

# School District of Beloit

Community Survey Report

Spring 2022







**Our mission is to help educational leaders gather, organize, and use data to make strategic decisions.**

- Founded in **2002** to provide independent research
- Conducted over **10,000** staff, parent, and student, and community surveys for school improvement
- Helped more than **850** districts navigate the strategic planning and referendum planning process



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Wrap-up/Questions





# Our Process



- Households within the District were mailed a paper survey.
  - 1) Fill out the paper survey and return directly to School Perceptions
  - 2) Use the access code to take the survey online



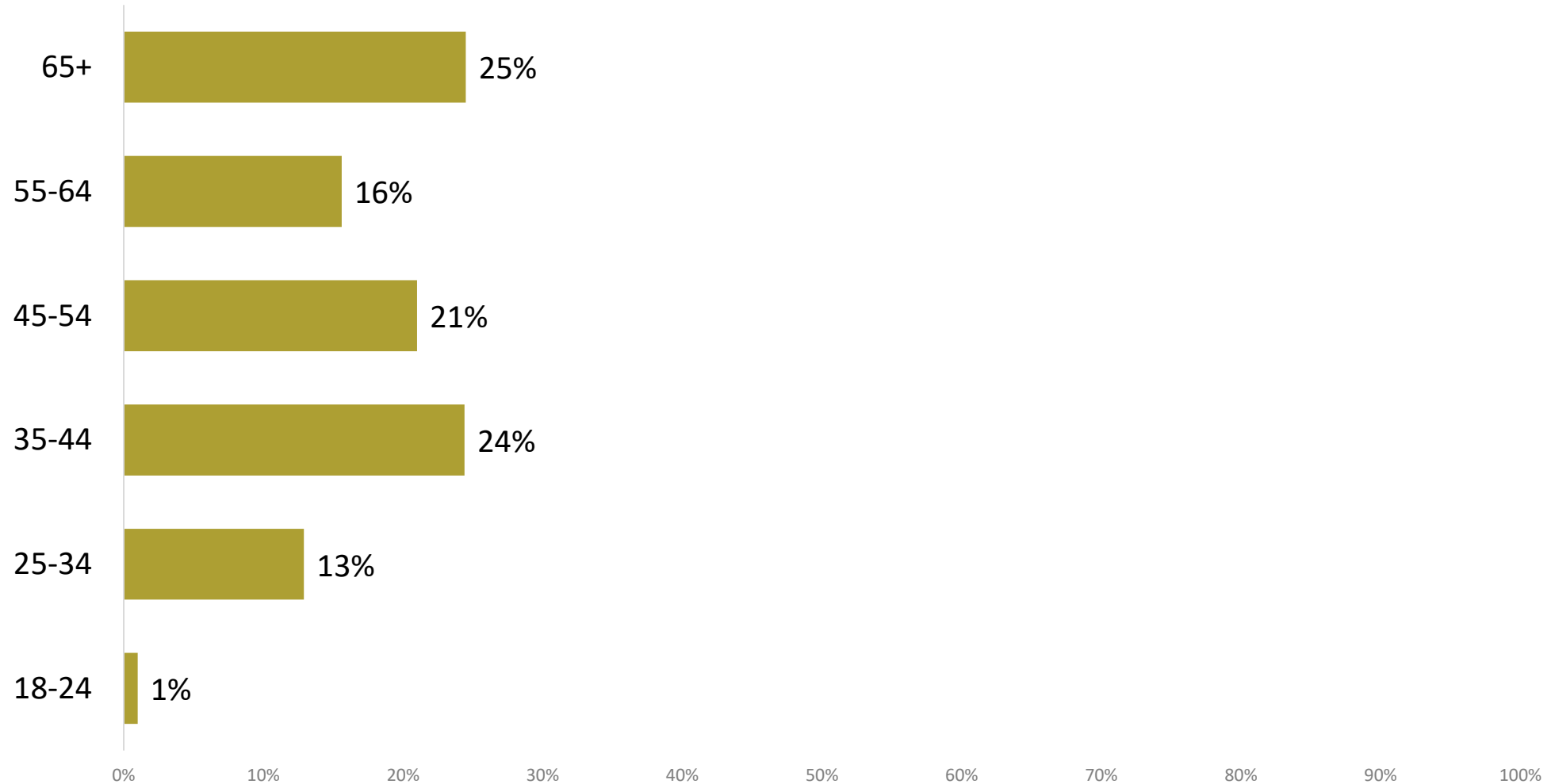
# Survey Information



- (May 2022) survey window
- (1,115) total respondents
- (7.6%) response rate
- (+/- 2.99%) margin of error



# What is your age?

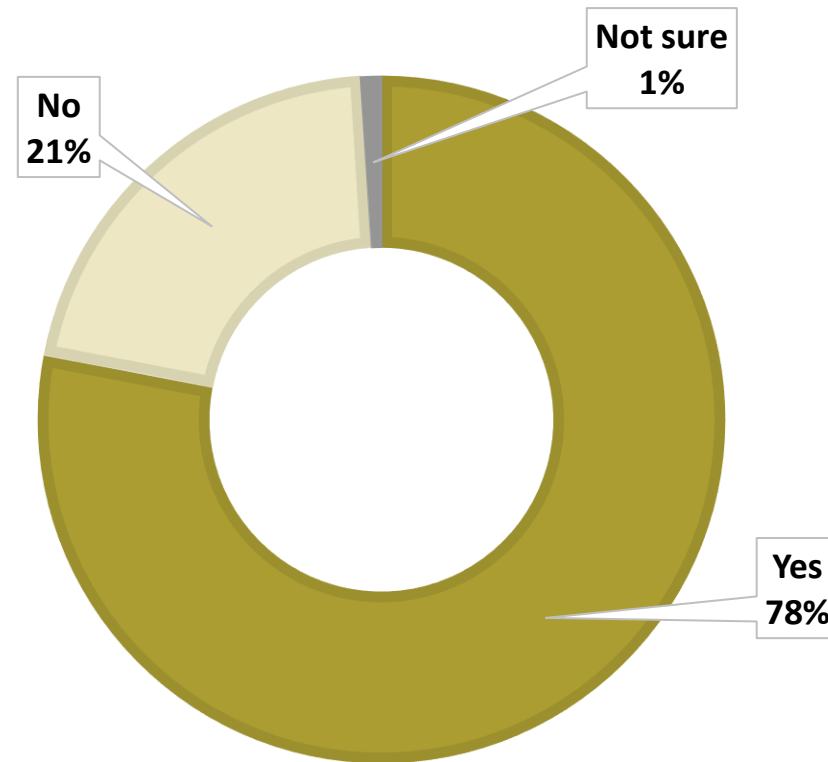




# Respondent Information

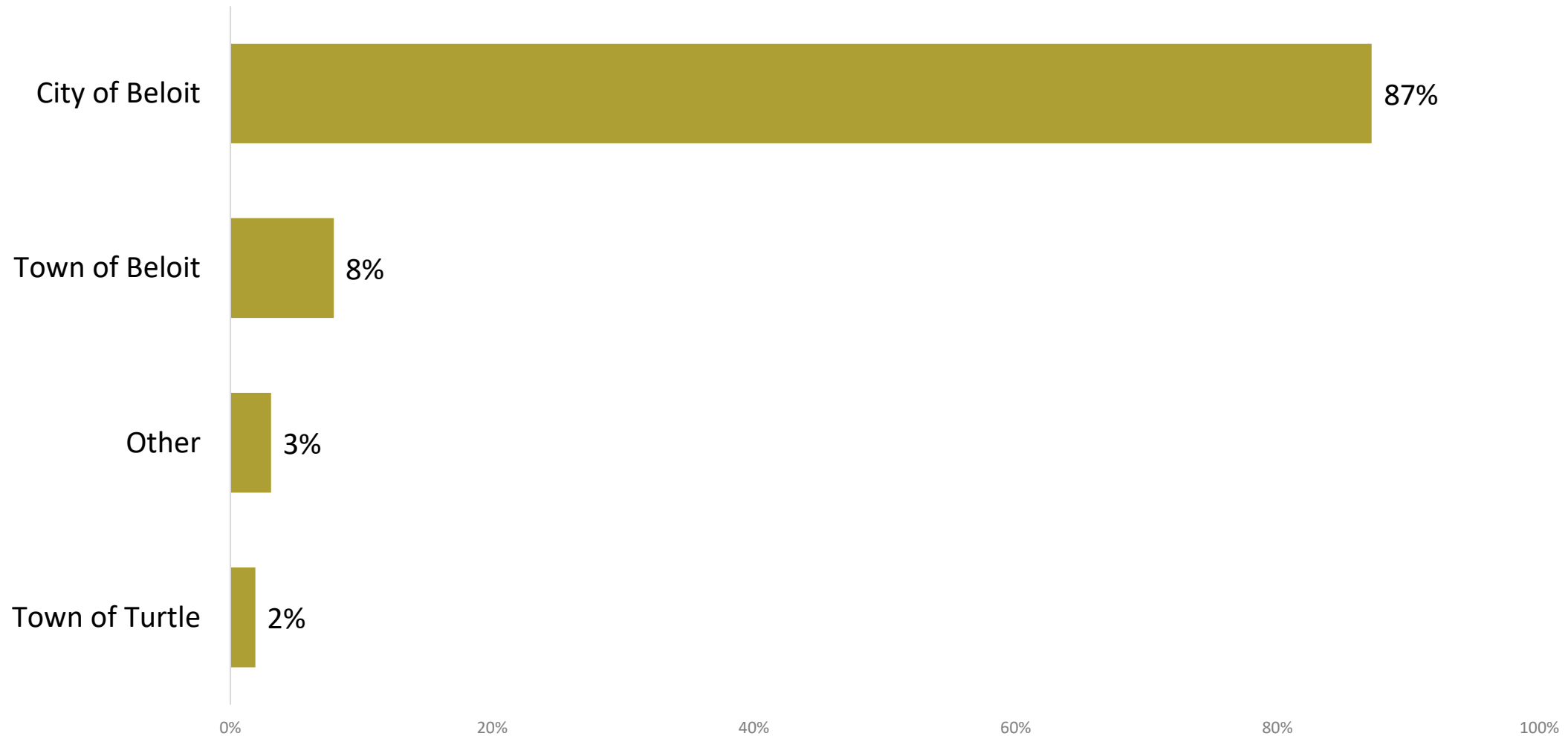


Is your primary residence in the  
School District of Beloit?





