2016-2017 School Climate Survey Report

Results and Analysis

Ann Arbor Public Schools School Years 2013-2014, 2014-105, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017



Purpose of the Study

Positive school climate is an essential component of successful and effective schools. It is defined as shared beliefs, values, and attitudes that shape interactions between students, teachers, and administrators, while setting the parameters of acceptable behavior and norms for the school.

Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) is committed to supporting continuous improvement in our schools. As part of this effort, we surveyed staff, parents, and students to get feedback on the many aspects of school culture that make our schools great places to learn, work and belong.

K12 *Insight* partnered with Dawn Linden, executive director of elementary education, to develop the 2017 School Climate Surveys of Parents, Students and Staff which addressed the following topics:

- Academic preparation
- Student support
- Parent engagement
- Safety and behavior
- School operations

The surveys also addressed other topics relevant to specific participant groups, such as school leadership, faculty relations, guidance counseling, diversity and equity, teacher quality, busing, and program evaluation.



Details of the Study

The 2017 School Climate Surveys of Parents, Students and Staff was open from **March 14 to April 14**. Participants learned about the survey via letters, newsletter, morning announcements, social media posts, and news items. K12 *Insight* emailed individual invitations with survey links to parents of AAPS students and staff members. Students accessed the survey using their student identification number. A public link was also available for parents. Staff members and parents could take the survey for additional schools through a public link. Reminders were sent March 21 and 28, and April 4 and 11.

This report summarizes survey results for the **2013-2014**, **2014-2015**, **2015-2016**, and **2016-2017** school years and breaks them down by dimension and populations. Reports for each school are included in this project.

The survey of elementary school students (grades 3-5) was substantially different from the survey of parents, staff members, and middle and high school students (grades 6-12).

Results do not reflect random sampling; therefore, they should not be generalized to all AAPS parents, staff members, or students. Rather, results reflect only the perceptions and opinions of survey participants.

Findings for each item in the report exclude participants who did not answer. In some charts and graphs, data labels less than 5 percent are not shown. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



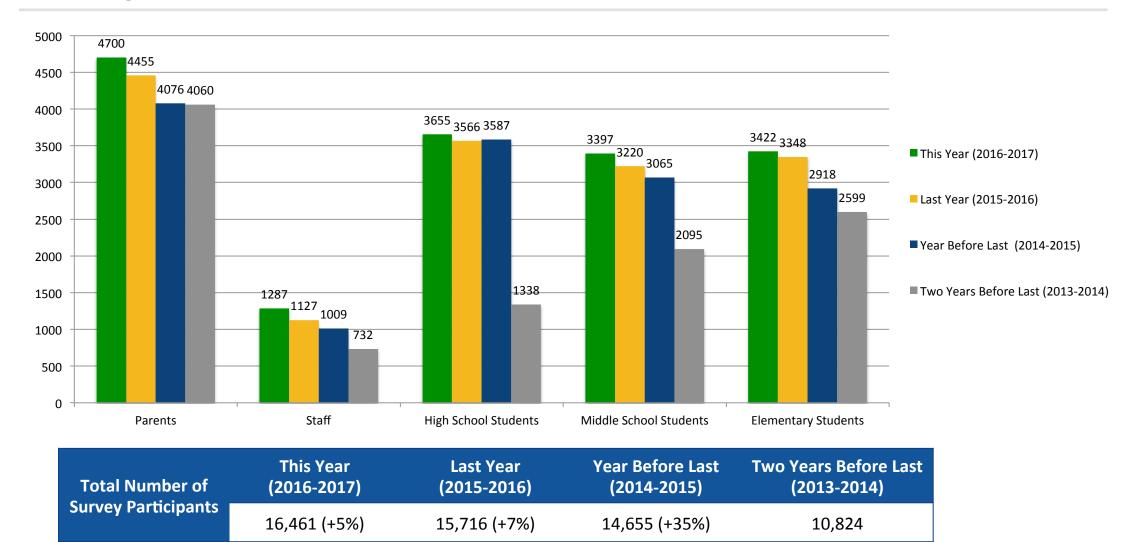
Participation 2017

Responding Group	Number of Invitations Delivered (NMax)	Number of Responses (N)	Response Rate	Public Access Link Responses	Total Responses
Parents	20,051	3,335		1,365	4,700
Staff	2,062	1,246		41	1,287
High School Students	5,431	3,655	67%		3,655
Middle School Students	3,861	3,397	88%		3,397
Elementary Students	3,750	3,422	91%		3,422
				TOTAL	16,461

Responding Group	English	Arabic	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Spanish
Parents	4,643 (98%)	2 (<1%)	5 (<1%)	23 (<1%)	11 (<1%)	16 (<1%)



Participation Trend





Highlights

Parents

- 6% Improvement over four years in Academic Preparation and 8% over four years in School Leadership
- Highest overall ratings in "High Learning and Behavior Standards" and "Being Kept Informed"
- Highest rating to date (94%) in "Feeling Welcome" at school
- Two straight years of reaching 90% in "My Child Enjoys Going to School."

Staff

- Highest overall rating in "Setting High Learning Standards" (95%) and "Clear Expectations in School" (92%)
- 8% improvement over four years in School Operations (72%)

High Students

- Highest ratings to date in "Respect for Diversity" (82%)
- Continuing high overall ratings for "Getting Help When Needed" (84%)
- 17% improvement over four years in "Guidance Counselor Advice for College and 13% improvement in post high school career path exploration

Middle Students

- Highest ratings overall in "Respect for Diversity" (81%) and "Safety and Behavior" (79%)
- 8% Improvement over four years in "Teacher Feedback" (61%)

Elementary Students

Highest ratings overall in "My Teachers Makes Sure Everyone Understands" (83%)



Areas of Focus

Parents

- Slight decline (3%) over three years in "Homework Supports My Child's Learning"
- Relatively low (72%) but improving in "There is a Staff Member to Whom My Child Can Go if He/she Has a Problem"

Staff

- 6% decline over four years in "Having the Support to Maintain Discipline"
- 5% decline over four years in "Parent Support for Behavior"
- 12% decline over four years in "High Behavior Standards are Set"

High School and Middle School Students

- Comparatively low in "What I Learn in School Relates to Life Outside of School" (49%) up 4% over four years- HS, 1% MS
- Comparatively low in "Fresh High Quality Food is Served" (MS 28%, up 7% over four years), (HS 20%)

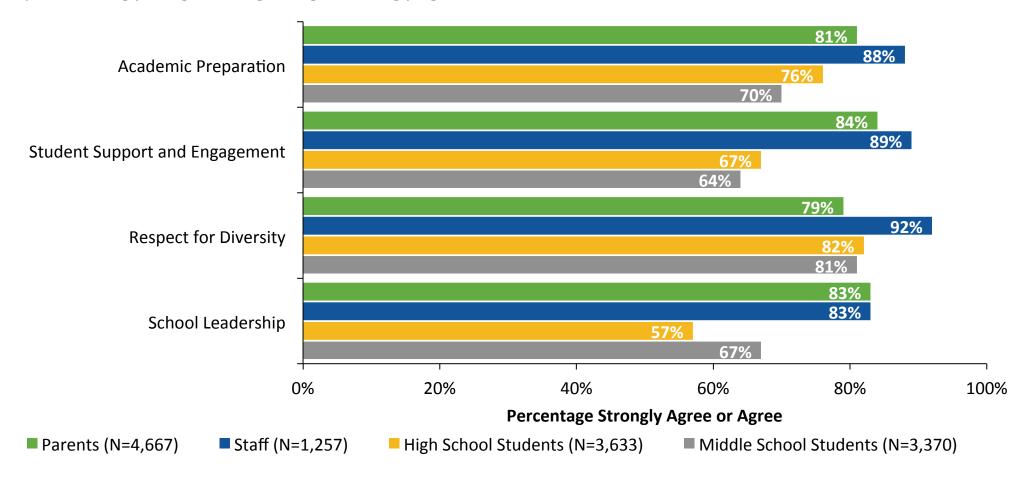
Elementary Students

- Relatively low but improving in "My Schoolwork is Challenging" (26%), up 5% over four years
- Relatively low but improving in "Students Work Together on Assignments" (40%) up 5% over four years



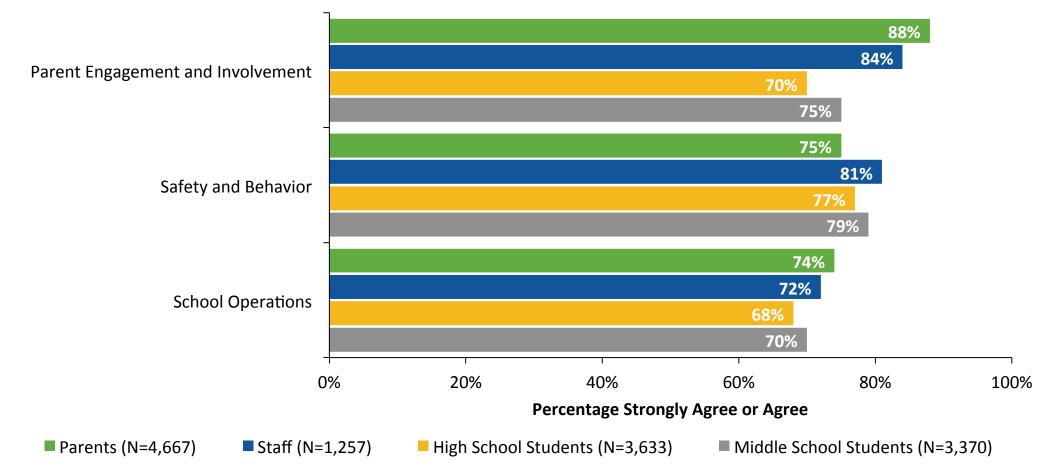
Dimension Comparison: 2016–2017

Dimension Scores: Comparison by Survey Group





Dimension Scores: Comparison by Survey Group (Continued)

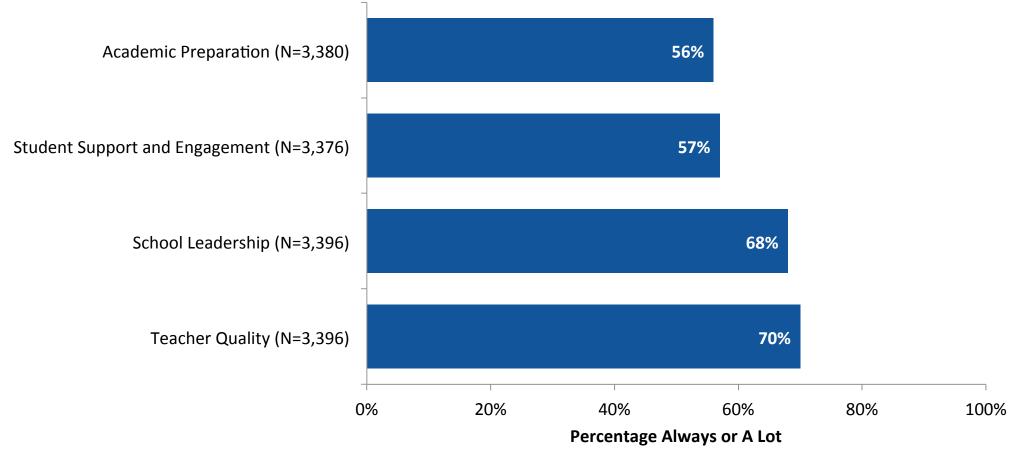




Elementary Students

Dimension Scores: Elementary Students

Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know

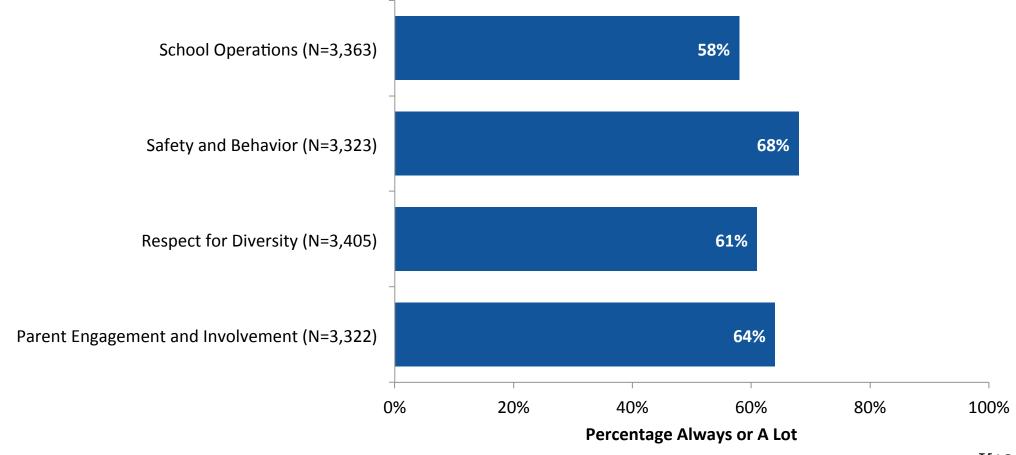




Elementary Students

Dimension Scores: Elementary Students (Continued)

Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know

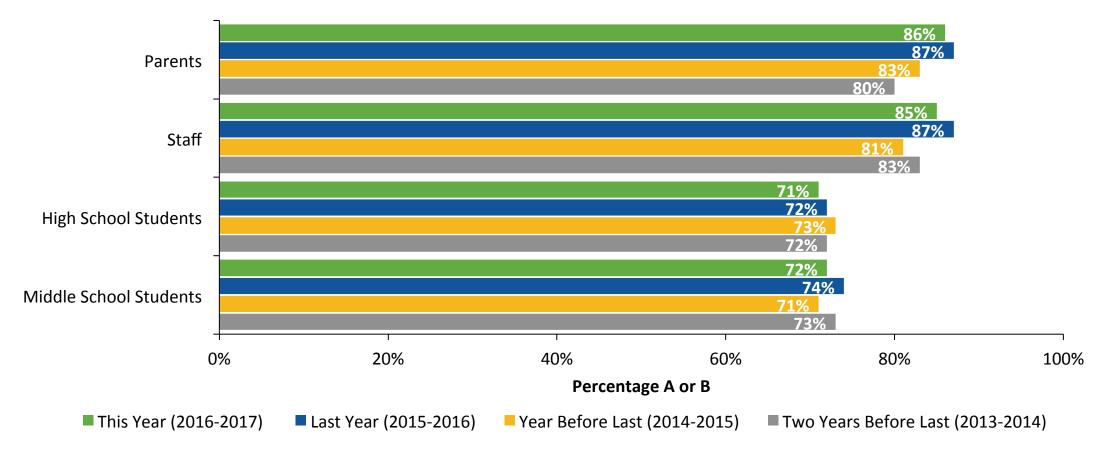


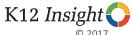


Dimension Comparison Over Time

Overall Perception of School Quality

Students receive grades of A, B, C, D or E to report the quality of their work. What grade would you give the overall quality of this school? On this scale, A represents outstanding, C is average and E is failing.

