

# Family Engagement Survey

## Results and Analysis

Fairfax County Public Schools

School Year: 2018-2019



# Purpose & Details of the Study

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Research tells us that families have a major influence on their children's achievements through school and through life. When schools build partnerships with families, respond to their concerns, and honor their contributions, they promote a range of benefits for students, including improved school readiness, higher student achievement, better social skills and behavior, and increased likelihood of high school graduation.

The Fairfax County Public Schools Family Engagement Survey asked parents for feedback on their involvement and engagement at their child's school.

K12 *Insight* partnered with division staff members to develop the survey, which addressed the following topics:

- Welcoming environment
- Communication
- Student success
- Advocacy
- Family and school partnerships
- Collaboration with the community

# Understanding the Results

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This survey was open from March 24 to April 14.

Email invitations with unique survey links were sent to parents. Parents also could participate via a public link on the division's website. Paper surveys were available on request. Parents with children attending more than one division school could take the survey for each school.

The survey was translated into Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Farsi, Urdu, and Amharic.

Reminders were sent March 28 and April 3, 9, and 12.

This report summarizes survey results and breaks them down by school level. Results do not reflect random sampling; therefore, they should not be generalized to all parents of students in Fairfax County Public Schools. Rather, results reflect only the perceptions and opinions of survey participants.

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

# Participation

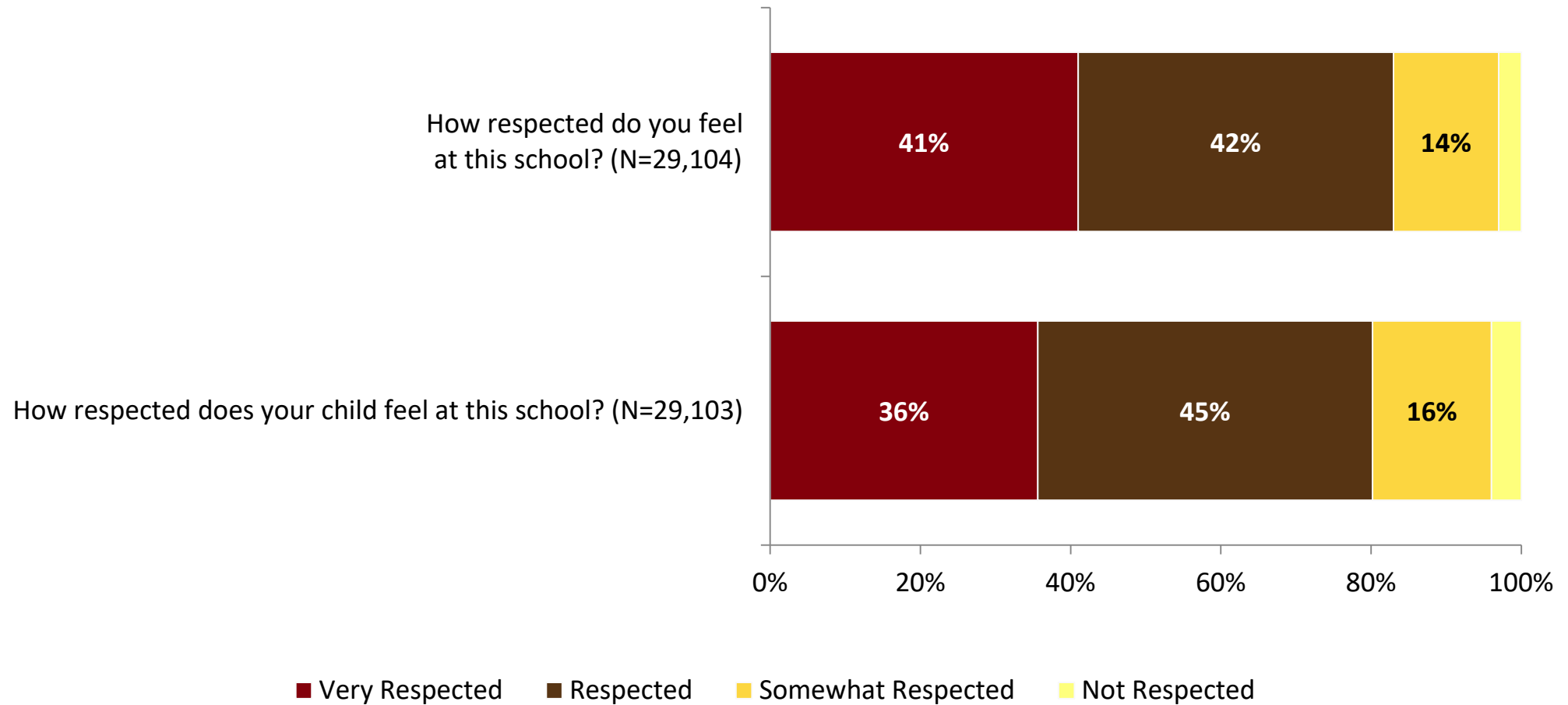
Responding Group	Number of Invitations Delivered (NMax)	Number of Responses (N)	Response Rate (%)	Paper Surveys	Public-Access Link Responses	Total Responses
Parents	164,384	21,393	13%*	295	7,571**	29,259

\*Response rate only reflects the percentage of responses from email invitations. Responses from public-access links are not included in the calculation.

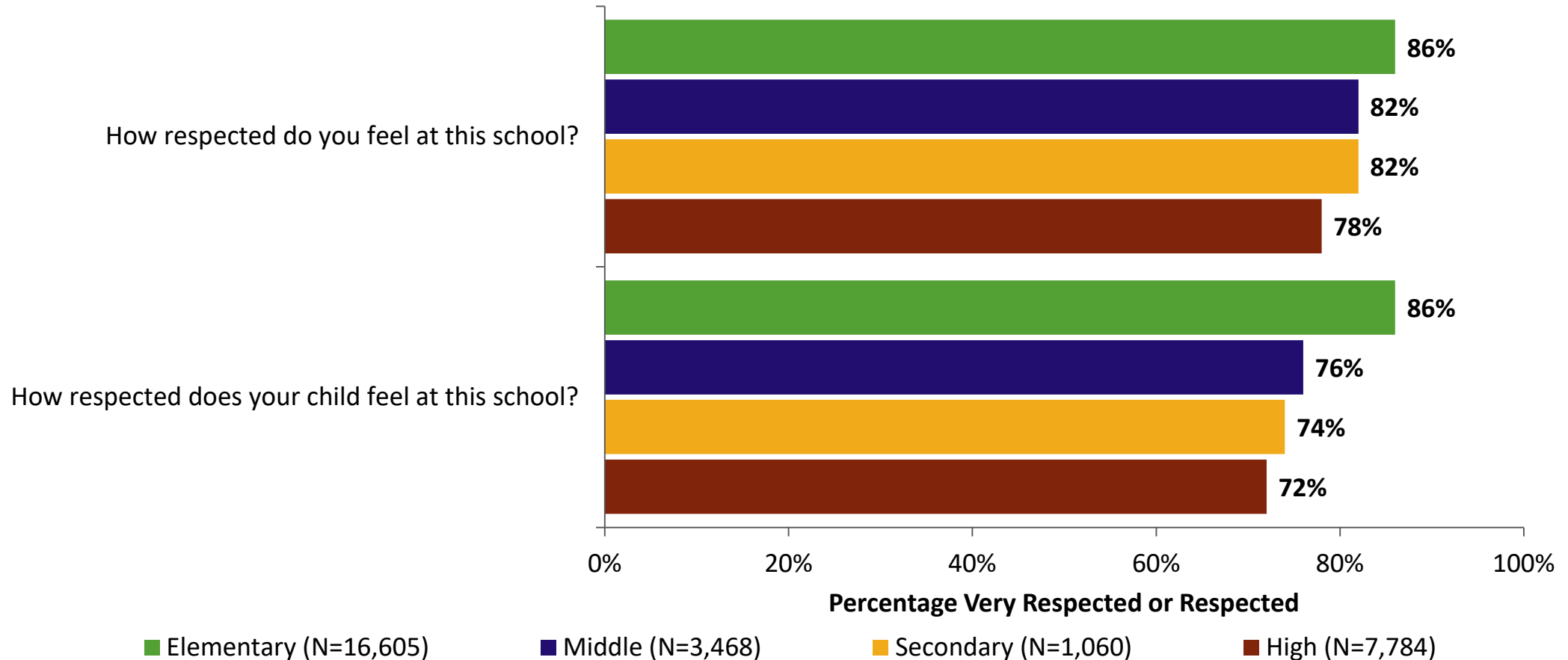
\*\*Includes 2,038 responses from parents who took the survey again for a different school.

	English	Spanish	Korean	Chinese	Arabic	Vietnamese	Farsi	Urdu	Amharic
Responses	26,355	1,664	592	264	211	104	41	26	2

# Respect



# Respect — Comparison by School Level



# Highest Ranking Indicators

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Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	School Climate Topic
This school welcomes families of different backgrounds and cultures.	92%	Welcoming Environment
I feel welcome at my child's school.	91%	Welcoming Environment
My child feels safe at school.	91%	Welcoming Environment
Information provided to me is easy to understand.	91%	Communication
This school is safe.	89%	Welcoming Environment

# Lowest Ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	School Climate Topic
I received enough information from this school about what I can do at home to help my child improve his or her learning.	31%	Student Success
The school staff works with me to identify social and emotional skills that my child can develop to be successful.	26%	Student Success
Our school encourages parents and educators to share information such as student strengths and learning preferences.	24%	Communication
This school provides me with opportunities to connect with other families.	22%	Collaboration with the Community
My child's school works with me to make key decisions about my child's education.	21%	Family and School Partnerships



# Key Insights

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- 83% of participating parents indicated they were respected or very respected at their child's school and 81% indicated their child was respected or very respected at their school.
- The welcoming environment dimension had the highest percentage of agree and strongly agree responses at 87%. However, there was a modest difference between school levels, from 83% for participating middle school parents to 90% for participating elementary school parents.
- 75% of participating middle school parents and 76% of participating high school parents agreed or strongly agreed that school leaders inspire families to be active participants in the school community.
- 92% of participating parents agreed or strongly agreed that their school welcomes families of different backgrounds and cultures, that they feel welcome at their child's school, and that their child feels safe at school.
- The collaboration with the community dimension had the lowest percentage of agree and strongly agree responses at 66%.
  - 68% of participating parents agreed or strongly agreed that they receive enough information from their child's school about community services that help families .
  - 63% agreed or strongly agreed that the school provides them with opportunities to connect with other families.
  - Though 72% of participating elementary school parents agreed or strongly agreed that the school provides them with opportunities to connect with other families, only 48% of participating middle school parents said they feel the same.

