Community Priorities Survey

Final Survey Results

November 2026

COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS

Community Priorities Survey Overview

Purpose: Gather community input to inform CCS Board of Education budget decisions for the 2026–2027 school year.

Budget Context: CCS faces approximately **$50 million in budget reductions** amid ongoing state funding challenges.

Survey Topics:

- Schools and buildings
- Bus transportation
- Student programs and services
- Staffing and resources

Intended Participants: Parents, guardians, students, staff, and community members.

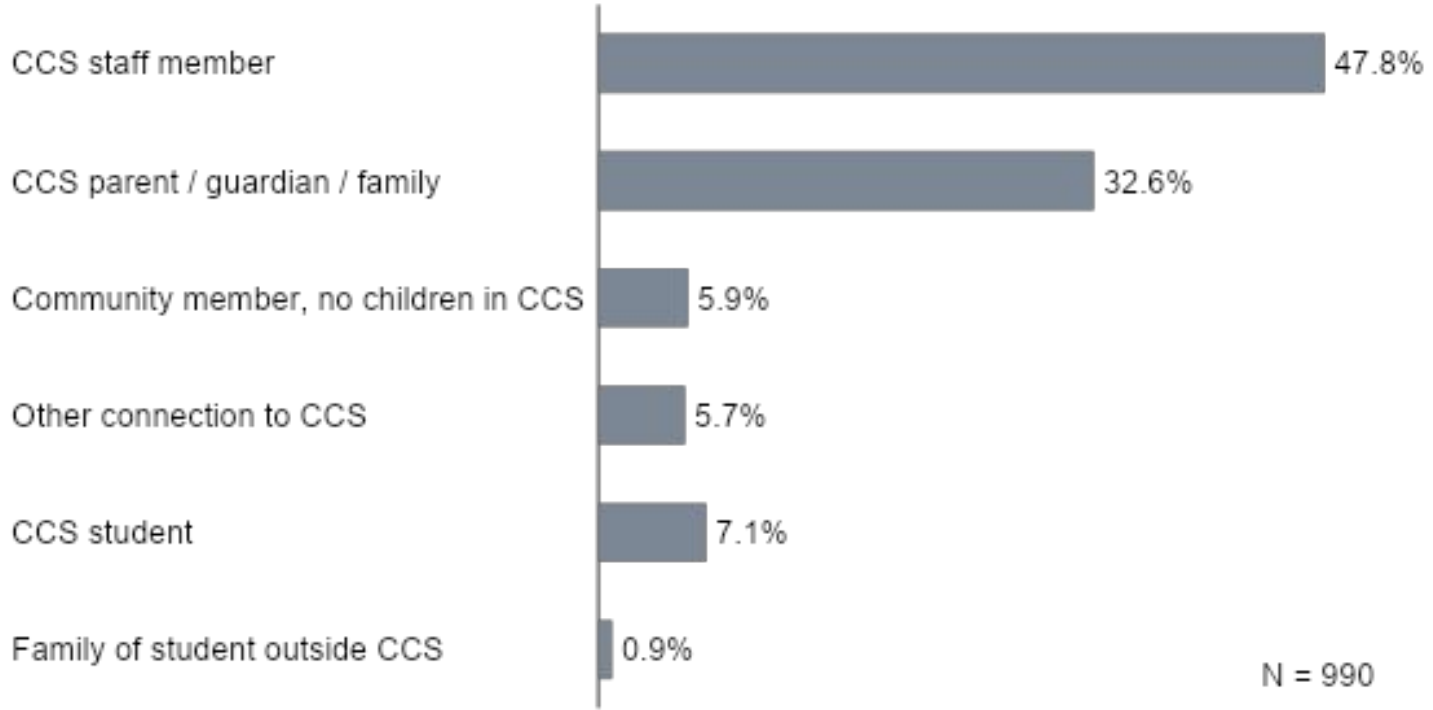
Survey Format: Anonymous survey taking approximately **5 minutes** to complete.

How to read these results

- **990** respondents provided at least one survey answer.
- Overall includes CCS families, staff, students, community members, outside-CCS families and other connections.
- CCS staff account for a disproportionately large share of responses, which may influence aggregate results.
- To improve transparency, findings are presented both overall and separately for CCS families, staff, and students.
- Participation may vary across schools, geographic areas, and demographic groups.
- The survey results are not statistically representative of the broader CCS community.
- Findings are best used to identify concerns, examine differences in priorities among participating stakeholder groups, and inform areas for further engagement.

