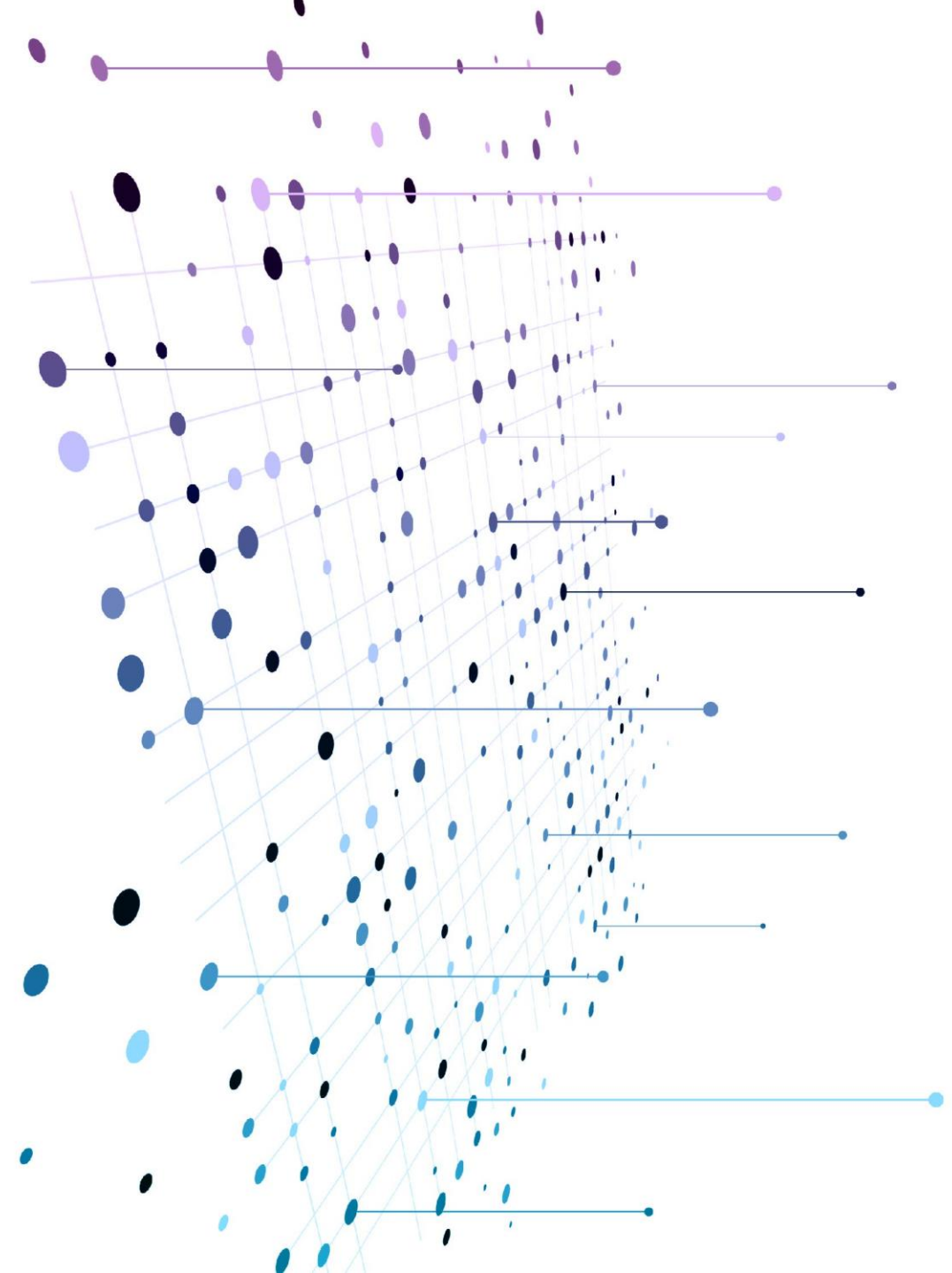




# Teachers and K-12 Education

National Polling Report #19

April 2025



# KEY FINDINGS

1. Roughly two-thirds of teachers feel a “sense of purpose” and “hopeful” when thinking about the future. Nearly one-third say they feel “overwhelmed.”
2. This spring, teachers express high levels of pessimism when it comes to the teaching profession, but less than they did in the fall. Private school teachers are more positive than negative. Promotion scores continue to rise across all schooling types after hitting all time low levels last spring.
3. Teachers are generally not very supportive of closing the U.S. Department of Education, regardless of school type. Differences in support exist along party lines with Republican teachers being more supportive of the idea.
4. Teachers find it highly important for students to learn about the Constitution and its core values. While they value teaching students to be patriotic, they see similar value in teaching students to question government actions and policies.
5. More than half of teachers think laws passed to limit the teaching of divisive topics are either bad or unnecessary for a variety of reasons.
6. In the past year, more than one third of teachers say they have had to change their teaching curriculum either due to new laws in their state or new policies in their school. Compared to last spring, fewer teachers report deciding on their own to limit discussion of political and social topics in class, though more teachers say they have seen other teachers at their school limiting these discussions.
7. Optimism around K-12 continues to increase, reversing the decline in positivity since May 2023. Optimism statewide and nationally has increased more significantly than for local school districts.

## Methodology:

This poll was conducted between March 21-27, 2025 among a sample of 1,032 Teachers. The interviews were conducted online. Results based on the full survey have a measure of precision of plus or minus 3.72 percentage points.

# KEY FINDINGS

8. Teachers have a diverse set of views on what should be the main purpose of K-12 education. They are most likely to believe high school should focus on helping students become independent thinkers and grades K-8 are important for kids to learn core academic subjects.
9. Teachers continue to believe that their state's per pupil spending in public schools is much lower than actual expenditures. Private school teachers make higher estimates than district school teachers. Teachers are less likely to say their state's per-student spending is "too low" when given a publicly reported statistic. District school teachers are much more likely than school parents to say spending is too low.
10. Teachers feel that school districts should have much more influence regarding accountability in K-12 education than state or federal government. When it comes to holding teachers accountable, teachers think schools and school districts should have the most influence.
11. Student academic progress is seen as the best measure for evaluating both the teacher's performance and the performance of the school. Student attendance and absenteeism are seen as better measures for school performance than teacher performance.
12. Teachers see the federal government playing the biggest role in K-12 education by providing funding for schools serving students with special needs and those who are low-income. They also see a sizable role for the federal government in ensuring equal opportunities for students.

## Methodology:

This poll was conducted between March 21-27, 2025 among a sample of 1,032 Teachers. The interviews were conducted online. Results based on the full survey have a measure of precision of plus or minus 3.72 percentage points.

# KEY FINDINGS

13. Nearly 3 in 4 educators are interested in tutoring outside of schooling hours. Private school teachers express slightly more interest than district school teachers. The monthly amount teachers would ask parents to pay for tutoring increased since the fall. Their asking price is lower than the amount parents are willing to spend.
14. At least half of teachers show support for a range of school choice policies.
  - Education savings accounts (ESAs) – 74%
  - Open enrollment – 66%
  - Charter schools – 60%
  - School vouchers – 54%
15. The vast majority of teachers, across different school types, express support for a teacher savings account in K-12 education.
16. Two-thirds of teachers support refundable tax credits for educational purposes. Private school teachers are much more likely to support them than district school teachers.

## Methodology:

This poll was conducted between March 21-27, 2025 among a sample of 1,032 Teachers. The interviews were conducted online. Results based on the full survey have a measure of precision of plus or minus 3.72 percentage points.



# Views on K-12 Education



## Teaching Profession and Experiences



## School Choice Policies

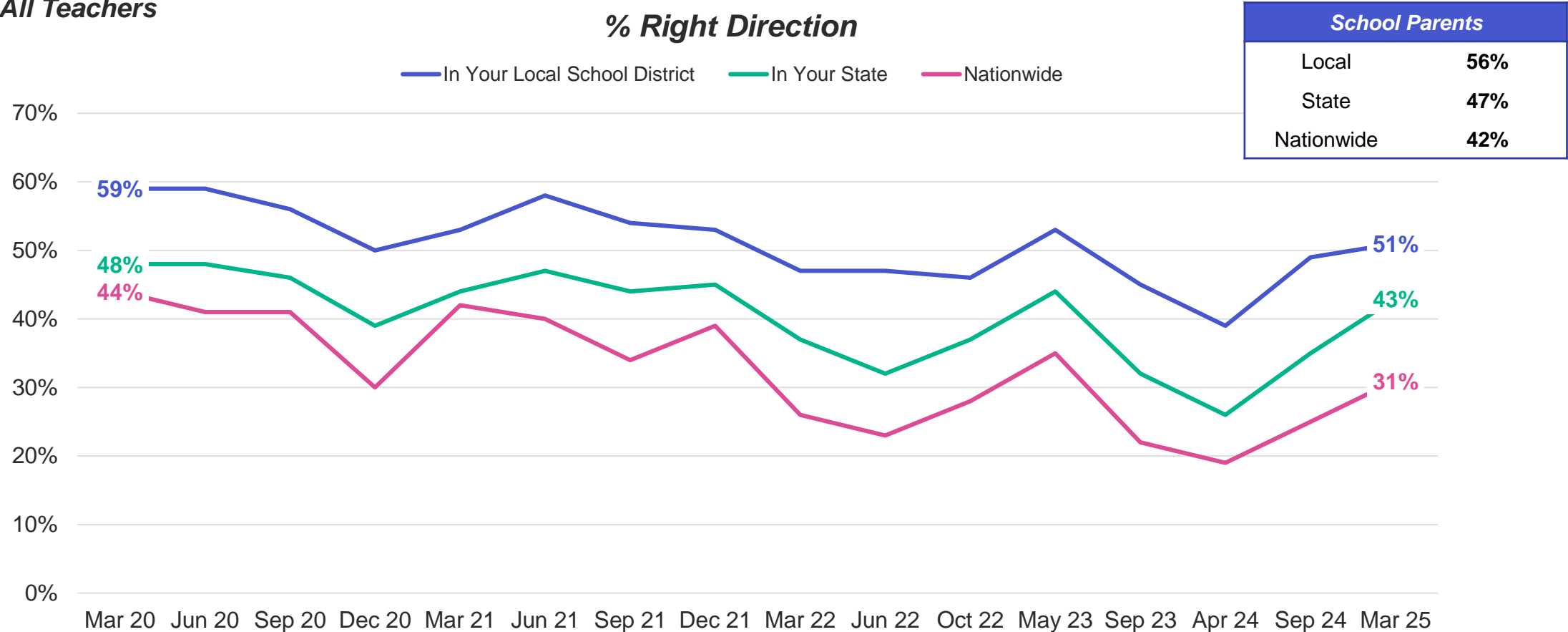


## Survey Profile and Demographics

# Optimism around K-12 education continues to increase, reversing the previous decline in positivity. Optimism statewide and nationally has increased more significantly than for local school districts.

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?

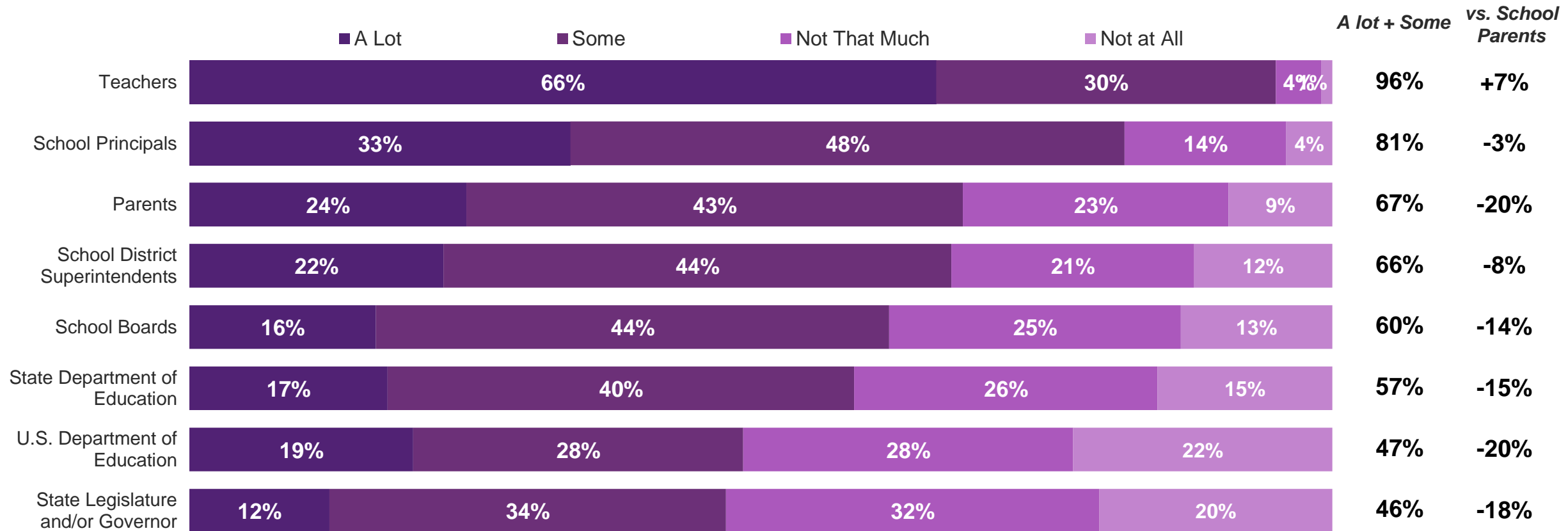
## All Teachers



# Teachers are most likely to trust their fellow teachers and school principals, and least likely to trust their state legislature & governor and the US department of Education to make good decisions about education.

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

## All Teachers



# Teachers have a diverse set of views on what should be the main purpose of K-12 education. They are most likely to believe high school should focus on helping students become independent thinkers and grades K-8 are important for kids to learn core academic subjects.

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 **50%**








- 56%

of school parents\* believe core academic subjects are most important for Grades K-8
-  Core academic subjects (**60%**)
  -  Become independent thinkers (**57%**)
  -  Socialization (**56%**)
  -  How to be good citizens (**50%**)
  -  Skills for future employment (**42%**)
  -  Values, moral character, religious virtues (**40%**)
  -  To fix social problems (**23%**)

#### Grades 9-12

Average % selected Extremely Important **49%**

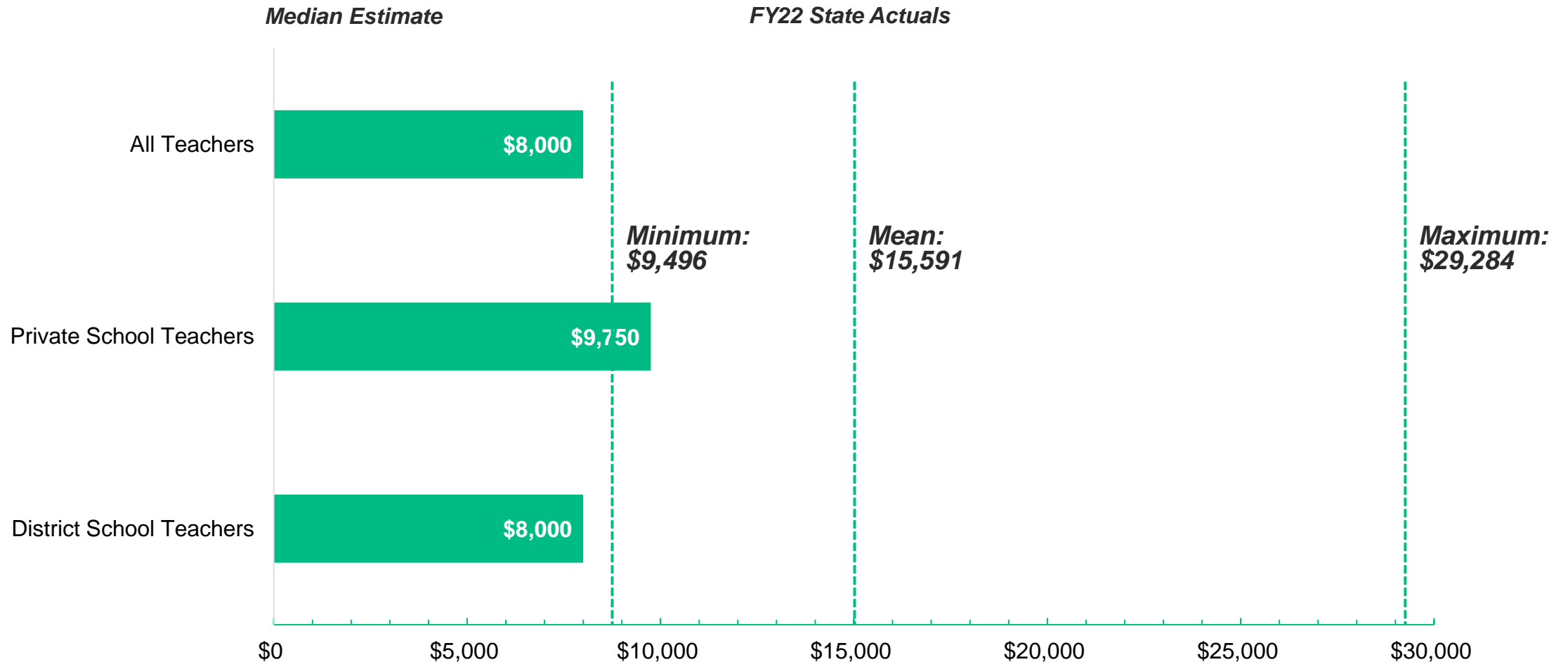
- 62%

of school parents\* believe skills for future employment are most important for Grades 9-12
-  Become independent thinkers (**70%**)
  -  Skills for future employment (**68%**)
  -  How to be good citizens (**63%**)
  -  Core academic subjects (**58%**)
  -  Socialization (**56%**)
  -  Values, moral character, religious virtues (**49%**)
  -  To fix social problems (**35%**)

**Bolding** indicates 5+ points above the general population's responses  
**Note:** \*School parents data comes from the March 2025 Gen Pop Report.  
**Source:** Survey conducted March 21, 2025 – March 27, 2025, U.S. K-12 education teachers

# Teachers continue to believe that their state's per pupil spending in public schools is much lower than actual expenditures. Private school teachers make higher estimates than district school teachers.

