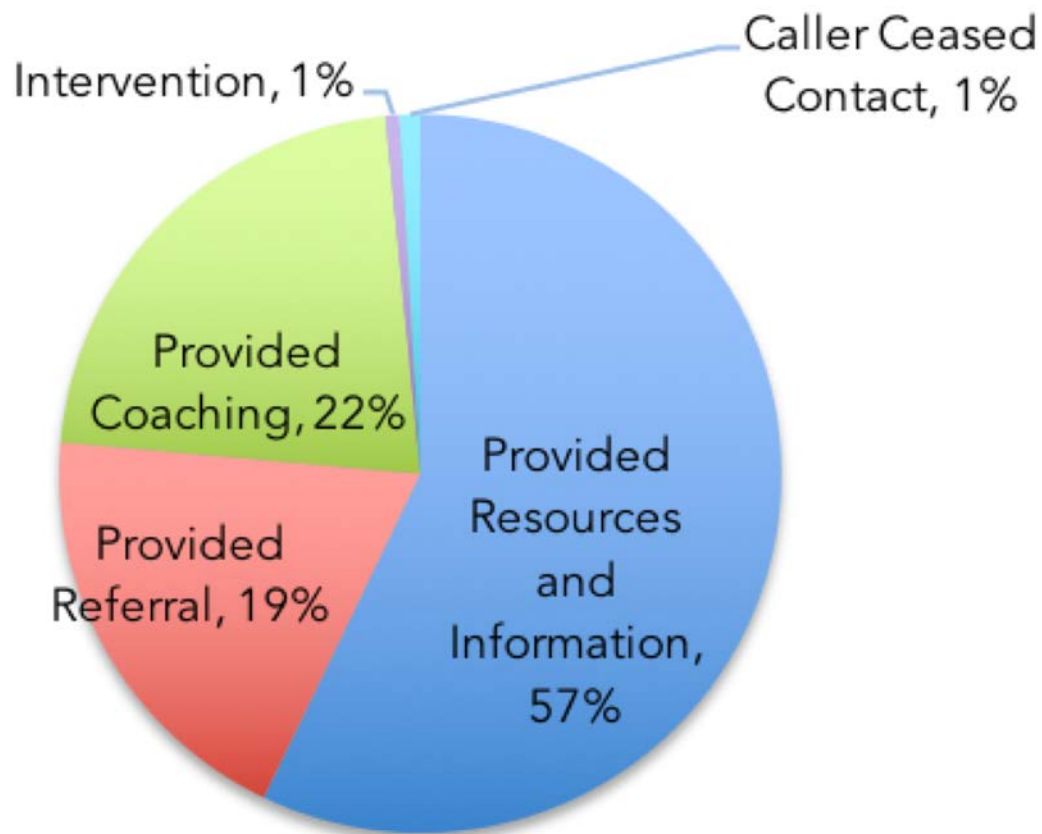
■ operating hours

■ non-operating hours

# Requests for Assistance (RFAs) – Quarters 1 & 2 Breakdown

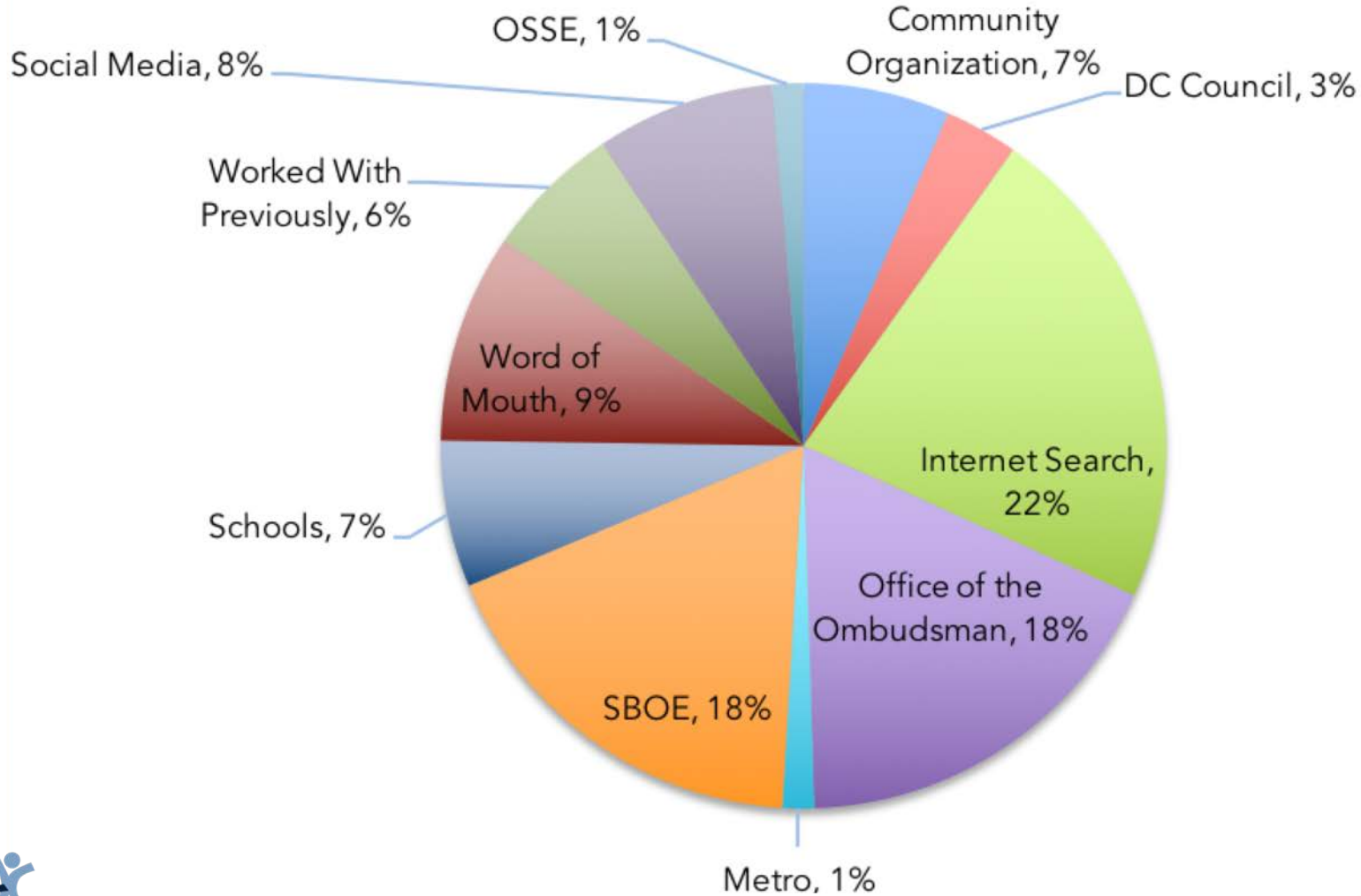