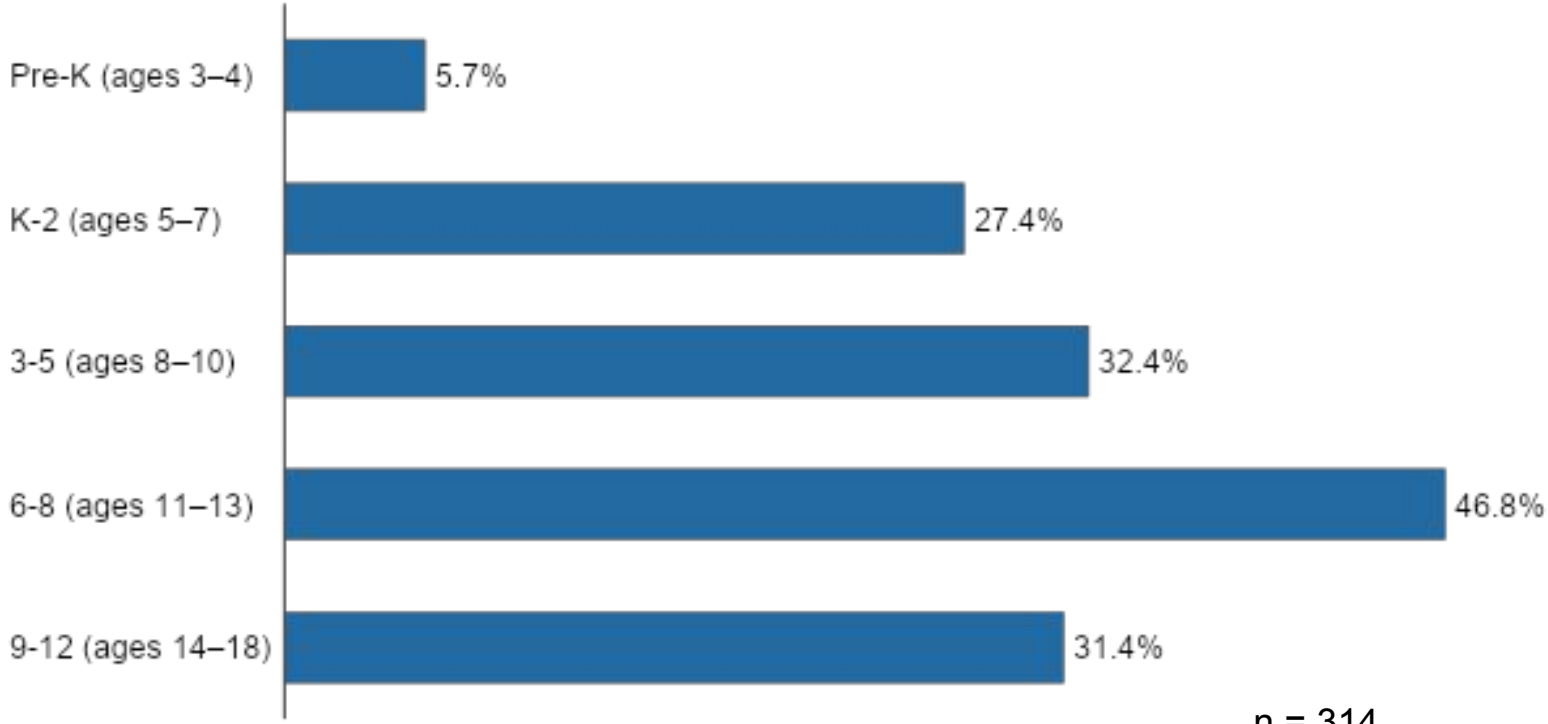
Respondent Role

Q1 — Which best describes you? Choose one.



