

LAKOTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

of Ohio

2025 Public Opinion Research Study Results

February, 2025



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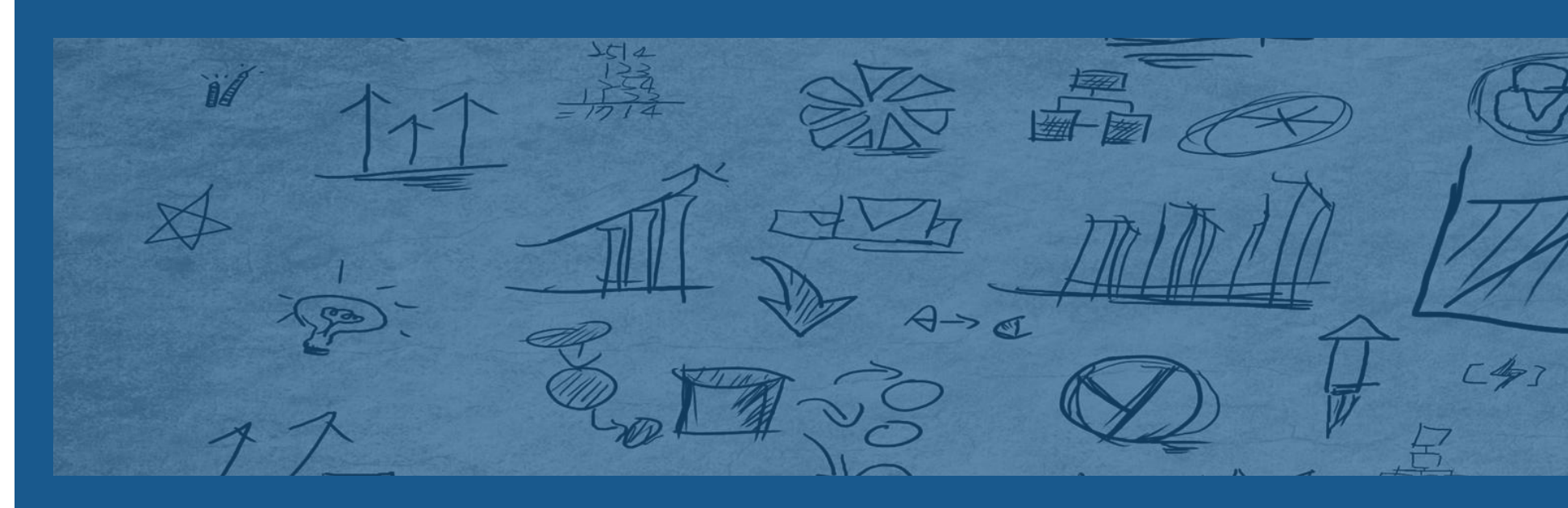
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Methods

This opinion research data was gathered through a combination of 401 live telephone interviews and secure SMS/text-to-web surveys conducted with adult residents 18 years or older within the Lakota Local School District, who had valid residential, VOIP or cellular telephone numbers.

The interviews and surveys were completed during the period of February 10, 2025 through February 15, 2025.

The overall estimated margin of sampling error is +/- 4.89 percent, based on a confidence level of 95 percent, although it varies for each individual question. This means that if this survey were repeated, 95 times out of 100 the results would be within plus or minus 4.89 percent of those provided herein.



Using post-hoc stratification some adjustments were made to weight the results toward estimates of demographic and geographic characteristics of the adult population in the district in order to account for under- and over-sampling that normally occurs as a result of the random selection process. This was done to ensure that all major sub-groups are represented in proportion to their actual percentages.

Like all polls, this opinion survey research is subject to other possible sources of error, such as unintentional bias in the wording of questions, data-entry error and nonresponse bias.

The results are presented in a slightly different order than the questions were asked. Due to computational rounding, not all results may add up to 100 percent.

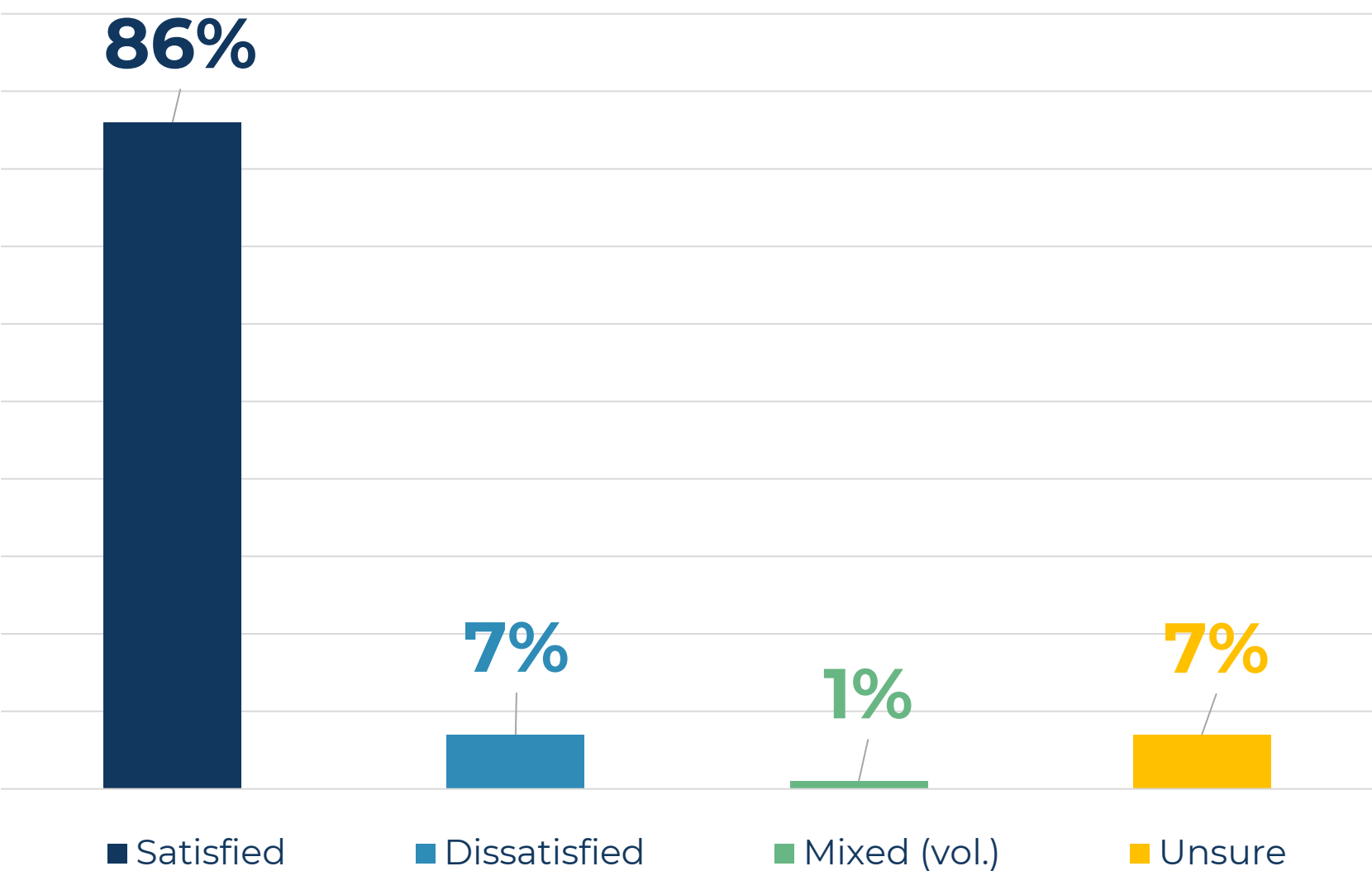


The Opinion Environment

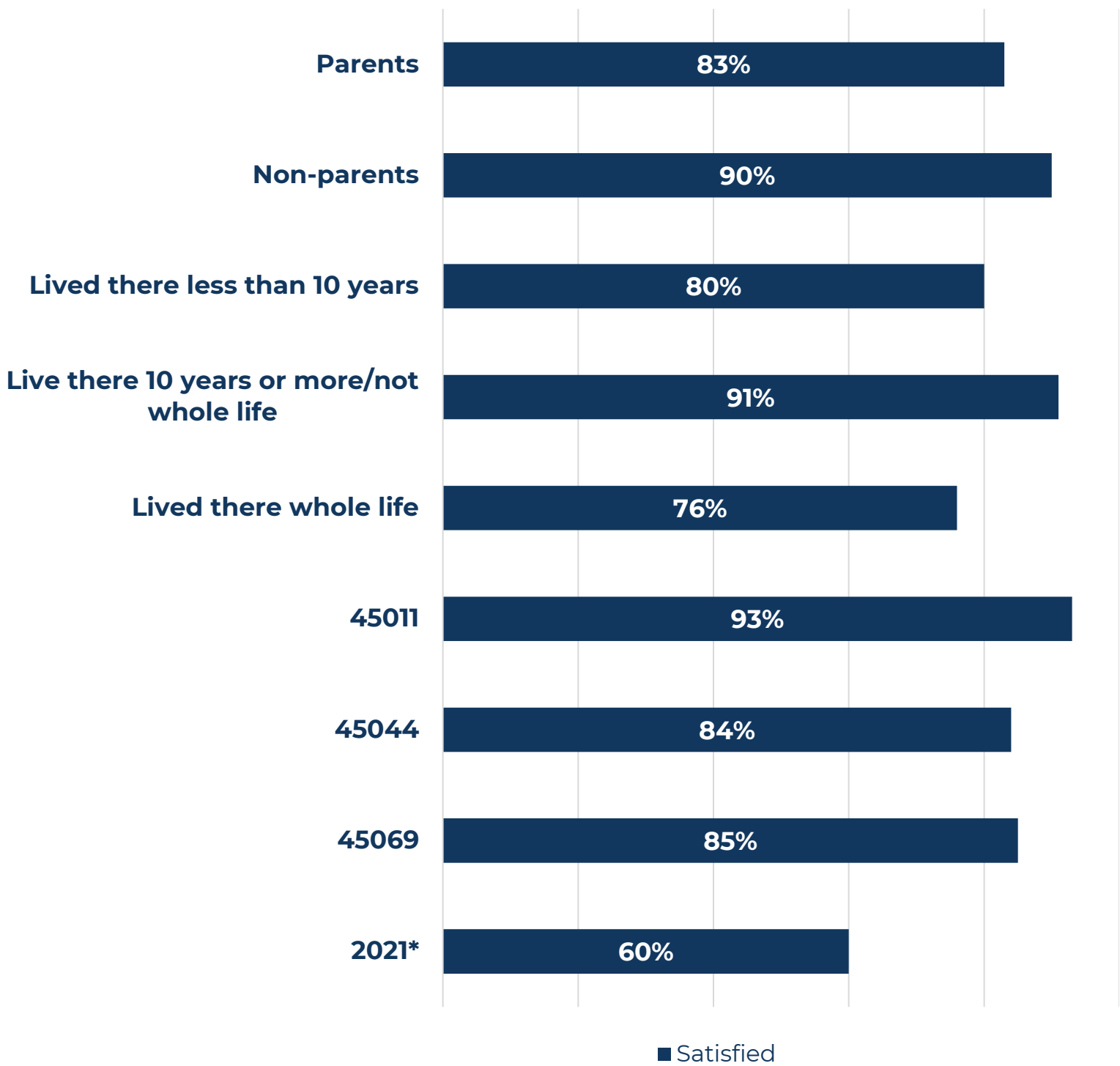
Quality of Life

Generally speaking, at this time would you say that you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of life in Butler County?

