

School Quality and Climate Surveys

Results and Analysis

Irvington Union Free School District
School Year 2017-2018



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:

- Academic support
- Student support
- School leadership
- Family involvement
- Safety and behavior
- Communication
- Board of Education
- District Leadership Team
- Capital project
- Strategic objectives

Details of the Study and Understanding the Results

The surveys were open April 9-29.

Parents, community members, staff members, and students in grades 6-12 could participate via a public link on the district's website. 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 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.

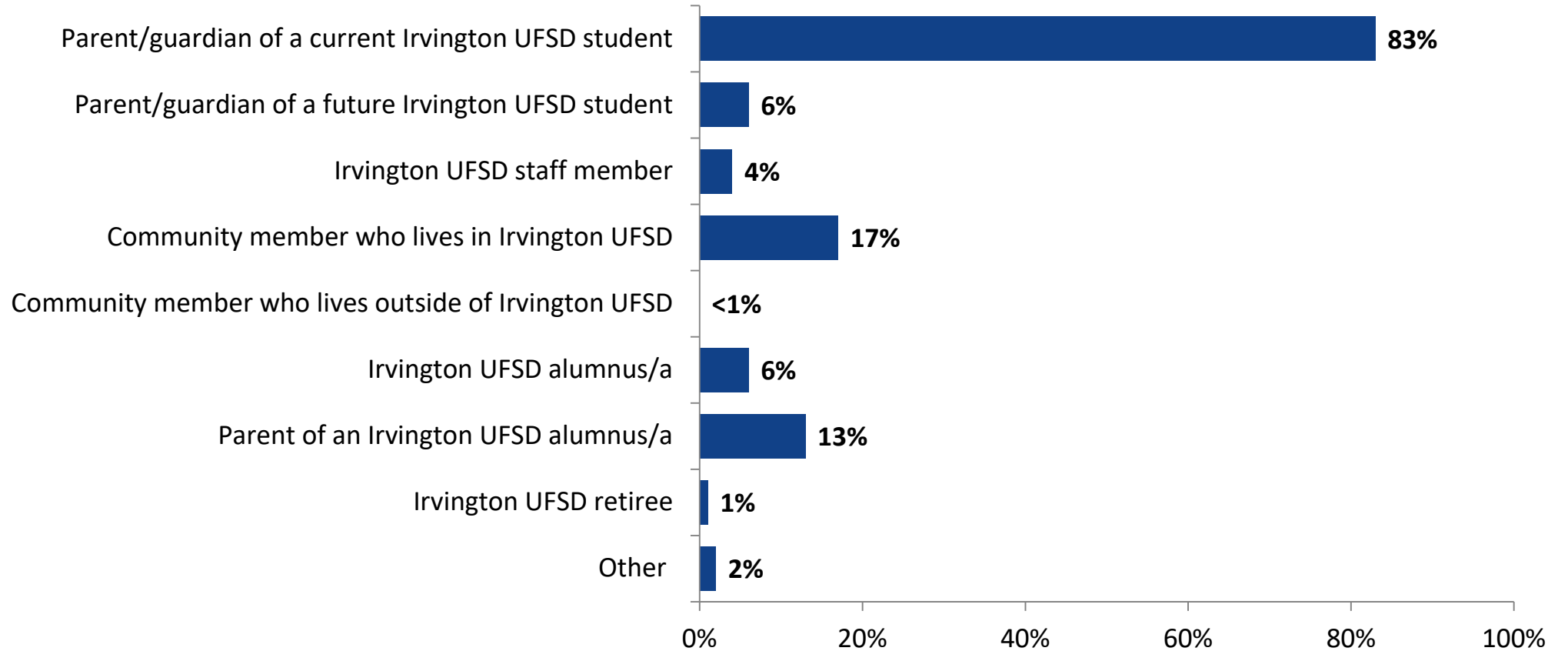
Participation

Responding Group	Public-Access Link Responses
Parents	771*
Staff Members	141
Students	828
Community Members	144

*Includes 85 responses for parents who took the survey again for an additional school.

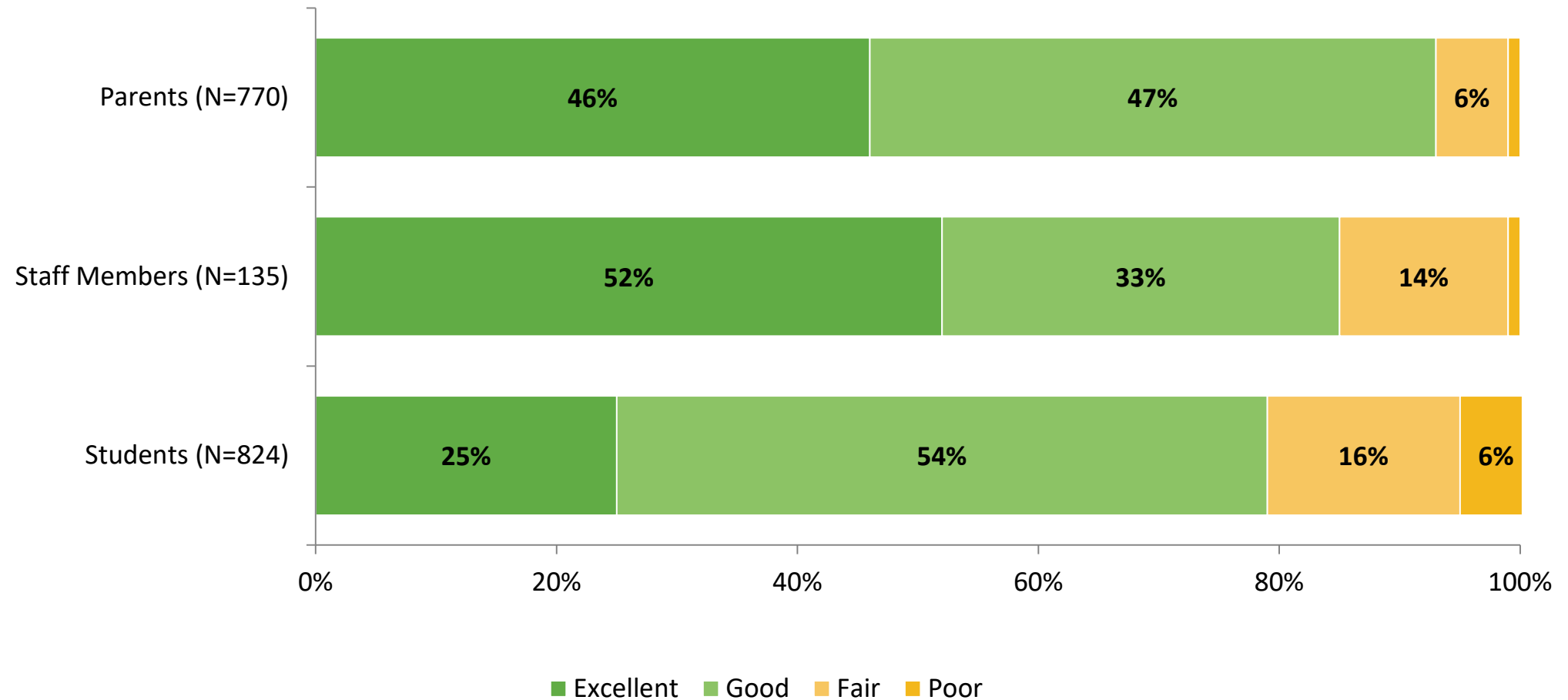
Connection to Irvington UFSD

How are you connected to Irvington UFSD? (N=830)



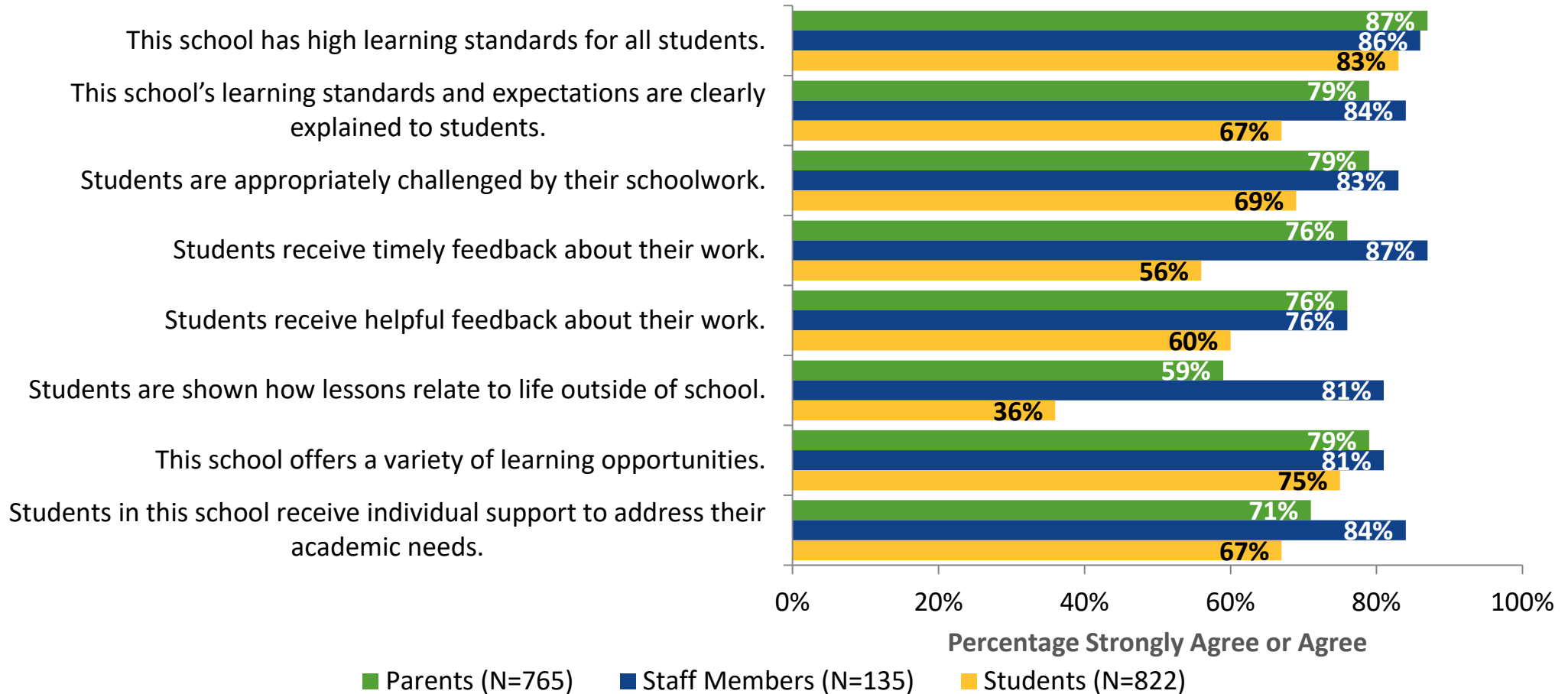
Overall School Quality

How would you rate the overall quality of this school?



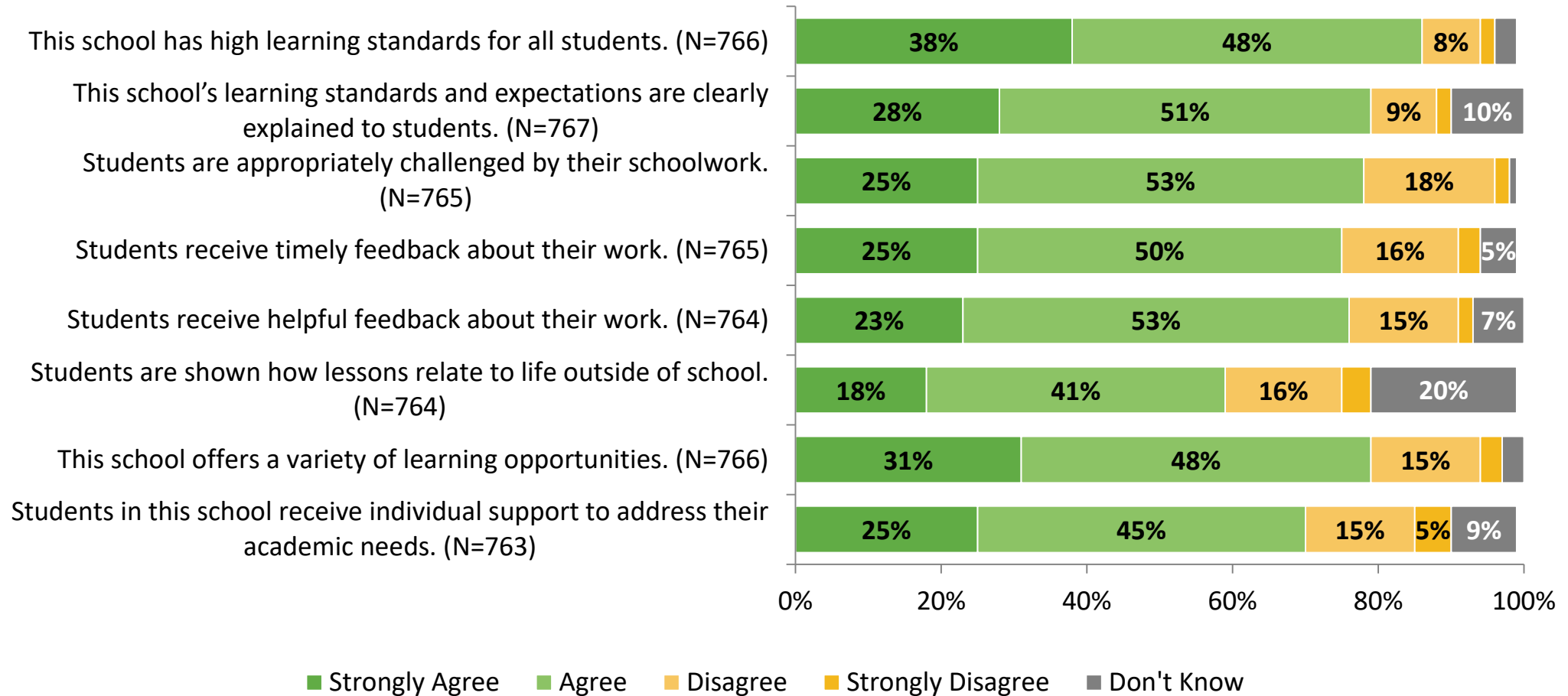
Academic Support: Comparison by Respondent Type

