

# ACCIS Member and School Survey Results

2022-2023

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**ACCIS**  
Association of College Counselors  
in Independent Schools

# ACCIS Survey Results

## I. Executive Summary

As part of our ongoing self-studies, the Data Trends and Analytics (DTA) Committee participated in an in-depth effort to survey our membership about the makeup of their schools and about themselves as college counselors. The first survey in this format took place in 2020-2021, which helped us better know and serve our members and the selves they bring to this work and the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS).

In order to achieve this, we replicated two surveys. For the individual member survey, there were 391 responses from the 2130 members of ACCIS, representing a 18% participation rate. 154 members completed both the 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 member surveys. For the school survey, there were 234 unique school submissions from the 609 ACCIS schools, representing a 38% participation rate. 101 schools completed both the 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 surveys. We have analyzed the results by survey type rather than aggregating them.



**391 individual responses**  
**18% participation rate**



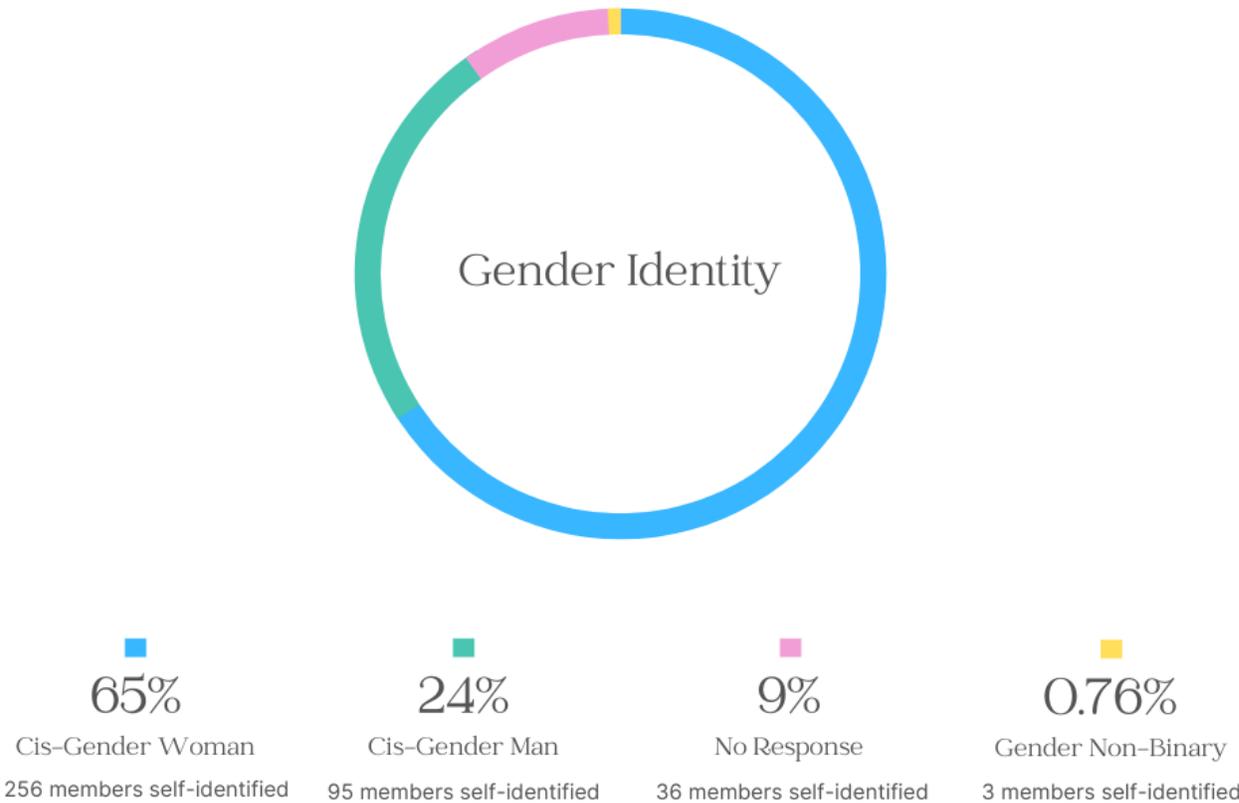
**234 school responses**  
**38% participation rate**

# ACCIS Survey Results

## II. Individual Member Survey

### *Demographics*

In our survey, 65% of participants (256 members) self-identified as cis-gender women, 24% (95 members) self-identified as cis-gender men, and 0.76% (3 members) self-identified as non-binary. Of 391 total respondents, 9% (36 members) did not self-identify.