OVERALL RESULTS



SELECT SUB-GROUP RESULTS

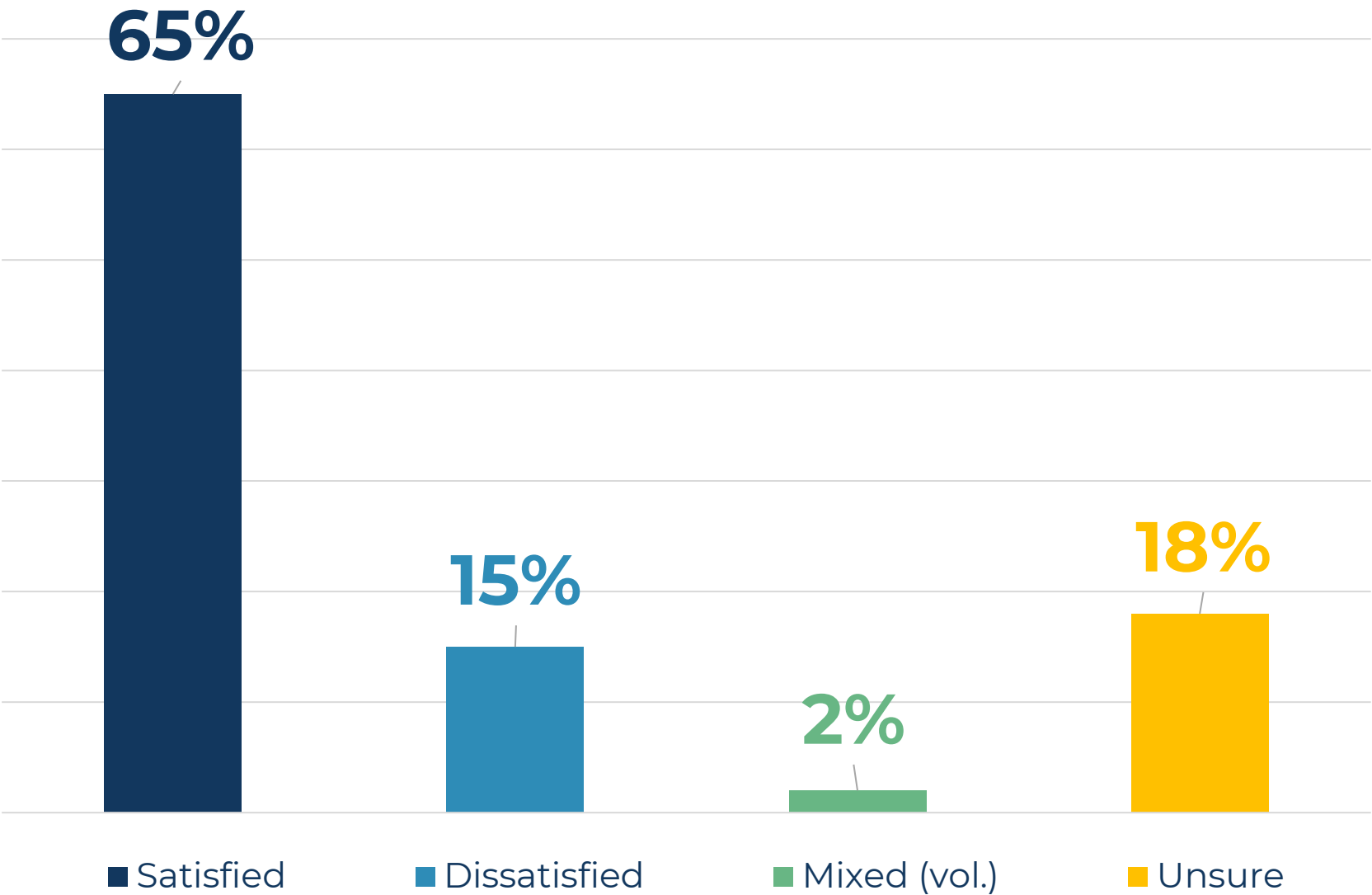


* Different question wording was used

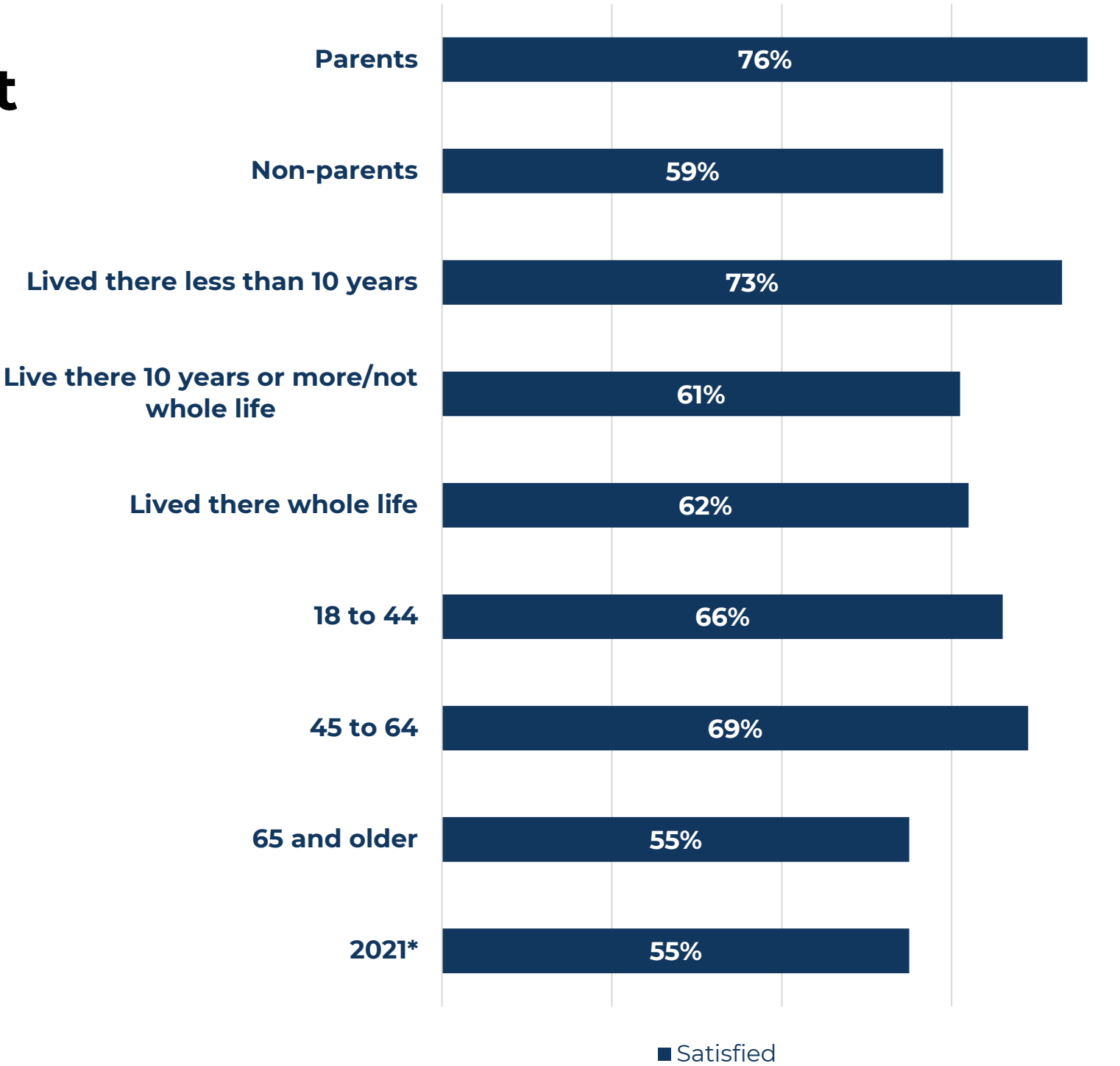
Satisfaction with School System

Looking at some local matters in your area, generally speaking, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the Lakota Local School District that serves your community?

