



Boulder Valley School District Student Enrollment Survey

September 5th to 19th, 2023




BOULDER VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT



Magellan Strategies

Your Trusted Survey Research Partner

Methodology



BOULDER VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hello! The Boulder Valley School District is conducting an important survey of parents and guardians of young children to learn your thoughts and opinions regarding school programs and enrollment choices.

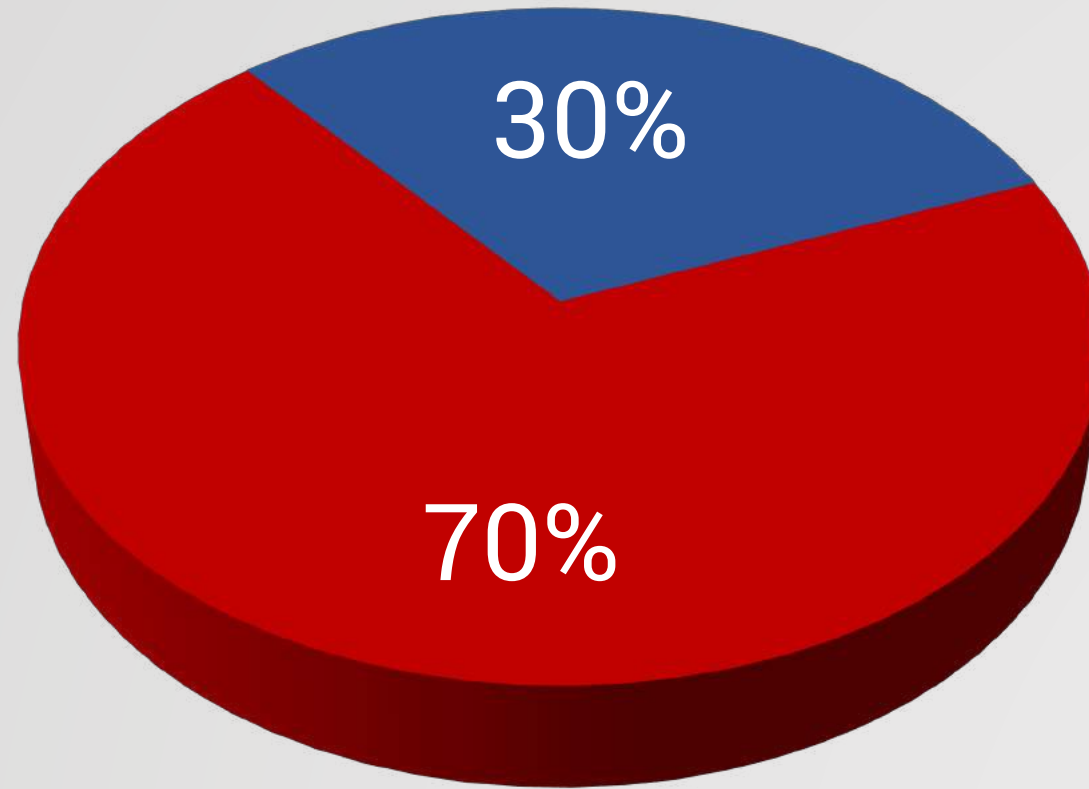
We are interested to learn the opinions of parents who have infants, toddlers, and children in preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school (kindergarten to 5th grade), even if you do not have a child attending a BVSD school.

Your responses will help shape future decision-making for our school district. The survey takes just 12 minutes to complete, and all answers are confidential. [\[link\]](#)

Magellan Strategies is pleased to present the results of an online survey of 1,995 parents of children in 5th Grade or younger within the Boulder Valley School District boundaries. The interviews were conducted from September 5th – 19th, 2023, and the survey was available in English and Spanish.

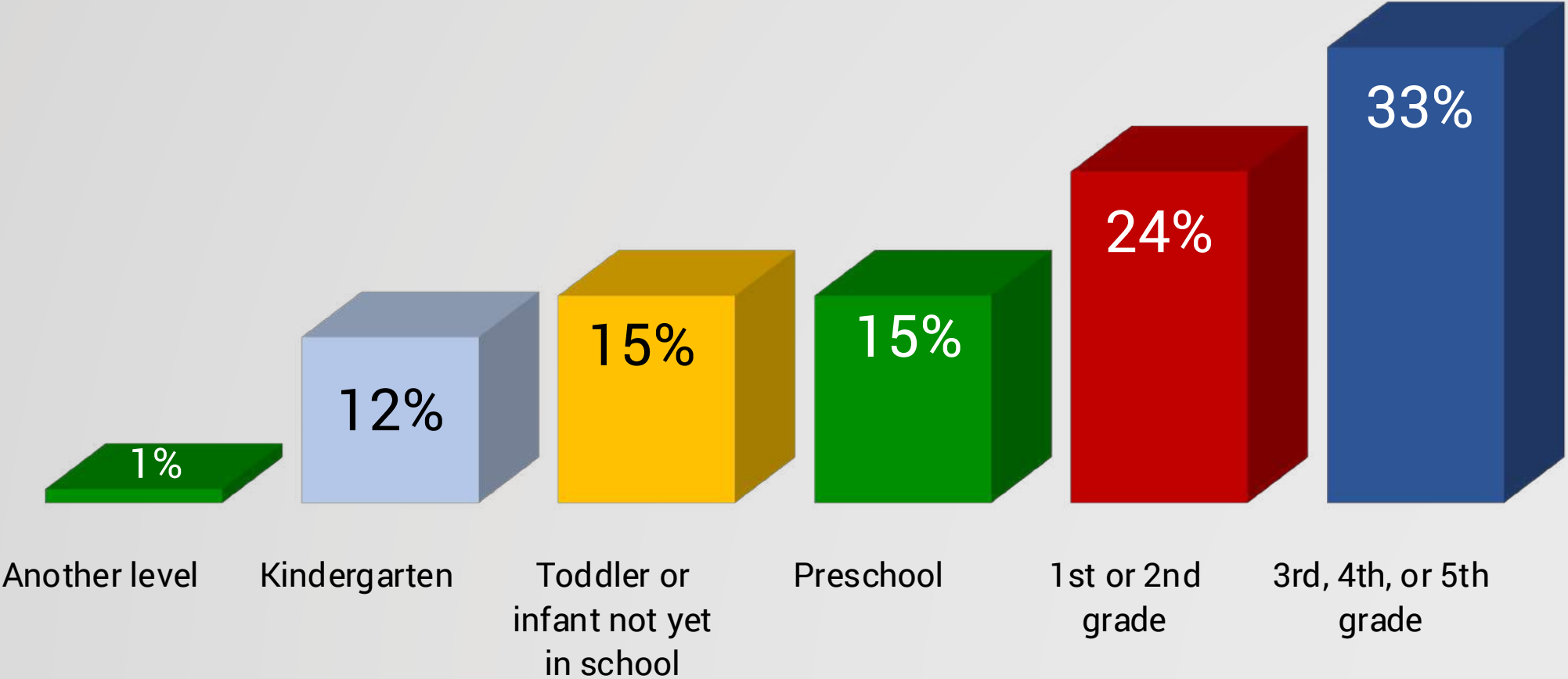
The overall survey responses have a margin of error of +/- 2.18% at the 95% confidence interval. Population subgroups will have a higher margin of error than the overall sample.

Which of the following best describes the children in your household?



- One child who is 10 years old or younger
- More than one child with one who is 10 years old or younger

Please answer the following questions based on the youngest child in your household. What is your child's education level for the upcoming school year?