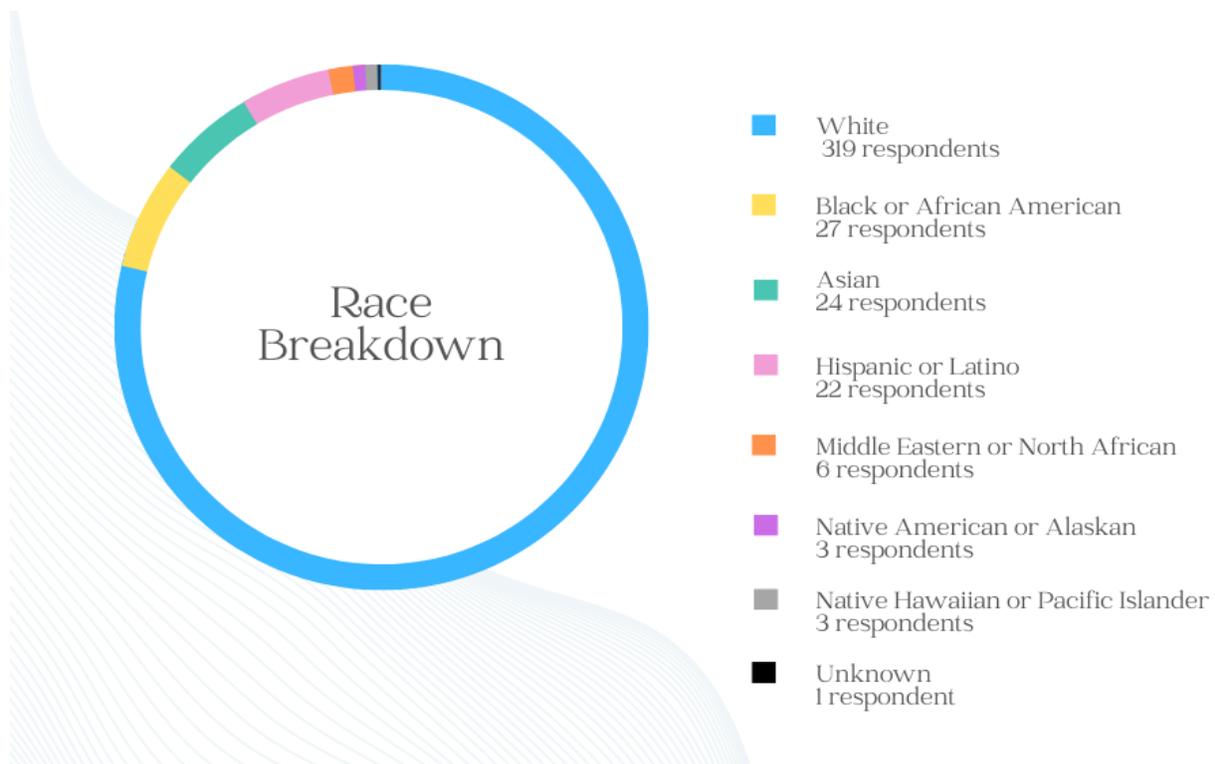


# ACCIS Survey Results

## *Race, Ethnicity, & National Origin*

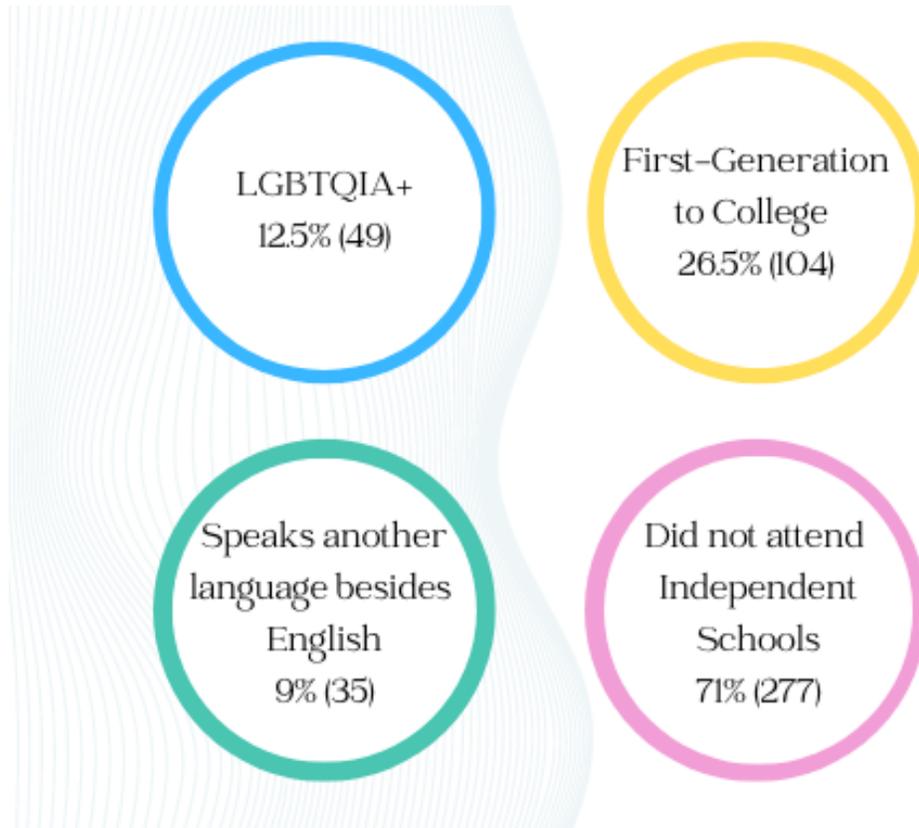
In advance of proposed census changes, the 2022-2023 ACCIS member survey reflects a new checkbox for "Middle Eastern or North African" and "Hispanic or Latino" that appear under a reformatted question asking for a person's race or ethnicity. This change is intended to address long standing difficulties many Latinos have had in answering a question about race that does not include a response option for Hispanic or Latino.

Of the 391 respondents to the individual member survey, 379 self-identified their race. For members who selected multiple races, each was identified in the respondent numbers. 319 members identified as White; 27 members identified as Black or African American; 24 members identified as Asian; 22 members identified as Hispanic or Latino; 6 members identified as Middle Eastern or North African, 3 members identified as Native American or Alaskan Natives; 3 members identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; and 1 member identified as unknown. Additionally, 28 members reported 2 or more identities in their responses.



# ACCIS Survey Results

## *Attributes*



In exploring the attributes of our membership, we sought to illuminate the unique identities individuals carry. Beyond gender and race, 12.5% (49 members) of survey respondents identified as belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community.

