

The 49th Annual PDK Poll
of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools

Academic achievement isn't the only mission



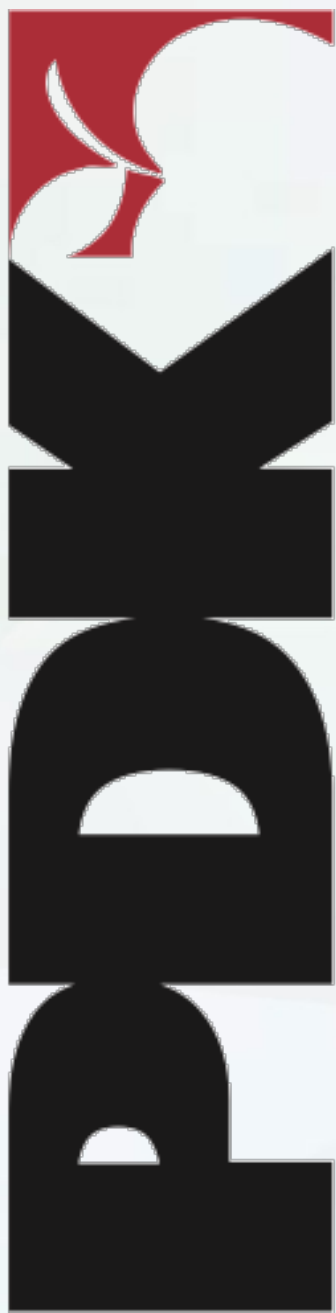
2017 PDK POLL

of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools

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pdkpoll.org





- A trusted and independent source of information since 1969
- Conducted each May
- Published in September issue of *Kappan* magazine
- Financed solely by the PDK Educational Foundation, which permits PDK to offer an independent and unbiased report of American public opinion
- Designed, managed, analyzed, and reported by Langer Research Associates of New York, N.Y., in consultation with PDK
- All results described in this report were tested for statistical significance



2017 national and state polls covered:

- Life after high school
- Choice
- Diversity
- Wraparound services
- Indicators of school quality



2017 national and state polls

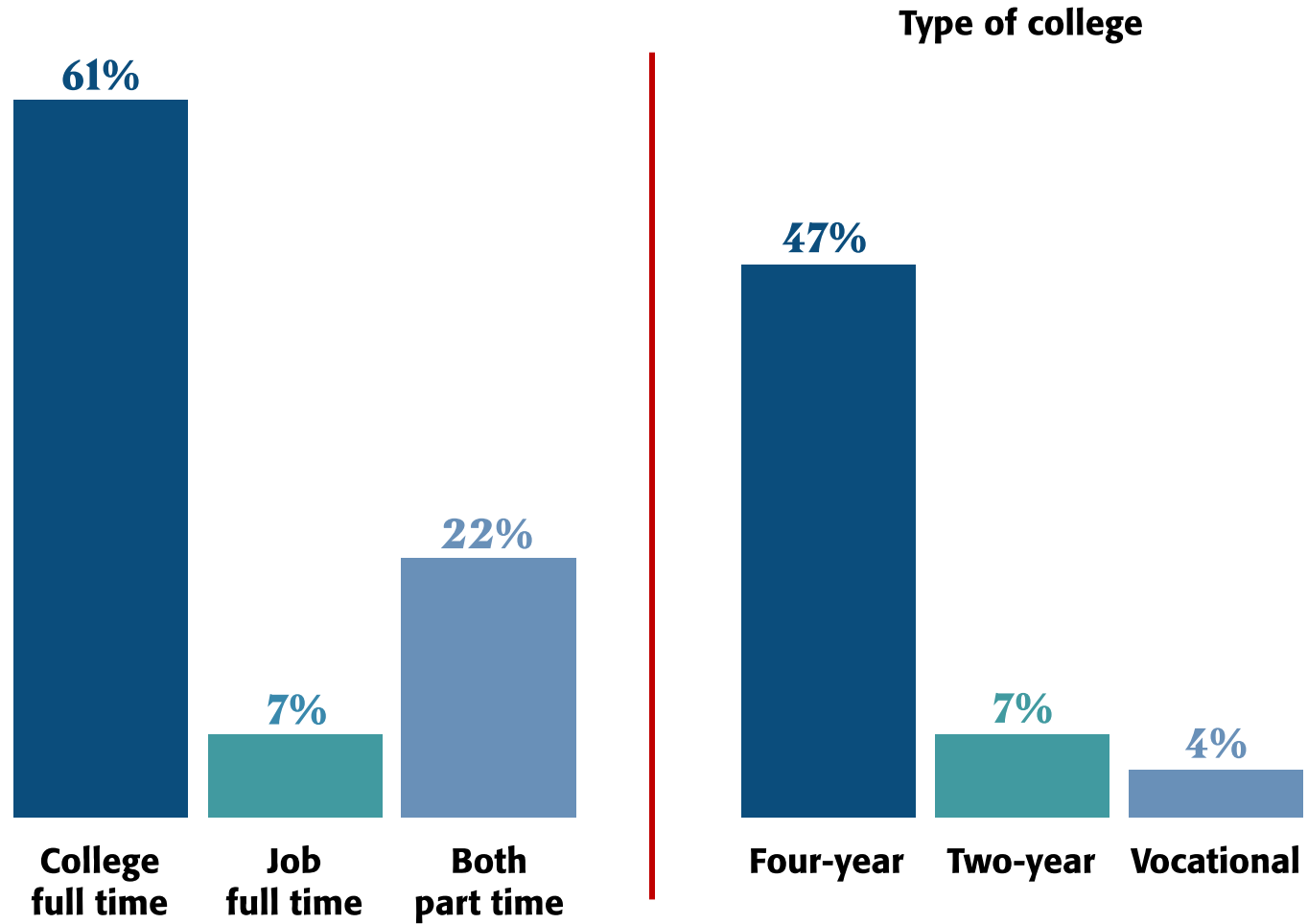
Main themes that emerged:

- Expectations and opportunities gap
- Policy and discourse based on dichotomies

What's the problem we're trying to solve?

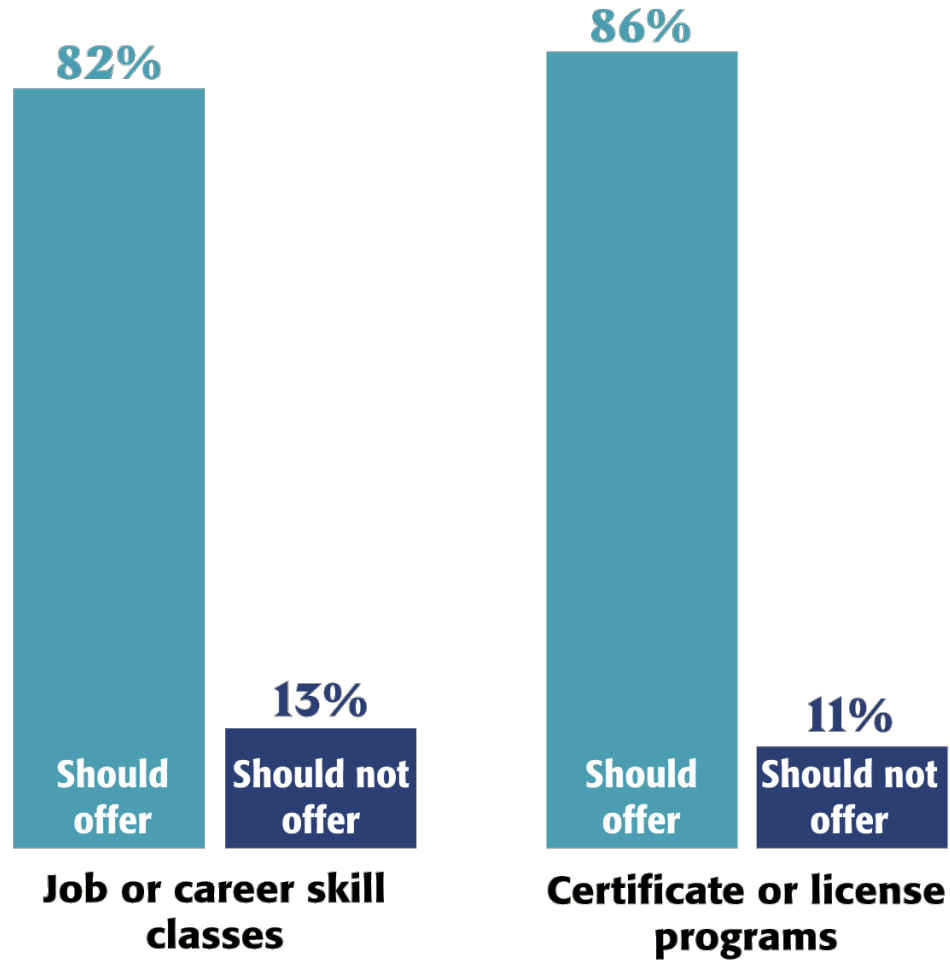
Expectations for oldest child after high school

Public school parents, 2017



Career-related courses in public high schools

National totals, 2017



Expectations for college and desire for more CTE courses

Public school parents, 2017

52%

Parents who expect their child to attend college full time respond that schools should offer more job/career skills courses

62%

Parents who expect their child to work part or full time respond that schools should offer more job/career skills courses



