Please

Find Your Seat

Find your table number on your name tag!



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FORWARD

Community Advisory Committee

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Mark Schroeder, School Board Chair



Welcome & Introductions

Step 1: Table Introductions

- Share your name
- Share your connections or perspectives you bring to the table



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Welcome & Introductions

Step 2: "Stand-if" Snapshots

- Stand or raise your hand if the prompt applies

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FORWARD

Community Advisory Committee



FORWARD

Community Advisory Committee

- Examine the current situation within GRAS
- Provide feedback, from each individual's perspective, on Grand Rapids Area Schools' public education priorities
- Discuss options for ensuring these priorities can be delivered, cost effectively, for the long-term benefit of all residents

FORWARD Norms

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Safe

Be Kind



BIGFORK HUSKIES

H HONEST	TELL THE TRUTH BE EXCUSE FREE OWN YOUR BEHAVIOR USE YOUR OWN THINGS ASK PERMISSION
O ON IT!	HAVE MATERIALS WITH YOU STAY ON TASK LOOK/LISTEN/PAY ATTENTION
W WILLING	PARTICIPATE TAKE RISKS TRY MISTAKES ARE OK
L LEAD	TREAT OTHERS KINDLY HELP OTHERS USE ENCOURAGING WORDS STAND UP FOR OTHERS WALK AWAY WHEN NEEDED

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District Information: Round 1

District History

Our District by the Numbers

Strategic Directions

Our District - History

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5-4-1905.
COMP. OF YOUR
TEACHER F.L.SPRING.








TROUT LAKE









From School District #1 to #318

- **1887** - Classes held in a log cabin in Grand Rapids.
- **1888** - First school built in Itasca County.
- **1894** - Central School constructed
- **1901** - First High School
- **1903** - One-room school constructed in Bigfork
- **1922** - Second High School
- **1952** - Bigfork School
- **By 1957** - 5 elementary schools, 1 Junior HS, 1 Senior HS, enrollment of 3,183 students

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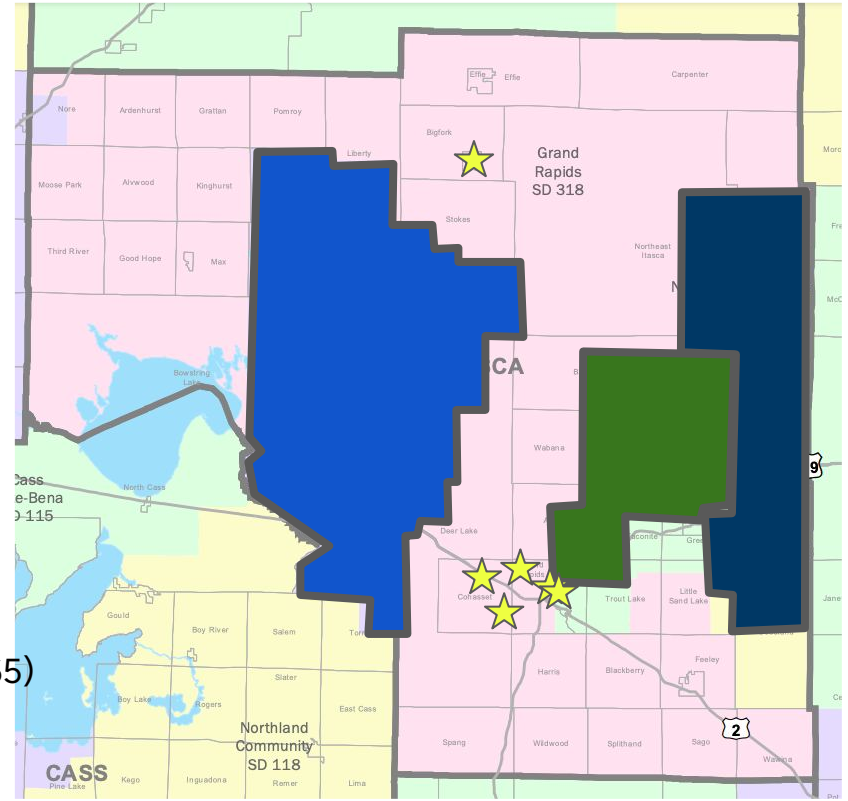
Our District - By the Numbers Today

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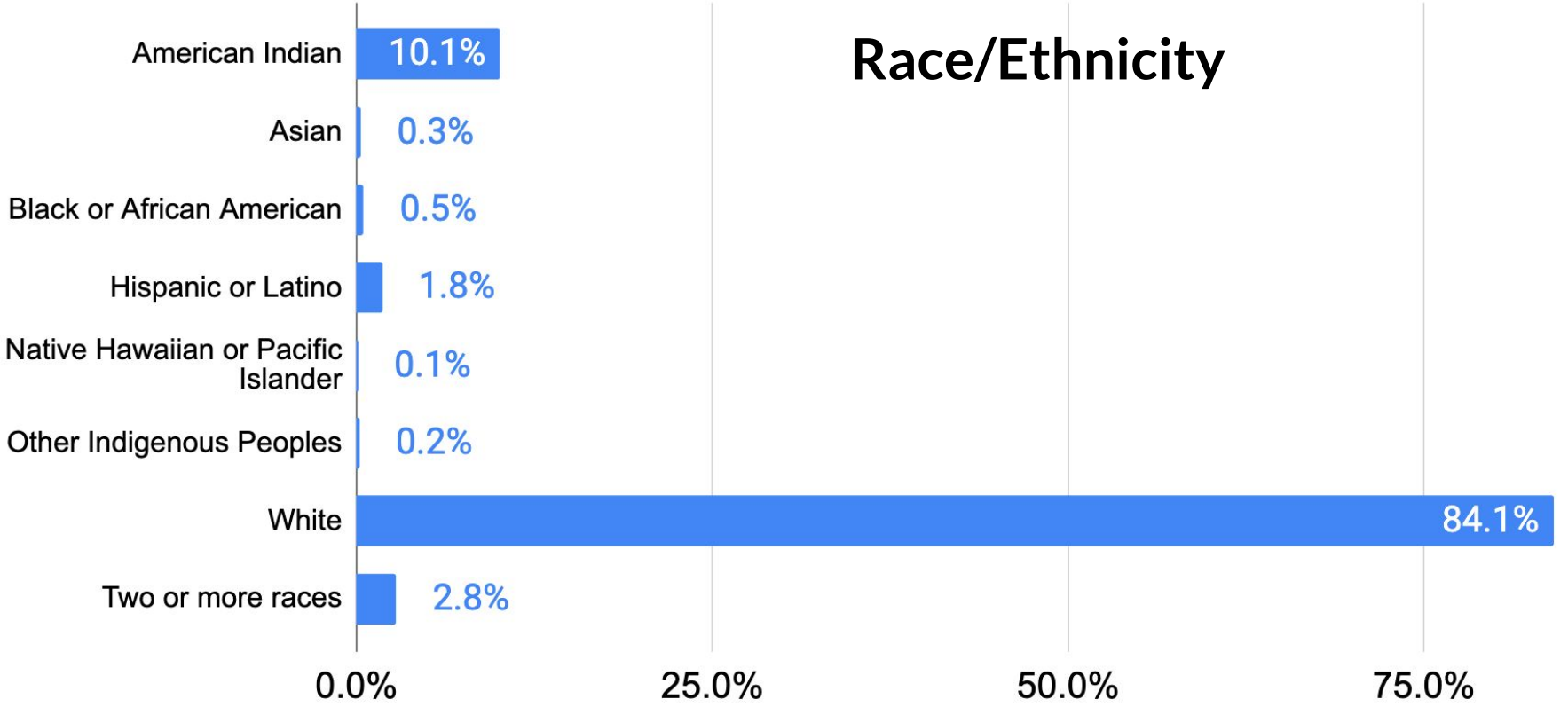
Our Places

- **Enrollment: ~3900 K-12**
  - *55th largest in MN (out of ~330)*
- **Area: 1944 square miles (772,045) acres**
  - *3rd largest in MN (St. Louis Co, Lake Superior)*
- **Over 30 municipalities, 2 tribal nations**
- **9 Educational sites:**