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



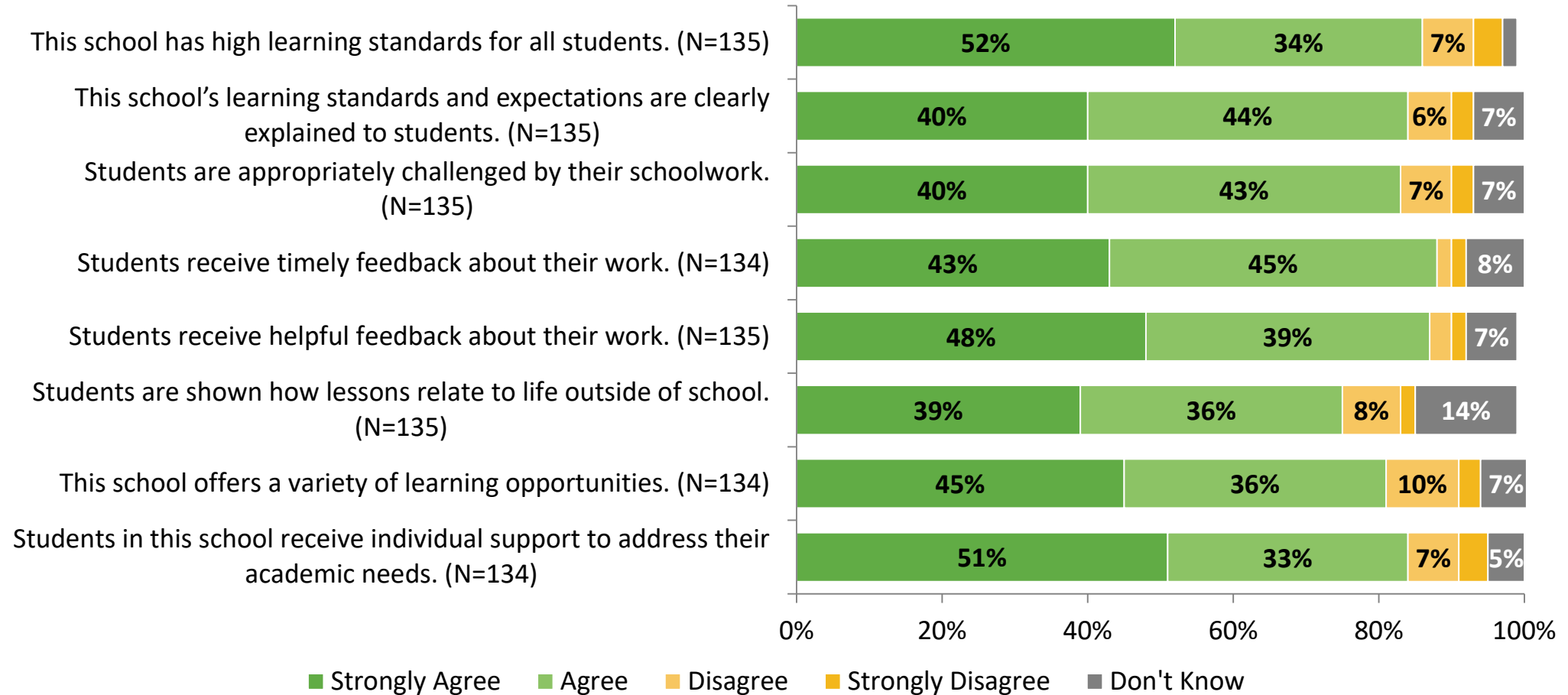
Academic Support – Parents

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



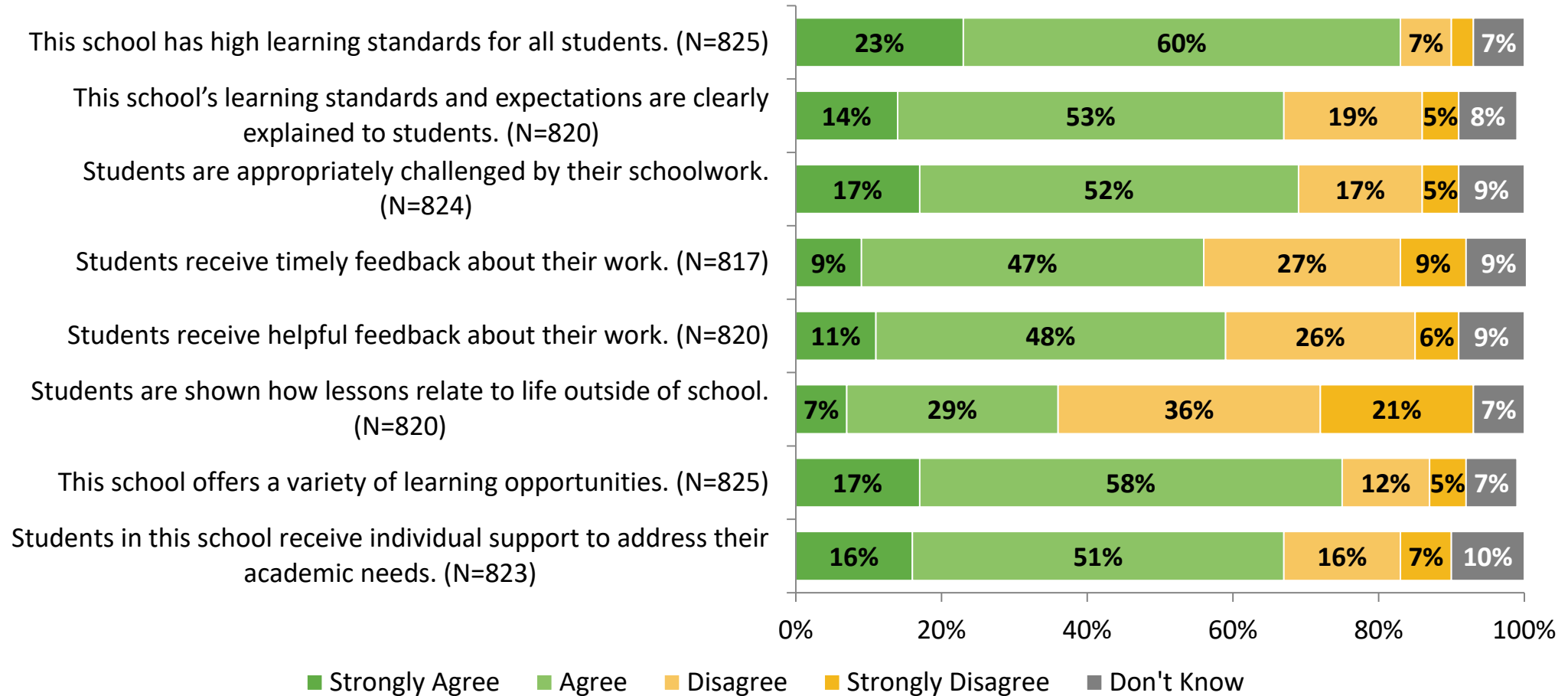
Academic Support – Staff Members

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



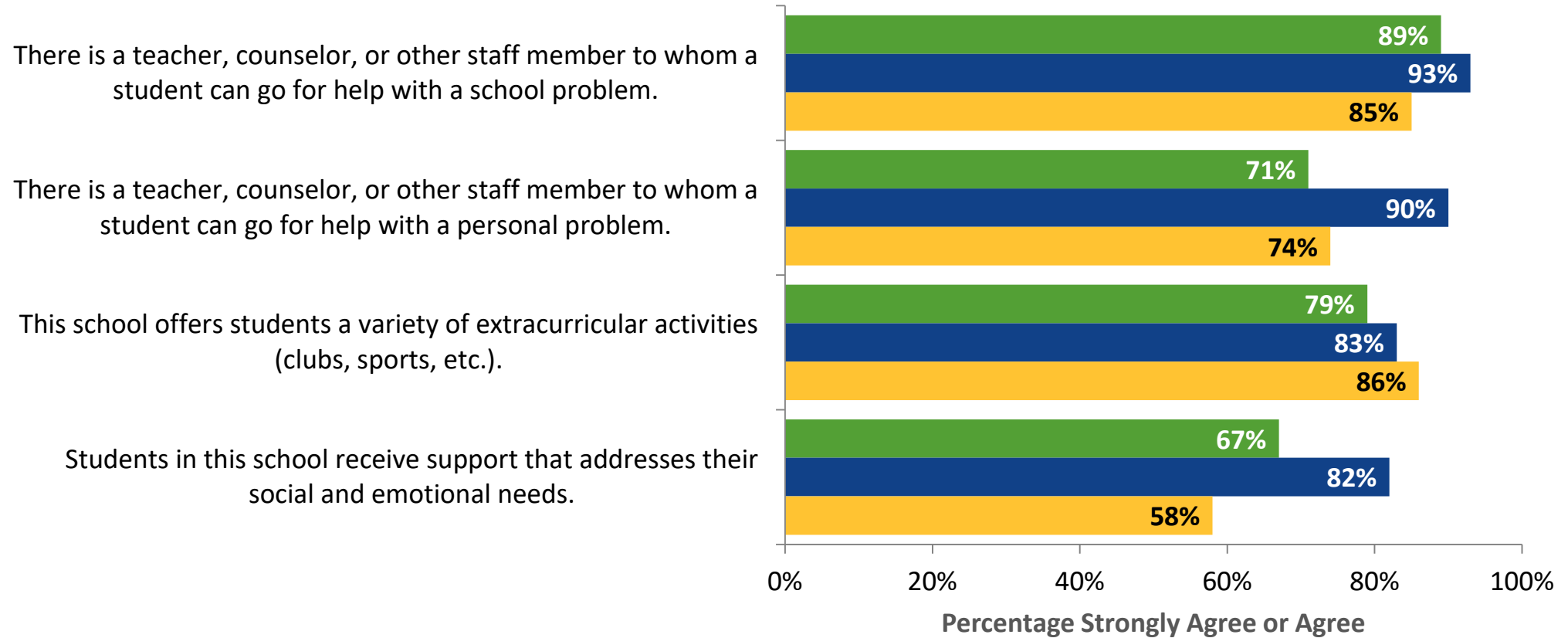
Academic Support – Students

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



Student Support: Comparison by Respondent Type

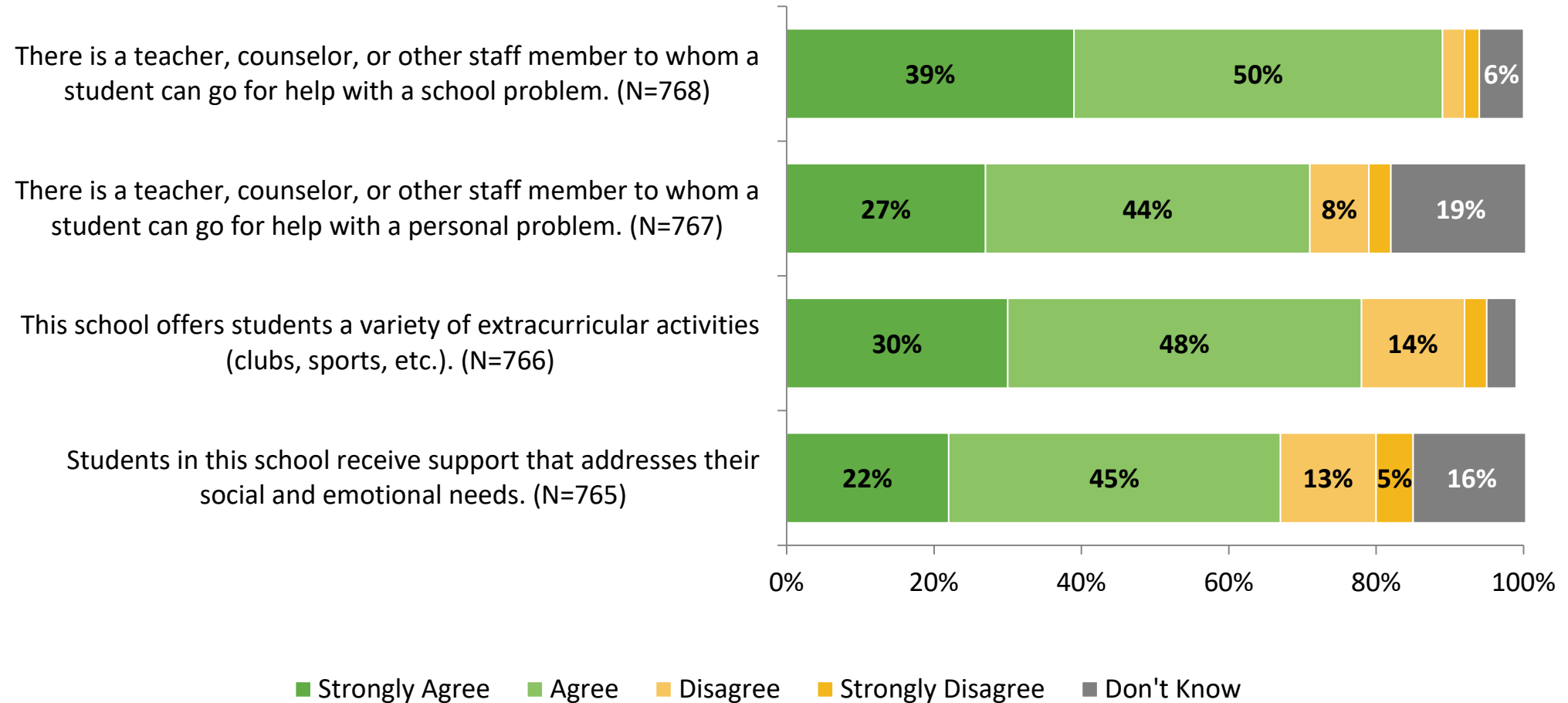
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



■ Parents (N=767) ■ Staff Members (N=135) ■ Students (N=823)

