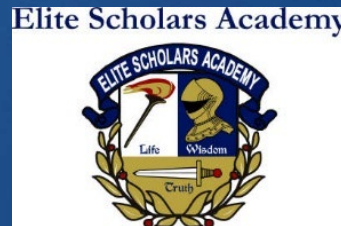


# Elite Scholars Academy Early College Magnet



## Unlocking Potential: Success Stories of a Cambridge International Program in an Urban, Early College Magnet School



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**Mr. Samuel Wayne West, Principal**

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# History of Elite Scholars Academy...

- Established in 2009 as a public charter school for grades 6-12.
- In 2016, ESA transitioned to an Early College Magnet School.
- In 2018, ESA became the first, secondary Cambridge International School in the State of Georgia!



**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education

Cambridge International School

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# Demographics



## By the Numbers – August 2024

*Student Total – 764*

*Male – 47%*

*Female – 53%*

Ethnicity	Total	Percentage
African American	485	63%
Hispanic & Latin American	127	17%
Asian	109	14%
Multiracial	32	4%
White	8	1%
Other	3	<1%

### *Other Statistics:*

82 Employees, 40 Teachers (76% Teachers with Advanced Degrees)

100% Content Teachers with Gifted Endorsement

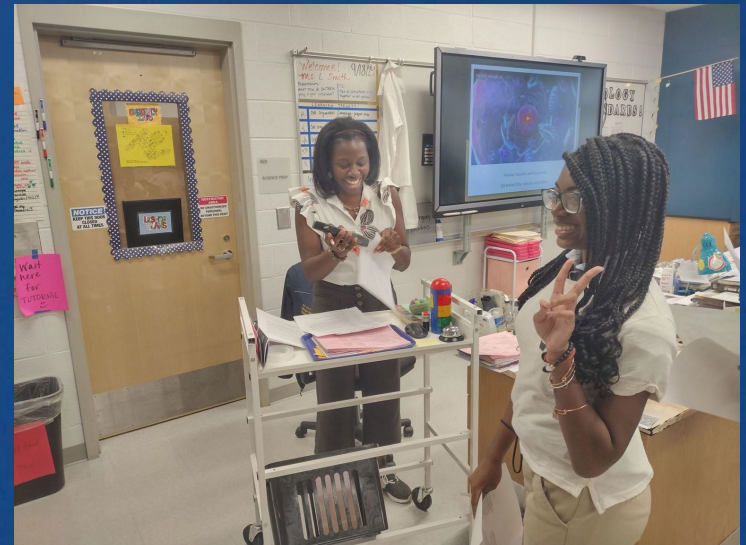
50% Gifted Student Population

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# Elite's Early College Magnet Program

- Honors courses and high school courses in middle school.
- Advanced Placement courses and Cambridge International courses in high school for college credits.
- 27 Carnegie Units required for Graduation, more than the traditional high school.
  - Four years of foreign language is required, including one year of Latin.
- Dual enrollment is an option for 11th/12th graders.

