



# TEACHERS AND K-12 EDUCATION

A National Polling Report

OCTOBER 2021

# KEY FINDINGS

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1. Teachers are more likely to support masking mandates than vaccination mandates for any considered age group. When it comes to masking rules, teachers have most trust in local school districts generally, compared to other policy decisionmakers.
2. Just over half of teachers have reported having to quarantine because of COVID-19. Of those who have quarantined, urban and Black educators have been most likely to do so.
3. Two-thirds of teachers age 55 or older have considered retiring from the teaching profession in the last three months. Nearly half of teachers under age 55 considered leaving during the summer.
4. The amounts teachers would ask parents to pay (per child) in order to be a tutor or to facilitate a learning pod decreased in September. Those potential costs are currently more than school parents are able/willing to spend.
5. In September, teachers in charter schools and private schools were much more likely to recommend the teaching profession compared to district teachers.
6. School choice policies – such as education savings accounts, school vouchers, charter schools – continue to receive very high levels of support among teachers regardless of sector.

## Methodology:

This poll was conducted between September 10-September 19, 2021 among a sample of 1000 All Teachers. The interviews were conducted online. Results based on the full survey have a measure of precision of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points..

AGENDA

**COVID-19 AND SCHOOLING**

**SCHOOL CHOICE POLICIES**

**TEACHING PROFESSION AND UNIONS**

**VIEWS ON K-12 EDUCATION**

**SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS**

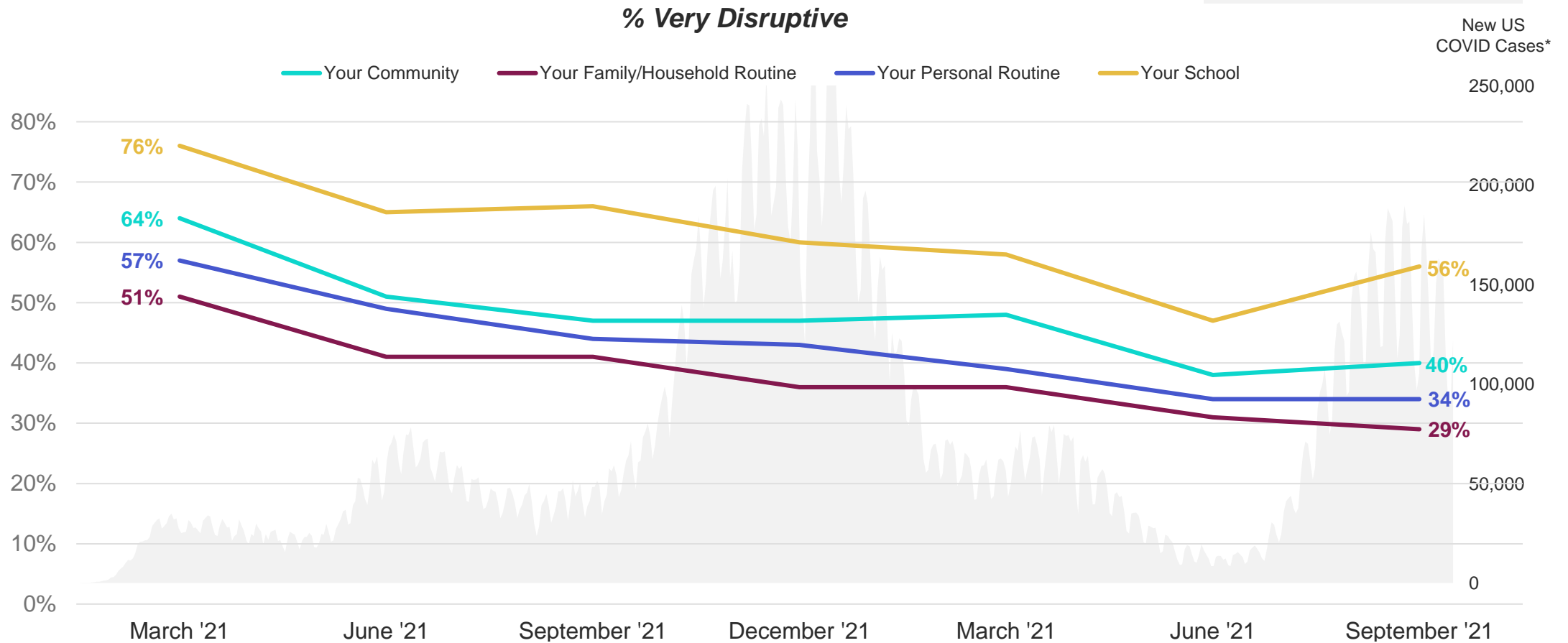


# With an increase of COVID-19 cases, the proportion of teachers who view the pandemic as 'very disruptive' to their school increased by nine points in September.

How disruptive has the coronavirus (also called COVID-19) been on each of the following?

September % Very Disruptive  
 All Adults\*  
 Your Community: 34%  
 Your Personal Routine: 23%  
 Your Family/Household Routine: 22%

## All Teachers



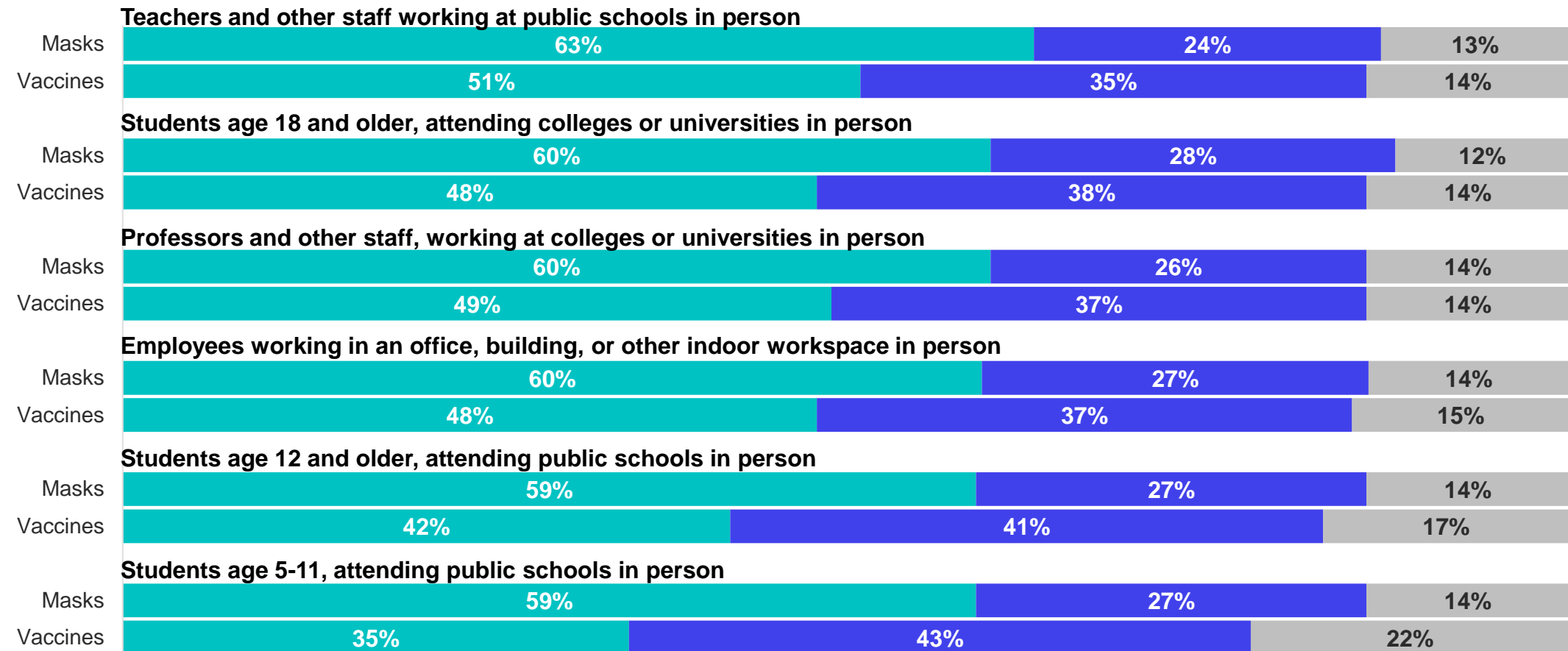
\*All adults data comes from the September 2021 Gen Pop Report.

# Teachers are more likely to support masking mandates than vaccination mandates for any considered age group.

Now that an FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is available, do you think it should be mandatory or encouraged for the following groups? Do you think masking should be mandatory or encouraged for the following groups?

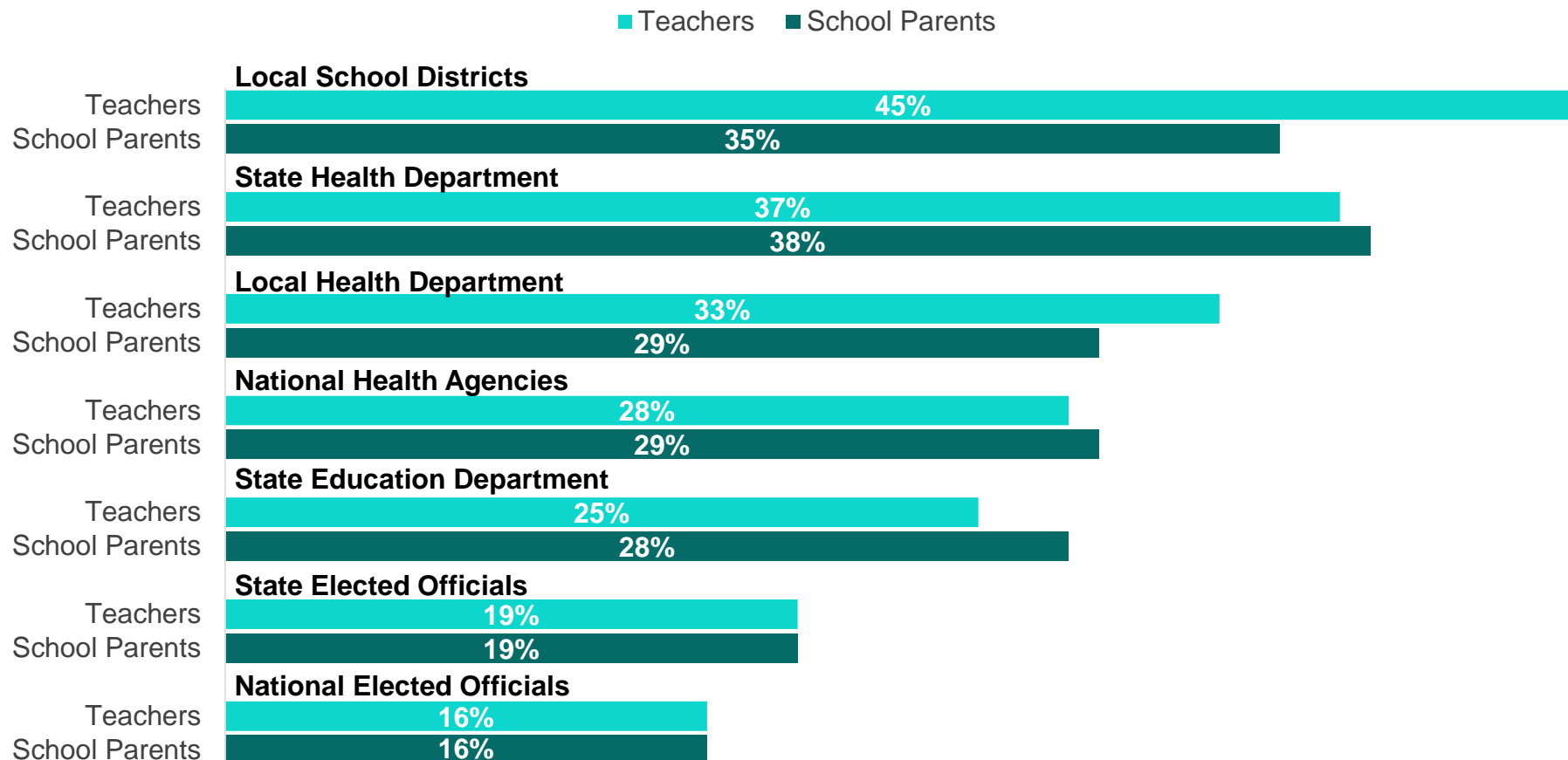
## All Teachers

■ Mandatory ■ Encouraged but not mandatory ■ Neither encouraged nor mandatory



When it comes to masking rules, teachers have most trust in local school districts generally, compared to other policy decisionmakers. Their opinions differ from parents on who should have that authority.

In your opinion, who should have the authority to determine whether or not masking is required in public school buildings?

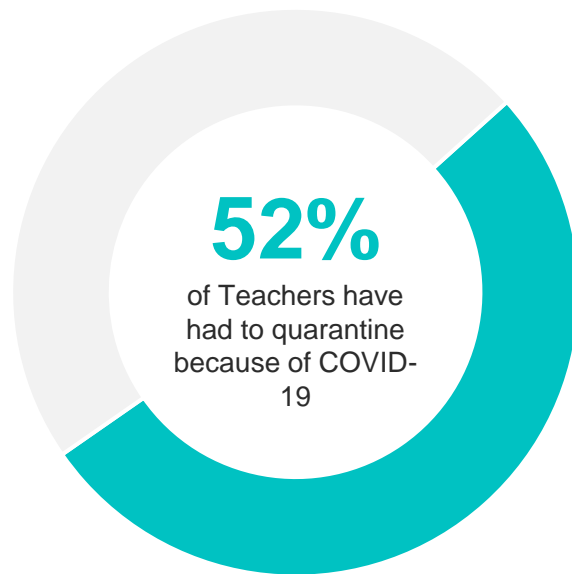


\*School parents data comes from the September 2021 Gen Pop Report.

Just over half of teachers have had to quarantine because of COVID-19. Of those who have quarantined, urban and Black educators have been most likely to do so.

Have you had to quarantine because of the COVID-19 outbreak? How many times have you had to quarantine?

**All Teachers**



among those who've had to quarantine →

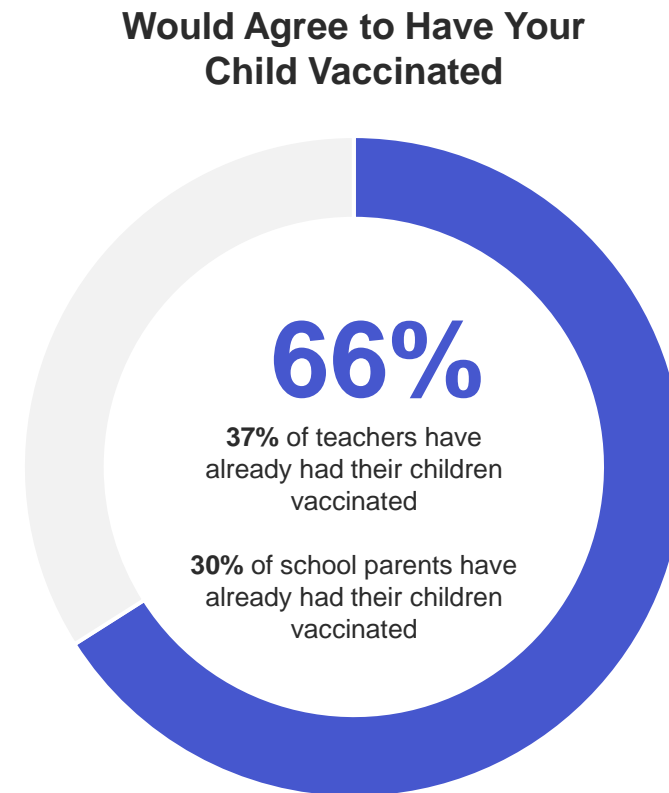
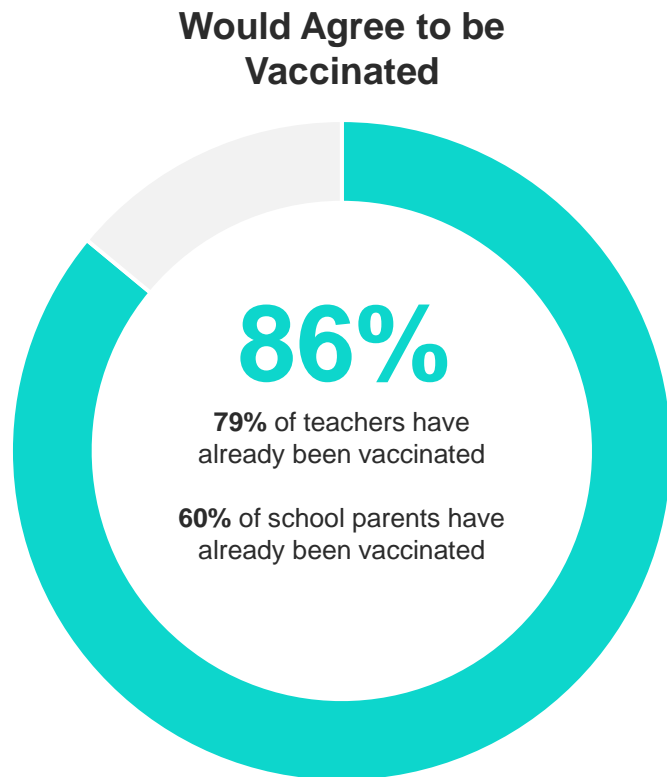
		Average amount of times quarantined	
		All Teachers	2.45
Income		Low Income < \$35K	2.55
		Middle Income \$35K to < \$75K	2.52
		High Income \$75K+	2.38
Community Type		Urban	3.36
		Suburban	2.10
		Small Town/Rural	2.05
Race		Non-Hispanic White	2.43
		Hispanic	2.44
		Black	3.24

Nearly 80 percent of teachers report that they have already been vaccinated. Teachers are also more likely than school parents to say they themselves or their children are vaccinated.

When an FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is available for you/your child, would you agree to be vaccinated/have your child vaccinated?

