

# The State of Detroit Schools, Students, and Families

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# Agenda

- Citywide data
  - How is the Detroit school system different?
  - Schools by region
- Connections with Housing, Transportation, Neighborhoods
  - McKinney-Vento overview
- Data Reflection

# Citywide State of the Schools

# Detroit Schools by the Numbers

- In 2022-23, Detroit had 188 public schools open
  - 104 DPSCD schools
  - 83 charter schools
- About 80,871 students attend a public school in Detroit
  - Average school enrollment is 432 students
  - 33 schools enroll fewer than 200 students
- Another ~20,000 students who live in Detroit attend school in the suburbs
- Widespread school choice, no common enrollment or management of choice

# Student Outcomes in Detroit

- 12% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were proficient in reading
- 12% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were proficient in math
- 76% of the students in the 2022 cohort graduated
- About 40% of the Detroit students who graduated high school in 2022 were enrolled in college within 6 months
- 75% of DPSCD students were chronically absent in 2021-22

# Neighborhood schools enroll more students in “deep poverty.” Selective schools enroll a distinctly advantaged population.

	DPSCD Neighborhood	DPSCD App/Exam	Charter
Income			
Income (\$)	\$21,733.23	\$47,513.79***	\$28,757.21***
Car in Household	61%	82%***	72%***
“Economically Disadvantaged”	92%	67%***	87%

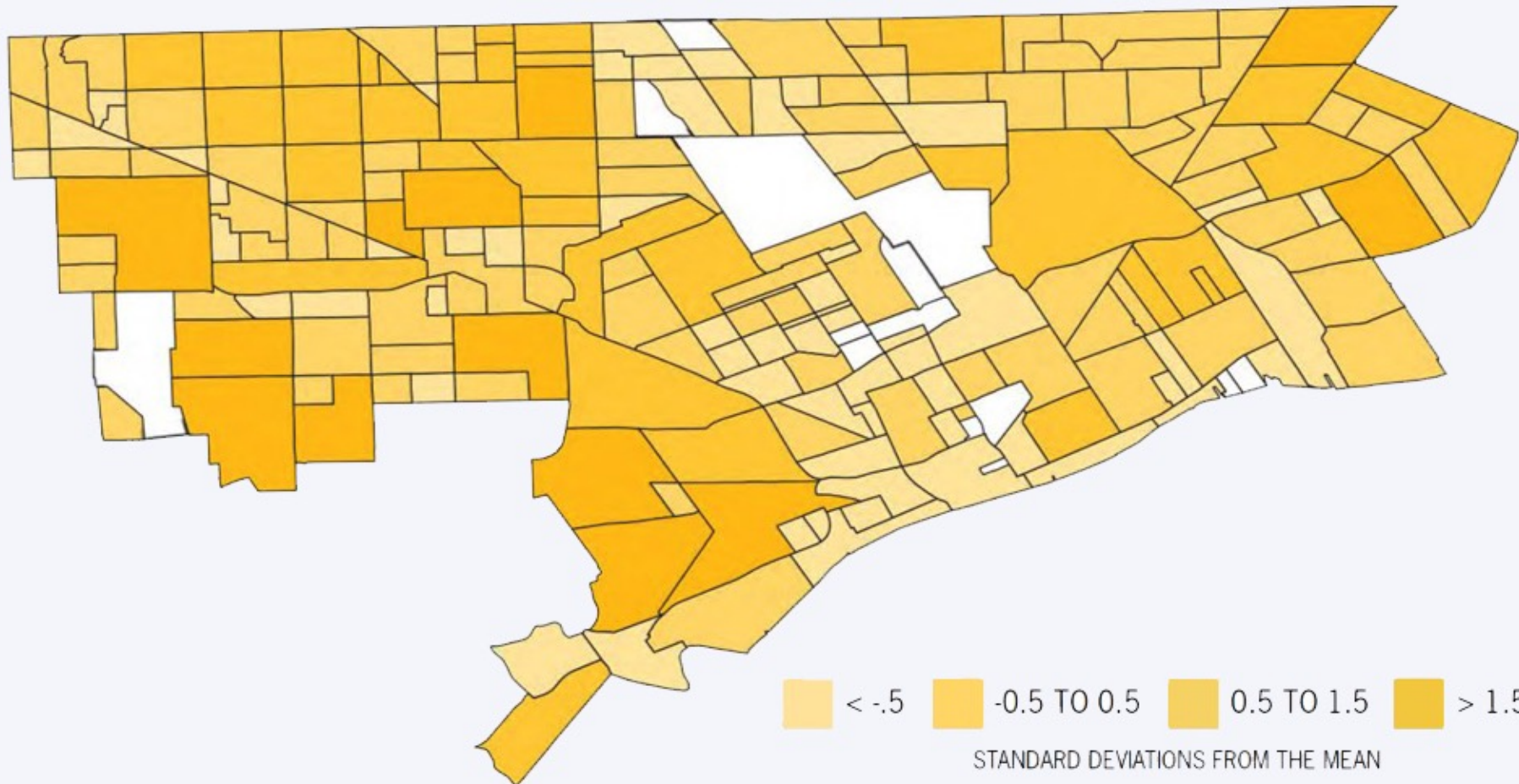
\*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001

