



Back to School Survey

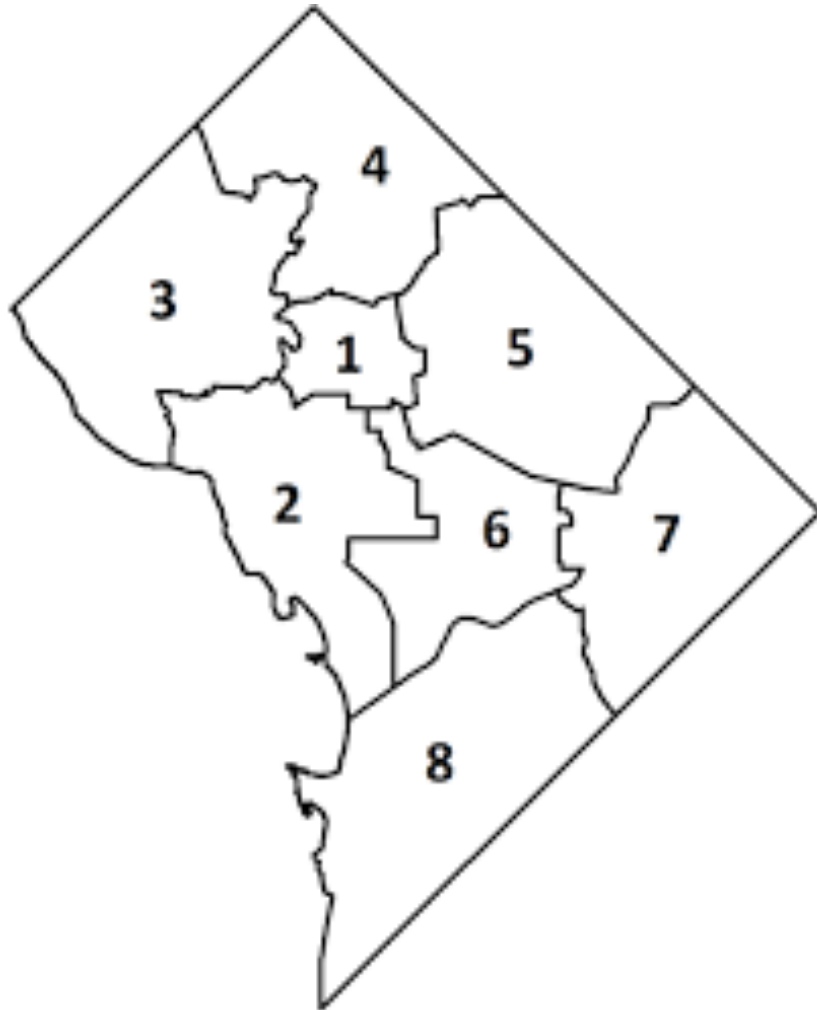
Elevating the voices and experiences of families



We surveyed a total of **939 families** about their experiences **returning to school virtually**, the ongoing **impact of Coronavirus**, and what they were **planning for school in the future**. Surveys were conducted in **English** and **Spanish**.



Elevating the voices and experiences of families



- The parents and caregivers we heard from were **representative** of our city's public school system across **race, ward, and sector**.
- About a **quarter** of responses were from families with **children with an IEP**.
- **Half** received at least one form of **services or assistance during COVID**.
- While we did conduct some surveys over the **phone**, it should be noted that **most surveys** were completed **online** given the health and safety concerns of the pandemic.
- The survey was open from **9/16 – 9/30**.

Our Survey Approach



- **We shared the survey online, including:**
 - To our PAVE network through emails, texts, and our newsletter
 - On Social media
 - Through school and community partner networks
 - On community list serves
- PAVE **Community Organizers** also made phone calls to parents to support **completing the survey over the phone.**
- The survey was available in both **Spanish and English.**



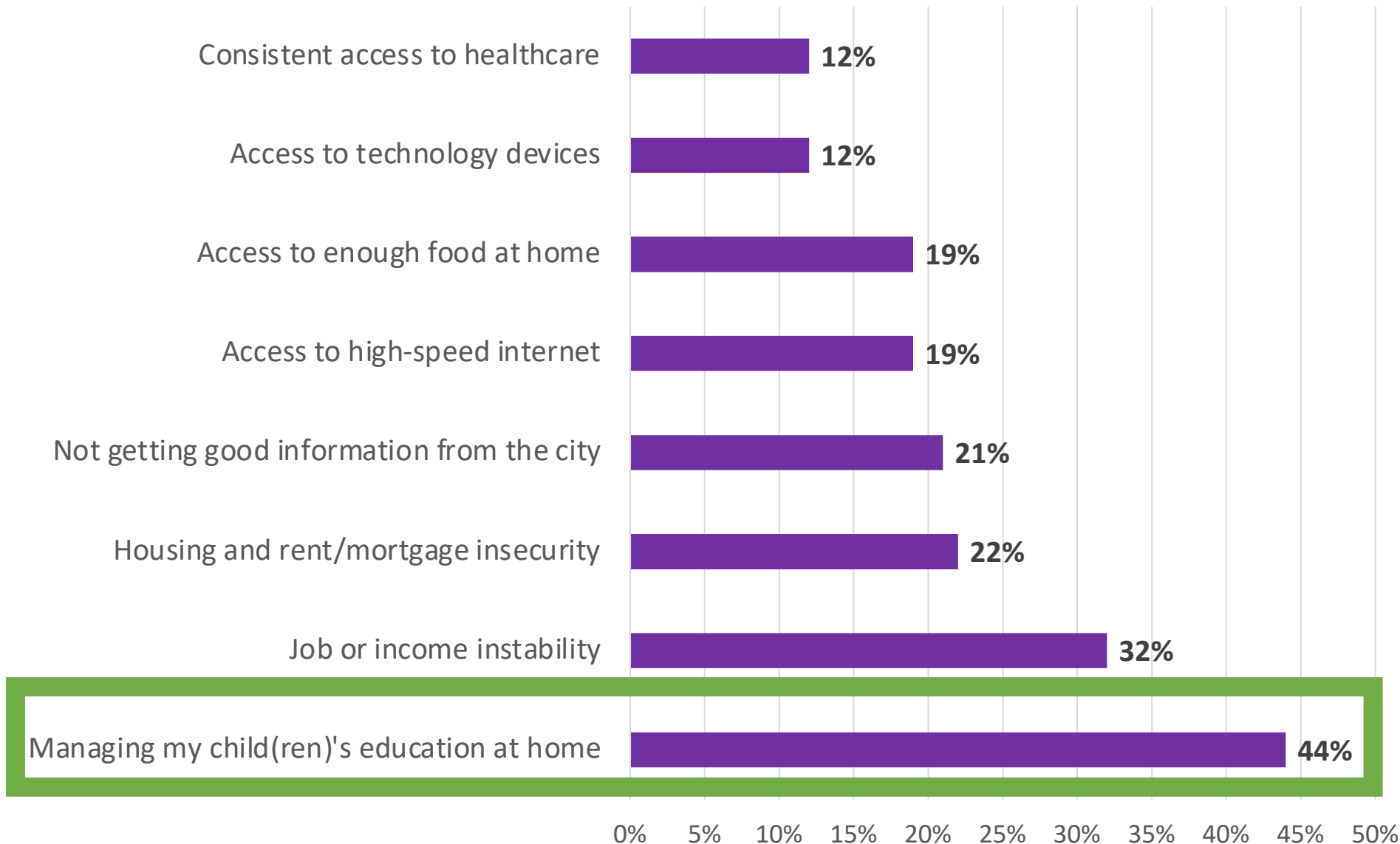


PARENTS AMPLIFYING
VOICES in EDUCATION

Top Challenges for Parents

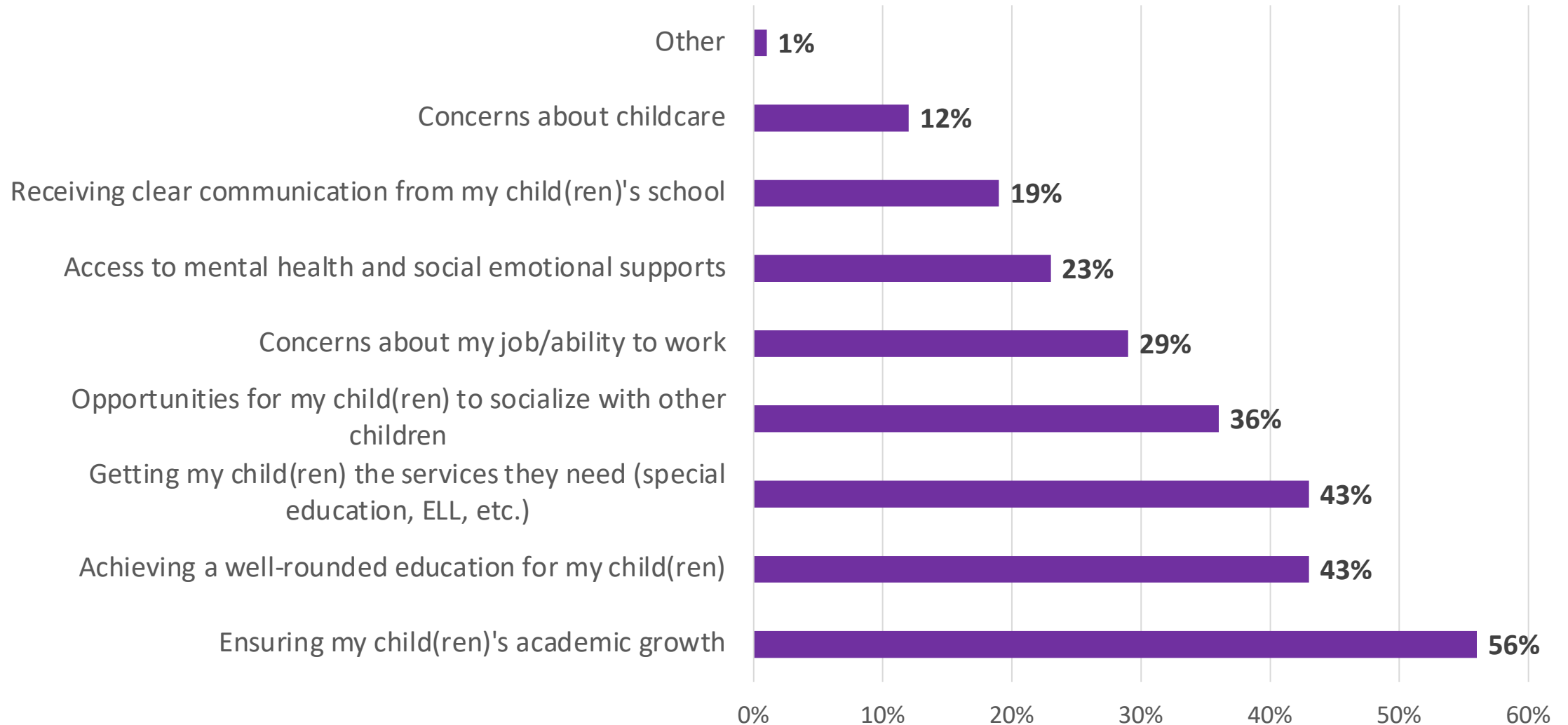
Top Challenges for Parents

(% Listed as MOST or VERY Challenging)



While managing learning at home is the **top challenge for many parents (44%)**, in the **April** survey, the **59% of families** noted it as a top challenge, a **decrease of 15%**.

