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**SYCAMORE**

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**COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

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*Our students. Our future.*

# **School Choice Subcommittee**

Greg Leader (chair)

Jean Bissell, Jill Branam, Ella Mae Foster,

Bob Seiple, Terri Torres



# Subcommittee Questions

- What opportunities are parents seeking when they choose *not* to send their children to Sycamore Community Schools?
- Why do families return to Sycamore schools?
- Identify trends:
  - Ages or years when switches occur?
  - Varying percentages of Sycamore students not attending public school?

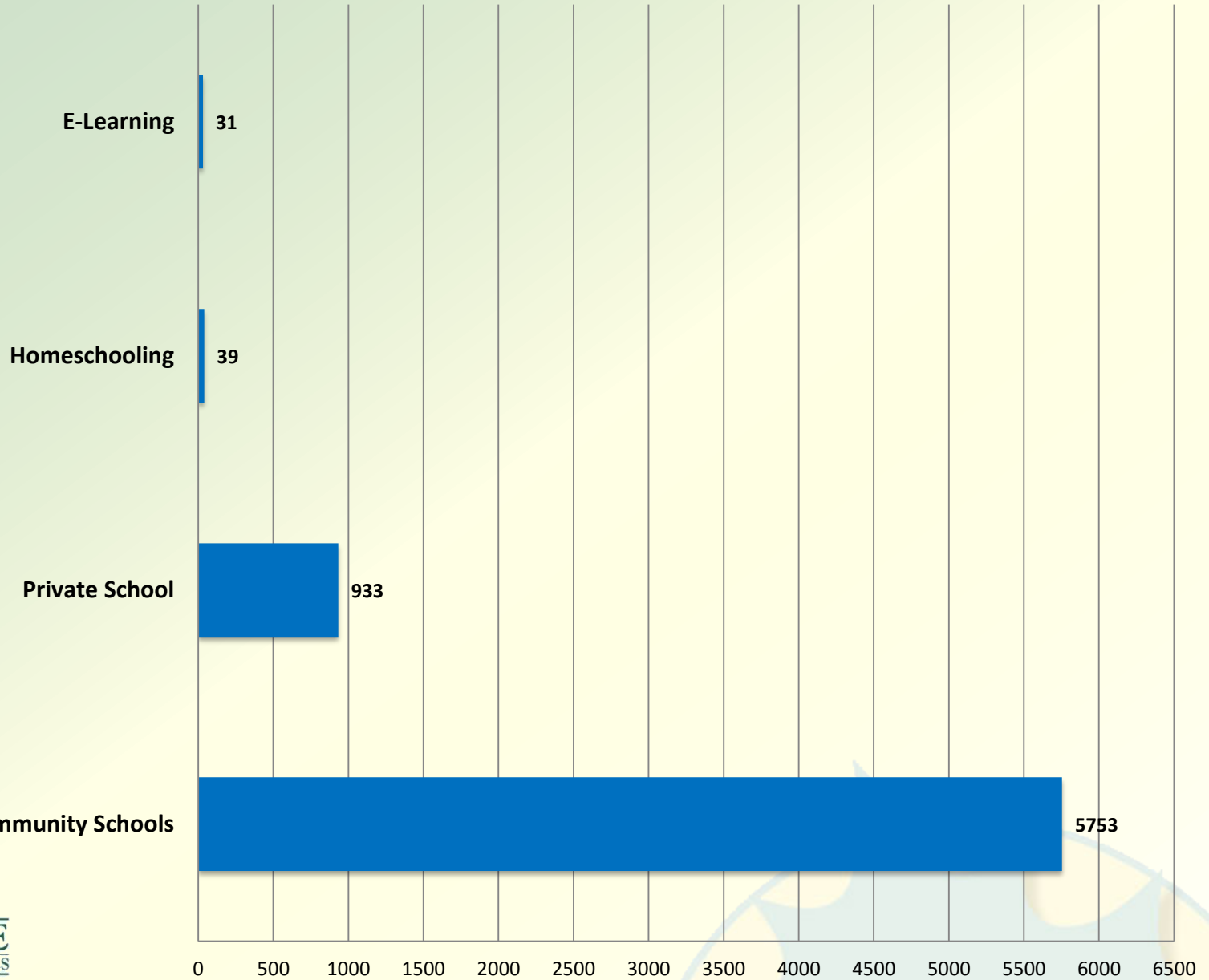
# Subcommittee Questions

- Has the mix of public-private increased or decreased over the past decade?
- Determine the top three reasons why a student switches between public and private schools
- Recommend metrics and tracking options going forward

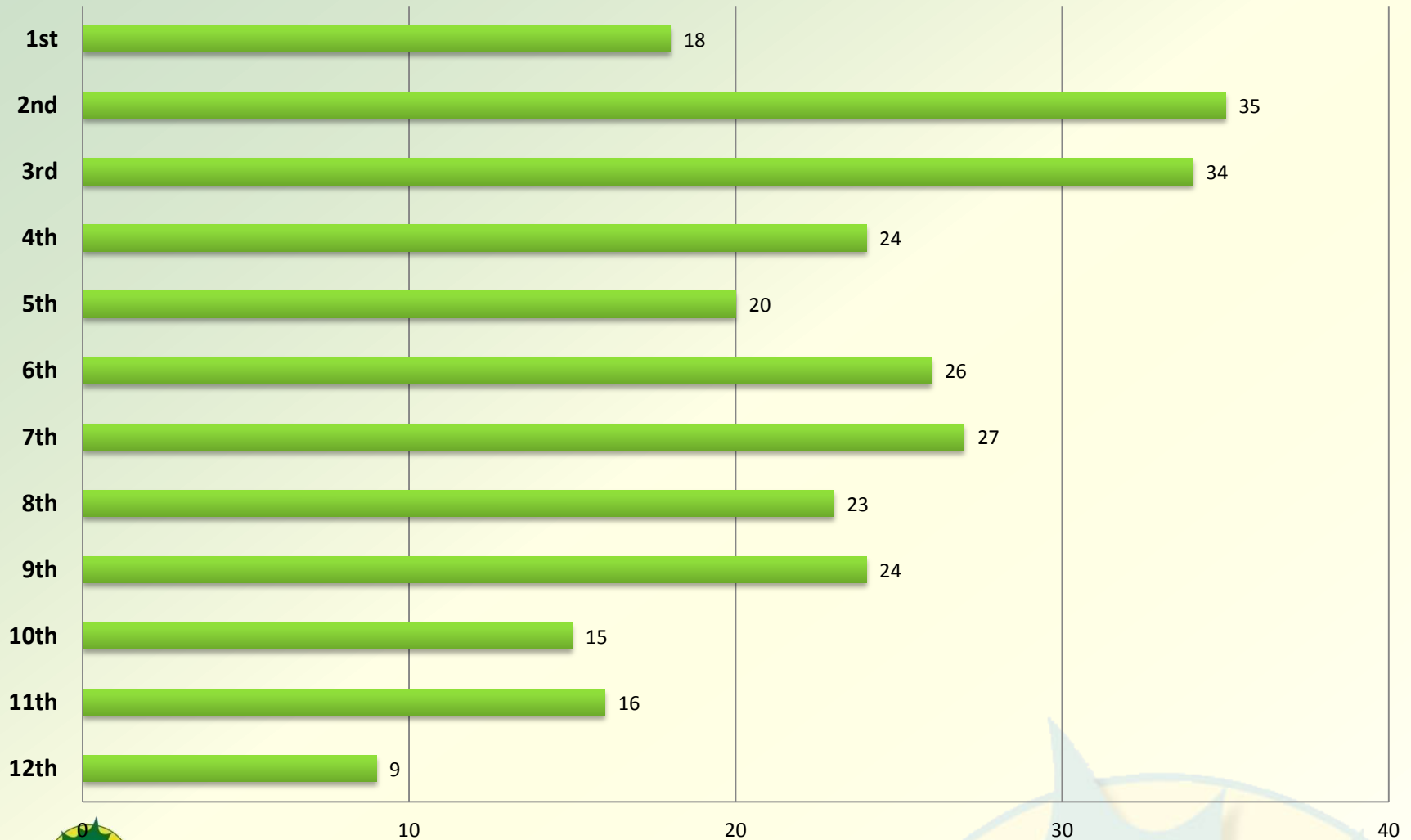
Information gleaned from enrollment data for Sycamore Community Schools