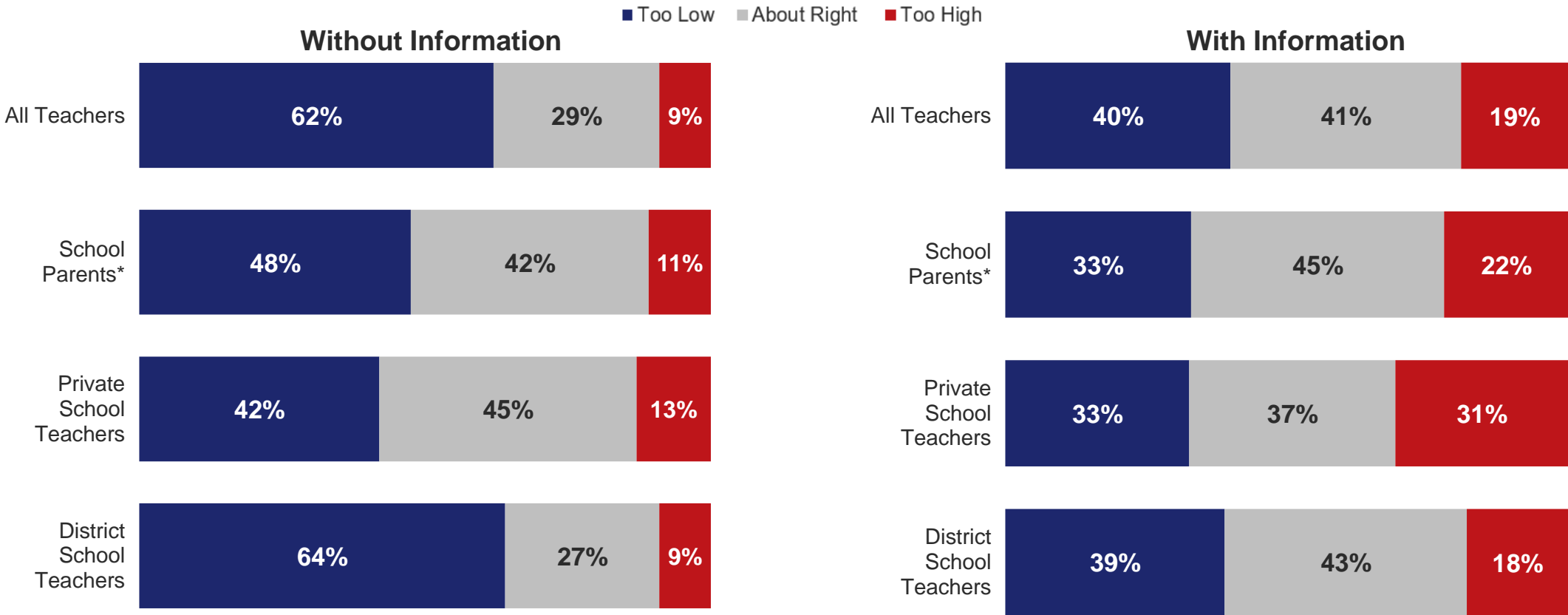
*How much do you think is spent per year on each student in your state's public schools? Your estimate of the state average—to the nearest thousand dollars—will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.*



Teachers are less likely to say their state’s per-student spending is “too low” when given a publicly reported statistic. District school teachers are much more likely than school parents to say spending is 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:

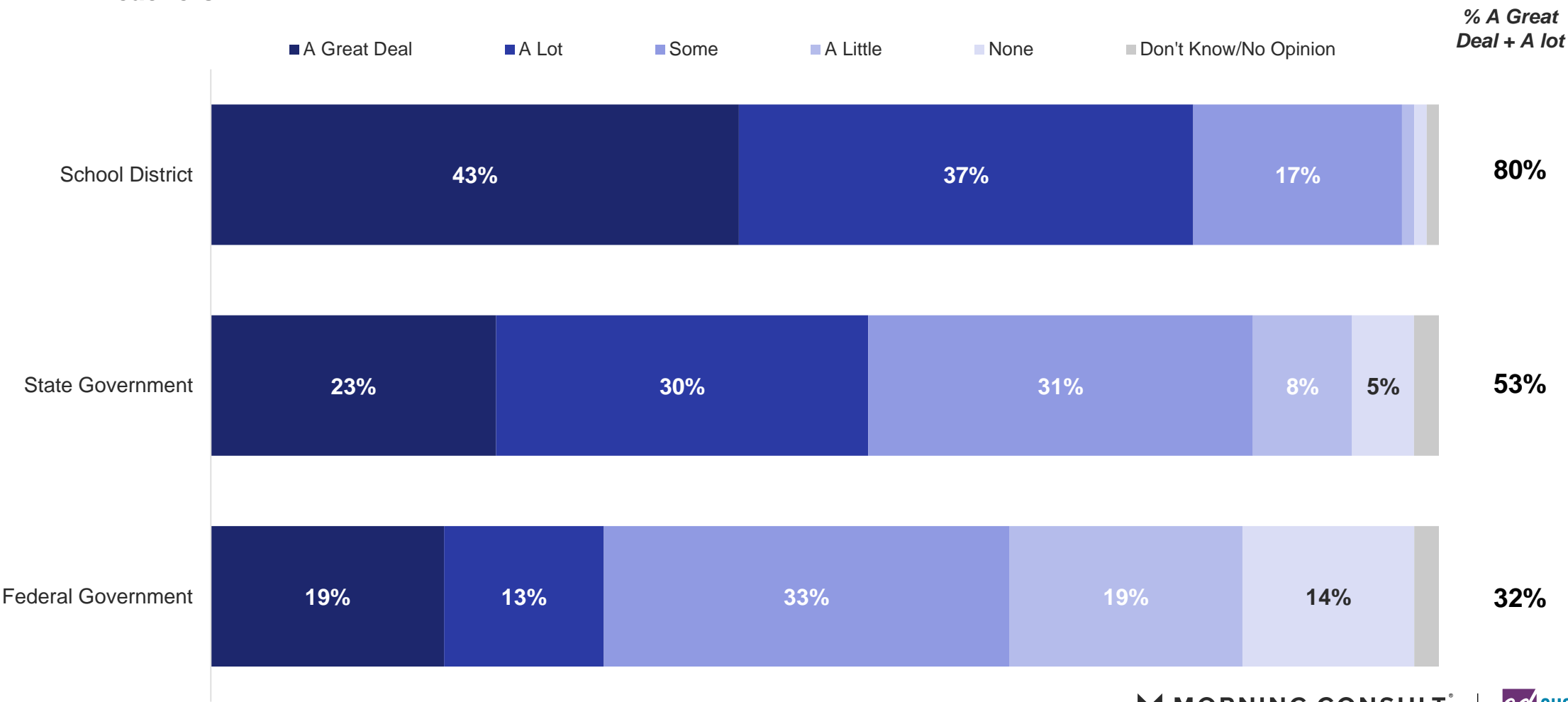


State Per Pupil Spending Source: National Center for Education Statistics  
Note: \*School parents data comes from the March 2025 Gen Pop Report.  
Source: Survey conducted March 21, 2025 – March 27, 2025, U.S. K-12 education teachers

# Teachers feel that school districts should have much more influence regarding accountability in K-12 education than state or federal government.

How much influence, if any, should the following have when holding **schools accountable** in K-12 education?

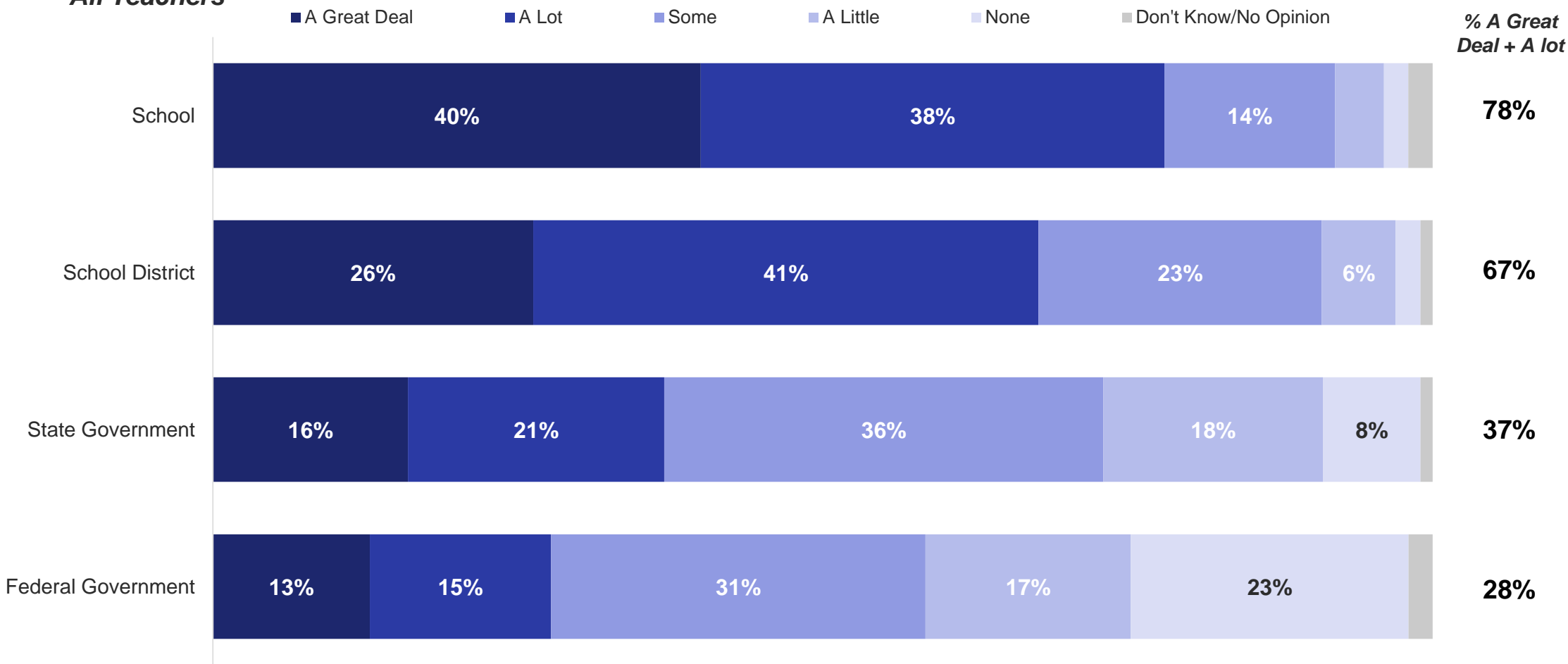
## All Teachers



# When it comes to holding teachers accountable, teachers think schools and school districts should have the most influence.

How much influence, if any, should the following have when holding **teachers accountable** in K-12 education?

## All Teachers

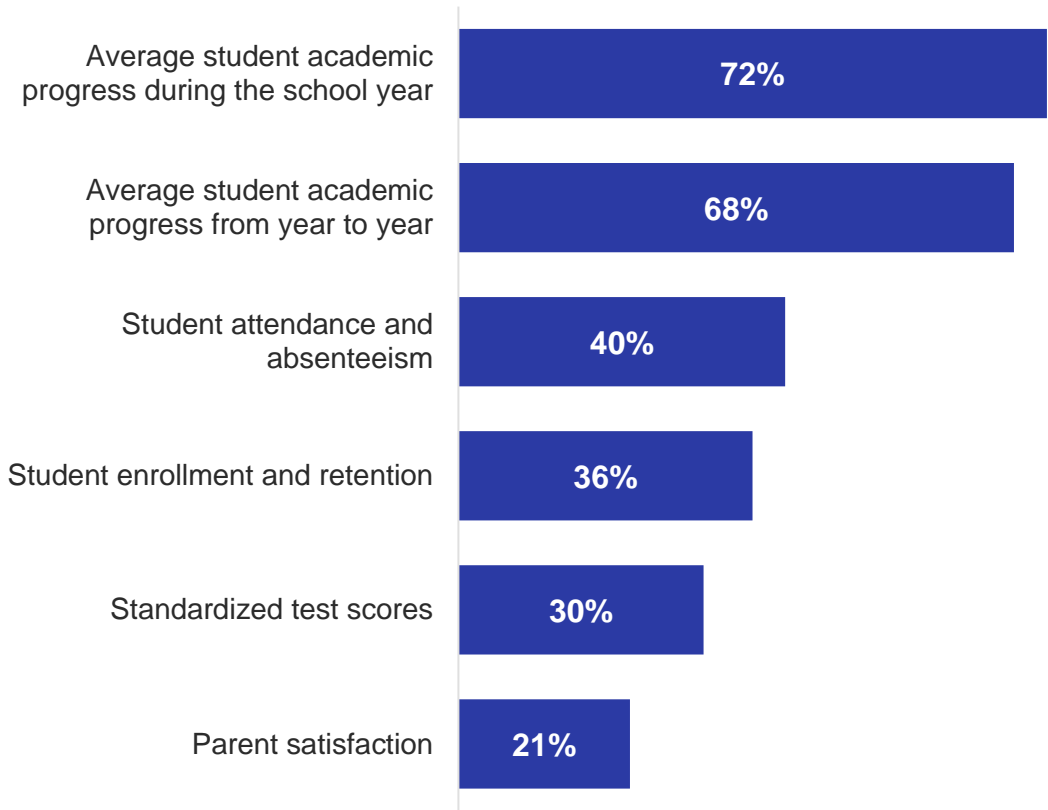


Teachers see student academic progress as the best measure for evaluating both teacher performance and school performance. Student attendance and absenteeism are seen as better measures of school performance than teacher performance.

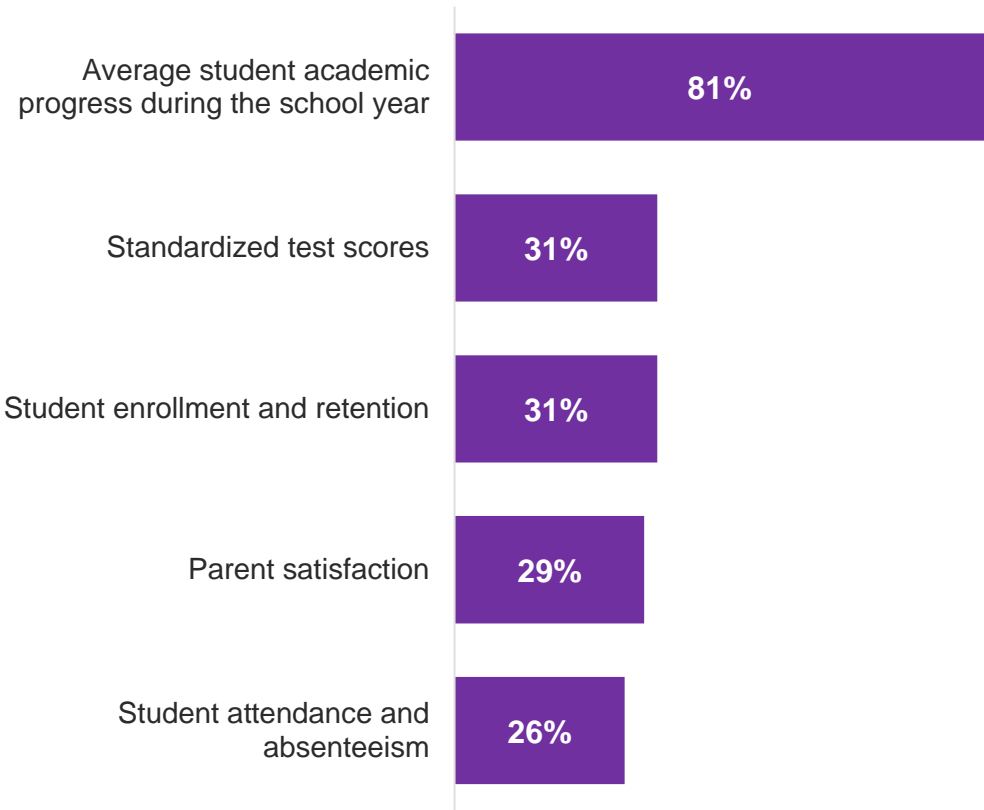
All Teachers

Which of the following measures should be used to judge **school performance**? Select up to three.