254

Quarters 1 & 2  
Requests for  
Assistance

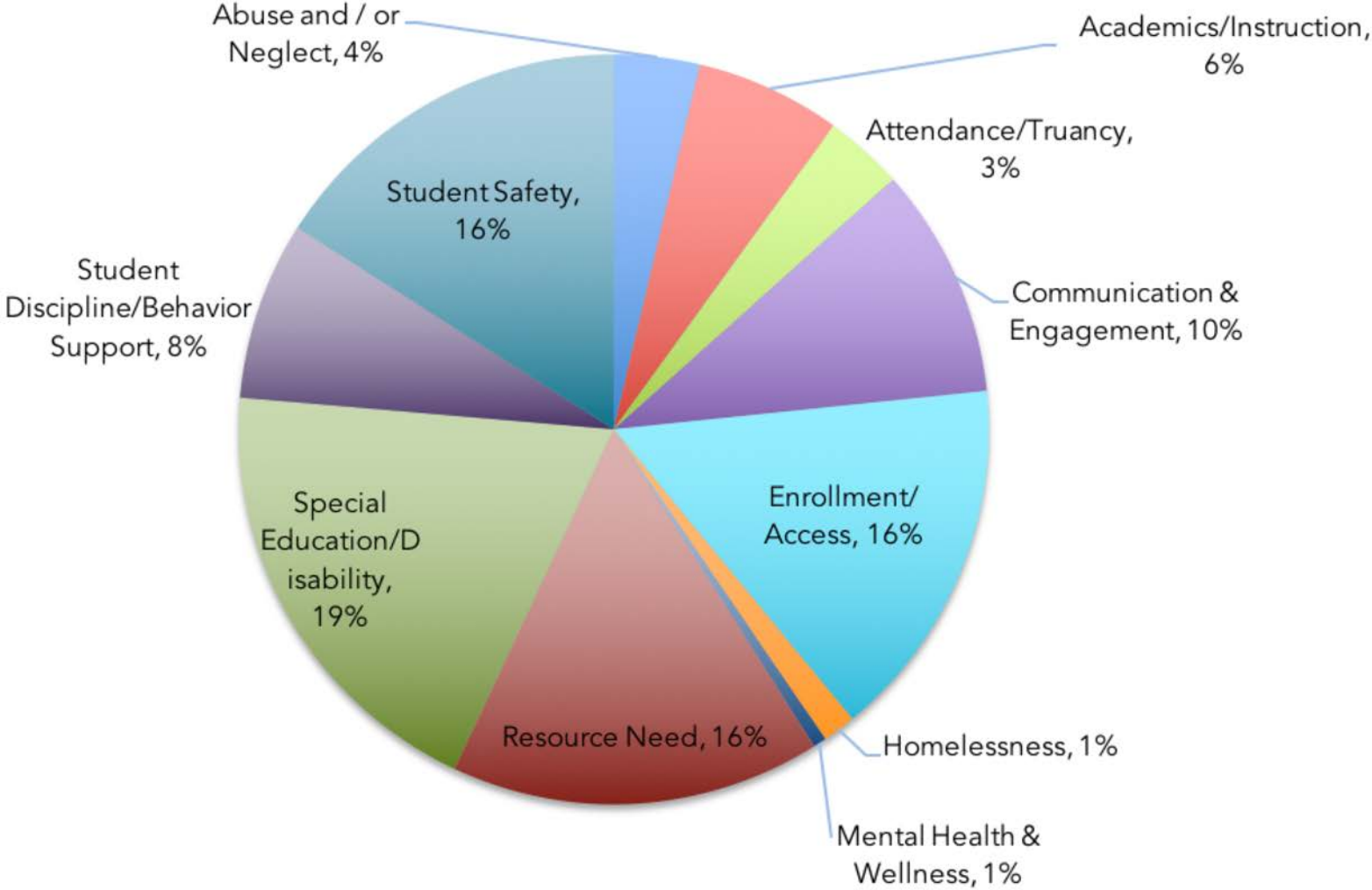


# Quarters 1 & 2

## Origin of Referrals to Our Office

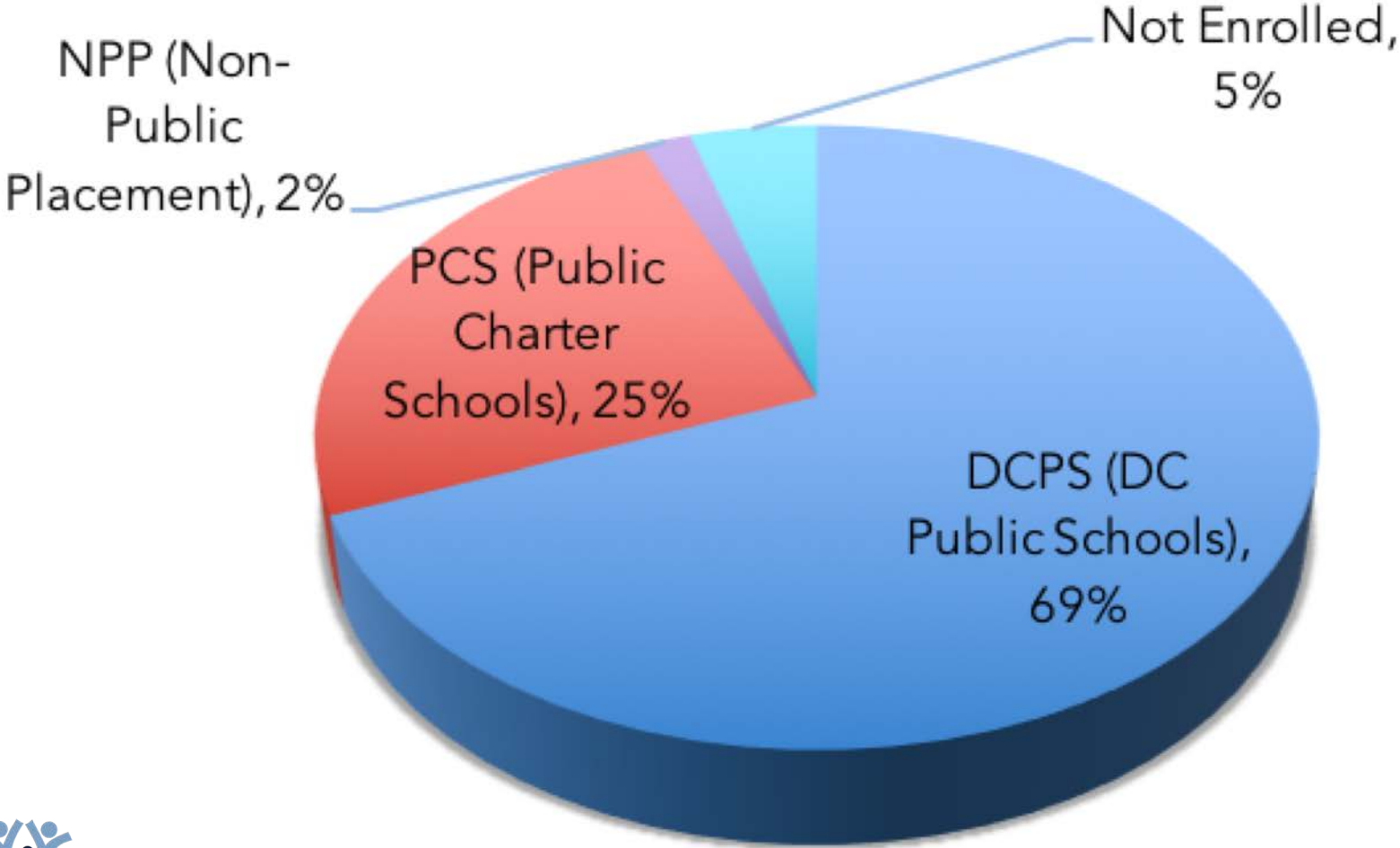


