Parent Survey Results

Wausau School District

Spring 2021

SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS
Measuring what matters

SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS

Our mission is to help educational leaders gather, organize and use data to make strategic decisions.
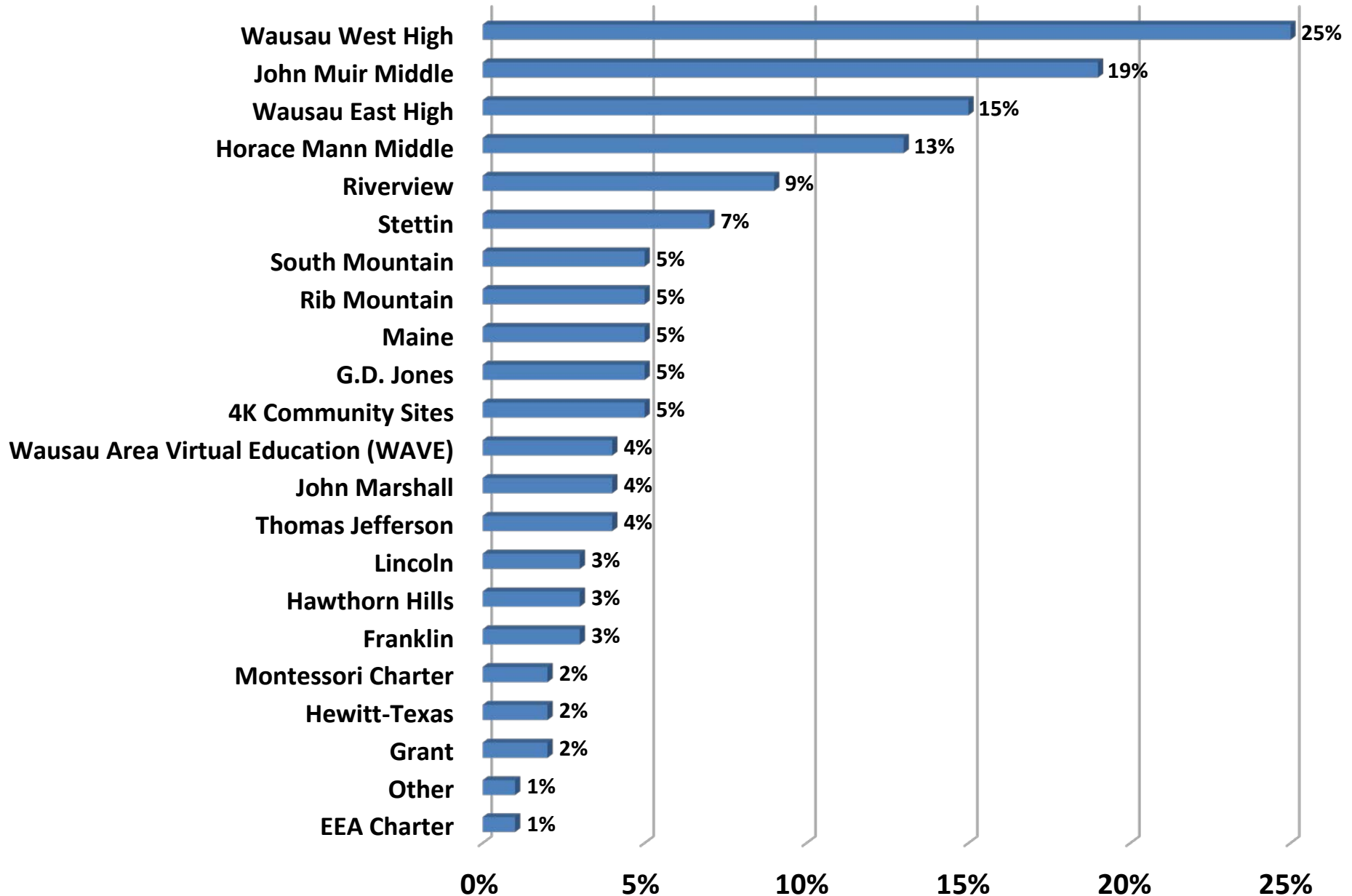
- Founded in 2002 to provide independent and unbiased research

- Conducted over 10,000 parent, staff, student, and community surveys for school improvement

- Helped more than 700 districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process
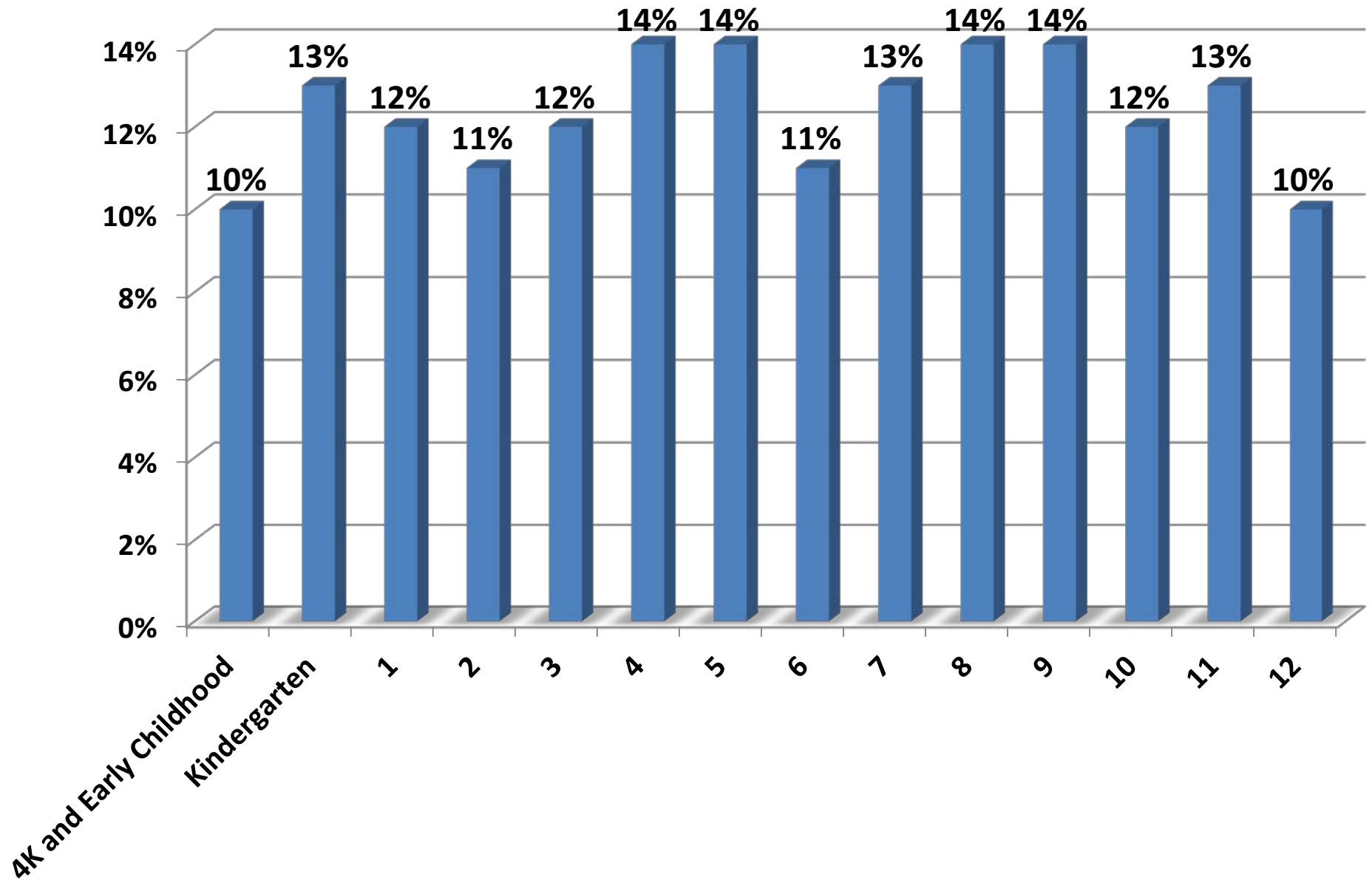
Survey Summary

- The Parent Survey was conducted in late April – early May of 2021.

- All parents were sent an email invitation to take the survey online. Each email contained a unique survey access code that could only be used once.

