

 edCHOICE

# TEACHERS NATIONAL POLLING PRESENTATION

Q1 2021

# KEY FINDINGS

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1. The majority of teachers still believe that it won't be safe to send students back to in-person classes until August 2021 or later. This is despite comfort with returning among teachers being at an all-time high since the start of the pandemic.
2. Many teachers have considered quitting or retiring from the profession in recent months due to the added stress and challenges of the job as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Optimism regarding the direction K-12 education is heading has increased this quarter with sentiment nearing the highs of just before the start of the pandemic.
4. Charter and private school teachers are the most interested in seeking out both pod and tutoring opportunities. Additionally, private school teachers in urban areas are willing to ask for the most money from parents to either facilitate a learning pod for their child or tutor them outside of school hours.
5. Teachers tend to give the parents of their students either a 'B' or 'C' when assessing their actions during the coronavirus pandemic. This comes at a time when teachers think students are progressing much worse across categories than school parents.
6. School choice policies - such as education savings accounts, school vouchers, charter schools – continue to still receive very high levels of support among teachers.

AGENDA

**COVID-19 AND SCHOOLING**

**SCHOOL CHOICE POLICIES**

**TEACHING PROFESSION AND UNIONS**

**VIEWS ON K-12 EDUCATION**

**SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS**

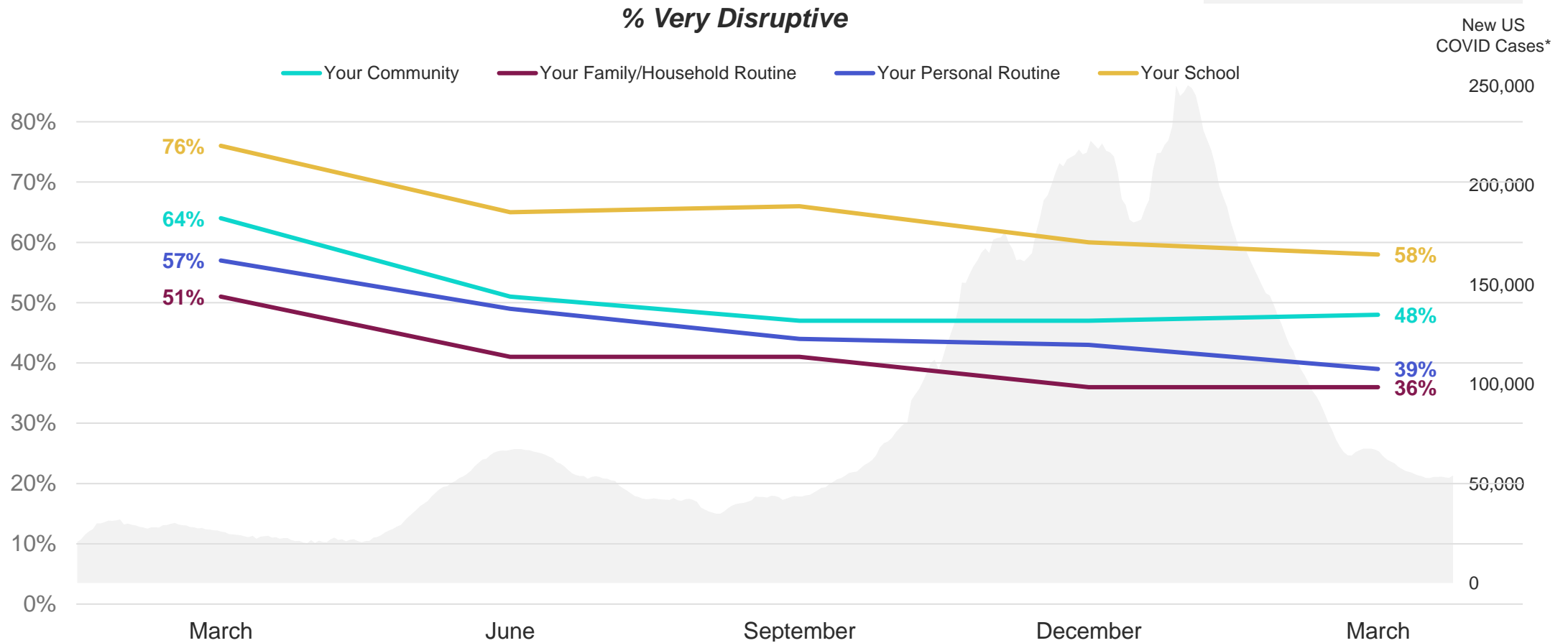


# The number of teachers who view the coronavirus as ‘very disruptive’ continues to be lower than it was at the start of the pandemic.

How disruptive has the coronavirus (also called COVID-19) been on each of the following?

## All Teachers

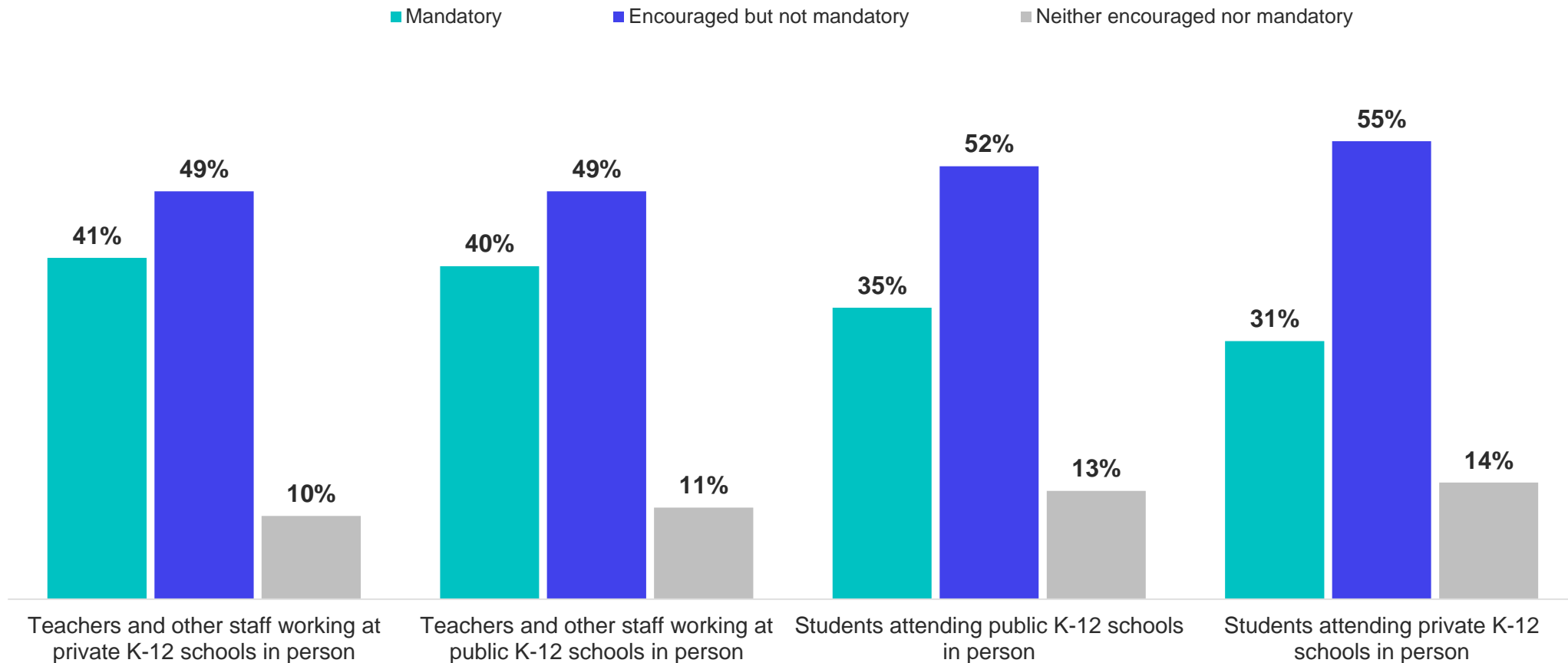
March % Very Disruptive  
All Adults  
Your Community: 37%  
Your Personal Routine: 29%  
Your Family/Household Routine: 28%



# Teachers are more likely to think the vaccine should be mandatory for themselves than for students.

When an FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is available, do you think it should be mandatory or encouraged for the following groups?

## All Teachers

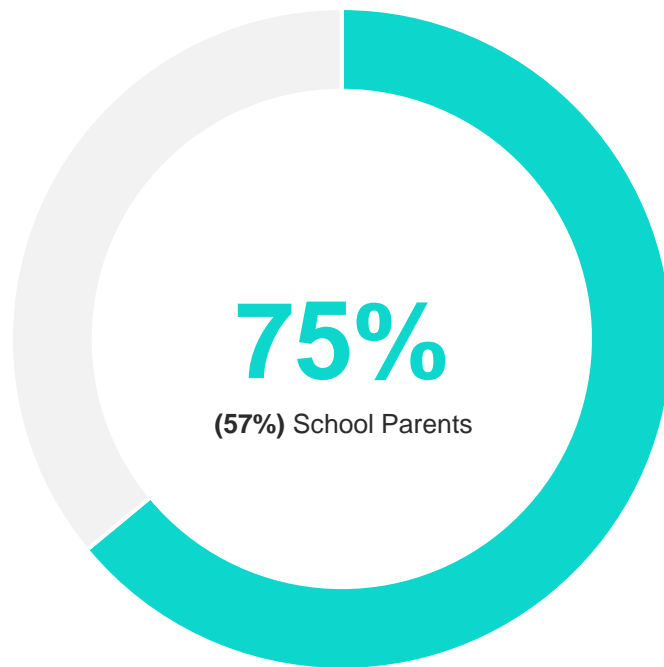


Three out of four teachers have already gotten or plan to get vaccinated. They are also more likely than school parents to both get vaccinated as well as have their children vaccinated.

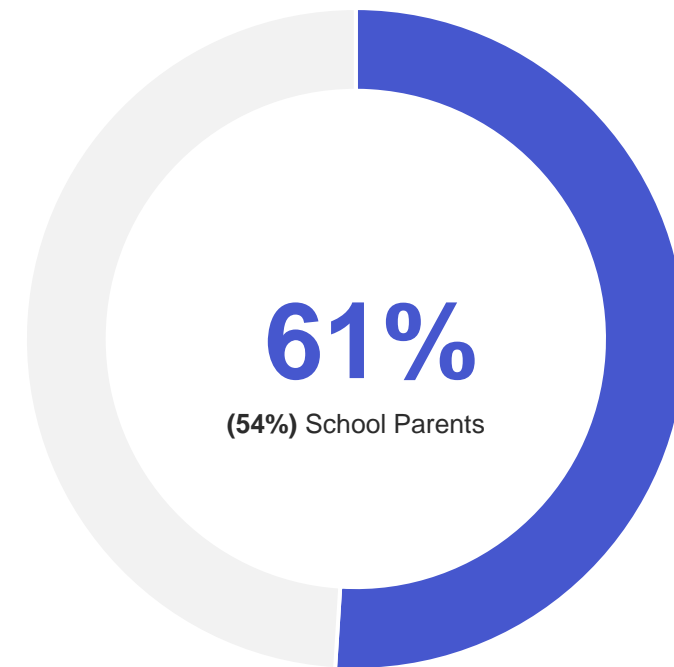
When an FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is available for you/your child, would you agree to be vaccinated/have your child vaccinated?

**All Teachers**

**Would Agree to be Vaccinated**



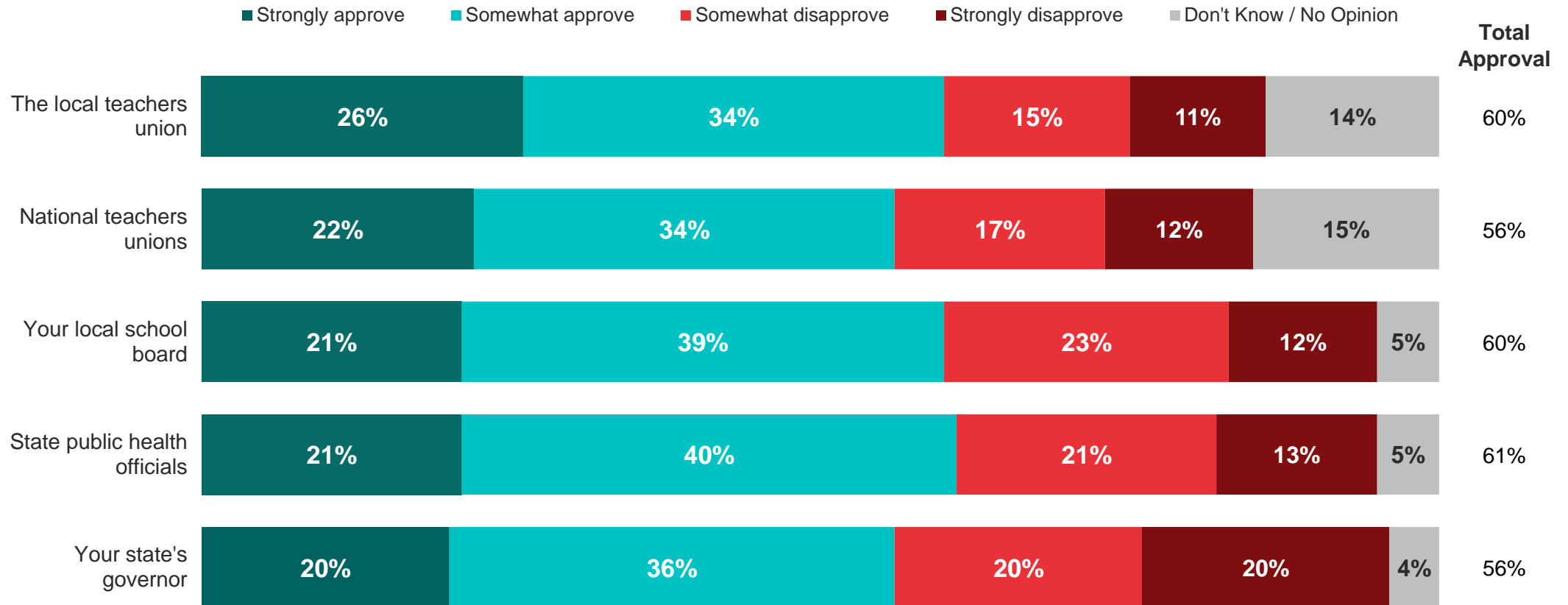
**Would Agree to Have Your Child Vaccinated**



# Most teachers approve of how public officials have influenced closing/re-opening schools.

Based on what you have seen, read, or heard about the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak so far, how much do you approve or disapprove of the way public officials have influenced closings/re-openings ...?

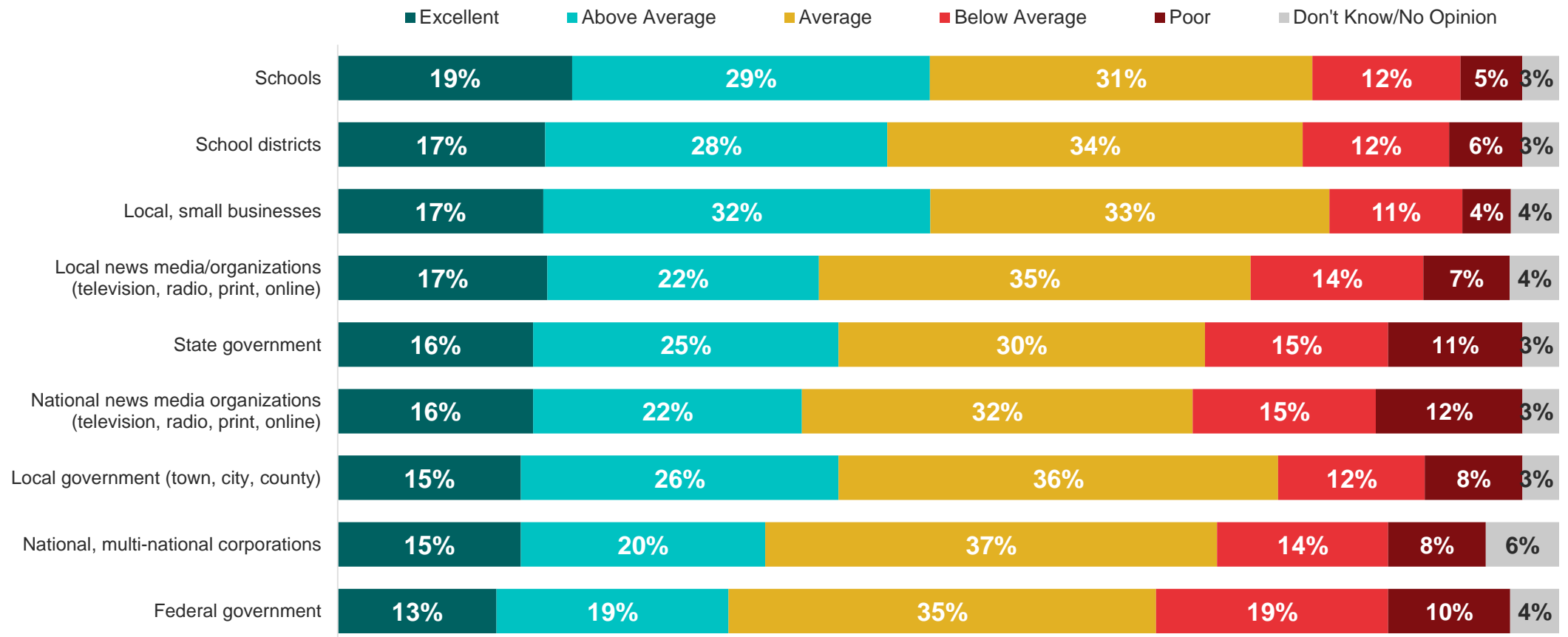
## All Teachers



# Teachers have mixed receptions regarding the responses from institutions to the coronavirus pandemic.

Based on what you have seen, read, or heard so far, how would you rate the following institutions on their response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak?

## All Teachers

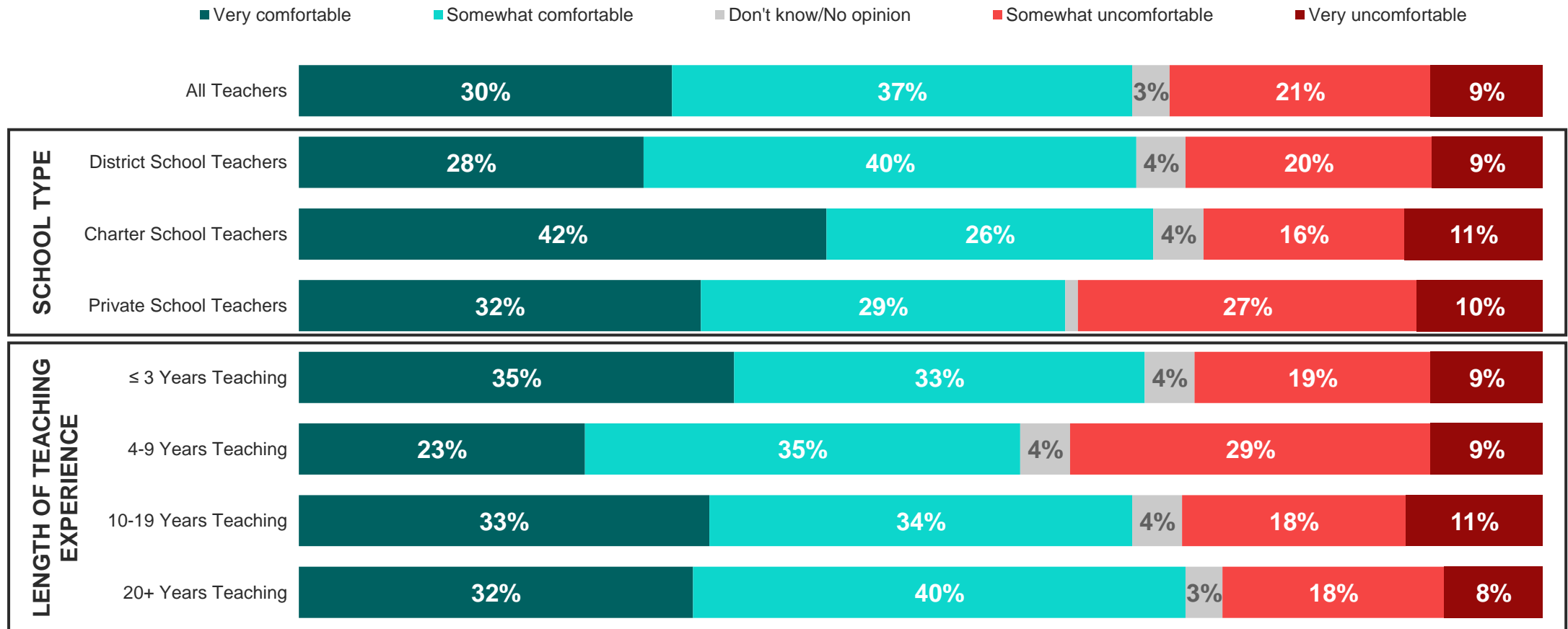




Teachers are more comfortable returning to school in-person right now. Those with 4-9 years of experience and private school teachers report being less comfortable compared to counterparts.

