

Budget Survey

Survey Results and Analysis

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
January 23 – February 8, 2013



Overview

The superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools invited parents, staff, students and community members to participate in a survey as part of a critical conversation about how best to determine budget priorities for the 2013-14 school year and beyond. The Budget Survey was designed to gather community input on significant programs and initiatives outlined in the superintendent's 100-day report, *The Way Forward: Listening, learning and the case for change*.

Survey topics included:

- Budget Funding Sources and Budget Types
- School Security and Student Safety
- Budget Priorities
- Employee Compensation
- Class Size

More than 11,000 people took the survey between January 23 and February 8, 2013.

Executive Summary

Budget Funding Awareness

- The majority of respondents are aware of funding sources for the annual CMS budget and factors that affect the CMS budget (e.g., the economy, enrollment patterns and new initiatives)
- Only 34% of respondents knew the North Carolina Education Lottery provided funds for CMS teacher positions and about \$10 million for school capital needs
- A slight majority of respondents (54%) reported awareness that the total CMS budget has two distinct budget types which must be kept separate: Operating Budget and Capital Budget

Safety Measures

- More than 80% of respondents indicated camera monitoring and buzz-in systems at elementary school entryways are “Very Important” or “Important”
- 80% of staff members identified card keys for elementary school employees as “Very Important” or “Important” so front doors can remain locked

Budget Priorities

- 91% of respondents identified equipping teachers with basic tools to provide technology-integrated learning environments and 86% thought expanding the network infrastructure in all schools was “Very Important” or “Important”
- 91% of respondents reported salaries for teachers should be increased to be more competitive as “Very Important” or “Important”

Employee Compensation

- 90% of all respondents agreed salaries for teachers should be increased to be more competitive

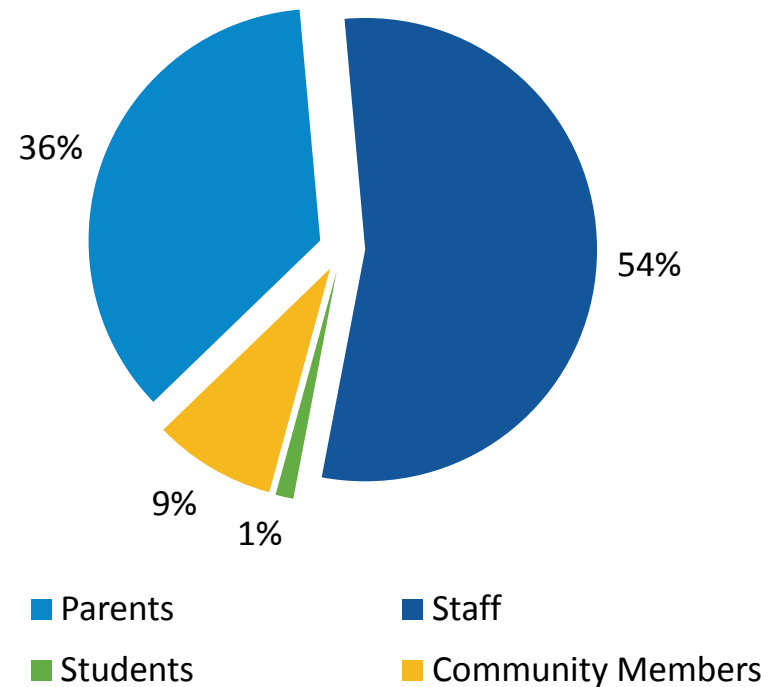
Class Size

- 48% of respondents indicated class sizes should be reduced despite the cost
- 41% indicated class sizes should remain unchanged

Participation

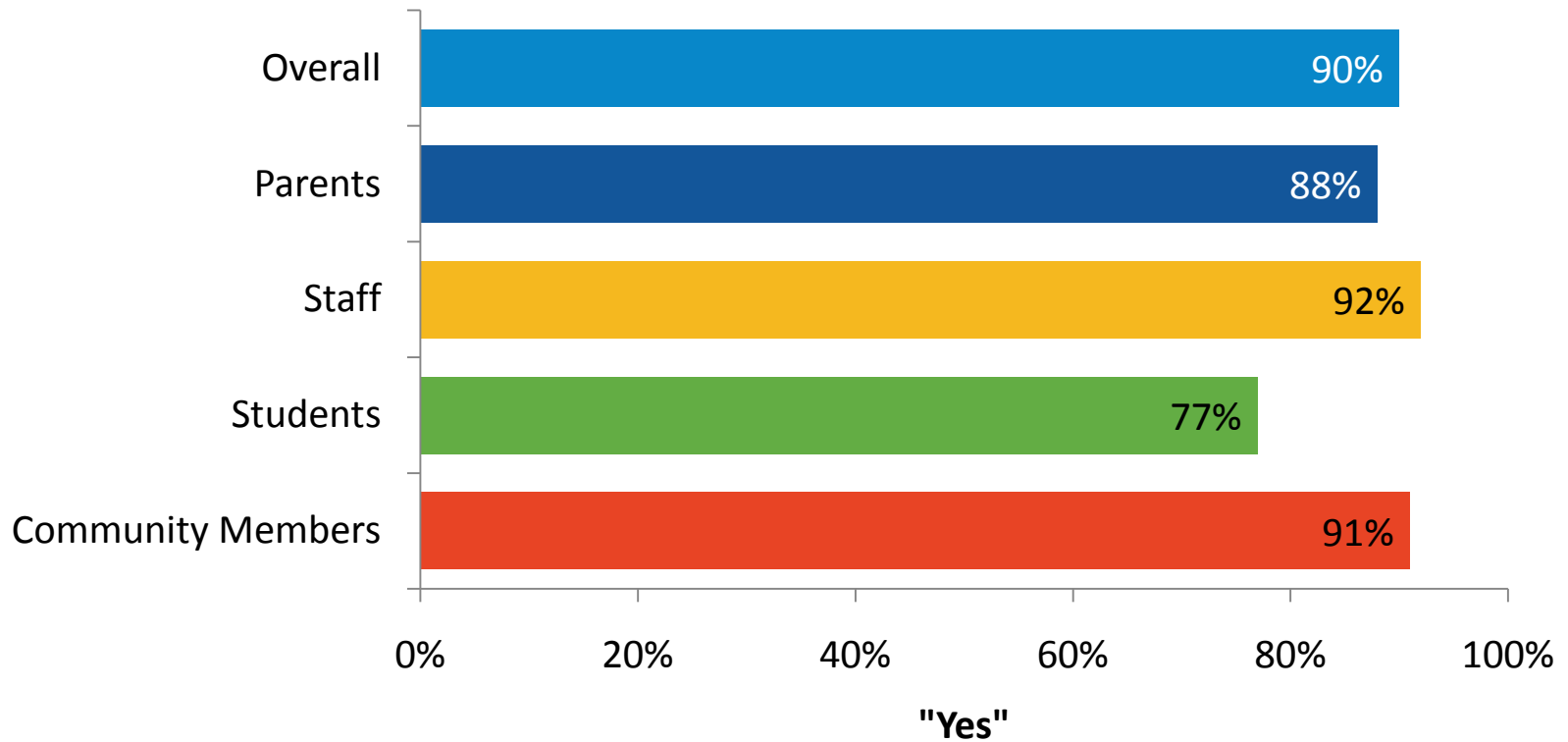
Staff and parents were invited to participate via an email with a unique link to the survey. Students were given the opportunity to participate through a public access link on the district's website. Community members could also participate via the public access link.

Responding Group	Number of Responses
Parents	4,077
Staff	6,201
Students	141
Community Members	973
Total Responses	11,392



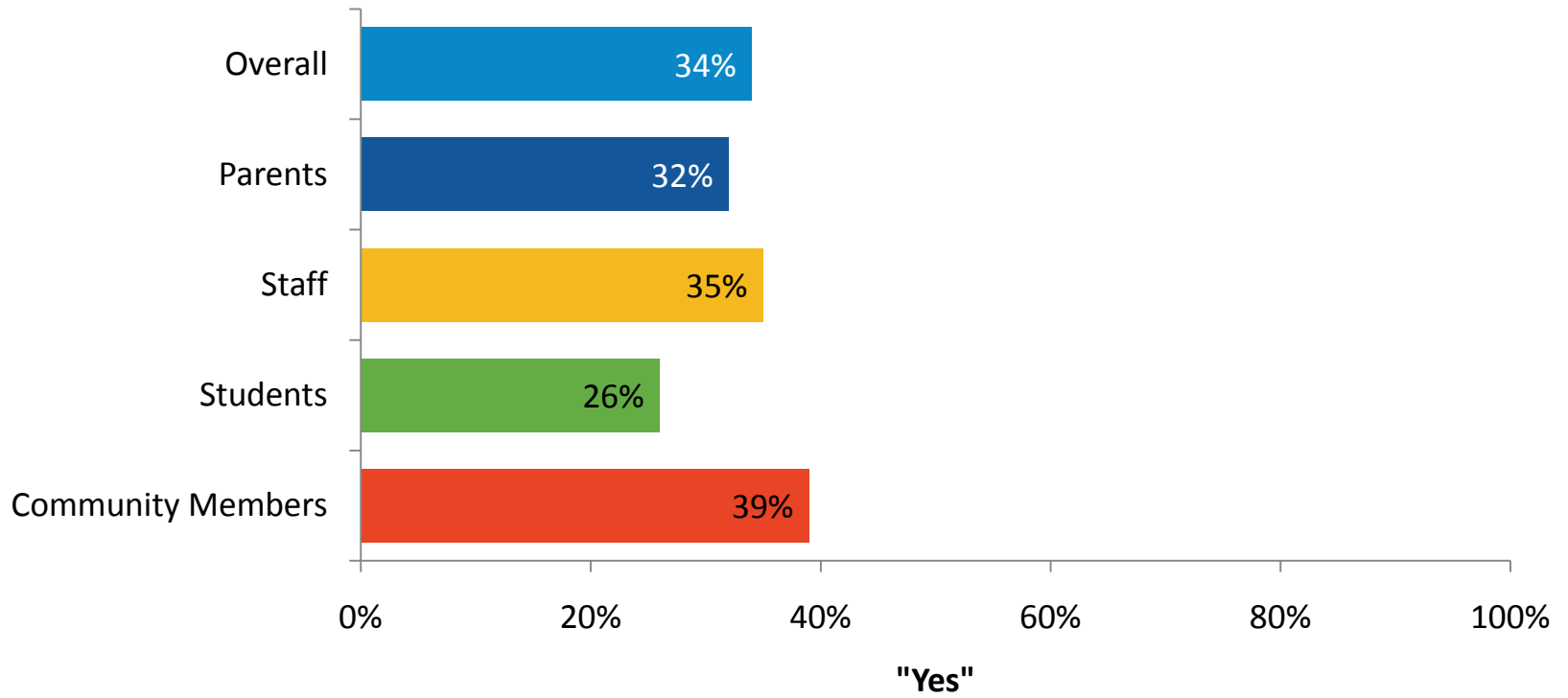
Funding Sources

Did you know that all of the money for CMS' total annual budget comes from local, state and federal sources?



