

Enrollment Study Survey Findings

Representative Survey Of Adults With School-Aged Children
in the Seattle Public Schools District, Washington

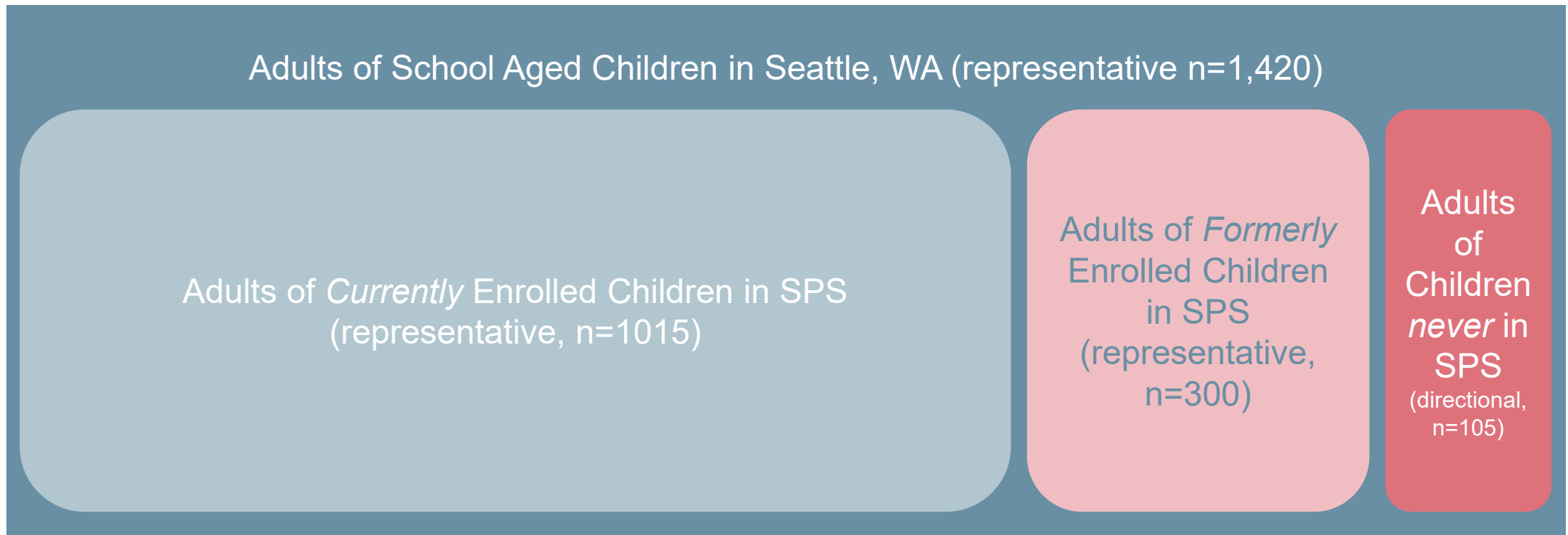
January 2025

Survey Methodology – Sample Population

The overall sample consists of 1,420 adults (e.g. caretakers) of school-aged children, as of 2024, within Seattle Public Schools (SPS) district boundaries.

This overall sample is representative of adults of school-aged children and includes additional representative sub-samples by geography and race/ethnicity of 300 interviews with adults of former SPS students (21%) and 1,015 interviews with adults of current SPS students (71%). **These sub-groups by student enrollment status were weighed to be proportionally representative of how much each group makes up of the adult population.** This proportional distribution was calculated in collaboration with SPS staff and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) graduate researchers.

There is an additional sub-sample of 105 interviews with adults of students who have never attended the SPS system (8%) – this sub-sample by itself is descriptive and non-representative. This study is made up of concentric circles of survey populations. Certain metrics, derived from a combination of SPS household data and proprietary L2 data, were tracked and evaluated during all phases and weighed to be representative after data collection.



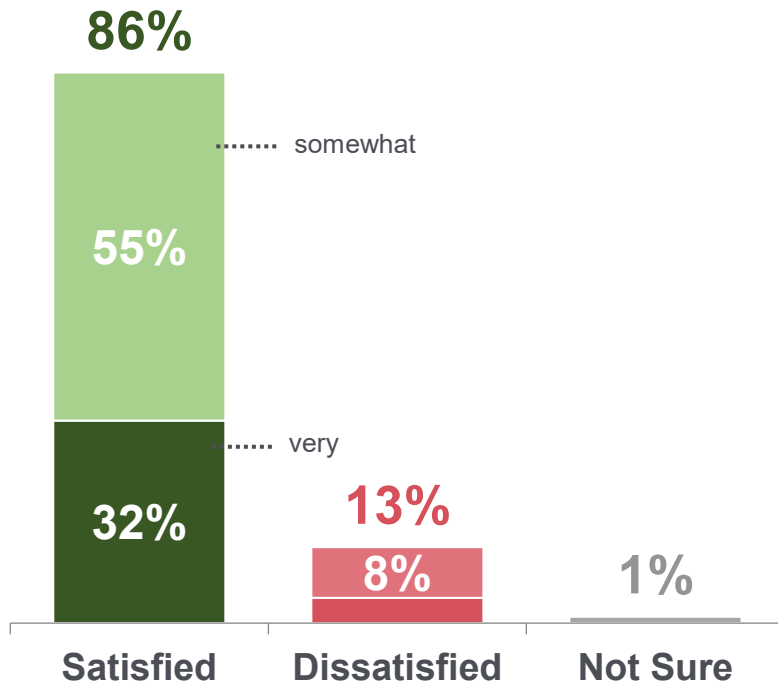


Why Do Caretakers' Students Remain Enrolled in SPS?

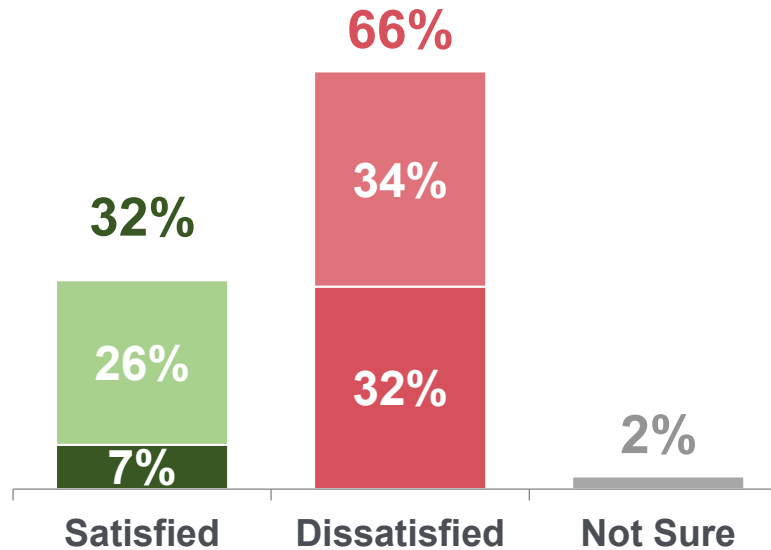
Caretakers of current students have a positive view, or overwhelming satisfaction, of Seattle Public Schools.

Satisfaction with the quality of SPS's education

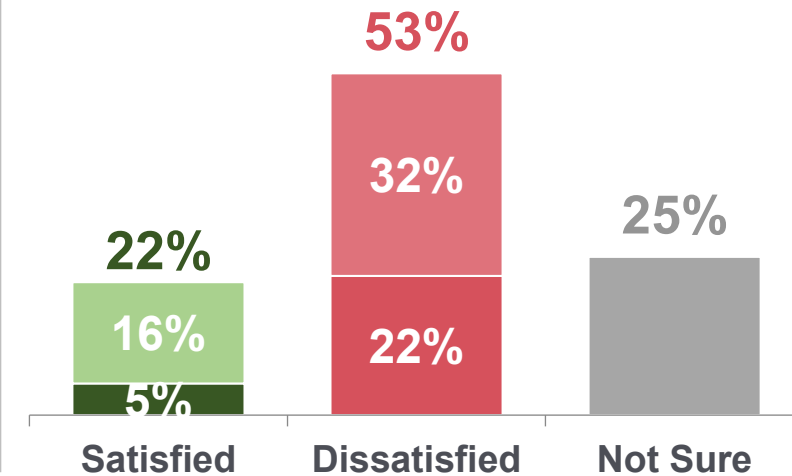
Among current students*



Among former students**



Among never students***



*Would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education your student(s) receives at Seattle Public Schools? Is that very <satisfied/dissatisfied> or only somewhat?

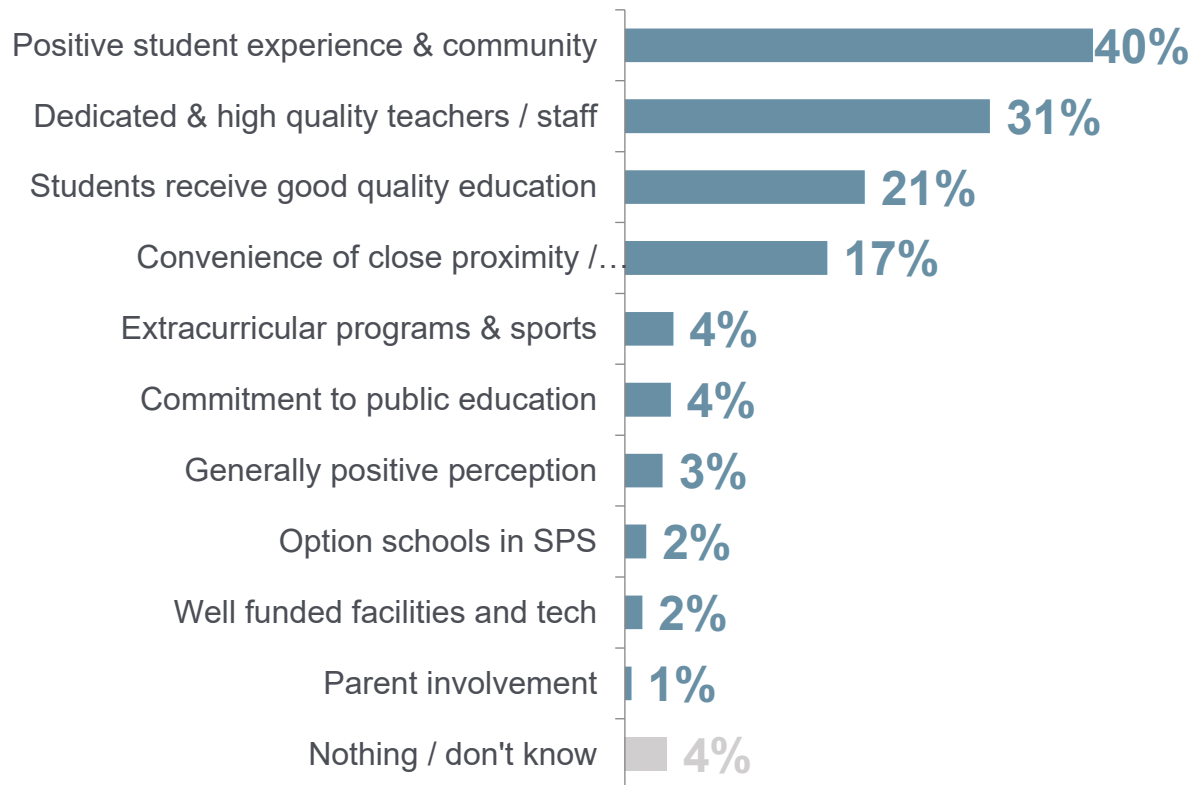
**Would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education your student(s) received at Seattle Public Schools? Is that very <satisfied/dissatisfied> or only somewhat?

***For each of the following, please indicate if you believe the school district is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job on that item....The overall performance of your neighborhood schools

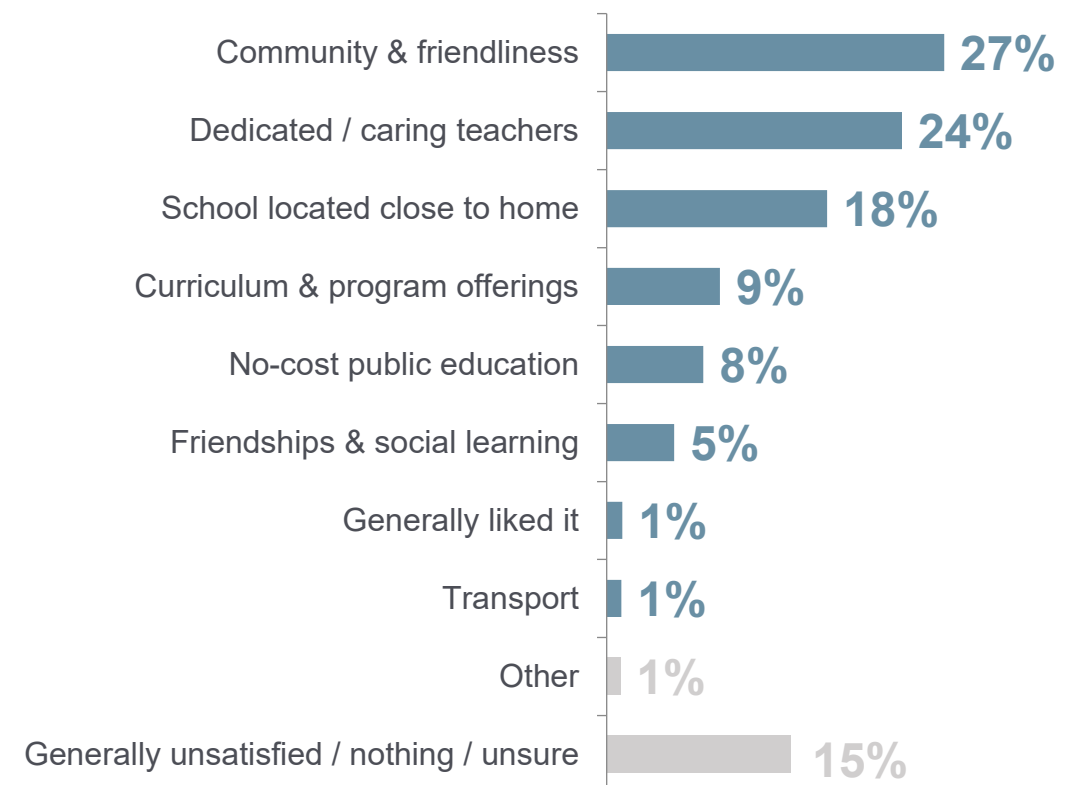
Both caretakers of current and former students, say they like Seattle Public Schools' community, friendliness, caring and dedicated teachers, and convenience and close proximity to their homes – “a sense of belonging”.

What do people like about SPS?

(among current students)*



(among former students)**



*"What do you LIKE the most about your student(s) attending Seattle Public Schools?"

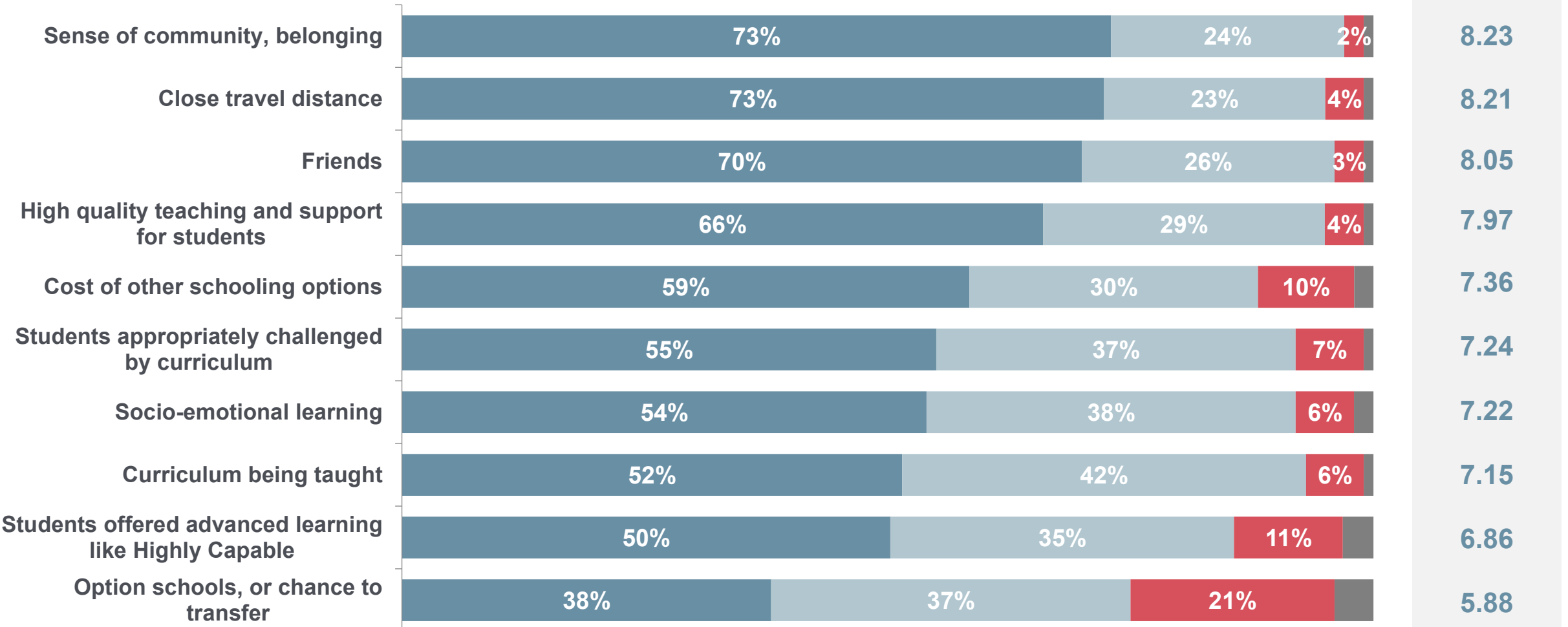
**"What did you LIKE the most about Seattle Public Schools when your student(s) attended?"

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

Caretakers of current students say they are most motivated to stay enrolled in SPS due to the sense of community and belonging, close travel distance, high quality teachers, and friends.

Reasons for remaining in SPS*

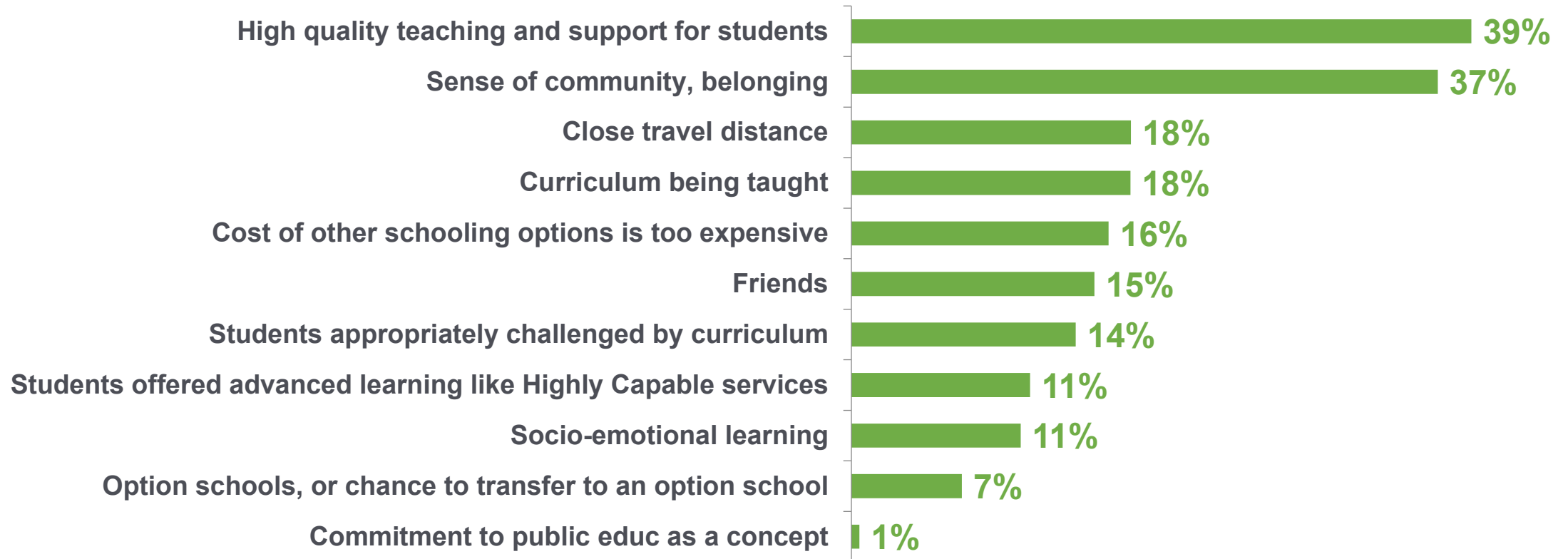
Highly motivating (8-10) | somewhat motivating (3-7) | not motivating (0-2) | no opinion



The top reasons mentioned by caretakers to remain enrolled in SPS were related to the quality teaching, a sense of belonging, and the close proximity to SPS schools.

