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## 2023-24 Philly School Experience Survey

Office of Evaluation, Research, and Accountability

December 2024

# The Philly School Experience Survey (PSES) is one of the best tools we have for monitoring conditions in schools across the city.

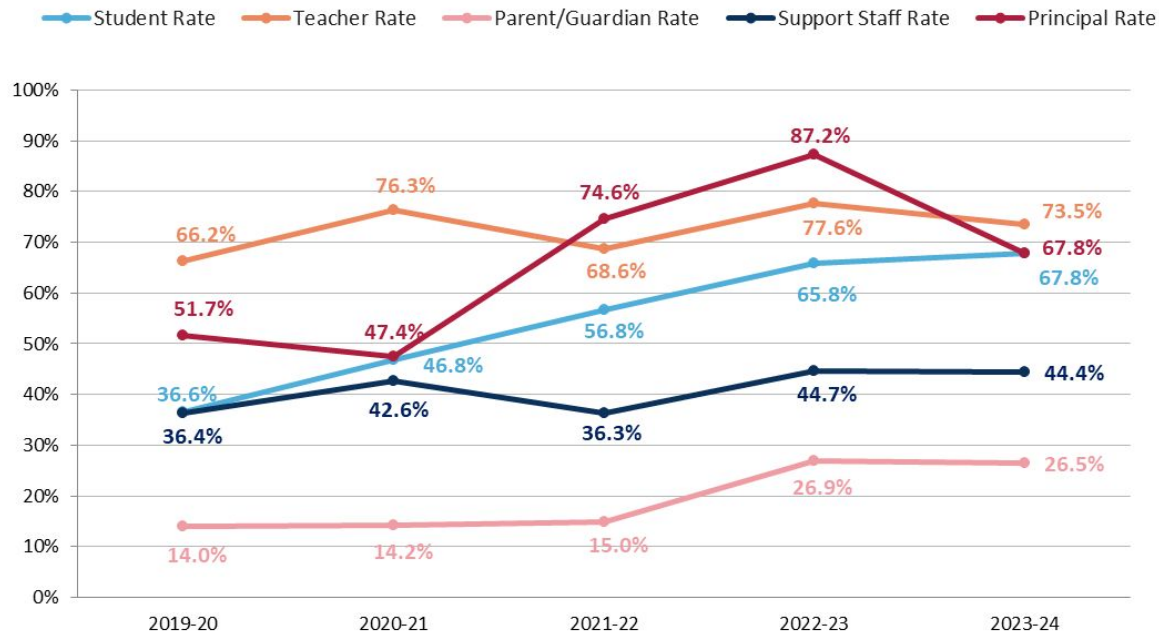
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- The PSES has been administered in District, alternative, and charter schools every spring since 2014-15.
- Multiple stakeholder groups take the PSES, including students in grades 3-12, parents/guardians, teachers, support staff, and school leaders (principals & assistant principals).
- The PSES was developed using research on effective schools and school reform, particularly the extensive [work](#) done by Anthony Bryk and his colleagues (2010) at The University of Chicago Consortium on School Research.
- The PSES is a tool for school communities and their leaders to measure how their school is progressing in six core areas related to school improvement.

## Participation rate trends in 2023-24 were mixed.

More than 95,000 stakeholders across District and alternative schools participated in the 2023-24 PSES.

The principal/AP response declined by 22% and the teacher response rate declined by 5%. However, the student response rate increased by 3%, and rates for parents and support staff remained within one percentage point of their 2022-23 rates. Importantly, the large increase in parent/guardian response rate achieved in 2022-23 was sustained, at just 0.4 percentage points lower than 2022-23.



# This slide deck summarizes findings on the conditions of District and alternative schools across Philadelphia in 2023-24.

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- This slide deck contains **results** for the 2023-24 PSES for District and alternative schools only – it does not include charter schools.
- This deck is organized into the following sections:
  - [System-level trends](#) across all core school improvement topics
  - Deeper dives into each of the core topics: [School Climate](#), [Instructional Environment](#), [School Leadership](#), [Professional Capacity](#), [Family Engagement](#), and [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)

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# **Understanding the PSES: Topics, Score Calculation, and Score Interpretation**

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# The PSES covers six core topics, plus additional key issues.

1	<b>School Climate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School-Wide Learning Climate</li> <li>● Classroom-Level Challenges</li> <li>● School-Level Challenges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Building Condition</li> <li>● School Safety</li> <li>● Attendance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Respect</li> <li>● Belonging</li> <li>● Peer Conflict</li> </ul>
2	<b>Instructional Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supportive Classrooms</li> <li>● Student Engagement</li> </ul>		
3	<b>School Leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expectations &amp; Feedback</li> <li>● Inclusive Leadership</li> </ul>		
4	<b>Professional Capacity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trauma-Informed Practices</li> <li>● Knowledge of Student Supports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support for Innovation</li> <li>● Teacher Collaboration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School-based Professional Development</li> </ul>
5	<b>Family Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School-Family Relationships</li> <li>● Communication with Families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent/Guardian Involvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teacher Outreach to Parents/Guardians</li> </ul>
6	<b>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cultural Awareness and Action</li> <li>● Anti-Racist Professional Culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Belonging</li> <li>● Educating All Students</li> </ul>	
+	<b>Other Topics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● External Challenges</li> <li>● Attendance and Dropout</li> <li>● Transportation</li> <li>● Technology Access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Curriculum</li> <li>● Health and Nutrition</li> <li>● Food Services</li> <li>● Food Insecurity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Safety Officers</li> <li>● Extracurricular Activities</li> <li>● Goals &amp; Guardrails</li> </ul>

# Interpreting topic and subtopic scores

All respondents are expressing **maximum positivity** on the topic, with everyone selecting the most positive response to every question.

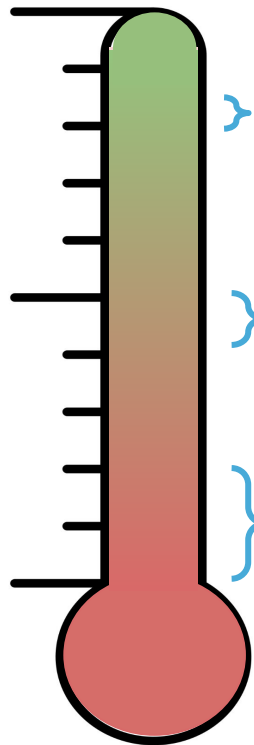
10.0

Evenly **mixed perceptions**, with an equal ratio of positive and negative responses.

5.0

All respondents are expressing **maximum negativity** on the topic, with everyone selecting the most negative response to every question.

0.0



## Differences in school topic/subtopic scores:

A difference of **0.3 points** represents a slight shift in school stakeholders' attitudes. For example, if just 10% of respondents shift all of their responses to the next most positive option, the topic score would increase by 0.3 points.

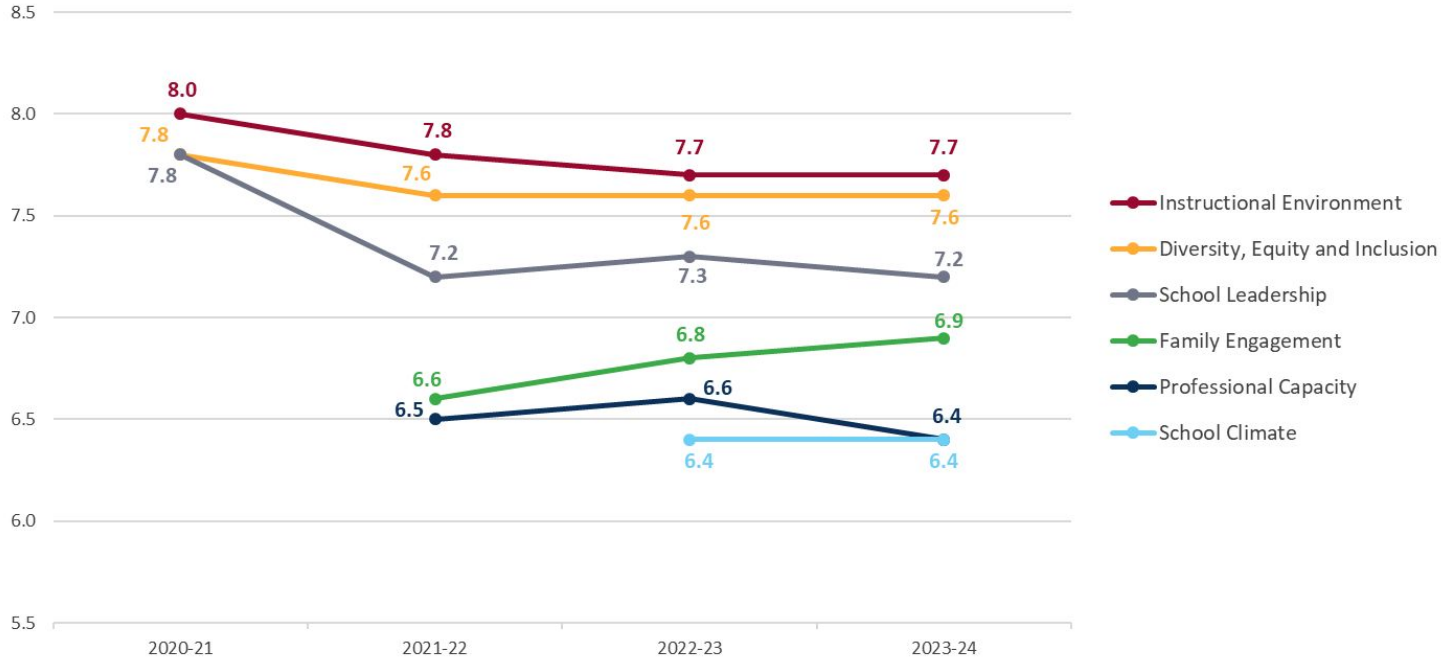
A difference of **1 point** represents a moderate shift in school stakeholders' attitudes. If 30% of respondents were to shift all of their responses to the next most positive option, the topic score would increase by 1 point.

