

# Family Engagement Survey

## Results and Analysis

Fairfax County Public Schools  
School Year: 2023-2024



# Purpose and Details of the Study

Research tells us that families have a major influence on their children's achievements in school and in life. Schools can improve school readiness, student achievement, social skills and behavior, and high school graduation rates by building partnerships with families, responding to their concerns, and honoring their contributions.

The Fairfax County Public Schools Family Engagement Survey asked parents/guardians for feedback on their involvement and engagement at their child's school.

K12 *Insight* partnered with division staff members to develop the survey, which addressed the following topics:

- Welcoming Environment
- Communication
- Student Success
- Advocacy
- Family and School Partnerships
- Collaboration With the Community

This survey was open from March 3 to April 3.

Email invitations with unique survey links were sent to parents/guardians. Reminders were sent throughout the survey window. Parents/Guardians also could participate via a public link on the division's website. Paper surveys were available on request. Parents/Guardians with children attending more than one division school could take the survey for each school.

The online and paper surveys, as well as the email invitations, were translated into Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Pashto, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

Survey communications noted multiple ways that families needing assistance in completing the survey could receive that support. With the help of school front office staff, family liaisons, FCPS family phone lines, community liaisons, family engagement paraprofessionals, and the FCPS Family Resource Center, more than 3,500 families were assisted.

This report summarizes survey results and compares them with those from 2021-2022 and 2018-2019.

The findings for each item exclude participants who did not answer. In charts and graphs, data labels less than 5 percent are not shown. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

# Method(s) of Data Collection

K12 Insight uses census sampling, which provides data reflective of all voices in the community and is considered to be the most accurate and robust method of data collection when conducting survey research. While all parents/guardians were invited to take the survey, not all participated. Statistical tests designed to infer the perceptions of a larger population from a smaller sample size are not appropriate; rather, descriptive statistics provide the most accurate representation of the data. Therefore, the findings herein cannot be generalized beyond the participants. Nevertheless, this study offers valuable insights into the perceptions of parents/guardians.

FCPS Demographics		Survey Demographics	
White	36.5%	White	48%
Hispanic	28%	Hispanic	19%
Asian	19%	Asian	22%
Black	9.8%	Black	10%
Other	6.6%	Other	9.3%

## Types of Data Collection:

- **Random Sampling:** Involves selecting a representative subset of the population. It's cost-effective, time-efficient, and practical for large populations but carries a risk of sampling errors.
- **Census Sampling:** Involves studying the entire population. It provides complete and detailed data without sampling error but is expensive, time-consuming, and often impractical for very large populations.

## Census sampling can be considered more accurate and robust than random sampling in several keyways.

- **Full Representation:** Census sampling includes every individual in the population, ensuring that all subgroups are represented.
- **No Sampling Error:** Since every individual is surveyed, there is no risk of sampling error, leading to more accurate and reliable data.
- **Granular Insights:** Provides detailed information about the entire population, enabling comprehensive analysis at both macro and micro levels. Allows for precise analysis of smaller subgroups within the population, which might be underrepresented in a sample.
- **Non-Response Bias:** With extensive efforts, non-response bias can be minimized since the goal is to reach everyone in the population. Since every individual is included, there is no selection bias, which can occur in random sampling if the sample is not perfectly representative.

# Participation

School Year	Responding Group	Number of Invitations Delivered (NMax)	Number of Responses (N)	Paper Surveys	Public-access Link Responses	Total Responses
<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>Parents/Guardians</b>	<b>190,474</b>	<b>15,475</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>10,410*</b>	<b>26,306</b>
2021-2022	Parents/Guardians	179,693	21,725	163	13,221	35,109
2018-2019	Parents/Guardians	164,384	21,393	295	7,571	29,259

## Language of Participation

	Amharic	Arabic	Chinese	English	Farsi	Korean	Pashto	Spanish	Urdu	Vietnamese
<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>22,104</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3,136</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>119</b>
2021-2022	124	297	278	27,856	57	933	10	5,372	30	152
2018-2019	2	211	264	26,355	41	592	—	1,664	26	104

\*Includes 1,411 responses from parents/guardians who took the survey again for a different school.

# Summary and Insights

## Feelings of Respect:

- 84% of participating parents/guardians indicated that they were respected or very respected at their child's school, which remained consistent with responses from the 2021-2022 school year (84%).
- 81% of participating parents/guardians indicated that their child was respected or very respected at their school, a 2 percentage-point decrease from the 2021-2022 school year (83%).

**Welcoming Environment:** Welcoming Environment had the highest dimension score (87%). The following items are among those with the highest agreement:

- 92% of participating parents/guardians said that they feel welcome at their child's school, up 3 percentage points from the 2021-2022 school year (89%).
- 92% of participating parents/guardians said that their child's school welcomes families of different backgrounds and cultures, up 2 percentage points from the 2021-2022 school year (90%).
- 89% of participating parents/guardians said that there is at least one caring adult at the school their child trusts and that their child enjoys going to school, up 2 percentage points from the 2021-2022 school year (87%).
- 87% of participating parents/guardians said school leaders make families feel welcome to actively participate in the community, up 7 percentage points from the 2021-2022 school year (80%).

## Communication:

- 89% of participating parents/guardians said information provided by their child's school is easy to understand, a 1 percentage-point decrease from the 2021-2022 school year (90%).
- 85% of participating parents/guardians said school staff keeps them informed of their child's progress, which remained consistent with responses from the 2021-2022 school year (85%).

# Summary and Insights

## Student Success:

- Fewer participating parents/guardians (67%) said they received enough information about what they can do at home to support their child with mental health and wellness, up 1 percentage point from the 2021-2022 school year (66%).
- 66% of participating parents/guardians said they received enough information about what they can do at home to help their child improve their learning, a consistent response to the 2021-2022 school year (66%).

## Advocacy:

- 88% of participating parents/guardians said their child's school recognizes and respects families' cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity, up 2 percentage points from the 2021-2022 school year (86%).
- All items in this dimension had high percentages of Don't Know responses, ranging from 8% to 39%.

## Family and School Partnerships:

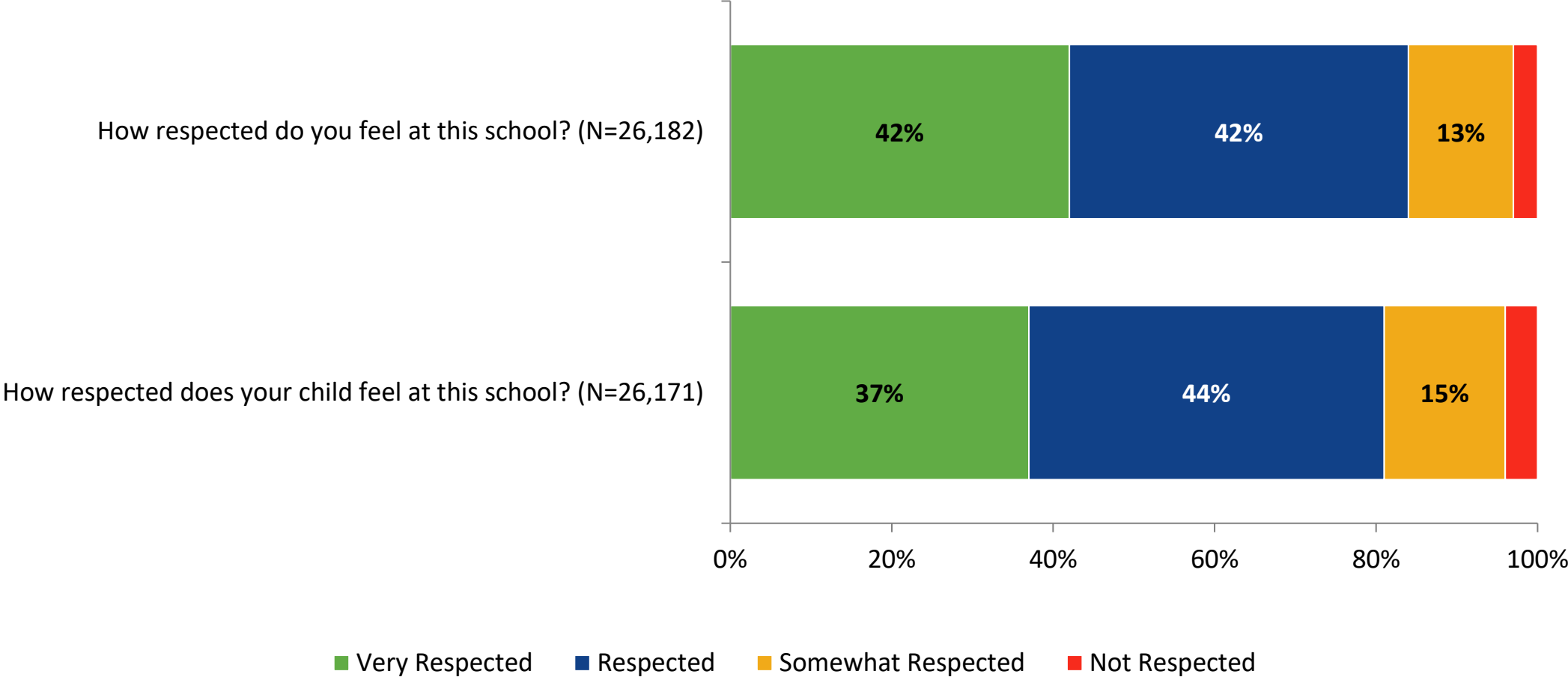
- 83% of participating parents/guardians said there are opportunities for them to volunteer at their child's school, up 11 percentage points from the 2021-2022 school year (72%).

## Collaboration With the Community:

- Fewer participating parents/guardians said their child's school provides them with opportunities to connect with other families (59%). However, that was an 8 percentage-point increase from 2021-2022 (51%).
- 70% of participating parents/guardians said they receive enough information from their child's school about community services to help families, up 3 percentage points from the 2021-2022 school year (67%).

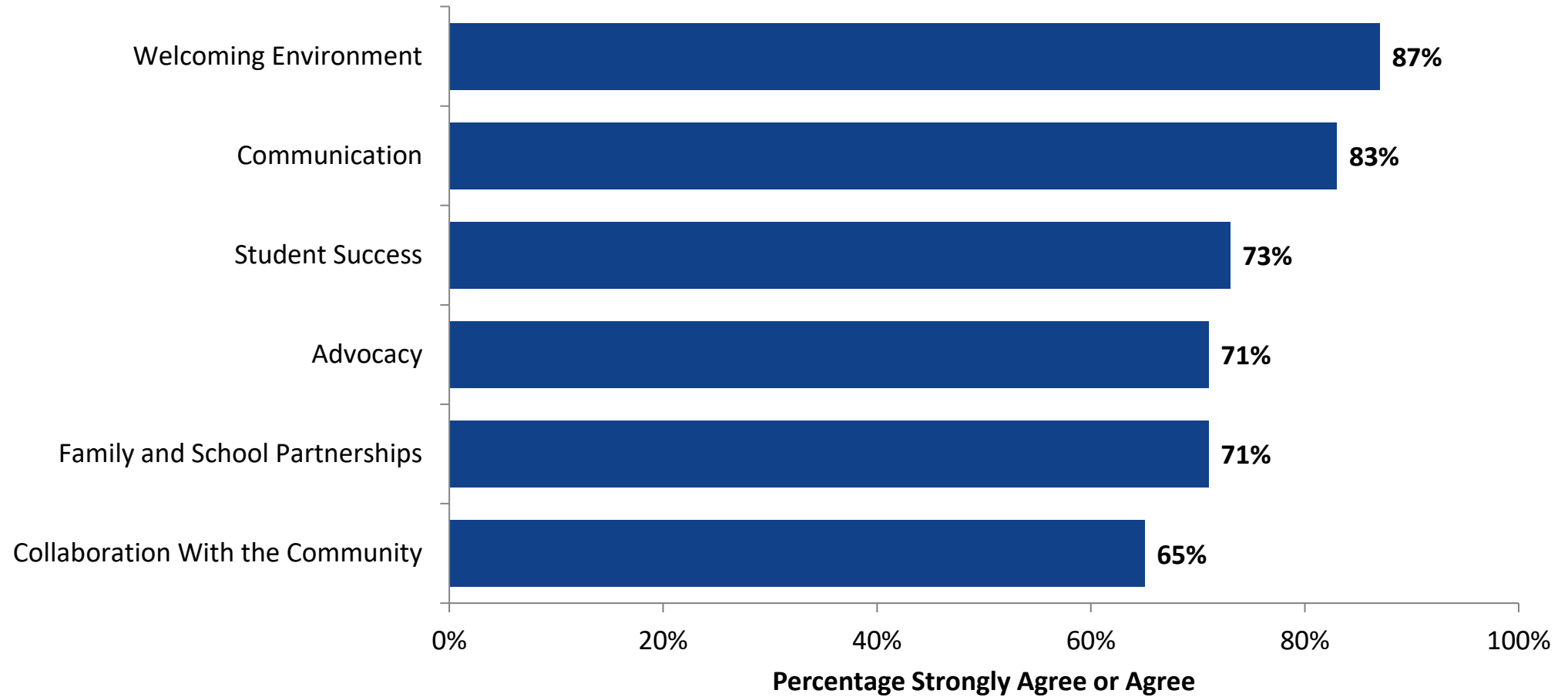
# Findings

# Feelings of Respect





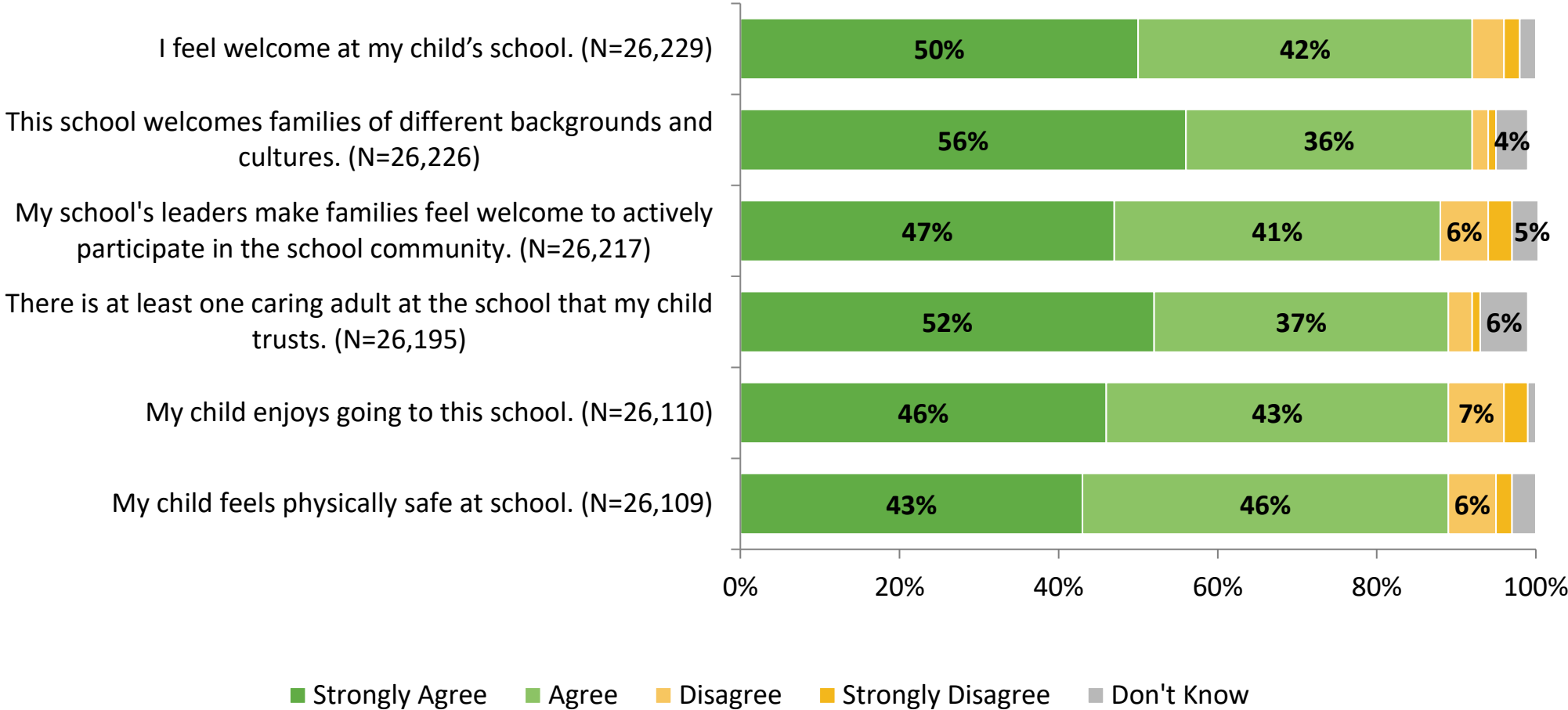
# Dimension Scores



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know  
Note: This graph shows Strongly Agree or Agree responses for all items within each dimension.

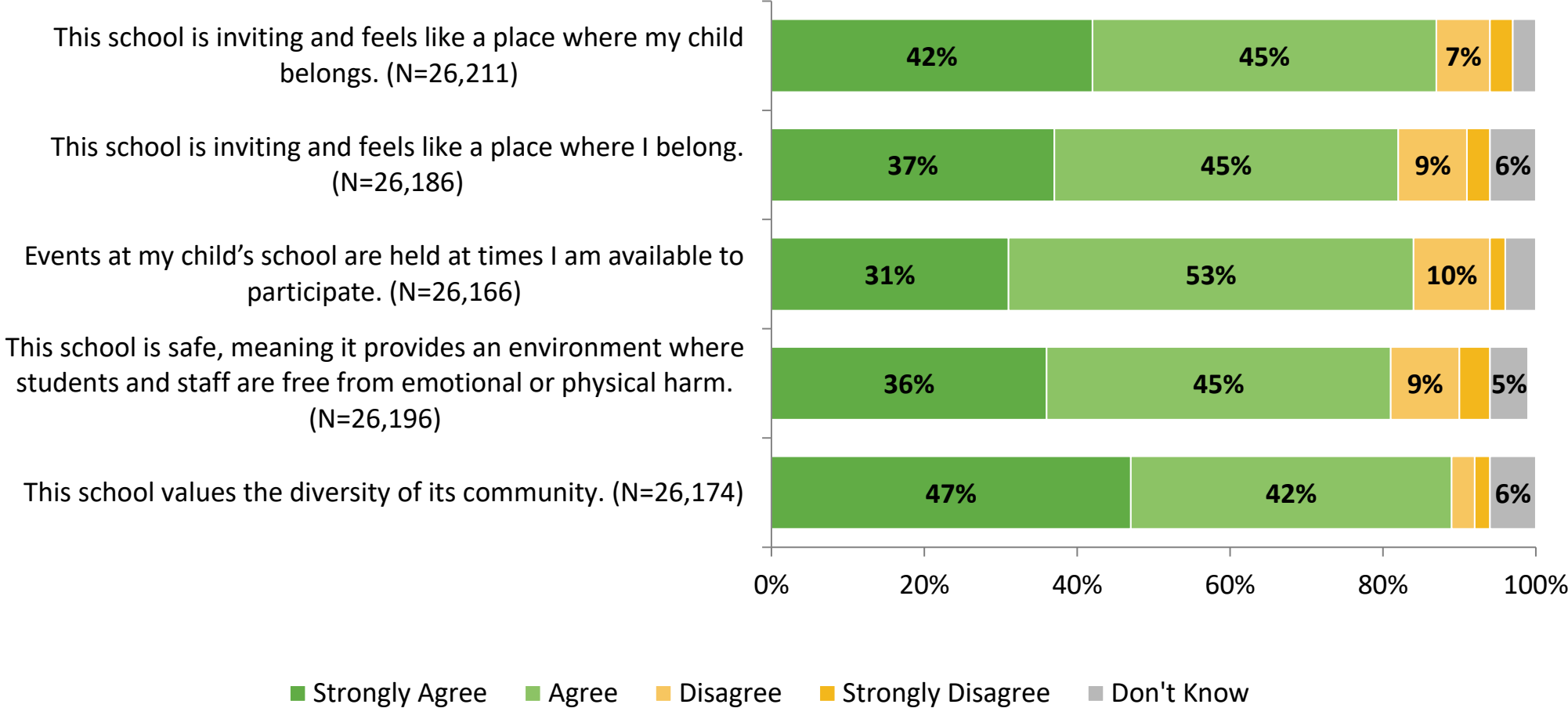
# Welcoming Environment

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



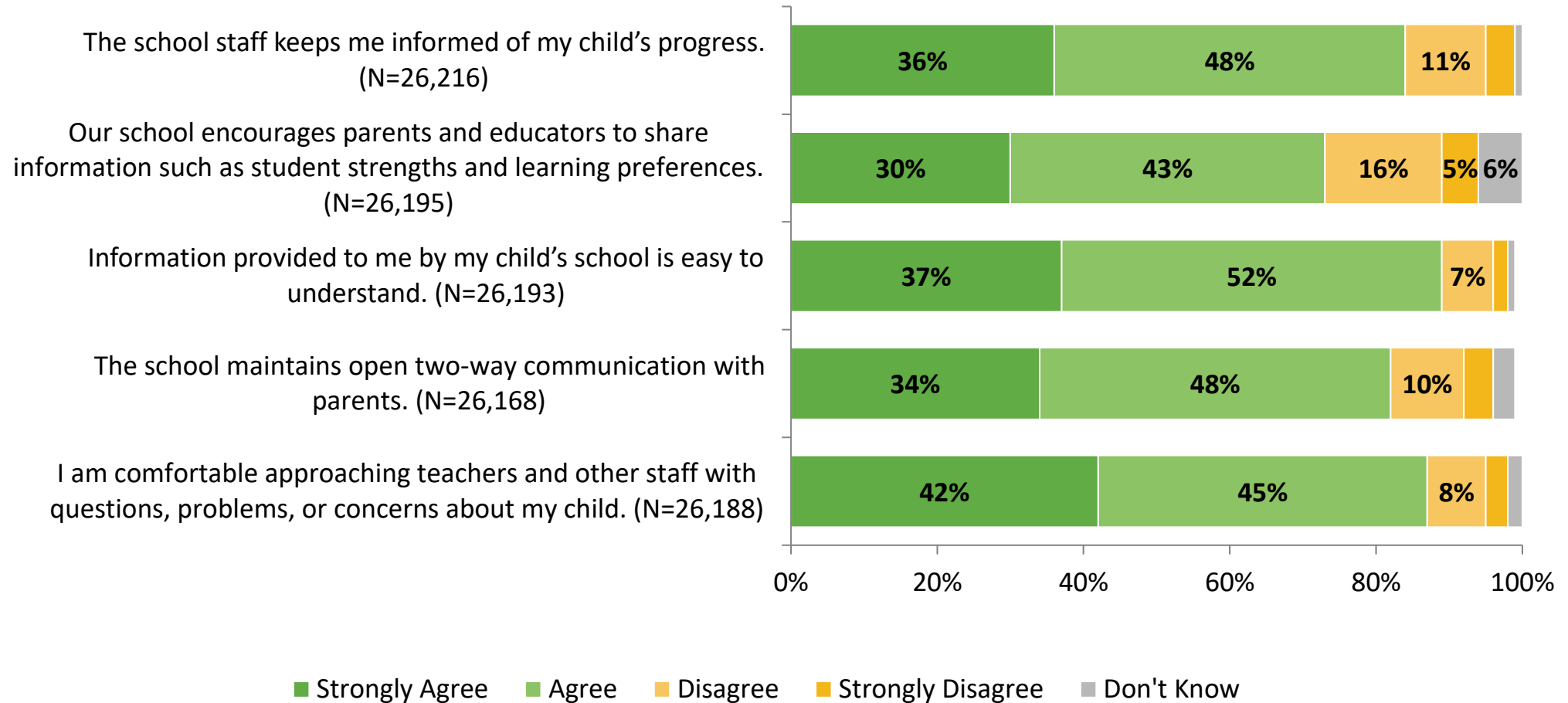
# Welcoming Environment (Continued)