# RFA Quarters 1 & 2 Topic Areas

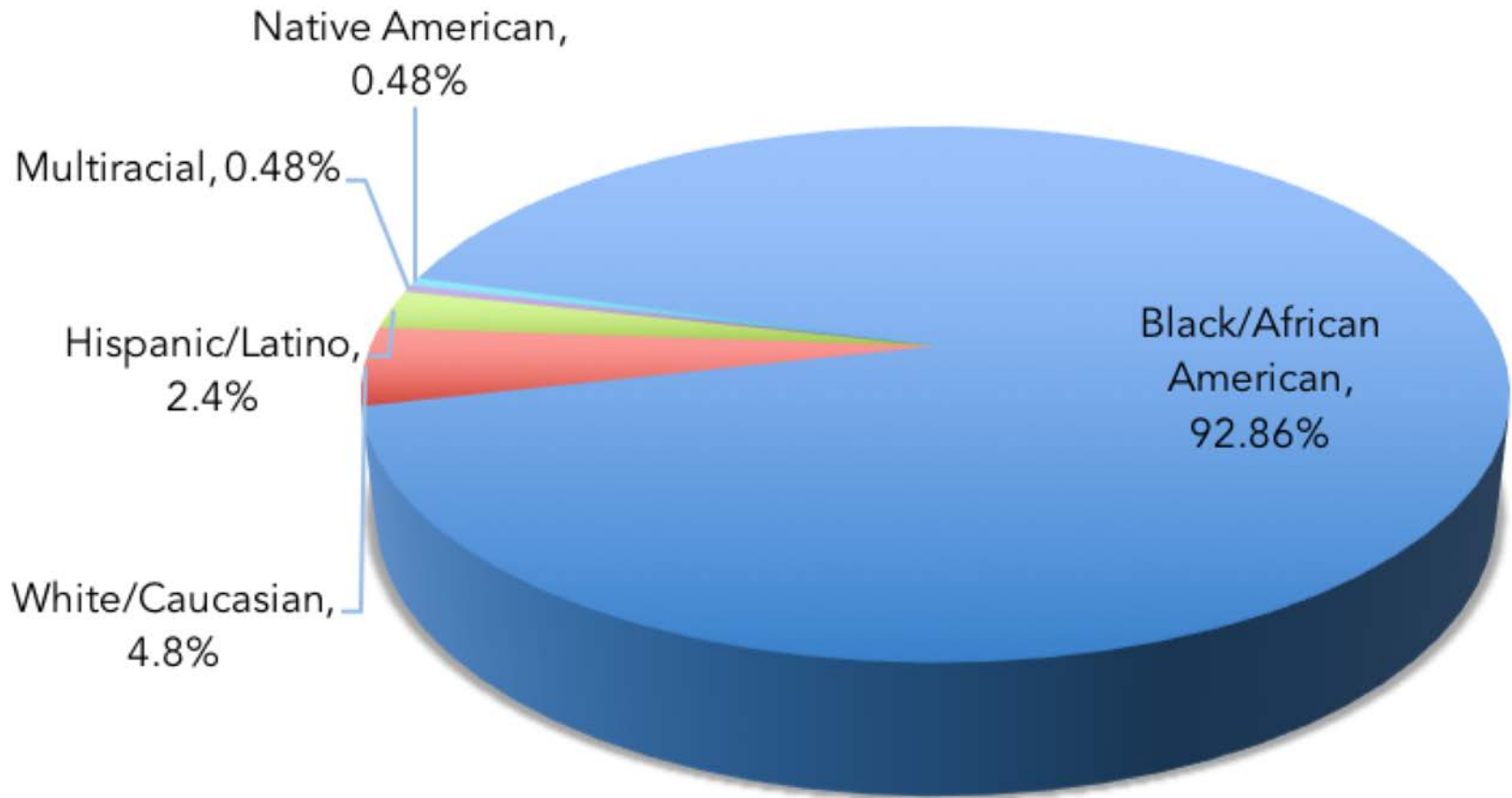




# RFA Numbers by Sector Quarters 1 & 2



# RFA Numbers by Race Quarters 1 & 2