- Total responses = 1,450
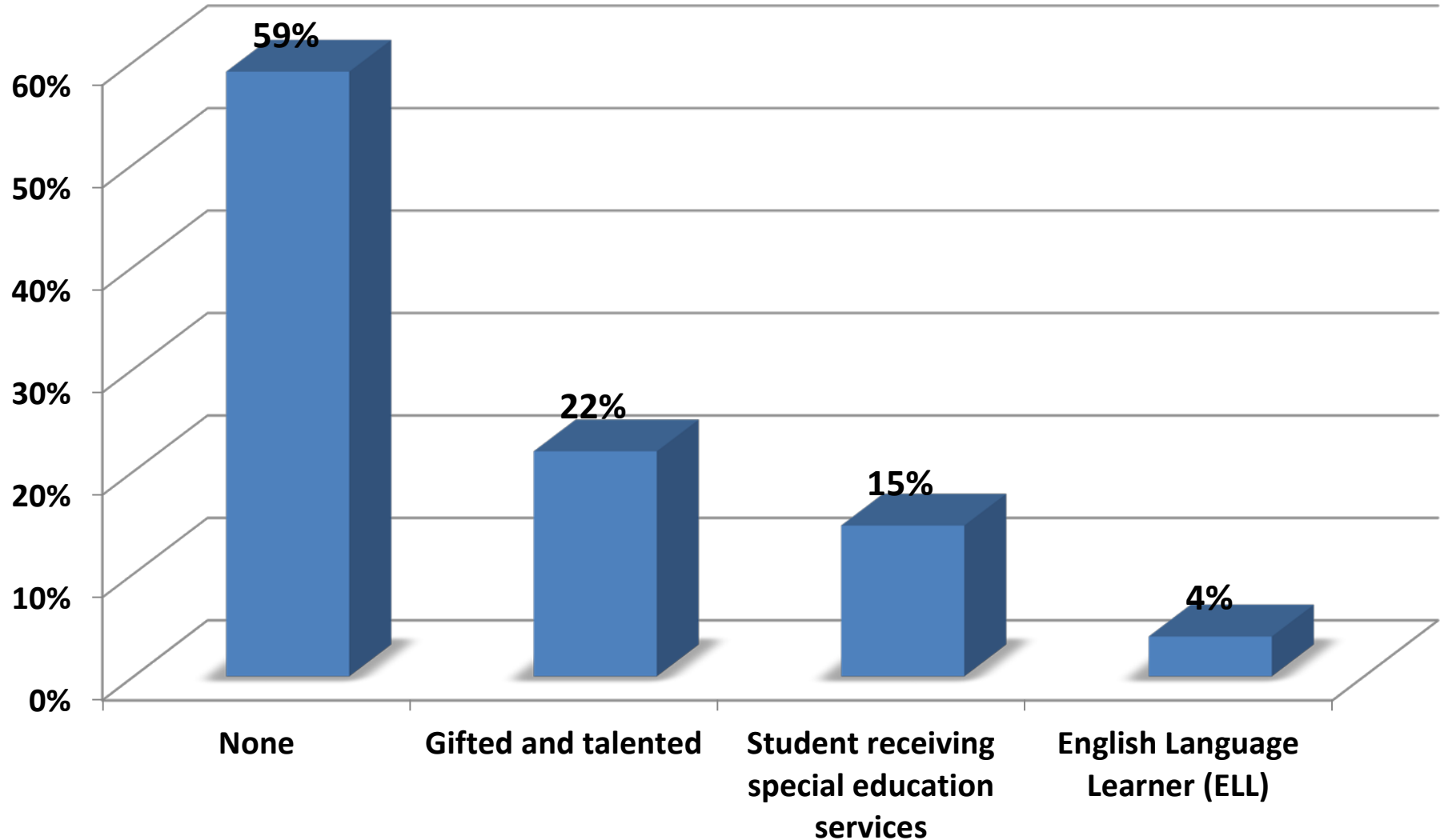
Respondent Information

Which schools do your children attend?

School	Percent
Wausau West High	25%
John Muir Middle	19%
Wausau East High	15%
Horace Mann Middle	13%
Riverview	9%
Stettin	7%
South Mountain	5%
Rib Mountain	5%
Maine	5%
G.D. Jones	5%
4K Community Sites	5%
Wausau Area Virtual Education (WAVE)	4%
John Marshall	4%
Thomas Jefferson	4%
Lincoln	3%
Hawthorn Hills	3%
Franklin	3%
Montessori Charter	2%
Hewitt-Texas	2%
Grant	2%
Other	1%
EEA Charter	1%

Grade level of your child(ren):

Bar chart showing the distribution of grade levels:

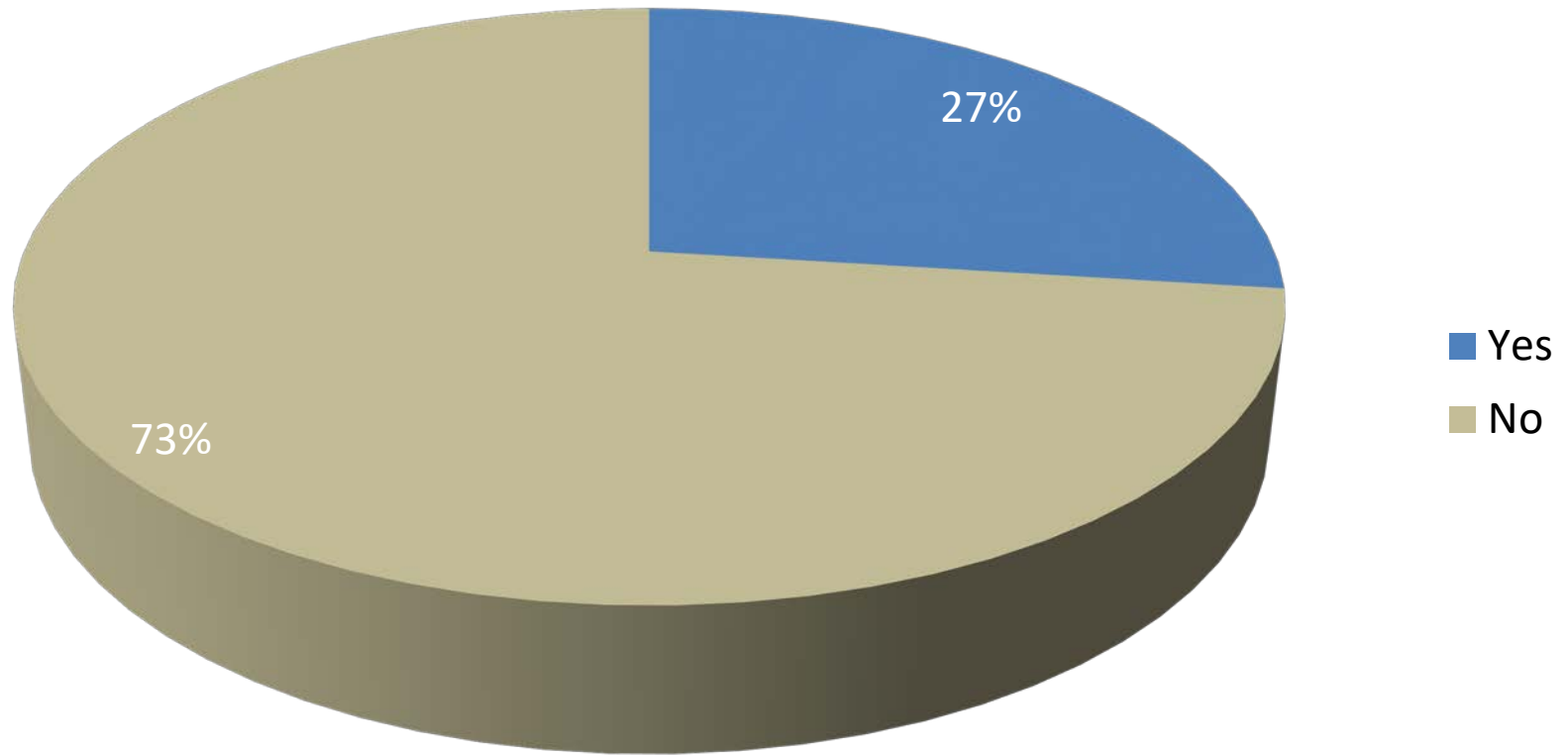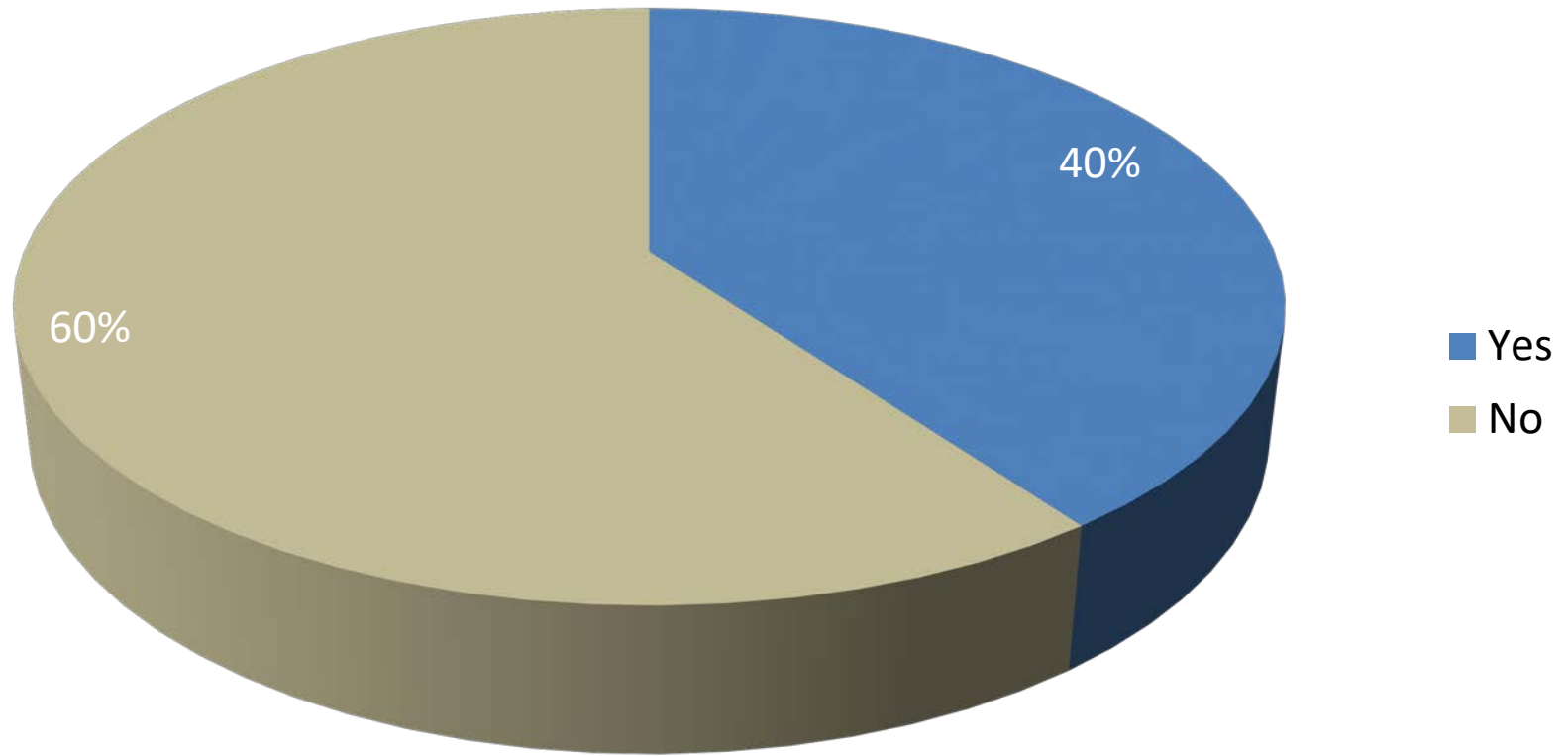| Grade Level	Percentage
4K and Early Childhood	10%
Kindergarten	13%
1	12%
2	11%
3	12%
4	14%
5	14%
6	11%
7	13%
8	14%
9	14%
10	12%
11	13%
12	10%