Top Reasons to Remain Enrolled

(among current students)*



*"Which of those reasons you read are the MOST important to you and your family, if you had to pick two?"

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

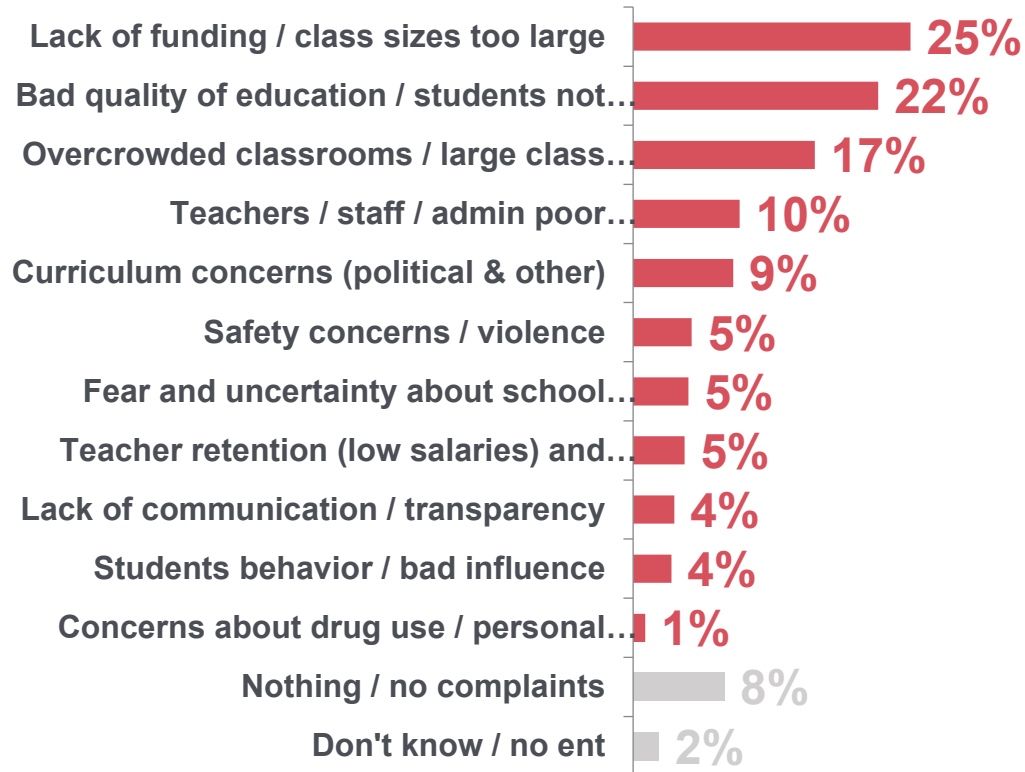


Why Do Caretakers Disenroll Students from SPS?

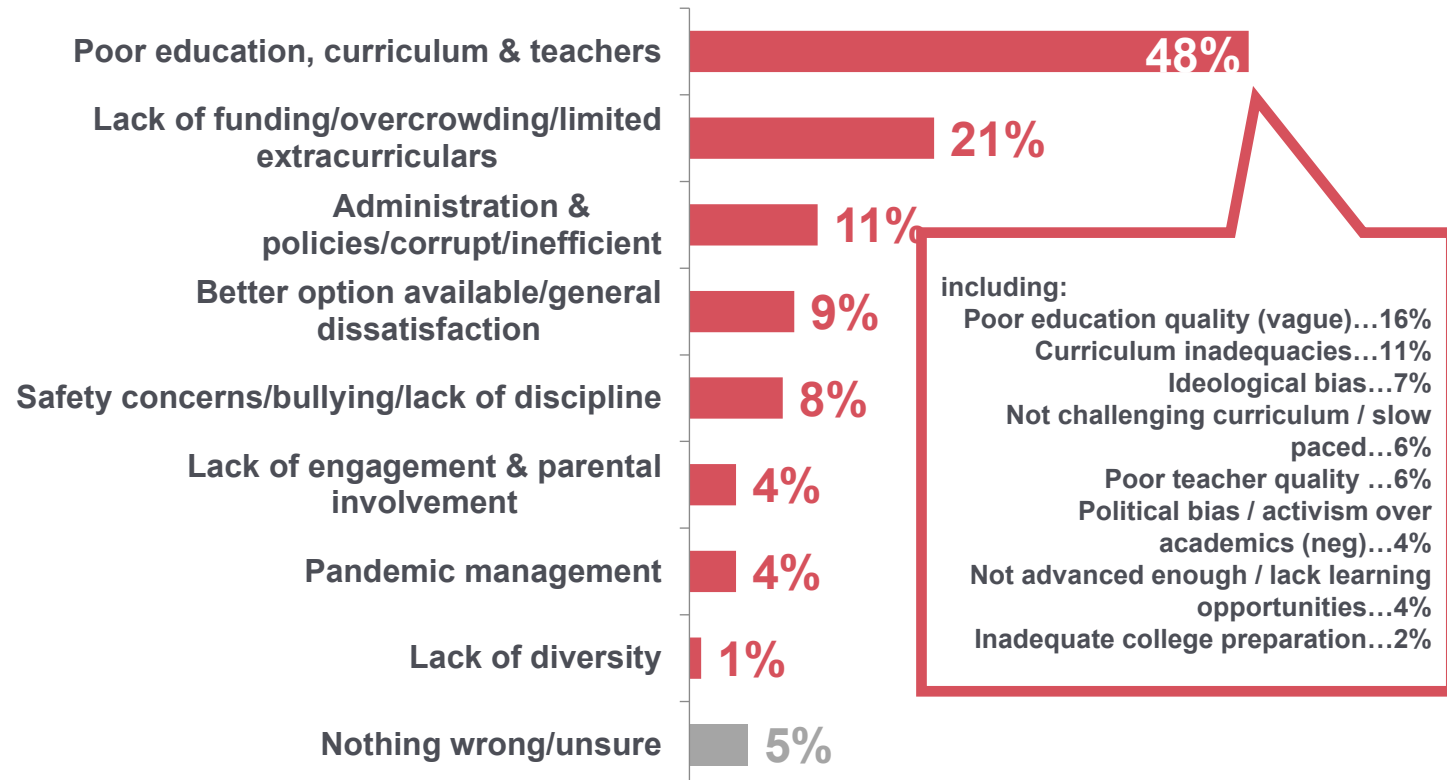
Both caretakers of current and former students, people say they disliked Seattle Public Schools' overcrowded classrooms, lack of challenge and extracurriculars for their students, lack of funding, and curriculum.

What do people dislike about SPS?

(among current students)*



(among former students)**



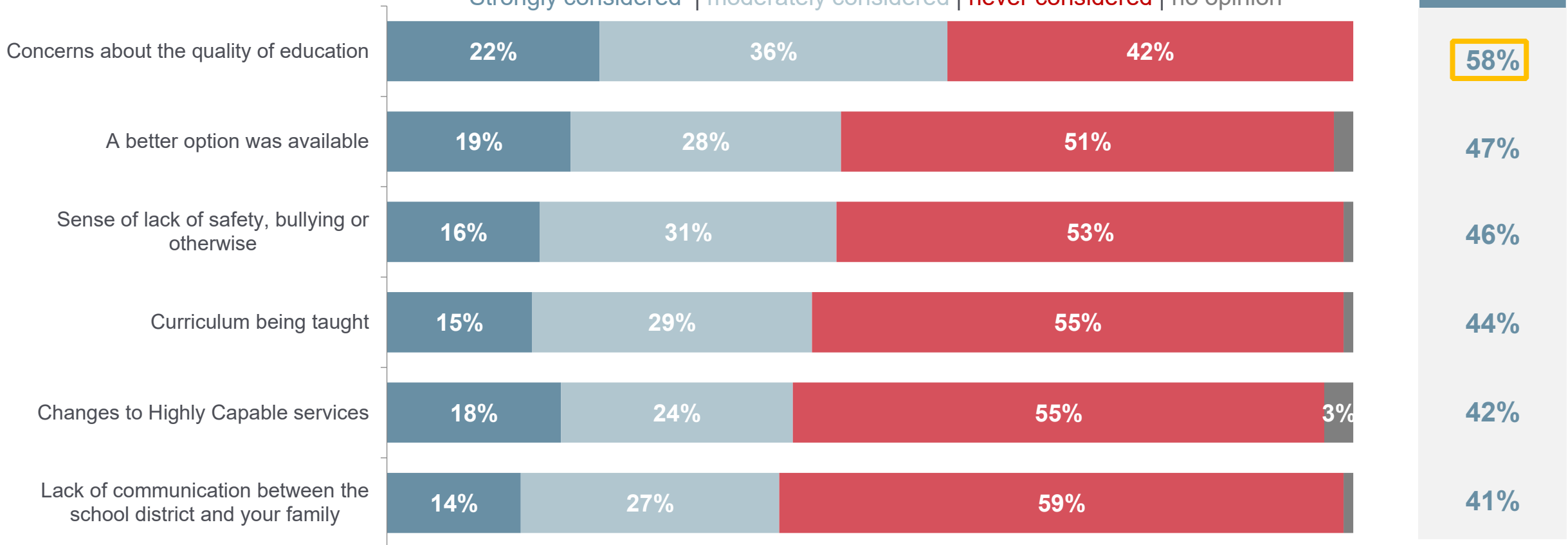
*"What do you DISLIKE the most about your student(s) attending Seattle Public Schools?"
 **"What did you DISLIKE the most about Seattle Public Schools when your student(s) attended?"
 ***Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

A majority of caretakers of current students have considered disenrolling their students over concerns about the quality of education.

Top reasons considered to disenroll children from SPS*

Among current students

Strongly considered | moderately considered | never considered | no opinion

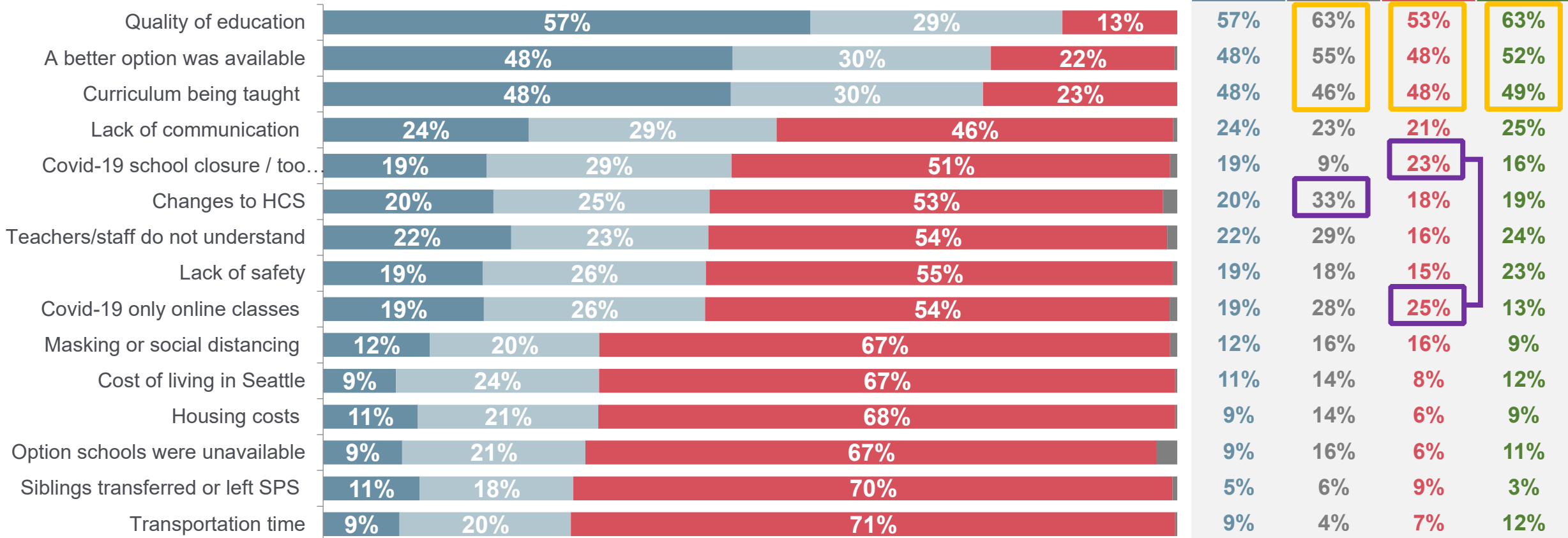


*"Next I'm going to read you some reasons why some families choose to leave the Seattle Public Schools system. For each reason I read, please tell me whether you have or have not considered that as a reason to disenroll your student from the Seattle Public School system. Have you ever strongly considered disenrolling because of that reason, moderately considered disenrolling, or never considered disenrolling your student because of that reason?"

Among caretakers of former SPS students, top three reason motivating them to disenroll from SPS are “quality of education”, perception of a “better option”, and “curriculum”.

What made you leave (among former students)*

Motivated a GREAT deal | motivated somewhat | did NOT motivate | no opinion

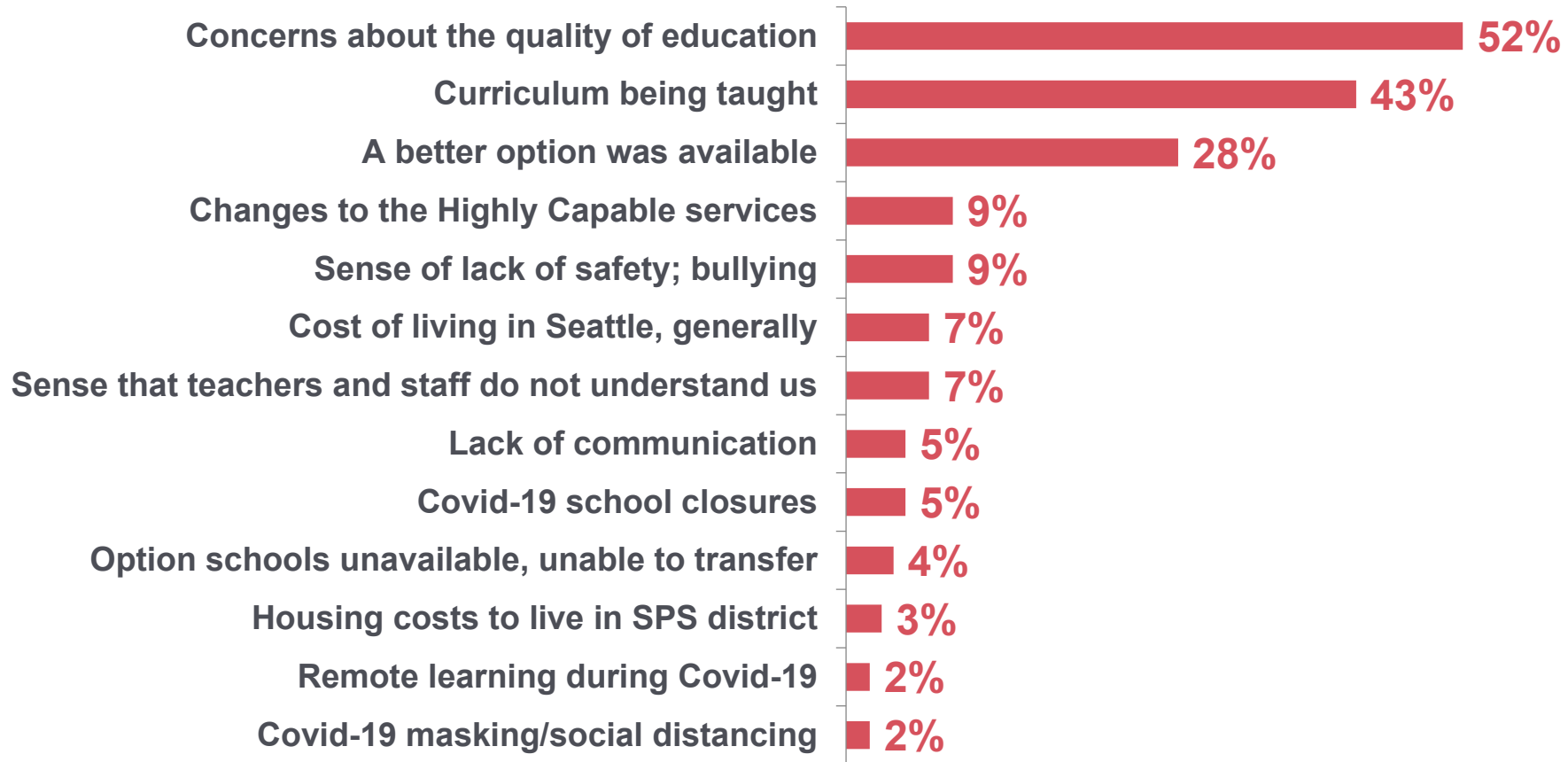


*Next I’m going to read you some reasons why some families choose to leave the Seattle Public Schools system. For each reason I read, please tell me whether you have or have not considered that as a reason to disenroll your student from the Seattle Public School system. Have you ever strongly considered disenrolling because of that reason, moderately considered disenrolling, or never considered disenrolling your student because of that reason? ”

Caretakers who disenrolled their students from SPS overwhelmingly cited concerns about the quality of education and the curriculum as top reasons—and the availability of a better option.

Top motivating reasons to leave SPS

among former students*



*Which of those reasons were the MOST motivating to you and your family when deciding to leave the school system, if you had to pick two?

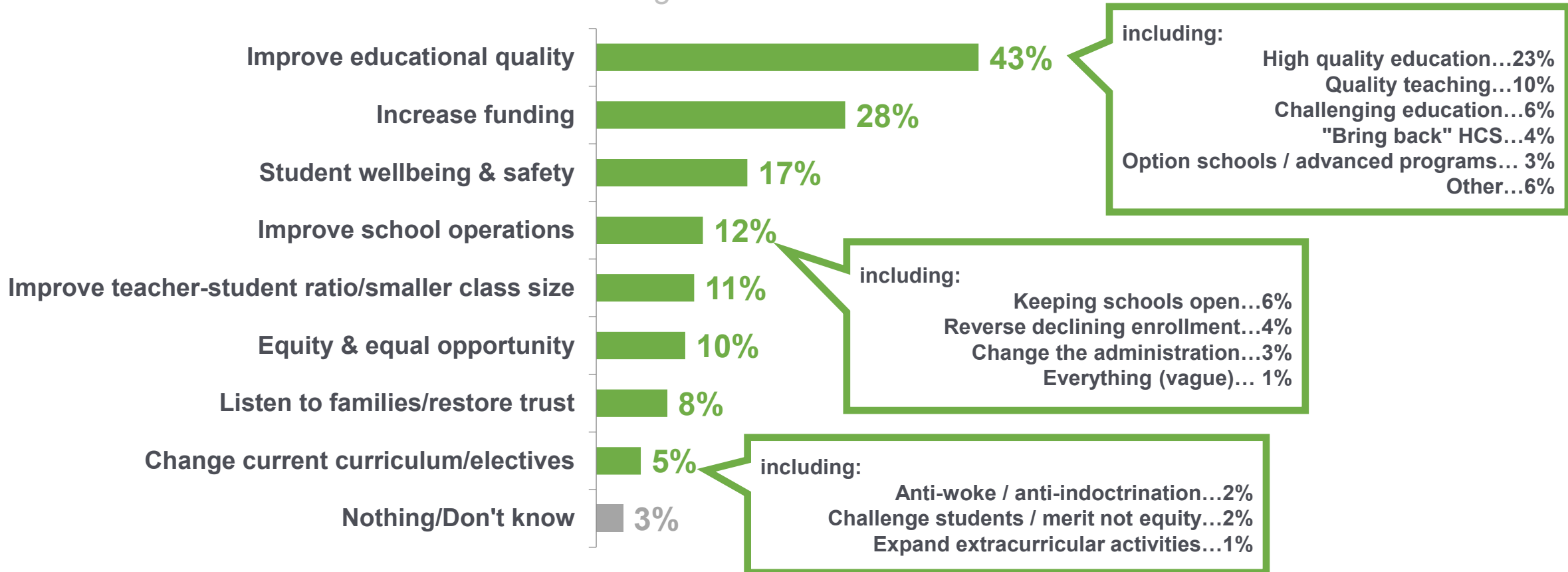
*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

*Only responses over 1% shown; 3% refused

In open-ended responses, caretakers of current students want to see SPS prioritize improvements to educational quality and increase funding while reducing class size and improving school operations.

