

# The Parent Voice Survey: 2026

Empowering families as valued partners and advocates in Ontario Catholic Education.

This diagnostic report gathers the voices, insights, and experiences of parents across Ontario. It explores enduring priorities—faith formation, community connection, and student well-being—alongside emerging complexities like artificial intelligence in the classroom.

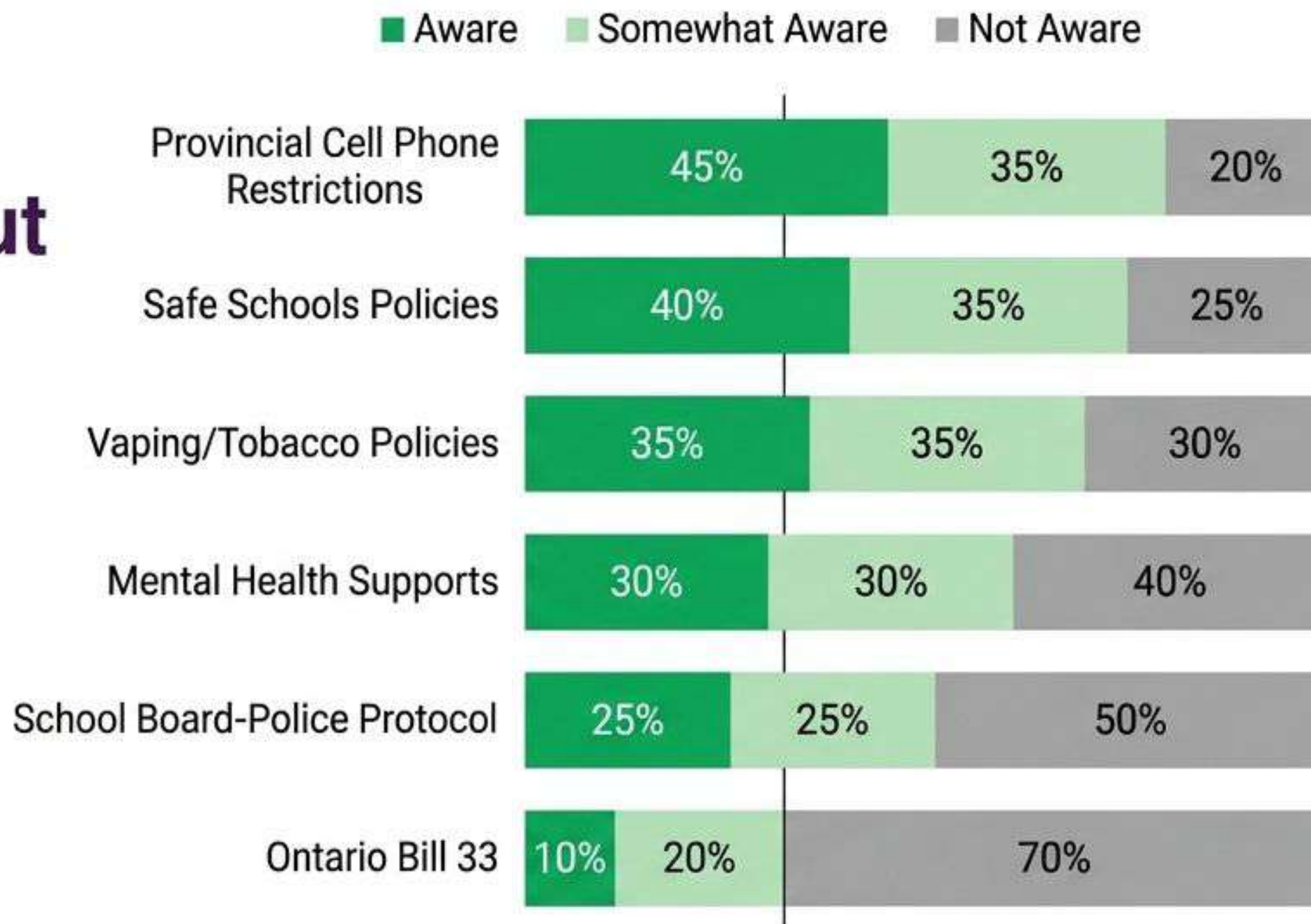
**These perspectives are vital. They shape our understanding of what families value most, inform future planning, and ensure that parent voices continue to sustain Catholic education in Ontario.**



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# Parents show strong awareness of visible classroom policies, but legislative initiatives lag behind.

