HANOVER RESEARCH

2020 REOPENING SURVEY

Prepared for Rockdale County Public Schools

July 2020

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INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Determine how Rockdale County Public Schools (RCPS) should proceed with planning for Fall 2020.
- Collect perspectives from RCPS stakeholders on preparations for reopening schools.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION & SURVEY SAMPLE

- The survey was administered online in June-July 2020 using the Qualtrics platform.
- The analysis includes a total of 6,361 respondents following data cleaning.
- The data supplement includes the following segments: by Relationship to RCPS and by Staff Role.

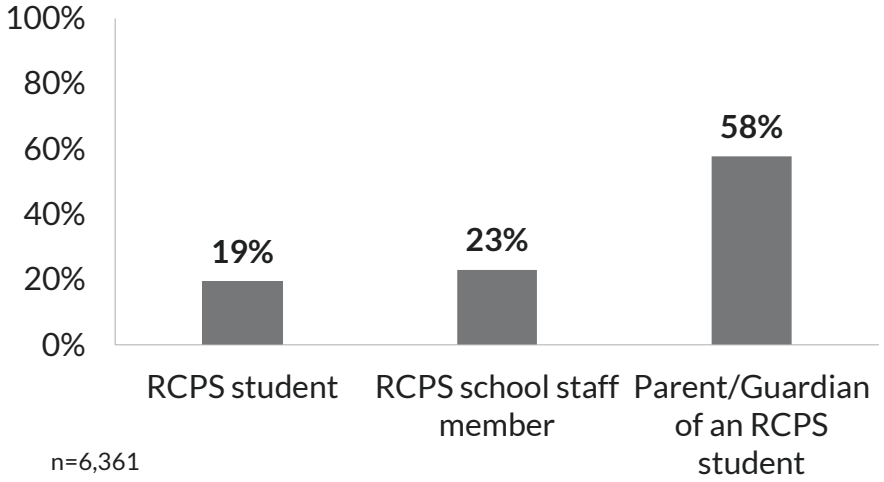
RESPONDENT QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be an RCPS student (Grade 6 next year and above), parent, or staff member in the 2020-21 school year.

METHODOLOGY

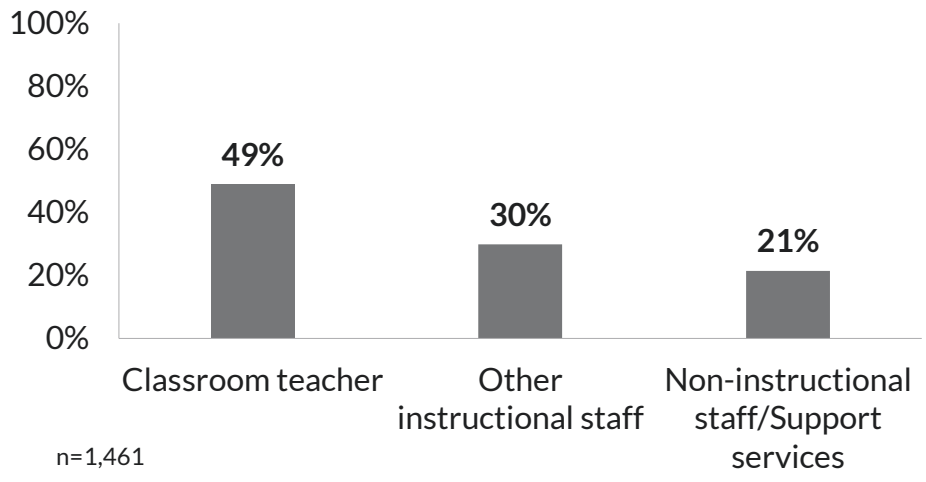
- Sample sizes vary across questions as some questions only pertain to a subset of respondents.
- Conclusions drawn from a small sample size (n<20) should be interpreted with caution.
- For full aggregate and segmented results, please consult the accompanying data supplement.
- Statistically significant differences (95% confidence level) between groups are noted with an asterisk (*).
- After data collection, Hanover identified and removed low-quality respondents.
- "Don't Know or Not Applicable" responses, and equivalent, are often excluded from the figures and analysis in order to focus on respondents who did express an opinion.

Relationship To RCPS



n=6,361

Staff Role At RCPS



n=1,461

KEY FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS: REFLECTIONS ON SCHOOL CLOSURES

Most respondents have had a fairly positive experience with extended independent learning, but there is some concern surrounding student engagement.

- **Most respondents have had a fairly positive experience with extended independent learning**.
  - 58% of all respondents describe students' experience with extended independent learning as "somewhat" or "very positive." Students (43%) are less likely than either staff (55%) or parents (63%) to describe students' experience as positive.
  - 59% of parents and 66% of staff indicate that they have had a "positive" or "very positive" experience with extended independent learning.
- **Students and parents are most satisfied with access to devices and support from teachers, and they are least satisfied with supports for special student populations and access to school/district services.**
  - 74% of students and parents are "somewhat" or "completely satisfied" with support from teachers during extended independent learning, and 80% of students and parents are "somewhat" or "completely satisfied" with the access to devices they/their child received during extended independent learning.
  - 49% of students and parents are "somewhat" or "completely satisfied" with access to school and/or district services (e.g., speech therapy, counseling services) during extended independent learning, and 50% of students and parents are "somewhat" or "completely satisfied" with supports for special student populations (e.g., EL, special education) they/their child received during extended independent learning.
- **Staff are most satisfied with staff collaboration and support from school leadership, and they are least satisfied with their students' academic progress and engagement.**
  - 82% of staff are "somewhat" or "completely satisfied" with support from school leadership during extended independent learning, and 85% are "somewhat" or "completely satisfied" with collaboration among staff during extended independent learning.
  - 43% of staff are "somewhat" or "completely satisfied" with student engagement during extended independent learning, and 45% of staff are "somewhat" or "completely satisfied" with their students' academic progress during extended independent learning.
- **Over half of all respondents indicate that one of the biggest challenges related to extended independent learning is student engagement (53%).**

KEY FINDINGS: REOPENING SCENARIOS/BUS SCHEDULE

Most respondents favor hybrid instruction for fall 2020, and they support a variety of measures and precautions to ensure student and staff safety.

- **Hybrid instruction (i.e., a mix of online and in-person instruction) is the most popular reopening strategy for fall 2020.**
  - Nearly two-thirds (64%) of all respondents "somewhat" or "strongly support" hybrid instruction. This is higher than support for completely online/remote instruction (53%) and completely in-person instruction (45%).
  - At least half of students (56%), parents (65%), and staff (69%) "somewhat" or "strongly support" hybrid instruction.
  - Parents and staff are more likely than students to support completely online/remote learning. While 53% of staff and 58% of parents "somewhat" or "strongly support" completely online/remote learning, only 35% of students "somewhat" or "strongly support" it, and 44% of students "strongly oppose" completely online/remote learning.
  - While most students "somewhat" or "strongly support" completely in-person instruction (62%), less than half of parents (41%) and staff (43%) do.
- **Respondents are in favor of various safety precautions if school reopens in fall 2020.**
  - Nearly all respondents "somewhat" or "strongly support" access to temperature checks as determined appropriate (88%) and allowing students and instructional staff to continue extended independent learning for medical reasons (88%).
  - Most respondents "somewhat" or "strongly support" requiring students and staff to wear face coverings (70%), allowing students and instructional staff to continue extended independent learning for any reason (70%), and restructuring student schedules to support social distancing (76%).
- **A little under half of students/parents indicate that they/their child would use district-provided transportation if schools reopen in the fall.**
  - 63% of students and parents indicate that (prior to the pandemic) they planned on using school/district-provided transportation to get to and/or from school.
  - Now, only 43% of students and parents indicate that they plan on using school/district-provided transportation if schools have in-person instruction. 37% of respondents indicate that they would not use school/district-provided transportation and 20% are not sure.

KEY FINDINGS: ONLINE/REMOTE LEARNING

Students, parents, and staff are all concerned with how remote learning affects student engagement.

- **Student engagement is the biggest concern related to fully online/remote instruction.**
  - 43% of parents, 57% of staff, and 58% of students cite student engagement as being among their biggest concerns related to fully online/remote instruction.

- **Apart from student engagement, help on assignments, loneliness/social isolation, and quality of online instruction are students' biggest concerns related to fully online/remote instruction.**
  - 45% of students cite help on assignments; 42% cite loneliness/social isolation; and 40% cite quality of online instruction.

- **Apart from student engagement, quality of online instruction, help on assignments, and their child's social/emotional wellbeing are parents' biggest concerns related to fully online/remote instruction.**
  - 40% of parents cite quality of online instruction; 39% cite help on assignments; and 29% cite their child's social-emotional wellbeing.

- **Apart from student engagement, their ability to support special student populations, job security, and their work/home balance are staff members' biggest concerns related to fully online/remote instruction.**
  - 28% of staff cite their ability to support special student populations; 26% cite job security; and 21% cite work/home balance.

KEY FINDINGS: IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND HYBRID LEARNING

When it comes to in-person learning, most respondents are concerned with school cleanliness and ensuring social distancing practices. Not surprisingly, concerns surrounding hybrid learning reflect the concerns of in-person learning and online learning.

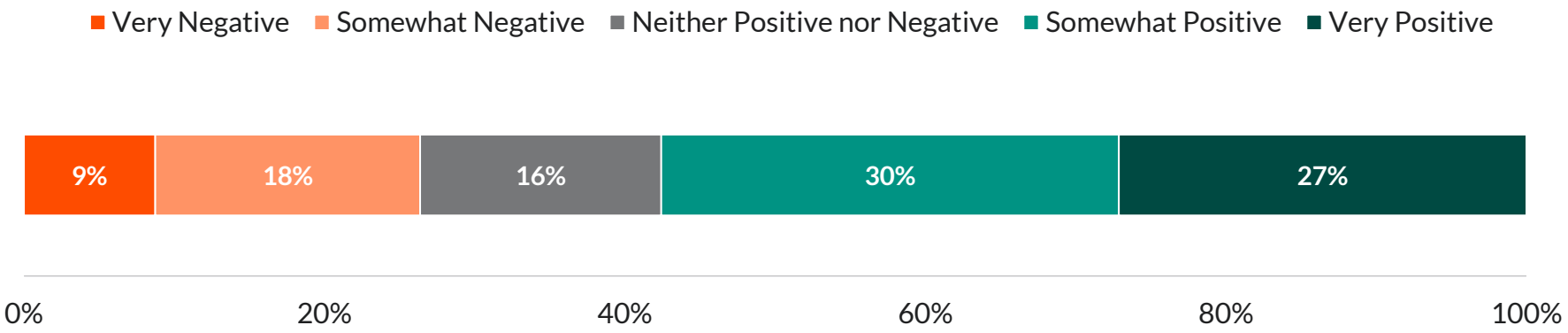
- **School cleanliness (69%) and ensuring social distancing guidelines are followed (61%) are respondents' biggest concerns related to a return to full in-person learning.**
  - Students (66%) and parents (73%) are more concerned with school cleanliness than staff members (58%).
  - Parents (64%) and staff (69%) are more concerned with ensuring that social distancing guidelines are being followed than students (39%).
  - 17% of students do not have any concerns about in-person instruction.