Based on what you have seen, read, or heard about the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak so far, how comfortable are you returning to school in person right now?

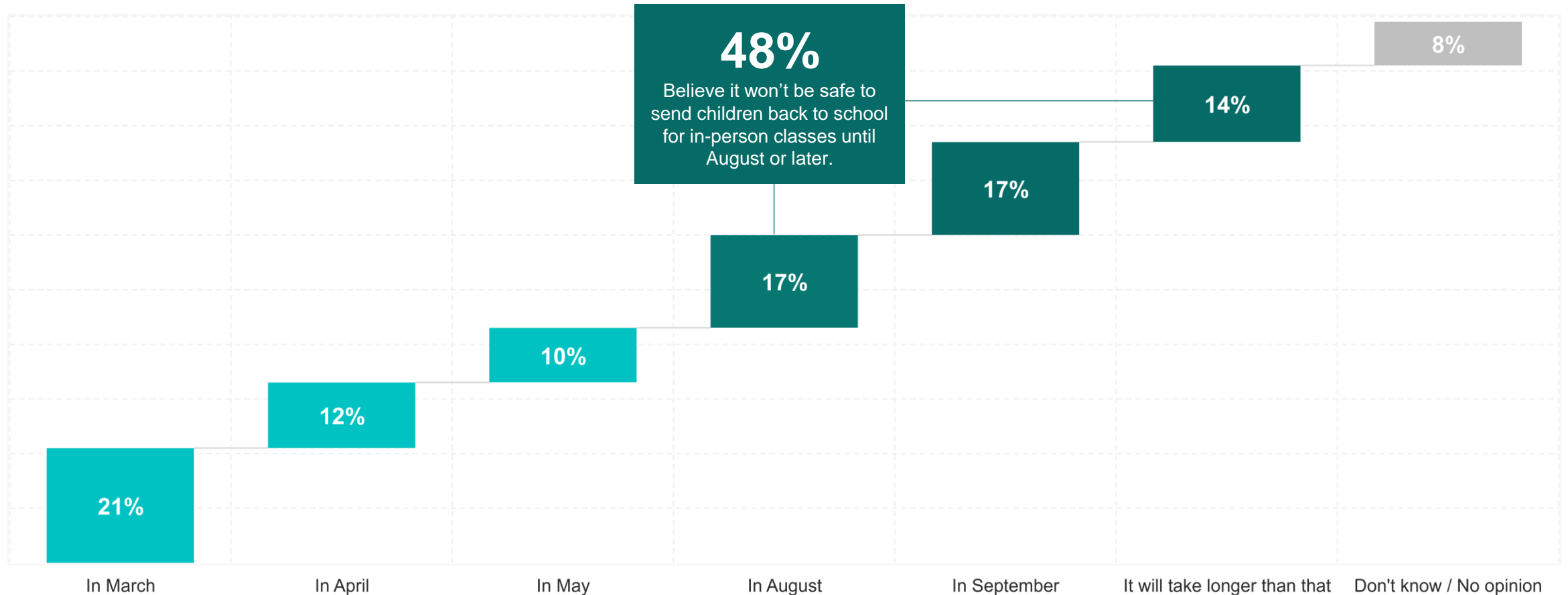
**All Teachers**



# Just under half of teachers don't expect it will be safe to send children to school for in-person classes until August 2021 or after.

When do you expect the coronavirus outbreak to be controlled enough that it will be safe to send children to school for in-person classes in your community?

## All Teachers

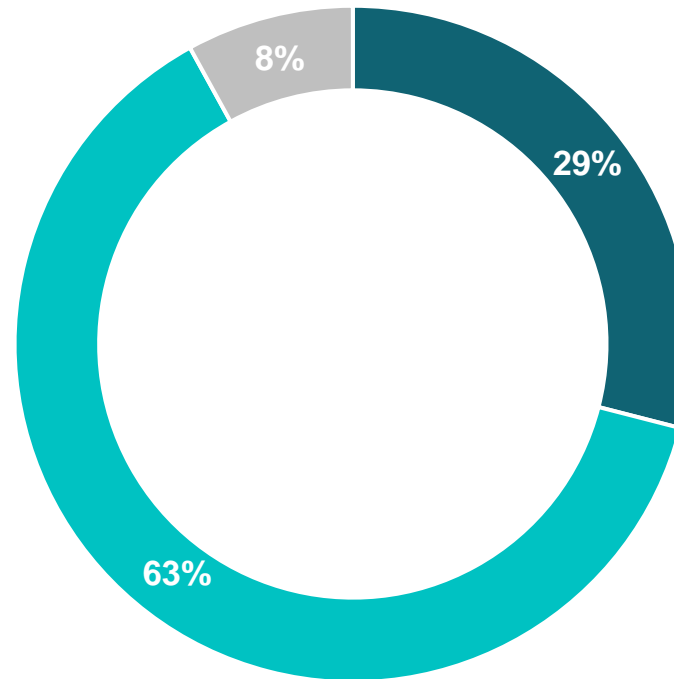


The majority of teachers believe that schools should provide multiple learning options for their students.

And, do you think schools should offer one approach to educating K-12 students in the fall or provide multiple learning options?

**All Teachers**

■ Offer One Approach ■ Provide Multiple Learning Options ■ Don't Know / No Opinion



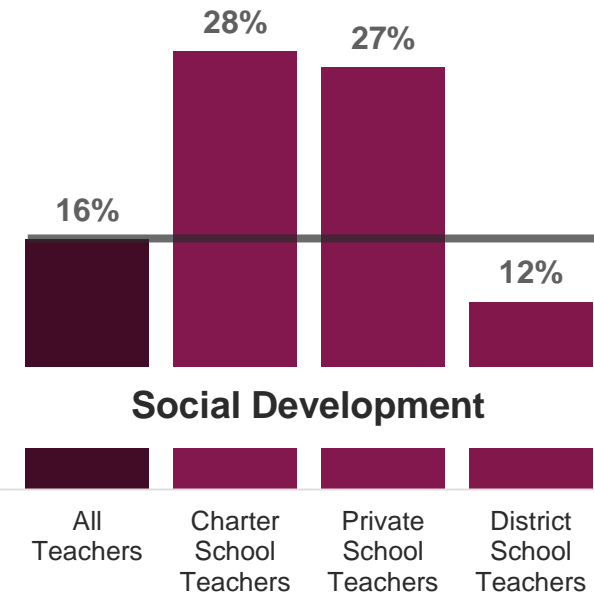
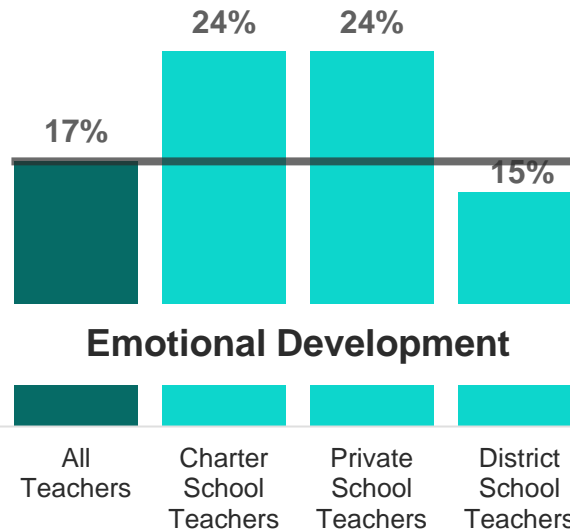
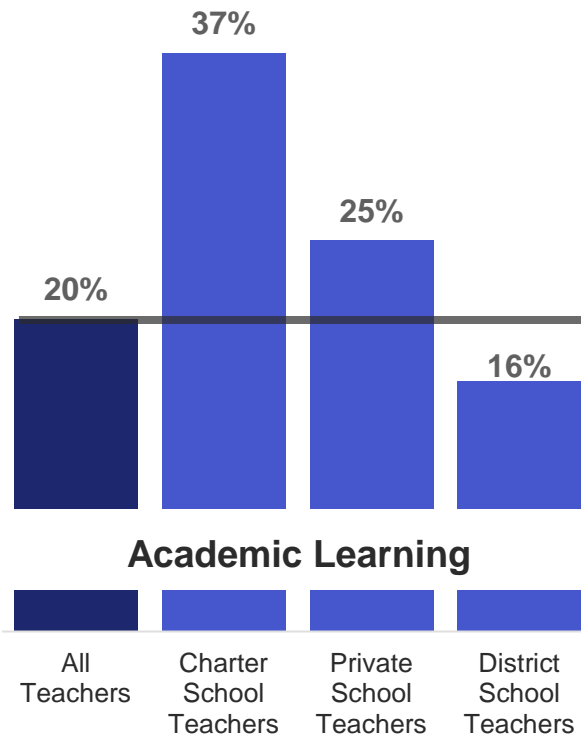
# Private and charter school teachers rate their students' progress across learning and development higher than district teachers.

How do you feel your students are progressing on the following this school year?

## All Teachers

On average, teachers think students are progressing (-15 points) worse across categories than school parents.

### % Very Well



# The majority of teachers would grade the parents of their students with either a 'B' or 'C' when assessing their actions during the coronavirus pandemic.

Right now, how would you grade the parents of your students on each of the following?

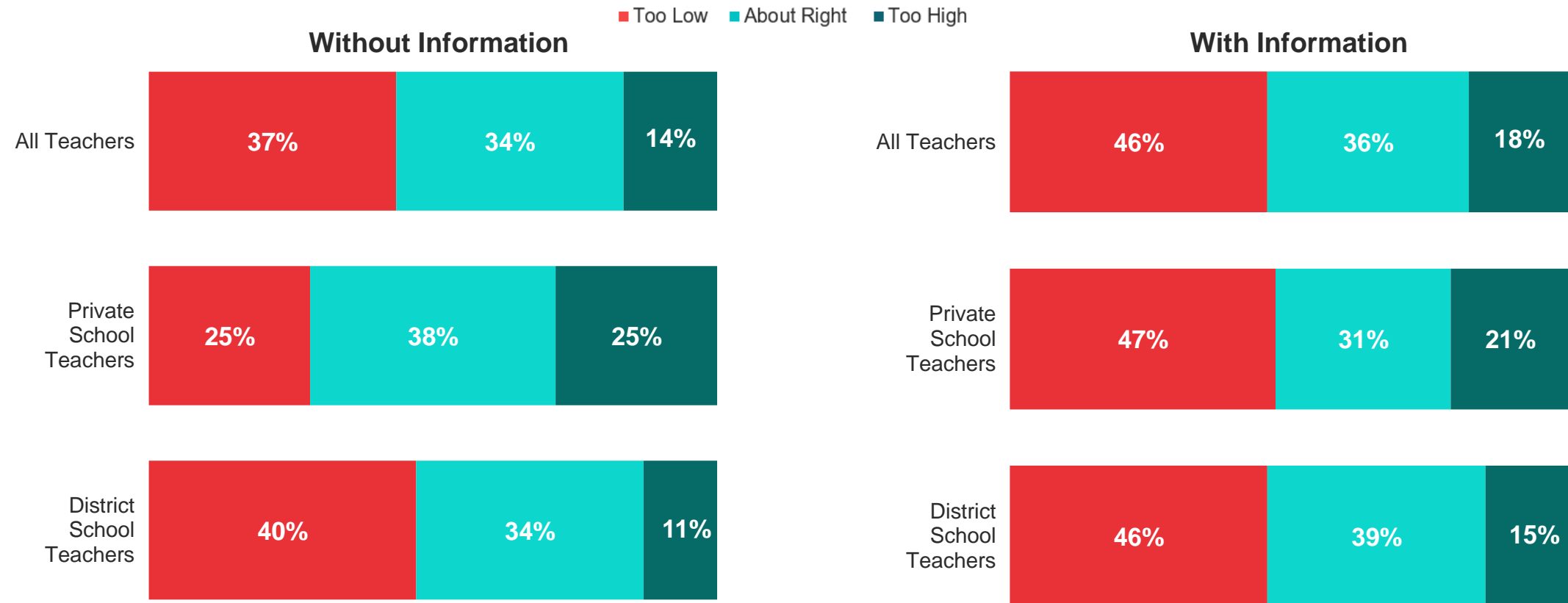
## All Teachers

	A	B	C	D	F
Expectations of you	19	30	28	13	7
Supporting their child's/children's academic learning	19	30	26	15	8
Supporting their child's/children's social development	18	28	29	13	8
Communications with you	18	30	26	16	7

# When given information, teachers, especially those at a private school, are more likely to believe the amount of spending per student by way of COVID relief funds is ‘too low’.

Based on what you know about the federal government’s COVID pandemic relief funds for K–12 education, do you believe that amount is too high, too low, or about right?

On average, the federal government is spending approximately \$3,700 per student in the country by way of COVID pandemic relief funds for K–12 education. Do you believe that amount is too high, too low, or about right?

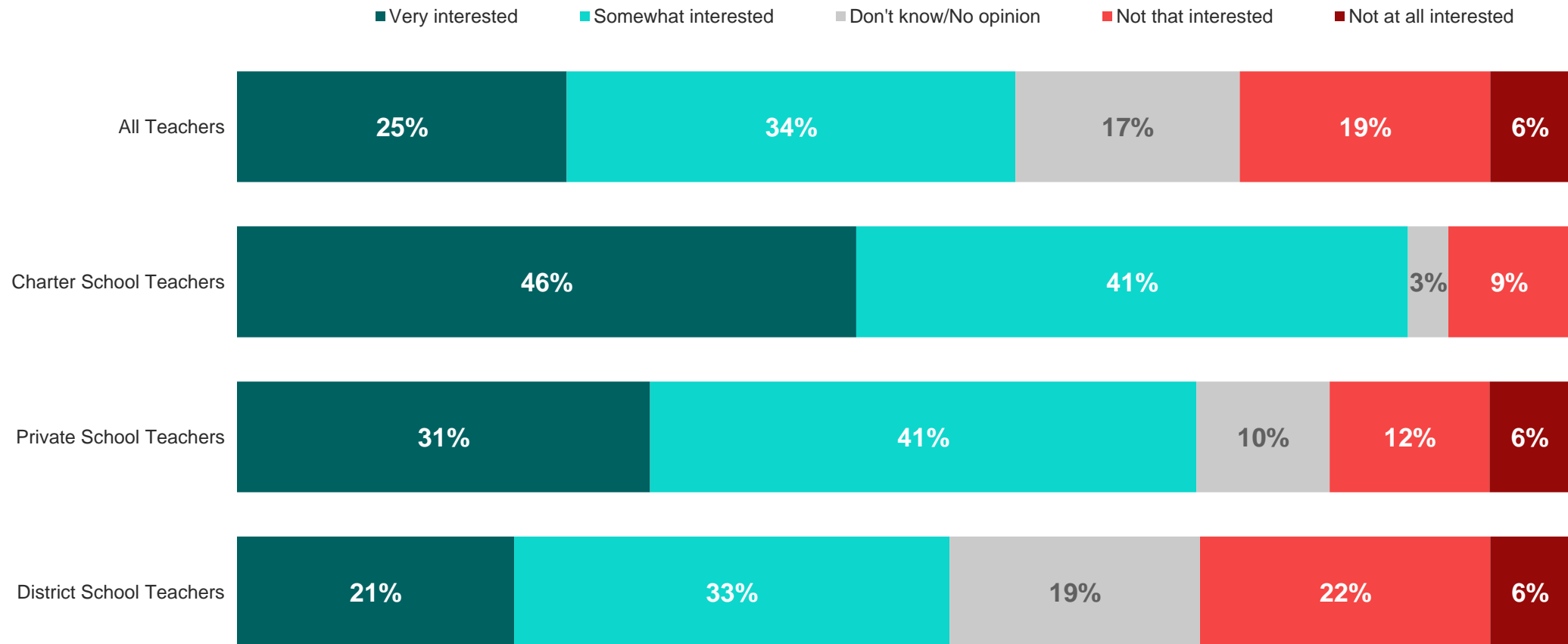


*Note: Don't know/no opinion responses are not shown.  
\*Charter school teachers not shown due to low sample size*

# Charter and private school teachers have much greater interest in teaching in a 'learning pod' than district school teachers do.

'Learning pods' or 'pandemic pods' are small groups of children, organized by parents, gathering to learn together. Parents either hire a private teacher or tutor to facilitate instruction in-person but outside of the school or classroom – usually in someone's home. How interested are you in facilitating instruction for a learning pod?

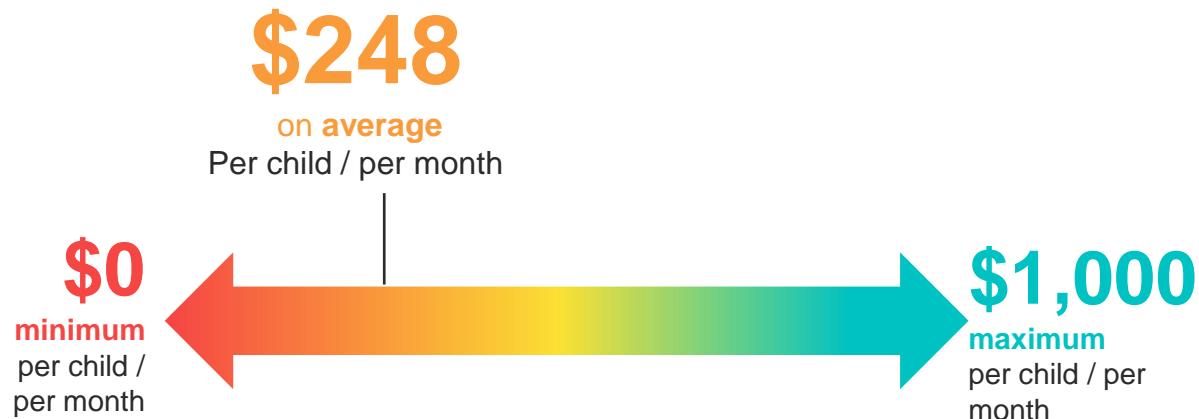
## All Teachers



# Private school teachers in urban areas are willing to ask for the most money from parents to facilitate a learning pod for their child.

How much would you ask parents to pay per child per month for you to facilitate a learning pod?

