

Public School Funding Formula Interim Committee

Survey Results

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Overview

- Purpose: Allow public comment regarding how Idaho distributes state funds to school districts
 - Questions regarding the current funding formula, as well as some basic policy proposals
- Online survey
- Conducted October 4 – 23, 2016
- Statewide distribution
- 39 questions, including demographic questions and screening questions
- 2,161 responses
- Anonymous
- All areas of the state were represented

Q1: Please check all that apply. Are you a:

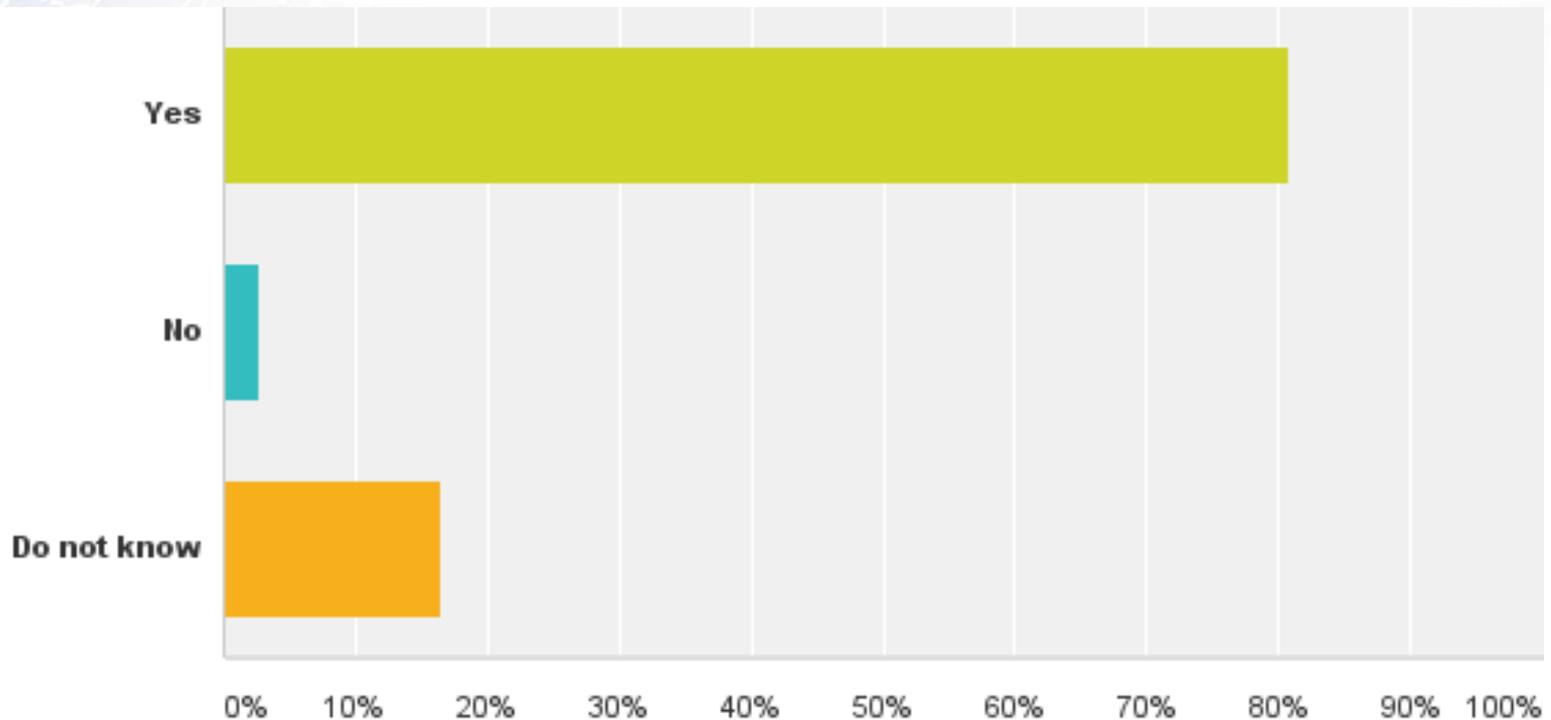
Answer Choices	Responses
Teacher	39.33% 848
Administrator	10.58% 228
Other school employee	15.12% 326
Trustee	2.13% 46
Education advocacy organization	4.22% 91
Parent, current student in a public school district	31.45% 678
Parent, current student in a public charter school	9.46% 204
Parent, former student in a public school district	26.07% 562
Parent, former student in a public charter school	2.78% 60
Parent, future student in a public school district	5.98% 129
Parent, future student in a public charter school	1.58% 34
Current student in a public school district	1.39% 30
Current student in a public charter school	0.51% 11
Resident of a public school district with no children that have been, are or will be in the public school system	10.76% 232
Total Respondents: 2,156	

Q3: If you work for a public school district or public charter school, which Idaho public school district or Idaho public charter school employs you?

