

West Linn-Wilsonville School District

Analysis on School Resource Officer Program



**PATINKIN
RESEARCH
STRATEGIES**

October 15, 2020

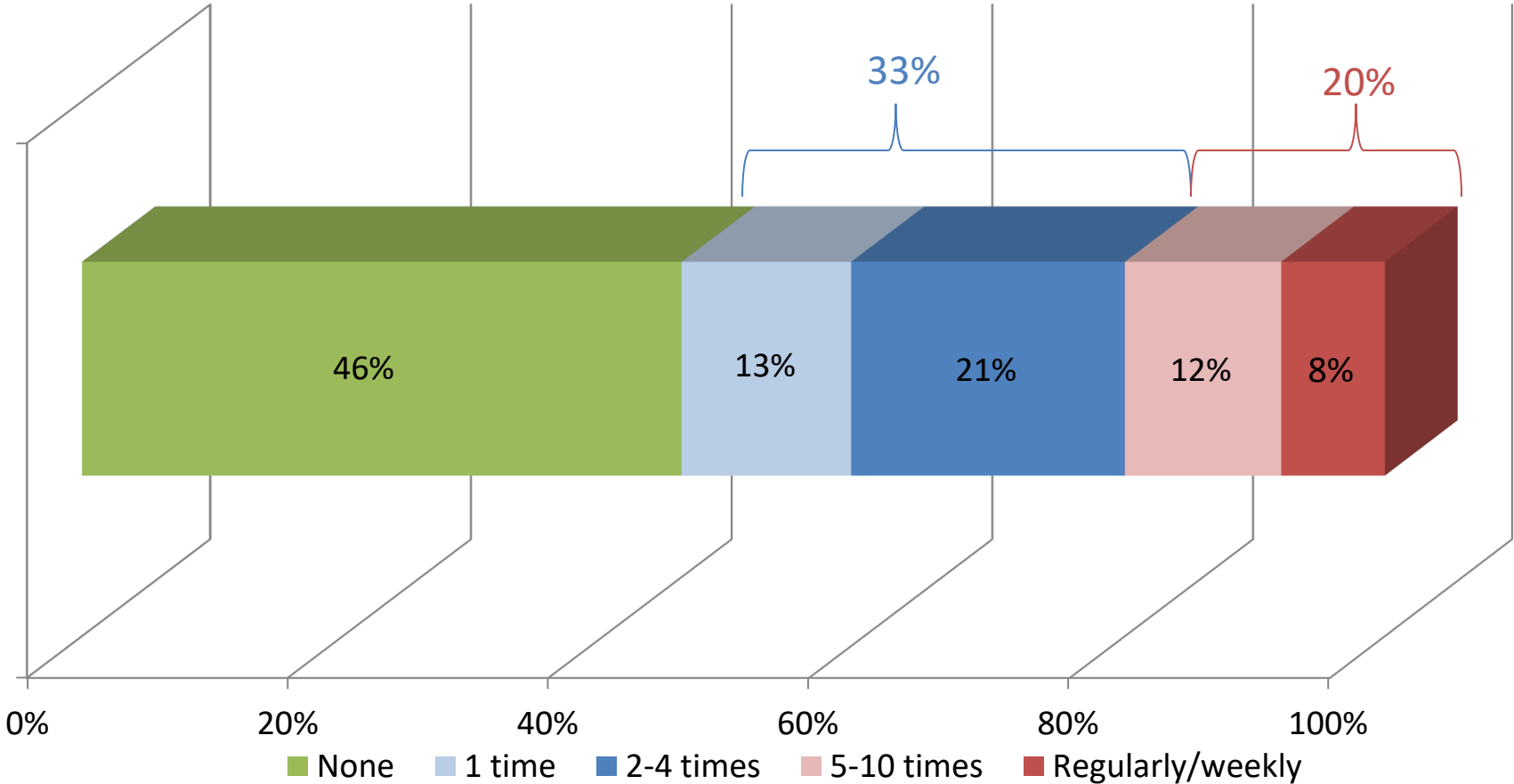


- **This analysis is based on a survey of n=2,447 West Linn-Wilsonville School District members (parents, students, staff members, and general community members).**
- **The survey was developed, administered, and distributed by the West Linn-Wilsonville School District in a bilingual format (English & Spanish).**
- **The survey was conducted September 28th–October 6th, 2020.**
- **The margin of error for the sample as a whole is plus or minus 5.0% percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.**
- **In some instances totals do not add up to 100%. Some of these instances are due to rounding while others are due to respondents choosing not to answer questions or the multiple answer format.**
- **This analysis also includes verbatim responses from open ended questions.**



Perceptions of the School Resource Officer Program in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District

Nearly half of respondents haven't interacted with an SRO



How frequently have you interacted with a School Resource Officer(s) in West Linn-Wilsonville schools? This can include a simple greeting all the way to a formal meeting. [n=2184]

Students have more frequent interactions with SROs than parents



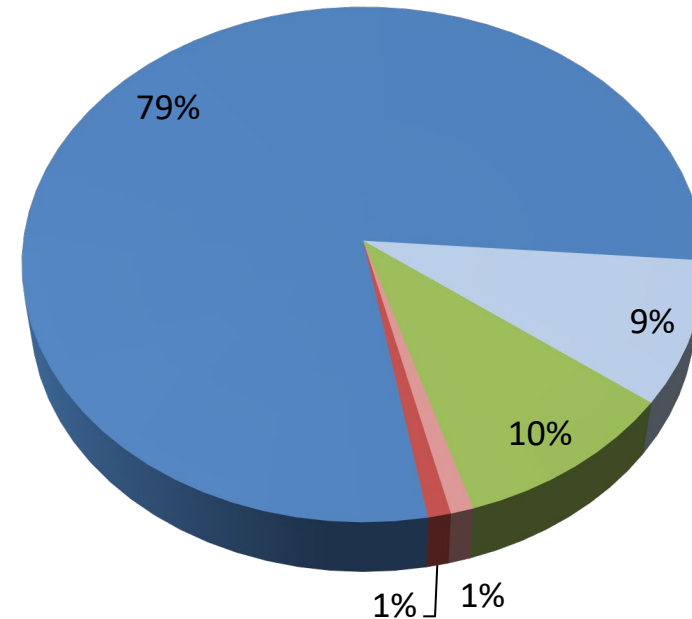
	None	1 time	2-4 times	5-10 times	Regularly
Students	33%	18%	27%	13%	9%
Parent/Guardians	52%	13%	20%	11%	4%
Staff Members	34%	17%	20%	20%	9%
Community Members	26%	5%	20%	15%	34%
Respondents of color	52%	15%	15%	10%	9%
White Respondents	46%	12%	22%	12%	7%
Students of color	44%	16%	24%	11%	5%
White students	29%	18%	28%	14%	11%
TOTAL (ALL RESPONDENTS):	46%	13%	21%	12%	8%

