

grow  
with  
us

# Enrollment Report 2025-2026

Kilian Betlach  
Executive Director, Enrollment



OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Community Schools, Thriving Students*



## Purpose:

- 1) Report on the District's official enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year
- 2) Provide updates on ongoing enrollment work
- 3) Establish this report as an annual (best) practice



# grow with us

- Diverse and inclusive Schools
- **Quality early literacy instruction**
- Expanding After-School Programs
- **Extensive arts, athletics, language, and technology programs**
- World-class college & career pathways



# 2025-2026 enrollment against projections

# Enrollment Projections



**Birthrates determine the pool of eligible students for TK and K.** This pool is then adjusted by the capture rate: the percentage of eligible students enrolled in the District on Census Day.

**Cohort progression determines non-entry grades (1st-4th; 7th-8th; 10th-12th).** We track the historic rate of gain/ loss at the district- and school-level for each grade to project the number of students to expect.

**Significant growth in new residential and affordable housing can influence projections.** Because of a variety of factors, the new housing stock in Oakland has not led to increases in enrollment projections (or enrollment).

# Enrollment Projections 25-26

Grade Span	Projection	Census Enrollment	Delta
Elementary	17,457	17,721	264
Middle	6,619	6,684	65
High	9,386	9,590	204
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33,462</b>	<b>33,995</b>	<b>533</b>

Each student over projection generates additional, unbudgeted revenue. Exceeding projections by 533 students resulted in roughly \$7,200,000 after factoring in ADA.

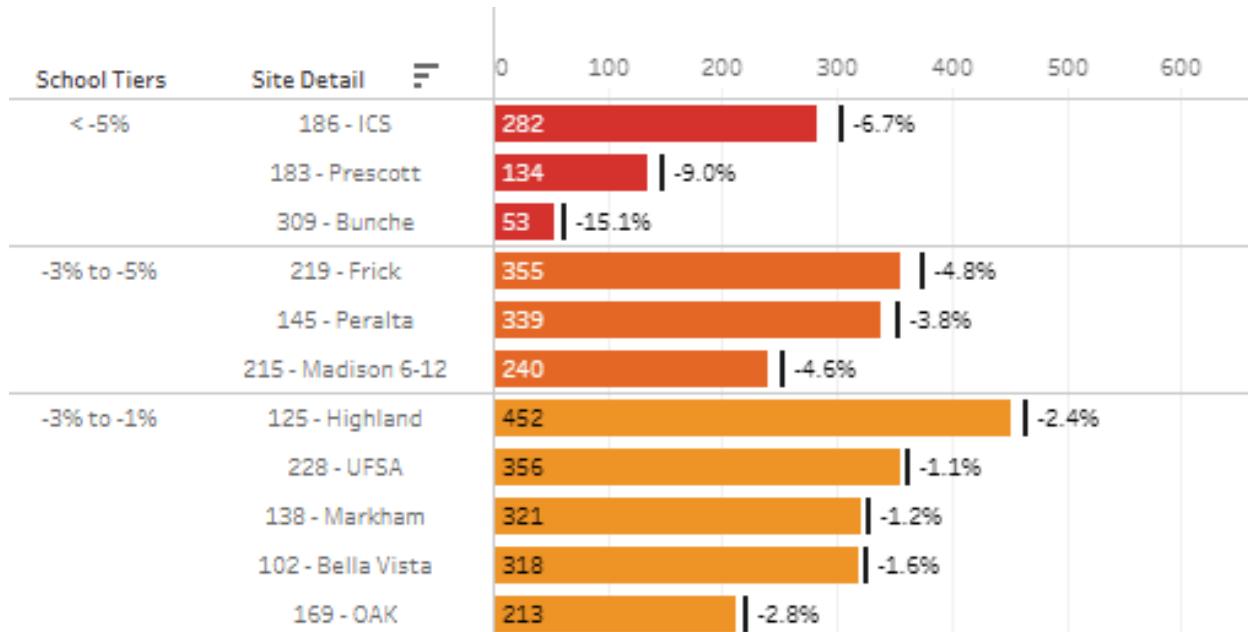
# Historic enrollment against projections

Year	Projection	Census Enrollment	Delta
20-21	35,731	34,927	(804)
21-22	35,631	34,627	(1,004)
22-23	33,208	34,149	941
23-24	34,410	34,809	399
24-25	33,736	33,925	189
25-26	33,462	33,995	533



Enrollment  
stabilization  
(BP5115)  
investments begin.