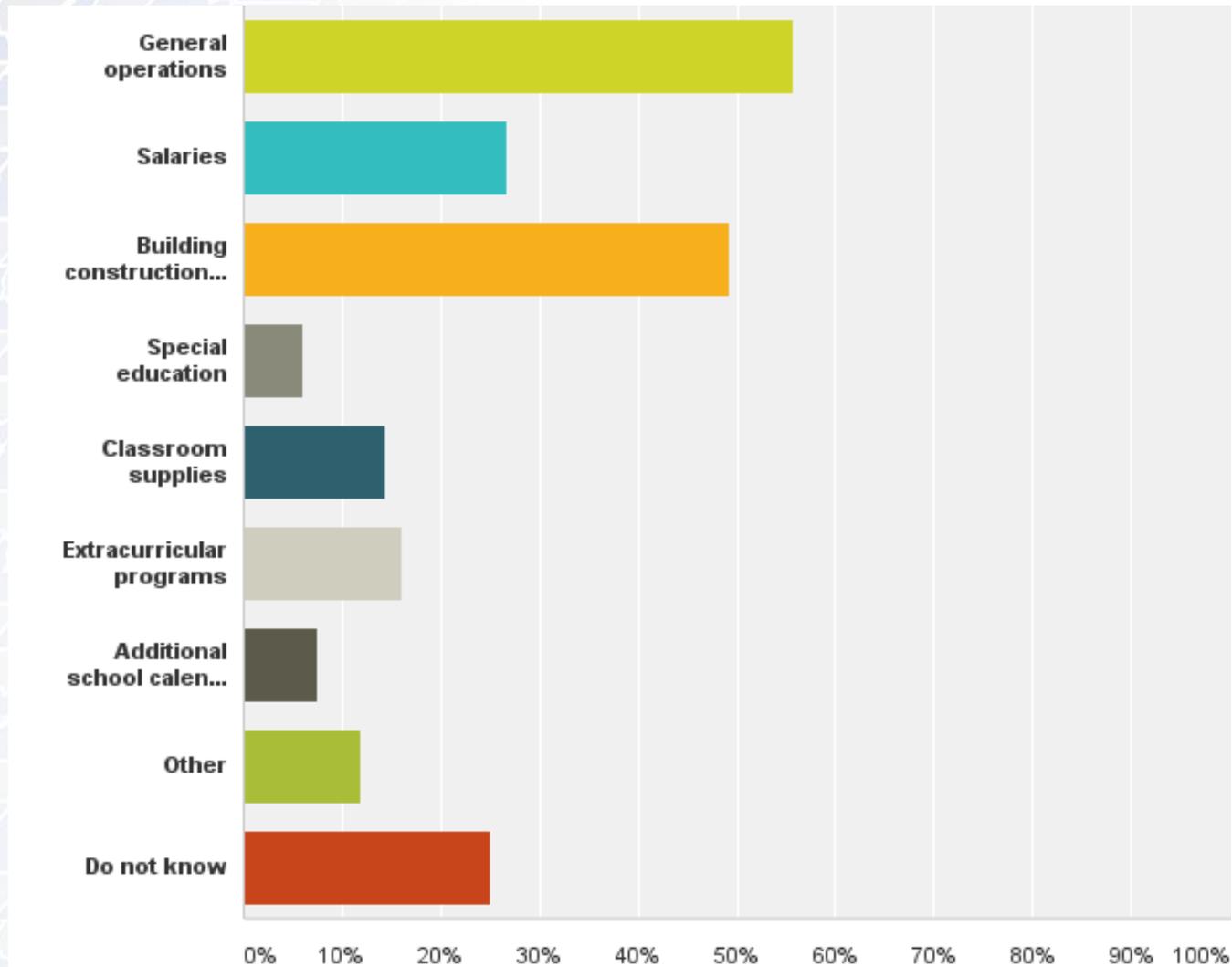
Q5: In which school district do you reside?

- ***In total, respondents work for or reside in all but 12 public school districts or charter schools***

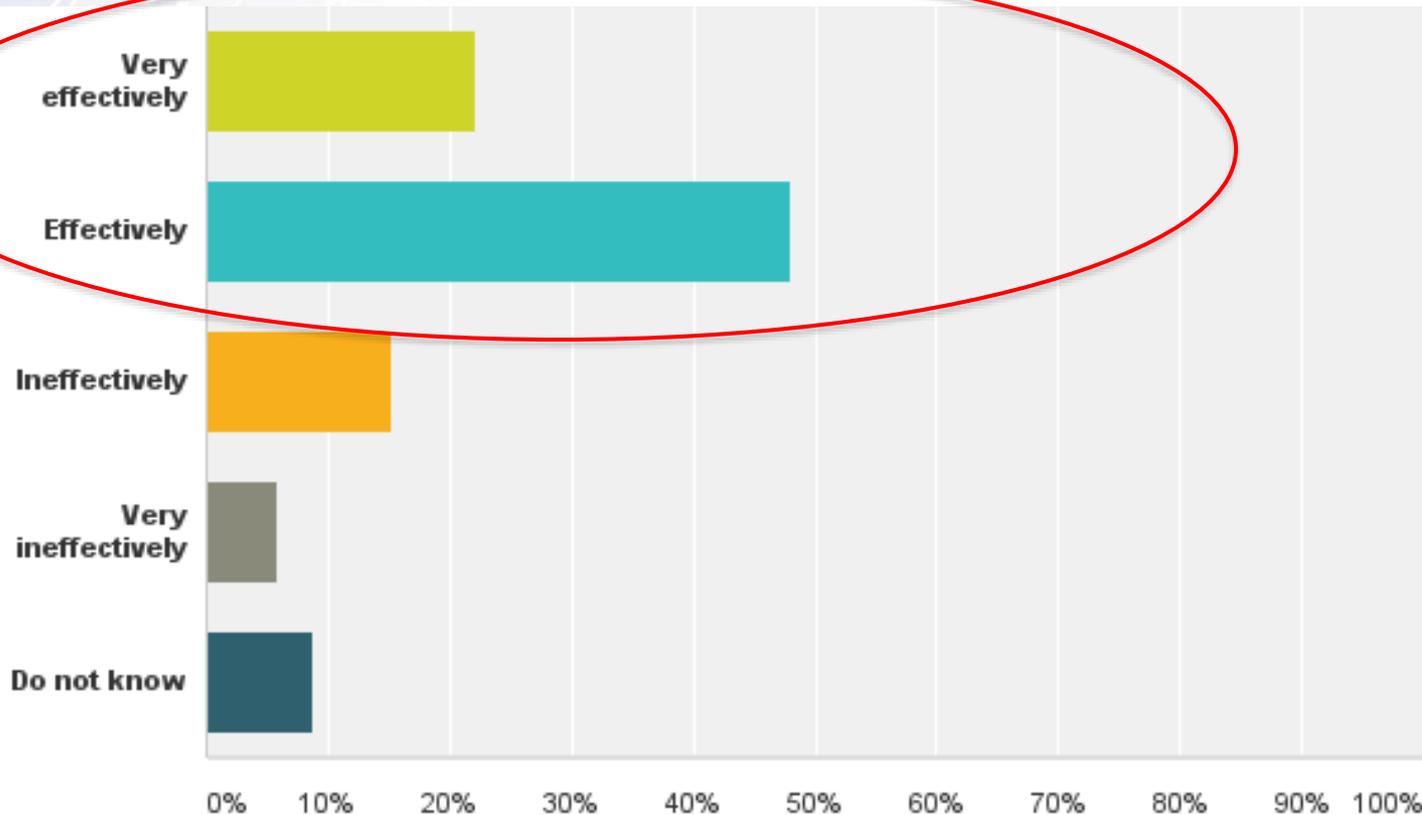
Q6: Does the school district in which you reside have a supplemental levy, voter-approved bond or some other form of local, voter approved financing supporting the district?



