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&

Ready For The Real World?

Americans Speak
On High School Reform

*Listening.
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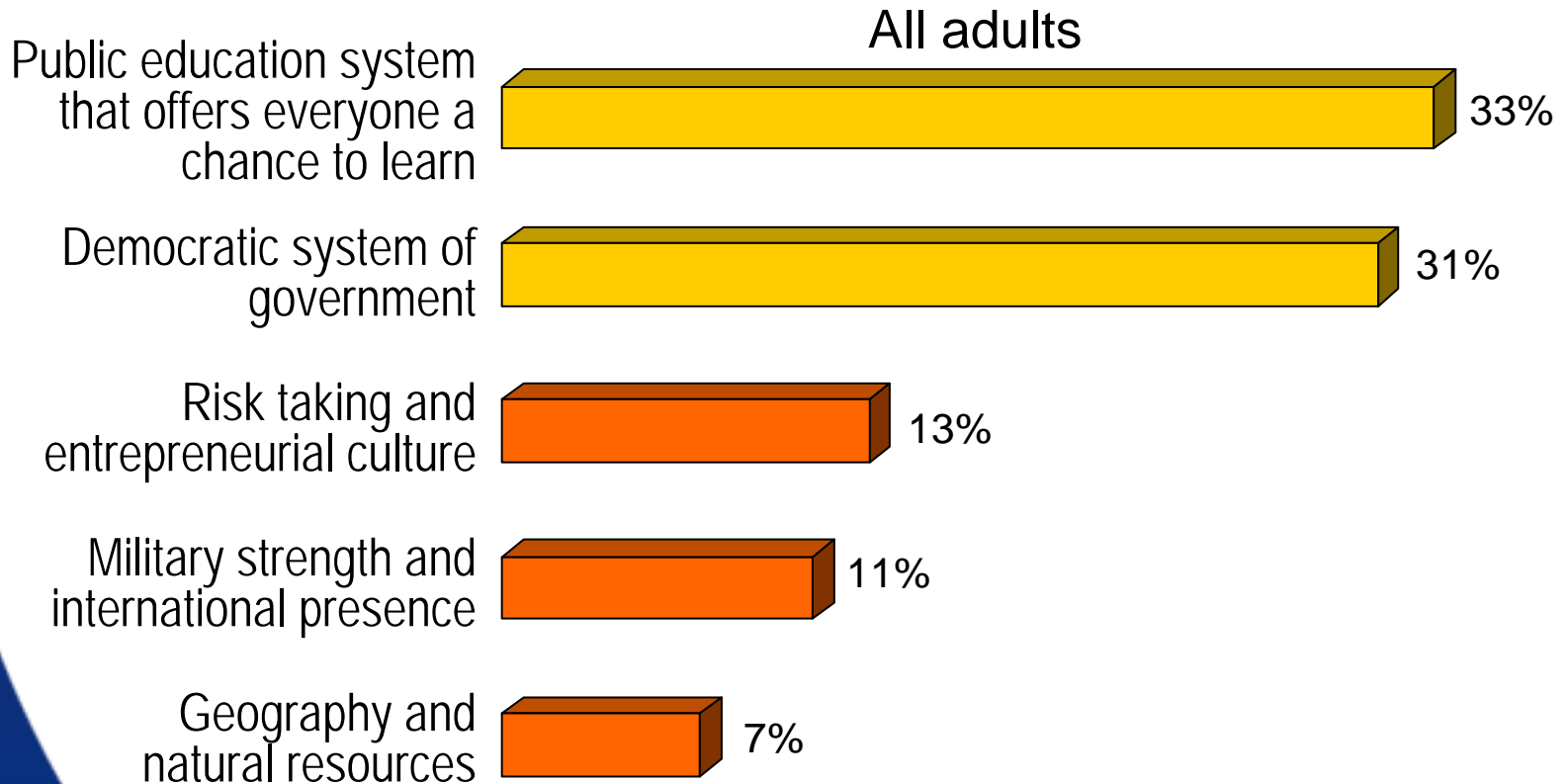
Research Methods

- ◆ Surveys were conducted April 5-17, 2005, among 2,250 adults nationwide, including 1,009 members of the general public and 666 parents of K-12 students (371 parents of high school students). An additional 300 interviews each were conducted among adults in California, Ohio, and New Jersey, among high school administrators, and among high school teachers. At the 95% confidence level, the data's margin of error is ± 3.1 percentage points among all adults, and higher among smaller populations and subgroups.
- ◆ Four focus groups were conducted February 9-10, 2005, in Alexandria, VA, and Columbus, OH. In each location, one group comprised high school administrators and the other comprised parents of high school students.



Public Education Responsible For America's Success

Which one of these factors is most responsible for America's success in the world?





Grading School Quality And No Child Left Behind

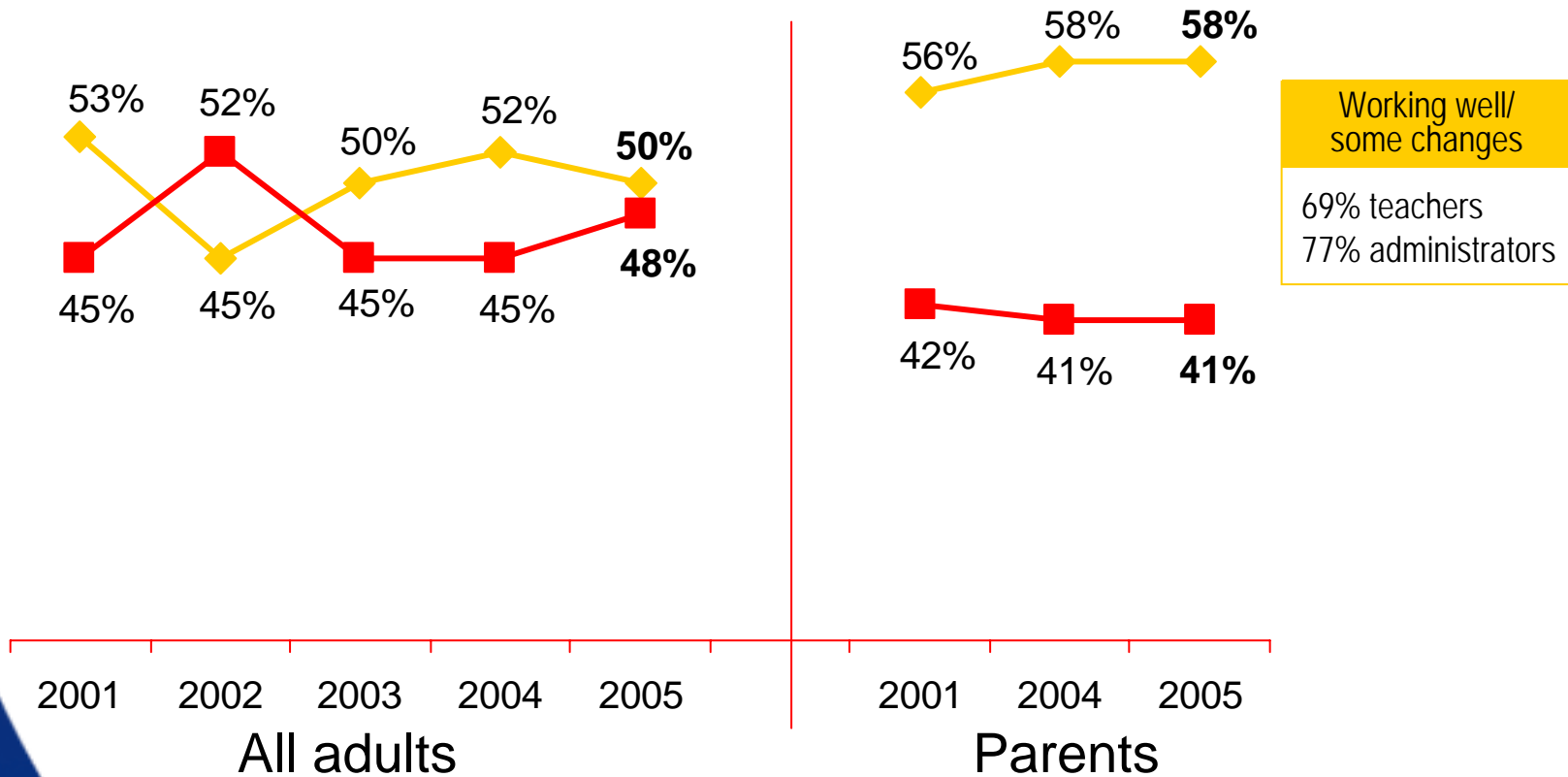
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Assessing The Nation's Schools

How well do you think our K-12 schools are working?