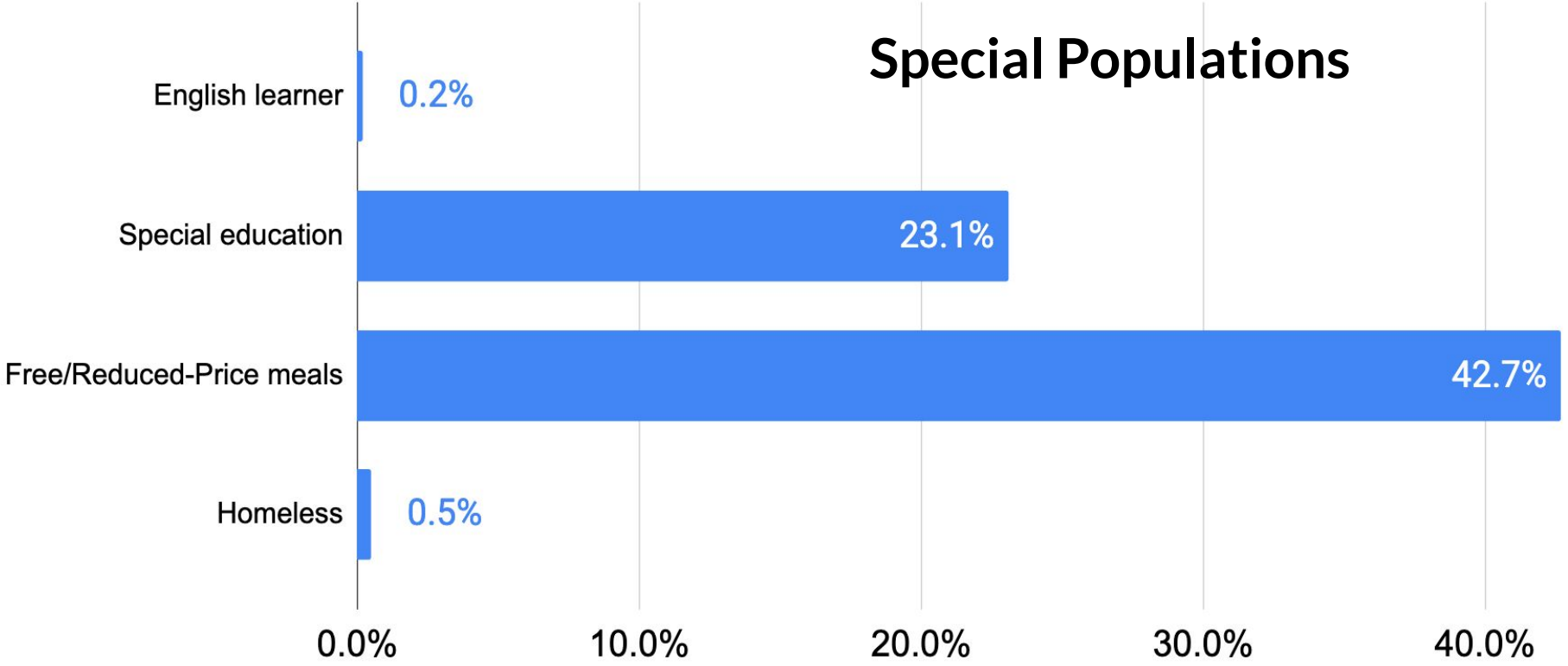
- Bigfork (250)
- East Rapids Elementary (600)
- West Rapids Elementary (525)
- Cohasset Elementary (310)
- GRAVA (55)
- RJE Middle School (845)
- Grand Rapids High School (1065)
- Itaskin Education Center (40)
- GR Area Learning Center (130)
- Quest (15)



Our People: Students



Our People: Students



Our People: Staff

552 Staff* Total

266 Teachers	**24** Principals, Directors, Administrators	**4** IT Staff
104 Educational Support Professionals	**30** Support Staff	**6** Indian Ed Staff
45 Transportation Staff	**35** Buildings and Grounds Staff	**36** Food Service Staff

Our People: School Board

Board of Education

2025-

- Mark Schroeder, Chair
- David Marty, Clerk
- Dr. Malissa Bahr
- David Cowan, Treasurer
- Ashley Goodman
- Thomas Gustafson

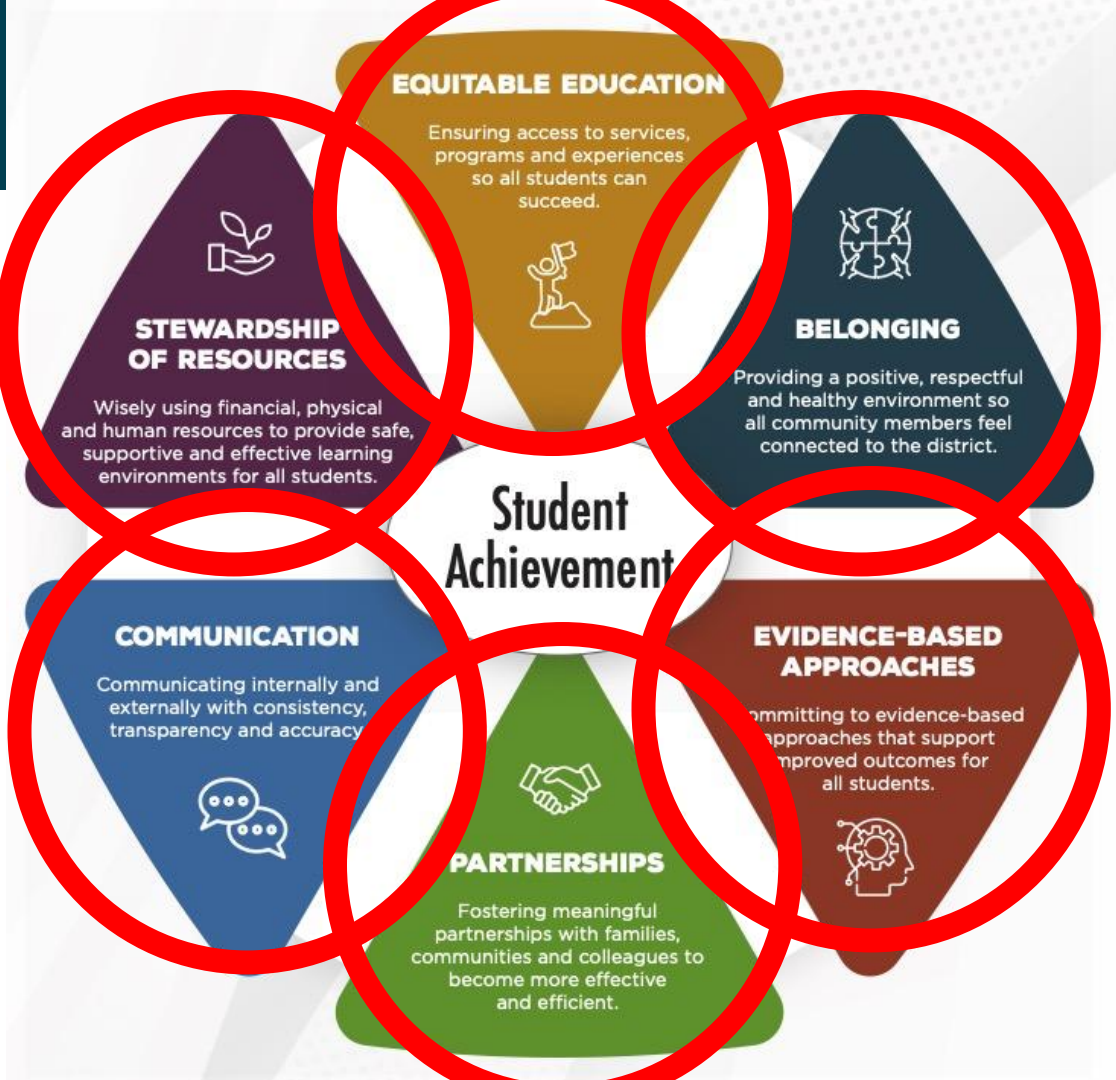
2024 Training Hours
Board Average
45 hours each



Our District - Strategic Directions

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What Guides Us?



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Resilience:

The ability for students to adapt, persevere, and grow through challenges—skills essential for lifelong learning and well-being. It is equally vital for our staff and our district, as we navigate change, support one another, and continue to grow stronger together.

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Readiness:

Ensuring our students are fully prepared for their next step—college, career, military service, or community life—while we as a district commit to being ready ourselves: ready to support, to adapt, and to provide the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

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Excellence:

The standard we set for ourselves and our students, fostering a culture where high expectations, continuous improvement, and quality are expected and celebrated.

2025 Community Survey Results

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Community Survey Results

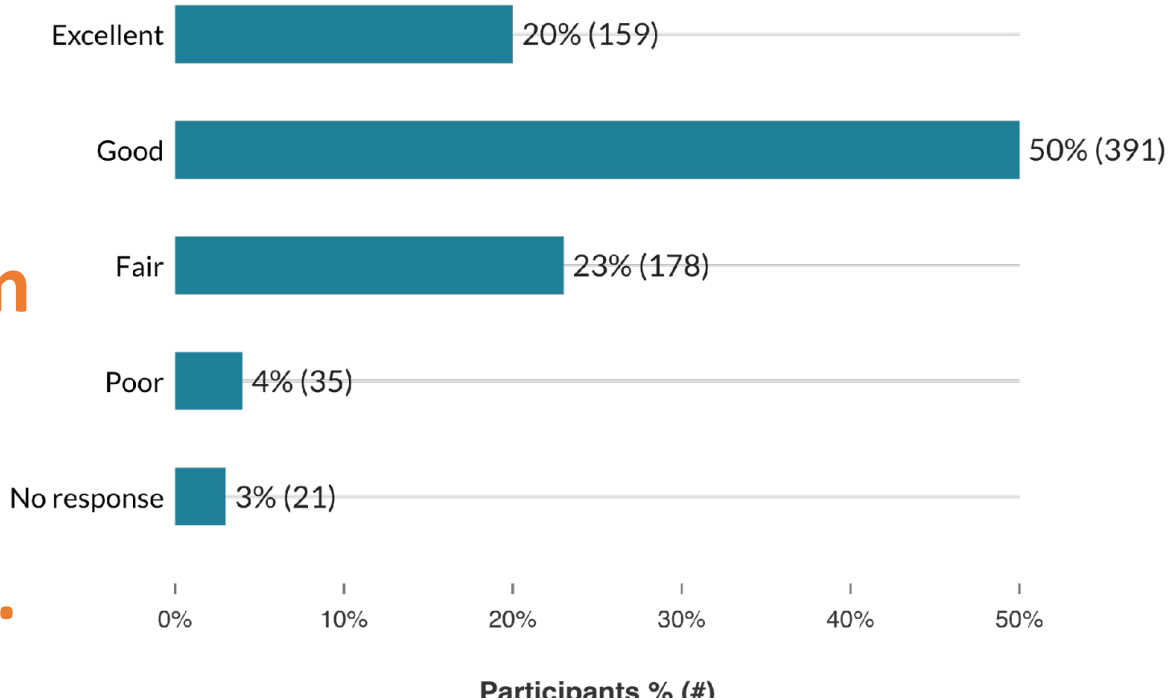
- **833 responses to the survey!**
  (31% who have lived here 30 or more years)
- **Ran for approximately two weeks**

- **Communicated in newspapers, Facebook, school newsletter, district newsletters**

Quality of Education

How would you rate the quality of education (teaching & learning) provided by Grand Rapids Area Schools (GRAS)?

