

City Schools' Supports for Students Potentially Impacted by Federal Immigration Enforcement

Informational Hearing

July 23, 2026

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City Schools' Approach

City Schools' efforts are focused on:

- ***Proactively*** preparing school communities with guidance and resources
- ***Responding*** to the questions, concerns, and experiences of students, staff, and families
- ***Supporting*** students, staff, and families

Guidance and Training

- School leaders receive annual guidance on how to respond to requests from ICE or other law enforcement agencies and how to support students and families.
- Over 800 school-based staff, Central Office staff, and partners working with students in schools have received training.

Immigration Webpage

Shares information for families, students, and staff, including:

- City Schools' Know Your Rights resource
- Resources from partners and trusted organizations
- Protocols document
- Frequently asked questions
- Letters to the City Schools community



Our position on Immigration and Enforcement

Families

[Enrollment](#)[Family Resources & Community Schools](#)[Family University](#)[Health Curriculum Opt-Out](#)[Immigration Resources](#)[Learning Guides](#)

A Message from Baltimore City Public Schools

Updated on April 29, 2026

We are aware of the rising concerns and anxieties within our community stemming from national discussions around immigration and enforcement. We understand that these are not just policy debates but deeply personal issues that can create uncertainty and fear for many families.

Our schools will always be welcoming spaces where every child—regardless of immigration status—is valued, respected, and supported. Providing safe, inclusive, and affirming learning environments is one of our most important responsibilities. These efforts support the success of our students academically, socially, and emotionally.

<https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/page/immigration>

Protocols

City Schools developed robust protocols that explain how employees must respond when interacting with ICE or external law enforcement agencies.

This two-page document for schools operationalizes the guidance provided to school leaders and provides key phone numbers.

These protocols are consistent with federal and state law and guidance from MSDE and the Maryland Attorney General. They are available on the City Schools website in English and Spanish.

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Protocols for Responding to Requests from ICE or Other Agencies

MSDE School staff must follow these protocols when interacting with officers from Immigration and Customs Enforcement or any other law enforcement or government agency. These protocols are consistent with federal and state law, Board Policy 221, Administrative Regulations 228.05, City Schools' Looking Every Which Way and guidance from MSDE, and the Maryland Attorney General.

1. The principal/designee **meets the officer(s) at the school entrance**, where all visitors are screened for safety.
2. The principal/designee **requests the following information** from the officer(s):
 - a. Name and government-issued identification for each officer present;
 - b. Name and phone number of the officer(s) supervisor;
 - c. Reason for the visit during the school day or during a break/supervised activity; and
 - d. Any documentation from the officer(s) such as a subpoena, warrant, or court order.
3. The principal/designee **makes a copy of, notes, or takes a picture of** the officer(s)'s credentials and any documentation that they provide.
4. The principal/designee **politely declines the officer(s) that:**
 - a. Ask to be escorted to the school, staff, or student entrance;
 - b. Ask to enter the school building and the school grounds, **without authorization from OLC**; and/or
 - c. Ask to enter school facilities, **without authorization from OLC**, for any reason other than a court order or subpoena.
5. The principal/designee **communicates with OLC (410-396-8542)**.
6. To be verbally aware that OLC cannot be reached by phone, the principal/designee **should immediately call the Chief Legal Officer**, their Immediate Supervisor, Executive Director ("ED") or Executive Director of Operations, Request for Counsel and Counsel and verbally from a landline or mobile phone (410-396-8542 or 410-396-8589).
7. The principal/designee **waits while OLC reviews the information** and documentation obtained from the officer(s).
8. OLC will either:
 - a. Deny the request;
 - b. Grant the request, including providing guidance from the officer(s); **until the principal/designee receives instructions from OLC**; or
 - c. Do not consent for the officer to access or search any part of the school property.
9. While OLC is reviewing the information, the principal/designee **provides the officer(s) with a waiting space** outside or in the main office that is not restricted to school operations.
10. The principal/designee **provides the officer(s) with a waiting space** outside or in the main office that is not restricted to school operations.
11. When contacting parents/guardians, use their preferred language of communication.

