



Austin Independent School District

Department of Program Evaluation

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SUMMARY OF 2006-2007 AISD PARENT SURVEY DISTRICT RESULTS

Strong relationships among staff, students, and parents are critical to student success. In particular, parent involvement in education is associated with higher student achievement (for recent meta-analysis see Fan & Chen, 2004). The AISD Parent Survey was designed to monitor the relationship between campus staff and parents. The survey results provide campuses with feedback about how well-informed parents feel, and about their involvement on campus.

In addition to one open-ended item (“Please tell us what this school has done well and what could be improved”)¹, the survey contained twenty multiple-choice items that address:

- Experiences with school staff (Principal, Assistant Principal(s), Counselor(s), Office Staff, Teachers, Parent Support Specialists, Others), including:
 - Courtesy and respect
 - Opportunities for two-way communication
 - Welcoming input
 - Fair treatment of their child
- Opportunities for involvement and participation in various campus activities
- School safety
- Information that they receive from school staff about:
 - Their child’s progress, academic standing, and behavior
 - School policy
 - Parent/Family resources and involvement opportunities
 - Graduation and post-graduation information and resources
- Parents’ educational goals for their child

SUMMARY OF 2006-2007 PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

The 2006-2007 Parent Survey was administered in November-December 2006. Each campus principal was asked to ensure that a parent of every student received a survey. The survey was available on paper, with translations in Spanish and Vietnamese, and was available online in all three languages.²

¹ Responses to this item were provided to individual principals.

² Over one third of the surveys received (34%) were completed in Spanish, and 7.4% of all surveys were completed online. Paper copies of the Vietnamese version of the survey were also available for campuses by request.

Respondents

The response to the survey in 2006-2007 was not as large as in 2005-2006, despite the continued implementation of strategies intended to increase the response rate³. A total of **14,592** parents responded to the survey, representing approximately 17% of the district's students (see Table 1 for summary by level).

Table 1. Summary of Parent Respondents 2005-2007 by Level

	Elementary School		Middle School		High School		TOTAL	
	05-06	06-07	05-06	06-07	05-06	06-07	05-06	06-07
Parents Responding	10,907	11,812	1,807	1,354	2,100	1,426	14,868	14,592
Students Enrolled	44,827	45,431	15,624	15,790	20,081	20,279	81,057	81,500
% of Students Represented	24.3%	26.0%	11.6%	8.6%	10.5%	7.0%	18.3%	17.1%

Respondents were asked to report the ethnicity and grade level of the child for whom they were completing the survey. Results (see Tables 2 and 3) indicate that the children for whom parent surveys were completed are representative of the District in terms of both ethnicity and grade level, particularly at the Elementary level; parents of 6th-graders are slightly overrepresented at the Middle school level, and 9th and 12th grade parents are slightly underrepresented.

Table 2. Summary of Parents Responding by Grade Level

	Grade	% of Students, as Reported by Parent Respondents*, by Level	% of Students in AISD Population, by Level
Elementary	EC	0.5%	1.2%
	PK	10.2%	10.2%
	K	15.0%	17.0%
	1	15.7%	16.1%
	2	14.8%	14.6%
	3	15.2%	13.8%
	4	15.0%	13.4%
Middle	5	12.1%	12.9%
	6	1.1%	0.8%
	6	46.0%	31.6%
Middle	7	28.8%	34.8%
	8	24.7%	33.6%
High	9	25.4%	31.3%
	10	27.0%	25.2%
	11	25.6%	21.7%
	12	17.6%	21.8%

*Note: Percentages of respondents' students are based on the total number of valid responses received for each level.

³Return postage-paid envelopes were included with all High School and some Middle School surveys.

Table 3. Summary of Parents Responding by Child’s Ethnicity

	Elementary School		Middle School		High School	
	% Reported Ethnicity of Students by Parents ⁴	% of Students in AISD Population	% Reported Ethnicity of Students by Parents	% of Students in AISD Population	% Reported Ethnicity of Students by Parents	% of Students in AISD Population
African American	10.0%	13.2%	10.9%	13.9%	7.7%	13.7%
Asian	4.7%	3.1%	6.0%	2.6%	34.2%	2.8%
Hispanic	60.9%	59.7%	46.3%	53.3%	40.8%	46.8%
Native American	1.1%	0.2%	0.8%	0.3%	0.8%	0.3%
White	23.3%	23.8%	36.0%	30.0%	46.5%	36.4%

Key Findings⁵

- As in the past, parents at all levels provided generally positive responses regarding their experiences with AISD schools. In addition, elementary school parents again provided the most positive responses to most items.
- Positive responses increased in 2006-2007 for approximately 70% of the staff ratings. Consistent with 2005-2006 results, parents at all levels most frequently reported positive experiences with *Teachers*. Also, although the vast majority of parents gave favorable ratings to all staff, *Office Staff* and *Assistant Principal(s)* received the greatest percentages of unfavorable ratings.
- It is notable that although *Office Staff* continue to remain among the lower-rated staff, their ratings for 2006-2007 did increase for all 4 staff items.
- Parents at all levels reported that they were more likely to “strongly agree” this year than in 2005-2006 that staff provided them with positive feedback about their child. This provides encouragement for the continuation of district Positive Behavior Support efforts.
- With regard to information about school and district policies, parents feel most informed about their *child’s academic progress* and *academic goals and plans*. However, responses from parents at all levels suggest that they are not receiving enough information about their child’s *preparedness for TAKS* or *risk of failing a grade*.
- For the first time, the Parent Survey included items designed to gather information about parent involvement in campus activities as well as in their child’s schoolwork (i.e., homework). Parents reported that they were most likely to *attend regularly scheduled parent-teacher conferences* and *general school meetings (e.g., Open House, Back to School night)*, and least likely to participate in *school committees* or *fundraising*. Parents at all levels also reported that they *regularly help their child with homework*⁶.

⁴ Parents identified their child’s ethnicity, not their own.

⁵ Each campus principal has received a report containing item results for his or her respective campus and for all schools at the same level. Principals are encouraged to review item results and to share results with campus staff as appropriate. In addition, principals are asked to provide campus results to Campus Advisory Councils for use during the development of Campus Improvement Plans.

⁶ 95% of Elementary, 89% of Middle School, and 72% of High School parents “strongly agree.”

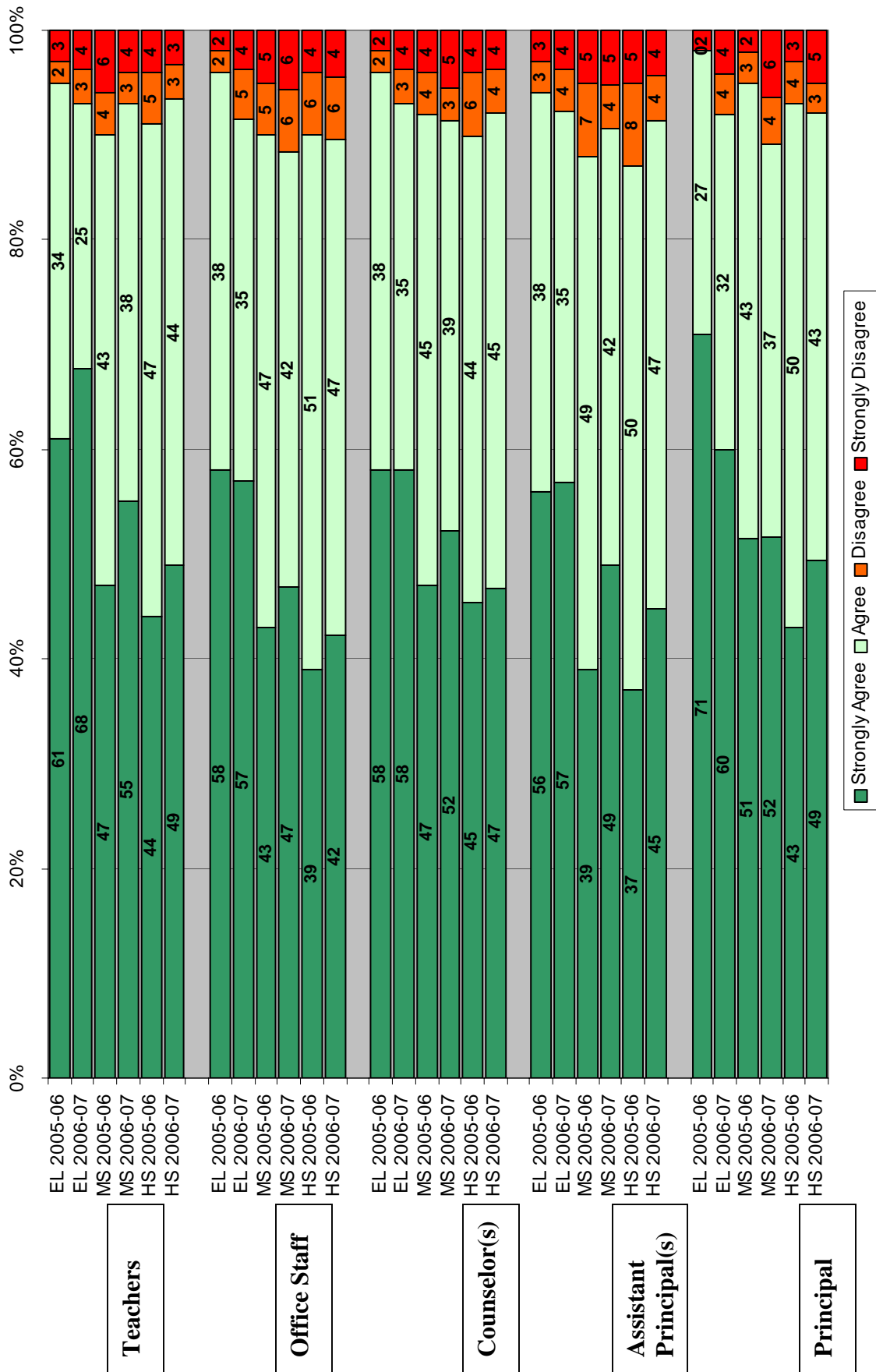
Item Results

The results of each survey item (Questions 5-19) are presented in graphical form below. Longitudinal results are provided, where applicable.