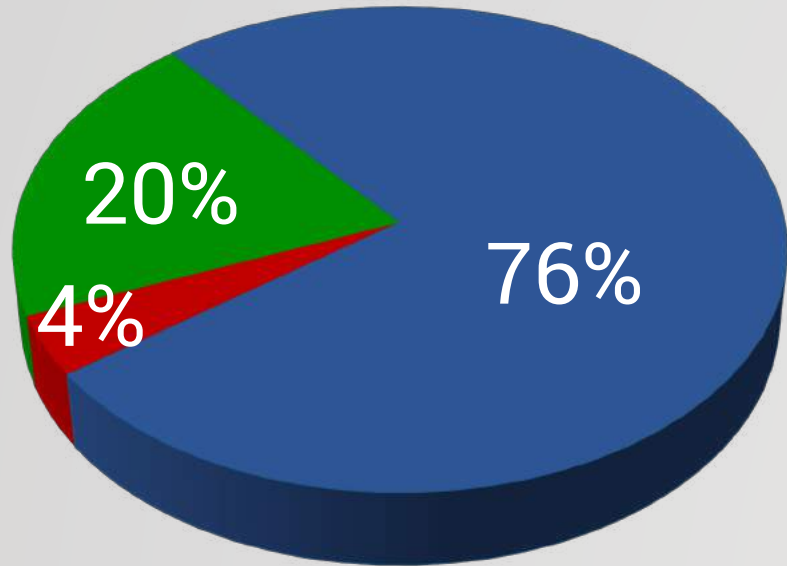
Parents of Toddlers & Infants



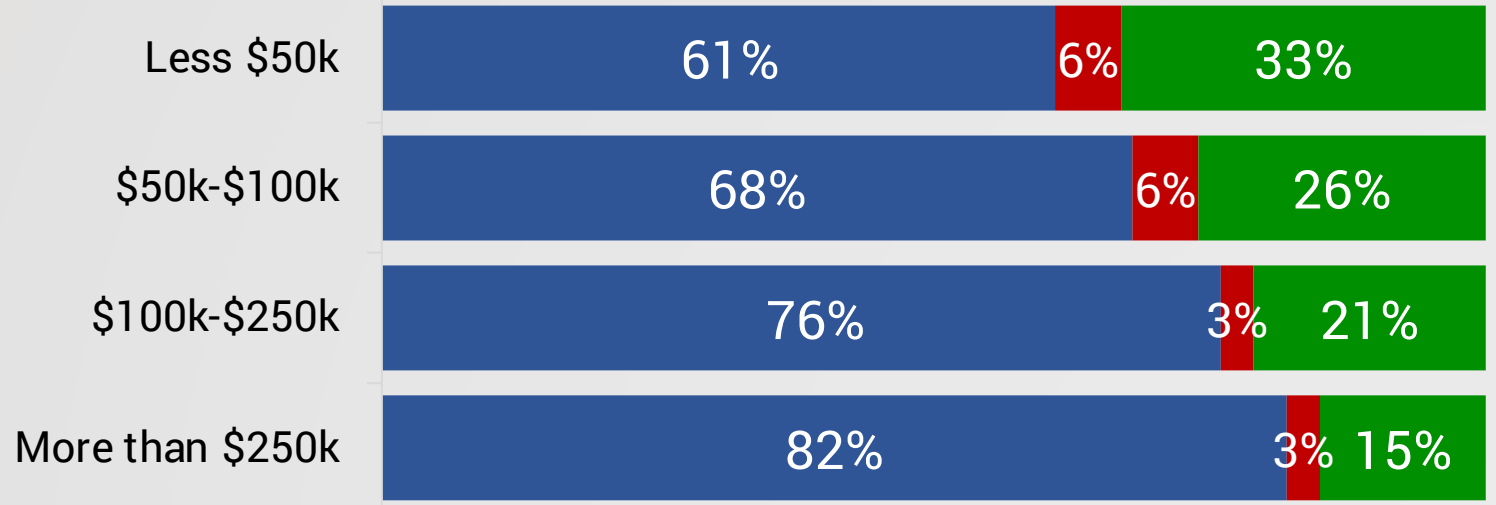
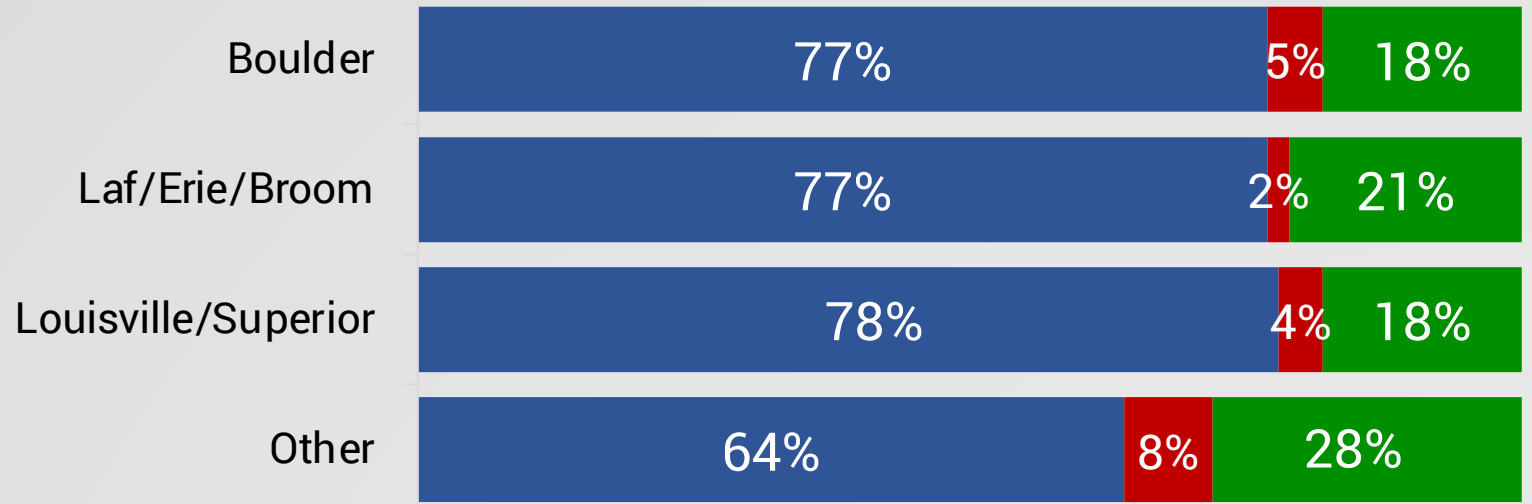
BOULDER VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

The following questions were asked to parents of toddlers or infants who are not yet in school.

When your child is ready to attend preschool or kindergarten, do you intend to enroll them in a Boulder Valley School District school? (Asked to 294 parents of infants and toddlers)



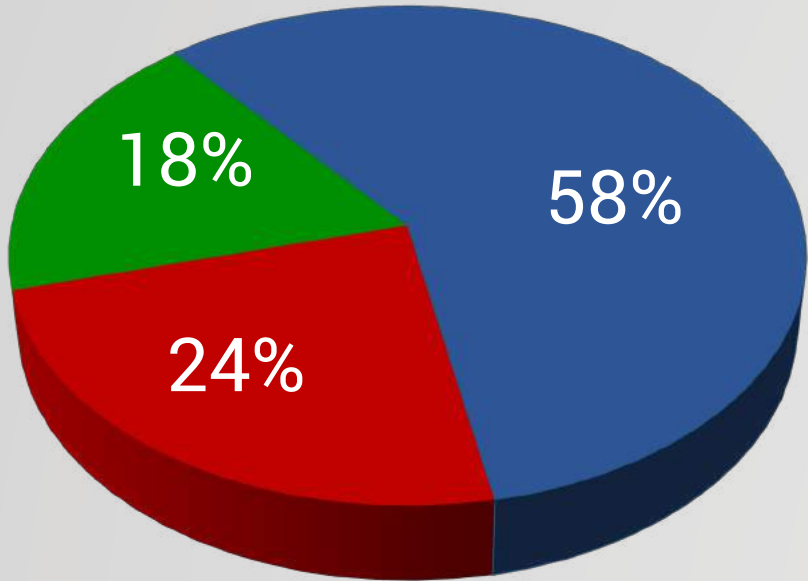
■ Yes ■ No ■ Have Not Decided



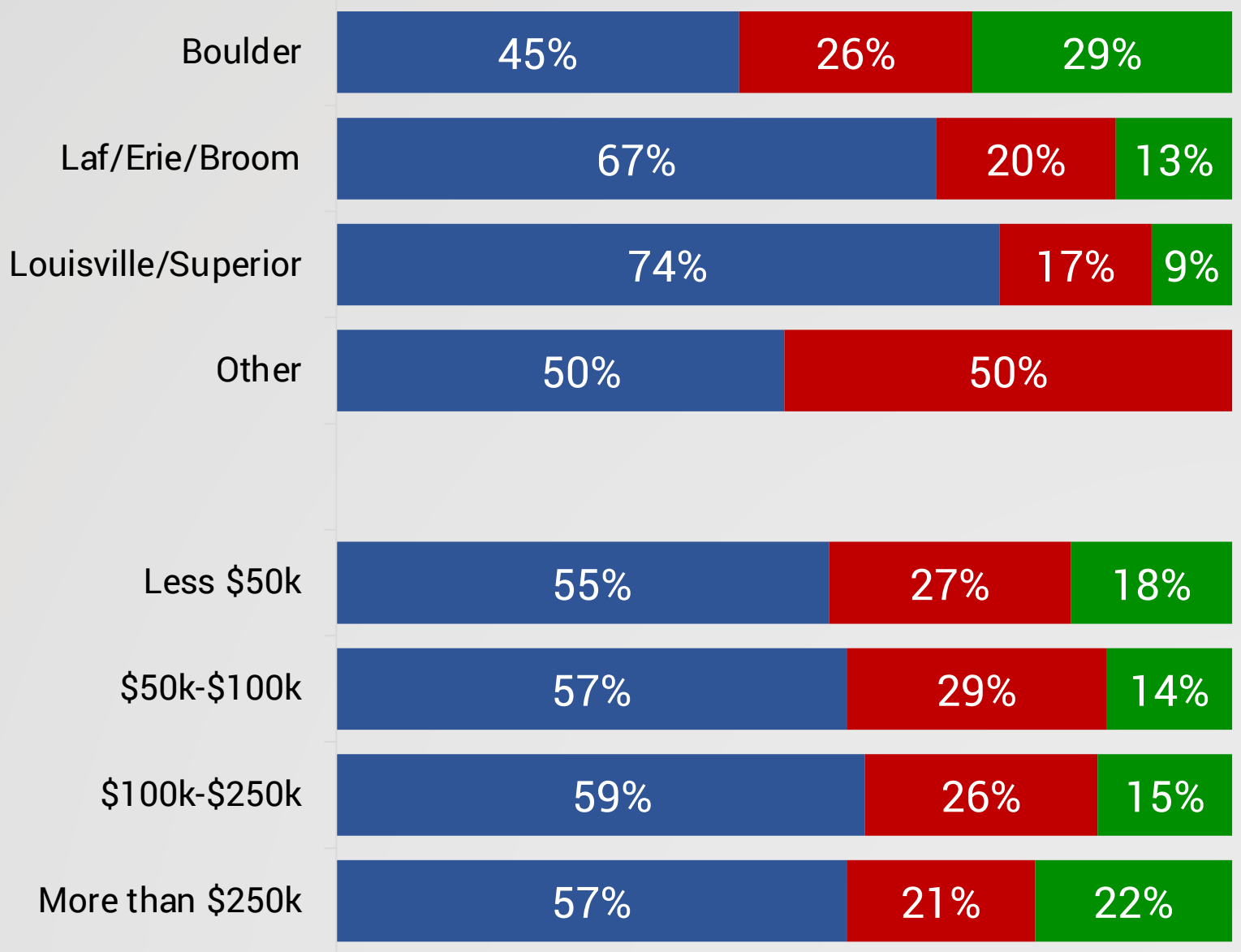
■ Yes ■ No ■ Have Not Decided



Do you intend to enroll your child in your local neighborhood BVSD school, or are you considering open-enrolling them at another BVSD school? (Asked to 223 parents of infants and toddlers)



- Local Neighborhood School
- Open-Enroll in Another BVSD School
- Have Not Decided



- Local Neighborhood School
- Open-Enroll
- Have Not Decided

Reasons Why 58% of Infant & Toddler Parents Intend to Enroll Their Child in Their Local Neighborhood School (129 respondents)

The responses to the question about why parents intend to enroll their children in their local Boulder Valley School District School can be summarized into four main themes:

- 1. Proximity and Convenience** - Many respondents highlighted the close proximity of the schools to their homes, making it convenient for their children to walk or bike to school. They also appreciated the ease of commuting, which includes shorter travel times and the availability of school buses.
- 2. Community and Continuity** - A sense of community and continuity is important to these parents. They value the idea of their children attending the same schools as their siblings or even the schools the parents themselves attended. This also fosters neighborhood friendships and a feeling of connectedness within the local community.
- 3. Quality of Education and School Reputation** - Respondents have a high regard for the quality of education provided by the BVSD schools. They mentioned good school ratings, experienced and appreciated teachers, and the overall excellent reputation of the schools.
- 4. Resource Considerations and School Policy** - The responses show a concern for efficient resource utilization, with some parents noting that open enrollment or private schooling could be a strain on the family's resources. Additionally, there is an awareness of the potential negative impact of households opting out of neighborhood schools, with a preference for supporting local schools to ensure diversity and equal representation.



