

School Choice Landscape

Presentation to the House Subcommittee for Secondary Education and Career Development

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OPPAGA

Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability

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Our Research on Choice Programs and Today's Presentation

Scope of research



OPPAGA reviewed 21 school choice programs and provided descriptions of each, as well as data on enrollment trends, student participation, and demographics where available

Today's Presentation



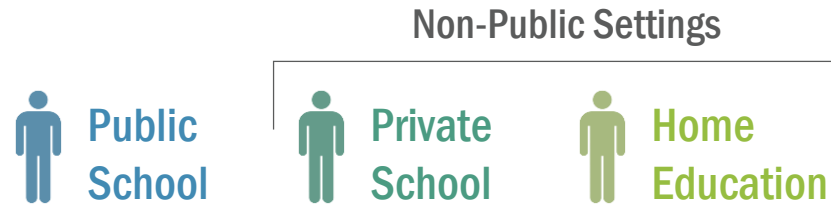
Today we will present select information from our research including

- Choice options offered to public school students
- Highlight of programs related to preparing students for college and careers

Background and State Overview

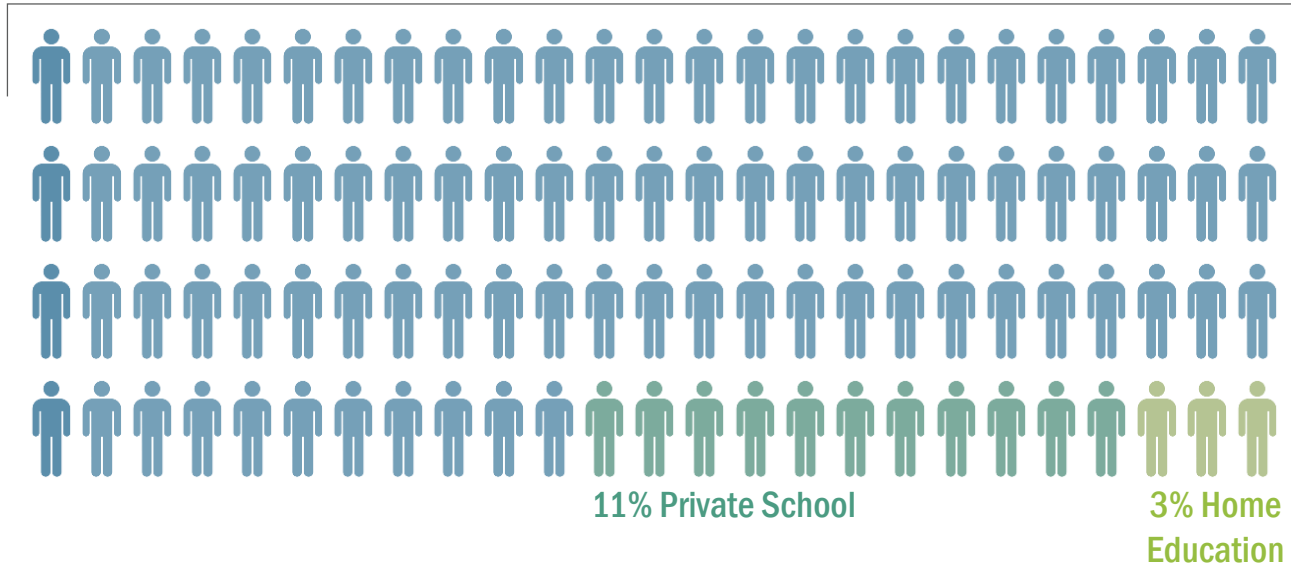
Education Settings Throughout Florida

Florida students can access education within three major settings



Percentage of Students in Each Education Setting, 2019-20

86% Public School

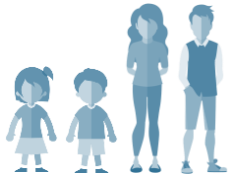


Education Settings, 2019-20

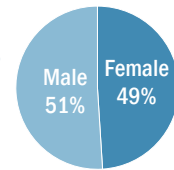
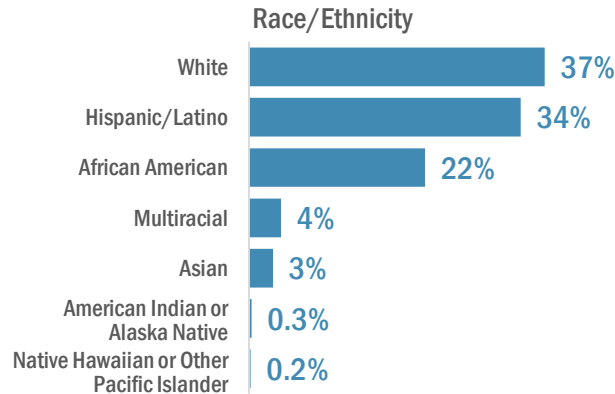
Public School



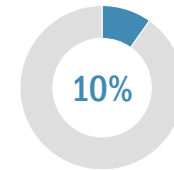
3,611
public
schools



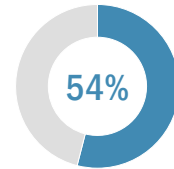
2,792,448
K-12
students



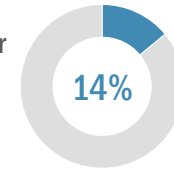
Gender



English
Language
Learners



Eligible for
Free or
Reduced
Meals

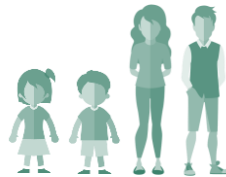


Students
With
Disabilities

Private School

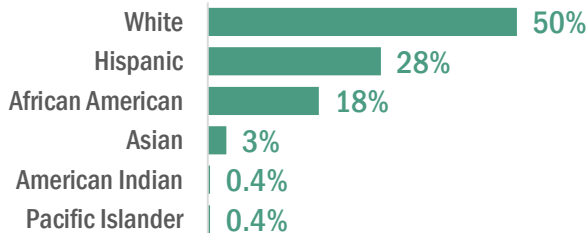


2,821
private
schools



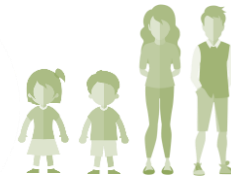
352,821
students

Race/Ethnicity



Demographic data includes the 85% of students at schools that chose to report demographics on the annual survey to the Department of Education