**All Teachers**

**Total agreement**  
(Planning + Currently Vaccinated)

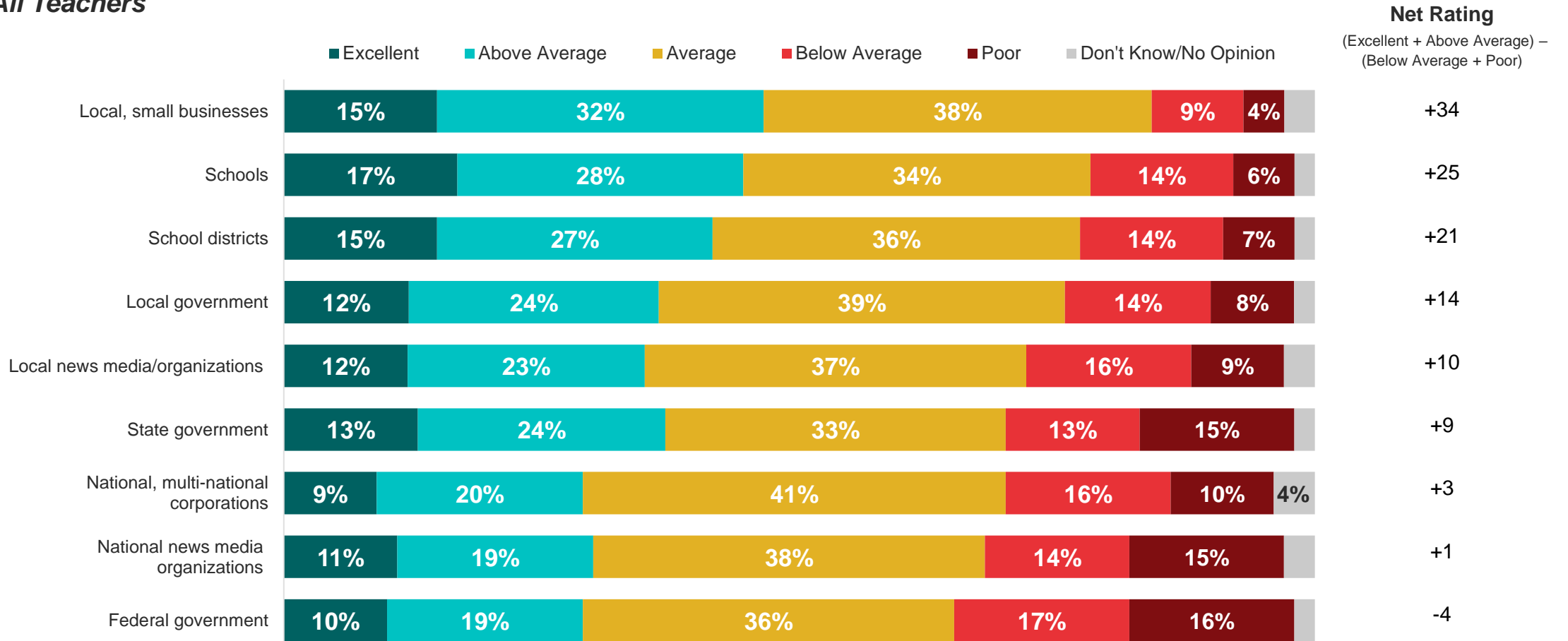




# Teachers give mixed ratings to various institutions for their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on what you have seen, read, or heard so far, how would you rate the following institutions on their response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak?

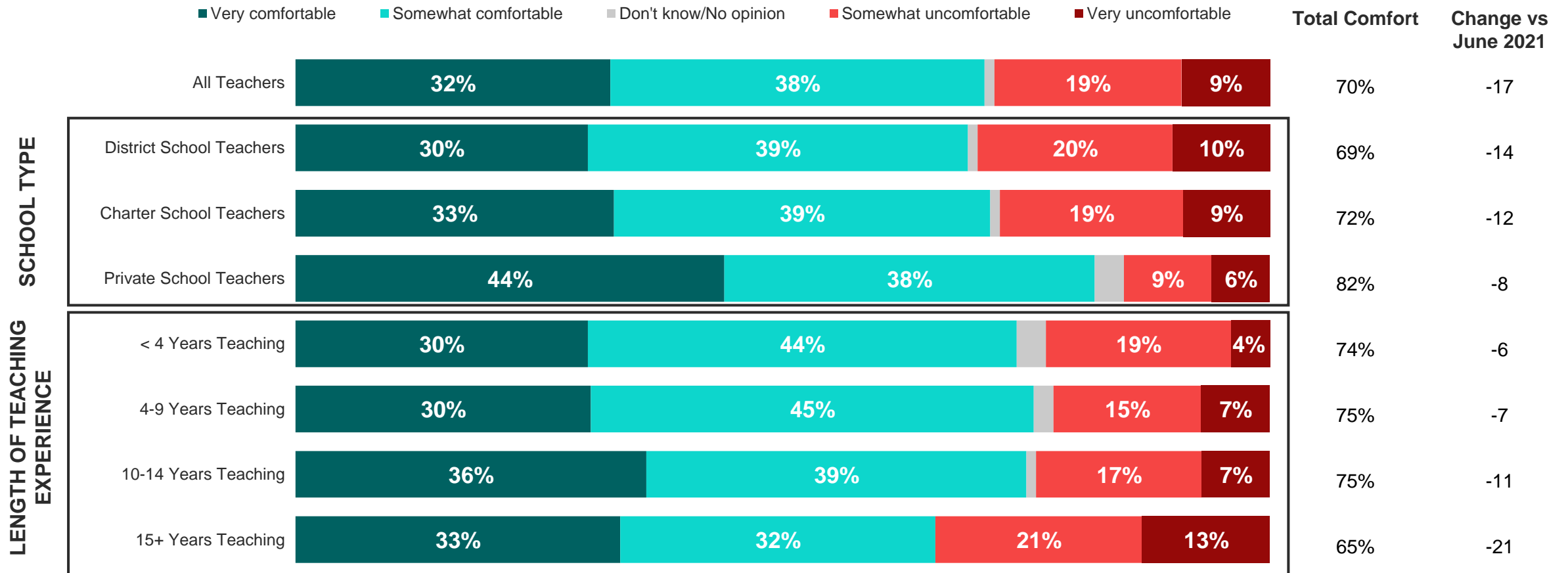
## All Teachers



The majority of teachers remained comfortable returning to school in September. There was a decrease in comfort level compared to June responses – especially among those with 15+ years of teaching experience.

Based on what you have seen, read, or heard about the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak so far, how comfortable are you returning to school in person right now?

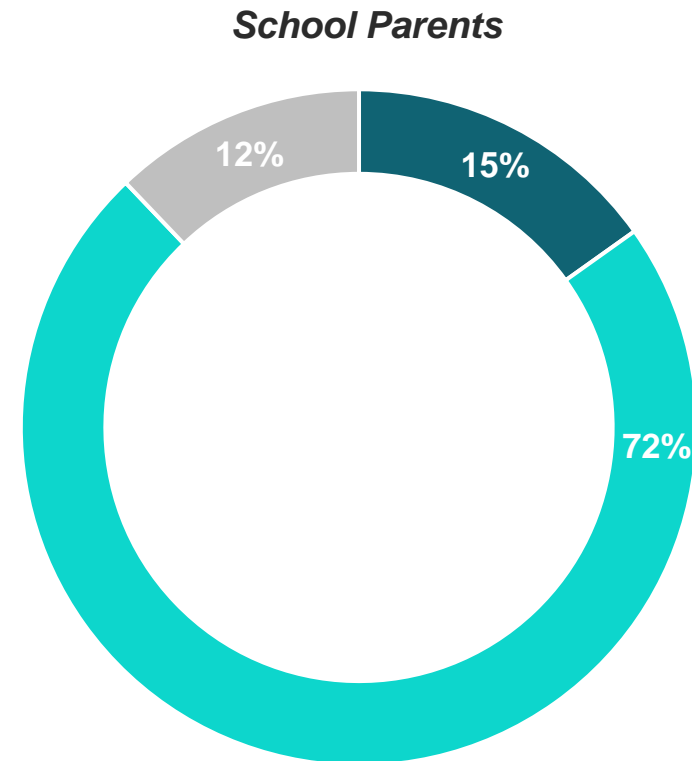
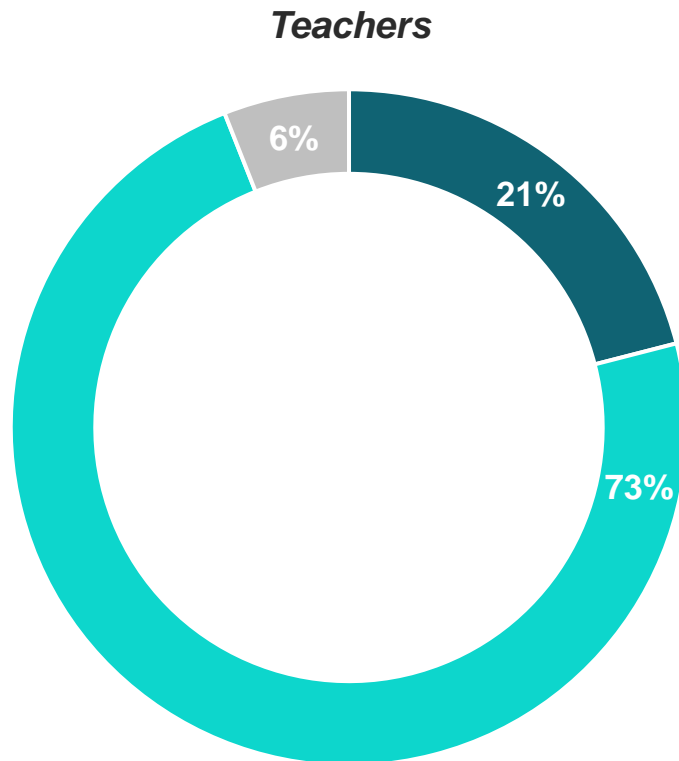
**All Teachers**



# The majority of teachers and school parents believe that schools should provide multiple learning options for their students.

And, do you think schools should offer one approach to educating K-12 students in the fall or provide multiple learning options?

■ Offer One Approach ■ Provide Multiple Learning Options ■ Don't Know / No Opinion

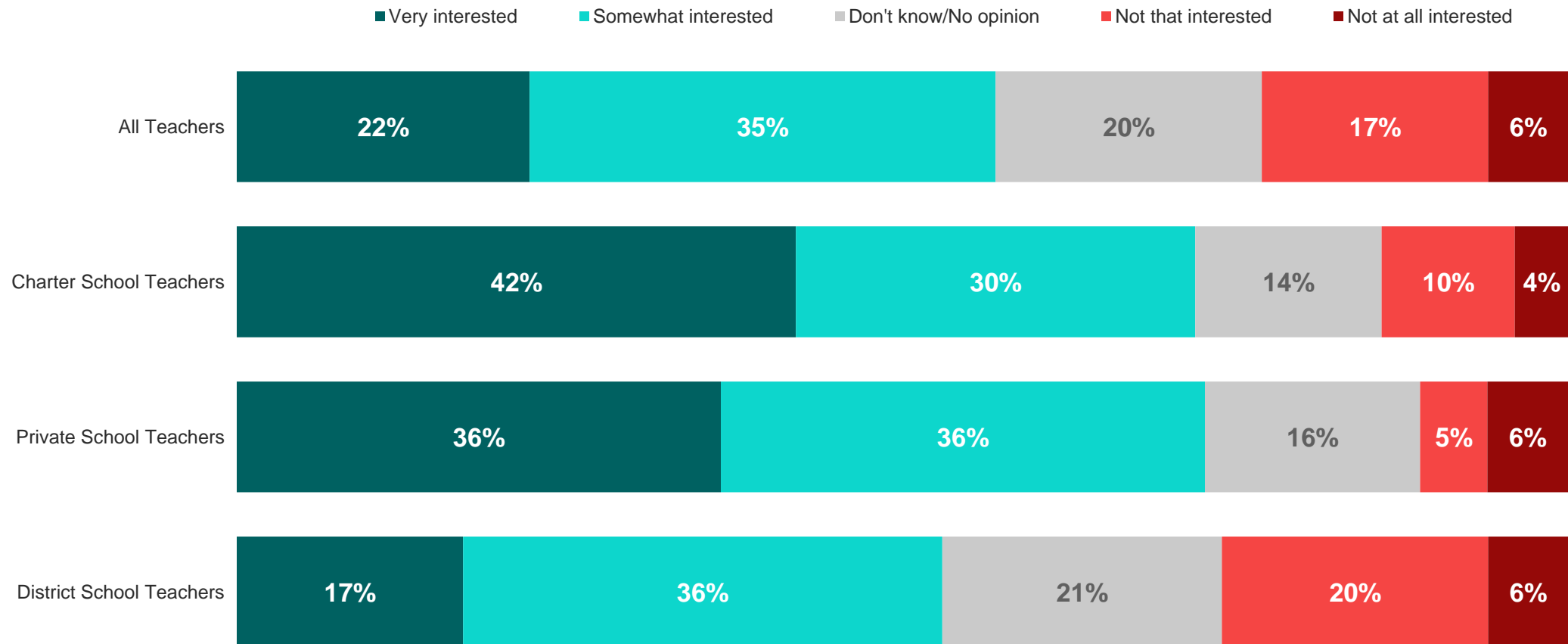


*Note: \*School parents data comes from the September 2021 Gen Pop Report.*

# Teachers in private schools and charter schools are much more interested in learning pods than district school teachers.

'Learning pods' or 'pandemic pods' are small groups of children, organized by parents, gathering to learn together. Parents either hire a private teacher or tutor to facilitate instruction in-person but outside of the school or classroom – usually in someone's home. How interested are you in facilitating instruction for a learning pod?

## All Teachers



The amount teachers would ask parents to pay (per child) in order to facilitate a learning pod decreased slightly to \$480 in September. That potential cost is more than \$100 more than school parents are able/willing to spend.

How much would you ask parents to pay per child per month for you to facilitate a learning pod?

**All Teachers**

\*School Parents are willing to spend:

**\$360**  
Per child

**\$480** ▼ **-\$70**  
vs. Q2 2021

on average  
Per child / per month

**\$0**  
minimum  
per child /  
per month



**Average Willing to ask Per Child/Per Month By Demographic**

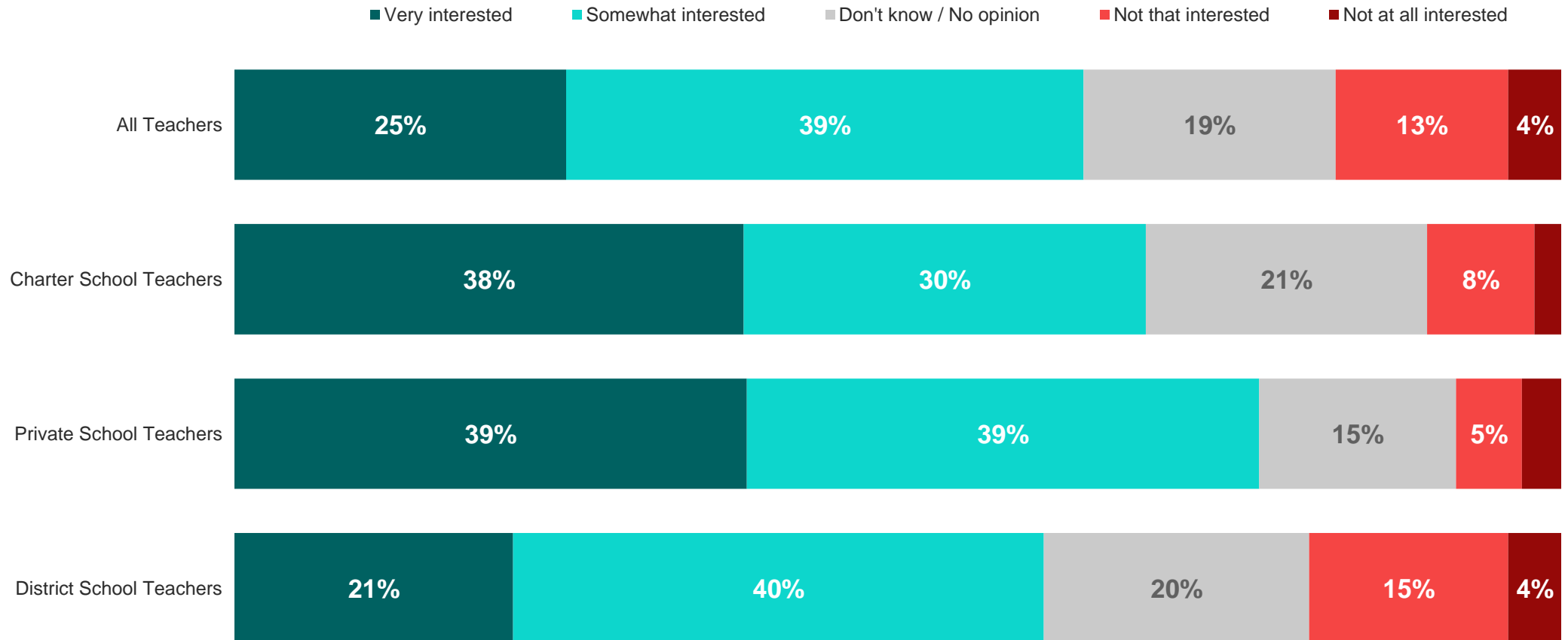
School Type	Charter School Teachers	\$526
	Private School Teachers	\$593
	District School Teachers	\$444
Community Type	Urban	\$535
	Suburban	\$473
	Small Town/Rural	\$410
Years Teaching	Less than 4 years	\$431
	4-9 years	\$501
	10-14 years	\$538
	Greater than 15 years	\$446

\*indicates base size <n=100

# Private school teachers appear most interested in tutoring opportunities outside of school hours.

How interested are you in tutoring students outside of school hours?

