



Maine Charter School Commission

School Performance Committee Meeting

Published on December 3, 2024 at 3:40 PM EST

Date and Time

Monday December 2, 2024 at 3:30 PM EST

Location

Zoom

Agenda

Purpose Presenter

I. Opening Items

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|----------------|
| A. Record Attendance | | Susan Whipkey |
| B. Call the Meeting to Order | | Tori Kornfield |

II. Agenda Items

- | | | |
|--|---------|------------|
| A. Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences' Request to Use Yurt for Classroom Space | Vote | Lana Ewing |
| B. SY2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns | Discuss | Lana Ewing |

- SY2024-25 School Enrollment Statistics
- SY2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns (DRAFT)

Purpose Presenter

III. Updates / FYIs / Reminders

A. Strategic Plan Workshop will be held December 10th from 10am-12pm FYI Lana Ewing

IV. Next Month's Topics

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting FYI Tori Kornfield

The Charter School Commission does not allow airing of complaints in public meetings regarding Commission and charter school employees or school employment matters, in order to protect employee privacy, to comply with Maine law and pursuant to our contractual relation with the schools. To the extent that the Commission receives complaints and concerns relating to school employees in writing, those concerns will be reviewed and addressed by the Commission and its staff outside of a public meeting. This meeting is not the appropriate forum for such comments. You are free to direct your concerns in writing to the Commission's Executive Director, if you have not done so already.

Coversheet

Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences' Request to Use Yurt for Classroom Space

Section: II. Agenda Items
Item: A. Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences' Request to Use Yurt for Classroom Space
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Fiddlehead Amendment Guide for New or Additional School Facility or Major Renovations (2).pdf
Revised Additional Information about Fiddlehead School's Yurt Request (1).docx



MAINE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

Charter Amendment Guide for

New Facility, Additional Facility, or Make Substantial Facility Renovations

Please Note – The school’s Amendment Request must be submitted at least 3 weeks prior to the next MCSC Business Meeting (held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month) in order to make it onto the agenda. In some cases, 3 weeks may not allow enough time for review and schools are encouraged to contact the office with questions.

Maine Charter School Commission
182 State House Station
Augusta, Maine
04333-0182
www.maine.gov/csc

Maine Charter School Commission
Charter Amendment Cover Sheet
Request to Change Facility, Additional Facility, or
Make Substantial Facility Renovations

School Information

Date of Request

October 22, 2024

School Name and Mailing Address	Fiddlehead School of Arts and Science, 25 Shaker Road, Gray, ME 04039
Contact	William Doughty, Board Chair; Jacinda Cotton Castro, Executive Director
Contact telephone number	Doughty: 207 400-7081; Jacinda: 207 212-5774
Contact email address	doughty.william@gmail.com ; jacinda@fiddleheadschoo.org

Provide a brief narrative description of the request.

This proposal seeks MCSC permission to use a 27' yurt erected in August 2024 to house one upper elementary grade (approximately 20 students) starting in the 2025-2026 school year.

Please see the attached sheet for answers to additional questions.

The completed Amendment Request must be uploaded and submitted to the Maine Charter School Commission through Epicenter.

On an additional page, please address the following criteria in your request, as applicable.

- Provide the address of the proposed location and interior and exterior images as available.
- Provide a current floor plan, and, if applicable, an anticipated floor plan if renovations will be done.
- Describe the financing plans and proposed budget for acquisition/rental of a facility and any necessary renovations to meet the school's needs, all local building requirements, and accessibility requirements.

- Provide the estimated number of students and grade levels to be served at the new or additional location.
- Describe how transportation services will be provided.
- Describe the benefit to the school and students resulting from the new/additional school facility.
- Discuss how the proposed new/additional facility contributes to the realization of the school's mission and vision.

Additional Information about Fiddlehead School's Yurt Request Prepared by Bill Doughty, October, 2024