## All Teachers



Average Willing to ask Per Child/Per Month By Demographic		
School Type	Charter School Teachers	\$273
	Private School Teachers	\$284
	District School Teachers	\$232
Community Type	Urban	\$279
	Suburban	\$244
	Small Town/Rural	\$223
Years Teaching	Less than 3 years	\$240
	4-9 years	\$253
	10-19 years	\$262
	Greater than 20 years	\$235

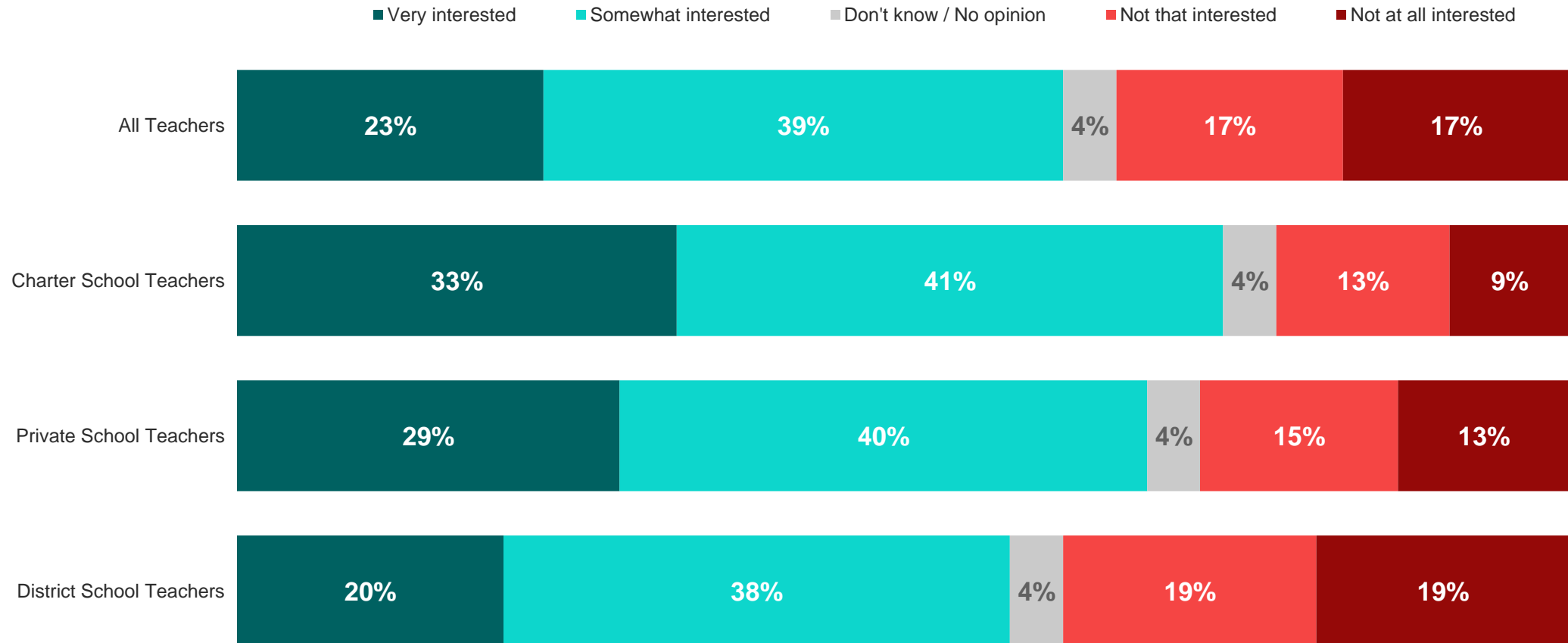
\*indicates base size <n=100



# Charter and private school teachers are the most interested in tutoring opportunities outside of school hours.

How interested are you in tutoring students outside of school hours?

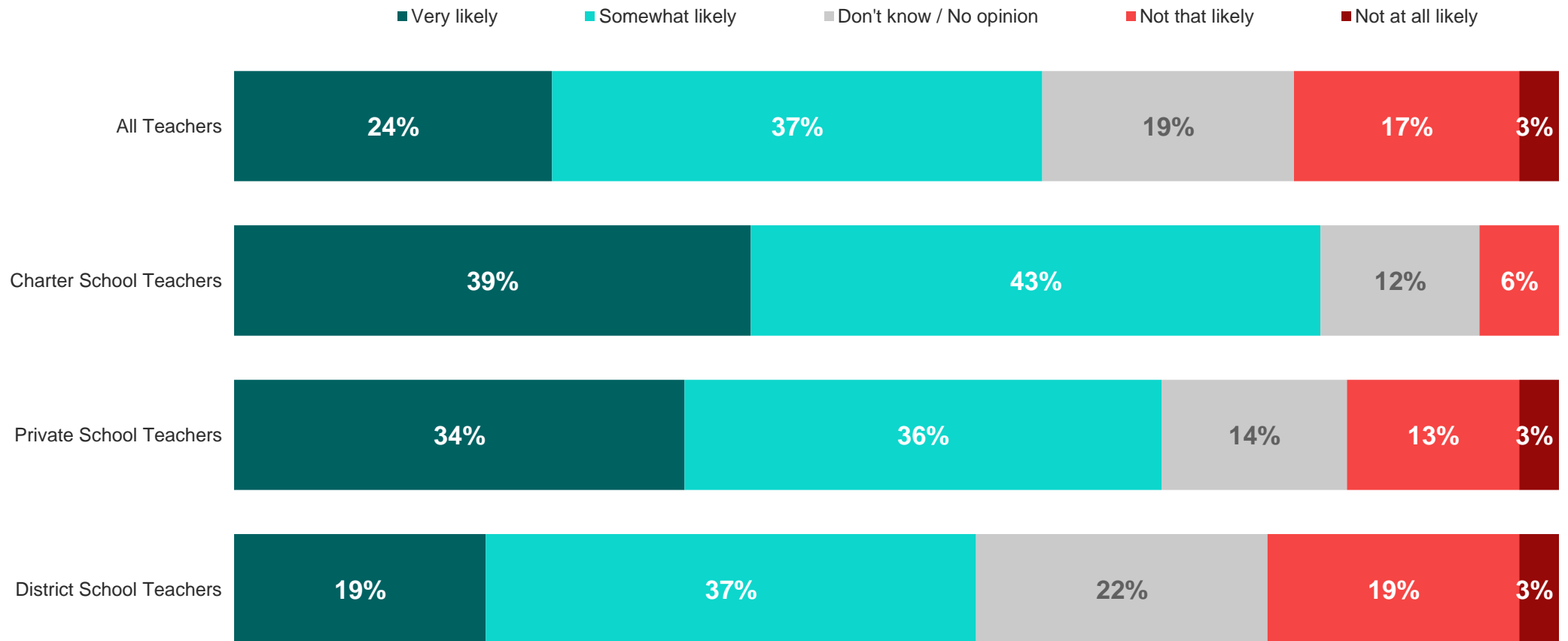
## All Teachers



# Charter and private school teachers are also more likely to seek out tutoring opportunities than district school teachers.

This school year, to what extent are you more or less likely to seek out tutoring opportunities on your own – outside of regular school/teaching hours?

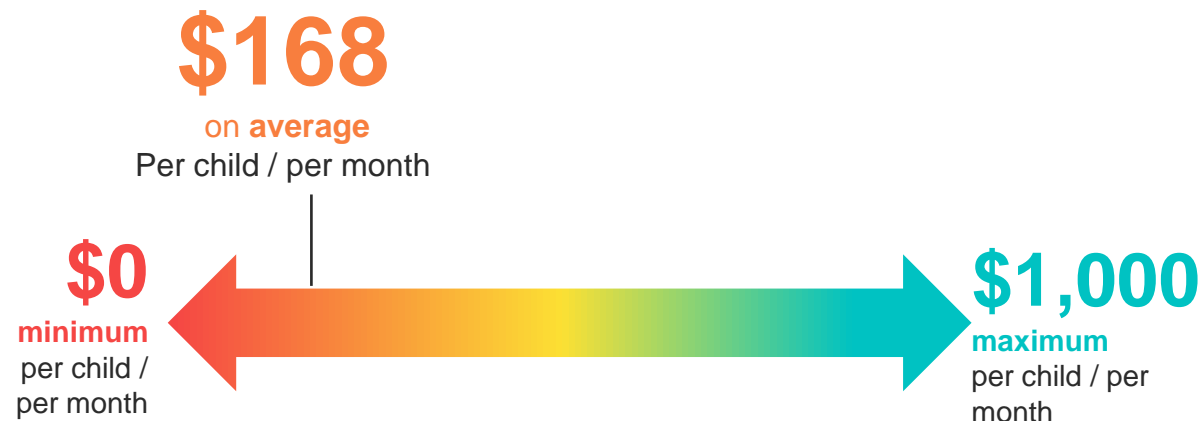
## All Teachers



# Private school teachers in urban areas are willing to ask for the most money from parents to tutor their child outside of school hours.

How much would you ask parents to pay per child per month for you to tutor their child outside of school hours?

## All Teachers



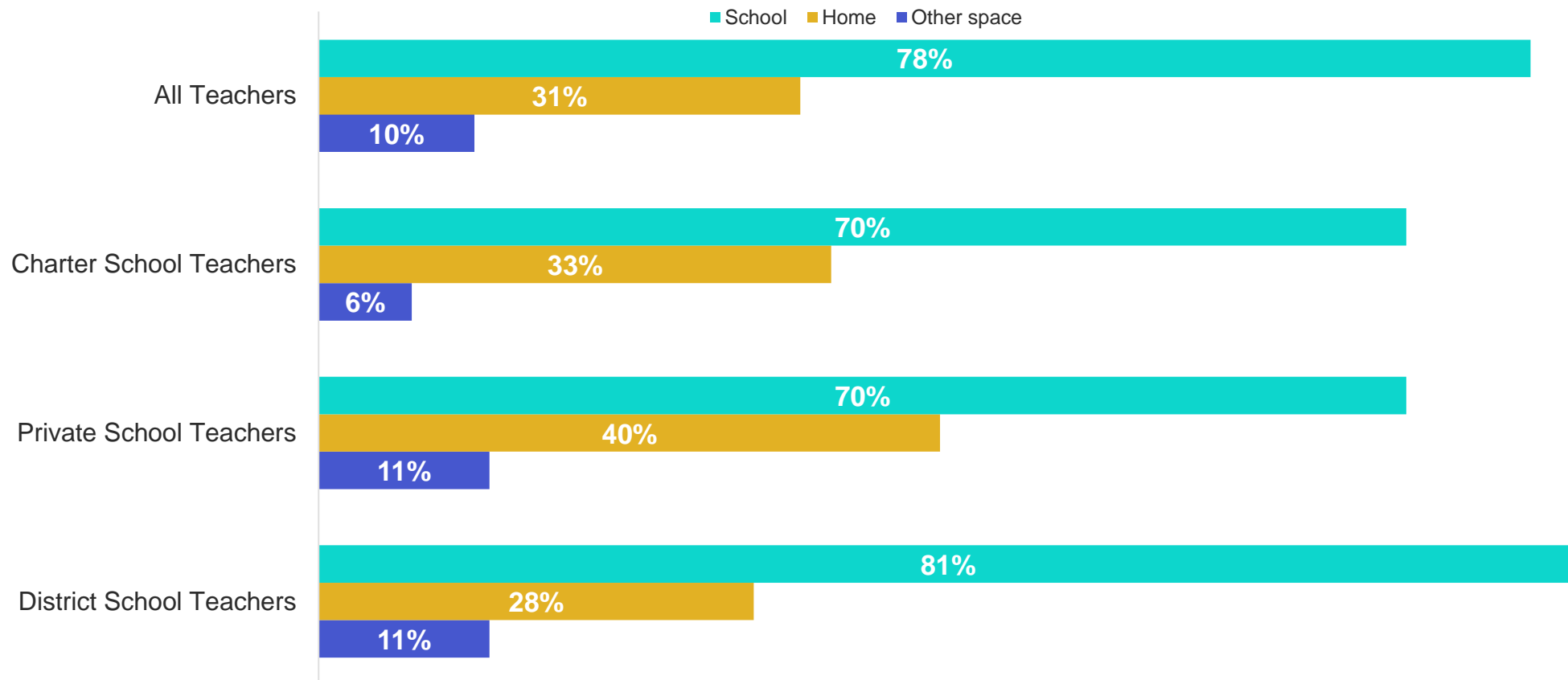
Average Willing to ask Per Child/Per Month By Demographic		
School Type	Charter School Teachers	\$192
	Private School Teachers	\$212
	District School Teachers	\$147
Community Type	Urban	\$208
	Suburban	\$159
	Small Town/Rural	\$136
Years Teaching	Less than 3 years	\$179
	4-9 years	\$172
	10-19 years	\$183
	Greater than 20 years	\$142

\*indicates base size <n=100

# Across the board, teachers prefer instructing their students at a school.

After the pandemic, if given the option, what physical learning environment would you select be open to teaching students in?

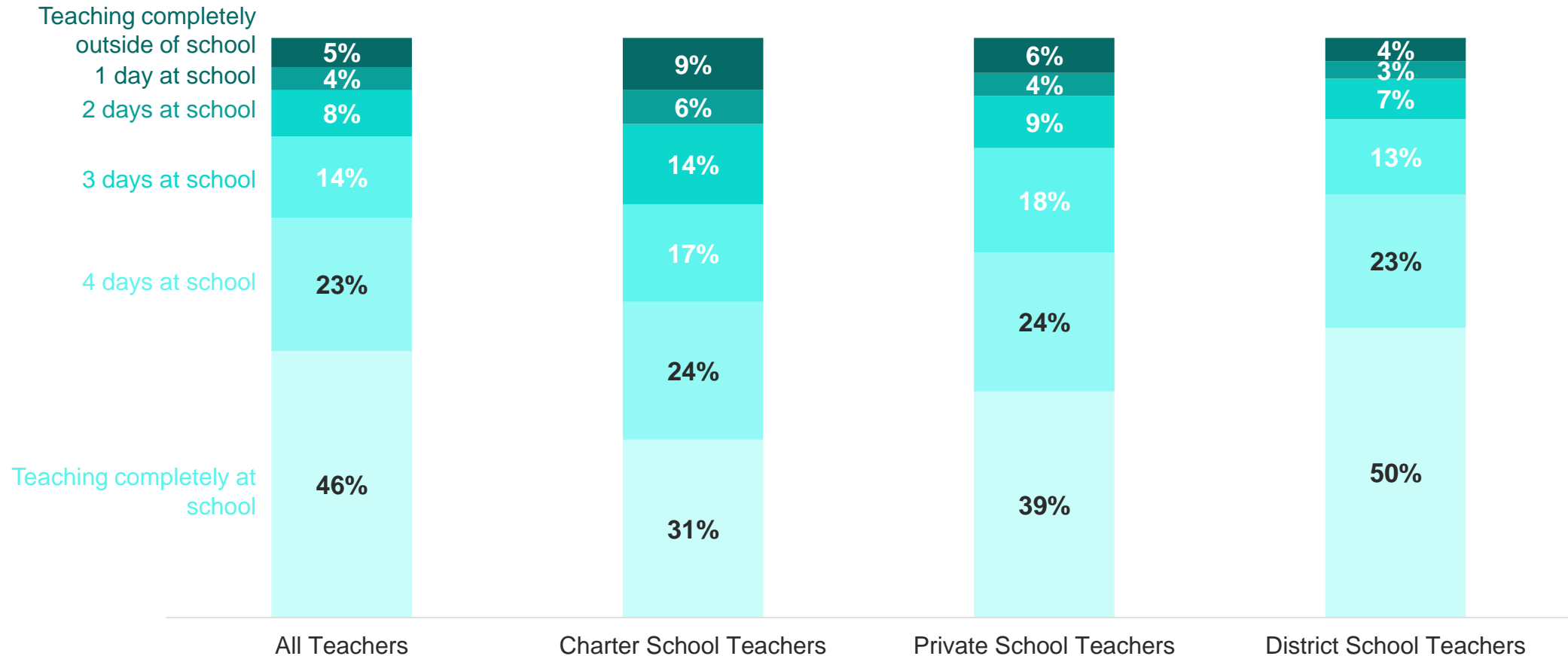
## All Teachers



# The majority of teacher prefer teaching at school most, if not all, days of the work week.

After the pandemic, if given the option, how many days would you prefer to teach your students in-person at school each week?

## All Teachers



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**VIEWS ON K-12 EDUCATION**

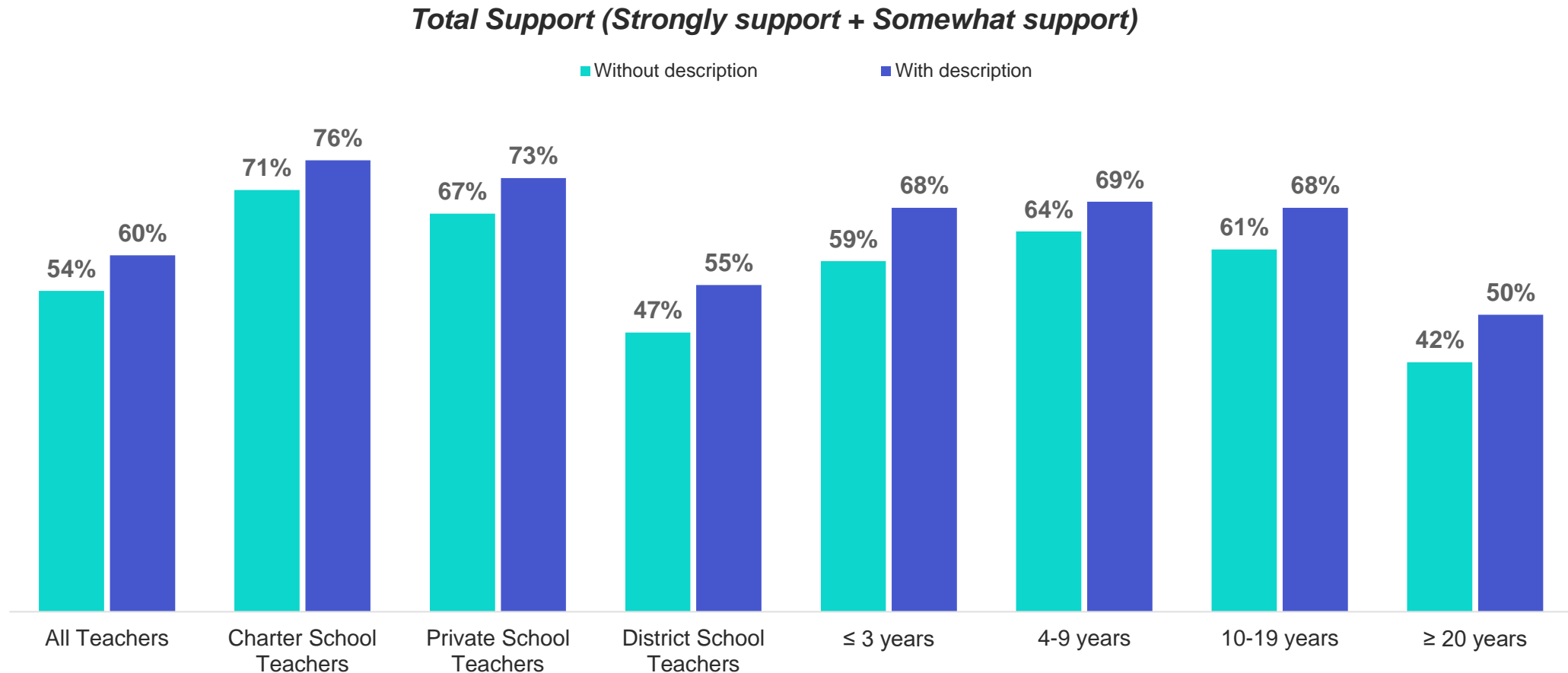
**SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS**



# Teachers' support of charter schools increases once given more information.

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'charter schools' in K–12 education?  
Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

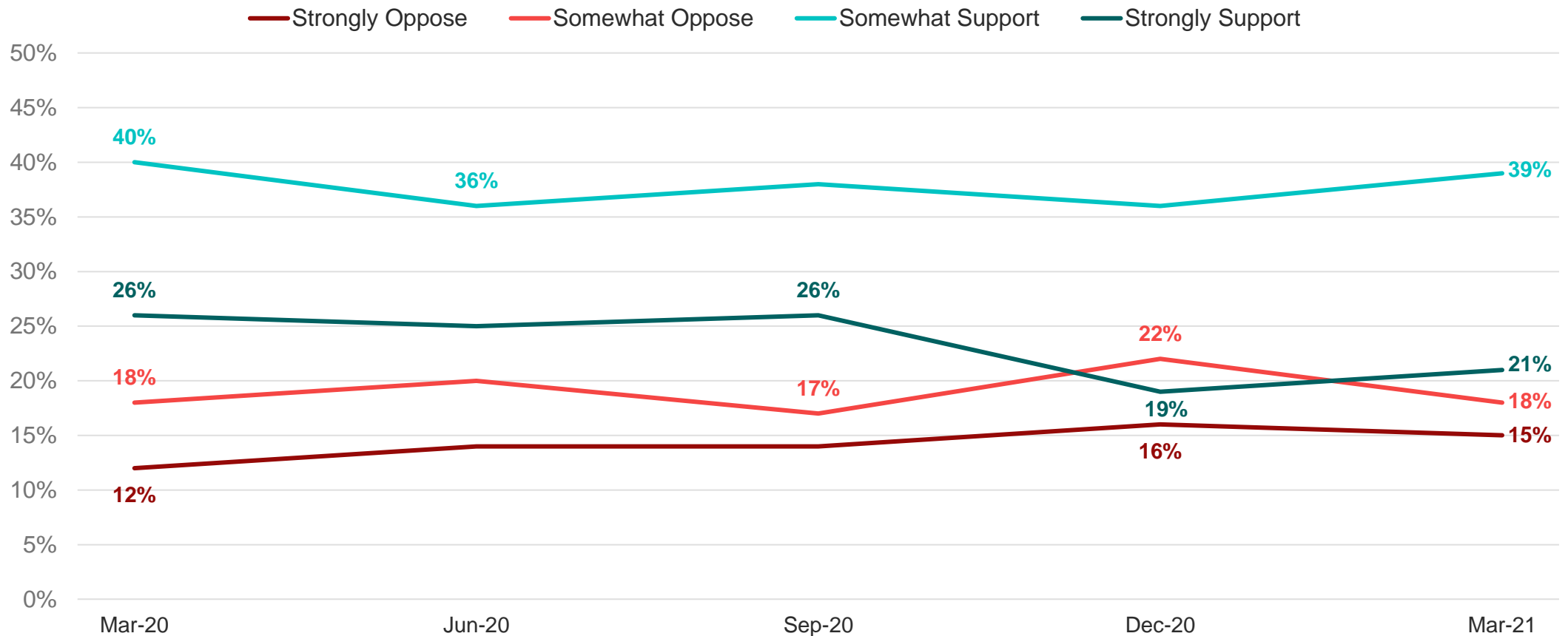
## All Teachers



# Strong support of charter schools increased slightly this quarter after a sharp decline last quarter.

Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

## All Teachers



Note: Don't know/no opinion responses are not shown.