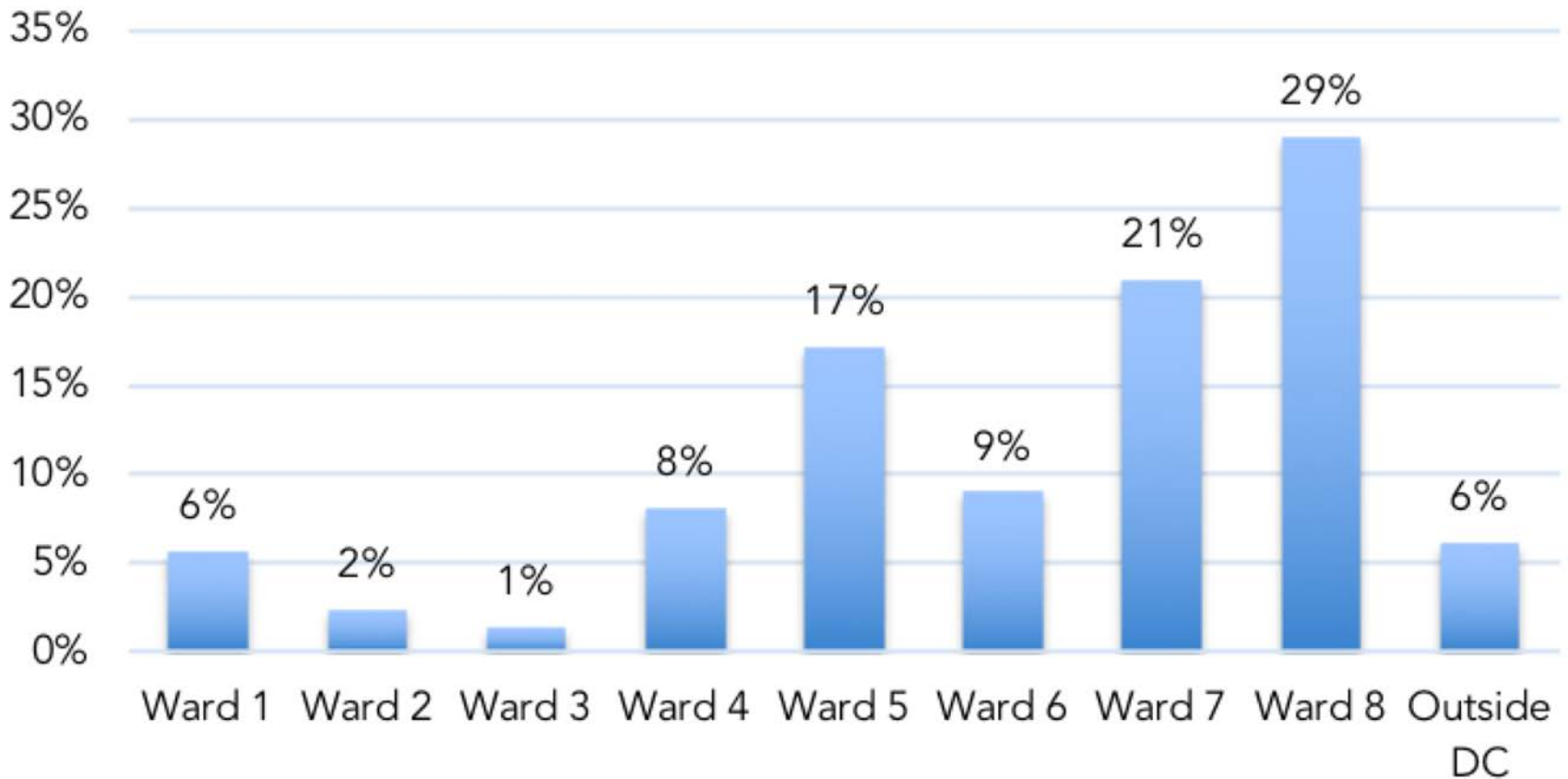


# RFAs by Ward Breakdown

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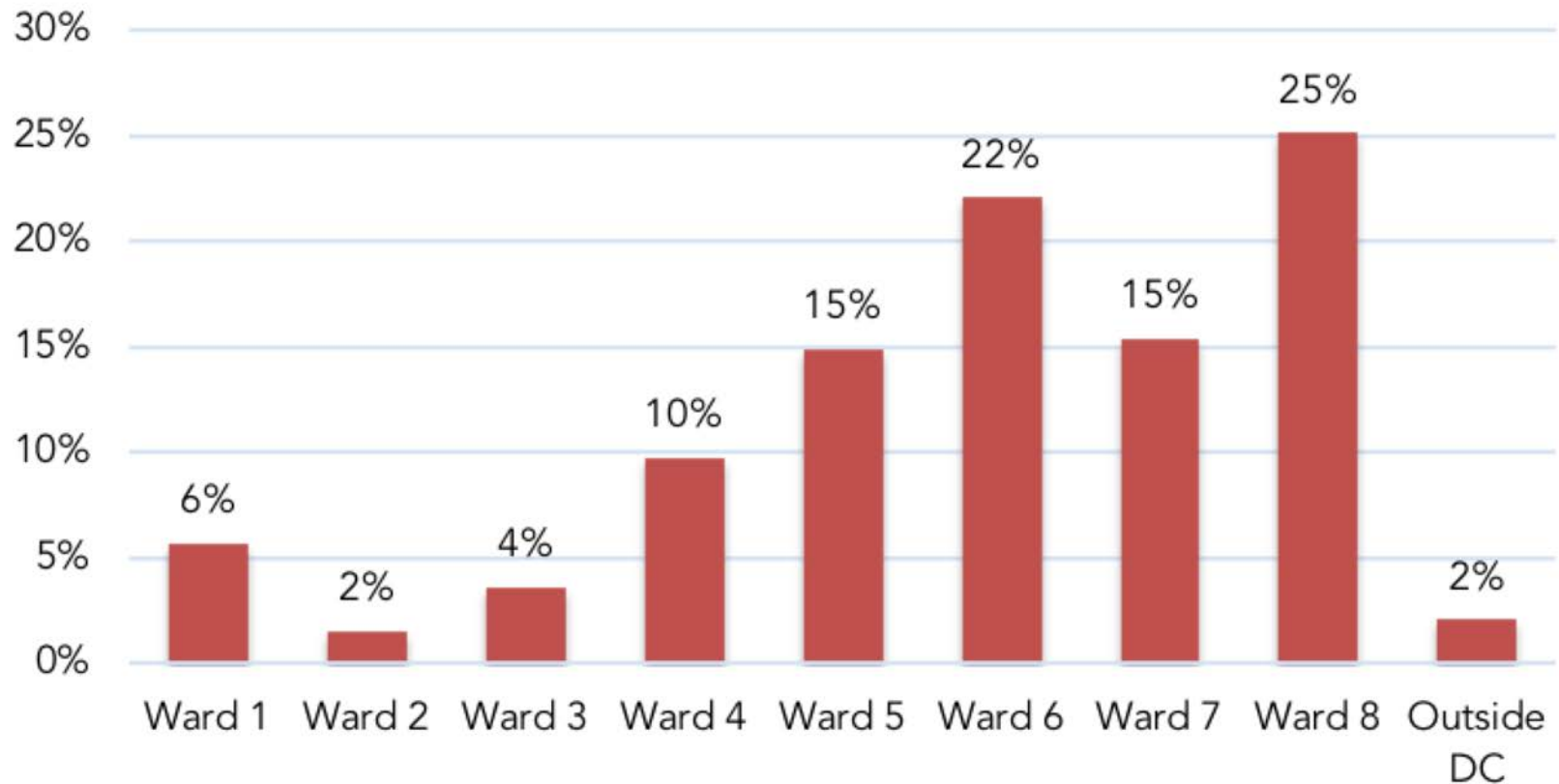
# RFAs SY 18-19 Quarters 1 & 2