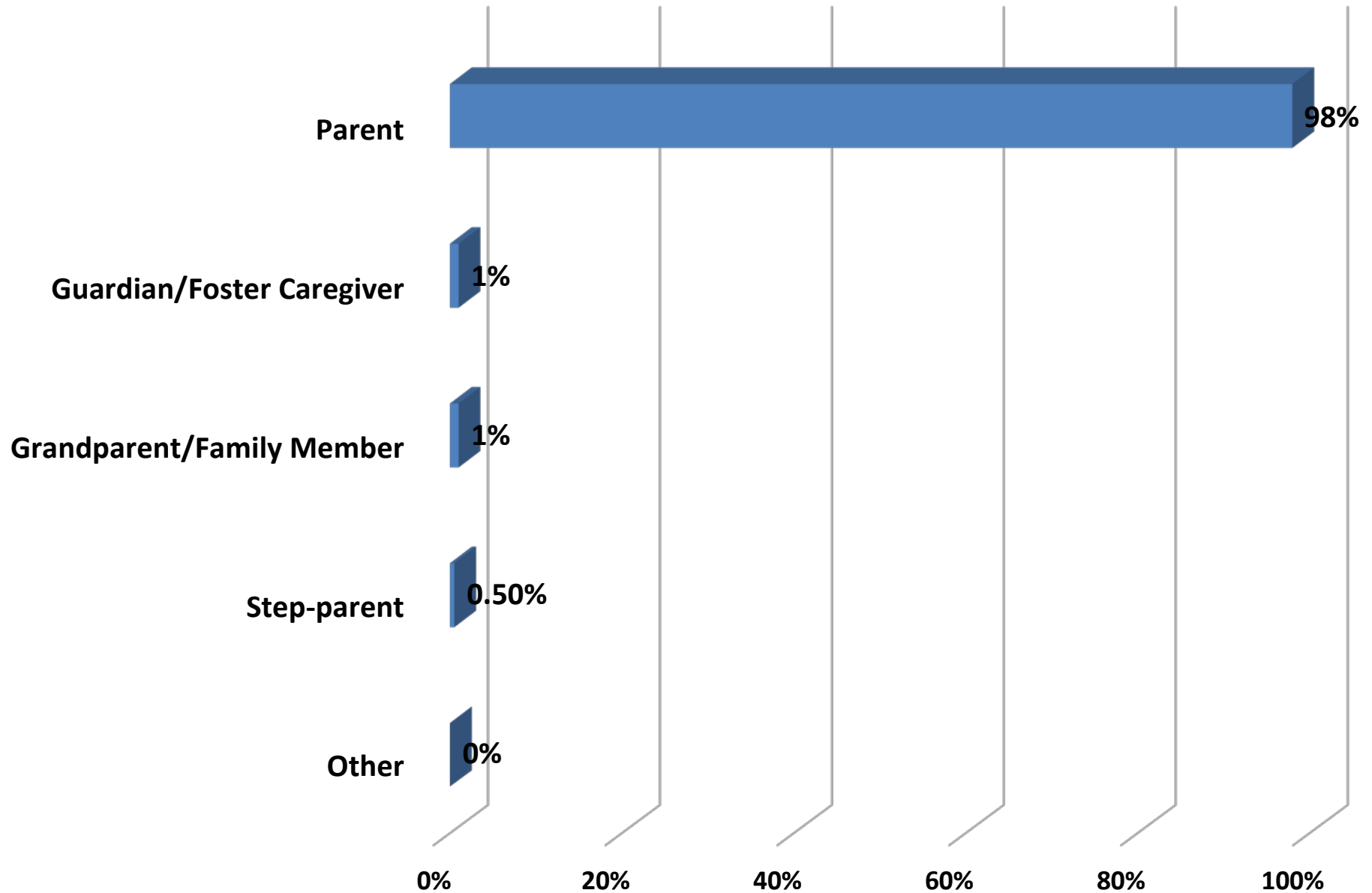# One or more of my children are identified as:

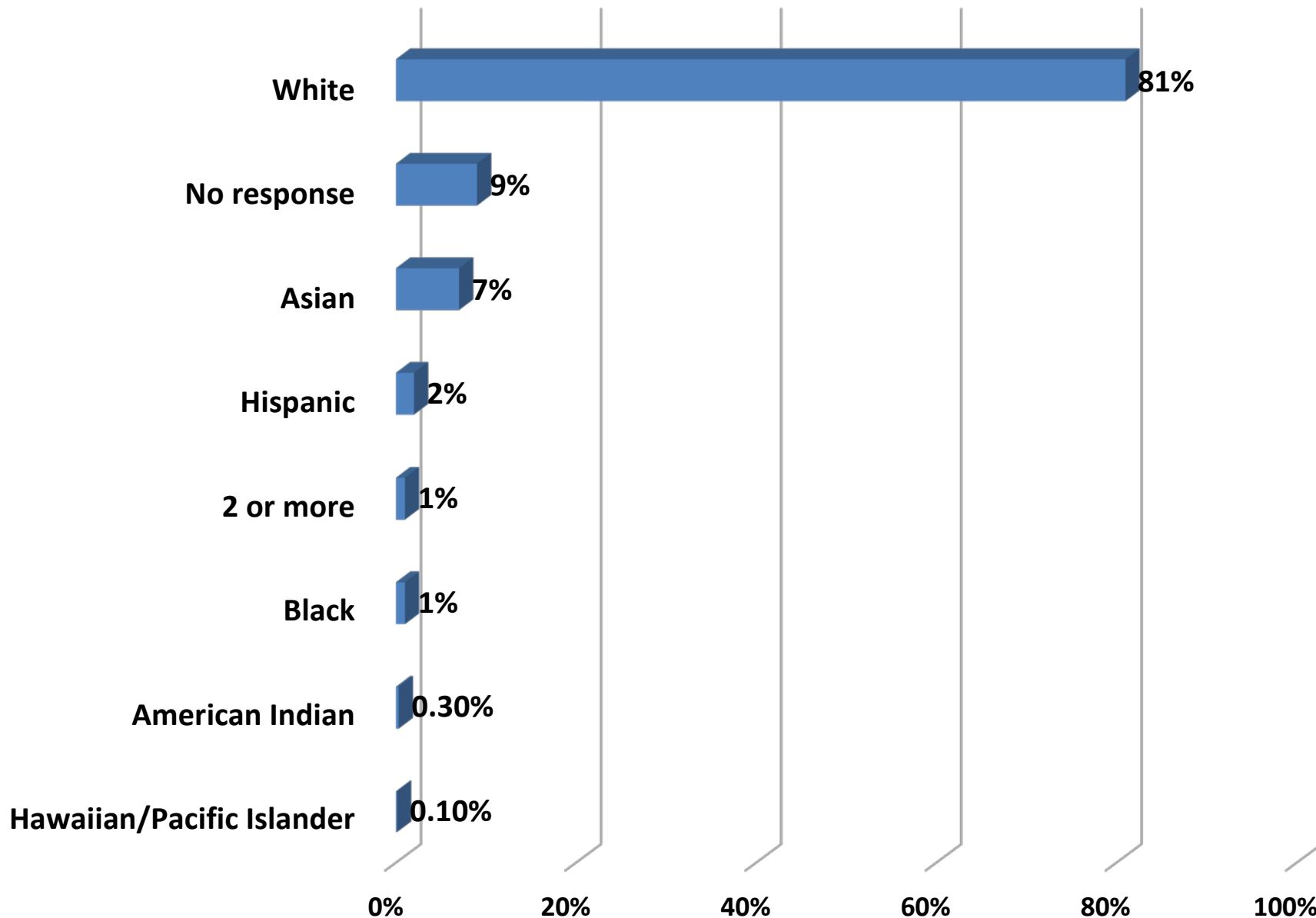# Is your child enrolled in the fully virtual learning option this year?

