School Quality and Climate Surveys

Results and Analysis

Irvington Union Free School District

School Year: 2018-2019

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Overview

Positive school climate is an essential component of successful and effective schools. It is defined as shared beliefs, values, and attitudes that shape interactions between students, teachers, and administrators, while setting the parameters of acceptable behavior and norms for the school.

The Irvington Union Free School District (UFSD) School Quality and Climate Surveys asked parents, community members, staff members, and students in grades 6-12 for feedback on school climate, district leaders, and district initiatives. Results will be used to inform decisions at the campus and district levels.

K12 *Insight* partnered with district team members to develop the surveys, which addressed the following topics:

- Learning experiences
- Support for students
- School leadership
- Family involvement
- Safety and behavior
- Communication
- Board of education
- District Leadership Team
- Strategic objectives

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Details of the Study and Understanding the Results

The surveys for parents, community members, and staff members were open from April 12 to May 9. The survey for students was open from April 22 to May 9.

Email invitations with unique survey links were sent to parents, community members, staff members, and students in grades 6-12. Parents and community members could also participate via a public link on the district's website. Parents with children attending more than one district school were able to take the survey again. Reminders were sent on April 18, 23, 26, and 30 and May 2 and 7.

The survey was translated into Spanish. Paper surveys were available on request.

Pre-survey communications included emails, a phone script, a district website description, and social media posts.

This report summarizes survey results and and breaks them down by participant group. Results do not reflect random sampling; therefore, they should not be generalized to all Irvington UFSD parents, community members, staff members, and students in grades 6-12. Rather, results reflect only the perceptions and opinions of survey participants. School-level reports are also included in this project.

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

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Participation

Responding Group	Number of Invitations Delivered (NMax)	Number of Responses (N)	Response Rate (%)	Public-Access Link Responses	Total Responses
Parents/Community Members	2,065	452	—	198	650
Staff Members	324	160	49%	—	160
Students	973	780	80%	—	780

Note: The participation rate for parents could not be calculated because of the public-access link.

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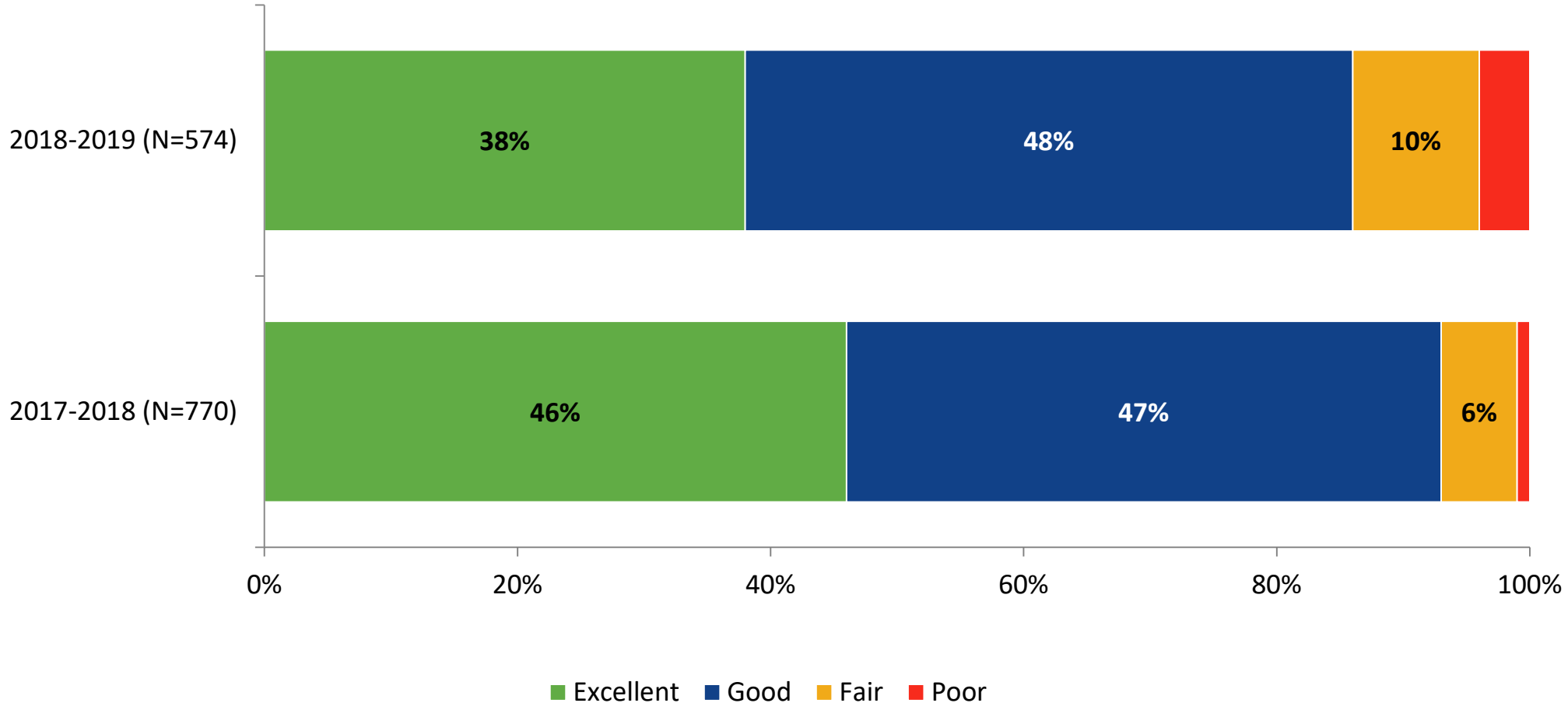
Overall School Quality

How would you rate the overall quality of this school?



Note: Community members were not given this question.

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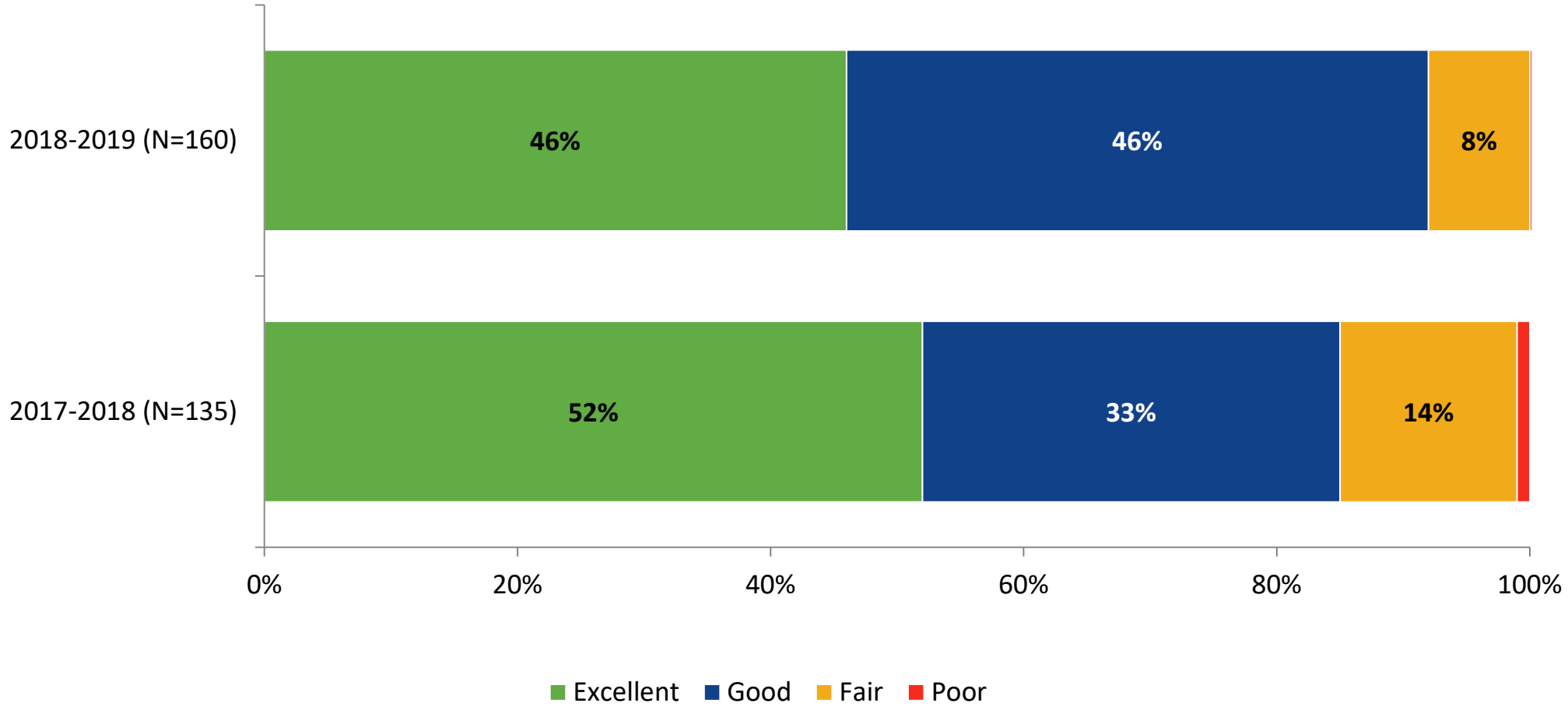
Overall School Quality

How would you rate the overall quality of this school?