Reasons Why 24% of Infant & Toddler Parents Are Considering Open-Enrolling Their Child in a BVSD School Other than Their Neighborhood School (54 respondents)

The responses to the question about why parents are considering open-enrolling their child in another Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) school can be grouped into the following four themes:

- 1. Specialized Education Programs** - Many parents are seeking specific educational programs that are not available at their neighborhood school, such as dual-language immersion, Montessori methodology, bilingual education, and programs for gifted and talented (GT) students. These programs offer a level of education and a learning environment that aligns more closely with the parent's aspirations for their children's education.
- 2. School Quality and Reputation** - Some parents have chosen to open enroll their children in schools that are highly rated or have a reputation for superior education. This preference is especially noted for charter schools and schools known for strong academic programs.
- 3. Logistical and Practical Considerations** - There are practical reasons for choosing open enrollment, such as closer proximity to a non-neighborhood school, lack of bus service, smaller class sizes, and reduced pollution. Additionally, some parents are teachers within the district and prefer to have their children at the same school where they teach.
- 4. Family and Sibling Preferences** - A number of responses indicated a desire to keep siblings together or to follow in the footsteps of older siblings who are already attending a particular school. There's a clear preference for maintaining family continuity in the school environment.



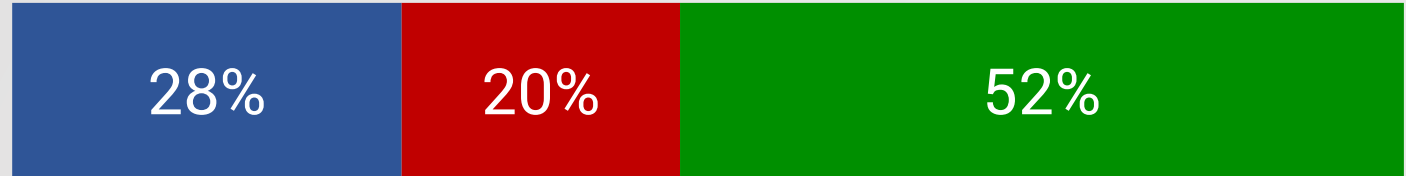
How familiar are you with the following academic choice programs offered at Boulder Valley School District Elementary Schools?

(Asked to 294 parents of toddlers and infants)

Bilingual Spanish/English offered at Escuela Bilingue Pioneer, Columbine Elementary, and University Hill Elementary



Montessori offered at Community Montessori Elementary



STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math offered at Ryan Elementary School



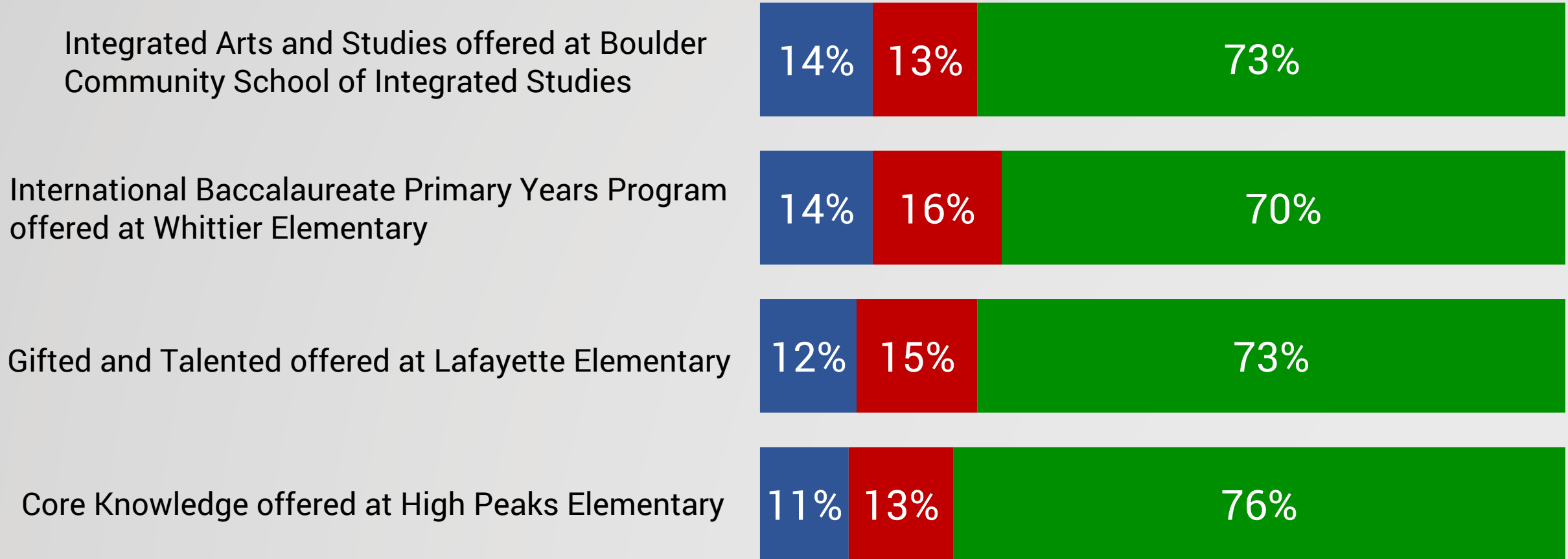
Virtual offered at Boulder Universal



■ Very or Somewhat Familiar ■ Not Too Familiar ■ Not Familiar at All

How familiar are you with the following academic choice programs offered at Boulder Valley School District Elementary Schools?

[Asked to 294 parents of toddlers and infants]

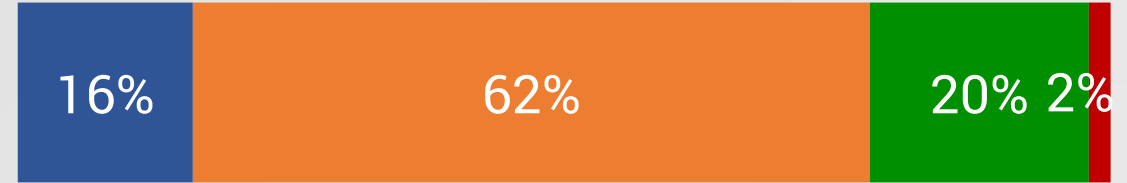


■ Very or Somewhat Familiar ■ Not Too Familiar ■ Not Familiar at All

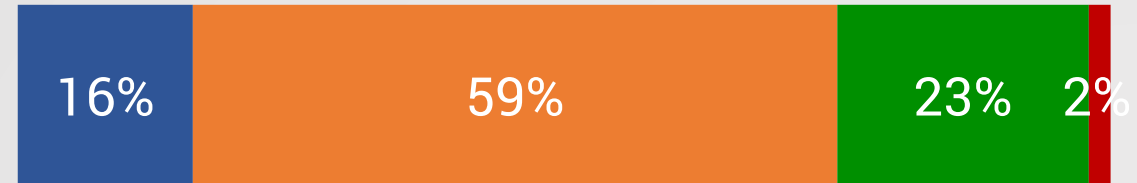


Following is a list of the academic choice programs the Boulder Valley School District's elementary schools provide, with a brief description as necessary. After learning about each program, please indicate which statement comes closest to your point of view.

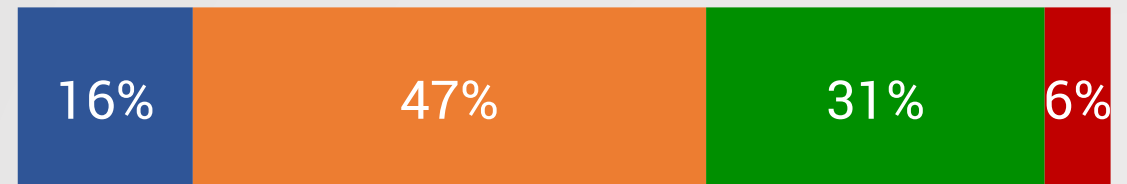
STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math: This program highlights Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math for powerful learning experiences for students.



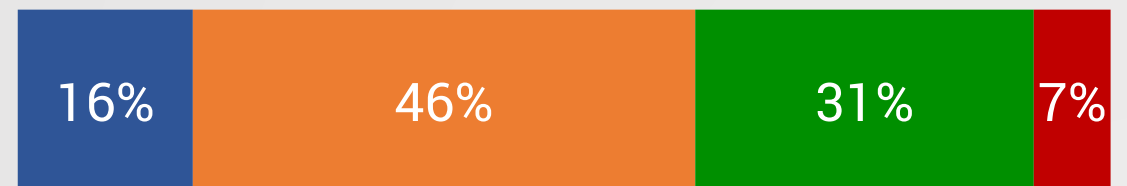
Gifted and Talented: This program offers a school-wide focus on gifted and talented education, which offers educational and experiential enrichment, challenges, and competitions for all students.



Bilingual Spanish/English



Montessori: This program fosters achievement and the joy of learning by providing a public Montessori education with the aim of students developing a respect and responsibility for self, others and the environment, the skills and commitment to make a worthwhile contribution to society and is a life-long learner.



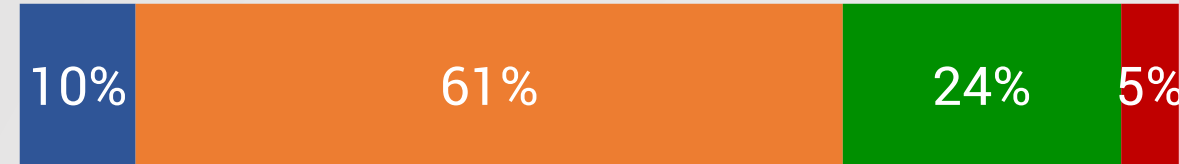
- Would Definitely Choose, Even if Longer Commute
- Would Consider
- Would Have No Effect on My Choice
- Would Make Me Less Likely to Enroll

Following is a list of the academic choice programs the Boulder Valley School District's elementary schools provide, with a brief description as necessary. After learning about each program, please indicate which statement comes closest to your point of view.

Integrated Arts and Studies: This program aims to provide students with a broader and more holistic understanding of subjects by emphasizing connections between different disciplines through a lens of arts integration. It encourages students to explore the intersections between art, literature, history, science, and other subjects, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and a well-rounded education.



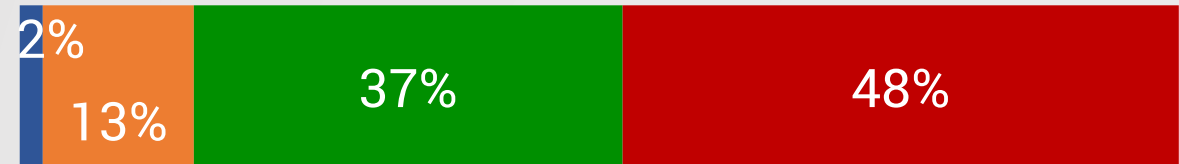
International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program: This program is a globally recognized curriculum framework that emphasizes critical thinking, intercultural understanding, and a balanced education. IB programs offer a rigorous and inquiry-based learning approach, fostering skills such as research, communication, and reflection.