Extremely/very important items in school quality

National totals, 2017

Interpersonal skills 82%

Technology & engineering classes 82%

Advanced academic classes 76%

Art & music classes 71%

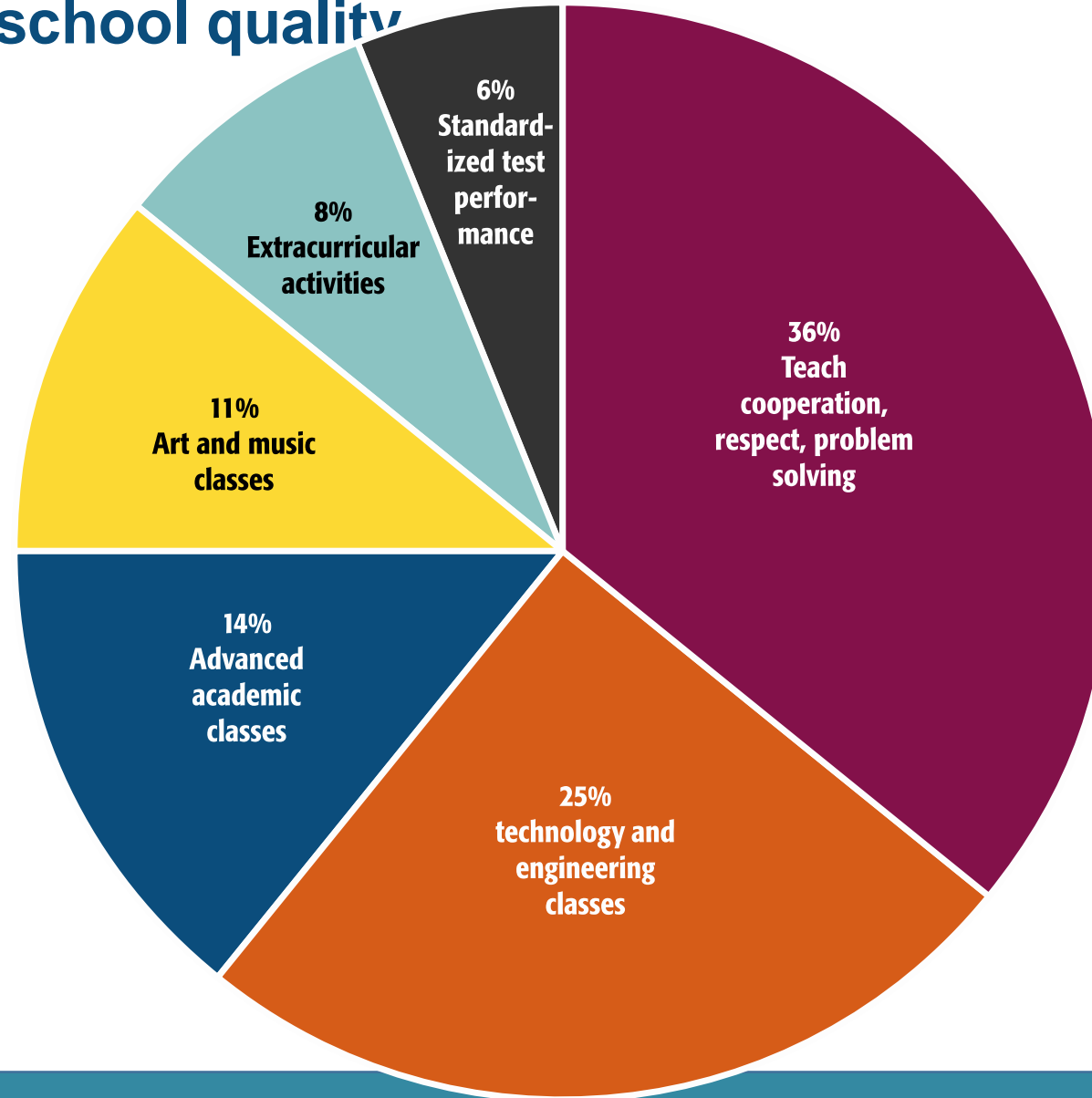
Extracurricular activities 70%

Standardized tests 42%



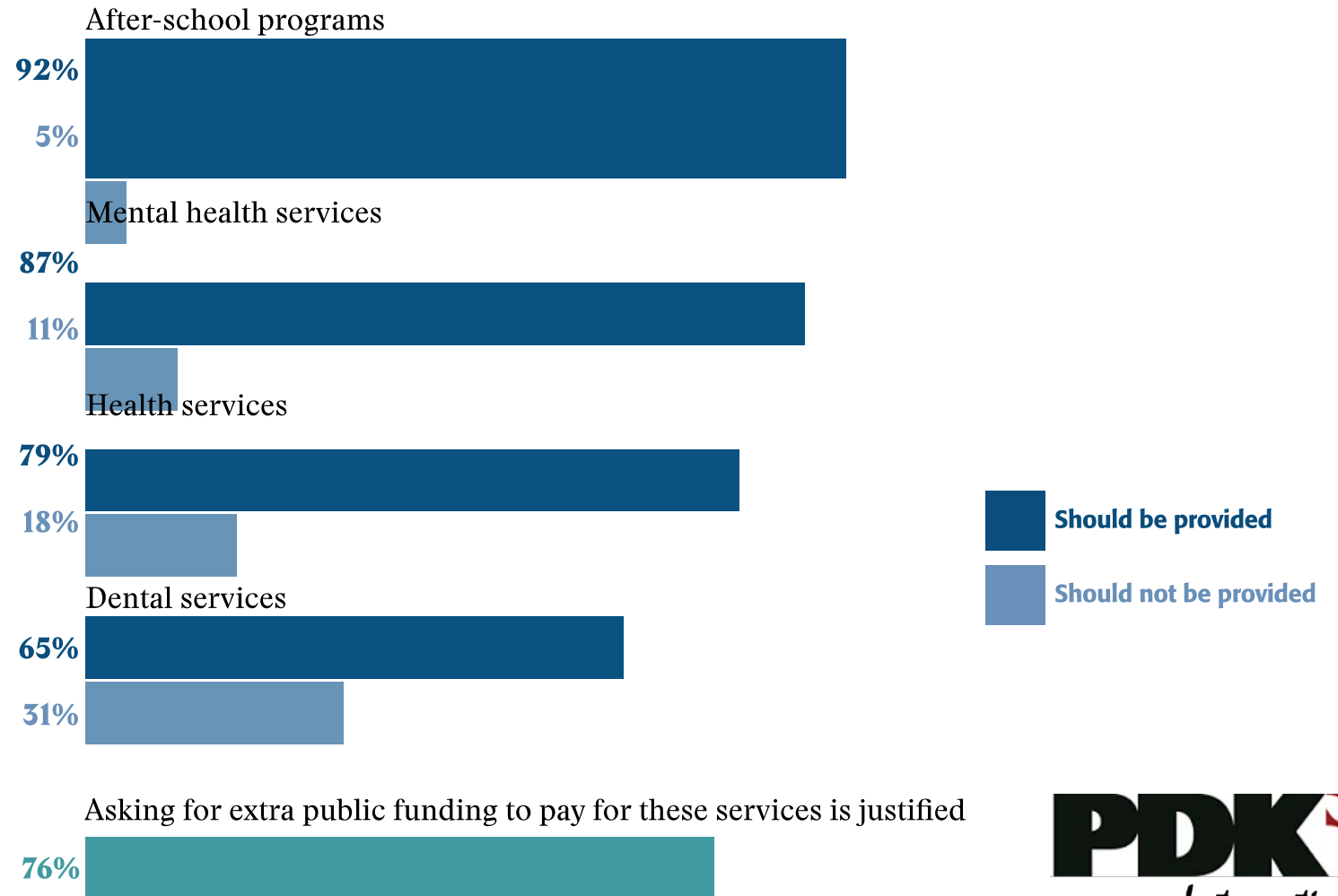
Most important factor in school quality

National totals, 2017