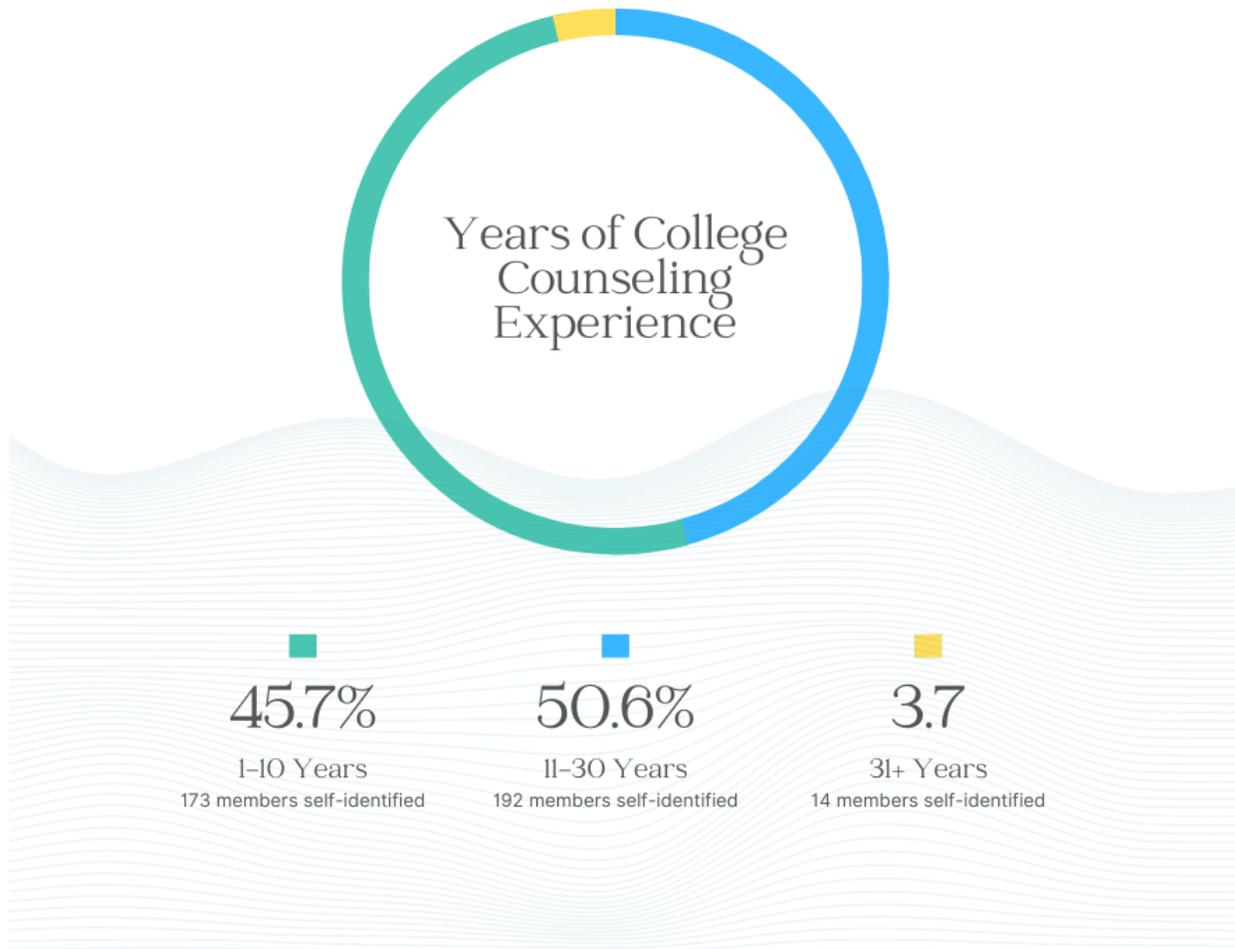
In response to the growing number of languages represented across our school communities, so too is it important to note that 9% (35 members) of respondents speak another language besides English, including Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Tagalog, Tongan, Turkish.

26.5% (104 members) of members surveyed are the First-Generation to College from their families. Meanwhile, 71% (277 members) shared that they did not attend an independent school as part of their own high school experience.

# ACCIS Survey Results

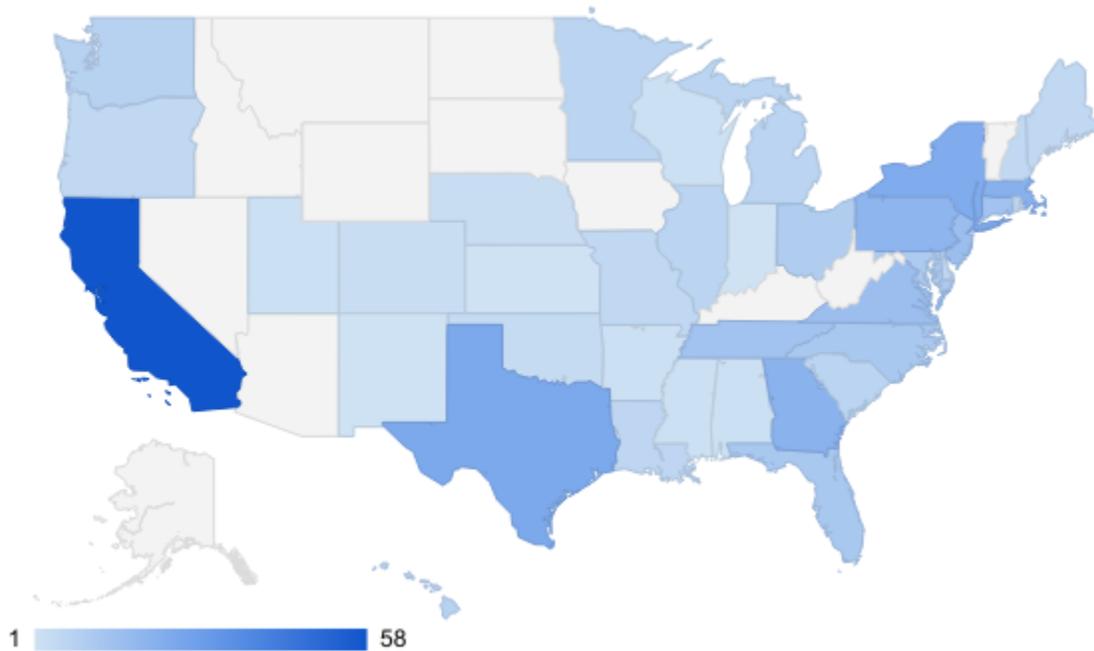
## *College Counselor Experience*

ACCIS members are experienced professionals. Of 379 respondents, 54% (206 members) indicated that they possess 11+ years of experience and 46% (173 members) have 1-10 years of experience. Beyond years of experience, 79% (297 members) have earned a master's degree, doctorate, or professional degree as their highest level of education.



