

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Agenda Item# 9.3

Meeting Date: July 21, 2011

Subject: East/Central Community High School Survey Report



Community High School Survey Full Report

June 2011



Overview

There has been much discussion about the need for a comprehensive high school to serve the East Sacramento, Midtown, and Oak Park neighborhoods. To advance the discussion between these communities and the school district, a survey was conducted in June 2011. The survey collected perceptions from the community regarding how well their high school education needs are being met, the need for a comprehensive high school, and suggestions for improving services.

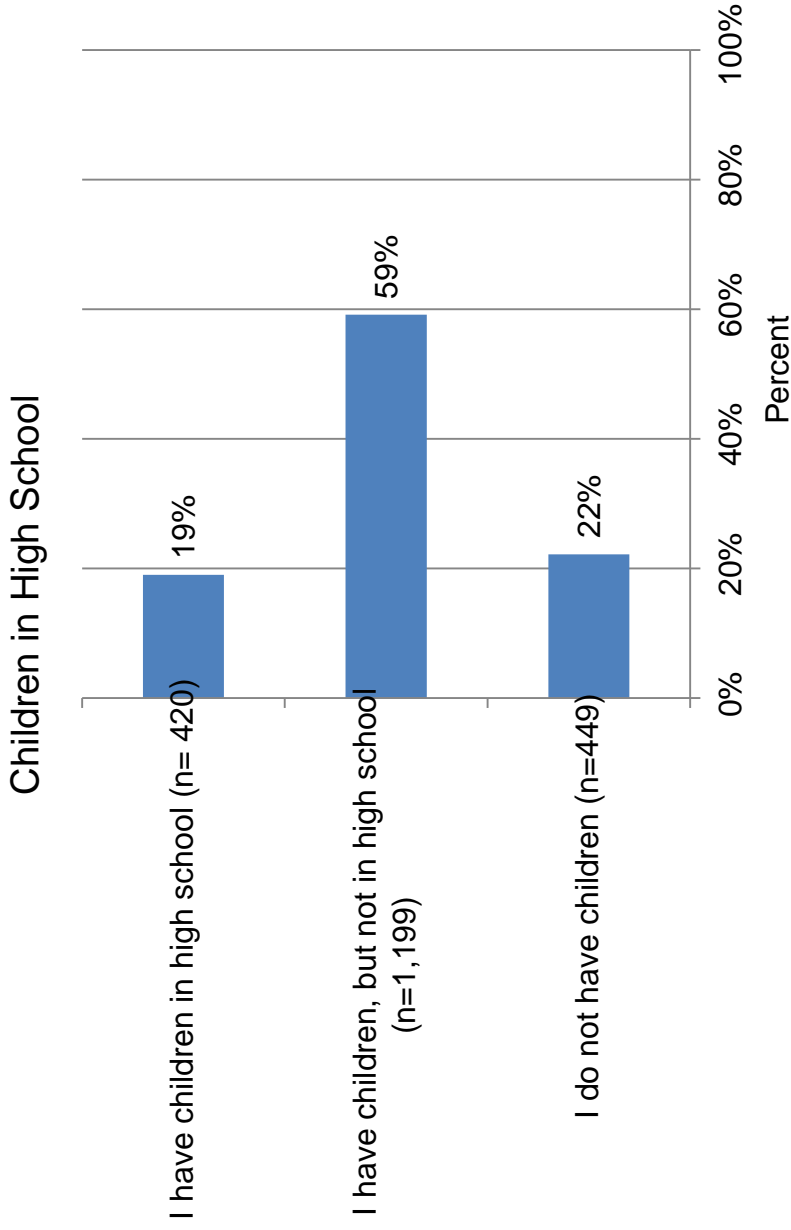
The survey was administered online. Postcard invitations were disseminated to 76,567 community members; these invitations included a direction and a single-use password for accessing the survey. In addition, a public link to the survey was provided on the school district website, making the survey available to anyone who may not have received a postcard invitation. Individuals wishing to complete the survey, but who do not have computer access at home or work, could complete the survey at the district office, school, or library. In addition, provisions were made for the survey to be completed by telephone if other computer access was not available.

