



MEA Member Survey: COVID-19 and Public Education

May 14-22 – 15,339 active member responses

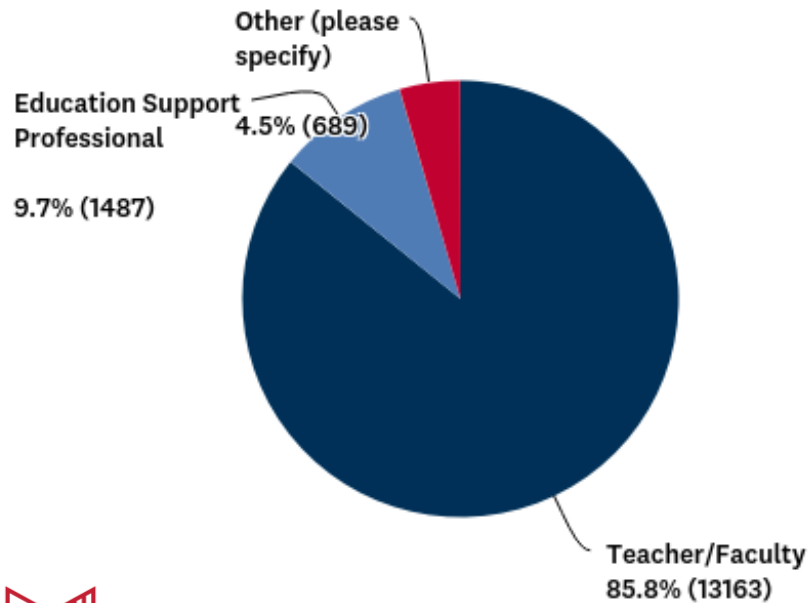
Key Findings

- **There is broad agreement about importance of health and safety considerations for reopening of schools, including: concern for health of students, parents, employees and families; the impact of class sizes on social distancing; and the need for standards around PPE usage and future closures.**
- **Turnover in the educator ranks looks to be increased because of COVID-19, exacerbating the ongoing shortage of teachers and other school employees.**
- **Student learning needs are front of mind for educators, particularly deemphasizing standardized testing and its impacts.**
- **All these issues underscore the need to prevent pandemic-drive budget cuts and for urgent action by Congress to provide funding to help maintain a safe, quality public education.**

