

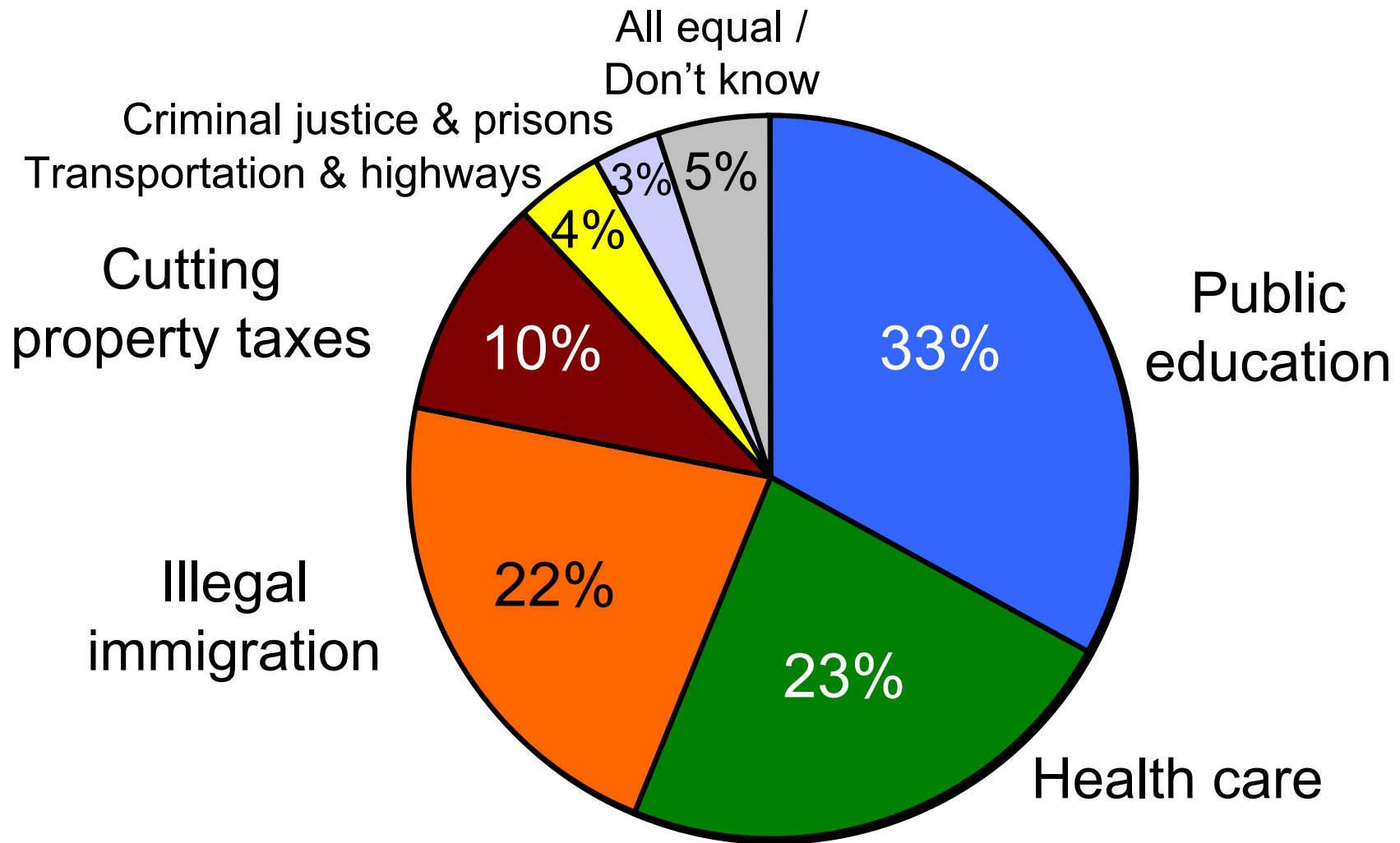
**Texas Statewide  
Survey on Education  
Among 802 Active Voters**

**January 22-25, 2007**

**HARSTAD STRATEGIC  
RESEARCH, INC.**

THE TARRANCE GROUP

# Selected Top Priority for State Government



% "Public Education": Democrats 38%, Independents 30%, Republicans 30%

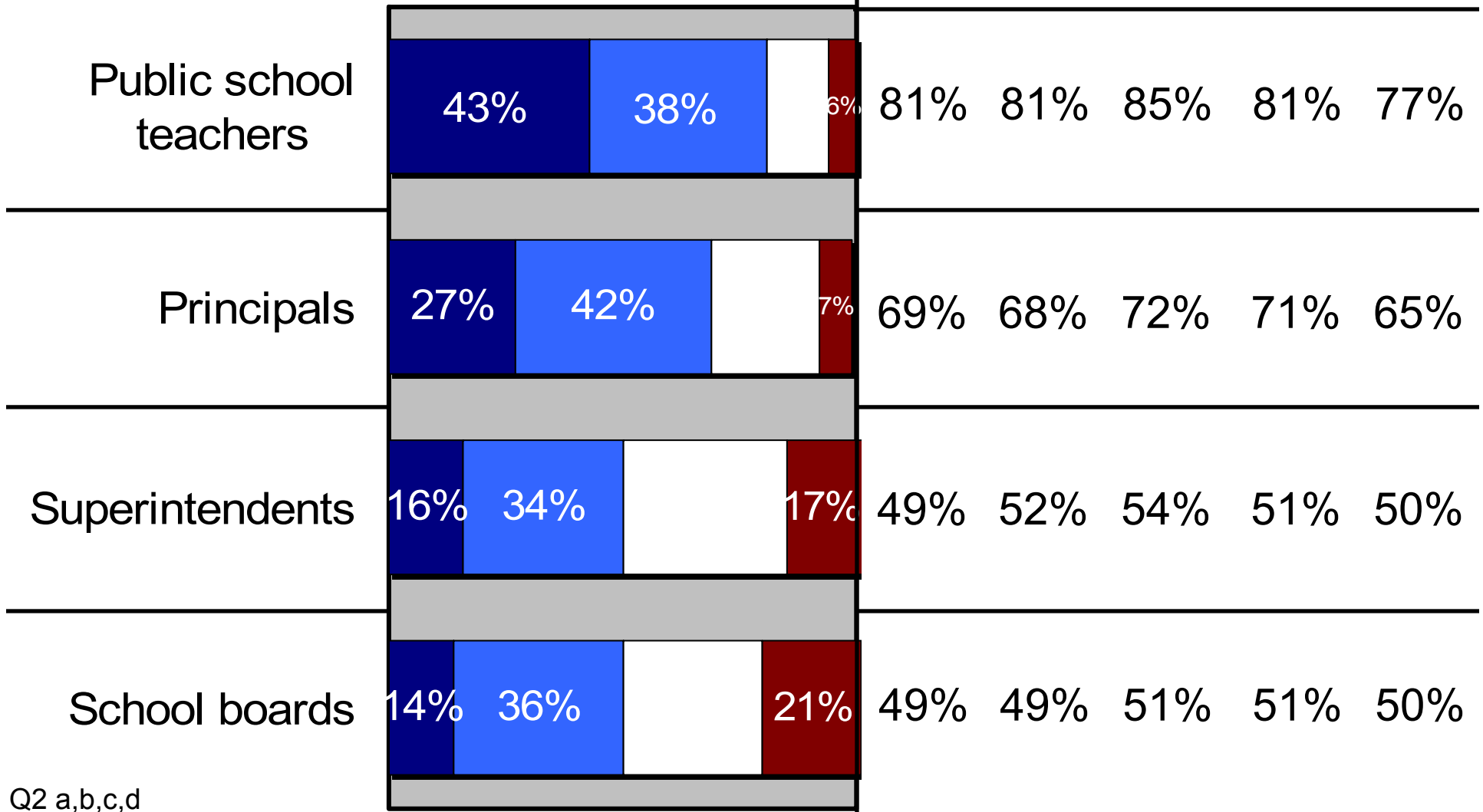
Q1

# Feelings Toward Selected Groups

■ Very Positive 
 ■ Somewhat Positive 
 ■ Negative

Total Positive

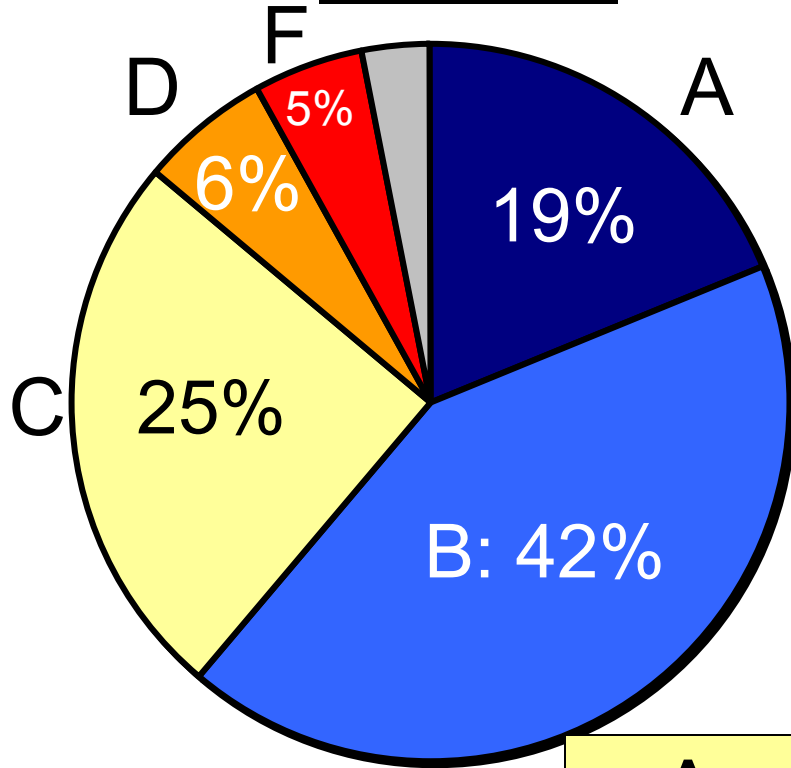
	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
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Q2 a,b,c,d