Singer, J. (2022). *School choice, socioeconomic status, and stratified enrollment in Detroit*. Unpublished dissertation. Wayne State University.

# Detroit has the most challenging structural and environmental conditions for student attendance

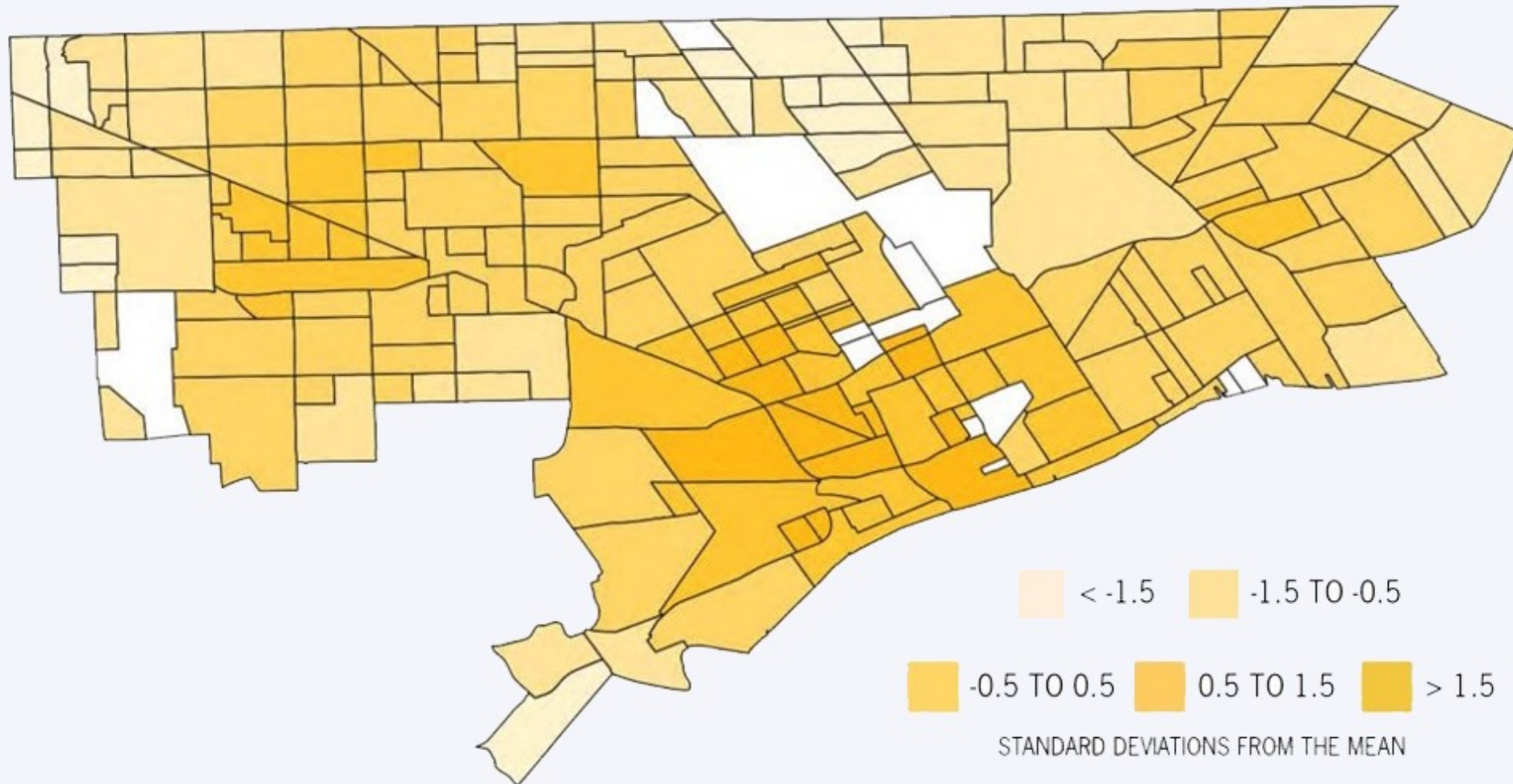
Racial Segregation Index for Greater Metro Area		Violent Crime per 1,000 People		Poverty Rate (%)		Unemployment Rate (%)	
1. Milwaukee	69.42	<b>1. Detroit</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>1. Detroit</b>	<b>37.90</b>	<b>1. Detroit</b>	<b>19.80</b>
<b>2. Detroit</b>	<b>68.42</b>	2. Milwaukee	14.85	2. Fresno	28.40	2. Philadelphia	11.30
3. New York	63.66	3. Baltimore	13.39	3. Milwaukee	27.40	3. Fresno	11.10
4. Chicago	62.57	4. Indianapolis	12.55	4. Philadelphia	25.80	4. Baltimore	10.00
5. Philadelphia	61.56	5. Washington D.C.	11.85	5. Tucson	24.10	5. Chicago	9.90
Percentage of Adults with Asthma (%)		Residential Vacancy Rate (%)		Population Change (%) 1970-2010		Average Monthly Temperature (°F)	
<b>1. Detroit</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>1. Detroit</b>	<b>27.00</b>	<b>1. Detroit</b>	<b>19.80</b>	1. Denver	46.48
2. Baltimore	12.30	2. Baltimore	18.00	2. Philadelphia	11.30	2. Milwaukee	46.67
3. Louisville	12.30	3. Chicago	14.00	3. Fresno	11.10	<b>3. Detroit</b>	<b>49.03</b>
4. Philadelphia	11.60	4. Houston	13.00	4. Baltimore	10.00	4. Chicago	49.56
5. Boston	11.40	5. Indianapolis	13.00	5. Chicago	9.90	5. Boston	50.42

School-aged children live across Detroit, with highest concentrations in Southwest, Westside, and Eastside





Yet, schools are concentrated downtown, leading to inequitable access to schools close to home



# Regions

- Central – 74 schools
  - 40 DPSCD
  - 34 charters
- Eastside – 39 schools
  - 27 DPSCD
  - 12 charters
- Southwest – 24 schools
  - 13 DPSCD
  - 11 charters
- Westside – 50 schools
  - 24 DPSCD
  - 26 charters

# Housing, Transportation, and Neighborhoods

# Chronic Absenteeism

## What is it?

Missing 10% or more of enrolled school days, or about 18 days in a regular 180-day school year.

## Why does it matter?

- Chronic absenteeism is both a proxy indicator for youth wellness and a contributing factor to future youth success in school.
- How much school Detroit children miss tells us important information about how well their families and communities are doing. It also points toward what schools and social services may need to do to support them.