The results may be used to determine areas of strength and opportunities for improvement. Large percentages of "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" indicate areas in which campus staff excel, and large percentages of "Disagree" and "Strongly Disagree" indicate areas for possible improvement.⁷ Large increases or decreases from year to year should be examined to determine whether changes in policy or practice might account for changes in parent perceptions. The results may also be used to identify staff categories with consistently positive or negative responses. These responses can inform district administration regarding opportunities for praise and areas of focus for professional development. Principals are encouraged to discuss these results with campus staff and Campus Advisory Councils.

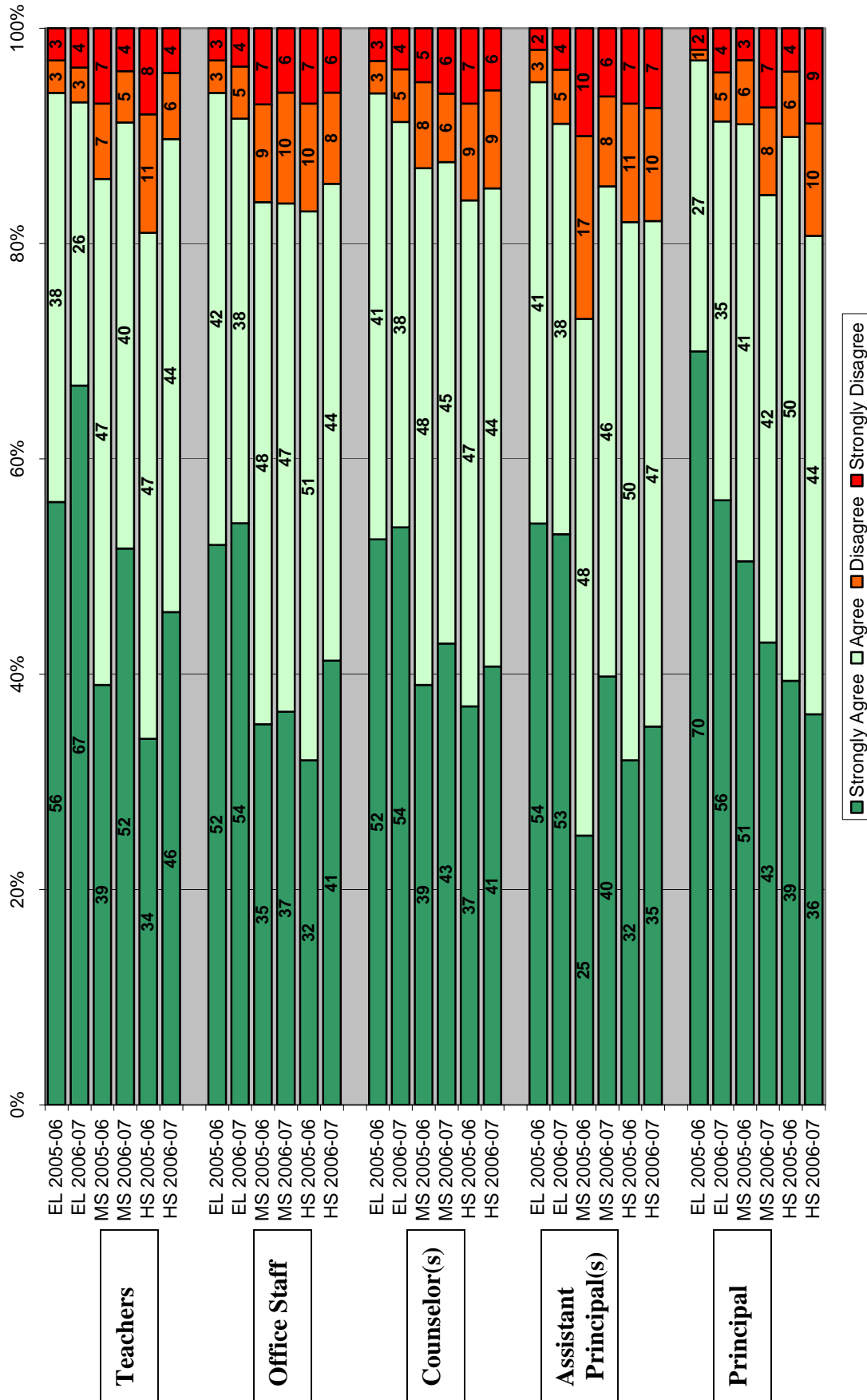
⁷ Percentages do not include responses of "Don't Know" or "Does Not Apply." Information regarding the number of respondents selecting each response option, including "Don't Know" and "Does Not Apply," can be found in Appendix A. It may be informative to identify items with large numbers of "Don't Know" responses.

5. The following school staff treat me with courtesy and respect.

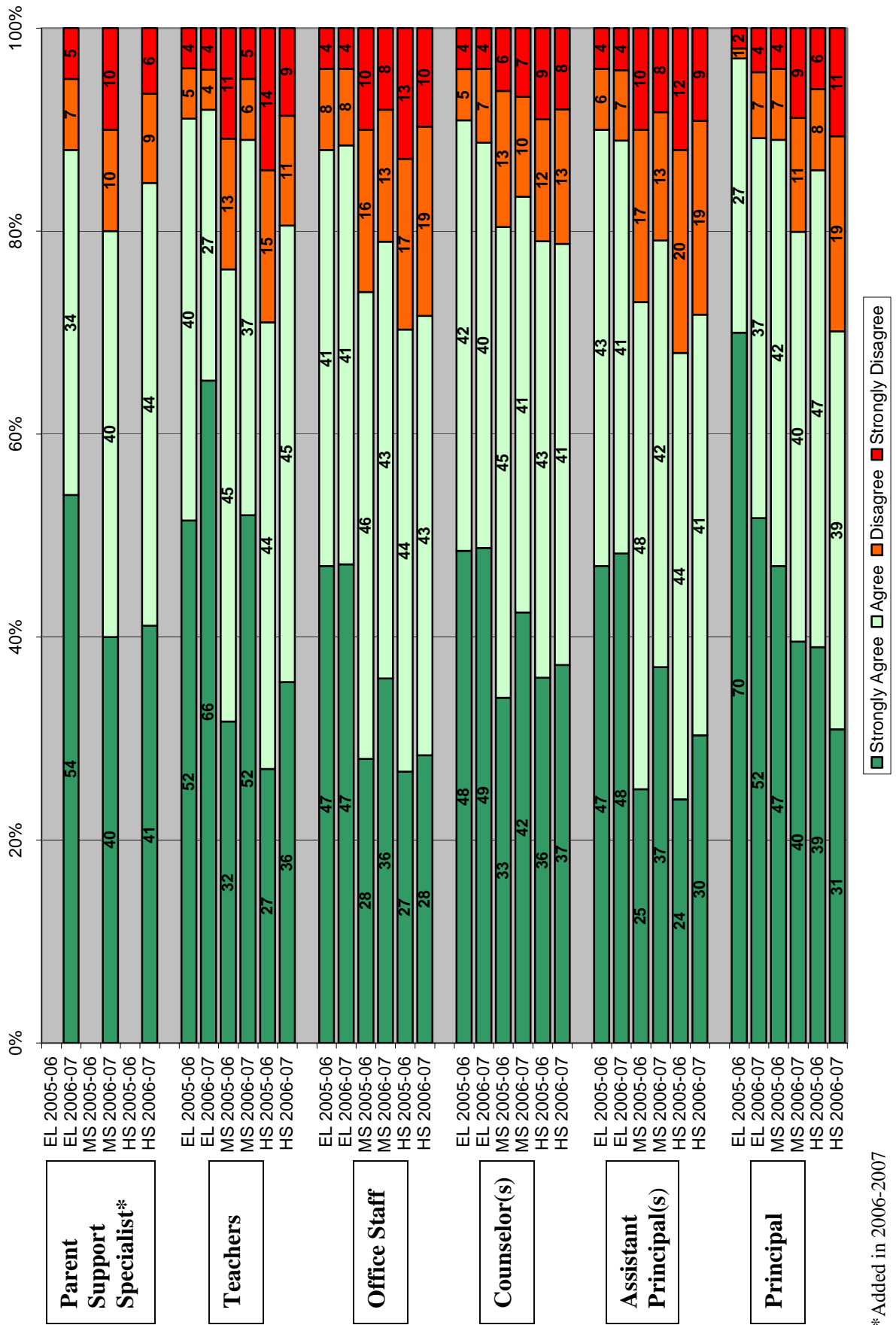


Note: Items 1-4 were demographic and summarized in the tables above.

6. The following school staff provide me with opportunities for two-way communication (e.g., phone calls, student agenda books, meetings, email, etc.).