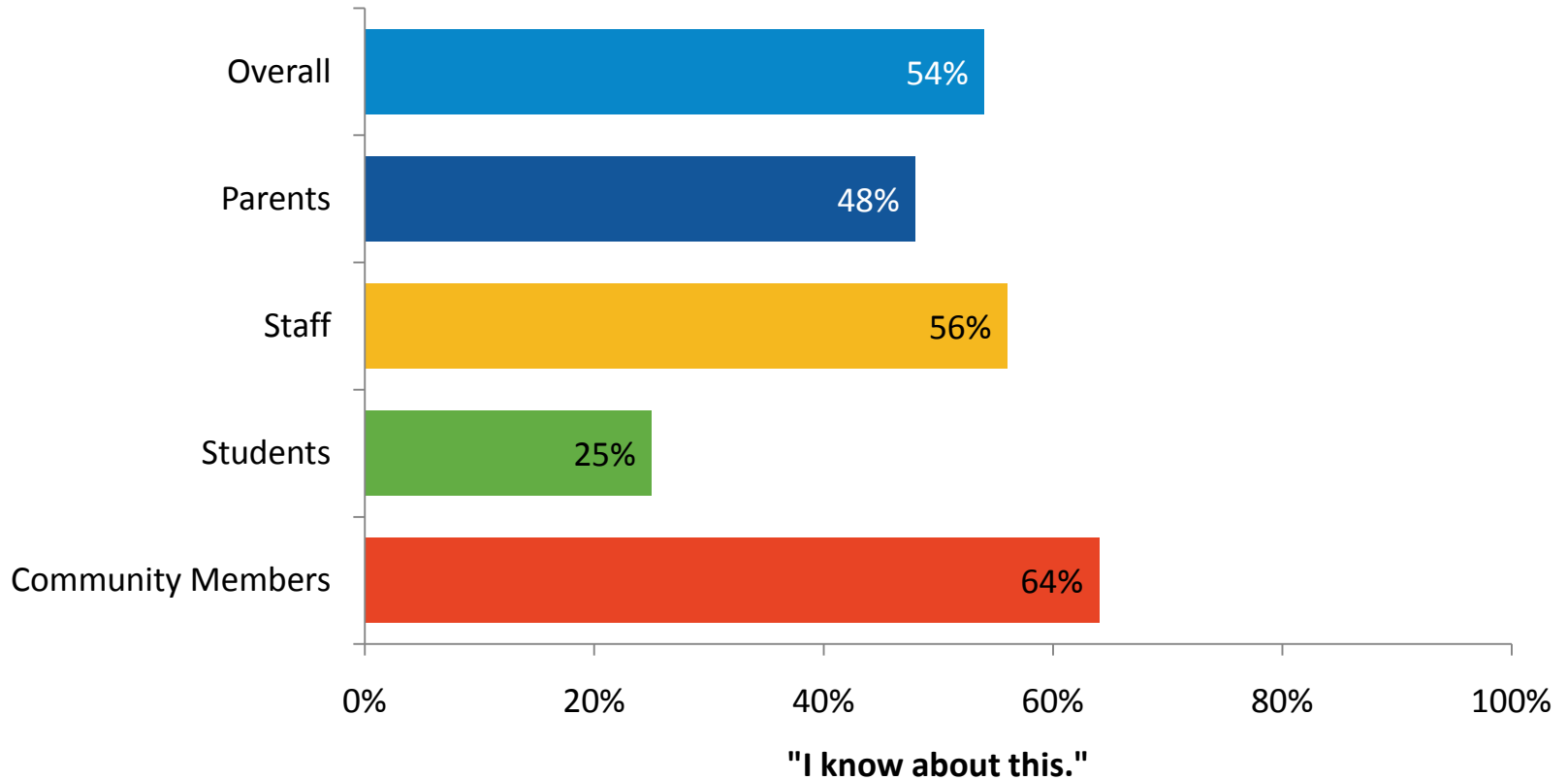
Lottery Funding

Did you know that in school year 2011-12, the North Carolina Education Lottery provided funding through the state specifically for CMS teacher positions, and about \$10 million in funding to the county for school capital needs?



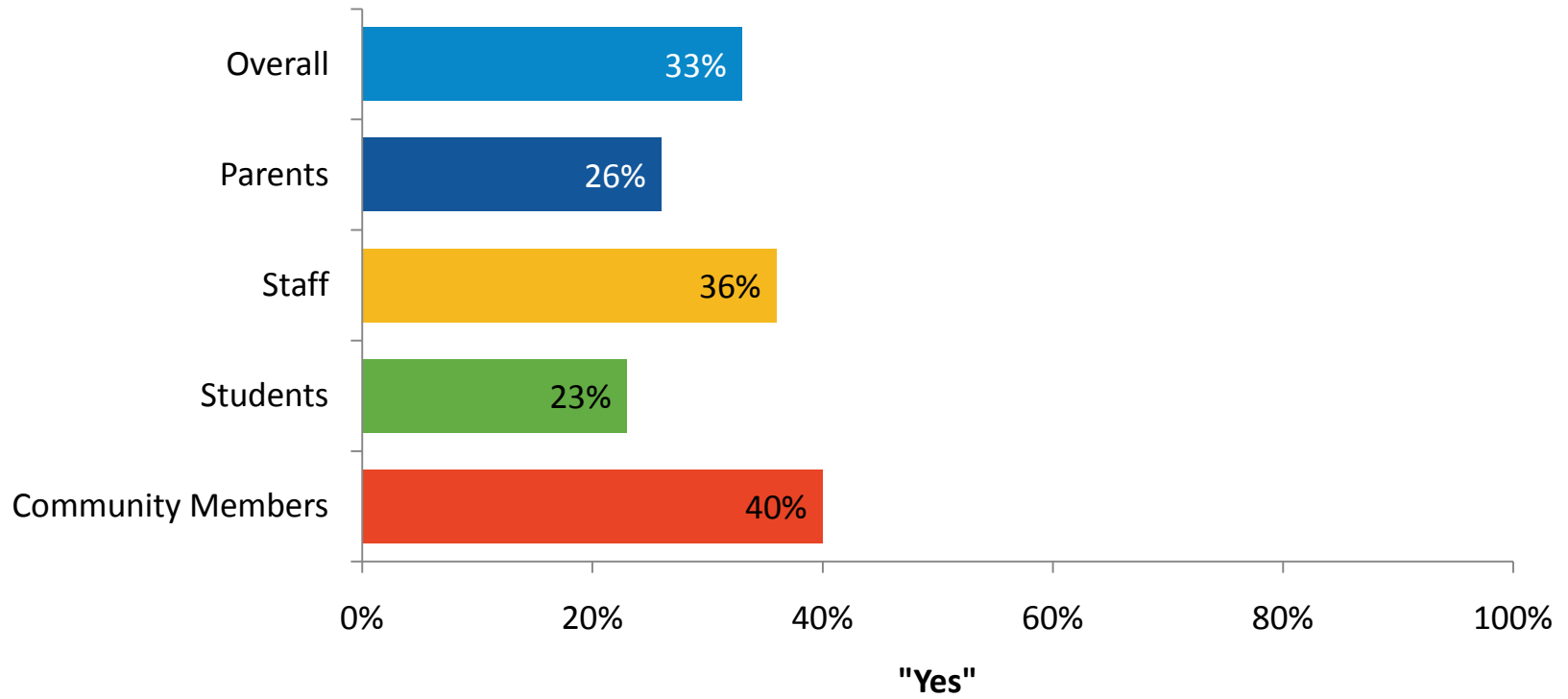
Budget Types

Are you aware that the total annual CMS budget is made up of two distinct budgets that must be kept separate?