# **ENROLLMENT DATA FINDINGS**

# School Choice Within Sycamore Community Schools (2011-2012)

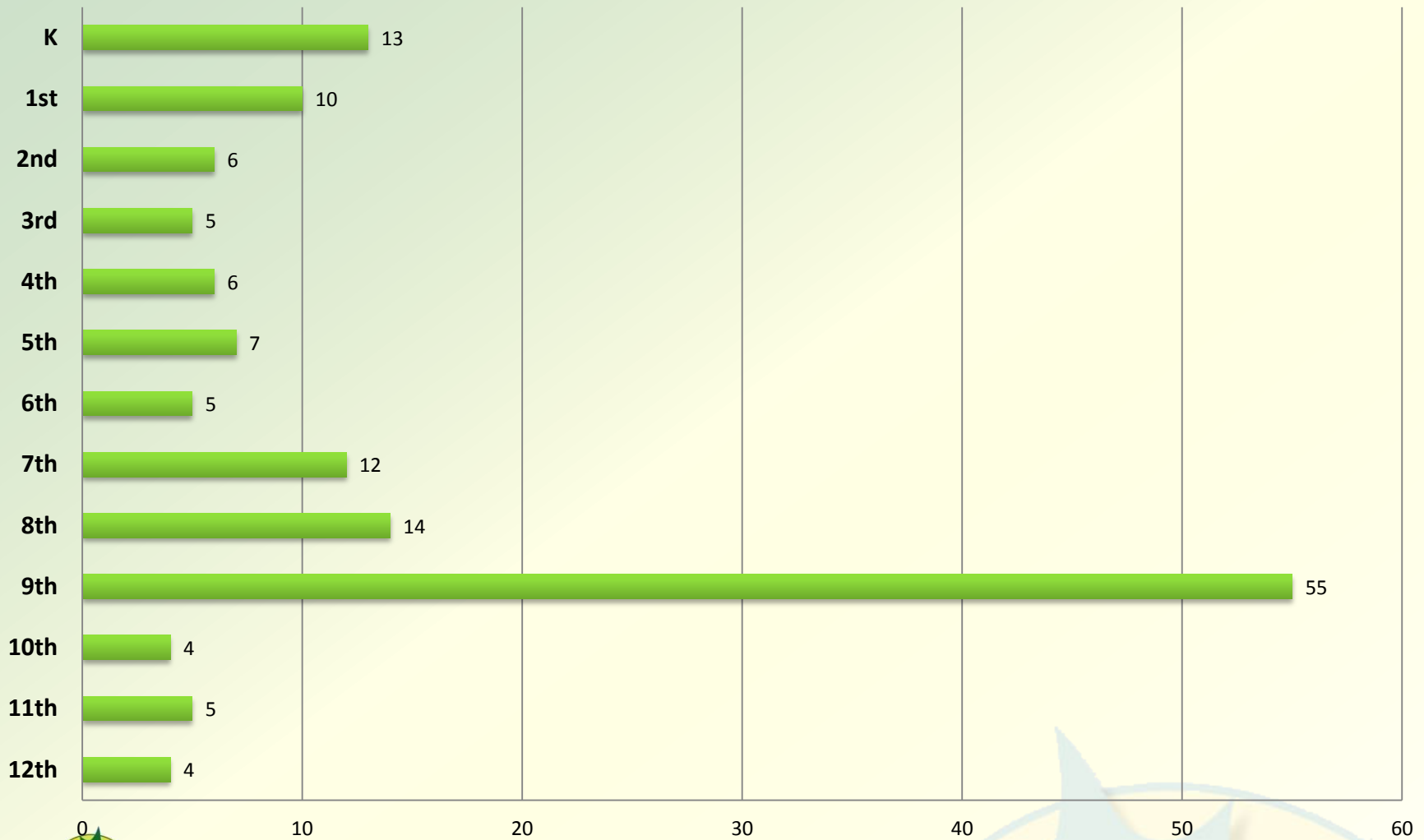


## Students Transitioning from Private Schools to