Core Knowledge: The Core Knowledge program aims to provide students with a strong foundation in key academic areas, enabling them to build a well-rounded understanding of history, science, literature, and culture.



Virtual: This program is a multi-district online school offering virtual classes to a wide variety of students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. The curriculum is designed to challenge the potential of each student and includes a college preparatory curriculum, advanced level curriculum, as well as college-level coursework.



- Would Definitely Choose, Even if Longer Commute
 - Would Consider
- Would Have No Effect on My Choice
 - Would Make Me Less Likely to Enroll

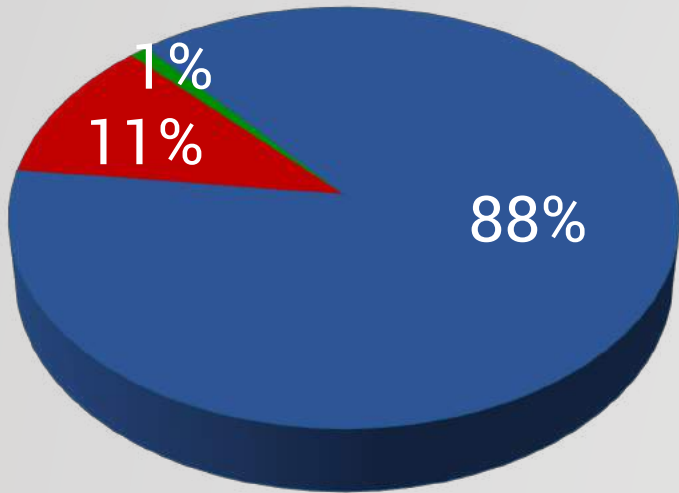
Parents of Children in Preschool-5th Grade



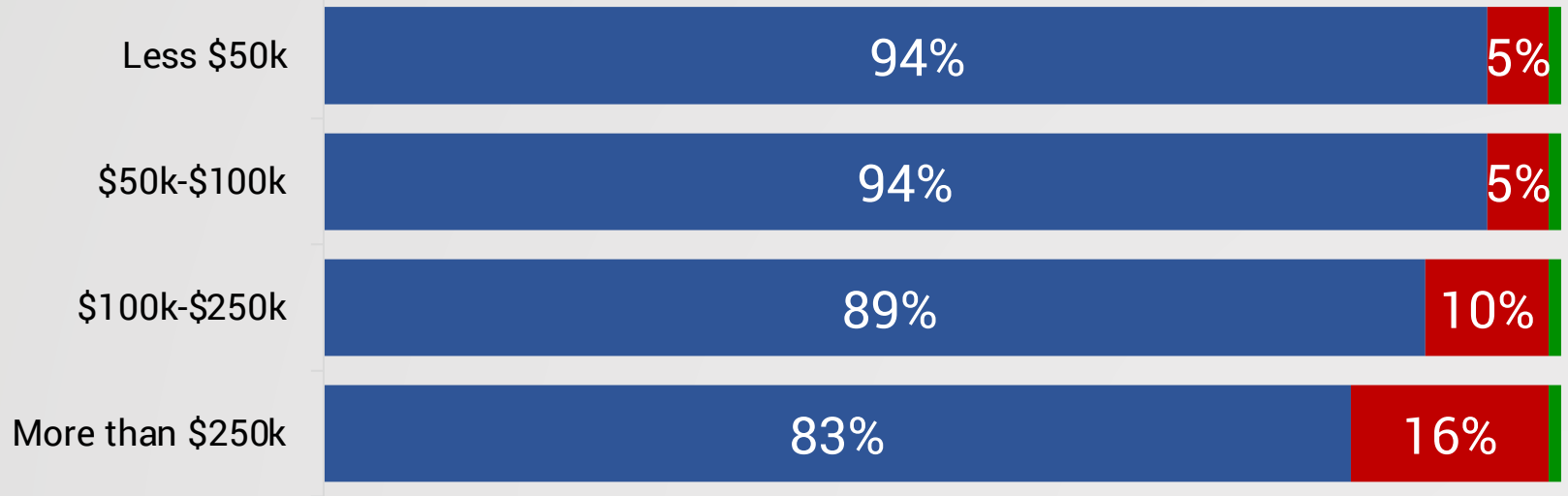
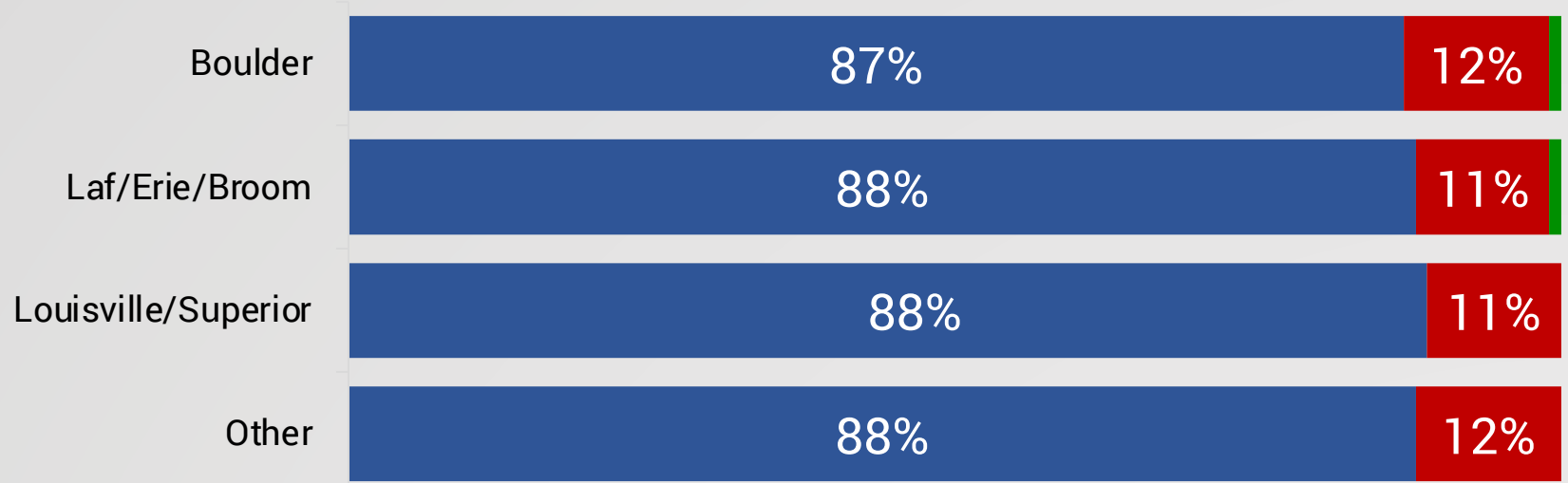
BOULDER VALLEY
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The following questions were asked to parents with children in preschool through 5th grade.

Is your child enrolled in a Boulder Valley School District school or another school, or are you homeschooling? As a reminder, charter and focus schools are BVSD schools. [Asked to 1,701 parents with a child in school]



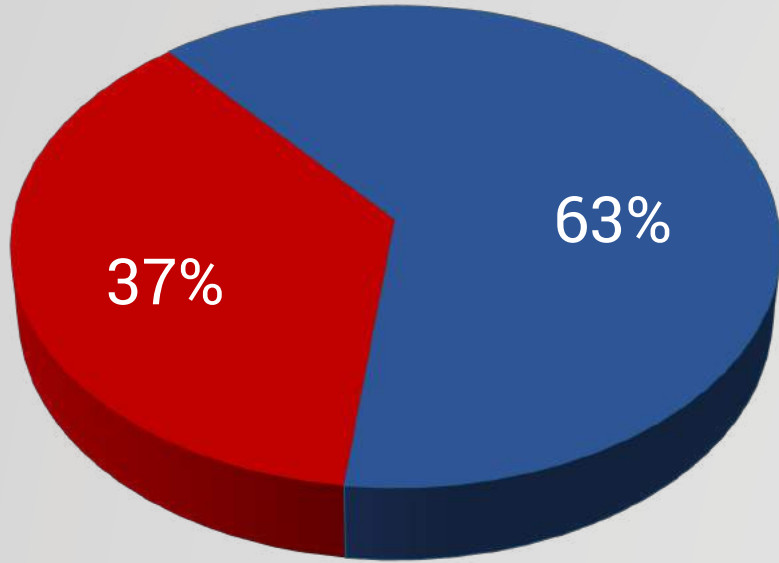
- BVSD School
- Another School
- Homeschool



- BVSD School
- Another School
- Homeschool

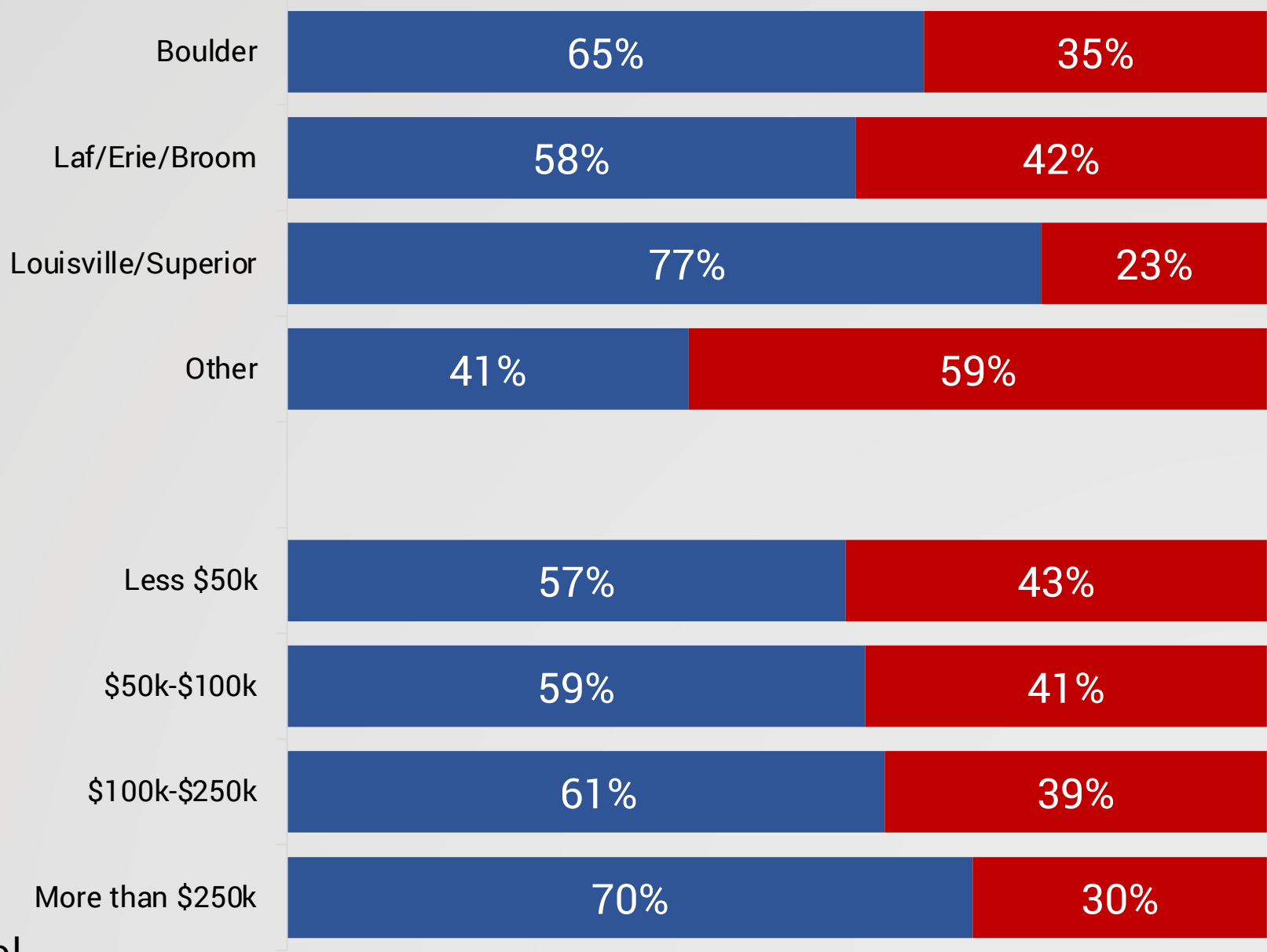
Is your child enrolled in your local neighborhood school, or are they open-enrolled at another BVSD school?