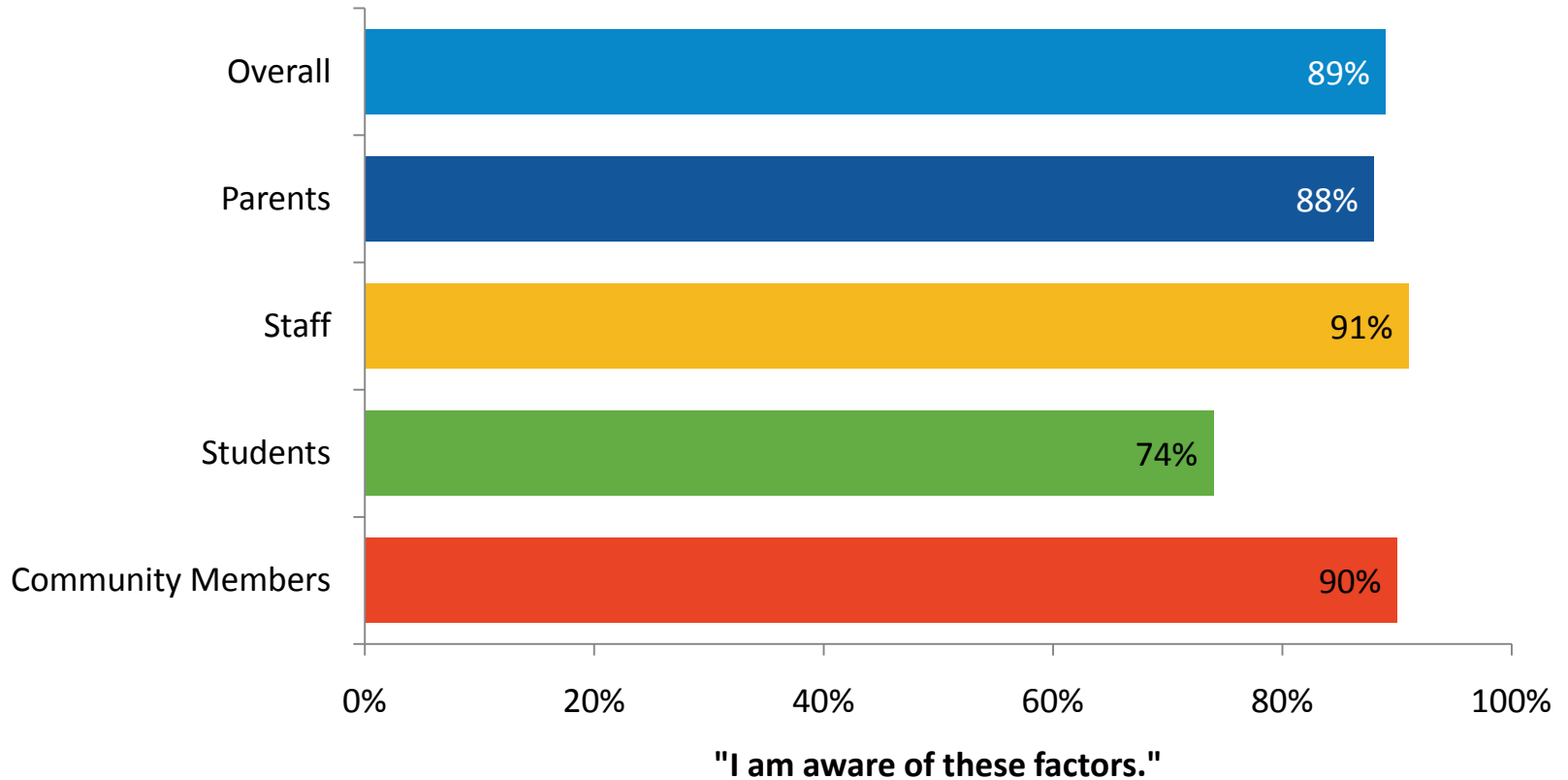
Per Pupil Expenditure

At \$8,565 per pupil, North Carolina is ranked 42nd nationally in average per pupil expenditure. The budgeted CMS per pupil expenditure for 2012-2013 is \$8,589. Were you aware of these facts?



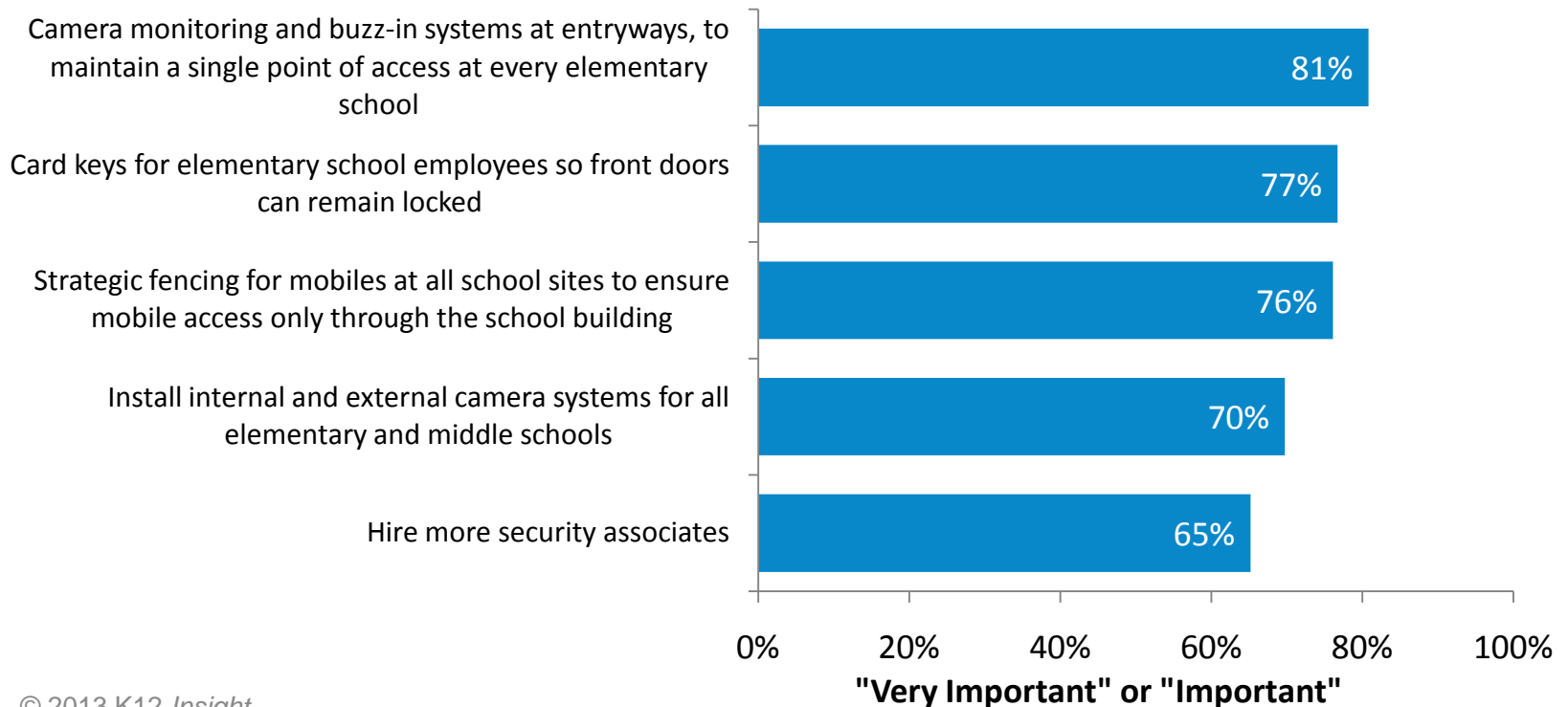
Effects on Budget

Are you aware there are several factors that affect the budget, such as the state of the economy, student enrollment patterns and new initiatives?



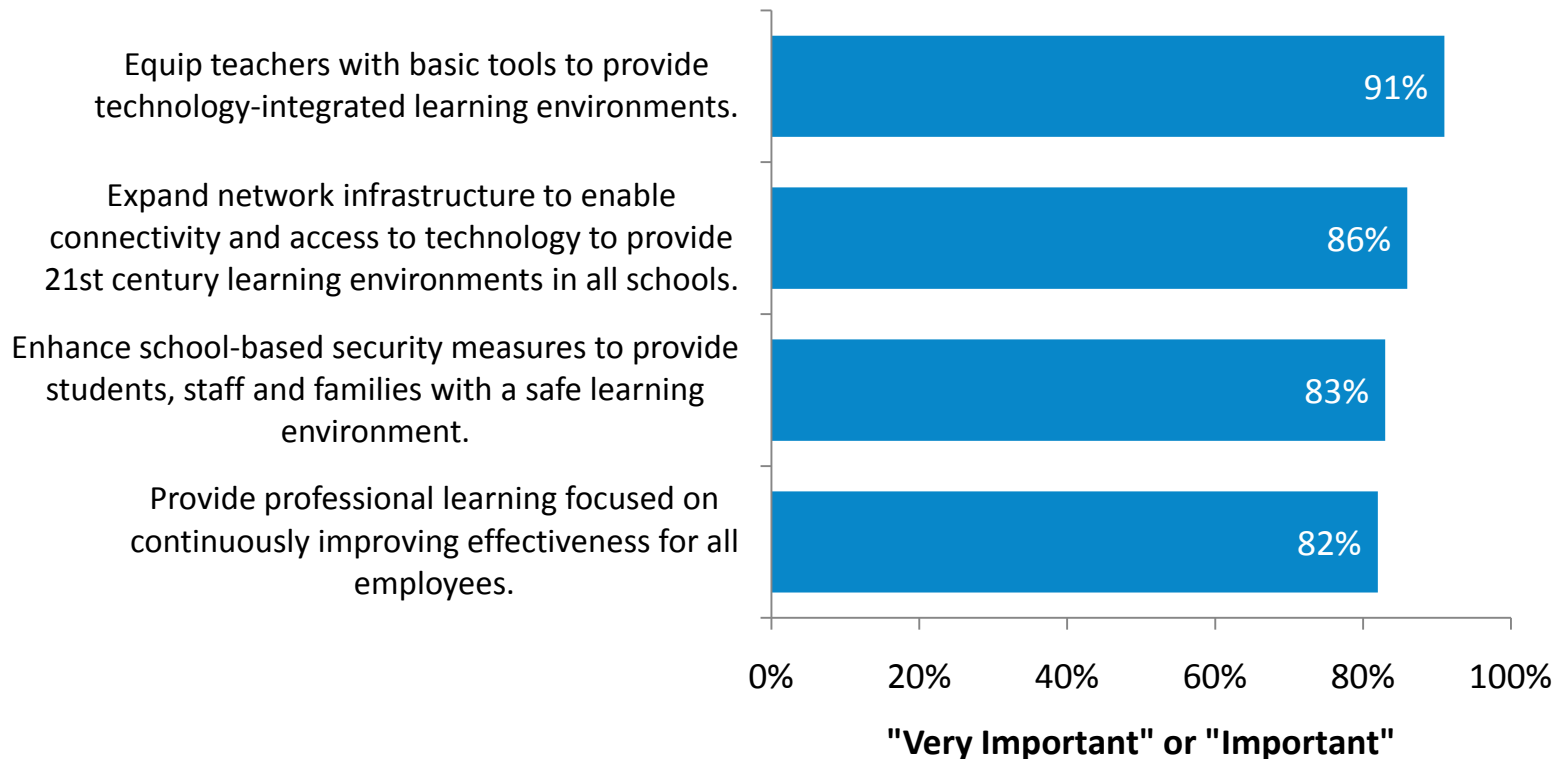
Safety Measures

The safety of students and staff is the highest priority at CMS. As part of the budget development process, the school district is exploring other opportunities to further strengthen security measures in CMS schools. Indicate the level of importance you would give each topic. **Answer Options:** Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important, No Opinion