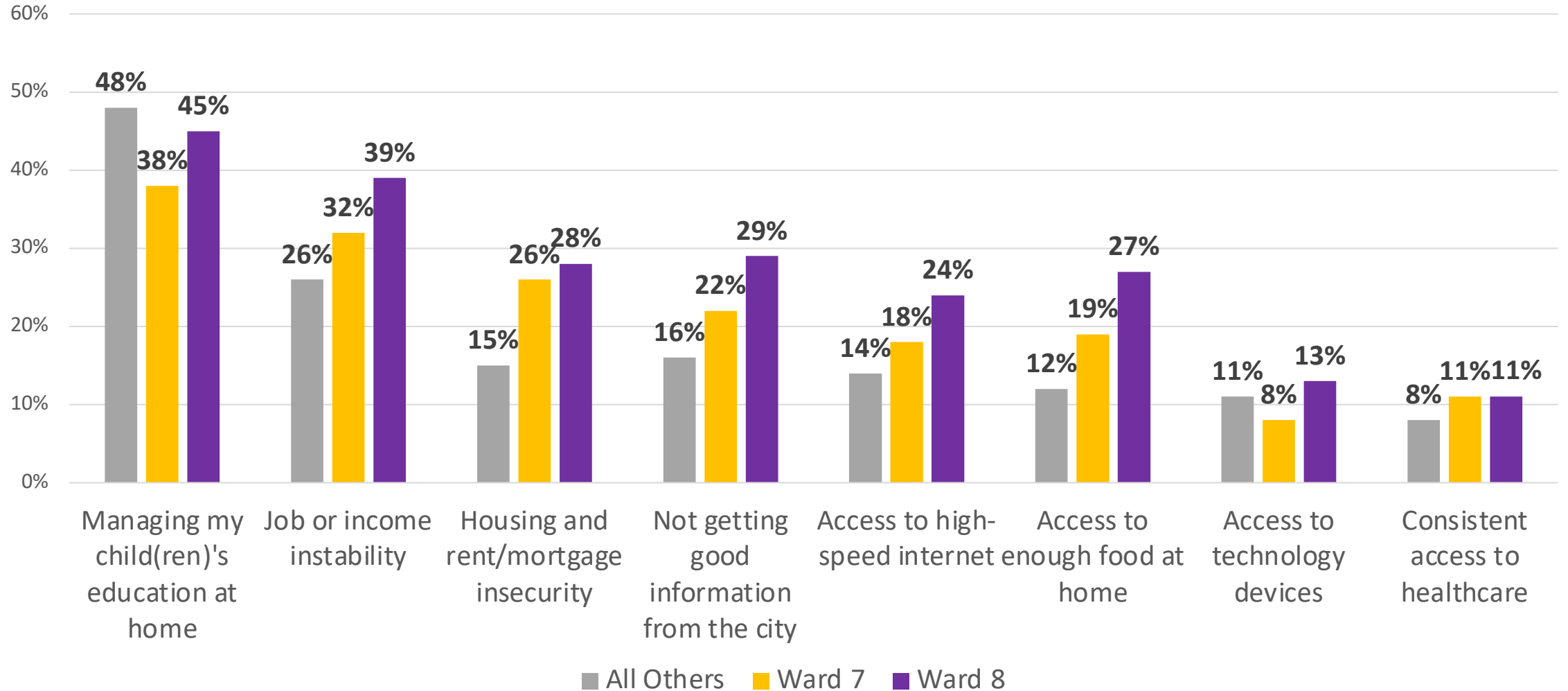
TOP TWO Concerns about the new school year and distance learning for Parents with Children with an IEP or and English Language Learner





Top Challenges for Parents East of the River

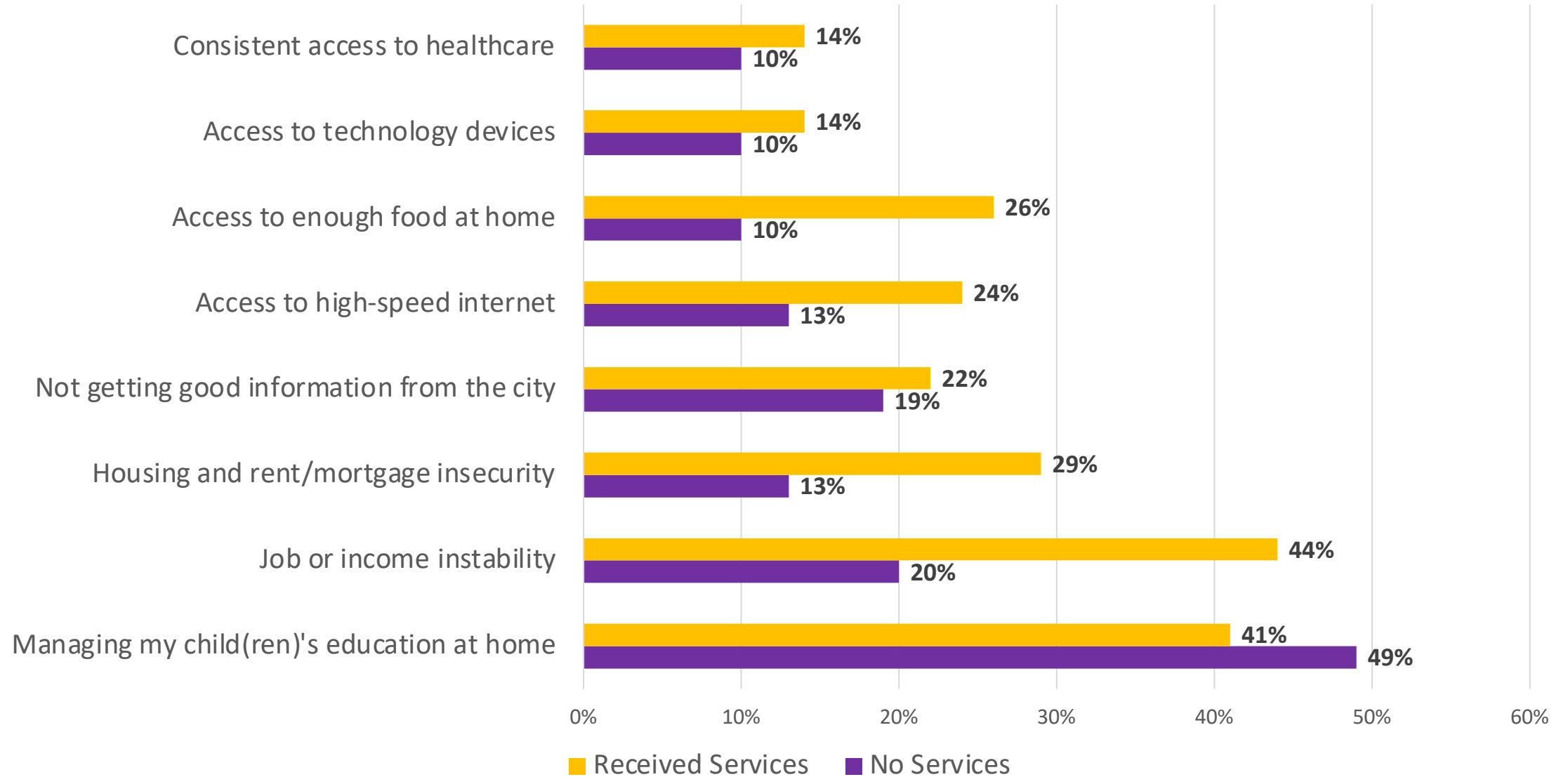
(% Listed as MOST or VERY Challenging)





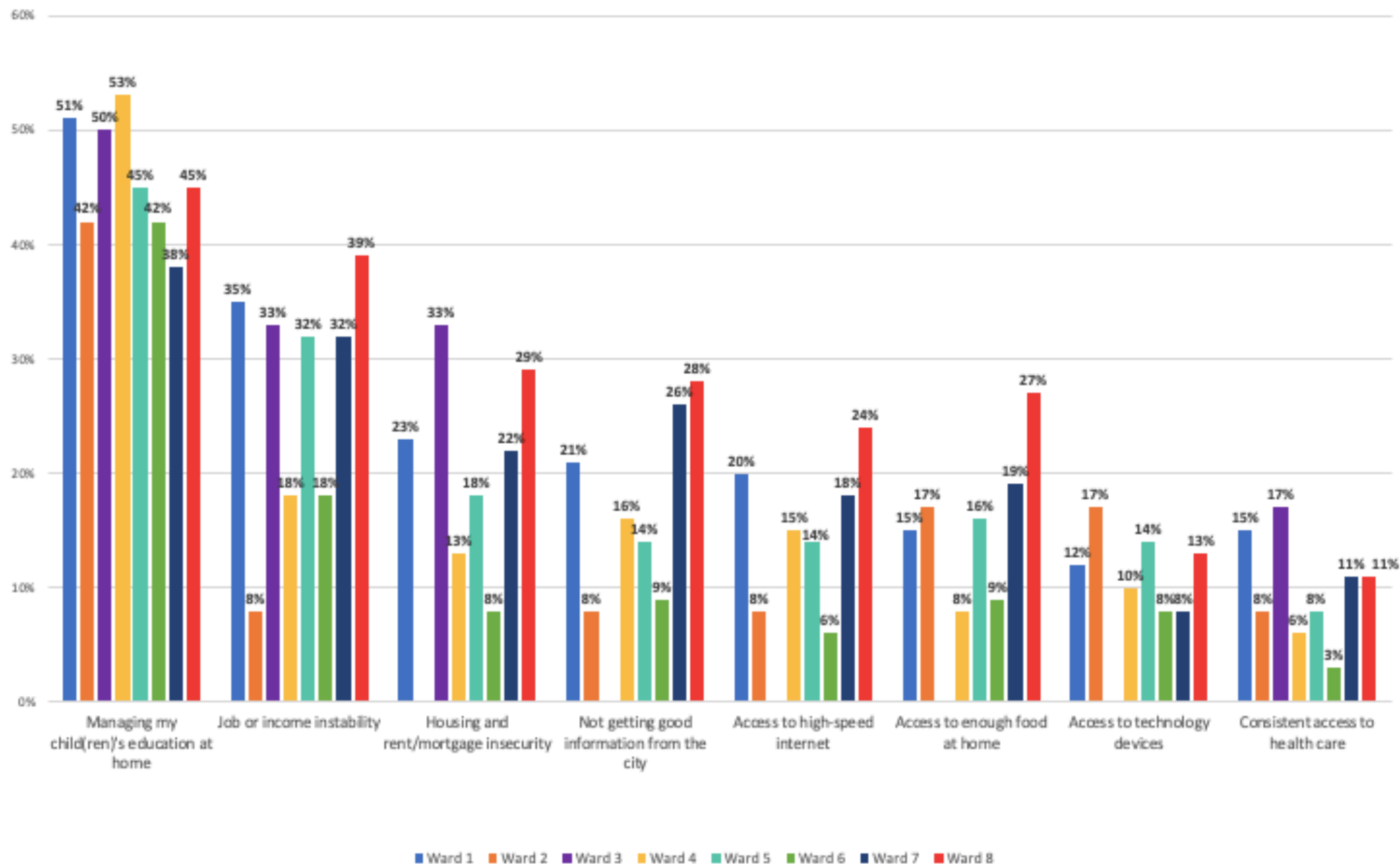
Top Challenges for Parents who have Received Services

(% Listed as MOST or VERY Challenging)