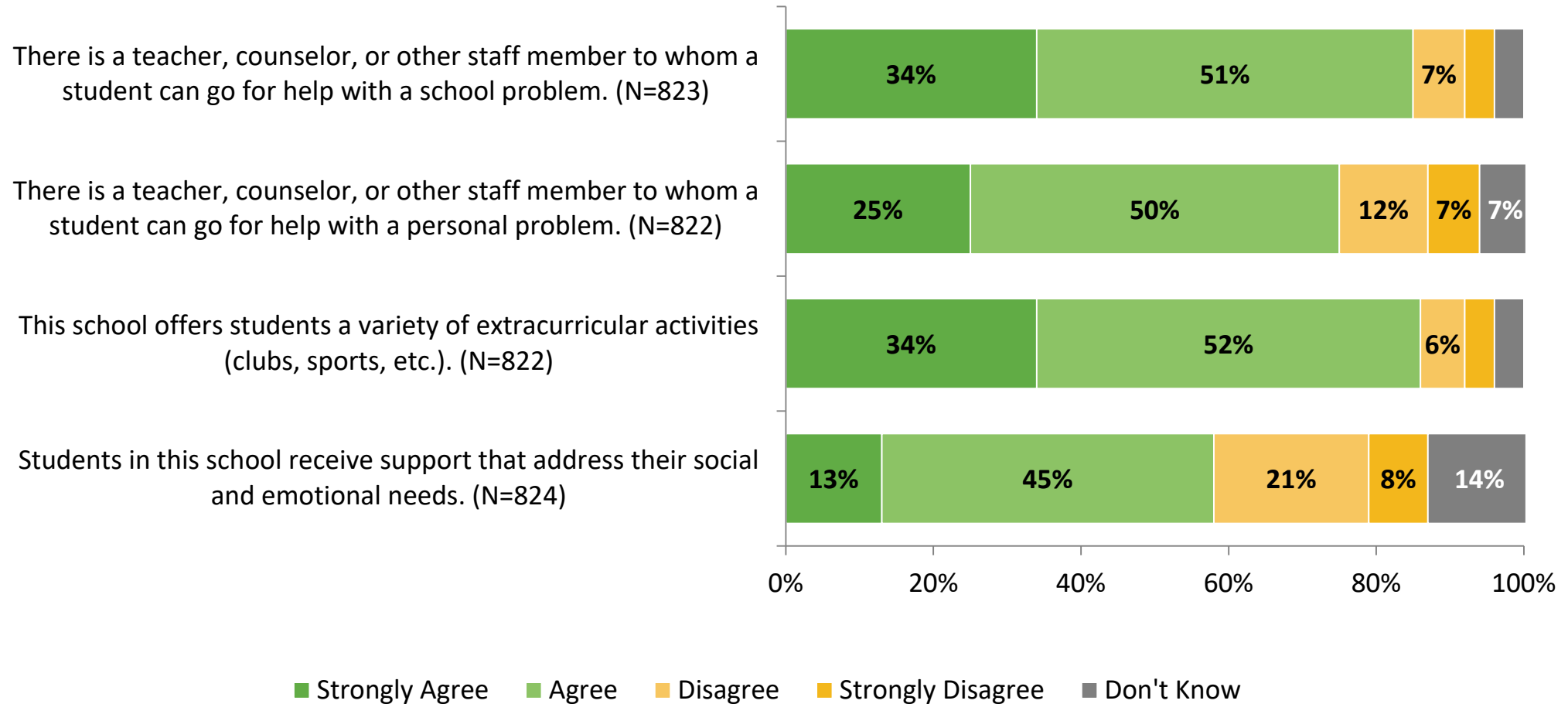
Student Support – Parents

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



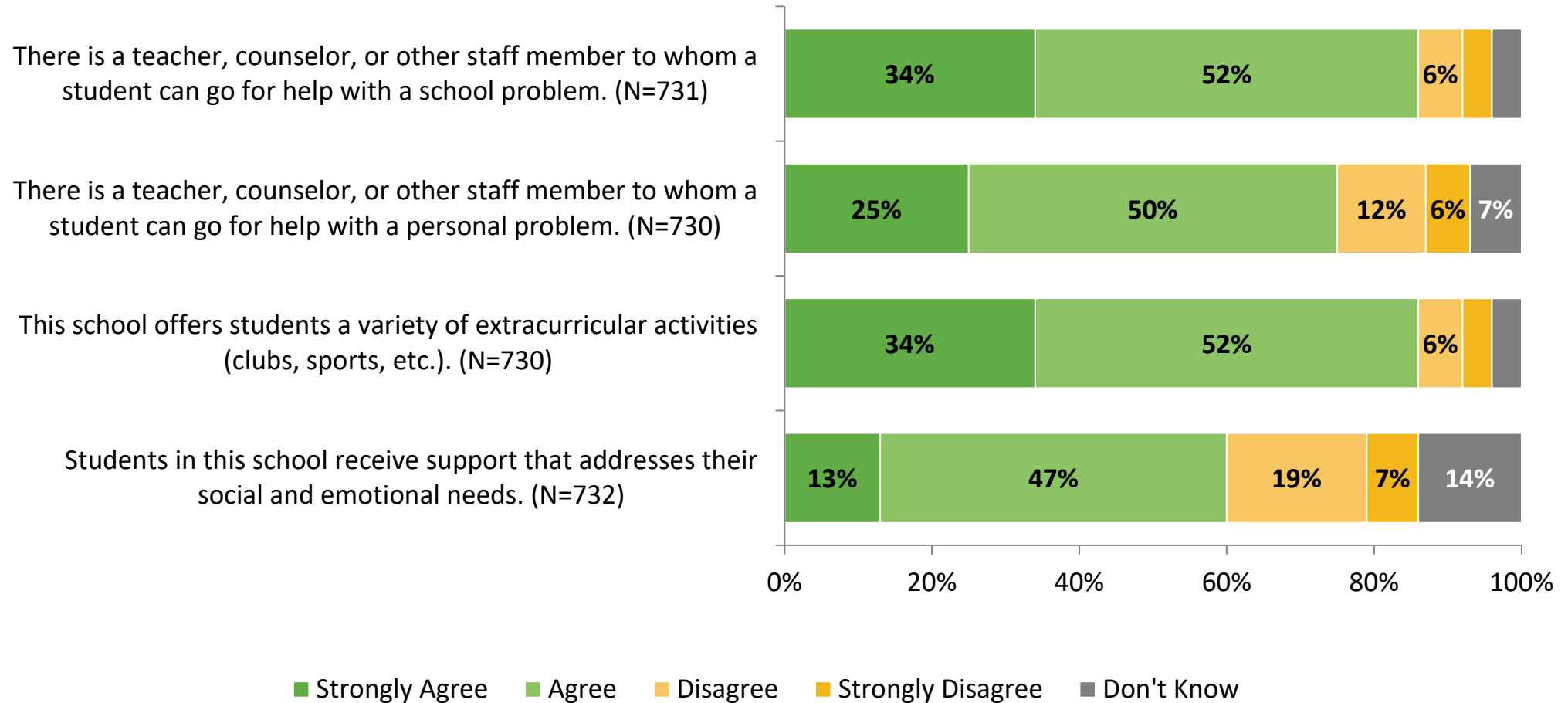
Student Support – Staff Members

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



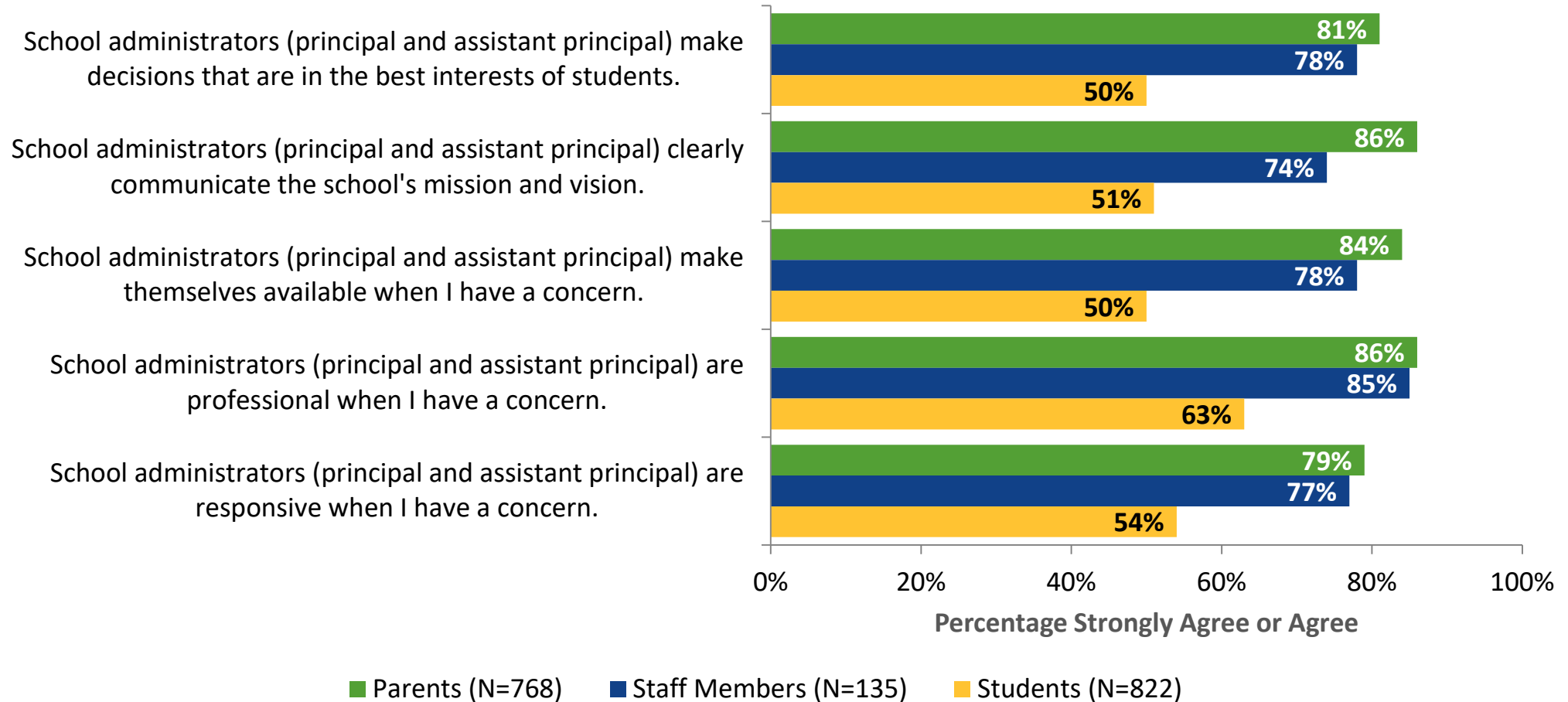
Student Support – Students

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



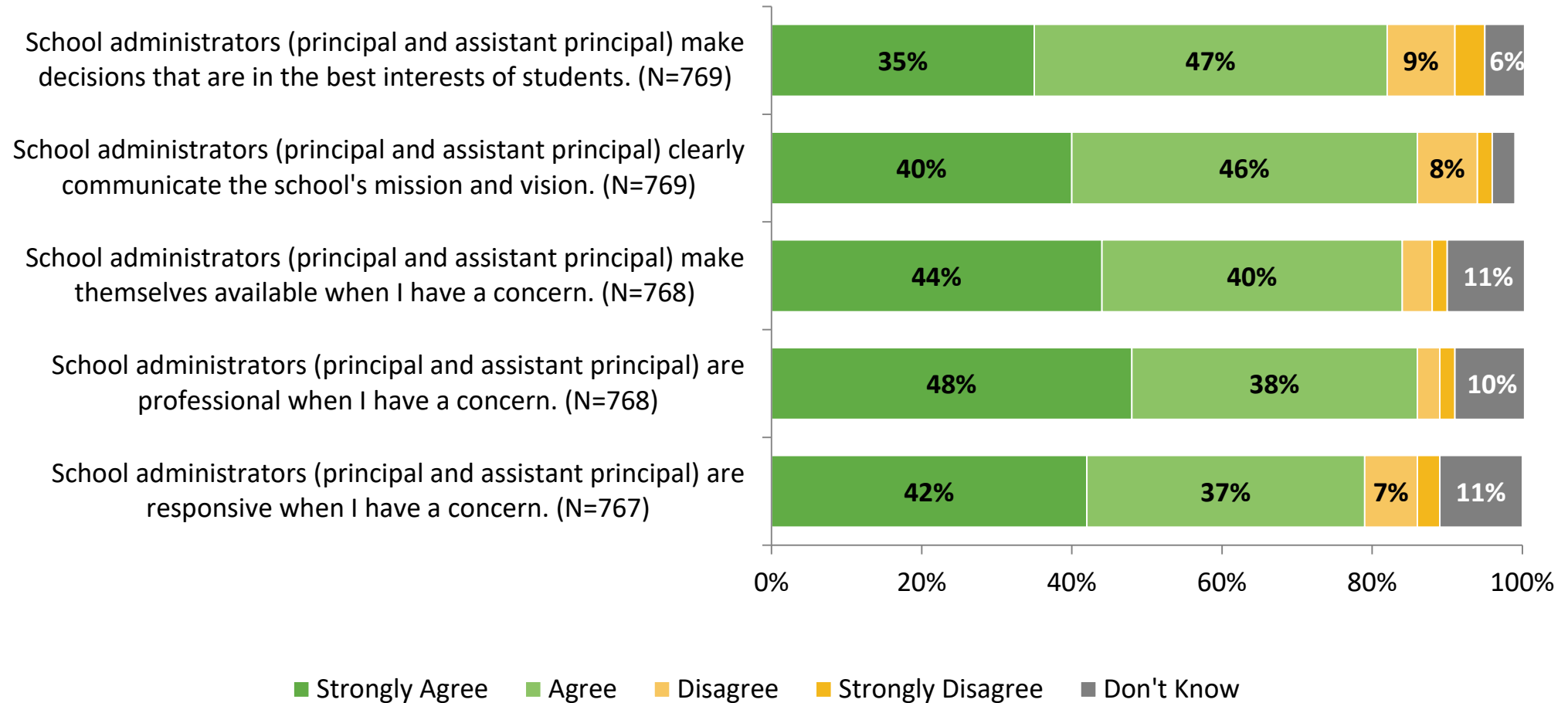
School Leadership: Comparison by Respondent Type

