

Student Climate Survey

Results and Analysis

Ferndale School District
April 23 – May 14, 2013



*Serving the Communities of Ferndale, Lummi Island,
Custer, Lummi Reservation and North Bellingham.*

FERNDALE SCHOOLS

This report presents the following:

- **Overview**
- **Background** – Participation and participants
- **Main Findings** – School grade, summary of results by school level and topic area
- **Results** – School climate topic area results by school level and topic area, readiness for the real world, post-high school plans, facilities, social media & communications questions
- **Discussion** – Highlights, next steps
- **Appendix** – Content, formats

Overview

Ferndale School District surveyed students in grades 5-12 to engage them in a dialogue about school and district improvement. Survey content included:

- School Environment
- Educational Focus
- Respect
- Teachers
- Real-World Readiness
- Facilities Improvement Planning
- Communications Improvement Planning

The survey was open to participation from April 23 to May 14, 2013. Students accessed the survey using their student IDs to ensure that each person submitted only one response.

Background – Participation

Overall Student Participation

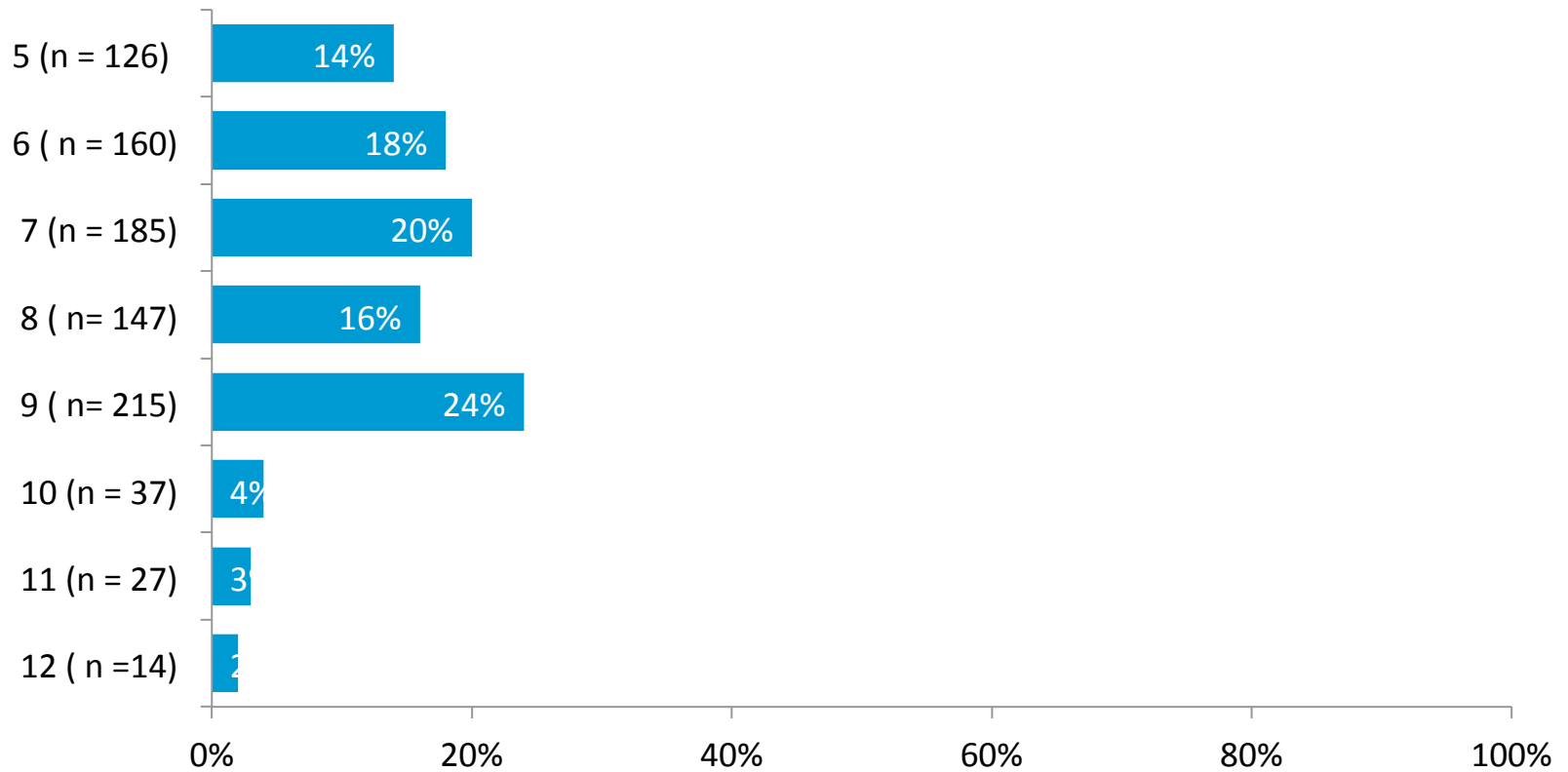
Year	Number of Responses (N)	Max Possible Responses (Nmax)	Response Rate (N/Nmax)
2011	1,232	2,749	45%
2012	442	2,672	17%
2013	911	3,115	29%

Student Participation by School Level

Year	Elementary		Secondary	
	Count	% of Overall Participation	Count	% of Overall Participation
2011	288	23%	944	77%
2012	167	38%	275	62%
2013	126	14%	785	86%