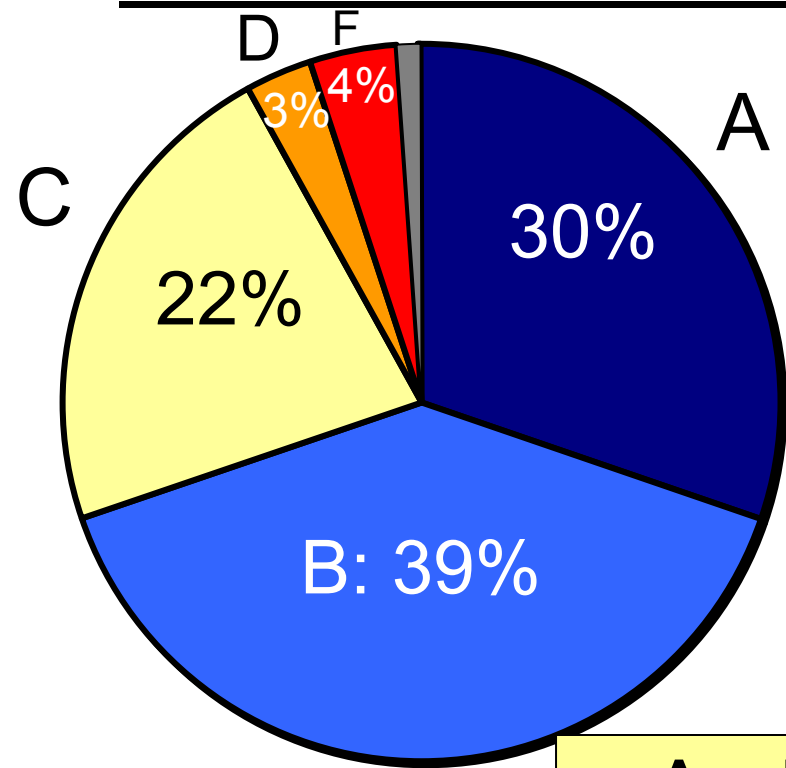
# Grade the Public Schools in Your Community