% Selected



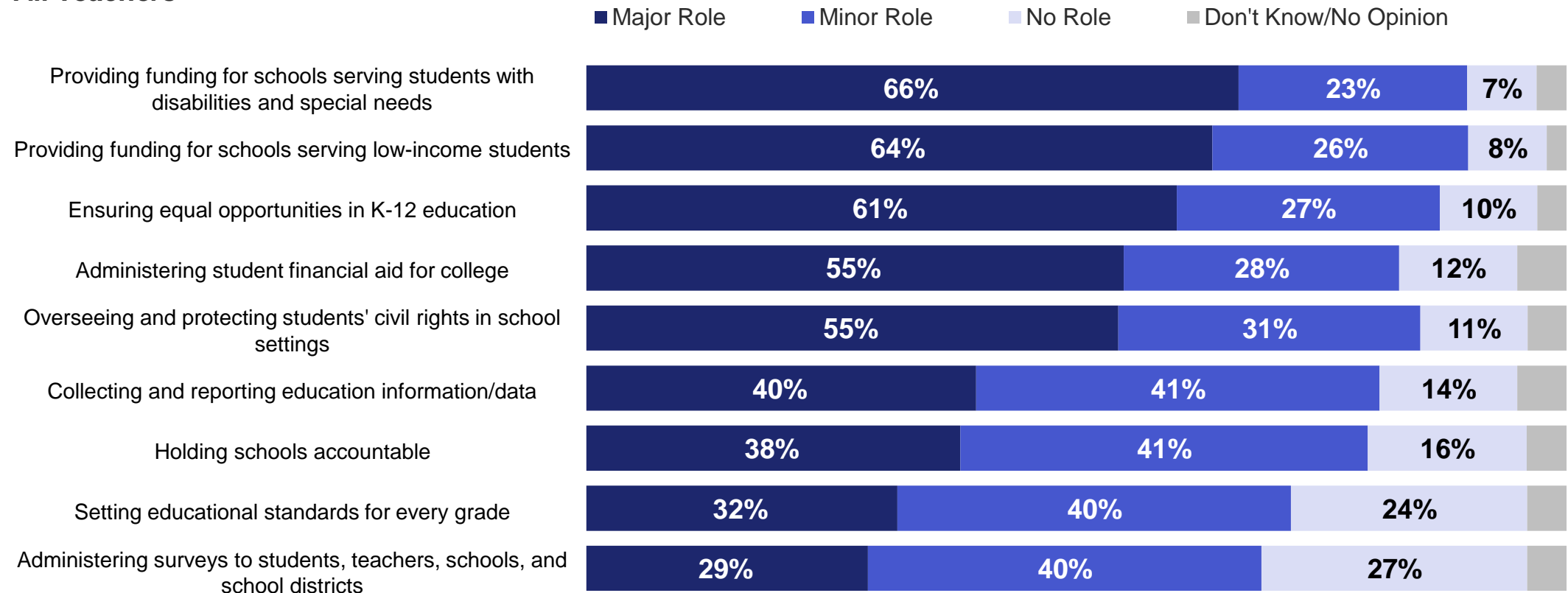
Which of the following measures should be used to judge **teacher performance**? Select up to three.



# Teachers say the federal government’s biggest role in K-12 education should be providing funding for schools serving students with special needs and low-income students. They also see a sizeable role for the federal government in ensuring equal opportunities for students.

To what extent, if any, should the **federal government** have a role in the following areas in K-12 education?

## All Teachers

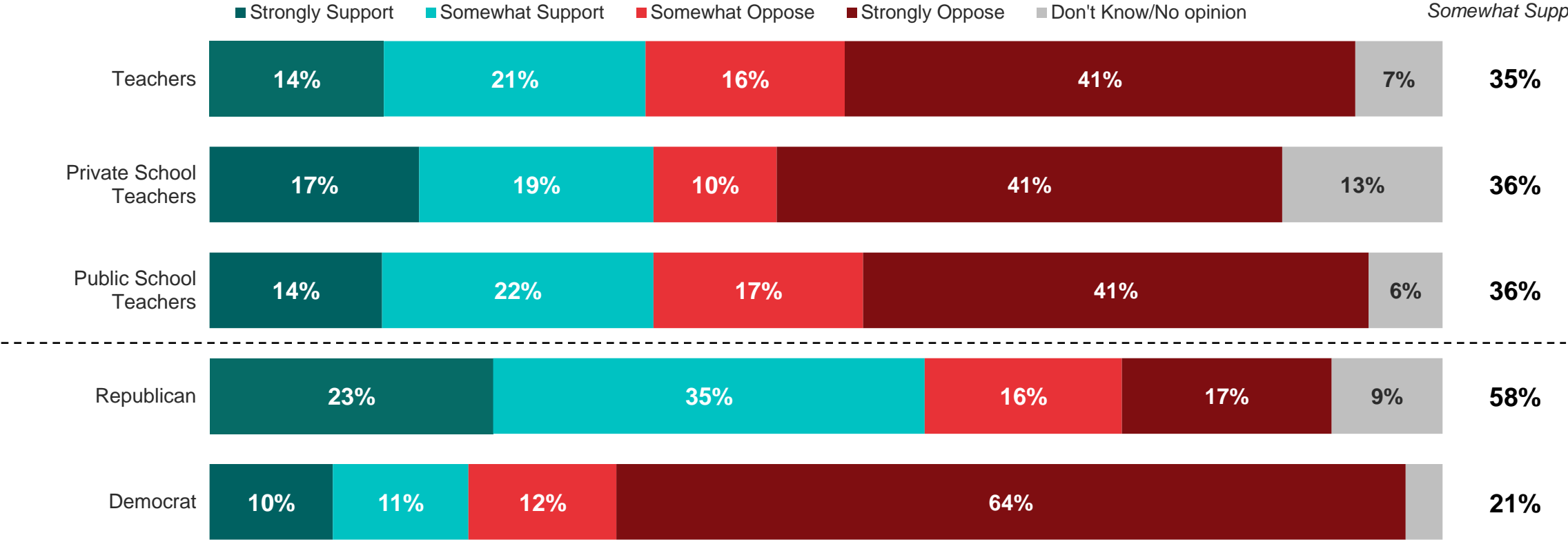


# Teachers generally do not support closing the U.S. Department of Education, regardless of school type. Differences exist along party lines, with Republican teachers being more supportive of the idea.

Generally speaking, do you support or oppose closing the U.S. Department of Education?

## All Teachers

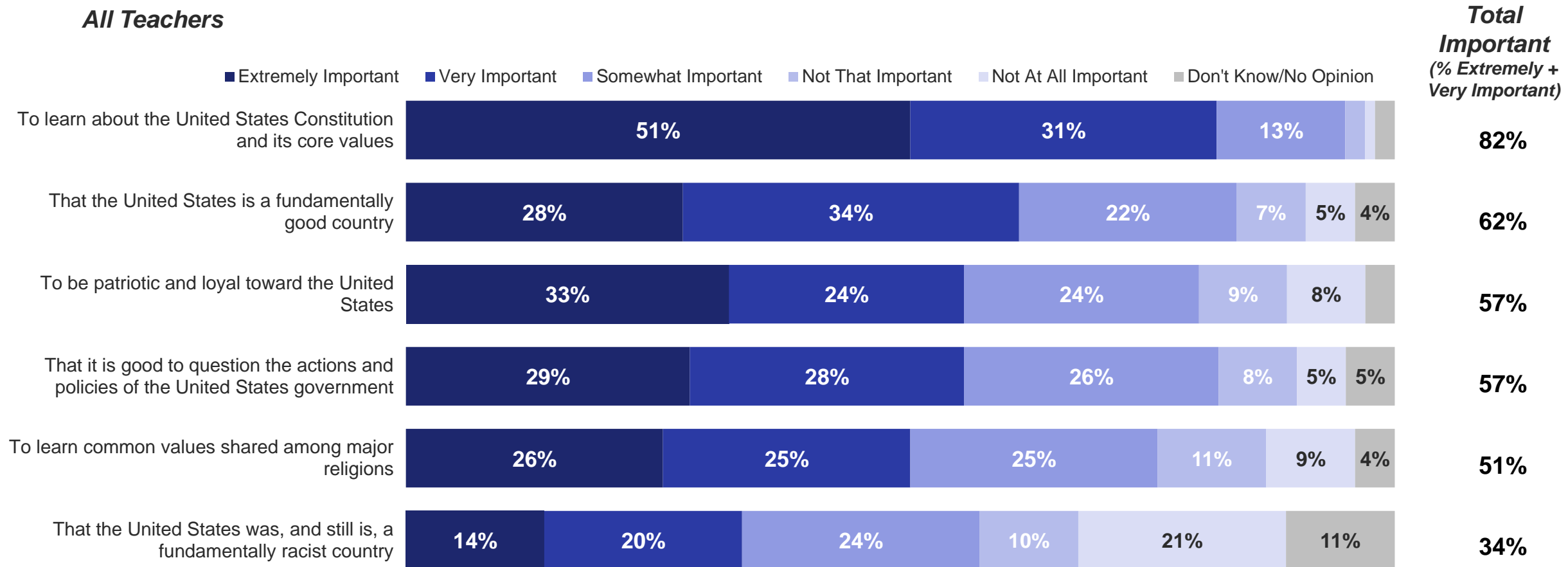
**Total Support**  
(% Strongly +  
Somewhat Support)



# Teachers find it highly important for students to learn about the Constitution and its core values. While they value teaching students to be patriotic, they see similar value in teaching students to question government actions and policies.

*How important is it that schools teach students:*

## All Teachers



# More than half of teachers think laws passed to limit the teaching of divisive topics are either bad or unnecessary for a variety of reasons.

*In some states, lawmakers have passed legislation to limit the teaching of divisive topics, such as those related to race, gender, sexual orientation, and other topics some have labeled as 'woke'. Please choose which of the following statements best fits your view:*

## All Teachers

61%

29%

27%

21%

13%

11%

These laws are necessary because schools have focused too much on divisive topics

These laws are bad because schools should present divisive topics as part of a well-rounded education

These laws are not necessary because schools are not really focused on these divisive topics

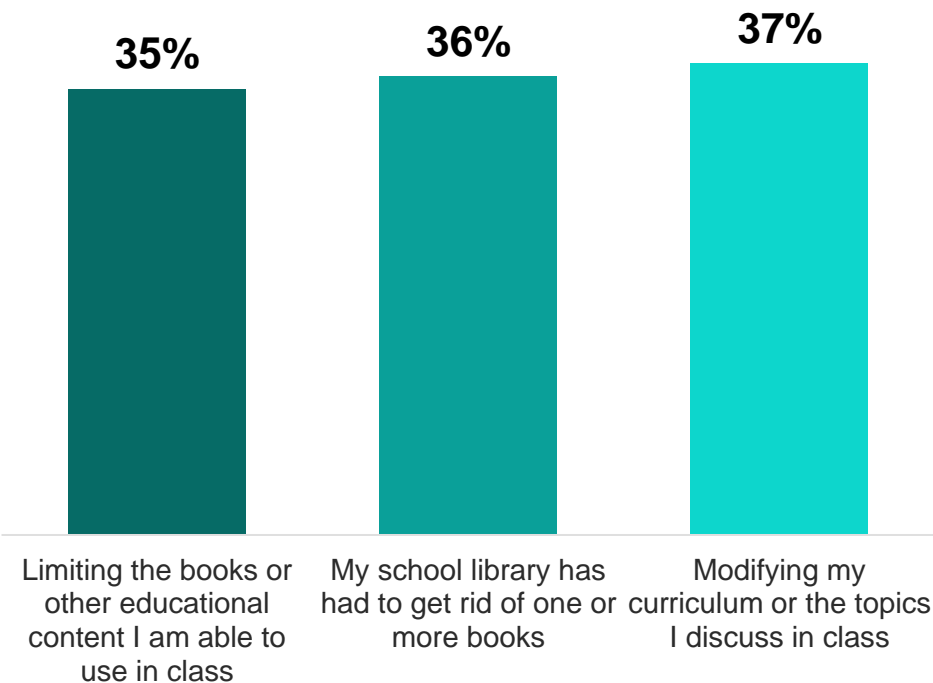
These laws are bad because the topics are important for promoting social justice.

I don't want to answer / Don't Know / No Opinion

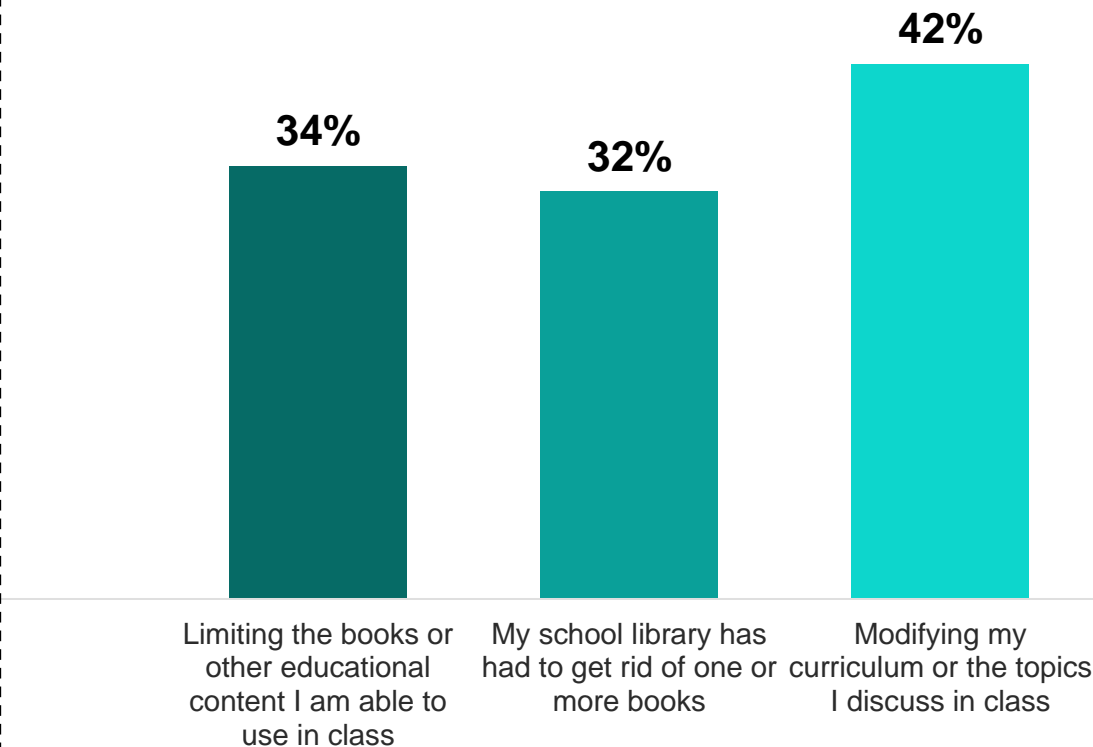
# In the past year, more than one-third of teachers say they changed their teaching curriculum either due to new laws in their state or new policies in their school.

Over the past year, have any of these actions occurred due to one or more new laws in your state?

## Teachers



Over the past year, have any of these actions occurred due to one or more new policies in your school?



Over 40 percent of teachers report deciding on their own to limit discussion of political and social topics in class. Compared to last spring, teachers are more likely to say they have seen other teachers at their school limiting these discussions.

Over the past year, have you decided on your own - without being directed by school or district leaders – to limit discussions about political and social issues in class?

Teachers



Over the past year, have you observed other teachers at your school - without being directed by school or district leaders – to limit discussions about political and social issues in class?





## **Views on K-12 Education**



## **Teaching Profession and Experiences**



## **School Choice Policies**

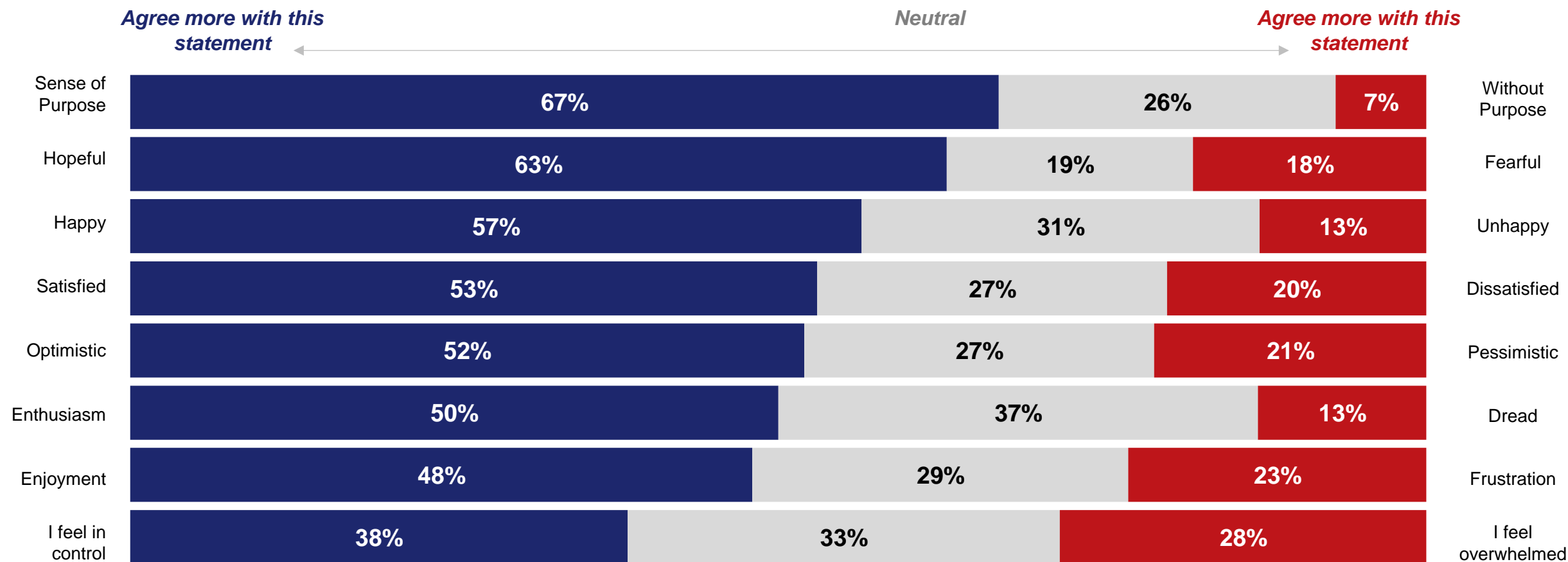


## **Survey Profile and Demographics**

# Roughly two-thirds of teachers feel a “sense of purpose” and “hopeful” when thinking about the future. Nearly one-third say they feel “overwhelmed.”

When thinking about the future, please select which of these words best describes how you feel right now?