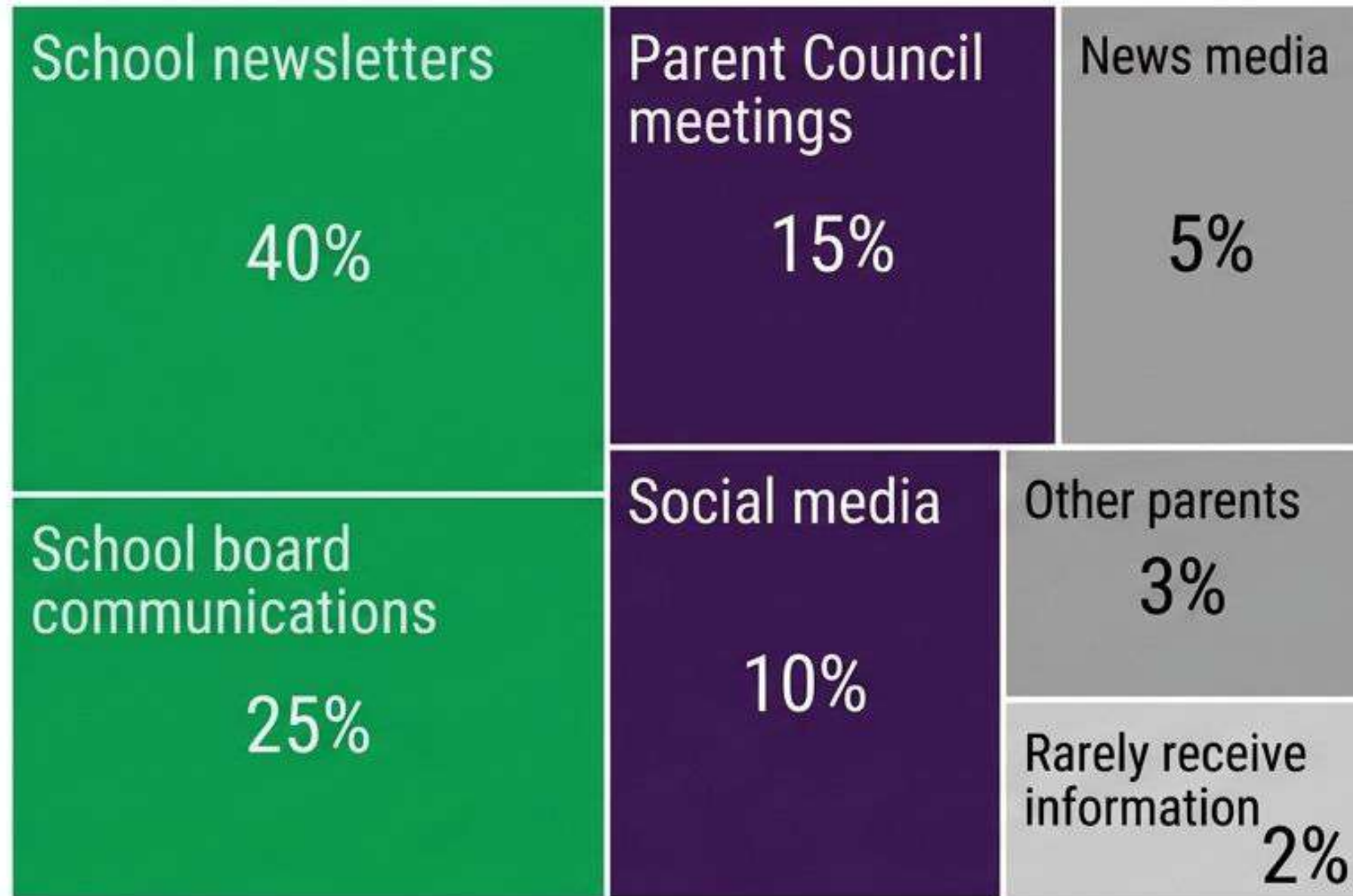
*Survey Question: Level of awareness of Ontario Ministry of Education policies and provincial initiatives.*



*“I know about the cell phone ban from the news, but I’m less clear on how Bill 33 actually impacts my child’s classroom.”*

# School-level communication remains the primary lifeline for policy updates.

Survey Question: Where do you usually learn about education policies that affect your child's school?



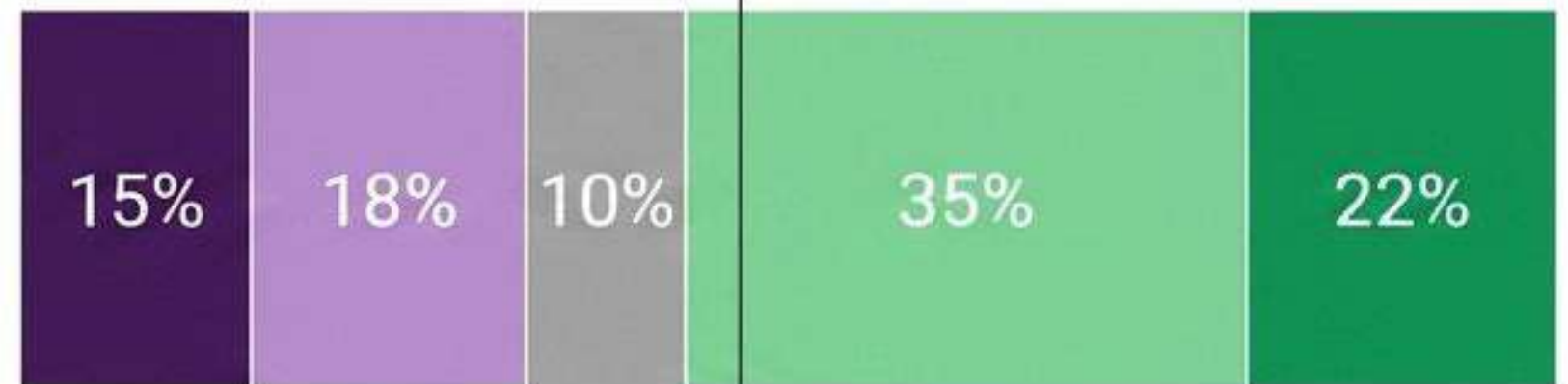
*“The school newsletter is my anchor. If it’s not in the weekly email, I likely won’t hear about the broader Ministry changes.”*