Background – Participants

2013 Participants by Grade Level



Background – Participants

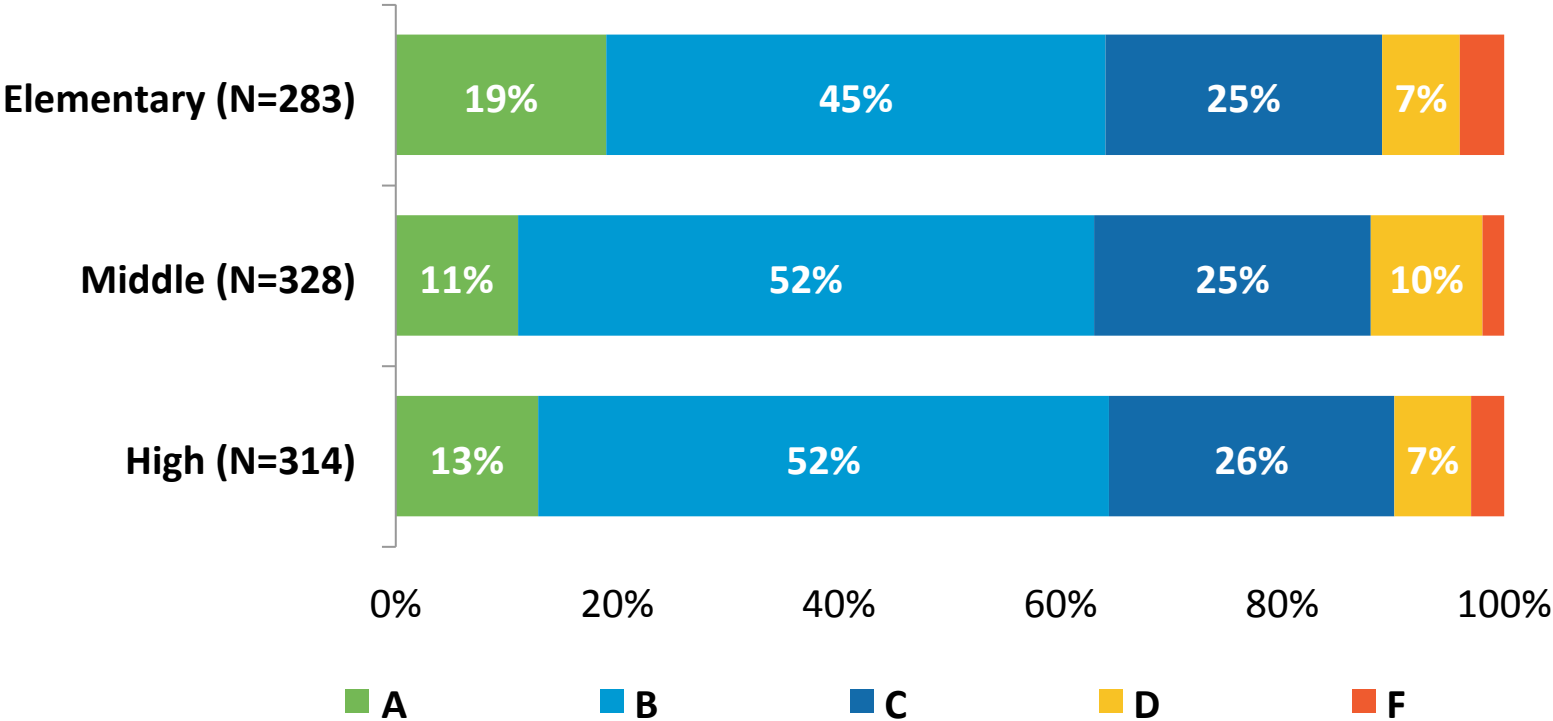
60 percent of participants were secondary students.

School	Percent of All Participants	School	Percent of All Participants
Ferndale High School	23%	Eagleridge Elementary	4%
Horizon Middle School	23%	Skyline Elementary	3%
Vista Middle School	14%	Beach Elementary	1%
Mountain View Elementary	10%	Cascadia Elementary	0%
Custer Elementary	9%	Windward HS --Clearview Ale	0%
Windward High School	9%	Other	0%
Central Elementary	5%		

Main Findings

Two-thirds of participants gave their school an A or B.

A greater share of participating elementary school students gave their school an A than did middle or high school students.



Note: Percentages less than 5% are not shown.