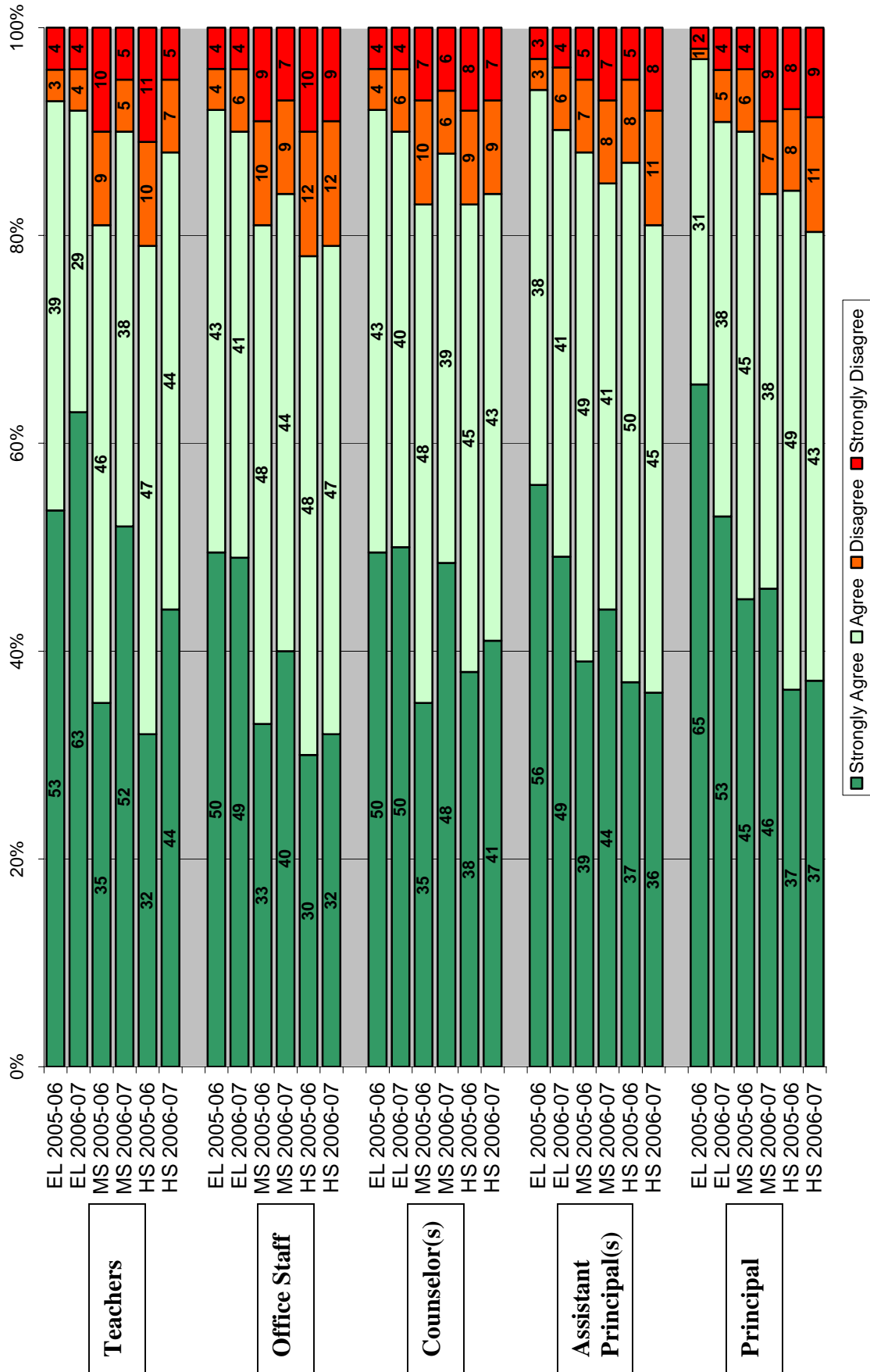


7. The following school staff have helped me to become more involved in my child's education.

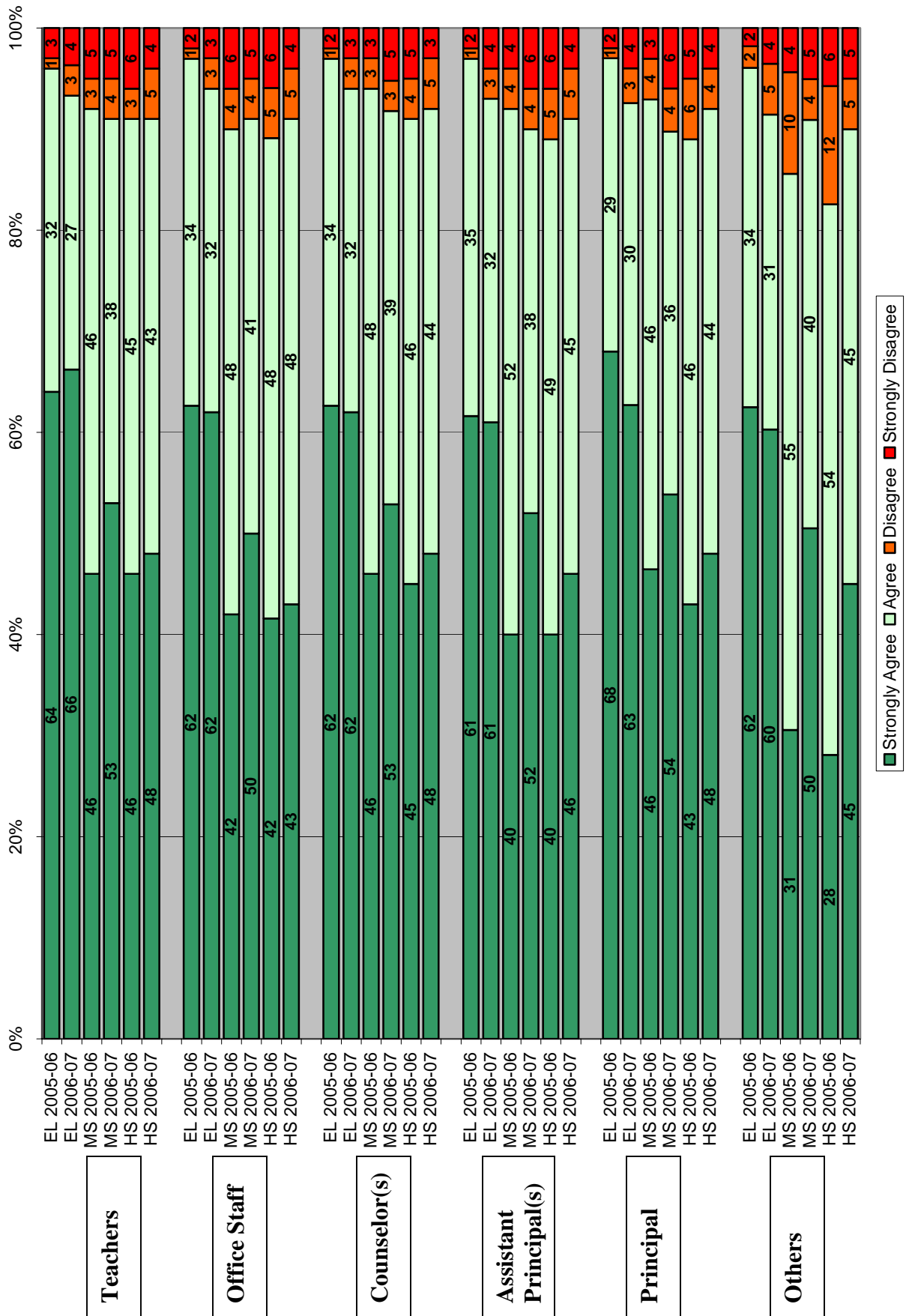


* Added in 2006-2007

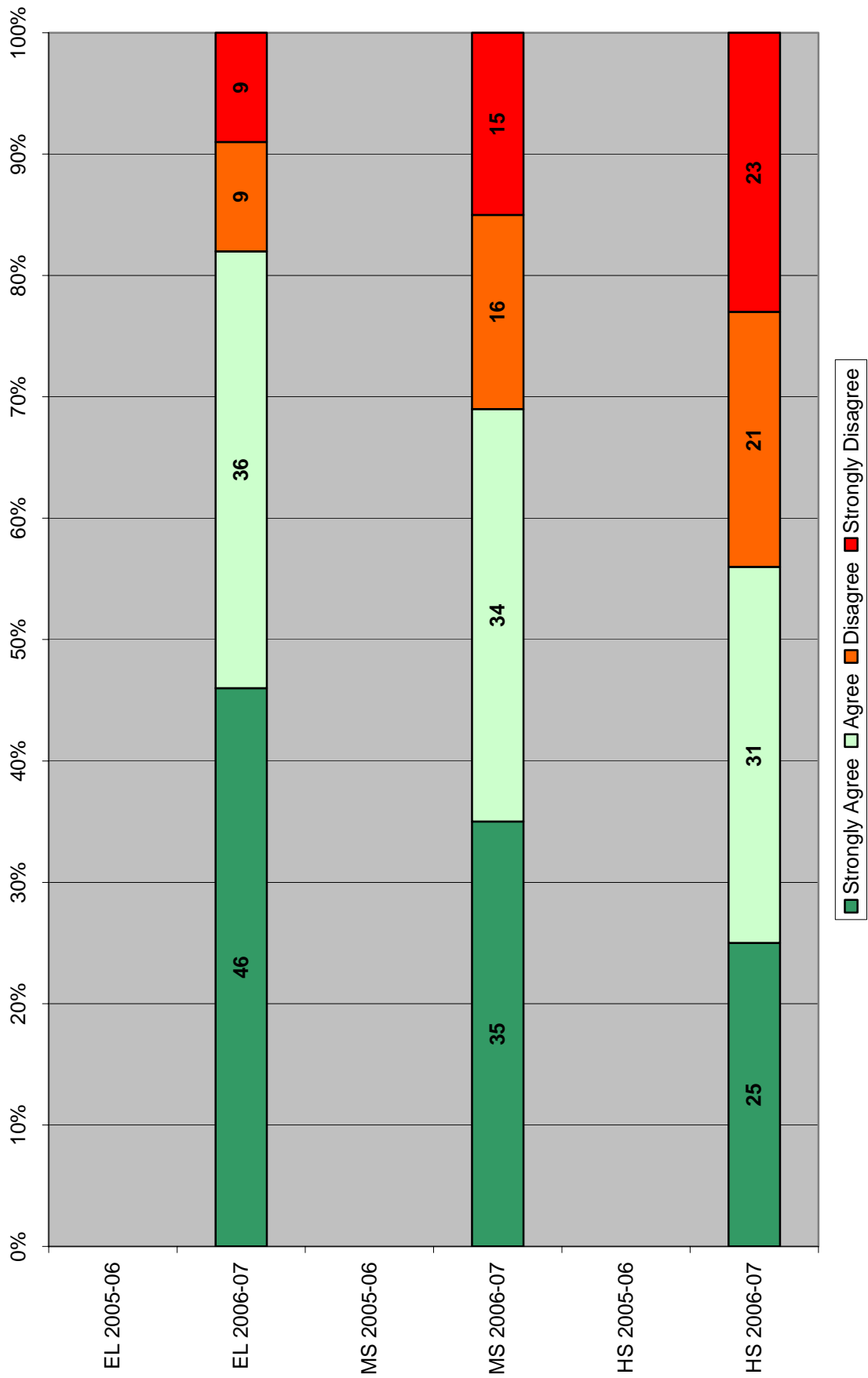
8. The following school staff welcome my input in academic decisions about my child.



