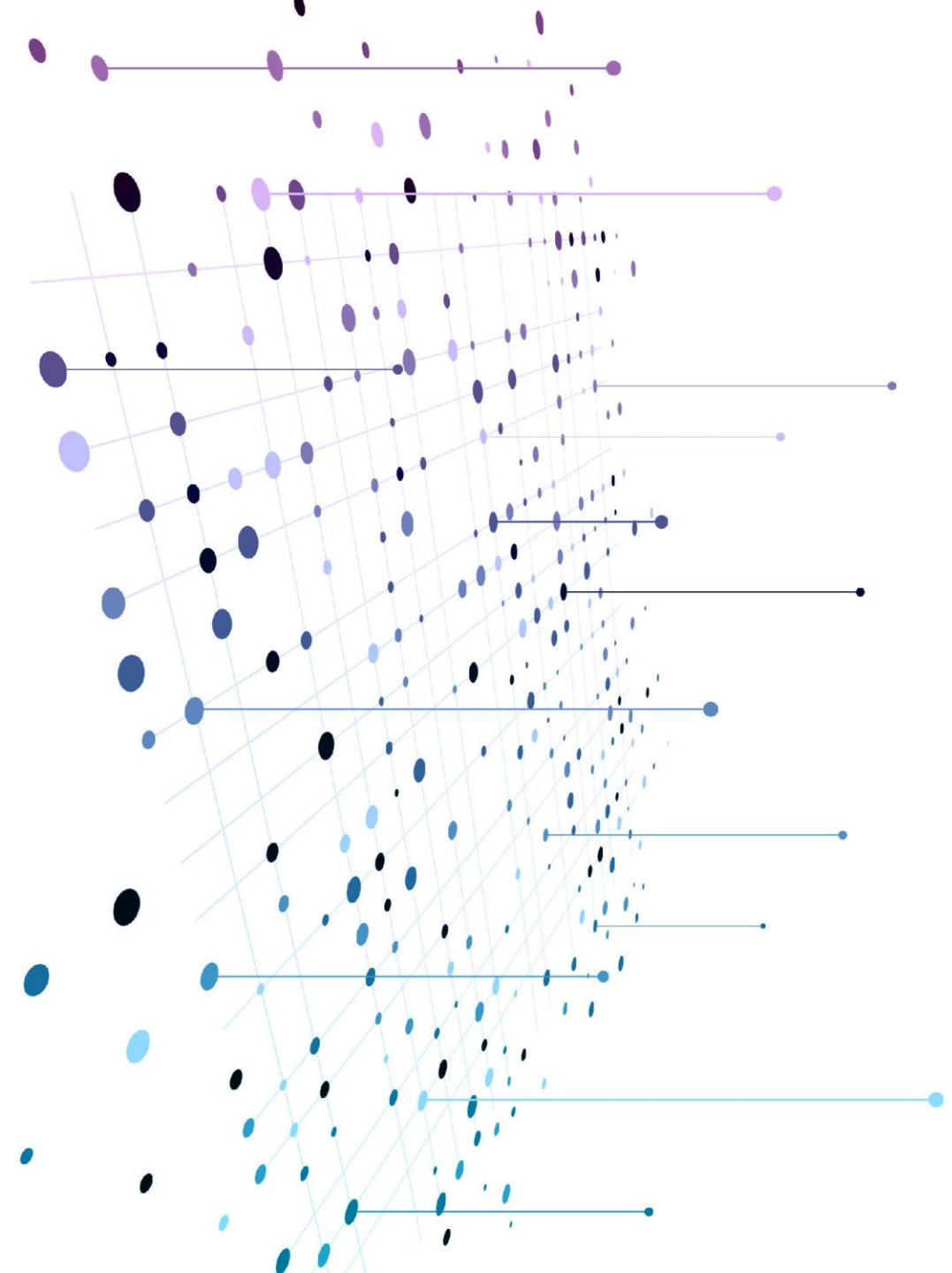




Teachers and K–12 Education

National Polling Report #20

October 2025



KEY FINDINGS

1. Half of teachers believe K-12 education is going well in their local school district, but just one fourth believe it's going well nationwide.
2. Teachers consistently underestimate the amount of money that is spent on students in public schools, especially district school teachers. Teachers are less likely to say their state's spending per-student is "too low" if given a publicly reported statistic. District school teachers are most likely to think spending is too low.
3. Teachers express high levels of pessimism about the teaching profession this fall, despite improvements since a year ago among private school teachers. Teachers' likelihood to recommend their profession remains low overall, staying similar to levels seen since September 2023.
4. Roughly two-thirds of teachers feel a "sense of purpose" and "hopeful" when thinking when thinking about the future. Far fewer feel in control. Nearly one-third say they feel "overwhelmed."
5. Teachers see communication with their students as the most important way to know if they are having a successful school year. Standardized test scores are the least important metric.
6. Over half of teachers believe their school is very tolerant of students of different races/ethnicities, but sexual orientation and political views are not as tolerated.
7. Over half of teachers report having had to modify their curriculum or class discussions topics because of political pressure. District teachers point to school admins and governments as the source of political pressure, whereas private school teachers point to school admins and parents. The majority of teachers are deciding on their own to limit discussion of political and social issues in class, a 13-point increase since March.

KEY FINDINGS

8. Teachers support the use of technologies like online learning platforms and laptops in classes. AI and cell phones face greater opposition.
9. Half of teachers believe students should be allowed to have cell phones in school, but many draw the line at using phones in the classroom.
10. Concern about the effects of AI on the future is high. Teachers are more concerned than both the general population and school parents. Forty percent of teachers are at least very concerned about the effects of AI on their students' learning this school year. Concern levels are similar across school types.
11. Over one-third of teachers are very concerned about a violent intruder. School parents express higher levels of concern (53%).
12. Teachers are generally evenly divided regarding handling student misbehavior on their own versus reporting it.
13. The majority of teachers report that fellow teachers and staff at their school are trained on concerning student behavior and threat assessments. Despite widespread training, nearly half of teachers do not feel prepared to respond to physical threats and emergencies.

KEY FINDINGS

14. Teachers show support for ESAs, with private school teachers generally more supportive than public school teachers. Teacher support for ESAs remains at a high level (75%) since March of this year and over time. Teachers are more likely to believe that ESAs should be available to all families, regardless of financial need – 11 points higher than the proportion agreeing with means-tested eligibility.
15. Support for “teacher savings accounts” is also high among teachers across school types.
16. When teachers are given a description of school vouchers, support increases the most among those with four or fewer years of experience. About half of teachers support school vouchers. Teacher opposition to vouchers remains relatively steady compared to March, while total support has fallen slightly.
17. Providing a description of charter schools boosts support among public school teachers and teachers with under 10 years of experience. About 6 in 10 teachers support charter schools. Levels of support and opposition have remained steady since March 2025.
18. Nearly two-thirds of teachers support open enrollment. Providing a description of open enrollment raises support among teachers with 15 years of experience or more. Two-thirds of teachers support open enrollment. Support levels have been relatively stable since Fall 2024.



Views on K-12 Education



Teaching Profession and Experience



School Choice Policies

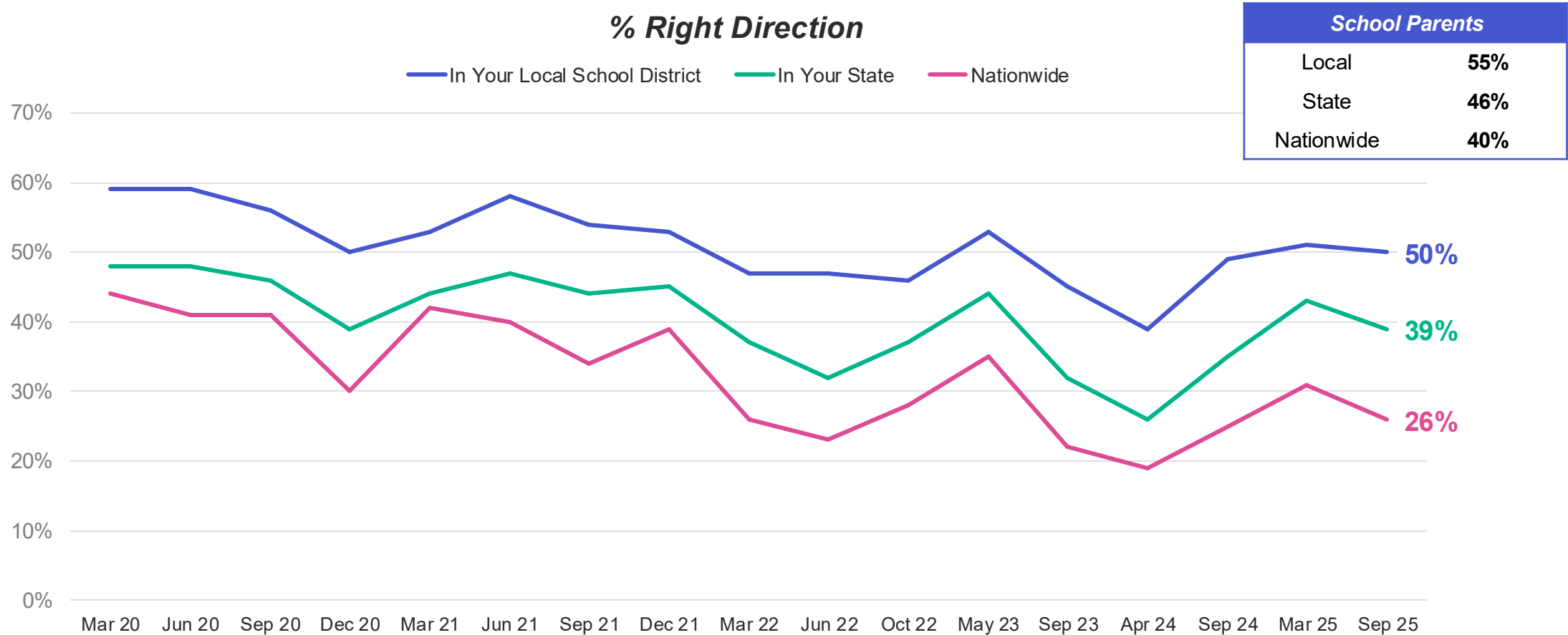


Survey Profile and Demographics

Half of teachers believe K-12 education is going well in their local school district, but just one fourth believe it's going well nationwide.

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

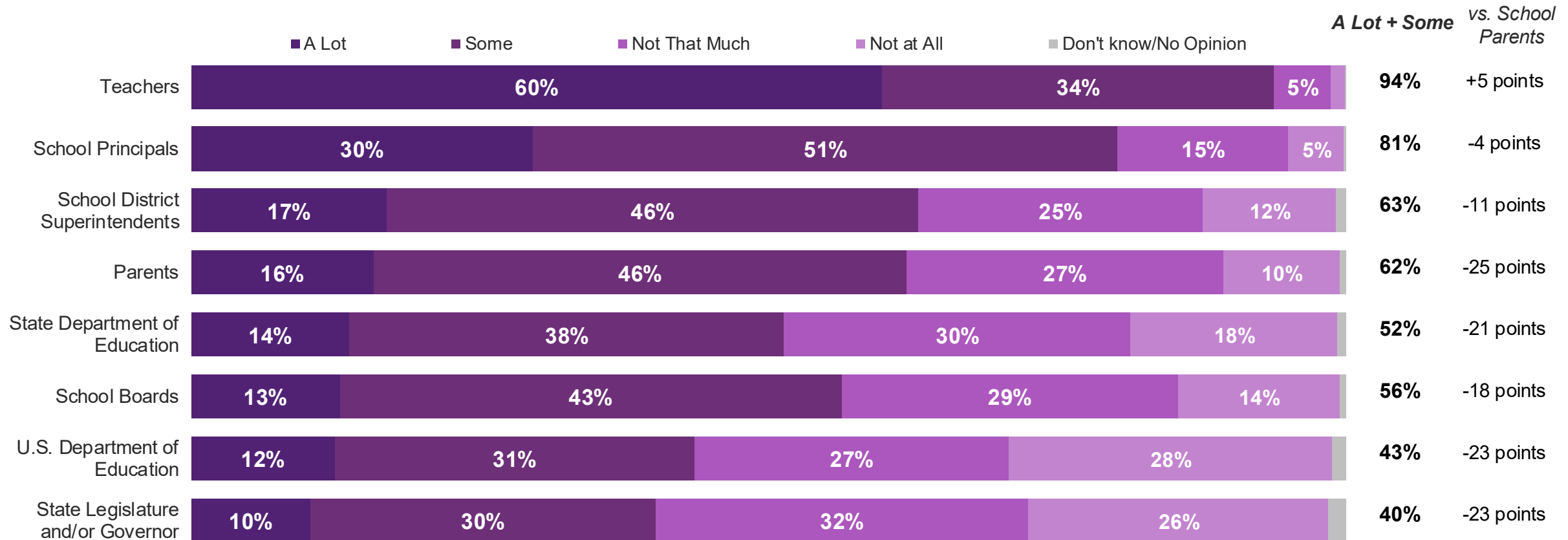
Among All Teachers



Teachers generally trust other teachers to make good decisions, but have less trust in their state legislature and the US Department of Education.

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

Among All Teachers



Approximately 70% of teachers view employment skills and becoming independent thinkers as extremely important purposes of education for grades 9-12.



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

Among All Teachers

% Extremely Important

Grades K-8








Average % selected Extremely Important **50%**

-  Core academic subjects (**59%**)
-  Socialization (**58%**)
-  How to be good citizens (**56%**)
-  Become independent thinkers (**56%**)
-  Skills for future employment (**48%**)
-  Values, moral character, religious virtues (**43%**)
-  To fix social problems (**27%**)

56%
of School Parents believe core academic subjects are extremely important for Grades K-8

Grades 9-12

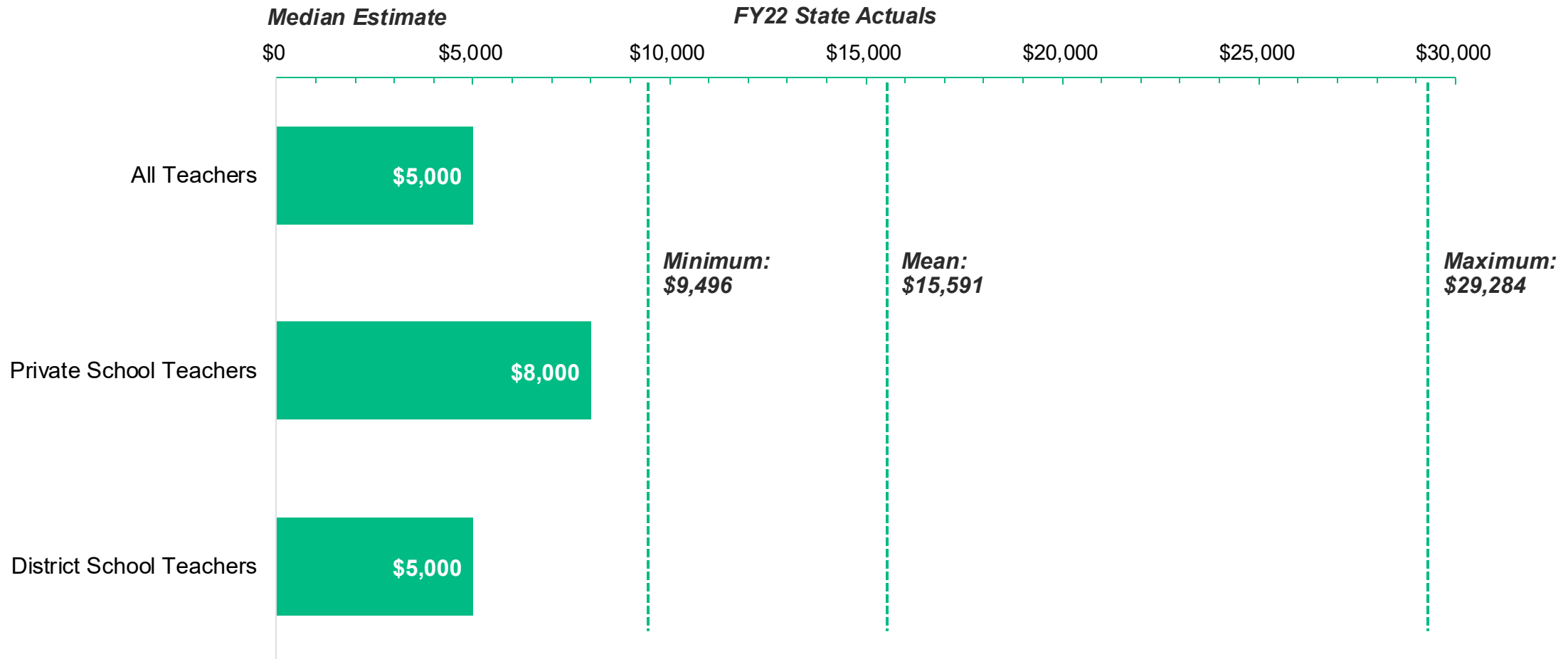
Average % selected Extremely Important **57%**

-  Skills for future employment (**70%**)
-  Become independent thinkers (**68%**)
-  How to be good citizens (**64%**)
-  Socialization (**59%**)
-  Core academic subjects (**58%**)
-  Values, moral character, religious virtues (**46%**)
-  To fix social problems (**36%**)

61%
of School Parents believe skills for future employment are extremely important for Grades 9-12

Teachers consistently underestimate the amount of money that is spent on students in public schools, especially district school teachers.

