

SUSTAIN  ONTARIO and

farm to
Cafeteria
Canada

\$55,000 provided
to **29** schools
serving **16,476** k-12 students



Students at École élémentaire catholique Sainte-Lucie.

Impact Statements

- “We have engaged students in clubs, classrooms and school wide events. We have tools that will be used for many years in the future to continue offering opportunities in food literacy. We have built relationships with local businesses that will continue to grow over time as we explore options related to guest speakers, seed sharing and field trips related to sustainable farming.”
- “Overall, the program has enriched our classroom culture, making food exploration an integral and joyful part of the learning experience.”
- “This grant has really allowed us to provide more access to healthy foods, as well as focus on Indigenous traditions with food, and has allowed our students opportunities to try more diverse foods (and like them!), and build increased food preparation and serving skills.”
- “By engaging with local ingredients and potentially even local producers, students are learning firsthand about the benefits of supporting local economies, reducing their carbon footprint, and understanding the journey of their food from farm to table.”
- “Students are actively bringing new recipes home, extending the benefits of the program beyond the school kitchen.”
- “The program has helped reduce stigma around food insecurity by offering universally accessible snacks to all students. This inclusive approach has fostered a stronger sense of community and support, especially among our most vulnerable learners.”

Grant Activities



took place between January and June 2025.

91%

of schools engaged students in hands-on learning



86%



of schools were able to purchase equipment to facilitate school food activities

77%

of schools plan to continue food literacy activities after the end of the grant term



Students from École Secondaire Catholique Monseigneur Bruyère purchasing vegetables from the farmers market. [Read their story](#) in French.

Grant Impacts

Public Health

- 91% of schools increased students' **awareness of nutrition and healthy eating**
- 82% of schools improved the **school food environment** to better promote healthy foods and make them easy to access
- 82% of schools increased students' ability to **access healthy food in a dignified way** regardless of their ability to pay

Education & Learning

- 82% of schools increased the **number and quality of opportunities for students to learn and demonstrate food skills** (ex. gardening, food preparation, etc.)
- 91% of schools **created a greater sense of vibrancy and excitement** in the school
- 81% of schools increased the **number of hands-on food literacy skills for students** (e.g. growing, harvesting off the land, preserving and cooking, and composting food)

Environment

- 82% of schools increased the amount of students that are **engaged in their local food system** while at school

Community Economic Development

- 68% of schools increased the **amount of local food they procure and provide** to students



Stories

“It’s so cool to see plants from my culture growing in our school garden. It feels like a piece of me is always going to be here.” – Student from Birch Cliff Heights Public School. [Read the full story.](#)

“I didn’t know I could grow food, and now I want to grow some at home.” – Student from St. Annes Catholic School. [Read the full story.](#)



Learning about local foods and traditional practices on the land and in the classroom with Queen Elizabeth Public School ([click to watch](#))



Simcoe Shore Secondary School - Midland Campus's "nourish to flourish" journey ([click to watch](#))



Learners showing off their new stove at Passages Centre for Self-Directed Learning.

[Read the full story.](#)





Wednesday Bake Club at École élémentaire Mauril-Bélanger.

[Read the full story.](#)



Morning snack program at P.L. Robertson Public School. [Read](#)