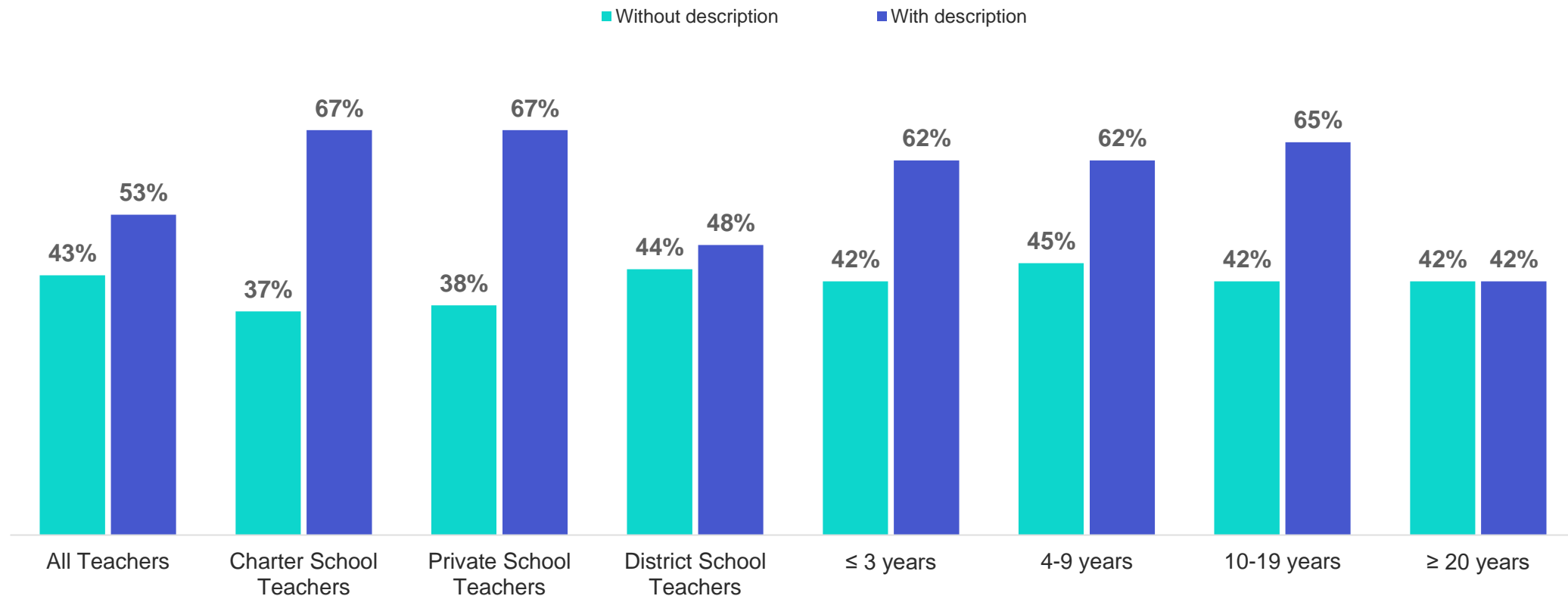
# Support for school vouchers also increases when teachers are provided with information, especially for charter and private school teachers.

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'school vouchers' in K-12 education?

A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a 'school voucher' to pay partial or full tuition for the child's school. In general, what is your opinion of school voucher systems?

## All Teachers

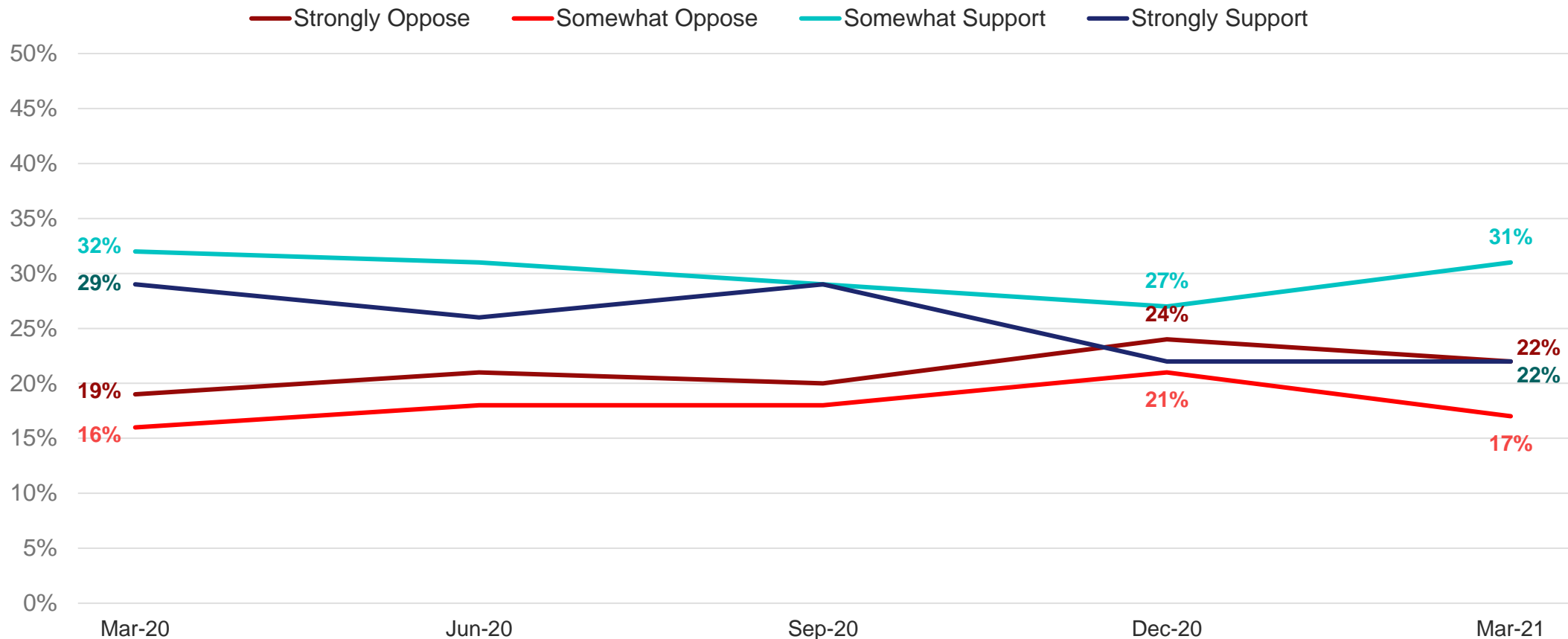
### Total Support (Strongly support + Somewhat support)



# Soft support of school vouchers increased by four points this quarter.

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## All Teachers



Note: Don't know/no opinion responses are not shown.

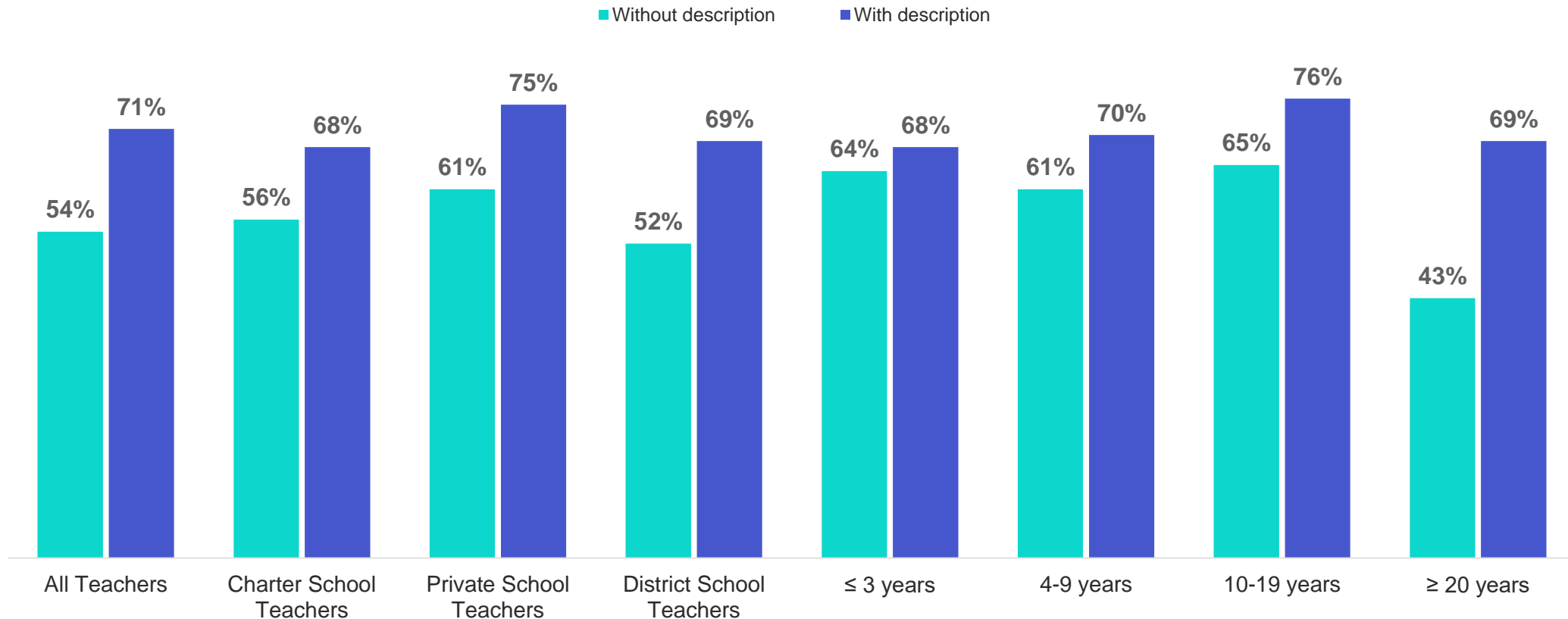
# Teachers are much more supportive of ESAs after learning more about them, particularly among more tenured teachers ( $\geq 20$ years).

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'education savings accounts' in K-12 education?

An "education savings account" in K-12 education – often called an ESA – establishes for parents a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes. Parents can then use these funds to pay for: school tuition; tutoring; online education programs; therapies for students with special needs; textbooks or other instructional materials; or save for future college expenses. In general, what is your opinion of an ESA system?

## All Teachers

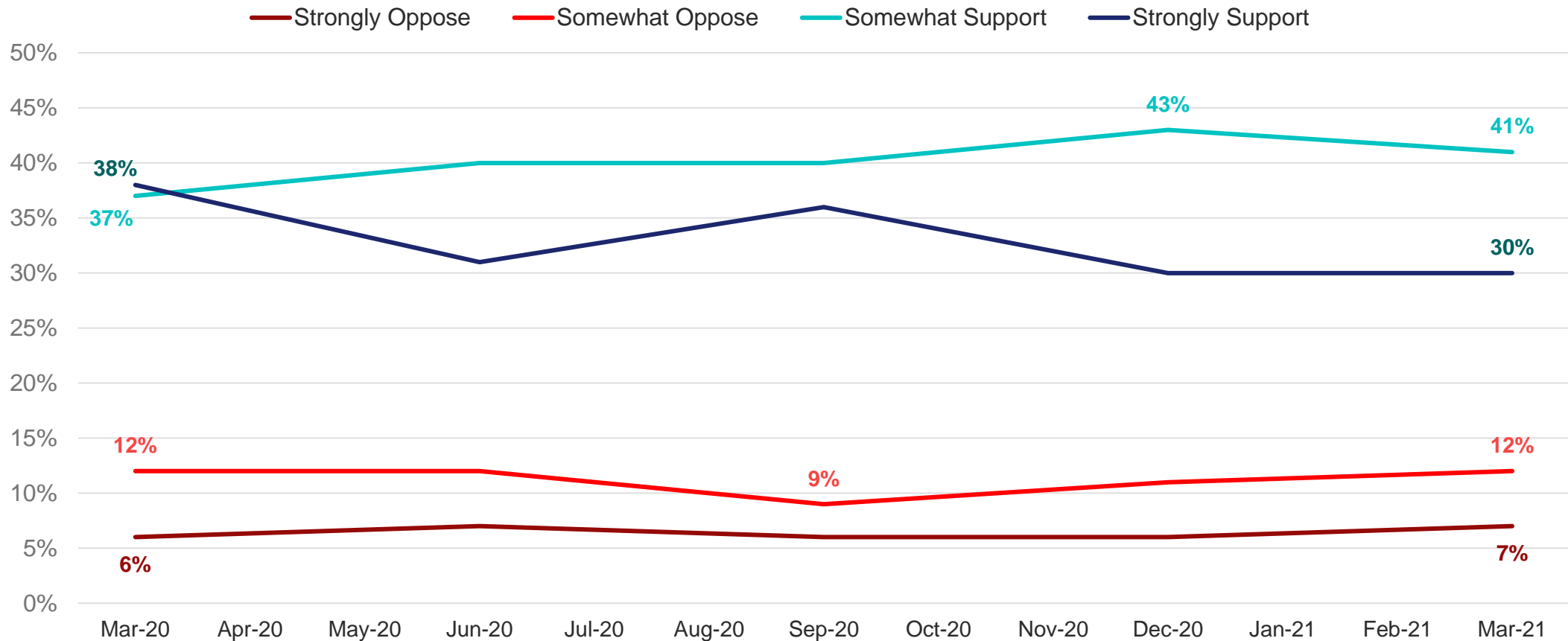
### Total Support (Strongly support + Somewhat support)



# Overall support for ESAs held steady this quarter.

An "education savings account" in K–12 education – often called an ESA – establishes for parents a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes. Parents can then use these funds to pay for: school tuition; tutoring; online education programs; therapies for students with special needs; textbooks or other instructional materials; or save for future college expenses. In general, what is your opinion of an ESA system?

## All Teachers



Note: Don't know/no opinion responses are not shown.

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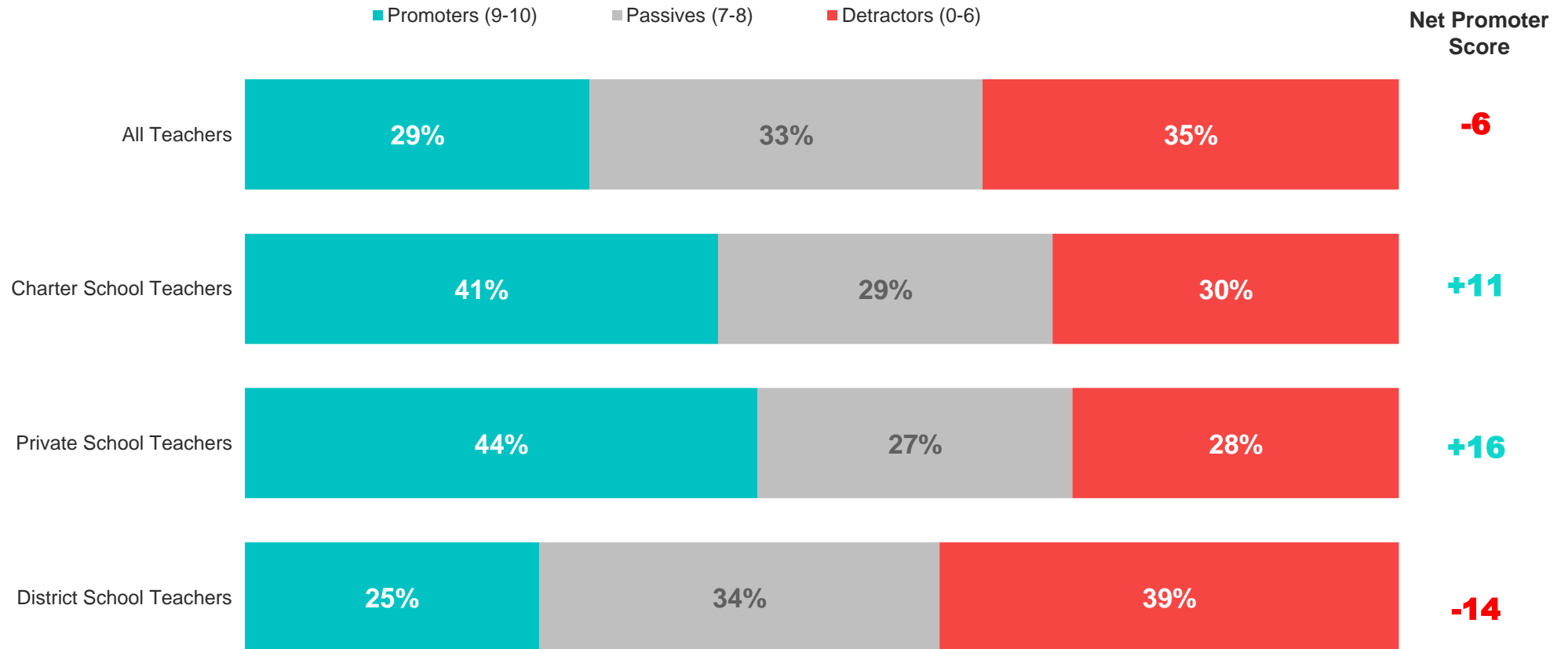
SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



# Charter and private school teachers remain much more likely to recommend teaching than district school teachers.

On a scale from 0 to 10, where '0' means 'Not at all likely' and '10' means 'Extremely likely'. How likely is it that you would recommend teaching to a friend or family member?