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



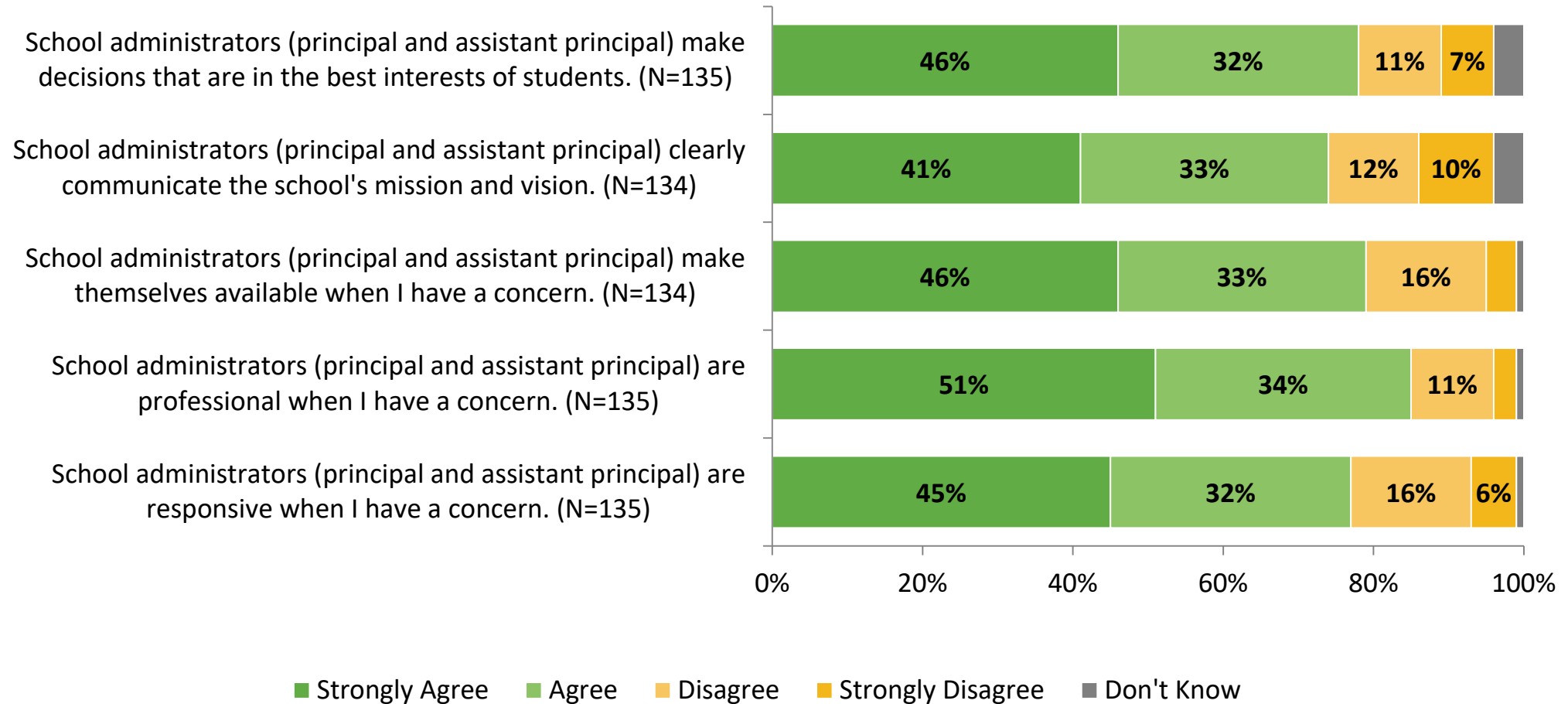
School Leadership – Parents

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



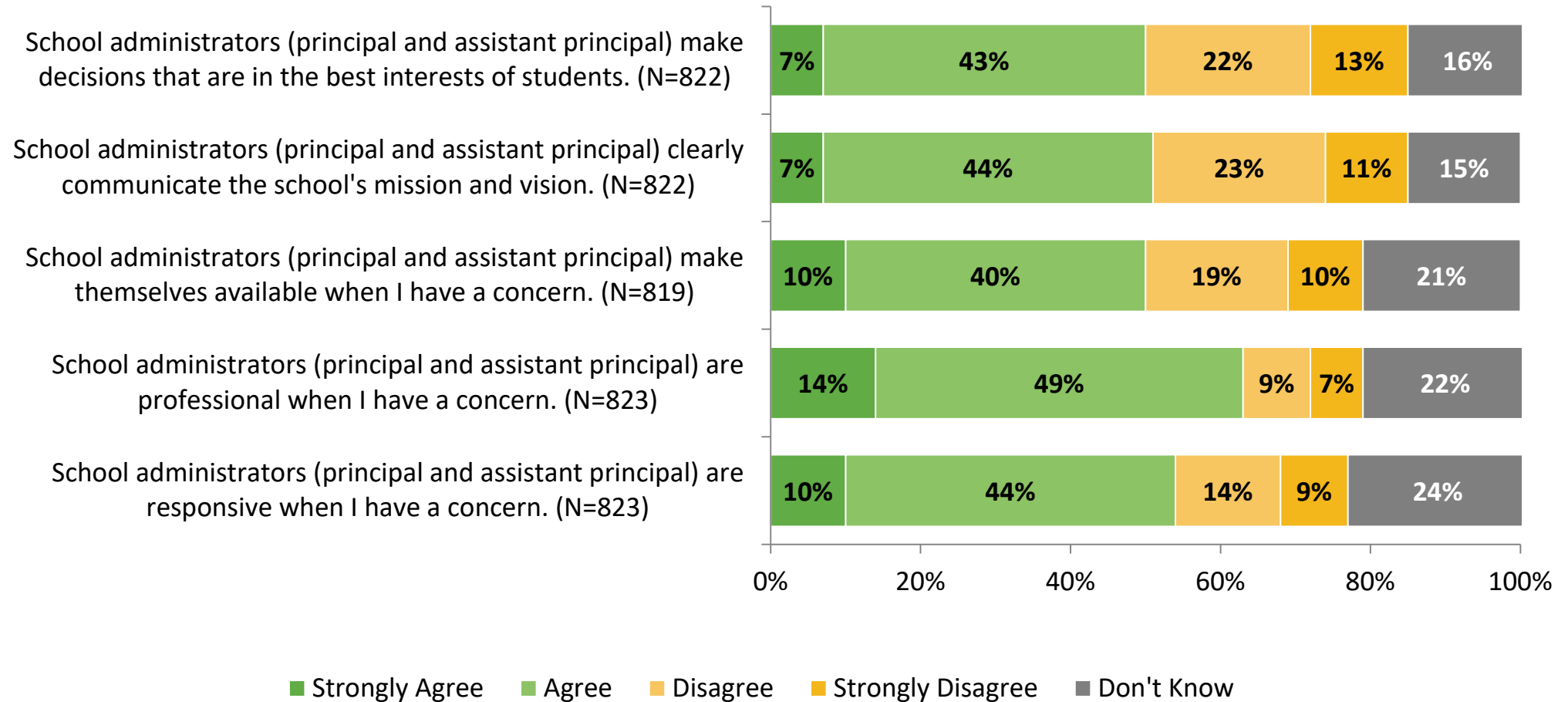
School Leadership – Staff Members

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



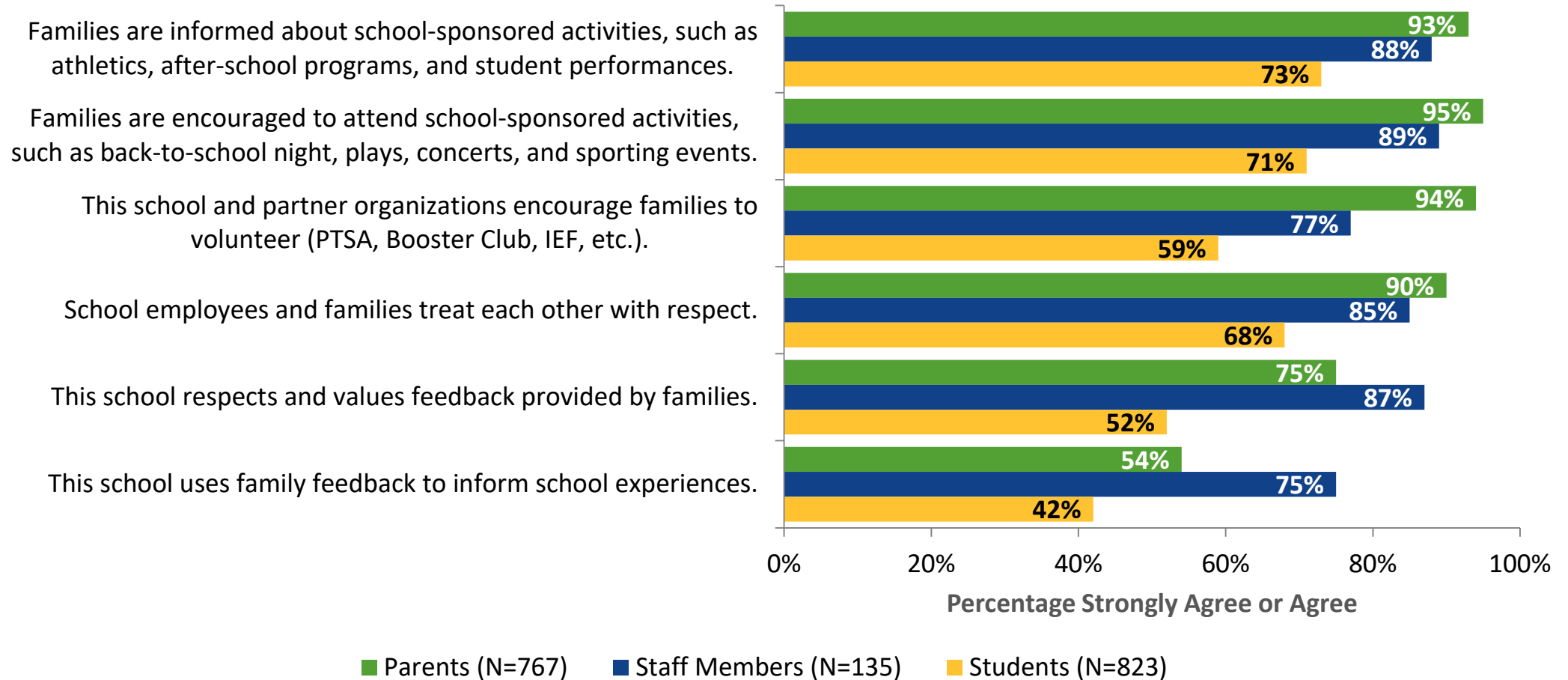
School Leadership – Students

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



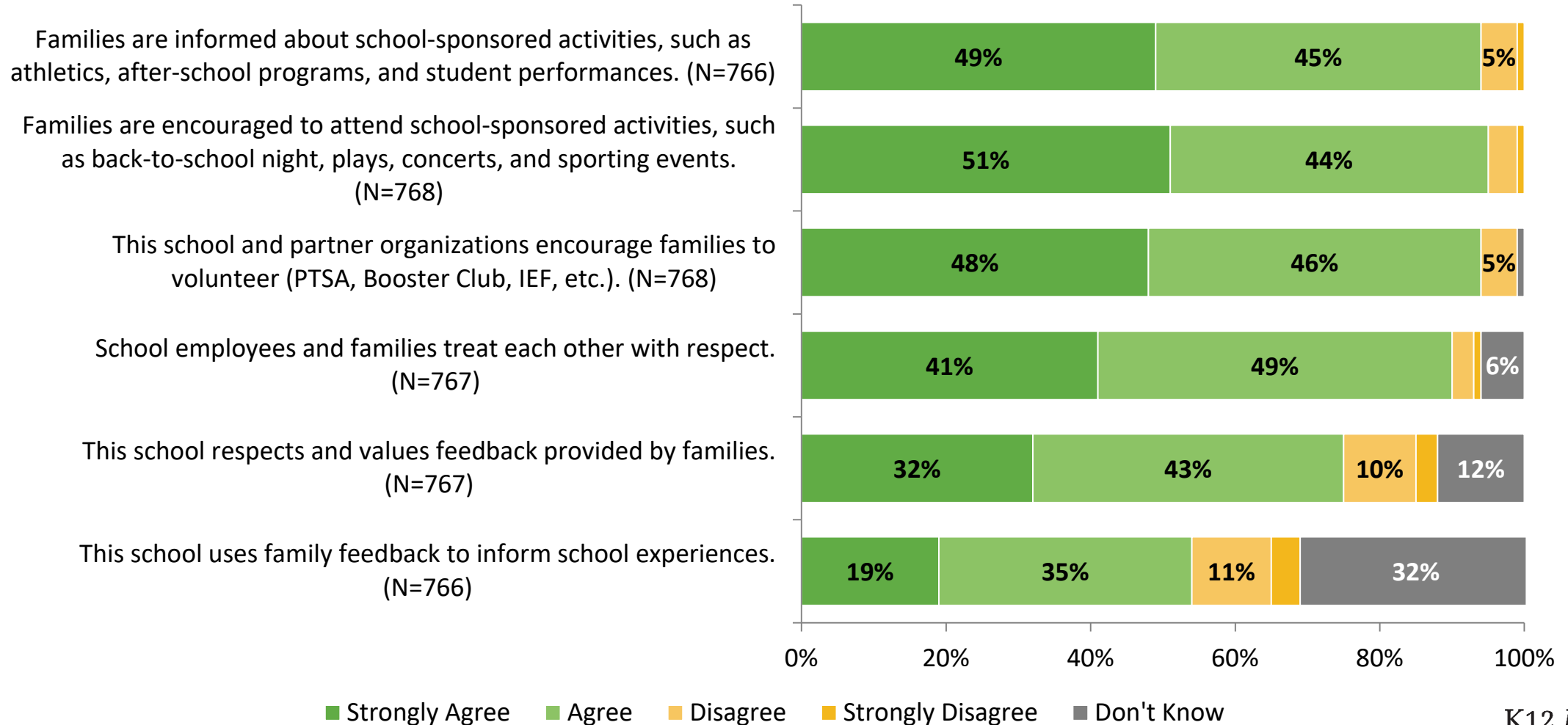
Family Involvement: Comparison by Respondent Type