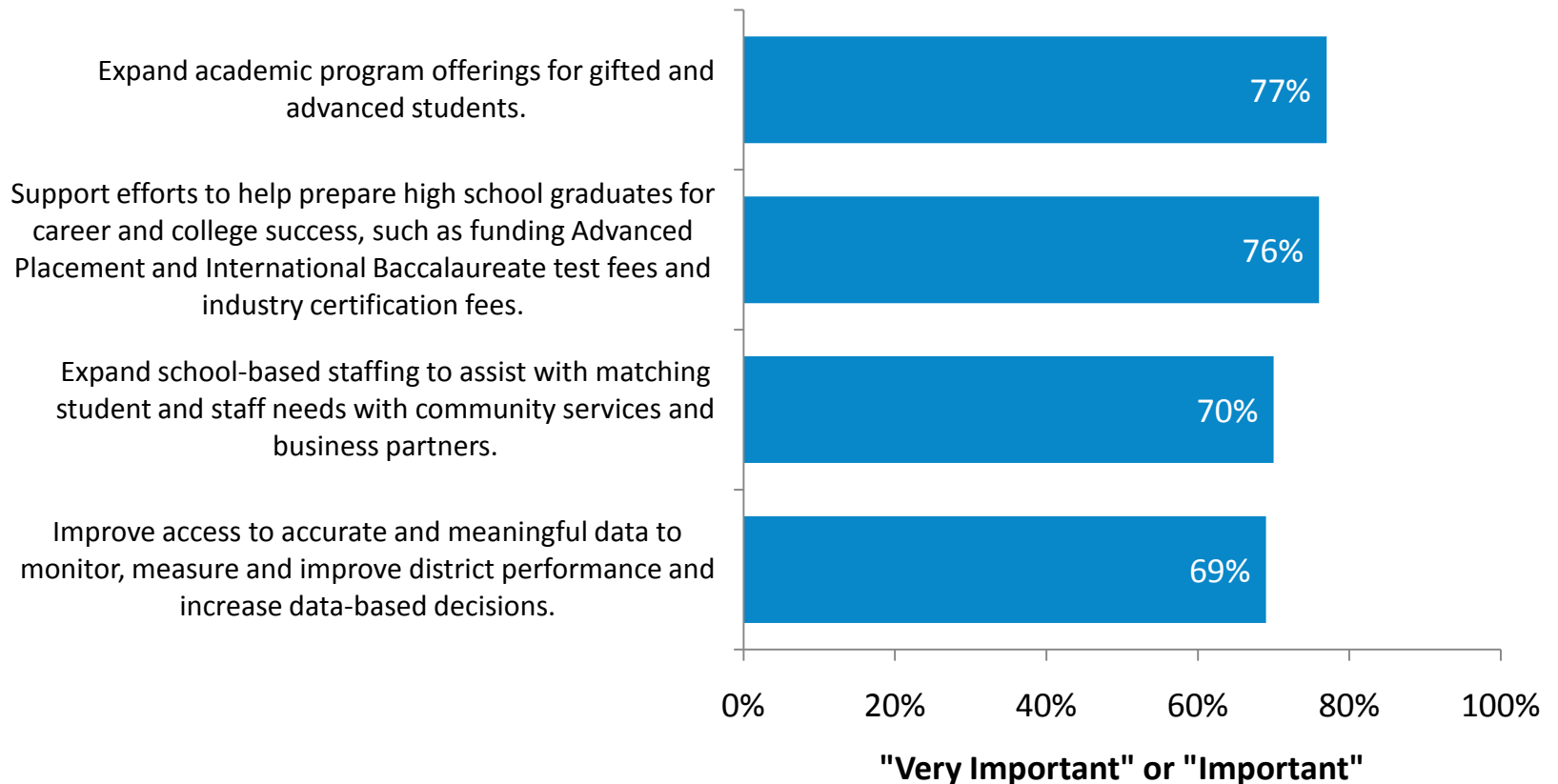
Budget Priorities

As we look to develop the SY2013-14 budget and beyond, we welcome your thoughts on allocating resources based on what you think is most important to advance student achievement. Indicate the level of importance you would give each topic. **Answer Options:** Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important, No Opinion



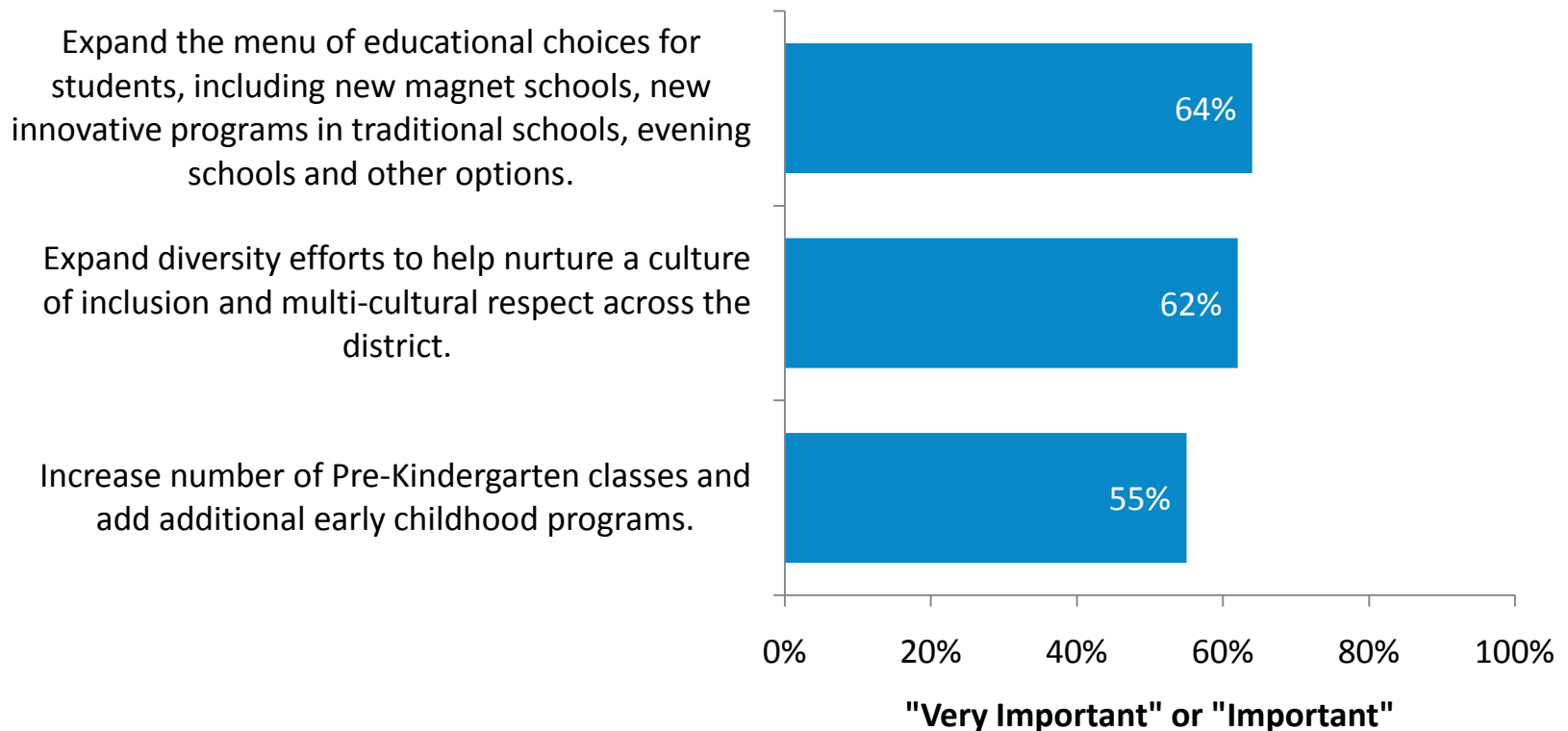
Budget Priorities

Indicate the level of importance you would give each topic. **Answer Options:** Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important, No Opinion



