FROM THE FRONT

"Only want to see you underneath the purple rain"
PURPLE RAIN PRINCE

About 81 percent of grades were in A-range, faculty say

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of the 2019-20 school year, which included the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The share of A's and A-minuses steadily increased from 67.23 percent in the 2010-11 school year to 72.95 percent in the 2018-19 school year but skyrocketed to 81.97 percent in the 2020-21 school year, according to the data.

While the share of A's and A-minuses dropped slightly to 79.62 percent in the 2021-22 school year and to 78.97 percent in the 2022-23 school year, the figure of 80.75 percent from the 2024-25 school year represents a deviation from that downward trend. Lewis had told the News in March that grade distribution had remained "pretty consistent" over the last four years.

The required GPAs for cum laude distinctions has seen a parallel rise in the recent decade. The cutoff for summa cum laude, representing the top 5 percent GPA of the graduating class, increased from 3.93 in 2010 to 3.98 in 2023 — before inching yet higher to 3.99 for the class of 2026.

The FAS-SEAS Senate's resolution arrives as Yale and its Ivy League peers seek to address the widespread issue of grade inflation.

In April, Yale's Committee on Trust in Higher Education recommended that the University establish a GPA guideline of "a 3.0 mean, or some other college-wide standard," and include course-specific percentile data in transcripts.

In May, Harvard's faculty voted to start capping A's at roughly 20 percent next fall. The share of A-range grades at the school had risen from 60 percent in the 2010-11 school year to 79 percent in the 2020-21 school year — still lower than Yale's 81.97 percent figure from that year.

Amanda Claybaugh, Harvard's dean of undergraduate education, graduated from Yale College in 1993.

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Ellie Park
The figure of 80.75 percent, included in a Thursday resolution by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Senate, represents an uptick from the share of around 79 percent in the 2022-23 school year.

Incoming state representative beat 21-term incumbent

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That includes "folks who were on all sides of the race."

Sabin, a 26-year-old Yale Law School graduate, had served three terms as a New Haven alder before the primary. In August's race, he also defeated Justin Farmer, who had been endorsed by the Connecticut branch of Democratic Socialists of America.

Sabin's win came alongside a victory for Wildaliz Bermúdez, the Democratic nominee in the 97th district, who also defeated a candidate supported by the city's Democratic establishment. Mayor Justin Elicker endorsed both Sabin and Bermúdez, splitting from other prominent Democrats.

Although party support was divided during the primary, Sabin said that he thinks Democrats in the city have "shared values and priorities and really love the city." He noted that he particularly looks forward to working with labor leaders, many of whom he said he has "sat down with" since the election. Local 34, Yale's clerical and technical workers' union, the local Teamsters union and two service workers' unions all endorsed Dillon.

Board of Alders President Tyisha Walker-Myers, who serves as the chief steward of Local 35, Yale's service and maintenance workers union, said in an interview that she respects "the title and the position" of state representative.

"I've worked with Eli Sabin before. I'm willing to work with him after the election. The work doesn't stop," she said, although she emphasized that Dillon is still the district's representative until Sabin officially takes office.

In August, Walker-Myers, along with five other alders whose wards overlap with the 92nd district — most of whom are financially backed or endorsed by UNITE HERE unions — penned an op-ed in the New Haven Independent endorsing Dillon. The letter said Sabin experienced "growing pains" while on the Board of Alders and that he was "not ready" to serve as state representative.

Ward 3 Alder Angel Hubbard, one of the alders who signed the August op-ed, described the result of the August primary as "personally" difficult because Dillon has been supportive of her in the past.

Still, she said, she respects Sabin and has found him to be very responsive.

"Every time I call, he always picks up," she said. "There has not been a time when he has not made himself available for our ward."

According to a post on Sabin's Instagram account, Sabin and Bermúdez met with Governor Ned Lamont SOM '80 on Monday. They discussed "how we can increase school funding, protect our immigrant neighbors, build affordable housing, fight against SNAP cuts, and much more," Sabin wrote in the post.

Affordability and school funding have been top-of-mind in many of Sabin's recent conversations, he said.

Asked on Monday about his work with Sabin since the election, Elicker said Sabin was focused on updating the funding formula for New Haven's schools, a goal Sabin is "very enthusiastic" about, according to Elicker.

Sabin said he and Dillon spoke after the August results were announced, but that she has not responded to a more recent communication. Dillon did not respond to the News' question about that communication.

"I'm definitely hoping to have a chance to talk with her and get advice as much as possible about the role and talk about ongoing projects in the district," Sabin said.

District 92 covers New Haven's parts of the Dwight neighborhood as well as Amity, Edgewood, Westville and the Hill neighborhoods.

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Garrett Curtis / Photography Editor
In August, former alder Eli Sabin '22 LAW '26 defeated longtime state representative Patricia Dillon SPH '98 in a Democratic primary for Connecticut's 92nd district. Dillon had been endorsed by a broad coalition of local Democratic leaders.

Some students see no need for more transparency

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have grown-up problems that only they know how to deal with, and you're kind of out of the picture?" Victoria said. "It kind of feels like that right now: we're the little kid, and the administration are the parents."

Hannah Owens Pierre '28, a fellow at the Buckley Institute who is also a staff columnist for the News, commended the Yale administration's effort to be "as transparent as possible" in the face of legal constraints requiring confidentiality, citing the University's website communicating information and updates on the investigations.

"The student reaction to these talks has been quite one-sided, which is unfortunate, but that is to be expected given the fact that Yale students are predominantly on the left," Owens Pierre wrote in an email to the News.

Given the student body's "overwhelmingly negative" reaction to the negotiations, conservative students may be reluctant to publicly share their support or even neutrality towards the issue, Owens Pierre added.

Victoria said that the administration doesn't have "much to improve" by way of being forthright about the talks, citing emails McInnis has sent to the Yale community containing updates on the investigation process.

However, Mór Szepesi '27, former president of the Yale Political Union and former chairman of the Party of the Right, said the University should seek to be more transparent, suggesting that administrators collaborate with a small group of professors, students and alumni to hear out the range of campus perspectives as talks continue.

"I worry that the lack of transparency, combined with a lack of representation, is why many people in the Yale community do not trust the process," said Szepesi. "The administration needs to think about how to build that trust, and inviting a few more people to the table would help."

Some conservative students agreed that a potential settlement may have a positive effect on the University's political diversity.

Victoria said that a settlement could help Yale become a "beacon of academic freedom" by encouraging more conservative students to apply.

Laina Allen '29, the vice president of Yale College Republicans, wrote in a statement to the News that a settlement could build trust in the University amongst Yale conservatives by demonstrating that Yale is committed to respecting "good-faith investigations" by the federal government, regardless of the political affiliation of the president.

"Yale should welcome intellectual diversity, including political diversity," Szepesi wrote. "If a settlement reached through an inclusive process rebuilds trust and strengthens the value of a Yale education, students across the political spectrum should welcome that change."

Yale's chapter of Turning Point USA emerged this spring.

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Kalina Sabala Montes / Staff Photographer
Amid widespread backlash to the ongoing settlement talks between administrators and the Department of Justice, some conservative students expressed support for the University's communication strategy and a potential settlement.