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



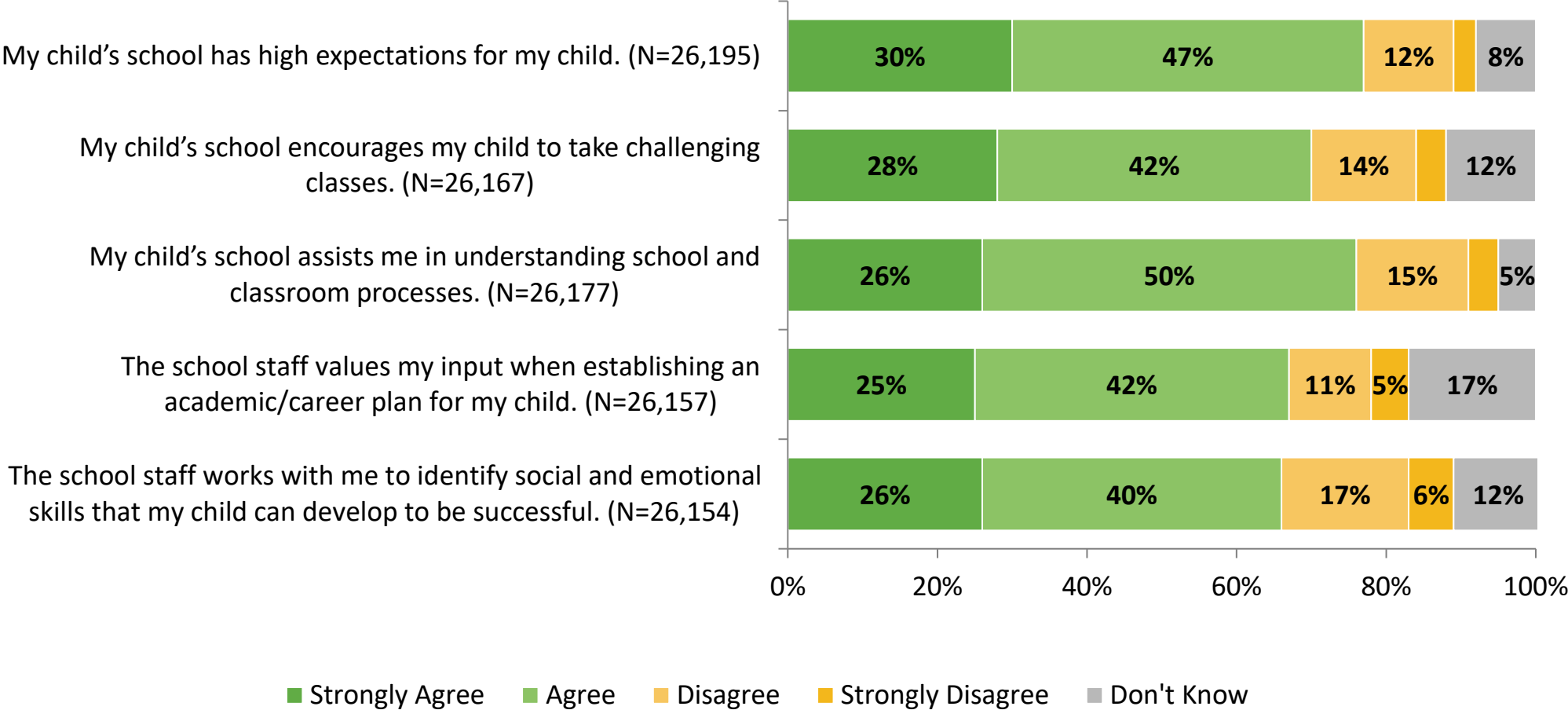
# Communication

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



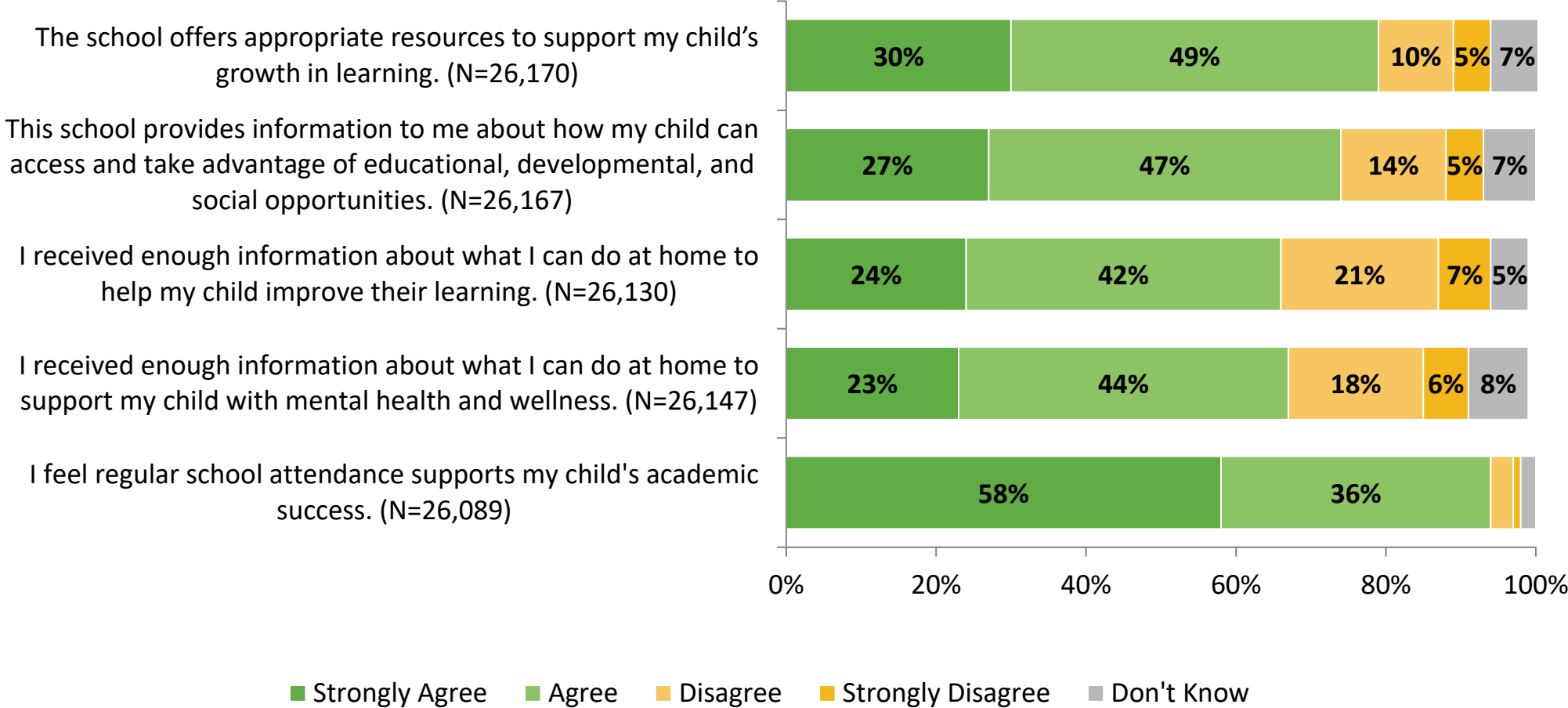
# Student Success

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



# Student Success (Continued)

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



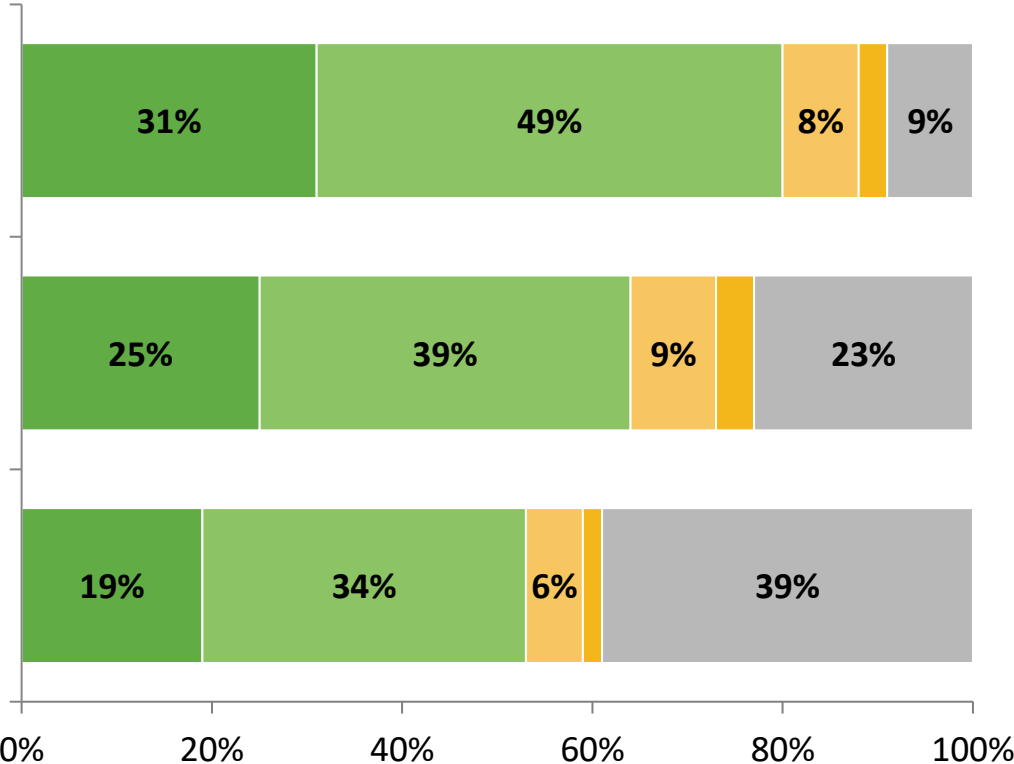
# Advocacy

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

I feel comfortable with information and support from my child's school when expected transitions occur in my child's life (for example, starting school, school to school, or grade to grade). (N=26,151)

I feel comfortable with information and support from my child's school when unexpected transitions occur in my child's life (for example, illness, moving, experiencing loss, etc.). (N=26,130)

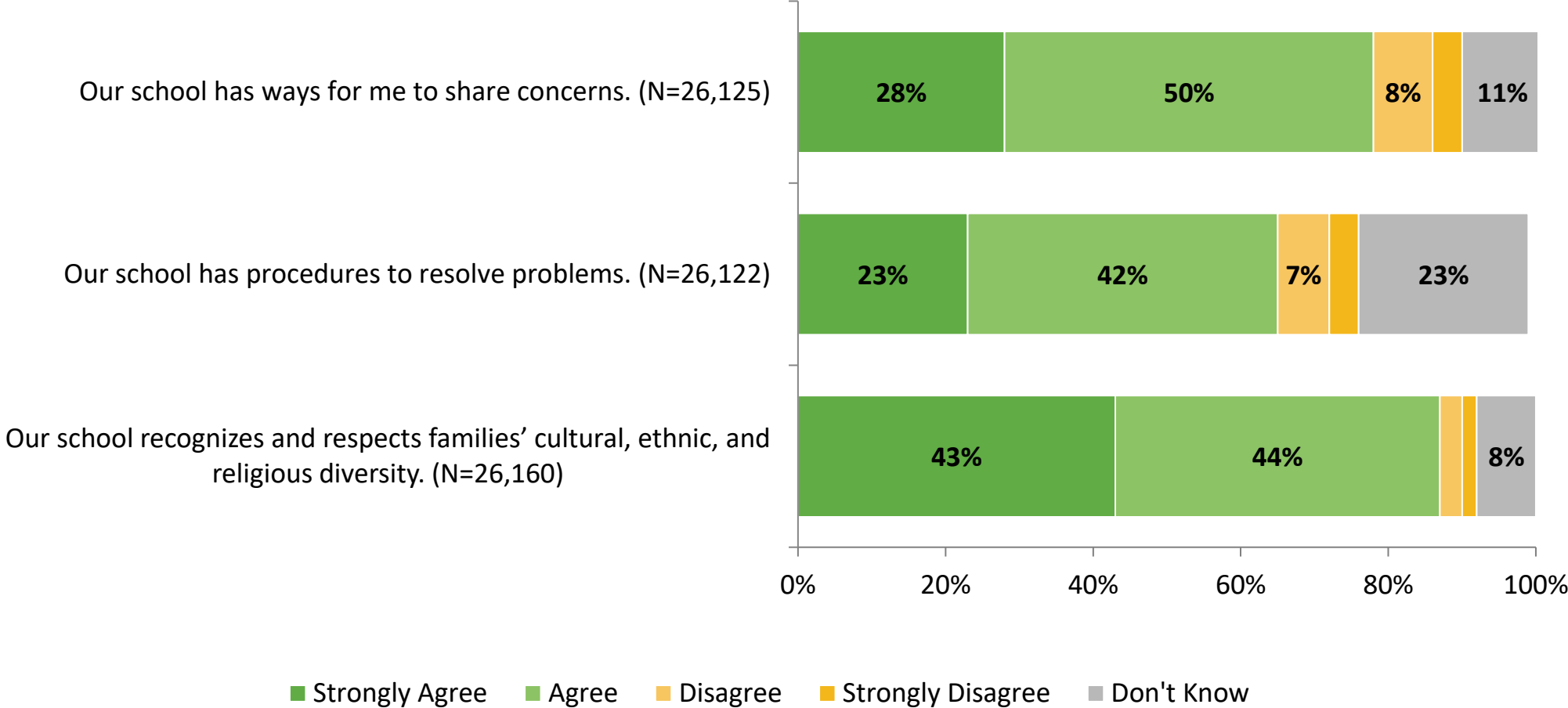
Workshops for families offered through my child's school are informative. (N=26,102)



Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

# Advocacy (Continued)

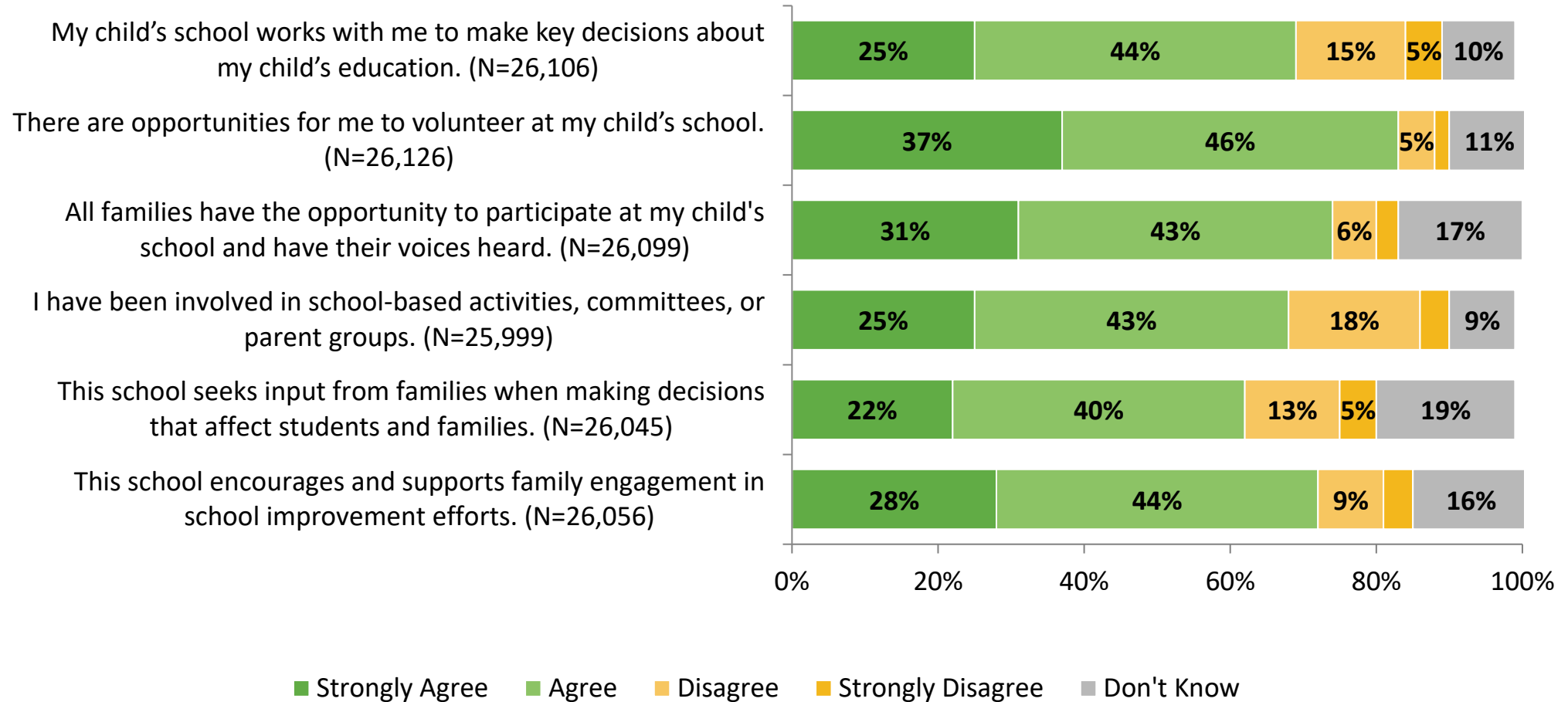
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?





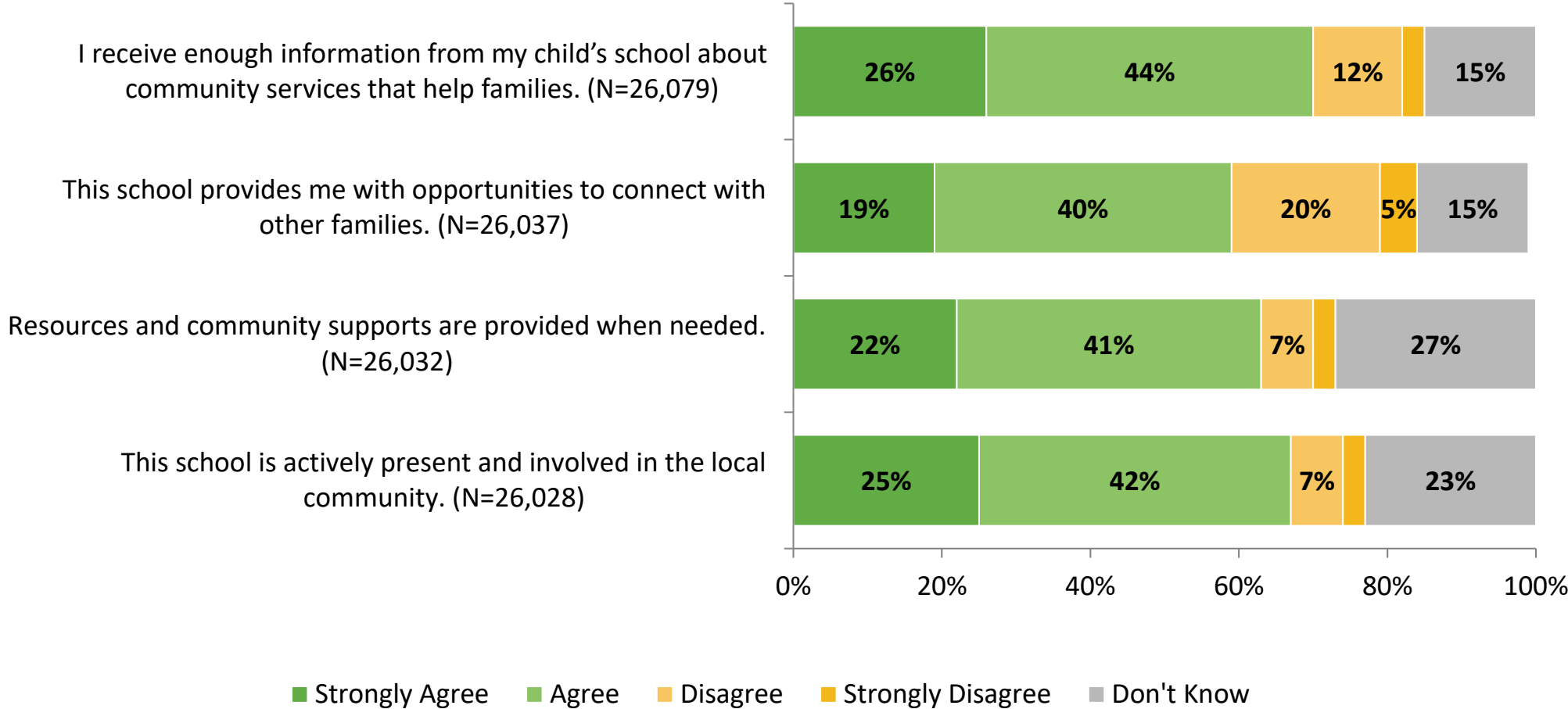
# Family and School Partnerships

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



# Collaboration With the Community

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



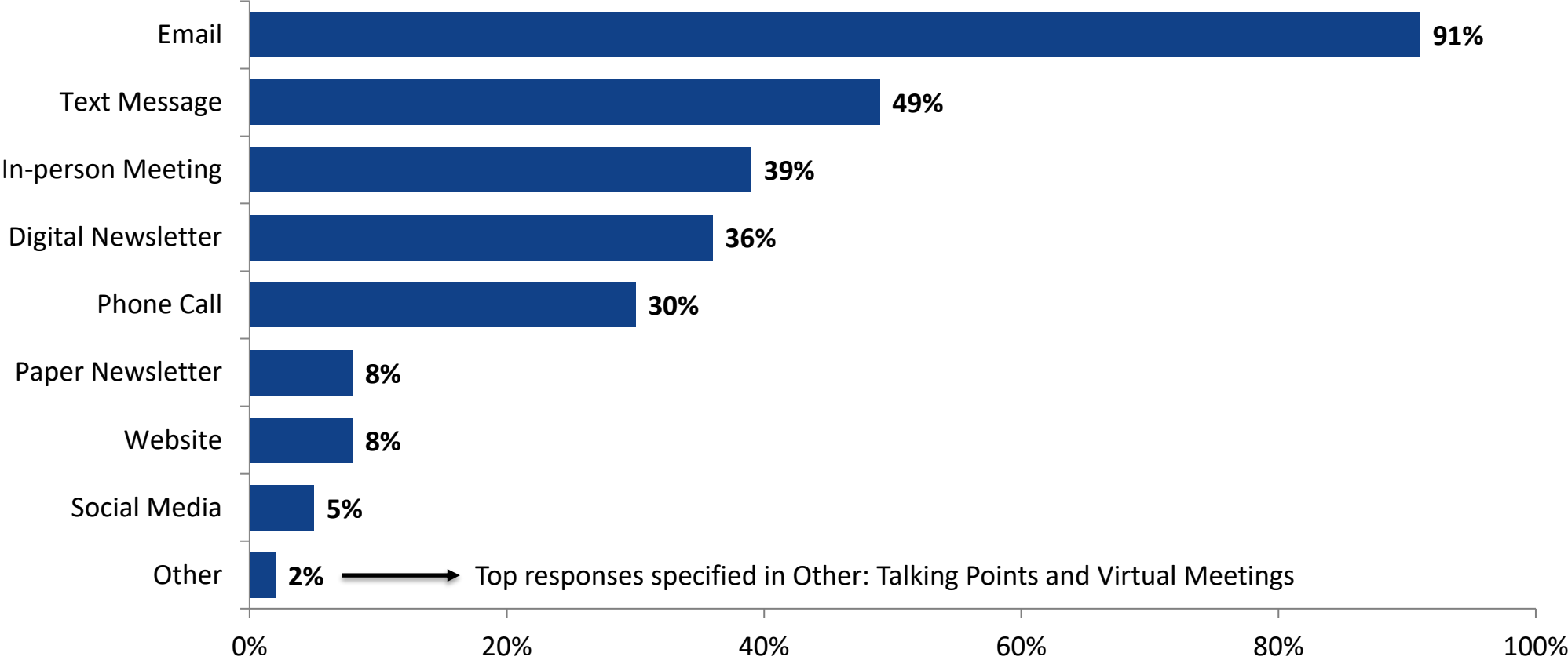
# Highest- and Lowest- ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	Dimension
I feel regular school attendance supports my child's academic success.	94%	Student Success
I feel welcome at my child's school.	92%	Welcoming Environment
This school welcomes families of different backgrounds and cultures.	92%	Welcoming Environment
There is at least one caring adult at the school that my child trusts.	89%	Welcoming Environment
My child enjoys going to this school.	89%	Welcoming Environment

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	Dimension
I received enough information about what I can do at home to help my child improve their learning.	28%	Student Success
This school provides me with opportunities to connect with other families.	25%	Collaboration With the Community
I received enough information about what I can do at home to support my child with mental health and wellness.	24%	Student Success
The school staff works with me to identify social and emotional skills that my child can develop to be successful.	23%	Student Success
I have been involved in school-based activities, committees, or parent groups.	22%	Family and School Partnerships

# Preferred Communication Methods

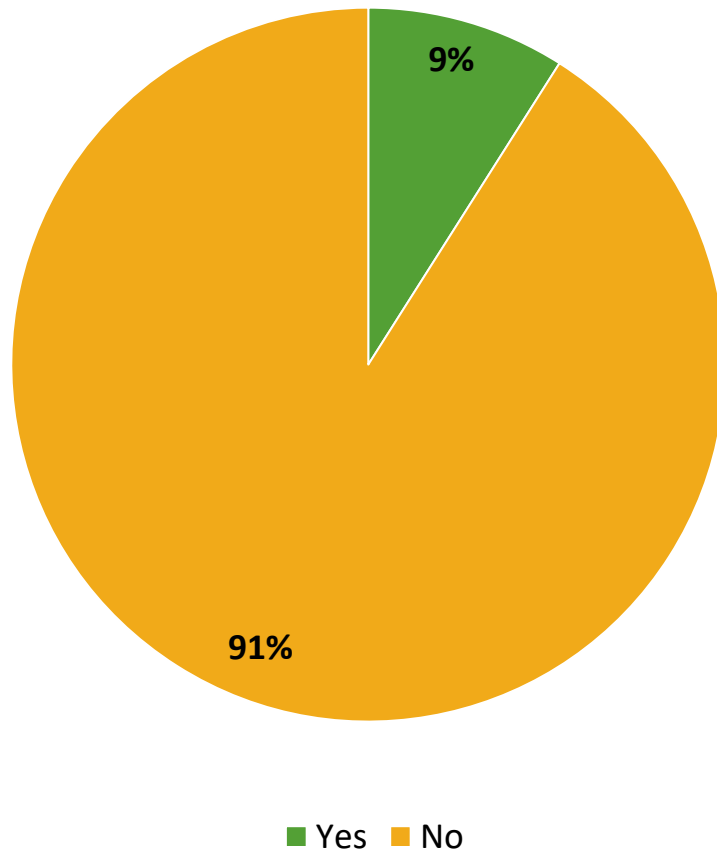
How do you prefer to receive information from your child's school? Please select up to three answers. (N=26,171)



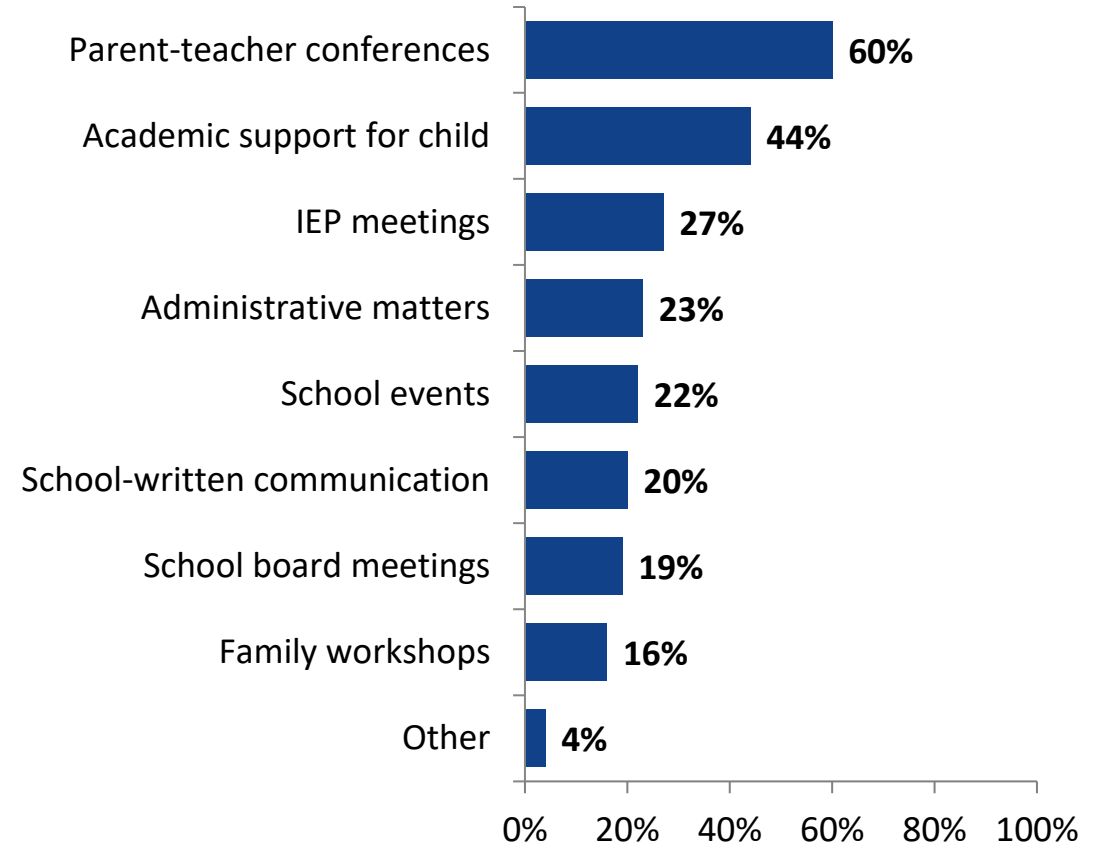
Note: The sum may exceed 100 percent since participants could select up to three answers.