Important Phone Numbers

Office of Legal Counsel:
410-396-8542
410-396-8589
ILED:

See back for more information about your school's designees and waiting area

If the officer fails to comply with these protocols, immediately call School Police, the S.E.D., and OLC. School employees should not attempt to physically interfere.

Protocol for Responding to Requests from ICE or Other Agencies (English) | MSDE School staff must follow these protocols when interacting with officers from Immigration and Customs Enforcement or any other law enforcement or government agency. These protocols are consistent with federal and state law, Board Policy 221, Administrative Regulations 228.05, City Schools' Looking Every Which Way and guidance from MSDE, and the Maryland Attorney General.

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Responding to Requests from ICE or Other Agencies

Consistent with City Schools' [Looking Every Which Way](#), MSDE's [Administrative Regulations](#), and federal and state laws, school staff must follow these protocols when interacting with officers from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or any other law enforcement or government agency.

Designees: Names and Phone Numbers

Waiting Area

Important Phone Numbers

Office of Legal Counsel:
410-396-8542
410-396-8588
or 410-396-8589
ILED:

For more information, visit
[baltimorecityschools.org/page/immigration](https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/page/immigration)

School Police:
410-396-8588
or 410-396-8589
ILED:



Protocol for Responding to Requests from ICE or Other Agencies (Spanish) | MSDE School staff must follow these protocols when interacting with officers from Immigration and Customs Enforcement or any other law enforcement or government agency. These protocols are consistent with federal and state law, Board Policy 221, Administrative Regulations 228.05, City Schools' Looking Every Which Way and guidance from MSDE, and the Maryland Attorney General.

Policy and Regulation Revisions



Board Policy [KIA](#) (Visitors to Schools)

- Clarified that all areas of school property are not open to the public during the school day or during school-sponsored activities
- Incorporated immigration protocols into [KIA-RA](#) (Procedures for Visitors to Schools)

Administrative Regulation [JRA-RA](#) (Maintenance and Release of Student Records)

- Removed student's place of birth from the definition of "directory information"

Administrative Regulation [JFB-RA](#) (Student Enrollment Procedures)

- Clarified that during the enrollment process or otherwise, City Schools does not require the disclosure or collection of information regarding immigration or citizenship status.

Administrative Regulation [JEA-RA](#) (Compulsory Attendance Procedures)

- Consistent with state law, added a category of "family emergency" absences to clarify that students can have an absence excused when they are accompanying a parent/guardian/sibling to a court appearance or when they need to address a significant emergency event that directly impacts their family's housing, welfare, or stability



Know Your Rights Brochure and Video

City Schools has developed a Know Your Rights (KYR) resource for students, families, and staff.

Goal is to provide families and students with information about their rights in a format that is easy to understand.

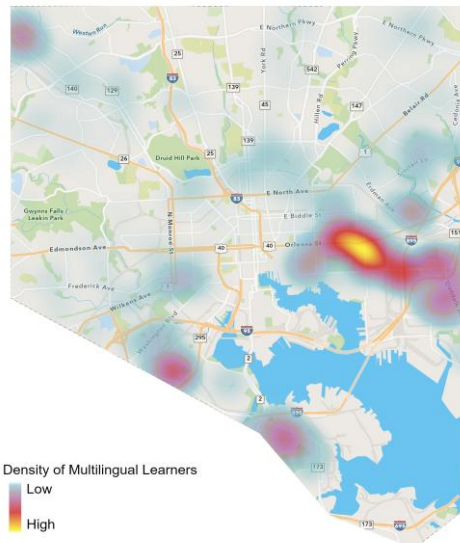
In addition to the English and Spanish versions, the information is available on the [website](#), where it can be translated into any language

- Explanatory video also available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)



Multilingual Learners (MLs)