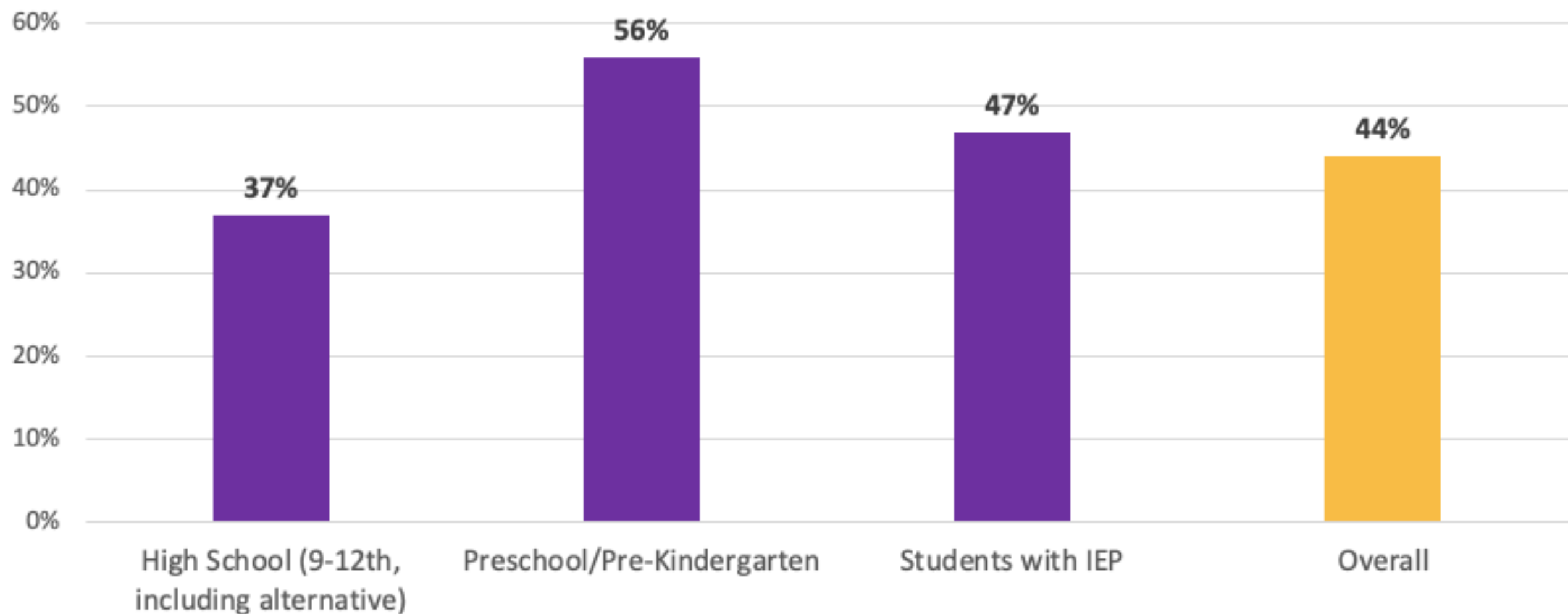


Top Challenges for Parents by Ward

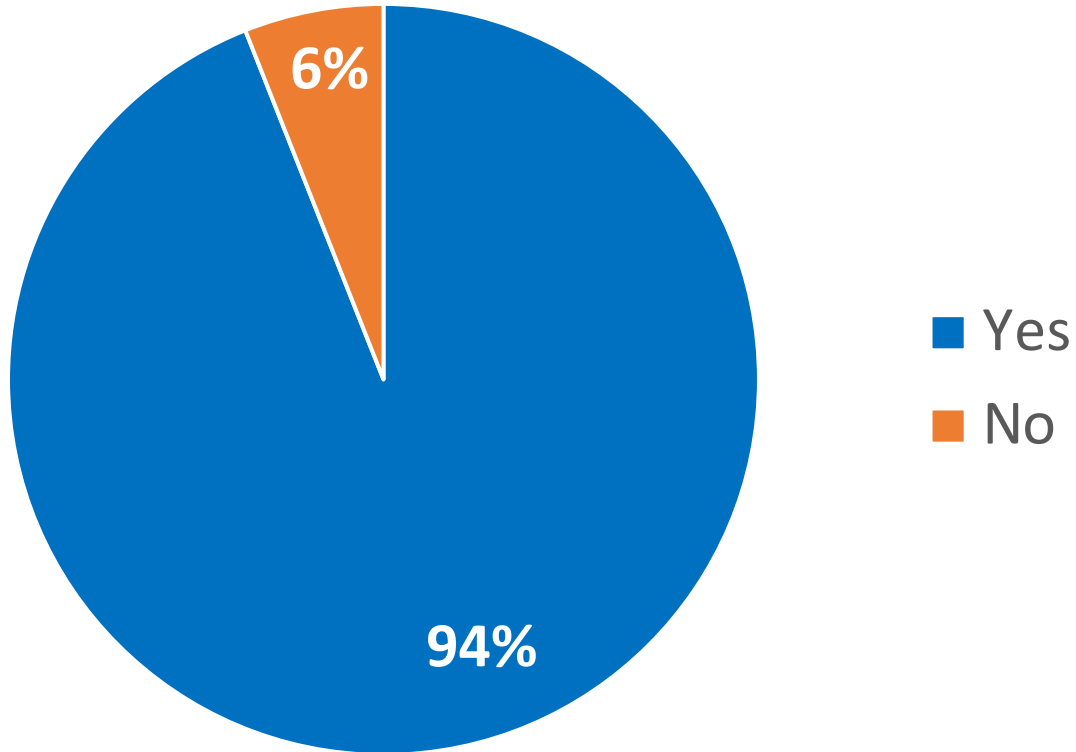
(% Listed as MOST or VERY Challenging)



Parents Who Listed "Managing my Childre(ren)'s Education at Home" as a Top Challenge



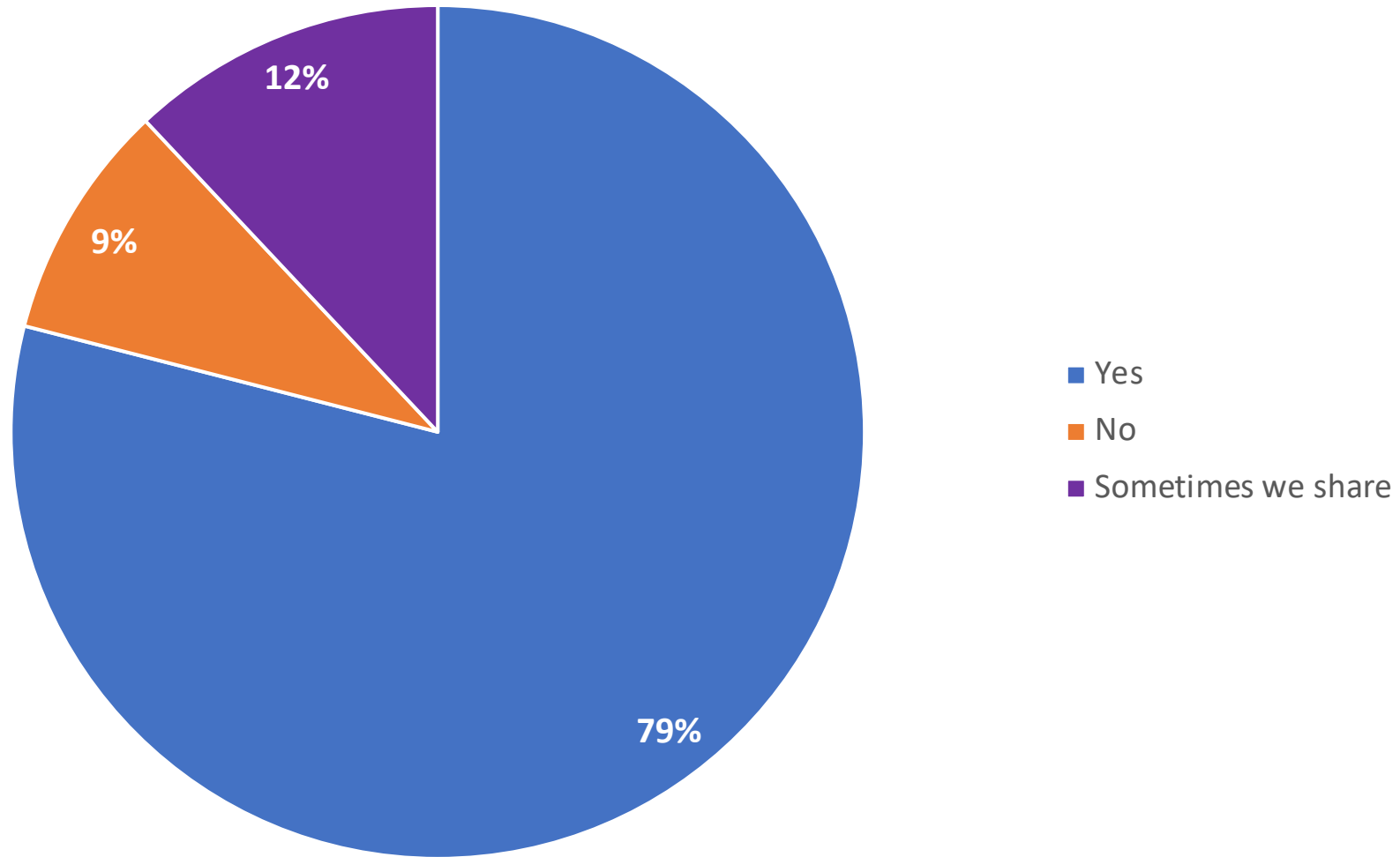
Do you have internet access?



When asked if there was anything else we should know about families' **internet access**, many parents responded:

- Some schools offered **devices** and/or **hotspots**, which was helpful.
- **Cost** was a serious barrier to **internet access**, especially to get adequate, reliable, or high-speed access.
- **Reliability** and **quality** of internet varied. For those with **basic or lower-cost internet**, there were glitches and made kids' classes hard to follow.
- This was especially true with **parents also working at home** or **with multiple kids**.
- **Special education students** in particular need(ed) help **navigating technology** and **internet**.

Do(es) each of your child(ren) have access to their own tablet, laptop, or computer available for schoolwork when they need it?

