

SY26 Enrollment Trends

Sara Kempner, Ph.D.

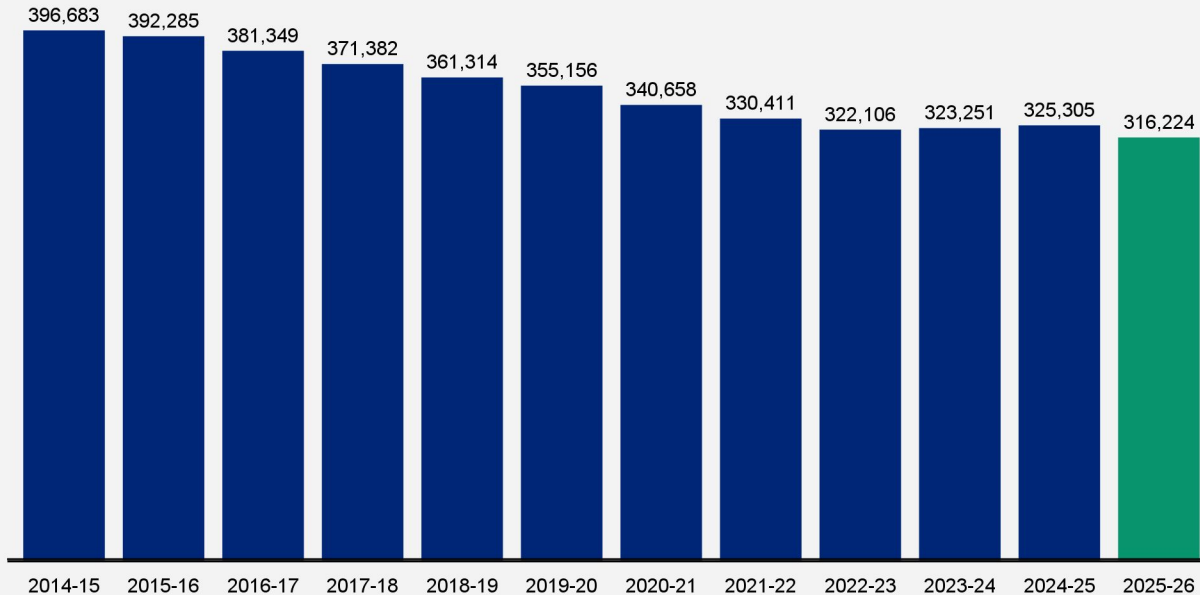
Executive Director, Data Science, Insights, and Research

Data Science, Insights, and Research

Planning and Data Management
and other teams

Number of Students Enrolled on 20th Day

Broken out by **School Year**

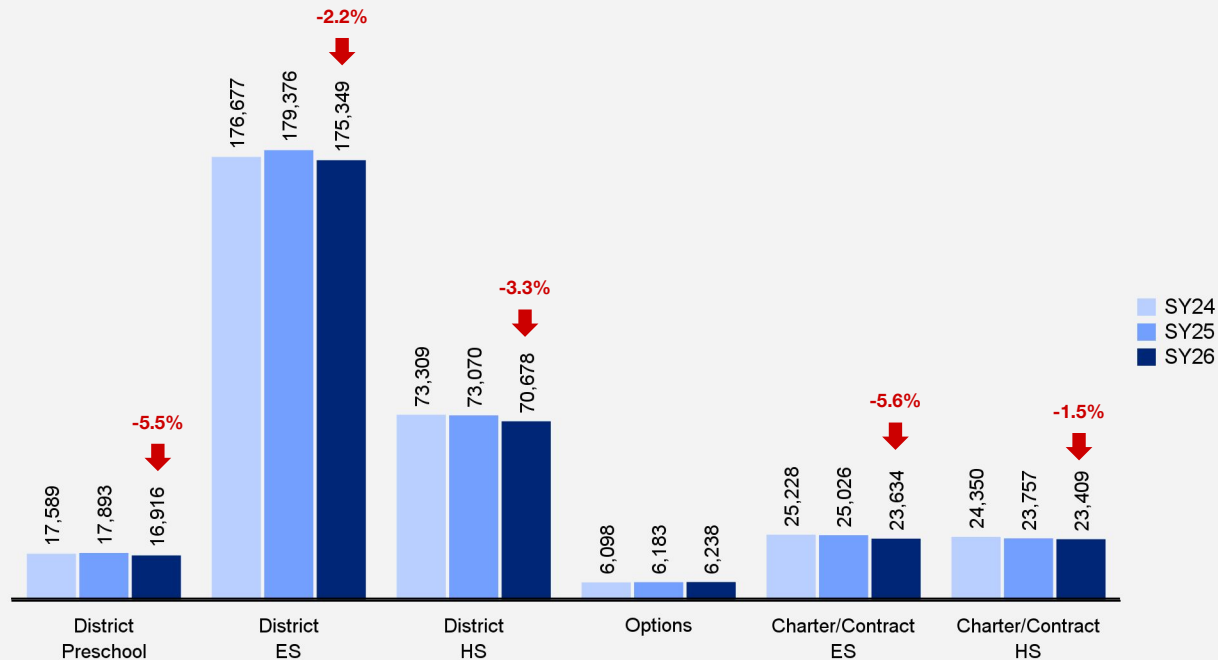


20th Day enrollment had been decreasing since before SY15. After slight increases in SY24 and SY25, enrollment has decreased again this year.

20th Day enrollment decreased just over 9k from last year.

Number of Students Enrolled on 20th Day

Broken out by **School Type**



Enrollment counts and demographics as of 20th day in each specified year.

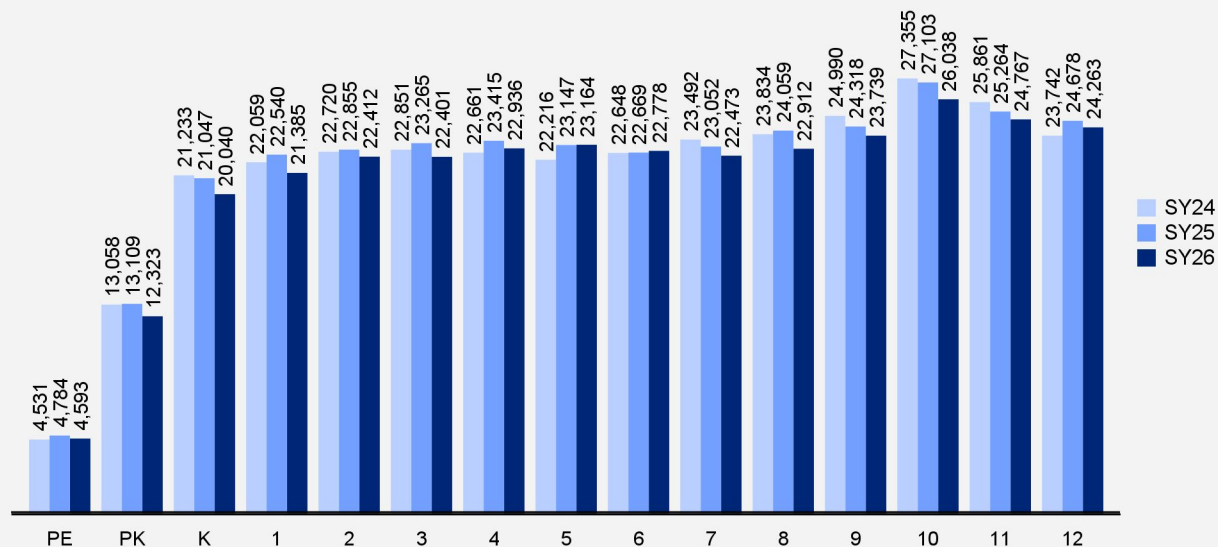
District Preschool includes all students in grades PE and PK at District-managed schools (including PE/PK-8 schools)