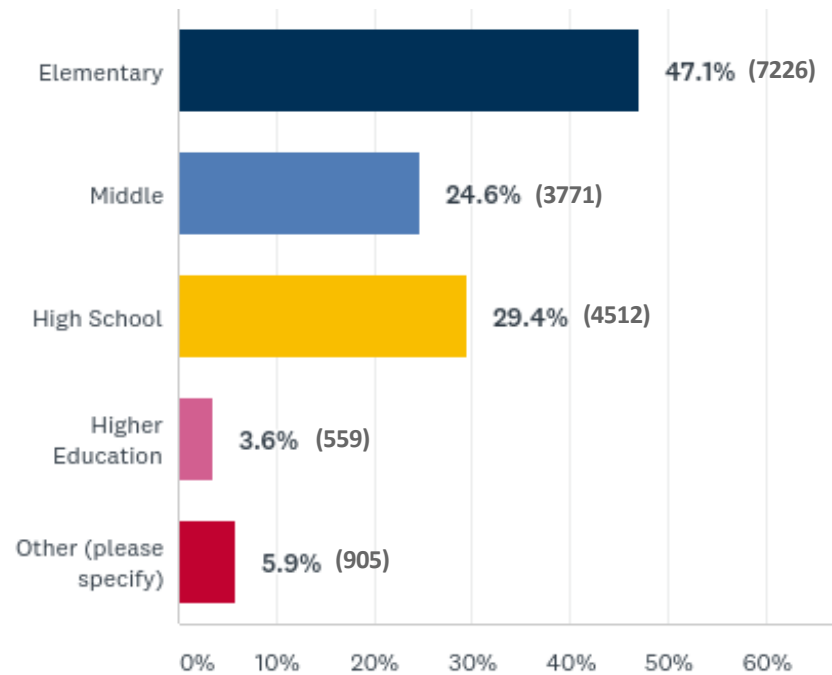


15,339 responses from MEA members statewide to online survey from May 14-22

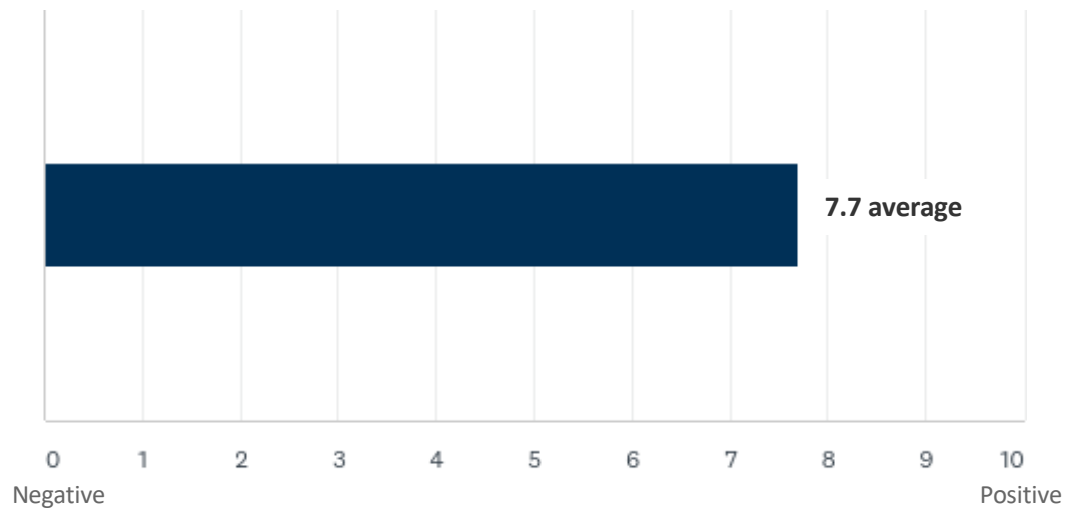
Type of school employee:



Grade Level:



On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being extremely positive, 1 being extremely negative), how do you feel about your school's efforts to continue learning opportunities for students during the pandemic?

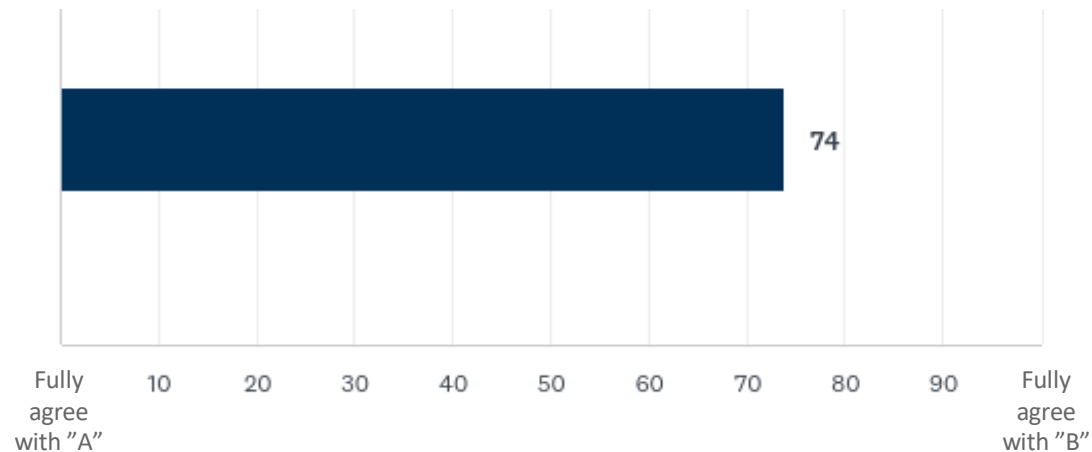


Thinking about reopening schools, move the slider to indicate the degree to which you agree more with one of the following two statements:

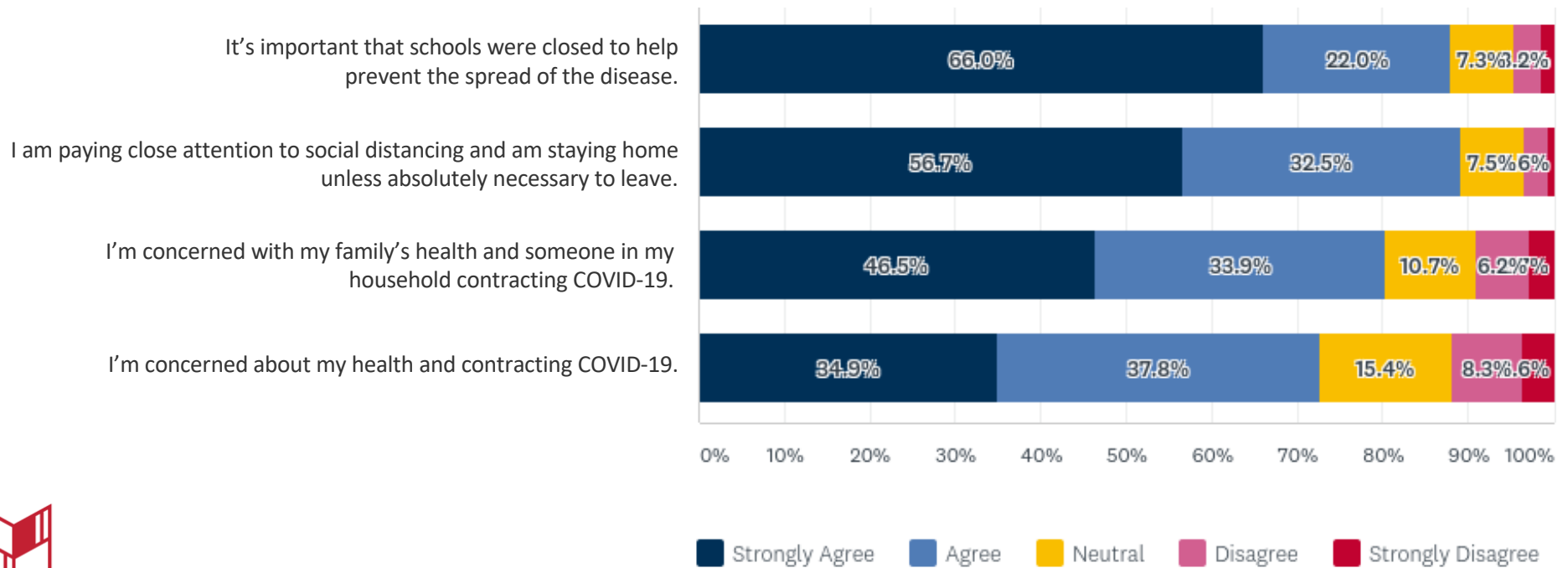
A) COVID-19 has been extremely disruptive and Michigan students are falling behind every day. It's important to get back to school and get the economy reopened again as soon as possible so our kids don't fall further behind their peers in other states.