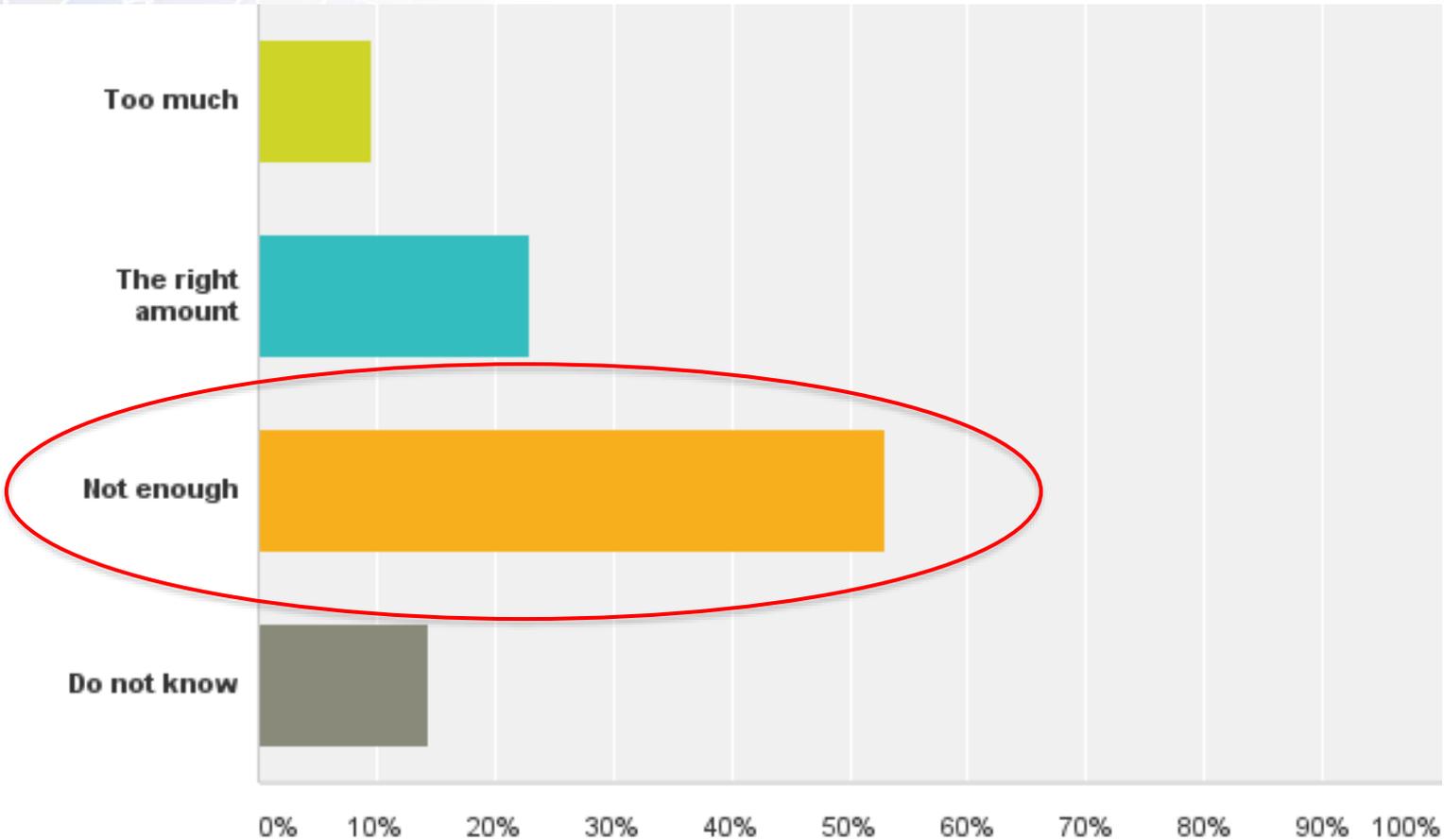
Q8: If yes, do you know for what function of the school district the voter approved financing or levy funds? Please check all that apply.



Q9: In your opinion, does your local public school district or public charter school spend its funding effectively or ineffectively?



Q10: On the issue of the ability to expend school funding, what level of flexibility do you think your local public school district or public charter school has:



Q11: On the issue of school funding, which of the following statements best represents your view?

Answer Choices	Responses
We need to reform the way we fund our public schools so the money is spent more efficiently and effectively, and then we can determine whether more money is needed.	25.67% 467
Until we increase school funding, reforming the way we fund our public schools will have little to no impact on improving public education.	62.78% 1,142
Neither	6.54% 119
Do not know	5.00% 91
Total	1,819

Q12: If neither on the previous question, please provide a statement that best represents your view on the issue of school funding?

Place Average Daily Attendance Equitable Monies
Increase Funding Classroom Students
Answer School District Ability
Education Sales Tax Money Federal
Teachers Seek Funding Formula Lands
Rural Basic Needs

Q13: Should an equal amount of state funding be provided per student, regardless of the specific needs of the student (i.e. special education, coming from a household in poverty, being gifted), or should a base amount of funding be provided for every student with additional funding provided for certain students based on their needs (i.e. special education, coming from a household in poverty, being gifted)?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Equal amount per student regardless of needs	18.81%	334
Additional funds depending on individual needs	77.98%	1,385
Do not know	3.21%	57
Total		1,776

Q14: If public schools are funded based on the number of students who actually attend, should state funding be an equal amount per student, a base amount per student plus additional funds depending on student needs, or based on the number of classrooms (also known as support units) needed to serve students?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Equal amount per student attending regardless of needs	15.49%	275
Additional funds depending on individual needs	69.30%	1,230
Number of classrooms needed	11.04%	196
Do not know	4.17%	74
Total		1,775

- ***Q13 and Q14 show a trend of favoring per student funding with additional funding support for specific student needs or characteristics.***

Q15: Of the topics listed below, which five do you consider to be the highest priorities for the public school funding formula interim committee?