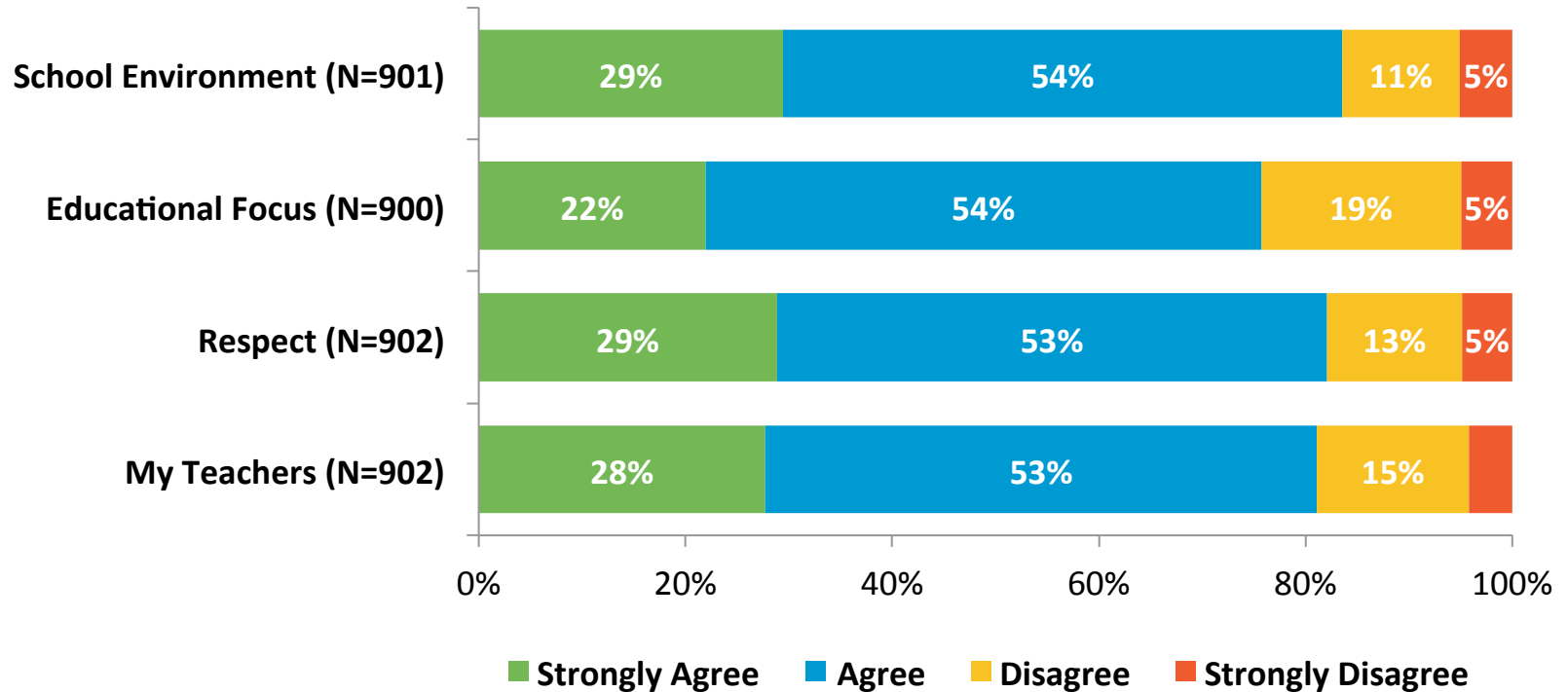
Results were similar across school levels.

Between 71 and 87 percent of participating students at all school levels had positive views of each topic area.

	Elementary (N=283)	Middle (N=324)	High (N=312)
	Percent “Strongly Agree” or “Agree”		
School Environment	86%	82%	82%
Educational Focus	81%	74%	71%
Respect	83%	80%	82%
My Teachers	87%	80%	76%

Most participants had positive views of school climate.

Between 76 and 84 percent of all participating students had positive views of each school climate topic area.



Note: Percentages less than 5% are not shown.

Results

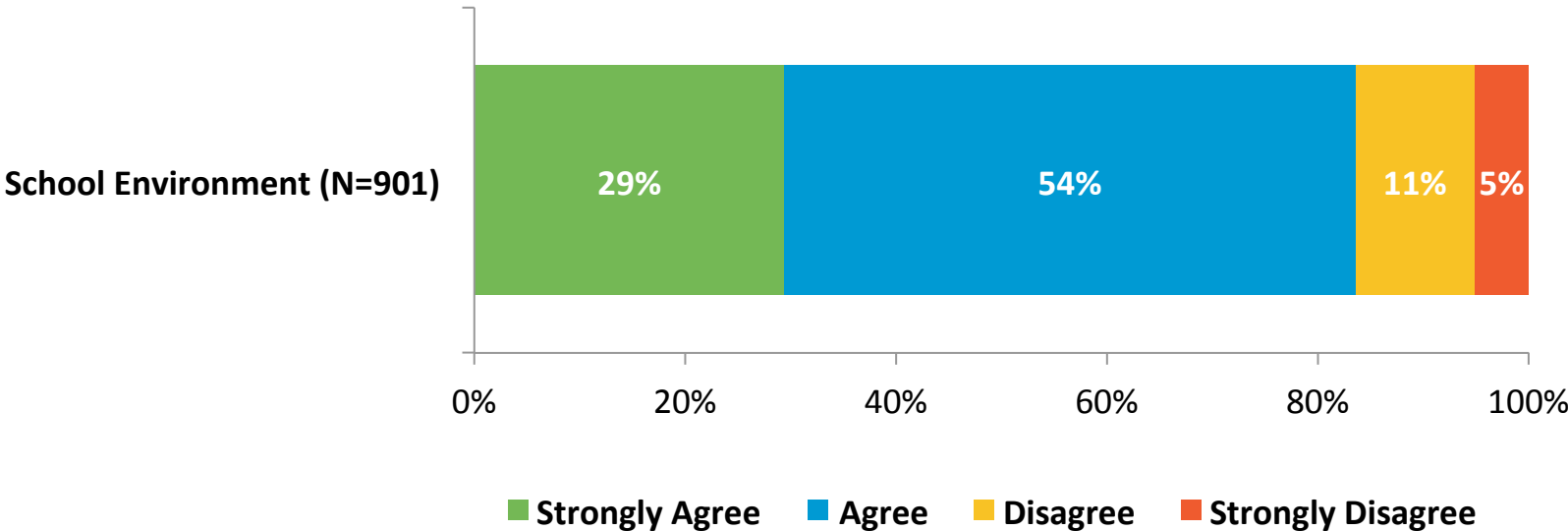
School Environment – by School Level

- Between 69 and 92 percent of participating students had positive views of all statements in this topic area.
- Participants felt most favorably about safety and least favorably about fun.

Topic Area Statement	Elementary (N=283)	Middle (N=320)	High (N=308)
	Percent “Strongly Agree” or “Agree”		
I feel safe at this school.	92%	89%	93%
I think this is a good school.	90%	84%	82%
I feel successful at school.	88%	84%	81%
I feel like I belong at this school.	83%	87%	82%
School is fun here.	78%	64%	69%

School Environment – All Participants

Three out of 10 participants gave their school environment the highest mark.