# In which municipality do you live?

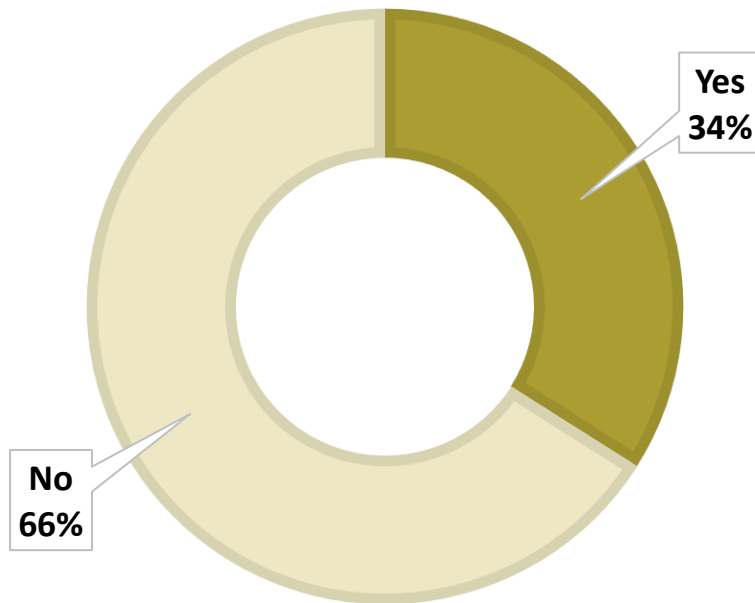




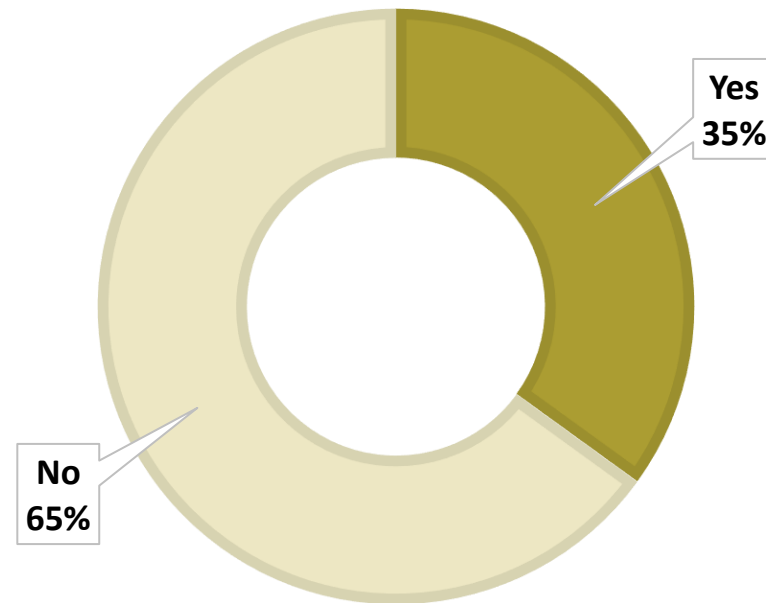
# Respondent Information



Are you an employee of the  
School District of Beloit?



Do you have a child(ren) currently  
attending a school in the District?

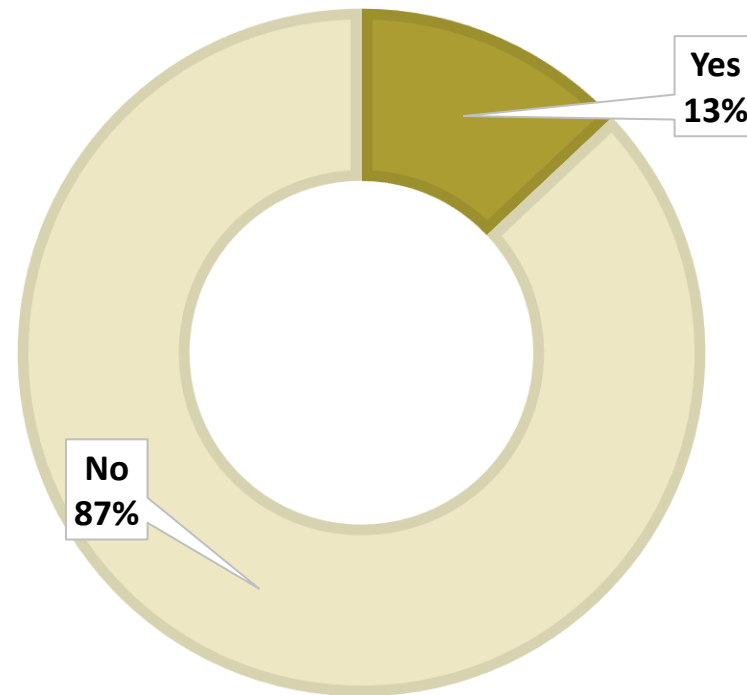




# Respondent Information

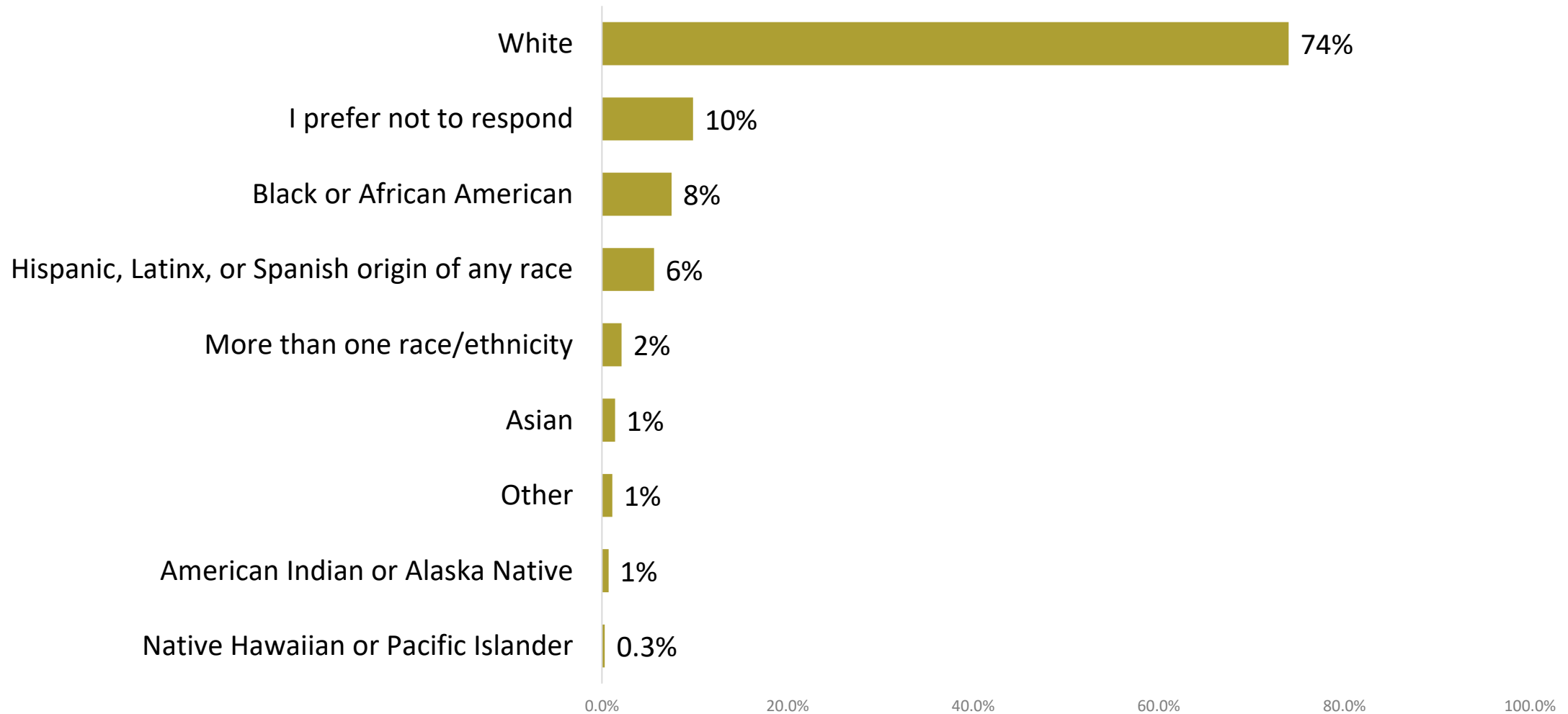


Do you have a child(ren) younger than school-age?



