

**★
LEARNING
HEROES**

Parents 2026 | Shifting Mindsets in a Time of Disruption

Parent/Caregiver Survey Results

Conducted in partnership with Edge Research

September 2026



Survey Methodology and Objectives

Parents Survey Methodology

Edge Research conducted a national, custom online survey among K-12 parents of students in public schools (n=1,982). The survey was conducted in English and Spanish and included the following oversamples:

- ☆ Black parents
- ☆ Hispanic parents

The data were weighted by gender, race, ethnicity, region, learning difference, and grade band to ensure data was representative of parents nationwide.

In some instances, questions about reading and math were split sampled to enable a deeper dive on each subject while managing respondent burden.

Fielded April 30 – May 27, 2026

Note: **Blue/Red** text indicates statistically significant differences **within subgroups**, with **blue** indicating the number is significantly higher than other groups and **red** indicating that the number is significantly lower.

▲/▼ indicates a statistically significant difference compared to previous survey iterations.

Survey Objectives

- ☆ Capture parent mindsets on their children’s education, including parent worries, priorities, and thoughts about screen time and AI use in schools
- ☆ Examine parent knowledge of and engagement with new curriculum, focusing on ELA/reading and math

Sample Distribution on Key Metrics:

Geography		Race/Ethnicity		Income	
Northeast	19%	Black	14%	Under \$37k	23%
Midwest	21%	White	58%	\$37-under \$100k	51%
South	37%	Hispanic	24%	\$100k+	25%
West	24%	Asian, Pacific Islander	4%	Gender	
				Women	57%
				Men	43%

Key Themes

College first – then a career.

- ☆ Parents want their child to get a 4-year degree after high school, with only 4% saying they want their child to go straight into the workforce.
- ☆ They are worried about their children's well-being (screen time, emotional well being and peer pressure), as well as paying for college, their child getting a good paying job and the risks of AI in the workforce.

Academic reality coming into focus.

- ☆ Fewer parents report their child is at/above grade level in reading (88%) and in math (83%) with an 8% drop in "above grade level" since 2022; and fewer report their child gets all A's and B's, an 11% drop – to 73% in 2026 from 84% in 2022.

Less engaged but looking for ways in – curriculum is an opportunity.

- ☆ Parent teacher conference attendance is at an all time low with just over half of parents participating. Talking to their child's teacher about their observations about how their child is doing academically has dropped by 25% since 2022.
- ☆ When it comes to implementing new curriculum, 91% parents want to be notified or have an opportunity to share their opinion, prioritizing partnering with their child's teacher, wanting more tools and support learning at home, and knowing what grade level work looks like.

Tech-lash is more nuanced than the national narrative suggests.

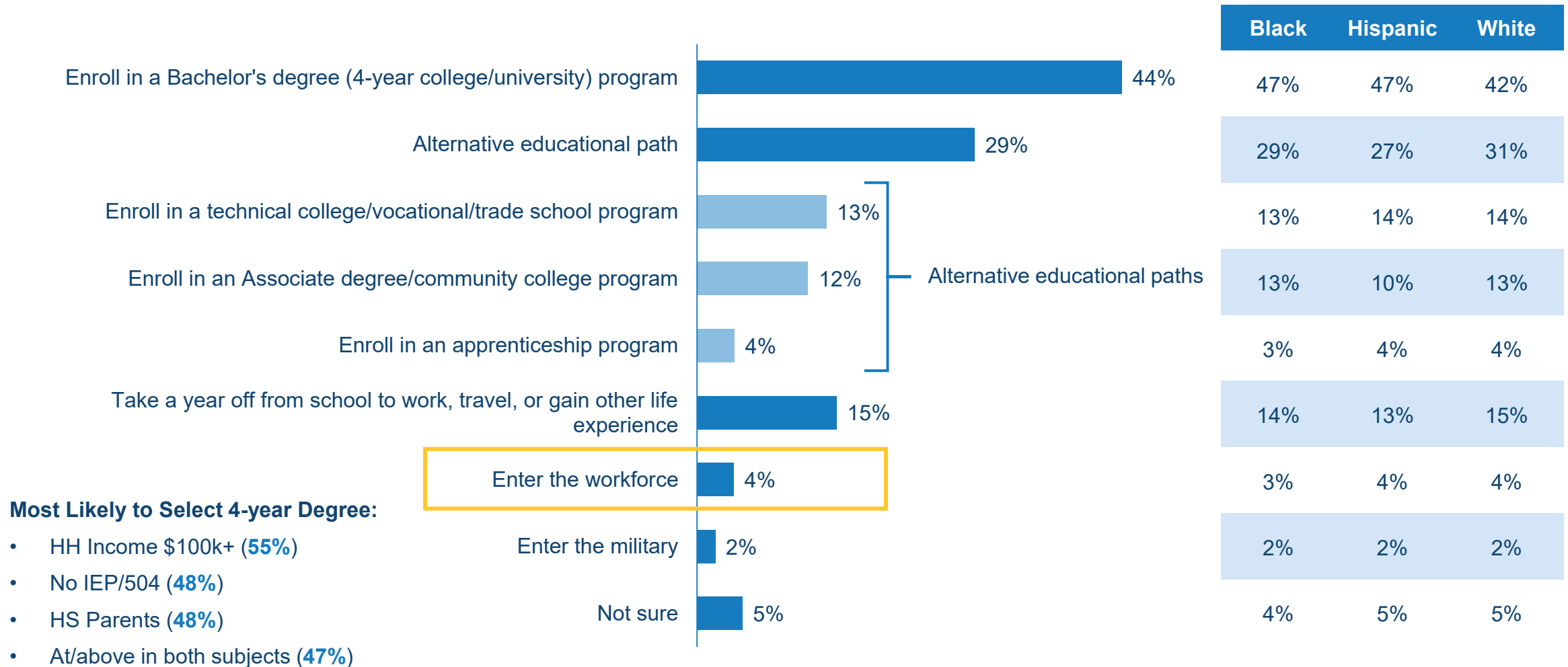
- ☆ 26% of parents are "very comfortable" with AI in the classroom, 7% are "very uncomfortable", with 67% falling somewhere in the middle.
- ☆ 80% of parents report being likely to use an AI-enabled tool to help them personally navigate and make decisions about their child's education.
- ☆ Three quarters of parents say, "helping students understand how to use new technologies, including AI, responsibly, effectively, and safely" and "using tools/technology as part of their instruction to strengthen your child's learning and development" are important for extremely/very schools. Just over half say banning cell phones is important, the lowest ranked item.

Parents' Shifting Mindsets



Parents' Aspirations | 4 Year College Tops the List

If money were no object, which of the following would you want your child to do immediately after they complete high school?



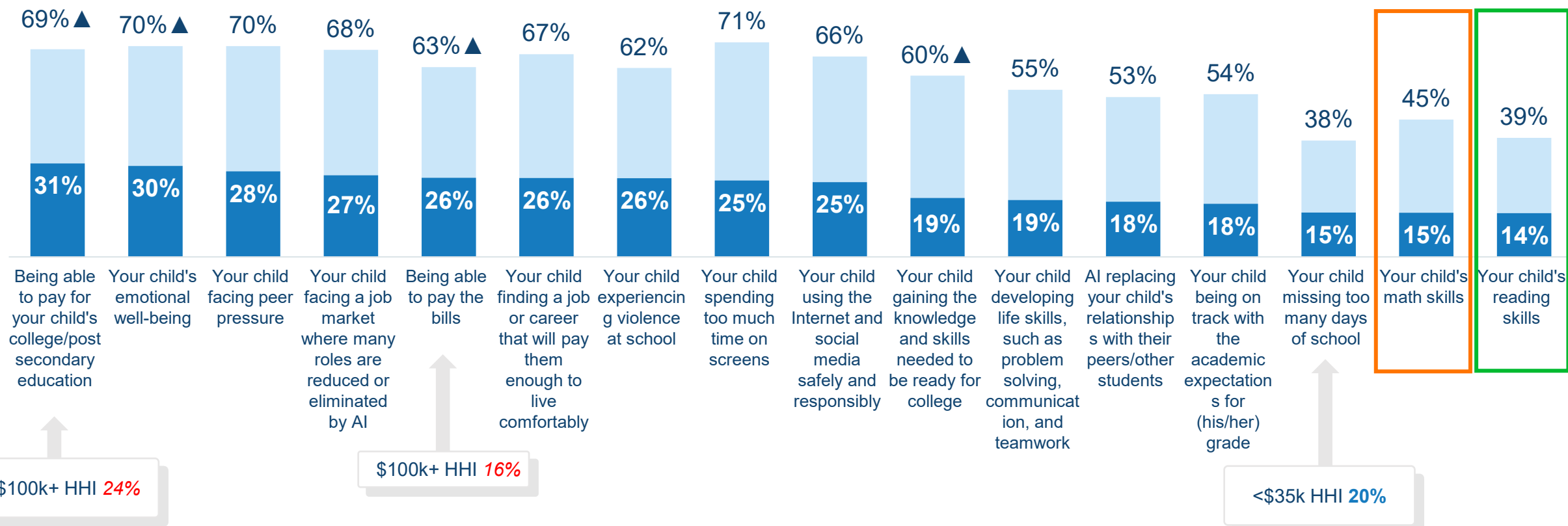
What Keeps Parents Up at Night

As a parent, to what extent do you worry about each of the following?