1. **Location:** The yurt is located behind the school at 25 Shaker Road, Gray, ME 04039
2. **Floorplan:** The yurt is a circular structure with 27' diameter. It provides 530 square feet of instructional space in a circular floor plan.
3. **Financing:** The yurt was purchased in 2022 for \$27,000 with funds from the Fiddlehead reserve account for facilities. It was erected for approximately \$42,000 in late summer of 2024 with funds from the same source. Ongoing costs of electricity and maintenance will be integrated in the Fiddlehead budget for FY26.
4. **Students/grade level:** We expect to serve 20 students in one upper elementary grade from grade 2 upwards. The most likely choice at this time is grade 2. The classroom vacated within the Fiddlehead main building would serve a new section of preK (approximately 20 students) or a 3 year old program with the number of students yet to be determined, but not more than 20.
5. **Transportation:** Students in the yurt would use the same transportation as students in the main building since the yurt is about 50' from the back door of the school. Our students either ride the bus or are dropped off/picked up by their parents.
6. **Benefit to students and school:** The main benefit to students is that about 20 more students would have access to high quality preK instruction or a quality program for 3 year olds. (Note that preK or 3 year old classes would not be in the yurt. The yurt provides the capacity to vacate a classroom in the main building). The benefit to the school is that we can stabilize our enrollment without adding new students to middle school grades.
7. **Contribution to vision/mission:** From its inception, Fiddlehead has focused on the Reggio Emilio approach to early childhood education which supports emergent curriculum based on student needs and interests and high integration of the arts in the classroom. Outdoor education has emerged as a strong focus for all of Fiddlehead. Simply put, this proposal would allow Fiddlehead to double the number of early childhood students who benefit from our approach to early childhood education.
8. **Safety:** The safety plan for the yurt would be the same as for the main building. For a fire drill staff and students would evacuate and make their way to the meeting area. For a shelter in place the shades

would be closed. For an active shooter staff would follow ALICE procedures.

9. **Bathrooms:** Students would walk to the main building about 50' away. The bathrooms are immediately on the left after entering at the rear of the building. Teaching Assistants attend all specials with their class. They are available to escort students to and from the building.
10. **Heating/Cooling:** The yurt is heated/cooled by a heat pump. 11.
- Lunch:** Students at Fiddlehead eat lunch in their room or on the playground. We do not have a school lunch program.
12. **Outdoor activities:** Recess takes place on the playground outside the yurt. Our part-time art and Spanish class already use the yurt during that time without any more interruption than a regular classroom at the back of the building receives.
13. **Special Classes:** Our part time Spanish and art classes will move back into the main building. Both classes will be offered in the regular classrooms as they were before the yurt became available.
14. **Pictures:** See photo below.
15. **Better than portables:** compared to portable classrooms, yurts are more sightly, more affordable, more flexible and equally safe.
16. **Additional information:** Other public schools in Maine already use yurts as classrooms. They include:
 - **Agnes Gray Elementary School:** In West Paris, this school has a yurt classroom that's used for science, environment, and ecological curriculum. The yurt was built with a grant from the Maine Department of Education's Rethinking Remote Education Ventures.
 - **Surry Elementary School:** This school has a yurt that's used as a pandemic classroom.
 - **Five Town district in coastal Camden:** This district has four heated yurts that are used as winter classrooms.







Coversheet

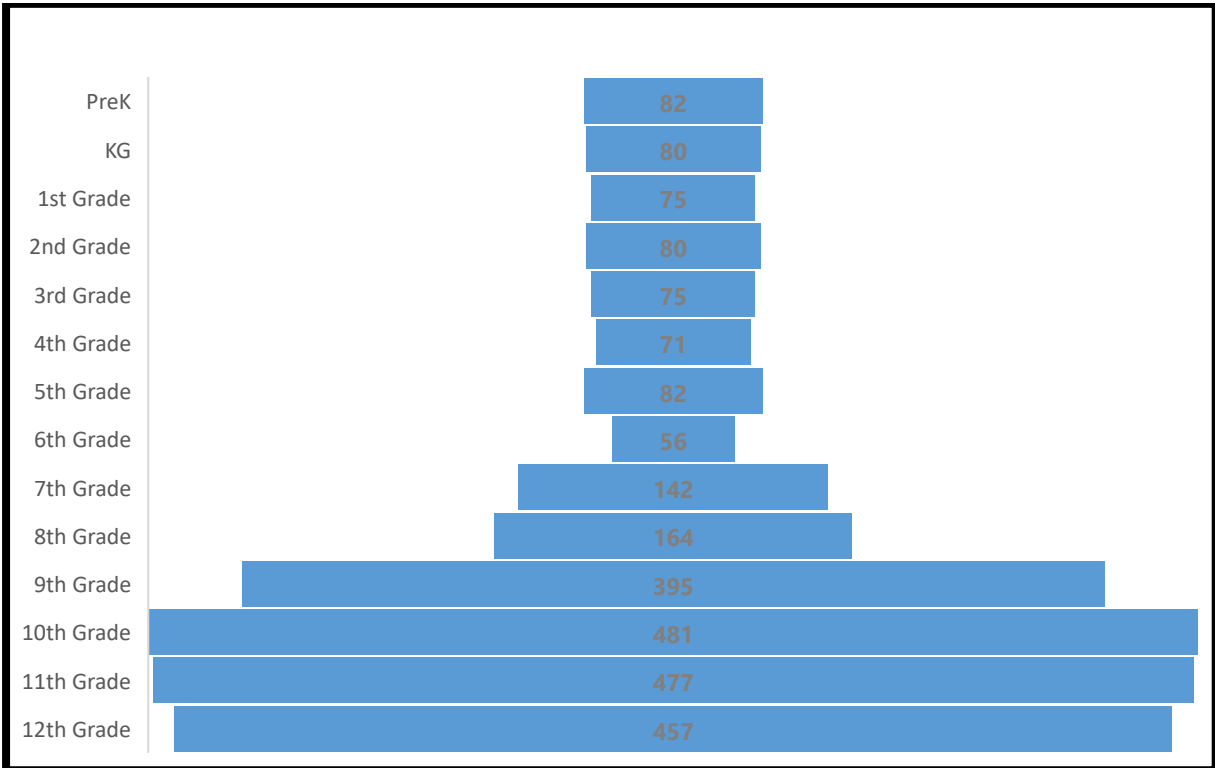
SY2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns

Section: II. Agenda Items
Item: B. SY2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns
Purpose: Discuss
Submitted by:
Related Material: 2024-25 School Enrollment Statistics.pdf
School Year 2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns.pdf

School	Grades Served	Contracted Enrollment (+/-10%)	Actual Enrollment	Number on Waiting List	Special Education Count	Special Education Percentage	Economically Disadvantaged Count	Economically Disadvantaged Percentage
ACADIA Academy	PreK-6	272 (245-299)	250	0	46	18.40%	80	32.00%
Baxter Academy for Technology and Science	9-12	400 (360-441)	384	0	84	21.88%	77	20.05%
Community Regional Charter School	PreK-12	352 (317-387)	385	7	91	23.64%	271	70.39%
Ecology Learning Center	9-12	120 (108-132)	120	0	32	26.67%	43	35.83%
Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences	PreK-8	208 (187-229)	177	60	51	28.81%	50	28.25%
Maine Academy of Natural Sciences	9-12	190 (171-209)	177	39	41	23.16%	126	71.19%
Maine Arts Academy	9-12	220 (198-242)	245	0	42	17.14%	100	40.82%
Maine Connections Academy	7-12	500 (Maximum Enrollment)	504	263	110	21.83%	260	51.59%
Maine Virtual Academy	7-12	450 (405-495)	475	127	116	24.42%	231	48.63%
Totals			2717	496	613		1238	
					2022-23 State Average	19.50%	2022-23 State Average	36.10%