How frequently have you interacted with a School Resource Officer(s) in West Linn-Wilsonville schools? This can include a simple greeting all the way to a formal meeting. [n=2184]

Nearly eight-in-10 report very positive interactions with SROs



One-in-10 have had neutral experiences; only two percent report negative experiences.



- Very positive
- Somewhat positive
- Neutral
- Somewhat negative
- Very negative

How would you rate your interaction(s) with SROs? [LIMITED TO THOSE WHO REPORT INTERACTIONS WITH SROs; n=1171]

White respondents are more likely to report positive interactions than respondents of color



Though a very small percentage of either group reports negative interactions.

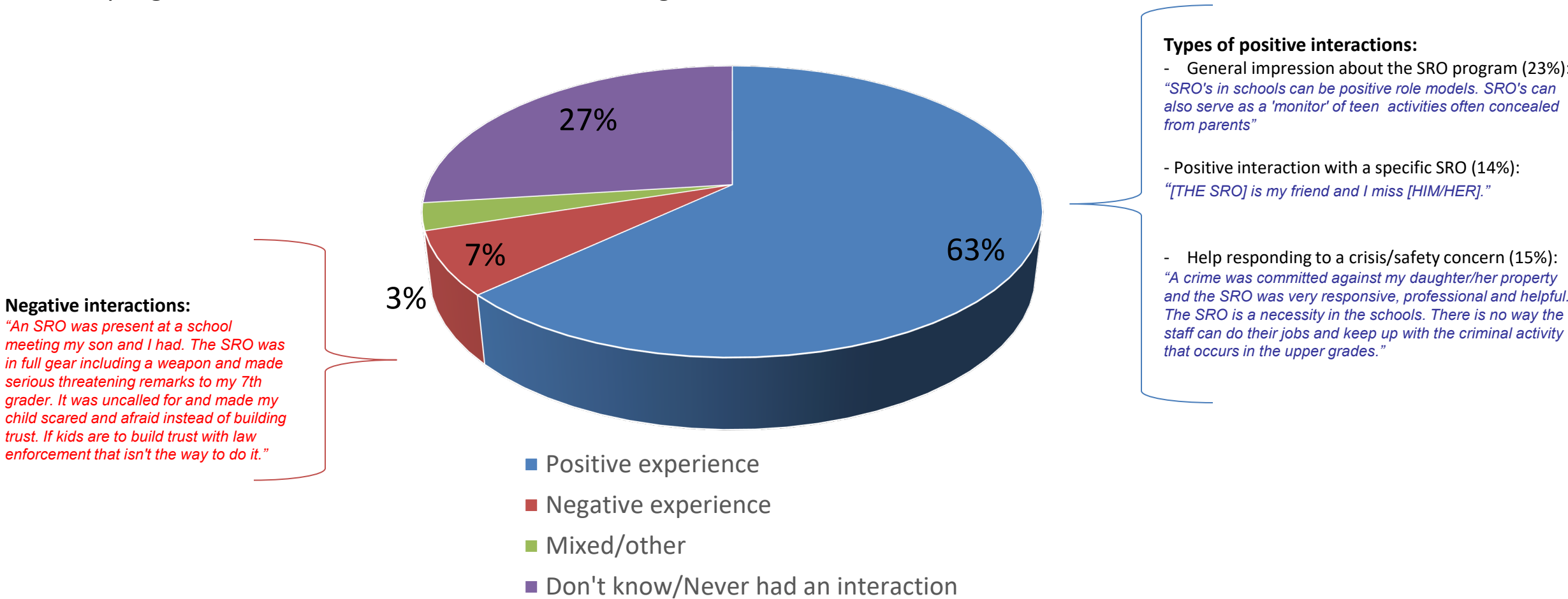
	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative
Students	59%	17%	22%	1%	1%
Parent/Guardians	84%	7%	7%	1%	1%
Staff Members	80%	9%	8%	3%	0%
Community Members	84%	4%	8%	2%	2%
Respondents of color	76%	9%	13%	0%	2%
White Respondents	80%	9%	9%	1%	1%
Students of color	55%	14%	31%	0%	0%
White students	61%	17%	19%	2%	1%
TOTAL (ALL RESPONDENTS):	79%	9%	10%	1%	1%

How would you rate your interaction(s) with SROs? [LIMITED TO THOSE WHO REPORT INTERACTIONS WITH SROs; n=1171]

In open ended questioning, a majority describe a positive interaction with either an SRO or the program broadly



Around three-in-10 either have not interacted with an SRO or are unfamiliar with the program. Just under one-in-10 describe a negative interaction.



