



ECISD Choice Schools Update

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Setting the Context



Believing OUR Students are THE Future, the mission of ECISD is to inspire and challenge every student to be prepared for success and to be adaptable in an ever-changing society.

ECISD will create a comprehensive school choice program designed to meet the needs of student interests, campus innovation/transformation, enrollment growth and campus capacity, and workforce demands.



Setting the Context

“High-Quality, Best-Fit Schools for Every Child.”





13 Choice Schools

Nine = full choice

Four = neighborhood/choice



4,523 students

Approximately 15% of ECISD student body



Elementary:

- Academics
- Career/Workforce
- Dual Language
- Fine Arts
- Health and Fitness
- Montessori
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM)



Secondary:

- College Preparation
- Early College
- Project-based Learning
- Career and Technical Education
- International Baccalaureate (IB)

Choice Program Review

Quality Seats Analysis

Quantitative

- Academic Performance Data
- Student Group Performance
- Growth Metrics
- Enrollment Data
- Facility Utilization

School Site Visits

Qualitative

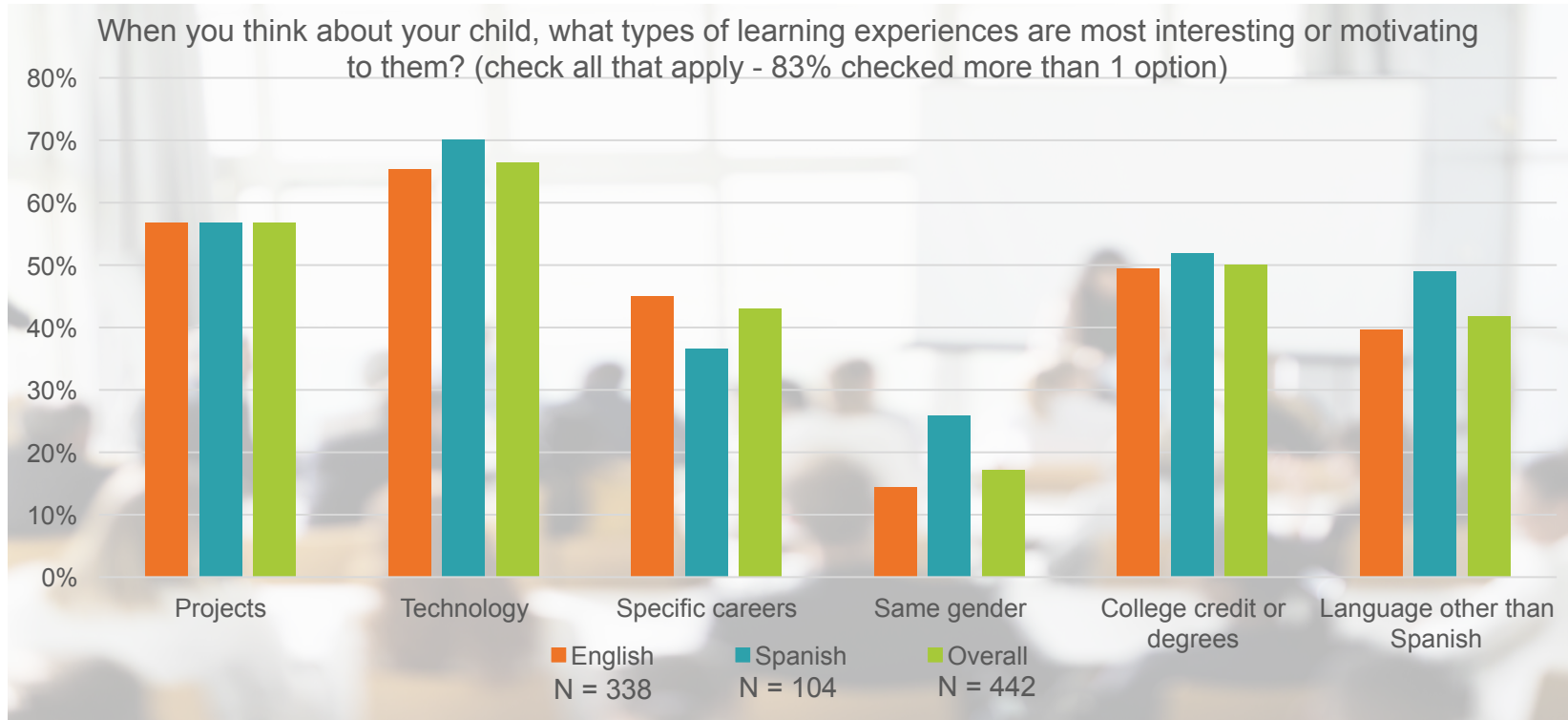
- Campus Systems/Processes
- Classroom Techniques
- Leadership Priorities
- Integration of Campus Theme

Community Engagement

Family/Student Input

- Pros/Cons of Current School
- Best Learning Experiences
- Interest/Motivation
- Grade Level Continuity