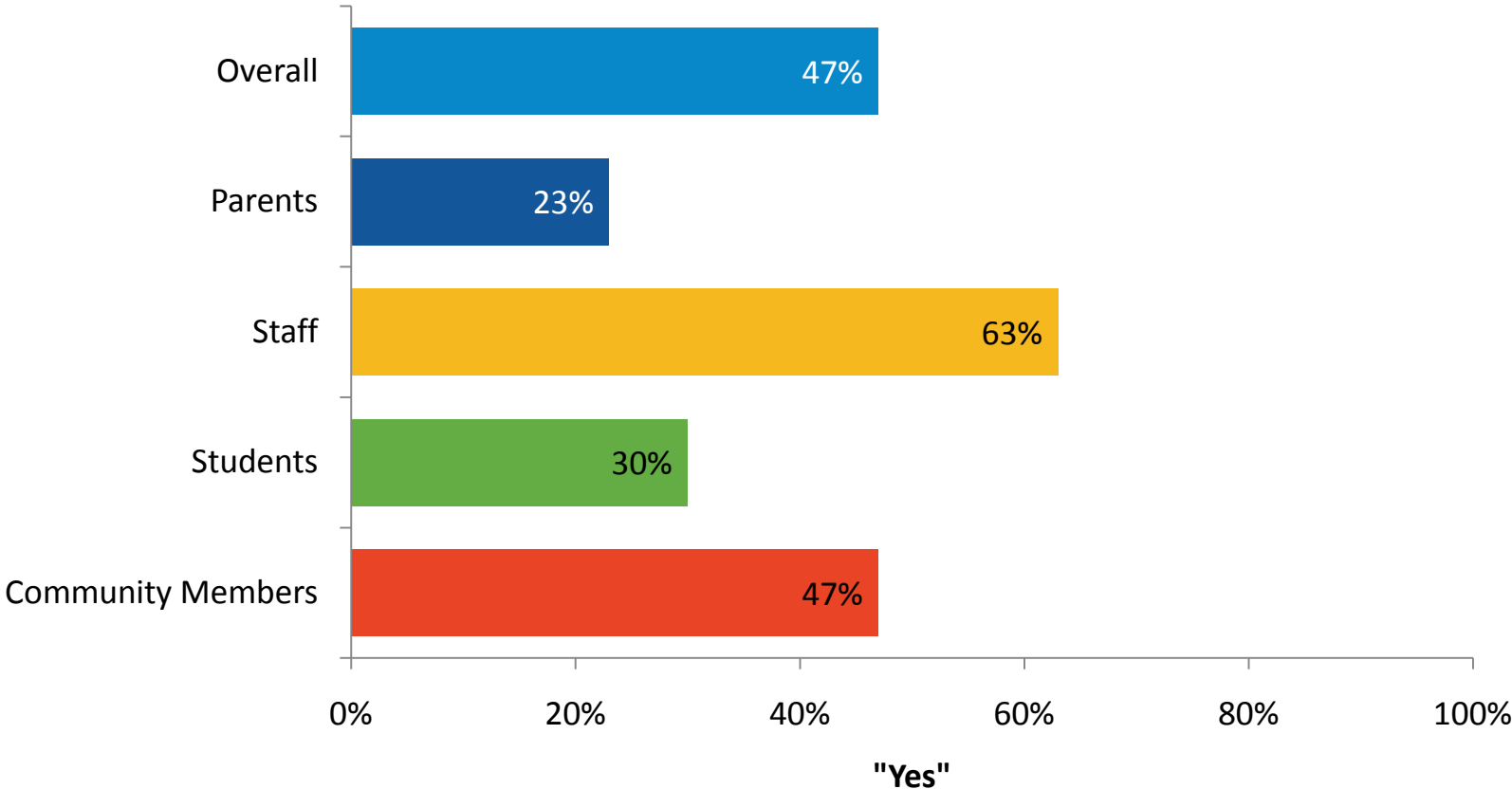
Budget Priorities

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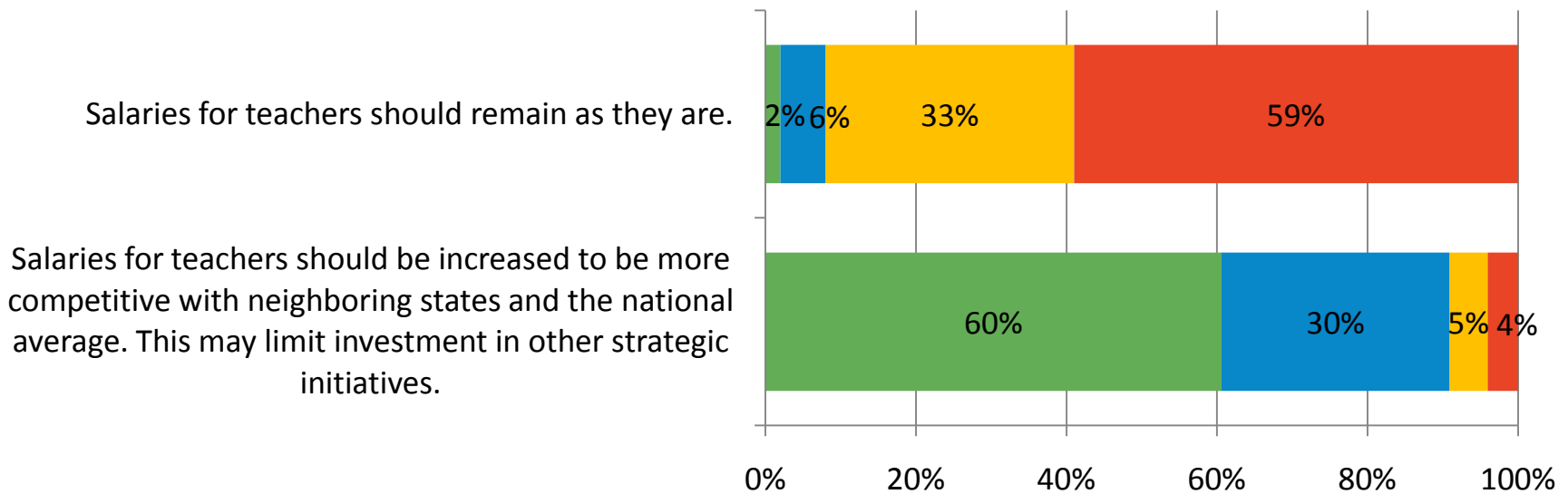
Salary Supplements

Did you know that CMS provides an annual monetary supplement to help boost teacher salaries, and that our supplement is one of the highest in the state?



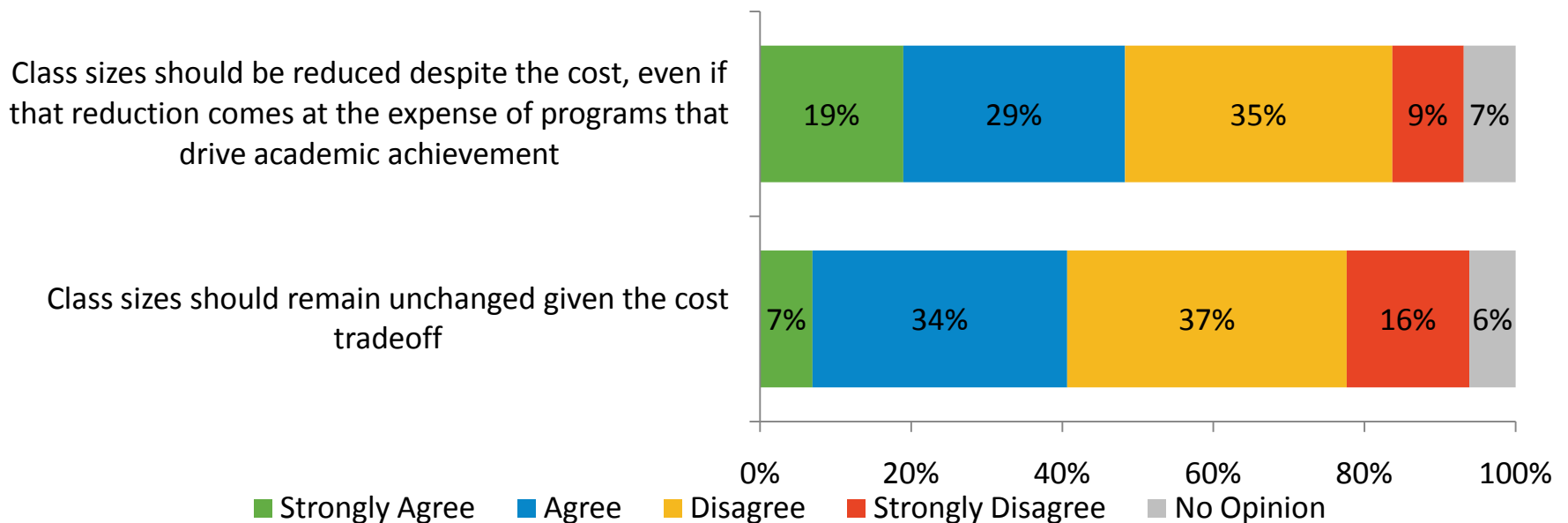
Employee Compensation

Typical for most school districts, the majority of the CMS operating budget (83%) is allocated to salary and benefits. The average annual salary for CMS teachers is about \$46,000 which is about \$10,000 less than the national average and \$1,000 to \$7,000 less than the average salary of teachers in neighboring states like Georgia, Virginia and South Carolina. This impacts CMS' ability to attract and retain the best teachers. Please let us know the degree to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



Class Size

Smaller class size is a common request by parents and teachers. Reducing class size requires more resources, such as additional staff and classrooms. Here are some important facts you should know related to class size: Adding one teacher in every CMS school costs about \$9.6 million, while building one additional classroom costs about \$130,000. Given these facts, to what degree do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



