

Choice Study: Expanding Opportunity, Unleashing Potential

MCCPTA Parent/Guardian Meeting
April 30, 2018



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Our Challenge

Providing greater access to curriculum and programs for highly able students, ensuring that institutional barriers to participation are removed and that there are opportunities for all students, regardless of background.

Goals

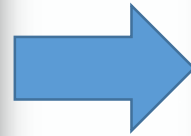
Create a student driven process which:

- Increases the system's capacity to serve its students at the local level
- Increases program accessibility by serving as child advocates for enhanced programming
- Increases the system's programming options to serve its students

Paradigm Shift



Scarcity



Abundance

Talent Development

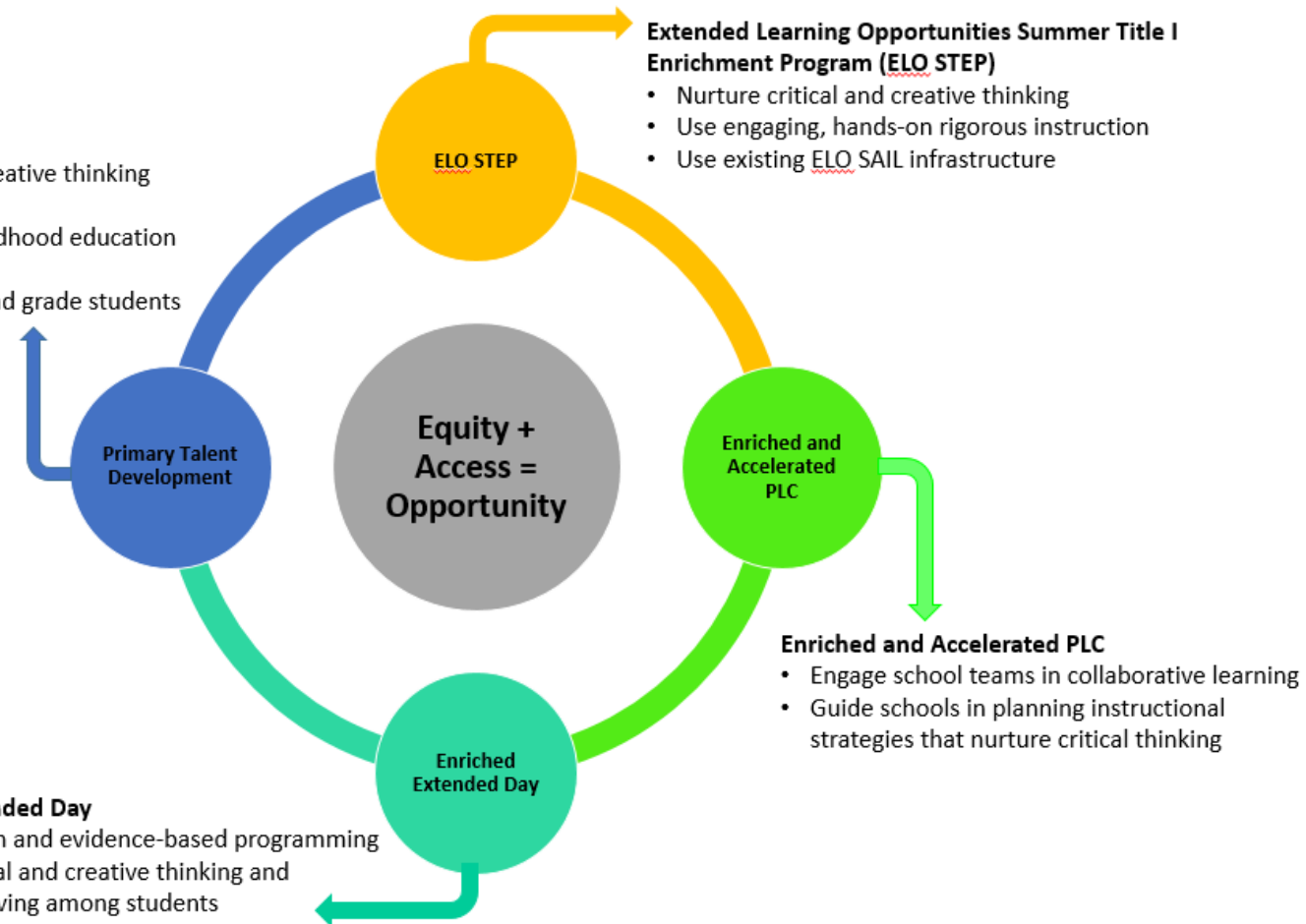


Changing the Trajectory in MCPS Title I Schools



Primary Talent Development

- Implement science-based critical and creative thinking curriculum
- Integrate gifted education and early childhood education theory and practice
- Access to all kindergarten through second grade students



