

# Addressing the Needs of Volusia County Students

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**May 6, 2008**

## Acknowledgments

Mr. Jerome Porter, Chisholm Center Program Coordinator

Mr. Leon Bright, Chisholm Center

Dr. Chris Colwell, Deputy Superintendent of Volusia County Schools

Mr. Mitch Moyer, Deland High School Principal

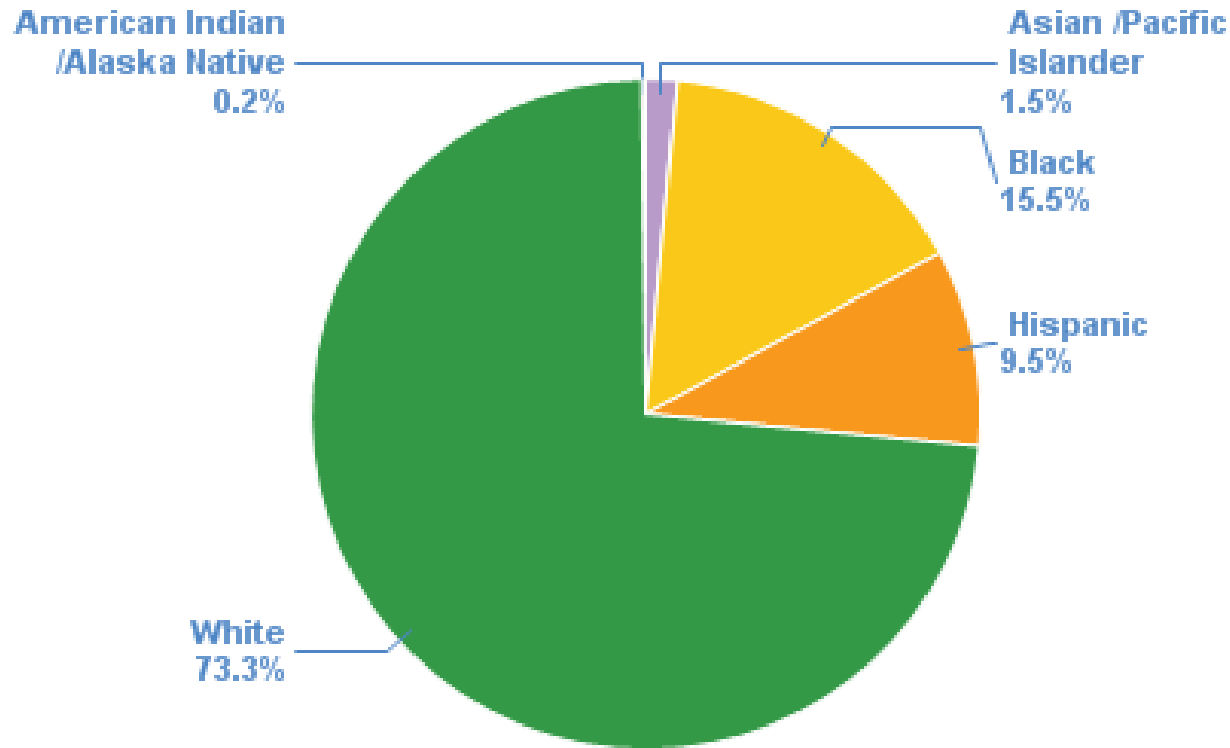
Mrs. Connie Schroyer, Deland High School, AVID teacher

Mrs. Marilyn Smith, Deland High School Career Center, Occupational Specialist

Parents, teachers, and students in the Deland community who offered me their time, support, and participation



# Deland High School 2006 Student Demographics



Florida Department of Education

**Number of Dropouts (Grades 9-12) by Racial/Ethnic  
Category, Volusia County, 2006-07**

<b>Racial/Ethnic Category</b>	<b>Dropouts</b>
White, Non-Hispanic	161
Black, Non-Hispanic	63
Hispanic	80
Asian/Pacific Islander	2
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	1
Multiracial	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>313</b>

DOE Student Database, Survey 5 data, as of March 10, 2008.

# Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)