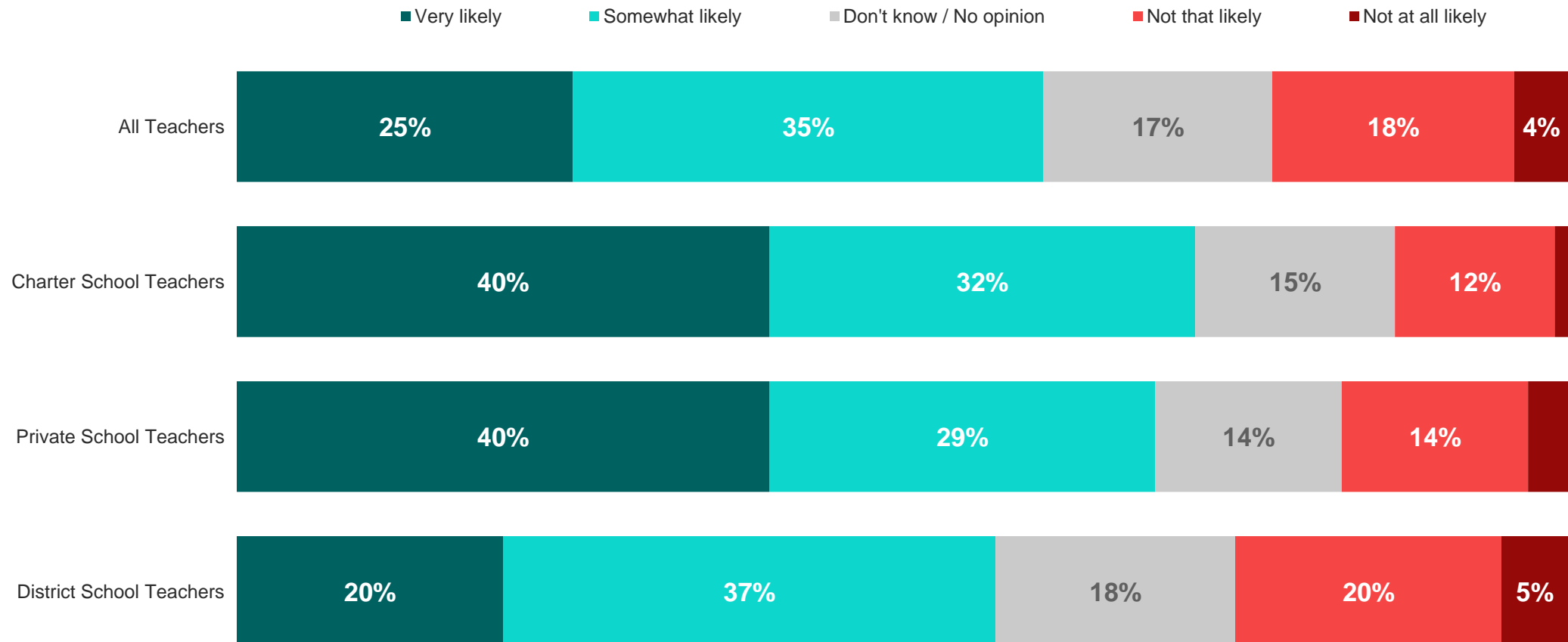
## All Teachers



# Teachers in charter schools and private schools are more likely to seek out tutoring opportunities than district school teachers.

This school year, to what extent are you more or less likely to seek out tutoring opportunities on your own – outside of regular school/teaching hours?

## All Teachers



The amount teachers would ask parents to pay for tutoring decreased slightly in September since the summer. That potential cost is nearly \$70 higher than school parents are able/willing to spend.

How much would you ask parents to pay per child per month for you to tutor their child outside of school hours?

**All Teachers**

\*School Parents are willing to spend:

**\$314**  
Per child

**\$382** ▼ **-\$59**  
vs. Q2 2021

on average  
Per child / per month

**\$0**  
minimum  
per child /  
per month



**\$1,000**  
maximum  
per child / per  
month

**Average Willing to ask Per Child/Per Month By Demographic**

School Type	Charter School Teachers	\$442
	Private School Teachers	\$510
	District School Teachers	\$345
Community Type	Urban	\$484
	Suburban	\$340
	Small Town/Rural	\$341
Years Teaching	Less than 4 years	\$328
	4-9 years	\$417
	10-14 years	\$441
	Greater than 15 years	\$346

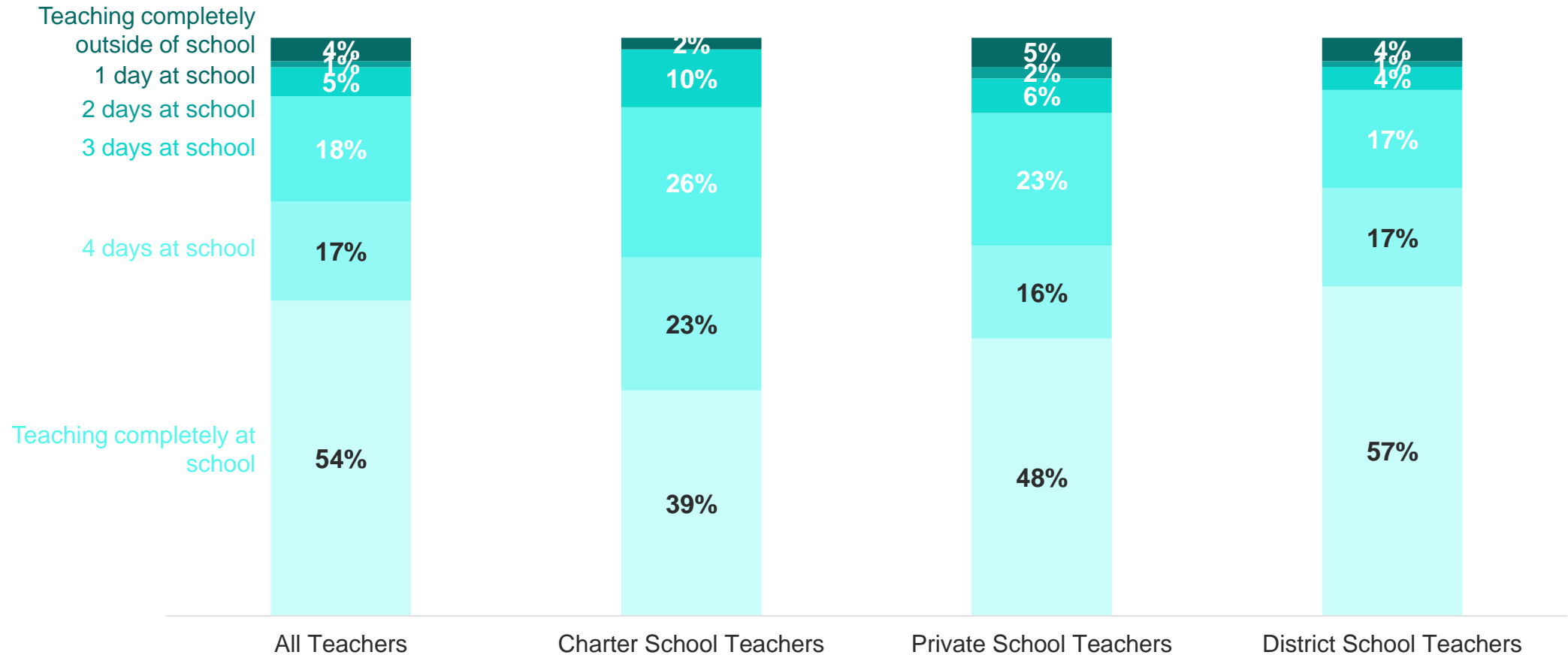
\*indicates base size <n=100



Just under half of teachers prefer to teach at least one or more days away from a school building. That finding is roughly the same compared to June.

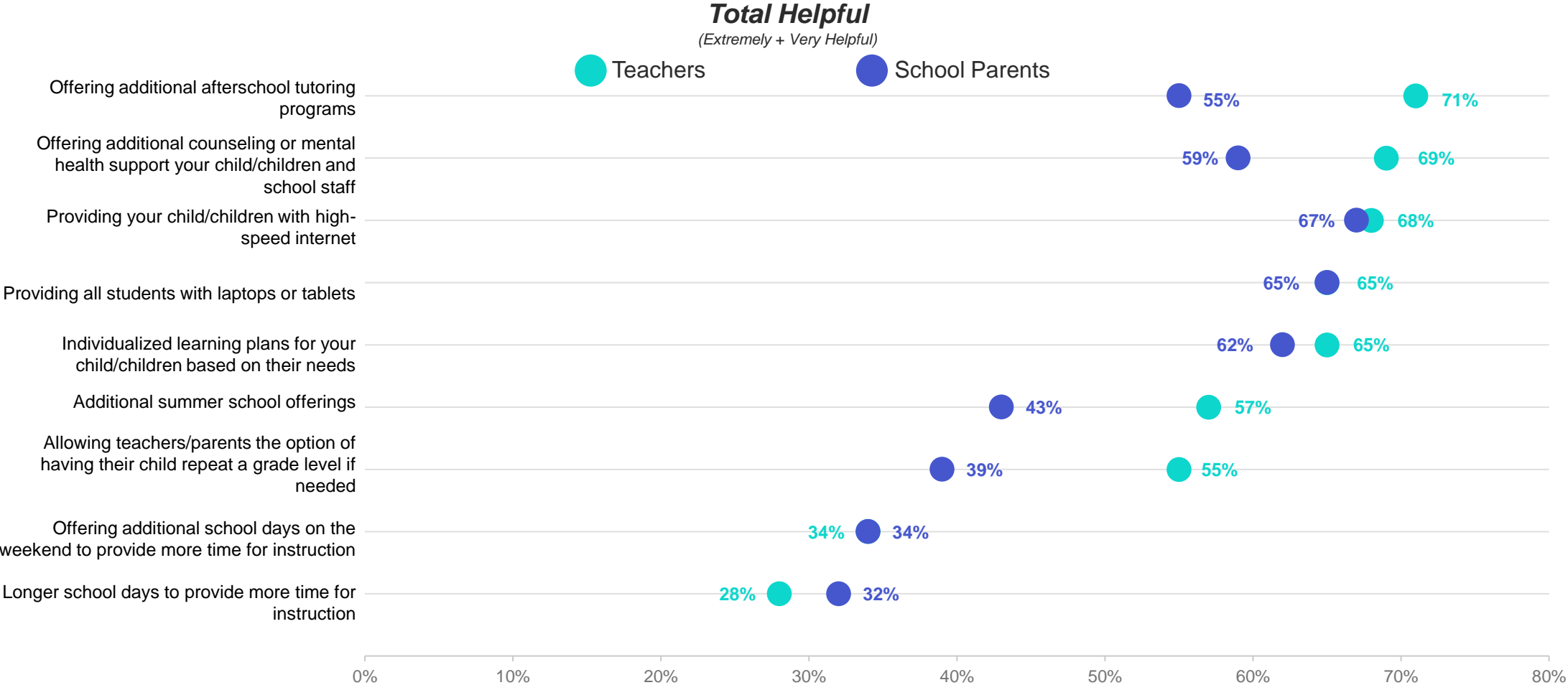
After the pandemic, if given the option, how many days would you prefer to teach your students in-person at school each week?

**All Teachers**



# Compared to school parents, teachers are much more likely to value additional counseling services, afterschool tutoring programs, and summer school offerings for students.

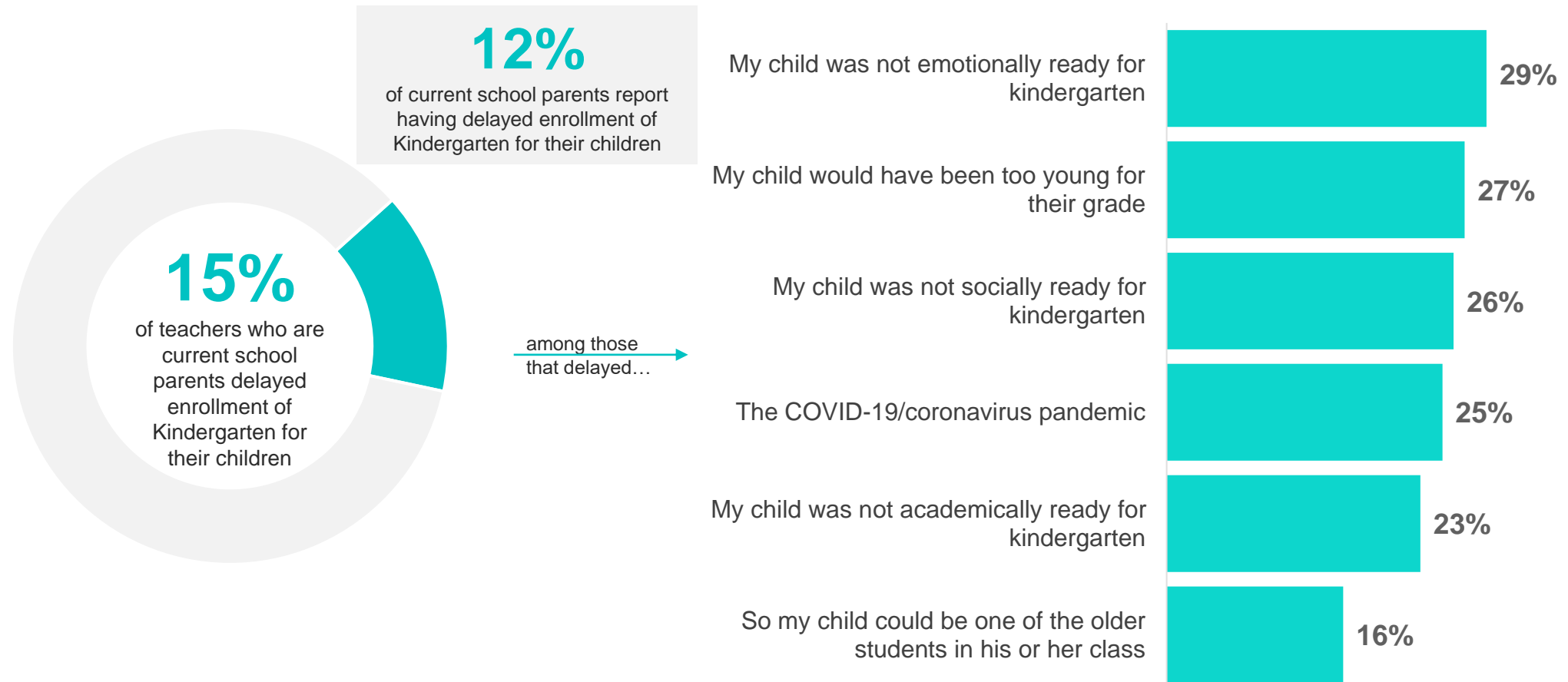
How helpful do you think each of the following will be in helping students/your child/children next school year following the COVID-19 outbreak?



# Among teachers who have delayed enrollment of kindergarten for their children, there is no definitive reason as to why.

Did you delay enrollment of Kindergarten for any of your children? Which of the following are reasons you waited to enroll your child(ren) in Kindergarten?

## All Teachers



**Note:** Delay in enrollment is viewed as occurring at any point in time, not just as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic  
 \* Current school parents are defined as having at least one child in kindergarten through 12th grade. Current school parents data comes from the September 2021 Gen Pop Report.

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**SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS**



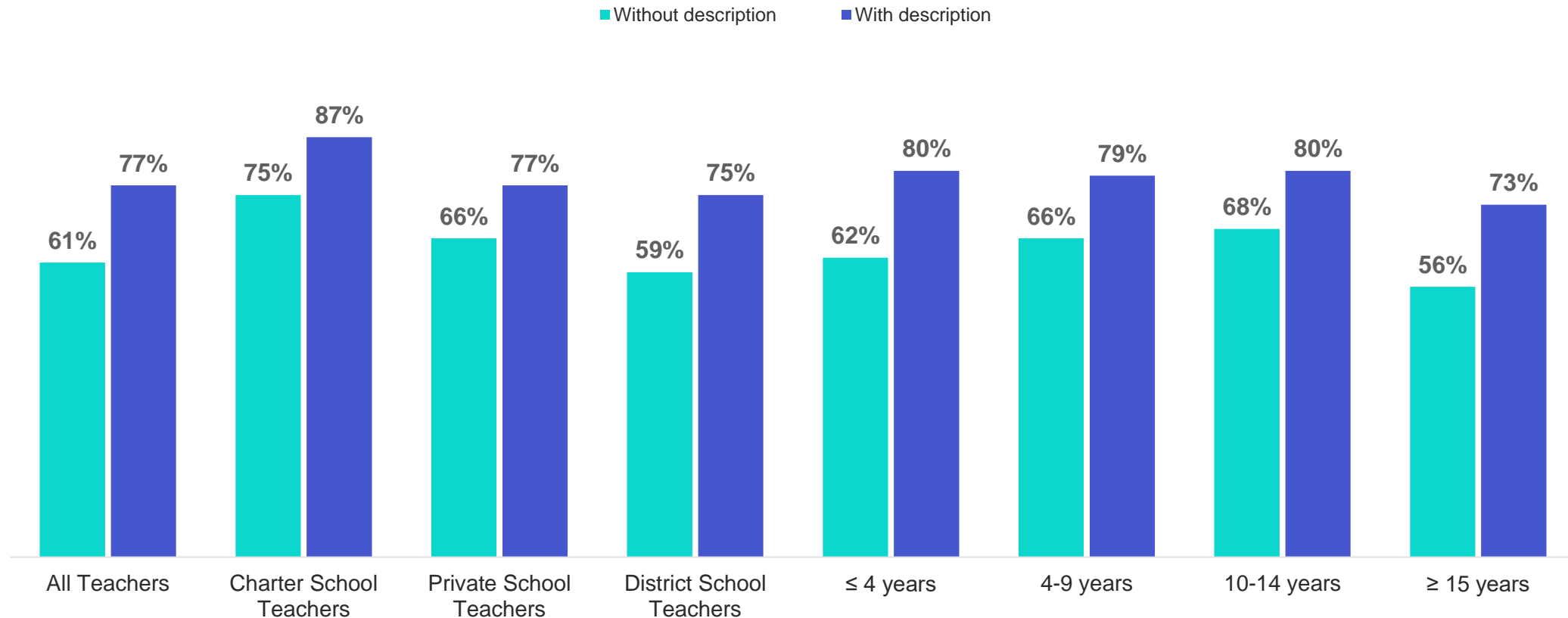
# Teachers are generally supportive of education savings accounts (ESAs), and even more so after learning more from a description.

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'education savings accounts' in K-12 education?

An "education savings account" in K-12 education – often called an ESA – establishes for parents a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes. Parents can then use these funds to pay for: school tuition; tutoring; online education programs; therapies for students with special needs; textbooks or other instructional materials; or save for future college expenses. In general, what is your opinion of an ESA system?