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



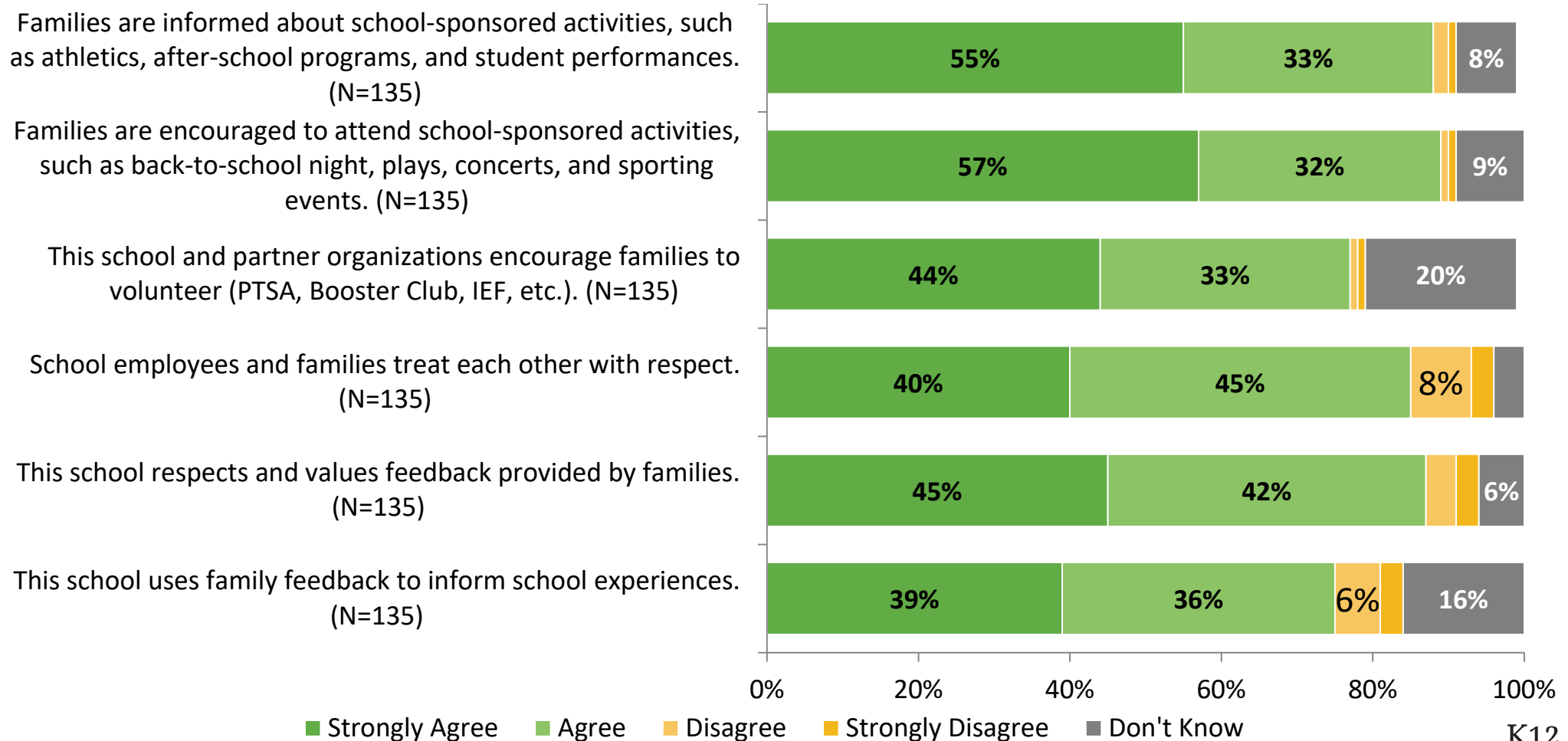
Family Involvement – Parents

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



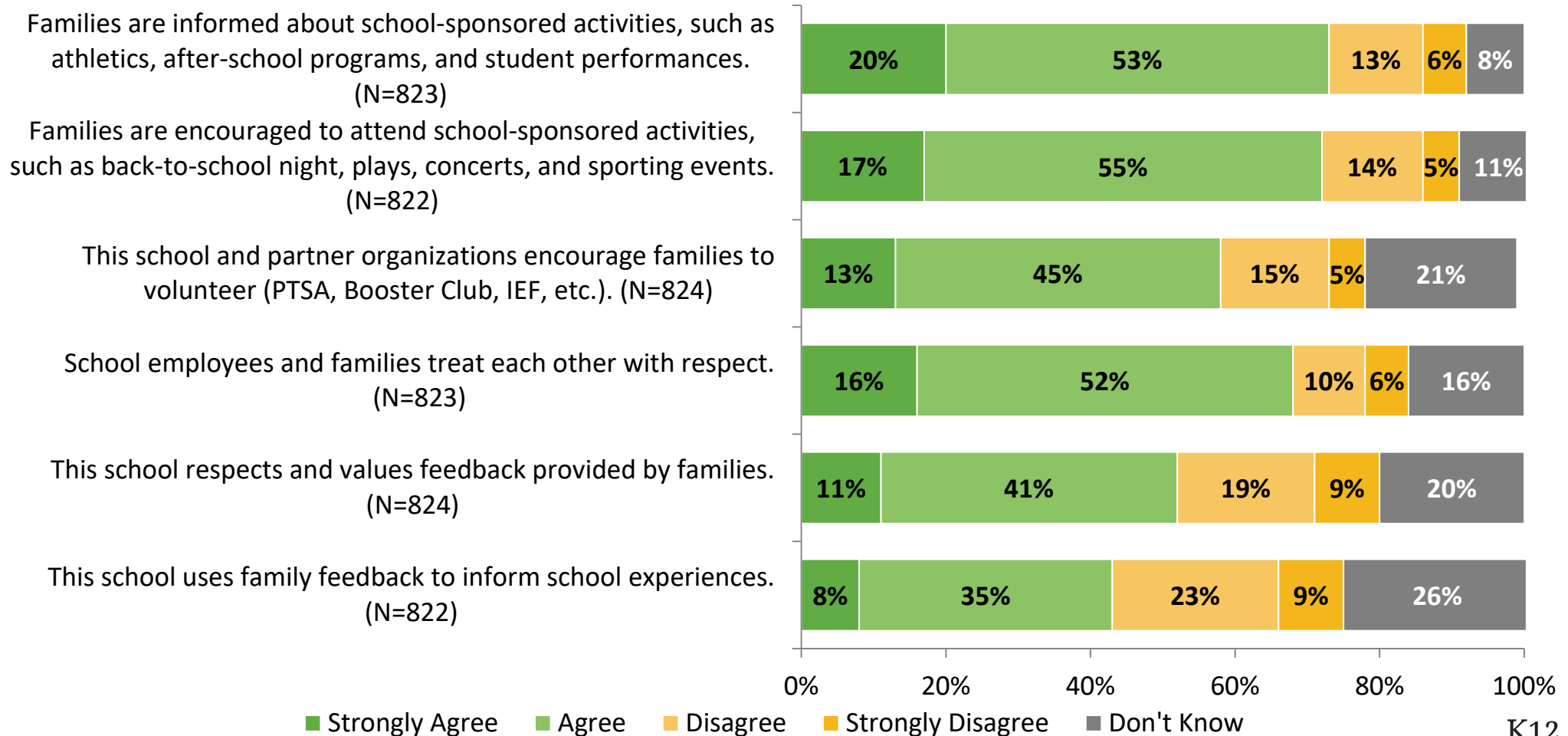
Family Involvement – Staff Members

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



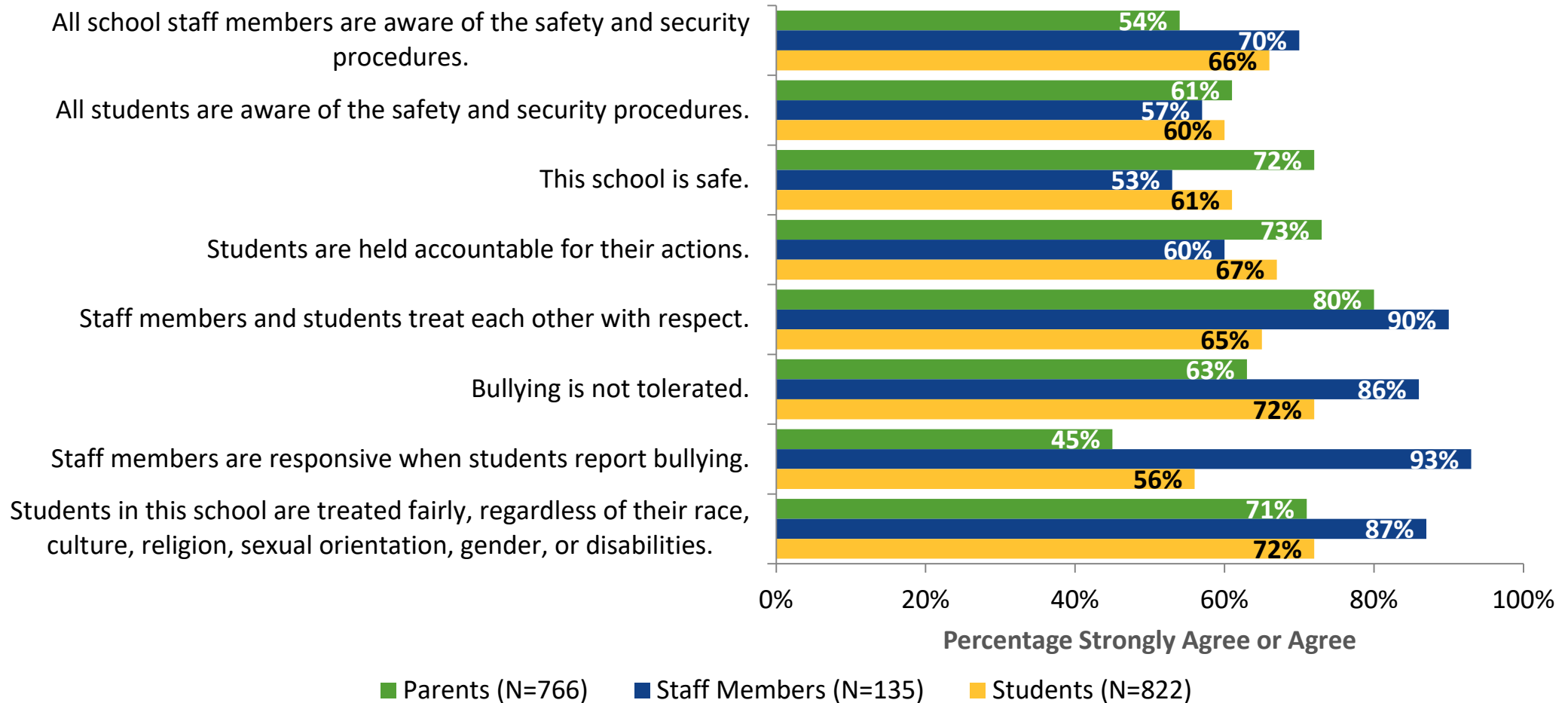
Family Involvement – Students

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



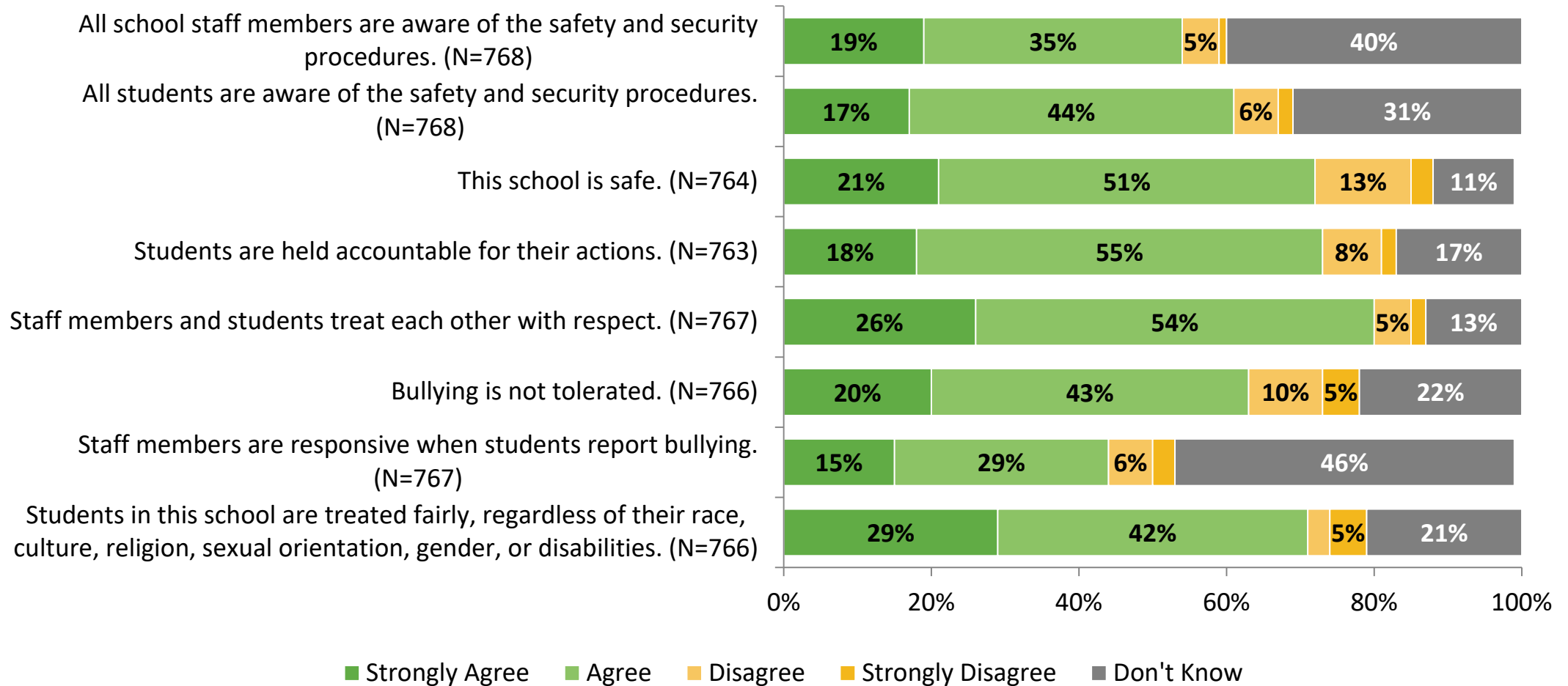
Safety and Behavior: Comparison by Respondent Type