[Asked to 1,497 Parents with a Child in a BVSD School]



■ Neighborhood School

■ Open-Enrolled in Another BVSD School



■ Neighborhood School

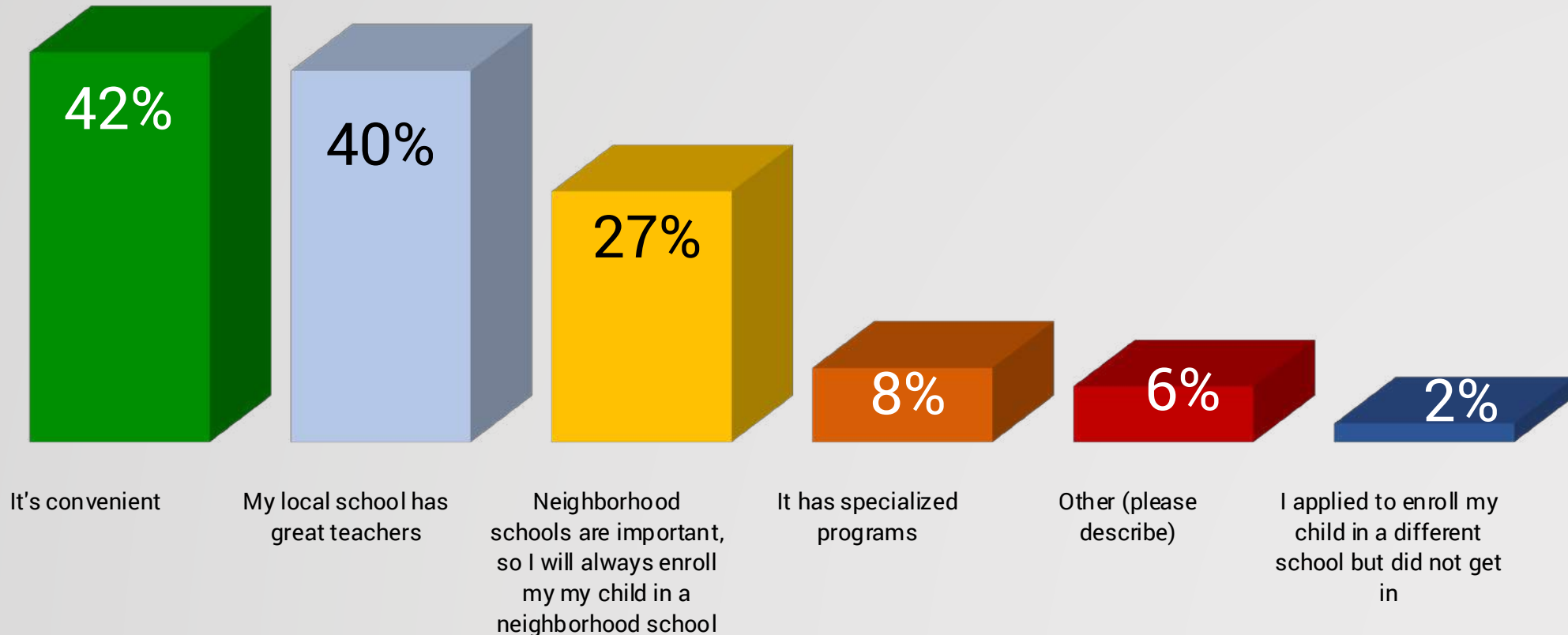
■ Open-Enrolled

Reasons Why 63% of BVSD Parents Intend Enroll Their Child in Their Local Neighborhood School (951 Respondents)

The reasons why parents enroll their children in their neighborhood Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) school can be summarized into four key themes:

- 1. Proximity and Convenience** - The most frequently cited reason for choosing a neighborhood school is its close proximity to home, making it convenient for children to walk or bike to school. This convenience extends to logistical ease for family schedules and the ability to remain connected to the local community.
- 2. School Reputation and Academic Quality** - Parents are influenced by the school's reputation, often based on word of mouth, school tours, and positive feedback from other parents. They perceive the neighborhood school to have good academic standards, a strong community feel, and great teaching staff, which reassures them of the quality of education their child will receive.
- 3. Community and Relationships** - There is a strong emphasis on the importance of being part of the local community, building relationships with other families, and allowing children to attend school with their neighborhood peers. The community-oriented approach also ties into a belief in the strength of public education and a desire to support the local school system.
- 4. Diversity and Inclusiveness** - Some parents value the diversity within their neighborhood school and want their children to experience an inclusive environment. They appreciate the mix of racial and socioeconomic backgrounds and the opportunity for their children to learn about different cultures and perspectives.

Of the following statements, which comes closest to explaining why you enroll your child in your neighborhood school? You can choose multiple statements if more than one applies.

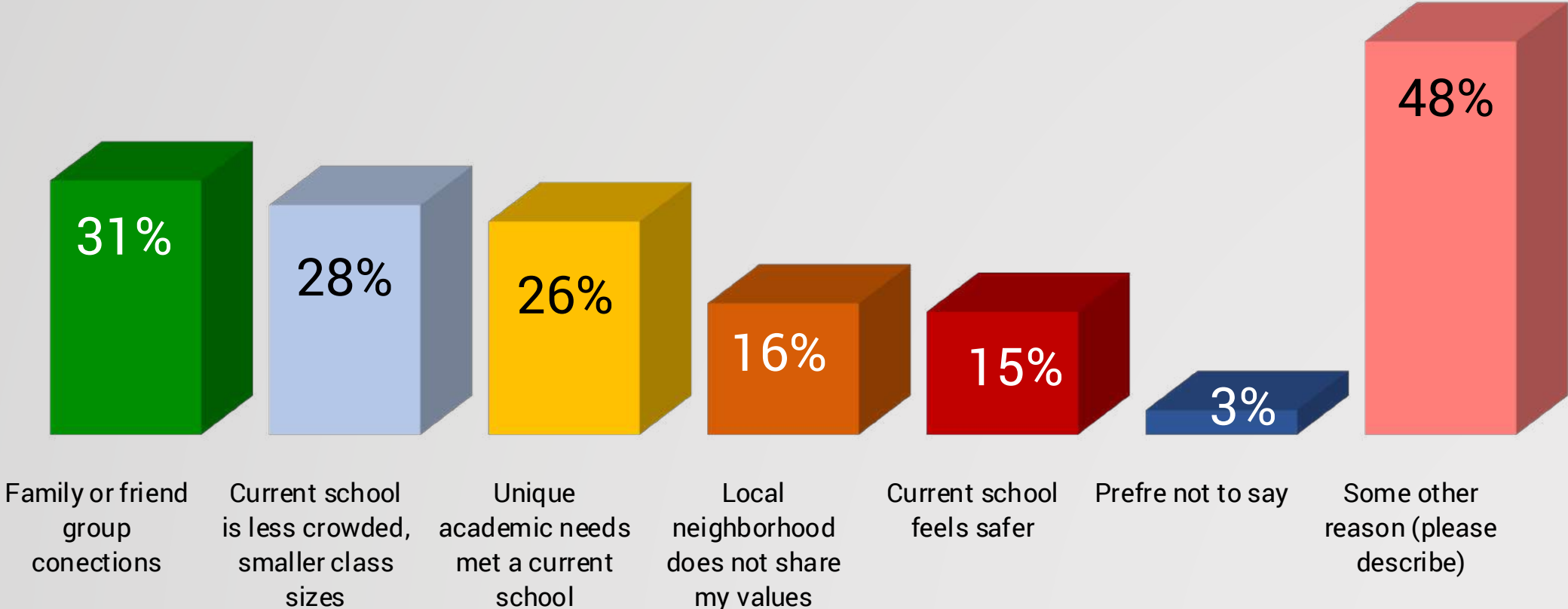


Reasons Why 37% of Boulder Valley School District Parents Open-Enroll Their Child in Another BVSD School (549 Respondents)

The reasons why parents choose to enroll their children in a Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) school other than their neighborhood school can be summarized into four main themes:

- 1. Educational Philosophy and Programs** - Many parents are seeking specialized educational approaches like Montessori, dual-language immersion, or a school with a strong focus on social/emotional learning that their neighborhood school does not offer. Charter schools or schools with specific educational models that cater to individual learning styles, such as project-based learning, also draw parents to open enroll their children elsewhere.
- 2. Logistical Reasons and Preferences** - Convenience plays a significant role, with some parents choosing schools that are closer to their homes or workplaces, even if these are not their designated neighborhood schools. This includes factors like smaller school sizes, better traffic conditions, and avoiding large, overcrowded schools.
- 3. Community and Continuity** - A sense of community and the desire for continuity is important, with parents preferring to keep siblings together or maintain relationships with a school community they are already a part of, sometimes despite moving to a different neighborhood within the district.
- 4. Academic Quality and Support Services** - Parents are looking for schools with better academic rankings, smaller class sizes, and specific support services, such as those for dyslexia or special education needs (IEPs), that they feel their neighborhood schools may lack. There is also a desire for diversity and inclusivity that they believe will better prepare their children for the real world.