## All Teachers

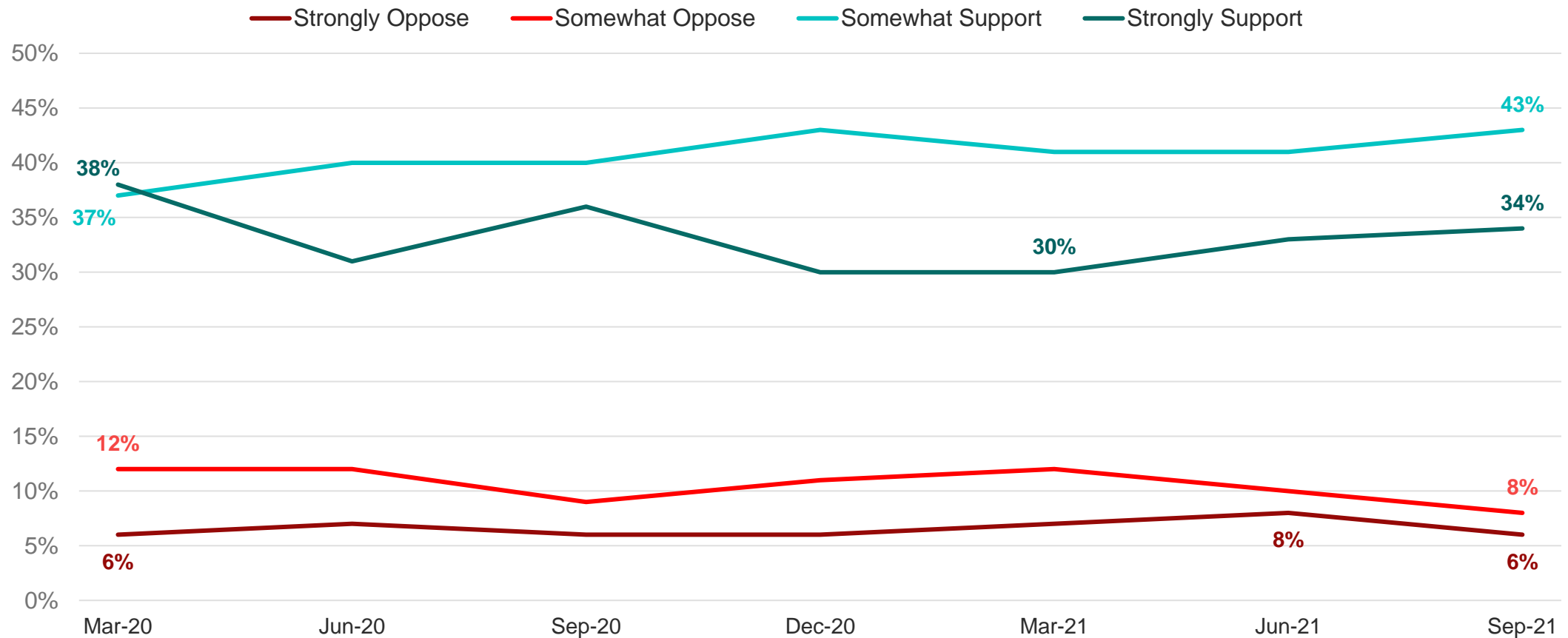
### Total Support (Strongly support + Somewhat support)



# Overall support for ESAs increased by three points from June to September.

An "education savings account" in K–12 education – often called an ESA – establishes for parents a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes. Parents can then use these funds to pay for: school tuition; tutoring; online education programs; therapies for students with special needs; textbooks or other instructional materials; or save for future college expenses. In general, what is your opinion of an ESA system?

## All Teachers



Note: Don't know/no opinion responses are not shown.

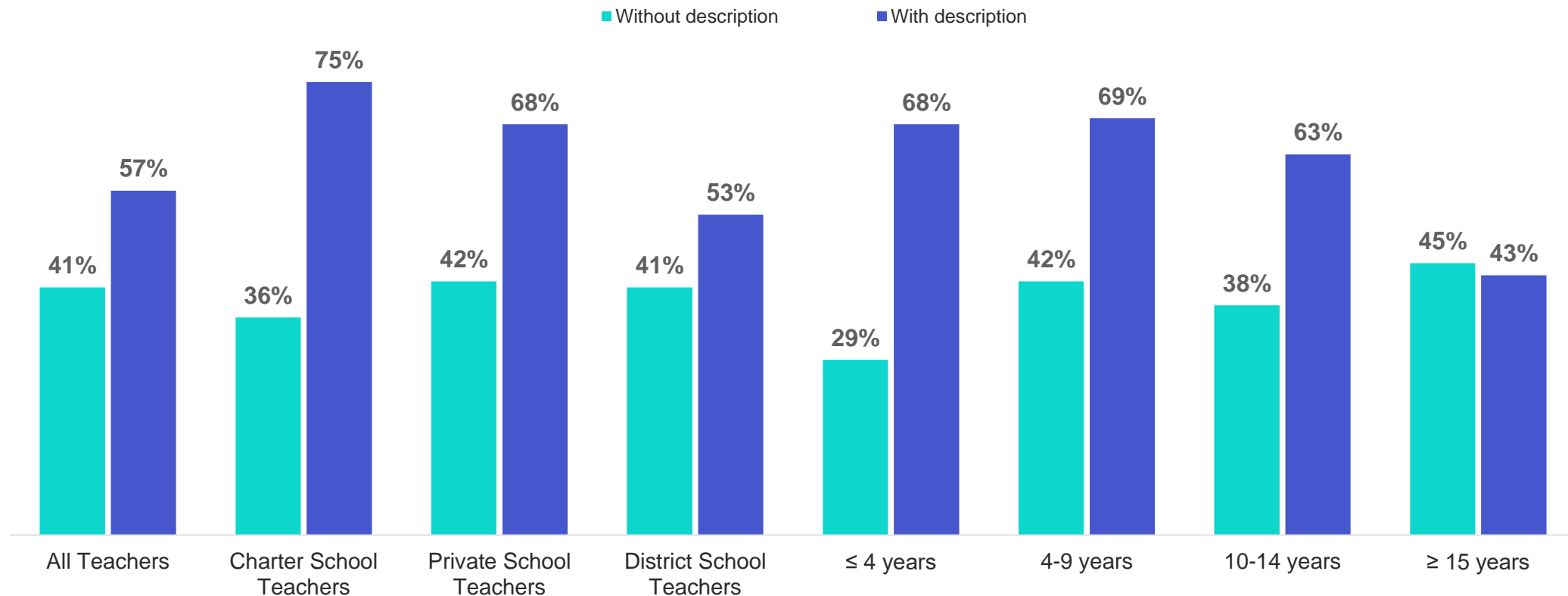
# Teachers' support for school vouchers substantially increases when they are given a description.

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'school vouchers' in K-12 education?

A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a 'school voucher' to pay partial or full tuition for the child's school. In general, what is your opinion of school voucher systems?

## All Teachers

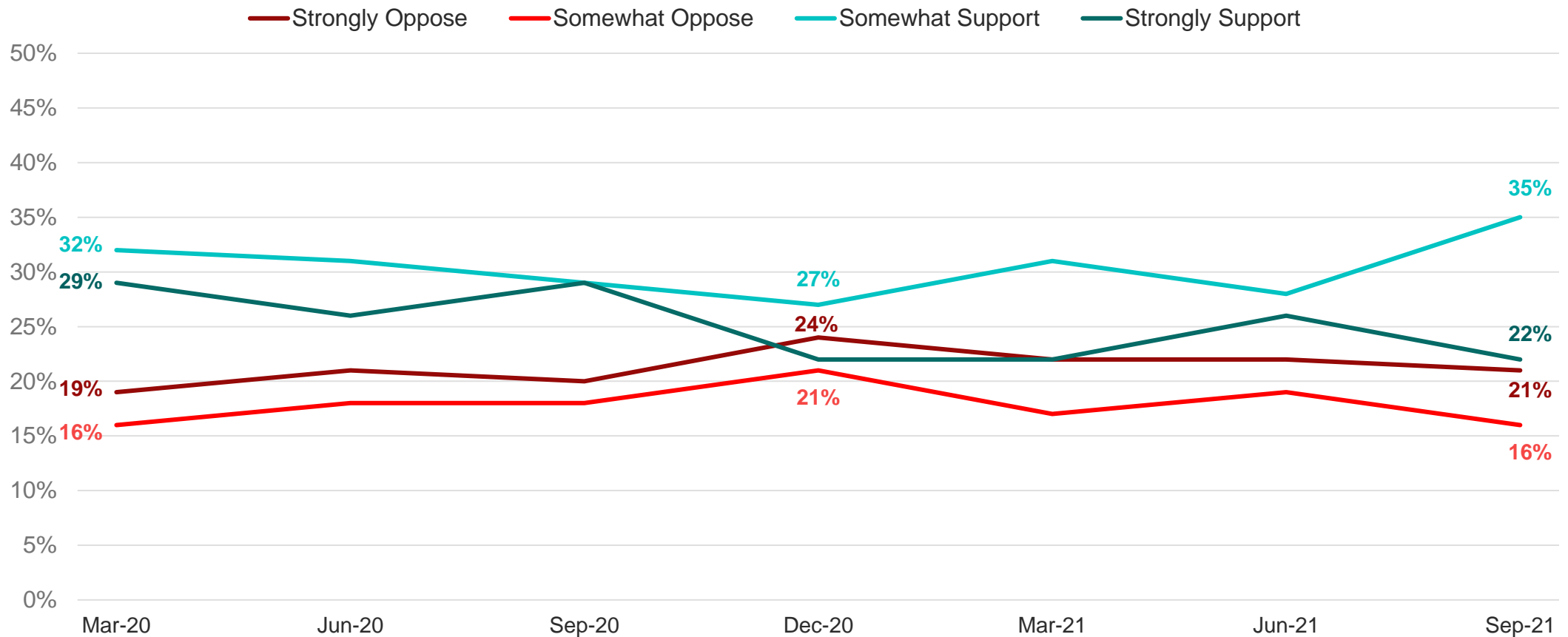
### Total Support (Strongly support + Somewhat support)



# Soft support of school vouchers increased by seven points from June to September.

A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a 'school voucher' to pay partial or full tuition for the child's school. In general, what is your opinion of school voucher systems?

## All Teachers



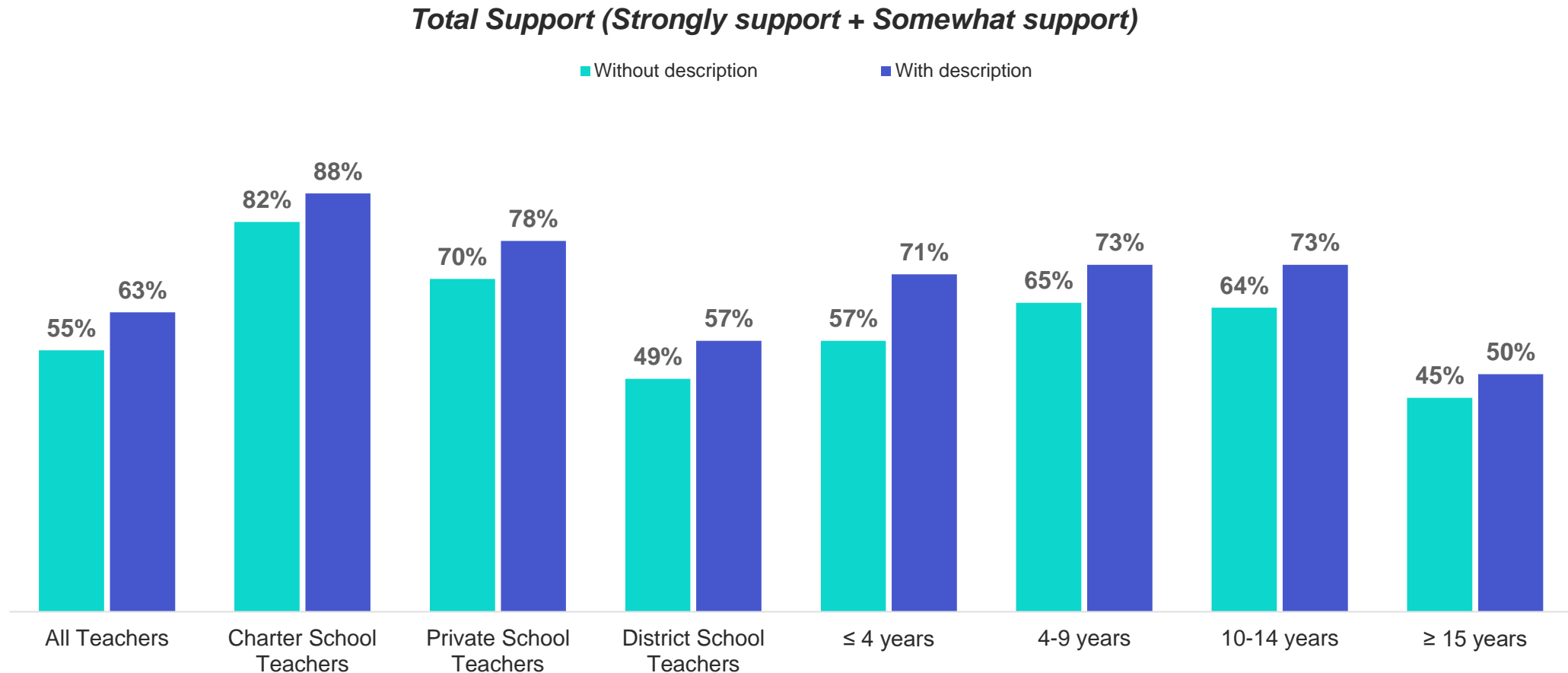
Note: Don't know/no opinion responses are not shown.



# Teachers' support of charter schools increases once given more information.

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'charter schools' in K-12 education?  
Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

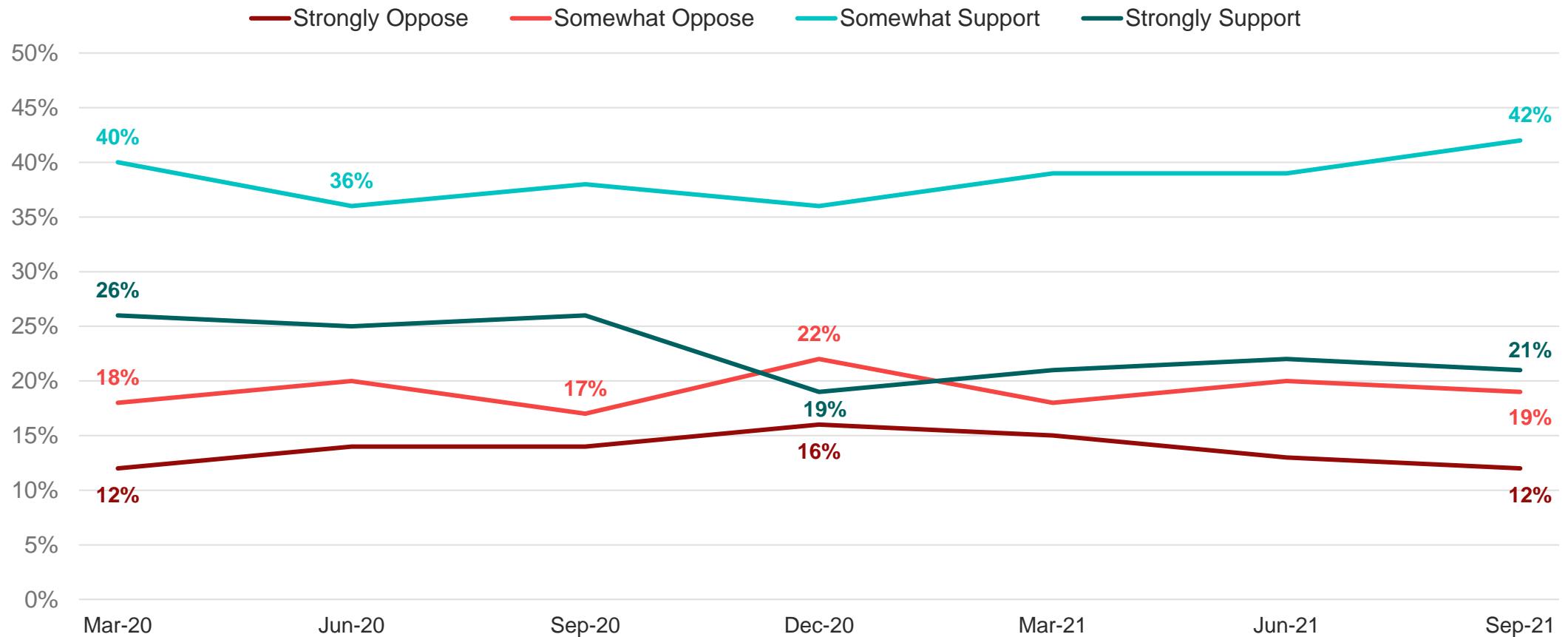
## All Teachers



# Soft support of charter schools increased by three points from June to September.

Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

## All Teachers



Note: Don't know/no opinion responses are not shown.

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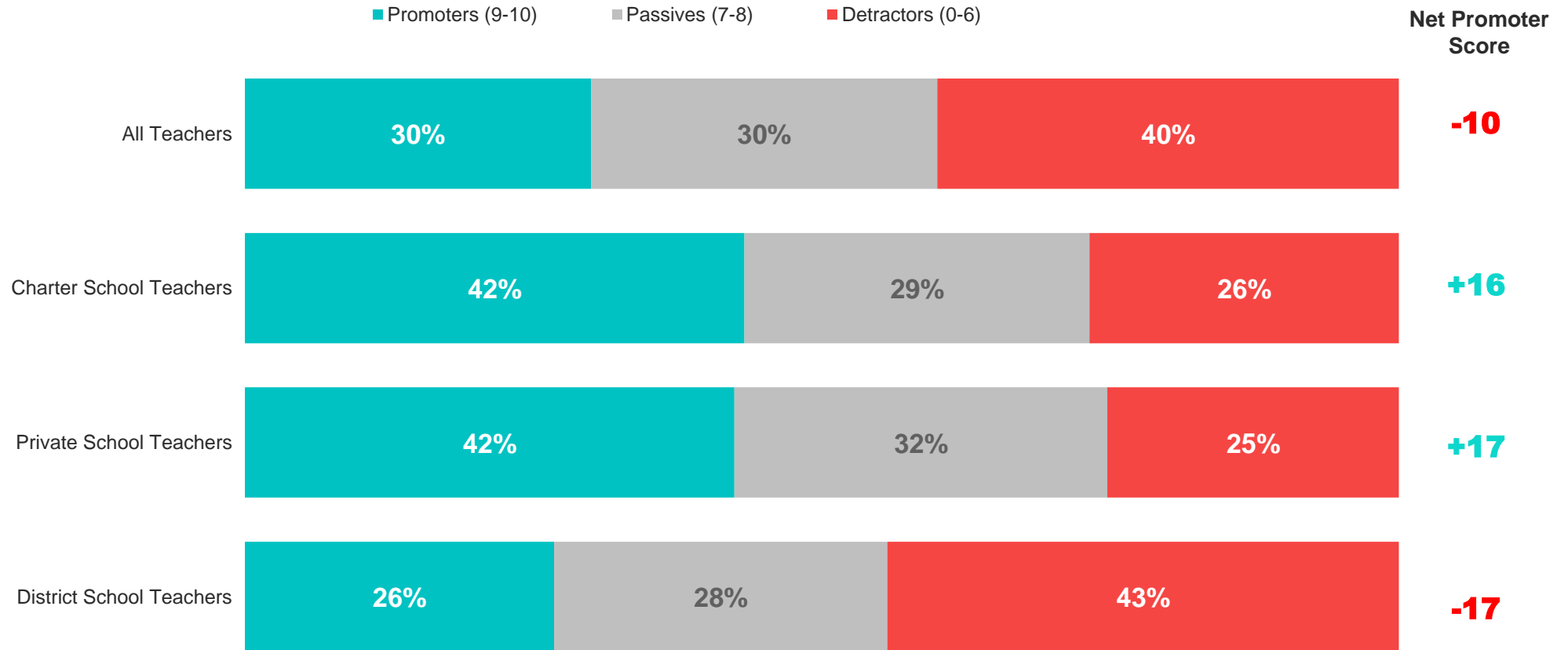
SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



# In September, teachers in charter schools and private schools were much more likely to recommend the teaching profession compared to district teachers.