-OR-

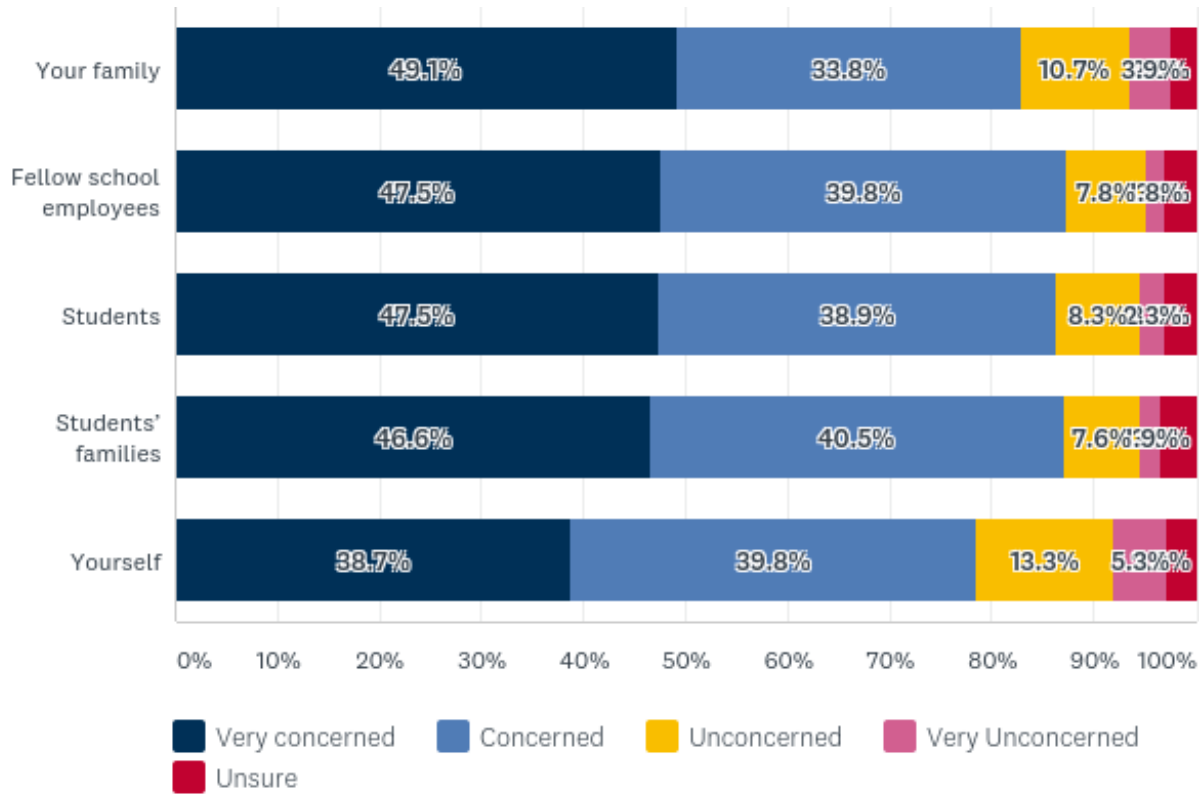
B) Schools should reopen only after public health experts determine it's safe to return, and with adequate planning and equipment to protect school employees, students and visitors from COVID-19.