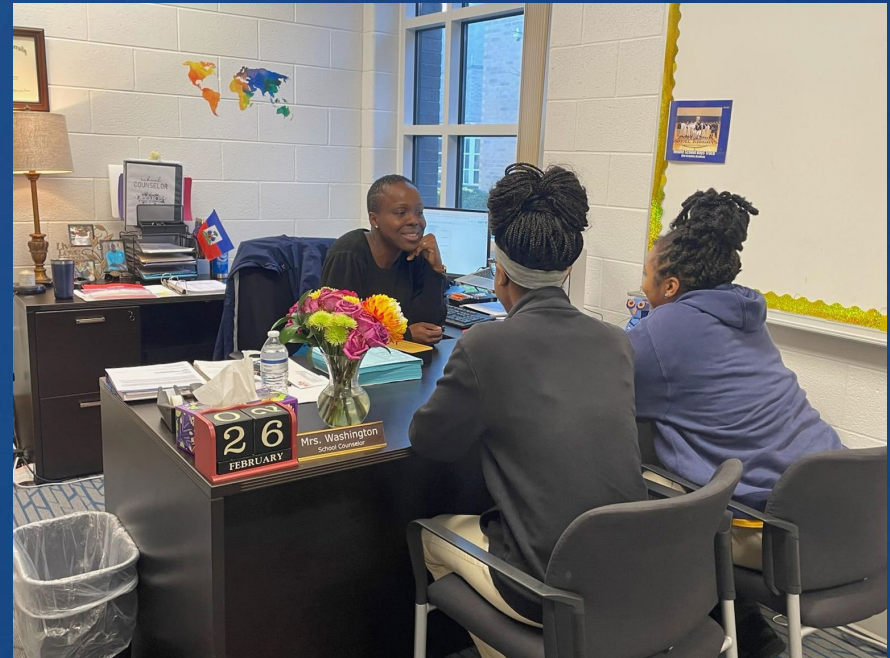


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# Our Journey: Why Cambridge?

- Discovered the Cambridge International program through visits to other magnet schools.
- Being a school with a gifted population of 50%, we wanted an innovative approach to sustaining our student's interest.
- Cambridge International is the largest provider of international education for 3-19 year olds.



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# Our Journey: Why Cambridge?

Cambridge qualifications are recognized all over the world, including all of the Ivy League Institutions.

Cambridge offers a flexible curriculum that can be tailored to local contexts.

The world's largest network of international schools for over 160 years

Part of the University of Cambridge – renowned for excellence in education, ranked #6 in the world

Over 10,000 schools in 170 countries, including the U.S.



**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education

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Cambridge International School

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# Our Journey: Why Cambridge?

Cambridge  
Pathway



A clear path for educational success from age 3 to 19

Cambridge  
Early Years

Age 3+

Cambridge  
Primary

Age 5+

Cambridge  
Lower Secondary

Age 11+

Cambridge  
Pre-Advanced

Age 14+

Cambridge  
Advanced

Age 16+

Cambridge Professional Development for teachers and school leaders

Ready for  
the world



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# Our Journey: Why Cambridge?



Cambridge  
Advanced

## Opening doors to a world of opportunities

Recognised and valued worldwide, Cambridge International AS & A Level prepares and equips learners with the skills they need to thrive at university and beyond.

To learn more, visit [cambridgeinternational.org/advanced](https://cambridgeinternational.org/advanced)

 CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge  
Pathway 

## Cambridge courses:

- communicate effectively, accurately, and appropriately in written form
- develop reading, analysis and communication skills
- Embed active learning, metacognition, reflection and critical thinking.

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# Our Journey: Why Cambridge?

## Cambridge courses:

- Cambridge allows us to offer more courses for college credit starting in the 9th grade.
- Cambridge courses are now more readily accepted at colleges and universities across the United States



Cambridge  
Advanced

### Opening doors to a world of opportunities

Recognised and valued worldwide, Cambridge International AS & A Level prepares and equips learners with the skills they need to thrive at university and beyond.

To learn more, visit [cambridgeinternational.org/advanced](https://cambridgeinternational.org/advanced)

 CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge  
Pathway 

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# List of Georgia Schools

1. ABAC
2. Agnes State College
3. Art Institute of Atlanta
4. Augusta State University
5. Berry College
6. Covenant College
7. Emory University
8. Georgia Institute of Technology
9. Georgia Southern University
10. Georgia State University
11. Kennesaw State University
12. Lagrange College
13. Mercer University
14. Oglethorpe University
15. Perimeter College
16. Savannah College of Art and Design
17. University of West Georgia
18. University of Georgia
19. Valdosta State University
20. Wesleyan College
21. Spelman College

# Our Journey: Why Cambridge?

## Students who participate in Cambridge:

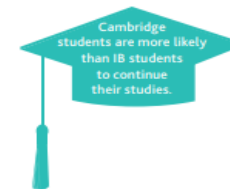
- Much more likely to enroll in college and stay in college than students who participate in IB.
- Much more likely to graduate college and finish their degrees on time.