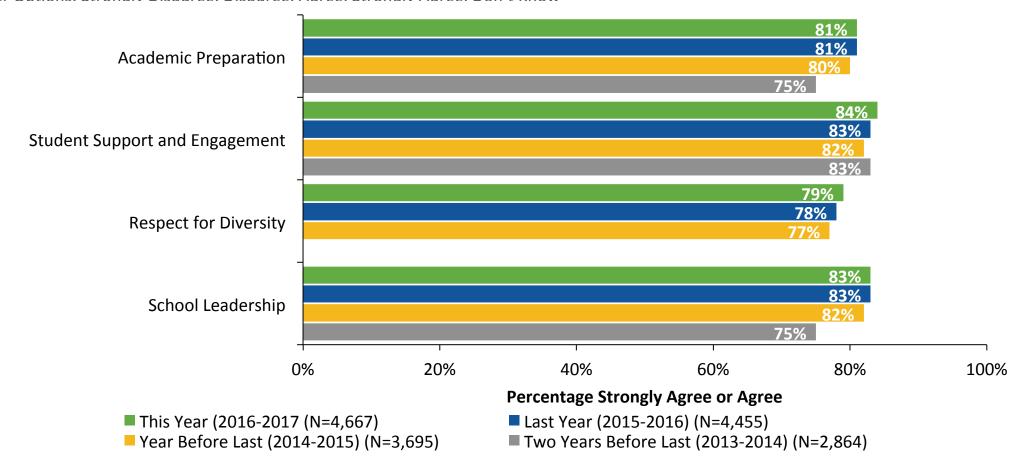


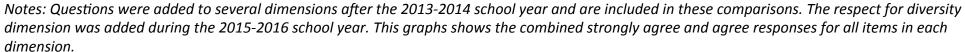


Parents

Dimension Scores: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



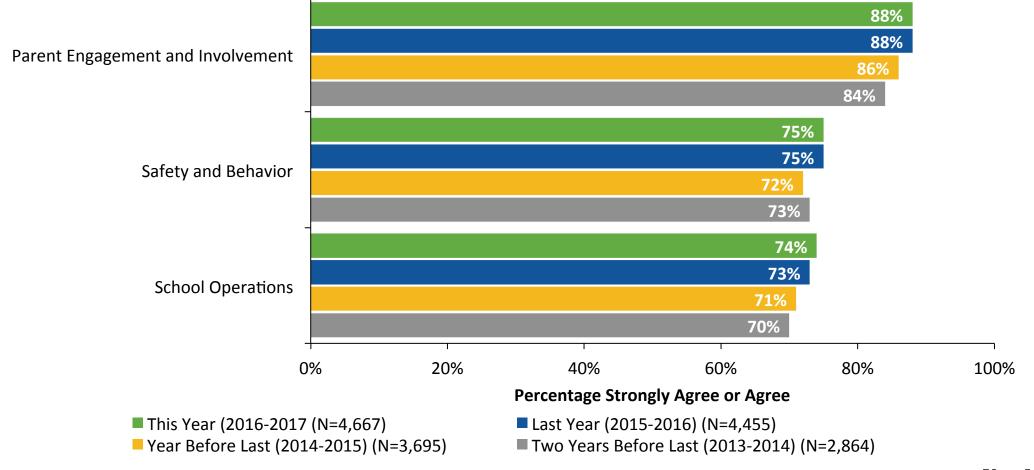




Parents

Dimension Scores: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

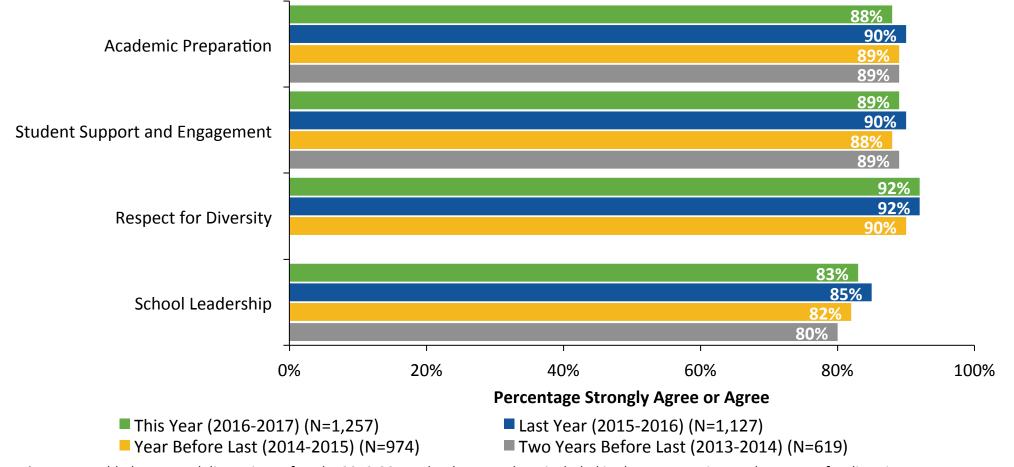




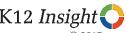
Dimension Scores: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

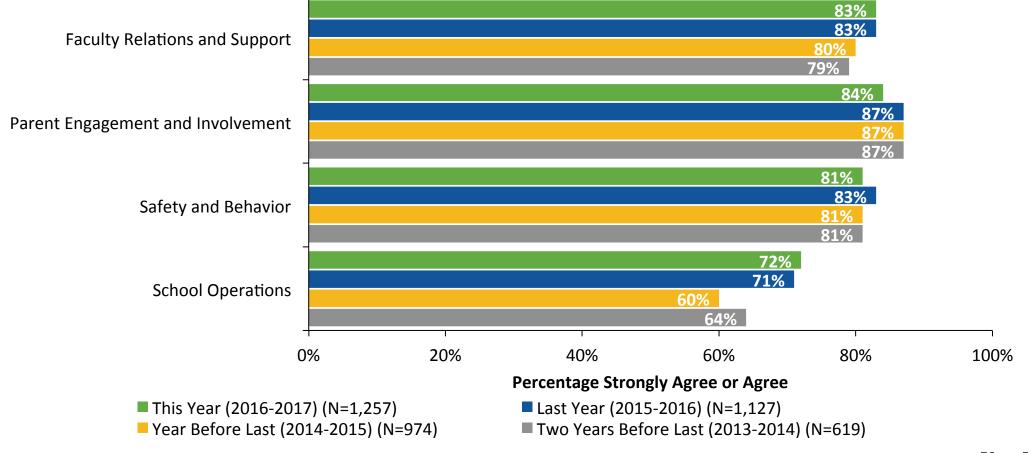


Notes: Questions were added to several dimensions after the 2013-2014 school year and are included in these comparisons. The respect for diversity dimension was added during the 2015-2016 school year. This graphs shows the combined strongly agree and agree responses for all items in each dimension.



Dimension Scores: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

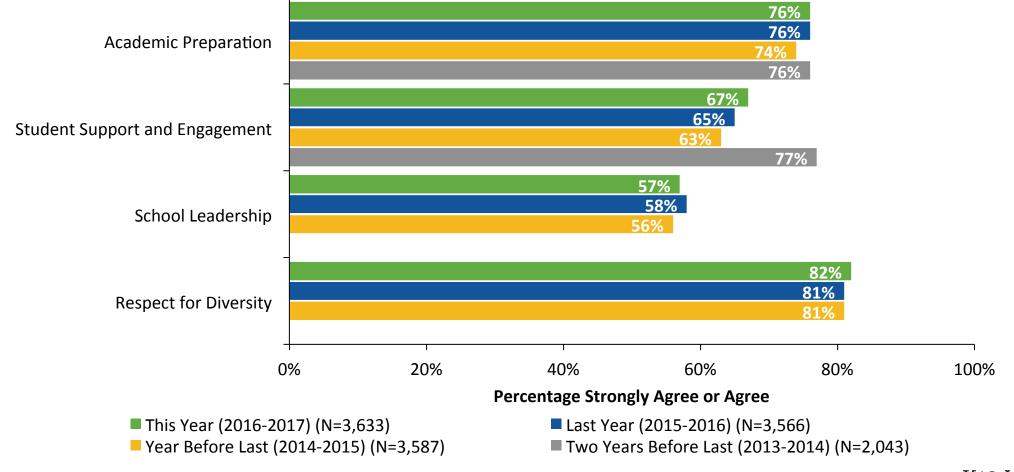




Dimension Scores: Comparison Over Time

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

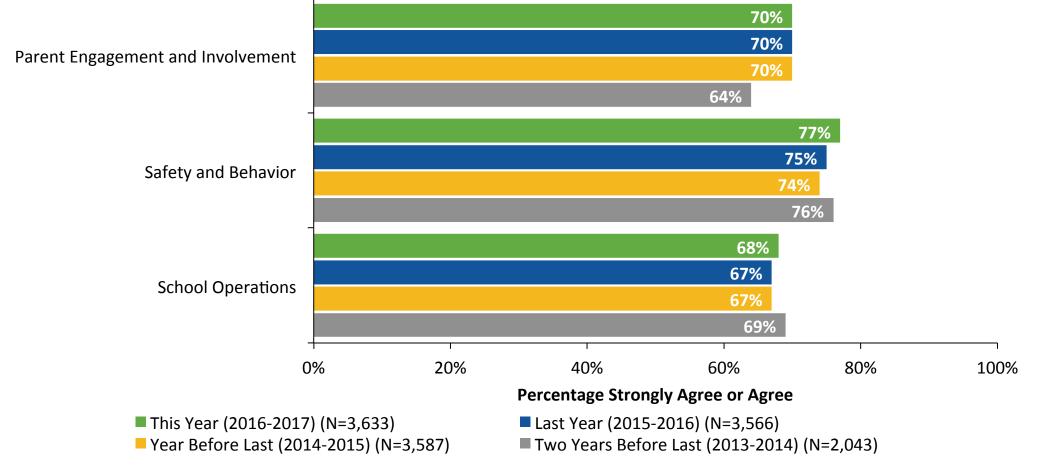
Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know



Notes: Questions were added to several dimensions after the 2013-2014 school year and are included in these comparisons. The school leadership dimension K12 Insight was added during the 2015-2016 school year. This graphs shows the combined strongly agree and agree responses for all items in each dimension.

Dimension Scores: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

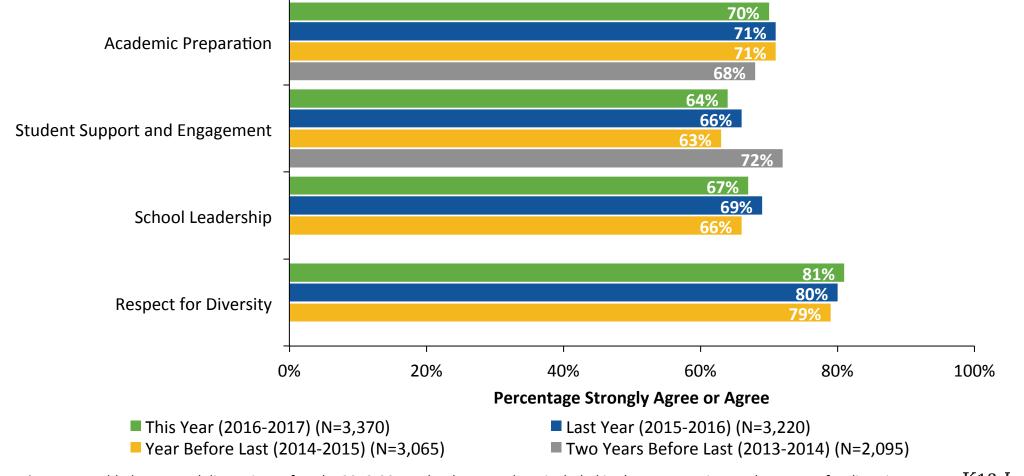
How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?





Dimension Scores: Comparison Over Time

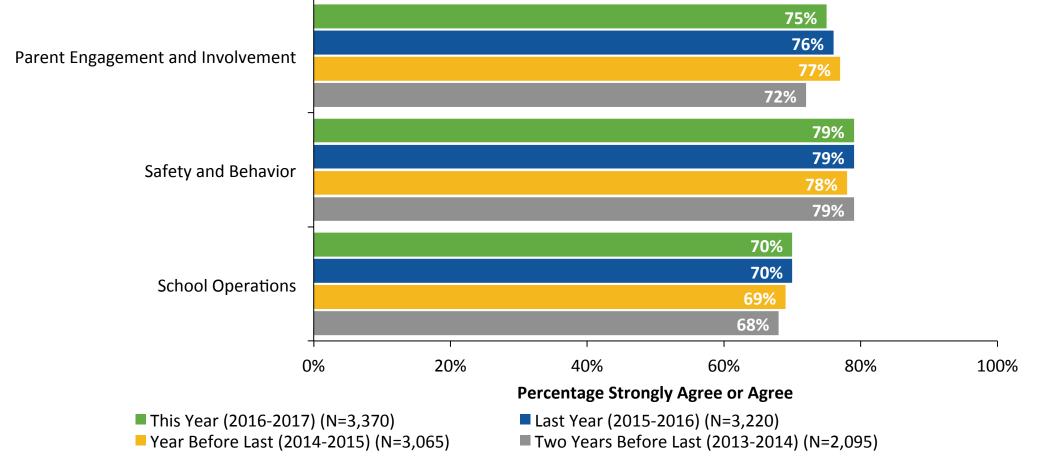
How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?





Dimension Scores: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

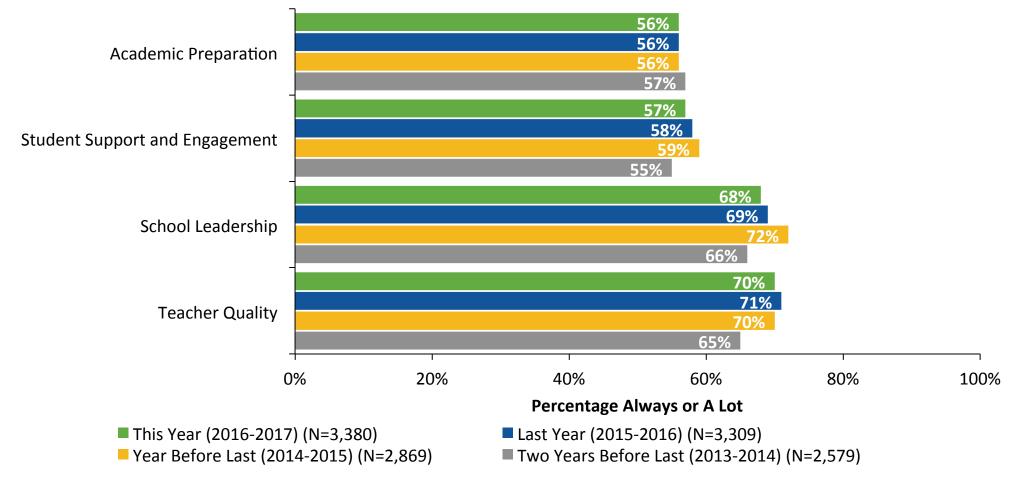
How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?





Dimension Scores: Comparison Over Time

How often does each of these happen in your school? Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know



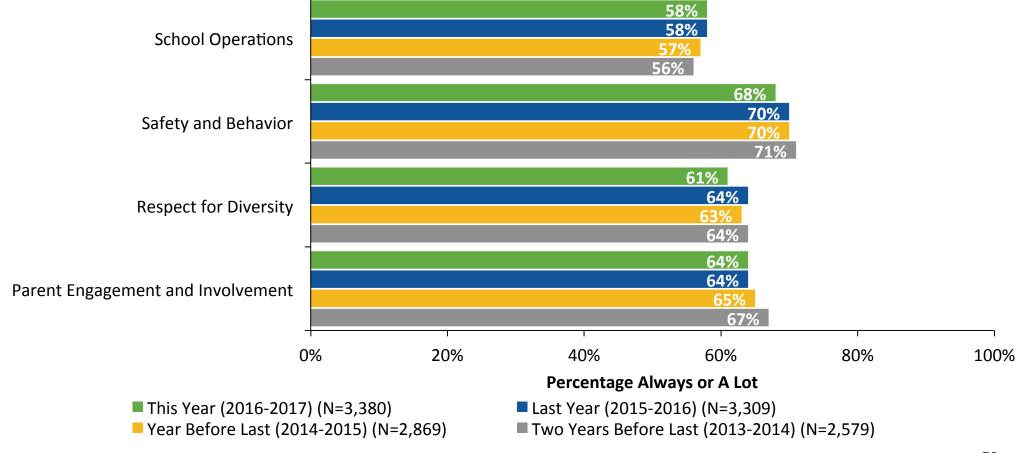


Elementary Students

Dimension Scores: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How often does each of these happen in your school?

Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know

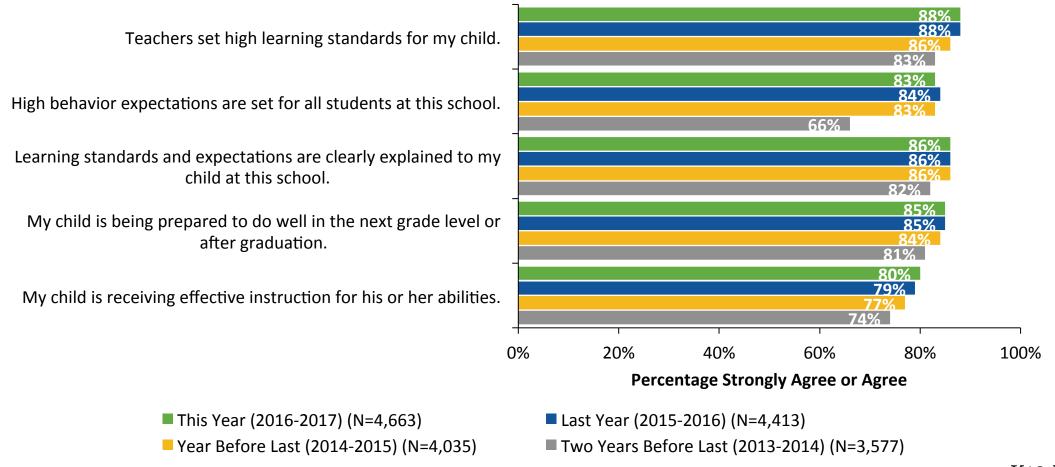




Item Comparison Over Time

Academic Preparation: Comparison Over Time

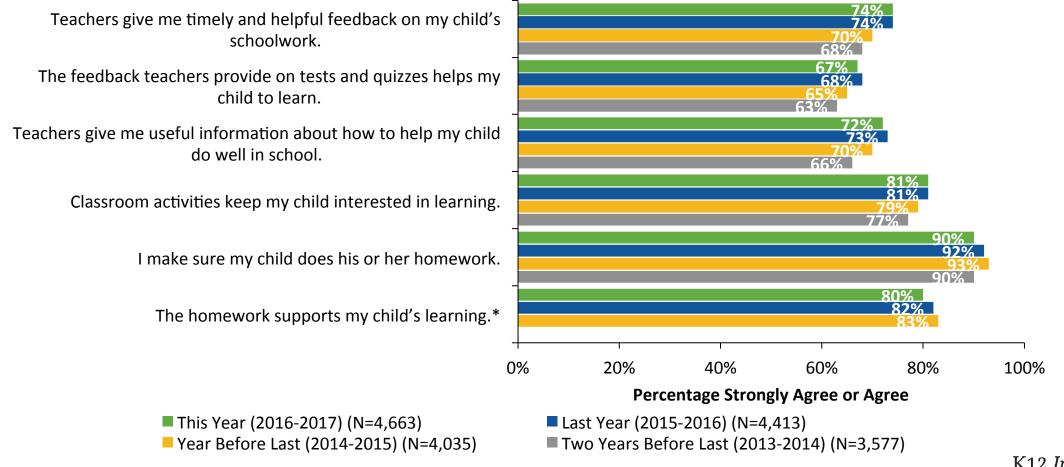
Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.