A difference of **2 points** represents a large shift in school stakeholders' attitudes. If 60% of respondents were to shift all of their responses to the next most positive option, the topic score would increase by 2 points.



**District-level year over year topic score changes tend to be much smaller than at the school level.** This is due to the wide variation in trends across schools ([see slide 11](#)), with schools with increases and decreases "canceling each other out."

# Scores in the six core topics were similar to 2022-23, with the largest year-over-year change in Professional Capacity, which decreased by 0.2 points.



Topic score trends by network and sector are available in our PDF reports [here](#).



# This deck summarizes system-level trends, but remember that below the District averages lies an immense diversity of student, staff, and family experiences!

The system level topic score is like the surface of the water—it might seem stable over time...

...but under the surface, there is plenty of churn! There are often large swings in perceptions at individual schools, especially in School Leadership, Climate, and Professional Capacity (see [slide 10](#)).

School averages also hide variation in experiences within schools. The experiences of students, staff and parents/guardians can vary widely and change considerably from year to year.



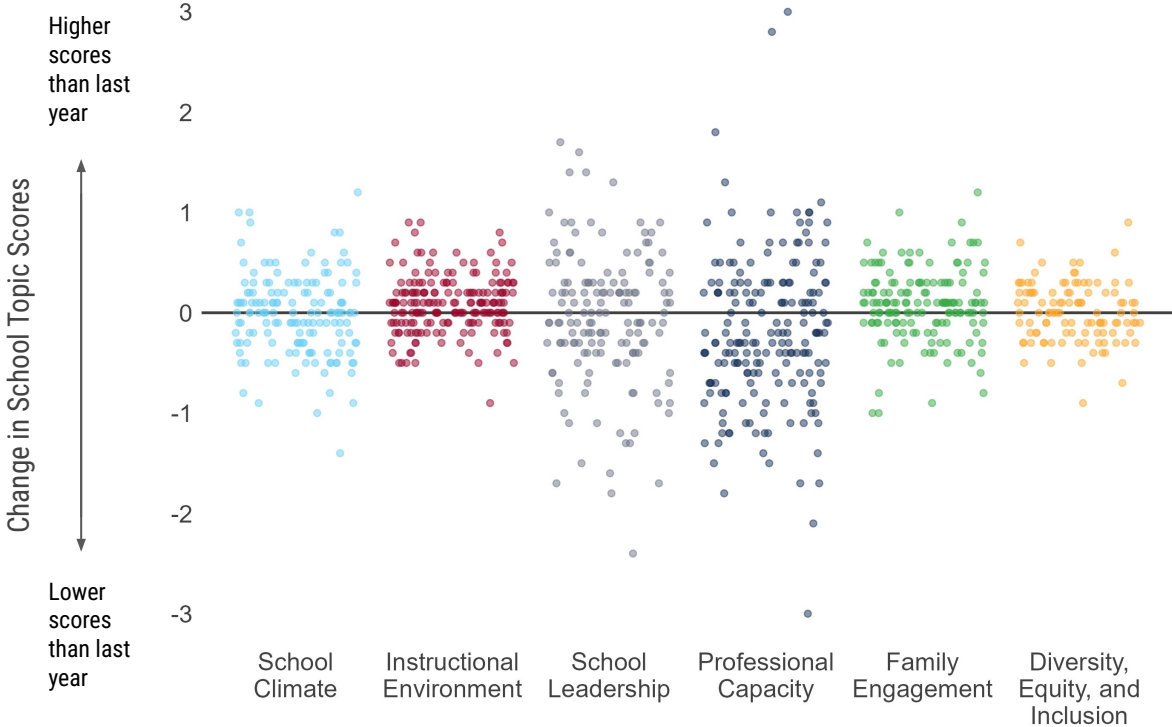
Example: A [study](#) of 2021-22 School Climate and Instructional Environment student responses found much more variation in student experiences *within* schools than *between* schools.



The public [PSES Dashboard](#) allows you to filter and compare results for students by gender, race/ethnicity, IEP, and EL status.

Our April 2024 [PSES Research Roundup](#) provides a nuanced discussion of our recent research on the complexity in student experiences with School Climate and Instructional Environment.

# While aggregate topic scores did not change much from 2022-23 to 2023-24, there was much more fluctuation at the school level.



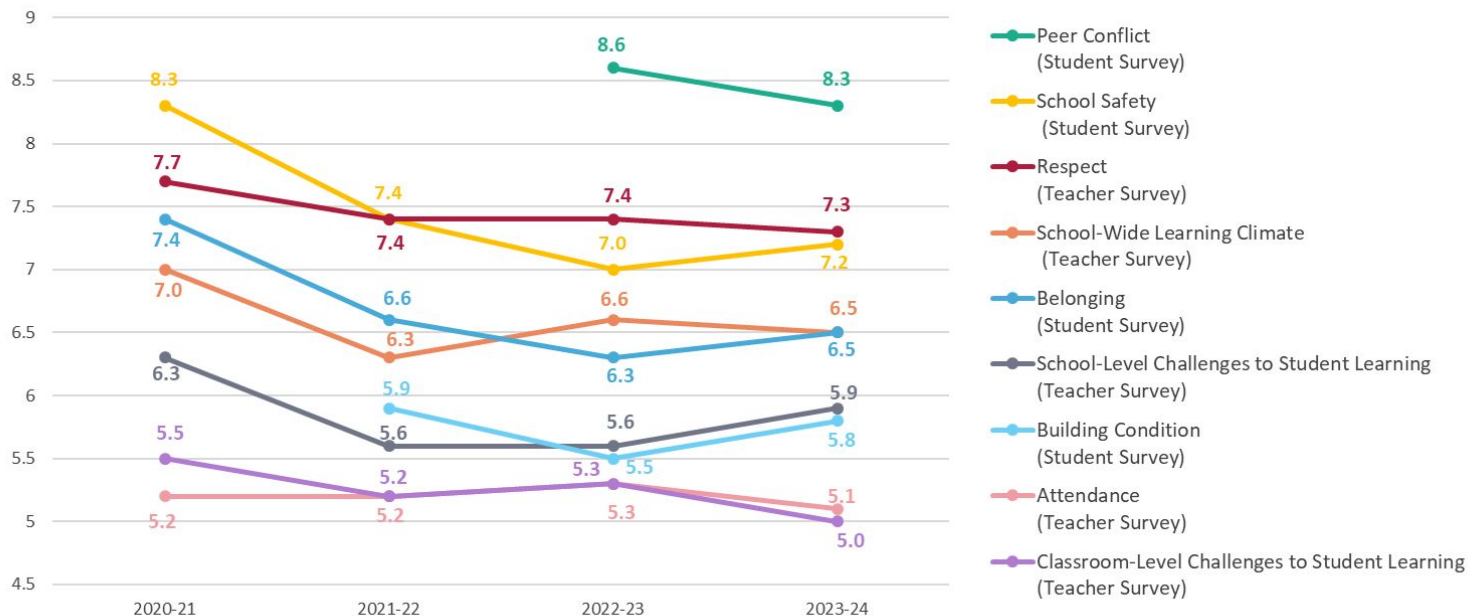
This figure shows the year-over-year change in topic scores from 2022-23 to 2023-24.

Each dot represents a school. Schools on the horizontal line saw no change in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23. Each school's distance from the line corresponds to the degree of change compared to 2022-23.