Most important priority for SPS in the near future

among current students*



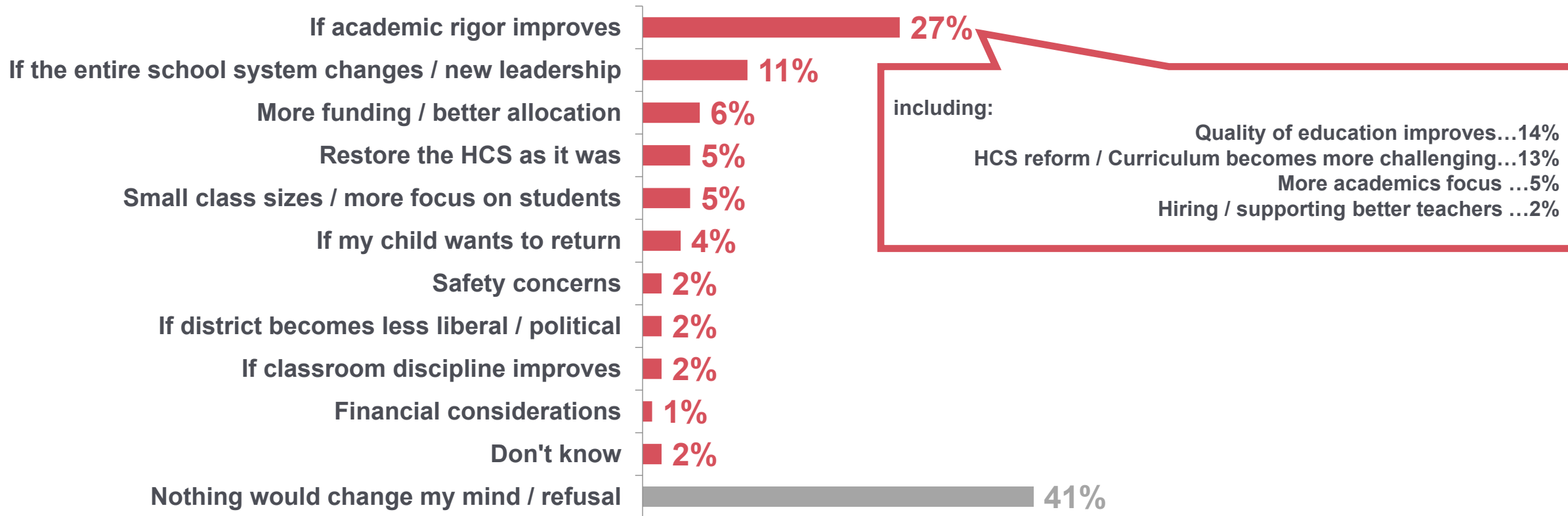
*"What should be the most important priority for Seattle Public Schools in the near future?"

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

Two out of five adults of former students said they would not change their mind about enrolling in SPS. Those who were more open to re-enrolling cited improvements to academic rigor more than any other factors.

What would make you consider re-enrolling in SPS?*

among former students



Those adults who said a top reason for leaving SPS was related to Covid-19 were more likely to say they would never consider re-enrolling. Those who said a top reason was economic or because of changes to Highly Capable services were less likely to say they would not re-enroll.

Who is more likely, less likely to re-enroll?

	"I left SPS because..."**	Quality of education (52%)	Curriculum (43%)	Better option available (28%)	Economic reasons*** (9%)	Changes to Highly Capable (9%)	Safety (9%)	Covid-19 policy reasons*** (8%)	ALL FORMER SPS
<u>I would consider re-enrolling if...*</u>	Academic rigor improves	28%	35%	23%	28%	46%	16%	16%	27%
	More funding	5%	5%	11%	10%	3%	6%	3%	6%
	Highly Capably restored	6%	3%	7%	3%	26%	2%	3%	5%
	Entire system/ leadership change	11%	12%	13%	3%	14%	8%	11%	11%
	I'll <u>never</u> re-enroll, nothing will change my mind	44%	44%	37%	30%	24%	37%	65%	41%

*What would make you consider re-enrolling your student(s) in the Seattle Public Schools system? (open-ended, verbatim)

**Which of those reasons were the MOST motivating to you and your family when deciding to leave the school system, if you had to pick two?

***Cost of housing, cost of living in Seattle, and transportation time, combined; Covid-related school closures, online-only classes (remote learning), and Covid-masking or social distancing rules, combined

Those adults who reported a household income over \$250,000 were twice as likely to say they would never consider re-enrolling. Those who said they struggle to get by, or get by each month but struggle to save, were less likely to say they would never re-enroll.

Who is more likely, less likely to re-enroll?

		Income <\$100k	\$100k - \$250k	>\$250k	Live comfortably	Just get by, or struggle financially	ALL FORMER SPS
<u>I would consider re-enrolling if...*</u>	Academic rigor improves	26%	36%	18%	23%	38%	27%
	More funding	9%	7%	3%	6%	8%	6%
	Highly Capably restored	–	6%	7%	7%	2%	5%
	Entire system/ leadership change	13%	12%	8%	12%	9%	11%
	I'll <u>never</u> re-enroll, nothing will change my mind	30%	31%	62%	45%	29%	41%



AREAS FOR EXPLORATION

- ❑ Focus on engagement with early learners, meaning caretakers of pre-K students as well as Pre-K and childcare partners, to increase the percentage of children who enroll in Seattle Public Schools for kindergarten and beyond.
- ❑ Mindful of the difference between curriculum implementation and public perception of curriculum – the necessity for communication from SPS to provide orientation and educations for caretakers.
 - ❑ Frequent and consistent communication and education about curriculum and potential changes to program structures and offerings, highlighting changes and future vision.
- ❑ Finding “unaccounted for” students and reengaging them (Dee, 2023).
- ❑ Creating a task force which includes students, families, and community members for specific groups of students of color and why they leave SPS at higher rates
- ❑ Continuing to partner with city agencies to ensure affordable housing is available for families.



SPS Services and Option Schools

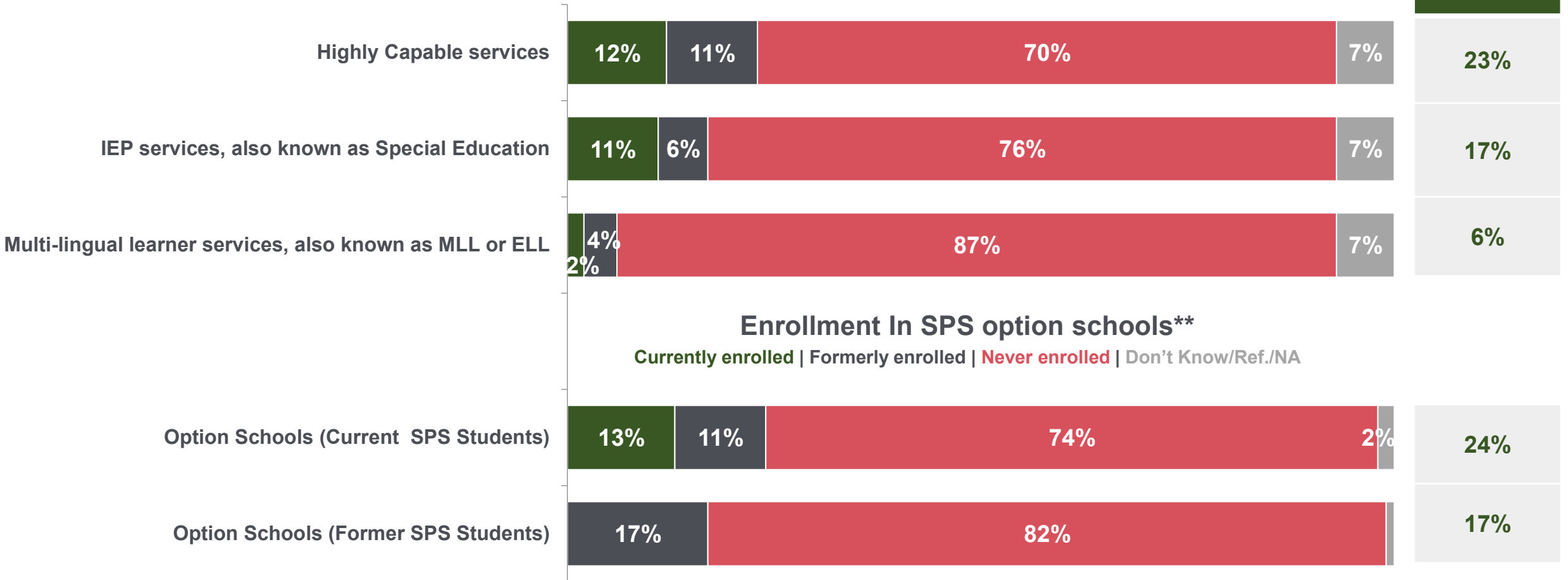
Self-reported data for enrollment for services combined among caretakers of current students and caretakers of former students.

Enrollment In SPS services*

among current and former students

Currently enrolled | Formerly enrolled | Never enrolled | Don't Know/Ref./NA

Total Enrolled



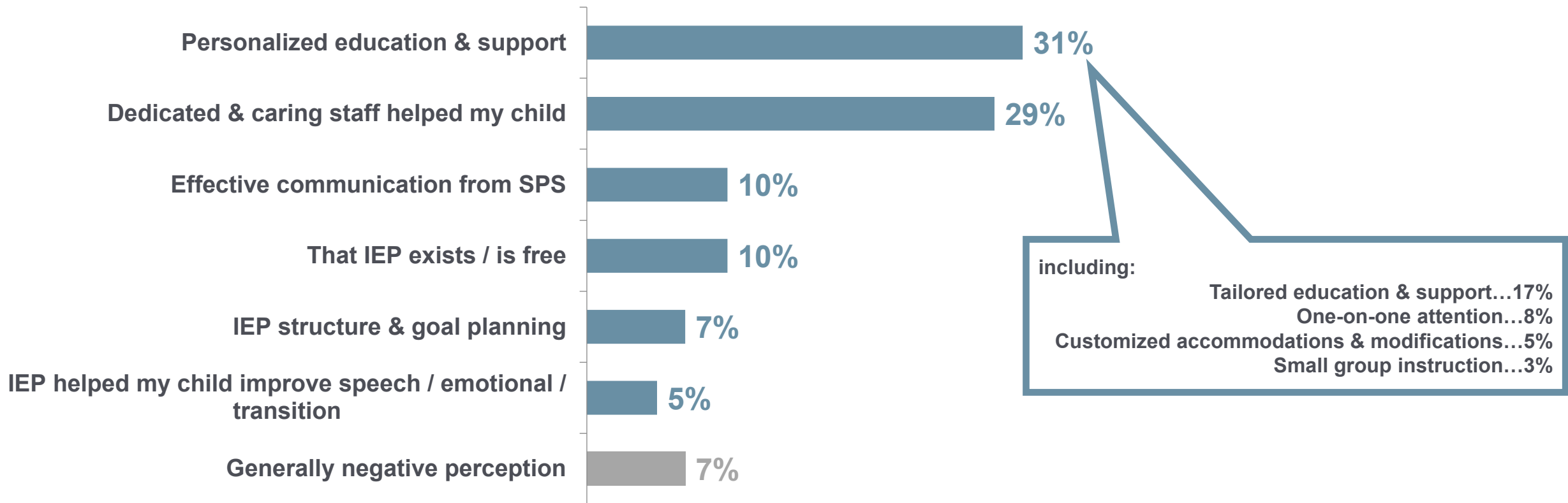
*Now I'd like to ask you about a few services offered by Seattle Public Schools. For each service offered, please tell me whether any of your students are currently enrolled in the service, were formerly enrolled, or were never enrolled in the service.

**Does your student(s) currently attend any of the following OPTION schools, or have they in the past? / Did your student(s) attend any of the following OPTION schools in the past?

Individual focus from dedicated teachers is most prevalent positive perspective on IEP, resembles how adults of never enrolled students describe benefits of private school

What do you LIKE most about IEP services?*

Current students and former students



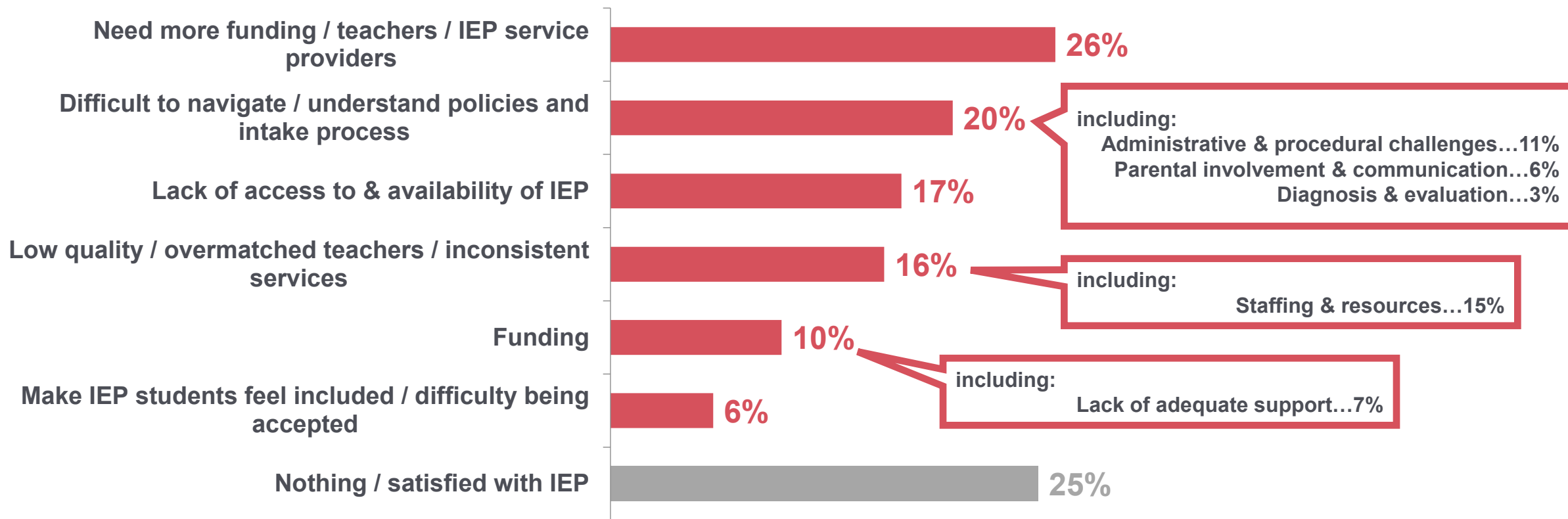
*What do you LIKE the most about the IEP services, also known as Special Education?

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

IEP program funding and intake or qualification process are the biggest pain points.

What do you DISLIKE most about IEP services?*

Current students and former students



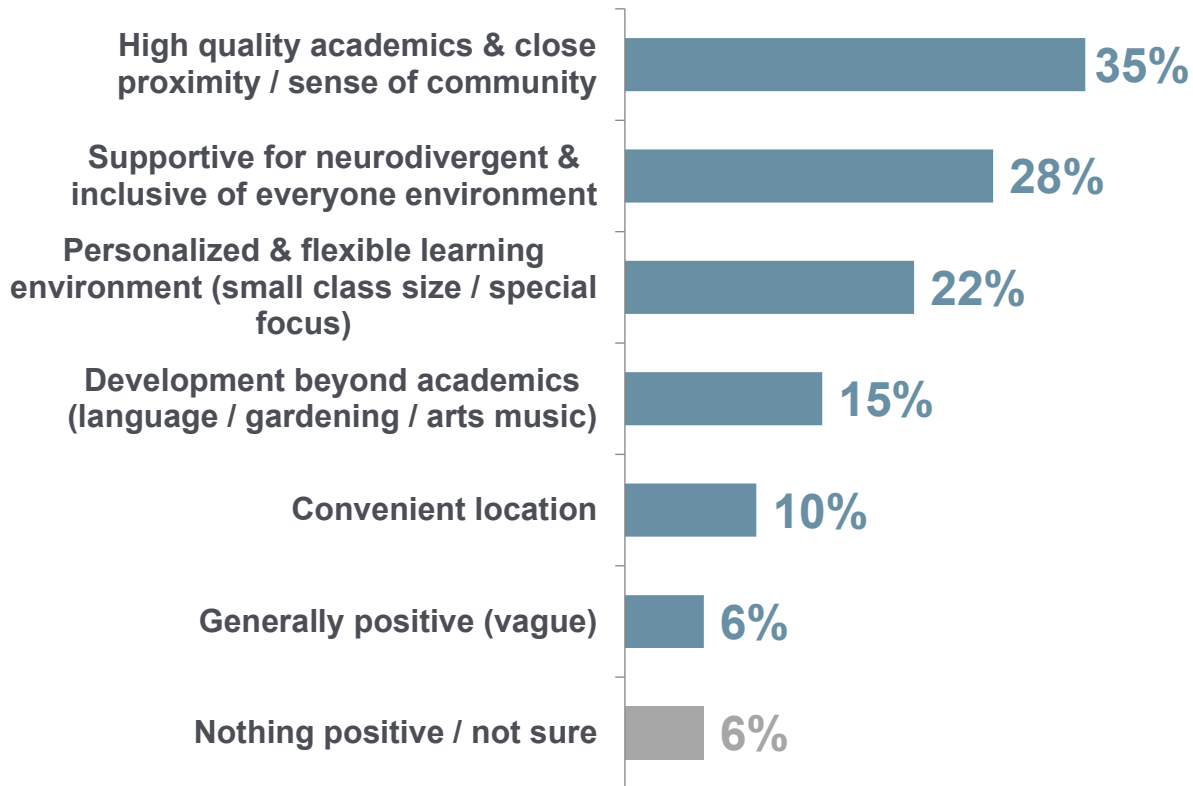
*What do you DISLIKE the most that could be improved within the IEP services, also known as Special Education?

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

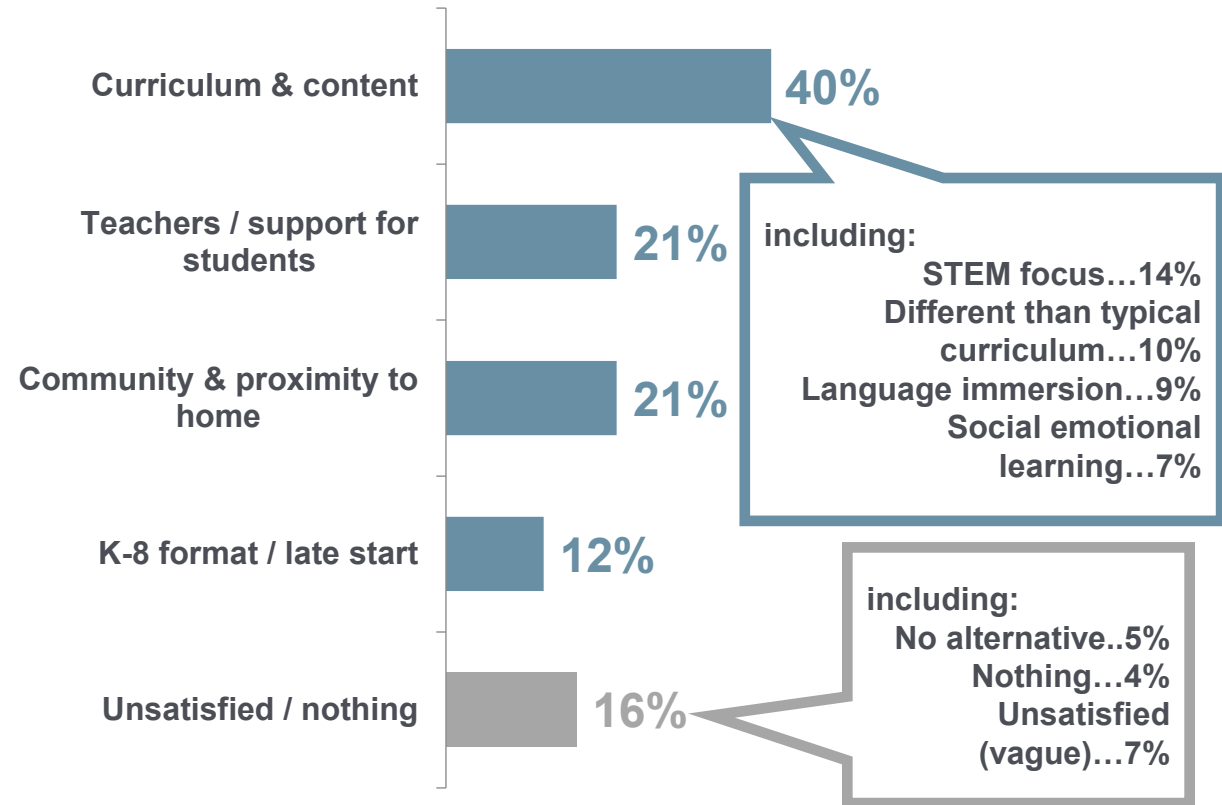
High quality, challenging academics combined with individualized support are top two positive marks for options schools.