**All Voters**



<u>A or B</u>	
2004:	64%
2005:	66%
2006:	59%
2007:	62%

**Public School Parents**

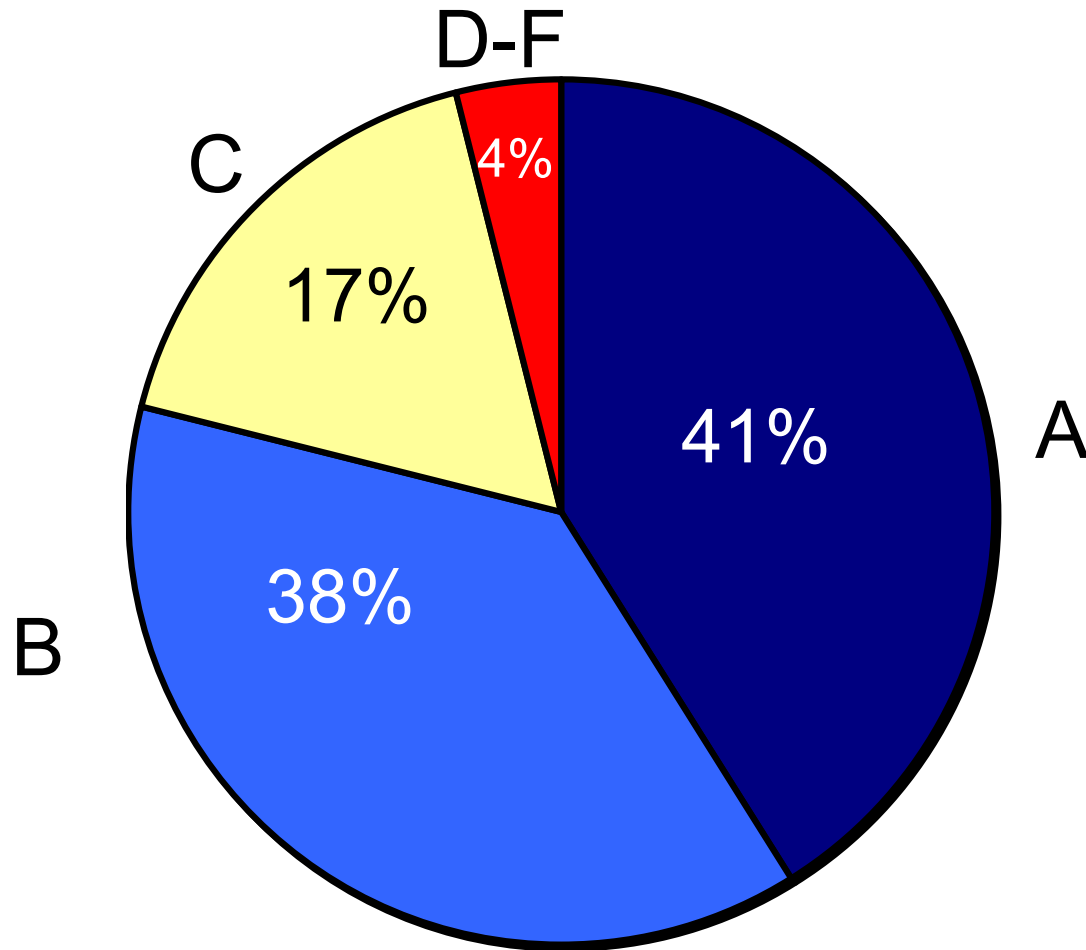


<u>A or B</u>	
2004:	72%
2005:	77%
2006:	74%
2007:	69%

Q3

# Grade the School Your Child Attends

Asked only of parents of children in school

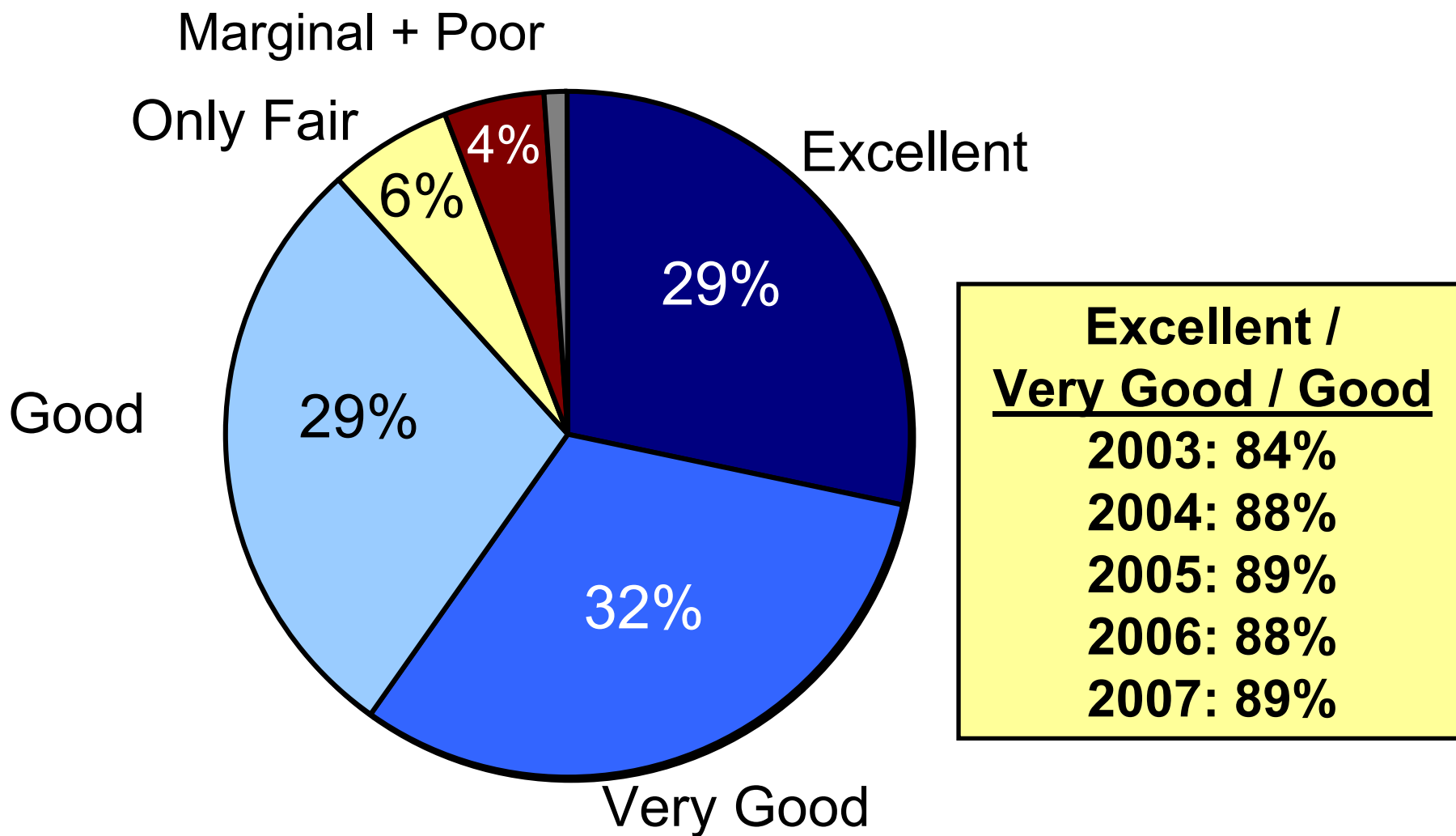


<u>A or B</u>	
2003:	80%
2004:	84%
2005:	86%
2006:	85%
2007:	79%

Q6c

# Rate Your Child's Teachers Overall

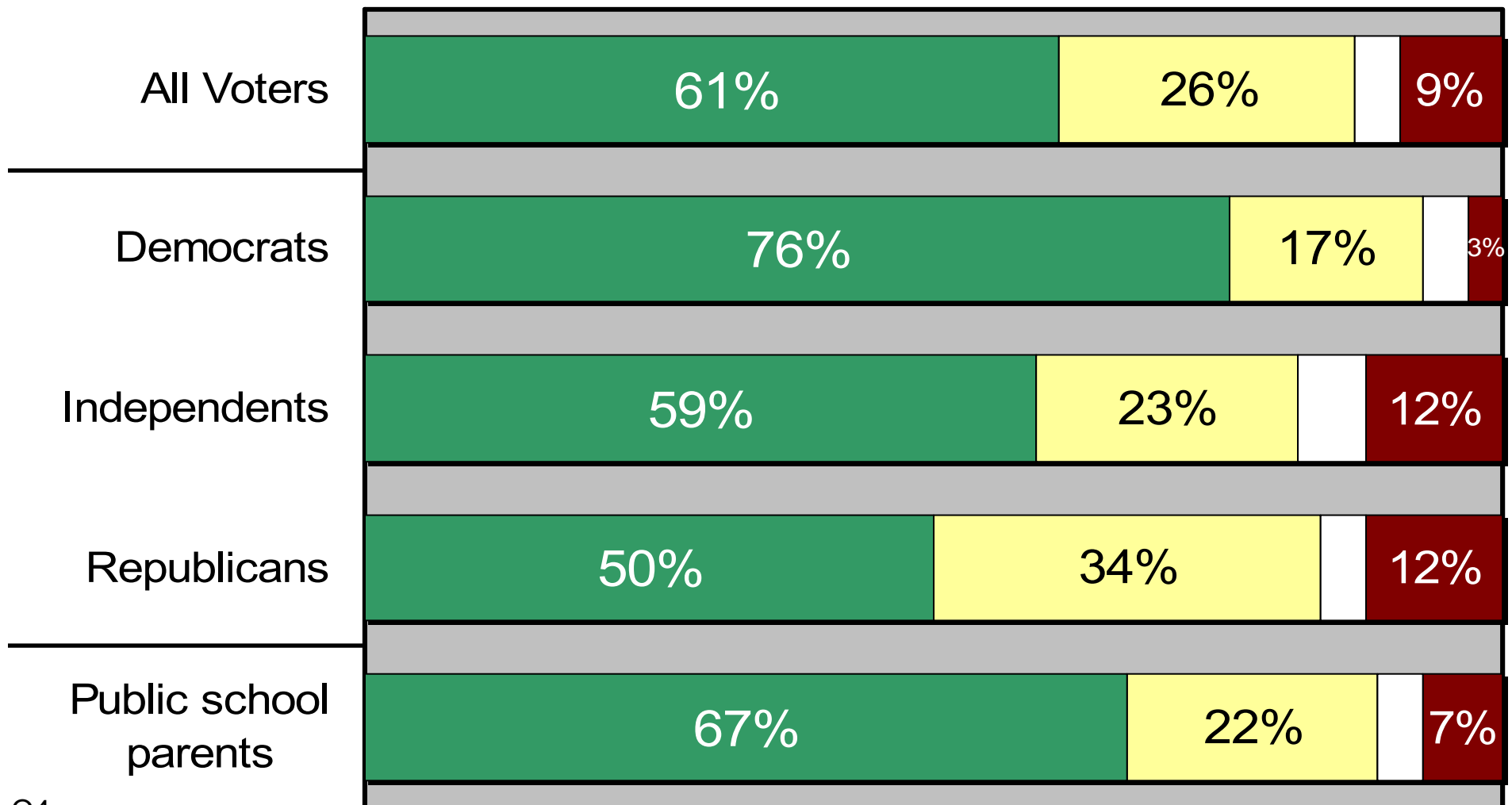
Asked only of parents of children in school



Q6d

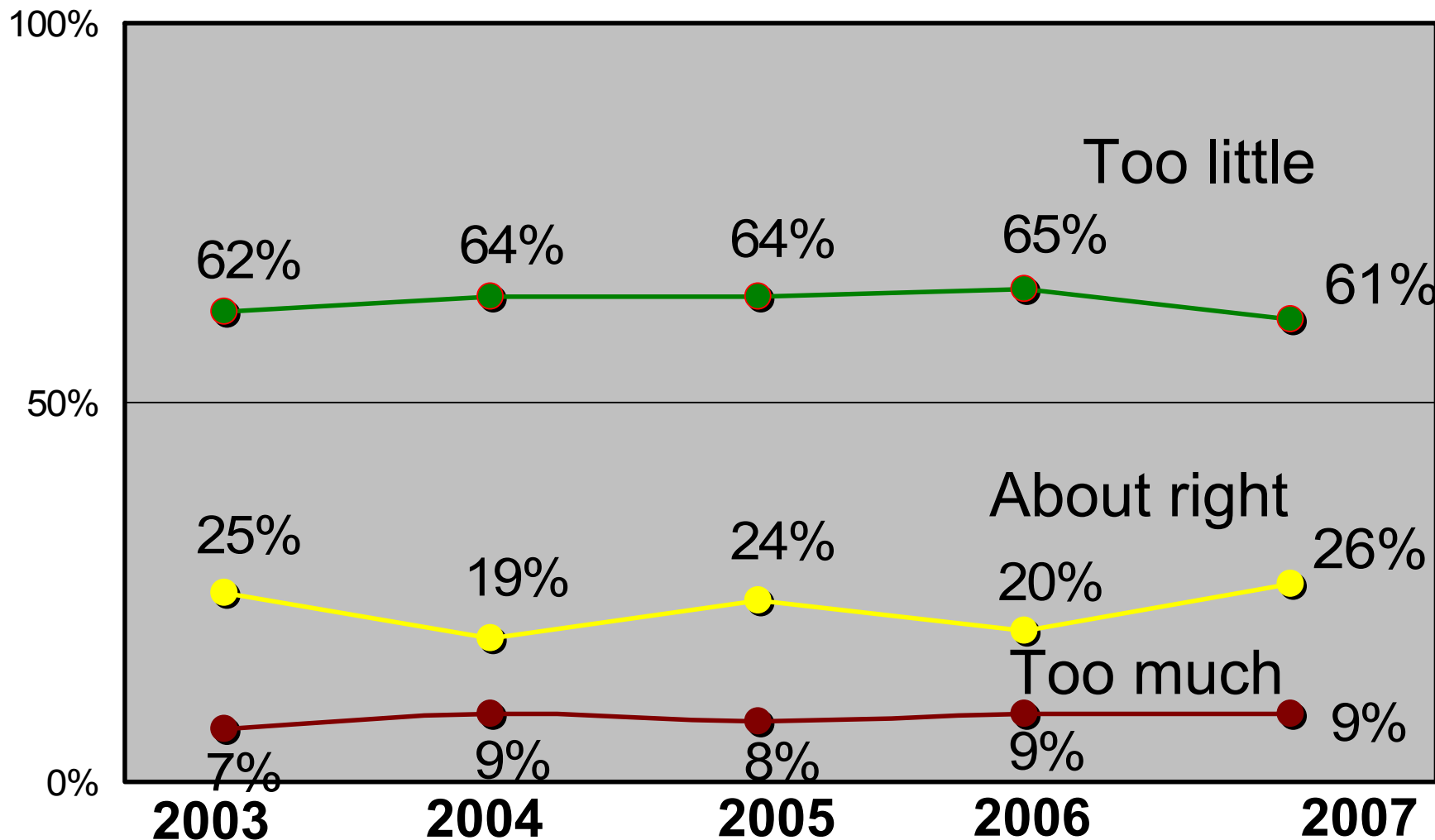
# Is state government spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on education?

