SOE Alumni Survey Report
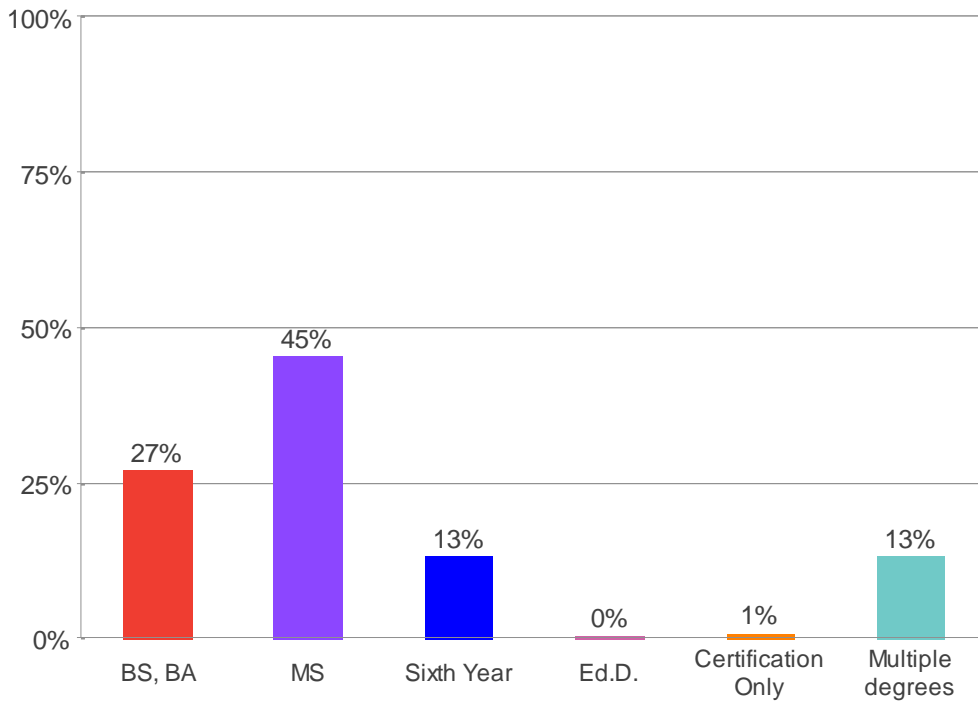
What was your major field of study during this degree?

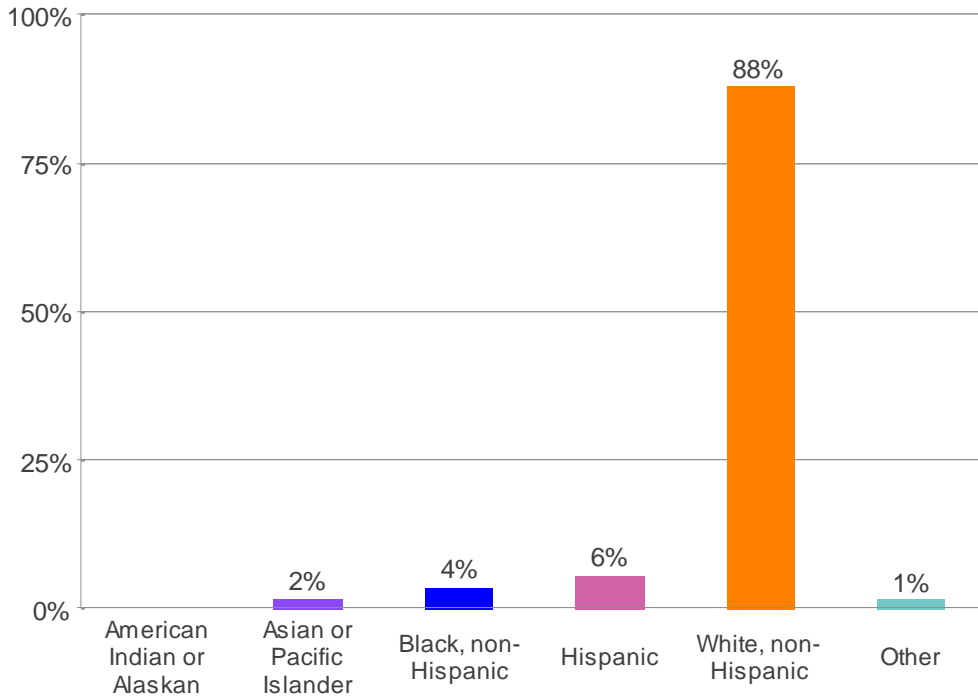|	
Art Education	15
Classroom Teacher Specialist	5
Clinical Mental Health Counseling	8
Communication Disorders	-
Educational Coach	3
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies	6
Elementary Education	77
Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education	9
Elementary/Special Education Collaborative	34
English Education	23
Exercise Science Education	13
History Education	17
Information and Library Science	31
Intermediate Administrator Certification (092)	1
Mathematics Education	9
Reading	8
Reading and Language Arts Consultant	8
Remedial Reading and Remedial Language Arts Teacher	12
School Counseling	7
School Health Education	3
School Library Media Specialist	10
School Psychology	10
Science Education	16
Special Education	58
Speech & Language Pathology	1
Superintendent of Schools Certification (093)	-
TESOL, Bilingual Education	2
World Languages Education	1
Other	3