Intentional Focus: Talent Development



Creating Equitable Processes



Increased Accessibility

Process initiated centrally

- Families receive communication that their student will be considered for enriched and accelerated instruction
- Families of students not identified centrally may request consideration
- Families may decline consideration

Key aspects of the process

- Moved from a parent/guardian-initiated application process to a district-initiated review process of all Grade 3 students.
- Based on research, removed overreliance on teacher and school recommendations.
- Elevated first semester Grade 3 school data in the process.
- Transitioned to an assessment that allows for receipt of results in 24 hours.

Key aspects of the process, cont.

- Transitioned from a paper file process to an electronic process that facilitated a more efficient review process.
- Considered the academic peer group in relation to student's instructional need.
- Realigned CES programs to lessen travel time.
- Added CES at Mill Creek Town Elementary School.

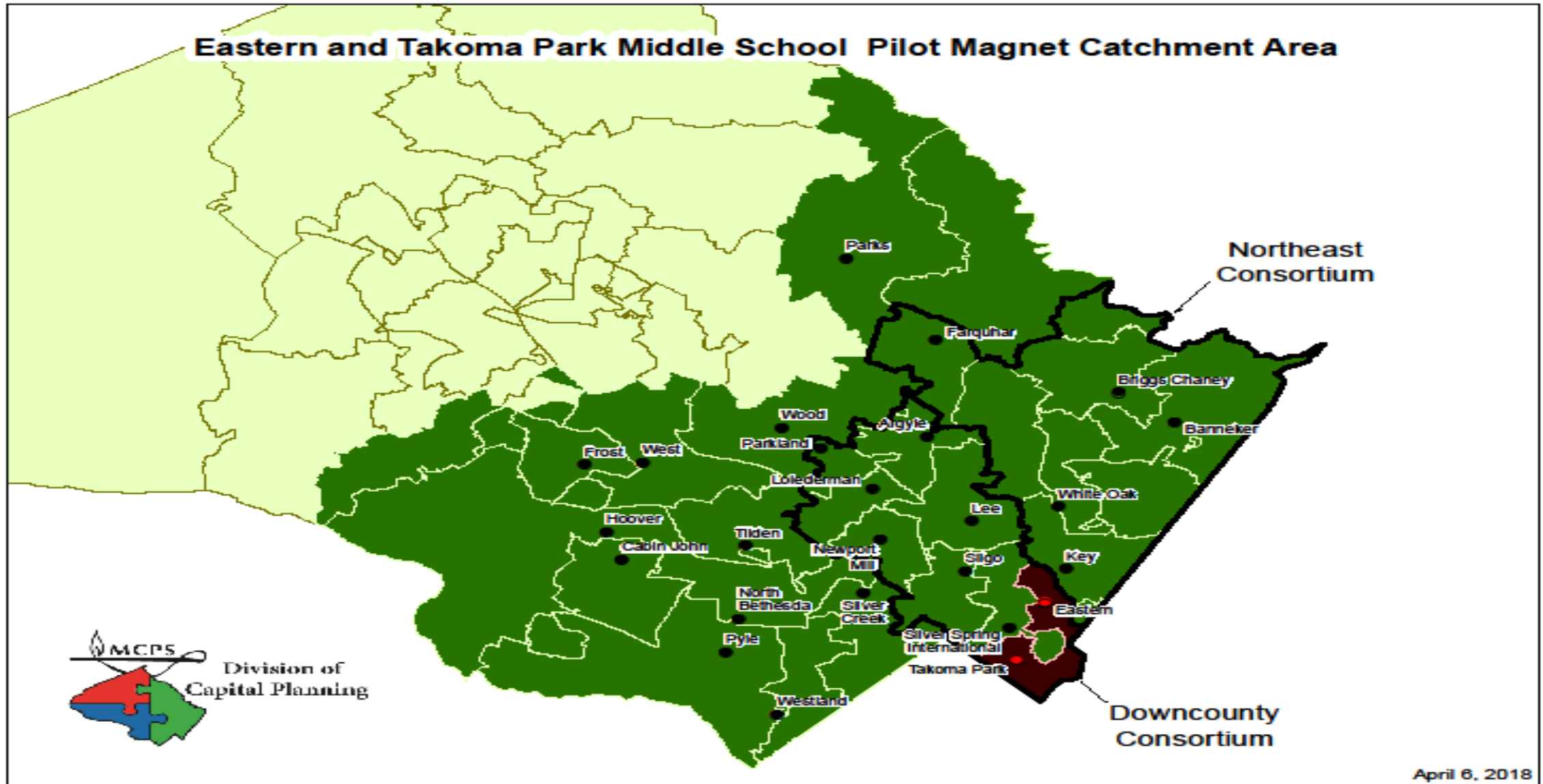
By the Numbers

- Over **12,000** Grade 3 students
- **5138** surfaced
- **1400** requested assessment
- **105** of those identified declined assessment
- **6565** tested