Worries

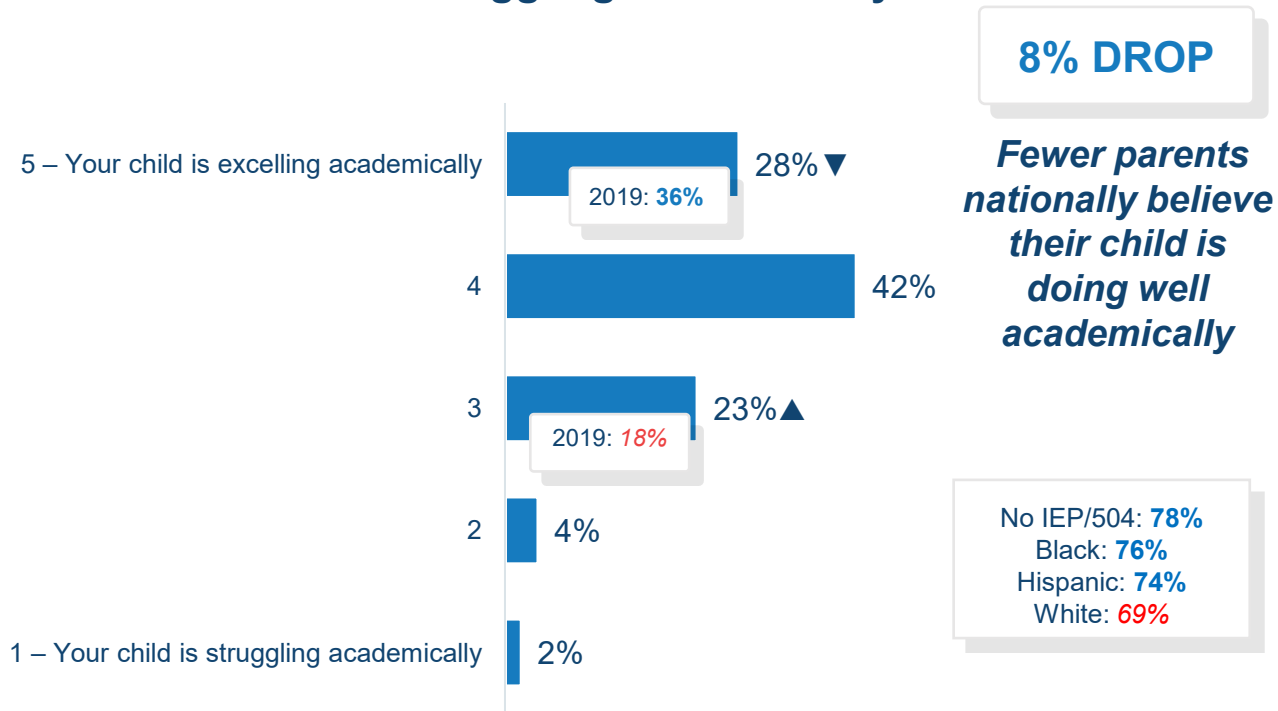
■ Extremely/Somewhat worried ■ Extremely worried

▲/▼ indicates a statistically significant difference compared to a 2022 parent survey.

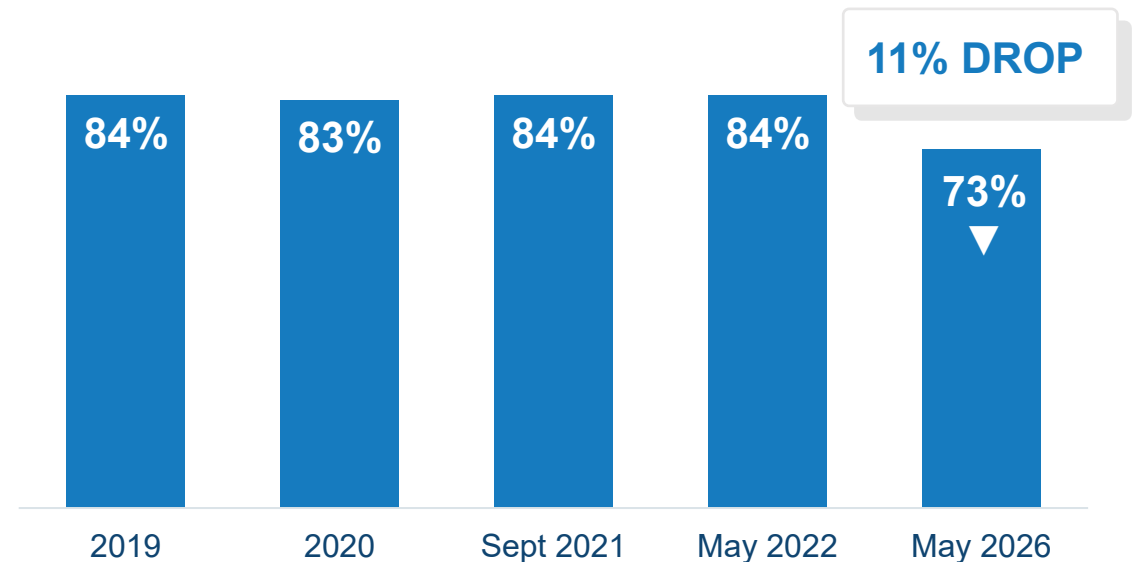


Changing Context | Parents Getting More Accurate Signals

Parents indicate how they feel their child is doing academically in school, where a 5 means the child is excelling in school academically, a 1 means the child is struggling academically.



What Grades Their Child Typically Gets
Grades are Mostly B's or Better

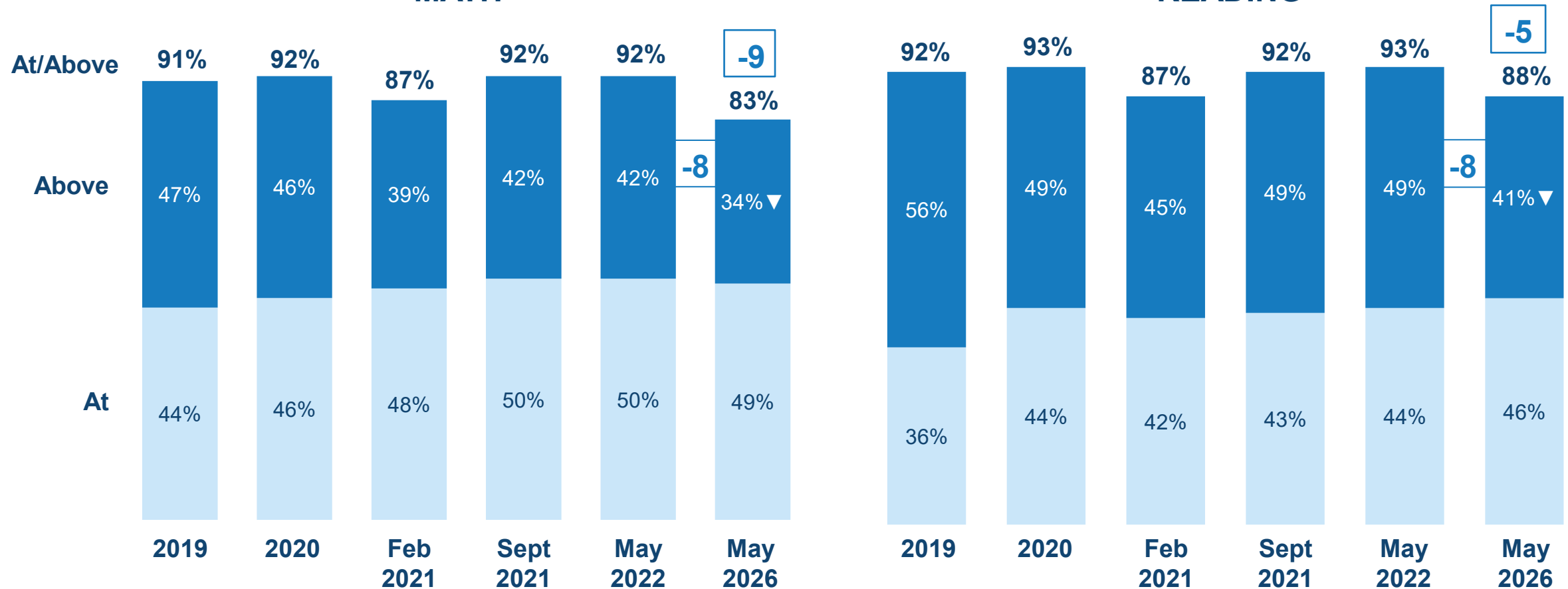


Fewer Parents Rate Their Kids Above Grade Level Since 2022

Believe Child is At/Above Grade Level

MATH

READING



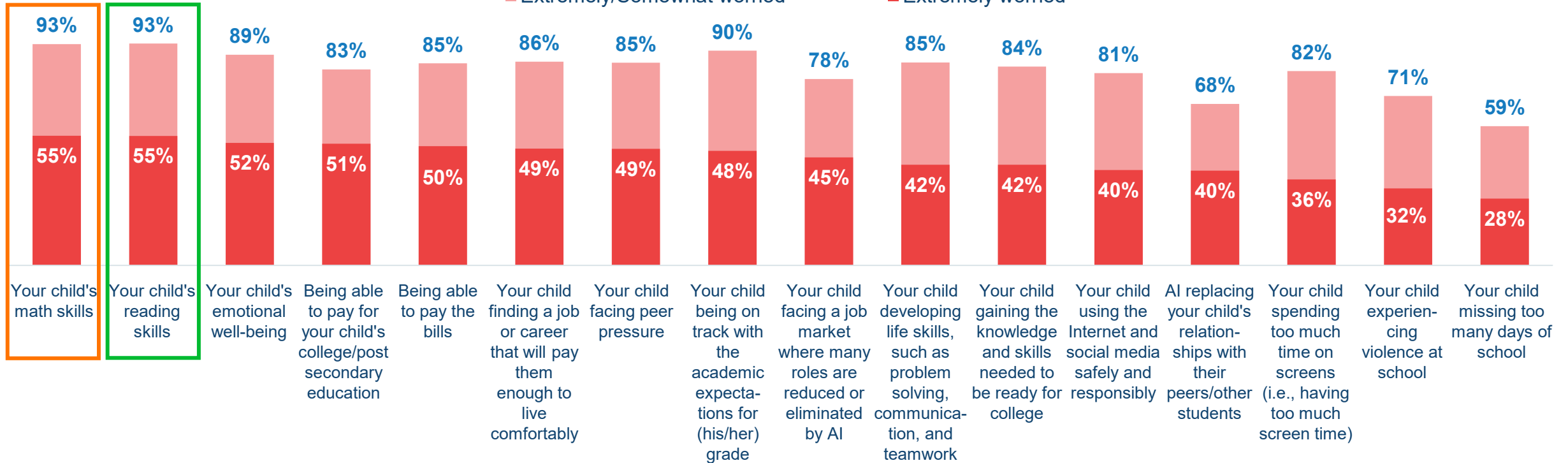
Parents Who Know Their Child is Behind, Worry Differently

As a parent, to what extent do you worry about each of the following?