DRAFT School Year 2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns

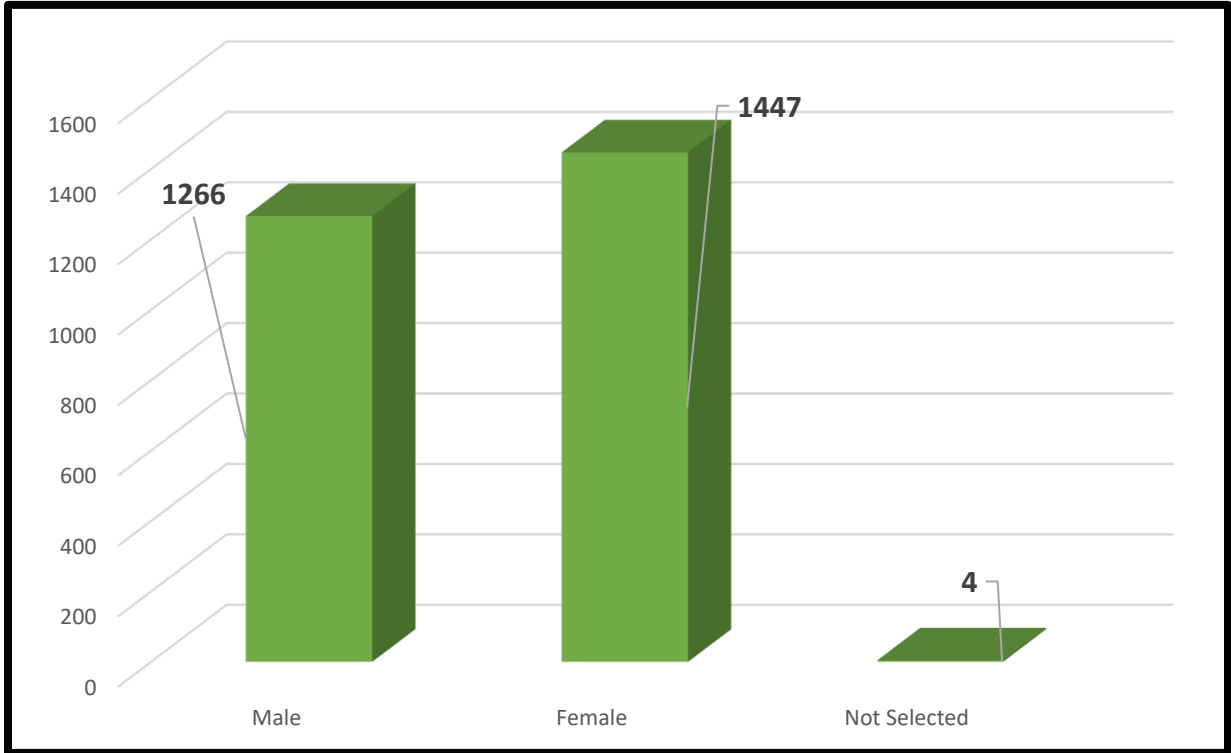
Grade



	ACADIA	Baxter	CRCS	ELC	FSAS	MCA	MeAA	MeANS	MeVA
PreK	32		30		20				
KG	32		28		20				
1st	33		21		21				
2nd	32		27		21				
3rd	33		24		18				
4th	32		22		17				
5th	34		29		19				
6th	22		23		11				
7th			20		14	70			38
8th			20		16	97			31
9th		94	28	36		69	63	28	77
10th		105	33	28		84	60	49	122
11th		96	38	27		92	59	49	116
12th		89	42	29		92	63	51	91

DRAFT School Year 2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns

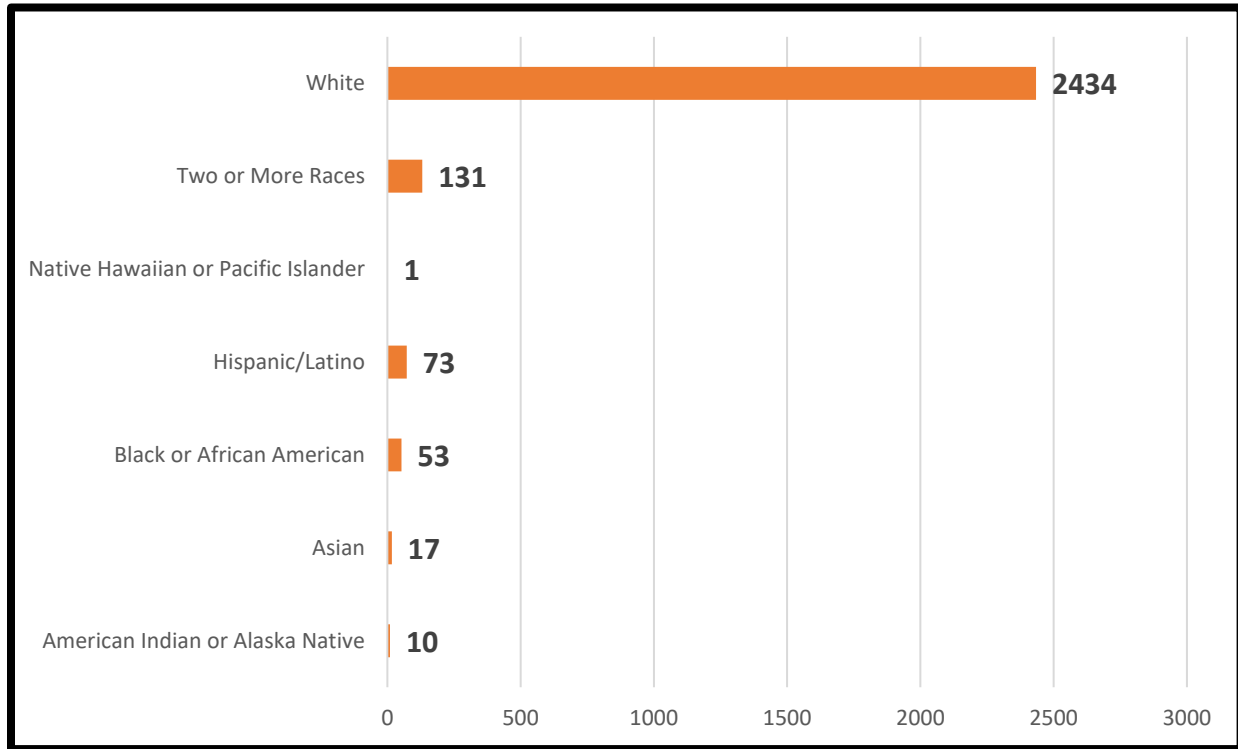
Gender



	Male		Female		Not Selected	
ACADIA	119	48%	131	52%		
Baxter	226	59%	158	41%		
CRCS	207	54%	178	46%		
ELC	57	48%	61	51%	2	1%
FSAS	98	55%	79	45%		
MCA	212	42%	292	58%		
MeAA	42	17%	202	82%	1	1%
MeANS	95	54%	82	46%		
MeVA	210	44%	264	55%	1	1%