And, from the following list of reasons for open-enrolling your child in a BVSD school other than your neighborhood school, please select all that apply.



Themes From the 48% of Respondents Who Said “Other Reason” to the Question: From the following list of reasons for open-enrolling your child in a BVSD school other than your neighborhood school.

- 1. Specialized Educational Preferences:** A significant number of parents are looking for specialized education that aligns with their beliefs or their child's needs, such as Montessori, dual-language programs, or schools with a particular focus on bilingual education and multicultural environments. This also includes charter schools for college preparation, schools with different pedagogical styles, and those that offer programs like the International Baccalaureate (IB) or special needs services not available at their neighborhood school.
- 2. Logistical Convenience:** Proximity to home or work, the convenience of the school's location, and the desire to keep children with their friends or siblings are influential factors. Some parents specifically mention the ease of walking to the open-enrolled school compared to the distance or need for bus travel to the neighborhood school.
- 3. Quality of Education and School Environment:** Parents express a preference for schools they perceive to have a better reputation, higher test scores, smaller class sizes, or a stronger individual focus for students. They also cite the importance of a school's community, its welcoming environment, and the diversity it offers, which they feel might be lacking in their neighborhood school.

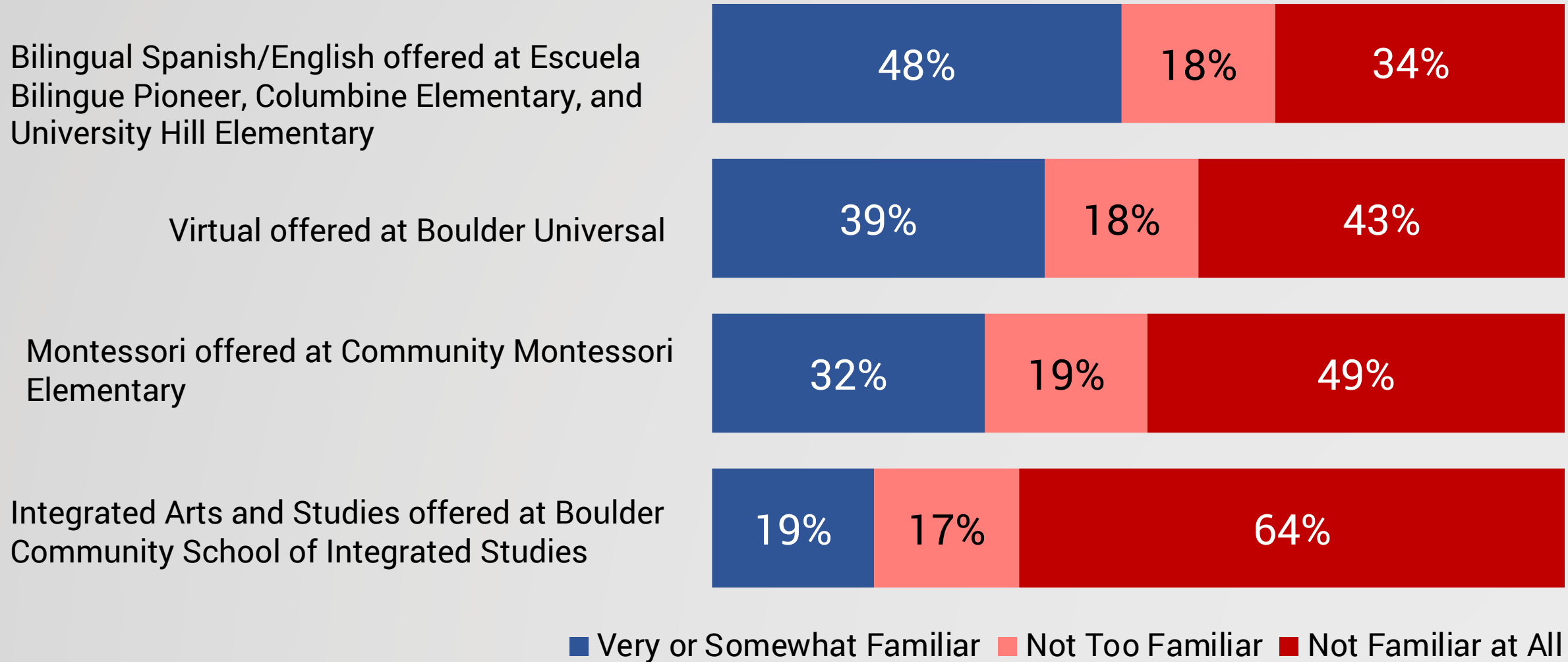


Reasons Why 11% of Parents With School-Age Children Do Not Enroll in a Boulder Valley School District School (210 Respondents)

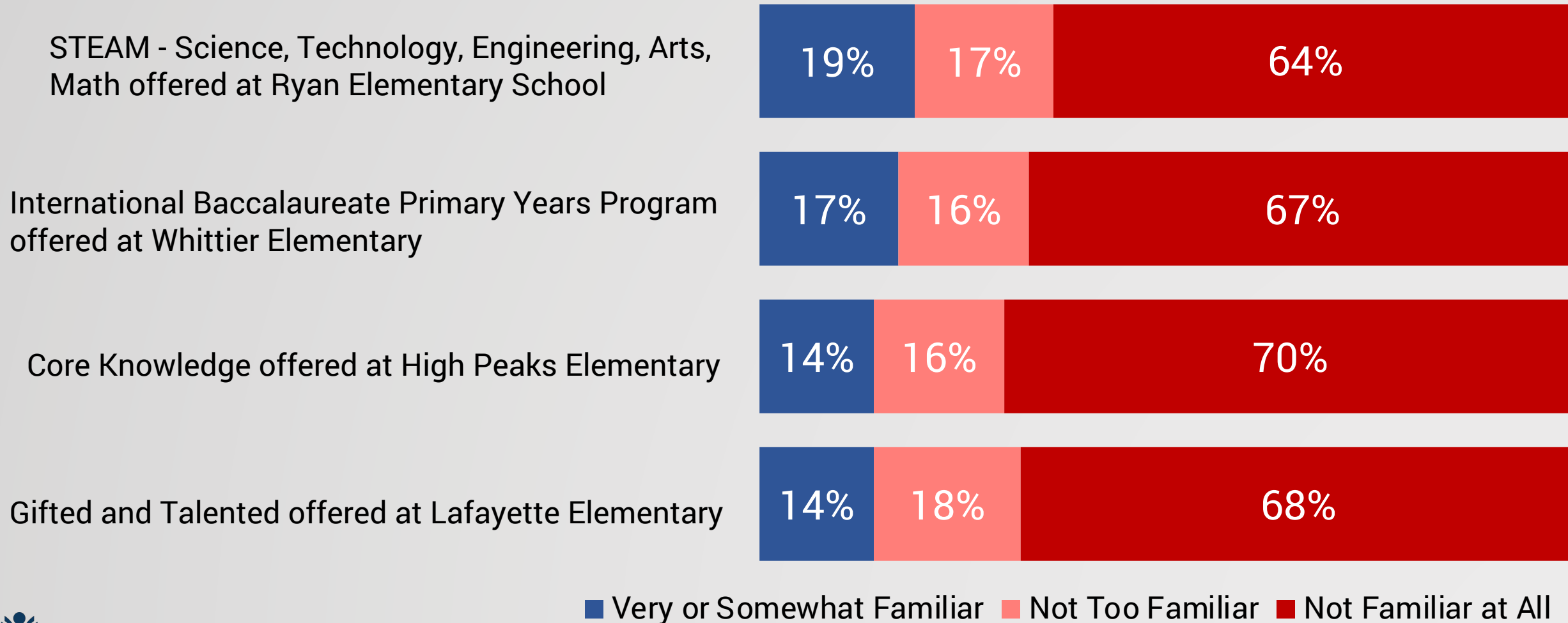
The reasons why parents do not enroll their child in a Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) elementary school can be summarized into the following four themes:

- 1. Educational Philosophy and Alternative Programs:** Parents are choosing schools that offer specialized programs or philosophies such as Montessori, Waldorf, or schools that focus on social-emotional learning over traditional education methods. This includes preferences for schools that offer full-time preschool programs, bilingual education, or cater to specific learning styles and needs.
- 2. Scheduling and Logistical Challenges:** Many parents cited scheduling issues, such as the need for full-day care or the lack of suitable preschool hours offered by BVSD. Others mentioned the convenience of having their children attend a school that fits better with their work schedule or is closer to home or work.
- 3. Dissatisfaction with BVSD Policies or Curriculum:** Some parents expressed dissatisfaction with BVSD's curriculum, educational priorities, or political stances. They mentioned concerns about ideological teaching, the handling of diversity and inclusivity, and a perceived disconnect with their personal values or the needs of their children.
- 4. Quality of Education and Environment:** A number of responses focused on the desire for smaller class sizes, individualized attention, and a higher quality of education than what they perceive is offered at their neighborhood BVSD school. This includes concerns about academic focus, discipline, and the overall school environment.

How familiar are you with the following academic choice programs offered at Boulder Valley School District Elementary Schools? (Asked to 1,701 parents with school-age children)

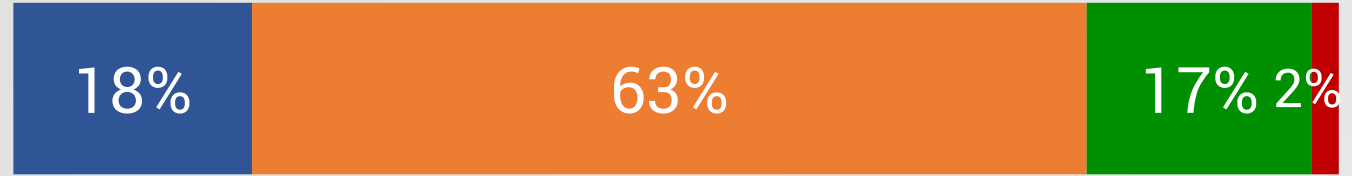


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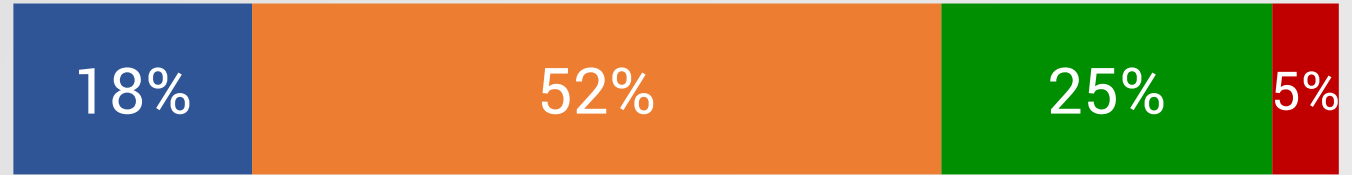


Following is a list of the academic choice programs the Boulder Valley School District's elementary schools provide, with a brief description as necessary. After learning about each program, please indicate which statement comes closest to your point of view.

STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math: This program highlights Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math for powerful learning experiences for students.



Gifted and Talented: This program offers a school-wide focus on gifted and talented education, which offers educational and experiential enrichment, challenges, and competitions for all students.



Bilingual Spanish/English



International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program: This program is a globally recognized curriculum framework that emphasizes critical thinking, intercultural understanding, and a balanced education. IB programs offer a rigorous and inquiry-based learning approach, fostering skills such as research, communication, and reflection.



- Would Definitely Choose, Even if Longer Commute
- Would Consider
- Would Have No Effect on My Choice
- Would Make Me Less Likely to Enroll

Following is a list of the academic choice programs the Boulder Valley School District's elementary schools provide, with a brief description as necessary. After learning about each program, please indicate which statement comes closest to your point of view.

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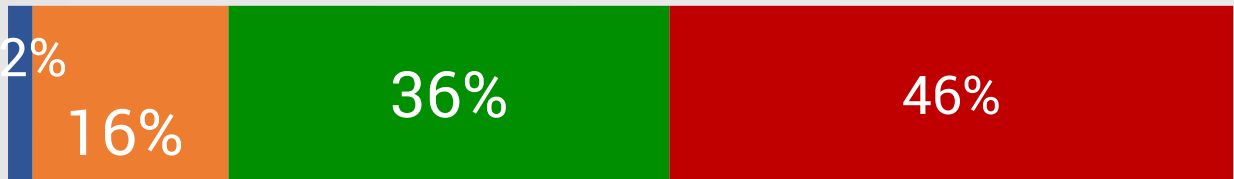
Core Knowledge: The Core Knowledge program aims to provide students with a strong foundation in key academic areas, enabling them to build a well-rounded understanding of history, science, literature, and culture.



Montessori: This program fosters achievement and the joy of learning by providing a public Montessori education with the aim of students developing a respect and responsibility for self, others and the environment, the skills and commitment to make a worthwhile contribution to society and is a life-long learner.



Virtual: This program is a multi-district online school offering virtual classes to a wide variety of students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. The curriculum is designed to challenge the potential of each student and includes a college preparatory curriculum, advanced level curriculum, as well as college-level coursework.



- Would Definitely Choose, Even if Longer Commute
- Would Consider
- Would Have No Effect on My Choice
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Questions for Every Parent

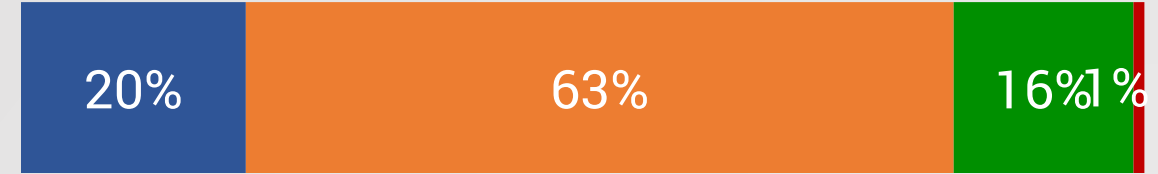


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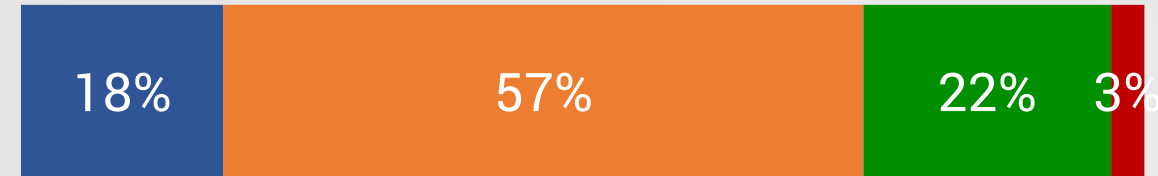
The following questions were asked to all respondents.

Following is a description of potential academic programs that Boulder Valley School District could offer at individual schools. For each program, please indicate how much having this program would influence your decision to potentially open-enroll your child in a school other than your neighborhood school. If you would like to suggest another program, there is an option for that as well.

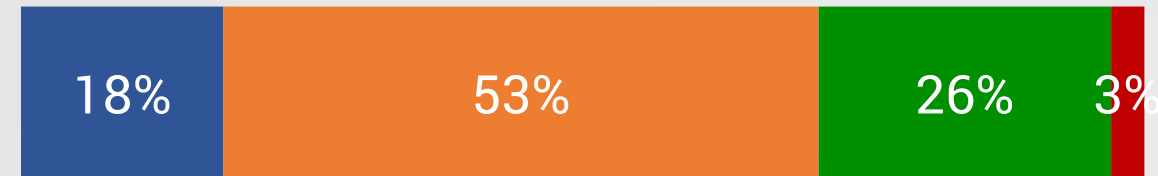
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)



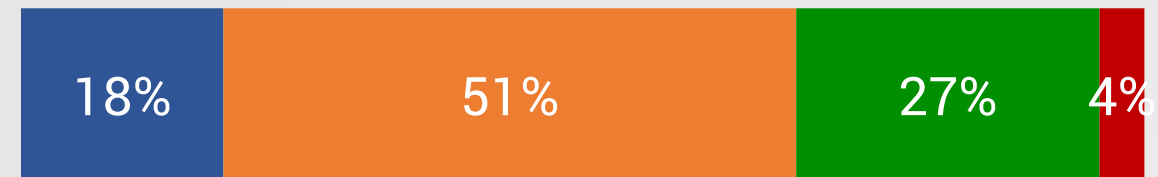
Expeditionary Learning, which aims to create well-rounded, engaged, and socially responsible individuals who are equipped with both academic knowledge and practical skills. The approach is rooted in the belief that learning should be meaningful, relevant, and connected to the world outside the classroom.



World Language, which is an educational curriculum with a focus on learning and proficiency in multiple languages



Gifted & Talented



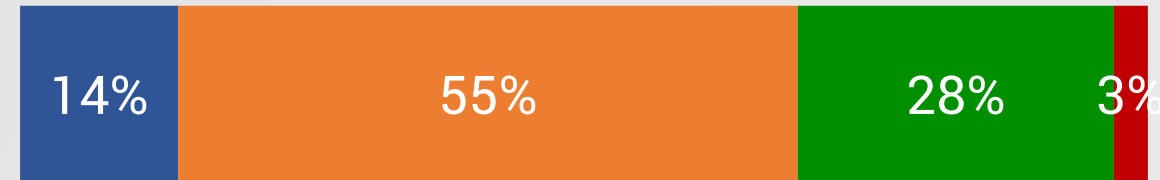
- Would Definitely Choose, Even if Longer Commute
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- Would Have No Effect on My Choice
 Would Make Me Less Likely to Enroll

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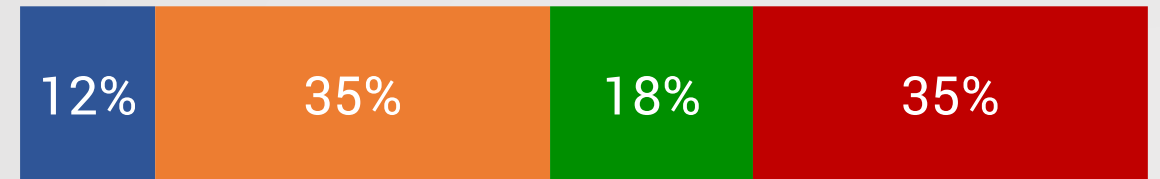
Twice-Exceptional, which is programming designed to cater to students who are considered gifted or talented in one or more areas, while also having a recognized learning or developmental challenge.



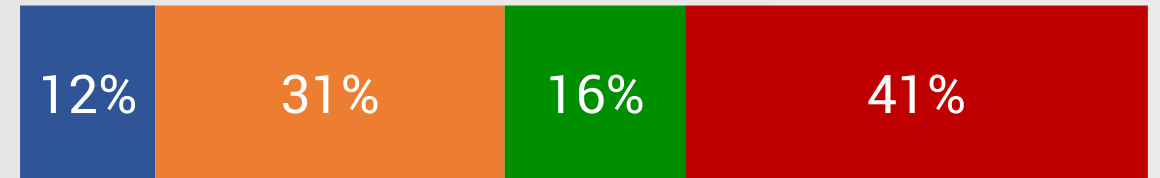
International Studies, which is an educational curriculum with a strong emphasis on global perspectives, cultural awareness and international understanding.



A School with a year-round schedule



A School with a 4-day week schedule



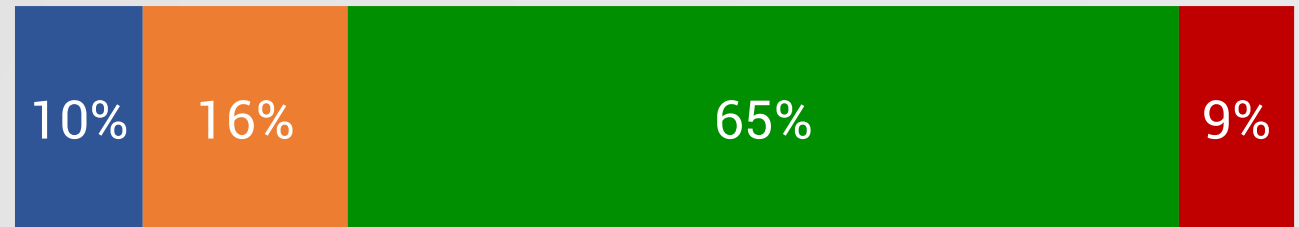
- Would Definitely Choose, Even if Longer Commute
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Fine and Performing Arts



