Family Engagement Survey

Results and Analysis

Fairfax County Public Schools

School Year: 2021-2022

Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENGAGE • INSPIRE • THRIVE

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Purpose & Details of the Study

Research tells us that families have a major influence on their children's achievements through school and through life. When schools build partnerships with families, respond to their concerns, and honor their contributions, they promote a range of benefits for students, including improved school readiness, higher student achievement, better social skills and behavior, and increased likelihood of high school graduation.

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 13 to April 10.

Email invitations with unique survey links were sent to parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians also could participate via a public link on the division's website. Reminders were sent March 17, 23, and 29 and April 4 and 8. Paper surveys were available on request. Parents/Guardians with children attending more than one division school could take the survey for each school.

The survey and email invitations were translated into Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Pashto, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

This report summarizes survey results and breaks them down by school level: Elementary (kindergarten-grade 5), middle (grades 6-8), secondary (grades 7-12), and high (grades 9-12). Results are compared with those from 2018-2019. Results do not reflect random sampling; therefore, they should not be generalized to all parents/guardians of students in Fairfax County Public Schools. Rather, results reflect only the perceptions and opinions of survey participants.

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.

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Participation

School Year	Responding Group	Number of Invitations Delivered (NMax)	Number of Responses (N)	Paper Surveys	Public-access Link Responses	Total Responses
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
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 1,885 responses from parents/guardians who took the survey again for a different school.*

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Participation by School Level

School Level	Count (N)	Percentage (%)
Elementary	21,286	61%
Middle	4,243	12%
High	7,472	21%
Secondary	2,062	6%

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Executive Summary

- 84% of participating parents/guardians indicated they were respected or very respected at their child's school and 83% indicated their child was respected or very respected at their school.
- The Welcoming Environment dimension had the highest percentage of Agree and Strongly Agree responses (86%). However, there was a modest difference between school levels, with participating elementary school parents/guardians at 89% compared with 81% for parents/guardians at all other school levels.
- Generally, participating elementary school parents/guardians responded the most favorably (Strongly Agree or Agree) to items throughout the survey. *My child feels safe at school* was the highest-ranking item for elementary parents/guardians, with 95% agreeing or strongly agreeing with that statement. The highest-ranking item for all other school levels was *This school welcomes families of different backgrounds and cultures,* with 88% of participating middle school and 86% of secondary and high school parents/guardians agreeing or strongly agreeing with that statement.
- Within the Communication dimension, 90% of participating parents/guardians said information provided by their child's school is easy to understand and 84% said school staff keeps them informed of their child's progress.
- Within the Advocacy dimension, 86% of participating parents/guardians said their child's school recognizes and respects families' cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity. Other items in this dimension had high percentages of Don't Know responses, ranging from 7% to 40%.

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Findings

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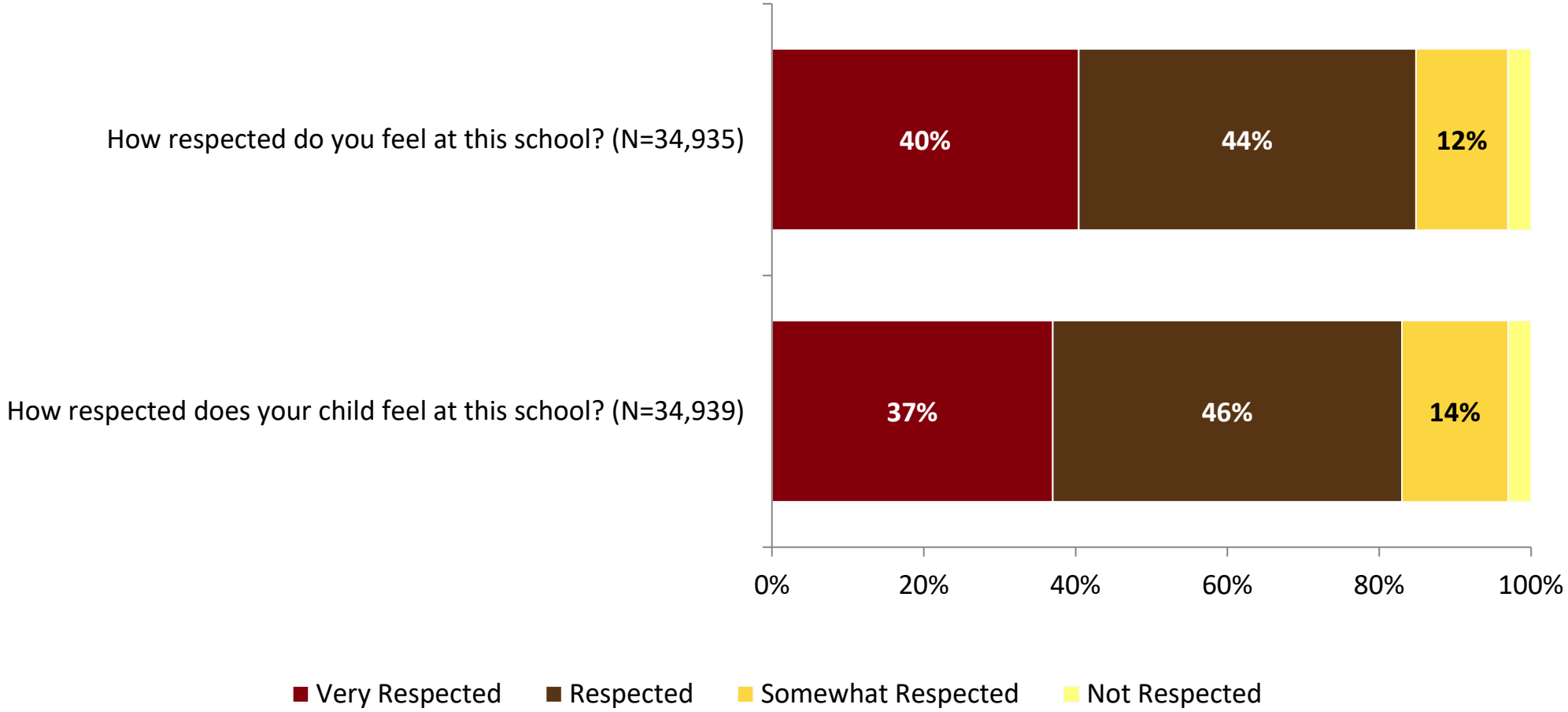
Feelings of Respect



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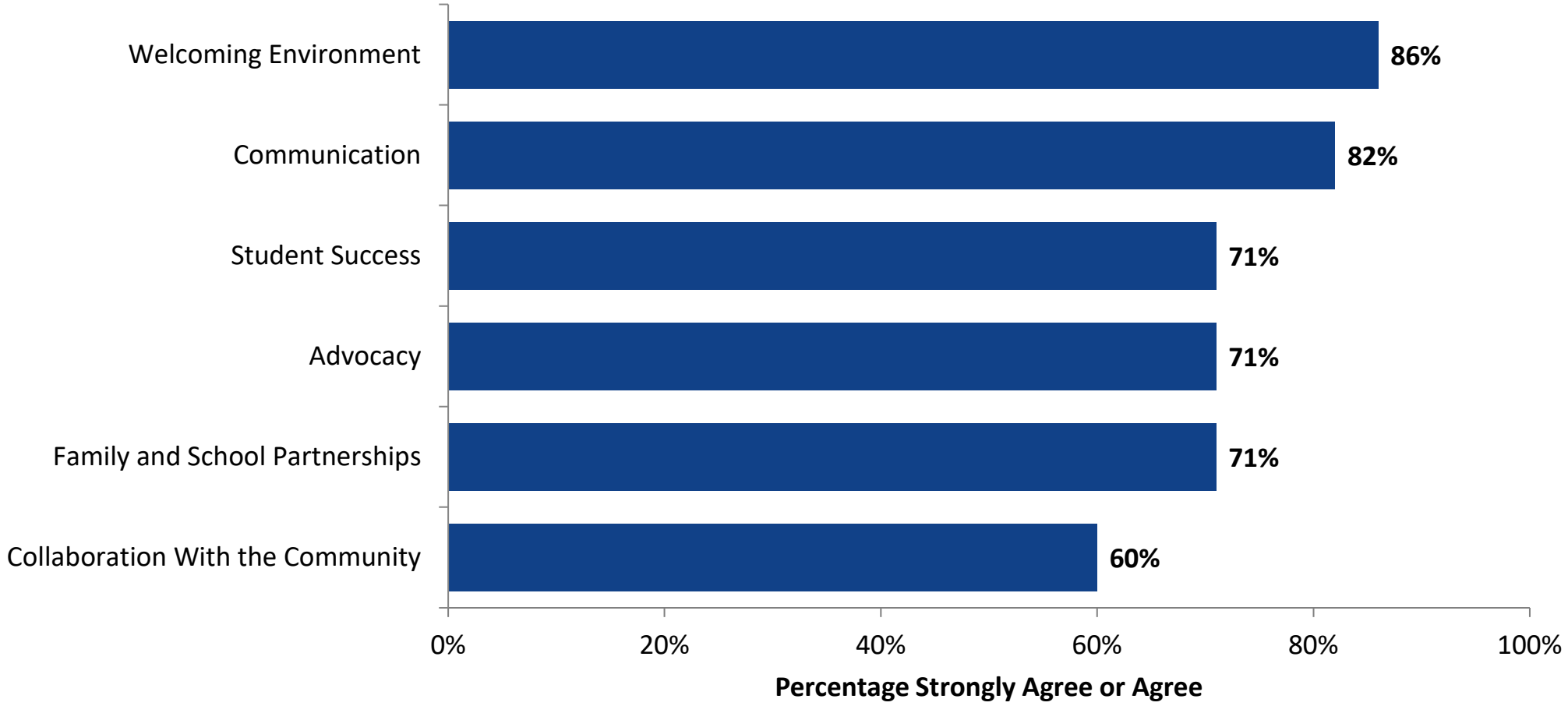
Dimension Scores



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.

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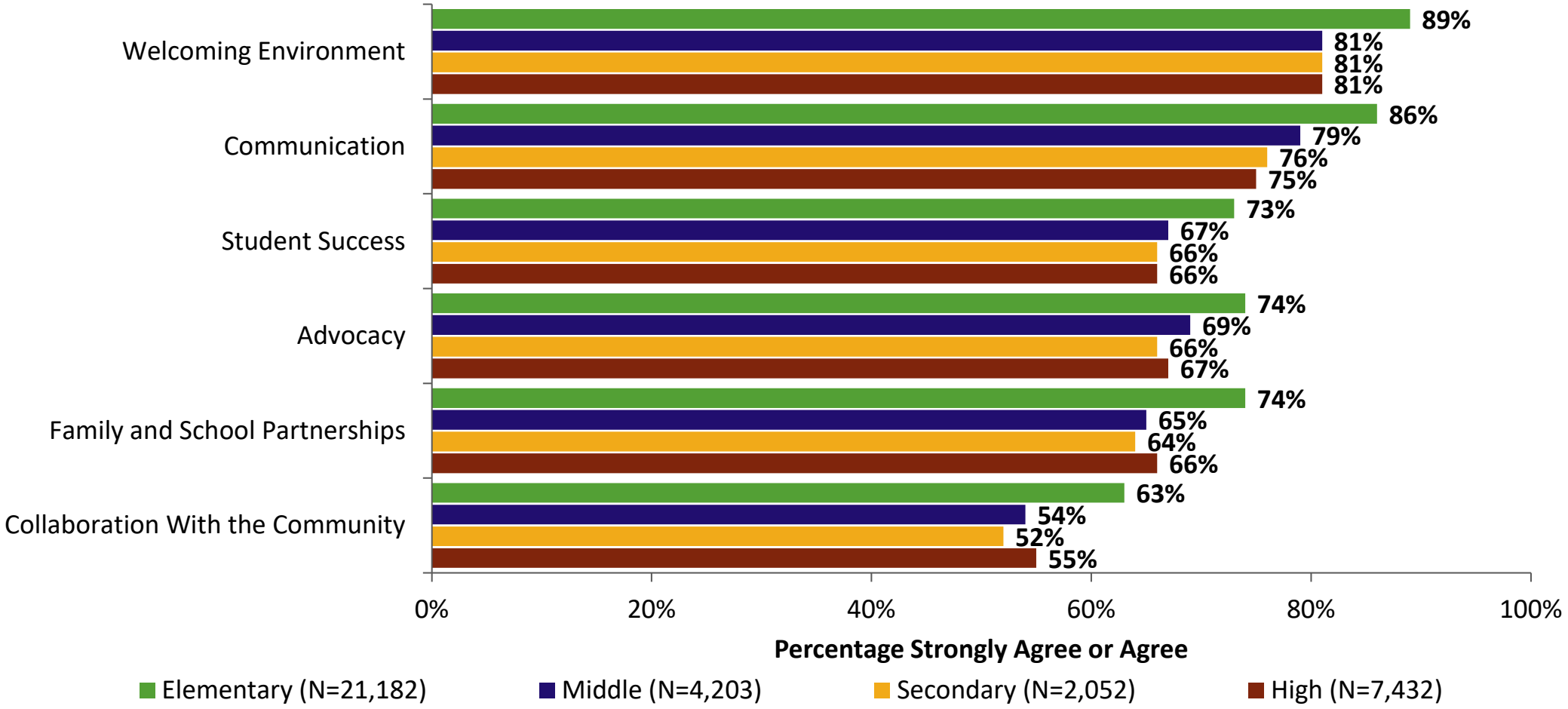
Dimension Scores: Comparison by School Level



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.

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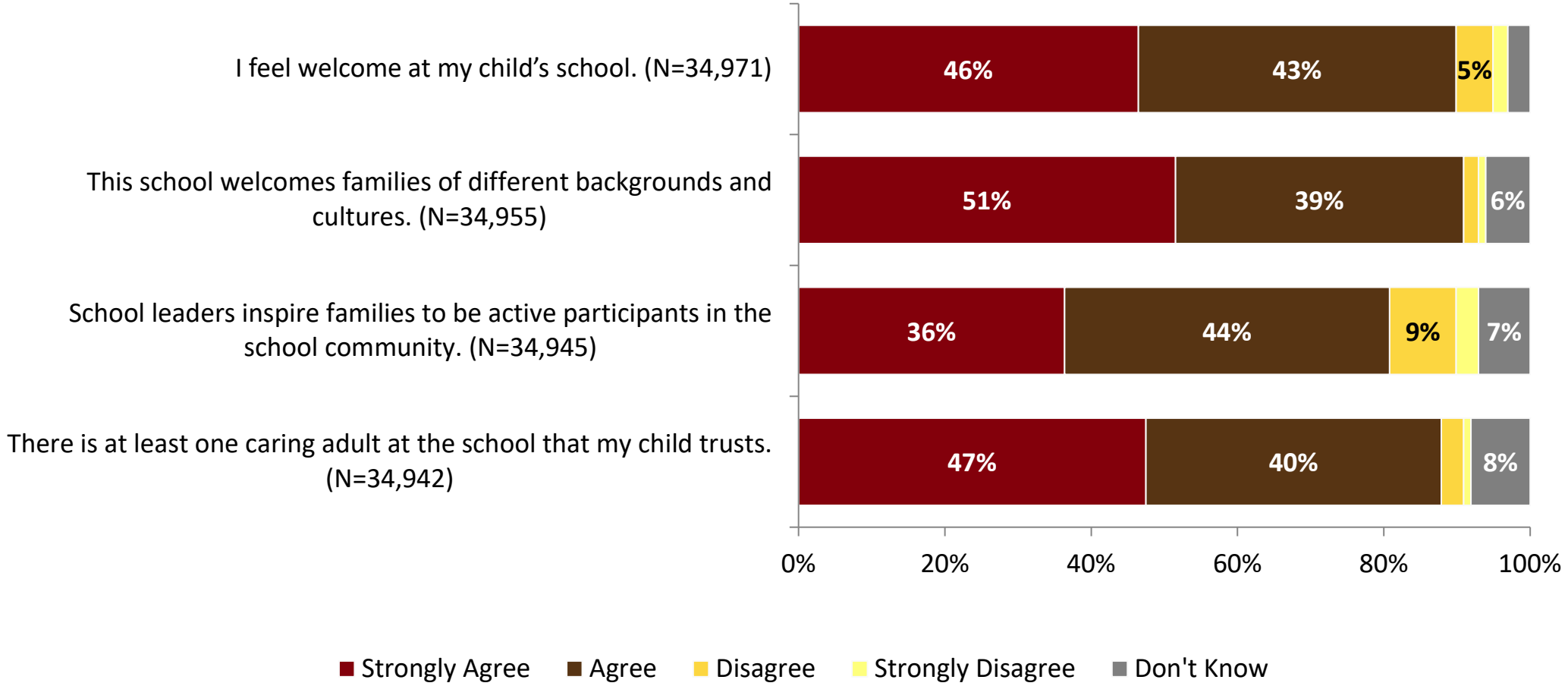
Welcoming Environment

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



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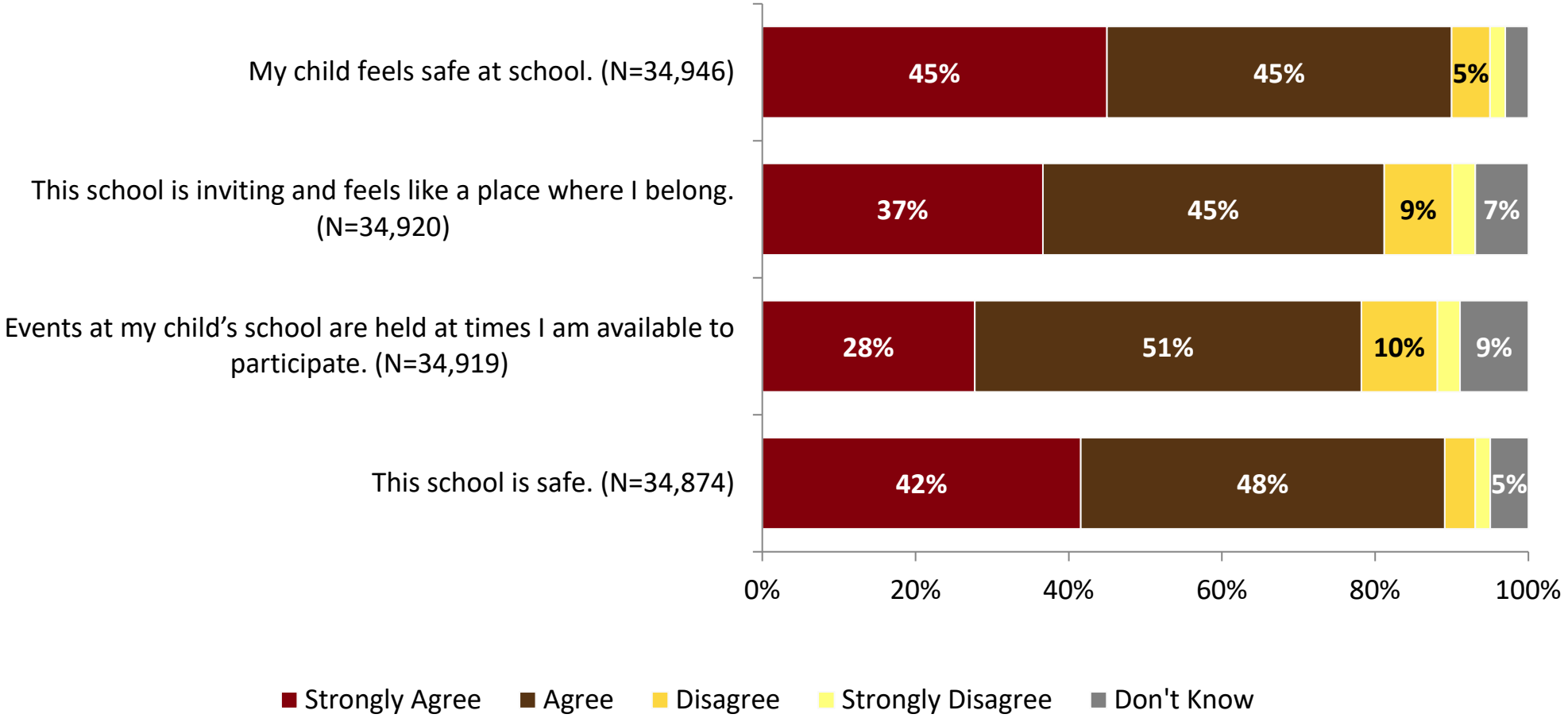
Welcoming Environment (Continued)