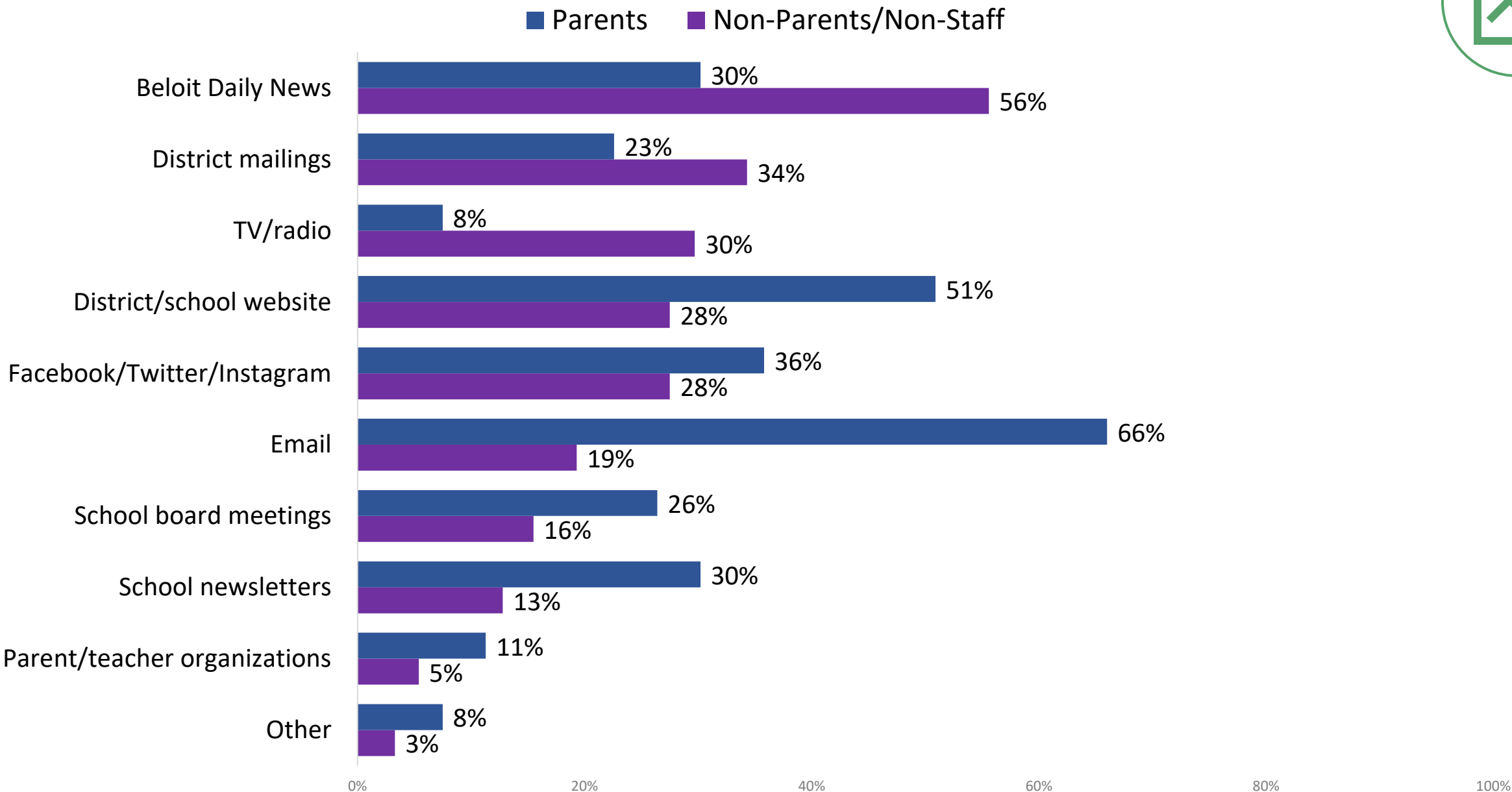


# I identify as:





# How do you like to receive school/District information? *(Mark all that apply.)*







# Results & Analysis



# Your Feedback



We are committed to providing every student with a high-quality educational experience. This high standard includes a deep caring for people, unity, and addressing issues in partnership with our community. We know we have work to do, and that is why we need your input. The following statements will establish a baseline to measure our progress.

***Each item begins with the words, “The District...”***



# Your Feedback – Communications

(% Strongly Agree/Agree)



"The District..."	Staff	Parents/ Caregivers	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Provides me with opportunities to offer feedback.	64%	65%	38%
Communicates with me effectively.	63%	65%	26%
Has a website that is an effective place for me to learn about what's going on at school.	80%	72%	57%
Has social media accounts (such as Facebook) that help me learn about what's going on at school.	89%	73%	61%



# Your Feedback – Culture

*(% Strongly Agree/Agree)*



"The District..."	Staff	Parents/ Caregivers	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Maintains a safe and secure campus.	45%	53%	34%
Has the support of the community.	30%	49%	35%



# Your Feedback – Leadership

(% Strongly Agree/Agree)



"The District..."	Staff	Parents/ Caregivers	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Administrators are doing what it takes to make our school district successful.	45%	39%	22%
School board is doing what it takes to make our district successful.	24%	32%	18%
Is heading in the right direction.	30%	36%	19%



# Your Feedback – Academics & Development

(% Strongly Agree/Agree)



"The District..."	Staff	Parents/ Caregivers	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Prepares students for potential careers.	65%	58%	44%
Prepares students for education after high school (such as apprenticeships, tech school, or colleges).	67%	62%	55%
Has high expectations for students.	45%	38%	36%
Develops students' character.	51%	50%	30%



# Your Feedback – Support for Learning

(% Strongly Agree/Agree)



"The District..."	Staff	Parents/ Caregivers	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Employs high-quality teachers/staff.	83%	69%	69%
Effectively partners with local businesses and community members.	78%	61%	54%
Has up-to-date classrooms and technology to support student learning.	77%	78%	74%





The agree-disagree Likert scale is weighted based on the following:

- *Strongly agree* = 5
- *Agree* = 4
- *Disagree* = 2
- *Strongly disagree* = 1
- Respondents that marked *Not sure/no opinion* (= 0) were not included in the calculation.

If everyone selected *Strongly agree*, the score = 5.0.

If everyone selected *Strongly disagree*, the score = 1.0.



# Your Feedback:

## Top 5 Items (Commonalities)



Staff	Parents/Caregivers	Non-parents/Non-staff
Has social media accounts (such as Facebook) that help me learn about what's going on at school. (3.92)	Has up-to-date classrooms and technology to support student learning. (3.61)	Has up-to-date classrooms and technology to support student learning. (3.54)
Employs high-quality teachers/staff. (3.81)	Has social media accounts (such as Facebook) that help me learn about what's going on at school. (3.55)	Employs high-quality teachers/staff. (3.40)
Has a website that is an effective place for me to learn about what's going on at school. (3.69)	Has a website that is an effective place for me to learn about what's going on at school. (3.49)	Has social media accounts (such as Facebook) that help me learn about what's going on at school. (3.18)
Effectively partners with local businesses and community members. (3.62)	Employs high-quality teachers/staff. (3.42)	Has a website that is an effective place for me to learn about what's going on at school. (3.09)
Has up-to-date classrooms and technology to support student learning. (3.60)	Communicates with me effectively. (3.31)	Effectively partners with local businesses and community members. (3.02)



# Your Feedback:

## Bottom 5 Items (Commonalities)



Staff	Parents/Caregivers	Non-parents/Non-staff
School board is doing what it takes to make our district successful. (2.13)	School board is doing what it takes to make our district successful. (2.37)	School board is doing what it takes to make our district successful. (1.92)
Is heading in the right direction. (2.35)	Is heading in the right direction. (2.43)	Is heading in the right direction. (1.92)
Has the support of the community. (2.41)	Has high expectations for students. (2.56)	Administrators are doing what it takes to make our school district successful. (2.09)
Maintains a safe and secure campus. (2.73)	Administrators are doing what it takes to make our school district successful. (2.58)	Communicates with me effectively. (2.32)
Has high expectations for students. (2.76)	Develops students' character. (2.83)	Maintains a safe and secure campus. (2.34)



# Families & Staff Only



Please complete the questions below if you are a parent/caregiver of a child(ren) currently enrolled in the School District of Beloit or you are employed by the District.