# Interpretation Services

Have you required interpretation services (for example, interpreters, American Sign Language, audio support, etc.)? (N=26,177)



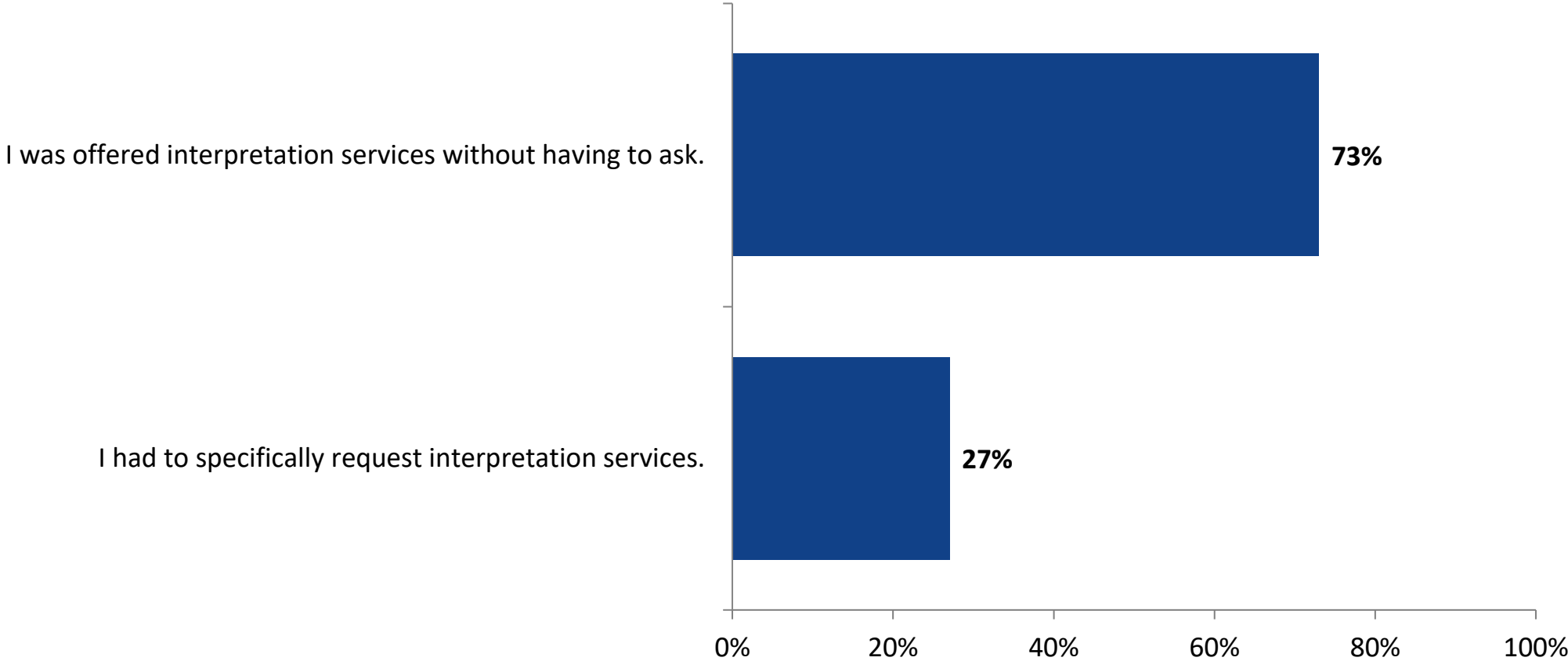
Where/When have you needed interpretation services? Select all that apply. (N=2,377)



Notes: Only parents/guardians who said they required interpretation services answered this question. The sum may exceed 100 percent since participants could select more than one answer.

# Interpretation Services (Continued)

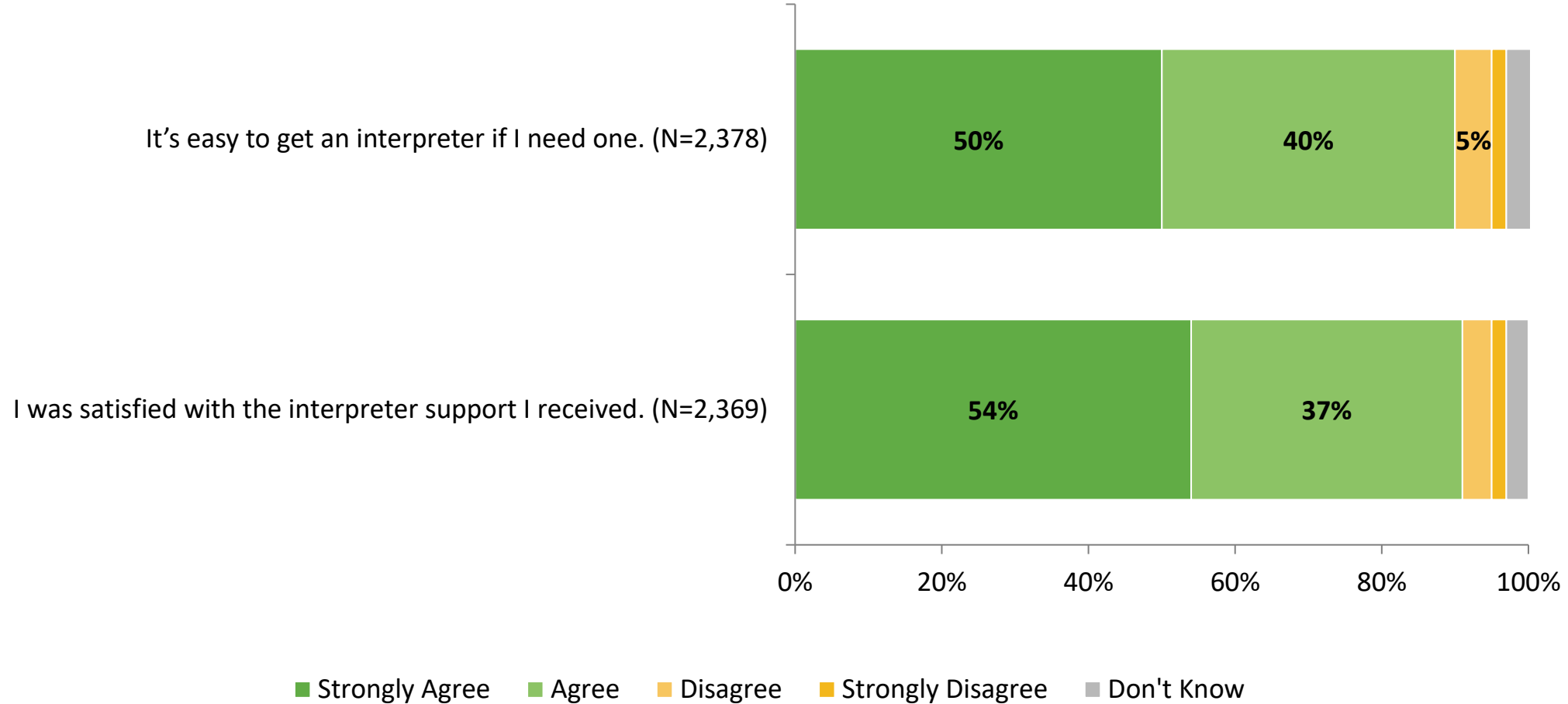
In situations where you received interpretation services, which of the following statements best applies to you? (N=2,343)



Note: Only parents/guardians who said they required interpretation services answered this question.

# Interpretation Services (Continued)

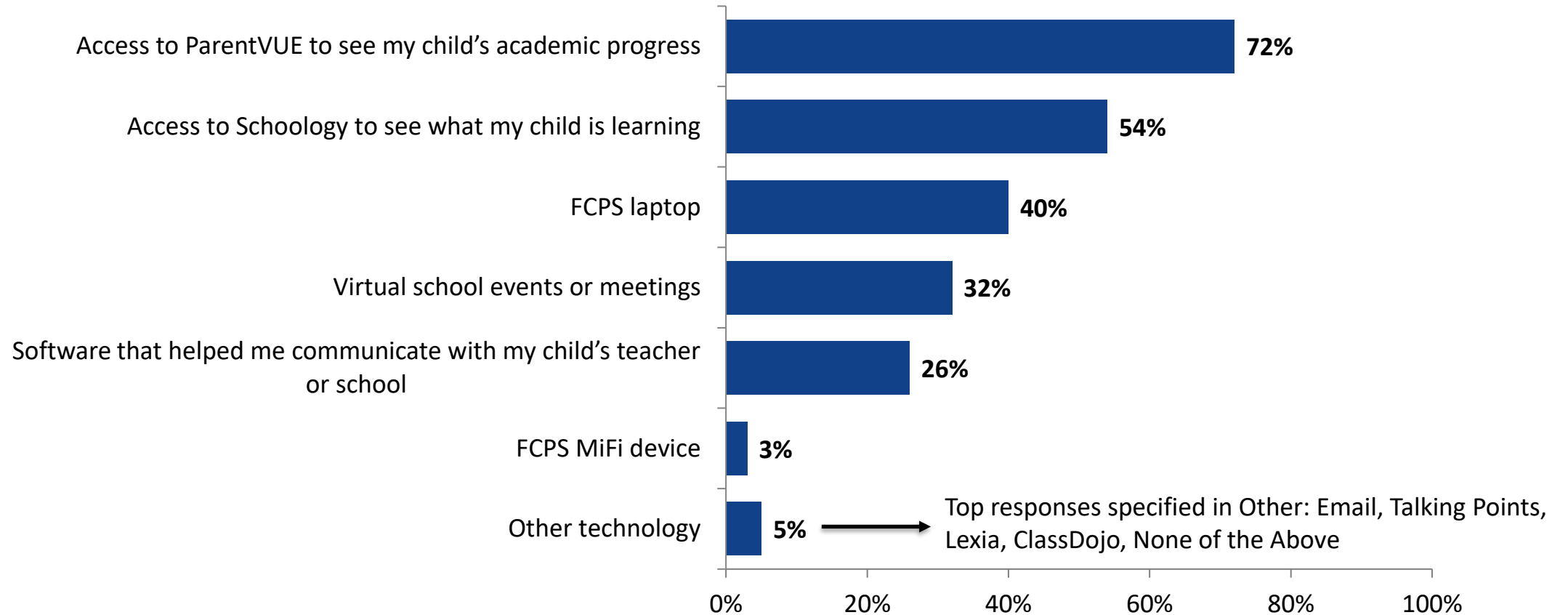
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Note: Only parents/guardians who said they required interpretation services answered this question.

# Engagement Assistance

Which of the following helped you engage in your child's education? (N=24,341)

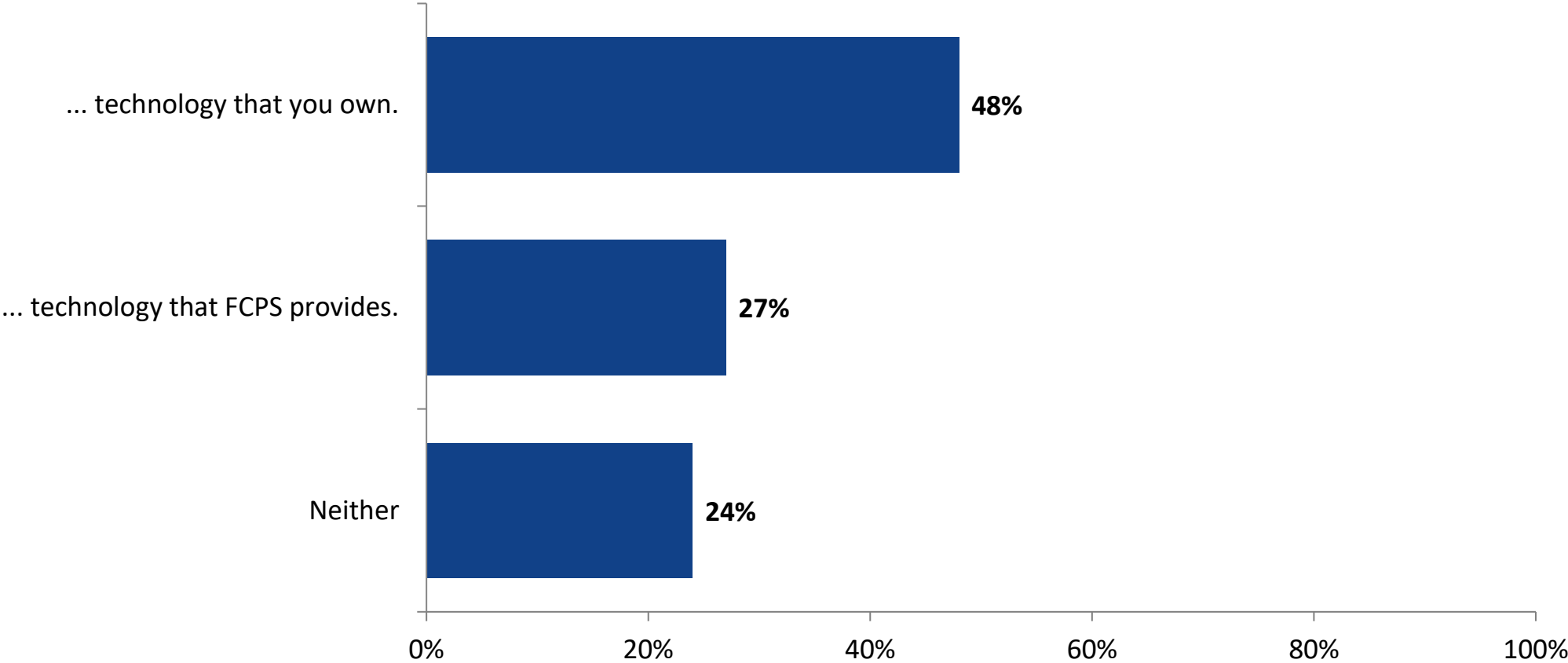


Note: The sum may exceed 100 percent since participants could select more than one answer.



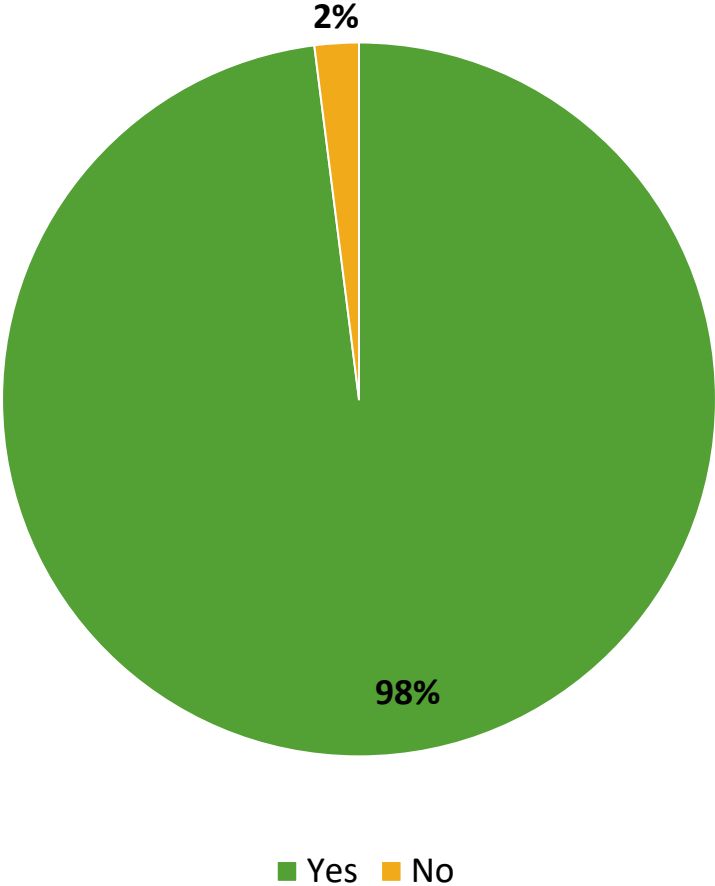
# Engagement and Technology

Thinking about your ability to engage in your child’s education this school year, was your engagement improved by ... (N=25,754)



# Home Internet Access

Do you have regular access to the Internet? (N=26,133)



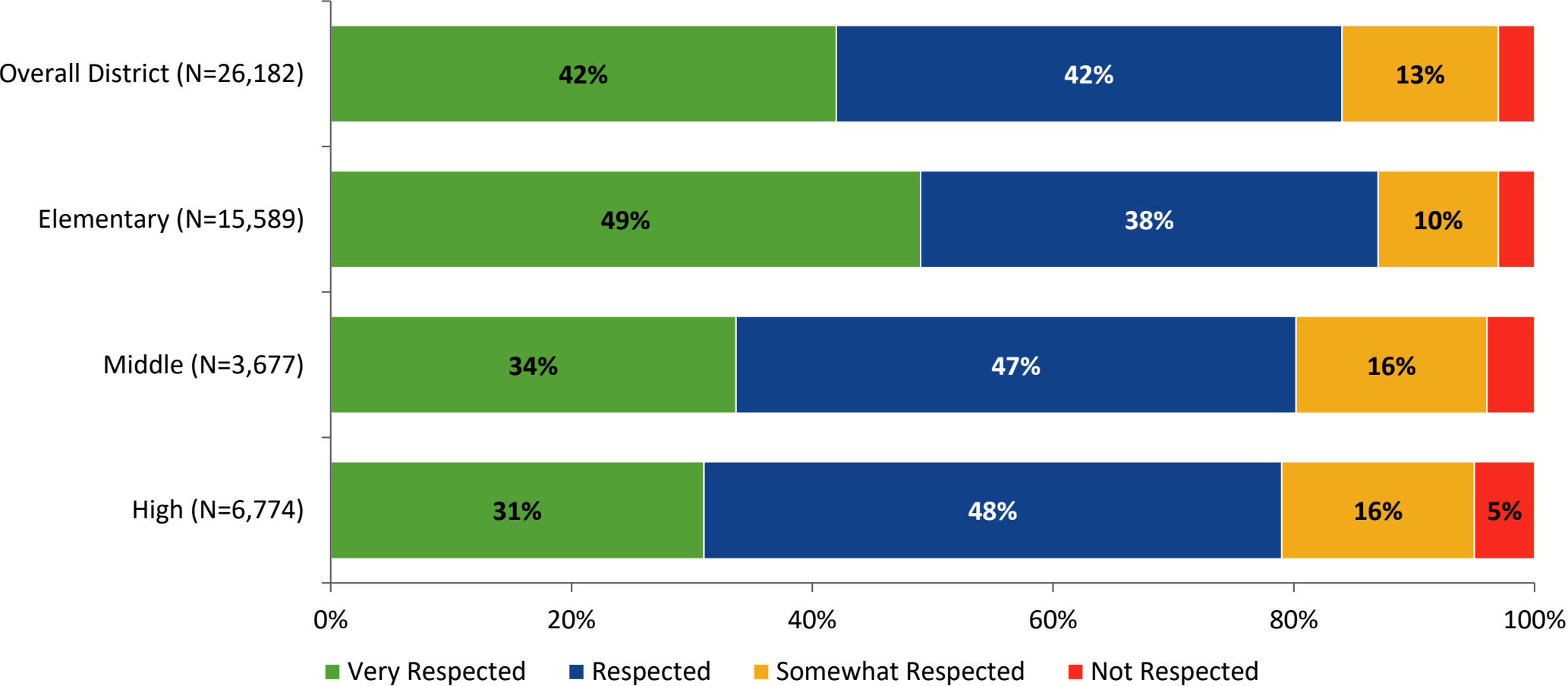


# Comparisons by School Level



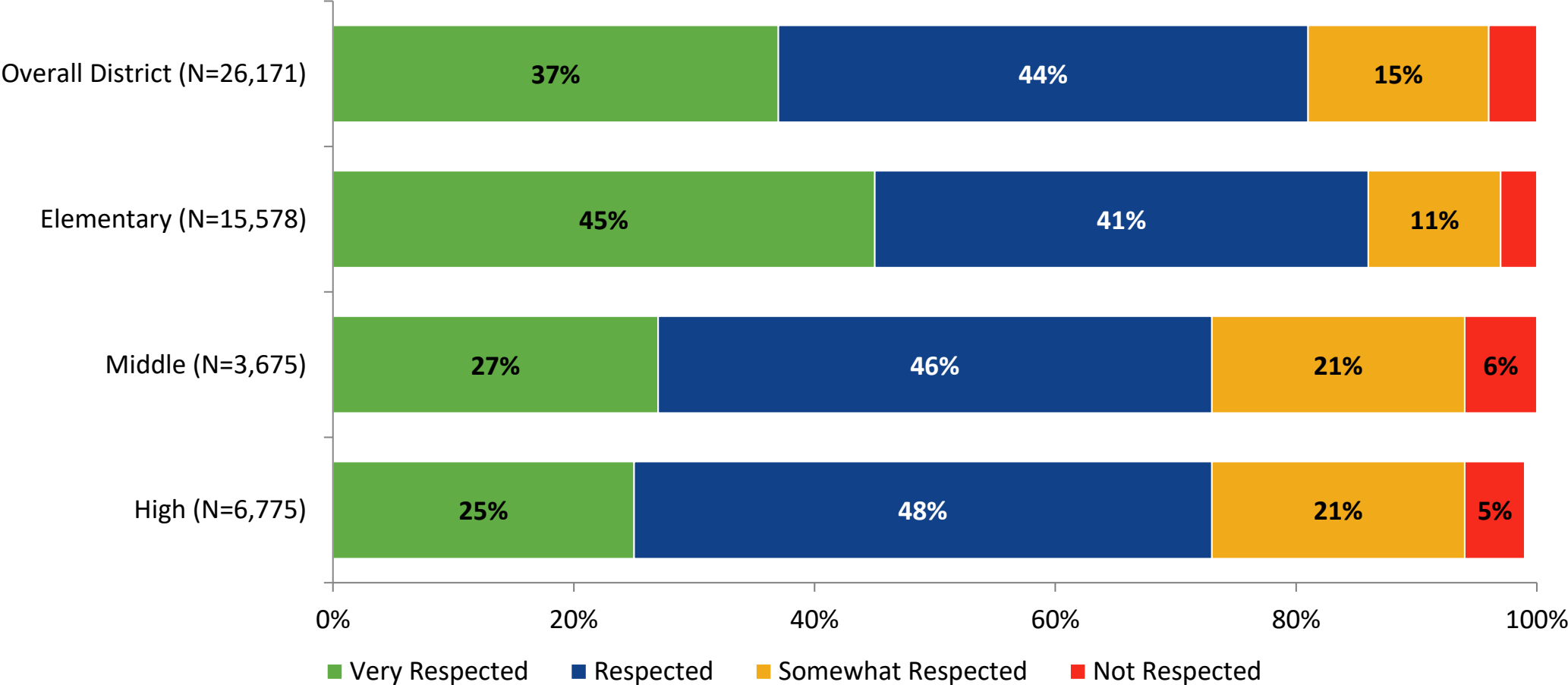
# Feelings of Respect: Comparison by School Level

How respected do you feel at this school?

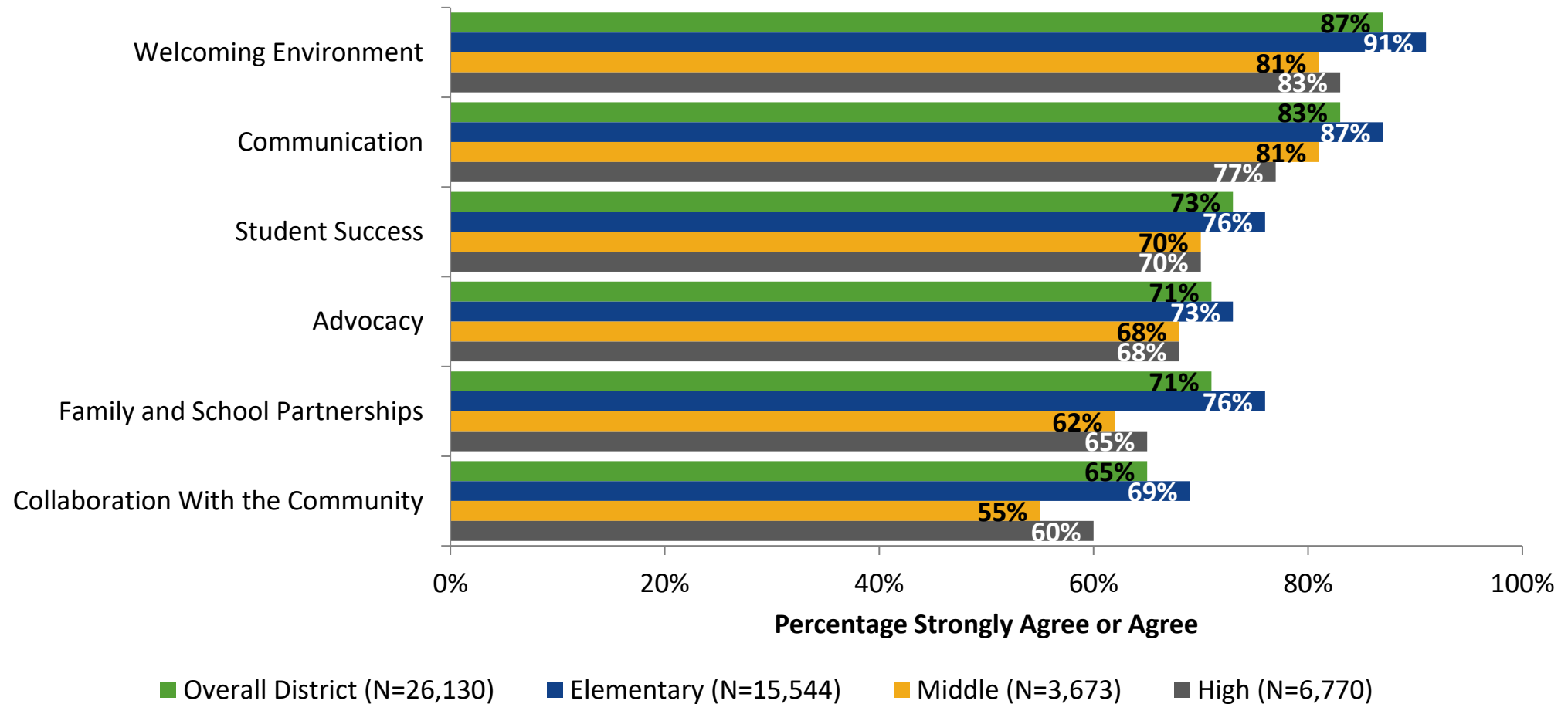


# Feelings of Respect: Comparison by School Level (Continued)

How respected does your child feel at this school?



