

A School for this Community

For more than 20 years, the Arts Based School (ABS), a non-profit public charter school, has been a place where the combination of rigor and creativity is everywhere evident. Since opening our doors, ABS has grown from a grassroots, experimental K-3 school of 65 students to a highly sought after K-8 school of 520 students with a waiting list of more than 400 children every year. All students at every grade level experience direct instruction in visual art, dance, theater, and music—in addition to the core academics of the NC Standard Course of Study.

Our school is remarkable not only because we stand firmly at the intersection of arts and innovation, but also because our method is objectively successful. ABS students excel on standardized tests and meet success in high school and beyond. We have proven that when we present our students with the opportunities to collaborate on a performance, a problem, or a project, they are eager to learn. And we, in turn, are eager to serve as an essential piece of a thriving community.

ABS Demographic Information and Background for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

While large-scale institutional shifts, like changing the makeup of employee demographics, can take time to unfold, the ABS leadership is genuinely dedicated to a sensitive and comprehensive approach to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Current plans in place (and strides toward this goal already) include:

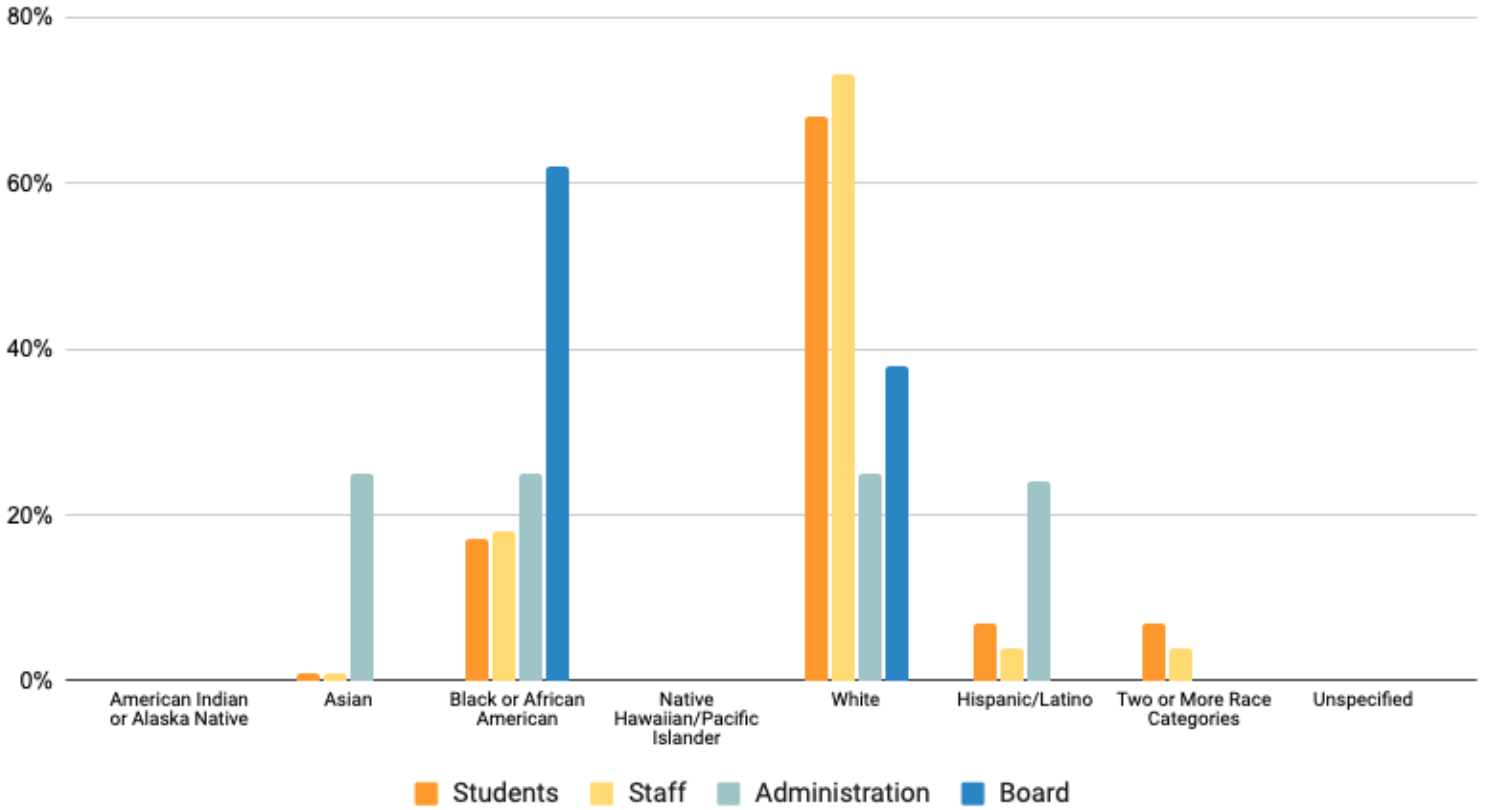
- Continuing to diversify school administrators: This year, with the expansion of The Arts Based School to a second campus, two new administrators are being added to the team, bringing the overall diversity of the admin team up as noted in the chart below.
- Continuing to diversify board representation: ABS has made a deliberate and concentrated effort to recruit and retain diverse board members, and this is reflected in our membership, with 62% black or African-American members as of July 1, 2022.
- Continuing to diversify faculty and staff representation as these positions become available. For the 2022-23 school year, of 15 new hires, 53% are Black and African-American, 27% are white, 13% are Hispanic/Latino, and 7% are multi-racial.
- Continuing to guide and counsel all of our faculty and staff in matters of cultural and racial sensitivity, including both formal professional development opportunities with organizations like Racial Equity Institute, as well as direct, ongoing guidance for specific needs.

Serving Economically Disadvantaged Students

In addition to increasing the racial and ethnic diversity at ABS, we are also committed to increasing the percentage of economically disadvantaged families in our school. In less than four years, we have doubled this number, moving from just under 10% of economically disadvantaged students to nearly 20% this year—thanks in part to a new weighted lottery, detailed below.

ABS deliberately seeks this shift because we believe that we will be a better and stronger school by having students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. There is overwhelming evidence that fully integrated schools benefit *all* students as well as the communities in which they live.

ABS Demographic Data as of 8/30/22



	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	White	Hispanic/Latino	Two or More Race Categories	Unspecified
Students	0%	1%	17%	0%	68%	7%	7%	0%
Staff	0%	1%	18%	0%	73%	4%	3%	0%
Administration	0%	25%	25%	0%	25%	25%	0%	0%
Board	0%	0%	62%	0%	38%	0%	0%	0%

ABS Lottery

As a public-charter school, The Arts Based School is required to admit students by lottery.

In 2022, as part of our abiding commitment to expanding access to our exceptional school, we began implementing a weighted lottery. Administered via an independent third-party, Lotterease, the weighted lottery provides increased opportunity for students from economically disadvantaged families: a two-to-one preference over standard applicants. The Lotterease system is secure, fully randomized, and creates an auditable lottery.

Once a child is enrolled at ABS, they have a spot each year thereafter unless withdrawn. Siblings of currently enrolled students receive priority placement.

Verification Process for Economically Disadvantaged Families:

No specific information from a family's weighted lottery application will be obtained beyond eligibility status, and the information will not be retained. If a family is selected for enrollment through the weighted option, they must provide supporting documentation of eligibility when requested following the lottery. If a family is unable to provide the supporting documentation necessary to qualify for the weighted option, the applicant will be moved to the general waiting list.