## Ward of Residence Breakdown



\*Data included reflects the number of total RFAs.

# RFAs SY 18-19 Quarters 1 & 2 School Ward Breakdown

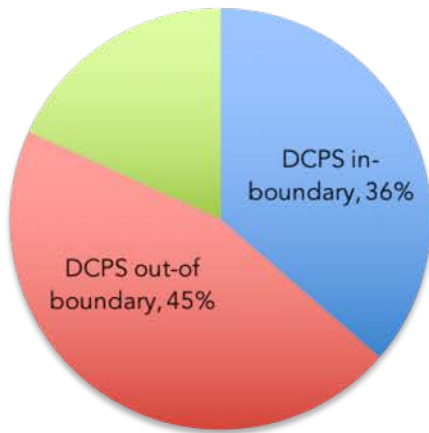


\*Data included reflects number of RFAs associated with a public school, either DCPS and public charter.

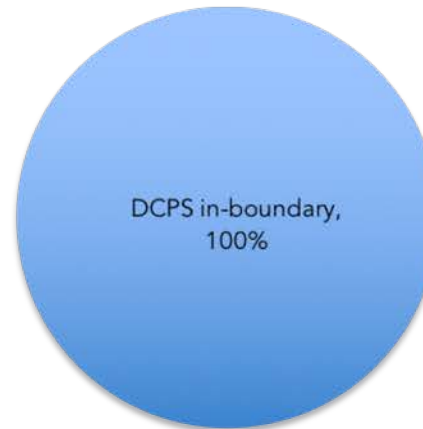
# RFA Data

## by School Ward & Ward of Residence

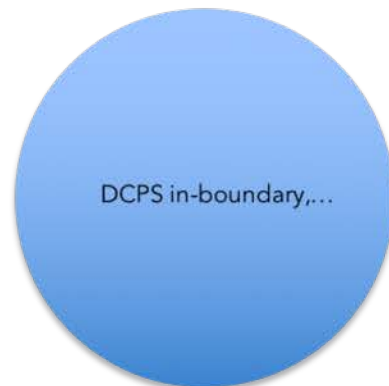
School Ward: 1



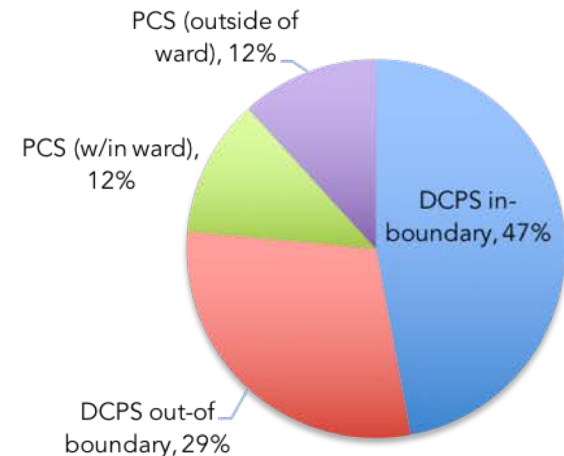