OVERALL RESULTS



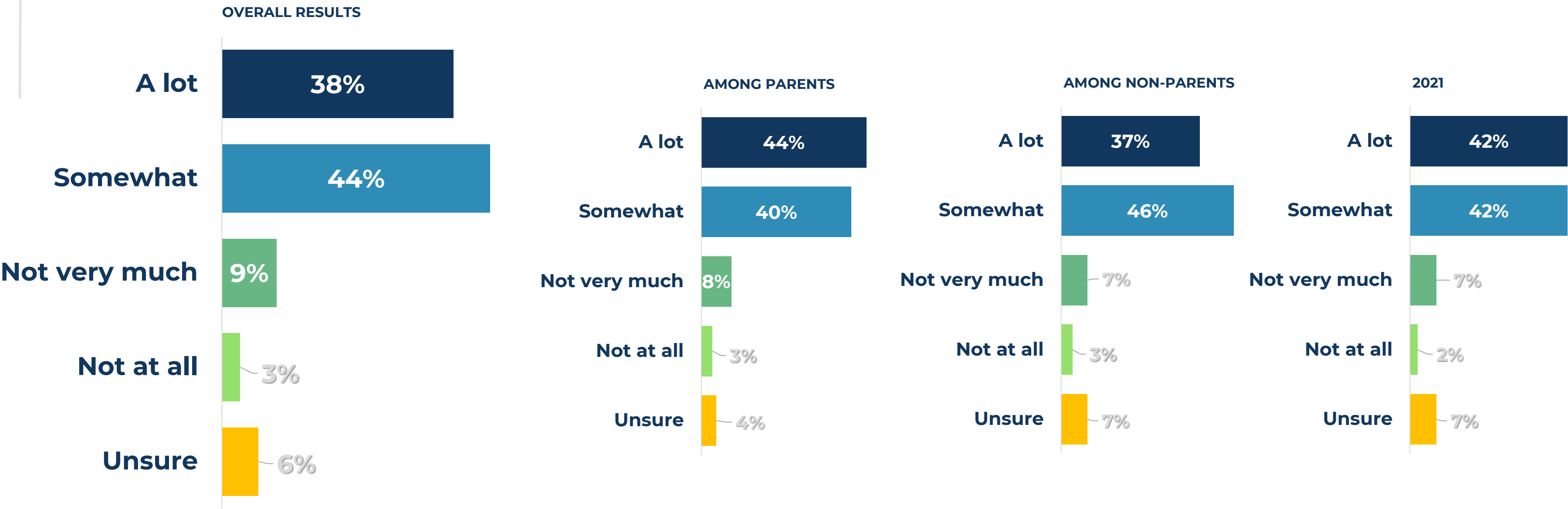
SELECT SUB-GROUP RESULTS



* Different question wording was used

Schools & The Quality of Life

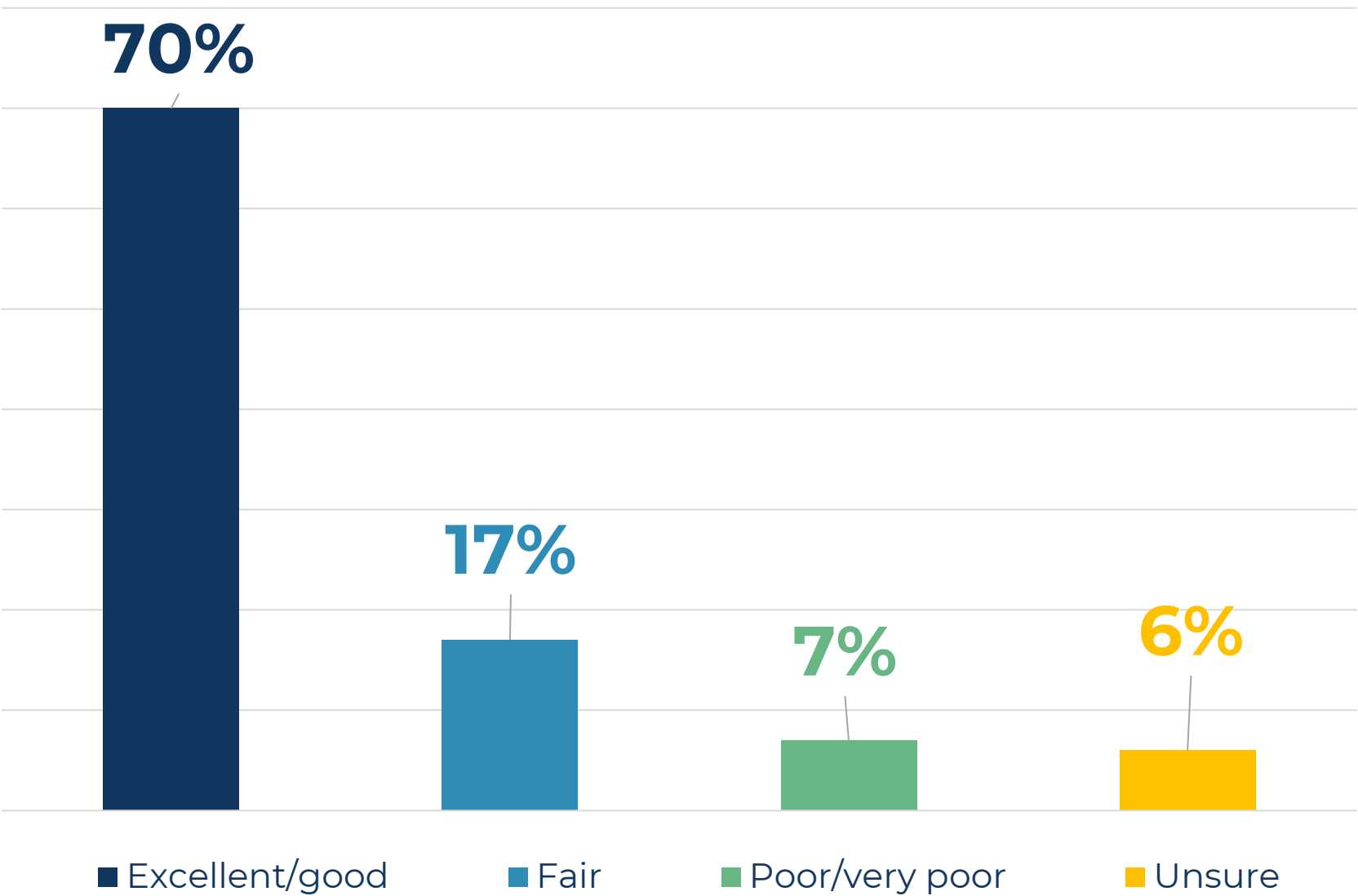
Generally speaking, how much would you say that the education provided by the Lakota Local School District has contributed to the quality of life that is enjoyed by people who live in the community?



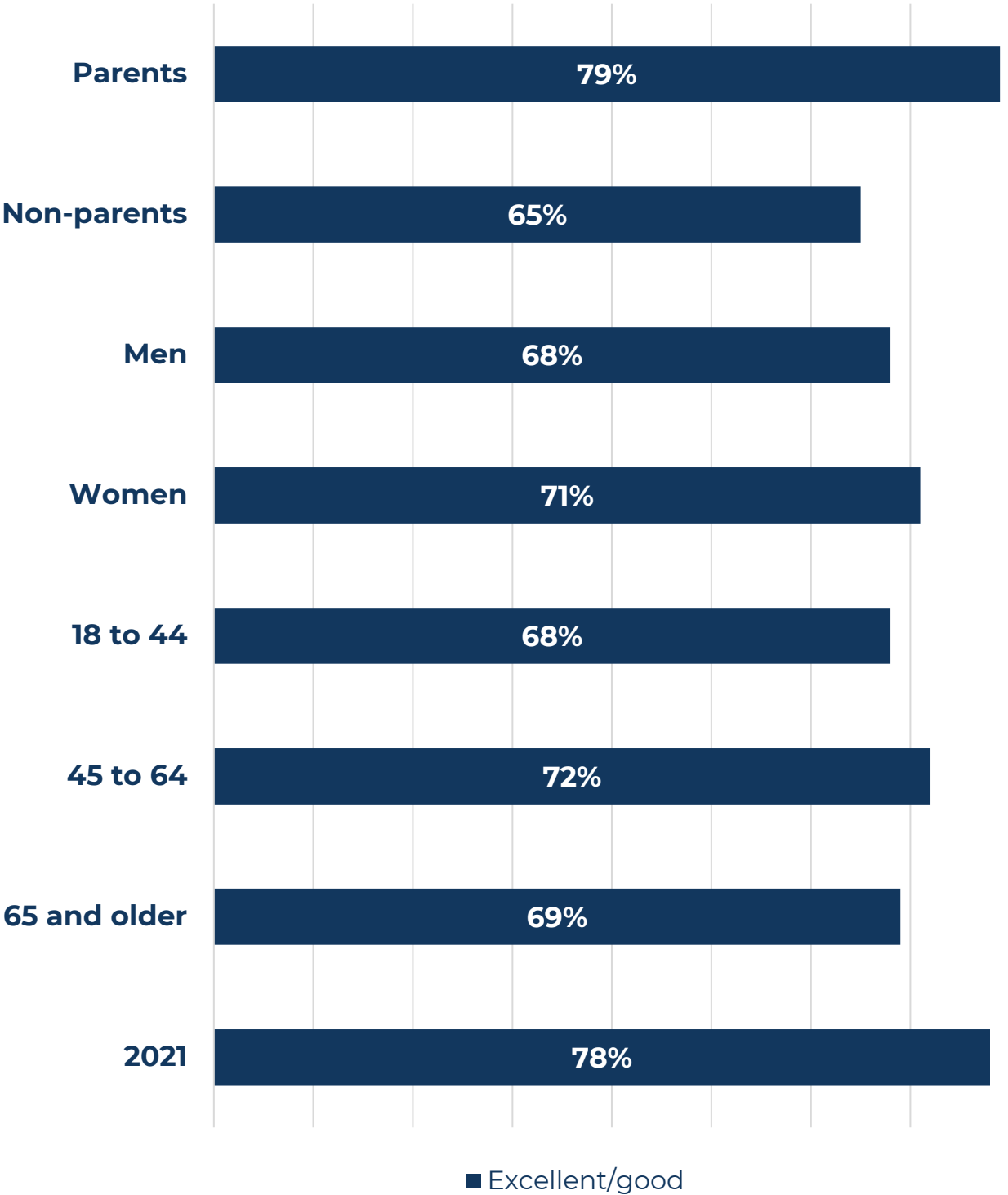
Quality of Education

Overall, how would you rate the quality of education being provided by the Lakota Local School District?

OVERALL RESULTS



SELECT SUB-GROUP RESULTS



Top Priorities for School Leaders

What would you say should be the highest priority for the Lakota Local School District leaders to work on during the next few years? (forced choice battery questions)

FIRST TEST	SECOND TEST	OVERALL
41% Improving the quality of education	20% Improving the quality of education	30% Improving the quality of education
14% Supporting students with diverse learning needs	18% Reducing class sizes 17% Supporting students with diverse learning needs	16% Supporting students with diverse learning needs
9% Reducing class sizes		14% Reducing class sizes
8% Focus on fiscal responsibility	14% Focus on fiscal responsibility	11% Focus on fiscal responsibility
7% K-to-12 busing	11% Raising state test scores	8% Raising state test scores
6% Building and renovating school buildings	8% K-to-12 busing	7% K-to-12 busing
5% Raising state test scores	8% Building and renovating school buildings	7% Building and renovating school buildings
5% All/combination (vol.)	1% All/combination (vol.)	3% All/combination (vol.)
1% Other (vol.)	1% Other (vol.)	1% Other (vol.)
4% Unsure	3% Unsure	4% Unsure

n=387

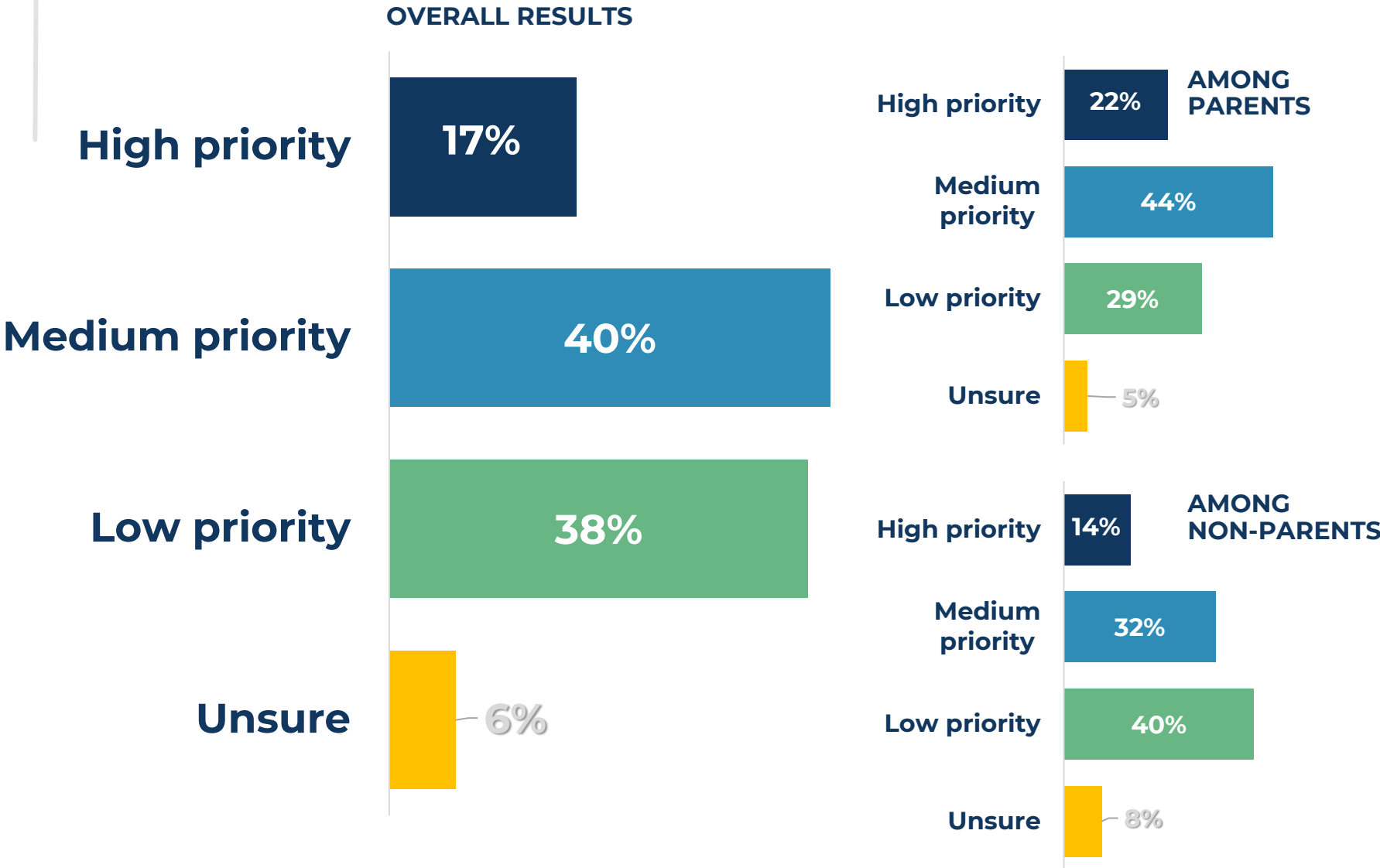
Top Priorities for School Leaders

What would you say should be the highest priority for the Lakota Local School District leaders to work on during the next few years? (forced choice battery questions)