All students enrolled in the Virtual Academy are tied to their brick and mortar schools for the purposes of 20th day reporting.

Enrollment decreases have been most visible most among Elementary Schools. Enrollment for District Preschool and Options schools increased since SY24 but decreased from SY25 to SY26.

Number of Students Enrolled on 20th Day

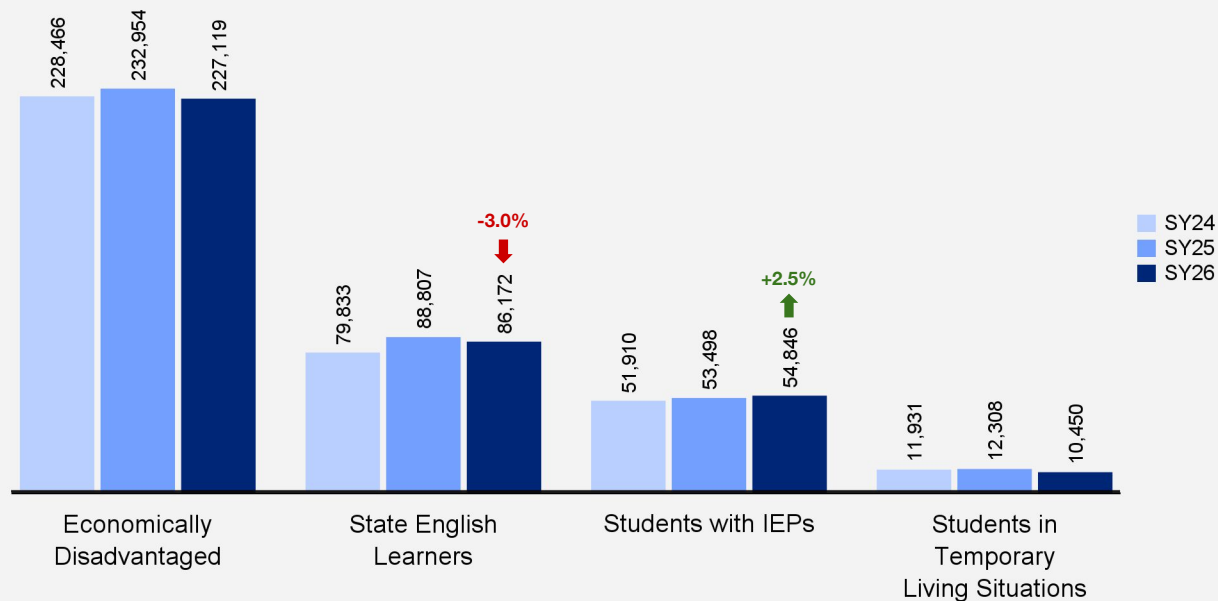
Broken out by **Grade Level**



Most grade levels had decreasing enrollments from SY25 to SY26, with the greatest decreases happening in Grades PK, 1 and 8. However, there were slight increases in enrollment for Grades 5 and 6.

Number of Students Enrolled on 20th Day

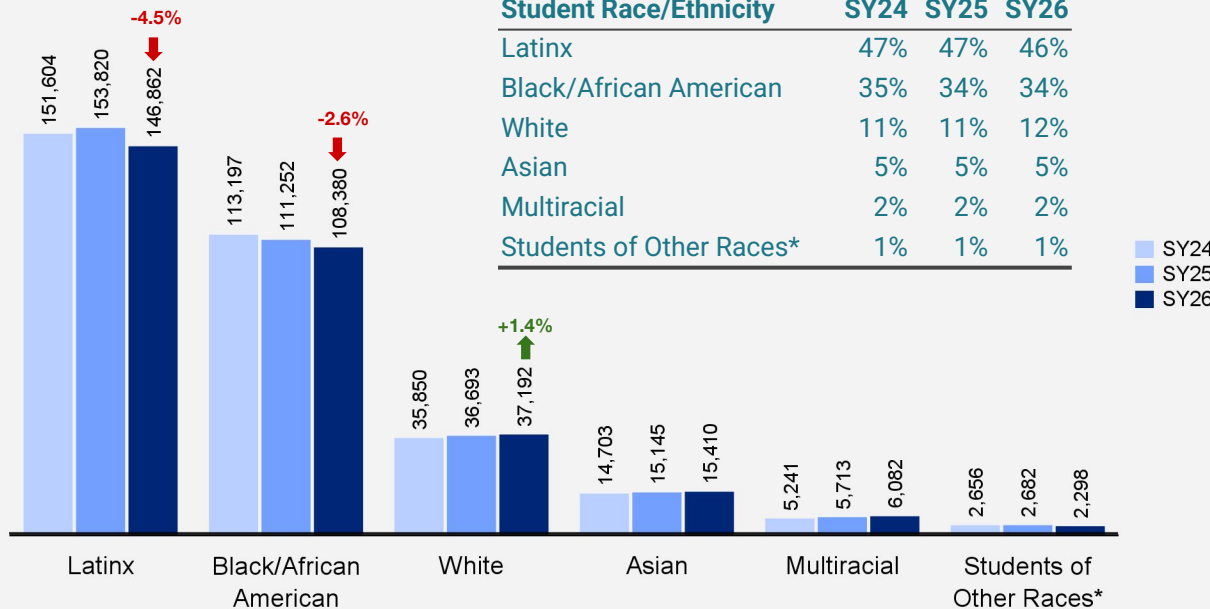
Broken out by **Priority Group**



Enrollment decreased among most priority groups in SY26. The only increase was seen among Students with IEPs.

Number of Students Enrolled on 20th Day

Broken out by **Race/Ethnicity**



In SY26, enrollment declined most among Latinx and Black/African American students, the two racial/ethnic groups that make up the largest share of CPS students. Enrollment increased or stayed steady for all other racial/ethnic groups.