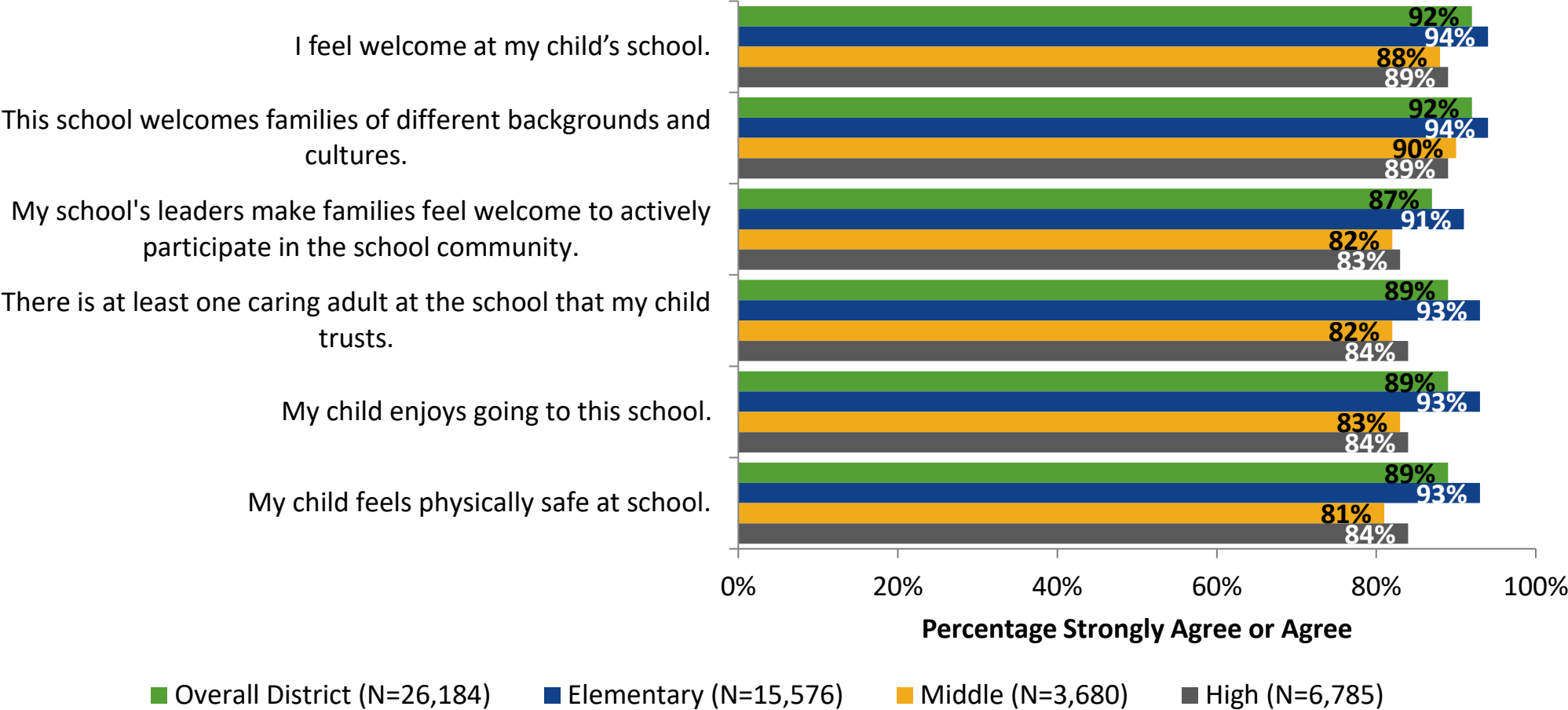
# Dimension Scores: Comparison by School Level



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know  
 Note: This graph shows Strongly Agree or Agree responses for all items within each dimension.

# Welcoming Environment: Comparison by School Level

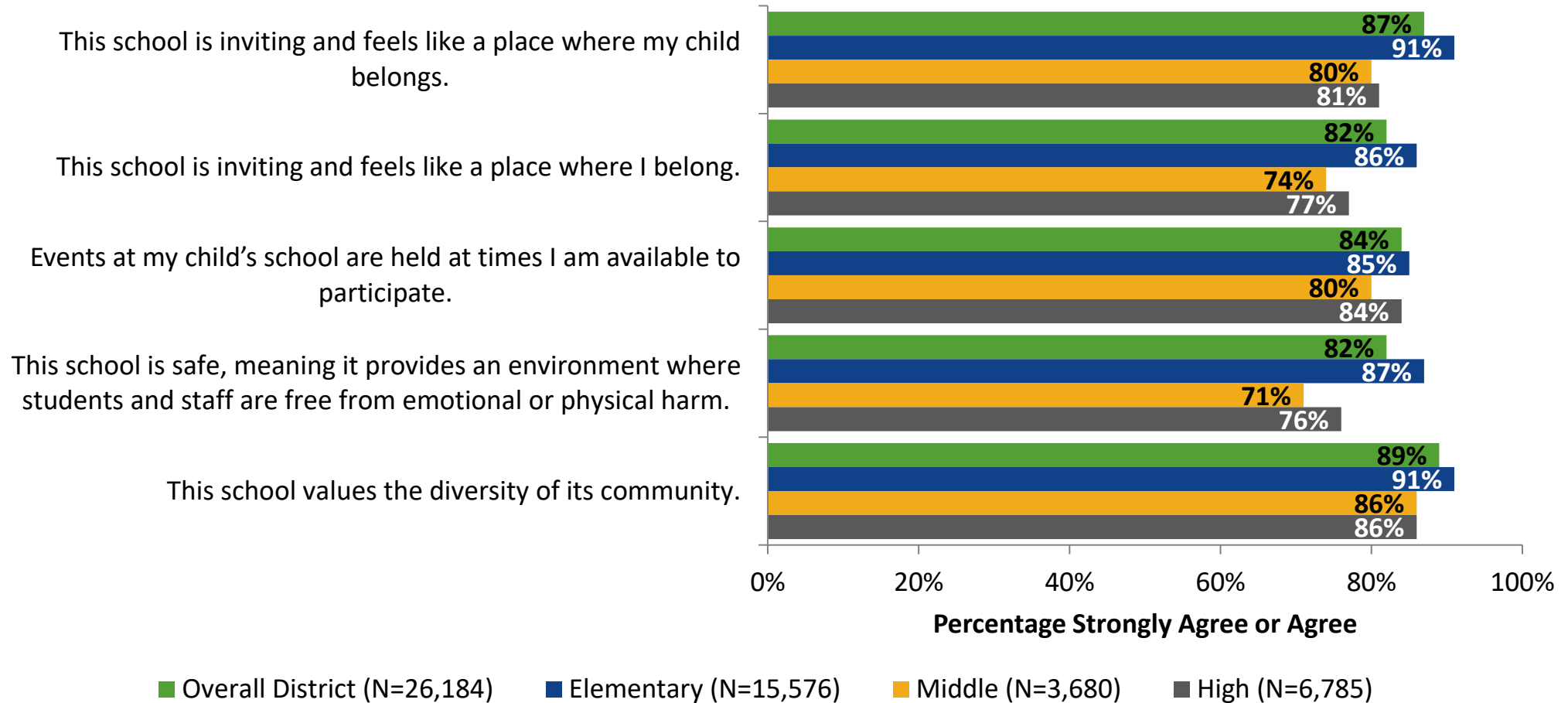
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know

# Welcoming Environment: Comparison by School Level (Continued)

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

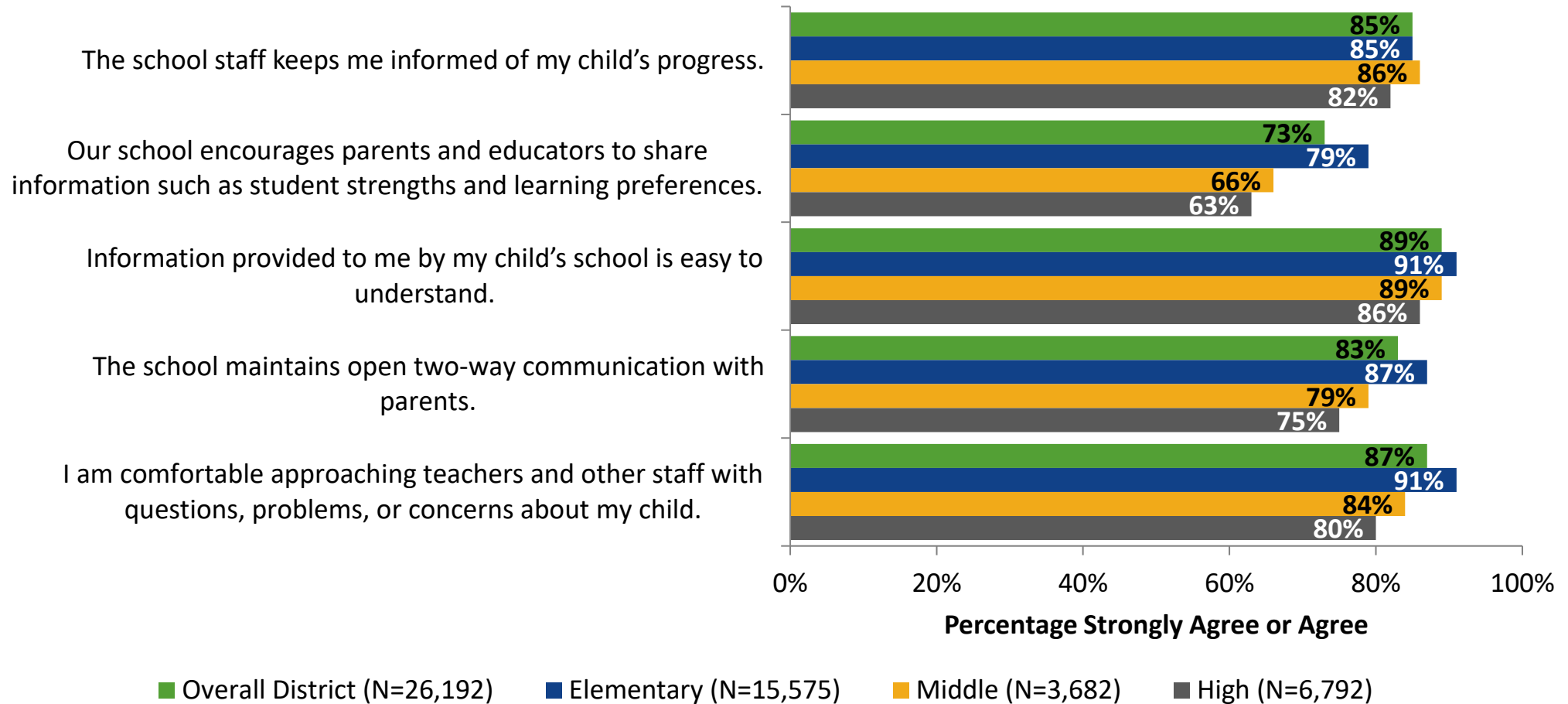


Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know



# Communication: Comparison by School Level

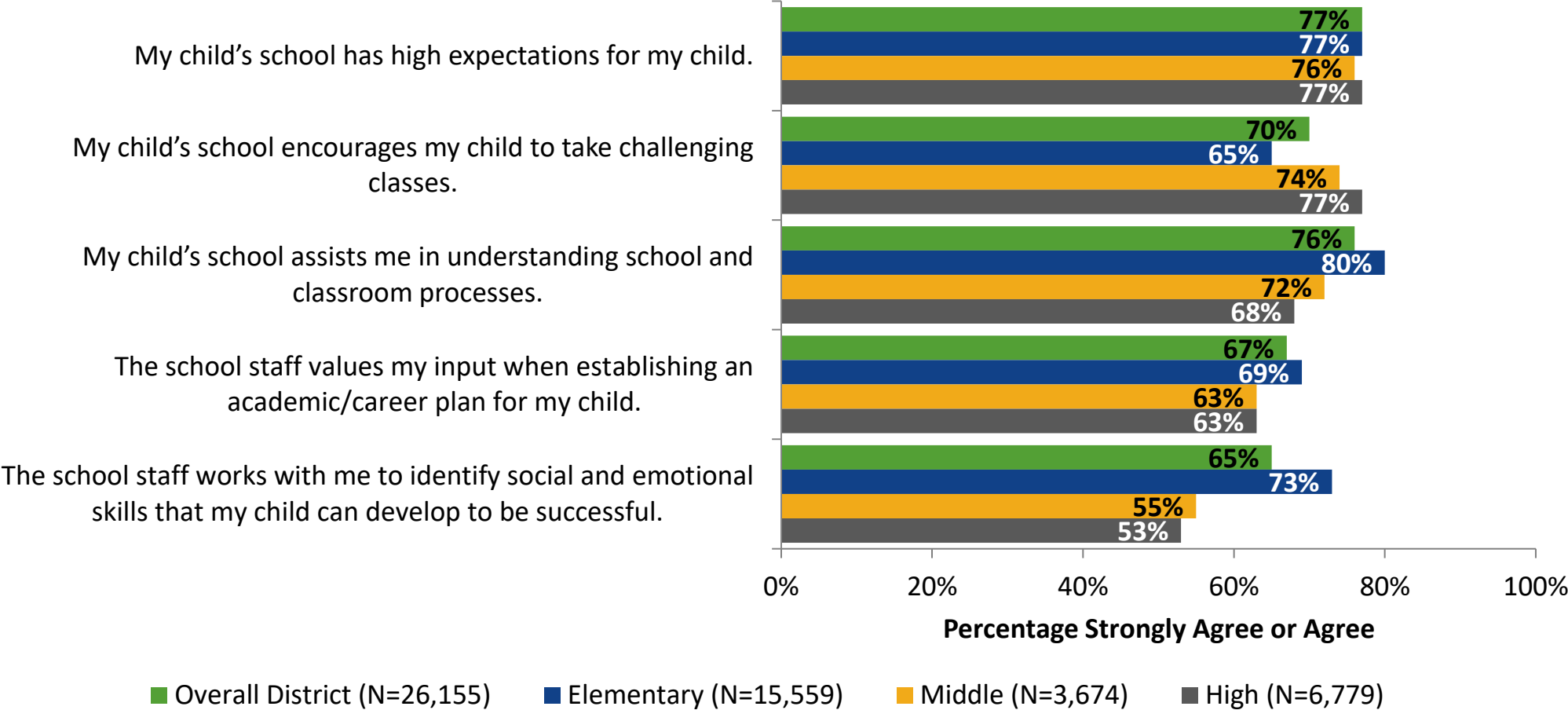
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know

# Student Success: Comparison by School Level

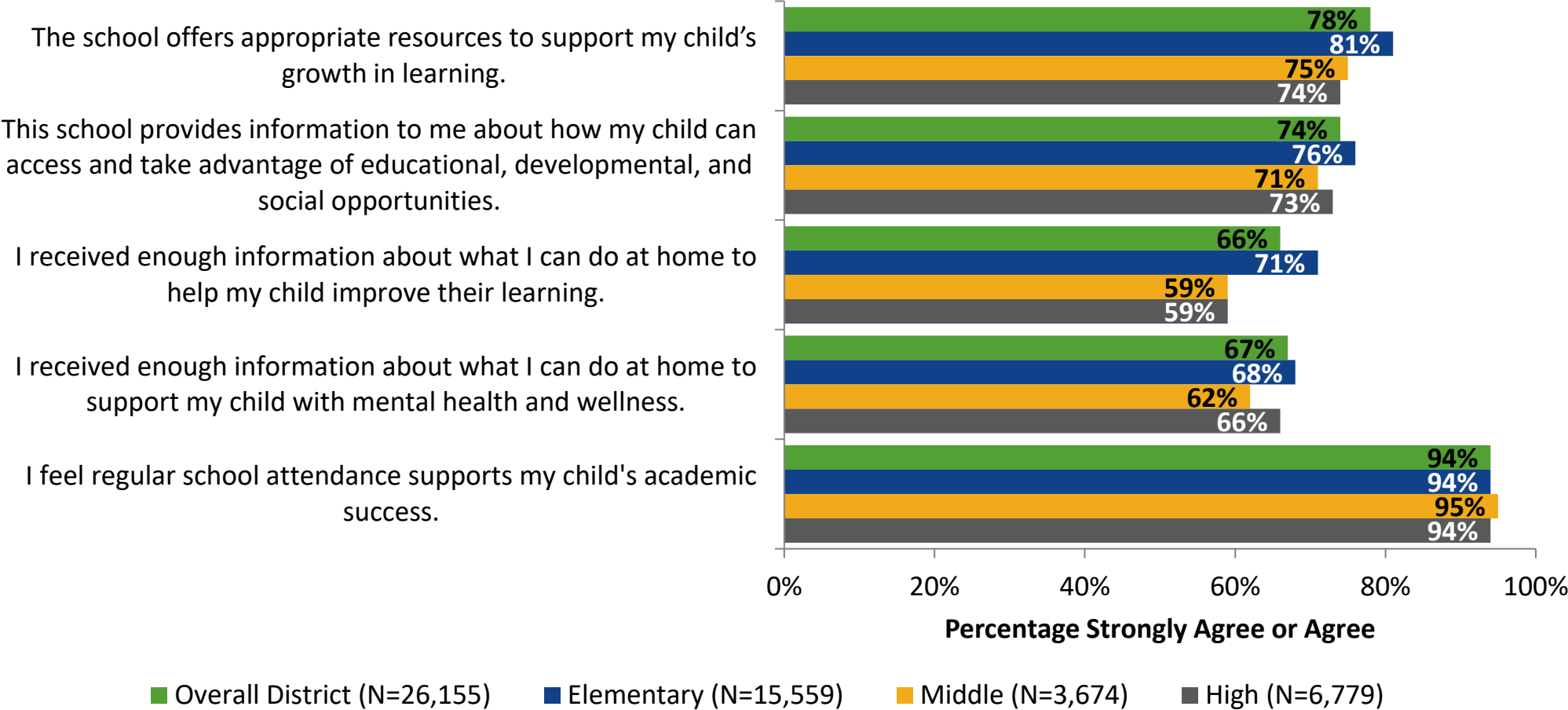
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know

# Student Success: Comparison by School Level (Continued)

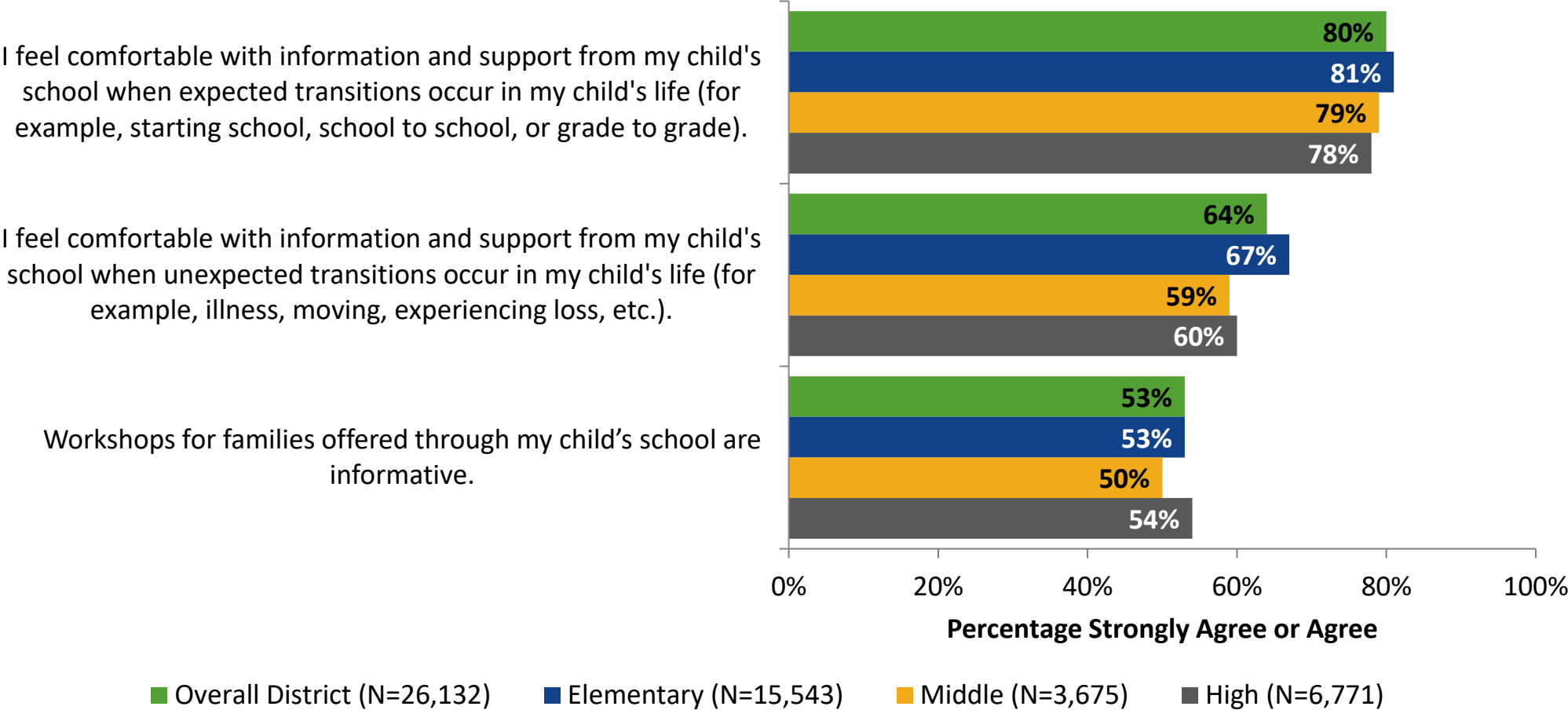
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know

# Advocacy: Comparison by School Level

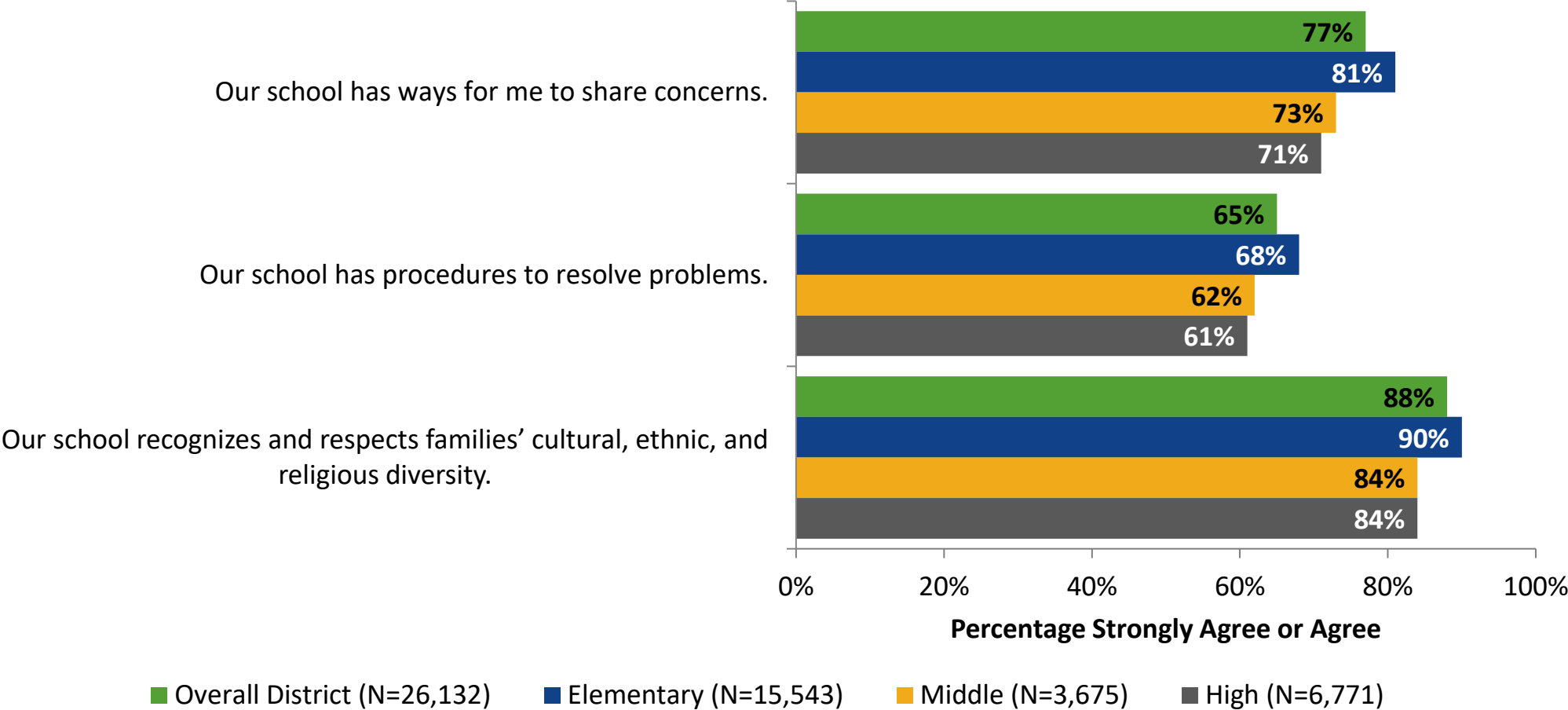
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know

# Advocacy: Comparison by School Level (Continued)

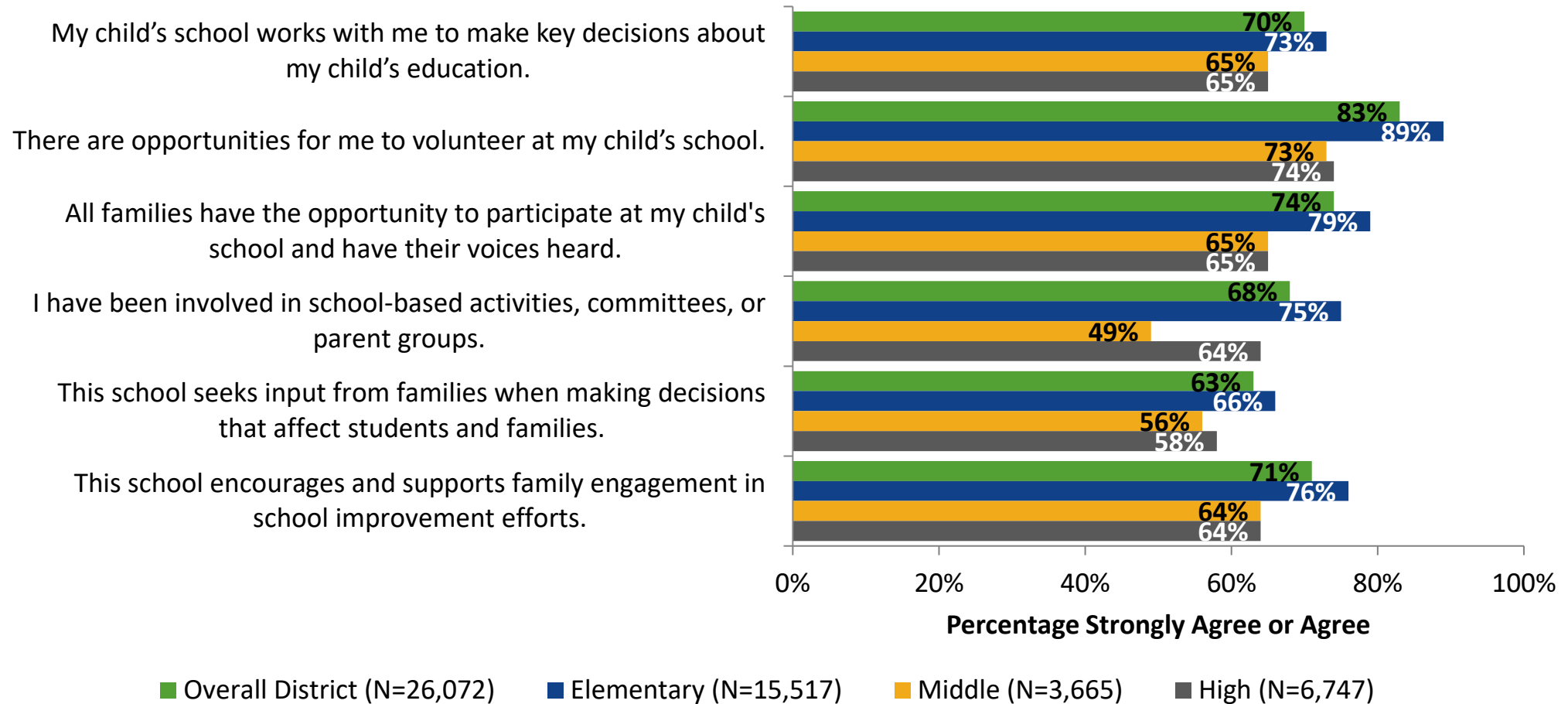
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know