DRAFT School Year 2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns

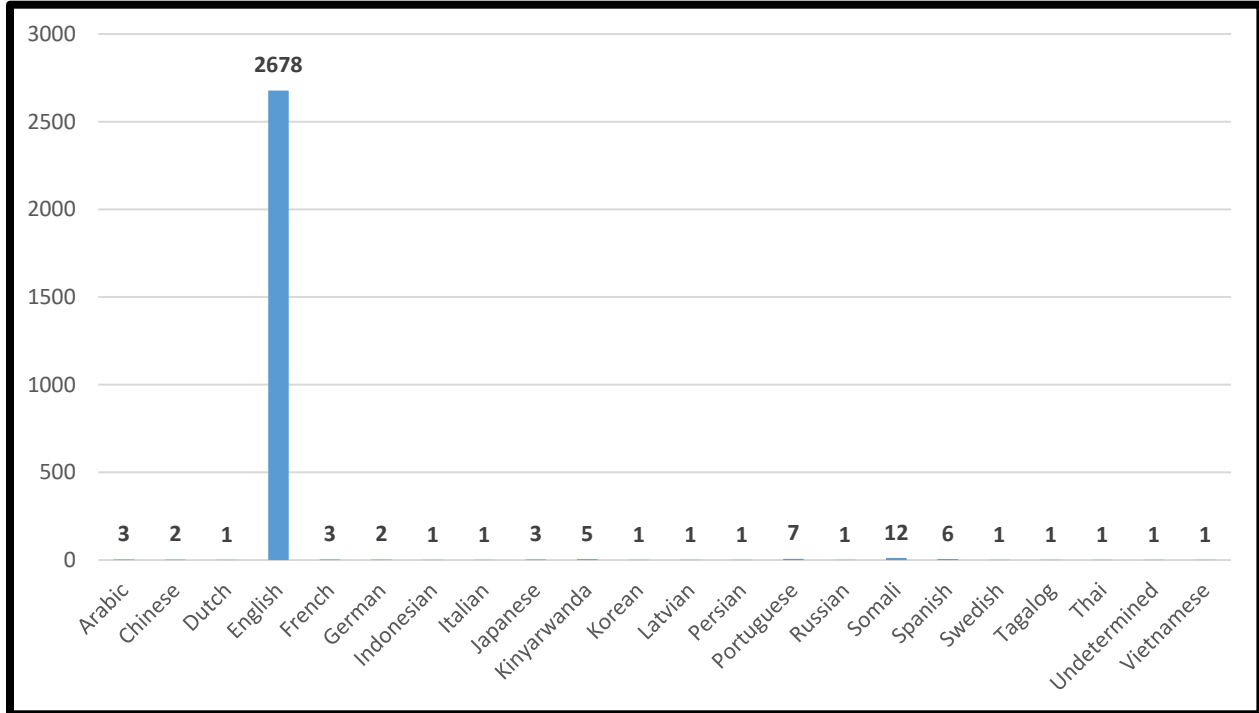
Race/Ethnicity



	ACADIA	Baxter	CRCS	ELC	FSAS	MCA	MeAA	MeANS	MeVA
White	218	335	355	111	163	449	220	166	417
Two or More Races	13	18	18	5	7	26	13	3	28
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander						1			
Hispanic/Latino	4	6	11	2	5	10	10	4	21
Black or African American	14	16		2	1	15		1	4
Asian	1	9				2	2		3
American Indian or Alaska Native			1		1	4		1	3