Next Steps

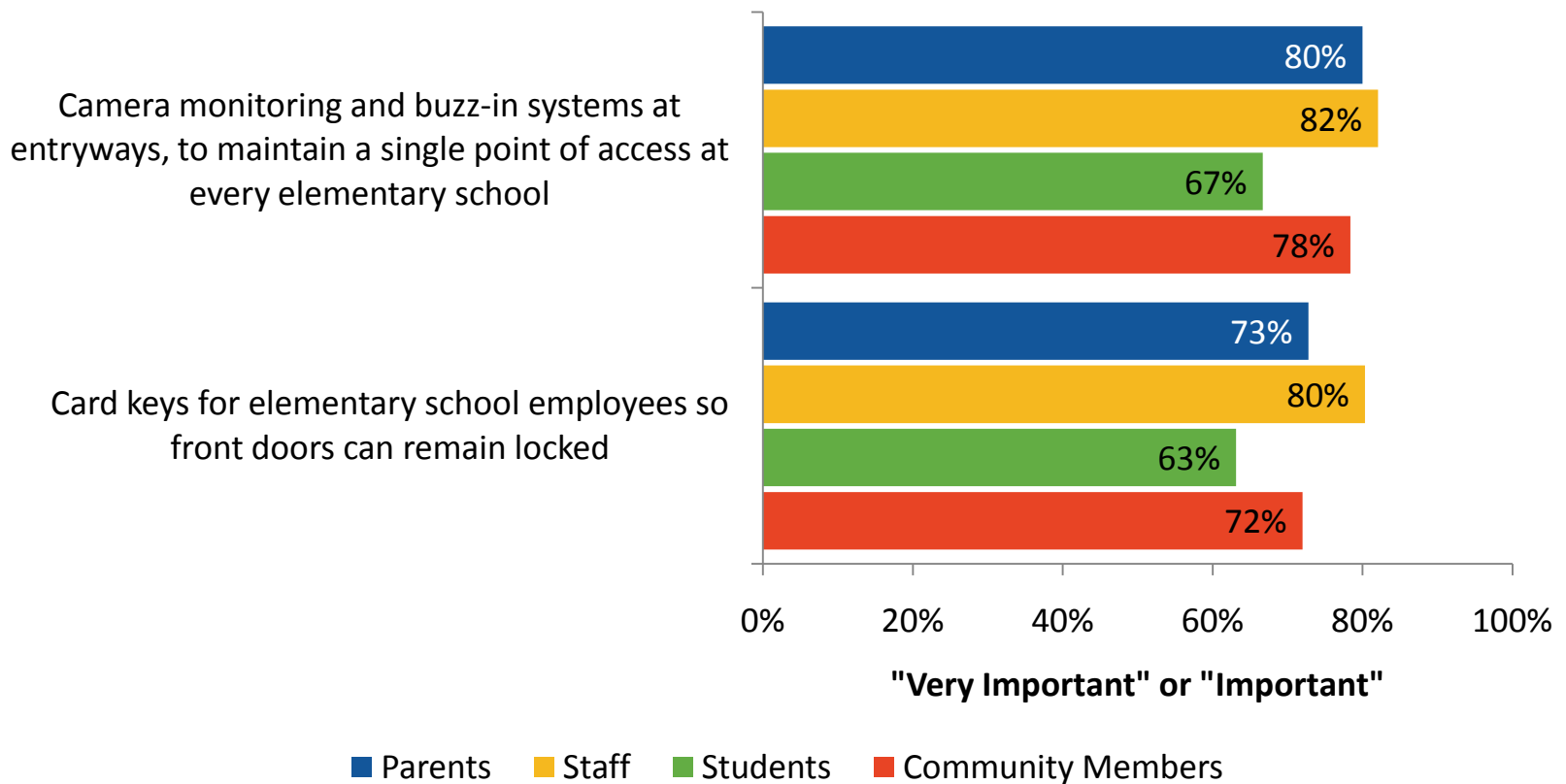
- **Input from this survey will be considered as part of the budget development process for 2013-2014.**
- **This report will be posted on the CMS Budget Information website at <http://www.cms.k12.nc.us>.**

Appendix

- Safety Measures by Respondent Group (Slides 19 and 20)
- Budget Priorities by Respondent Group (Slides 21-25)
- Employee Compensation by Respondent Group (Slide 26)
- Class Size by Respondent Group (Slide 27)

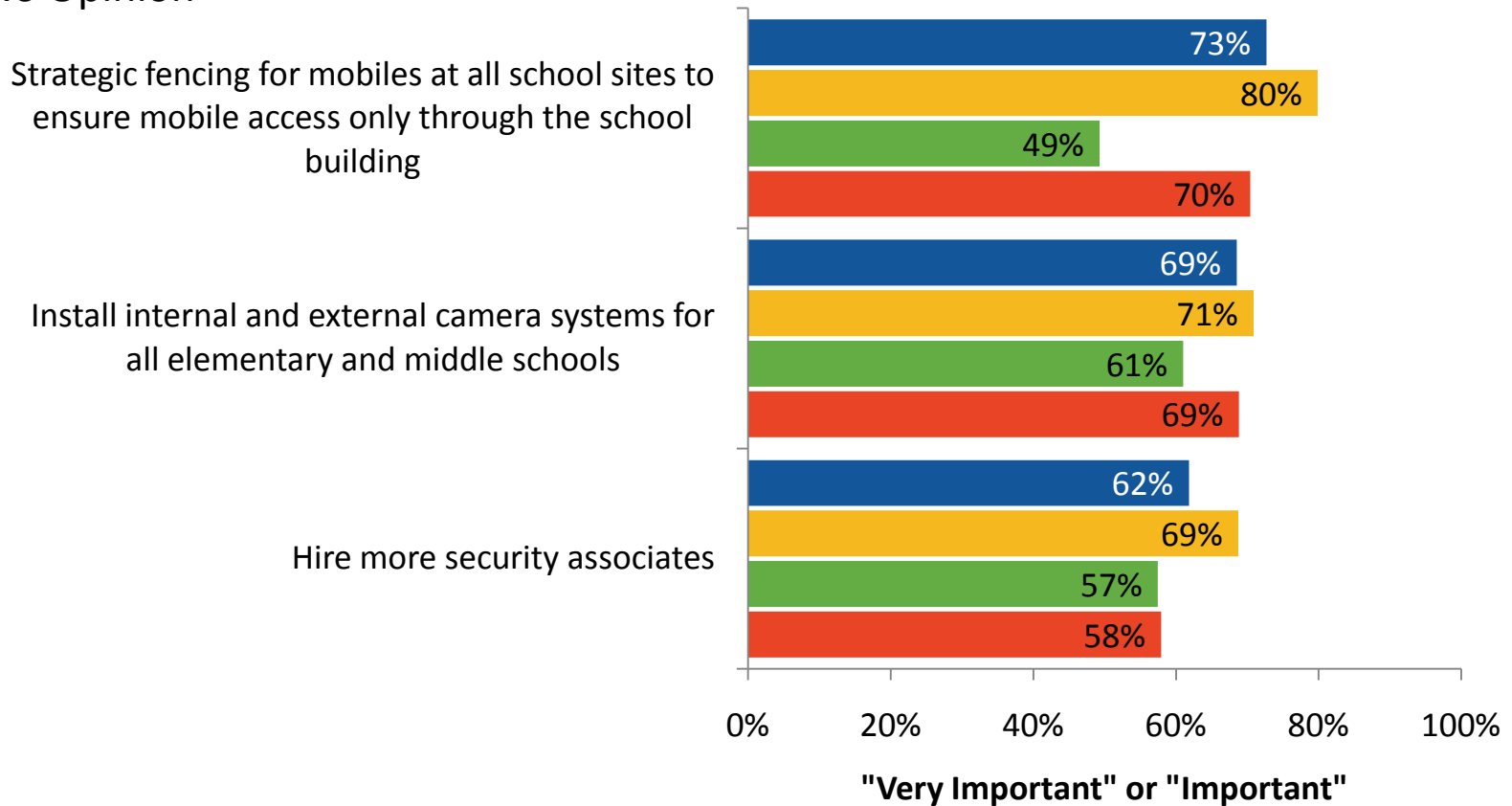
Safety Measures

Answer Options: Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important, No Opinion