Student Grade Level – CCS Families

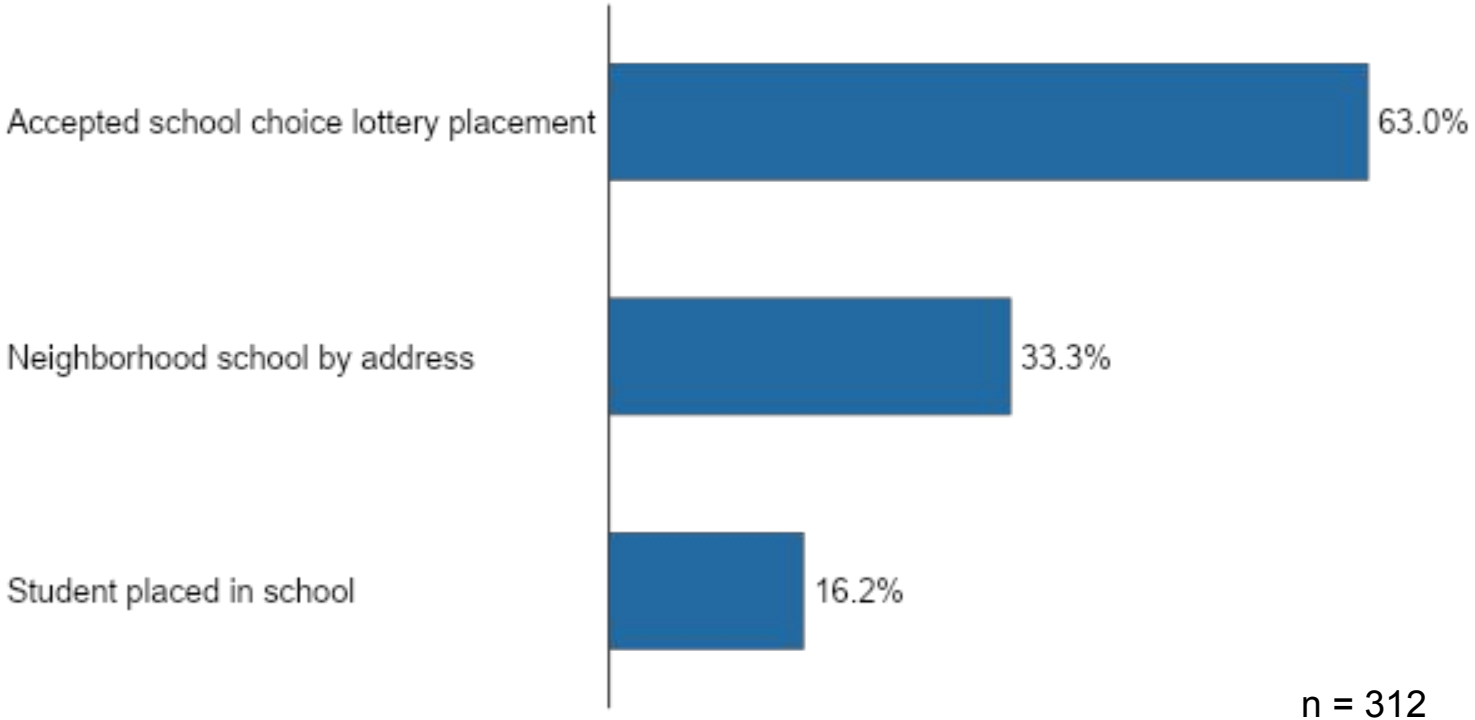
Q2 — What grade level is your student in?



n = 314

Student school placement

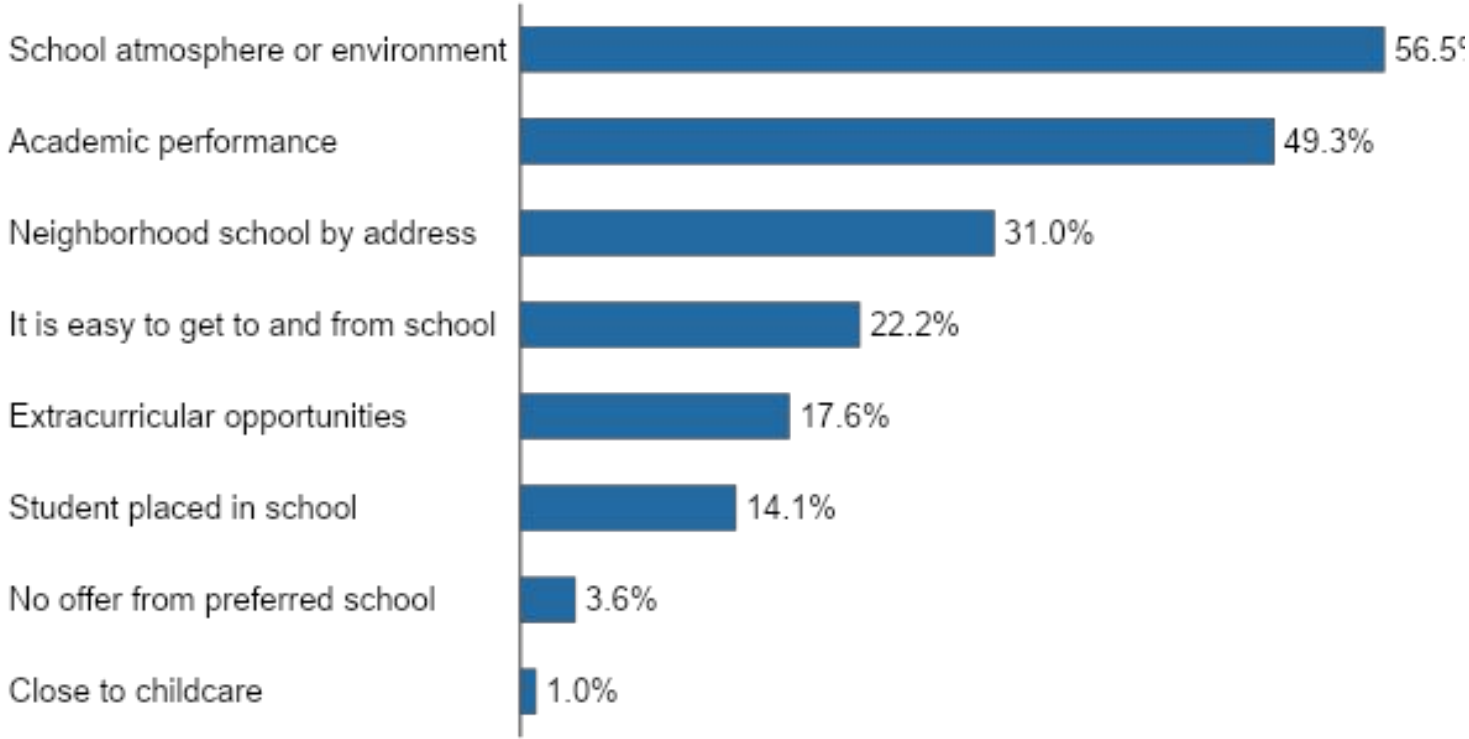
Q3 — Which best describes your student's school?