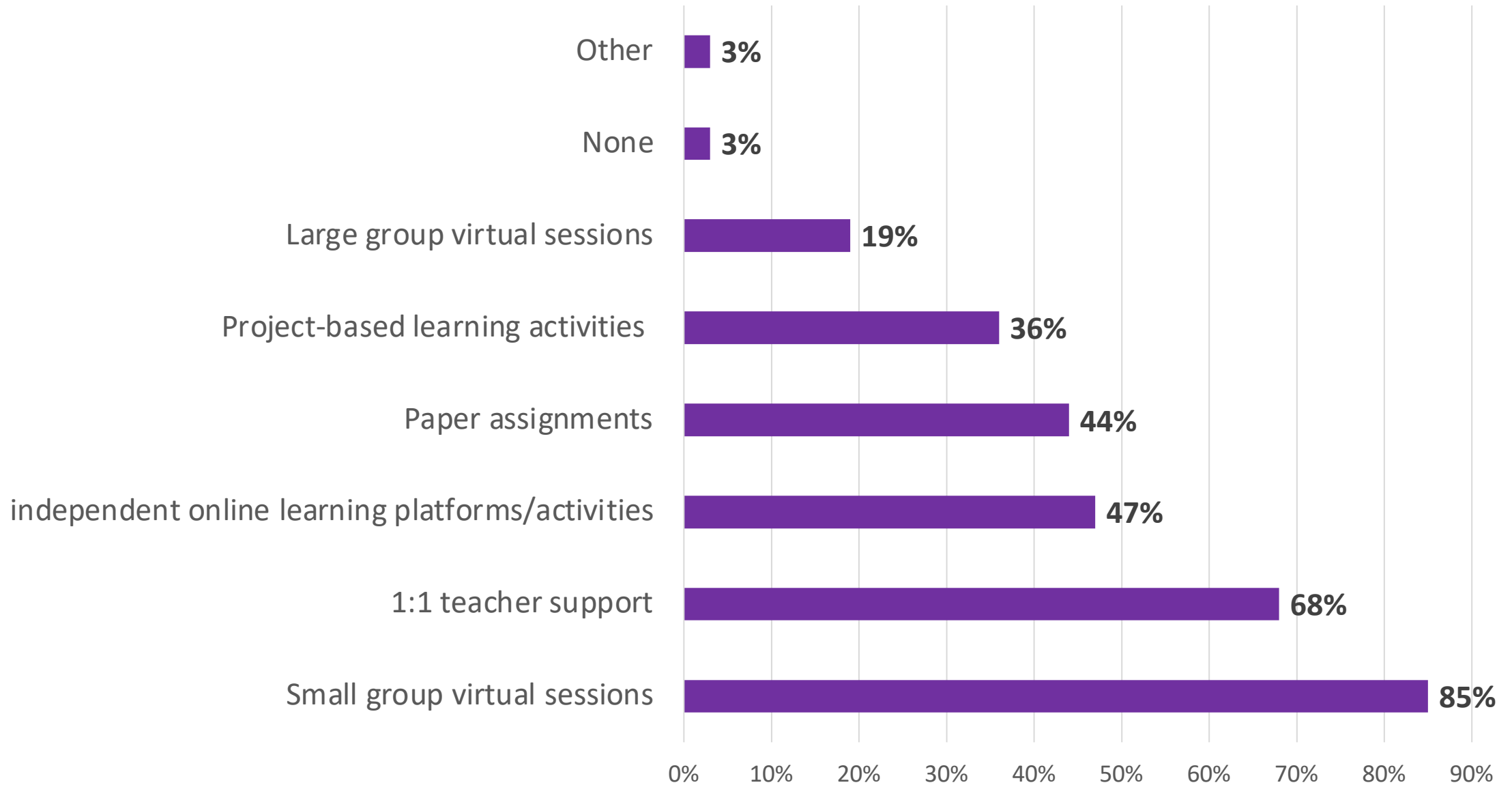




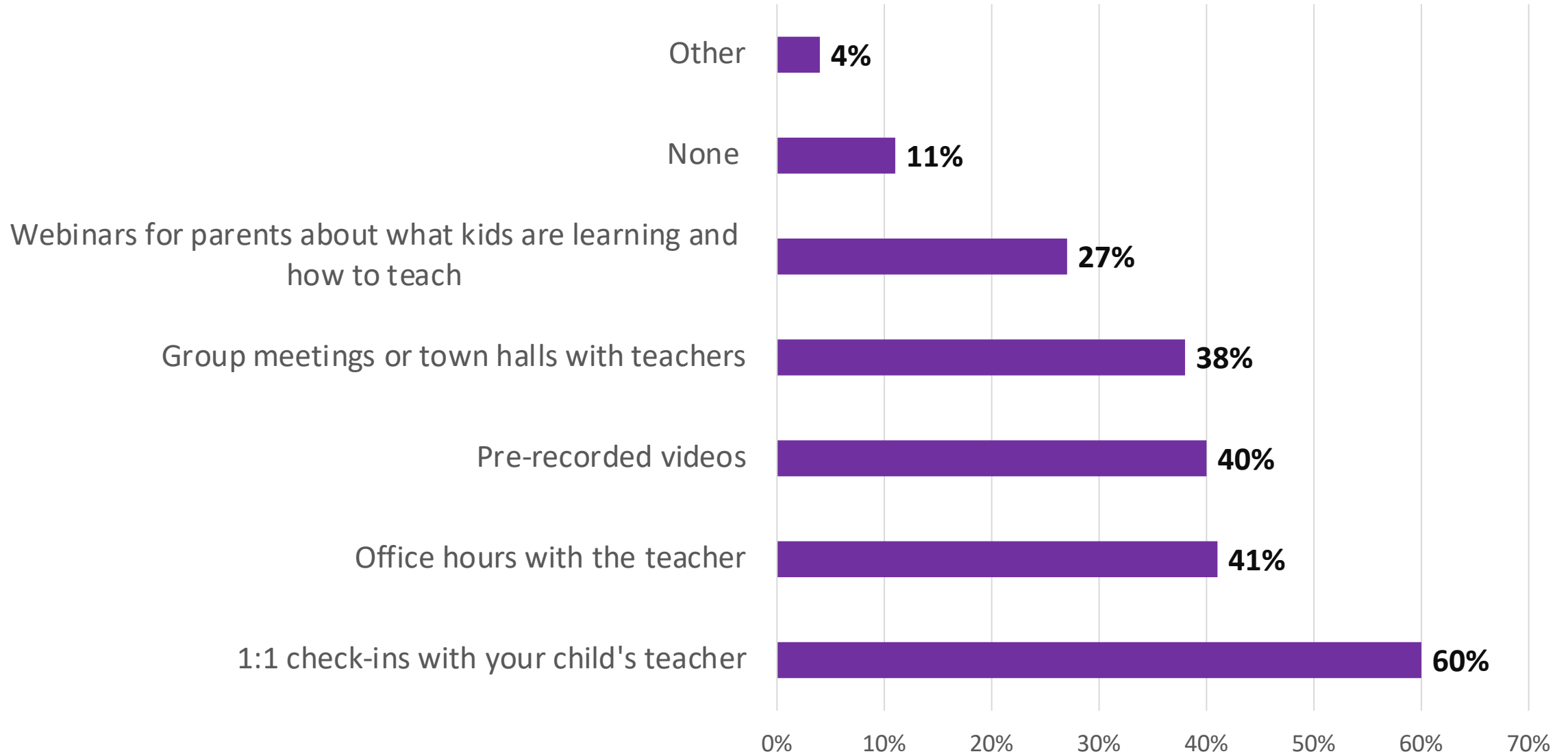
PARENTS AMPLIFYING
VOICES in EDUCATION

Experience with Distance Learning

Which learning activities are helpful for your child(ren)'s learning?

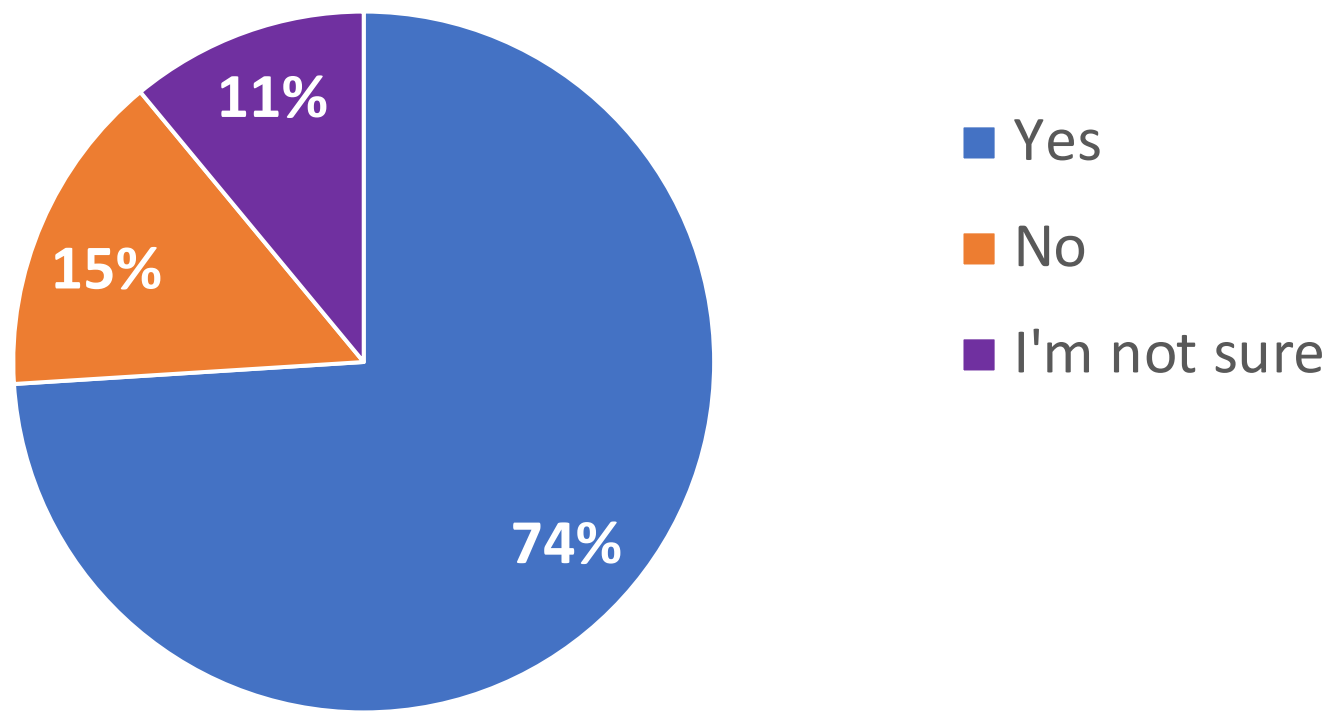


What distance learning resources are available for parents at your child(ren)'s school?





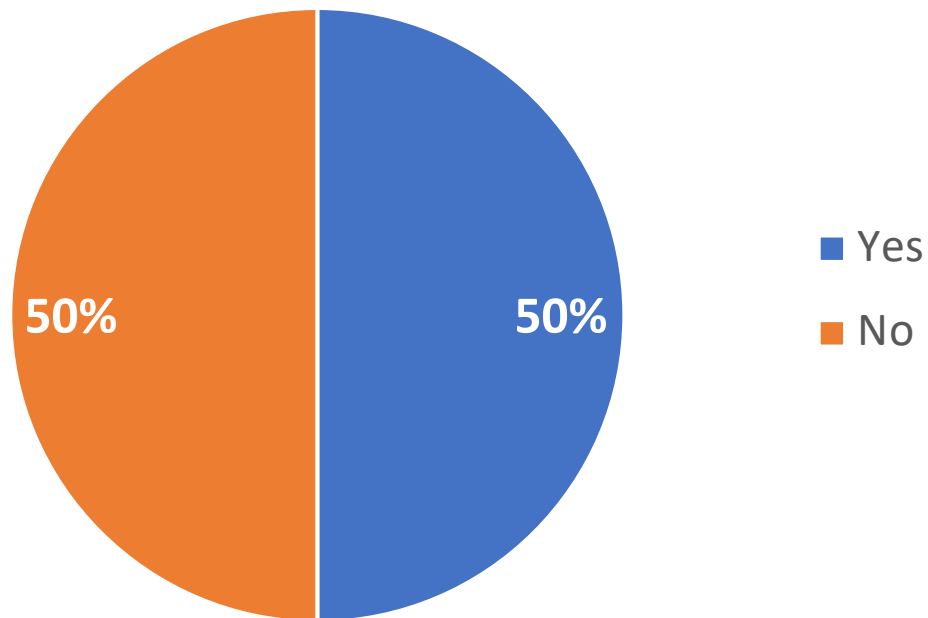
Does your child have access to specials and/or other enrichment programs like music, art, PE, etc. during distance learning?



74% of parents surveyed said their child **DOES** have access to **specials or enrichment programs.**



Has/have your child(ren) who need(s) special education or English Learner services received them this school year?



HALF of parents surveyed with children who need **special education or ELL** services said their child(ren) have **NOT** received services.

Parent Satisfaction with Distance Learning

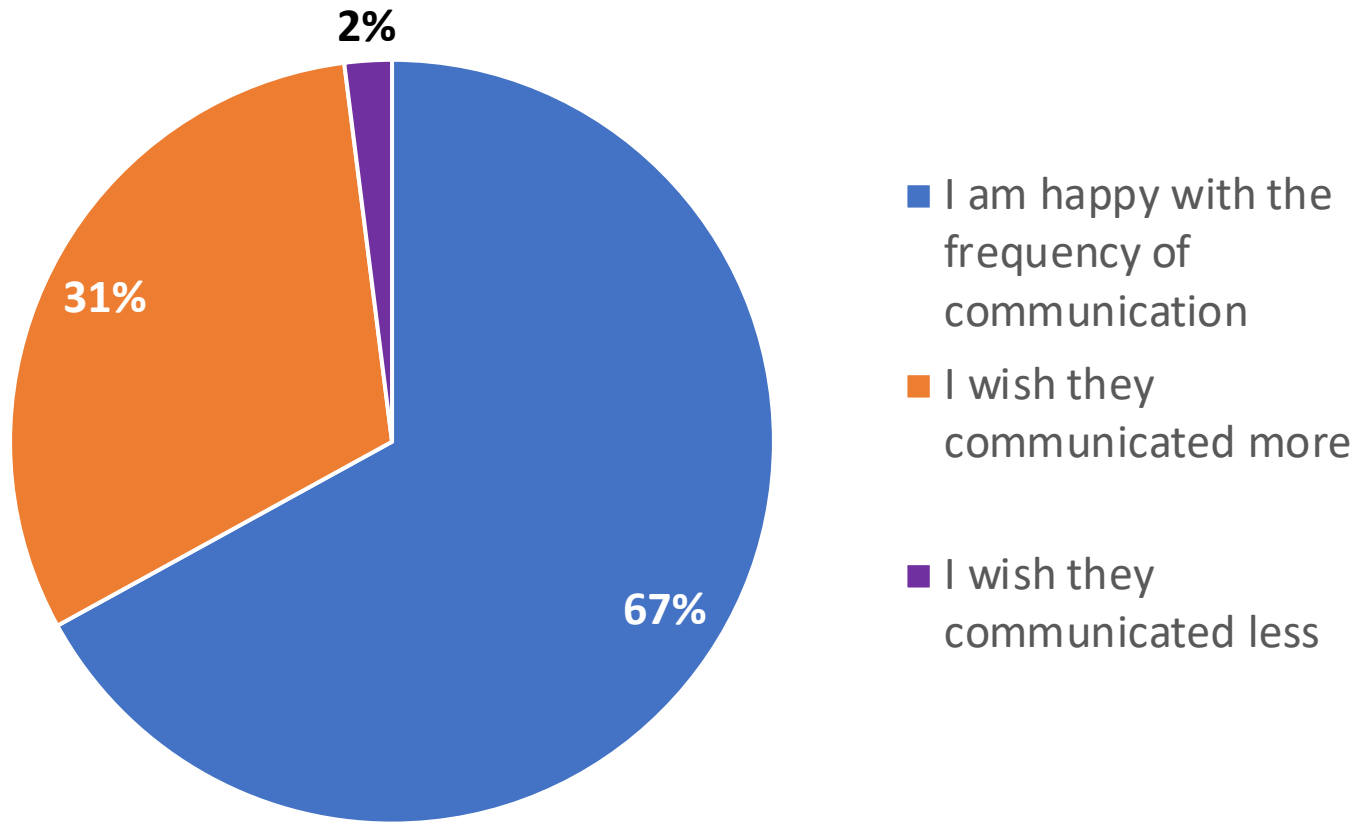


Item	1 -Satisfied	2 -Kind of	3 -Not
Communication from school.	63%	27%	10%
Distance learning tools (video calls, online platforms, etc.)	52%	37%	11%
Mental health supports and social emotional learning.	46%	30%	24%
My child(ren)'s school schedule.	56%	32%	11%
Resources for parent to support academics.	44%	35%	21%
Resources for parents to support SEL/mental health.	40%	30%	30%

- The **majority** of parents are **satisfied** with the **communication** from their school, **distance learning tools**, and their child's **school schedule**.
- **24%** of parents are **NOT satisfied** with the **mental health supports and social emotional learning** available for their child, and **30%** are **NOT satisfied with the resources for PARENTS to support that at home**.



How satisfied are you with the frequency of communication from your child(ren)'s teachers?



More than two thirds of parents surveyed are satisfied with the frequency of communication from their children's teachers.

What parents said was going WELL:

- One-on-one learning/check-ins with teachers for parents and students
- Consistent schedule that students can easily follow and expect
- Teachers' clear dedication to students
- Daily communication and updates from school
- Individual support
- Smaller groups
- **However - many said "Nothing"**

What parents said was CHALLENGING:

- One-on-one time with teachers
- Students inability to interact with peers and teachers
- Students' inability to focus in virtual classrooms
- Lack of access to mental health supports and social emotional learning
- Specialized instruction for students with IEPs
- Classroom management
- Communication

Based on these responses, it's clear that quality of instruction and access to resources and supports are not the same for all families. We will keep digging to find more specific trends.