School Ward: 2



School Ward: 3



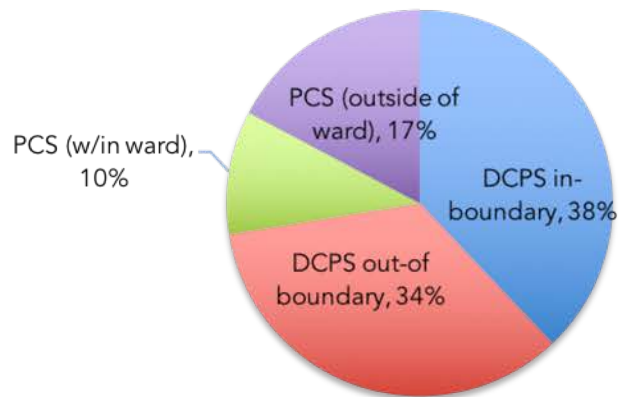
School Ward: 4



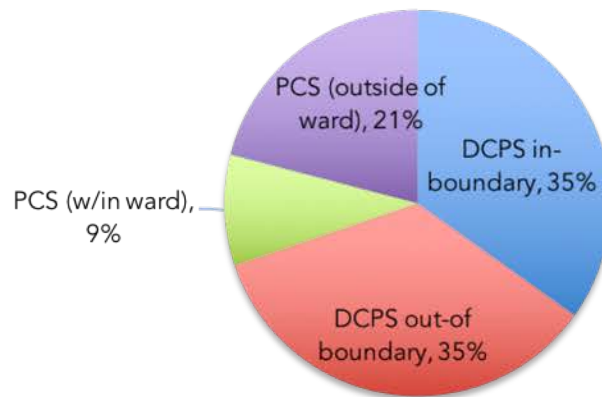
# RFA Data

## by School Ward & Ward of Residence

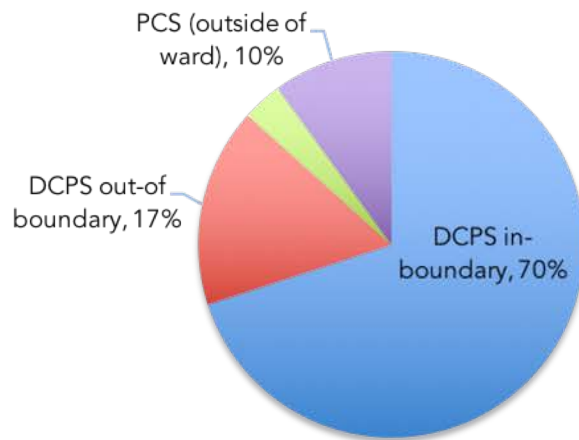
School Ward: 5



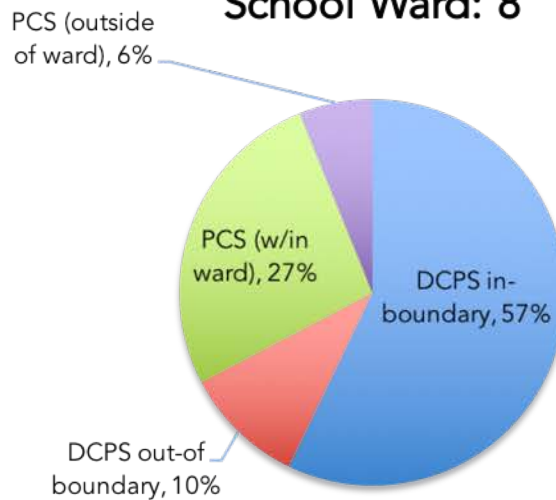
School Ward: 6



School Ward: 7



School Ward: 8

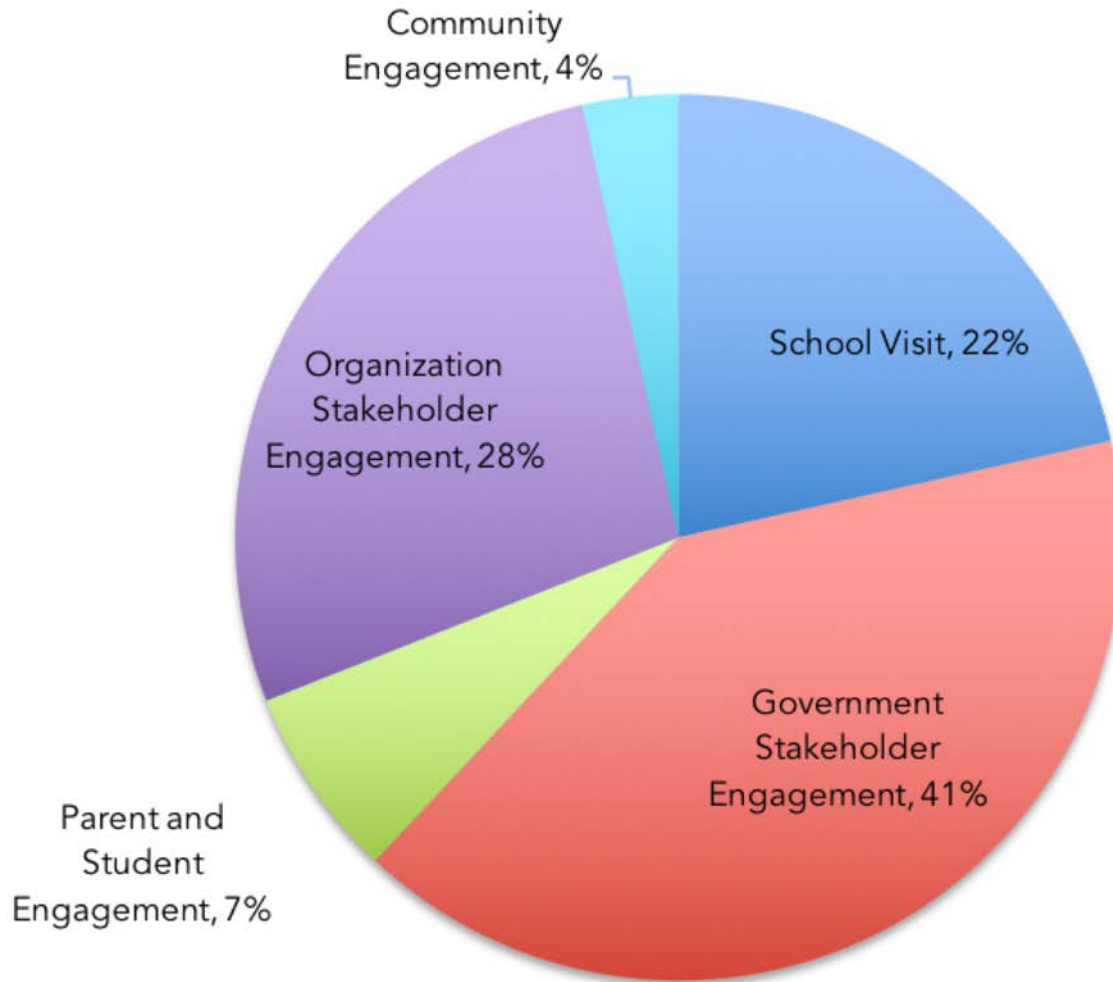


**The RFA line is just one way  
we interact with families and  