## Sunshine State Standards

**FCAT Reading assesses content from two areas:**

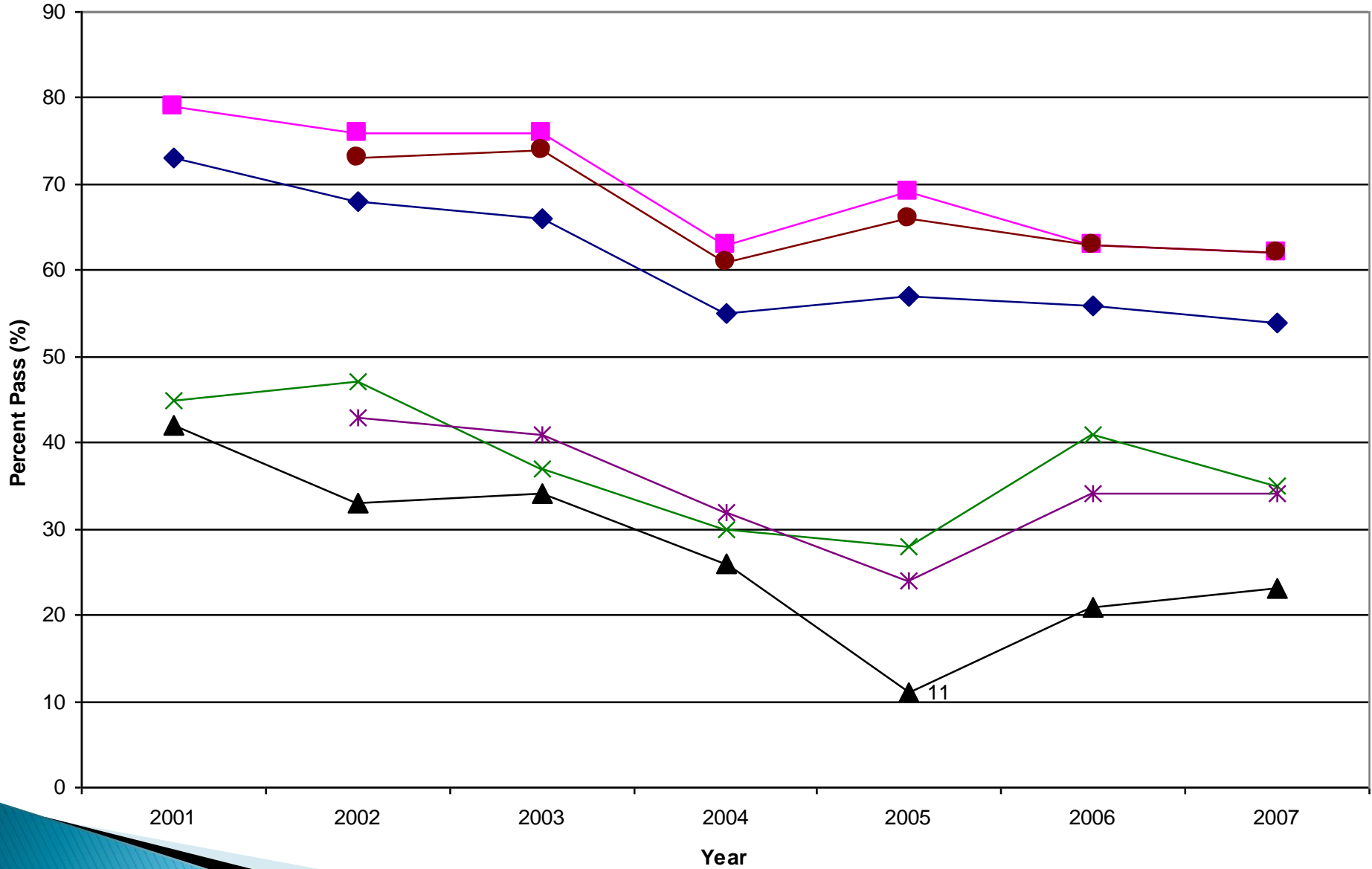
- (a) Constructs Meaning from Information Text and**
- (b) Constructs Meaning from Literature**

**FCAT Mathematics assesses content from five areas:**

- (a) Number Sense, Concepts and Operations**
- (b) Measurement**
- (c) Geometry and Spatial Sense**
- (d) Algebraic Thinking**
- (e) Data Analysis and Probability**

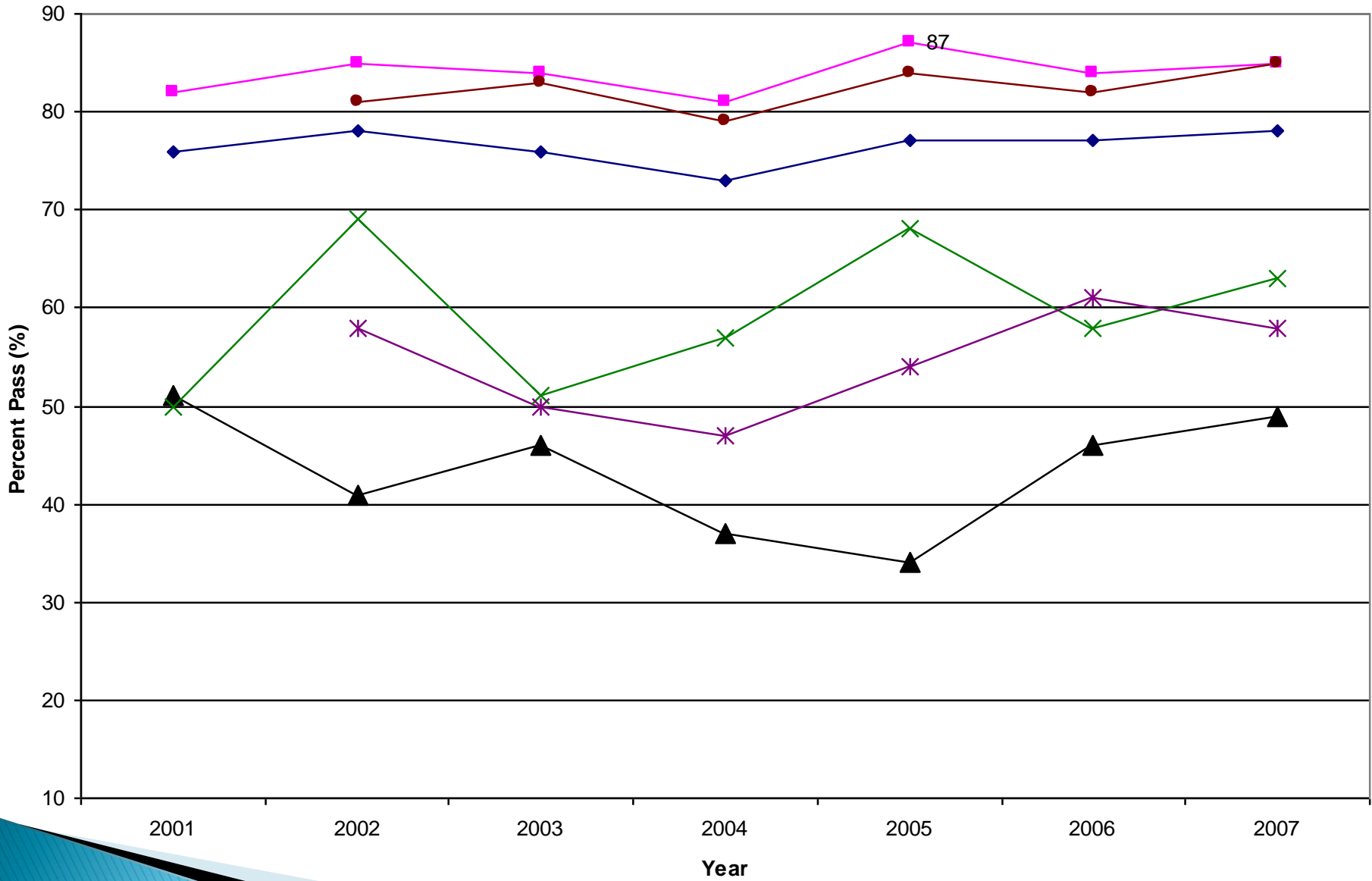
- ▶ **Students' test scores are measured on a scoring range from 100 to 500 and grouped into five achievement levels: Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest).**
- ▶ **Currently, high school seniors need to pass the reading and math portions of the 10th grade FCAT to graduate with a standard high school diploma**
- ▶ **Students are given six chances to pass the test before graduation.**
- ▶ **FCAT scores are now the sole factor used to grade Florida schools**