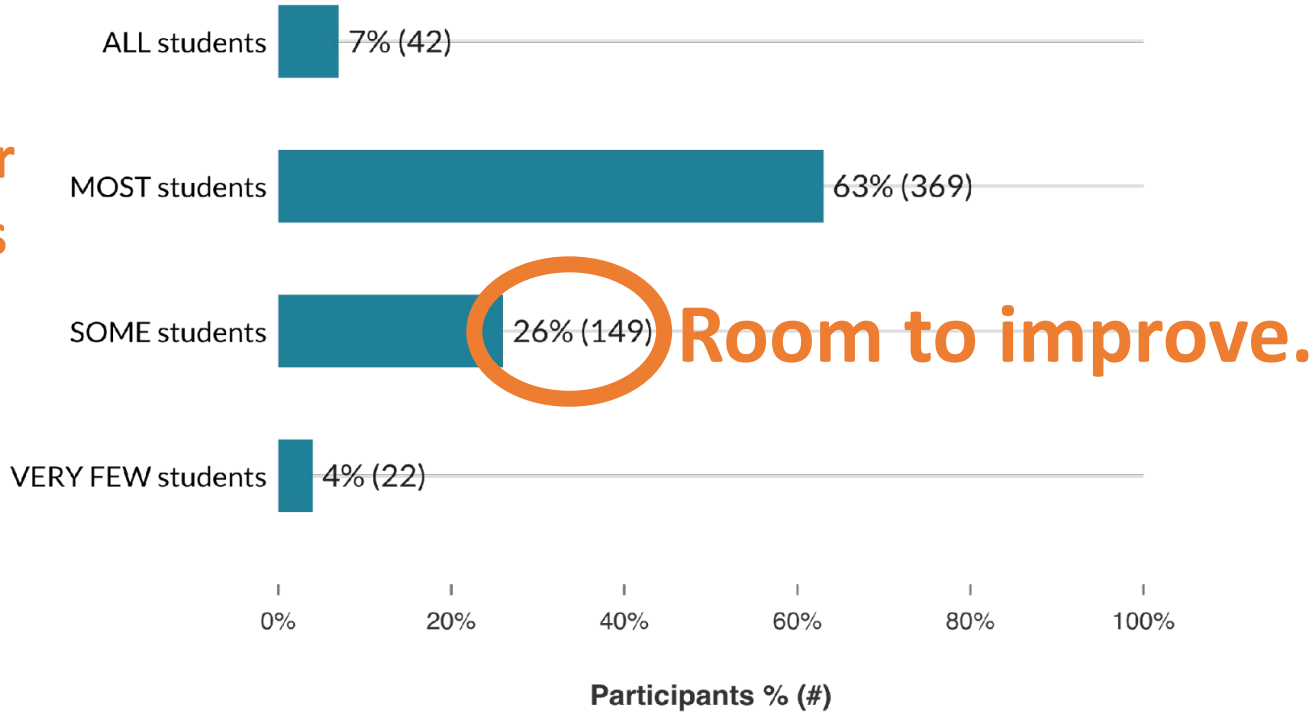
70% rated education quality Good or Excellent.



Meeting the Learning Needs of Students

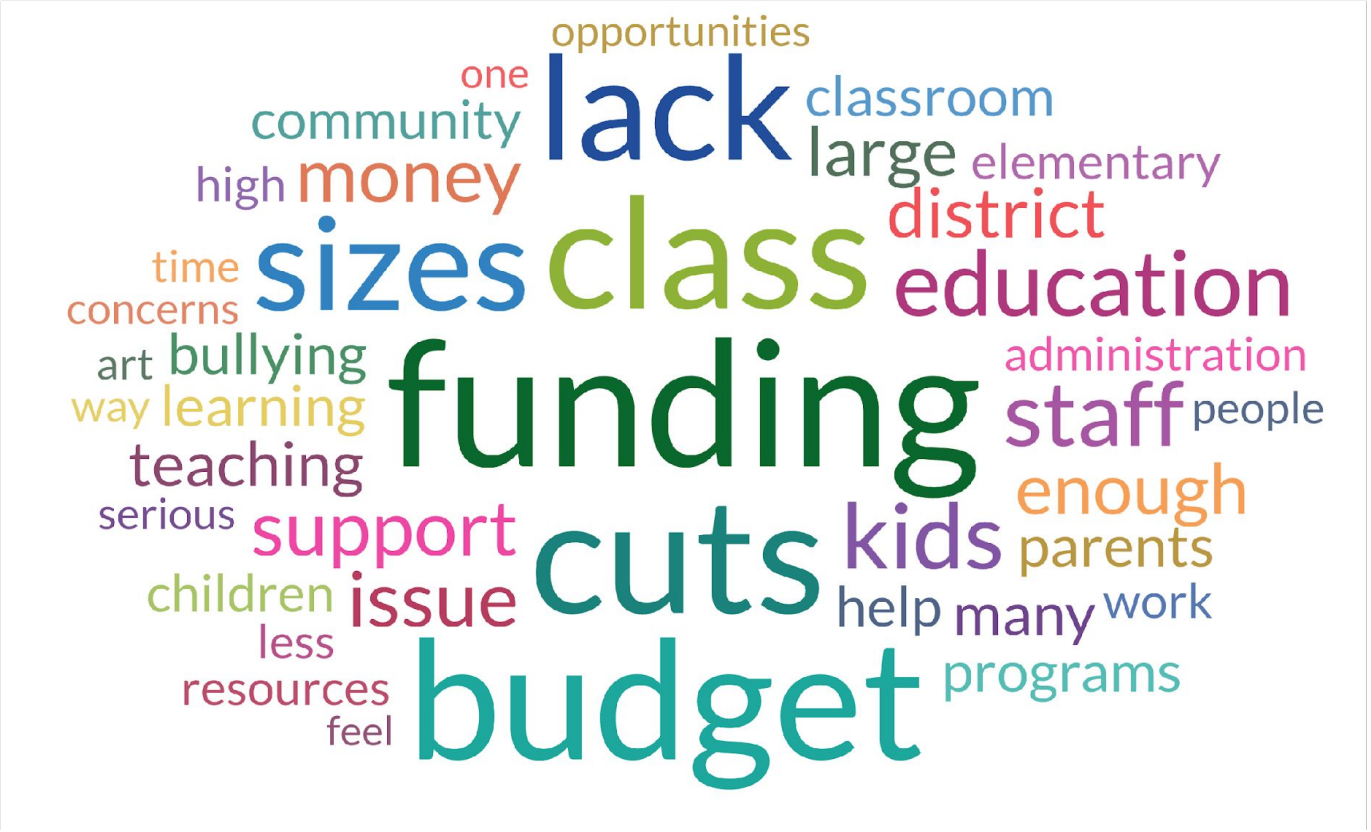
Overall, do you think GRAS meets the learning needs of:

70% Most or All Students



Room to improve.

Serious issues facing the district



Funding and Reductions

80%

of respondents say budget cuts negatively impact learning.

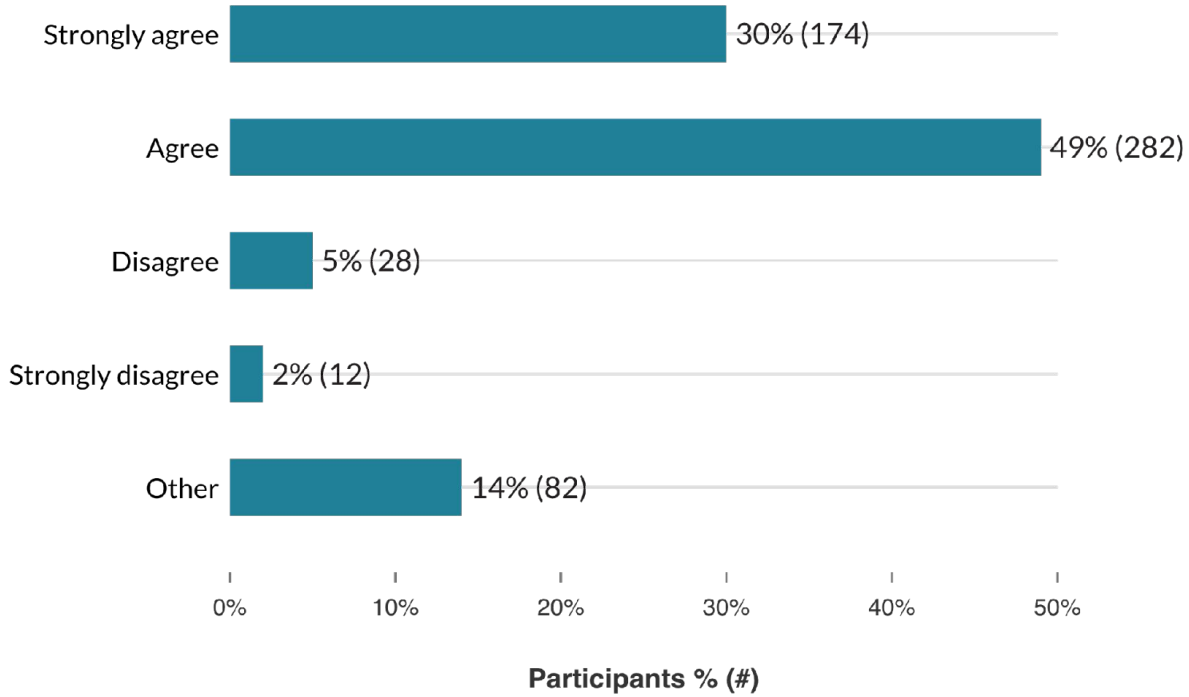
66%

of respondents say the district is not adequately funded.

High Quality Activities

Do you believe GRAS provides high-quality extracurricular activities (sports, fine arts, clubs, etc.)?

79% Agree or Strongly Agree that GRAS offers high-quality activities.