***Each item begins with the words, “The District...”***



# Families & Staff Only – Culture

*(% Strongly Agree/Agree)*



"The District..."	Staff	Parents/ Caregivers
Creates a healthy and respectful school environment	48%	55%
Disciplines students in a fair and consistent manner	18%	30%



# Families & Staff Only – Academics & Development

(% Strongly Agree/Agree)



"The District..."	Staff	Parents/ Caregivers
Teaches courses that are both challenging and relevant	85%	71%
Challenges students who excel in the classroom	68%	59%
Provides support for students who struggle	56%	54%
Provides support for students with special needs	70%	70%
Encourages students at all levels to take rigorous and challenging courses	59%	51%
Provides students with academic support during the school day when needed	63%	68%
Helps students choose courses that align with their plans after high school	79%	66%



# Families & Staff Only – Support for Learning

(% Strongly Agree/Agree)



"The District..."	Staff	Parents/ Caregivers
Ensures all students have access to technology	98%	92%
Helps students understand and use technology	87%	86%
Provides effective social-emotional/mental health support	50%	55%



# Families & Staff Only: Top 5 Items (Commonalities)



Staff	Parents/Caregivers
Ensures all students have access to technology	Ensures all students have access to technology
Helps students understand use technology	Helps students understand and use technology
Teaches courses that are both challenging and relevant	Teaches courses that are both challenging and relevant
Helps students choose courses that align with their plans after high school	Provides support for students with special needs
Provides support for students with special needs	Provides students with academic support during the school day when needed



# Families & Staff Only:

## Bottom 5 Items (Commonalities)



Staff	Parents/Caregivers
Disciplines students in a fair and consistent manner	Disciplines students in a fair and consistent manner
Creates a healthy and respectful school environment	Creates a healthy and respectful school environment
Provides effective social-emotional/mental health support	Encourages students at all levels to take rigorous and challenging courses
Provides support for students who struggle	Provides effective social-emotional/mental health support
Encourages students at all levels to take rigorous and challenging courses	Provides support for students who struggle



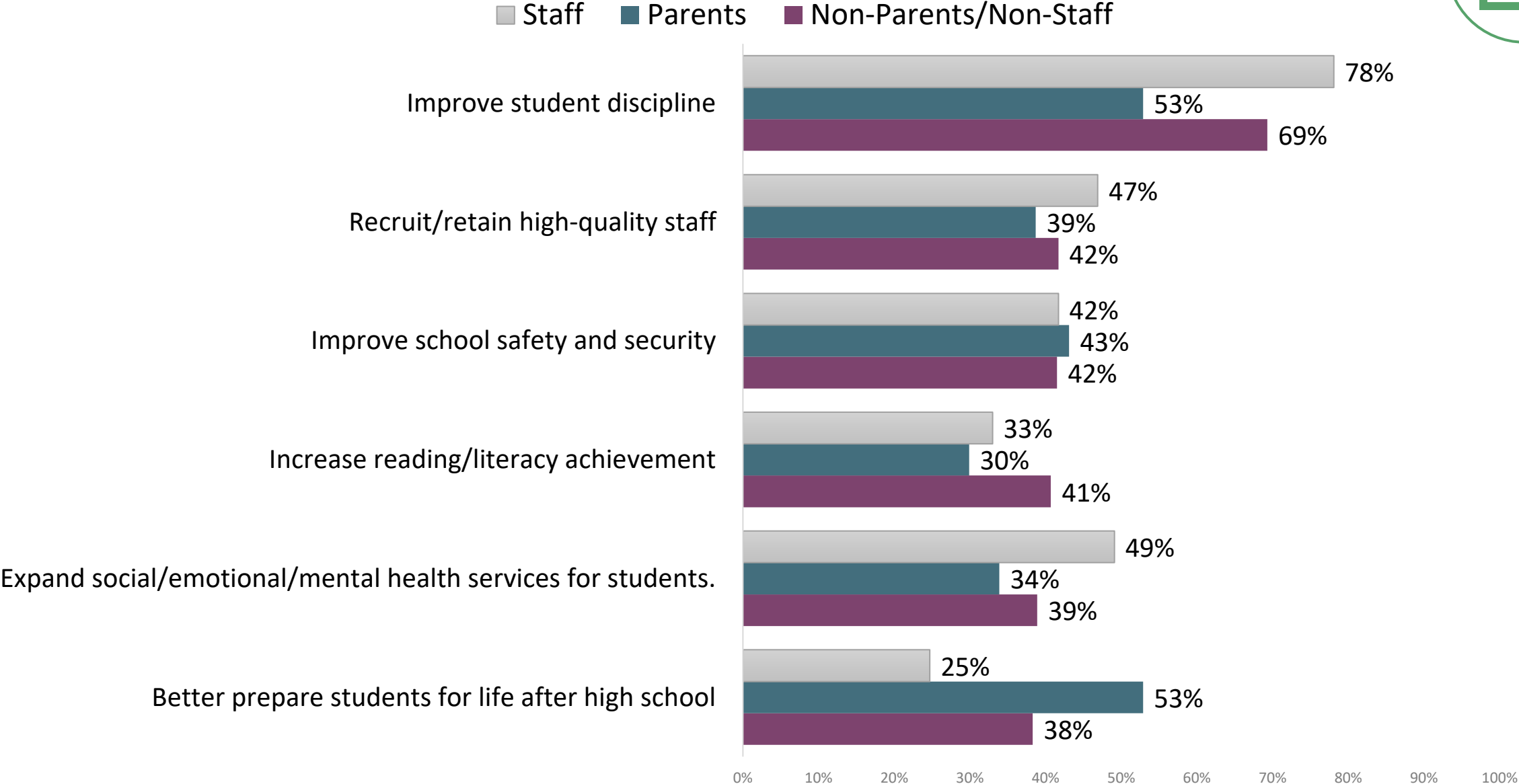
# Future Planning



The School District of Beloit strives to continuously improve. To do this, we need to understand what we do well and where additional focus and attention are needed.

