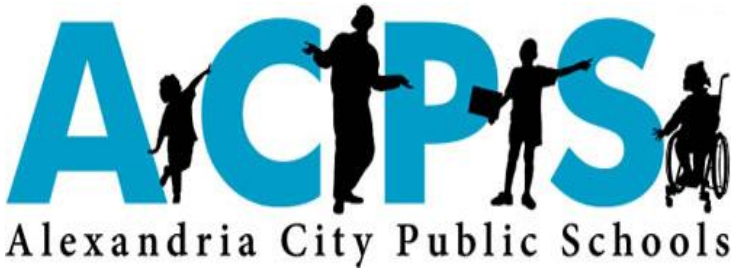
ACPS 2020 Community Survey: Division Report

Results and Analysis

Alexandria City Public Schools

School Year: 2018-2019



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Overview of the Study

The Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) 2020 Community Survey asked parents, guardians, and community members for feedback on the ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan to collect their opinions and perceptions about the division. This was the fourth administration of the survey. Results will be used to inform decisions about division priorities and initiatives.

K12 *Insight* partnered with division leadership to develop the survey, which addressed the strategic plan's goals of:

- Academic Excellence and Educational Equity
- Family and Community Engagement
- Facilities and the Learning Environment
- An Exemplary Staff
- Health and Wellness
- Effective and Efficient Operations

The survey was open from April 22 to May 12. Email invitations with unique survey links were sent to parents and guardians. Reminders were sent April 28 and May 7 and 10. Parents, guardians, and community members could participate via a public link on the division's website.

The online survey was translated into Spanish and Arabic. Paper surveys were available on request. Paper surveys were translated into Spanish, Arabic, and Amharic.

The division team entered data from the paper surveys and translated open-ended responses that were written in a language other than English.

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Understanding the Results

This report summarizes survey results and compares them with those from 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018. Incomplete responses have been excluded.

Limitations to the survey results and findings include:

- **Generalizability:** This is a census survey and does not reflect a random sample. Therefore, results should not be generalized to the entire population of the city of Alexandria.
- **Representation of targeted population:** While this survey was deployed to a variety of stakeholders, 84% of survey participants are parents of current students. Therefore, survey participants are not representative of the entire population.

The following open-ended items were included in the survey:

- How can ACPS improve in the area of Academic Excellence and Educational Equity?
- How can ACPS improve in the area of Family and Community Engagement?
- How can ACPS improve in the area of an Exemplary Staff?
- How can ACPS improve in the area of Facilities and the Learning Environment?
- How can ACPS improve in the area of Health and Wellness?
- How can ACPS improve in the area of Effective and Efficient Operations?
- Please share any suggestions you have for how we can better meet the needs of our students and our community.

K12 *Insight* used the constant comparative analysis (CCA) technique to analyze the feedback from the open-ended question with the highest number of participant responses to identify common themes (see slide 29). CCA is an analytical approach where all units of data are compared with all other units to discover common properties and dimensions in the data (O'Connor et. al, 2008).

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Executive Summary

- There was a large increase in participation with 2,580 responses, 394 more than in 2017-2018. The proportion of participants continues to incrementally increase for those who identify as Hispanic or Latino, black or African American, and Asian. However, there was 3% decrease in participation among those who identify as white, as well as a 6 percentage-point decrease among high school parents.

- 72% of participants had a favorable (Excellent or Good) opinion of the quality of ACPS. That us a 2 percentage-point decrease from last school year's 74%.

- While 84% of participants said they feel ACPS offers academic excellence, only 67% said they believe that ACPS provides optimal (excellent) learning environments within each school. This discrepancy may warrant further investigation. Consider conducting focus groups or a targeted survey to identify what participants think an optimal learning environment looks like and what improvements the district can make to improve them.

- The percentage of Strongly Agree or Agree responses slightly decreased or remained constant for all survey items except one this school year. "There is mutual (shared) respect and trust between ACPS and the community" had the largest decrease of 7 percentage points. It's important to note that this item saw the largest increase (18 percentage points) in 2017-2018.

- "I feel welcome to attend school activities" and "ACPS provides opportunities to volunteer for school programs, activities, and events" had the highest percentage of favorable responses (Strongly Agree or Agree) with 92%, and "ACPS facilities are well maintained" continued to be the lowest with 62%.

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Participant Demographics

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Participation

School Year	Number of Invitations Delivered (NMax)	Number of Responses	Public-Access Link Responses	Paper Surveys	Total Responses (N)
2018-2019	18,347	**1,060**	**692**	**828**	**2,580**
2017-2018	7,535	1,105	937	144	2,186
2016-2017	7,565	846	628	43	1,517
2015-2016	5,724	1,063	451	67	1,581

Number of Total Responses				
School Year	Arabic	Amharic	English	Spanish
2018-2019	**9**	**4**	**2,189**	**378**
2017-2018	38	19	1,798	331
2016-2017	3	0	1,492	22
2015-2016	11	4	1,527	39