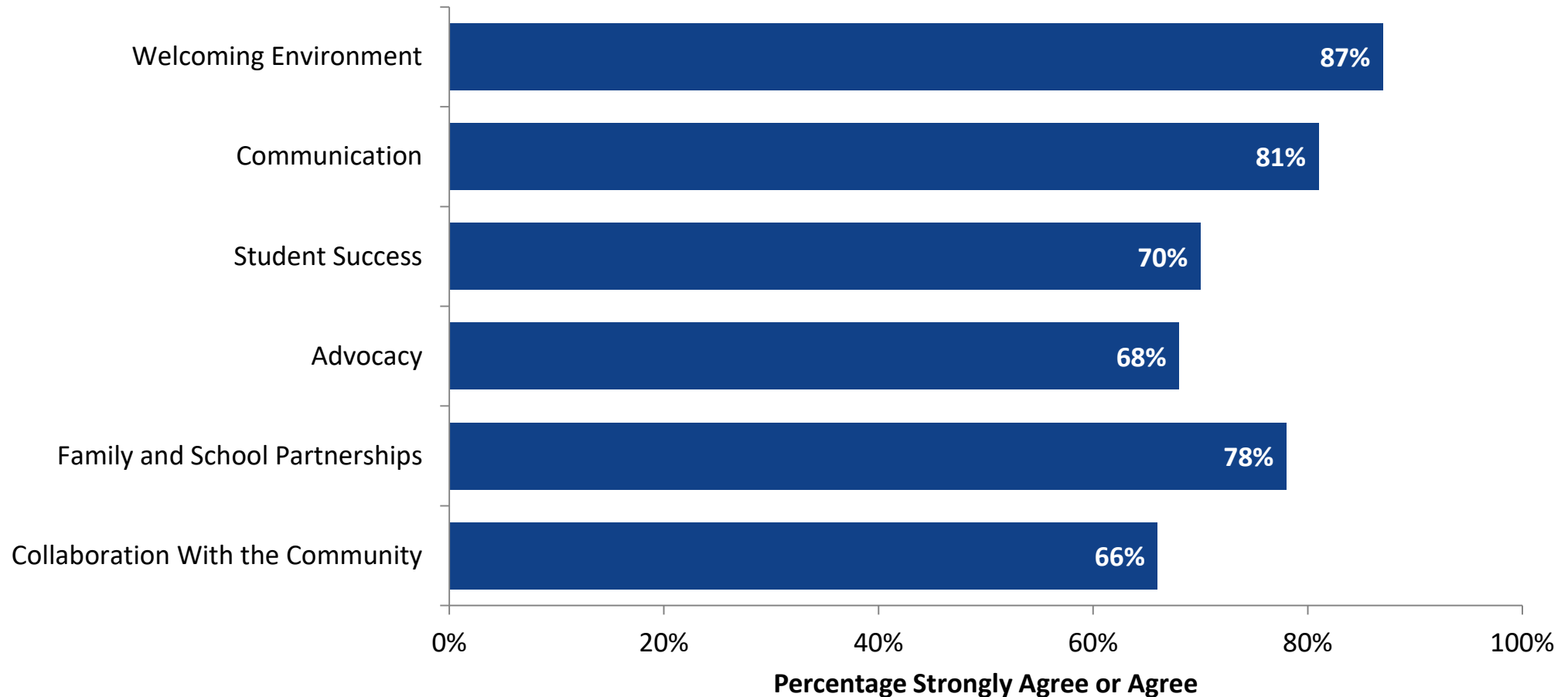
## Key Insights (Continued)

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- Items related to partnering with schools on their child's education had a negative impact on engagement.
  - 70% of participating parents agreed or strongly agreed that the school staff works with them to develop social and emotional skills that their child can develop to be successful.
  - 68% agreed or strongly agreed the school works with them to make key decisions about their child's education
  - 60% agreed or strongly agreed that the school encourages parents and educators to share information such as student strengths and learning preferences.
- 63% of participating parents agreed or strongly agreed that they receive enough information about what they can do at home to help their child improve their learning.
- 41% of participating parents indicated they did not know if workshops offered by their school were informative. This high percentage of don't know responses were likely given by parents who have not attended the workshops.

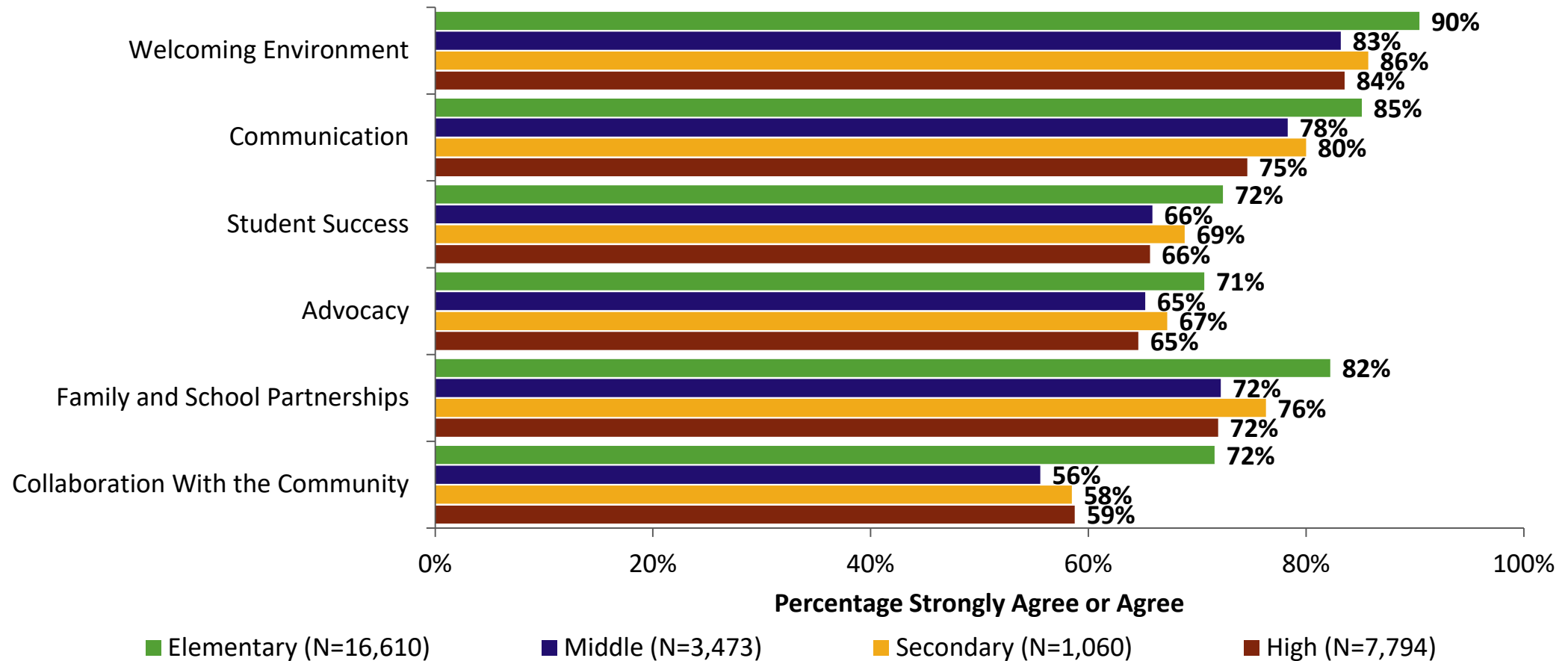
# Dimension Scores

Dimension Scores (N=29,133)



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know  
Note: This graph shows Strongly Agree or Agree responses for all items within each dimension.

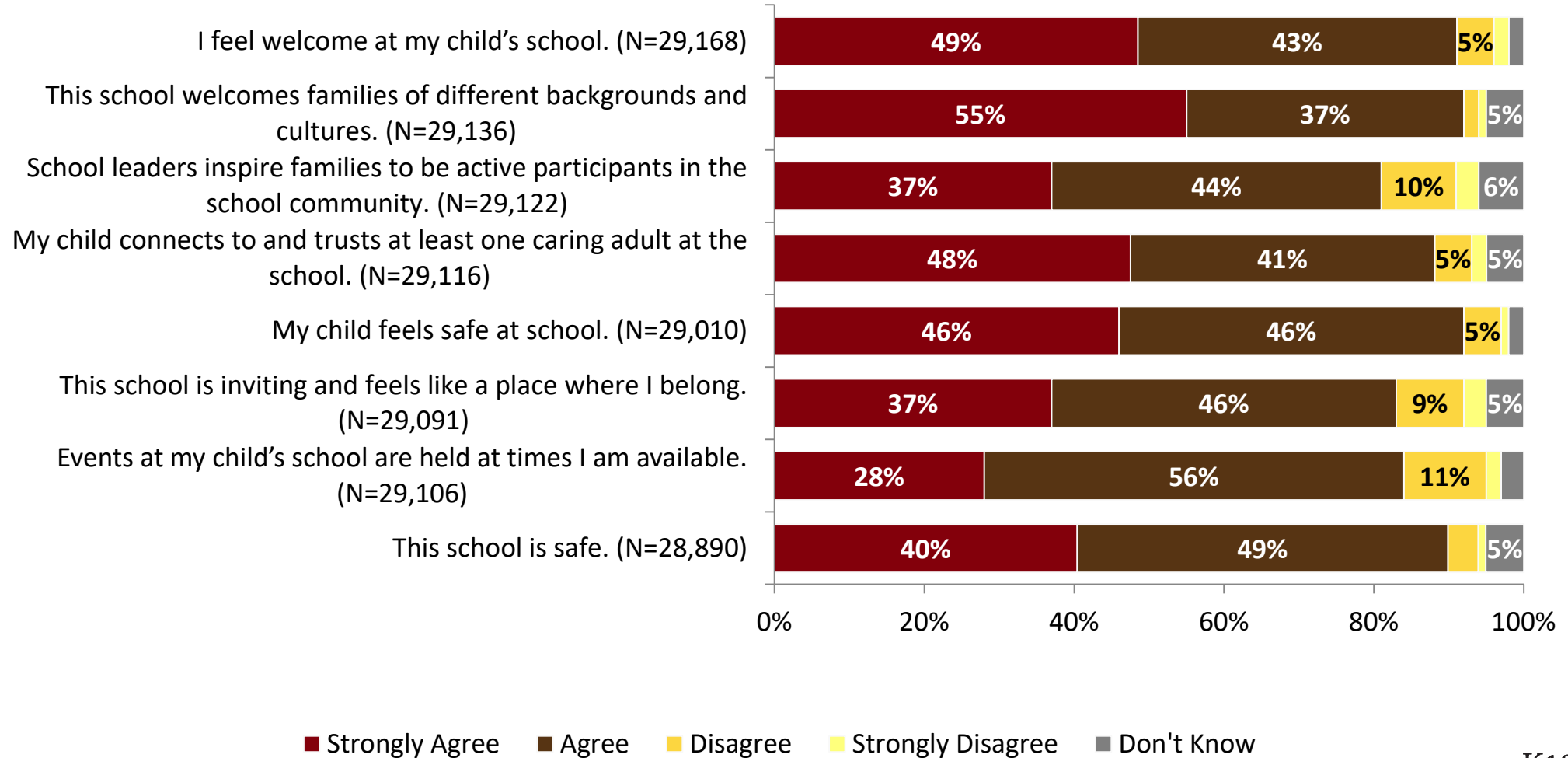
# Dimension Scores — Comparison by School Level



Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know  
 Note: This graph shows Strongly Agree or Agree responses for all items within each dimension.