*Students of Other Races' include American Indian/Alaska Native, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern or North African, & N/A. Enrollment counts and demographics as of 20th day in each specified year.
In the Percent of Total Students table, percentages will not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Changes in Student Residing Population SY24 to SY26

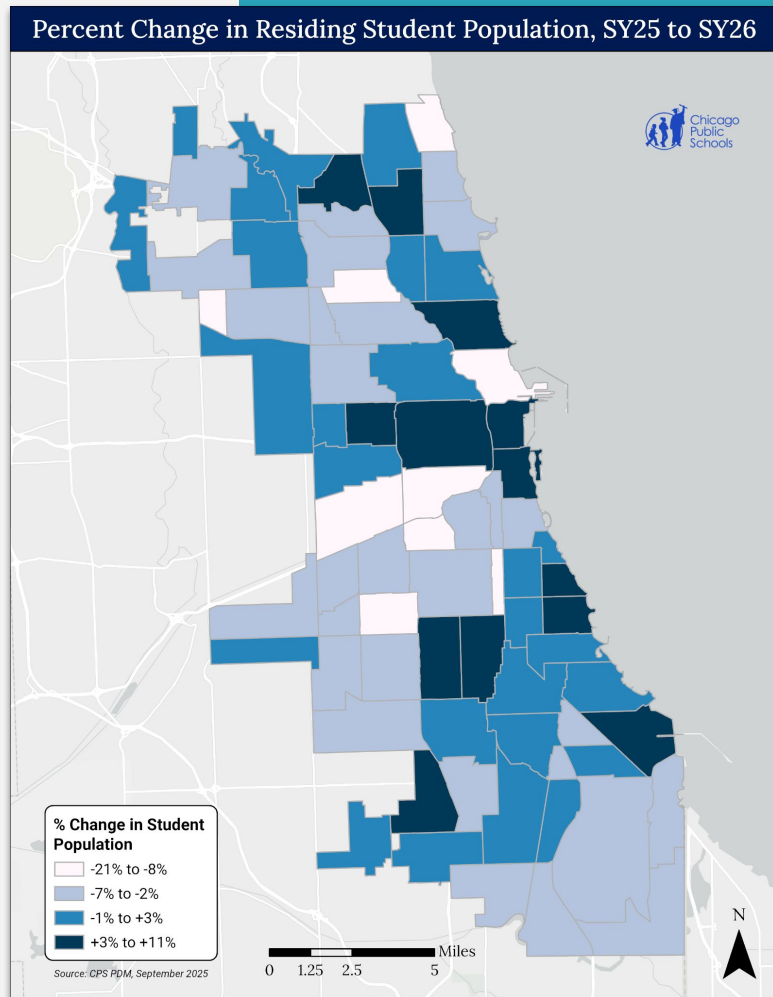
Broken out by **Student Residing Community Area**

Communities with the largest **decreases** in student population:

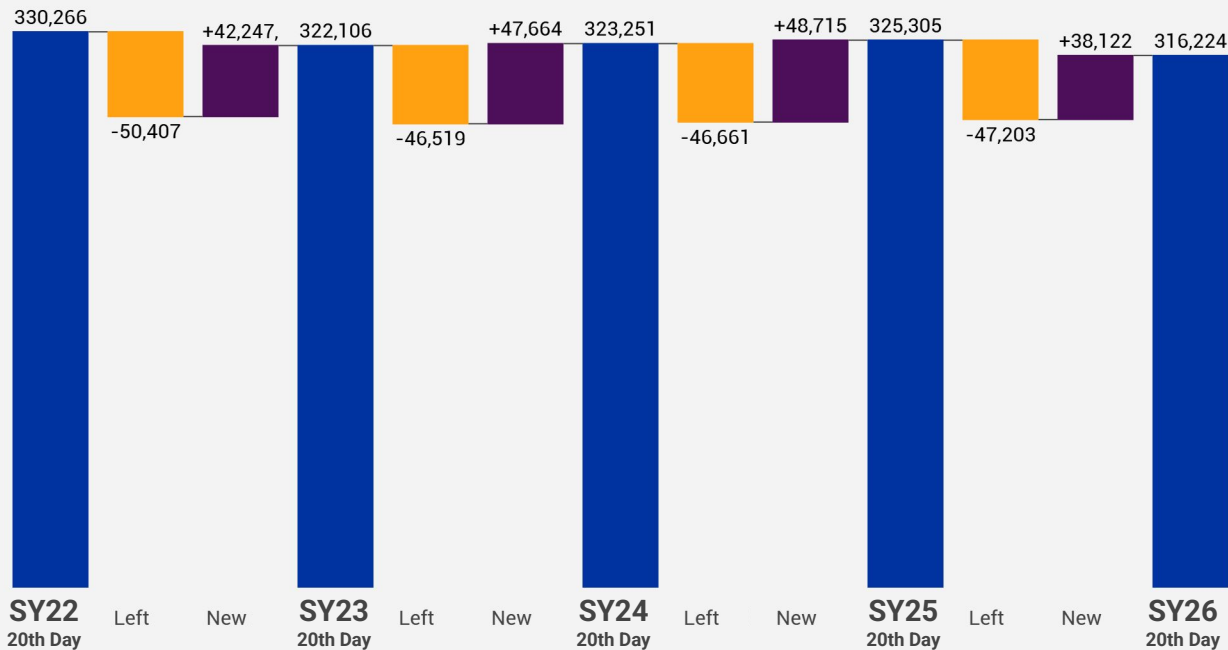
- Near North Side - 20.6%
- Fuller Park - 11.6%
- Lower West Side - 10.3%
- South Lawndale - 10.0%
- McKinley Park - 9.2%

Communities with the largest **increases** in student population:

- Lincoln Park + 11.3%
- South Chicago + 8.1%
- Kenwood + 7.4%
- Hyde Park + 7.4
- Beverly + 6.5%



Year-Over-Year Students In and Students Out



School year counts represent the number of students enrolled on 20th Day.
"Left" represents students enrolled in 20th Day that were not enrolled in the following year's 20th Day.
"New" represents students enrolled in the following year's 20th Day were not in the prior year's 20th Day