# School level analysis

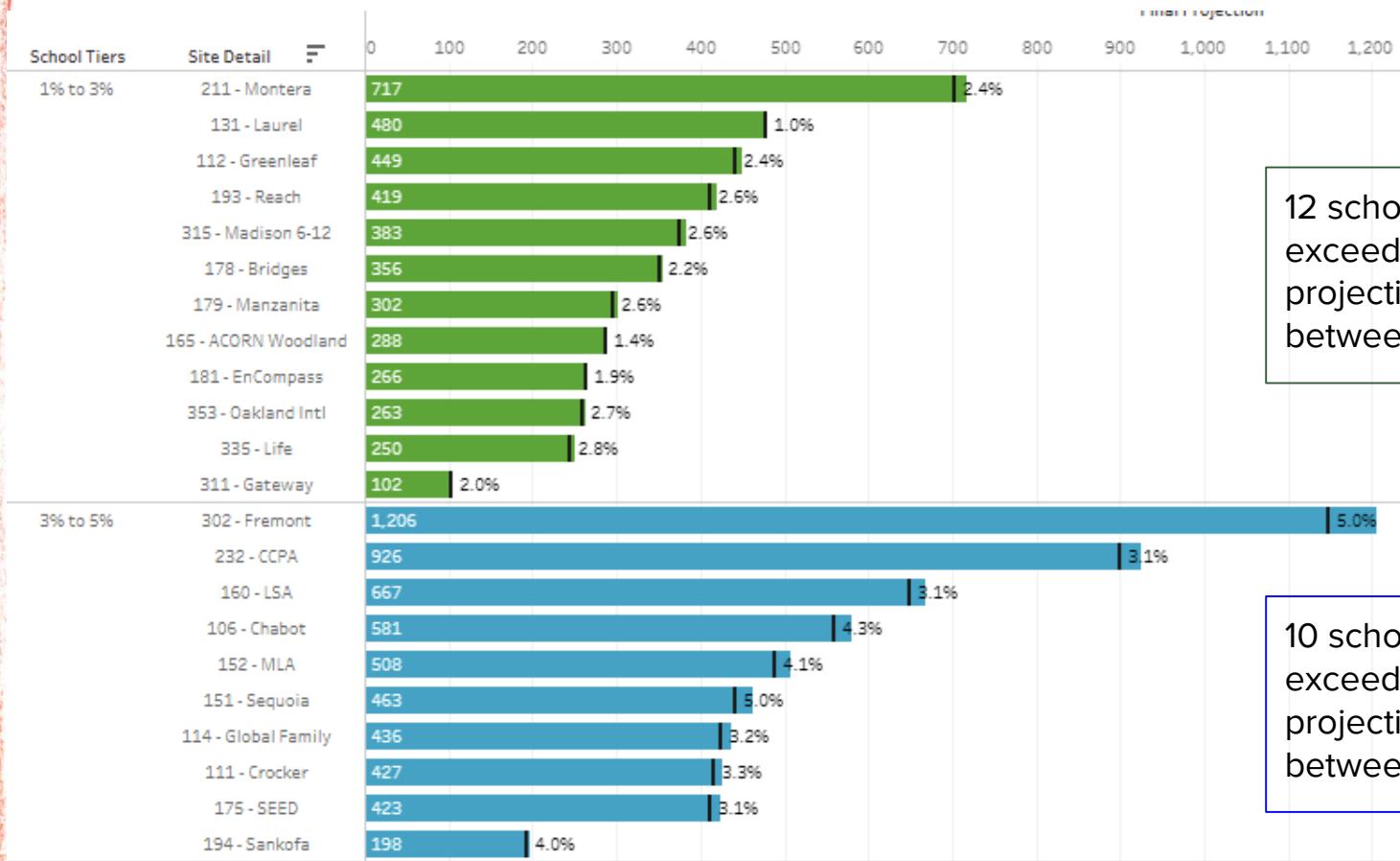


3 schools missed projections by more than 5%

3 schools missed projections between 3 and 5%

5 schools missed projections by less than 3%

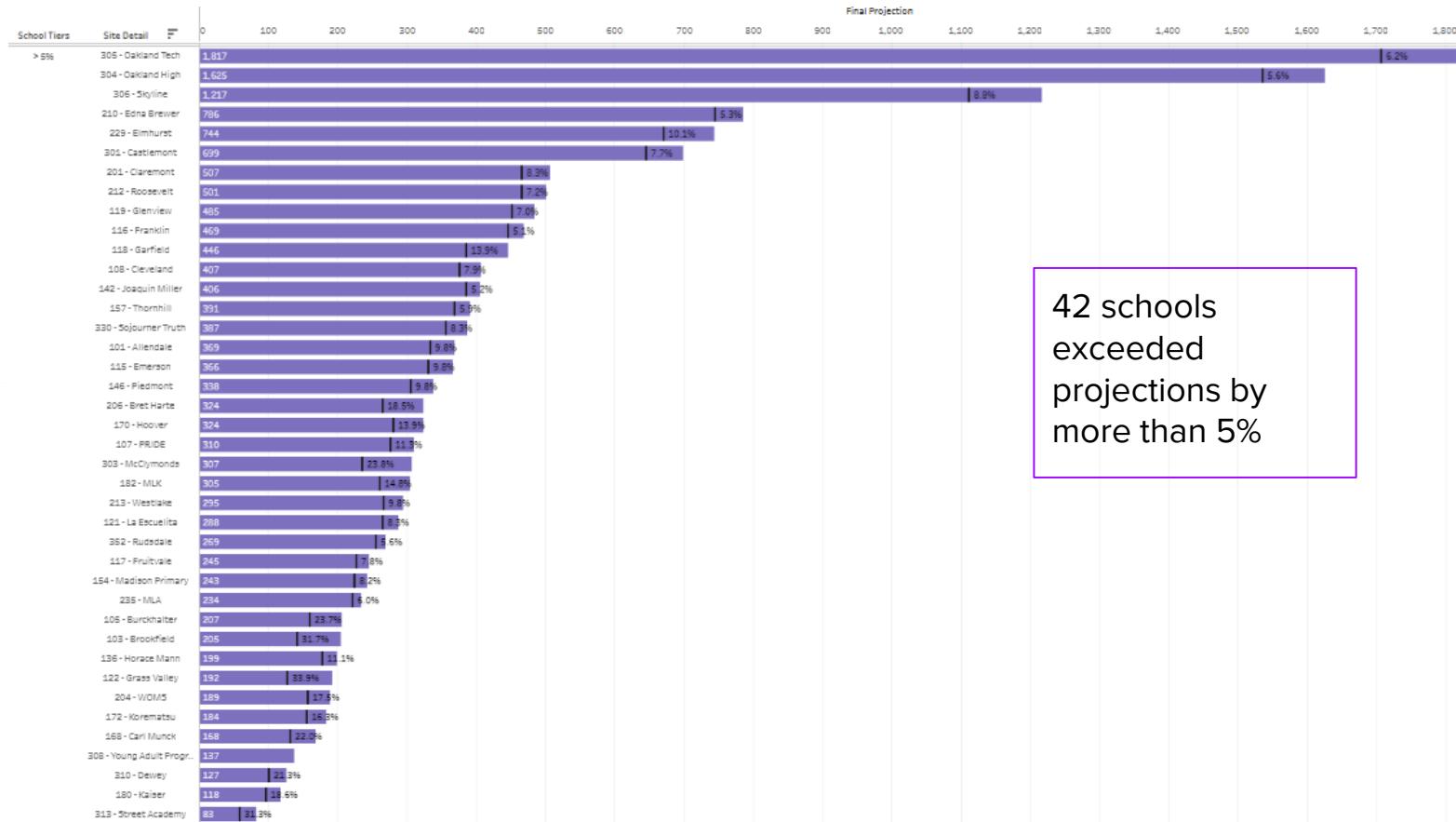