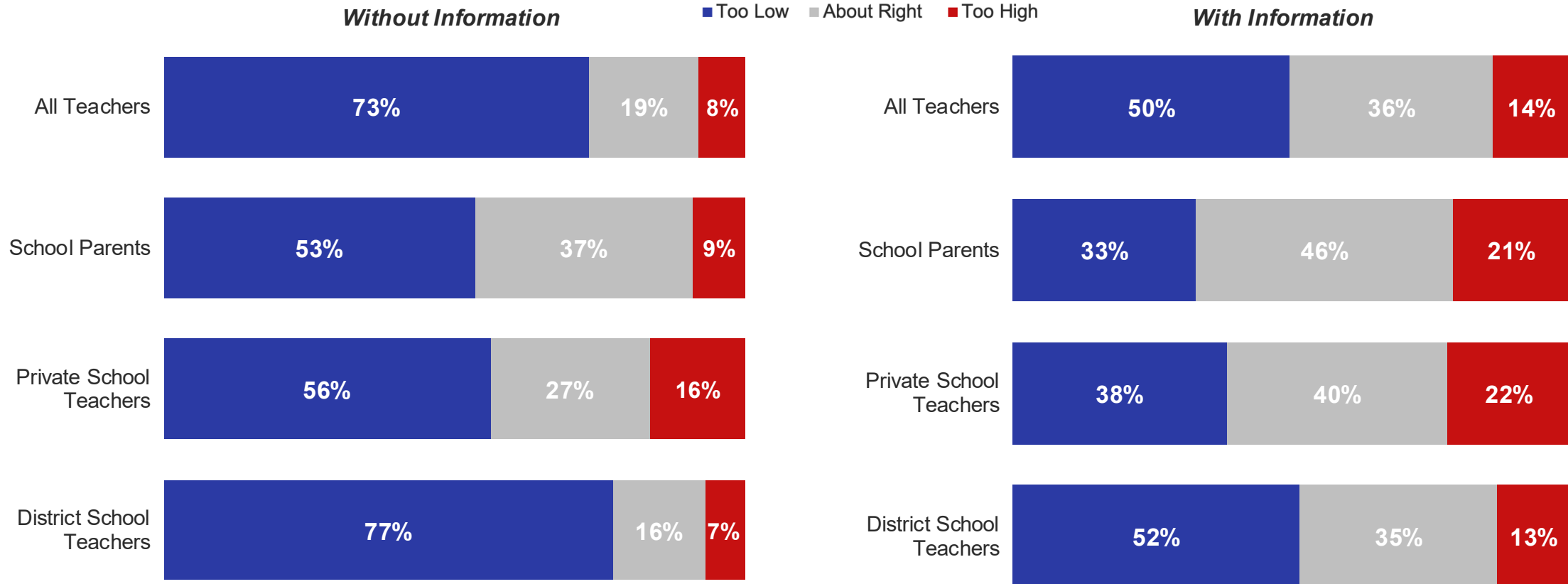
How much do you think is spent per year on each student in your state's **public schools**? Your estimate of the state average—to the nearest thousand dollars—will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.



Teachers are less likely to say their state’s spending per-student is “too low” if given a publicly reported statistic. District school teachers are most likely to think spending is too low.

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

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



Teachers Source: Survey conducted September 20, 2025 – September 24, 2025, U.S. K-12 education teachers

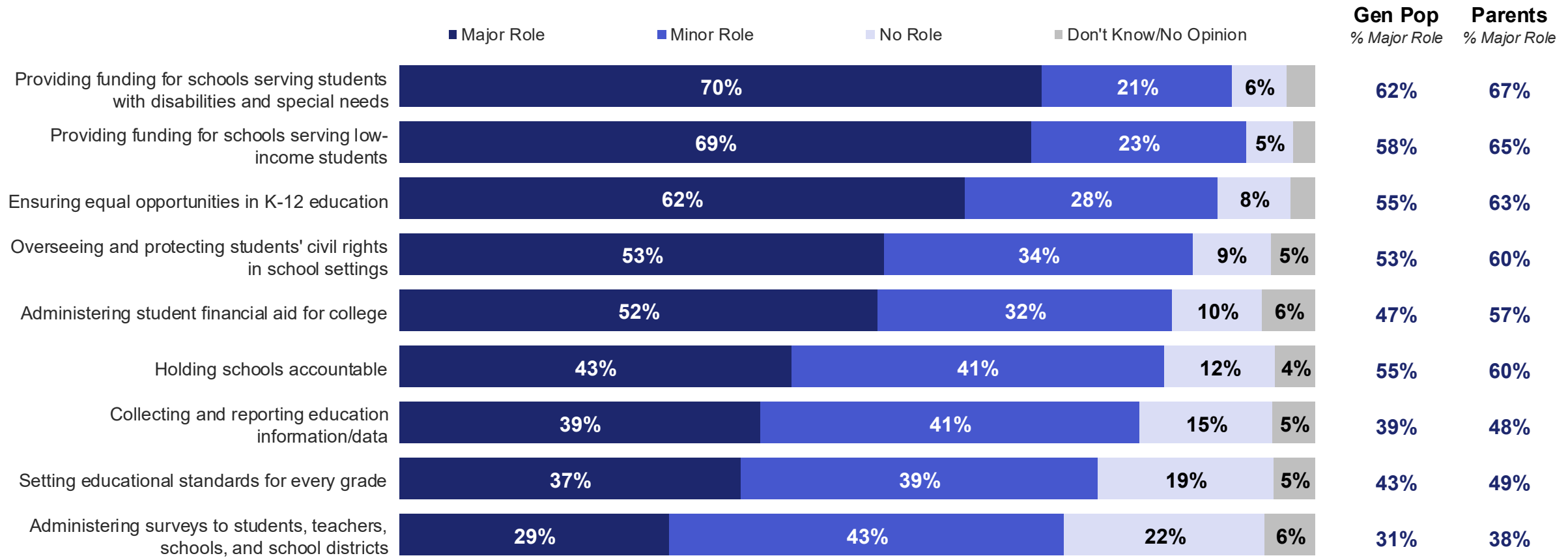
School Parents Source: Survey conducted September 12, 2025 – September 14, 2025, among U.S. adults

State Per Pupil Spending Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Teachers want the federal government to play a major role in providing funding for students in need and ensuring equal opportunities.

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

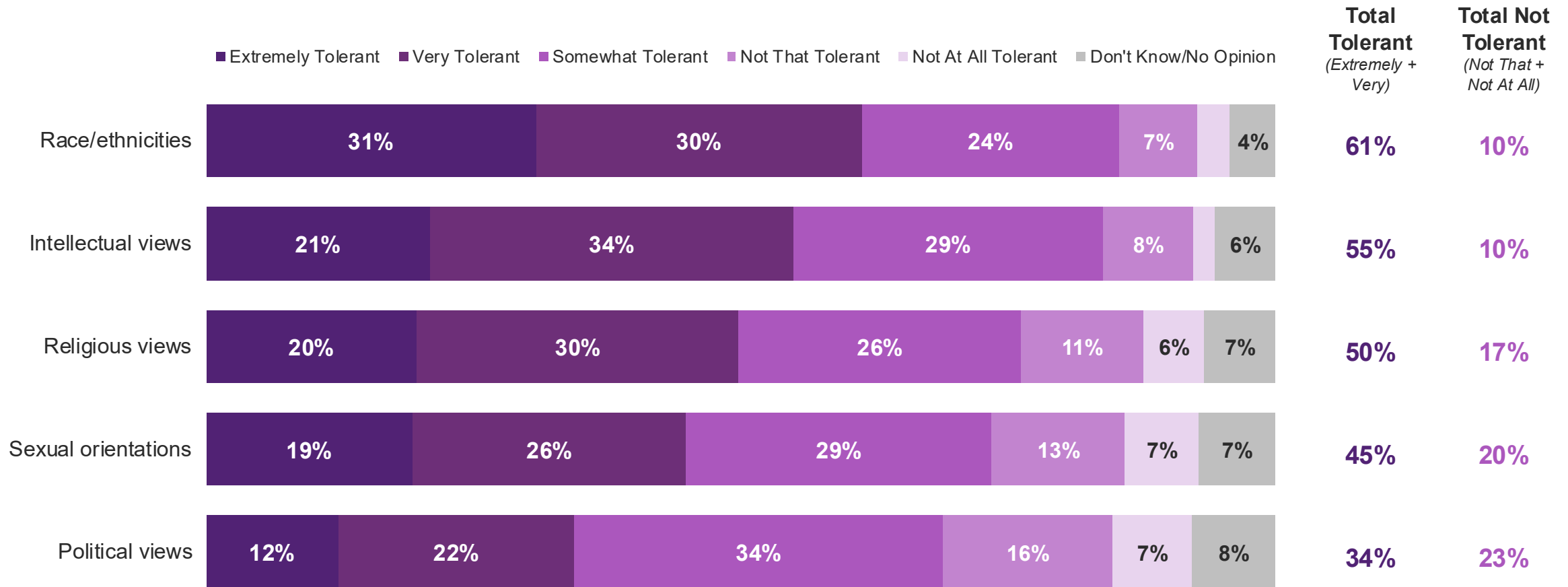
Among All Teachers



Over half of teachers believe their school is very tolerant of students of different races/ethnicities, but sexual orientation and political views are not as tolerated.

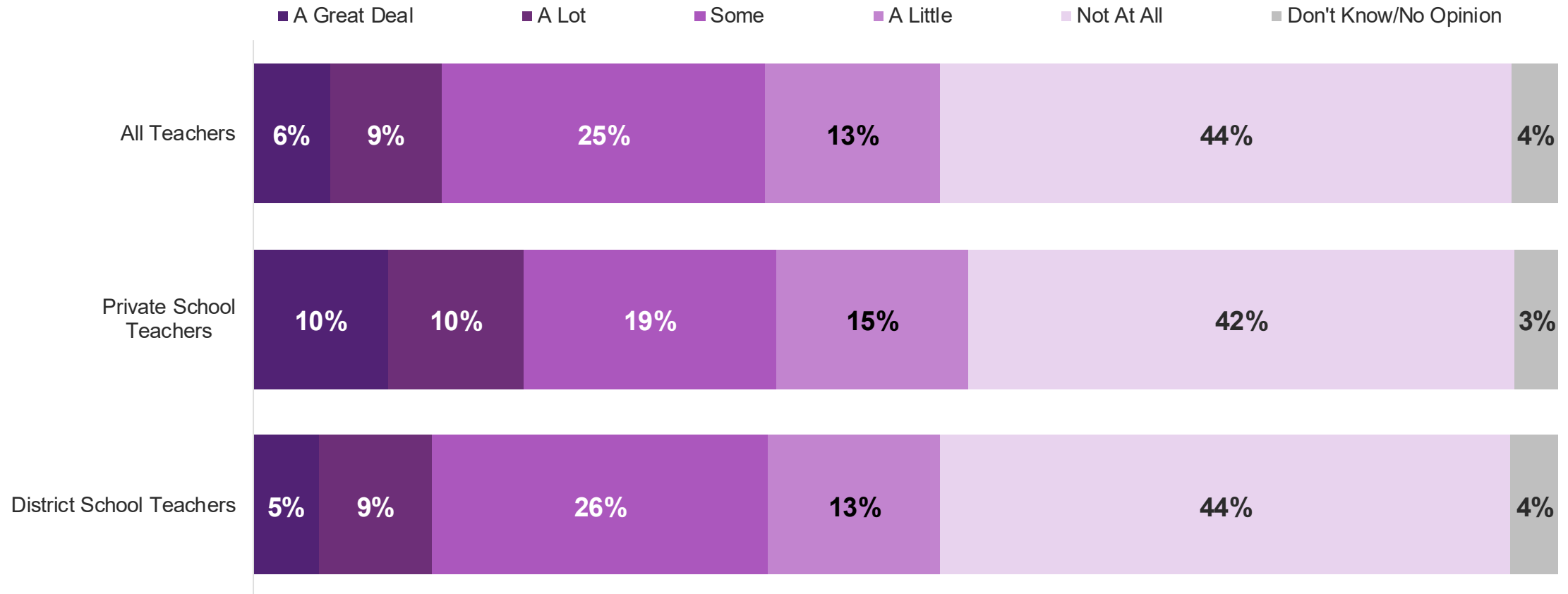
Thinking about the school where you teach, how tolerant would you say the climate is for different...

Among All Teachers



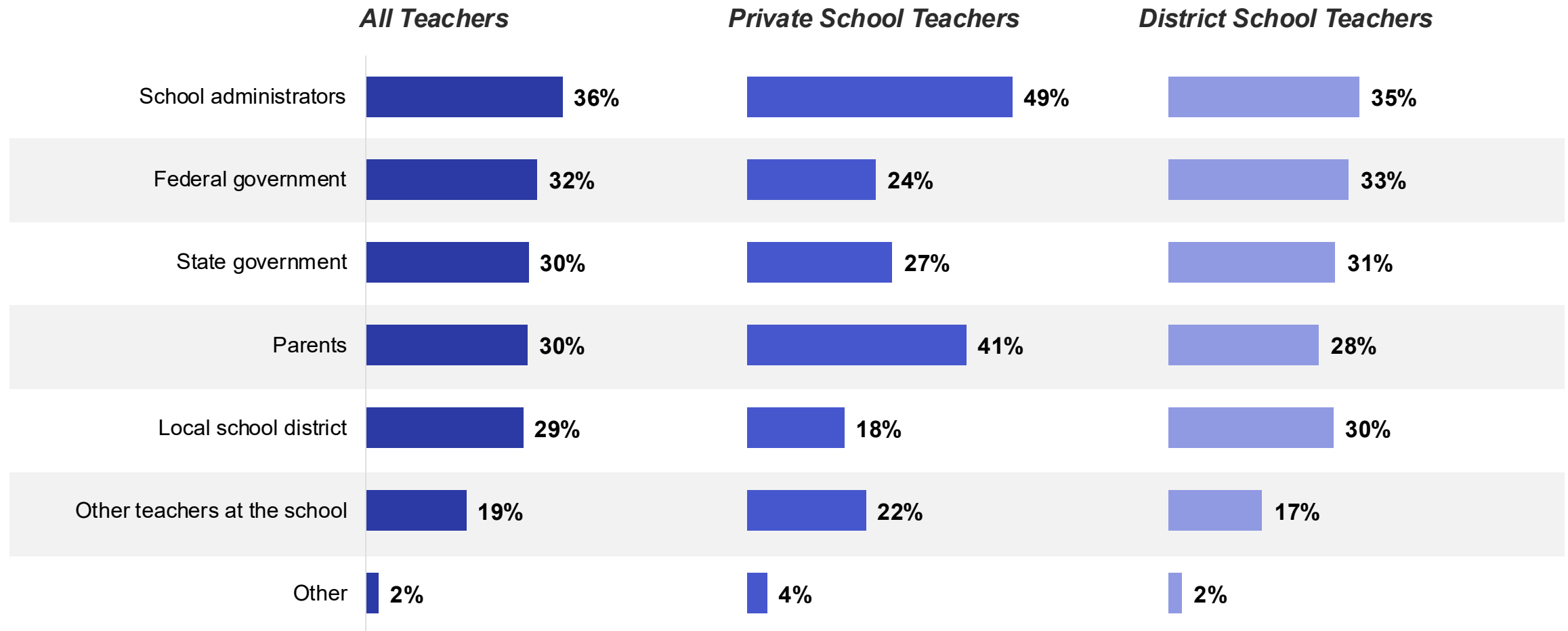
Over half of teachers report having had to modify their curriculum or class discussions topics because of political pressure.