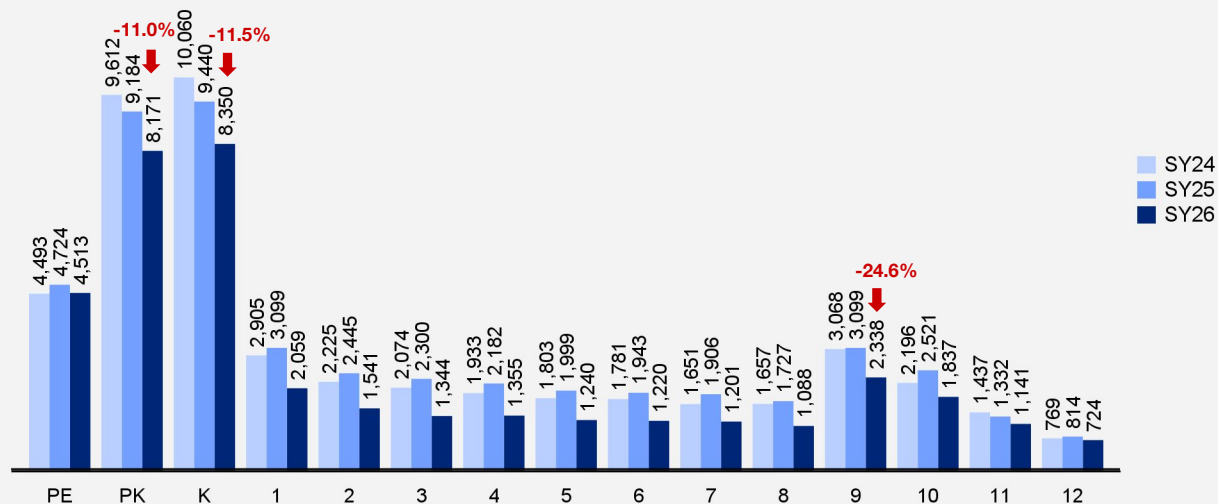
The decrease in enrollment this year was primarily due to a drop in new students enrolling as we saw relatively steady numbers of students leaving. The number of new students in SY26 is 10,591 fewer than in SY25 while 536 more students left.

New Students

Students who were not enrolled on the 20th day in the previous school year,
but are enrolled on the 20th day the next school year

Number of New Students Enrolled on 20th Day

Broken out by **Grade Level**



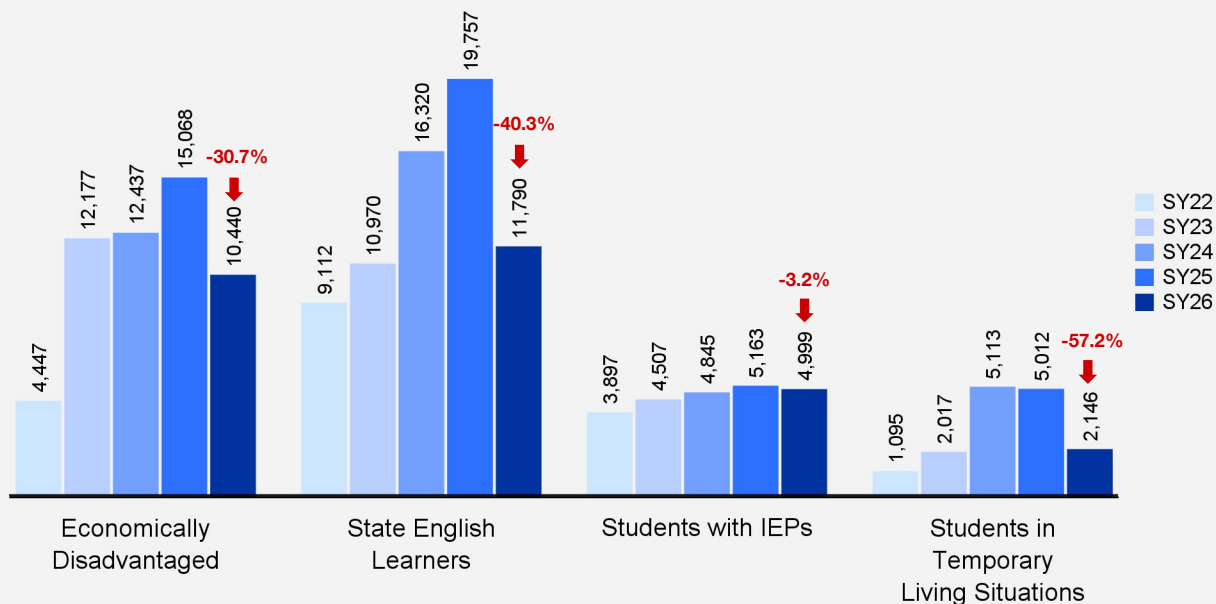
Most new students enroll in grades PE, PK, and K, with an additional influx in 9th and 10th grade.

Enrollment of new students from SY25 to SY26 decreased among all grade levels. For grade PE, however, the number of new students enrolled on 20th day in SY26 still remains higher than in SY24.

Counts represent the number of students who were new to the district from the 20th day of the first year to the 20th day of the second year. Grade level represents the students' grade level on the 20th day in the second year.

Number of New Students Enrolled on 20th Day

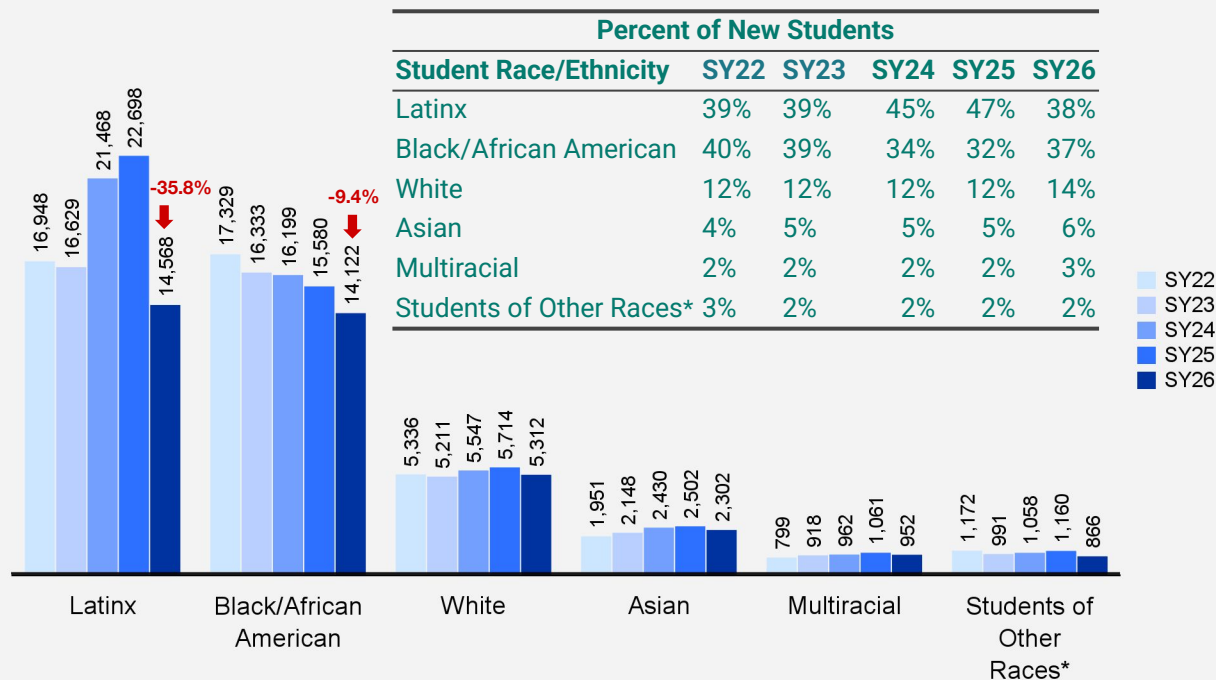
Broken out by **Priority Group**



Of new students enrolled in CPS this year, significantly fewer were identified as Economically Disadvantaged, State English Learners, or Students in Temporary Living Situations. There was small decrease in the number of new Students with IEPs.