n = 312

Reasons for choosing current school

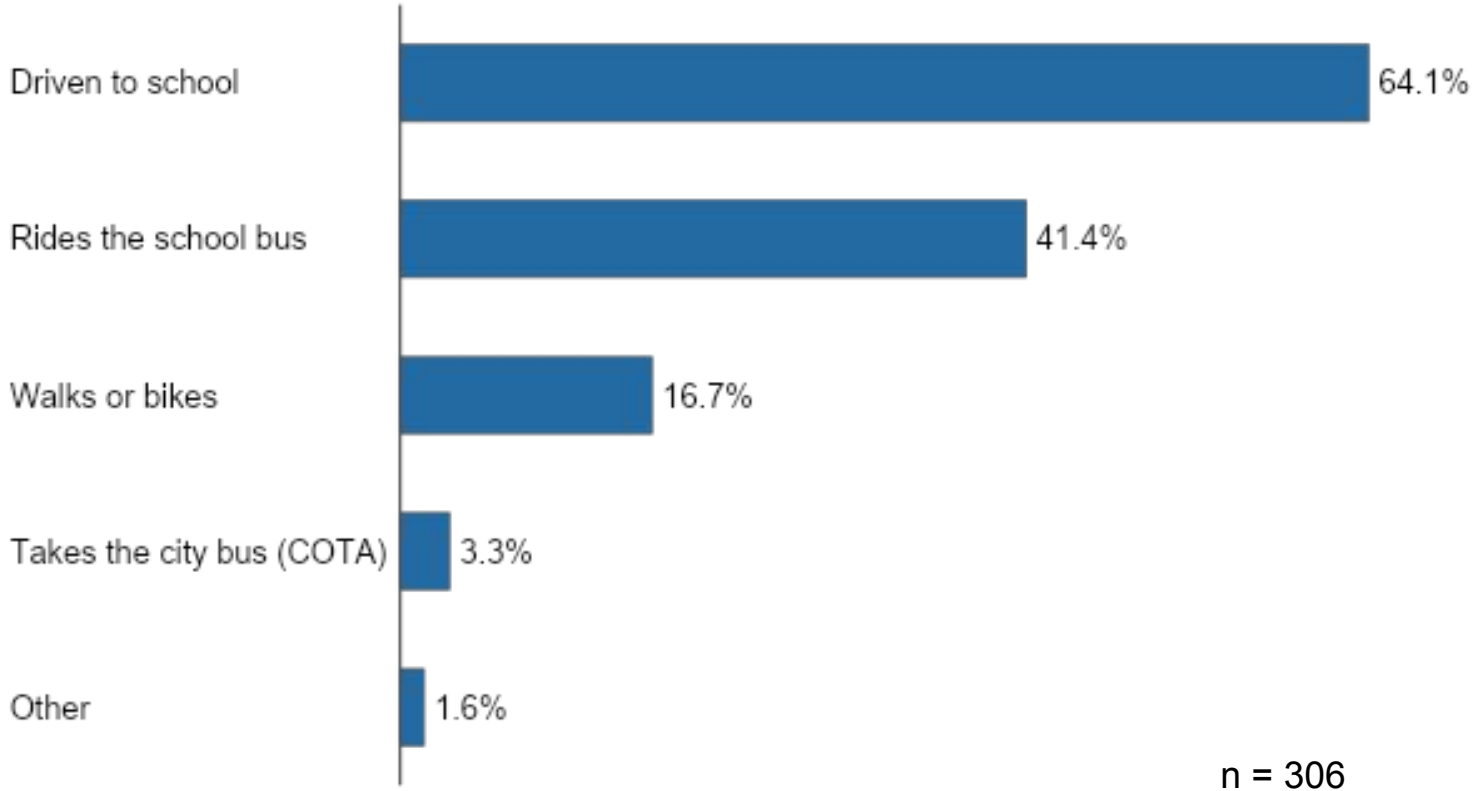
Q4 — What are the reasons your family chose your student's current school?