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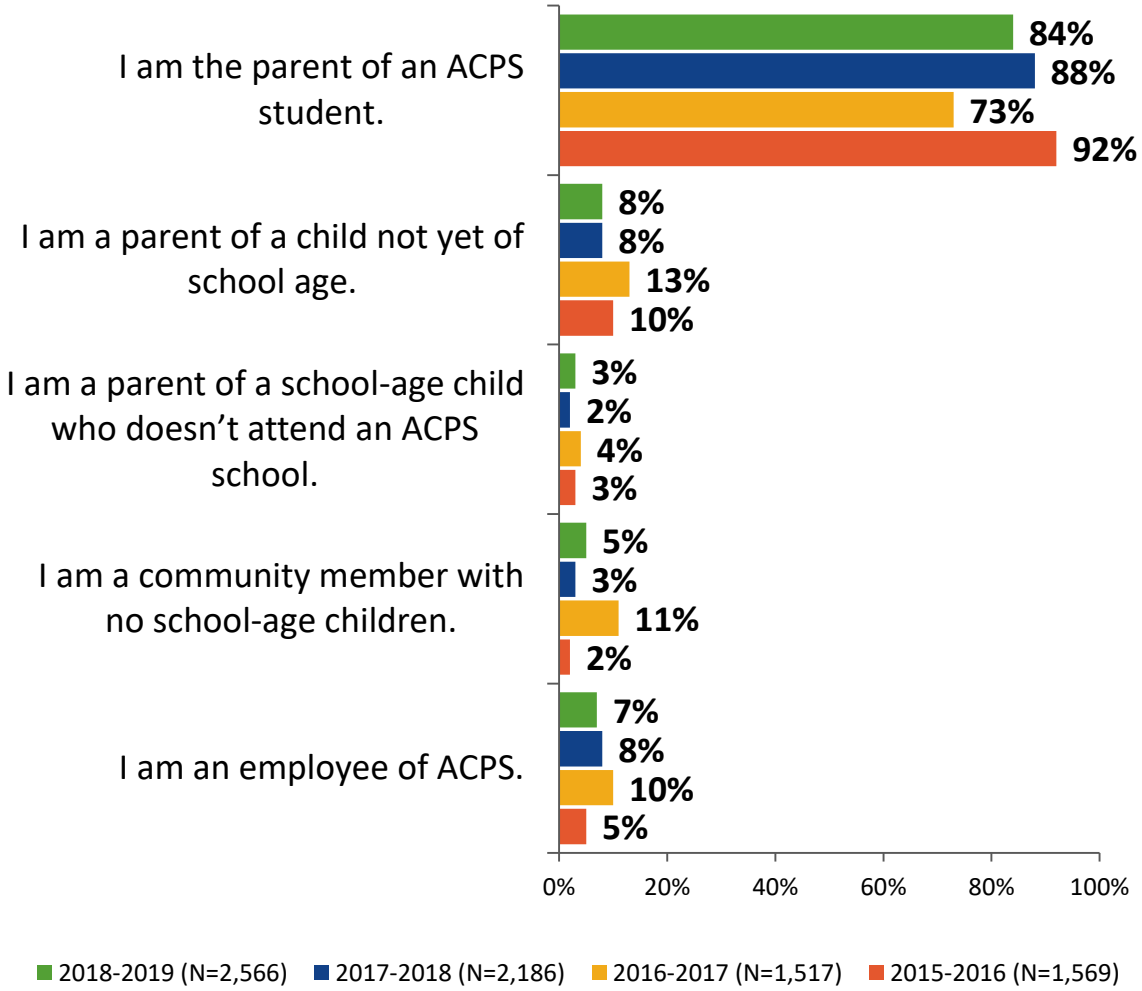
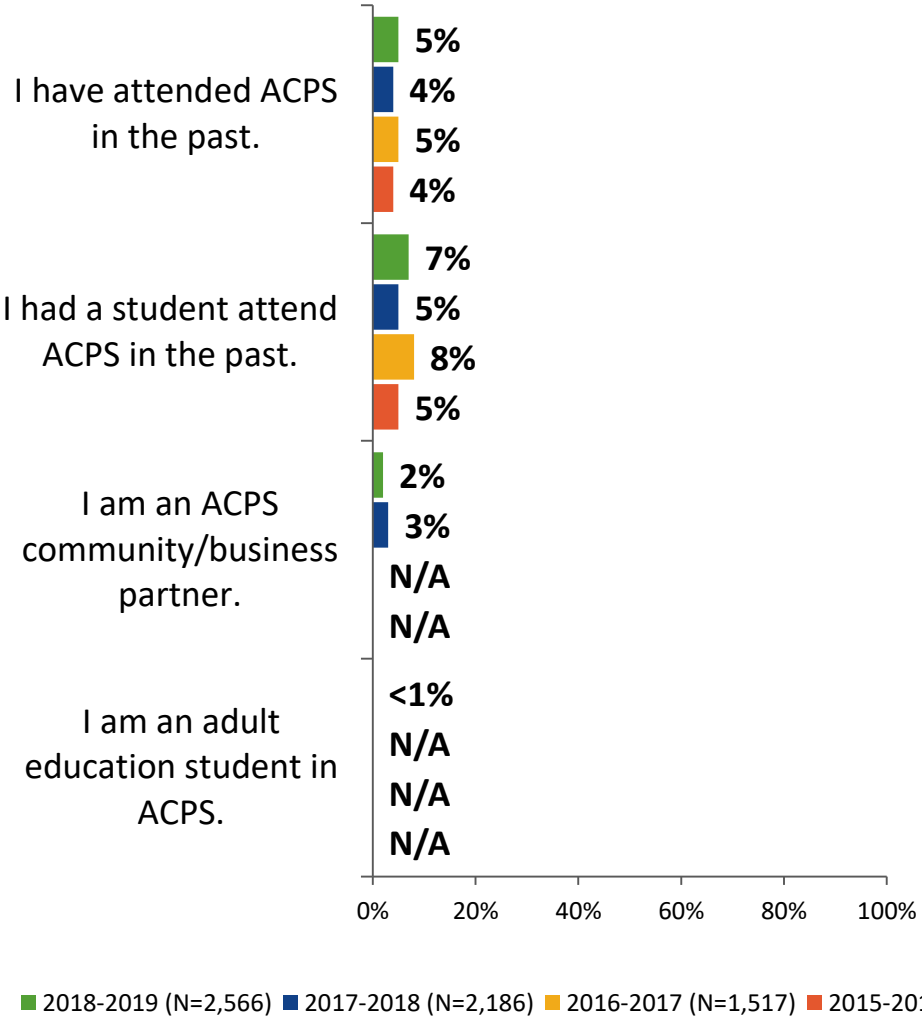
Participant Profile

Which of the following applies to you?





Notes: The sum of percentages may exceed 100 because participants could select more than one answer. There is not comparison data for "I am an ACPS community/business partner" or "I am an adult education student in ACPS" because they were not included in previous survey administrations.

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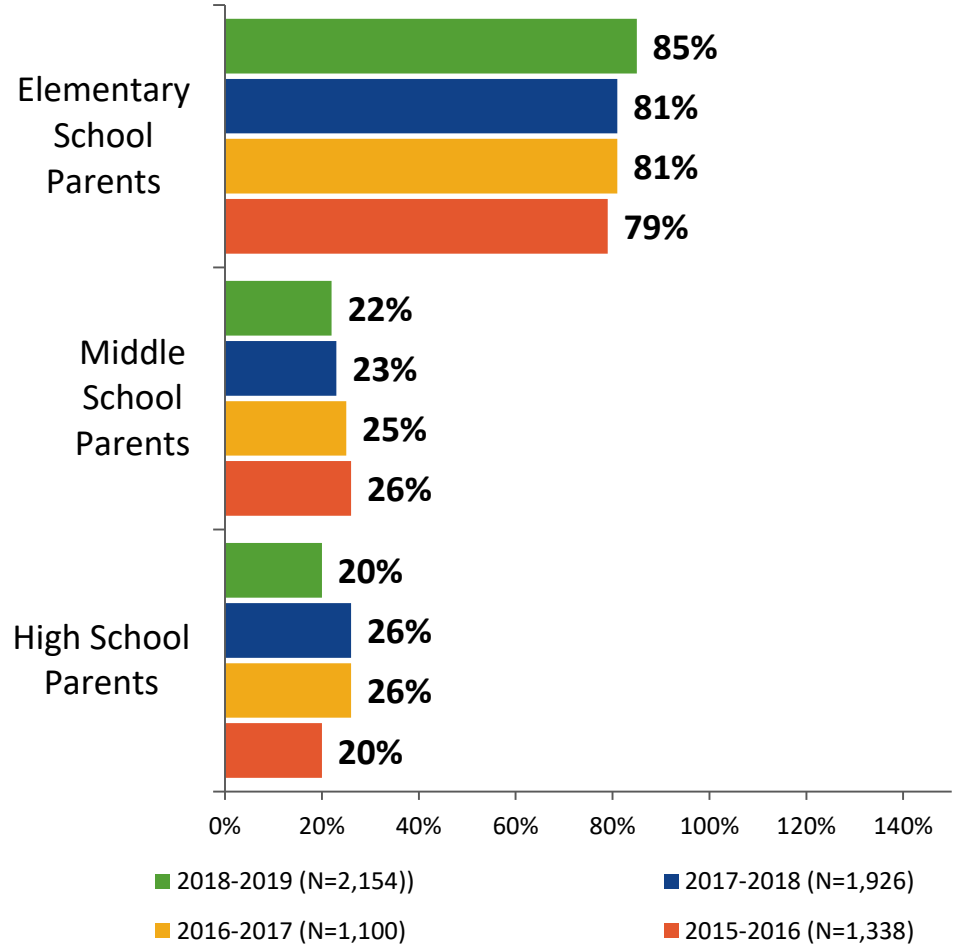
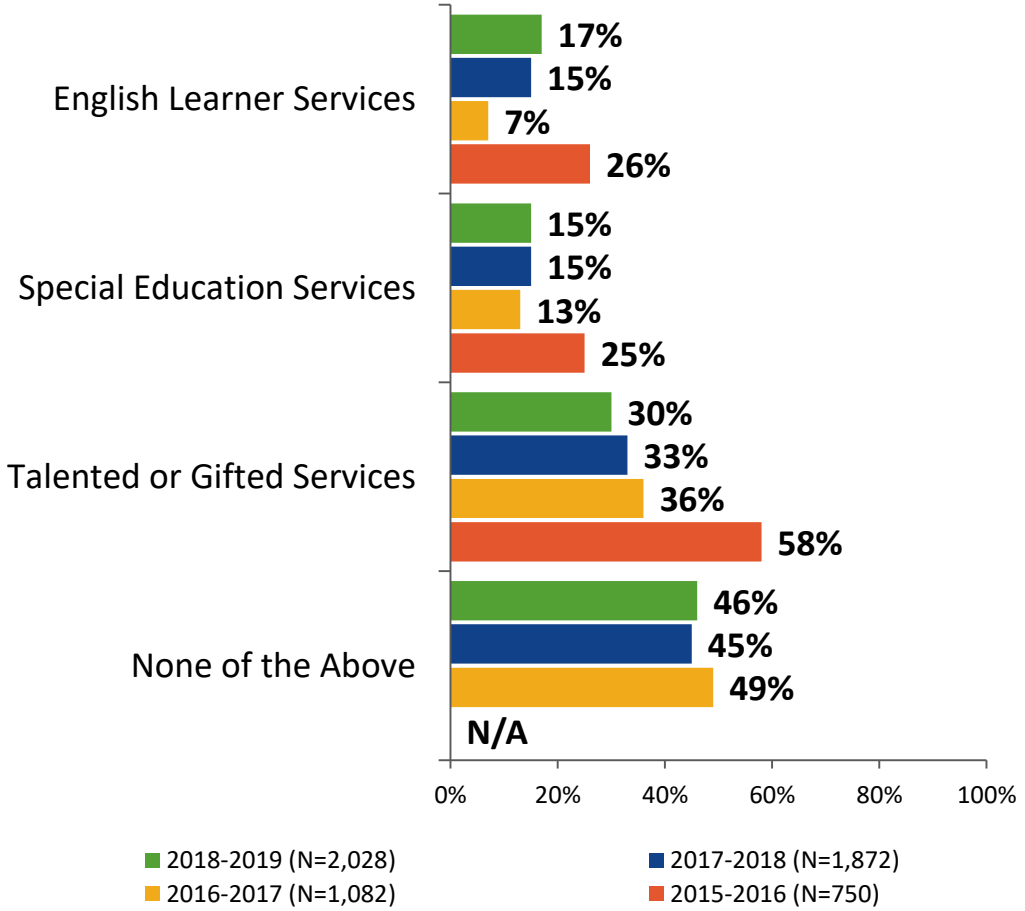
Participant Profile (Continued)