- Working well/need some changes but basically keep as is
- Need major changes/complete overhaul





Grades For Nation's Schools Remain At "C"

Spring 2005

The Public's Report Card *The Nation's Schools*

	----- All adults -----					Parents		
	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2005	2004	2001
A	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	8%
B	23%	20%	29%	14%	18%	27%	20%	35%
C	46%	47%	47%	50%	51%	46%	48%	33%
D	15%	15%	13%	21%	16%	12%	14%	13%
F	4%	4%	2%	4%	3%	2%	3%	4%
GPA	2.1	2.0	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.3



Parents See Little Change In School Quality

Spring 2005

Parents' Report Card

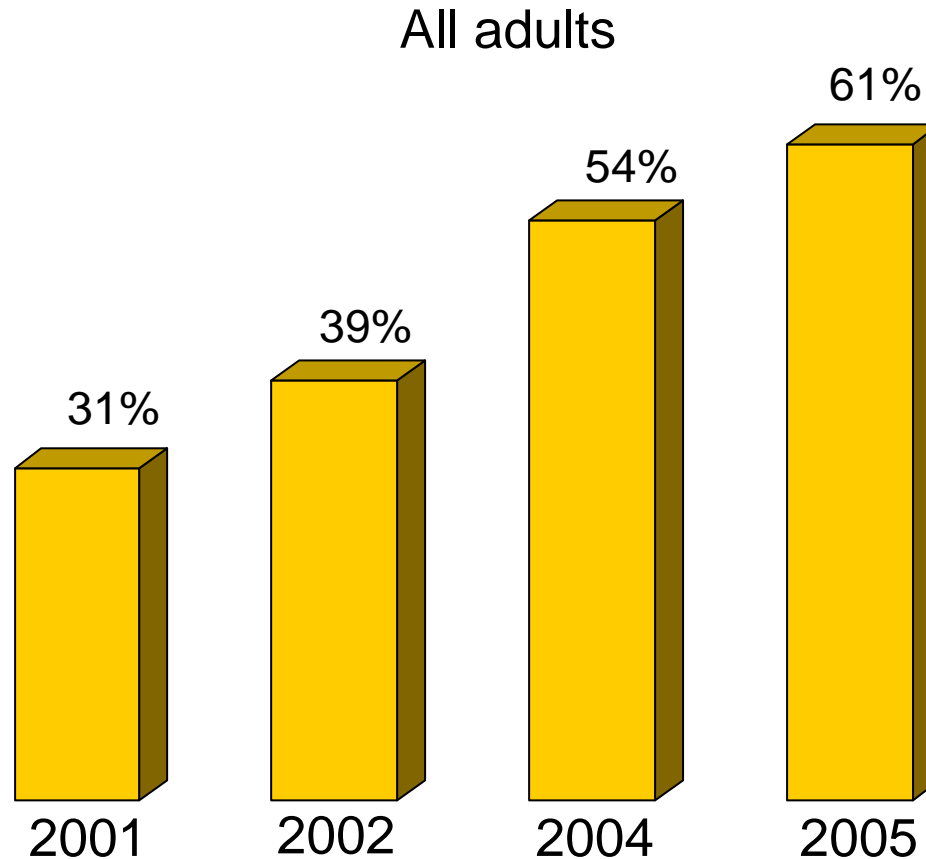
My Children's School

	2005	2004	2002	2001
A	30%	24%	31%	27%
B	42%	43%	39%	38%
C	20%	21%	21%	25%
D	5%	7%	5%	6%
F	2%	3%	3%	3%
GPA	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8



Increasing Awareness Of Education Reform

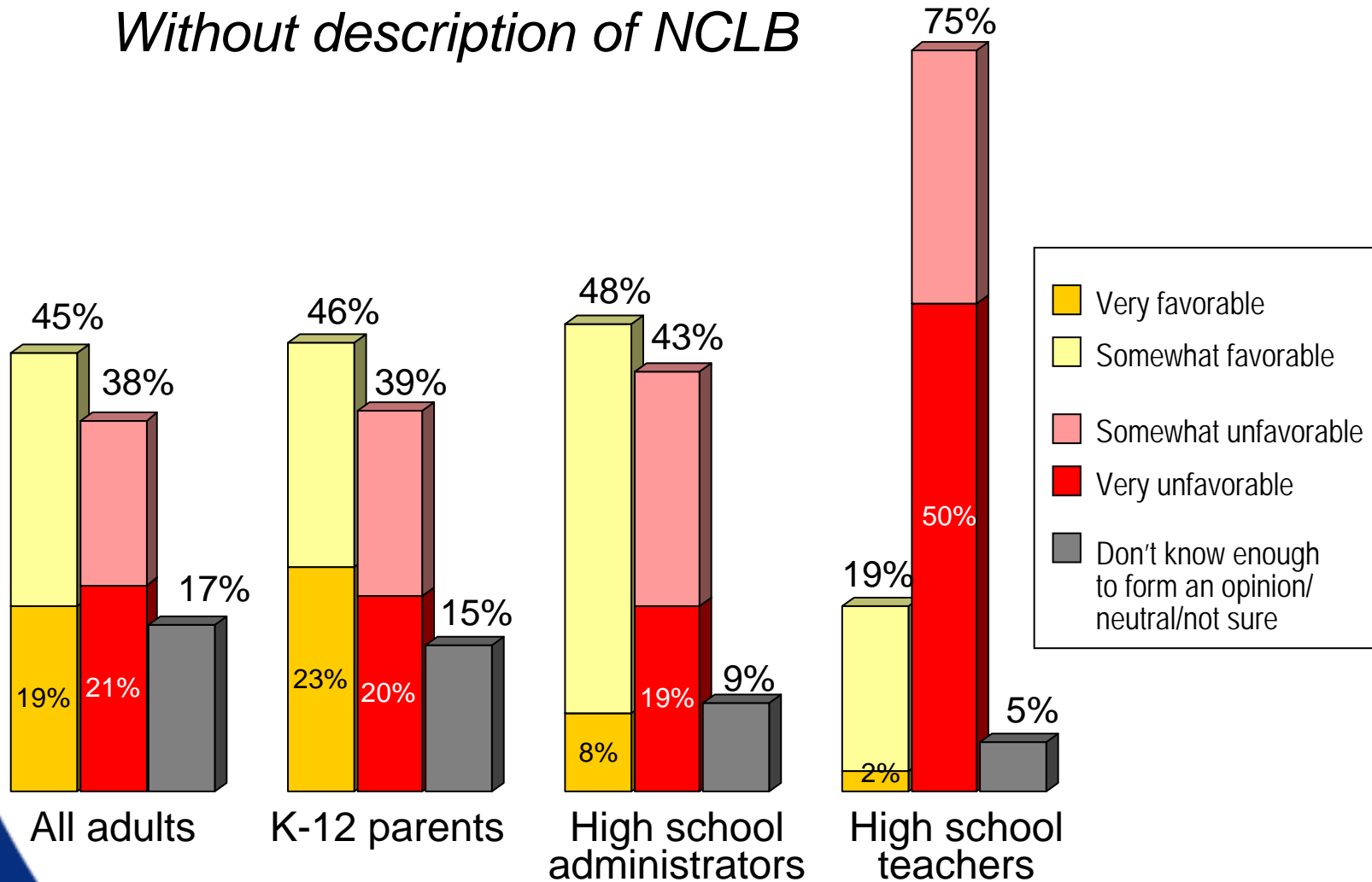
Have heard a great deal/fair amount about No Child Left Behind Law/education reform





Divided Views Of No Child Left Behind

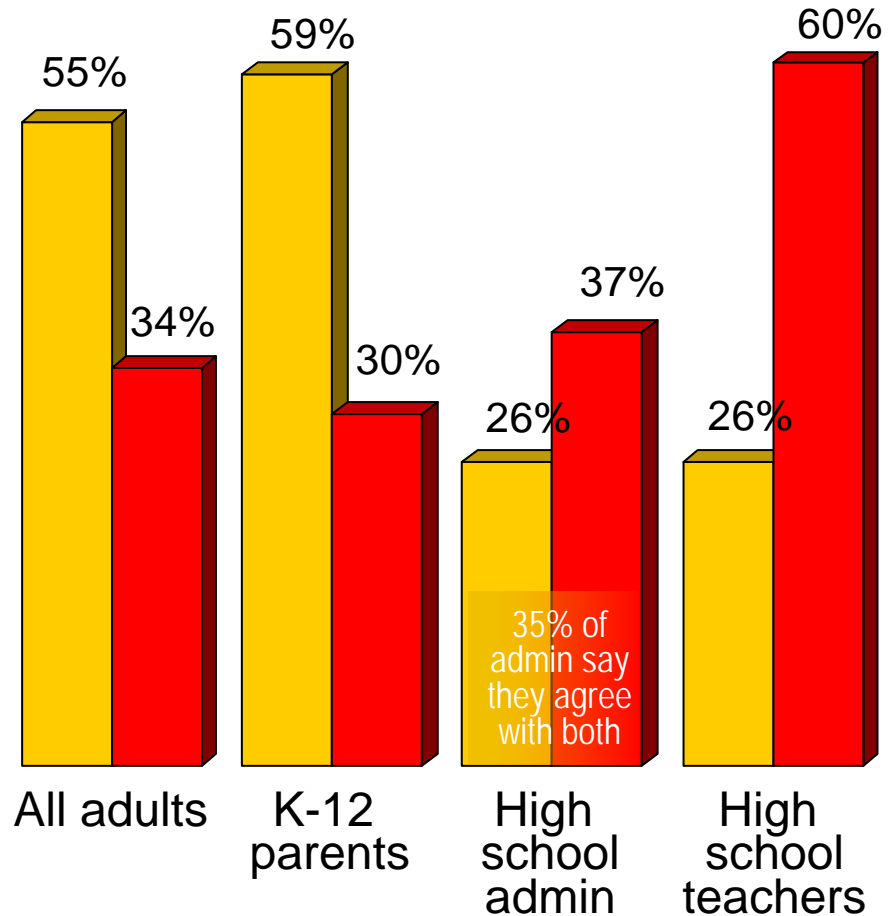
Without description of NCLB



Public & Educators Disagree On One Standard For All Schools

■ All students, teachers and schools **should** be held to the same standard of performance because it is wrong to have lower expectations for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The first step in getting help for poorly performing schools is to identify the schools and teachers that have many students who are falling short of uniform expectations for student performance.