On a scale from 0 to 10, where '0' means 'Not at all likely' and '10' means 'Extremely likely'. How likely is it that you would recommend teaching to a friend or family member?

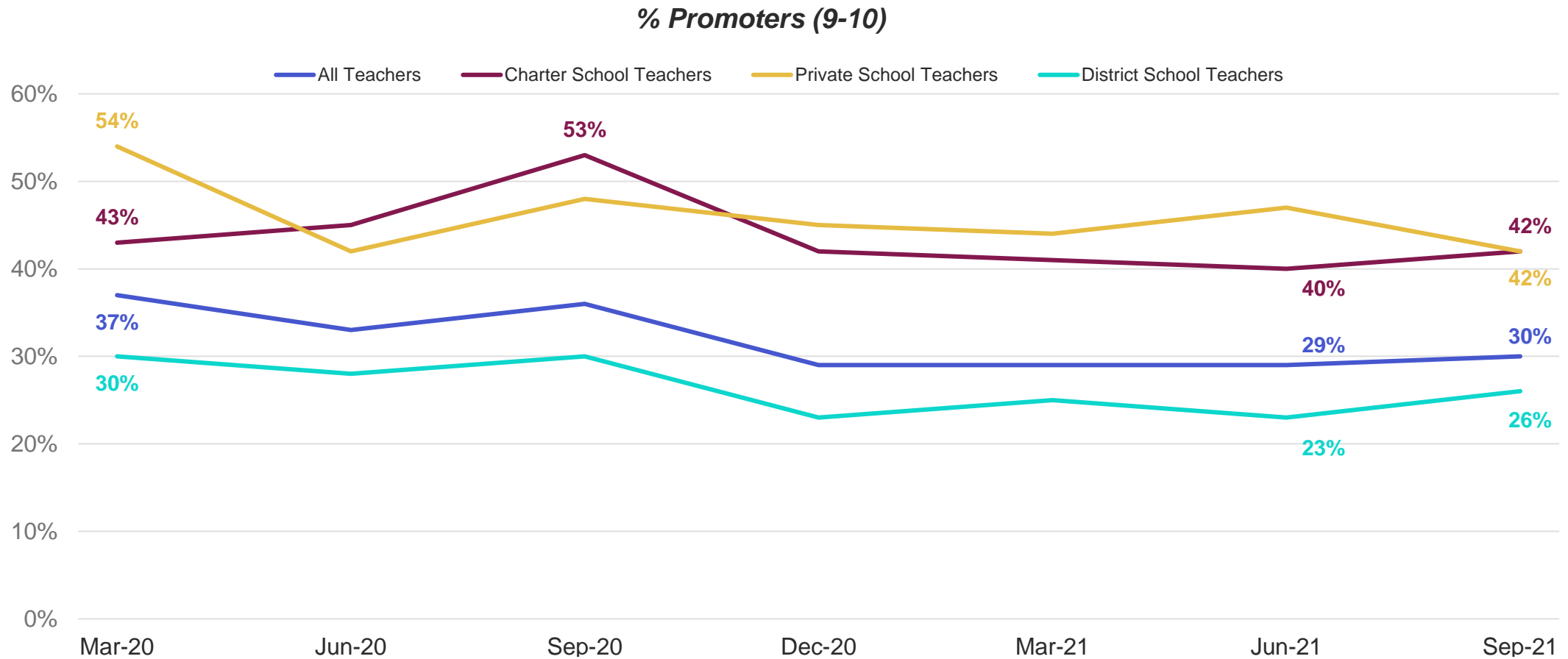
## All Teachers



# Promoters of the teaching profession have held steady from June to September.

On a scale from 0 to 10, where '0' means 'Not at all likely' and '10' means 'Extremely likely'. How likely is it that you would recommend teaching to a friend or family member?

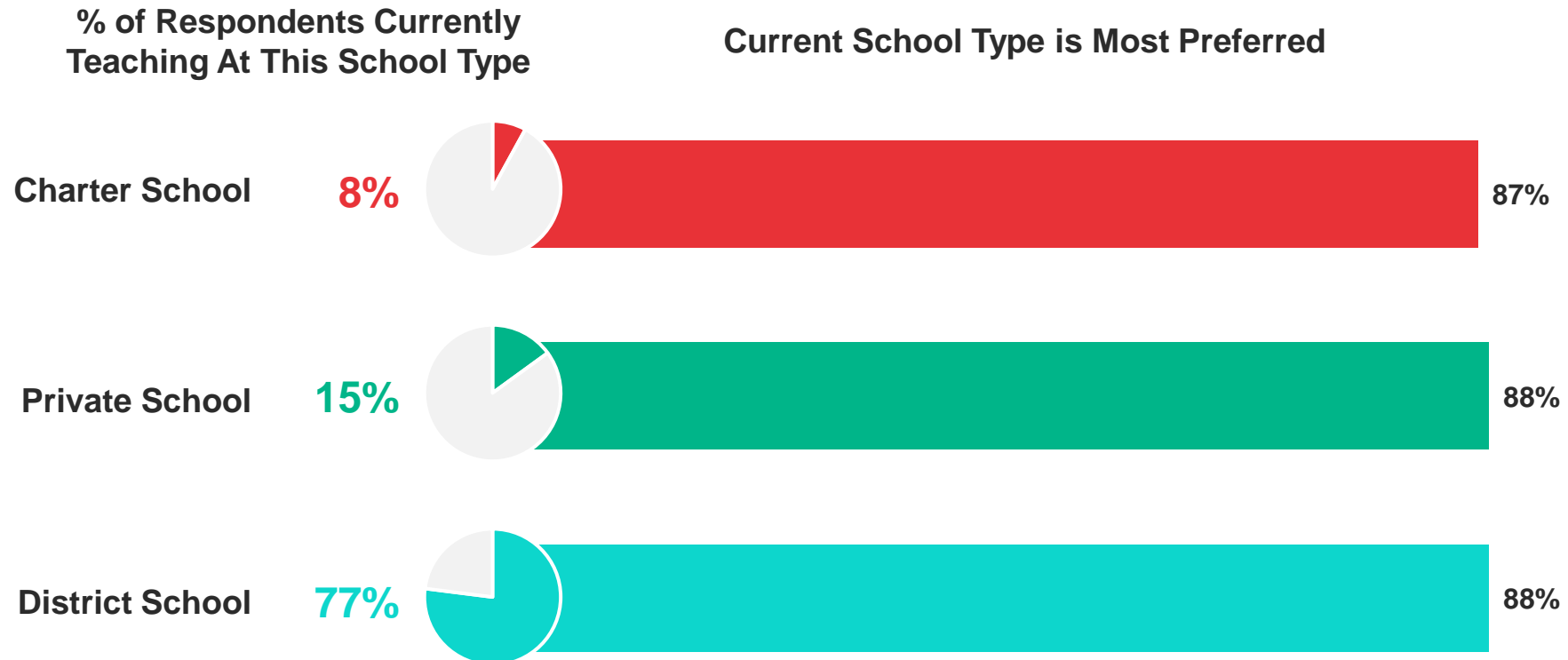
## All Teachers



# The vast majority of teachers are currently teaching at the type of school they prefer most.

Where do you currently teach? Are you currently teaching in the type of school or educational setting that you prefer the most?

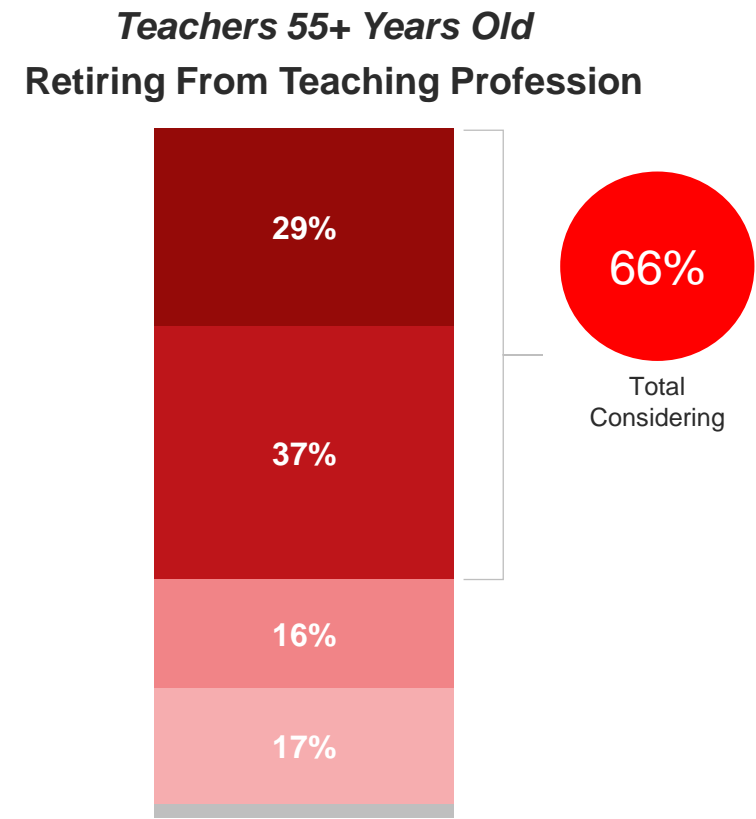
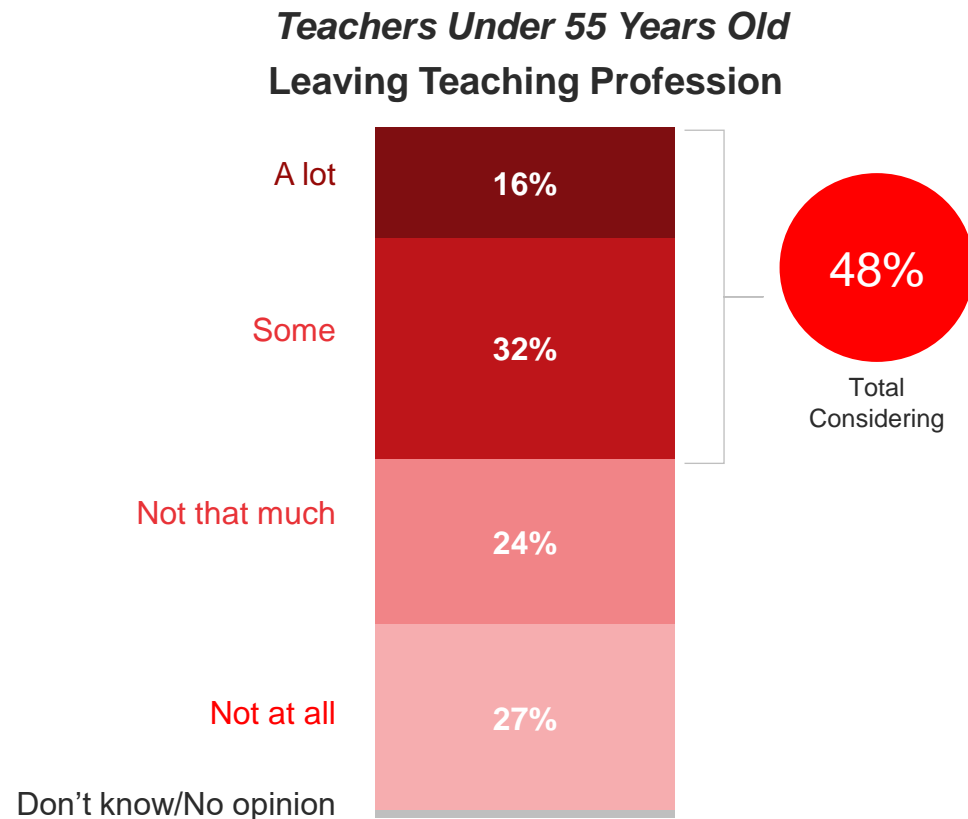
## All Teachers



# Two-thirds of teachers age 55 or older have considered retiring from the teaching profession in the last three months. Nearly half of teachers under age 55 considered leaving during the summer.

In the past three months, to what extent have you considered leaving the teaching profession for another career?

In the past three months, to what extent have you considered retiring from the teaching profession?



Teachers cite the impact of the pandemic, feeling undervalued and stressed, and politics surrounding the job as top reasons for considering leaving or retiring from the profession.

Why have you considered leaving the teaching profession or retiring after this year?

### IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

“With COVID restrictions and the tension between everyone it just seems like a good time to step away.”

“The stress of the last year has taken its toll and is continuing into this new school year. I was able to get accommodations given I am high risk for COVID but this year... none.”

“The strain of COVID on students and teachers is unbearable. The last 2 years, kids have fallen so far behind due to virtual learning.”

### UNDervalUED & STRESSED

“Yes, I am frustrated with the pay and the under appreciation of my role as a teacher—“it’s just art”, “you only work 9 months out of the year”.”

“I think that I am not appreciated that much and the current value for my job and all that I do just isn’t enough.”

“Teaching is no longer an enjoyable career. It is demanding with little recognition.”

### POLITICS OF THE JOB

“It’s becoming a political thing.”

“I don’t like the direction the educational system is going in.”

“Teachers have more and more mandates. Politics plays such a huge role in what we have to do. It is certainly not about what is best for children. We are forced to teach curriculums we do not like or value.”



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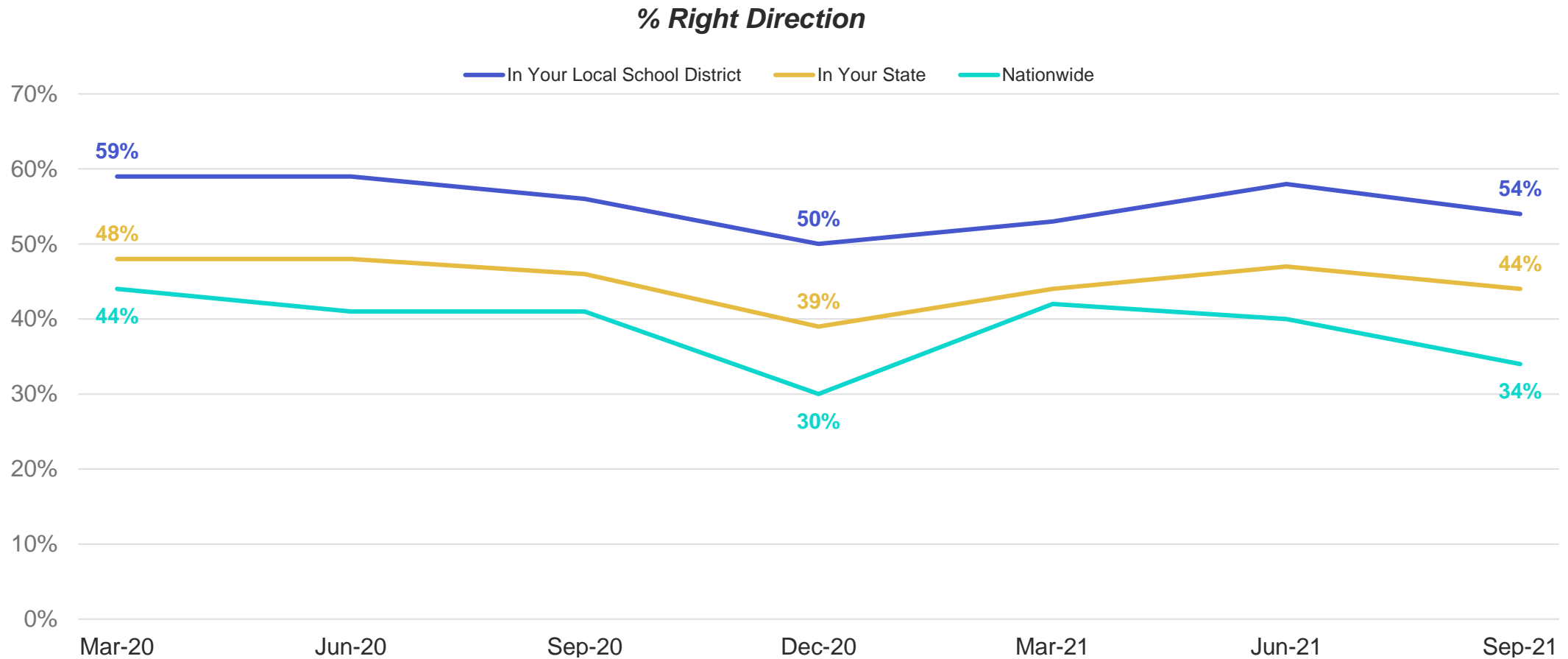
SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



# Teachers became slightly more pessimistic since June regarding the direction of K-12 education at any level.

Do you feel things in K-12 education are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?

## All Teachers



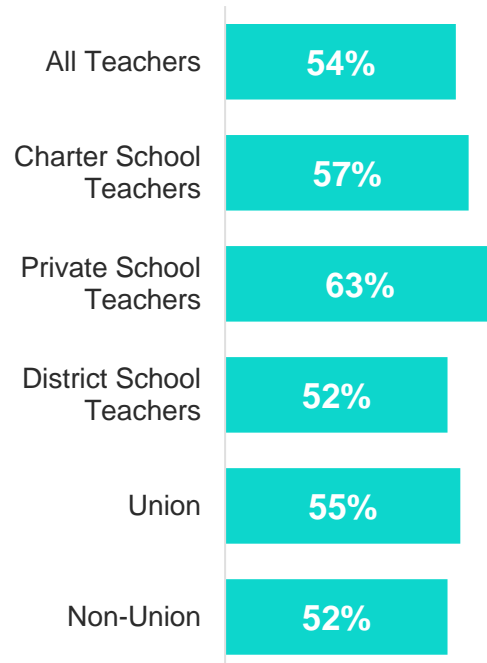
Teachers in charter schools and private schools continue to be more optimistic about the direction of K-12 education than district school teachers – especially when considering the nation as a whole.

Do you feel things in K-12 education are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?