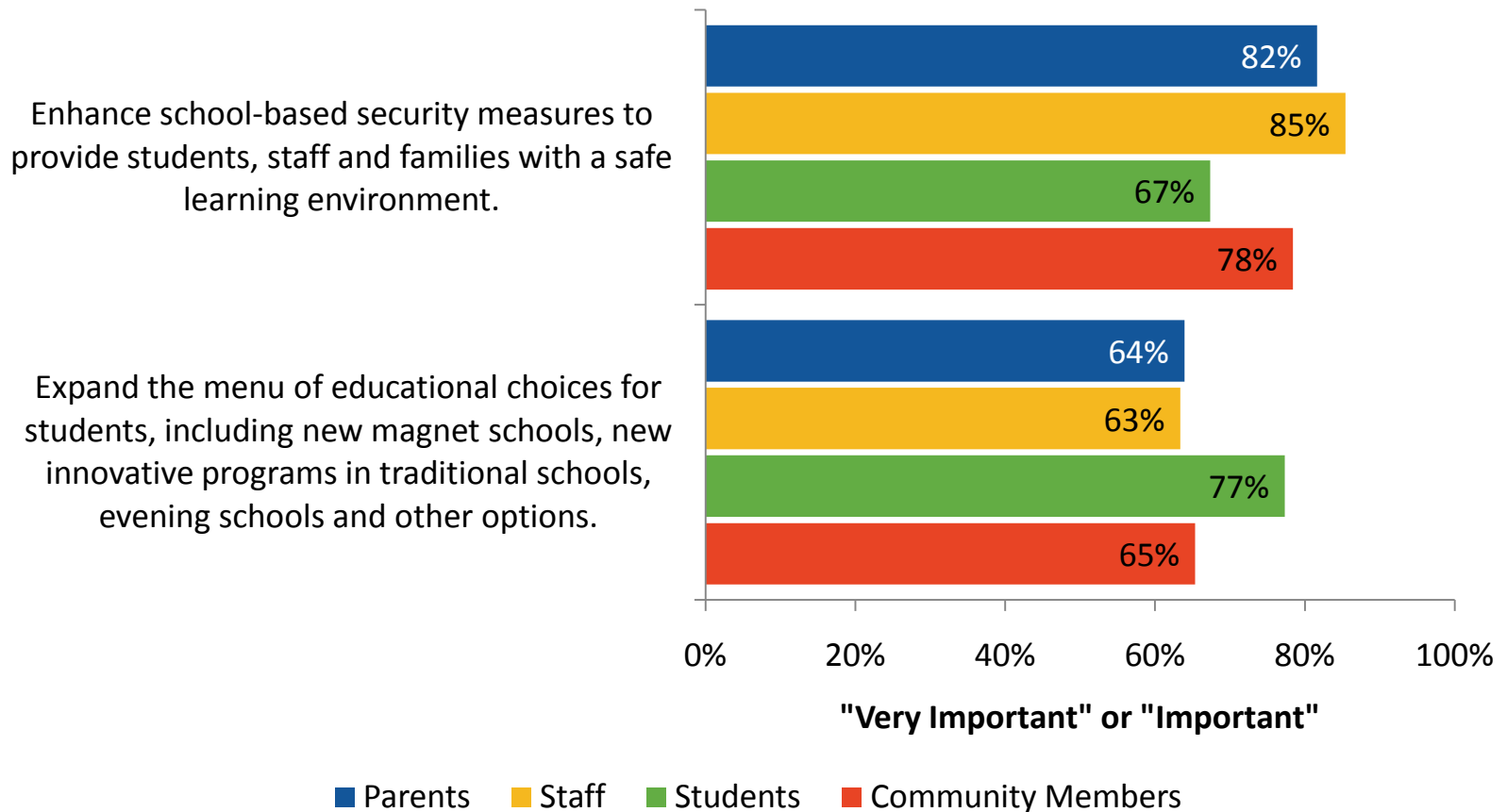
Safety Measures

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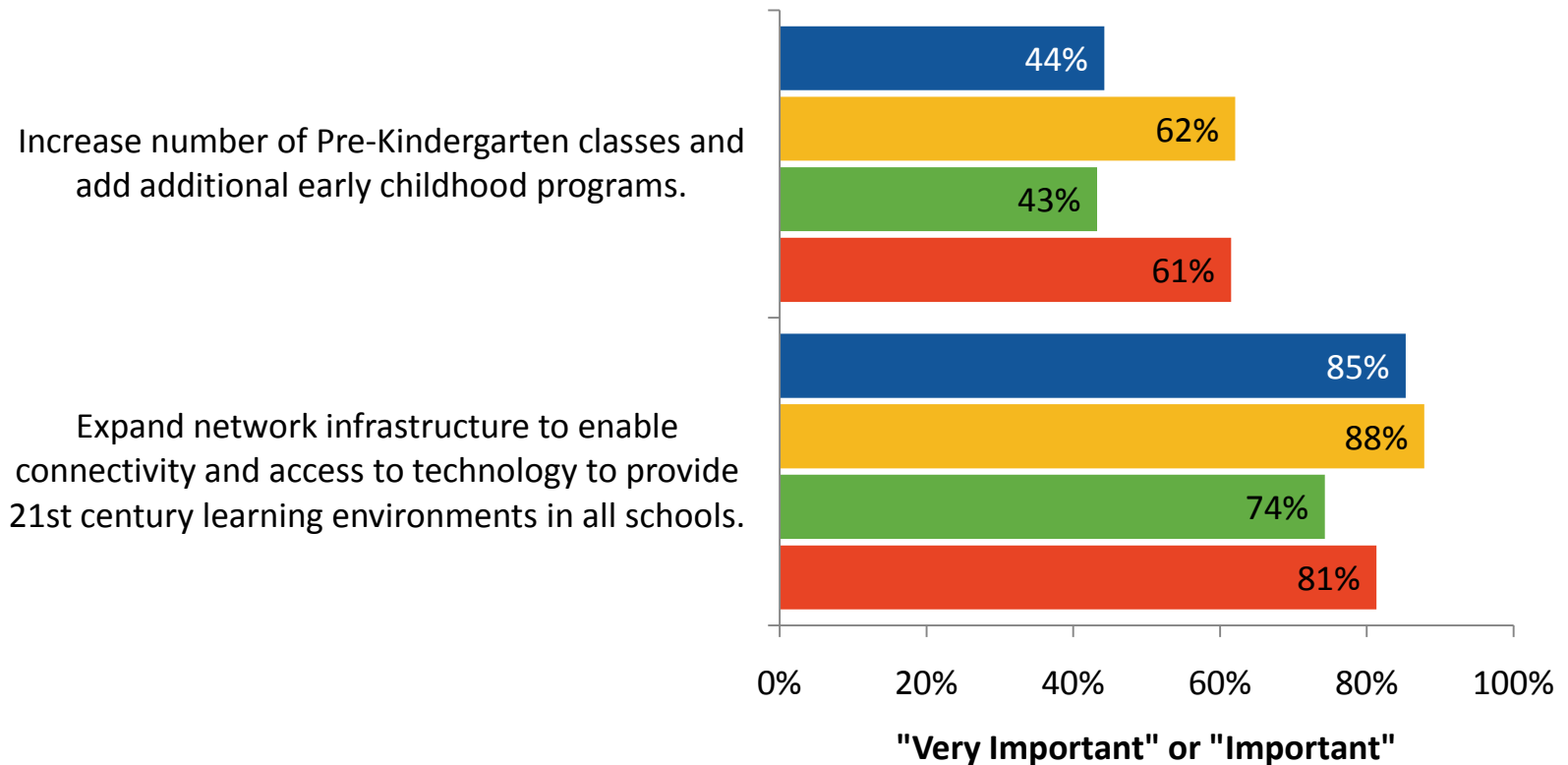
Budget Priorities

Indicate the level of importance you would give each topic. **Answer Options:** Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important, No Opinion