This school year, to what extent – if at all – have you had to modify your curriculum or topics you discuss in class because of political pressure?



District teachers point to school admins and governments as the source of political pressure, whereas private school teachers point to school admins and parents.

What has been the source of the political pressure to modify your curriculum or topics you discuss in class? Please select all that apply.

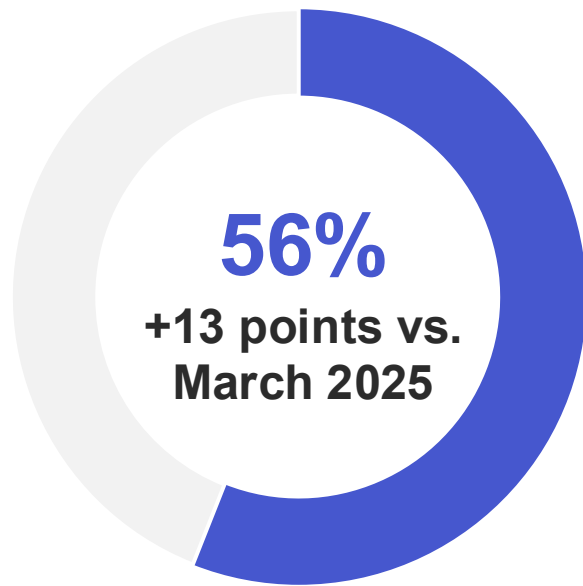


The majority of teachers are deciding on their own to limit discussion of political and social issues in class, a 13-point increase since March.

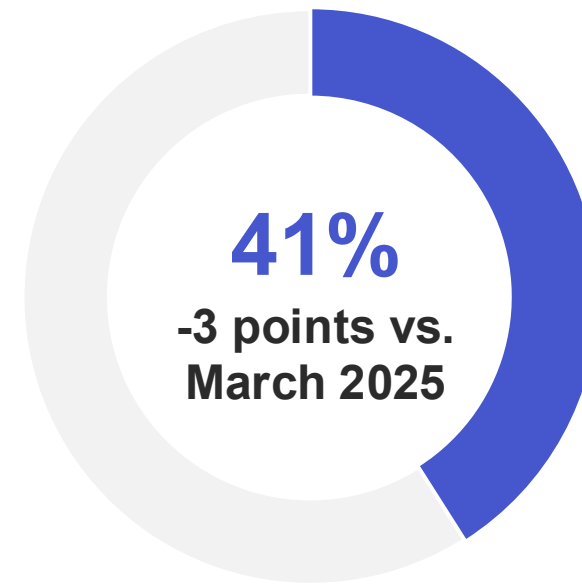
Over the past year, have you decided on your own - without being directed by school or district leaders – to limit discussions about political and social issues in class?

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

Among All Teachers



% Yes



% Yes



Views on K-12 Education



Teaching Profession and Experience



School Choice Policies

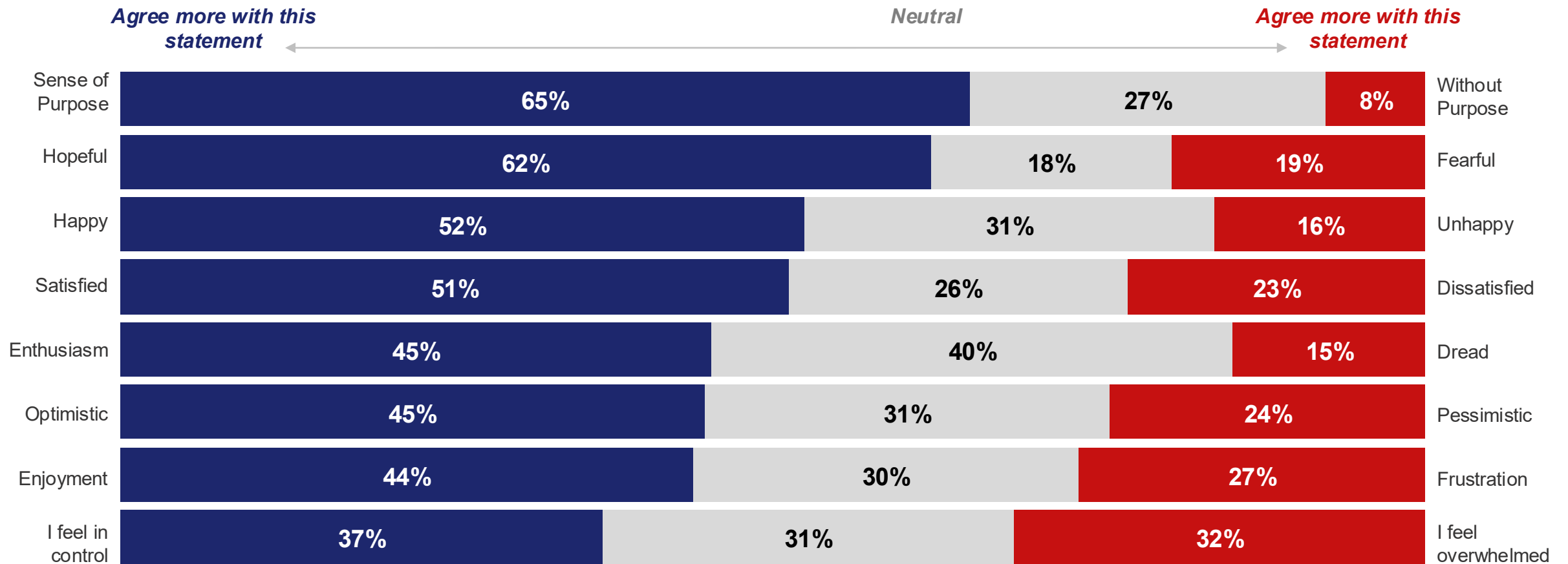


Survey Profile and Demographics

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

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

Among All Teachers



Teachers express high levels of pessimism about the teaching profession this fall, despite improvements since a year ago among private school teachers.

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

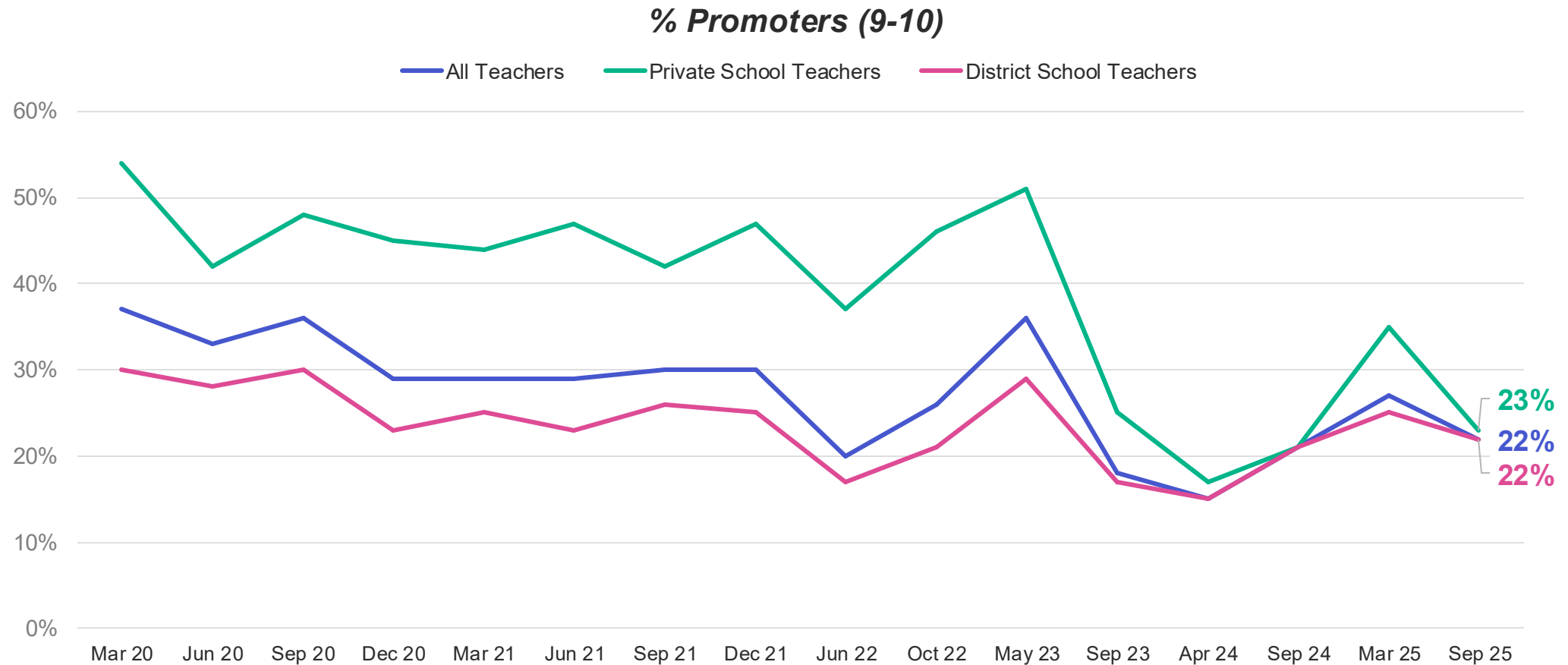
Among All Teachers



Teachers' likelihood to recommend their profession remains low overall, staying similar to levels seen since September 2023.

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

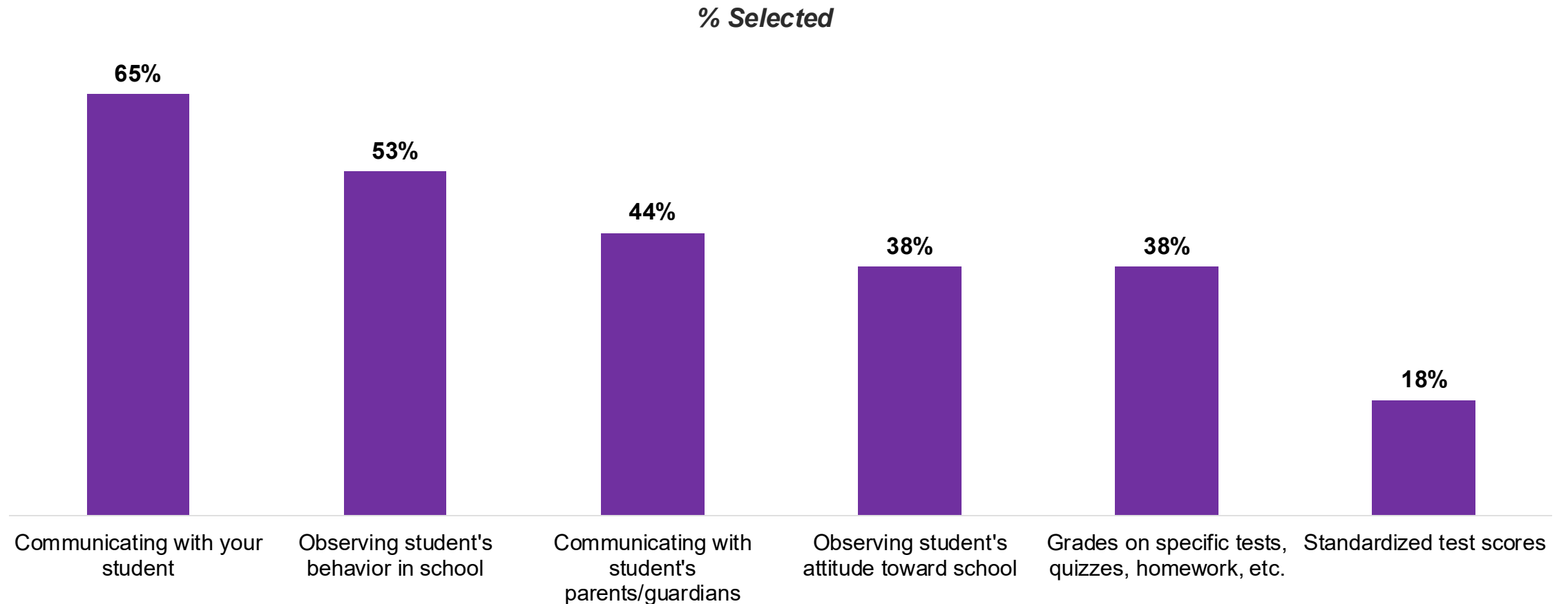
Among All Teachers



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

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

Among All Teachers



District school teachers are less likely than private school teachers to believe their students are progressing “very well.”

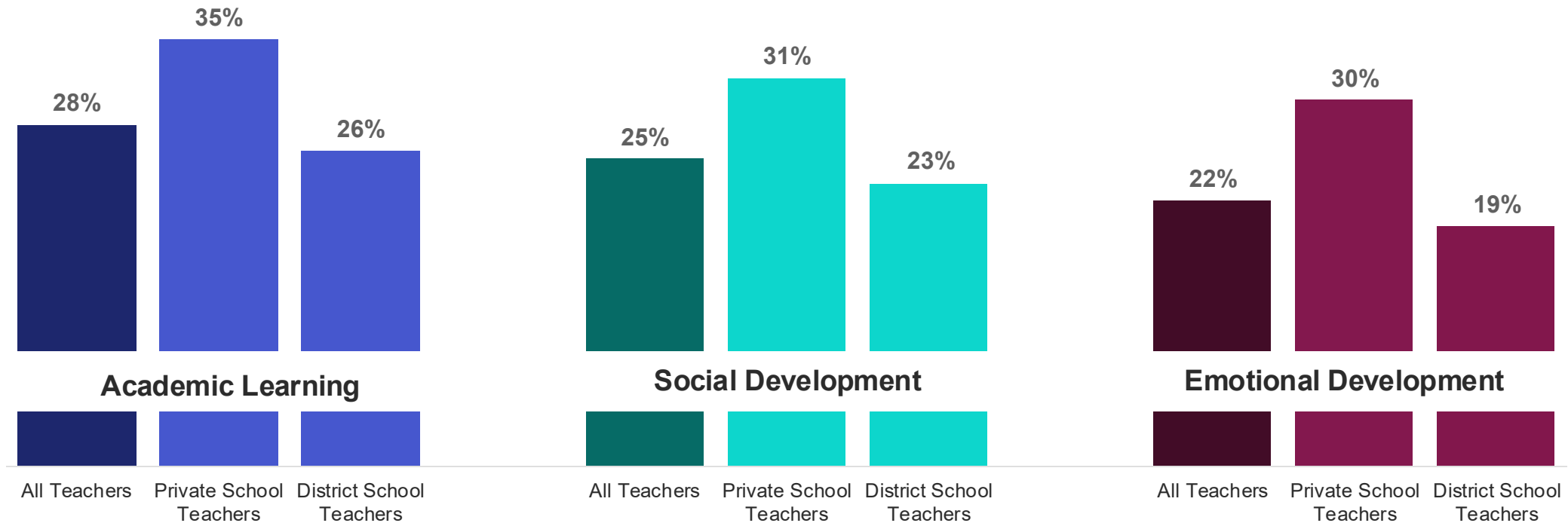
How do you feel your students are progressing on the following this school year?