Number of New Students Enrolled on 20th Day

Broken out by Race/Ethnicity



Students of Other Races include American Indian/Alaska Native, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern or North African, & N/A. Counts represent the number of students who were new to the district from the 20th day of the first year to the 20th day of the second year. Grade level represents the students' grade level on the 20th day in the second year.

The number of new students decreased from SY25 to SY26 across all racial/ethnic groups. This decrease is most dramatic among Latinx students (-35.8%). The share of all new students that are Latinx (38%) is now much closer to the share of students that are Black/African American (37%).

Percent of New Students Residing

Broken out by **Student Residing Community Area**

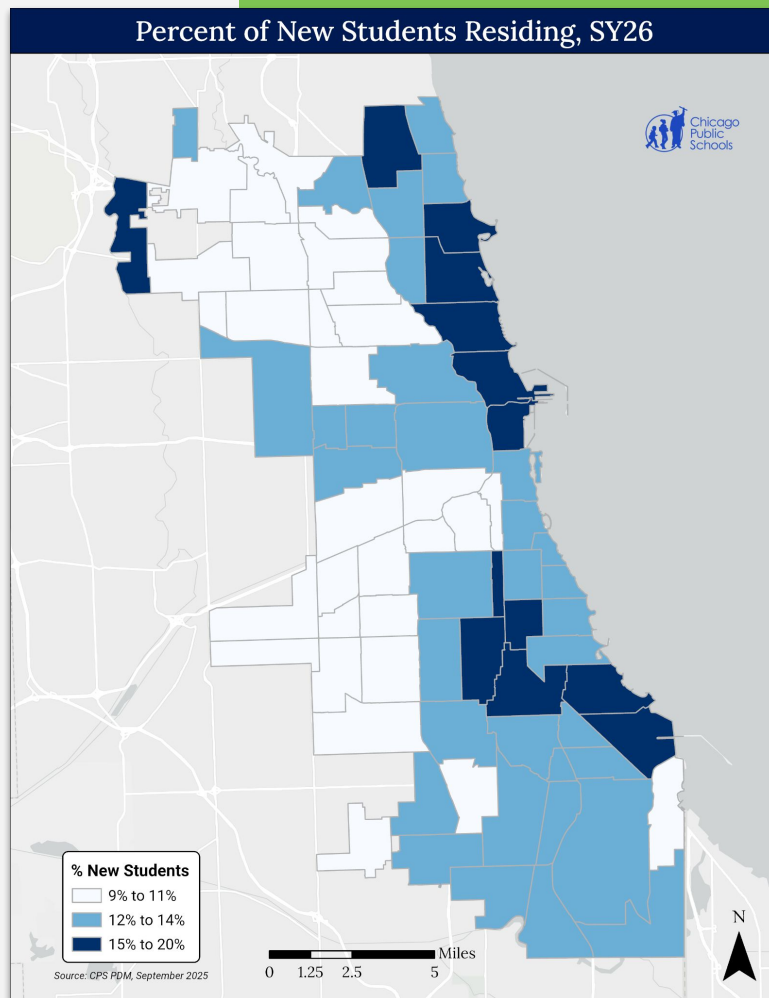
Communities with the **lowest** percentage of new students residing:

- Brighton Park 8.5%
- McKinley Park 8.8%
- Gage Park/West Elsdon 9.1%
- Forest Glen/Archer Height/South Lawndale 9.2%
- Belmont Cragin 9.3%

Communities with the **largest** percentage of new students residing:

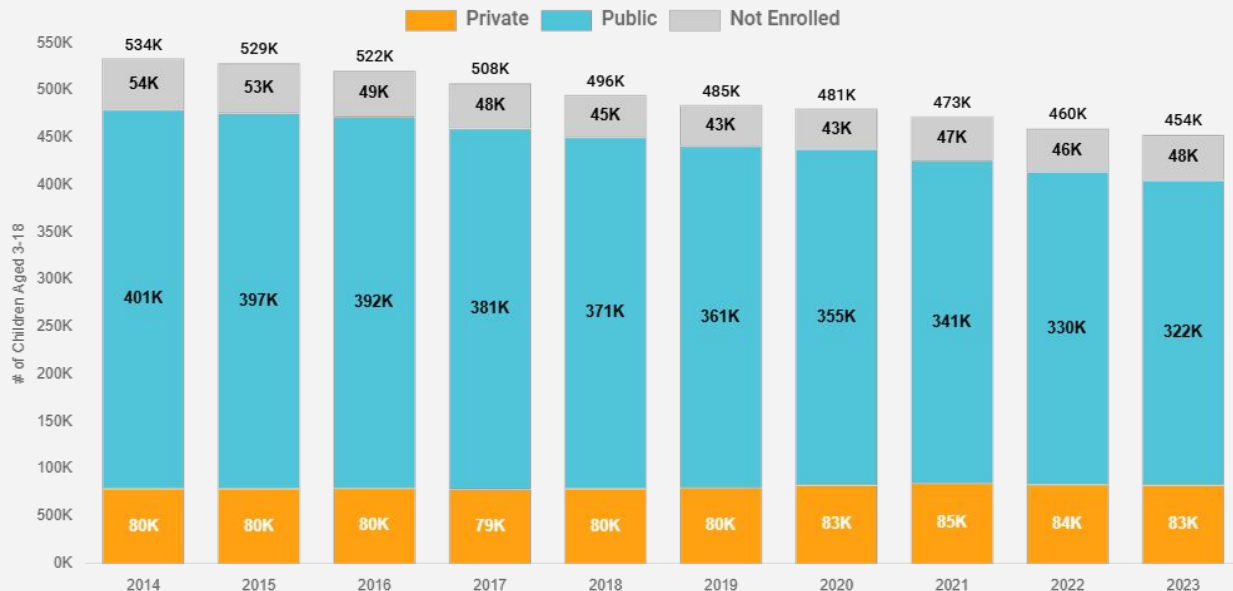
- Loop 19.6%
- O'Hare 17.2%
- Uptown 16.7%
- Washington Park/Englewood 15.7%
- Fuller Park 15.3%

Counts represent the number of students who were new to the district from the 20th day of SY25 to the 20th day of SY26. Community areas were determined by where students reside on the 20th day of SY26.