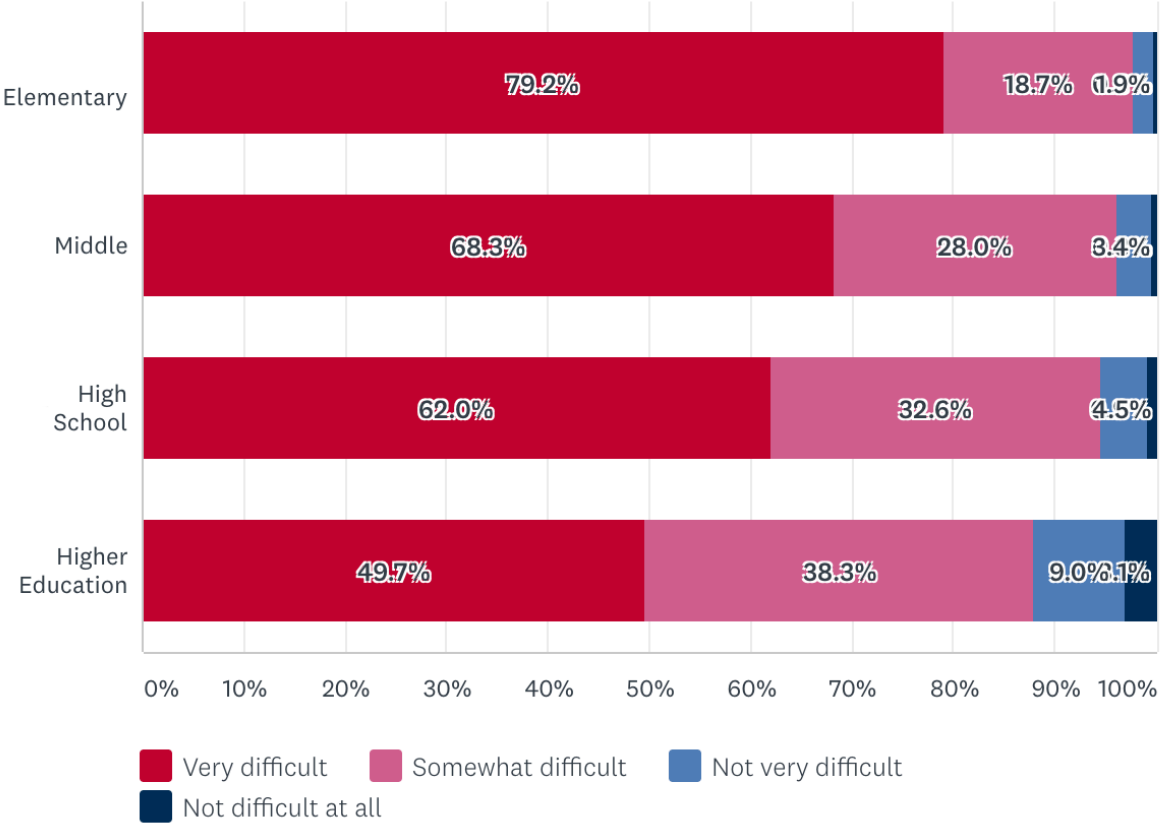
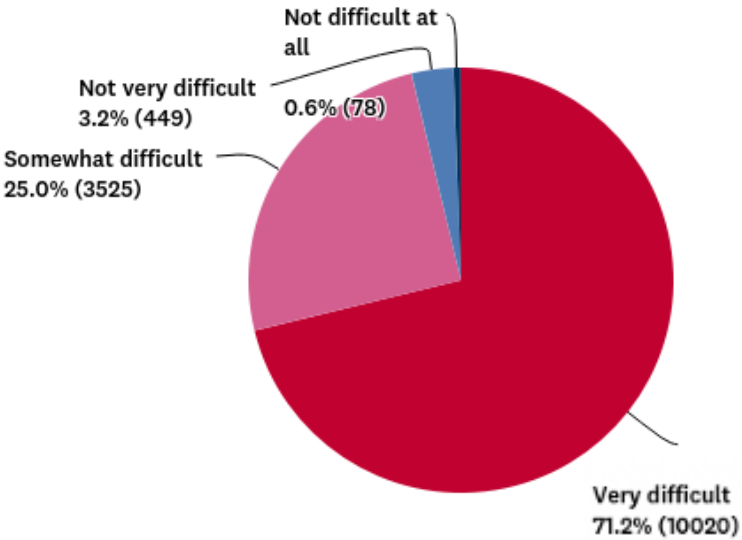
Thinking about your personal experience in the COVID-19 crisis, please share if you agree or disagree with the following statements:



How concerned are you regarding the health risks of returning to in-person school for:

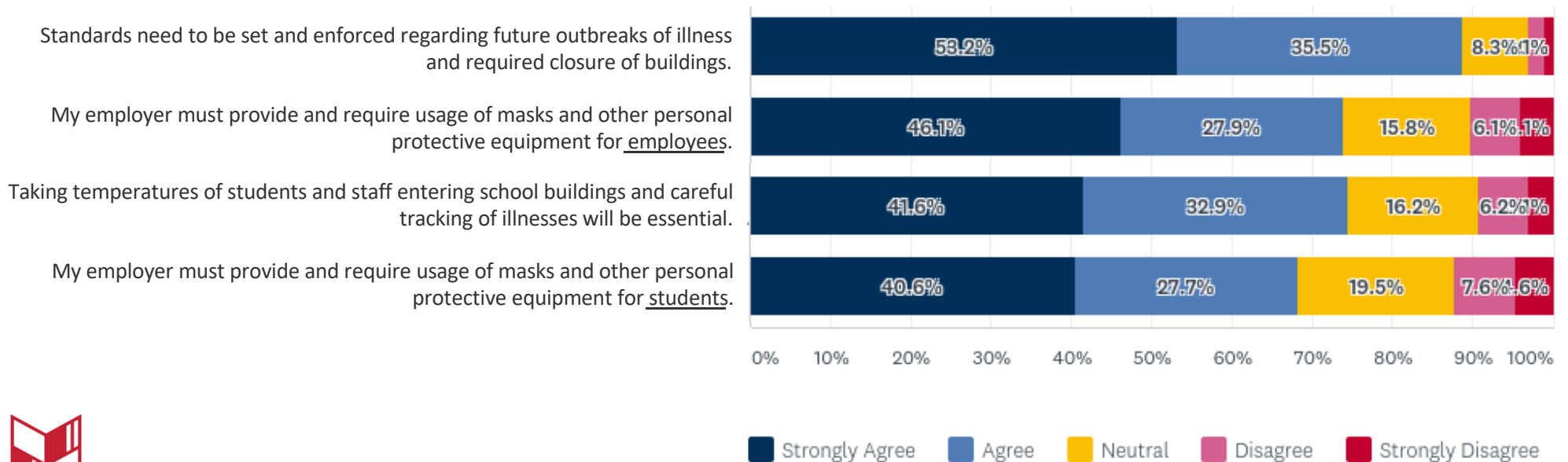


Thinking about the grade level(s) you work with, how difficult do you think it will be to implement social distancing and other public health practices inside public schools?



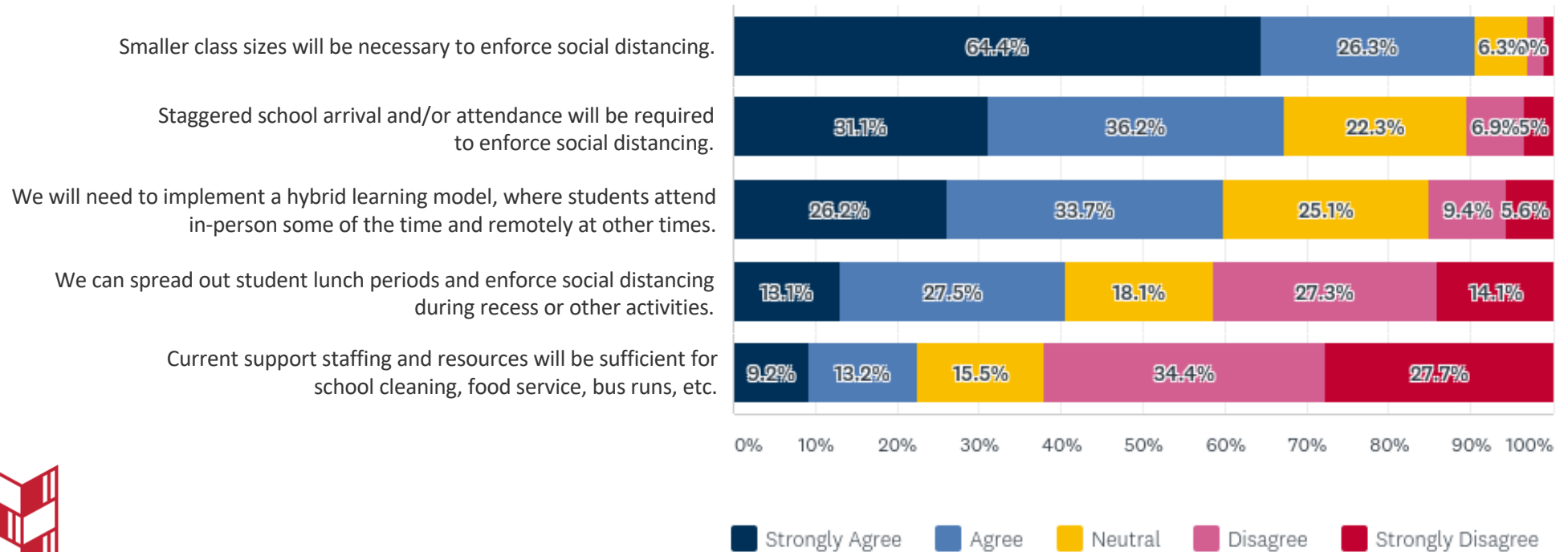
Thinking about when schools reopen for in-person learning, please share whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- Health & Safety -