Among All Teachers

Among All Teachers Since Sept 2024:

Academic Learning	+/-0 points
Emotional Development	+1 points
Social Development	-1 points

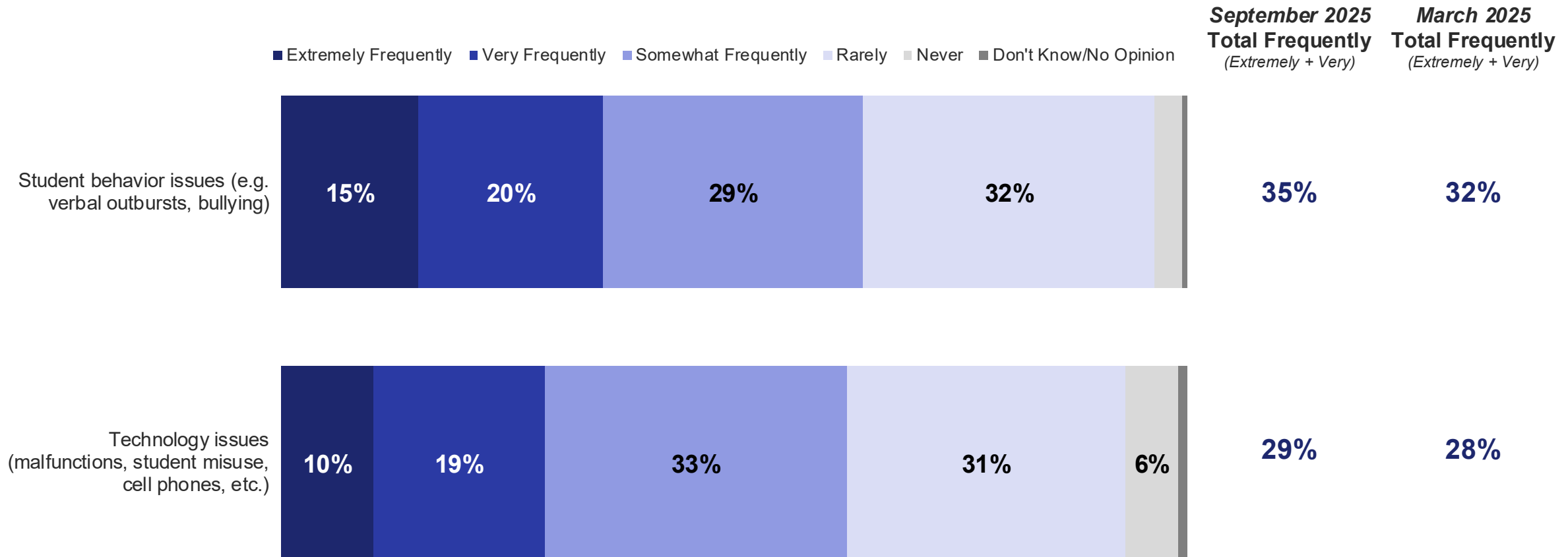
% Very Well



About one third of teachers report frequent behavioral and technological issues interrupting their class. Issues persist since the last school year.

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

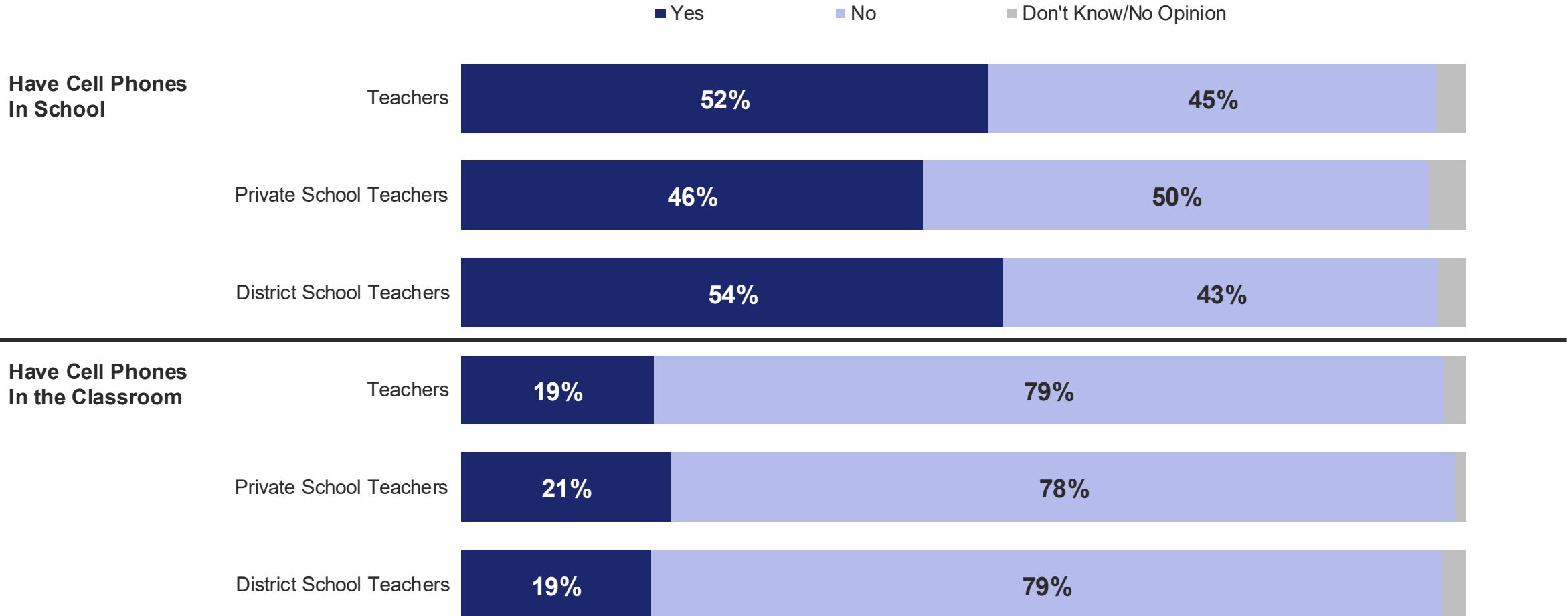
Among All Teachers



Half of teachers believe students should be allowed to have cell phones in school, but many draw the line at using phones in the classroom.

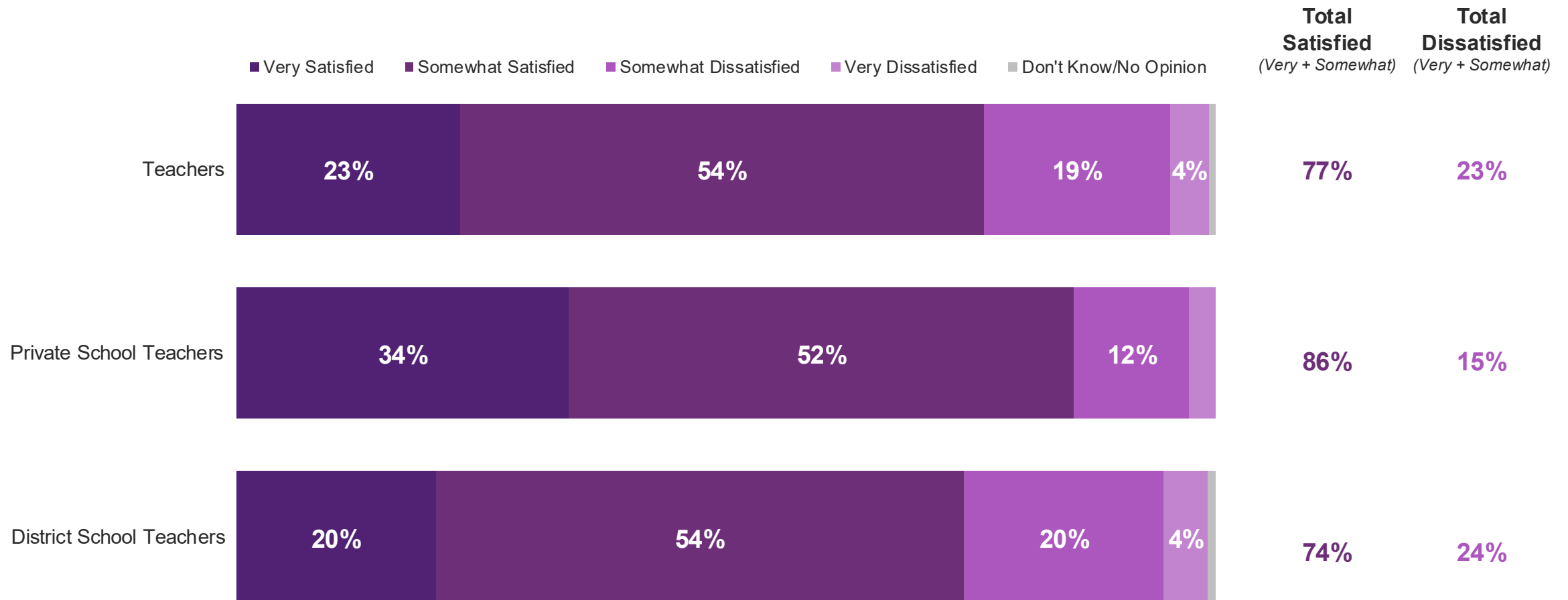
When it comes to cell phones, do you feel your students should be allowed to...

Among All Teachers



Teacher satisfaction with students' use of technology is higher in private schools than in public schools. Still, teachers are generally satisfied with use overall.

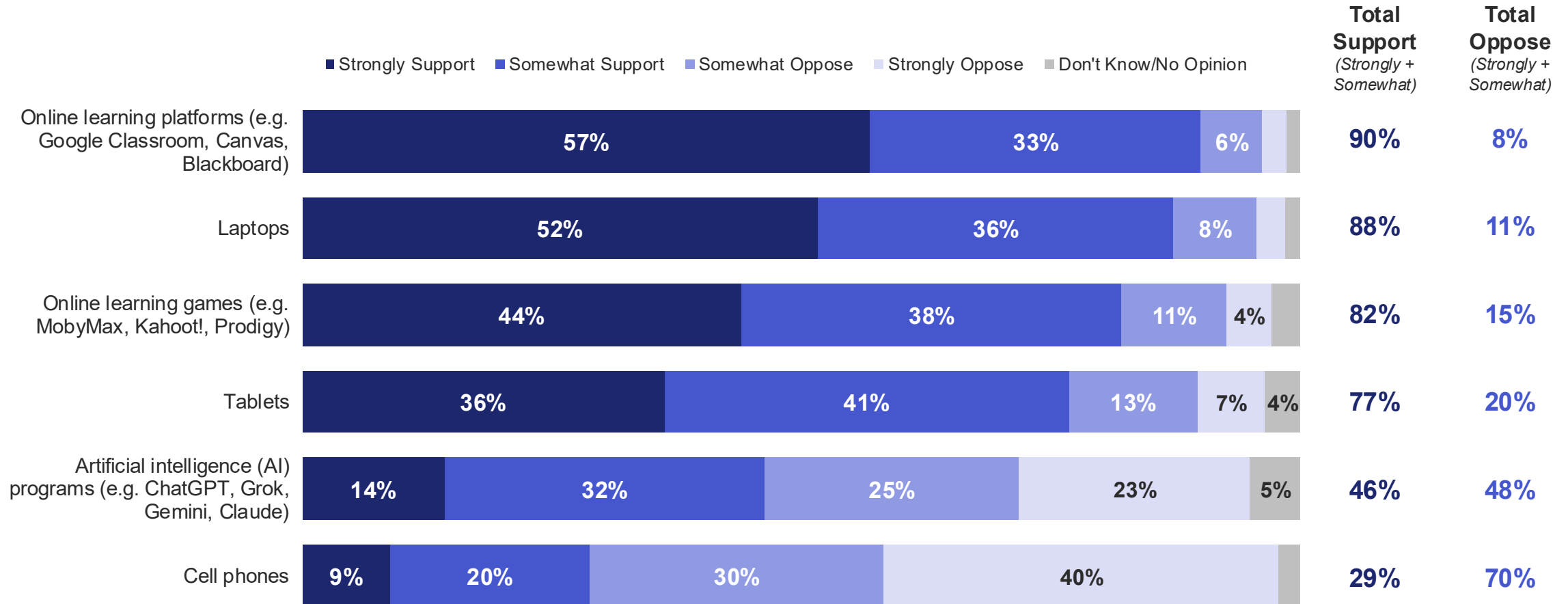
To what extent are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your students' use of technology in school?



Teachers support the use of technologies like online learning platforms and laptops in classes. AI and cell phones face greater opposition.

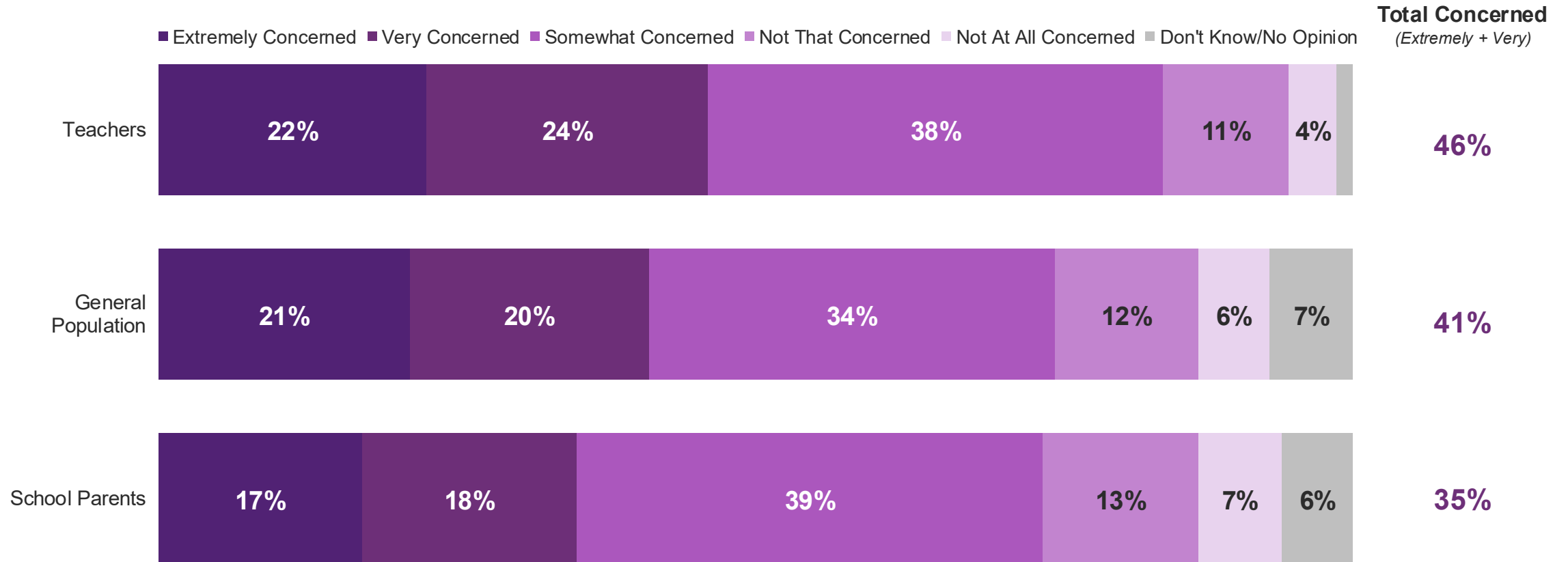
To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the following types of technology being used in your class at school?

Among All Teachers



Concern about the effects of AI on the future is high. Teachers are more concerned than both the general population and school parents.

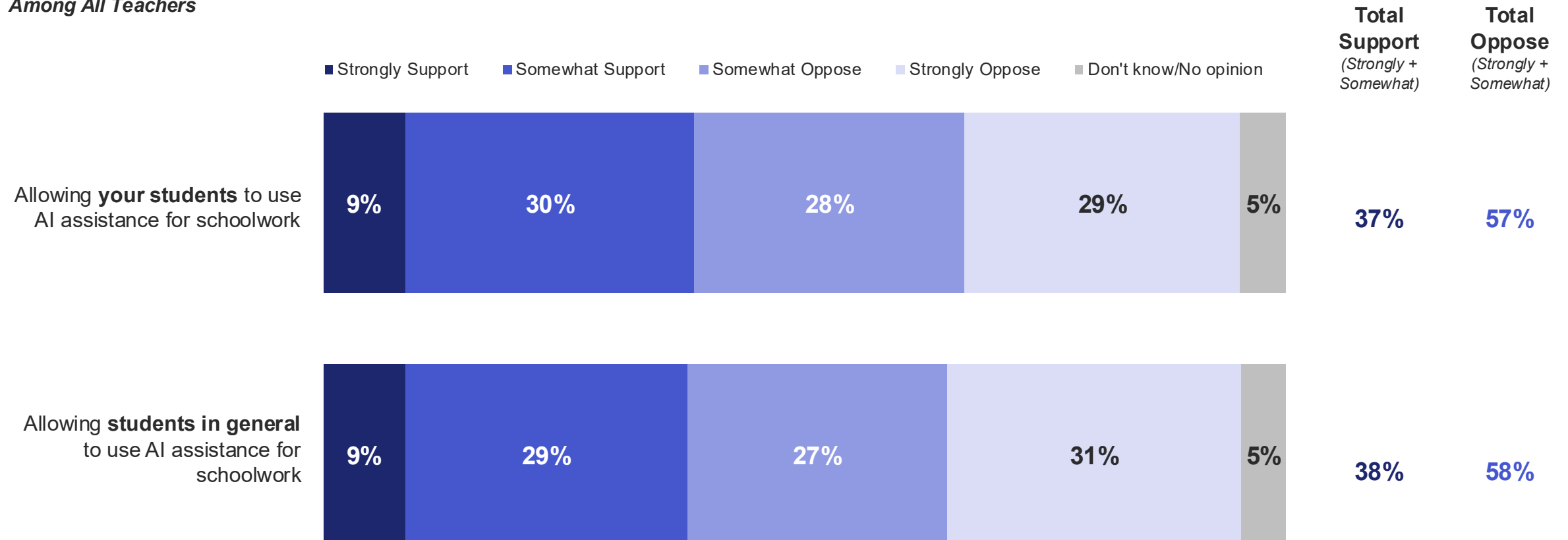
How concerned are you about the effects of artificial intelligence, or AI, on society in the future?



