

School Renaming Survey

Results and Analysis

Falls Church City Public Schools
2020-2021



FALLS CHURCH CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Details of the Study

The Falls Church City Public Schools (FCCPS) School Renaming Survey asked parents, staff members, students in grades 6-12, and community members for feedback on whether the names of George Mason High School and Thomas Jefferson Elementary School should be changed. Results will be used to help decide whether to rename the schools.

K12 *Insight* partnered with members of the FCCPS Board to develop the survey. The division informed parents, staff members, students, and community members through emails, city newsletters, community listservs , and morning announcement.

The survey was open Oct. 14-28. Email invitations with unique survey links were sent to parents and staff members. Reminders were sent on Oct. 20, 22, and 27. Community members and parents could participate via a public link on the division's website. Students used their student email addresses to access the survey. The parent and community member surveys were available in Spanish.

The following steps were taken to reduce the potential for individuals to take the survey more than once:

- Unique survey links could only be used once, and students could only use their email address once to log in to the survey
- The public link left cookies on devices to flag if participants took the survey more than once on a device
- A ballot box stuffing report was conducted to identify patterns that would indicate an individual had taken the survey repeatedly

Results do not reflect random sampling; therefore, they should not be generalized to all division parents, staff members, students in grades 6-12, and community members. Rather, results reflect only the perceptions and opinions of survey participants. Findings for each item in the report exclude participants who did not answer. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