- **Respondents' concerns with hybrid instruction mirror their concerns with online learning and in-person learning (e.g., student engagement and school cleanliness).**
  - Students' biggest concerns with hybrid instruction include student engagement (33%), school cleanliness to prevent an outbreak (28%), and concerns about how students will be assigned to groups for in-person instruction (27%).
  - Parents' biggest concerns with hybrid instruction include school cleanliness to prevent an outbreak (41%), ensuring social distancing guidelines are followed (34%), and concerns about how students will be assigned to groups for in-person instruction (29%).
  - Staff members biggest concerns with hybrid instruction include student engagement (36%), ensuring social distancing guidelines are followed (35%), school cleanliness to prevent an outbreak (34%), and concerns about how students will be assigned to groups for in-person instruction (34%).

SECTION I: REFLECTIONS ON SCHOOL CLOSURES

OVERALL EXPERIENCE WITH EXTENDED INDEPENDENT LEARNING

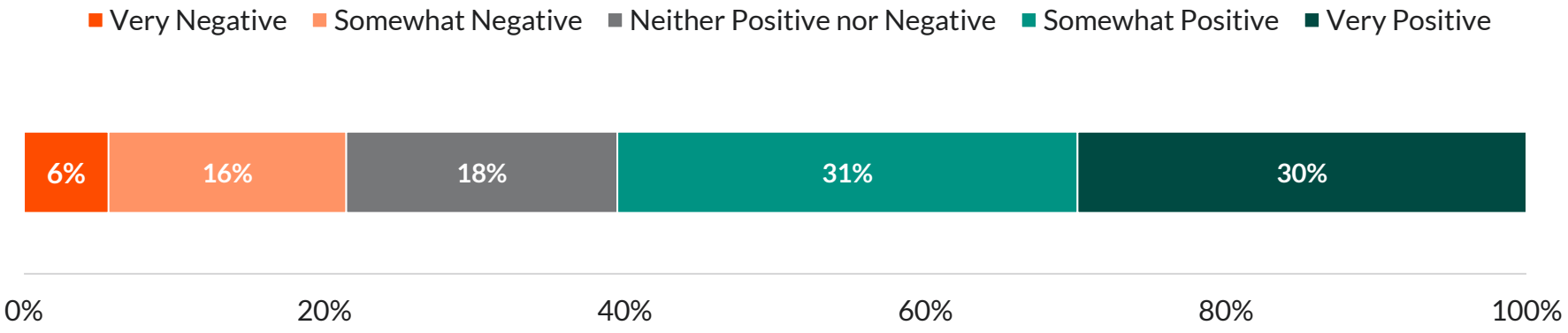
Overall, how would you describe [your/your child's/your students'] experience with extended independent learning?



n=5,757

Note: the question above was shown to students, parents, classroom teachers, and other instructional staff.

Overall, how would you describe your experience with extended independent learning?

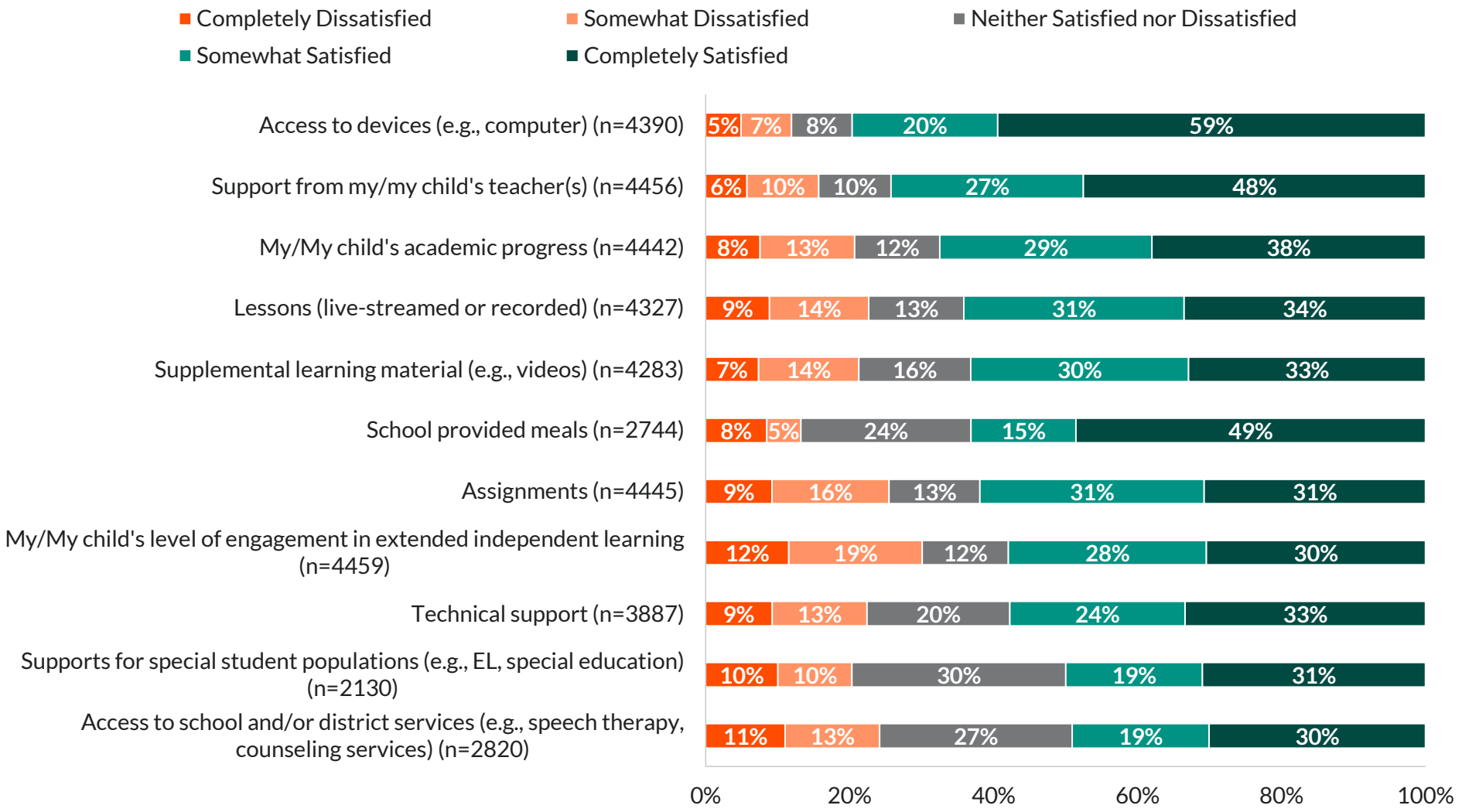


n=4,651

Note: the question above was shown to parents, classroom teachers, and other instructional staff.

SATISFACTION WITH ASPECTS OF INDEPENDENT LEARNING

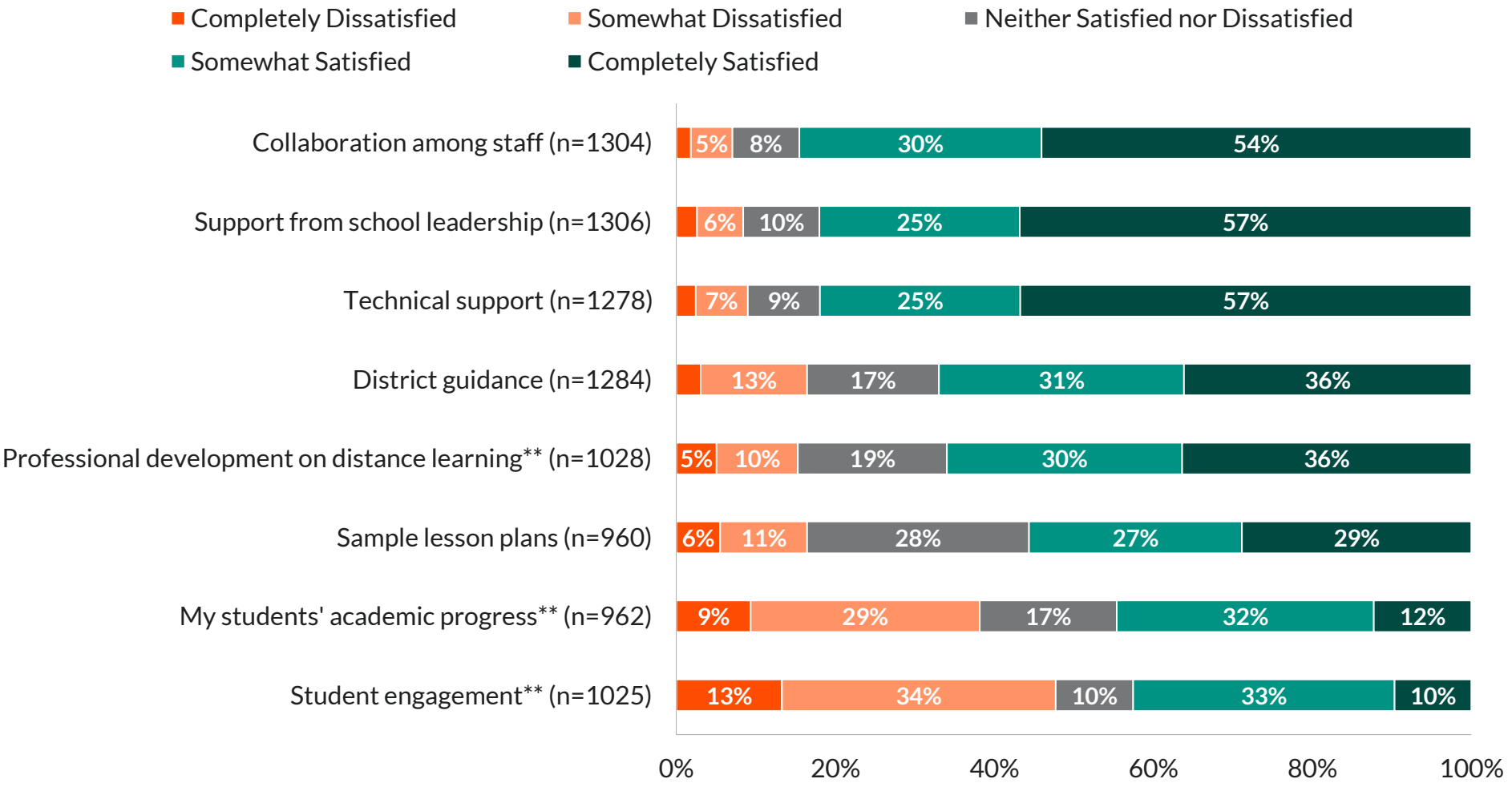
Reflecting on school closures and extended independent learning at the end of the last school year, how satisfied are you with the following?