Teachers are generally opposed to letting their students use AI to assist them for schoolwork. Roughly the same proportion of teachers oppose the idea of letting AI assist students in general.

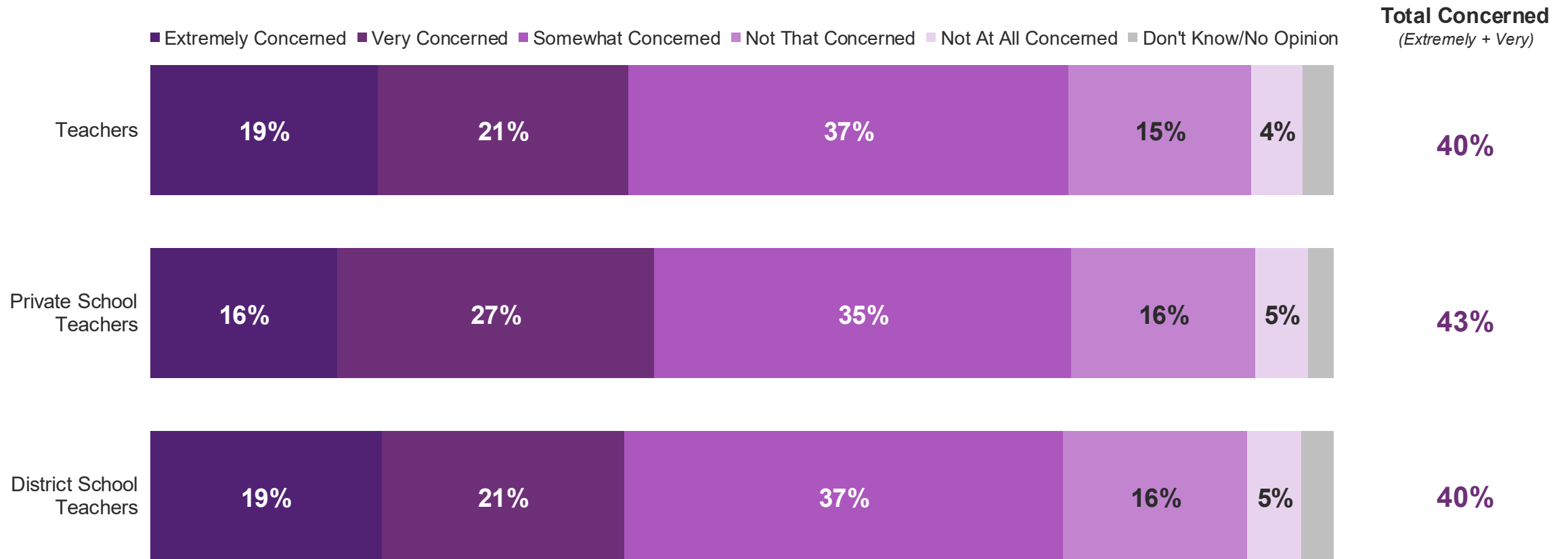
Do you support or oppose allowing **your** students to use AI assistance for schoolwork? / Generally speaking, do you support or oppose allowing students using AI assistance for schoolwork?

Among All Teachers



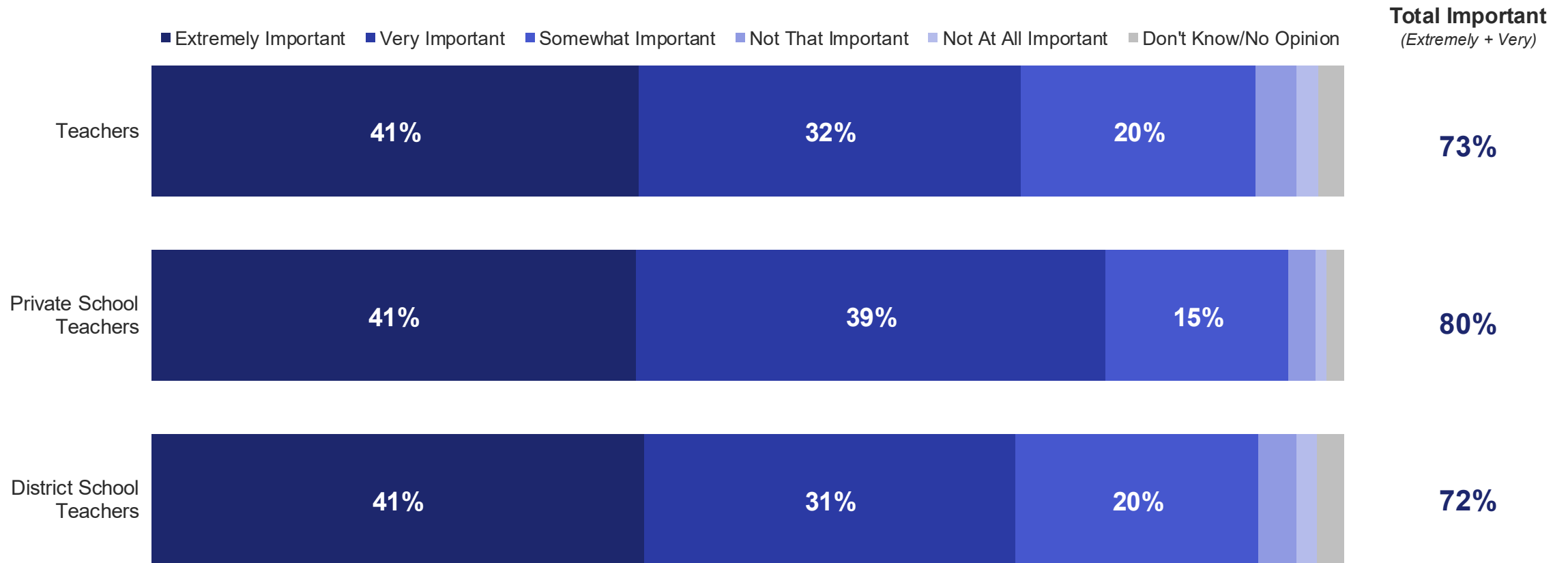
Forty percent of teachers are at least very concerned about the effects of AI on their students' learning this school year. Concern levels are similar across school types.

How concerned are you about the effects of artificial intelligence, or AI, on your students' learning this school year?



The vast majority of teachers believe that it is important for schools to help students build the necessary skills for appropriate usage of technology and AI.

When it comes to the use of technology and artificial intelligence (AI), how important is it for schools to help students build critical thinking and reasoning skills so they can judge information and appropriate use of technology?



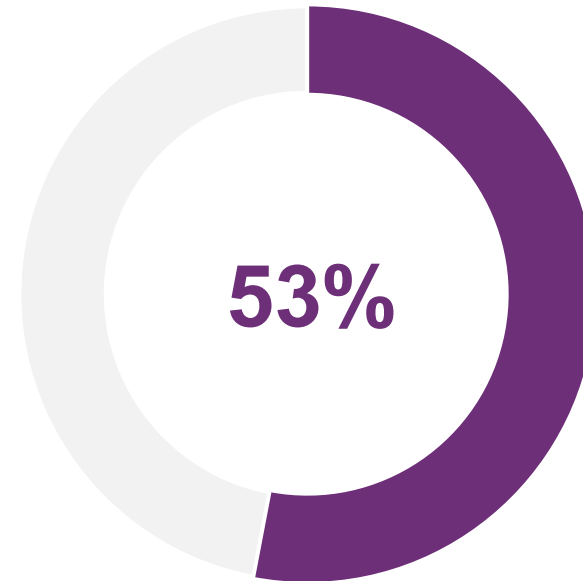
Over one-third of teachers are very concerned about a violent intruder. School parents express higher levels of concern (53%).

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

Total Concerned
(Extremely + Very Concerned)



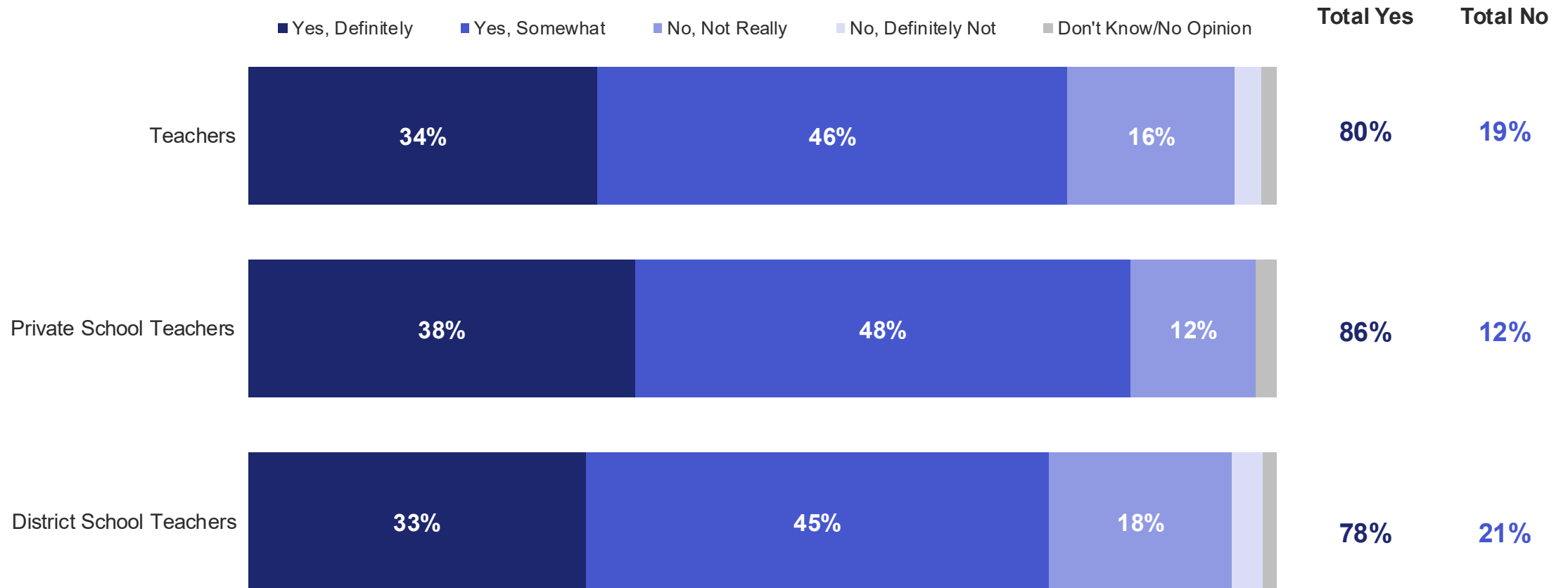
Teachers



School Parents

The majority of teachers report that fellow teachers and staff at their school are trained on concerning student behavior and threat assessments.

Are teachers and staff at your school trained in recognizing early warning signs of concerning student behavior and conducting behavioral threat assessments?

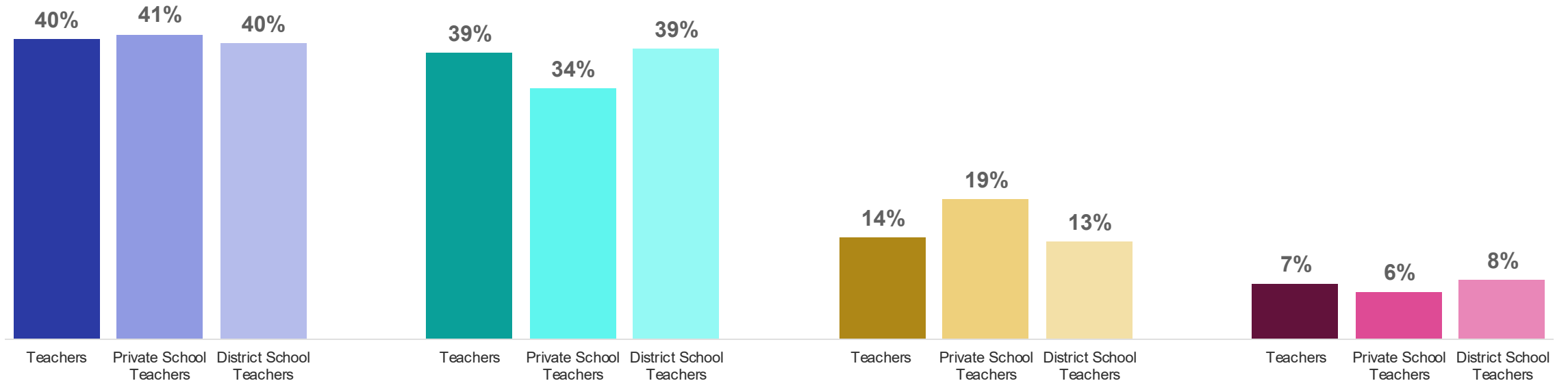


Despite widespread training, nearly half of teachers do not feel prepared to respond to physical threats and emergencies.

Have you received clear training or instruction on how to respond to physical threats and feel prepared to respond to emergencies?

Total Teachers	
Total Received Training:	79%
Total <i>Not</i> Received Training:	21%
Total Feel Prepared:	54%
Total <i>Don't</i> Feel Prepared:	46%

Instruction Received & Preparedness



Yes, I have received clear training and feel prepared

Yes, I have received clear training but do **not** feel prepared

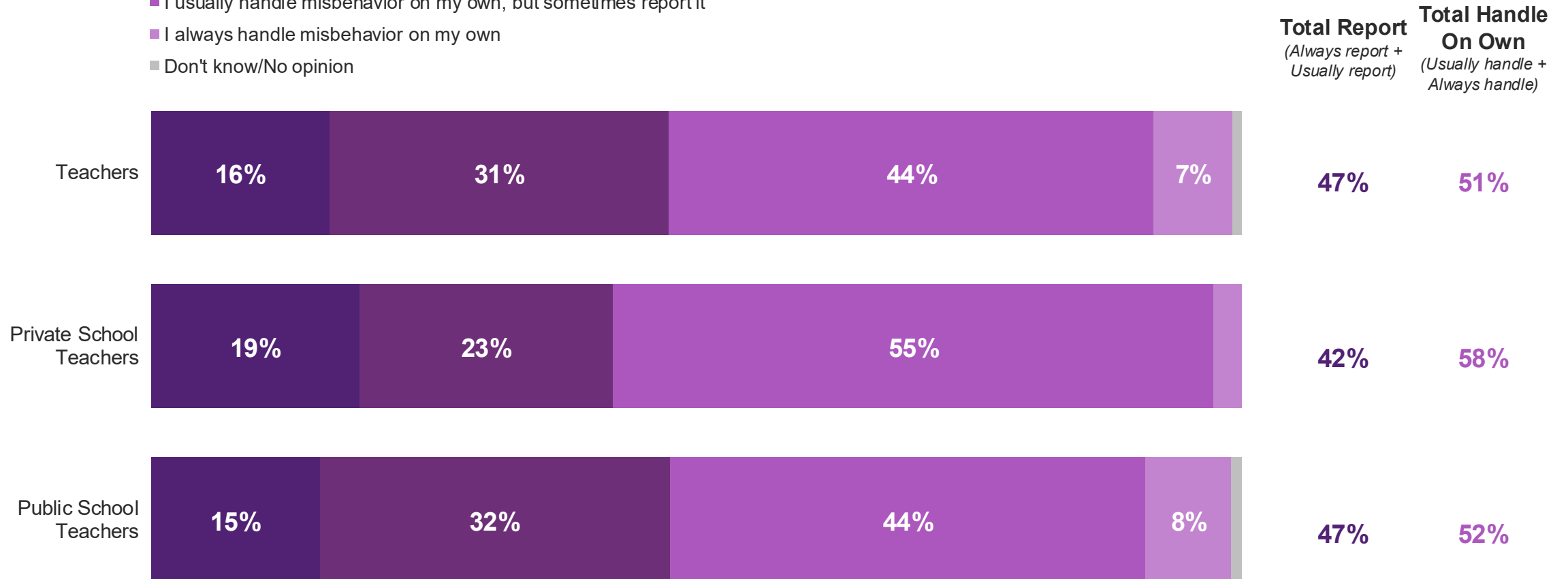
No, I have not received clear training, but feel prepared

No, I have not received clear training and do **not** feel prepared

Teachers are generally evenly divided regarding handling student misbehavior on their own versus reporting it.