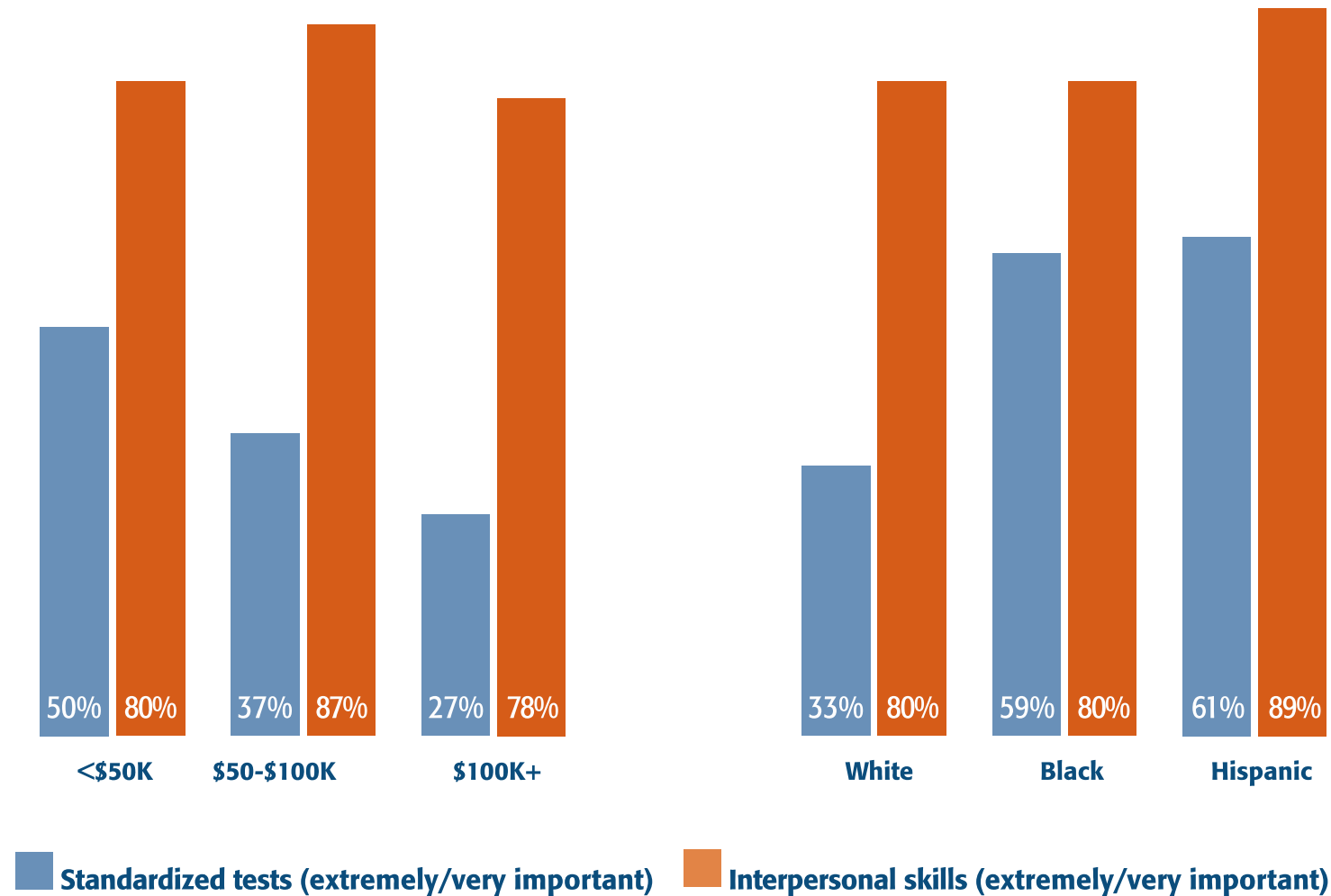
Support for wraparound services

National totals, 2017



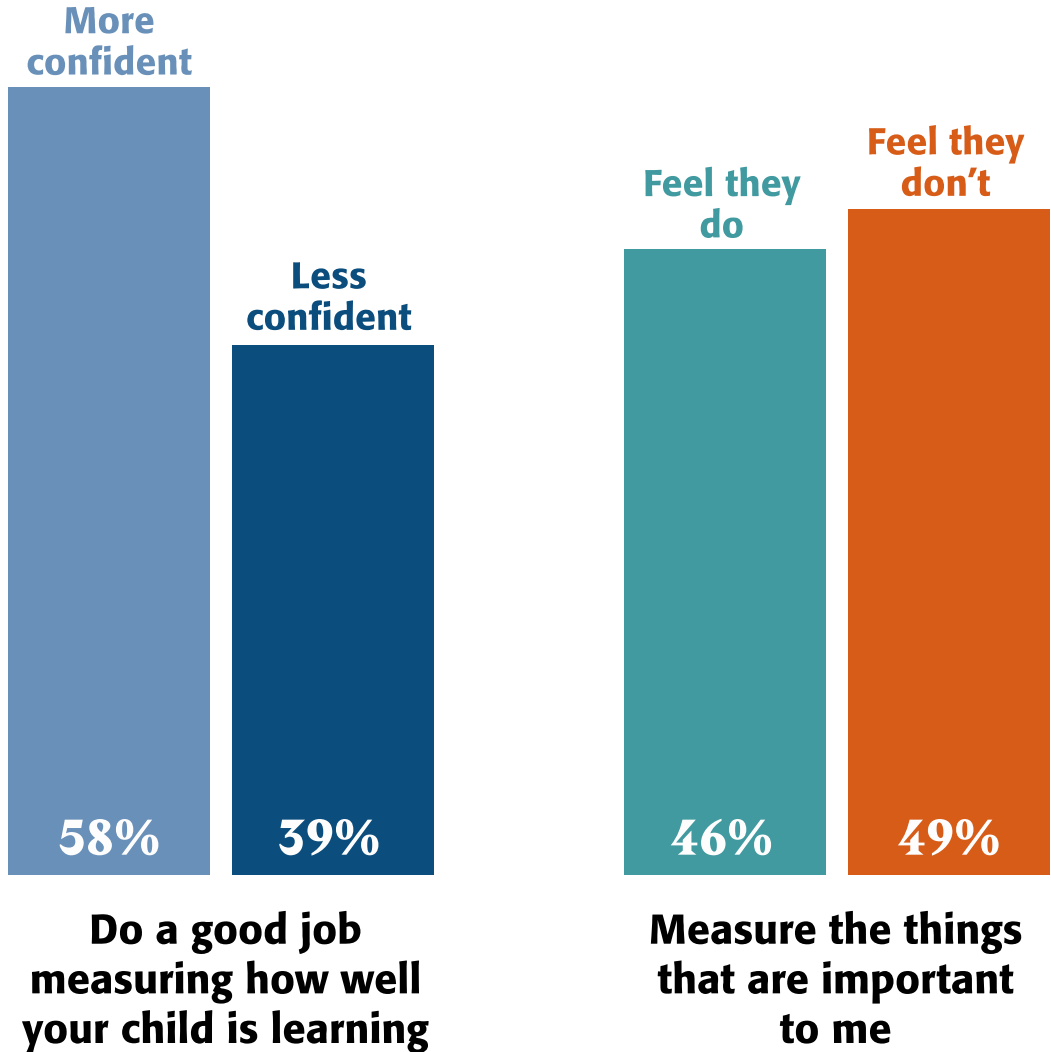
Importance of standardized tests and interpersonal skills