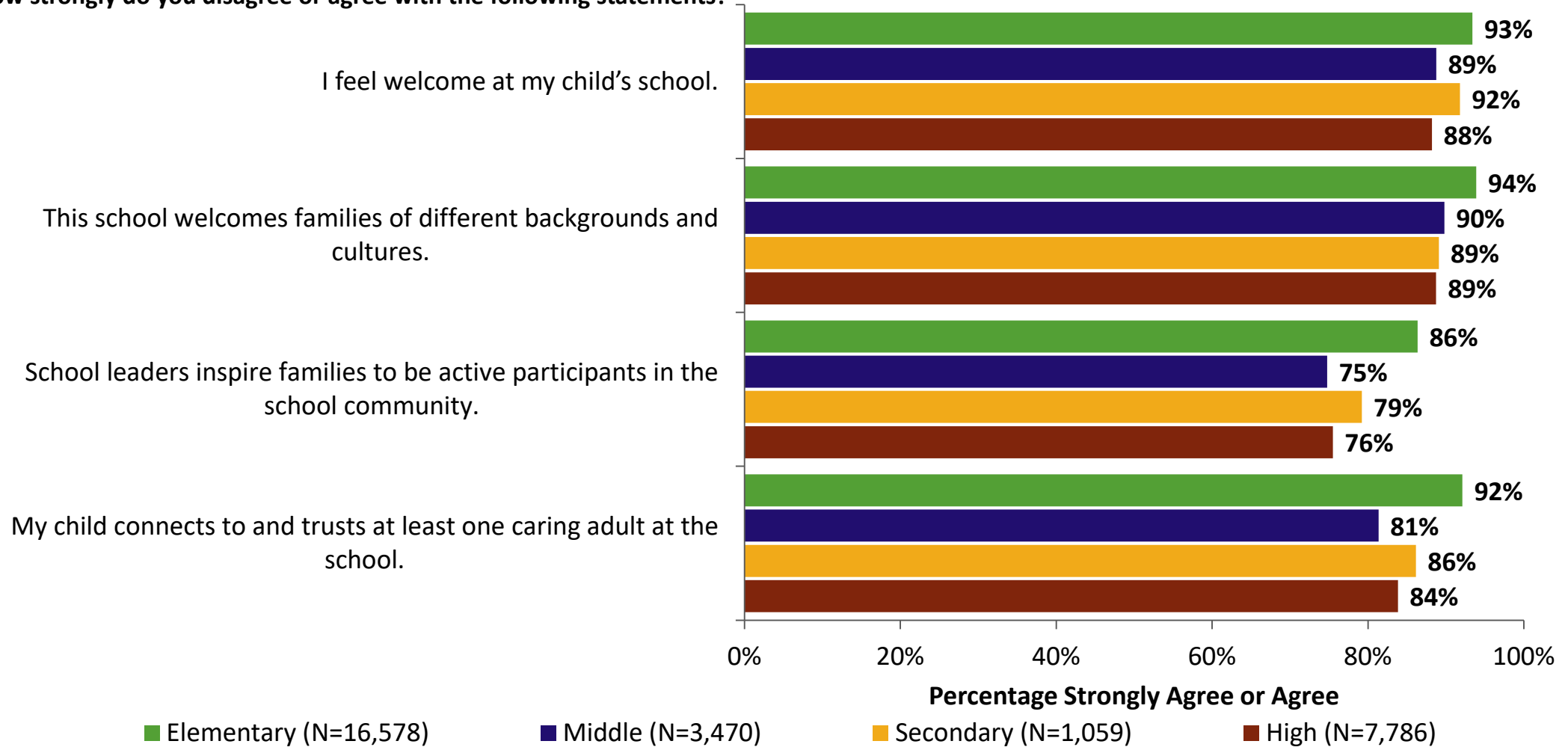
# Welcoming Environment

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



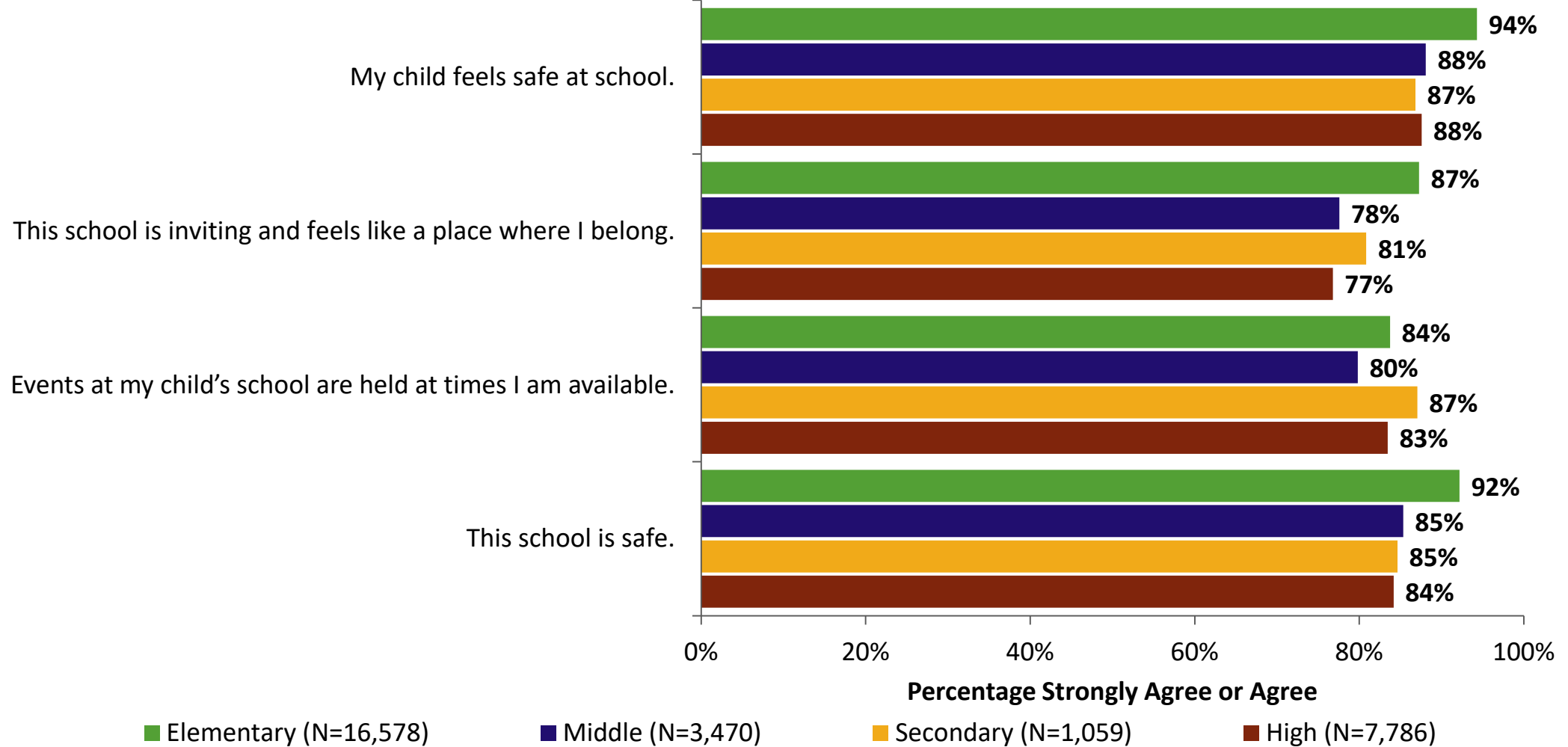
# Welcoming Environment — Comparison by School Level

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



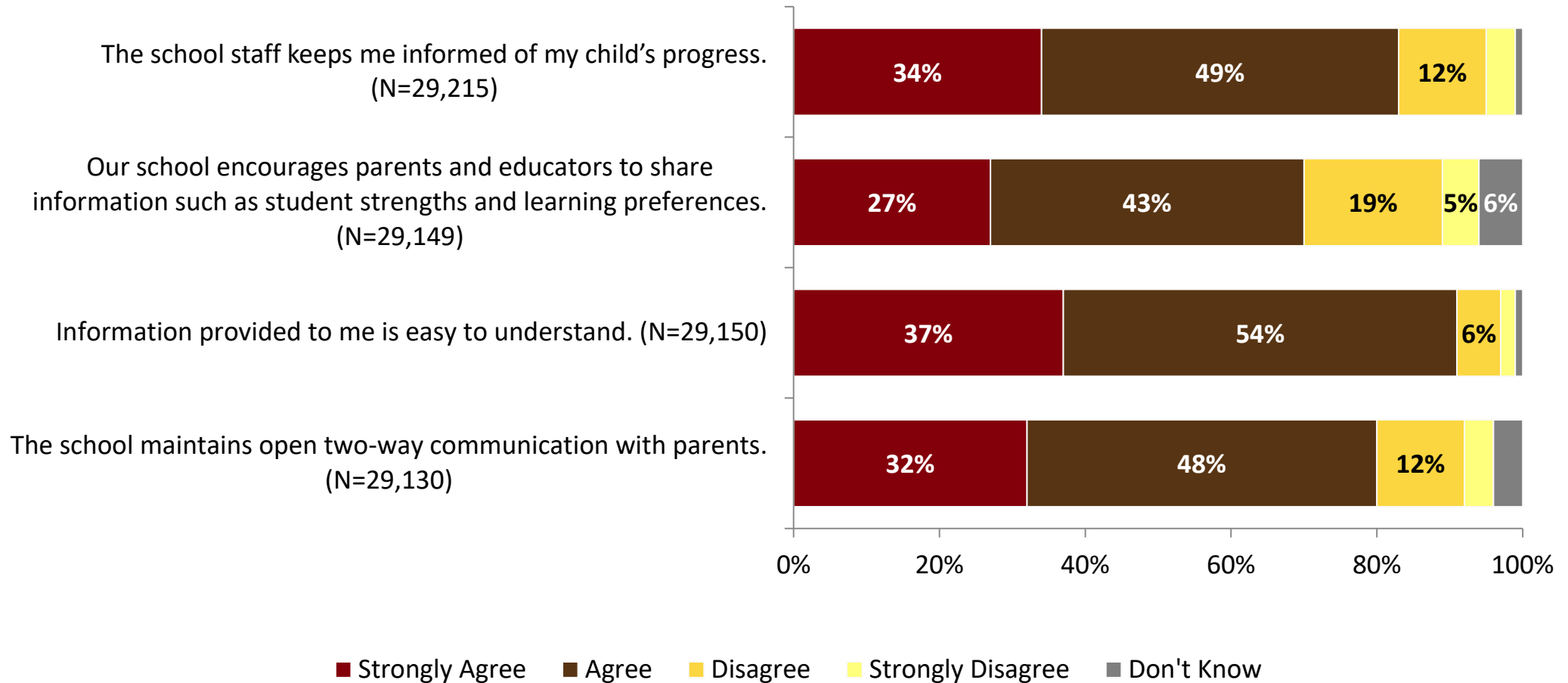
# Welcoming Environment — Comparison by School Level (Continued)