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



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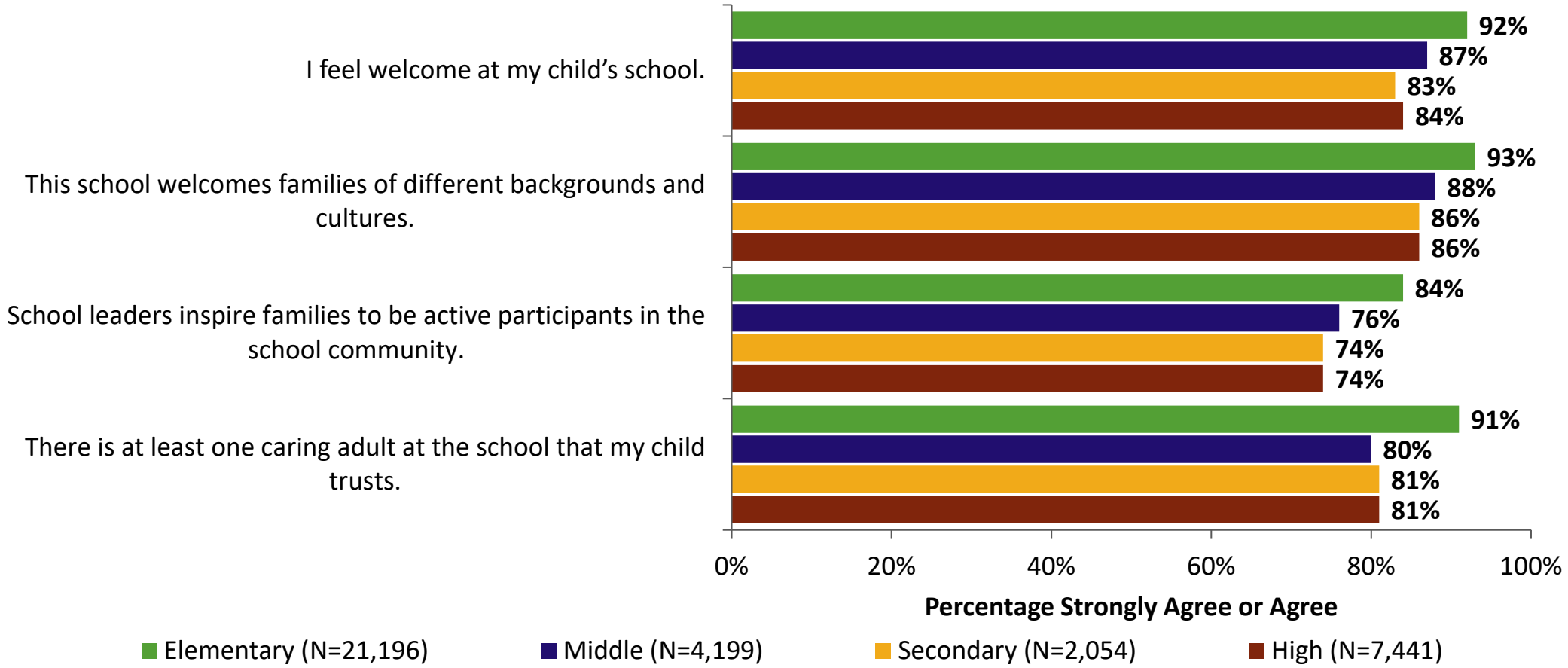
Welcoming Environment: Comparison by School Level

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



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

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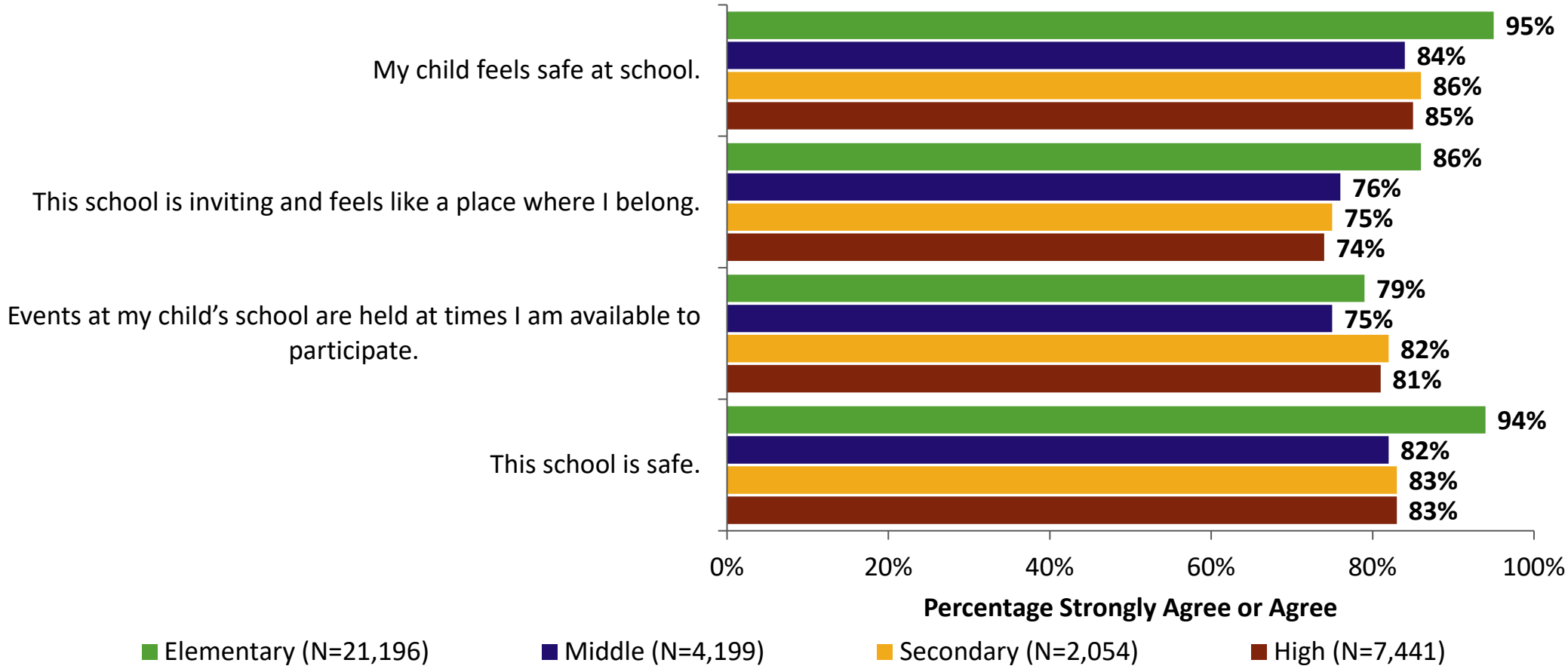
Welcoming Environment: Comparison by School Level (Continued)

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



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

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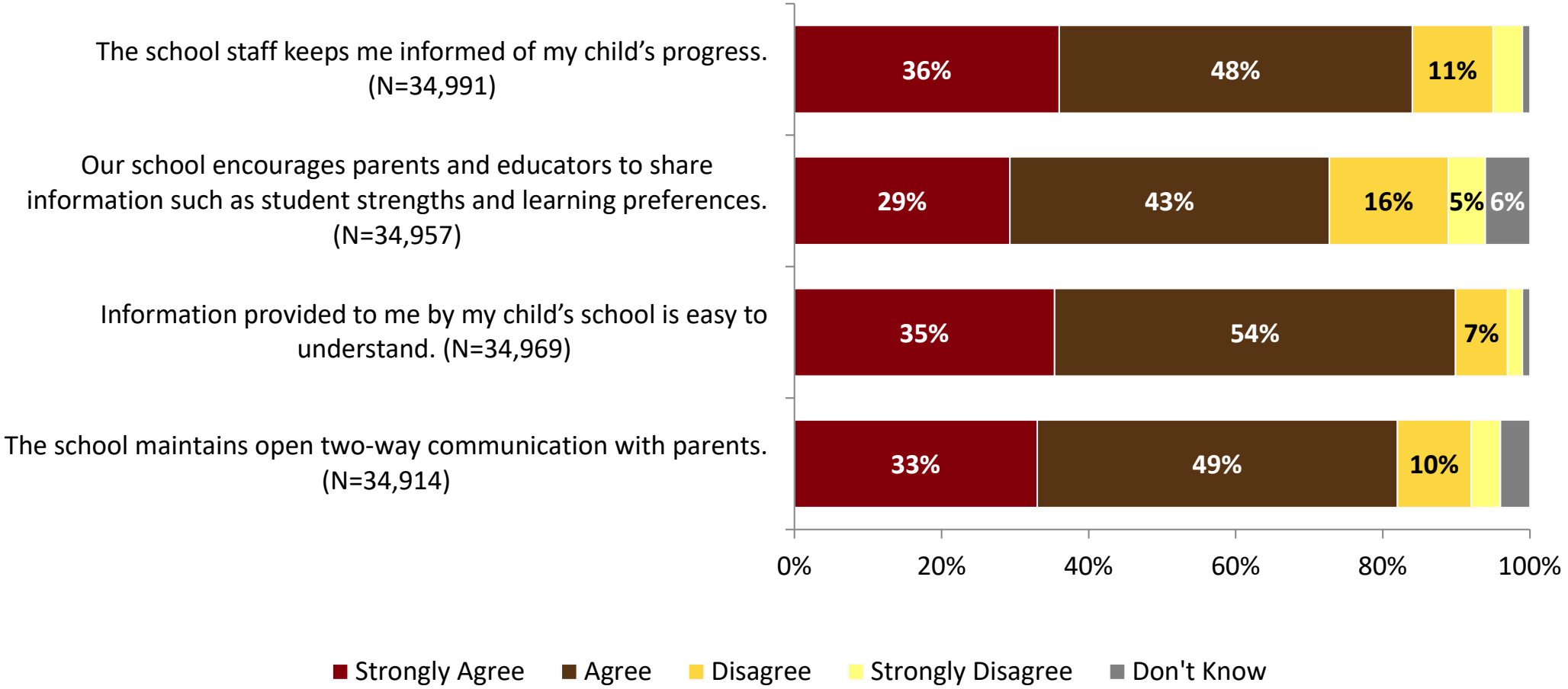
Communication

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



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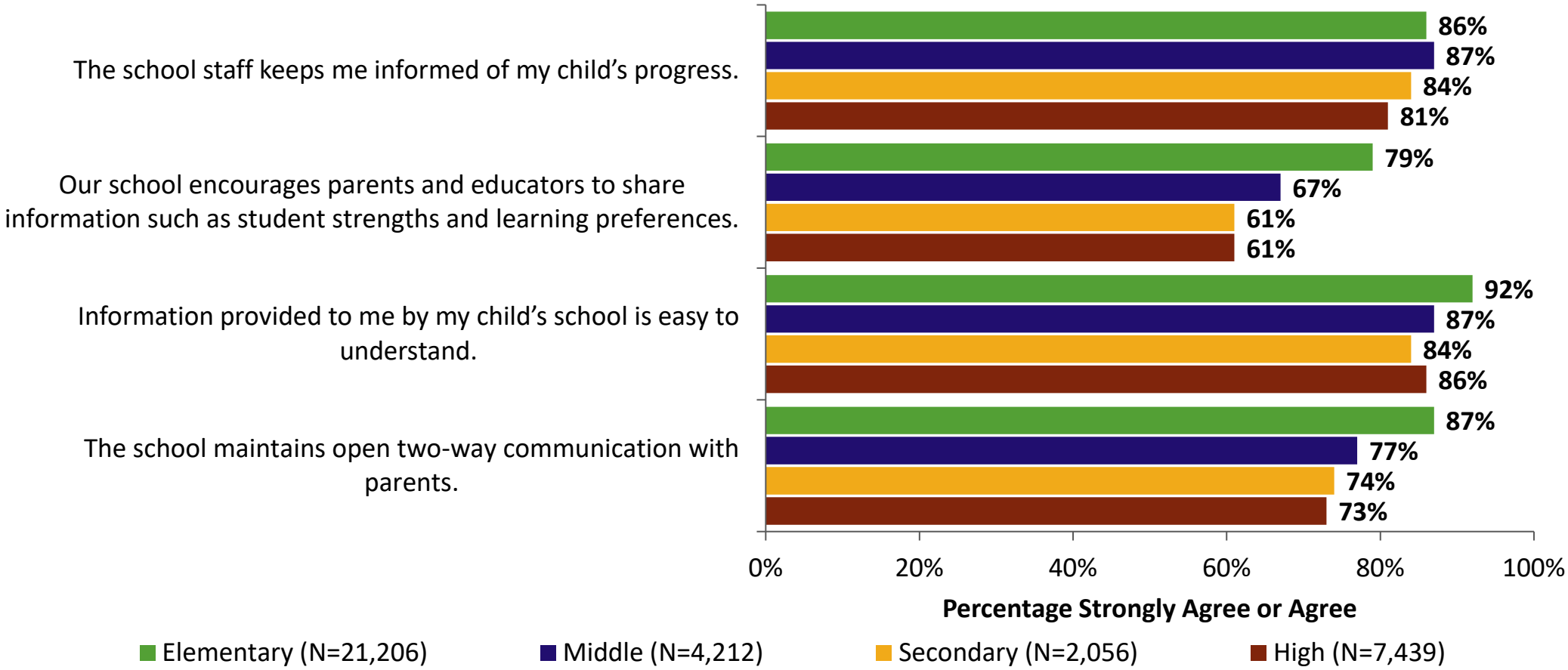
Communication: Comparison by School Level

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



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

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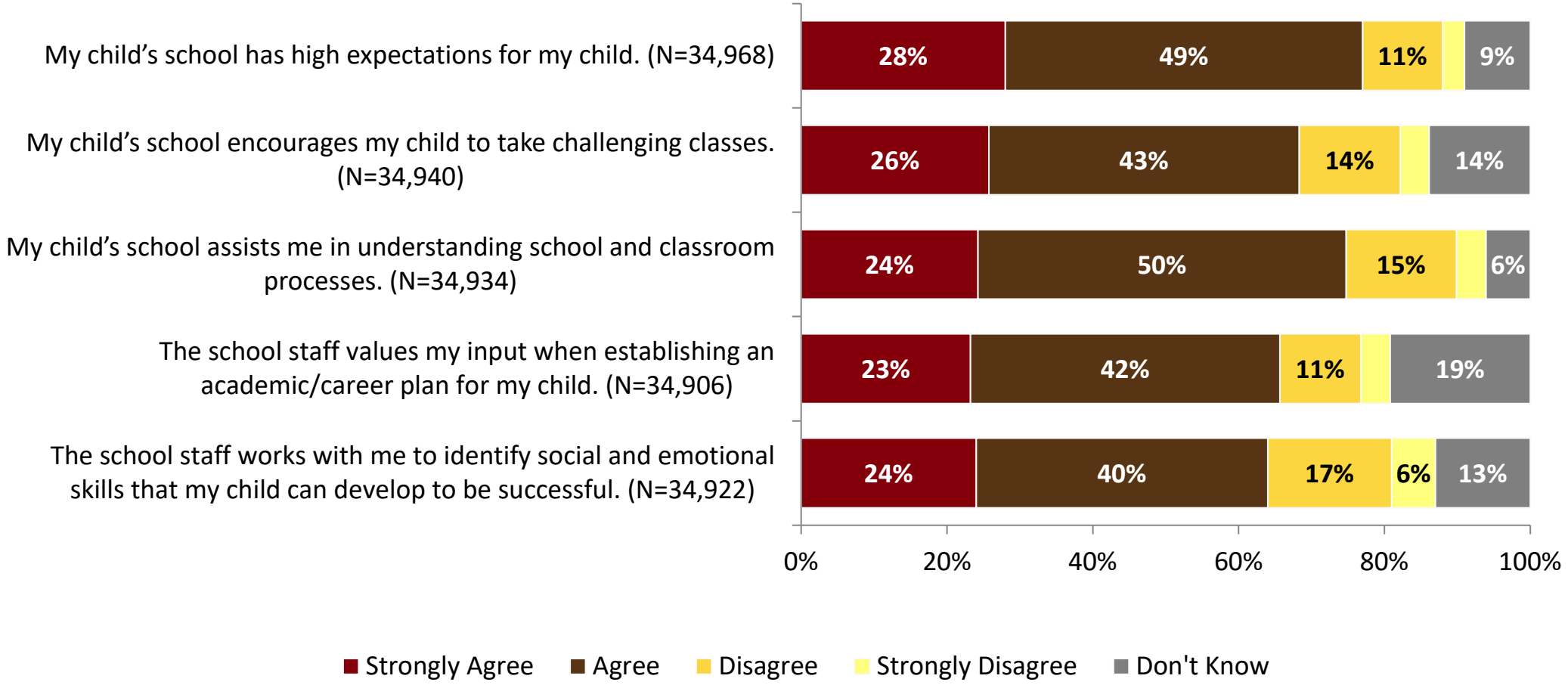
Student Success

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



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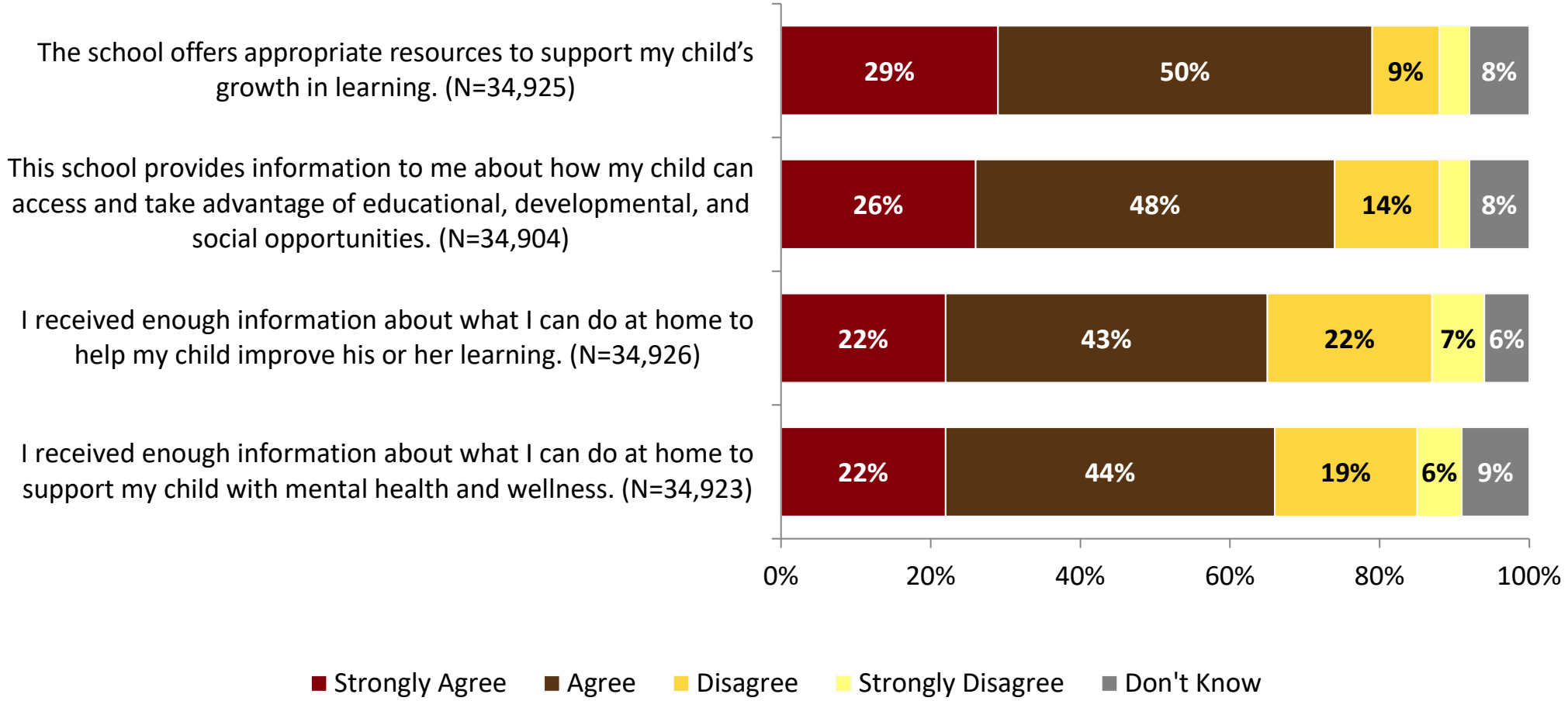
Student Success (Continued)