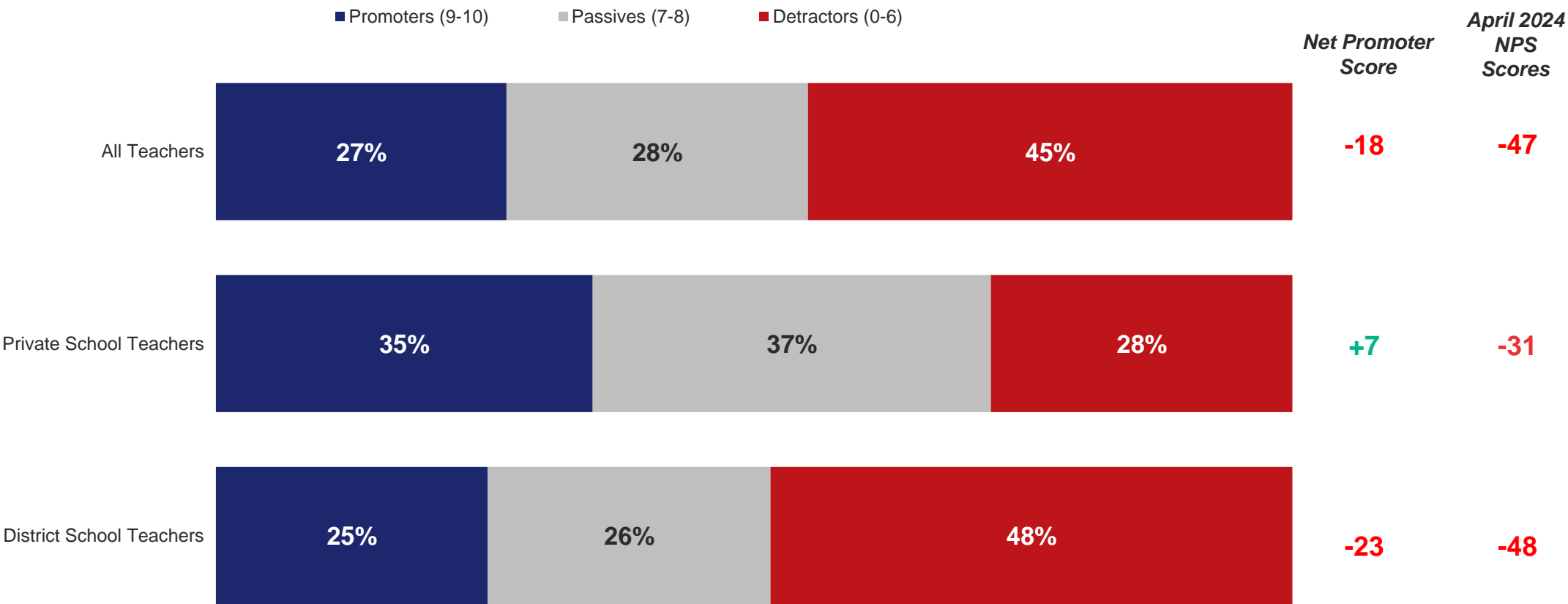
## All Teachers



# This spring, teachers express high levels of pessimism about the teaching profession, but much less than they did last spring. Private school teachers are more positive than negative.

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?

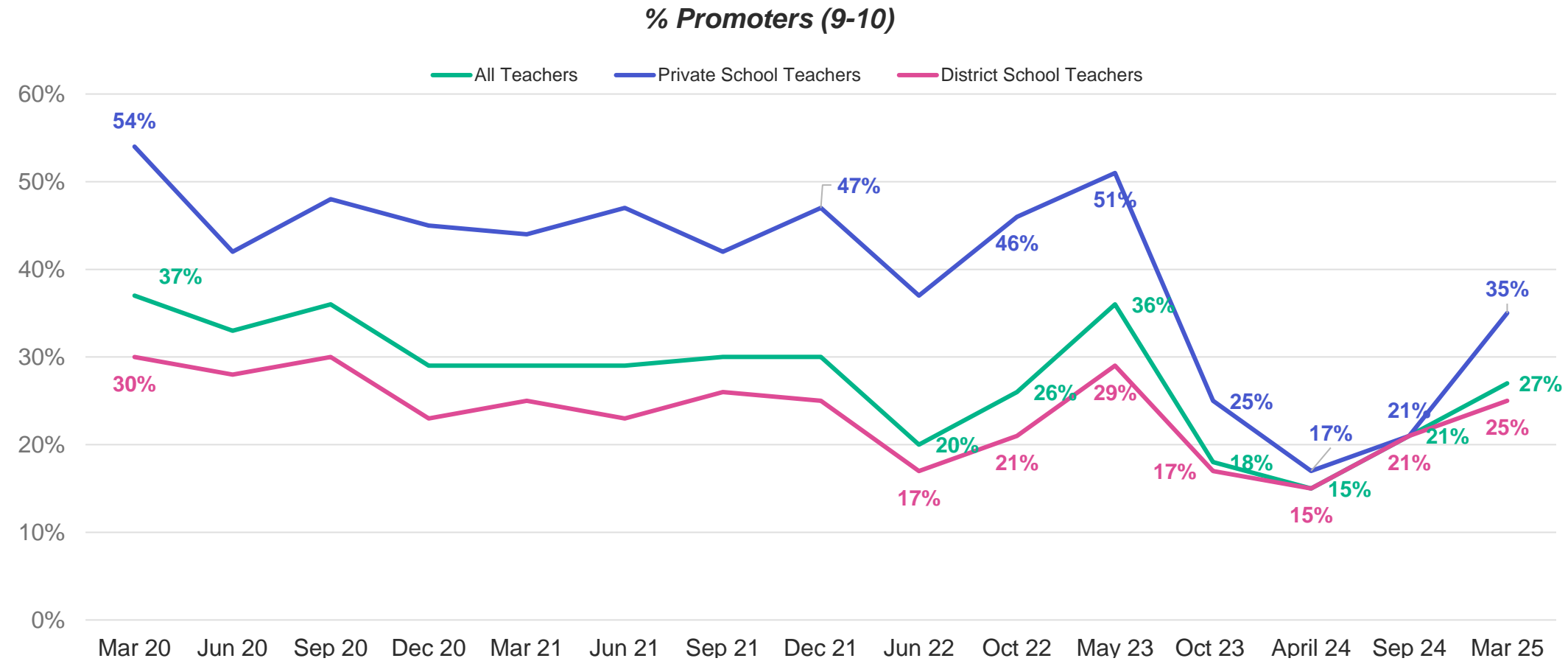
## All Teachers



# Teachers' likelihood to recommend the teaching profession continues to rise across all schooling types after hitting all time low levels last spring.

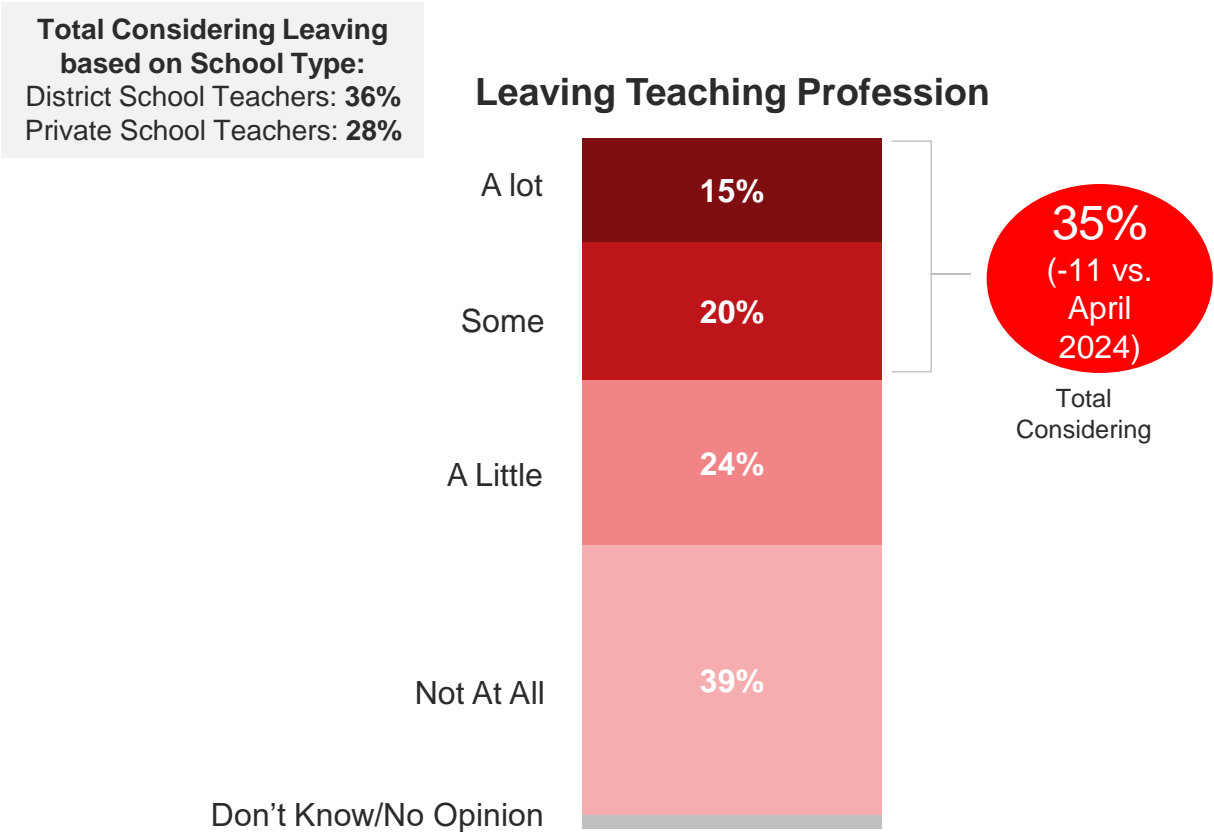
On a scale from 0 to 10, where '0' means 'Not at all likely' and '10' means 'Extremely likely'. How likely is it that you would recommend teaching to a friend or family member?

## All Teachers



Just over one-third of teachers have considered leaving the profession, roughly the same level as last spring. District school teachers are more likely than private school teachers to have considered leaving their teaching career.

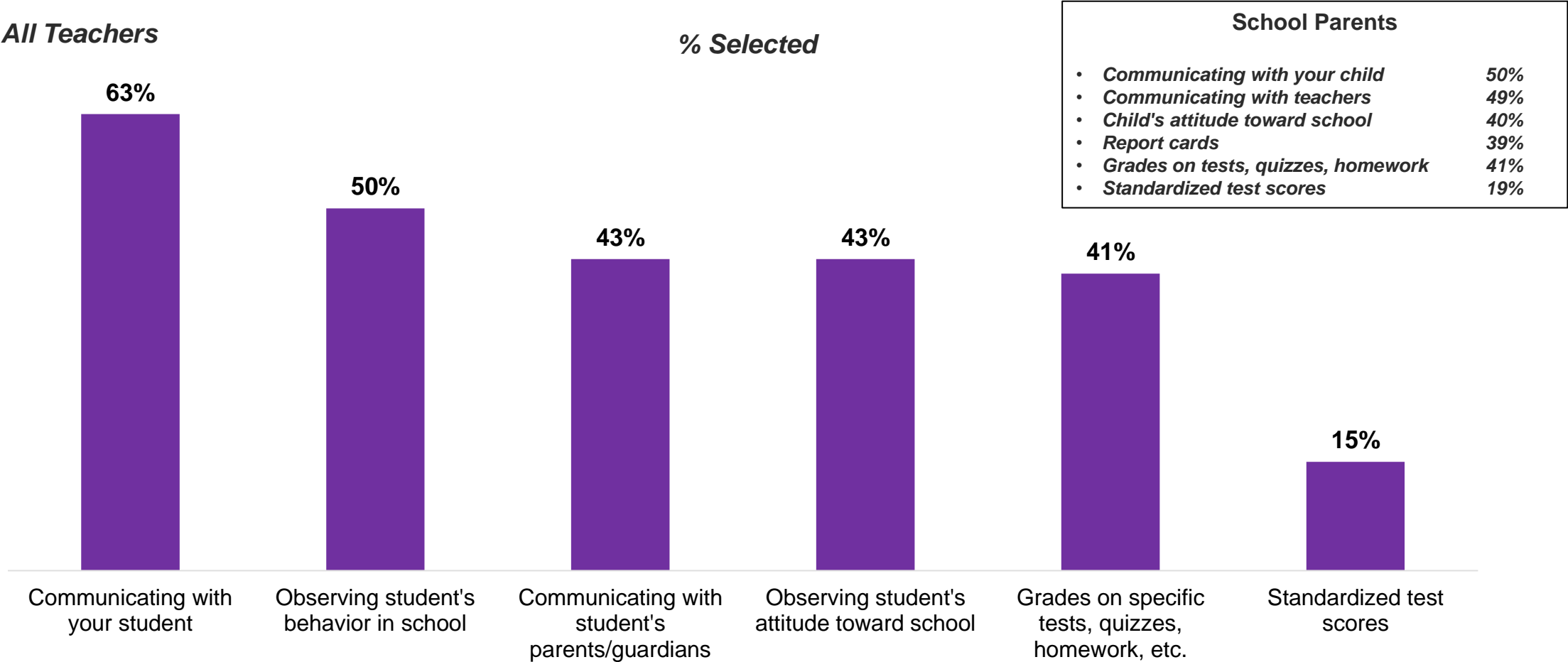
*In the past three months, to what extent have you considered leaving the teaching profession for another career?*



% Total Considering (A Lot + Some)	
Age: 18-34	34%
Age: 35-44	31%
Age: 45-64	41%
Age: 65+	29%
≤ 4 Years	34%
4-9 Years	33%
10-14 Years	24%
15+ Years	42%
4-Region: Northeast	34%
4-Region: Midwest	32%
4-Region: South	39%
4-Region: West	32%

# Teachers see communication with their students as the most important way to know if they are having a successful school year. Standardized test scores are the least important metric.

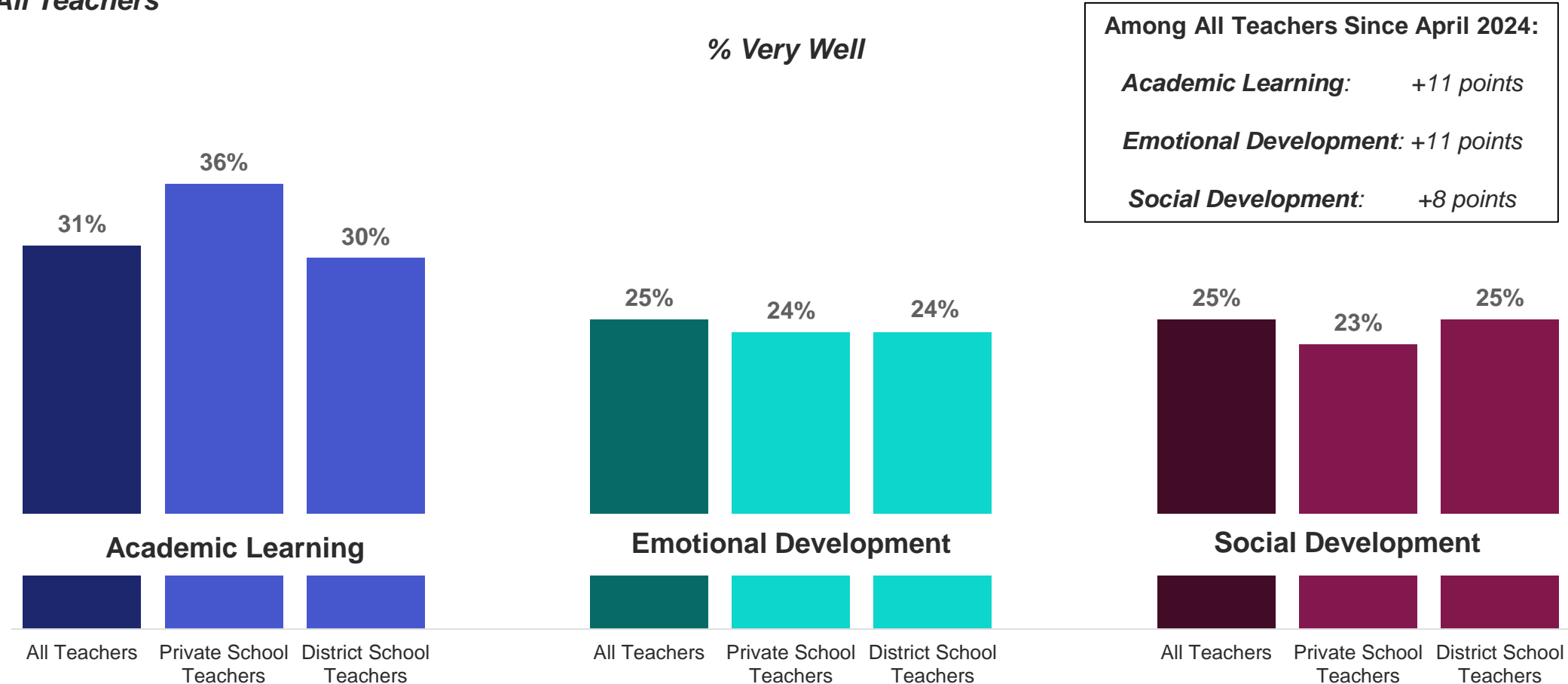
Which of the following are the most important to know if your student has a successful school year? Select up to three.



Teachers believe students are progressing better academically, emotionally and socially compared to last spring. Private school teachers report better academic progress.

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

All Teachers



Teachers' concern about violent intruders entering their school is slightly higher than last spring. They express more concern about this issue than teens.