How often do you report student misbehavior vs. not reporting it and handling it on your own?

- I always report misbehavior
- I usually report misbehavior, but sometimes handle it on my own
- I usually handle misbehavior on my own, but sometimes report it
- I always handle misbehavior on my own
- Don't know/No opinion

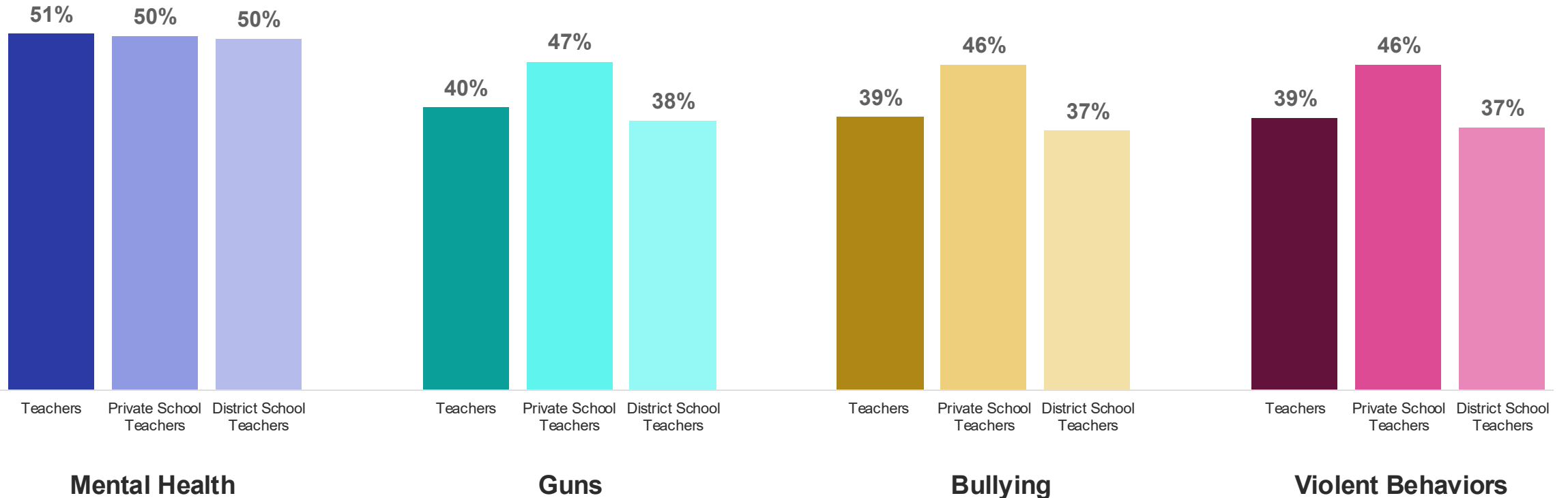


Half of teachers believe their school addresses student mental health well. Fewer believe their school addresses issues well regarding guns, bullying, and violent behaviors.

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

Among Teachers in September 2024	
Guns	44%
Violent Behaviors	39%
Bullying	38%
Mental Health	36%

Most Positive
(Extremely + Very Well)





Views on K-12 Education



Teaching Profession and Experience



School Choice Policies



Survey Profile and Demographics

Policy Descriptions Used

Education Savings Accounts

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

School Vouchers

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

Charter Schools

Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations.

Open Enrollment

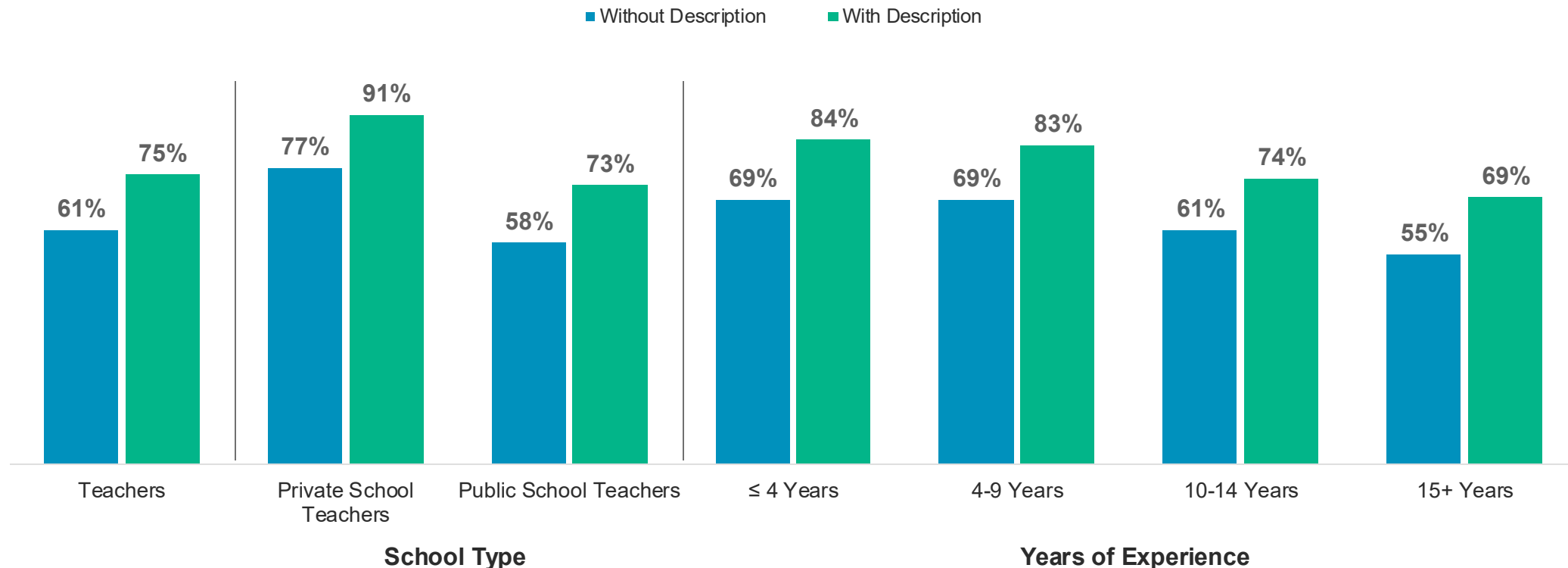
An "open enrollment" policy in K-12 education allows a student enrolled in public school to select and transfer to a public school of their choice, rather than attending a school based on where they live. A student can be allowed to transfer to a public school in another district (called "INTER-district").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

Teachers show support for ESAs, with private school teachers generally more supportive than public school teachers.

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of “education savings accounts”

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

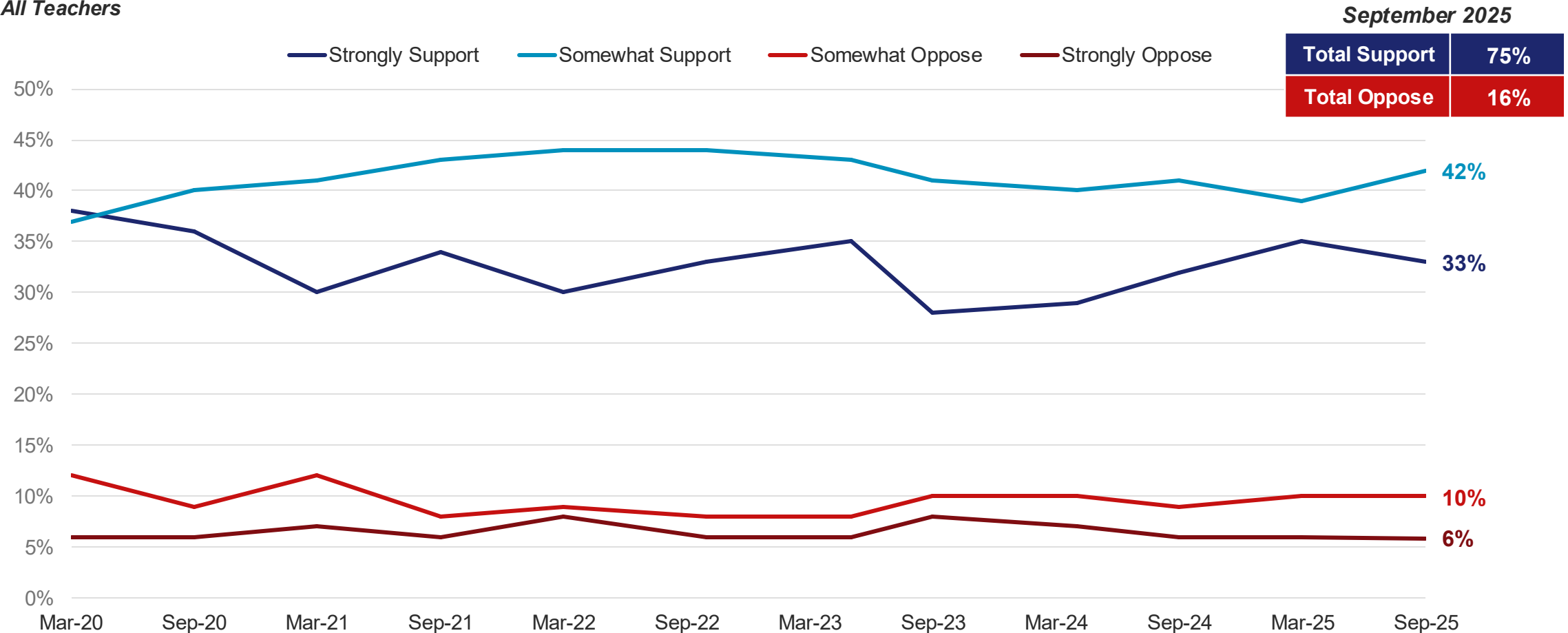
Total Support (Strongly Support + Somewhat Support)



Teacher support for ESAs remains at a high level (75%) since March of this year and over time.

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

Among All Teachers



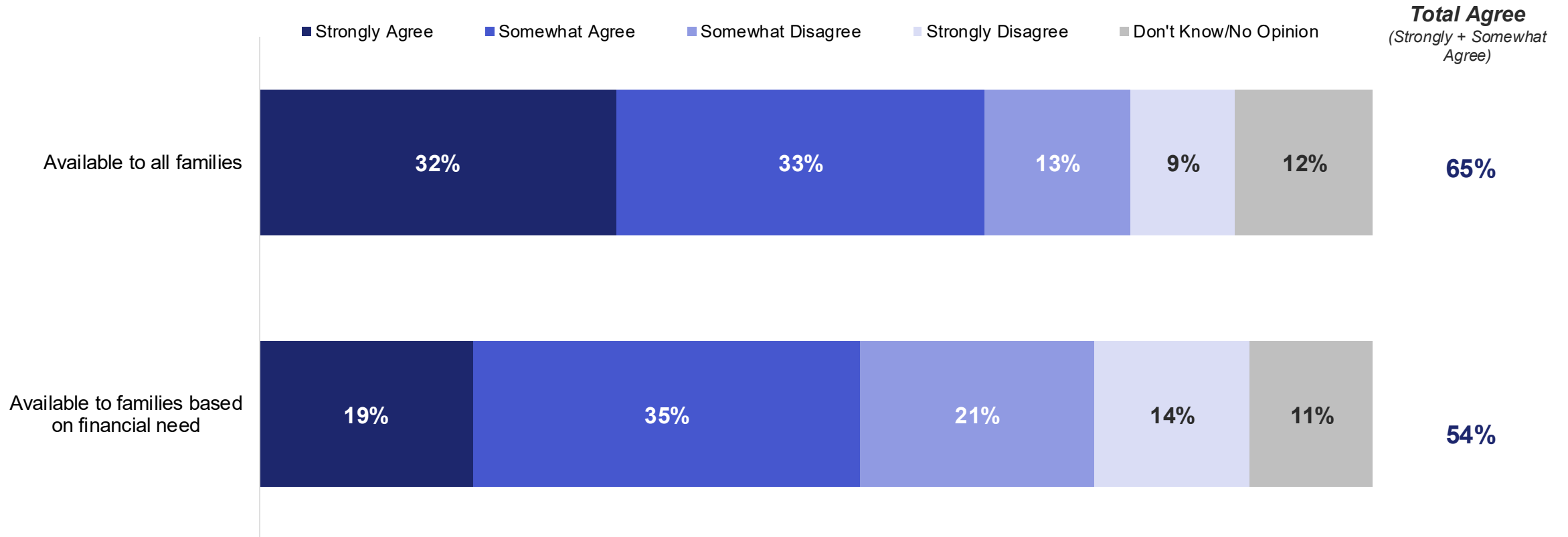
Note: Don't know/no opinion responses are not shown.

Teachers Source: Survey conducted September 20, 2025 – September 24, 2025, U.S. K-12 education teachers

Teachers are more likely to believe that ESAs should be available to all families, regardless of financial need – 11 points higher than the proportion agreeing with means-tested eligibility.

Some people believe that ESAs should be available to all families, regardless of incomes and special needs. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? / Some people believe that ESAs should only be available to families based on financial need. Do you agree or disagree with that statement?

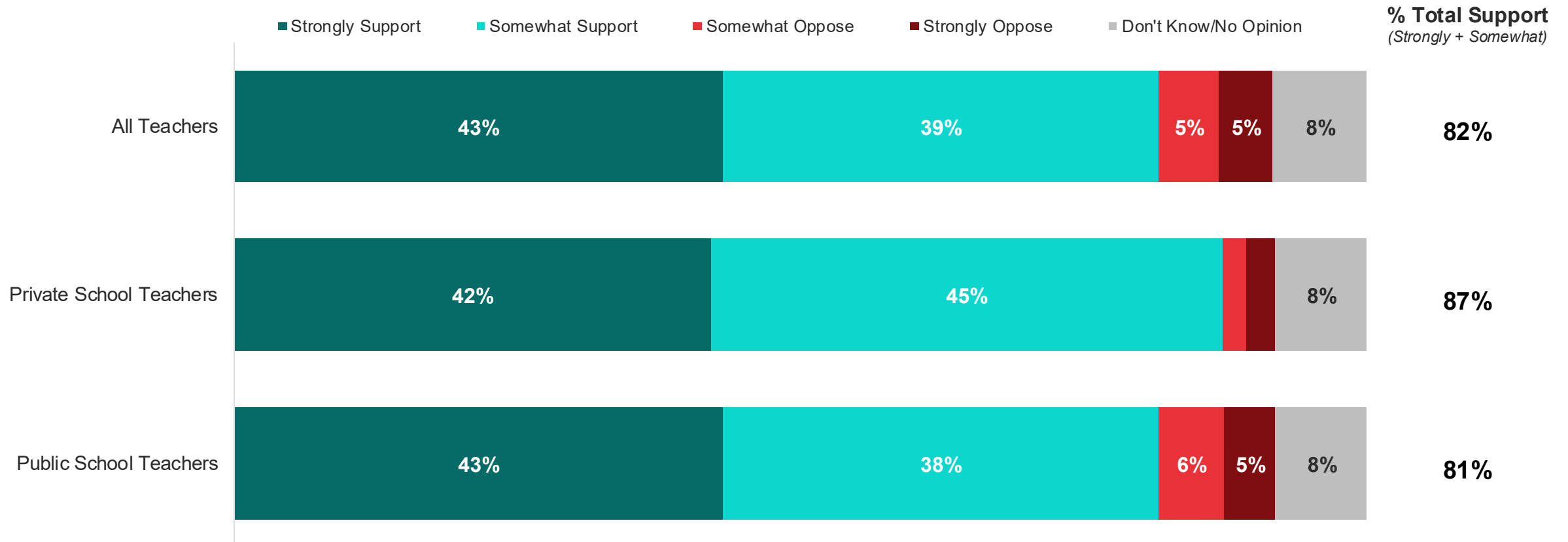
Among All Teachers



Support for “teacher savings accounts” is also high among teachers across school types.