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



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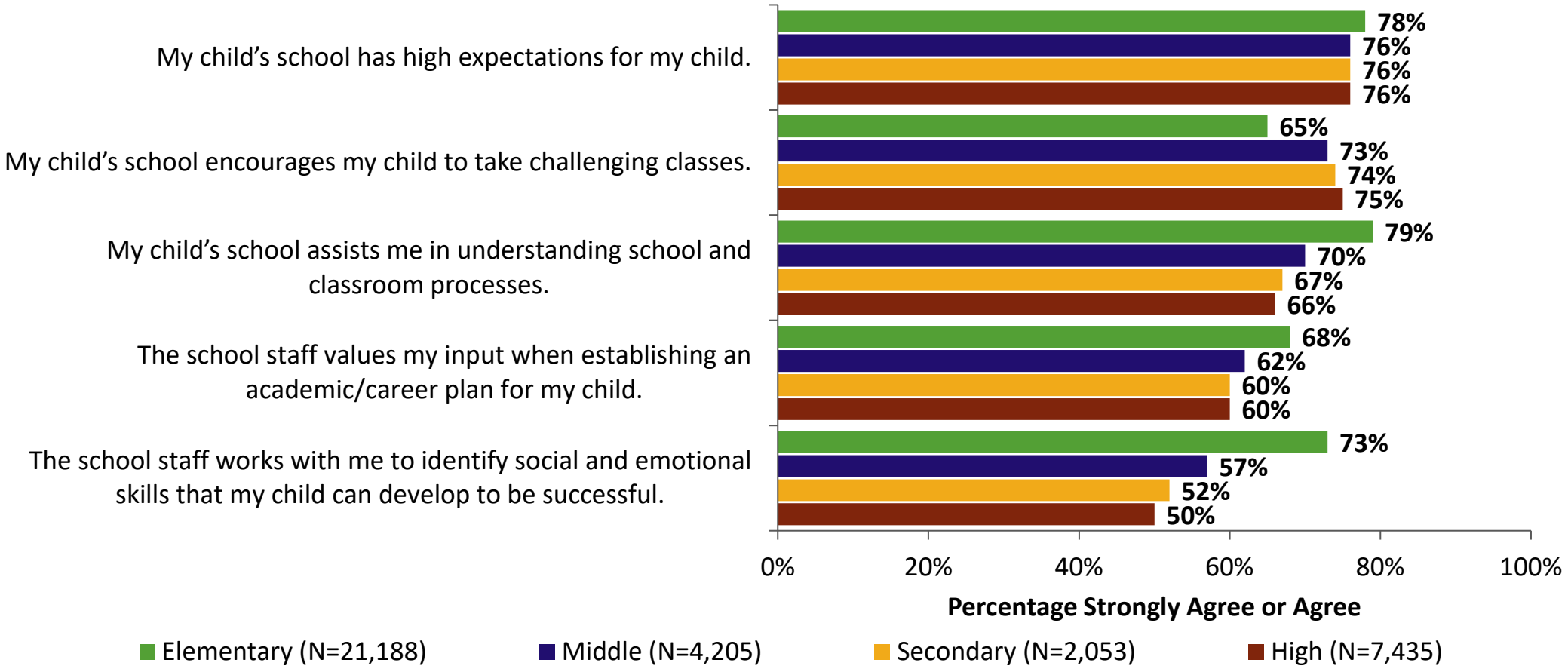
Student Success: Comparison by School Level

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



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

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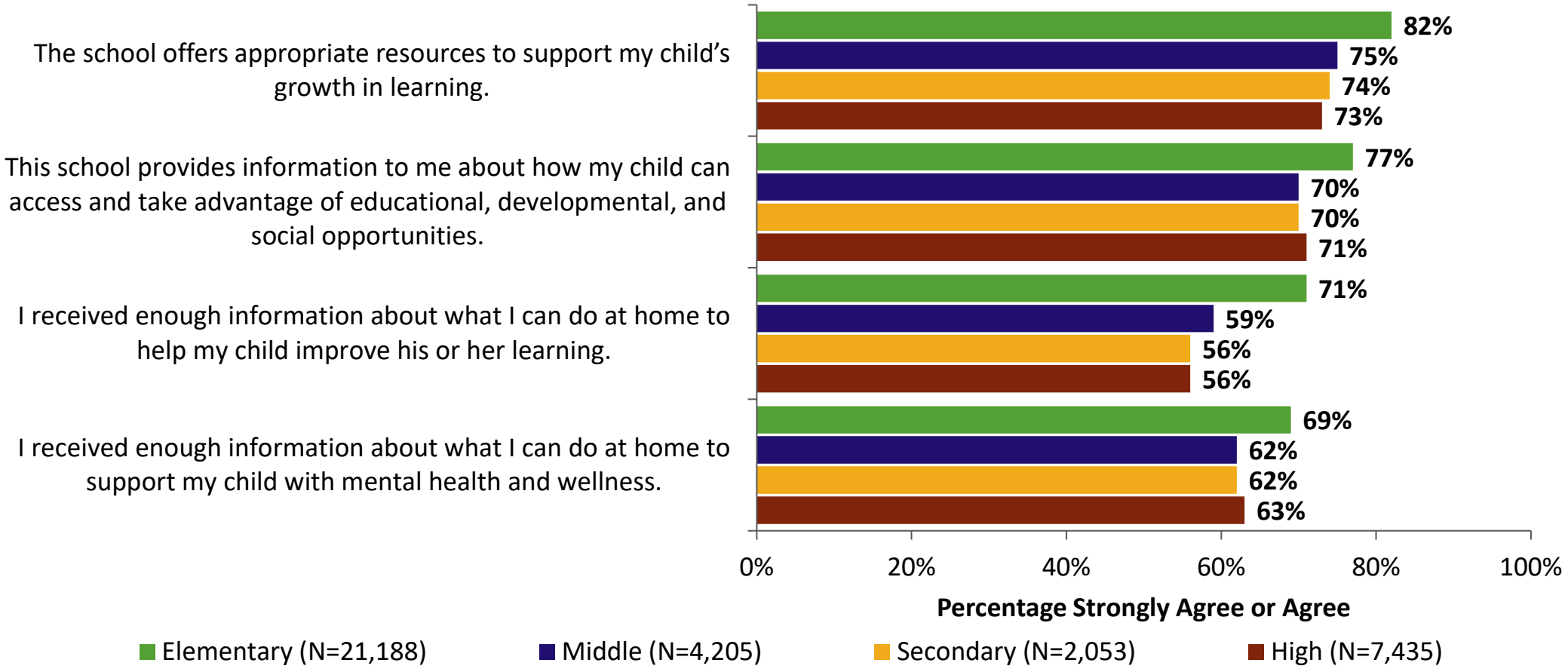
Student Success: Comparison by School Level (Continued)

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



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

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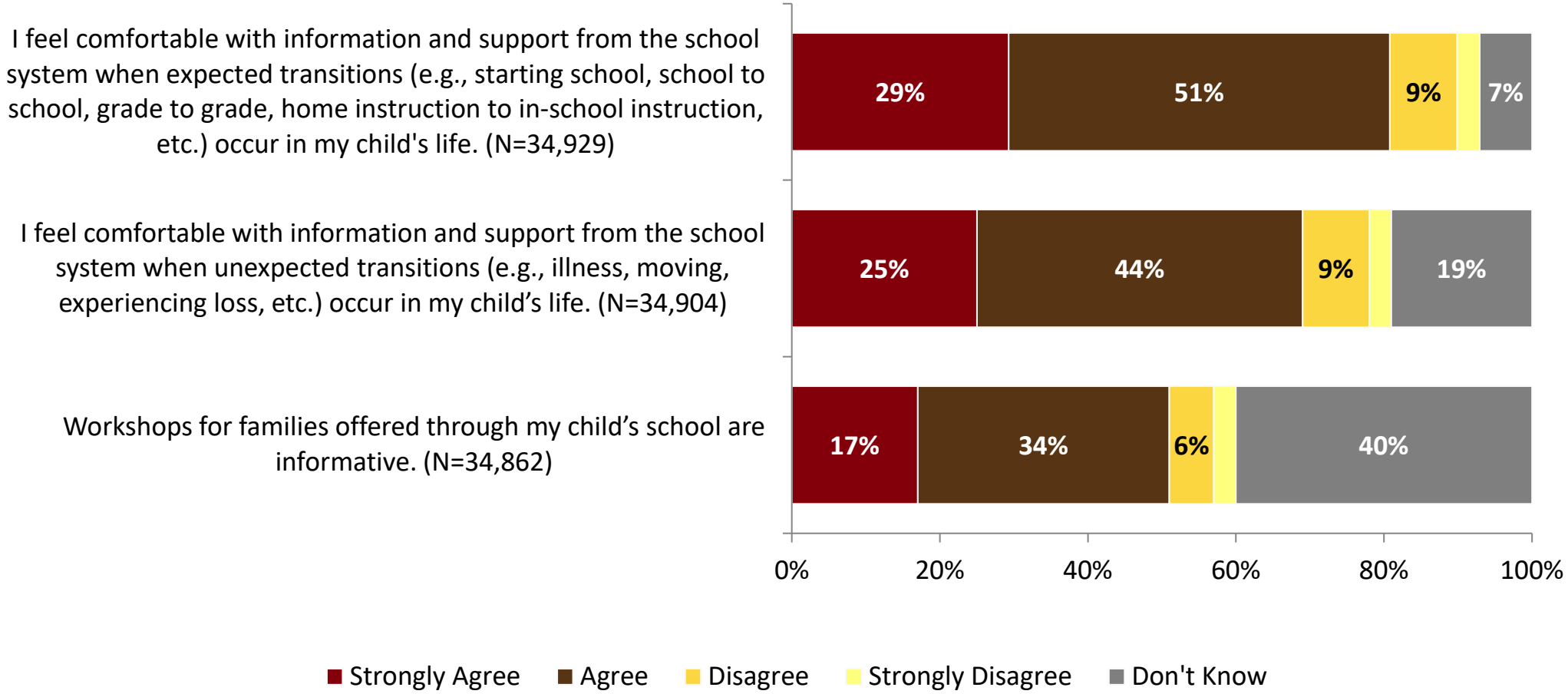
Advocacy

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



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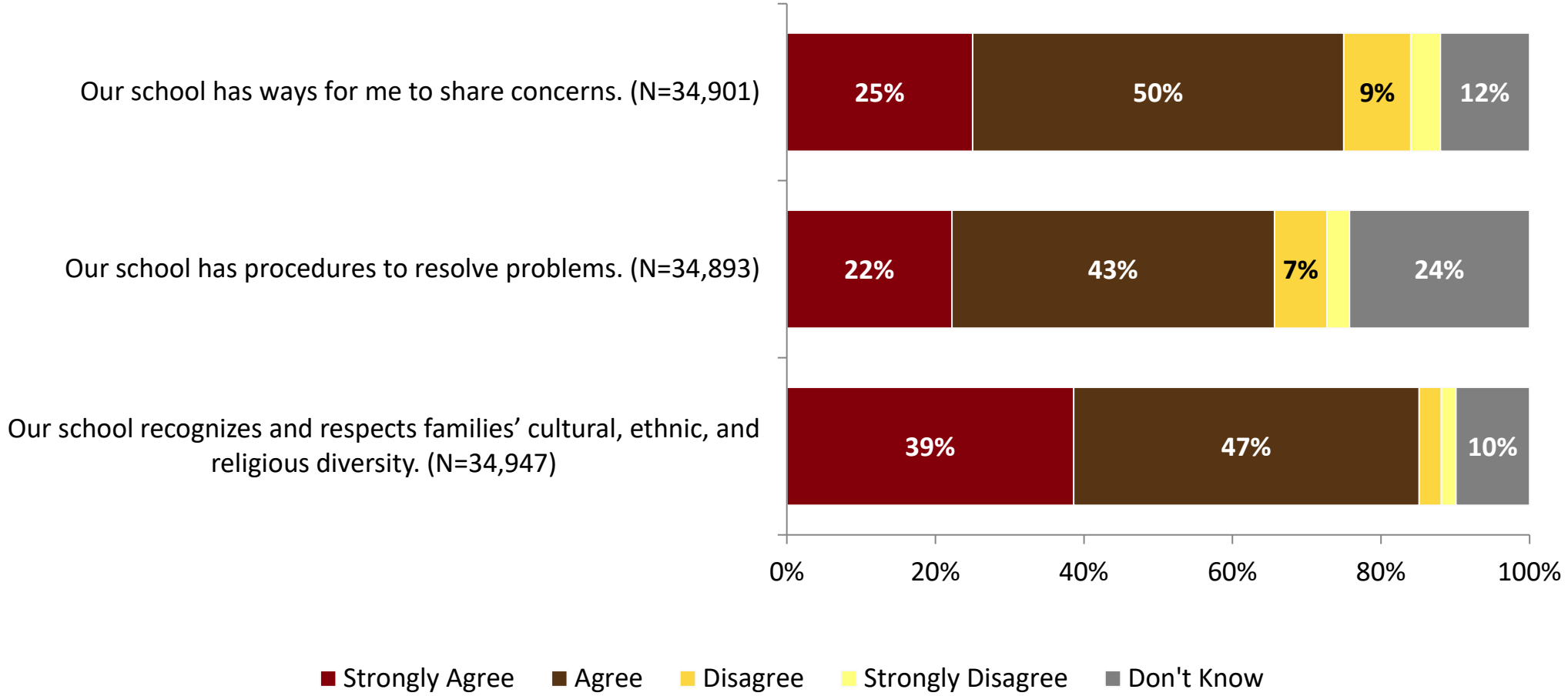
Advocacy (Continued)

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



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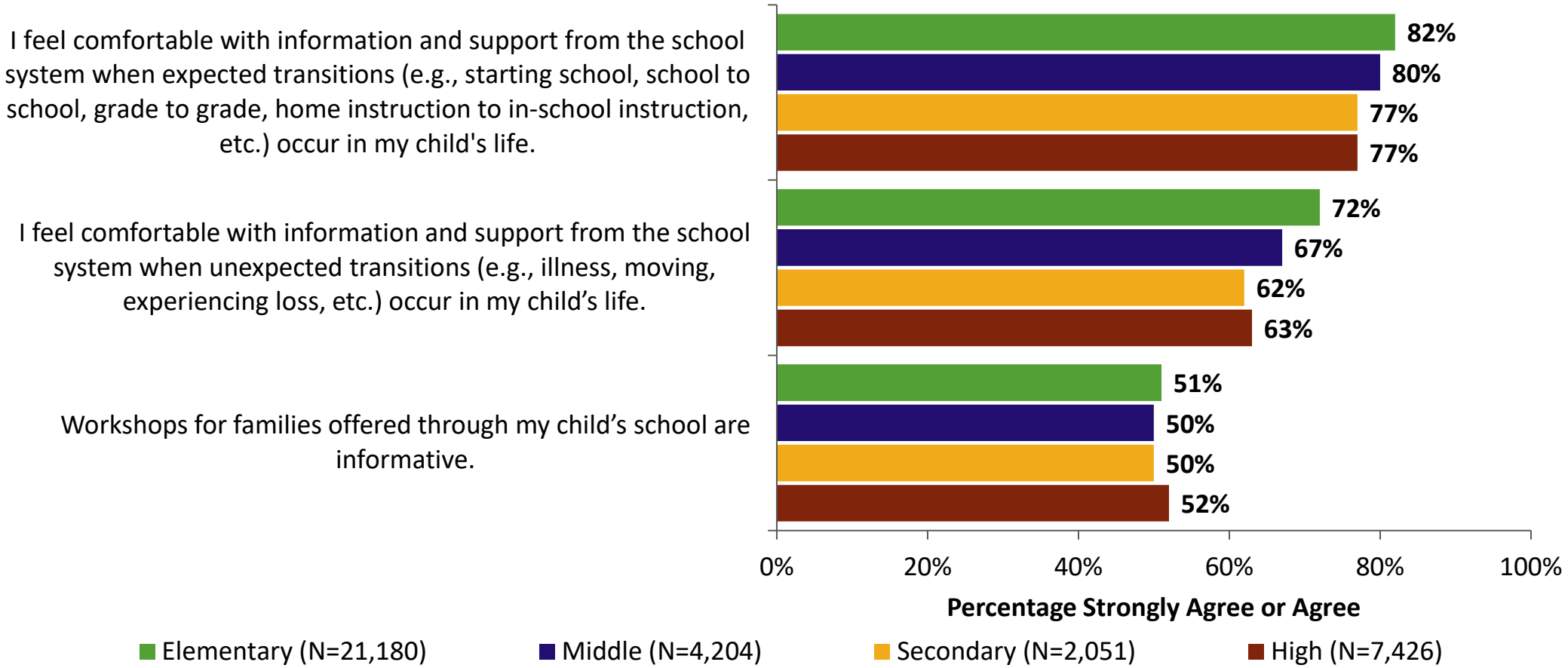
Advocacy: Comparison by School Level

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



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

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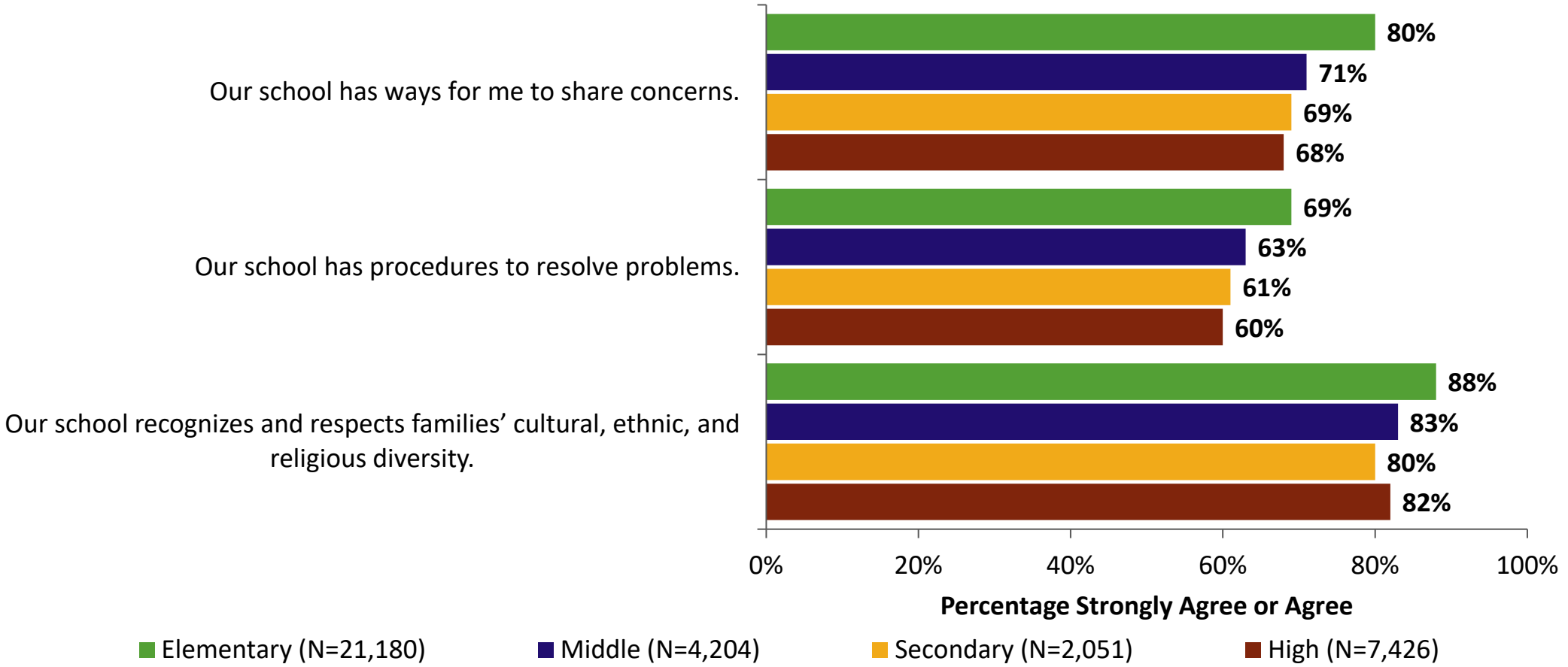
Advocacy: Comparison by School Level (Continued)