9. The following school staff treat my child fairly with respect to culture, gender, ethnicity, age, religion, and disability.

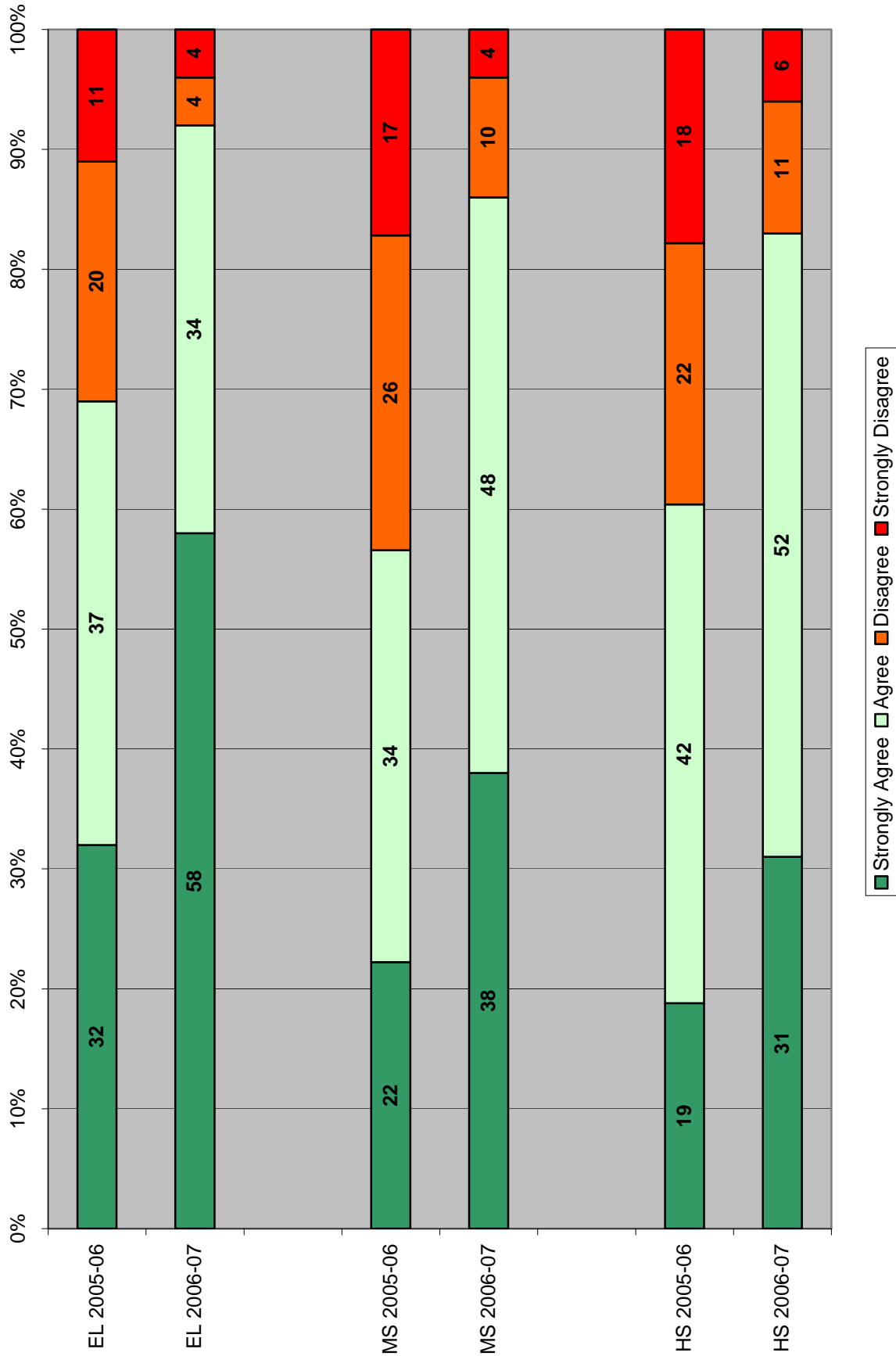


10. The Parent Support Specialist at my child's school has made me more aware of AISD support services and community resources in Austin*.