Home Education

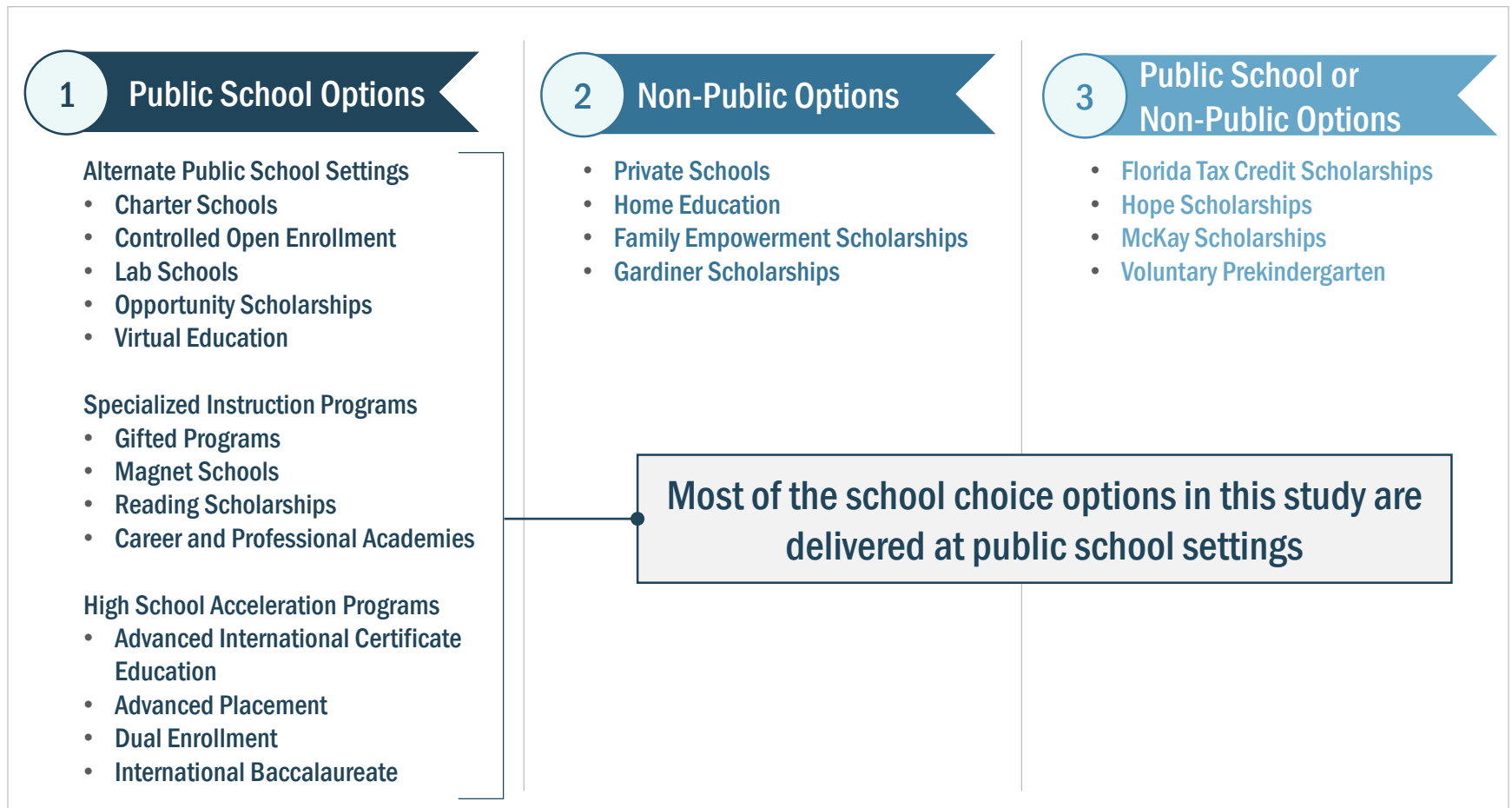


106,115
students

No demographic information available


Overview of School Choice In Florida

Florida offers a variety of school choice options for students and families within each educational setting