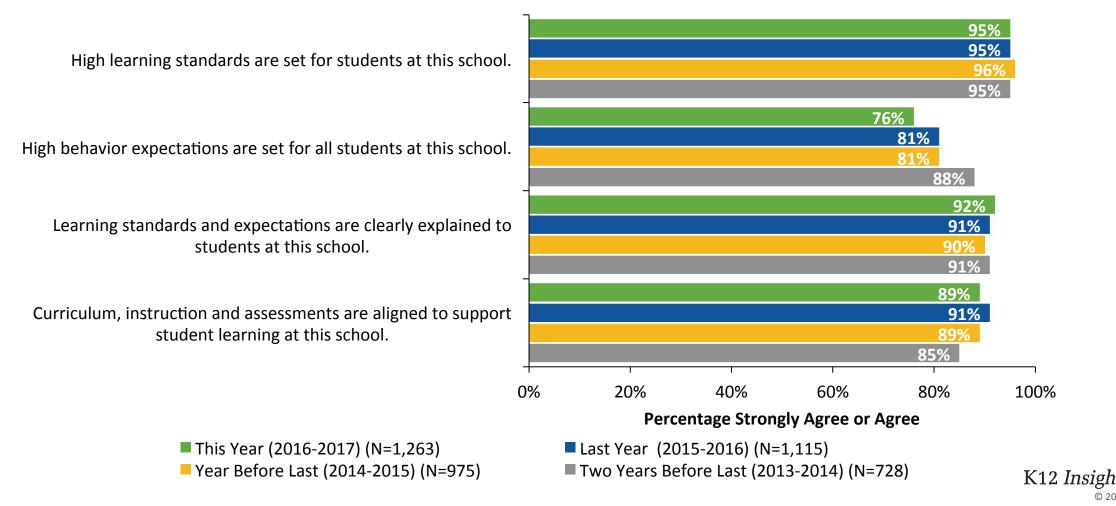
Academic Preparation: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



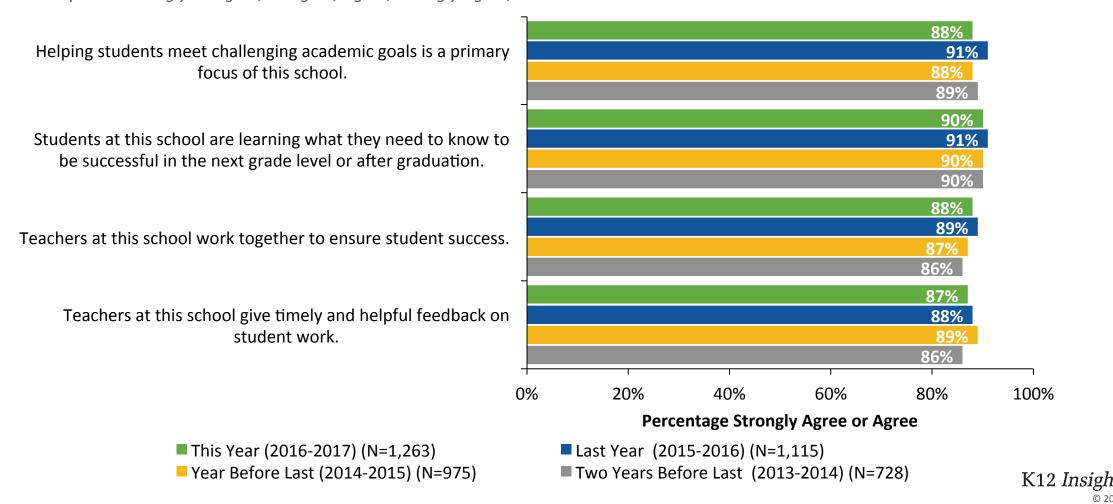
Academic Preparation: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



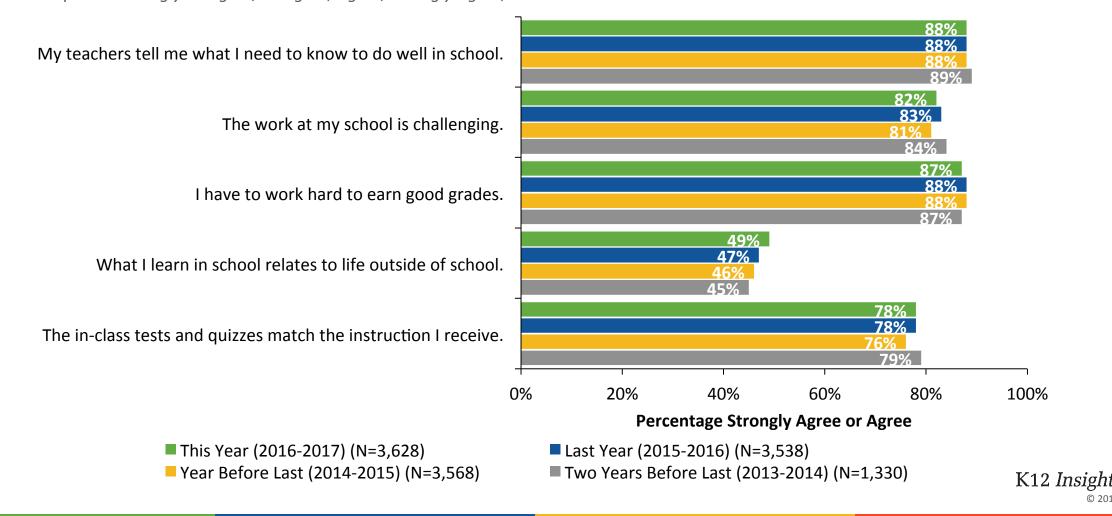
Academic Preparation: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



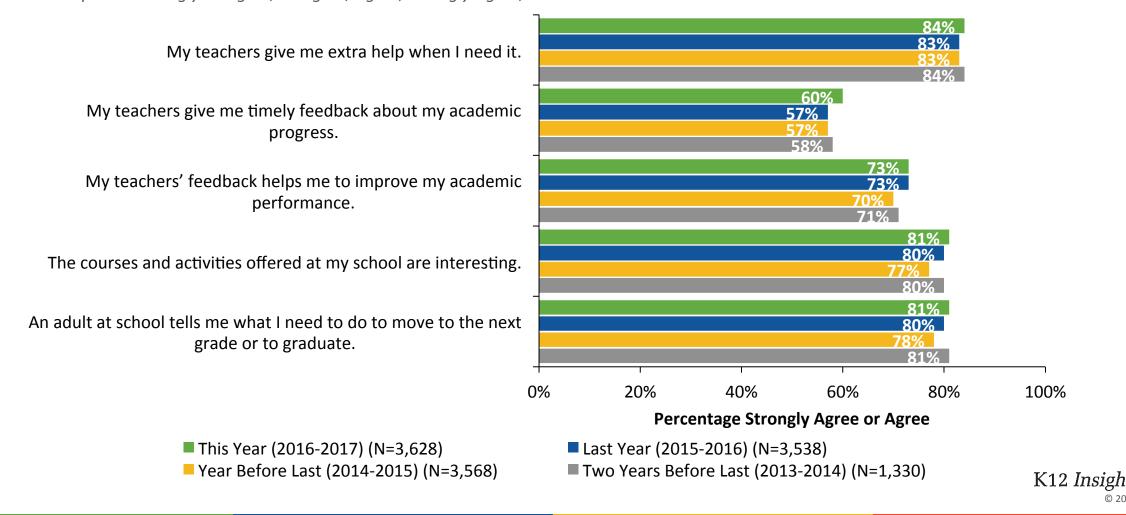
Academic Preparation: Comparison Over Time

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



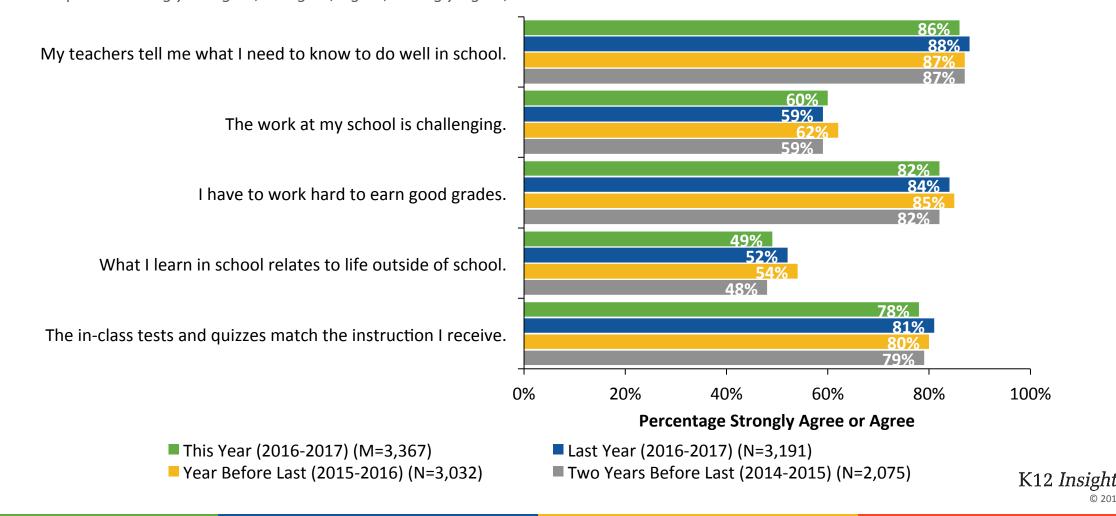
Academic Preparation: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



Academic Preparation: Comparison Over Time

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



Academic Preparation: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

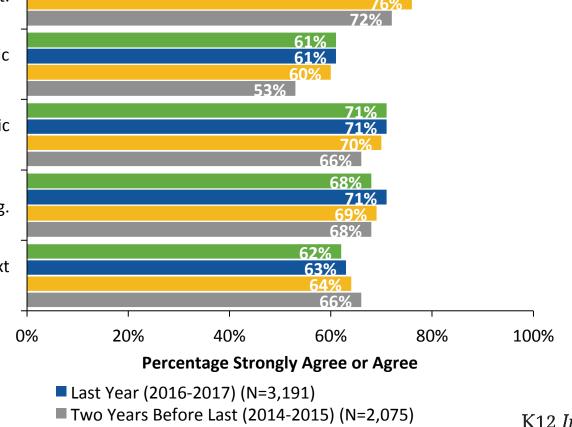
My teachers give me extra help when I need it.

My teachers give me timely feedback about my academic progress.

My teachers' feedback helps me to improve my academic performance.

The courses and activities offered at my school are interesting.

An adult at school tells me what I need to do to move to the next grade or to graduate.



79%

■ This Year (2016-2017) (M=3,367)

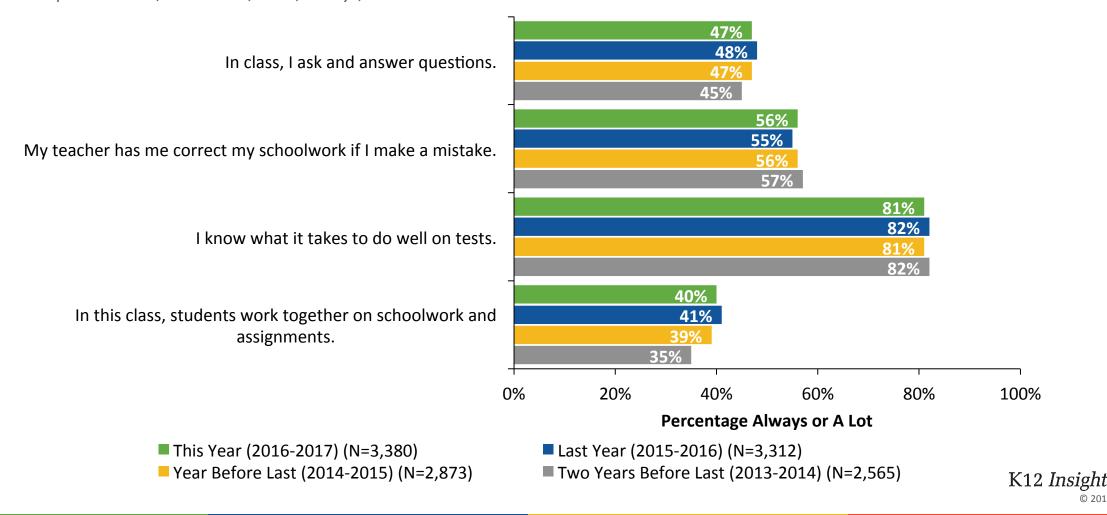
Year Before Last (2015-2016) (N=3,032)



Academic Preparation: Comparison Over Time

How often does each of these happen in your school?

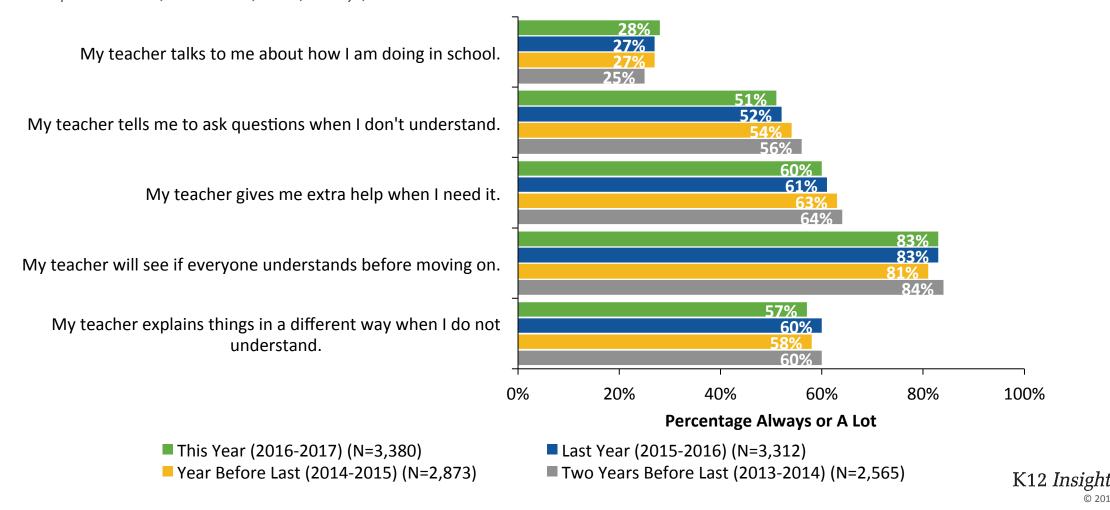
Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know



Academic Preparation: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How often does each of these happen in your school?

Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know



Student Support and Engagement: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

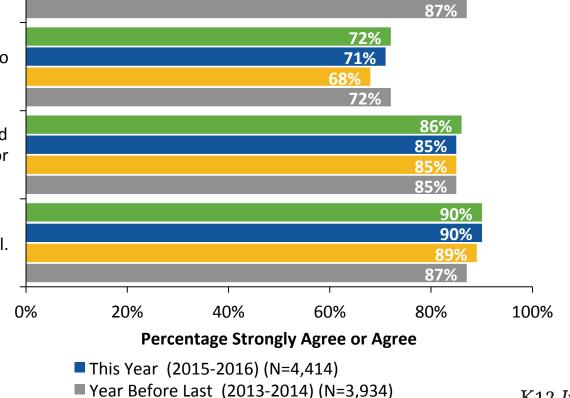
Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

There is a teacher, counselor or other staff member at school to whom my child can go for help with a school problem.