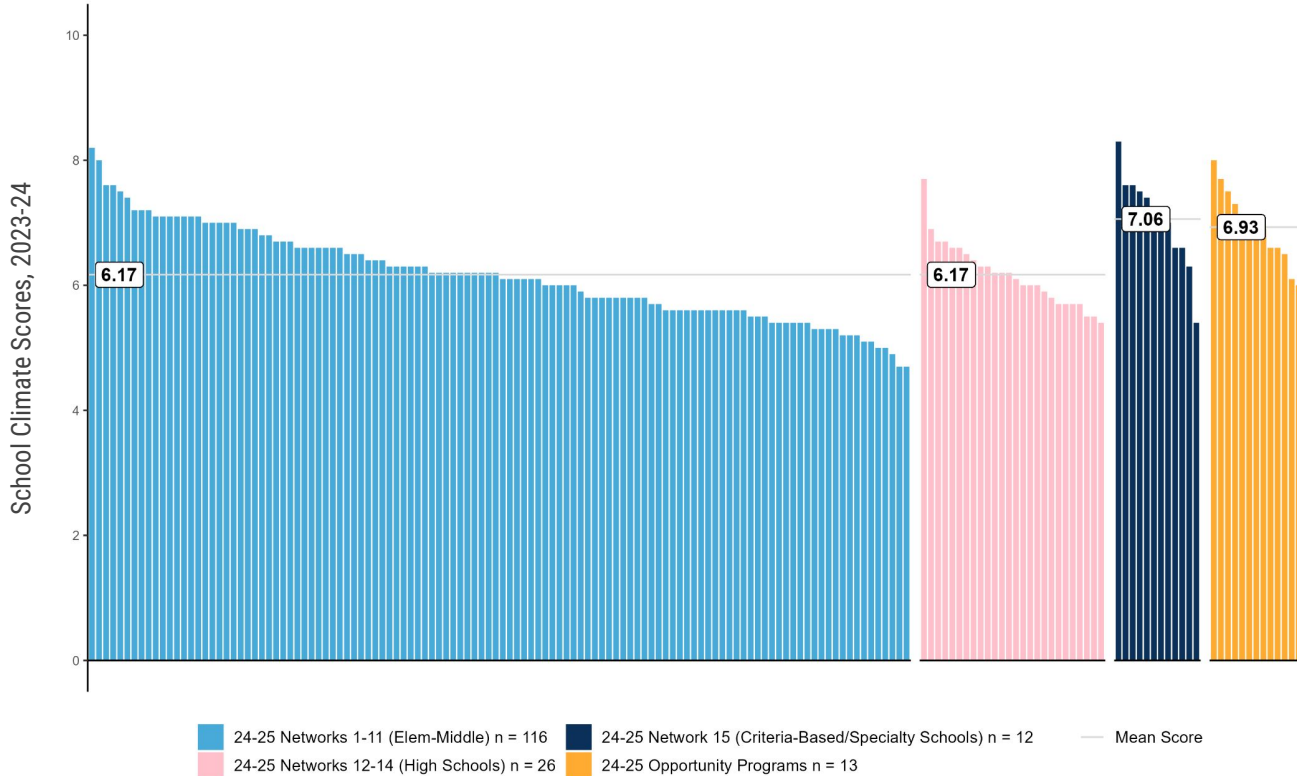
*These results reflect responses from District and alternative schools (charter schools are excluded).*

<b>1</b>	<b>School Climate</b>
2	Instructional Environment
3	School Leadership
4	Professional Capacity
5	Family Engagement
6	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## While the overall School Climate score was 6.4 in both 2022-23 and 2023-24, trends varied for different subtopics within School Climate.



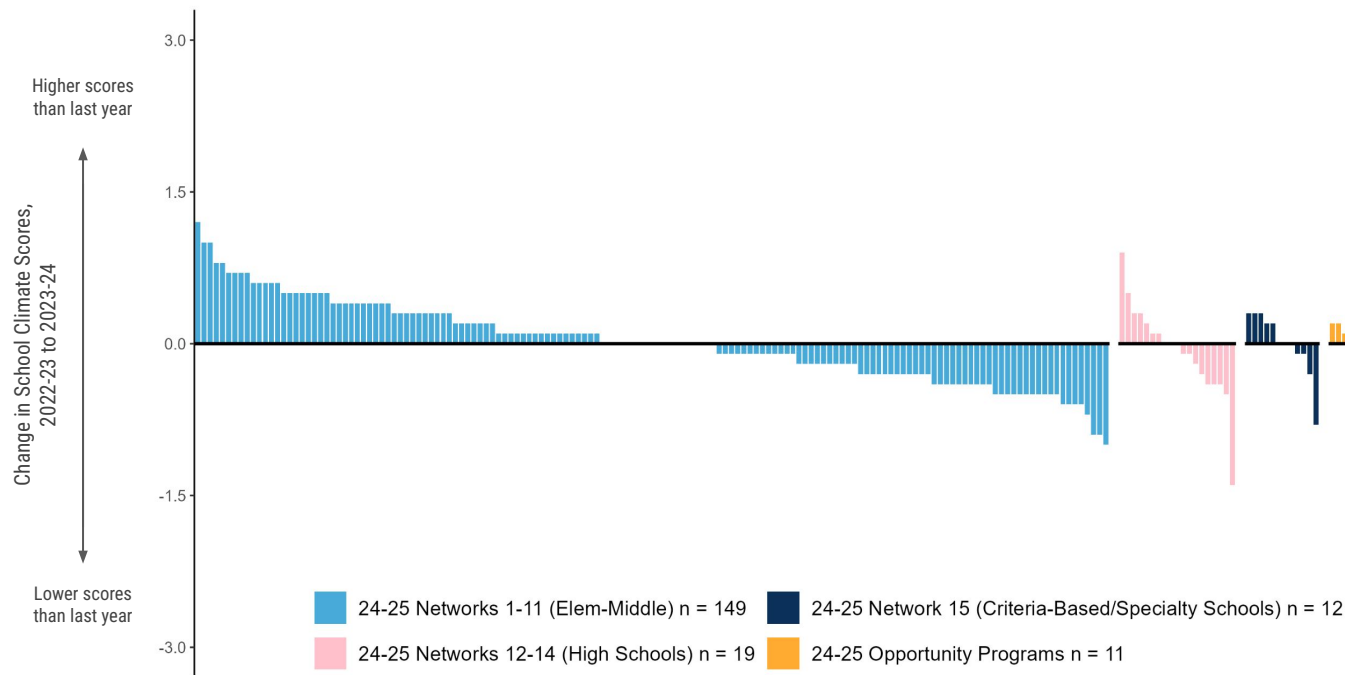
## 2023-24 School Climate scores varied by school, ranging from 4.6 to 8.4.



Each column represents a school's Climate score in 2023-24.

Columns are grouped by school type and sorted descending to show the range and mean for School Climate scores at each school level.

# The degree and direction of change in School Climate scores compared to 2022-23 also varied widely by school.



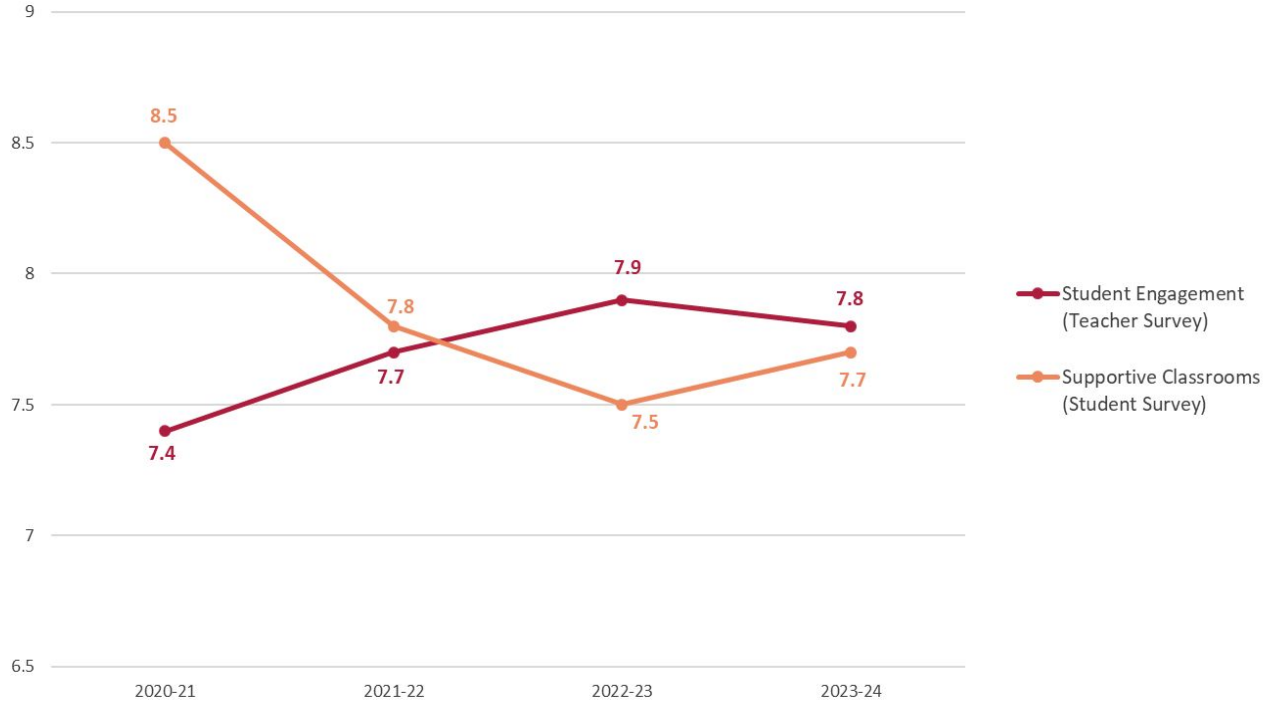
This figure shows how much the School Climate scores changed for each school from 2022-23 to 2023-24.

Each column represents a school. Columns above the black line at 0 are schools whose scores increased, and columns below the black line are schools whose scores decreased. Schools with no change are represented by blank spaces on the black line.

Schools must have an Instructional Environment topic score in both 2022-23 and 2023-24 in order to show a change in topic score.