Which school(s) does/do your child/children attend?



Notes: Percentage totals may exceed 100 since participants could select more than one answer. Only parents/guardians of current students answered this question.

Please select which of the following services your child/children is/are currently receiving.



Notes: Percentage totals may exceed 100 since participants could select more than one answer. Only parents/guardians of current students answered this question. There is no comparison data for "None of the Above" since it was not available in the 2015-2016 survey.

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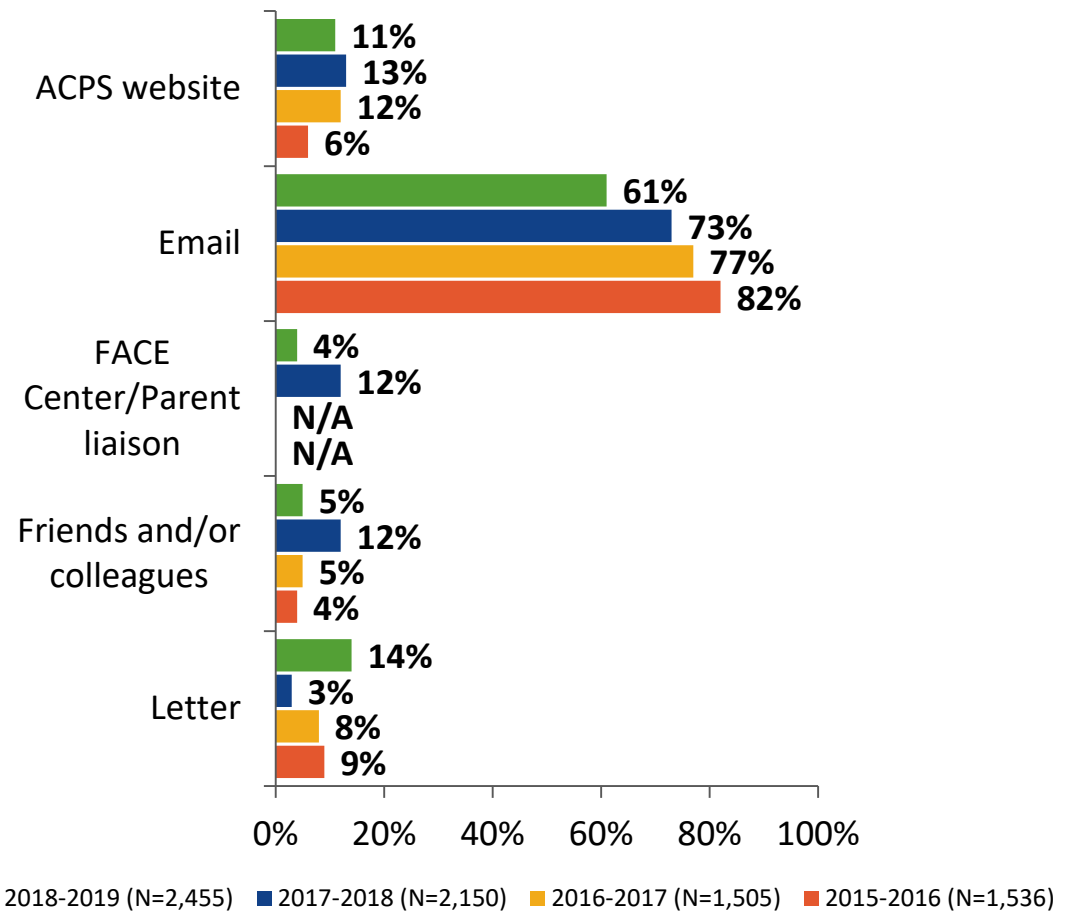
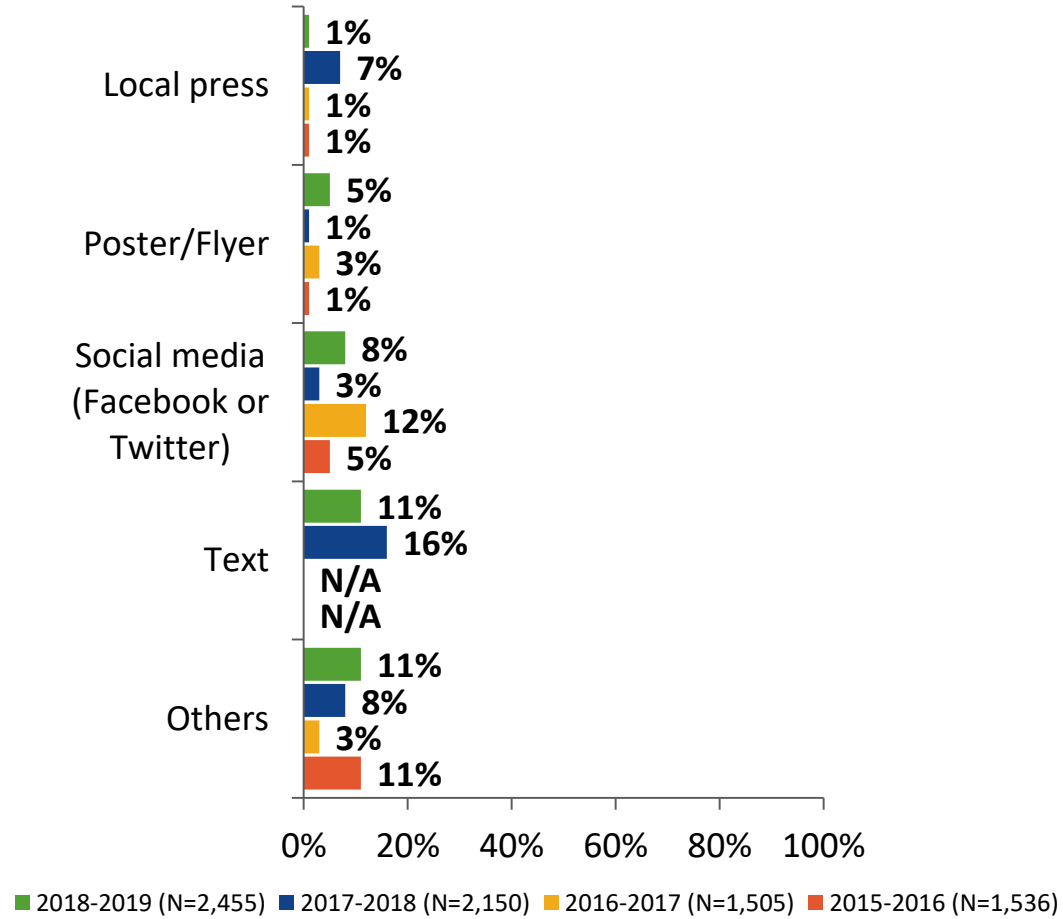
Participant Profile (Continued)