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



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

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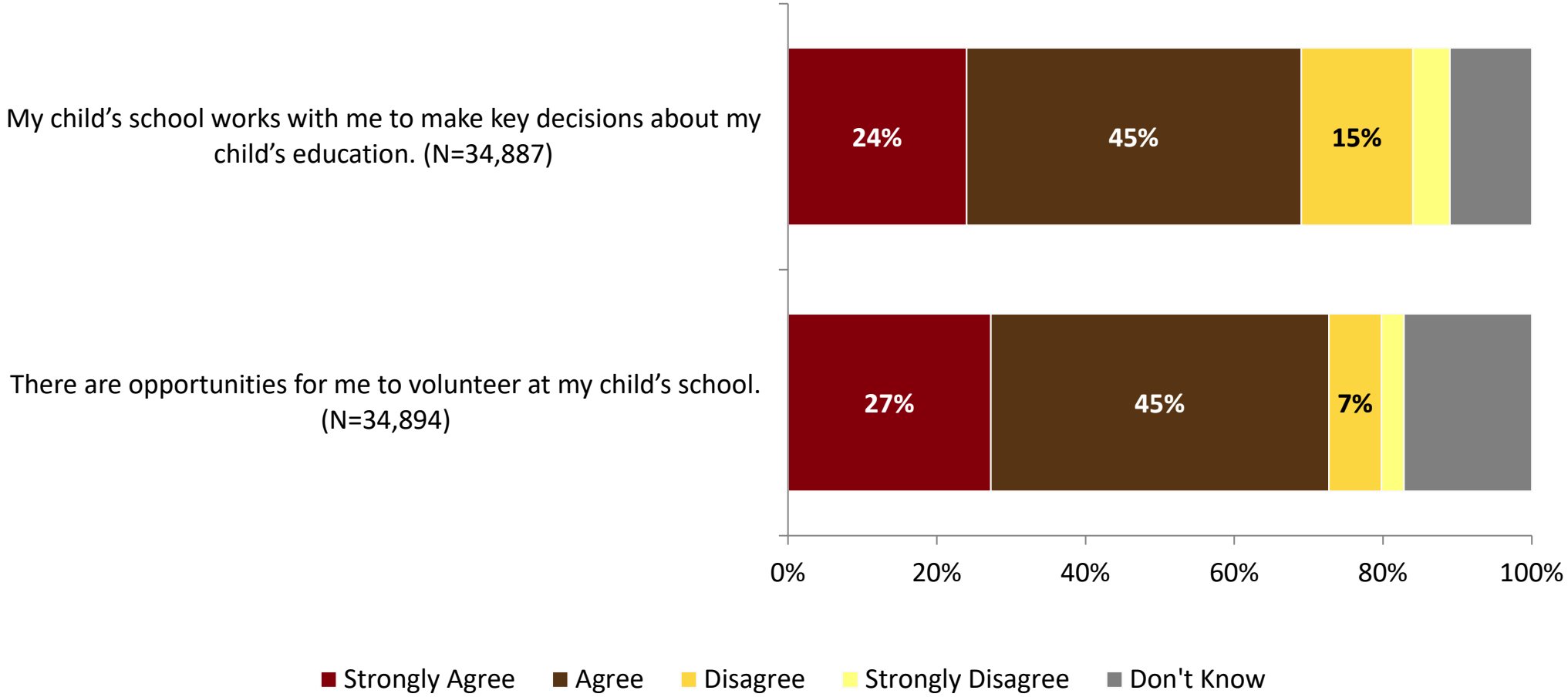
Family and School Partnerships

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



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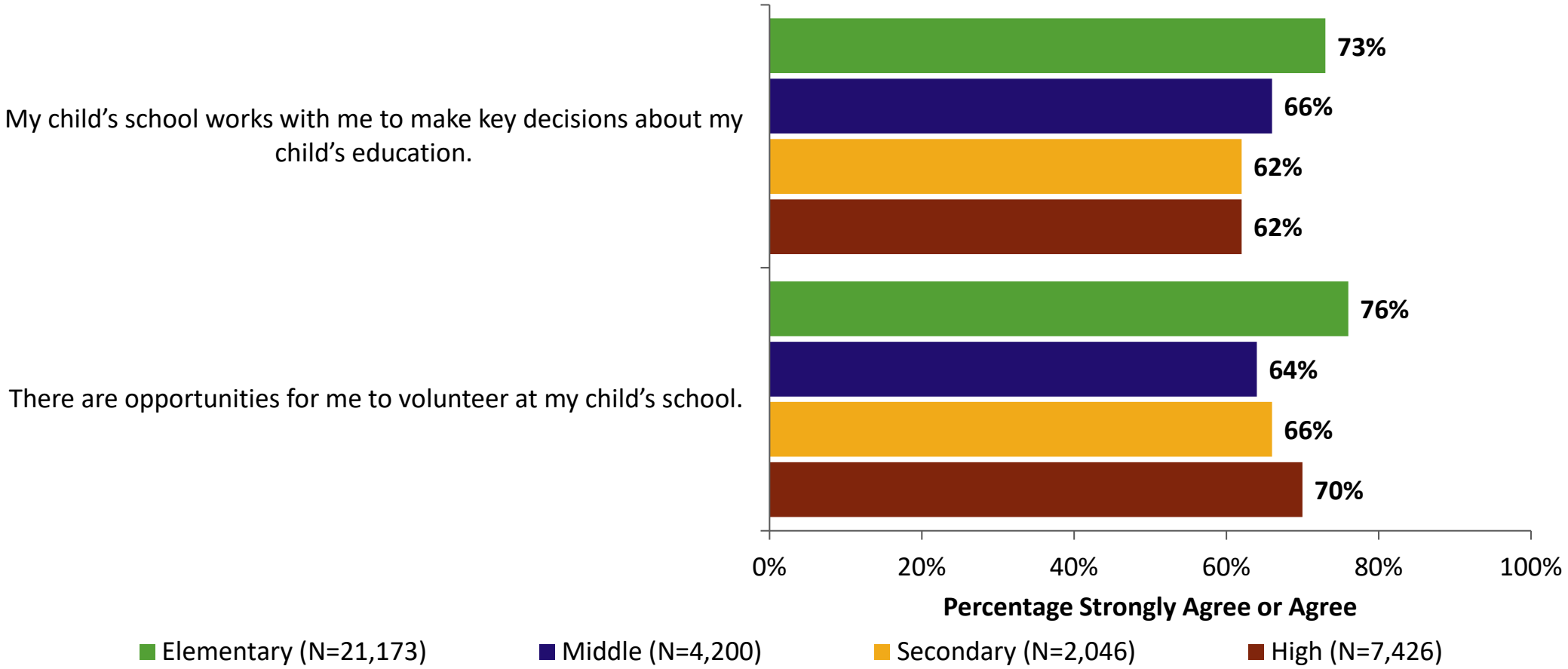
Family and School Partnerships: Comparison by School Level

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



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

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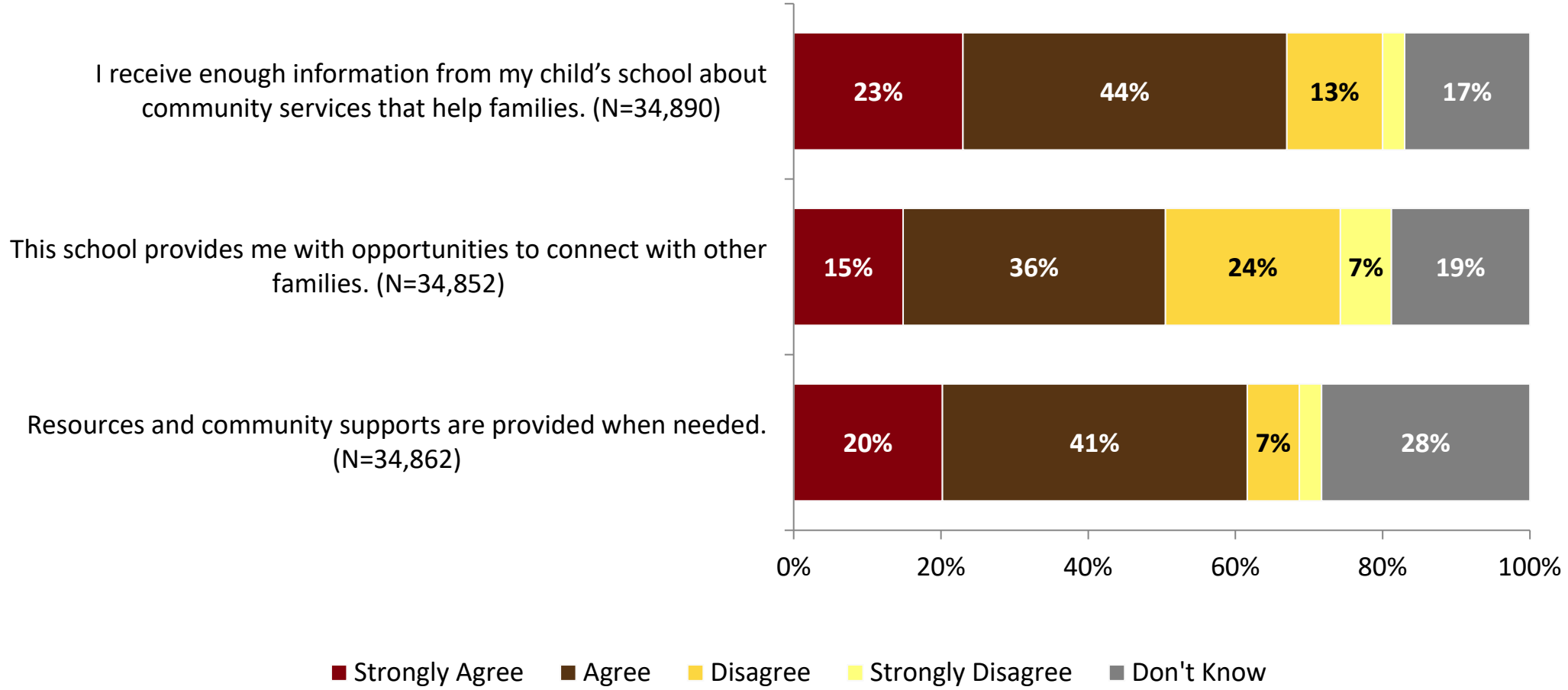
Collaboration With the Community

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



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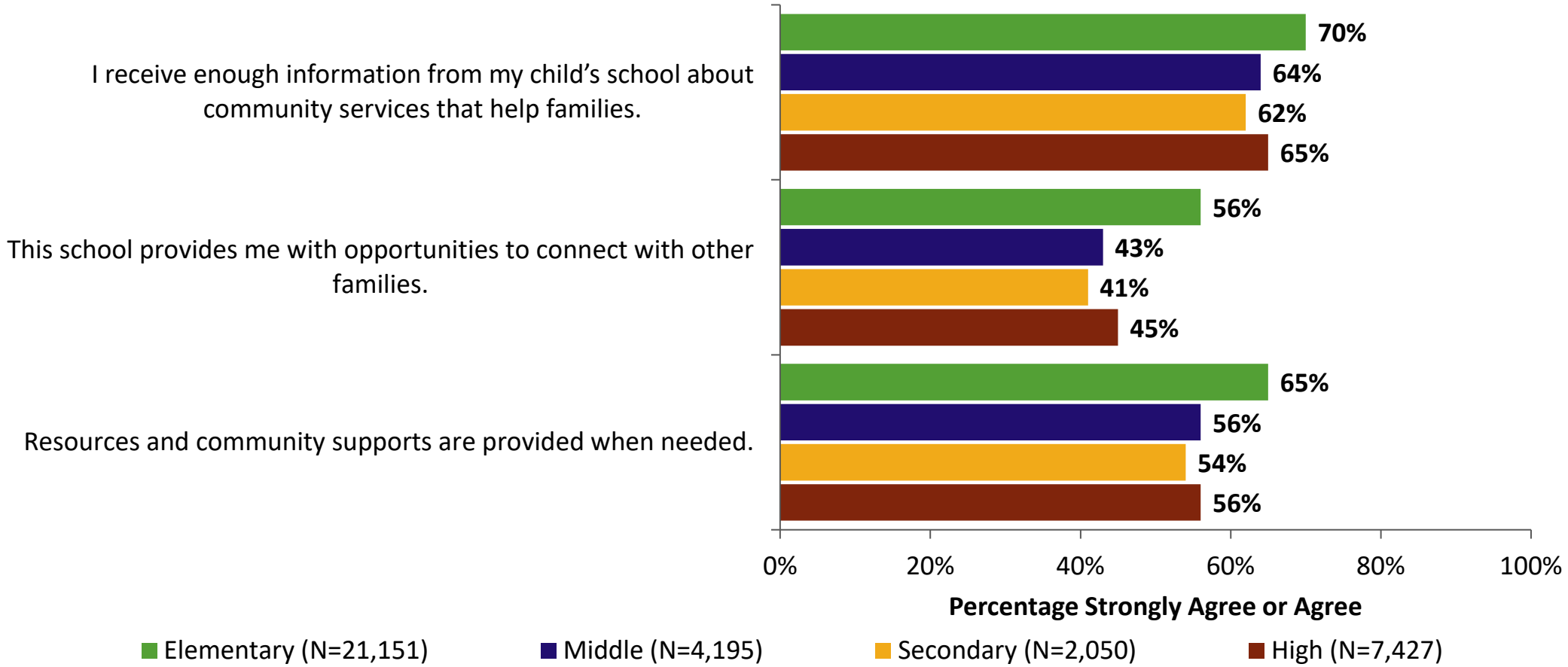
Collaboration With the Community: Comparison by School Level

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



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

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Highest- and Lowest-ranking Items

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Highest-ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	Dimension
My child feels safe at school.	91%	Welcoming Environment
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.	90%	Communication
I feel welcome at my child's school.	89%	Welcoming Environment
This school is safe.	89%	Welcoming Environment

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

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Lowest-ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	Dimension
This school provides me with opportunities to connect with other families.	31%	Collaboration With the Community
I received enough information about what I can do at home to help my child improve his or her learning.	29%	Student Success
I received enough information about what I can do at home to support my child with mental health and wellness.	25%	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
Our school encourages parents and educators to share information such as student strengths and learning preferences.	21%	Communication

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

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Highest-ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	Dimension
My child feels safe at school.	95%	Welcoming Environment
This school is safe.	94%	Welcoming Environment
This school welcomes families of different backgrounds and cultures.	93%	Welcoming Environment
I feel welcome at my child's school.	92%	Welcoming Environment
Information provided to me by my child's school is easy to understand.	92%	Communication

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

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Lowest-ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	Dimension
This school provides me with opportunities to connect with other families.	29%	Collaboration With the Community
I received enough information about what I can do at home to help my child improve his or her learning.	25%	Student Success
I received enough information about what I can do at home to support my child with mental health and wellness.	23%	Student Success
The school staff works with me to identify social and emotional skills that my child can develop to be successful.	17%	Student Success
My child's school works with me to make key decisions about my child's education.	17%	Family and School Partnerships

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

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Highest-ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	Dimension
This school welcomes families of different backgrounds and cultures.	88%	Welcoming Environment
I feel welcome at my child's school.	87%	Welcoming Environment
The school staff keeps me informed of my child's progress.	87%	Communication
Information provided to me by my child's school is easy to understand.	87%	Communication
My child feels safe at school.	84%	Welcoming Environment

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

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Lowest-ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	Dimension
This school provides me with opportunities to connect with other families.	35%	Collaboration With the Community
I received enough information about what I can do at home to help my child improve his or her learning.	33%	Student Success
I received enough information about what I can do at home to support my child with mental health and wellness.	27%	Student Success
The school staff works with me to identify social and emotional skills that my child can develop to be successful.	26%	Student Success
Our school encourages parents and educators to share information such as student strengths and learning preferences.	25%	Communication

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

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Highest-ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	Dimension
This school welcomes families of different backgrounds and cultures.	86%	Welcoming Environment
My child feels safe at school.	86%	Welcoming Environment
The school staff keeps me informed of my child's progress.	84%	Communication
Information provided to me by my child's school is easy to understand.	84%	Communication
I feel welcome at my child's school.	83%	Welcoming Environment

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

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Lowest-ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	Dimension
I received enough information about what I can do at home to help my child improve his or her learning.	36%	Student Success
This school provides me with opportunities to connect with other families.	35%	Collaboration With the Community
The school staff works with me to identify social and emotional skills that my child can develop to be successful.	31%	Student Success
Our school encourages parents and educators to share information such as student strengths and learning preferences.	30%	Communication
I received enough information about what I can do at home to support my child with mental health and wellness.	28%	Student Success

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

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Highest-ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	Dimension
This school welcomes families of different backgrounds and cultures.	86%	Welcoming Environment
Information provided to me by my child's school is easy to understand.	86%	Communication
My child feels safe at school.	85%	Welcoming Environment
I feel welcome at my child's school.	84%	Welcoming Environment
This school is safe.	83%	Welcoming Environment

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

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Lowest-ranking Items

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	Dimension
I received enough information about what I can do at home to help my child improve his or her learning.	34%	Student Success
The school staff works with me to identify social and emotional skills that my child can develop to be successful.	31%	Student Success
This school provides me with opportunities to connect with other families.	31%	Collaboration With the Community
Our school encourages parents and educators to share information such as student strengths and learning preferences.	30%	Communication
I received enough information about what I can do at home to support my child with mental health and wellness.	27%	Student Success

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

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Additional Topics

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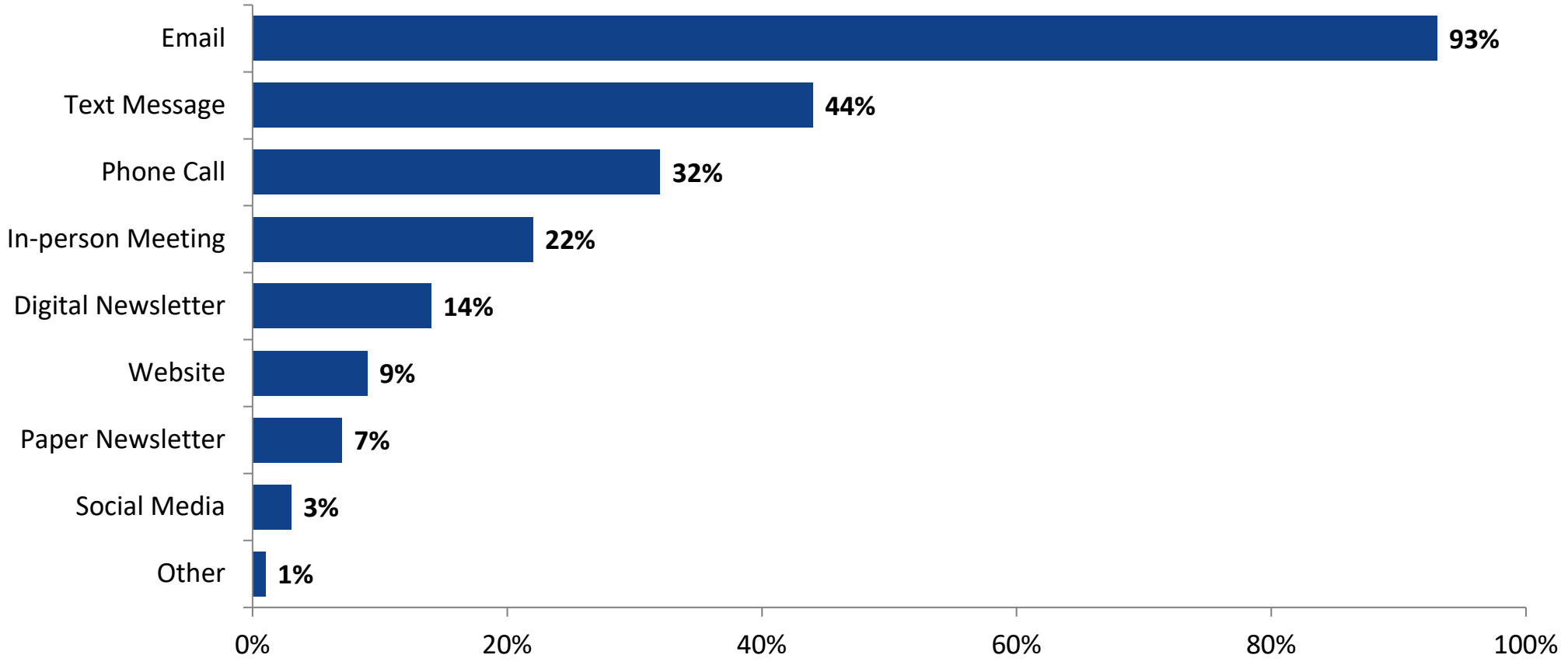
Preferred Communication Methods