Note: the question above was shown to students and parents.

STAFF SATISFACTION WITH ASPECTS OF INDEPENDENT LEARNING

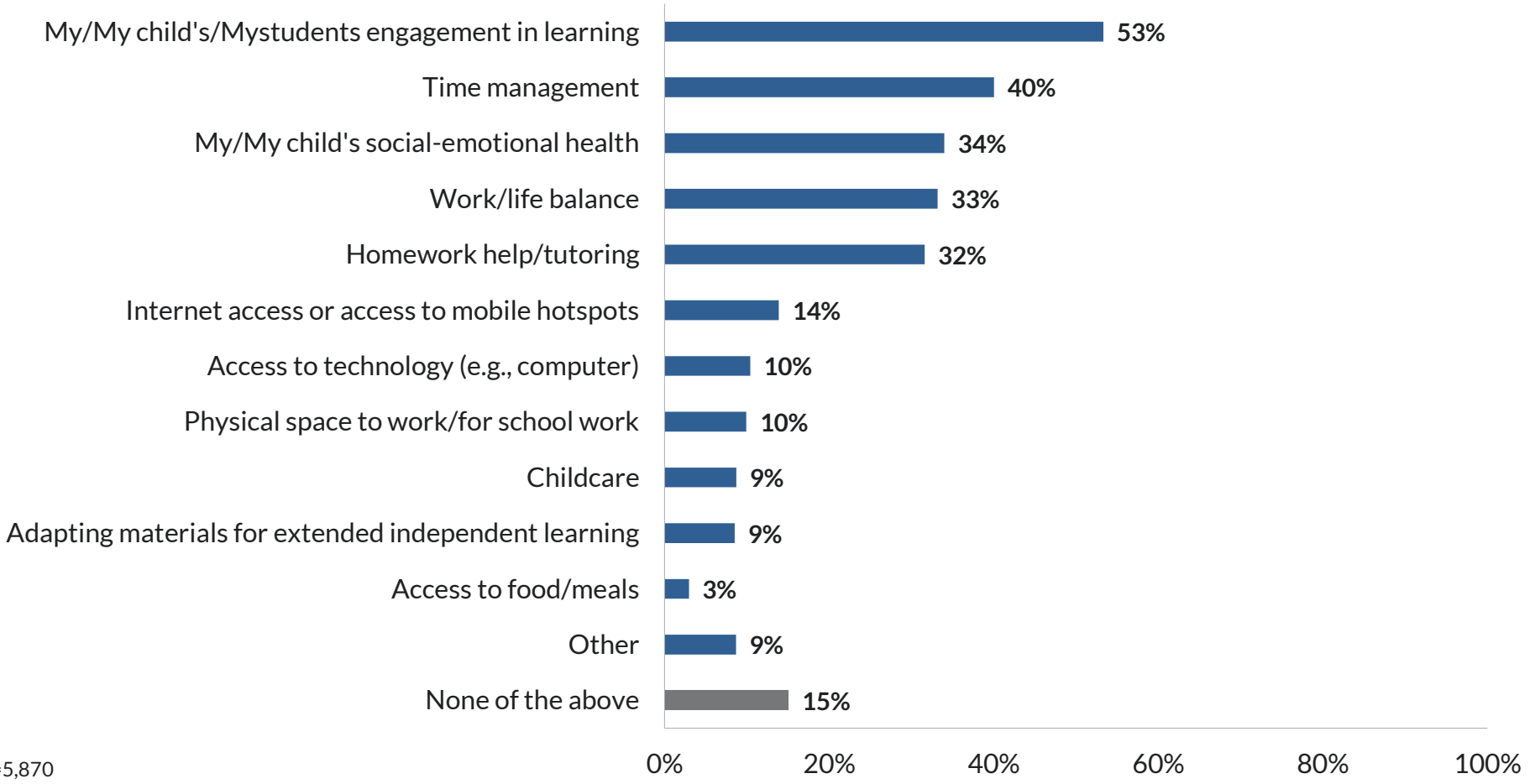
Reflecting on school closures and extended independent learning at the end of the last school year, how satisfied are you with the following?



Note: the question above was shown to staff. Two asterisks (**) indicate that the question was only shown to classroom teachers or other instructional staff.

BIGGEST CHALLENGES OF INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Which of the following were the biggest challenges related to extended independent learning? Please select up to five.



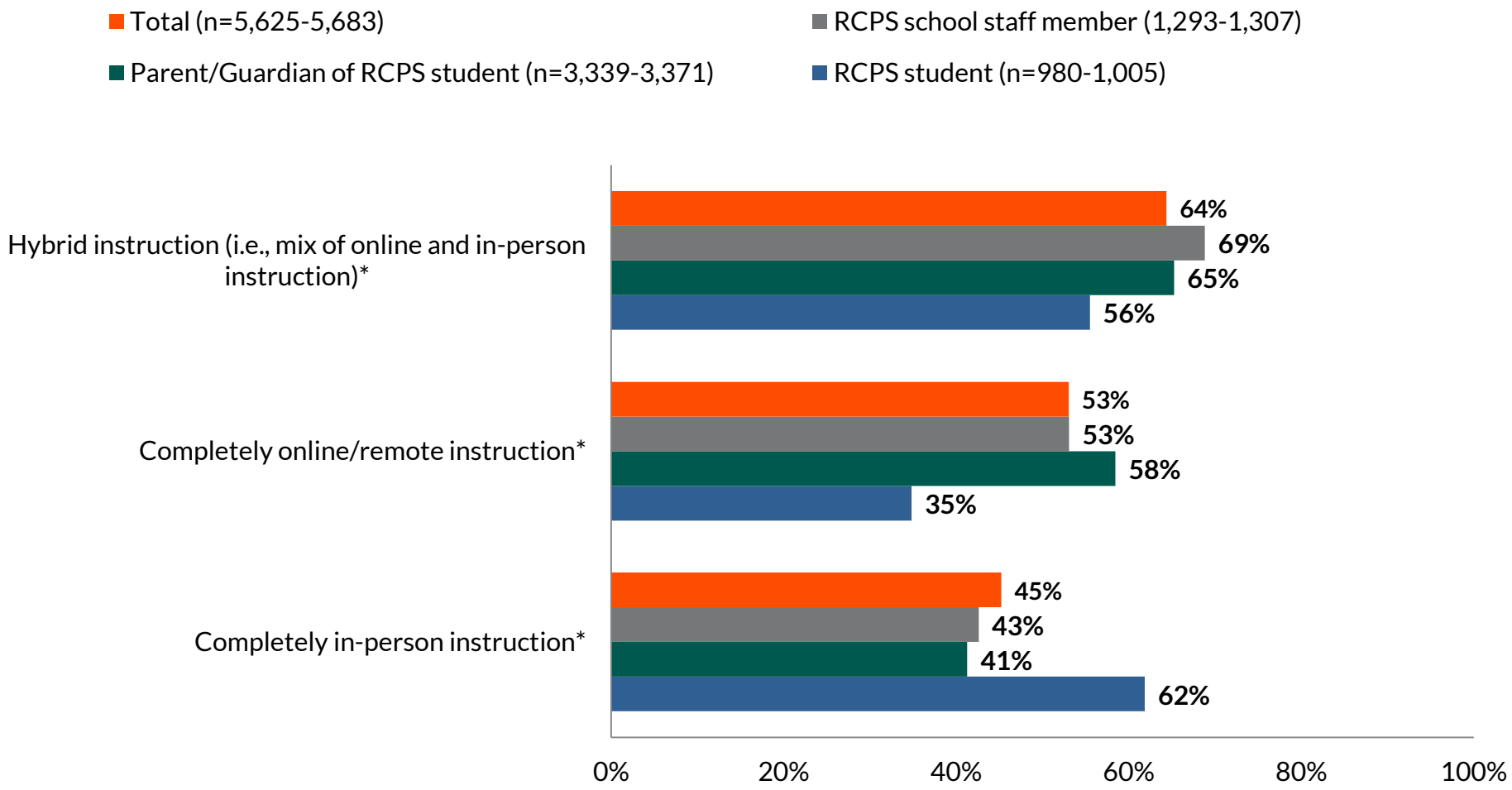
n=5,870

SECTION II: REOPENING SCENARIOS AND BUS SCHEDULE

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES FOR FALL 2020

To what extent do you support or oppose the following instructional strategies in Fall 2020?