National totals, 2017



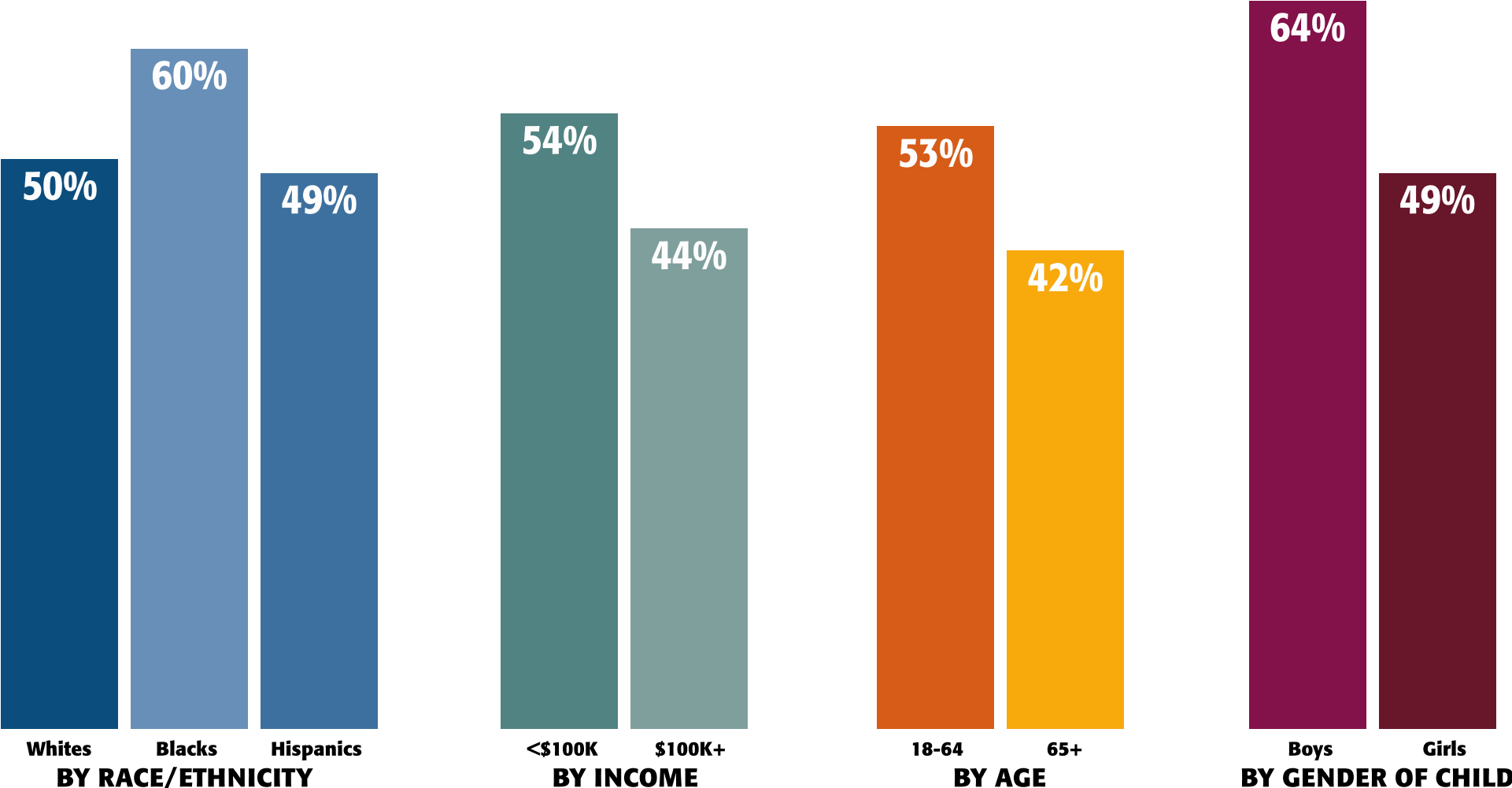
What standardized tests measure

Public school parents, 2017