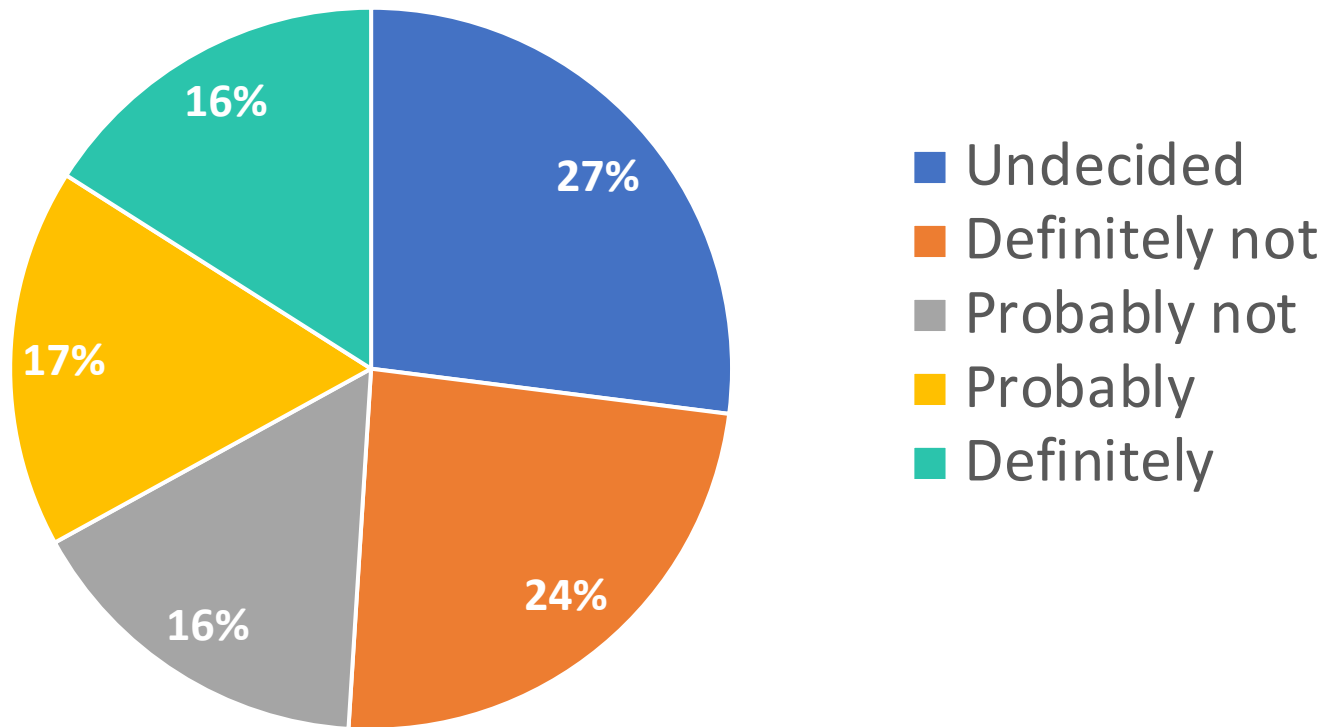


PARENTS AMPLIFYING
VOICES in EDUCATION

Plans for School in the Future



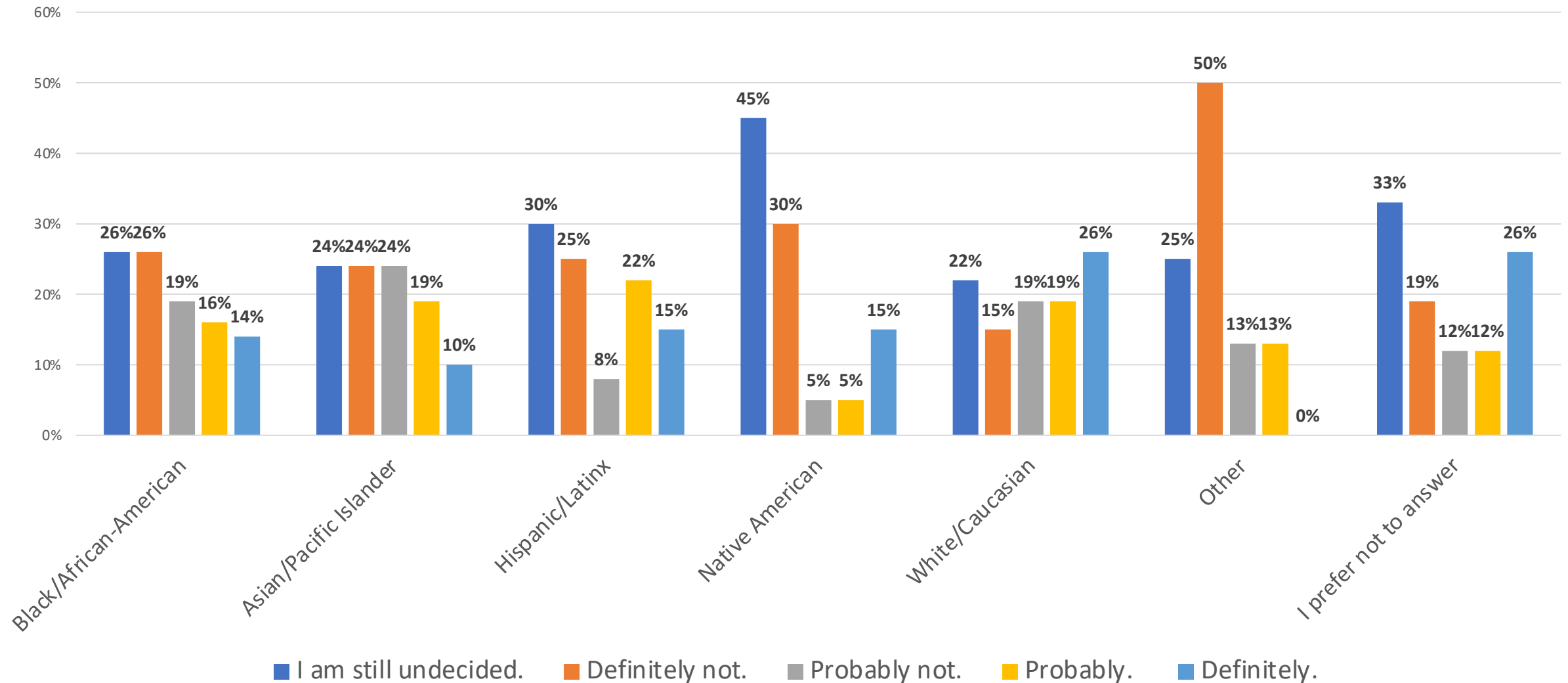
If DC schools offer a hybrid option in November, how likely are you to send your child(ren) to school in-person?



- **27%** of parents are **undecided**
- **40%** said definitely **NOT** or probably **NOT**
- **33%** said **probably** or **definitely**

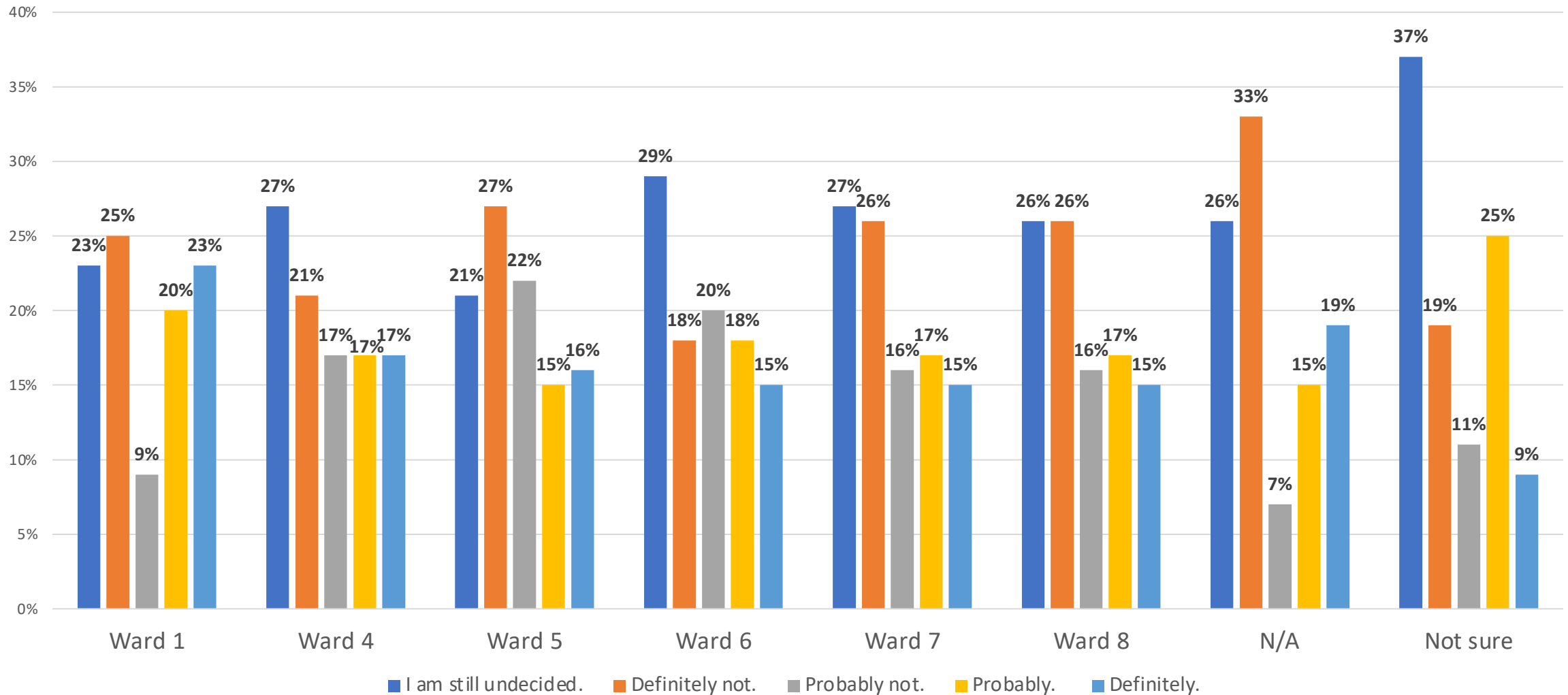


If DC schools offer a hybrid option in November, how likely are parents to send their child(ren) to school in-person by race





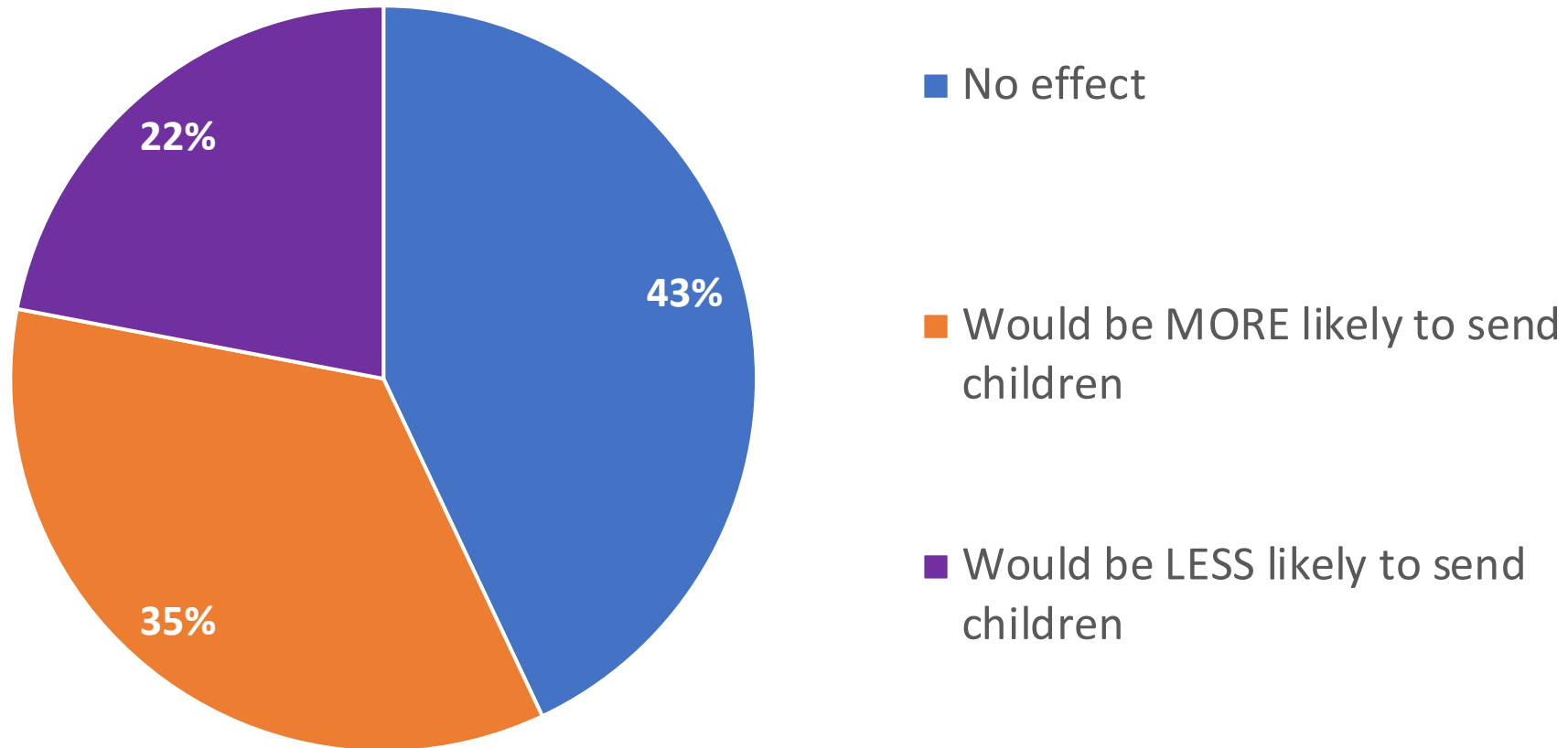
If DC schools offer a hybrid option in November, how likely are you to send your child(ren) to school in-person?*



**Note: There were not significant sample sizes from Ward 2 & 3, so we are not able to report that information.*



If schools offered outdoor classes, how would that affect your decision to send your child to school in-person?