Worries

(among below grade level in both subjects, n=114)

Extremely/Somewhat worried Extremely worried

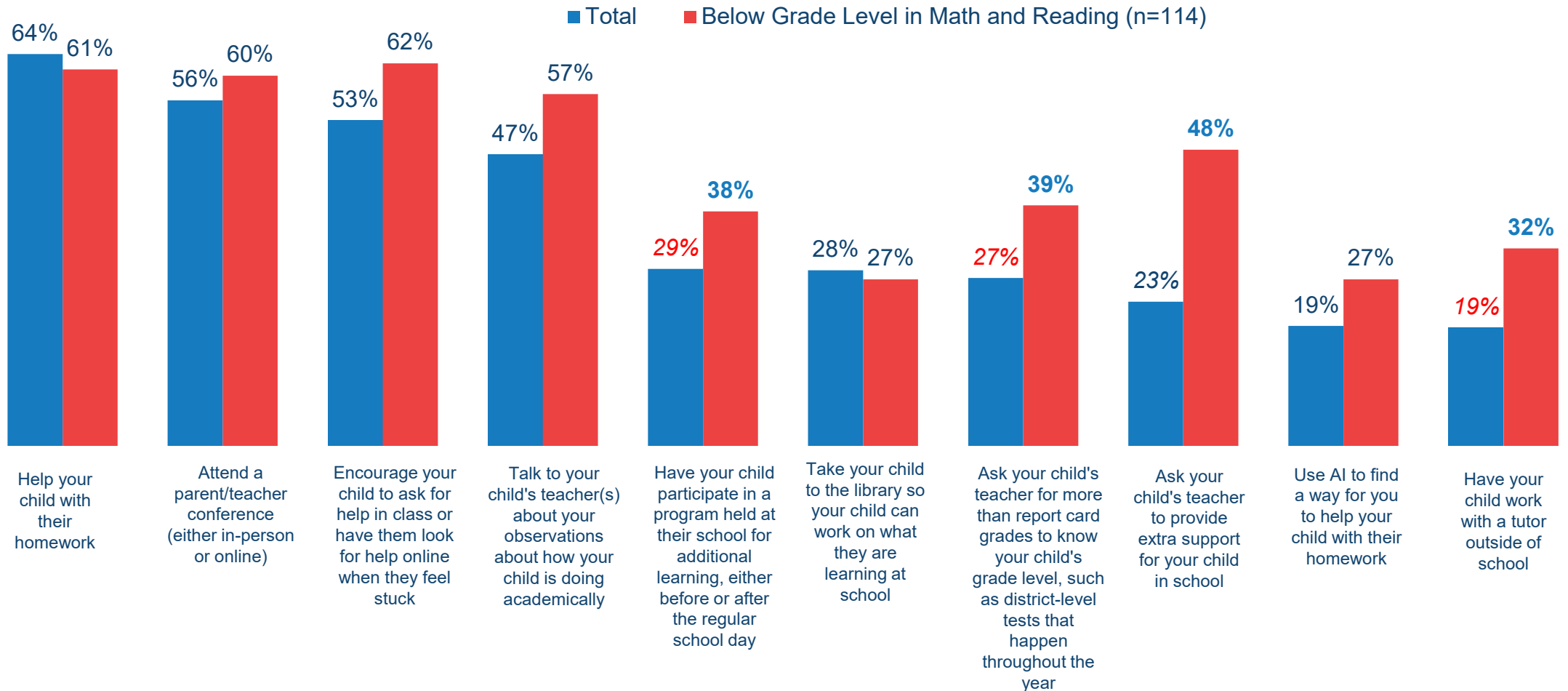


Ranked by %
Extremely worried

Bolded numbers are significantly higher than at/above grade level in both subjects.

Why it Matters | Parents Who Know Their Child Is Behind, More Likely to Act

Which of the following, if any, you have done during the current school year?



Parents' Experience with Their Children's School

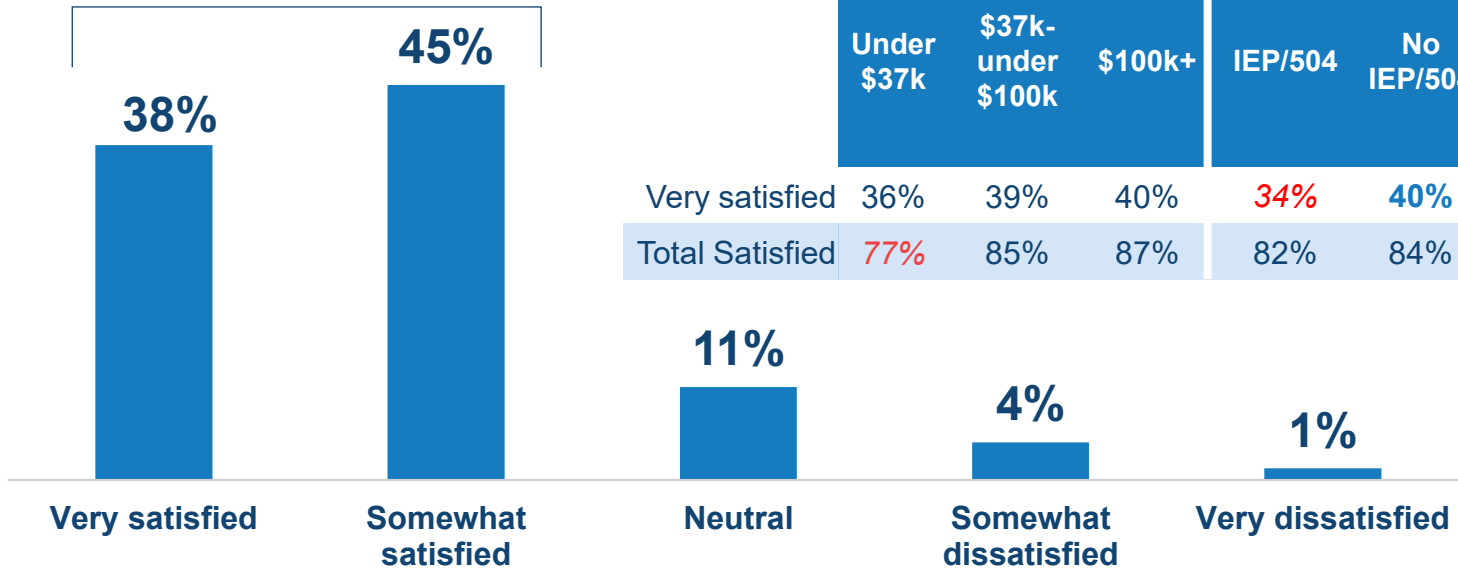


Parents Mostly Satisfied with Their Child's School

How satisfied are you with the overall quality of education your child is receiving at their school?

84%

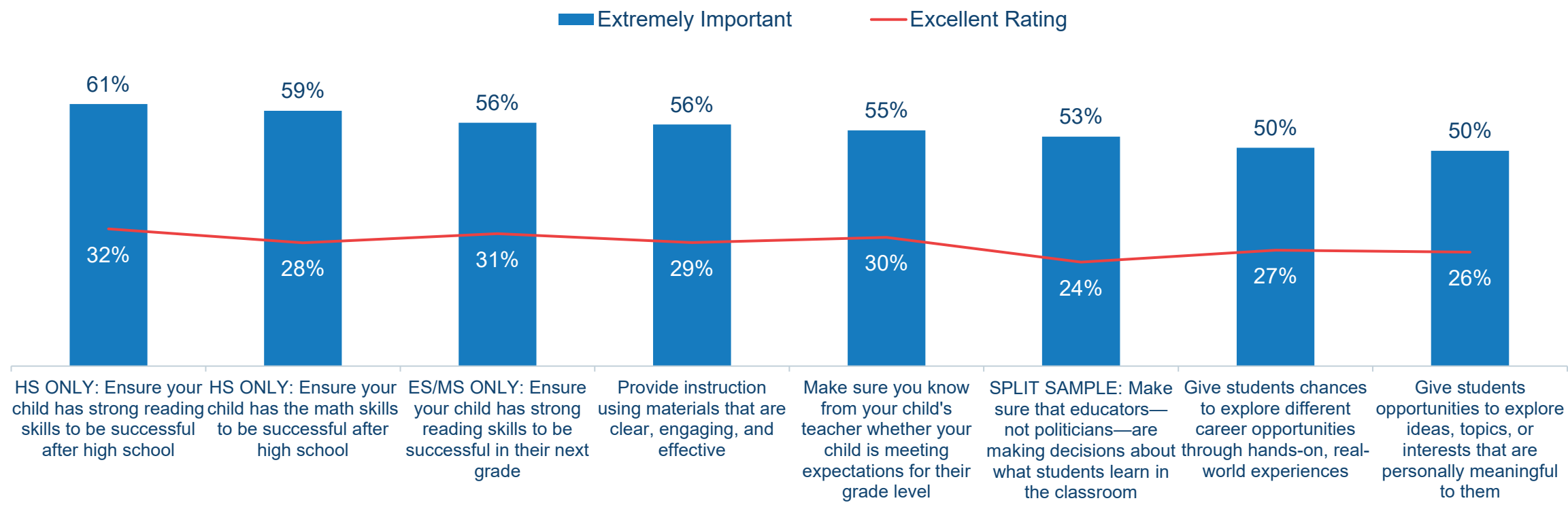
Very/Somewhat satisfied



	Income			IEP/504		Race			Below Grade Level in ELA or Math (n=500)	At/Above Grade Level in Both
	Under \$37k	\$37k-under \$100k	\$100k+	IEP/504	No IEP/504	Black	Hispanic	White		
Very satisfied	36%	39%	40%	34%	40%	44%	42%	36%	26%	42%
Total Satisfied	77%	85%	87%	82%	84%	87%	87%	82%	71%	87%