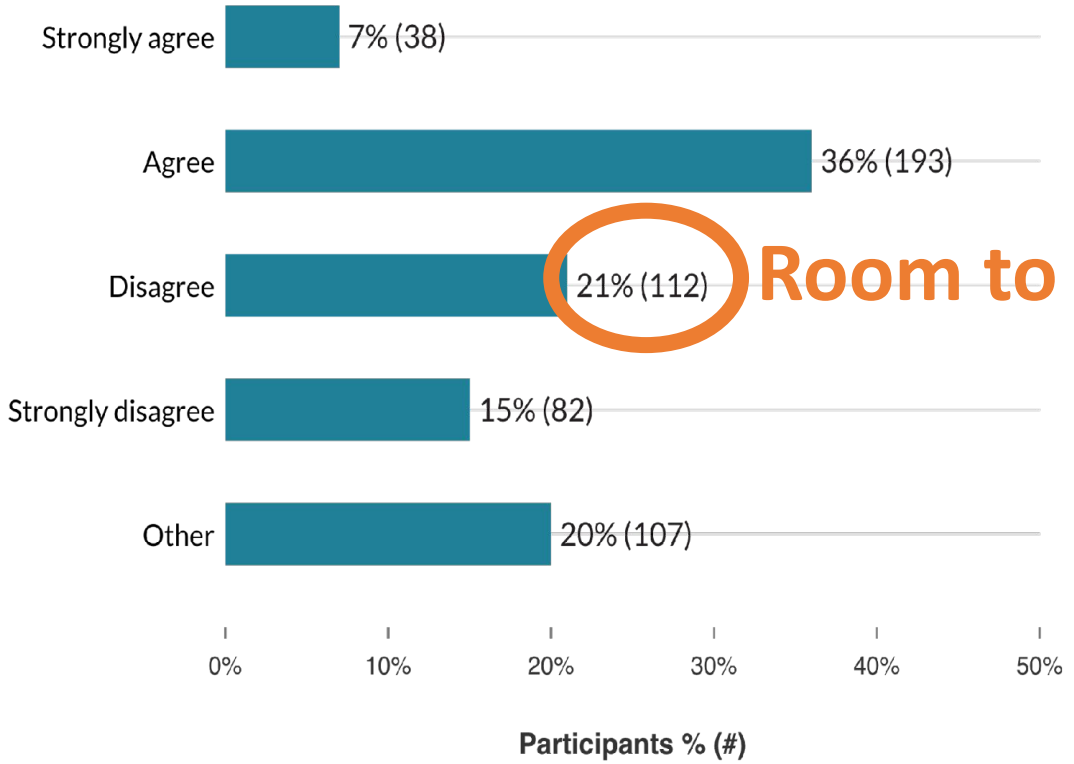


Financial Stewardship

43% Agree or Strongly Agree

36% Disagree or Strongly Disagree

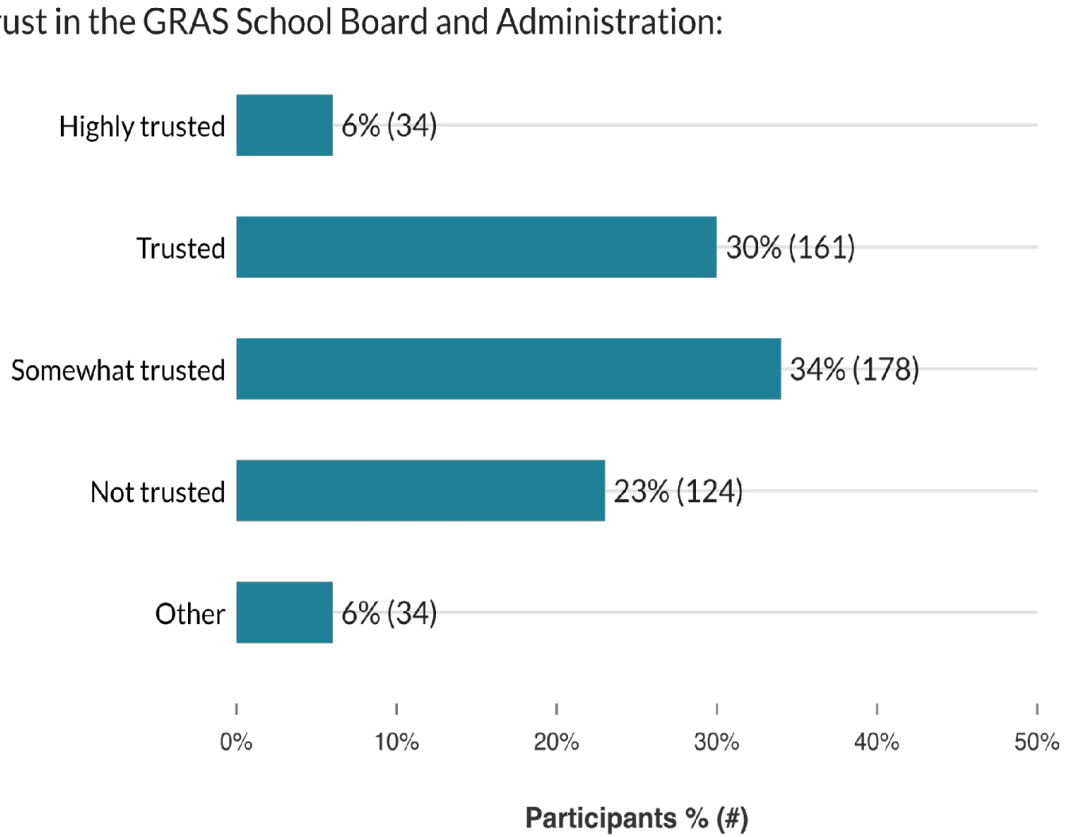
Do you believe the GRAS School Board and Administration to be good financial stewards?



Room to improve.

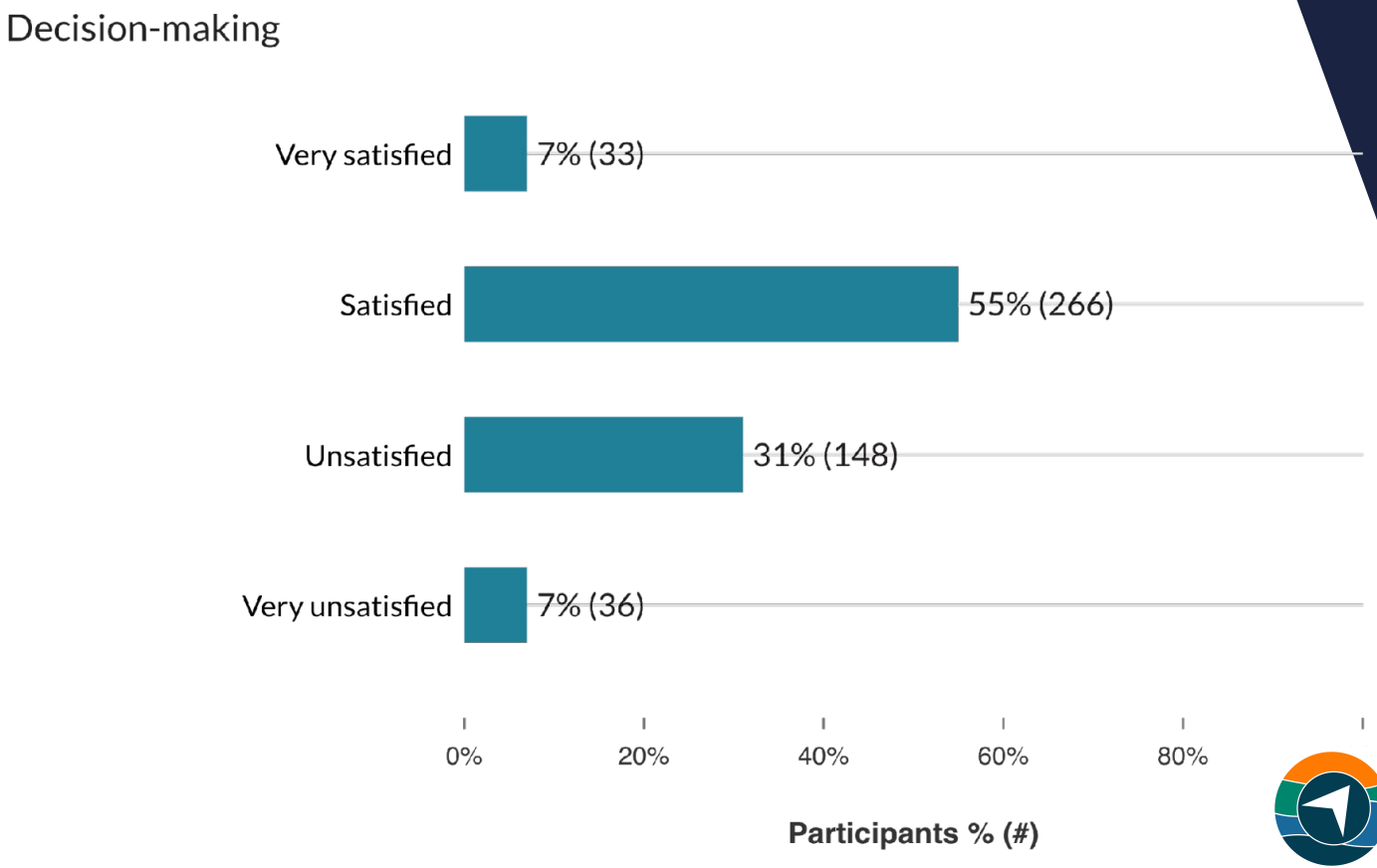
Trust in Leadership

36%
Trusted
34%
Somewhat Trusted
23%
Not trusted



Satisfaction with Decision-making

62% satisfied with decision-making.



Where do you get your information from?

	Notable Sources: 3-4-5	Top Sources: 4-5
Family, neighbors, friends	78%	40%
School District Employees	69%	40%
District social media	67%	43%
School District Website	68%	35%
School newsletters and other	67%	41%
Other social media	46%	24%

Your Turn: Feedback

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Feedback Questions

- What facts and information did you hear tonight that were new to you?
- How do you feel about the facts and information presented?
- Does anyone have follow-up comments to what your tablemates have offered?