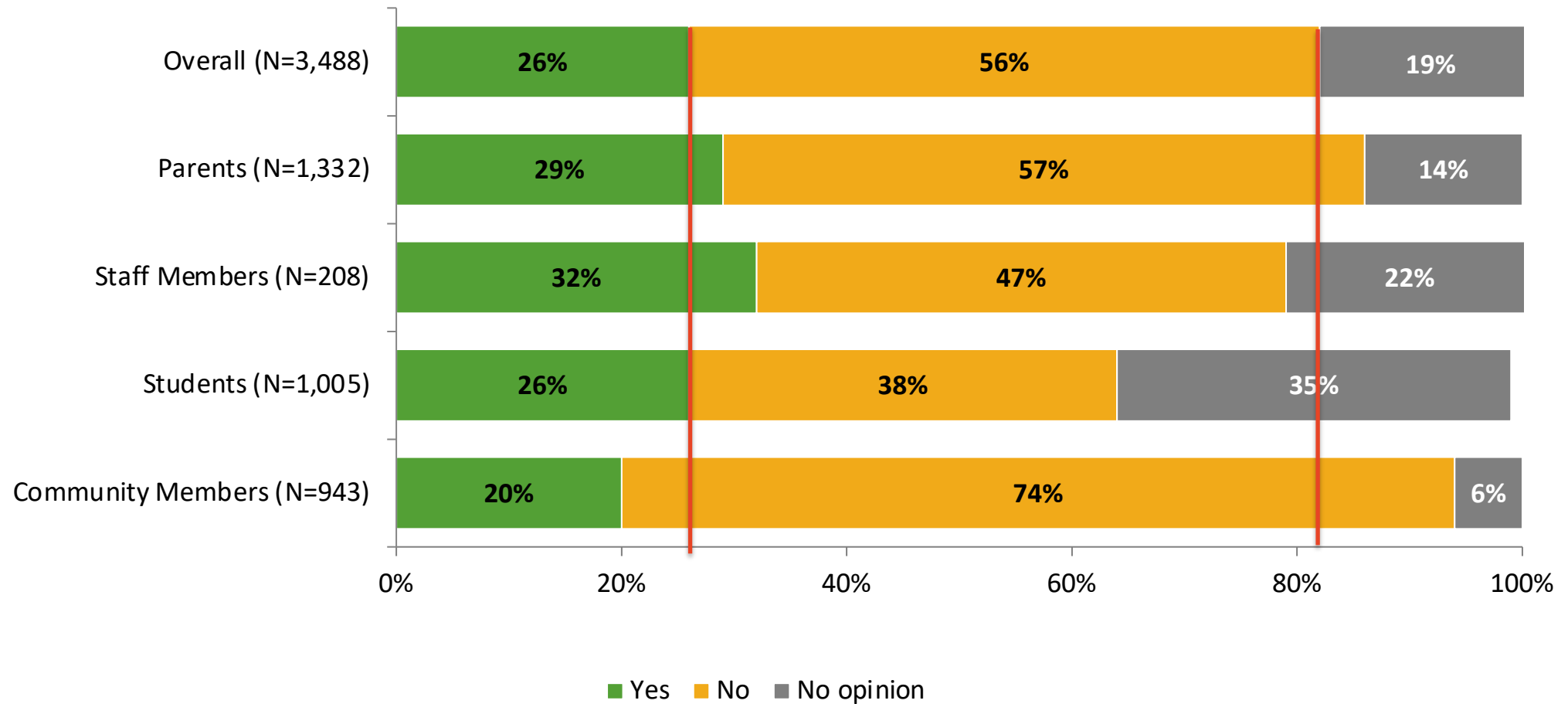
Participation

Responding Group	Number of Invitations Delivered (NMax)	Number of Responses (N)	Response Rate (%)	Public-access Link Responses	Total Responses
Parents	3,408	1,332	39%	—	1,332
Staff Members	442	208	47%	—	208
Students	1,459	1,005	69%	—	1,005
Community Members*	—	—	—	943	943

**Includes 201 participants who identified themselves as a parent of a current FCCPS student. Ballot box stuffing analysis on the community member survey revealed 119 responses that came in succession from three IP addresses with consistent responses to one of the questions. The first response from each IP address was retained and the remaining 116 responses were removed from the data.*