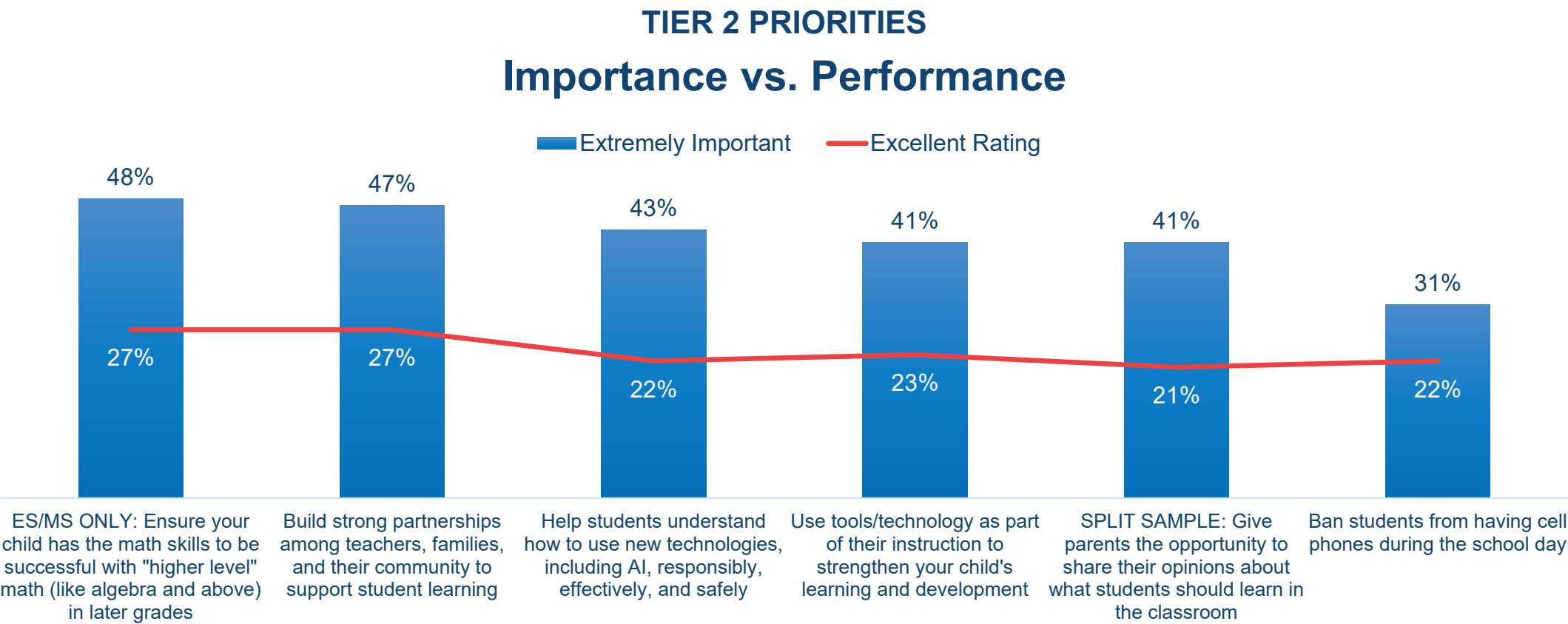
Parents Have High Expectations for Their Child’s School – Few Rate Schools as Excellent

TIER 1 PRIORITIES Importance vs. Performance



Showing items at least 50% of parents say are “extremely important”

Parents Rate Schools Even Lower on Tier 2 Priorities

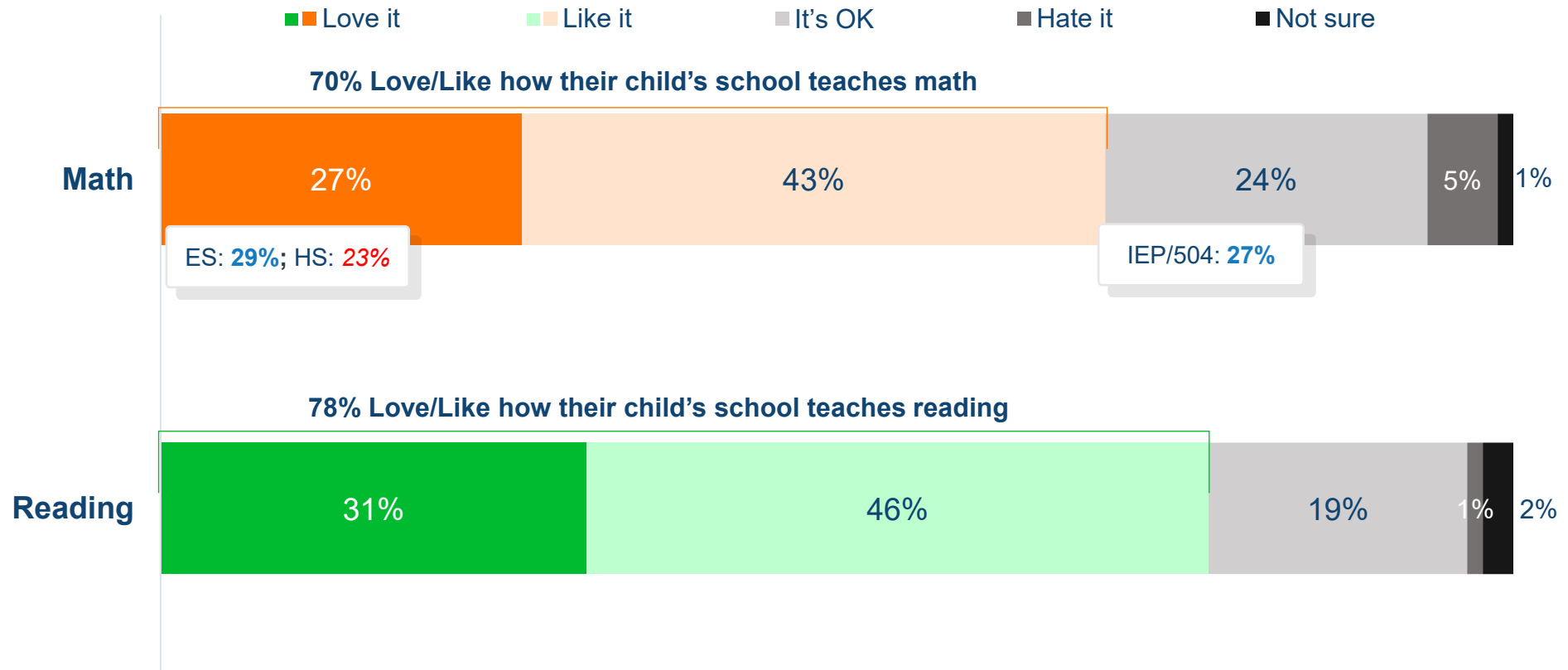


Advancing Student Outcomes | Connecting Parents & Teachers Through Curriculum



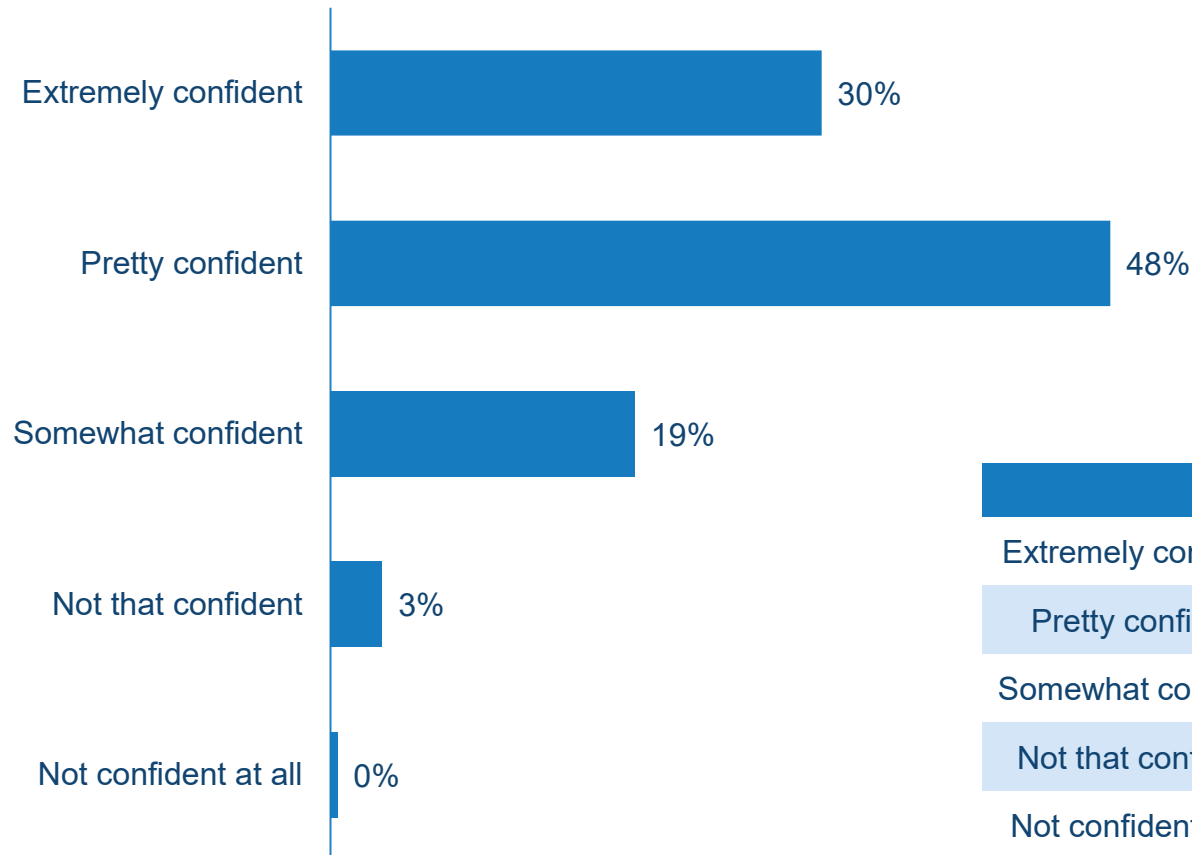
Few Parents “Love” How Schools Teach Reading and Math

How parents feel about how their child’s school teaches reading/math
(among those who have some knowledge on each curriculum)