Participation

A total of 1,436 individuals responded to the 76,567 post card invitations (1.9%). An additional 591 individuals responded to the survey as posted on the [•] [•] [•]

Children in High School

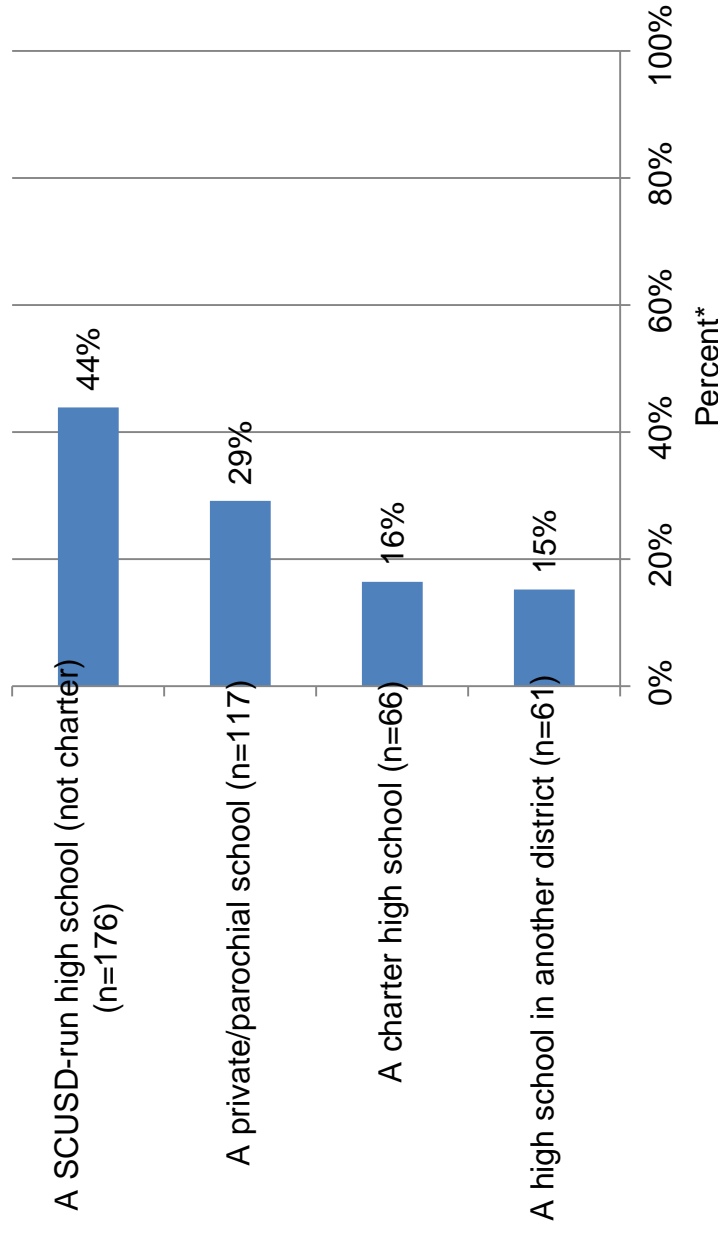
The survey respondents indicated whether they have children in high school. Most of the survey respondents indicated that they either do not have children in high school at this time (59%) or do not have children at all (22%). That is, as many as 81% of the respondents are not immediately impacted by a high school.



Respondent Descriptions

Of the respondents who said they have a child in high school, most (44%) said they attend a SCUSD, non-charter high school. About one-third of the respondents said they have a child in a private/parochial school (29%). Few of these respondents indicated that they have a child in a charter high school (16%) or in another school district (15%).

Where Children Attend High School



* Total percentages exceed 100% because respondents may select more than one option.