Sycamore by Grade of Entry (2008-2012)



Total - 274 Students

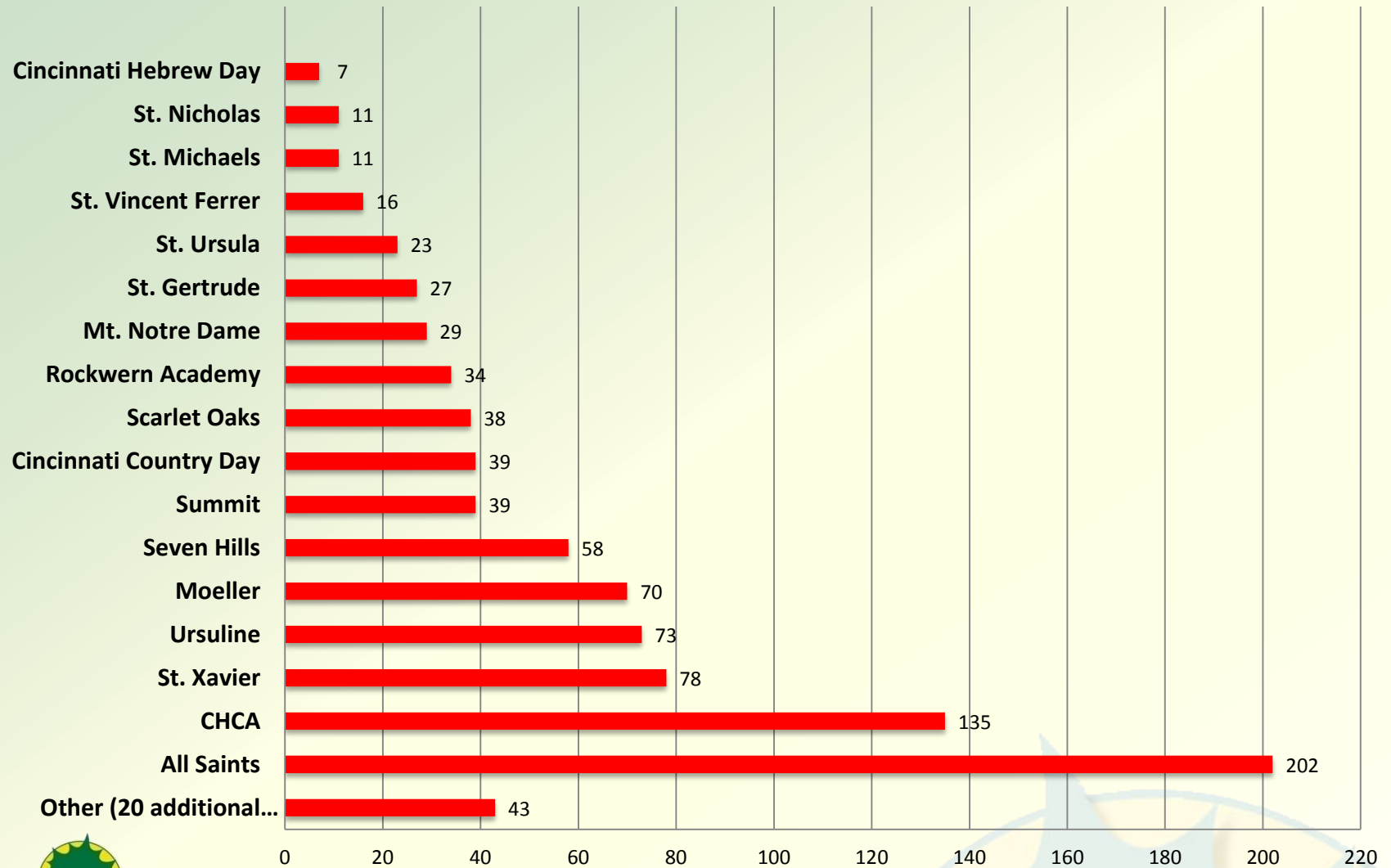
## Students Transitioning to Private Schools from Sycamore by Grade of Entry (2008-2012)



