



Introduction to the Empowerment Zone Model

///////

Meeting with Providence
School Stakeholders

March 18, 2025

The Springfield Context



#3

Most Populous City in the State



#1

Lowest Income Per Capita in the State



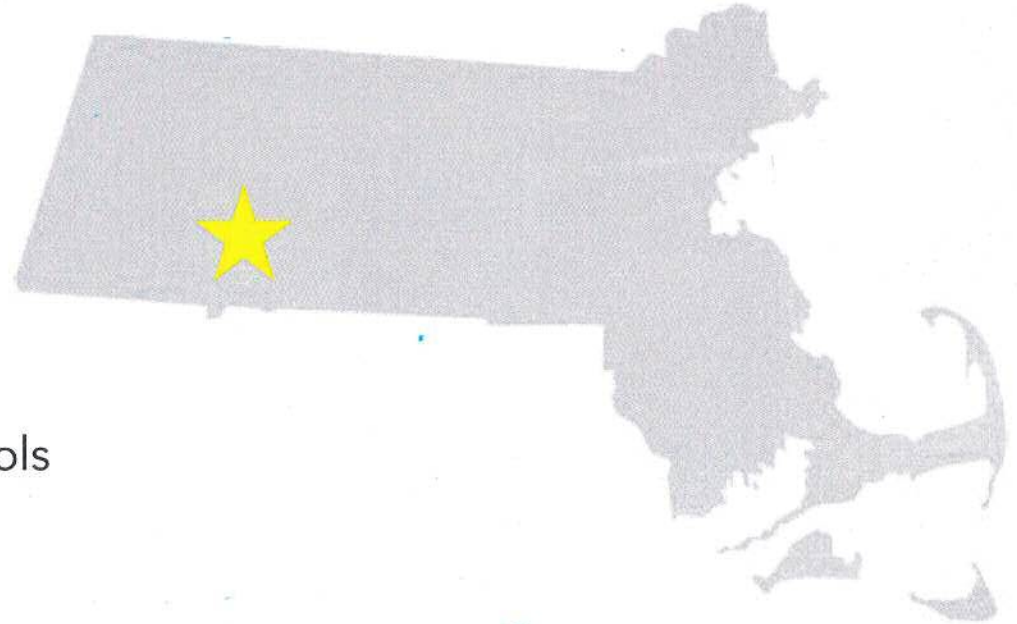
24,000

Students in Springfield Public Schools



92%

Students of Color

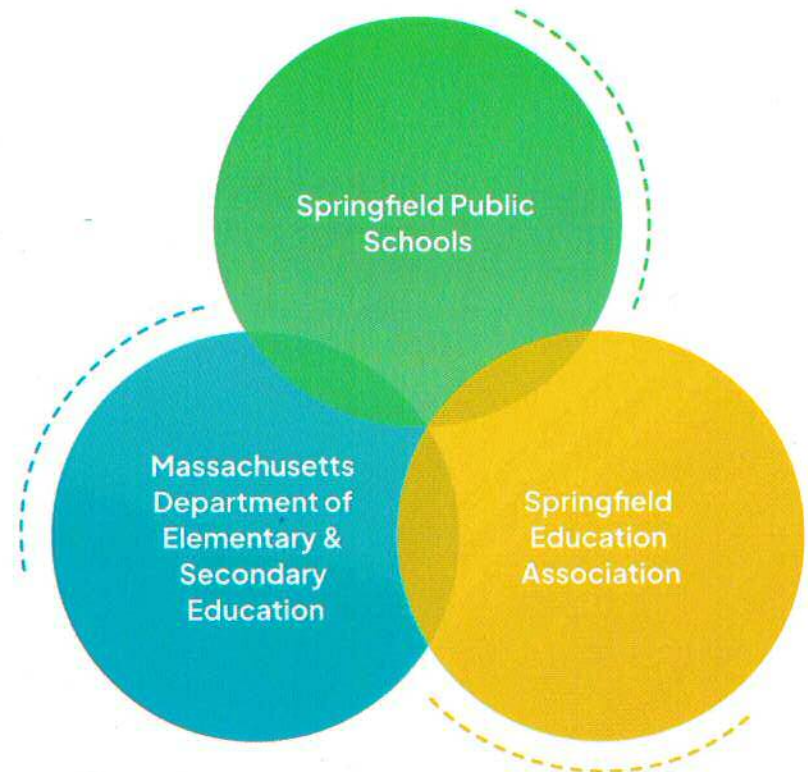


Our Partnership Mission

//////

The Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership (SEZP) – an independently governed non-profit established in 2015 as a collaboration between Springfield Public Schools, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Springfield Education Association – seeks to improve the **longitudinal life outcomes** of students in the sixteen middle and high schools that it exclusively manages and operates.

In all of our work, SEZP is in pursuit of **equity and anti-racism** – acknowledging the systemic oppression our students and families encounter daily and working to disrupt these provision gaps urgently and courageously.