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Overall School Quality

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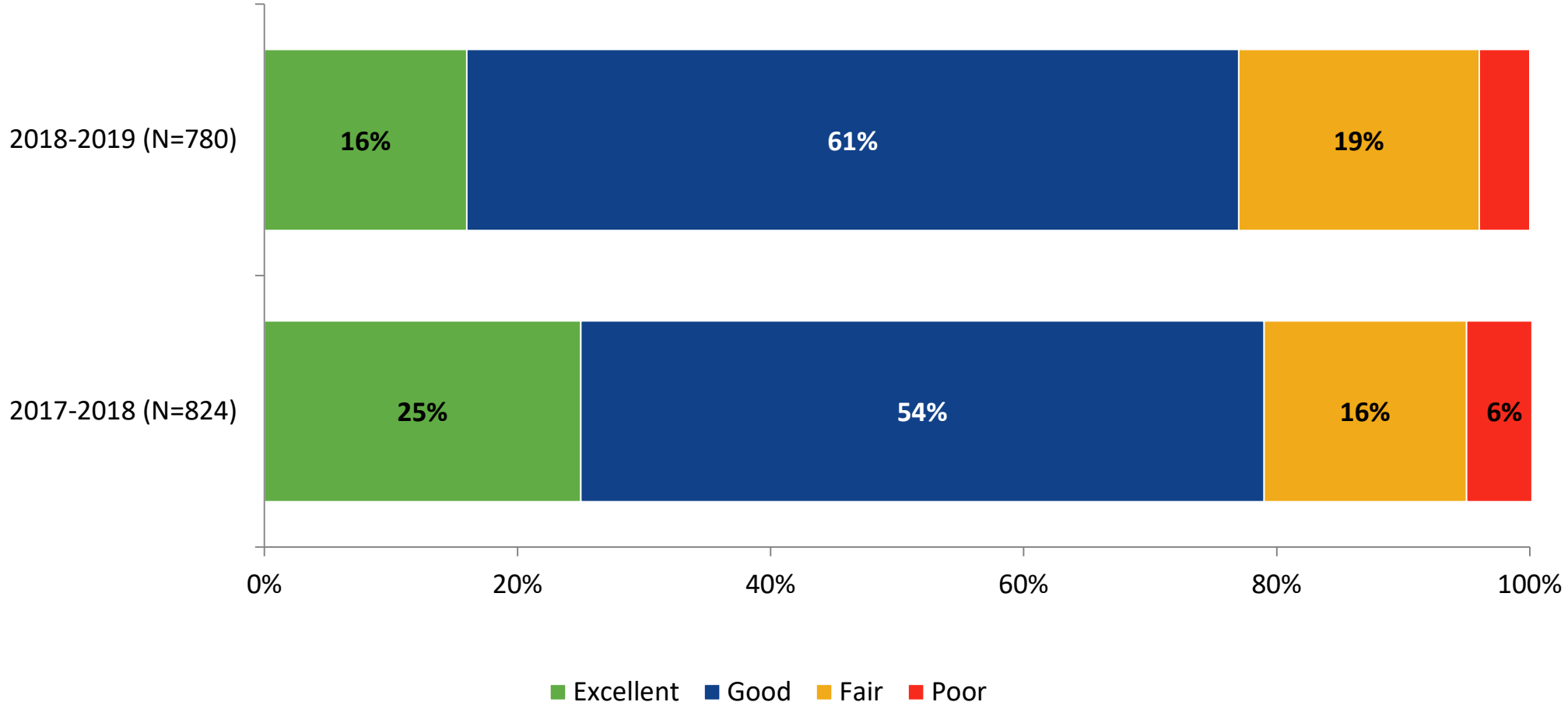

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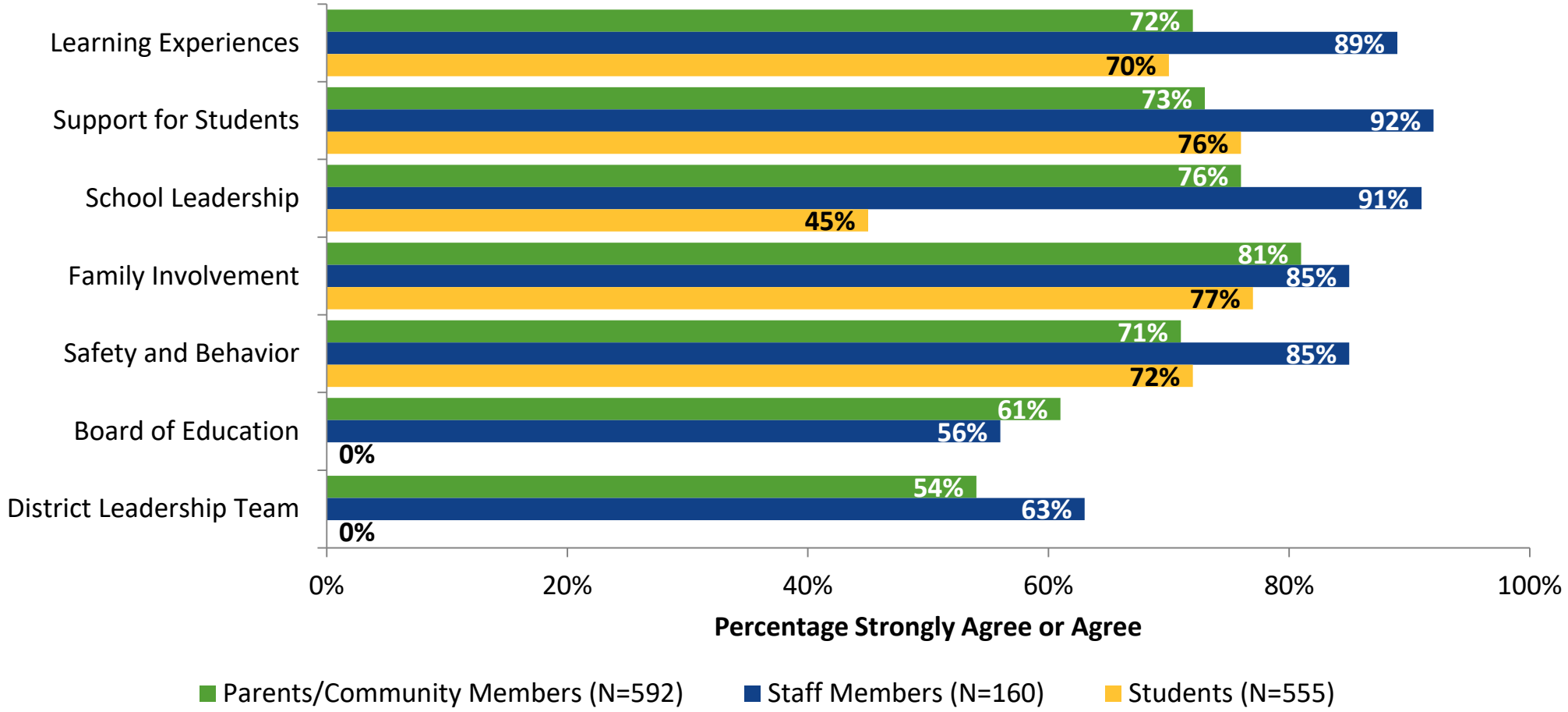
Dimension Scores: Comparison by Respondent Type



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

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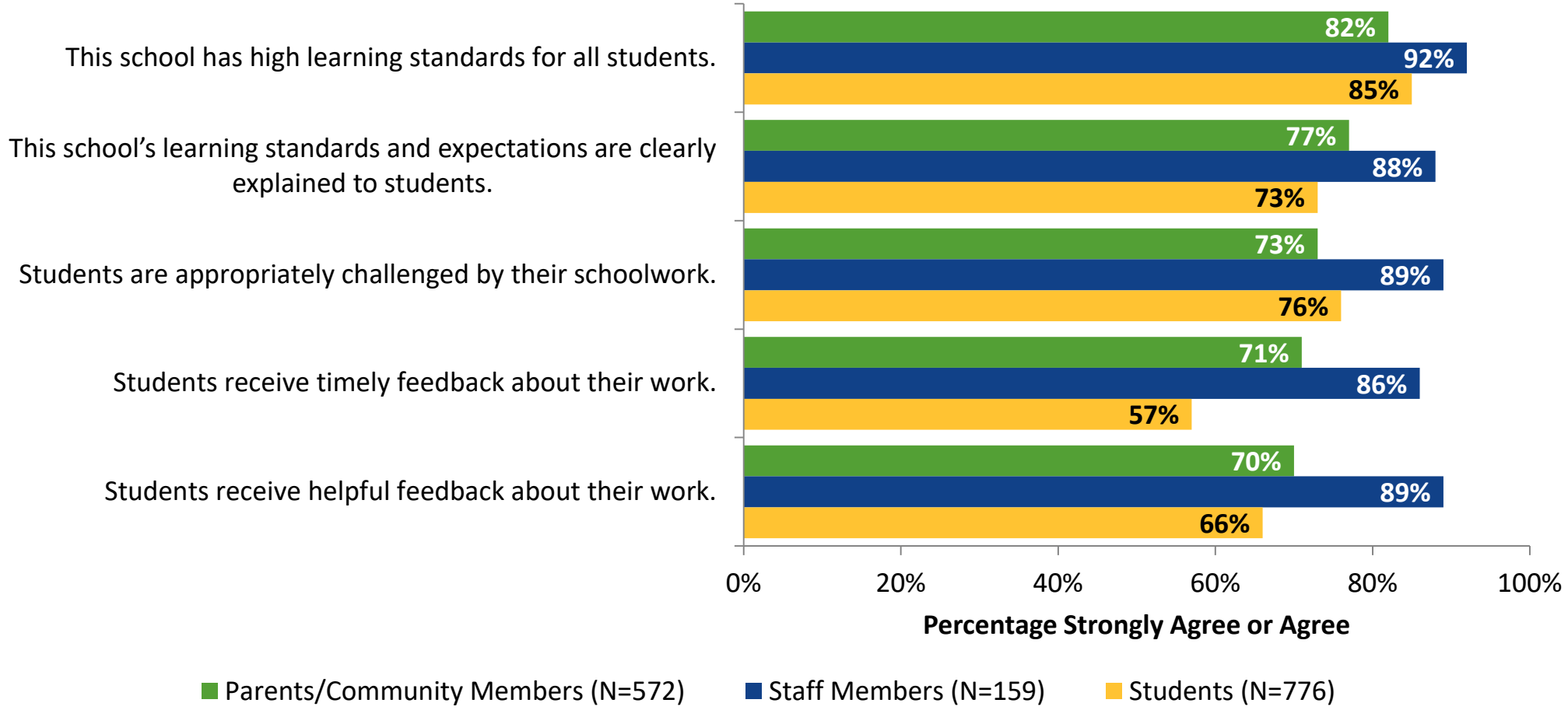
Learning Experiences: Comparison by Respondent Type

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



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: Community members were not given these questions.