What do people LIKE about option schools?

(among **current** students, currently or formerly enrolled in an option school)*



(among **former** students, formerly enrolled in an option school)**



*What do you LIKE most about the option school(s) your student(s) is attending or attended in the Seattle Public Schools system?

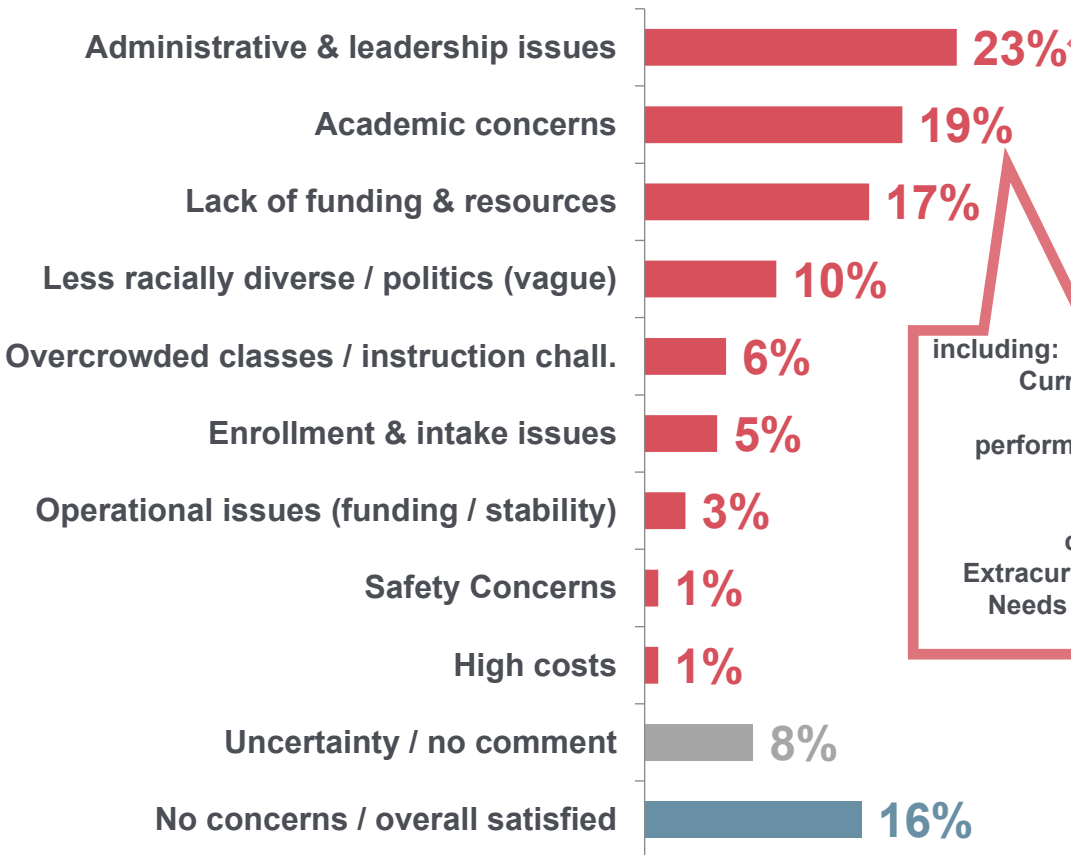
**What do you LIKE most about the option school your student(s) attended in the Seattle Public Schools system?

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

Wide divergence in pain point substance between adults of current and former students.

What do people DISLIKE about option schools?

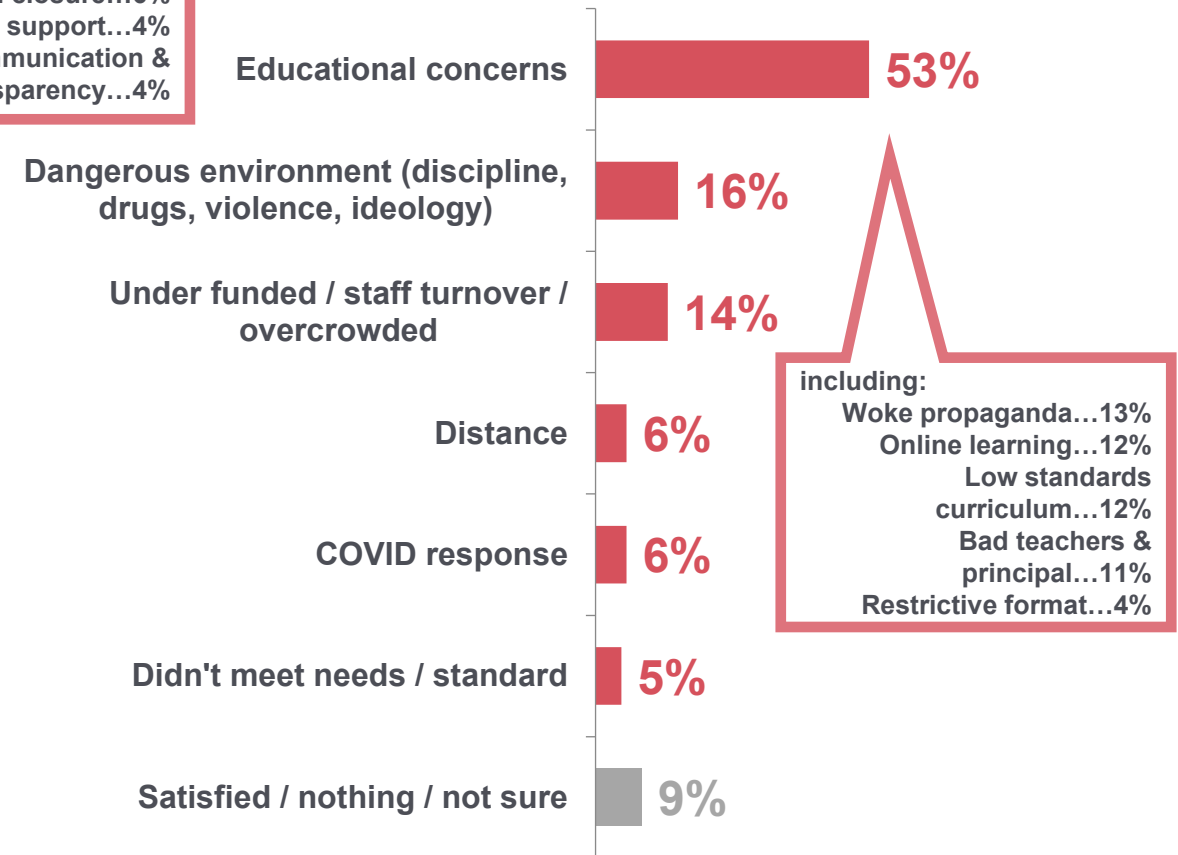
(among **current** students, currently or formerly enrolled in an option school)*



including:
 Administration issues...7%
 Leadership & policy issues...7%
 Threat of school closure...6%
 Lack of District support...4%
 Communication & transparency...4%

including:
 Curriculum issues...8%
 Teacher & admin performance/absence/ lack accountability...5%
 Lack of academic challenge/HCS...3%
 Extracurric. limitations...3%
 Needs better special educ support...2%

(among **former** students, formerly enrolled in an option school)**



including:
 Woke propaganda...13%
 Online learning...12%
 Low standards curriculum...12%
 Bad teachers & principal...11%
 Restrictive format...4%

*What do you DISLIKE most about the option school(s) your student(s) is attending or attended in the Seattle Public Schools system?

**What do you DISLIKE most about the option school your student(s) attended in the Seattle Public Schools system?

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%



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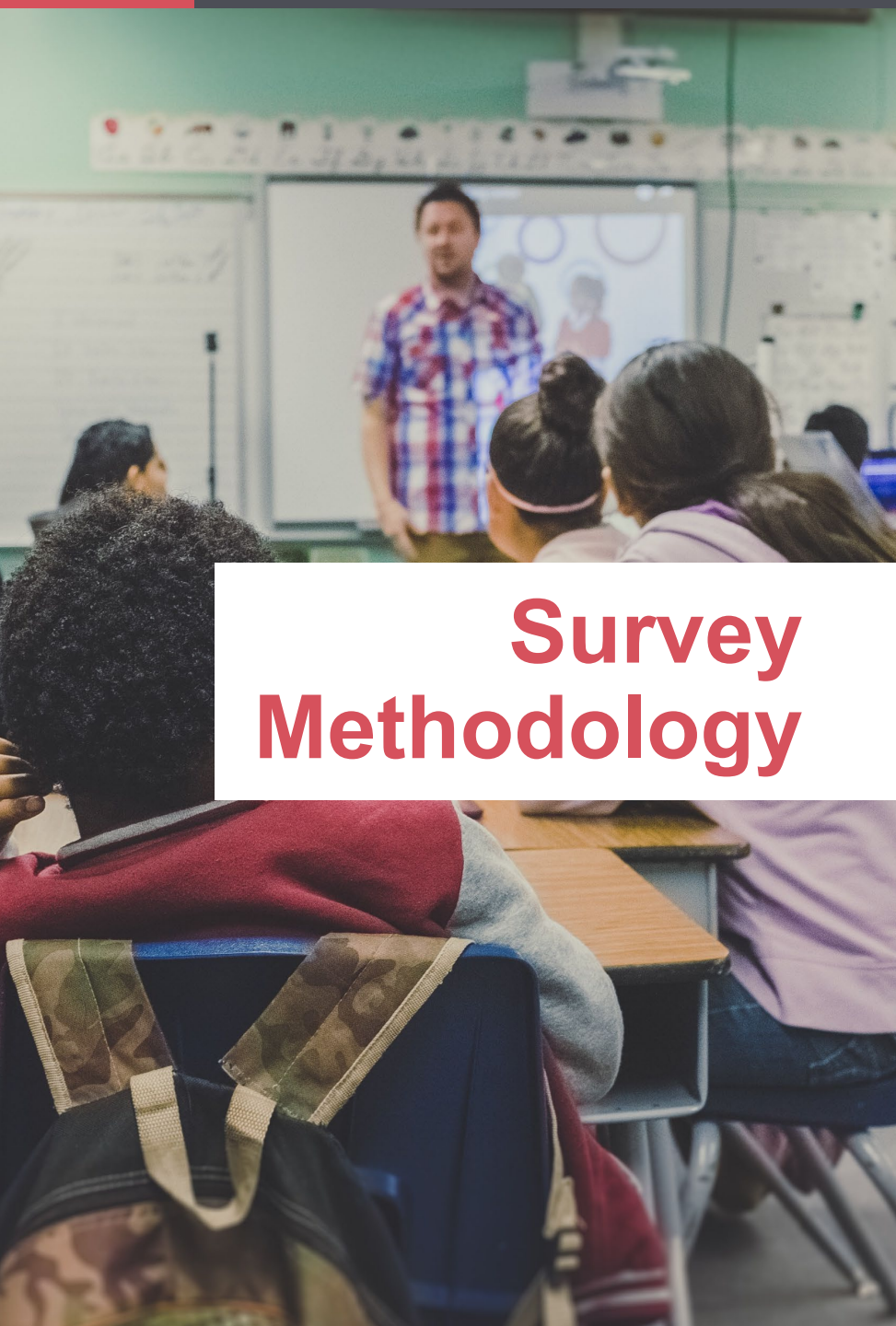
S360 RESEARCH OFFICES

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Appendix: Representative Survey Methodology



Survey Methodology

Strategies 360 conducted a representative survey of **1,420 adults with school aged children in Seattle Public Schools**, including representative sub-samples of **1,015 adults of current students in SPS**, **300 adults of former students in SPS** and a convenience, directional sample of **105 adults of student that have never attended SPS**.

Interviews were conducted between **October 28th and December 4th, 2024**. Interviewers used a multi-modal combination of live calls to landlines, cell phones, and online interviews via text message invitation were used to ensure greater coverage of the population sampled.

The survey was offer across all interview modes in the following languages: **English, Spanish, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Somali,** and **Amharic**.

The margin of error for a survey of **1,420** interviews is **±2.6%** at the 95% confidence level for the adults with school aged children overall sample. The margin of error for a survey of **1,015** interviews is **±3.1 %** at the 95% confidence level for the adults of current students sub-sample. The margin of error for a survey of **300** interviews is **±5.7 %** at the 95% confidence level for the adults of current students sub-sample. The margin of error is higher for subsamples.

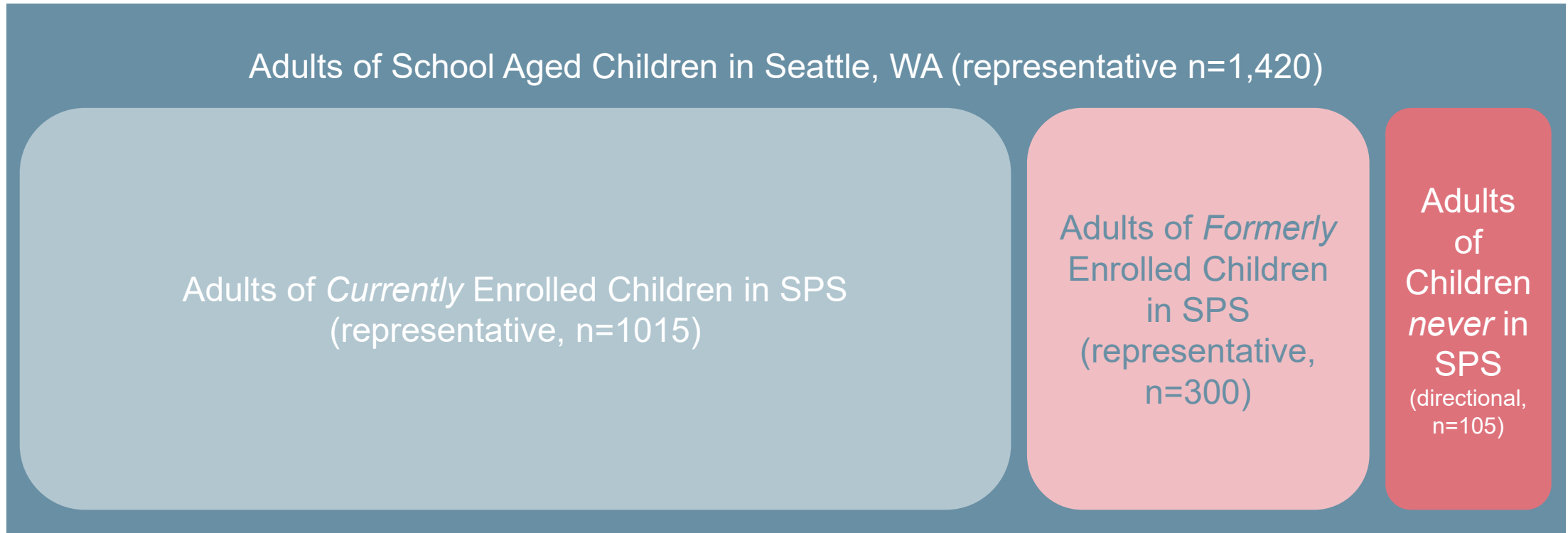
Other sources of error not accounted for by the stated statistical margin of error include, but are not limited to, question wording, question order, coverage bias, and response bias.

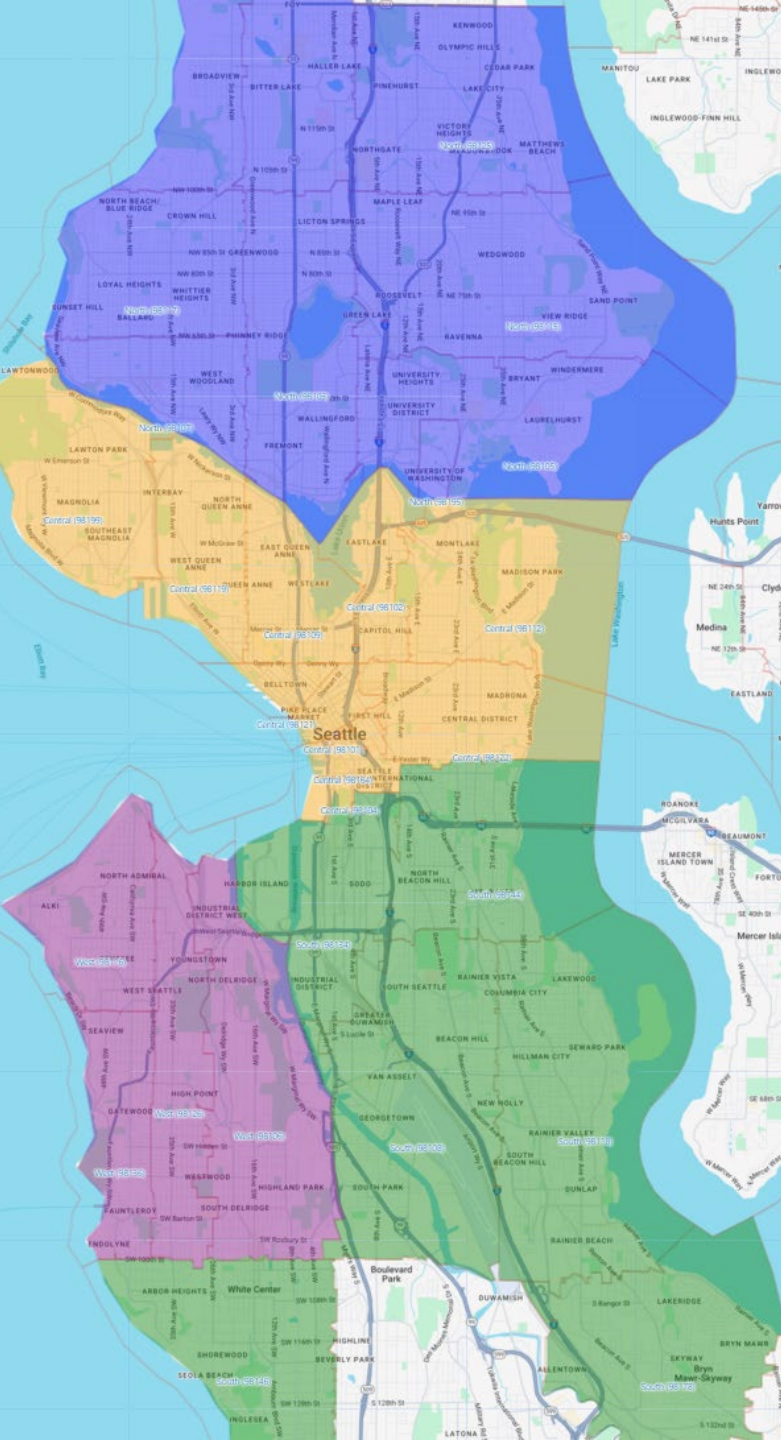
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This overall sample is representative of adults of school-aged children and includes additional representative sub-samples by geography and race/ethnicity of 300 interviews with adults of former SPS students (21%) and 1,015 interviews with adults of current SPS students (71%). **These sub-groups by student enrollment status were weighed to be proportionally representative of how much each group makes up of the adult population.** This proportional distribution was calculated in collaboration with SPS staff and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) graduate researchers.

There is an additional sub-sample of 105 interviews with adults of students who have never attended the SPS system (8%) – this sub-sample by itself is descriptive and non-representative. This study is made up of concentric circles of survey populations. Certain metrics, derived from a combination of SPS household data and proprietary L2 data, were tracked and evaluated during all phases and weighed to be representative after data collection.