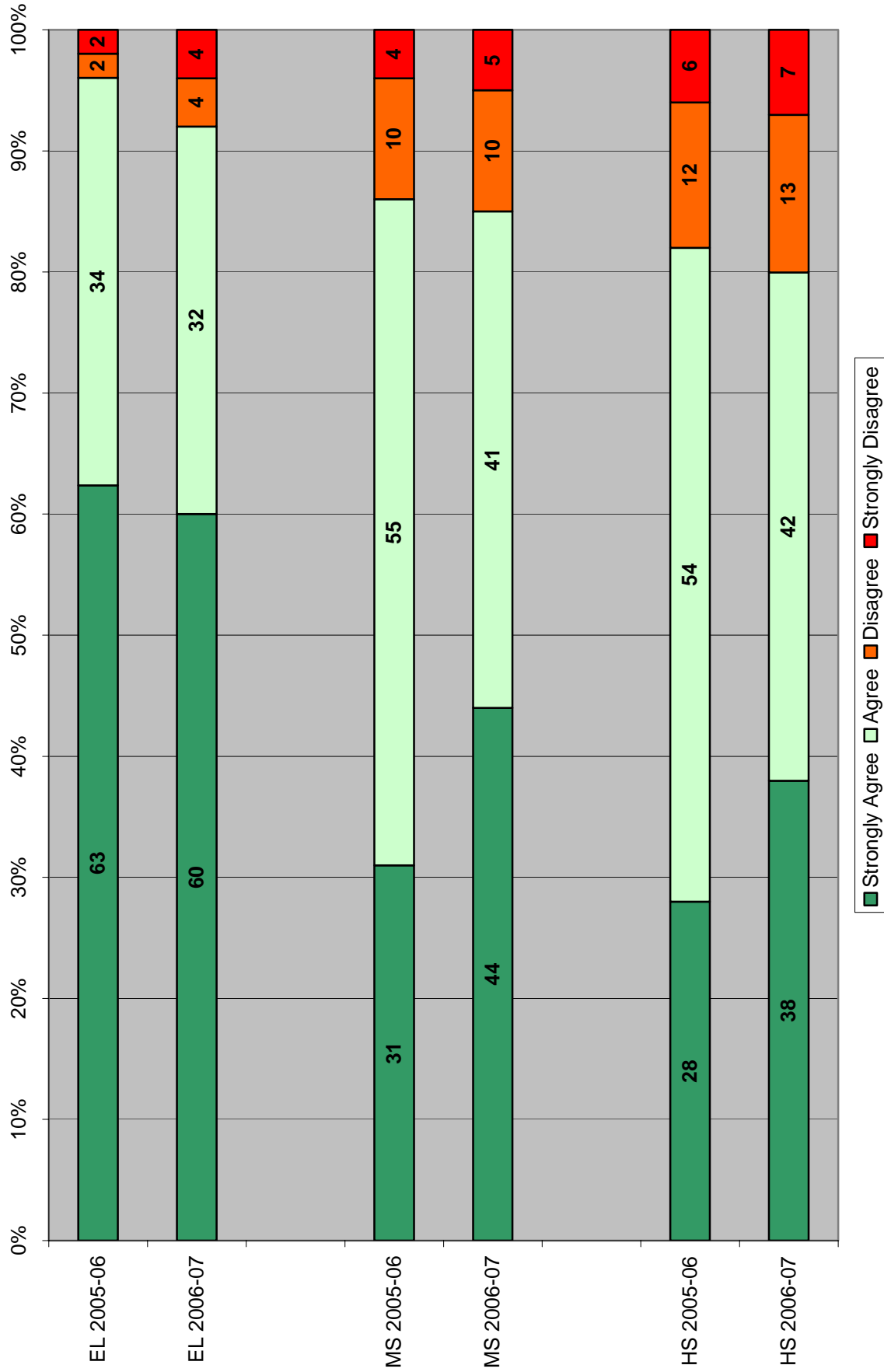


* Added in 2006-2007

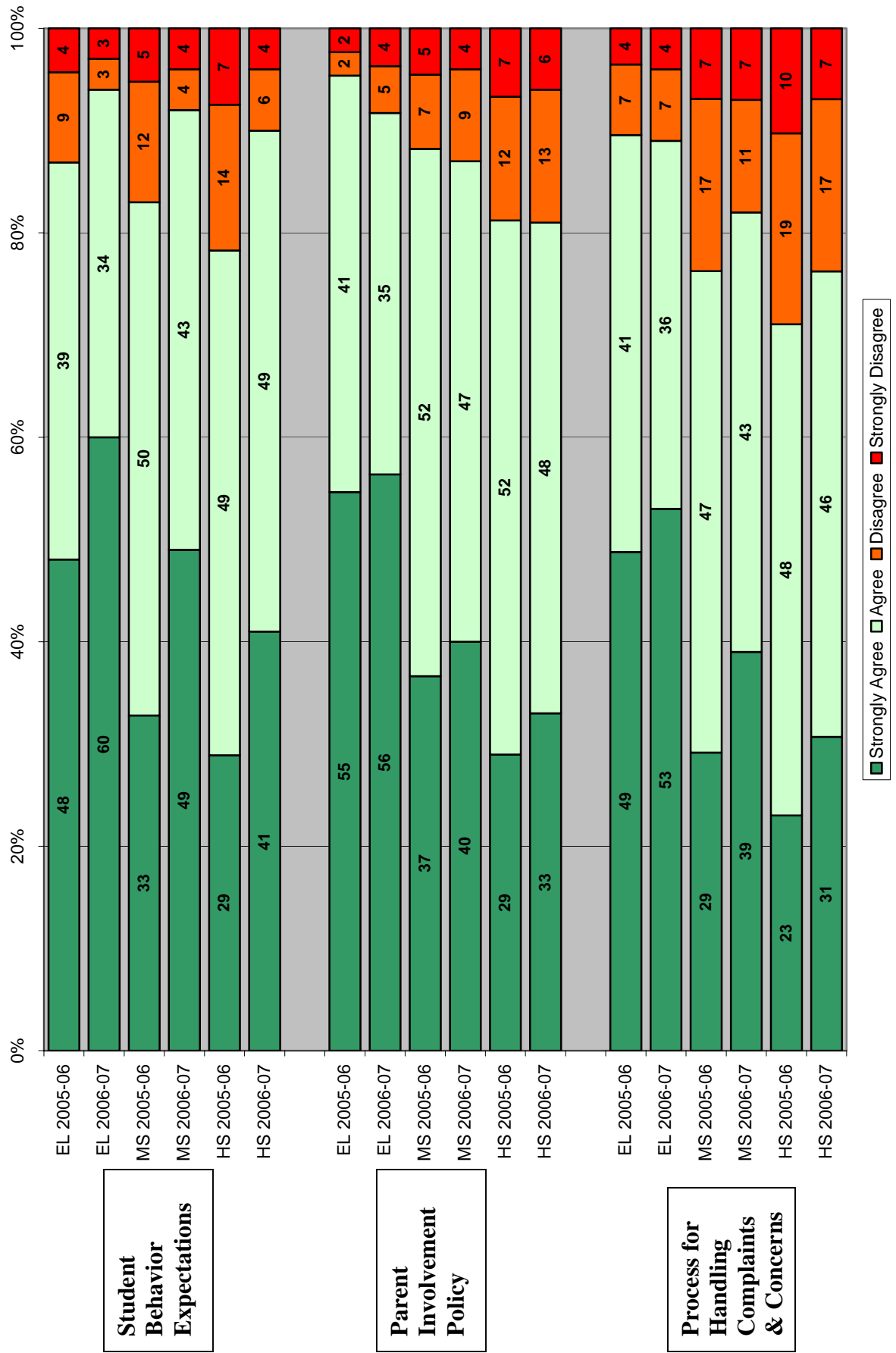
11. School staff provide me with positive feedback about my child.



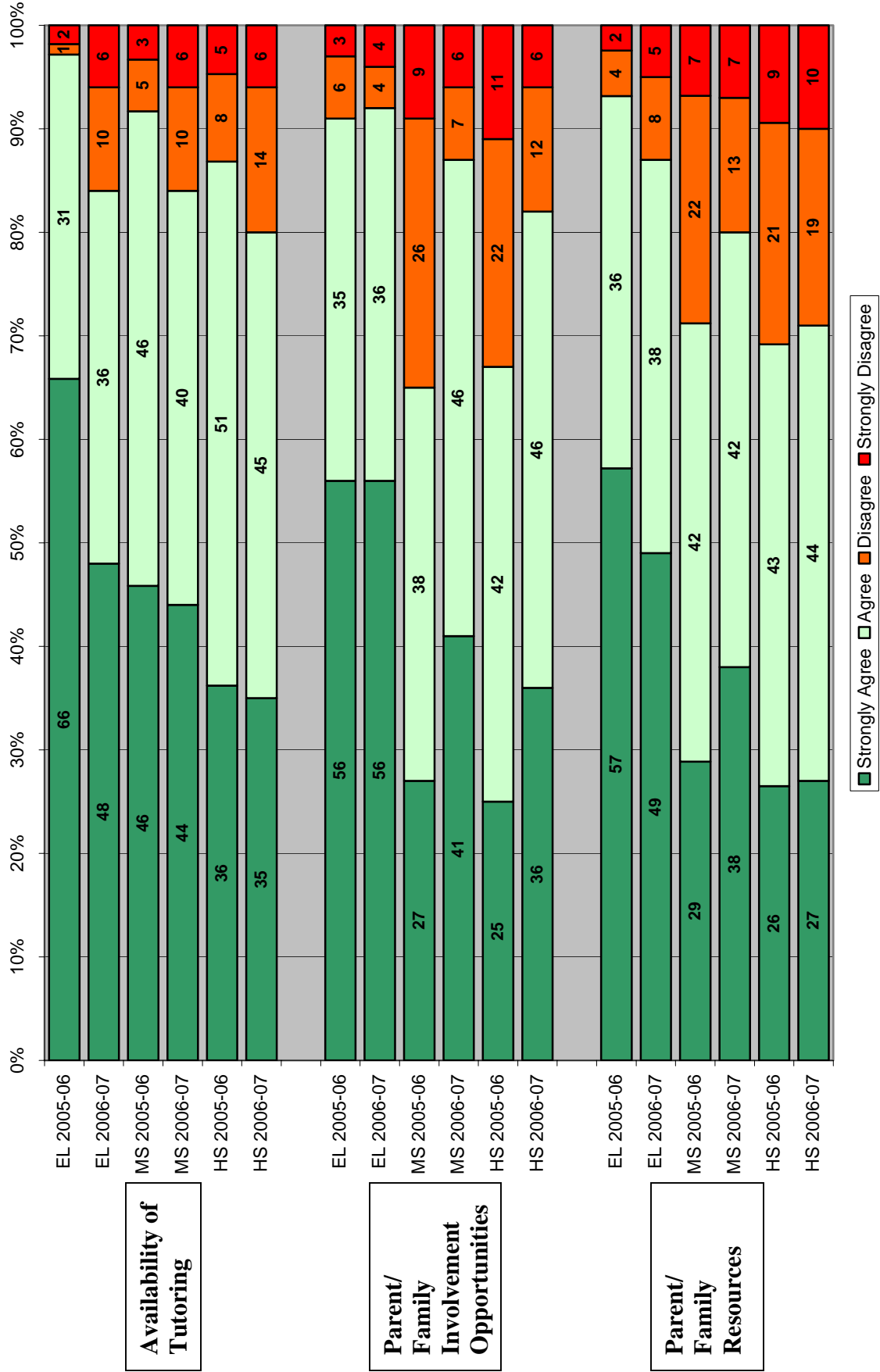
12. My child's school is a safe learning environment.