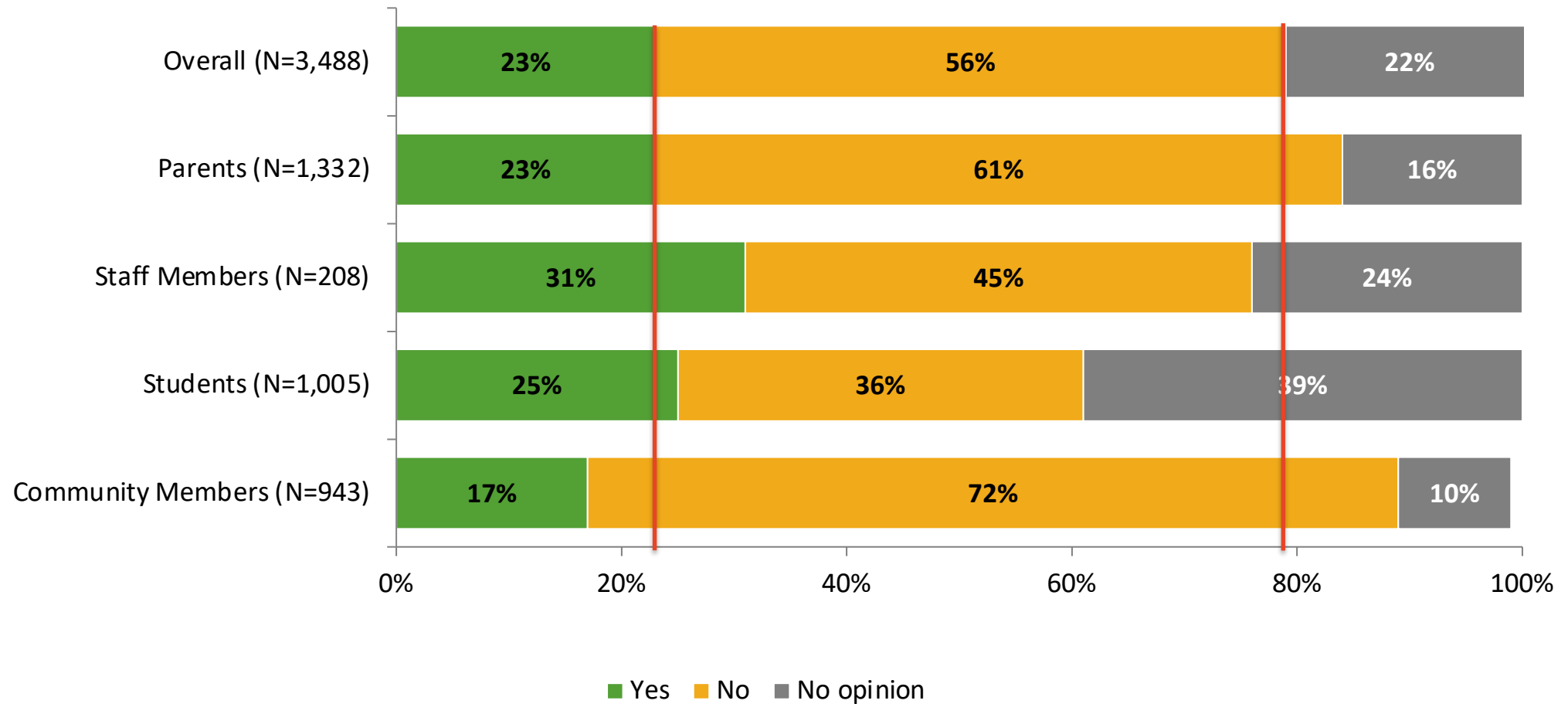
George Mason High School

Should the FCCPS Board change the name of George Mason High School?



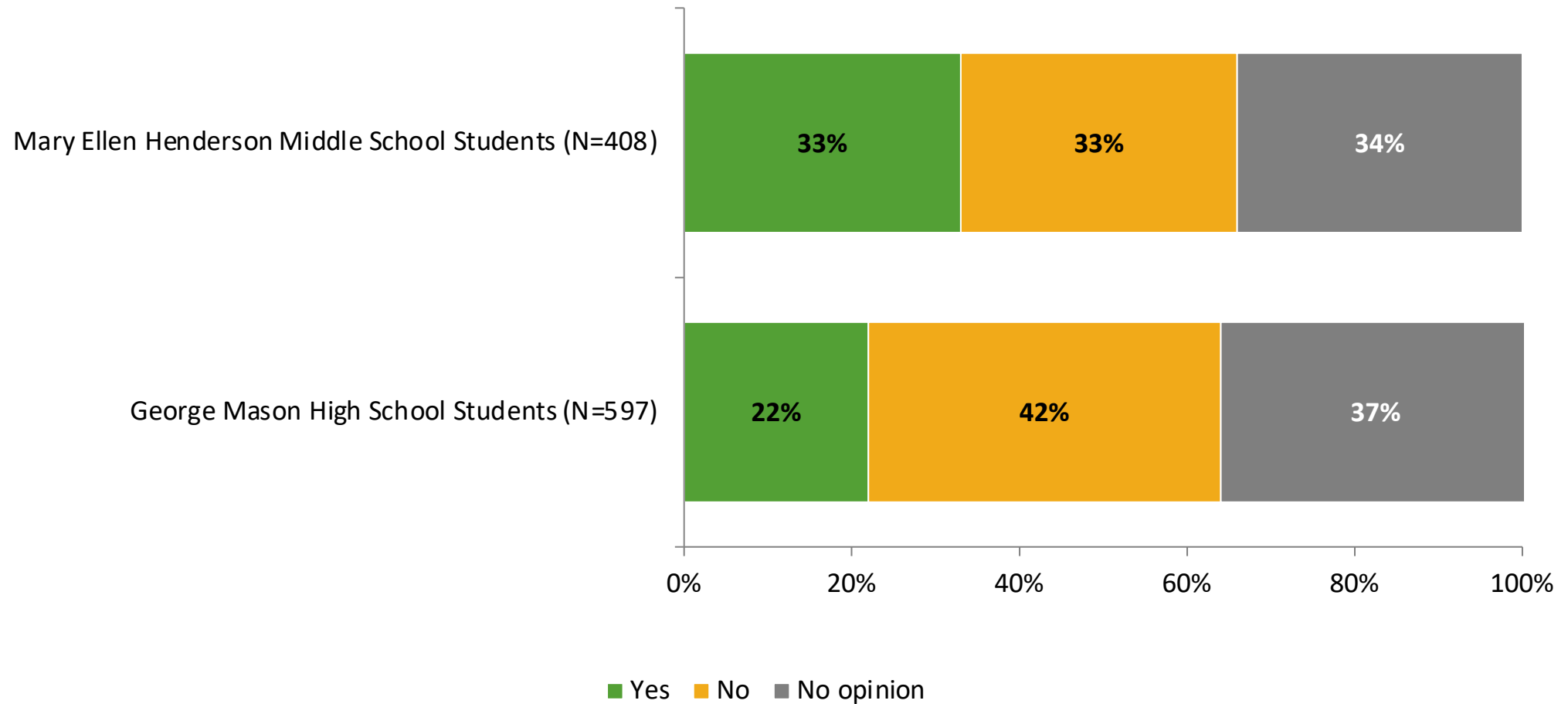
Thomas Jefferson Elementary School

Should the FCCPS Board change the name of Thomas Jefferson Elementary School?