DRAFT School Year 2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns

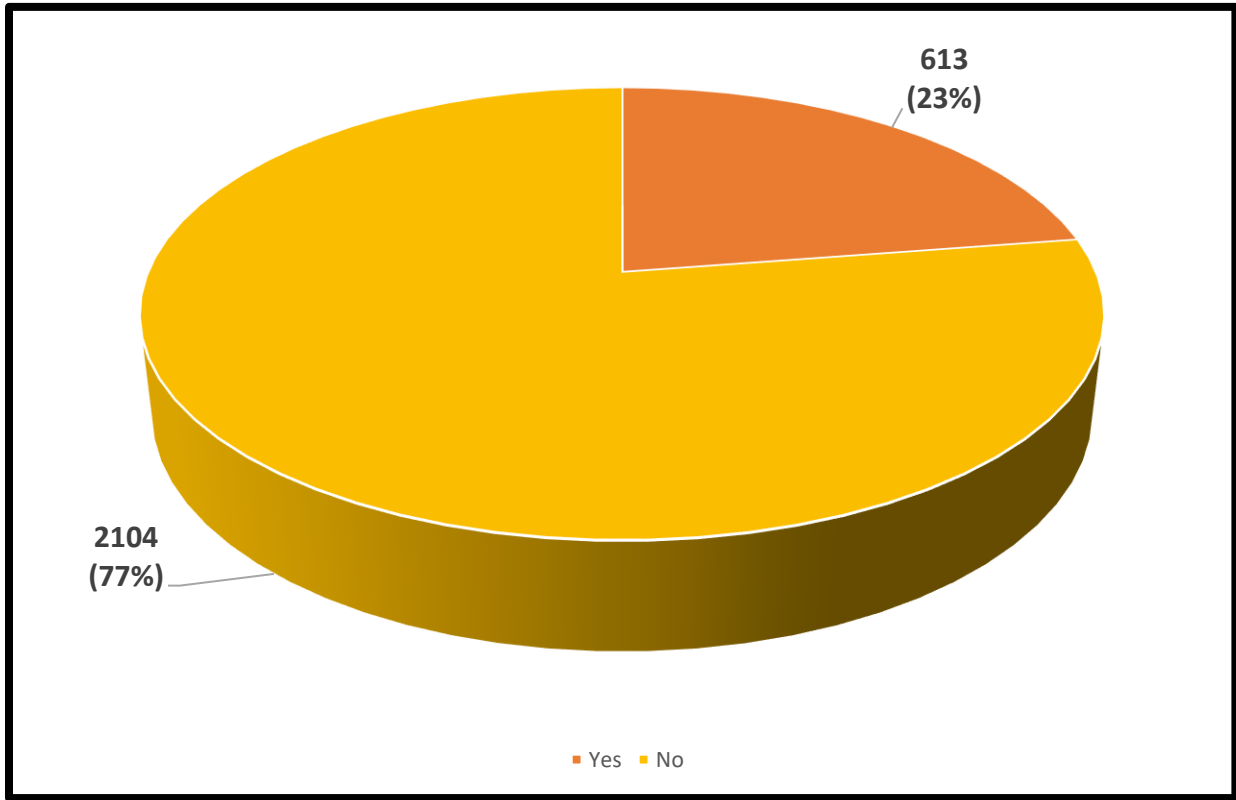
Language



	ACADIA	Baxter	CRCS	ELC	FSAS	MCA	MeAA	MeANS	MeVA
Arabic							1	2	
Chinese		1							
Dutch							1		
English	246	362	384	119	175	502	238	175	440
French		2							
German		2							
Indonesian							1		
Italian		1							
Japanese		2					1		
Kinyarwanda	3	2							
Korean		1							
Latvian							1		
Persian						1			
Portuguese		6				1			
Russian							1		
Somali		3				4			
Spanish			1	1	2				2
Swedish		1							
Tagalog						1			
Thai							1		
Undetermined		1							
Vietnamese						2			