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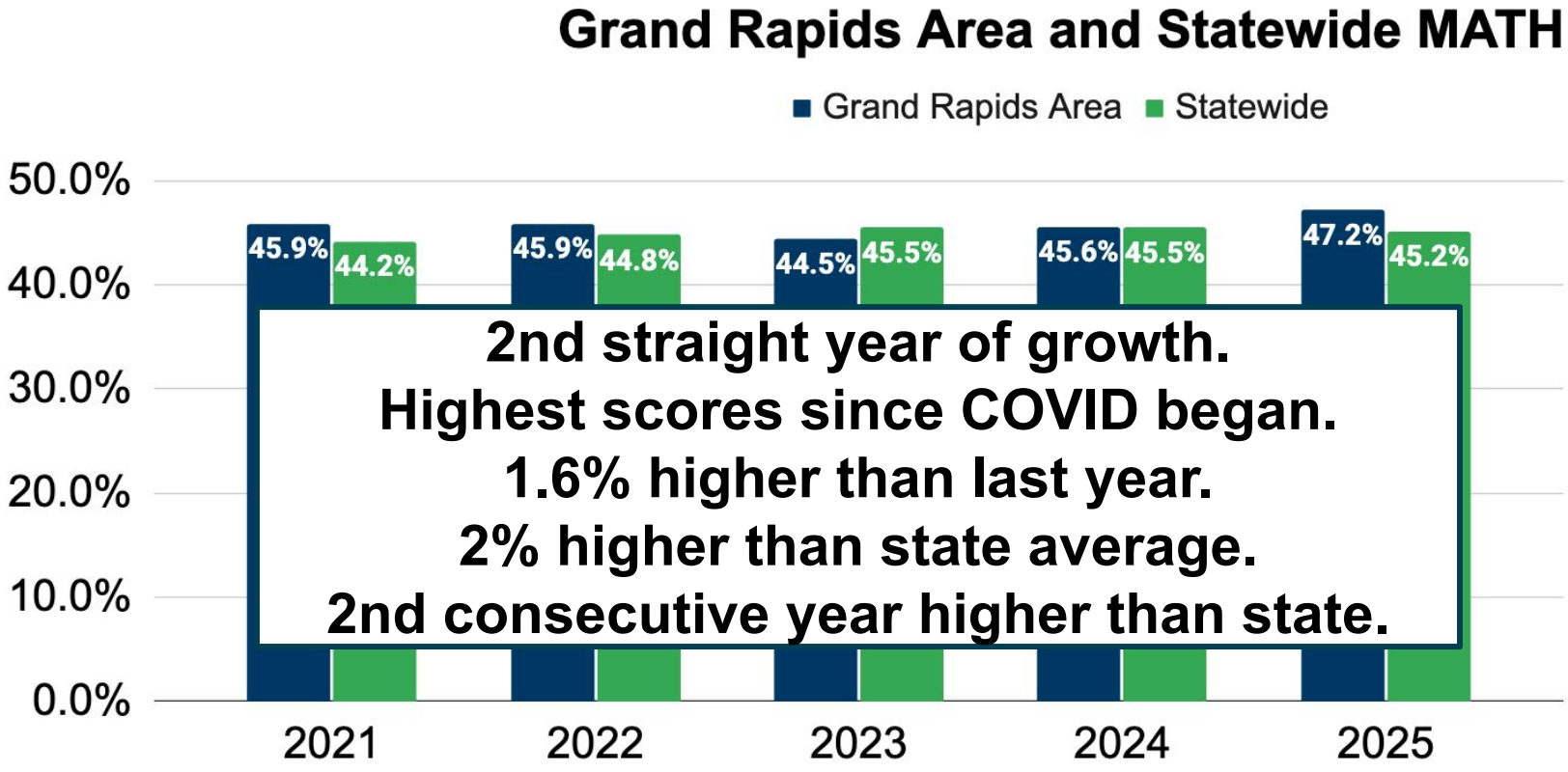
Student Achievement Data

Student Opportunities

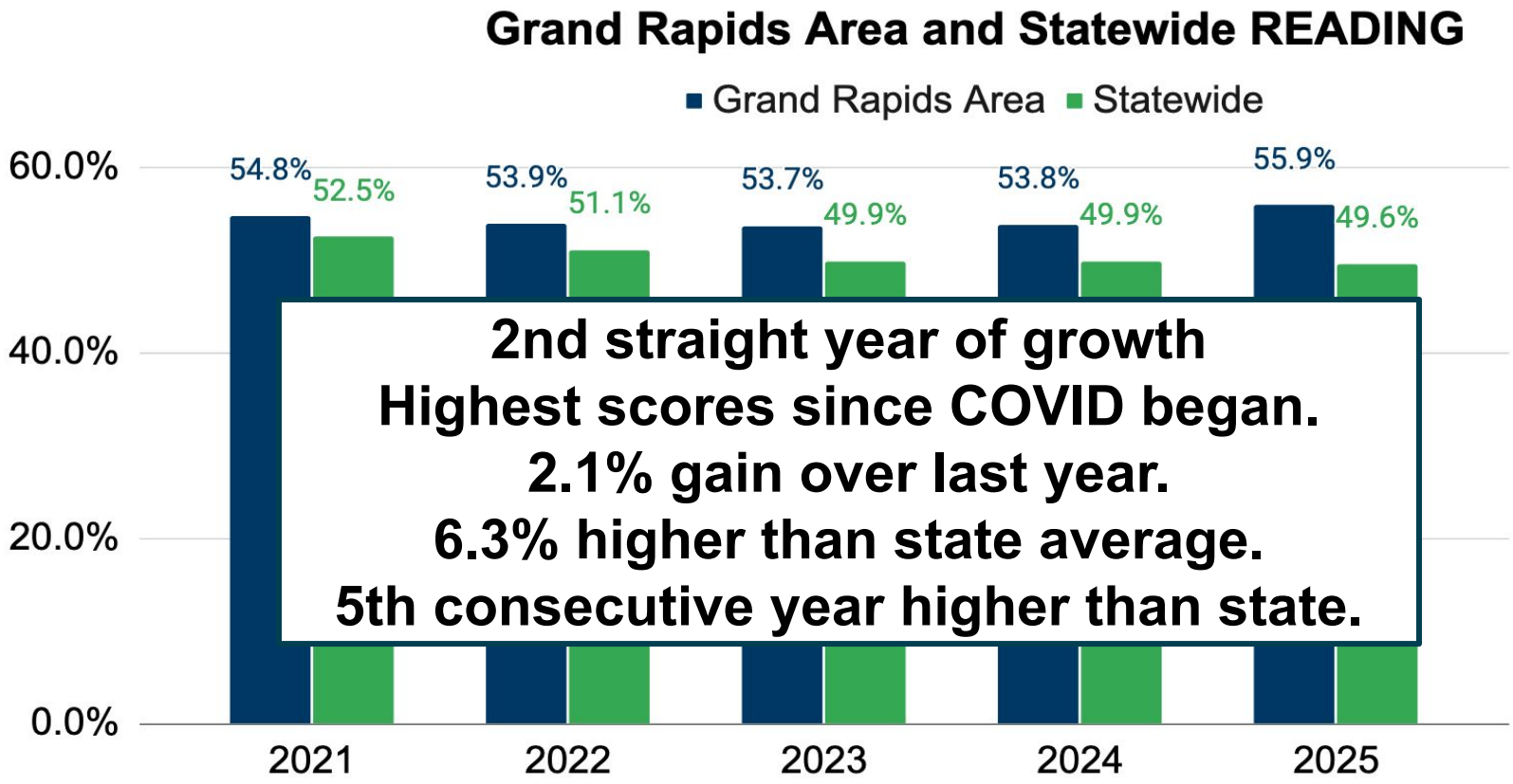
Student Achievement and Learning

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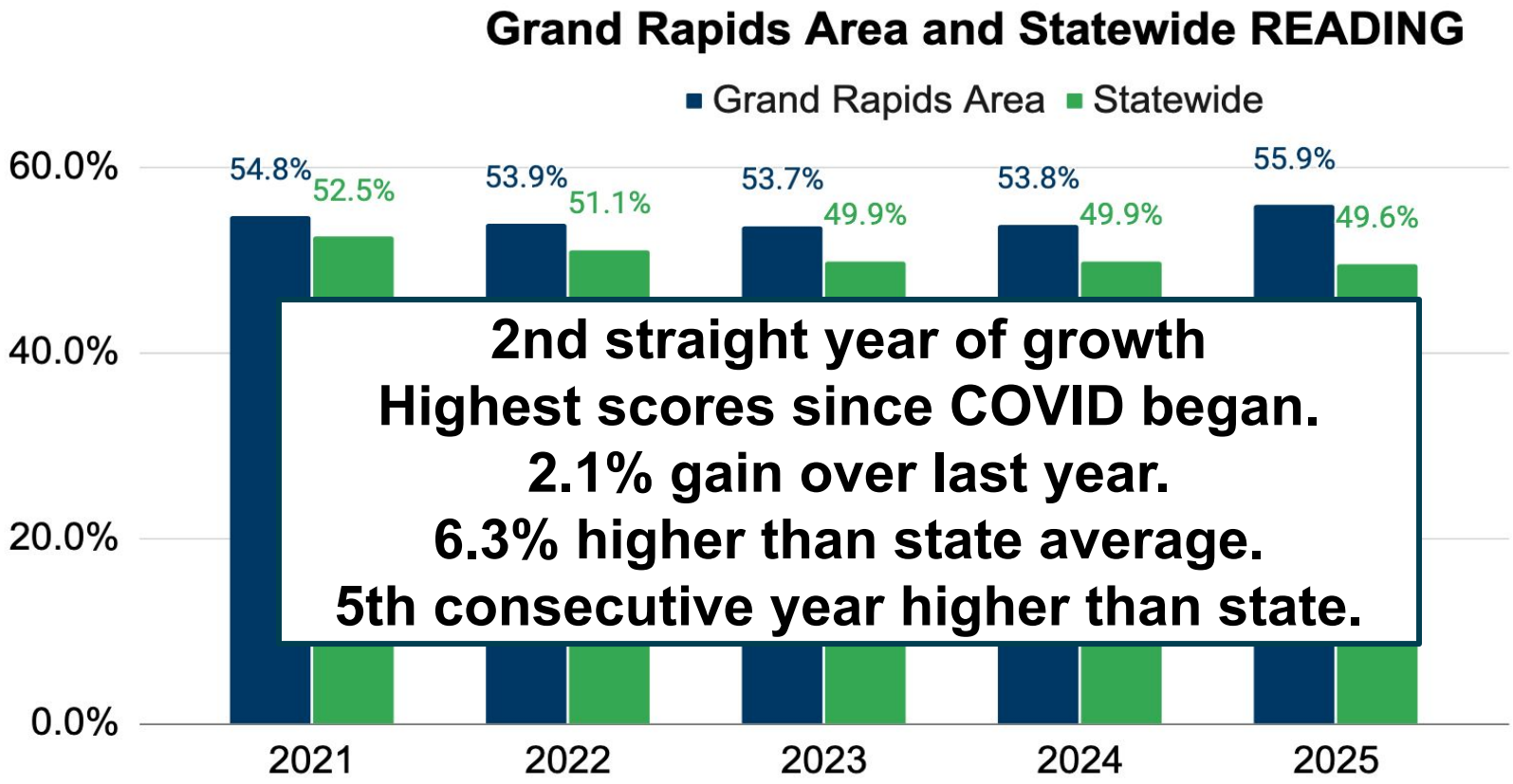
2025 Minnesota MCA Scores