Few Parents Are Extremely Confident in What “Grade Level Content” Looks Like

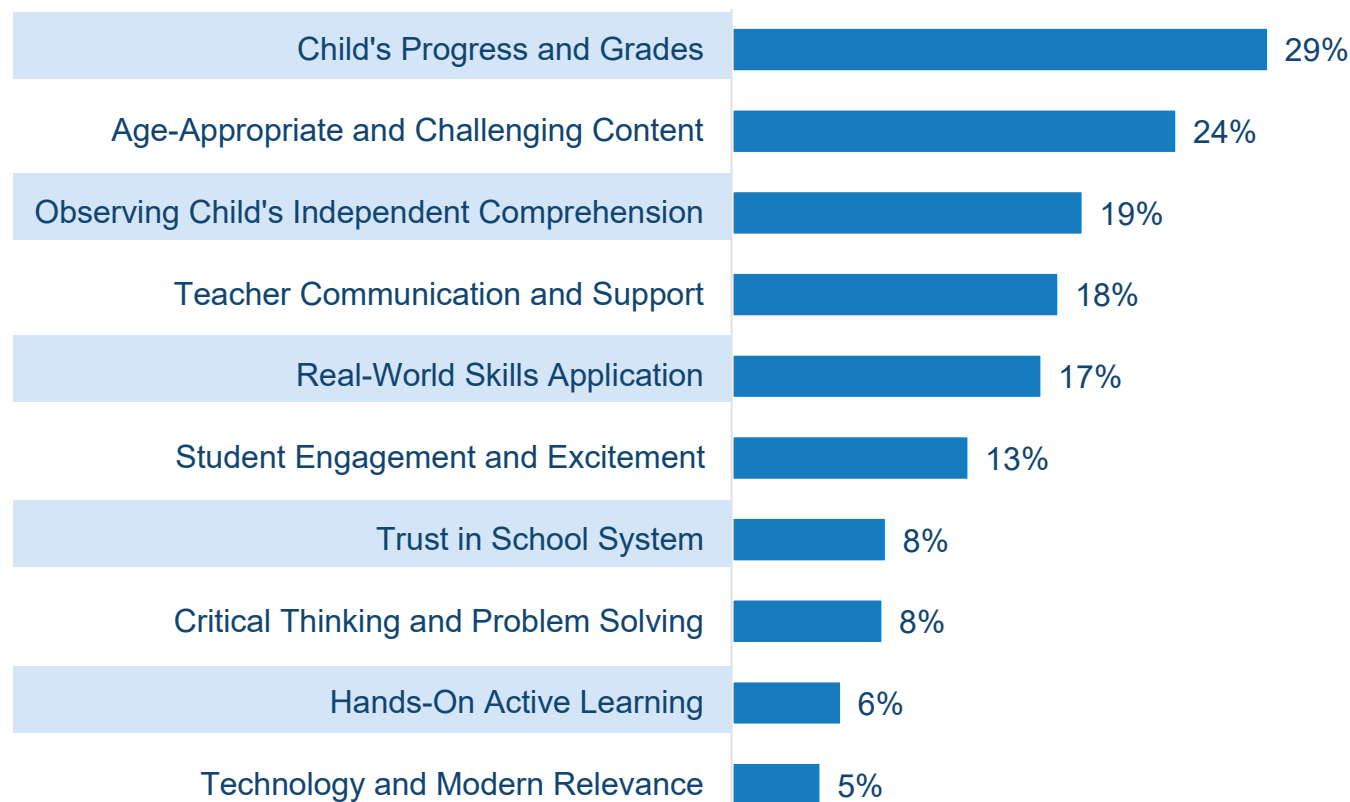
How confident are you that you know what skills your child should be able to do and the subject-matter content they should know, in order to be on grade level?



	Black	Hispanic	White	IEP/504	No IEP/504
Extremely confident	36%	31%	28%	24%	33%
Pretty confident	48%	48%	47%	45%	49%
Somewhat confident	15%	18%	20%	25%	16%
Not that confident	1%	2%	4%	5%	2%
Not confident at all	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%

Progress and Grades Are the Default in Gauging Curriculum

Open ended: What would give you confidence that a curriculum is “good” or “effective”? As a parent, what would you look for to give you that sense?



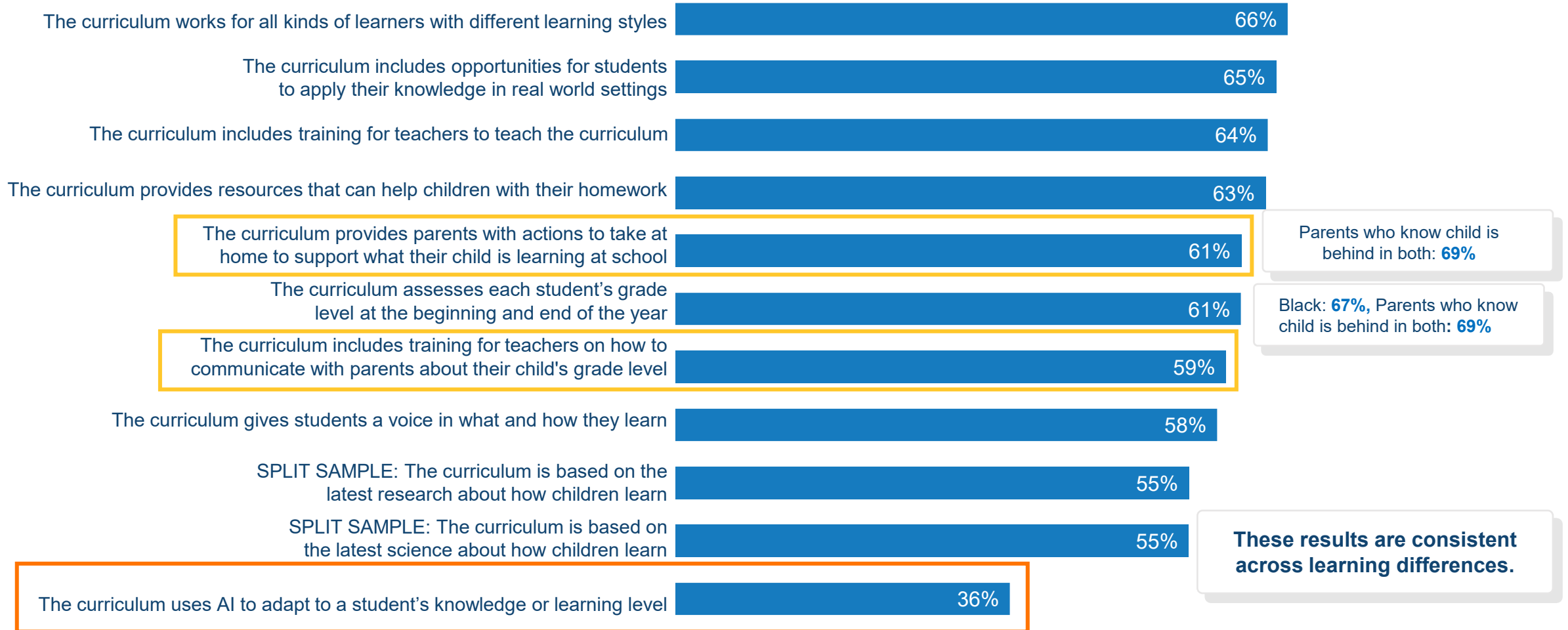
“My confidence would come from my child’s progress. If she had been struggling in a certain topic and then overtime she gradually improved then I would say the curriculum is working.”

“When my child can effectively explain what she is learning to me, meaning that she understands it and can apply it in real world scenarios.”

Coded Responses to Open-Ended Question

Parents Have High Expectations for Curriculum

How important are each of the following to give you confidence that the curriculum used by your child's school is "good" or "effective"?



Parents Are Split When It Comes to ELA Curriculum

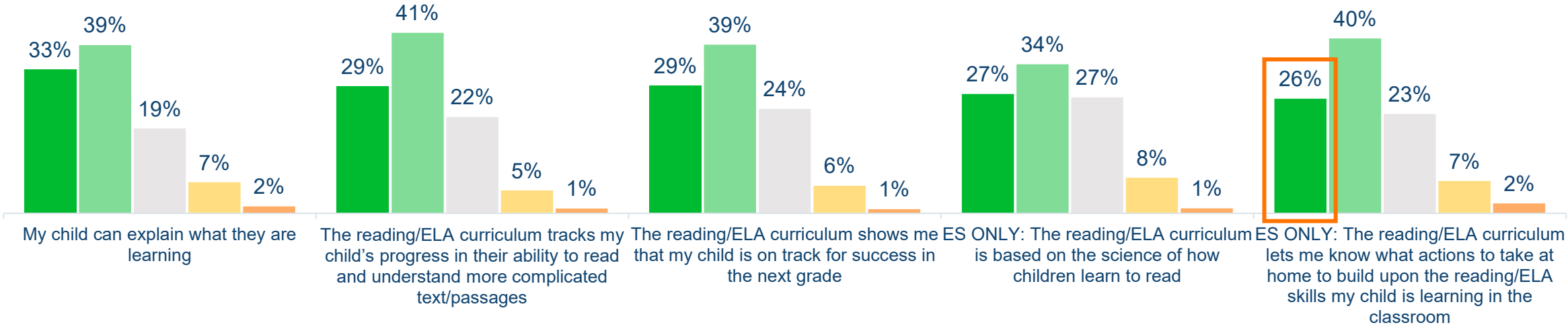
Please rate your child's reading/ELA curriculum on each of the following

(Among those who indicate knowing something about the Reading/ELA curriculum; n=944)

■ Excellent ■ Very Good ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor

Ratings are consistently **lower** among:

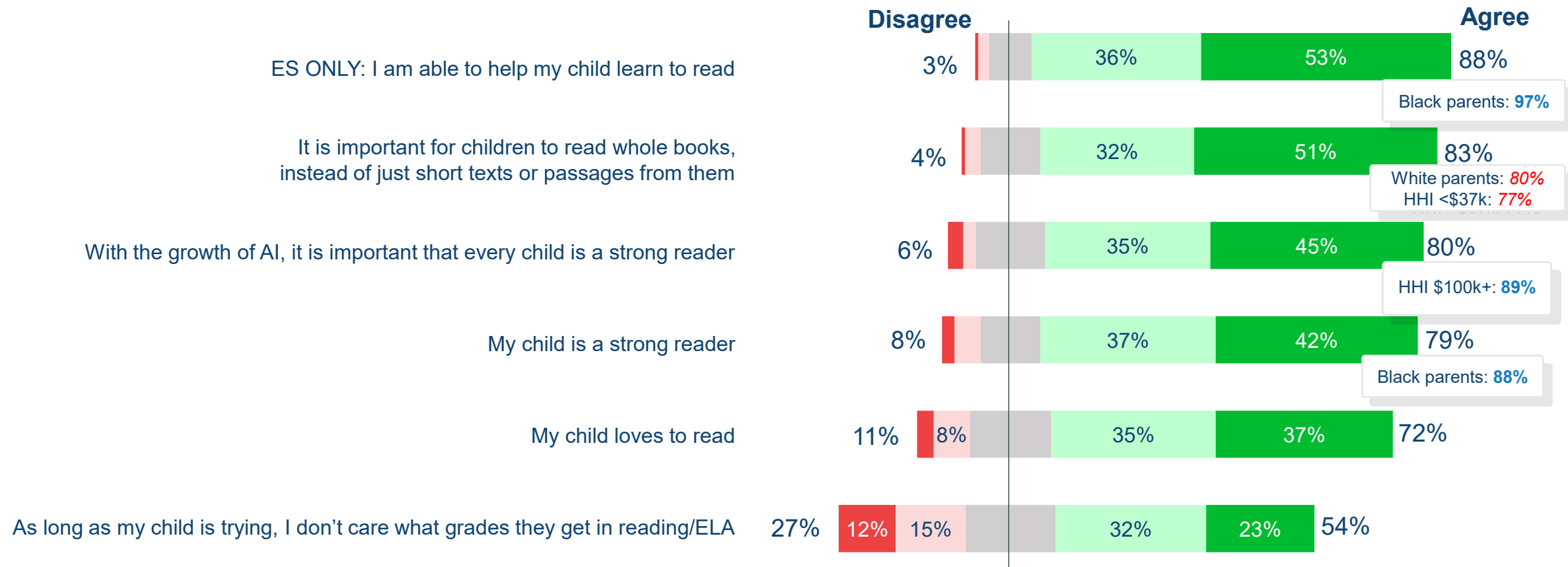
- HHI <\$37K
- IEP/504
- Below grade level in either subject



Even with AI, Reading Whole Books Matters

Agree/Disagree about Reading/ELA (Received Reading Items, n=976)

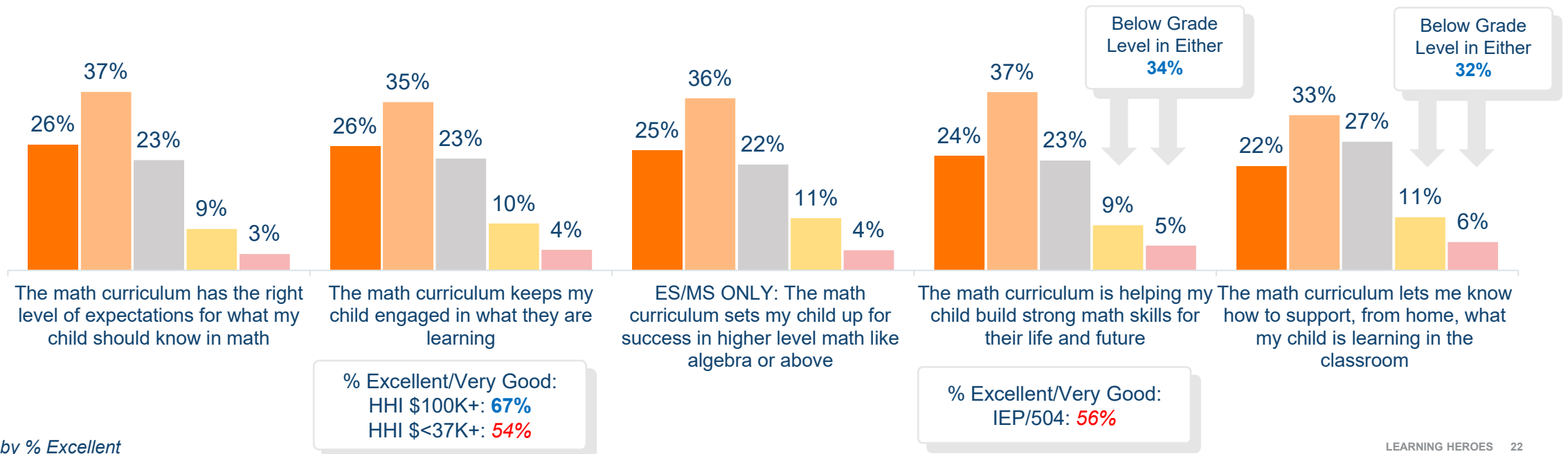
Strongly disagree Somewhat disagree Neutral Somewhat agree Strongly agree



Parents Offer Less Positive Ratings for Math Curriculum

Please rate your child's math curriculum on each of the following
(Among those who indicate knowing something about the math curriculum; n=984)

Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor



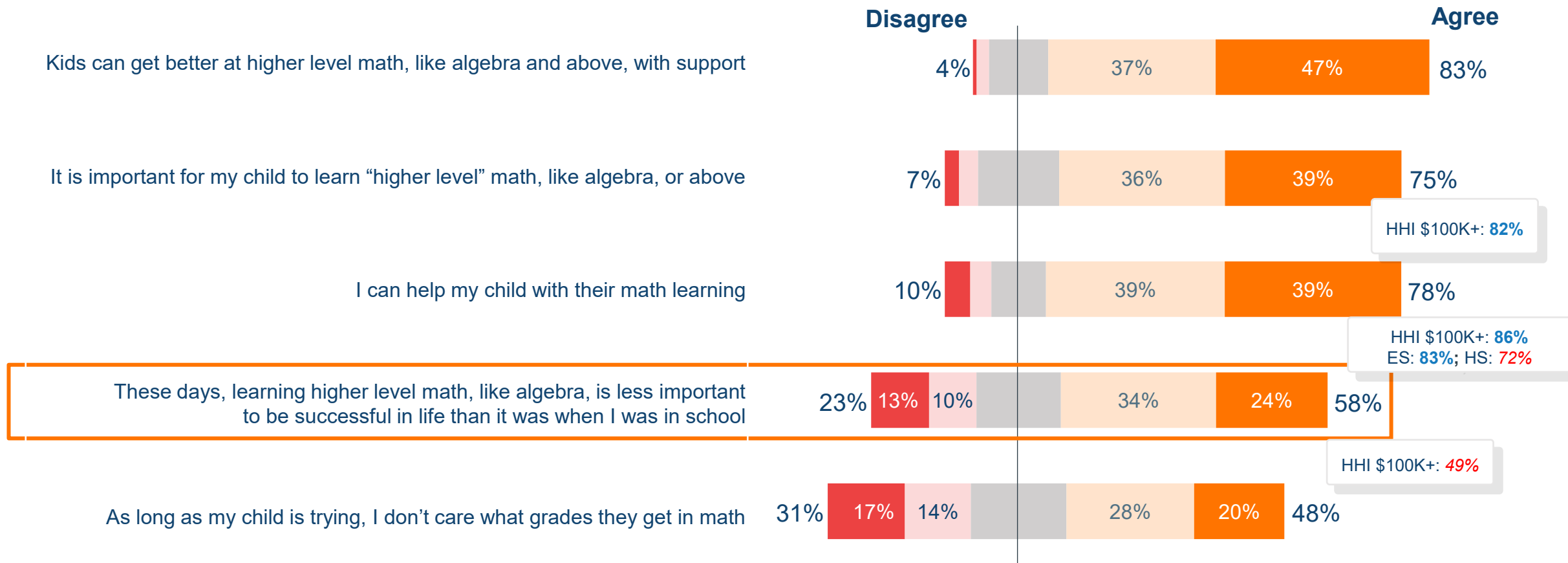
Ranked by % Excellent

Higher-Level Math | Parents Want Their Kids to Learn It, but Don't See It as Vital

Agree/Disagree about Math

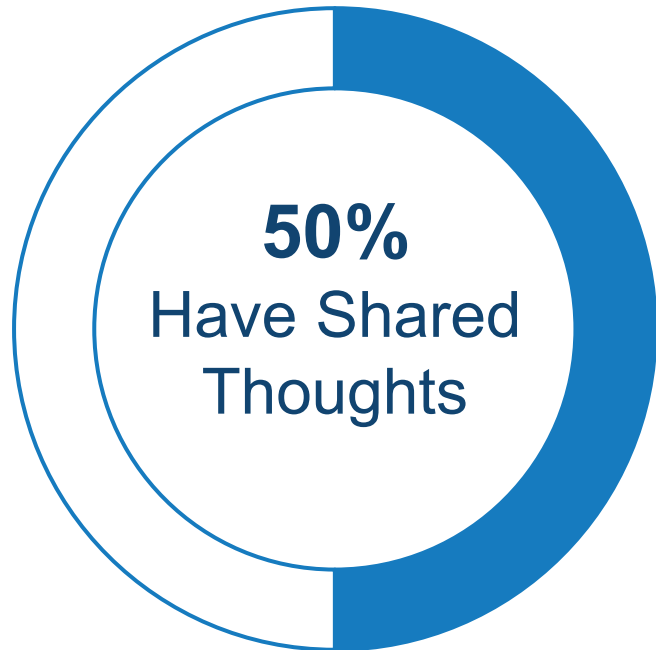
(Received Math Items, n=1,006)