# Family and School Partnerships: Comparison by School Level

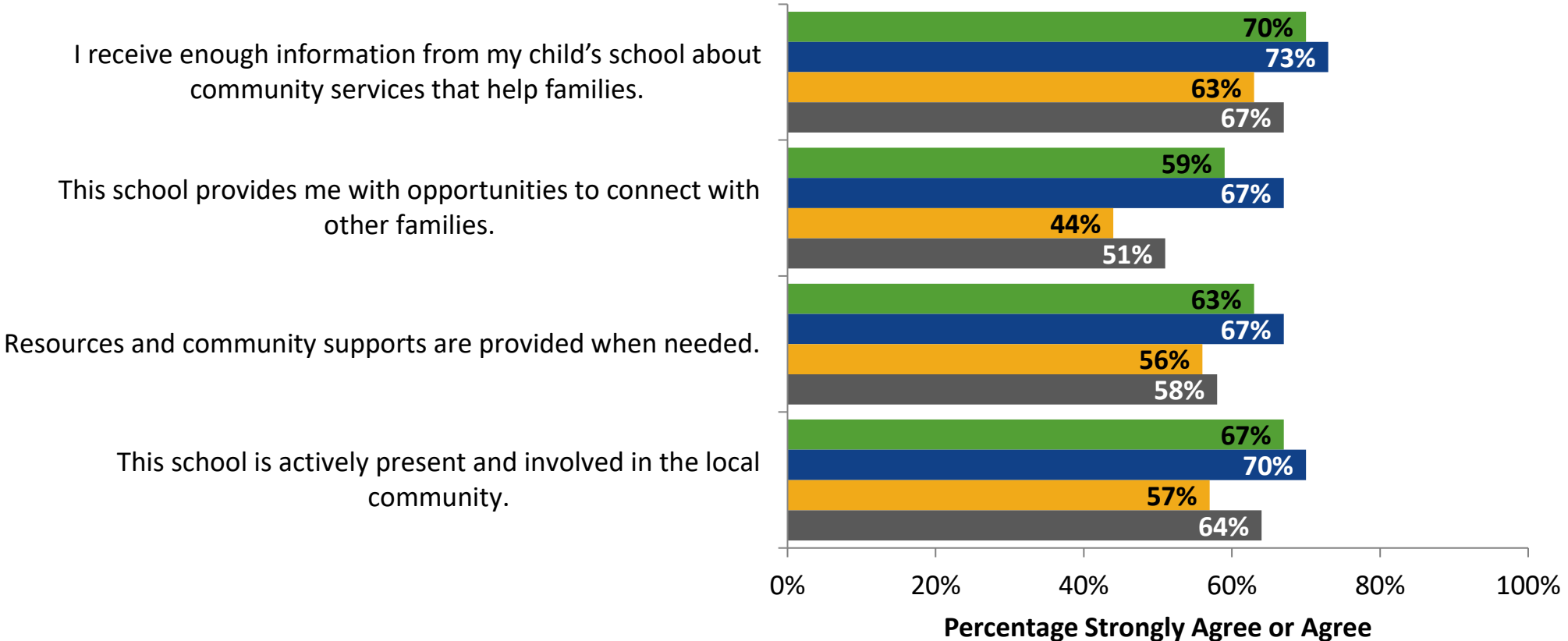
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know

# Collaboration With the Community: Comparison by School Level

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

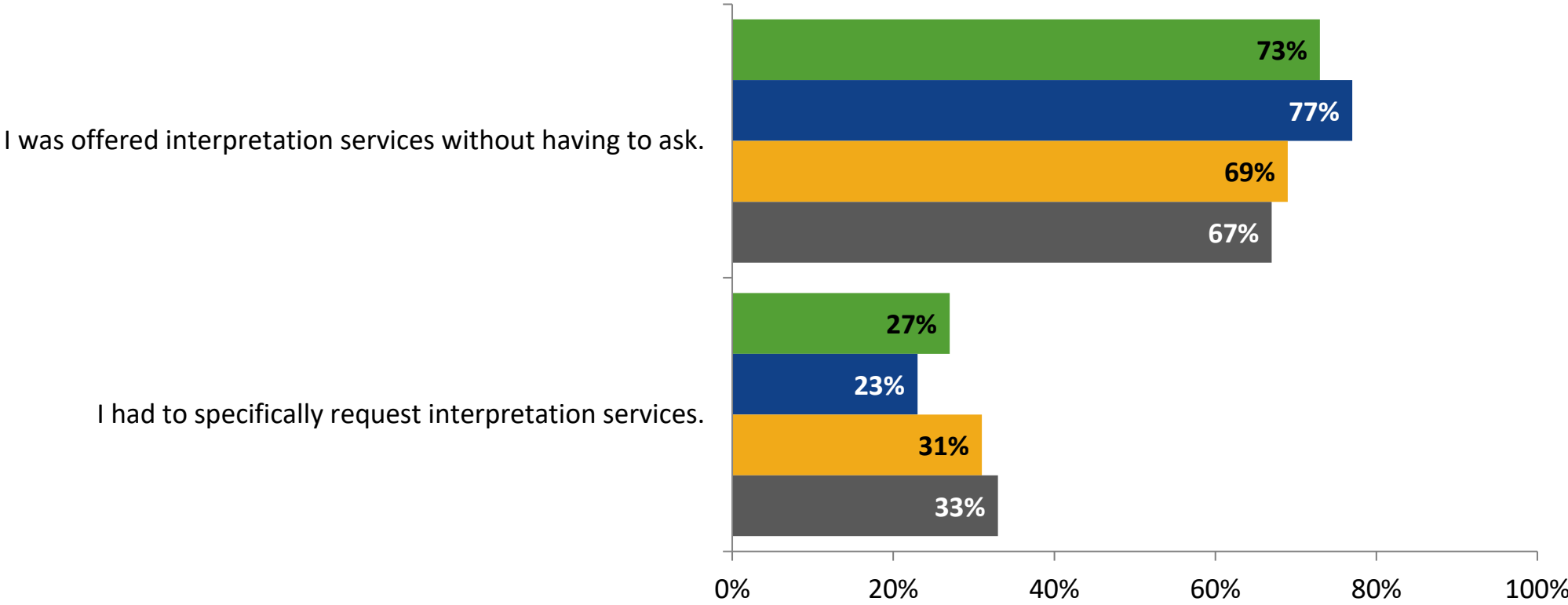


■ Overall District (N=26,044)
 ■ Elementary (N=15,494)
 ■ Middle (N=3,664)
 ■ High (N=6,743)

Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know

# Interpretation Services: Comparison by School Level

In situations where you received interpretation services, which of the following statements best applies to you?

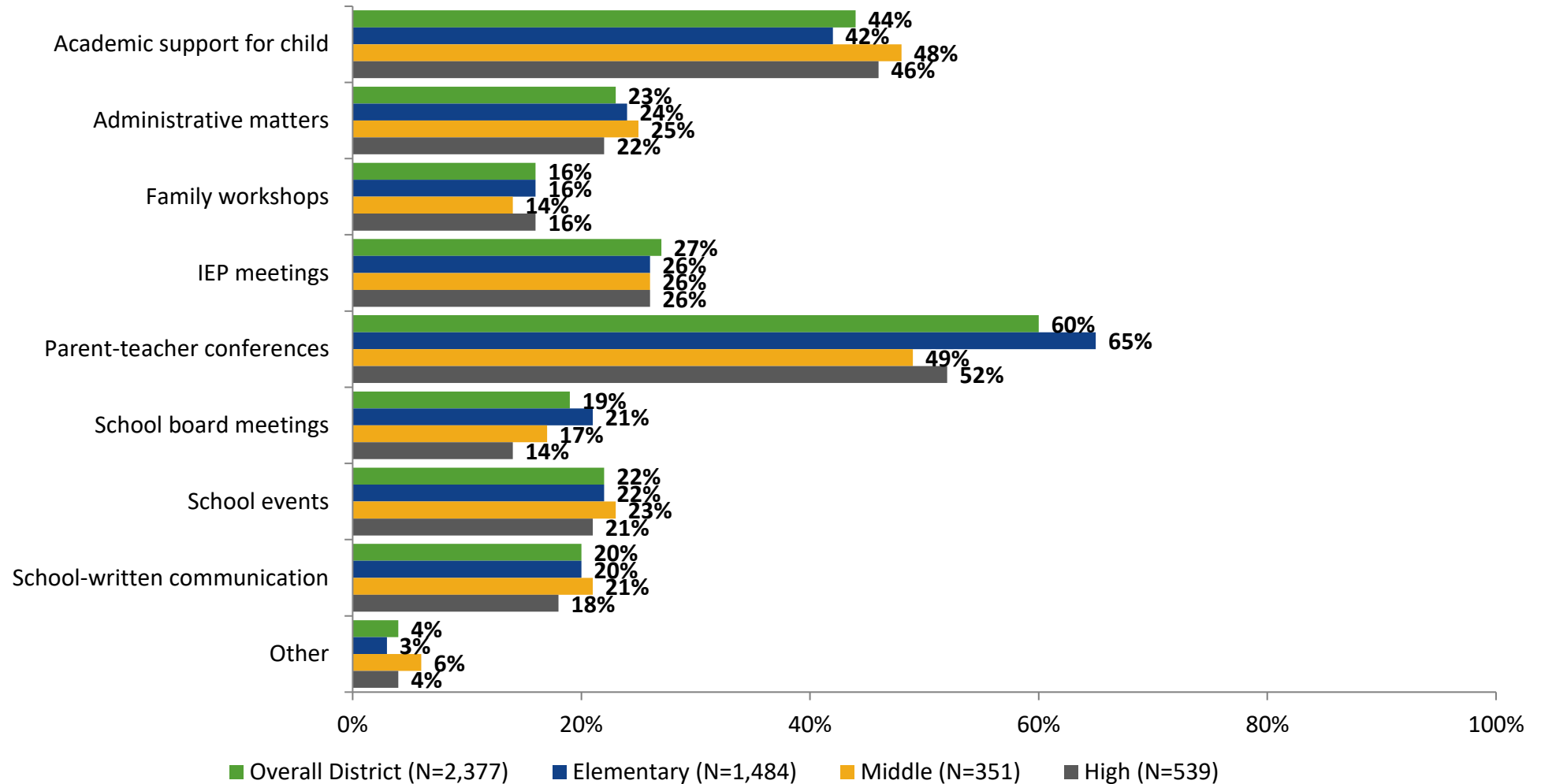


■ Overall District (N=2,343) ■ Elementary (N=1,470) ■ Middle (N=347) ■ High (N=523)



# Interpretation Services: Comparison by School Level (Continued)

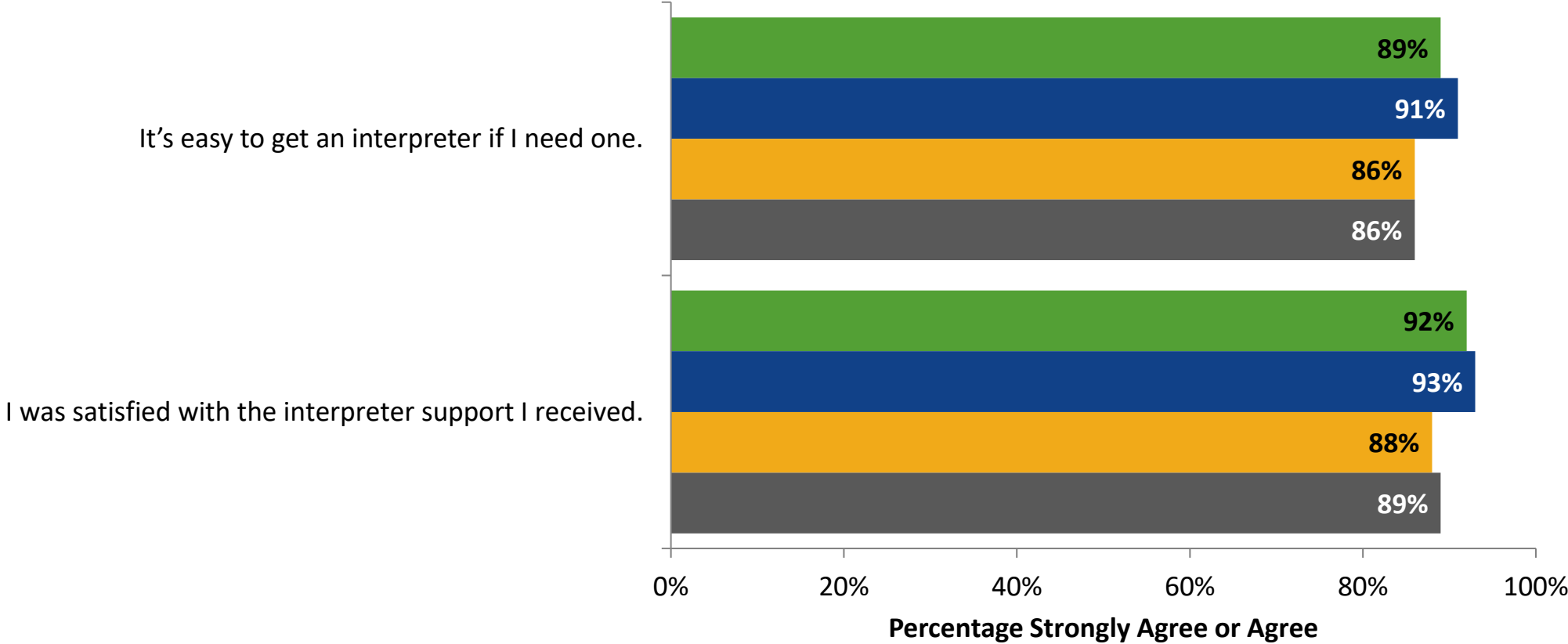
Where/When have you needed interpretation services?



Notes: Only parents/guardians who said they required interpretation services answered this question. Percentage totals may exceed 100 since participants could select more than one answer.

# Interpretation Services: Comparison by School Level (Continued)

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

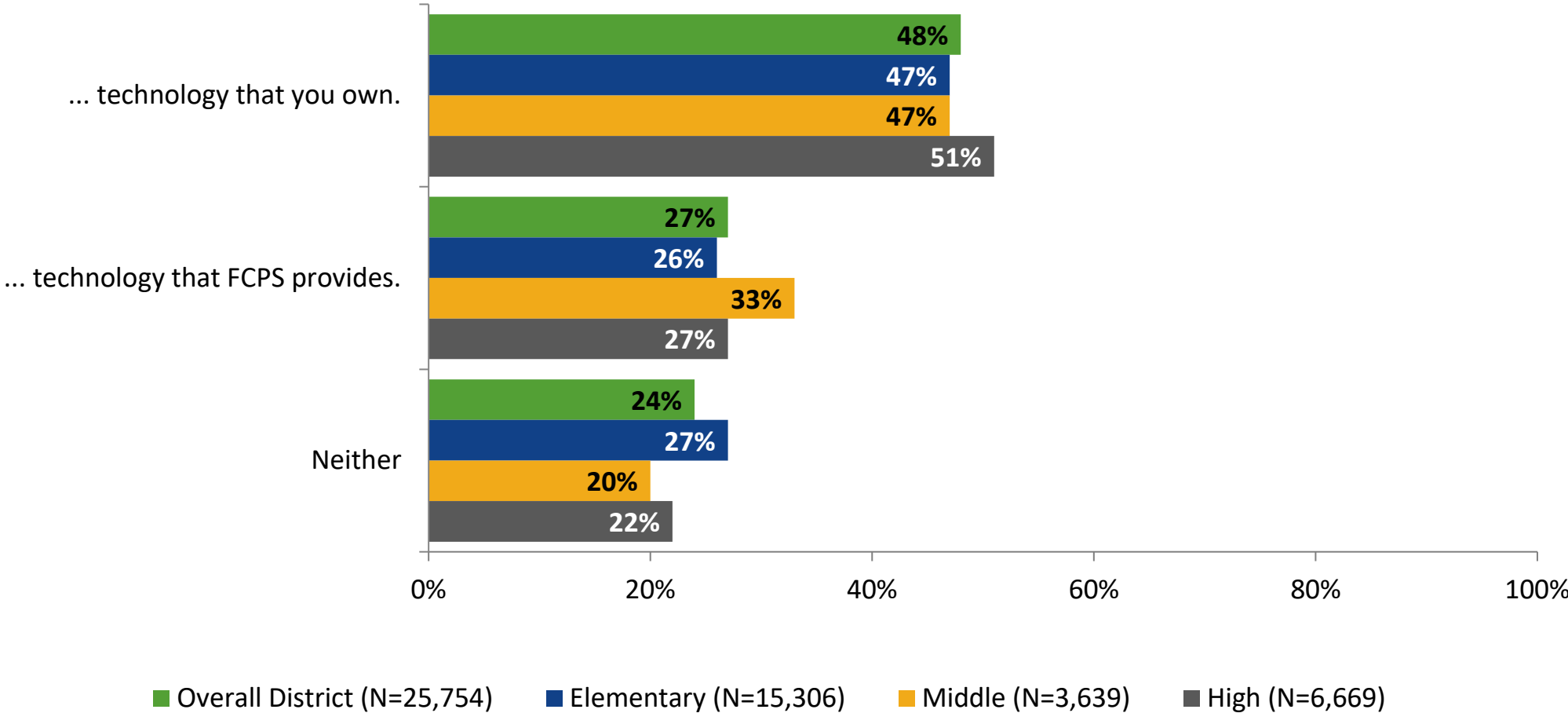


■ Overall District (N=2,374)
 ■ Elementary (N=1,484)
 ■ Middle (N=356)
 ■ High (N=532)

Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know  
 Note: Only parents/guardians who said they required interpretation services answered this question.

# Engagement and Technology: Comparison by School Level

Thinking about your ability to engage in your child’s education this school year, was your engagement improved by ...



# Highest- and Lowest- ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	Dimension
I feel welcome at my child’s school.	94%	Welcoming Environment
This school welcomes families of different backgrounds and cultures.	94%	Welcoming Environment
I feel regular school attendance supports my child's academic success.	94%	Student Success
There is at least one caring adult at the school that my child trusts.	93%	Welcoming Environment
My child enjoys going to this school.	93%	Welcoming Environment

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	Dimension
I received enough information about what I can do at home to help my child improve their learning.	26%	Student Success
I received enough information about what I can do at home to support my child with mental health and wellness.	24%	Student Success
This school provides me with opportunities to connect with other families.	22%	Collaboration With the Community
My child’s school encourages my child to take challenging classes.	19%	Student Success
This school provides information to me about how my child can access and take advantage of educational, developmental, and social opportunities.	18%	Student Success

## Highest- and Lowest- ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	Dimension
I feel regular school attendance supports my child's academic success.	95%	Student Success
This school welcomes families of different backgrounds and cultures.	90%	Welcoming Environment
Information provided to me by my child's school is easy to understand.	89%	Communication
I feel welcome at my child's school.	88%	Welcoming Environment
This school values the diversity of its community.	86%	Welcoming Environment

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	Dimension
I have been involved in school-based activities, committees, or parent groups.	38%	Family and School Partnerships
I received enough information about what I can do at home to help my child improve their learning.	34%	Student Success
This school provides me with opportunities to connect with other families.	34%	Collaboration With the Community
The school staff works with me to identify social and emotional skills that my child can develop to be successful.	29%	Student Success
I received enough information about what I can do at home to support my child with mental health and wellness.	28%	Student Success

**High**

## Highest- and Lowest- ranking Items

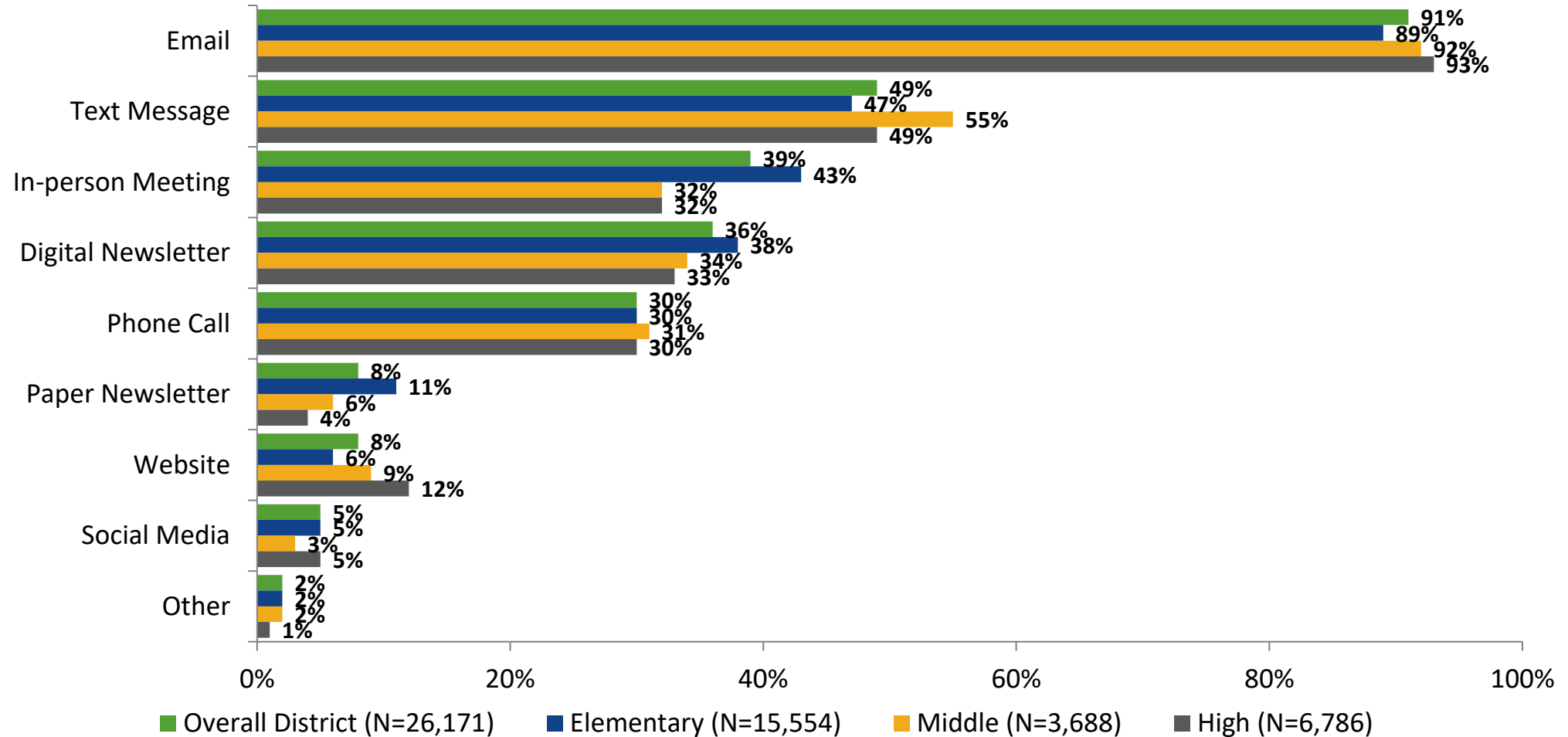
Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	Dimension
I feel regular school attendance supports my child's academic success.	94%	Student Success
I feel welcome at my child's school.	89%	Welcoming Environment
This school welcomes families of different backgrounds and cultures.	89%	Welcoming Environment
This school values the diversity of its community.	86%	Welcoming Environment
Information provided to me by my child's school is easy to understand.	86%	Communication

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	Dimension
I received enough information about what I can do at home to help my child improve their learning.	33%	Student Success
The school staff works with me to identify social and emotional skills that my child can develop to be successful.	30%	Student Success
Our school encourages parents and educators to share information such as student strengths and learning preferences.	29%	Communication
This school provides me with opportunities to connect with other families.	28%	Collaboration With the Community
I have been involved in school-based activities, committees, or parent groups.	26%	Family and School Partnerships

Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know

# Preferred Communication Methods: Comparison by School Level

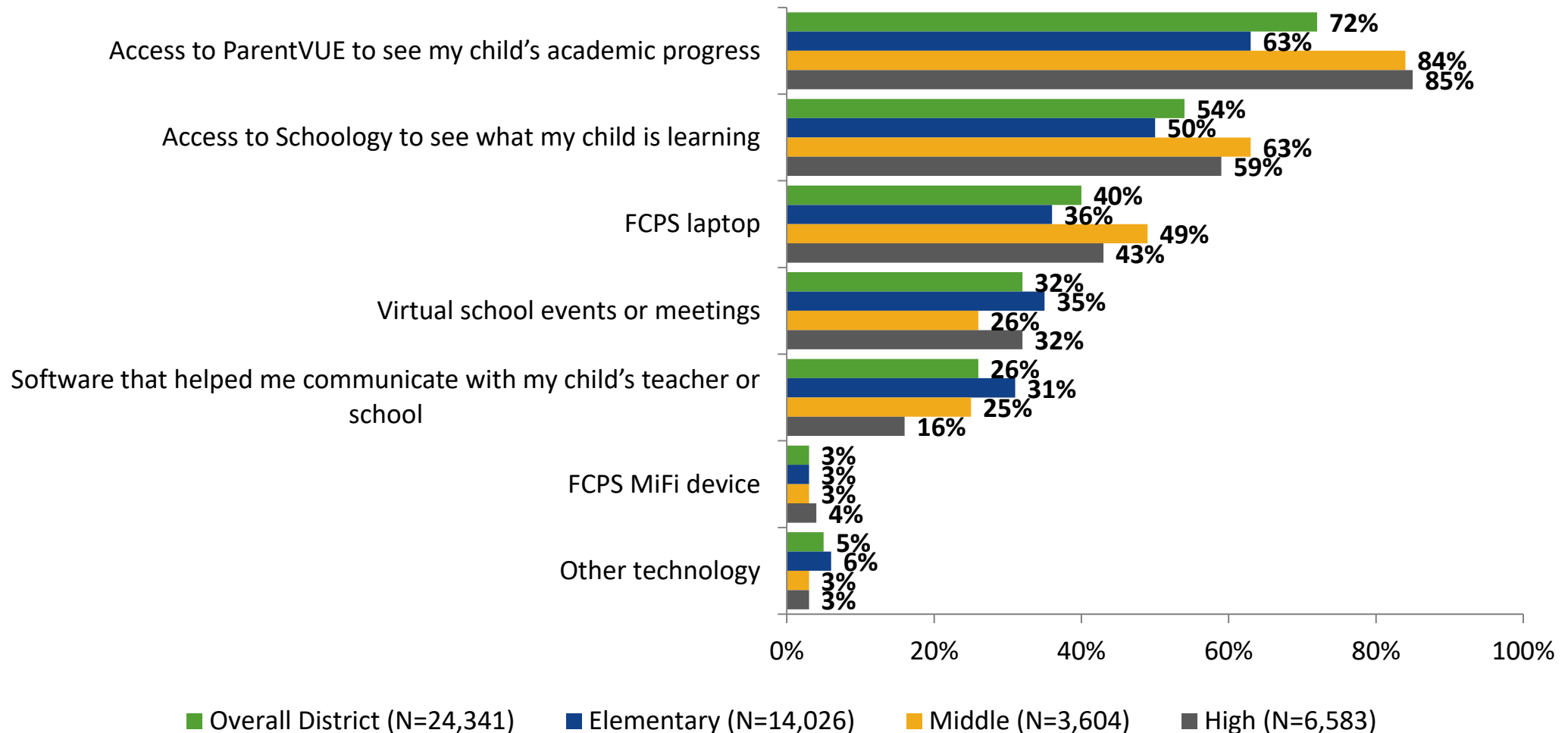
How do you prefer to receive information from your child's school? Please select up to three answers.