Answer Choices	Responses
Equal (or Fair) distribution of funds	46.99% 772
Accreditation standards	10.71% 176
Special Education	28.61% 470
English Language Learners	10.89% 179
At-risk students	35.24% 579
Gifted and Talented students	17.59% 289
Student mobility (i.e. transfer frequently between schools)	6.51% 107
Recruit and retain teachers	65.73% 1,080
Facilities	41.39% 680
Student transportation	6.57% 108
Student assessments	4.99% 82
Small, rural schools	25.93% 426
Large, urban schools	1.77% 29
American Indian students	2.31% 38
Virtual education	9.49% 156
Staff salaries	61.29% 1,007
Employee benefits	32.26% 530
Year-round school	6.70% 110
Instructional materials and equipment	50.21% 825
Mastery-based education	17.77% 292
Funding for students taking classes in addition to the regular school day.	7.85% 129
Total Respondents: 1,643	

Top identified areas:

1. Recruit and retain teachers
2. Staff salaries
3. Instructional materials and equipment
4. Equal (or Fair) distribution of funds
5. At-risk students

Q16: Please elaborate on your choices above and/or describe other school funding topics you consider to be the highest priorities.

Teacher Pay Supplies Facilities Money

Students Career Ladder Funding

Quality Teachers **Teacher Salaries**

Support **Schools** Technology

Staff Salaries

Instructional Materials and Equipment **Education**

Good Teachers **Recruit and Retain Teachers**

Wages **Classroom** Qualified Teachers **Teacher Retention**

Q17: In Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017, the state legislature increased funding for public education by approximately \$100 million each year. If a funding increase is again possible in Fiscal Year 2018, please identify your top two priorities for that funding.

Classified Staff Pay **Class Size** Employee Benefits
Teacher Pay Supplies **Facilities** Money
Students Career Ladder **Funding**
Quality Teachers **Teacher Salaries**
Support **Schools** Technology
Staff Salaries
Instructional Materials and Equipment **Education**
Good Teachers **Recruit and Retain Teachers**
Wages **Classroom** Qualified Teachers **Teacher Retention**
Supplies Staff Benefits **Districts** Mastery **Technology**
Gifted **School** Class Size **Students** Money
Salaries
Instructional Materials and Equipment
Teachers Curriculum **Funding**
Employee Benefits **Facilities** Special Needs
Education Transportation **Classroom** Textbooks
Support Programs

Q20: Below are the FY 2017 Public School Appropriation statutory funding distributions categories. Please identify up to 10 distributions that are the most important to your school district or charter school.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Transportation	45.85%	398
Border Contracts	1.96%	17
Exceptional Contracts/Tuition Equivalents	10.02%	87
Salary-based Apportionment	52.30%	454
State Paid Employee Benefits	66.13%	574
Career Ladder Salaries	65.90%	572
Career Ladder Benefits	44.59%	387
Review of Career Ladder Teacher Evaluations	24.77%	215
Bond Levy Equalization	33.18%	288
Idaho Digital Learning Academy	15.55%	135
Idaho Safe & Drug-Free Schools	23.27%	202
High School Redesign - Math / Science	21.54%	187
Advanced Opportunities	43.09%	374
National Board Teacher Certification	10.60%	92
Facilities (Lottery) & Interest Earned	25.00%	217
Facilities State Match (GF)	38.82%	337
Facilities - Charter School Funding	9.56%	83
Leadership Awards/Premiums	32.49%	282
School District Strategic Planning	26.61%	231
Mastery-based System	19.93%	173
Online Class Portal Managed by the Idaho State Department of Education	7.37%	64
Literacy Proficiency	53.00%	460
Academic & College/Career Advisors and Mentors	31.57%	274
Innovation Schools	18.20%	158
Total Respondents: 868		

Top identified areas:

1. State paid employee benefits
2. Career Ladder salaries
3. Literacy proficiency
4. Salary-based apportionment
5. Transportation
6. Career Ladder benefits
7. Advanced Opportunities
8. Facilities state match (GF)
9. Bond levy equalization
10. Leadership awards/premiums

Q21: Below are the FY 2017 Public School Appropriation non-statutory funding distribution categories. Please identify up to 10 distributions that are the most important to your school district or charter school.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Math Initiative	49.71%	422
Remediation Based on Idaho Reading Indicator	49.82%	423
Remediation Based on ISAT	37.93%	322
Limited English Proficiency (LEP)	37.46%	318
College Entrance Exams	26.38%	224
District IT Staffing	46.05%	391
Classroom Technology	78.21%	664
Wireless Infrastructure (Wi-Fi)	56.54%	480
Administrative Evaluations of Teachers	25.56%	217
Student Achievement Assessments	29.33%	249
Instructional Management Systems (IMS) state & local	15.78%	134
Professional Development Distributed and Contracted	43.58%	370
Content and Curriculum	68.43%	581
Gifted/Talented Grants	24.15%	205
Bureau of Services for the Deaf & Blind (Campus)	4.95%	42
Bureau of Services for the Deaf & Blind (Outreach)	4.36%	37
Federal Funds for Local School Districts	54.42%	462
Total Respondents: 849		