Would you like to share an experience you or your student had with an SRO or the SRO Program that contributes to your opinion about their role in schools? [OPEN ENDED; n=479]

For all major subgroups the experiences shared most frequently lean positive



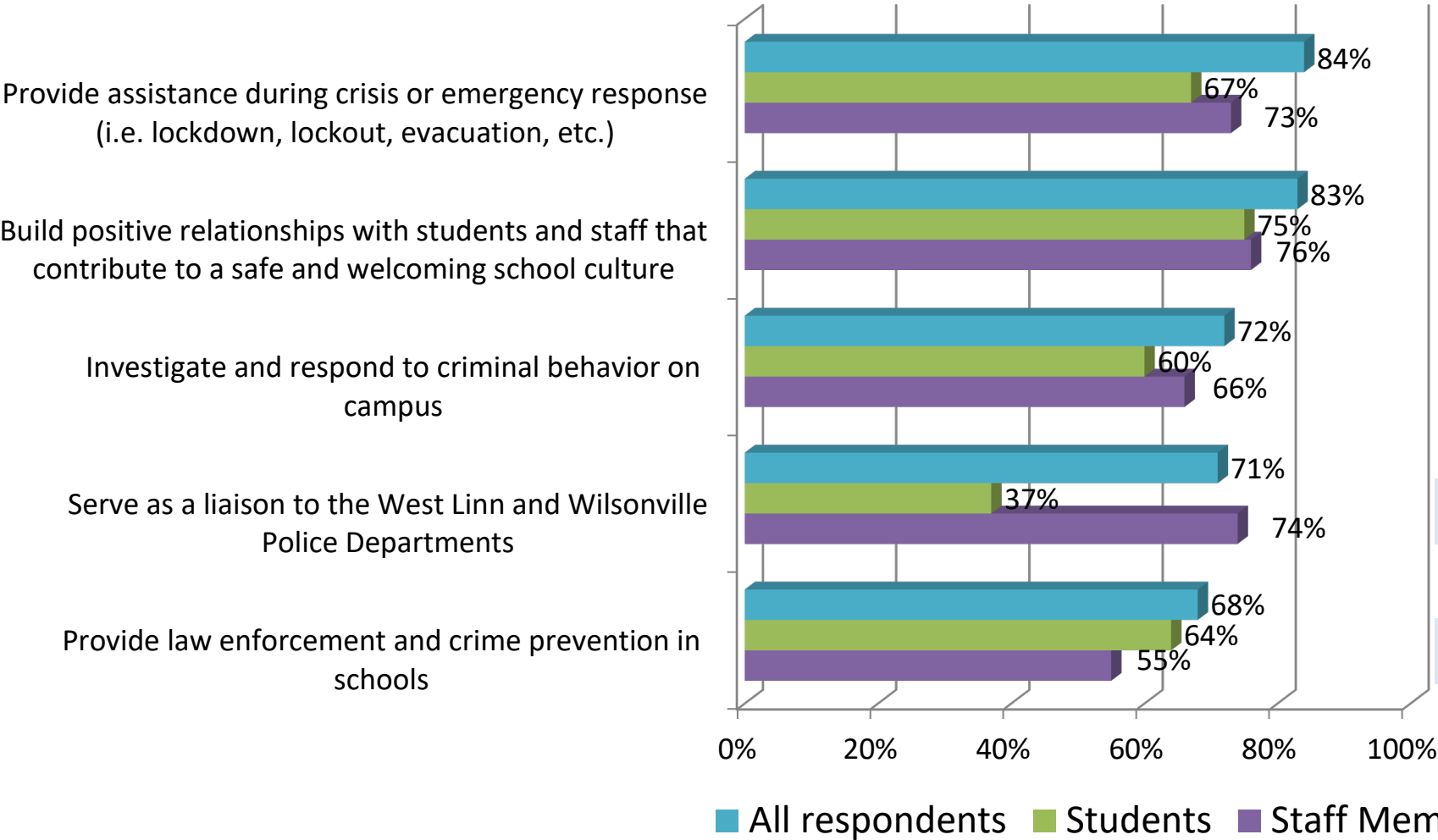
	Positive Experience	Negative Experience	Mixed/Other	Don't Know/Never Had an Interaction
Students	62%	3%	11%	24%
Parent/Guardians	64%	7%	3%	27%
Staff Members	47%	14%	8%	31%
Community Members	61%	6%	6%	28%
Respondents of color	62%	7%	5%	30%
White Respondents	64%	7%	4%	27%
Students of color	69%	0%	8%	23%
White students	58%	4%	13%	25%
TOTAL (ALL RESPONDENTS):	63%	7%	3%	27%

Would you like to share an experience you or your student had with an SRO or the SRO Program that contributes to your opinion about their role in schools? [OPEN ENDED; n=479]

Respondents feel SROs primary purpose is to create a safe learning environment and deal with crime in schools



This includes providing needed assistance in crisis, contributing to a safe school culture, and helping to both deter and solve crime on campus.



Additional Comments:

“Protect students, community, faculty and staff in case of emergency”

“Work with school administrators, security staff and faculty on developing comprehensive safety plans to ensure schools are safe places for students to learn”