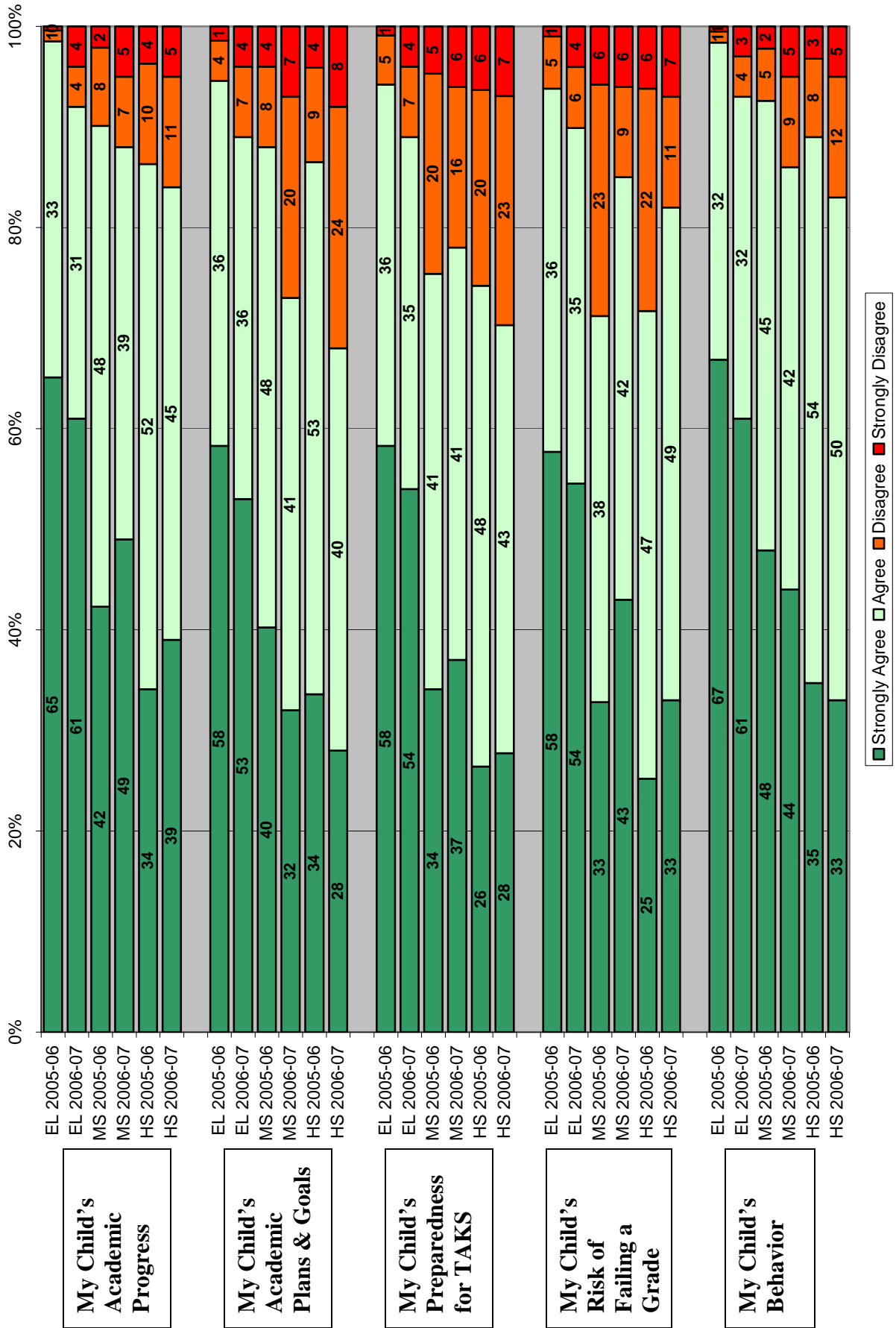
13. School staff provide me with enough information about:



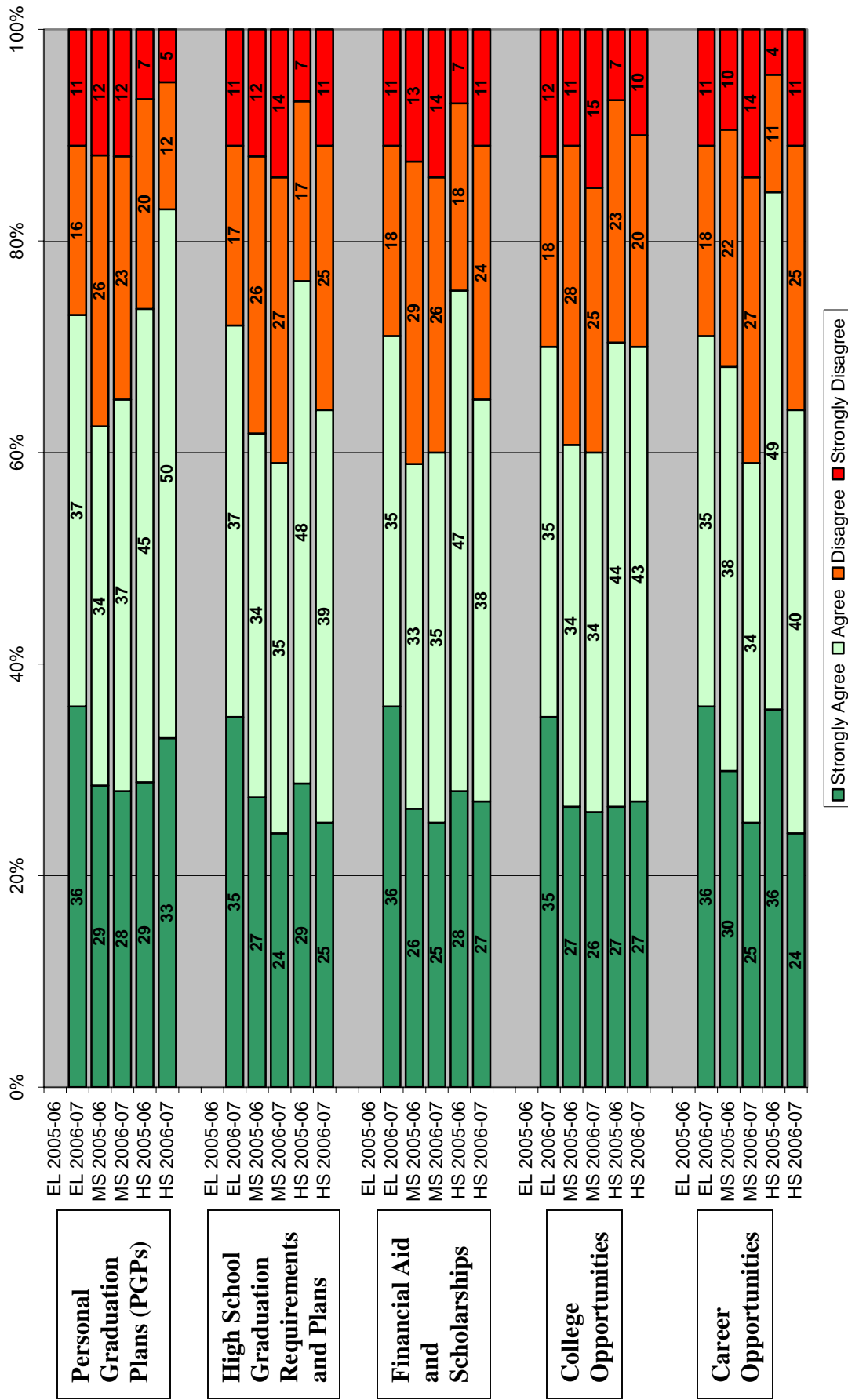
14. School staff provide me with enough information about the following programs and resources:



15. School staff provide me with enough of the following information about my child:

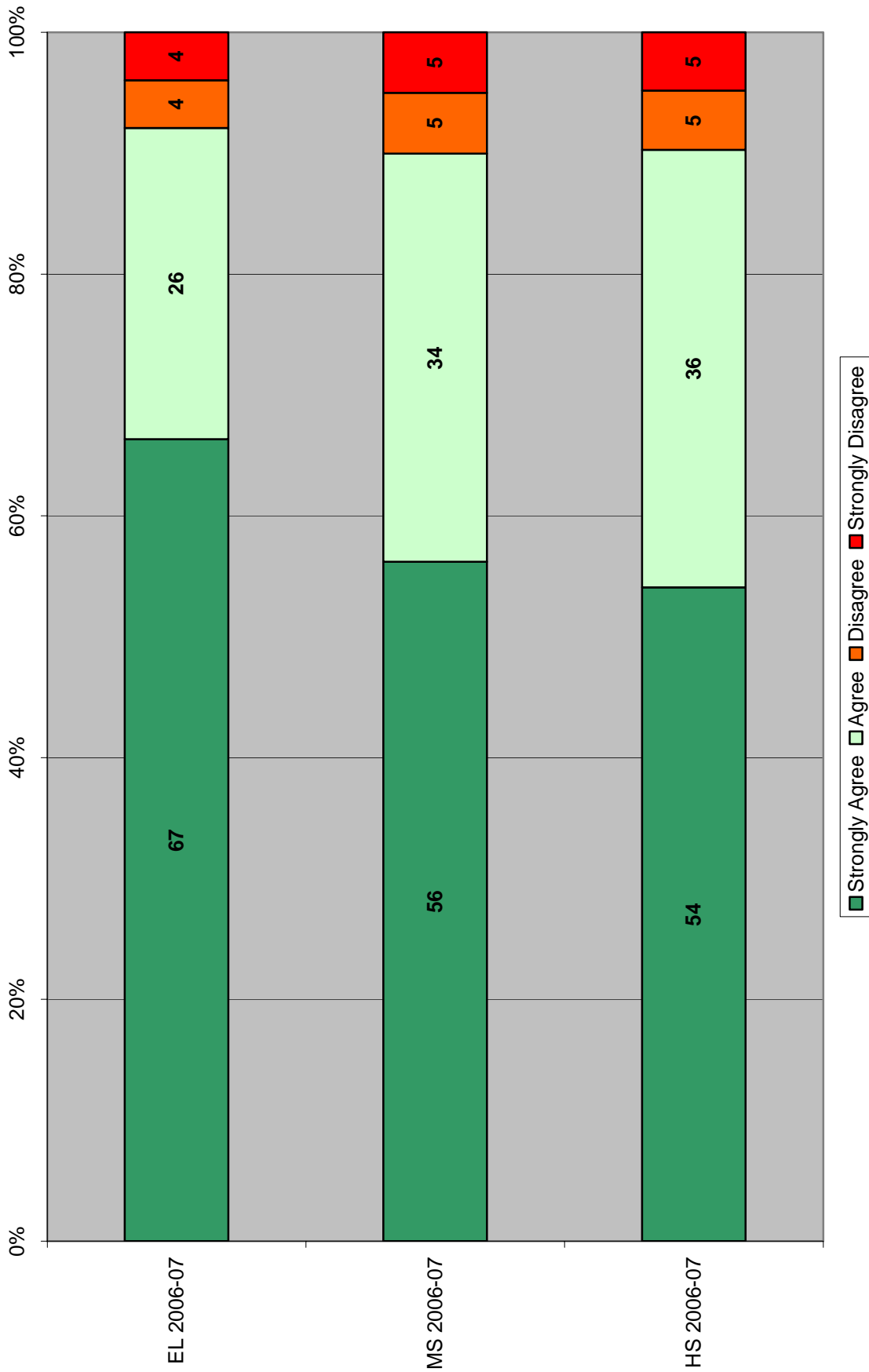


16. School staff provide me with useful information about the following graduation and post-graduation topics:*



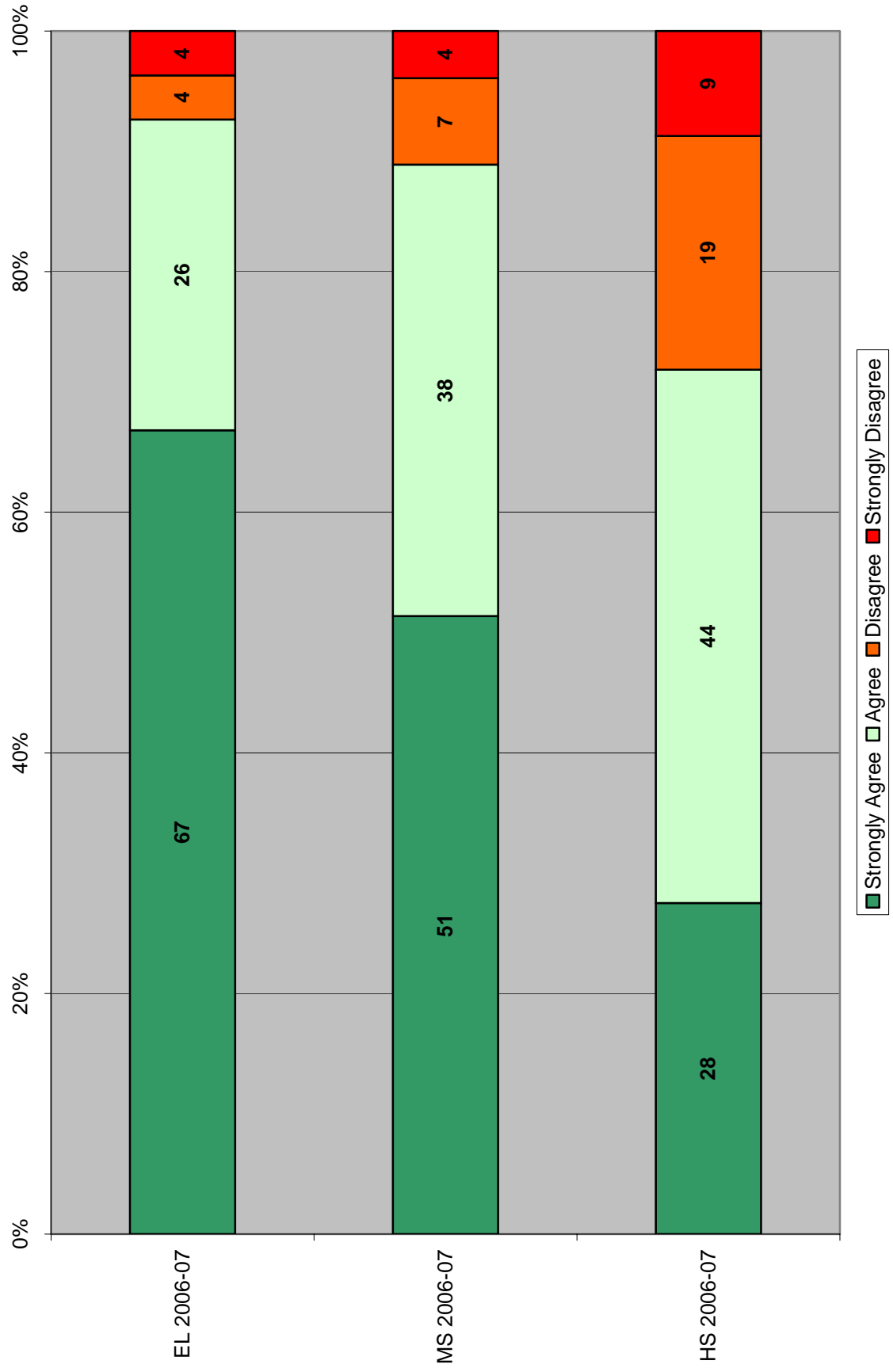
*New in 2006-2007 for Elementary

17. School staff provide me with information in my home language.*



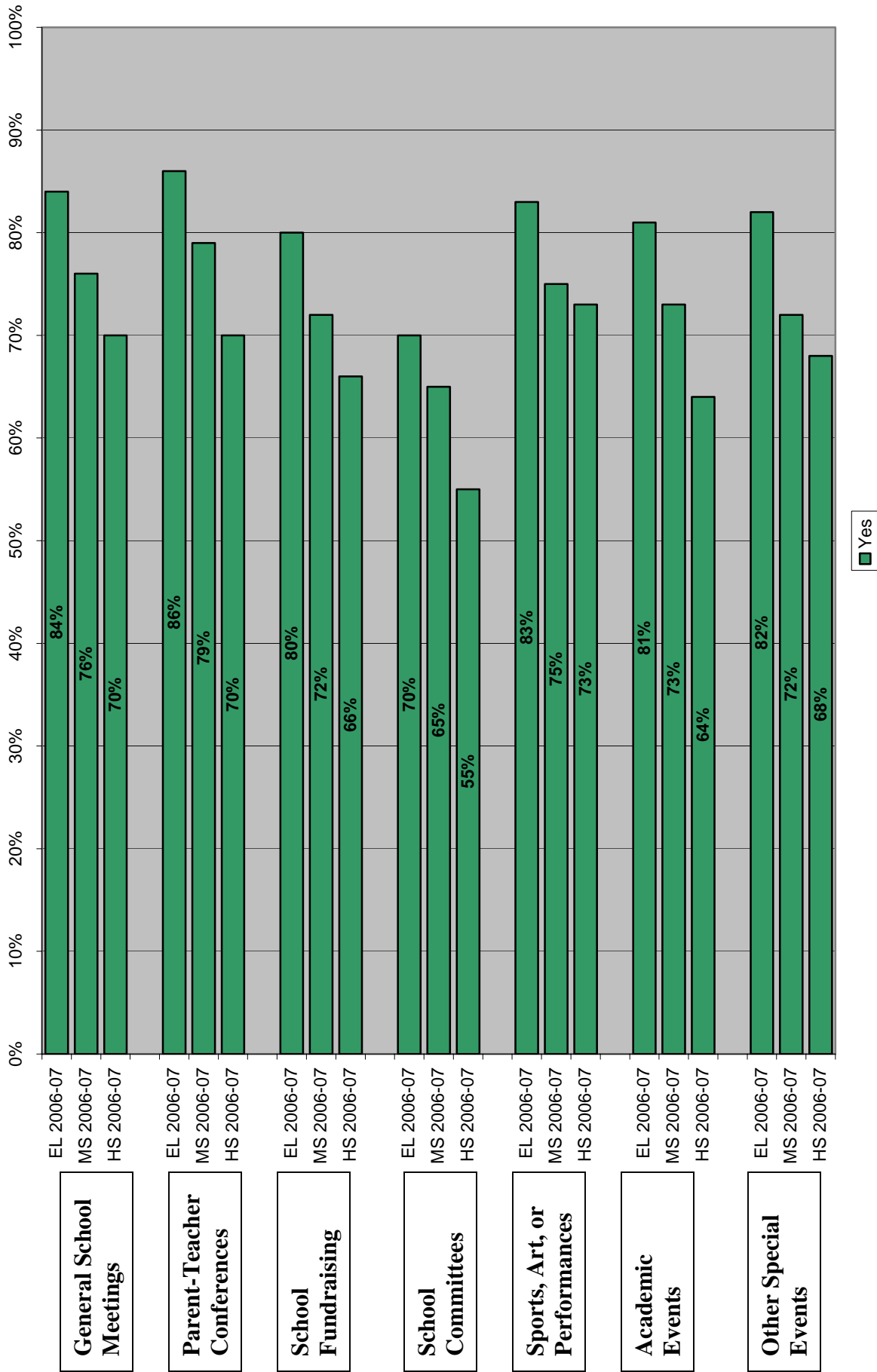
*Added in 2006-2007

18. I regularly help my child with school projects and homework.*



* Added in 2006-2007

19. Which of the following activities do you participate in at your child's school:*



*Added in 2006-2007

References

Fan, X. & Chen, M. (2004). Parental Involvement and Students' Academic Achievement: A Meta-Analysis. *Educational Psychology Review*, *13*(1), 1-22.