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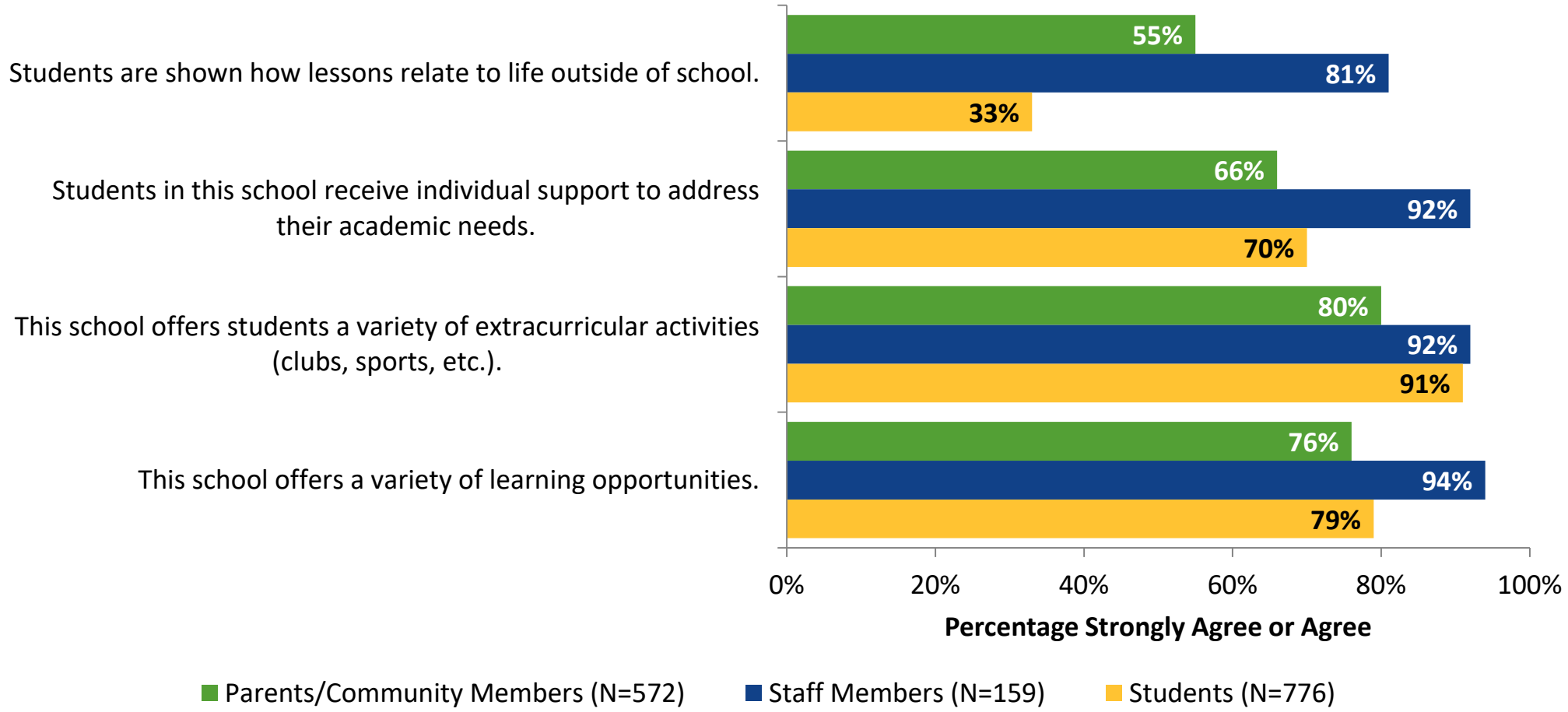
Learning Experiences: Comparison by Respondent Type (Continued)

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



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: Community members were not given these questions.

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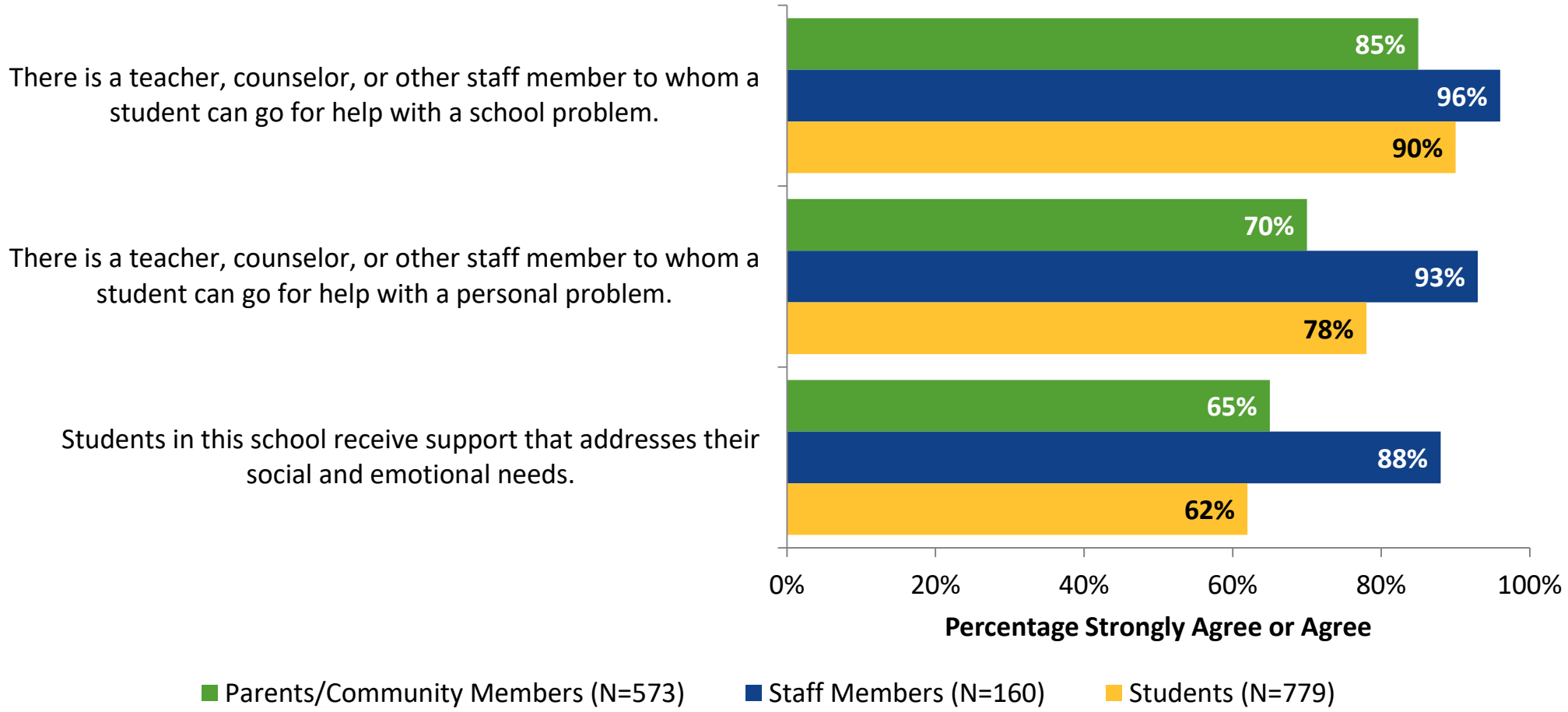
Support for Students: Comparison by Respondent Type

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



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: Community members were not given these questions.

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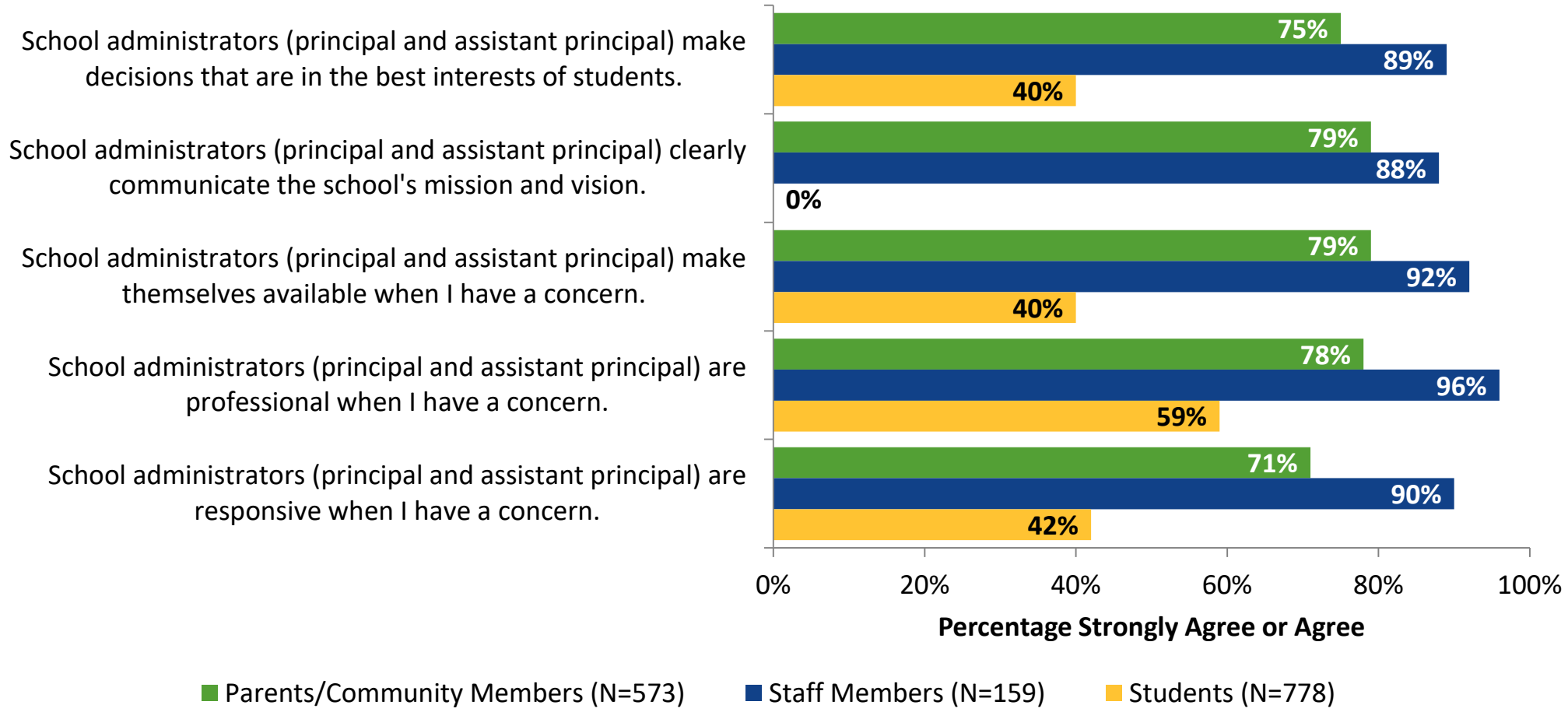
School Leadership: Comparison by Respondent Type