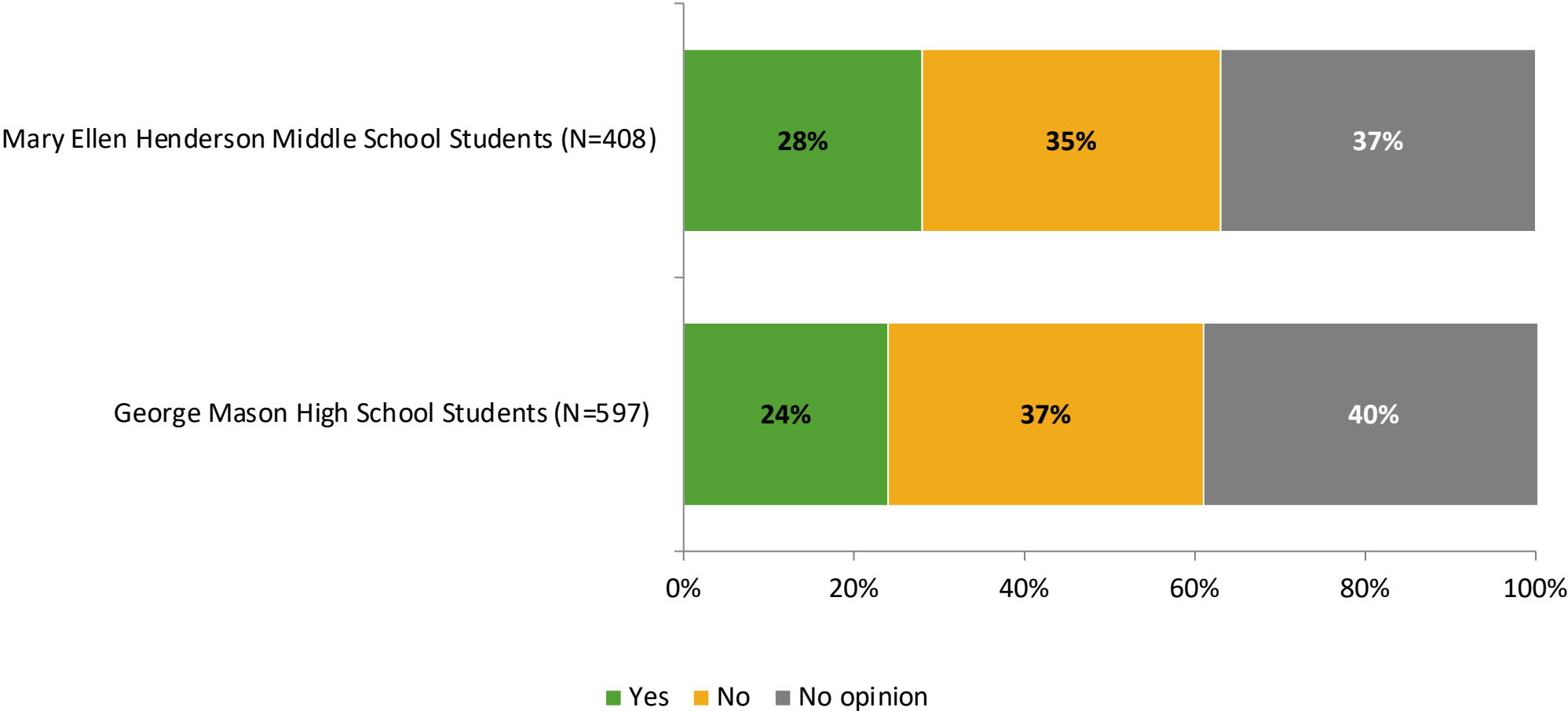
George Mason High School by School

Should the FCCPS Board change the name of Thomas Jefferson Elementary School?



Thomas Jefferson Elementary School by School

Should the FCCPS Board change the name of Thomas Jefferson Elementary School?



Reasons to Change Names

Why should the board change the name of the school?

Participants said that the names of the schools should be changed because George Mason and Thomas Jefferson owned slaves. They said that students who attend a school named after a slaveowner may feel marginalized and uncomfortable.

Participants said that the school should be named after individuals who better reflect the values of the Falls Church community.

Participants said that changing the names of the schools is a way to demonstrate the division's ability to embrace the current social climate and demonstrate that it is moving forward.