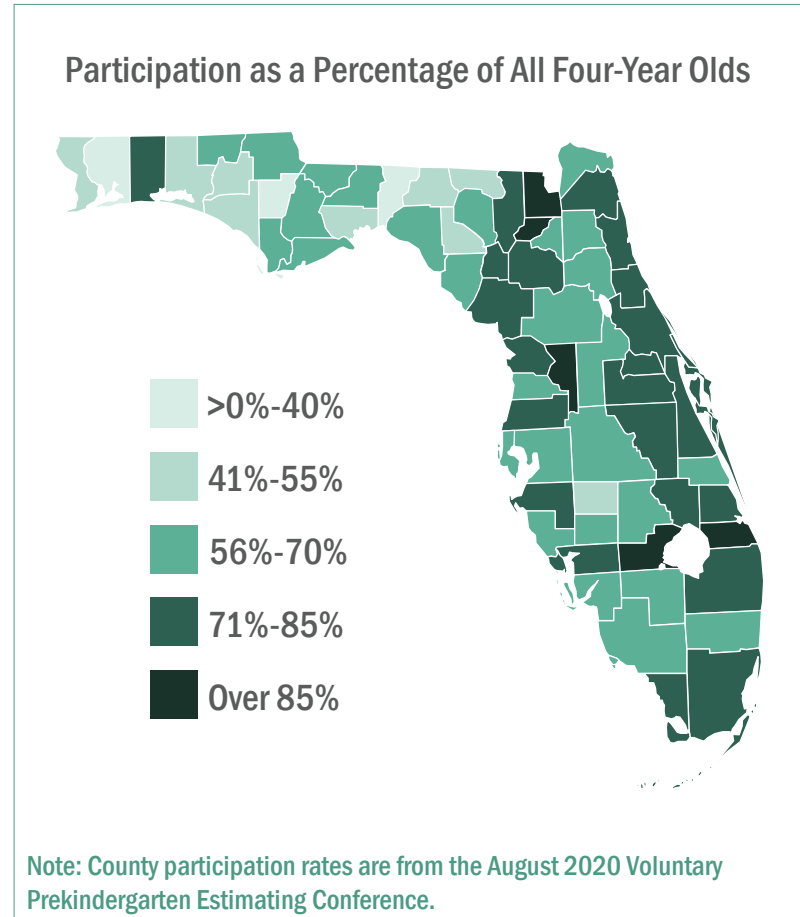
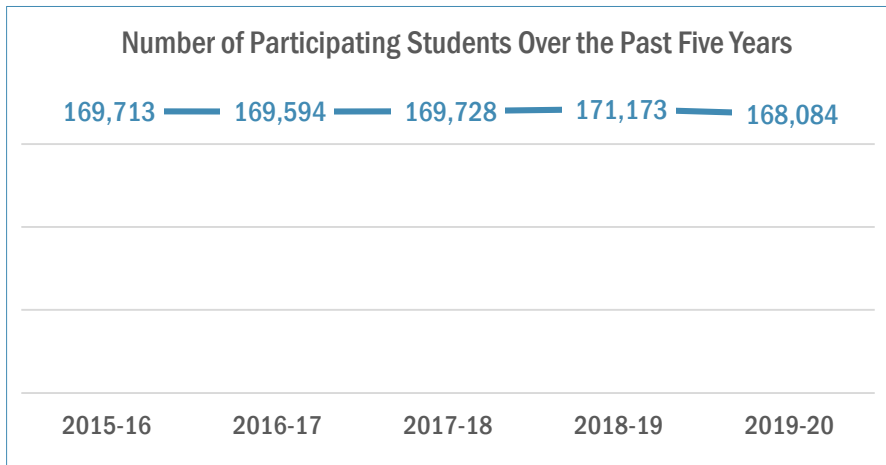
Voluntary Prekindergarten Education (VPK)

In 2019-20, 72% of four-year olds in Florida participated in the VPK Program, but the percentage by district ranged from 23% to 100%



Eligible Students: Four-year old children who live in Florida

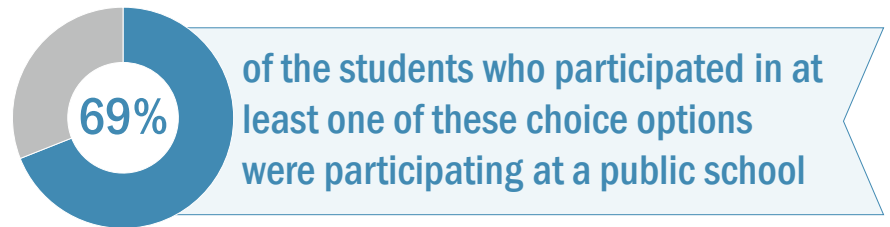
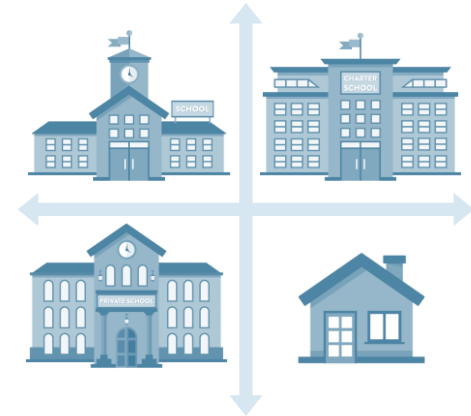
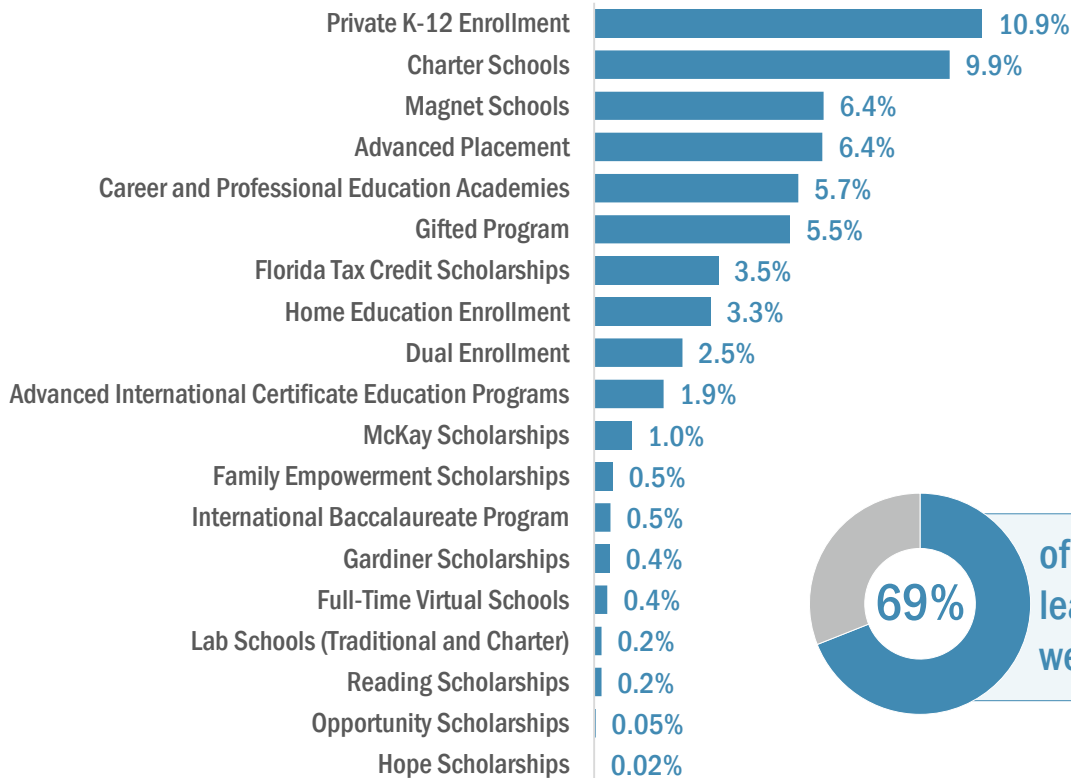
Number of Participating Students: 168,084