n = 306

Usual transportation to school

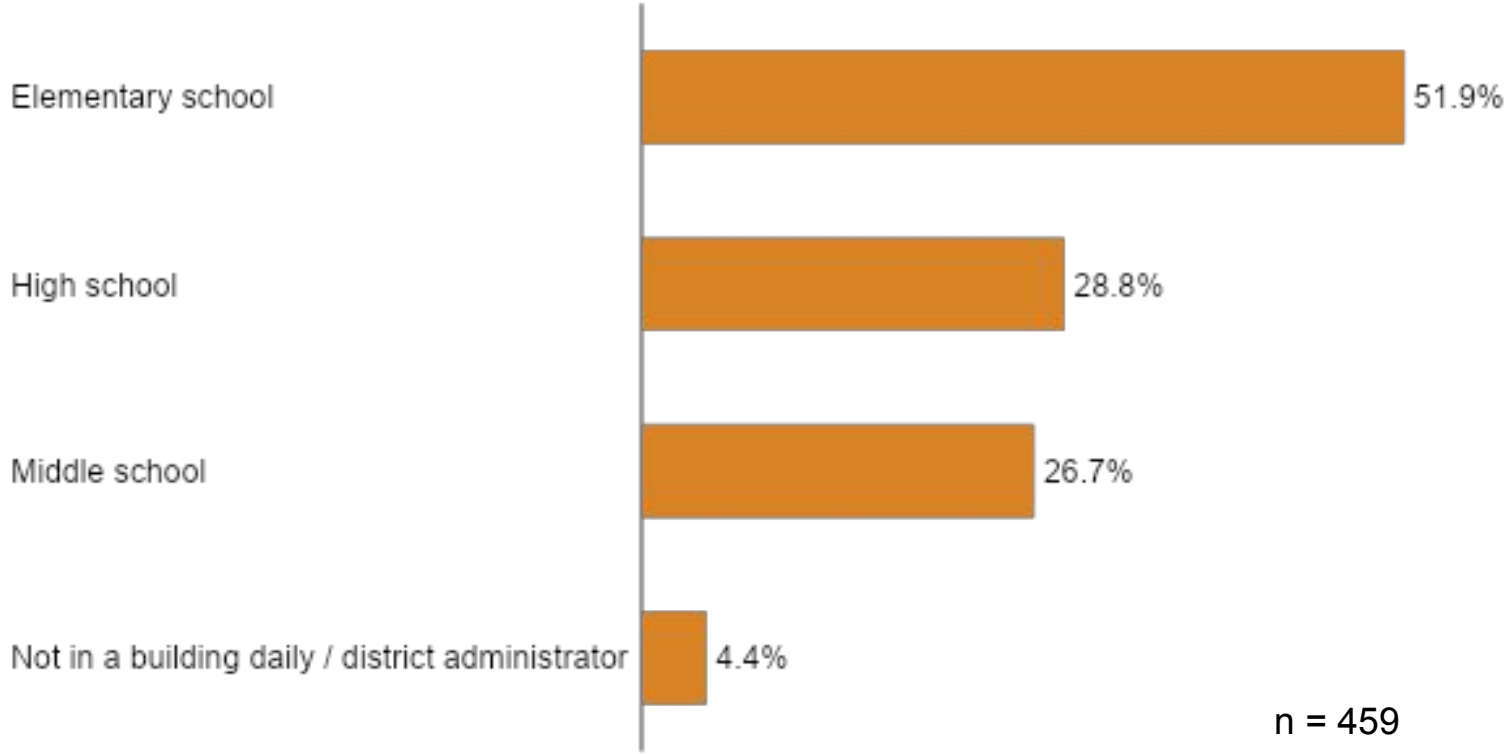
Q5 — How does your child usually get to school?



n = 306

Grade levels served by staff

Q6 — Which grade levels do you serve?