PARENTS AMPLIFYING
VOICES in EDUCATION

Key Takeaways and Next Steps

Key Takeaways



- Coronavirus continues to have a **disproportionate impact**, particularly for families East of the River and who have received services during COVID



- Managing learning from home remains a **top challenge for many families, but there is still a wide range in satisfaction.**

- We need more resources for **SEL and mental health** and to ensure **ELLs and students with IEPs are receiving services.**



- The vast majority of parents were **not comfortable sending their children back to school in person**, and there is no consensus on preference for **outdoor learning options.**

What's Next?

- We must continue **to connect with families** to understand their experience and concerns so we can help meet their **basic needs** and create a **community-driven plan to reopen our schools safely and equitably**.
- PAVE parent leaders will use these findings to inform their vision for a safe return to school in-person and #DCSchoolsRecovery.
- **Find out more at dcpave.org!**

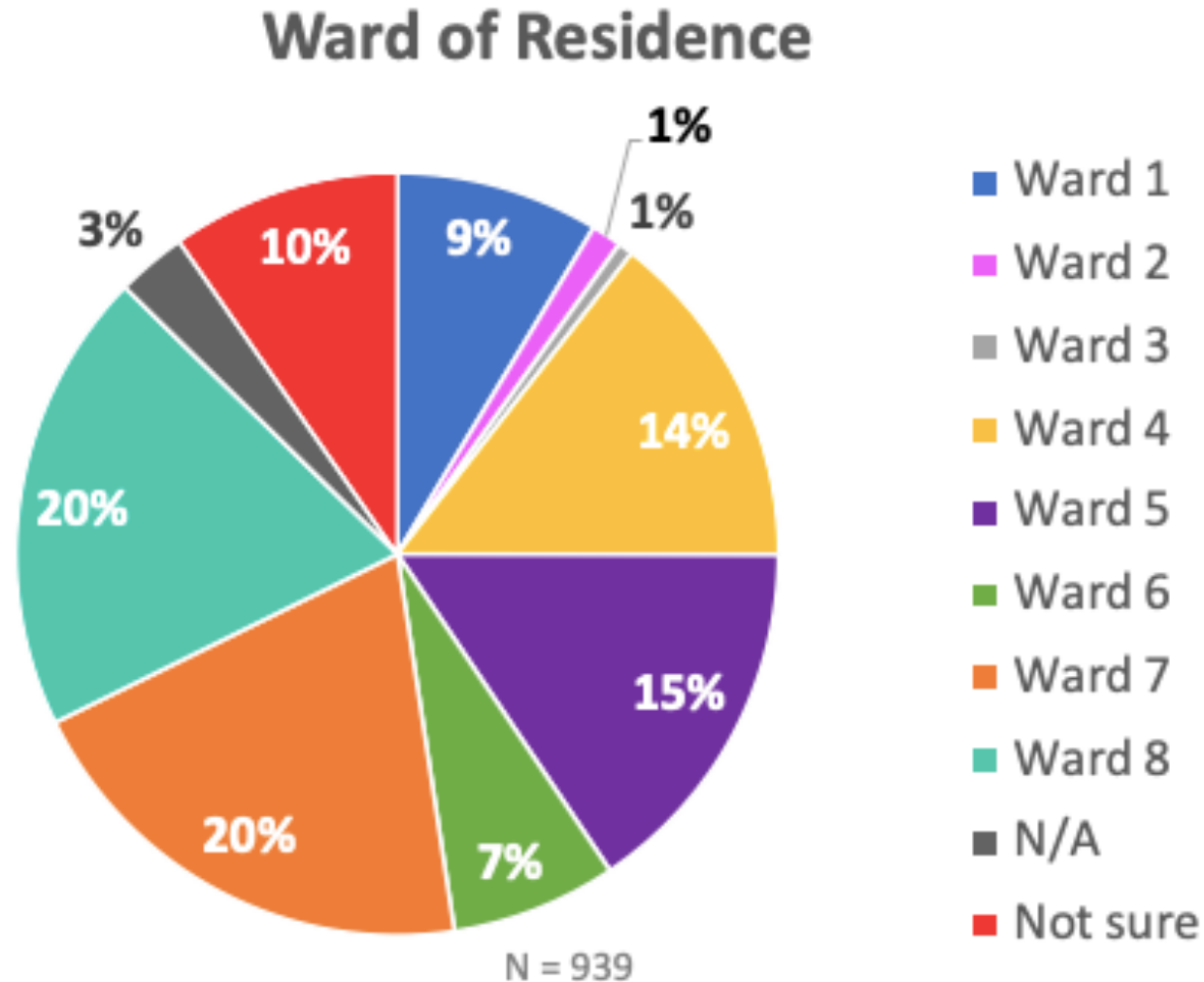




PARENTS AMPLIFYING
VOICES in EDUCATION

Appendix: Overview of Survey Respondents

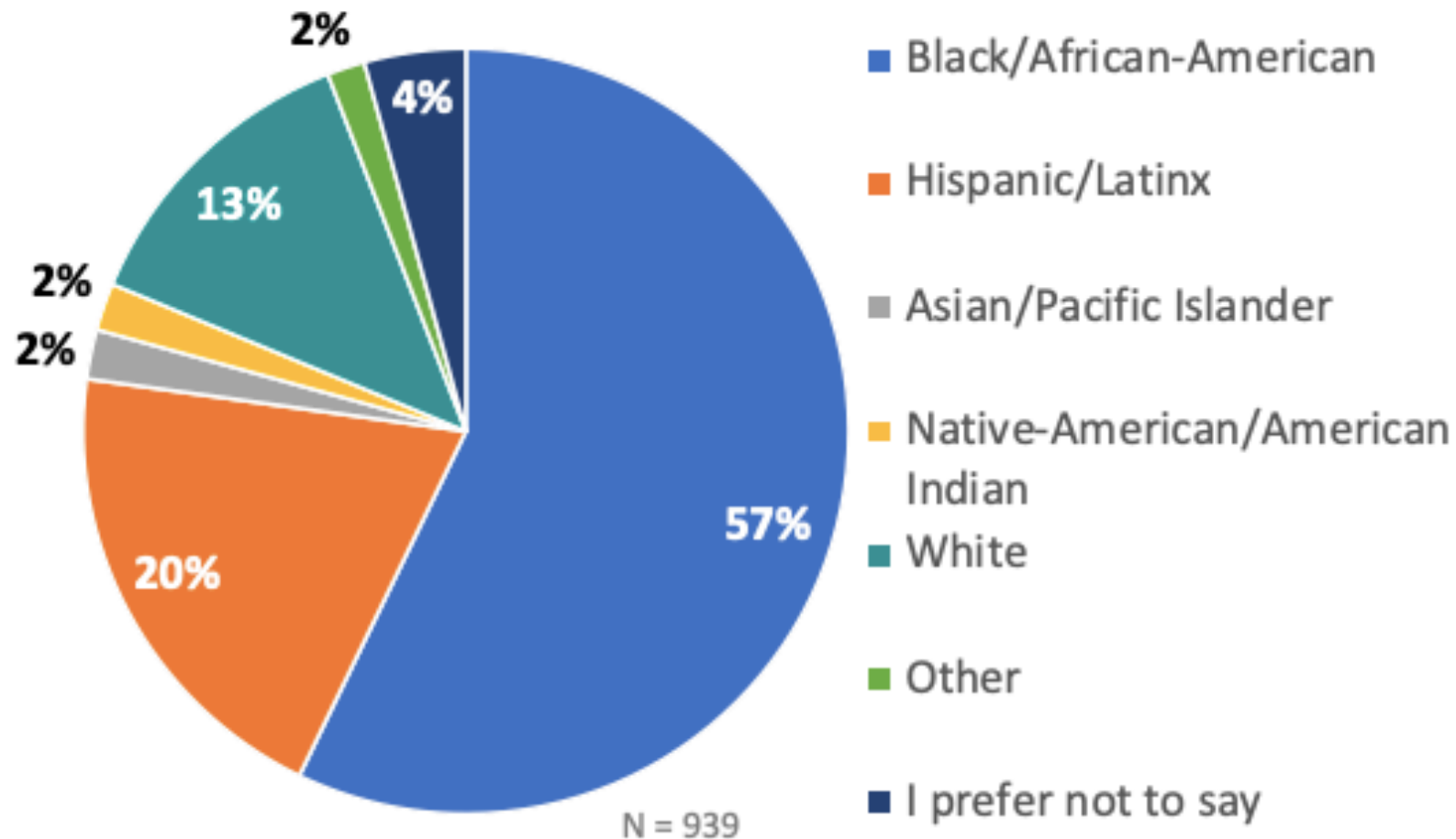
We heard from families who live all across the city.



We heard from families of all different races and ethnicities.



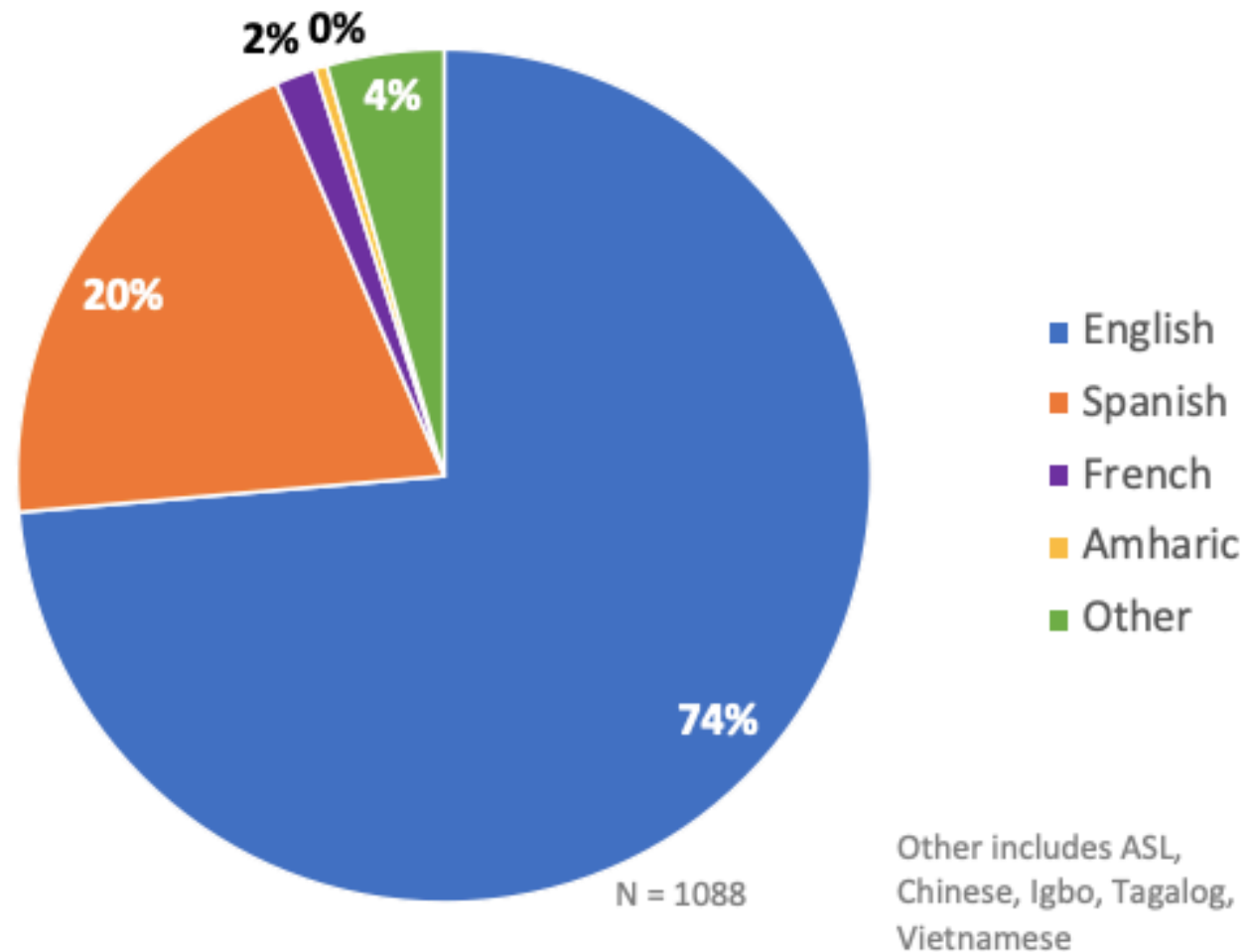
Race and Ethnicity



We heard from families who speak different languages.