Chicago Youth Population Trends

Children Ages 3–18



The number of overall school aged children in Chicago has declined 15% over the last decade.

Proportions of those that are enrolled in public schools are also shrinking, though more slowly.

- Private schools went from accounting for 15% of youth enrollment in 2014 to 18% in 2023
- CPS went from accounting for 75% in 2014 to 71% in 2023.

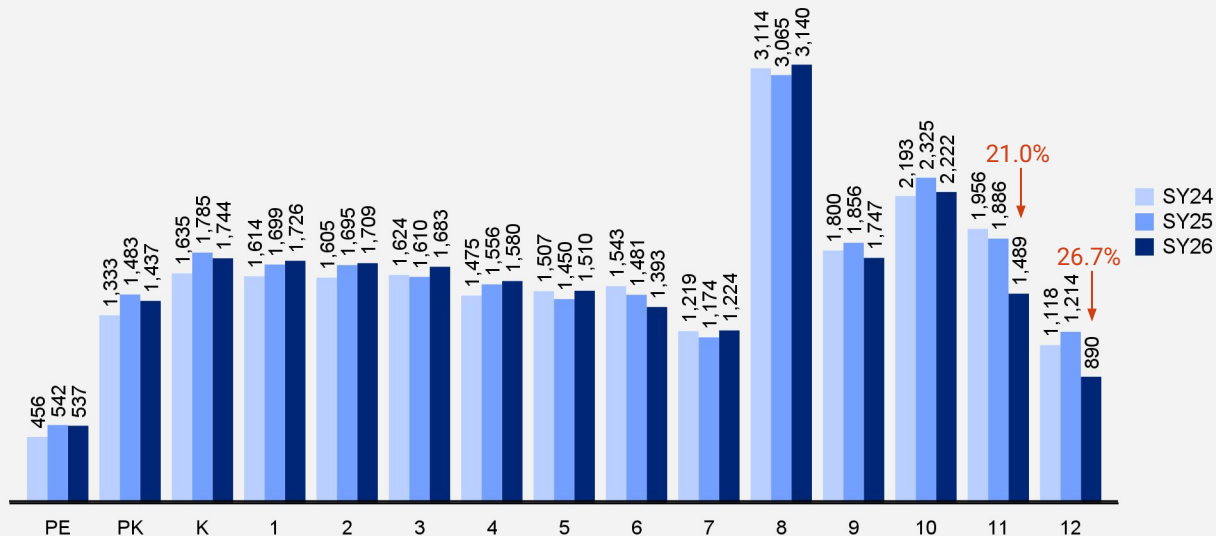
Departing Students

Students who were enrolled on the 20th day in the previous school year,
but left the district by the 20th day of the next school year.

Excluding graduates.

Number of Students that Left the District by 20th Day

Broken out by **Grade Level**

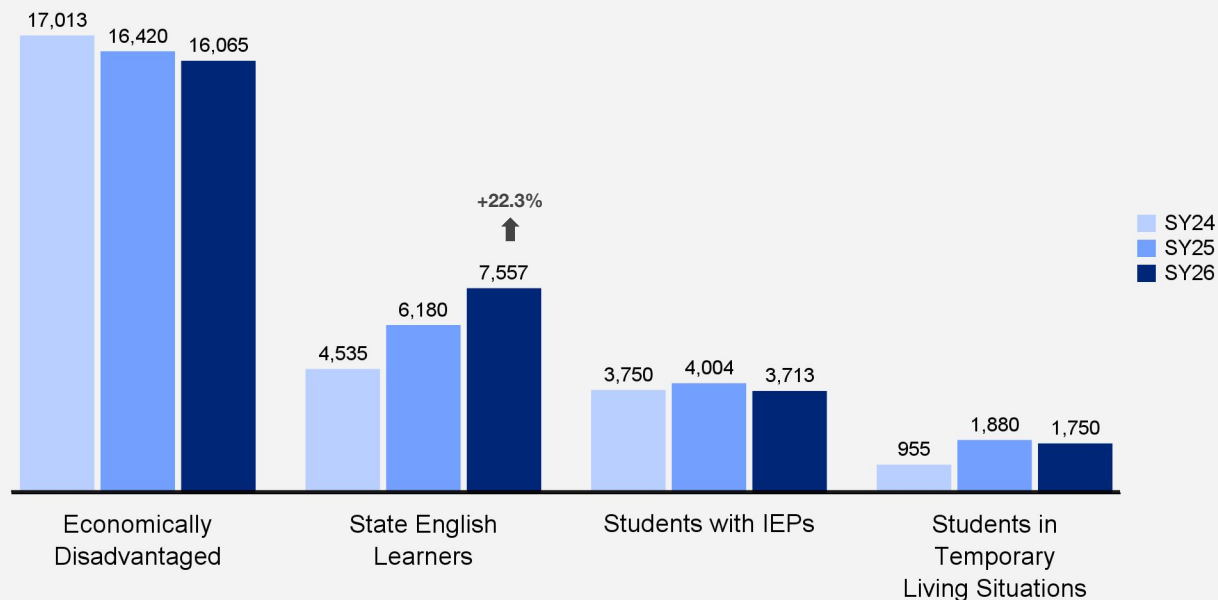


Counts represent the number of students who were active on the 20th day of the first year but not active on the 20th day of the second year, excluding graduates. Grade level represents the students' grade level on the 20th day in the first year.

The number of students leaving the district without graduating between SY25 and SY26 was lower for high school, grade 6, and grades PE–K, with the most dramatic decline happening in grades 11 (-21.0%) and 12 (-26.7%). Numbers of departing students slightly increased for grades 1–5 and 7–8.