■ All students, teachers and schools **should NOT** be held to the same standard of performance because students enter school with different backgrounds and levels of academic preparation. We should not expect teachers working with disadvantaged students to have their students reach the same level of performance on standardized tests as teachers in a more affluent school. Having the same standard of performance puts a negative label on schools that are already facing the biggest challenges.



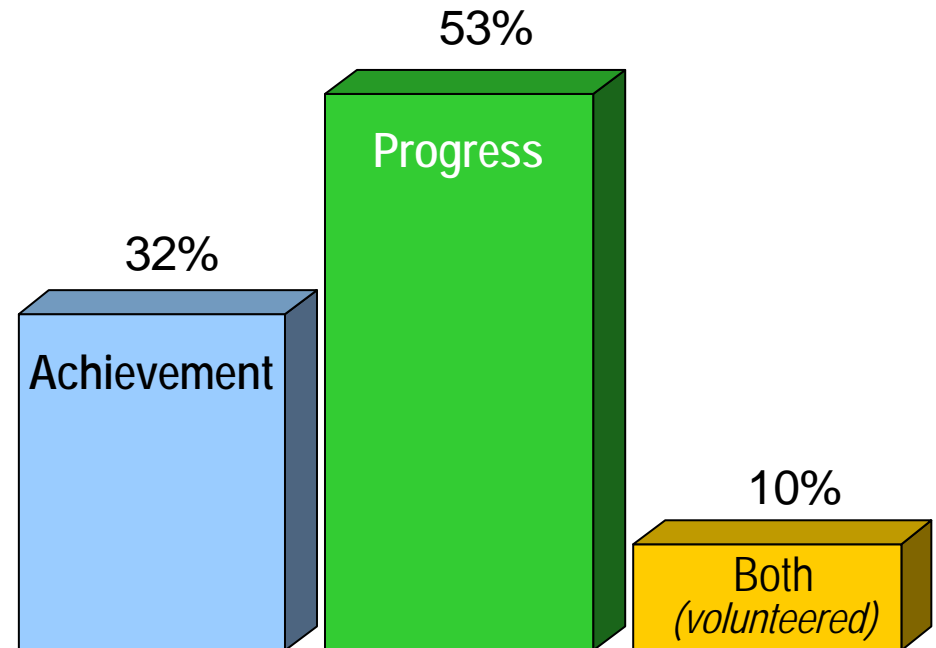


Progress AND Achievement Should Be Taken Into Account

On which should school accountability be based?

- **Student achievement**, measured by the student's performance in comparison to an established standard; for example, seeing whether test scores demonstrate that the student met the state's expectation for a proficient level of performance in a subject
- **Student progress**, measured by comparing student's test scores at the end of a period to scores at the start of the period to see whether the student achieved an acceptable level of growth in performance in the subject area, regardless of whether a student meets a standard of proficiency

All adults

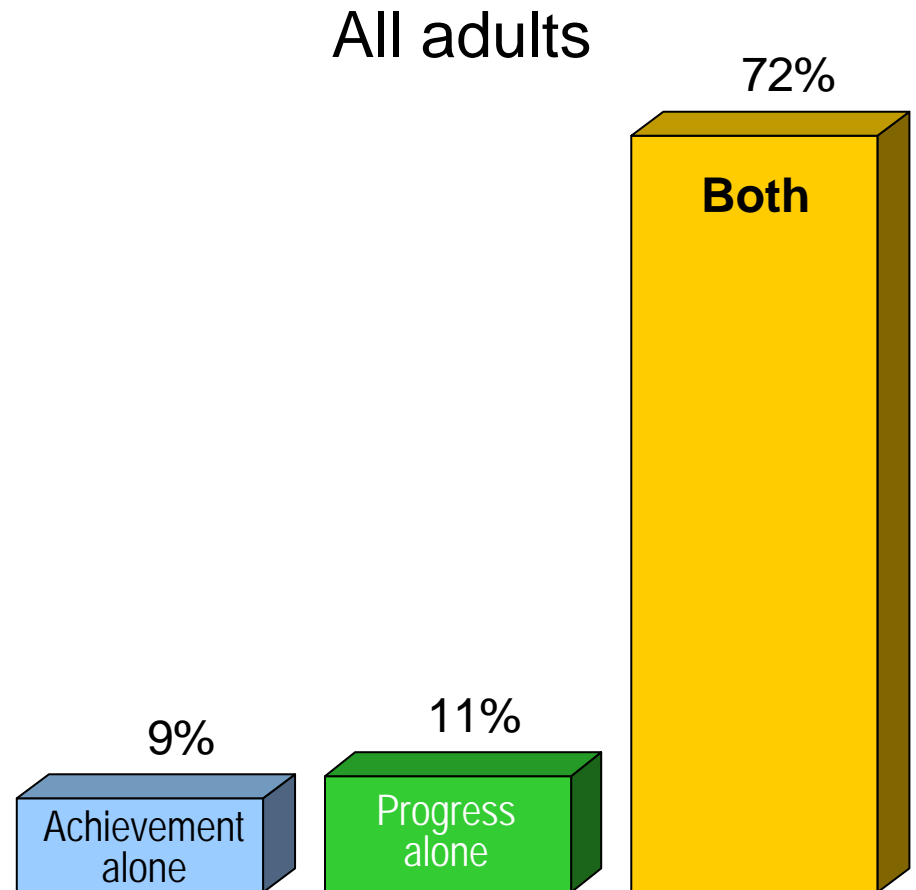




Progress AND Achievement Should Be Taken Into Account

On which should schools' accountability be based?

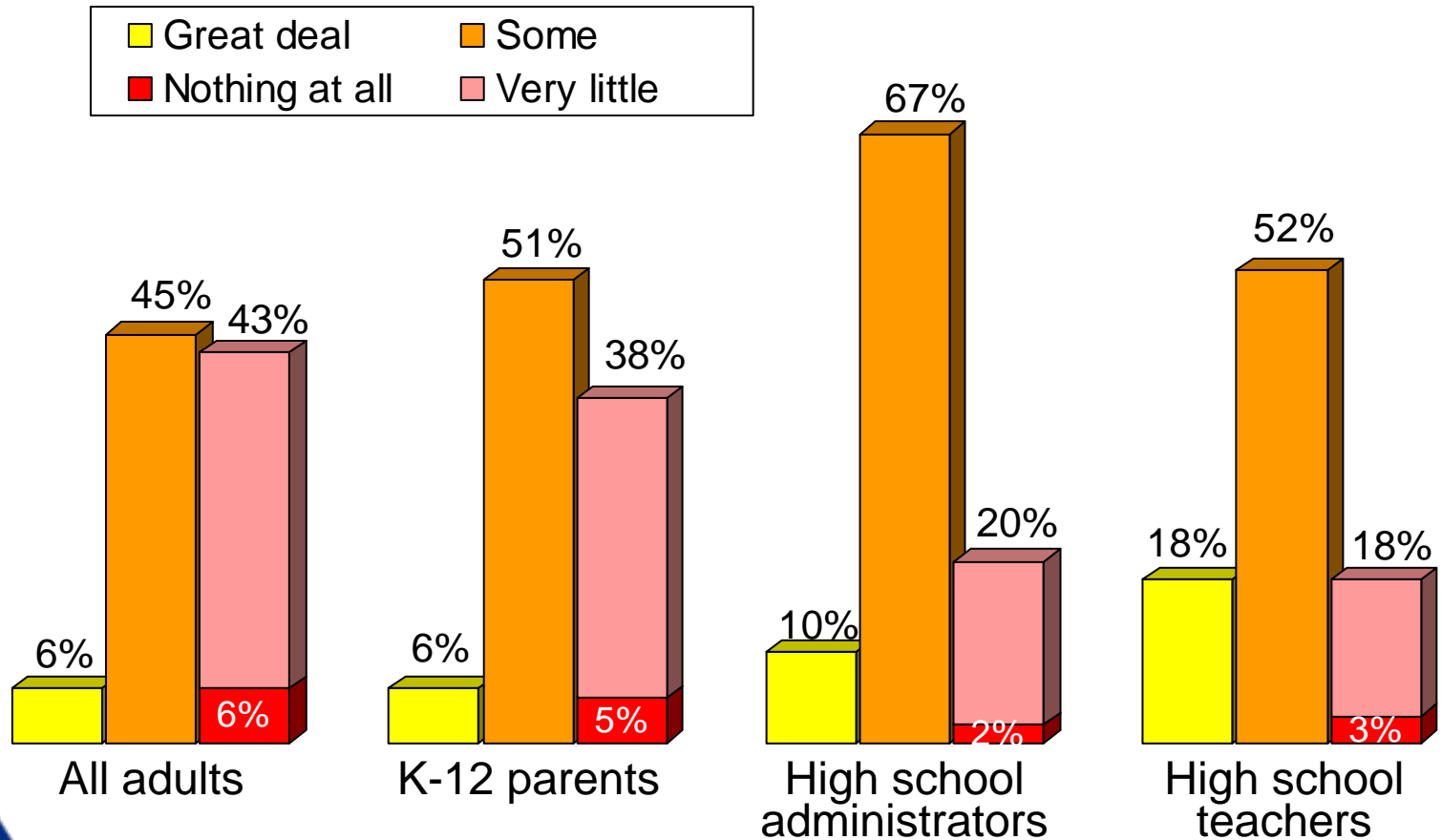
- Student achievement, measured by the student's performance in comparison to an established standard; for example, seeing whether test scores demonstrate that the student met the state's expectation for a proficient level of performance in a subject
- Student progress, measured by comparing student's test scores at the end of a period to scores at the start of the period to see whether the student achieved an acceptable level of growth in performance in the subject area, regardless of whether a student meets a standard of proficiency