School Choice in Florida, 2019-20

46% of all Florida students participated in at least one of the school choice options below

Percentage of All K-12 Students Participating in Each School Choice Option*



*Students who make use of more than one choice option may be counted in more than one category

Public School Choice Options

OPPAGA grouped the public school choice options into three categories

1 Alternate Public School Settings

2 Specialized Instruction Programs

3 High School Acceleration Programs

Alternate Public School Settings

2019-20 School Year

Overview of Alternate Public School Settings

Some choice options allow public school students to attend schools other than their assigned school



Charter Schools

Eligible Students: Public school students

Number of Participating Students: 323,385



Full Time Virtual Instruction

Eligible Students: Public school students

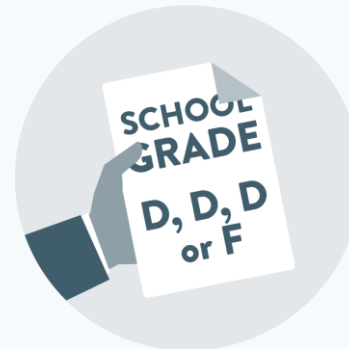
Number of Participating Students: 12,087



Lab Schools

Eligible Students: Students representative of local public school enrollment

Number of Participating Students: 6,884



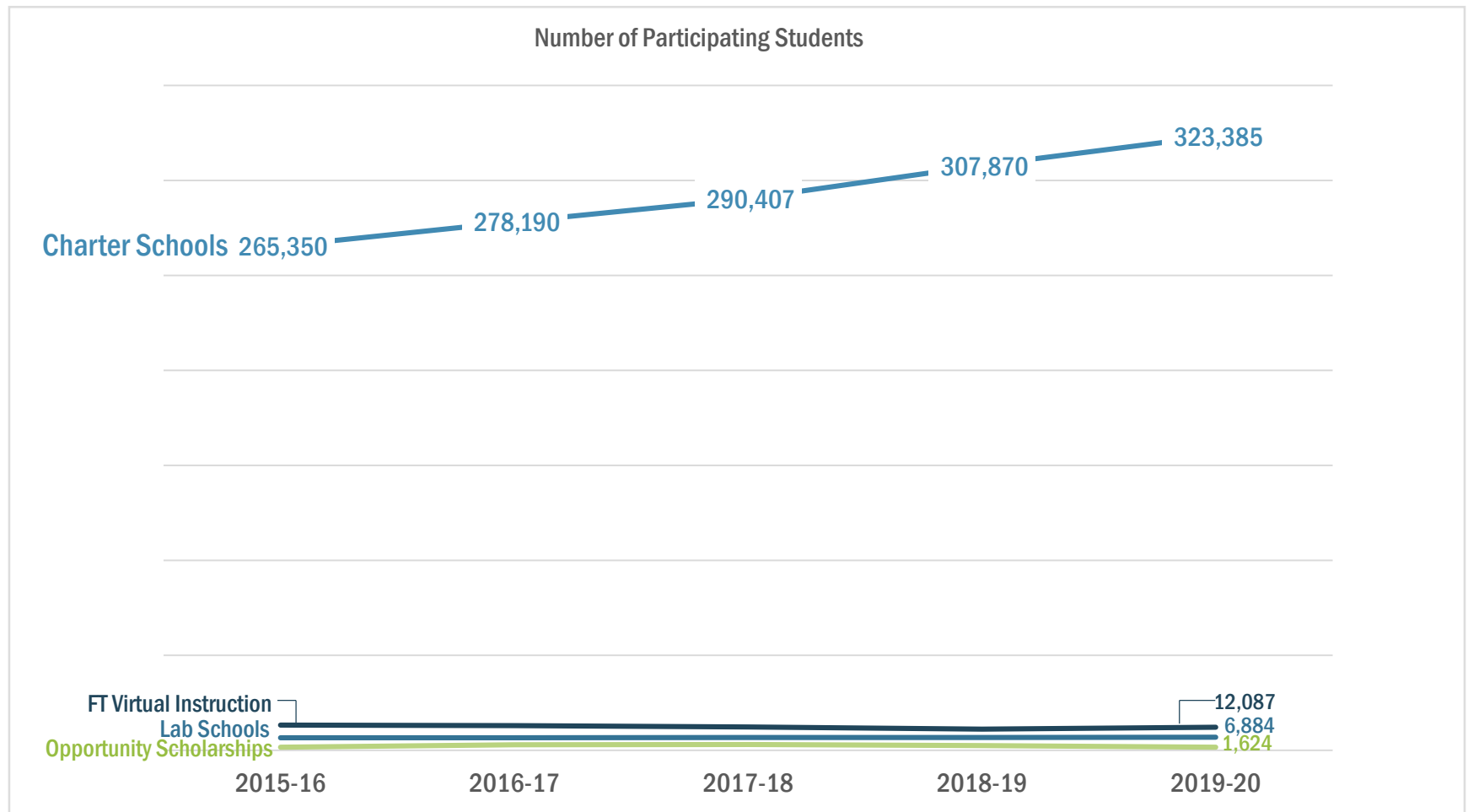
Opportunity Scholarships

Eligible Students: Students in low-performing schools

Number of Participating Students: 1,624

Alternate Public School Settings: Student Participation Trends Over Time

Of the four alternative settings we examined, charter school was the most frequently chosen option