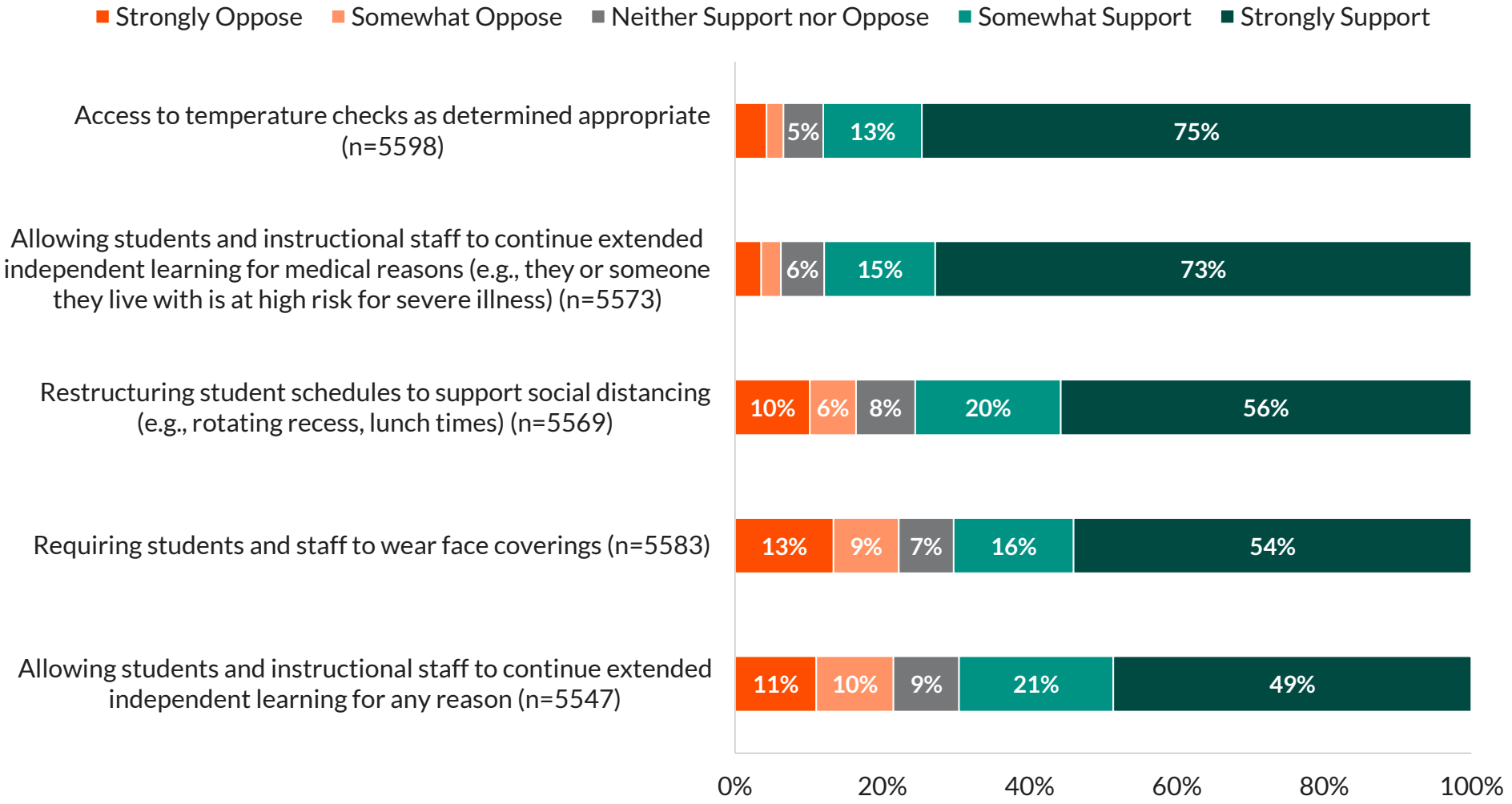
(% "Somewhat Support" + % "Strongly Support")



Note: An asterisk(*) indicates at least one statistically significant difference between groups.

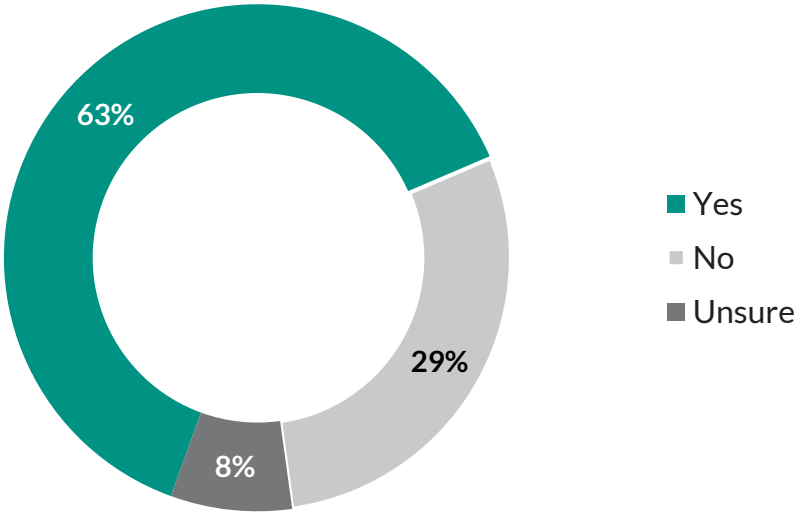
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR SCHOOL REOPENING

If [your/your child's] school reopens in Fall 2020, to what extent would you support or oppose the following safety precautions?



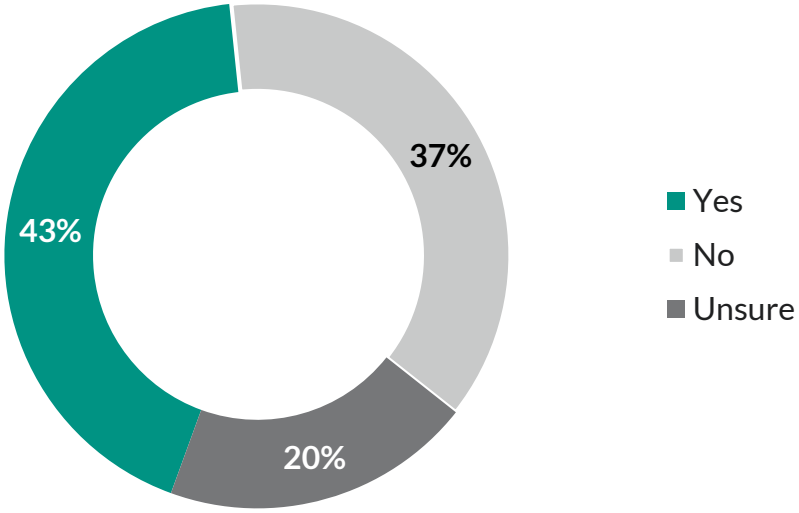
BUS SCHEDULES

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, was it [your/your child's] plan to use school- or district-provided transportation in Fall 2020 to get to and/or from school?



n=4,196

If [you/your child's] school has in-person instruction in Fall 2020, would [you/your child] use school- or district-provided transportation to get to and/or from school?



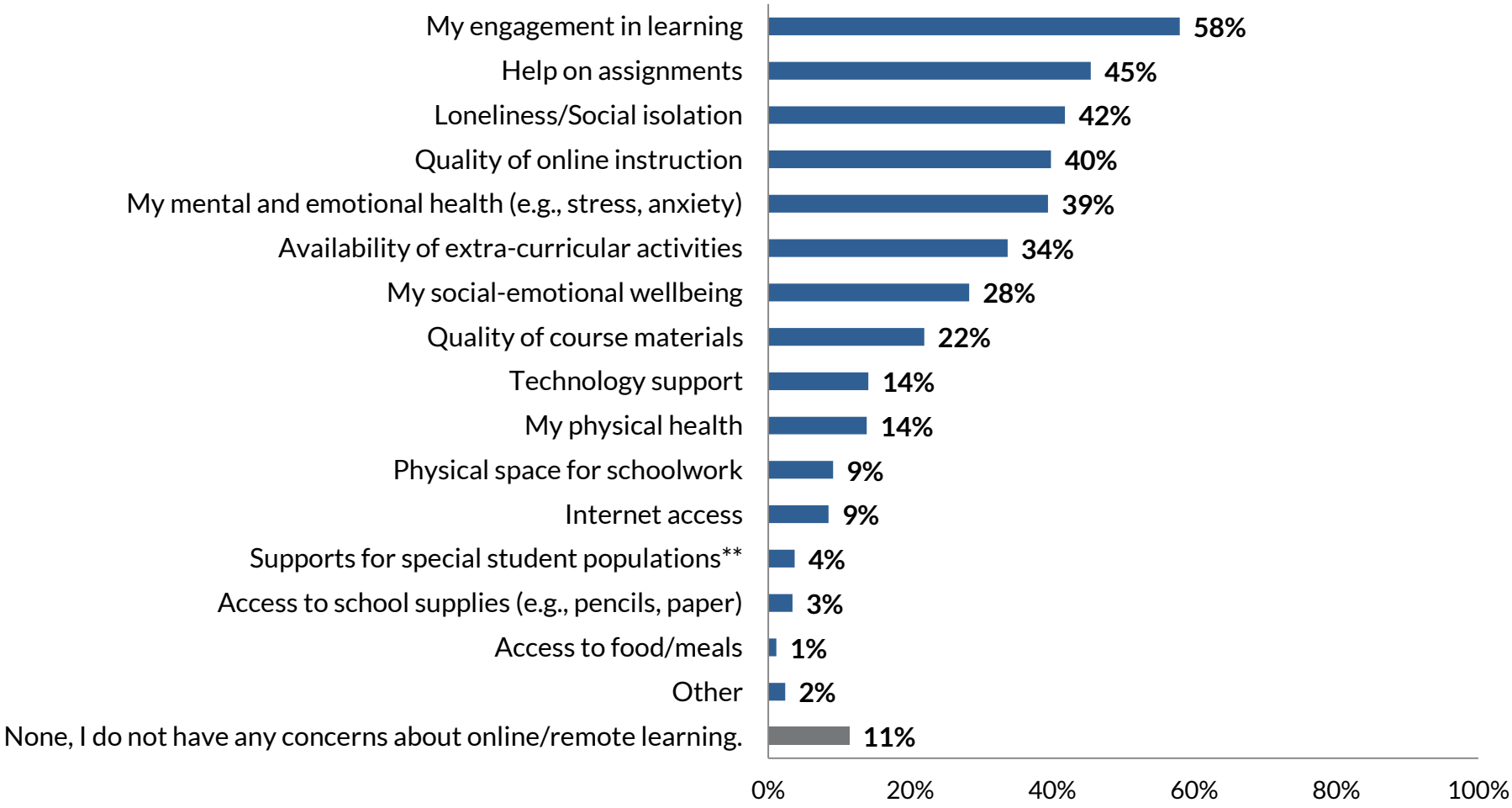
n=4,190

Note: The above questions were shown to students and parents.

SECTION III: ONLINE/REMOTE LEARNING

STUDENT CONCERNS WITH ONLINE/REMOTE LEARNING

Which of the following are your biggest concerns related to fully online/remote instruction? Please select up to five options.