K-8 Education Reform Not Yet “Done”

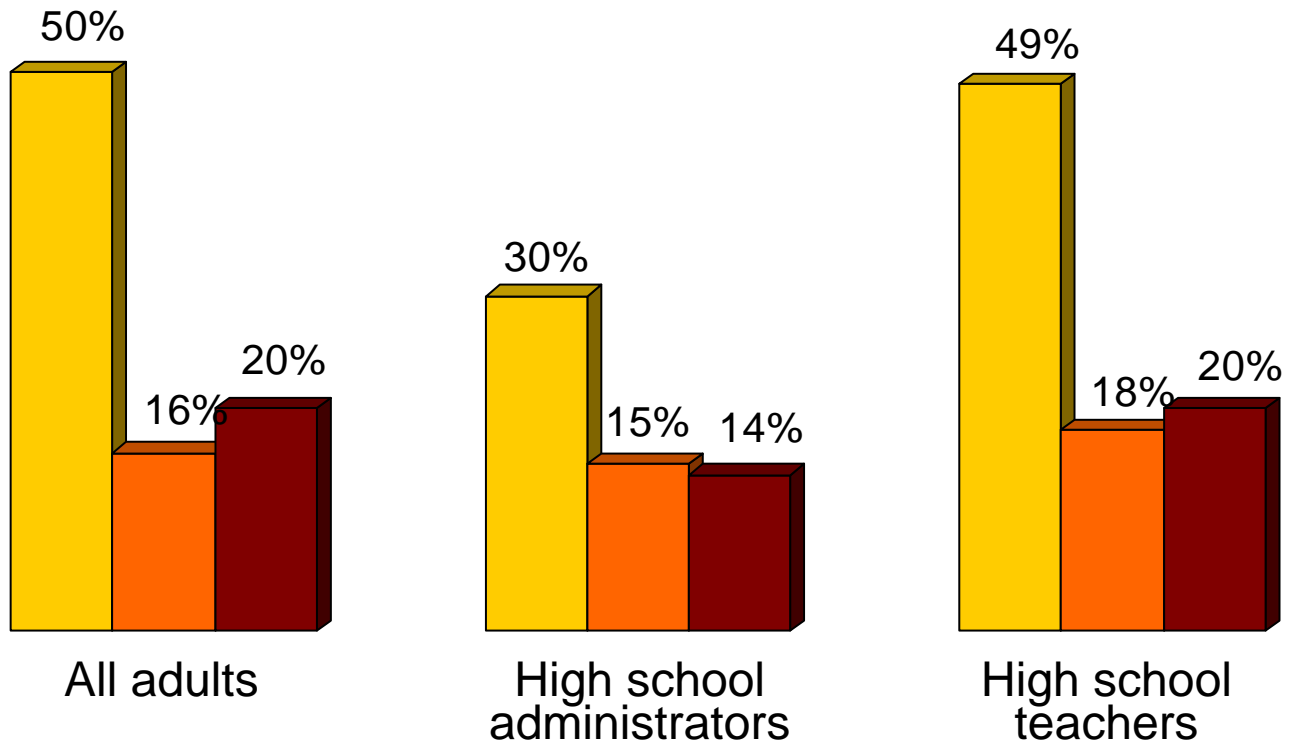
How much has been done on making the reforms needed to improve K-8 public education?





Reforming Elementary Schools Is Highest Priority

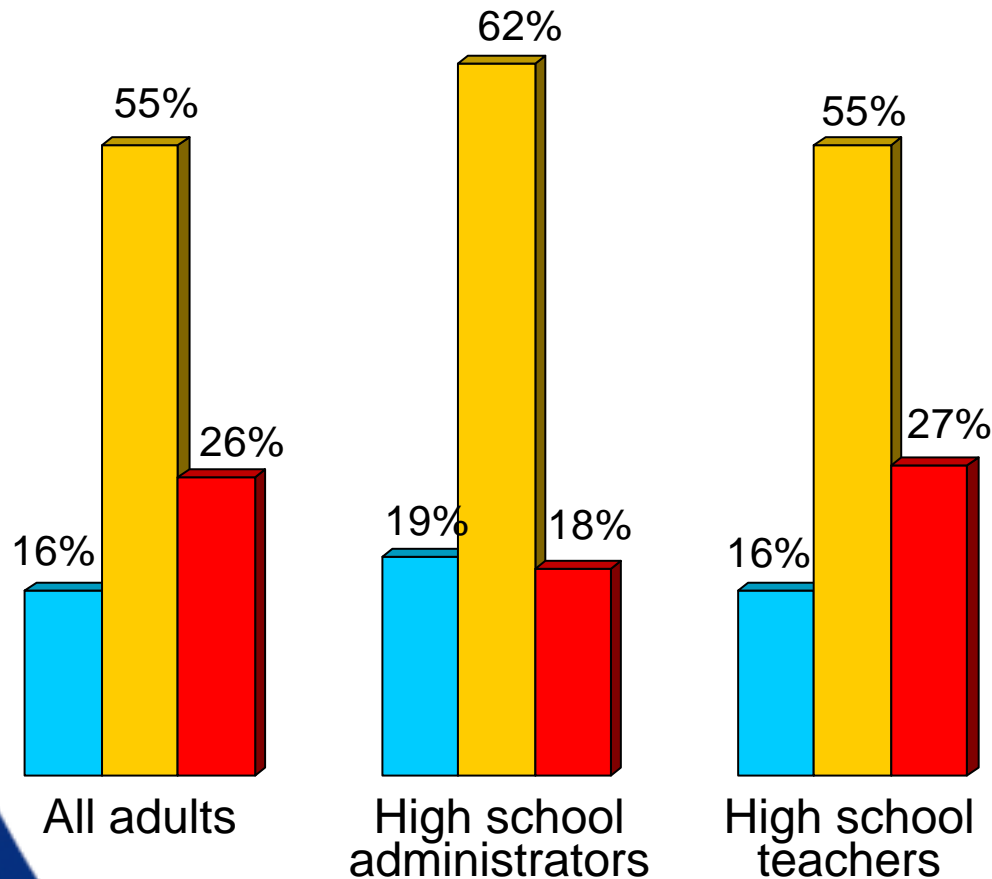
When it comes to reforming education, which level should be the highest priority for new attention?





Most High School Students Start With Gaps In Preparation

How well prepared for high school level work are most students when they arrive at high school?