Our Schools, Students, and Staff

//////
4,900

student
enrollment

5

new student
centered schools

4

new early college
high schools

92%

students of color

↑350%

school leaders
of color

↑225%

educators
of color

↑40%

high school
graduation

\$4.1m

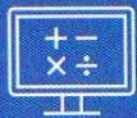
in grants to local
CBOs for OST

96%

teachers ratified
recent contract



Our Success Levers



Locally Designed Schools



Strong, Diverse
Leaders & Educators



Expanded Time for a
Well-Rounded Education



Trusted Institutional
Partnerships



Educator-Propelled
Decision-Making



Family Partnerships

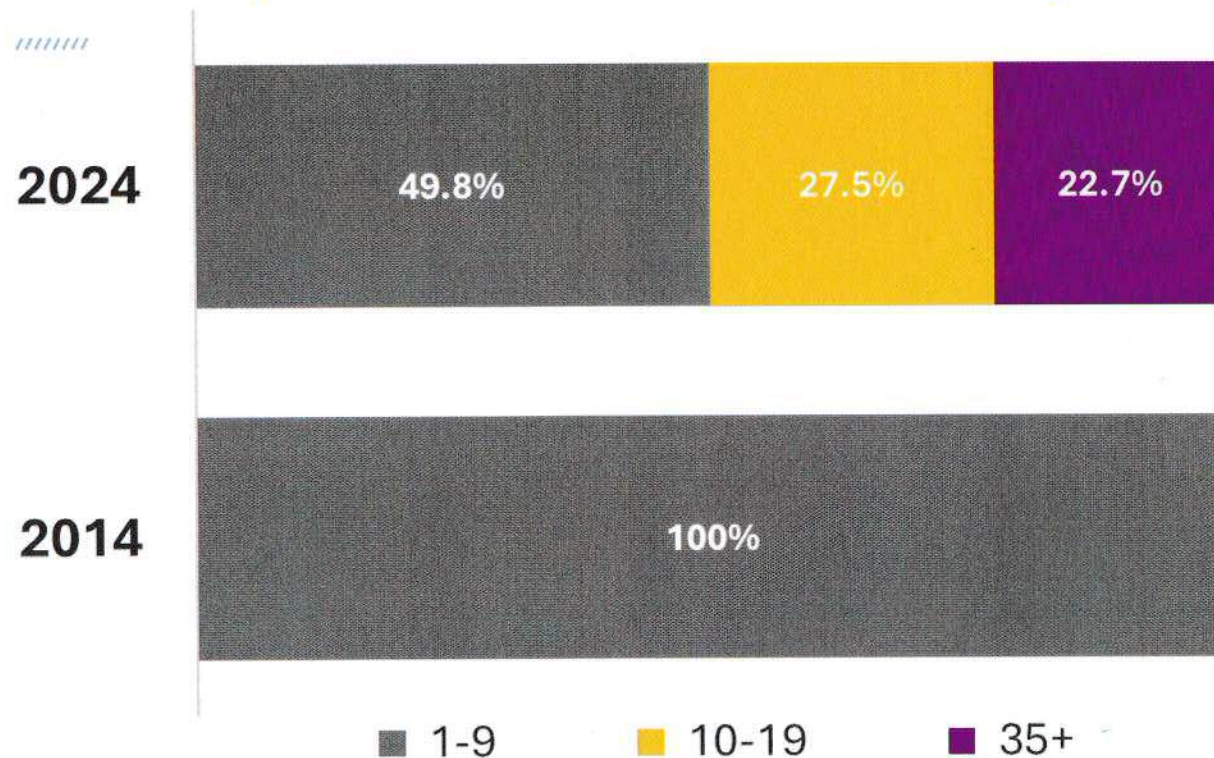


Customized School
Support



Holistic Measurement &
Continual Improvement

Our Impact: Increase in Quality Seats



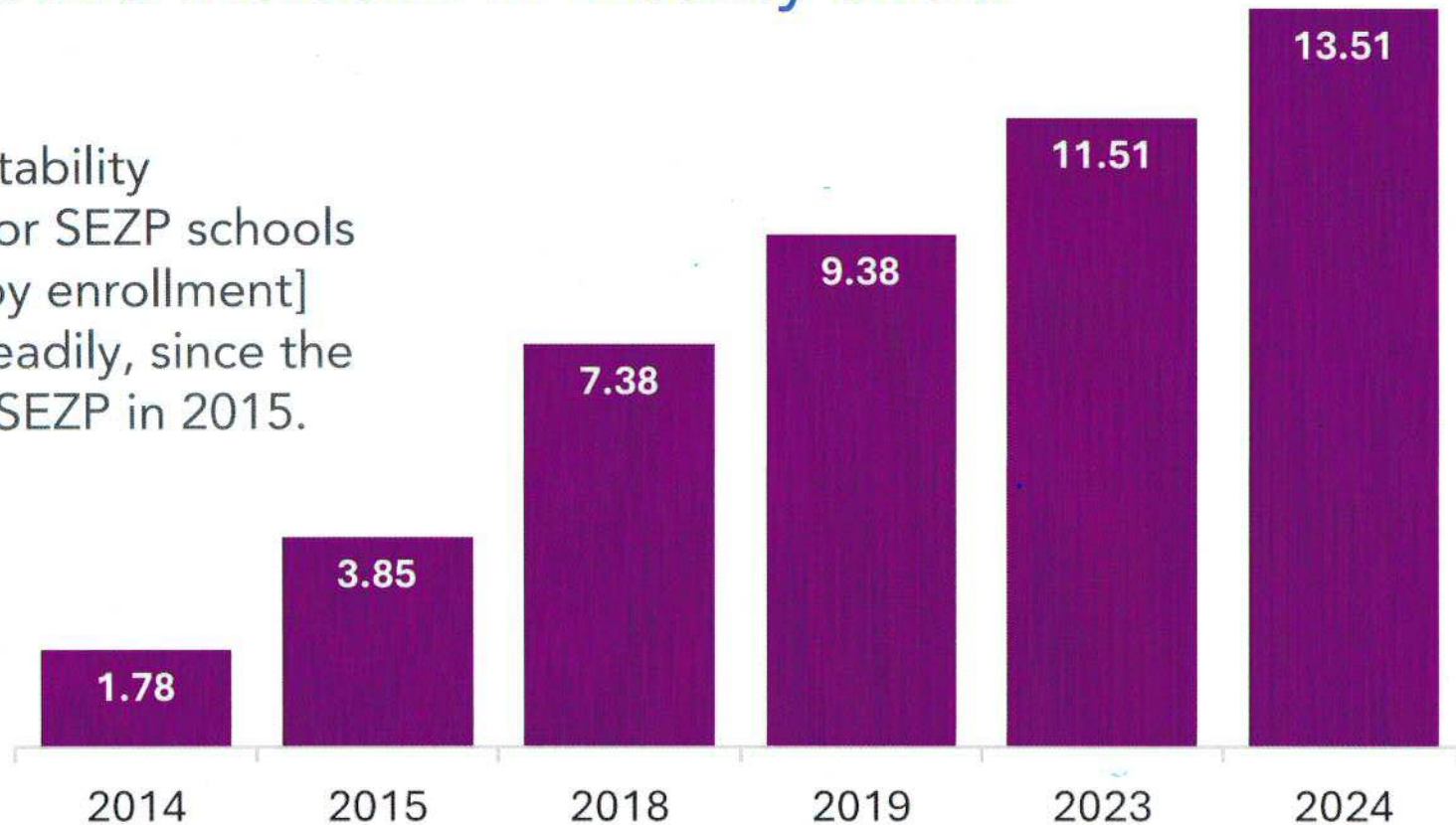
In 2014, the year before SEZP, ALL students were in SEZP schools in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd percentile.