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



# Communication

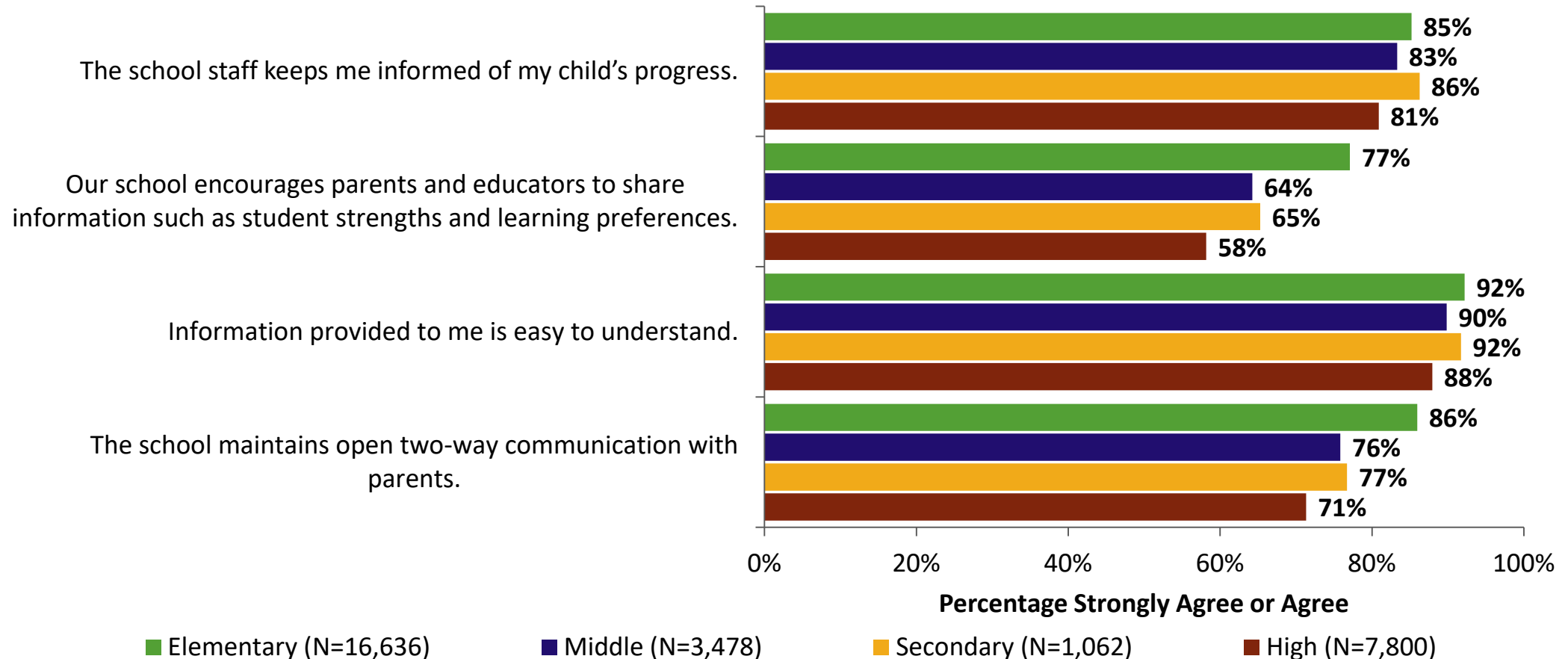
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?





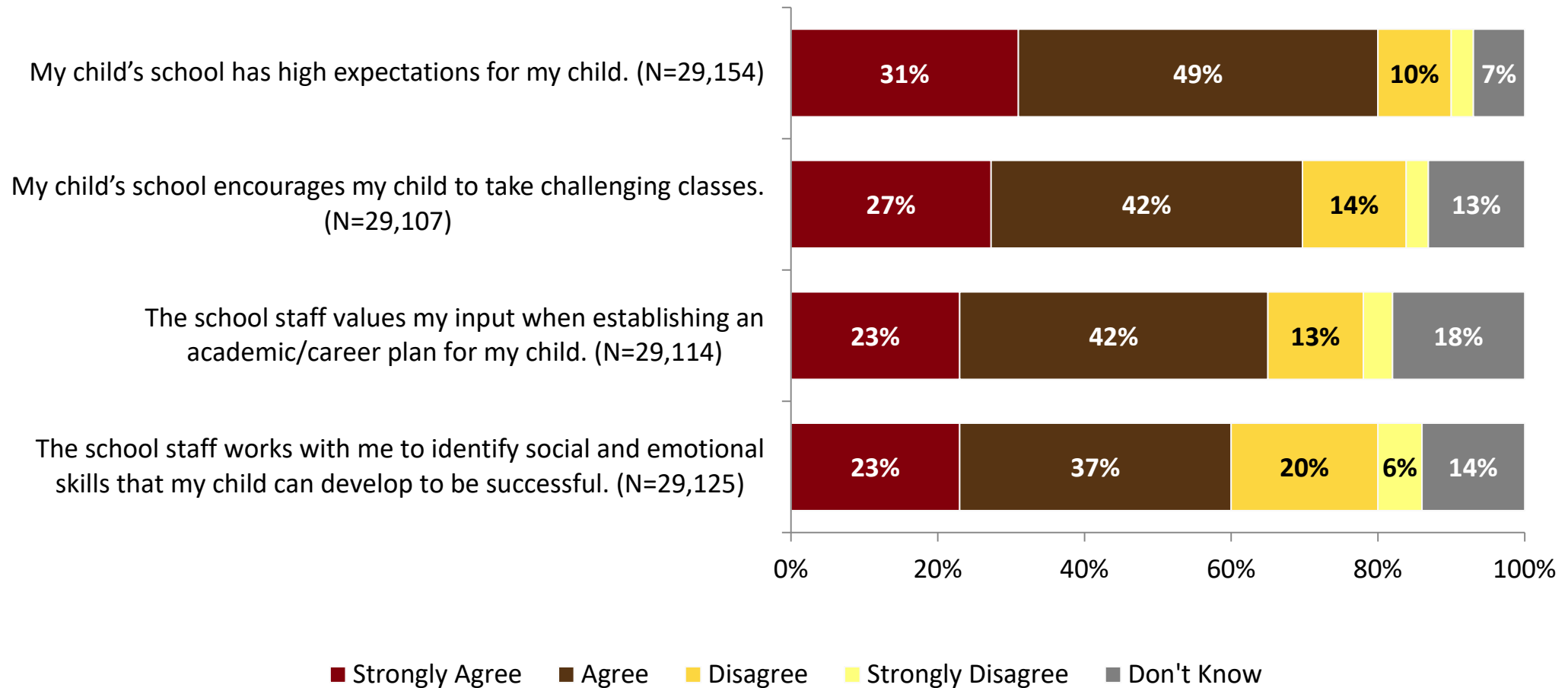
# Communication — Comparison by School Level