Reasons to Keep Names

Why should the board keep the name of the school?

Participants said that the names should remain the same because both George Mason and Thomas Jefferson were Founding Fathers who made significant contributions to the founding of both Virginia and the United States of America.

Participants said that keeping the names would allow the division to embrace the history of George Mason and Thomas Jefferson and provide a way for students to learn from past mistakes. They said that changing the names would erase the history and remove that opportunity.

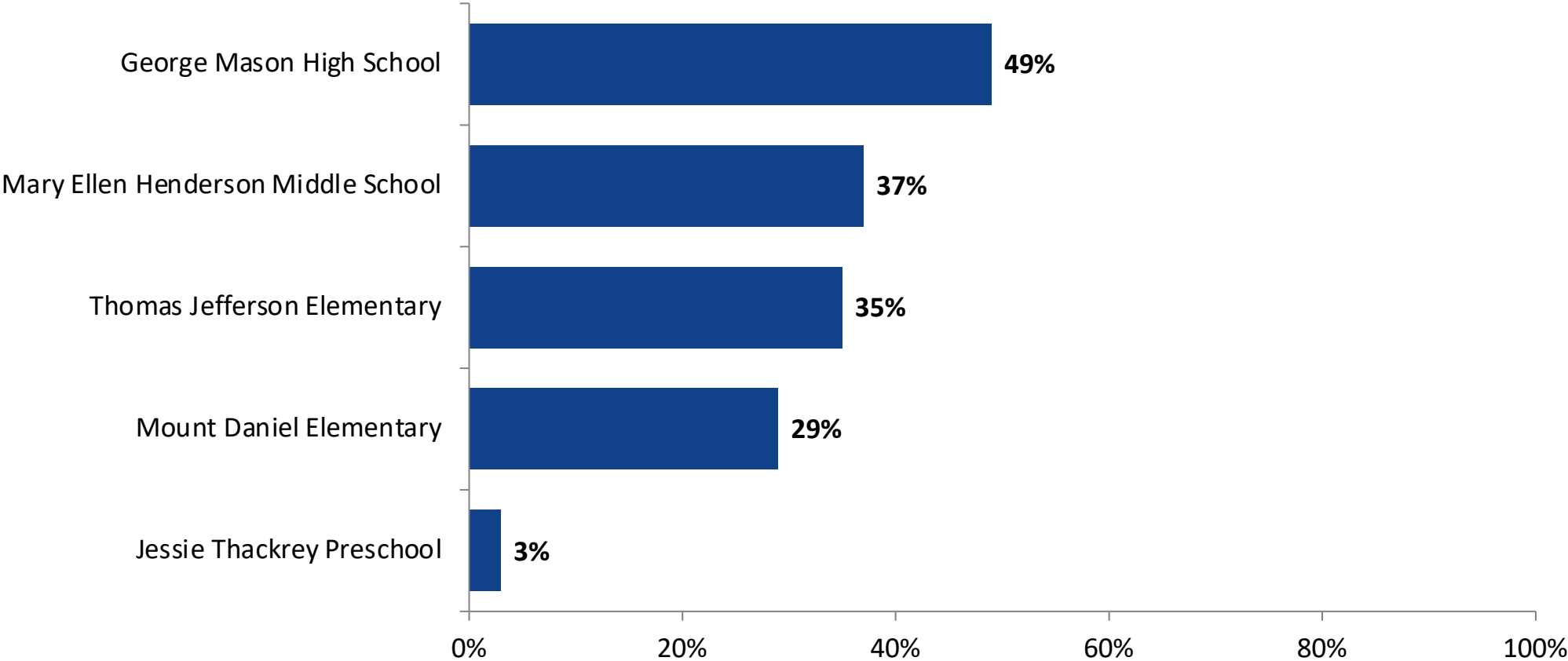
Participants said that the names should not be changed based on George Mason and Thomas Jefferson owning slaves because that was a norm at the time.

Participants said that changing the school names would be a waste of resources that could be better allocated to enhancing students' educational experience.

Notes: Only participants who said the name for George Mason High School and/or Thomas Jefferson Elementary School should be changed answered this question. The themes from both questions are presented here due to the similarity in responses.