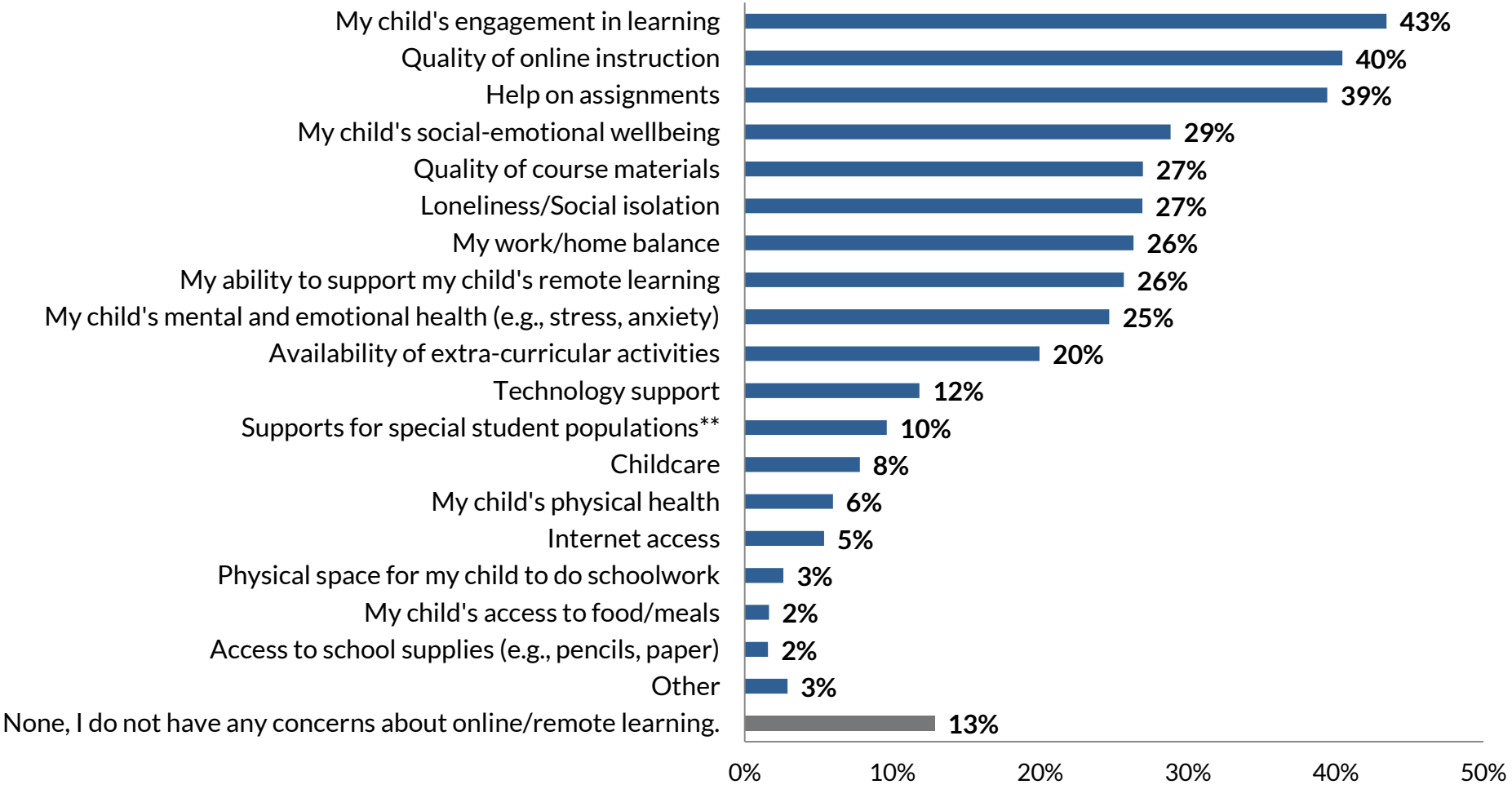


n=964

Note: The question above was shown to students. Two asterisks (**) indicate that the selection option was only shown to respondents who are members of a special student population.

PARENT CONCERNS WITH ONLINE/REMOTE LEARNING

Which of the following are your biggest concerns related to fully online/remote instruction? Please select up to five options.

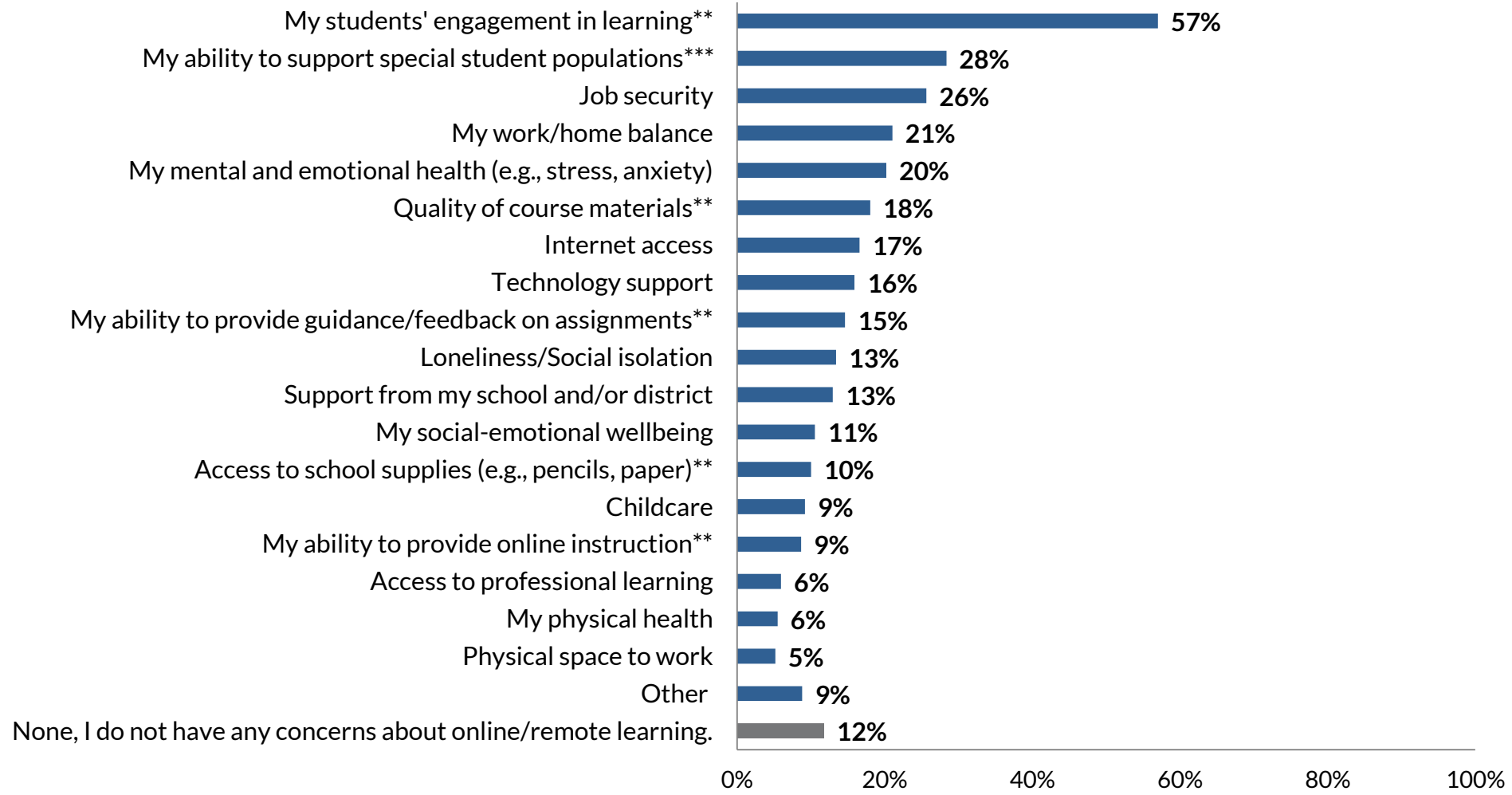


n=3,347

Note: The question above was shown to parents. Two asterisks (**) indicate that the selection option was only shown to respondents whose child is a member of a special student population.

STAFF CONCERNS WITH ONLINE/REMOTE LEARNING

Which of the following are your biggest concerns related to fully online/remote instruction? Please select up to five options.



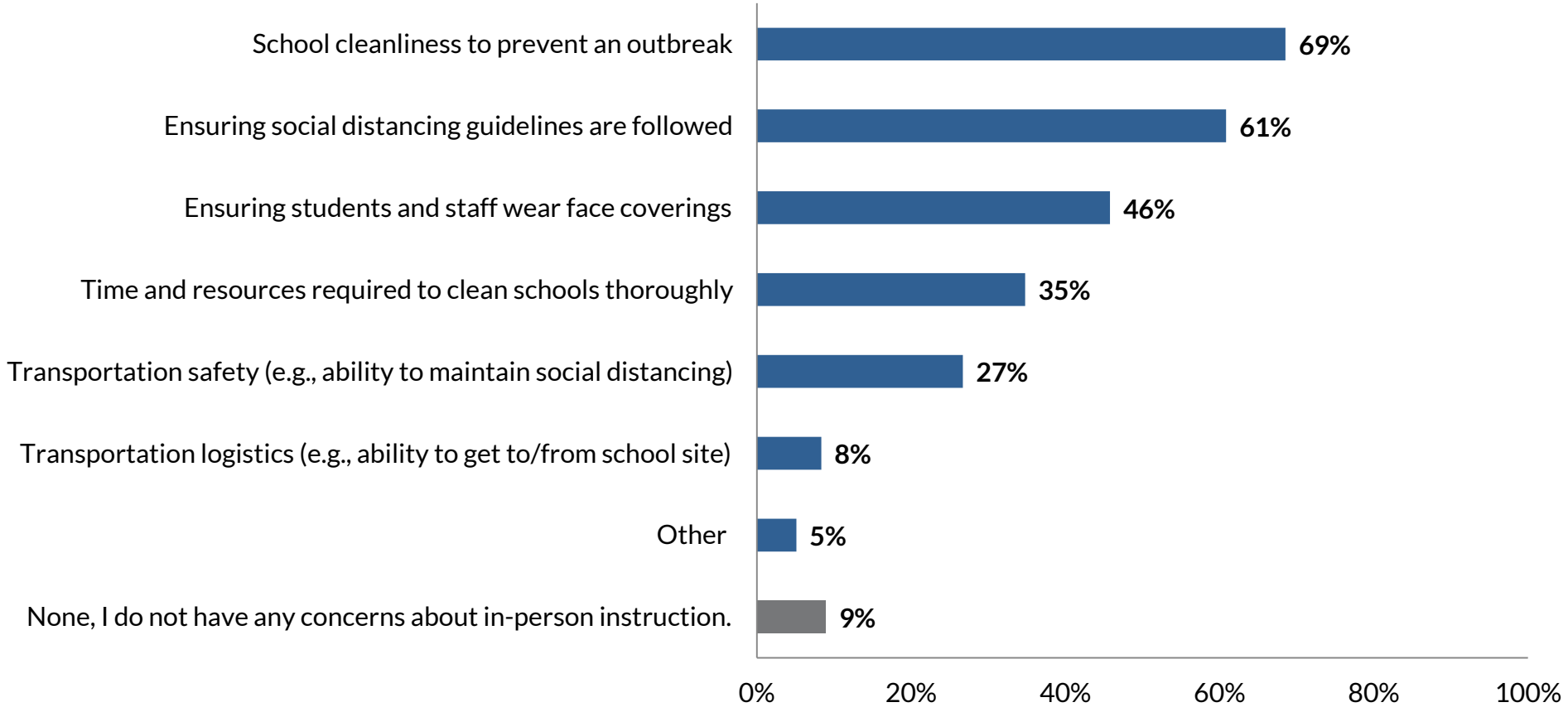
n=1,326

Note: The question above was shown to staff. Two asterisks (**) indicate that the selection option was only shown to classroom teachers or other instructional staff. Three asterisks (***) indicate that the selection option was only shown to classroom teachers or other instructional staff who work with special student populations.