### Research findings into college success with Cambridge

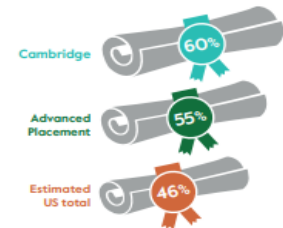
Studies show that Cambridge International Education qualifications are excellent preparation for students heading to the US.

Students with Cambridge qualifications are much more likely to enrol in college straight after finishing school than those with other qualifications.



Cambridge qualifications improve the chances of a student staying on at university. Cambridge students were more likely than International Baccalaureate (IB) students to continue their studies and not to drop out.

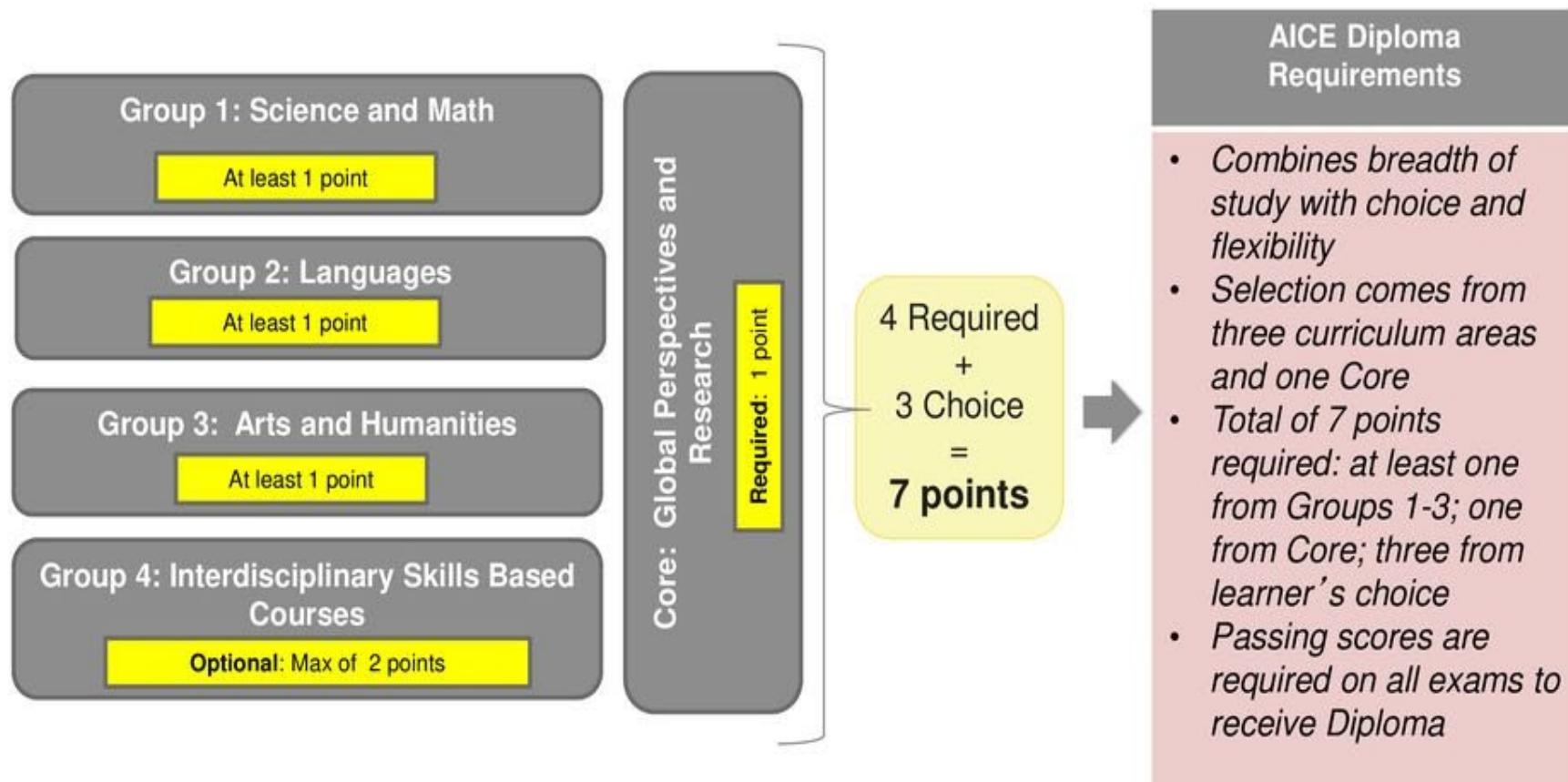
Students with Cambridge International Education qualifications are more likely to graduate than students with other qualifications, and to finish their degrees on time.