Which of the following do you currently have?

Degree	Percentage
BS, BA	27%
MS	45%
Sixth Year	13%
Ed.D.	0%
Certification Only	1%
Multiple degrees	13%

What is the highest degree or highest level of education you hope to attain?

Degree	Percentage
Master's degree	45%
Specialist's degree/certificate of advanced study	28%
Ed.D., Ph.D, or other advanced degree	27%
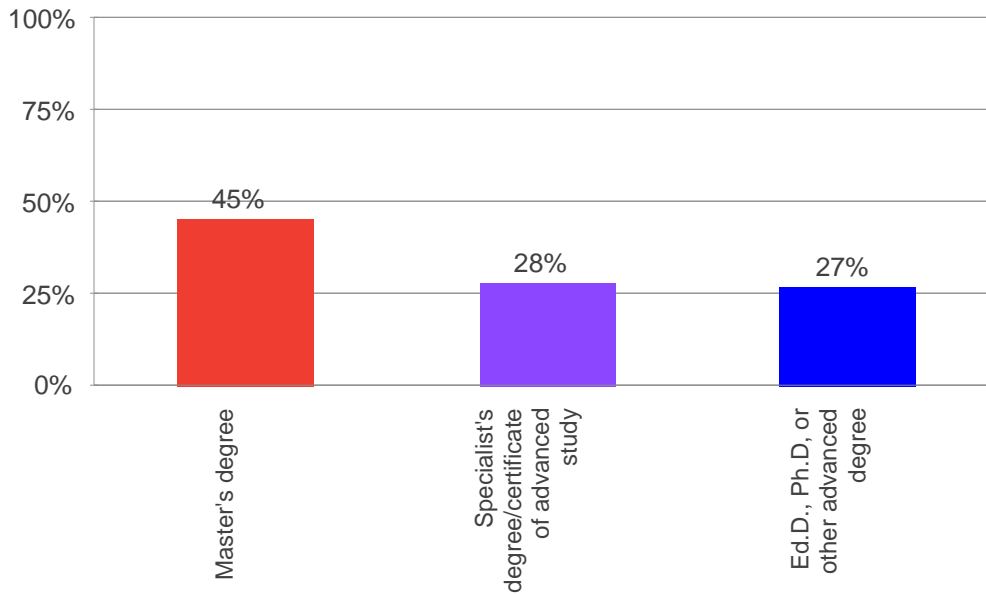
What is your ethnic background?