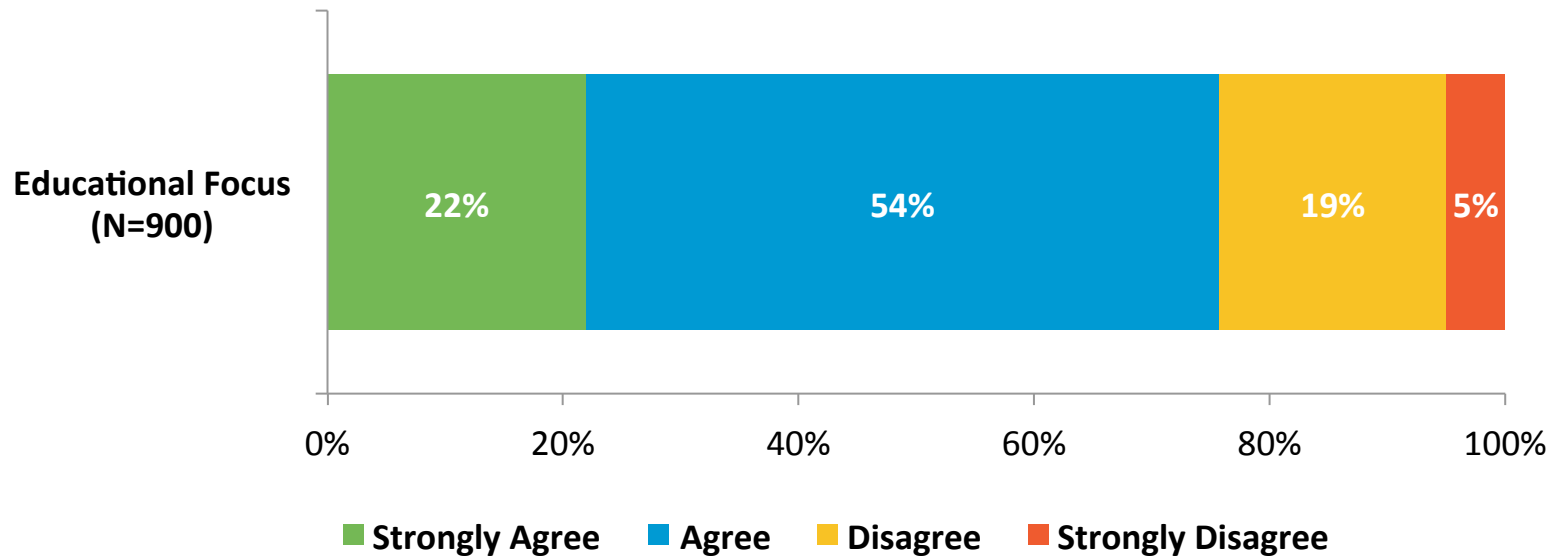
Educational Focus – by School Level

- Between 58 and 92 percent of participating students had positive views of all statements in this topic area.
- Participants felt most favorably about self-assessment and least favorably about opportunities for self-directed learning.

Topic Area Statement	Elementary (N=278)	Middle (N=322)	High (N=310)
	Percent “Strongly Agree” or “Agree”		
Teachers encourage me to assess the quality of my own work.	92%	86%	80%
I understand how to apply what I learn at school to real-life situations.	87%	77%	70%
Participating in extracurricular activities is important to me.	83%	76%	66%
This school is preparing me well for what I want to do after high school.	78%	76%	68%
I feel challenged to learn and develop my skills at this school.	73%	74%	76%
I have opportunities to choose my own projects and direct my own learning.	71%	58%	64%

Educational Focus – All Participants

One in five participants gave their school the highest mark for educational focus.