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



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: Community members were not given these questions.

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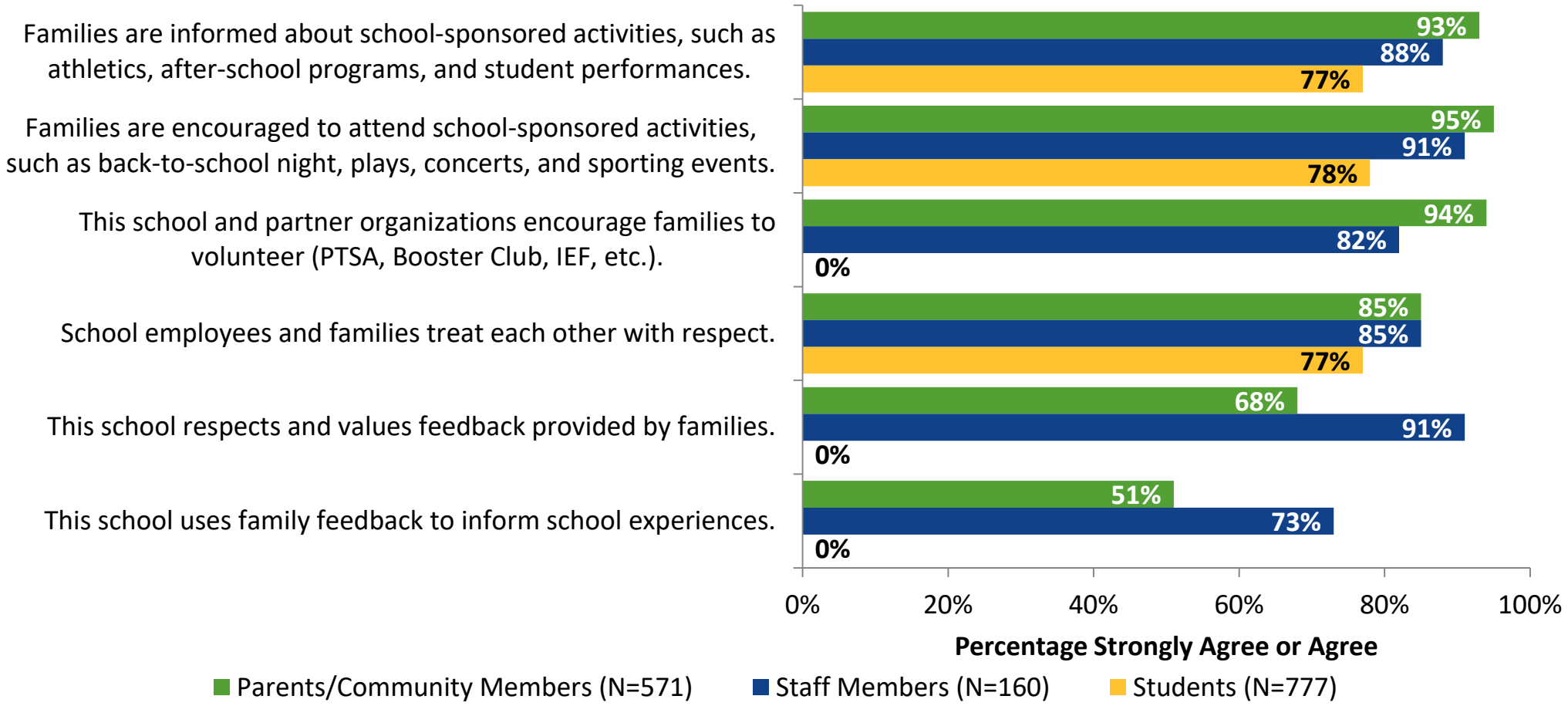
Family Involvement: Comparison by Respondent Type

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



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: Community members were not given these questions.

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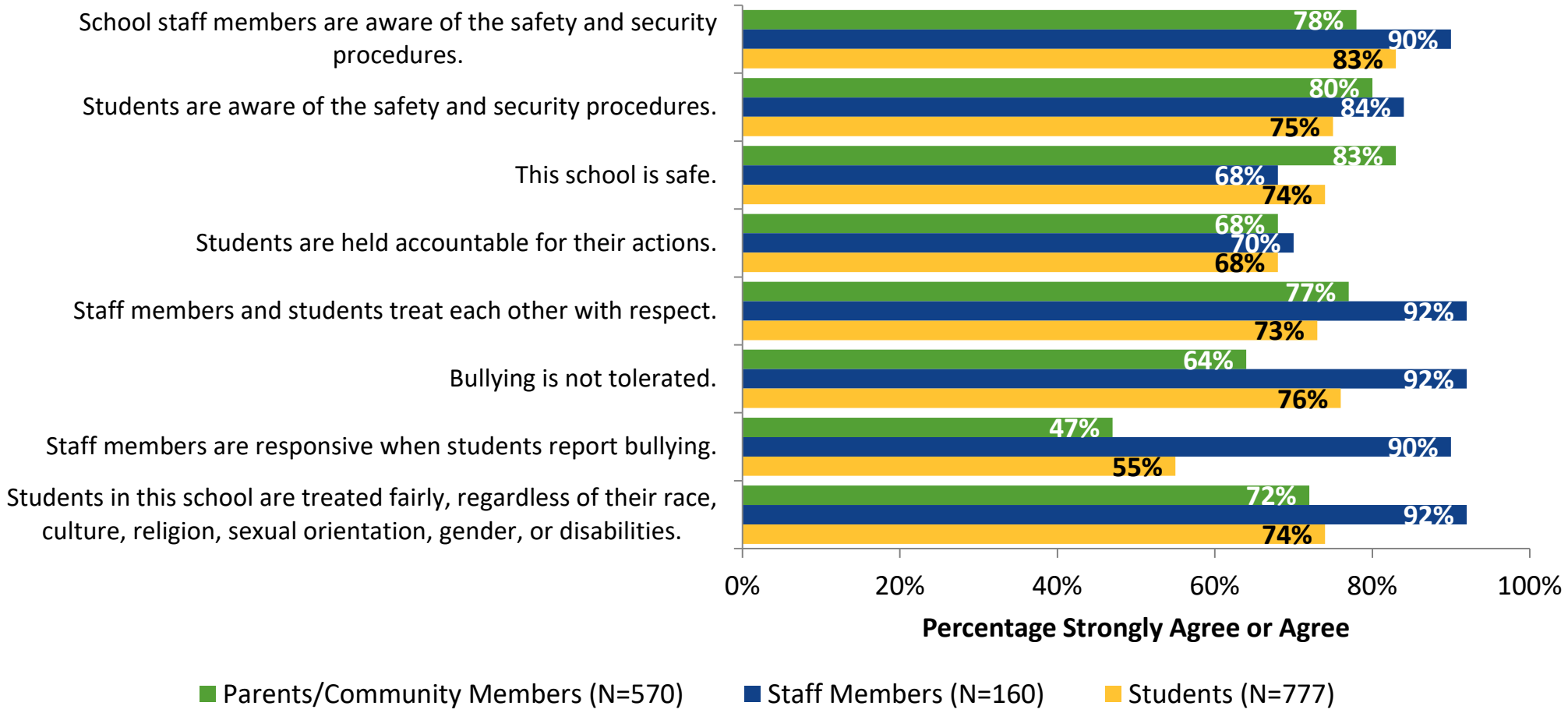
Safety and Behavior: Comparison by Respondent Type

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



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: Community members were not given these questions.