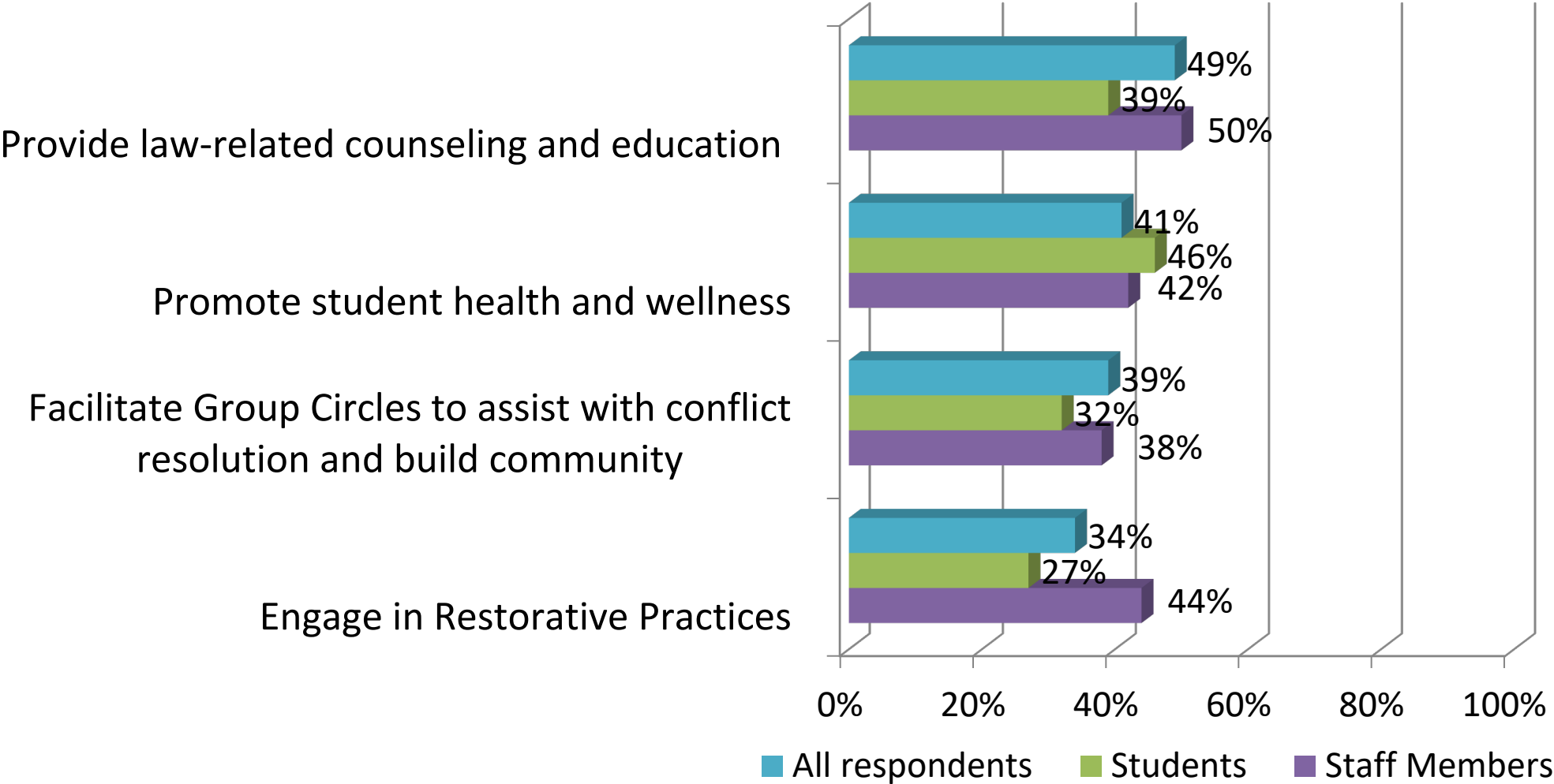
“Deter the distribution and use of illegal drugs on campus.”

“Establish trust between students of all kinds and law enforcement as community helpers”

“Is not a police officer -- rather a representative to resolve issues without the intimidation associated with police officer uniform”

What do you think is the purpose and function of School Resource Officers in West Linn-Wilsonville Schools? Check all that apply [n=2084]

Promoting wellness, building community, and engaging in restorative practices are viewed as lower-tier functions



What do you think is the purpose and function of School Resource Officers in West Linn-Wilsonville Schools? Check all that apply [n=2084]



How subgroups rate the purpose of SROs:	#1	#2	#3
Parent/Guardians	Provide assistance during a crisis or emergency response (87%)	Build positive relationships (85%)	Investigate and respond to criminal behavior on campus (74%)
Community Members	Provide assistance during a crisis or emergency response (76%)	Build positive relationships (74%)	Investigate and respond to criminal behavior on campus (67%)
Respondents of color	Build positive relationships (74%)	Provide assistance during a crisis or emergency response (68%)	Provide law enforcement and crime prevention in schools (60%)
White Respondents	Provide assistance during a crisis or emergency response (86%)	Build positive relationships (85%)	Investigate and respond to criminal behavior on campus (74%)
Students of color	Investigate and respond to criminal behavior on campus (60%)	Provide law enforcement and crime prevention in schools (54%)	Provide assistance during a crisis or emergency response (51%)
White students	Build positive relationships (68%)	Provide assistance during a crisis or emergency response (62%)	Provide law enforcement and crime prevention in schools (57%)
TOTAL (ALL RESPONDENTS):	Provide assistance during a crisis or emergency response (84%)	Build positive relationships (83%)	Investigate and respond to criminal behavior on campus (72%)

What do you think is the purpose and function of School Resource Officers in West Linn-Wilsonville Schools? Check all that apply [n=2084]

That said, in open ended responses there are still respondents who are either unfamiliar with the role of the SRO or believe their role is a negative one



"I think police officers should not be in schools, period"

"Personally, I feel that the purposes and functions that we are asking SROs to fulfill would be better served by people not in a police uniform, like counselors, mediators, and social workers"

"Keep police out of the schools. Especially West Linn who have shown that they are a poorly run department with racist tendencies."

"As negative as it sounds, and I am in law enforcement, it feels resource officers are used to normalize police presence in places they are not needed"

"None!!! The current SRO is a great person. However, the SRO program is wrong and police should not have a permanent place in a school. Some kids, specially minorities, have had bad and traumatic experiences with the police. It recreates the trauma to see them in a place they consider safe, their schools. All of the above tasks should be performed by trained school staff, not the police unless the situation escalates to that point and THEN police can be called. Police with training on dealing with teens, these are still kids with their brains growing. Most of them need support, not the threatening presence of a police officer. In other countries it makes no sense to see the police in American schools everyday."

"Never heard of them"

"I am not sure what their role is."