# A renewed focus on foundational skills is largely seen as a positive step for student learning.

*Survey Question: The Ministry's emphasis on foundational skills (literacy, math, STEM) is positively impacting student learning.*

■ Strongly Disagree / Disagree   ■ Neutral   ■ Agree / Strongly Agree



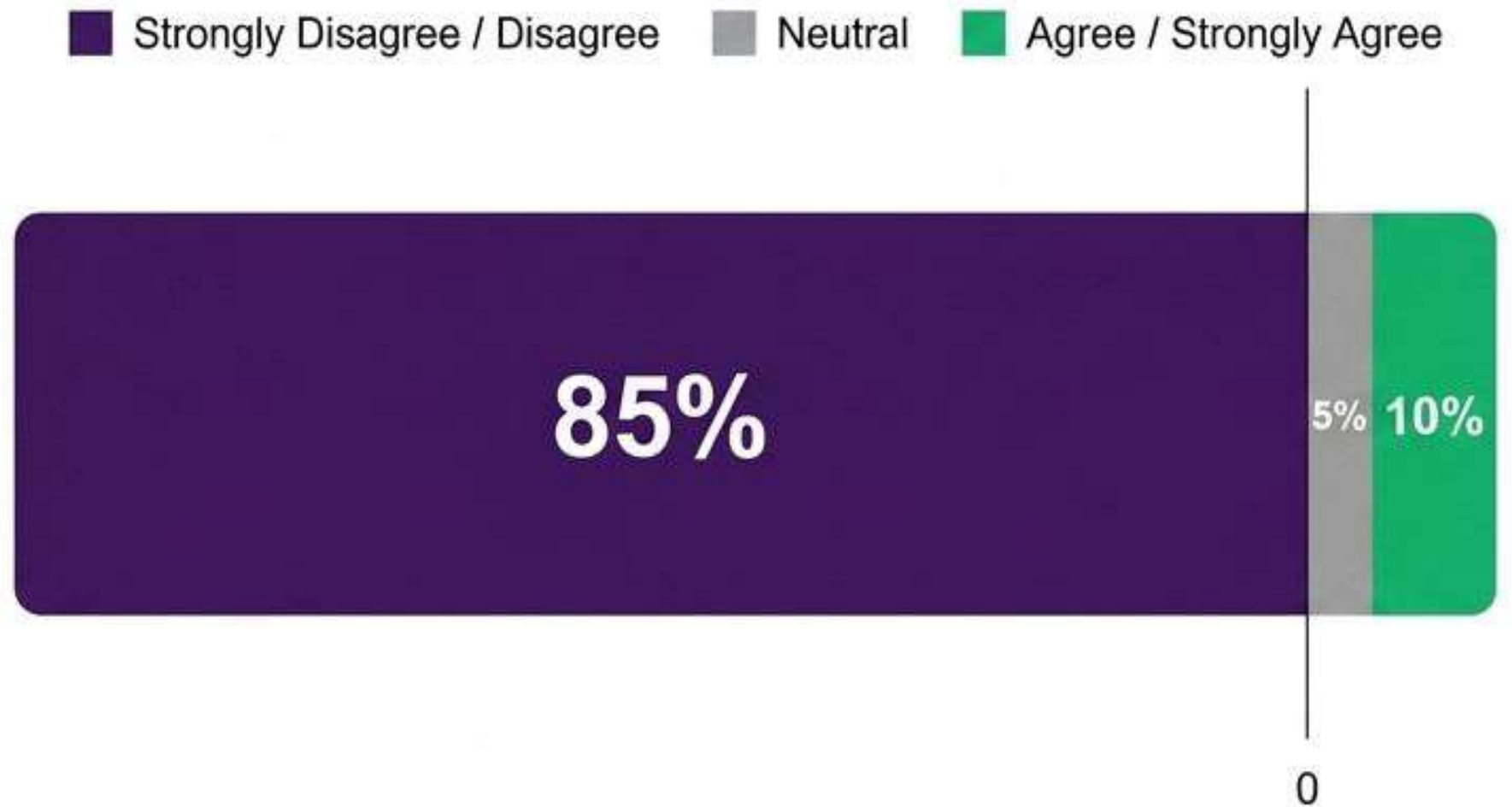
*"Seeing a stronger focus on core math and literacy gives me confidence that our kids are building the right foundation for the future."*



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# Resourcing for diverse learning needs remains a critical area of parental concern.