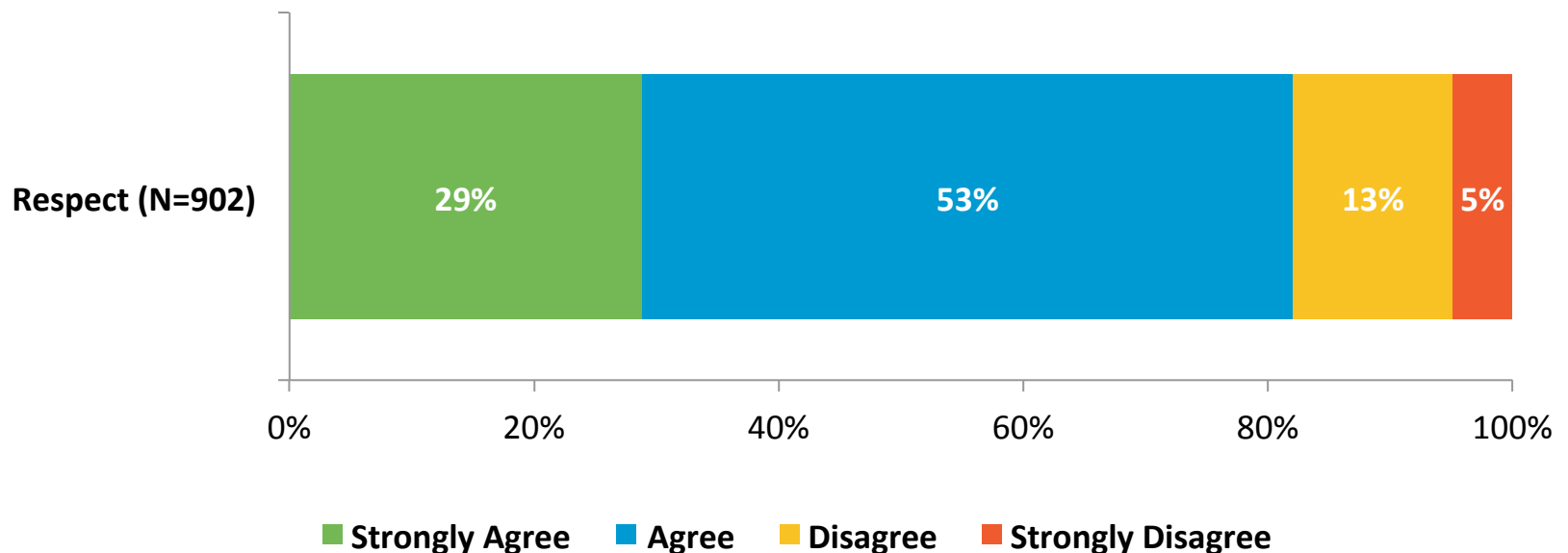
Respect – by School Level

- Between 61 and 95 percent of participating students had positive views of all statements in this topic area.
- Participants felt most favorably about the respectfulness of office staff and least favorably about students’ respect for diversity.

Topic Area Statement	Elementary (N=279)	Middle (N=322)	High (N=312)
	Percent “Strongly Agree” or “Agree”		
I am treated with respect by the office staff.	94%	92%	95%
I am treated with respect by school administrators.	92%	88%	88%
I am treated with respect by teachers.	89%	86%	88%
I am treated with respect by other students at this school.	72%	72%	79%
Students at this school respect other students with different backgrounds.	66%	61%	62%

Respect – All Participants

Three out of 10 participants gave their schools the highest mark for respect.



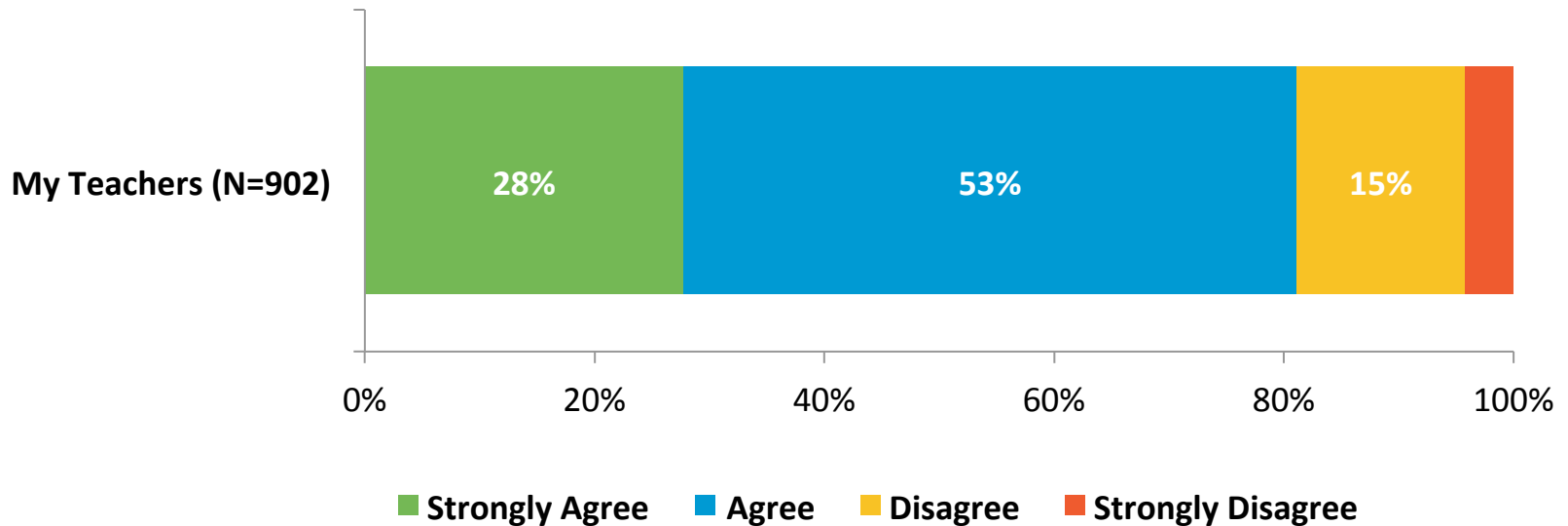
My Teachers – by School Level

- Between 55 and 96 percent of participating students had positive views of all statements in this topic area.
- Participants felt most favorably about their teachers' performance expectations and least favorably about their teachers knowing them well.

Topic Area Statement	Elementary (N=278)	Middle (N=322)	High (N=311)
<i>My teachers . . .</i>	Percent "Strongly Agree" or "Agree"		
expect me to do my best.	96%	95%	94%
challenge me to do better.	91%	89%	80%
help me gain confidence in my ability to learn.	90%	83%	74%
set high standards for achievement in their classes.	90%	86%	85%
care about me.	90%	81%	79%
are understanding when students have personal problems.	86%	77%	73%
give me individual attention when I need it.	84%	72%	77%
are excited about the subject they teach and make it fun.	83%	72%	67%
listen to my ideas.	82%	77%	74%
know me well.	80%	66%	55%

My Teachers – All Participants

Three out of 10 participants gave their teachers the highest mark.