School Year 2025-26 Multilingual Learner Population



BALTIMORE CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



0 1 2 4 Miles

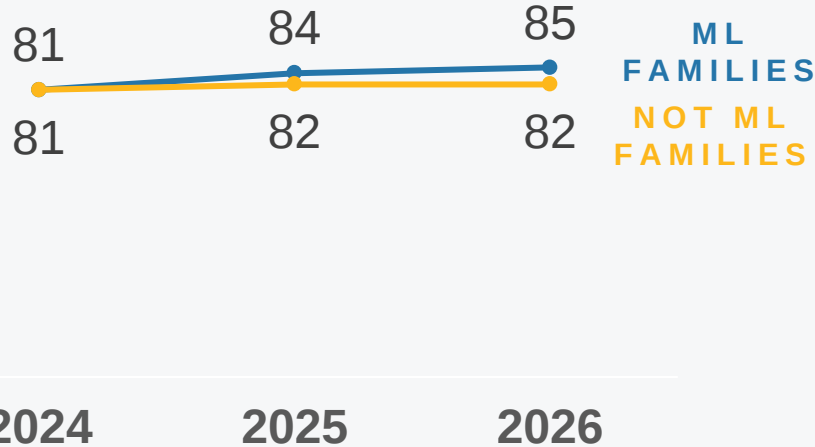
District
Enrollment
76,362

ML
Enrollment
11,017

MLs as a
Percentage
14.4%

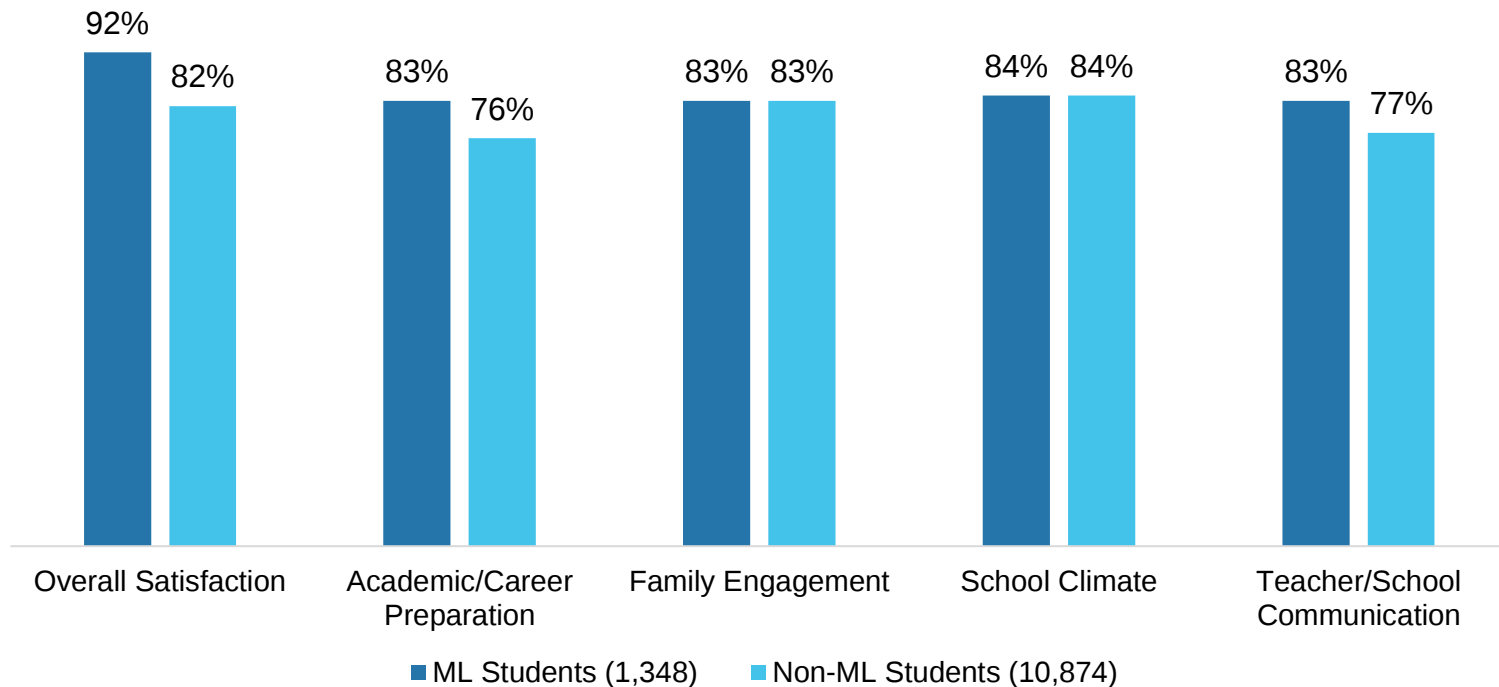
A wide variety of students (not just ML students or students from certain racial/ethnic groups) may be impacted by immigration enforcement.