# ACCIS Survey Results

## III. School Survey



2022-2023 Member Survey Domestic Respondents by State

ACCIS’s members span from coast to coast and abroad, with 39 states and 3 countries represented in our survey. Of the 231 respondents, 45.5% (178 schools) indicated that their schools were comprised of exclusively Day Students and .86% (2 schools) were exclusively Boarding. 1.29% (3 schools) were comprised of 50/50 Day and Boarding students, 8.65% (20 schools) were mixed with more Day Students and 12.12% (28) were mixed with more Boarding Students. 20.77% (48 schools) indicated that over 15% of their senior class were International Students and 3.6% (14 schools) offered the full International Baccalaureate Diploma to their students. Of our 8 international school members, 2022-2023 member survey respondents hail from Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Switzerland.

The 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 surveys had no respondents from the following states, but we have included the total number of NAIS member schools for context. Alaska: 1, Arizona: 11, Idaho: 5, Iowa: 5, Kentucky: 11, Montana: 2, Nevada: 6, North Dakota: 0, South Dakota: 0, West Virginia: 2, Wyoming: 2.

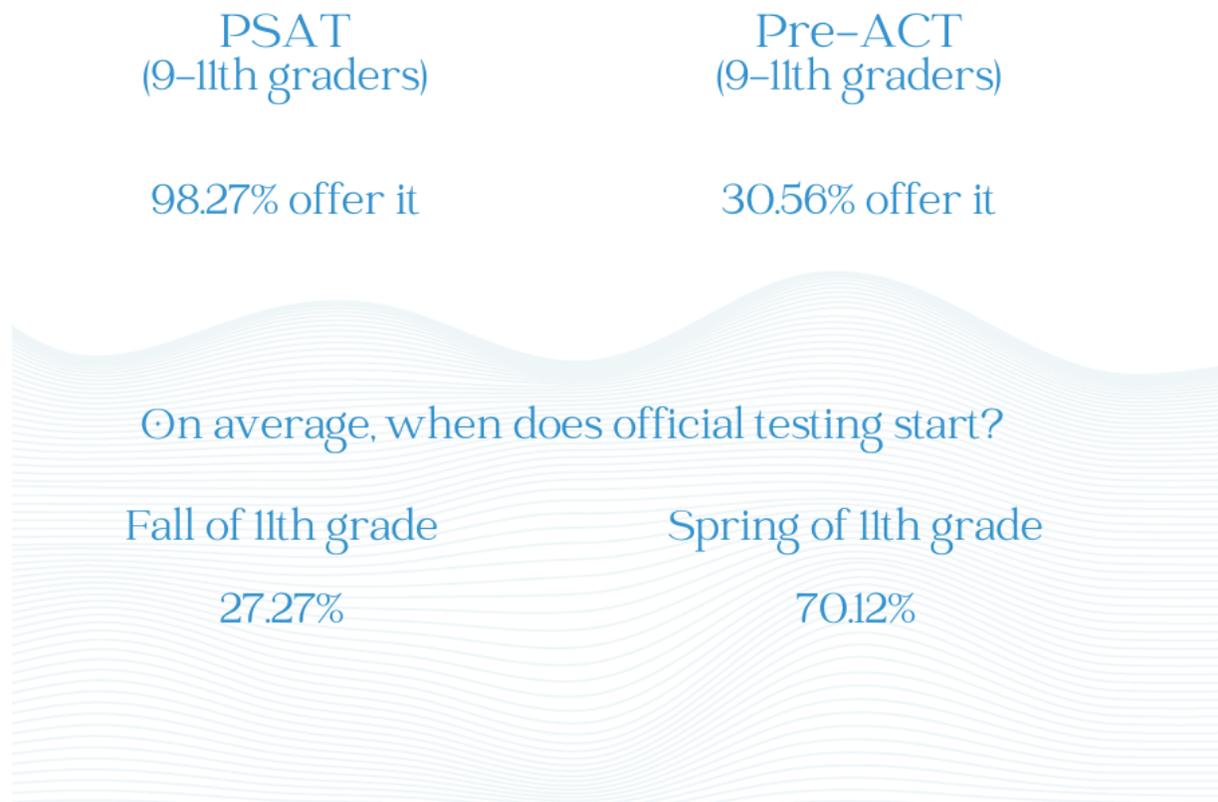
# ACCIS Survey Results

## *Standardized Testing*

In recent years, testing has received national attention, specifically related to a growing number of institutions adopting test-optional and test-free policies. While we included several questions about testing in our survey, we have highlighted a selection of results below.

The PSAT remains a popular option for most schools, while only 30.5% (70 member schools) offer the Pre-ACT. A majority of schools indicated that junior year is when their students tend to take their first official SAT or ACT, with 27% indicating the fall of junior year and 70% indicating the spring of junior year as preferred times to take the test.