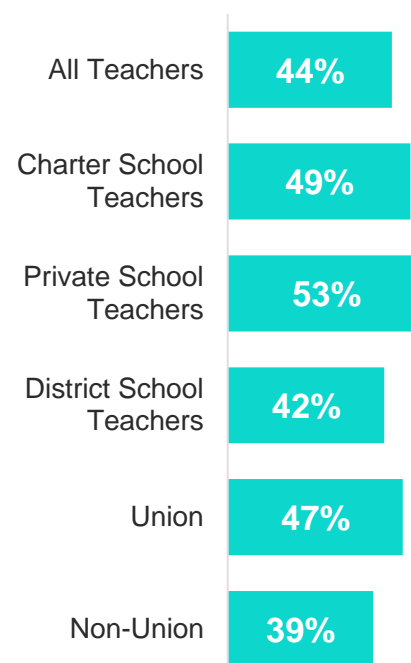
**All Teachers**

**% Right Direction**

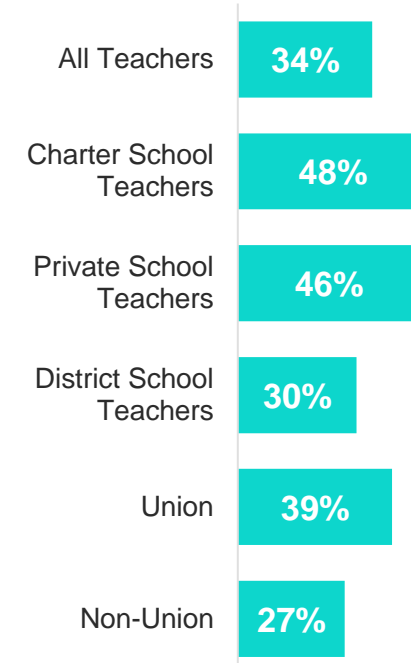
**In your local school district**



**In your state**



**Nationwide**



# Teachers are more likely to say grades K-8 should focus on core academic subjects and high school should focus on skills for future employment.

What do you believe should be the main purpose of education during Kindergarten through 8th grade/High School? In your opinion, how important is it for students to learn...

## All Teachers

### % Extremely Important








#### Grades K-8

Average % selected Extremely Important **47%**

-  Core academic subjects (**59%**)
-  Socialization (**56%**)
-  Become independent thinkers (**55%**)
-  How to be good citizens (**51%**)
-  Skills for future employment (**44%**)
-  Values, moral character, religious virtues (**39%**)
-  To fix social problems (**28%**)

#### Grades 9-12

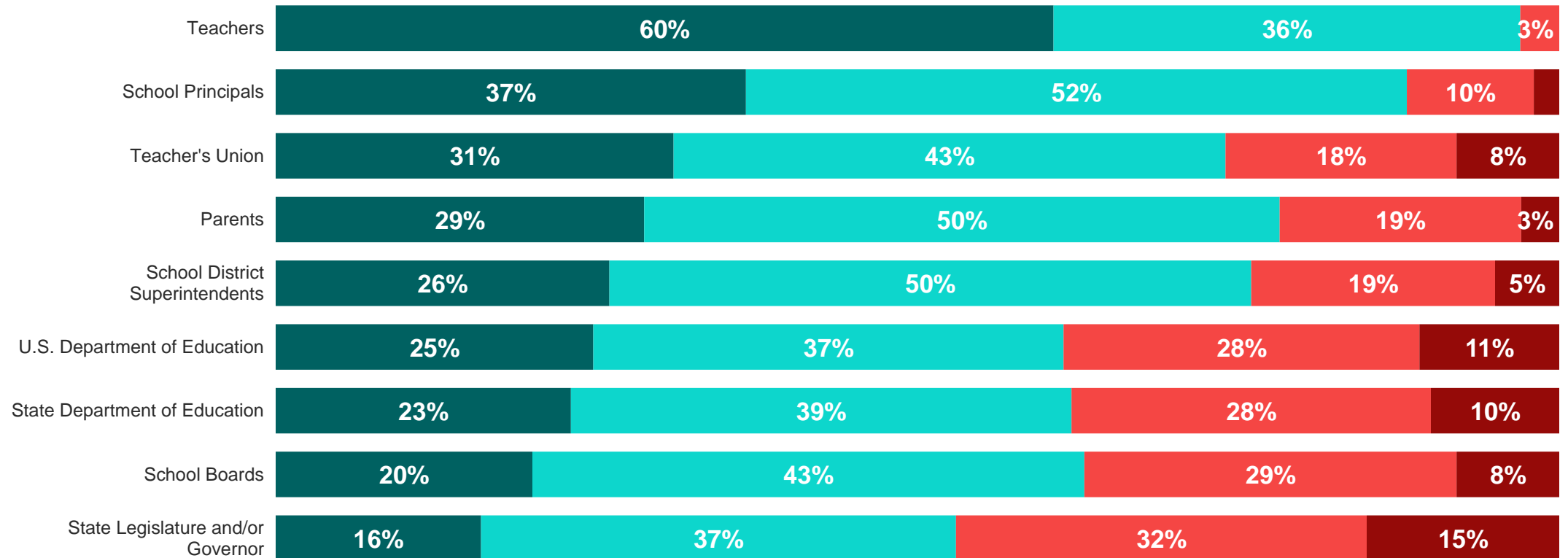
Average % selected Extremely Important **49%**

-  Skills for future employment (**64%**)
-  Become independent thinkers (**58%**)
-  How to be good citizens (**54%**)
-  Core academic subjects (**53%**)
-  Socialization (**50%**)
-  Values, moral character, religious virtues (**37%**)
-  To fix social problems (**24%**)

# Teachers continue to view fellow teachers and school principals as most trustworthy when it comes to making decisions about education.


How much, if at all, do you trust the following to make good decisions about education?

## All Teachers



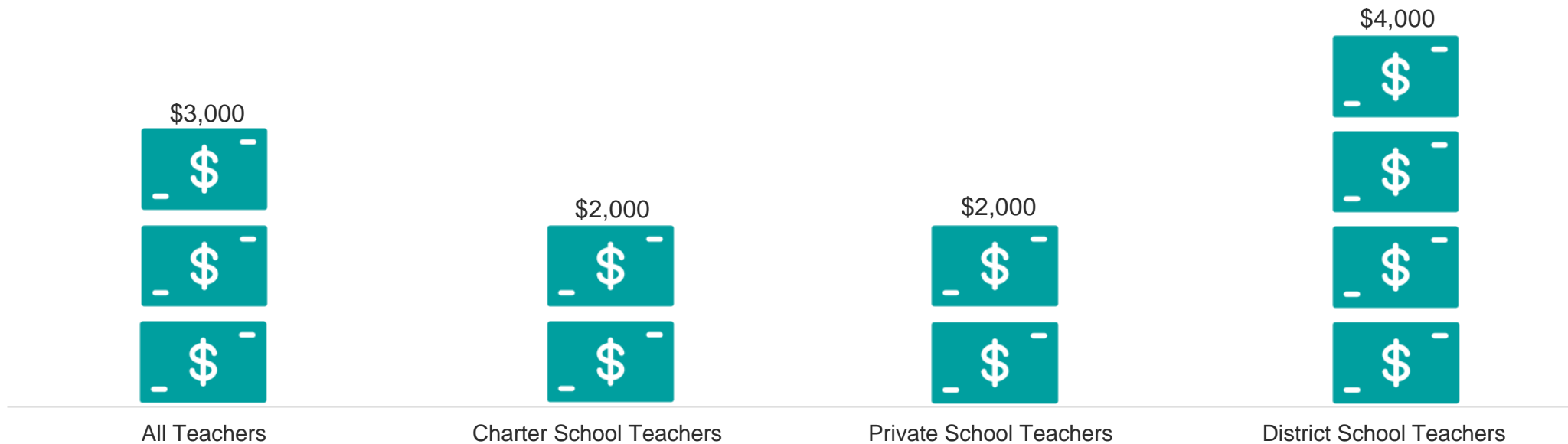
# Teachers believe that government spending per student is much lower than actual expenditures.

How much do you think is spent per year on each student in your state's public schools? Your estimate of the state average—to the nearest thousand dollars—will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.

 = \$1,000

## Median Estimate

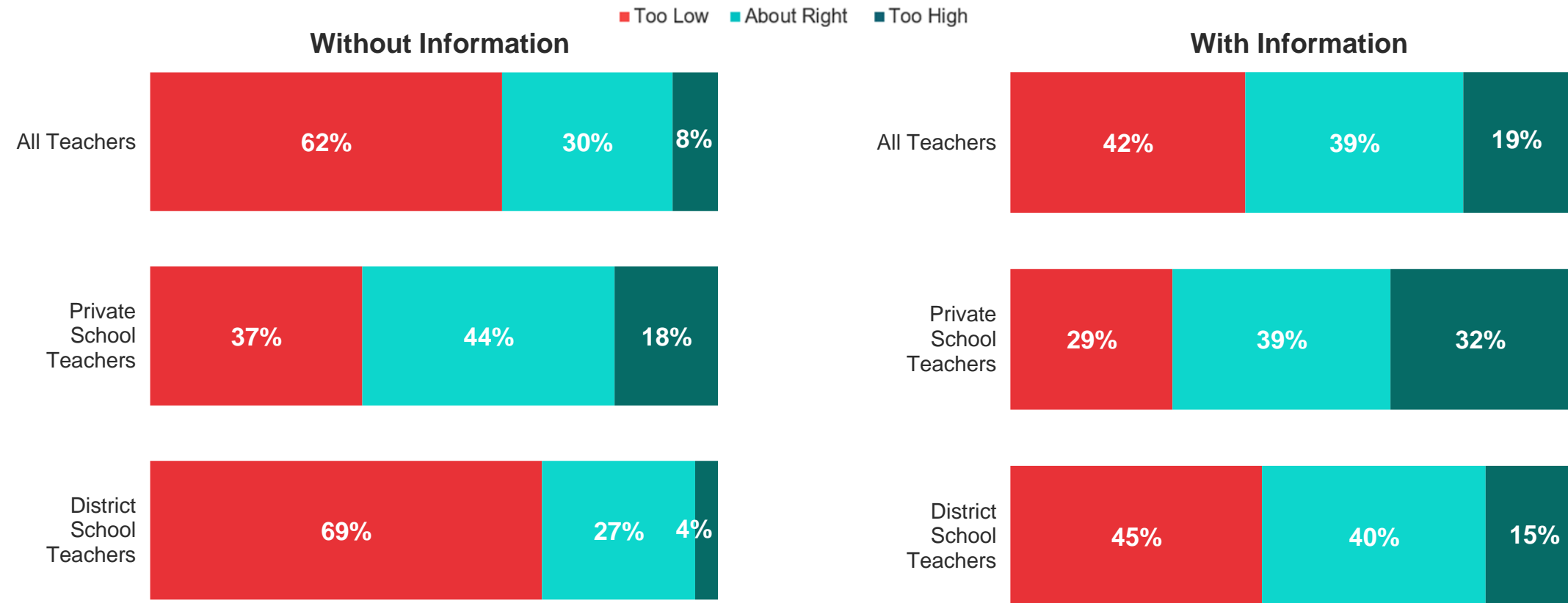
FY18 State Actuals	
Maximum	\$22,845
Mean	\$12,485
Minimum	\$7,525



# Teachers are much less likely (-20 points) to say their state’s per-student spending is “too low” when given a publicly reported statistic.

Do you believe public school funding in [STATE] is:

On average, [STATE] spends \$\_\_\_\_\_ per student attending public school each year. Do you believe public school funding is:



State Per Pupil Spending Source: National Center for Education Statistics  
 \*Charter school teachers not shown due to low sample size

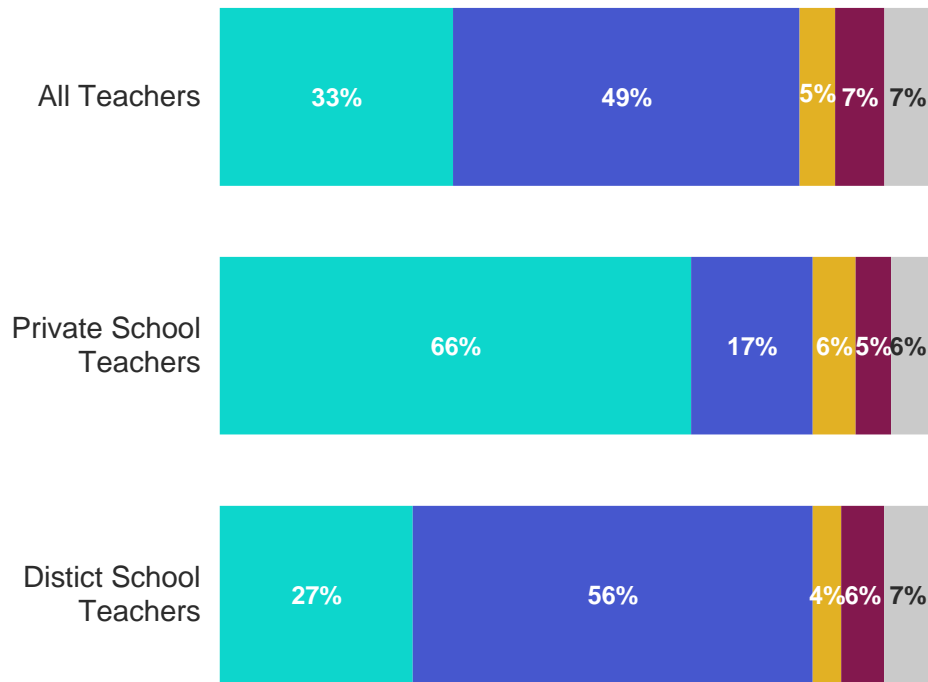
# Most teachers would prefer their child attend a similar school to the one where they teach – an regardless of financial cost or transportation factors.

If given the option, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

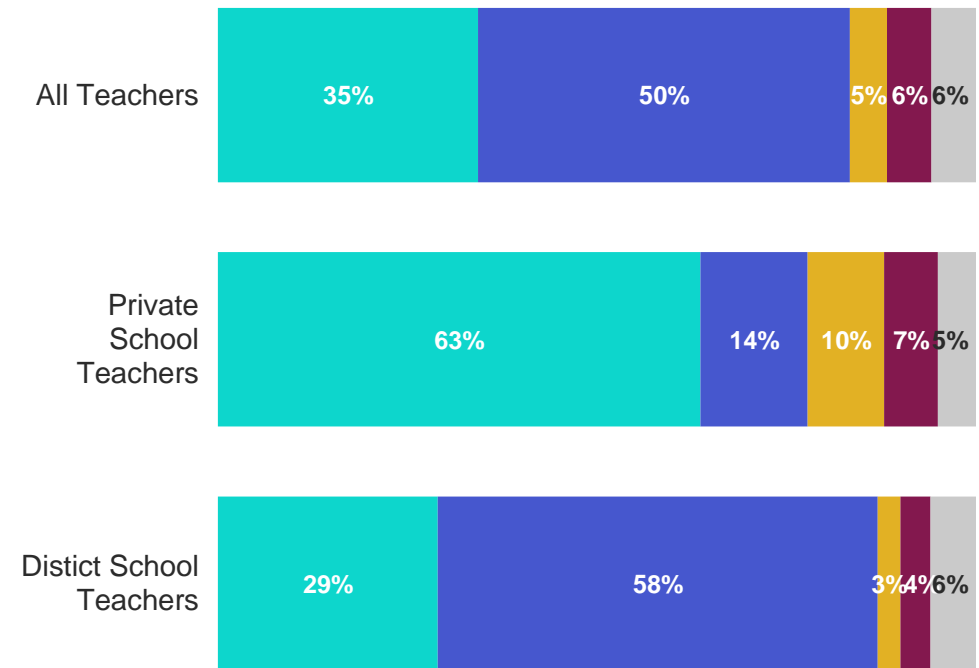
If given the option, and neither financial costs nor transportation were factors, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

■ Private School ■ Regular Public School ■ Home School ■ Charter School ■ Don't Know/No Opinion

**Preference**



**Preference without cost & transportation factors**



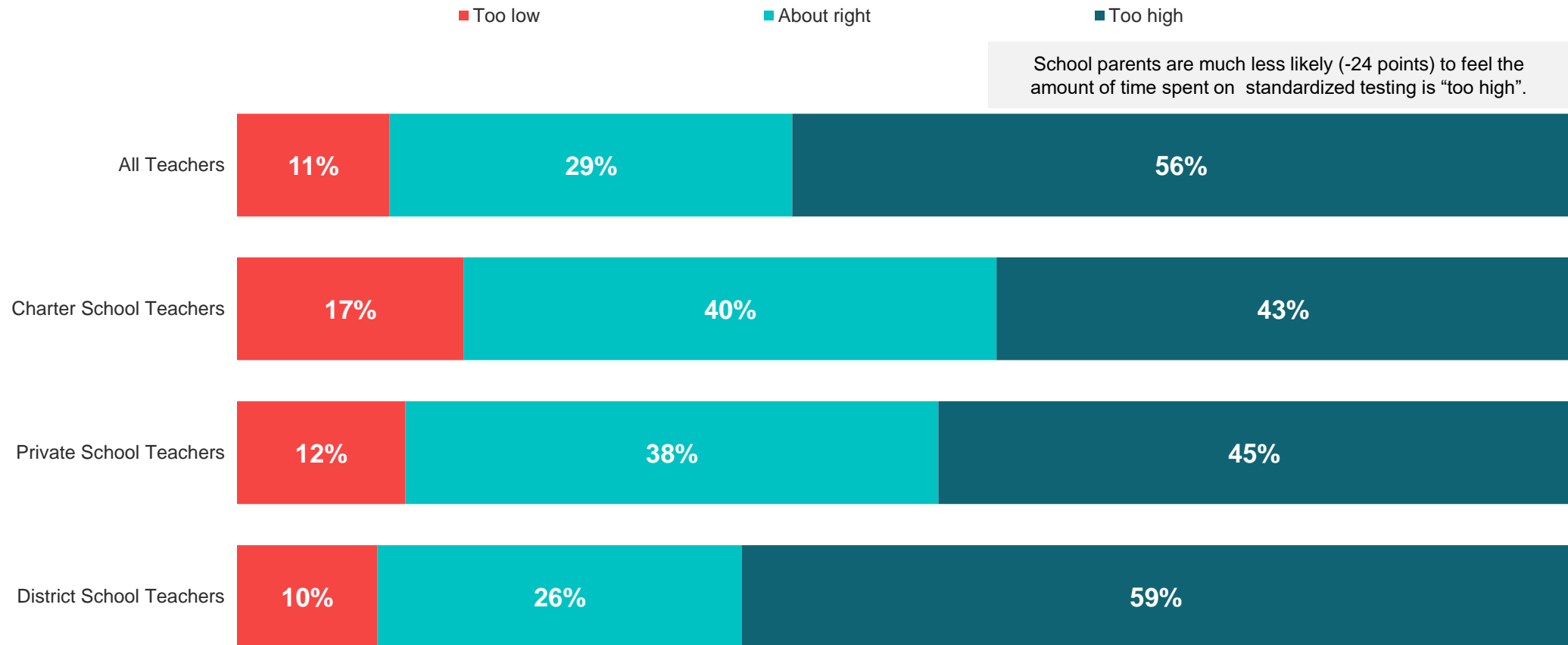
\*Charter school teachers not shown due to low sample size



# Most teachers, especially district school teachers, believe that schools spend too much time on standardized testing.

All public schools and most private schools give their students standardized tests during the school year. When thinking about students preparing for and taking these tests, in general, do you believe the amount of time spent on standardized testing in American Schools is...