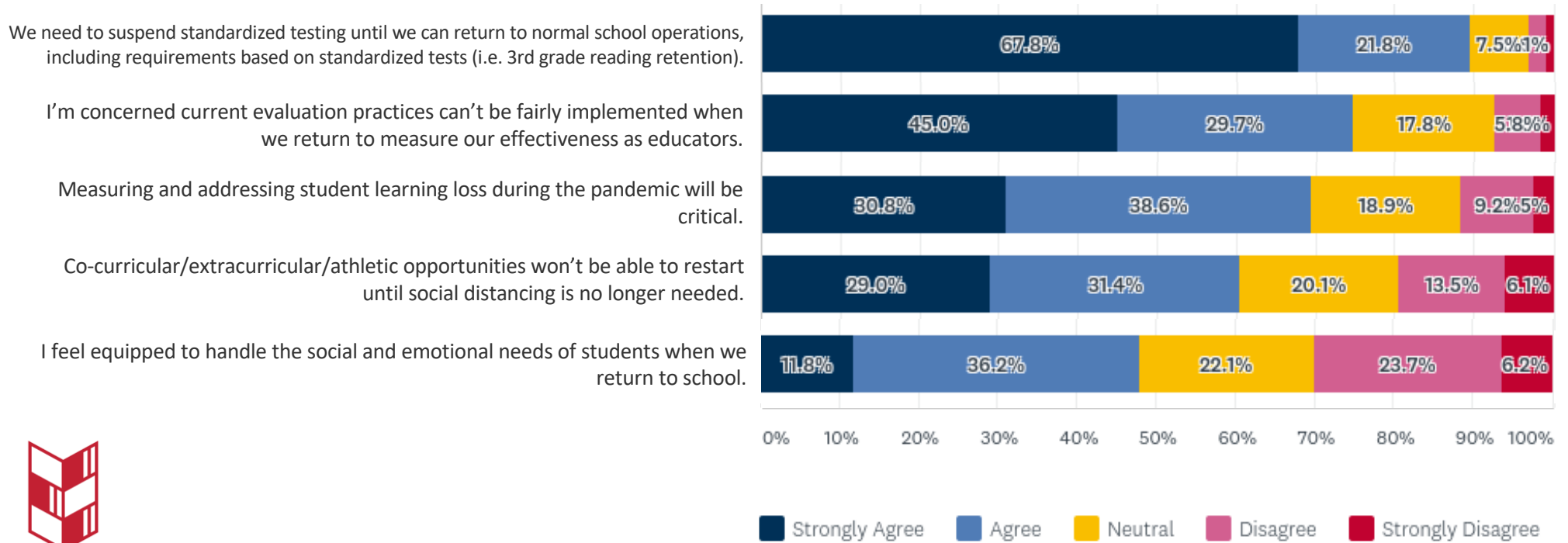
Thinking about when schools reopen for in-person learning, please share whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- School Operations -