Total - 146 Students



# 2011-2012 Private School Enrollment - Sycamore Community Schools



# National vs Local Enrollment Data

	Nationwide %	Sycamore %
Public enrollment	86 (2009*)	86 (2011)
Private enrollment	14 (2009*)	14 (2011)
Percent of private school students enrolled in church-related schools	77 (2007*)	85 (2011)

\*Parent and Family Involvement Survey of the National Household Education Survey Program

# School Withdrawal Process

- Each school has its own form for withdrawal
  - Not all forms ask the reason for withdrawal
  - SHS form includes exit interview notes
    - ...but no time available in guidance department
- Reasons for withdrawal are not collected or reported upon in any consistent fashion across the district

# Survey Creation & Administration

## Sycamore Community Schools - School Choice Survey

\* Required

Do you reside within the Sycamore school district? \*

Yes

No

Continue »

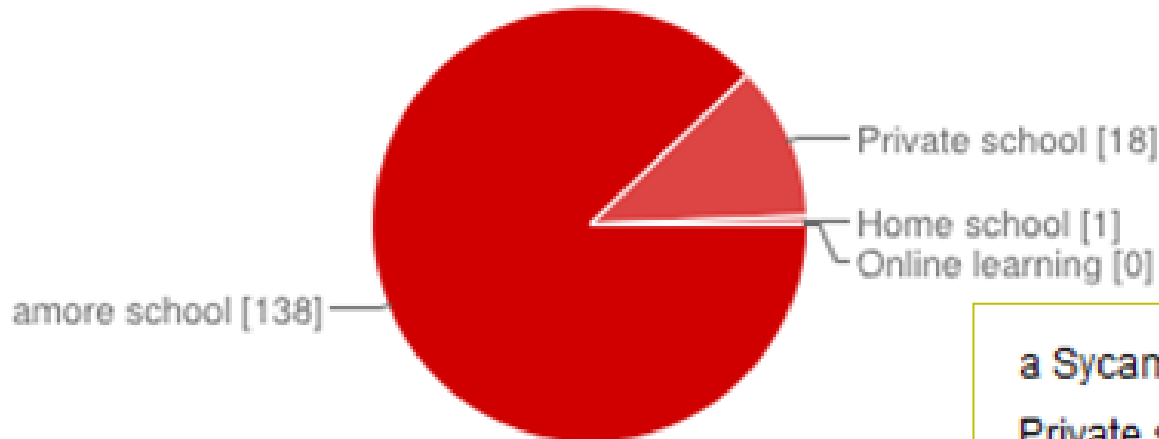
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# Survey Results Through 4/8/2012