*Survey Question: My child's school has adequate staffing and resources to support students with diverse learning needs.*



***“Our educators are wonderful, but you can see they are stretched thin. We need more specialized support staff in the classrooms to truly serve every child.”***



# Parents report that violence in schools impacts their children.

**Survey Question 7:** School violence has had a negative impact on my child.

■ Strongly Disagree / Disagree   ■ Neutral   ■ Agree / Strongly Agree

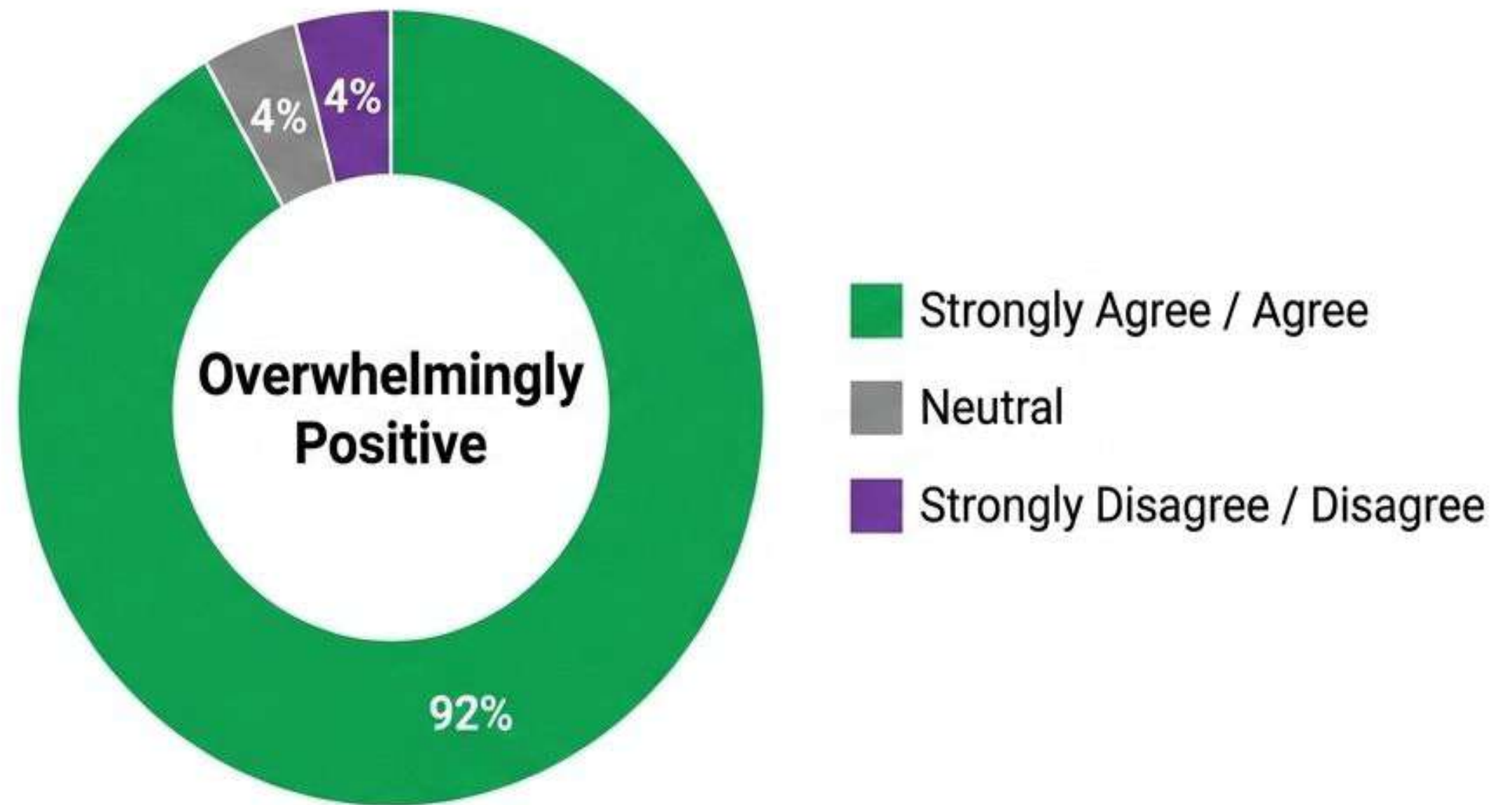


*“My child has become anxious about going to school because of the fights they see in the hallways. It’s affecting their learning.”*



# Overwhelmingly Positive Chart

Survey question: Do you agree that the current environment is overwhelmingly positive?