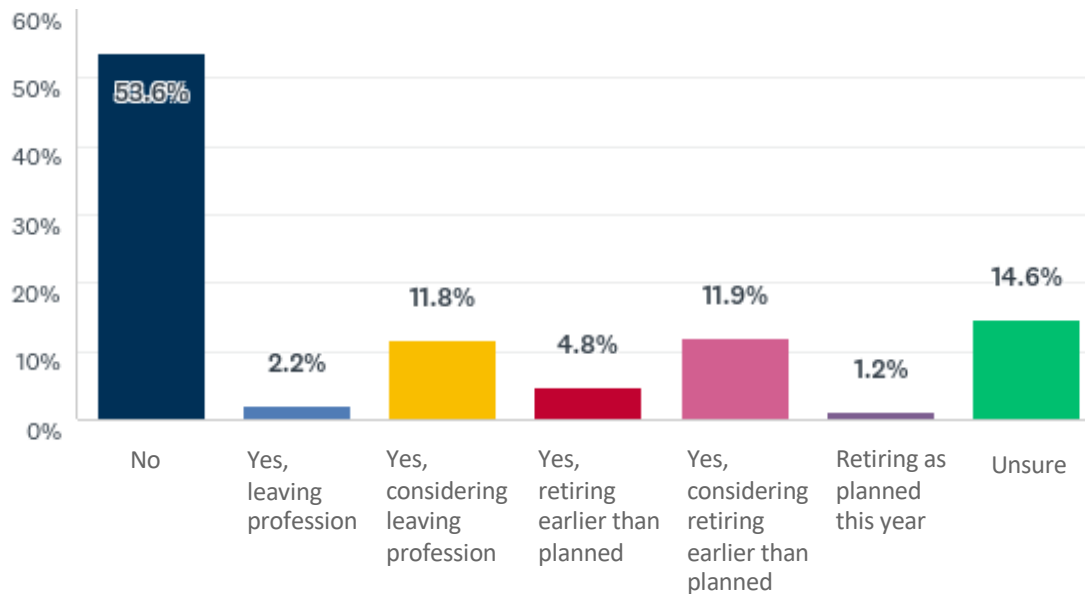


Thinking about when schools reopen for in-person learning, please share whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- Student & Professional Issues -

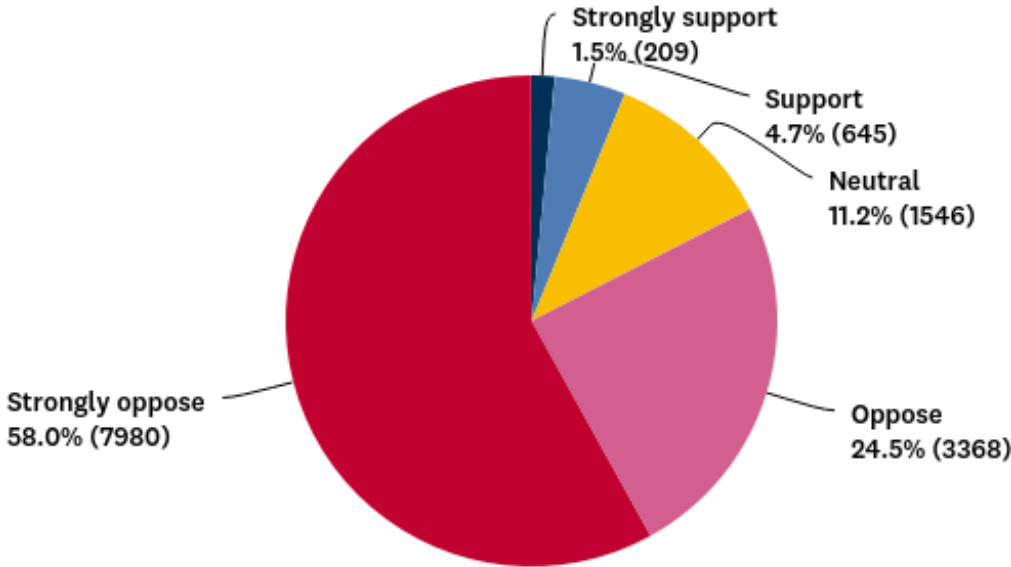


Has COVID-19 made you think about leaving the public education profession or retiring earlier than planned?