Multilingual Learner Family Survey Composite Score Trends



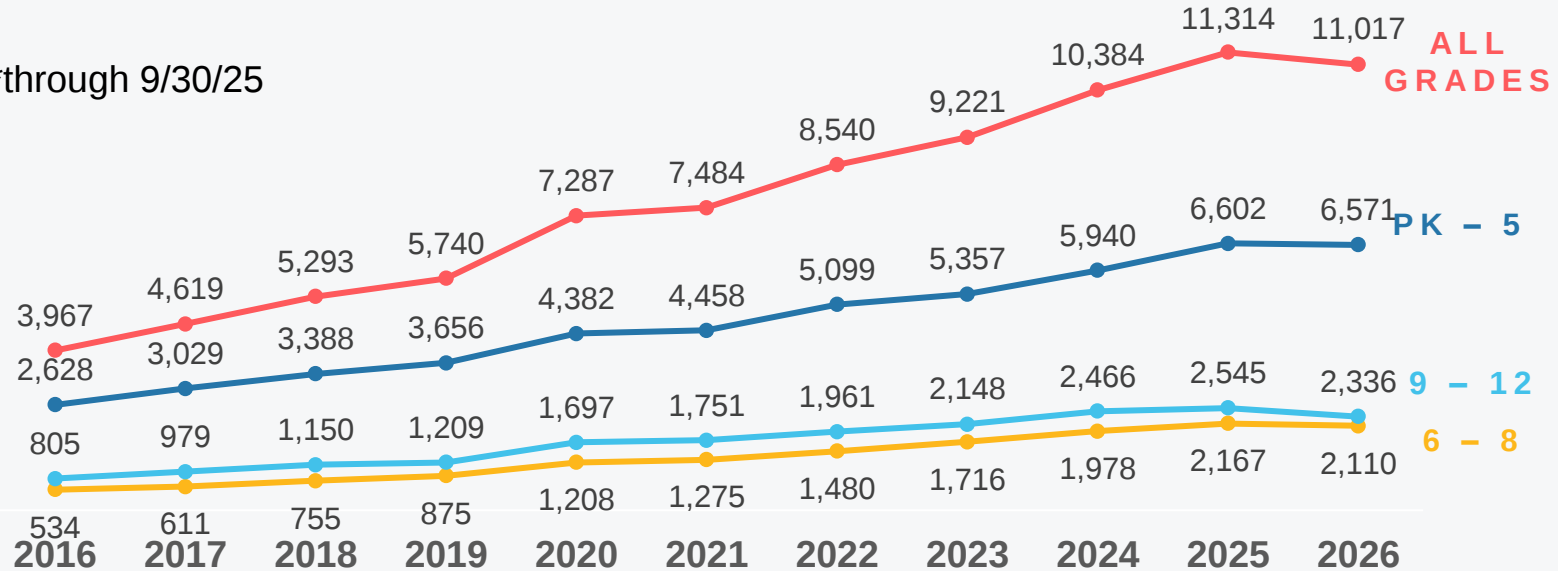
Over the past three years, favorability ratings for Multilingual families have increased.