Snapshot: Full-Time Virtual Programs



FT Virtual Instruction

Available at the district and state level

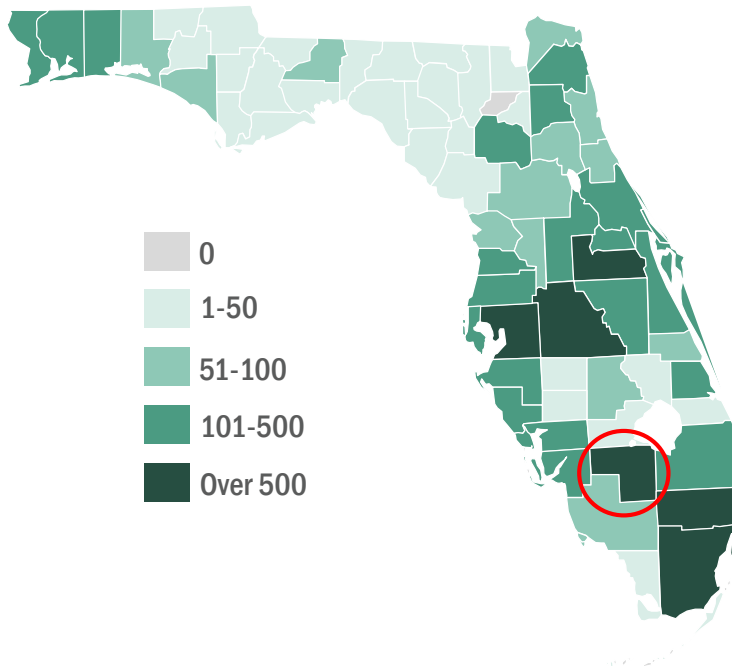
- ✓ Florida Virtual School (FLVS)
- ✓ District franchises of FLVS
- ✓ District virtual instruction programs
- ✓ District virtual course offerings
- ✓ Virtual charter schools

Methodology Notes



- FLVS students counted based on county of residence
- Students participating in district virtual programs full-time were counted based on the district offering the program

Number of Participating Students



Enrollment in full-time virtual instruction was 2% or less of the public school student population educated in nearly all counties

- The exception is Hendry County School District—at 20%
- It offers a full-time virtual education program called Florida Online School, which is offered statewide
- In 2019-20, 95% of students enrolled in full-time virtual instruction in a district outside their county of residence (not including FLVS) were enrolled in Hendry County's district virtual program

Controlled Open Enrollment

Controlled open enrollment allows students to attend a district school outside of their assigned attendance zone based on parental preference



District and charter schools must accept students according to their controlled open enrollment process if the school has not reached capacity



Requires a lottery procedure to determine student assignment; however, some students receive priority

We did not include data on controlled open enrollment in our report due to reliability concerns

Percentage of Students Participating in Controlled Open Enrollment By District (2015-16 to 2019-20)

District	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Percentage of Schools Identified as Schools of Choice
Broward	8%	8%	9%	9%	9%	88.7%
Charlotte	94%	93%	92%	91%	91%	90.3%
Holmes	98%	95%	12%	15%	20%	50.0%
Lee	81%	79%	80%	81%	81%	81.1%
Madison	77%	70%	0%	2%	0%	11.1%
Palm Beach	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%	66.2%
Walton	89%	88%	87%	74%	17%	59.3%
Washington	94%	93%	95%	97%	100%	41.2%
State	9%	9%	9%	10%	9%	77.8%

Specialized Instruction Programs

2019-20 School Year

Overview of Specialized Instruction Programs

Some choice options offer specialized instruction for students



Gifted Programs

Eligible Students: Students identified as gifted

Number of Participating Students: 178,162



Magnet Schools

Eligible Students: Public school students

Number of Participating Students: 208,644



Reading Scholarships

Eligible Students: Students in grades 3-5 who scored below a 3 on the ELA assessment