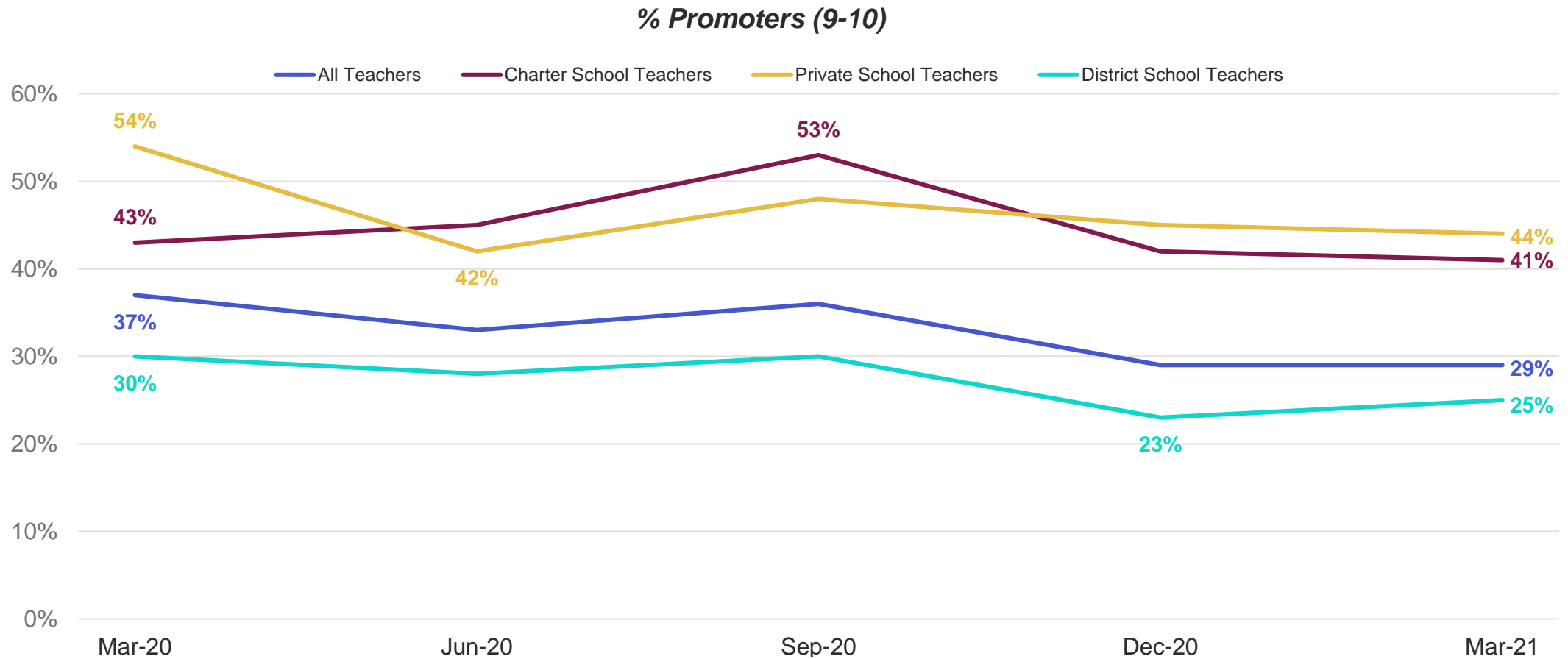
## All Teachers



# Promoters of the teaching profession have held steady this quarter.

On a scale from 0 to 10, where '0' means 'Not at all likely' and '10' means 'Extremely likely'. How likely is it that you would recommend teaching to a friend or family member?

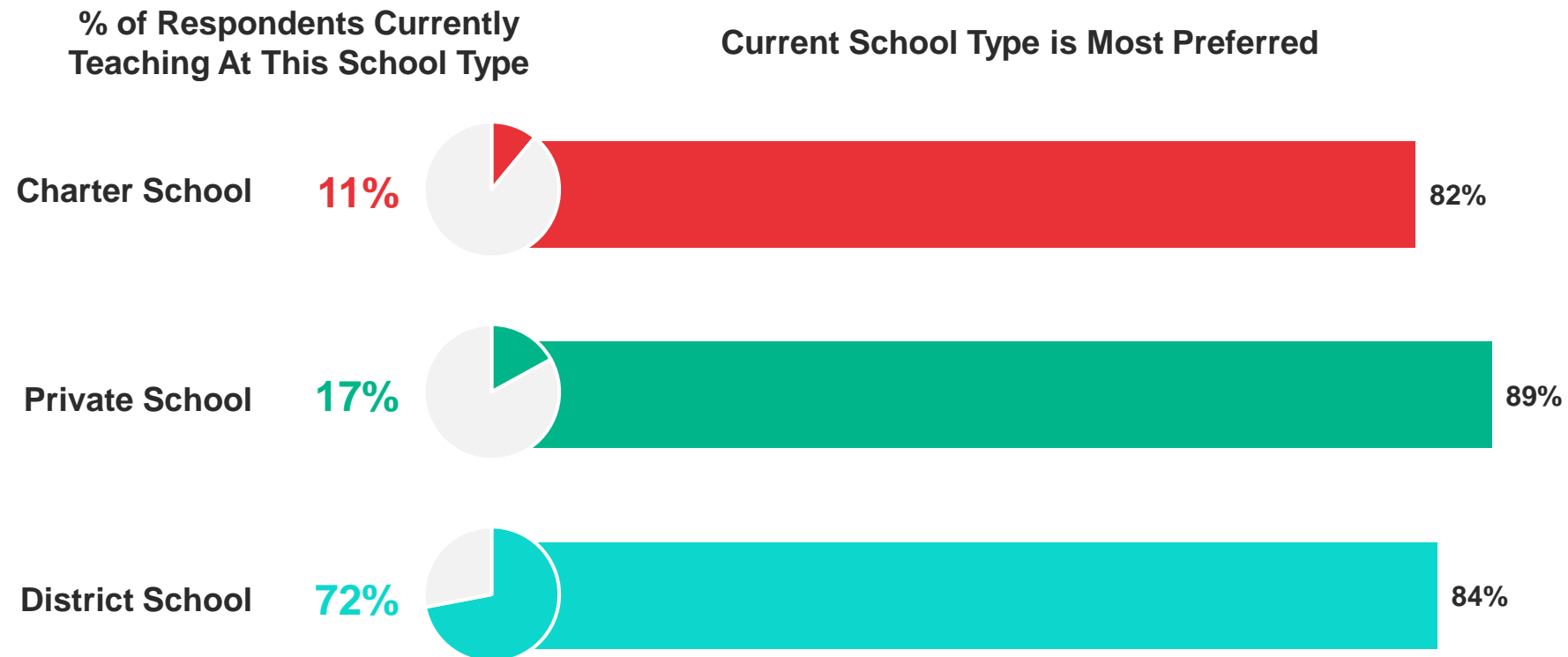
## All Teachers



# The majority of teachers are currently teaching at the type of school they prefer most.

Where do you currently teach? Are you currently teaching in the type of school or educational setting that you prefer the most?

## All Teachers



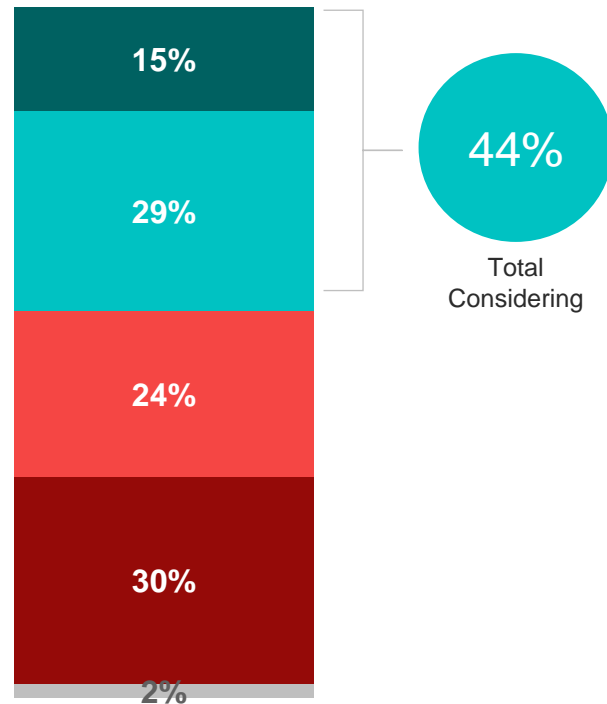


# Most teachers over the age of 55 have considered retiring from the teaching profession in the last 3 months.

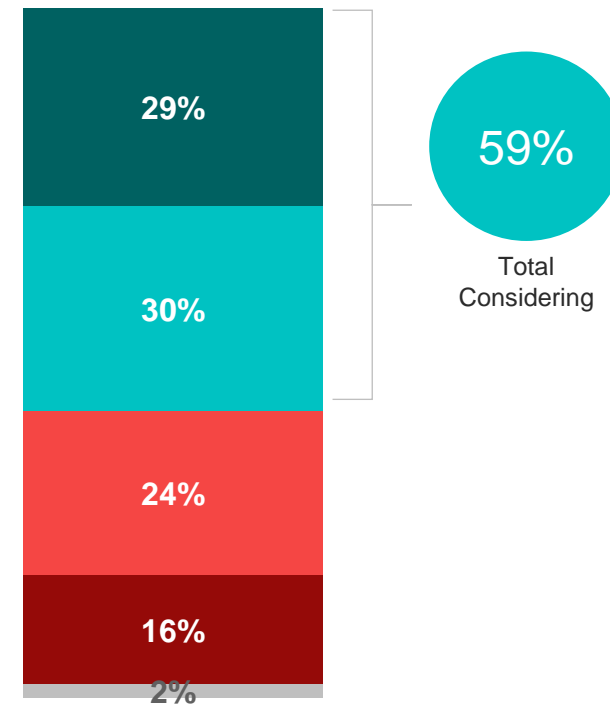
In the past three months, to what extent have you considered leaving the teaching profession for another career?

In the past three months, to what extent have you considered retiring from the teaching profession?

**Teachers Under 55 Years Old  
Leaving Teaching Profession**



**Teachers 55+ Years Old  
Retiring From Teaching Profession**



Teachers cite the impact of the pandemic, feeling undervalued and stressed, and politics surrounding the job as top reasons for considering leaving or retiring from the profession.

Why have you considered leaving the teaching profession or retiring after this year?

### IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

“It is really hard to teach kids through screens. Most are distracted and some just don't care. Things just aren't the same!”

“The way my school has handled COVID-19 has left me so frustrated.”

“This pandemic has made me realize that I want something new in my life.”

### UNDervalued & STRESSED

“Teachers are underpaid and not given enough resources. There are a lot of out-of-pocket expenses that we pay for and do not get reimbursed.”

“The pay is not good enough. I have to work a second job just to make ends meet.”

“Too many issues beyond just teaching in the classroom such as parents who are too demanding.”

### POLITICS OF THE JOB

“The politics have shown that too many colleagues and administrators are not here to do right by the kids.”

“Teaching is not what it used to be. It isn't about the kids anymore, it's about the politicians and money.”

“Too many politics involved in the industry and students come in second to the agenda being promoted.”

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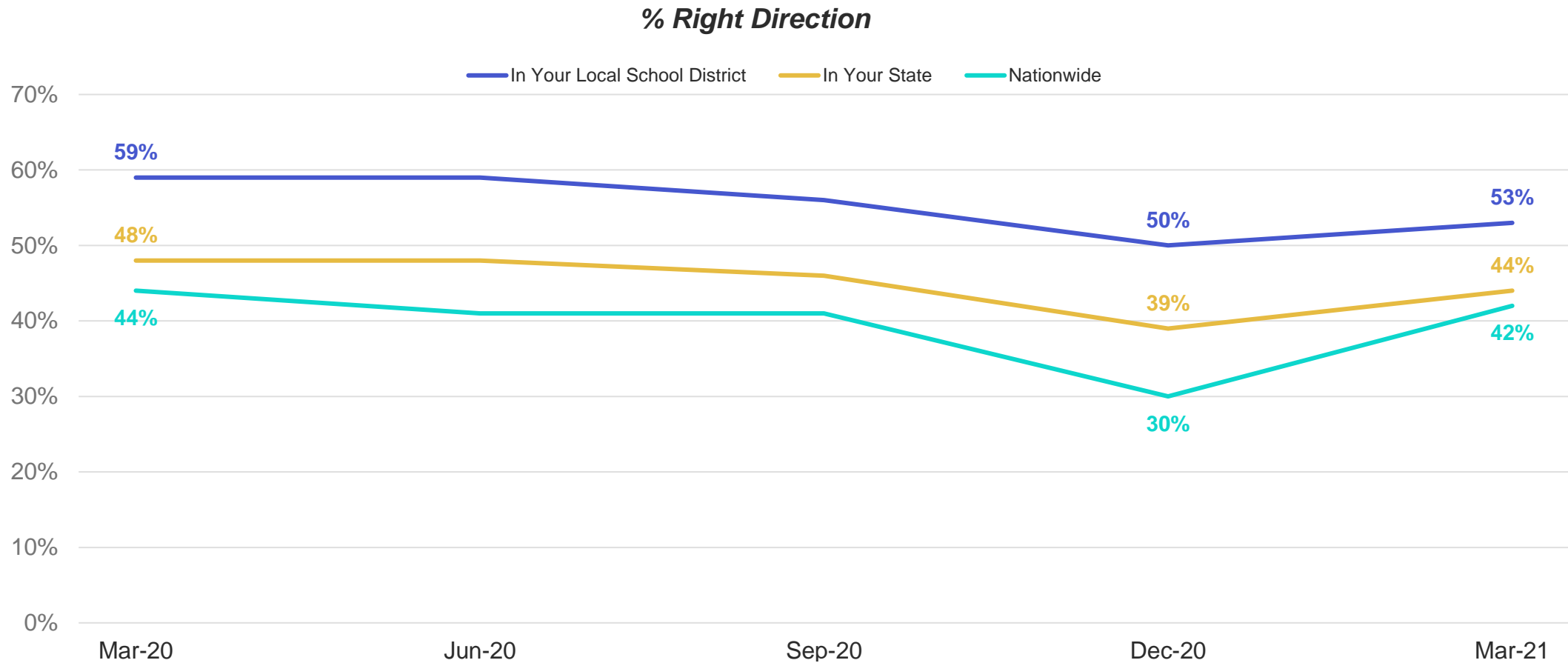
SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



# Teachers have increased optimism about the direction of education this quarter, especially nationwide.

Do you feel things in K-12 education are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?

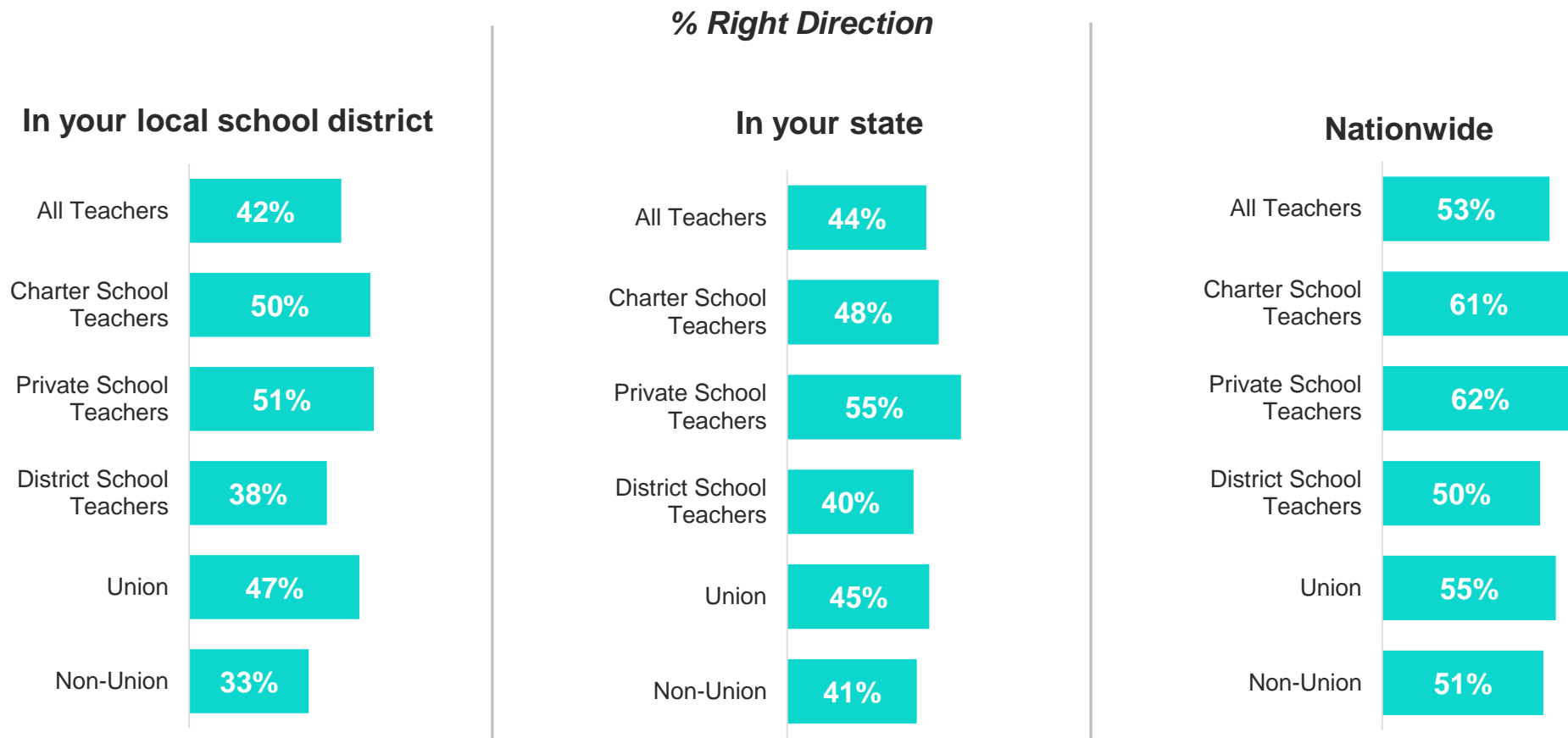
## All Teachers



# Private and charter school teachers continue to be more optimistic about the direction of education than district school teachers.

Do you feel things in K-12 Education are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?

## All Teachers



# Most teachers believe it is extremely important for students to learn how to become independent thinkers throughout their K-12 education.

What do you believe should be the main purpose of education during Kindergarten through 8th grade/High School? In your opinion, how important is it for students to learn...

## All Teachers

### % Extremely Important








#### Grades K-8

Average % selected Extremely Important **46%**

-  Socialization (**56%**)
-  Become independent thinkers (**55%**)
-  Core academic subjects (**52%**)
-  How to be good citizens (**50%**)
-  Values, moral character, religious virtues (**42%**)
-  Skills for future employment (**39%**)
-  To fix social problems (**29%**)

#### Grades 9-12

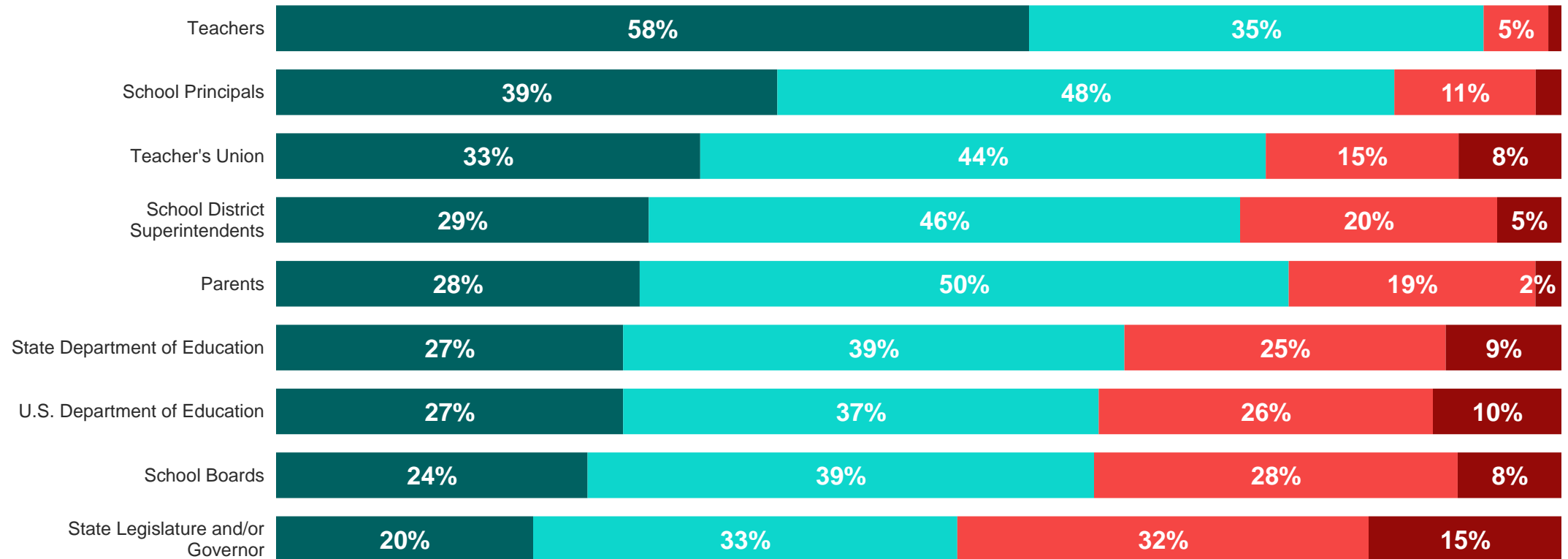
Average % selected Extremely Important **49%**

-  Skills for future employment (**61%**)
-  Become independent thinkers (**61%**)
-  How to be good citizens (**53%**)
-  Core academic subjects (**50%**)
-  Socialization (**48%**)
-  Values, moral character, religious virtues (**39%**)
-  To fix social problems (**31%**)

# Teachers continue to view fellow teachers and school principals as most trustworthy when it comes to making decisions about education.