Detroit has the highest chronic absence rate of any major U.S. city (2015-16)

Source: Civil Rights Data Collection. Latest national data available are from 2015-16.

City	Percent Chronically Absent
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>48%</b>
Milwaukee	38%
Philadelphia	32%
Washington	31%
Baltimore	30%
Columbus	29%
Louisville	27%
Tucson	26%
Denver	26%
Chicago	25%
Portland	23%
Albuquerque	22%
Seattle	21%
Jacksonville	21%
Las Vegas	21%

## Myths about Why Students Miss so Much School in Detroit

- Detroit parents and students don't care about school
- Detroit parents and students don't know the importance of strong attendance
- Detroit families make poor choices about where to enroll in school
- Detroit schools are not putting in enough effort to increase attendance

## Why Students Miss so Much School in Detroit

- Poverty creates difficult tradeoffs for families
- Students do not have access to well-resourced neighborhood schools
- 1/3 of Detroit families don't own a car.
- Half of Detroit-serving schools offer no transportation for Detroit students
- Housing instability
- Neighborhoods perceived as unsafe, unwalkable

We estimate that at least 16% of Detroit students are homeless or housing unstable, but schools only identify 4% of them

	Pct. Students Homeless or Housing Unstable	Pct. Students Identified as Homeless by District
<b>All</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<i>DPSCD</i>	<i>16.9%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>
<i>Charter</i>	<i>13.1%</i>	<i>2.1%</i>

Source: Detroit PEER representative survey of Detroit students (January 2022) and 2021-22 administrative data from DPSCD and participating charter schools

# Why Does this Matter?

## *McKinney-Vento Act*

- Students are considered to be homeless if they “**lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence,**” including students residing in other persons’ homes (doubled up); living in motels, hotels, or trailers due to economic hardship or housing loss.
  - **60%** of the youth identified as homeless nationwide by their school sites (under the McKinney-Vento Act) live doubled-up; others live in shelters, hotels/motels, or are total unsheltered.
- Schools must identify students who meet this definition, and every district must have a liaison that oversees identification and support. Schools must also ensure that unstably housed students have the “full and equal opportunity” to succeed in school.