Dyslexia programming



Career and Technical Education

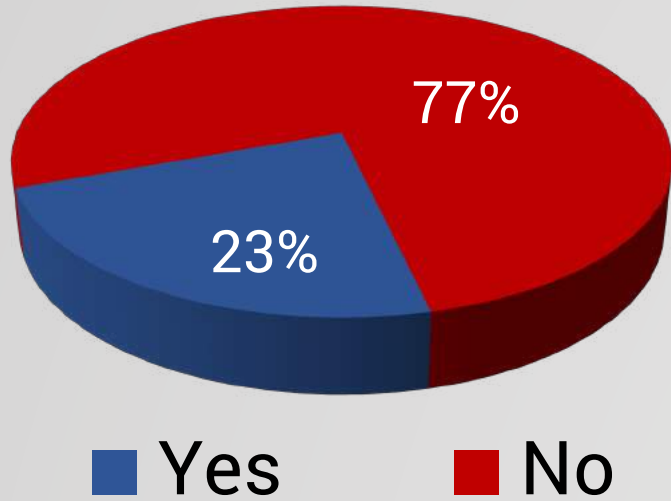


- Would Definitely Choose, Even if Longer Commute
- Would Consider
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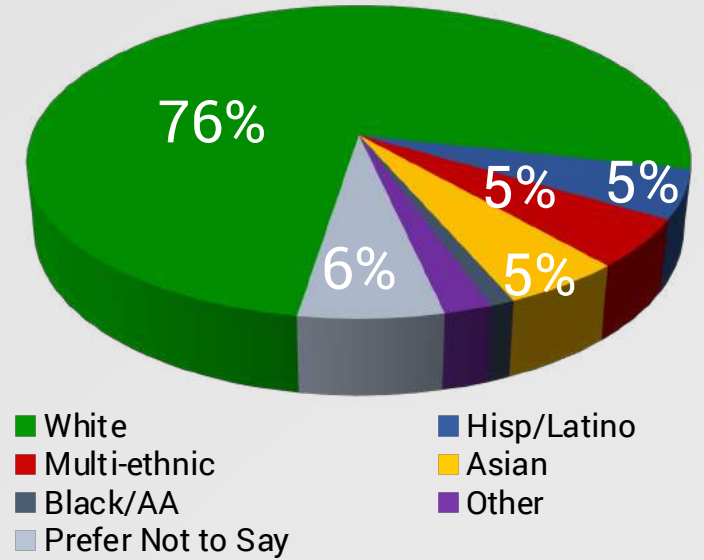


Demographics

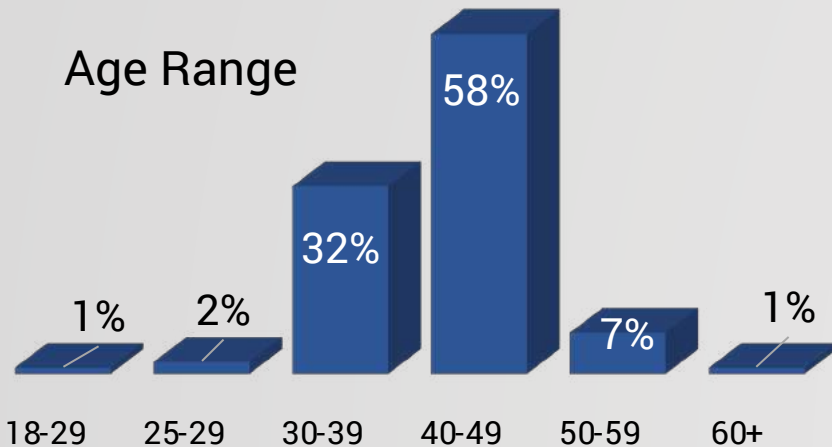
Child Has Special Educational Needs



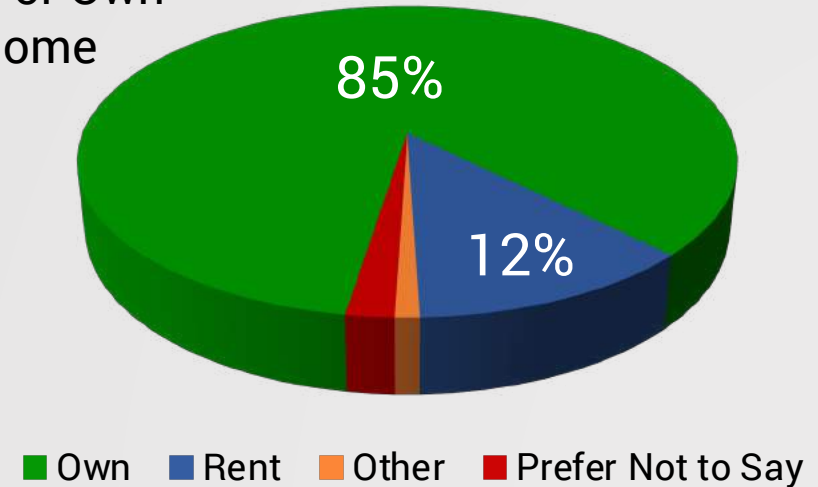
Race or Ethnicity



Age Range

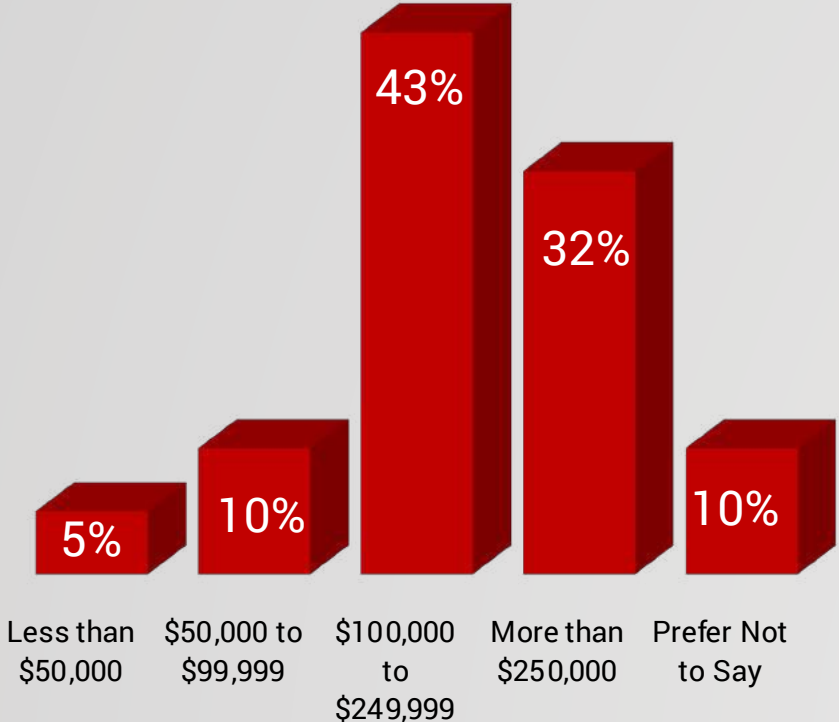


Rent or Own Home

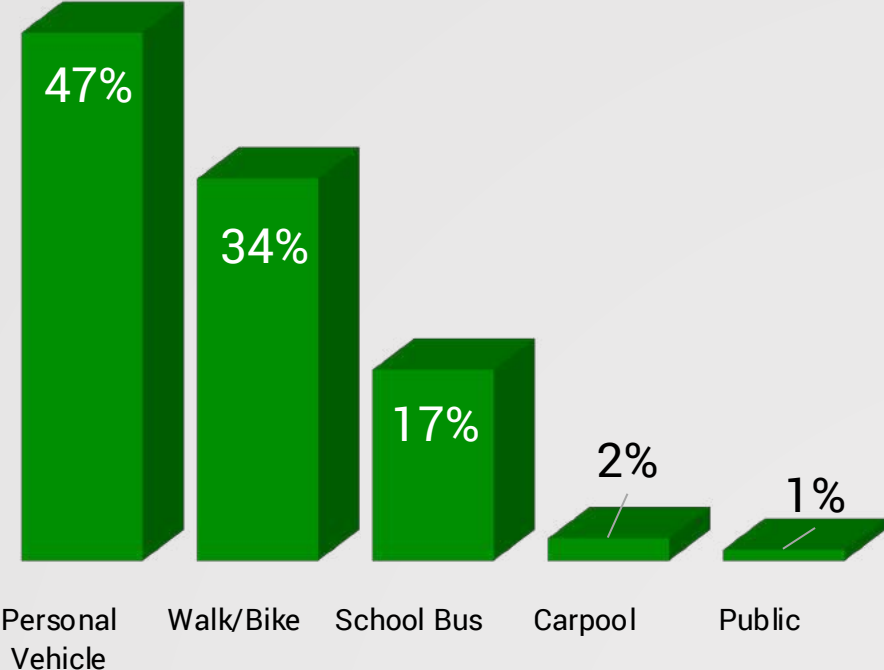


Demographics

Household Income

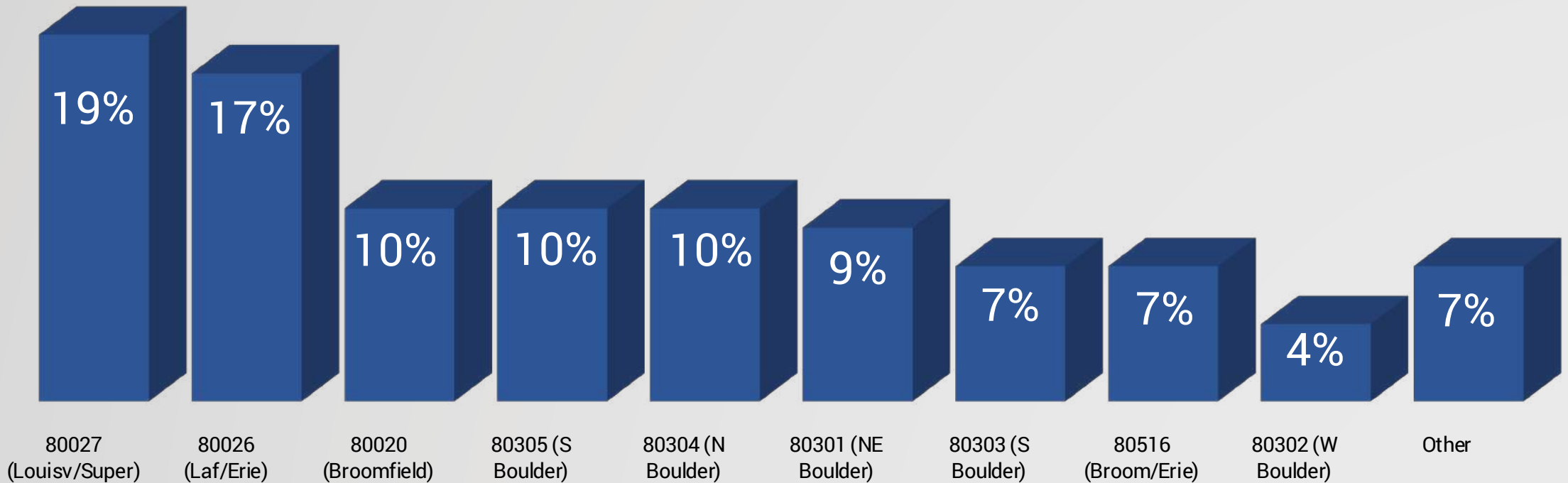


Mode of Transportation Used to Get to School



Demographics

Zip Code



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