DTSDE Surveys for Parents, Instructional Staff, and Students

Results and Analysis

Poughkeepsie City School District

School Year: 2020-2021

POUGHKEEPSIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Purpose of the Study

Gathering stakeholder feedback is an important part of developing any school or district improvement plan. New York State requires Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Target Districts (TD) to engage their stakeholders with a Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness (DTSDE) Survey as they develop their improvement plans.

The Poughkeepsie City School District DTSDE Survey asked parents, instructional staff, and students in grades 3-12 for feedback on several key school and district topics to inform improvement efforts across the district and in every school.

K12 *Insight* partnered with Elena Rosado-Kozlowski, secretary to interim chief finance and business official, to develop the DTSDE Survey, which addressed the following six tenets:

- Systems and Organization
- School Leadership
- Curriculum
- Instruction
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Parent and Community Engagement

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Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness (DTSDE) Tenets

Systems and Organization
Effective schools establish school-wide systems and structures that promote continuous improvement and success for all students.

Curriculum
Effective schools provide students with rigorous, coherent, and relevant curricula that prepares all students for success.

Parent and Community Engagement
Effective schools develop a systematic approach to Family and Community Engagement to empower parents to effectively advocate for their child's learning and for the improvement of the school.

School Leadership
Visionary leaders create a school community and culture that leads to success, well-being, and high academic outcomes for all students.

Social-Emotional Learning
Effective schools develop a systematic approach to Social-Emotional Learning to ensure that all students can develop social-emotional learning skills necessary for success within and beyond school.

Instruction
Effective teachers engage with students in a manner that promotes mastery and allows students to stretch their knowledge and deepen their understanding.

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Understanding the Results

The survey was open from May 20 to June 24.

Email invitations with unique survey links were sent to instructional staff and parents. Parents also could participate via a public link on the district's website and through social media. The survey was translated into Spanish.

Students used their student IDs to access the survey in school.

Pre-survey communications included a letter to instructional staff, a letter to parents, and an announcement on the district website.

This report summarizes survey results and breaks them down by parents, instructional staff, elementary students (grades 3-5), and secondary students (grades 6-12). Results are compared with those from 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2020-2021. Additional reports provided include item-level responses and school-level results.

Results do not reflect random sampling; therefore, they should not be generalized to all district parents, instructional staff, and students in grades 3-12. 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 charts and graphs, data labels less than 5 percent are not shown. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

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Participation

Responding Group	School Year	Number of Invitations Delivered (NMax)	Number of Responses (N)	Response Rate (%)	Public-access Link and Paper Survey Responses	Total Responses
Parents	**2020-2021**	**1,686**	**161**	**—**	**156**	**317**
	2019-2020	1,364	127	—	62	189
	2018-2019	1,311	262	—	131	393
	2017-2018	103	31	—	99	130
Instructional Staff	**2020-2021**	**400**	**193**	**48%**	**—**	**193**
	2019-2020	342	209	61%	—	209
	2018-2019	348	283	81%	—	283
	2017-2018	358	176	49%	—	176

Note: Participation rates for parents could not be calculated because of the public-access link and paper survey responses.

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Participation (Continued)

Responding Group	School Year	Number of Invitations Delivered (NMax)	Number of Responses (N)	Response Rate (%)	Public-access Link and Paper Survey Responses	Total Responses
Elementary Students (Gr. 3-5)	**2020-2021**	**1,122**	**499**	**44%**	—	**499**
	2019-2020	1,055	867	82%	—	867
	2018-2019	1,047	736	70%	—	736
	2017-2018	1,012	594	59%	—	594
Secondary Students (Gr. 6-12)	**2020-2021**	**2,317**	**776**	**33%**	—	**776**
	2019-2020	2,064	1,195	58%	—	1,195
	2018-2019	2,061	379	18%	—	379
	2017-2018	2,038	49	2%	—	49