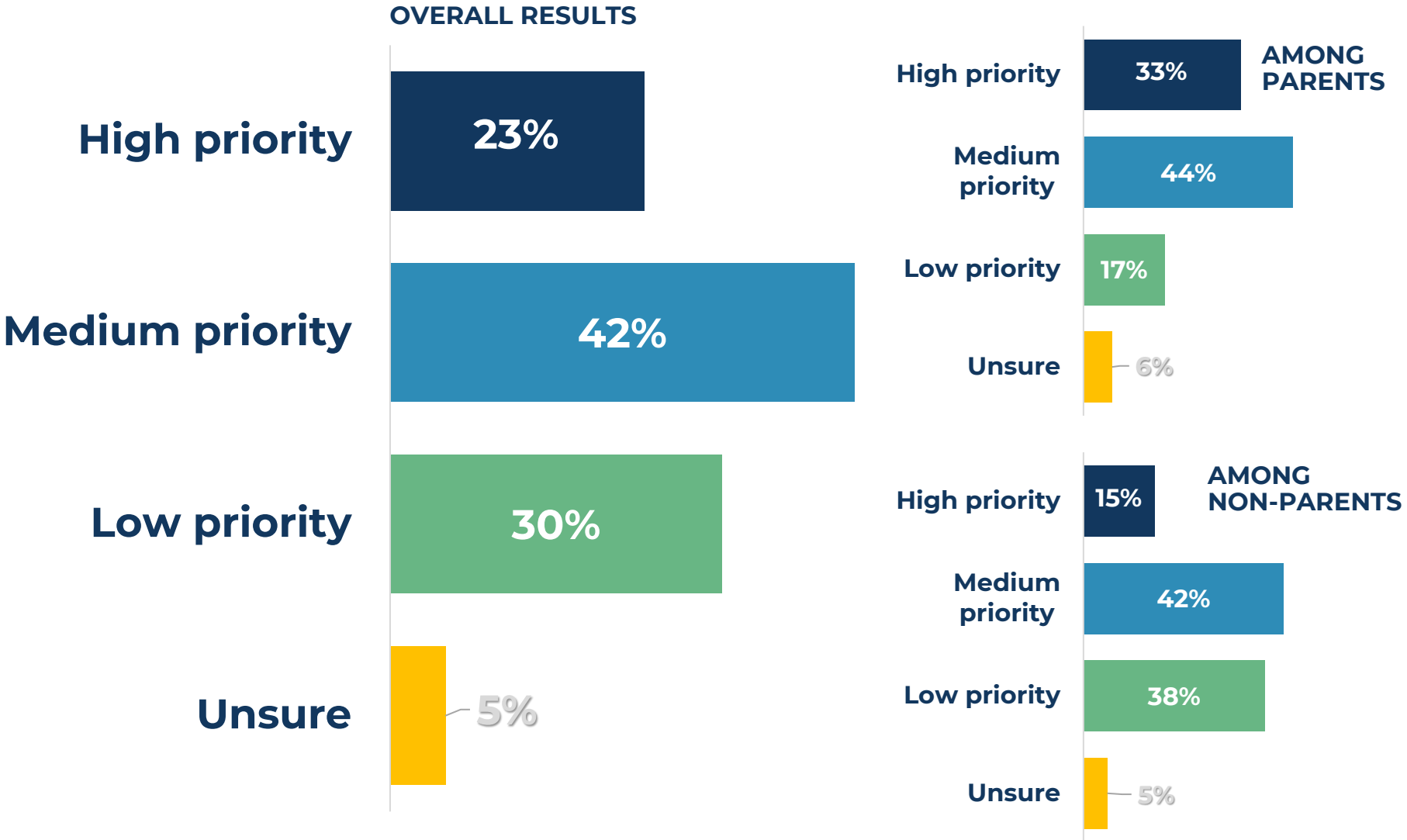
OVERALL	AMONG PARENTS	AMONG NON-PARENTS
30% Improving the quality of education	28% Improving the quality of education	33% Improving the quality of education
16% Supporting students with diverse learning needs	17% Reducing class sizes	14% Supporting students with diverse learning needs
14% Reducing class sizes	17% Supporting students with diverse learning needs	13% Focus on fiscal responsibility
11% Focus on fiscal responsibility	12% K-to-12 busing	12% Reducing class sizes
8% Raising state test scores	9% Building and renovating school buildings	11% Raising state test scores
7% K-to-12 busing	6% Focus on fiscal responsibility	5% Building and renovating school buildings
7% Building and renovating school buildings	4% Raising state test scores	4% K-to-12 busing
3% All/combination (vol.)	2% All/combination (vol.)	4% All/combination (vol.)
1% Other (vol.)	1% Other (vol.)	1% Other (vol.)
4% Unsure	4% Unsure	3% Unsure

Split Sample Testing (both versions compared side-by-side)

VERSION A: Looking specifically at one priority, how much of a priority do you think it is for the Lakota Local School District to build new school buildings to replace some of the outdated elementary schools?



VERSION B: Looking specifically at one priority, how much of a priority do you think it is for the Lakota Local School District to renovate some of the outdated school buildings in the community?





Buildings & Facilities

Facility Priorities

Turning to school buildings, which of the following do you think should be the top facilities priority for the Lakota Local School District leaders to work on during the next few years? (forced choice battery question)

OVERALL

- 40% Safety and security
- 26% Technology
- 11% Collaboration and small-group instruction spaces
- 7% Energy-efficient buildings
- 5% Fine arts spaces
- 2% Athletic spaces
- 2% All/combination (vol.)
- 0% Other (vol.)
- 7% Unsure

AMONG PARENTS

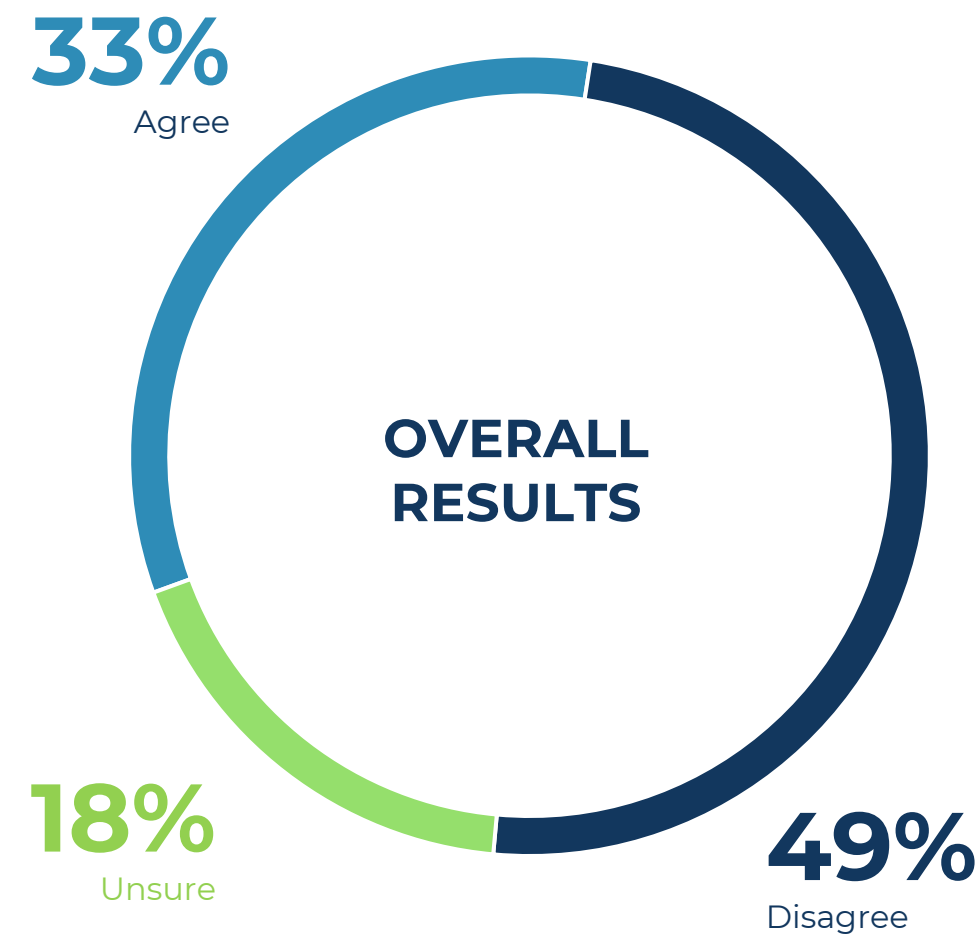
- 38% Safety and security
- 23% Technology
- 14% Collaboration and small-group instruction spaces
- 7% Fine arts spaces
- 6% Energy-efficient buildings
- 4% Athletic spaces
- 2% All/combination (vol.)
- 0% Other (vol.)
- 6% Unsure

AMONG NON-PARENTS

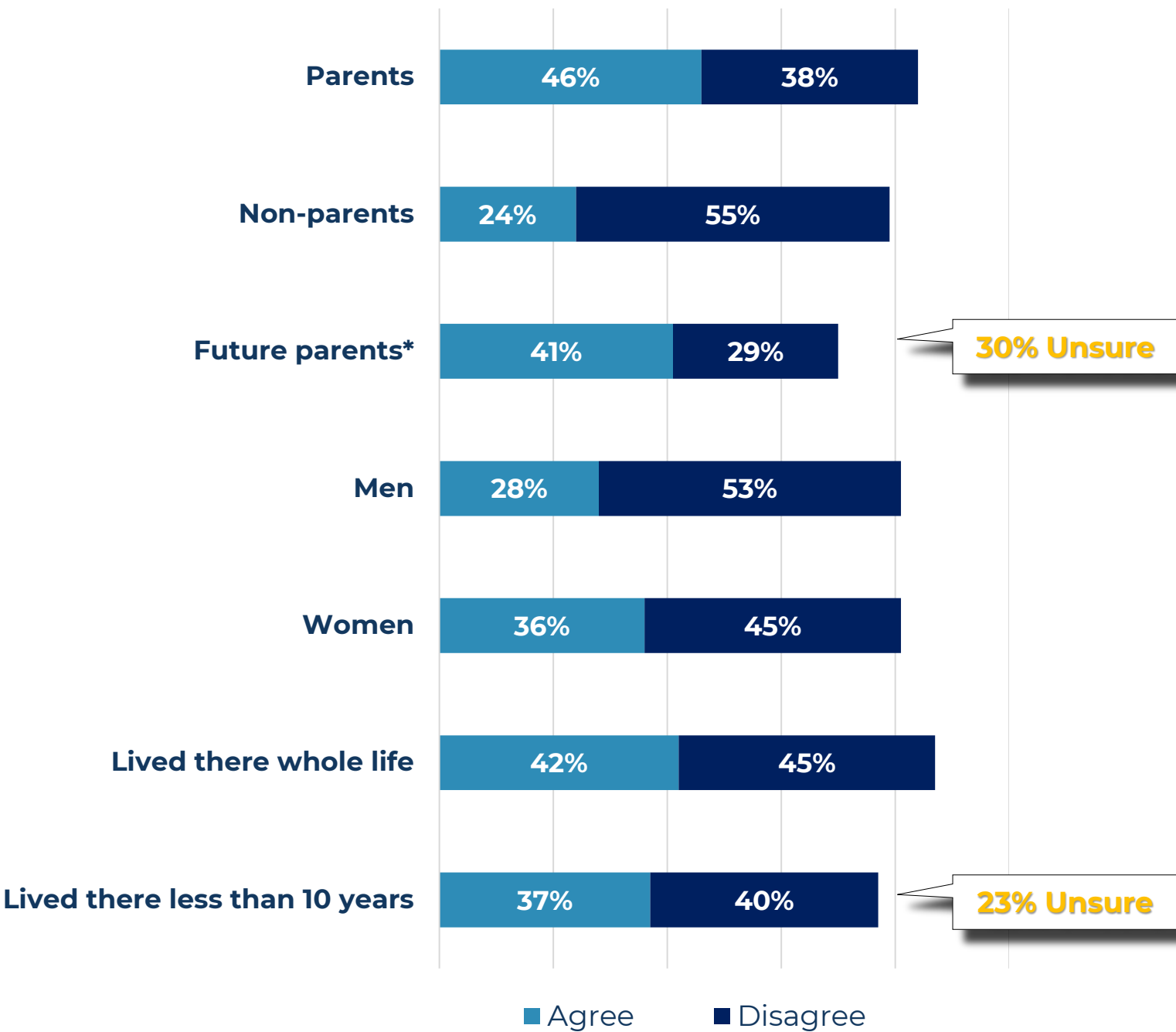
- 41% Safety and security
- 29% Technology
- 9% Collaboration and small-group instruction spaces
- 8% Energy-efficient buildings
- 3% Fine arts spaces
- 1% Athletic spaces
- 1% All/combination (vol.)
- 0% Other (vol.)
- 7% Unsure

Building Conditions

Do you agree or disagree that, although they may appear to be in good condition, many of the Lakota school buildings are too outdated to offer the kind of advanced modern education that can ensure students are prepared for higher education or the workforce?