## All Teachers



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# Survey Profile, 1

<b>Dates</b>	September 10-19, 2021
<b>Survey Data Collection &amp; Quality Control</b>	Morning Consult
<b>Survey Sponsor</b>	EdChoice
<b>Population</b>	K-12 Education Teachers
<b>Sampling Frame</b> States,	National sample of K-12 teachers (age 18+) living in the United States, including the District of Columbia
<b>Sampling Method</b>	Non-Probability, Stratified (based on Gender, Years of Experience)
<b>Mode</b>	Online Survey
<b>Language</b>	English

## Survey Profile, 2

<b>Survey Time</b>	Median = 11.59 minutes
<b>Sample Size</b>	Total, N = 1,000
<b>Oversampling?</b>	None
<b>Quotas?</b>	Age, Years of Teaching Experience
<b>Weighting?</b>	Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Teaching Experience
<b>Measure of Precision</b>	± 3.31 percentage points
<b>Participation Rate</b>	14.78%
<b>Project Contact</b>	Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

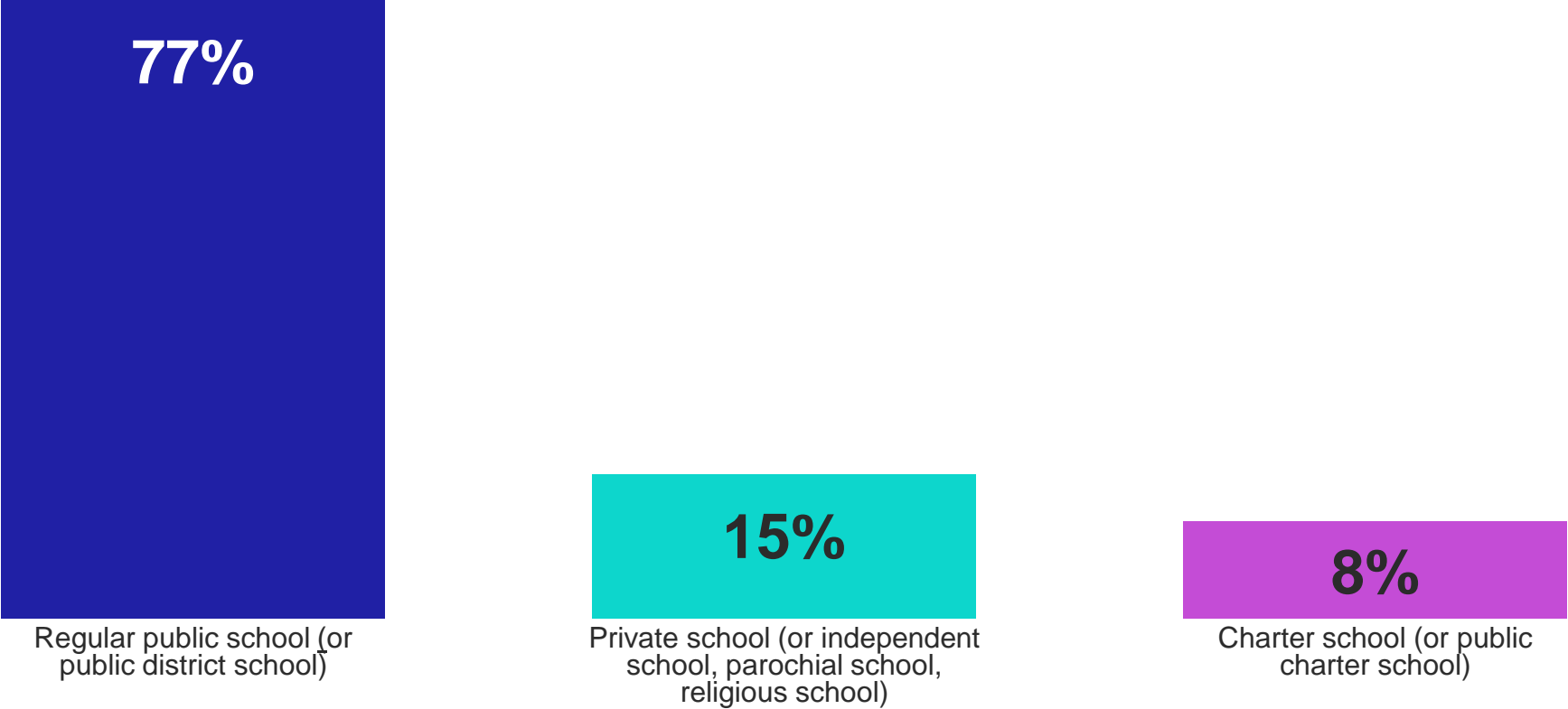
# Based on Teacher Sample

Demographics	Unweighted (N = )
Hispanic	135
White	698
Non-Hispanic White	719
Black	101
Other	66
Generation Z	48
Millennial	526
Generation X	208
Boomers	208
Northeast	222
Midwest	229
South	351
West	198

Demographics	Unweighted (N = )
Male	346
Female	654
Democrat	472
Independent	219
Republican	268
Urban	292
Suburban	509
Small Town	78
Rural	121
Low Income <\$35K	121
Middle Income \$35K to <\$75K	394
High Income \$75K+	485
LGBTQ	86

Where do you currently teach?

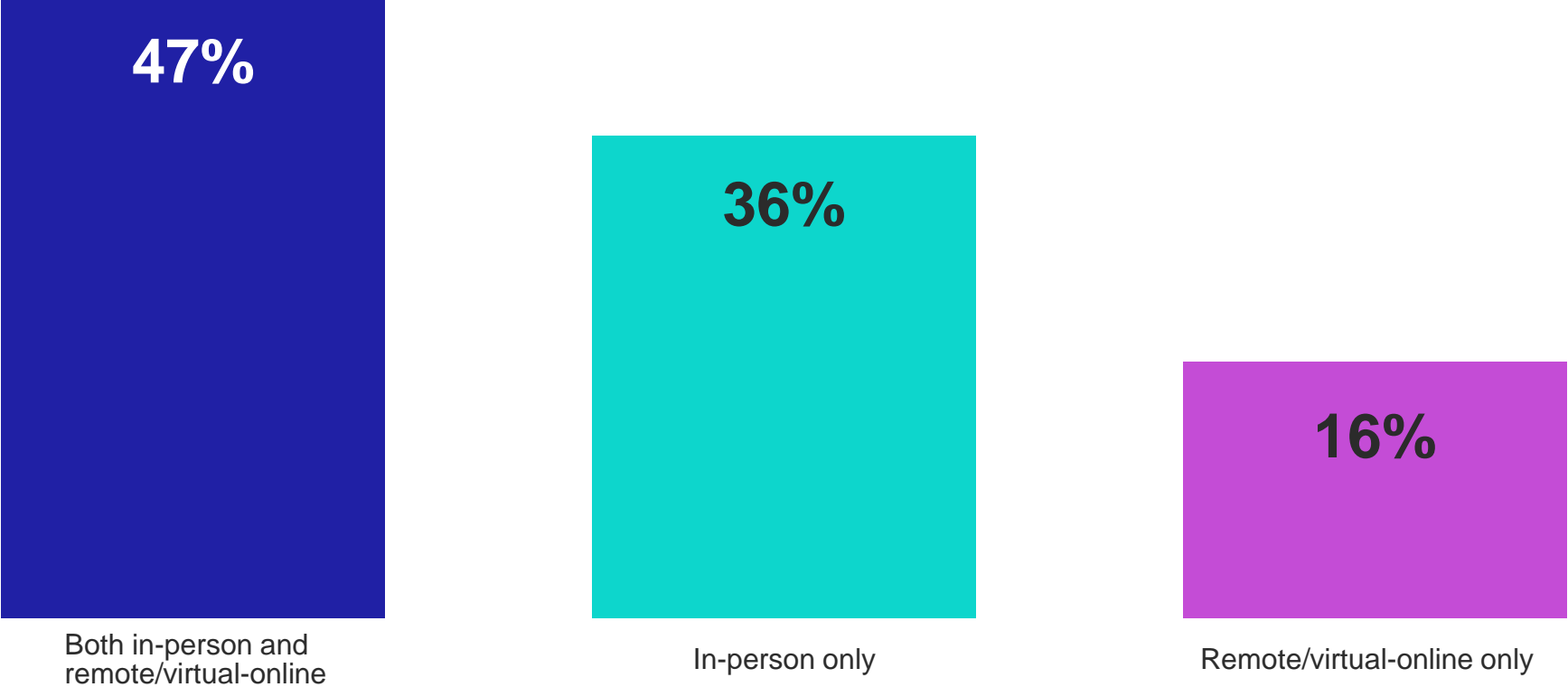
**All Teachers**



*Note: Percentages reflect weighted data*

By which mode were you teaching your students by the end of the 2020-21 school year?

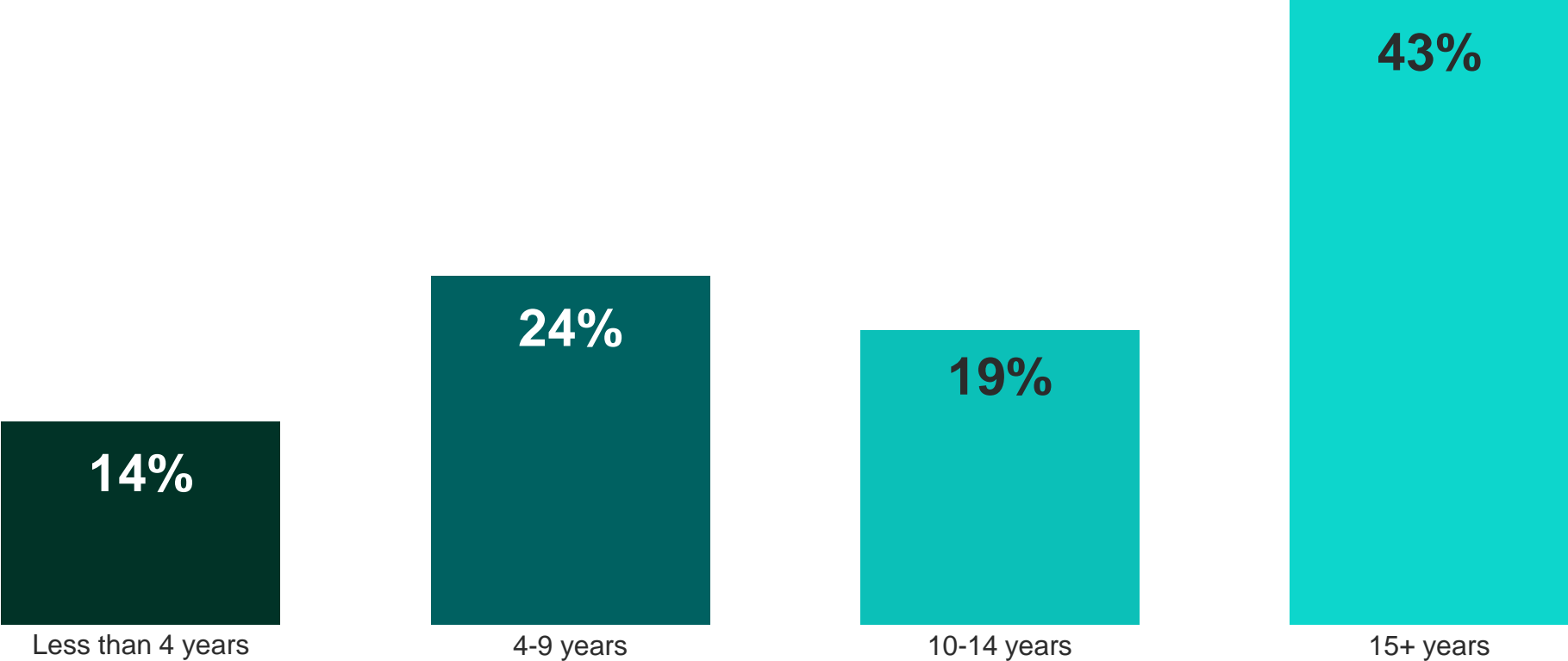
**All Teachers**



*Note: Percentages reflect weighted data*

Counting this school year, how many years have you been a school teacher, including part-time teaching?

**All Teachers**

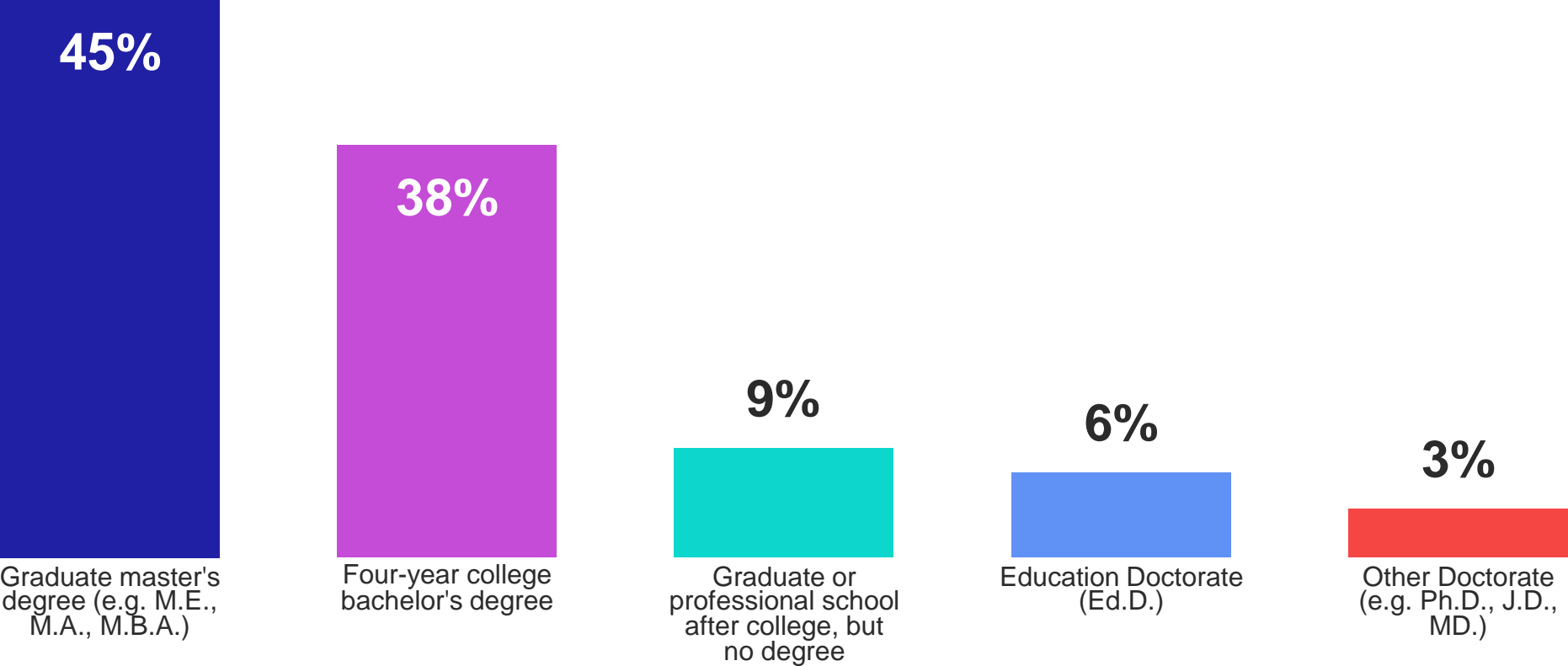


*Note: Percentages reflect weighted data*



What is the last grade or class you completed in school?