Notes: Percentage totals may exceed 100 since participants could select up to three answers. Items are sorted highest to lowest based on overall district responses.

# Engagement Assistance: Comparison by School Level

Which of the following helped you engage in your child's education?



Notes: Percentage totals may exceed 100 since participants could select more than one answer. Items are sorted highest to lowest based on overall district responses.



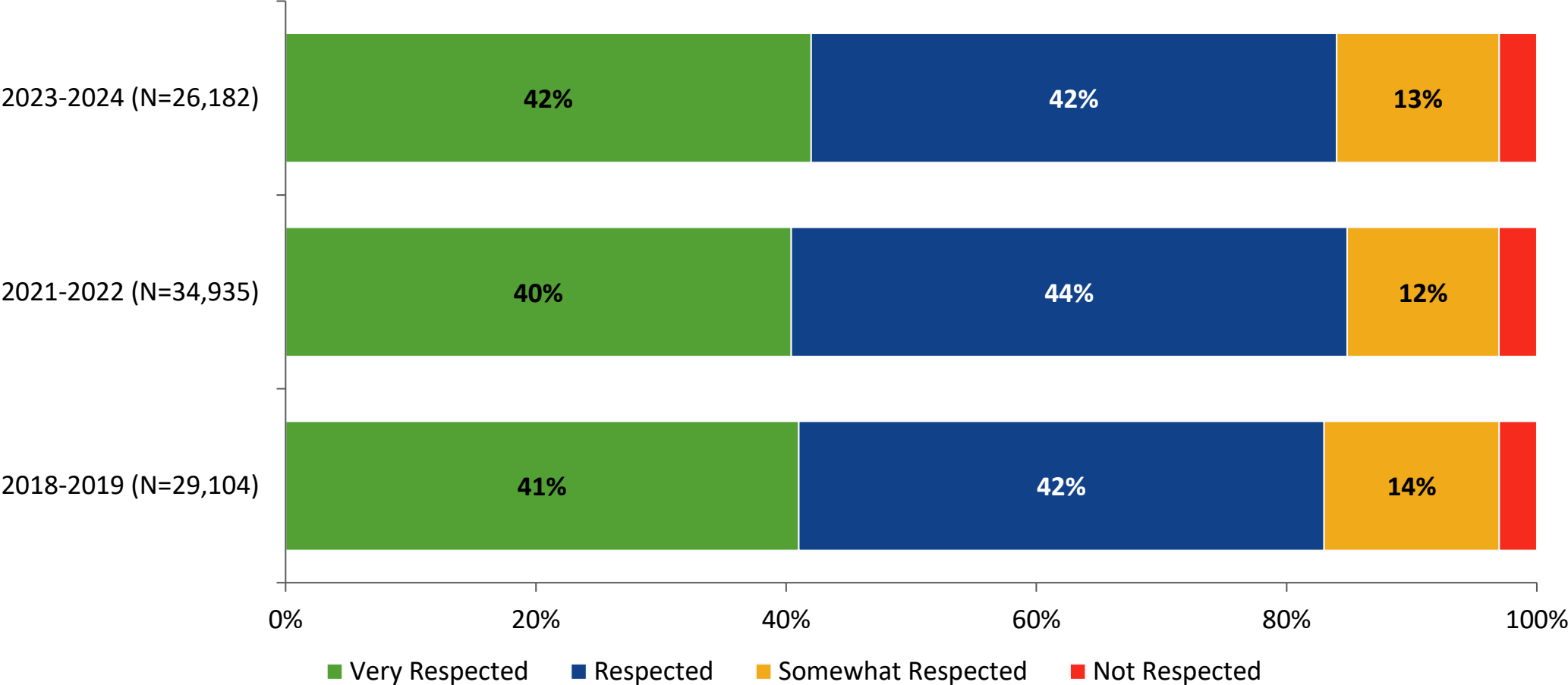


# Trending Results



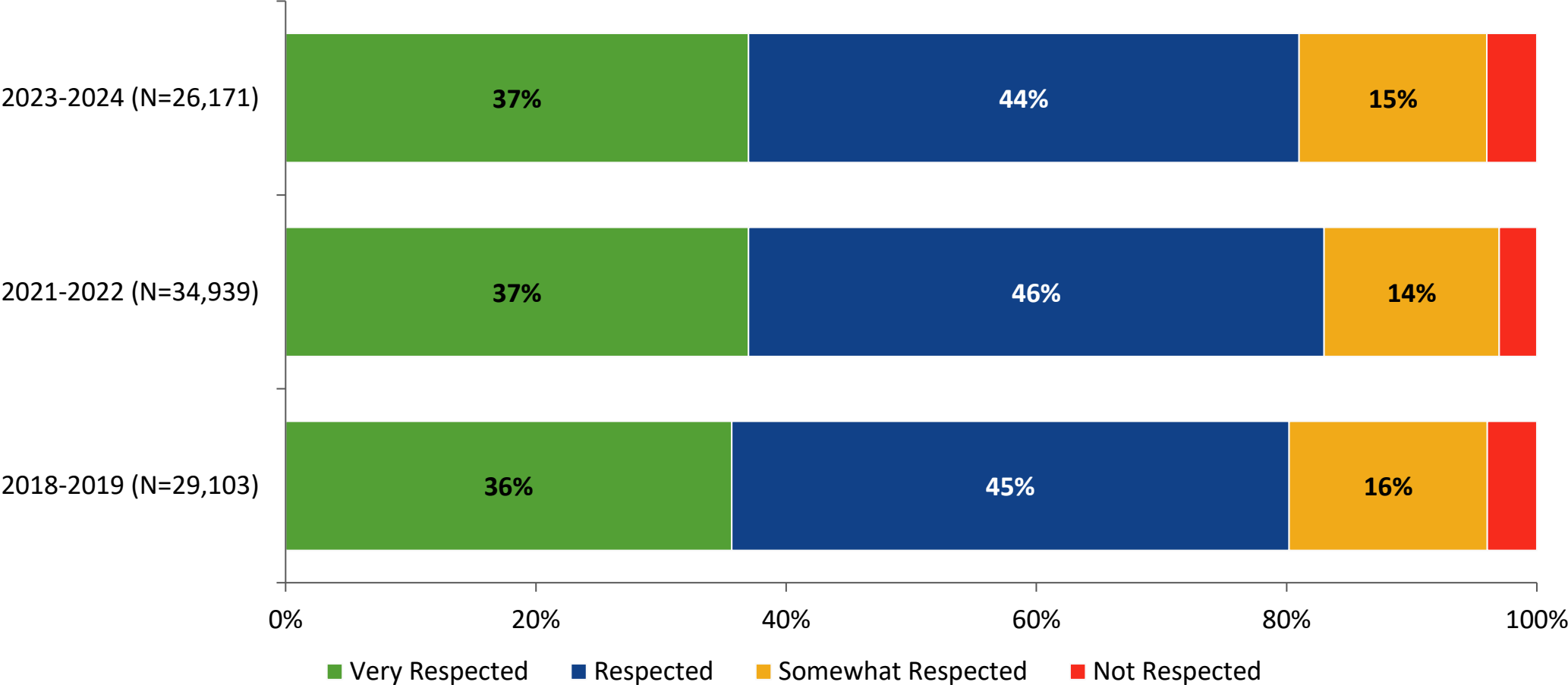
# Feelings of Respect: Comparison Over Time

How respected do you feel at this school?



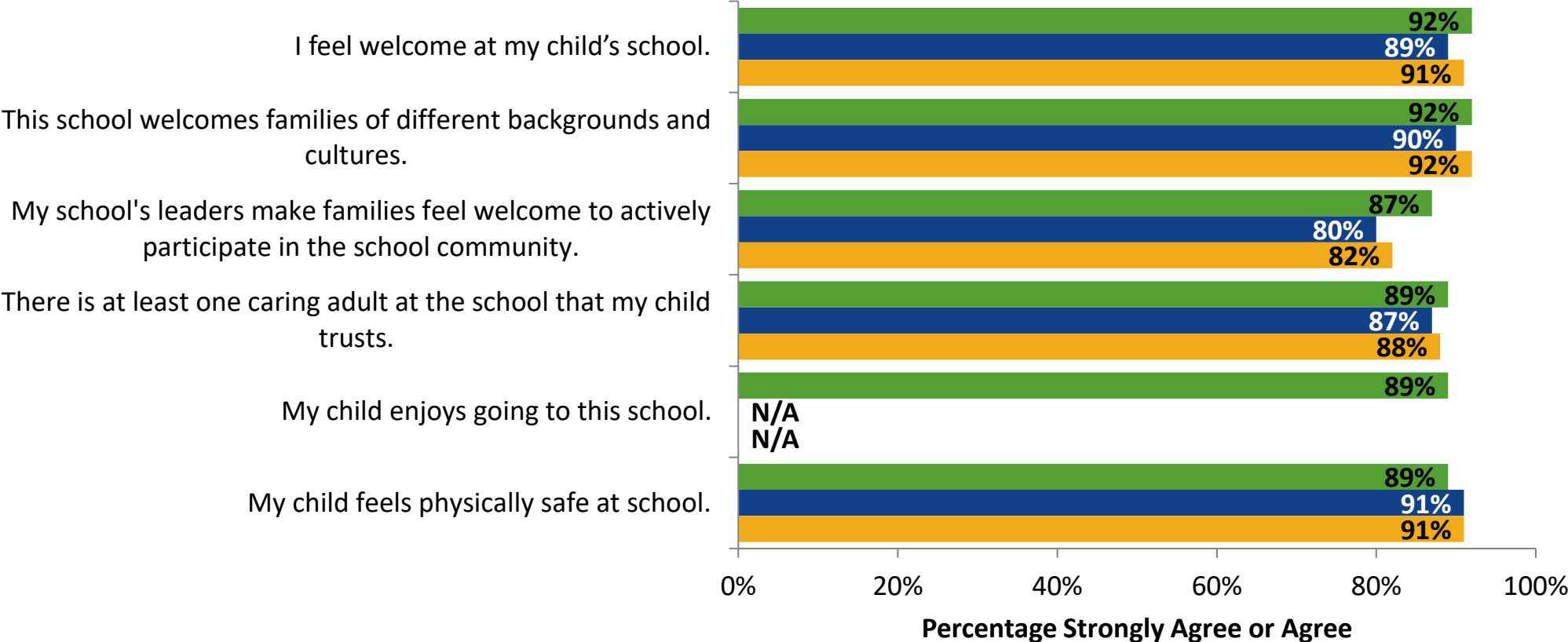
# Feelings of Respect: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How respected does your child feel at this school?



# Welcoming Environment: Comparison Over Time

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

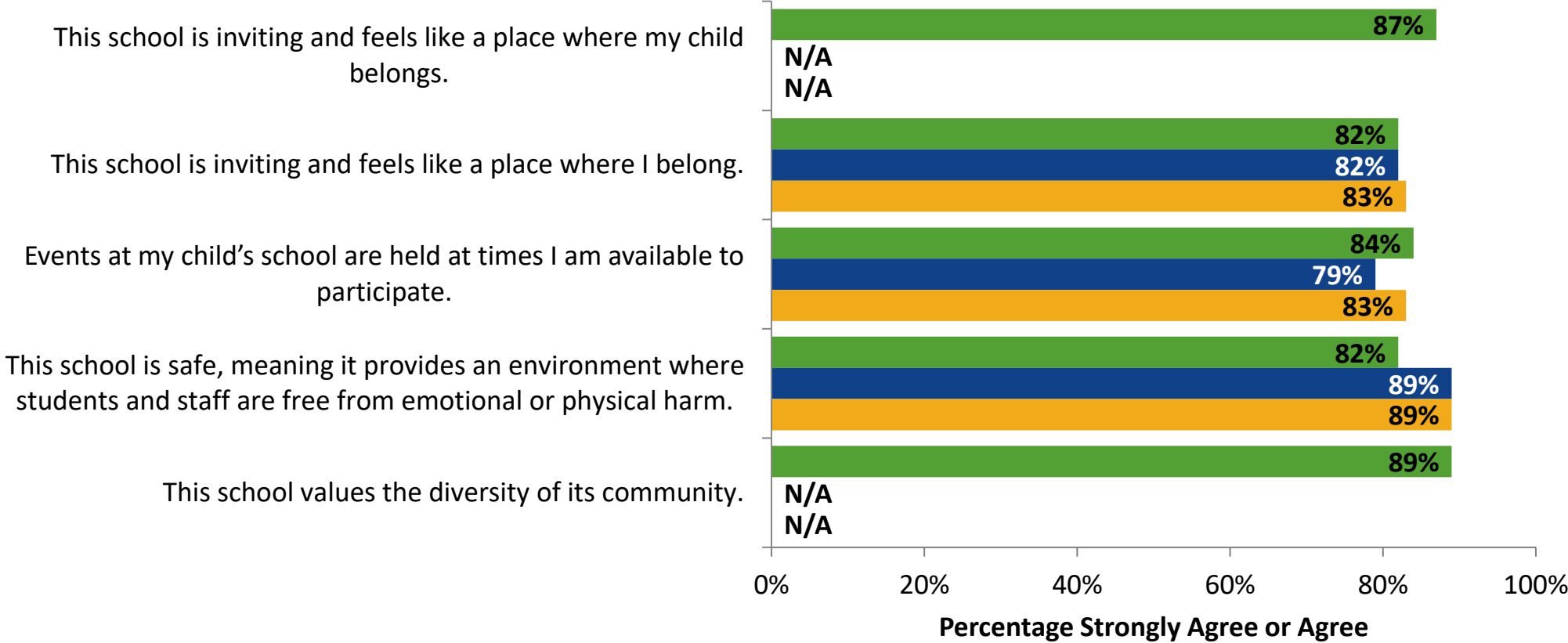


■ 2023-2024 (N=26,184) ■ 2021-2022 (N=34,934) ■ 2018-2019 (N=29,080)

Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know  
 Note: N/A indicates a question was not asked during that survey administration.

# Welcoming Environment: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

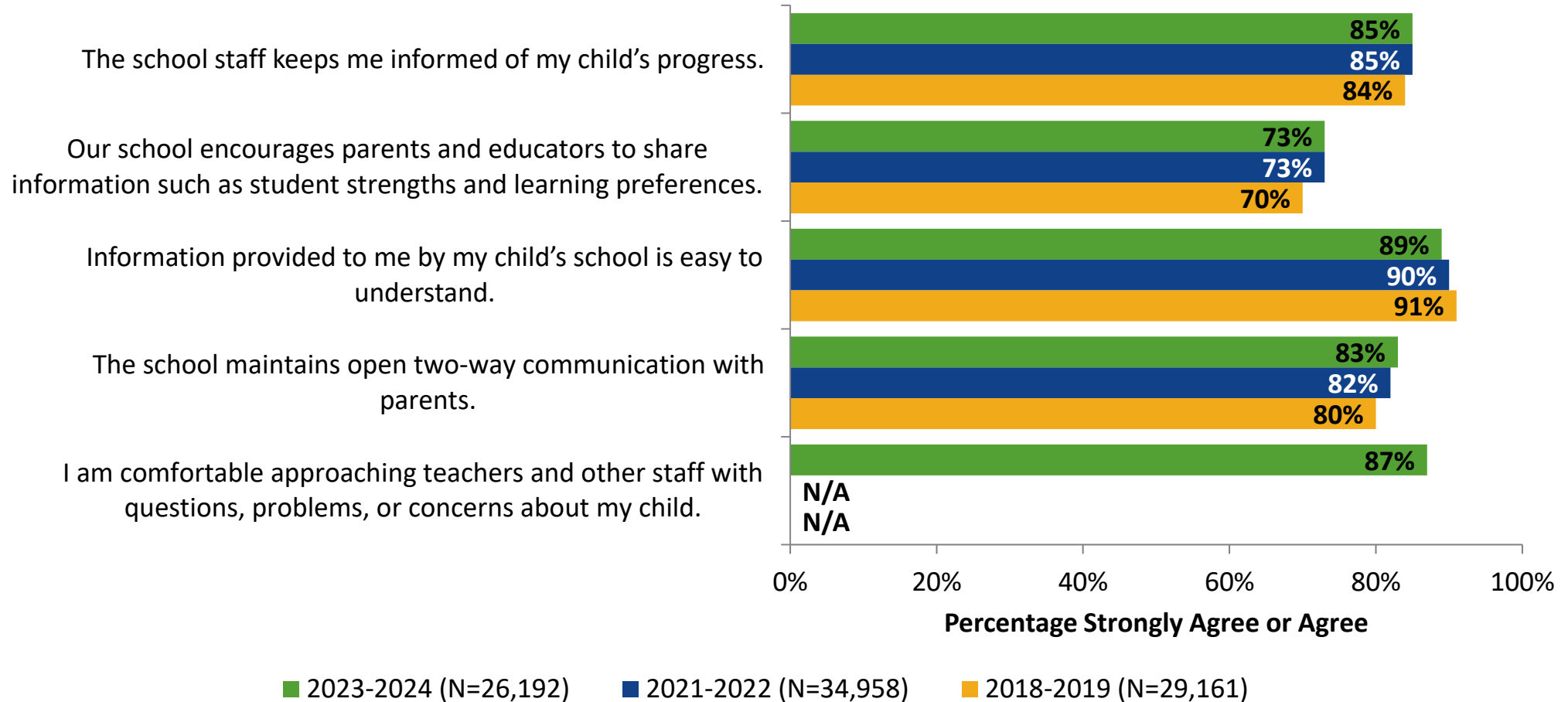


■ 2023-2024 (N=26,184) ■ 2021-2022 (N=34,934) ■ 2018-2019 (N=29,080)

Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know  
 Note: N/A indicates a question was not asked during that survey administration.

# Communication: Comparison Over Time

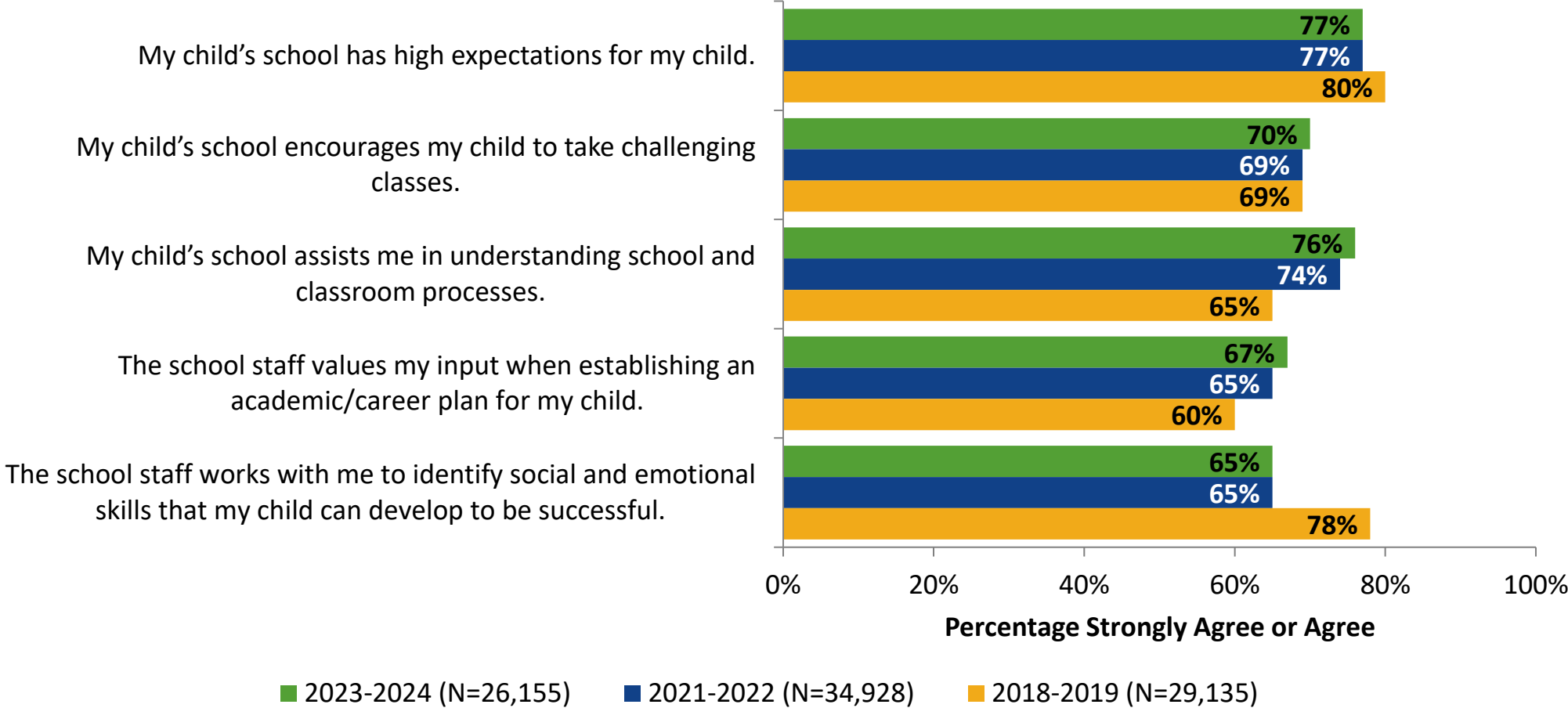
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know  
 Note: N/A indicates a question was not asked during that survey administration.

# Student Success: Comparison Over Time

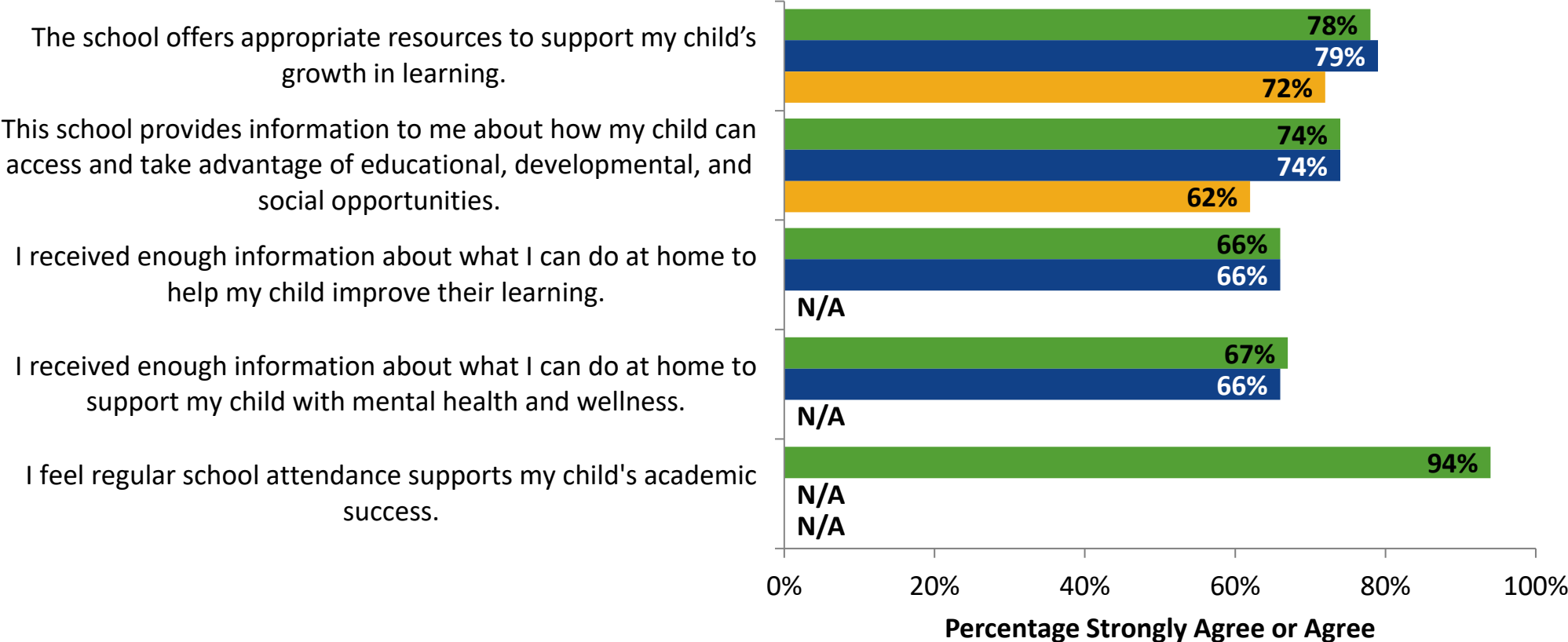
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know

# Student Success: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



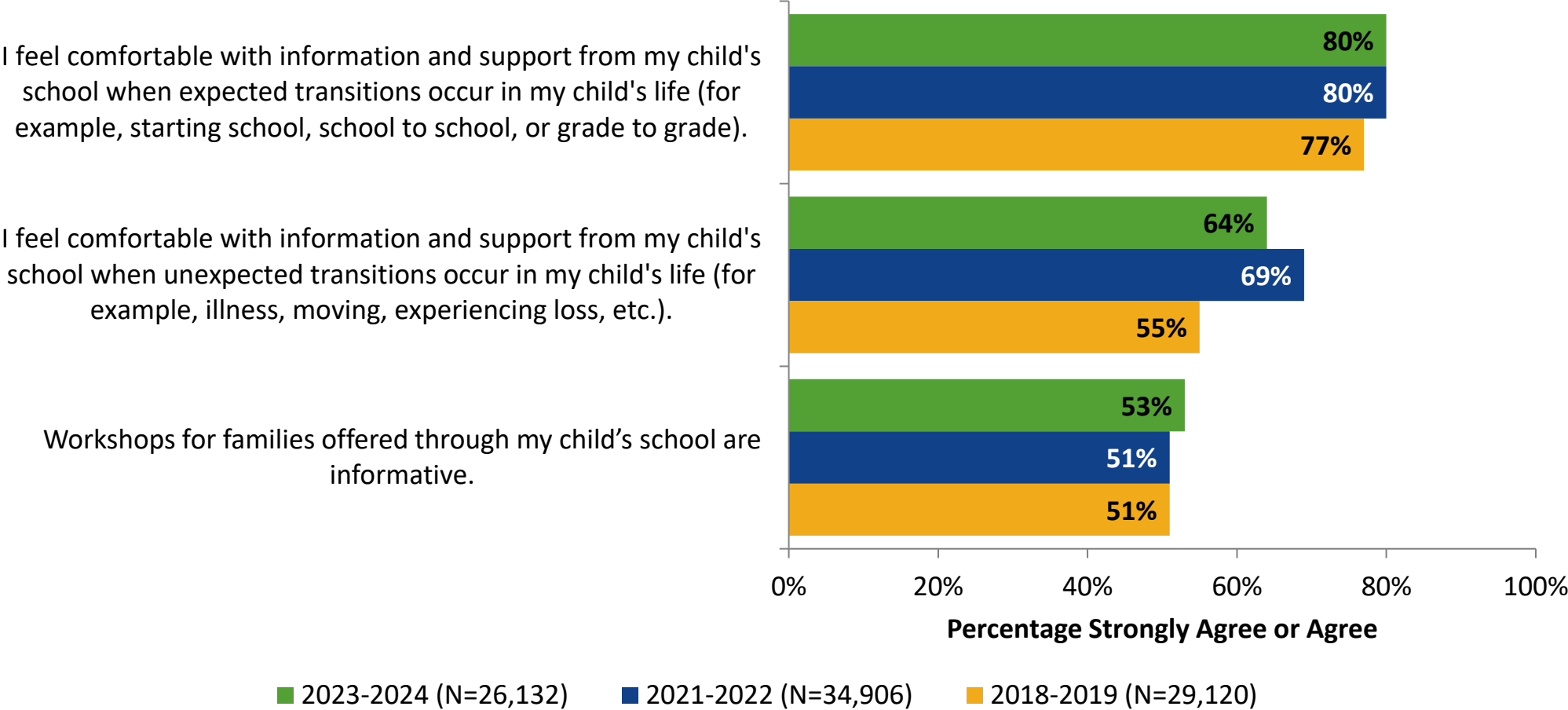
■ 2023-2024 (N=26,155) ■ 2021-2022 (N=34,928) ■ 2018-2019 (N=29,135)

Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know  
 Note: N/A indicates a question was not asked during that survey administration.