How did you hear about this survey?





Notes: Percentage totals may exceed 100 since participants could select more than one answer. There is no comparison data for "FACE Center/Parent liaison" since it was not included in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 surveys.

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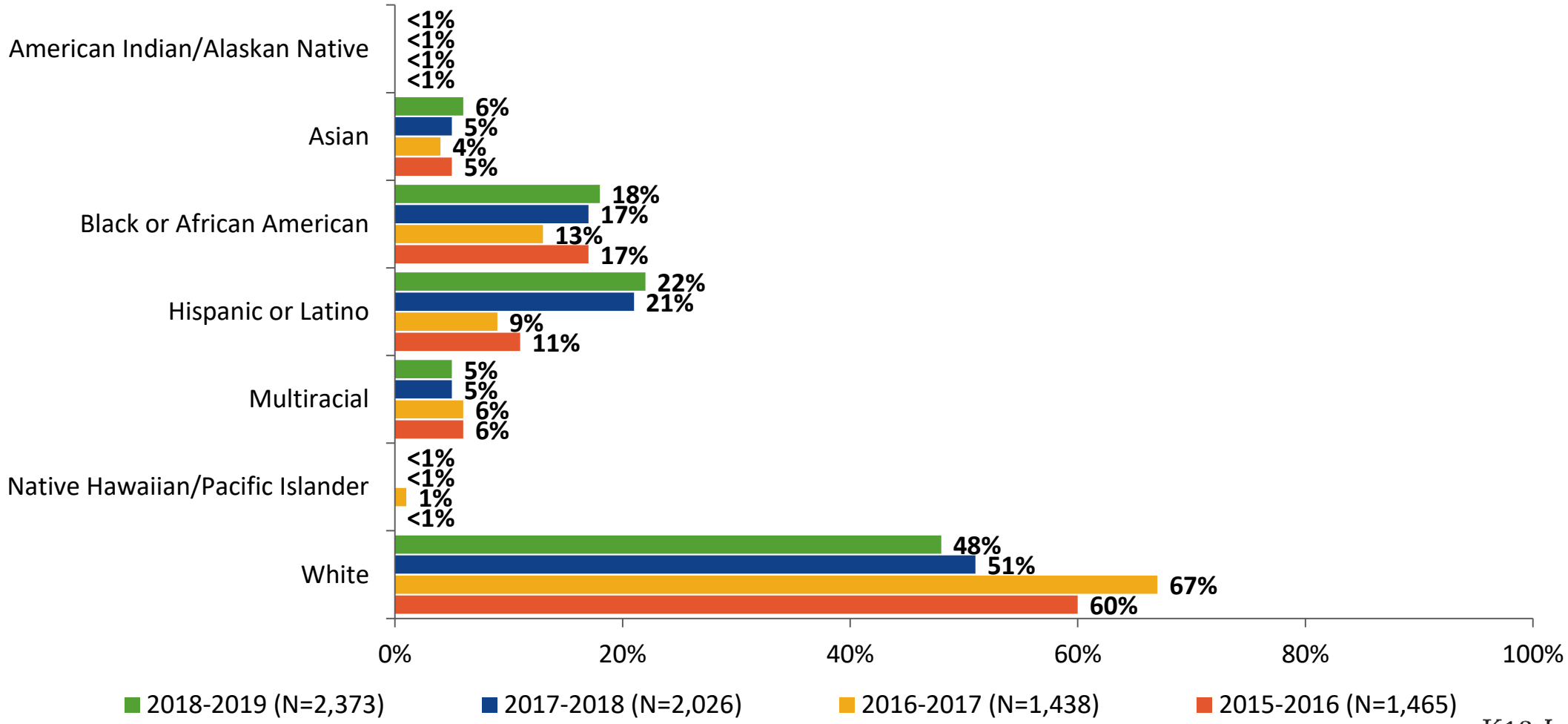
Participant Profile (Continued)

Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?



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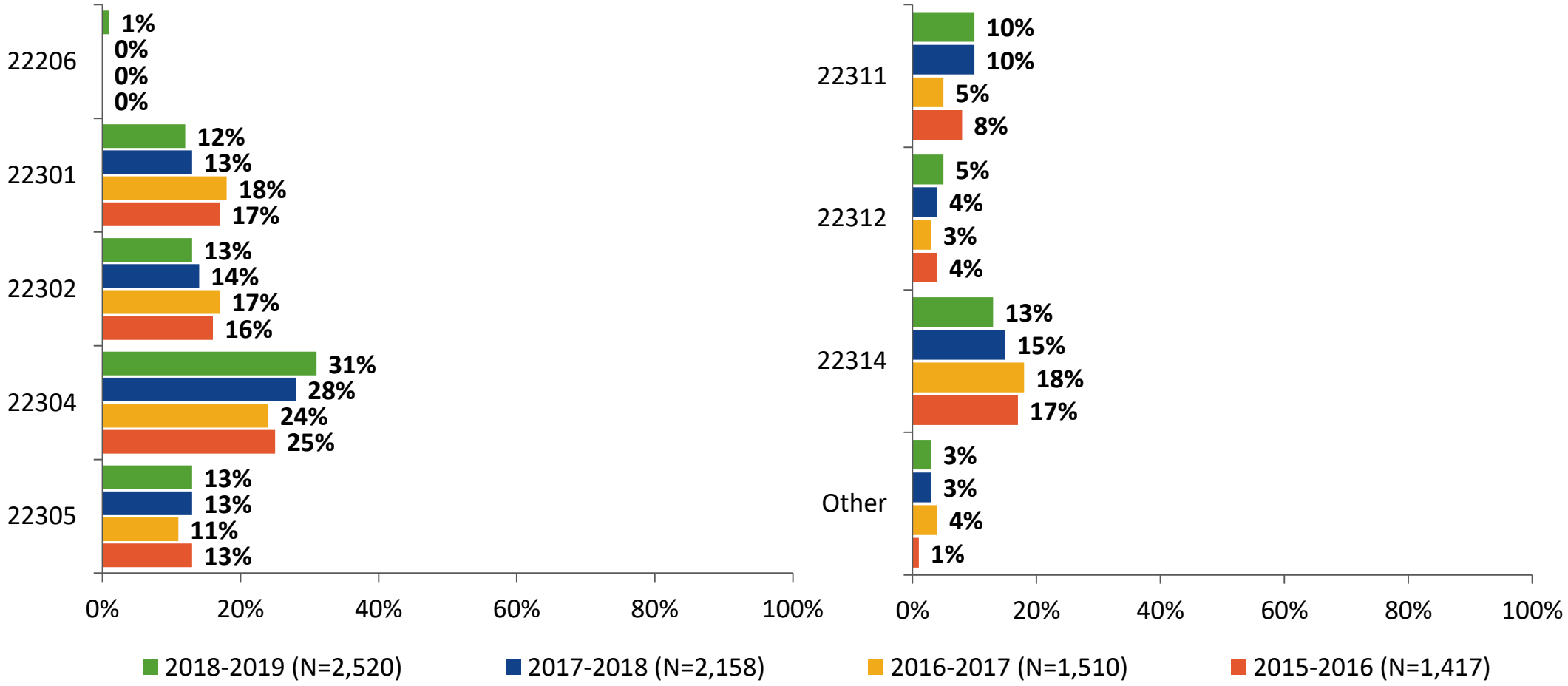
Participant Profile (Continued)

What is your ZIP code?