City Schools' Spring 2026 Family Survey Results



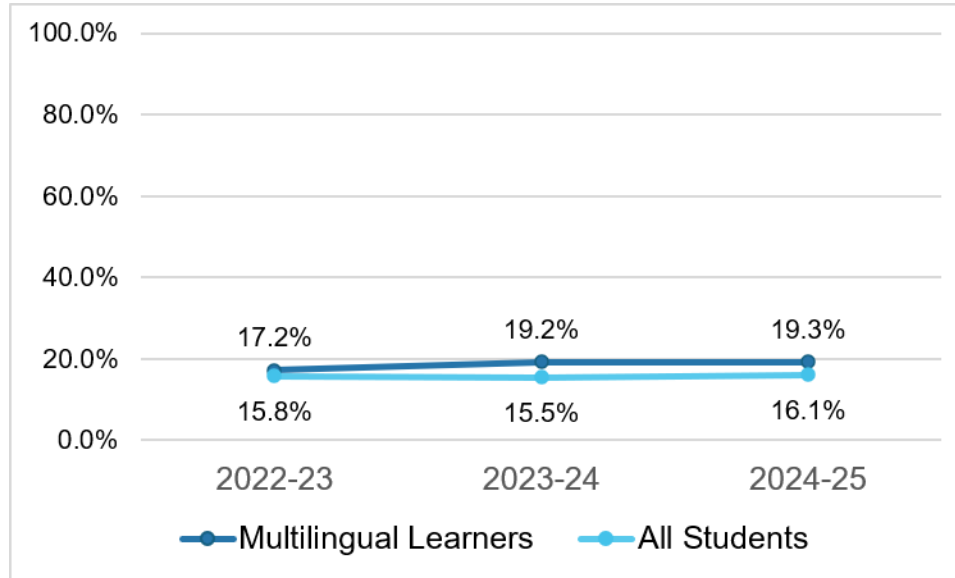
City Schools' Multilingual Learner Enrollment*

*through 9/30/25



City Schools' Multilingual Learner Withdrawals

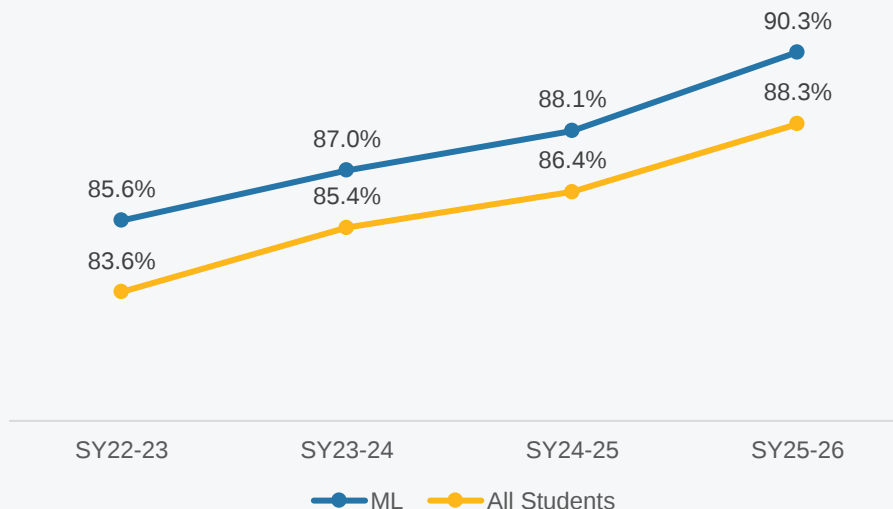
Withdrawal Rates for Multilingual Learners Compared to All Students (source: MSDE Report Card)