The Middle School Field Test

- The Mathematics, Science, and Computer Science Magnet at Takoma Park Middle School
- The Humanities and Communications Magnet at Eastern Middle School
- 25 middle schools feed into the magnet programs
- Students come from 80 elementary schools

Eastern and Takoma Park Middle School Pilot Magnet Catchment Area



April 6, 2018

By the Numbers

8,164 students screened from
80 Elementary Schools with
3989 students assessed and
20 Middle Schools adding enriched and
accelerated courses

Key aspects of the field test

- Moved from a parent/guardian-initiated application process to a district-initiated review process of all Grade 5 students in the field test schools.
- Based on research, removed overreliance on teacher and school recommendations.
- Elevated first semester Grade 5 school data in the process.
- Transitioned to an assessment that allows for receipt of results in 24 hours.
- Transitioned from a paper file process to an electronic process that facilitated a more efficient review process.
- Considered the academic peer group in relation to student's instructional need.
- Strengthened local middle school accelerated and enriched programming.

Supporting Schools

- Building the infrastructure to support enriched and accelerated instruction at the middle school level
- Building the capacity of staff to meet the needs of highly able learners
- Using the data from the field test to make strategic decisions about program support

Supporting Local School Program

Applied Investigations into Mathematics (IM) 6

This Grade 6 course is designed to extend students' understanding of mathematical concepts aligned with Common Core State Standards, accelerating the pace of instruction while diving deeper into concepts.

Historical Inquiry into Global Humanities 6

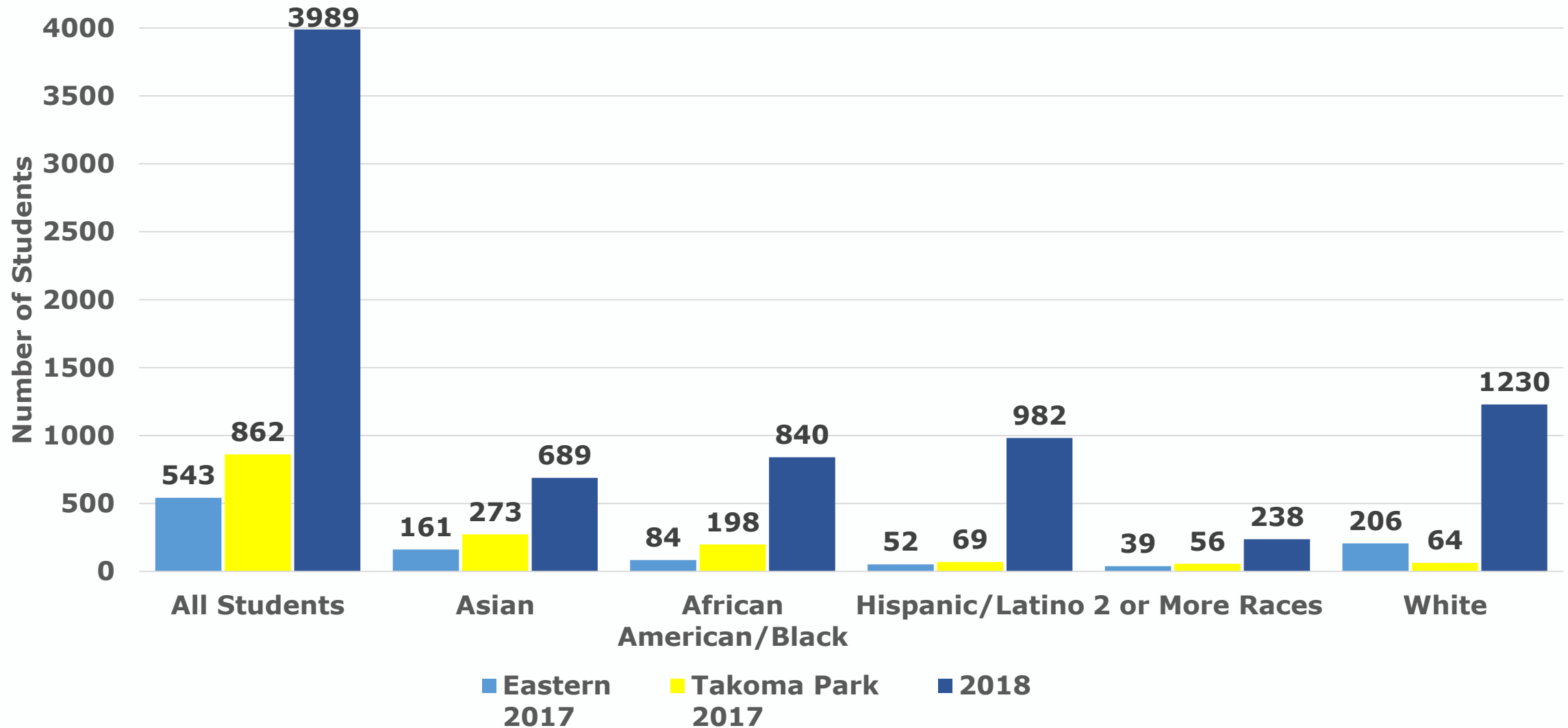
This course is built around the core Grade 6 social studies curriculum but is enriched with additional content, exploration of deeper connections to today, investigative inquiry to strengthen writing through Document Based Questions, and connections through literature.