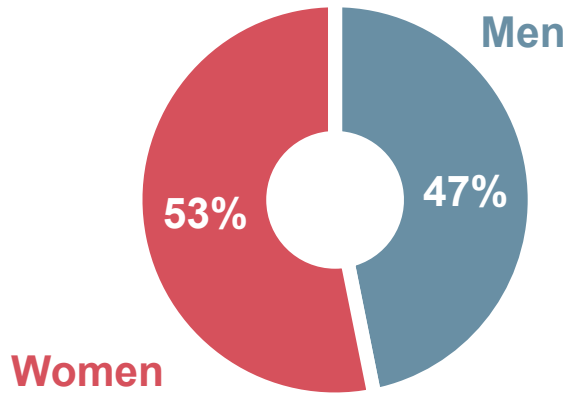
Regions and Maps

Strategies 360 divided the Seattle Public Schools District into four main regions:

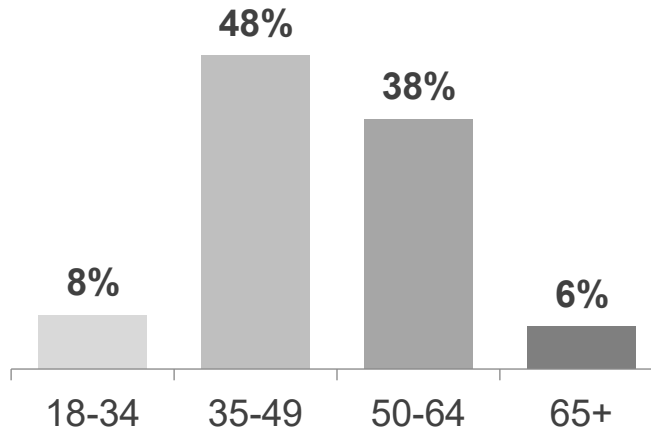
- **North:** 98103, 98105, 98107, 98115, 98117, 98125, 98133, 98177, 98195
- **Central:** 98101, 98102, 98104, 98109, 98112, 98119, 98121, 98122, 98164, 98199
- **West:** 98106, 98116, 98126, 98136
- **South:** 98108, 98118, 98134, 98144, 98146, 98178

Most survey respondents were college educated, and two-thirds resided in either North or South Seattle.

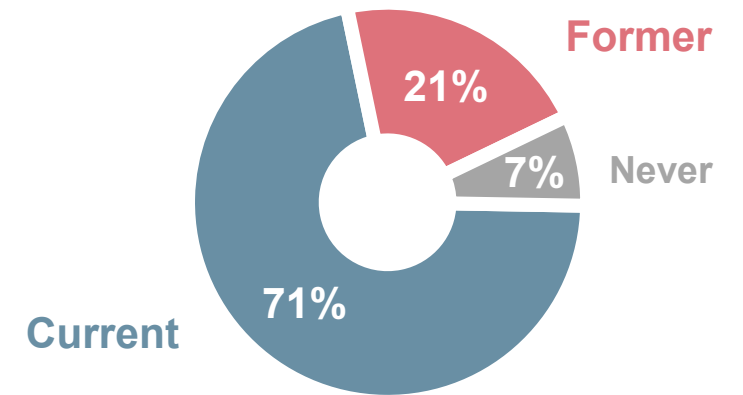
Gender



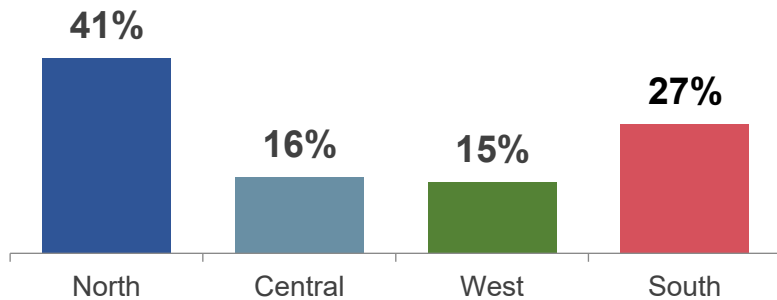
Age



Student Enrollment Status



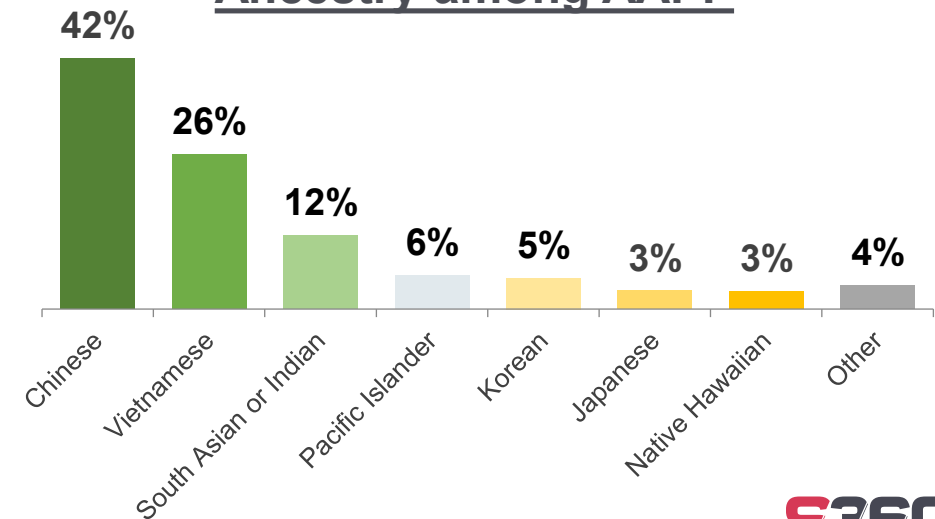
Region



Race

White or Caucasian	46%
Hispanic/Latino	17%
Black or African American	16%
Asian American or Pacific Islander	15%
Mixed race or multi-racial	3%
Other/ Something Else / Refused	3%

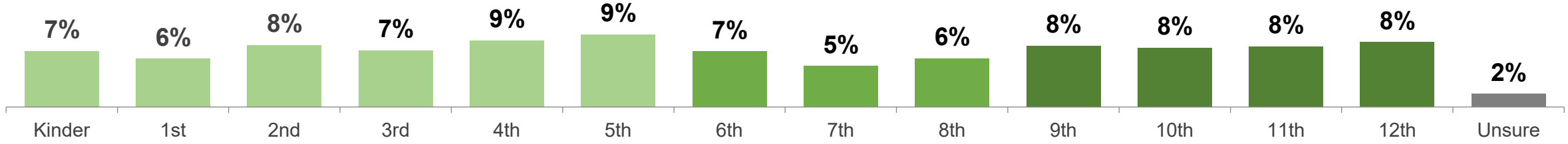
Ancestry among AAPI*



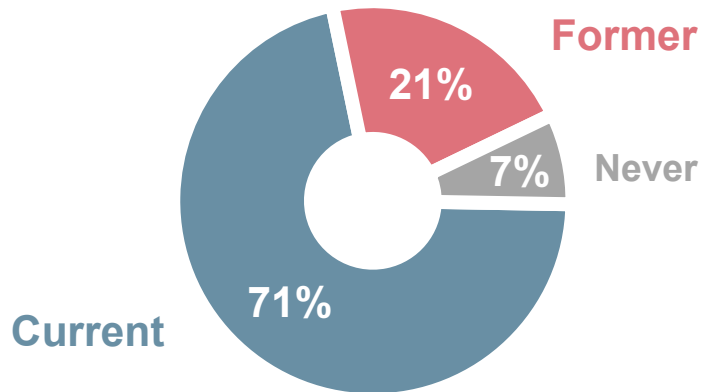
*Asked after selecting AAPI in QRACEID

Most survey participants were current students and most had one or two school-aged children.

Grade(s) of student(s) at SPS
(current students)



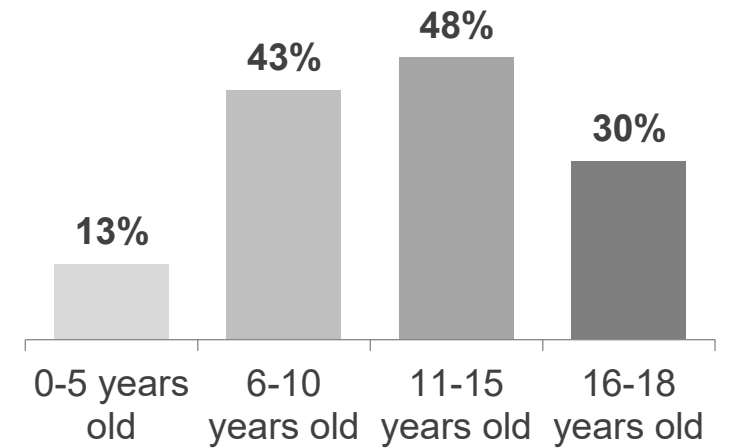
Student Enrollment Status



Number of Children

1 child	46%
2 children	43%
3 children	9%
4 or more children	2%

Age of Children

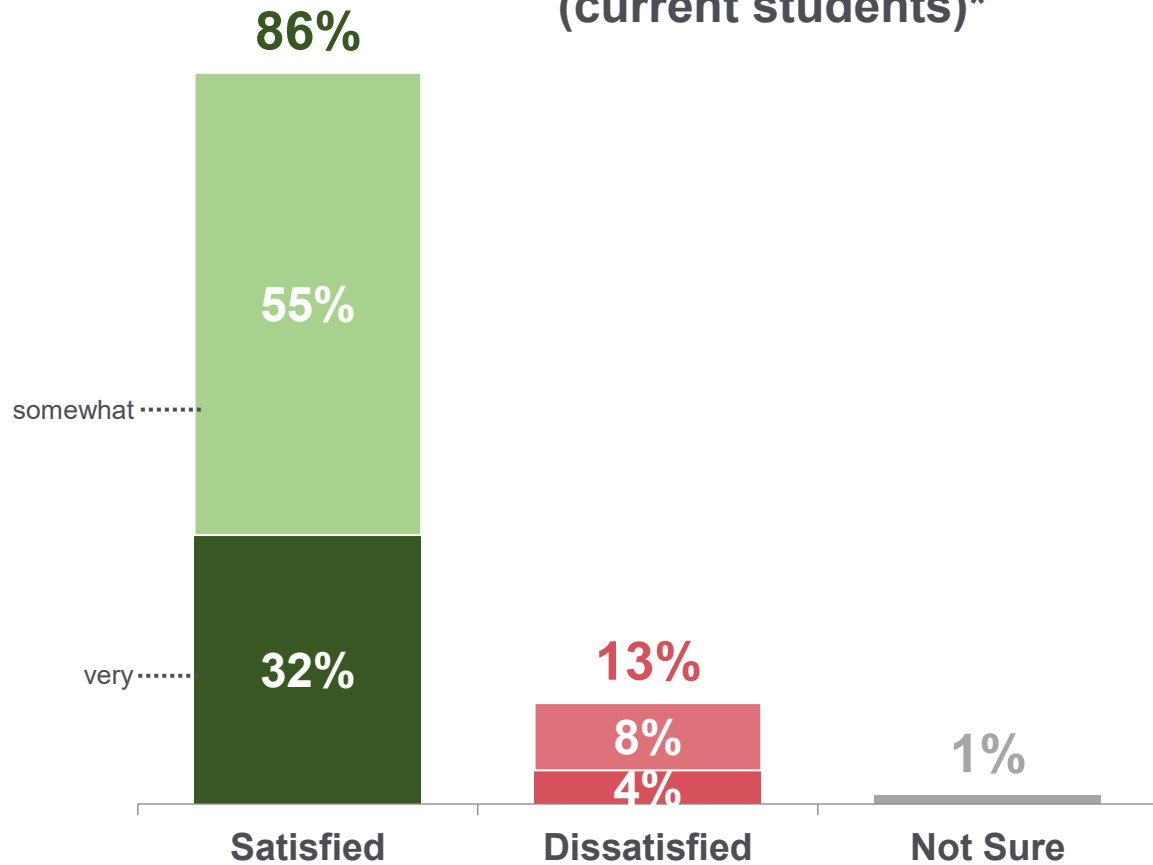


A night-time photograph of the Seattle skyline, featuring the Space Needle and various skyscrapers, with a blue overlay and a grid pattern.

Appendix: Satisfaction and Views of Seattle Public Schools

Overall satisfaction among current SPS student's families is high, but nearly all groups show less intensity in their satisfaction.

Satisfaction with Seattle Public Schools (current students)*

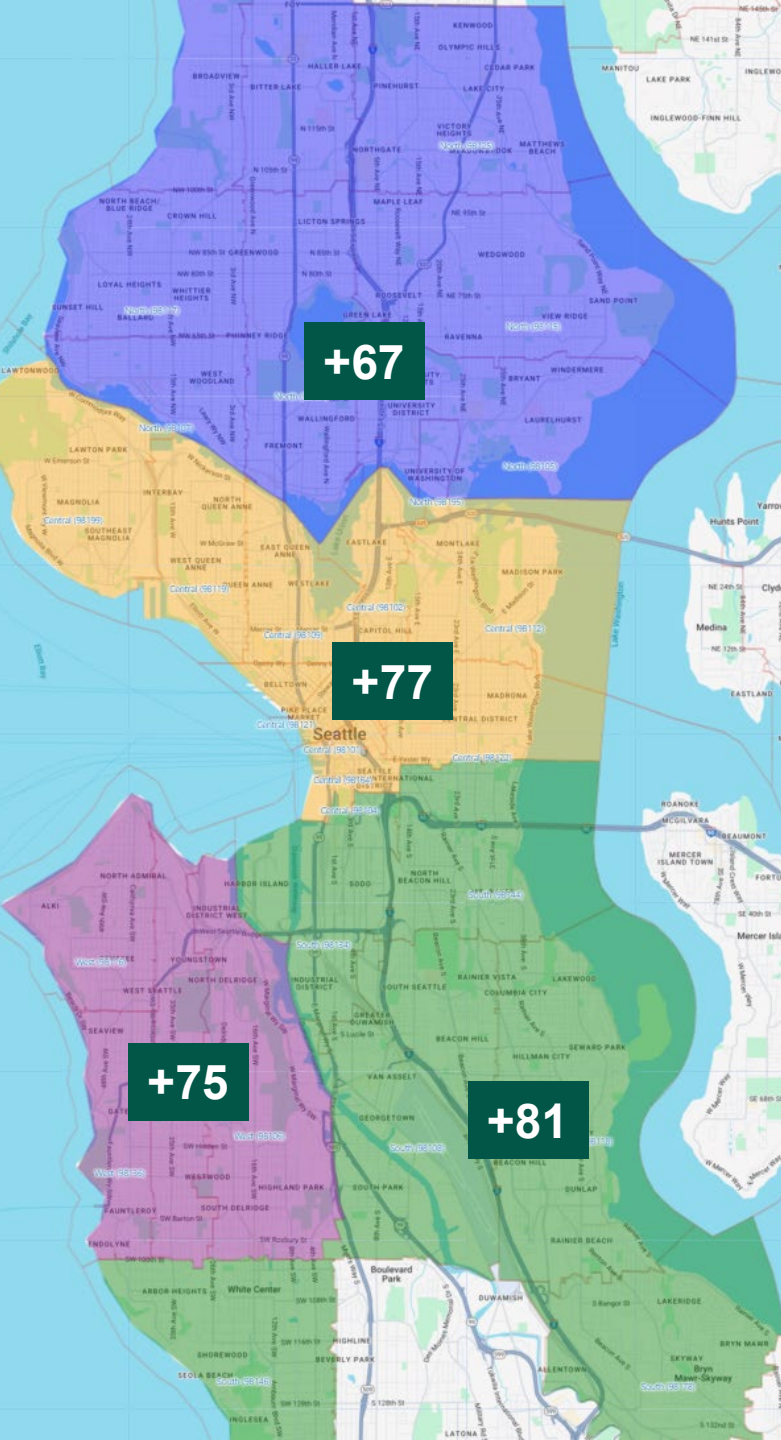


	TOTAL Satisfied	TOTAL Dissatisfied	Very Satisfied	SMWT Satisfied
TOTAL	86%	13%	32%	55%
White	85%	15%	33%	52%
Black/AfAm	88%	9%	28%	59%
Hispanic/Latino	88%	12%	25%	63%
AAPI	88%	9%	34%	54%
<\$100k	85%	12%	20%	66%
\$100-250K	88%	12%	28%	59%
\$250k+	86%	13%	44%	43%
North	83%	16%	32%	51%
Central	87%	11%	33%	55%
West	87%	12%	29%	58%
South	90%	9%	31%	59%

Satisfaction with Seattle Public Schools showed little variation across demographics and subgroups.

	TOTAL Satisfied	TOTAL Dissatisfied	Very Satisfied	SMWT Satisfied
TOTAL	86%	13%	32%	55%
Children aged 0-5	90%	8%	46%	44%
6-10	87%	12%	32%	55%
11-15	85%	14%	27%	58%
16-18	82%	17%	27%	54%
Highly Capable (curr+frmr)	84%	15%	23%	60%
IEP Services (curr+frmr)	83%	17%	29%	54%
MLL Services (curr+frmr)	90%	10%	29%	61%
Has a student in Elem.	87%	11%	29%	58%
Student in Middle	87%	12%	30%	57%
Student in H.S.	84%	16%	29%	55%

	TOTAL Satisfied	TOTAL Dissatisfied	Very Satisfied	SMWT Satisfied
Option School Currently	88%	12%	24%	64%
Option School Formerly	83%	16%	28%	55%
Option School Never	86%	12%	33%	53%
Parent aged 18-34	89%	9%	30%	58%
35-49	86%	12%	34%	53%
50-64	85%	14%	29%	56%
65+	90%	10%	30%	60%



Satisfaction with SPS is at its highest in the south and at its lowest in the north.

Satisfaction with SPS across regions

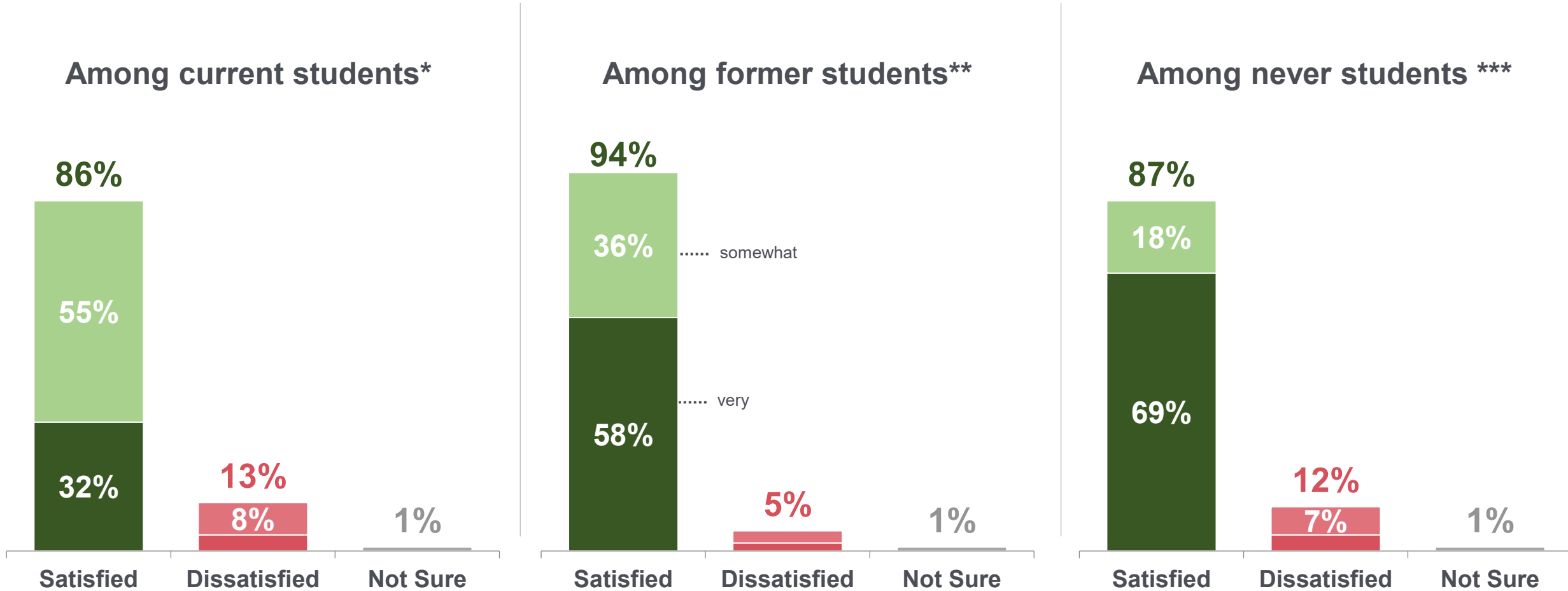
among current students*

	Satisfied-Dissatisfied	Net Difference
TOTAL	86-13	+74
North	83-16	+67
Central	87-11	+77
West	87-12	+75
South	90-9	+81

*Would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education your student receives at Seattle Public Schools?

Adults of SPS students report similar satisfaction levels with their students' current education, compared with former SPS students and those never enrolled in SPS.

Satisfaction with the quality of current education



*Would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education your student(s) receives at Seattle Public Schools? Is that very <satisfied/dissatisfied> or only somewhat?