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



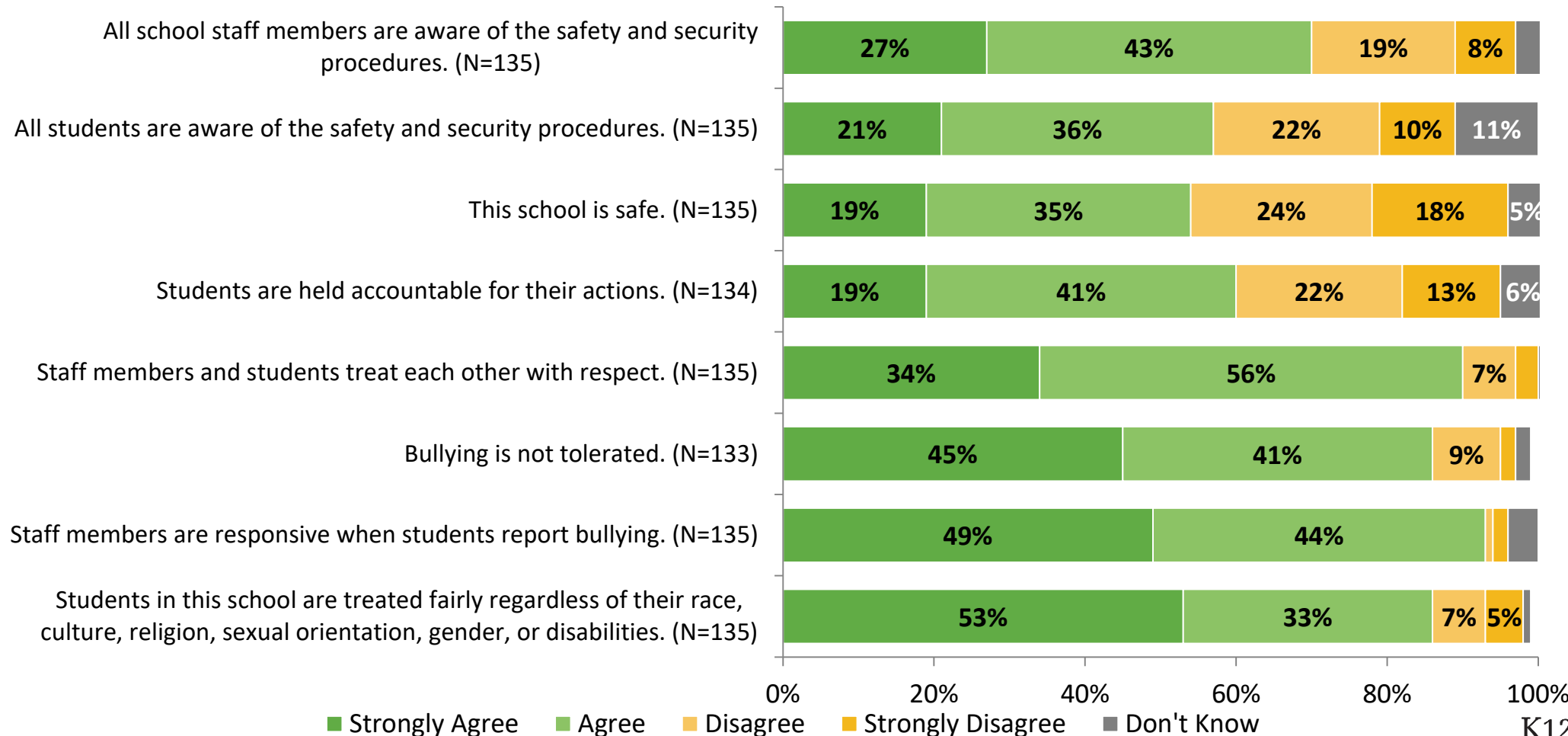
Safety and Behavior – Parents

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



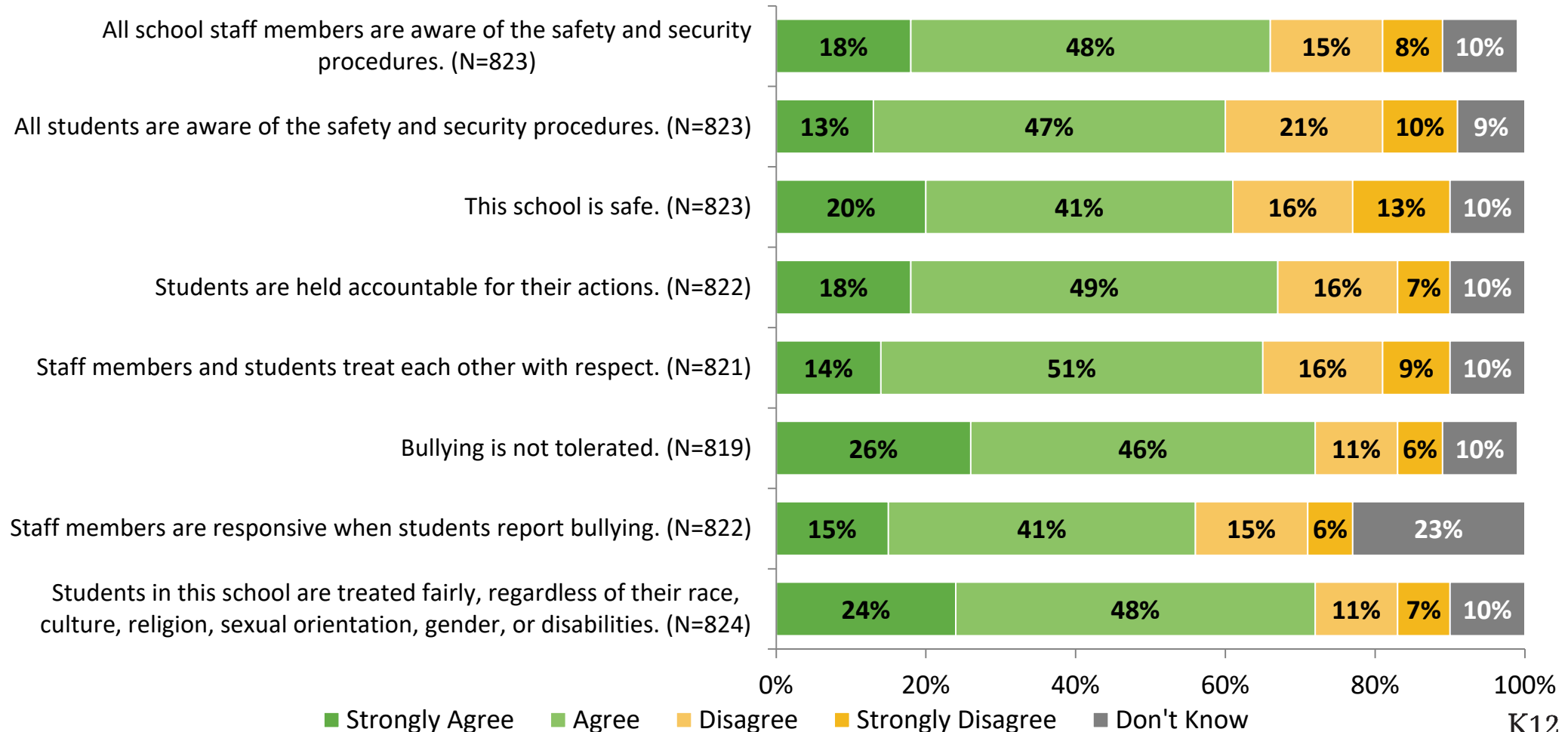
Safety and Behavior – Staff Members

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



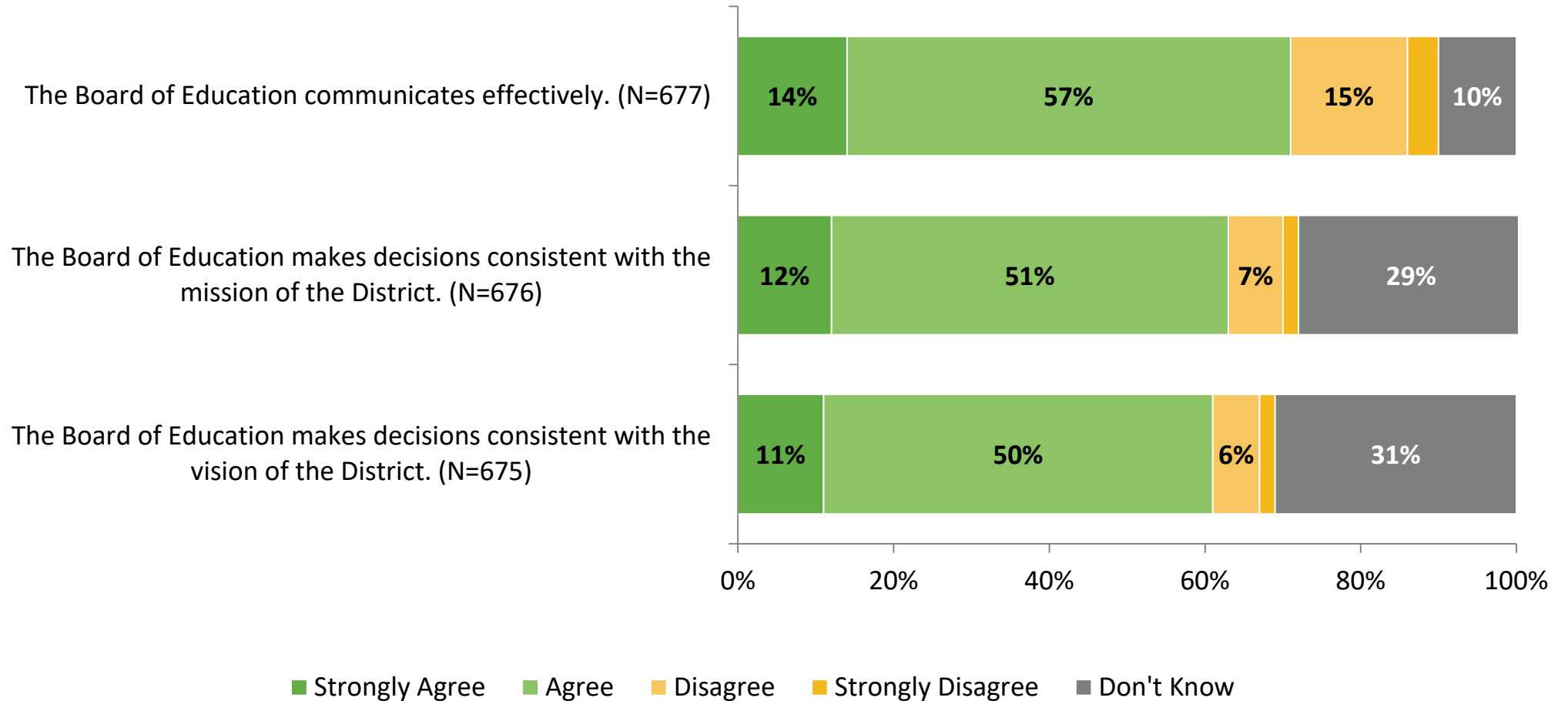
Safety and Behavior – Students

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



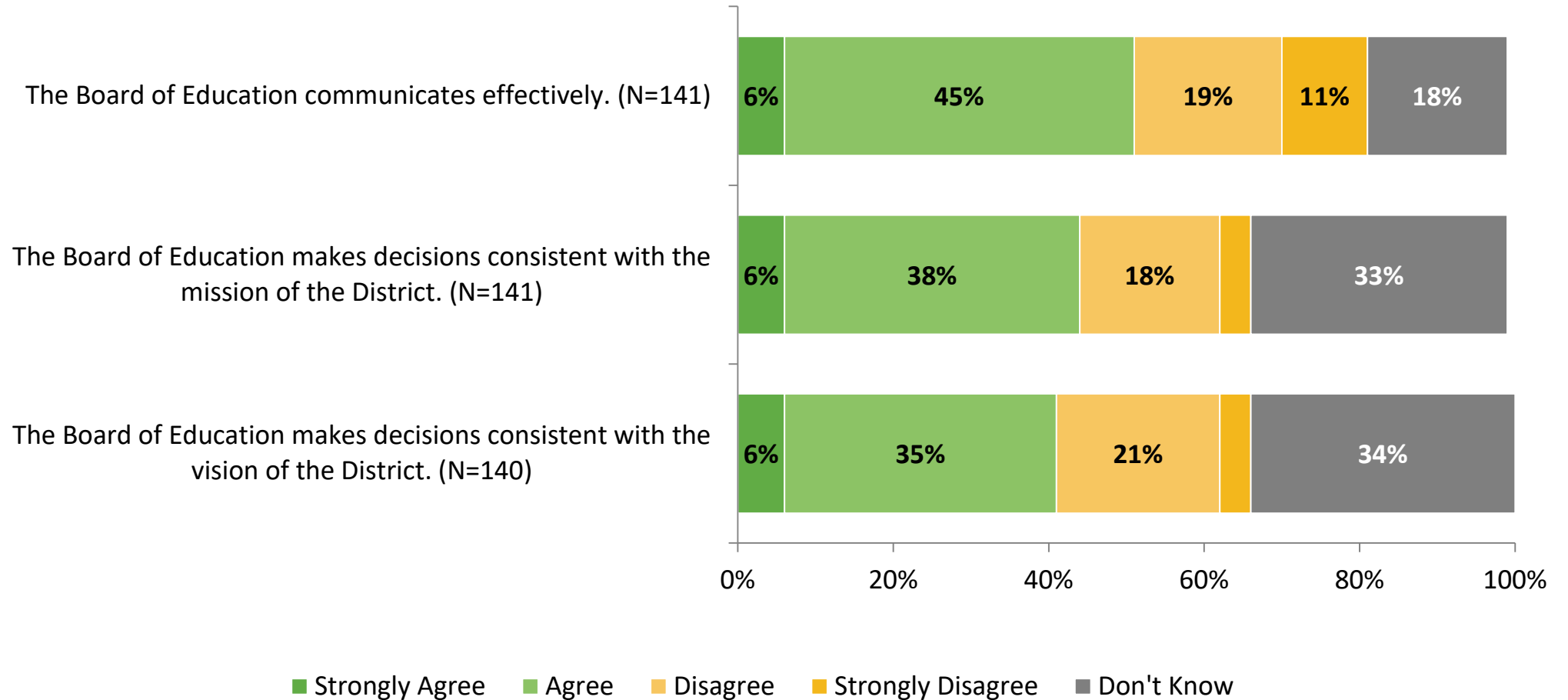
Board of Education – Parents

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



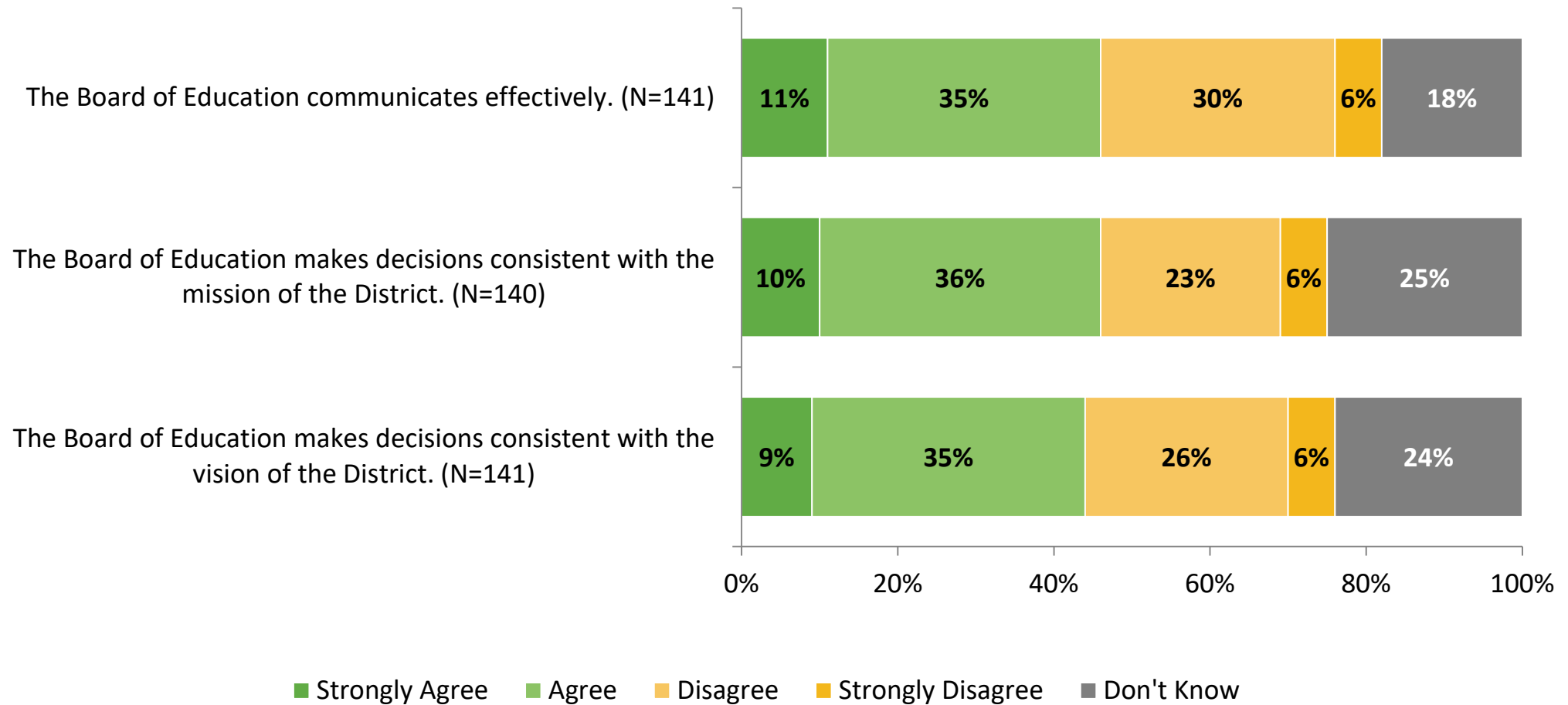
Board of Education – Community Members

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



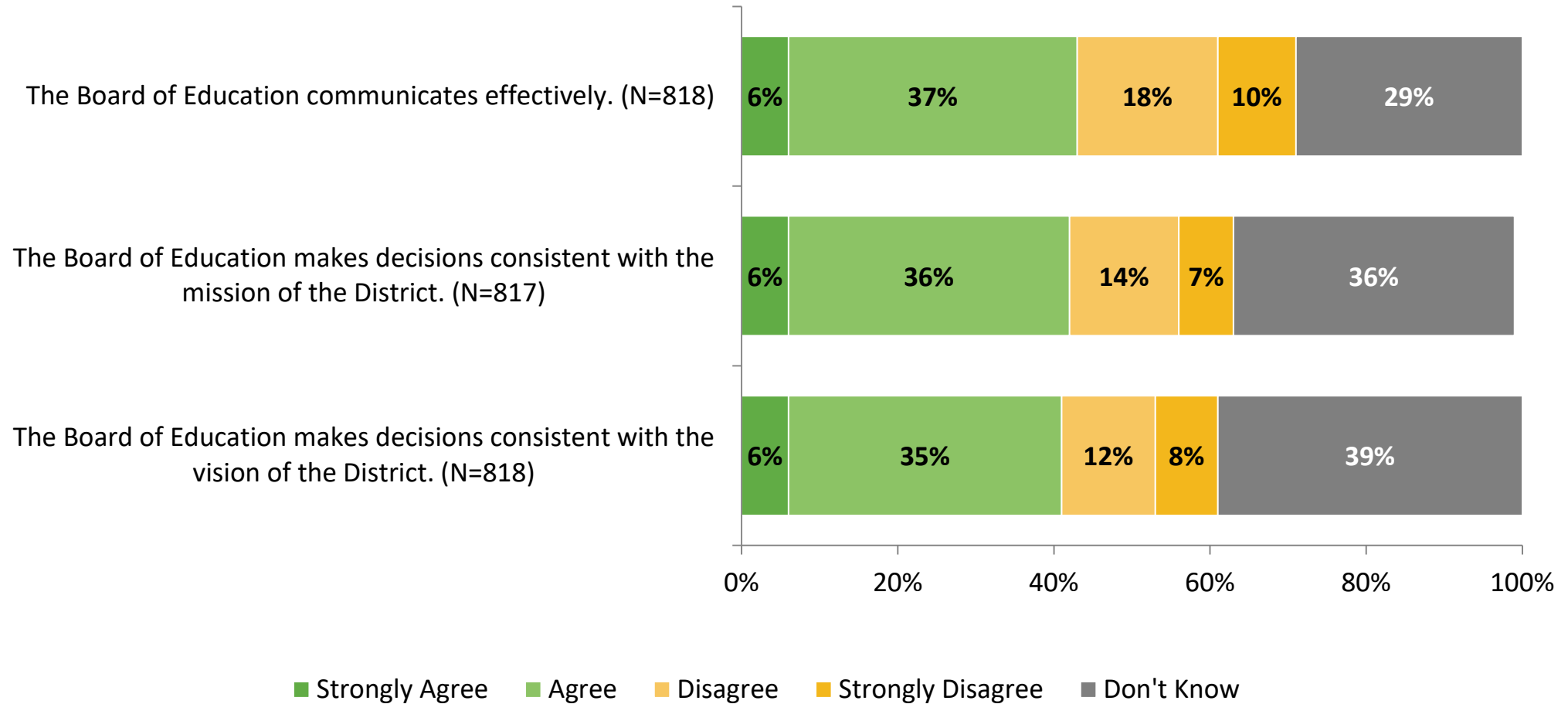
Board of Education – Staff Members

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



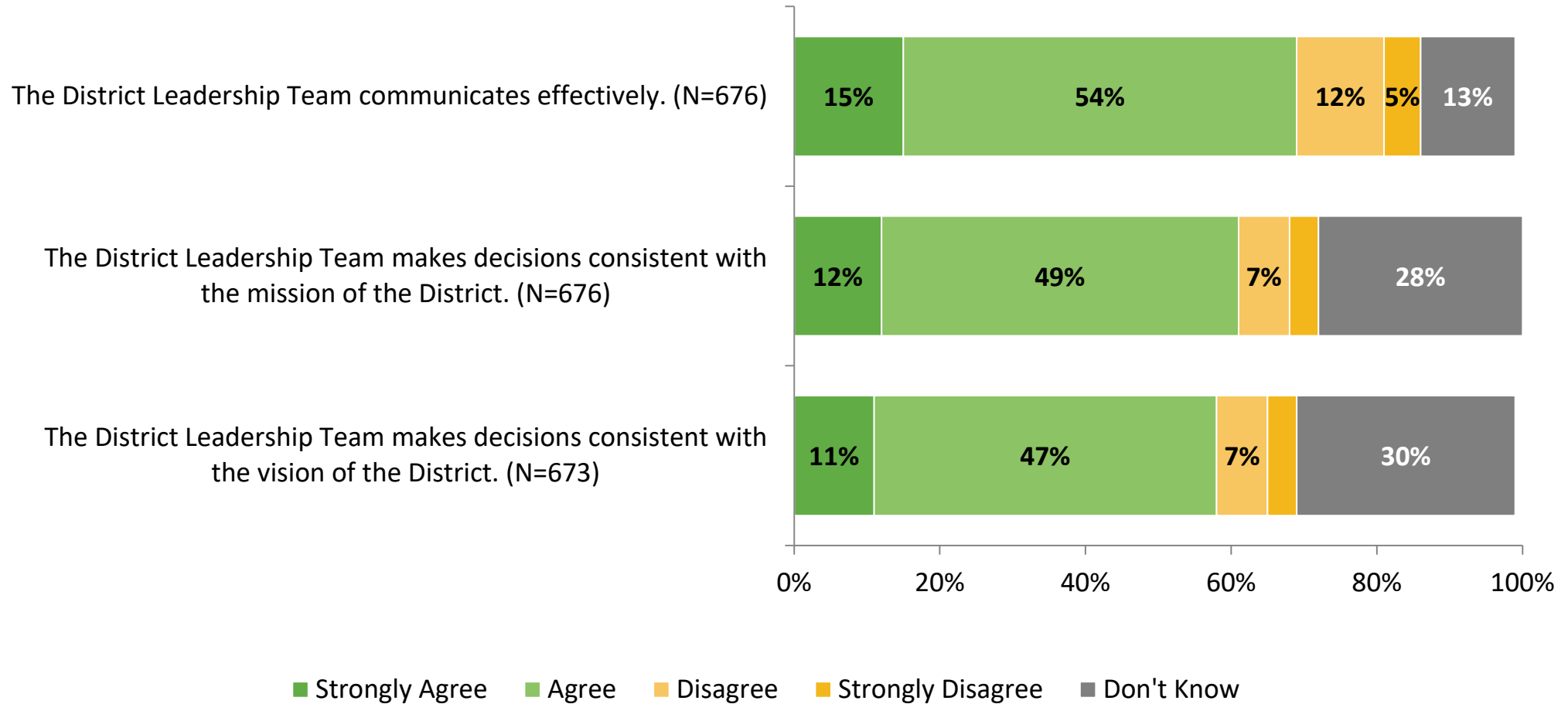
Board of Education – Students