27%

73%

Yes
No

Does your child(ren) currently participate in **any** school-sponsored sports and/or extra-curricular activities?

40%

60%

Yes

No

I am responding as a:

Category	Percentage
Parent	98%
Guardian/Foster Caregiver	1%
Grandparent/Family Member	1%
Step-parent	0.50%
Other	0%

I identify my ethnicity as:

| Ethnicity	Percentage
White	81%
No response	9%
Asian	7%
Hispanic	2%
2 or more	1%
Black	1%
American Indian	0.30%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.10%

Check In

This section is designed to gather feedback on how your family is doing in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, how is your family dealing with the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic?
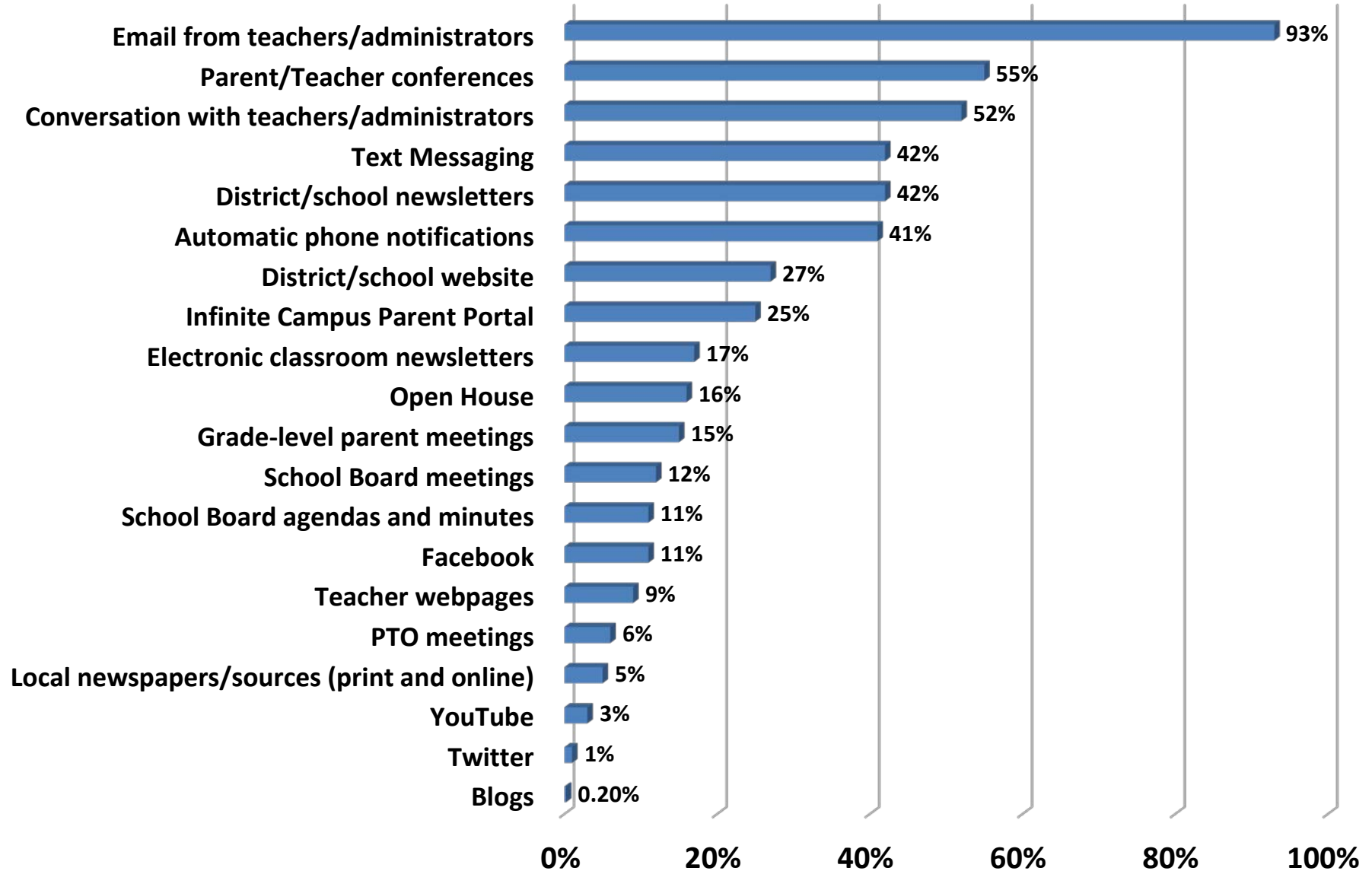

	Great	Good	Fair	Poor
	20%	59%	19%	2%
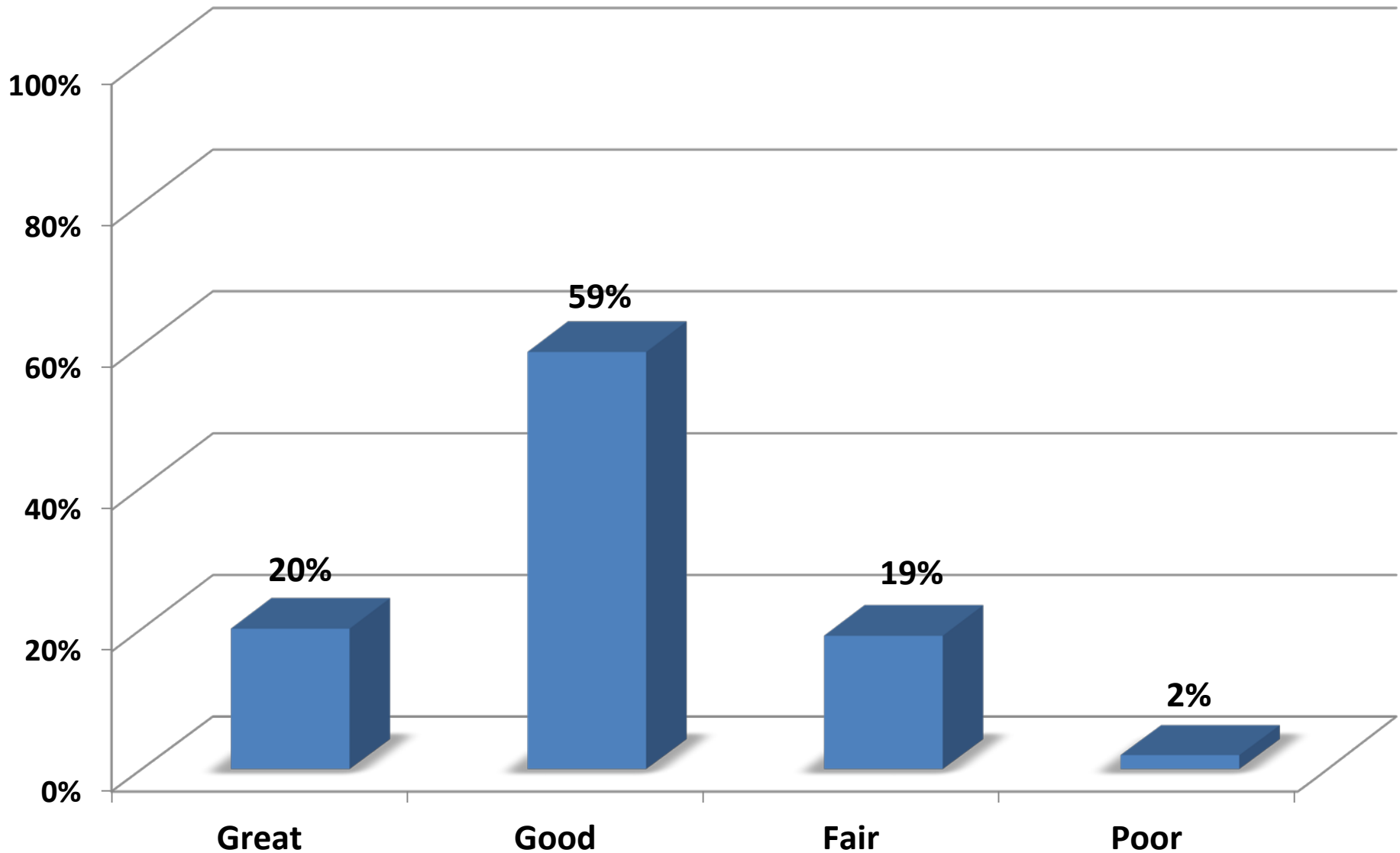
Please indicate your level of agreement.

Strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Disagree (2), Strongly disagree (1)

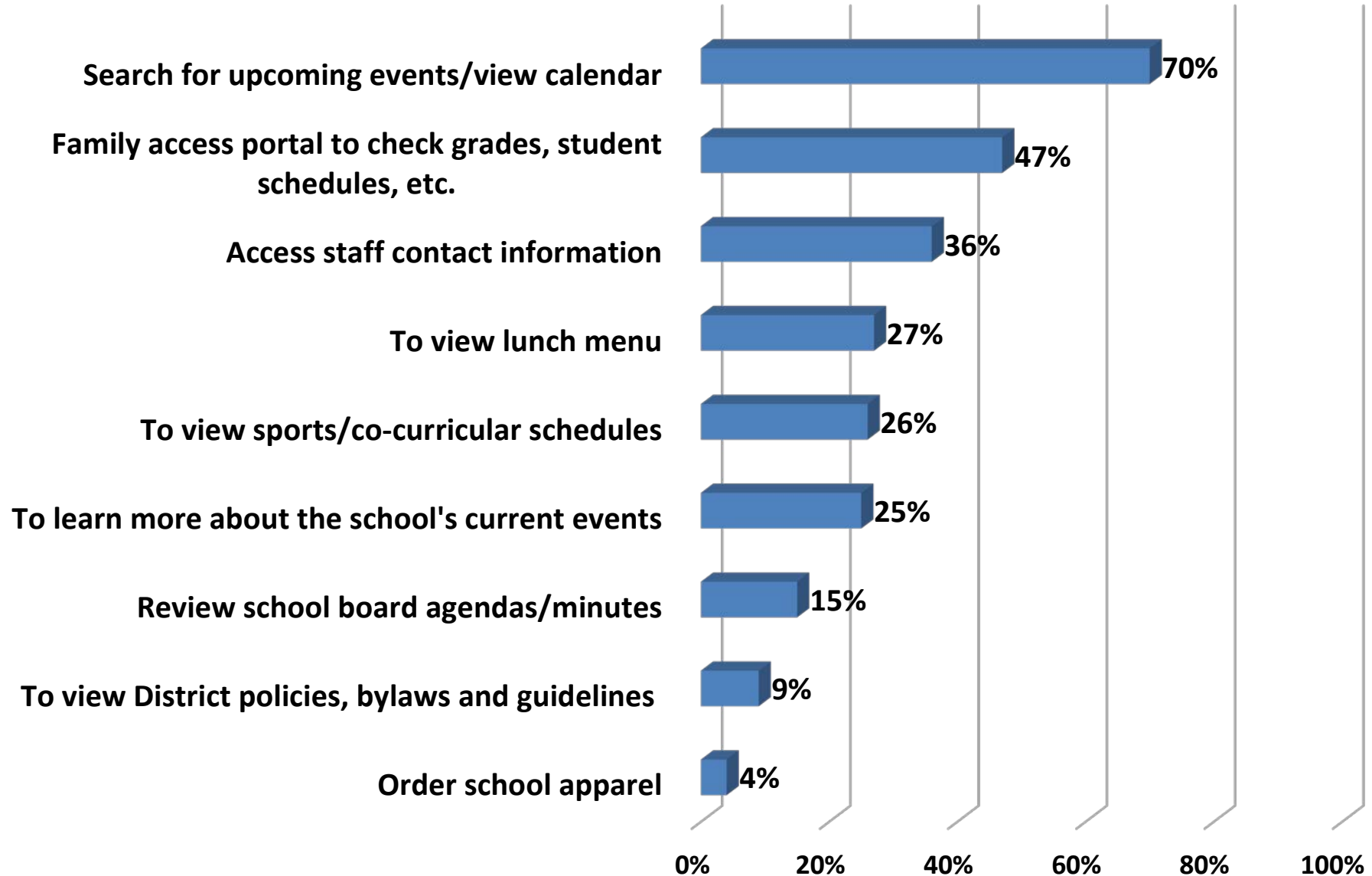| Item	% Strongly agree/ Agree	Average (n)
My family has access to enough computers/devices to meet our learning needs.	93%	4.25 (1373)
My family has reliable internet access at home.	88%	4.11 (1380)
I feel that my child(ren) are safe in their learning environment based on the District's existing Covid-19 mitigation policies and procedures.	91%	4.10 (1279)
My family has been able to support my child(ren)'s learning this school year.	85%	3.92 (1359)
The District's website is a helpful place for my family to learn about how the District is handling COVID-19.	84%	3.76 (1062)
I receive the information I need about COVID-19 from the District to make decisions for my family.	80%	3.67 (1233)
The school has been able to support my child(ren)'s needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.	71%	3.48 (1354)

Communication

How would you like to receive school information?

Category	Percentage
Email from teachers/administrators	93%
Parent/Teacher conferences	55%
Conversation with teachers/administrators	52%
Text Messaging	42%
District/school newsletters	42%
Automatic phone notifications	41%
District/school website	27%
Infinite Campus Parent Portal	25%
Electronic classroom newsletters	17%
Open House	16%
Grade-level parent meetings	15%
School Board meetings	12%
School Board agendas and minutes	11%
Facebook	11%
Teacher webpages	9%
PTO meetings	6%
Local newspapers/sources (print and online)	5%
YouTube	3%
Twitter	1%
Blogs	0.20%

How often do you visit the school/District's website?

Why do you visit the school/District's website?