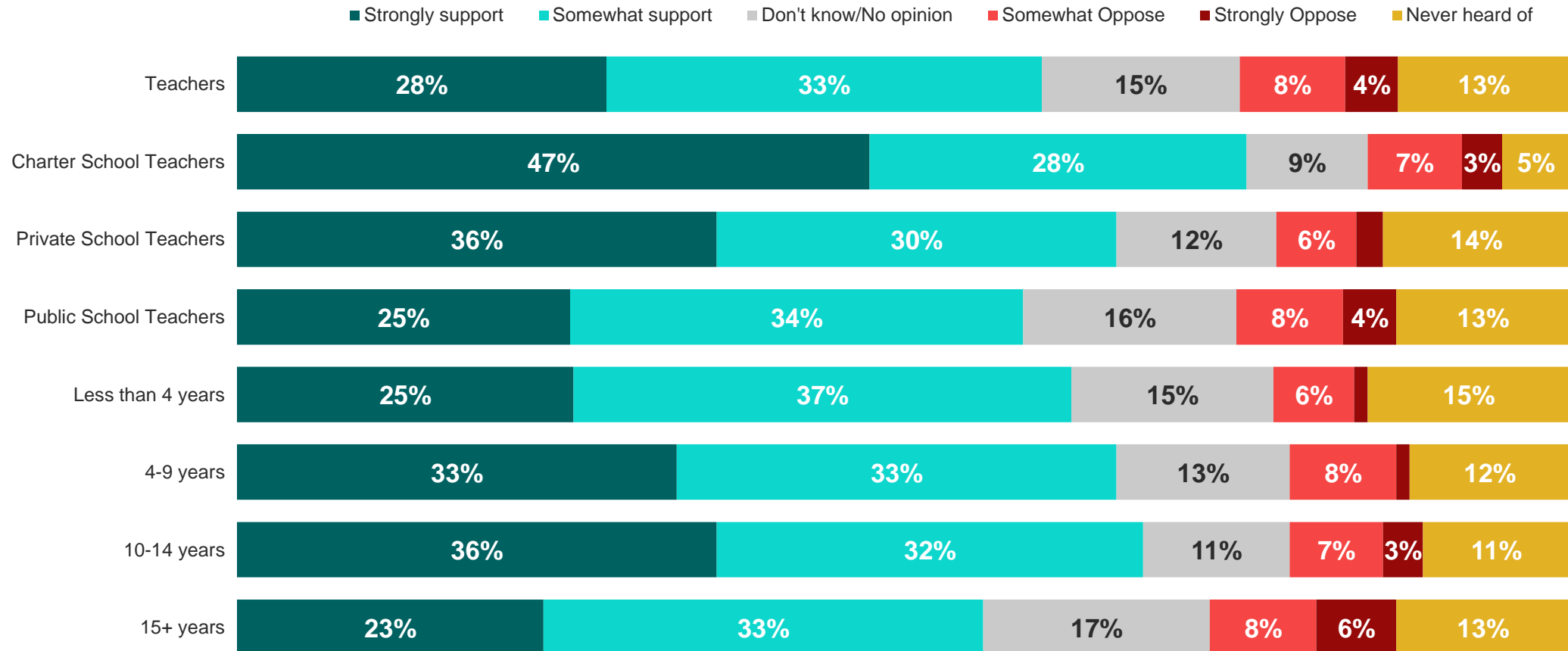
**All Teachers**



*Note: Percentages reflect weighted data*

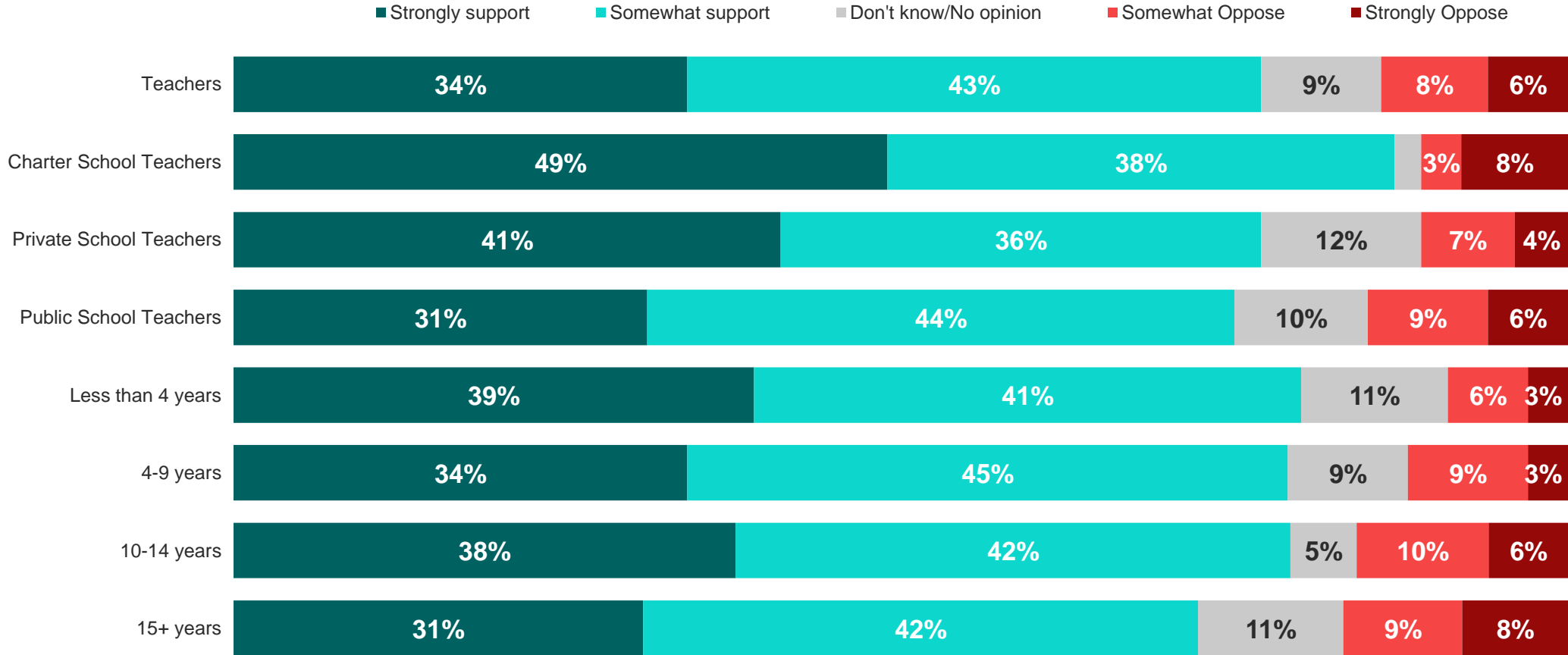
Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'education savings accounts' in K–12 education?

**All Teachers**



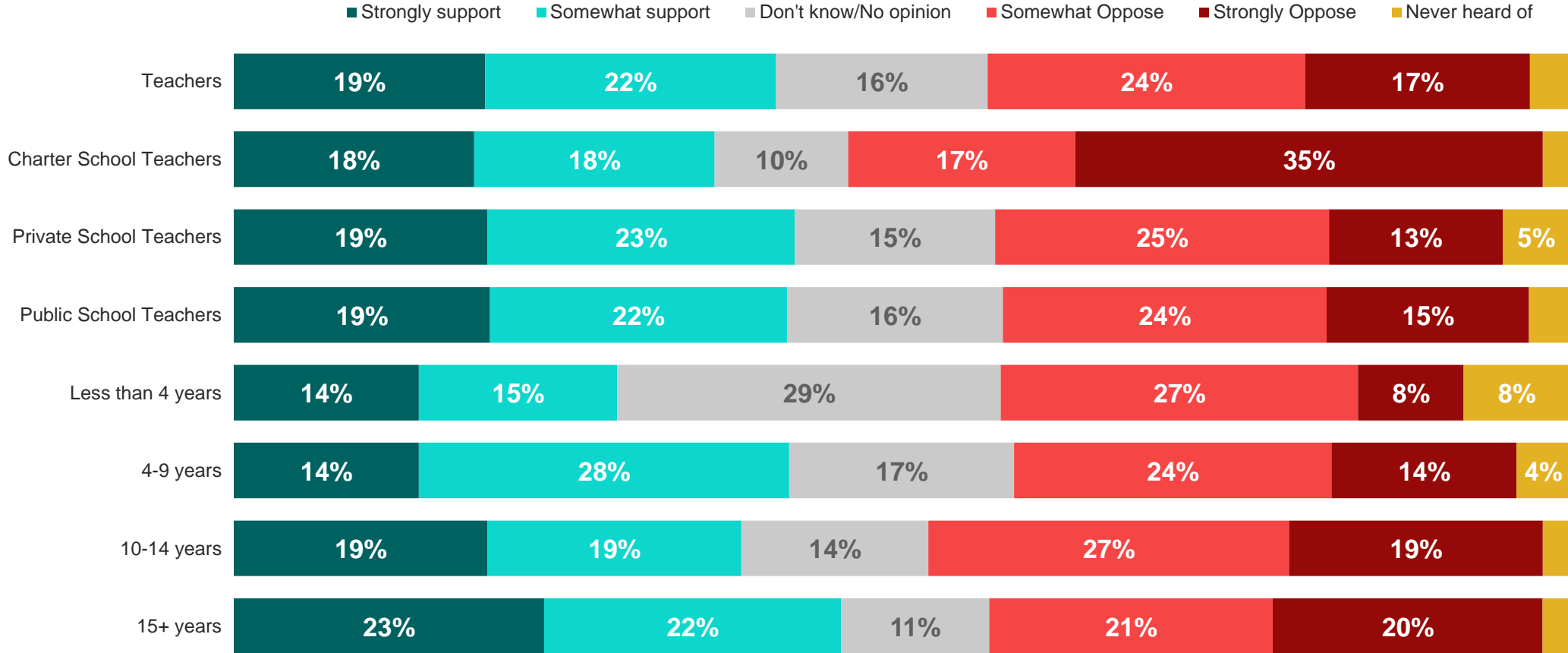
An "education savings account" in K–12 education – often called an ESA – establishes for parents a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes. Parents can then use these funds to pay for: school tuition; tutoring; online education programs; therapies for students with special needs; textbooks or other instructional materials; or save for future college expenses. In general, what is your opinion of an ESA system?

**All Teachers**



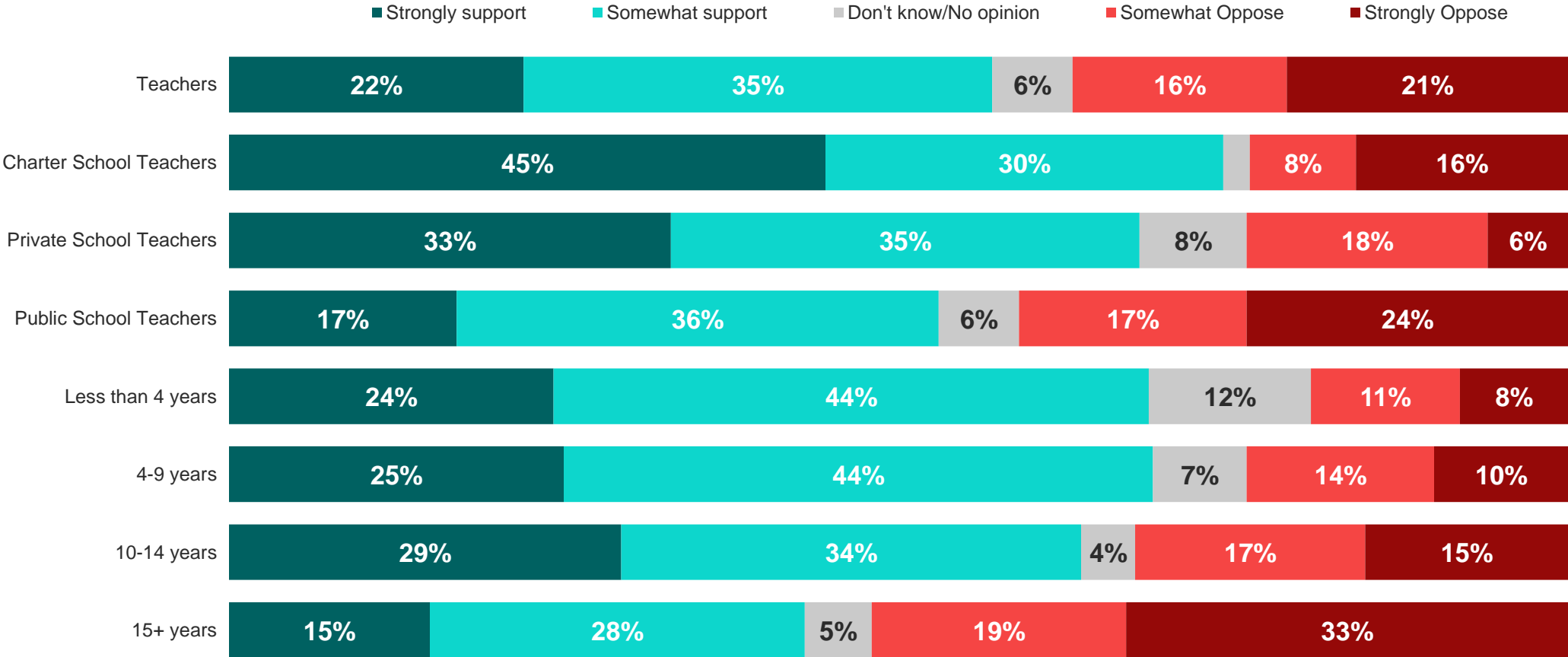
Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'school vouchers' in K-12 education?

**All Teachers**



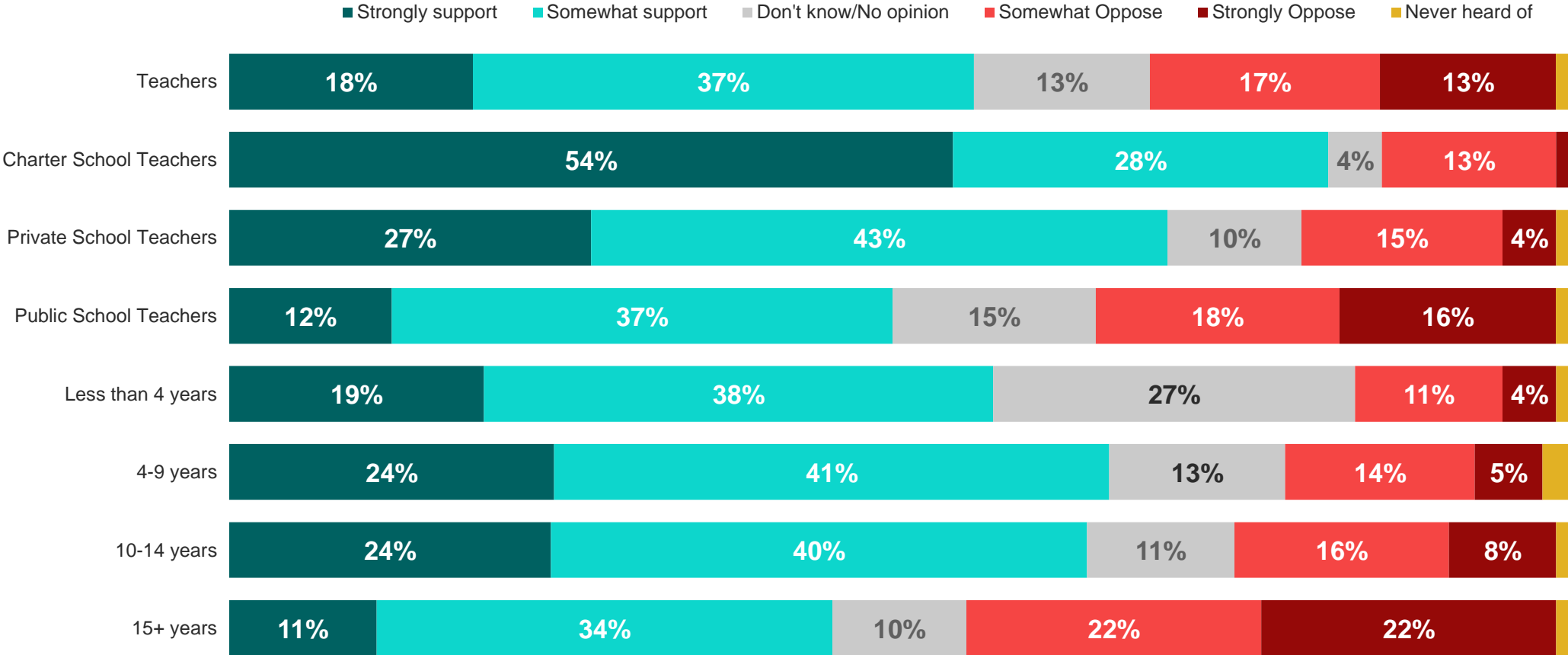
A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a 'school voucher' to pay partial or full tuition for the child's school. In general, what is your opinion of school voucher systems?

**All Teachers**



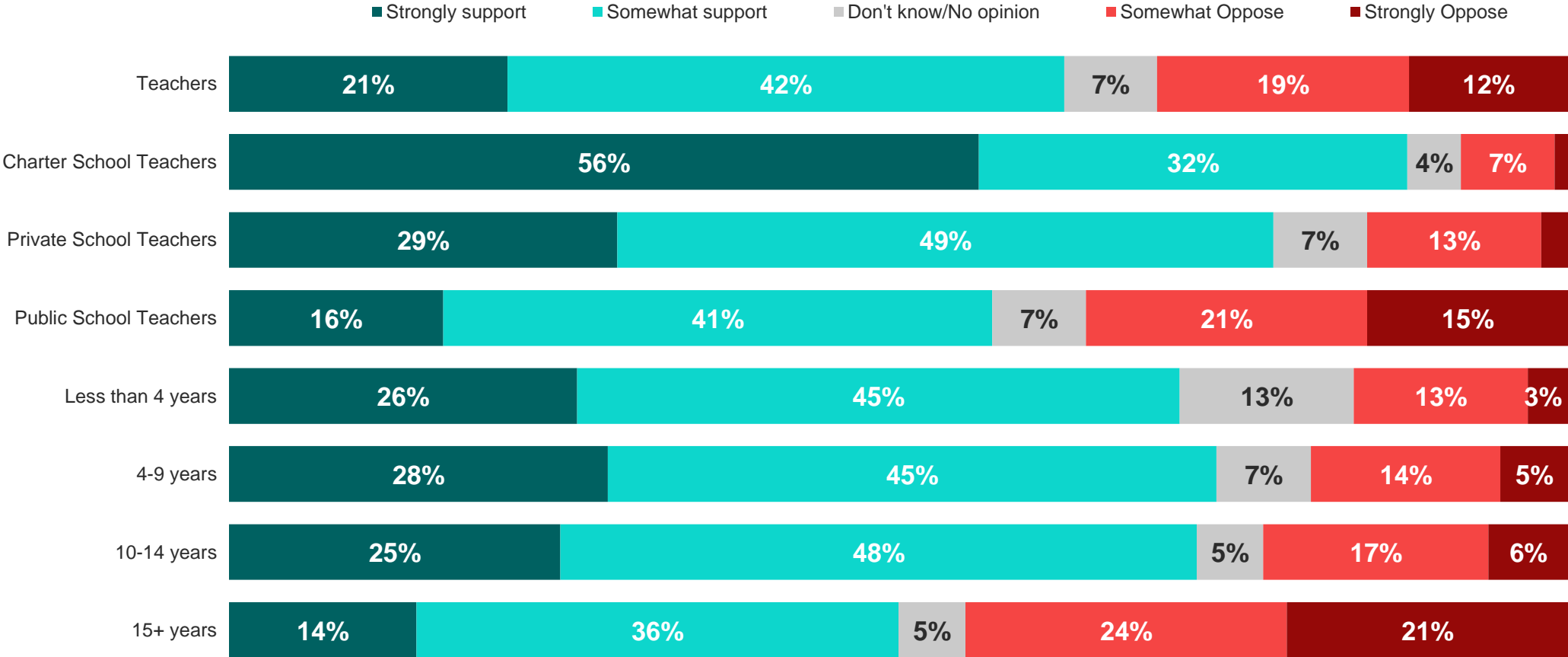
Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'charter schools' in K-12 education?

**All Teachers**



Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

**All Teachers**



WHO WE ARE

 **MORNING CONSULT**<sup>®</sup>

Morning Consult is a global data intelligence company delivering insights on what people think in real time.

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Industry leaders rely on Morning Consult's proprietary technology and analysis for real-time intelligence to transform information into a competitive advantage.

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EdChoice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Our team is driven by the shared mission to advance freedom and choice in K-12 education where all families, regardless of race, origin or family income, are free to choose a learning environment—public or private, near or far, religious or secular—that works best for their children.

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