# Deland High School FCAT Reading Scores



◆ Total Student Body    ■ Caucasian    ▲ African American    × Hispanic    \* Free Lunch    ● No Free Lunch

# Deland High School FCAT Mathematics Scores



◆ Total Student Body    ■ Caucasian    ▲ African American    × Hispanic    \* Free Lunch    ● No Free Lunch

# Chronic Absenteeism

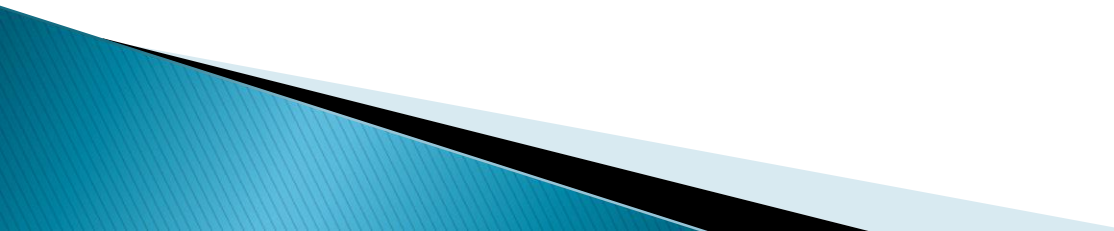
## School Level Data/Year Absences: Students Absent 21+ Days (%)

2006-2007	17.6
2005-2006	17.2
2004-2005	15.9
2003-2004	15.3
2002-2003	16.8
2001-2002	21.5
2000-2001	22.4

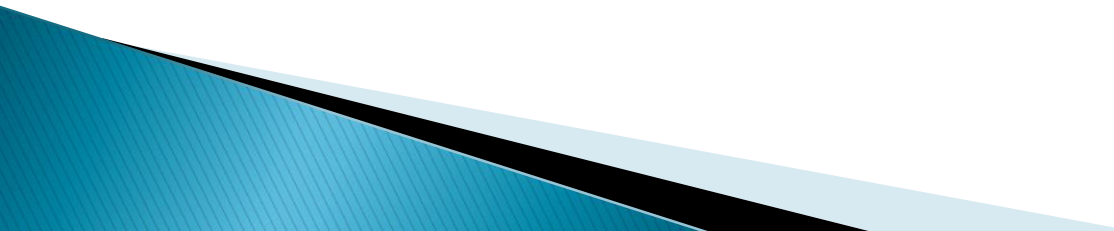
According to the Florida Department of Education, School Level Data  
Volusia County DELAND HIGH SCHOOL




# Immediate Engagement

- ▶ Career Connection- Every high school in Volusia County has a career connection facilitator
  - ▶ 9th graders visit [FACTS.org](https://www.facts.org)- a career planning module
  - ▶ Florida mandate that every 9<sup>th</sup> grader choose a major
  - ▶ Brand new peer mentoring program and continuation of previously established mentoring programs on campus
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# APEX Lab

- ▶ APEX is a dropout prevention program
  - ▶ Students have access to 30 computer stations, each containing academic software in science, math, social studies, and English for use in making up credits that they are lacking for graduation
  - ▶ Beginning this academic year, all students must select the APEX Lab, Florida Virtual School, or Daytona Beach College adult high school to make up any failed classes.
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# Business Partnerships