SELECT SUB-GROUP RESULTS



** Caution should be taken when interpreting results for sub-groups with small sub-sample sizes because of greater random variance due to larger margins of error*

Planning Priorities

As plans are being made about how the school buildings are used in the future, if you had to choose, which of the following should be the most important factor used to decide what will be done?

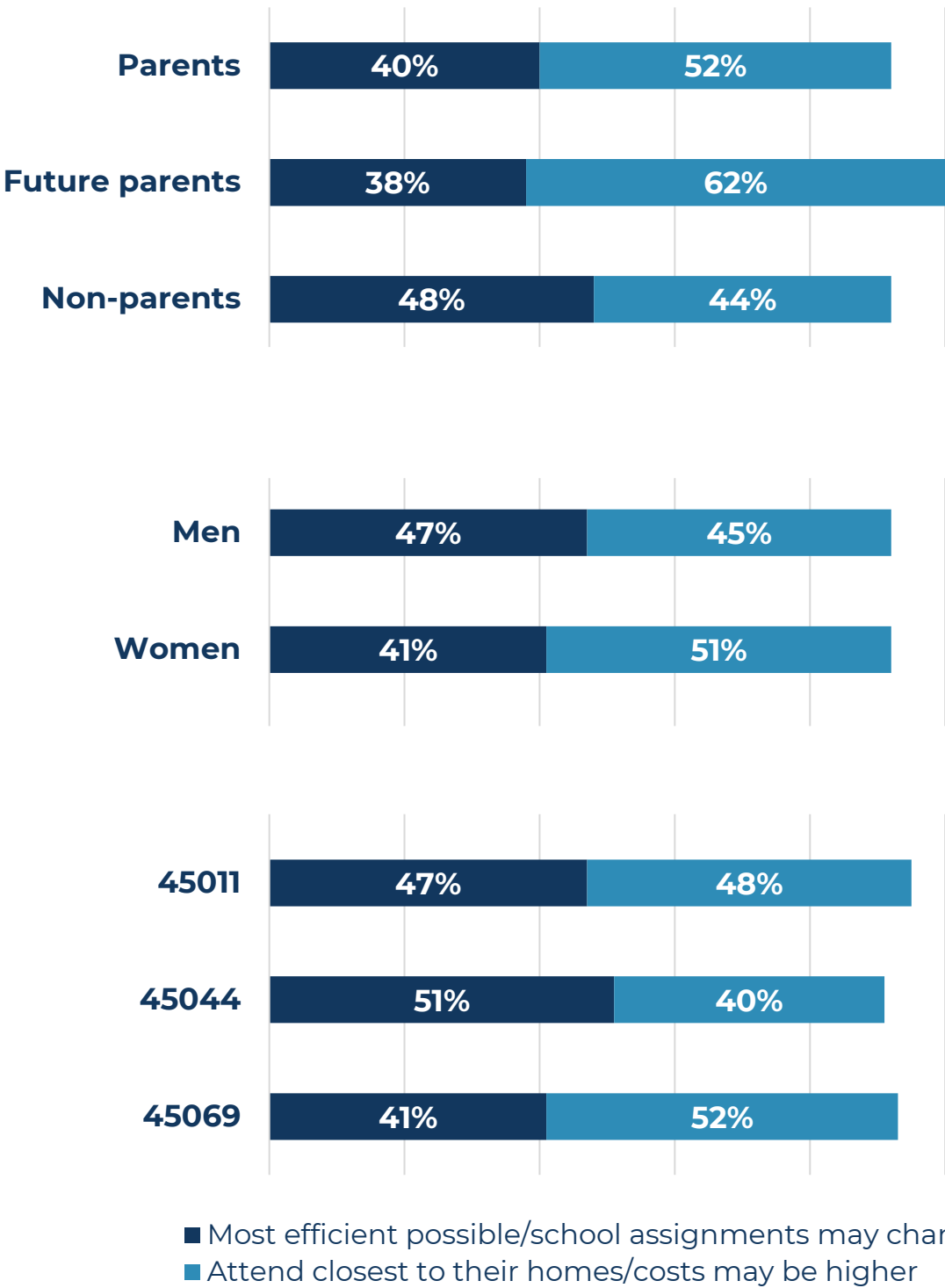
OVERALL RESULTS

44% Establishing the most efficient plan possible, even though school assignments for some students may change

48% Ensuring students will attend the schools closest to their homes, even though operational costs may be higher

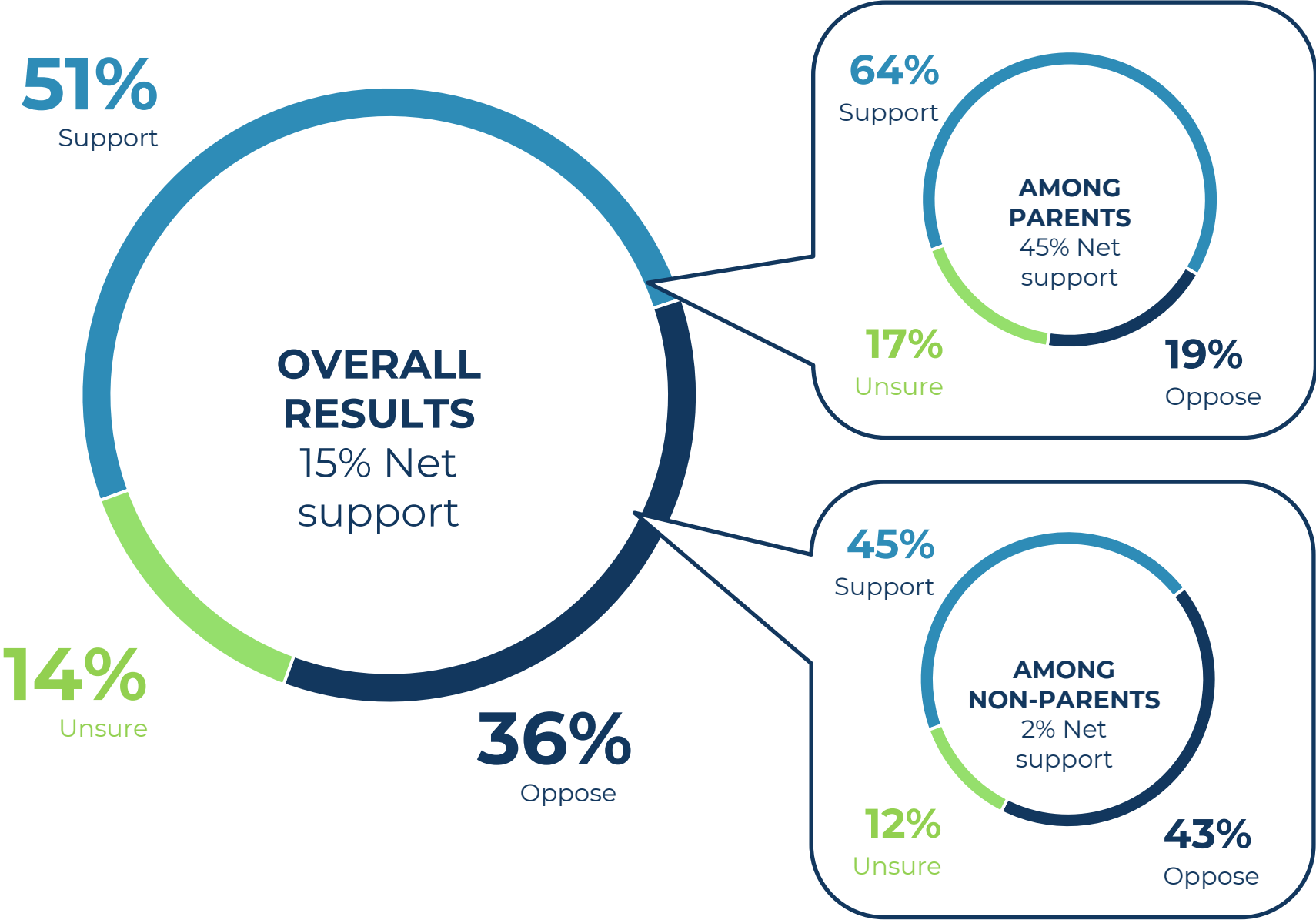
8% Unsure

SELECT SUB-GROUP RESULTS

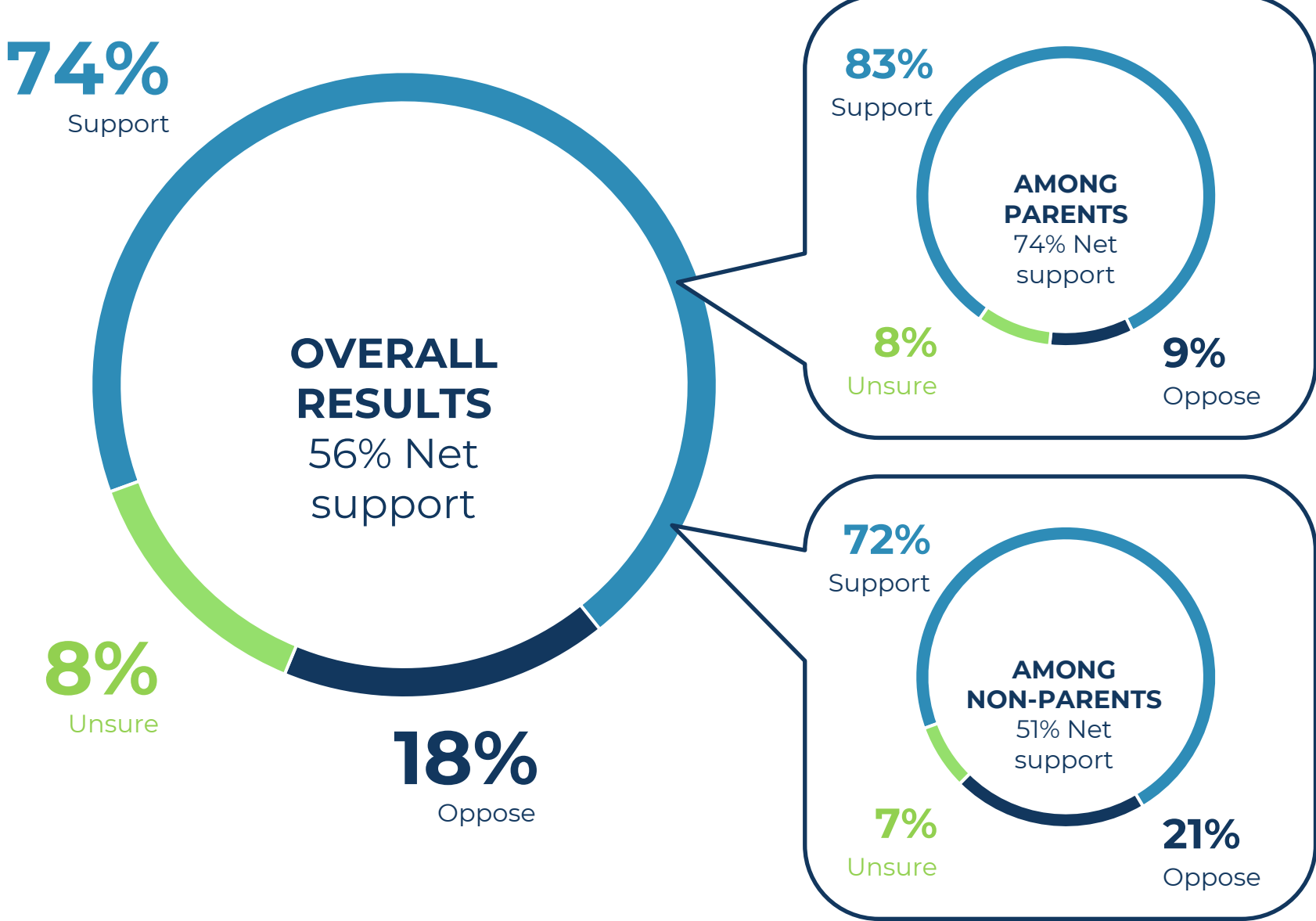


Split Sample Testing (both versions compared side-by-side)

VERSION A: Generally speaking, do you support or oppose building new buildings to meet future educational and enrollment needs in the community?