1	School Climate
<b>2</b>	<b>Instructional Environment</b>
3	School Leadership
4	Professional Capacity
5	Family Engagement
6	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

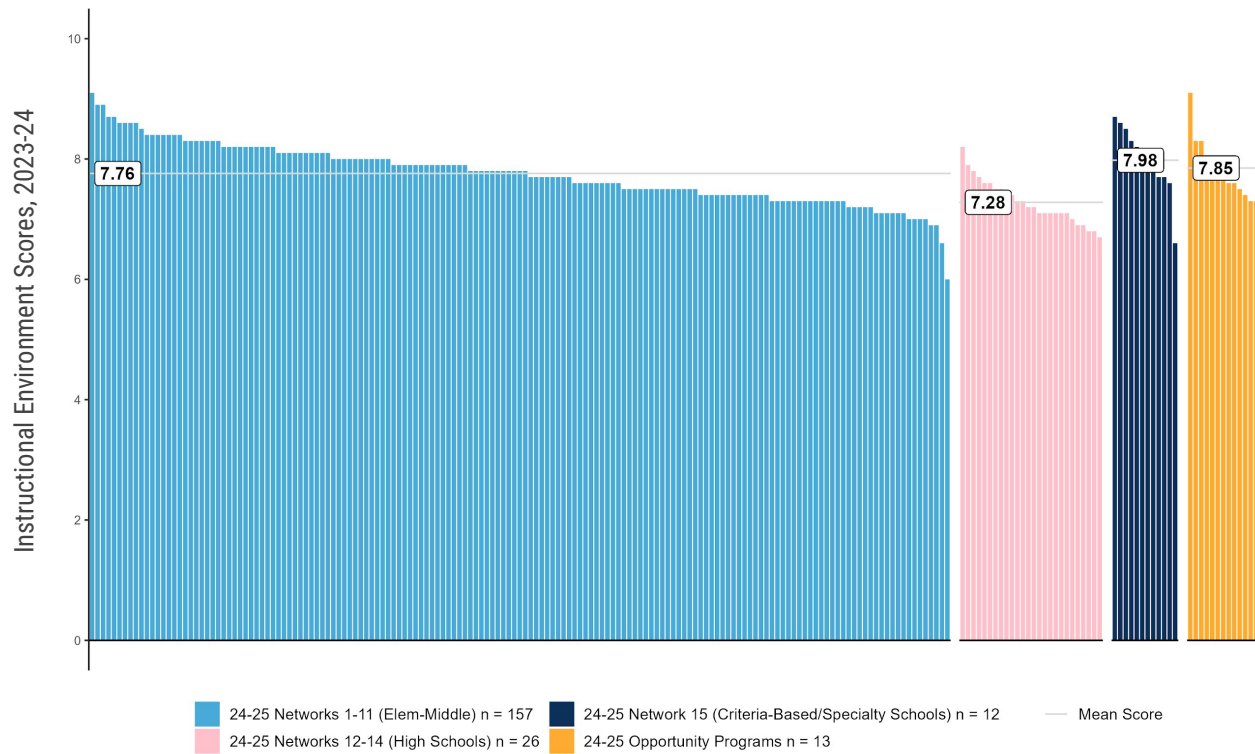
## After two years of decline, the student-reported Supportive Classrooms subtopic recovered 0.2 points in 2023-24.



*These results reflect responses from District and alternative schools (charter schools are excluded).*



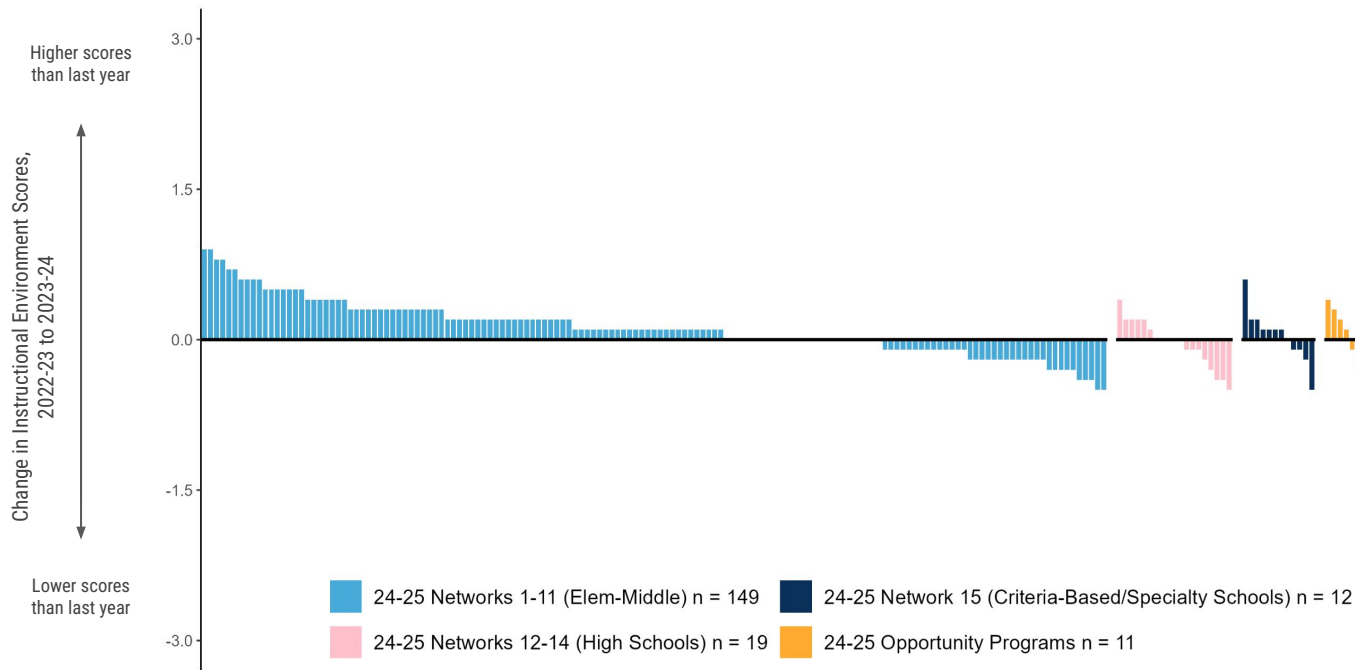
# Instructional Environment scores varied by school, ranging from 6.0 to 9.1.



Each column represents a school's Instructional Environment score in 2023-24.

Columns are grouped by school type and sorted descending to show the range and mean for Instructional Environment scores at each school level.

# There were more schools with increases in Instructional Environment scores in 2023-24 than with decreases, but most schools saw changes of less than 0.5 points.



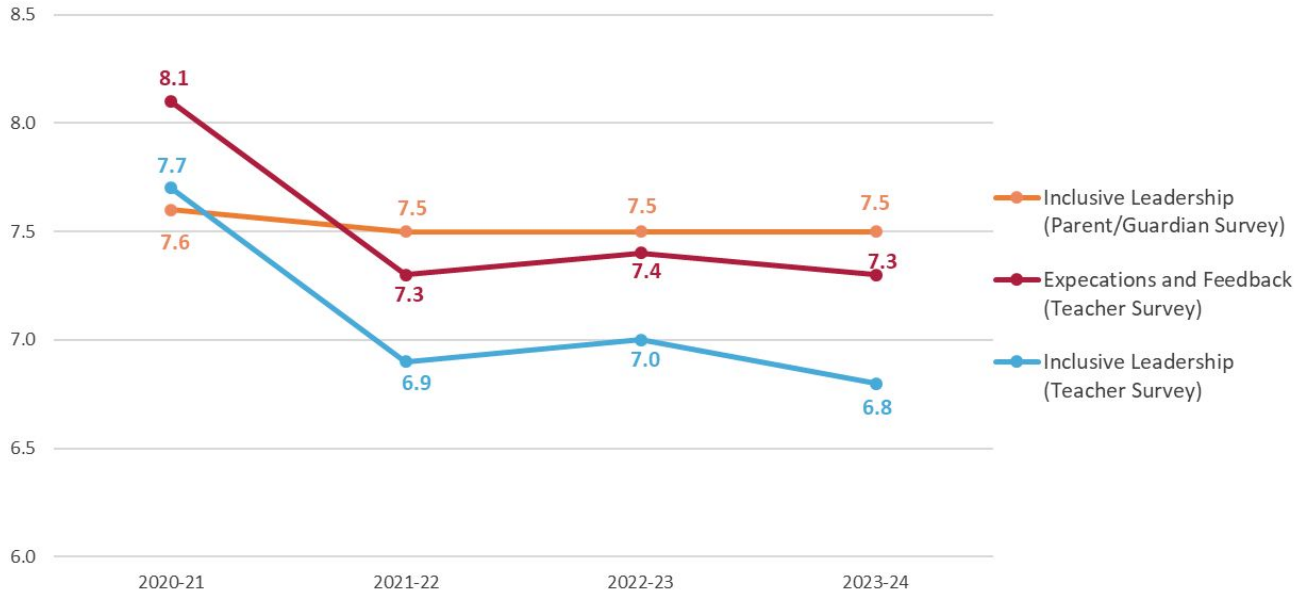
This figure shows how much the School Climate scores changed for each school from 2022-23 to 2023-24.

Each column represents a school. Columns above the black line at 0 are schools whose scores increased, and columns below the black line are schools whose scores decreased. Schools with no change are represented by blank spaces on the black line.

Schools must have an Instructional Environment topic score in both 2022-23 and 2023-24 in order to show a change in topic score.