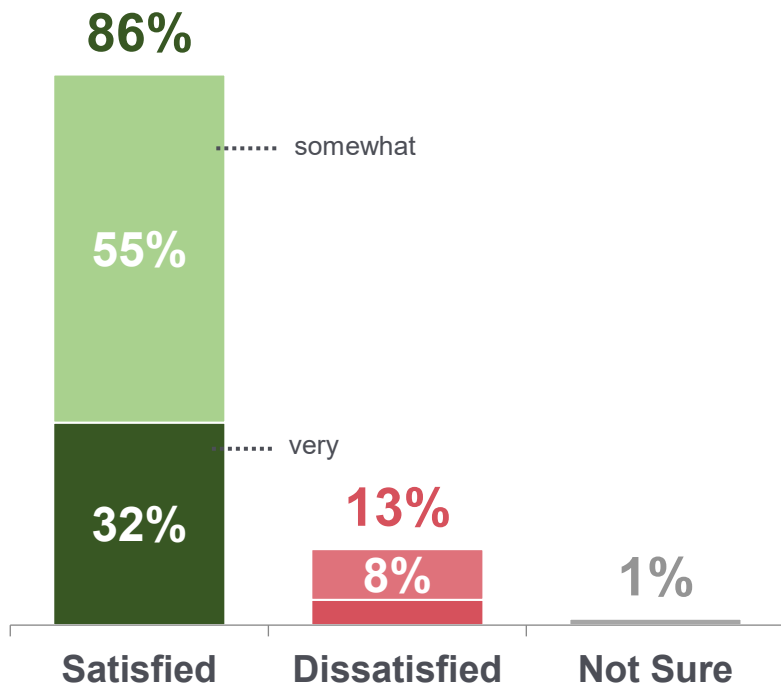
**Would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education your student(s) currently receives? Is that very <satisfied/dissatisfied> or only somewhat?

***Would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education your students have received? Is that very <satisfied/dissatisfied> or only somewhat?

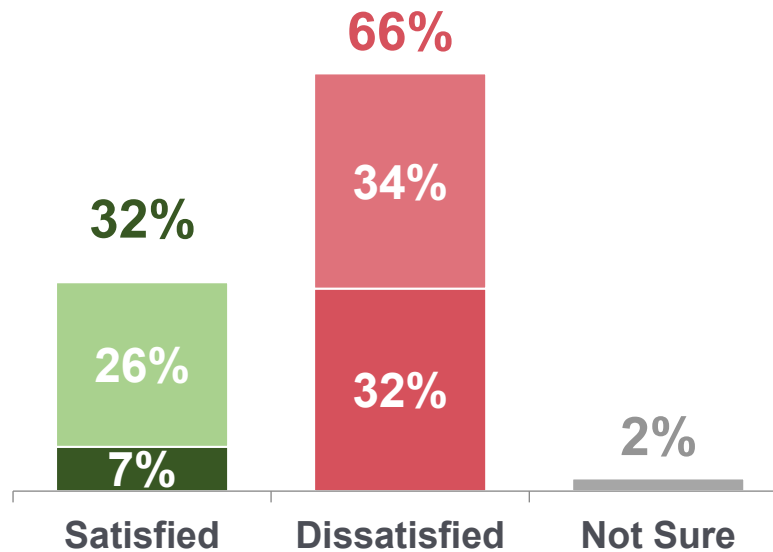
While adults of current students have a positive view of Seattle Public Schools, those who left the school system and those who never enrolled their children have a negative opinion.

Satisfaction with the quality of SPS's education

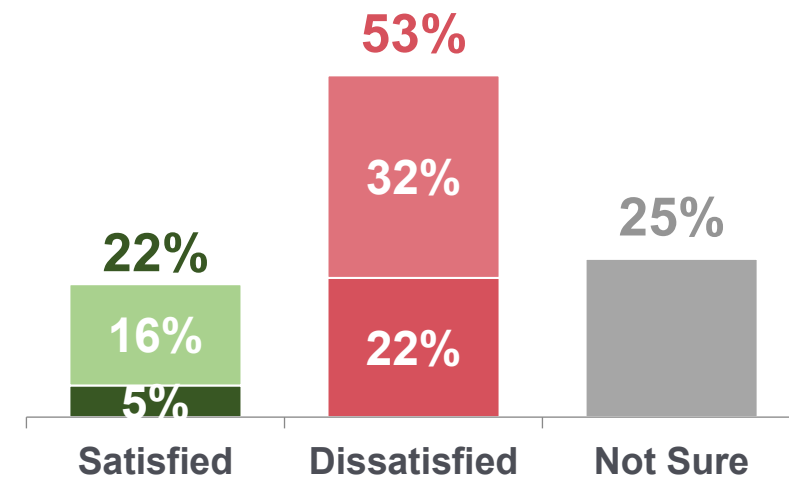
Among current students*



Among former students**



Among never students***



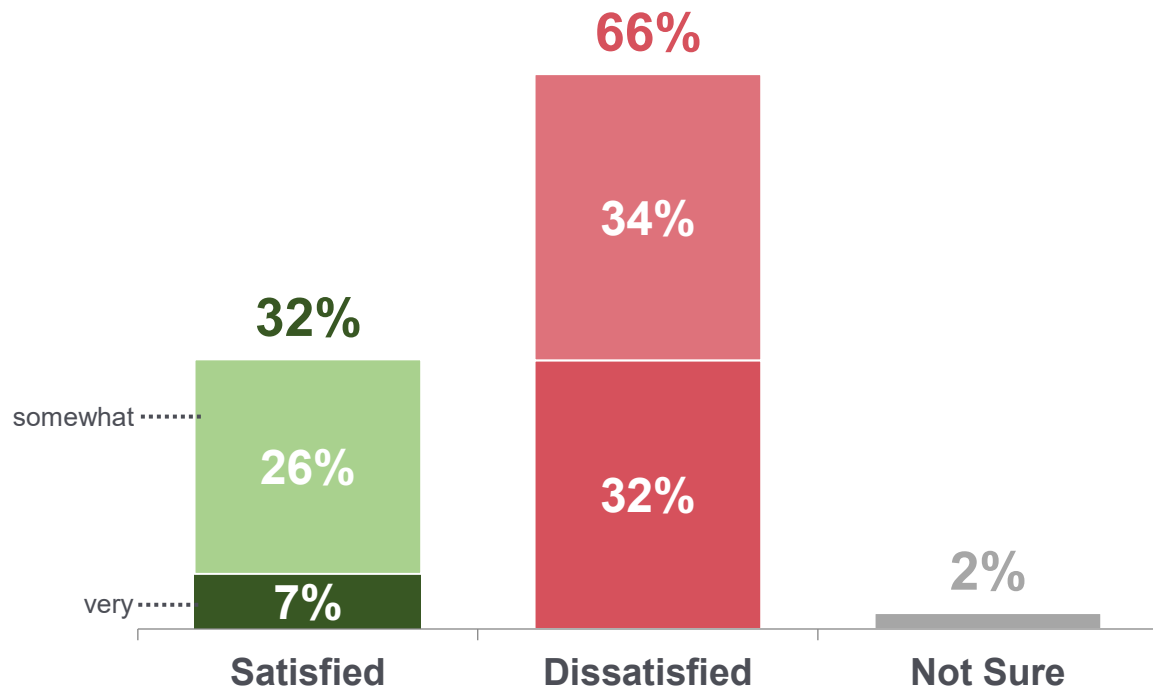
*Would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education your student(s) receives at Seattle Public Schools? Is that very <satisfied/dissatisfied> or only somewhat?

**Would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education your student(s) received at Seattle Public Schools? Is that very <satisfied/dissatisfied> or only somewhat?

***For each of the following, please indicate if you believe the school district is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job on that item....The overall performance of your neighborhood schools

Two-thirds of adults of former students are dissatisfied with the quality education of SPS schools, with even more dissatisfaction among AAPI, middle income, West and South adults.

Satisfaction with the quality of education in Seattle Public Schools*
among former students

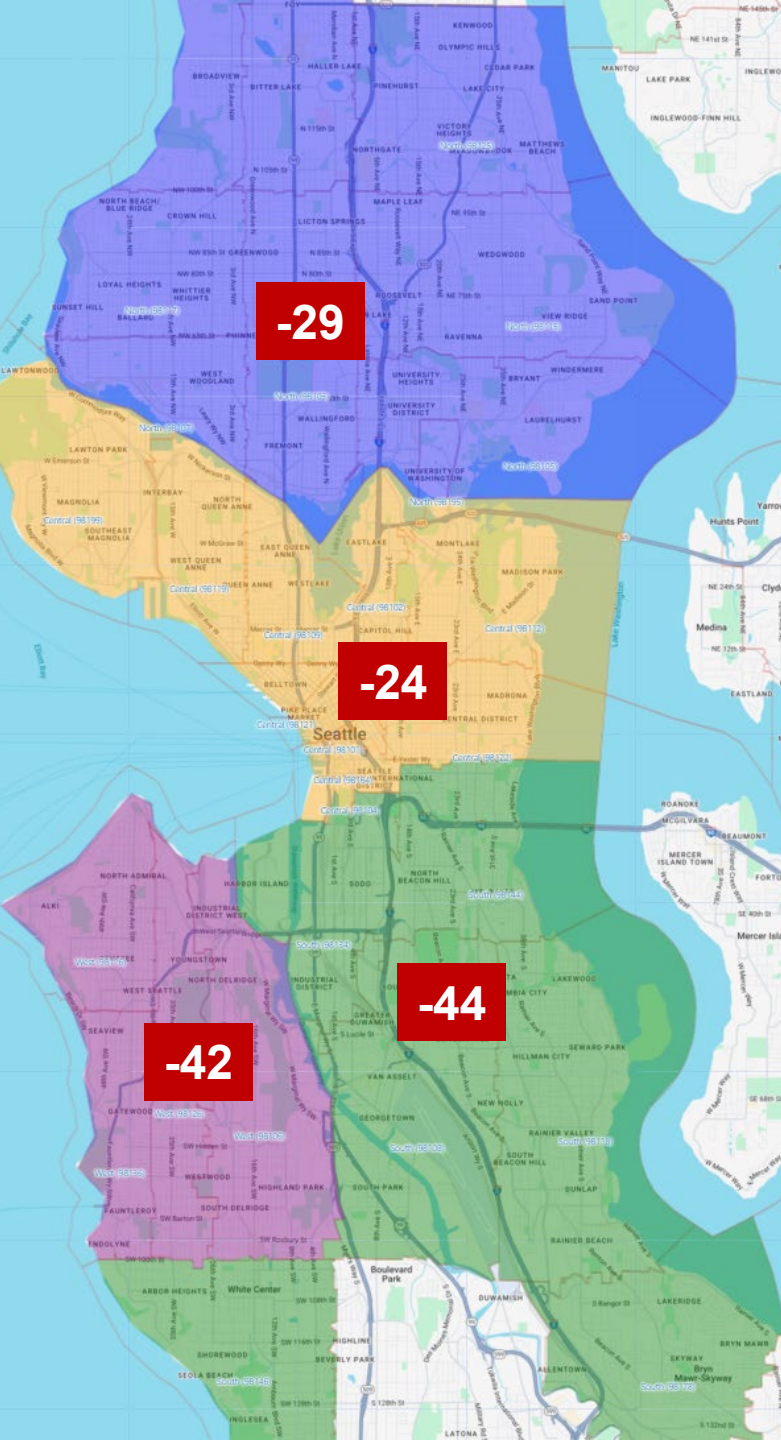


	Satisfied-Dissatisfied
White	31-66
Black/AfAm	32-66
Hispanic/Latino	45-55
AAPI	27-70
<\$100k	42-51
\$100-250K	28-70
\$250k+	32-68
North	35-64
Central	37-61
West	26-70
South	29-70

Adults of former students located in West and South Seattle have higher dissatisfaction with SPS's quality of education

Satisfaction with the quality of education In SPS

among former students*

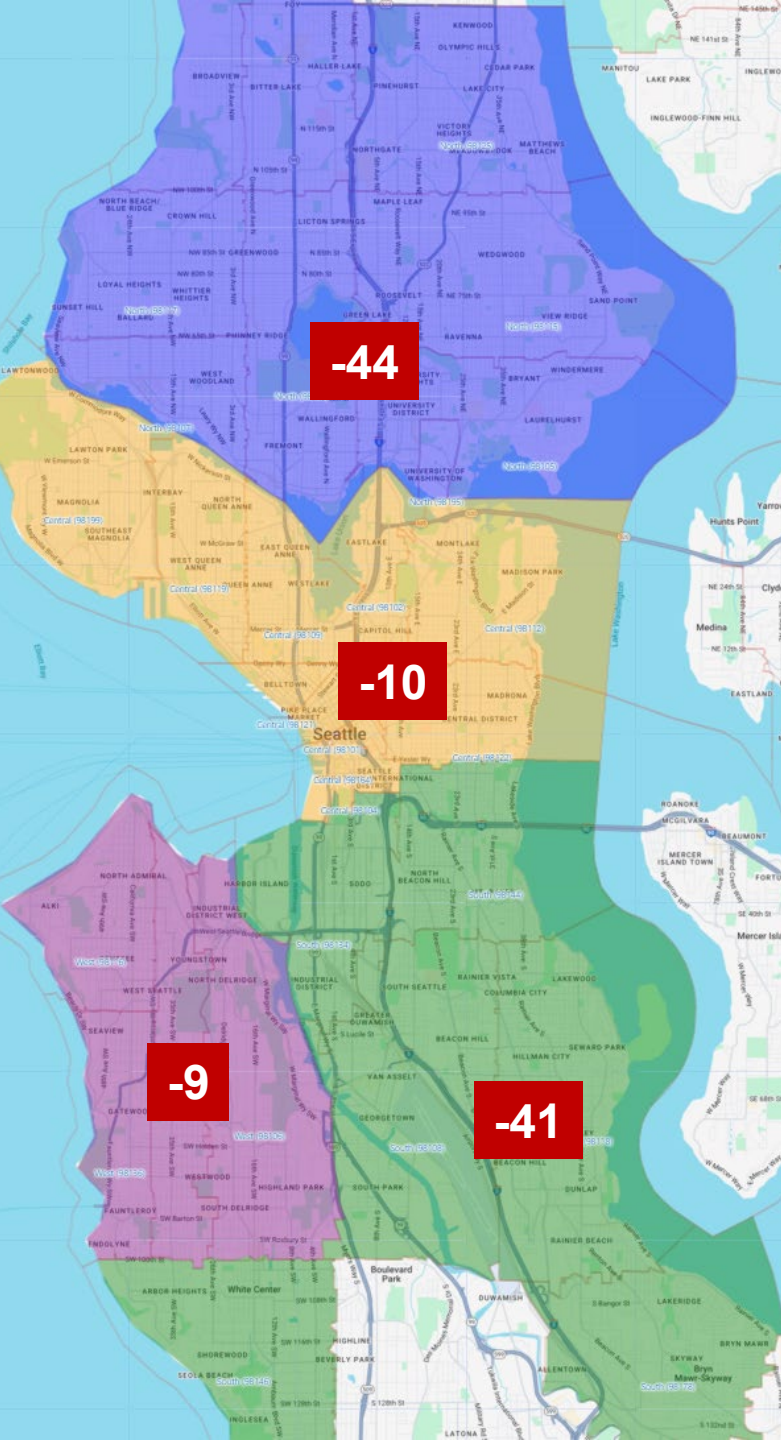


	Satisfied-Dissatisfied	Net Difference
TOTAL	32-66	-34
North	35-64	-29
Central	37-61	-24
West	26-70	-44
South	29-70	-42

*Would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education your student(s) received at Seattle Public Schools?

Adults of students that NEVER enrolled in SPS give a negative assessment of the district's performance across regions, with more negative opinions in the South and North.

Overall performance in neighborhood schools by regions among never students*



	TOTAL POSITIVE (Excellent/Good)	TOTAL NEGATIVE (Fair/Poor)	Net Difference
TOTAL	22	53	-32
North	17	61	-44
Central	32	42	-10
West	31	40	-9
South	16	57	-41

*For each of the following, please indicate if you believe the school district is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job on that item. ...The overall performance of your neighborhood schools



Satisfaction with SPS dictated adults' intensity for likes and dislikes of SPS' qualities.

Agreement and divergence: Likes by satisfaction*

	TOTAL SATISFIED	TOTAL DISSATISFIED	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied
Positive student experience & community	39%	43%	43%	37%
Dedicated & high quality teachers / staff	33%	21%	38%	30%
Students receive good quality education	22%	6%	27%	20%
Convenience of close proximity / affordability	16%	23%	10%	20%
Extracurricular programs & sports	4%	7%	5%	3%
Commitment to public education	4%	4%	4%	4%
Generally positive perception	3%	2%	3%	3%
Nothing / don't know	3%	7%	2%	4%
Well funded facilities and tech	1%	2%	2%	1%
Option schools in SPS	2%	3%	1%	2%
Parent involvement	1%	-	1%	0%

*"What do you LIKE the most about your student(s) attending Seattle Public Schools?"

Satisfaction with SPS dictated adults' intensity for likes and dislikes of SPS' qualities.

Agreement and divergence: Dislikes by satisfaction*

	TOTAL DISSATISFIED	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied
Bad quality of education / students not challenged / change to HCS	47%	11%	23%
Curriculum concerns (political & other)	20%	7%	8%
Lack of funding / class sizes too large	20%	22%	29%
Teachers / staff / admin poor performance	16%	8%	9%
Overcrowded classrooms / large class sizes / old facilities	12%	19%	17%
Fear and uncertainty about school closures	6%	8%	3%
Safety concerns / violence	6%	3%	6%
Lack of communication / transparency	4%	2%	5%
Students behavior / bad influence	4%	5%	3%
Teacher retention (low salaries) and excess turnover / inconsistent	4%	4%	5%
Concerns about drug use / personal tech use	1%	1%	1%
Nothing / no complaints	1%	17%	4%
Don't know / no ent	1%	3%	3%

*"What do you DISLIKE the most about your student(s) attending Seattle Public Schools?"

41 Would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education your student(s) receives at Seattle Public Schools? Is that very <satisfied/dissatisfied> or only somewhat?



Appendix: Why Do Families Remain Enrolled or Consider Disenrolling from SPS?

AAPI adults in SPS had higher concerns over the curriculum than other adults.

Top Reasons to Remain Enrolled – Most Important Motivation*

	Total	White	Black/African American	Hispanic/ Latino	AAPI
Most Important Motivation	High quality teaching and support 39%	Sense of community, belonging 38%	High quality teaching and support 49%	High quality teaching and support 41%	High quality teaching and support 36%
2 nd Most Important Motivation	Sense of community, belonging 37%	High quality teaching and support 37%	Sense of community, belonging 47%	Sense of community, belonging 32%	Curriculum 31%
3 rd	Close travel distance 18%	Cost of other schooling options 20%	Curriculum 23%	Friends 22%	Sense of community, belonging 30%
4 th	Curriculum 18%	Close travel distance 16%	Close travel distance 19%	Curriculum 21%	Close travel distance 21%

*"Which of those reasons you read are the MOST important to you and your family, if you had to pick two??"

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

After high quality teaching and a sense of community as top motivations, there were slight differences among the four regions.

Top Reasons to Remain Enrolled – Most Important Motivation*

	Total	North	Central	West	South
Most Important Motivation	High quality teaching and support 39%	High quality teaching and support 37%	High quality teaching and support 40%	High quality teaching and support 36%	High quality teaching and support 43%
2nd Most Important Motivation	Sense of community, belonging 37%	Sense of community, belonging 36%	Sense of community, belonging 37%	Sense of community, belonging 29%	Sense of community, belonging 43%
3rd	Close travel distance 18%	Cost of other schooling options 17%	Curriculum 17%	Close travel distance 25%	Curriculum 22%
4th	Curriculum 18%	Friends 17%	Close travel distance 16%	Cost of other schooling options 23%	Close travel distance 18%

*"Which of those reasons you read are the MOST important to you and your family, if you had to pick two??"

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

After sense of community and belonging, and high-quality teaching and support, those adults who were dissatisfied with SPS expressed different motivating reasons to remain enrolled.