SECTION IV: IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

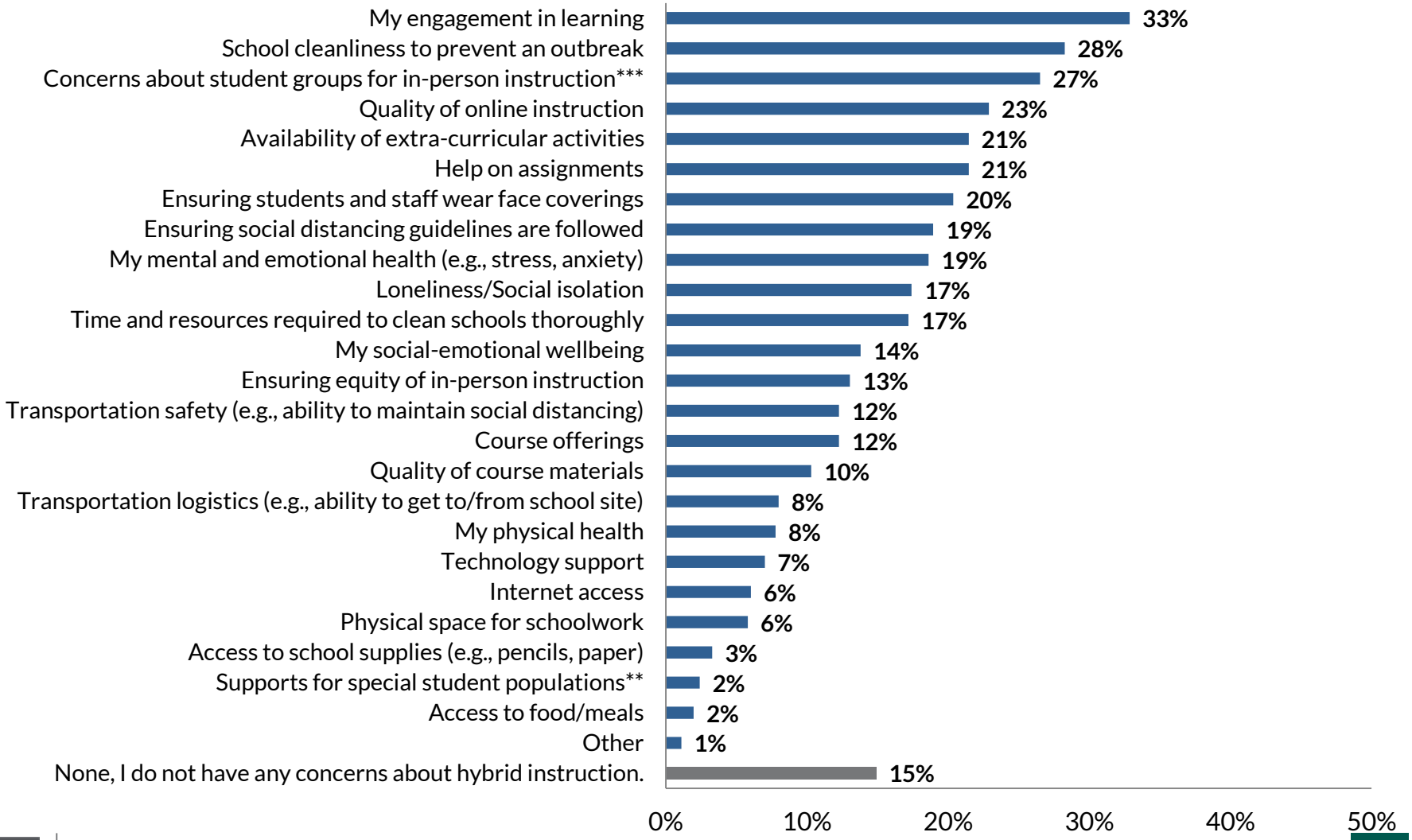
BIGGEST CONCERNS WITH FULLY IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

Which of the following are your biggest concerns related to fully in-person instruction? Please select up to three options.



STUDENT CONCERNS WITH HYBRID INSTRUCTION

Which of the following are your biggest concerns related to hybrid instruction (i.e., mix of online and in-person instruction)? Please select up to five options.

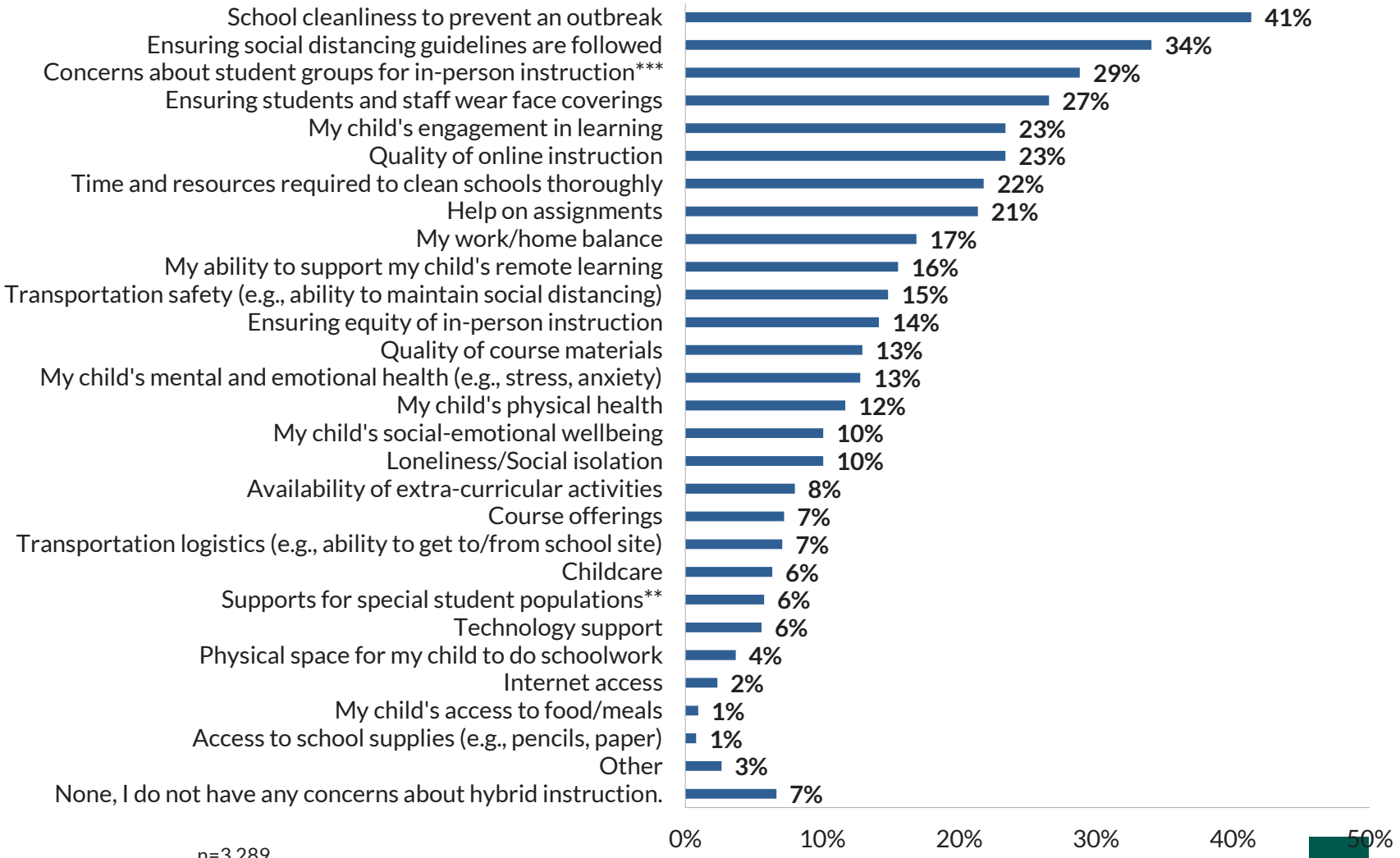


n=913

Note: The question above was shown to students. Two asterisks (**) indicate that the selection option was only shown to respondents who are members of a special student population. Three asterisks (***) indicate that this selection option has been abbreviated from "Concerns about how students will be assigned to groups for in-person instruction."

PARENT CONCERNS WITH HYBRID INSTRUCTION

Which of the following are your biggest concerns related to hybrid instruction (i.e., mix of online and in-person instruction)? Please select up to five options.