Number of Participating Students: 6,763



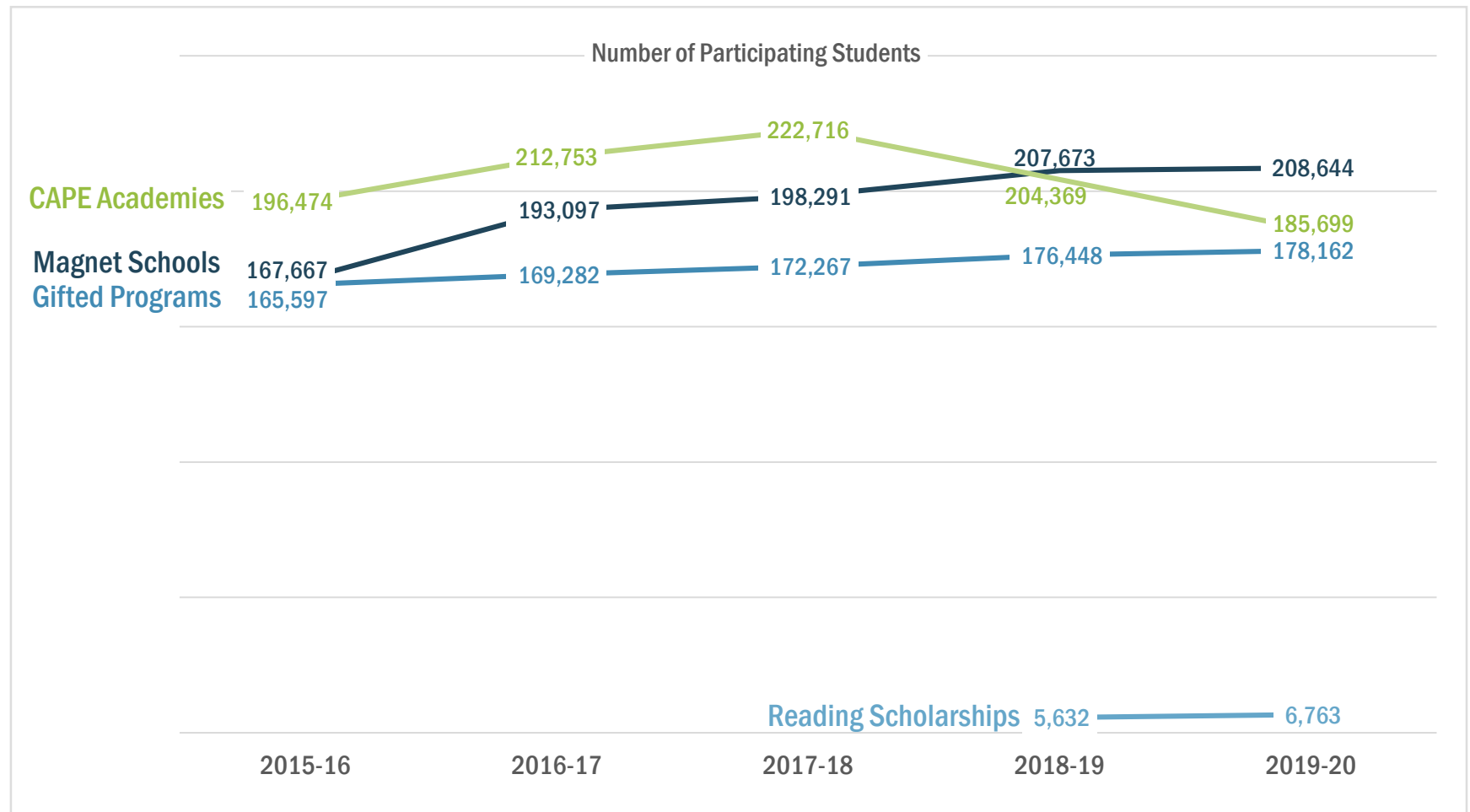
CAPE Academies

Eligible Students: Secondary students; no statewide eligibility criteria

Number of Participating Students: 185,699

Specialized Instruction Programs: Student Participation Trends Over Time

Most specialized instruction options have high student participation; the reading scholarship program has fewer participants, but is relatively new



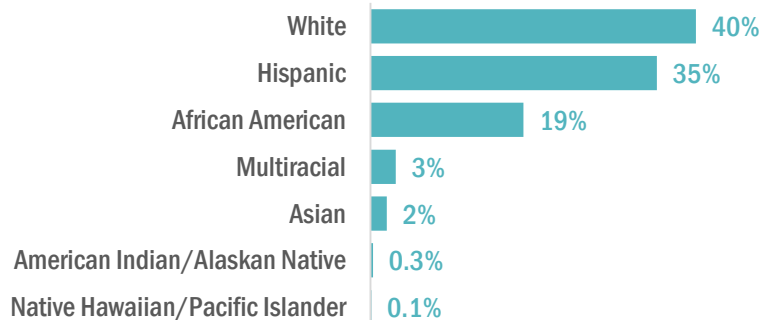
Snapshot: CAPE Academies

In 2019-20, 12% of Florida public school students in grades 6 to 12 were enrolled in an academy

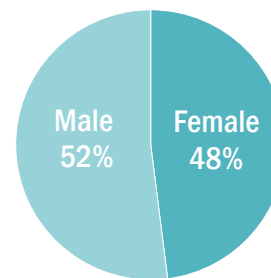


- ✓ Option for middle and high school students
- ✓ Rigorous academic curriculum integrated with an industry-specific curriculum
- ✓ Opportunity to earn industry certifications or postsecondary credit
- ✓ Number of Students: 185,699