There is a teacher, counselor or other staff member at school to whom my child can go for help with a personal problem.

My child takes an interest in the extracurricular activities offered at this school, such as athletics, performing arts, student clubs or field trips.

My child enjoys going to this school.



■ This Year (2016-2017) (N=4,668)

Last Year (2014-2015) (N=4,048)

(N=3,934) K12 Insight

88%

87%

87%

Student Support and Engagement: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

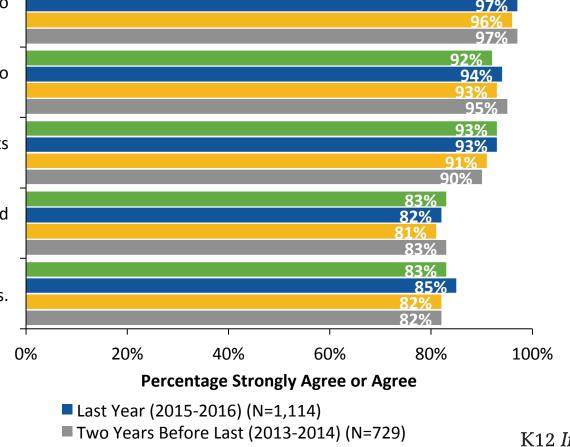
There is a teacher, counselor or other staff member at school to whom a student can go for help with a school problem.

There is a teacher, counselor or other staff member at school to whom a student can go for help with a personal problem.

The variety of activities and courses at this school keep students engaged in learning.

Students get the support they need at school for academic and career planning.

Teachers usually talk positively about students in the staff areas.



■ This Year (2016-2017) (N=1,262)

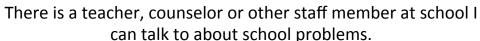
Year Before Last (2014-2015) (N=977)



Student Support and Engagement: Comparison Over Time

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

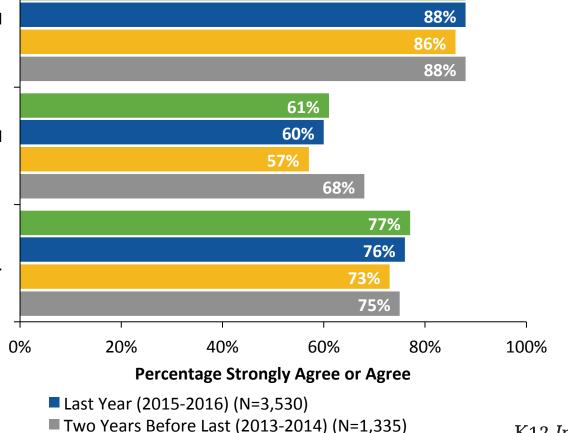
Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know



There is a teacher, counselor or other staff member at school I can talk to about personal problems.

I feel encouraged by my teachers to do the best I can in school.

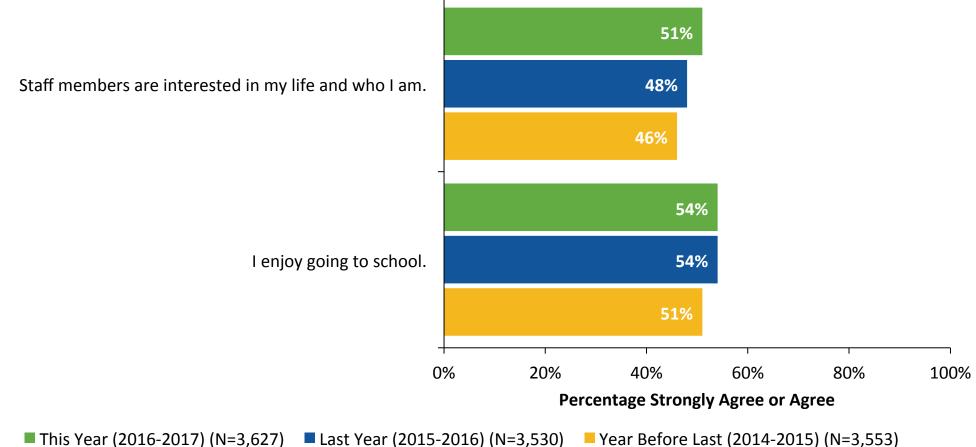




88%

Student Support and Engagement: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?





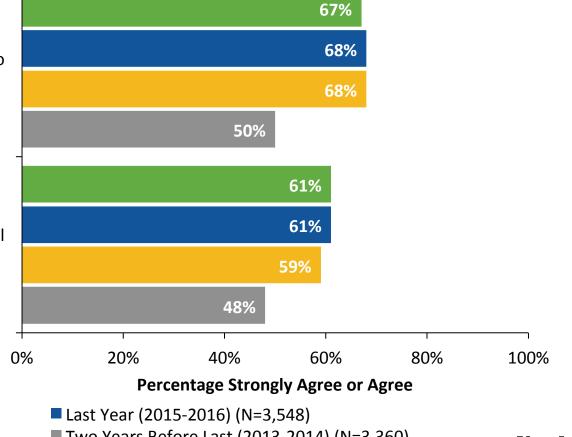
Guidance Counseling: Comparison Over Time

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

A guidance counselor at school has given me advice on how to get into college.

A guidance counselor at school has explored post-high school career and education paths with me.



■ This Year (2016-2017) (N=3,643)

Year Before Last (2014-2015) (N=2,398)

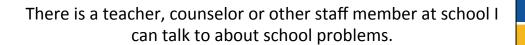
■ Two Years Before Last (2013-2014) (N=3,360)



Student Support and Engagement: Comparison Over Time

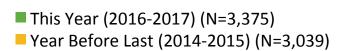
How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

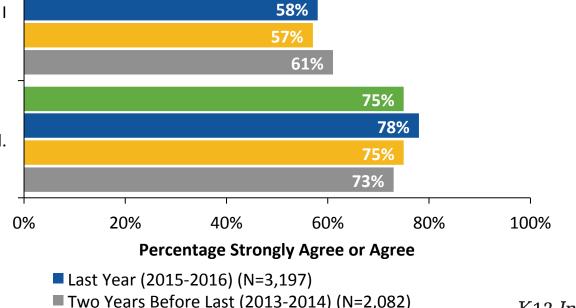
Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know



There is a teacher, counselor or other staff member at school I can talk to about personal problems.

I feel encouraged by my teachers to do the best I can in school.





58%

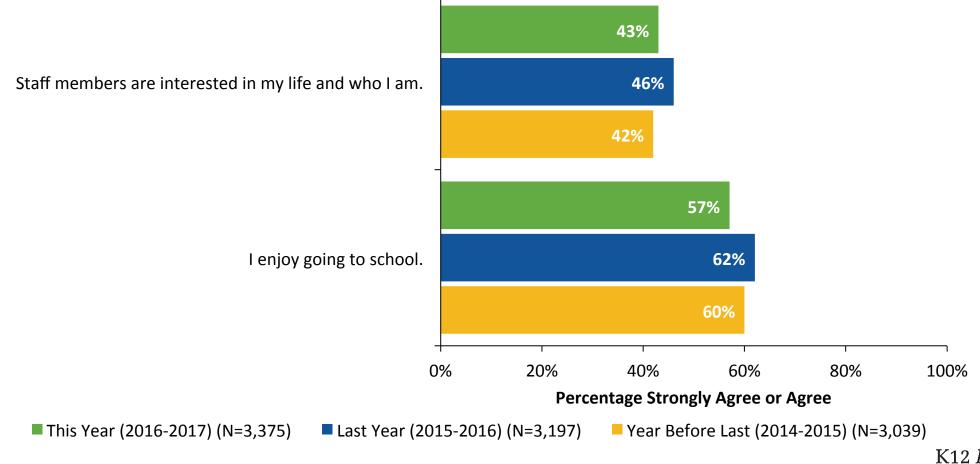
84%

84%

84% 83%

Student Support and Engagement: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

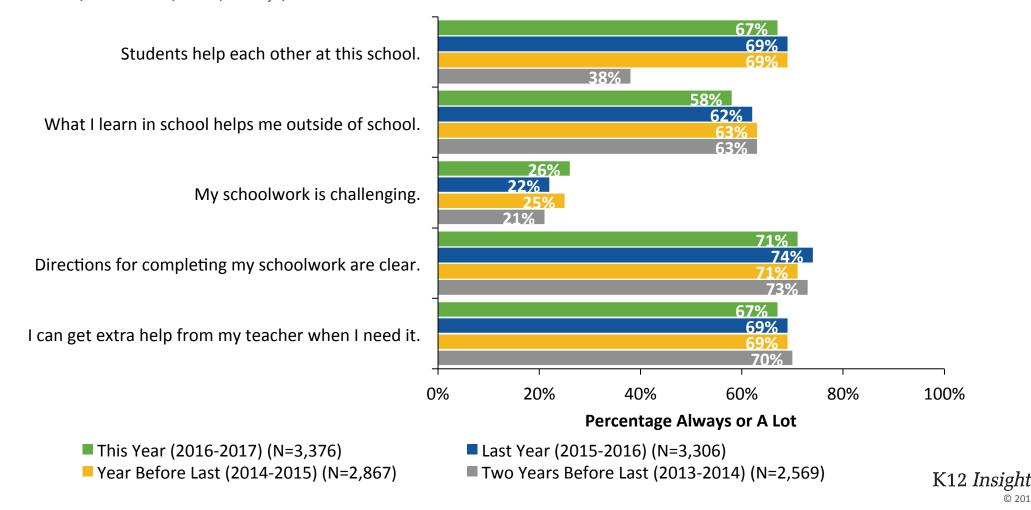




Student Support and Engagement: Comparison Over Time

How often does each of these happen in your school?

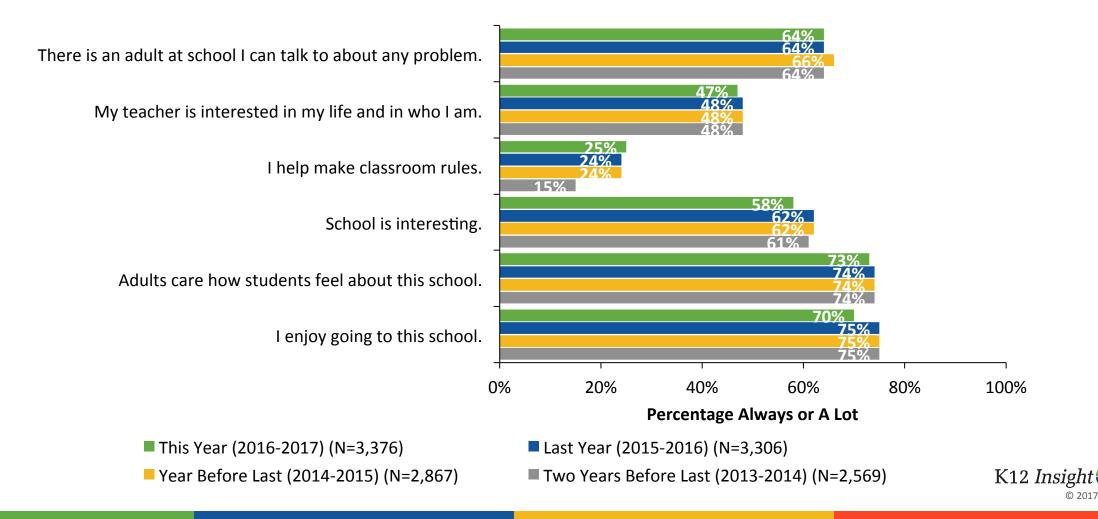
Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know



Student Support and Engagement: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How often does each of these happen in your school?

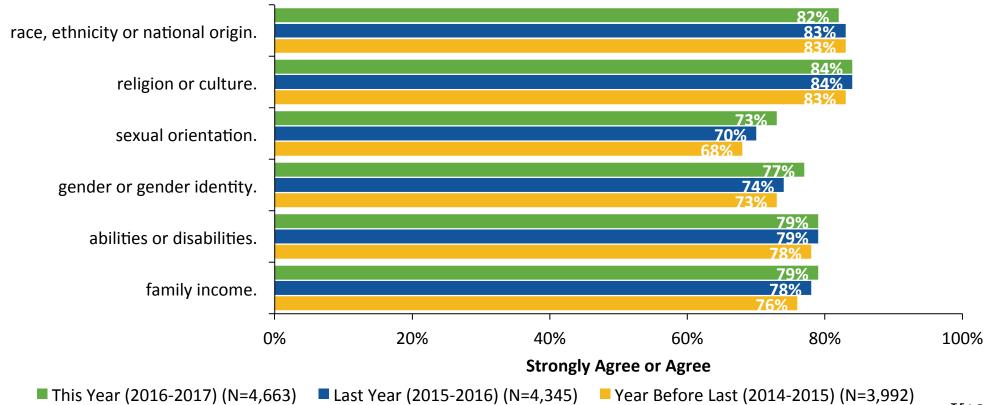
Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know



Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

Students at my child's school are treated fairly regardless of their ...

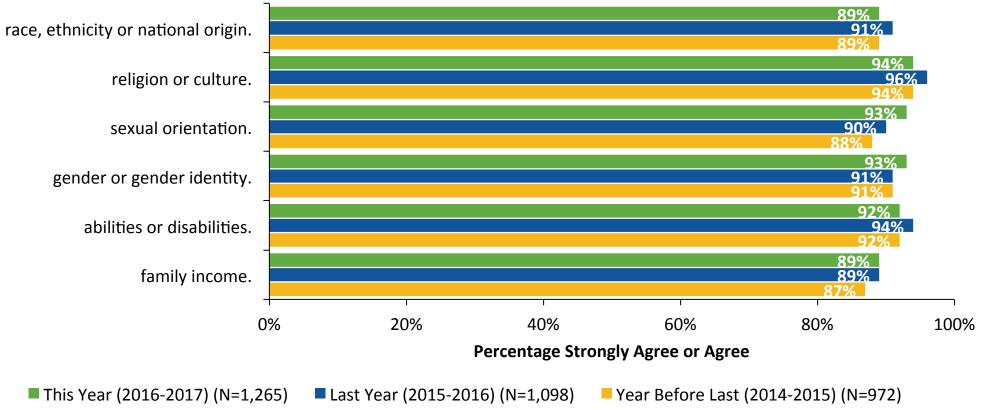


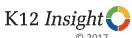


Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

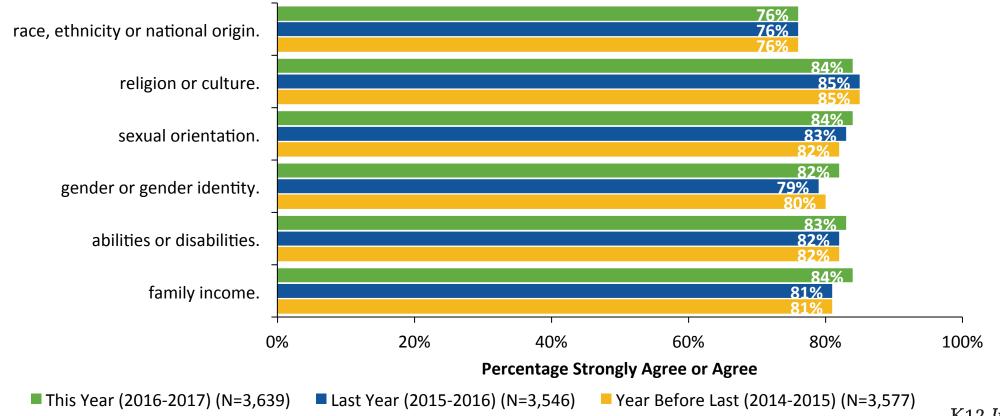
Students at this school are treated fairly regardless of their ...





How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

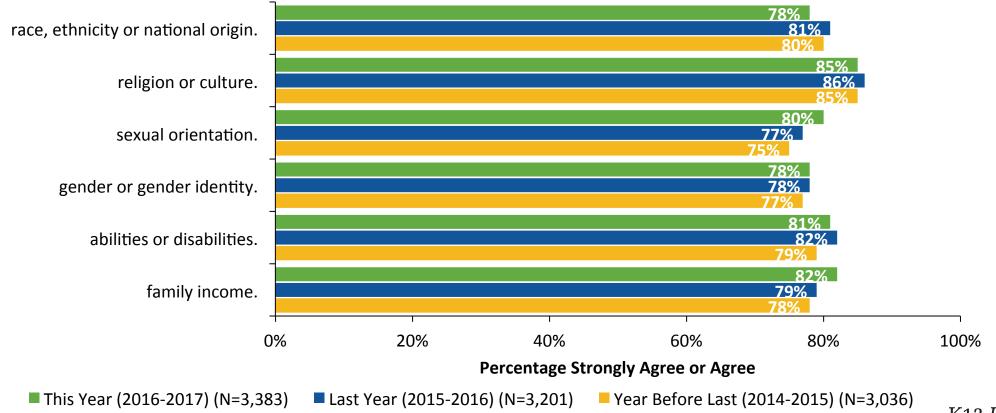
Teachers and staff treat students fairly regardless of their ...