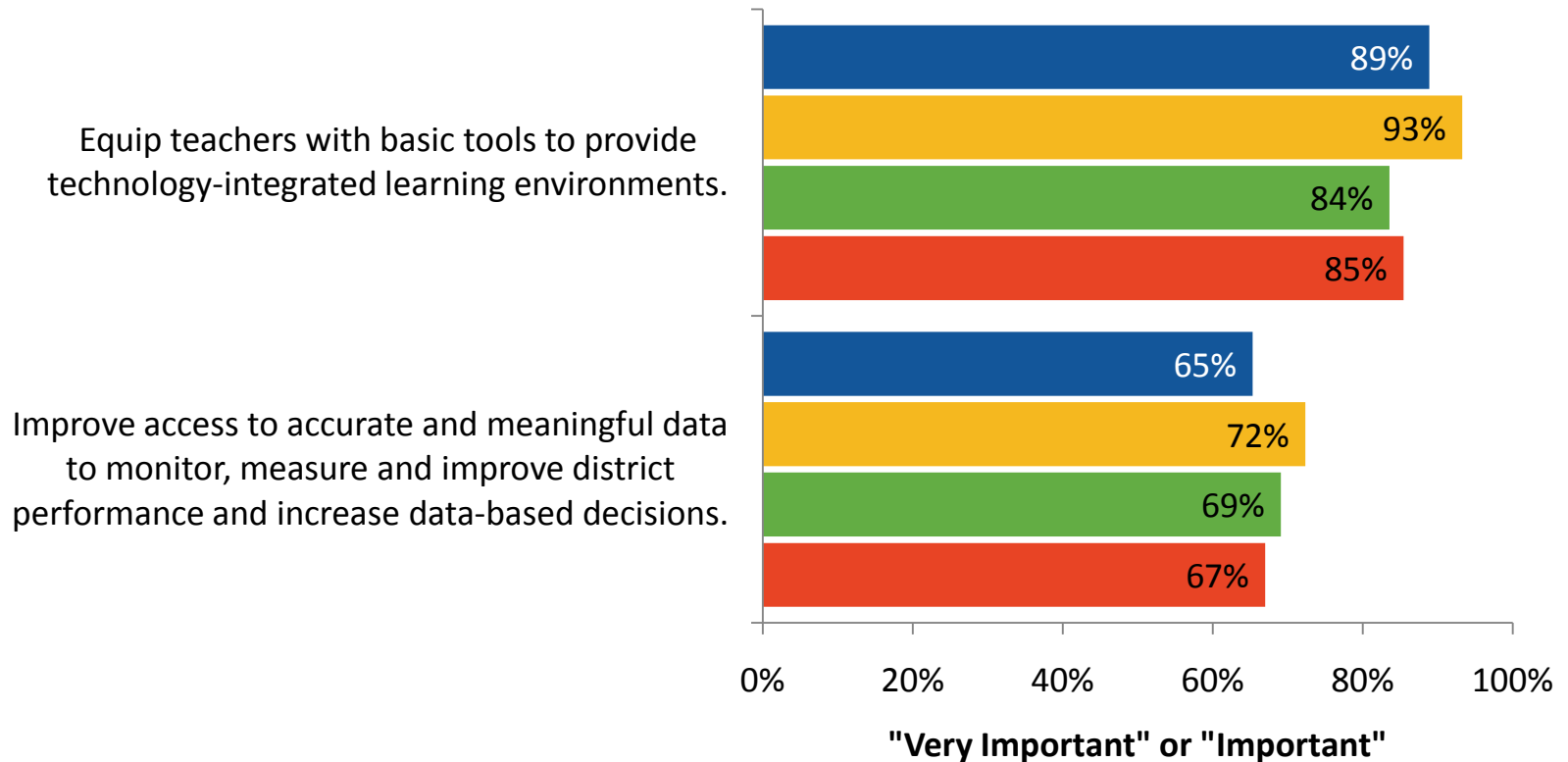
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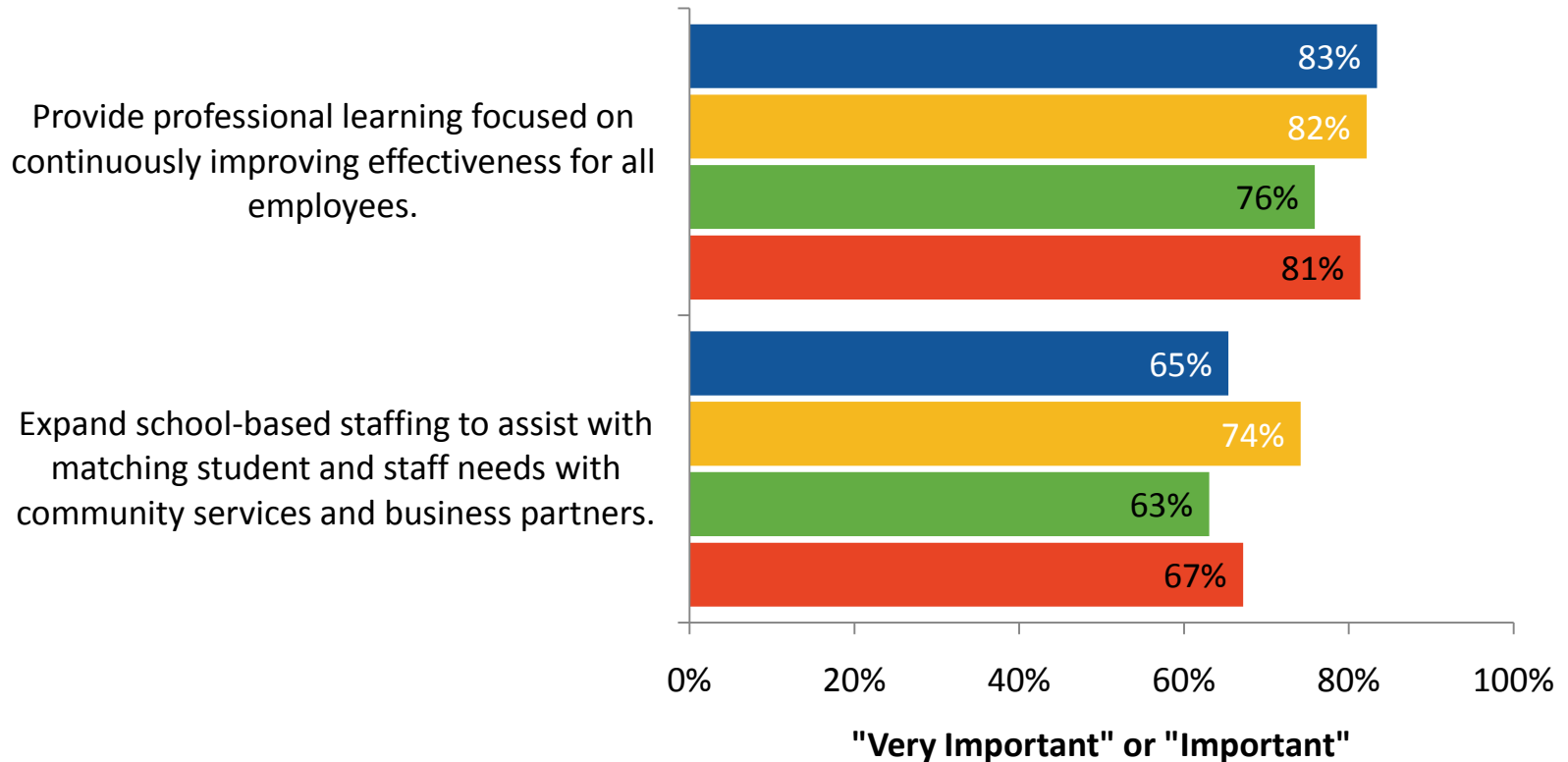
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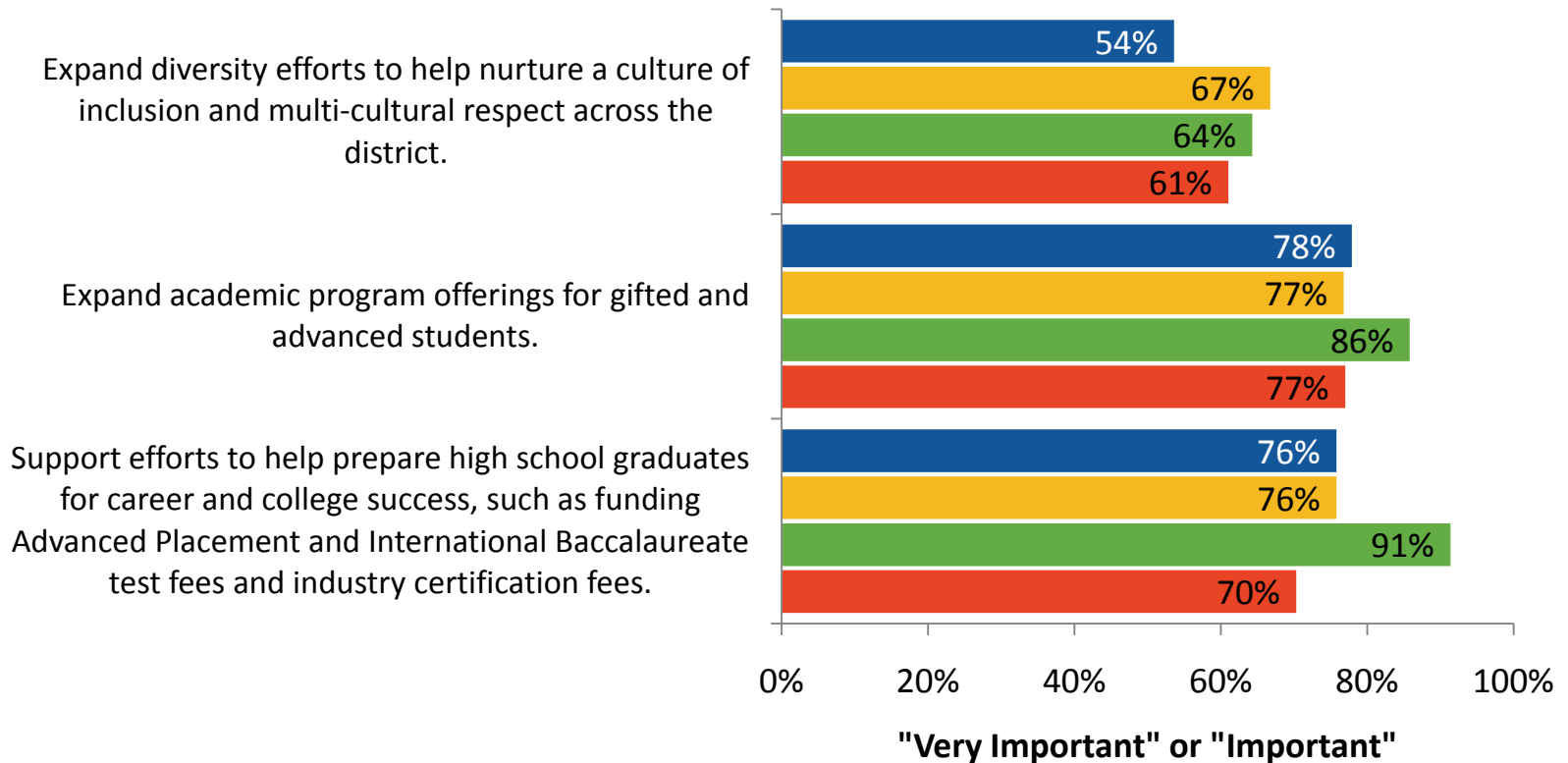
Budget Priorities

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Budget Priorities

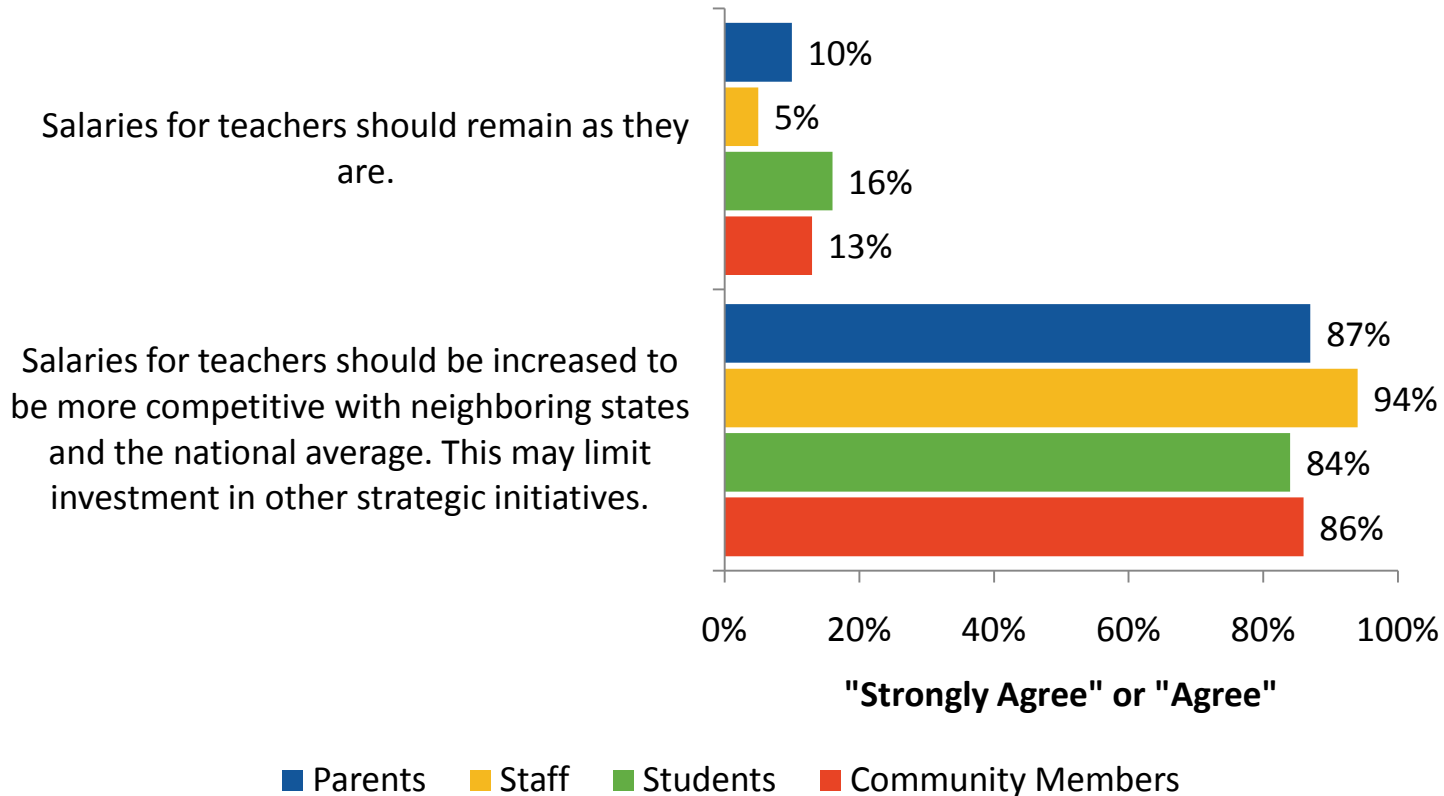
Indicate the level of importance you would give each topic. **Answer Options:** Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important, No Opinion



Employee Compensation

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Answer Options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, No Opinion



Class Size

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Answer Options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, No Opinion