Major Questions Addressed

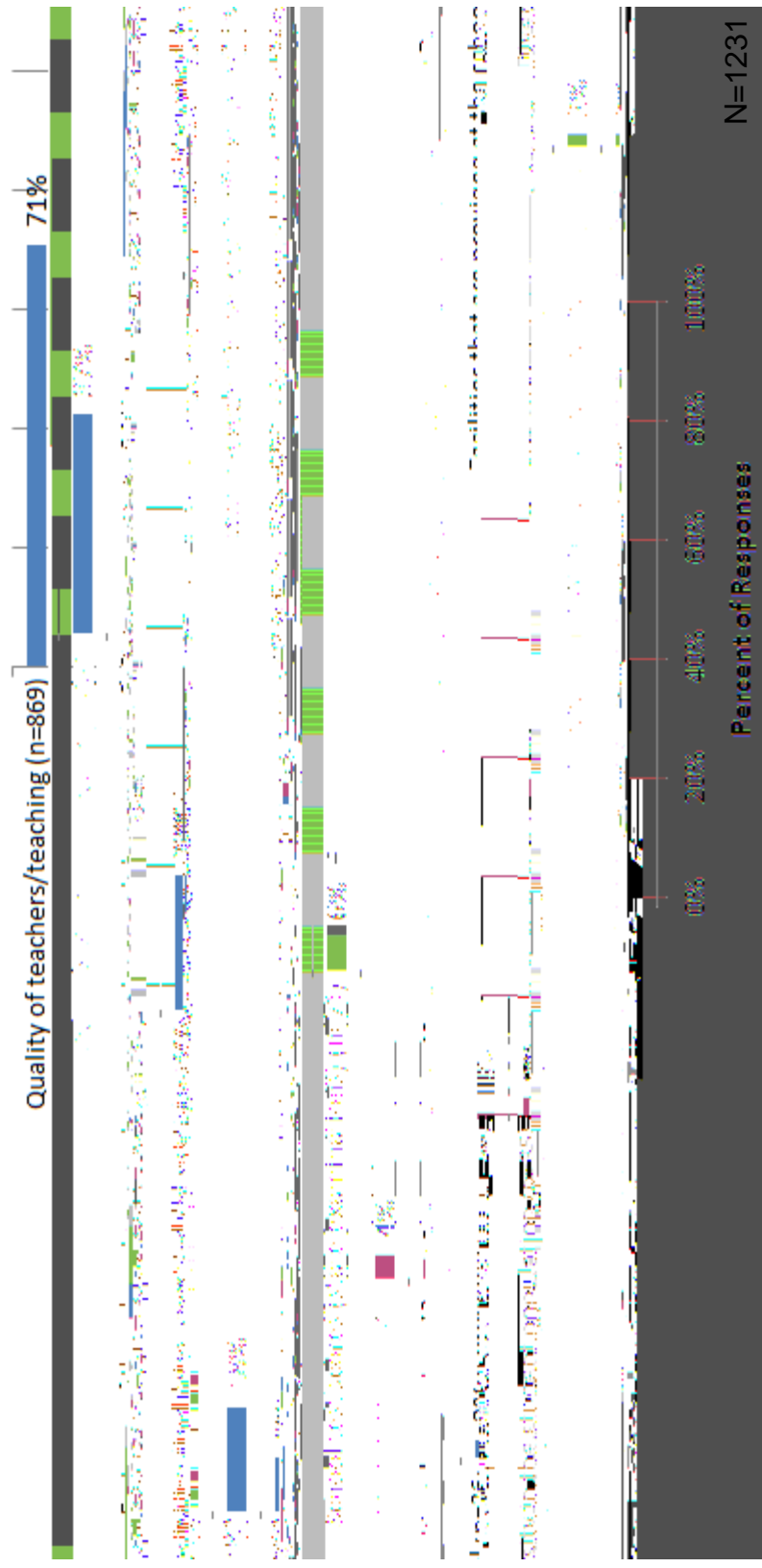
- Most important factor when deciding where to send child to high school (open-ended) v Slide 6
- Importance of a comprehensive high school (closed) v Slide 7
- Importance of distance to school (closed) v Slide 8
- Views on distance and available programs (open) v Slide 9
- Relative importance of high school programs (rankings) v Slide 10
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All Parents 2 Most Important Factor

What is the most important factor for you when deciding where to send your child to high school?