How do you prefer to receive information from your child's school? (N=35,026)



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

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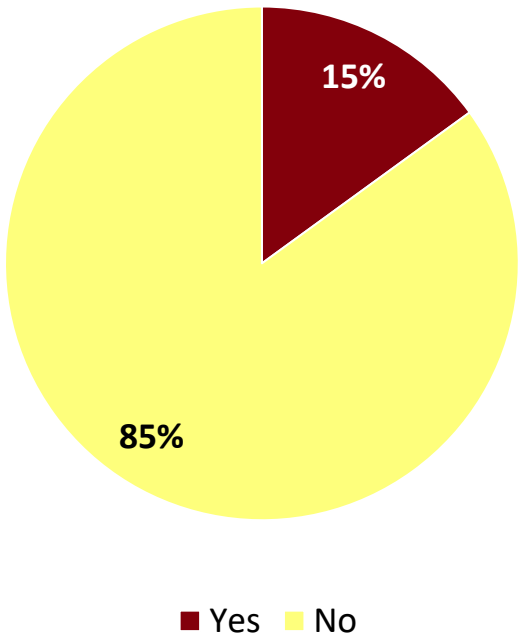
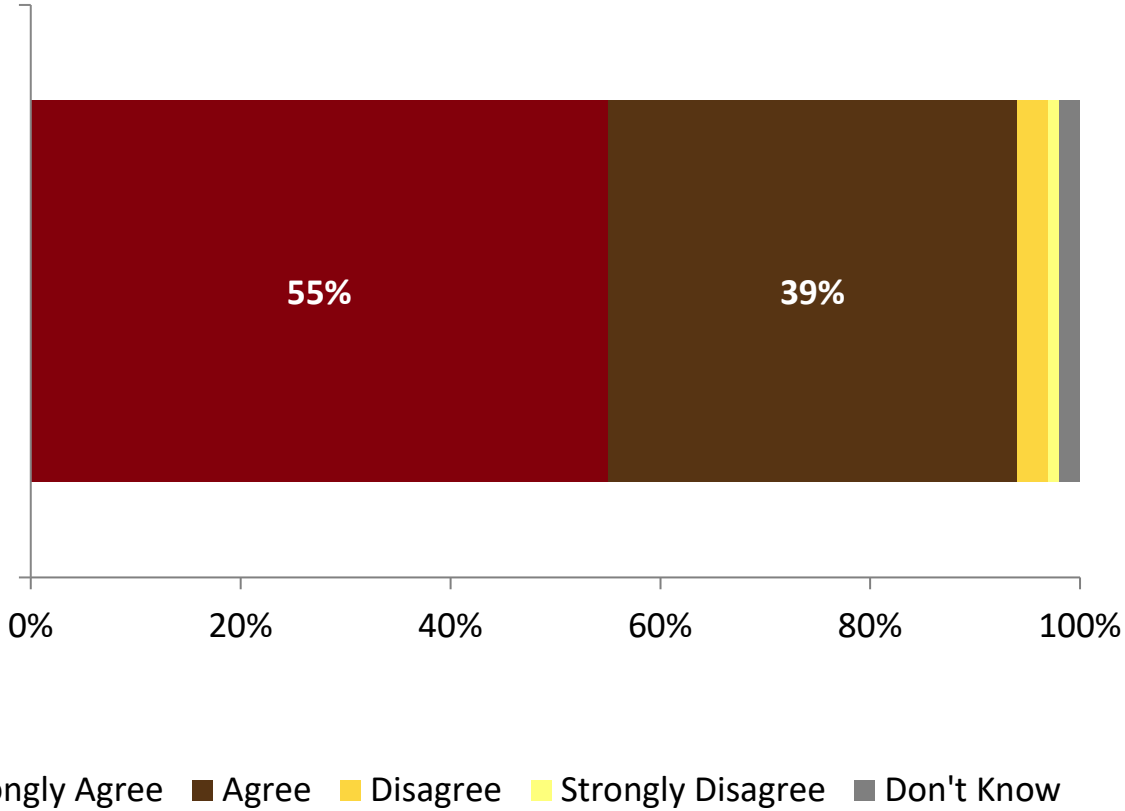
Interpretation Services

Have you required interpretation services? (N=34,955)



I was satisfied with the interpreter support I received. (N=5,258)



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

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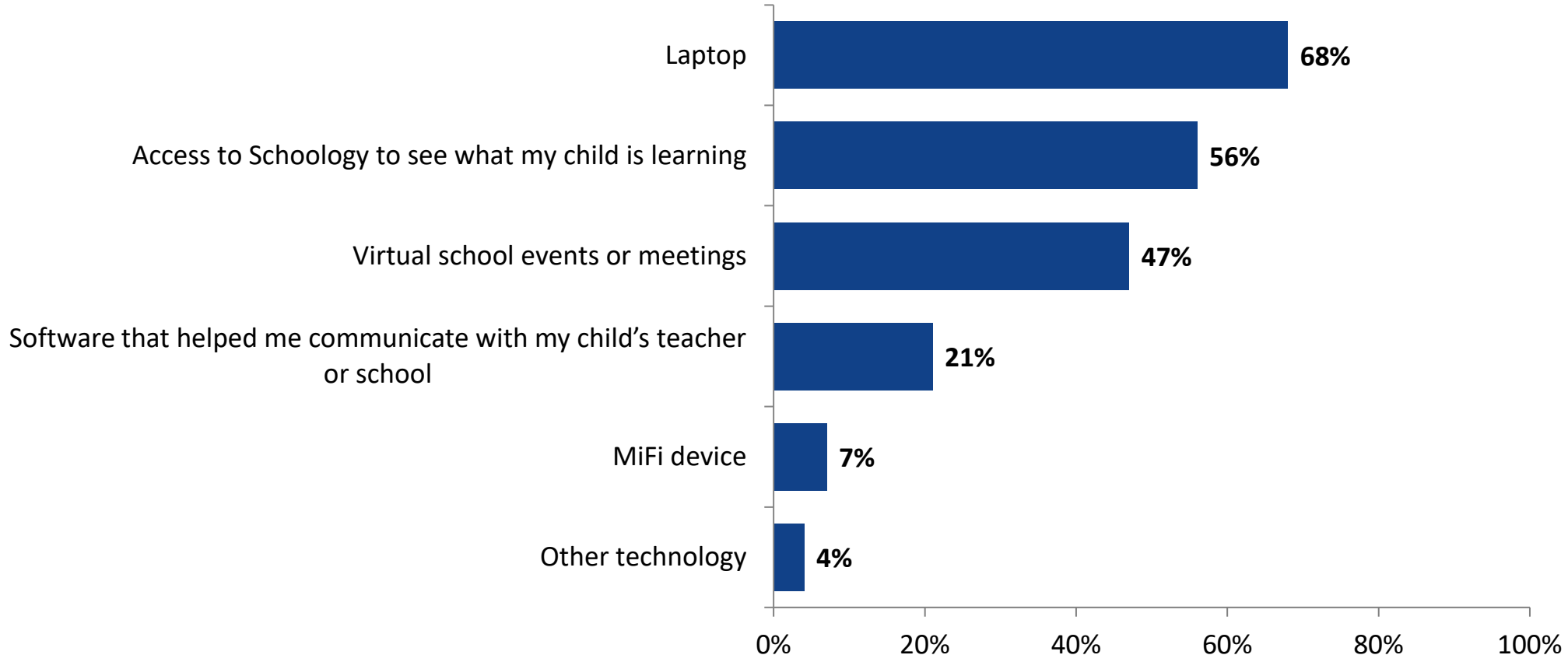
Engagement Assistance

Which of the following helped you engage in your child's education? (N=32,512)



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

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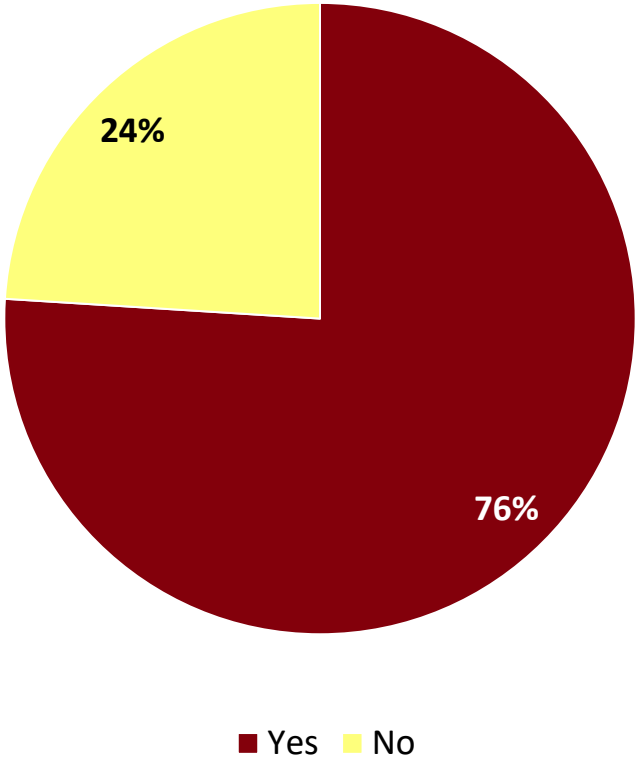
Impact of Technology on Engagement

Thinking about your ability to engage in your child's education this school year, was your engagement improved by the availability of technology? (N=34,680)



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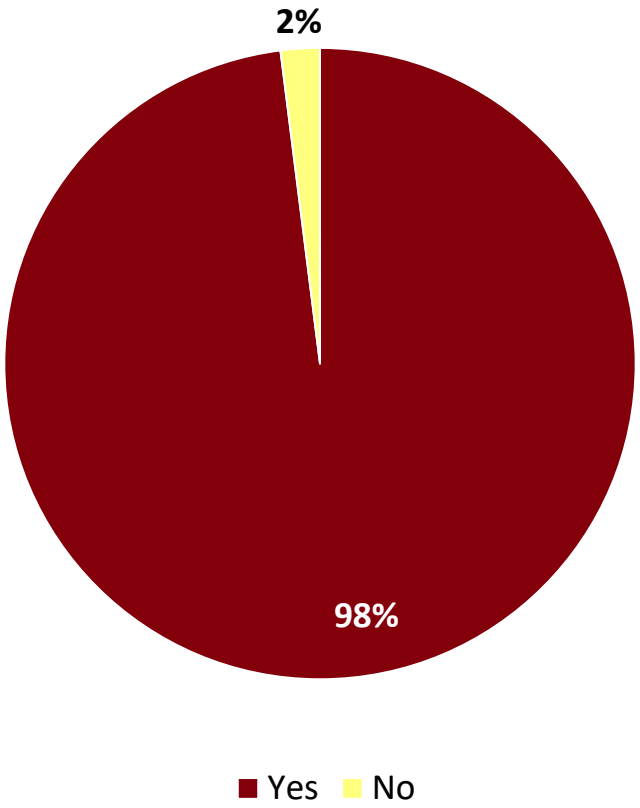
Internet Access

Do you have regular access to the internet? (N=34,932)



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Appendix: Demographics

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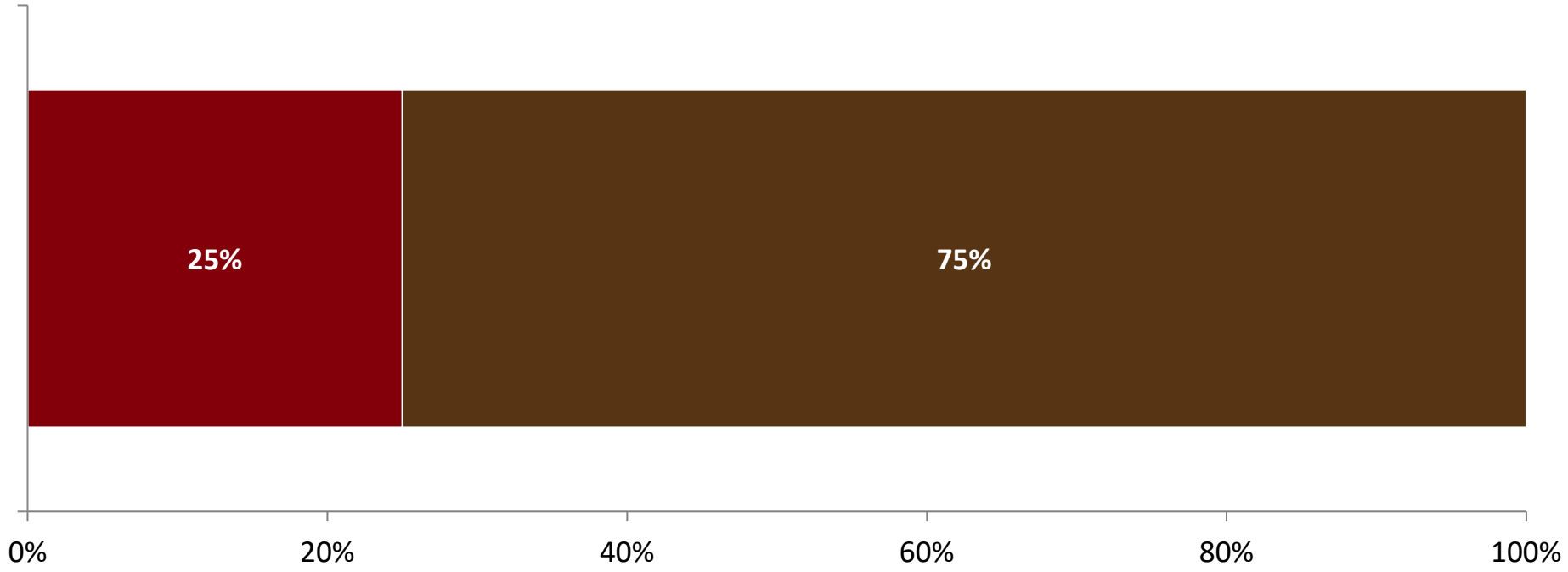
Hispanic or Latino/Latina

Is your child Hispanic or Latino/Latina? (N=32,577)



- Yes, Hispanic or Latino/Latina (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race)
- No, not Hispanic or Latino/Latina

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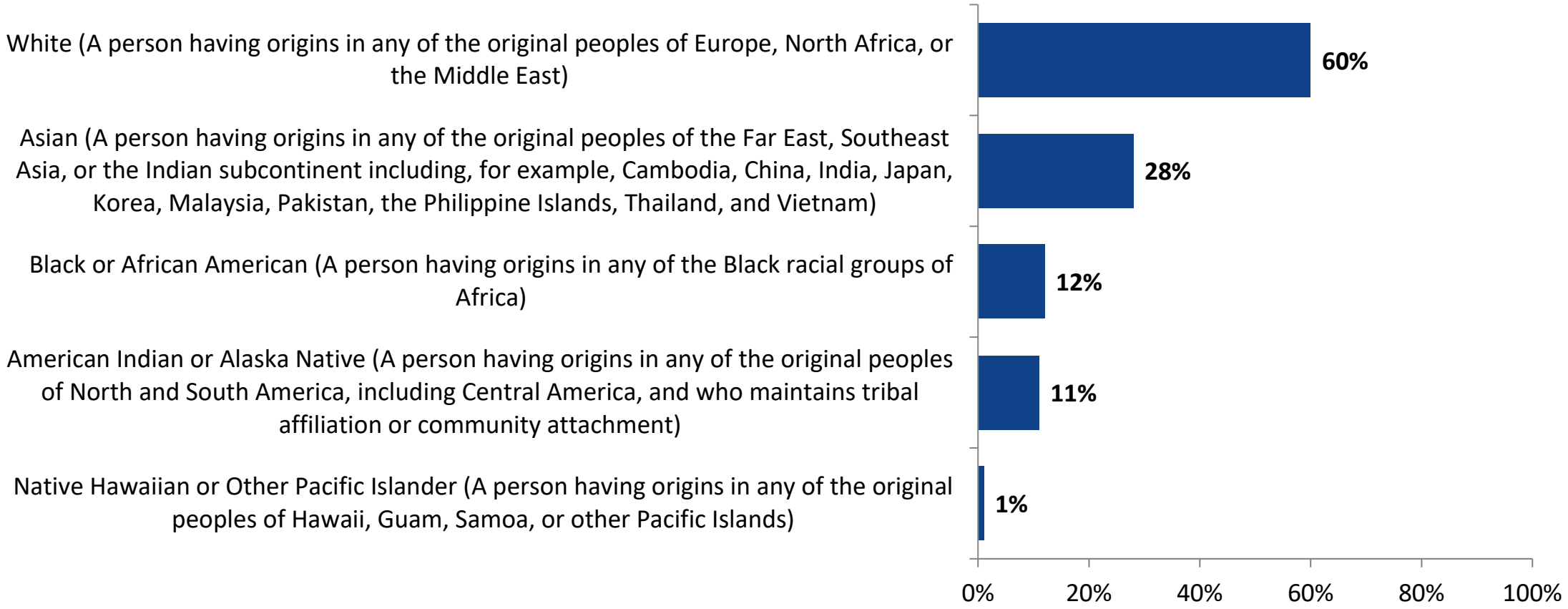
Race of Student

What is your child's race? (N=29,310)



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

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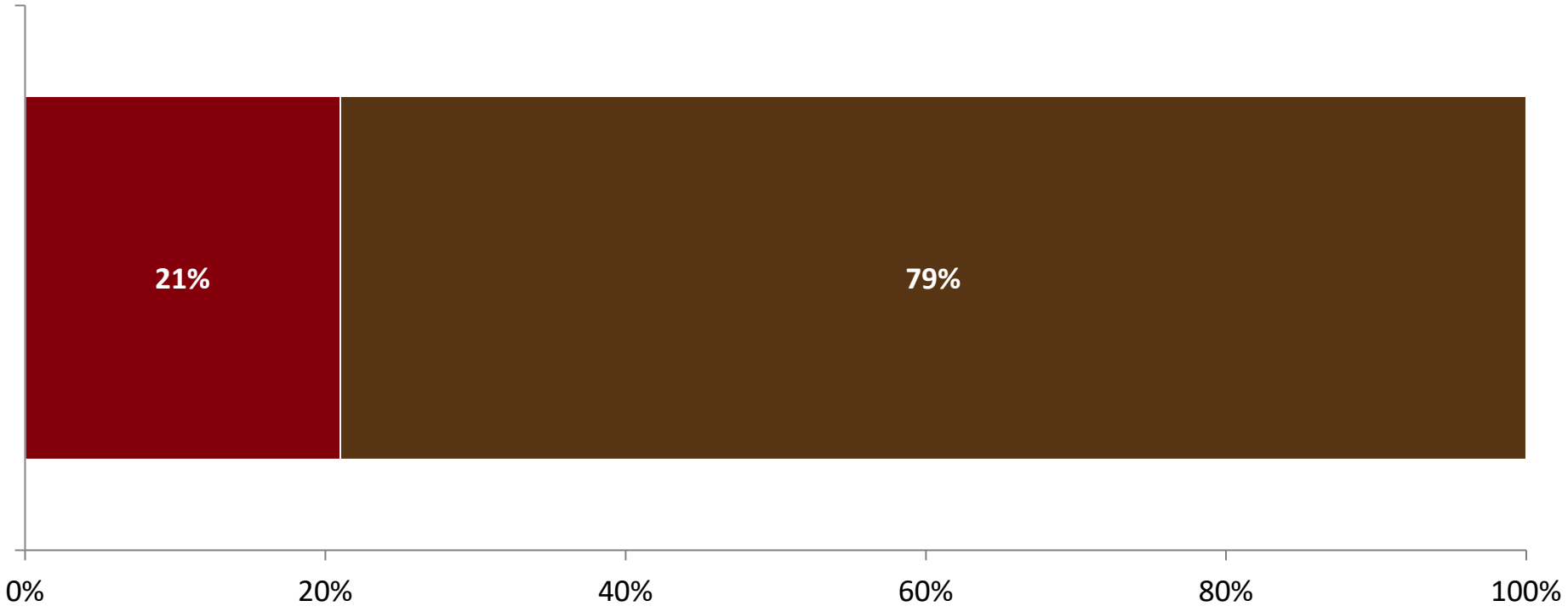
Food Assistance