"Not sure what their role is"

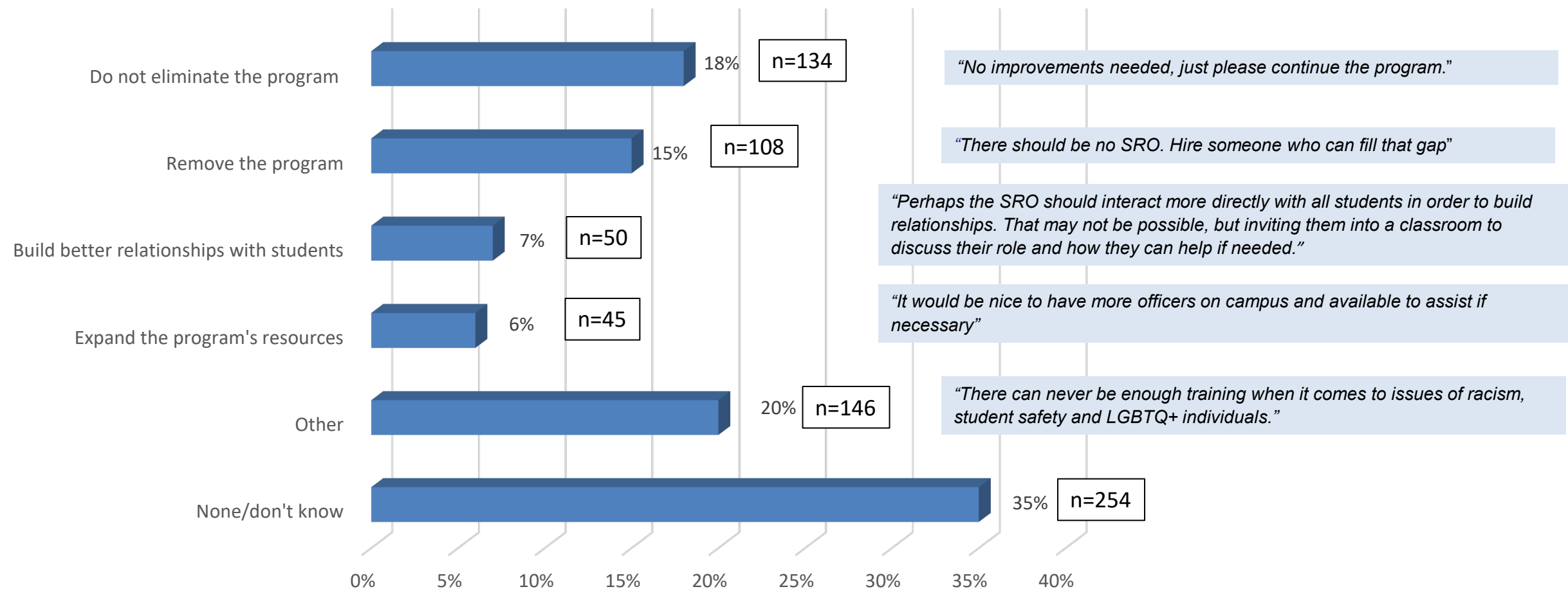
"I would be interested in more information about a SRO officers role"

"No tengo idea. No se los servicios que dan."

Only 4% of respondents as a whole would like the SRO program to be eliminated in response to an open-ended question about aspects of the program that ought to be improved or removed



A majority of those who answered this question (53%) either felt there are no improvements needed or wanted to reiterate that they do not want the SRO program to be eliminated.



What elements of the SRO Program Should the district improve or remove? [OPEN ENDED; n=737]

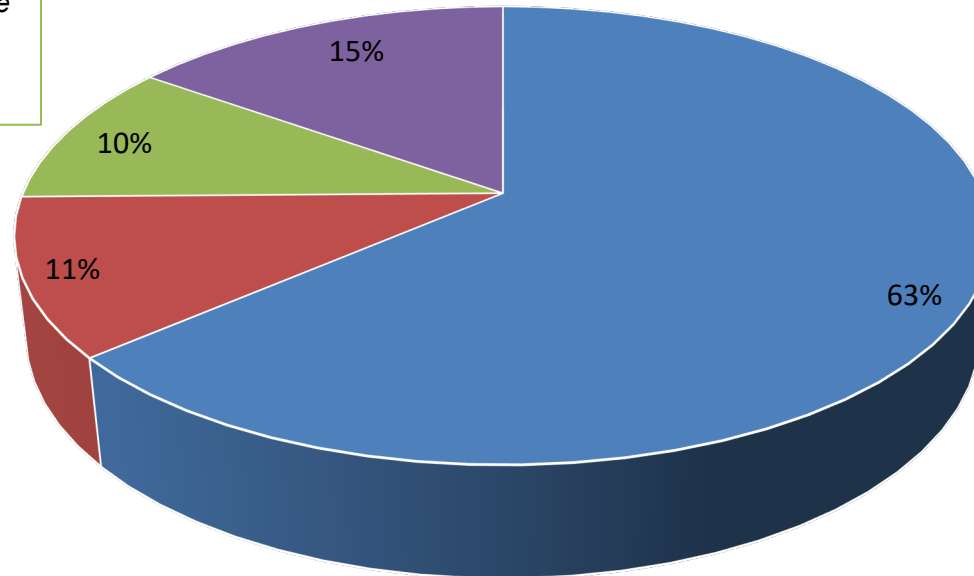
When asked for additional comments nearly two-in-three think positively about the SRO program and want to keep it in schools



Keep in mind that this question was both optional and open-ended. Those that wanted to reiterate their support for the program make up 18% of overall respondents.

"This is a tricky one. We need to make sure that the SRO's in our schools are doing the best things for students and staff. Cracking heads and being a tough guy doesn't provide any value."

"These precious dollars should be spent more on mental health care, counselors for students, and special education rather than contributing to the school to prison pipeline. If the police are there, then they will be called on for instances where someone else (a counselor, a teacher, a nurse) would be better utilized. I don't want someone armed with a gun trying to talk down a mentally upset child, etc."



"There are many in our community who are highly supportive of the SRO, and I hope that they voice their opinions through the different measures the district has outlined. We cannot let a small, noisy movement impact the immense benefit having an SRO in our schools has on our students and our community."