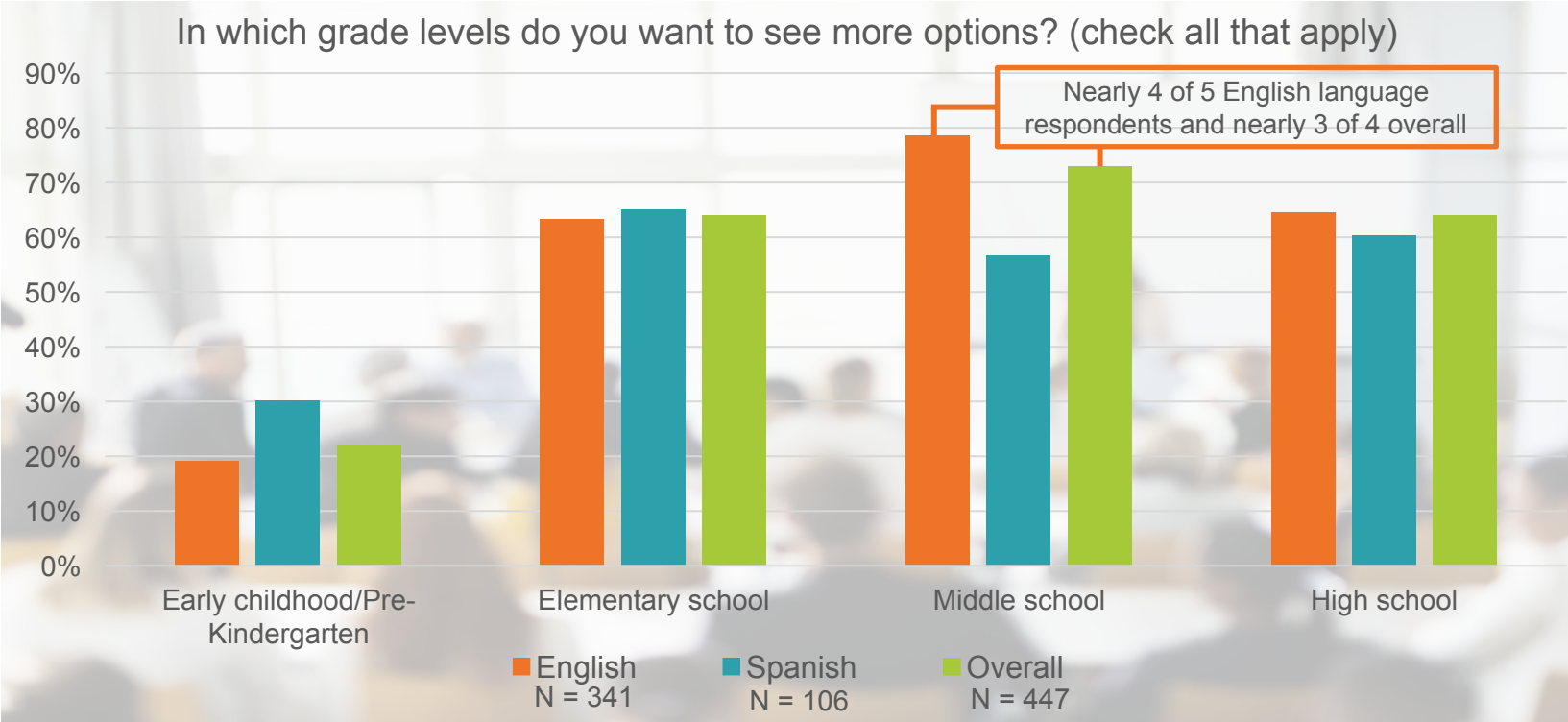
Choice Program Review



Top themes from qualitative responses:

- Overall, most families cited **preparation for the future** as being a reason for selecting specific choice options (e.g., the future will prioritize technology, career exploration or job preparation)
- Families who selected **technology** (highest overall percentage) typically cited preparation for the future and/or child interest as the reasons.
- Most families who selected **projects** (second highest percentage) cited one or more of these reasons: **(1)** real world application; **(2)** opportunity to demonstrate curiosity and/or student agency; and **(3)** opportunities for engagement and hands-on learning.

Choice Program Review



STRENGTHS:



Passionate Educators

Growing Interest among Families

Motivated Students

Number/Types of Options in Elementary and High Schools

Strategic Commitment from ECISD

Summary Findings

Families Opting Out of Middle School

Lack of Vertical Continuity

Low Enrollment at Select Campuses

Variability in Quality of Models

Inconsistent Academic Performance

OPPORTUNITIES:



IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITIES:



- Strengthen district oversight and support
- Share school-specific findings with Campus Leadership Teams



- Provide professional learning and support
 - Model articulation
 - Model-specific training and resource implementation
 - Preparation to scale



- Expand Choice at the Middle School Level
 - UTPB STEM Academy
 - International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP)
 - Project-Based Learning Model

The Path Forward...

Spring
2022

Summer
2022

2022-
2023

2023-
2024

2024-
2025

2025-
2026



Negotiate
Contract

Prep for Opening

LAUNCH!



Plan for
Implementation

Submit Interest
Statement

Site Selection and
Professional
Development

Trial Teaching and
Authorization Prep

IB Site Visit and
Authorization

LAUNCH!



Review Community
Feedback

Plan for
Implementation

Site Selection and
Professional
Development

Potential Launch Window
(Dependent upon Site Availability)

LONG-TERM OPPORTUNITIES:



- Shift programmatic focus at low-interest elementary schools
- Launch fellowship or training program for aspiring leaders
 - Mindset and skills training to design and lead high-performing, innovative learning experiences
 - Allow entrepreneurial leaders to propose new models or iterate “schools within schools”
- Expand Austin Montessori to PK-8

Conclusion

- Evaluation process has painted a **vivid picture** of where we currently stand.
- While the choice program is strong, **gaps in continuity and fidelity of implementation** must be addressed.
- Our goal remains ***“high-quality, best-fit schools for every child,”*** and we are on-track to achieve that.





THANK YOU!