Category	Percentage
Search for upcoming events/view calendar	70%
Family access portal to check grades, student schedules, etc.	47%
Access staff contact information	36%
To view lunch menu	27%
To view sports/co-curricular schedules	26%
To learn more about the school's current events	25%
Review school board agendas/minutes	15%
To view District policies, bylaws and guidelines	9%
Order school apparel	4%
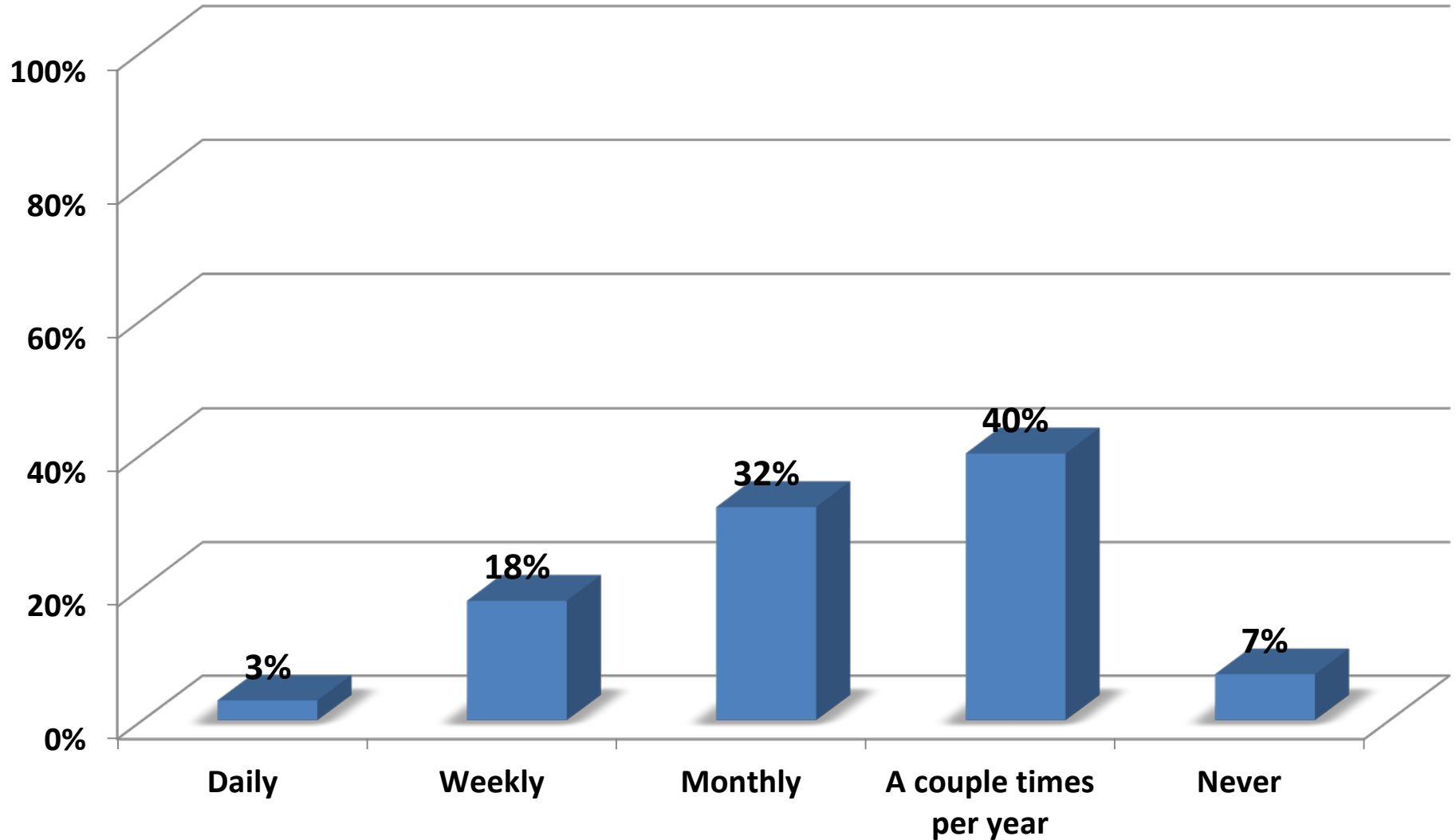
How effective is the school/District's website in providing timely and meaningful information?
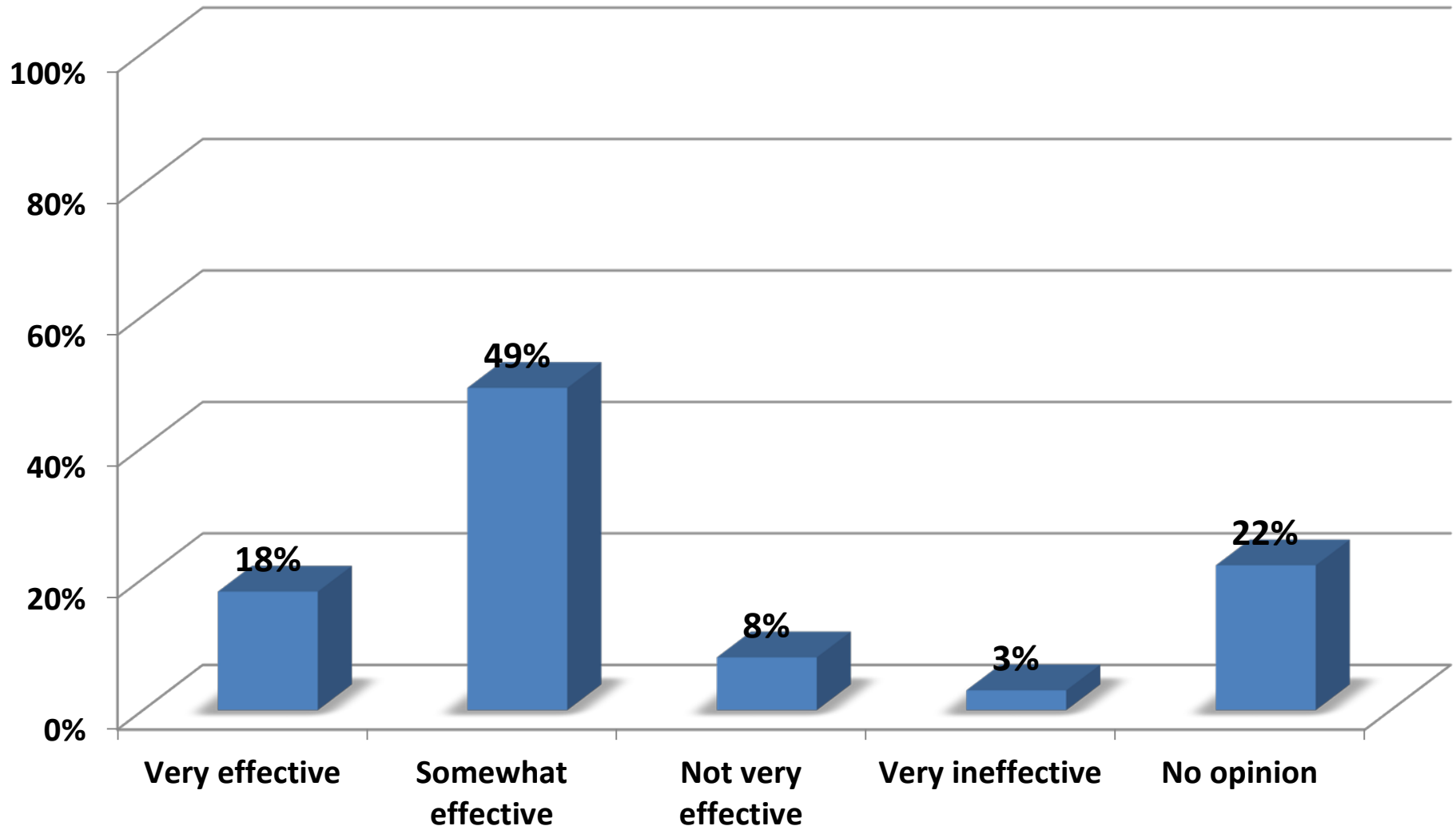
Programs and Services

How important is this item to the success of our students? (Slide 1/3)

Very important (4), Important (3), Somewhat important (2), Not important (1)

Item	Average
Critical thinking & problem solving	3.78
Preparing students for life after high school	3.73
Reading/Literature/Vocabulary	3.69
Preparing students for college and career	3.66
Writing/Grammar	3.66
Computer and technology skills	3.65
Math	3.60
Personal finance	3.59
Programming for children with disabilities	3.58

How important is this item to the success of our students? (Slide 2/3)

Very important (4), Important (3), Somewhat important (2), Not important (1)

Item	Average
Science	3.51
Programming for struggling students/at-risk of not graduating	3.49
School counseling	3.42
Programming for English Language Learners (ELL)	3.34
Social Studies	3.34
Health education	3.30
Programming for gifted & talented students	3.26
Business, Marketing & Entrepreneurship	3.23

How important is this item to the success of our students? (Slide 3/3)
Very important (4), Important (3), Somewhat important (2), Not important (1)

Item	Average
Advanced Placement (AP)/honors classes/International Baccalaureate (IB)	3.22
Physical education	3.21
Family & Consumer Science	3.15
Art	3.08
Athletics	3.00
Library media services	2.96
Music	2.96
Foreign language	2.76

How are we doing? (Slide 1/3)
Great (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)

Item	Average
Math	3.03
Science	2.99
Advanced Placement (AP)/honors classes/International Baccalaureate (IB)	2.98
Art	2.98
Library media services	2.95
Reading/Literature/Vocabulary	2.95
Computer and technology skills	2.95
Music	2.93
Social Studies	2.92

How are we doing? (Slide 2/3)
Great (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)

Item	Average
Physical education	2.91
Writing/Grammar	2.90
Business, Marketing & Entrepreneurship	2.88
Programming for English Language Learners (ELL)	2.87
Health education	2.86
Programming for children with disabilities	2.82
Family & Consumer Science	2.82
Athletics	2.79

How are we doing? (Slide 3/3)
Great (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)

Item	Average
Programming for gifted & talented students	2.78
Foreign language	2.77
School counseling	2.74
Critical thinking & problem solving	2.74
Preparing students for college and career	2.59
Programming for struggling students/at-risk of not graduating	2.52
Personal finance	2.51
Preparing students for life after high school	2.44

Gap Analysis (Slide 1/3)

Importance: *Very important (4), Important (3), Somewhat important (2), Not important (1)*
Performance: *Great (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)*