What best describes your child's food situation? (N=32,688)



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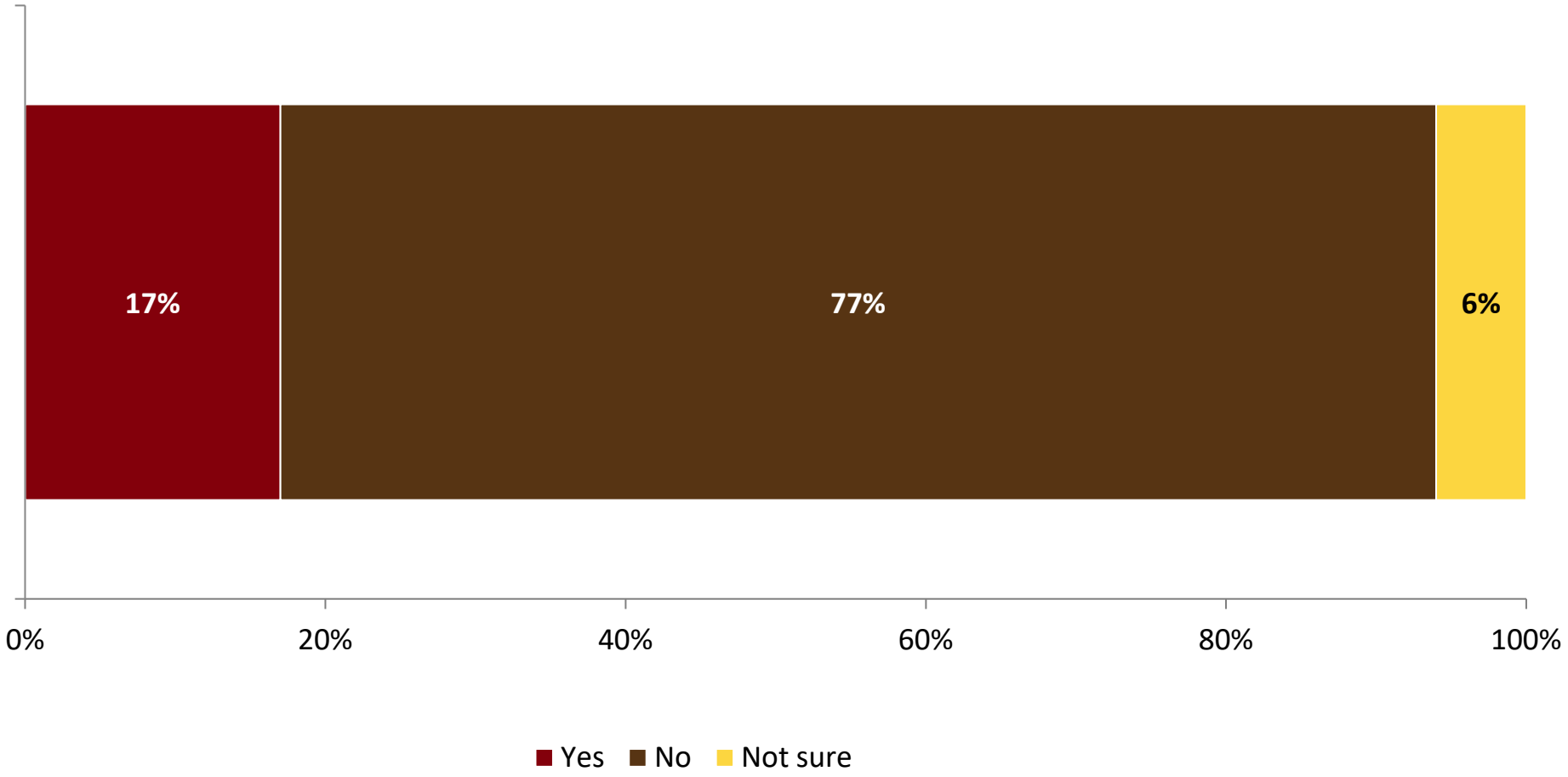
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Services

Does your child receive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services? (N=33,976)



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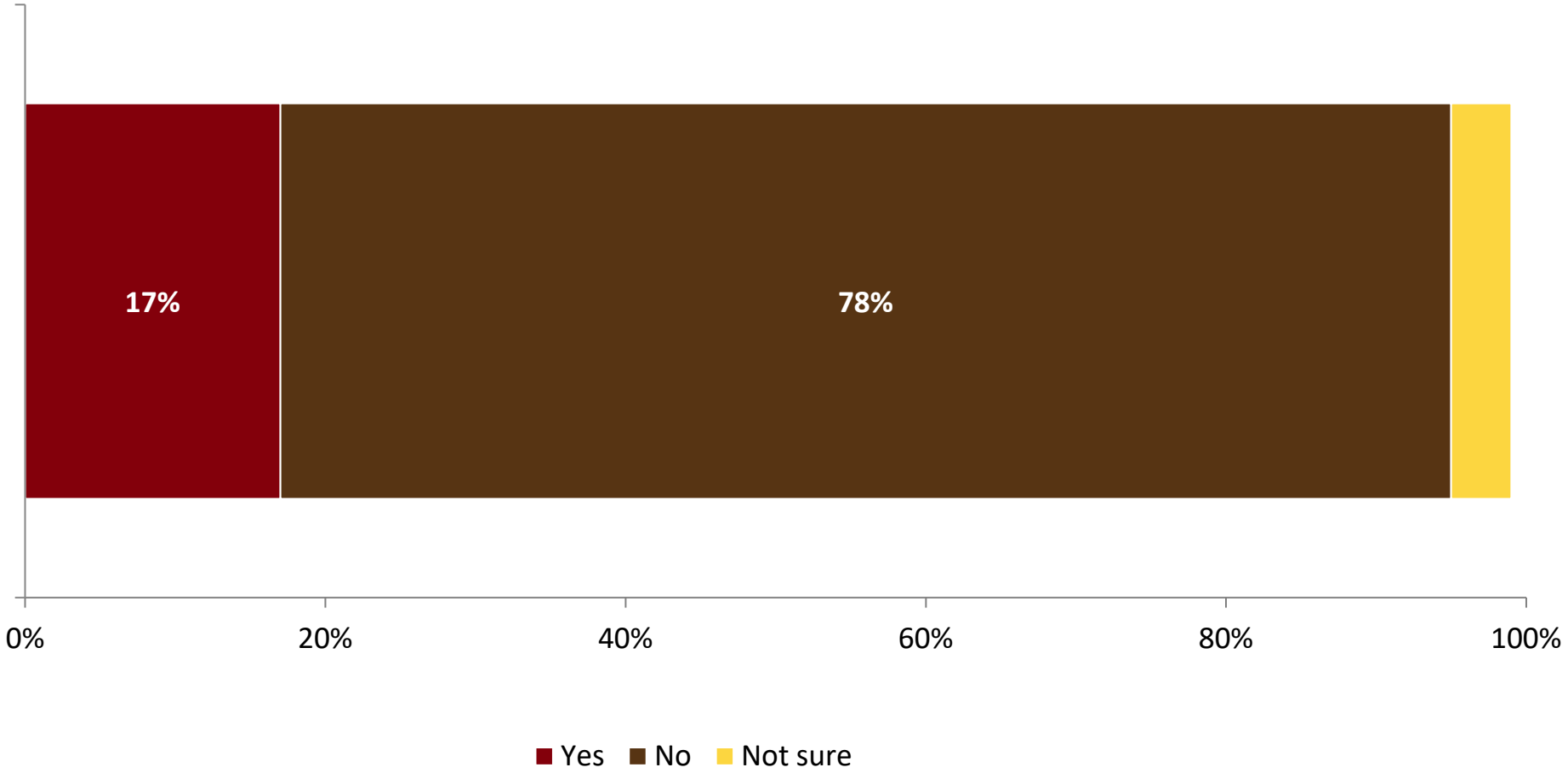
Special Education Services

Does your child receive special education services? (N=34,017)



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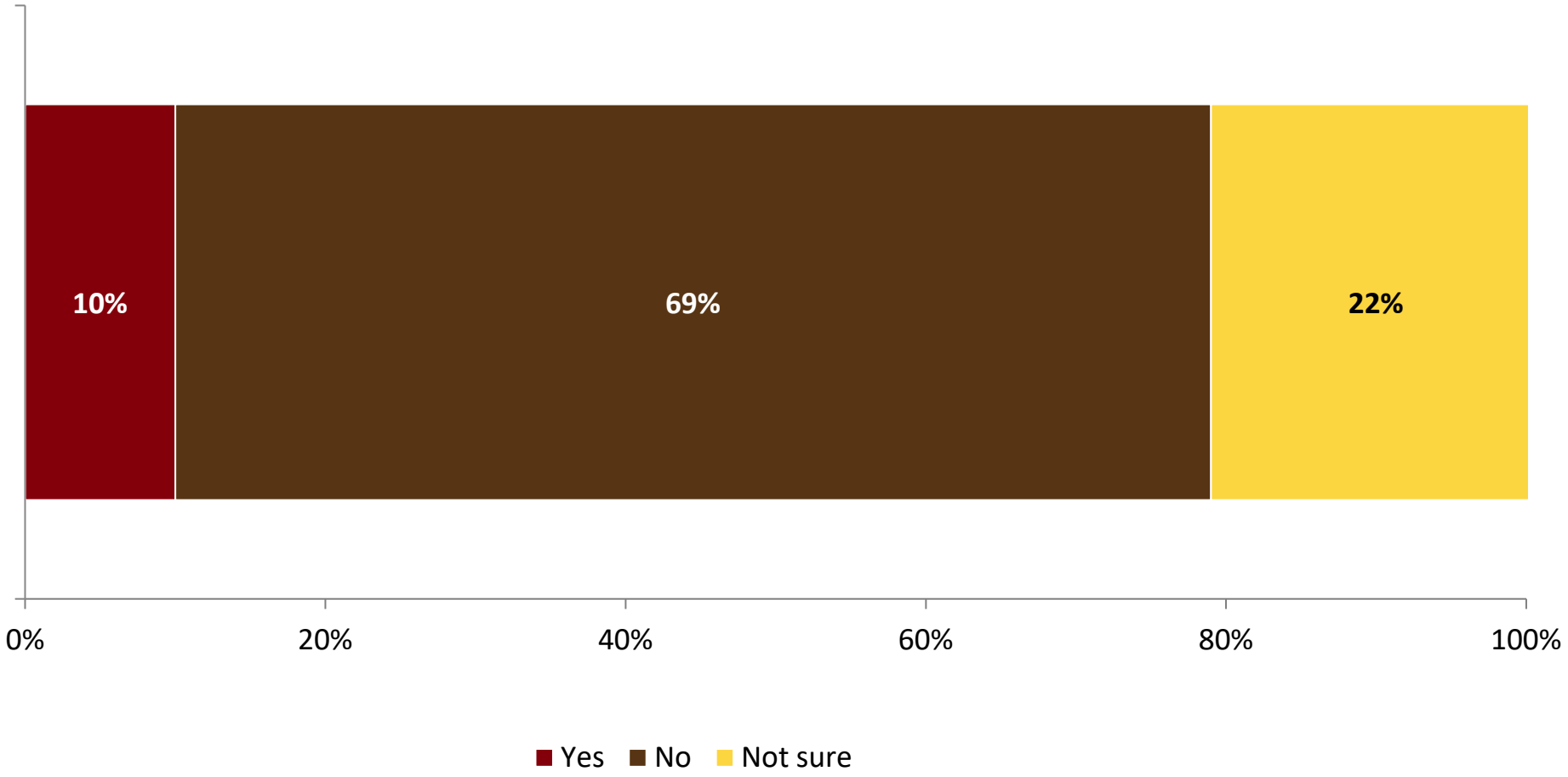
504 Plan Services

Does your child have a 504 plan? (N=33,743)



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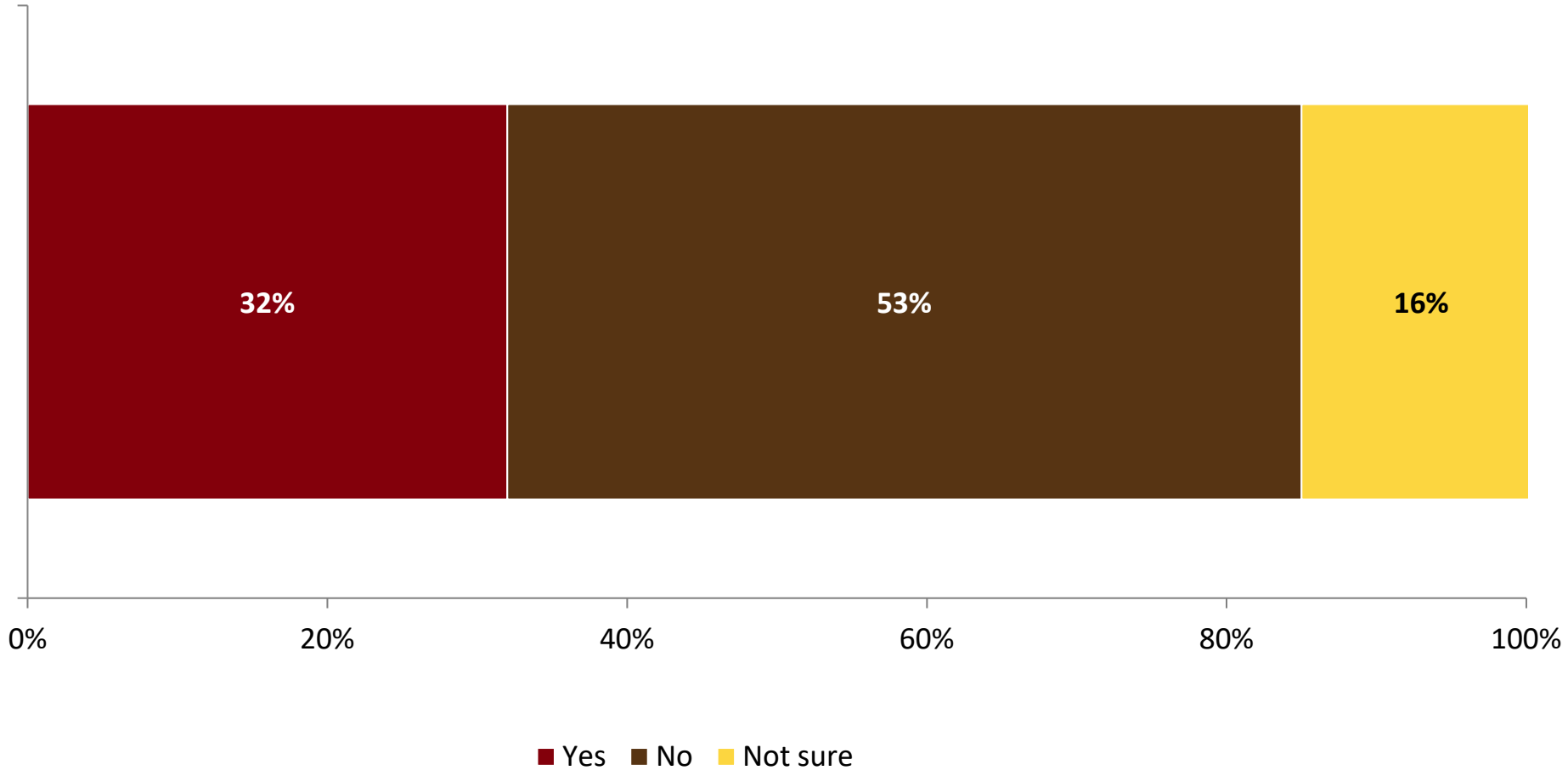
Advanced Academic Program (AAP) Services

Does your child receive Advanced Academic Program (AAP) services? (N=33,863)



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Appendix: Participation

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Participation by Title I Schools

Response	Count (N)	Percentage (%)
Title I Schools	5,121	15%
Non-Title I Schools	29,988	85%

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Participation by Pyramids

Pyramid	Count (N)	Percentage (%)
Annandale HS	1,397	4%
Centreville HS	1,480	4%
Chantilly HS	1,913	5%
Edison HS	1,212	3%
Fairfax HS	1,438	4%
Falls Church HS	1,172	3%
Hayfield SS	1,256	4%
Herndon HS	1,287	4%
Interagency Alternative Schools	1	0%
John Lewis HS	862	2%
Justice HS	1,457	4%
Lake Braddock SS	1,701	5%
Langley HS	1,318	4%

Pyramid	Count (N)	Percentage (%)
Madison HS	1,540	4%
Marshall HS	1,576	4%
McLean HS	1,349	4%
Mount Vernon HS	882	3%
Oakton HS	1,913	5%
Robinson SS	1,823	5%
South County HS	890	3%
South Lakes HS	1,471	4%
Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology	332	1%
West Potomac HS	1,790	5%
West Springfield HS	1,788	5%
Westfield HS	1,683	5%
Woodson HS	1,555	4%

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Participation by Region

Region	Count (N)	Percentage (%)
Region 1	7,549	22%
Region 2	7,283	21%
Region 3	6,002	17%
Region 4	7,682	22%
Region 5	6,589	19%

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Appendix: Trending Data

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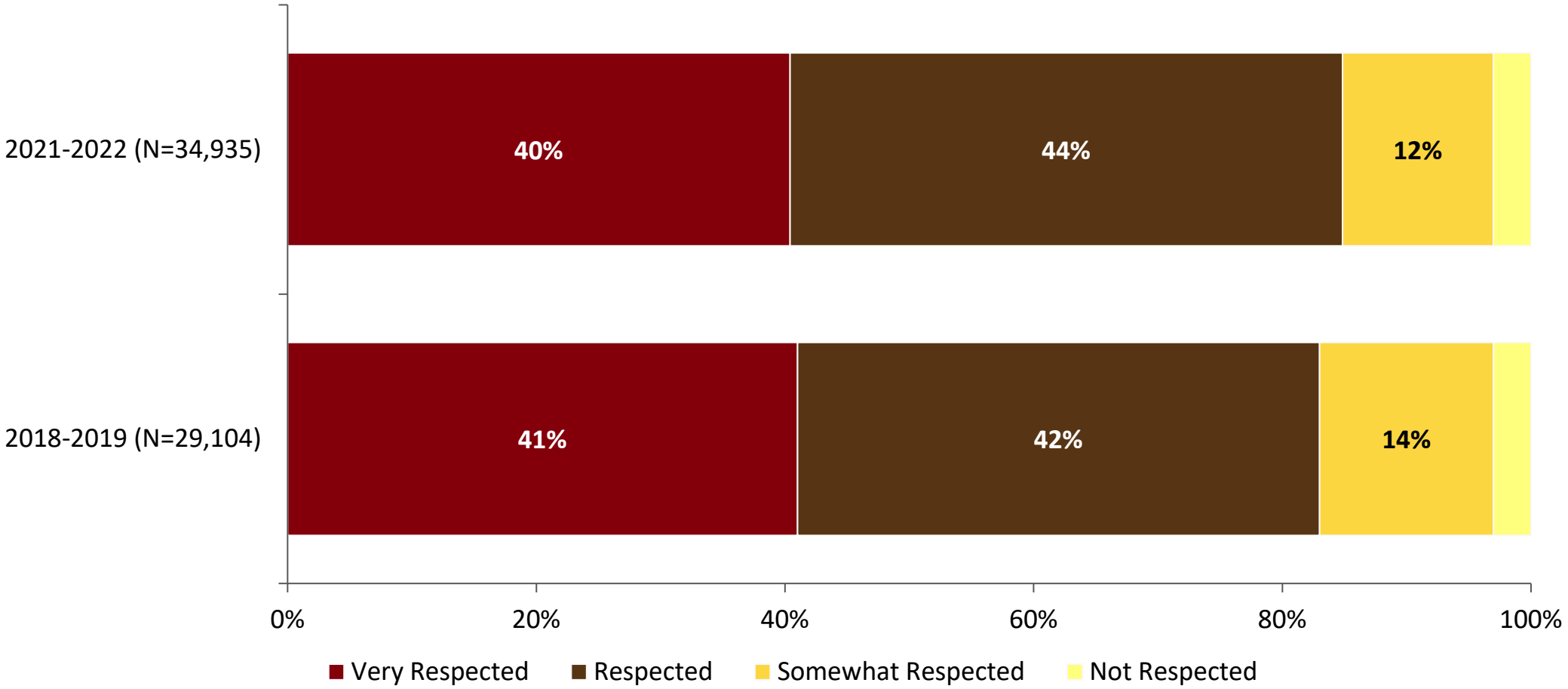
Feelings of Respect: Comparison Over Time

How respected do you feel at this school?