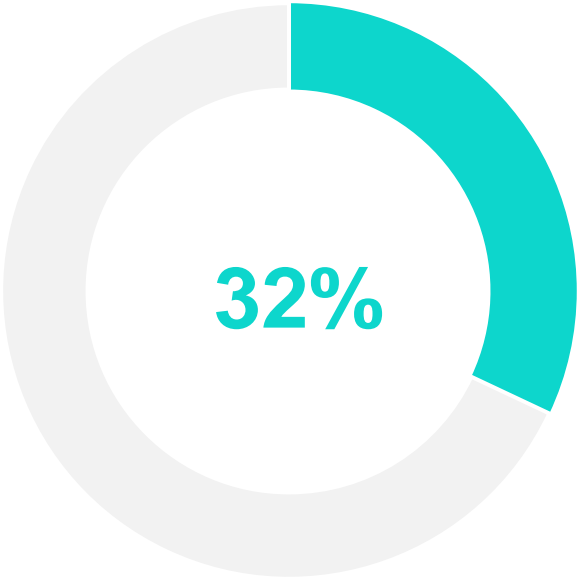
How concerned are you about a violent intruder, like a mass shooter, entering your school?

All Teachers



Teachers

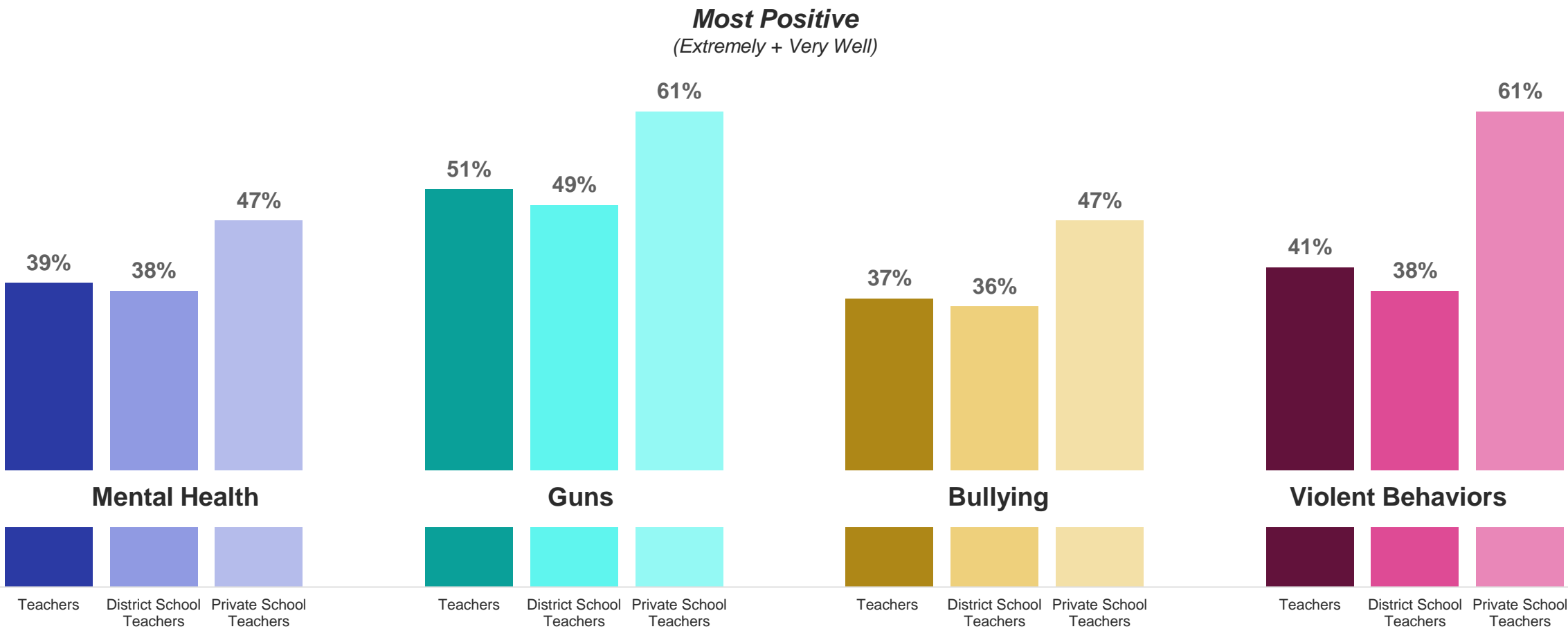
Total Concern  
(Extremely + Very Concerned)



Teens

# Teachers are most positive about how their schools handle guns compared to other safety issues. Private school teachers give their schools higher ratings than district school teachers.

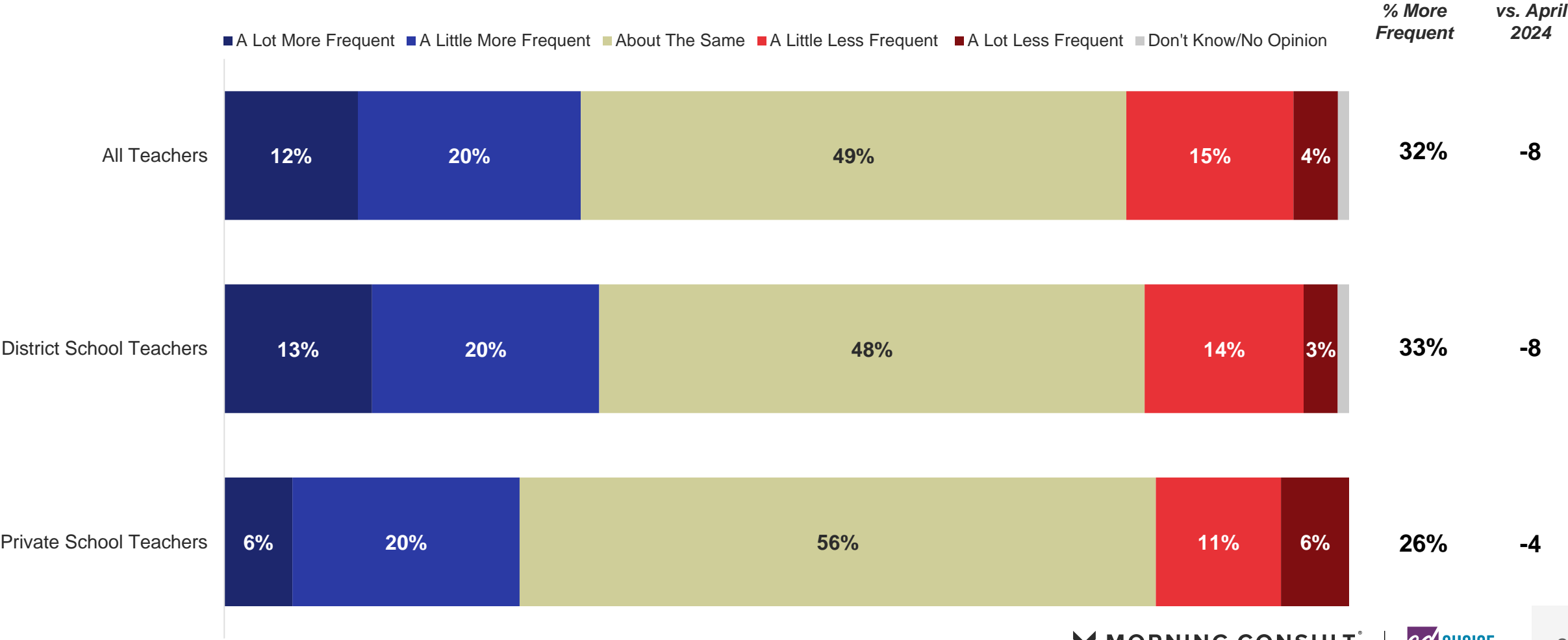
How well do you feel your school addresses the following among its students?



# This spring, teachers across different school types report a lower frequency of absences among their students compared to last spring.

Generally speaking, and comparing to this time last school year, do you think **student absences** in your classes are...

## All Teachers

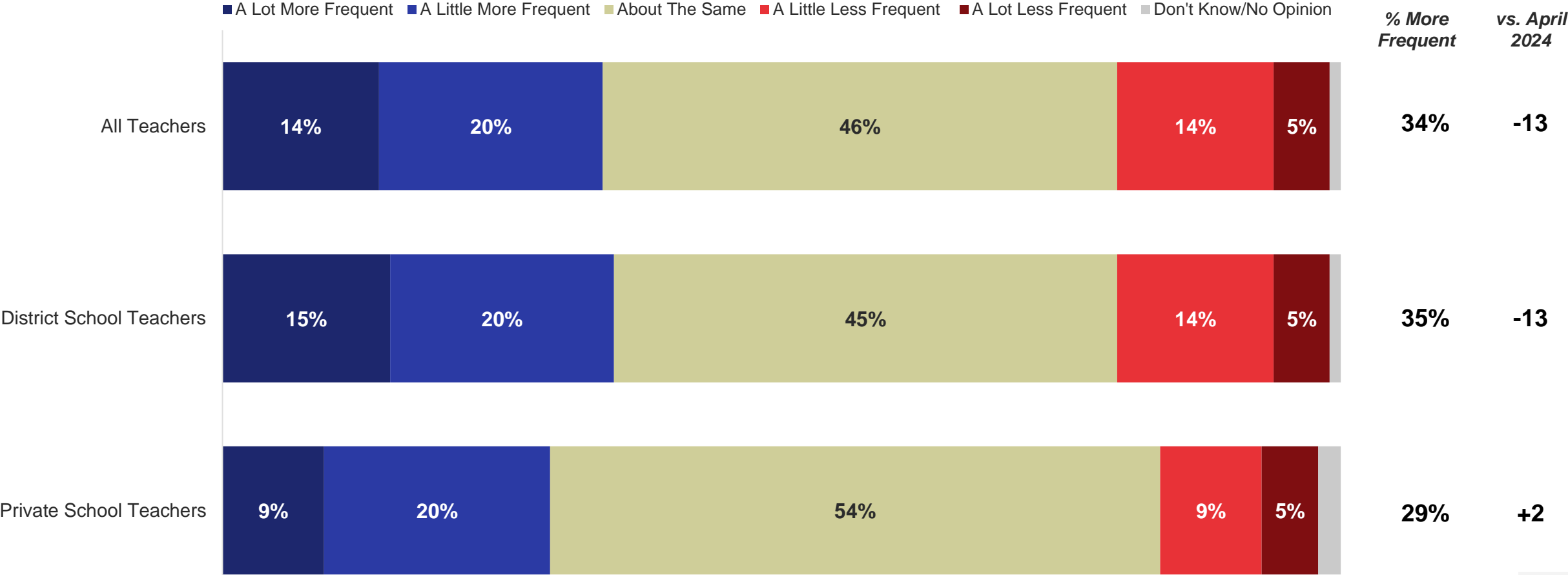


Source: Survey conducted March 21, 2025 – March 27, 2025, U.S. K-12 education teachers

# Fewer teachers than last spring say that student misbehaviors are more frequent this year. District school teachers see more misbehaviors than private school teachers.

Generally speaking, and comparing to this time last school year, do you think **student misbehaviors** in your classes are...

## All Teachers

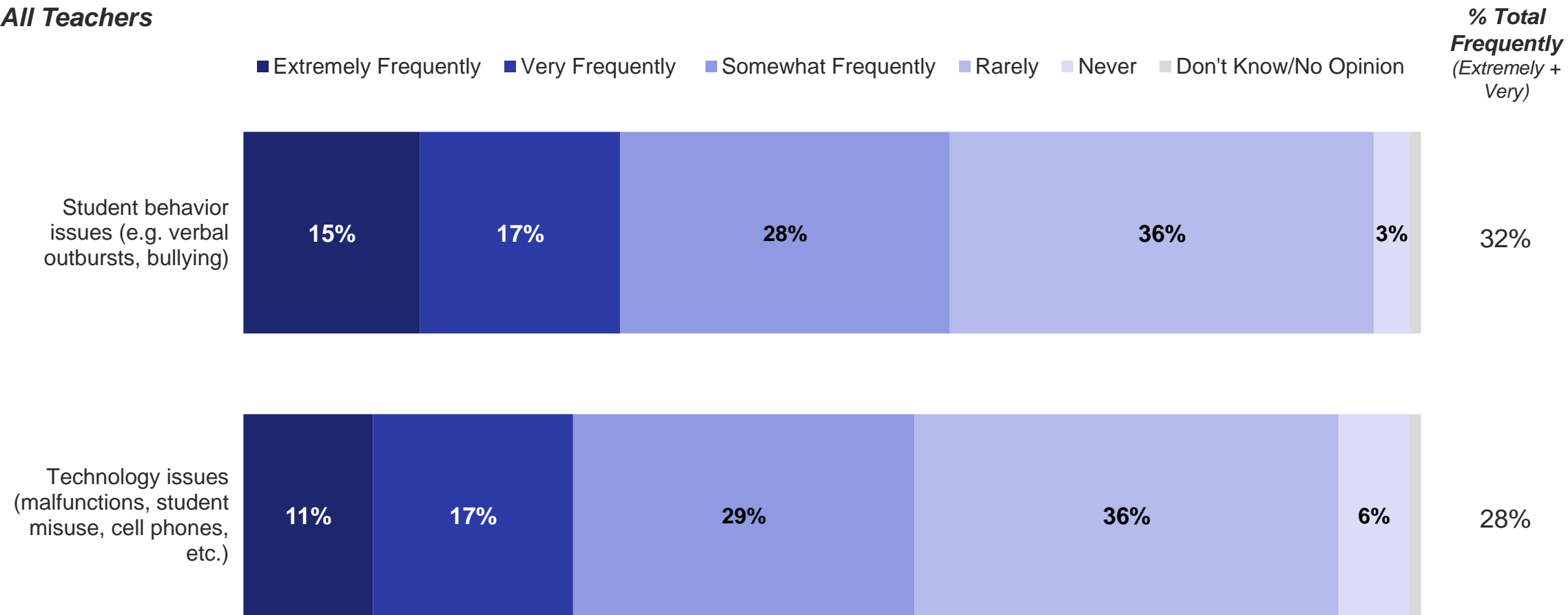


Source: Survey conducted March 21, 2025 – March 27, 2025, U.S. K-12 education teachers

# Nearly one-third of teachers say their classes are frequently interrupted by student behavior issues or technology issues.

How often would you say that your class is interrupted by the following?

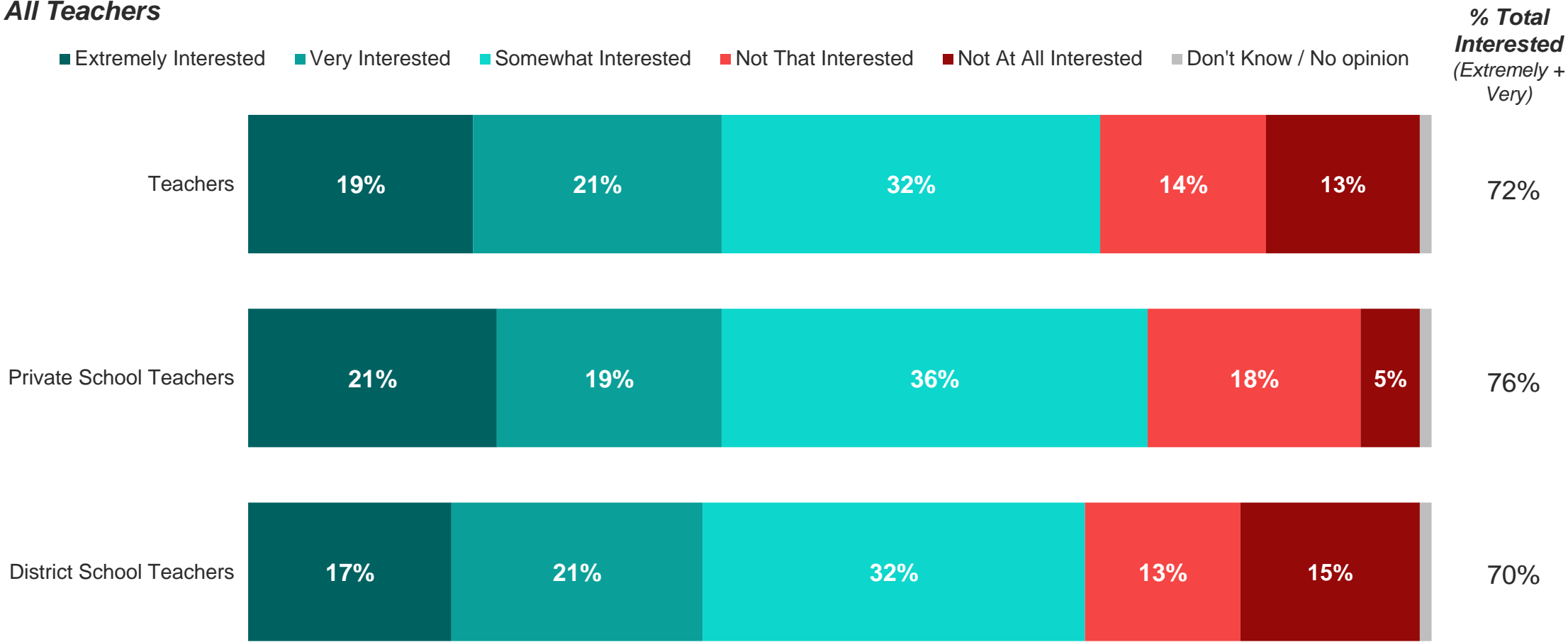
## All Teachers



# Nearly three quarters of educators are interested in tutoring outside of schooling hours. Private school teachers express slightly more interest.