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



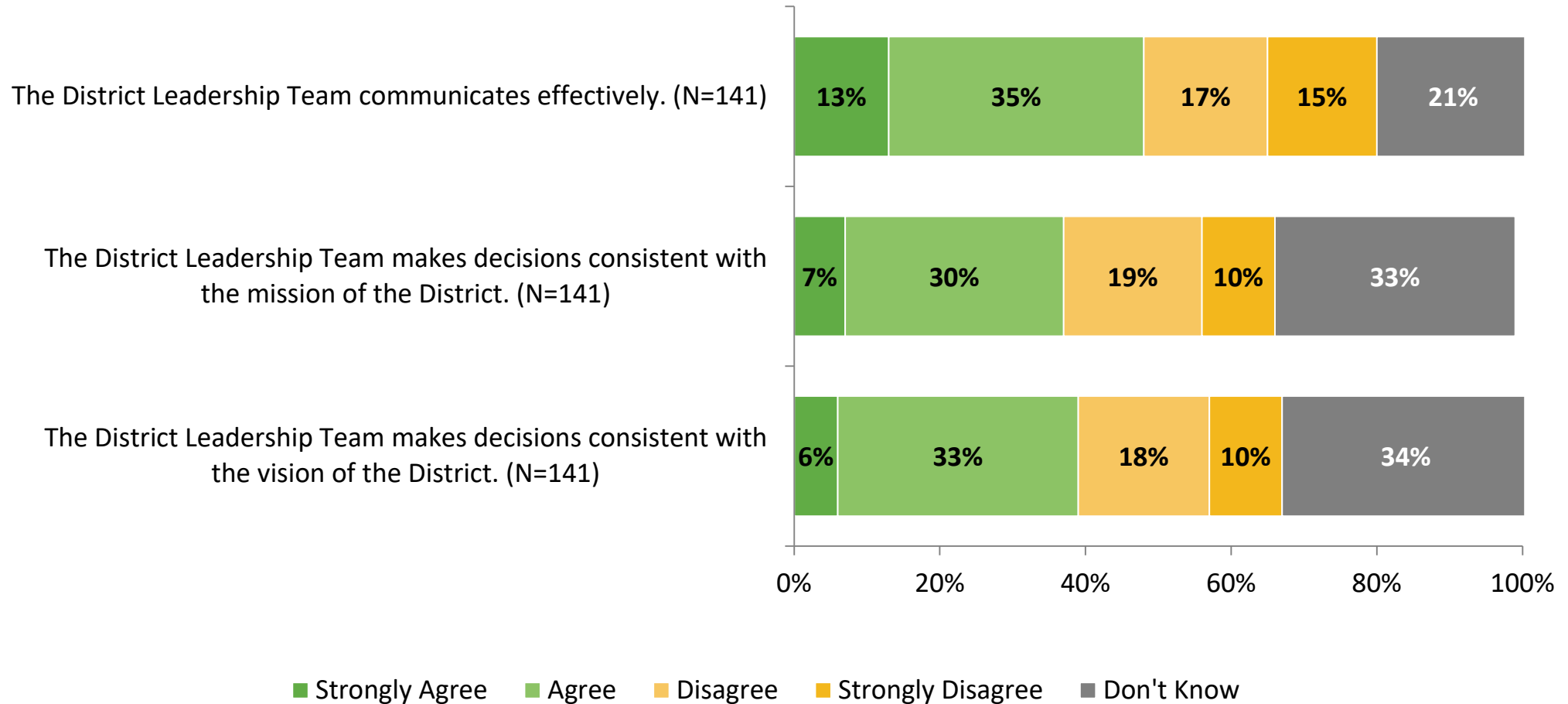
District Leadership Team – Parents

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



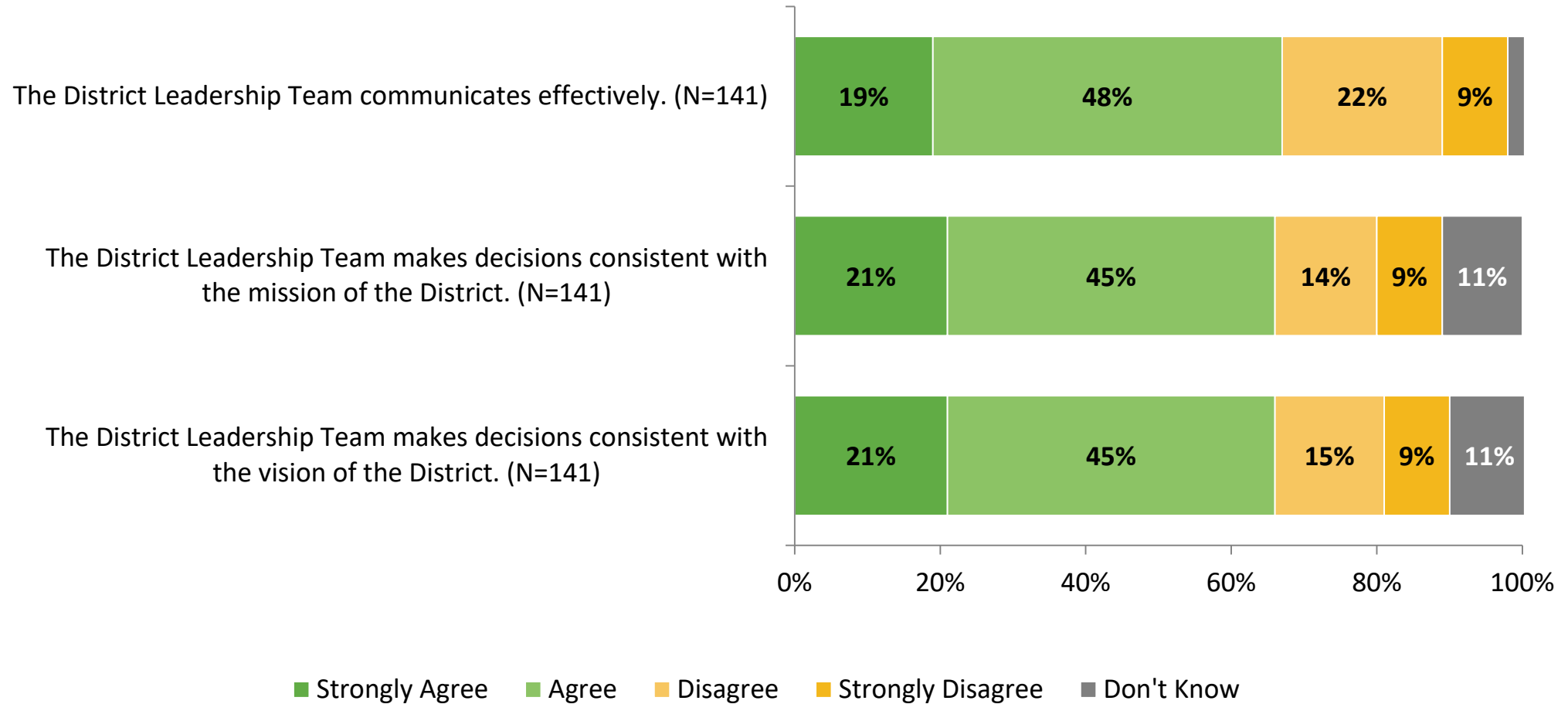
District Leadership Team – Community Members

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



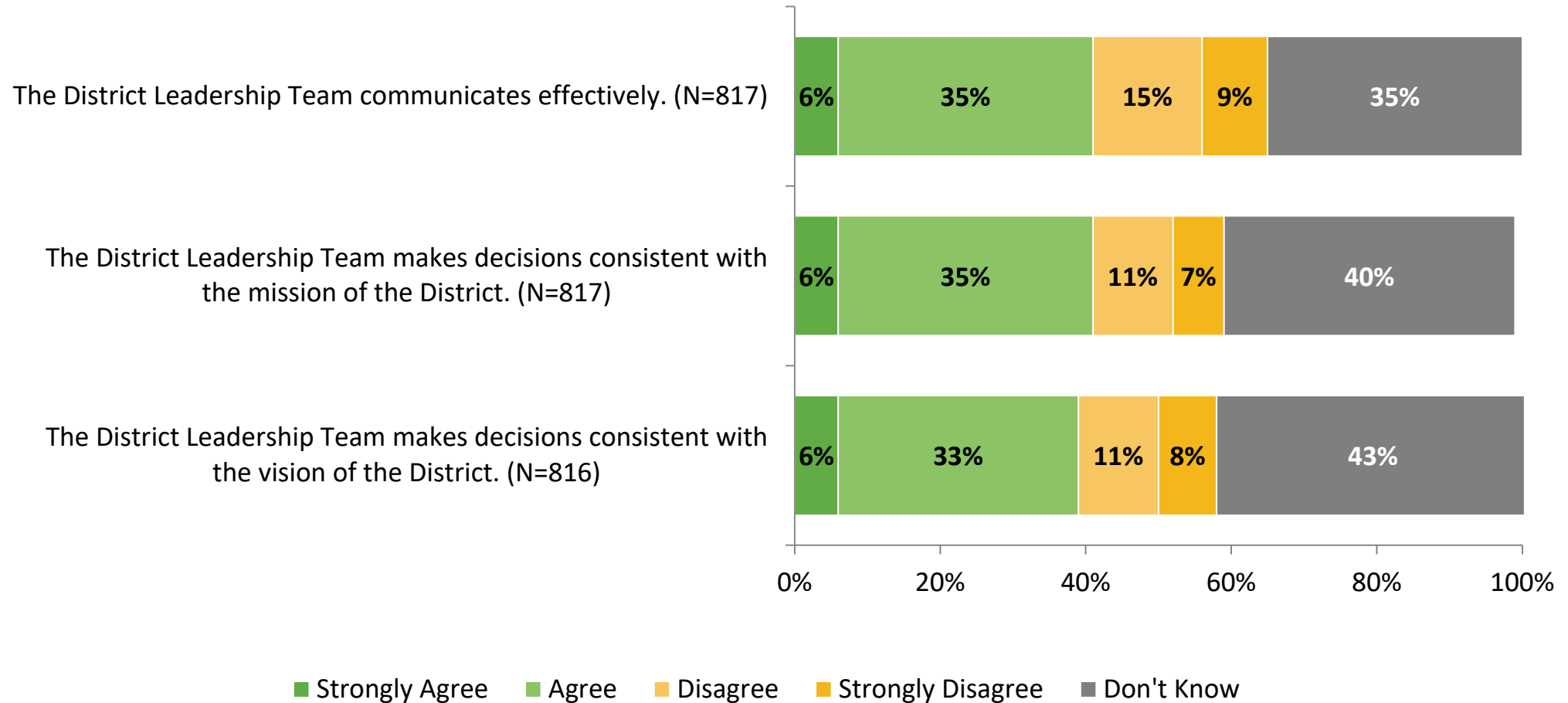
District Leadership Team – Staff Members

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



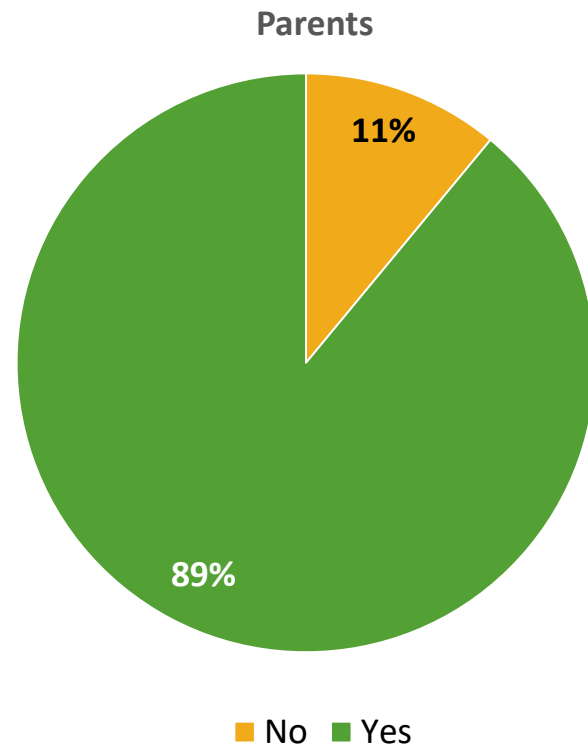
District Leadership Team – Students

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

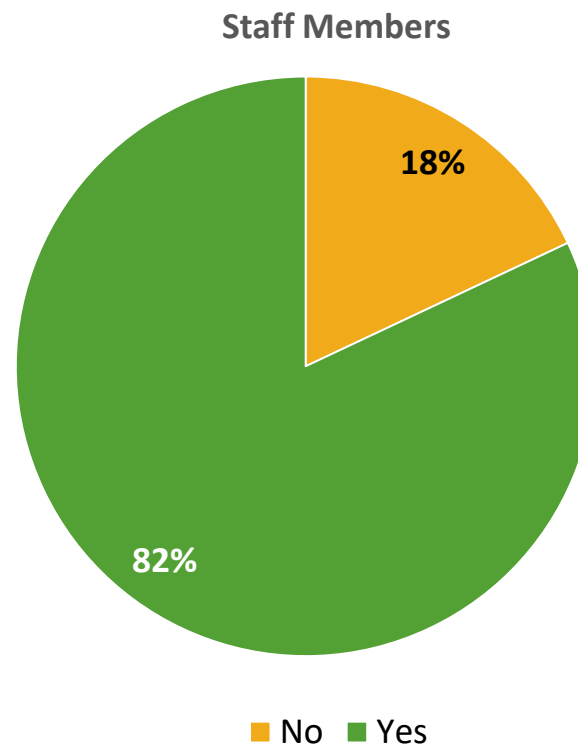


Effective Communication

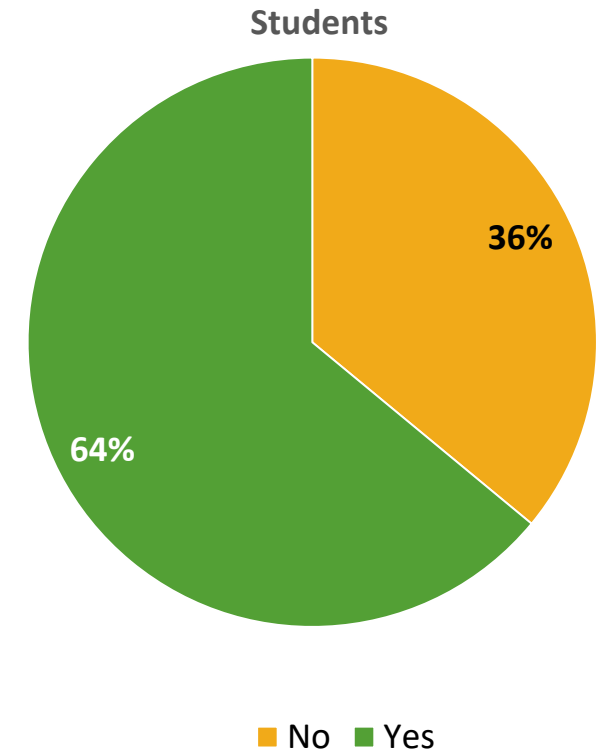
Do you feel that the school communicates effectively? (N=764)



Do you feel that the school communicates effectively? (N=134)

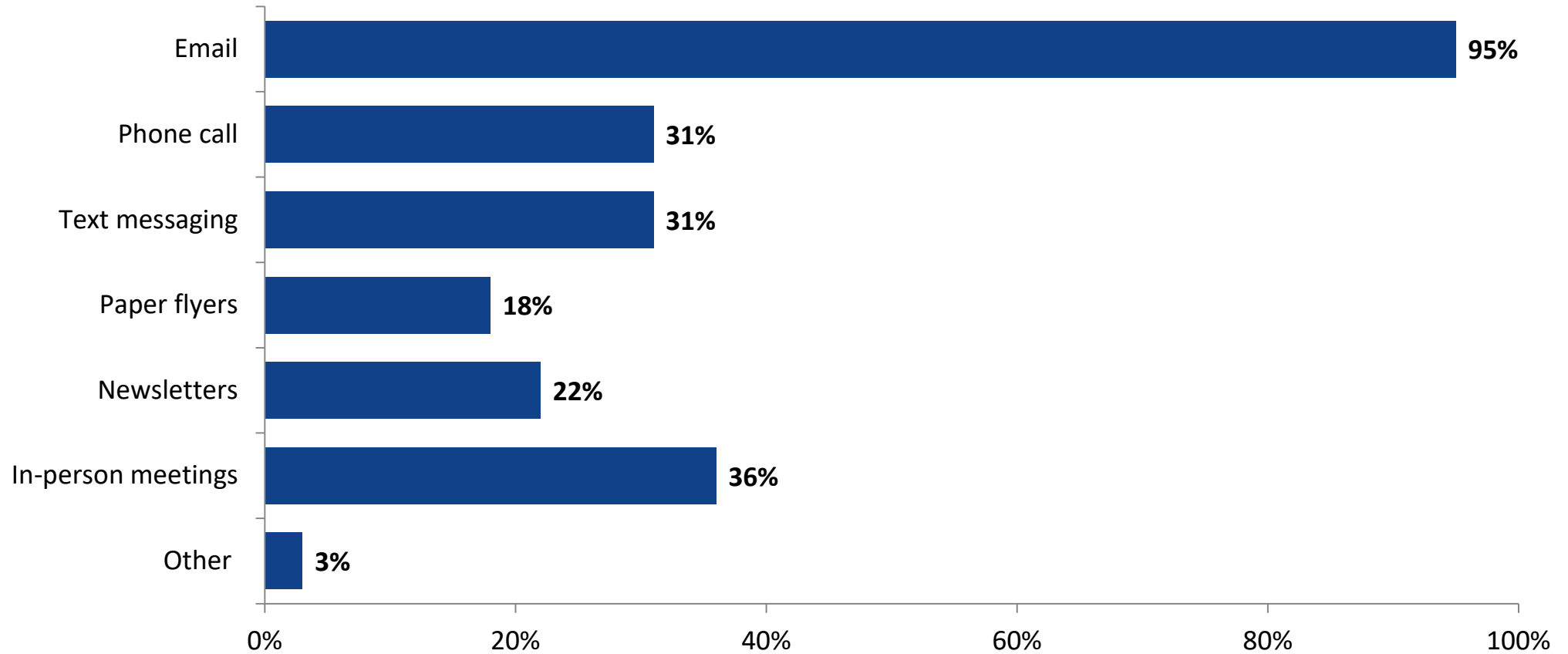


Do you feel that the school communicates effectively? (N=820)