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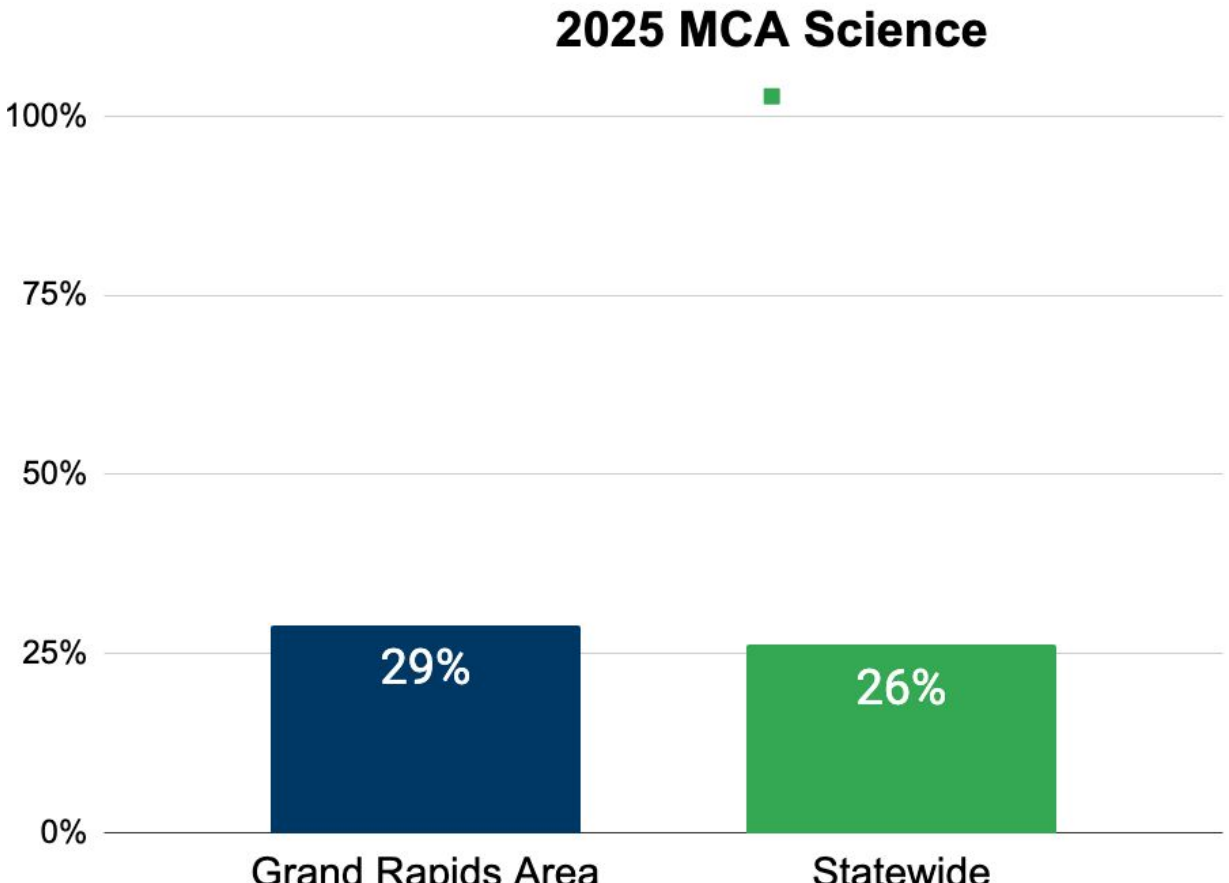