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

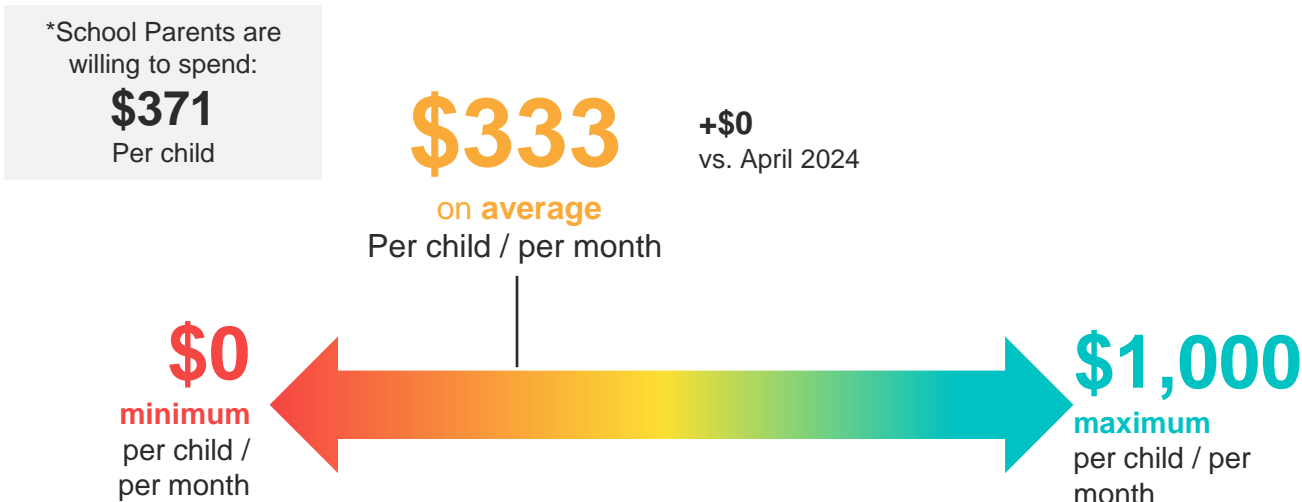
## All Teachers



# The monthly amount teachers would ask parents to pay for tutoring has remained the same since last spring. Their asking price is lower than the amount parents are willing to spend.

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	Private School Teachers	\$299
	District School Teachers	\$335
Community Type	Urban	\$432
	Suburban	\$280
	Small Town/Rural	\$348
Years Teaching	Less than 4 years	\$444
	4-9 years	\$400
	10-14 years	\$323
	Greater than 15 years	\$264



## **Views on K-12 Education**



## **Teaching Profession and Experiences**



## **School Choice Policies**



## **Survey Profile and Demographics**

# Policy Descriptions Used



## Education Savings Accounts

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.



## School Vouchers

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.



## Charter Schools

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.



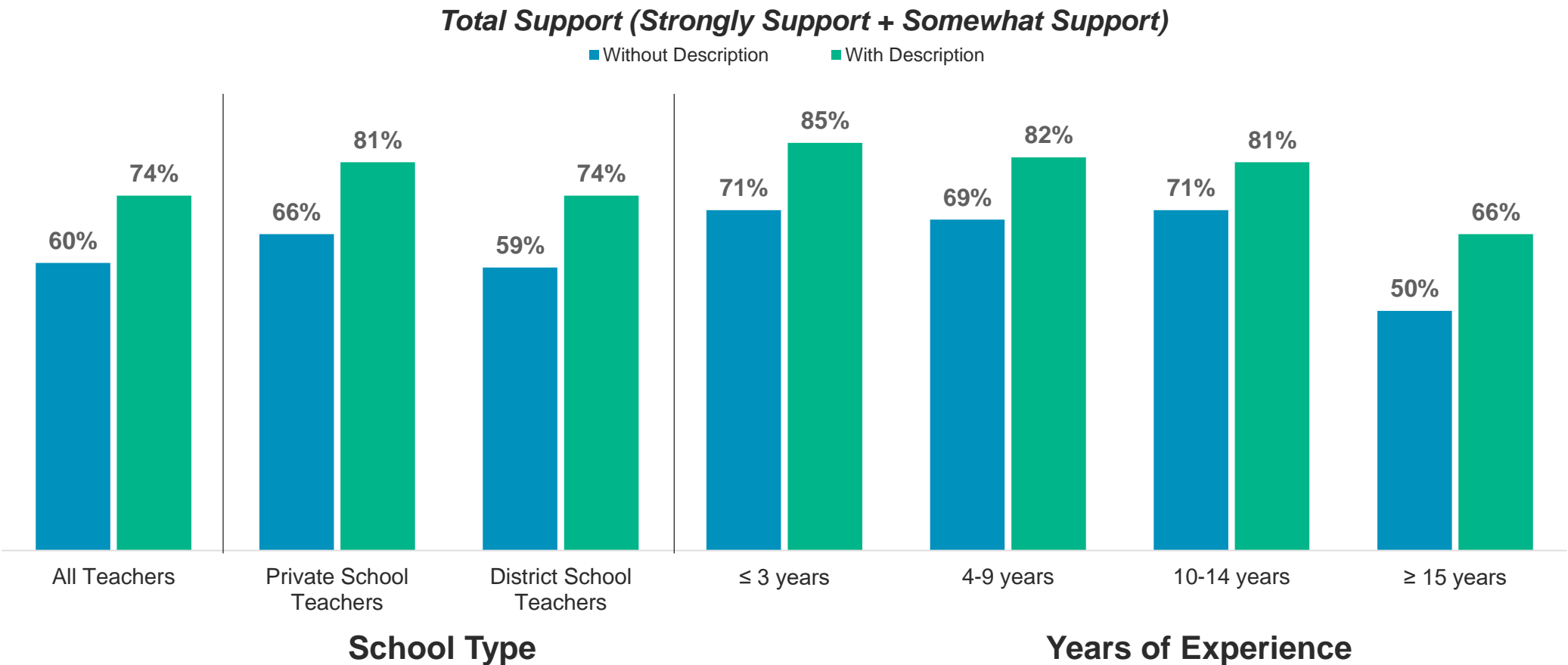
## Open Enrollment

An "open enrollment" policy in K-12 education allows a student enrolled in public school to select and transfer to a public school of their choice, rather than attending a school based on where they live. A student can be allowed to transfer to a public school in another district (called "INTER-district"). The policy is based on a first come, first served process until districts are no longer able to accommodate new students.

# Roughly three-fourths of teachers support education savings accounts (ESAs). More teachers express support when given a description.

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

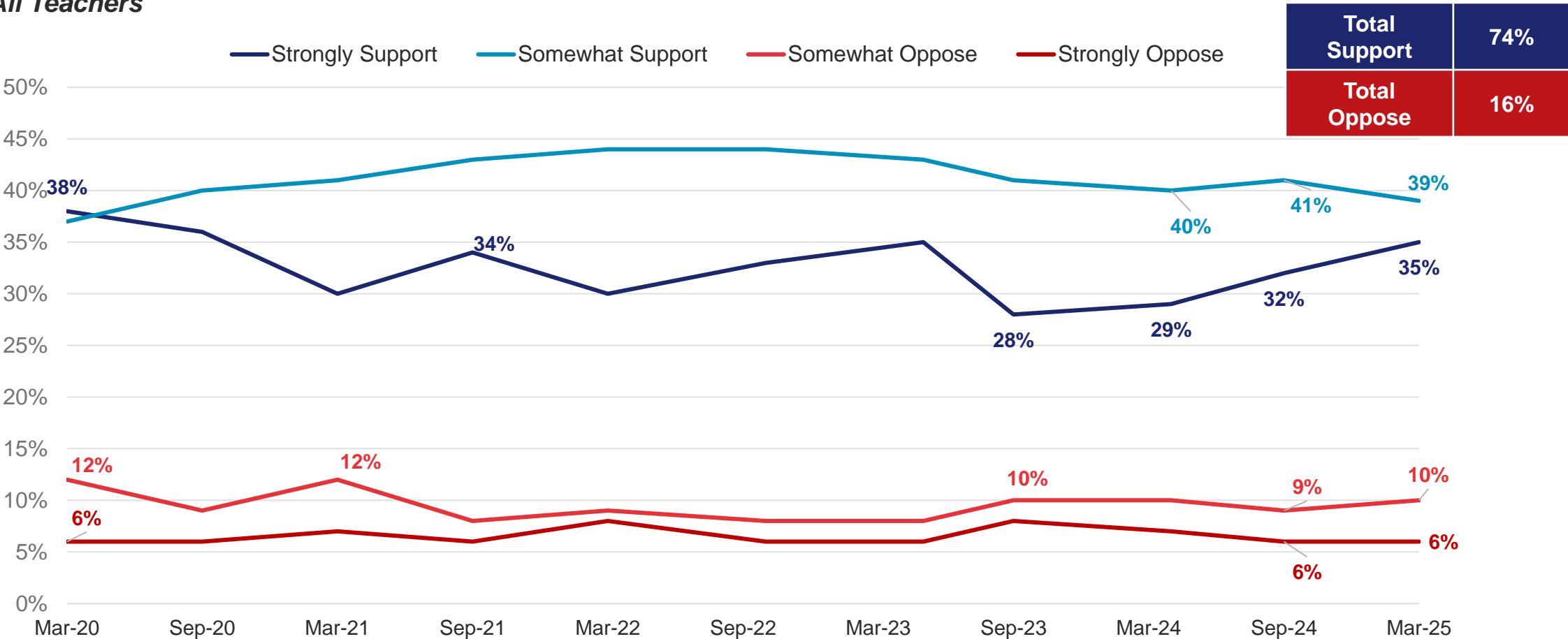


# Roughly 75% of teachers generally support education savings accounts (ESAs). Strong support for ESAs among teachers has increased since last spring.

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?

March 2025

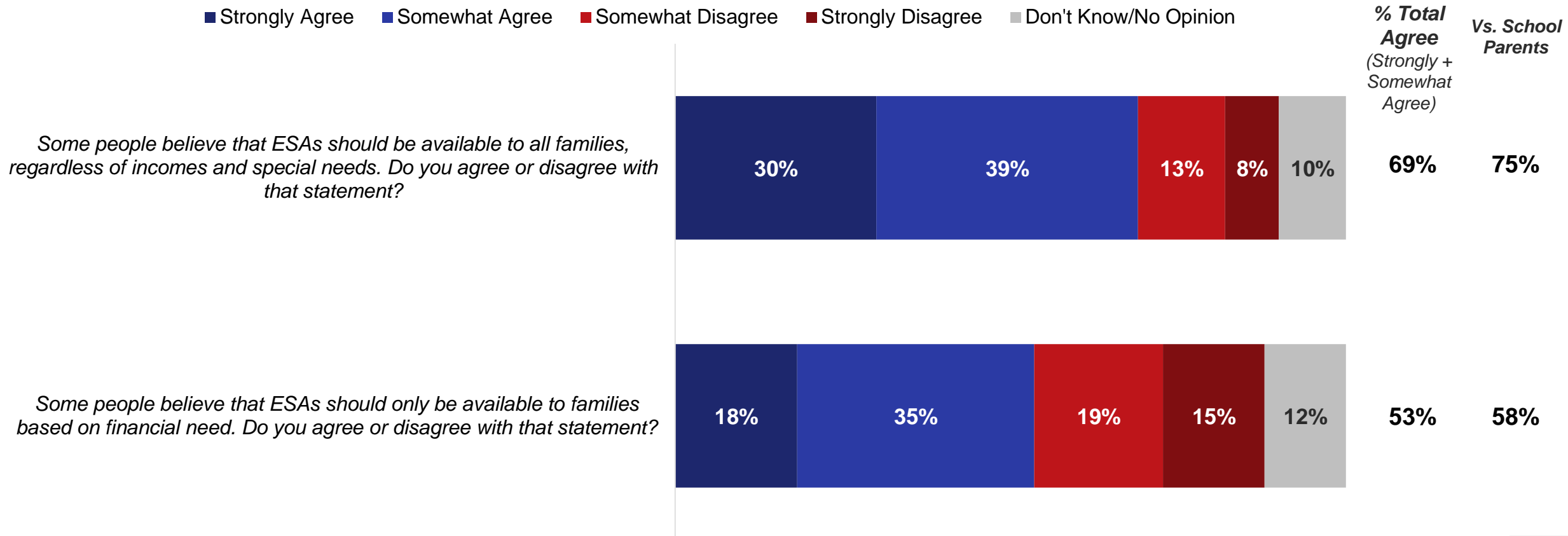
## All Teachers



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

# More than two-thirds of teachers believe ESAs should be available to all families regardless of income or special needs. That is more than 15 points higher than the percentage of teachers who want ESA eligibility determined by financial need.

## All Teachers

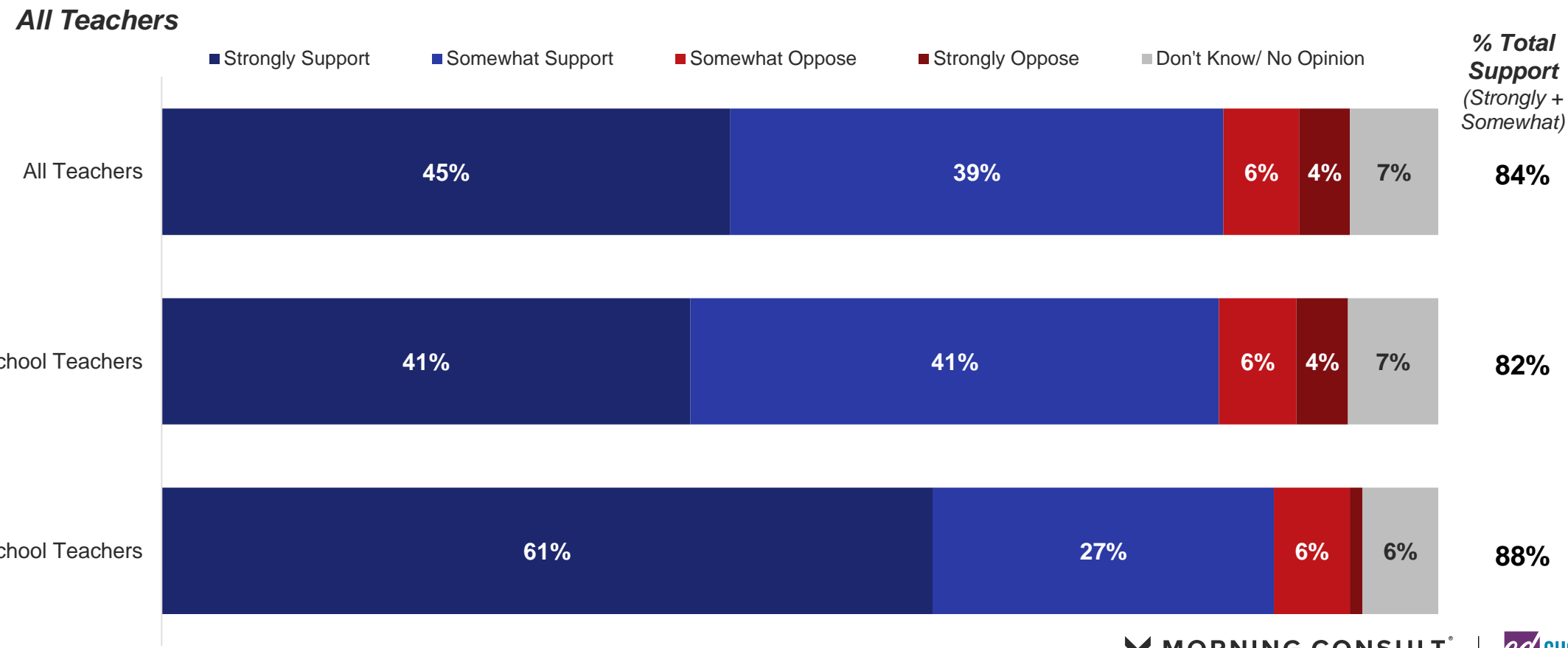


Note: \*School parents data comes from the March 2025 Gen Pop Report.

Source: Survey conducted March 21, 2025 – March 27, 2025, U.S. K-12 education teachers

# The vast majority of teachers, across different school types, express support for a teacher savings account in K-12 education.

Some have proposed a "teacher savings account" in K–12 education – which would establish for teachers a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for classroom and professional development purposes. Teachers can then use these funds to pay for: classroom supplies, books/downloads, lesson plans, instructional materials, computer hardware/software or other equipment, or additional training through meetings, conferences, or webinars. Some amount can be saved for future school-year expenses. In general, what is your opinion of this proposed teacher savings account system?