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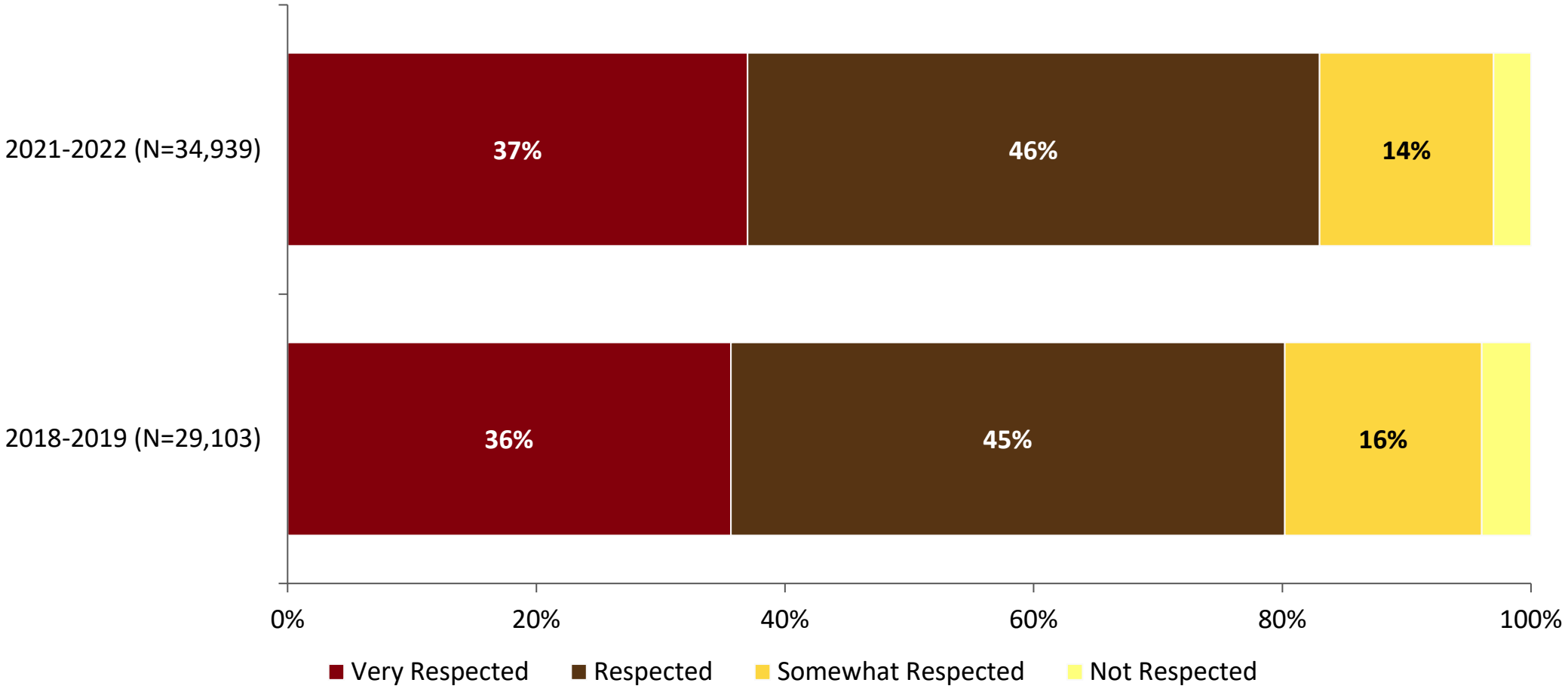
Feelings of Respect: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How respected does your child feel at this school?



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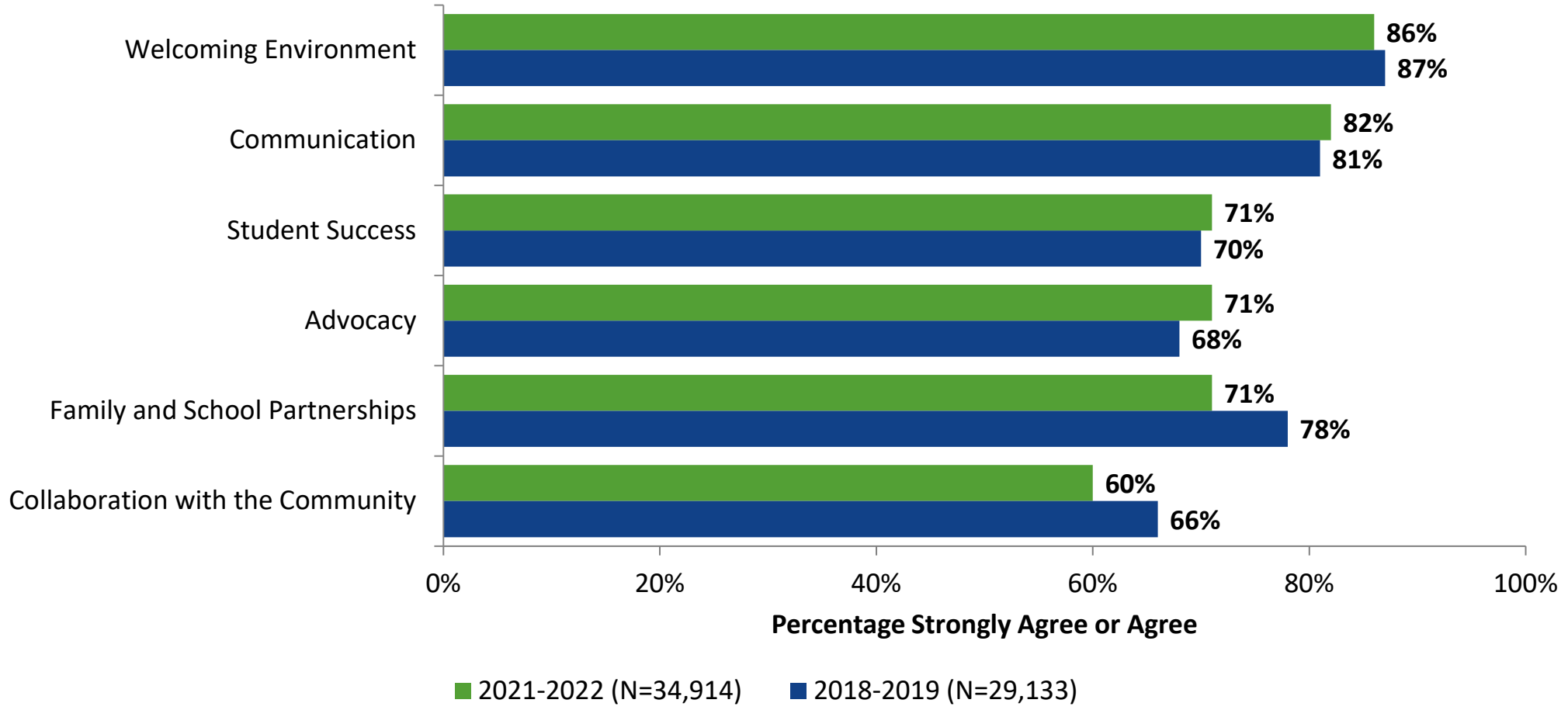
Dimension Scores: Comparison Over Time



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.

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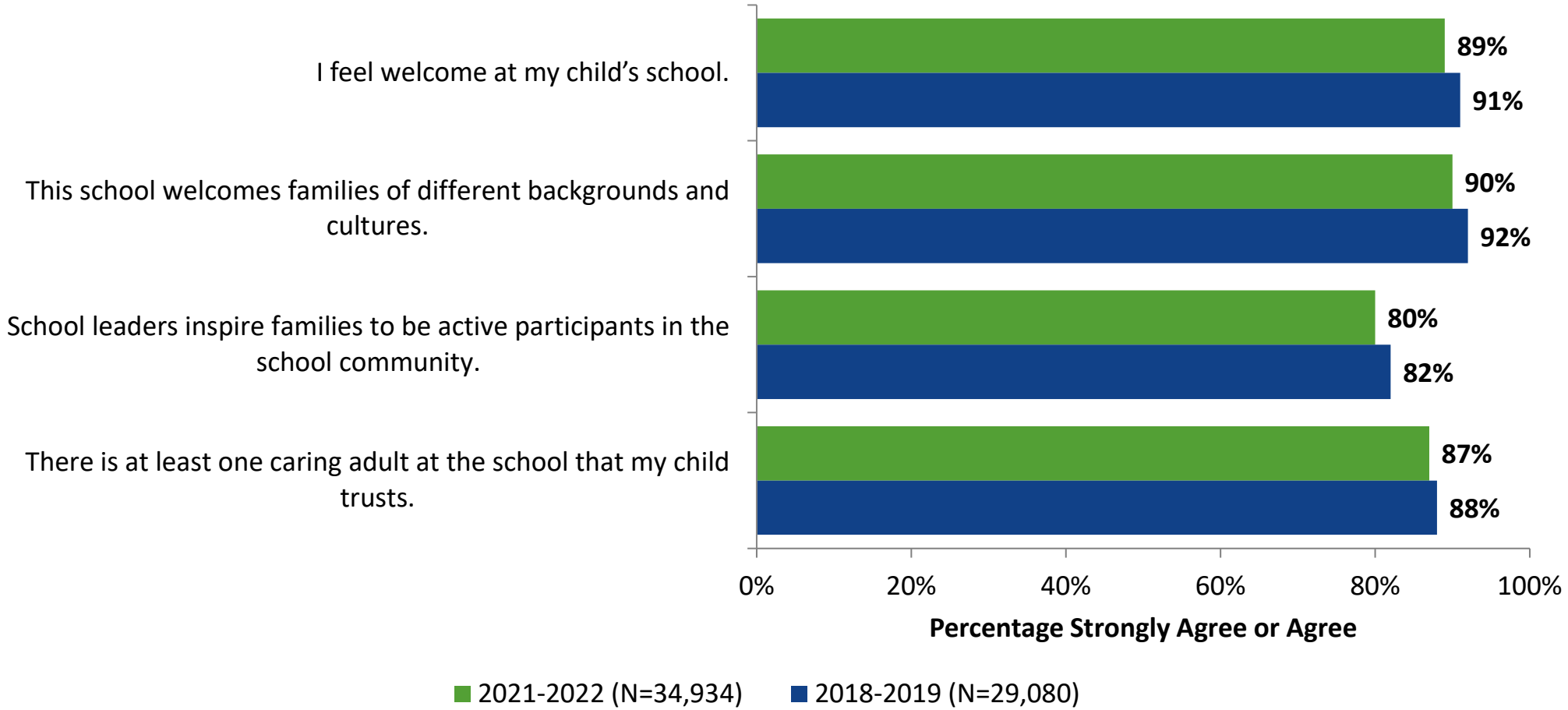
Welcoming Environment: Comparison Over Time

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



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

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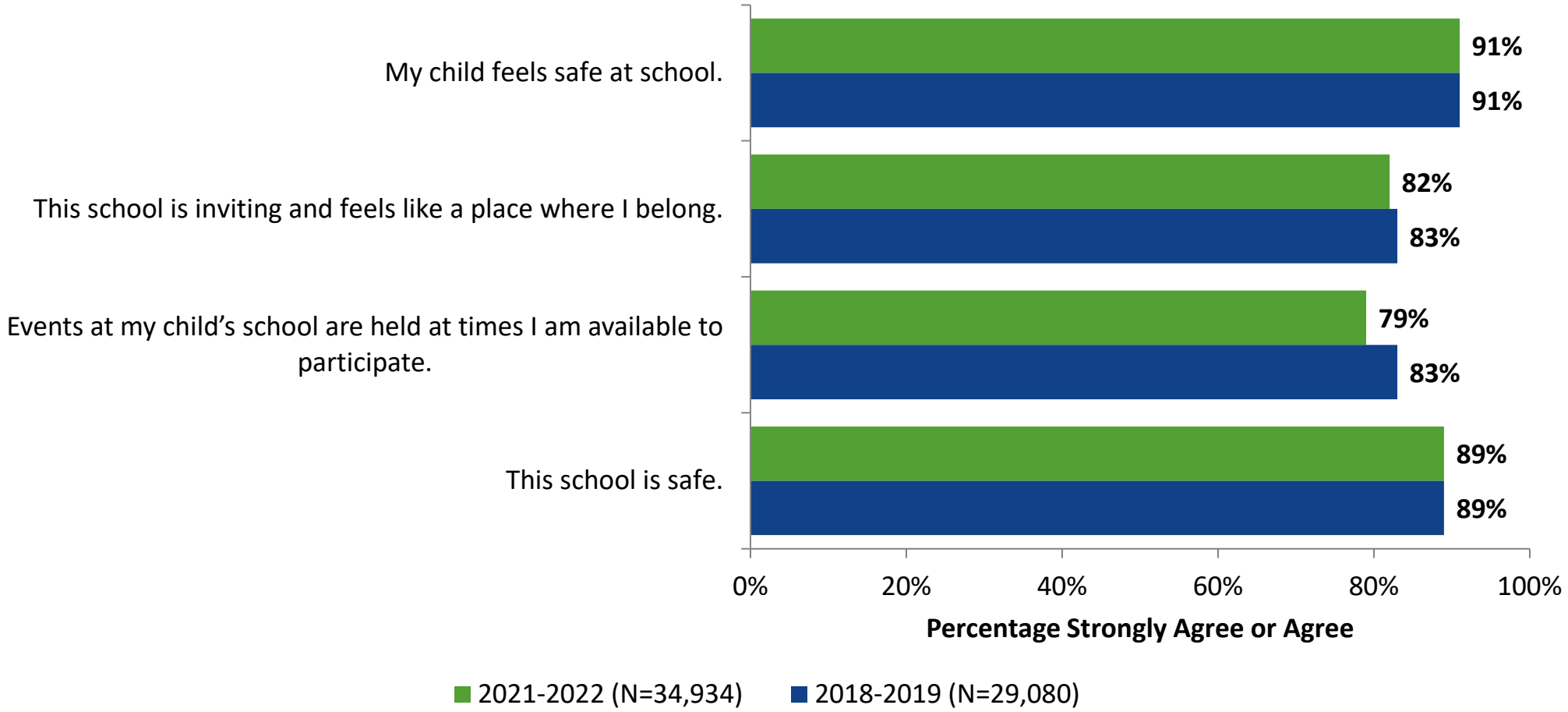
Welcoming Environment: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

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



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

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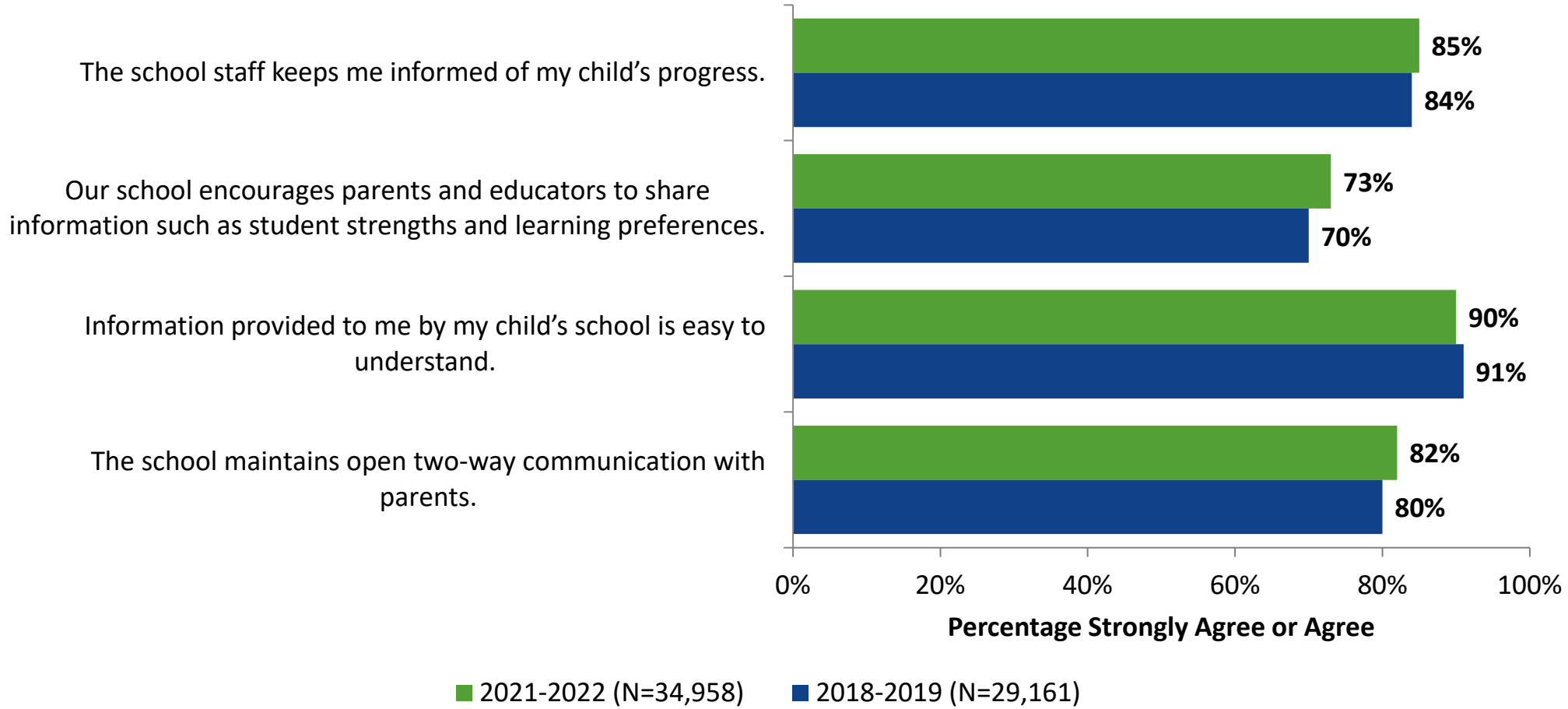
Communication: Comparison Over Time