- Extremely/very well prepared: able to do what is expected
- Somewhat well prepared, but with some gaps
- Not too well/not at all well prepared: large gaps/struggle to keep up



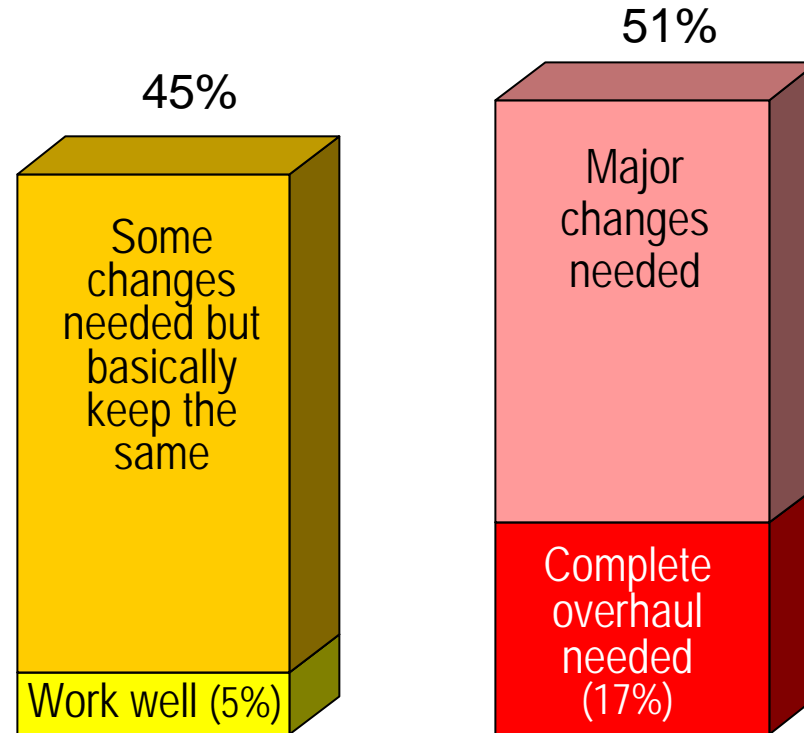
High School Reform

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Majority Believe High Schools Need Major Change

Do you think our public high schools work pretty well as they are now, some changes are needed, major changes are needed, or a complete overhaul is needed?



All adults



High Schools Falling Short

Spring 2005

Report Card for Nation's High Schools

Differential: doing very well/well enough minus coming up short/falling behind

	All adults	HS parents
Diversity of classes/well-rounded education	+11	+36
Choice of classes to meet individual needs	+6	+22
Challenge/push best students	+4	-4
<hr/>		
Teach basics: math, science, writing	-4	+5
Prepare students for college	-6	+13
Measure schools to ensure students learning	-19	+3
Training/skills to enter workforce	-29	-16
Fit experience to each student's next step in life	-31	-2
Maintain high standards/challenge all students	-32	-12
Support struggling students/prevent dropouts	-44	-30



High Schools Falling Short

Spring 2005

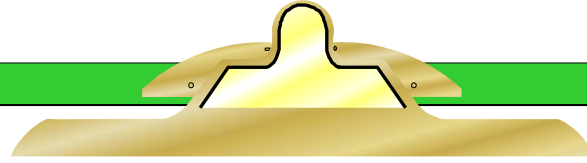
Report Card for Nation's High Schools

Differential: doing very well/well enough minus coming up short/falling behind

	All adults	HS parents	HS administrators	HS teachers
Diversity of classes/well-rounded education	+11	+36	+59	+21
Choice of classes to meet individual needs	+6	+22	N/A	N/A
Challenge/push best students	+4	-4	+39	+32
Teach basics: math, science, writing	-4	+5	+68	+25
Prepare students for college	-6	+13	+50	+24
Measure schools to ensure students learning	-19	+3	N/A	N/A
Training/skills to enter workforce	-29	-16	+30	-19
Fit experience to each student's next step in life	-31	-2	N/A	N/A
Maintain high standards/challenge all students	-32	-12	+23	-4
Support struggling students/prevent dropouts	-44	-30	-33	-26



Different Views On Purpose Of High Schools



Single top goal of a high school education

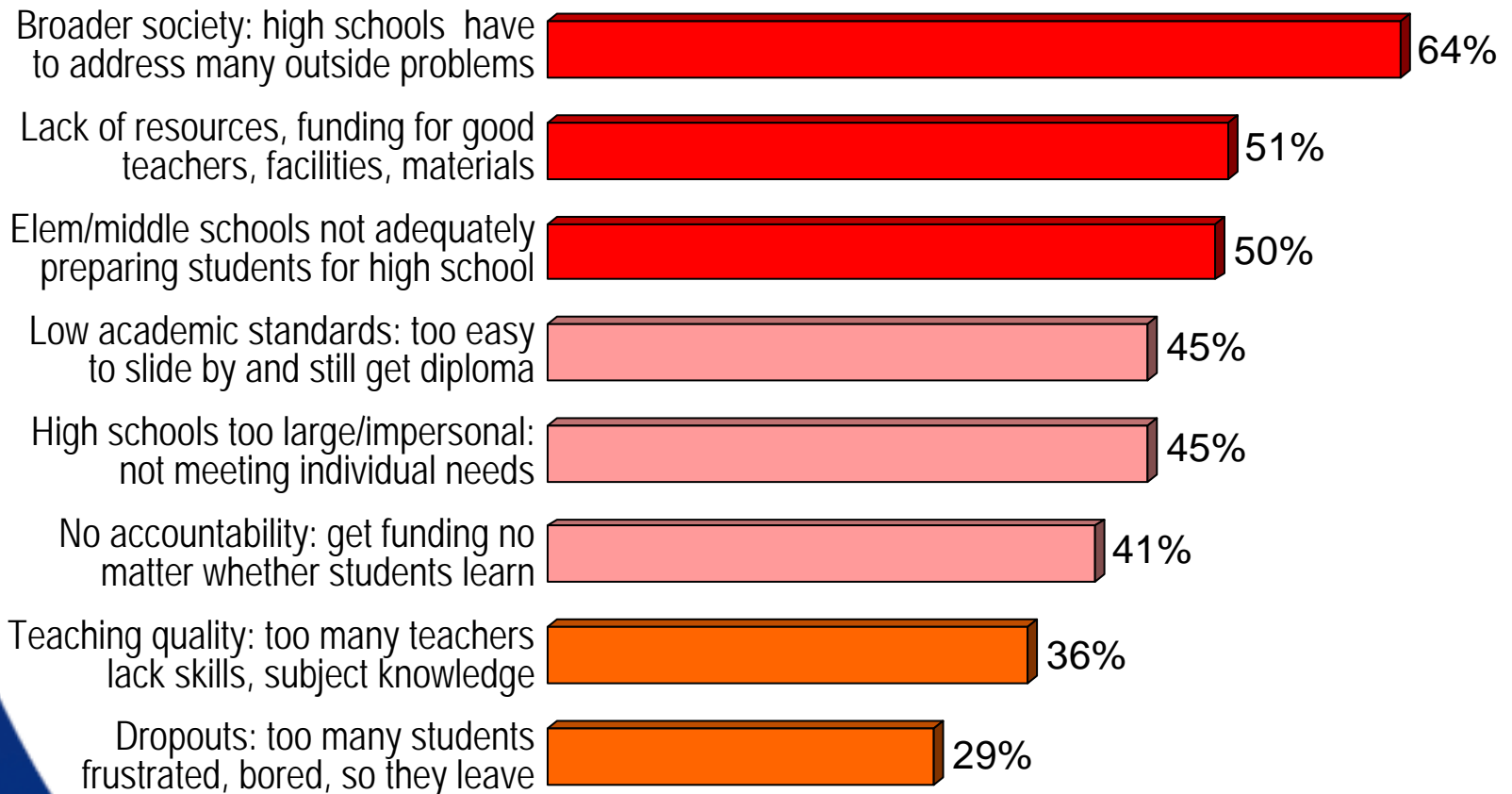
	HS parents	HS teachers
Prepare youth to continue education in college, technical, trade school	41%	19%
Produce literate, educated citizens who participate in democracy	19%	35%
Teach students to think	17%	23%
Prepare good workers who can succeed in modern economy	9%	14%
Teach students about building strong character	8%	2%
Teach basics in reading, writing, math	4%	3%



What Explains The Central Problem With High Schools?

% rating each statement as a good explanation of the problems in high schools today (7-10 ratings on zero-to-ten scale)

All adults





What Explains The Central Problem With High Schools?