Appendix A

Table A. 1: Number of Parent Responses by Response Option--Elementary

Item	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know/NA	Total Responding
5- Principal	422	383	3,246	6,056	828	10,935
5-Assist. Principal(s)	325	355	3,127	5,027	1,688	10,522
5- Counselor(s)	309	284	2,950	4,895	1,974	10,412
5- Office Staff	392	482	3,591	5,918	321	10,704
5- Teachers	412	351	2,766	7,389	159	11,077
6- Principal	381	422	3,259	5,202	1,245	10,509
6-Assist. Principal(s)	310	406	3,080	4,281	2,135	10,212
6- Counselor(s)	307	393	3,023	4,308	2,170	10,201
6- Office Staff	331	449	3,490	5,019	1,141	10,430
6- Teachers	394	348	2,843	7,216	210	11,011
7- Principal	382	574	3,302	4,563	1,476	10,297
7-Assist. Principal(s)	316	525	3,091	3,662	2,366	9,960
7- Counselor(s)	303	552	3,022	3,691	2,429	9,997
7- Office Staff	320	603	3,300	3,771	1,922	9,916
7- Teachers	393	362	2,886	6,997	275	10,913
7- Parent Sup Spec	349	453	2,394	3,818	3,097	10,111
8- Principal	366	421	3,096	4,384	2,009	10,276
8-Assist. Principal(s)	298	404	2,949	3,577	2,753	9,981
8- Counselor(s)	292	392	2,897	3,577	2,818	9,976
8- Office Staff	299	441	3,006	3,587	2,695	10,028
8- Teachers	394	377	3,017	6,517	609	10,914
9- Principal	360	325	2,871	6,072	988	10,616
9-Assist. Principal(s)	303	290	2,779	5,324	1,625	10,321
9- Counselor(s)	265	284	2,734	5,303	1,687	10,273
9- Office Staff	313	325	2,976	5,790	975	10,379
9- Teachers	366	351	2,835	7,047	296	10,895
9- Others	387	428	2,872	5,607	1,113	10,407
10. PSS	664	742	2,727	3,517	3,500	11,150
11. Positive Feedback	395	477	3,469	6,421	365	11,127
12. School is safe	373	457	3,579	6,198	332	10,939
13-Student Behavior	383	361	3,614	6,446	304	11,108
13-Parent Inv Policy	366	474	3,720	5,951	366	10,877
13-Complaints and concerns	457	659	3,588	5,245	666	10,615
14-Tutoring	569	926	3,390	4,412	1,761	11,058
14-Involvement Opportunities	385	478	3,777	5,869	559	11,068
14-Resources	490	786	3,585	4,677	1,434	10,972
15-Child's progress	387	493	3,406	6,811	213	11,310
15-Childs plans and goals	368	652	3,468	5,093	1,268	10,849
15-Childs prep for TAKS	390	586	3,227	4,948	1,673	10,824
15-Childs risk of failing a grade	389	551	3,132	4,812	1,746	10,630
15-Child's behavior	328	414	3,379	6,524	227	10,872
16-Grad requirements	500	742	1,757	1,709	5,812	10,520
16-PGPs	476	760	1,630	1,548	5,867	10,281
16-Financial aid/scholarships	498	793	1,530	1,561	5,894	10,276
16-College opportunities	504	784	1,503	1,521	5,914	10,226
16-Career opportunities	489	780	1,492	1,534	5,866	10,161
17. Provide info in home lang	459	473	2,722	6,394	1,196	11,244
18. Help with homework	407	406	2,856	7,389	182	11,240
	No	Yes	N/A	Total		
19-School meetings	1,565	8,216	799	10,580		
19-Conferences	1,393	9,166	443	11,002		
19-Fundraising	1,807	7,370	1,069	10,246		
19-Committees	2,568	6,099	1,567	10,234		
19-Sport, art, performance events	1,529	7,605	1,192	10,326		
19-Academic events	1,609	6,868	1,772	10,249		
19-Other special events	1,674	7,605	1,218	10,497		
	Diploma	Cert/Assoc	Bachelors	Grad/Prof	Military	
20. My goals for my child include:	6,512	3,287	6,296	6,766	895	

Table A.2: Number of Parent Responses by Response Option--Middle School

Item	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know/NA	Total Responding
5- Principal	69	49	408	563	213	1,302
5-Assist. Principal(s)	53	44	428	503	254	1,282
5- Counselor(s)	58	34	417	556	216	1,281
5- Office Staff	68	72	502	567	85	1,294
5- Teachers	50	37	467	679	59	1,292
6- Principal	75	83	424	438	250	1,270
6-Assist. Principal(s)	62	82	446	390	291	1,271
6- Counselor(s)	62	65	457	438	242	1,264
6- Office Staff	63	89	466	434	229	1,281
6- Teachers	49	59	488	637	58	1,291
7- Principal	86	109	392	384	287	1,258
7-Assist. Principal(s)	76	116	386	340	337	1,255
7- Counselor(s)	66	96	400	414	284	1,260
7- Office Staff	76	117	387	323	351	1,254
7- Teachers	57	72	442	608	98	1,277
7- Parent Sup Spec	66	71	271	288	550	1,246
8- Principal	73	63	327	386	403	1,252
8-Assist. Principal(s)	58	68	336	361	425	1,248
8- Counselor(s)	55	57	357	437	346	1,252
8- Office Staff	51	64	335	305	485	1,240
8- Teachers	50	55	410	579	180	1,274
9- Principal	66	46	379	569	221	1,281
9-Assist. Principal(s)	65	39	396	536	231	1,267
9- Counselor(s)	56	31	413	572	196	1,268
9- Office Staff	55	46	435	539	193	1,268
9- Teachers	55	50	462	630	90	1,287
9- Others	54	43	415	519	231	1,262
10. PSS	115	125	256	266	540	1,302
11. Positive Feedback	65	118	492	531	93	1,299
12. School is safe	44	115	573	474	85	1,291
13-Student Behavior	51	53	537	606	63	1,310
13-Parent Inv Policy	51	108	543	474	108	1,284
13-Complaints and concerns	86	121	495	442	130	1,274
14-Tutoring	67	113	479	527	125	1,311
14-Involvement Opportunities	68	90	541	487	111	1,297
14-Resources	76	142	442	402	235	1,297
15-Child's progress	64	88	504	630	28	1,314
15-Childs plans and goals	77	211	449	349	203	1,289
15-Childs prep for TAKS	73	179	468	421	153	1,294
15-Childs risk of failing a grade	63	102	459	469	188	1,281
15-Child's behavior	63	109	502	524	91	1,289
16-Grad requirements	96	184	290	221	497	1,288
16-PGPs	97	197	254	169	552	1,269
16-Financial aid/scholarships	99	178	244	172	574	1,267
16-College opportunities	103	175	236	181	566	1,261
16-Career opportunities	97	181	228	171	582	1,259
17. Provide info in home lang	58	57	382	636	177	1,310
18. Help with homework	50	92	480	657	31	1,310
	No	Yes	N/A	Total		
19-School meetings	284	903	95	1,282		
19-Conferences	236	869	181	1,286		
19-Fundraising	305	801	138	1,244		
19-Committees	368	673	183	1,224		
19-Sport, art, performance events	291	869	92	1,252		
19-Academic events	297	792	158	1,247		
19-Other special events	311	788	160	1,259		
	Diploma	Cert/Assoc	Bachelors	Grad/Prof	Military	
20. My goals for my child include:	800	350	814	772	100	

Table A.3. Number of Parent Responses by Response Option--High School

Item	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know/NA	Total Responding
5- Principal	47	26	396	457	427	1,353
5-Assist. Principal(s)	42	43	457	440	359	1,341
5- Counselor(s)	43	48	526	540	191	1,348
5- Office Staff	55	73	582	519	118	1,347
5- Teachers	42	41	563	621	90	1,357
6- Principal	77	91	387	316	469	1,340
6-Assist. Principal(s)	67	95	425	318	425	1,330
6- Counselor(s)	62	98	478	438	255	1,331
6- Office Staff	62	107	490	379	304	1,342
6- Teachers	52	77	551	574	92	1,346
7- Principal	92	166	339	267	440	1,304
7-Assist. Principal(s)	79	165	358	262	431	1,295
7- Counselor(s)	85	141	441	396	258	1,321
7- Office Staff	89	171	397	260	390	1,307
7- Teachers	58	109	510	515	134	1,326
7- Parent Sup Spec	79	112	230	215	652	1,288
8- Principal	69	85	320	279	557	1,310
8-Assist. Principal(s)	67	84	349	276	526	1,302
8- Counselor(s)	64	87	432	407	330	1,320
8- Office Staff	64	91	349	243	558	1,305
8- Teachers	59	71	486	484	238	1,338
9- Principal	34	40	411	442	409	1,336
9-Assist. Principal(s)	39	46	447	458	342	1,332
9- Counselor(s)	35	51	484	519	238	1,327
9- Office Staff	43	54	500	452	286	1,335
9- Teachers	43	64	534	579	124	1,344
9- Others	46	51	425	428	365	1,315
10. PSS	164	147	218	180	628	1,338
11. Positive Feedback	81	159	515	467	134	1,356
12. School is safe	70	141	652	381	108	1,352
13-Student Behavior	54	76	628	517	74	1,349
13-Parent Inv Policy	69	153	591	408	116	1,337
13-Complaints and concerns	83	195	542	360	152	1,332
14-Tutoring	72	173	549	417	143	1,354
14-Involvement Opportunities	67	149	565	441	127	1,349
14-Resources	104	192	461	284	299	1,340
15-Child's progress	62	146	592	512	45	1,357
15-Childs plans and goals	103	287	482	331	133	1,336
15-Childs prep for TAKS	82	265	493	319	161	1,320
15-Childs risk of failing a grade	81	129	579	392	148	1,329
15-Child's behavior	57	144	605	412	114	1,332
16-Grad requirements	87	174	532	372	165	1,330
16-PGPs	112	261	411	261	285	1,330
16-Financial aid/scholarships	112	247	395	280	286	1,320
16-College opportunities	108	208	456	296	251	1,319
16-Career opportunities	116	255	402	240	299	1,312
17. Provide info in home lang	56	57	427	629	180	1,350
18. Help with homework	110	245	559	347	81	1,342
	No	Yes	N/A	Total		
19-School meetings	374	883	113	1,370		
19-Conferences	332	758	270	1,360		
19-Fundraising	399	780	156	1,335		
19-Committees	508	616	210	1,334		
19-Sport, art, performance events	336	898	129	1,363		
19-Academic events	405	734	202	1,341		
19-Other special events	367	780	202	1,349		
	Diploma	Cert/Assoc	Bachelors	Grad/Prof	Military	
20. My goals for my child include:	846	331	898	696	68	

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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