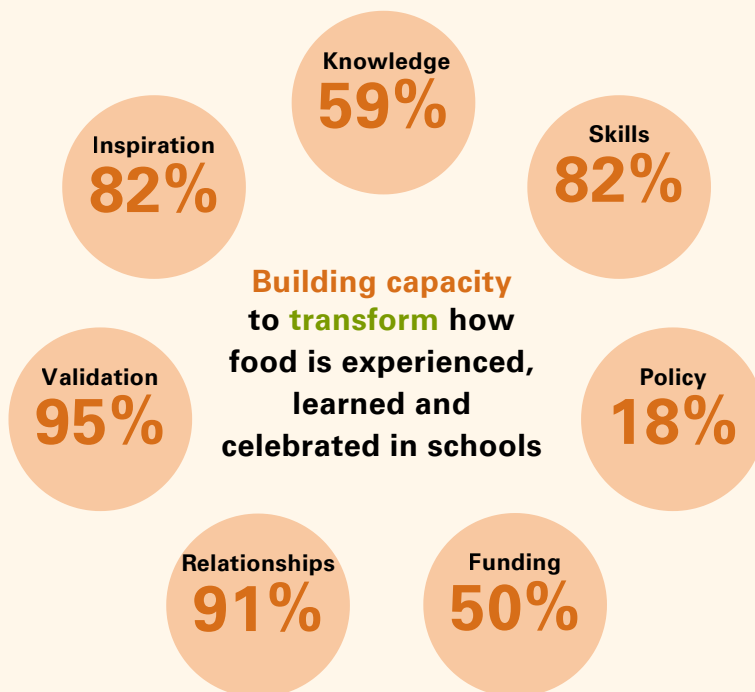
[the full story.](#)

Capacity Building Impacts

In our work, we strive to **grow capacity in 7 key ways**:

- **Knowledge & skills** about key themes related to school food
- Ability to **influence policy** (federal, provincial, or local)
- **Funding** and fundraising capacity
- **Relationships** and connections
- **Validation & inspiration** around the importance of the work

"nourish to flourish" grant recipients shared that their grant increased their capacity in these areas:



Thank You!

We're so proud of the 2024/25 "nourish to flourish" grant recipients and are inspired by their achievements! A very big thank you and congratulations to the participating school communities including educators, administrators, parents, volunteers, community partners & STUDENTS for their dedication and hard work in bringing these initiatives to life.

We would also like to extend sincere gratitude to Farm Boy for their generous support of the "nourish to flourish" grant program. We look forward to working with the second round of grant recipients in the 2025/2026 school year and to watch their programs grow.



Appendix A: A complete list of program impacts as reported by recipients of the 2024/25 "nourish to flourish" grants.

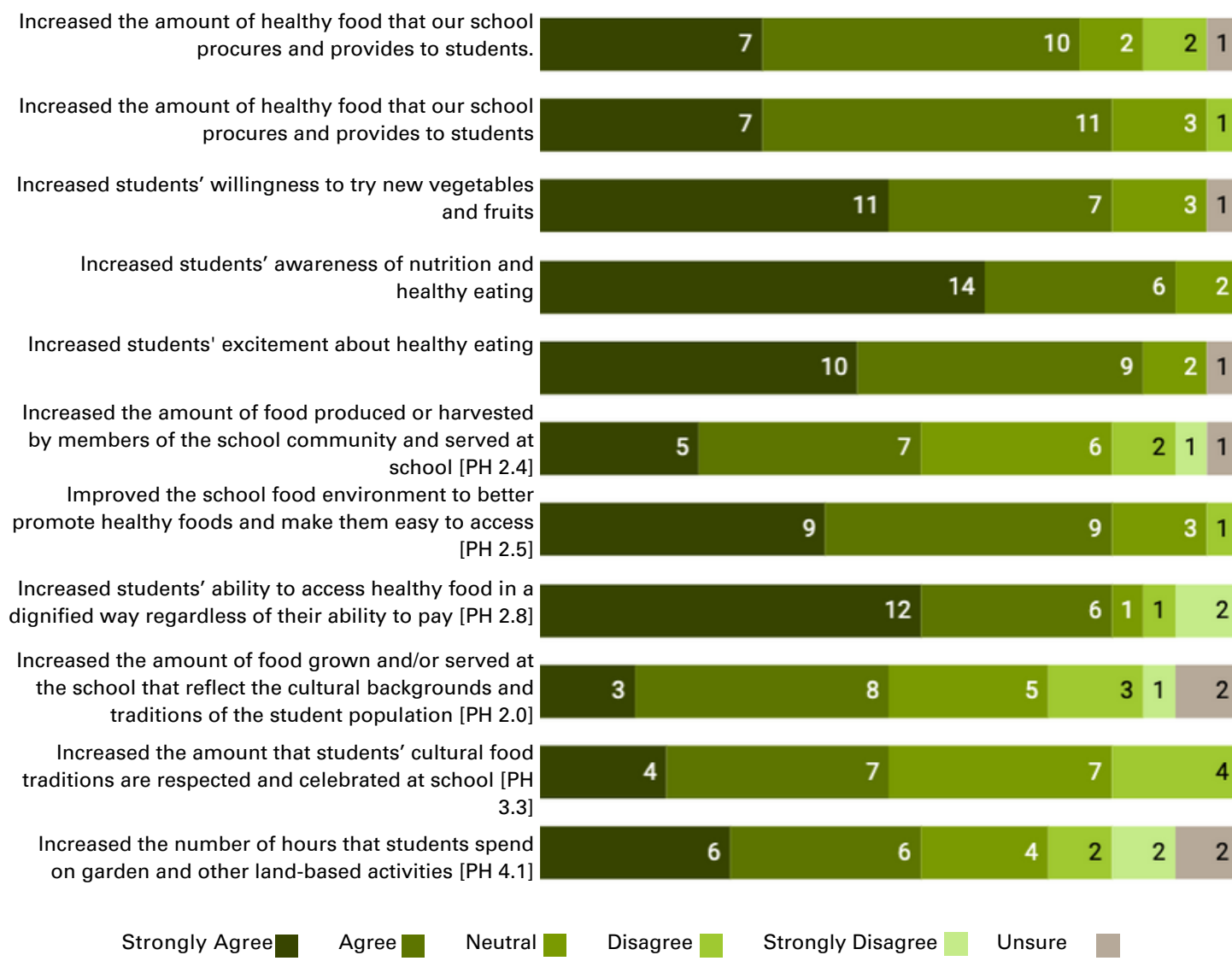
This section provides a fuller set of evaluation data using the indicators in the Farm to School Evaluation Framework for Canada. **The Framework, along with other evaluation tools and resources, can be found [here](#).**