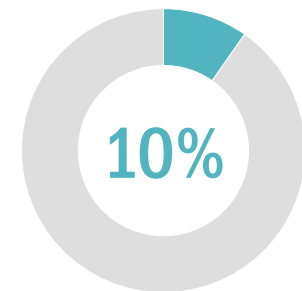
Race/Ethnicity



Gender



Students With Disabilities



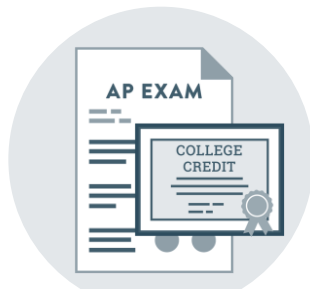
High School Acceleration Programs

2019-20 School Year

Overview of High School Acceleration Programs

We examined four choice options that allow students to earn postsecondary credit

Advanced Placement



207,657
Students

Dual Enrollment



80,380
Students

Advanced International Certificate Education (AICE) Program



63,212
Students

International Baccalaureate (IB) Program



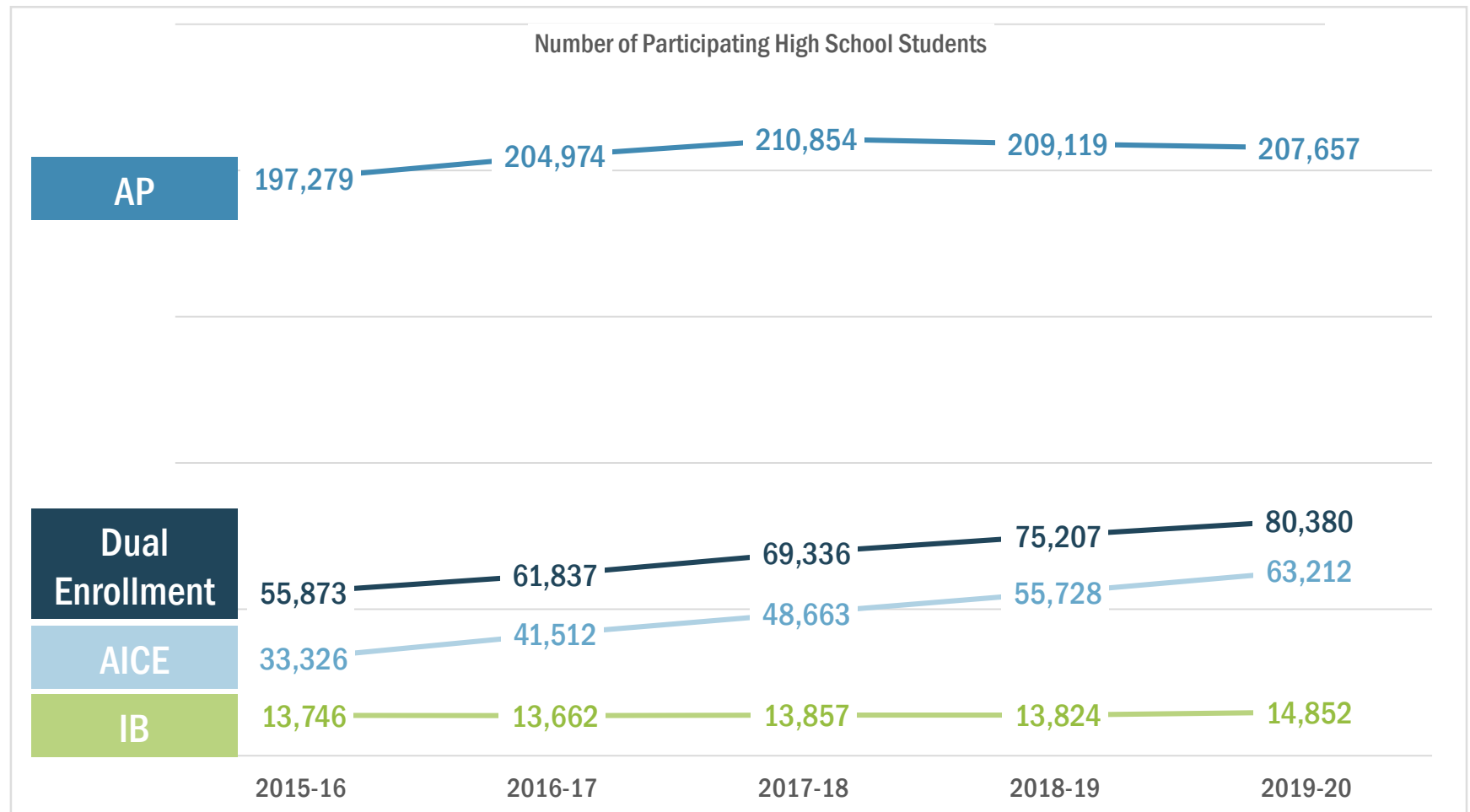
14,852
Students



- ✓ Options for high school students
- ✓ Programs offer rigorous academic courses or curriculum
- ✓ Incentives in place for student participation in accelerated programs

High School Acceleration Programs: Student Participation Trends Over Time

Enrollment in all four high school acceleration programs has grown over the past five years



Snapshot: Dual Enrollment

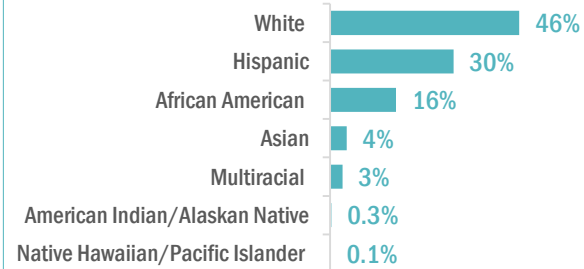
Dual Enrollment



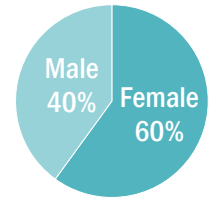
Eligible Students: High school students with a 3.0 GPA who earn a minimum score on a common placement test