How much, if at all, do you trust the following to make good decisions about education?

## All Teachers



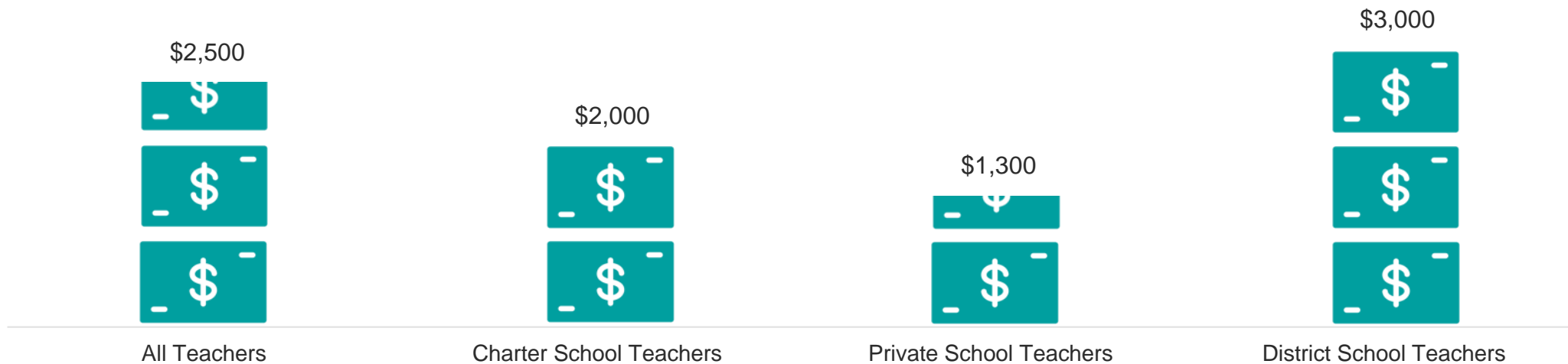
# Teachers' estimates remain significantly lower than actual school spending.

How much do you think is spent per year on each student in your state's public schools? Your estimate of the state average—to the nearest thousand dollars—will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.

 = \$1,000

## Median Estimate

FY18 State Actuals	
Maximum	\$22,845
Mean	\$12,485
Minimum	\$7,525

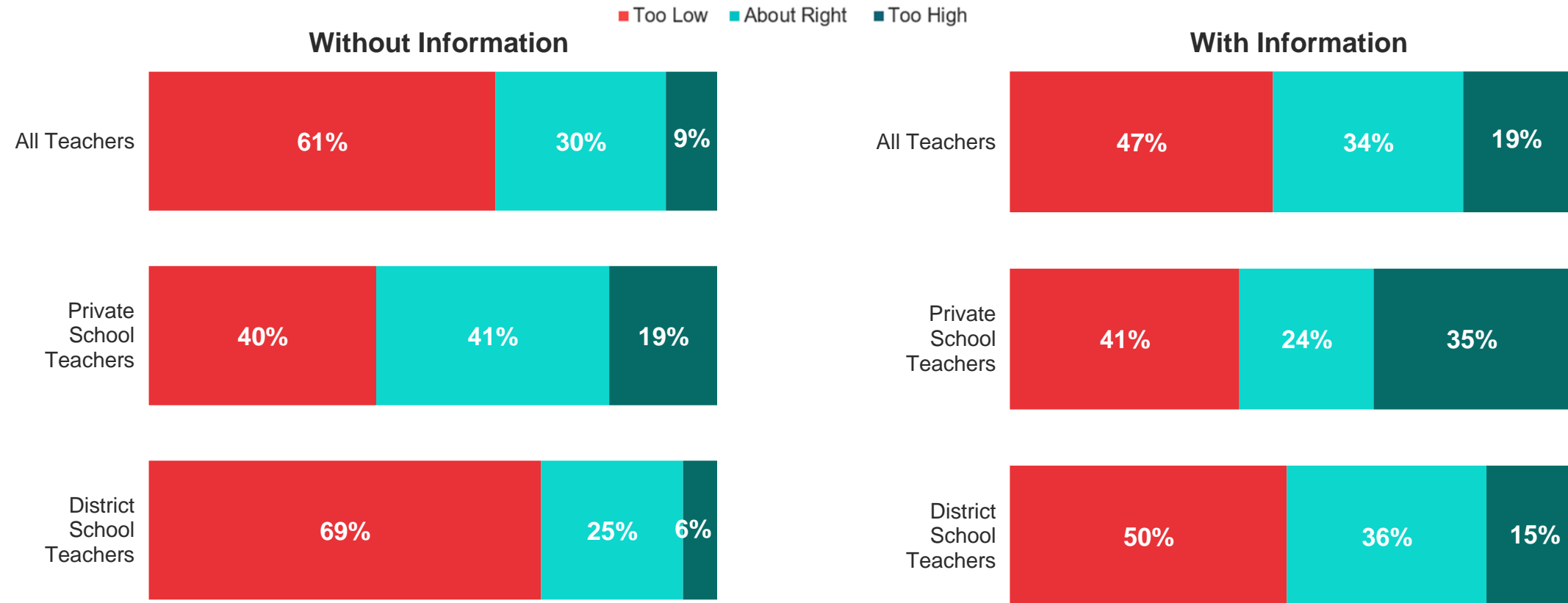




# When given actual spending information, teachers were less likely (-14 points) to believe school spending per student was 'too low'.

Do you believe public school funding in [STATE] is:


On average, [STATE] spends \$\_\_\_\_\_ per student attending public school each year. Do you believe public school funding is:



State Per Pupil Spending Source: National Center for Education Statistics  
 \*Charter school teachers not shown due to low sample size

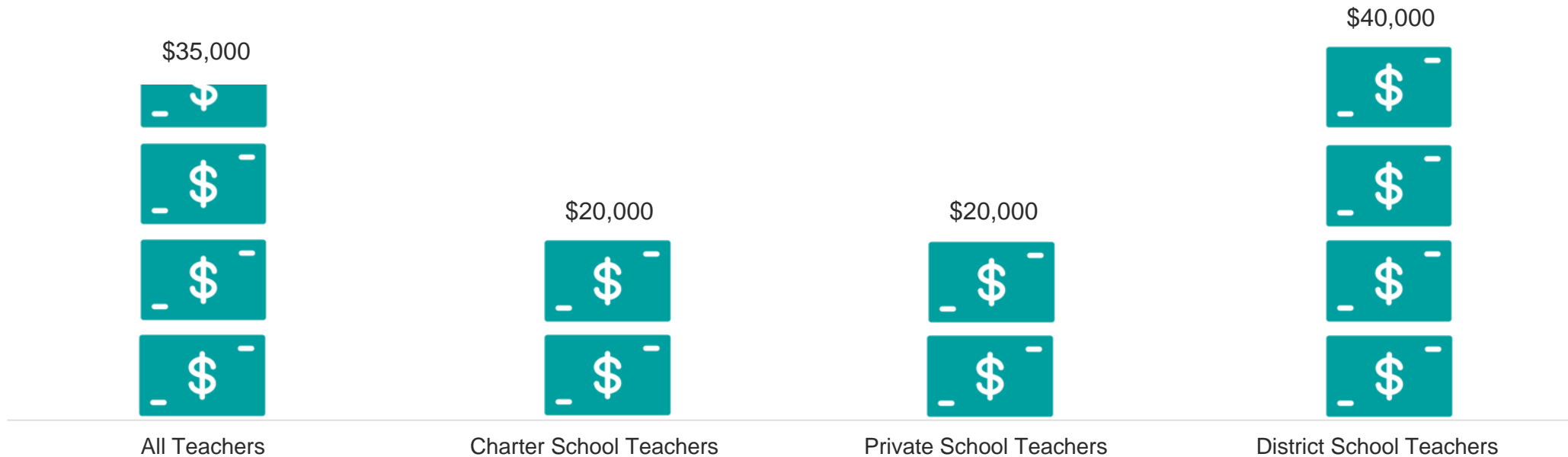
# Teachers' salary estimates, especially among charter and private school teachers, remain much lower than the average across states.

How much do you think is the average teacher salary in your state's **public schools**?

 = \$10,000

## Median Estimate

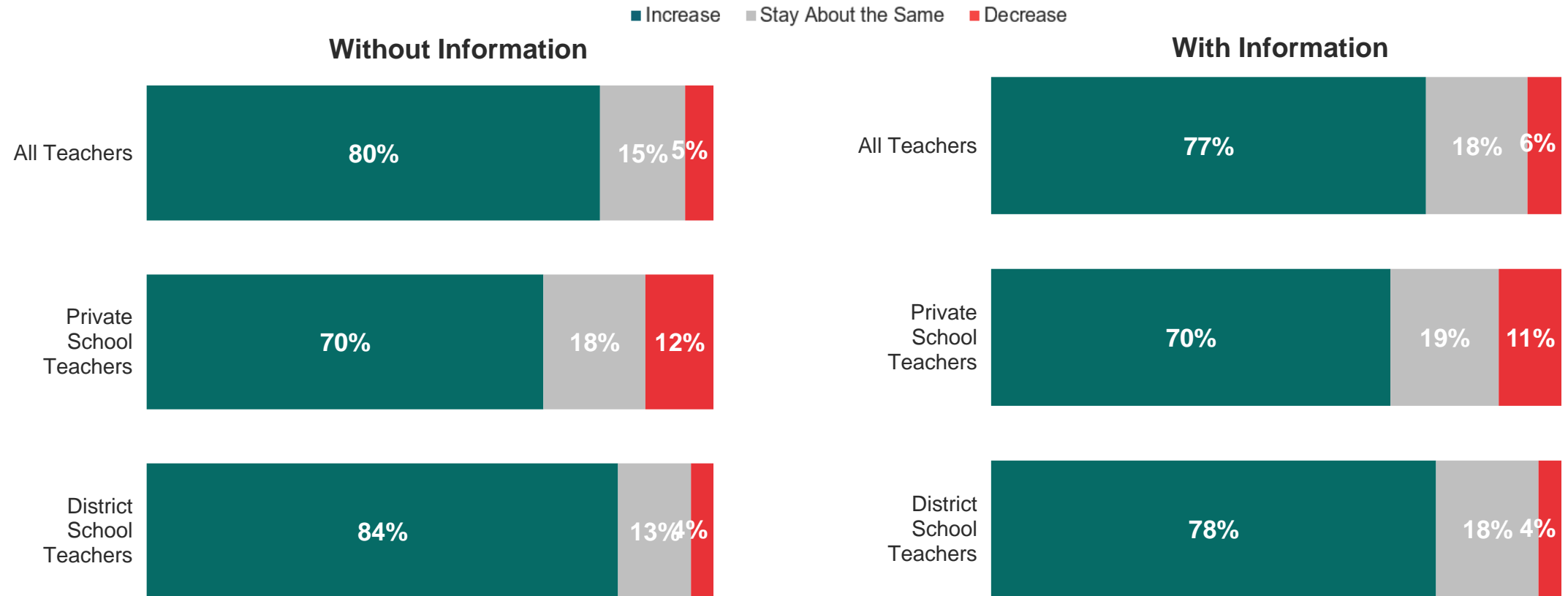
FY17 State Actuals	
Maximum	\$83,585
Mean	\$57,282
Minimum	\$43,107



# Even when given information about salaries in their state, the majority of teachers believe their salaries should increase.

Do you think that public school teacher salaries in your state should:

On average, public school teachers in [STATE] are paid an annual average salary of \$\_\_\_\_ per student attending public school each year.  
Do you think that public school teacher salaries in your state should:



# When cost and transportation are not factors, private school teachers prefer private schools; more than half of district school teachers would choose a district school.

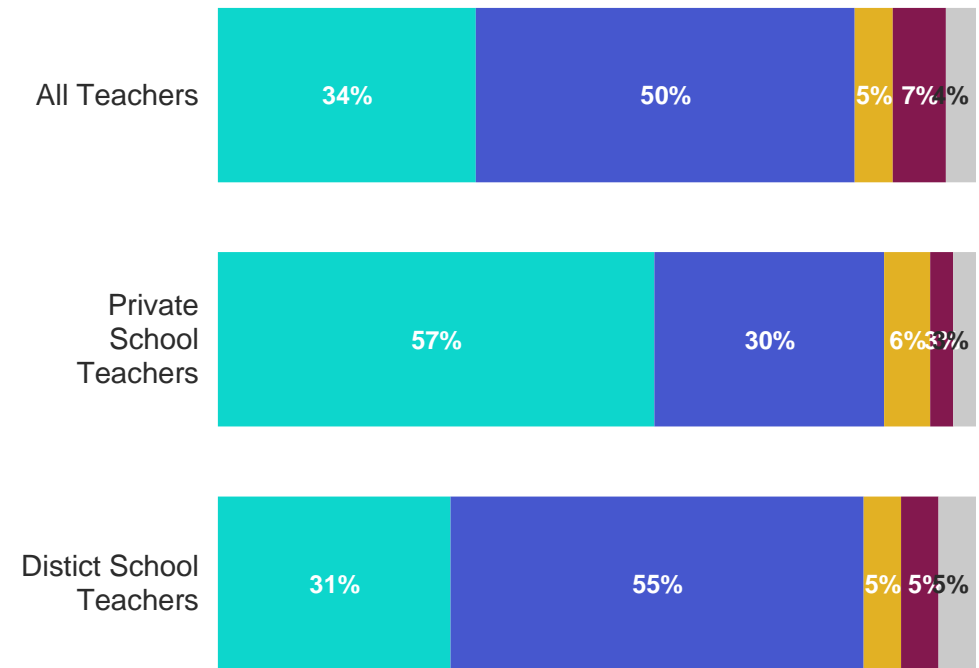
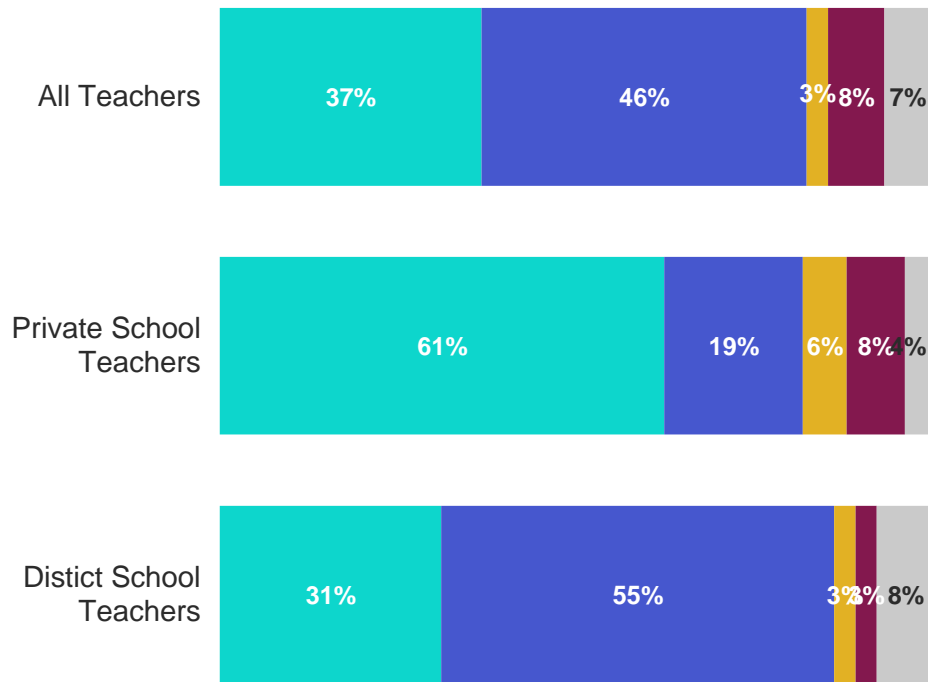
If given the option, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

If given the option, and neither financial costs nor transportation were factors, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

■ Private School ■ Regular Public School ■ Home School ■ Charter School ■ Don't Know/No Opinion

**Preference**

**Preference without cost & transportation factors**

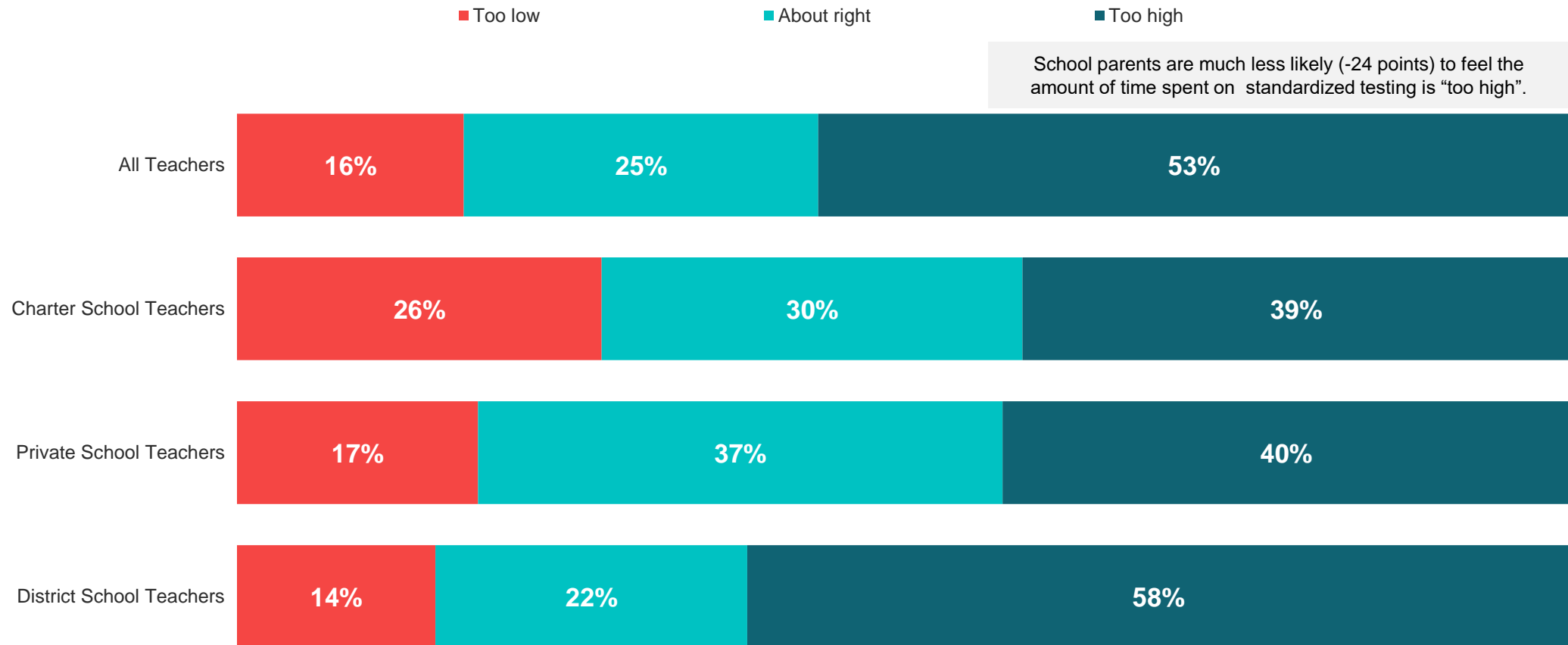


\*Charter school teachers not shown due to low sample size

# Most teachers, especially district school teachers believe that schools spend too much time on standardized testing.

All public schools and most private schools give their students standardized tests during the school year. When thinking about students preparing for and taking these tests, in general, do you believe the amount of time spent on standardized testing in American Schools is...