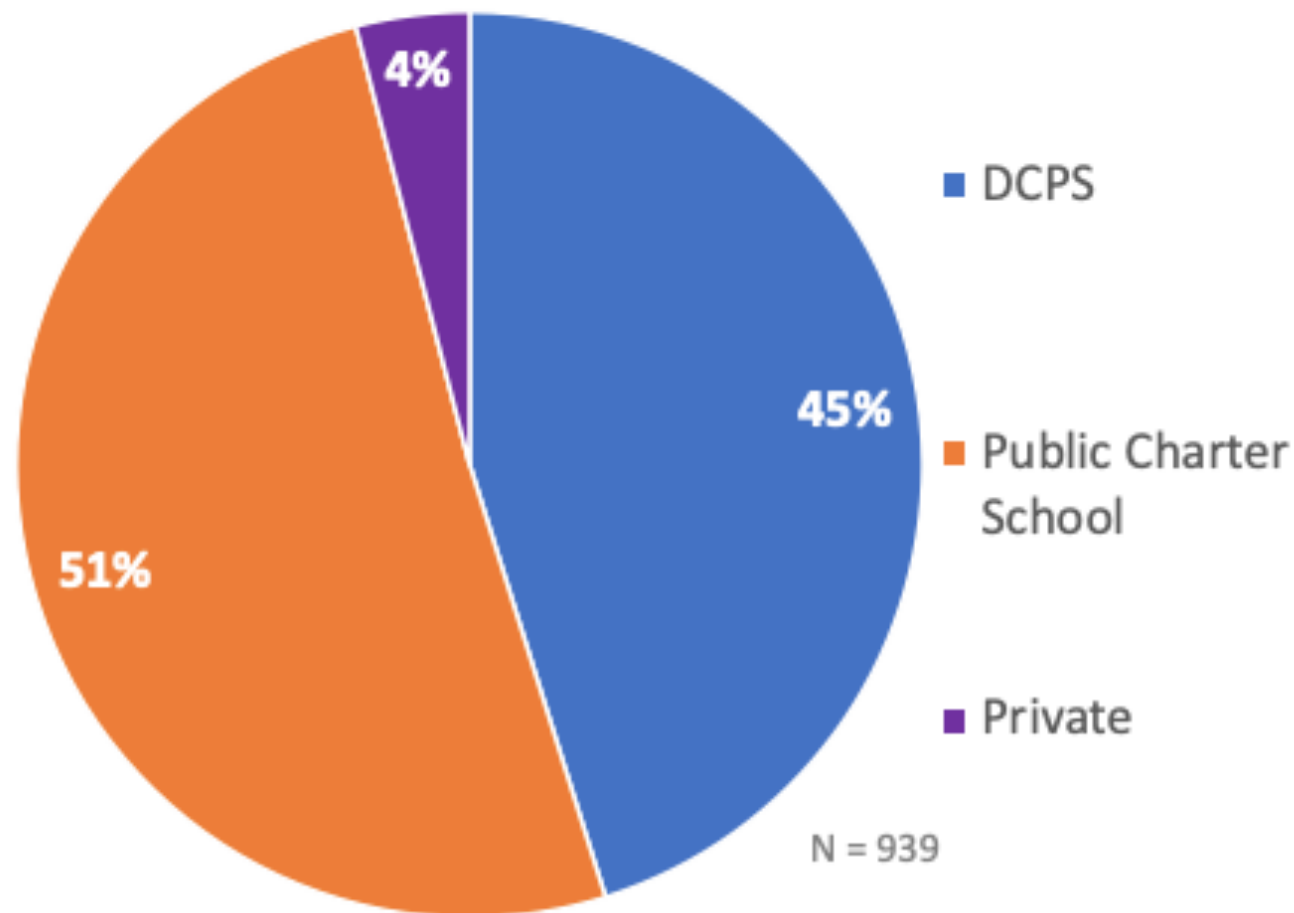
Languages Spoken at Home



We heard from families with children who attend different types of schools.



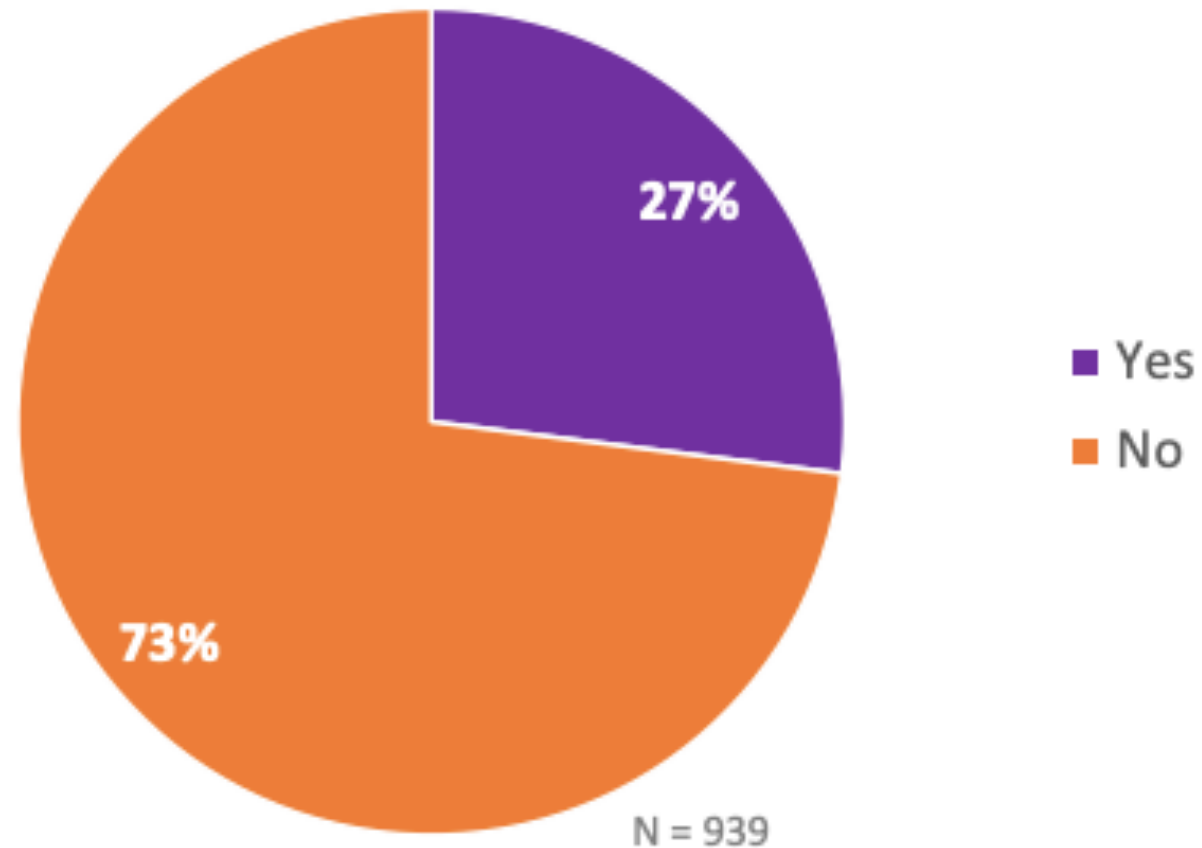
Type of School Children Attend





We heard from families that have children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

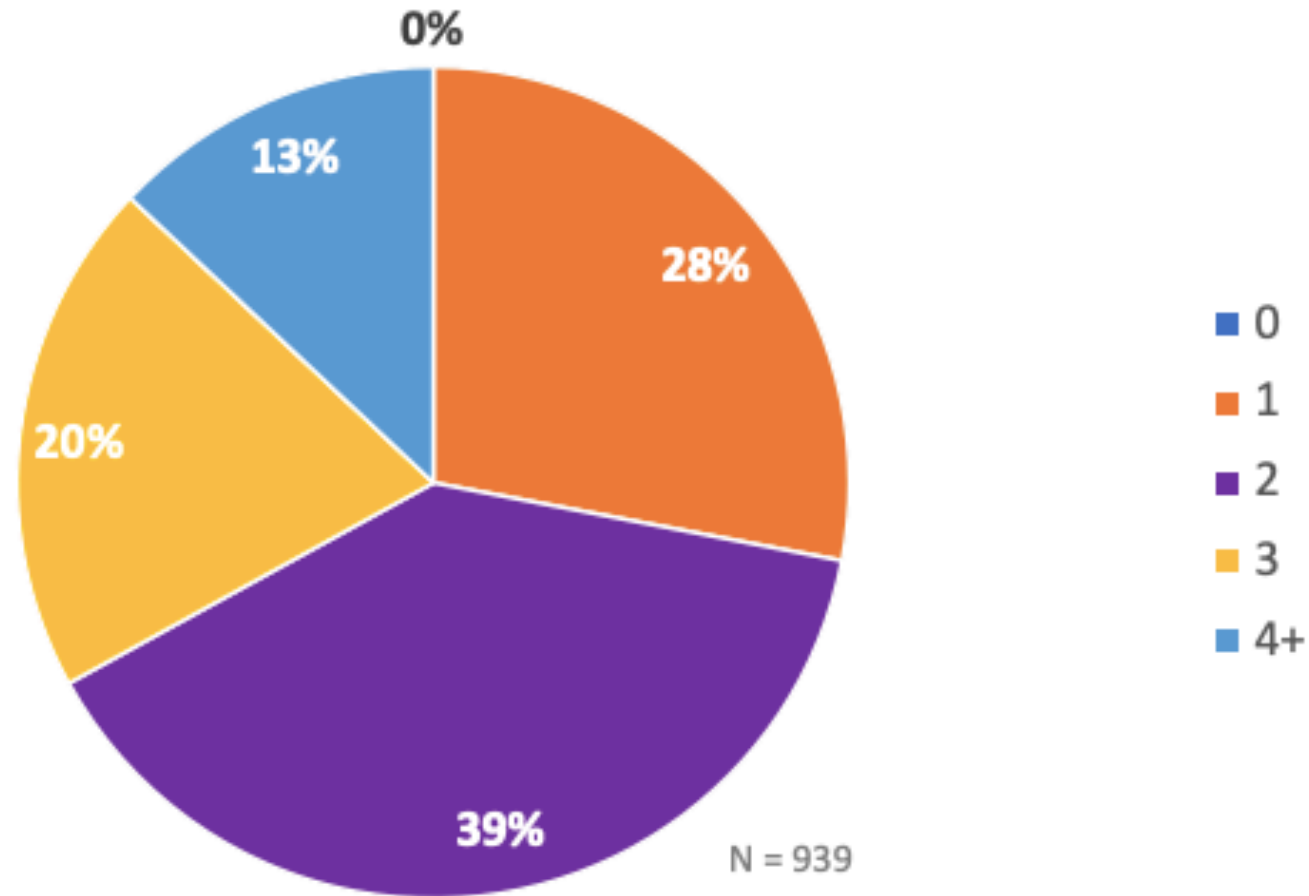
Do You Have a Child With an IEP?



And we heard from many different sized families.