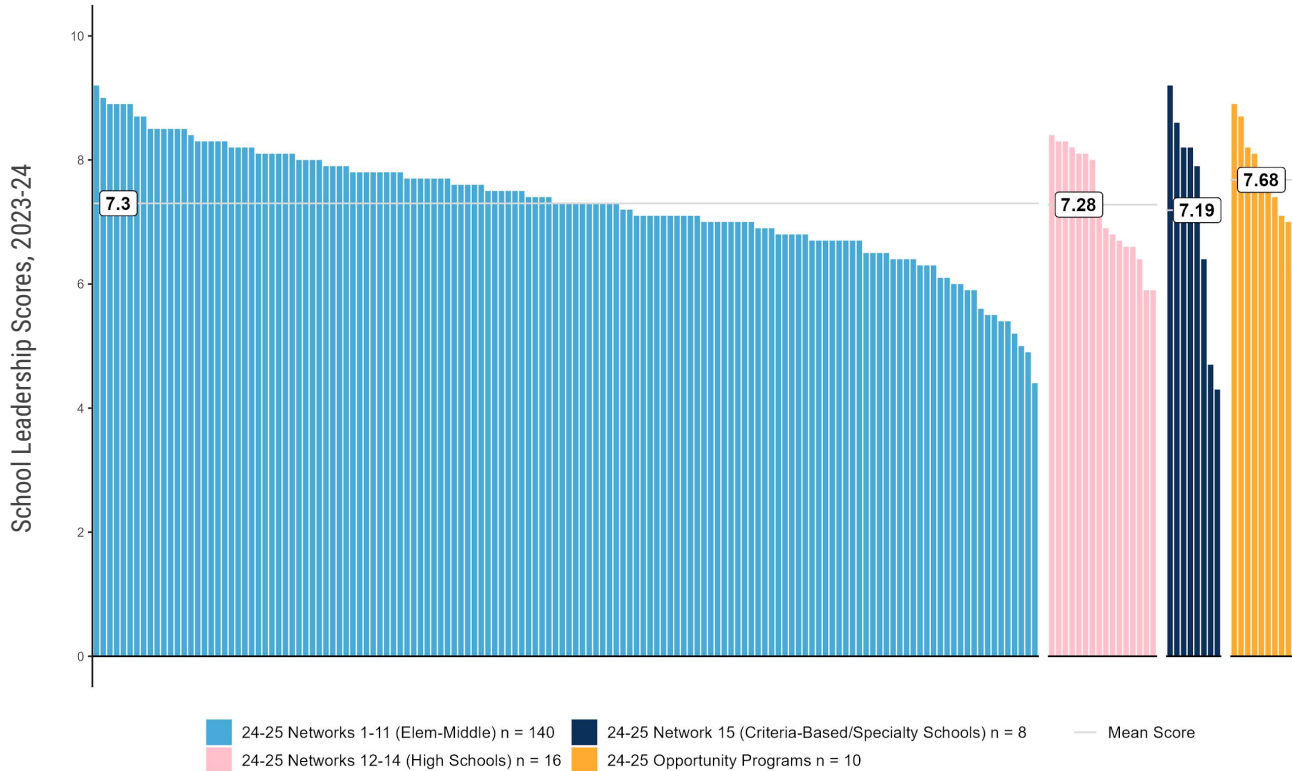
1	School Climate
2	Instructional Environment
<b>3</b>	<b>School Leadership</b>
4	Professional Capacity
5	Family Engagement
6	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## On average, teachers in District and alternative schools had more negative perceptions of School Leadership in 2023-24 than the previous year.



*These results reflect responses from District and alternative schools (charter schools are excluded).*

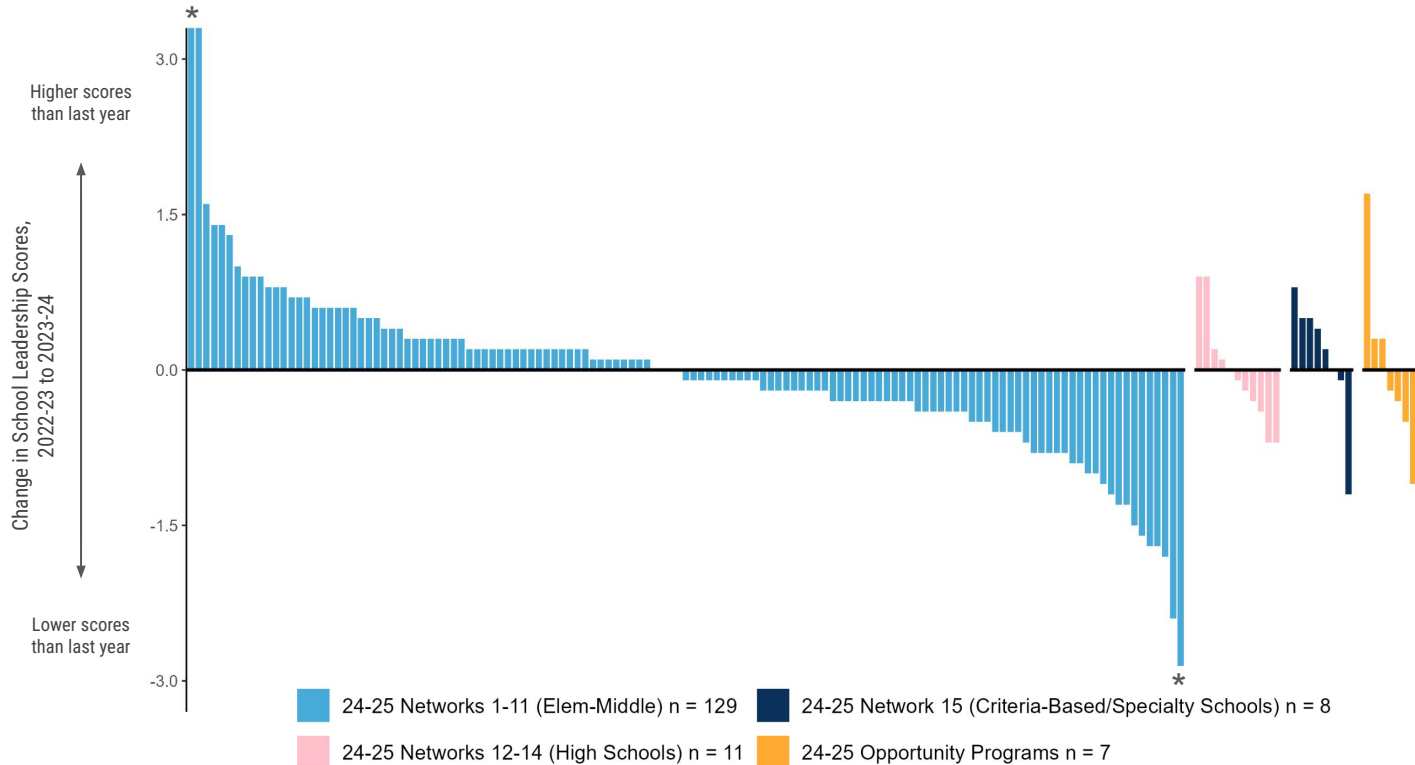
## School Leadership scores varied widely by school, ranging from 4.3 to 9.2.



Each column represents a school's Leadership score in 2023-24.

Columns are grouped by school type and sorted descending to show the range and mean for School Leadership scores at each school level.

## School Leadership trends from 2022-23 to 2023-24 varied widely by school.



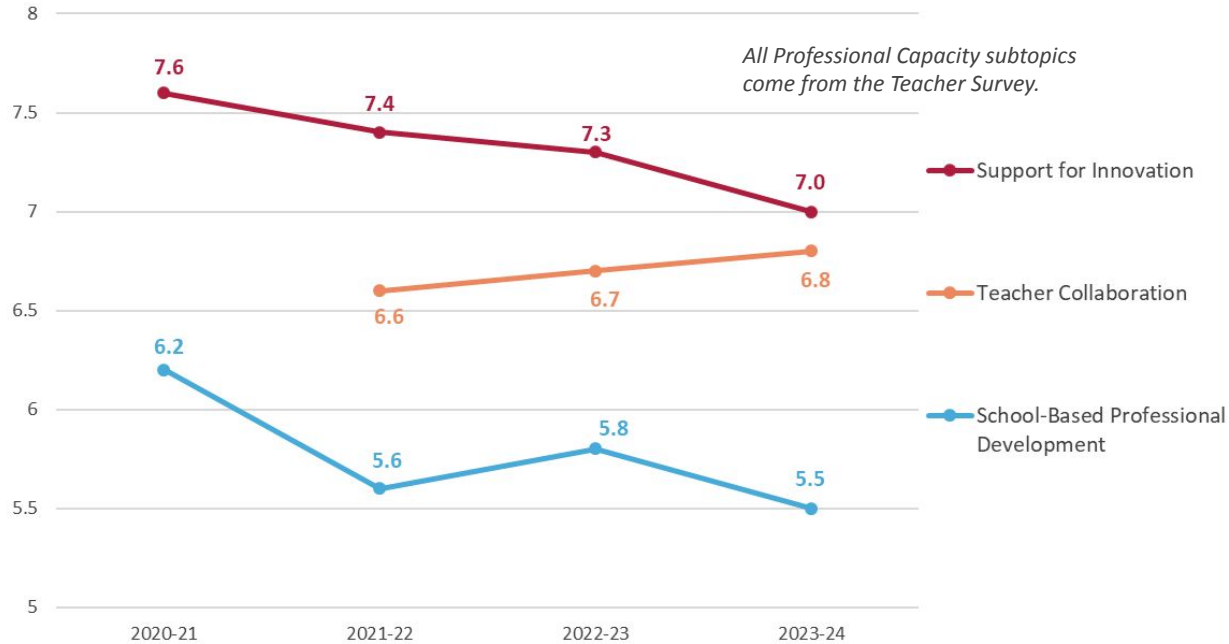
This figure shows how much School Leadership scores changed for each school from 2022-23 to 2023-24.