Top Reasons to Remain Enrolled by satisfaction with SPS*

	Total	TOTAL SATISFIED	TOTAL DISSATISFIED	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied
Most Important Motivation	High quality teaching and support 39%	High quality teaching and support 41%	Sense of community, belonging 31%	High quality teaching and support 51%	Sense of community, belonging 37%
2nd Most Important Motivation	Sense of community, belonging 37%	Sense of community, belonging 38%	High quality teaching and support 27%	Sense of community, belonging 40%	High quality teaching and support 35%
3rd	Close travel distance 18%	Curriculum 19%	Cost of other schooling options 26%	Curriculum 16%	Curriculum 20%
4th	Curriculum 18%	Close travel distance 18%	Students appropriately challenged by curriculum 18%	Close travel distance 14%	Close travel distance 20%

*"Which of those reasons you read are the MOST important to you and your family, if you had to pick two?"

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

Renters were much more likely to say they considered economic concerns and safety as reasons to disenroll their students from SPS. Reasons considered to disenroll from SPS varied by race.

Reasons considered the most for disenrolling children from SPS

among current students*

	TOTAL	White	Black/African American	Hispanic/ Latino	AAPI	Homeowner	Rent
Most Considered	Quality of education 58%	Quality of education 58%	Quality of education 49%	Quality of education 60%	Quality of education 54%	Quality of education 58%	Lack of safety 57%
2nd most	Better option available 47%	Better option available 45%	Lack of safety 49%	Curriculum 55%	Lack of safety 49%	Better option available 47%	Quality of education 56%
3rd	Lack of safety 46%	Lack of safety 42%	Better option available 42%	Lack of safety 54%	Curriculum 48%	Lack of safety 45%	Cost of living in Seattle 56%
4th	Curriculum 44%	Changes to Highly Capable 40%	Changes to Highly Capable 42%	Better option available 52%	Better option available 46%	Curriculum 44%	Housing costs 52%
5th	Changes to Highly Capable 42%	Curriculum 39%	Curriculum 41%	Cost of living in Seattle 49%	Changes to Highly Capable 44%	Changes to Highly Capable 43%	Curriculum 48%
6th	Lack of communication 41%	Lack of communication 38%	Cost of living in Seattle 39%	Lack of communication 48%	Cost of living in Seattle 43%	Lack of communication 40%	Better option available 47%

*“Next I’m going to read you some reasons why some families choose to leave the Seattle Public Schools system. For each reason I read, please tell me whether you have or have not considered that as a reason to disenroll your student from the Seattle Public School system. Have you ever strongly considered disenrolling because of that reason, moderately considered disenrolling, or never considered disenrolling your student because of that reason?”

After quality of education, SPS parent's most considered reasons for disenrolling from SPS varied by region and satisfaction level.

Reasons considered the most for disenrolling children from SPS
among current students*

	TOTAL	North	Central	West	South	Very Satisfied with SPS	Somewhat Satisfied	Dissatisfied with SPS
Most Considered	Quality of education 58%	Quality of education 59%	Quality of education 62%	Quality of education 60%	Quality of education 52%	Quality of education 31%	Quality of education 65%	Quality of education 87%
2nd most	Better option available 47%	Better option available 50%	Lack of safety 48%	Lack of safety 47%	Lack of safety 51%	Better option available 30%	Lack of safety 53%	Curriculum 75%
3rd	Lack of safety 46%	Curriculum 44%	Better option available 48%	Curriculum 45%	Curriculum 46%	Lack of safety 29%	Better option available 51%	Better option available 65%
4th	Curriculum 44%	Changes to Highly Capable 43%	Lack of communication 45%	Better option available 43%	Changes to Highly Capable 42%	Cost of living in Seattle 28%	Curriculum 49%	Lack of communication 65%
5th	Changes to Highly Capable 42%	Lack of safety 42%	Changes to Highly Capable 43%	Changes to Highly Capable 39%	Cost of living in Seattle 42%	School closures 26%	Changes to Highly Capable 48%	Lack of safety 56%
6th	Lack of communication 41%	School closures 26%	Curriculum 42%	Lack of communication 38%	Lack of communication 41%	Changes to Highly Capable 26%	Lack of communication 46%	Changes to Highly Capable 54%

Current and former HCS adults had more intensity for all reasons to disenroll, with the changes to HCS and quality of education being the most motivating factors.

Reasons considered the most for disenrolling children from SPS
among current students*

	TOTAL	HCS ENROLLMENT		IEP SERVICES ENROLLMENT		MLL SERVICES ENROLLMENT	
		CURRENTLY / FORMERLY	NEVER / DON'T KNOW	CURRENTLY / FORMERLY	NEVER / DON'T KNOW	CURRENTLY / FORMERLY	NEVER / DON'T KNOW
Most Considered	Quality of education 58%	Quality of education 70%	Quality of education 53%	Quality of education 64%	Quality of education 56%	Quality of education 66%	Quality of education 57%
2nd most	Better option available 47%	Changes to Highly Capable 68%	Lack of safety 45%	Better option available 52%	Lack of safety 46%	Lack of safety 62%	Better option available 46%
3rd	Lack of safety 46%	Better option available 59%	Better option available 42%	Curriculum 48%	Better option available 45%	Changes to Highly Capable 61%	Lack of safety 45%
4th	Curriculum 44%	Curriculum 54%	Curriculum 41%	Lack of communication 47%	Curriculum 43%	Curriculum 57%	Curriculum 43%
5th	Changes to Highly Capable 42%	Lack of safety 49%	Lack of communication 38%	Lack of safety 47%	Changes to Highly Capable 43%	Better option available 54%	Changes to Highly Capable 41%
6th	Lack of communication 41%	Lack of communication 48%	School closures 37%	School closures 44%	Lack of communication 39%	Lack of communication 50%	Lack of communication 40%

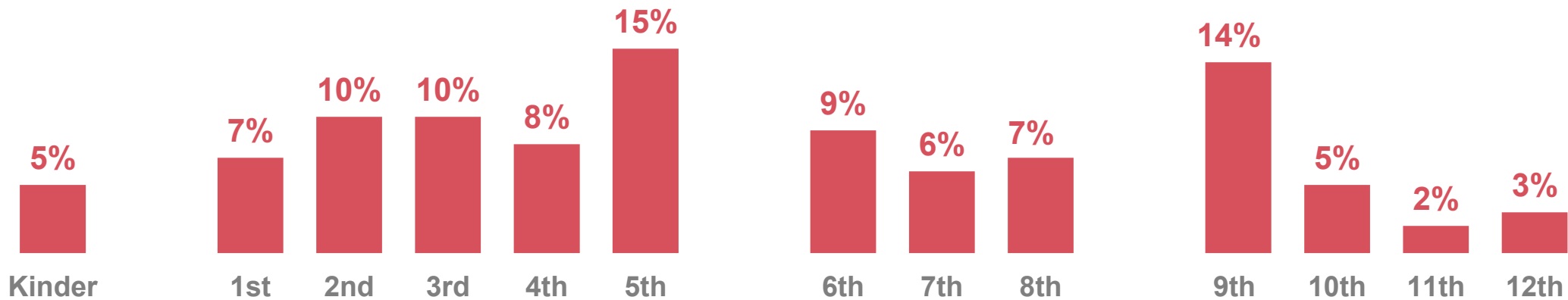


Appendix: Reasons Behind Declining Enrollment among Caretakers of Former Students

Students that left Seattle Public Schools did so most frequently in Elementary School, and in peak grades of 5th grade and 9th grade.

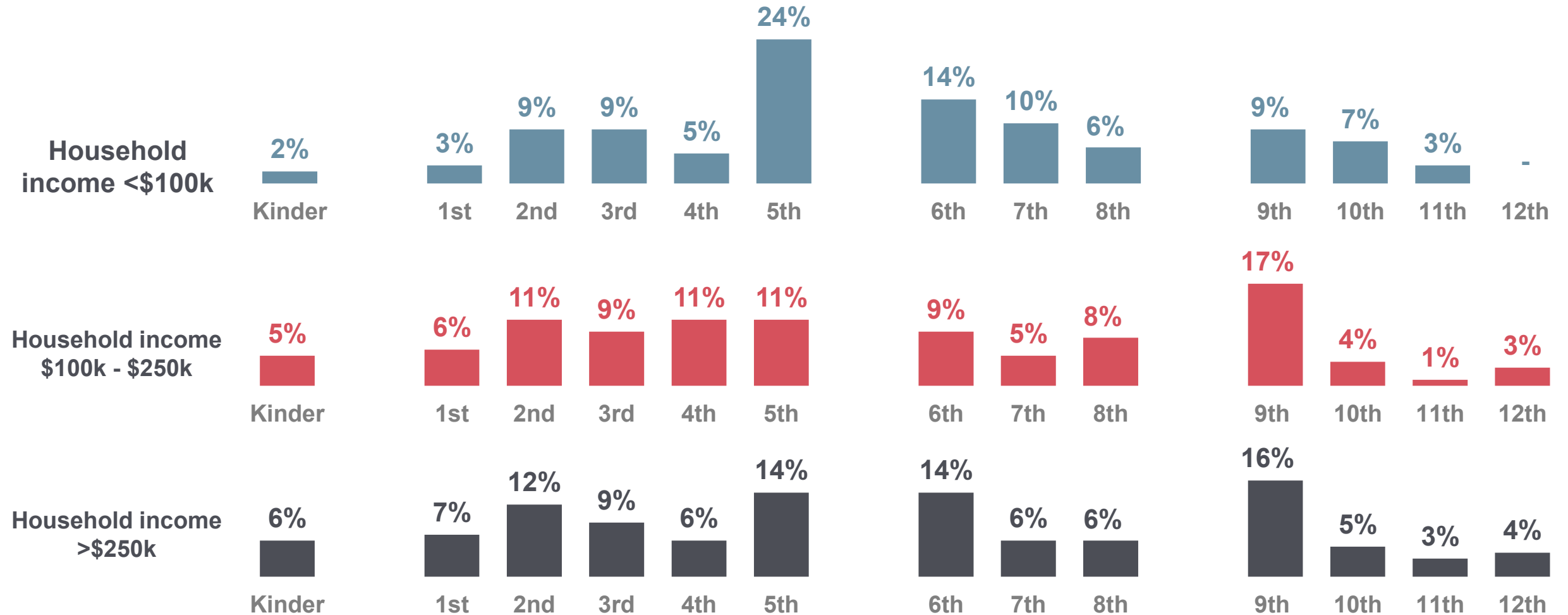
Grade levels that students disenrolled from SPS*

Among former students*



The grade levels that students left Seattle Public Schools varied by household income.

Grade levels that students disenrolled from SPS, by household income*

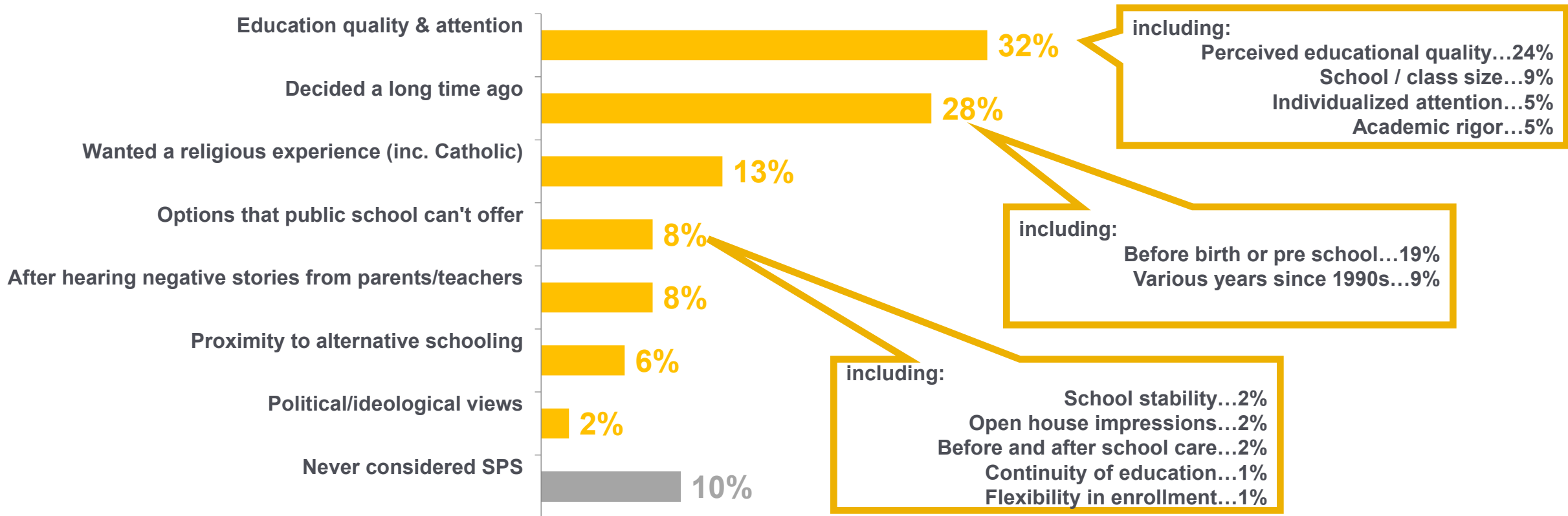


*What was the last grade your student(s) were in the Seattle Public Schools system?

In open-ended responses, adults who never enrolled their students in SPS cited education quality as the number one reason for not enrolling.

Top reasons for deciding to never enroll children in SPS

among never students*



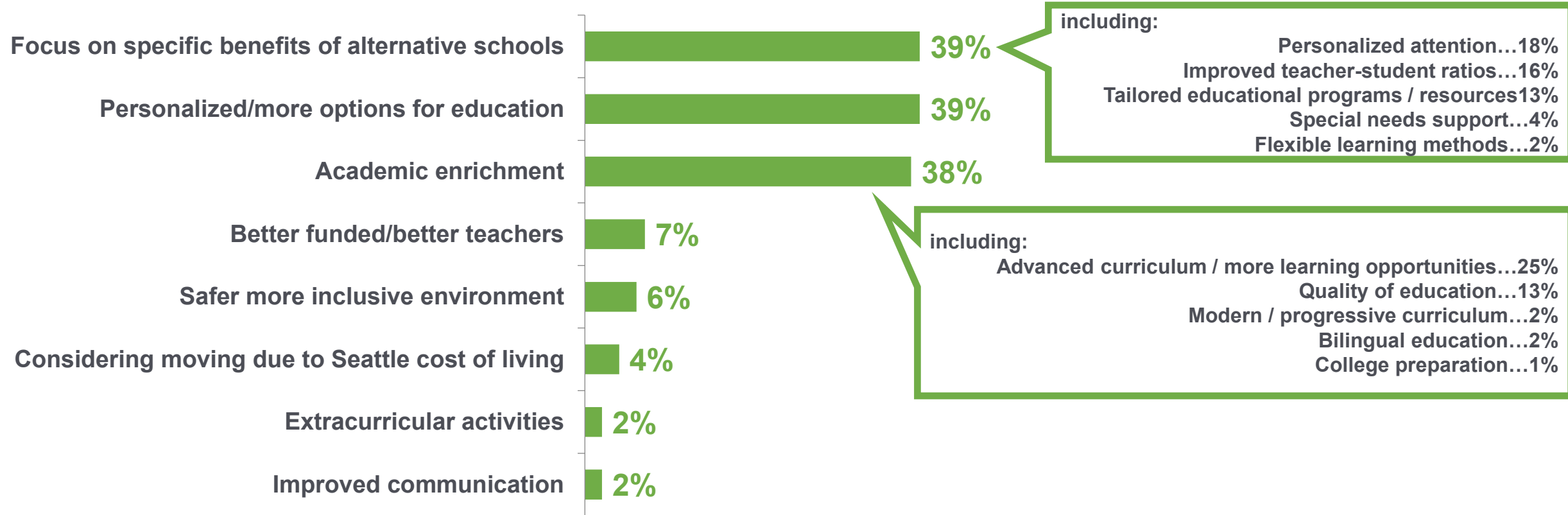
*"When and HOW did you make the decision to enroll your student(s) in a school outside the Seattle Public Schools?"

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

Current SPS adults' open-ended responses cited alternative school services, personalized / more options for education, and academic enrichment as the better options available.

What better option is there, and what makes it better?

among current students*



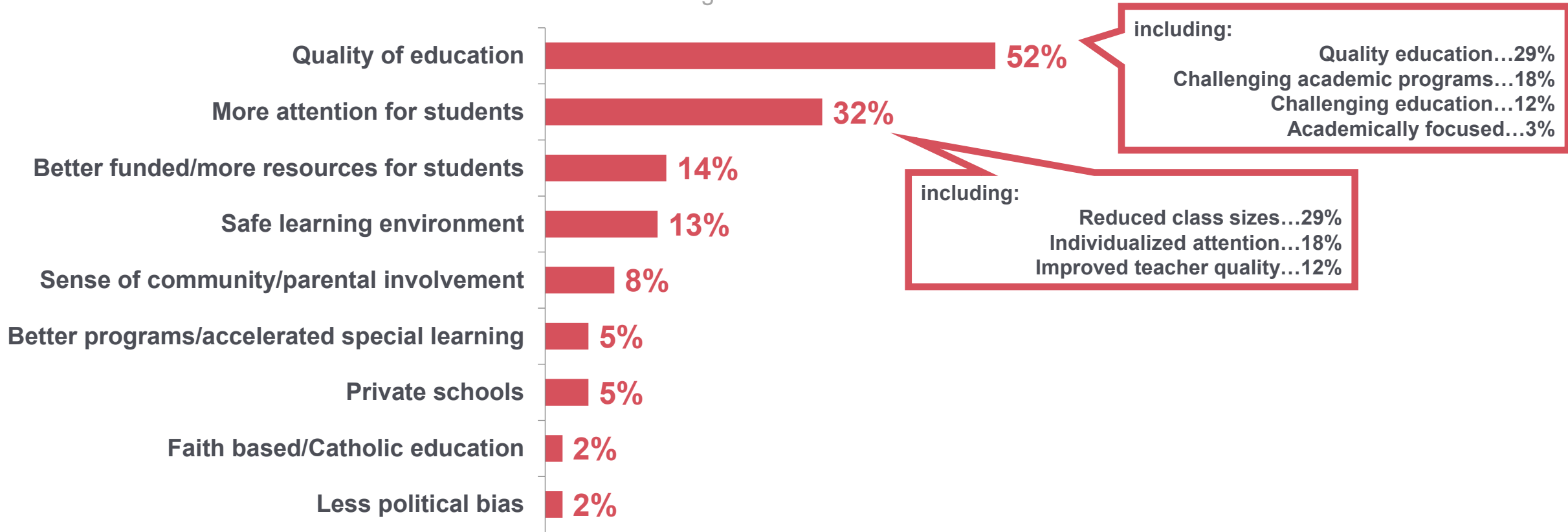
*"Being as specific as possible, could you describe what better option is available and WHAT makes it better?"

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

In open-ended responses, former adults SPS cited quality of education and more attention to students as the better options available to them.

What better option is there, and what makes it better?

among former students*



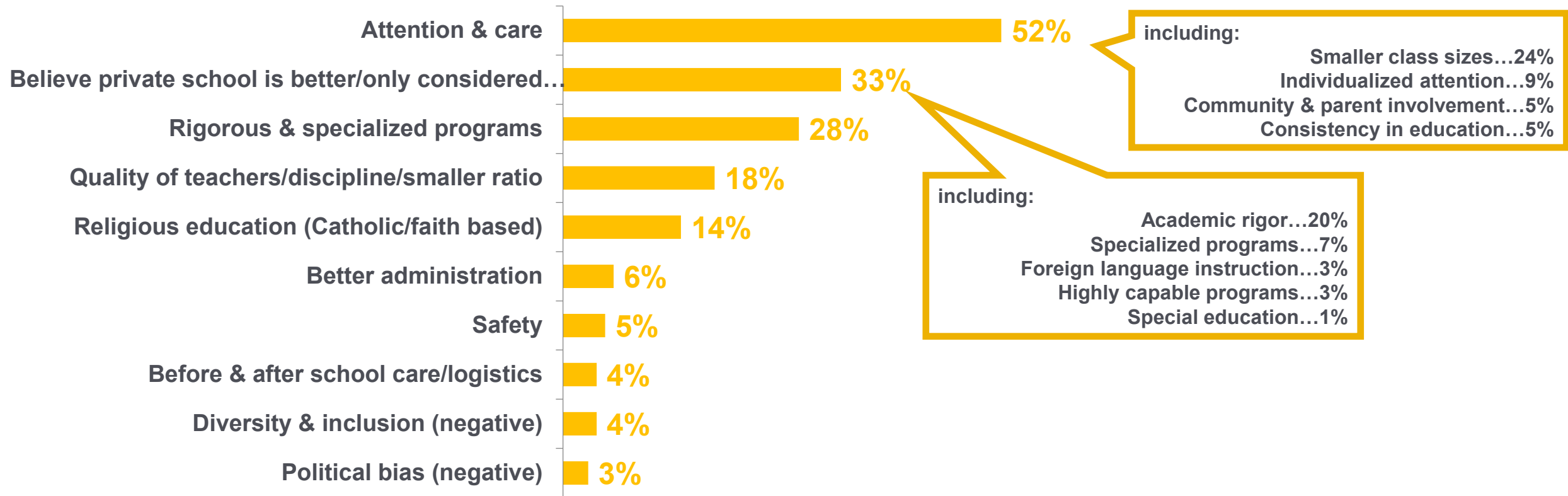
*"Being as specific as possible, could you describe what better option was available, in terms of schooling, and WHAT made it better?"