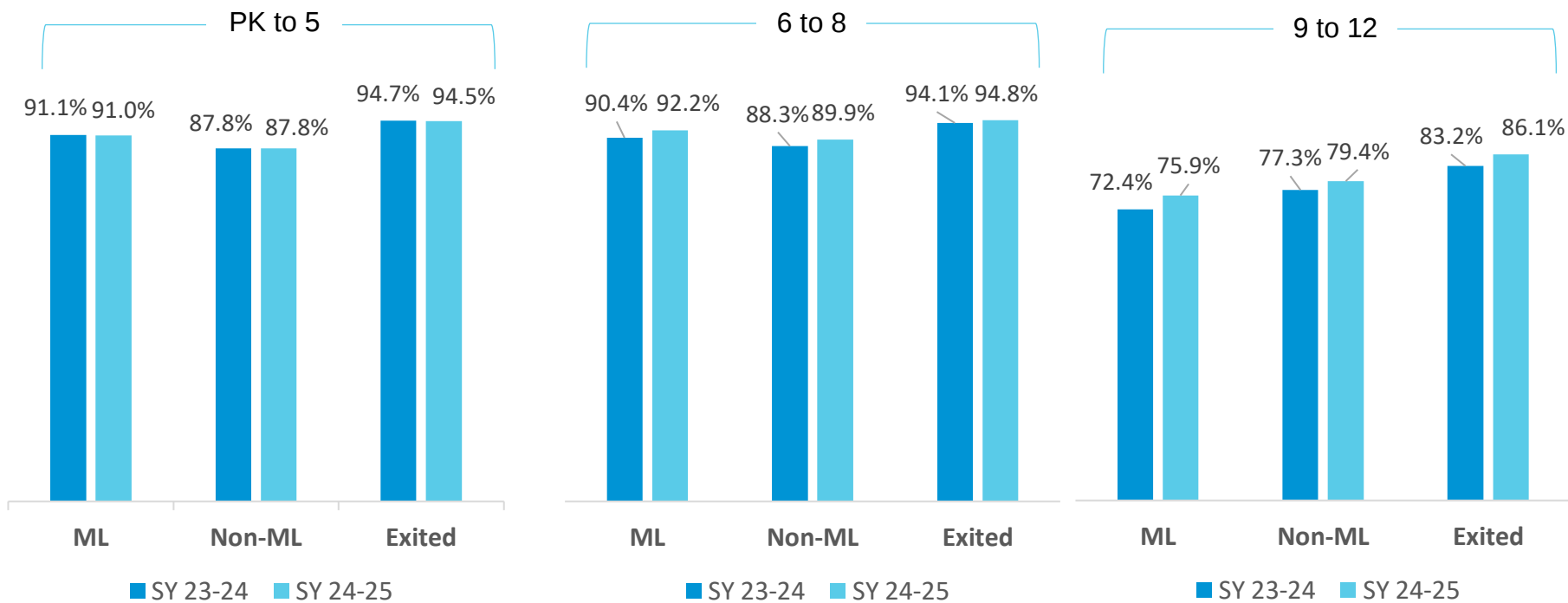
From 2022-23 to 2024-25, MLs have consistently had a slightly higher withdrawal rate when compared to all students.

ATTENDANCE RATES OF MULTILINGUAL LEARNER STUDENTS

Attendance rates have increased for Multilingual Learner (ML) students over the past four years, and they continue to have an attendance rate higher than the district average.



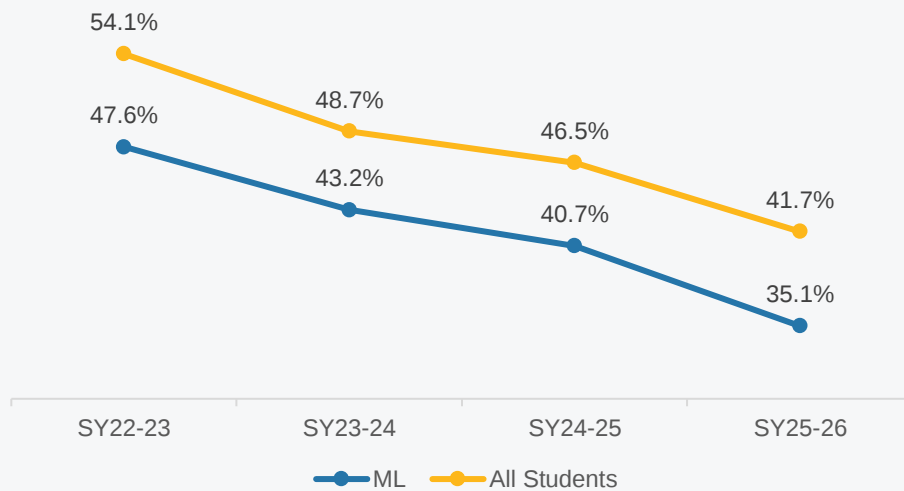
City Schools' Multilingual Learner Attendance Rates*