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Overall Quality

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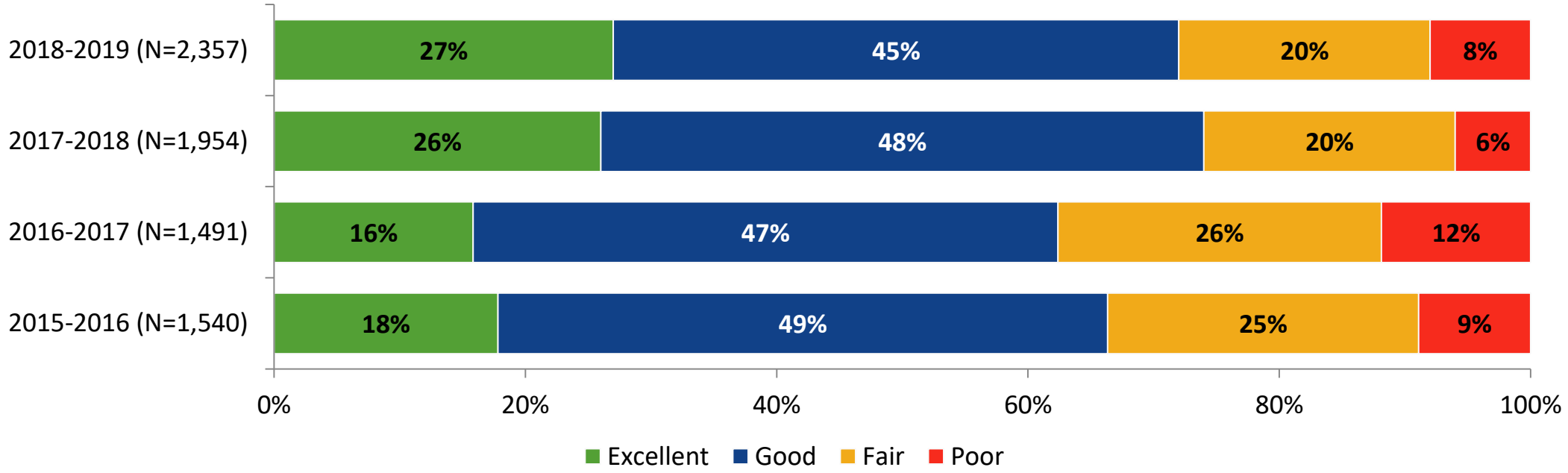
Perception of Quality: Comparison Over Time

Overall, what is your opinion of the quality of Alexandria City Public Schools?



Answer options: Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, No Opinion

Note: No Opinion responses were excluded from calculations.

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ACPS 2020 Goal Areas

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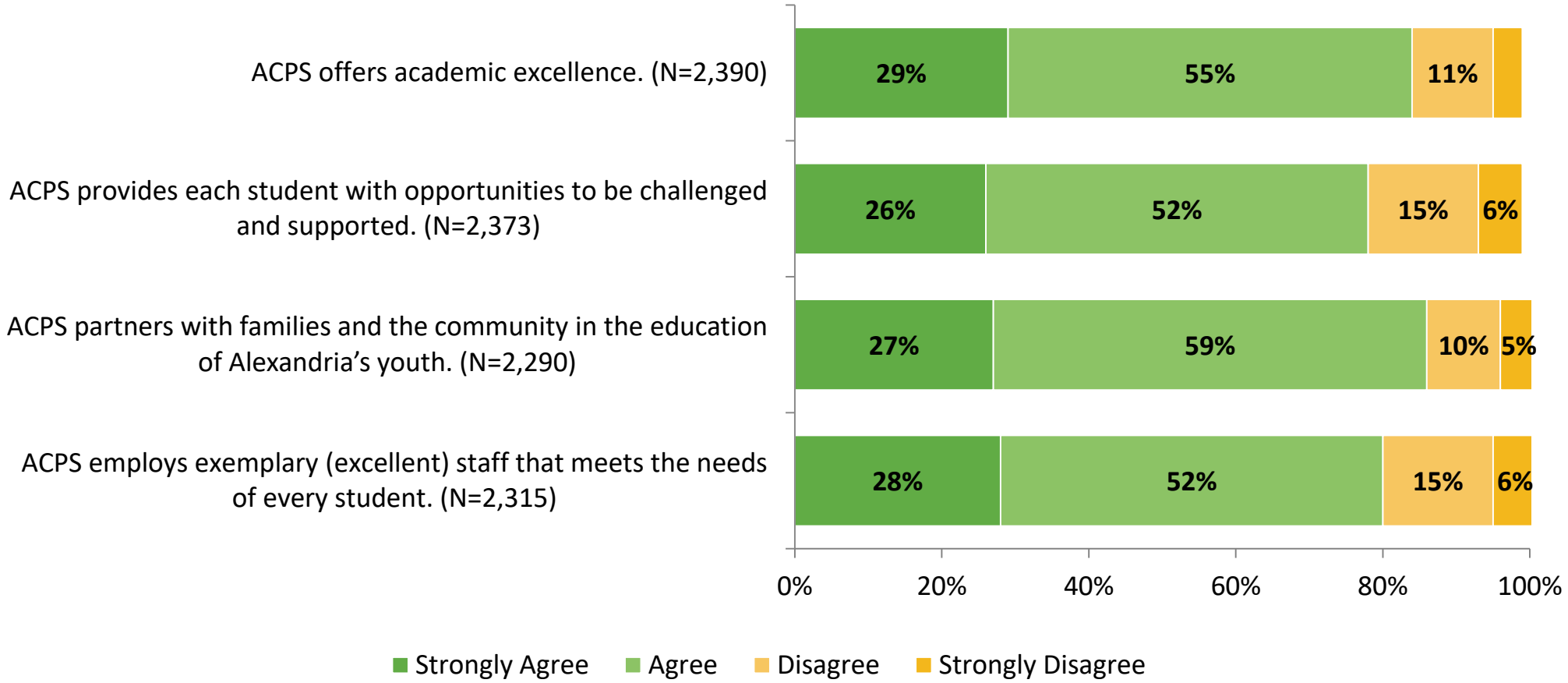
ACPS 2020 Goal Areas

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements based on your experience with ACPS this school year.



Note: Don't Know responses were excluded from calculations.