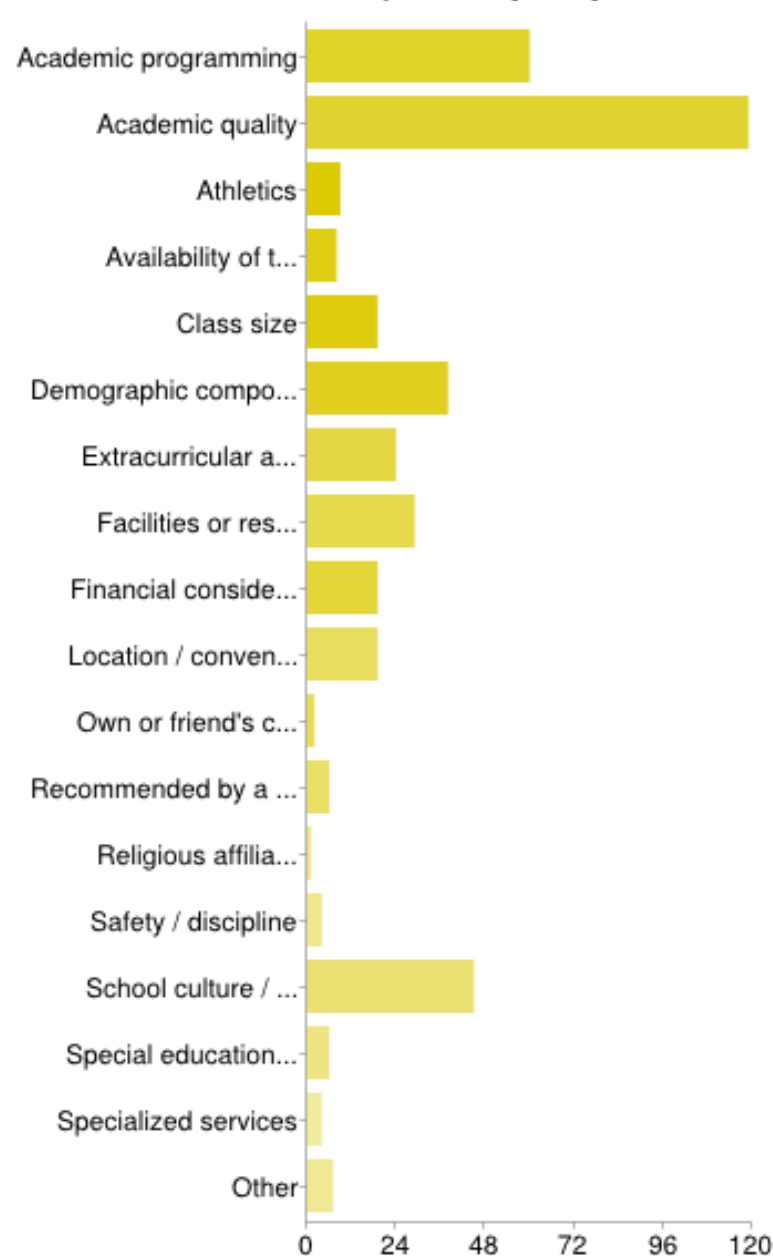
- 192 responses:
  - 187 in Sycamore Community Schools
  - 157 have school-age children (K-12)

Is your child enrolled at



a Sycamore school	<b>138</b>	<b>72%</b>
Private school	<b>18</b>	<b>9%</b>
Home school	<b>1</b>	<b>1%</b>
Online learning	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