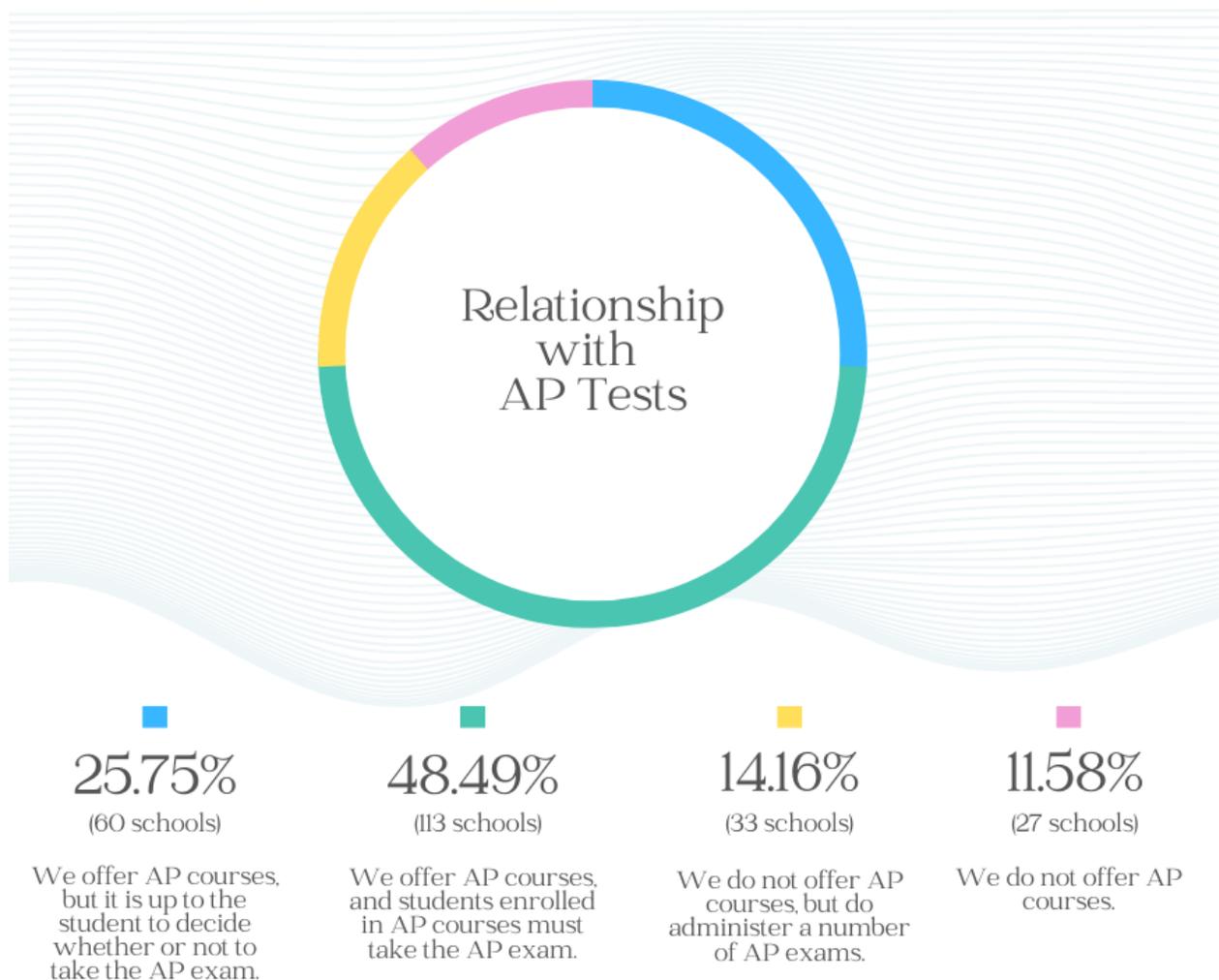
For member schools, when it comes to standardized testing, 63% of the Class of 2023 participated in the SAT administration while 41% did so for the ACT.



# ACCIS Survey Results

## *Standardized Testing, Continued*

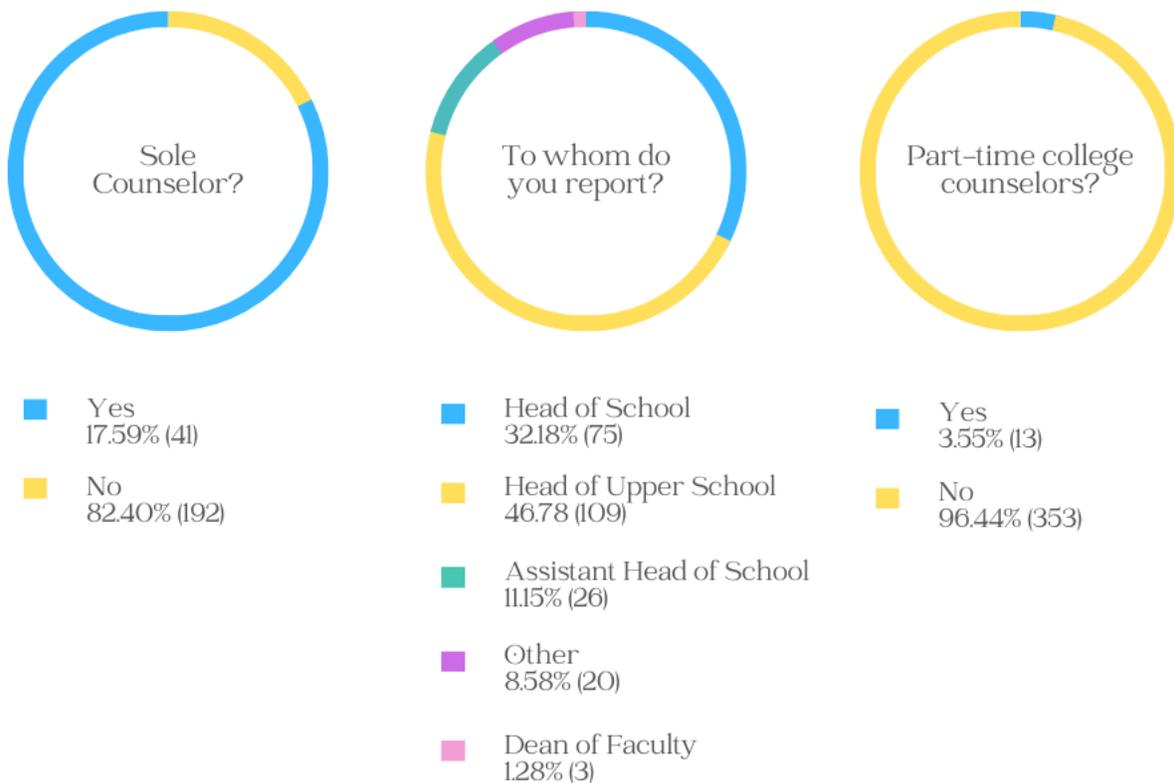
At this time, 48% (113 schools) “offer AP courses, and students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the AP exam.” Only 11.5% (27 schools) did not offer AP courses at their school.