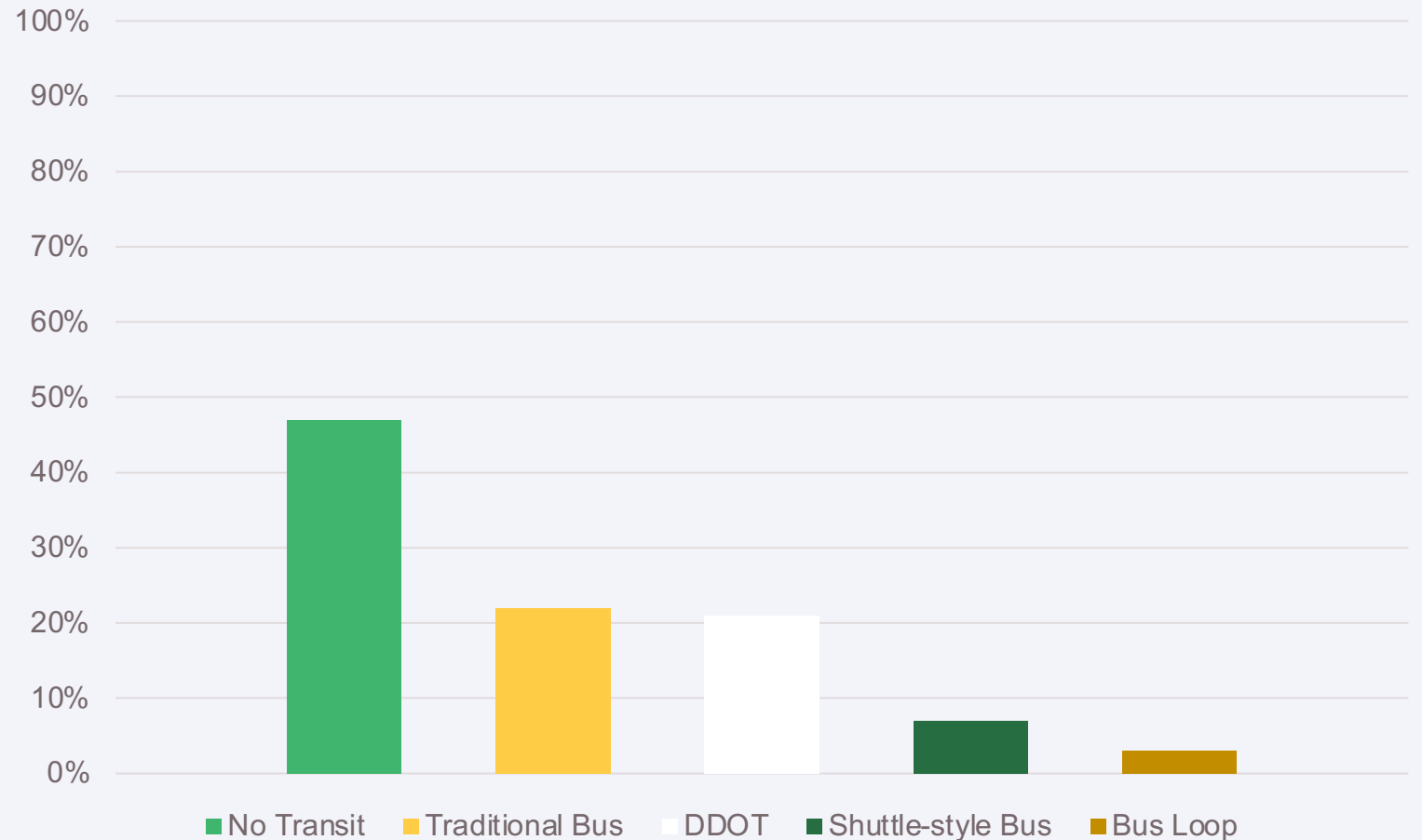
# How Students Get to School is Associated with their Attendance

- Riding the school bus in K is associated with better attendance.<sup>1</sup>
- Increased commuting time leads to decreased attendance.<sup>2</sup>
- In Michigan (outside of Detroit), school bus eligibility is associated with a 0.5% to 1% increase in attendance.<sup>3</sup>
- Yet, there is limited research on the actual mode of transportation students use and how that is related to attendance in choice environments.

<sup>1</sup> Gottfried (2017); <sup>2</sup> Blagg et al. (2018); <sup>3</sup> Edwards (in press).

47% of Detroit students attend a school with no transportation for general education students