How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

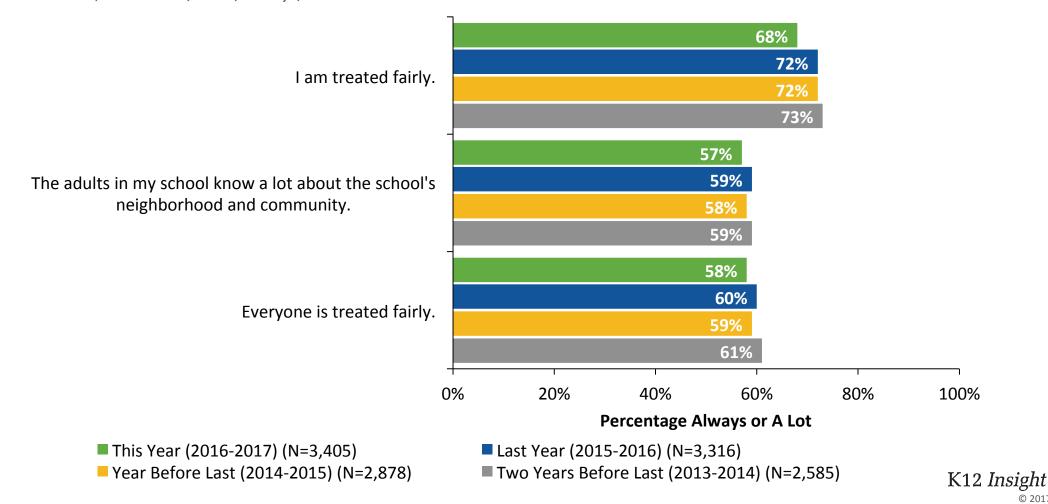
Teachers and staff treat students fairly regardless of their ...



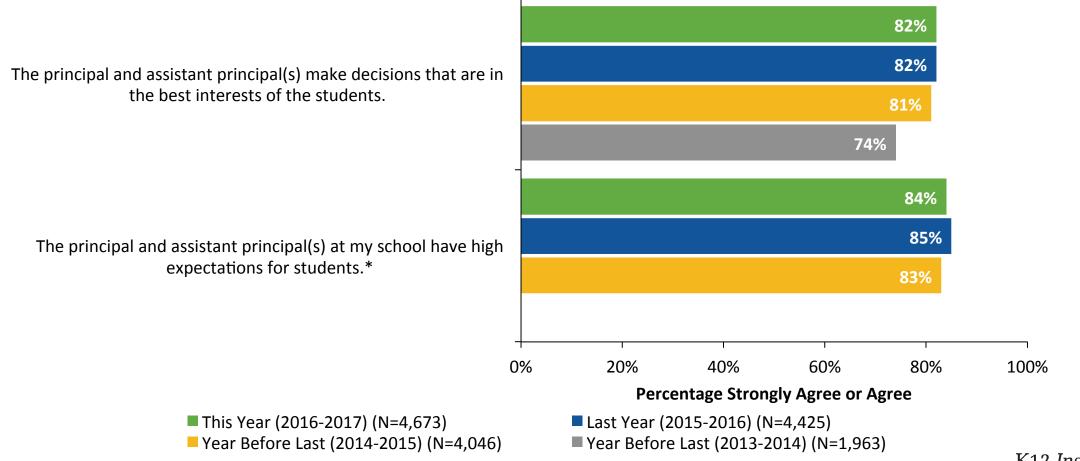


How often does each of these happen in your school?

Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know



Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

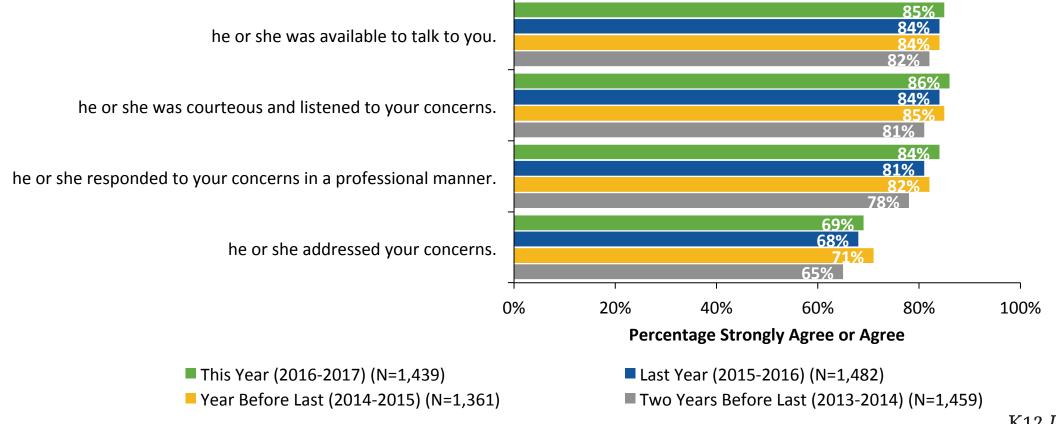


Additional School Leadership Items: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

When you have had an issue or concern to discuss with the principal or an assistant principal ...





Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

The principal and assistant principal(s) make decisions that are in the best interests of the students.

The principal and assistant principal(s) have high expectations for students.*

I know what the principal expects of me as a teacher at this school.

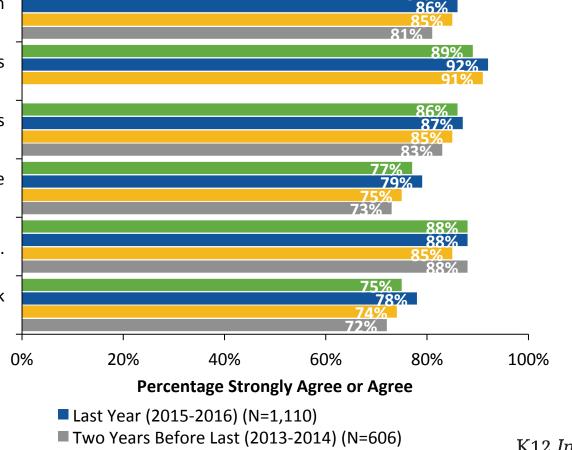
The principal and assistant principal(s) encourage teachers to be involved in making decisions for the school.

The principal has confidence in my teaching ability.

■ This Year (2016-2017) (N=1,256)

Year Before Last (2014-2015) (N=975)

The principal and assistant principal(s) provide useful feedback about my instructional practices.



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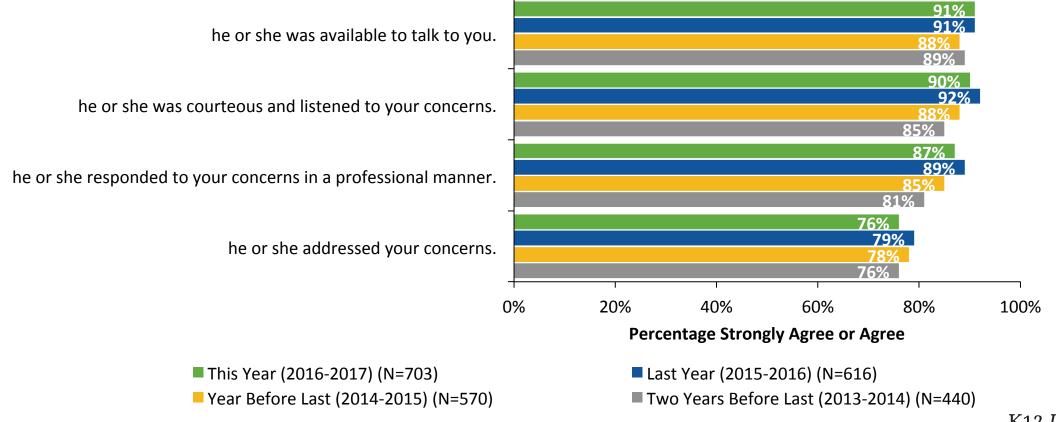


Additional School Leadership Items: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

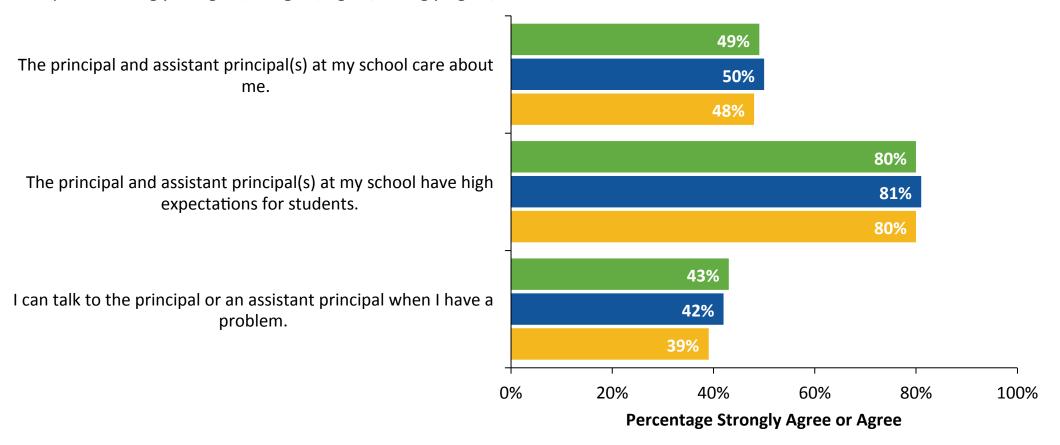
When you have had an issue or concern to discuss with the principal or an assistant principal ...





How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

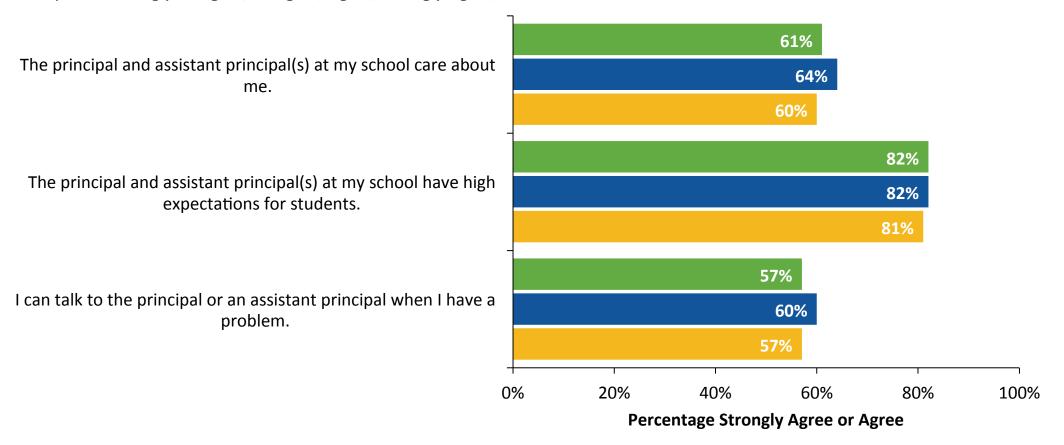


■ This Year (2016-2017) (N=3,637) ■ Last Year (2015-2016) (N=3,488) ■ Year Before Last (2014-2015) (N=3,567)



How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Answer Options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know

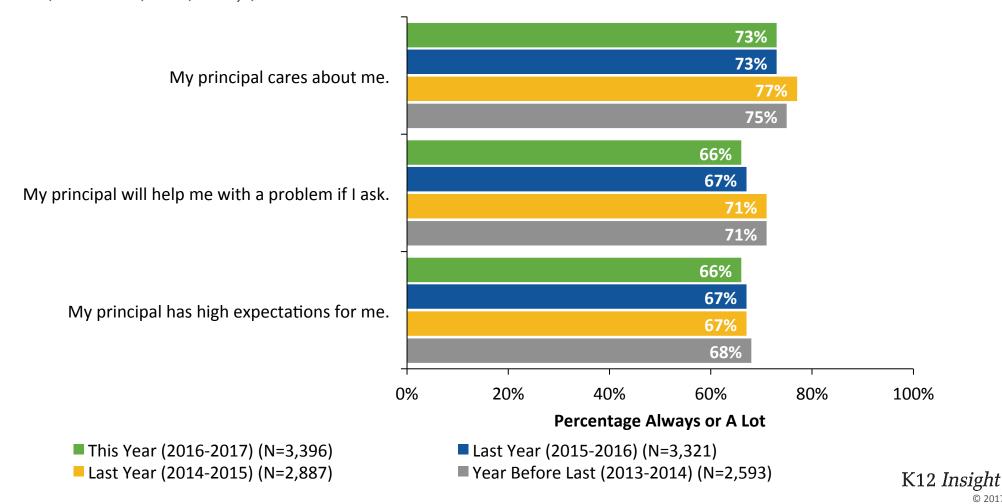


■ This Year (2016-2017) (N=3,378) ■ Last Year (2015-2016) (N=3,200) ■ Year Before Last (2014-2015) (N=3,036)



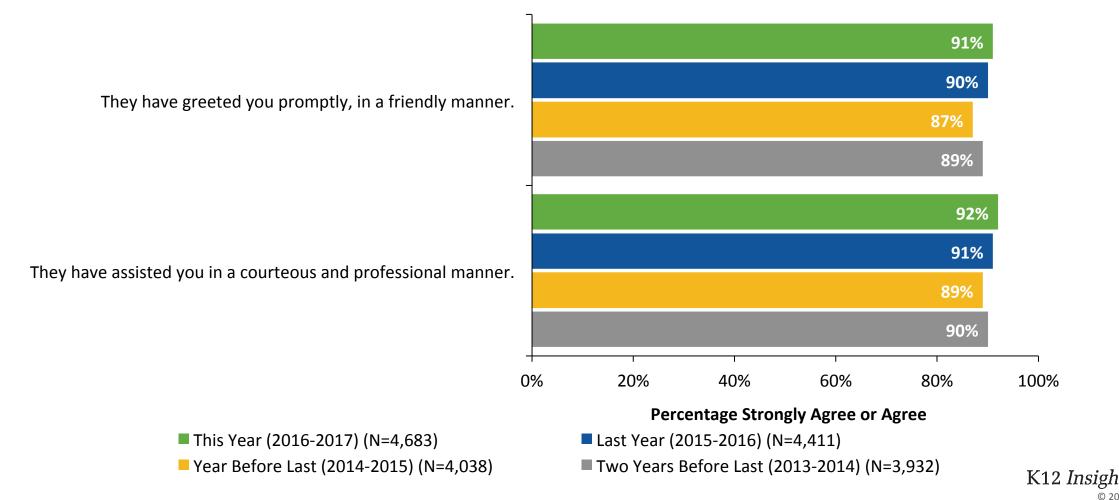
How often does each of these happen in your school?

Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know



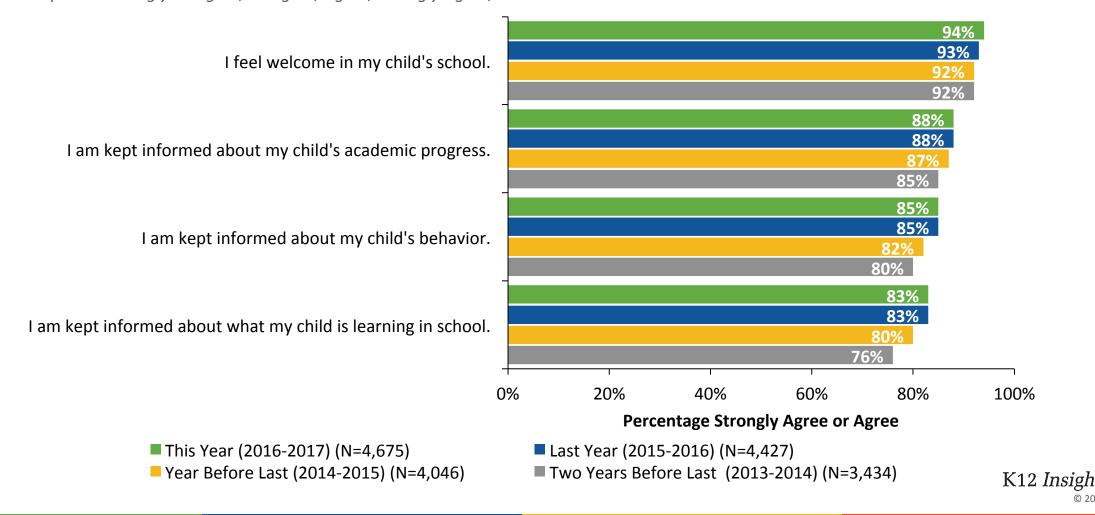
Front Office: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



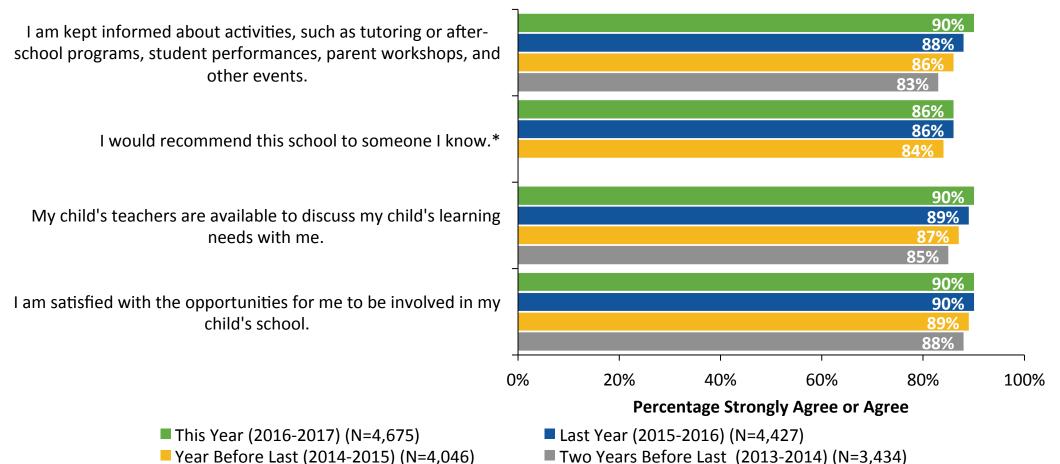
Parent Engagement and Involvement: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



Parent Engagement and Involvement: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

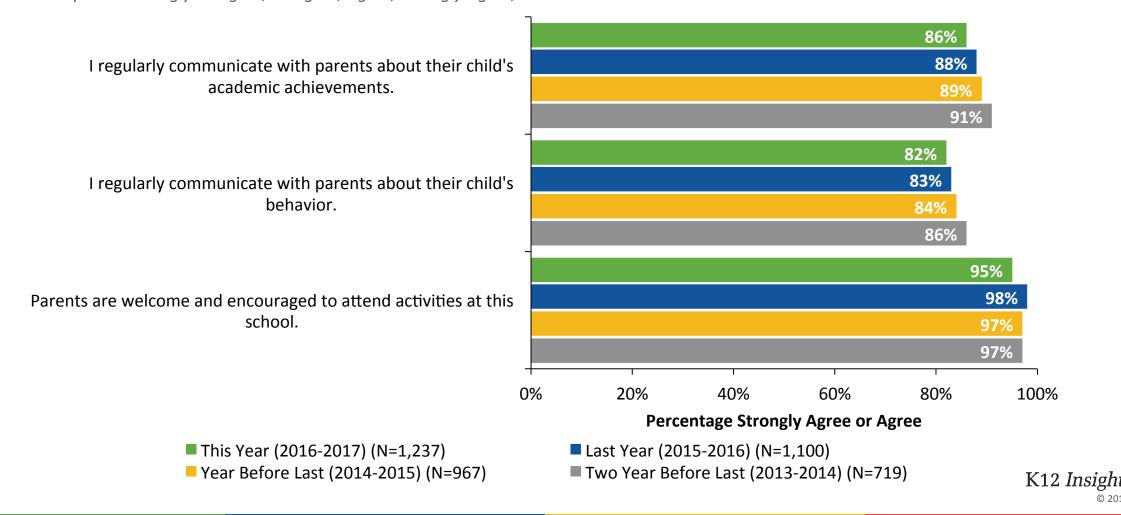
Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.





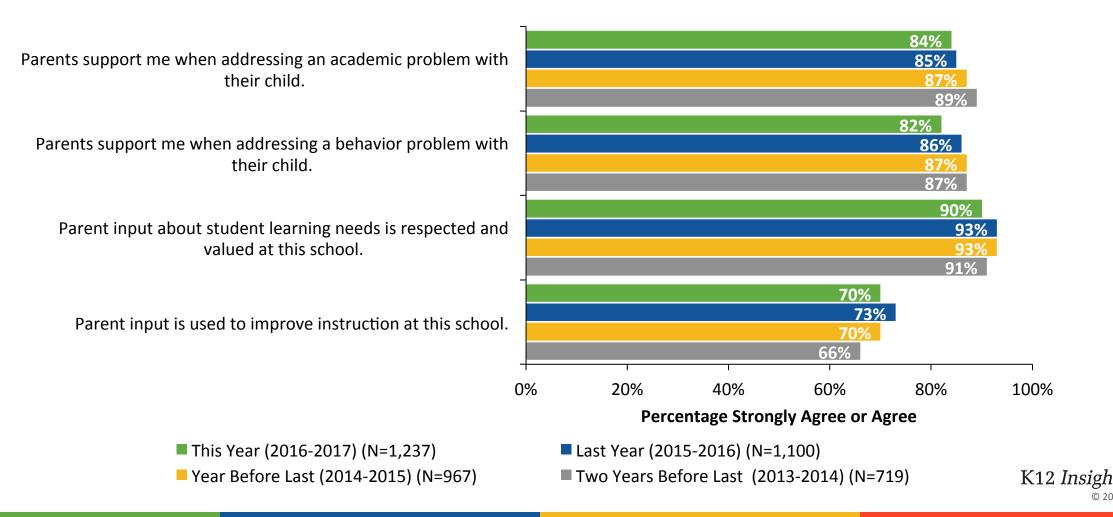
Parent Engagement and Involvement: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



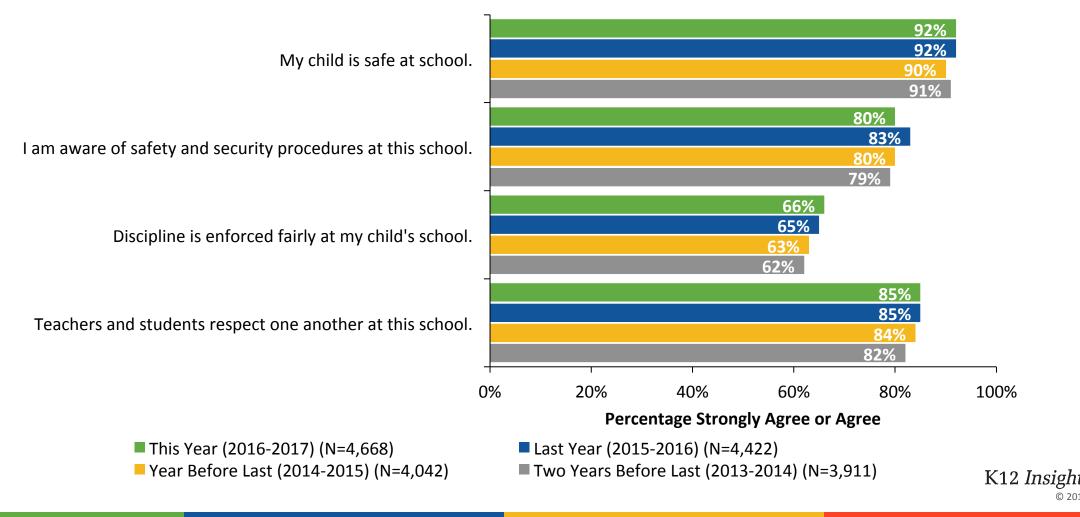
Parent Engagement and Involvement: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



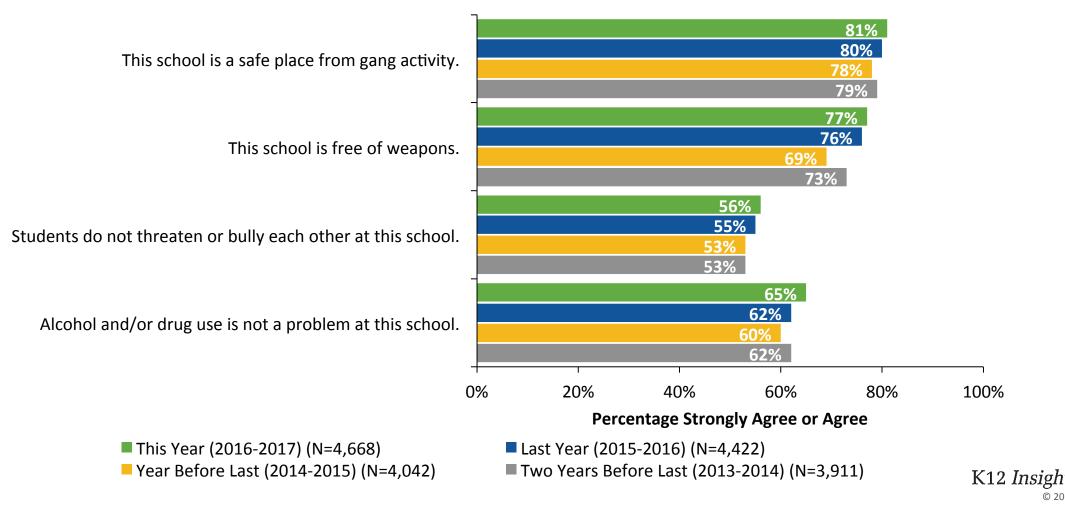
Safety and Behavior: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



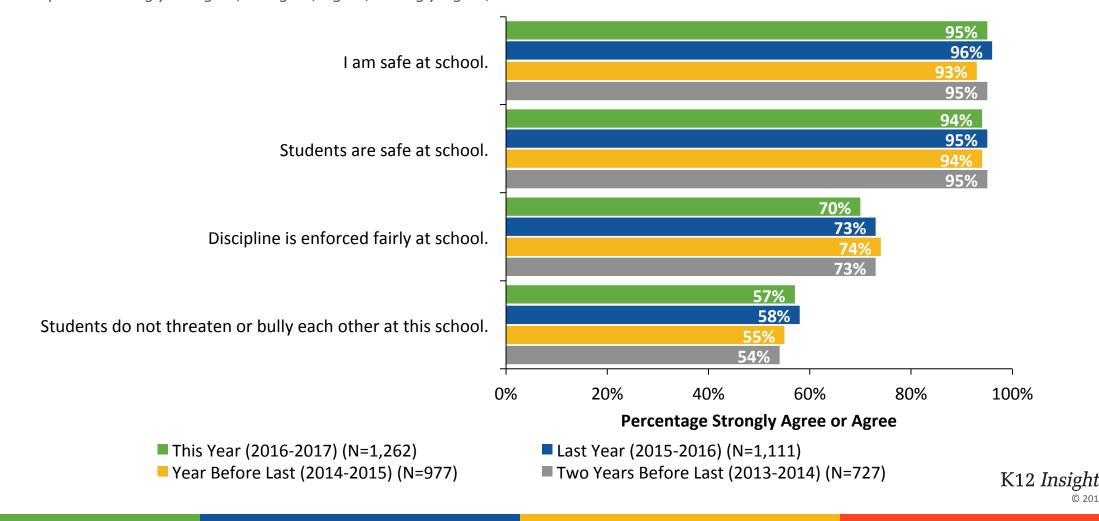
Safety and Behavior: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



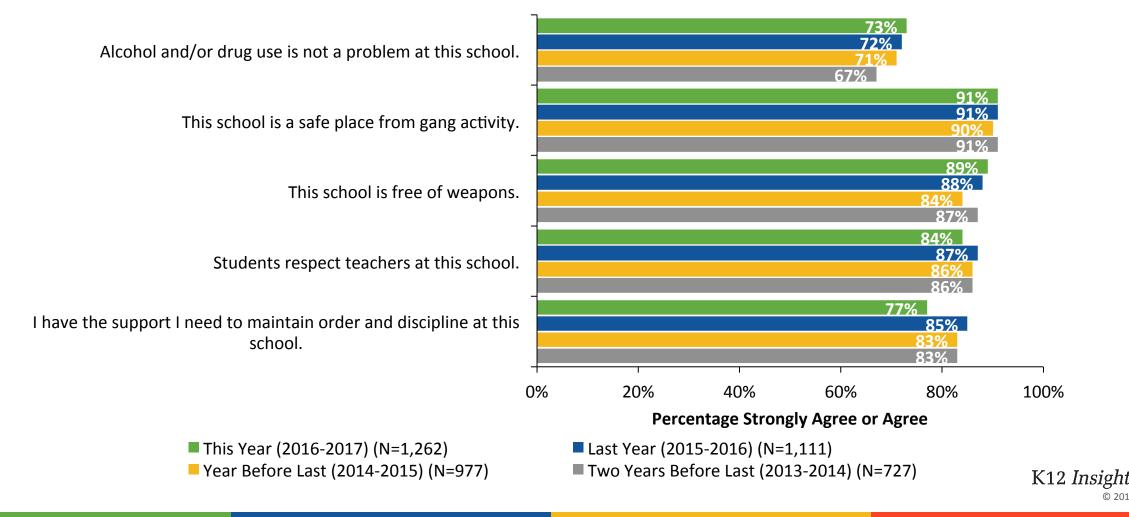
Safety and Behavior: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



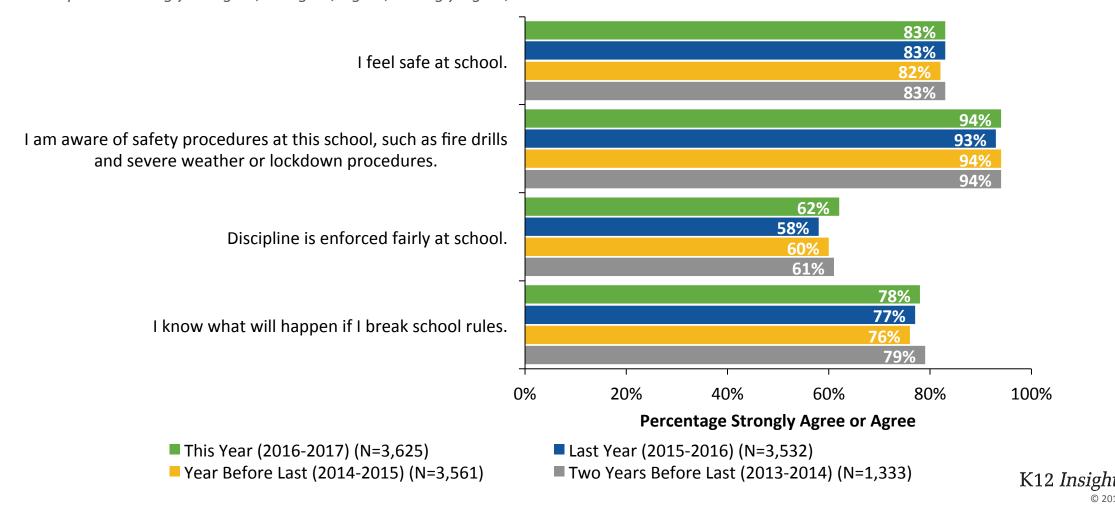
Safety and Behavior: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



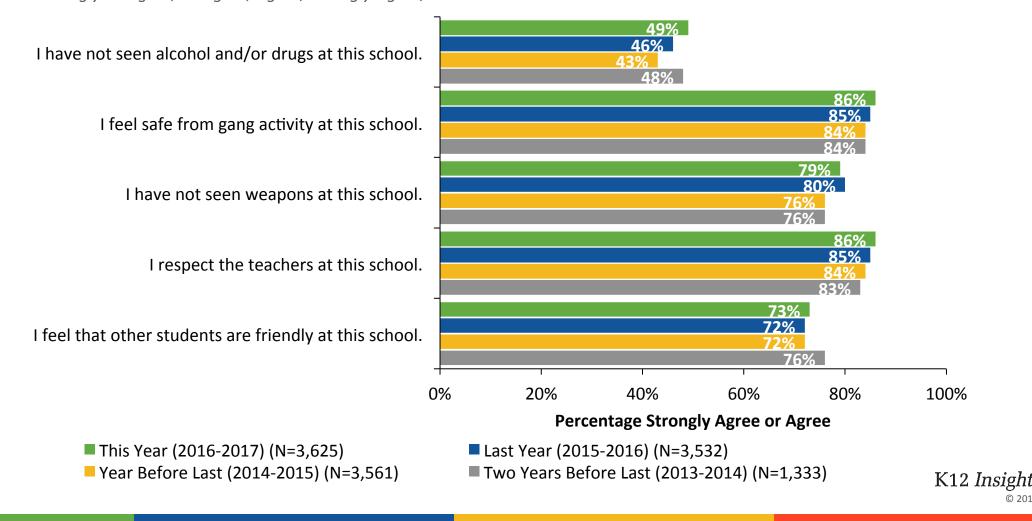
Safety and Behavior: Comparison Over Time