Percentages of students who complete a bachelor's degree within four years

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# Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma requirements





# AICE DIPLOMA



## CAMBRIDGE AICE DIPLOMA SUBJECT GROUPS AND CORE

### CAMBRIDGE AICE DIPLOMA CORE: AS Level Global Perspectives and Research (components 1,2 &3)

Group 1 Mathematics and Science	Group 2 Languages	Group 3 Arts and Humanities	Group 4 Interdisciplinary and skills-based subjects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applied Information and Communication Technology</li> <li>Biology</li> <li>Chemistry</li> <li>Computer Science</li> <li>Computing</li> <li>Design &amp; Technology</li> <li><b>Environmental Management (AS Level only)</b></li> <li>Further Mathematics (A Level only)</li> <li><b>Marine Science</b></li> <li><b>Mathematics</b></li> <li>Physical Education</li> <li>Physics</li> <li><b>Psychology</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afrikaans Language (AS Level only)</li> <li>Arabic</li> <li>Chinese Mandarin</li> <li><b>English Language</b></li> <li>First Language Spanish (AS Level only)</li> <li>French</li> <li>German</li> <li>Hindi</li> <li>Marathi</li> <li>Portuguese</li> <li><b>Spanish</b></li> <li>Tamil</li> <li>Telugu</li> <li>Urdu</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accounting</li> <li>Art &amp; Design</li> <li>Business Studies</li> <li>Classical Studies</li> <li>Design &amp; Textiles</li> <li>Divinity</li> <li>Economics</li> <li><b>Environmental Management (AS Level only)</b></li> <li>Food Studies (A Level only)</li> <li>French Literature (AS Level only)</li> <li>Geography</li> <li>Hinduism</li> <li>Hindi Literature (AS Level only)</li> <li><b>History</b></li> <li>Islamic Studies</li> <li>Language &amp; Literature in English (AS Level only)</li> <li><b>Literature in English</b></li> <li>Media Studies</li> <li>Music</li> <li>Portuguese Literature (AS Level only)</li> <li><b>Psychology</b></li> <li>Sociology</li> <li>Spanish Literature (AS Level only)</li> <li>Travel &amp; Tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Thinking Skills</b></li> <li><b>General Paper (AS Level only)</b></li> <li><b>Research Report (A Level Global Perspectives and Research component 4)*</b></li> </ul> <p><i>*Note: Subject Group 4 does not include the compulsory CORE AS Level Global Perspectives and Research components 1,2 &amp; 3. Subject Group 4 only includes GPR component 4: Research Report.</i></p>

# Cambridge Implementation



## **2021-2022: Year One**

English General Paper  
English Language  
Global Perspectives &  
Research  
Physical Education (Year  
One)

## **2022-2023: Year Two**

English General Paper  
Physical Education (Year  
Two)  
English Language

## **2023-2024: Year Three**

English General Paper  
English Language  
Psychology  
Spanish IGCSE

## **2024-2025: Year Four**

English General Paper  
English Language  
Psychology  
Spanish IGCSE  
Thinking Skills  
Classical Studies

## **2025-2026: Year Five**

English General Paper  
English Language  
Psychology  
Spanish IGCSE  
Thinking Skills  
Classical Studies  
Global Perspectives &  
Research  
Environmental  
Management  
Spanish Language AS