# School level analysis



12 schools exceeded projections between 1 and 3%

10 schools exceeded projections between 3 and 5%

# School level analysis

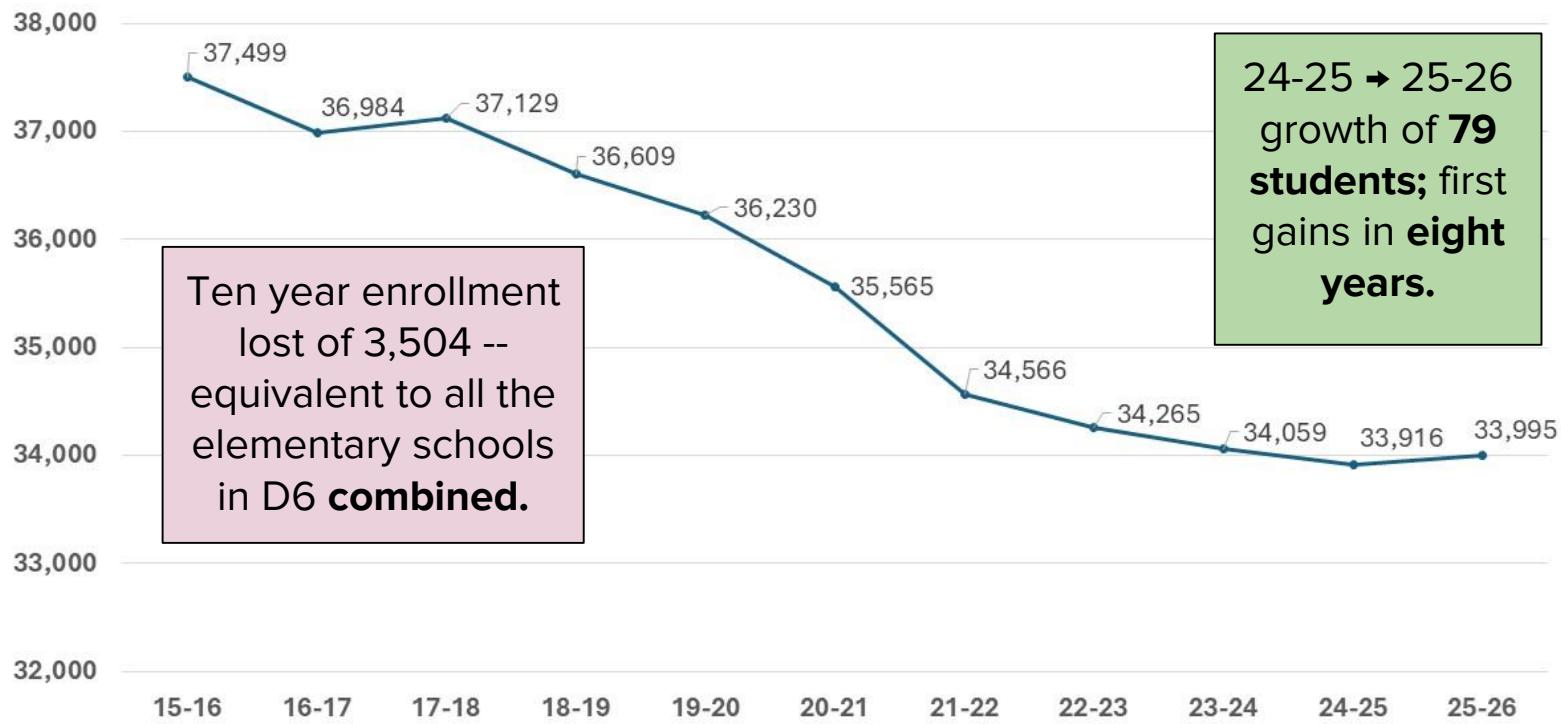


42 schools  