- ▶ Deland High School has an extensive list of business partners in the community.
  - ▶ Relationships have been in place since 1994-1995 school year
  - ▶ The business partners contribute guest speaking, job shadowing and internship opportunities, and career days
  - ▶ Field experience opportunities are interest based rather than merit based
  - ▶ Serve as advisors on DHS' engineering and construction academy boards
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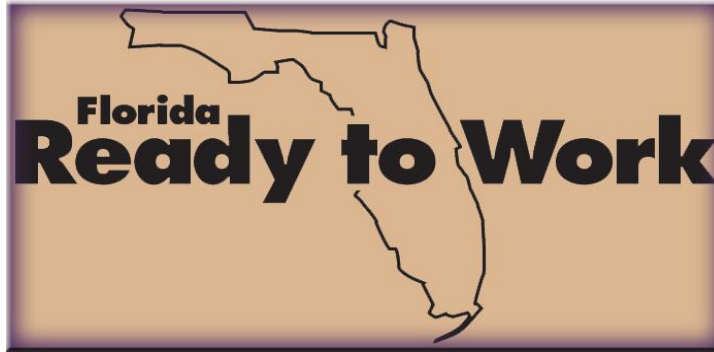
# New Initiatives

**Have you heard?**

- Teachers are also making the move to create professional learning communities dedicated to “closing the gap.”
- This year, these leadership teams met with similar “closing the gap” teams at local elementary schools to collaborate and gain ideas from these groups who have been actively combating the achievement gap for a longer period of time.



# Florida “**Florida Ready to Work**” Program



- ▶ **Objective:** To provide Volusia students with the *Florida Ready to Work* (RTW) credential demonstrating to employers that they possess the skills needed to succeed in the workplace.
- ▶ **Three key skill areas are tested:**
  1. **Applied Math-** Workplace math ex: calculating percentage discounts and markups
  2. **Reading for Information-** Using memos, letters, directions, signs, notices, bulletins, policies and regulations
  3. **Locating Information-** Working with charts, graphs, tables, forms, flowcharts, diagrams, floor plans, and maps
- ▶ **The program is sponsored and funded by the state of Florida and provides online training at no cost in each of these skill areas**

# Ready to Work Credential Award Levels



✍ The Florida Ready to Work Credential is a personalized certificate, signed by Governor Charlie Crist.

✍ The Credential shows employers that a student/jobseeker has the fundamental skills needed on the job and is ready to work. There are three credential levels – bronze, silver and gold.

✍ Bronze= qualified for 30% of jobs

Silver= qualified for 65% of jobs

Gold= qualified for 90% of jobs

# TechBridge™

- ▶ **TechBridge™** is the brainchild of Henkels & McCoy, Inc., an engineering, network development and construction company that has more than 80 offices nationwide.
- ▶ Currently, **TechBridge™** has programs operating at Chisholm Community Center in DeLand and at DeLand High.
- ▶ At Spring Hill's Chisholm Center, **TechBridge™** offers a yearlong computer program to young people ages 16 to 21 who have dropped out or been kicked out of a regular mainstream scholastic program. The program's yearly capacity is 14-16 students.
- ▶ **TechBridge™** students have the opportunity to earn their GED and learn how to build computers. This designates it as a "Type 3" vocational program, as defined by Florida Statutes.
- ▶ Type 3: Programs that teach personal accountability skills and behaviors that are appropriate for youth in all age groups and ability levels and that lead to work habits that help maintain employment and living standards. and the vocational competencies or the prerequisites needed for entry into a specific occupation. Currently there are 34 level three vocational programs in Florida.

(Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, Florida Department of Education)

# Richard Milburn Academy

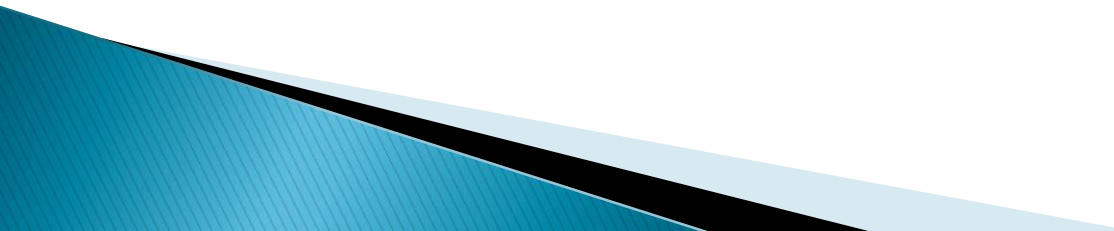


- ▶ The Richard Milburn Academy (RMA) is an alternative school in South Daytona that has been in operation since 2005
- ▶ RMA is a public charter high school for students who have not been successful in a traditional public high school setting.
- ▶ RMA offers students the opportunity to improve their grades and earn their diploma in a nontraditional learning environment
- ▶ Requirements for graduation remain the same, but RMA allows for flexibility in timing, increased individualized attention, and a philosophy specifically geared toward students in special circumstances

▶ “RMA motivates and challenges students to achieve academic excellence, employment success and social responsibility by providing a nontraditional educational program that helps them increase their self-confidence, self-worth, self-discipline and self-acceptance.” (RMA website)