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

Among All Teachers

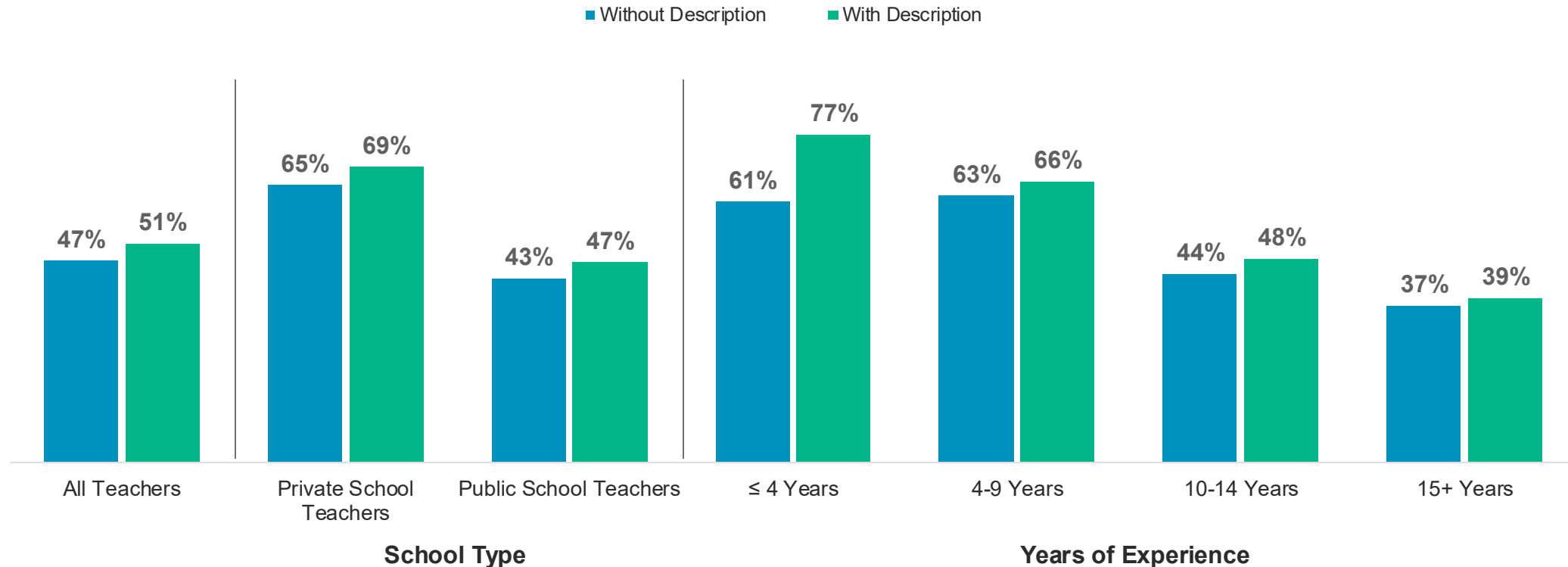


When teachers are given a description of school vouchers, support increases the most among those with four or fewer years of experience.

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

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

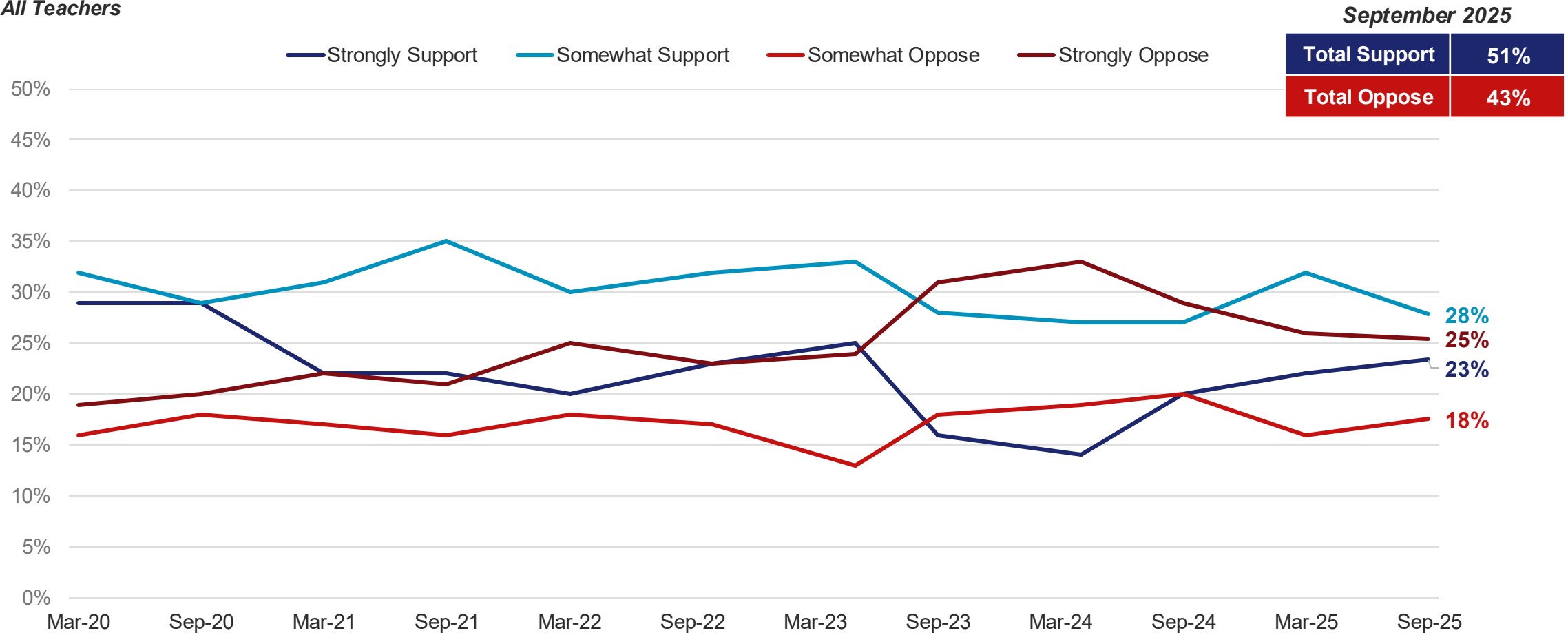
Total Support (Strongly Support + Somewhat Support)



About half of teachers support school vouchers. Teacher opposition to vouchers remains relatively steady compared to March, while total support has fallen slightly.

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

Among All Teachers



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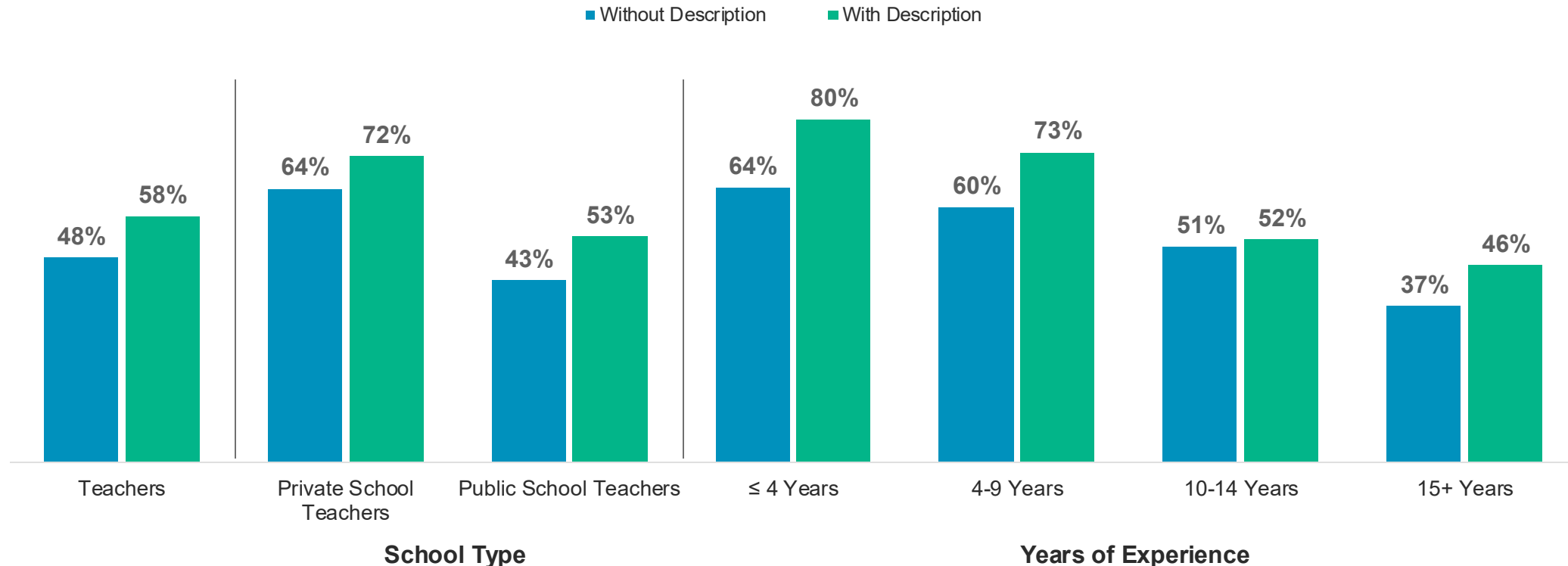
Teachers Source: Survey conducted September 20, 2025 – September 24, 2025, U.S. K-12 education teachers

Providing a description of charter schools boosts support among public school teachers and teachers with under 10 years of experience.

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

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

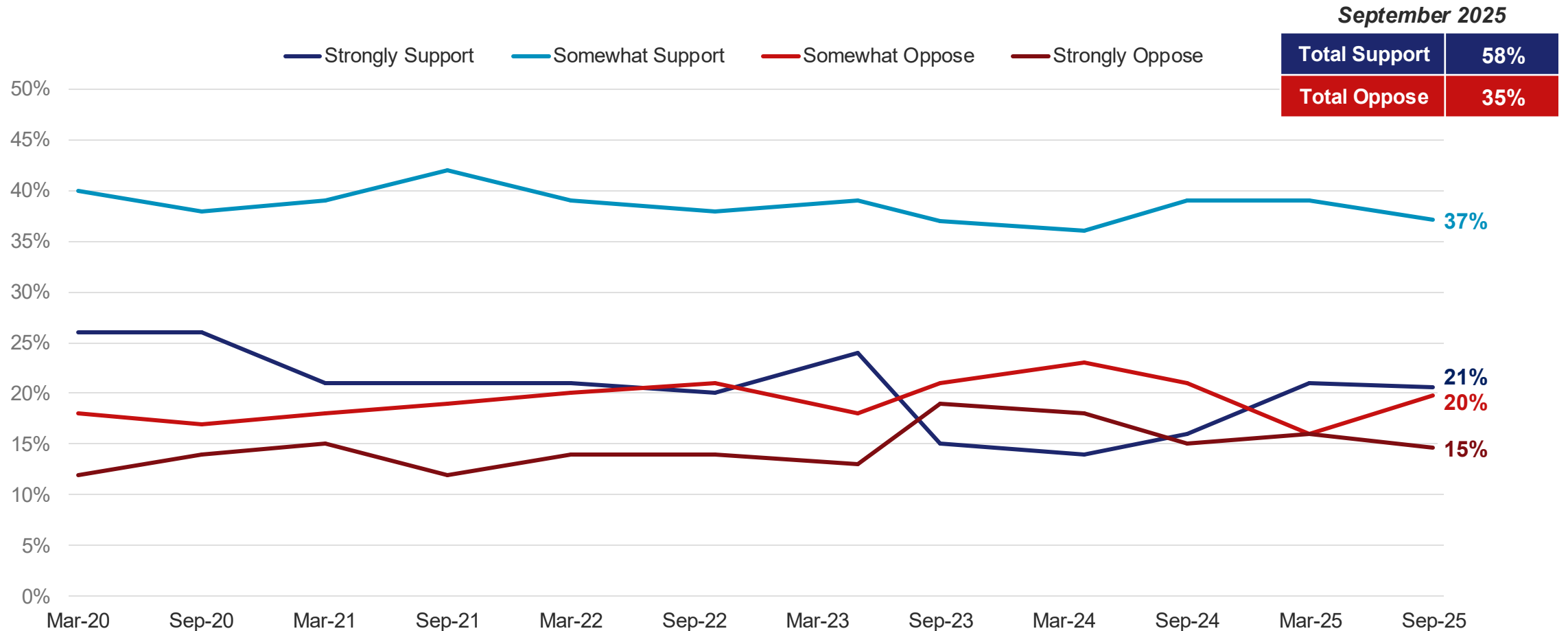
Total Support (Strongly Support + Somewhat Support)



About 6 in 10 teachers support charter schools. Levels of support and opposition have remained steady since March 2025.

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

Among All Teachers



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

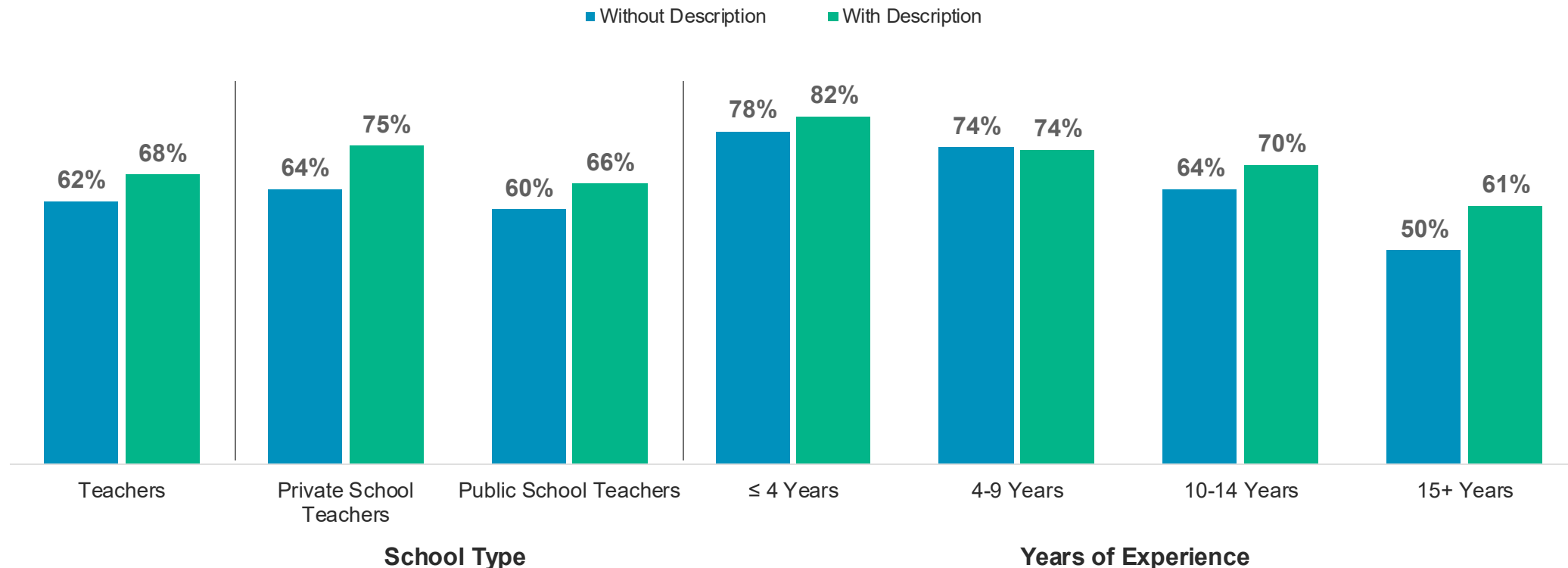
Teachers Source: Survey conducted September 20, 2025 – September 24, 2025, U.S. K-12 education teachers

Nearly two-thirds of teachers support open enrollment. Providing a description of open enrollment raises support among teachers with 15 years of experience or more.