In 2024, more than 50% were in SEZP schools above the 10th percentile.

Our Impact: Increase in Quality Seats

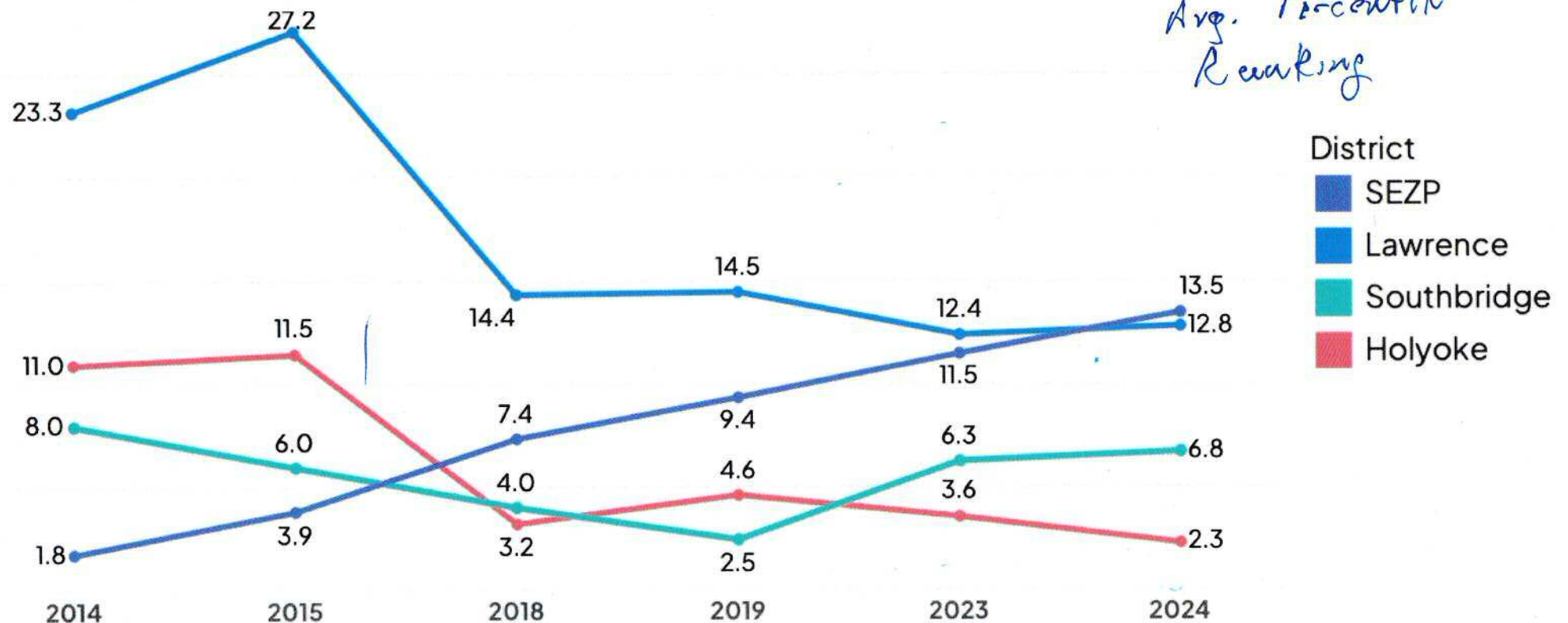
//////

The accountability percentile for SEZP schools [weighted by enrollment] has risen steadily, since the creation of SEZP in 2015.



Our Impact: Massachusetts State Interventions Grades 6-12 (Weighted by Enrollment)