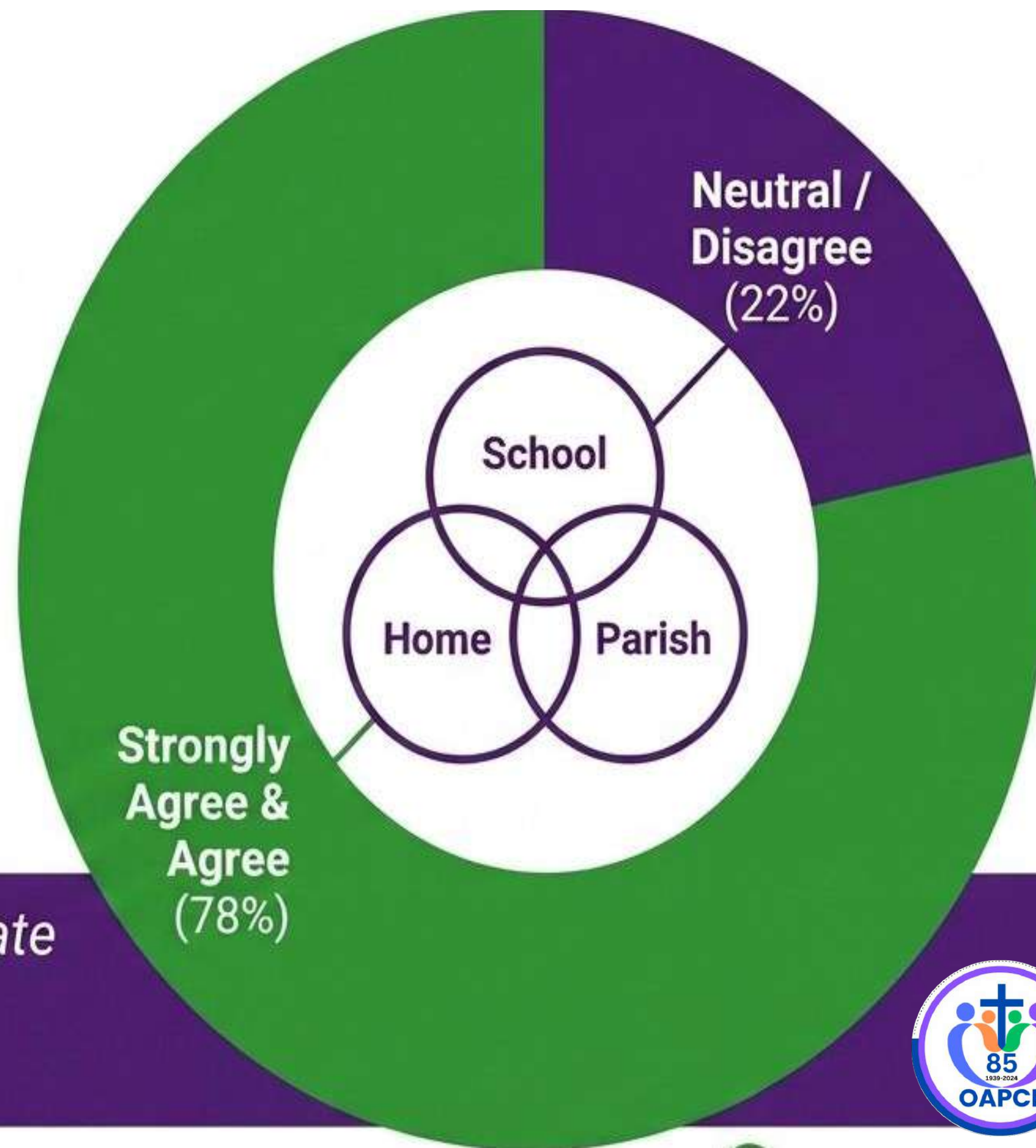


*"The content communicated has been overwhelmingly positive."*

# The triad of School, Home, and Parish remains the cornerstone of our community.

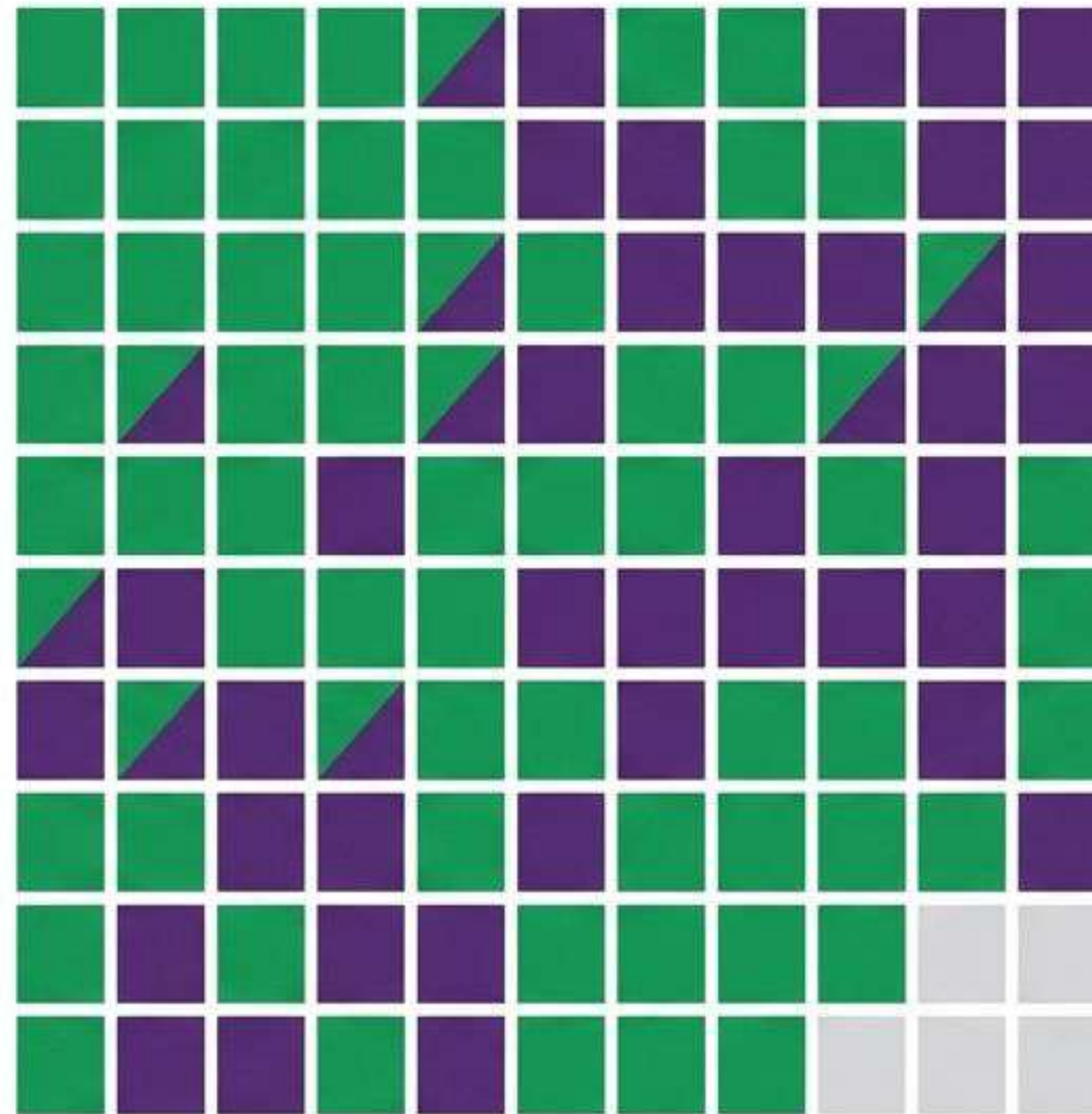
Survey context: The identifying school of School, Home, and Parish remains on our fulfill life agree, from whether the millions of the Triad of School, Health, and Parish and we preach our community environments.