■ Too little    ■ About the right amount    ■ Too much



Q4

# Is state government spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on education?

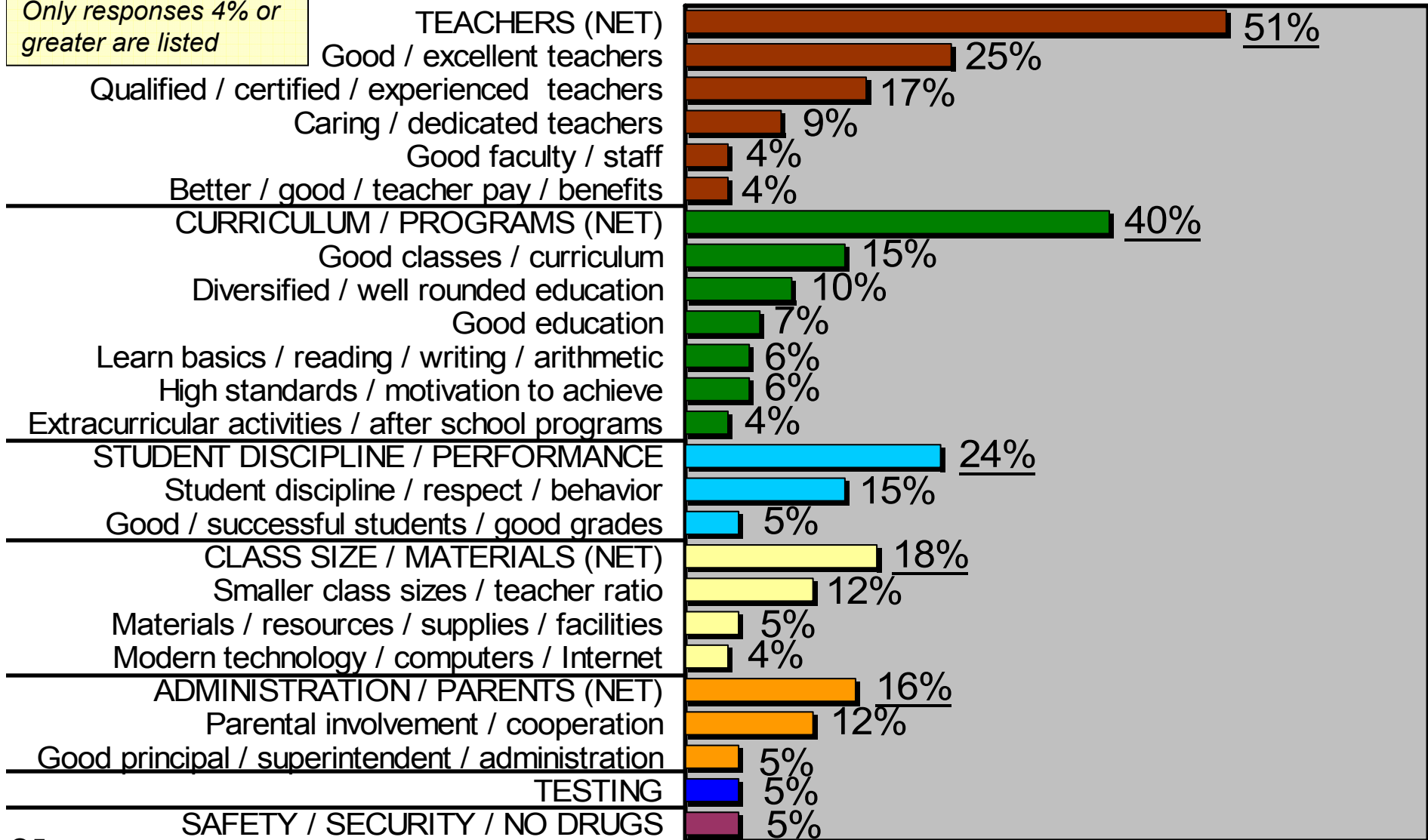


Q4

2007 Republicans: Too little 50%, About right 34%, Too much 12%

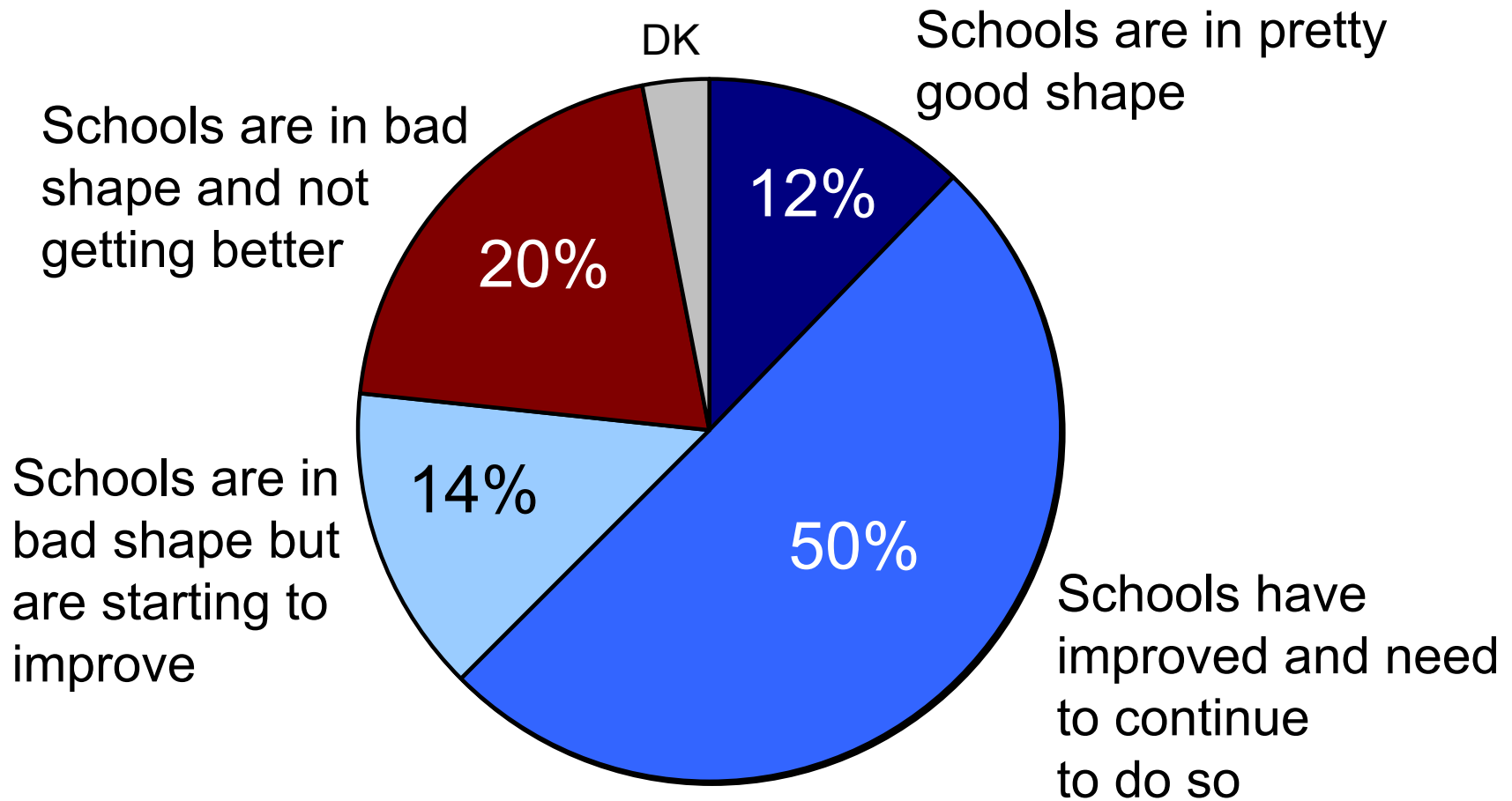
# Volunteered Qualities or Factors that Make a Good Public School