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



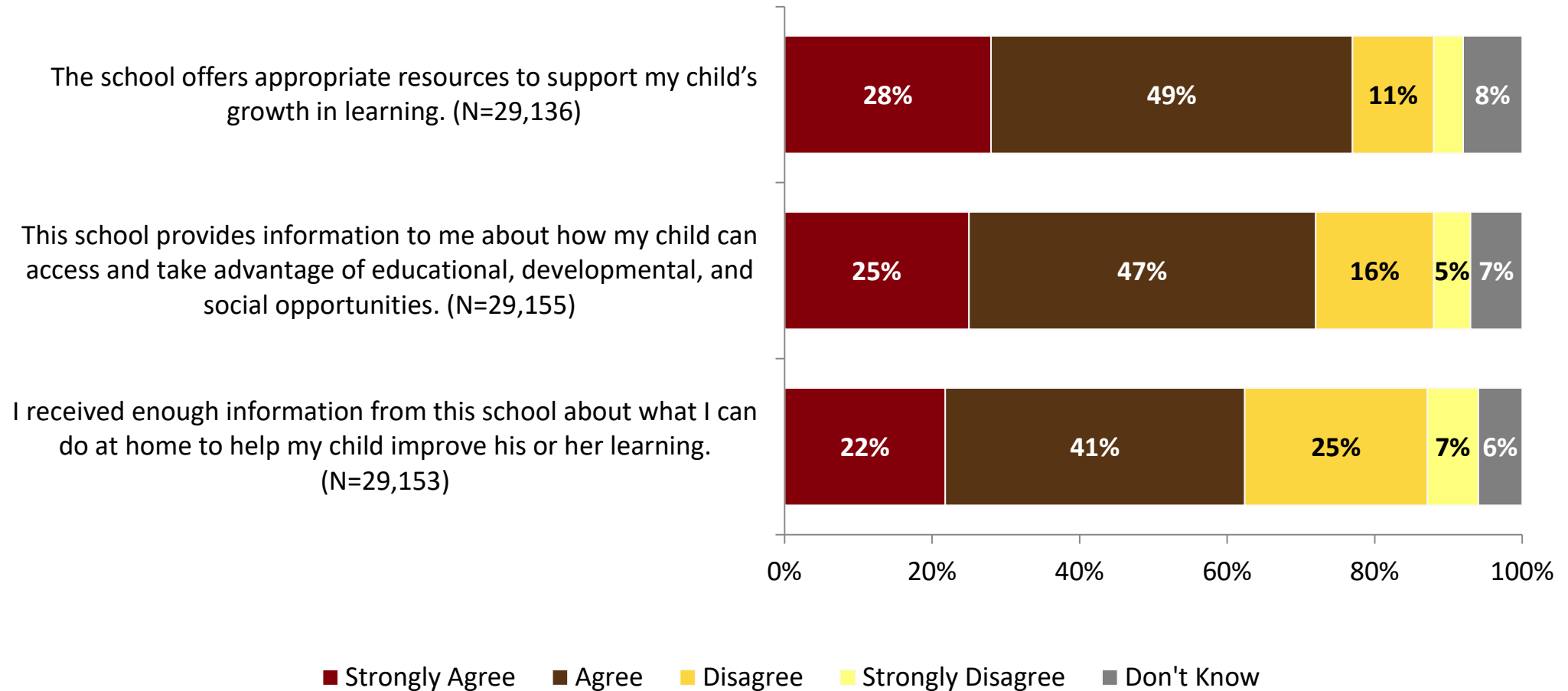
# Student Success

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



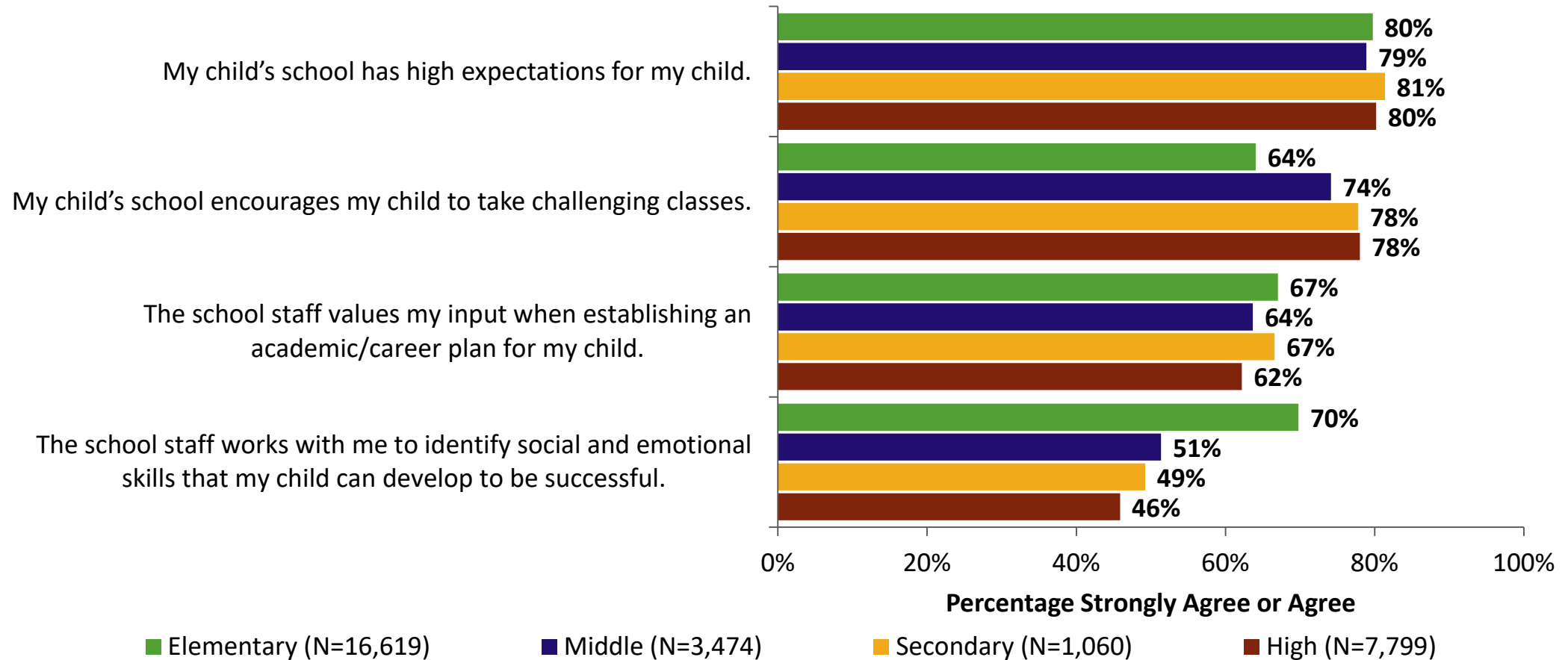
# Student Success (Continued)

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



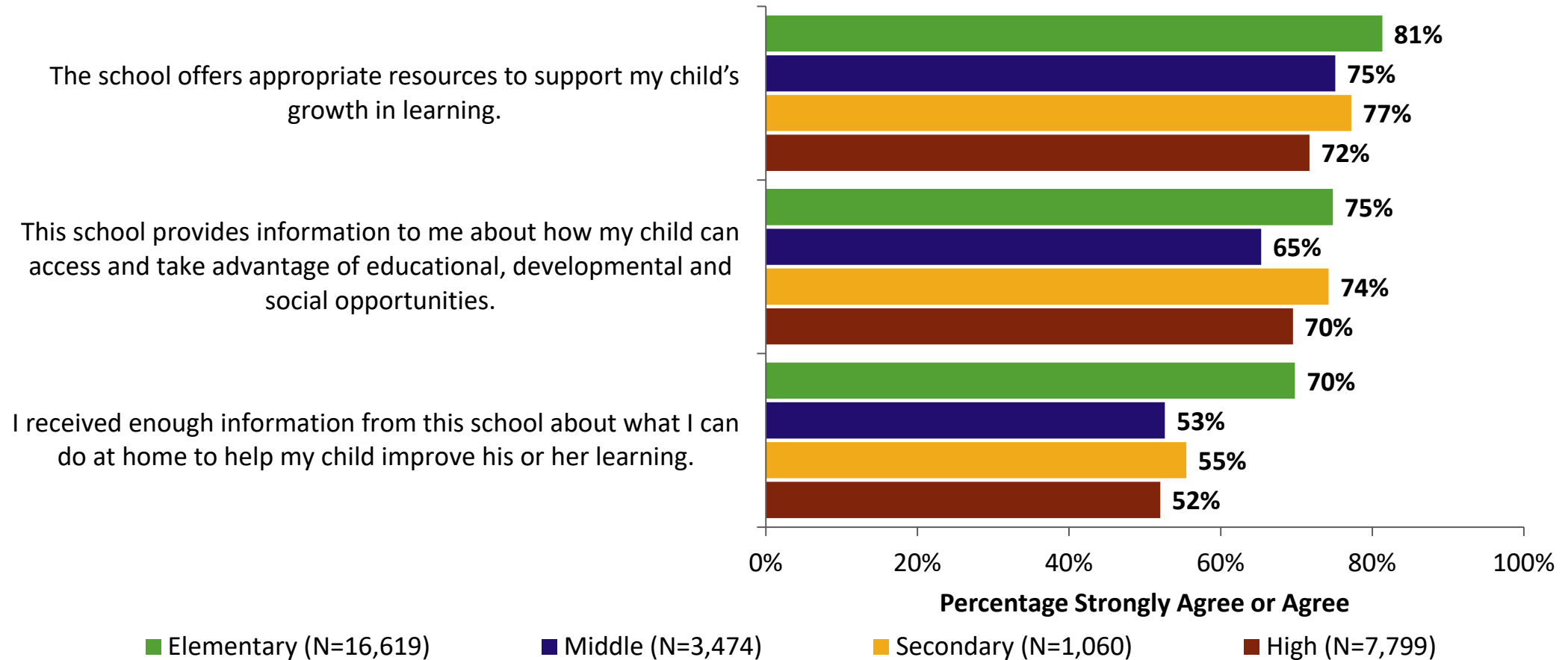
# Student Success — Comparison by School Level

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



# Student Success — Comparison by School Level (Continued)

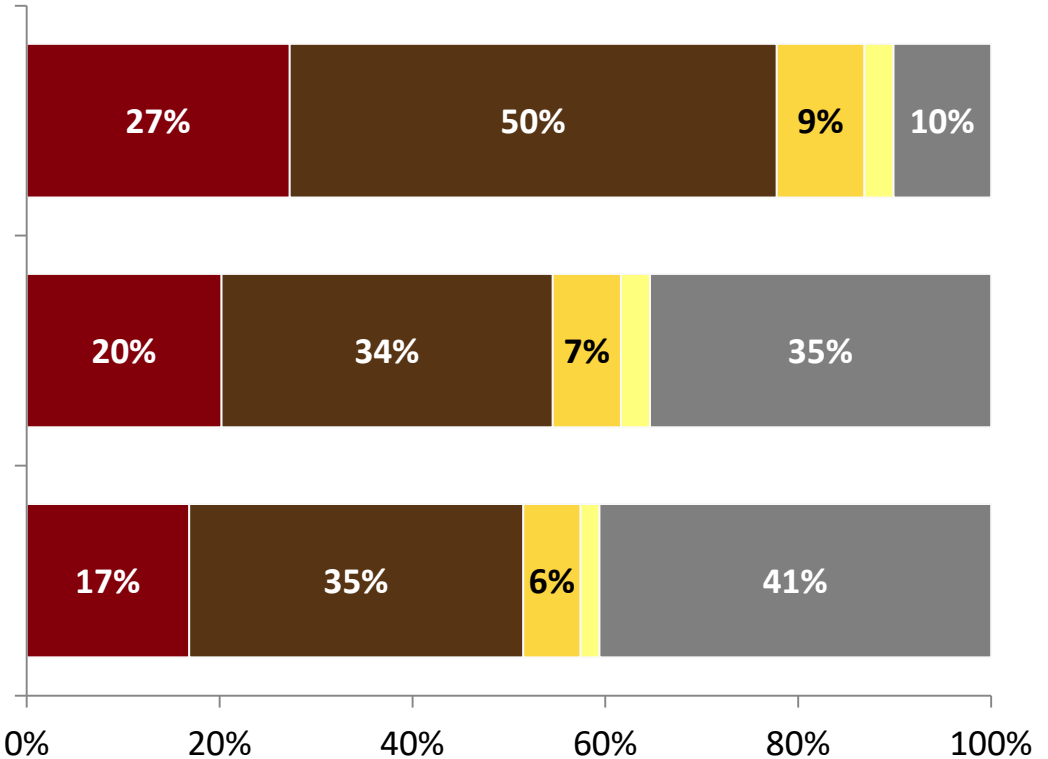
How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following statements?