2025 Minnesota MCA Scores

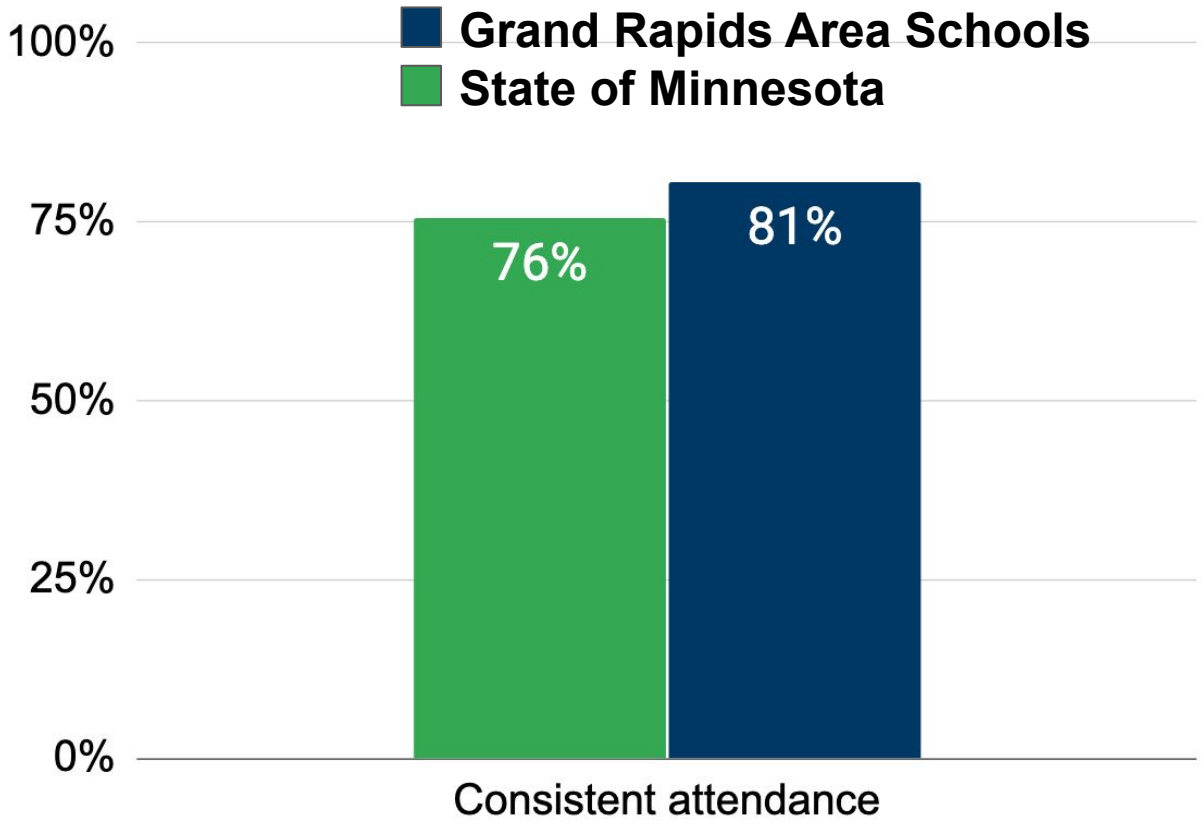


2025 Minnesota MCA Scores

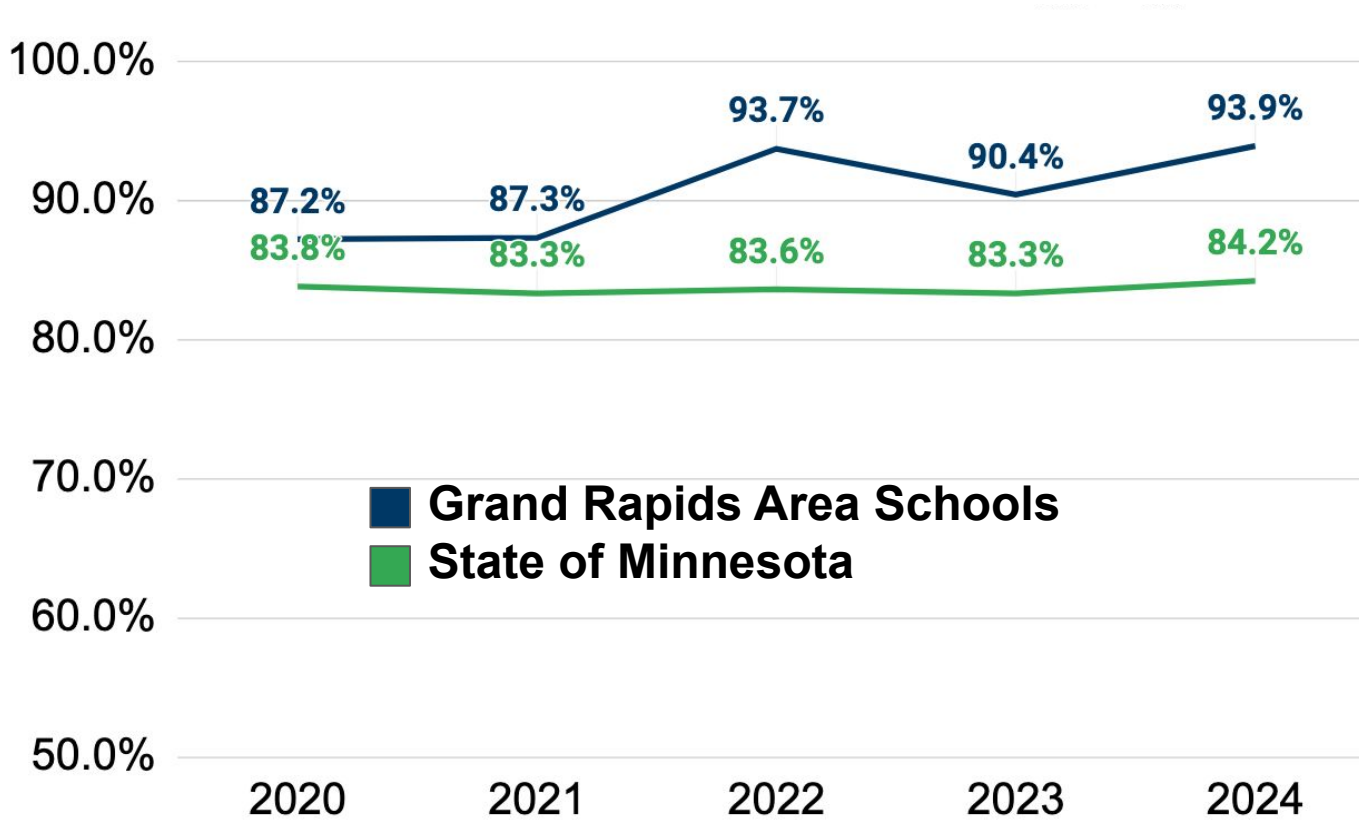
2025: new assessment aligned to newest standards