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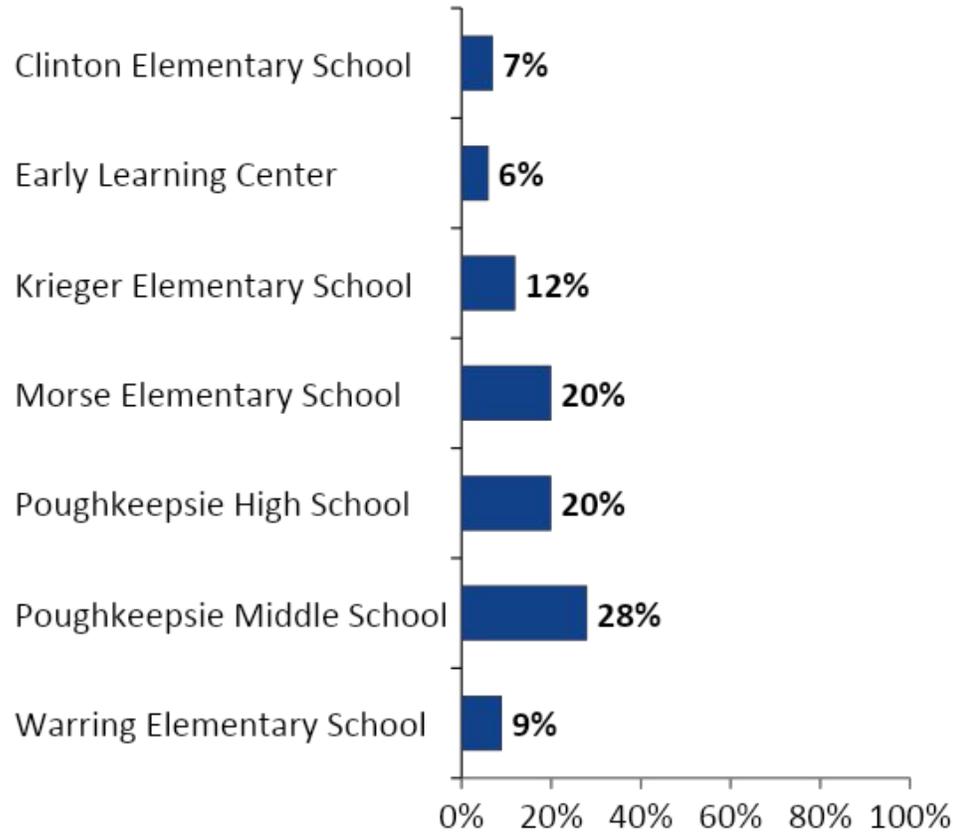# DTSDE Tenets: Comparison by Respondent Type
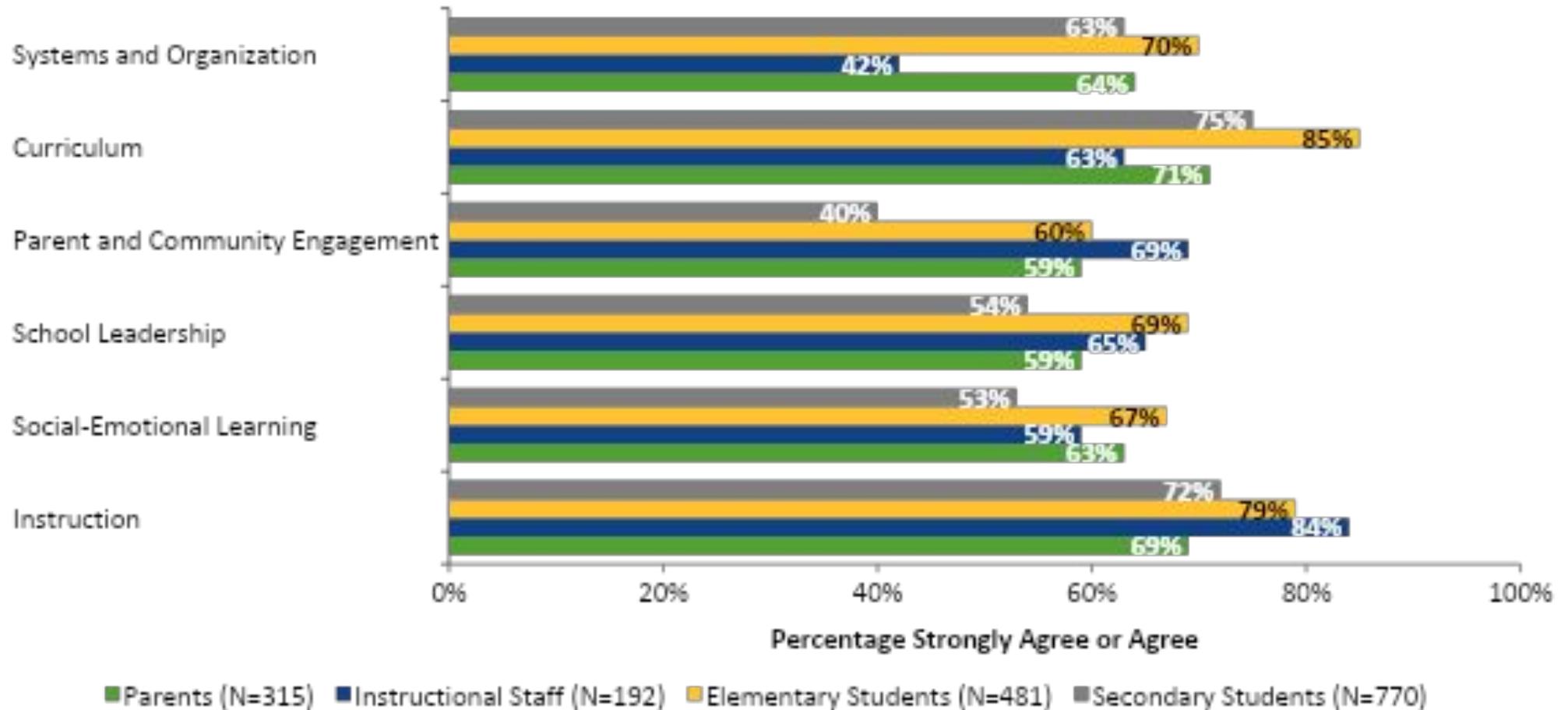
Answer options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know
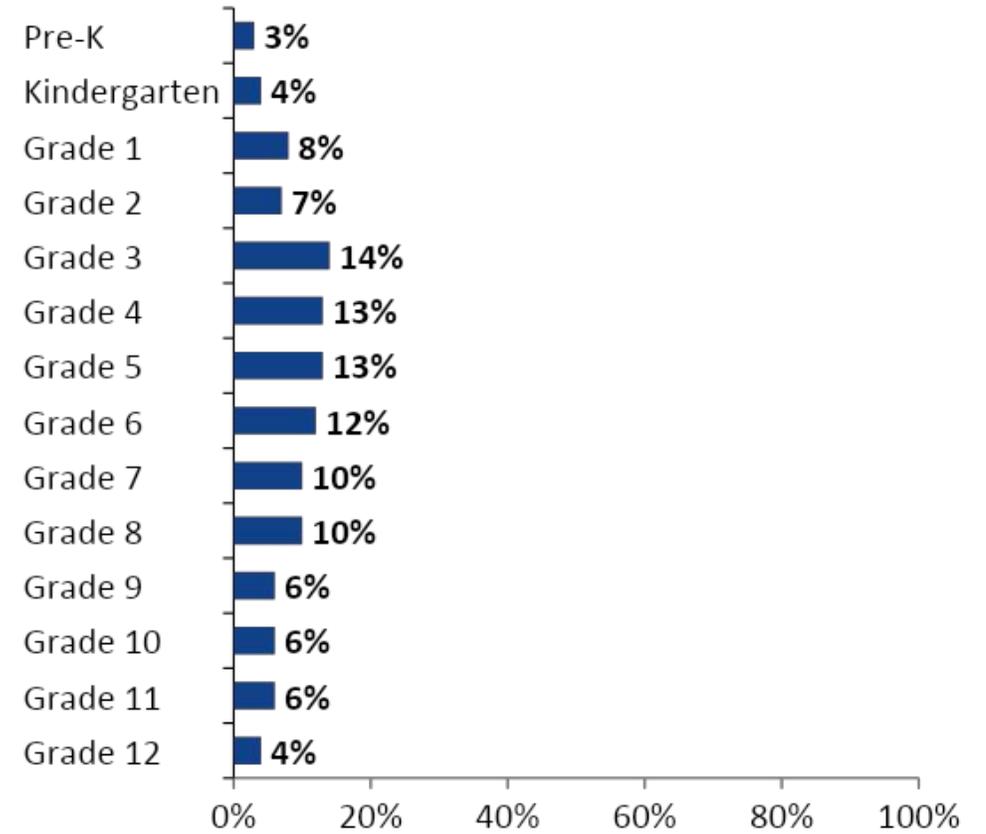Note: This graph shows Strongly Agree or Agree responses for all the items within each tenet.