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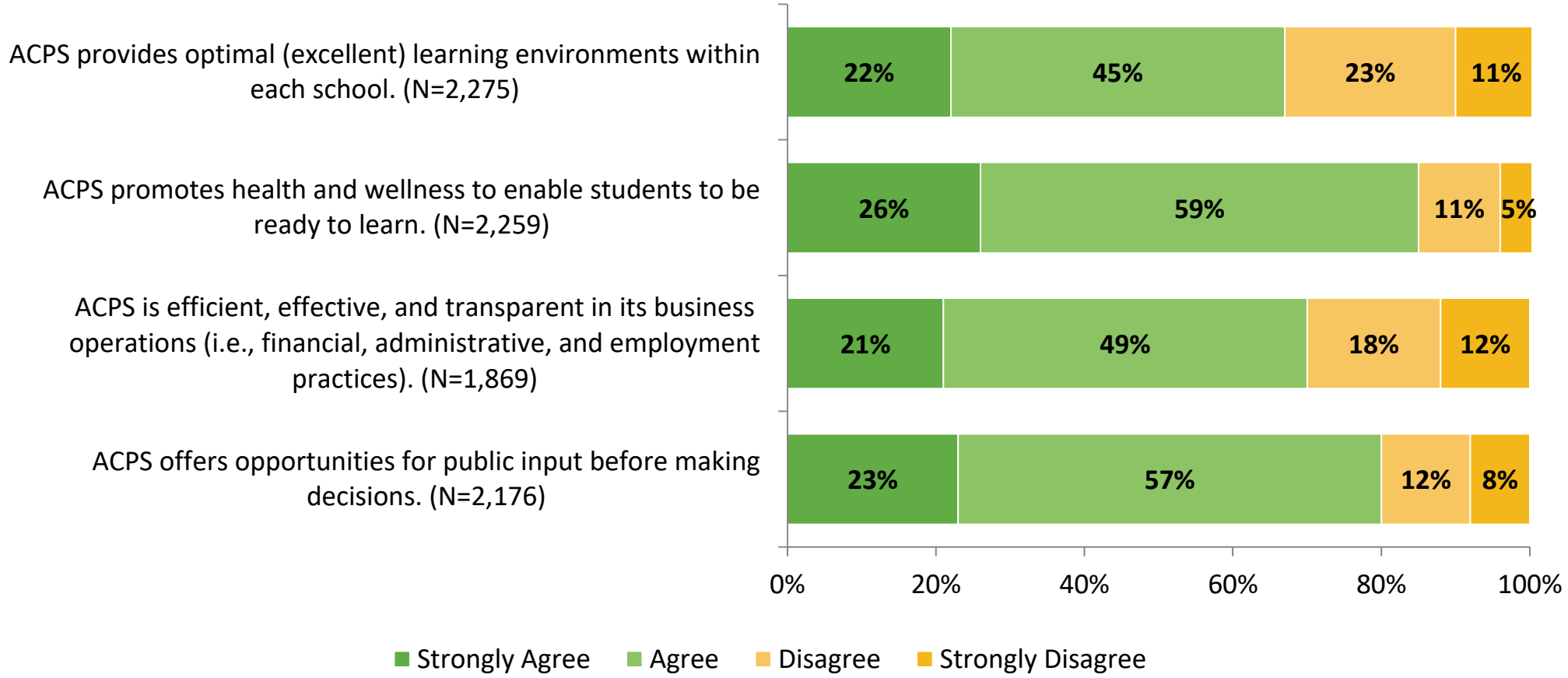
ACPS 2020 Goal Areas (Continued)

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements based on your experience with ACPS this school year.



Note: Don't Know responses were excluded from calculations.

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ACPS 2020 Goal Areas: Comparison Over Time

Survey Item	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016
	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)			
ACPS offers academic excellence.	84%	87%	79%	84%
ACPS provides each student with opportunities to be challenged and supported.	78%	80%	73%	78%
ACPS partners with families and the community in the education of Alexandria's youth.	86%	88%	82%	86%
ACPS employs exemplary (excellent) staff that meets the needs of every student.	80%	78%	75%	77%
ACPS provides optimal (excellent) learning environments within each school.	67%	68%	55%	62%
ACPS promotes health and wellness to enable students to be ready to learn.	85%	87%	82%	85%
ACPS is efficient, effective, and transparent in its business operations (i.e., financial, administrative, and employment practices).	70%	74%	58%	66%
*ACPS offers opportunities for public input before making decisions.	80%	85%	76%	78%

**The language in this survey item differs slightly from previous administrations.*
Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: Don't Know responses were excluded from calculations.

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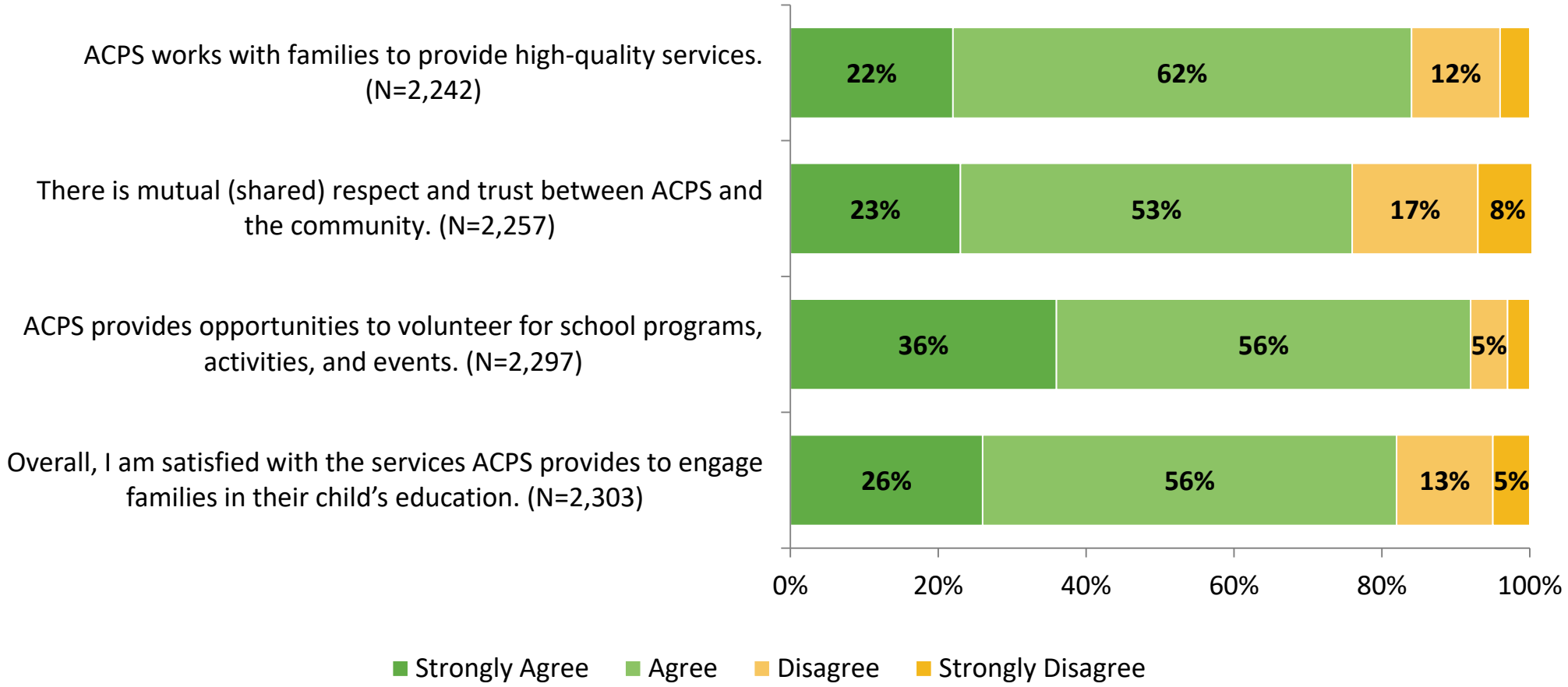
Family and Community Engagement

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



Note: Don't Know responses were excluded from calculations.