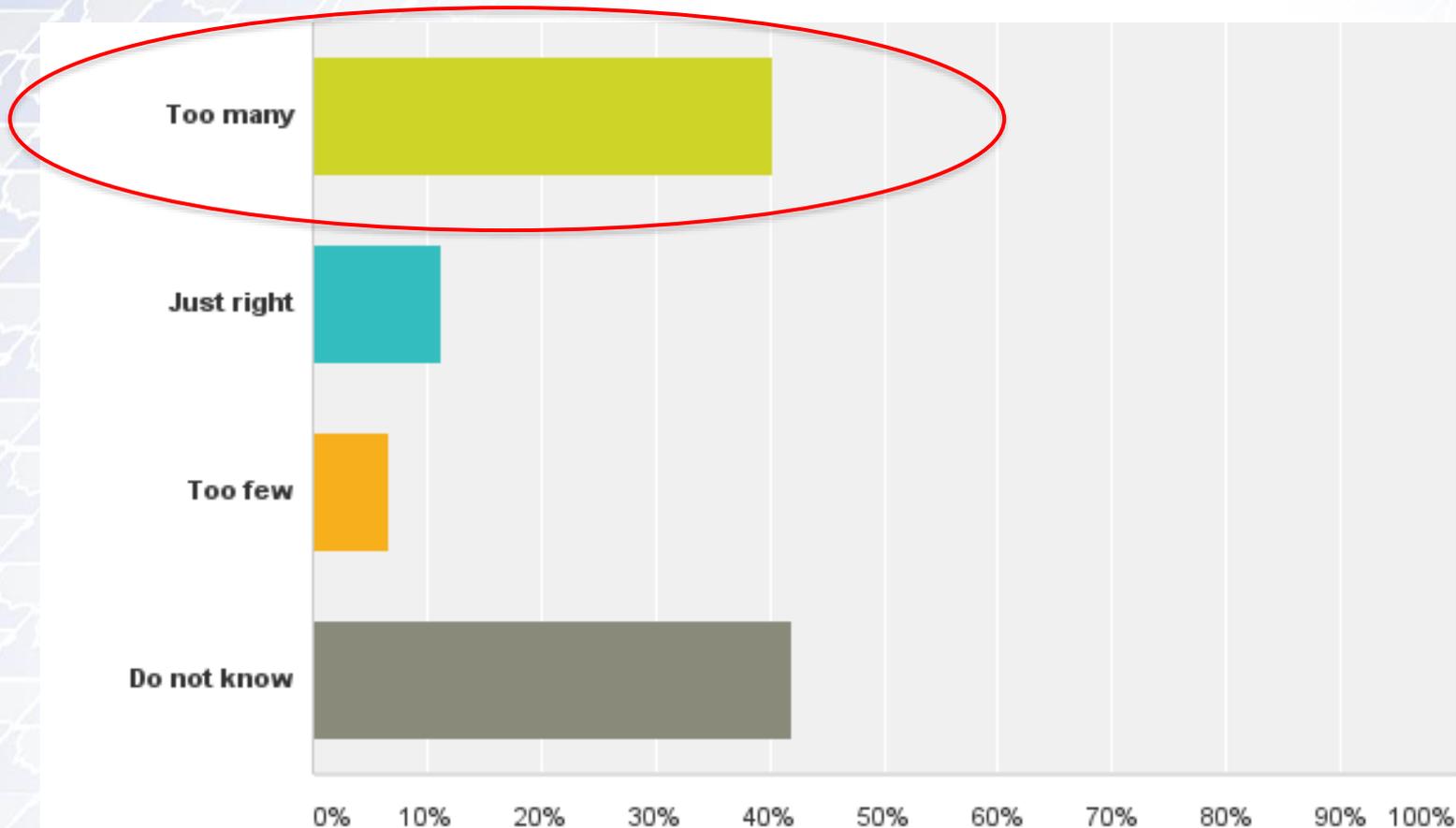
Top identified areas:

1. Classroom technology
2. Content and curriculum
3. Wireless infrastructure (WiFi)
4. Federal funds for local school districts
5. Remediation based on IRI
6. Math initiative
7. District IT staffing
8. Professional development
9. Remediation based on ISAT
10. Limited English proficiency

Q22: Please elaborate on your choices for the previous two questions, including your top priorities and/or describe other school funding topics you consider to be high priorities.

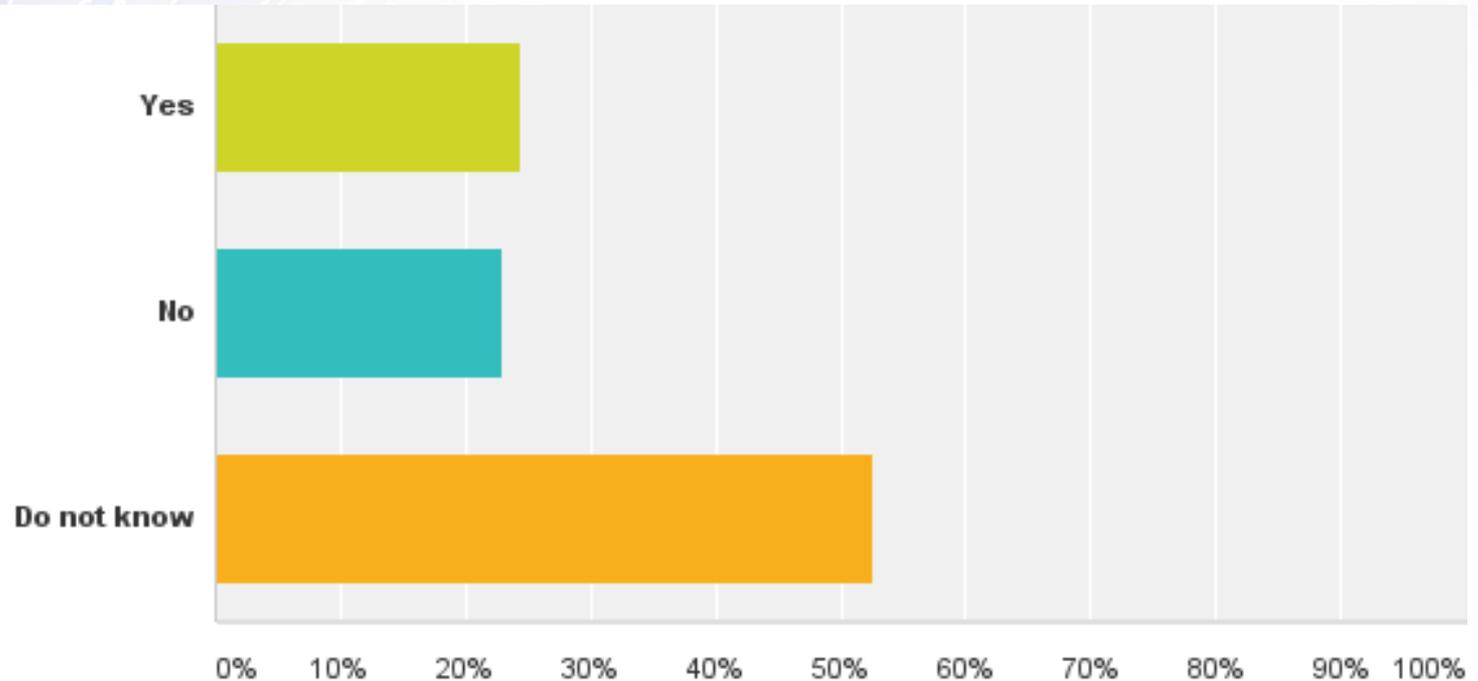
Employee Gifted Programs Administrators Exceptional
Think Waste Salaries and Benefits
At-risk Students Teaching Competitive
Important Funding for Remediation
District Questions School Huge
Education Mastery Curriculum Growth
Math Chose Classroom Technology
Fast Forward Career Ladder Full Day
Professional Development