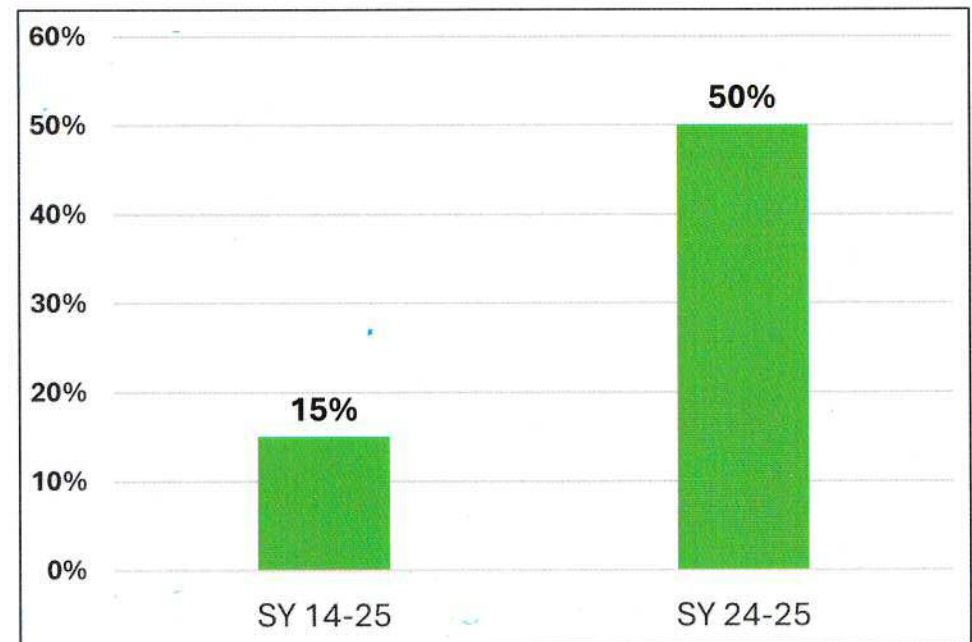
Avg. Percentile Ranking



Our Impact: Teacher Diversification

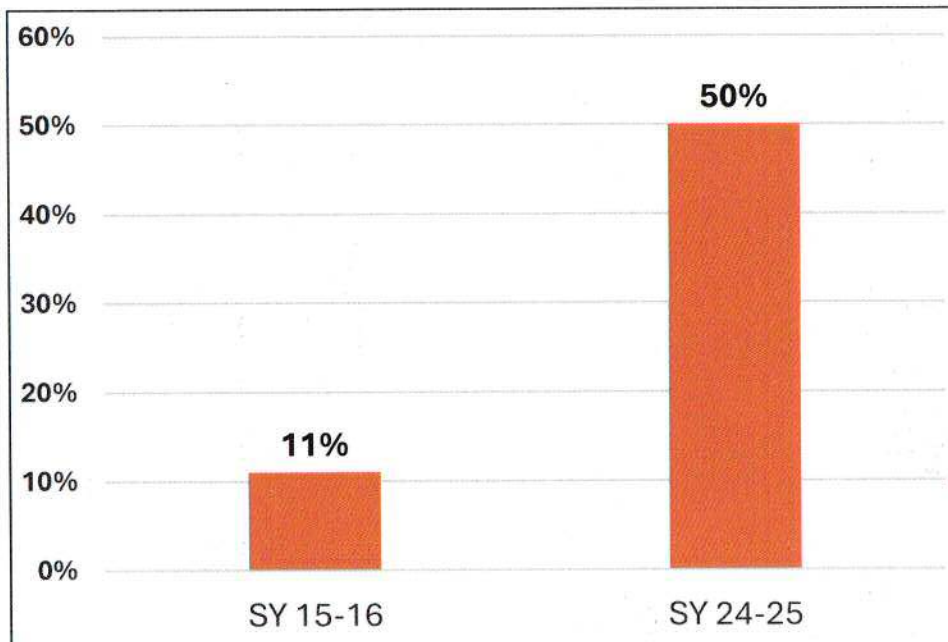


% Teachers of Color in SEZP Schools



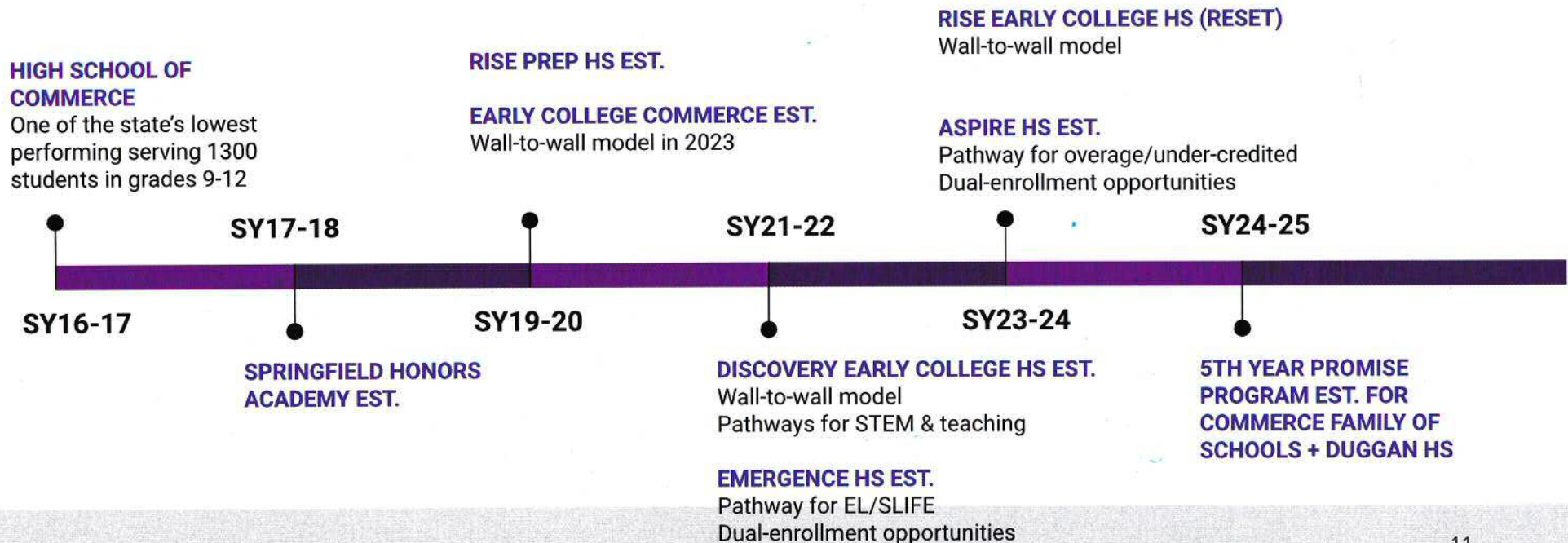