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# Cambridge Implementation



- What happens when you have to pivot?
- What worked and what did not?
- Professional Development Needs

# Celebrations



- Top 2% Best Magnet High Schools in America (2024) - Niche
- Top 1% Standout High Schools in America (2024) - Niche
- Top 2% Standout Middle Schools in America (2024) - Niche
- Top 1% Best Public Middle Schools in Georgia (2024) - Niche
- Top 2% Best Public High School Teachers in Georgia (2024) - Niche



# Celebrations



- **#16 High School in Georgia – U.S. News & World Report**
- **2024-2027 Cambridge International Showcase School**
- **#1 Middle School in Georgia – U.S. News & World Report (Second time in four years)**
  - **2025 Top Magnet School of Excellence (Magnet Schools of America)**
    - **100% Graduation Rate**

# Elite Scholars Academy: An Early College Magnet



We are proud to be a Showcase School  
2024-2027

For more details go to: [www.cambridgeinternational.org/showcase](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/showcase)

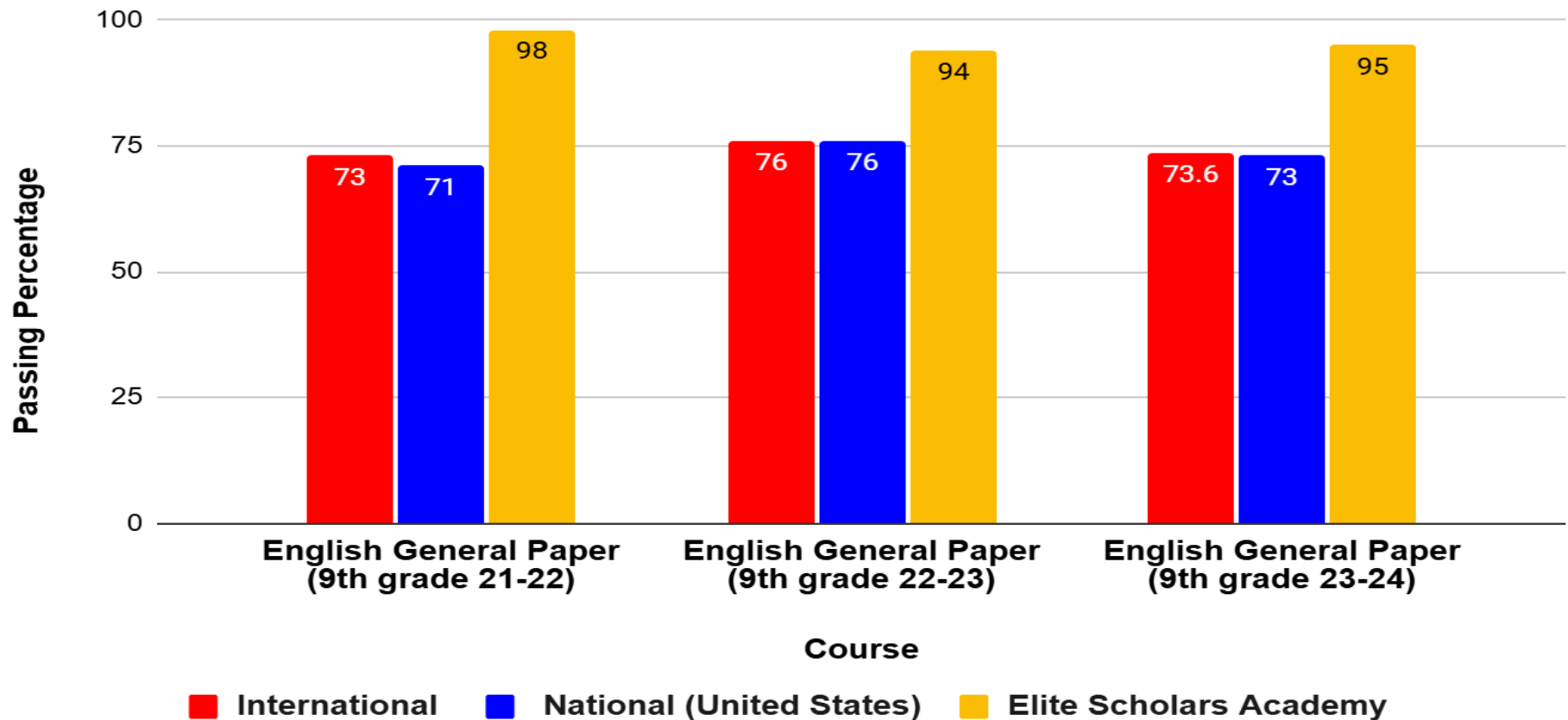
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# Data - Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) Pass Rates		Enrolled/Taken
2024	69.10%	603/284 47.1%
2023	63.90%	591/249 42.1%
2022	49.01%	
2021	59.10%	
2020	58.70%	
2019	59.10%	