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Parents

Participation by School and Grade
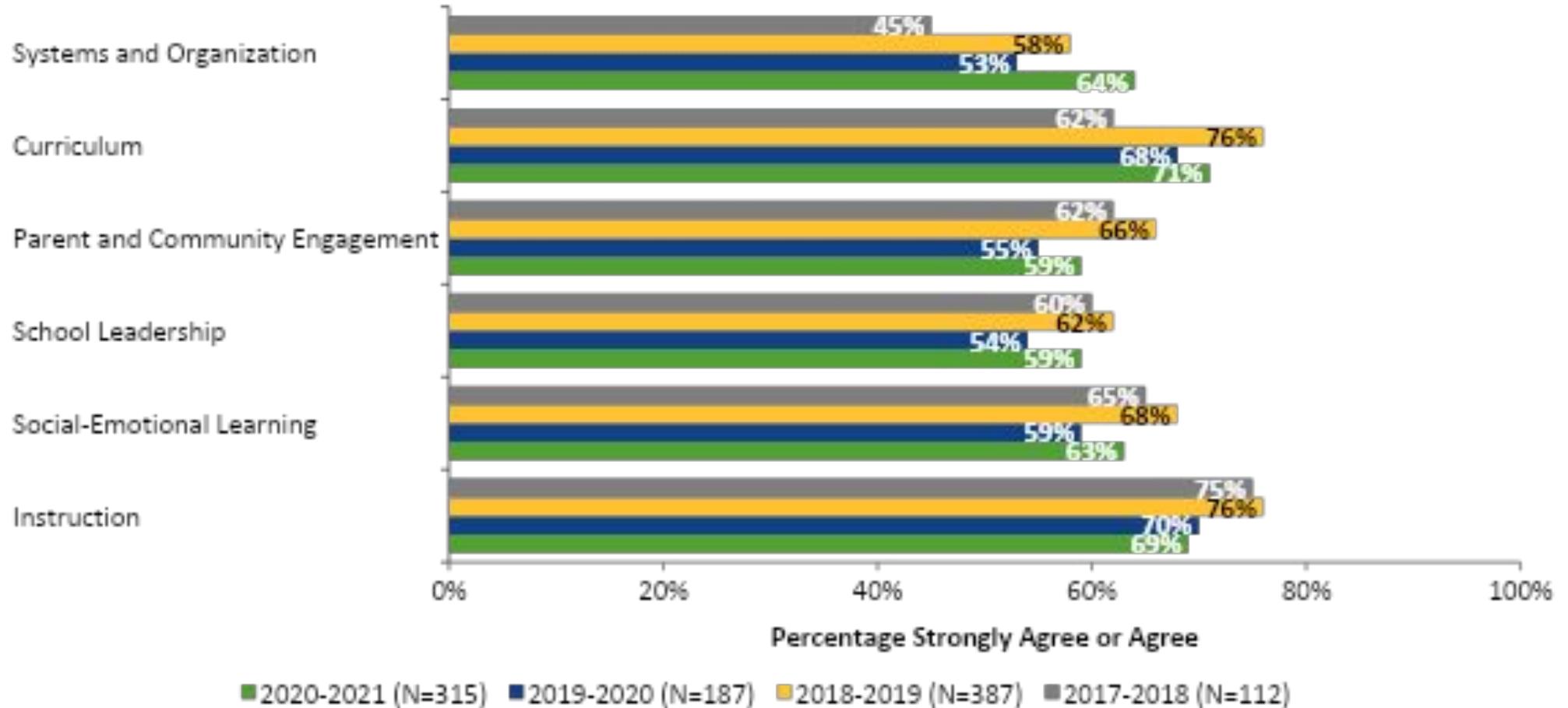
What school does your child attend? (N=317)

School	%
Clinton Elementary School	7%
Early Learning Center	6%
Krieger Elementary School	12%
Morse Elementary School	20%
Poughkeepsie High School	20%
Poughkeepsie Middle School	28%
Warring Elementary School	9%

What is your child(ren)'s grade(s)? (N=315)

Grade	%
Pre-K	3%
Kindergarten	4%
Grade 1	8%
Grade 2	7%
Grade 3	14%
Grade 4	13%
Grade 5	13%
Grade 6	12%
Grade 7	10%
Grade 8	10%
Grade 9	6%
Grade 10	6%
Grade 11	6%
Grade 12	4%

Note: The sum may exceed 100 percent since participants could select more than one answer.

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DTSDE Tenets: Comparison Over Time

Systems and Organization
- 45%
- 58%
- 53%
- 64%

Curriculum
- 62%
- 76%
- 68%
- 71%

Parent and Community Engagement
- 62%
- 66%
- 55%
- 59%

School Leadership
- 60%
- 62%
- 54%
- 59%

Social-Emotional Learning
- 65%
- 68%
- 59%
- 63%

Instruction
- 75%
- 76%
- 70%
- 69%

Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree

■ 2020-2021 (N=315)   ■ 2019-2020 (N=187)   ■ 2018-2019 (N=387)   ■ 2017-2018 (N=112)

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

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Highest-ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	DTSDE Tenet
My child has access to computers and the Internet at school for learning.	**85%**	**Systems and Organization**
My child works hard, even in the face of major challenges or crises.	85%	Social-Emotional Learning
My child is accepted in this school.	**82%**	**Social-Emotional Learning**
Teachers are knowledgeable about the subjects they teach.	**82%**	**Instruction**
I am satisfied with the quality of my child's reading instruction.	79%	Curriculum

Answer options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know
Note: Items in bold appeared on this slide last school year.

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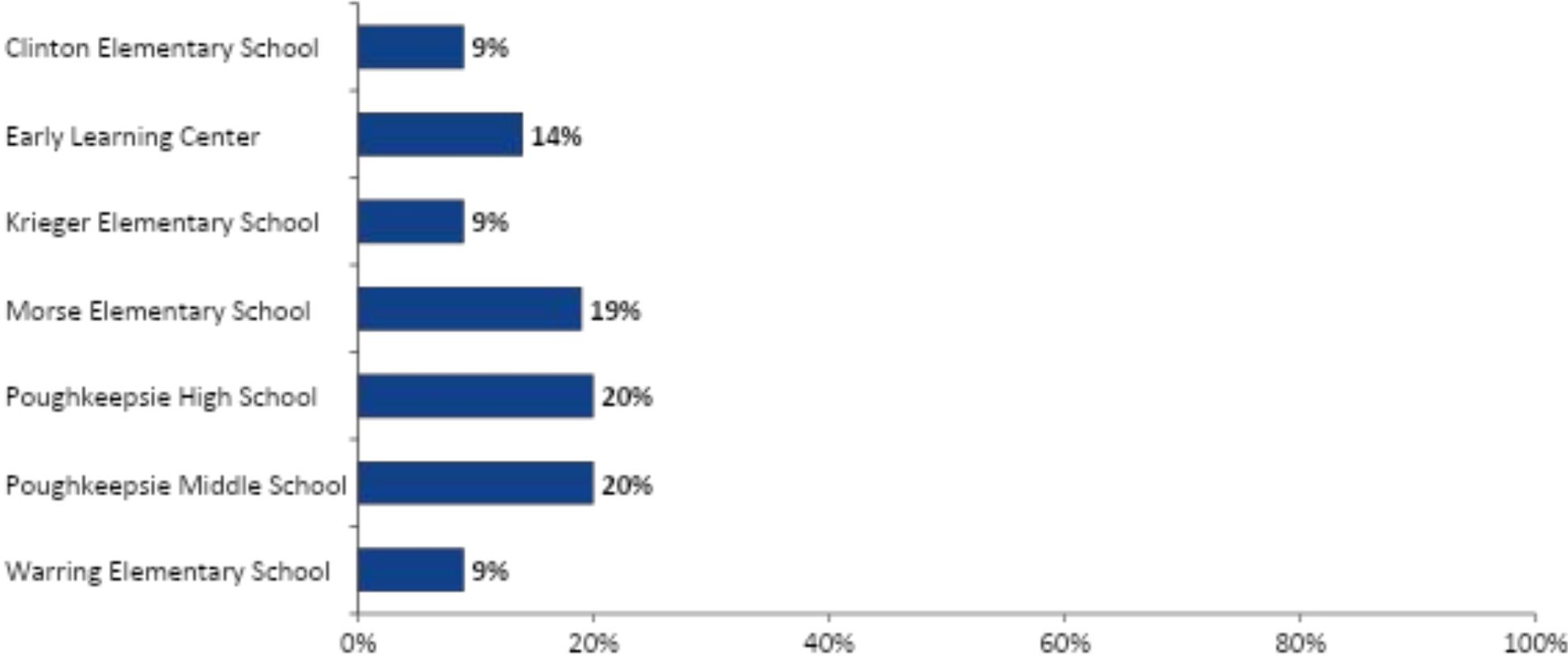© 2021