Only responses 4% or greater are listed



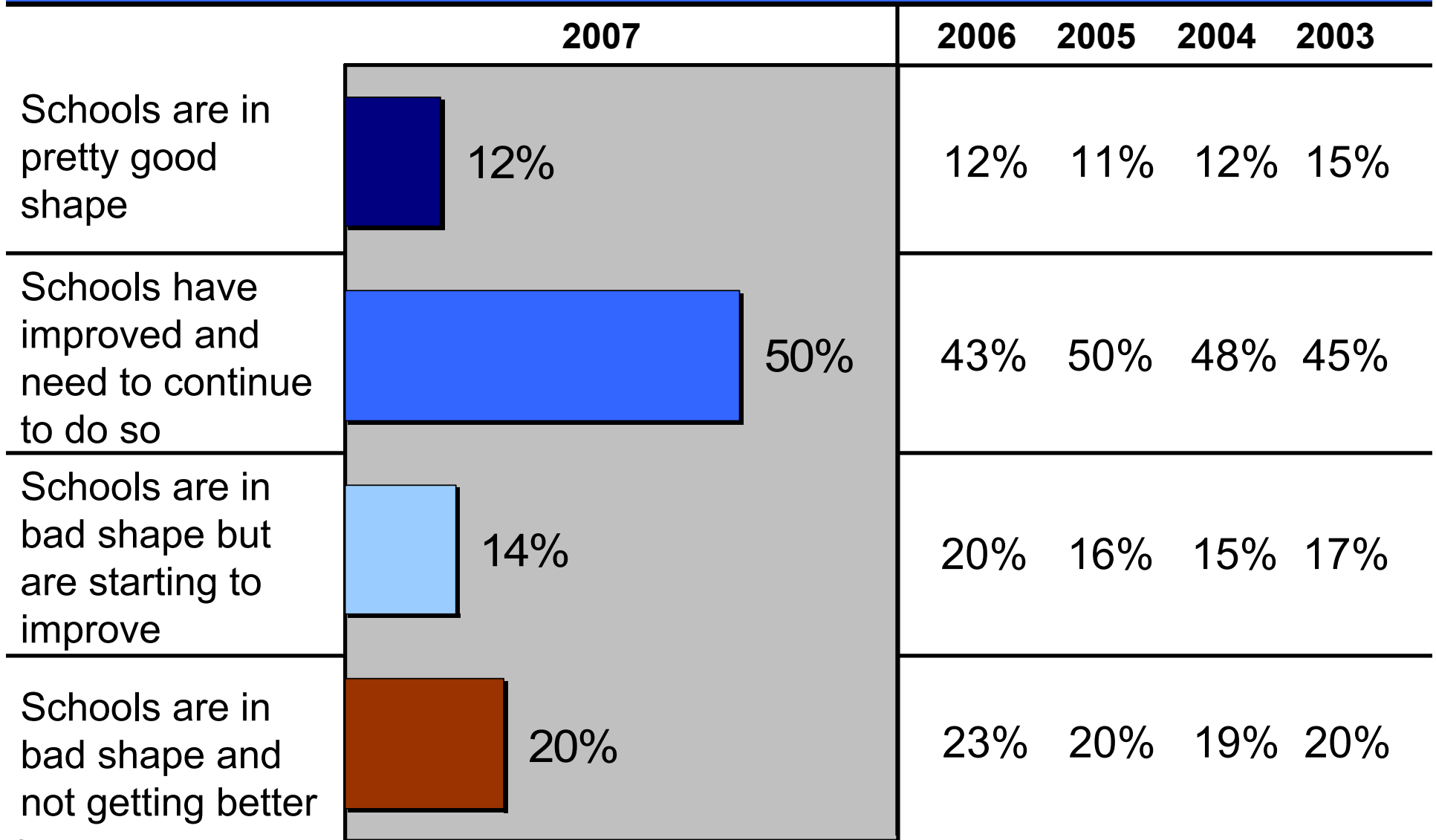
Q5

# Perceived Status and Current Trend of Public Schools in Texas



Q7

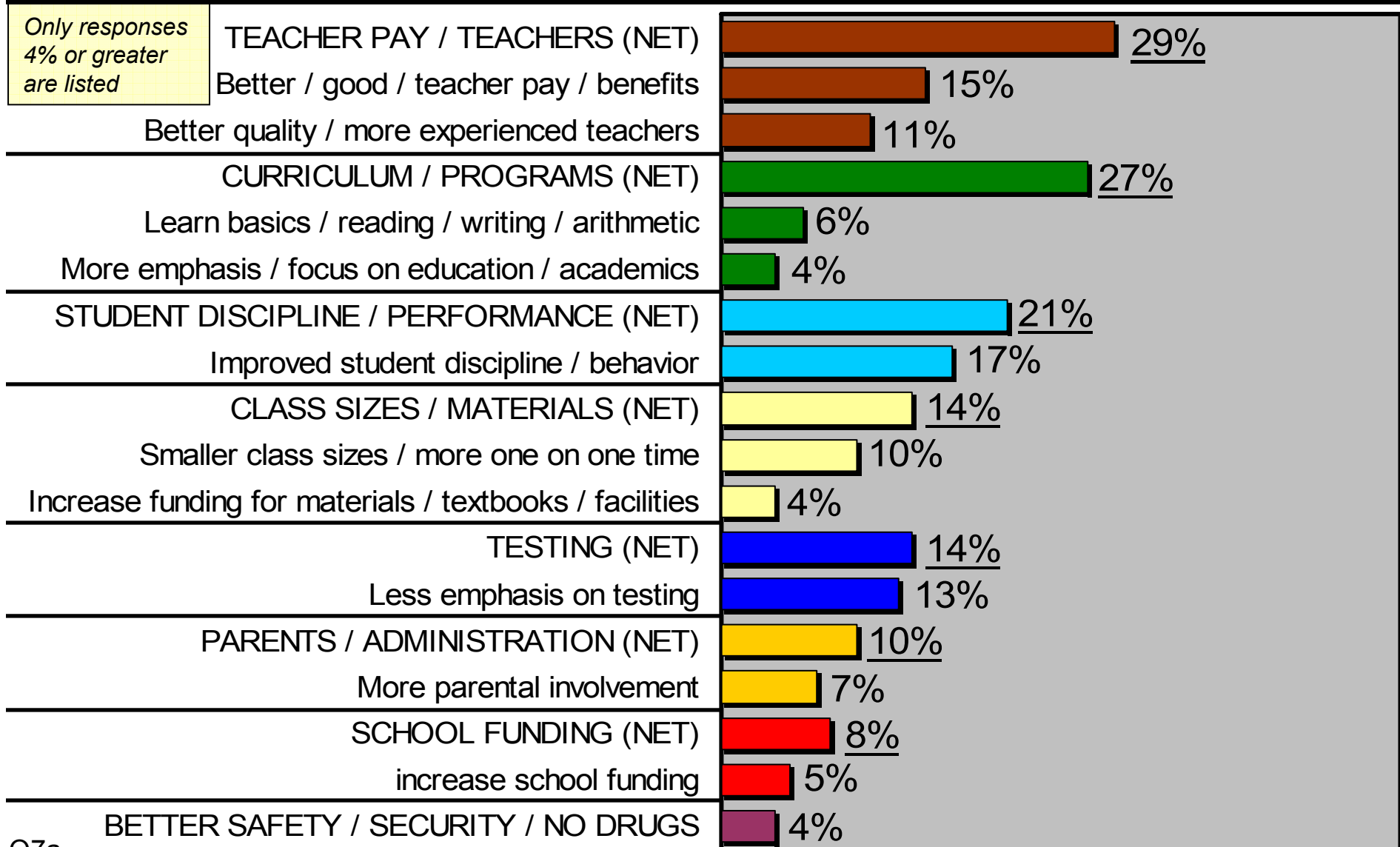
# Perceived Status and Current Trend of Public Schools in Texas



Q7

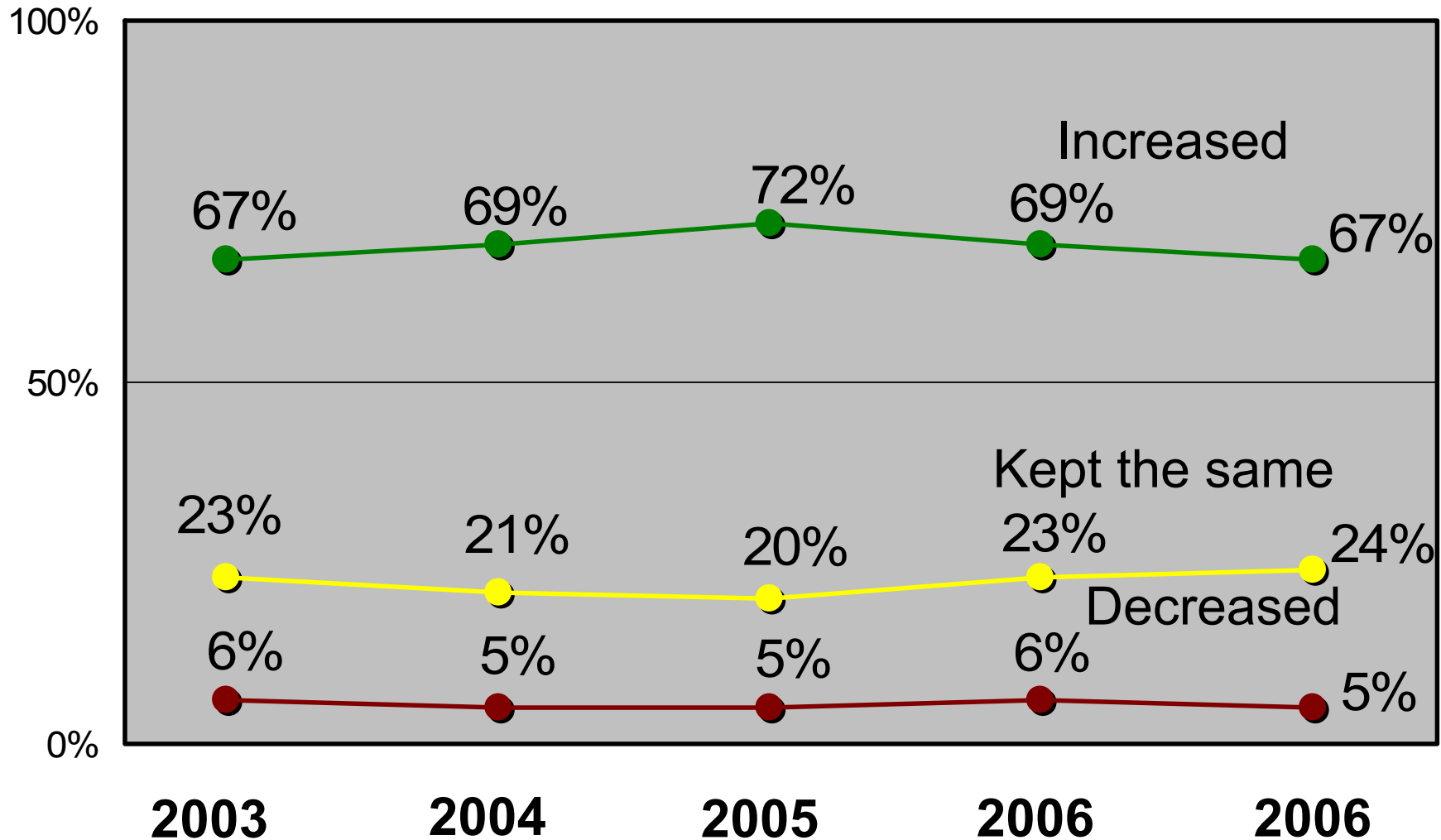
# Volunteered Ways Public Schools Need to Improve

Asked of the 84% who do NOT say "schools are in pretty good shape" in Q7



Q7a

*Should state funding for public schools be increased, kept the same, or decreased?*



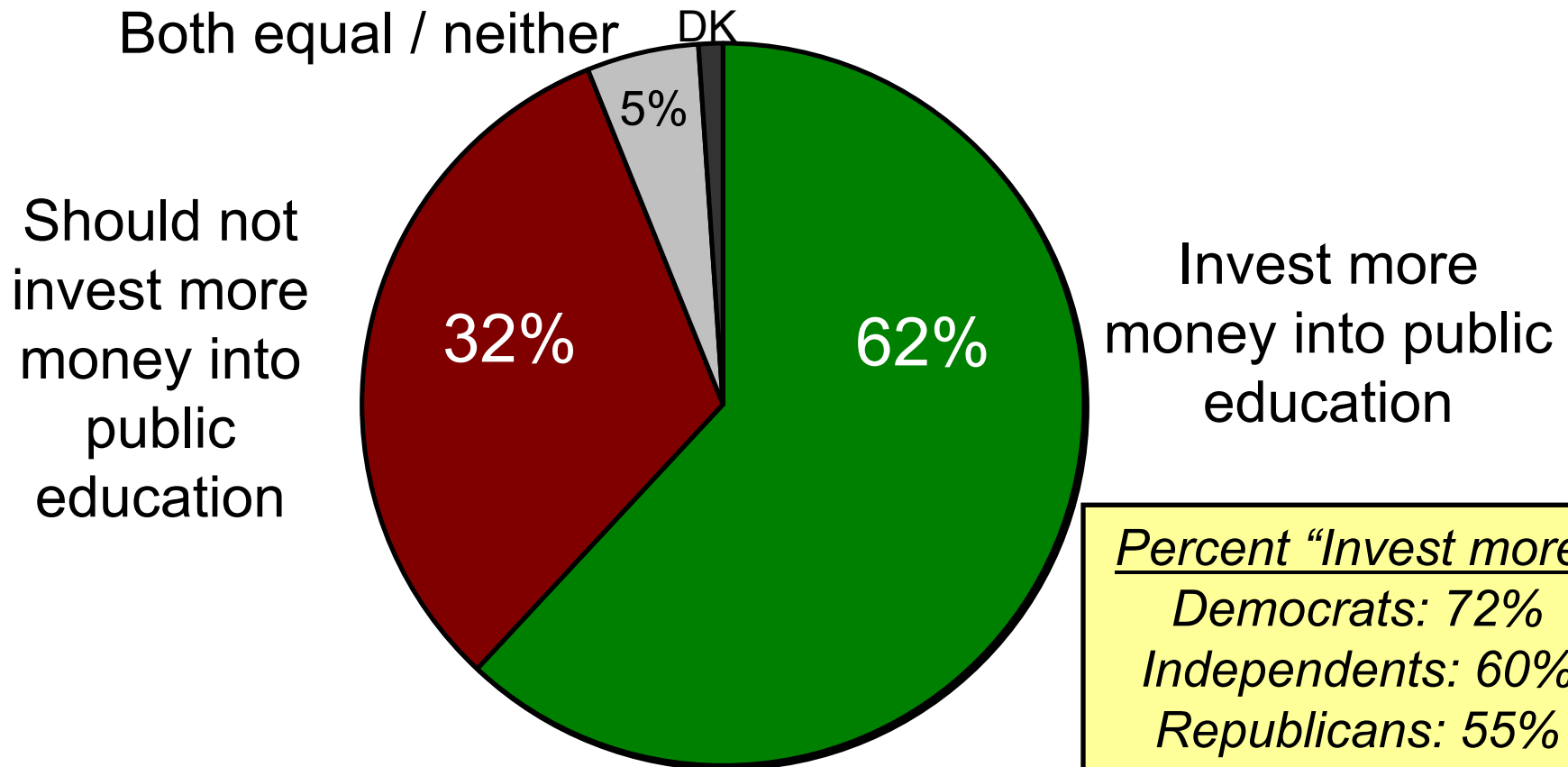
Q8

2007 % "Increased": Democrats 79%, Independents 68%, Republicans 56%

Which statement comes closer to your own viewpoint about public education:

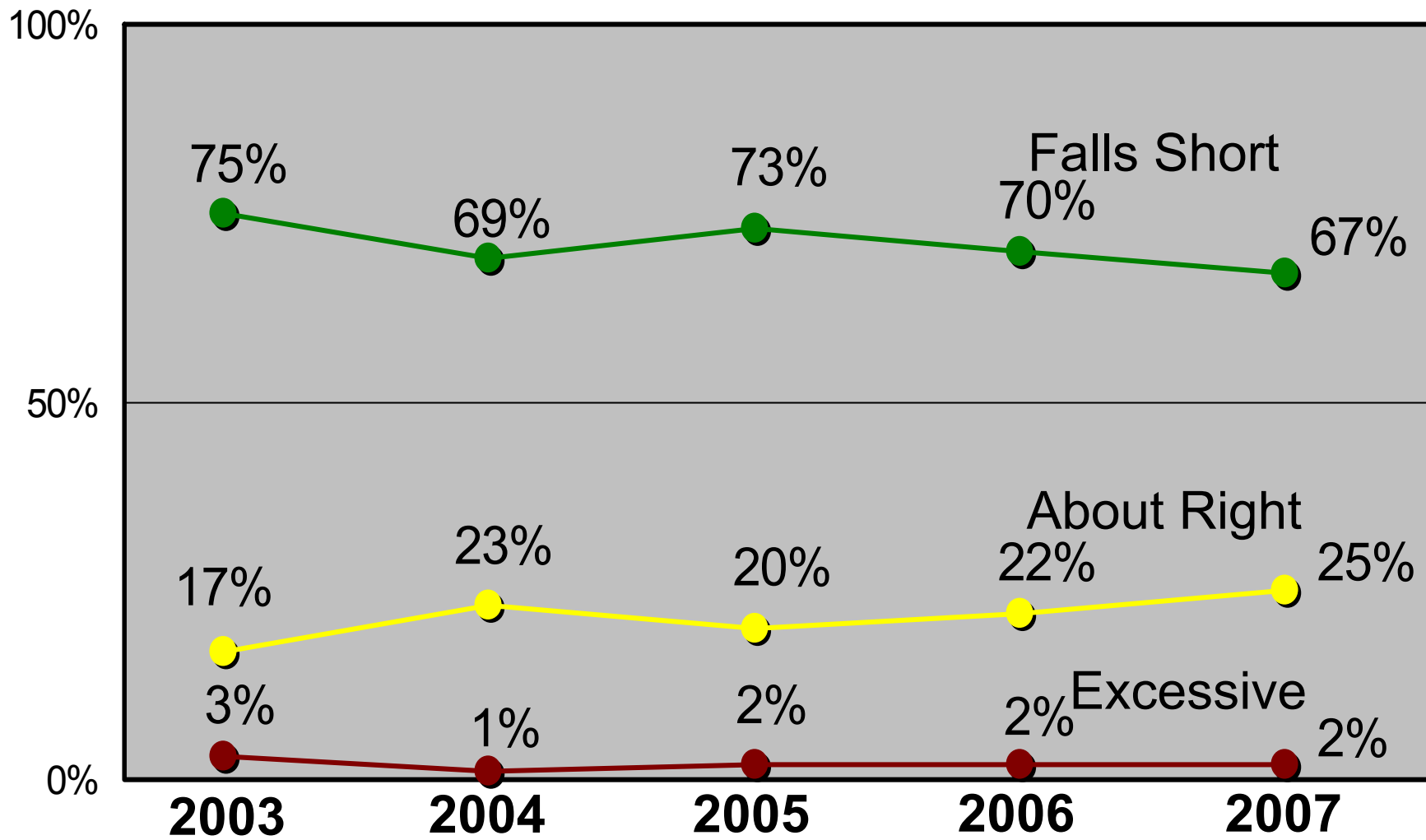
Some people say we can provide our children with a good, adequate education by **using our current education dollars**, so we **should not invest more money** into public education.

Other people say our children deserve better, and we can give them an excellent education by **fully funding the proven reforms** already in place, and **investing more money** into public education.



Q9

*Do you think Texas public school teacher pay is excessive, is about right, or falls short of what it ought to be?*

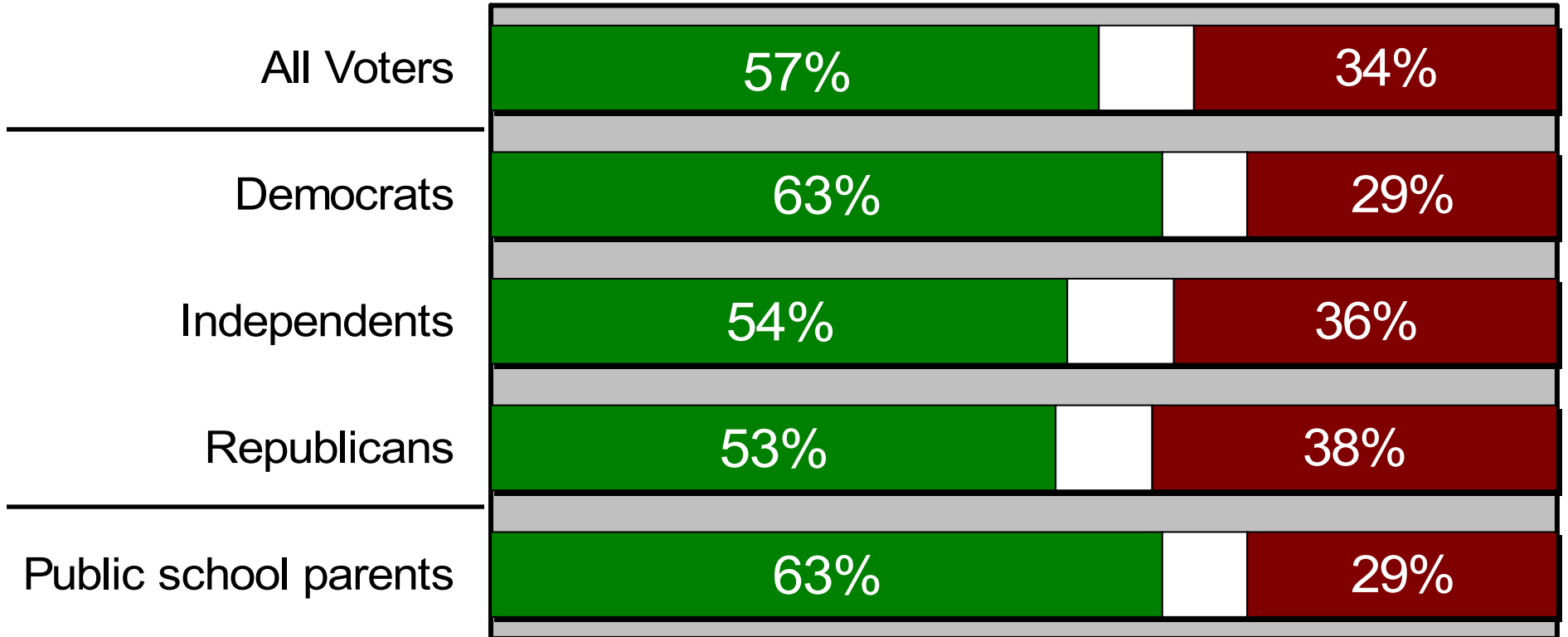


2007 % "Falls short": Democrats 72%, Independents 62%, Republicans 66%

Q10

If additional state money is allocated for teacher pay raises, should the pay raise be given to all teachers to raise the overall standard of teacher pay, and to attract and retain better teachers, OR should the pay raise be targeted to those teachers whose students show improvement on state standardized test scores?

■ Give all teachers a pay raise  
■ Target teachers whose students show improvement



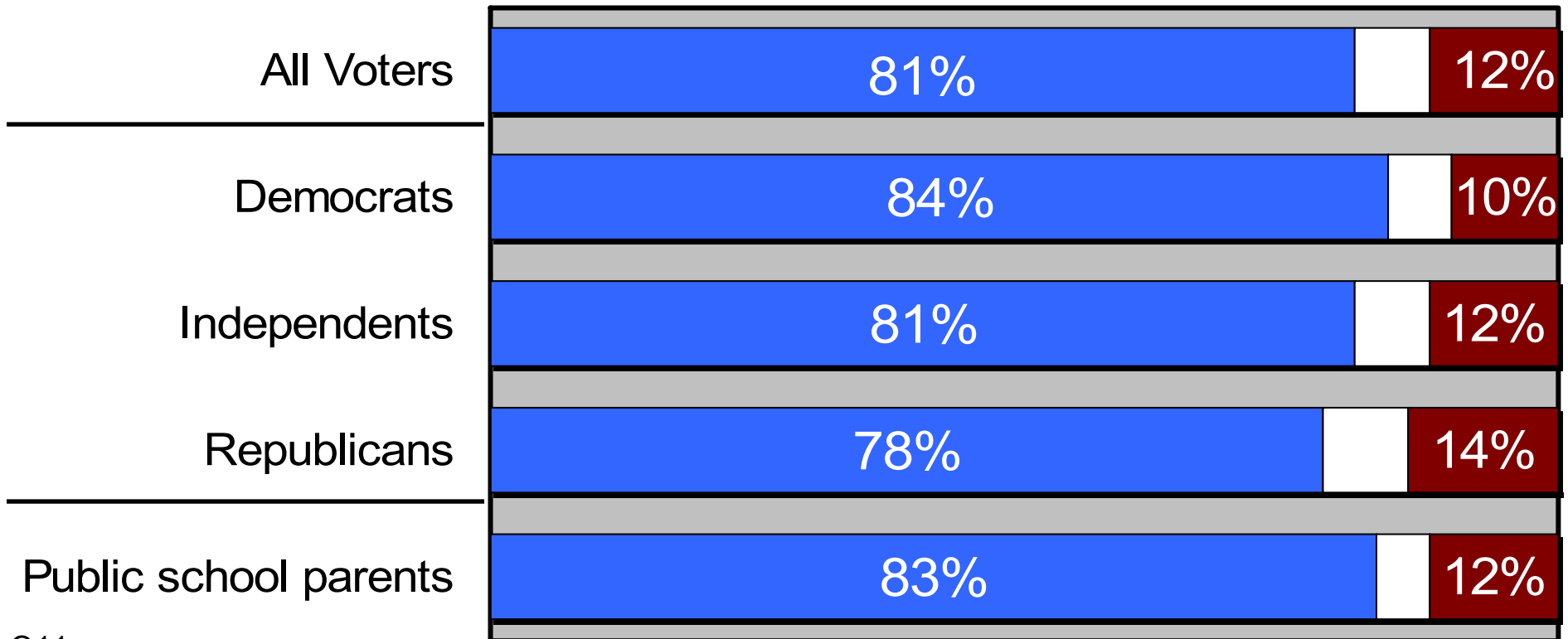
Q10a

As you may know, last year the Texas state legislature passed a school finance plan which dedicated all of the revenue from a new tax on businesses to cutting school property taxes and included a one-time two thousand dollar teacher pay raise.