*“When the parish and the school collaborate on events, it brings our faith to life for the children in a tangible way.”*



# The active promotion of Catholic teachings is a non-negotiable expectation for parents.

*Survey Question: How important is it to you that your child's school actively promotes Catholic teachings and values in today's world?*



**94%**  
Extremely Important / Very Important

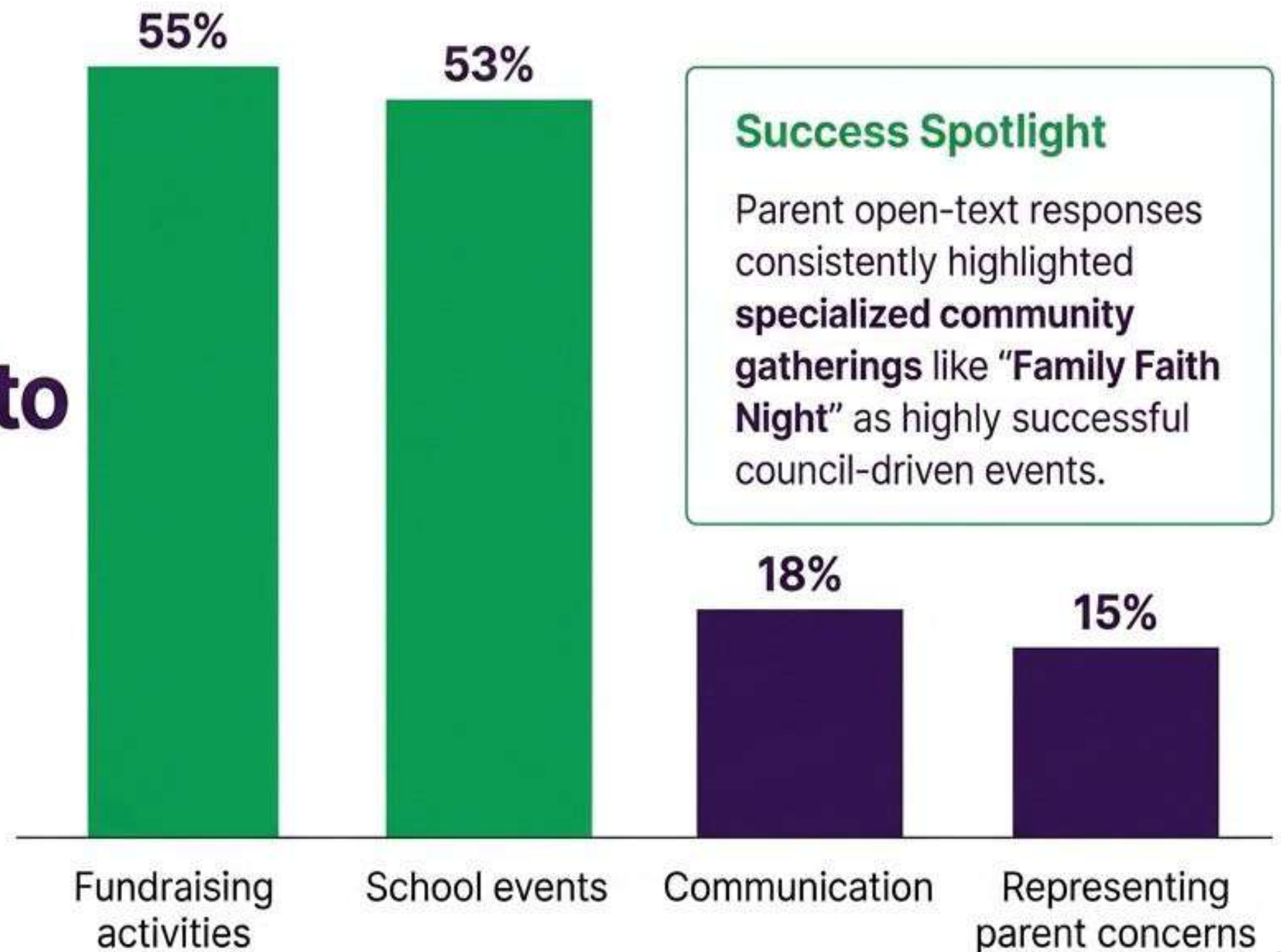
**6%**  
Somewhat / Not Important

*"We chose this system specifically for the values. We want to see those teachings clearly reflected as our children navigate today's complex world."*



# Parent Councils are viewed primarily as event drivers, with room to grow in systemic advocacy.

Survey Question: What is the main focus of your school's Parent Council?