Lowest-ranking Indicators

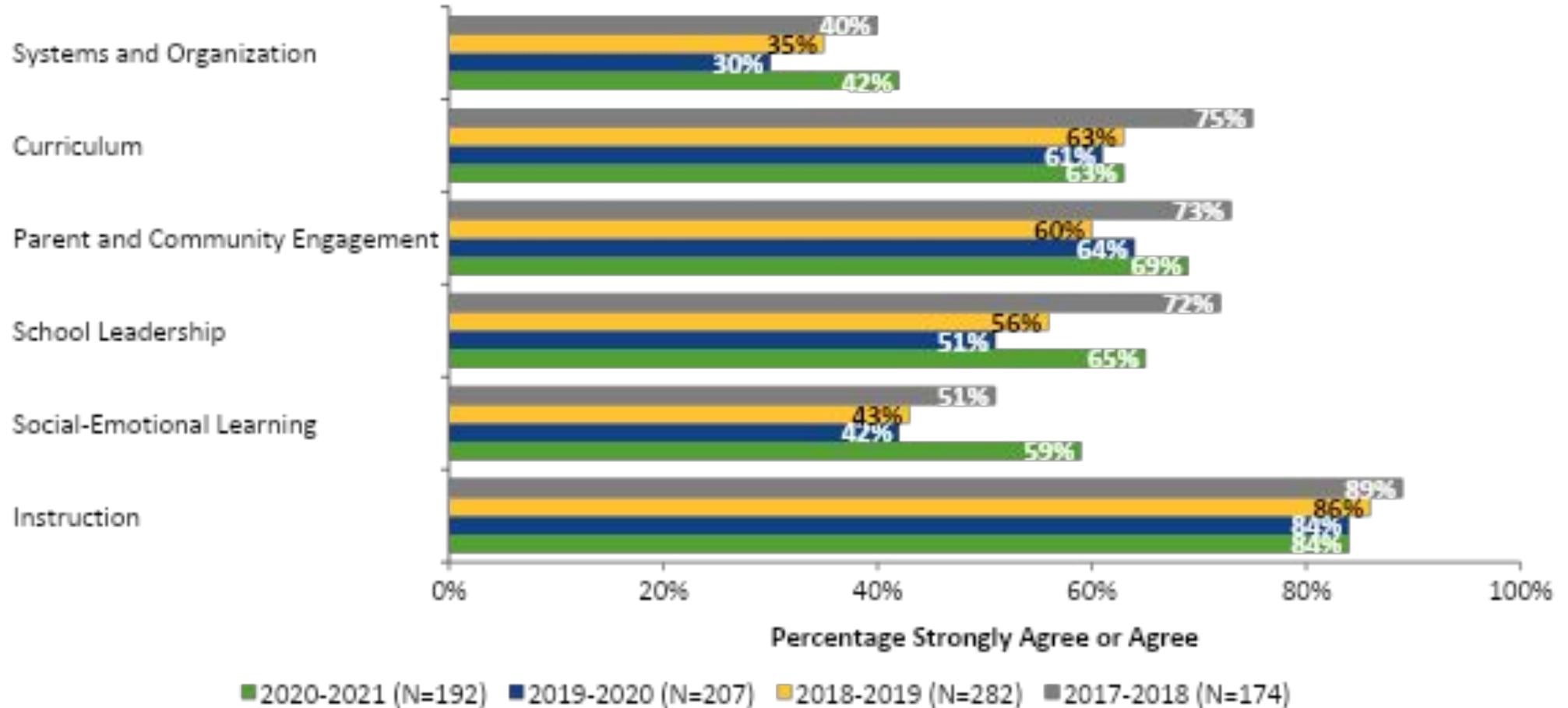| Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	DTSDE Tenet
During online/distance learning, my child's teacher(s) interact(s) with me on a regular basis.	40%	Instruction
This school offers my child a variety of extracurricular activities.	40%	School Leadership
Students do not threaten and/or bully each other.	**39%**	**Social-Emotional Learning**
I am encouraged to volunteer at my child's school.	38%	Parent and Community Engagement
Students do not threaten and/or cyberbully each other.	38%	Social-Emotional Learning

Answer options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know
Note: The item in bold appeared on this slide last school year.

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Instructional Staff

Participation by School

In which school do you primarily work? (N=193)

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DTSDE Tenets: Comparison Over Time