Open-Ended Question, Total of percentages may exceed 100%

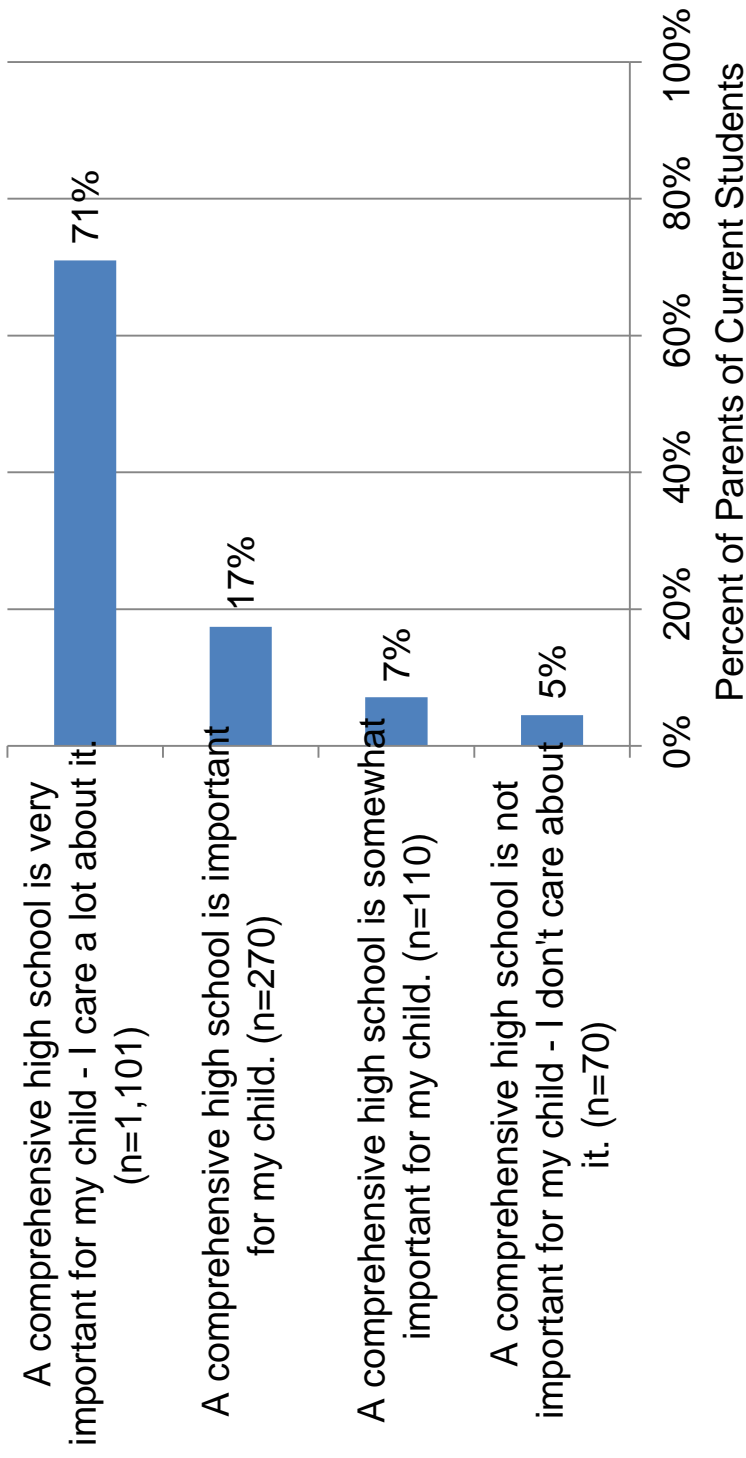
The quality of teachers and teaching was mentioned more often than any other factor (in 71% of the responses) for deciding where to send children to high school. The second most commonly mentioned item, safety and student behavior, was noted about half as often (37% of the responses). Distance to school and availability of extracurricular activities were each mentioned by about one-quarter of the respondents.



All Parents 2 Comprehensive High School

How important is it that your child's high school be a comprehensive high school? A comprehensive high school offers a broad curriculum, with extracurricular activities such as sports and band, to meet the needs of all students. In contrast, there are high schools that offer specialized study such as a focus on a particular subject (like math, science, or the arts), or training for a particular career.