Strongly disagree Somewhat disagree Neutral Somewhat agree Strongly agree



Parents Want to Be Aware of New Curriculum; Half Have Shared Their Thoughts

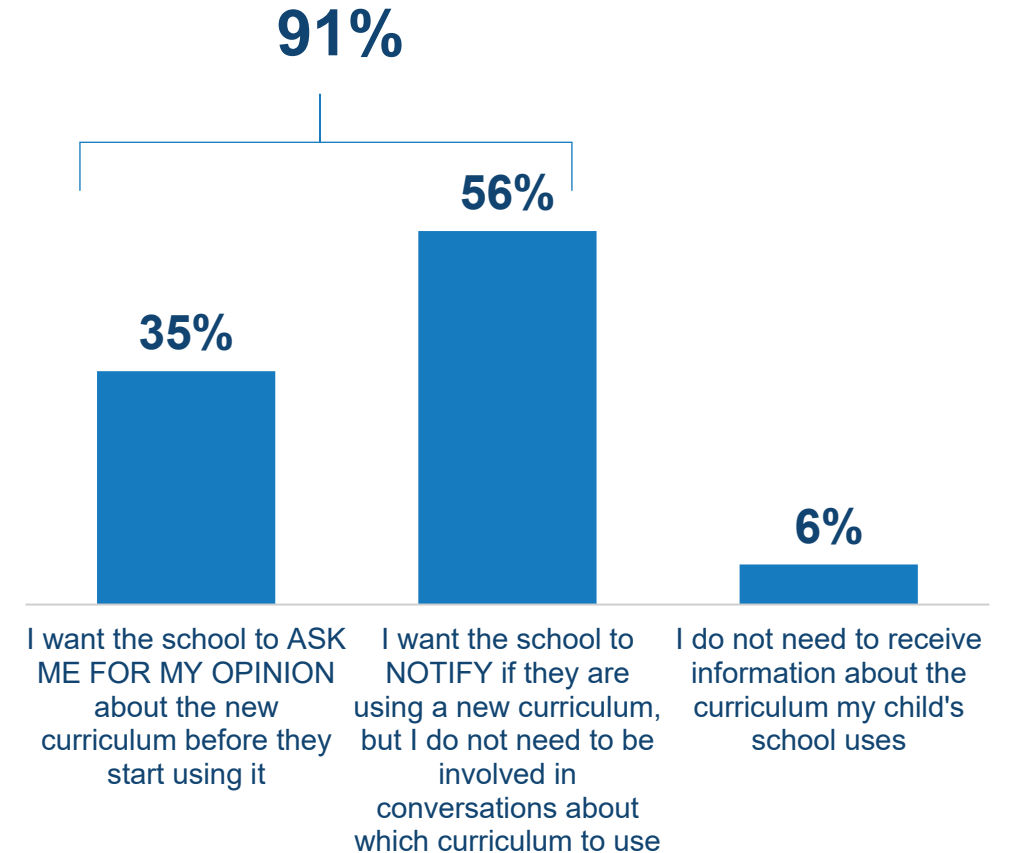
Have you ever shared your thoughts or opinions with your school's teachers or administrators about what topics should be taught as part of a curriculum used by your child's school?



Black parents (**59%**)
IEP/504 (**63%**)

Results are consistent
across demographics

If your child's school was thinking about using a new curriculum, which of the following comes closer to your point of view?



Most Important | Parents Want to Know How They Can Help

In general, if your child's school were to adopt a new curriculum, how important is it for them to share information with you on each of the following?
(% very important)

When asked which is the MOST important, these two rise to the top.

What tools and resources are available for parents/families to understand the new curriculum



Hispanic parents (**56%**)

How parents and teachers can partner to support learning in the classroom, at home, and in afterschool settings



What is different about the new curriculum



Black parents (**64%**)
HH Income \$100k+ (**64%**)

Examples of what "grade level" work looks like from the new curriculum



HH Income \$100k+ (**64%**)

Why a change to the curriculum is being made



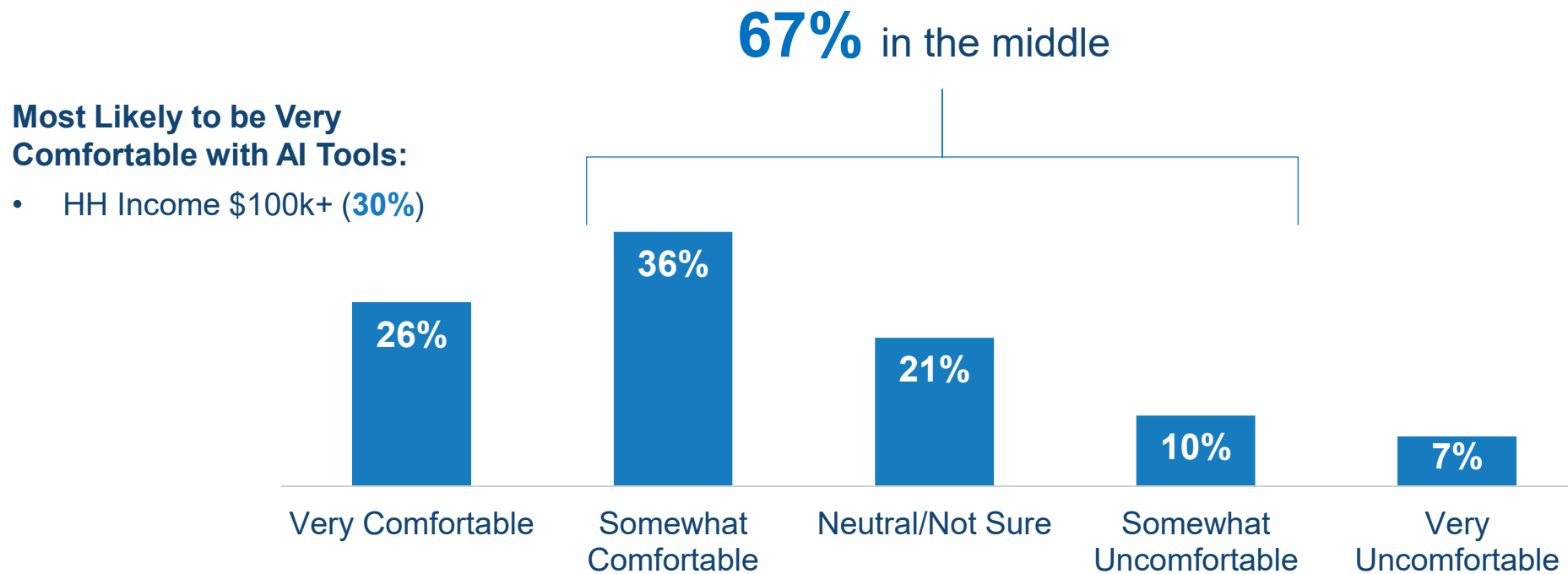
Black parents (**63%**)
HH Income \$100k+ (**66%**)

How much time students will be required to be on screens in class



Parents Still Unsure About AI Tools in Classrooms

Overall, how comfortable are you with your child's teacher having your child use AI tools in the classroom?



Only 1-in-4 Are Very Comfortable with Voice-Activated AI Tools in the Classroom

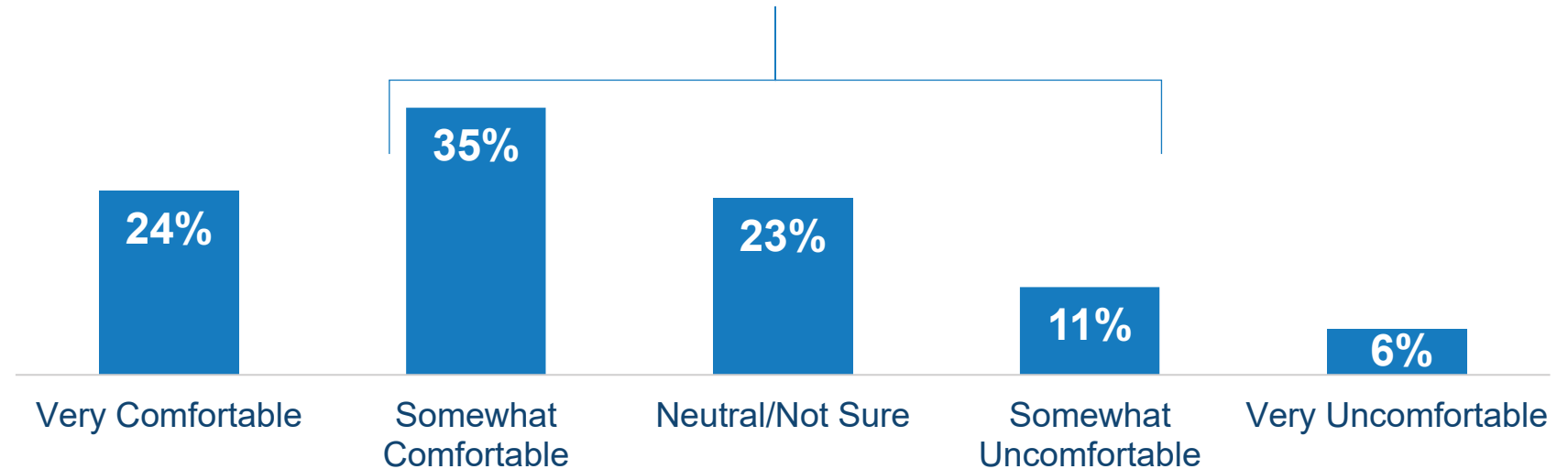
Overall, how comfortable would you be with your child's teacher allowing students to use voice-activated AI tools in the classroom?