DRAFT School Year 2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns

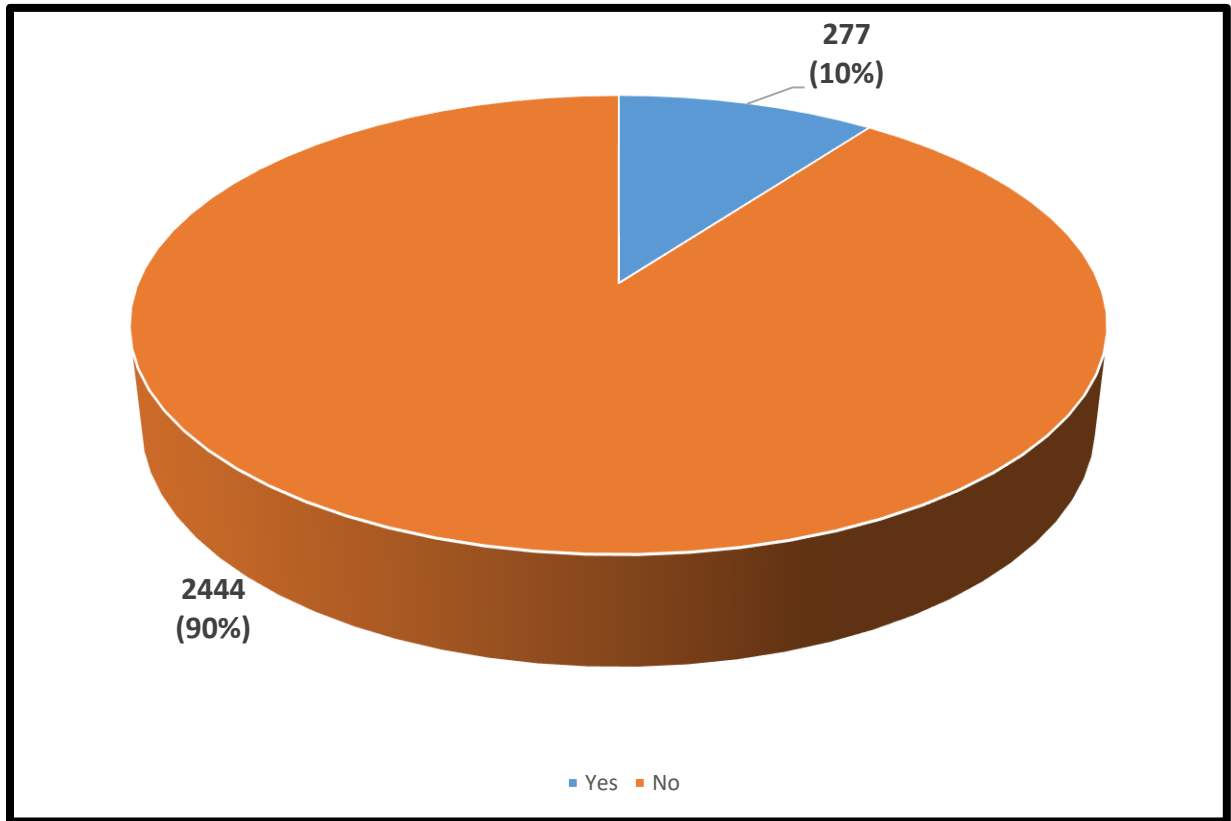
Special Education



	Yes		No	
ACADIA	46	18%	204	82%
Baxter	84	22%	300	78%
CRCS	91	24%	294	76%
ELC	32	27%	88	73%
FSAS	51	29%	126	71%
MCA	110	22%	394	78%
MeAA	42	17%	203	83%
MeANS	41	23%	136	77%
MeVA	116	24%	359	76%