Bus Type Offered to Detroit Students in DPSCD and Detroit Charters



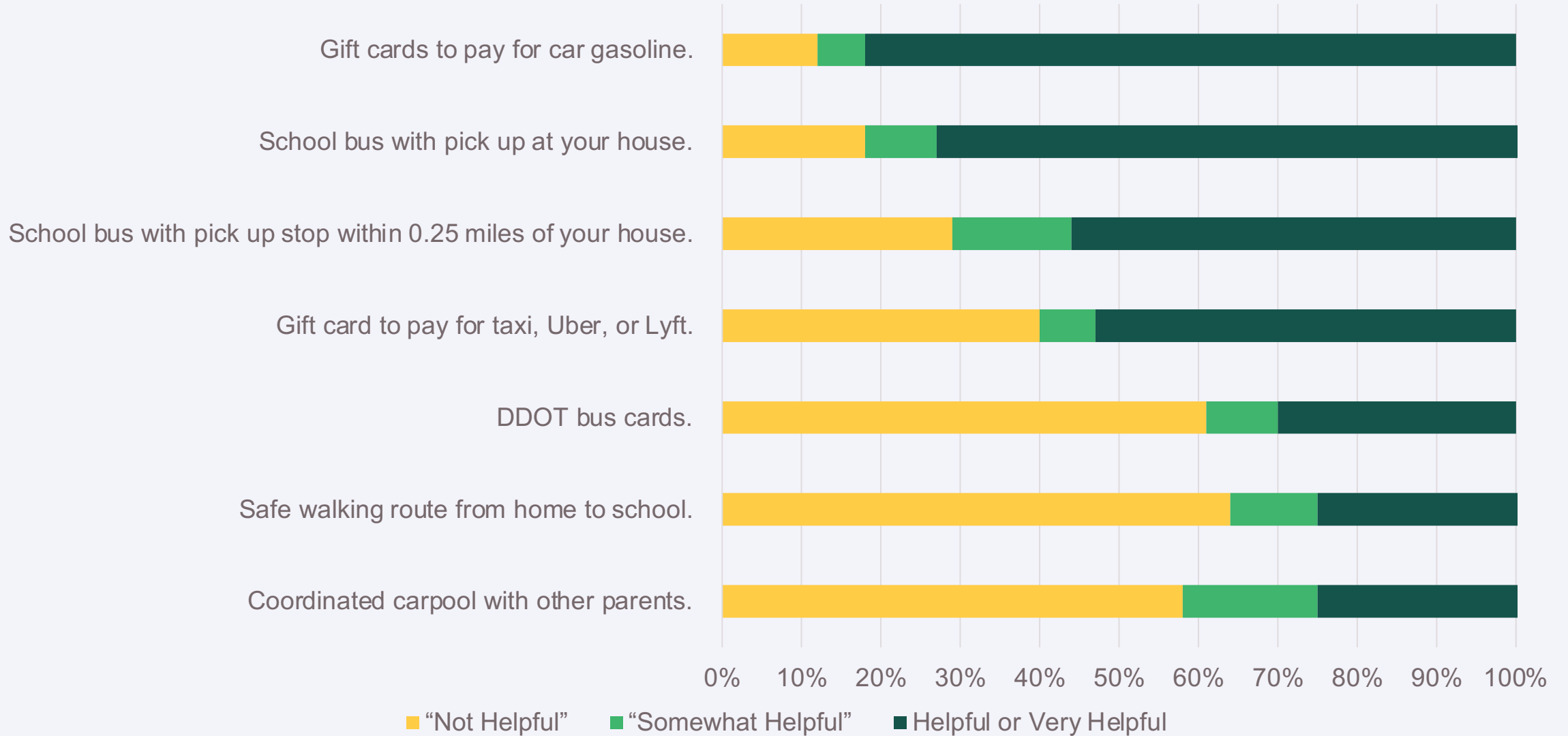
75% of students are driven to school daily by their parent; most students never use bus or walk/bike

Type of transportation in AM	Daily	Weekly	Several times per month	Less Often	Never
<b>You drove your car</b>	<b>0.75</b>	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.12
<b>You drove someone else's car</b>	0.16	0.04	0.04	0.11	0.66
<b>Someone else drove</b>	0.11	0.07	0.05	0.17	0.60
<b>School bus</b>	0.12	0.03	0.02	0.06	<b>0.76</b>
<b>Public bus (DDOT)</b>	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.05	<b>0.90</b>
<b>Walk or bike</b>	0.07	0.02	0.03	0.09	<b>0.79</b>
<b>Taxi or rideshare</b>	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.10	0.84

# Transit use is complex in context with high poverty, weak public infrastructure

- Among students who lived 0.25 miles away from school or less, 44% never walked or biked to school. Among students who lived 0.5 miles away from school or less, 53% never walked or biked
- 30% of families were cobbling together multiple modes of daily school transportation, including borrowing a car from friends or family, asking others to drive their children to school, or having their children walk or bike sometimes long distances
- Bus usage is low, even among eligible students
  - 60% of DPSCD students who were eligible to ride the school bus **ever** rode the bus to school
  - Likewise, just 53% of charter school students who were eligible to ride the bus ever did so

### Helpfulness of Transportation Resources Reported by Detroit Parents, 2022



# Data Reflection

- *What surprised you?*
- *What more do you want to know?*
- *What should 482Forward be working on?*

Thank you!

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