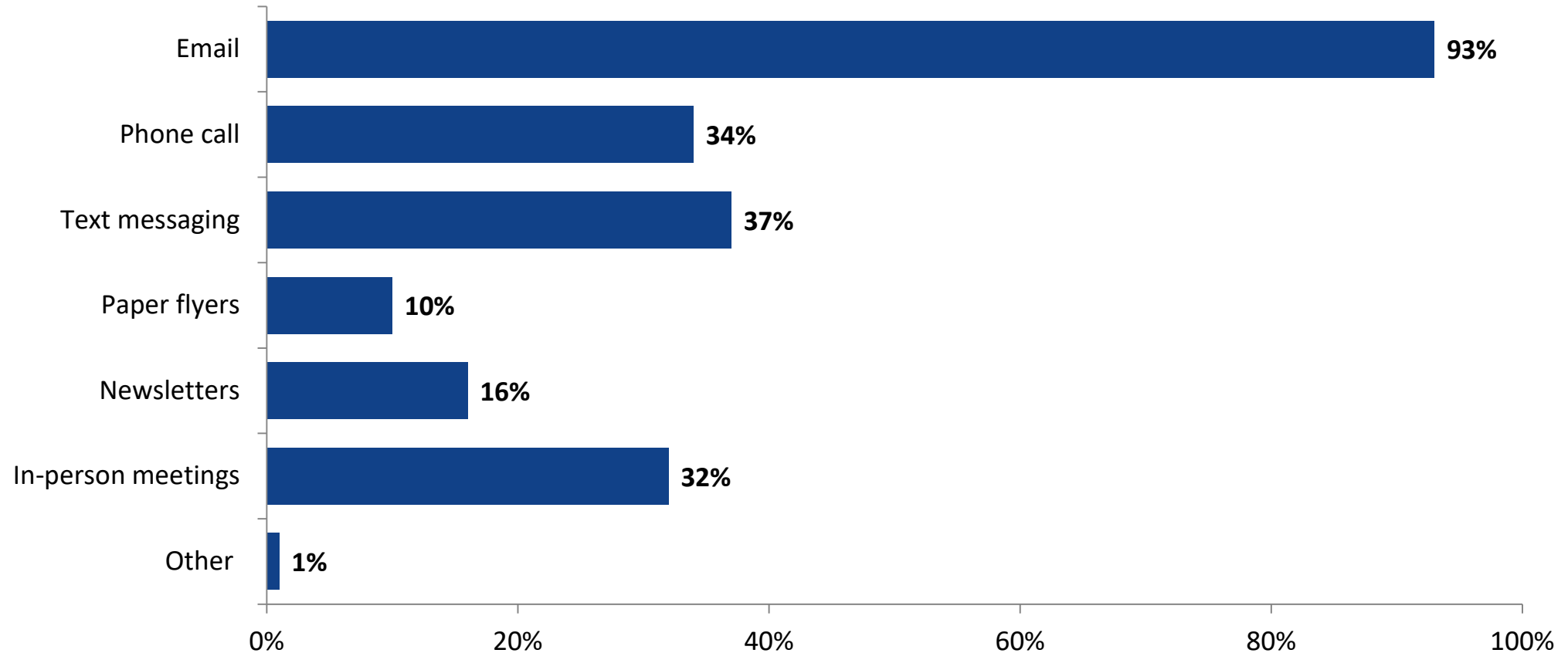
Communication Method – Parents

What is your preferred method of communication? (N=767)



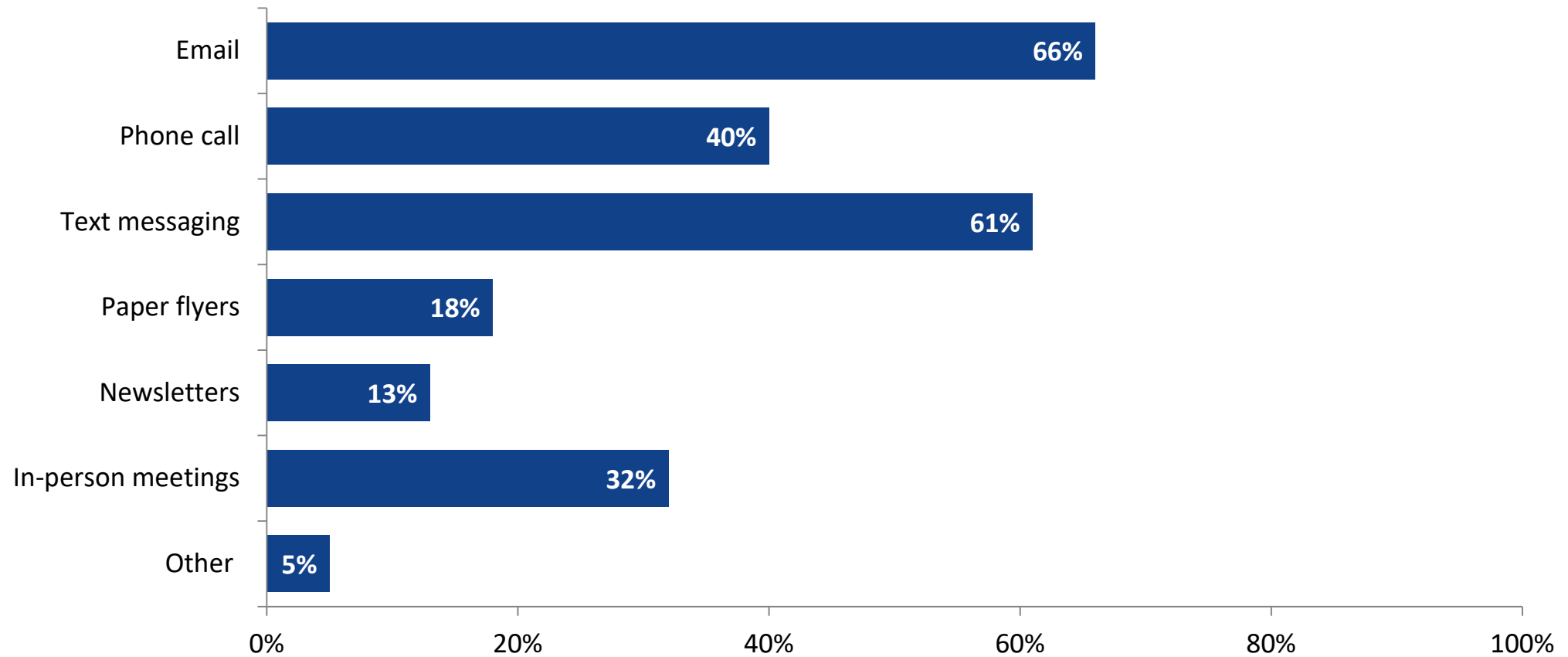
Communication Method – Staff Members

What is your preferred method of communication? (N=226)



Communication Method – Students

What is your preferred method of communication? (N=824)



Capital Project – Parents

The District is considering a capital project that would not increase local taxes. In doing so, the Board of Education and Administration would like feedback on how categories of projects should be prioritized. Please rank the top five priorities from the categories of projects below, with Rank 1 being the highest priority: (N=667)

Response	Weighted Score	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank
Safety and security	2,607	100	1
Repair and upgrade facilities	2,308	89	2
Modern and flexible learning spaces	2,219	85	3
Sustainability and energy efficiency	1,520	58	4
Athletic facilities	1,351	52	5

Note: The weighted score is based on how each participant ranked each option, in which Rank 1 received 5 points, Rank 2 received 4 points, Rank 3 received 3 points, Rank 4 received 2 points, and Rank 5 received 1 point. These points were added for each participant group to create an overall rank, with Rank 1 receiving the most points and Rank 5 receiving the least points.

Capital Project – Community Members

The District is considering a capital project that would not increase local taxes. In doing so, the Board of Education and Administration would like feedback on how categories of projects should be prioritized. Please rank the top five priorities from the categories of projects below, with Rank 1 being the highest priority: (N=140)

Response	Weighted Score	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank
Safety and security	557	100	1
Repair and upgrade facilities	523	94	2
Modern and flexible learning spaces	443	80	3
Sustainability and energy efficiency	335	60	4
Athletic facilities	242	43	5

Note: The weighted score is based on how each participant ranked each option, in which Rank 1 received 5 points, Rank 2 received 4 points, Rank 3 received 3 points, Rank 4 received 2 points, and Rank 5 received 1 point. These points were added for each participant group to create an overall rank, with Rank 1 receiving the most points and Rank 5 receiving the least points.

Capital Project – Staff Members

The District is considering a capital project that would not increase local taxes. In doing so, the Board of Education and Administration would like feedback on how specific categories of projects should be prioritized. Please rank the top five priorities from the categories of projects below, with Rank 1 being the highest priority. (N=233)

Response	Weighted Score	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank
Safety and security	614	100	1
Repair and upgrade facilities	489	80	2
Modern and flexible learning spaces	442	72	3
Sustainability and energy efficiency	337	55	4
Athletic facilities	218	36	5

Note: The weighted score is based on how each participant ranked each option, in which Rank 1 received 5 points, Rank 2 received 4 points, Rank 3 received 3 points, Rank 4 received 2 points, and Rank 5 received 1 point. These points were added for each participant group to create an overall rank, with Rank 1 receiving the most points and Rank 5 receiving the least points.

Capital Project – Students

The District is considering a capital project that would not increase local taxes. In doing so, the Board of Education and Administration would like feedback on how specific categories of projects should be prioritized. Please rank the top five priorities from the categories of projects below, with Rank 1 being the highest priority. (N=704)

Response	Weighted Score	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank
Safety and security	2,790	100	1
Modern and flexible learning spaces	2,577	92	2
Repair and upgrade facilities	2,382	85	3
Athletic facilities	2,200	79	4
Sustainability and energy efficiency	2,006	72	5

Note: The weighted score is based on how each participant ranked each option, in which Rank 1 received 5 points, Rank 2 received 4 points, Rank 3 received 3 points, Rank 4 received 2 points, and Rank 5 received 1 point. These points were added for each participant group to create an overall rank, with Rank 1 receiving the most points and Rank 5 receiving the least points.

Strategic Objectives – Parents

Please rank the top five priorities from the list of strategic objectives below, with Rank 1 being the highest priority. (N=653)

Response	Weighted Score	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank
Providing students with a rigorous, comprehensive, enriched, and diversified curricula; expanding STEM education and integrating technology.	2,293	100	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.	2,063	90	2
Encouraging a culture of innovation, creativity, and risk taking to inspire a dynamic learning environment.	1,993	87	3
Providing for a high-quality learning environment, including facilities maintenance, energy efficiency, sustainability investment, and a safe school environment.	1,136	50	4
Supporting educators, including targeted professional learning and opportunities for collaboration.	1,054	46	5
Ensuring the fiscal health of the District, including anticipating and controlling costs, and investing in program development.	696	30	6
Strengthening local connections to and ownership of our schools, including improved stakeholder communication (parents, staff, students, community).	560	24	7

Note: The weighted score is based on how each participant ranked each option, in which Rank 1 received 5 points, Rank 2 received 4 points, Rank 3 received 3 points, Rank 4 received 2 points, and Rank 5 received 1 point. These points were added for each participant group to create an overall rank, with Rank 1 receiving the most points and Rank 5 receiving the least points.

Strategic Objectives – Community Members

Please rank the top five priorities from the list of strategic objectives below, with Rank 1 being the highest priority. (N=136)

Response	Weighted Score	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank
Providing students with a rigorous, comprehensive, enriched, and diversified curricula; expanding STEM education and integrating technology.	423	100	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.	410	97	2
Encouraging a culture of innovation, creativity, and risk taking to inspire a dynamic learning environment.	331	78	3
Providing for a high-quality learning environment, including facilities maintenance, energy efficiency, sustainability investment, and a safe school environment.	293	69	4
Supporting educators, including targeted professional learning and opportunities for collaboration.	232	55	5
Ensuring the fiscal health of the District, including anticipating and controlling costs, and investing in program development.	197	47	6
Strengthening local connections to and ownership of our schools, including improved stakeholder communication (parents, staff, students, community).	154	36	7

Note: The weighted score is based on how each participant ranked each option, in which Rank 1 received 5 points, Rank 2 received 4 points, Rank 3 received 3 points, Rank 4 received 2 points, and Rank 5 received 1 point. These points were added for each participant group to create an overall rank, with Rank 1 receiving the most points and Rank 5 receiving the least points.

Strategic Objectives – Staff Members

Please rank the top five priorities from the list of strategic objectives below, with Rank 1 being the highest priority. (N=226)

Response	Weighted Score	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank
Fostering the social and emotional growth of all students and promote a culture where students are active participants in society including: civic and global engagement and learning.	434	100	1
Providing students with a rigorous, comprehensive, enriched and diversified curricula; expanding STEM education and integrating technology.	346	80	2
Supporting educators, including: targeted professional learning and opportunities for collaboration.	339	78	3
Encouraging a culture of innovation, creativity and risk taking to inspire a dynamic learning environment.	326	75	4
Providing for a high quality learning environment, including: facilities maintenance, energy efficiency, sustainability investment, and a safe school environment.	320	74	5
Strengthening local connections to and ownership of our schools, including: improved stakeholder communication (parents, staff, students, community).	149	34	6
Ensuring the fiscal health of the District, including: anticipating and controlling costs, investing in program development.	126	29	7

Note: The weighted score is based on how each participant ranked each option, in which Rank 1 received 5 points, Rank 2 received 4 points, Rank 3 received 3 points, Rank 4 received 2 points, and Rank 5 received 1 point. These points were added for each participant group to create an overall rank, with Rank 1 receiving the most points and Rank 5 receiving the least points.

Strategic Objectives – Students

Please rank the top five priorities from the list of strategic objectives below, with Rank 1 being the highest priority. (N=690)

Response	Weighted Score	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank
Providing students with a rigorous, comprehensive, enriched and diversified curricula; expanding STEM education and integrating technology.	2,285	100	1
Encouraging a culture of innovation, creativity and risk taking to inspire a dynamic learning environment.	2,240	98	2
Fostering the social and emotional growth of all students and promote a culture where students are active participants in society including: civic and global engagement and learning.	2,143	94	3
Strengthening local connections to and ownership of our schools, including: improved stakeholder communication (parents, staff, students, community).	1,570	69	4
Supporting educators, including: targeted professional learning and opportunities for collaboration.	1,515	66	5
Providing for a high quality learning environment, including: facilities maintenance, energy efficiency, sustainability investment, and a safe school environment.	1,287	56	6
Ensuring the fiscal health of the District, including: anticipating and controlling costs, investing in program development.	660	29	7

Note: The weighted score is based on how each participant ranked each option, in which Rank 1 received 5 points, Rank 2 received 4 points, Rank 3 received 3 points, Rank 4 received 2 points, and Rank 5 received 1 point. These points were added for each participant group to create an overall rank, with Rank 1 receiving the most points and Rank 5 receiving the least points.

Irvington – Parents and Community Members

Do you have any specific recommendations for improving the quality of the educational experience at Irvington? (N=283)

Parents said they want improvements in the instruction of English Language Arts, particularly when it comes to writing instruction.

Parents said they want more technology education and better technology available for their children within the schools.

Parents said they would like the schools to focus on 21st century learning skills such as project-based learning, collaboration, and problem-solving.

Parents said they would like more languages available and for language instruction to start earlier in their students' educational career.

Irvington – Students

Do you have any specific recommendations for improving the quality of the educational experience at Irvington? (N=328)

Students said they want better technology available and more reliable WIFI.

Students said that teachers should be more consistent in how they treat students and ensure students are mastering content.

Students said they were concerned about building security.

Students said they would like less homework assigned to them.

Key Insights

- 93% of participating parents, 85% of participating staff members, and 79% of participating students rated their school as excellent or good. It may be beneficial to explore why such a higher proportion of parents rated their school as excellent or good compared with staff members.
- 87% of staff members agreed or strongly agreed that students receive timely feedback on their work compared with 56% of students. Sharing this discrepancy with teachers may help them understand their feedback is not as timely as they think it is.
- 81% of staff members agreed or strongly agreed that teachers successfully show how lessons relate to life outside of school compared with 36% of students. Developing ways to show how lessons relate to life outside of school can help increase curriculum relevance and student engagement.
- 50% of students agreed or strongly agreed that school administrators make decisions that are in the best interests of students and that school administrators make themselves available when they have a concern.
- 40% of parents indicated they do not know if staff members are aware of safety and security procedures and 31% indicated they do not know if students are aware of safety and security procedures. Sharing information about how staff members and students are taught and practice the safety and security procedures can help increase the perception of school safety.
- Parent, community member, staff member, and student participants selected safety and security as their first choice for a capital project.
- “Providing students with a rigorous, comprehensive, enriched, and diversified curricula; expanding STEM education and integrating technology” was the strategic objective with the highest weighted score from parents, community members, and students and the second highest weighted score from staff members. “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” was the strategic objective with the highest weighted score from participating staff members.



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