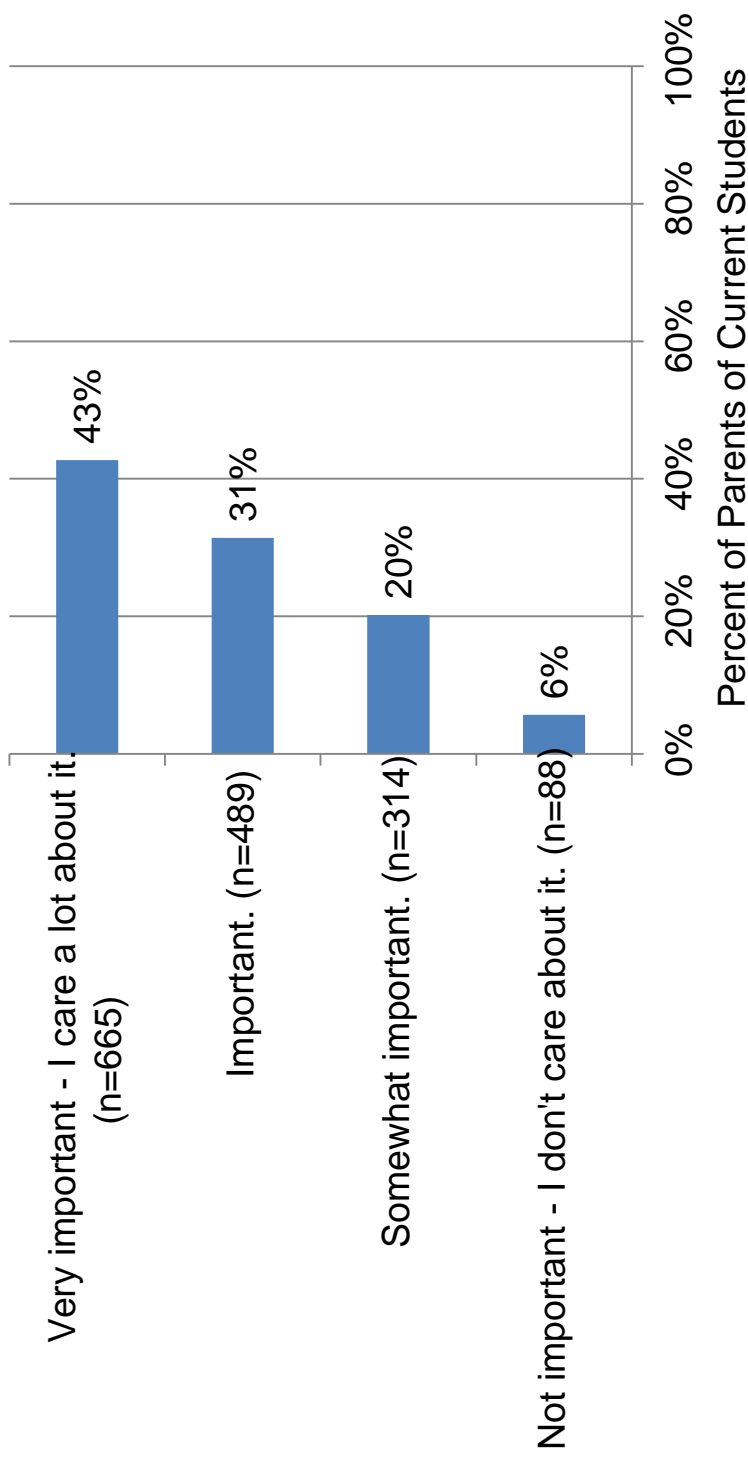
Most parents (88%) indicated that the availability of a comprehensive high school is important or very important for their child.



All Parents ² Distance to School

When it comes to deciding where to send your child to high school, how important is the distance that your child has to travel to school?

Most parents (74%) also indicated that the distance between home and the school is also important or very important.