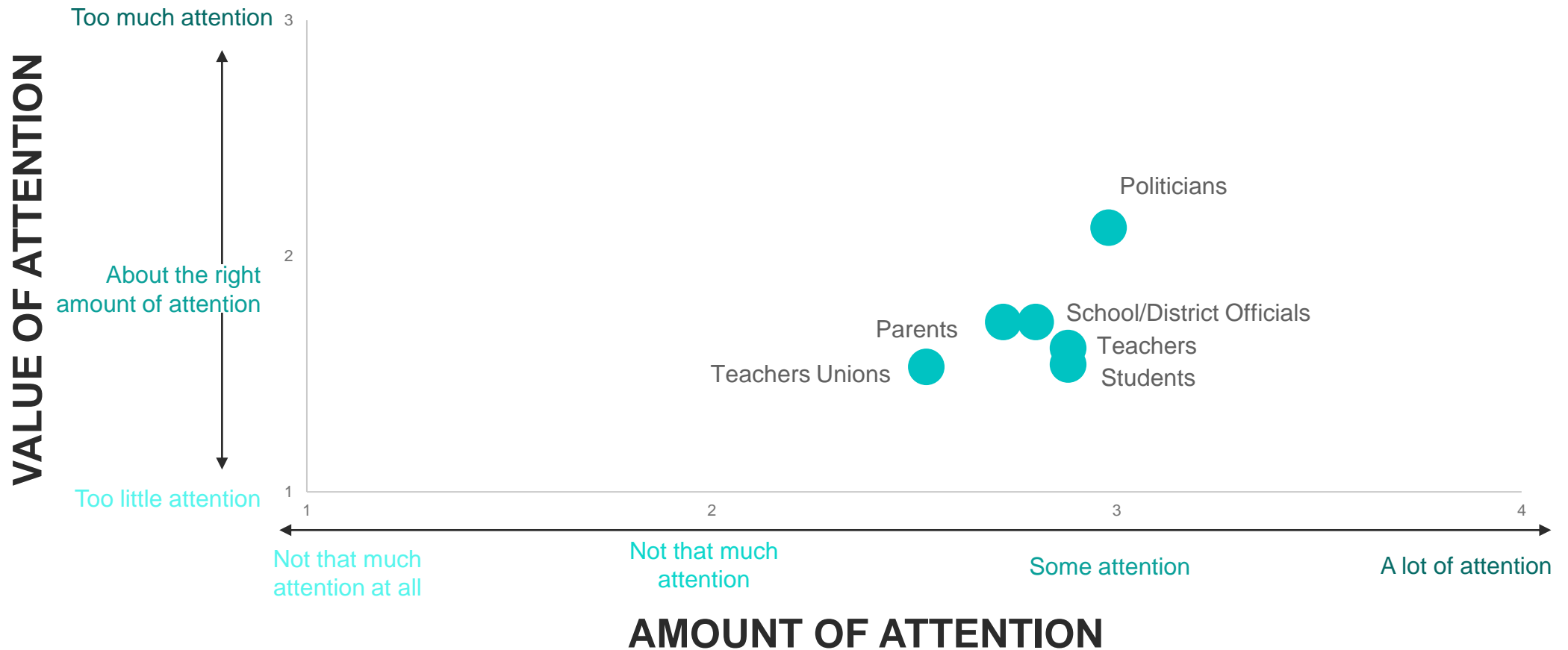
## All Teachers



# Teachers believe the media gave the most attention to politicians when covering school closings and re-openings.

How would you rate the press/news media attention to each of the following groups when covering school closings/re-openings?

## All Teachers



Note: Don't know/no opinion responses are not shown. Data is based on average scores:

AGENDA

**COVID-19 AND SCHOOLING**

**SCHOOL CHOICE POLICIES**

**TEACHING PROFESSION AND UNIONS**

**VIEWS ON K-12 EDUCATION**

**SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS**



# Survey Profile, 1

<b>Dates</b>	March 11-24, 2021
<b>Survey Data Collection &amp; Quality Control</b>	Morning Consult
<b>Survey Sponsor</b>	EdChoice
<b>Population</b>	Current Teachers
<b>Sampling Frame</b>	National sample of teachers (age 18+) living in the United States, including the District of Columbia
<b>Sampling Method</b>	Non-Probability, Stratified (based on Gender, Years of Experience)
<b>Mode</b>	Online Survey
<b>Language</b>	English



## Survey Profile, 2

<b>Survey Time</b>	Median = 11.08 minutes
<b>Sample Size</b>	Total, N = 1,000
<b>Oversampling?</b>	None
<b>Quotas?</b>	Age, Years of Teaching Experience
<b>Weighting?</b>	Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Teaching Experience
<b>Measure of Precision</b>	± 3.44 percentage points
<b>Participation Rate</b>	9.41%
<b>Project Contact</b>	Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

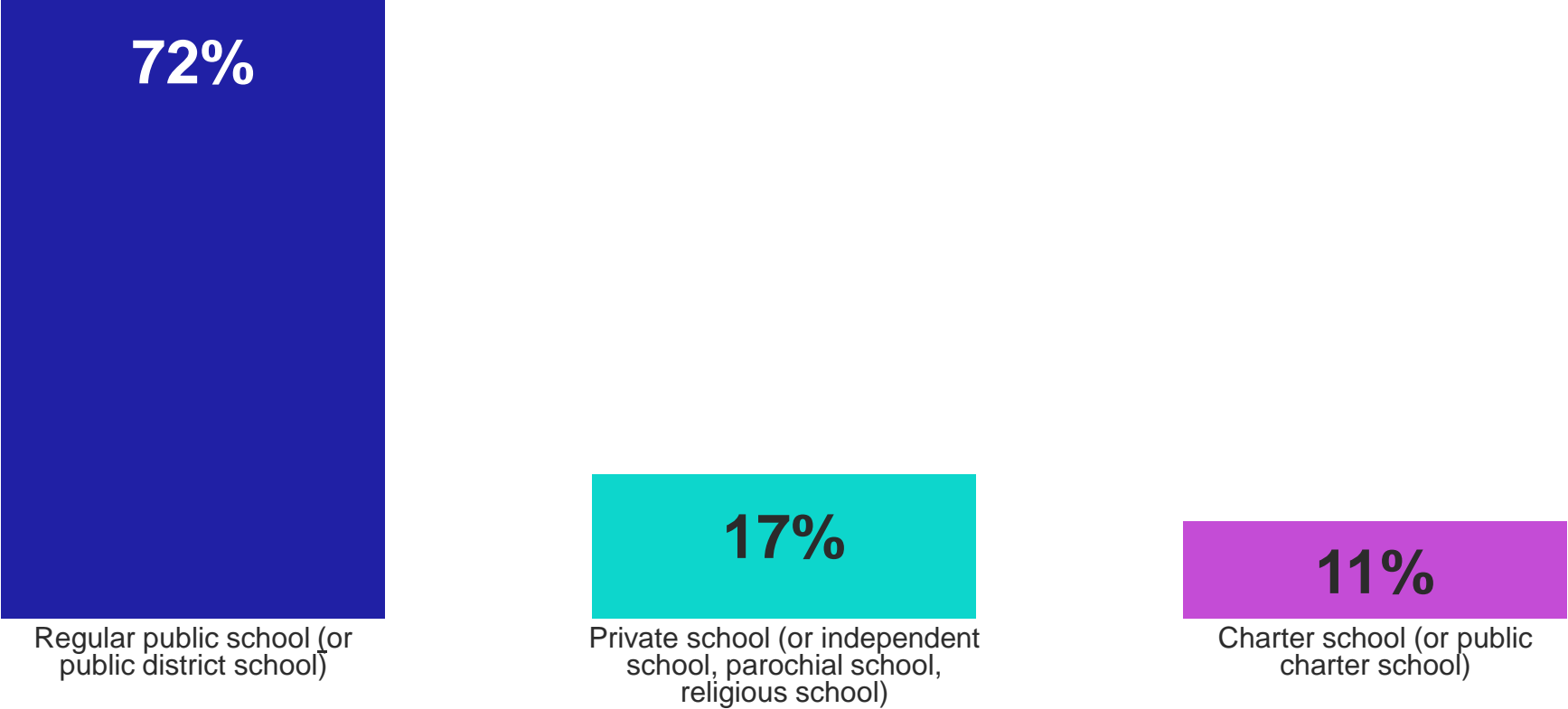
# Based on Teacher Sample

Demographics	Unweighted (N = )
Hispanic	209
White	668
Non-Hispanic White	588
Black	223
Other	47
Generation Z	180
Millennial	436
Generation X	274
Boomers	108
Northeast	198
Midwest	215
South	412
West	175

Demographics	Unweighted (N = )
Male	248
Female	752
Democrat	460
Independent	223
Republican	264
Urban	243
Suburban	523
Small Town	131
Rural	103
Low Income <\$35K	212
Middle Income \$35K to <\$75K	367
High Income \$75K+	421
LGBTQ	152

Where do you currently teach?

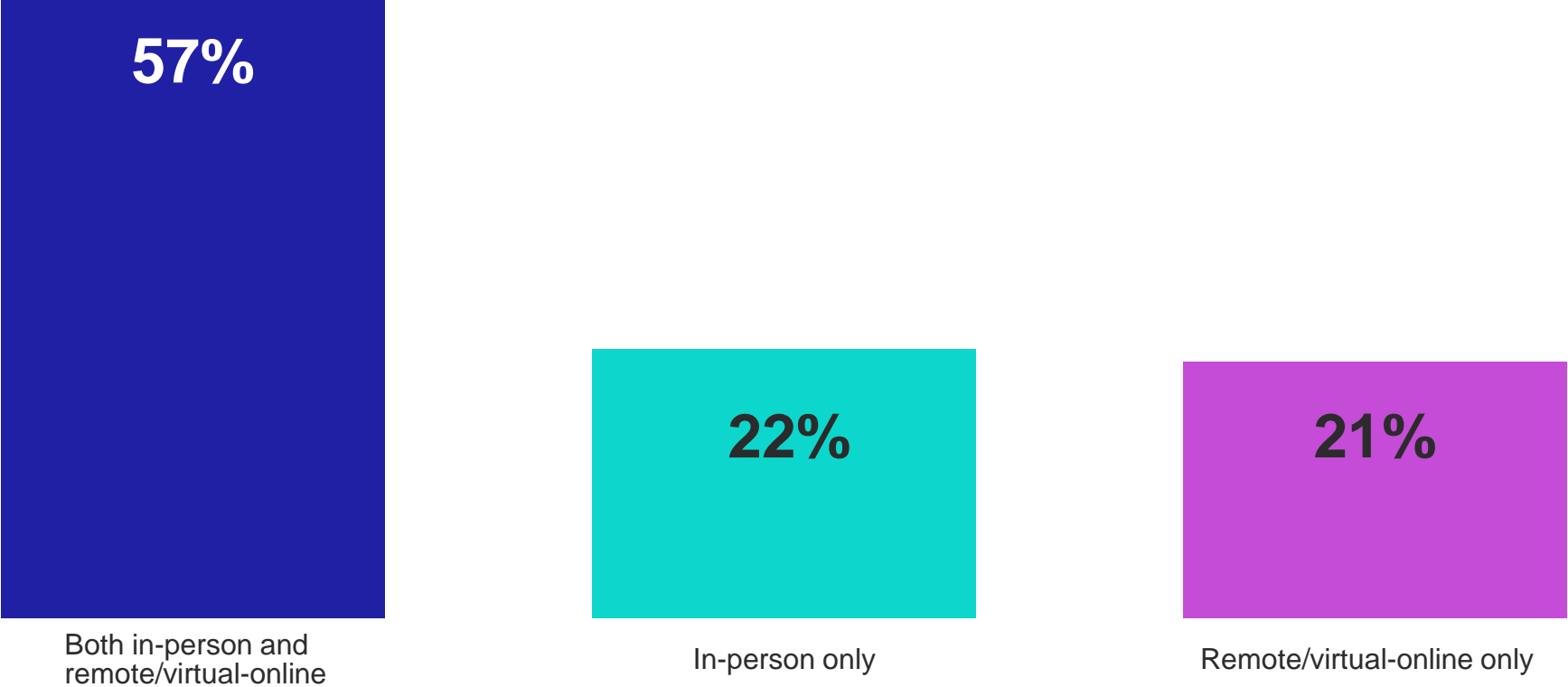
**All Teachers**



*Note: Percentages reflect weighted data*

By which mode are you currently teaching your students?

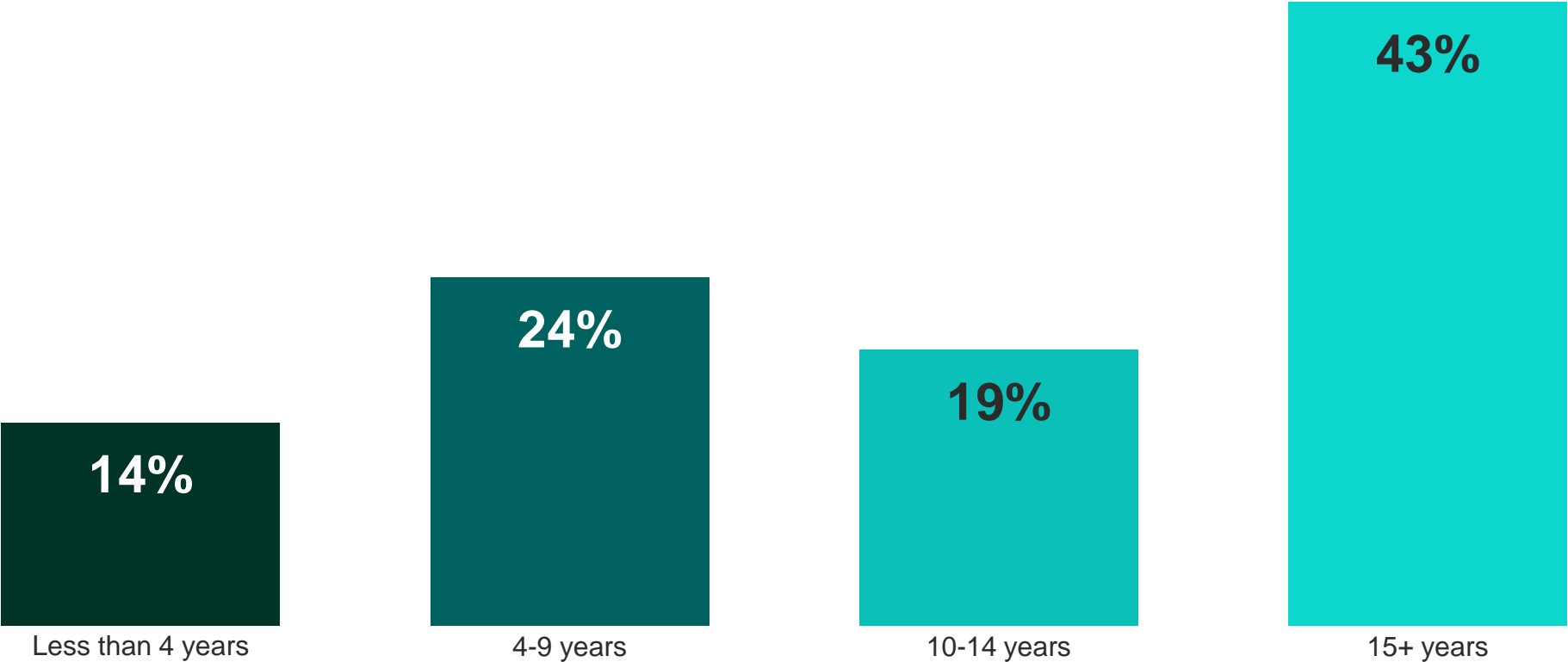
**All Teachers**



*Note: Percentages reflect weighted data*

Counting this school year, how many years have you been a school teacher, including part-time teaching?

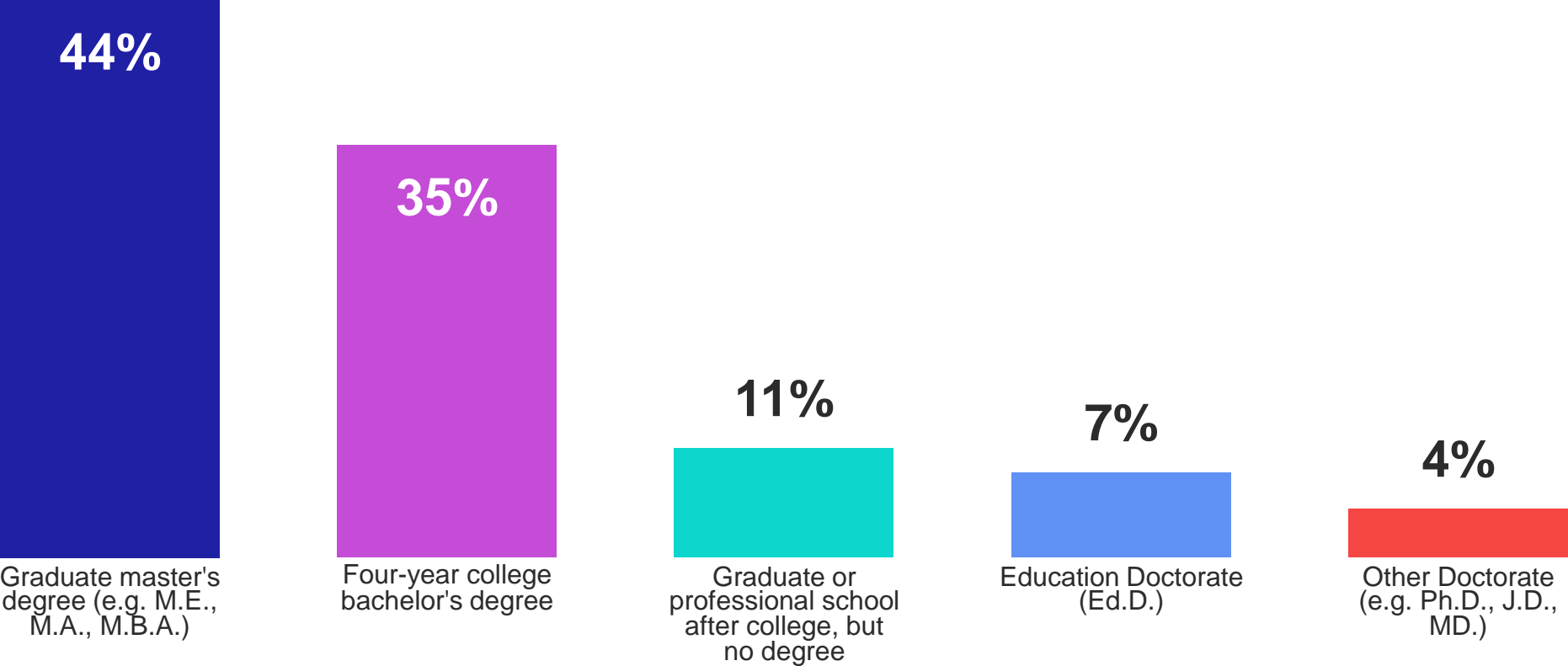
**All Teachers**



*Note: Percentages reflect weighted data*

What is the last grade or class you completed in school?