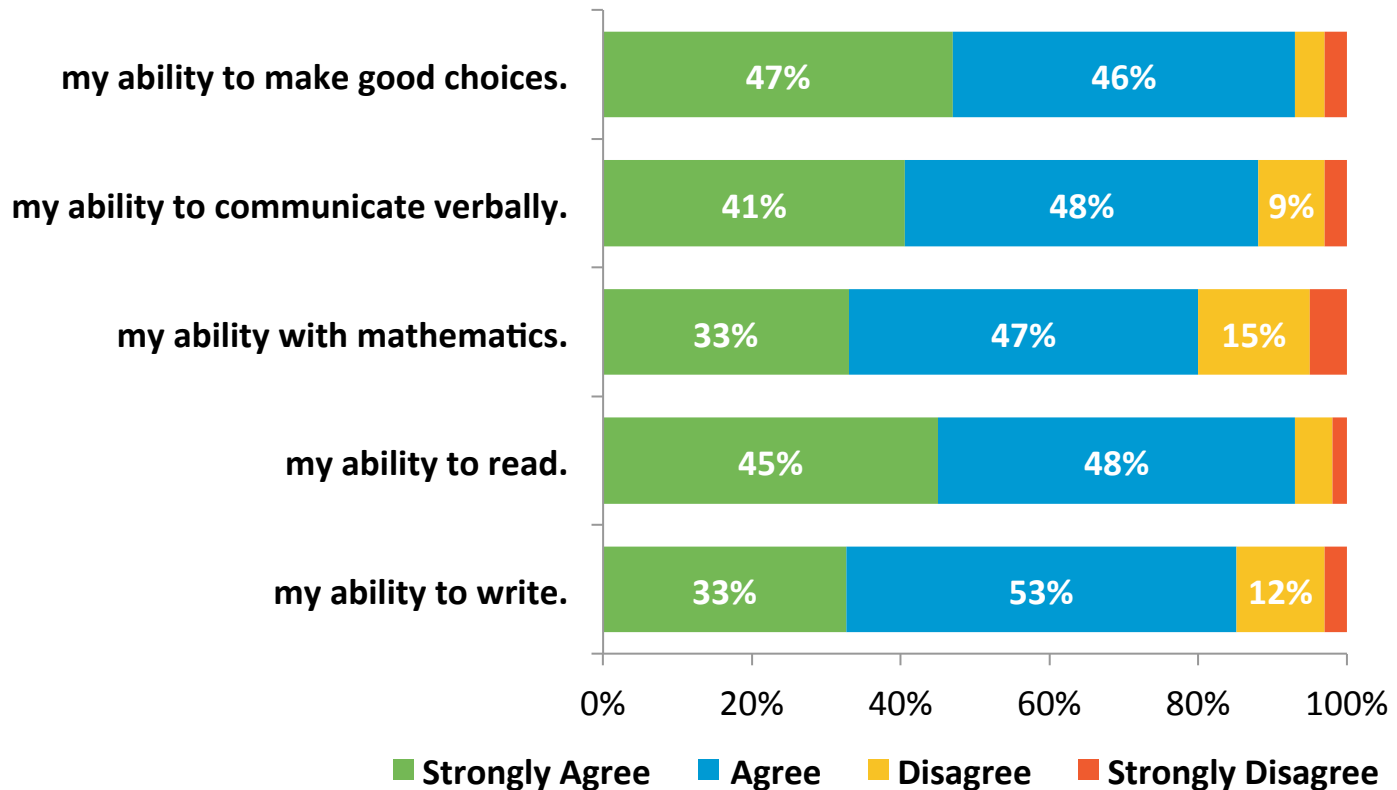


Note: Percentages less than 5% are not shown.

Real-World Readiness

At least four out of five participants rated their readiness for the real world favorably.

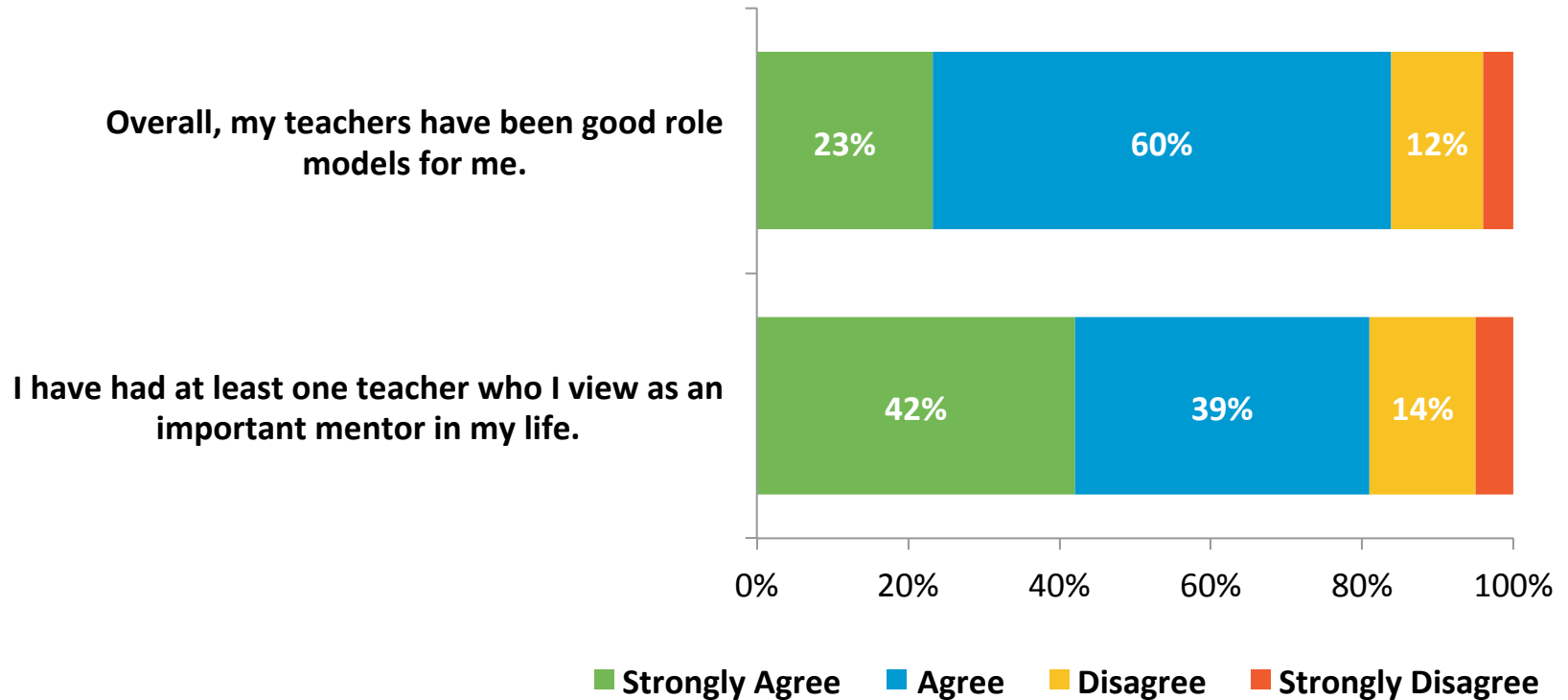
I am ready for the real world in reference to . . .