Number of Participating Students: 80,380

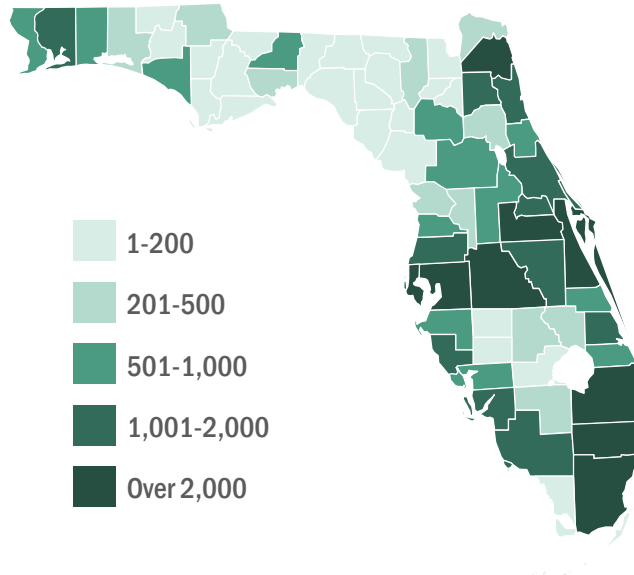
Race/Ethnicity



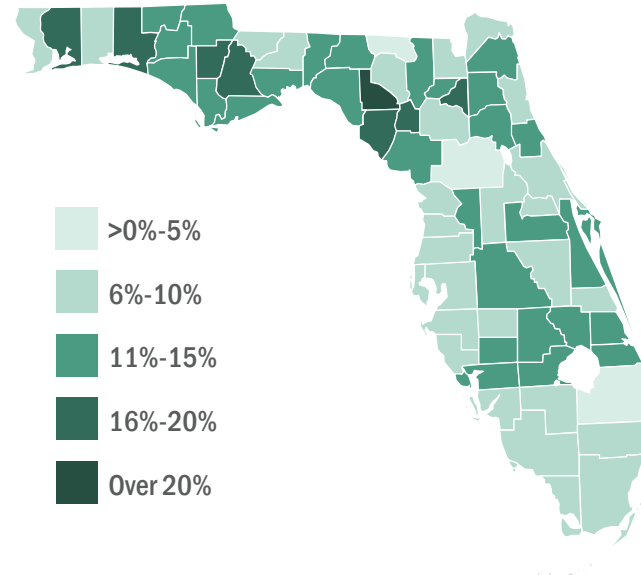
Gender



Number of Participating Students



Participation as a Percentage of Public High School Students



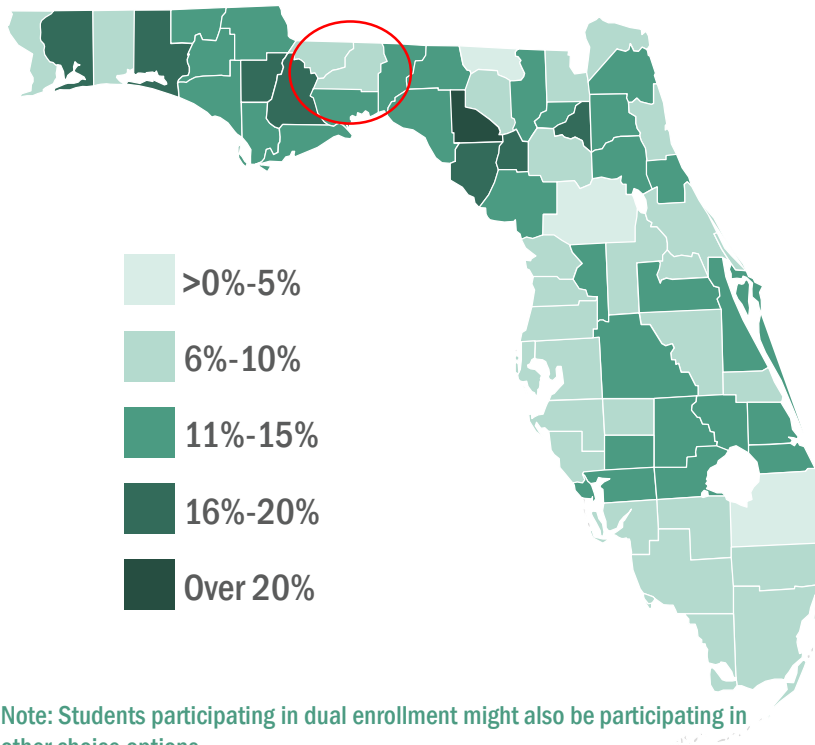
Note: Students participating in dual enrollment might also be participating in other choice options.

Snapshot: Dual Enrollment and AP

The level of student participation in different acceleration programs may vary significantly within the same county

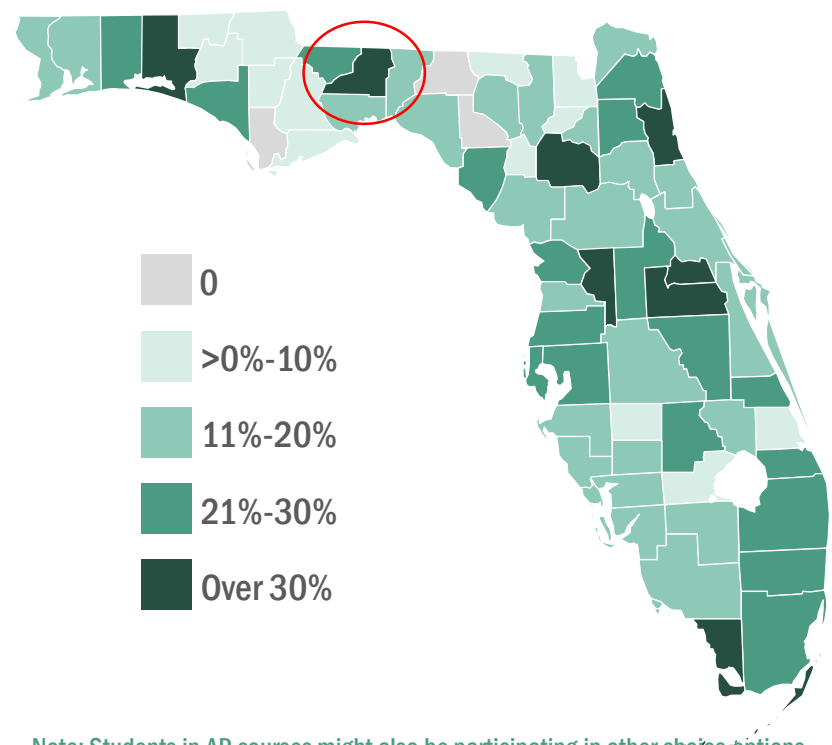
Participation as a Percentage of Public High School Students

Dual Enrollment



Note: Students participating in dual enrollment might also be participating in other choice options.

Advanced Placement



Note: Students in AP courses might also be participating in other choice options.

Questions?

Contact Information

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FLORIDA LEGISLATURE OFFICE OF PROGRAM POLICY ANALYSIS AND
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

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