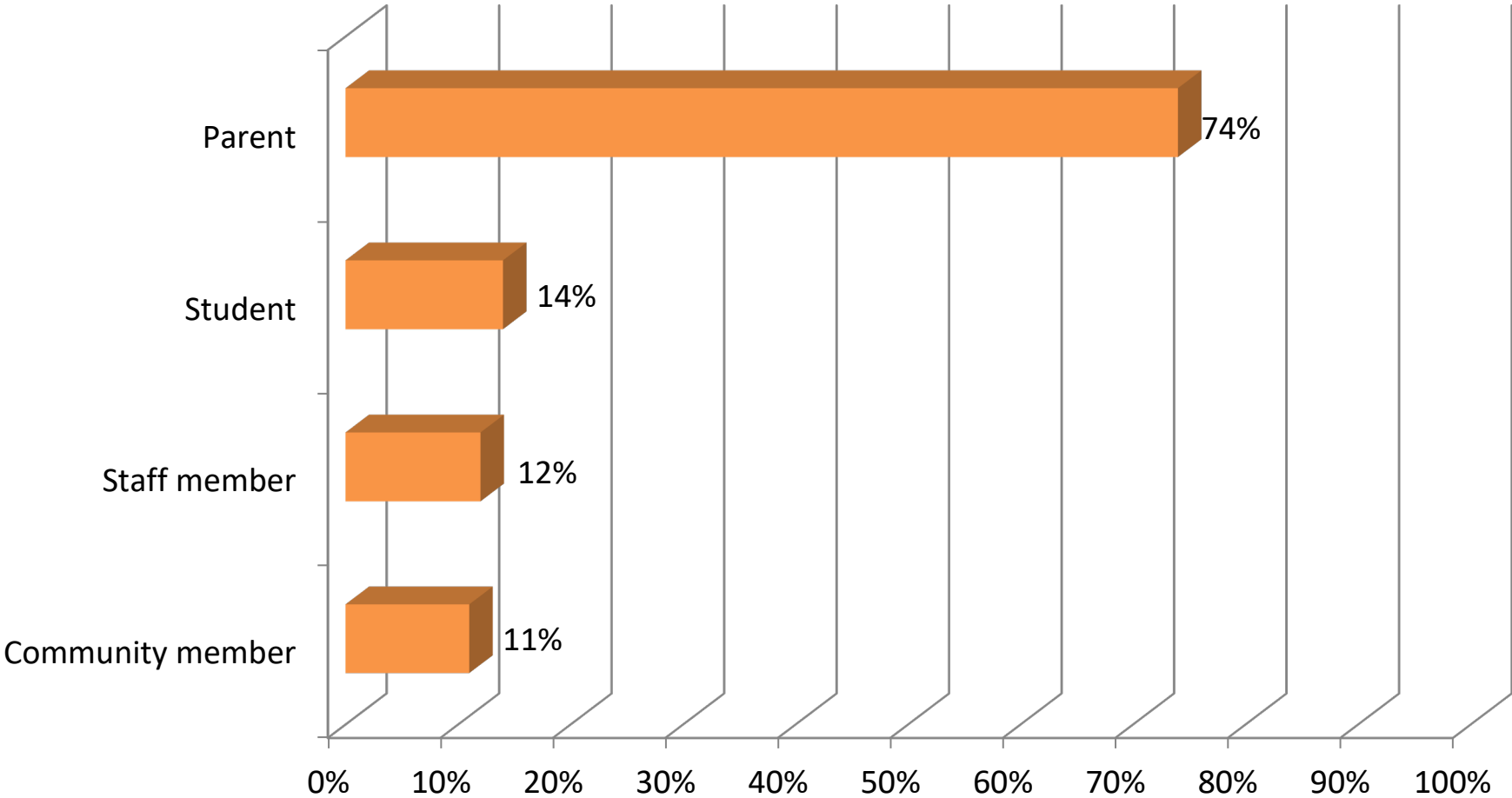
- Positive (keep the SRO program)
- Negative (get rid to the SRO program)
- Mixed/needs reforms
- None/don't know/not applicable

Please add any additional comments you might have regarding the SRO program. [n=710]