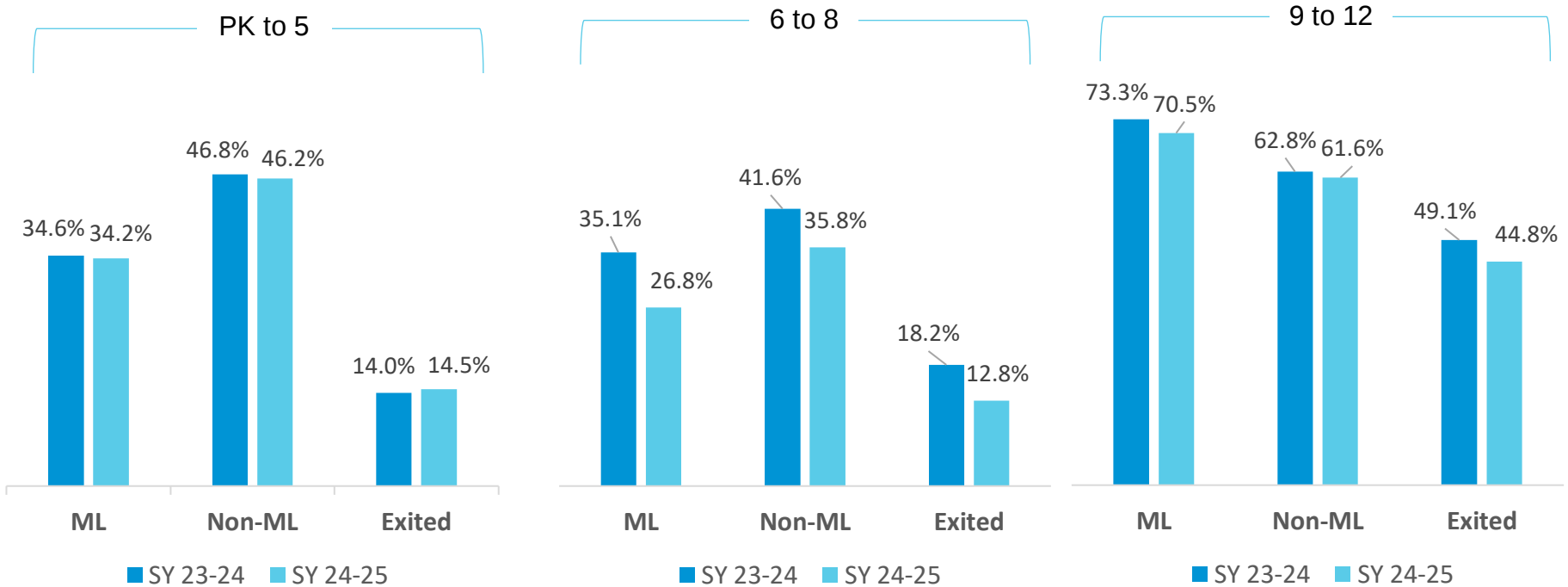
*through the end of SY24-25

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AMONG MULTILINGUAL LEARNER STUDENTS

Chronic absenteeism rates have decreased for Multilingual Learner students over the past four years, and they continue to have a lower rate than the district average.



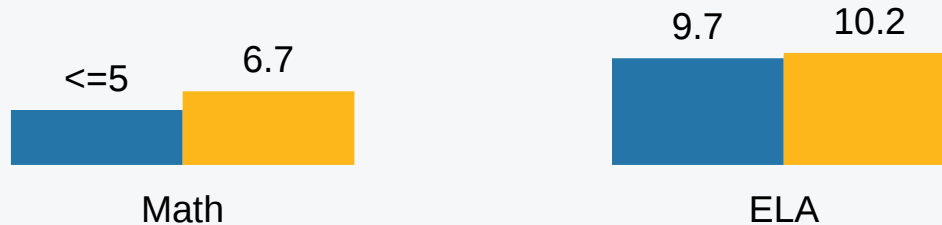
City Schools' Multilingual Learner Chronic Absence Rates*



*through the end of SY24-25

MCAP Results for Multilingual Learners

2024 vs 2025



The proficiency of multilingual learners on MCAP increased from 2023-24 to 2024-25 in both ELA and Math.

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