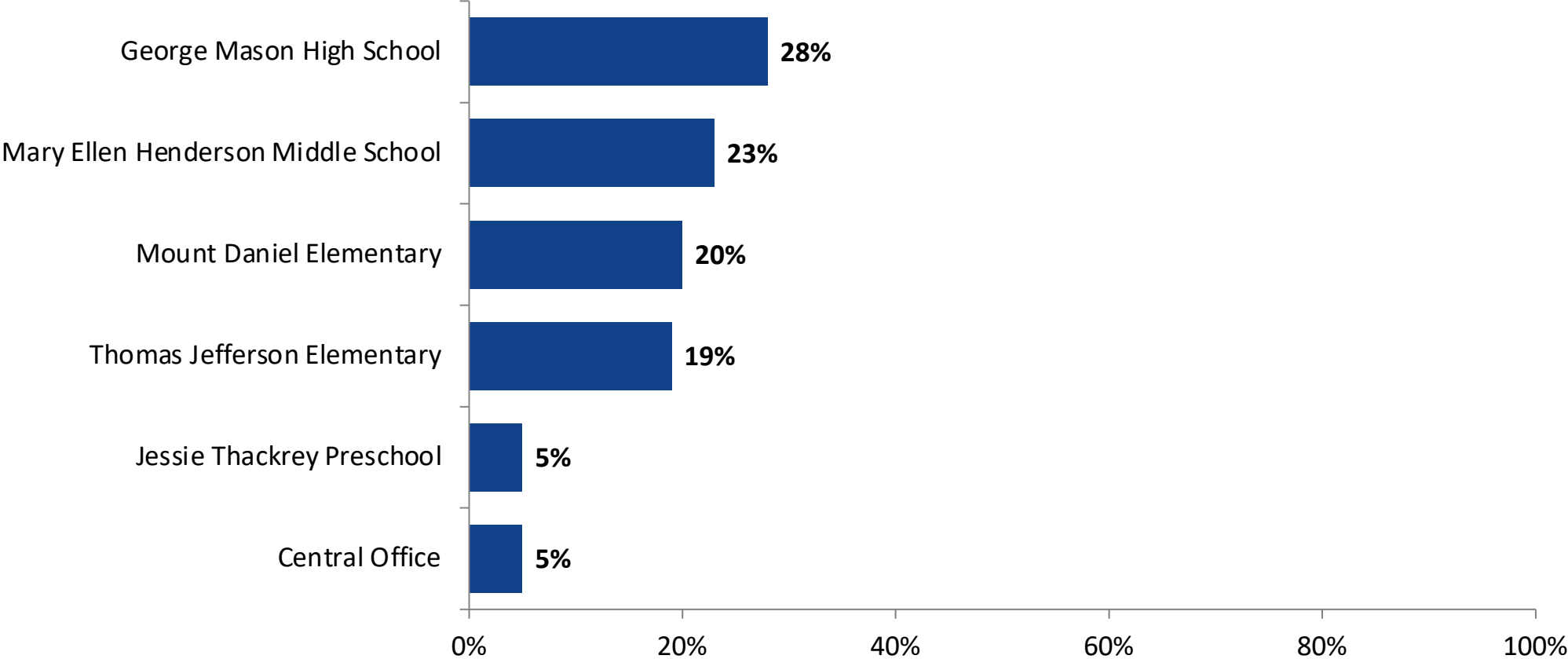
Child(ren)'s School(s)

Please select your child(ren)'s school(s). (N=1,332)