Each column represents a school. Columns above the black line at 0 are schools whose scores increased, and columns below the black line are schools whose scores decreased. Schools with no change are represented by blank spaces on the black line.

\*Two schools had School Leadership score increases greater than 3.0 (one increased by 4.8, one by 4.0). One school had a School Leadership score decline of more than 3.0 (-3.2 points). Schools must have an Instructional Environment topic score in both 2022-23 and 2023-24 in order to show a change in topic score.

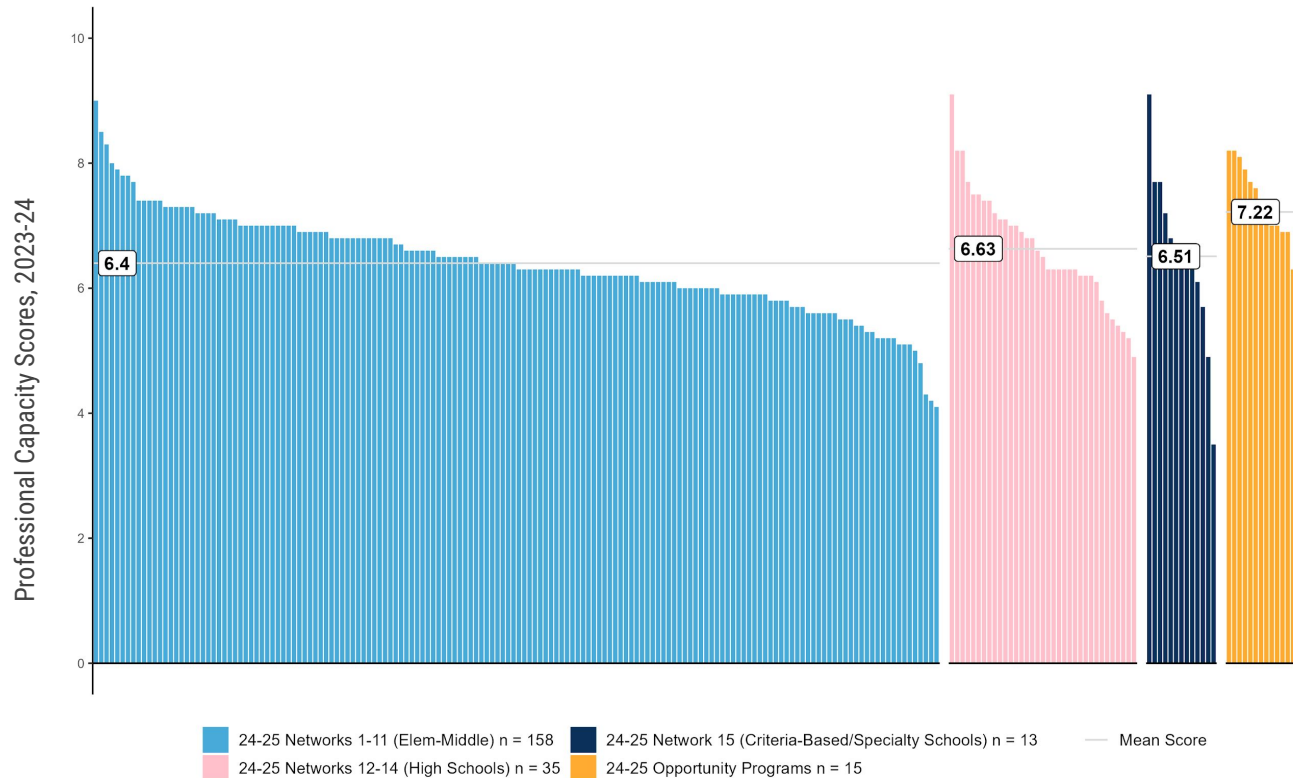
1	School Climate
2	Instructional Environment
3	School Leadership
<b>4</b>	<b>Professional Capacity</b>
5	Family Engagement
6	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## While the Teacher Collaboration score was the same as in 2022-23, Support for Innovation and School-Based Professional Development scores declined.





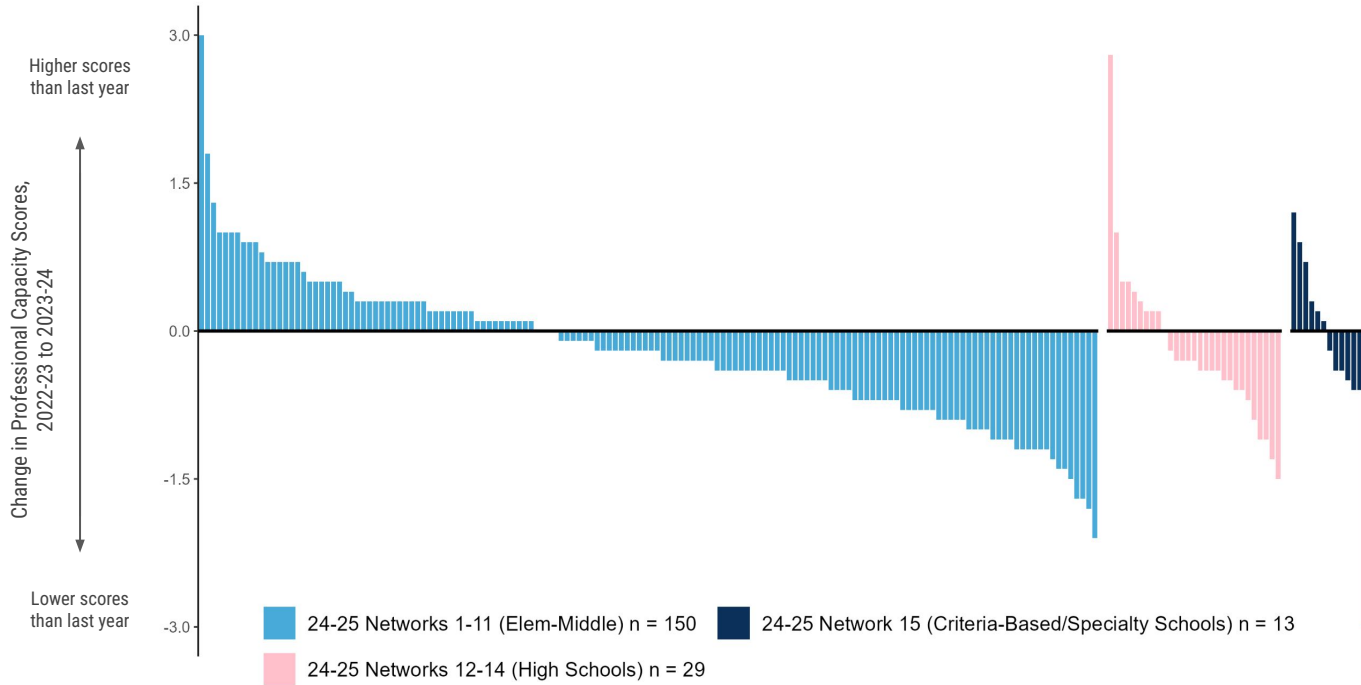
# Professional Capacity scores varied by school, ranging from 3.5 to 9.1.



Each column represents a school's Professional Capacity score in 2023-24.

Columns are grouped by school type and sorted descending to show the range and mean for Professional Capacity scores at each school level.