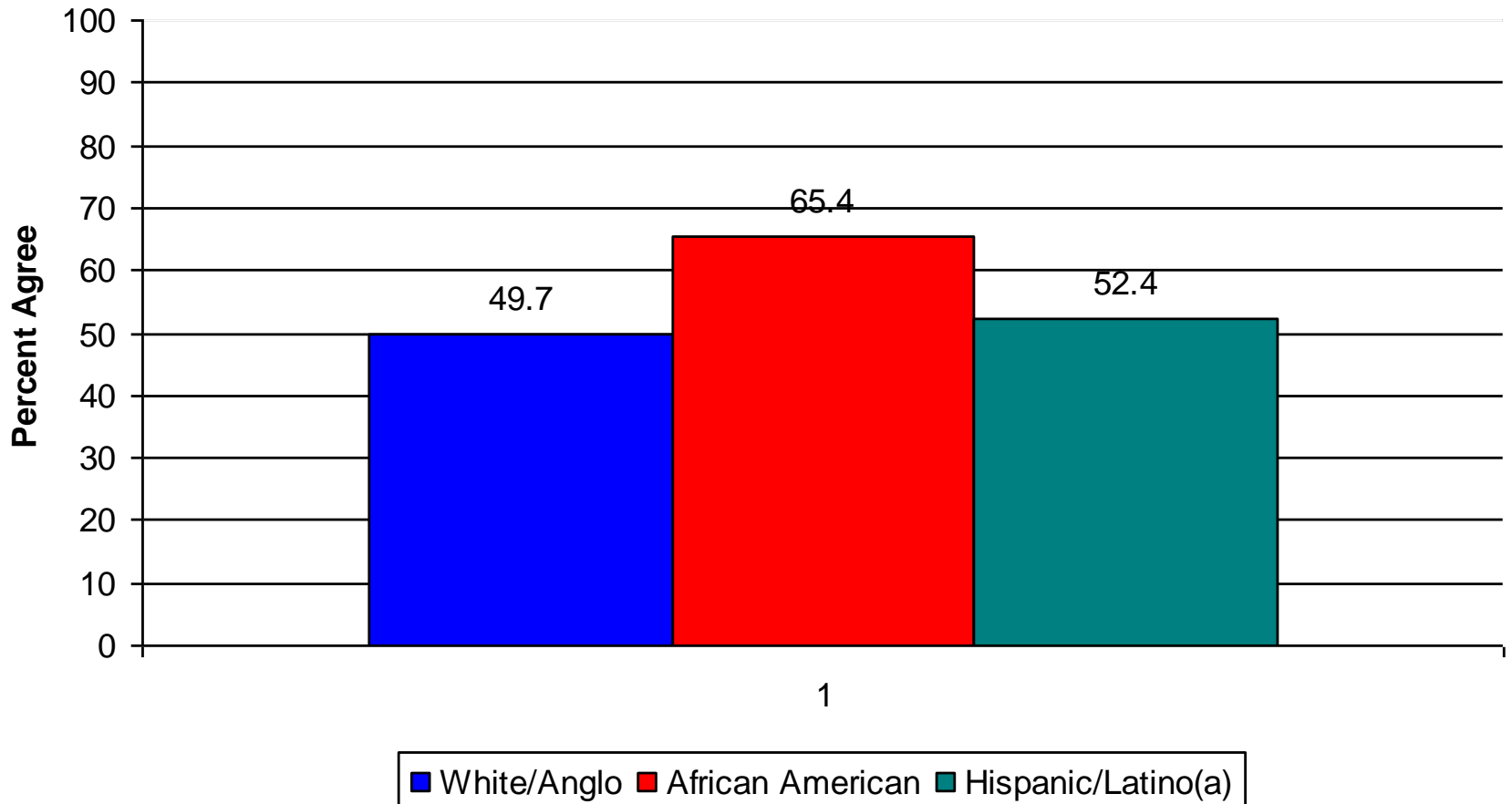
# Data Analysis

- ▶ I distributed a 29-question “student satisfaction” survey to 323 Deland High School Students
  - ▶ The survey posed questions regarding satisfaction inside the classroom, teacher–student relationships, opinion about standardized testing, school resources, and plans for the future.
  - ▶ I hypothesized that survey results would reveal statistically significant variance between responses based on gender and ethnicity.
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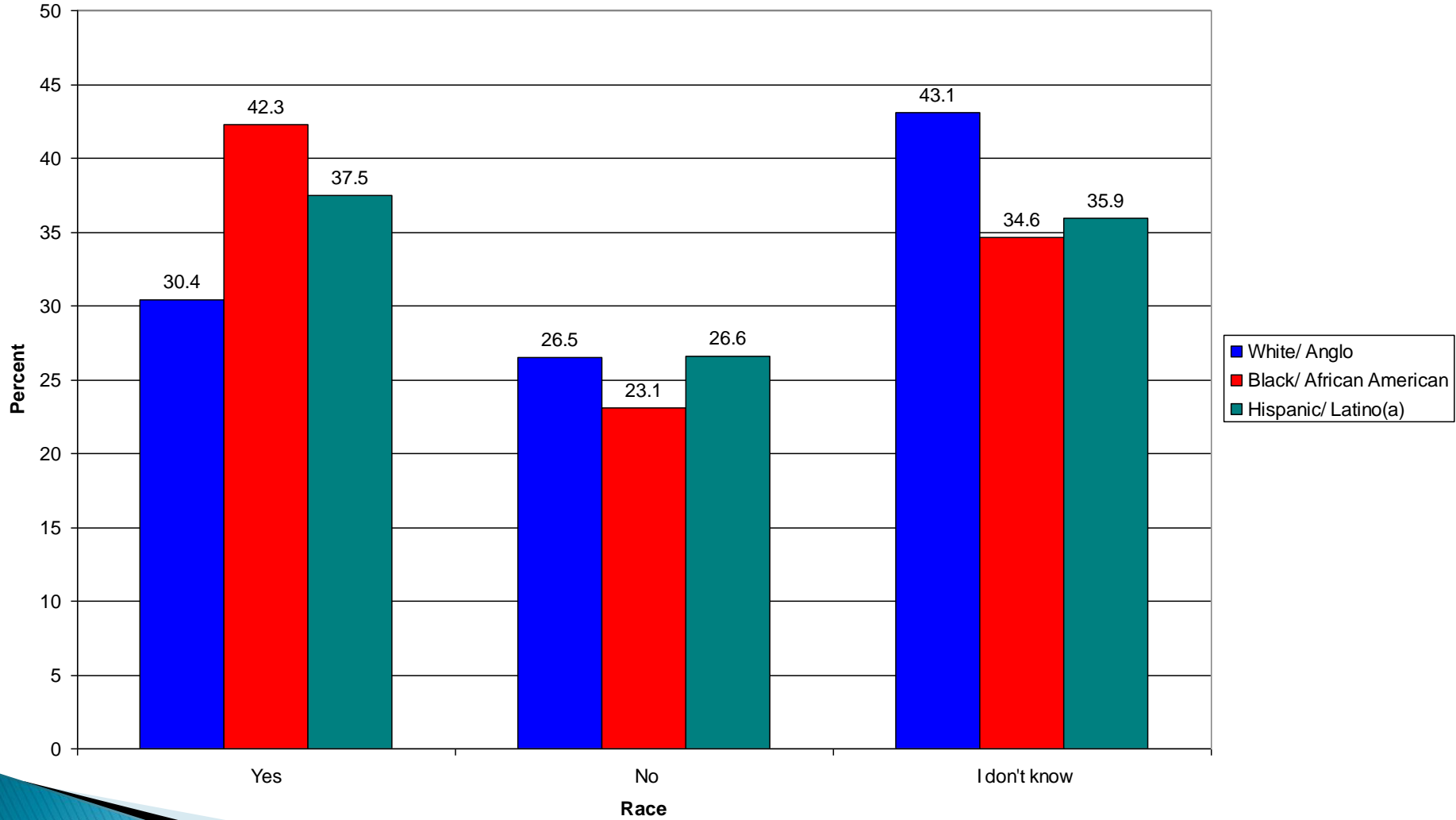
The FCAT is a positive part of school experience \* raceeth Crosstabulation

			raceeth				Total
			White/ Anglo	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino(a)	Other	