% rating each statement as a good explanation of the problems in high schools today (7-10 ratings on zero-to-ten scale)

	All adults	K-12 parents	High school parents	High school admin	High school teachers
Broader society	64%	64%	69%	51%	88%
Lack of resources, funding	51%	54%	54%	46%	65%
K-8 not preparing students	50%	46%	44%	36%	38%
Low academic standards	45%	42%	41%	46%	35%
High schools too large	45%	47%	42%	52%	38%
No accountability	41%	41%	37%	53%	11%
Poor teaching quality	36%	38%	33%	15%	16%
Dropouts	29%	27%	29%	34%	19%

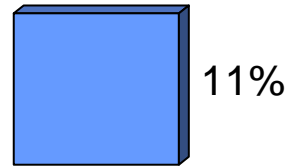


Focus On The Middle

Most important and productive focus for improving high school education

All adults

The top: Challenge top students to make the most of their talents so that those who are going on to college or high-skilled jobs are ready to compete against the best in the global economy



The middle: Raise standards in high school so that a high school diploma means more than it does today and students are not getting passed through the system without the skills they will need for college and the work world



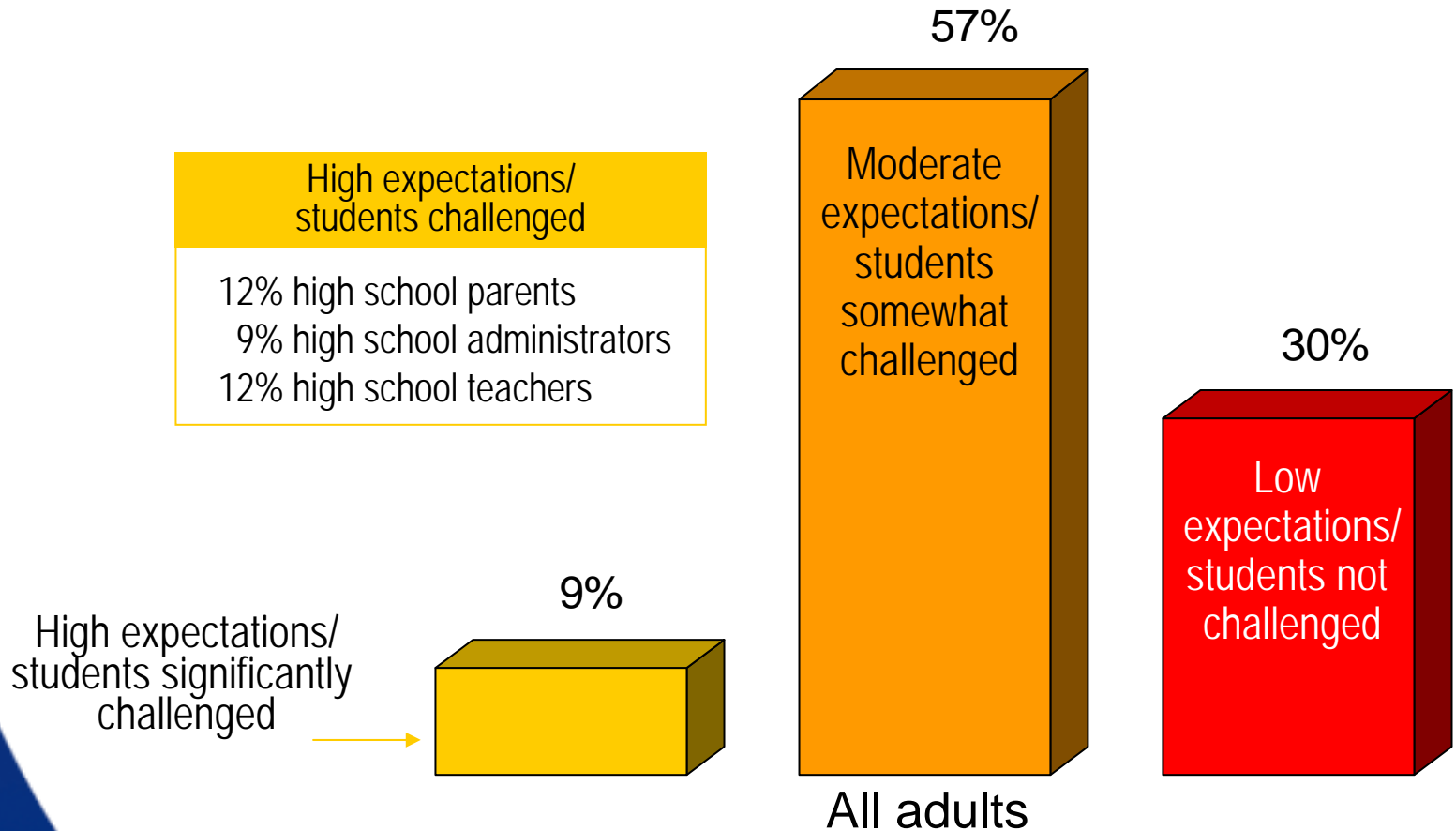
The bottom: Offer support to students who are struggling, work to make high schools relevant to students with varied interests to reduce the number of students who drop out of high school prior to graduation





Few Believe High School Students Are Challenged

Perceptions of academic expectations for students in public high schools in the nation as a whole





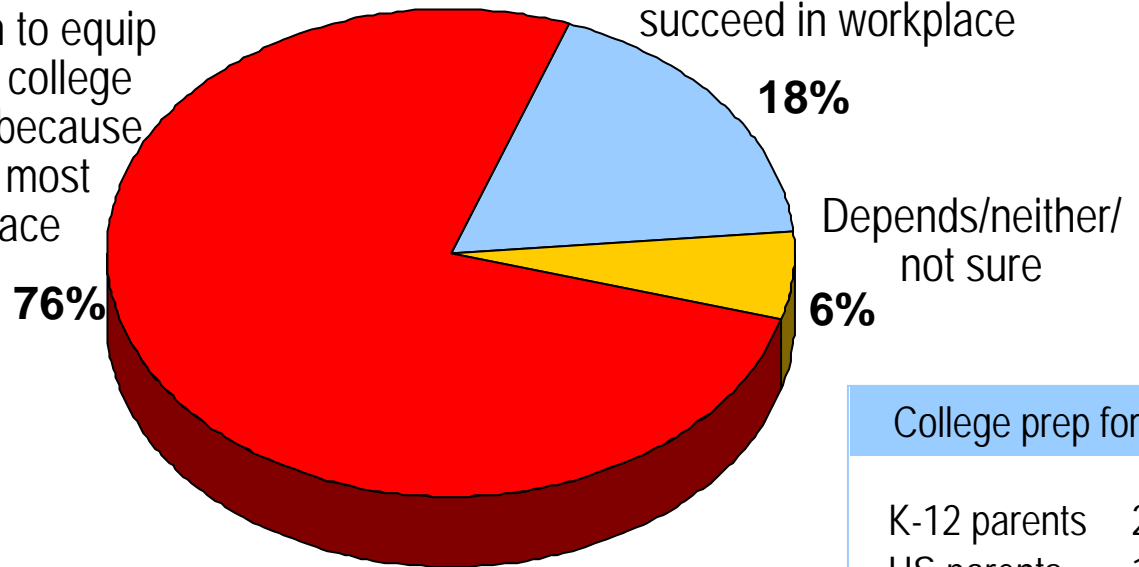
College Prep: Not For All

Which view do you agree with more?

All adults

Not all students benefit from college prep. High schools should also offer career/technical education to equip students who don't go to college with real-world job skills, because that is what they need most to succeed in workplace

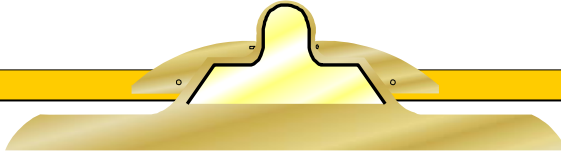
College prep for all HS students: prepare all with skills/knowledge needed for college, because these are the skills all must have to succeed in workplace



College prep for all	
K-12 parents	22%
HS parents	18%
HS admin	23%
HS teachers	6%



Courses All High School Students Should Take



What courses should all students take?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| ✓ Computer science (1 year) | 95% |
| ✓ English lit/writing (4 years) | 85% |
| ✓ History/civics (3 years) | 81% |
| ✓ Math/algebra (4 years) | 73% |
| ✓ Science (3 yrs, incl. biology,
physics, chemistry) | 69% |
| ✓ Foreign language (2 years) | 63% |