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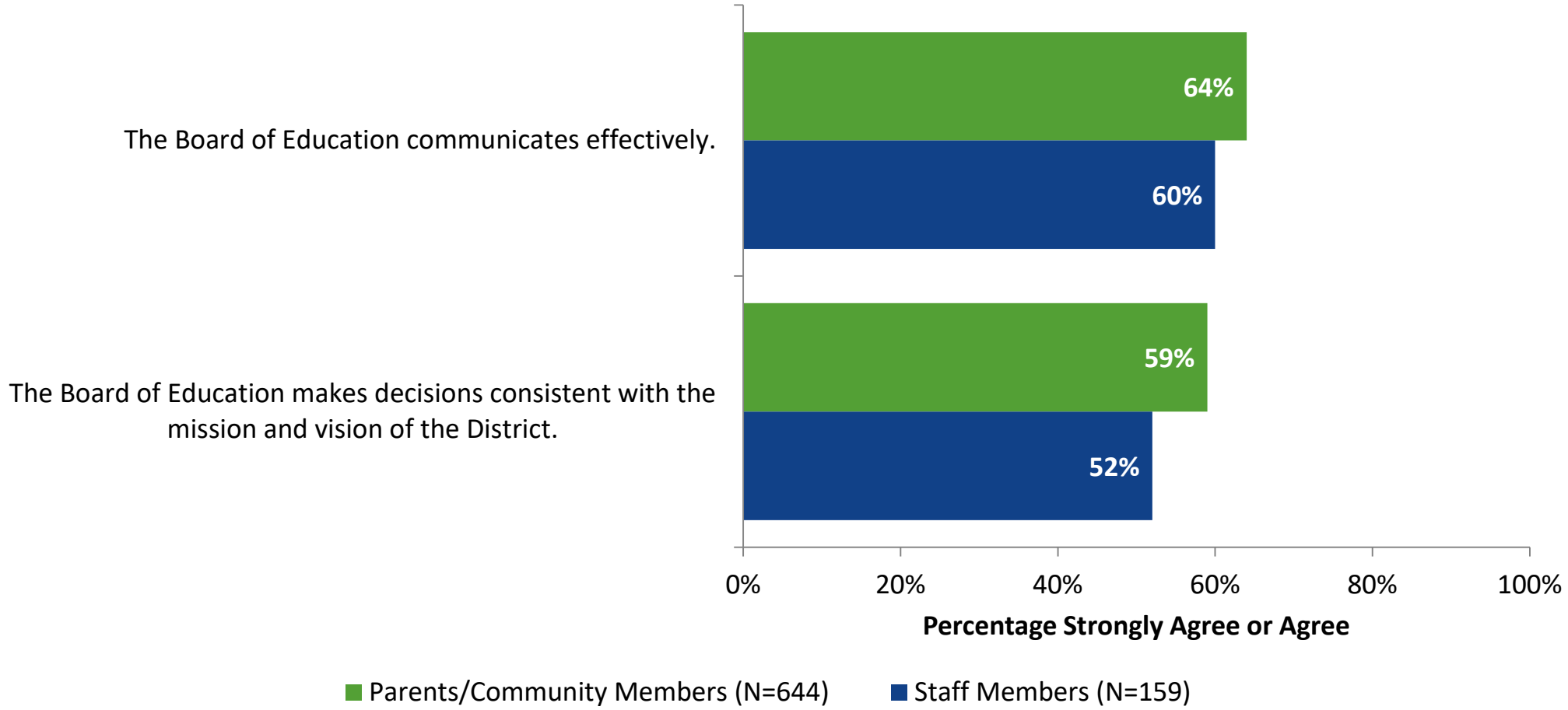
Board of Education: Comparison by Respondent Type

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



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

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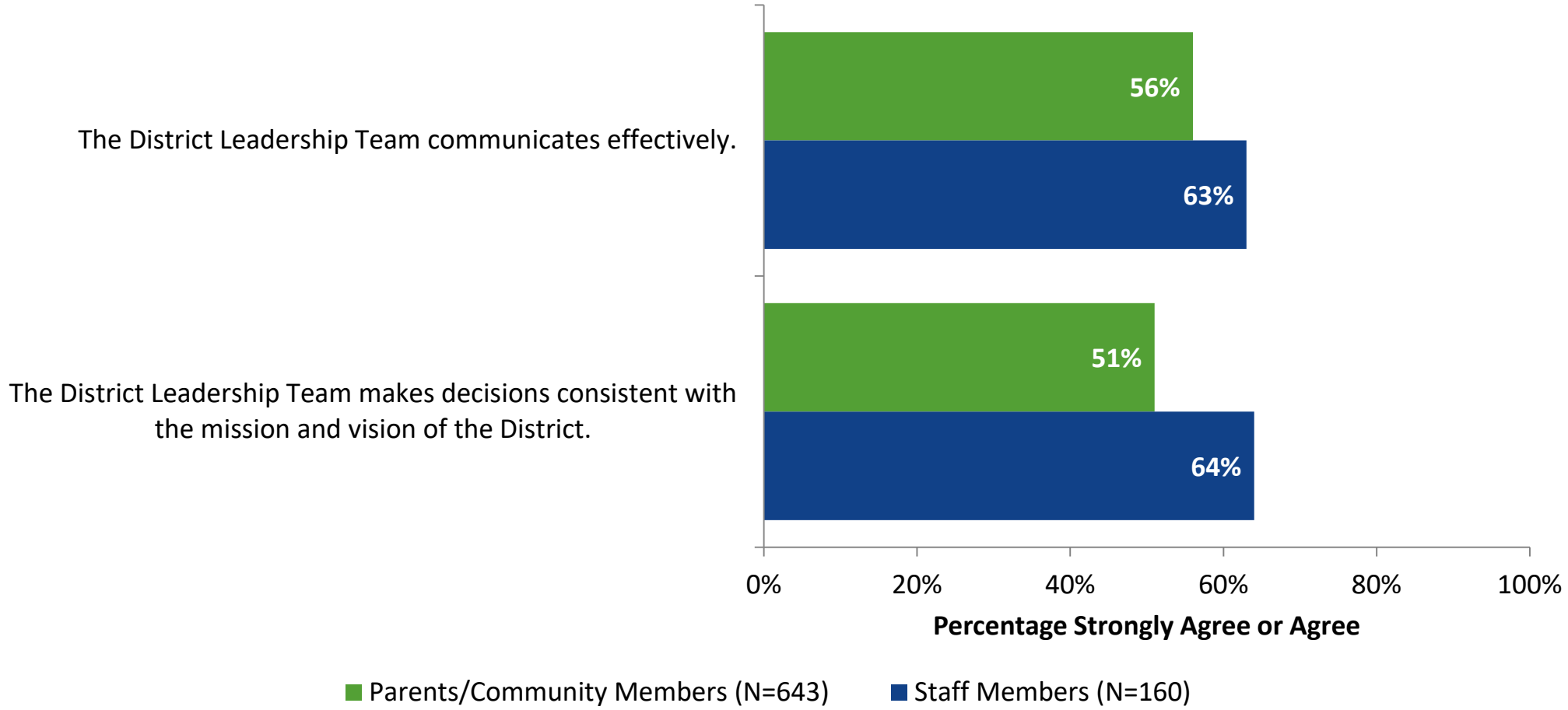
District Leadership Team: Comparison by Respondent Type

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



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

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Highest Ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	School Climate Topic
Families are encouraged to attend school-sponsored activities, such as back-to-school night, plays, concerts, and sporting events.	95%	Family Involvement
This school and partner organizations encourage families to volunteer (PTSA, Booster Club, IEF, etc.).	94%	Family Involvement
Families are informed about school-sponsored activities, such as athletics, after-school programs, and student performances.	93%	Family Involvement
There is a teacher, counselor, or other staff member to whom a student can go for help with a school problem.	85%	Support for Students
School employees and families treat each other with respect.	85%	Family Involvement

Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: Community members were not given these questions.

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Lowest Ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	School Climate Topic
The District Leadership Team communicates effectively.	29%	District Leadership Team
The Board of Education communicates effectively.	26%	Board of Education
Students are appropriately challenged by their schoolwork.	25%	Learning Experiences
The District Leadership Team makes decisions consistent with the mission and vision of the District.	25%	District Leadership Team
Students in this school receive individual support to address their academic needs.	24%	Learning Experiences

Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: Community members were not given these questions.

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Highest Ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	School Climate Topic
There is a teacher, counselor, or other staff member to whom a student can go for help with a school problem.	96%	Support for Students
School administrators (principal and assistant principal) are professional when I have a concern.	96%	School Leadership
Students in this school receive individual support to address their academic needs.	94%	Learning Experiences
There is a teacher, counselor, or other staff member to whom a student can go for help with a personal problem.	93%	Support for Students
This school has high learning standards for all students.	92%	Learning Experiences

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

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Lowest Ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	School Climate Topic
The District Leadership Team communicates effectively.	33%	District Leadership Team
The Board of Education communicates effectively.	31%	Board of Education
Students are held accountable for their actions.	26%	Safety and Behavior
The Board of Education makes decisions consistent with the mission and vision of the District.	26%	Board of Education
This school is safe.	25%	Safety and Behavior

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

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Highest Ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	School Climate Topic
This school offers students a variety of extracurricular activities (clubs, sports, etc.).	91%	Learning Experiences
There is a teacher, counselor, or other staff member to whom a student can go for help with a school problem.	90%	Support for Students
This school has high learning standards for all students.	85%	Learning Experiences
School staff members are aware of the safety and security procedures.	83%	Safety and Behavior
This school offers a variety of learning opportunities.	79%	Learning Experiences

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

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Lowest Ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	School Climate Topic
Students are shown how lessons relate to life outside of school.	60%	Learning Experiences
School administrators (principal and assistant principal) make decisions that are in the best interests of students.	45%	School Leadership
Students receive timely feedback about their work.	36%	Learning Experiences
School administrators (principal and assistant principal) make themselves available when I have a concern.	31%	School Leadership
Students receive helpful feedback about their work.	28%	Learning Experiences