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



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

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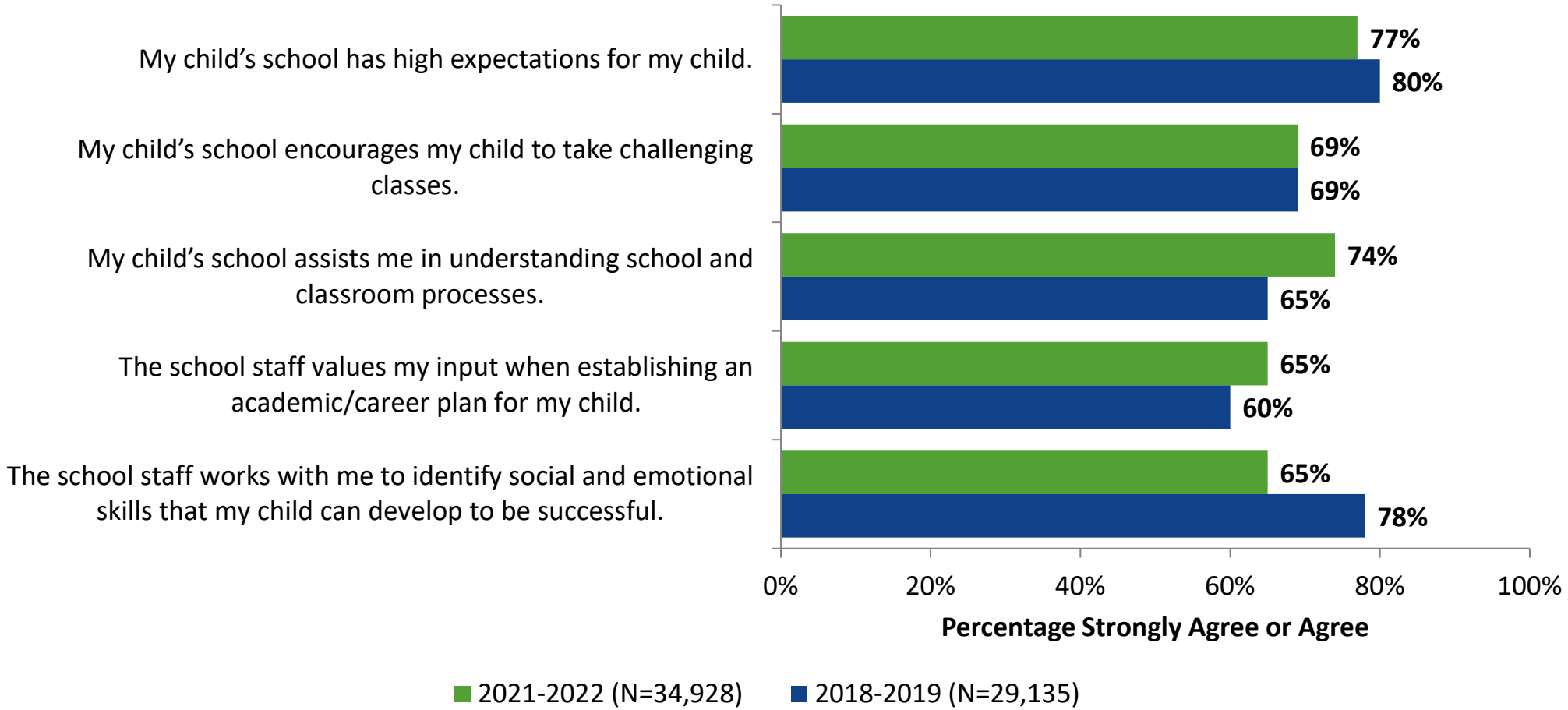
Student Success: Comparison Over Time

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



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

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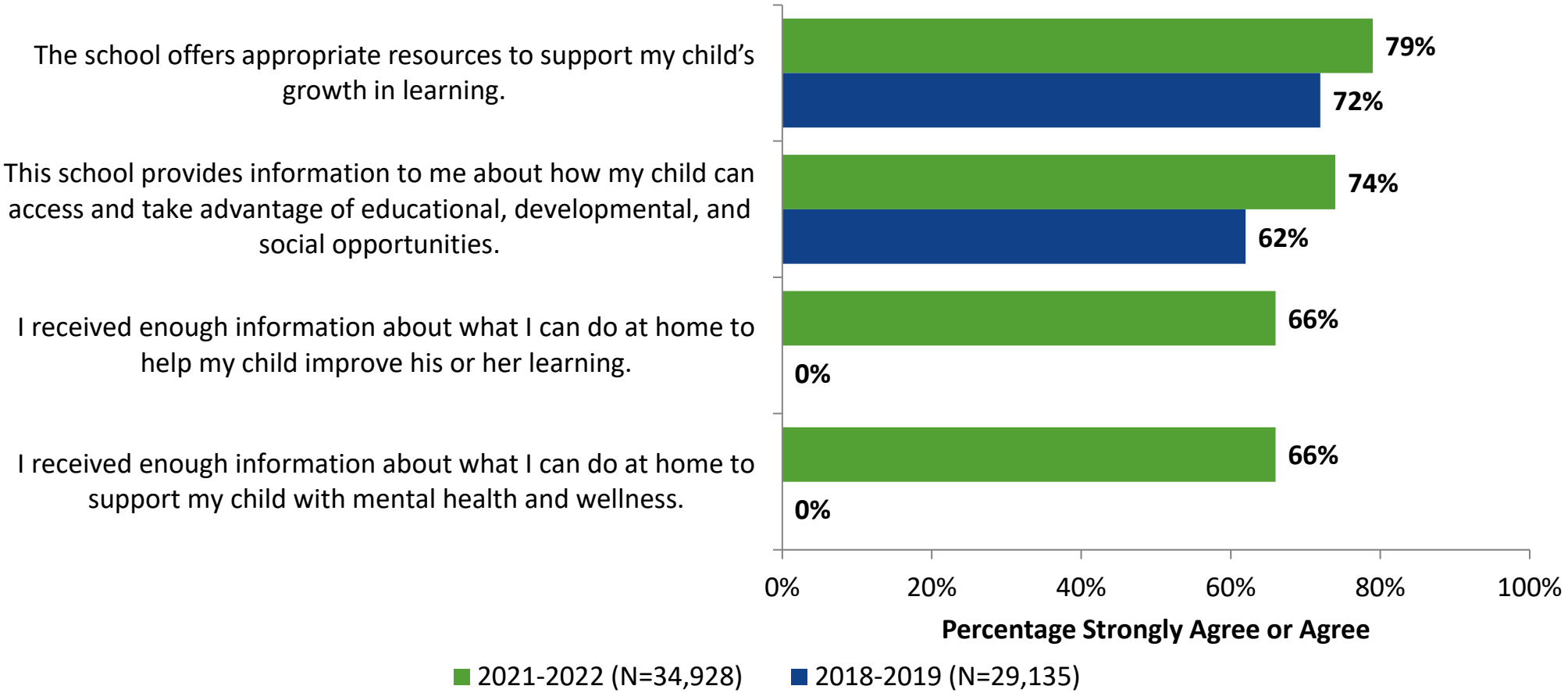
Student Success: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

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



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: 0% indicates a question was not asked during that survey administration.

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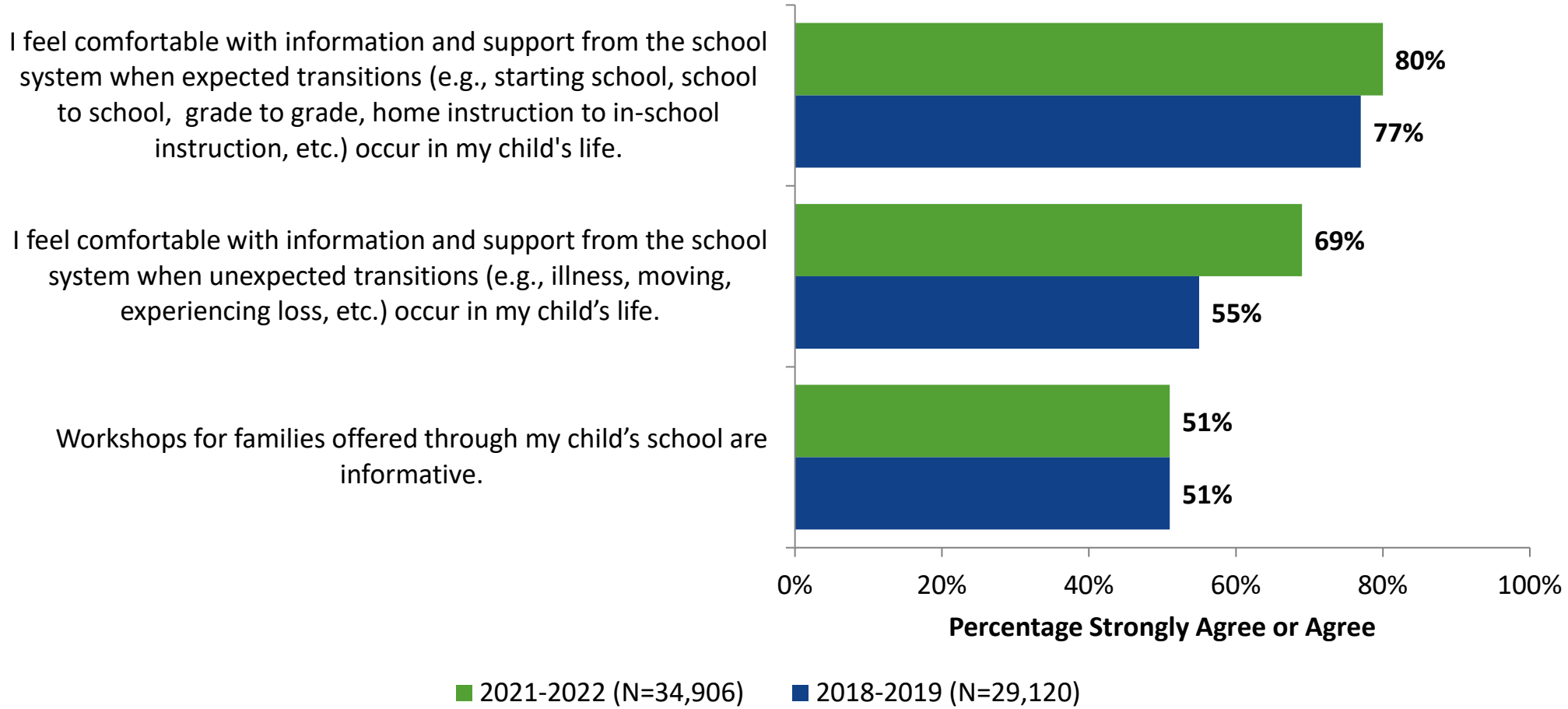
Advocacy: Comparison Over Time

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



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

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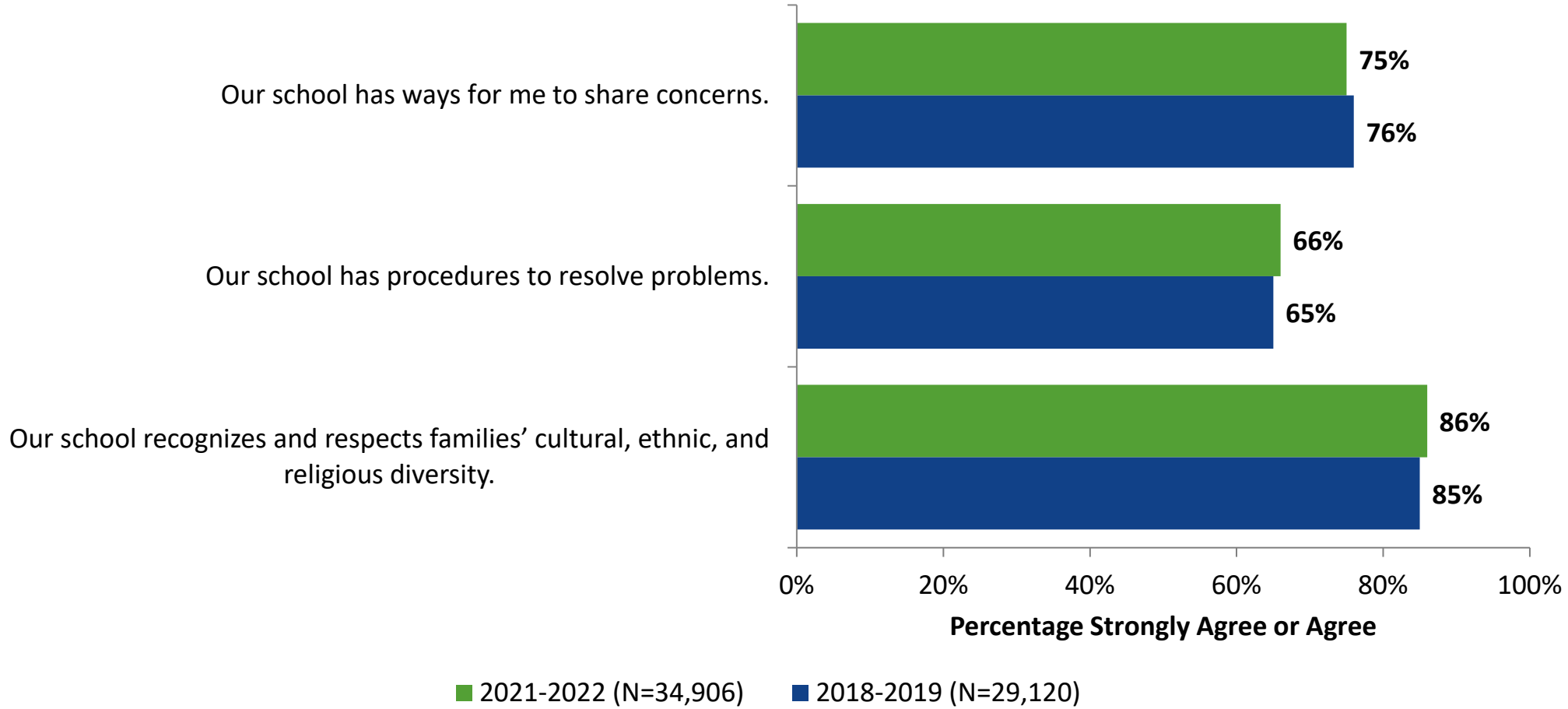
Advocacy: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

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



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

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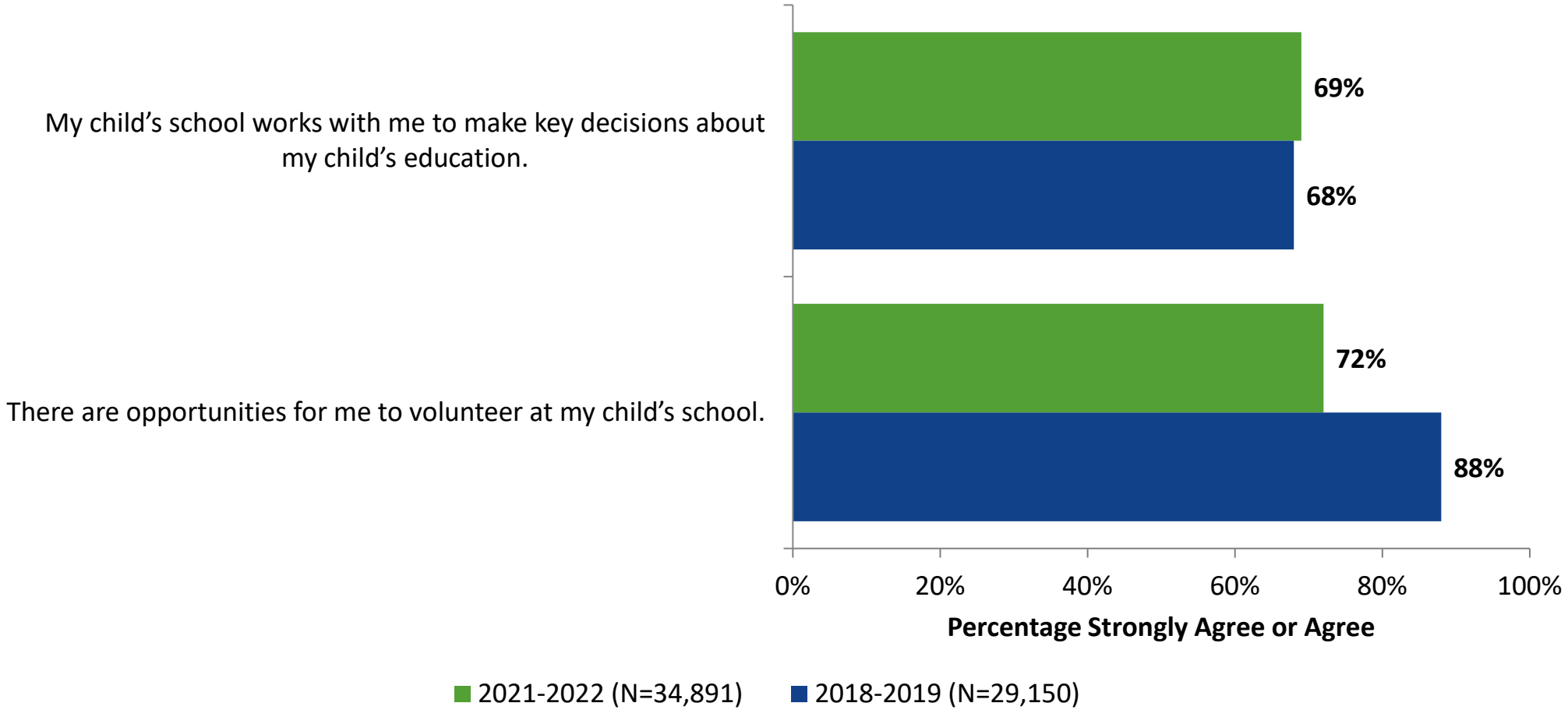
Family and School Partnerships: Comparison Over Time

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



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

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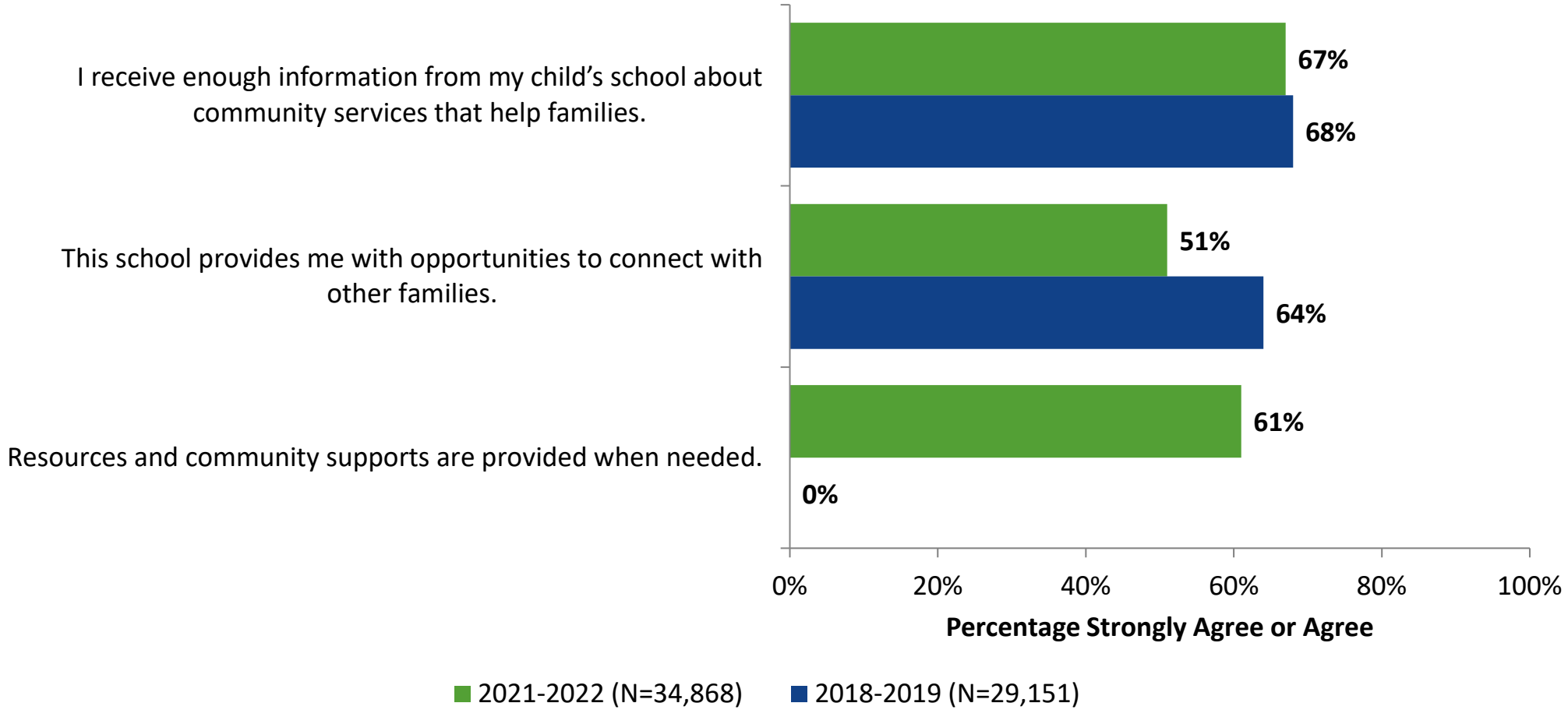
Collaboration With the Community: Comparison Over Time

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



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: 0% indicates a question was not asked during that survey administration.

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