exceeded  
projections by  
more than 5%

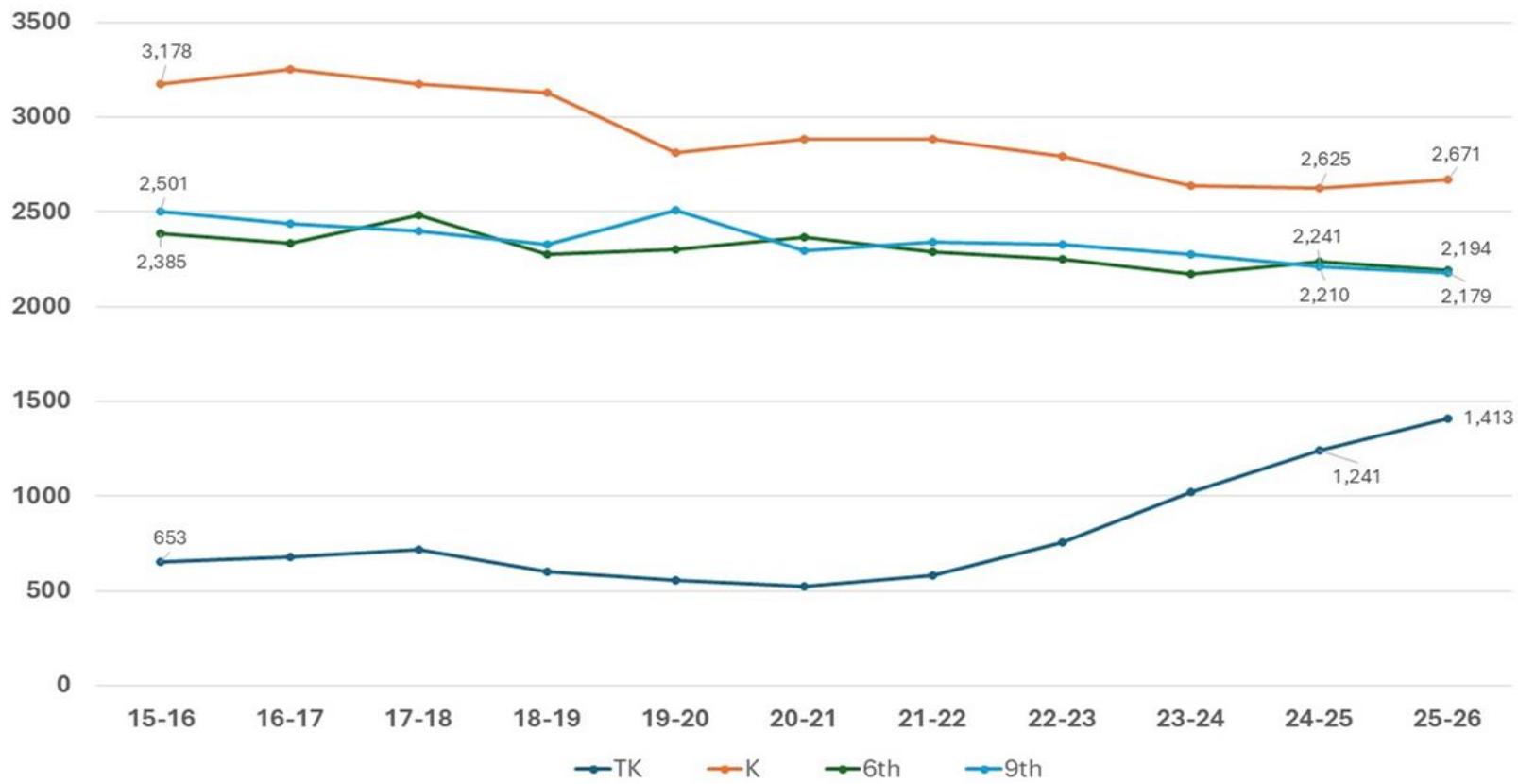
# 2025-2026 Enrollment Trends



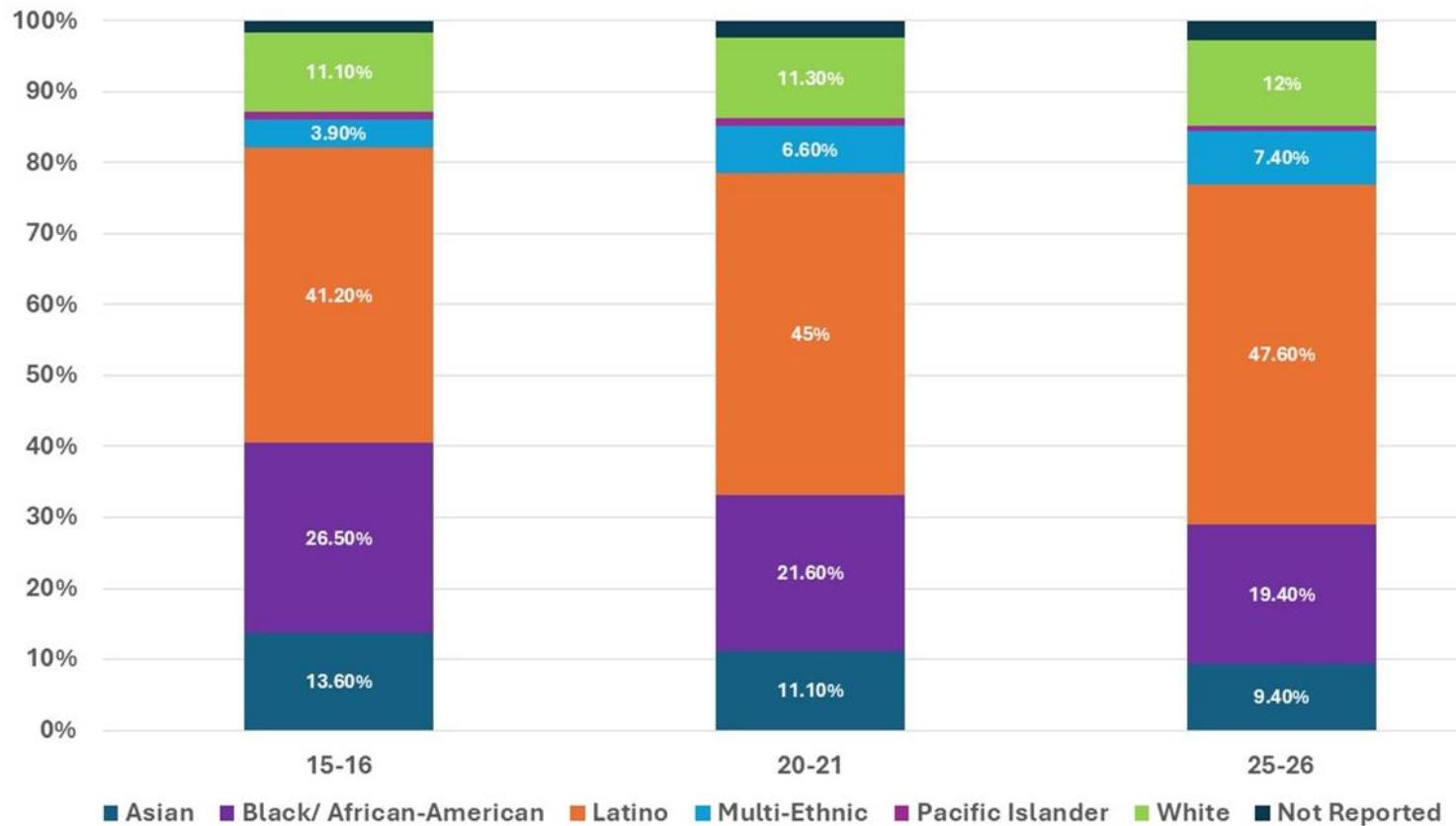
# District enrollment over time



# District enrollment over time: entry