## Elite Scholars Academy Cambridge Assessment Results Comparison







## Why are we so successful in English General Paper?

- **Instructional Strategies:** Emphasis on collaboration and reflection allows for extremely engaging activities that inspire lively discussions surrounding students' learning.
- **Curriculum:** The flexibility of the curriculum allows me to find contemporary topics that interest students while broadening their knowledge, understanding and perspectives of the world.

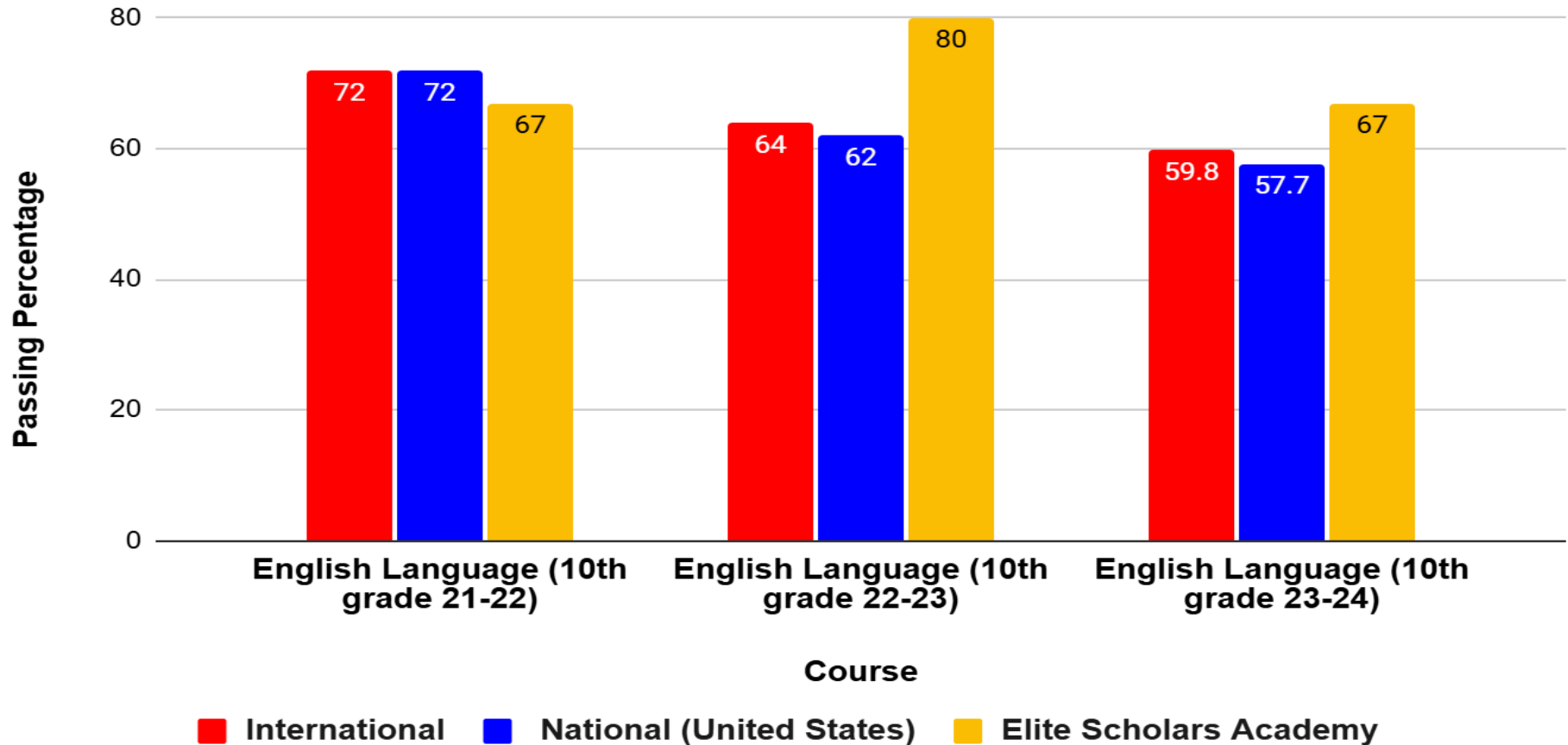


## Why are we so successful in English General Paper?

- **Assessment:** The assessment is structured in such a way as to support an emphasis on both expanding a students' knowledge and their communication and thinking skills.
- **Cambridge's role in our success:** The School Hub is a tremendous resource that facilitates developing effective and informative assessments.



## Elite Scholars Academy Cambridge Assessment Results Comparison





## Why are we so successful in English Language?

- **Instructional Strategies:** Emphasis on applicability across the curriculum - creativity and metacognition allow for engaging activities and discussion, and ensures students are ready for college level courses.
- **Curriculum:** The Assessment Objectives for the class allow for a variety of engaging writing and reading activities, and focus on real-world applications



# Success Stories



## Why are we so successful in English Language?

- **Assessment:** The assessment is broken down into reading and writing sections, which allows me to focus closely on the skills and depth of knowledge
- **Cambridge's role in our success:** Support from the school hub and the plethora of sources available allow for a variety of learning strategies and assessments in the classroom.

# Why are we so successful?

What is Cambridge's role in our success?

- HARD WORK!
- Cambridge courses focus on critical thinking, problem solving and independent learning. Students take these skills and apply them in ALL of their courses, including Honors, AP, and DE.