Note: Percentages less than 5% are not shown.

Real-World Readiness

Three out of 10 participants gave their teachers the highest mark.

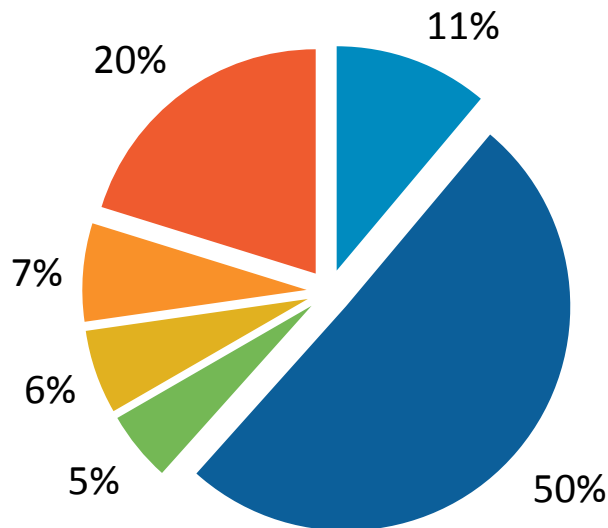


Note: Percentages less than 5% are not shown.

Post-High School Plans

Two-thirds of participants said they planned to attend a 4-year college, a 2-year college or a technical school after graduating from high school.

Immediately after graduation I plan to:



- Go to a 2-year community college
- Go to a 4-year university
- Enter a training or technical school
- Get a full-time job
- Join the military
- Other

Social Media

Which statement most closely describes you with regard to use of social media?

	ES	MS	HS	Overall
I am using social media more often now and am comfortable with it.	20%	25%	32%	26%
I use social media tools and consider myself an "advanced" user.	11%	20%	20%	17%
I consider myself an "expert" when it comes to social media.	16%	14%	14%	14%
Other	11%	10%	8%	9%
I use social media as a regular part of my work or professional development.	4%	11%	10%	8%
I am using social media and consider myself a "beginner".	10%	7%	4%	7%
I am skeptical of social media and do not use it at all.	7%	6%	4%	6%
I am curious about social media but have not used it yet.	13%	4%	2%	6%
I have tried social media but am not comfortable with it.	3%	2%	4%	3%
I have tried social media but am just now beginning to use it personally.	5%	2%	3%	3%

Social Media

Which social media do you use?

YouTube	80%	I do not use social media	7%
Facebook	65%	Myspace	5%
Websites	53%	Flickr	3%
Other	25%	SchoolTube	2%
Twitter	18%	LinkedIn	1%
Pinterest	16%	RSS News Feeds	1%
Blogs	12%		

Note: Multiple answers per participant possible. Percentages added exceed 100 since participants could select more than one answer for this question.

Social Media

Please indicate the technology you have available for use.

Laptop computer	69%
Desktop computer	65%
Smartphone (Able to access Internet)	45%
Tablet (iPad or similar)	40%
Standard mobile phone (No Internet access)	26%
Dedicated eBook reader (Kindle, Nook, etc.)	20%
Other	17%
Netbook	3%

Note: Multiple answers per participant possible. Percentages added exceed 100 since participants could select more than one answer for this question.