Based on what you know about this plan and public school funding — do you think the state legislature has sufficiently addressed the issue of public school funding, or do you think the state legislature has more work to do to properly fund public schools?

*The state legislature has...*

- more work to do to properly fund public schools
- sufficiently addressed the issue of public school funding

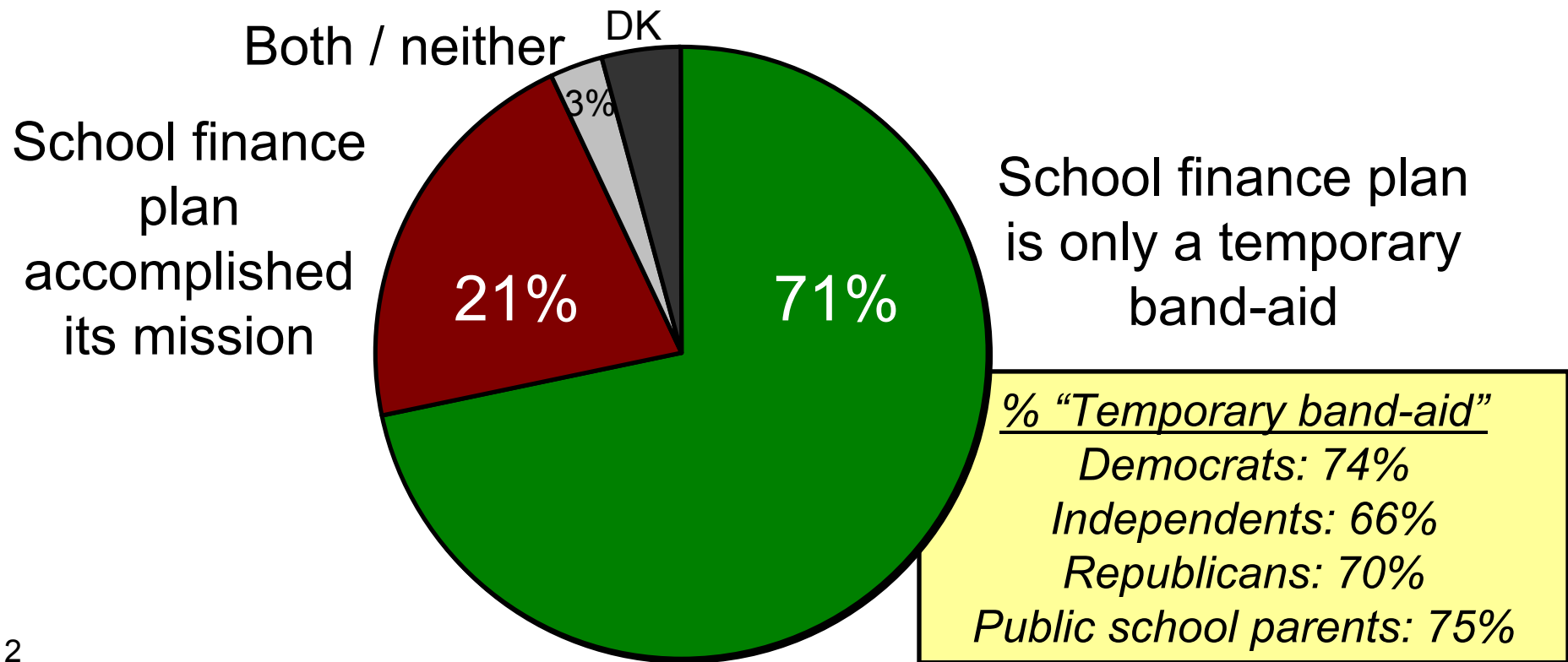


Q11

Which statement comes closer to your own viewpoint about the school finance plan:

Some people say the school finance plan passed in the special session accomplished its mission of fully funding public education, providing teachers with a pay raise, and cutting school property taxes with the funds from a new broad-based state tax on certain businesses.

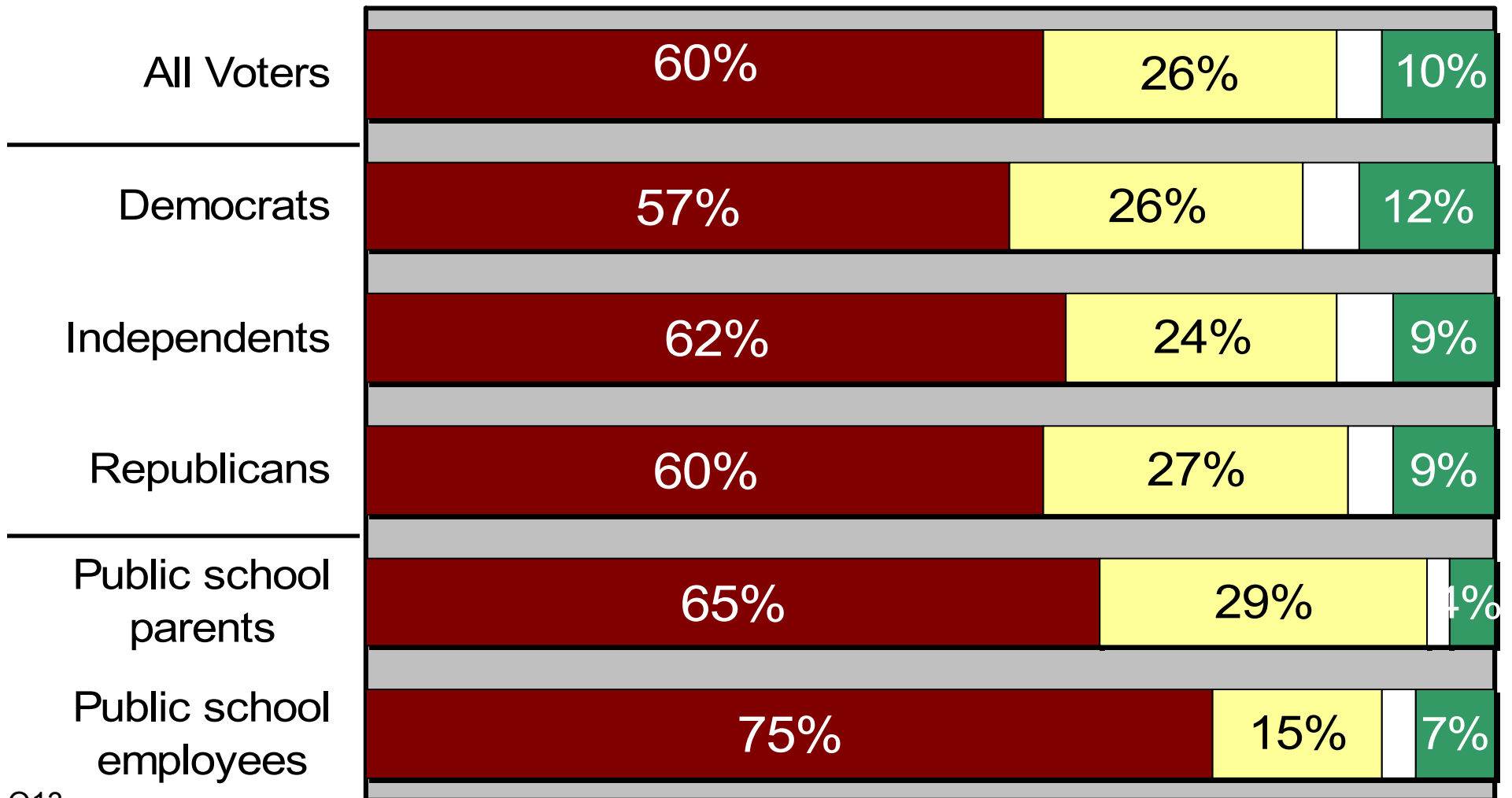
Other people say the school finance plan was only a temporary band-aid because all of the new state tax dollars were dedicated to property tax relief. With a rapidly growing student population and a shortage of fifty thousand teachers, our schools will need a more reliable long term funding source to keep up with the need for adequate classroom facilities and teacher pay, and the rising costs of utilities, health care and transportation.