The FCAT is a positive part of school experience	Strongly agree	Count	1	4	3	0	8
		% w ithin raceeth	.6%	7.7%	4.7%	.0%	2.5%
	Agree	Count	11	8	10	3	32
		% w ithin raceeth	6.1%	15.4%	15.6%	11.5%	9.9%
	Neutral	Count	23	5	18	3	49
		% w ithin raceeth	12.7%	9.6%	28.1%	11.5%	15.2%
	Disagree	Count	40	11	12	7	70
		% w ithin raceeth	22.1%	21.2%	18.8%	26.9%	21.7%
	Strongly disagree	Count	106	24	21	13	164
		% w ithin raceeth	58.6%	46.2%	32.8%	50.0%	50.8%
Total	Count	181	52	64	26	323	
	% w ithin raceeth	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

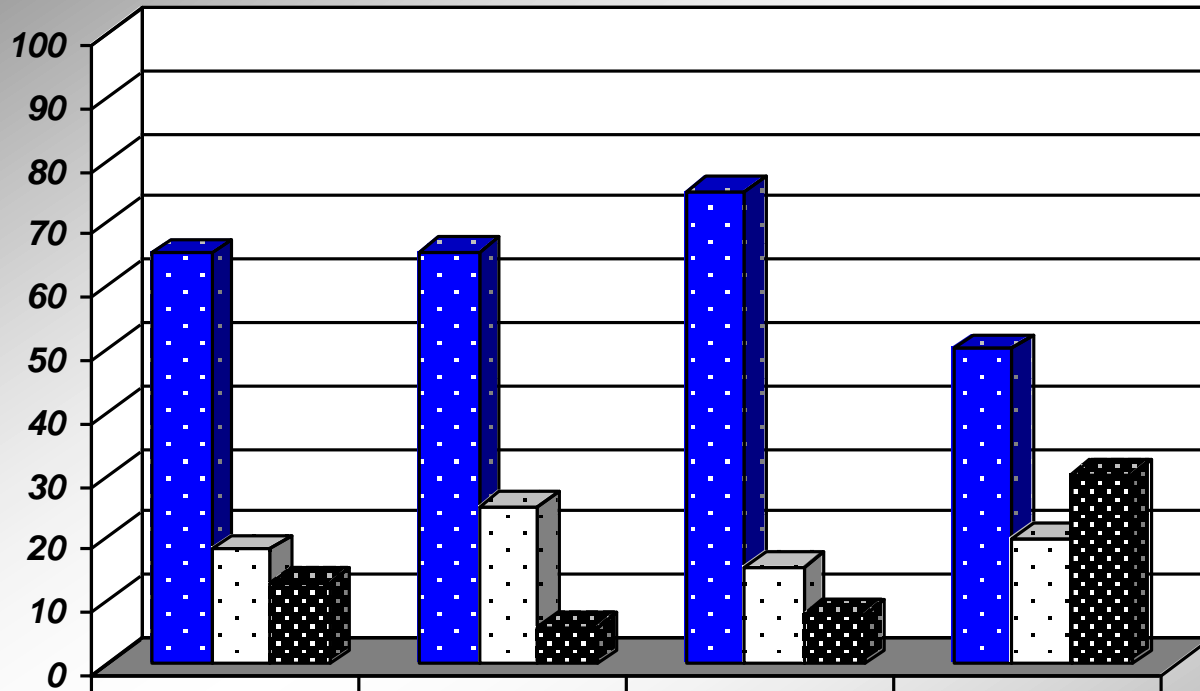
**"At school this year, I am satisfied with how well I am being prepared for a career in the future"**