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

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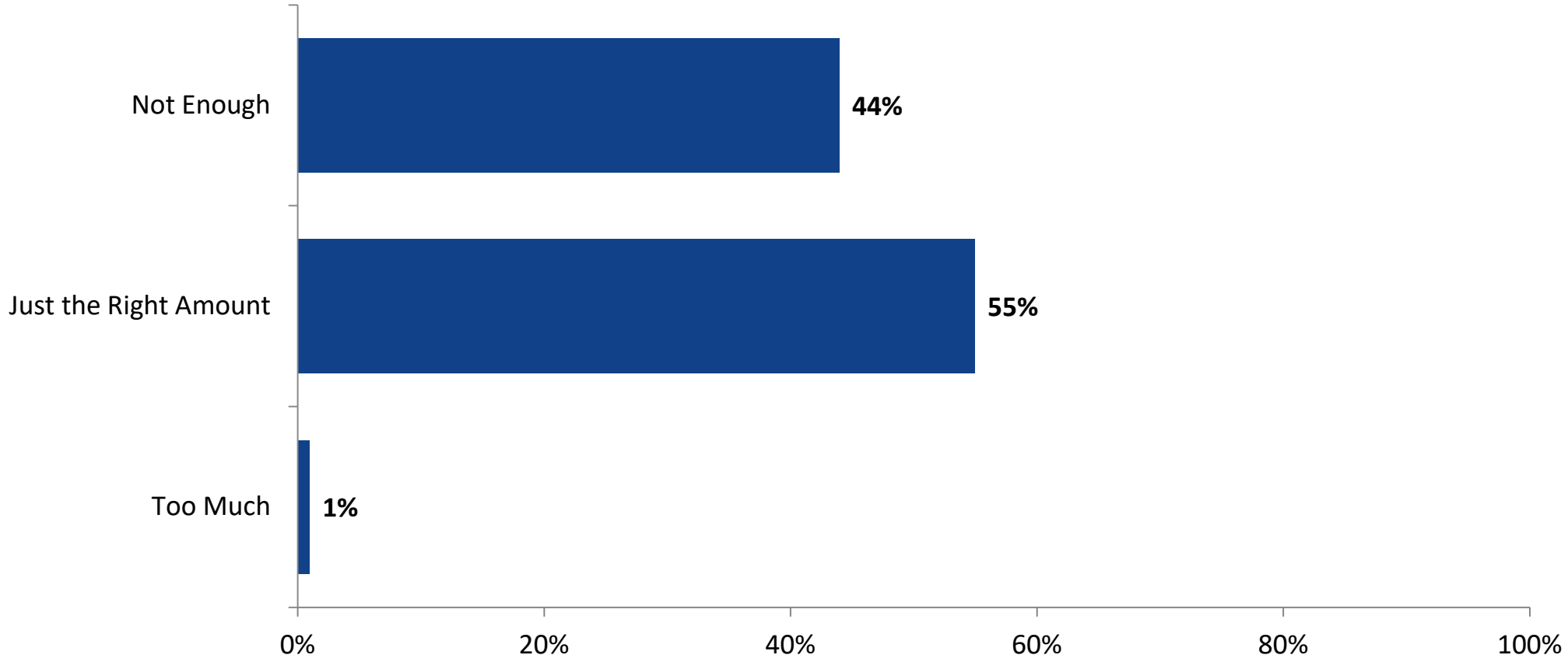
Amount of Information: School Board

How much information does the school board provide? (N=639)



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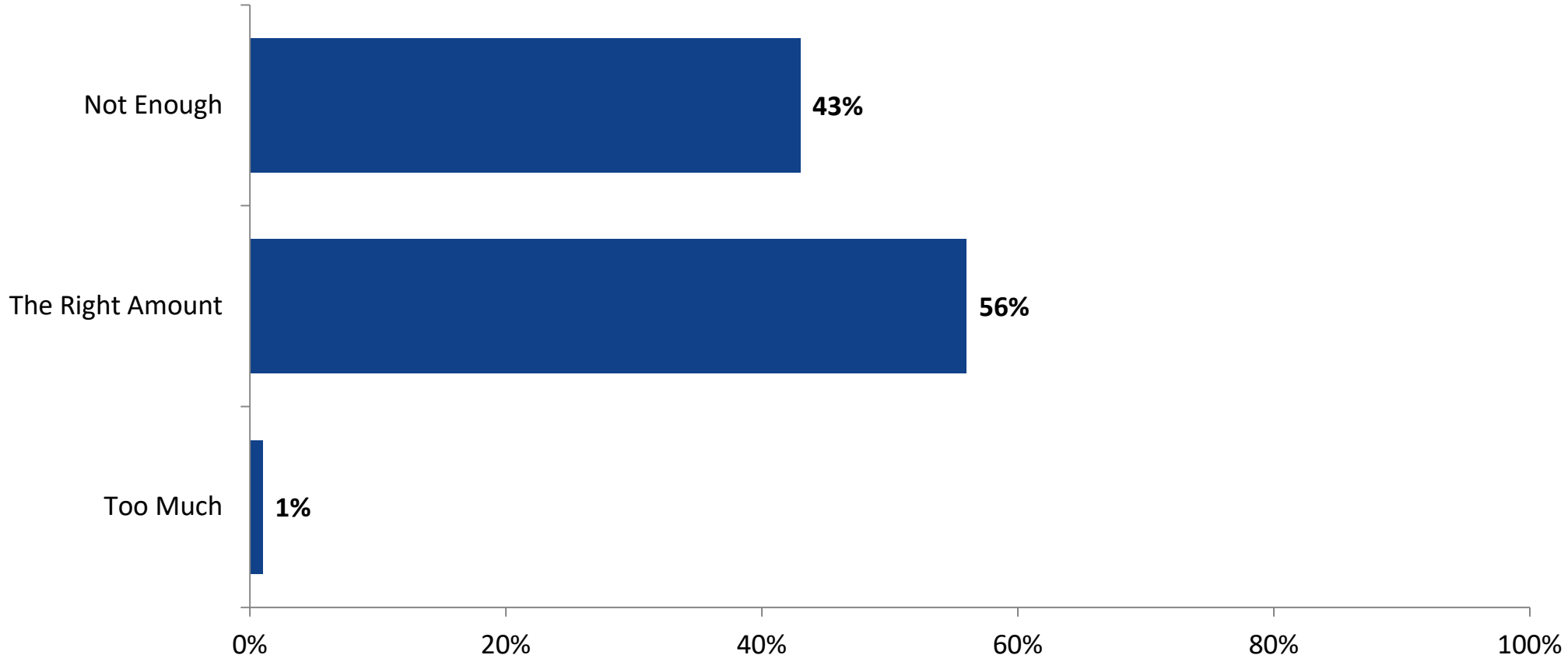
Amount of Information: School Board

How much information do you receive from the school board? (N=156)



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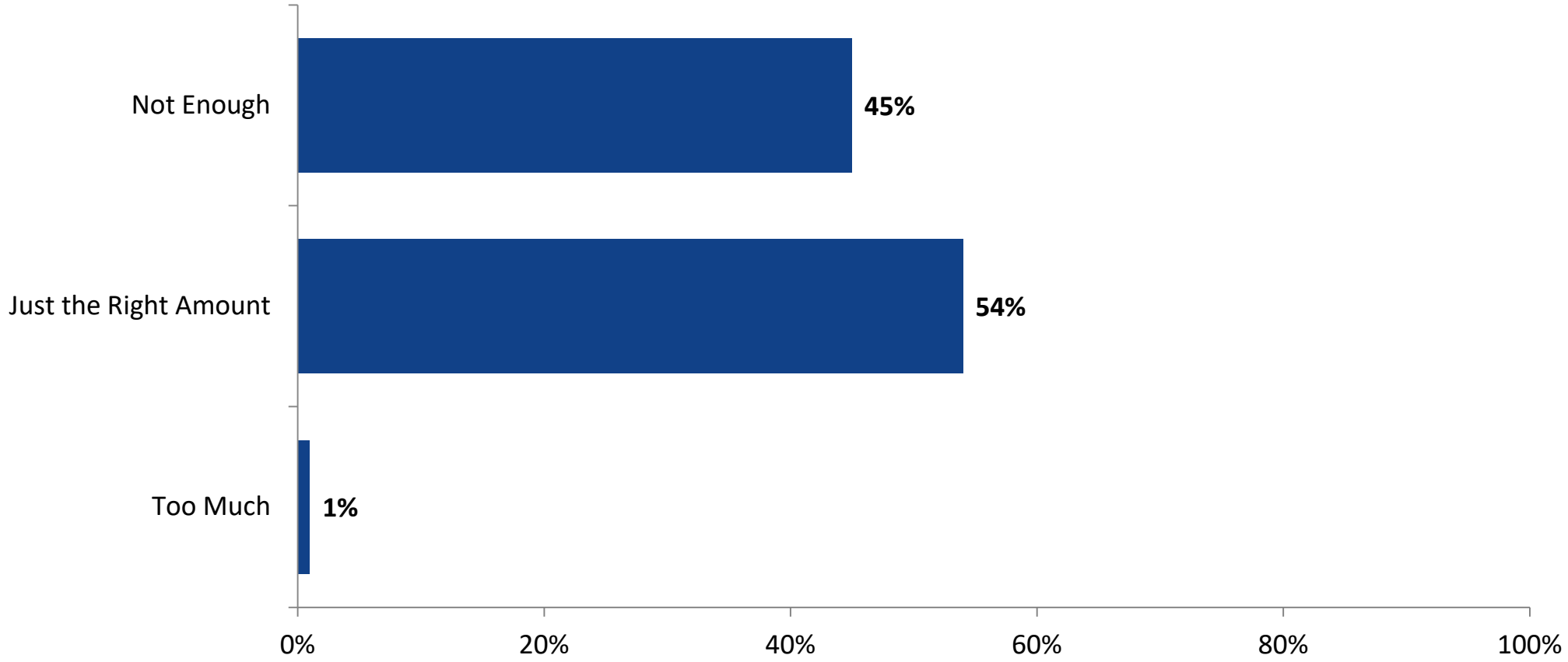
Amount of Information: District Leadership

How much information do you receive from district leadership? (N=629)