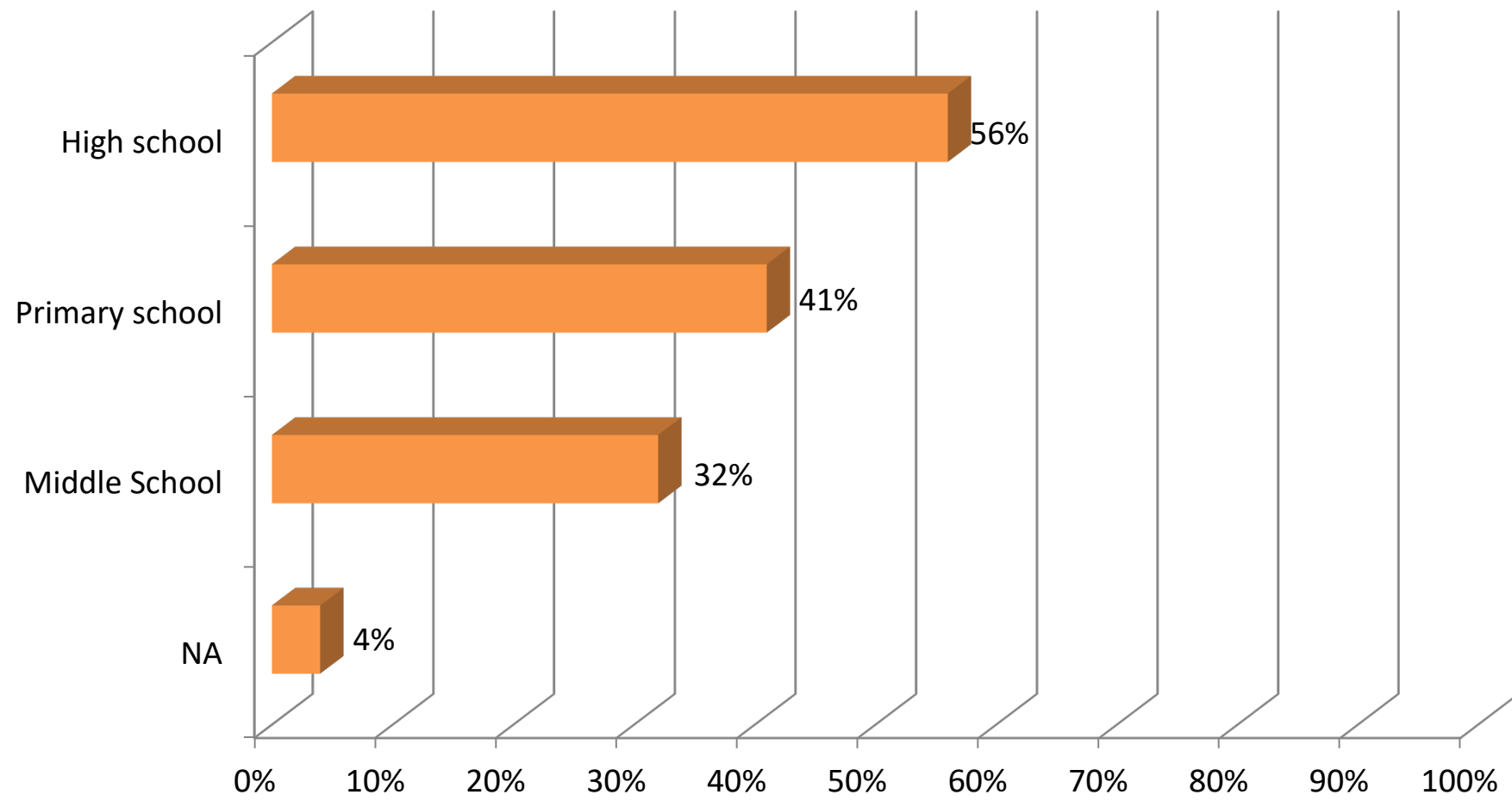
Survey Demographics

Relationship to WLWV SD:

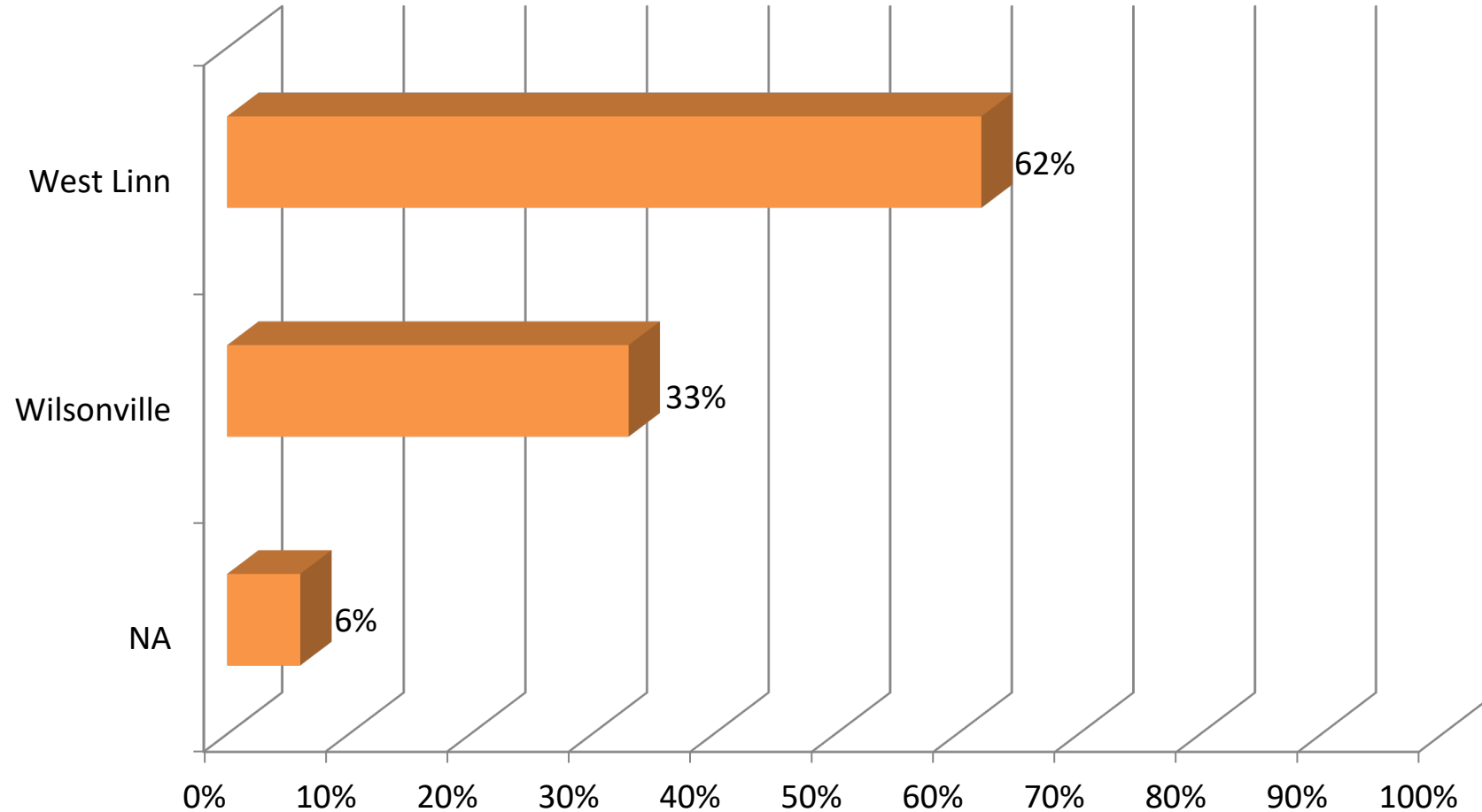


What is your role/relationship with the school district? (select all that apply)

School Level:

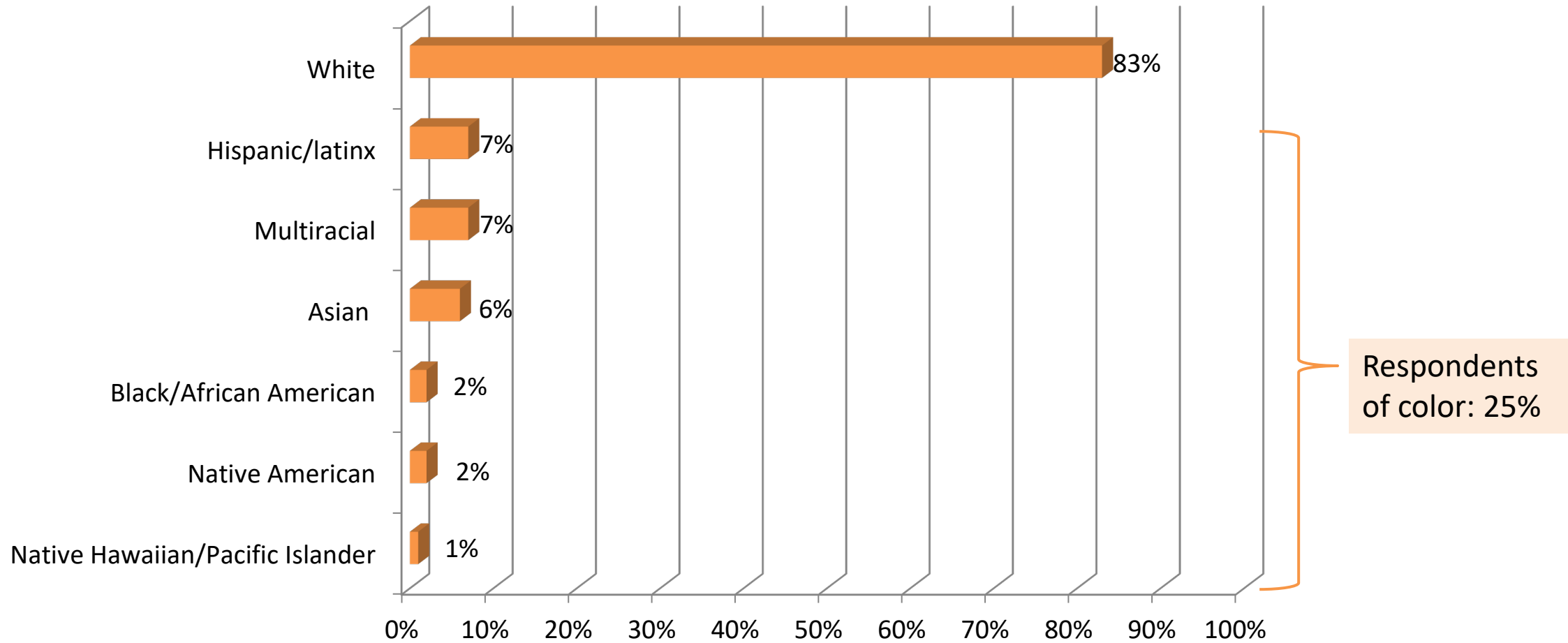


What school level are you associated with? (select all that apply)



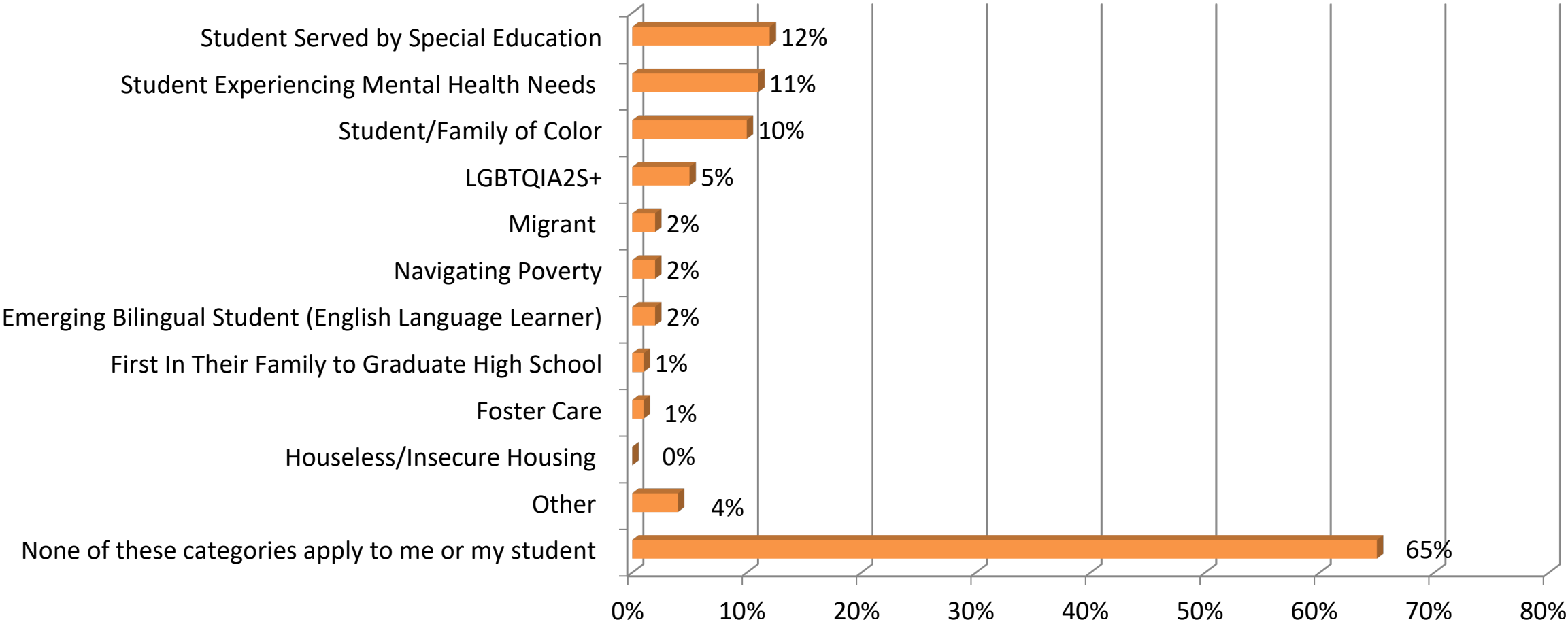
In which city do you or your student live/attend school?

Race/ethnicity:



How would you describe your race/ethnicity? (select all that apply)

Additional demographic categories:



Would you describe yourself or your student as fitting into one or more of the following categories? (select all that apply)