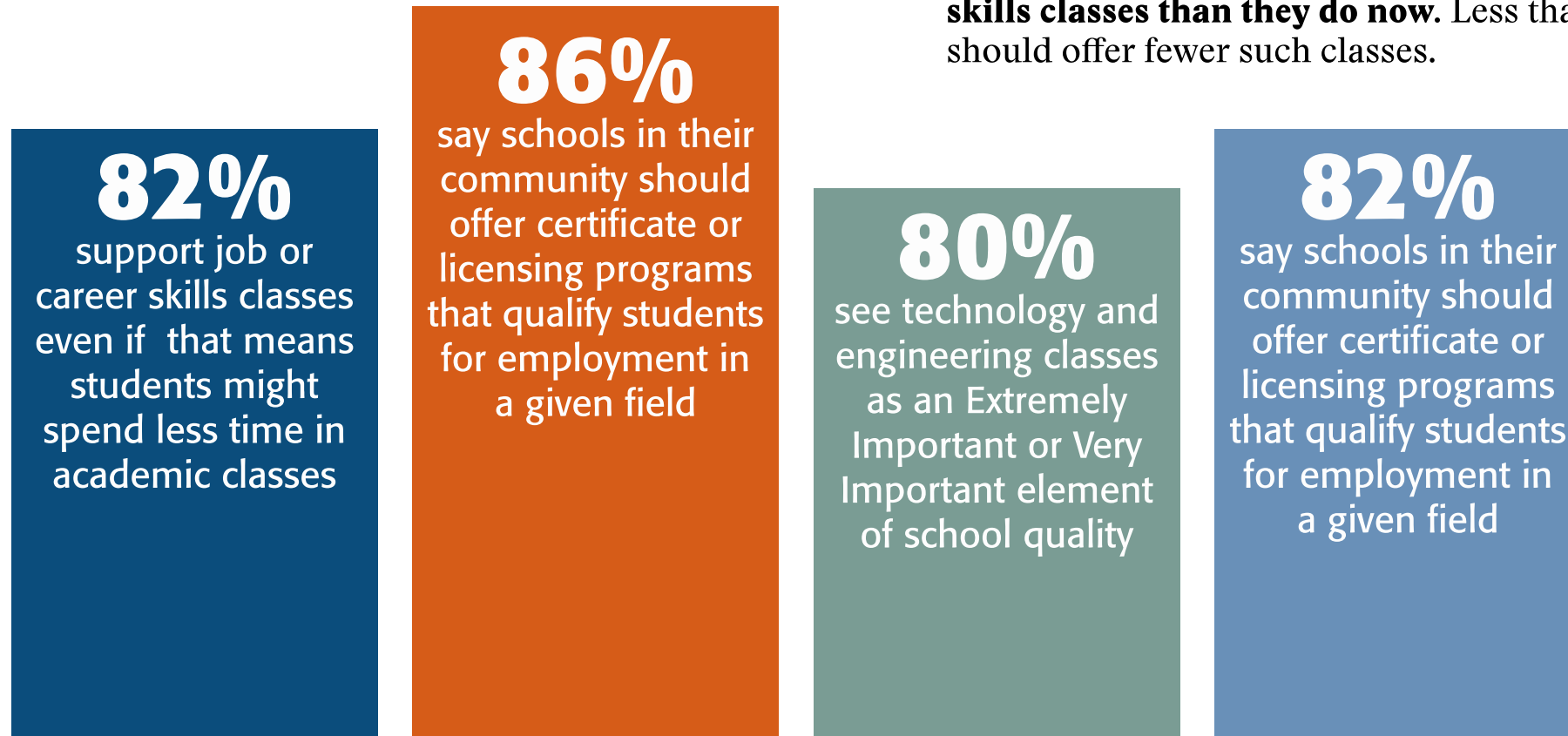
Attitudes About CTE

Percentage who think public high schools should offer more job or career skills classes, 2017