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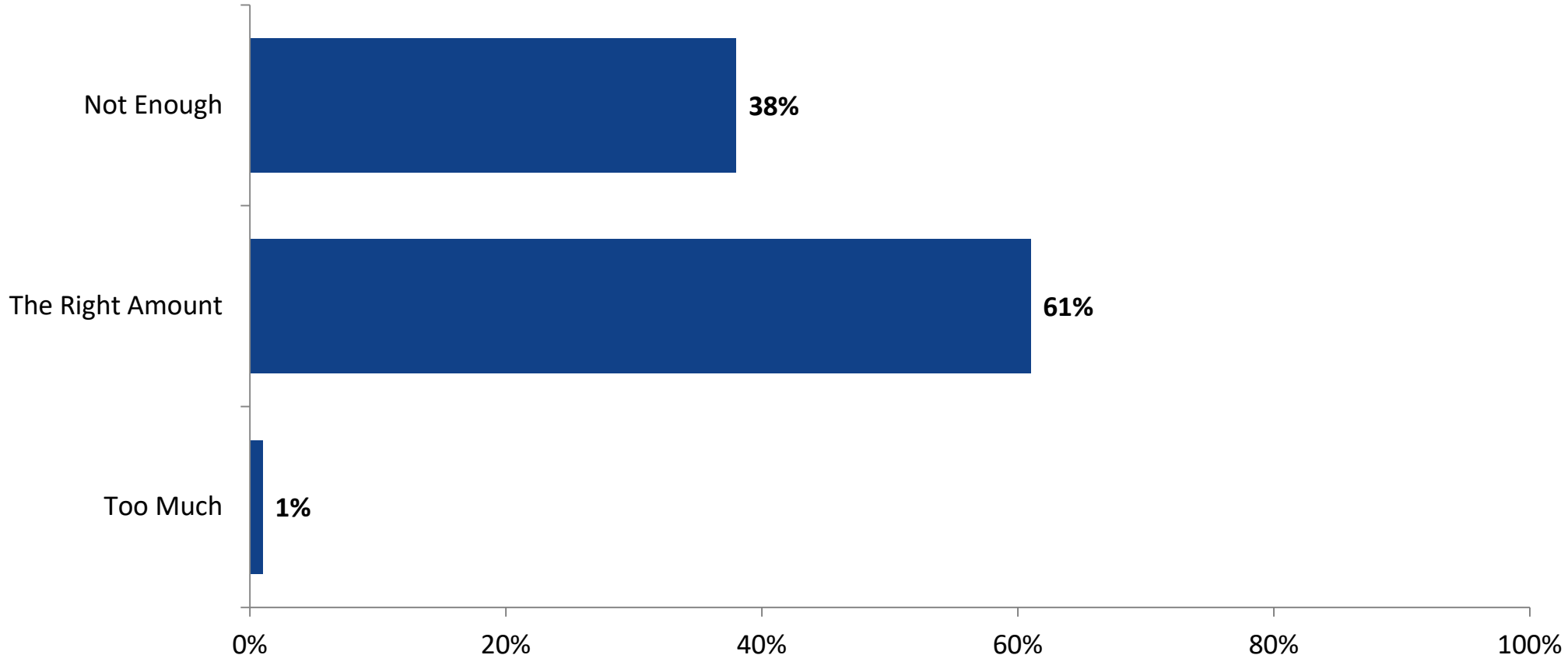
Amount of Information: District Leadership

How much information do you receive from district leadership? (N=156)



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Strategic Objectives

Please rank the top five priorities from the list of strategic objectives below, with Rank 1 being the highest priority. (N=630)

Strategic Objective	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank	2017-2018 Rank
Providing students with a rigorous, comprehensive, enriched, and diversified curricula; expanding STEM education and integrating technology.	100	1	1
Fostering the social and emotional growth of all students and promoting a culture where students are active participants in society, including civic and global engagement and learning.	96	2	2
Encouraging a culture of innovation, creativity, and risk taking to inspire a dynamic learning environment.	77	3	3
Providing for a high-quality learning environment, including facilities maintenance, energy efficiency, sustainability investment, and a safe school environment.	50	4	4
Supporting educators, including targeted professional learning and opportunities for collaboration.	36	5	5
Ensuring the fiscal health of the District, including anticipating and controlling costs and investing in program development.	30	6	6
Strengthening local connections to and ownership of our schools, including improved stakeholder communication (parents, staff, students, community).	28	7	7

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Strategic Objectives

Please rank the top five priorities from the list of strategic objectives below, with Rank 1 being the highest priority. (N=149)

Strategic Objective	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank	2017-2018 Rank
Fostering the social and emotional growth of all students and promoting a culture where students are active participants in society including civic and global engagement and learning.	100	1	1
Providing students with a rigorous, comprehensive, enriched, and diversified curricula; expanding STEM education and integrating technology.	85	2	2
Encouraging a culture of innovation, creativity, and risk taking to inspire a dynamic learning environment.	71	3	4
Supporting educators, including targeted professional learning and opportunities for collaboration.	68	4	3
Providing for a high-quality learning environment, including facilities maintenance, energy efficiency, sustainability investment, and a safe school environment.	68	5	5
Strengthening local connections to and ownership of our schools, including improved stakeholder communication (parents, staff, students, community).	30	6	6
Ensuring the fiscal health of the District, including anticipating and controlling costs and investing in program development.	21	7	7

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Strategic Objectives

Please rank the top five priorities from the list of strategic objectives below, with Rank 1 being the highest priority. (N=754)

Strategic Objective	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank	2017-2018 Rank
Providing students with a rigorous, comprehensive, enriched, and diversified curricula; expanding STEM education and integrating technology.	100	1	1
Fostering the social and emotional growth of all students and promoting a culture where students are active participants in society including civic and global engagement and learning.	95	2	3
Encouraging a culture of innovation, creativity, and risk taking to inspire a dynamic learning environment.	90	3	2
Providing for a high-quality learning environment, including facilities maintenance, energy efficiency, sustainability investment, and a safe school environment.	86	4	6
Strengthening local connections to and ownership of our schools, including improved stakeholder communication (parents, staff, students, community).	56	5	4
Supporting educators, including targeted professional learning and opportunities for collaboration.	56	6	5
Ensuring the fiscal health of the District, including anticipating and controlling costs and investing in program development.	49	7	7

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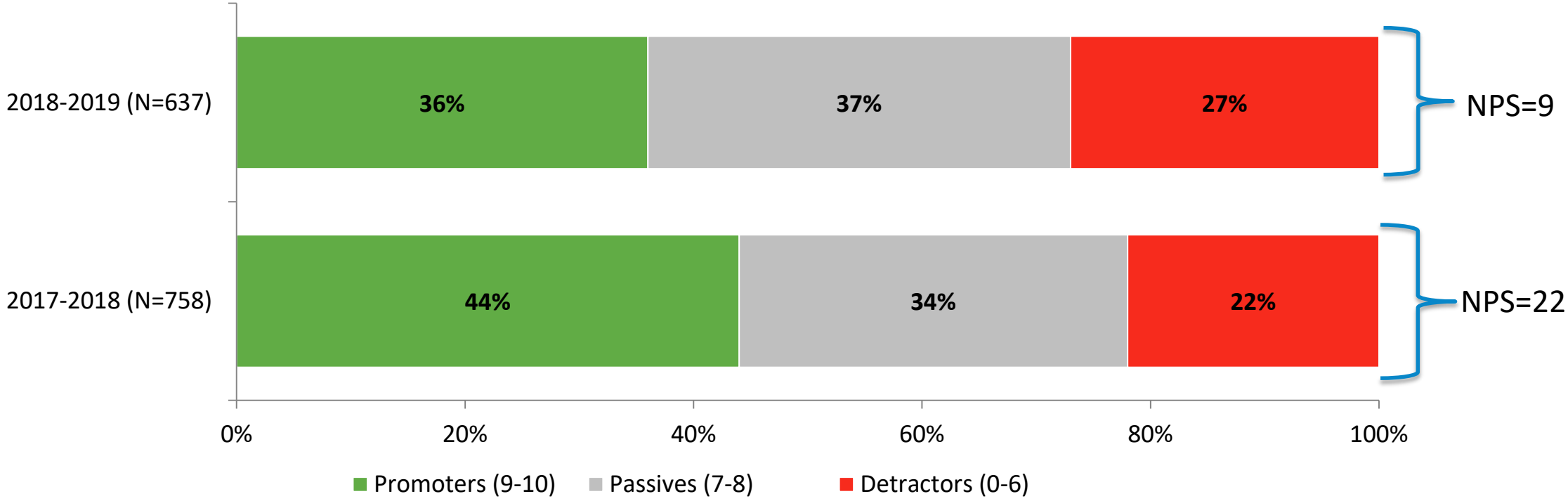
Net Promoter Score — District

The district net promoter score (NPS) serves as a proxy for public confidence in the district and can potentially be connected to district growth. It is calculated by subtracting the percentage of detractors from the percentage of promoters, which gives a value between -100 to +100. A positive score means there are more people promoting the district than detracting from it.

How likely are you to recommend Irvington UFSD to a friend or colleague?



Note: Participants were asked how likely they were to recommend Irvington UFSD to a friend or colleague on a scale of zero to 10, with zero being Not at All Likely and 10 being Extremely Likely. The scores are clustered into promoters, passives, and detractors based on the rating. The net promoter score is calculated by subtracting the percentage of detractors from the percentage of promoters.