**Which 3 items were MOST important to you in your decision to enroll your child in Sycamore Community Schools?**

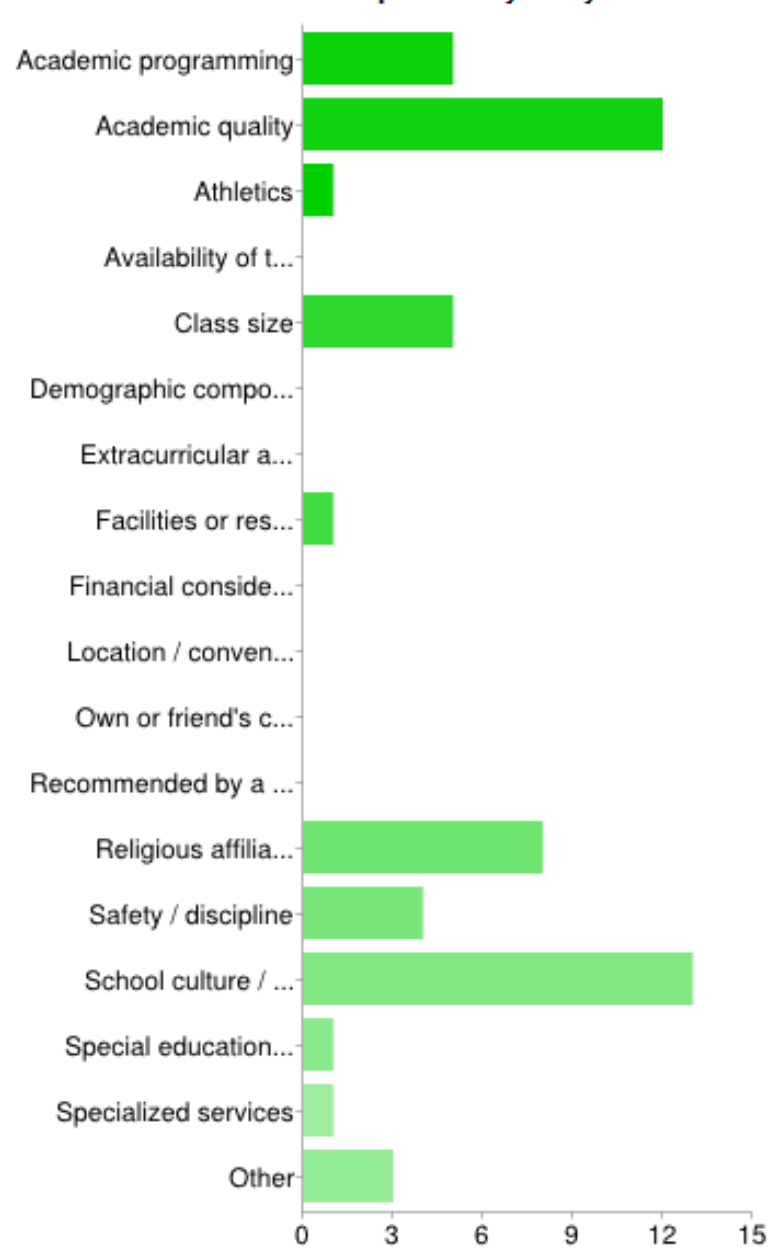


Factor	Count	Percentage
Academic programming	60	43%
Academic quality	119	86%
Athletics	9	7%
Availability of transportation	8	6%
Class size	19	14%
Demographic composition	38	28%
Extracurricular activities	24	17%
Facilities or resources available	29	21%
Financial considerations	19	14%
Location / convenience	19	14%
Own or friend's children attended	2	1%
Recommended by a friend or relative	6	4%
Religious affiliation	1	1%
Safety / discipline	4	3%
School culture / feeling / environment	45	33%
Special education / special needs child	6	4%
Specialized services	4	3%
Other	7	5%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