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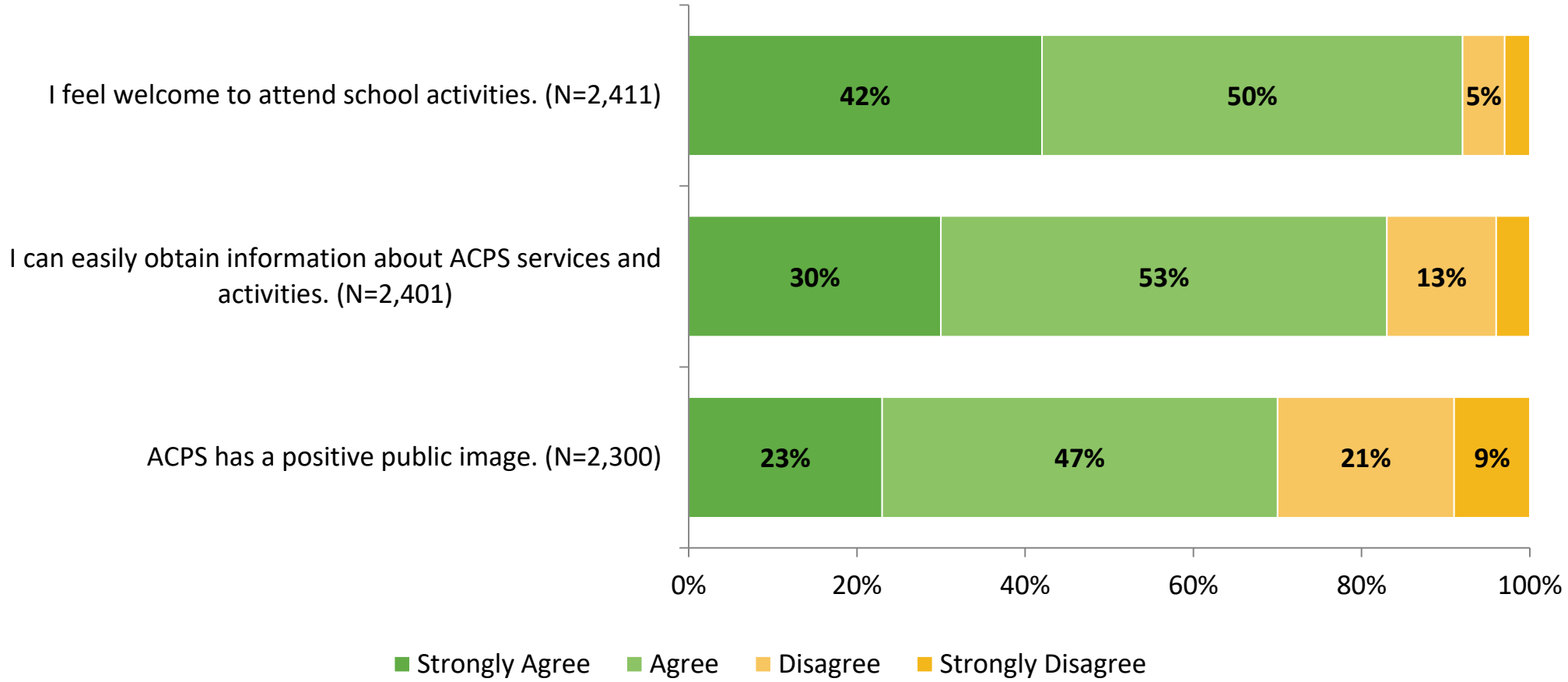
Family and Community Engagement (Continued)

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



Note: Don't Know responses were excluded from calculations.

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Family and Community Engagement: Comparison Over Time

Survey Item	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016
	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)			
ACPS works with families to provide high-quality services.	84%	87%	81%	80%
There is mutual (shared) respect and trust between ACPS and the community.	76%	83%	65%	75%
ACPS provides opportunities to volunteer for school programs, activities, and events.	92%	92%	92%	93%
Overall, I am satisfied with the services ACPS provides to engage families in their child's education.	82%	84%	78%	80%
I feel welcome to attend school activities.	92%	93%	92%	94%
I can easily obtain information about ACPS services and activities.	83%	82%	77%	85%
ACPS has a positive public image.	70%	72%	57%	66%

Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: Don't Know responses were excluded from calculations.

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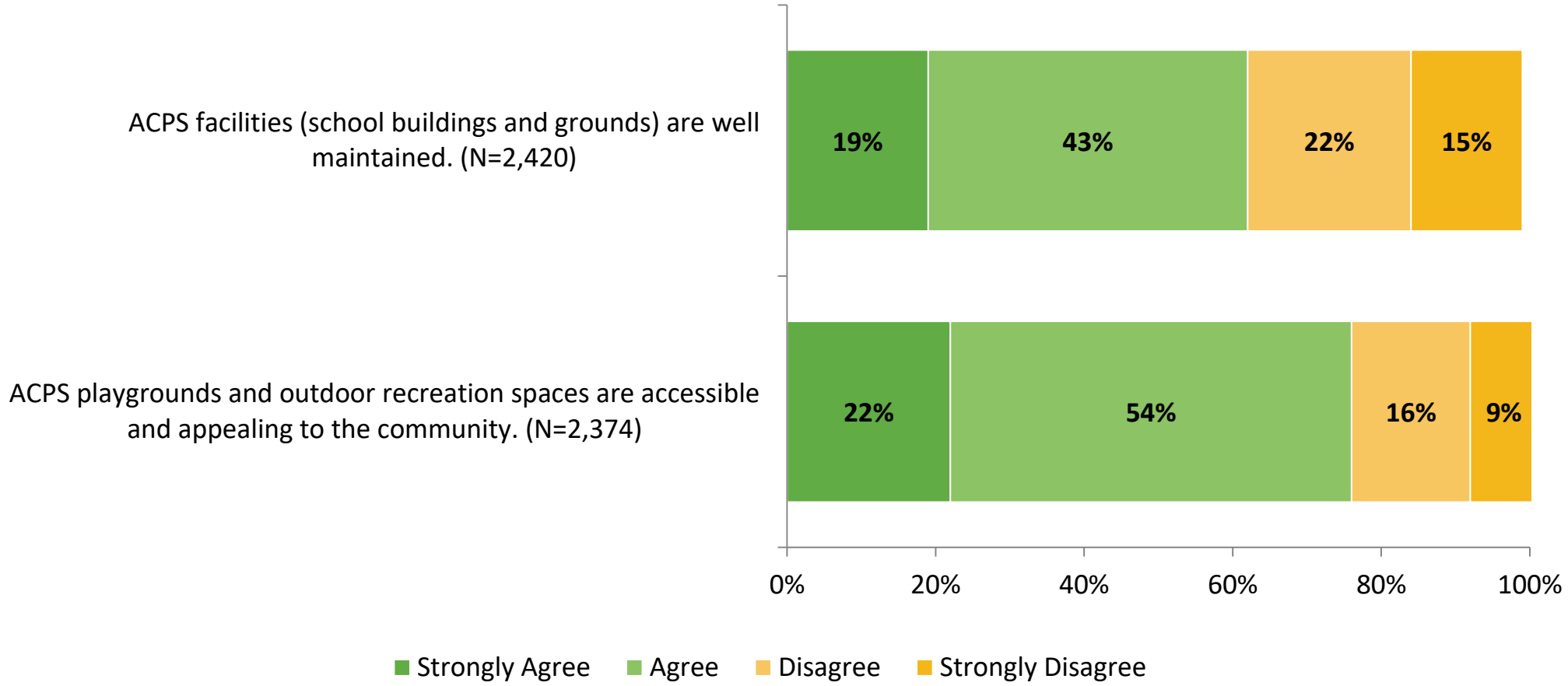
Facilities and the Learning Environment

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



Note: Don't Know responses were excluded from calculations.

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Facilities and the Learning Environment: Comparison Over Time

Survey Item	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016
	Percentage Strongly Agree or Agree (%)			
ACPS facilities (school buildings and grounds) are well maintained.	62%	63%	61%	66%
ACPS playgrounds and outdoor facilities are accessible and appealing to the community.	76%	78%	74%	78%

Answer options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know
Note: Don't Know responses were excluded from calculations.