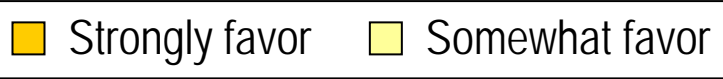


Proposals For Reforming High Schools

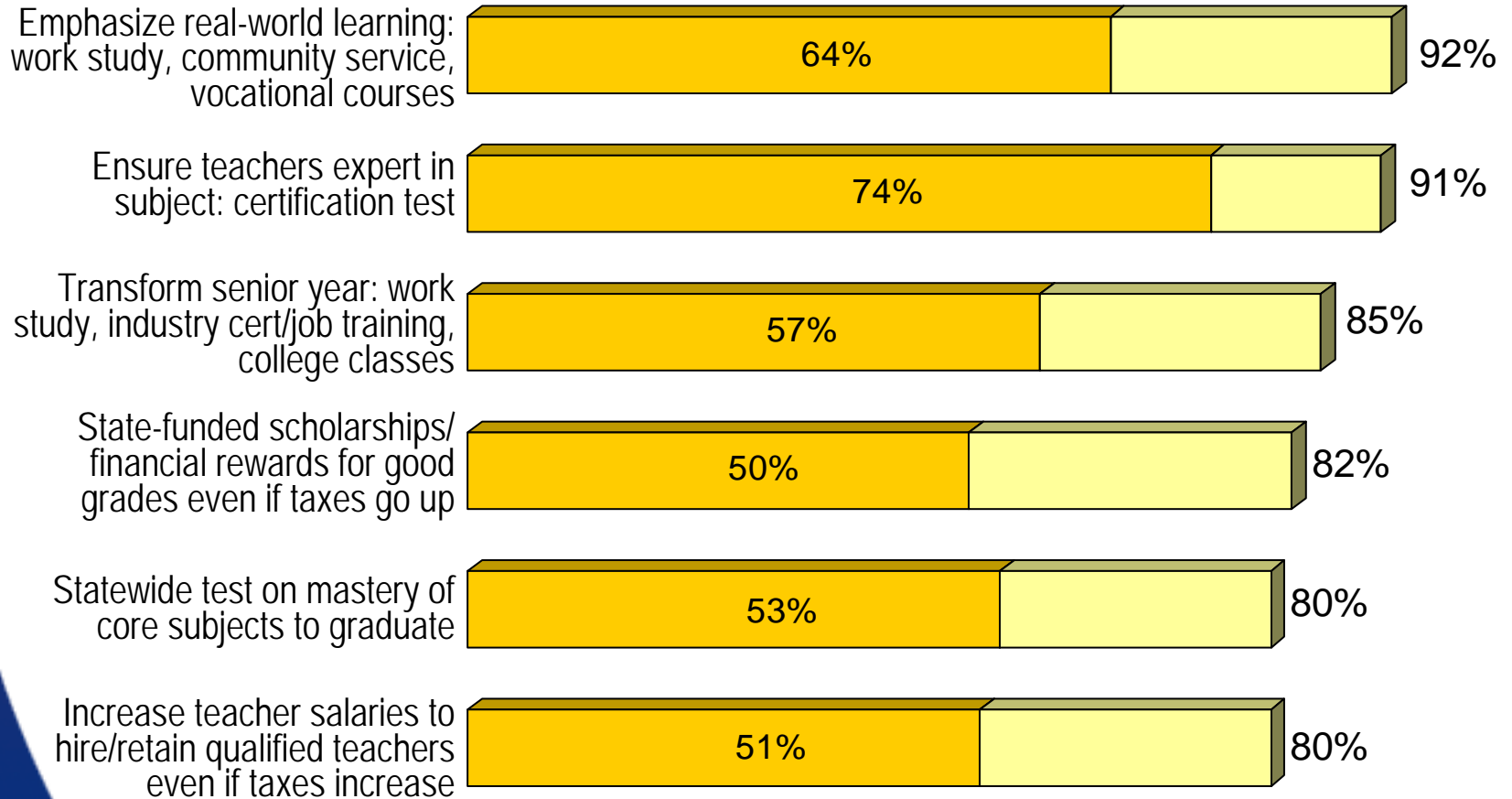
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All Proposals Receive Support



All adults

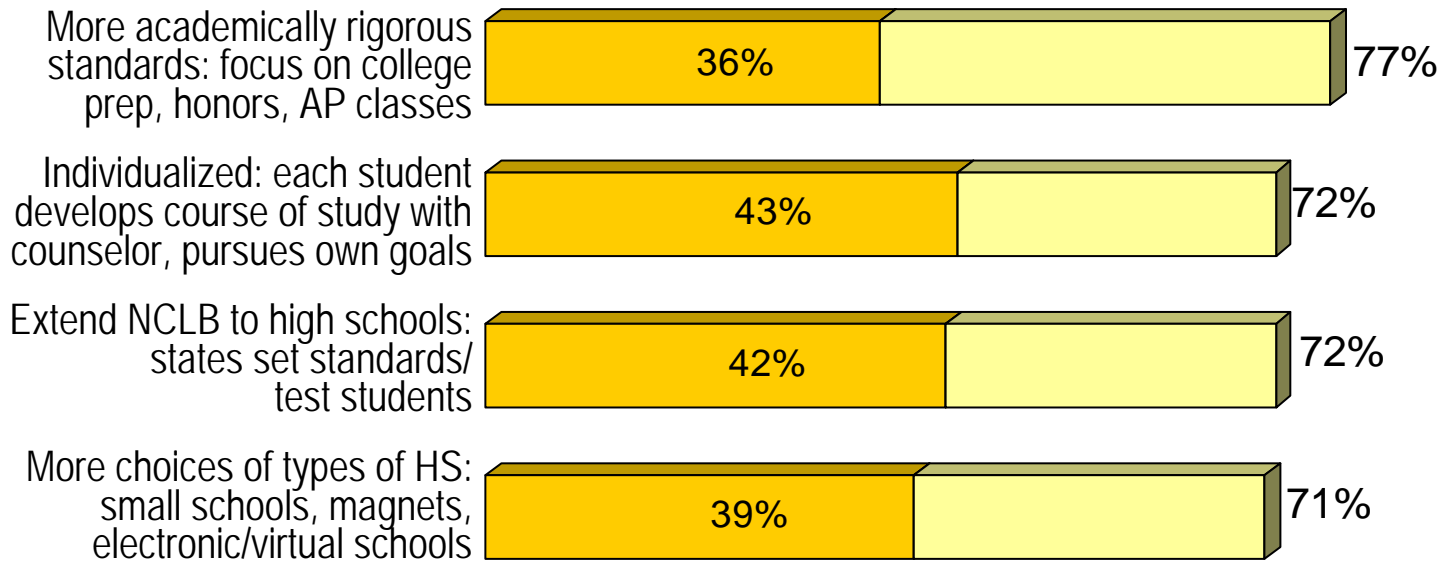




All Proposals Receive Support

■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor

All adults



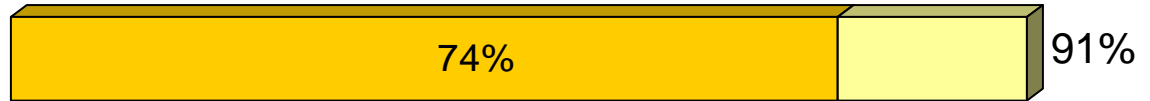
■ 42% of adults believe that if all these proposals were enacted, they would result in a big improvement in high schools, 54% say they would make some improvement.

Teacher Quality

Strongly favor
 Somewhat favor

All adults

Ensure that teachers are experts in their subject by requiring them to pass a test to be certified in any subject they teach



- Making sure teachers are experts is the most strongly favored proposal among nearly every demographic group. In addition, 54% of teachers and 41% of administrators strongly favor the proposal.

Increase teacher salaries to hire and retain more well-qualified teachers even if taxes increase



- 81% of adults who are very confident that increased spending will lead to improved high school quality strongly favor raising teacher salaries, compared with 54% those who are only somewhat confident who strongly favor this proposal.



Real-World Learning

■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor

All adults

Emphasize real-world learning by allowing students to participate in work study, community service, and vocational courses



- This is the highest-ranked proposal among teachers, 70% of whom strongly favor it. Although 92% of administrators favor this, only 34% strongly do.
- It is also strongly favored by 72% of adults who favor focusing on the “bottom” students.
- 82% of African Americans strongly favor this.

Change the basic approach to senior year by giving students option to spend less time in HS classes if they are in a qualified work-study program, working toward industry certification, or taking classes in a college



- This approach is strongly favored by 67% of adults who favor focusing on “bottom” students.
- Only 41% of Hispanics strongly favor this (61% of whites, 53% of African Americans do so).
- Although 81% of administrators favor this proposal, only 19% do so strongly.

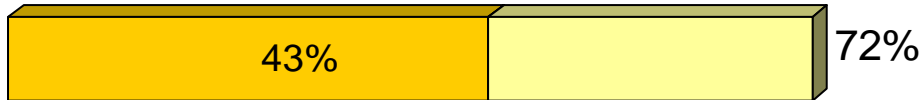


Individualized Approaches

■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor

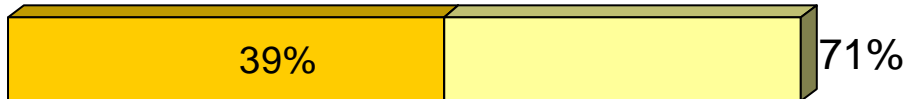
Make the high school experience more individualized by having students develop their own plan of study by working with counselor, then allow students to pursue own goals as they demonstrate they are meeting standards

All adults



- Strongly favored by 49% of high school parents, 54% of whom want the focus on the bottom students but only 38% of those who would focus on the middle students, and 46% of Democrats but only 37% of Republicans.
- While high school administrators (80% favor) are more supportive overall, they are less likely to strongly favor (21%) this approach.

Give students more choices about the type of public high school they attend by creating high schools of different type within the same system, such as small schools, magnets, virtual schools



- Administrators are less enthusiastic about this proposal: 64% favor it, including only 16% who strongly do so.



Higher Standards With Testing

■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor

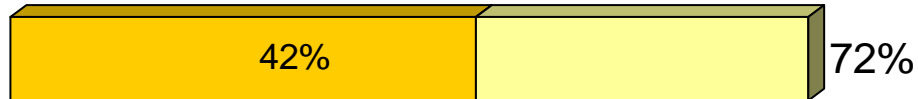
Make sure that students are mastering the core high school subject areas by requiring a statewide graduation test before they can receive a diploma

All adults



- Strongly favored by only 30% of high school parents who don't believe their child will attend a four-year college, and by 60% of Republicans but only 48% of Democrats.
- High school teachers are much less favorable toward this proposal (57% favor, 26% strongly); 41% of teachers oppose, including 20% strongly.