VERSION B: Generally speaking, do you support or oppose renovating existing buildings to meet future educational and enrollment needs in the community?



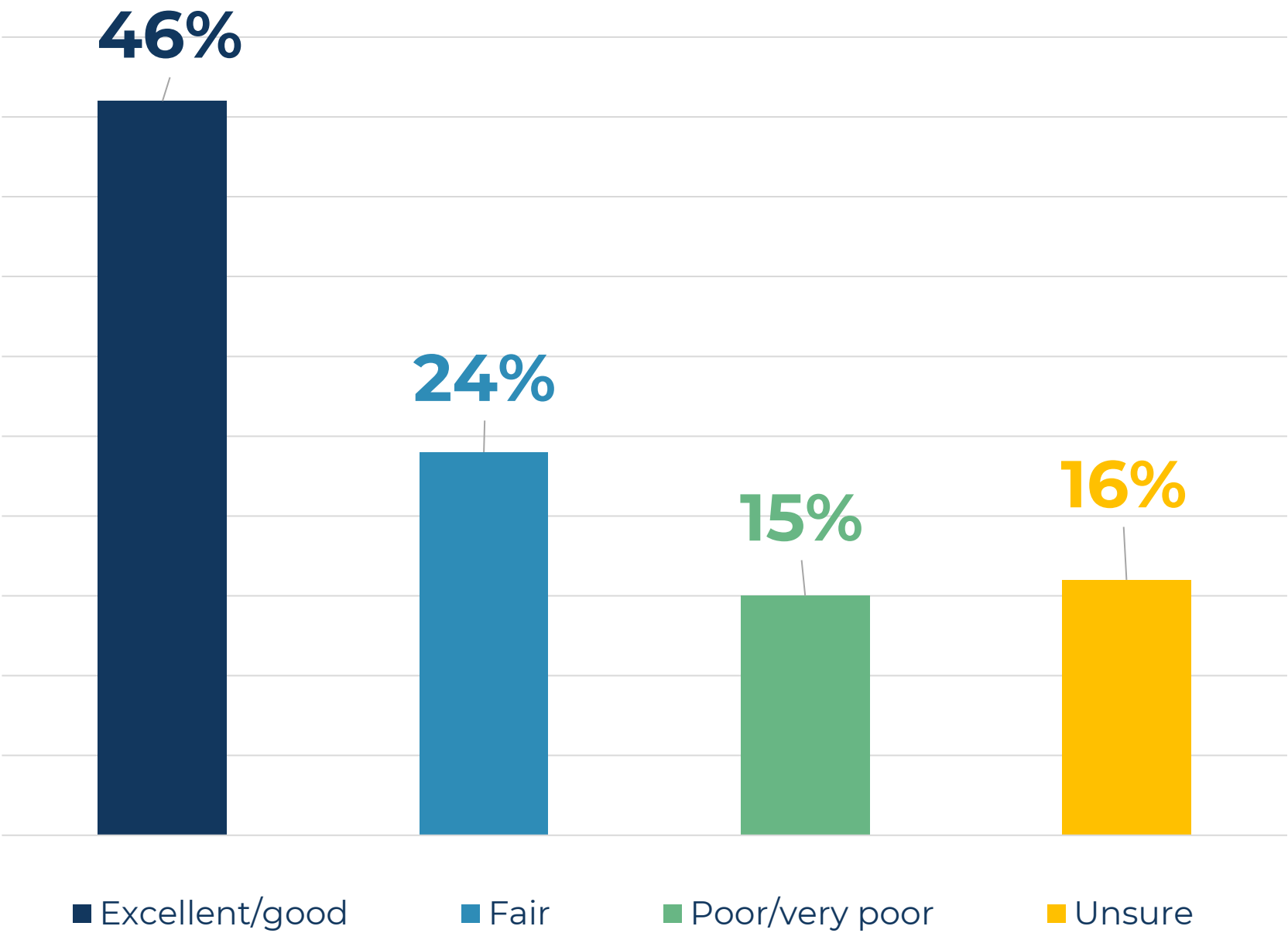


Finances

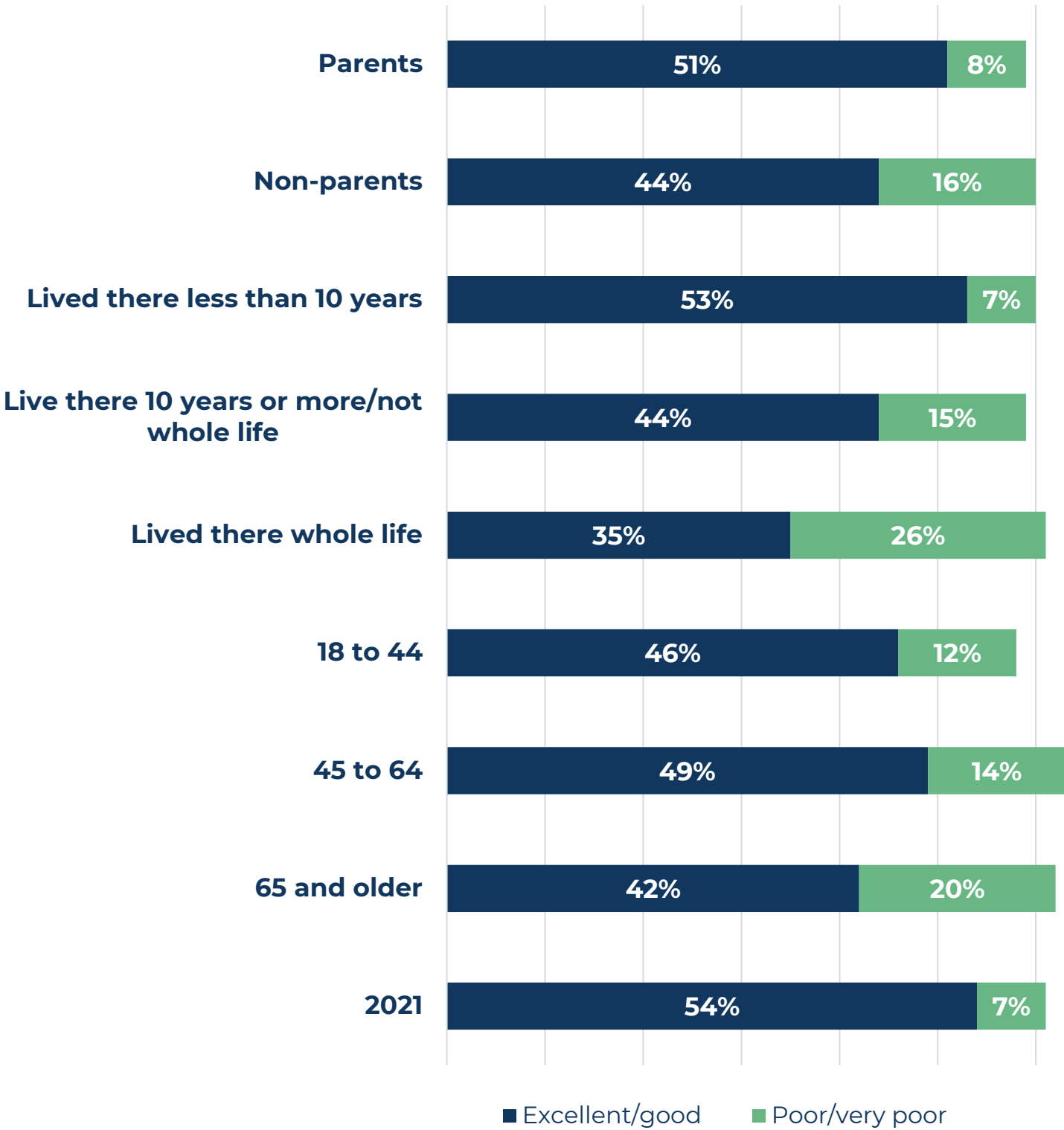
Finances

How would you rate the job that the Lakota Local School District is doing managing its budget and tax dollars?