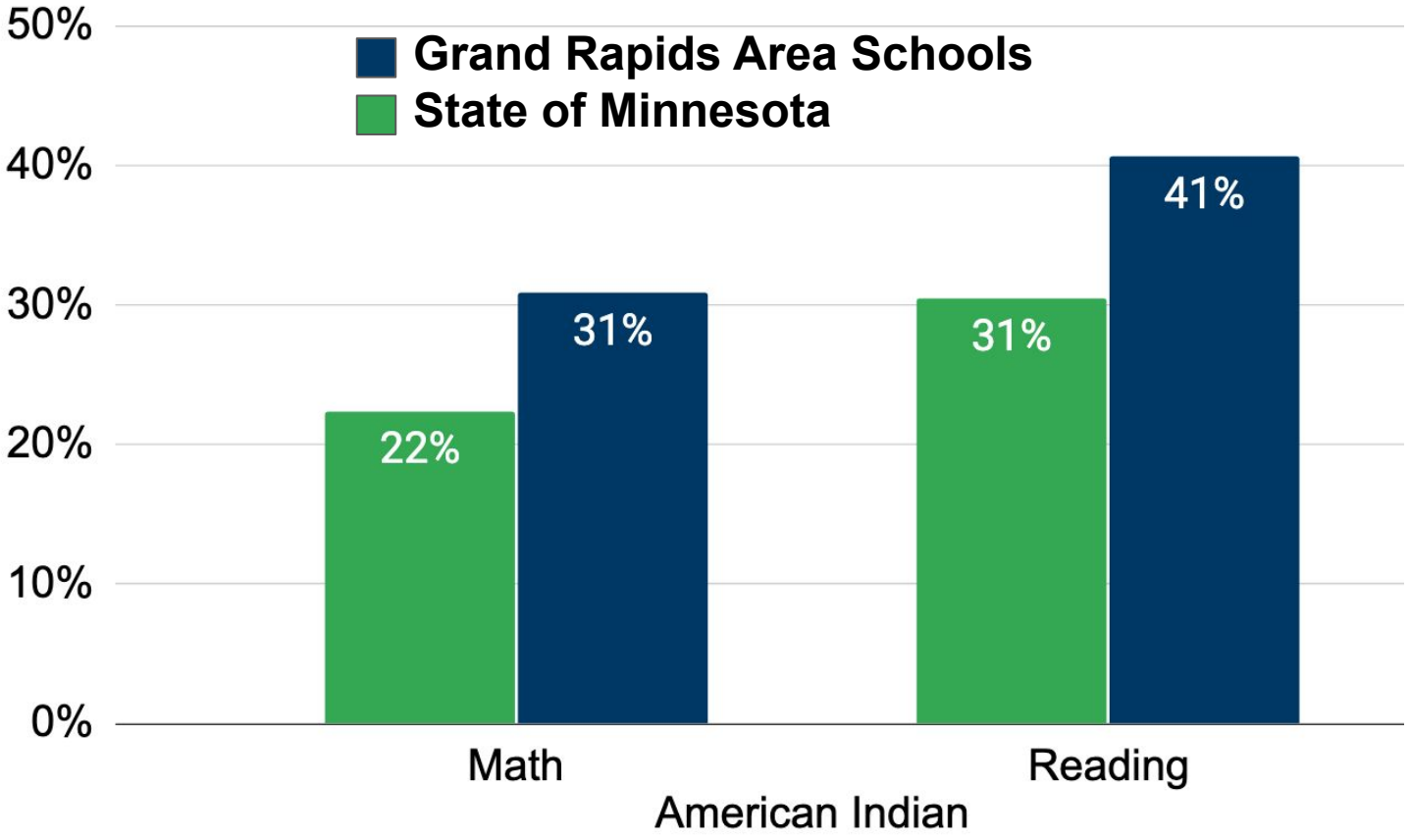
2025 Attendance



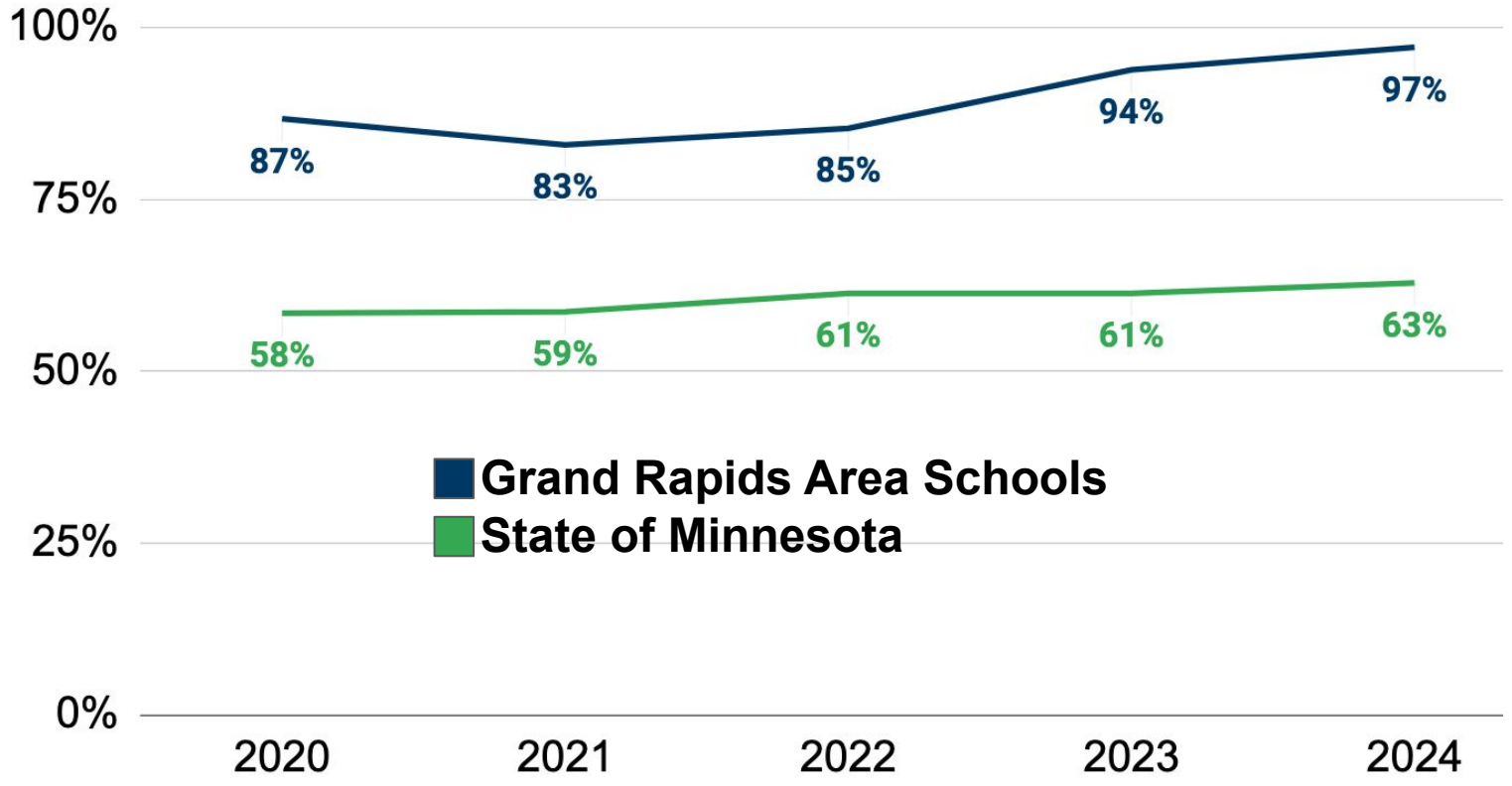
Graduation Rates



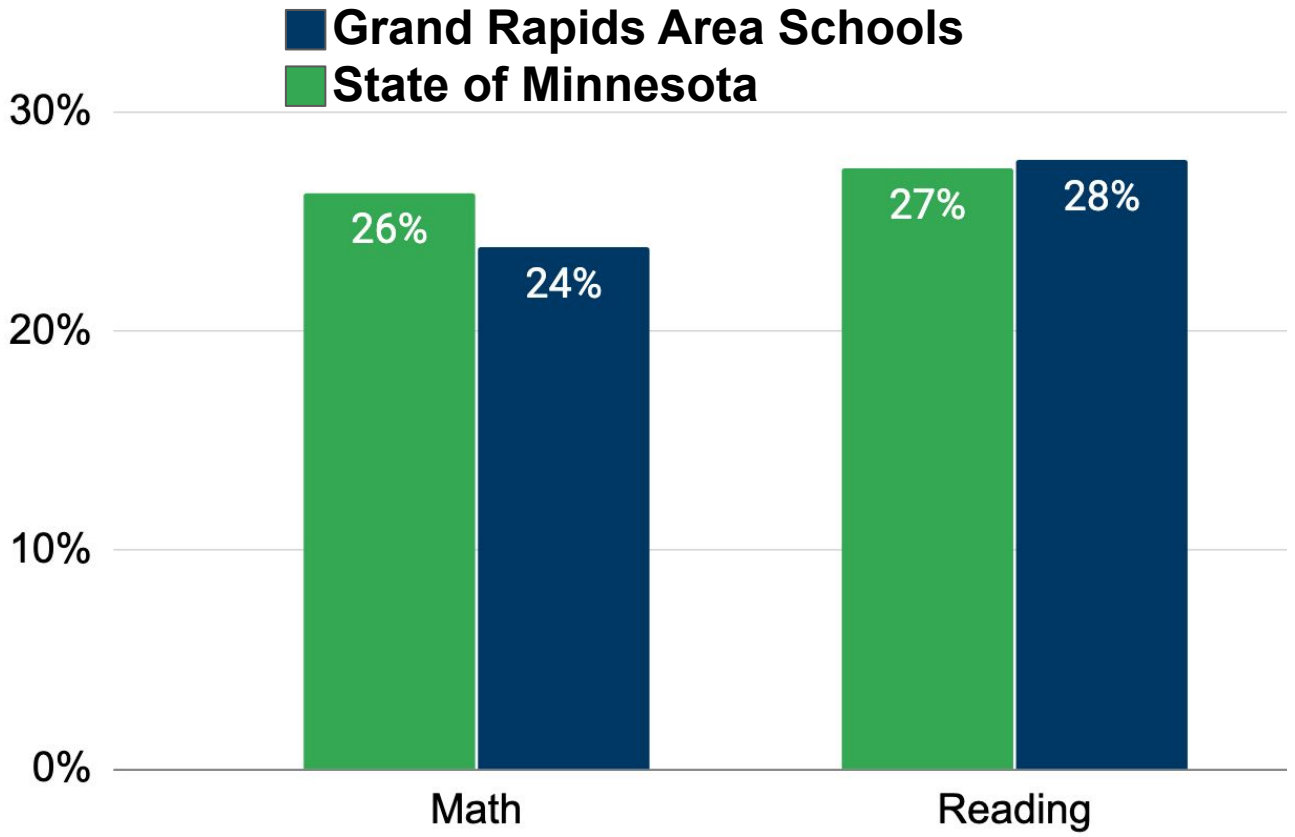
American Indian Achievement



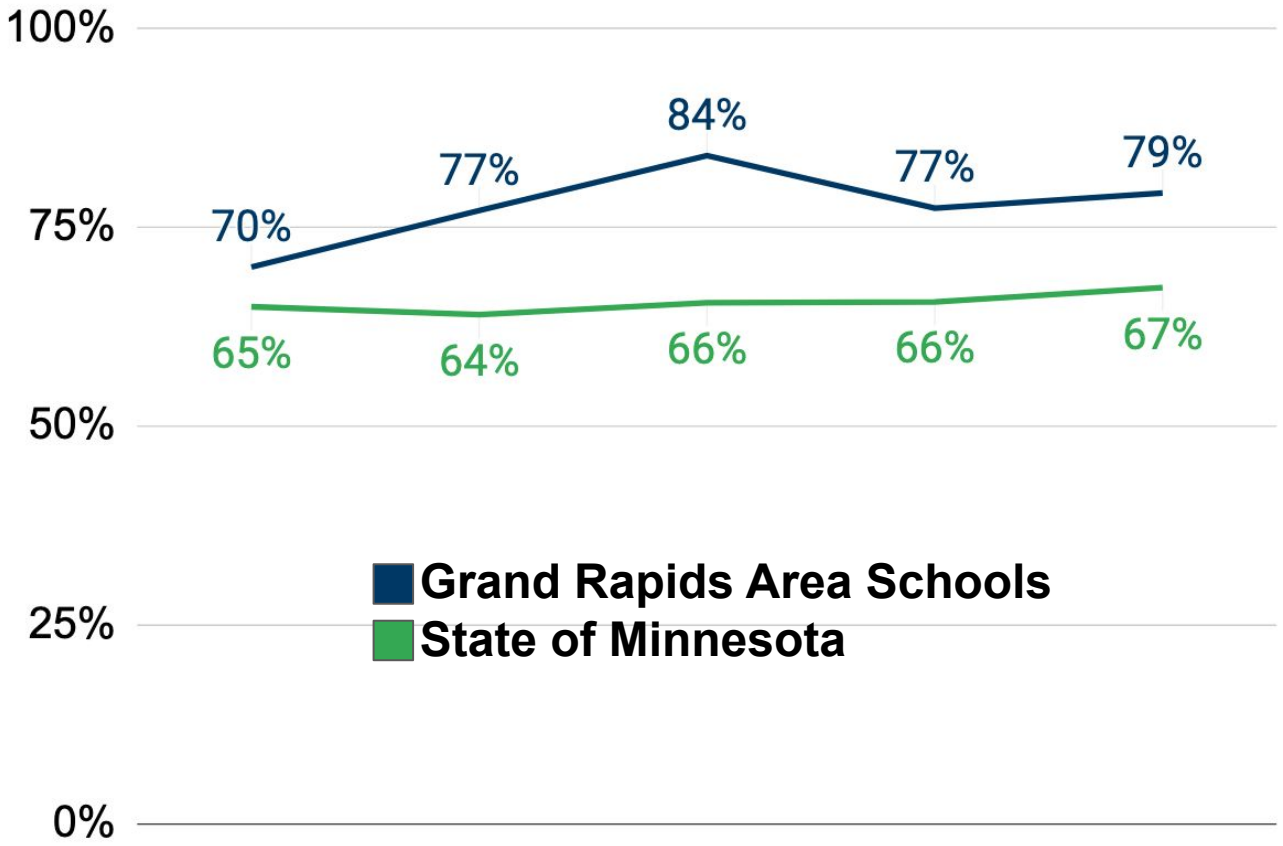
American Indian Graduation



Special Education Achievement



Special Education Graduation



Student Opportunities

- **Robust intervention programs**
  - Title 1
  - Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services
  - Americorp
  - Tutoring
  - MTSS



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Academics

Student Opportunities

- **Advanced Learning Opportunities**
  - Elementary:
    - Gifted and Talented programming
    - Math Masters
  - Secondary:
    - College in the Schools
      - Over 230 students earned 2400+ credits
    - International Baccalaureate
    - Career Pathways in auto, manufacturing, healthcare, construction, business, education, IT, natural resources

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Academics

Student Opportunities

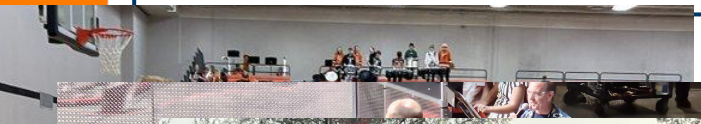




Music

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Student Opportunities







Act

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Your Turn: Feedback

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Feedback Questions

- What facts and information did you hear tonight that were new to you?
- How do you feel about the facts and information presented?
- Based on what you've seen tonight, along with your experiences, what challenges or issues face GRAS?
- Based on these challenges, what actions or decisions do you see school leaders faced with in the coming years?
- Does anyone have follow-up comments to what your tablemates have offered?

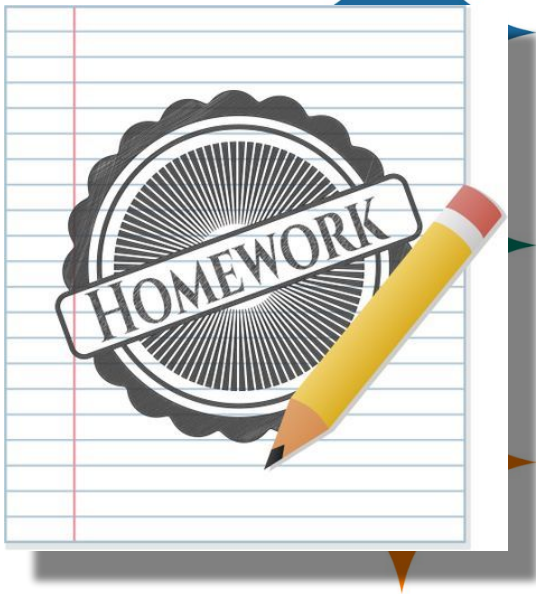
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Next Steps & Homework

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Next Steps & Homework

- Meeting #2 is scheduled for January 22, 2026
- Homework
  - Share your experience tonight and participation in the FORWARD Community Advisory Committee with **THREE PEOPLE**
  - Ask them, “What is the most important priority for Grand Rapids Area Schools?”



One Last Request

Your Turn

"What is the most important priority for Grand Rapids Area Schools?"



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Thank You!

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