Q23: Is the number of state funding distribution categories too many, too few, or about right?

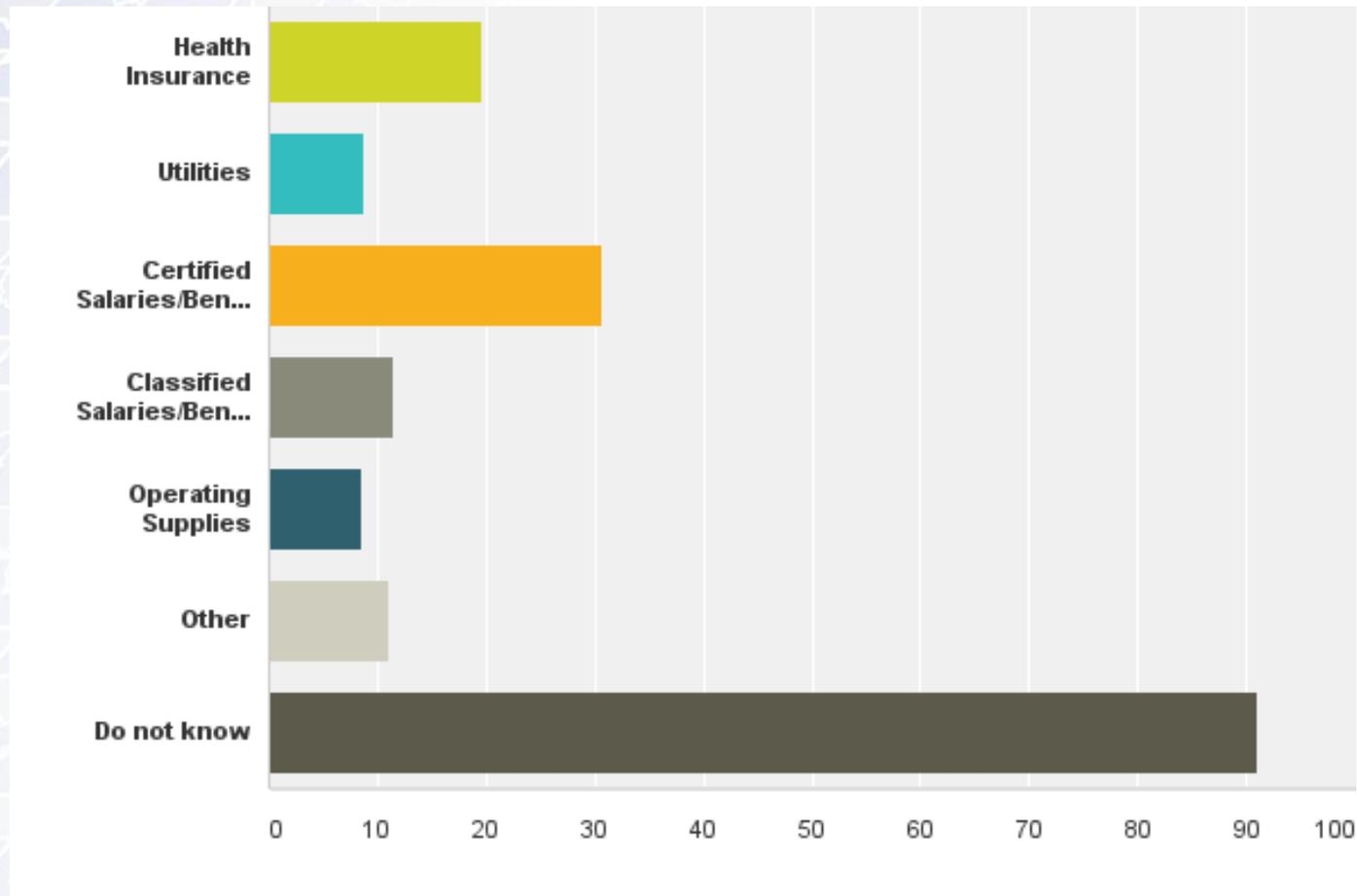


- *Q23 is consistent with Q10 response that school districts do not have enough flexibility in how they spend funds*

Q24: Is the number and timing of payments from the state adequate to meet your needs?



Q25: Approximately what percentage of your discretionary funding is spent in the following categories? If you do not know, enter 100 in the "Do not know" field.



Q26: What is your district's average annual cost per full-time employee for health, vision, and dental insurance combined? This is the employer's cost, not the employee's cost, and should be a single dollar value (e.g. \$6,500). If you do not know, please respond "Do not know."

- *The average of responses was \$11,203.*
- *The median response was \$6,780.*

Note: Based on Administrator responses only.

Q27: What percentage of an employee's total insurance (health, vision and dental) premium cost is paid by the school district? This is the employer's cost, not the employee's cost, and should be a single percentage (e.g. 50%). If you do not know, please respond "Do not know."

- *The average of responses was 90%.*
- *The median response was 100%.*

Note: Based on Administrator responses only.

Q27: What percentage of an employee's total insurance (health, vision and dental) premium cost is paid by the school district? This is the employer's cost, not the employee's cost, and should be a single percentage (e.g. 50%). If you do not know, please respond "Do not know."

- *The average of responses was 90%.*
- *The median response was 100%.*

Note: Based on Administrator responses only.