The Value of Career Skills Development

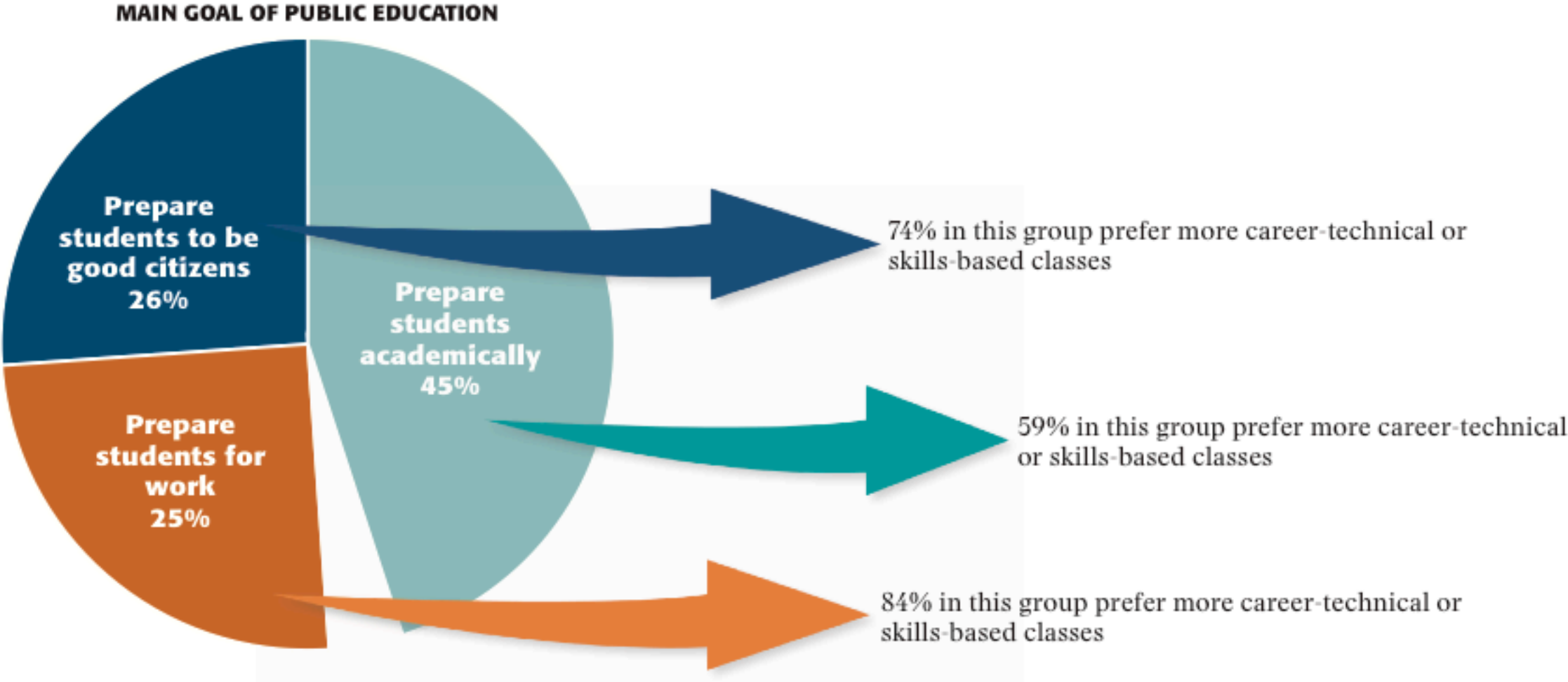
National totals, 2017



More than half of parents surveyed say public high schools in their community **should provide more career skills classes than they do now**. Less than 5% say schools should offer fewer such classes.

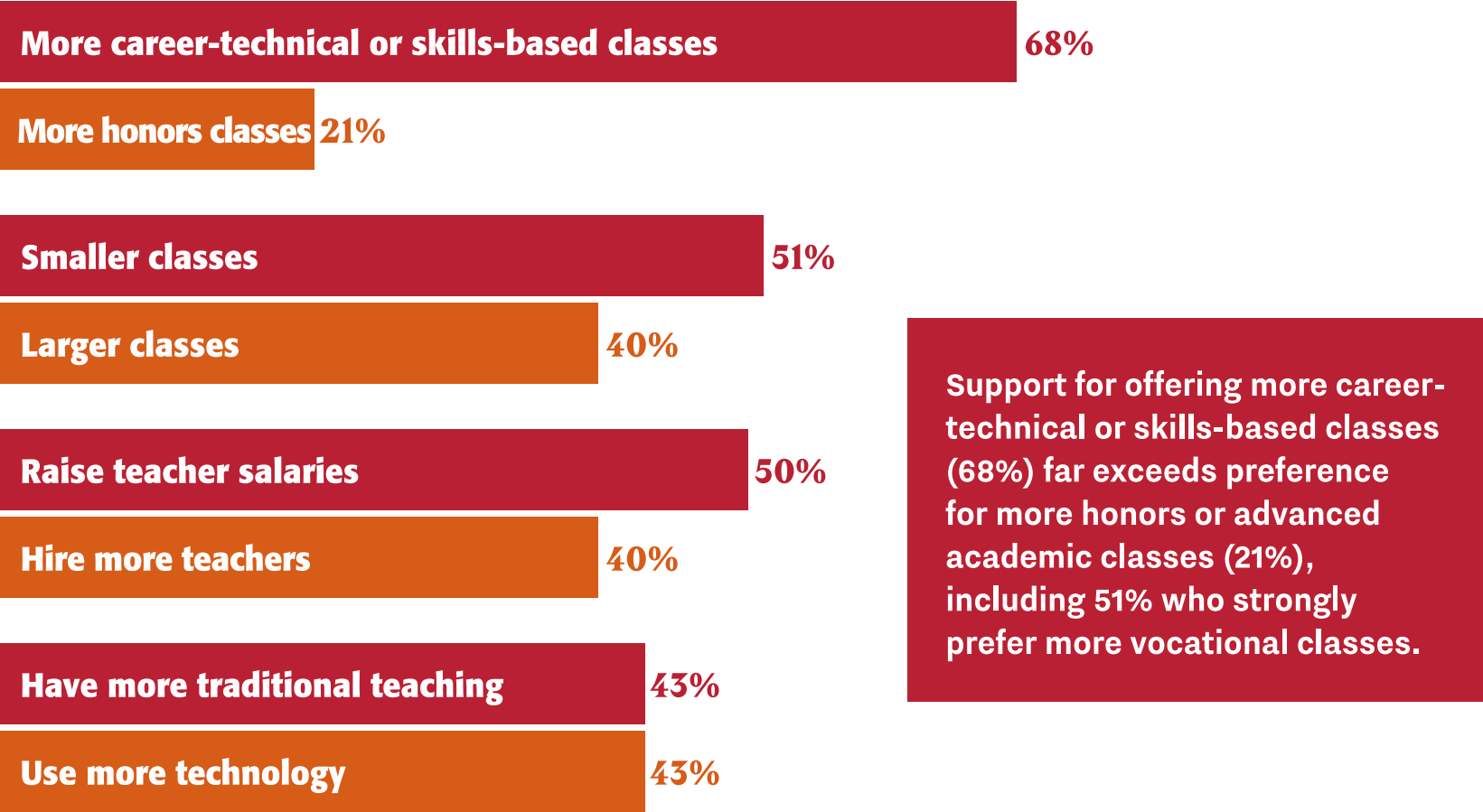
Views on Career & Technical Education

National totals, 2016



Support for School Improvement Alternatives

National totals, 2016



A & B grades for public schools