Q12

*Do you think there is too much emphasis, not enough emphasis, or about the right amount of emphasis on state testing in your community?*

■ Too much ■ About the right amount ■ Not enough

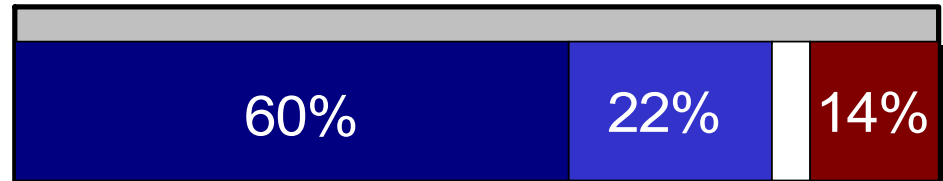


Q13

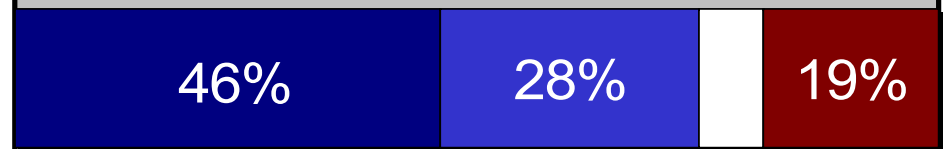
# Favorability of Selected Changes to the Current State Testing System

■ Favor strongly ■ Favor somewhat ■ Oppose

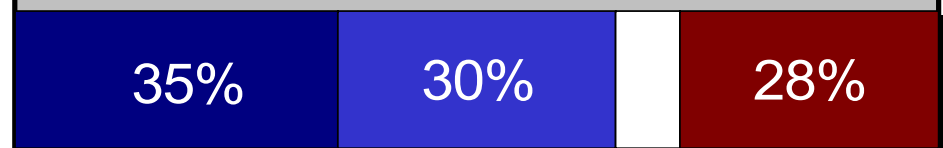
Scale back the importance of passing standardized tests — to allow factors like classroom performance & grades to carry more weight in determining advancement & graduation & allow more school time to be devoted to learning instead of teaching to the test



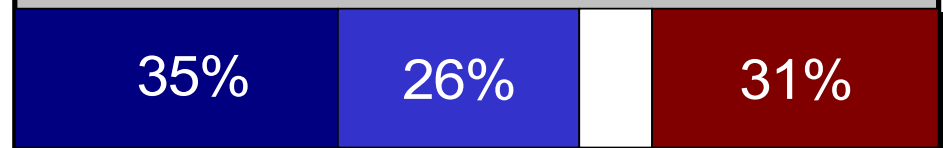
Use the state test to diagnose the strengths and weaknesses of each student — rather than triggering serious penalties for schools and students



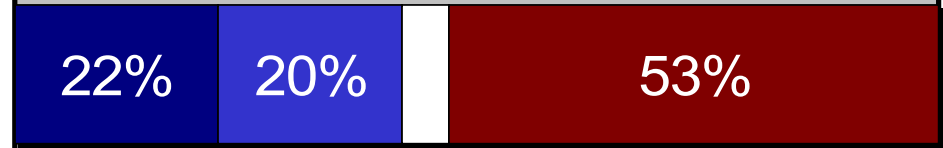
Instead of requiring high school students to pass one standardized test in order to advance — require them to pass a state developed, standardized end-of-course final exam for every core subject



Reduce the reliance on student performance on standardized tests as the sole basis for issuing state penalties and sanctions against individual schools



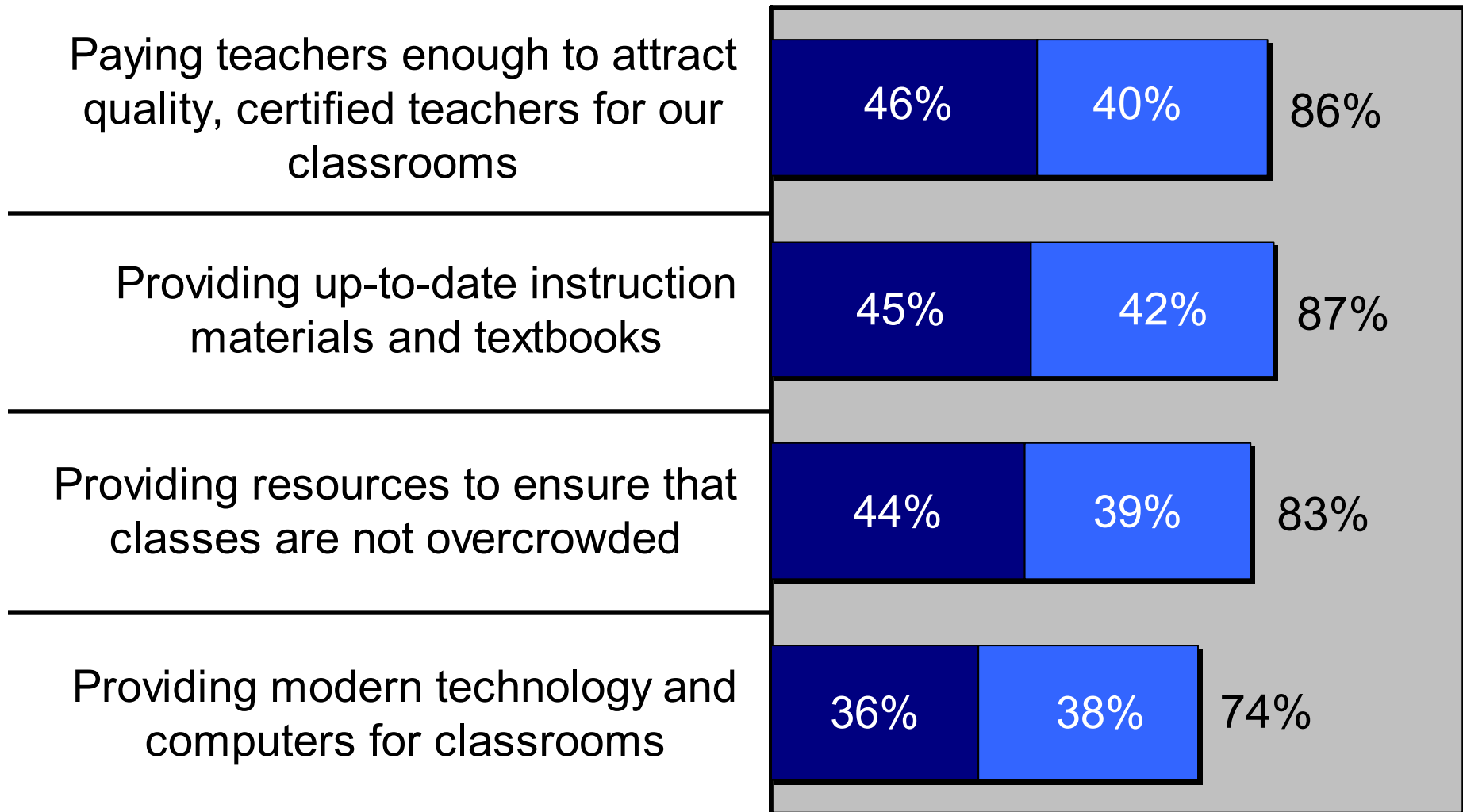
Eliminate mandatory state standardized testing of students



Q14

# Importance of Various Factors That May Contribute to Quality Education and Improved Student Learning

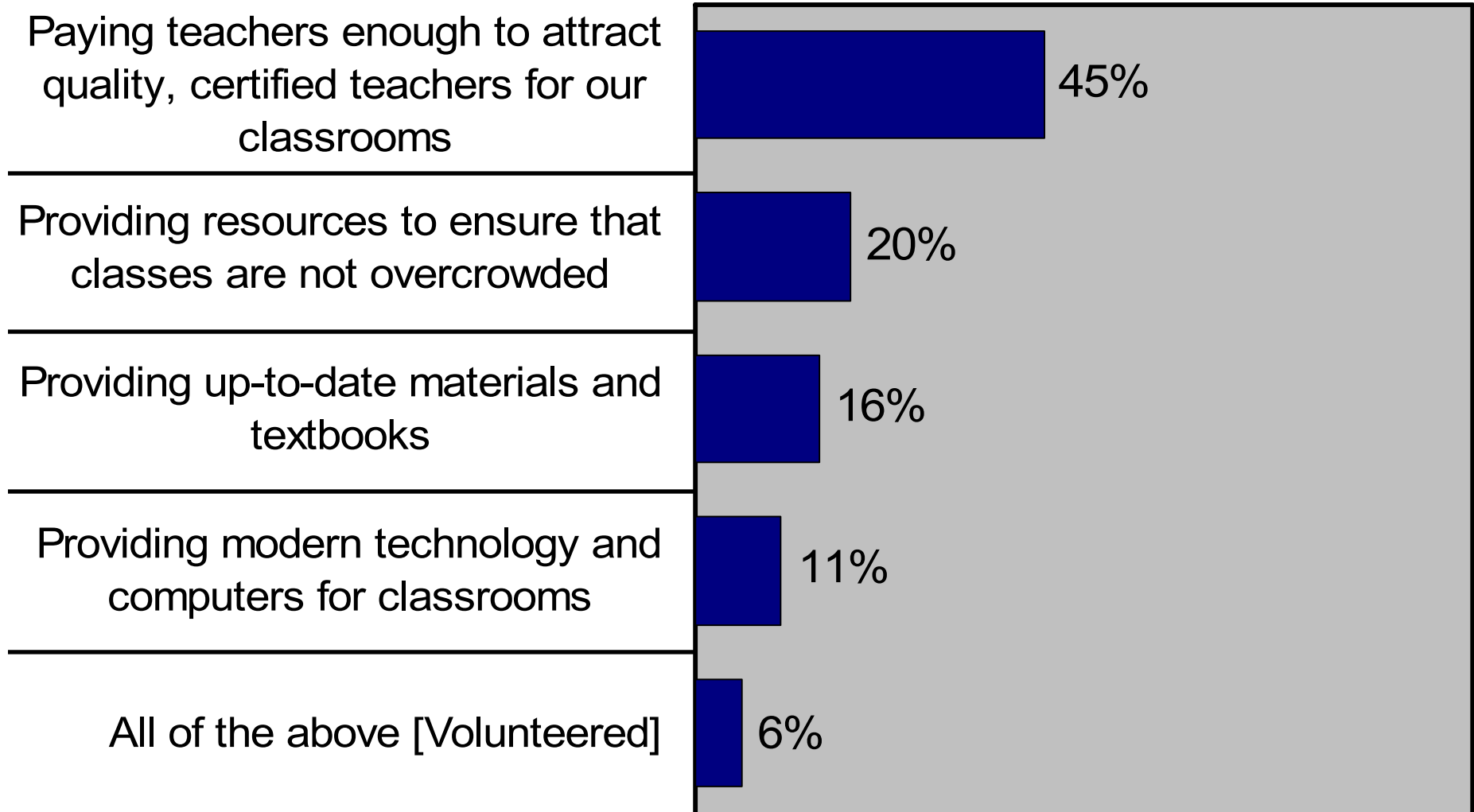
■ Extremely Important ■ Very Important



Q15 a-d

# Most Important Factor to Invest Money and Resources

Percent saying the factor is the most important



Q16