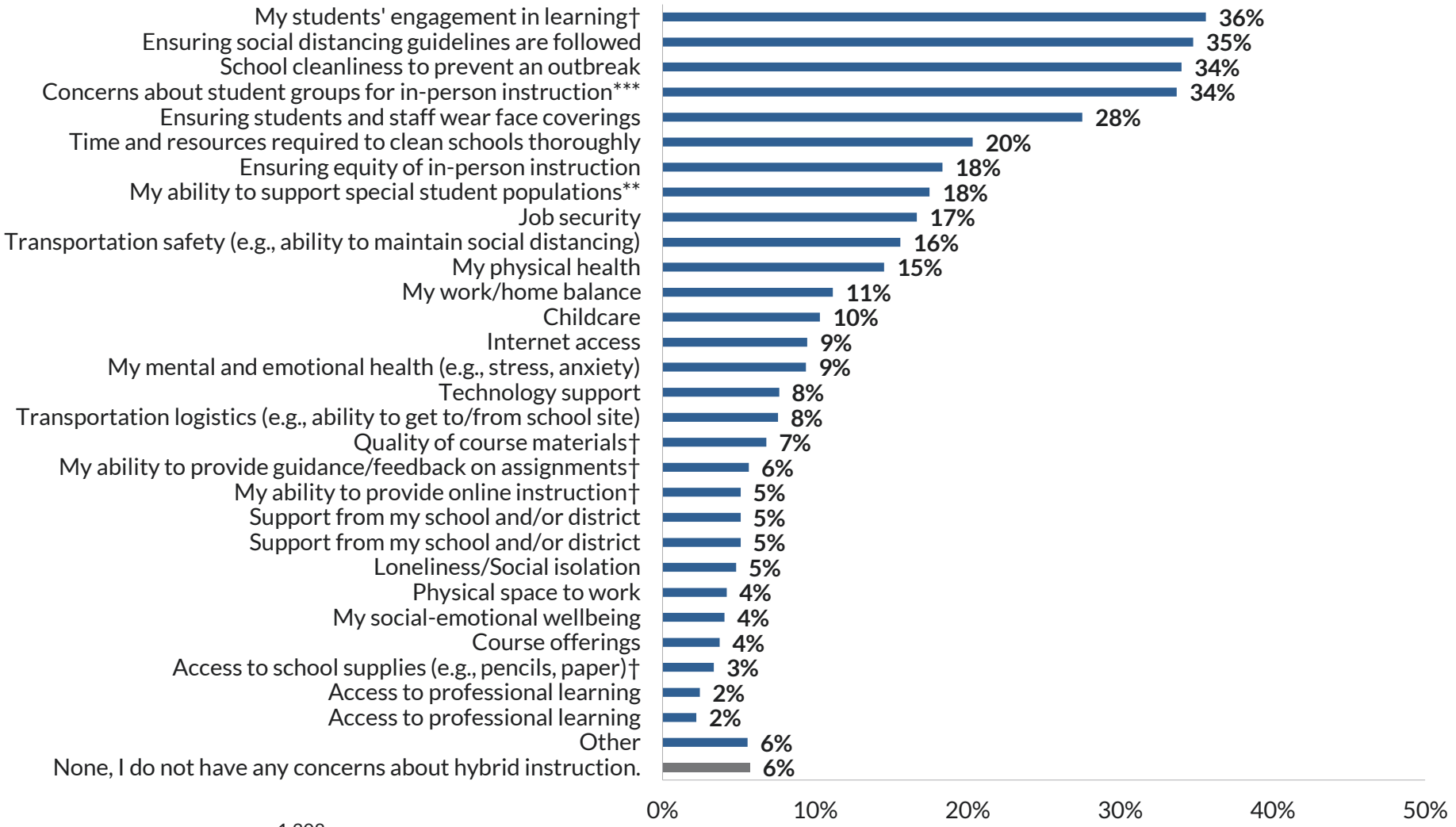


n=3,289

Note: The question above was shown to parents. Two asterisks (**) indicate that the selection option was only shown to respondents who are parents of child enrolled in a special student program. Three asterisks (***) indicate that this selection option has been abbreviated from "Concerns about how students will be assigned to groups for in-person instruction."

STAFF CONCERNS WITH HYBRID INSTRUCTION

Which of the following are your biggest concerns related to hybrid instruction (i.e., mix of online and in-person instruction)? Please select up to five options.



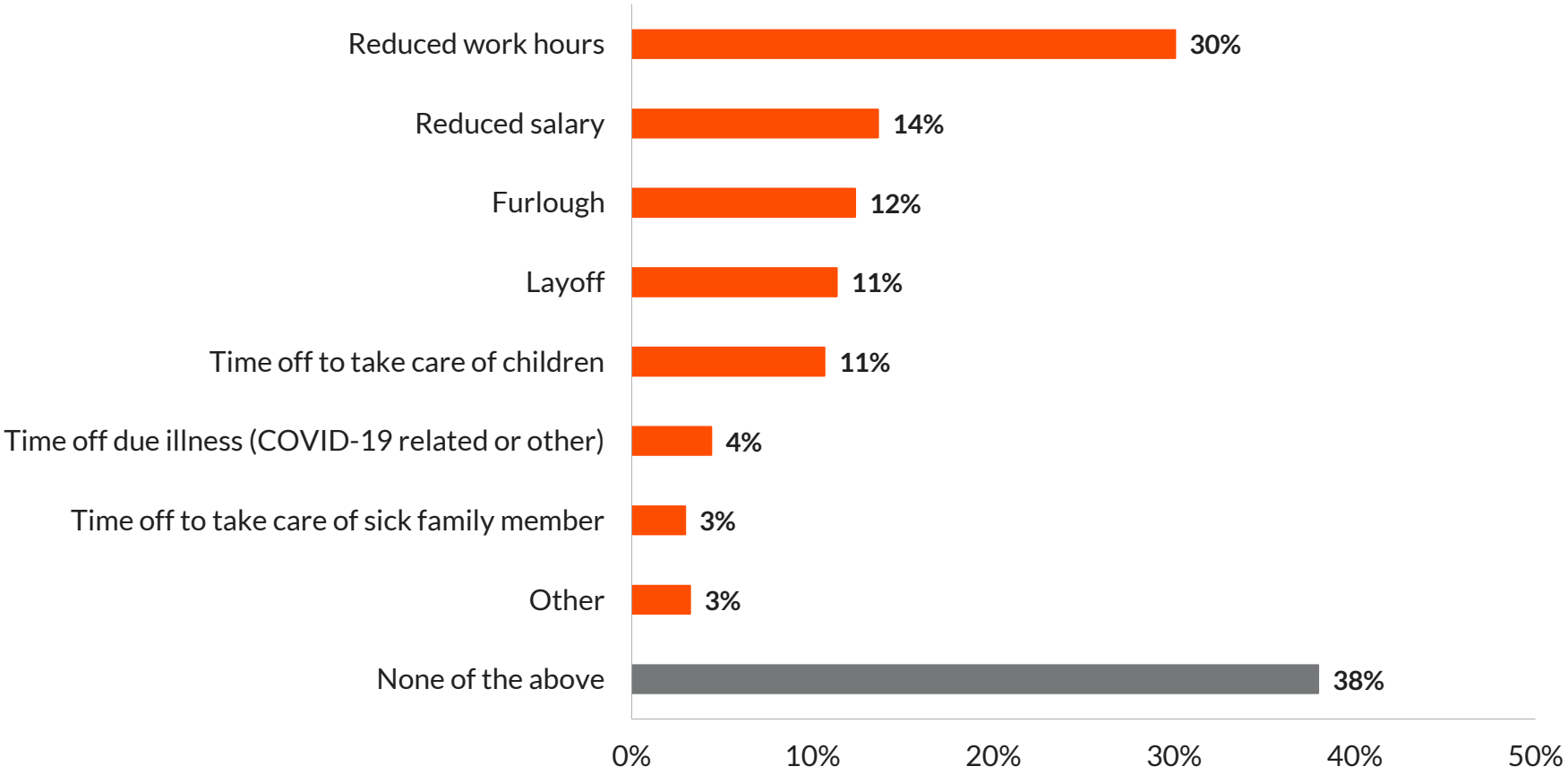
n=1,308

Note: The question above was shown to staff. A dagger (†) indicates that the selection option was only shown to classroom teachers and other instructional staff. Two asterisks (**) indicate that the selection option was only shown to instructional staff that teach special student populations. Three asterisks (***) indicate that this selection option has been abbreviated from "Concerns about how students will be assigned to groups for in-person instruction."

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

COVID-19 EXPERIENCE

Has a member of your household experienced any of the following since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic? Please select all that apply.

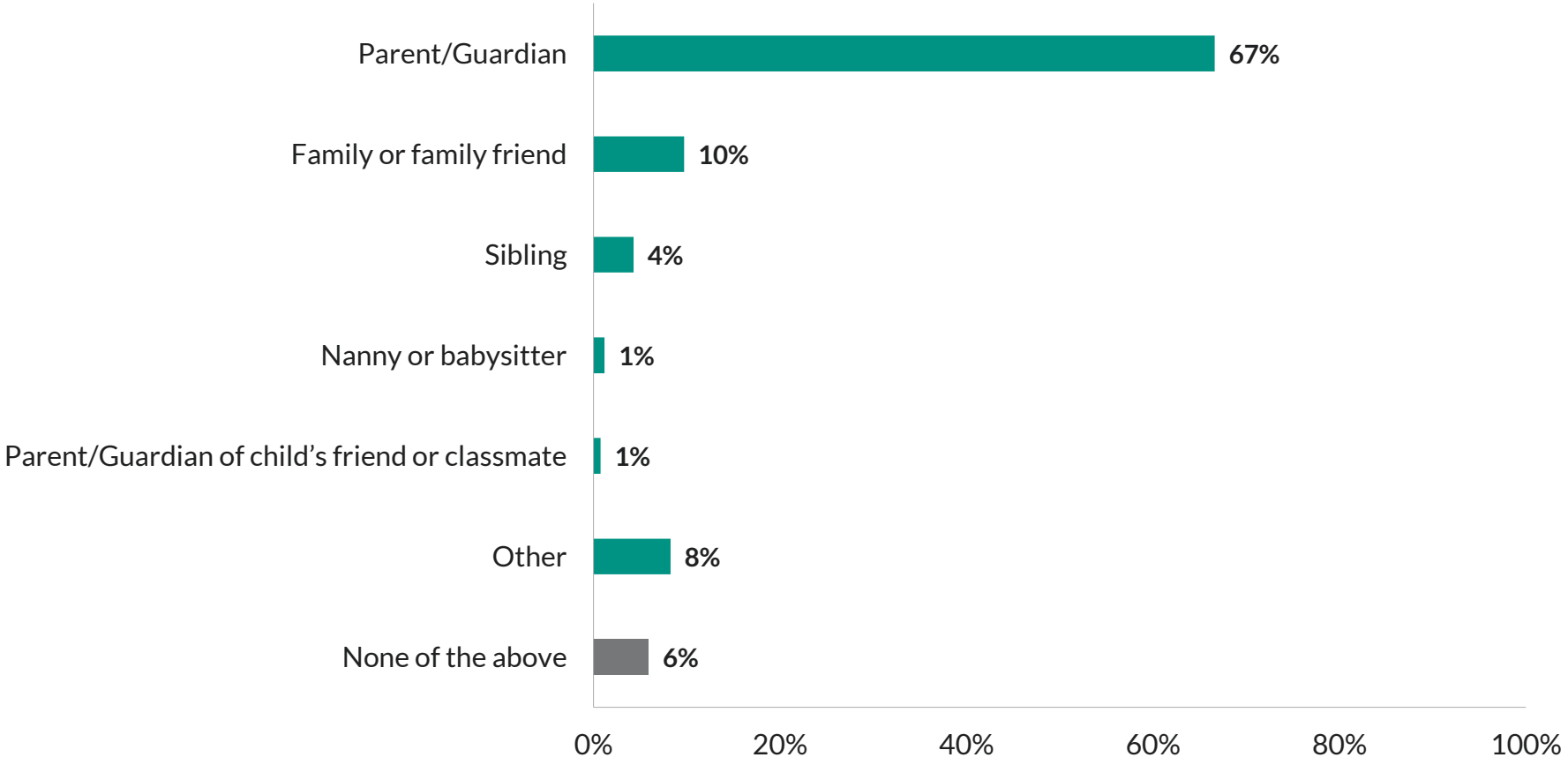


n=3,243

Note: The above question was shown to parents. The selection option "Prefer not to respond" is not included in the graph above.