Our Impact: Leader Diversification

//////
% Leaders of Color in SEZP Schools



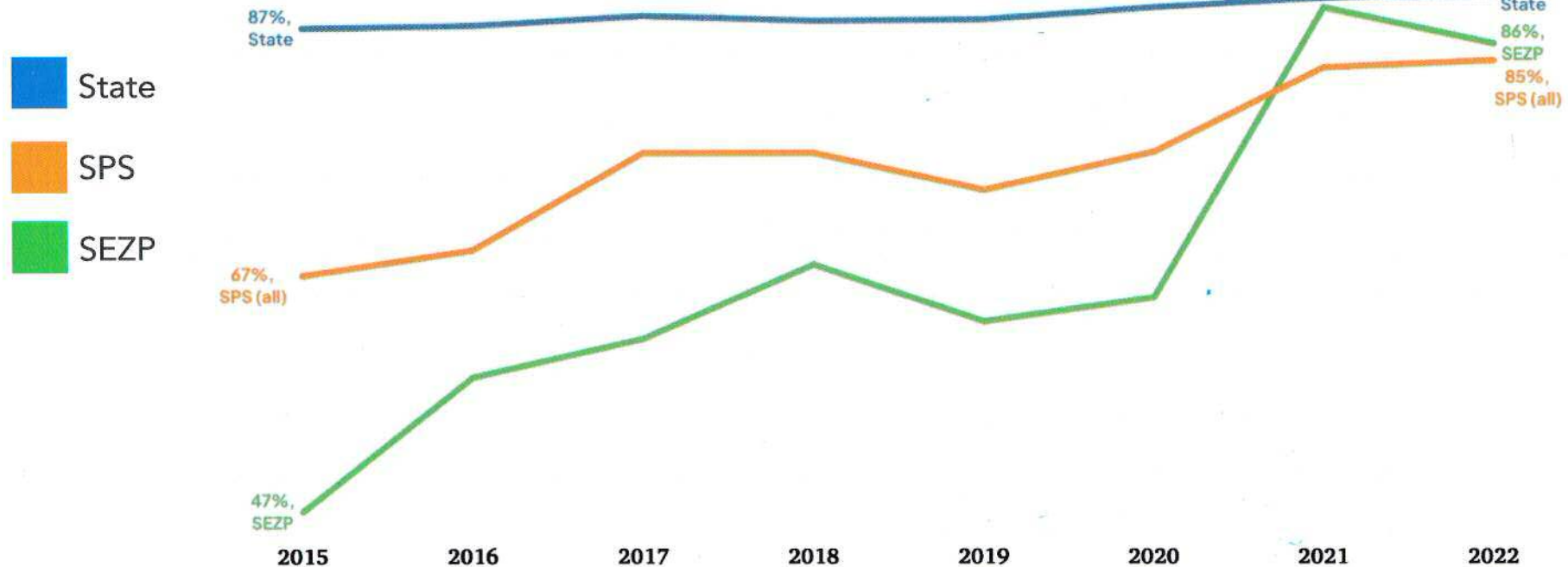
Our Impact: Specialized Programs + Early College

Since Fall of 2017, SEZP has been transforming the HS of Commerce into smaller, specialized programs designed by leaders and teachers to meet the unique needs of their students. By SY25-26, we envision a largely wall-to-wall early college model, coupled with a 5th year promise program open to all high school students in SEZP.