OVERALL RESULTS

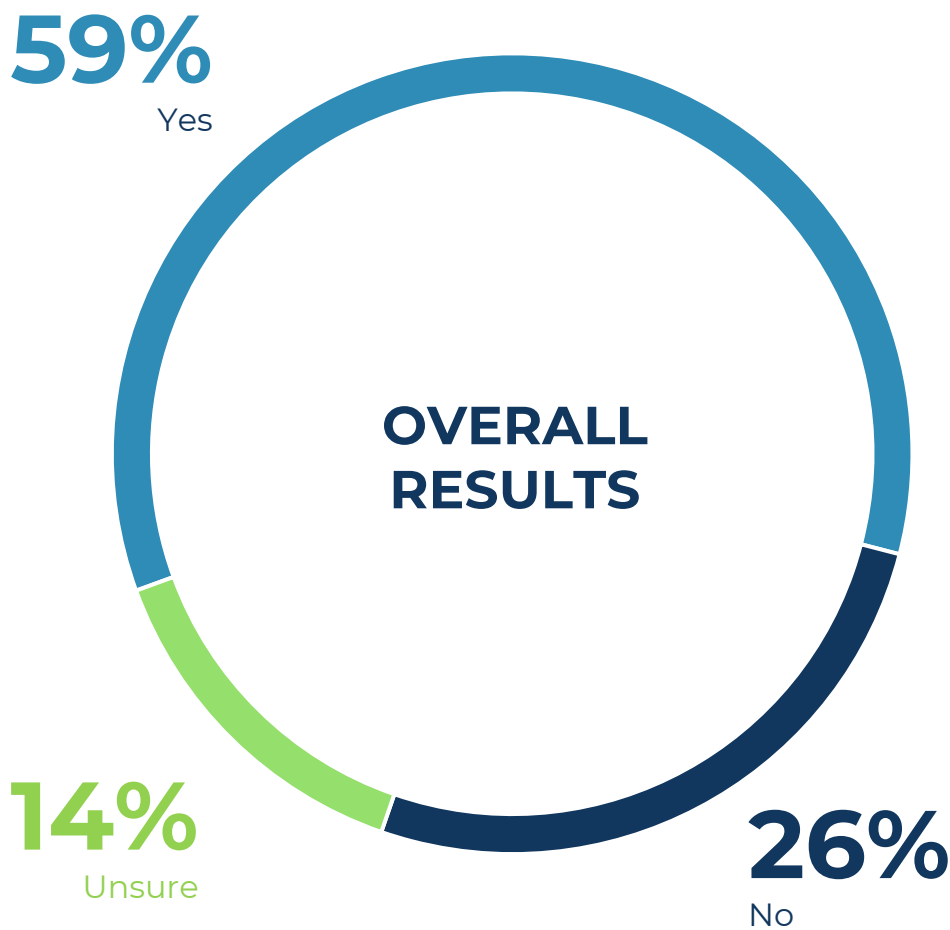


SELECT SUB-GROUP RESULTS

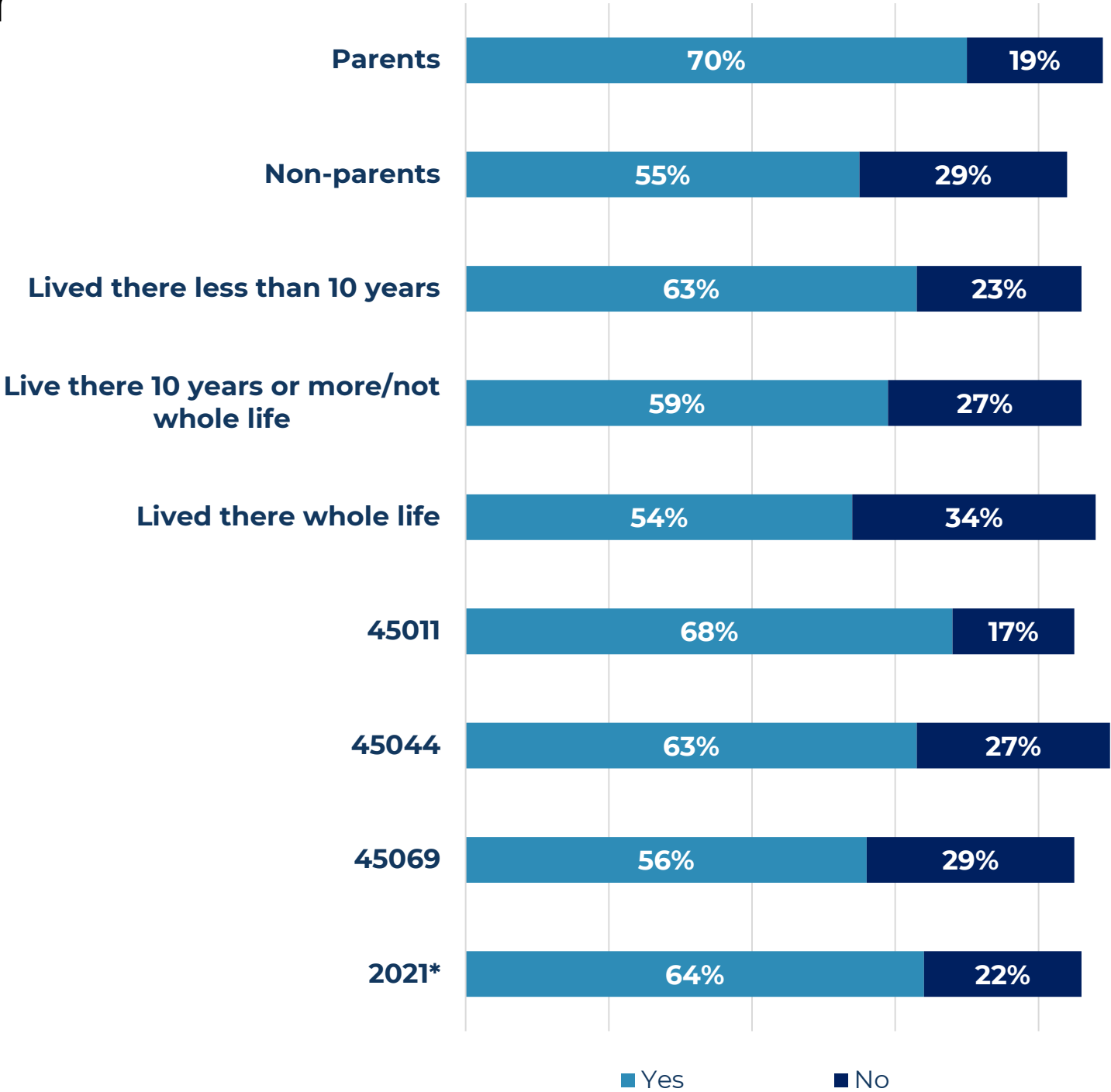


“ROI”

Would you say that you receive a good value from the Lakota Local School District schools for the money you pay to live in the community?



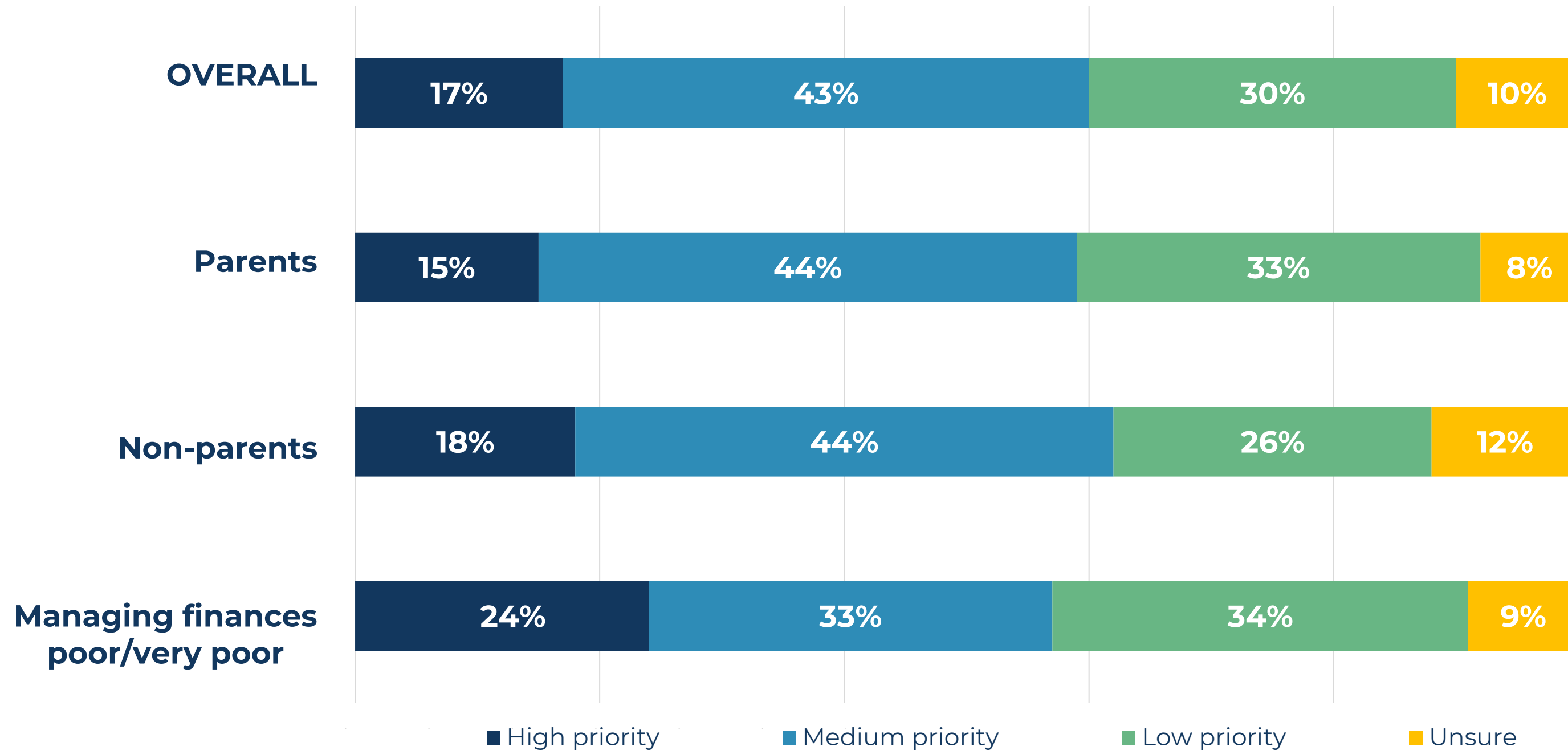
SELECT SUB-GROUP RESULTS



* Different question wording was used

Reducing the Number of Schools

How much of a priority do you think it is to reduce the number of school buildings used by the district from 23 to 17, in order to cut down on operational costs?