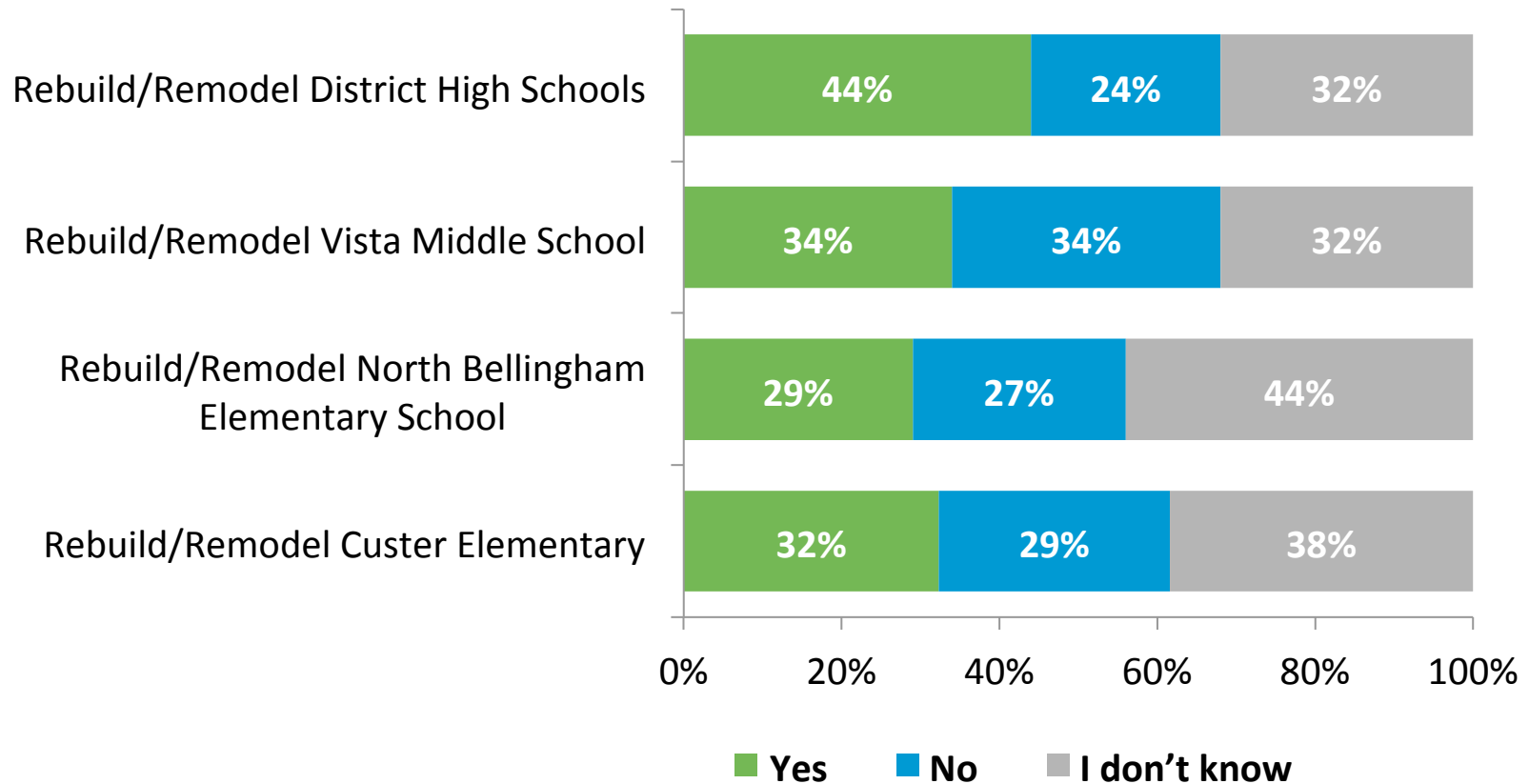
Communication

Please rank the top 3 ways you would prefer to receive information from the district.

	Overall Rank
Email	1
Mail (Hard copy postal service)	2
Automated Phone Calls	3
Text Messages	4
Facebook	5
Flyers sent home with students	6
Live, Face-to-Face meetings	7
Website	8
Electronic Newsletter	9
Twitter	10

Facilities

Please tell us whether you think we should do these school improvement projects.



Themes From Open-Ended Questions

What are the strengths of this district?

Supportive and enthusiastic teachers

Tight-knit community

Please share any ideas to help us improve the school district.

Renovate existing buildings or construct new buildings

Food quality and food choice could be improved

Key Findings

Highlights	Next Steps
About one in three students completed this year's survey, which is significantly more than last year.	We want to increase our student participation rate to at least 50% by the spring of 2014. We will be working with our principals to achieve this goal.
Two thirds of the students who took the survey gave their school an overall grade of A or B, an even higher percentage had positive views of the climate in their school, and more still said they feel safe at school.	While all of this is good news, we are interested in finding out more from the minority of students who don't feel as positively about their school. We suspect the information we learn from them will help us create a more effective dropout prevention plan.
A very high percentage of students at all levels report that adults in their schools treat them with respect. However, significantly fewer say that students at the school treat one another respectfully.	We plan to implement several programs this year aimed at teaching students appropriate, respectful ways to interact with one another, and we will be holding them more accountable for doing so.
At the same time that students at all levels feel mostly very positive about their teachers, a third of the students at middle school and nearly half of the students at high school do not believe their teachers know them well.	Since research tells us that relationships between students and teachers are critical determinants of student success, we are implementing advisor-advisee programs at all of our secondary schools next year, with a primary focus on personalizing the educational process for all students.

Key Findings (cont'd)

Highlights	Next Steps
<p>In their written comments, a significant number of students said they felt one of the main ways we could improve our district is to improve the quality of our school facilities.</p>	<p>We will take this information back to the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) to guide its future work; and we will also share it with the members of the School Board, who are the ultimate decision-makers when it comes to building projects.</p>
<p>About 75% of our students indicate they plan to attend a four-year university, a two-year college, a technical school, or join the military after high school.</p>	<p>In addition to making sure all of our students who are making post-high plans are prepared to execute those plans, we need to develop a more intentional system for working with the 25% who hope to get a job right after high school or aren't sure what they're going to do. Crafting such a system will be part of the work of the new Dropout Prevention Task Force.</p>
<p>Most students have access to technology. More of our students than adults report they use various types of social media.</p>	<p>Since technology plays a major role in our students' lives and in the world for which we are preparing them, we have begun implementing a more aggressive plan for integrating technology into the educational processes in our schools. The one-to-one project we are starting at the middle level this fall is a central platform of our technology plan.</p>

Thank you!

For questions relating to Ferndale Schools climate, please refer to the YourVoice page on our district website: <http://www.ferndale.wednet.edu/>