# ACCIS Survey Results

## *Counselors in Context*

The number of college counselors employed by the offices of our responding schools varied. Of 233 school survey respondents, 17% (41 responses) run a one-person college office, and 14% (33 responses) employ four or more college counselors. The majority of our respondents report to the Head of School (32%) or the Head of Upper School (47%). Fewer than 5% of our respondents employ part-time college counselors in their offices.



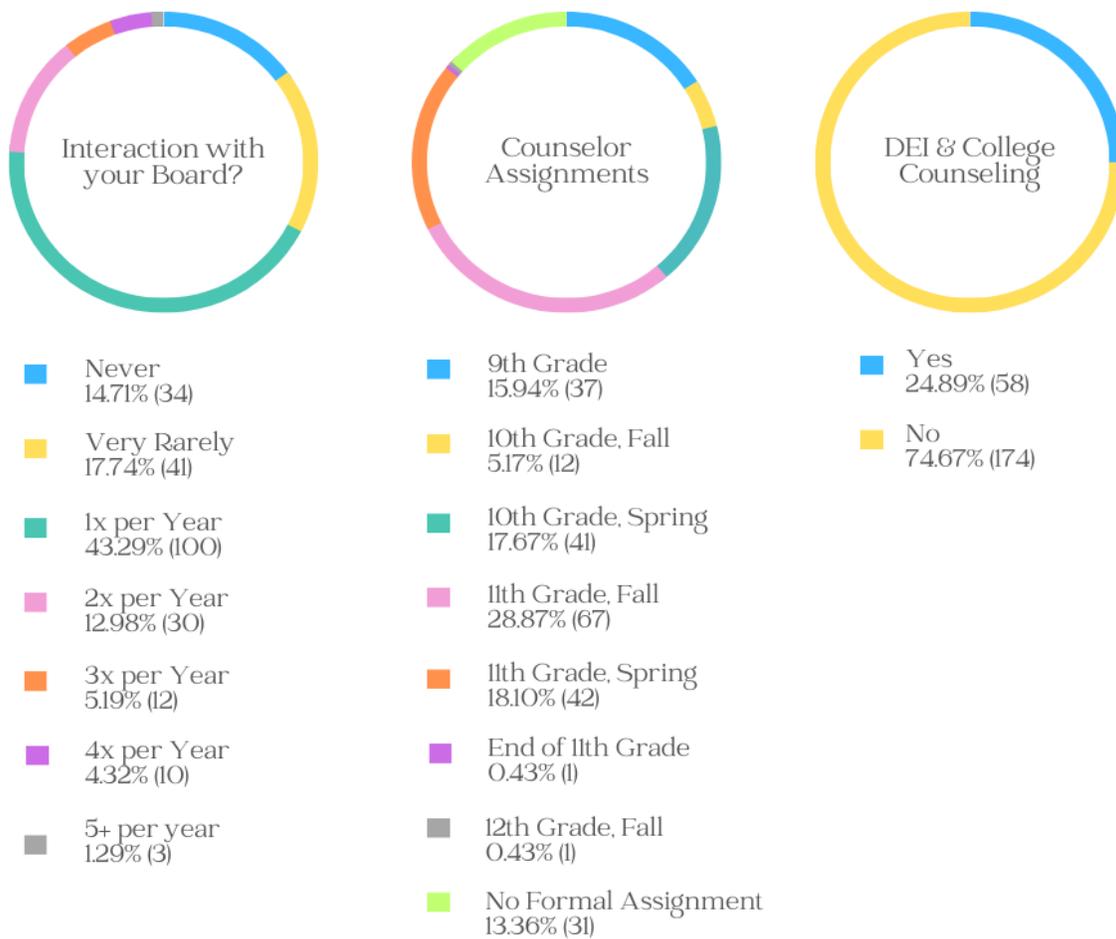
# ACCIS Survey Results

## *Counselors in Context, Continued*

Nearly half of ACCIS member schools responding to our survey interact with their Board only once a year (43%) and slightly less than a quarter report to their school’s governance more than twice in a given year.

Roughly half of responding member schools assign students to a college counselor in junior year; 30% do so in the fall and 18% in the spring. Of note, 13% indicated that there are no formal counseling assignments for students.