Item	Importance	Performance	Gap
Foreign language	2.76	2.77	0.01
Library media services	2.96	2.95	-0.01
Music	2.96	2.93	-0.03
Art	3.08	2.98	-0.10
Athletics	3.00	2.79	-0.21
Advanced Placement (AP)/honors classes/International Baccalaureate (IB)	3.22	2.98	-0.24
Physical education	3.21	2.91	-0.30
Family & Consumer Science	3.15	2.82	-0.33
Business, Marketing & Entrepreneurship	3.23	2.88	-0.35

Gap Analysis (Slide 2/3)

Importance: *Very important (4), Important (3), Somewhat important (2), Not important (1)*
Performance: *Great (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)*

Item	Importance	Performance	Gap
Social Studies	3.34	2.92	-0.42
Health education	3.30	2.86	-0.44
Programming for English Language Learners (ELL)	3.34	2.87	-0.47
Programming for gifted & talented students	3.26	2.78	-0.48
Science	3.51	2.99	-0.52
Math	3.60	3.03	-0.57
School counseling	3.42	2.74	-0.68
Computer and technology skills	3.65	2.95	-0.70

Gap Analysis (Slide 3/3)

Importance: *Very important (4), Important (3), Somewhat important (2), Not important (1)*
Performance: *Great (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1)*

Item	Importance	Performance	Gap
Reading/Literature/Vocabulary	3.69	2.95	-0.74
Programming for children with disabilities	3.58	2.82	-0.76
Writing/Grammar	3.66	2.90	-0.76
Programming for struggling students/at-risk of not graduating	3.49	2.52	-0.97
Critical thinking & problem solving	3.78	2.74	-1.04
Preparing students for college and career	3.66	2.59	-1.07
Personal finance	3.59	2.51	-1.08
Preparing students for life after high school	3.73	2.44	-1.29

All Schools Feedback (Combined)

All Schools

Strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Disagree (2), Strongly disagree (1)
(Slide 1/3)

Item	% Strongly agree/ Agree	Average (n)	Percentile
School facilities are clean and well-kept.	98%	4.38 (1491)	74
Parent/teacher conferences provide productive communication.	89%	4.10 (1592)	66
If my child breaks a rule at school, they are treated fairly.	92%	4.08 (1152)	66
The amount of homework given to my child is appropriate.	85%	3.89 (1564)	66
I feel comfortable sharing ideas with staff.	83%	3.88 (1478)	63
My child feels safe at school.	94%	4.22 (1578)	61
I am comfortable contacting the principal.	88%	4.07 (1532)	59
I have at least one school staff member I feel comfortable contacting when I have an idea or concern.	88%	4.16 (1619)	56
Teachers personalize instruction to meet my child's needs.	76%	3.72 (1513)	56
I am satisfied with how our school responds to reported incidents of bullying.	78%	3.76 (970)	55

All Schools

Strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Disagree (2), Strongly disagree (1)
(Slide 2/3)

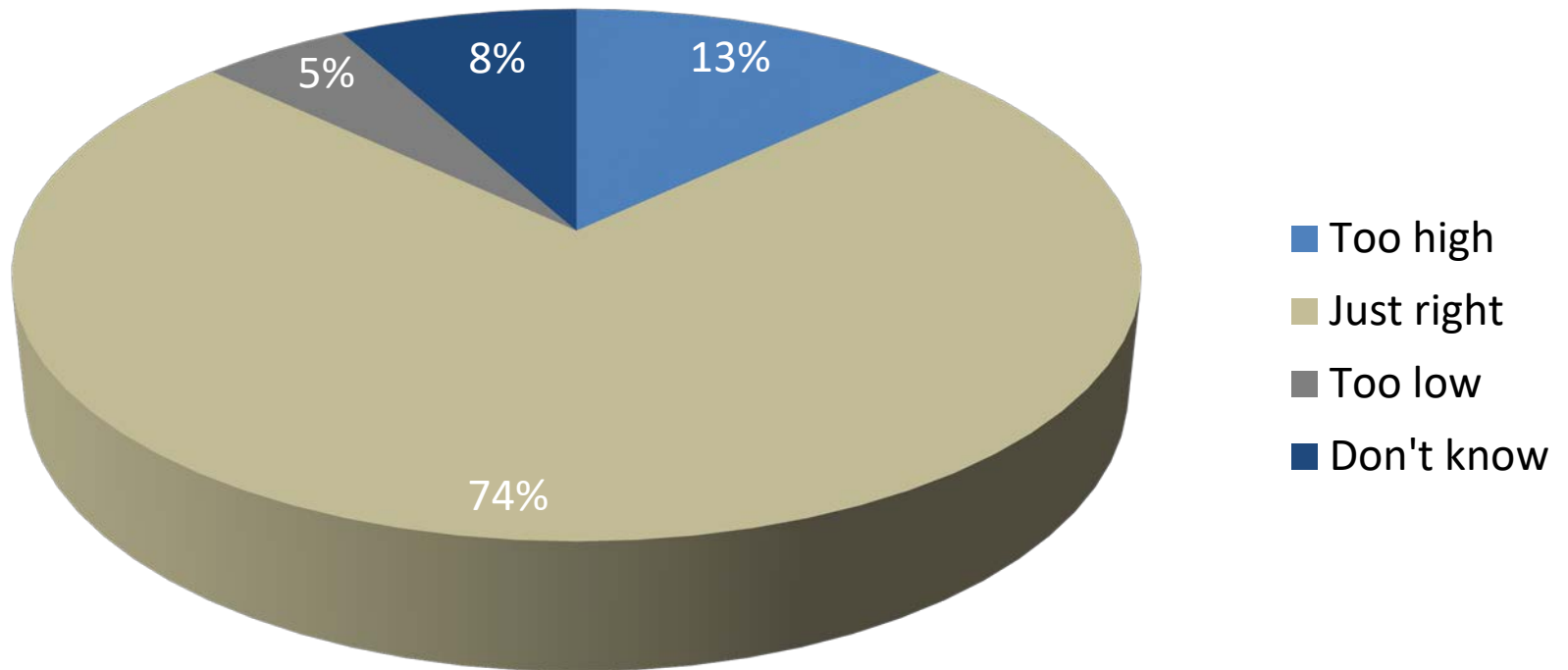| Item	% Strongly agree/ Agree	Average (n)	Percentile
There is a healthy culture at our school.	89%	4.06 (1479)	49
I receive enough information to understand my child's progress.	85%	3.94 (1653)	49
When my child has a problem at school, he/she knows how to get help.	84%	3.90 (1546)	46
I would recommend my child's school to a friend.	90%	4.12 (1560)	43
Even though I may not always agree with decisions, the principal is doing what it takes to make our school successful.	91%	4.13 (1477)	42
The school employs high-quality teachers.	93%	4.18 (1559)	41
The school has a culture of high expectations.	84%	3.90 (1473)	41
I believe the school staff inspires my child's best efforts.	87%	4.05 (1619)	37
I am satisfied with the communication that comes from the school.	84%	3.91 (1660)	36
School staff treats everyone with dignity and respect.	90%	4.12 (1514)	32

All Schools

Strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Disagree (2), Strongly disagree (1)
(Slide 3/3)