# Advocacy: Comparison Over Time

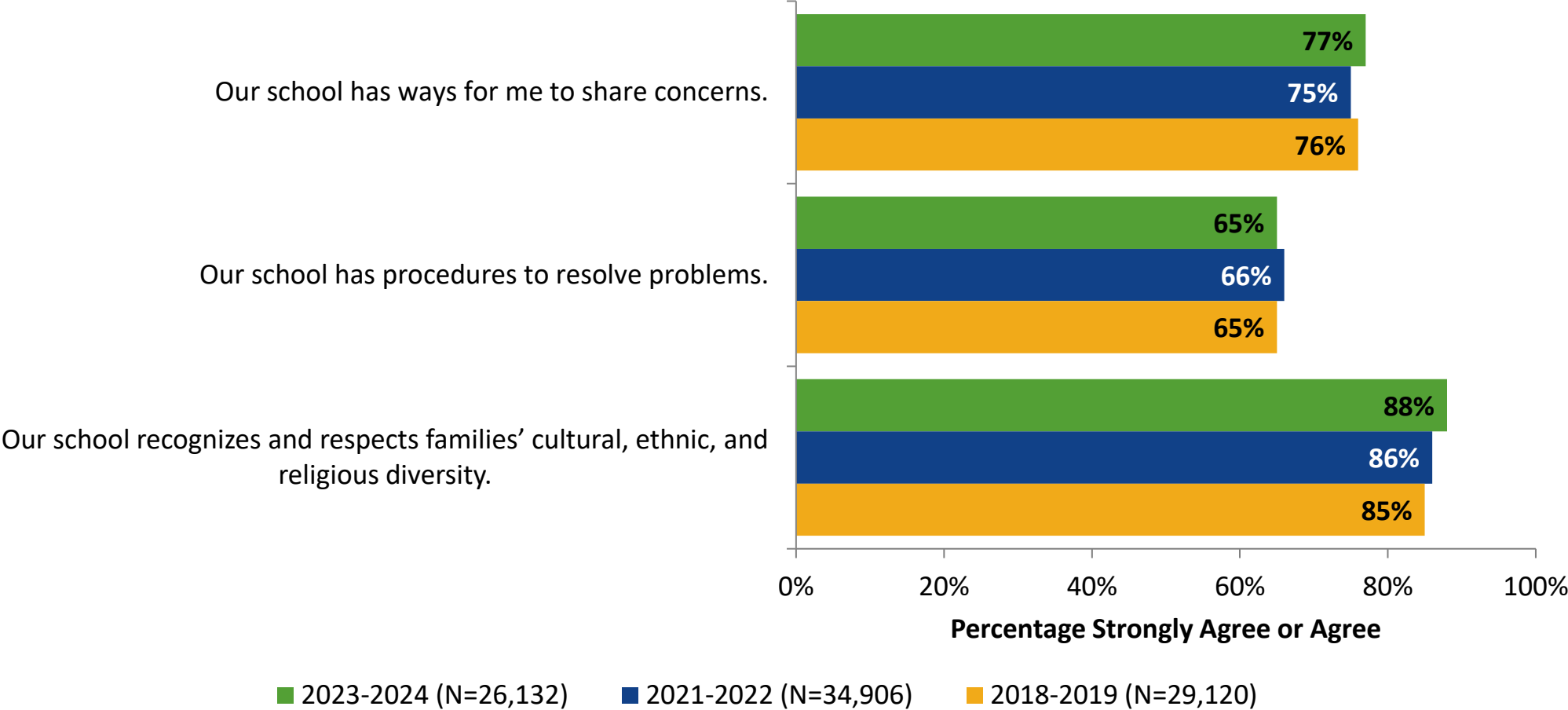
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know

# Advocacy: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

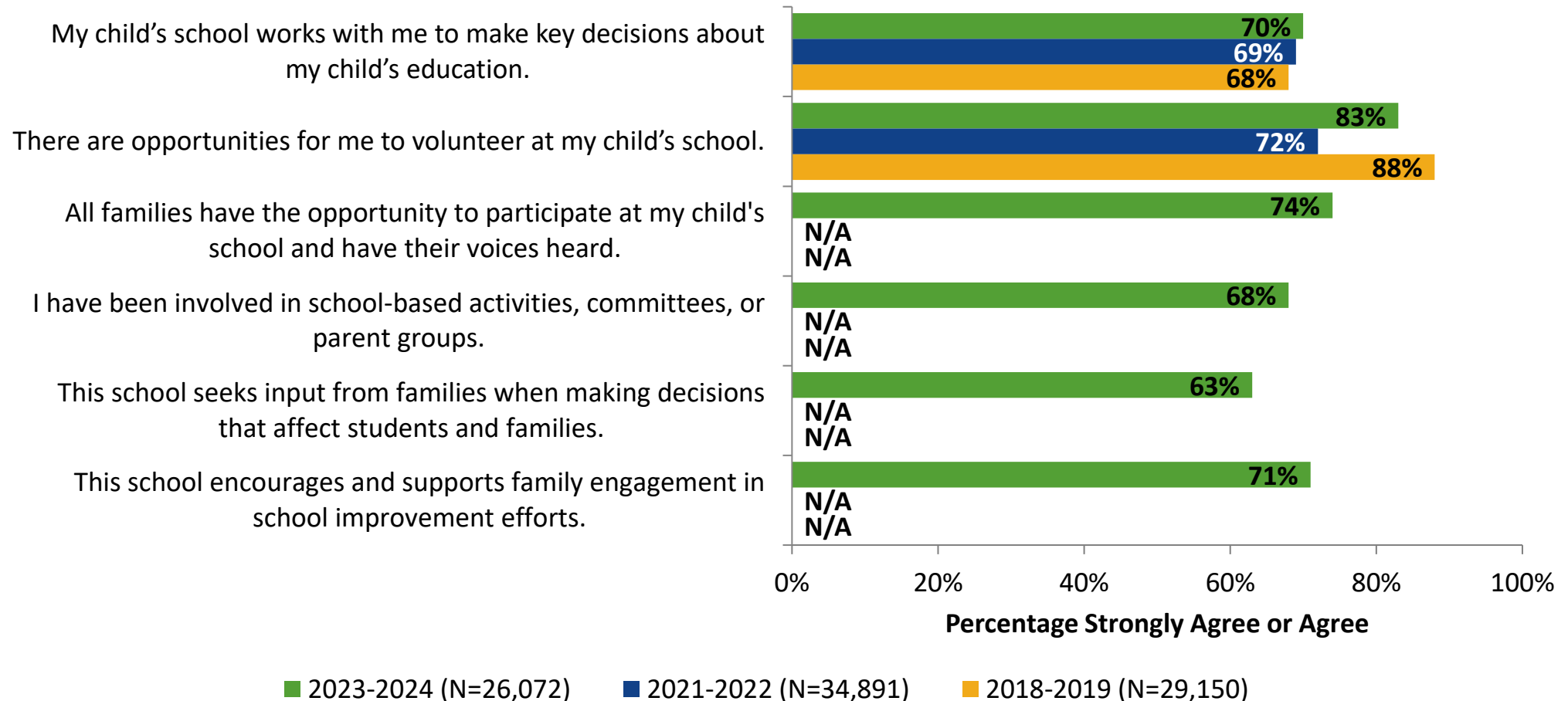
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know

# Family and School Partnerships: Comparison Over Time

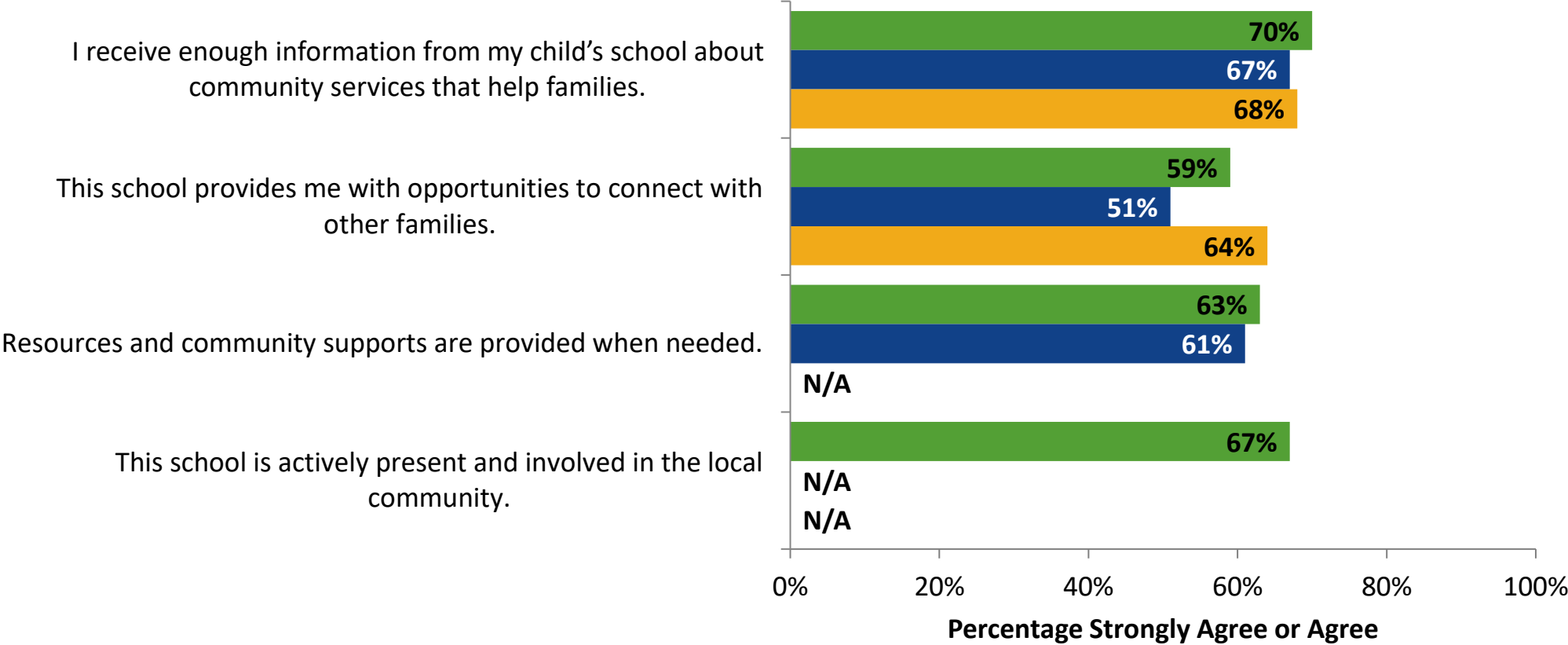
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know  
 Note: N/A indicates a question was not asked during that survey administration.

# Collaboration With the Community: Comparison Over Time

How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



■ 2023-2024 (N=26,044) ■ 2021-2022 (N=34,868) ■ 2018-2019 (N=29,151)

Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know  
 Note: N/A indicates a question was not asked during that survey administration.

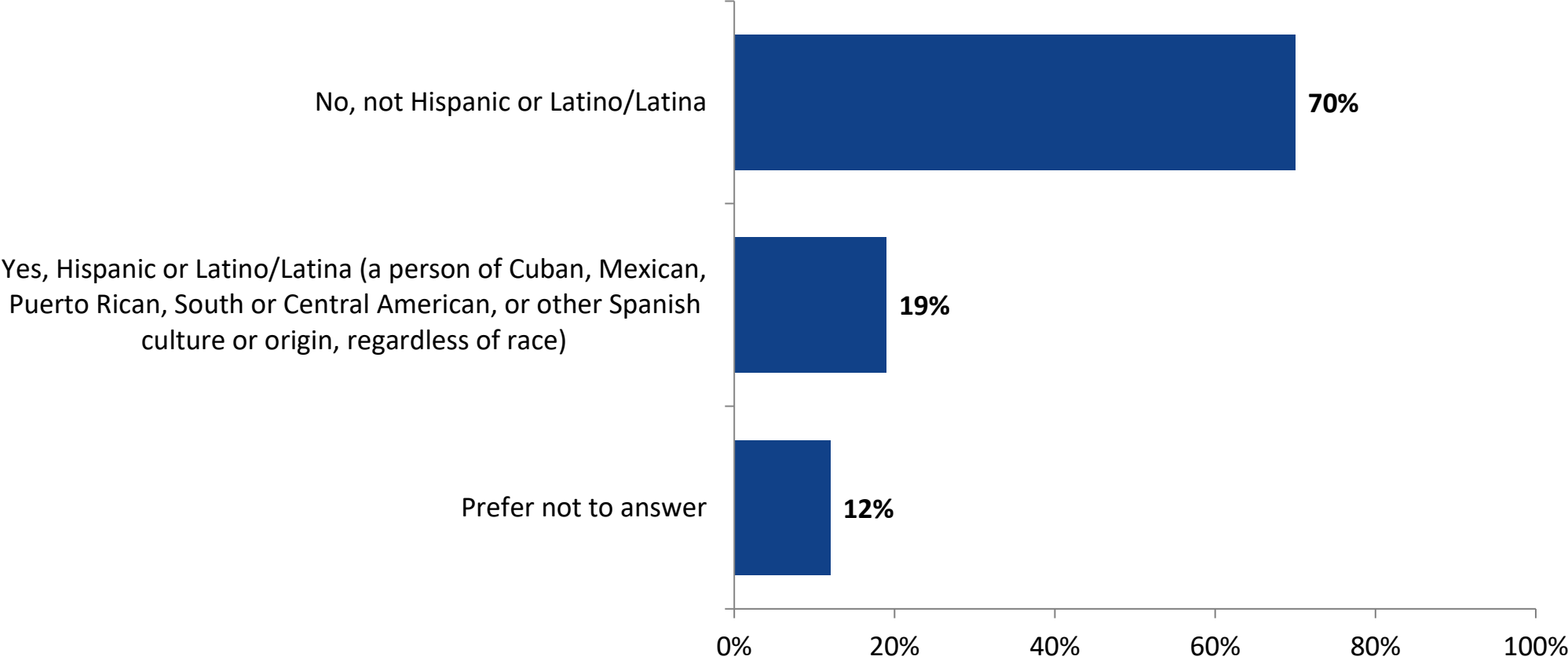


# Participant Demographics



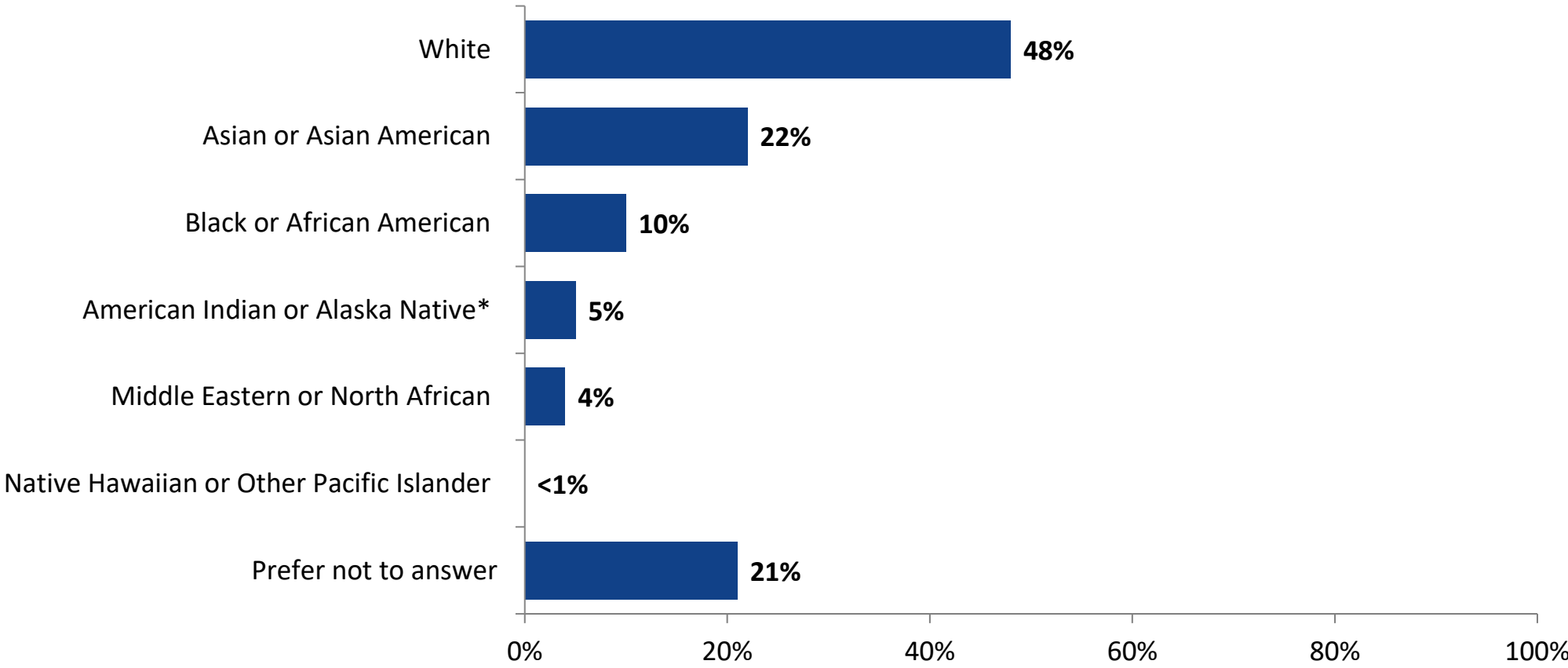
# Hispanic or Latino/Latina Ethnicity of Student

Is your child Hispanic or Latino/Latina? (N=25,433)



# Race of Student

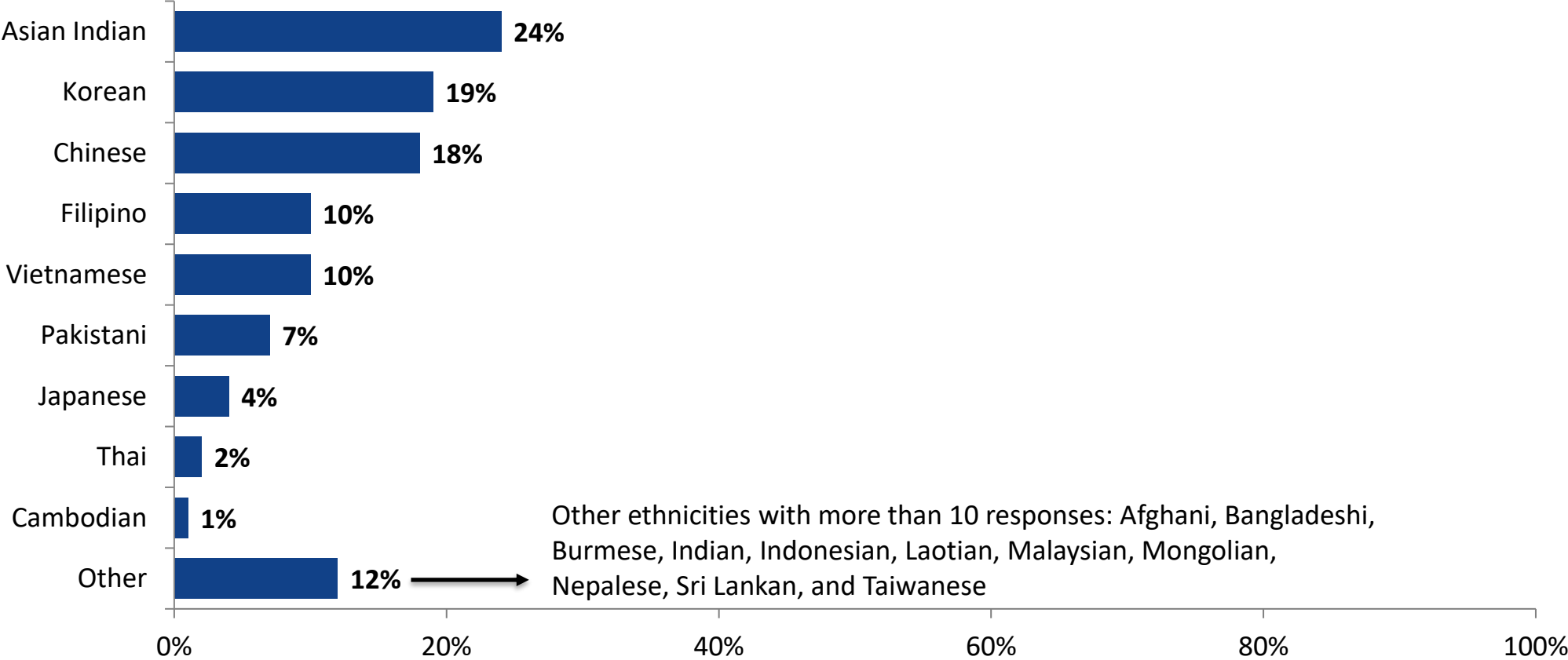
What is your child's race? (N=24,816)



*\*Participants could write in their child's ethnicity. Write in responses with more than 10 participants include Aztec, Bolivian, Central America, Cherokee, Hispanic, Latino/Latin American, Mayan, Peru/Peruano, Quechua, Salvadorian, and South American.  
Note: The sum may exceed 100 percent since participants could select more than one answer.*

# Asian or Asian American Ethnicity of Student

Please select your child's ethnicity. (N=5,316)

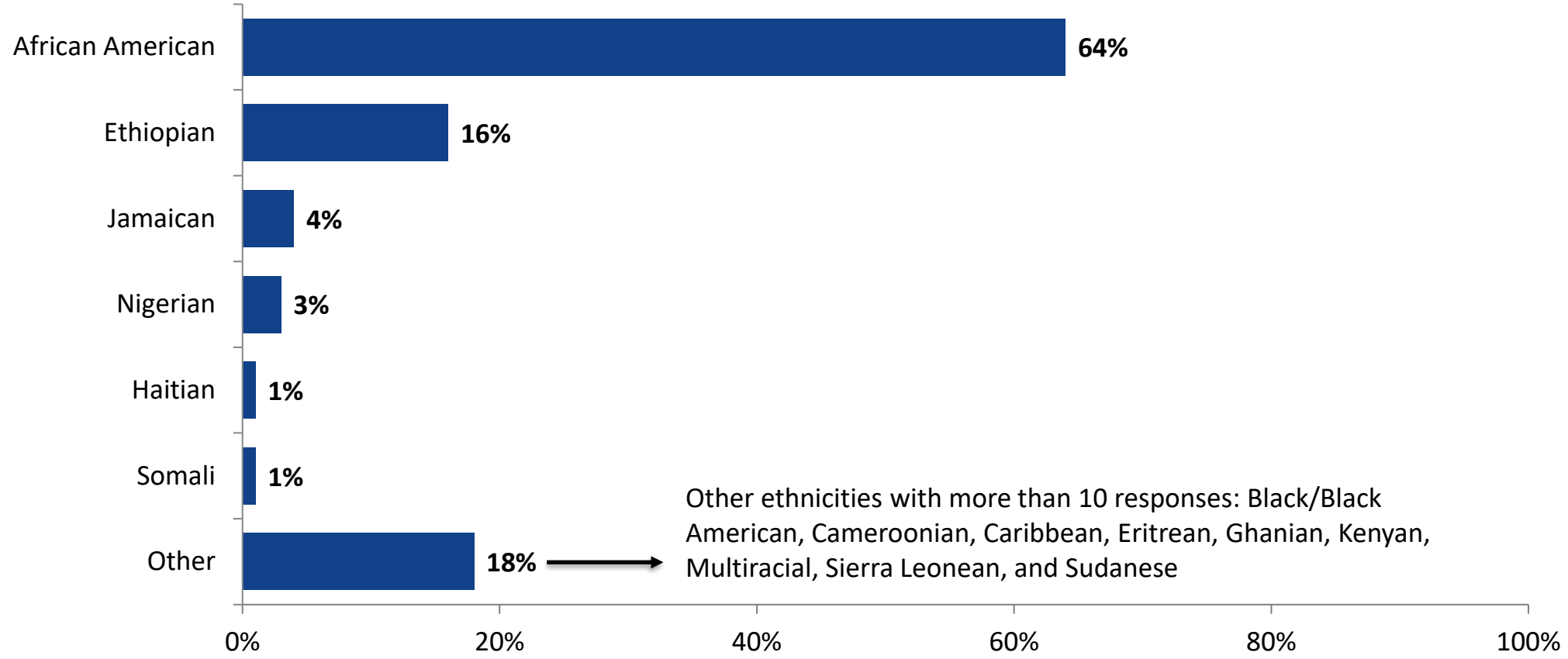


Note: The sum may exceed 100 percent since participants could select more than one answer.