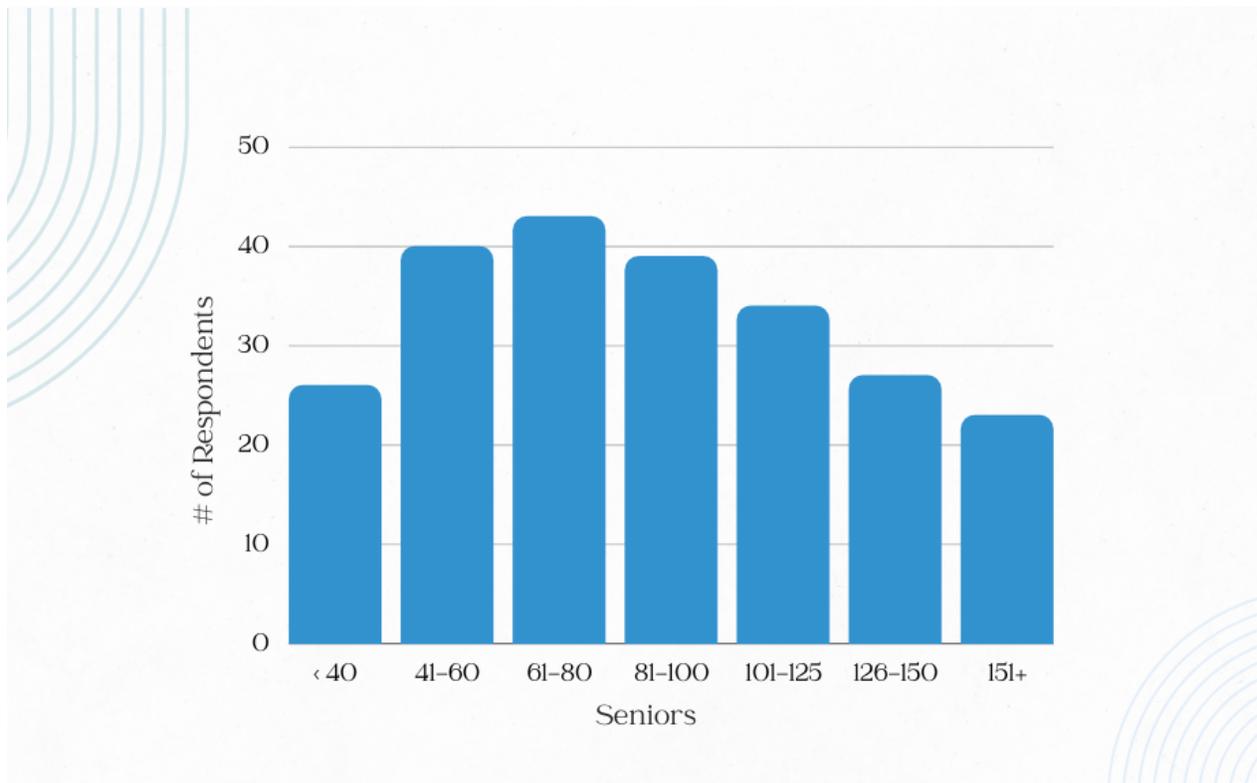
Collaboration between college counseling and diversity, equity, and inclusion groups at our responding member schools revealed that roughly 25% are actively implementing a curriculum/formal conversation around diversity and its intersection with college counseling.



# ACCIS Survey Results

## *Counselors in Context, Continued*

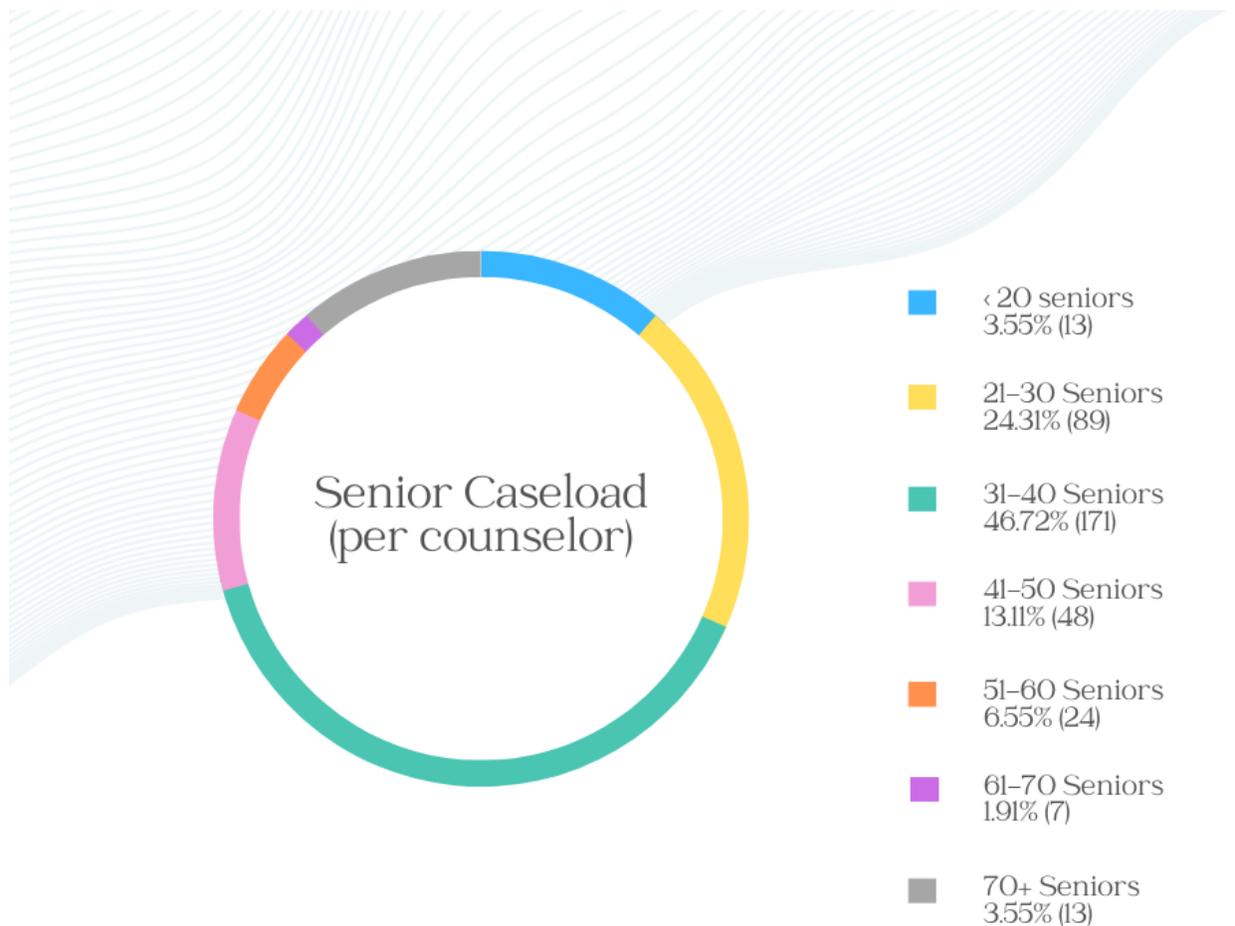
One of the most common questions on our ACCIS College Counseling E-list and a frequent inquiry received by the DTA Committee involves the senior class size and caseload distribution. Of 233 respondents, the number of seniors in the class of 2023 ranged from fewer than 40 to more than 150. Over 17% (40 schools) reported a senior class size of 61-80 students while 11% (26 schools) reported a senior class of fewer than 40 students.