Q28: What is a district employee's average annual cost for including one or more dependents as covered by the district's health, vision and dental insurance plan or plans? This is the employee's cost and should be a single dollar value (e.g. \$6,500). If you do not know, please respond "Do not know."

- *The average of responses was \$5,186.*
- *The median response was \$5,400.*

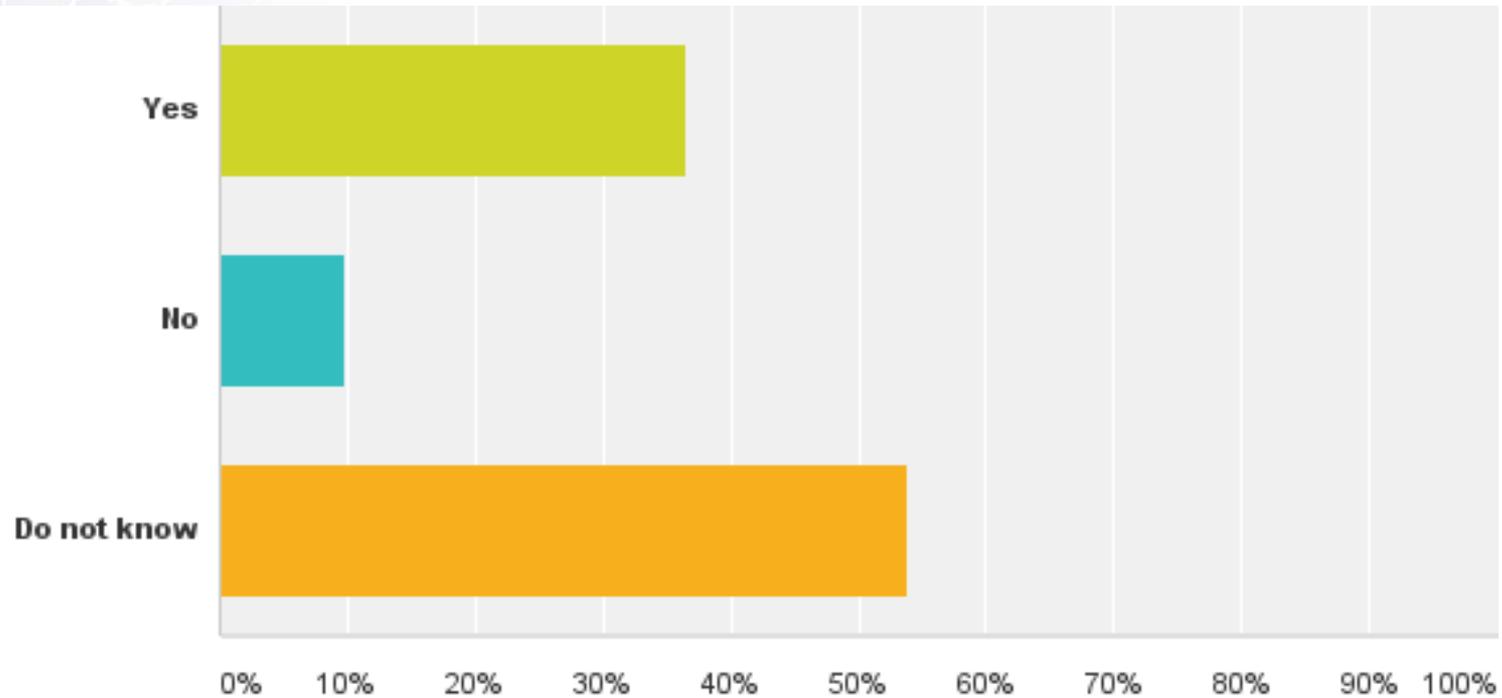
Note: Based on Administrator responses only.

Q29:What percentage of an employee's total dependent insurance (health, vision and dental) premium cost is paid by the school district? This is the employer's cost, not the employee's cost, and should be a single percentage (e.g. 50%). If you do not know, please respond "Do not know."

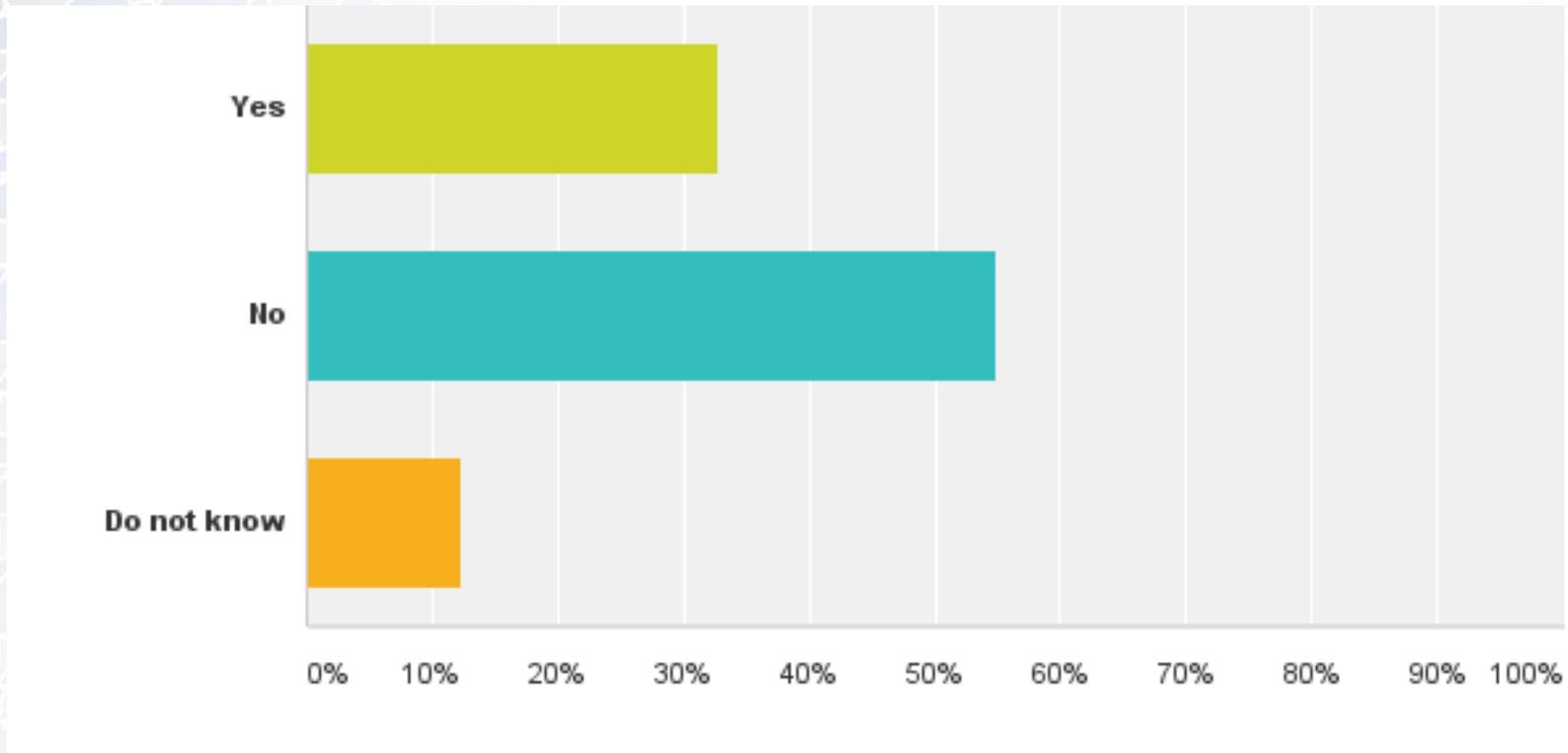
- The average of responses was 68%.*
- The median response was 70%.*