## I would attend a trade school if given the opportunity



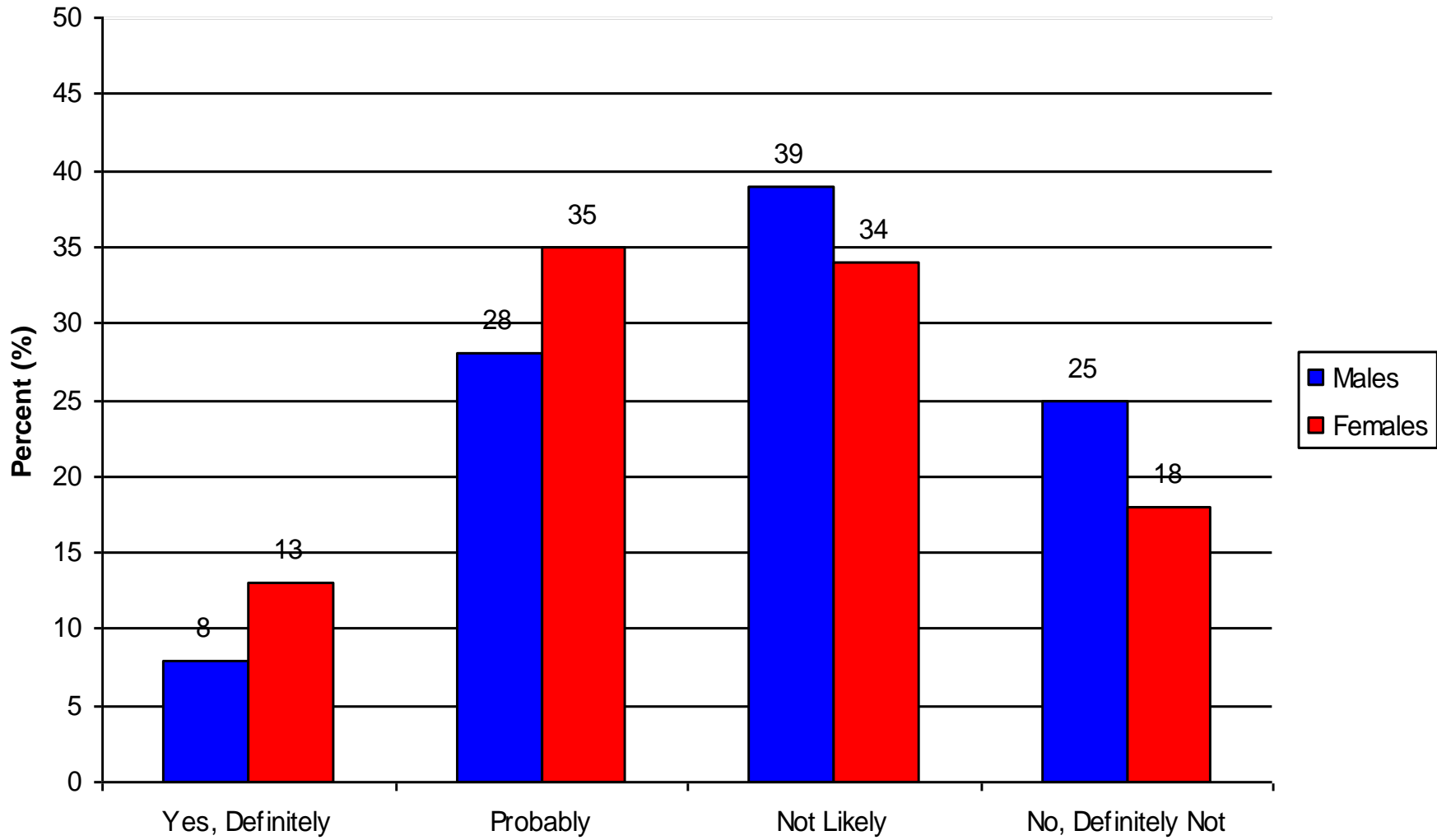
## "I enjoy being a student at DeLand High School"