Answer options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know
Note: This graph shows Strongly Agree or Agree responses for all the items within each tenet.
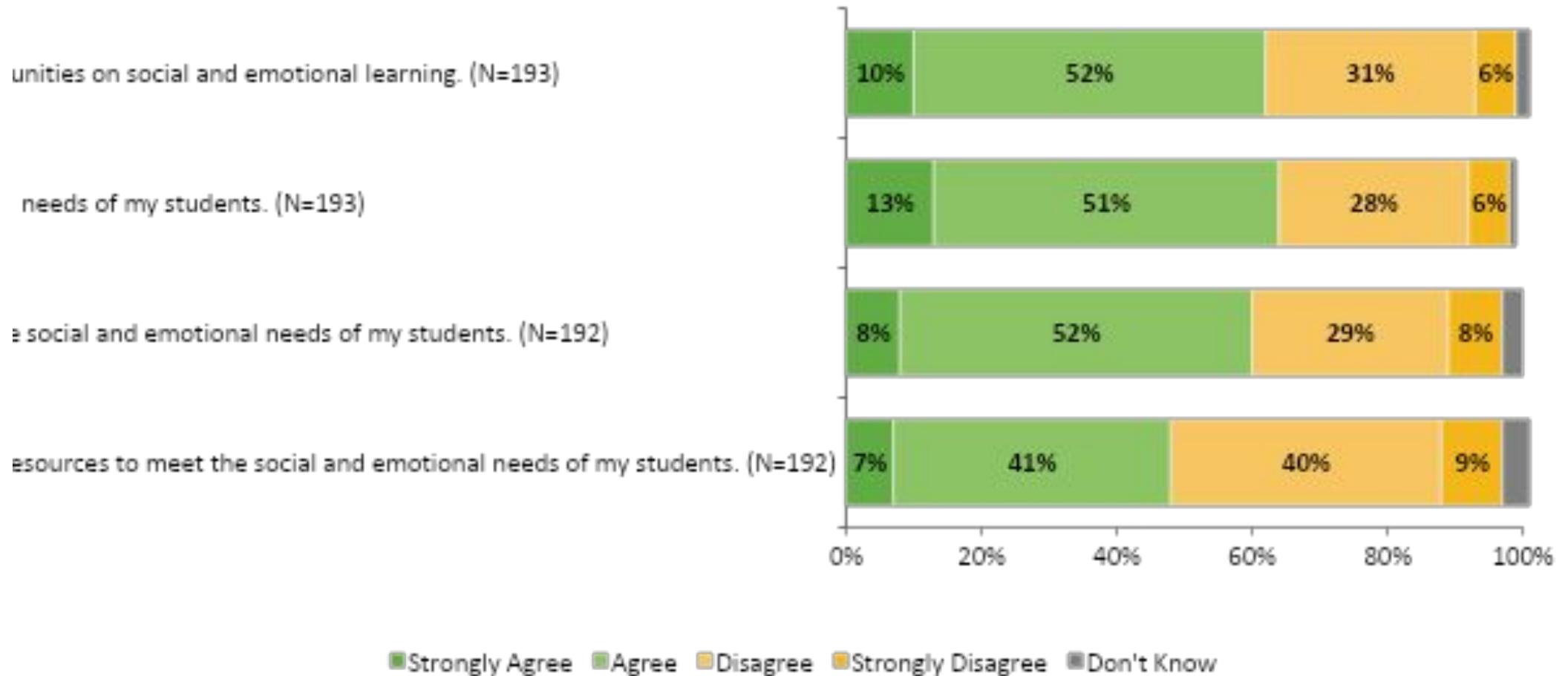
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Highest-ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	DTSDE Tenet
I regularly use data to identify my students' strengths and weaknesses.	**97%**	**Instruction**
I explain each assignment's expectations to my students.	**96%**	**Instruction**
I collaborate with other teachers to ensure student success.	**94%**	**Instruction**
I provide written feedback on student work.	**94%**	**Instruction**
Teachers talk positively about students in staff meetings.	92%	Instruction

Answer options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know
Note: Items in bold appeared on this slide last school year.

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Lowest-ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	DTSDE Tenet
My school is well maintained with working heat, adequate lighting, and well-kept grounds.	**78%**	**Systems and Organization**
District leaders are visible in my school.	70%	Systems and Organization
My school is clean.	**69%**	**Systems and Organization**
District leaders clearly explain the reasons behind decisions on key issues.	67%	Systems and Organization
District leaders openly communicate about important changes in the district.	58%	Systems and Organization

Answer options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know
Note: Items in bold appeared on this slide last school year.

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Additional Questions

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

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
unities on social and emotional learning. (N=193)	10%	52%	31%	6%	
needs of my students. (N=193)	13%	51%	28%	6%	
social and emotional needs of my students. (N=192)	8%	52%	29%	8%	
esources to meet the social and emotional needs of my students. (N=192)	7%	41%	40%	9%	