grade

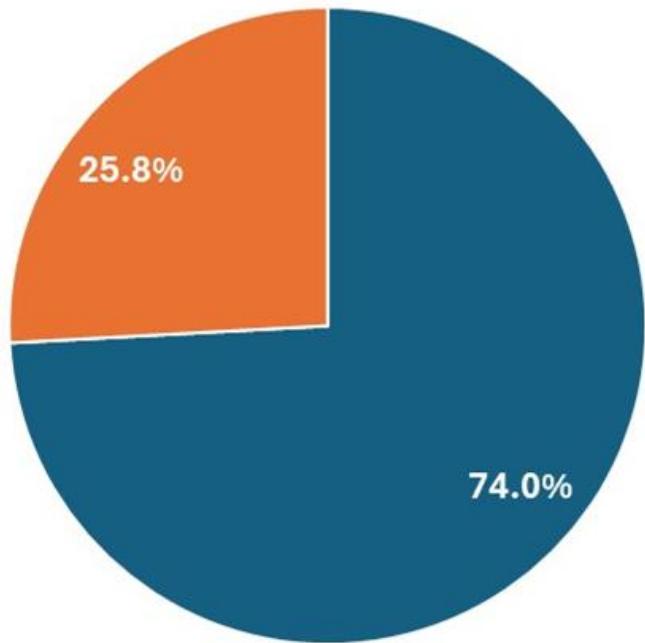


# District enrollment: ethnicity



# District enrollment: Title I qualification

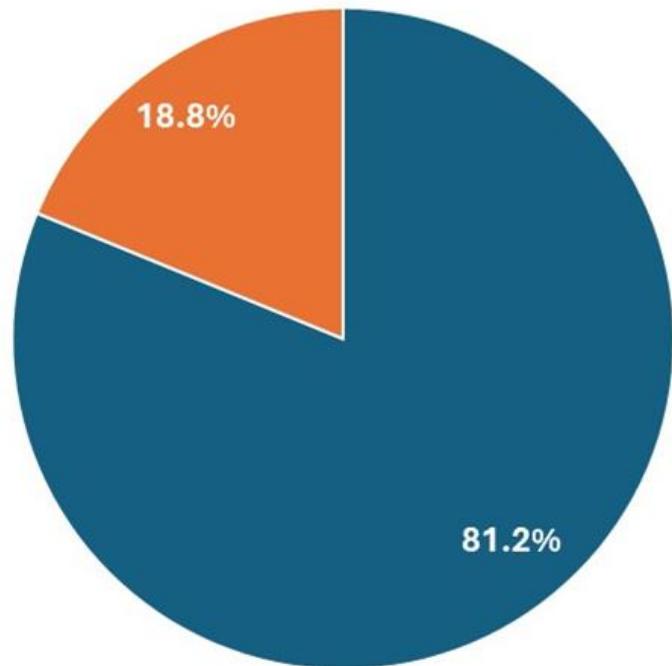
2015-2016



■ Title I ■ Non Title-I

2025-2026