n = 459

Student grade

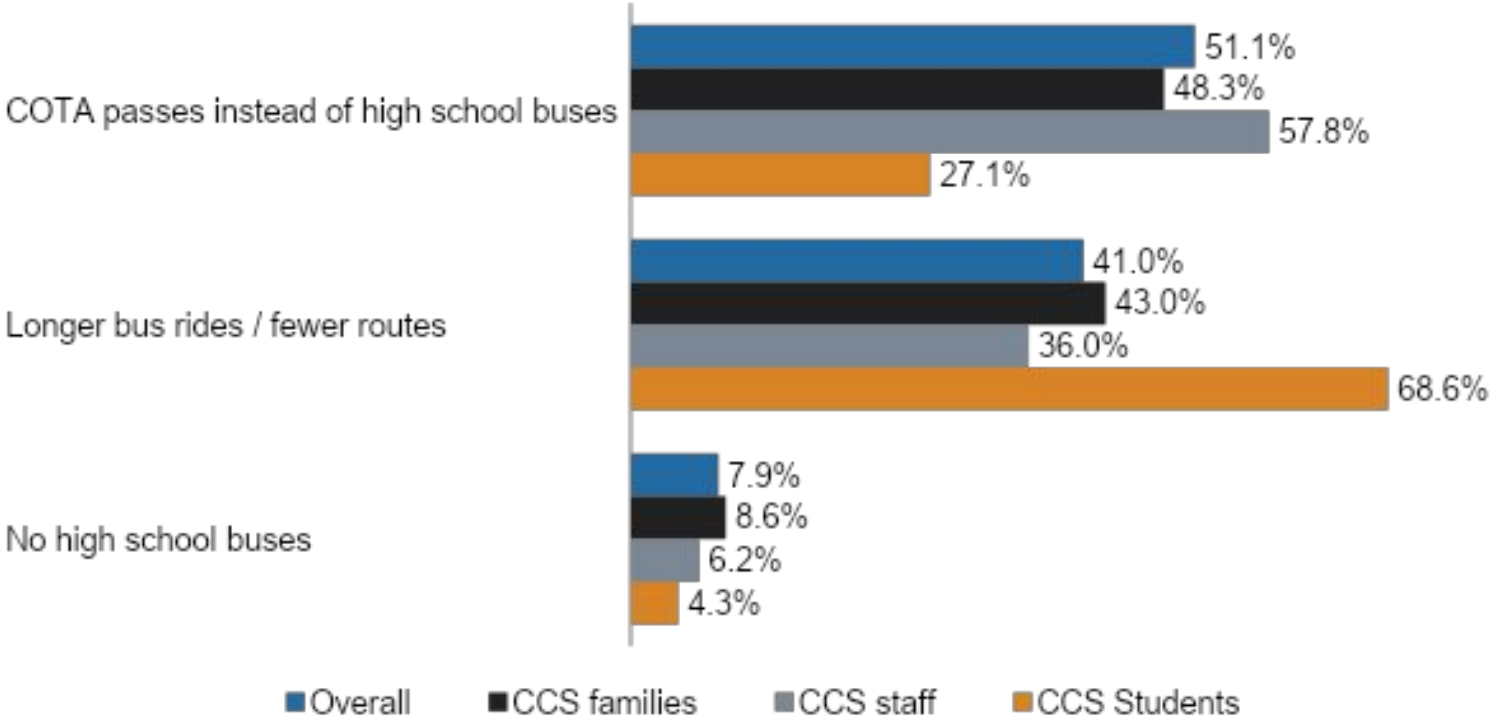
Q11 — What grade are you in?