# ACCIS Survey Results

## *Counselors in Context, Continued*

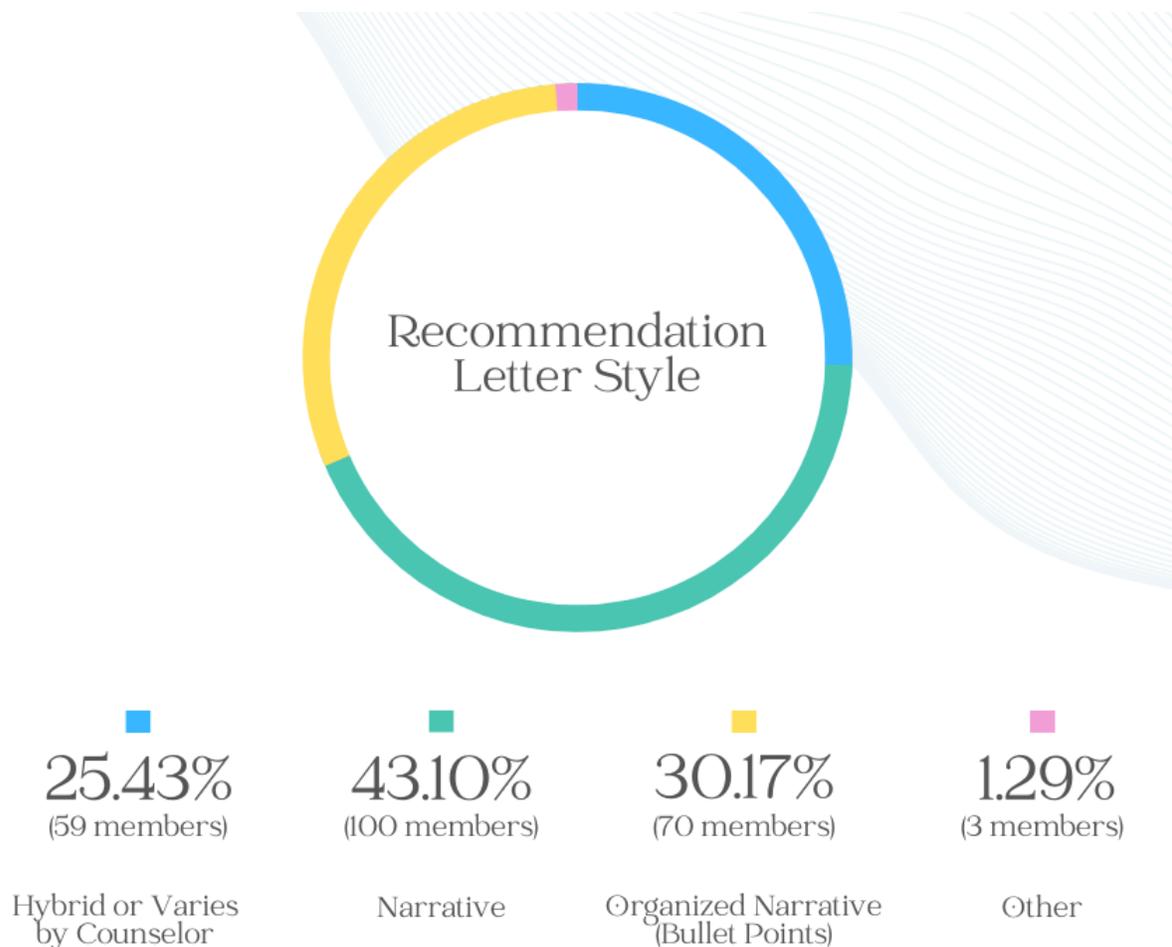
Of 366 respondents, 46.72% (171 members) reported a senior caseload between 31 and 40 seniors (per counselor). Fewer than one-fifth of college counselors had a caseload below 20 seniors and the same number reported a caseload of 70 or more students.



# ACCIS Survey Results

## *Recommendation Letters*

In recent years, new ways of conveying student information as part of holistic admission practices have emerged with regard to the format of college counselor recommendation letters. Of 232 respondents, just over 40% utilize a narrative style, while just over 30% write Organized Narrative (“Bullet Points”). A quarter of respondents opt for Hybrid recommendation letters or vary their style.



## IV. Conclusions

We hope that the summary of the ACCIS individual school surveys provides the membership with context to make informed decisions for your own school community and, similarly, information to support the ACCIS Leadership as stewards of the organization.

### *Acknowledgements*

We would like to thank all those who took the time to complete one or both surveys; your support means the world to us. This survey would not have been possible without the tireless work of its originators, Louis Trujillo and Janet Weller, and new collaborators, Jake Talmage and Katie Frink. Special thanks to the Board of Trustees for their ongoing support of ACCIS and its membership. We also extend our deepest gratitude to our Executive Director, Emmi Harward and to Linda Pierre, Director of Member Services and Operations, who were instrumental to the success of this year's survey.

### *Data Sources*

MemberClicks - 2022-2023 Member Survey  
SurveyMonkey - 2022-2023 School Survey  
NAIS - 2023 Membership Database

MemberClicks - 2020-2021 Member Survey  
SurveyMonkey - 2020-2021 School Survey