# Advocacy

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

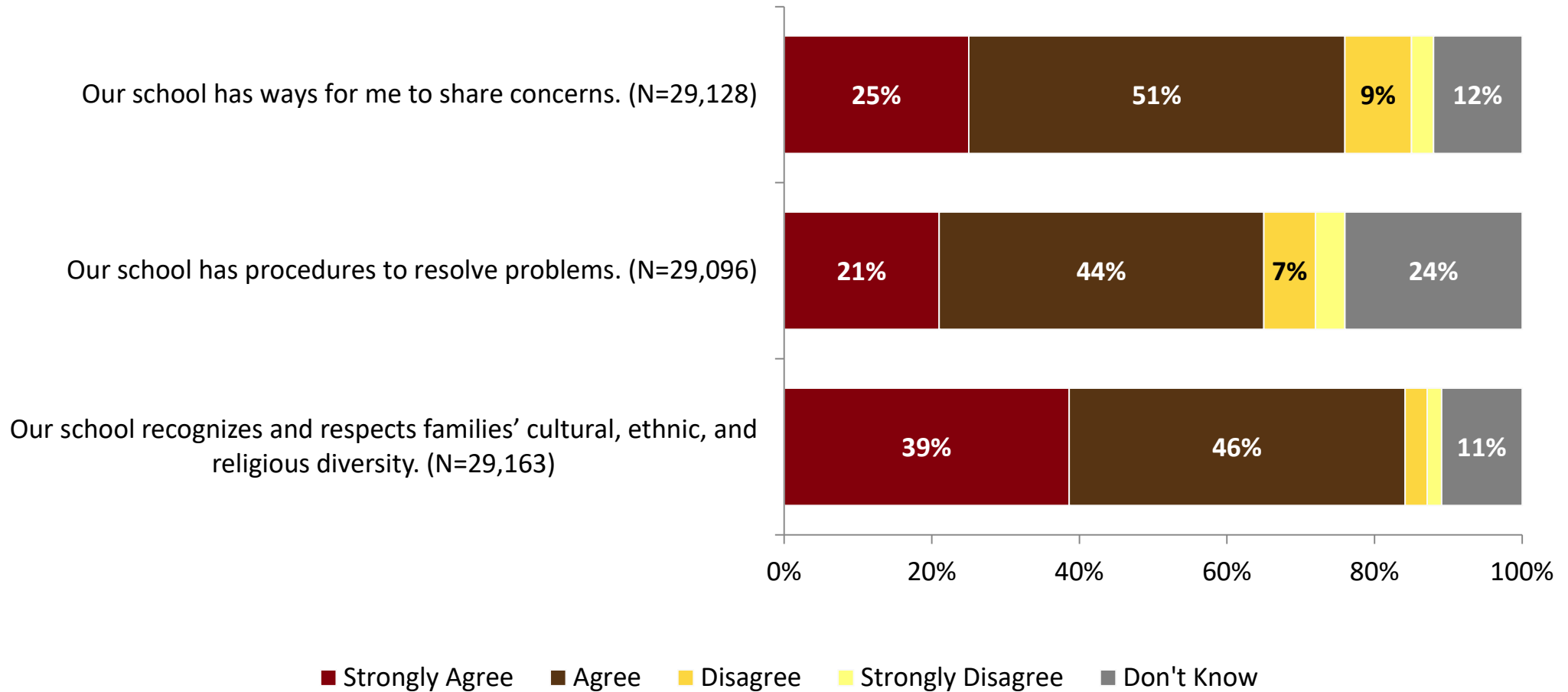
I feel comfortable with information and support from the school system when expected transitions (e.g., home to school, school to school, or grade to grade, etc.) occur in my child's life. (N=29,148)



■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree ■ Don't Know

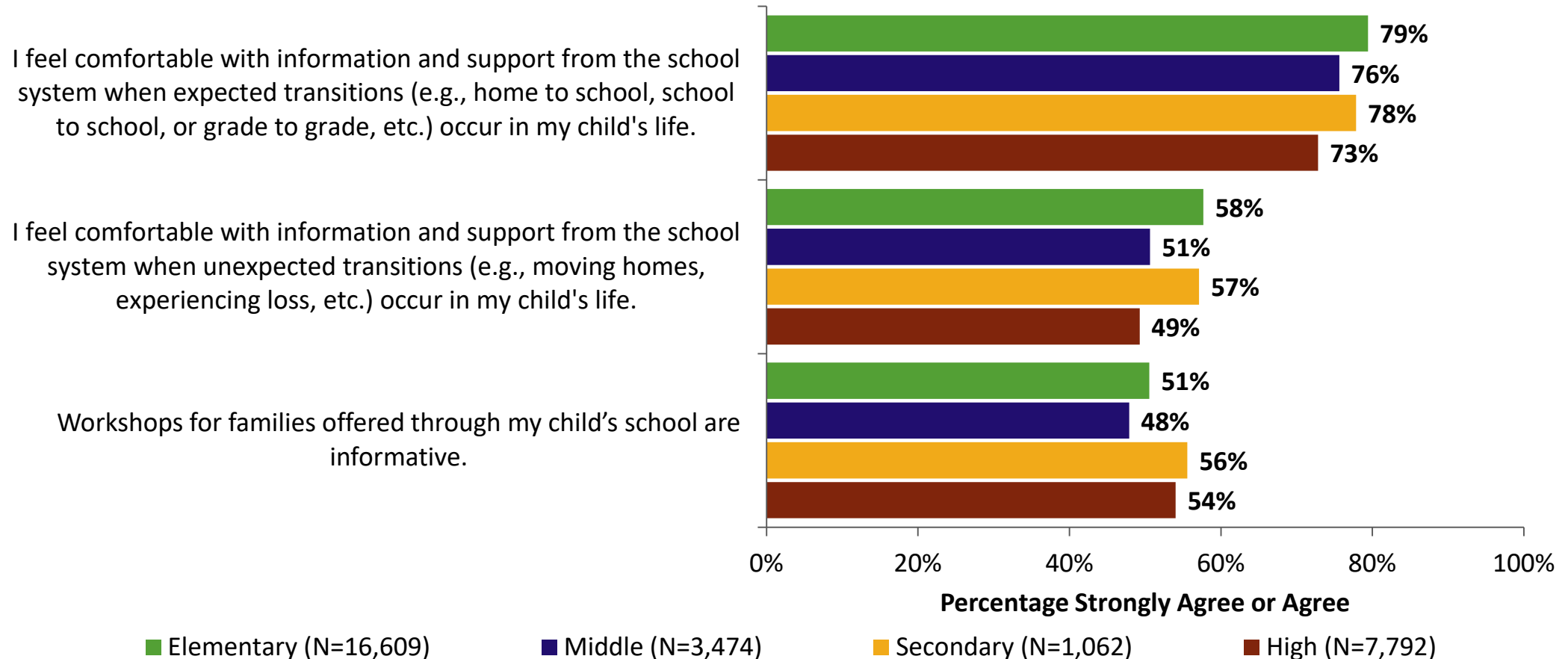
# Advocacy (Continued)

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



# Advocacy — Comparison by School Level

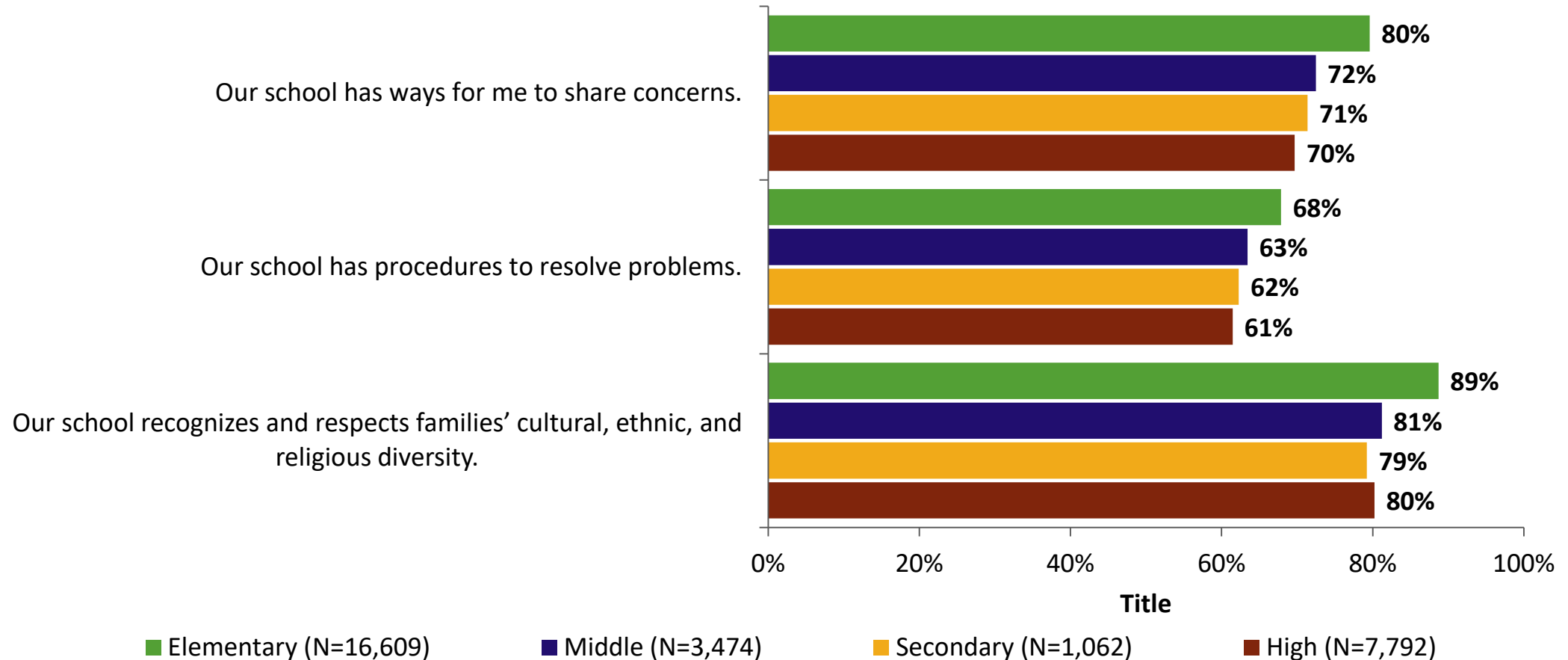
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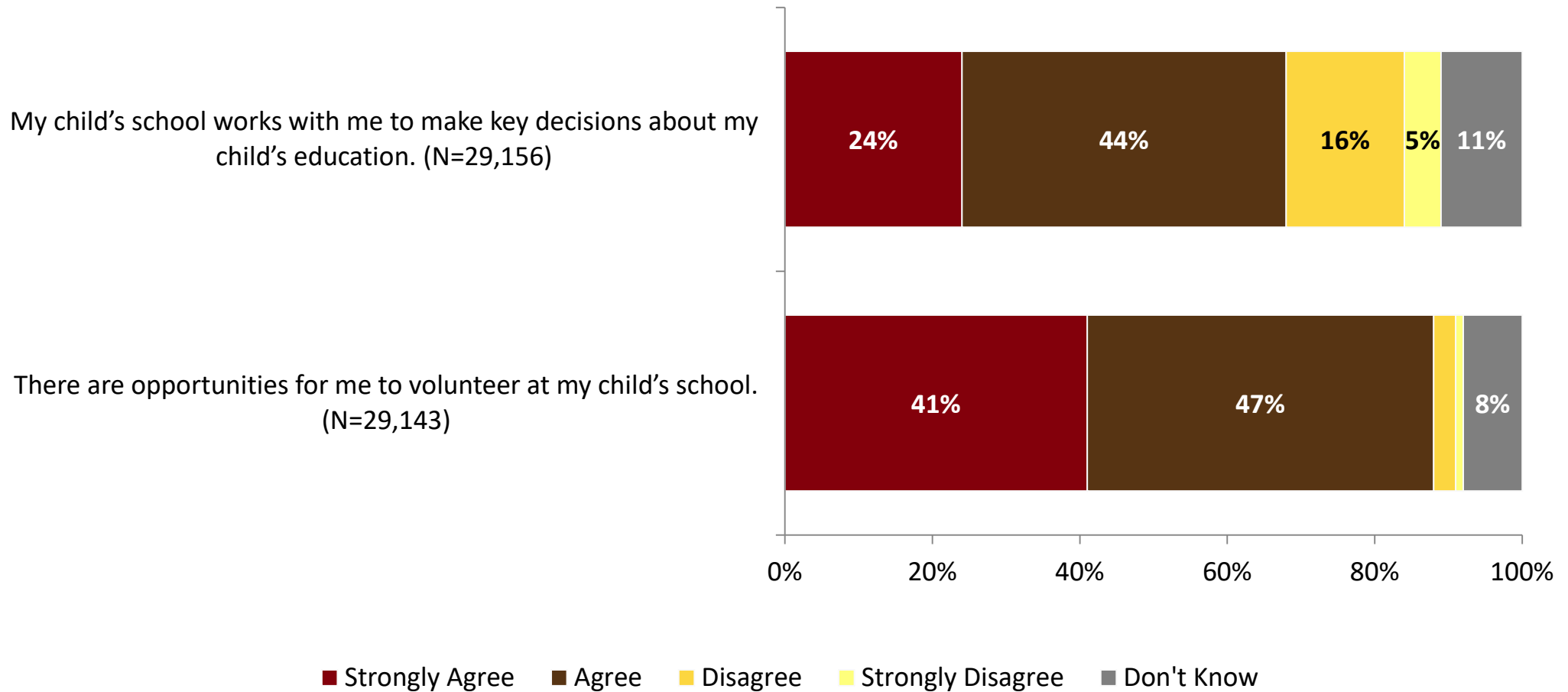
# Advocacy — Comparison by School Level (Continued)