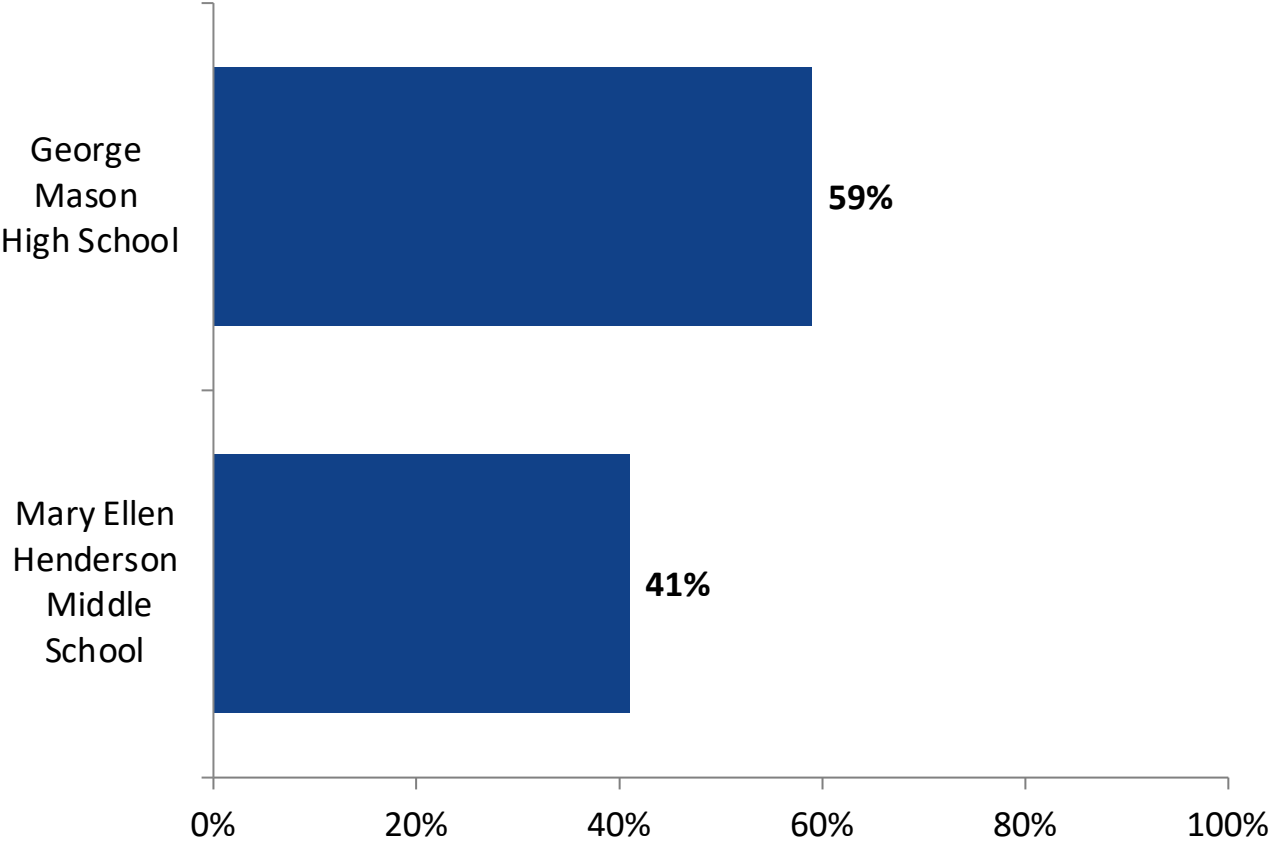
Work Location

Please select your work location. (N=208)