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



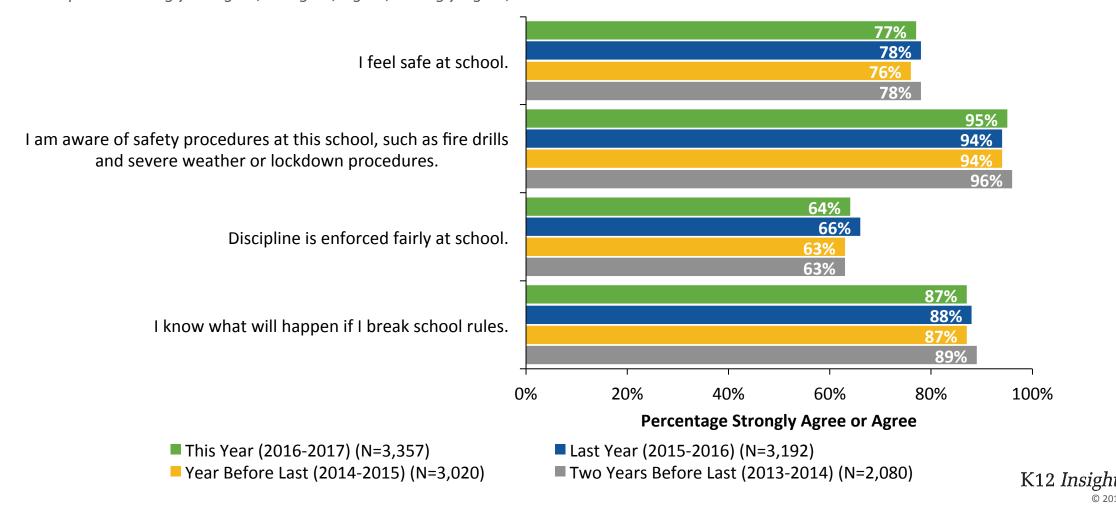
Safety and Behavior: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



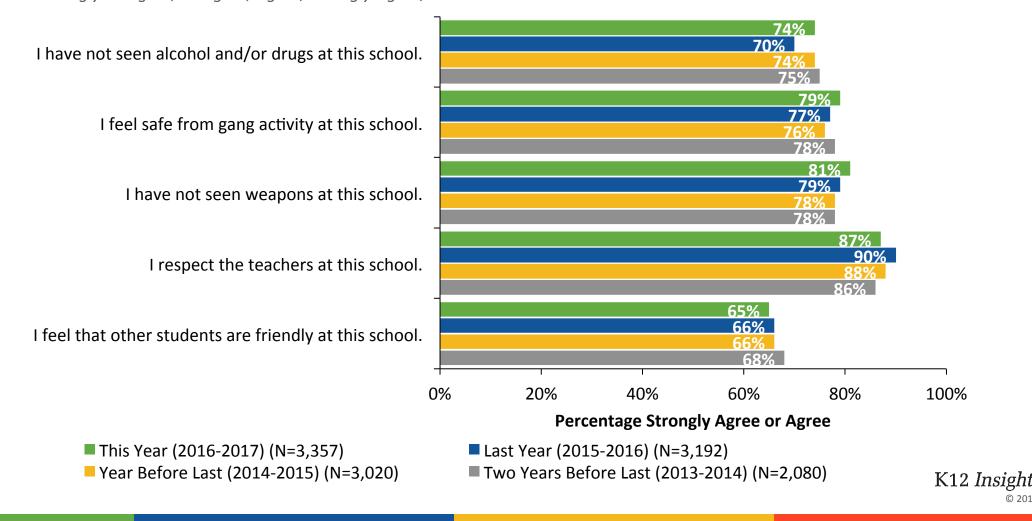
Safety and Behavior: Comparison Over Time

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



Safety and Behavior: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

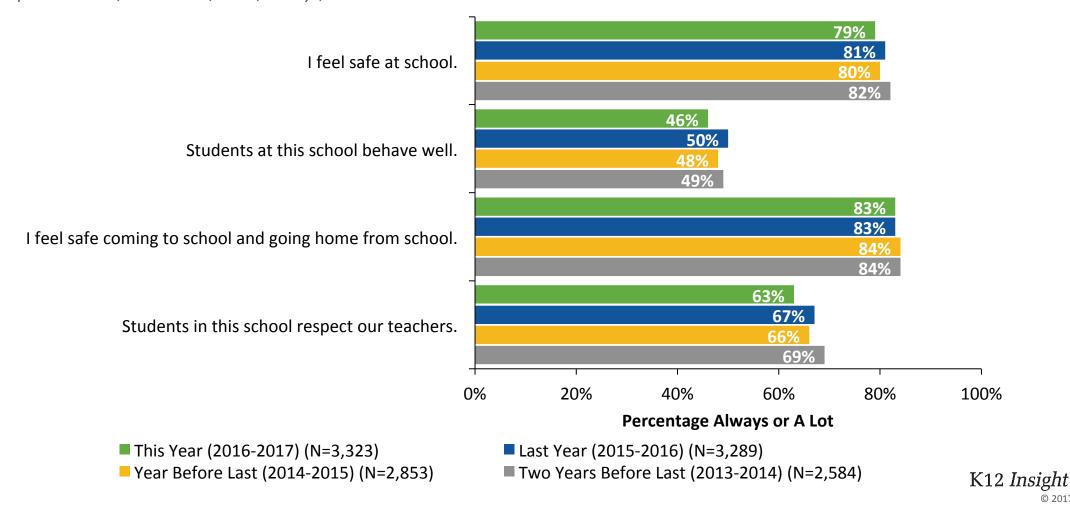
How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



Safety and Behavior: Comparison Over Time

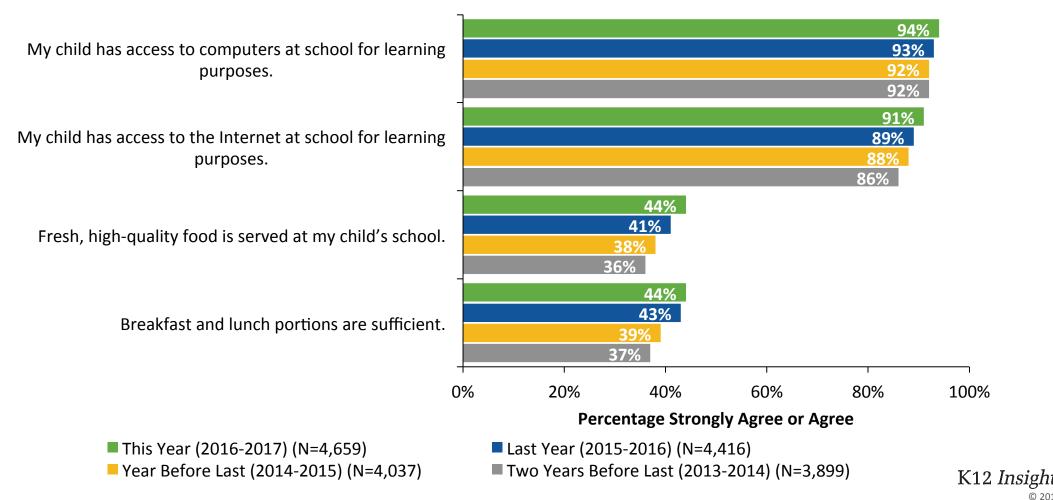
How often does each of these happen in your school?

Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know



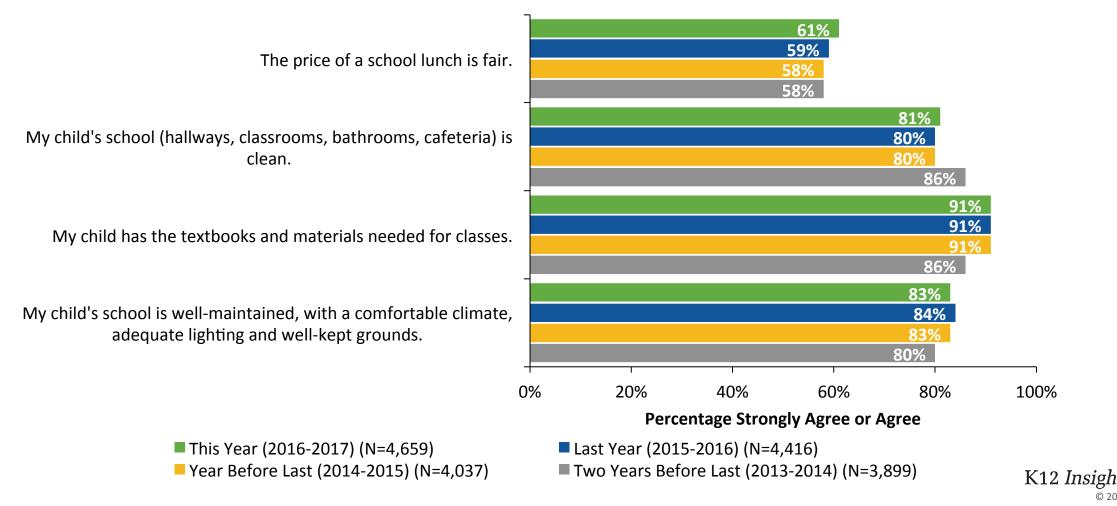
School Operations: Comparison Over Time

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

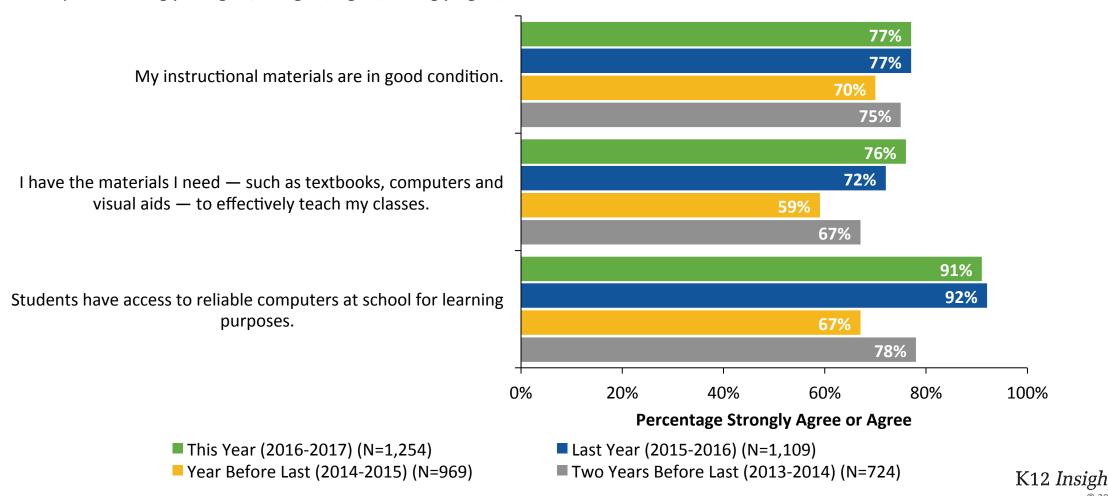


School Operations: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

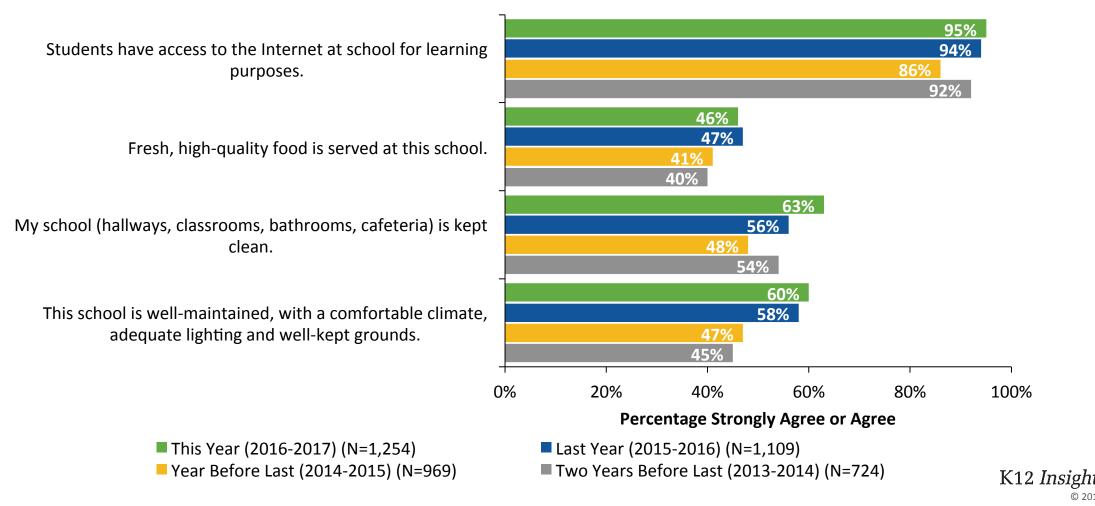


Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

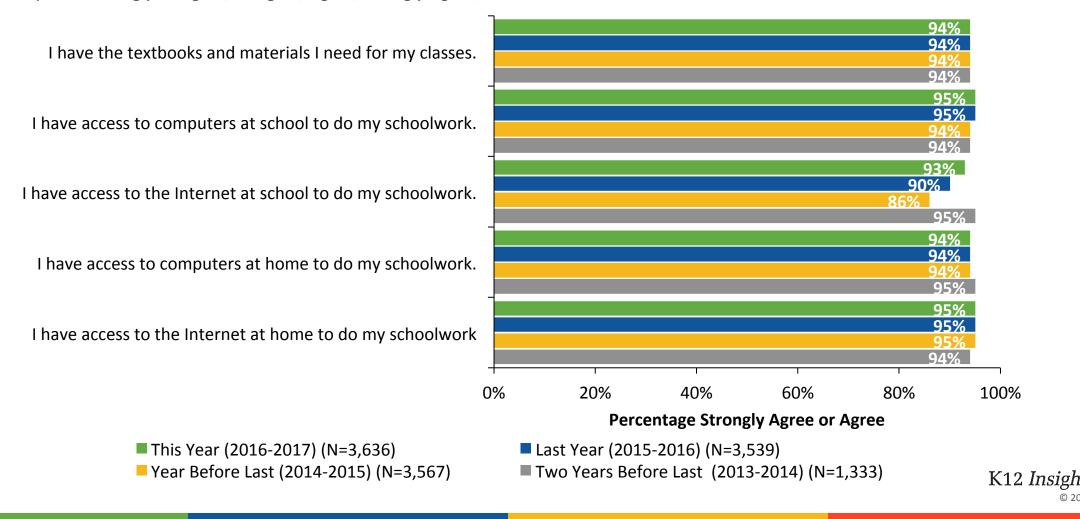


School Operations: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

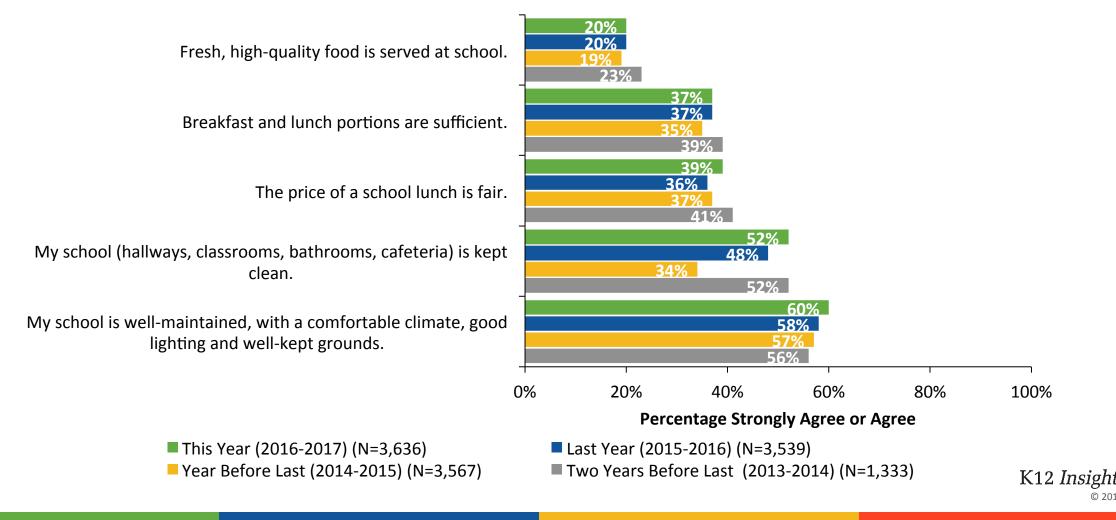


How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

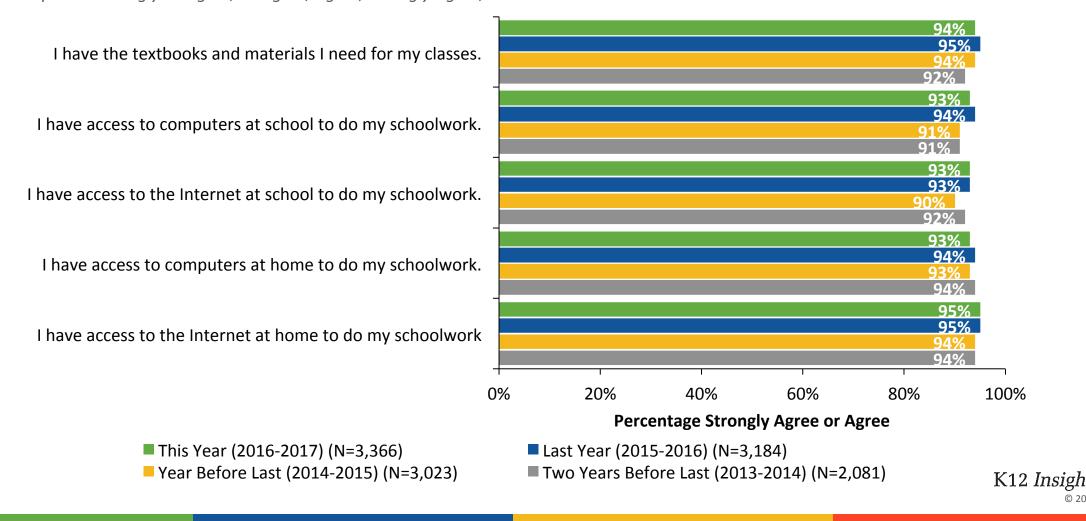


School Operations: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

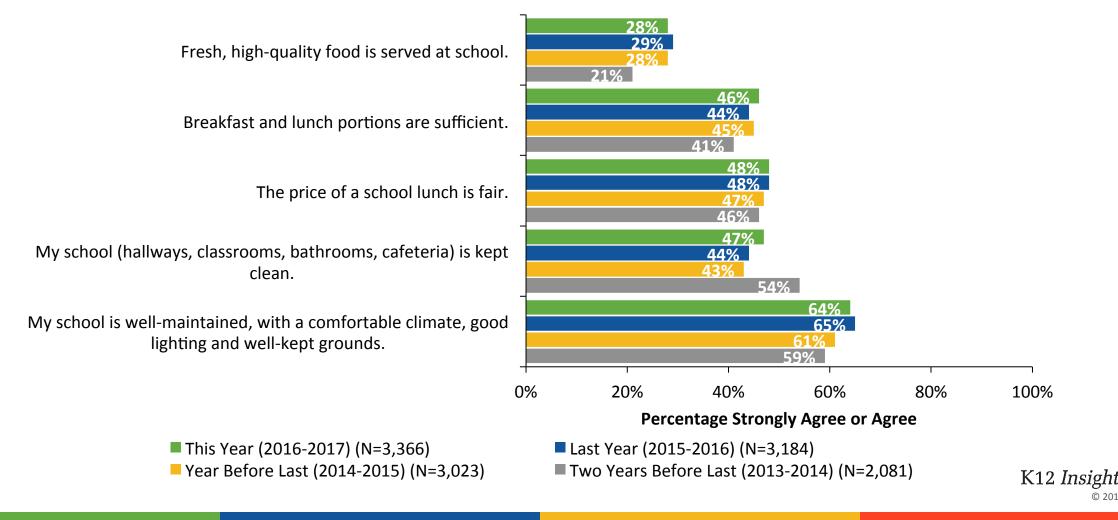


How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



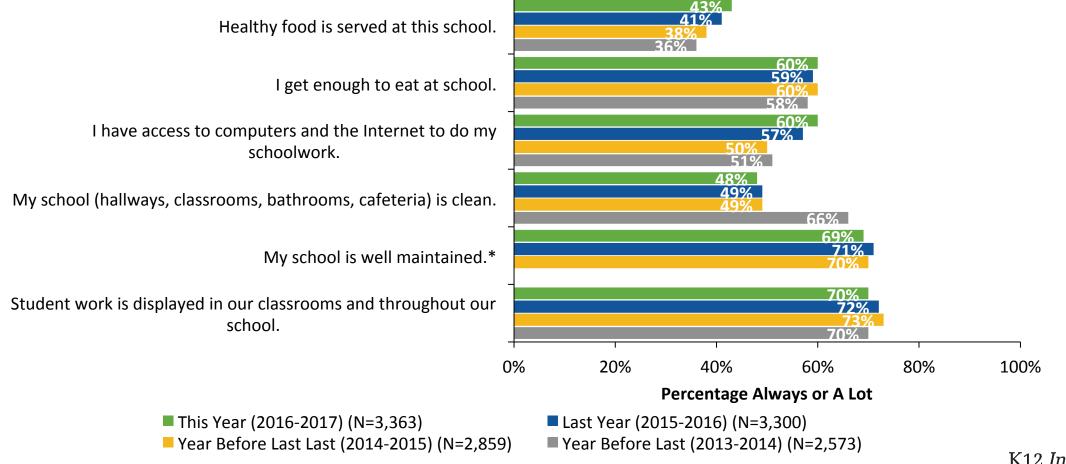
School Operations: Comparison Over Time (Continued)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



How often does each of these happen in your school?

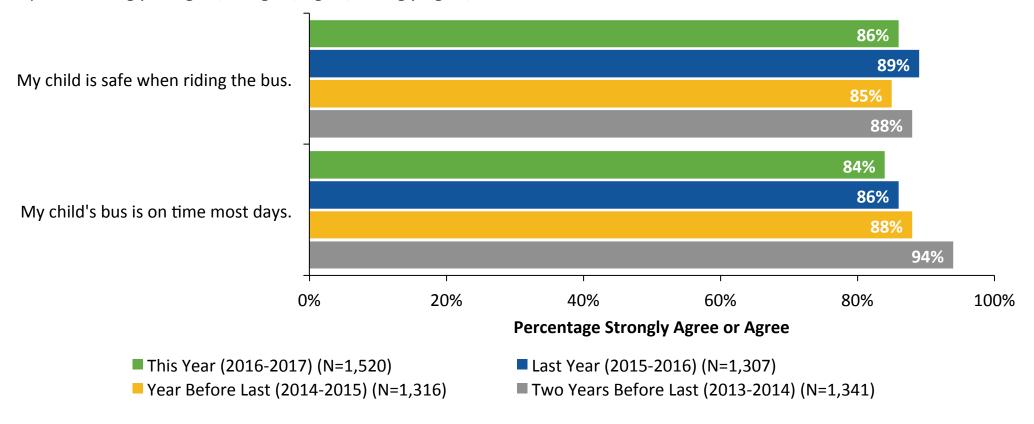
Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know



Parents

Transportation: Comparison Over Time

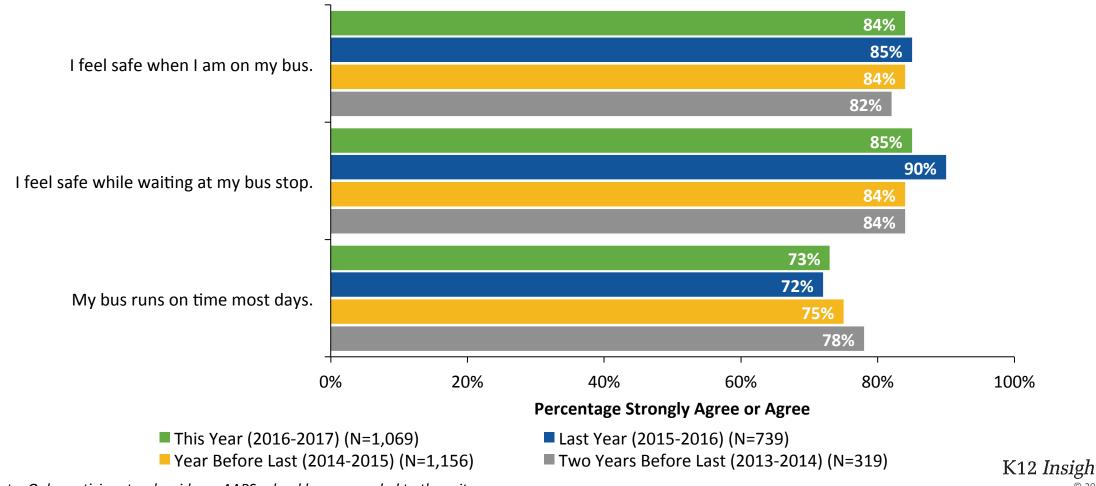
Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.





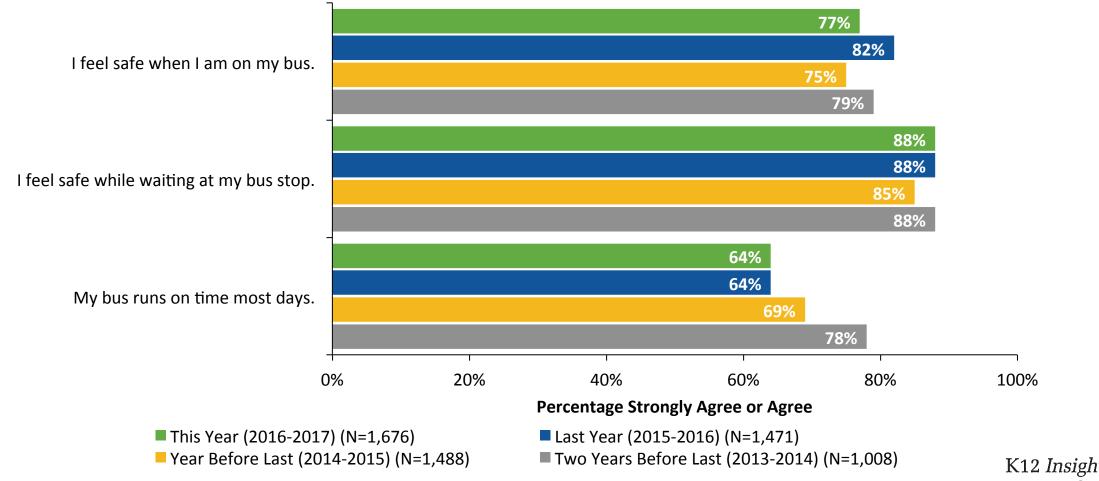
Transportation: Comparison Over Time

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



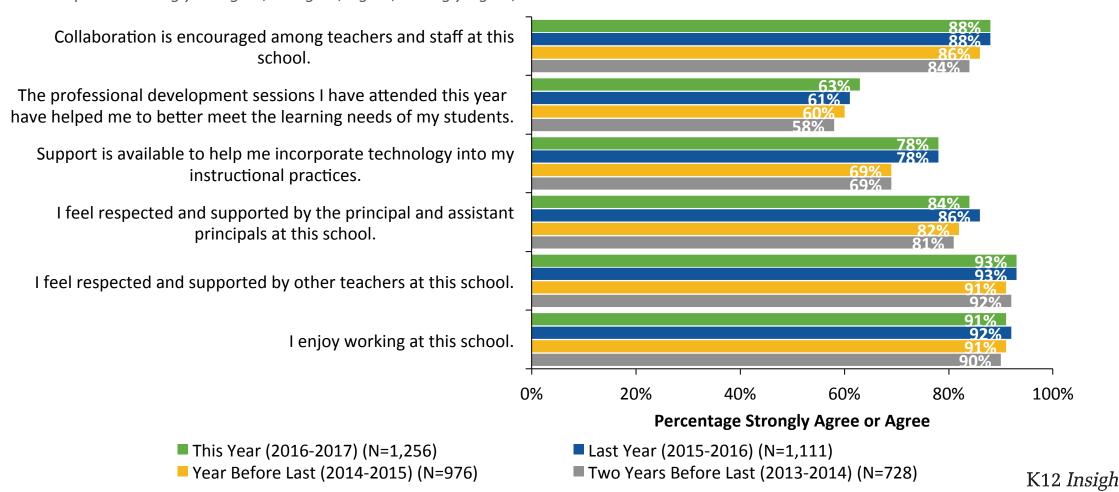
Transportation: Comparison Over Time

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



Faculty Relations and Support: Comparison Over Time

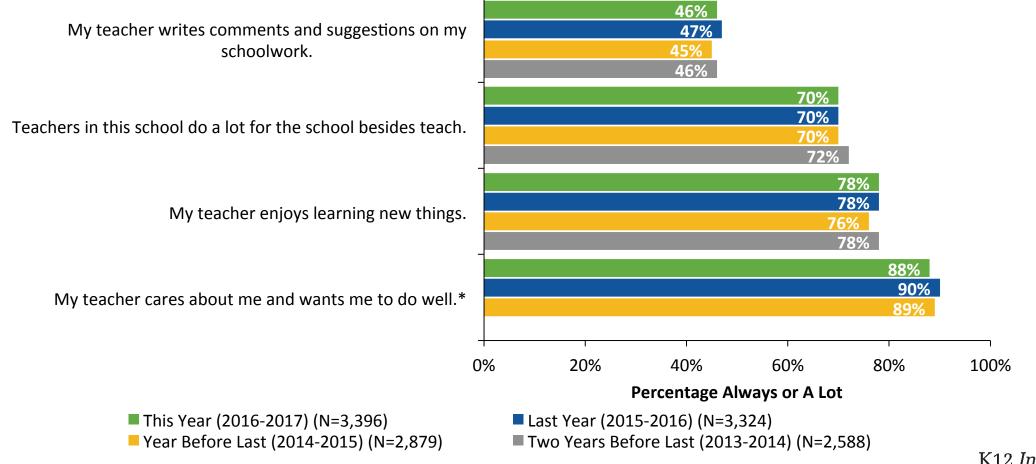
Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



Teacher Quality: Comparison Over Time

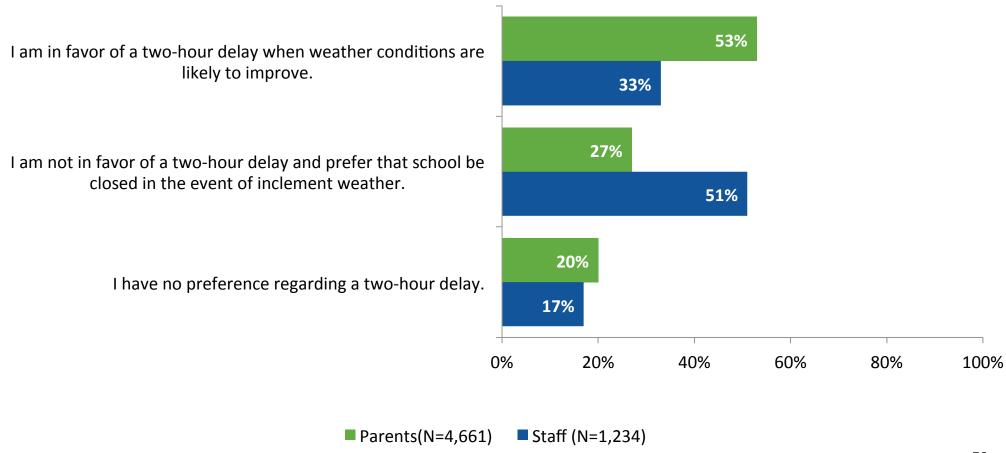
How often does each of these happen in your school?

Answer Options: Never, Sometimes, A Lot, Always, Don't Know



Inclement Weather

Please indicate your preferences regarding the use of a two-hour delay during short-term, early-morning inclement weather. (N=4,661)



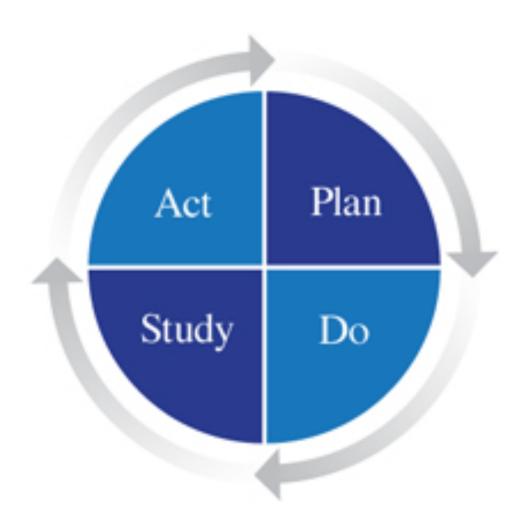


Next Steps

- Climate survey data informs the School Improvement Plan goals and strategies at each school and the District Improvement Plan a the District level
- School Administrators present the climate survey report each year at Parent Teacher
 Organization meetings or other parent venue where goals and next steps are highlighted
- Executive Directors of Elementary, Middle Schools and High Schools review every element of the climate survey reports with school administrators, celebrating success and assisting in identifying goals and strategies to address areas of focus
- Projecting forward to completing a five-year cycle of this climate survey, we will explore survey changes that allow us to dig deeper into our areas of focus to impact our work in meaningful ways



Next Steps





Thank you!