n = 70

Bus-service option

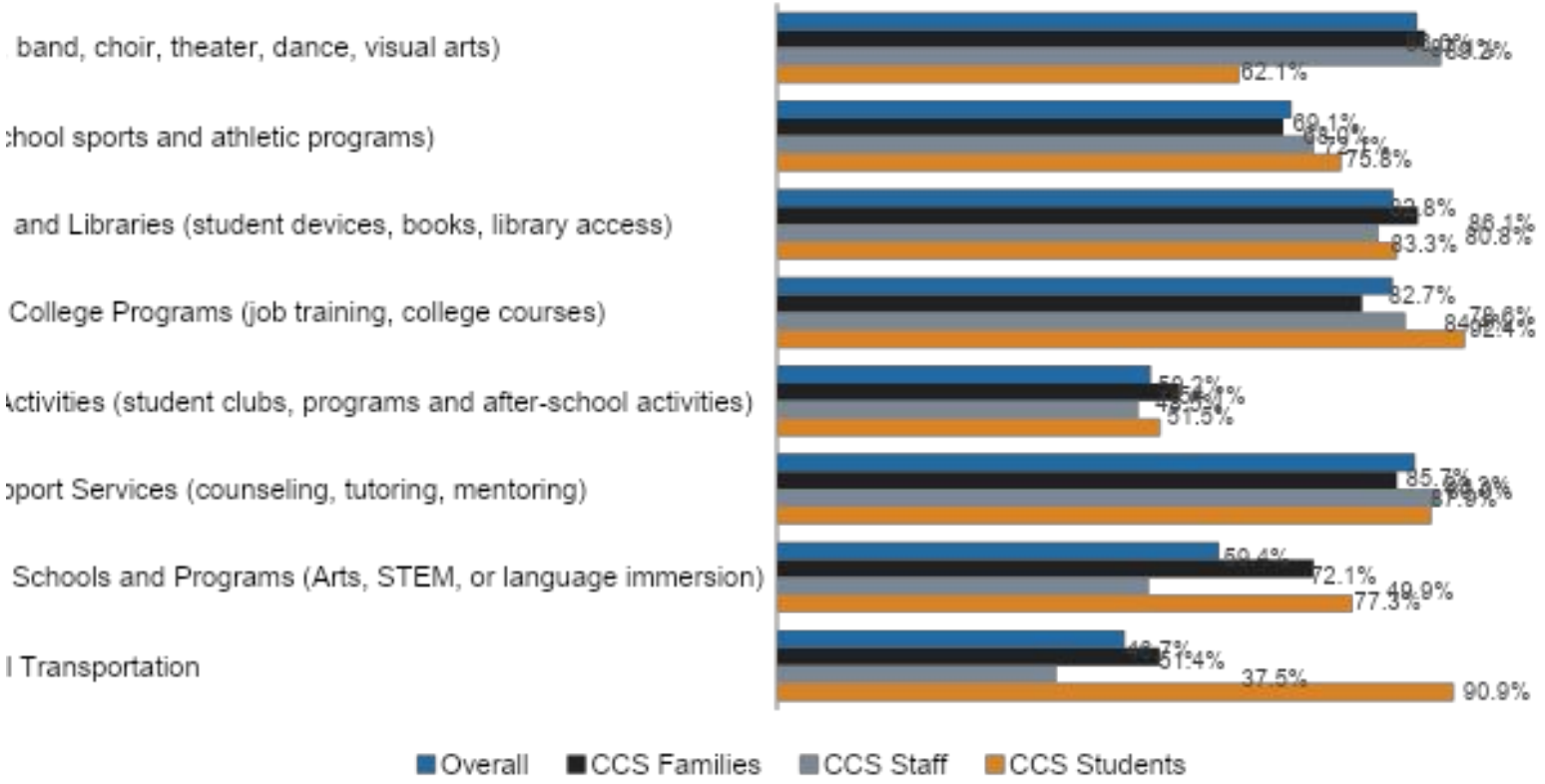
Q12 — If bus service must change, which option would cause the fewest problems for families?



N = 945

Importance of program/service

Q13 — Programs rated very or extremely important (4 or 5)



N = 901

Importance of program/service

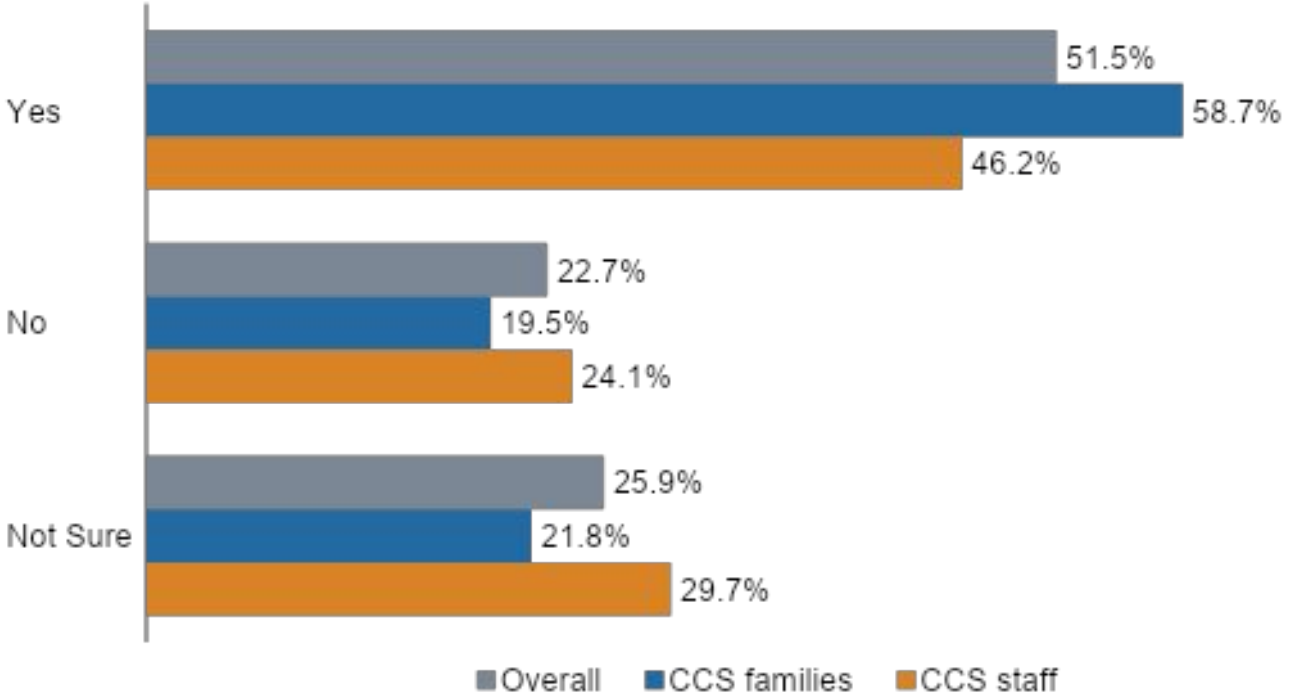
Q13 — Programs rated very or extremely important (4 or 5)