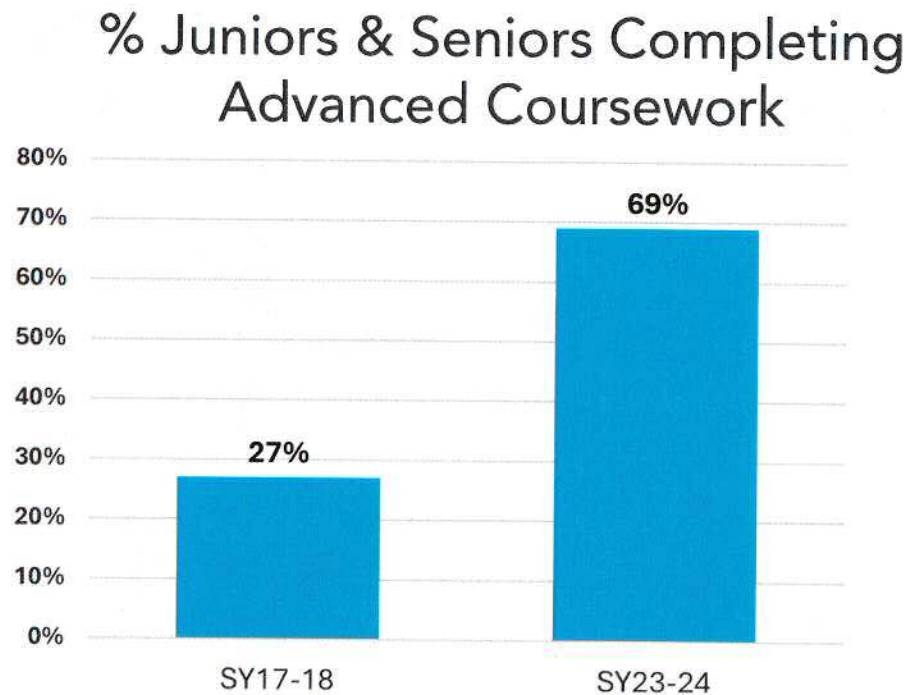


Our Impact: Increase in HS Readiness

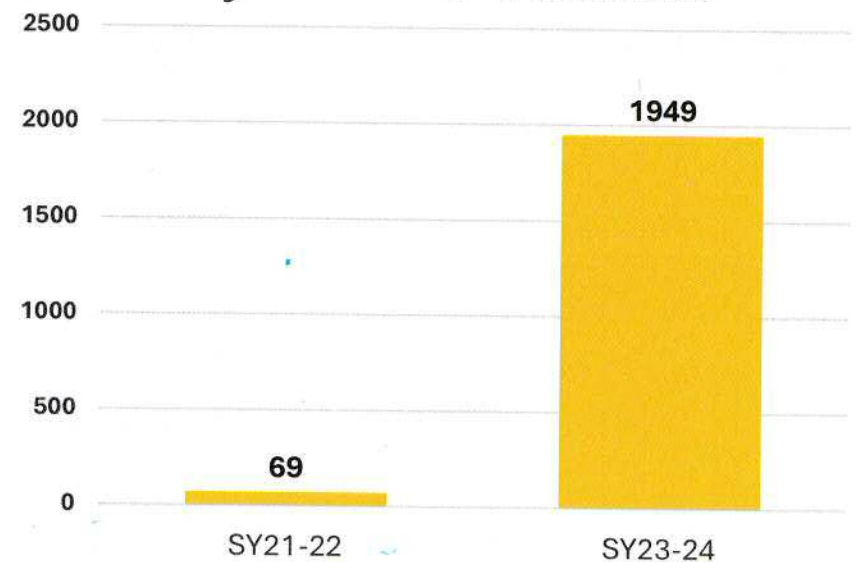
High School Graduation Rates



Our Impact: Increase in Advanced Coursework



Annual College Credits Earned by SEZP HS Students



Our Impact: Out of School-Time

- Awarded **\$4.1+ million** for after-school and summer programming over the last four years
- **3,701 students** have taken part in enriching after-school and summer camp experiences
- **29 local organizations** have received funding to scale their programming
- Participating students demonstrated **improved academic performance and school attendance**



Questions/Comments/Follow-up



Colleen Curran
Co-Executive Director
ccurran@sezp.org

Matt Brunell
Co-Executive Director
mbrunell@sezp.org