Comfort with Voice-activated AI Tools

69% in the middle

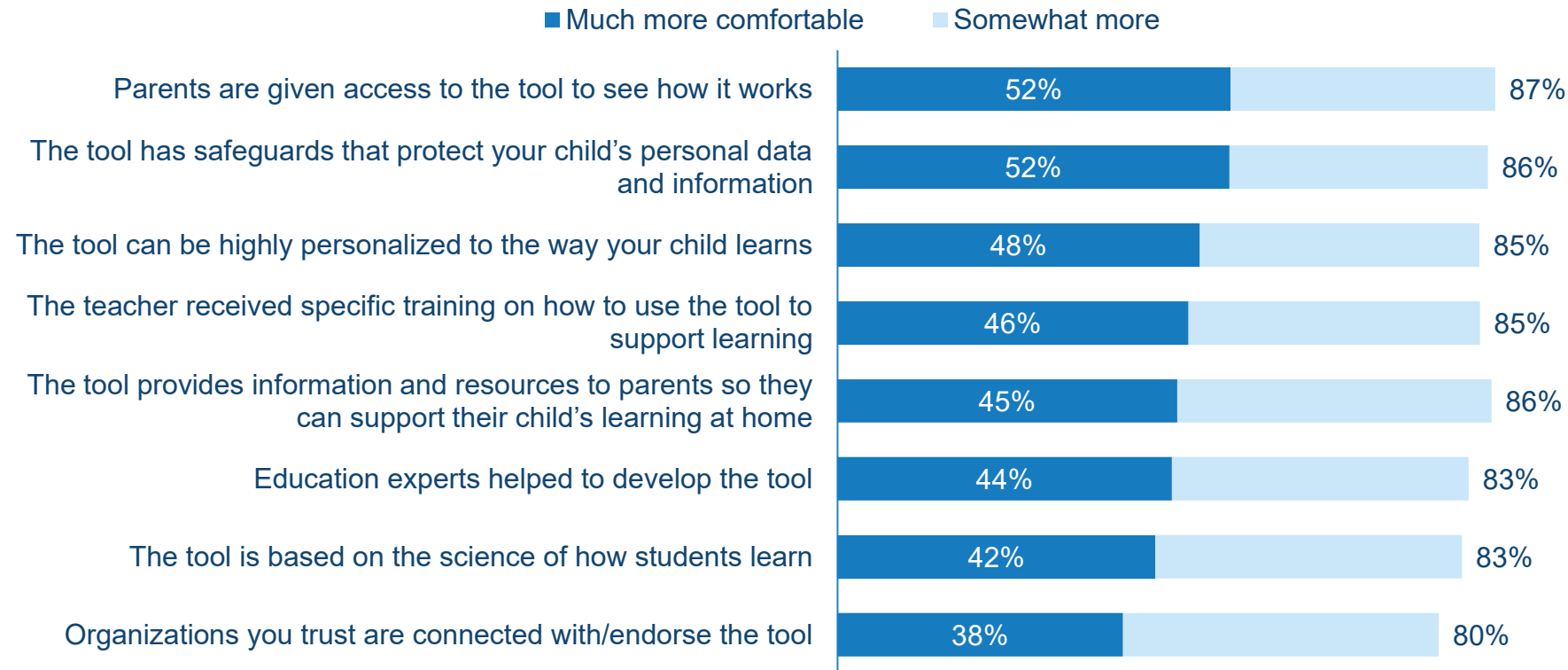
Most Likely to Be Very Comfortable with Voice-Activated AI Tools:

- HH Income \$100k+ (**30%**)
- IEP/504 (**27%**)



Key to Comfort with AI Tools in Class | Access to the Tool

Let's say your child's school district wants its students to use a new AI tool in their classrooms. Would having this information about the AI tool would make you much more comfortable with your child using it in the classroom, somewhat more comfortable, or would it have no effect?



Ranked by % much more comfortable

Parents in the Driver's Seat | Likely to Use a Parent-Facing AI Tool

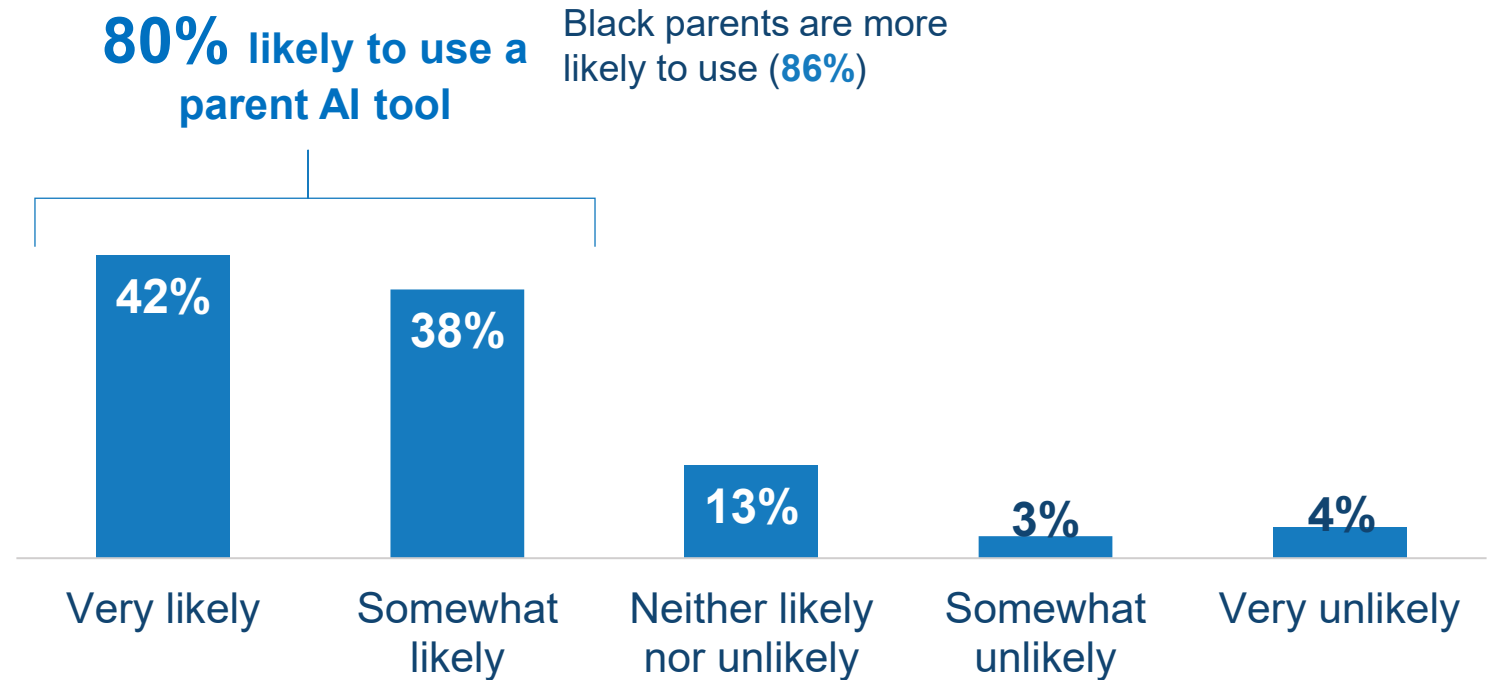
Based on this description, if you had access to this tool, how likely would you be to use it?

Imagine there is a new AI tool specifically for parents/caregivers. The tool is designed to make it easier to oversee and manage their child's education.

Parents/caregivers can upload their child's schoolwork, tests, and homework into the tool, as well as teacher comments and results on assessments/year-end tests.

The tool also includes safeguards to protect the child's personal information.

Likelihood to use Parent AI Tool

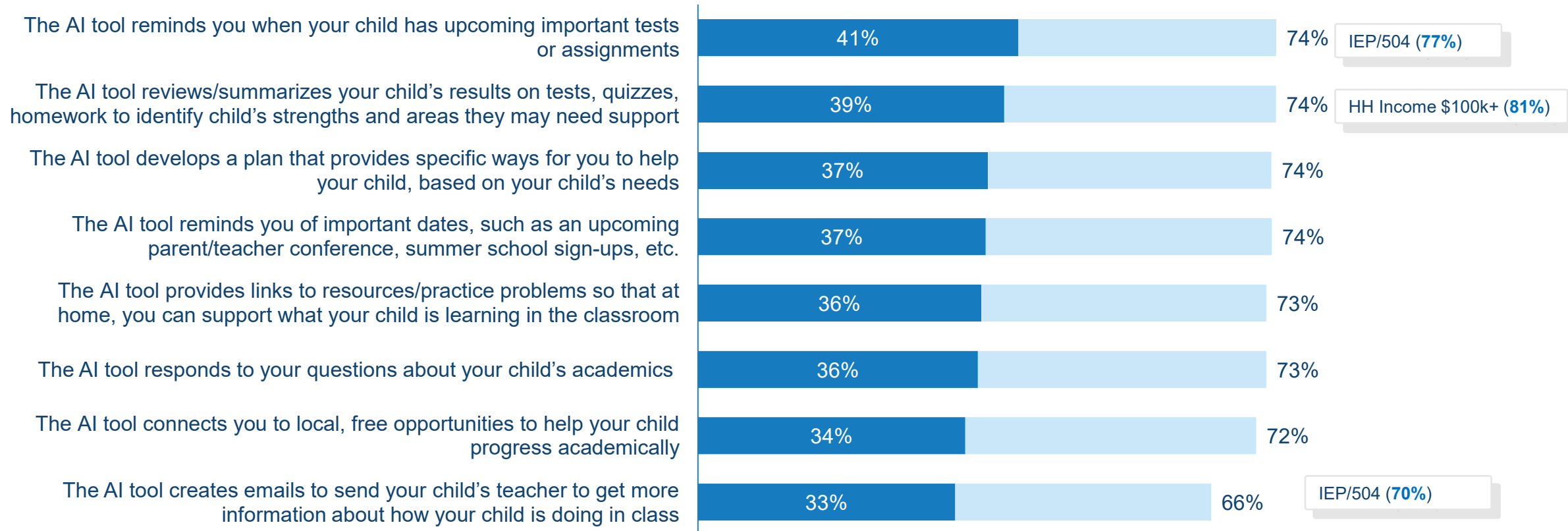


Majorities Say All Features Would Be Helpful

Helpfulness of Parent AI Tool Features

■ Extremely Helpful

■ Very Helpful



Implications & Opportunities

#1 | Parents who know their child is behind, are more likely to take actions in support of their children's learning.

OPPORTUNITY | *Build on the momentum with more parents having a realistic view of their children's grade level ability. Parents are problem-solvers and are more likely to take action, like enrolling their child in tutoring, when they have a holistic understanding of their children's progress.*

#2 | Parents are eager to support their children's learning through their curriculum.

OPPORTUNITY | *Parents want to understand what their child is learning and how to help. The shift to evidence-based curriculum creates an opportunity to build a stronger bridge between classroom learning and support at home.*

#3 | Parents are not signaling they want to get rid of technology in the classroom, but they want transparency.

OPPORTUNITY | *Ensure parents are brought in as partners as AI and ed tech policies are developed. They want to know the why, the what, and how their children will benefit from these tools when it comes to building their foundational reading and math skills.*



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