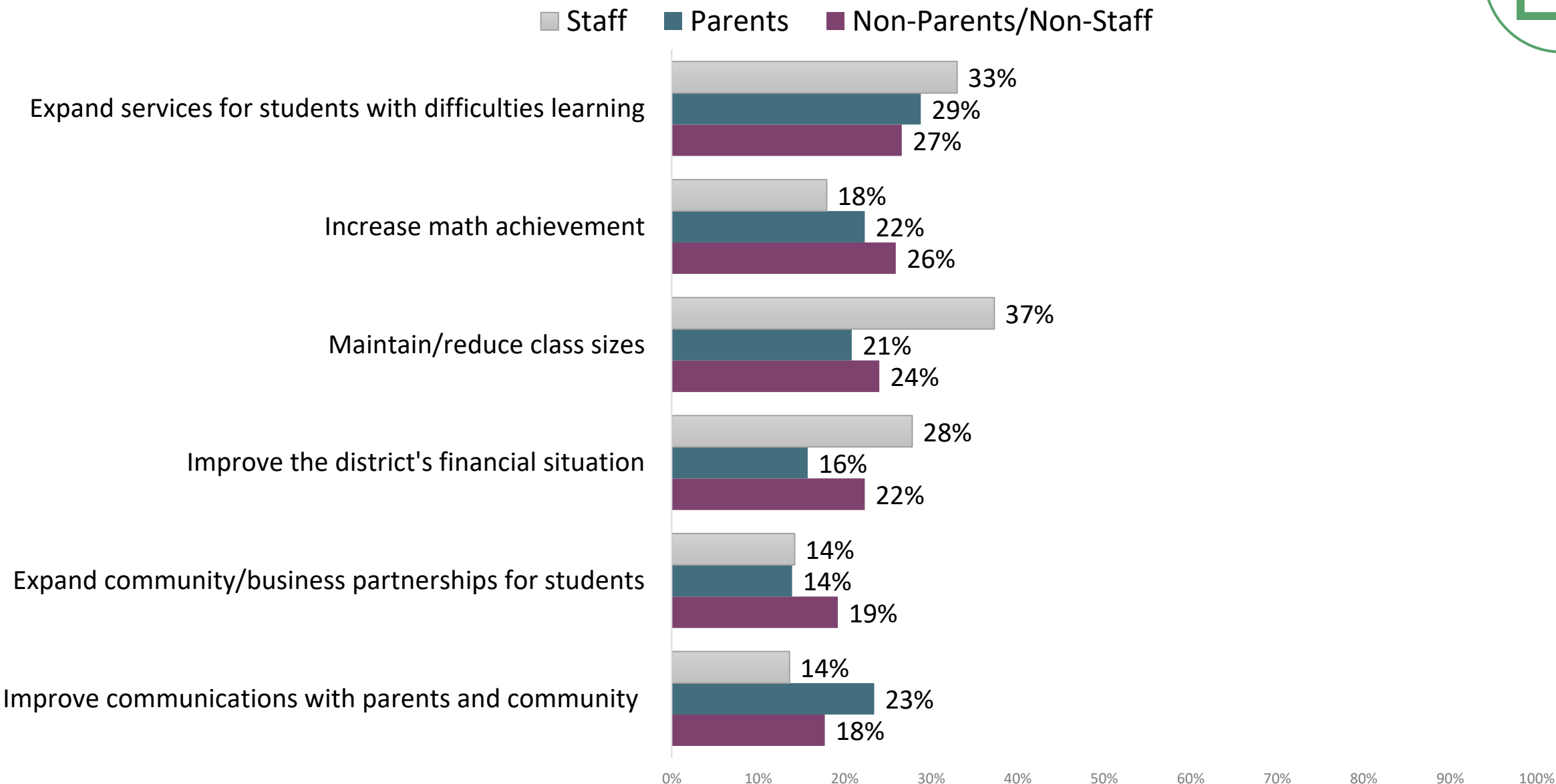


# Future Planning: Please choose up to five areas that you believe we should focus our planning efforts. (1/4)



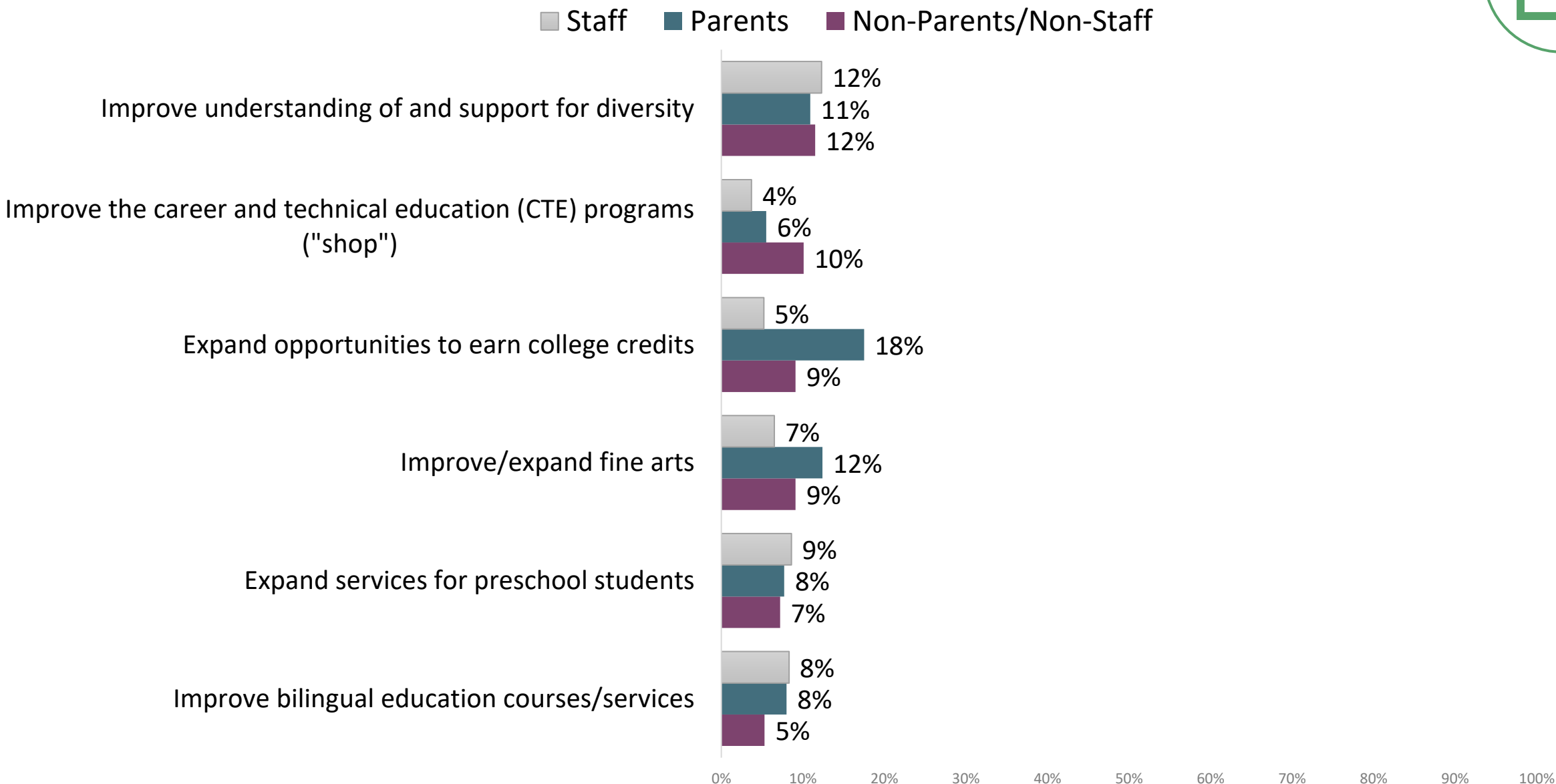


# Future Planning: Please choose up to five areas that you believe we should focus our planning efforts. (2/4)



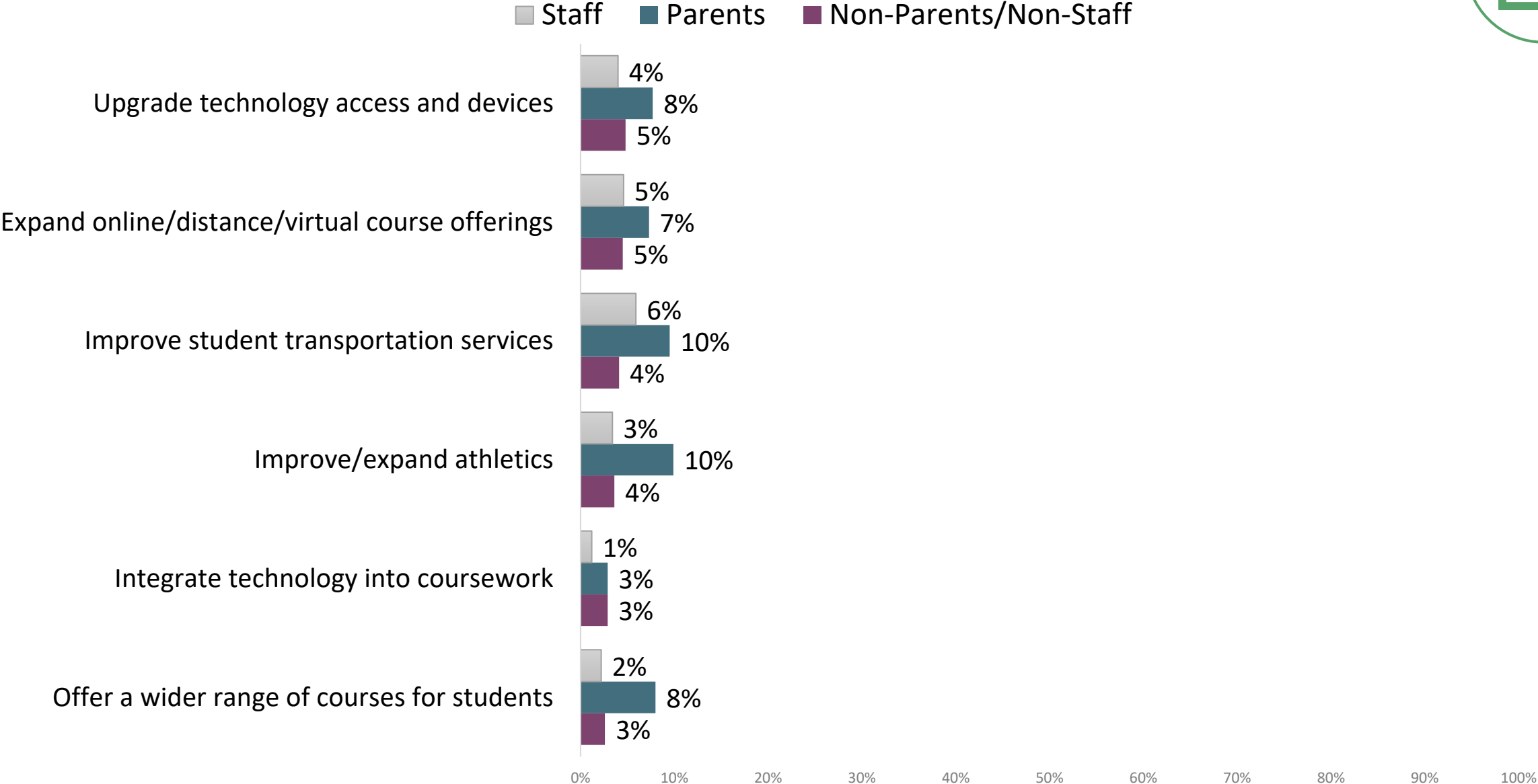


# Future Planning: Please choose up to five areas that you believe we should focus our planning efforts. (3/4)





# Future Planning: Please choose up to five areas that you believe we should focus our planning efforts. (4/4)





# Future Planning: Top 5 Items (Commonalities)



Staff	Parents	Non-parents/Non-staff
Improve student discipline	Improve student discipline	Improve student discipline
Expand social/emotional/mental health services for students	Improve school safety and security	Better prepare students for life after high school
Recruit/retain high-quality staff	Better prepare students for life after high school	Improve school safety and security
Improve school safety and security	Recruit/retain high-quality staff	Increase reading/literacy achievement
Maintain/reduce class sizes	Expand social/emotional/mental health services for students	Recruit/retain high-quality staff



# Future Planning: Bottom 5 Items (Commonalities)



Staff	Parents	Non-parents/Non-staff
Integrate technology into coursework	Integrate technology into coursework	Offer a wider range of courses for students
Offer a wider range of courses for students	Improve the career and technical education (CTE) programs ("shop")	Improve student transportation services
Improve expand athletics	Expand online/distance/virtual course offerings	Integrate technology into coursework
Improve the career and technical education (CTE) programs ("shop")	Upgrade technology access and devices	Upgrade technology access and devices
Upgrade technology access and devices	Expand services for preschool students	Expand online/distance/virtual course offerings