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

In open-ended responses, never SPS adults cited attention & care, believed that private schools were better, and said rigorous & specialized programs were the better options available.

What better option is there, and what makes it better?

among never students*



*"Being as specific as possible, could you describe what better option was available, in terms of schooling, and WHAT made it better?"

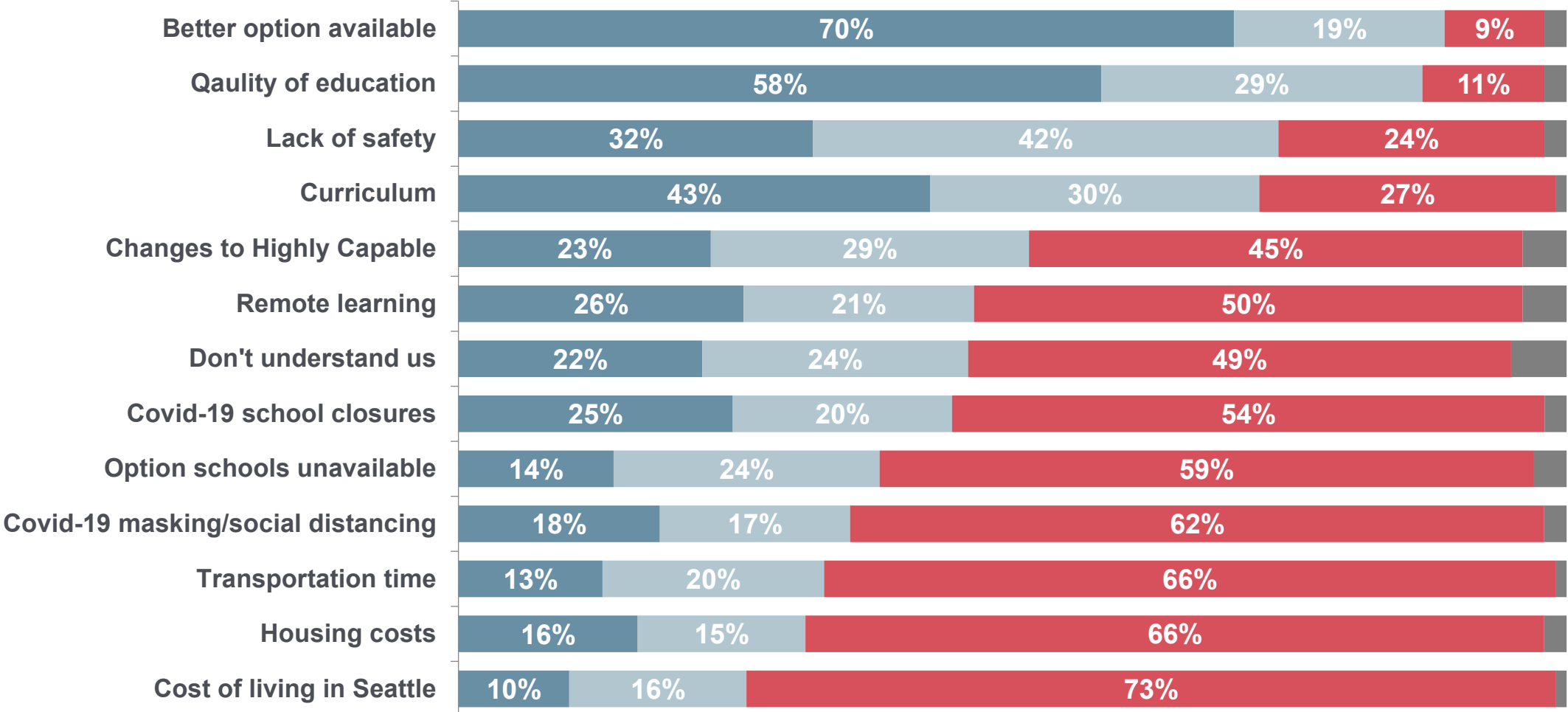
*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

Adults who never enrolled their students in SPS strongly considered reasons related to education quality, challenging students, and student safety, and were less motivated by economic or Covid-19 reasons.

Reasons for never enrolling in SPS...*

Strongly considered | moderately considered | never considered | no opinion

Total Considered
90%
87%
75%
73%
52%
46%
46%
45%
38%
35%
33%
31%
26%



*For each reason provided, please indicate whether it describes a reason why your family decided to educate your students outside of the Seattle Public Schools system."



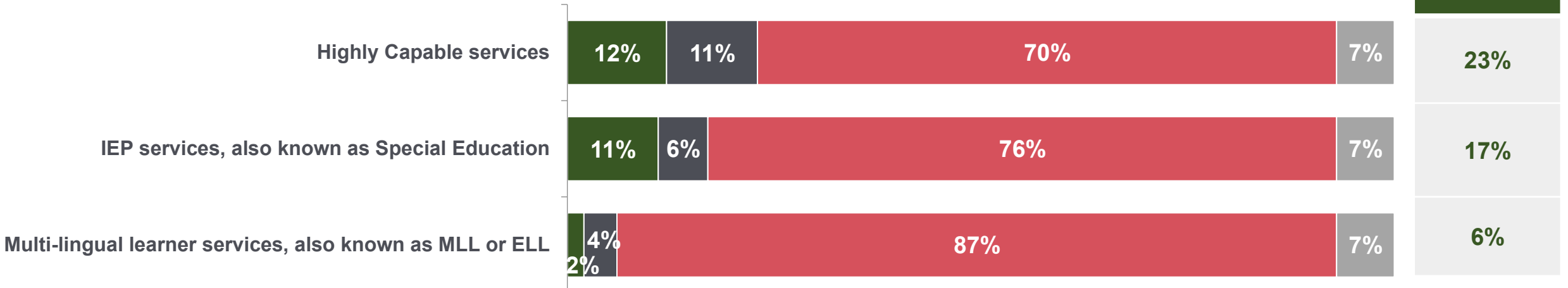
Appendix: Additional SPS Services

Self-reported data for enrollment for services combined among caretakers of current students and caretakers of former students.

Enrollment In SPS services*

among current and former students

Currently enrolled | Formerly enrolled | Never enrolled | Don't Know/Ref./NA



Enrollment In SPS option schools**

Currently enrolled | Formerly enrolled | Never enrolled | Don't Know/Ref./NA



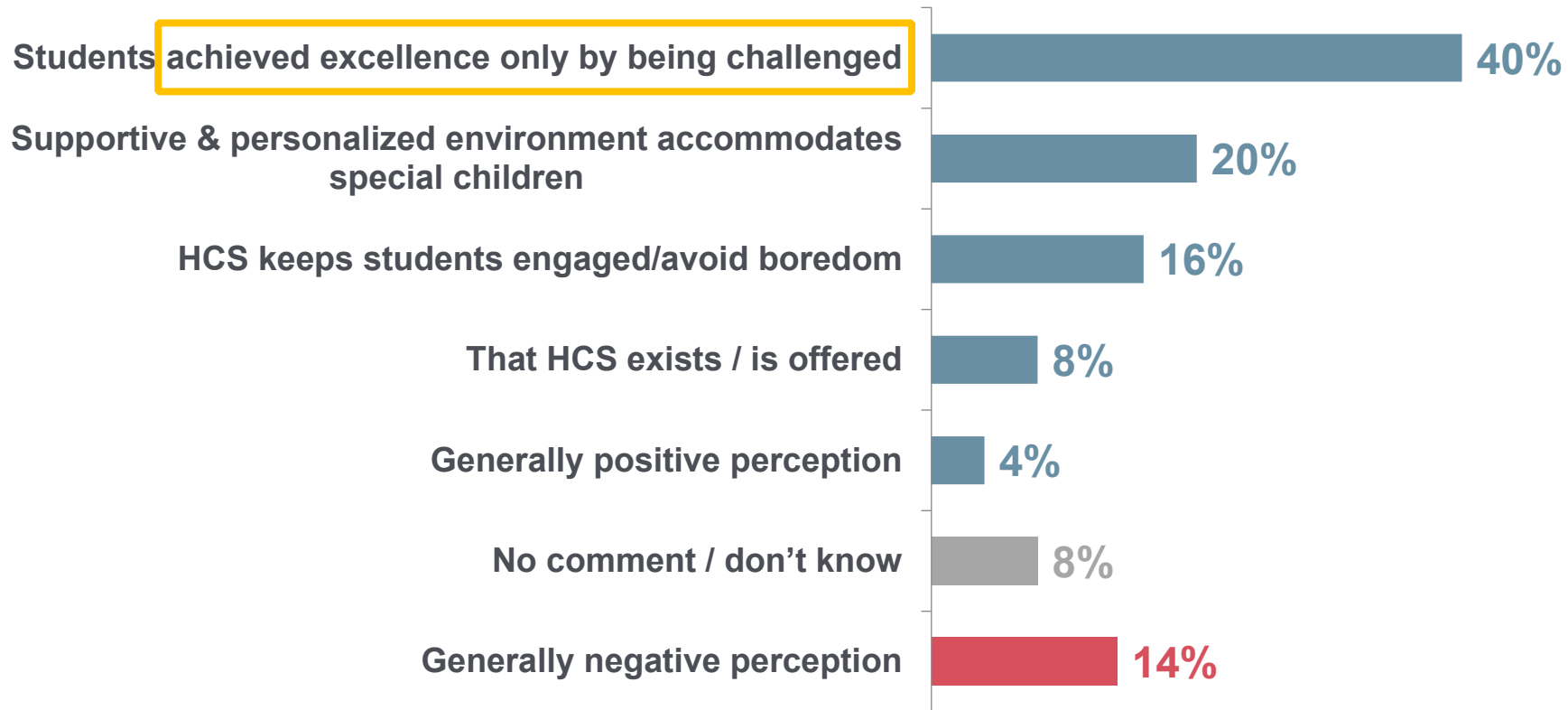
*Now I'd like to ask you about a few services offered by Seattle Public Schools. For each service offered, please tell me whether any of your students are currently enrolled in the service, were formerly enrolled, or were never enrolled in the service.

**Does your student(s) currently attend any of the following OPTION schools, or have they in the past? / Did your student(s) attend any of the following OPTION schools in the past?

Adults of both current and former students said they liked that Highly Capable services challenged students and helped students achieve excellence, and that it supported students with a personalized environment that kept them engaged.

What do/did you LIKE about Highly Capable services?

among current and former students*



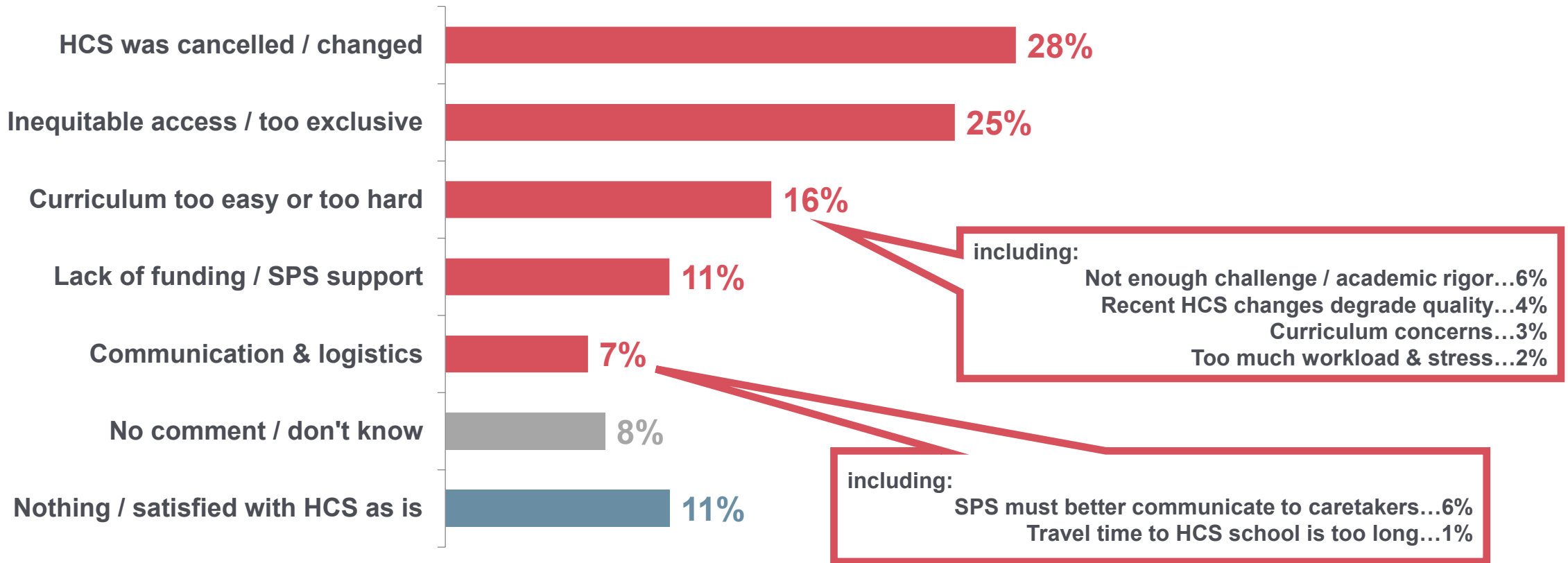
*"What do you LIKE the most about Highly Capable services?"

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

About a quarter of adults of current and former students enrolled in Highly Capable services said they disliked that the Highly Capable services was changed or “canceled,” and a similar number said they thought the service was inequitable or too exclusive.

What do/did you DISLIKE about HCS?

among current and former students*



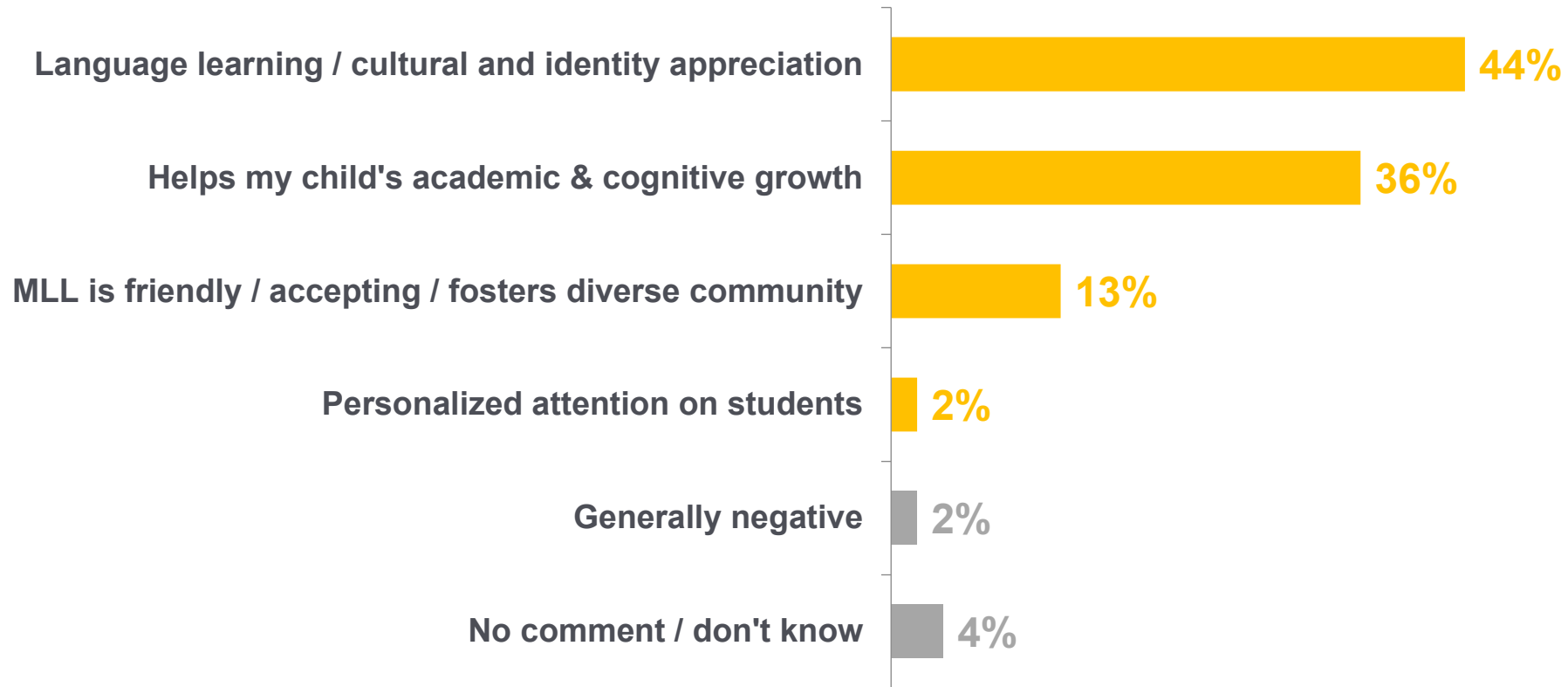
*"What do you DISLIKE the most about Highly Capable services?"

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

Sense of connection to family heritage and individualized support for children ranks highest as positive views on MLL services.

What do you LIKE most about MLL services?*

Current students and former students



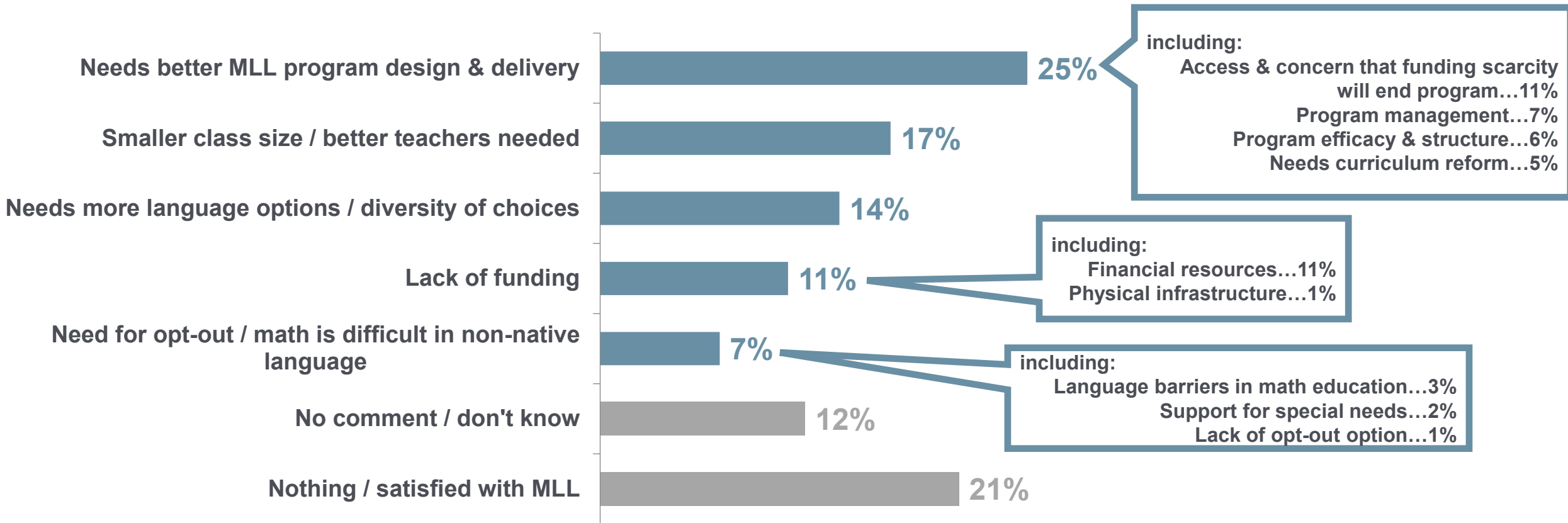
*What do you LIKE the most about the multi-lingual learner services, also known as MLL or ELL?

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%

Concerns over program longevity due to funding represents most widely shared concern among those with specific concerns, affecting 1 out of 3 adults with children in MLL services.

What do you DISLIKE most about MLL services?*

Current students and former students



*What do you LIKE the most about the multi-lingual learner services, also known as MLL or ELL?

*Multiple responses accepted; total does not add to 100%