educators...**



# Quarters 1 & 2

## Outreach & Engagement Activities

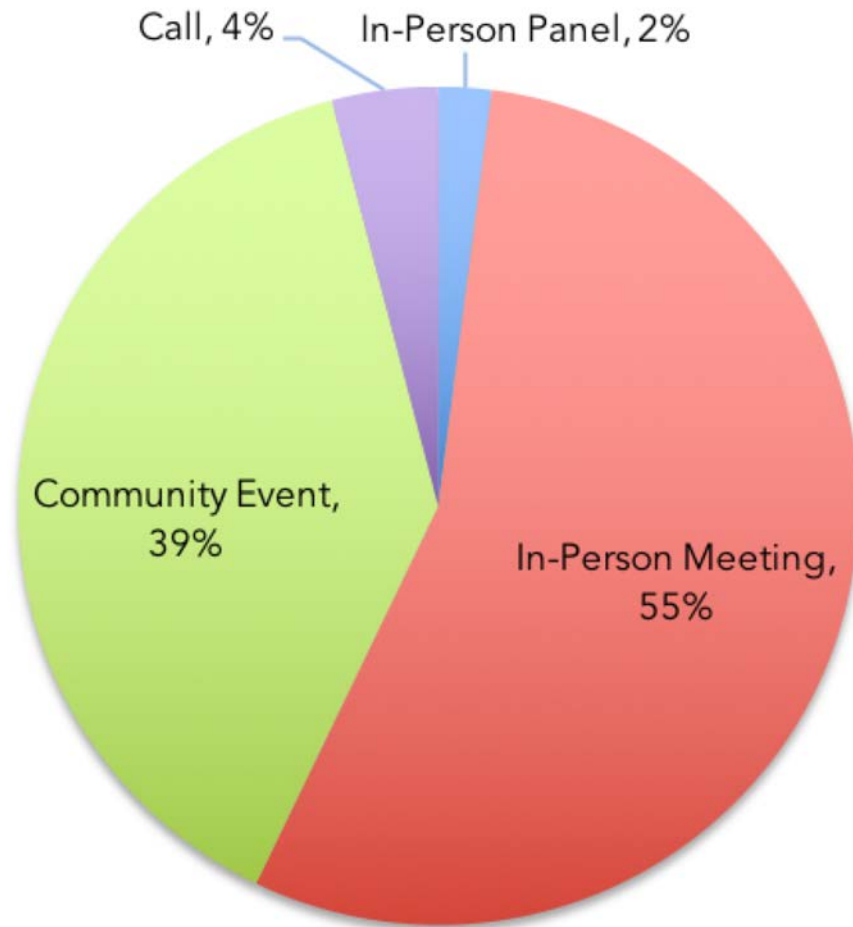


Meetings, Panels,  
& Events attended in  
Quarters 1 & 2

49

# SY 18-19

## Outreach & Engagement Modes



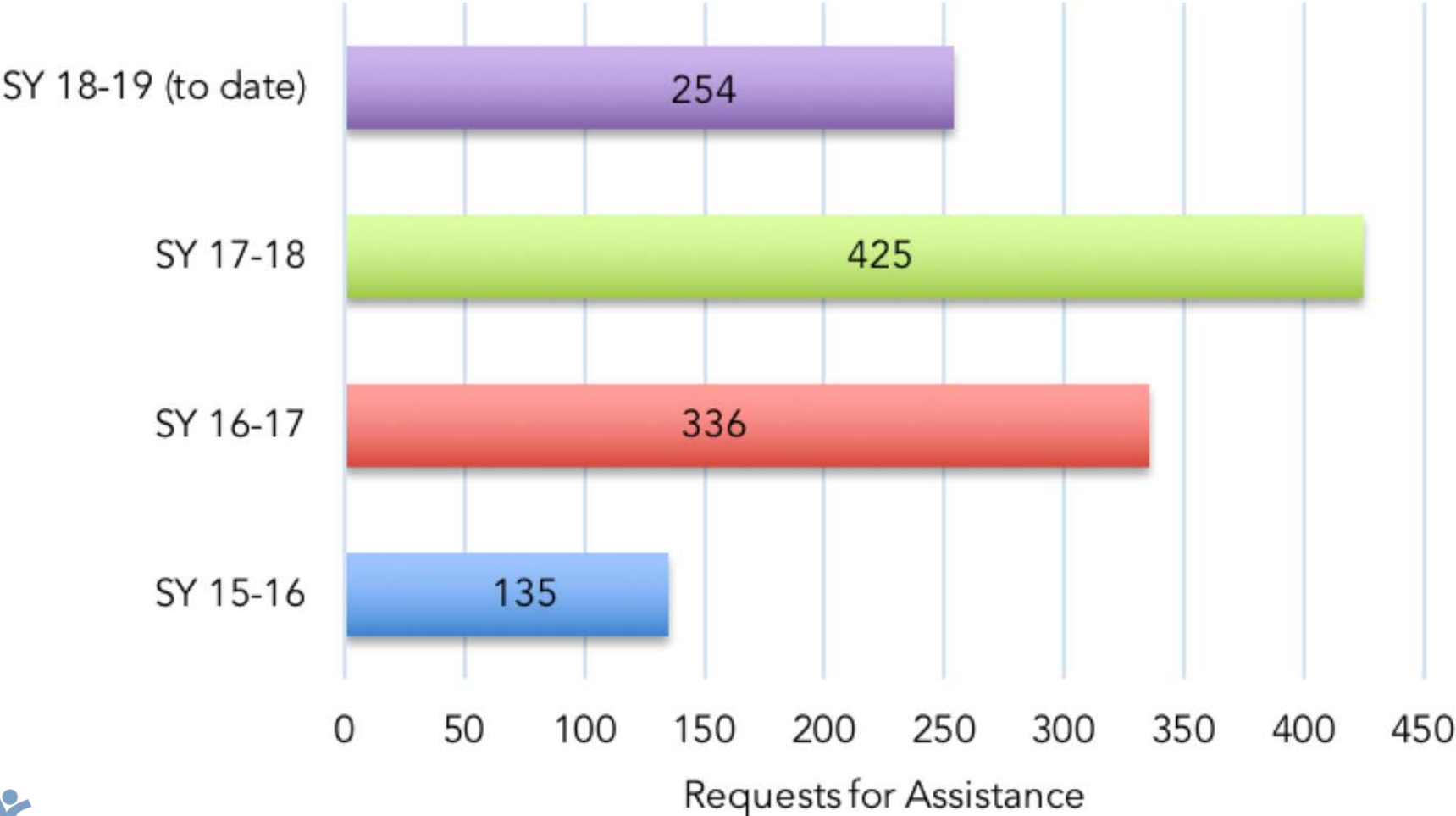
More than...  
**40000**

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

# Where We Are To Date

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# RFA School Year Comparison