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



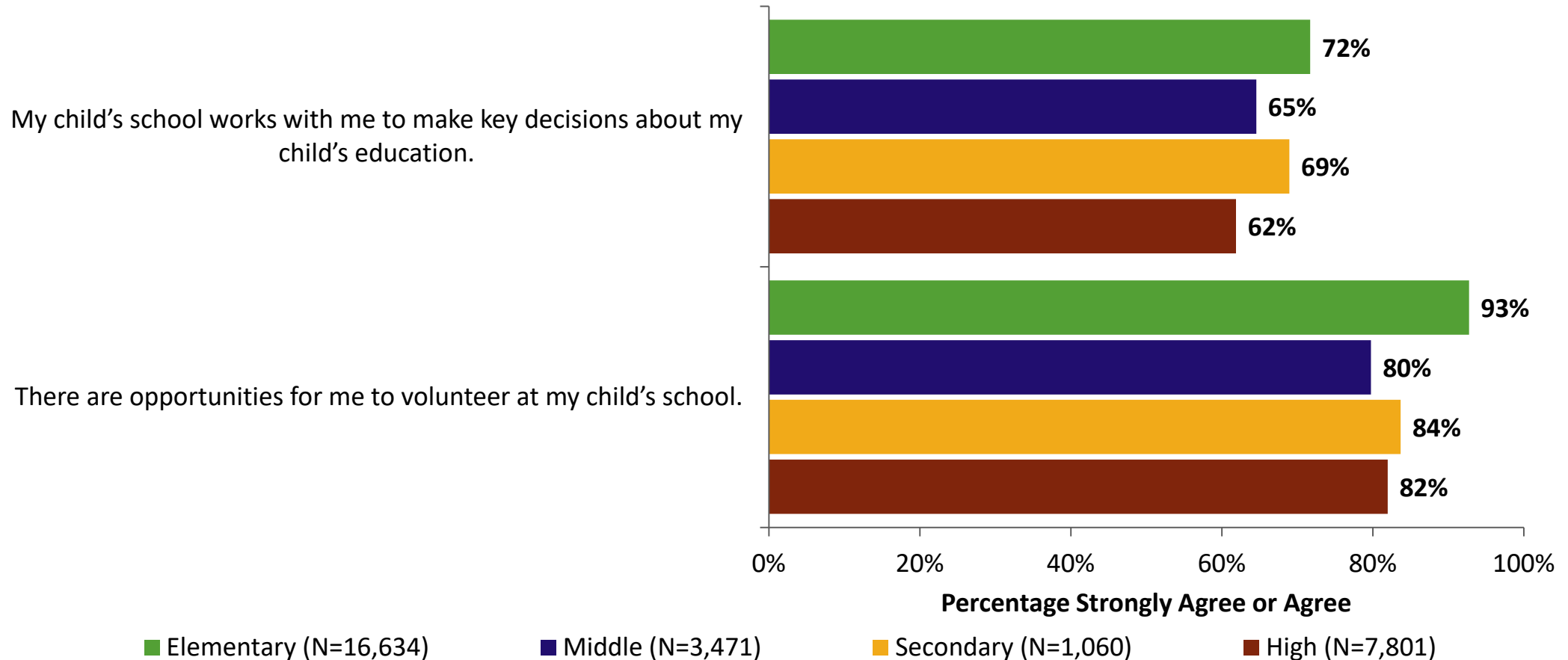
# Family and School Partnerships

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



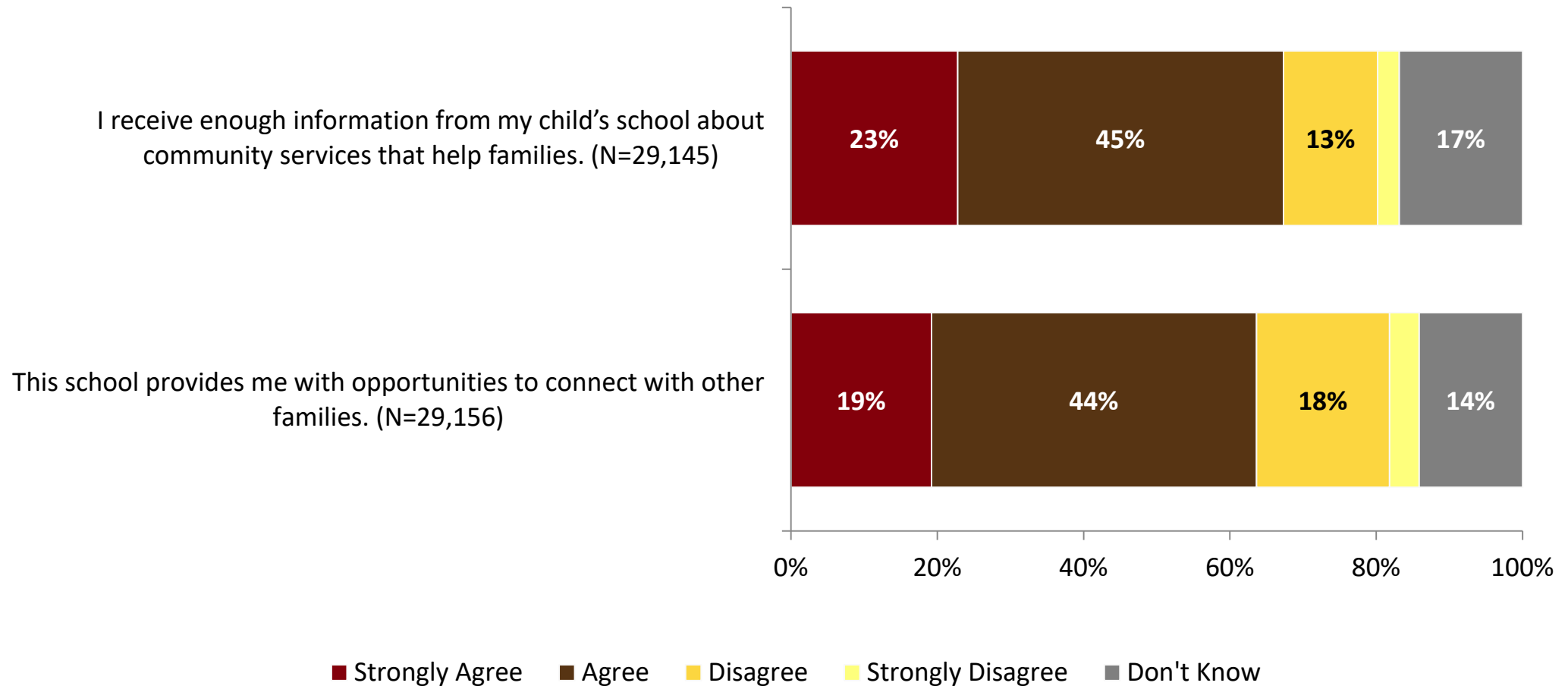
# Family and School Partnerships — Comparison by School Level