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of “open enrollment” policies in K–12 education?

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

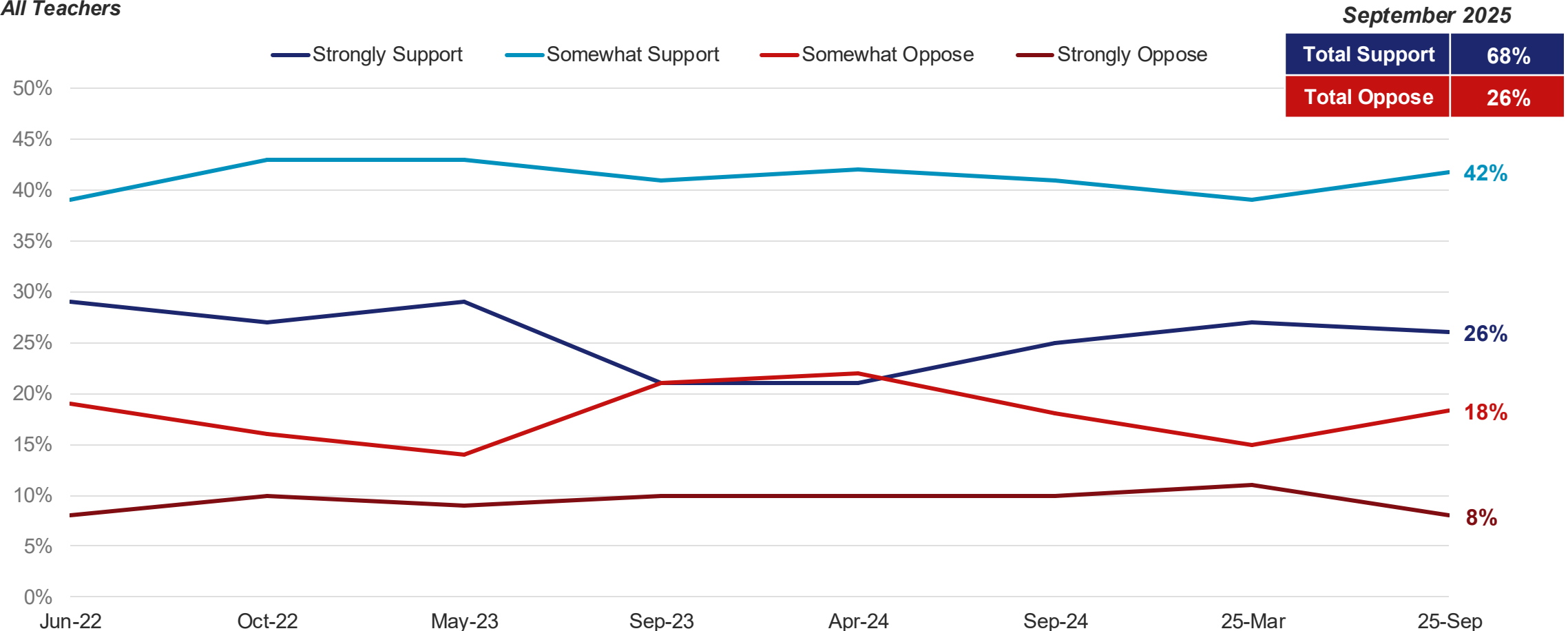
Total Support (Strongly Support + Somewhat Support)



Two-thirds of teachers support open enrollment. Support levels have been relatively stable since Fall 2024.

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

Among All Teachers



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

Teachers Source: Survey conducted September 20, 2025 – September 24, 2025, U.S. K-12 education teachers



Views on K-12 Education



Teaching Profession and Experience



School Choice Policies



Survey Profile and Demographics

Survey Profile, 1

Dates	September 20 – 24, 2025
Survey Data Collection & Quality Control	Morning Consult
Survey Sponsor	EdChoice
Population	K-12 Education Teachers
Sampling Frame	National sample of K-12 teachers (age 18+) living in the United States, including the District of Columbia
Sampling Method	Non-Probability, Stratified (based on Gender, Years of Experience)
Mode	Online Survey
Language	English

Survey Profile, 2

Survey Time	Median = 12.3 minutes
Sample Size	Total, N = 1,004
Oversampling?	None
Quotas?	Age, Years of Teaching Experience
Weighting?	Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Teaching Experience
Measure of Precision	± 3.10 percentage points
Participation Rate	53%
Project Contact	Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

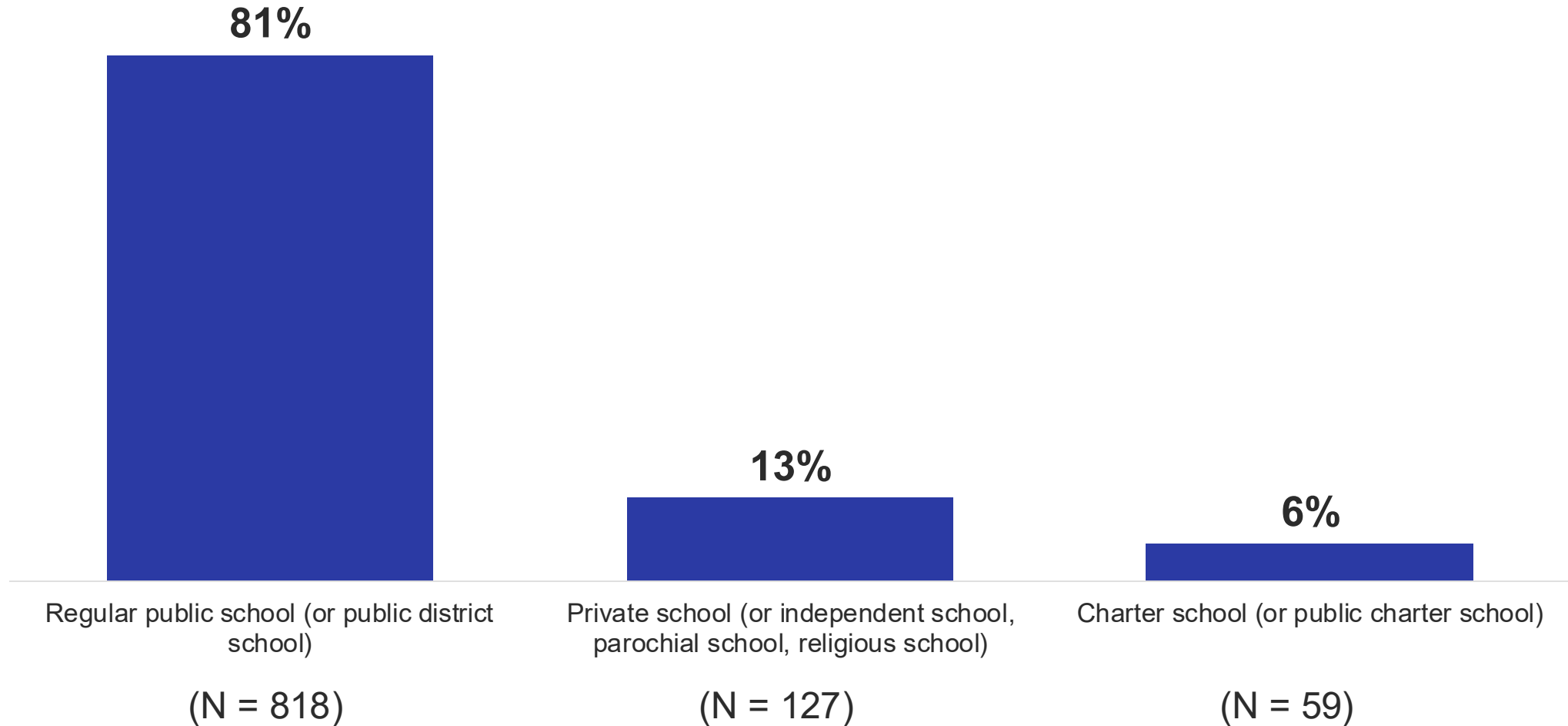
Total Teacher Sample Demographics

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
Hispanic	121
White	736
Asian American	36
Black	95
Other	137
Age 18-34	263
Age 35-44	296
Age 45-64	373
Age 65+	72
Northeast	192
Midwest	205
South	398
West	209

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
Male	210
Female	794
Democrat	380
Independent	306
Republican	318
Urban	238
Suburban	496
Small Town	101
Rural	169
Low Income <\$50K	248
Middle Income \$50K to <\$100K	476
High Income \$100K+	280
LGBTQ+	92

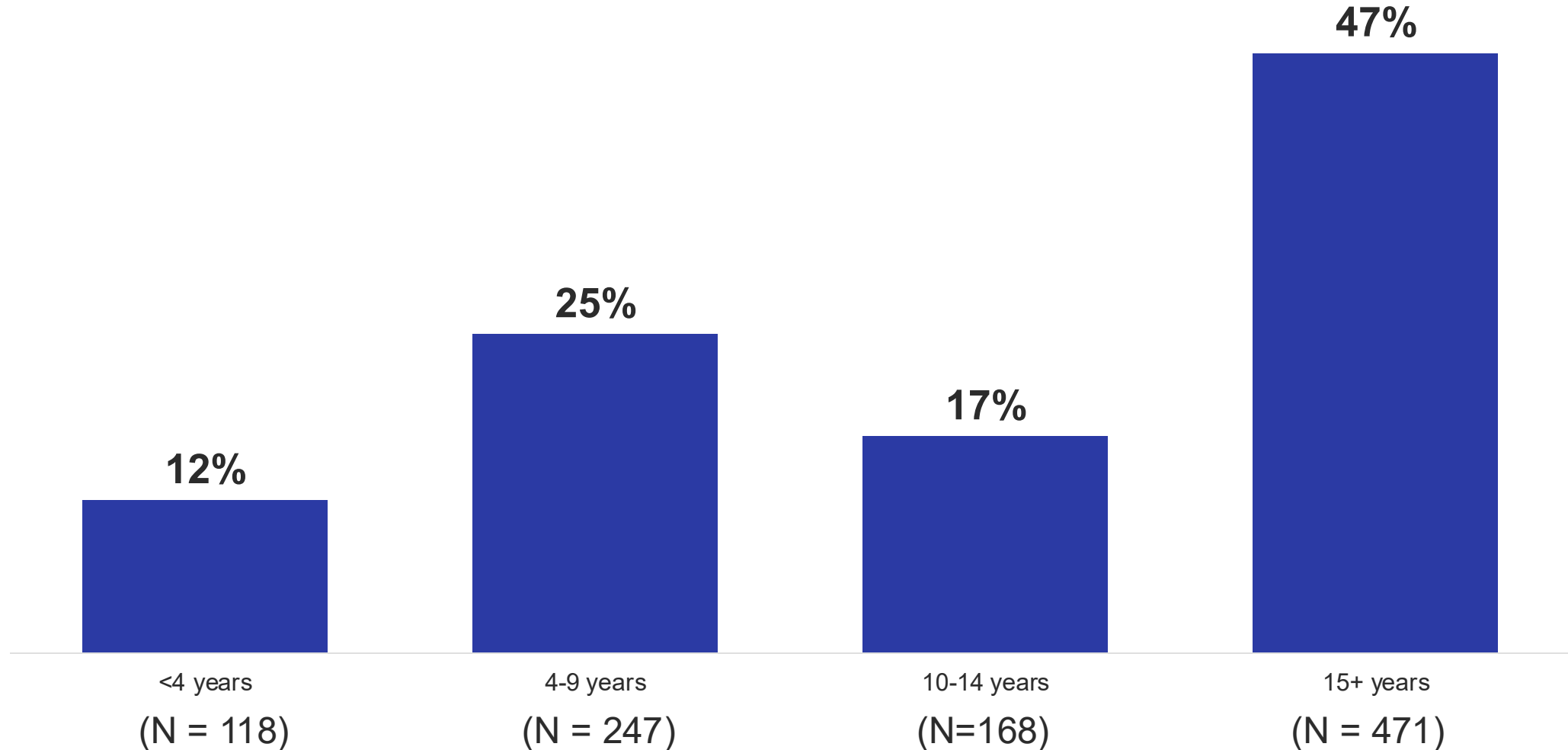
Where do you currently teach?

Among All Teachers



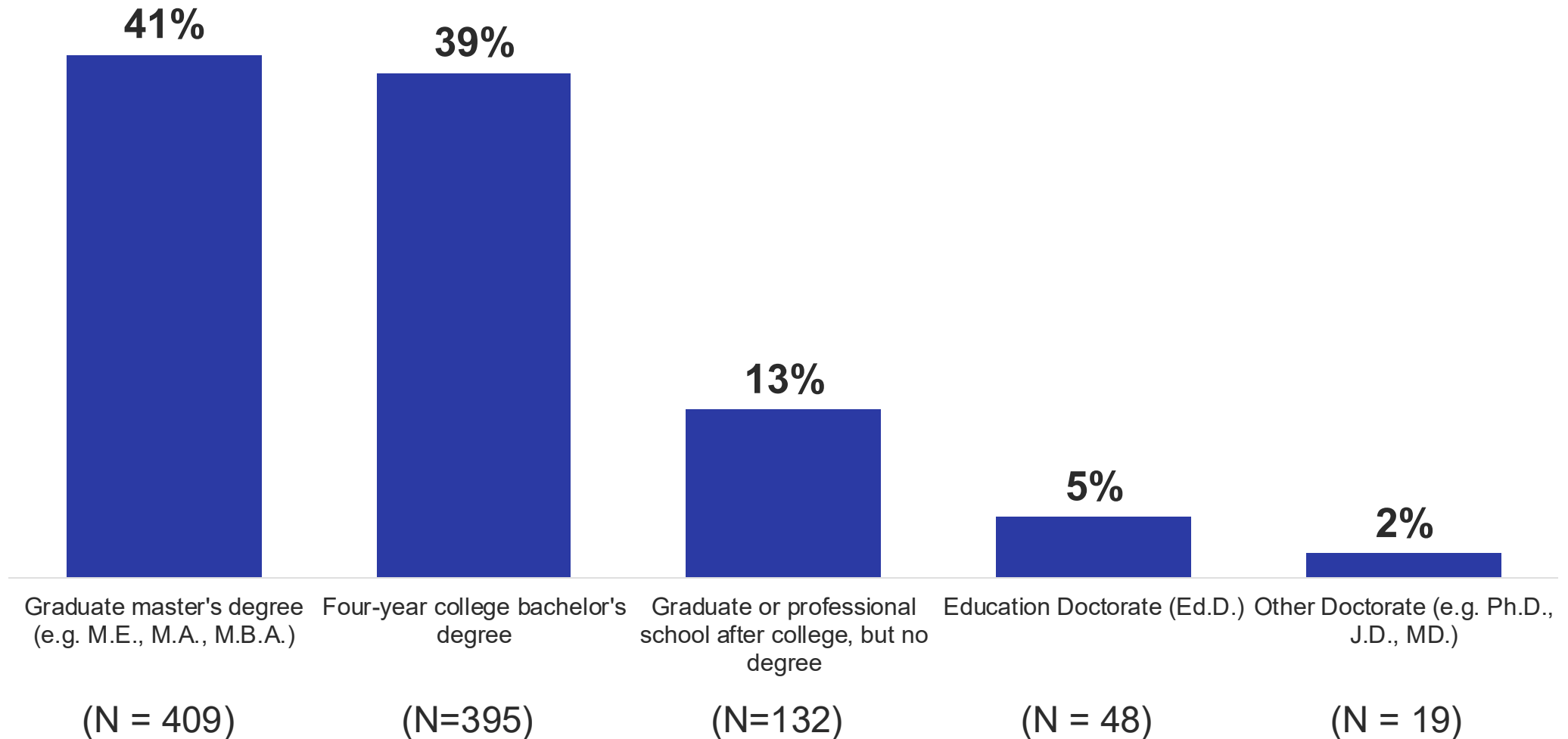
Counting this school year, how many years have you been a school teacher, including part-time teaching?

Among All Teachers



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

Among All Teachers



WHO WE ARE



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

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

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