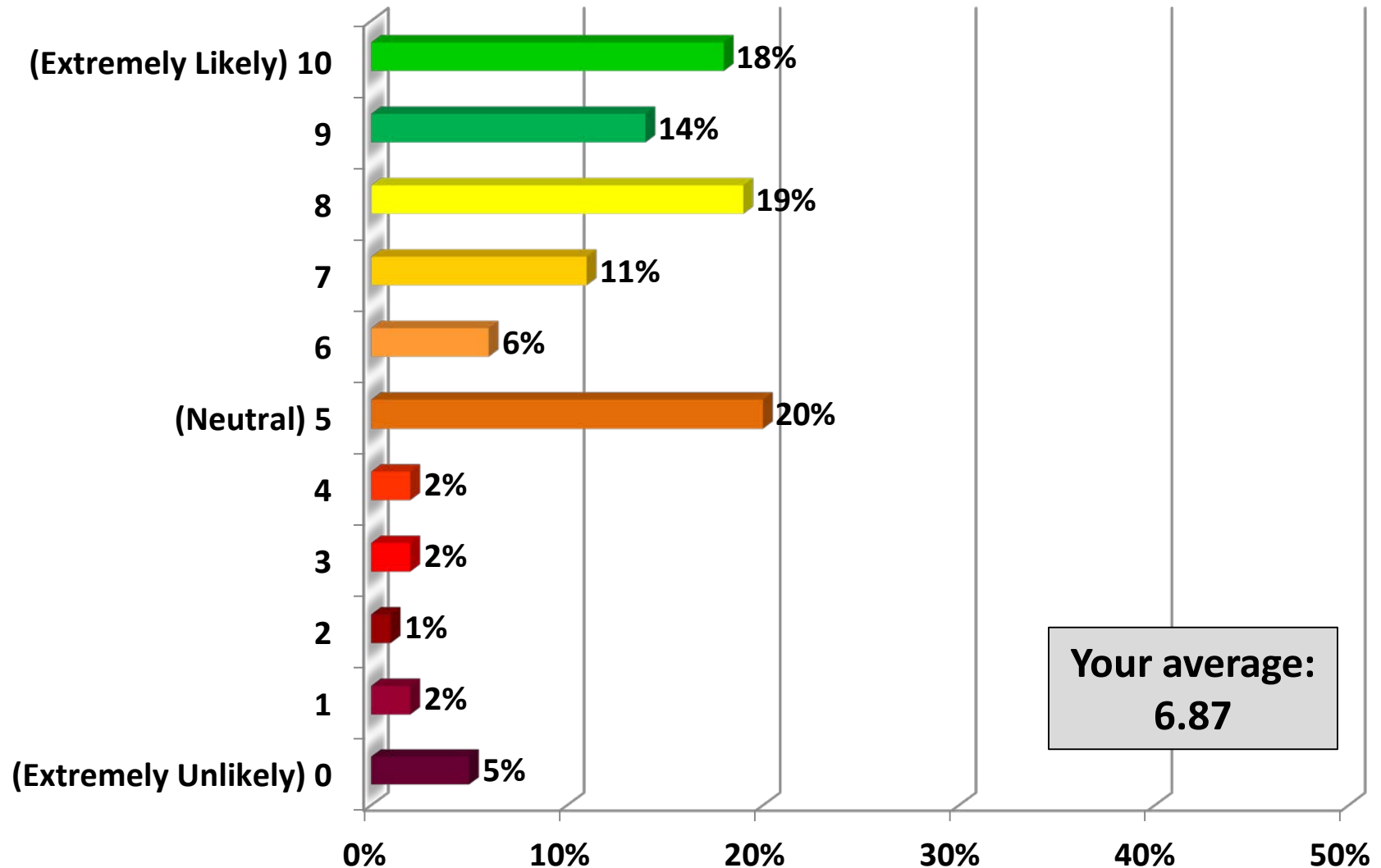| Item	% Strongly agree/ Agree	Average (n)	Percentile
I'm proud of our school.	91%	4.13 (1591)	30
A climate of openness and trust exists between school administration and parents.	84%	3.90 (1498)	30
My child is adequately prepared for the next grade level or college/career/life after high school.	82%	3.82 (1541)	30
Technology is used effectively to support teaching and learning.	89%	4.03 (1578)	26
My child enjoys going to school.	85%	3.98 (1635)	26
I feel welcomed at my child's school.	88%	4.07 (1569)	19
I feel my opinions are taken into consideration when it comes to school policy decisions.	63%	3.31 (1128)	19
I feel my culture and beliefs are represented in my child's school.	83%	3.87 (1328)	16
My school provides appropriate opportunities for parental involvement.	82%	3.84 (1527)	14
My child has a positive relationship with at least one adult at school.	96%	4.36 (1615)	11

Academic expectations at the District are:

- Too high — 3%
- Just right — 72%
- Too low — 16%
- Don't know — 9%
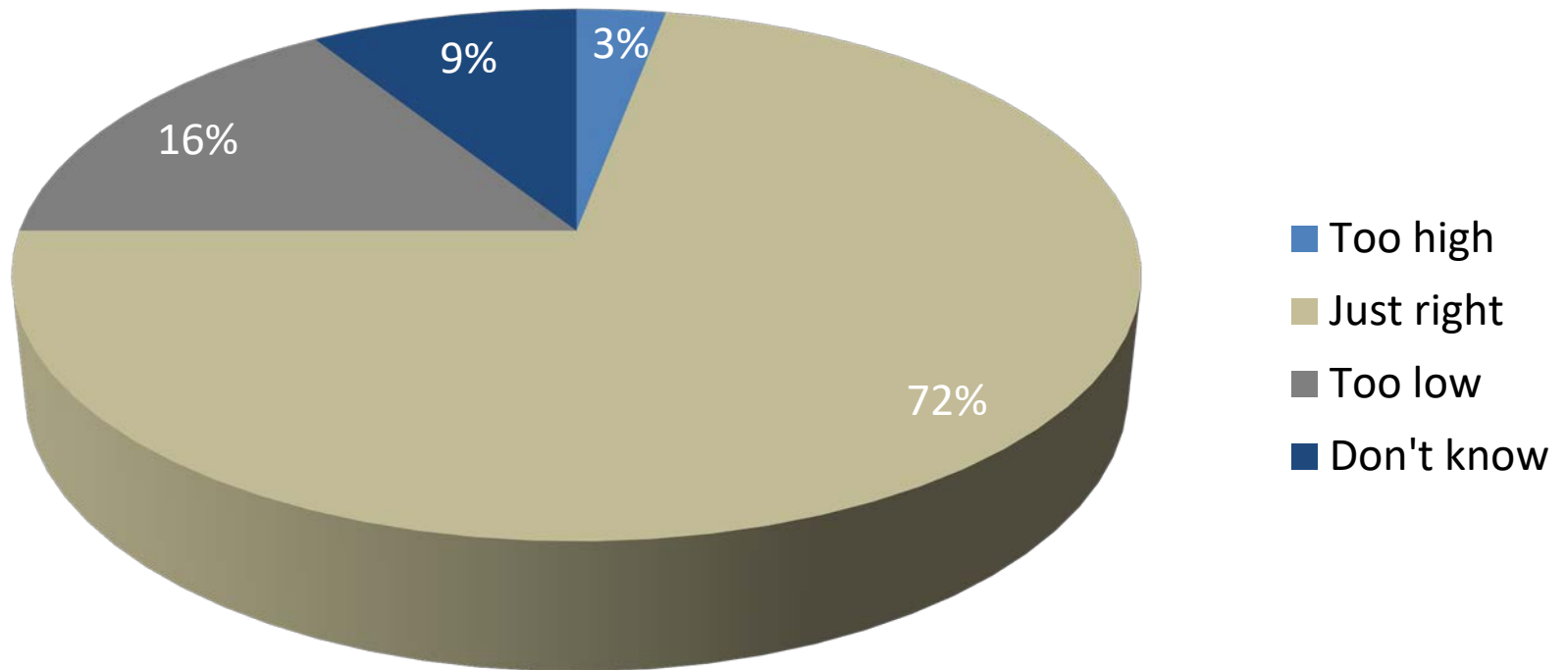
The overall use of technology at the District is:

13%

5%

8%

74%

■ Too high
■ Just right
■ Too low
■ Don't know

Overall District Satisfaction

How likely would you be to recommend the District to a friend or family member?

Rating	Percent
(Extremely Likely) 10	18%
9	14%
8	19%
7	11%
6	6%
(Neutral) 5	20%
4	2%
3	2%
2	1%
1	2%
(Extremely Unlikely) 0	5%

Your average: 6.87

Please indicate your level of agreement for each item.
Strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Disagree (2), Strongly disagree (1)

Item	% Strongly agree/ Agree	Average (n)	Percentile
The District has effective financial management.	68%	3.38 (808)	19
The District is heading in the right direction.	67%	3.36 (953)	16
I am satisfied with the communication that comes from the District.	80%	3.70 (1151)	14
The District is run effectively.	64%	3.28 (1053)	6
The District forms effective partnerships with businesses and community organizations.	79%	3.63 (709)	5

School Perceptions
Parent Engagement Indexes

There are 6 indexes of parent engagement. The Parent Engagement Survey has key questions that feed each one, thus, producing an index score. The score is the average of the responses from these key questions.

6 Indexes of Parent Engagement

1. **Culture of Educational Excellence:**
   a. Academic Expectations
   b. Rigor
   c. High Standards
   d. Relevance

2. **Effective Teaching:**
   a. Effective instructional techniques
   b. Individual attention to students
   c. Appropriate use of homework
   d. Collaborative/great teachers

3. **Safe and Healthy Schools:**
   a. Safe, supportive and healthy learning environment (no bullying)
   b. Appropriate balance between school stress and life balance
   c. Facilities
   d. Diversity

4. **Leadership:**
   a. Clear vision/mission
   b. Effective communication
   c. Good planning
   d. Well organized

5. **Sense of Community:**
   a. Pride/unity
   b. Strong student morale
   c. Opportunities for families prove input/feedback
   d. Family Involvement

6. **Equity:**
   a. Families and students treated with respect
   b. All values and beliefs are accepted
   c. Needed resources provided to all students
   d. Experiences and opportunities to grow provided to all students

How do your index scores compare to similarly sized schools?

Strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Disagree (2), Strongly disagree (1)

Index	Average (n)	Comparison	Percentile
Effective teaching	3.93 (1653)	3.91	53
Safe and Healthy Schools	4.27 (1615)	4.25	45
Leadership	3.96 (1660)	3.96	43
Equity	4.05 (1619)	4.09	41
Culture of Educational Excellence	3.97 (1619)	4.01	38
Sense of Community	4.05 (1619)	4.13	30