# Black or African American Ethnicity of Student

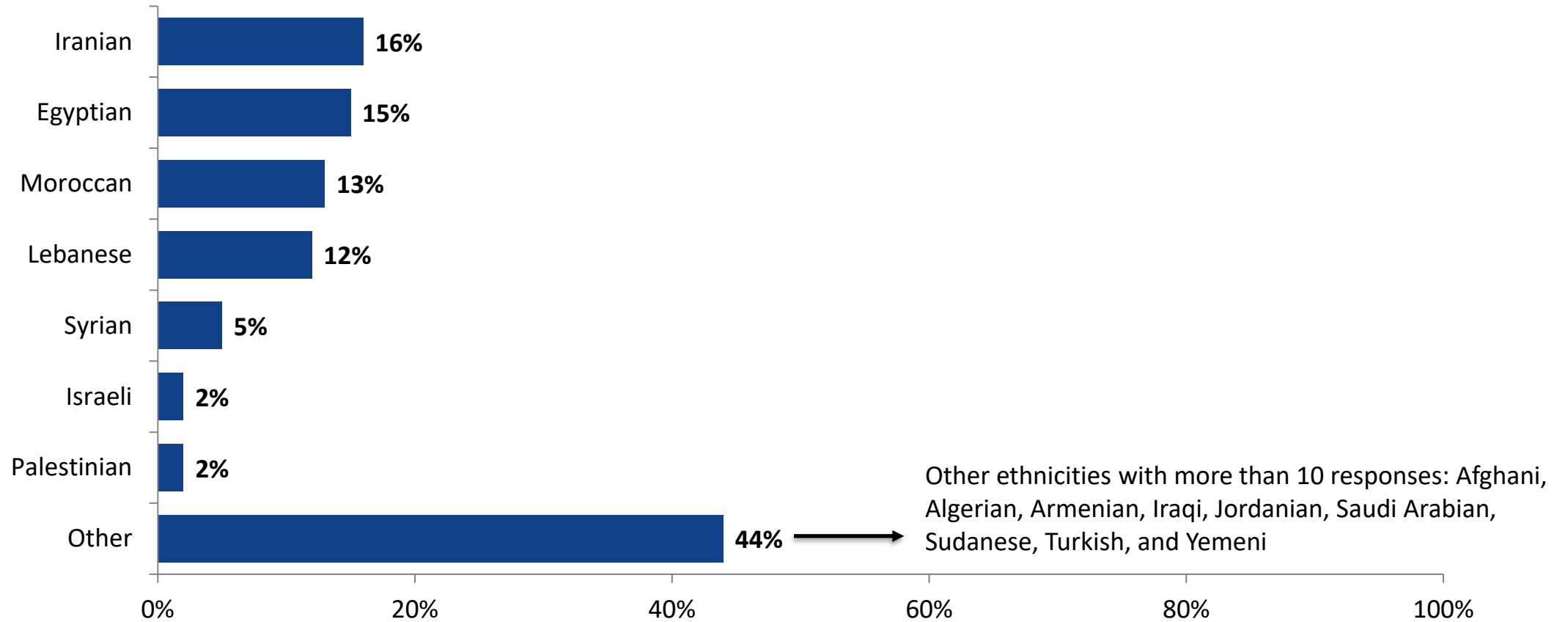
Please select your child's ethnicity. (N=2,338)



Note: The sum may exceed 100 percent since participants could select more than one answer.

# Middle Eastern or North African Ethnicity of Student

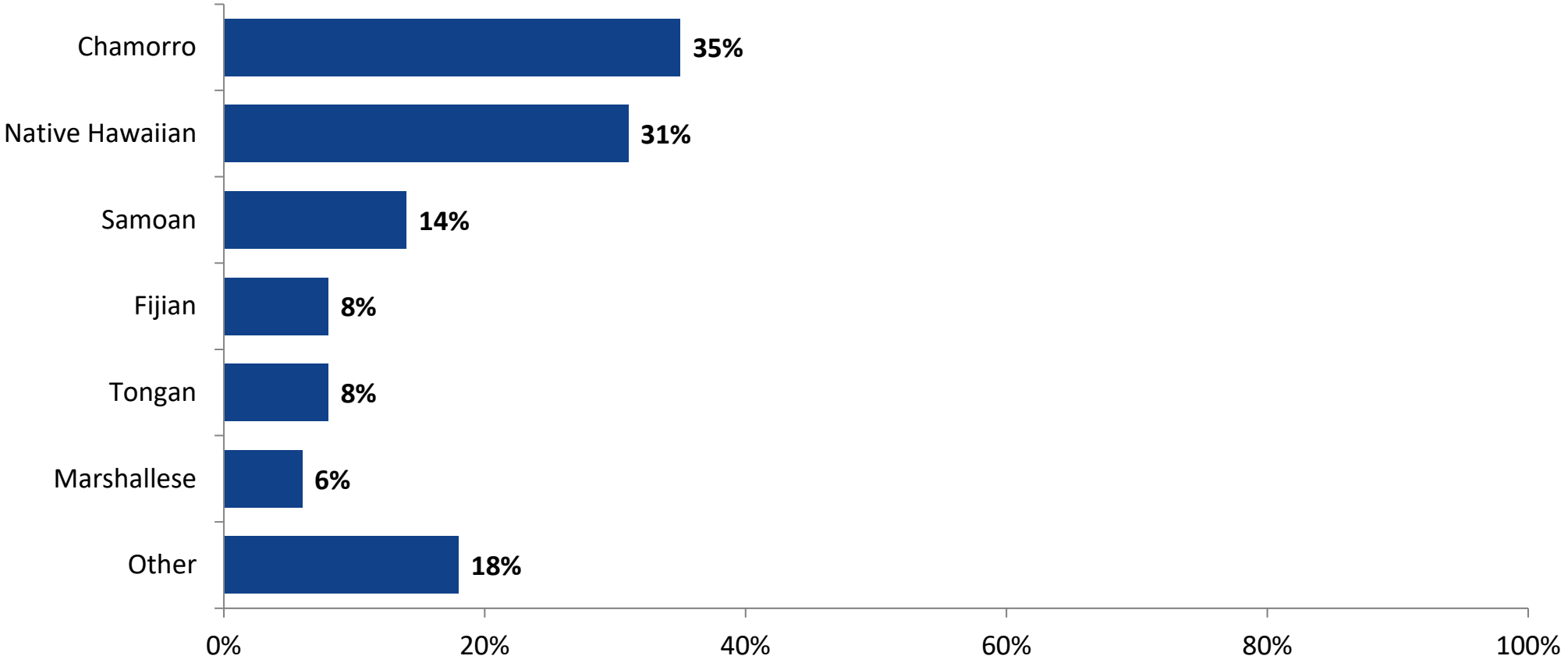
Please select your child's ethnicity. (N=929)



Note: The sum may exceed 100 percent since participants could select more than one answer.

# Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Ethnicity of Student

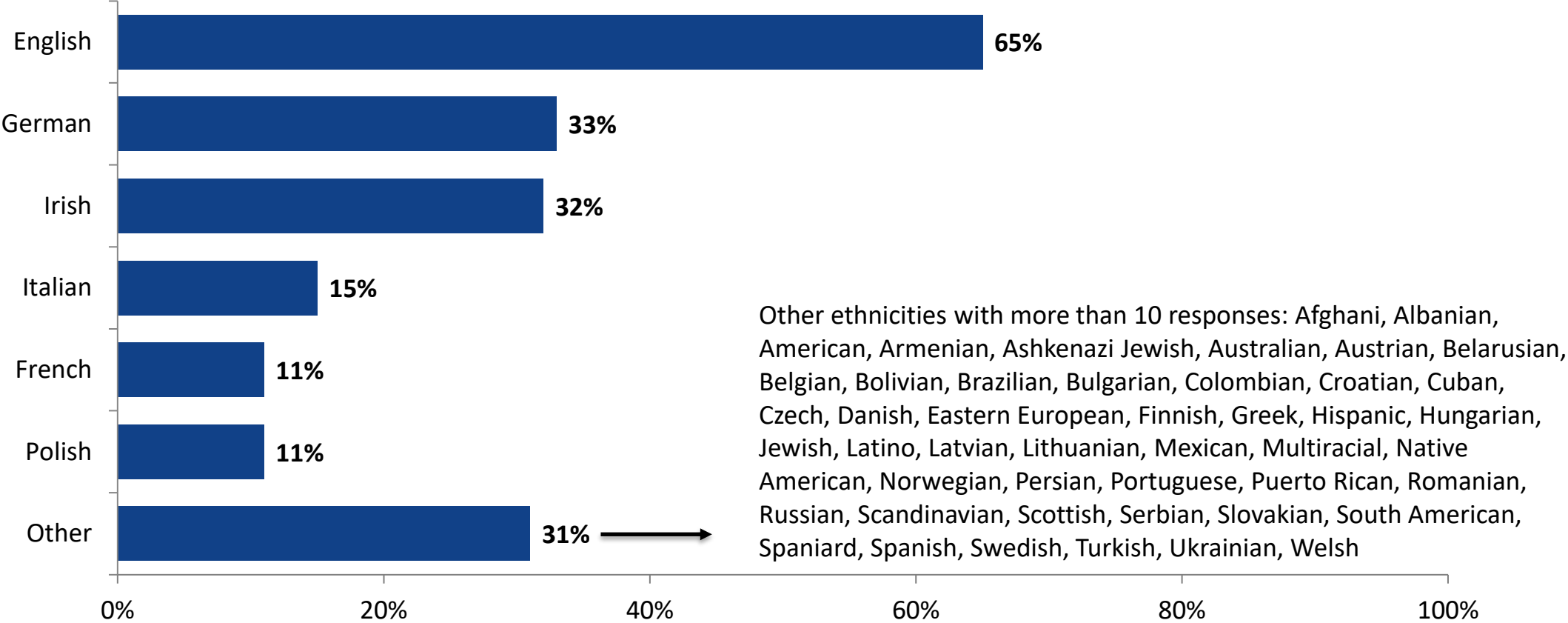
Please select your child's ethnicity. (N=77)



Note: The sum may exceed 100 percent since participants could select more than one answer.

# White Ethnicity of Student

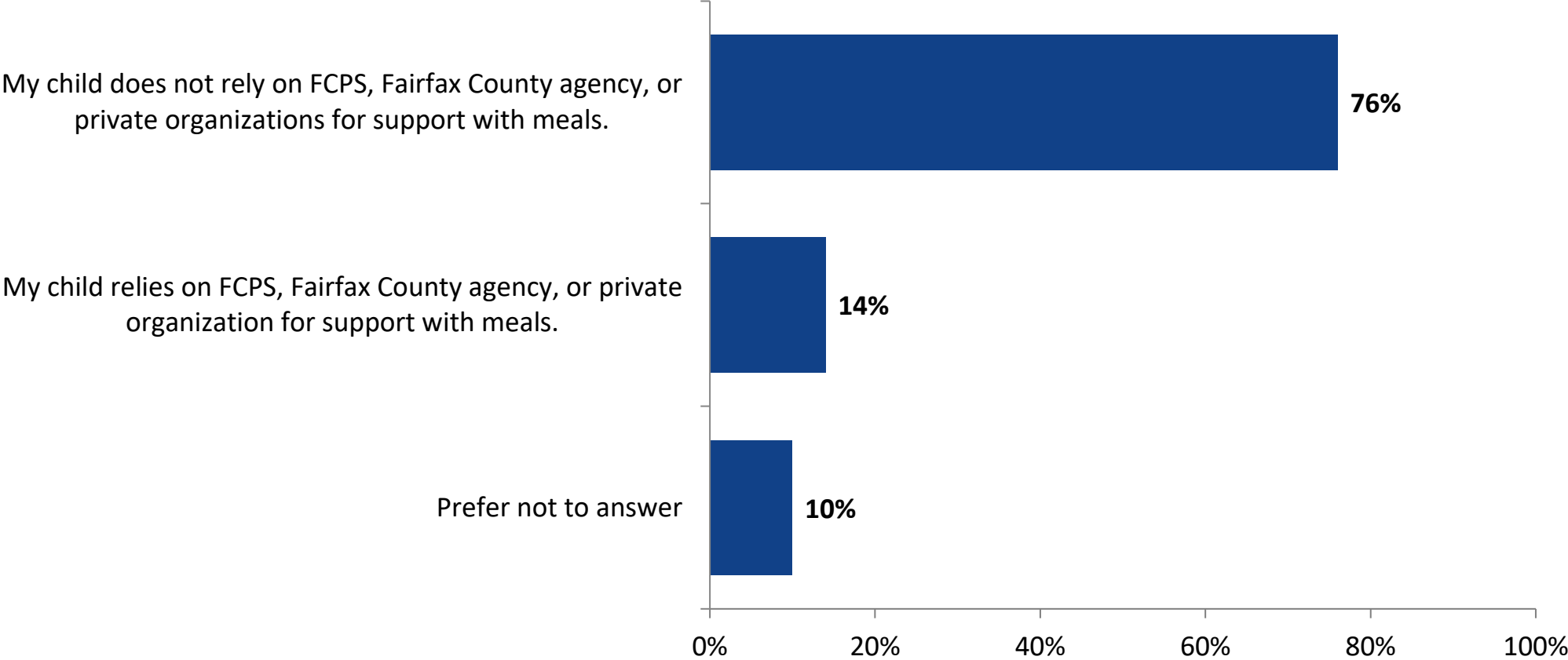
Please select your child's ethnicity. (N=11,005)



Note: The sum may exceed 100 percent since participants could select more than one answer.

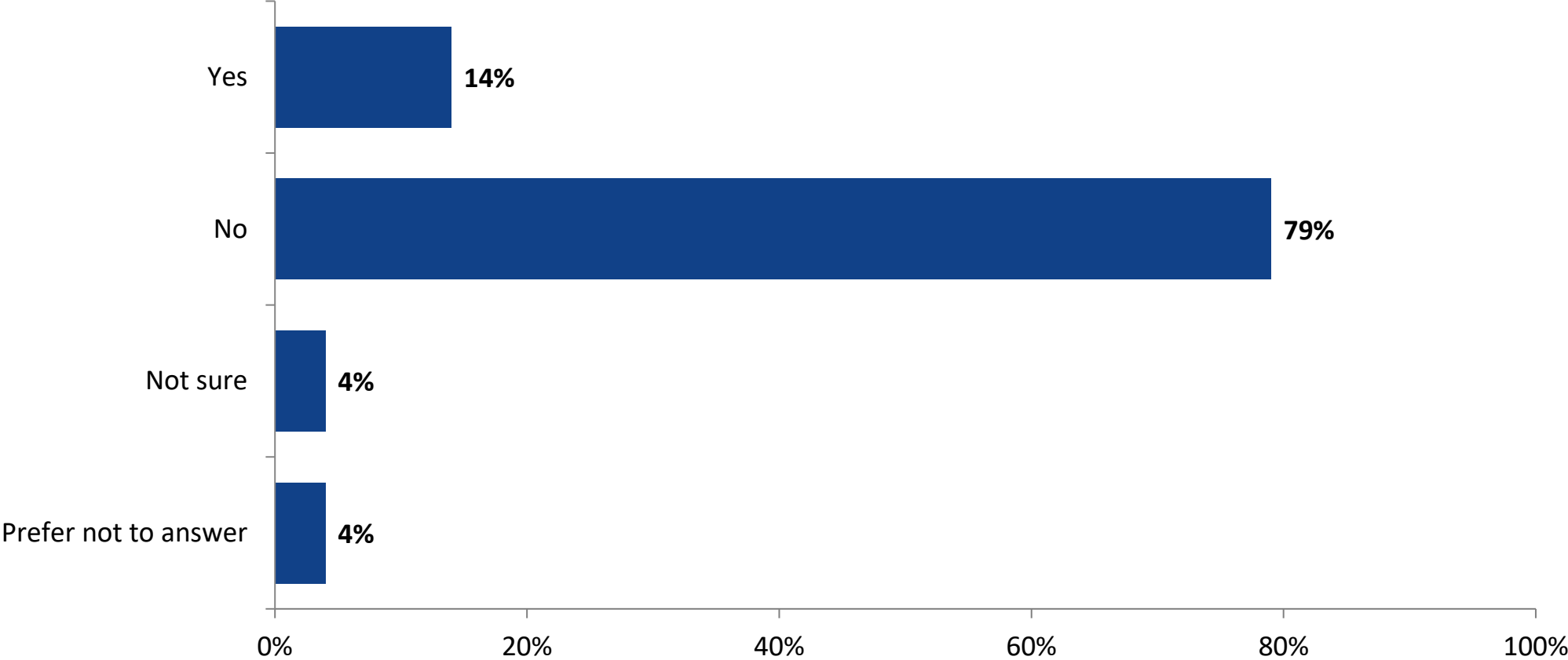
# Food Assistance

What best describes your child's food situation? (N=25,848)



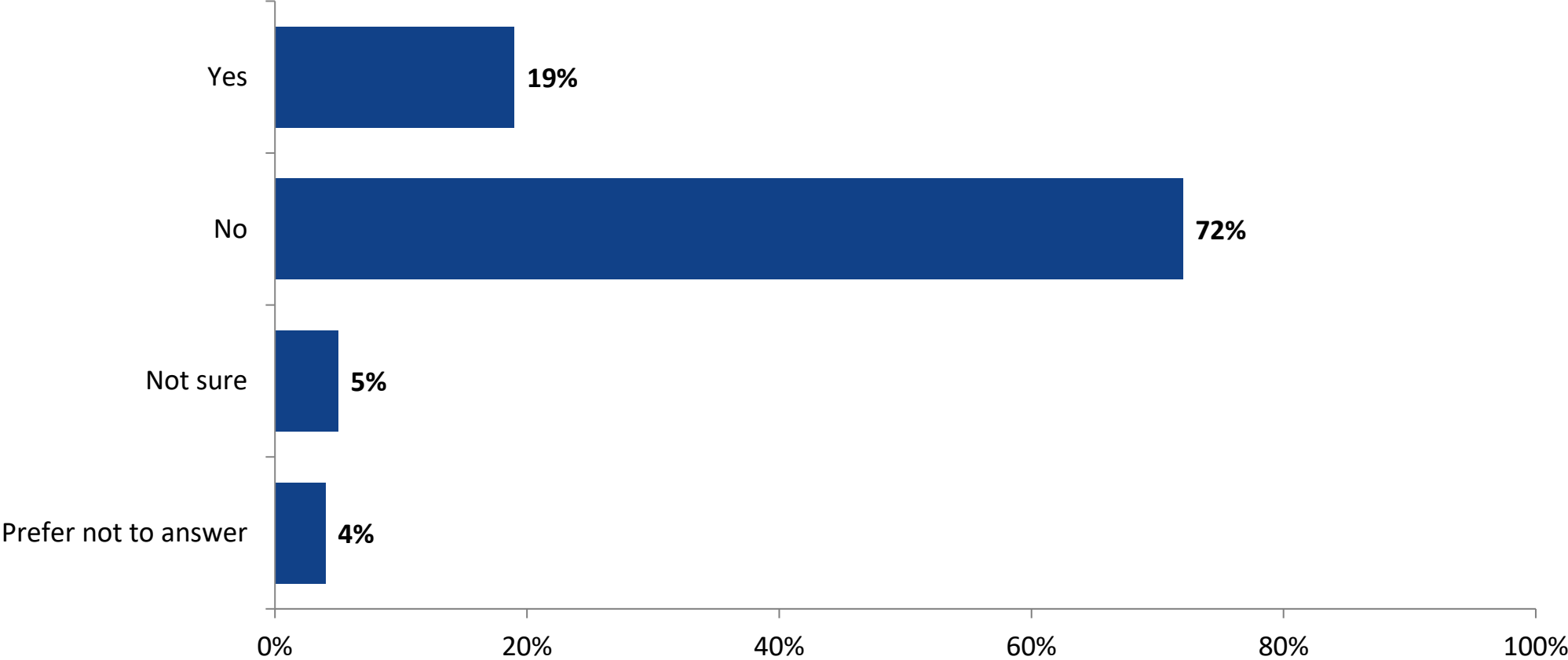
# English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Services

Does your child receive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services? (N=26,010)



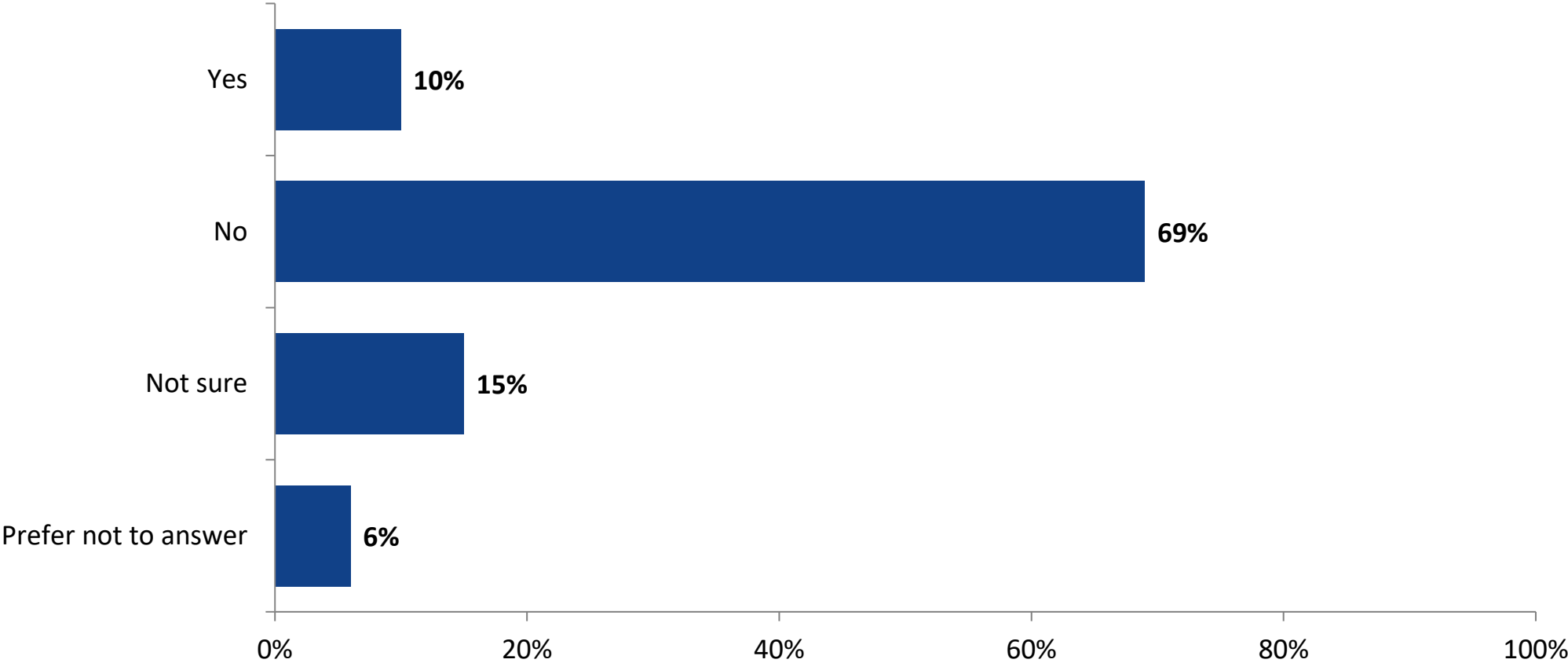
# Special Education Services

Does your child receive special education services with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)? (N=25,960)



# 504 Plan Services

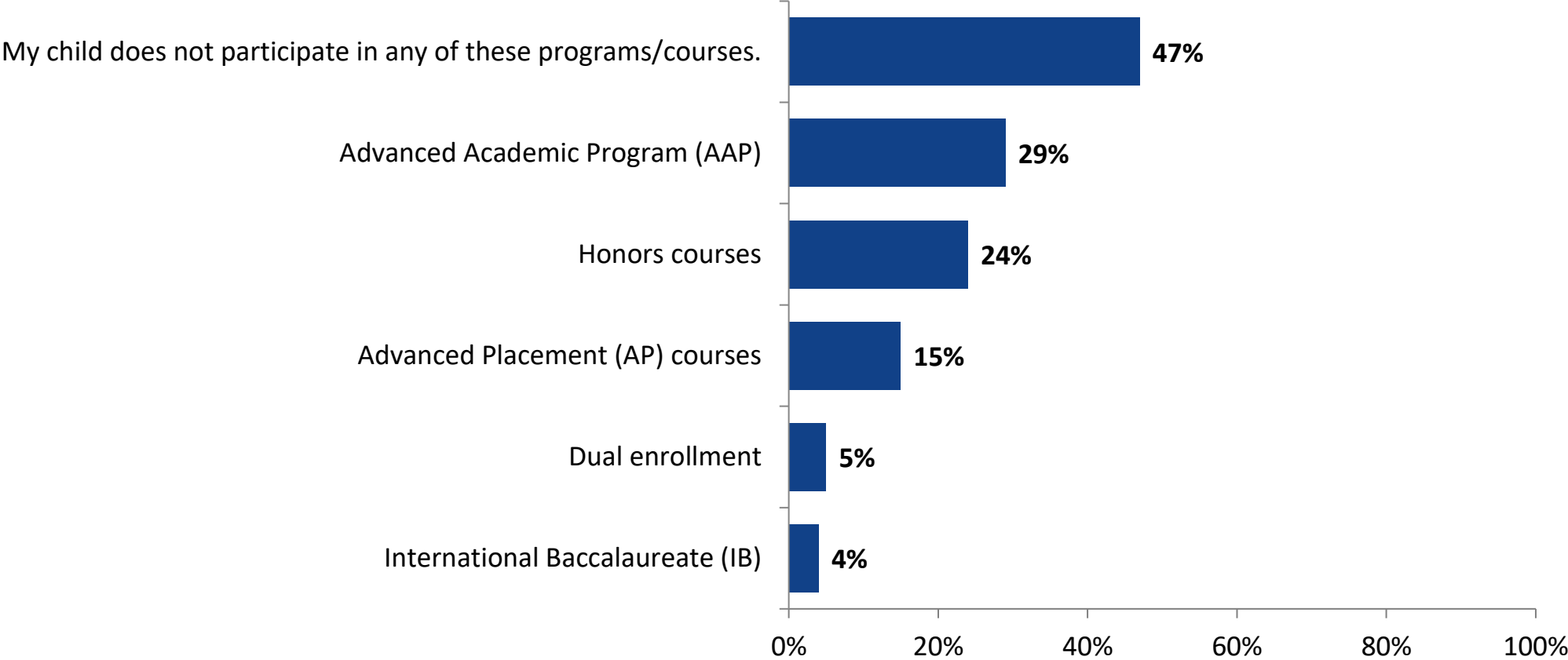
Does your child have a 504 plan? (N=25,833)





# Advanced Academic Program (AAP) Services

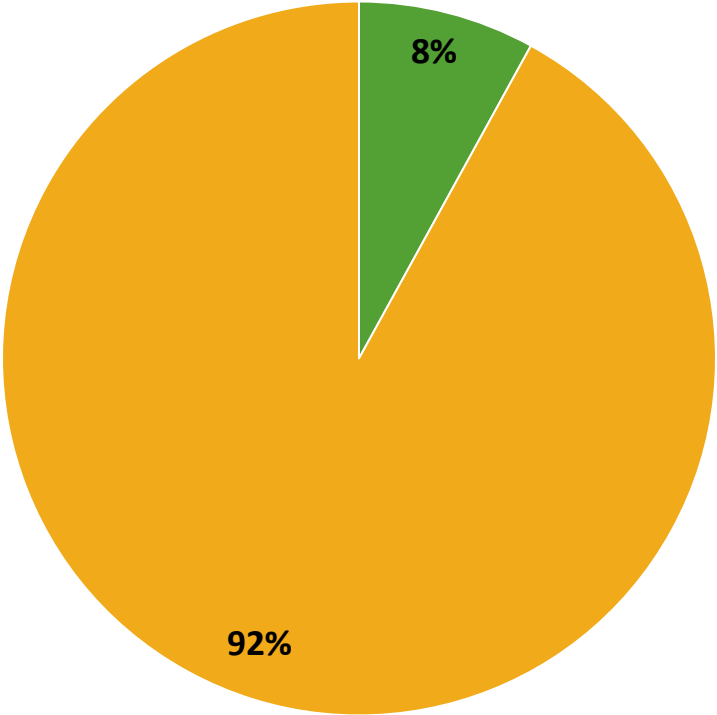
Does your child participate in any of the following programs/courses? (N=24,741)



Note: The sum may exceed 100 percent since participants could select more than one answer.

# United States Uniformed Services

Does your child have a parent in the United States uniformed services (i.e., Active or Reserve Component, or National Guard)? (N=25,874)



■ Yes ■ No

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