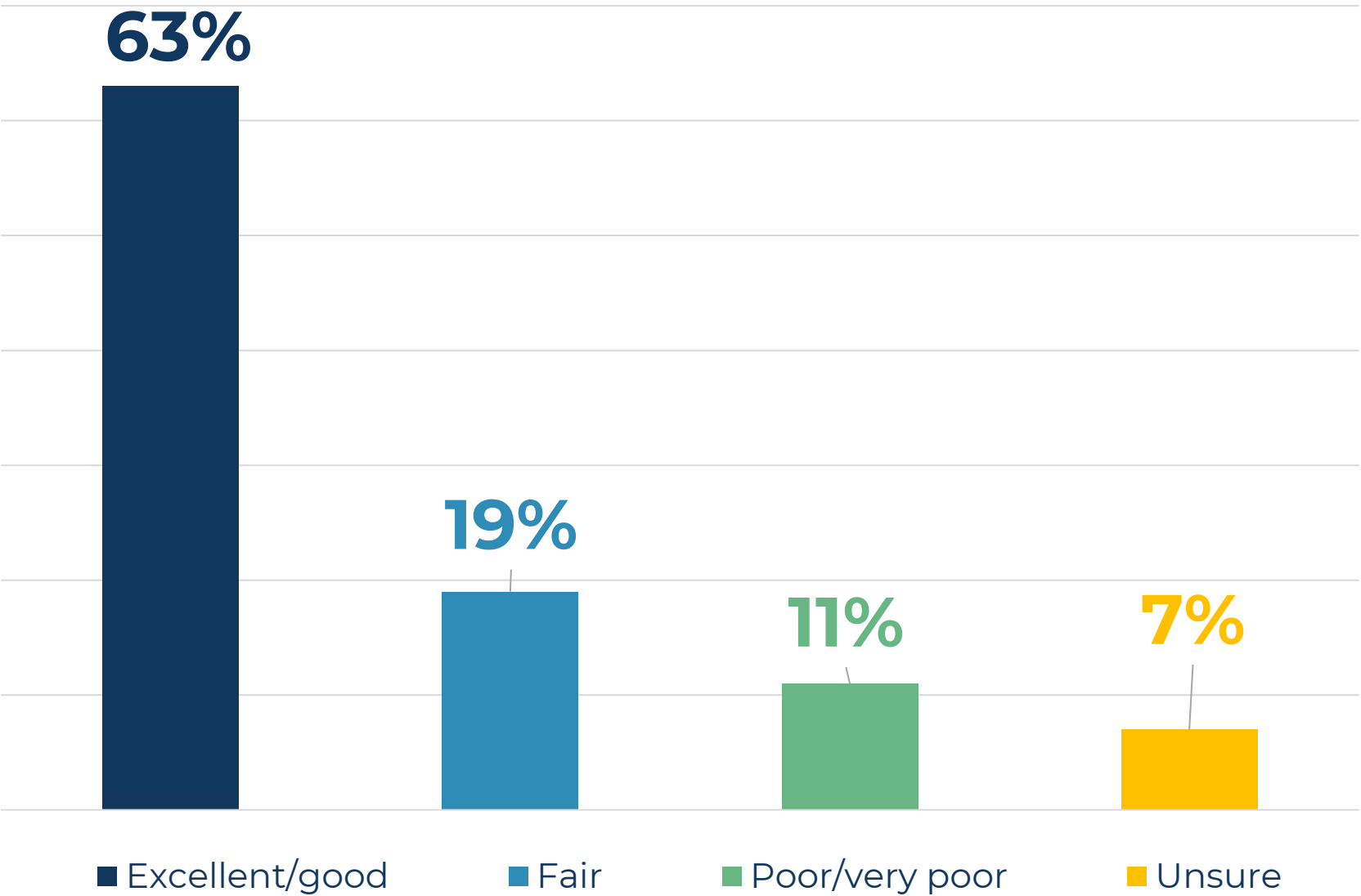


Communication

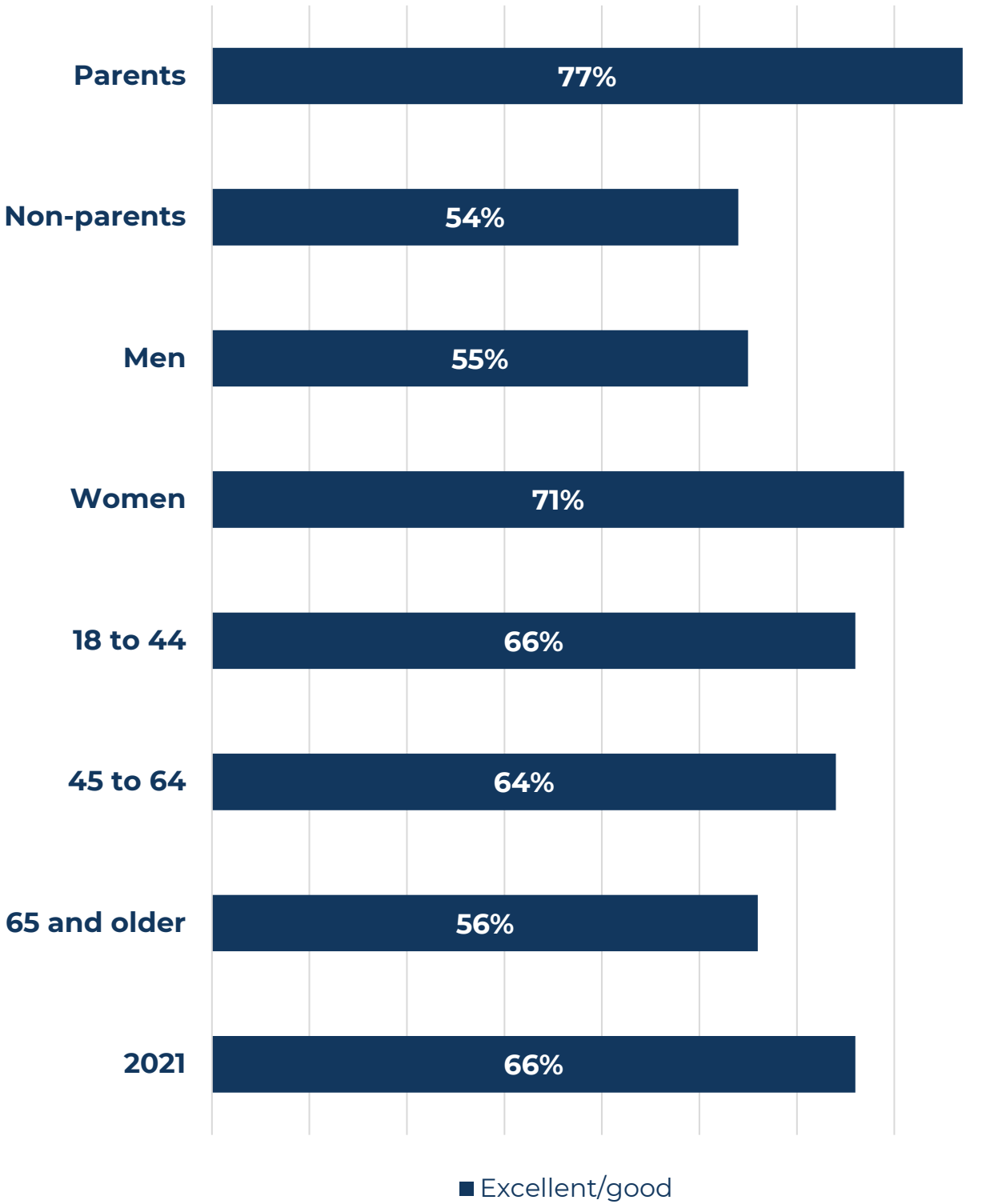
Communication

How would you rate the job that the Lakota Local School District does communicating with parents and the public?

OVERALL RESULTS



SELECT SUB-GROUP RESULTS



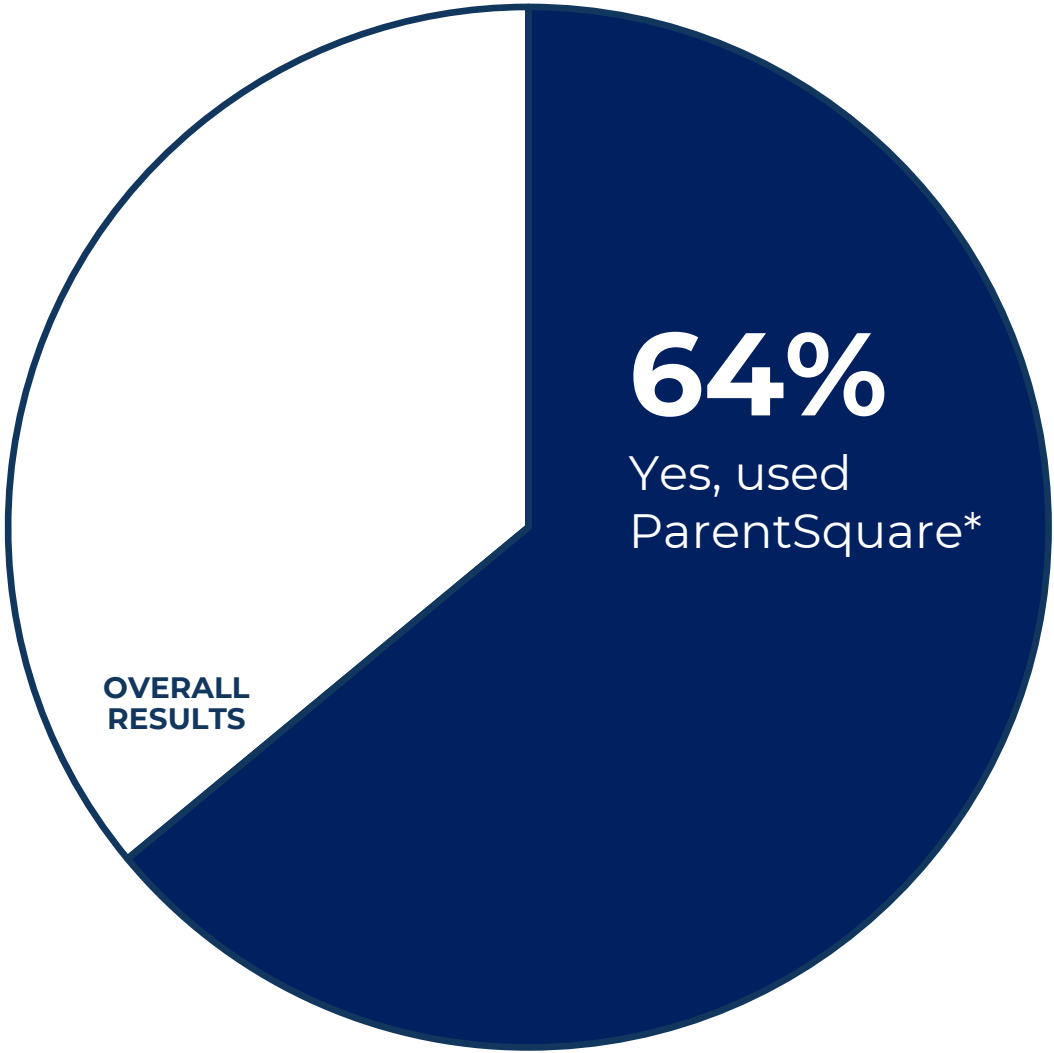
Getting Information

Turning to communications, how would you prefer to get most of your information about the Lakota Local School District in the future? (forced choice battery question)

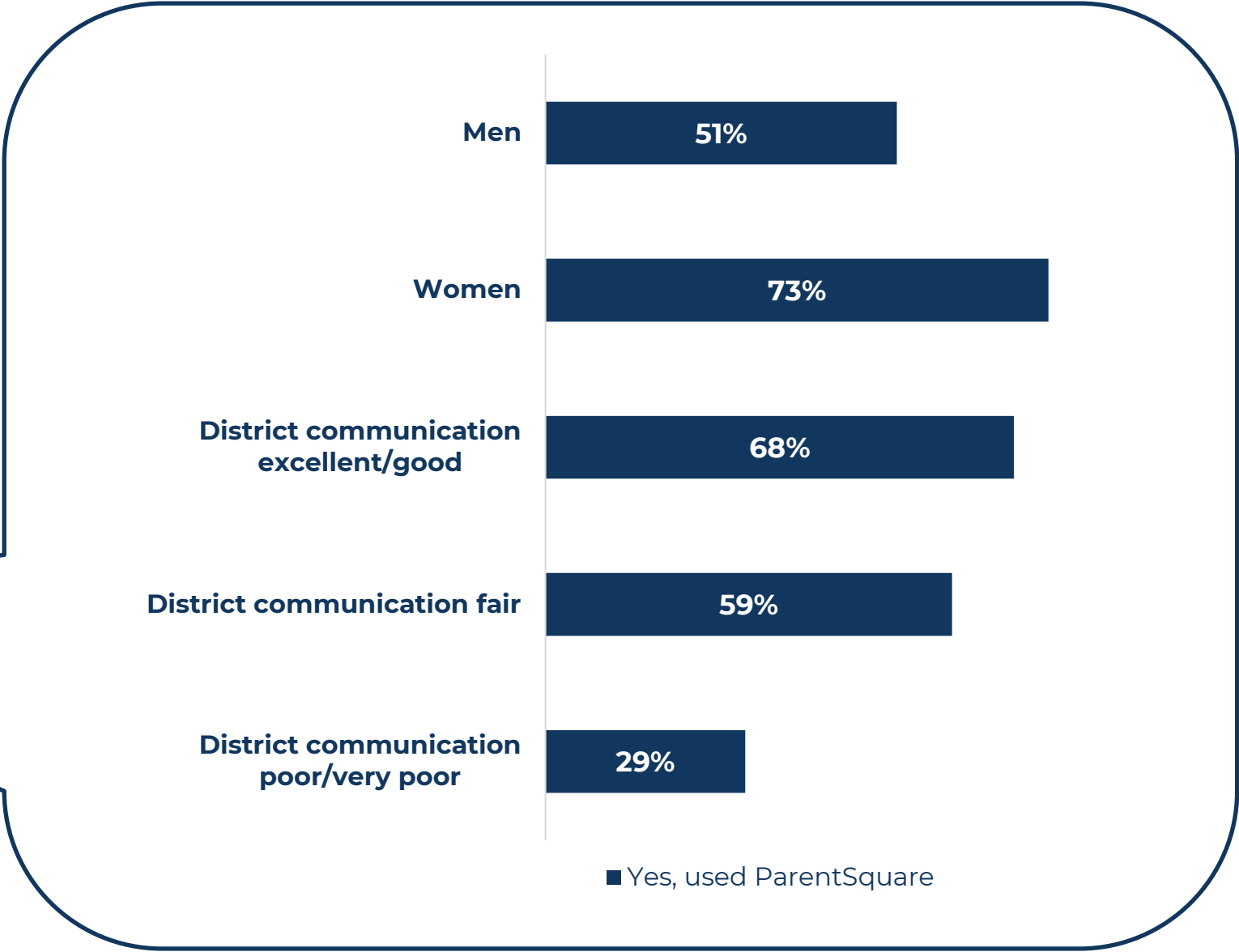
OVERALL RESULTS:	AMONG PARENTS:	AMONG NON-PARENTS:	
48%	71%	33%	Emails you receive from the schools
16%	6%	23%	Materials you receive in the mail
14%	9%	16%	Through social media, such as Facebook or Instagram
11%	7%	14%	Visiting the School District's website
3%	2%	3%	Videos on the Internet
2%	0%	3%	Reading the newspaper
1%	1%	2%	All/combination (vol.)
1%	1%	0%	Other (vol.)
5%	3%	6%	Unsure

ParentSquare

Have you ever used the online communication system or app known as ParentSquare?



n=171



* Asked only to parents

Key Findings Recap



Community satisfaction with the Lakota Local School District remains high among parents and non-parents alike, and results indicate the sentiment is consistent among the spectrum of sub-groups that make up its variegated population.



The school district also continues to be viewed as a major reason for the quality of life, which is indicative of its centrality as a vital institution within the community, even among those who do not have children enrolled in it.



Performance ratings for all of the key functions remain high, and assessments of the quality of education are largely consistent across the spectrum of residents, with parents appearing particularly exuberant.



Parents and non-parents appear somewhat complacent about facilities, but are largely supportive of building renovations, especially those that bolster student safety and building security.



Although the margins of difference are quite narrow, a notable point of divergence in the study appears to be whether cost efficiency or neighborhood schooling experiences should be the primary determinative factor in facilities decisions, with some indifference exhibited towards the idea of reducing the District's footprint.



While support for new buildings is comparatively tepid – which could change and grow as public discourse brings the idea into sharper focus – the vast majority of the community seems willing to embrace improvements, signaling that the District has a mandate to pursue a facilities plan.



An increasingly complex task in the era of fragmentation, the high rating for communicating with parents – and more challenging – non-parents indicates that the District is well-positioned to have a robust dialogue with the public about topical matters, such as facilities, and benefit from the high degree of trust and confidence residents seem to have in its work!



Questions?

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