Note: Based on Administrator responses only and those entering a value greater than 0%.

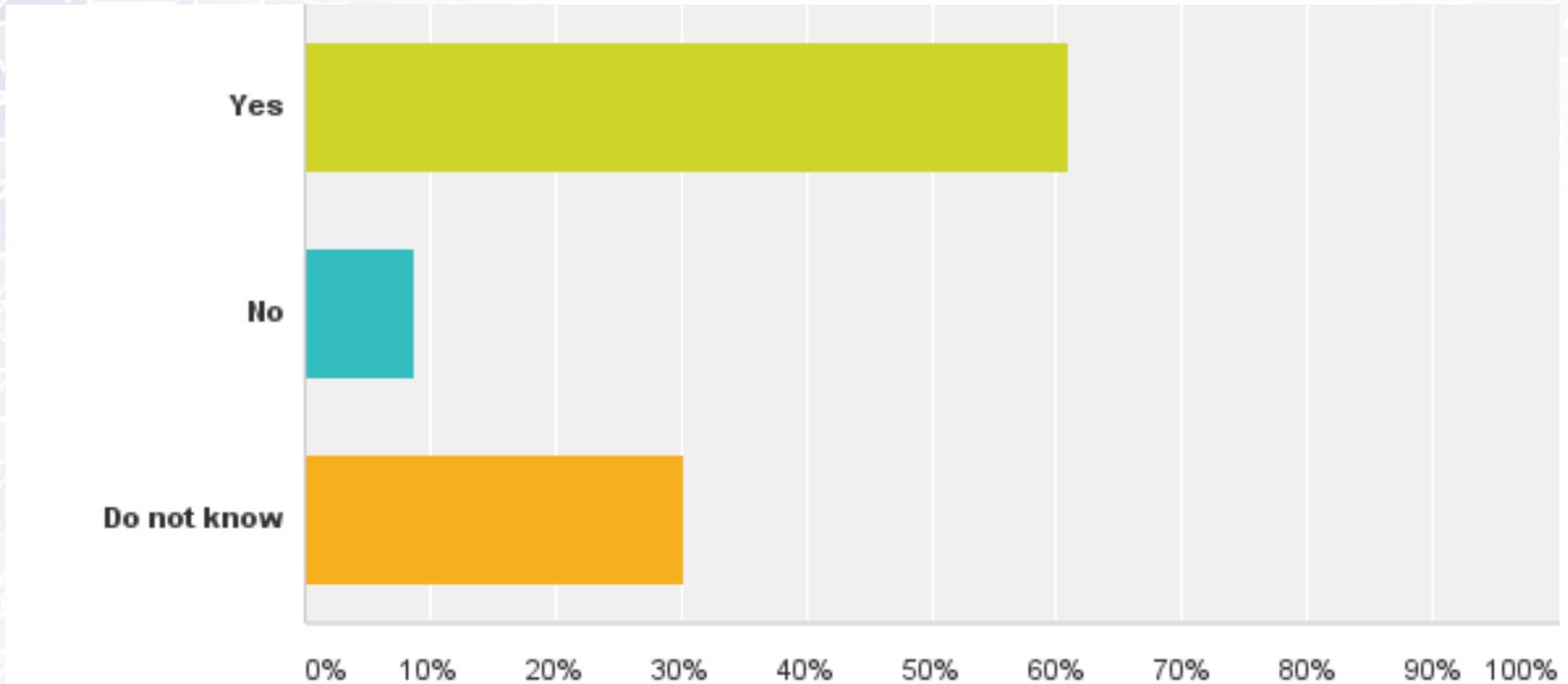
Q30: Do you support moving an equivalent amount of funding for district health insurance costs out of discretionary funds (currently at \$25,696 per support unit) onto its own line that is annualized in some way?



Q31: Are you satisfied with the current options for purchasing health insurance?



Q32: Would you support a statewide health insurance plan for all public school staff?



Q33: Do you favor or oppose the following:

Choose favor or oppose:			
	Favor	Oppose	Total
Improving transparency in how schools spend their money.	89.64% 1,177	10.36% 136	1,313
Giving schools more flexibility to decide how to spend their money.	87.73% 1,158	12.27% 162	1,320
Ensuring principals and administrators have incentives to spend money efficiently	74.57% 962	25.43% 328	1,290
Providing extra funding for schools with children living in poverty or having special needs.	87.39% 1,144	12.61% 165	1,309
Ensuring that all public school children receive the SAME level of funding, whether they attend a traditional public school or public charter school and that if a child changes schools during the school year, state funding follows the student.	58.81% 768	41.19% 538	1,306