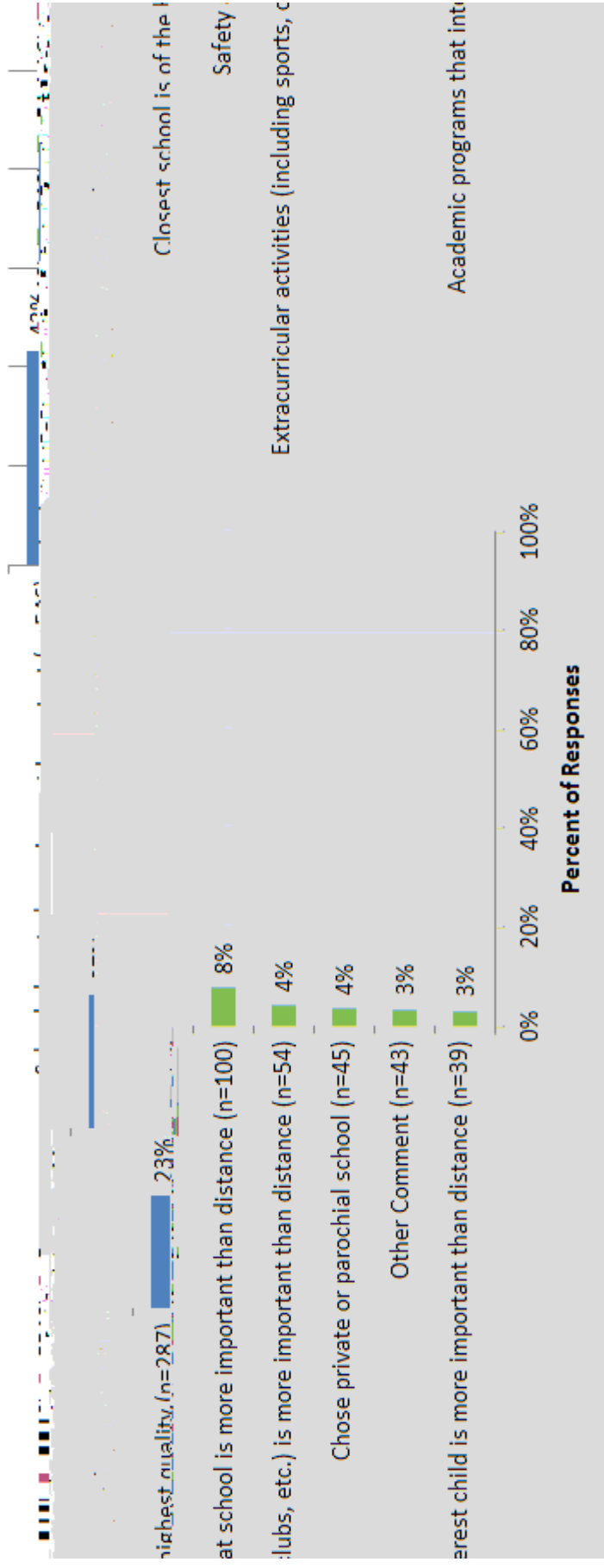


All Parents 2 Views on Distance and Available Programs

We would like to better understand your views about the distance to school and the high school programs available in choosing where to send your child. Please share with us how distance and available programs affect your decision.

Open-Ended Question, Total of percentages may exceed 100%

When asked to reflect on the relationship between distance and the programs offered by the school in their decision making, most indicated that distance was a more important

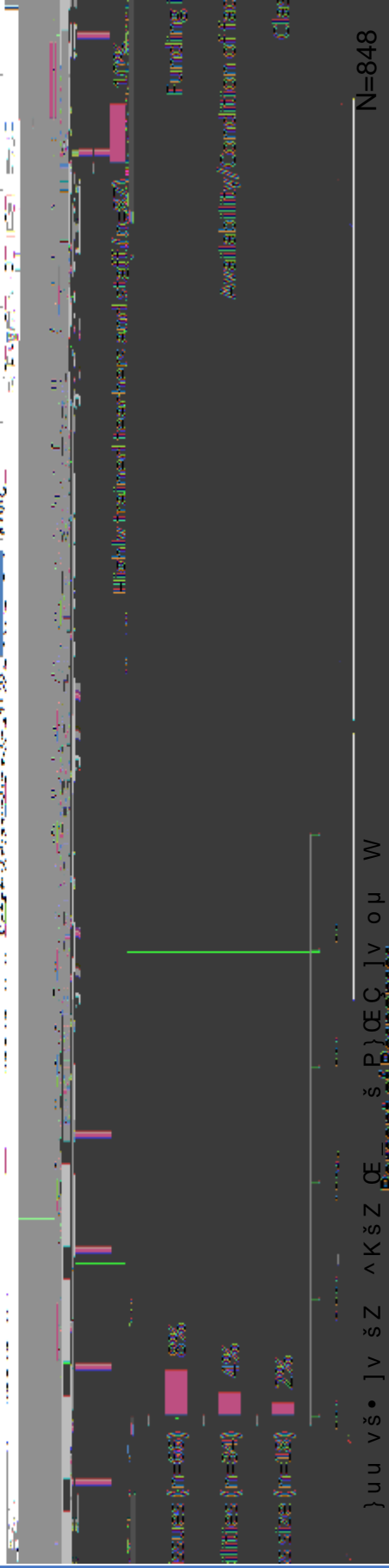
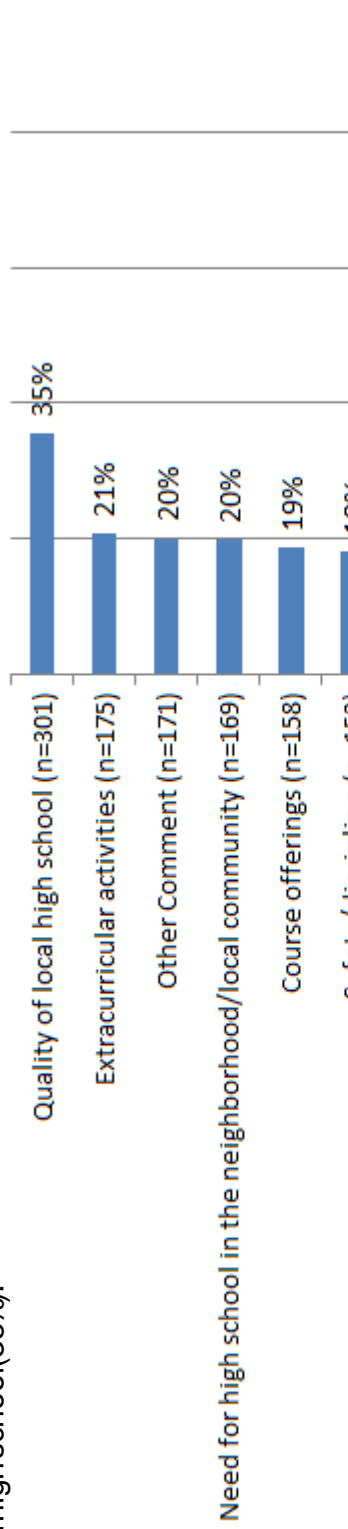


All Parents 2 Concerns about High School

Are you concerned your child's high school or future high school does not have some of the things you consider important to a good education? If so, please list them and make any suggestions for what the district should do in response to this concern.