Rank	Overall	CCS Families	CCS Staff	CCS Students
1	Arts	Arts	Student Support	Career & College
2	Student Support	Technology	Arts	HS Transportation
3	Technology	Student Support	Career & College	Student Support
4	Career & College	Career & College	Technology	Technology
5	Athletics	Specialized Programs	Athletics	Specialized Programs

N = 901

Support for putting a school levy on the ballot

Q14 — Would you support CCS putting a school tax levy on the ballot in the next few years to help pay for schools and programs?



N = 896

Advice for District Budget Decisions

Q15 — What advice would you give district leaders as they make decisions that affect students and the community? (n=824)

Theme	Overall n	Overall %	Families n	Families %	Staff n	Staff %	Student n	Student %
Put students and school-based supports first	396	48.1%	120	43.2%	209	52.1%	27	54.0%
Reduce administrative costs and layers	260	31.6%	77	27.7%	149	37.2%	0	0.0%
Improve communication, voice and decision-making	163	19.8%	70	25.2%	70	17.5%	11	22.0%
Preserve educational and enrichment programs	148	18.0%	59	21.2%	59	14.7%	13	26.0%
Improve financial accountability and reduce waste	137	16.6%	54	19.4%	68	17.0%	5	10.0%

Note: These are the five most frequently mentioned themes overall, not necessarily the top five within each stakeholder group. Student responses should be interpreted cautiously given the smaller sample size (n=50).

Advice for District Budget Decisions

Q15 — What advice would you give district leaders as they make decisions that affect students and the community? (n=824)

Theme	Illustrative Quote
Put students and school-based supports first	• Please truly put students first. We are all here for their needs. – CCS Families • Do not fire building-based staff that work directly with students… - CCS Staff • Look at ways to gain efficiency with admin support. It's most important to have high-quality teachers and student support. – CCS Student
Reduce administrative costs and layers	• Cut from the top. Do not cut from the buildings. – CCS Families • Think about the positions that don't directly impact or interact with students. Those are the ones to get rid of. – CCS Staff
Improve communication, voice and decision-making	• Make feedback meaningful and once compiled, make a plan and communicate it. Then follow through with the plan and don't waiver. – CCS Staff • Prioritize student impact, engage the community, and explore all alternatives before making cuts. – CCS Student
Improve financial accountability and reduce waste	• Make sure you aren't wasting money and search out ALL available state and federal funding. – CCS Families • Spend the money on what you plan on using it for and not on other things. – CCS Student
Preserve educational and enrichment programs	• These students deserve not only a good education but all the extras as well, athletics, clubs, arts and community. – CCS Staff • At least keep up with the student support and the vital career training programs for students at Columbus Downtown High School… - CCS Student

Most reported zip codes

n=720

ZIP code	General area of Columbus	Common neighborhoods	n	%
43214	North / Northwest	Clintonville, Beechwold	75	10.4%
43202	North-Central	South Clintonville, Old North Columbus, University District	47	6.5%
43207	South	South Side, Marion-Franklin, Southfield	44	6.1%
43224	North / Northeast	North Linden, Northland	40	5.6%
43232	Southeast	Eastland, Southeast Columbus	40	5.6%
43229	Northeast / Far North	Northland, Forest Park	40	5.6%
43204	West	Hilltop, Westgate	36	5.0%
43206	South-Central	German Village, Merion Village, Southern Orchard	24	3.3%
43227	East	Eastmoor area, East Columbus	24	3.3%
43219	Northeast / East	Easton area, Northeast Columbus	24	3.3%

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Thank you!

Questions?