## Success Spotlight

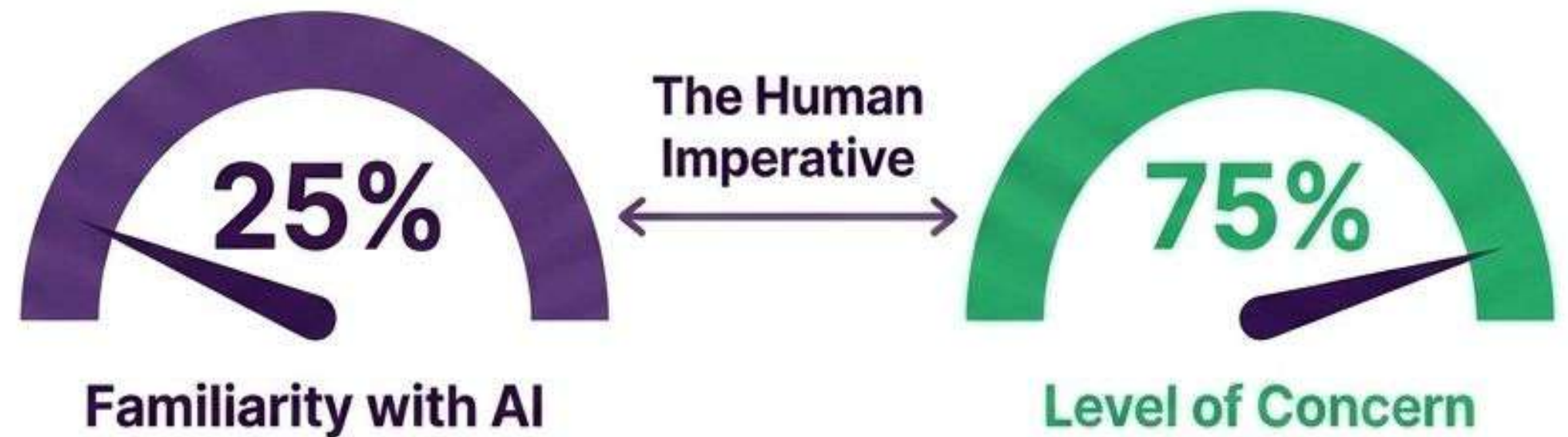
Parent open-text responses consistently highlighted **specialized community gatherings** like "Family Faith Night" as highly successful council-driven events.

*"Our council does incredible fundraising, but I'd love to see us tackle more educational advocacy and policy discussions."*



# Parents are cautious about AI, viewing it as a tool that must never replace human connection.

*Survey Context: Familiarity with AI in education vs. Concern about the impact of technology on development.*



*“AI can be a great tool for future readiness, but it can never replace the human relationships and moral guidance at the heart of our schools.”*

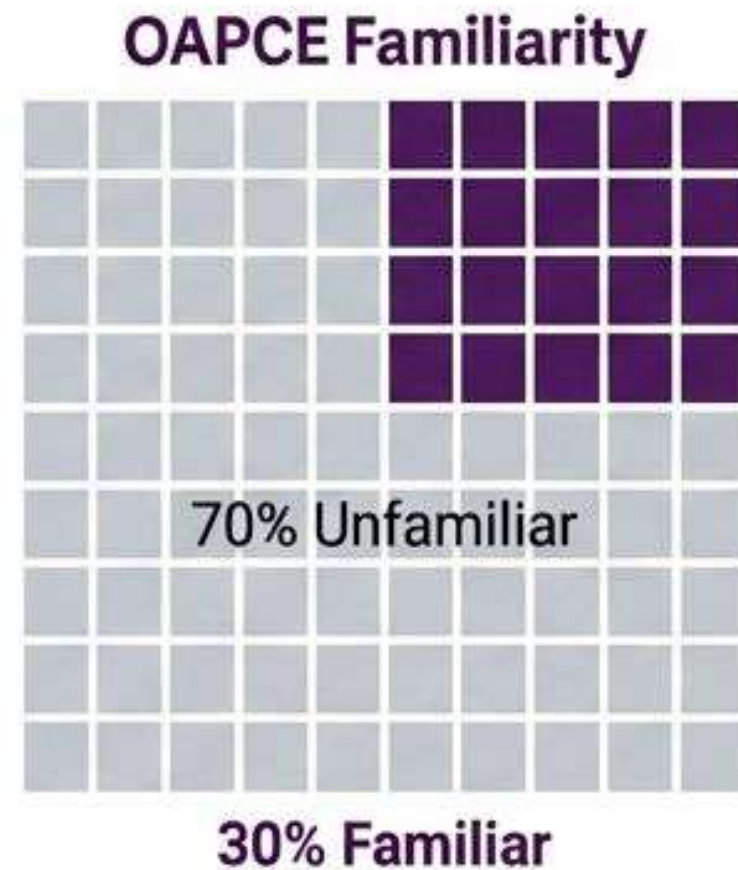


# Clear opportunities exist to elevate the visibility of OAPCE and Board multi-year plans, as current awareness is low.

*Survey Context: Parents were asked about their familiarity with OAPCE's advocacy role and their awareness of School Board multi-year plans.*

## Key Findings:

- Only 30% of parents are familiar with OAPCE's advocacy role.
- Only 24% of parents are aware of School Board multi-year plans.
- Signifies a major gap in communication and engagement.