# Sycamore Community Schools

**Which 3 items were MOST important to you in your decision to enroll your child in his/her current school?**

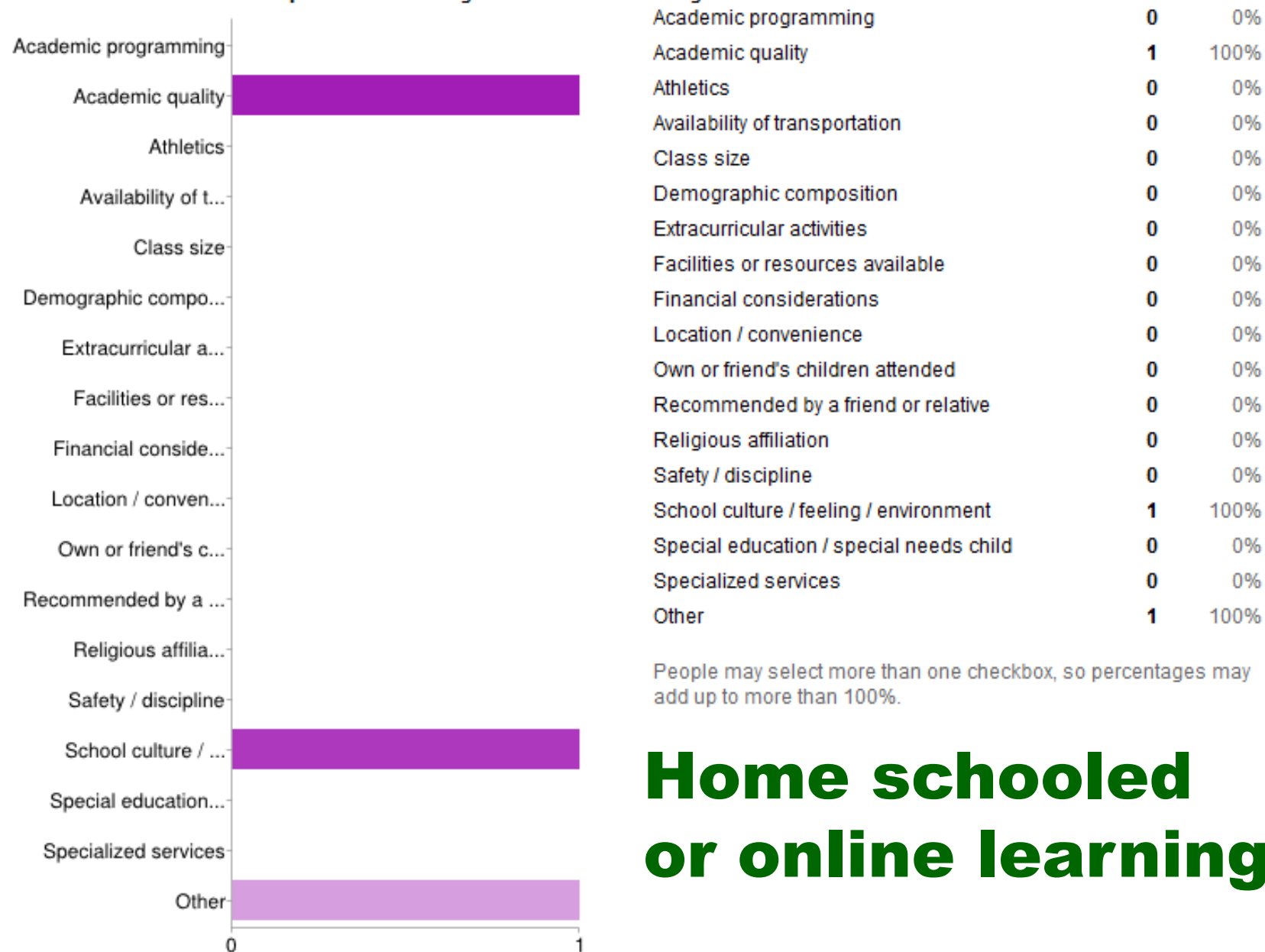


Item	Count	Percentage
Academic programming	5	28%
Academic quality	12	67%
Athletics	1	6%
Availability of transportation	0	0%
Class size	5	28%
Demographic composition	0	0%
Extracurricular activities	0	0%
Facilities or resources available	1	6%
Financial considerations	0	0%
Location / convenience	0	0%
Own or friend's children attended	0	0%
Recommended by a friend or relative	0	0%
Religious affiliation	8	44%
Safety / discipline	4	22%
School culture / feeling / environment	13	72%
Special education / special needs child	1	6%
Specialized services	1	6%
Other	3	17%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

# Private schools

Which 3 items were MOST important in choosing a home / online learning environment?



People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

# Home schooled or online learning



# Recommendations

- Promote SHS strengths to SJHS parents
- Record and compile data on reasons for withdrawal across the district
  - Develop one form to be used by all schools
  - Assess reason for withdrawal as a trackable metric, similar to survey
- Assess emerging trends
  - Conduct exit interviews
  - Survey families at some period after withdrawal