# Why are we so successful?

## What is Cambridge's role in our success?

- Home and School working together for student achievement!
- Cambridge has a continuous focus on teacher development and assessment for improvement. Teachers apply these skills in all of the courses they teach, including honors courses and AP courses.
- Resources in the School Support Hub have been invaluable!

# Why are we so successful?

## What is Cambridge's role in our success?

- Student Testimonial
  - "Taking Cambridge courses has been a game-changer for me. The rigorous curriculum challenged me to think critically, manage my time effectively, and approach learning with a deeper level of curiosity. It's not just about passing exams; it's about developing a mindset that has helped me thrive academically and grow as a person. Thanks to Cambridge, I've gained the confidence and skills to succeed in ways I never thought possible."

# Why are we so successful?



## What is Cambridge's role in our success?

- Teacher Testimonial
  - "Teaching Cambridge courses has transformed my approach to education. The emphasis on critical thinking, problem-solving, and independent learning has not only enriched my teaching methods but also inspired my students to take ownership of their learning. The collaborative and supportive environment fosters a deeper connection between students and their subjects, and it has been incredibly rewarding to see them succeed. Cambridge has truly empowered me to be a more effective, passionate, and reflective educator."



# Next Steps?



## Where do we go from here?

- 2025-2026 School Year, we will be at full implementation of the Cambridge AICE Diploma program.
- Continue to implement new Cambridge courses that align with the focus of our magnet program.
- Continue to monitor the Cambridge program to ensure students and teachers are successful.

# Want to know more about ESA?

Closing Remarks/ Q & A

Visit our website to learn more about  
Elite Scholars Academy:

<https://099.clayton.k12.ga.us/>

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