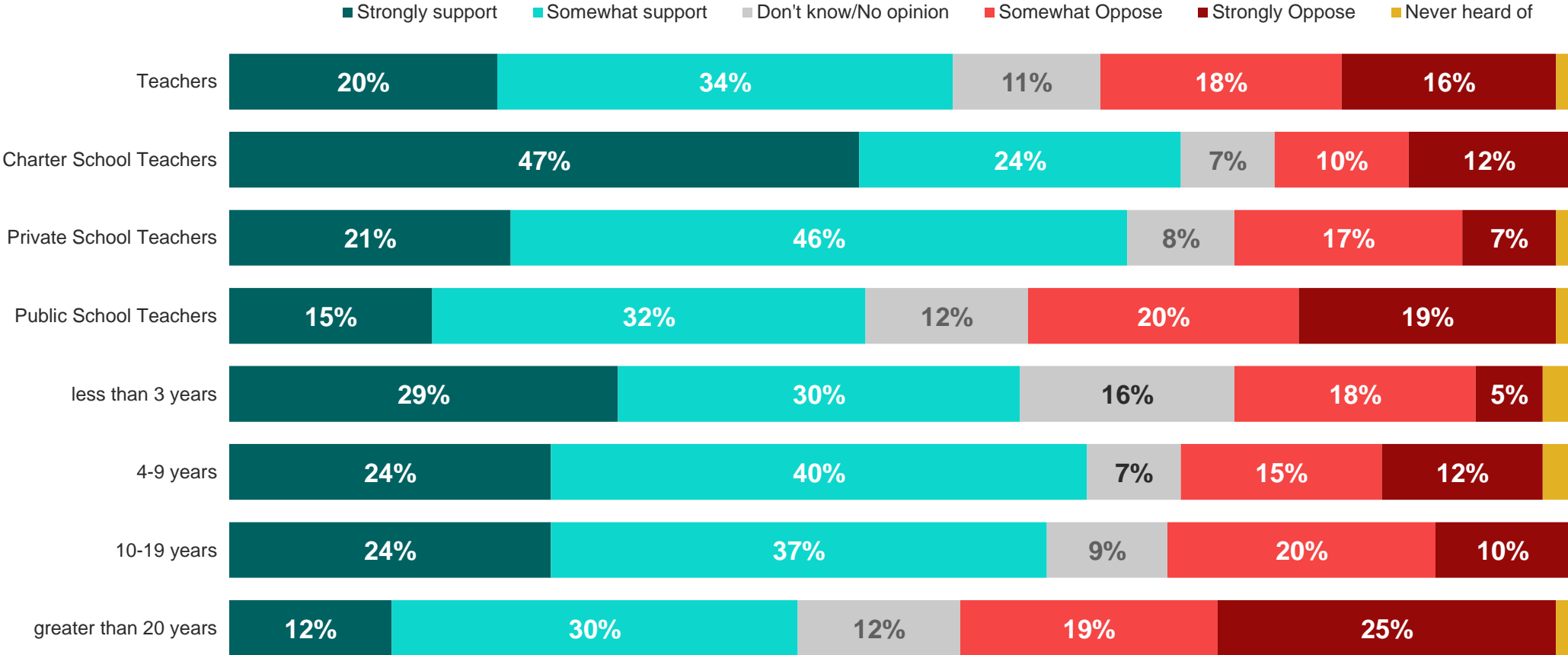
**All Teachers**



*Note: Percentages reflect weighted data*

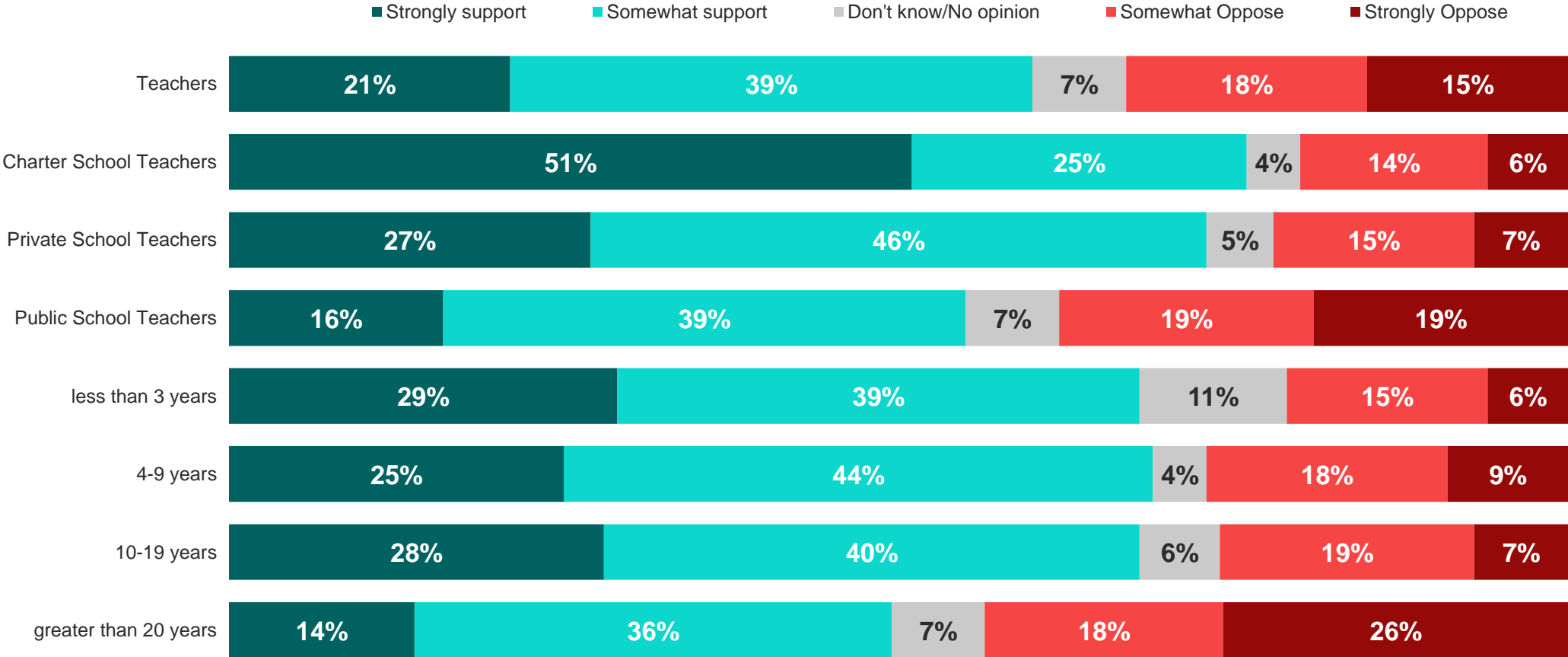
Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'charter schools' in K-12 education?

**All Teachers**



Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

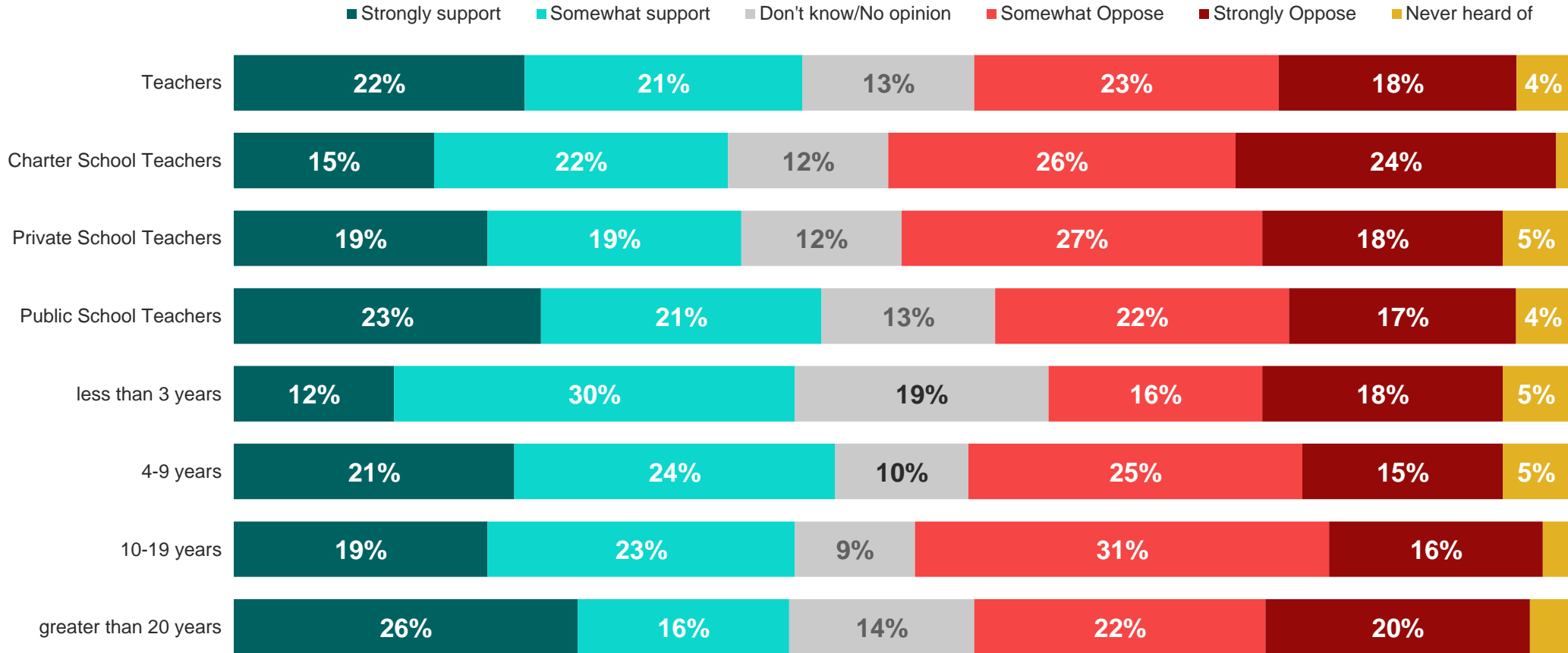
**All Teachers**





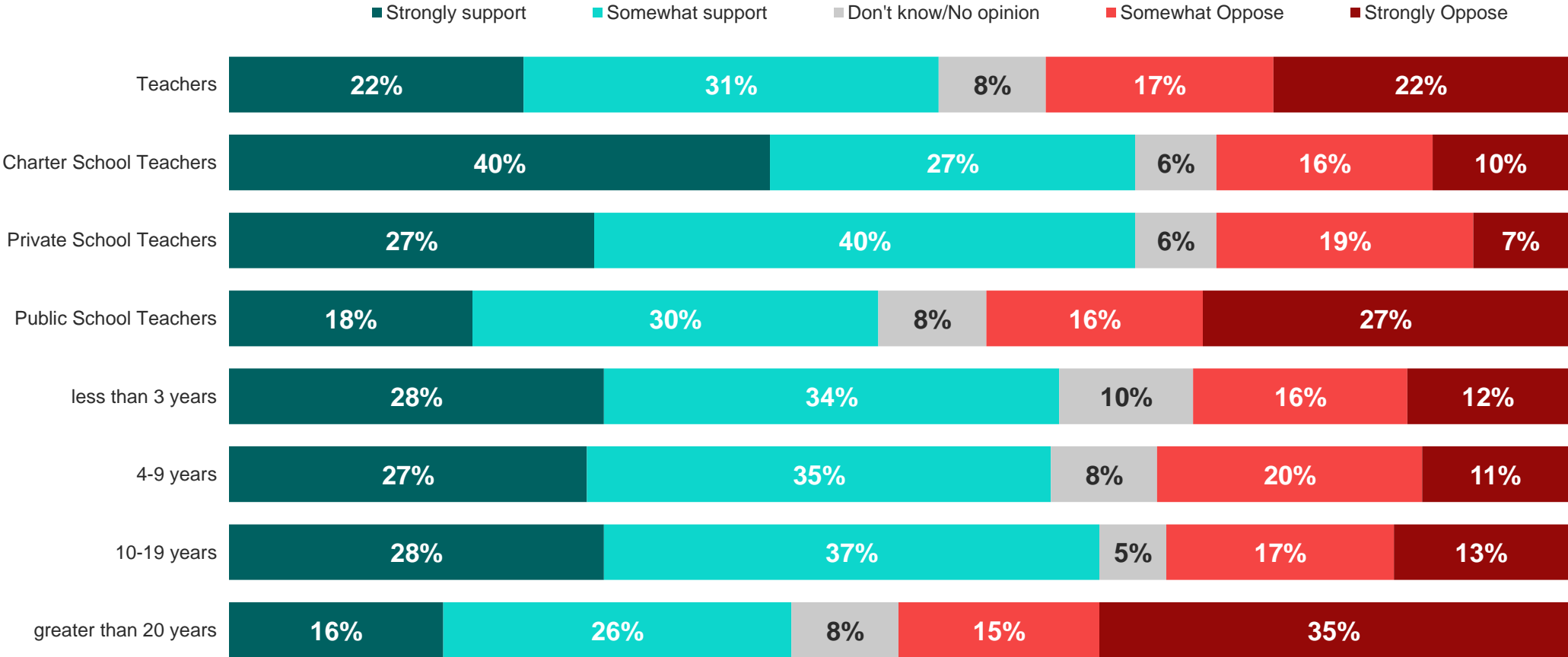
Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'school vouchers' in K-12 education?

**All Teachers**



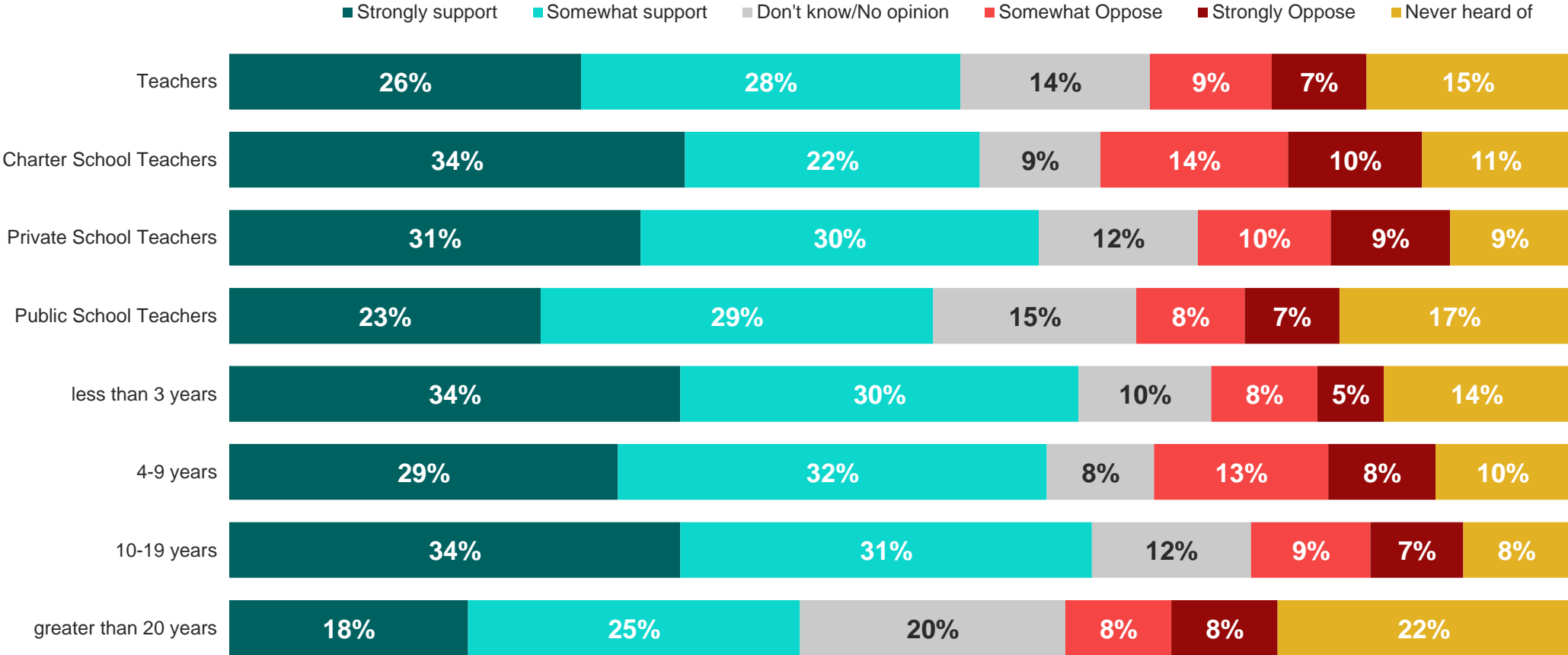
A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a 'school voucher' to pay partial or full tuition for the child's school. In general, what is your opinion of school voucher systems?

**All Teachers**



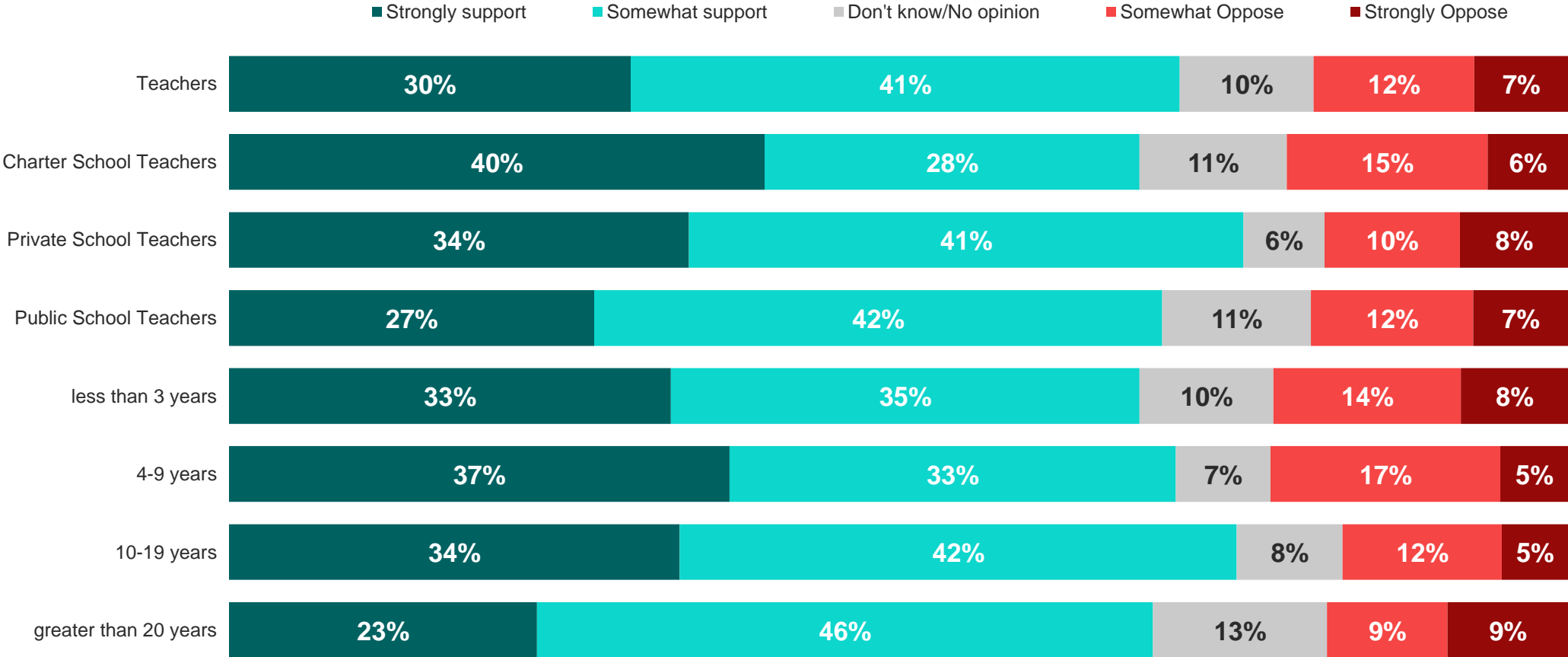
Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'education savings accounts' in K-12 education?

**All Teachers**



An "education savings account" in K–12 education – often called an ESA – establishes for parents a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes. Parents can then use these funds to pay for: school tuition; tutoring; online education programs; therapies for students with special needs; textbooks or other instructional materials; or save for future college expenses. In general, what is your opinion of an ESA system?

**All Teachers**



WHO WE ARE

 **MORNING CONSULT**<sup>®</sup>

Morning Consult is a global data intelligence company delivering insights on what people think in real time.

By surveying tens of thousands across the globe every day, Morning Consult is unmatched in scale and speed: It determines the true measure of what people think and how their decisions impact business, politics and the economy.

Industry leaders rely on Morning Consult's proprietary technology and analysis for real-time intelligence to transform information into a competitive advantage.

 **CHOICE**

EdChoice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Our team is driven by the shared mission to advance freedom and choice in K-12 education where all families, regardless of race, origin or family income, are free to choose a learning environment—public or private, near or far, religious or secular—that works best for their children.

Learn more at: [EDCHOICE.ORG](https://edchoice.org)





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