Number of Students that Left the District by 20th Day

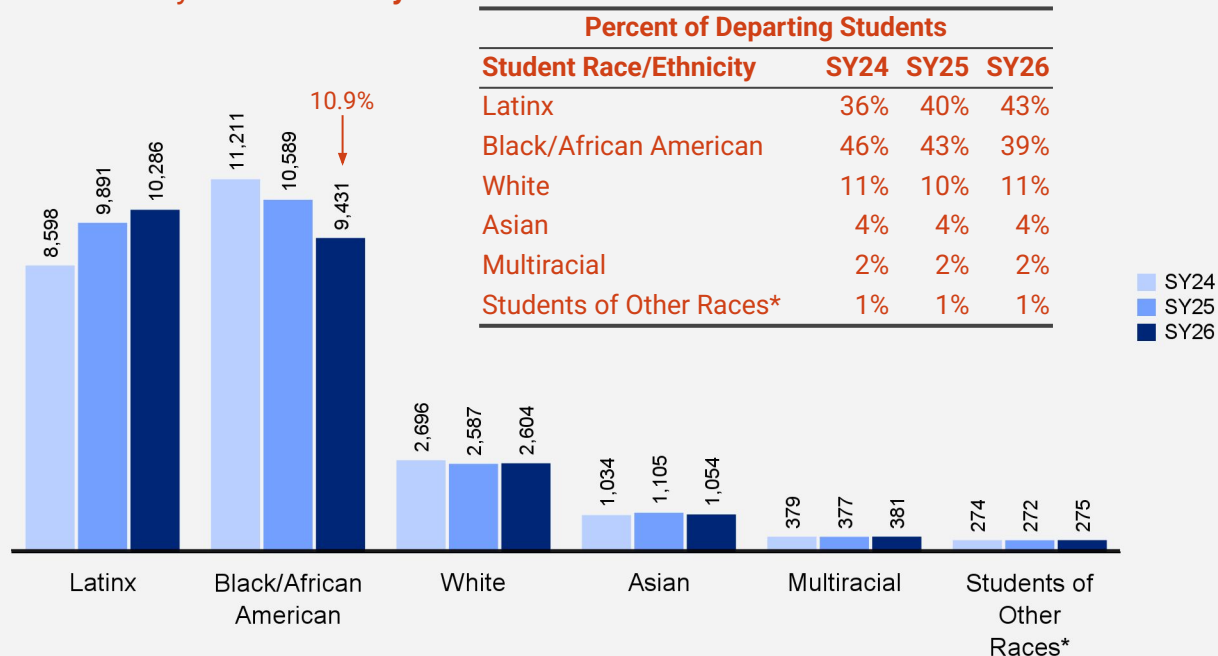
Broken out by **Priority Group**



More State English Learners departed between SY25 and SY26 than between SY24 and SY25. The number of students that left the district between SY25 to SY26 decreased slightly among the remaining priority groups.

Number of Students that Left the District by 20th Day

Broken out by **Race/Ethnicity**



More Latinx students left the district between SY25 and SY26 compared to prior years. The percent of Black/African American students leaving the district declined the most between SY25 to SY26 (-10.9%).

Students of Other Races include American Indian/Alaska Native, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern or North African, & N/A. Counts represent the number of students who were active on the 20th day of the first year but not active on the 20th day of the second year, excluding graduates.

Percent of Students that Left the District

Broken out by **Student Residing Community Area**

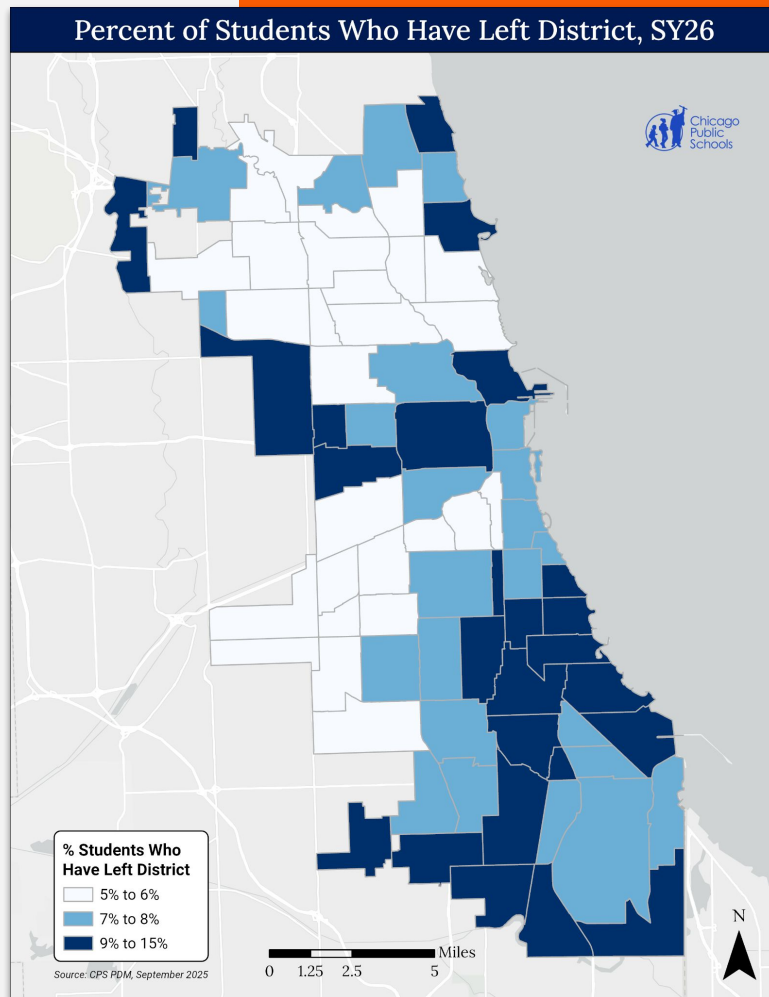
Communities with the **lowest** percentage of students that left the District:

- Avondale/Armour Square 4.7%
- Logan Square 5.1%
- West Elsdon/Irving Park/Brighton Park 5.2%
- Forest Glen/Belmont Cragin 5.3%
- Portage Park/Archer Heights 5.4%

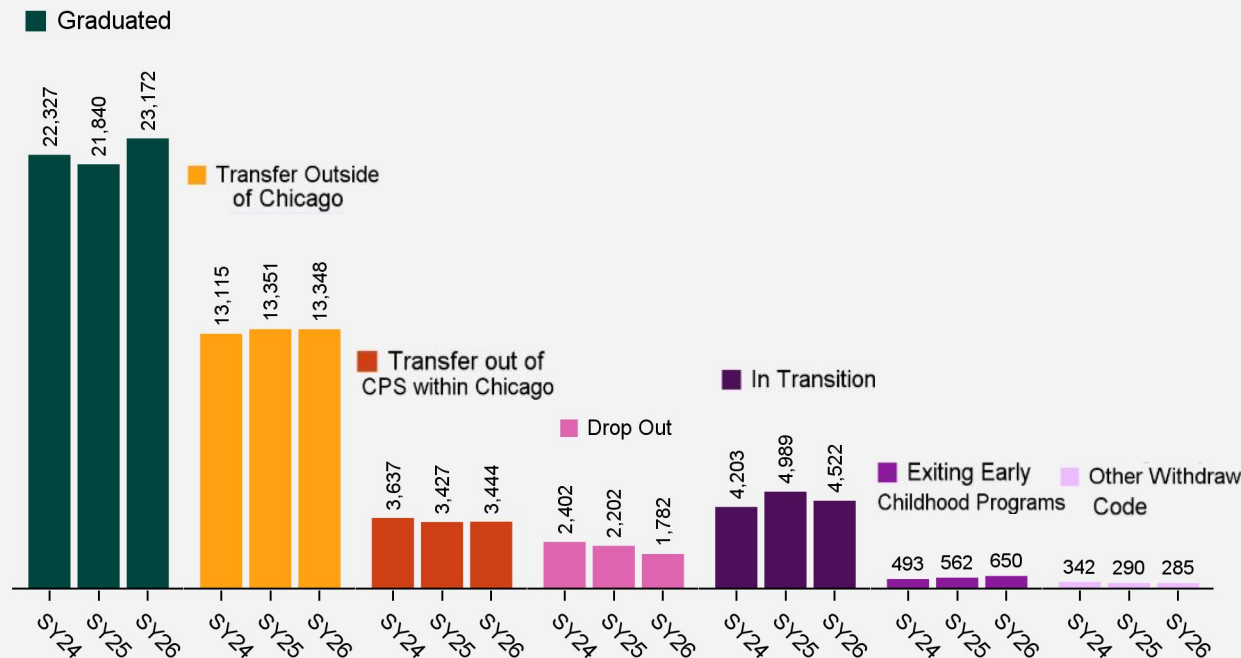
Communities with the **largest** percentage of students that left the District:

- O'Hare 14.9%
- Fuller Park 11.5%
- Riverdale 11.2%
- Near North Side 11.0%
- Kenwood 10.7%

Counts represent the number of students who left the district from the 20th day of SY25 to the 20th day of SY26. Graduates are included in the denominator, but not in the numerator.
Community areas were determined by where students reside on the 20th day of SY25.



Year-over-Year Leave Code Usage

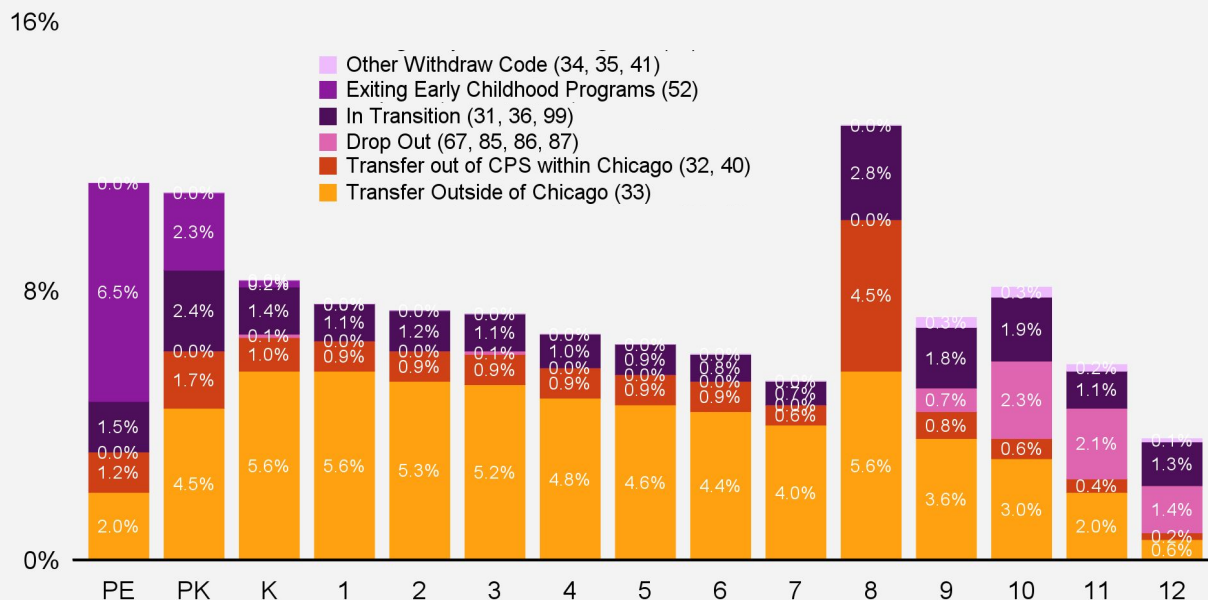


Leave codes as of **October 7, 2024**. The 'Graduated' category does not represent the official graduate count, and the 'Transfer' categories do not distinguish whether transfers are verified. The "In Transition" category represents students pending a transfer within the district and those expected, but did not arrive on the first day. The 'Other' category includes students committed to an institution, students who have passed away, and students with no leave codes between the two snapshots.

Graduation accounts for the largest share of students leaving the district. While dropouts contribute to students leaving CPS in high school, dropout rates have been shrinking.

Percentages of Non-Graduating Students by Leave Codes

Broken out by **Grade Level**, SY26 (20th day SY25 to 20th day SY26)



Leave codes as of **October 7, 2024**. The 'Transfer' categories do not distinguish whether transfers are verified. The "In Transition" category represents students pending a transfer within the district and those expected, but did not arrive on the first day. The 'Other' category includes students committed to an institution, students who have passed away, and students with no leave codes between the two snapshots.

The majority of students leaving the district are doing so to Transfer outside of Chicago, but this does vary by grade level.

Between 8th and 9th grades is when students are likeliest to Transfer out of CPS **within** Chicago or to Transfer **Outside of** Chicago. Students are almost as likely to leave between PreK and Kindergarten as they are between 8th and 9th grades, but there are fewer PreK students than 8th graders in CPS. The district is less likely to know where exiting preschoolers go because they are exiting an early childhood program and can do so without transferring.

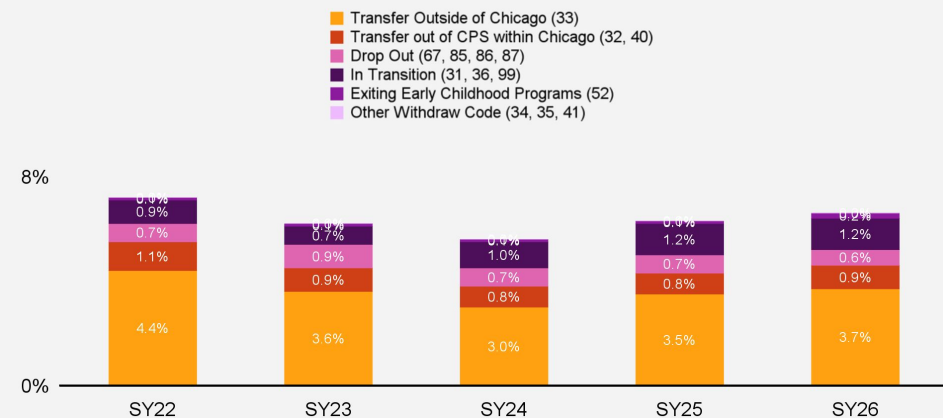
Number of Students that Left the District by 20th Day

Latinx and EL Students

Unlike the district overall which has seen relatively stable patterns of leave the last three years, a greater proportion of Latinx and EL students left the district in the last two years and particularly for EL students more are leaving Chicago and with an “in transition” status.

Latinx

16%



EL

16%