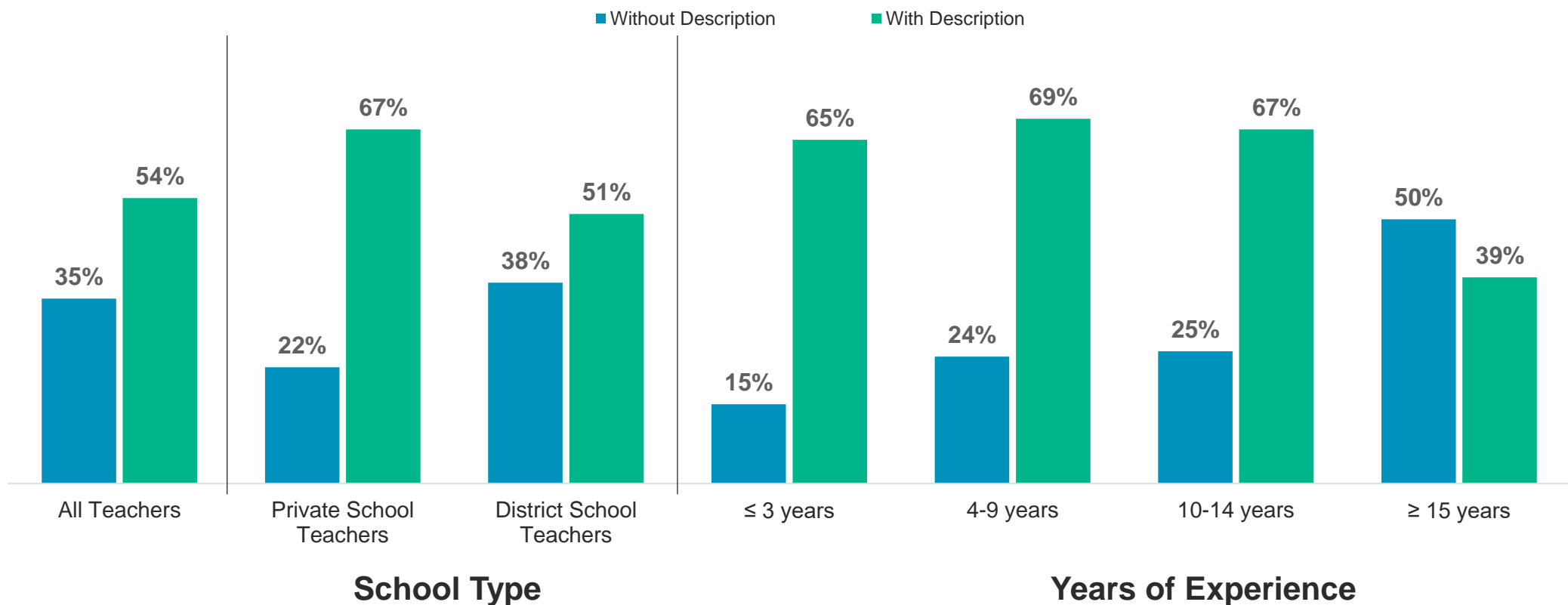


# Teachers' support for school vouchers tends to increase when they are given a description. Greatest support comes from private school teachers and those with less teaching experience.

*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)



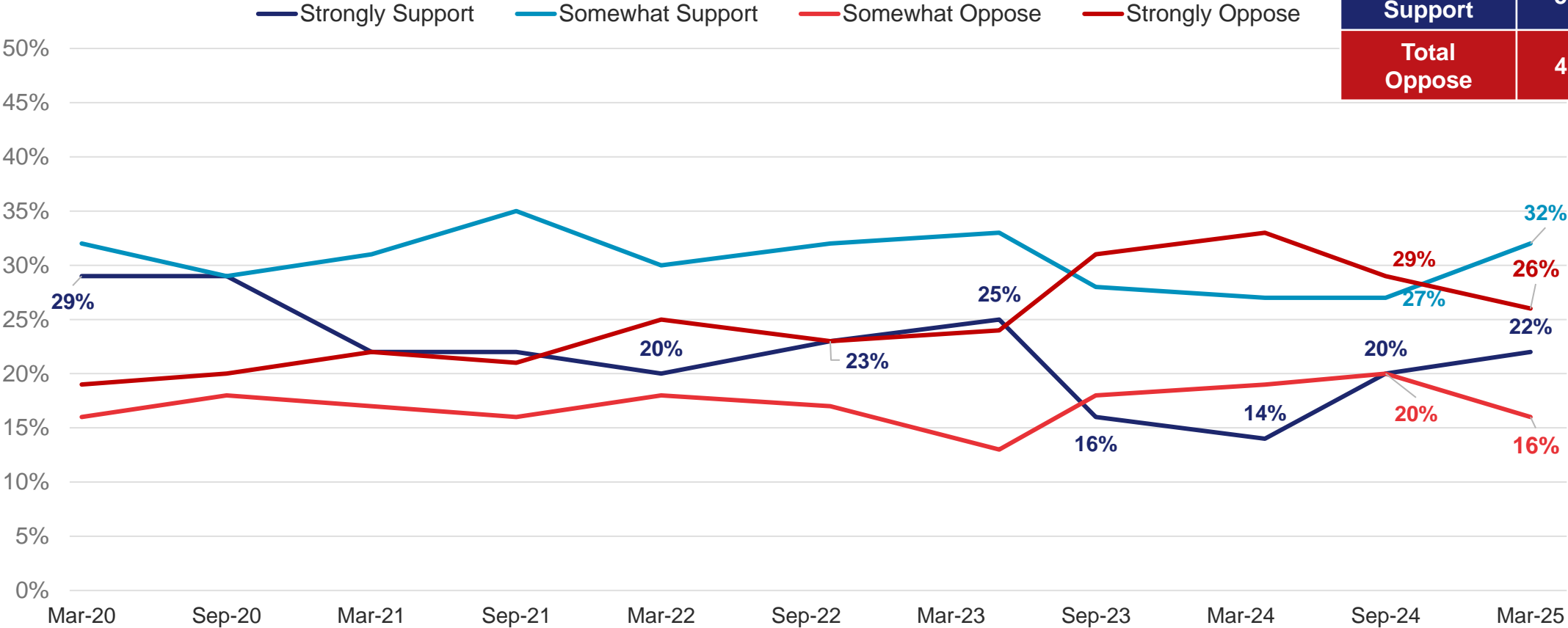
# More than half of teachers support school vouchers. Strong support for vouchers among teachers has increased 8 points since last spring.

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?

March 2025

## All Teachers

Total Support	54%
Total Oppose	42%

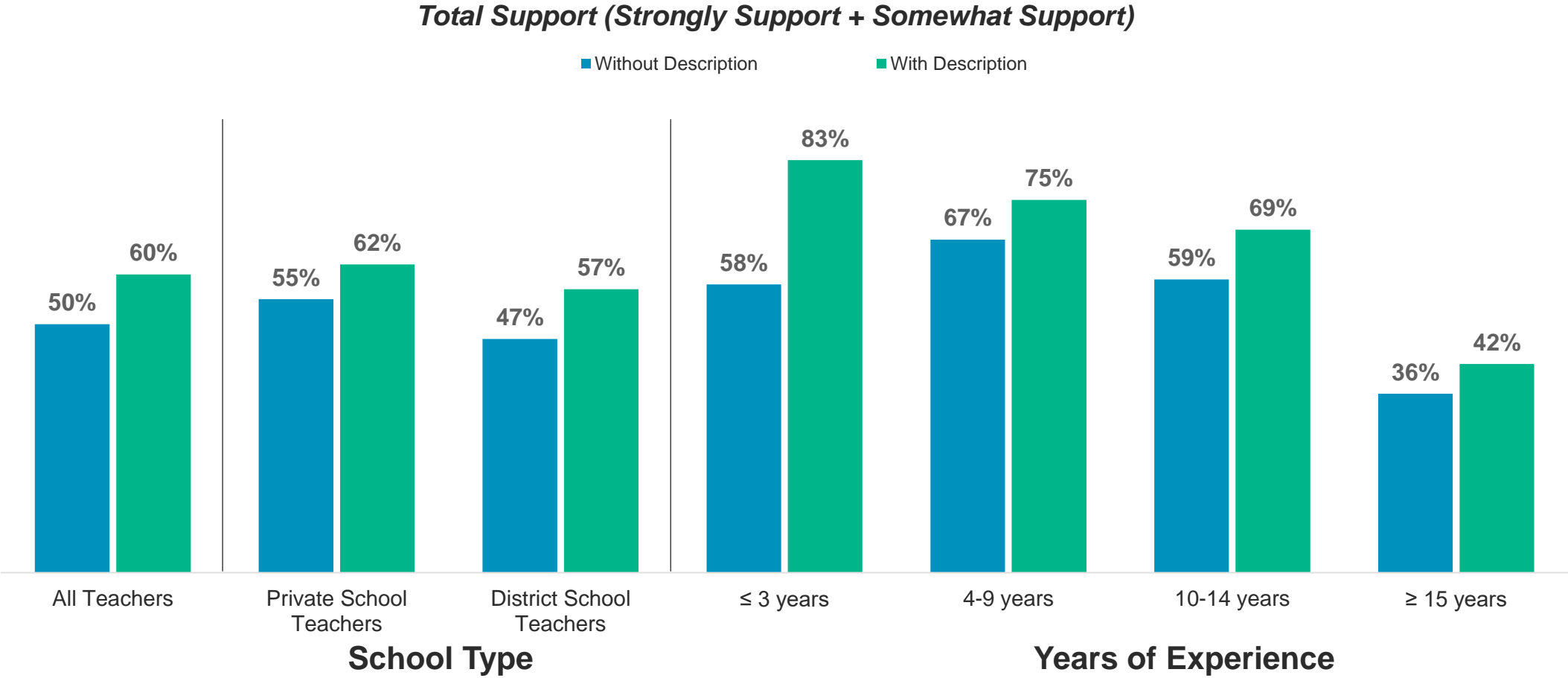


Note: Don't know/no opinion responses are not shown.

# When given a policy description, teacher support increases for charter schools. That is especially the case for those with the fewest years of teaching experience.

*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?*

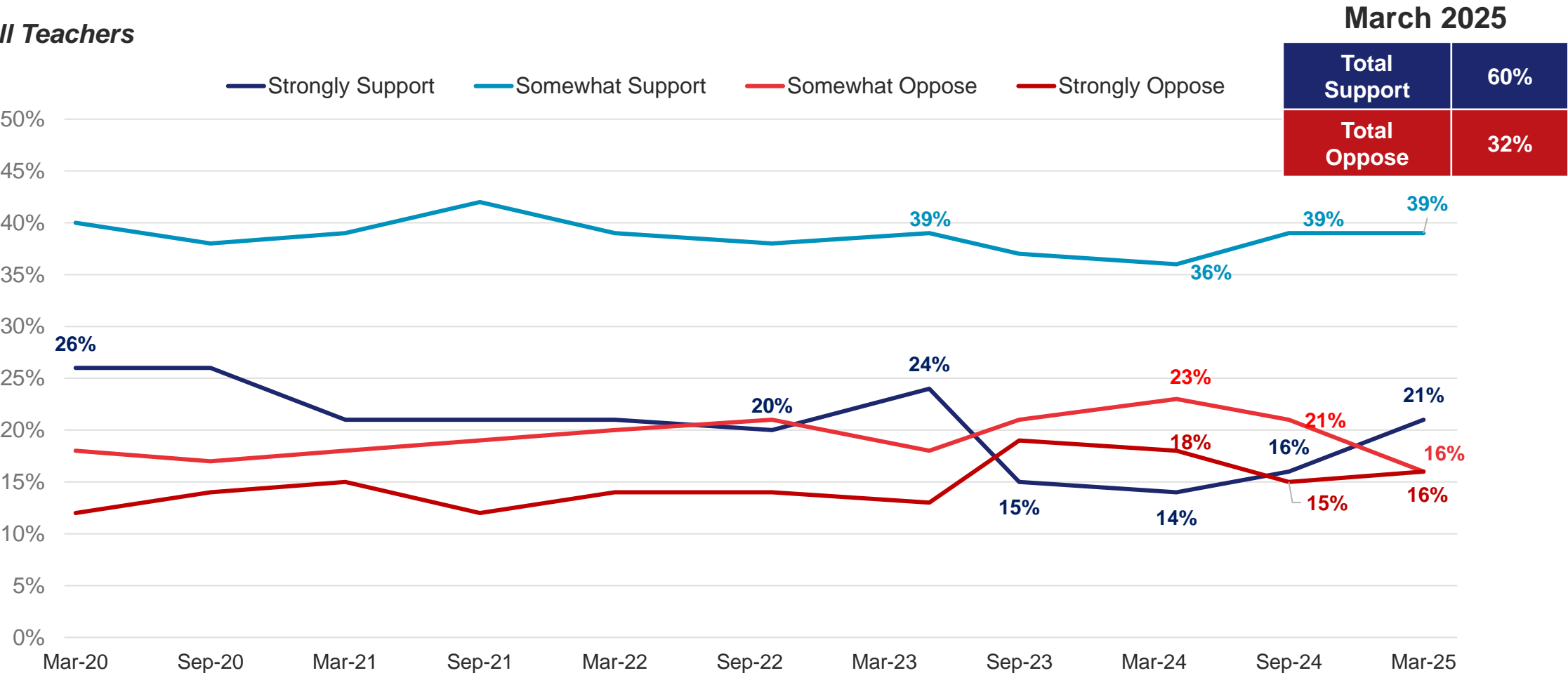
## All Teachers



# Over half of teachers support public charter schools. Support has risen since the fall.

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?

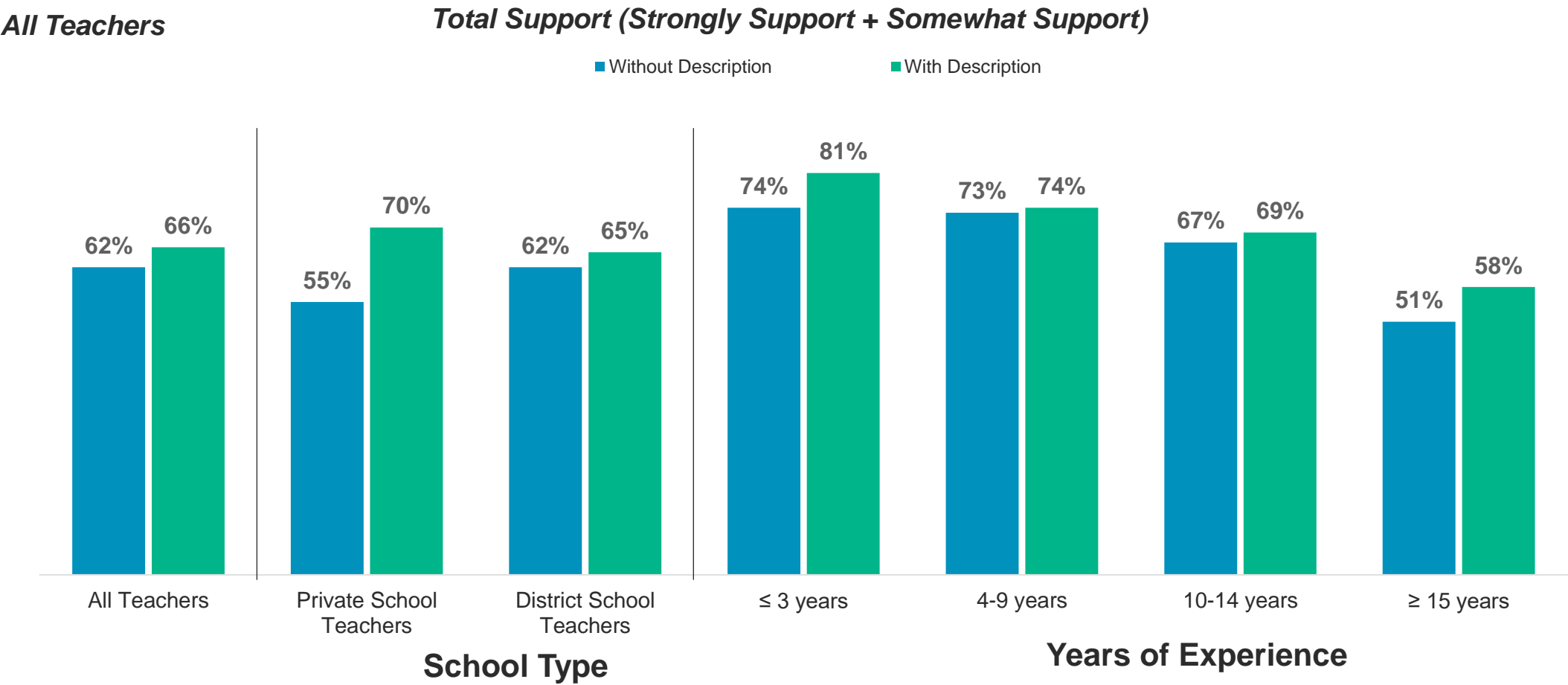
## All Teachers



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

# Teachers’ support is high for inter-district open enrollment. When a policy description is provided, support increases the most among private school teachers.

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of “open enrollment” policies in K–12 education?  
An “open enrollment” policy in K-12 education allows a student enrolled in public school to select and transfer to a public school of their choice, rather than attending a school based on where they live. A student can be allowed to transfer to a public school in another district (called “INTER-district”). The policy is based on a first come, first served process until districts are no longer able to accommodate new students. In general, what is your opinion of an open enrollment system?