Results

- The process resulted in more students being evaluated and assessed for the program from the field test area.
- The new process resulted in more representation from elementary schools feeding into Eastern and Takoma Park middle schools.
- In the field test schools, cohorts of students were identified and programming developed to support local schools in meeting the needs.

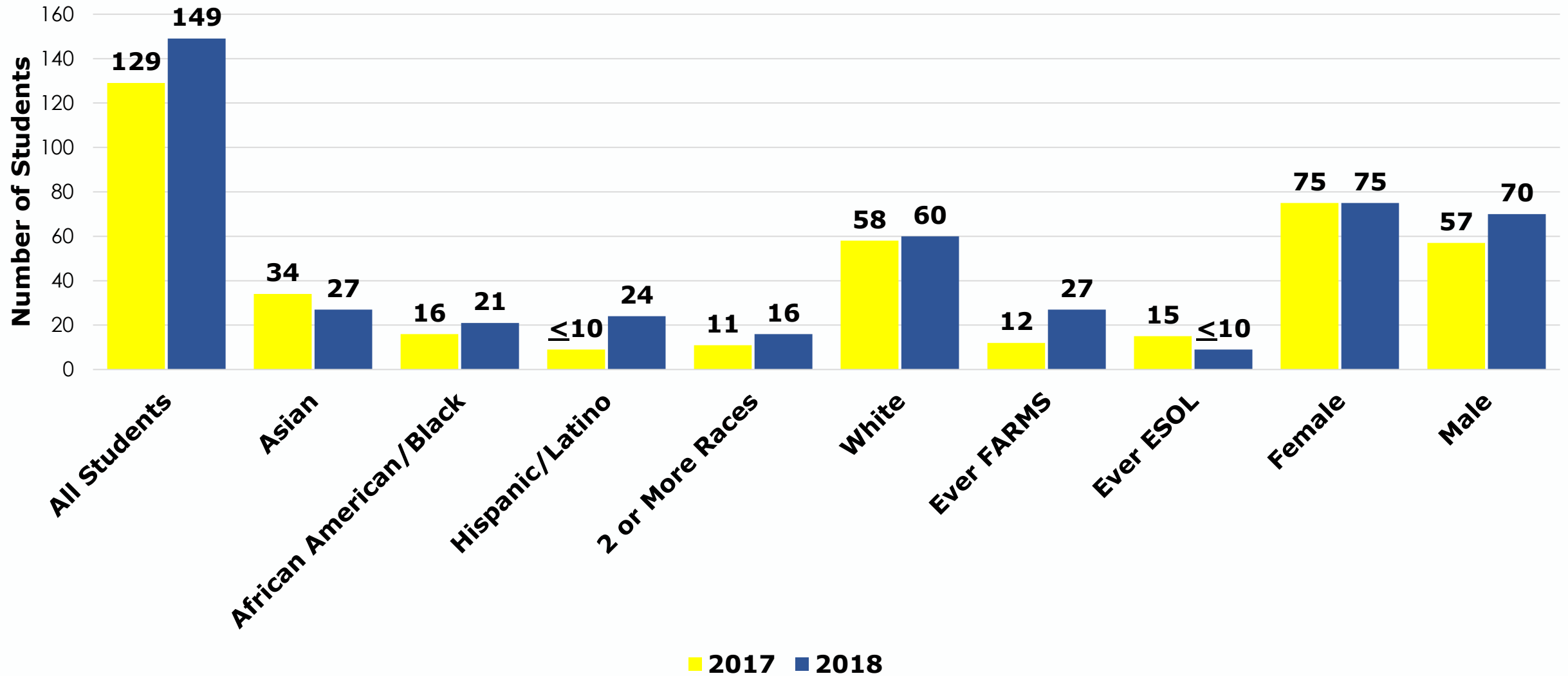
Students Considered

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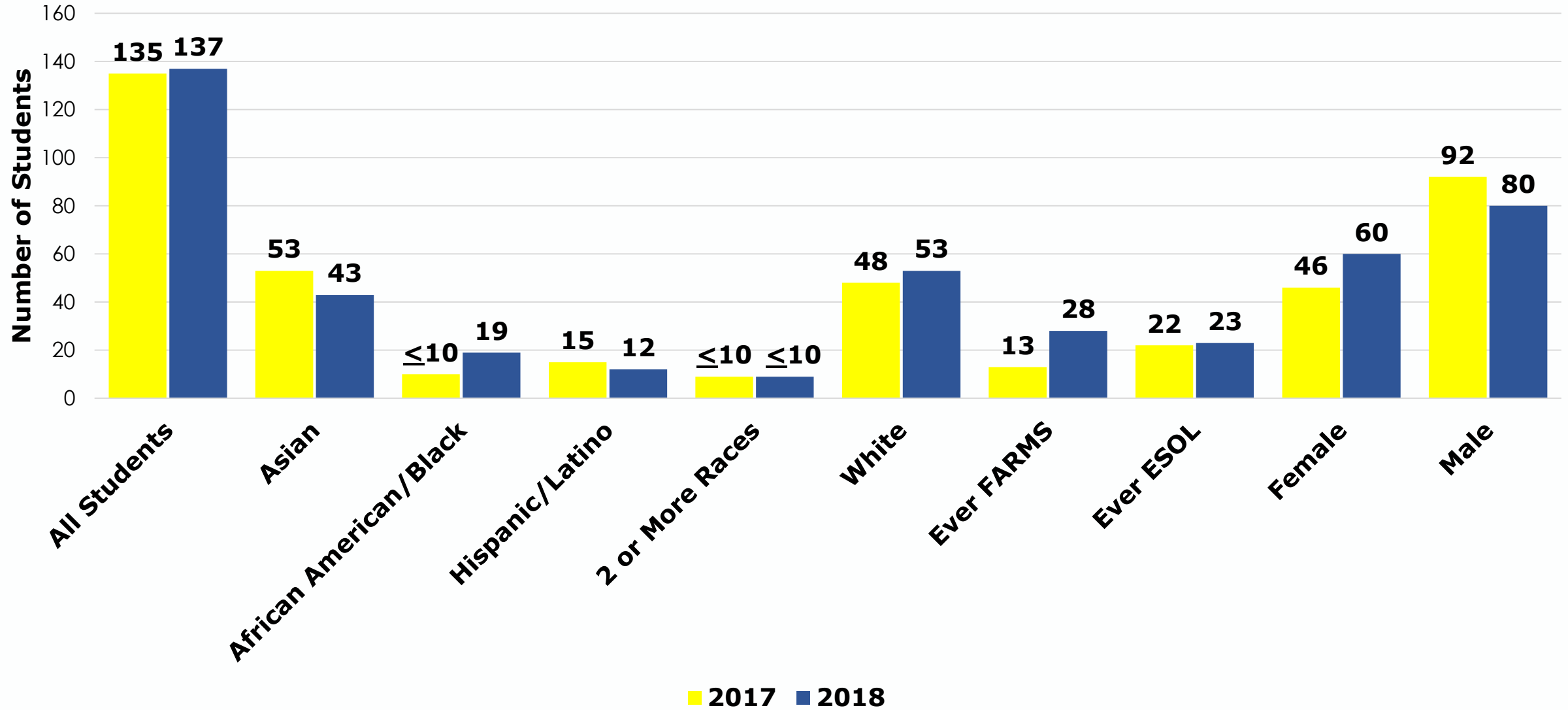
Students Invited: Eastern

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Students Invited: Takoma Park

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Next Steps

- Extend refined Middle School process countywide (2018–2019)
- Review and ensure high quality instructional programming (2018–2019)
- Examine high school program access for equitable upgrades (2018–2019)
- Deliver professional development (Summer 2018)
- Continued investment in enrichment in primary years
- Expansion of refined Enriched Literacy Pilot (2018–2019)

DISCUSSION