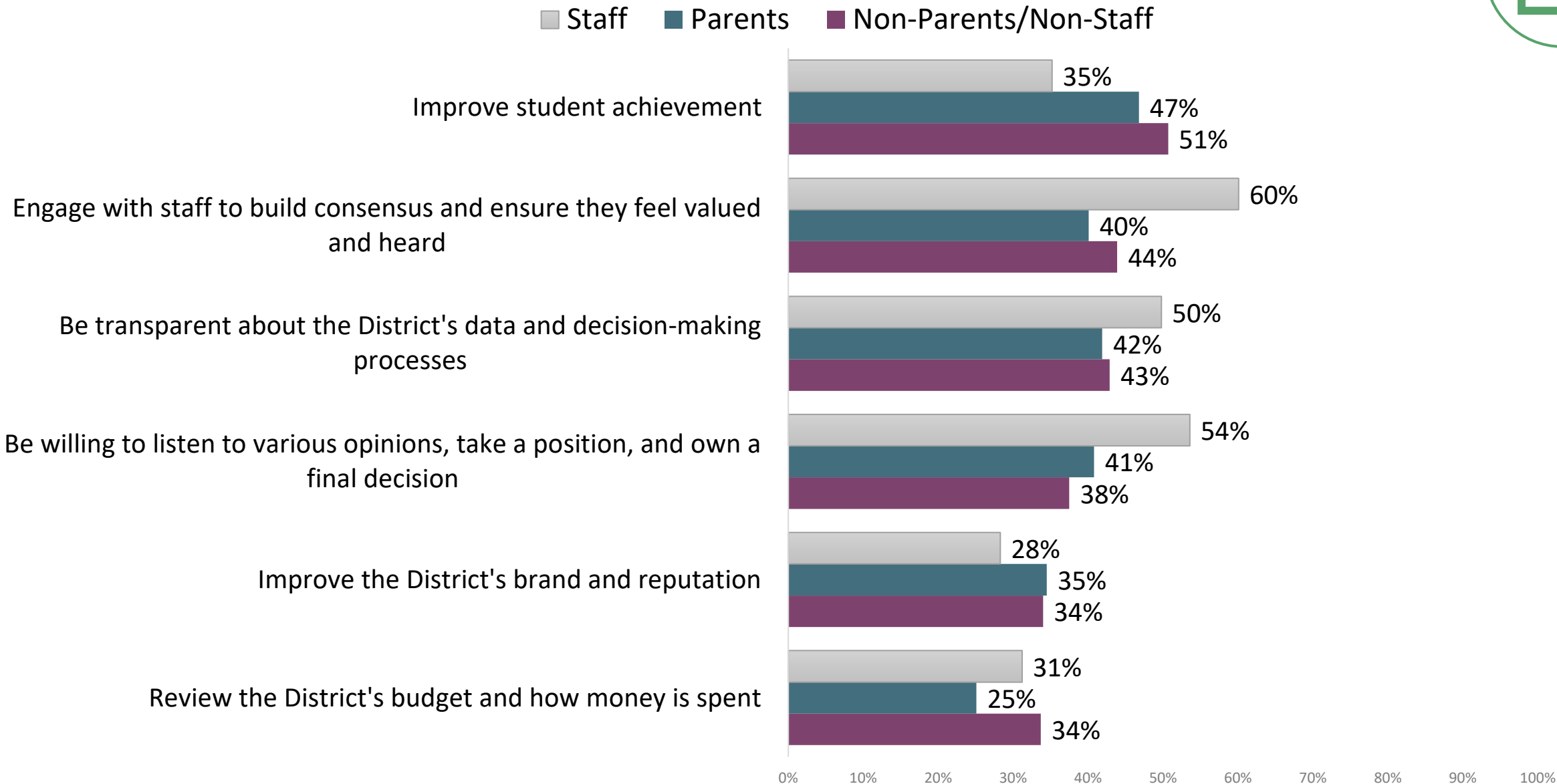
# Advice

Please choose up to five pieces of advice you would give our new superintendent.