# Where We Are Today

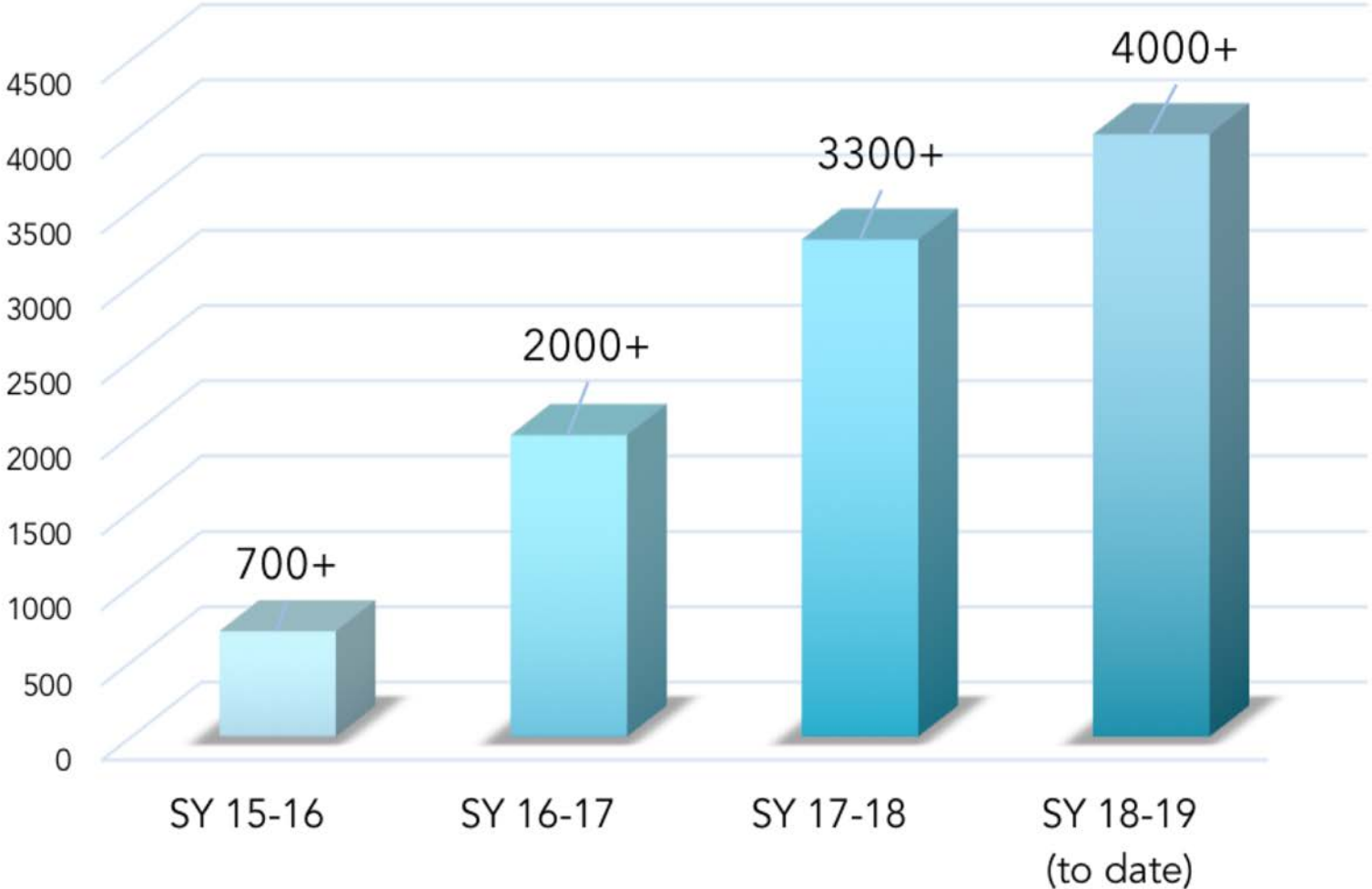
To date in SY 2018-19:

...we have supported 254 individuals through our Request for Assistance (RFA) process, an 182% increase since this time during our first year of operation.

At this rate, we will exceed the number of RFAs for SY 17-18.

**The RFA line is just one way we interact with families and educators...**

# Outreach & Engagement by School Year Comparison



# Strategic Plan

Our FY19 strategic plan for performance details our plan to deepen and scale programmatic work and engagement with families, schools, and the community. The plan includes:

Goal #1: Increase Office Awareness and Visibility/Outreach

Goal #2: Collaborate and Expand Service Capacity

Goal #3: Parent Leadership and Advocacy

Goal #4: Improve Educational Outcomes by Effecting Systemic Change

Goal #5: Increase Student Engagement and Advocacy

# Monthly Activities

## Quarter 1

### August

- Back to School Visits
- Information and materials drops to schools
- Targeted email outreach to education stakeholders
- Event: SBOE Selfie Tour

### September

- Released updated Go-To Guide and translated into Spanish language
- All resources translated into six languages
- Revamped our website
- Joined Every Student, Every Day Coalition
- Event: OSSE Parent & Family Engagement Summit

### October

- Released updated Safe Passage toolkit
- Started designing Discipline Guide
- Started monthly meetings with DCPS
- SPED Leader Network presentation
- Event: Walk to School Day (Ward 6)

This is a snapshot of our activities for Quarter 1. This is not an exhaustive list.



# Monthly Activities

## Quarter 2

### November

- Released 2018 Annual Report
- Ward 5 SPED Workshop
- Family engagement framework outreach
- Events: DCPS Resource Fairs (DCs comprehensive & alternative high schools)

### December

- Family Engagement Panel
- EOTR SPED Workshop
- CHPSPO Safe Passage meeting
- Event: EdFest 2018

### January

- Ward 8 Safe Passage Roundtable meetings
- Education Panelist for Councilmember McDuffie's Racial Equity Symposium
- Event: Walk a Mile in My Shoes

This is a snapshot of our activities for Quarter 2. This is not an exhaustive list.

# Working Relationship with SBOE



quarterly reports    information sharing  
safe passage work    **referrals**    special education  
annual reports    family engagement framework    workshops  
ward-level education    parent leadership series  
conversations    community events

## Where do you see opportunities to work together?

*Just let us know - we're open to your ideas!*

# Questions?