Open-Ended Question; Total of percentages may exceed 100%

A broad range of concerns were offered, with little consensus noted. The most commonly mentioned concern was the quality of the local high school (35%).



- Do not have any children.
- Complaints about how specific classes are taught.
- Comments about personal living situation.
- Not enough knowledge about the schools in Sacramento.
- General complains about the school district (school district is dysfunctional, uses outdated models, type of people at the schools).
- Decided to send child to home school/private school/ other

All Parents 2 Proposed Solutions

If you feel that the high school needs within the communities of East Sacramento, Midtown, or Oak Park are not being met, what specific solutions do you suggest?

Open-Ended Question; Total of percentages may exceed 100%

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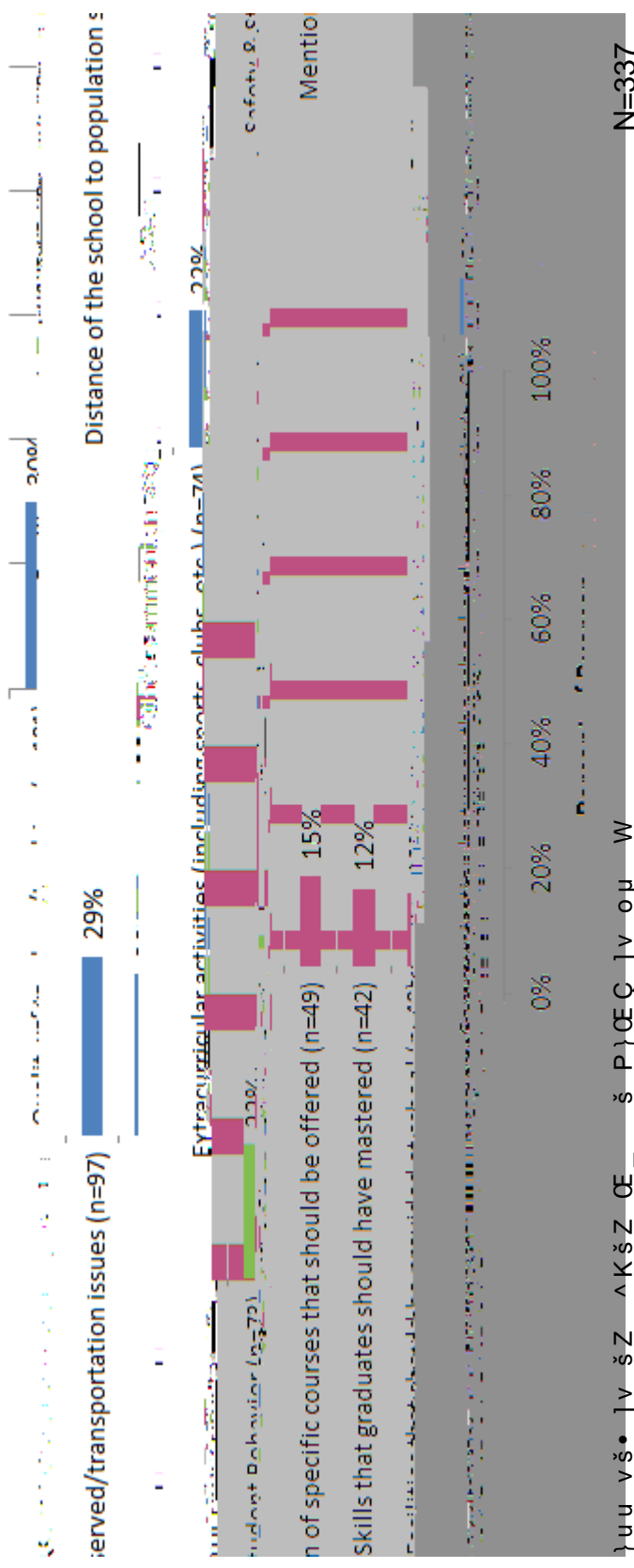
- Non-specific statement of a problem.
- General statement of need for comprehensive school.
- Need to involve the community in school planning.
- More/fewer charter schools

Feedback from Residents Who Do Not Have Children

Your views as a resident of this community who does not have children in school are still very important for the planning of school services. Please share with us thoughts about what a high school should provide in your community.