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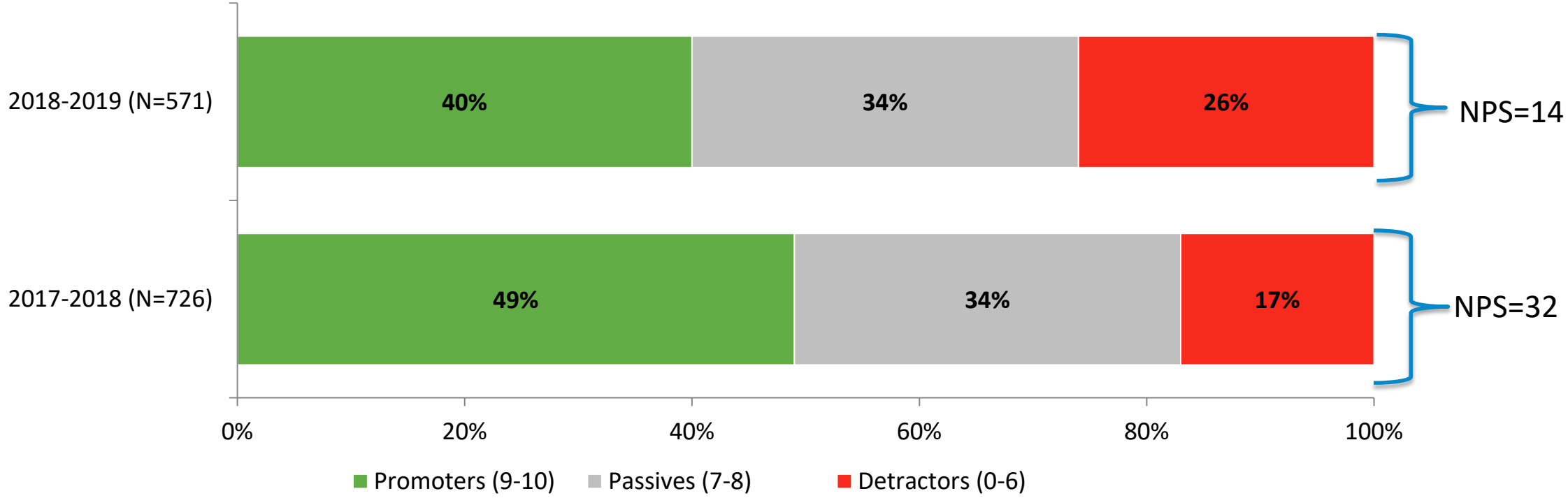
Net Promoter Score — School

The school net promoter score (NPS) serves as a proxy for public confidence in district schools and can potentially be connected to district growth. It is calculated by subtracting the percentage of detractors from the percentage of promoters, which gives a value between -100 to +100. A positive score means there are more people promoting district schools than detracting from them.

How likely are you to recommend this school to a friend or colleague?



Notes: Participants were asked how likely they were to recommend their child(ren)'s school(s) to a friend or colleague on a scale of zero to 10, with zero being Not at All Likely and 10 being Extremely Likely. The scores are clustered into promoters, passives, and detractors based on the rating. The net promoter score is calculated by subtracting the percentage of detractors from the percentage of promoters. Only parents of current students were given this question.

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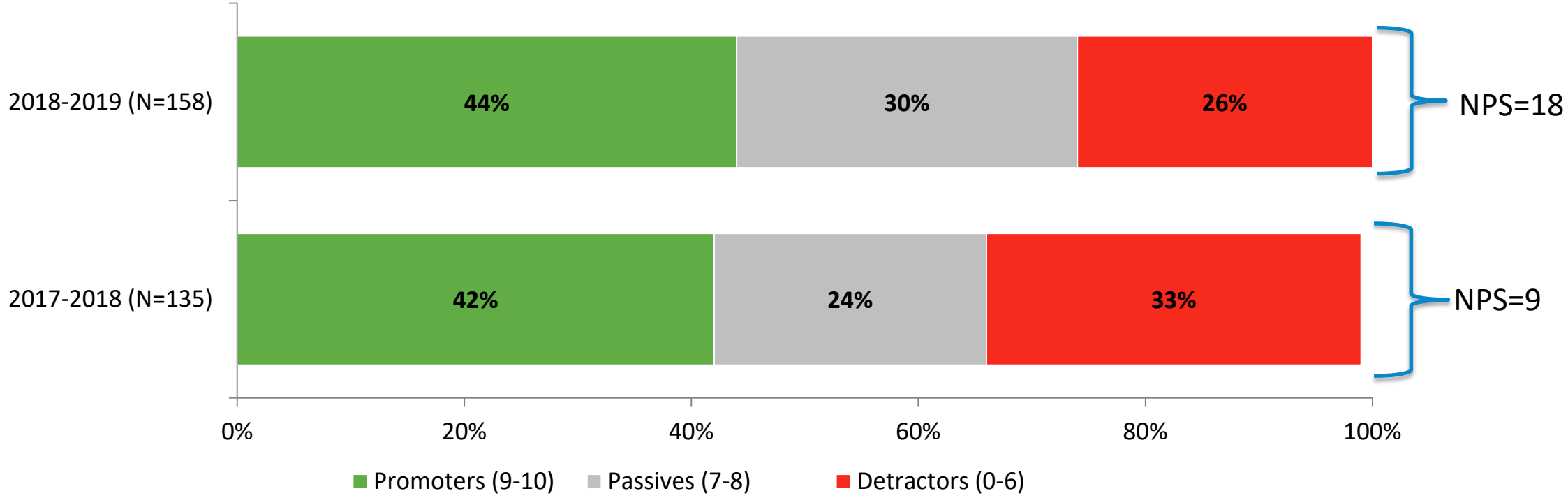
Net Promoter Score — District

The district net promoter score (NPS) serves as a proxy for public confidence in the district and can potentially be connected to district growth. It is calculated by subtracting the percentage of detractors from the percentage of promoters, which gives a value between -100 to +100. A positive score means there are more people promoting the district than detracting from it.

How likely are you to recommend Irvington UFSD to a friend or colleague?



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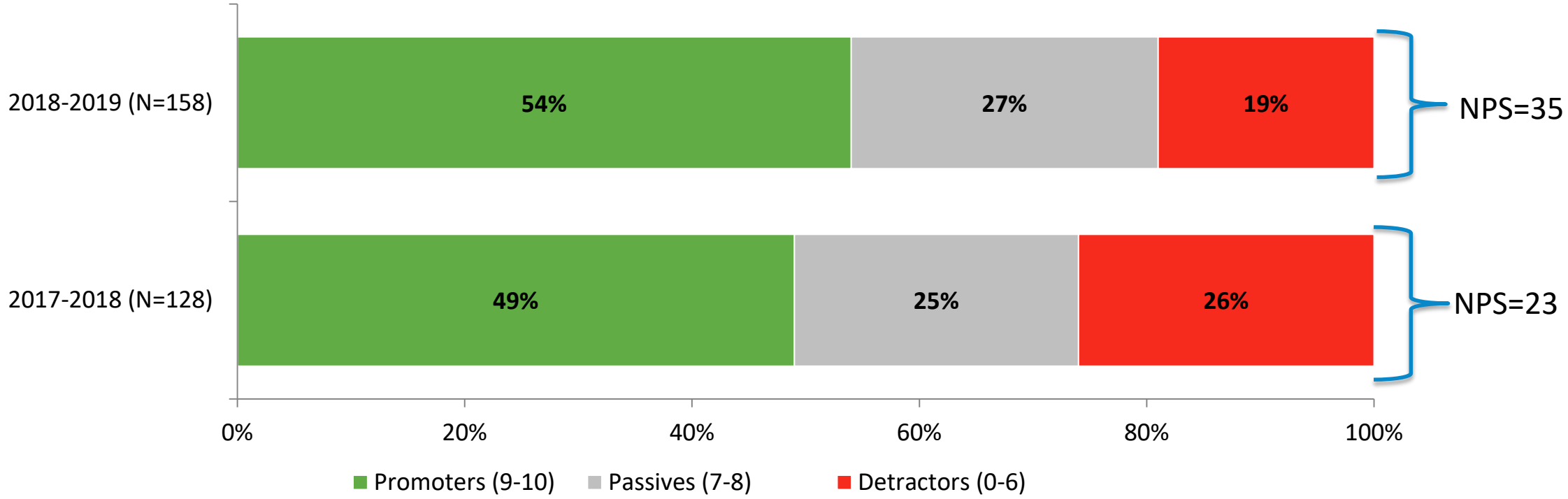
Net Promoter Score — School

The school net promoter score (NPS) serves as a proxy for public confidence in district schools and can potentially be connected to district growth. It is calculated by subtracting the percentage of detractors from the percentage of promoters, which gives a value between -100 to +100. A positive score means there are more people promoting district schools than detracting from them.

How likely are you to recommend this school to a friend or colleague?



Notes: Participants were asked how likely they were to recommend their school to a friend or colleague on a scale of zero to 10, with zero being Not at All Likely and 10 being Extremely Likely. The scores are clustered into promoters, passives, and detractors based on the rating. The net promoter score is calculated by subtracting the percentage of detractors from the percentage of promoters. Only school-based staff members answered this question.

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Key Insights

- 86% of parents and 77% of students who took the survey rated their school as excellent or good, which is a slight decline from last school year for both participant groups. However, 92% of participating staff members rated their school as excellent or good, which is a 7 percentage-point increase from last school year. The school and district net promoter scores for parents and staff members followed a similar trend, with scores declining for parents but increasing for staff members.

- 81% of participating staff members agreed or strongly agreed that students are shown how lessons relate to life outside of school compared with 33% of participating students. This is a 5 percentage-point increase for staff members and a 3 percentage-point decrease for students from last school year. It may be beneficial to explore why this perception gap is expanding.

- 92% of participating staff members agreed or strongly agreed that students and staff members treat each other with respect compared with 77% of participating parents and 73% of participating students. Agreement on this item has declined by 3 percentage points for parents but has increased by 2 percentage points for staff members and 8 percentage points for students from last school year.

- The family involvement dimension had the highest percentage of agree and strongly agree responses from participating parents (81%) and participating students (77%). Engaged parents have a positive impact on student achievement.

- Though 92% of participating staff members agreed or strongly agreed that the school has high learning standards for all students, 24% of participating parents disagreed or strongly disagreed that students are appropriate challenged by their schoolwork.

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