DRAFT School Year 2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns

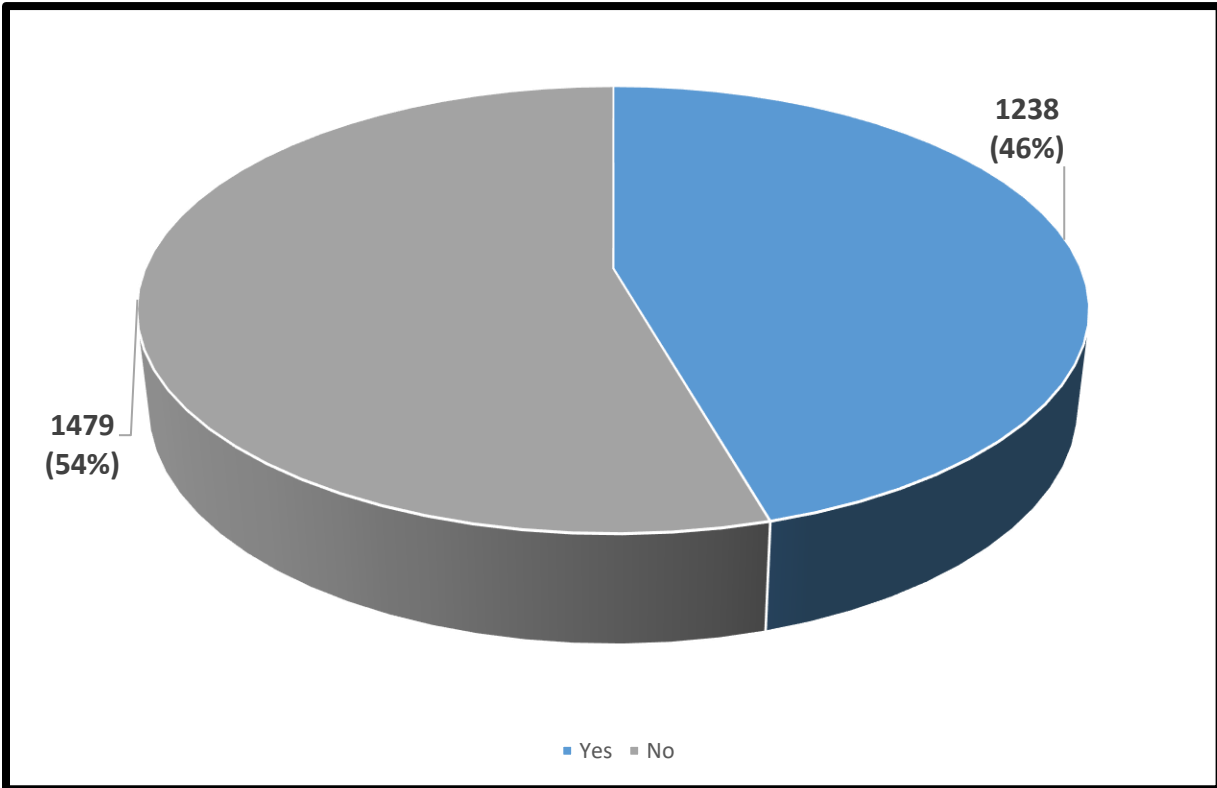
504 Plan



	Yes		No	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
ACADIA	17	7%	233	93%
Baxter	51	13%	333	87%
CRCS	10	3%	375	97%
ELC	1	1%	119	99%
FSAS	13	7%	164	93%
MCA	77	15%	430	85%
MeAA	49	20%	196	80%
MeANS	22	12%	155	88%
MeVA	37	8%	439	92%

DRAFT School Year 2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns

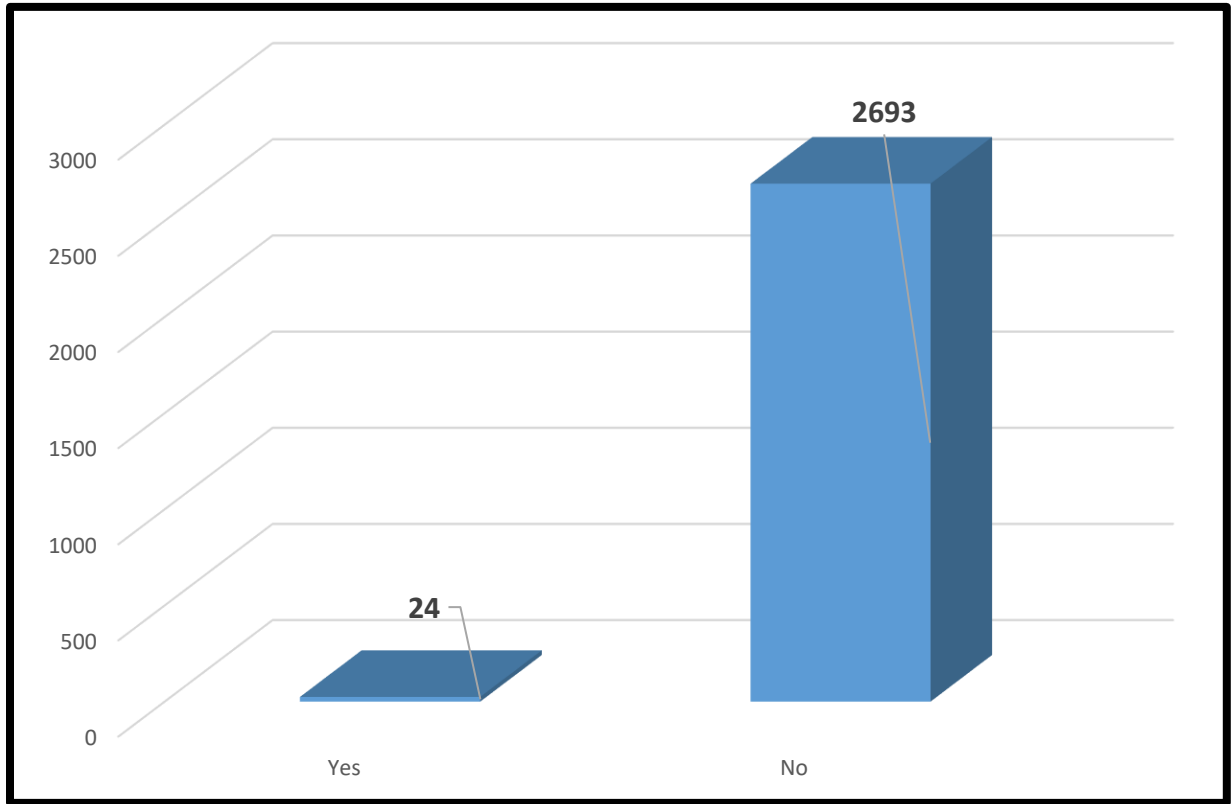
Economically Disadvantaged



	Yes		No	
ACADIA	80	32%	170	68%
Baxter	77	20%	307	80%
CRCS	271	70%	114	30%
ELC	43	36%	77	64%
FSAS	50	28%	127	72%
MCA	260	52%	244	48%
MeAA	100	41%	145	59%
MeANS	126	71%	51	29%
MeVA	231	49%	244	51%

DRAFT School Year 2024-25 Demographic Data Breakdowns

English Learner



	Yes	No
ACADIA	2	248
Baxter	10	374
CRCs	0	385
ELC	1	119
FSAS	1	176
MCA	5	499
MeAA	1	244
MeANS	1	176
MeVA	3	472