Open-Ended Question; Total of percentages may exceed 100%

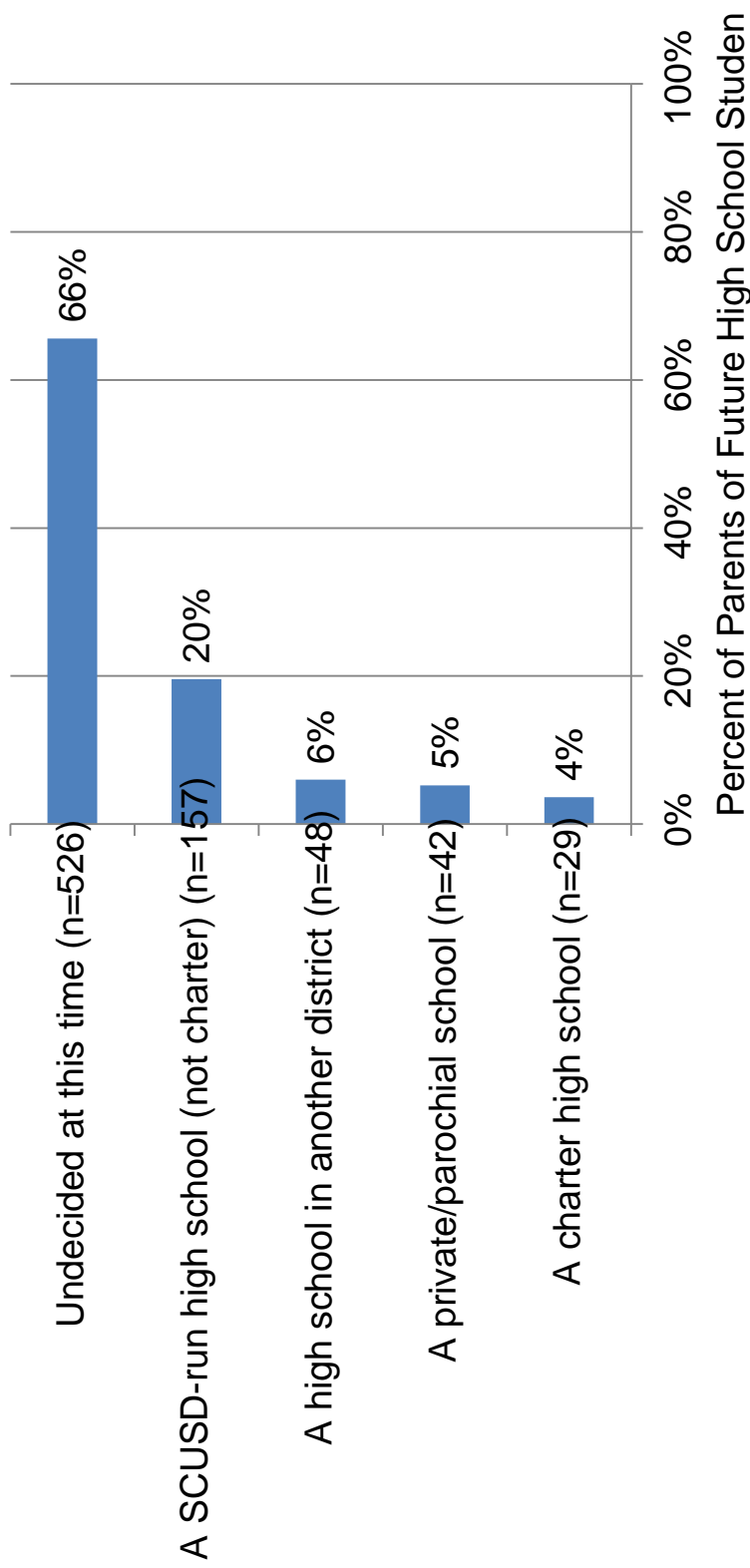
Non-parents also had an opportunity to express their views about the



- Favor small high schools
- Question about how to provide more input
- Support for public schools.
- Area X needs a high school.
- Need to consider the demographics of the area to be served.
- Fairness of school taxes paid by parents
- Comparison of importance to the community of schools and other public services.

Parents of Future High School Students

802 (67%) of respondents indicated they would have children attending high school in the future. Of these parents, most (66%) were undecided as to where they would send their child to high school in the future.



Next Steps

- #Boarddiscussion
- #Shareresultswith public via district website