Please note:

- All Farm to Cafeteria Canada grant recipients report on impact areas defined in the Evaluation Framework. Some outcomes may be achievable in the short-term, while others are expected to be medium to long-term. Progress reported is expected to vary depending on the scope and term length of the individual grant stream.
- **[Brackets]** after a statement reflect a specific Framework indicator that has been determined to be a "priority" indicator, and therefore assigned a unique identifier.

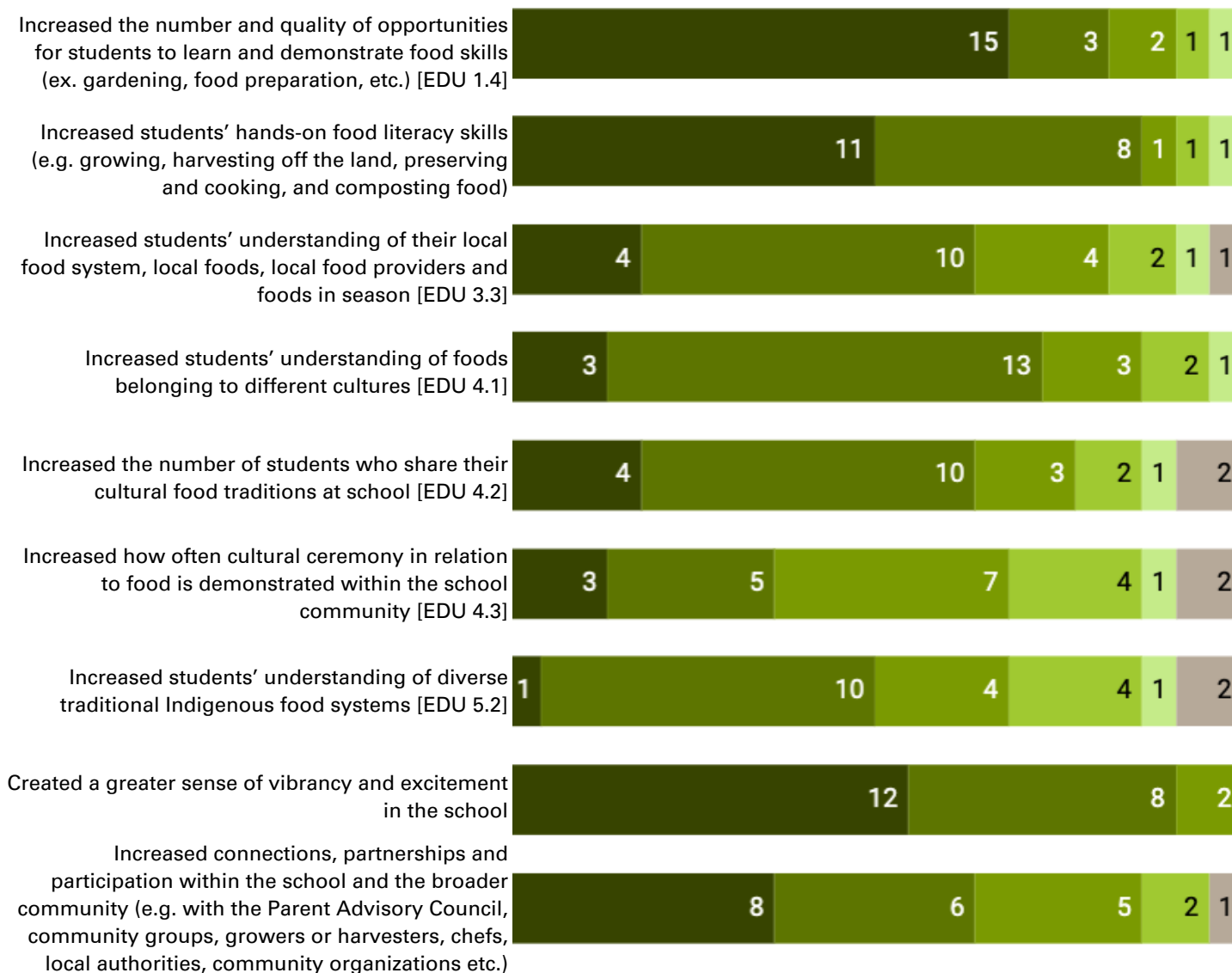
Public Health

Receiving a "nourish to flourish" grant has impacted our school community in the following way(s):



Education & Learning

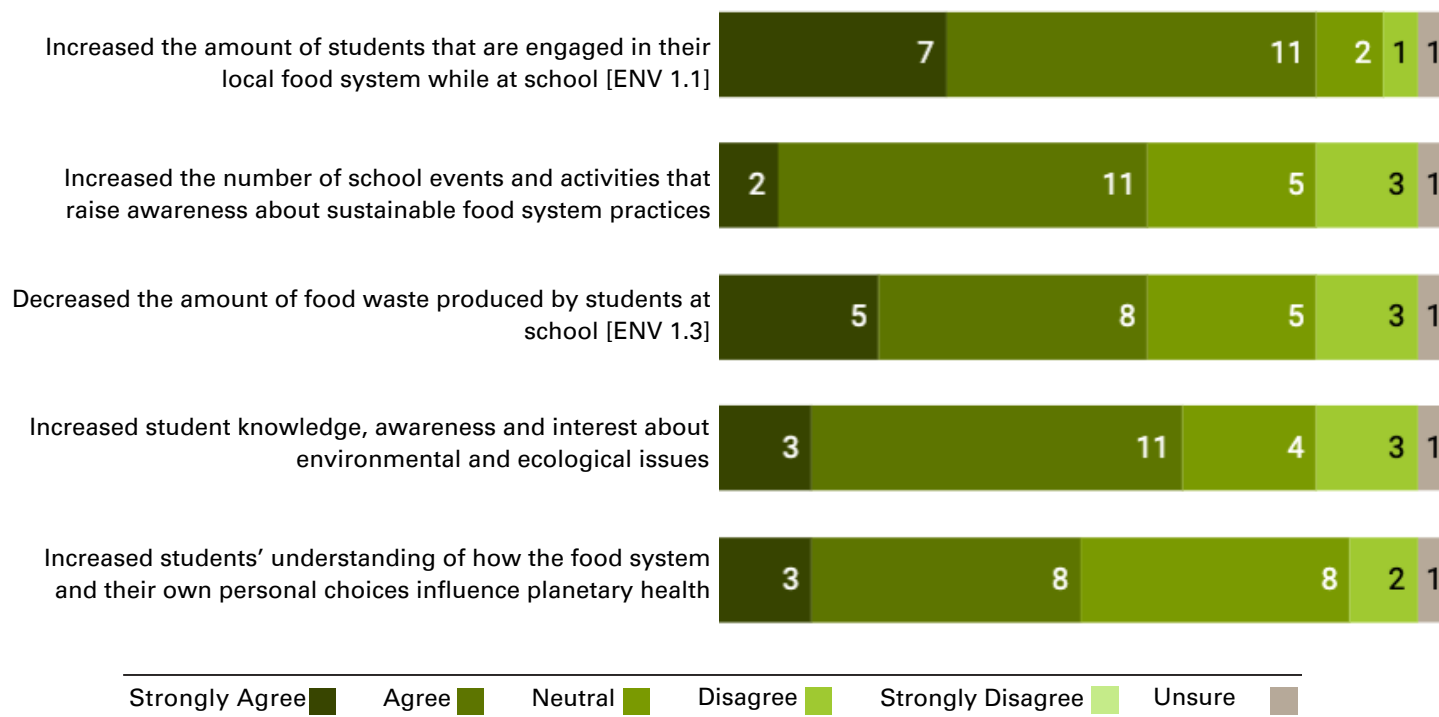
Receiving a "nourish to flourish" grant has impacted our school community in the following way(s):



Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree ■ Unsure ■

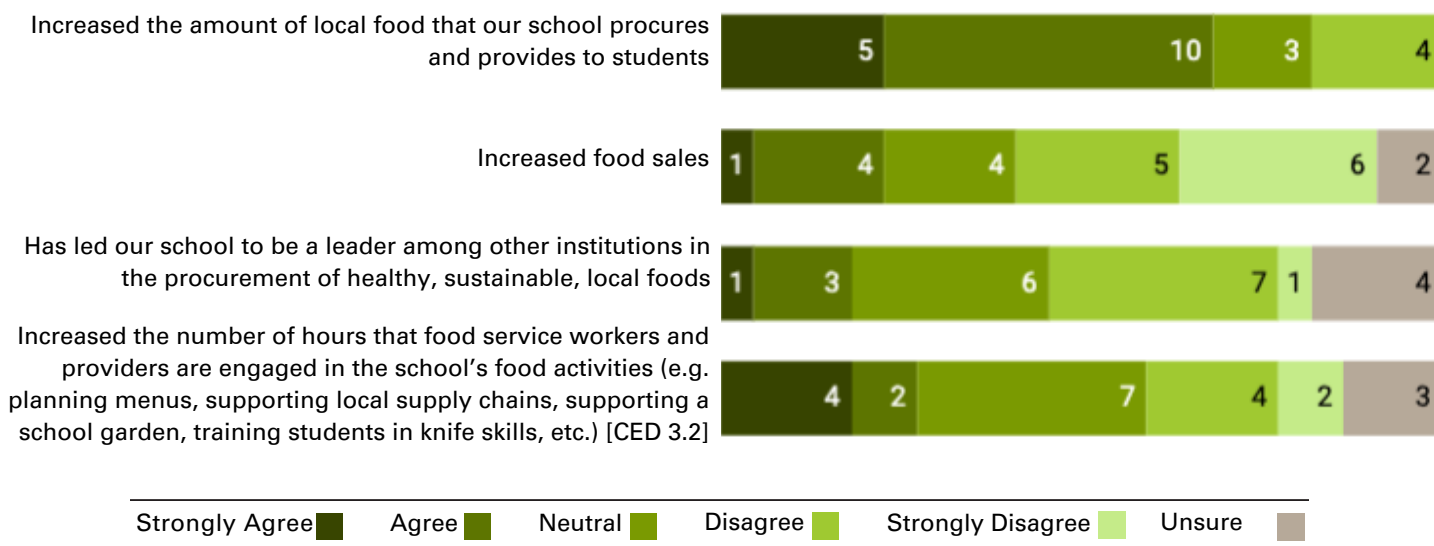
Environment

Receiving a "nourish to flourish" grant has impacted our school community in the following way(s):