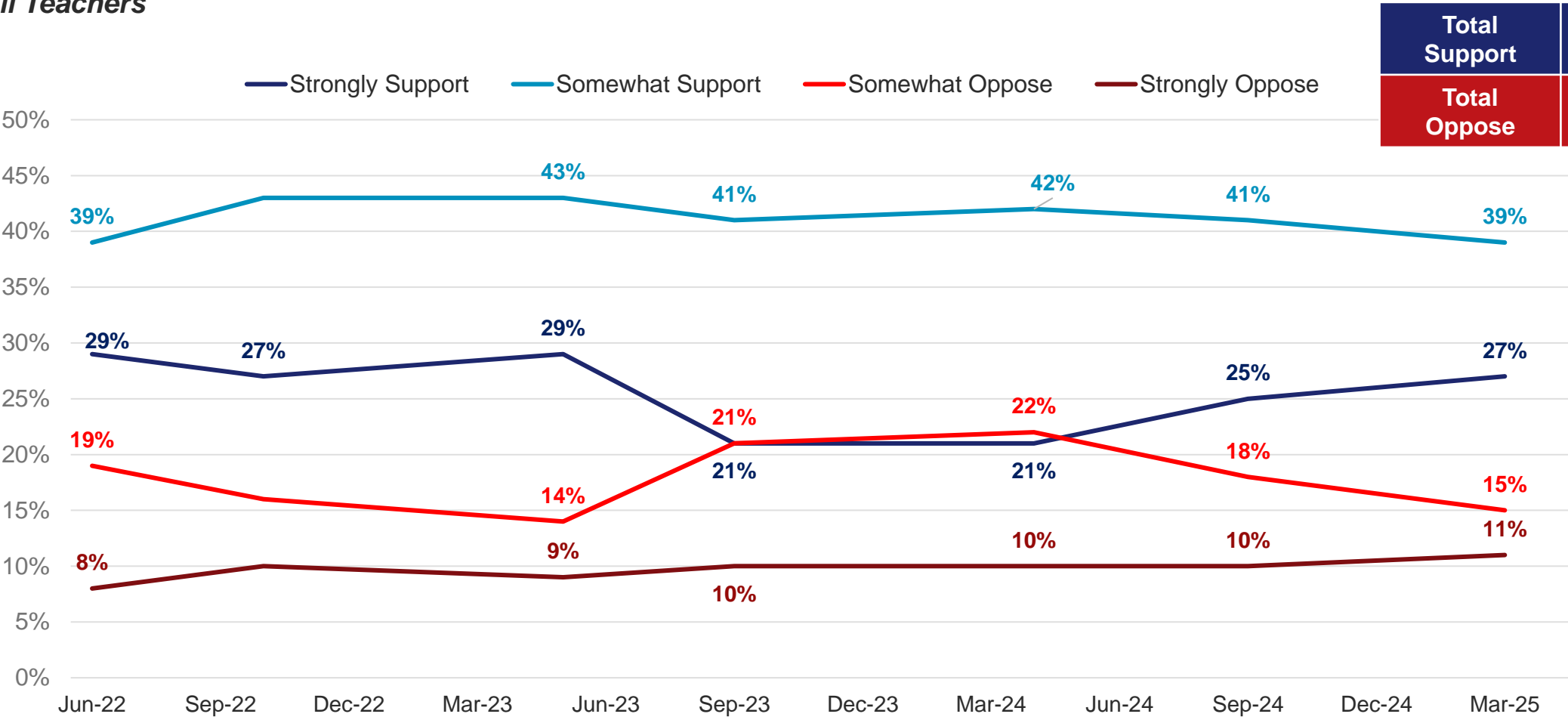


# Two-thirds of teachers support open enrollment. Support levels are even with the fall.

An “open enrollment” policy in K-12 education allows a student enrolled in public school to select and transfer to a public school of their choice, rather than attending a school based on where they live. A student can be allowed to transfer to a public school in another district (called “INTER-district”). The policy is based on a first come, first served process until districts are no longer able to accommodate new students. In general, what is your opinion of an open enrollment system?

March 2025

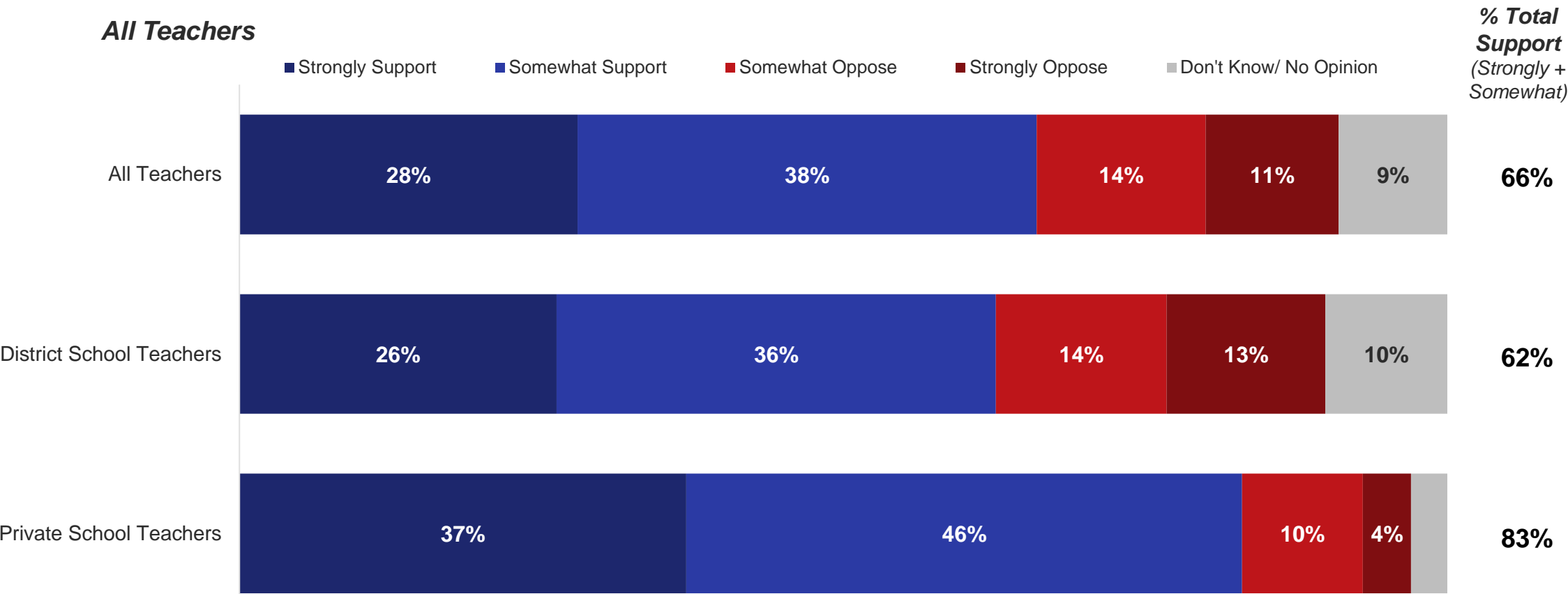
## All Teachers



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

# Two-thirds of teachers support refundable tax credits for educational purposes. Private school teachers are much more likely to support them than district school teachers.

A “refundable tax credit” is a credit taxpayers can get as a refund even if you don’t owe any tax. A refundable tax credit in K-12 education can allow families to cover qualifying expenses, such as private school tuition and fees, tutoring, textbooks, standardized assessments, or homeschooling costs. In general, what is your opinion of refundable tax credits for such educational purposes?





## **Views on K-12 Education**



## **Teaching Profession and Experiences**



## **School Choice Policies**



## **Survey Profile and Demographics**

# Survey Profile, 1

<b>Dates</b>	March 21 - 27, 2025
<b>Survey Data Collection &amp; Quality Control</b>	Morning Consult
<b>Survey Sponsor</b>	EdChoice
<b>Population</b>	K-12 Education Teachers
<b>Sampling Frame</b> States,	National sample of K-12 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 = 16.08 minutes
<b>Sample Size</b>	Total, N = 1,032
<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>	± 3.72 percentage points
<b>Participation Rate</b>	54.00%
<b>Project Contact</b>	Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

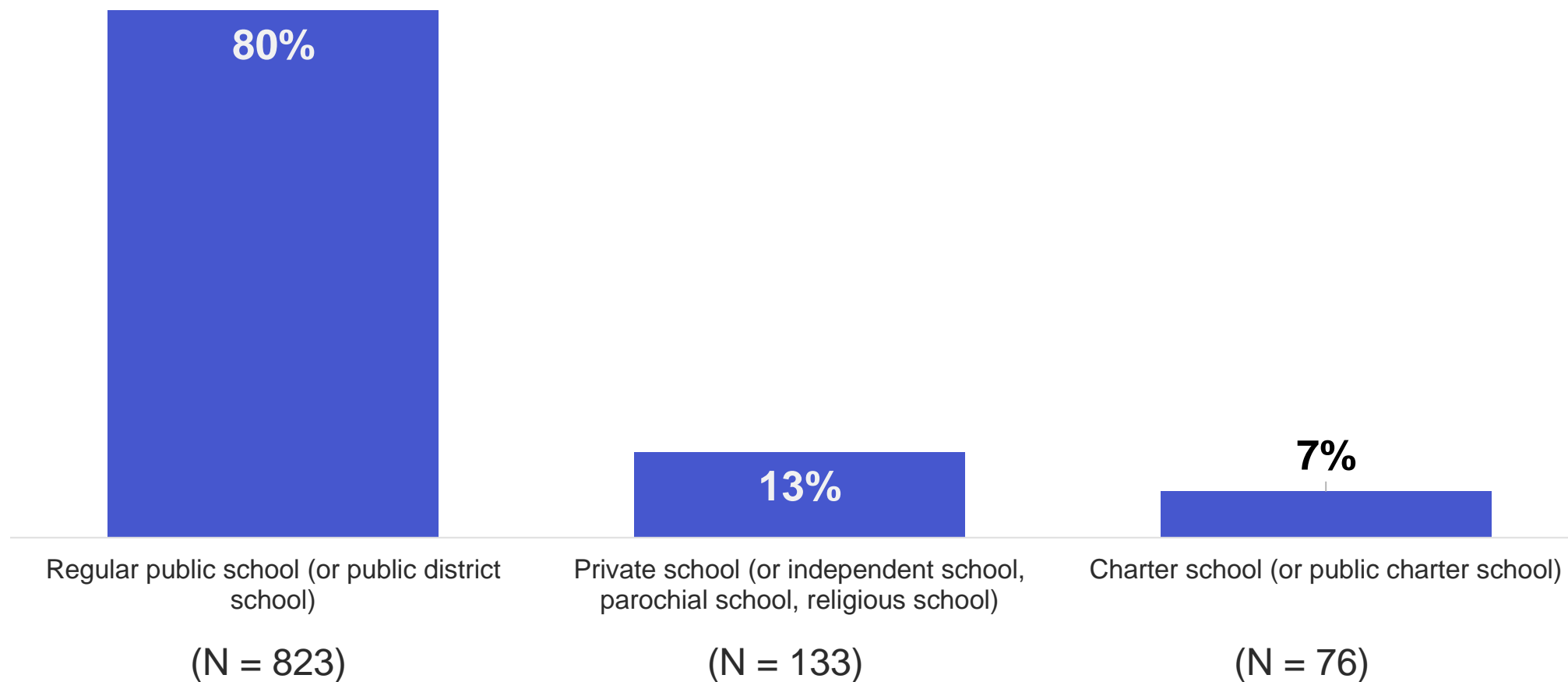
## Total Teacher Sample Demographics

Demographics	Unweighted (N = )
Hispanic	180
White	804
Asian American	52
Black	125
Other	27
Generation Z	48
Millennial	550
Generation X	200
Boomers	217
Northeast	191
Midwest	211
South	451
West	179

Demographics	Unweighted (N = )
Male	252
Female	780
Democrat	393
Independent	259
Republican	362
Urban	319
Suburban	450
Small Town	114
Rural	149
Low Income <\$50K	273
Middle Income \$50K to <\$100K	470
High Income \$100K+	289
LGBTQ	95

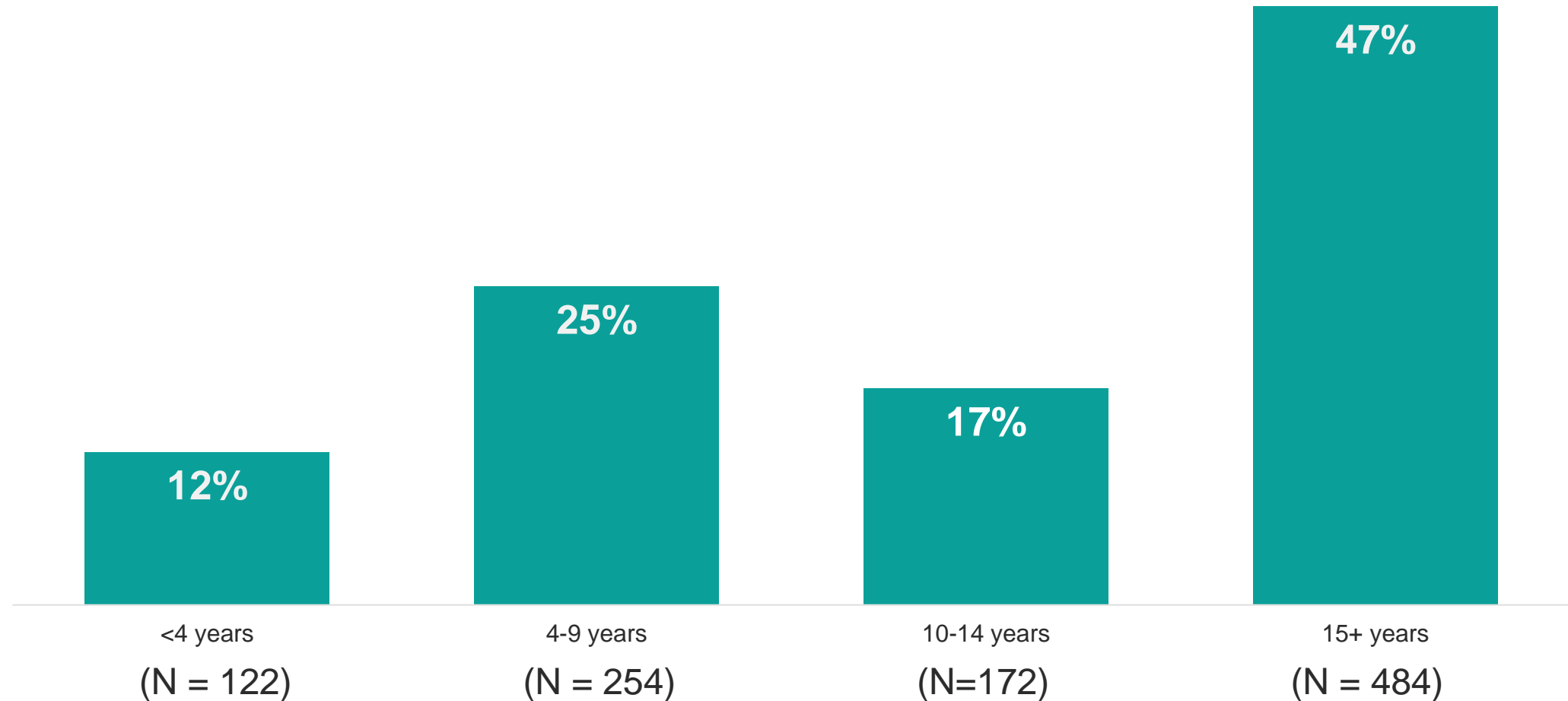
## Where do you currently teach?

*All Teachers*



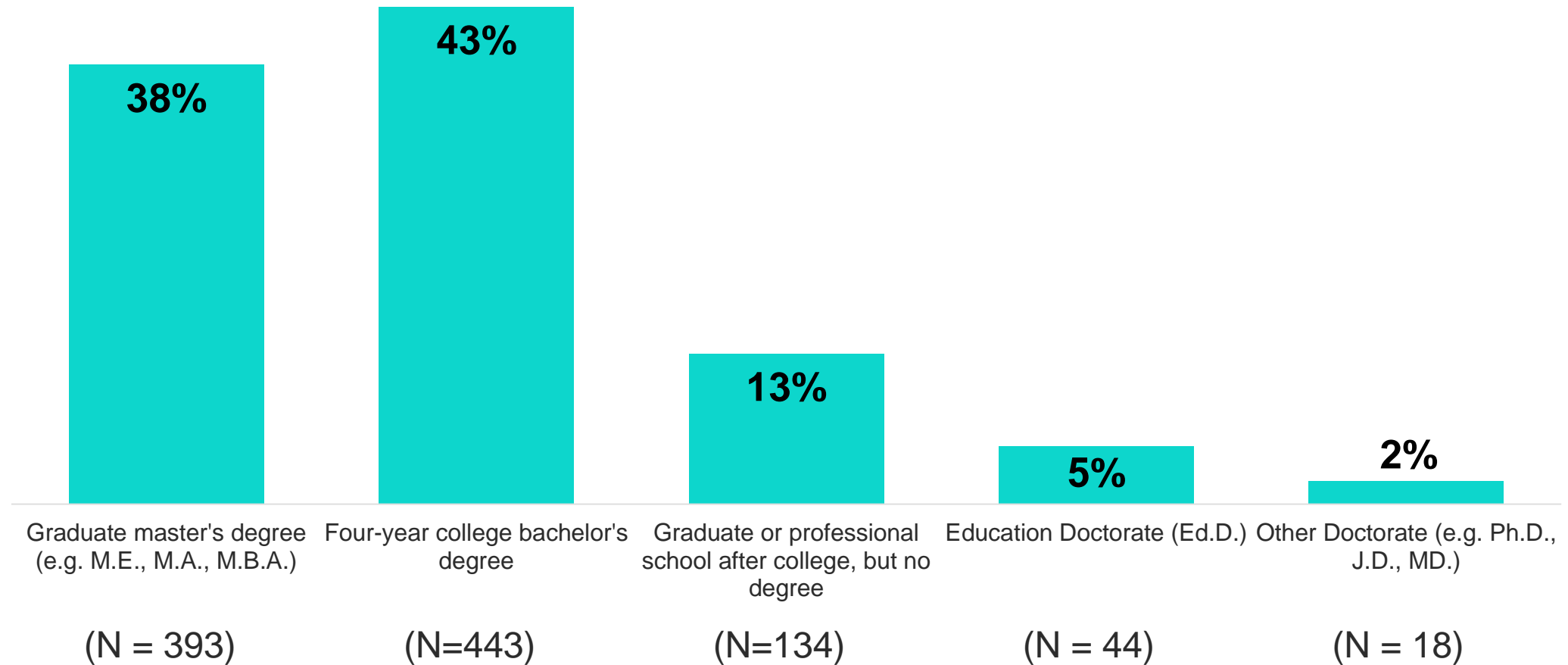
# Counting this school year, how many years have you been a school teacher, including part-time teaching?

*All Teachers*



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

*All Teachers*



## WHO WE ARE



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.

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EdChoice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Our mission is to advance educational freedom and choice for all as a pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. We are committed to understanding and pursuing a K–12 education ecosystem that empowers every family to choose the learning environment that fits their children's needs best.

**[EDCHOICE.ORG](https://edchoice.org)**