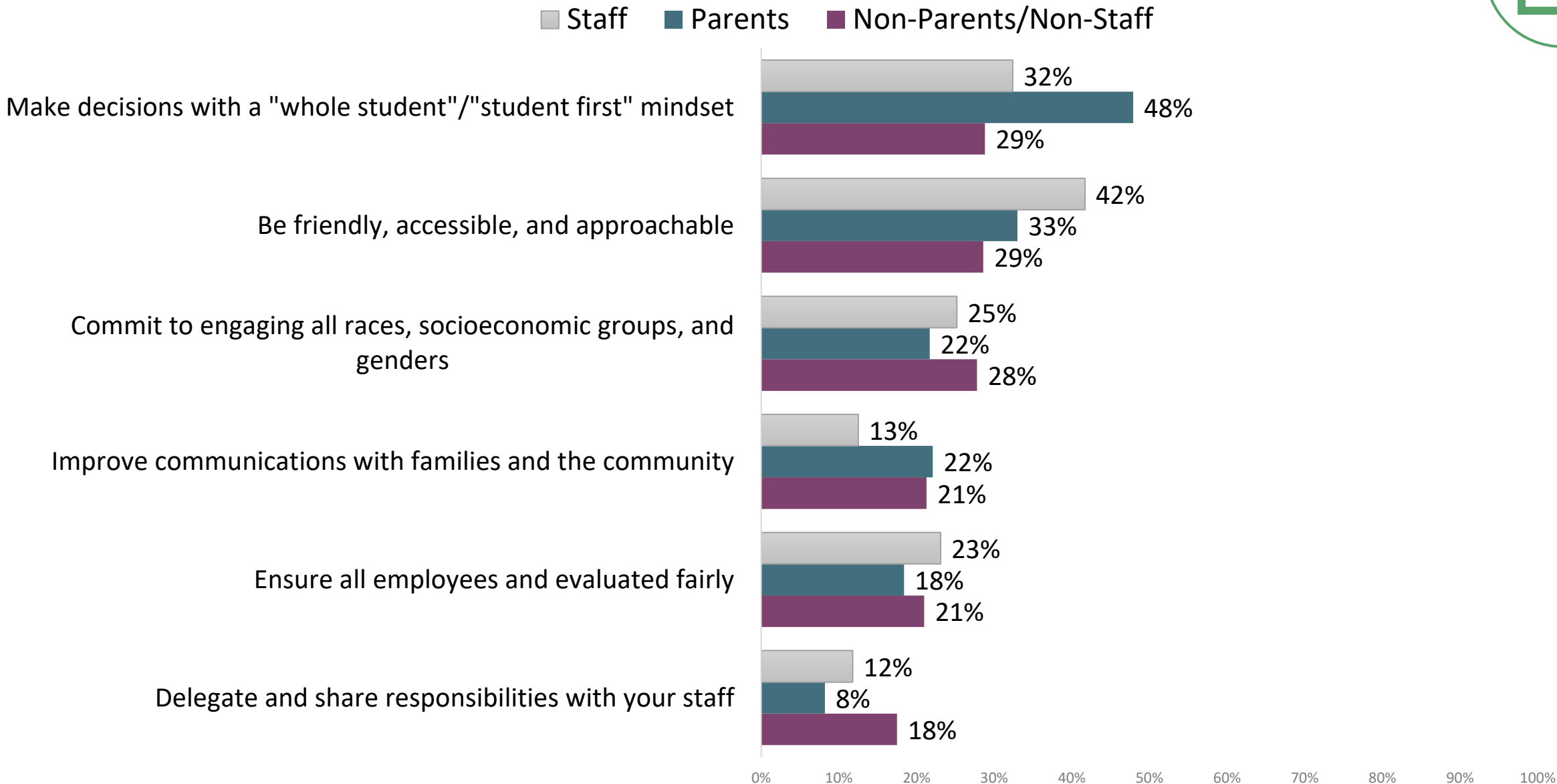


# Advice: Please choose up to five pieces of advice you would give our new superintendent. (1/3)



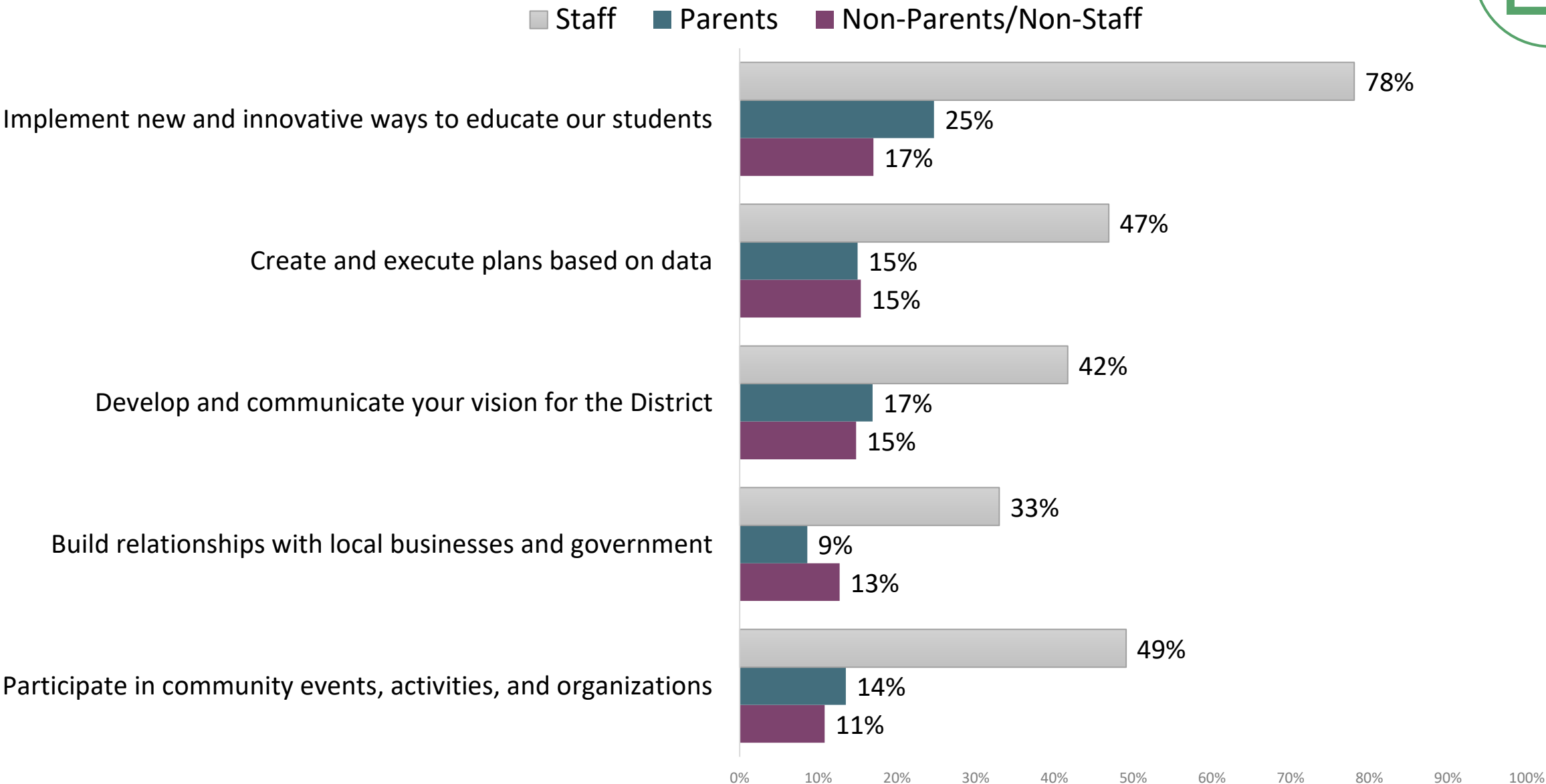


# Advice: Please choose up to five pieces of advice you would give our new superintendent. (2/3)





# Advice: Please choose up to five pieces of advice you would give our new superintendent. (3/3)





# Advice: Top 5 Items (Commonalities)



Staff	Parents	Non-parents/Non-staff
Engage with staff to build consensus and ensure they feel valued and heard	Make decisions with a “whole student”/“student first” mindset	Improve student achievement
Be willing to listen to various opinions, take a position, and own a final decision	Improve student achievement	Engage with staff to build consensus and ensure they feel valued and heard
Be transparent about the District’s data and decision-making processes	Be transparent about the District’s data and decision-making processes	Be transparent about the District’s data and decision-making processes
Be friendly, accessible, and approachable	Be willing to listen to various opinions, take a position, and own a final decision	Be willing to listen to various opinions, take a position, and own a final decision
Improve student achievement	Engage with staff to build consensus and ensure they feel valued and heard	Improve the District’s brand and reputation



# Advice:

## Bottom 5 Items (Commonalities)



Staff	Parents	Non-parents/Non-staff
Participate in community events, activities, and organizations	Delegate and share responsibilities with your staff	Participate in community events, activities, and organizations
Build relationships with local businesses and government	Build relationships with local businesses and government	Build relationships with local businesses and government
Delegate and share responsibilities with your staff	Participate in community events, activities, and organizations	Develop and communicate your vision for the District
Improve communications with families and the community	Create and execute plans based on data	Create and execute plans based on data
Implement new and innovative ways to educate our students	Develop and communicate your vision for the District	Implement new and innovative ways to educate our students



# Operational Funding Planning

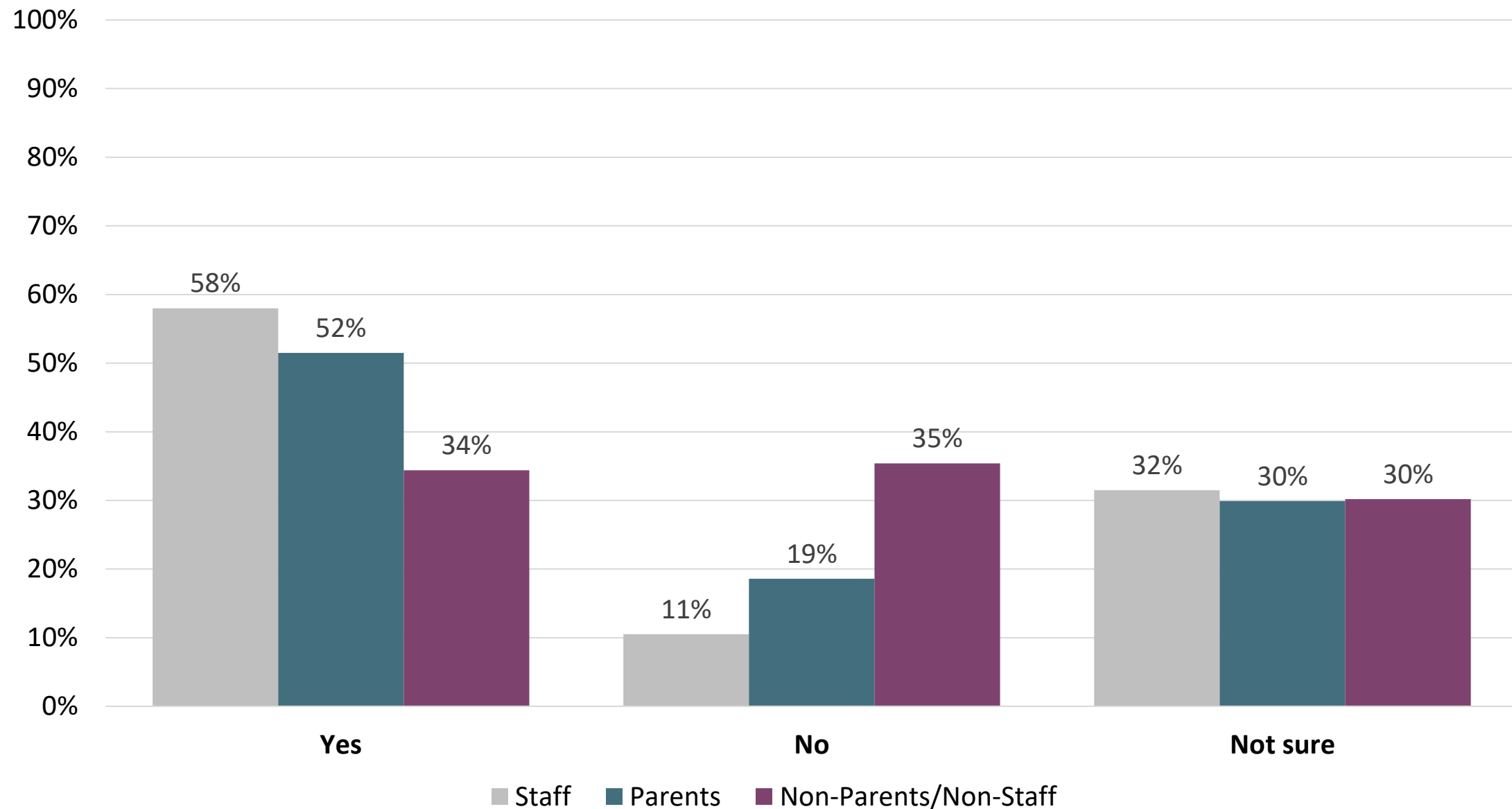


Like most other school districts across Wisconsin, Beloit has experienced a decline in student enrollment. We currently serve about 5,500 students, nearly 25% less than 15 years ago. **The fewer students we have, the less money we receive from the state.** At the same time, our costs continue to increase, especially for special education services, transportation, and utilities.

Voters in many Wisconsin districts (65%) have approved an operational referendum to help address these funding challenges. We will need to secure an operational referendum to maintain current class sizes, programs, and student services.



# Would you support the District pursuing an operational referendum to maintain programs and services for students?





# Facility Funding Planning



Maintenance staff do all they can to keep our buildings in good condition. The District replaced some boilers and roof sections from the annual budget in the past few years, which meant we did not have to take on debt. However, we have other issues that need to be addressed:

- **Safety and security systems** should be upgraded with a main, central entrance to better control and monitor visitor access; keyed doors should be replaced with a more secure keyless entry system; security cameras need to be upgraded.
- **Fire alarm panels** need to be replaced in most buildings.
- Many **major building systems** (heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and electrical) across our schools are original to the buildings and need to be updated.
- Much of our **plumbing** is between 60 and 80 years old and must be replaced.
- Many **windows** are beyond their service life, are inefficient, and increase utility costs.
- **Lights** should be replaced with LEDs to save energy costs.
- Exterior **doors and walls** are in disrepair, leak, and are rusted/cracking.
- Internal furnishings (such as **floors, doors, ceilings, and cabinetry**) are worn and need to be replaced.