Extend the approach of No Child Left Behind to high schools by requiring states to set standards for high schools and to test students to ensure they are meeting those standards



- High school teachers are even more strongly opposed to this proposal (63% oppose, 41% strongly); 32% of administrators also oppose it.
- 49% of Republicans strongly favor extending NCLB, as do 48% of minority parents.



Higher Standards: Rewards/AP

■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor

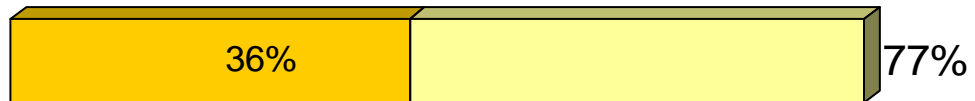
All adults

Use state-funded scholarships or other financial rewards for students who have received good grades or high test scores to give students an incentive to do well even if this would increase taxes



- 55% of high school parents of college-bound children strongly favor this, as do 48% of those who don't believe their child will go to college.
- Democrats (54%) and Republicans (52%) are equally likely to strongly favor it.
- Private school parents (41%) are much less likely to express strong support.

Develop more academically rigorous standards with greater emphasis on college preparatory classes, honors, and college level AP classes

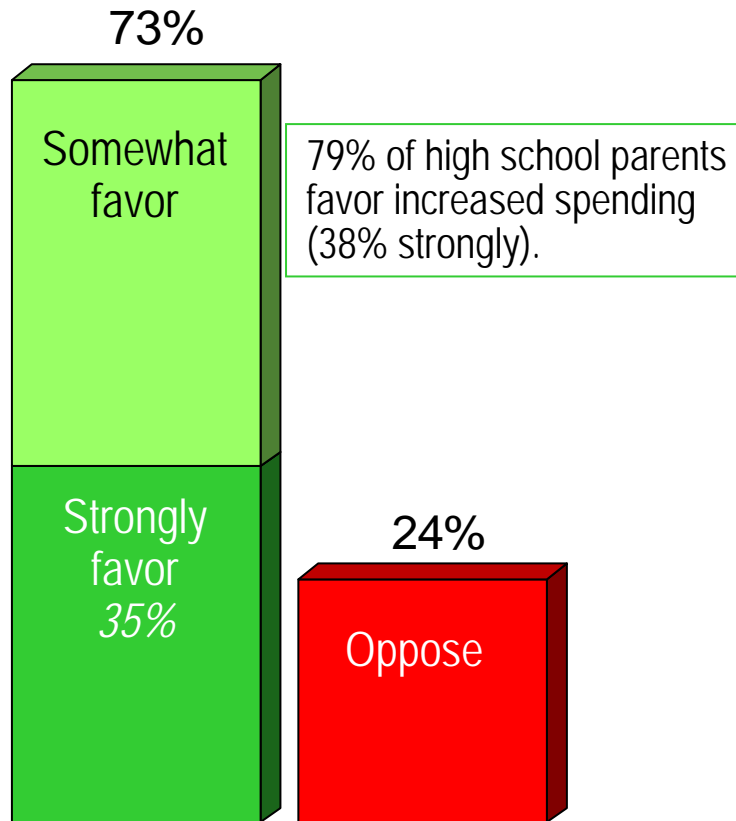


- 43% of high school parents who say their child will go to college strongly favor this, compared with 26% of parents who don't believe their child will go to college.
- High school teachers are less enthusiastic (59% favor, only 23% strongly), and 39% oppose it.



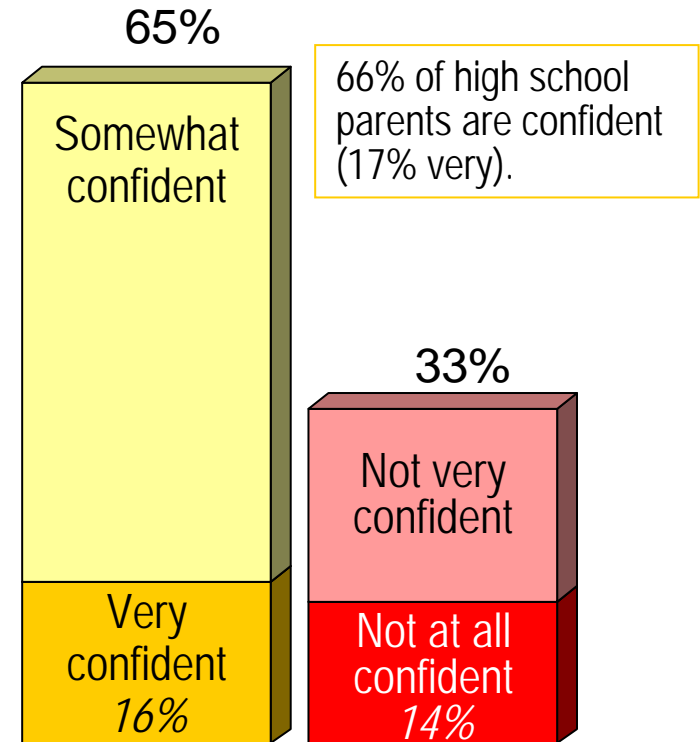
Most Would Increase Funding

Support for spending more on high school education even if it means higher taxes



All adults

Confidence that if additional money were spent, it would lead to improved high schools



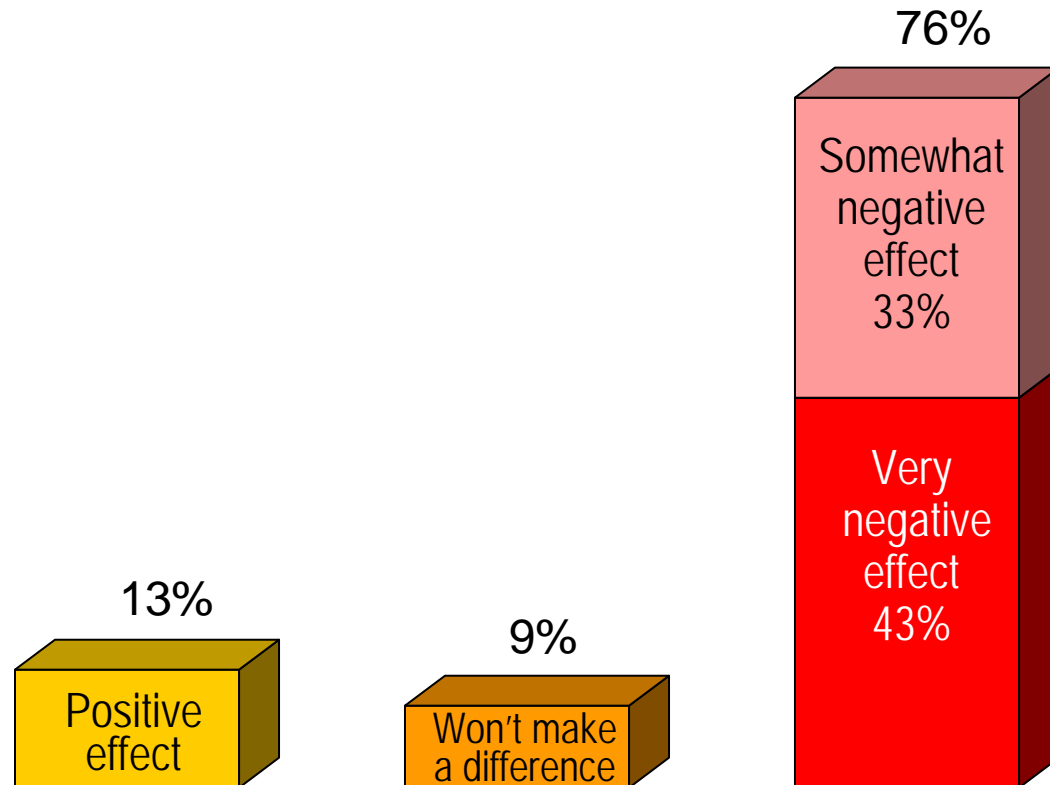
All adults



Status Quo Would Have Negative Impact On America

If 25 years from now high schools haven't changed, what effect will this have on America's ability to compete?

All adults





Conclusions

- ◆ Americans see the public education system as central to America's success.
- ◆ Schools' ratings remain unchanged.
- ◆ Reforming K-8 education is not yet "done."
- ◆ The public believes high schools are coming up short and wants significant changes to public high schools.
- ◆ High school educators are marching to a different tune than the public and parents.
- ◆ The public sees central issues affecting high schools that are outside the high schools' control.
- ◆ Individual student paths, but to the same higher standards.
- ◆ The public is open to many potential solutions to improve the quality of high schools.