# There were more schools with decreases in Professional Capacity scores in 2023-24 than with increases.



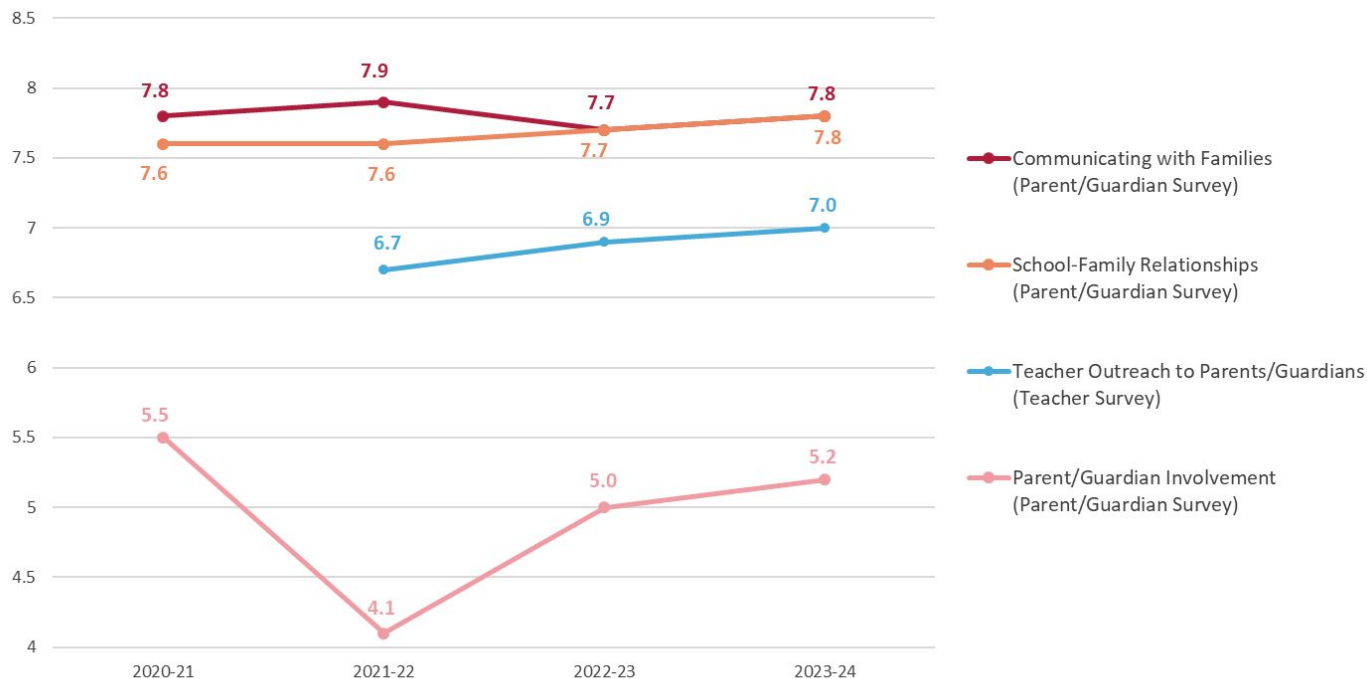
This figure shows how much Professional Capacity scores changed for each school from 2022-23 to 2023-24.

Each column represents a school. Columns above the black line at 0 are schools whose scores increased, and columns below the black line are schools whose scores decreased. Schools with no change are represented by blank spaces on the black line.

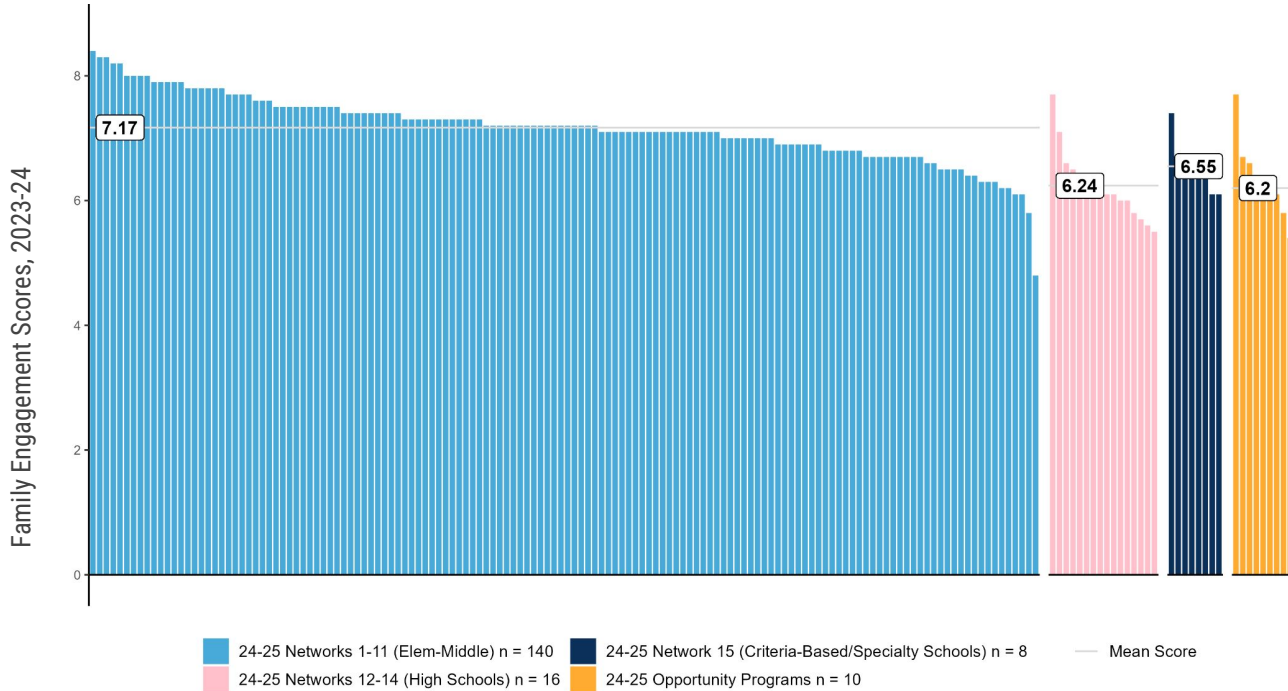
Schools must have an Instructional Environment topic score in both 2022-23 and 2023-24 in order to show a change in topic score.

1	School Climate
2	Instructional Environment
3	School Leadership
4	Professional Capacity
<b>5</b>	<b>Family Engagement</b>
6	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## Family Engagement Score subtopics continued to increase in 2023-24.



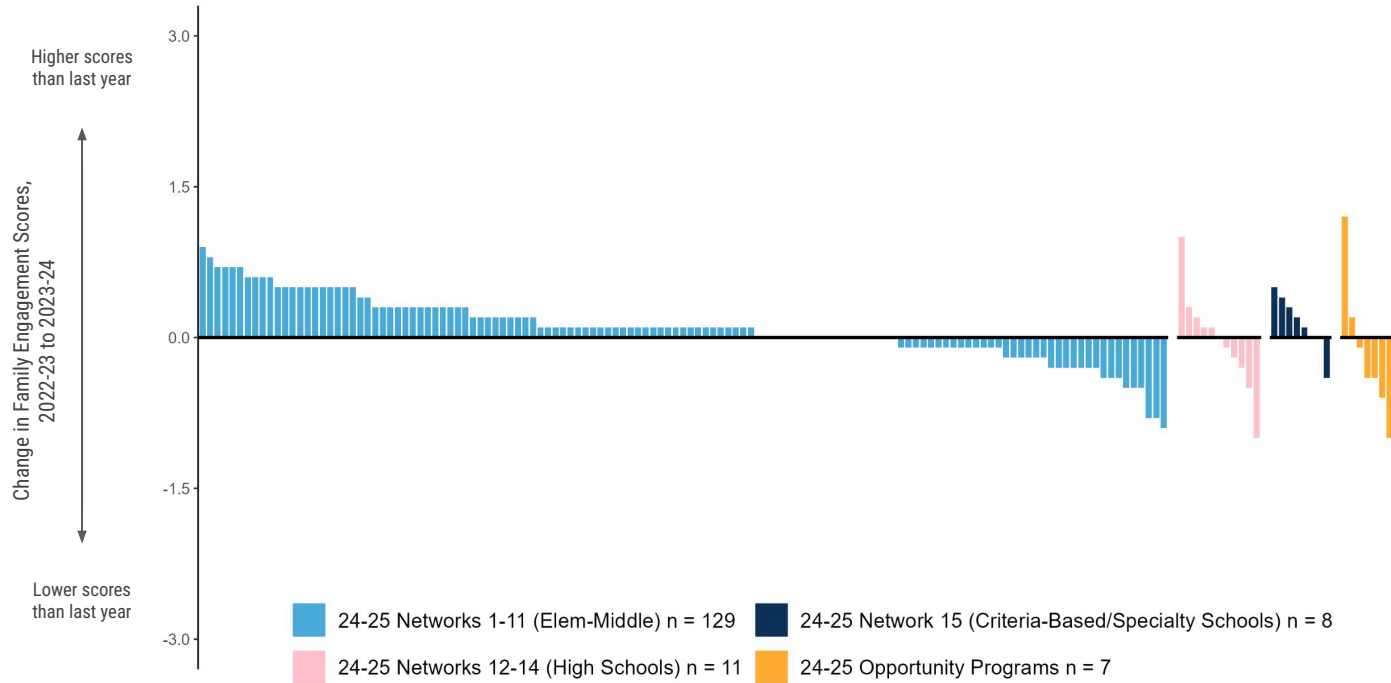
# Family Engagement scores varied in 2023-24, ranging from 4.8 to 8.4.



Each column represents a school's Family Engagement score in 2023-24.

Columns are grouped by school type and sorted descending to show the range and mean for Family Engagement scores at each school level.