The district experienced a **7.2 percentage point increase** in the proportion of low-income students over ten years.



■ Title I ■ Non Title-I

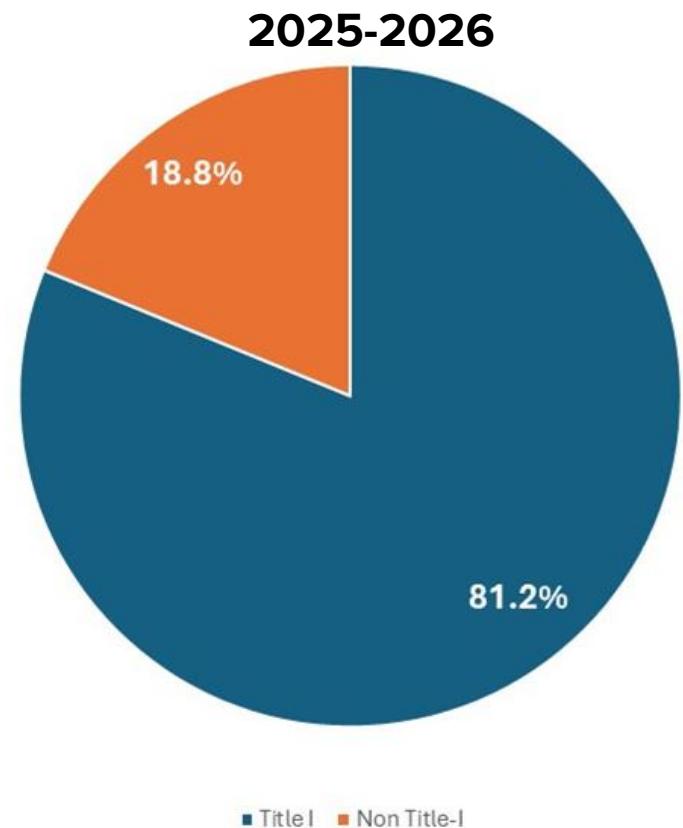
# District enrollment: Title I qualification