*"I want my voice heard, but navigating the different levels of board and provincial advocacy can sometimes feel overwhelming."*



# Faith, Community, and Morality drive the deliberate choice for Catholic Education.

*Survey Question: When you chose Catholic education for your child, what mattered most to you?*



## Moral Foundation

Parents seek an environment that reinforces the ethical and moral teachings established at home.



## Faith-Based Community

A desire for a shared ecosystem where educators, families, and peers hold common values.



## Holistic Development

Focusing on the spiritual and emotional growth of the child alongside academic rigor.

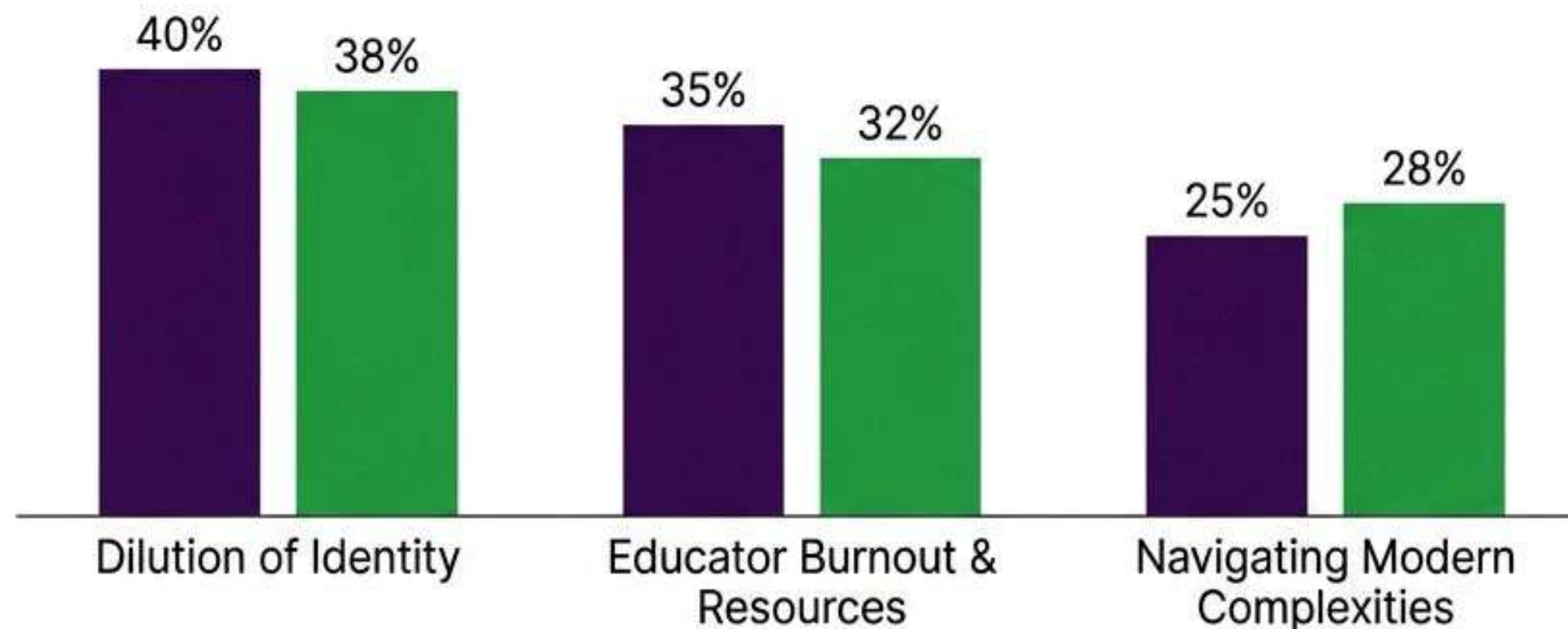
*"I wanted an environment where what we teach at the dinner table is reinforced in the classroom."*



# Parents remain vigilant about secular pressures and the realities of resource limitations.

*Survey Context: Biggest concerns for the future & Challenges in maintaining Catholic identity.*

## Thematic Distribution of Parental Concerns



*The biggest challenge is ensuring our schools clearly reflect Catholic teachings while remaining welcoming in a rapidly changing world.”*



**Despite modern challenges, the shared commitment of educators and families brings immense hope.**

*Survey Question: What gives you hope for the future of Catholic education?*

**Teachers Prayer Faith  
Community Resilience  
Resilience Partnership Youth Service**

*"The unwavering dedication of our teachers to nurture both mind and spirit is truly inspiring."*

*"The strong partnership between parents and the school community a foundation of hope for our children."*

**Thank you for making your Parent Voice heard.  
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