Category	Percentage
American Indian or Alaskan	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2%
Black, non-Hispanic	4%
Hispanic	6%
White, non-Hispanic	88%
Other	1%

Current Employment

Category	Percentage
I am employed in the field of education	79%
I am employed outside the field of education	12%
I am in Graduate/Professional School	4%
I am not employed and not currently seeking employment	1%
I am not employed and still job hunting	4%
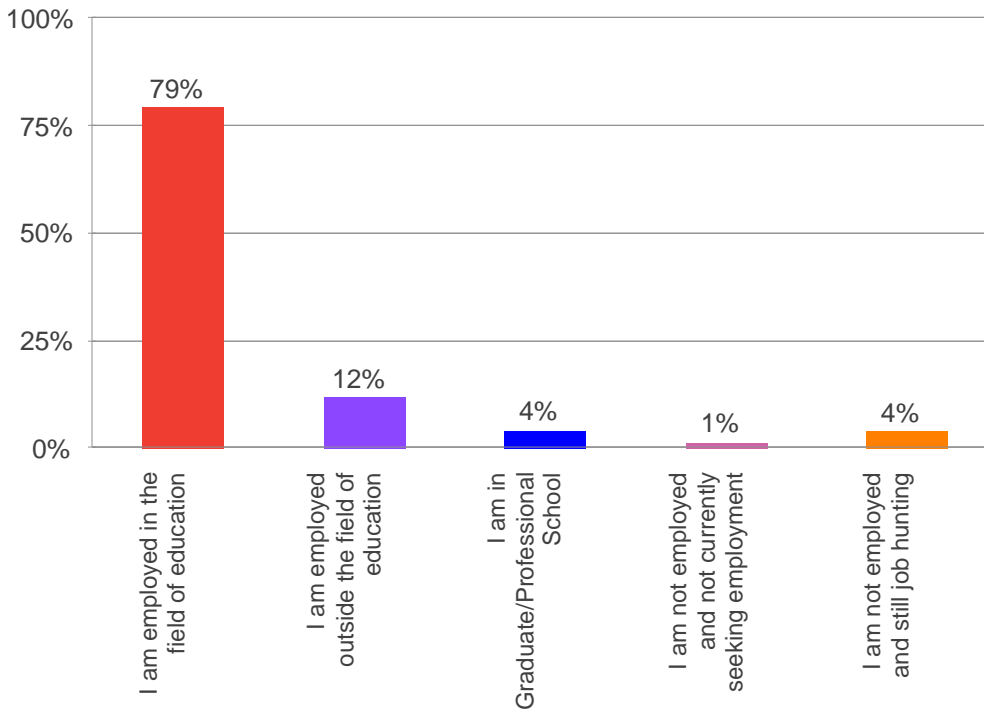
How would you describe your current position in education?

Bar chart showing:
- full-time teacher: 74%
- permanent substitute: 2%
- part-time teacher: 3%
- day-today substitute: 2%
- educational specialist (e.g., librarian, counselor): 12%
- school administrator/supervisor: 2%
- training in a non-academic setting: (0%)
- other: 5%