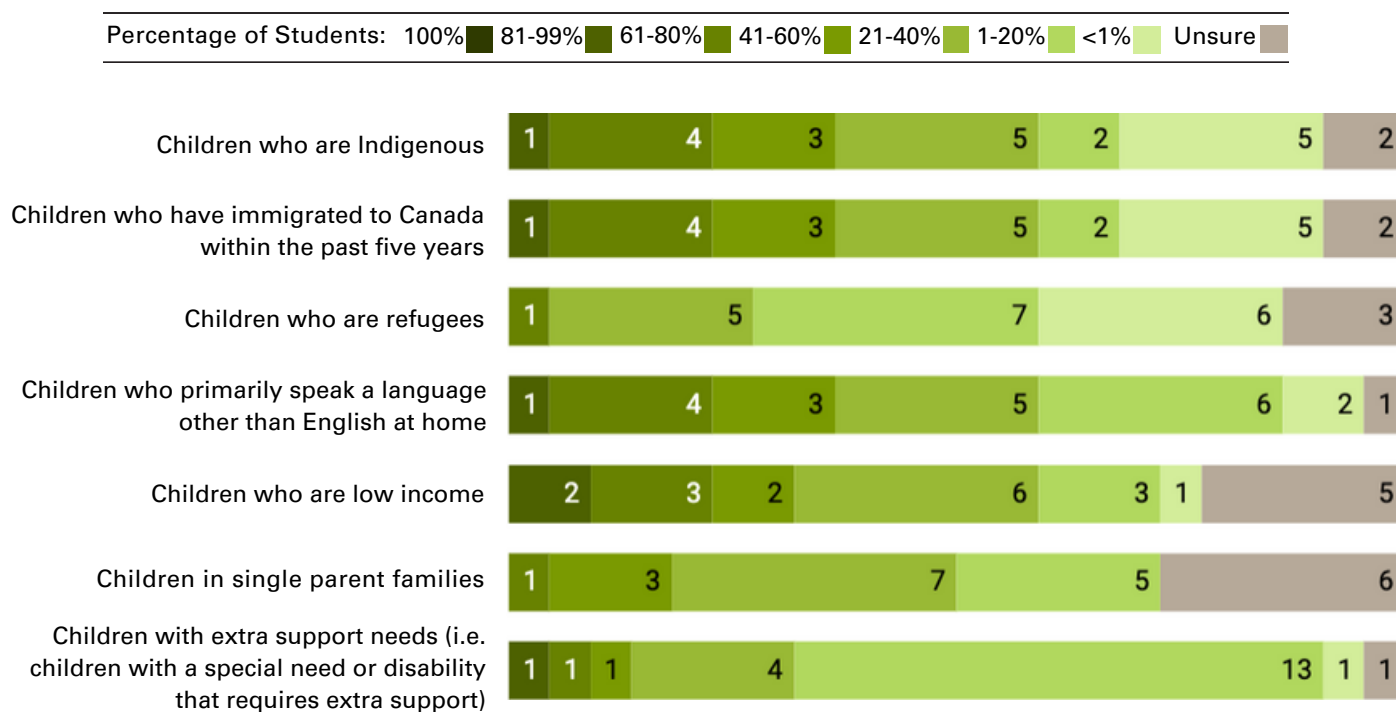
Community Economic Development

Receiving a "nourish to flourish" grant has impacted our school community in the following way(s):



Appendix B: Student demographic information as reported by recipients of the 2024/25 "nourish to flourish" grants.

Schools that serve...



The figure above shows student population demographics of 22 of the 30 2024/25 grant recipient schools. The number on each bar section indicates the number of schools who selected that category.