PRIMARY CAREGIVER FOR ONLINE/REMOTE LEARNING

Who would be your child's primary caregiver throughout the day should online/remote instruction continue in the fall?

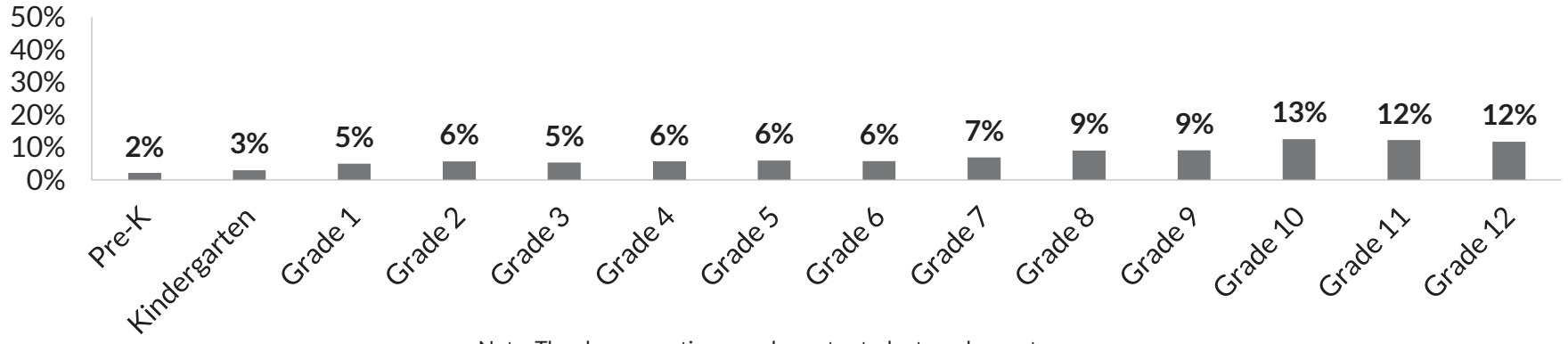


n= 3,254

Note: The above question was shown to parents. The selection option "Prefer not to respond" is not included in the graph above.

GRADE LEVEL

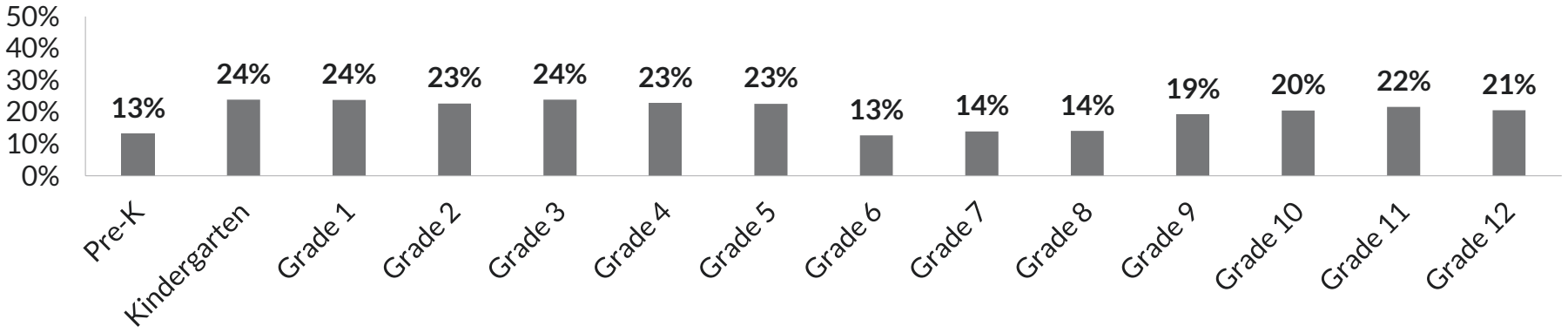
What will [your/your child's] grade level be at the start of the next school year (i.e., The 2020-21 school year)?



Note: The above question was shown to students and parents.

n=4,900

What grade level(s) do you expect to [teach/primarily work with] in the fall (i.e., The 2020-21 school year)?

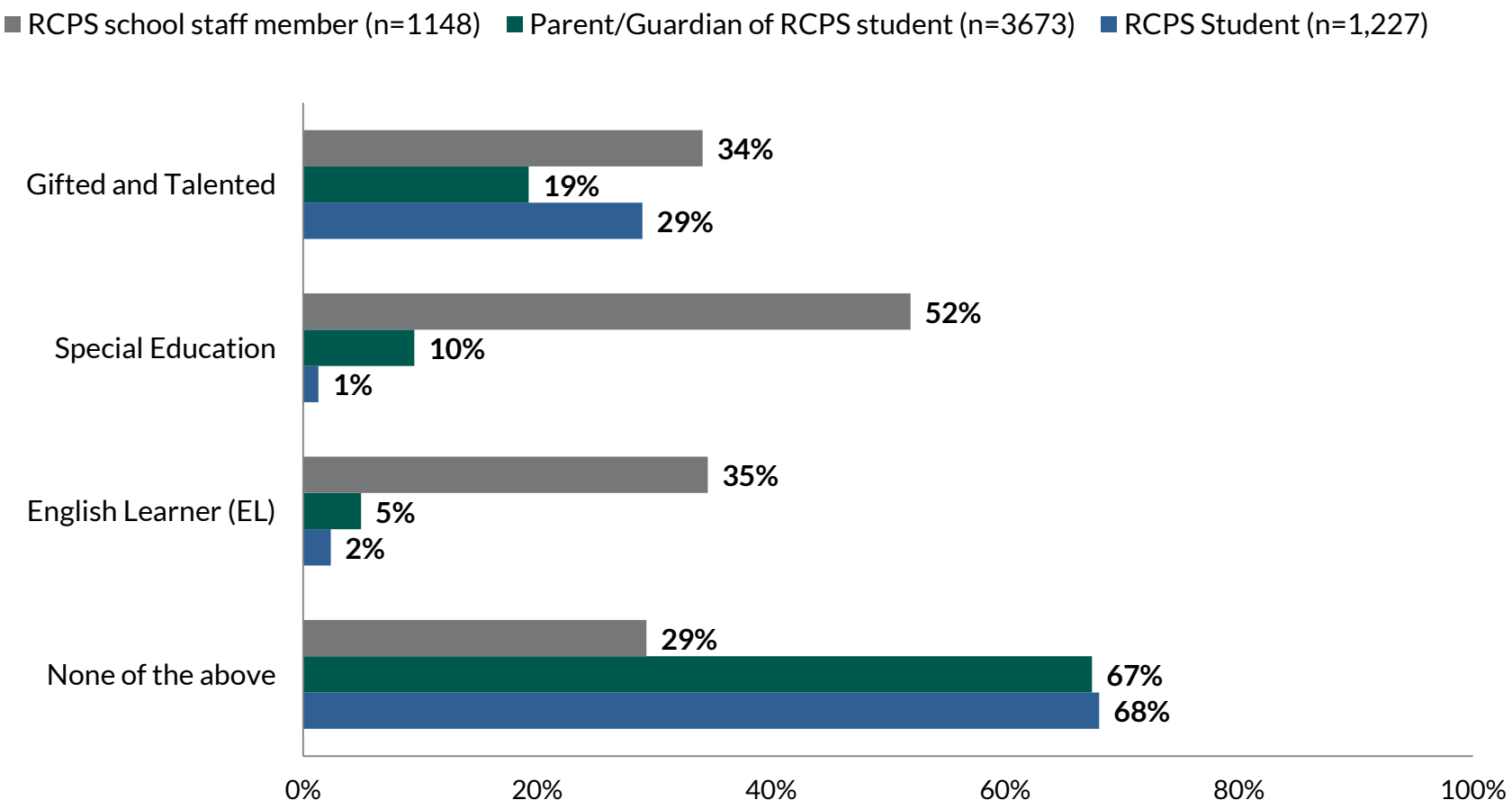


n=1,148

Note: The above question was shown to staff

SPECIAL STUDENT POPULATIONS

[Will you participate in/Will your child participate in/Will you teach or work with] any of the following [student populations or] programs in the next school year? Please select all that apply.



RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Number of Children** (n=3,673)

1 child	49%
2 children	35%
3 children	12%
4 children	4%
5 children or more	1%

Current Employment Status** (n=3,258)

Full-time outside the home	45%
Full-time working from home	24%
Part-time outside the home	4%
Part-time working from home	3%
Not currently working	14%
Prefer not to respond	9%

Tenure at RCPS* (n=1,297)

Less than 1 year	4%
1 to 3 years	23%
4 to 6 years	20%
7 to 10 years	14%
11 to 15 years	15%
16 to 20 years	9%
More than 20 years	9%
Prefer not to respond	8%

Annual Household Income** (n=3,250)

$0 to $24,999	10%
$25,000 to $49,999	21%
$50,000 to $74,999	15%
$75,000 to $99,999	9%
$100,000 to $124,999	8%
$125,000 to $149,999	4%
$150,000 to $174,999	3%
$175,000 to $199,999	2%
$200,000+	2%
Prefer not to respond	25%

Gender (n=5,430)

Male	12%
Female	80%
Other/Non-Binary	<1%
Prefer not to respond	8%

Are you Hispanic? (n=5,426)

Yes	7%
No	78%
Prefer not to respond	15%

Ethnicity (n=225)

Black or African American	53%
White	23%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%
Asian	1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%
Prefer not to respond	24%

Note: One asterisk (*) signifies that the question was shown to staff, and two asterisks (**) indicate that the question was shown to parents.

HANOVER RESEARCH

Thank you.

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