The percentage of low-income students increase in upper grades. Title I percentages 2025-2026:

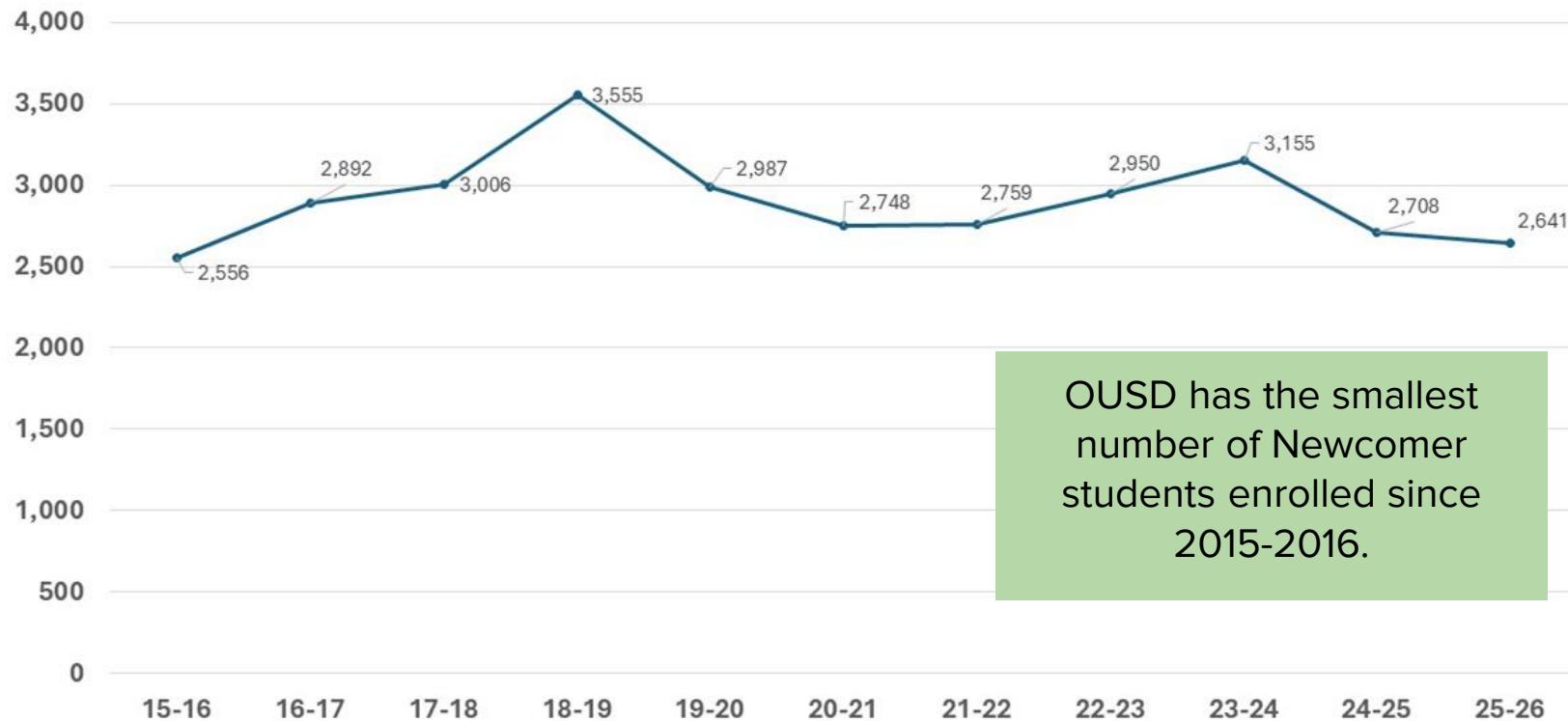
**TK: 68%**

**6th: 85%**

**12th: 87%**

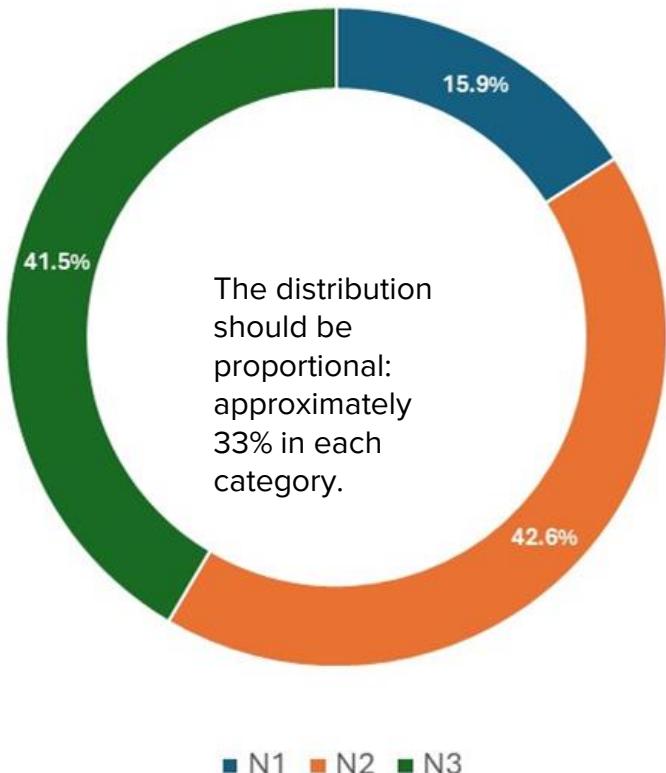


# District enrollment: Newcomers



OUSD has the smallest number of Newcomer students enrolled since 2015-2016.

# District enrollment: Newcomer Year



The uneven distribution of Newcomers (i.e. more N3 than N1) means that Newcomers will age out faster than they are “replaced,” thereby increasing the rate of enrollment decline in this subgroup. This pattern will continue given low rates of incoming Newcomers.

	<b>Newcomer students newly enrolled (N1) in TK-12</b>
<b>October 2023</b>	177
<b>October 2024</b>	71
<b>October 2025</b>	22

# Drivers of Enrollment Change



# 1) TK expansion

- TK enrollment increased 172 students (gen ed + SCP)
- TK demand in D1, D2, and D4 exceeds district capacity, with waitlists at or above 100 students
- **26-27** four new TK classes planned, including two hub sites
- TK expansion will slow to stagnate, absent larger scale planning for the creation of Early Childhood Education centers

## 2) Increased student retention

- TK to retention grew 4 percentage points to **87%** -- highest point since we have tracked these data
- **Middle School:** 5th → 6th retention flat after significant decline in 24-25
- **High School** 9th → 10th retention grew 3.7 percentage points *and* 10th → 11th retention grew 3.5 percentage points

# 3) Decline in Newcomer enrollment

- Disproportionately impacting secondary schools and communities that enrolled high percentages of unaccompanied minors
- In K-8, dual language schools are particularly vulnerable to the lack of Newcomers, as these programs rely on Newcomers for programmatic sustainability in upper grades
- **26-27** Ongoing decline prompting programmatic contractions