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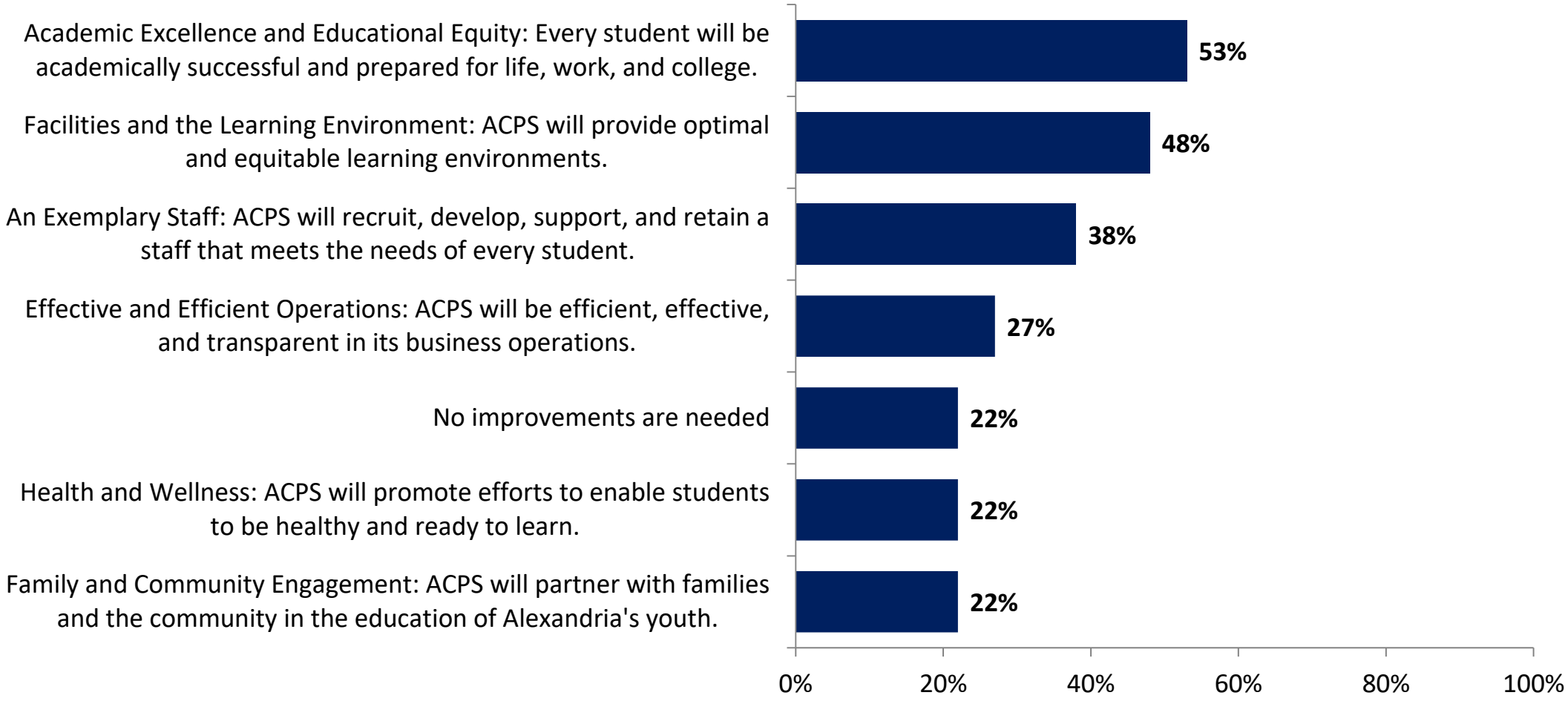
Areas for Improvement

In which of the following areas could ACPS improve? (N=2,258)



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

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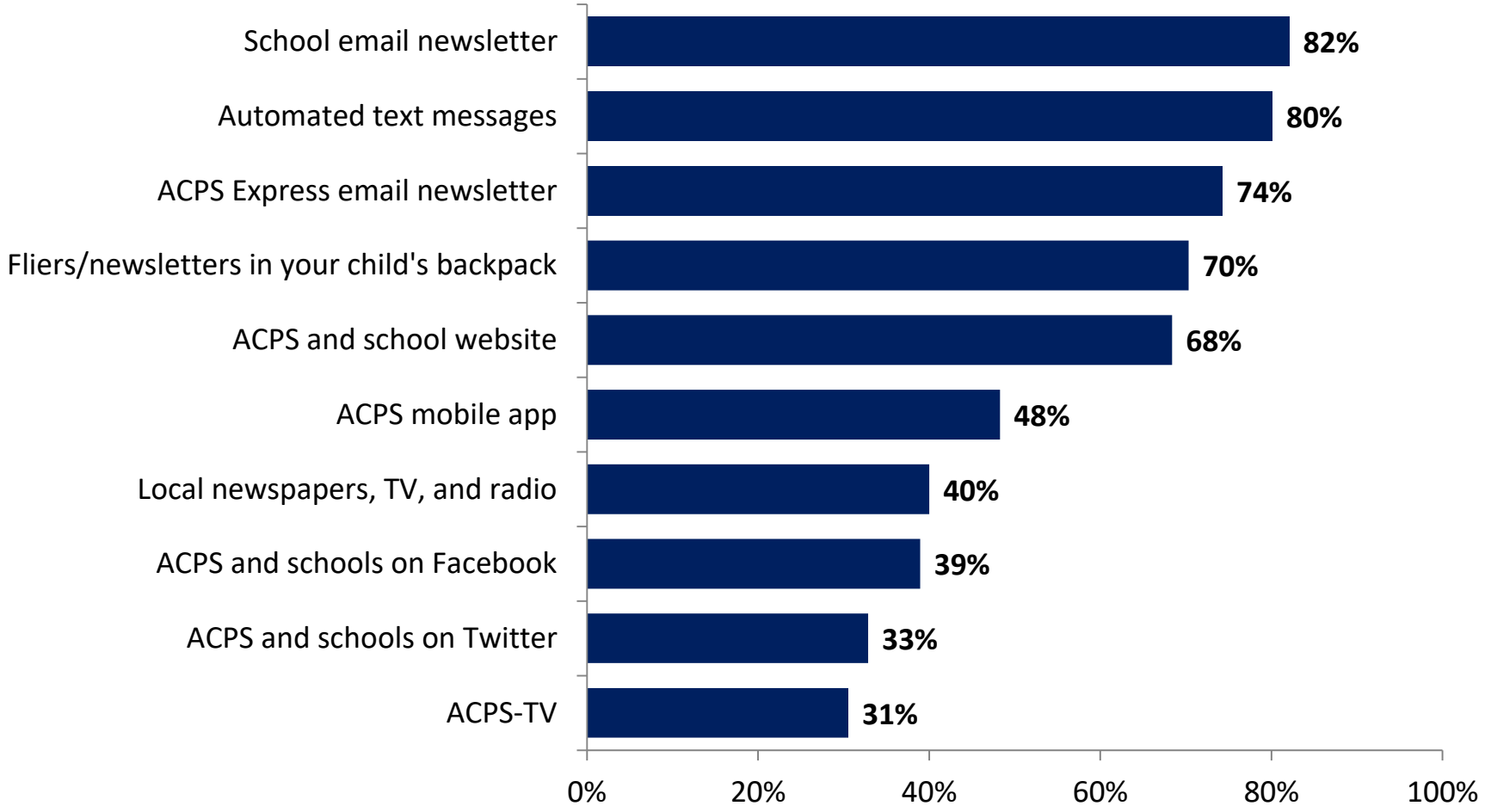
Importance of ACPS Information Sources

How important are each of the following in giving you the information you need about your school(s) and ACPS? (N=2,241)



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

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