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

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Elementary Students

Participation by School and Grade

Where do you go to school? (N=499)
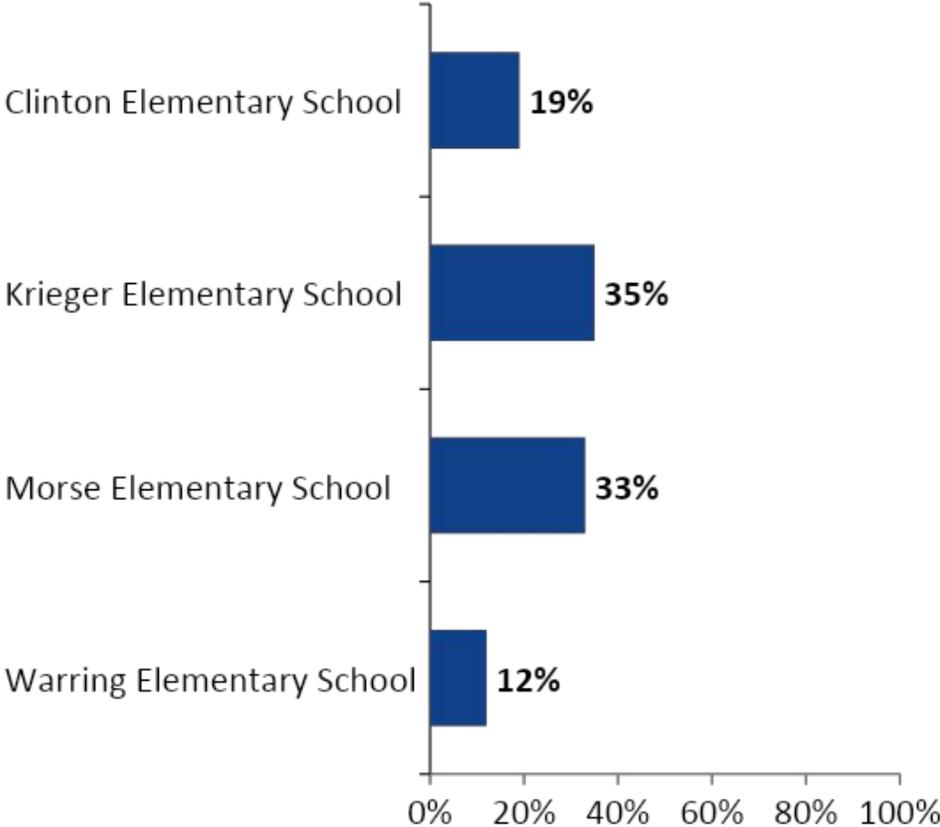
What is your grade? (N=499)
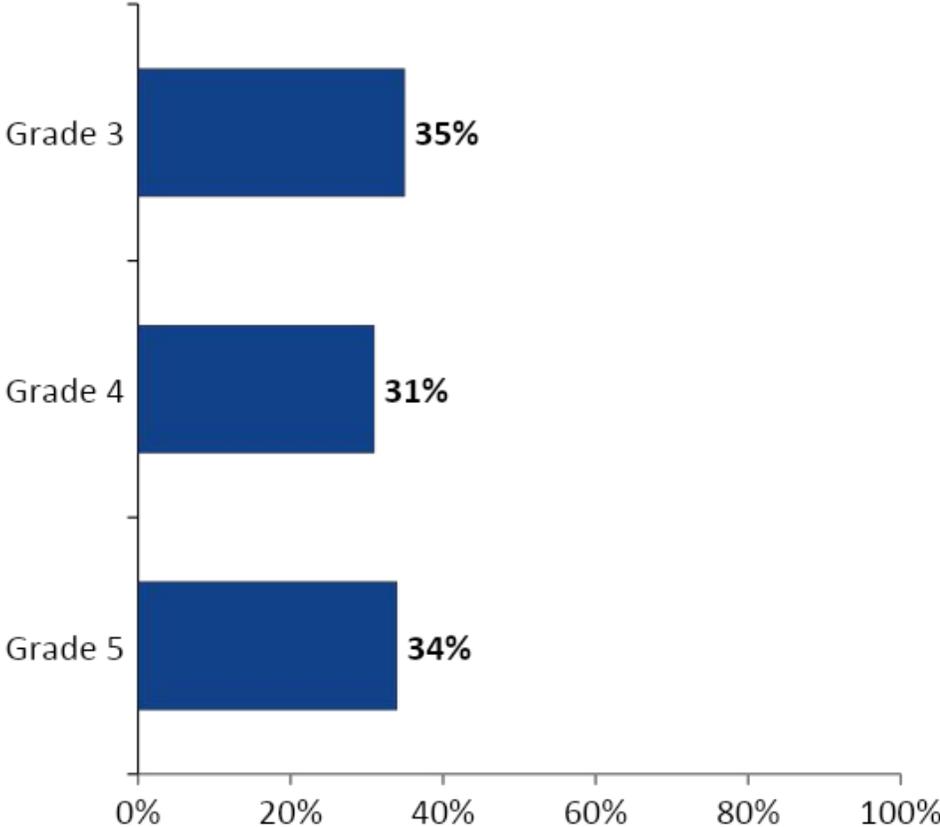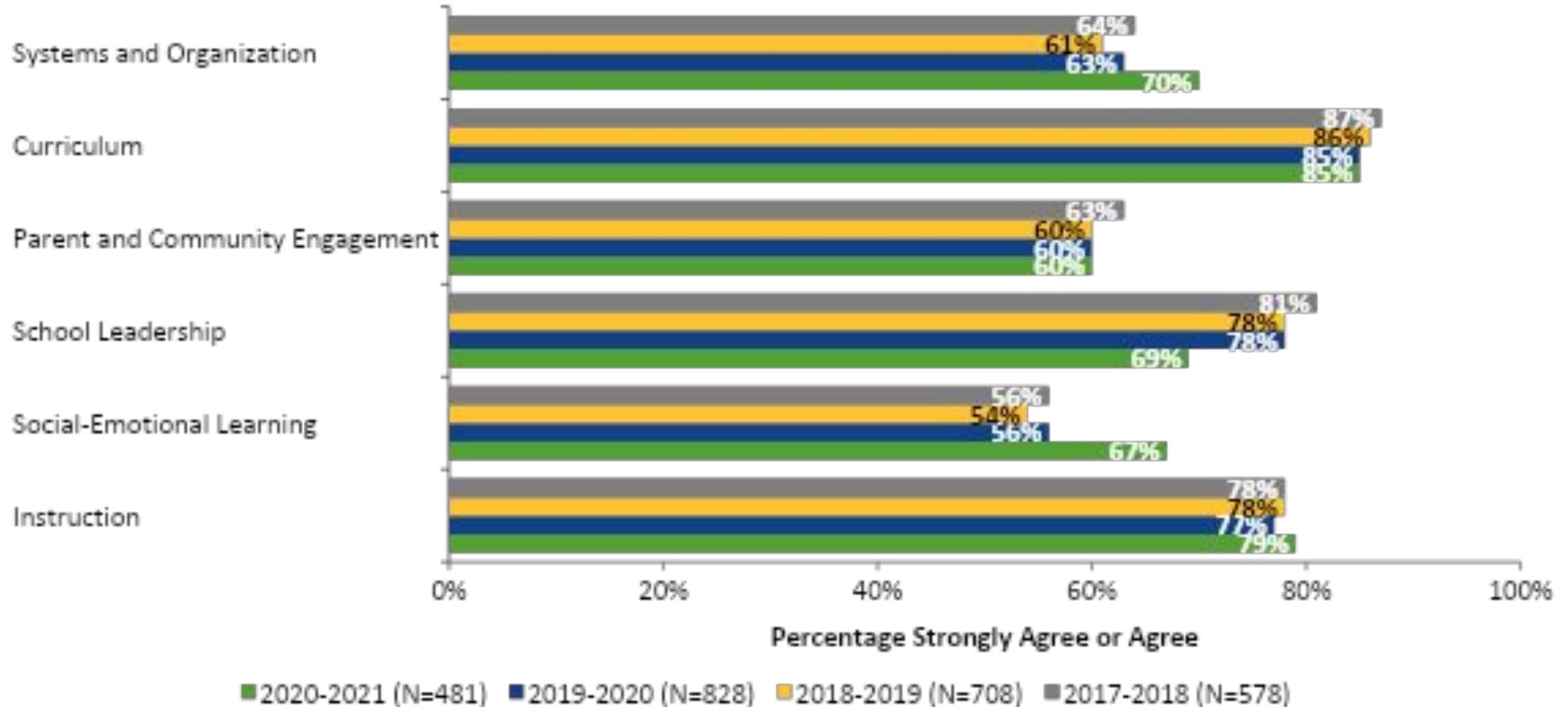
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DTSDE Tenets: Comparison Over Time

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

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Highest-ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	DTSDE Tenet
My teacher wants me to do my best.	**92%**	**Curriculum**
I know what I'm supposed to do to complete my schoolwork.	**91%**	**Curriculum**
I learn from class lessons.	**90%**	**Curriculum**
My teacher helps me when I need it.	90%	Instruction
My teacher wants me to ask questions when I need help.	**89%**	**Instruction**

Answer options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know
Note: Items in bold appeared on this slide last school year.

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Lowest-ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	DTSDE Tenet
My family helps out at my school.	**38%**	**Parent and Community Engagement**
Students do not bully each other in this school.	**35%**	**Social-Emotional Learning**
My family goes to school events, such as games or plays.	**33%**	**Parent and Community Engagement**
School is fun.	28%	Social-Emotional Learning
I feel challenged at school.	27%	Curriculum

Answer options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know
Note: Items in bold appeared on this slide last school year.