# 4) Increased enrollment from charters

- Historically, charter closures did not necessarily result in increased OUSD enrollment, but that trendline is changing.
- Percent enrolled in OUSD post-closure
  - ❖ NOCCS: 28%
  - ❖ Oakland Charter HS: 38%
  - ❖ Arum Prep: 46%
  - ❖ **Urban Montessori:** 53%
- There was a slight uptick in enrollment from non-closed charters, but this is not yet a trend
- The Urban Montessori-Brookfield merger may provide a model for future enrollment and programmatic improvements for OUSD

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a green polo shirt, sits at a wooden desk in a classroom. She is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression, her hand resting against her chin. Behind her, other students are visible, also seated at desks. The background is slightly blurred, focusing on the girl in the foreground.

# Looking Ahead

# Open enrollment is under way

## Key Dates

- *December 3rd*: On-time window opened
- *February 8th*: On-time window closes; all subsequent applications are “late.”
- *March 5th*: On-time offers released
- *1st week of April*: After-School Program offers released



# Enrollment innovation & reform

**Now families can submit After-School Program application at the same time, and through the same system, as regular school day applications.**

- ❖ Creates a standard, unified experience for all families
- ❖ Dramatically increases notification of After-School acceptance for all families
- ❖ Provides lead agencies with advanced notice on demand rates to support planning for staffing

# Enrollment Stabilization faces uncertain future

- The majority of Enrollment Stabilization work in 2025-2026 was funded with past year carry-over (i.e. almost no new funding)
- Currently, no funding has been identified to continue Enrollment Stabilization work for the 2026-2027 school year
- Absent shifts, enrollment support to schools and district-wide initiatives would end on June 30, 2026