# Facility Funding Planning (cont'd)

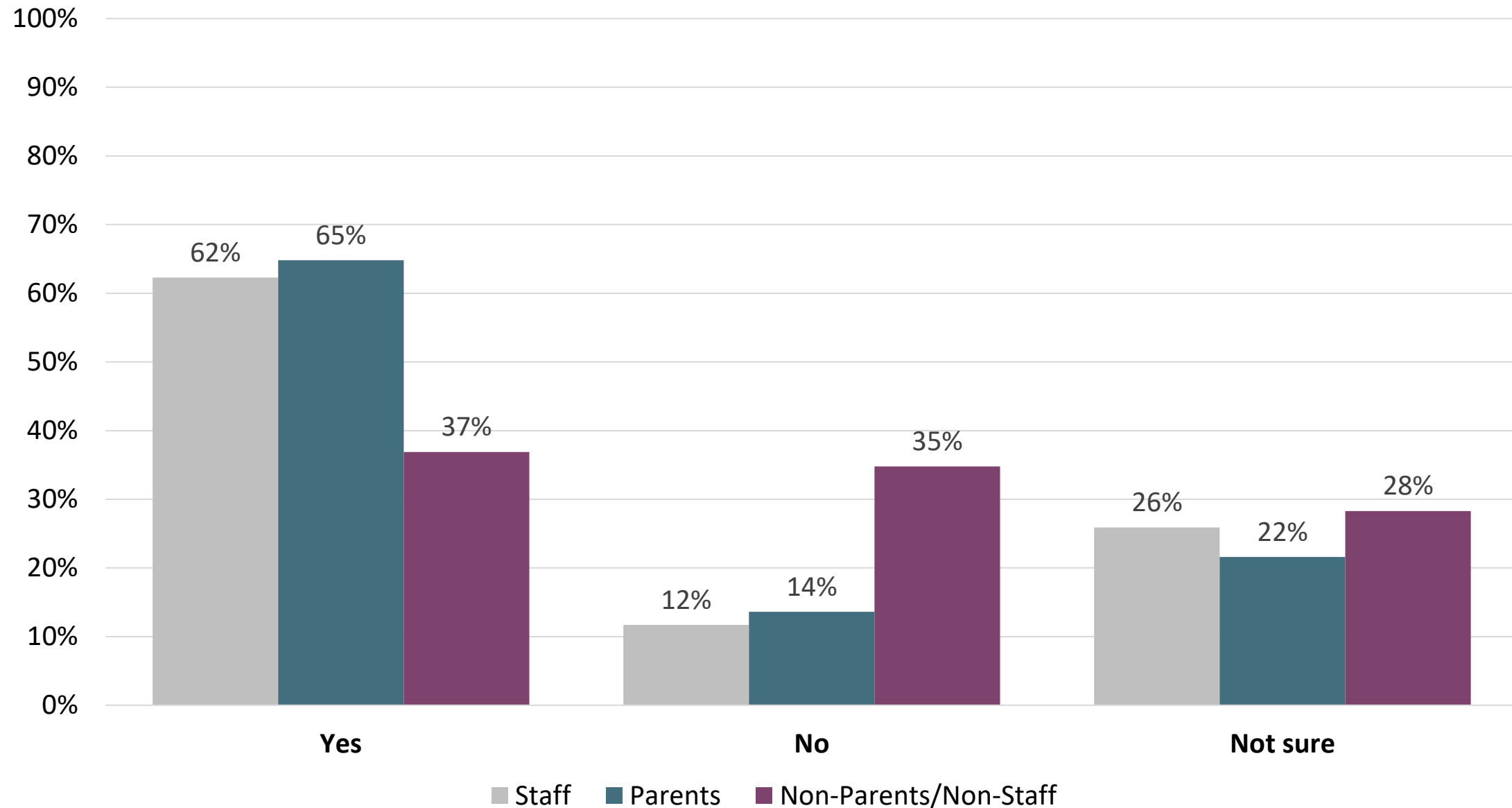


- **Parking lots and sidewalks** are cracked and crumbling and need to be repaired/resurfaced.
- Some **cafeterias and kitchens** across the District are too small and need to be expanded.
- Many **restrooms** are outdated and do not comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.
- **Bleachers** need to be upgraded to comply with ADA regulations.
- **Softball and baseball fields** are not on campus, which requires after-school transportation and creates safety/supervision concerns.
- The high school **gym** was built in 1950 and should be upgraded to support phy ed courses, practices/competitions, and community access.
- The **football stadium** is outdated (including concessions, restrooms, locker rooms, and entrances), and the **track** is cracking.
- High school and intermediate school **locker rooms** are original to the buildings and do not meet current HVAC codes.

The costs to pay for these projects listed above are too large to be covered in our annual maintenance budget. Therefore, voters would need to approve a capital referendum.



# Would you support the District pursuing a capital referendum?







The averages on the following slide are calculated based on the weighting:

Great = 4

Good = 3

Fair = 2

Poor = 1.

Respondents that marked *Not sure/no opinion* were not included in the calculation.

Therefore, if everyone one selected *Great*, the score = 4.0.  
If everyone selected *Poor*, the score = 1.0.



# How is the District doing in each of the following areas?



Item	Staff	Parents/ Caregivers	Non-Parents/ Non-Staff
Delivering a high-quality education	2.48	2.26	1.79
Keeping the public informed	2.41	2.37	1.87
Managing funds appropriately	1.88	2.05	1.60
Building pride in the community	2.12	2.13	1.68



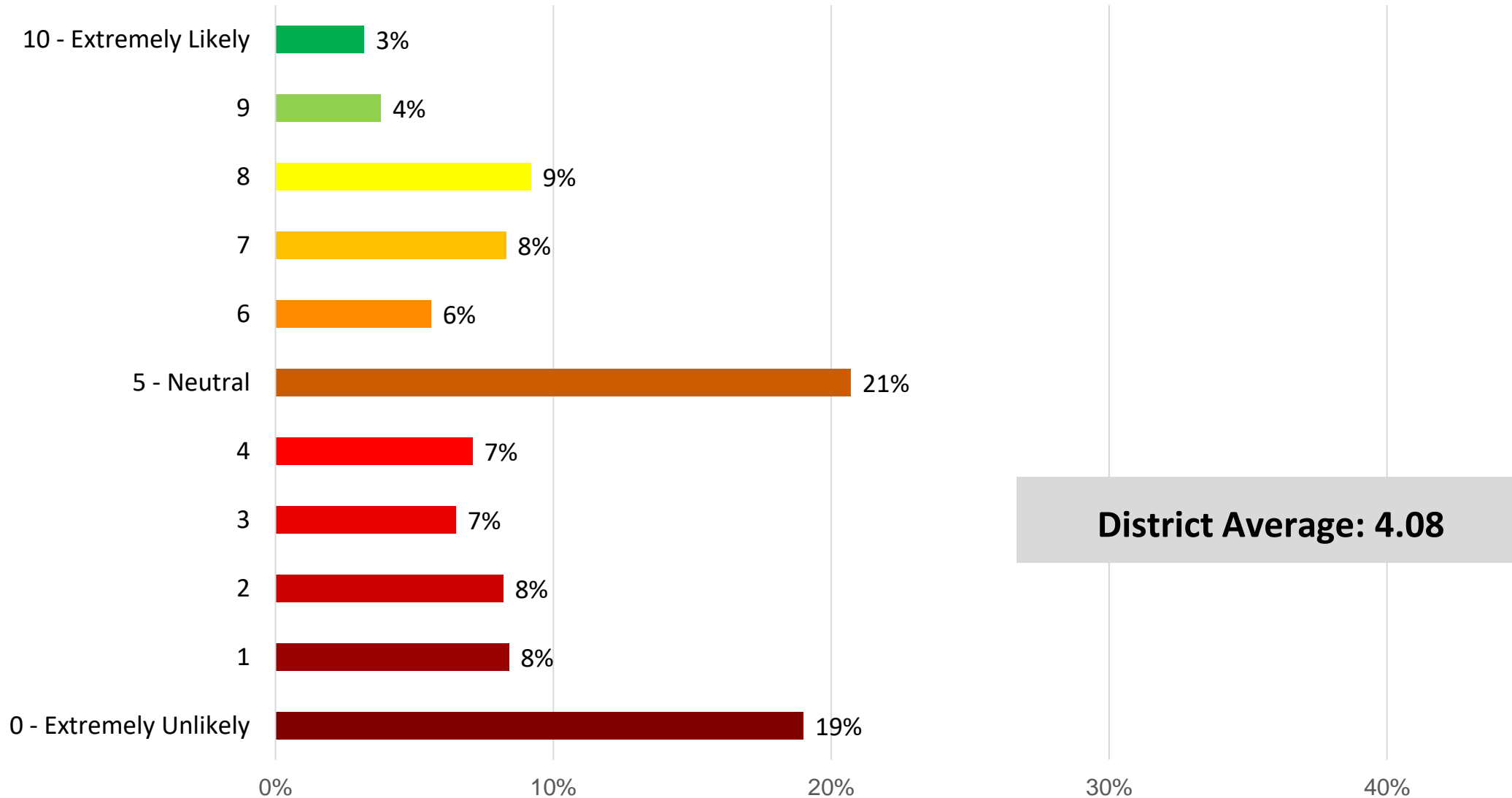
# How is the District doing in each of the following areas?



Item	Percent “Great” or “Good”	Average
Building pride in the community	29%	1.97
Delivering a high-quality education	39%	2.18
Managing funds appropriately	23%	1.82
Keeping the public informed	38%	2.21



# On a scale of 0 – 10, how likely would you be to recommend the District to a friend or family member?





# What did we learn?



- There is a great deal of overlap among subgroups (staff, parents/caregivers, and non-parents/non-staff) regarding what's going well and what isn't, advice for a new superintendent, and where to focus planning/resources.
- The District should begin to clarify plans for an operational and capital referendum so that community members understand the answers to three questions:
  - What projects are needed?
  - Why are those projects needed?
  - How much will the projects cost?





# Questions or Comments?





# Thank you!