## Family Engagement scores increased for most schools in 2023-24.



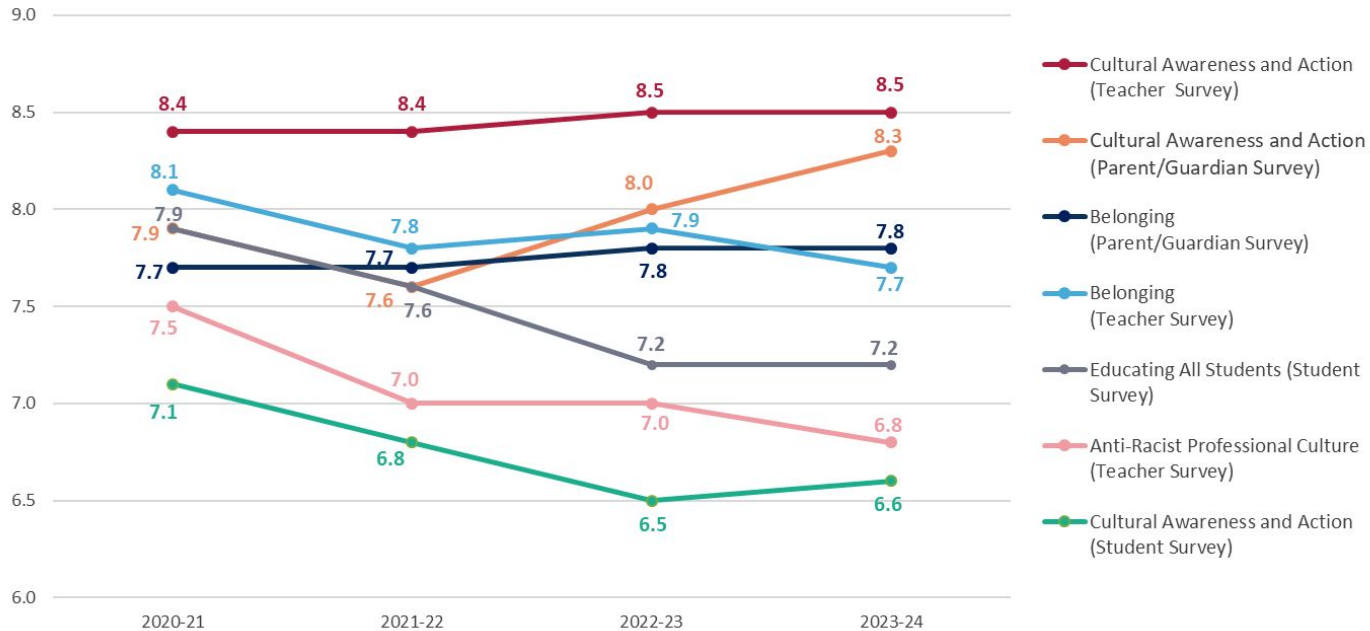
This figure shows how much Family Engagement scores changed for each school from 2022-23 to 2023-24.

Each column represents a school. Columns above the black line at 0 are schools whose scores increased, and columns below the black line are schools whose scores decreased. Schools with no change are represented by blank spaces on the black line.

Schools must have an Instructional Environment topic score in both 2022-23 and 2023-24 in order to show a change in topic score.

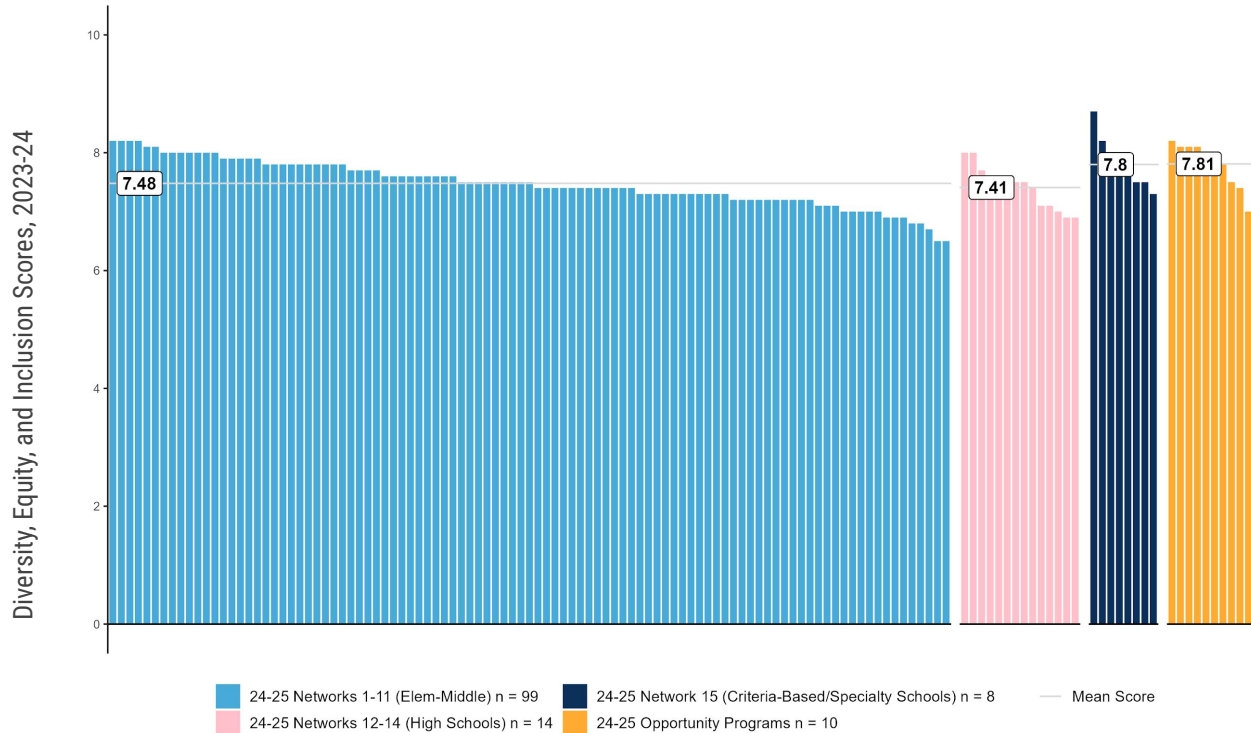
1	School Climate
2	Instructional Environment
3	School Leadership
4	Professional Capacity
5	Family Engagement
<b>6</b>	<b>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</b>

## While the overall Diversity, Equity and Inclusion score was the same as in 2022-23, year-over-year trends varied by subtopic.





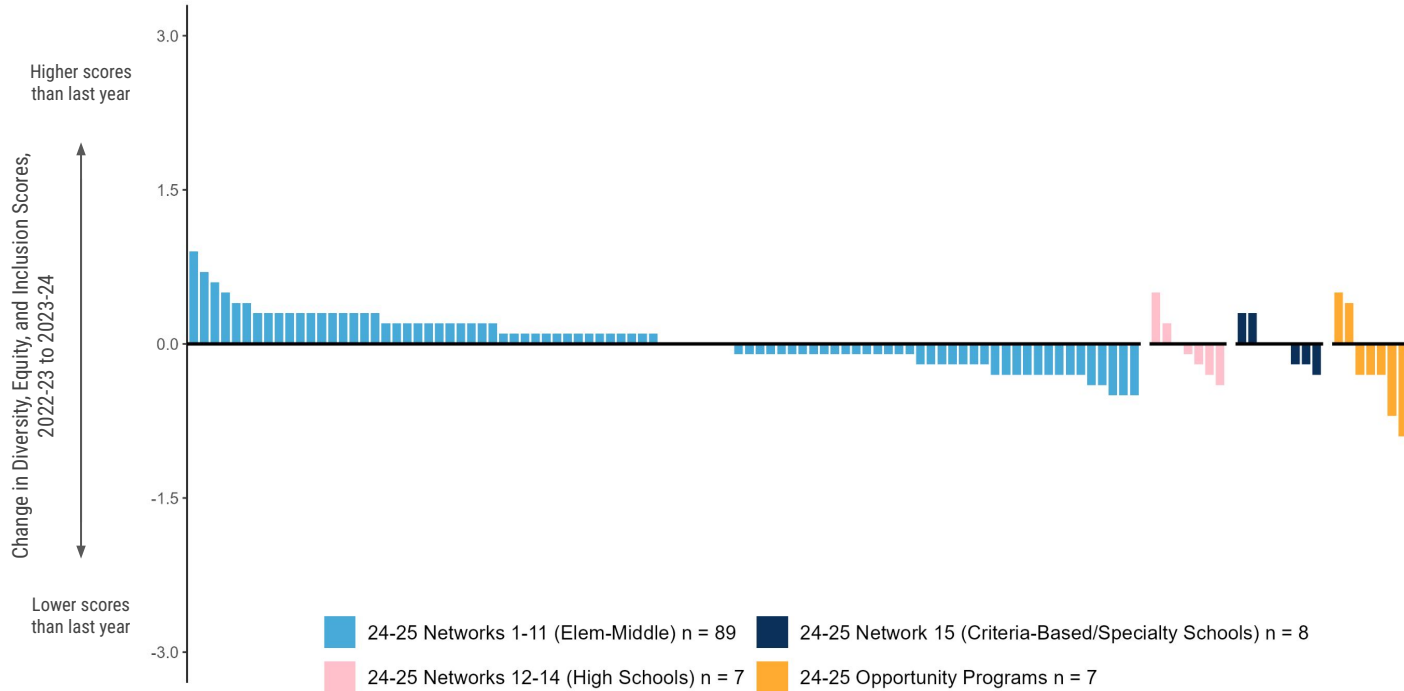
# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion scores varied slightly by school, ranging from 6.5 to 8.7.



This figure shows Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion scores for District and alternative schools in 2023-24.

Each column represents a school. Columns are grouped by school type and sorted descending to show the range of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion scores and the mean for each school level.

## Although the aggregate DEI score was the same as in 2022-23, there was a mix of increased and decrease scores among schools.



This figure shows how much Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion scores changed for each school from 2022-23 to 2023-24.

Each column represents a school. Columns above the black line at 0 are schools whose scores increased, and columns below the black line are schools whose scores decreased. Schools with no change are represented by blank spaces on the black line.