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



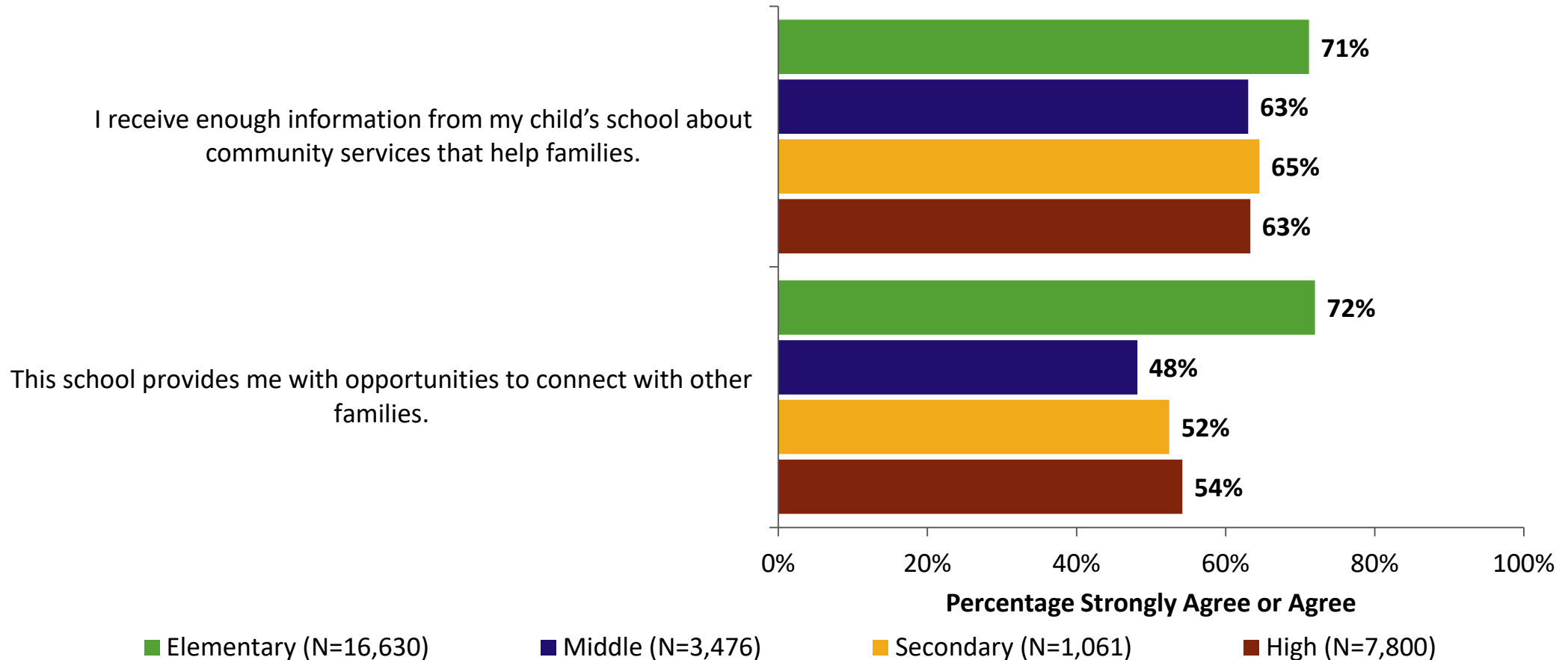
# Collaboration With the Community

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



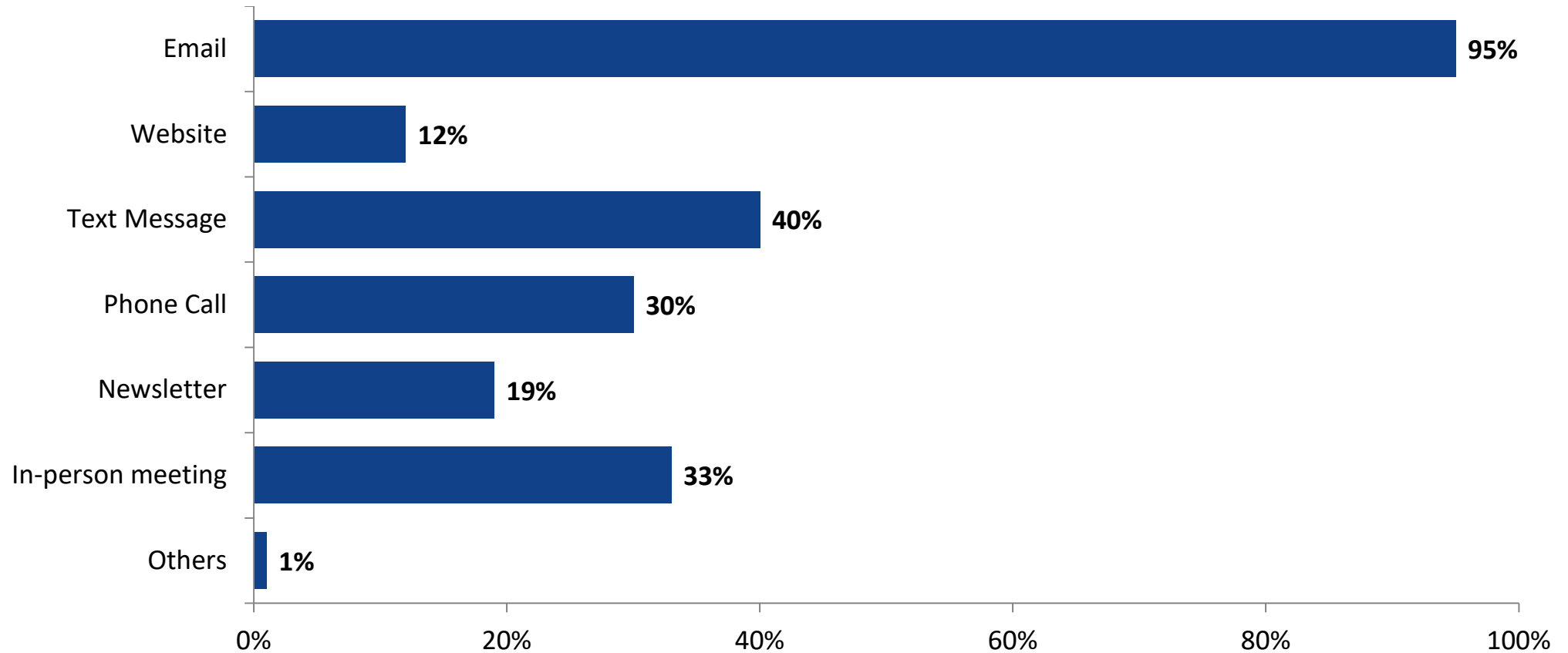
# Collaboration With the Community — Comparison by School Level

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



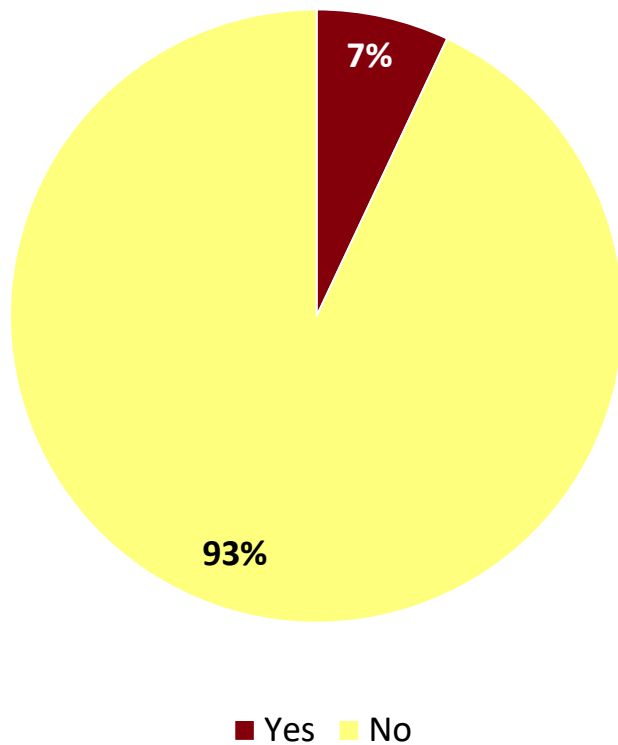
# Preferred Communication Methods

How do you prefer to receive information from your child's school? (N=29,217)

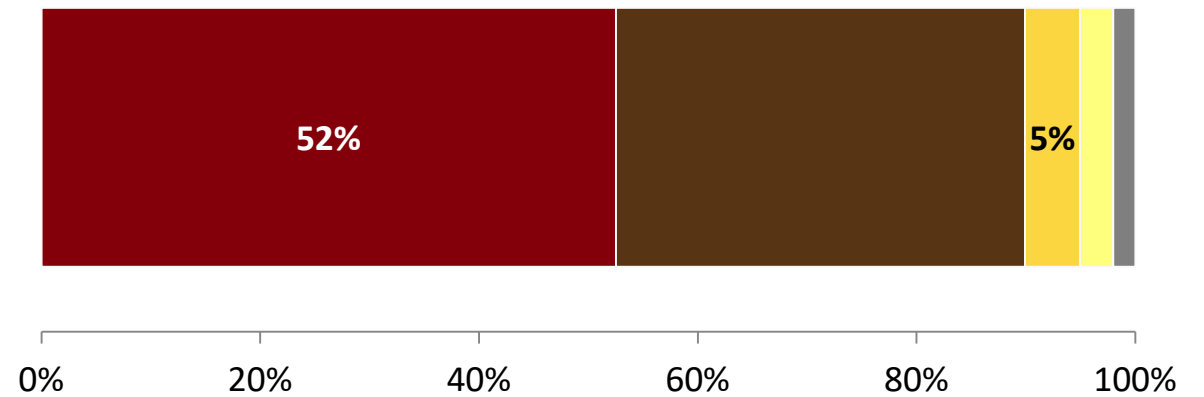


# Interpretation Services

Have you required interpretation services?  
(N=29,268)



An interpreter was available when I needed one. (N=2,023)



■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree ■ Don't Know

Note: Only parents who said they required interpretation services were given this question.

# Appendix: Participation



# Region

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Region	Count (N)	Percentage (%)
Region 1	6,562	22%
Region 2	5,774	20%
Region 3	4,650	16%
Region 4	6,372	22%
Region 5	5,851	20%

# Pyramid

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Pyramid	Count (N)	Percentage (%)
Annandale Pyramid	1,398	5%
Centreville Pyramid	1,224	4%
Chantilly Pyramid	1,805	6%
Edison Pyramid	1,025	4%
Fairfax Pyramid	1,071	4%
Falls Church Pyramid	789	3%
Hayfield Pyramid	1,101	4%
Herndon Pyramid	920	3%
Justice Pyramid	855	3%
Lake Braddock Pyramid	1,470	5%
Langley Pyramid	1,316	5%
Lee Pyramid	610	2%
Madison Pyramid	1,383	5%

## Pyramid (Continued)

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Pyramid	Count (N)	Percentage (%)
Marshall Pyramid	1,433	5%
McLean Pyramid	1,299	4%
Mount Vernon Pyramid	763	3%
Oakton Pyramid	1,724	6%
Robinson Pyramid	1,410	5%
South County Pyramid	788	3%
South Lakes Pyramid	1,219	4%
West Potomac Pyramid	1,151	4%
West Springfield Pyramid	1,480	5%
Westfield Pyramid	1,437	5%
Woodson Pyramid	1,538	5%

# School Level

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School Level	Count (N)	Percentage (%)
Elementary	16,697	57%
Elementary/Middle	13	0%
Elementary/Middle/High	42	0%
High	7,830	27%
Middle	3,490	12%
Middle/High	1,064	4%
Primary	93	0%



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