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Secondary Students

Participation by School and Grade

Which school do you attend? (N=776)
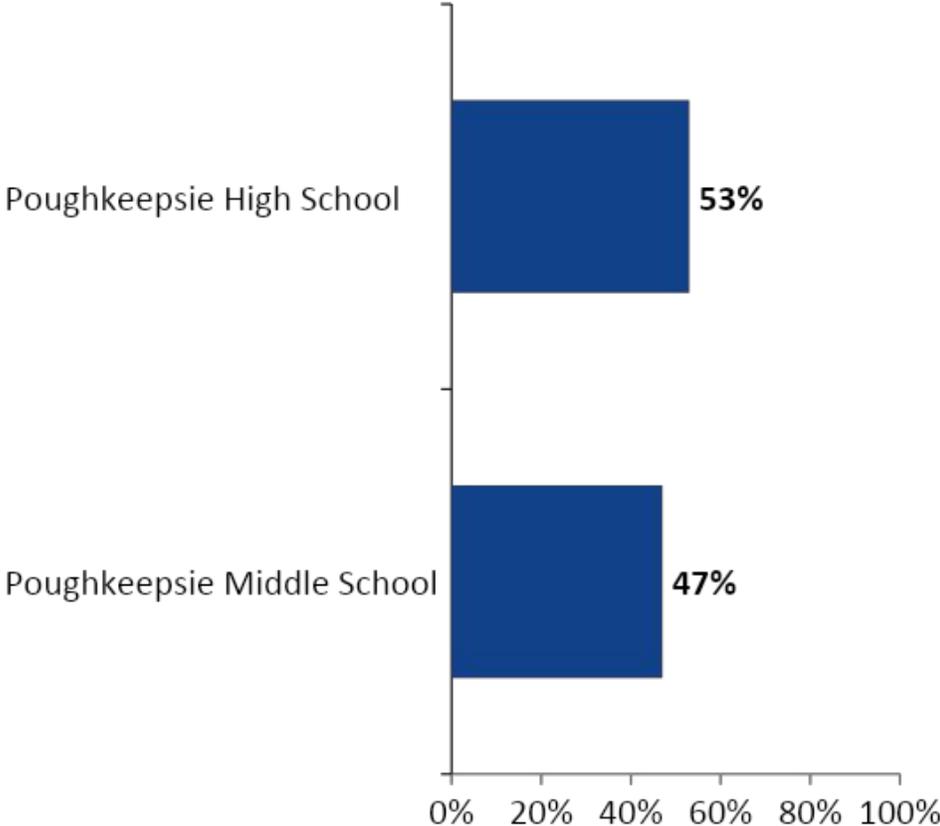
What is your grade? (N=776)
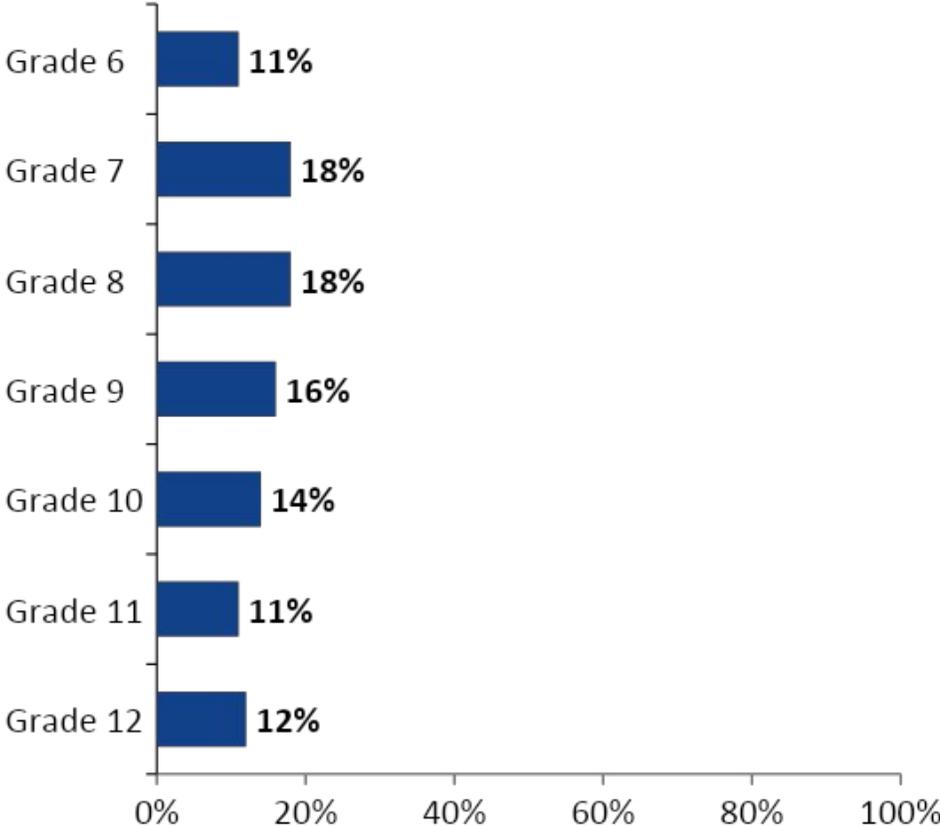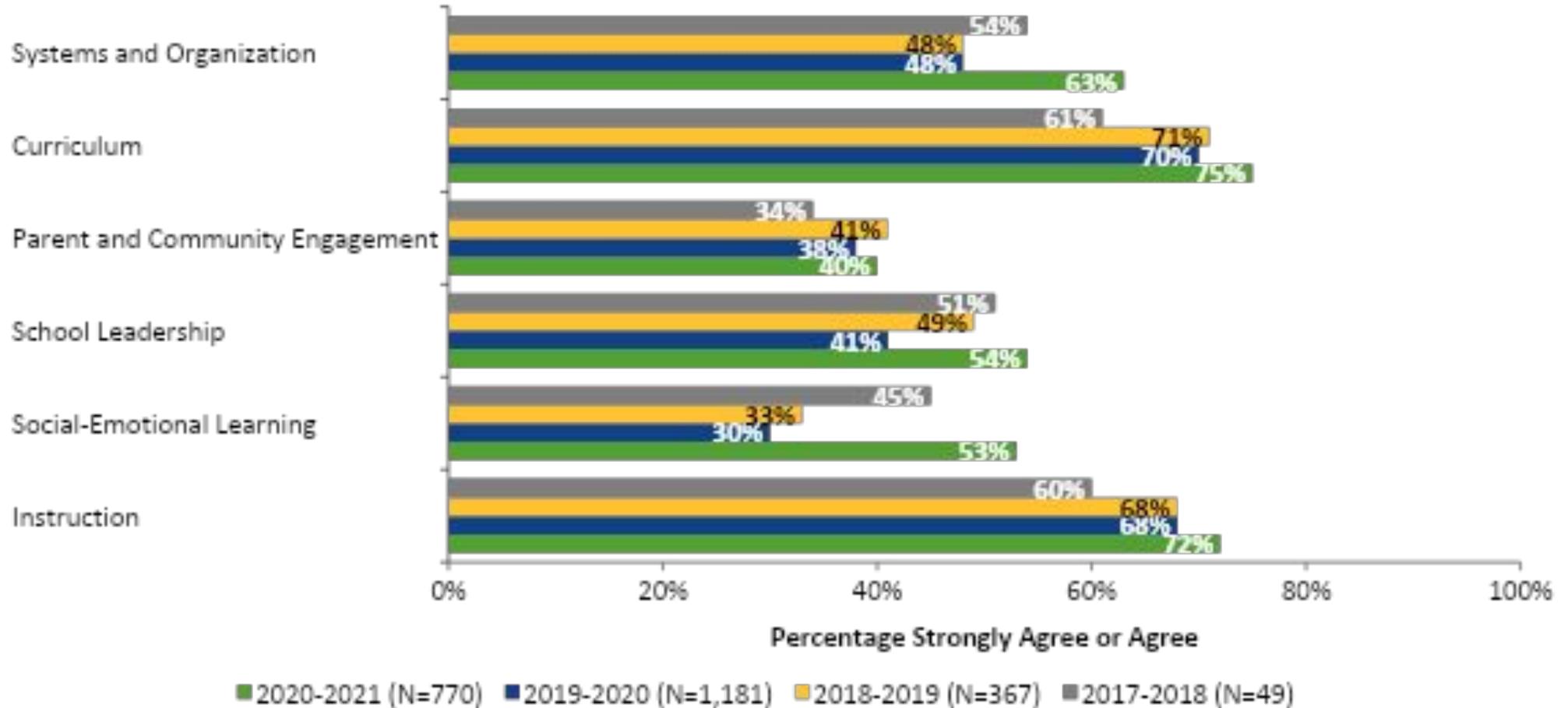
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DTSDE Tenets: Comparison Over Time