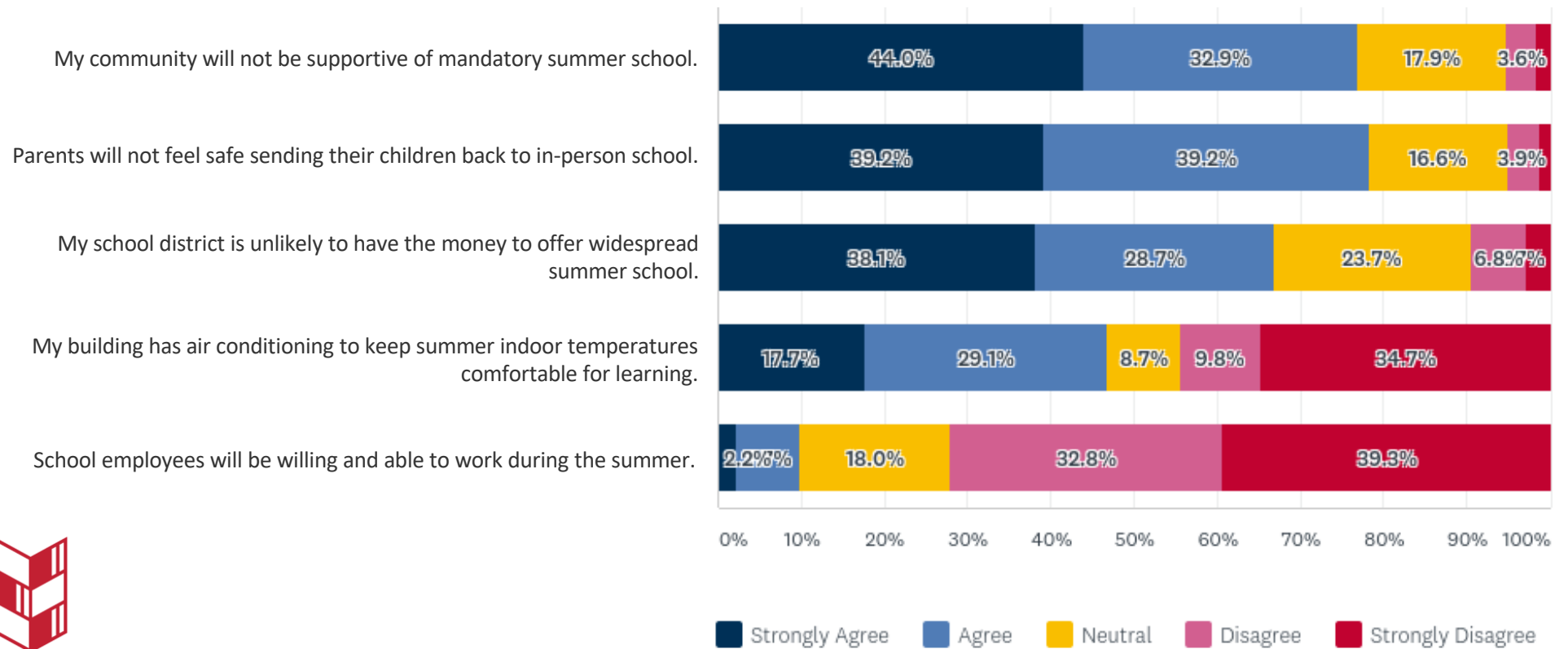


<u>Subgroup</u>	<u>Yes, Retiring</u>	<u>Thinking about Retiring</u>
Over 25 years	14.3%	27.9%
15-25 years	5.3%	11.0%
	<u>Yes, Leaving</u>	<u>Thinking about Leaving</u>
Over 25 years	1.9%	5.5%
15-25 years	2.2%	10.7%
5-15 years	2.3%	18.7%
Under 5 yrs	2.1%	16.1%

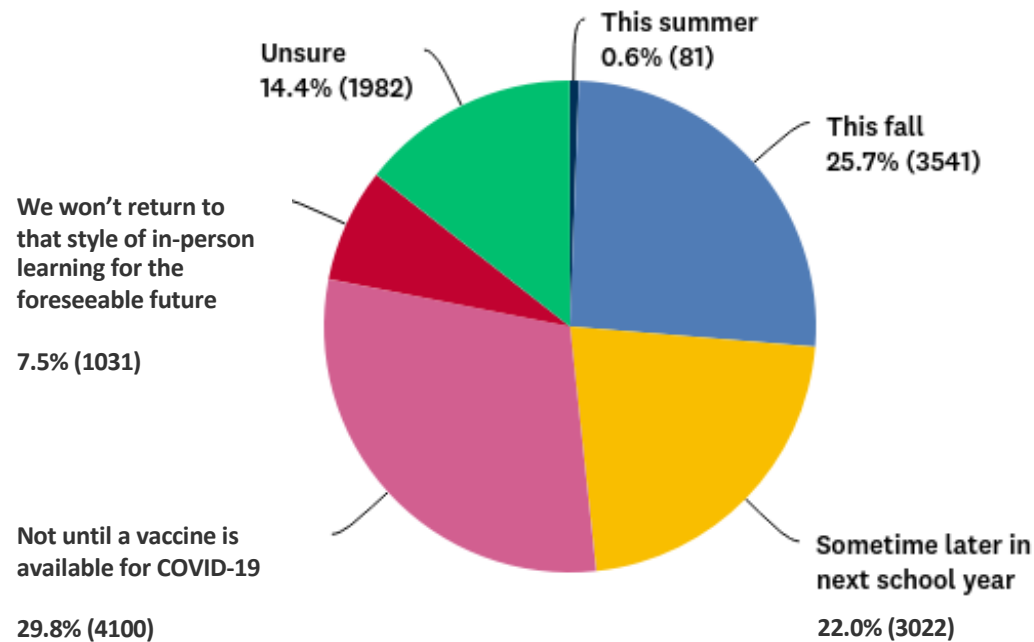
Some lawmakers have called for schools to reopen this summer. Do you support or oppose restarting in-person learning at your school during the summer?



Thinking about summer in-person learning, please share whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:



In your opinion, when do you believe we will be able to return to in-person learning that is close to the same as prior to the closures in March?



Next Steps

- We asked educator experts – Michigan’s teachers and school support staff – what needs to happen. We appreciate that Gov. Whitmer and other lawmakers want to hear from frontline educators.
- The results from this survey will be shared with the Governor’s Return to School Advisory Council to help ensure the voices of front-line educators are part of the decisions about how to safely reopen schools for in-person learning.
- MEA will advocate for common sense solutions to keep everyone safe, including appropriate statewide standards for health and safety while maintaining ability for districts to work with employees to meet learning needs of their communities.