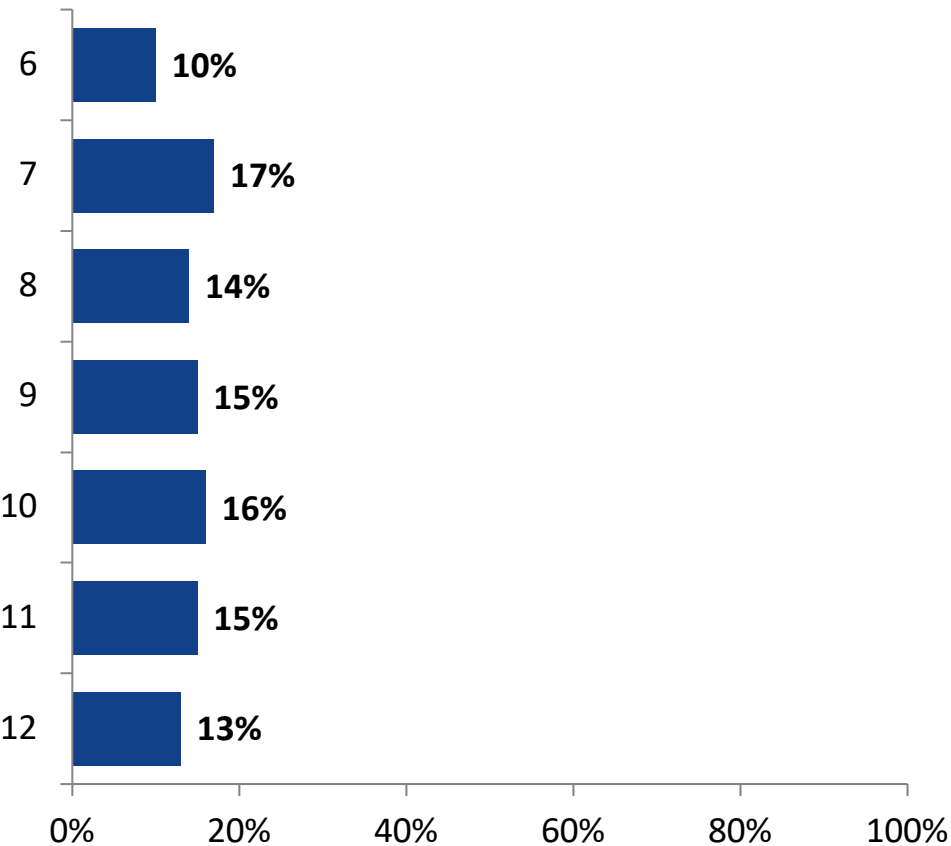


School and Grade

Please select your campus. (N=1,005)

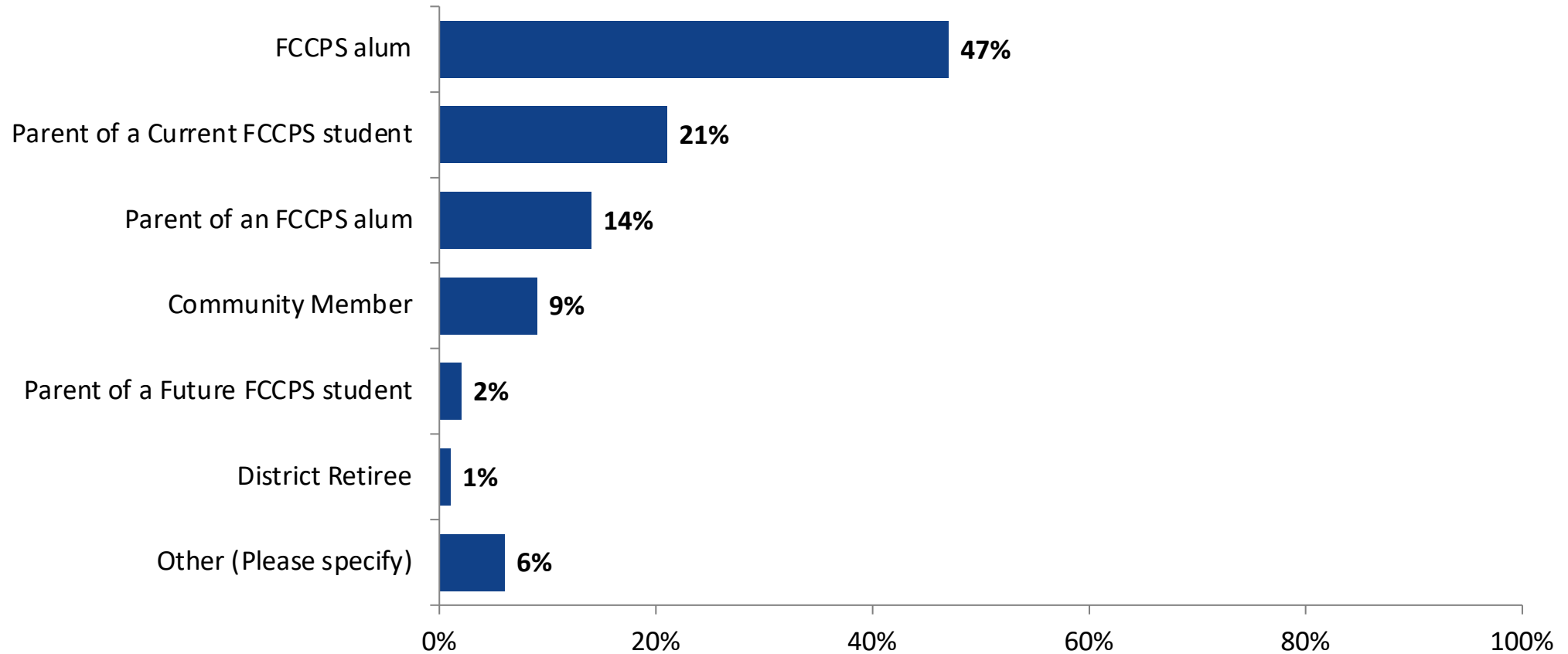


Please select your grade. (N=1,005)



Connection to FCCPS

Which of the following best describes your connection to Falls Church City Public Schools? (N=943)





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