Systems and Organization
- 54%
- 48%
- 48%
- 63%

Curriculum
- 61%
- 71%
- 70%
- 75%

Parent and Community Engagement
- 34%
- 41%
- 38%
- 40%

School Leadership
- 51%
- 49%
- 41%
- 54%

Social-Emotional Learning
- 45%
- 33%
- 30%
- 53%

Instruction
- 60%
- 68%
- 68%
- 72%

Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree

■2020-2021 (N=770) ■2019-2020 (N=1,181) ■2018-2019 (N=367) ■2017-2018 (N=49)

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

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Highest-ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)	DTSDE Tenet
My teachers expect me to do my best.	**91%**	**Curriculum**
I have access to computers and the Internet to do my schoolwork.	90%	Systems and Organization
I know what it takes to do well on tests.	**89%**	**Curriculum**
I feel safe during distance/online learning.	89%	Social-Emotional Learning
My teachers encourage me to ask questions when I don't understand.	**89%**	**Instruction**

Answer options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know
Note: Items in bold appeared on this slide last school year.

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Lowest-ranking Indicators

Survey Item	Percentage Strongly Disagree or Disagree (%)	DTSDE Tenet
I do community service with other students from my school.	**74%**	**Parent and Community Engagement**
I have family members who volunteer at my school.	**73%**	**Parent and Community Engagement**
Students do not get in fights or hurt each other at my school.	**65%**	**Social-Emotional Learning**
I have not seen anyone being threatened or bullied at school.	50%	Social-Emotional Learning
My family attends school events, such as games, plays, and fundraisers.	49%	Parent and Community Engagement

Answer options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Don't Know
Note: Items in bold appeared on this slide last school year.

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Key Insights

- Participating parents had increases in favorable responses (Strongly Agree or Agree responses for all items within each tenet) across five of the six tenets. Curriculum had the highest level of overall agreement at 71%, an increase of 3 percentage points from last school year. They had the lowest level of overall agreement with the Parent and Community Engagement and the School Leadership tenets at 59%, an increase of 4 percentage points and 5 percentage points, respectively.
    - Two of the five highest-ranking indicators fell within the Social-Emotional Learning tenet. For example, 85% of participating parents strongly agreed or agreed that their child works hard, even in the face of major challenges or crises.
    - However, two of the five lowest-ranking indicators also fell within the Social-Emotional Learning tenet. 39% of participating parents disagreed or strongly disagreed that students do not threaten and/or bully each other and 38% disagreed or strongly disagreed that students do not threaten and/or cyberbully each other.

- Participating instructional staff had increases in favorability for five of the six tenets. They had the highest level of overall agreement with the Instruction tenet at 84%, the same as last school year. They had the lowest level of overall agreement with the Systems and Organization tenet at 42%, an increase of 12 percentage points.
    - All five highest-ranking indicators fell within the Instruction tenet. For example, 97% of participating instructional staff agreed or strongly agreed that they regularly use data to identify their students' strengths and weaknesses.
    - All five lowest-ranking indicators fell within the Systems and Organization tenet. A majority of participating instructional staff disagreed or strongly disagreed that their school is well maintained with working heat, adequate lighting, and well-kept grounds (78%); that district leaders are visible in their school (70%); that their school is clean (69%); that district leaders clearly explain the reasons behind decisions on key issues (67%); and that district leaders openly communicate about important changes in the district (58%).

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Key Insights (Continued)

- Participating elementary students had increases in favorable responses in three of the six tenets. They had the highest overall agreement with the Curriculum tenet at 85%, the same as last school year. They had the lowest overall agreement with the Parent and Community Engagement tenet at 60%, also the same as last school year.
    - Three out of the five highest-ranking indicators fell within the Curriculum tenet. For example, 92% of participating elementary students said that their teachers want them to do their best.
    - Two out of the five lowest-ranking indicators fell within the Parent and Community Engagement tenet. 38% of participating elementary students disagreed or strongly disagreed that their families help out at school and 33% disagreed or strongly disagreed that their families go to school events, such as games or plays.

- Participating secondary students had increases in favorability across all six tenets. Curriculum had the highest level of overall agreement at 75%, an increase of 5 percentage points. They had the lowest level of overall agreement with the Parent and Community Engagement tenet at 40%, an increase of 2 percentage points.
    - Two of the five highest-ranking indicators fell within the Curriculum tenet. For example, 91% of participating secondary students said that their teachers expect them to do their best.
    - Three of the five lowest-ranking indicators fell within the Parent and Community Engagement tenet. 74% of participating secondary students disagreed or strongly disagreed that they do community service with other students from their school, 73% disagreed or strongly disagreed that they have family members who volunteer at their school, and 49% disagreed or strongly disagreed that their family attends school events, such as games, plays, and fundraisers.

- Bullying/fighting once again appeared as a lowest-ranking indicator for parents and both student participant groups.

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