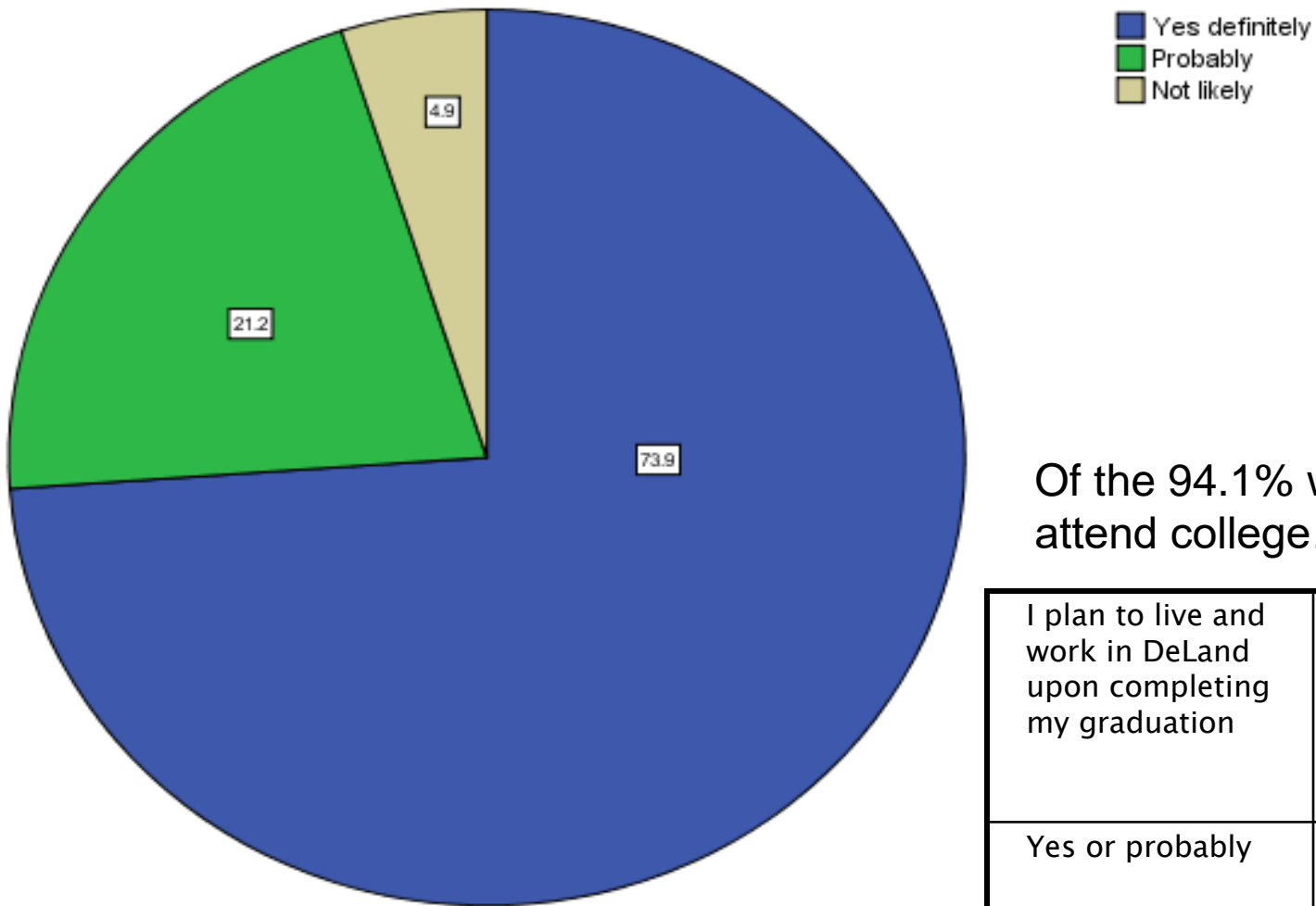
	White/Anglo	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino (a)	Chisholm Center*
■ Agree	65.2	65.4	75	50
□ Neutral	18.2	25	15.6	20
▣ Disagree	12.7	5.7	7.8	30

Race/ Ethnicity

### Do you plan to attend a junior or community college?



## Plan to attend four year college



Of the 94.1% who plan to attend college...

I plan to live and work in DeLand upon completing my graduation	Percent
Yes or probably	23.7%
No or not likely	76.3%

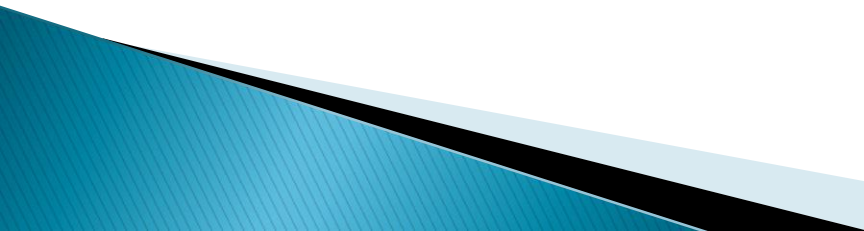
# Daytona Beach College Survey Results

Field	Count Interested	Percent Interested
Medical Assisting	815	29.8%
Law Enforcement Recruit Training	779	28.5%
Automotive Service Certificate	634	23.2%
Building Construction Technology	618	22.6%

(N) 2732



# Conclusions and Suggestions

- ▶ Deland High School and the greater Volusia County School District and Florida Department of Education have recently taken several steps to add to student resources and options from the time they enter high school through high school graduation.
  - ▶ Whereas I set out to address a problem of lack of such resources and programs, the real problem that has presented itself is a possible lack of awareness about these new options.
  - ▶ The Florida “Ready to Work” program in particular is one that should be advertised.
  - ▶ Business partnerships should be utilized to their fullest potential.
  - ▶ Programs specifically aimed at increasing class attendance should be pursued
  - ▶ Overall, students have a positive outlook on their high school experience.
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Questions/ Comments?