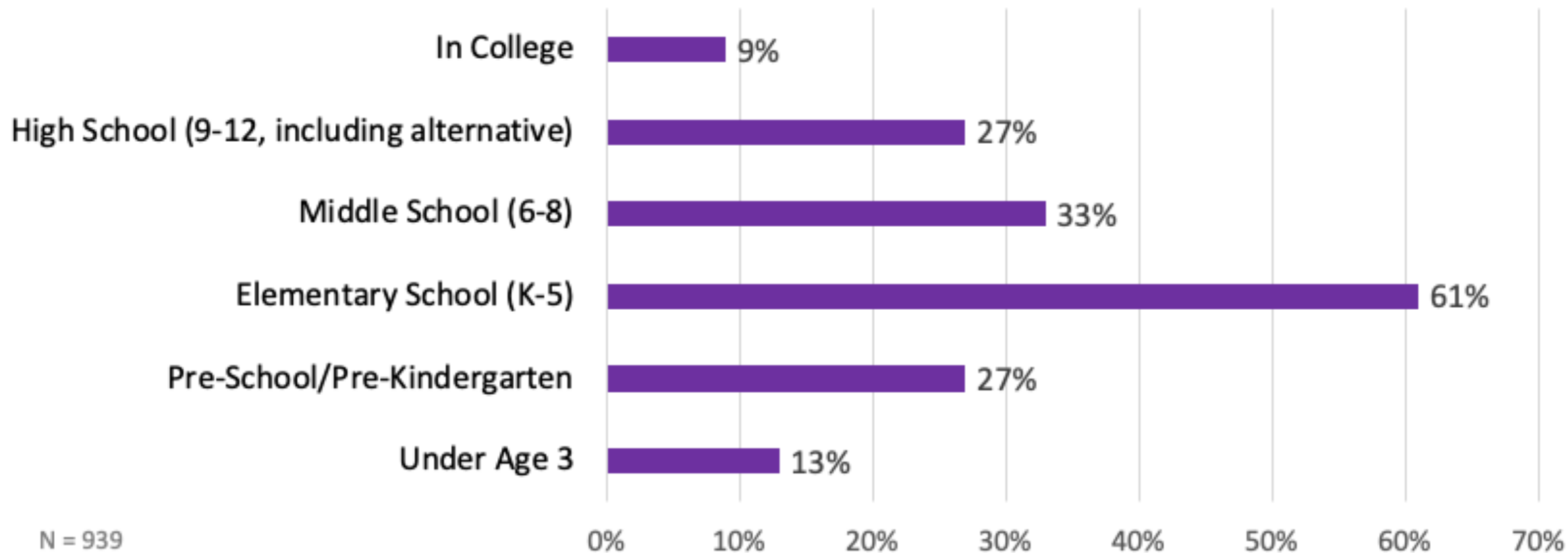
Number of Children Living at Home



We heard from families with children in all grade levels.



Grades Children are Enrolled in SY 2020-2021

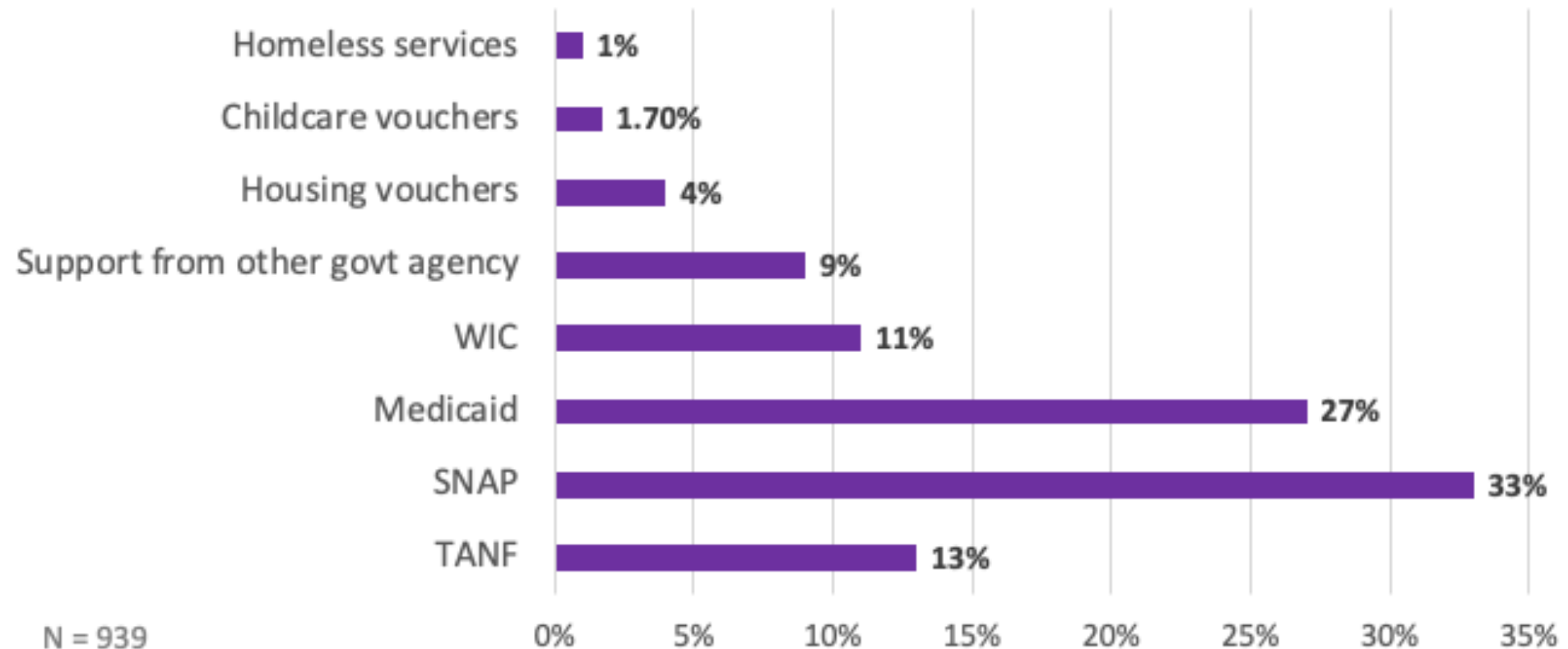




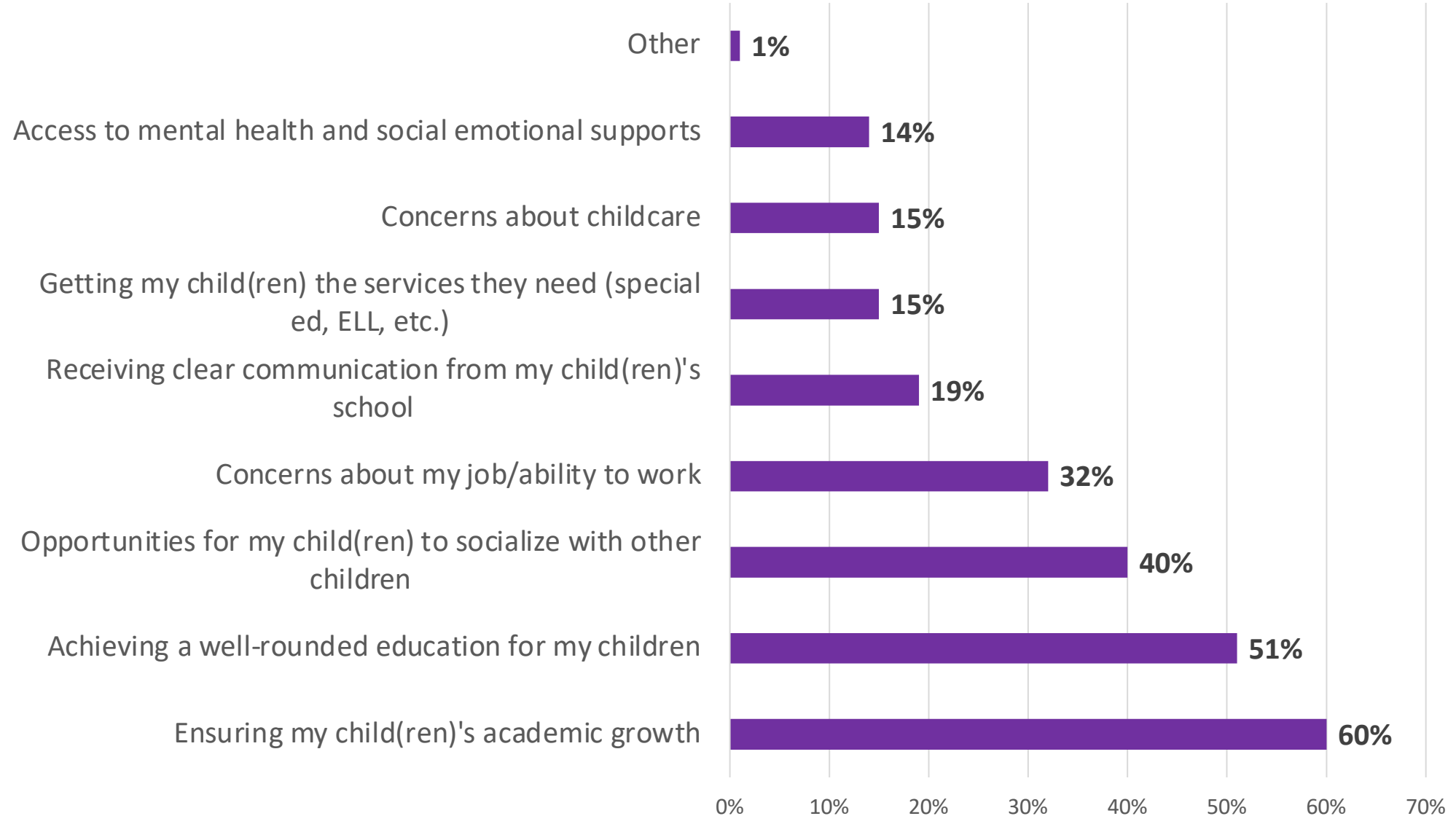
We heard from families who are receiving services.

Breakdown of Type of Services Parents Have Received

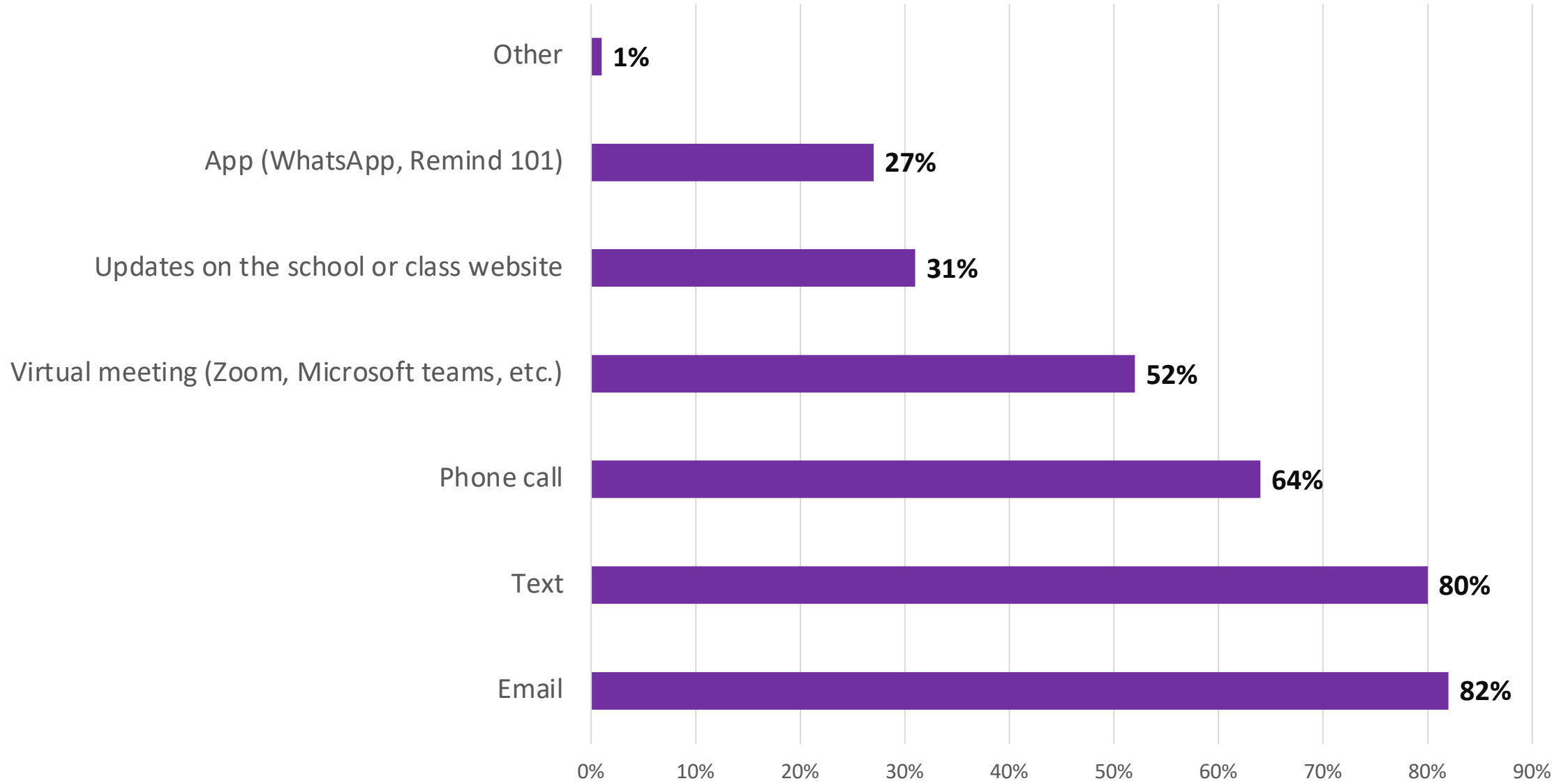
54% of parents surveyed have received one or more type of service.



What are the TOP TWO concerns you have about the new school year and distance learning?



What is the best way(s) for your child(ren)'s school to communicate with you?



Top Challenges for Spanish-Speaking Parents

(% Listed as MOST or VERY Challenging)