Salary

Bar chart showing:
- Less than $20,000: 9%
- $20,000-$40,000: 24%
- $40,000-$60,000: 44%
- $60,000-$80,000: 18%
- $80,000-$100,000: 4%
- More than $100,000: (0%)
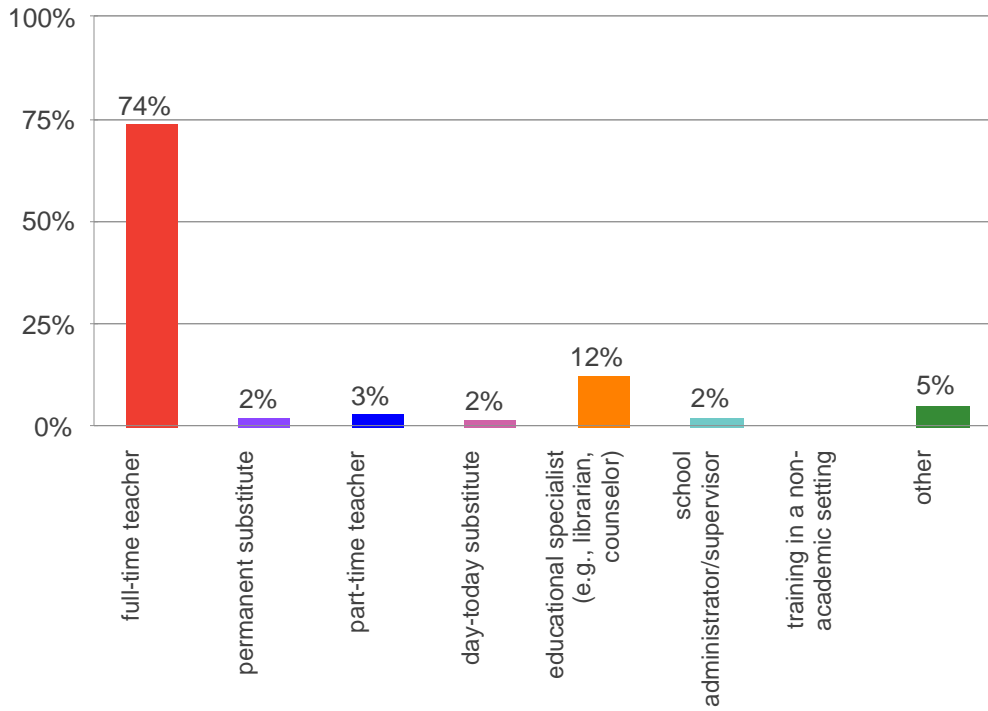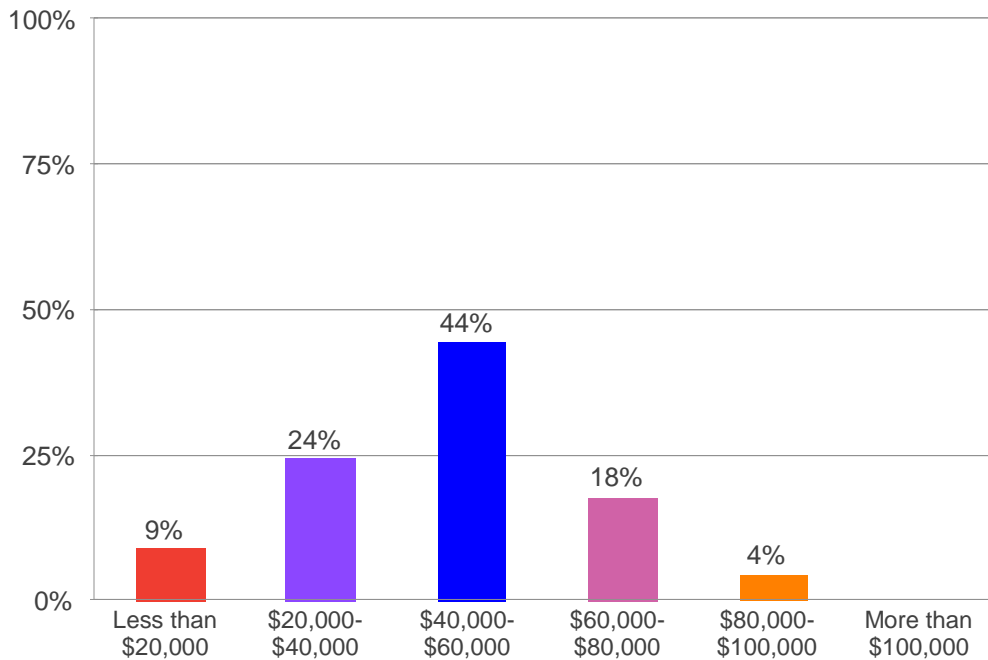
To what extent is your position connected to your most recent degree?

Response	Percentage
Directly connected	28%
Moderately connected	24%
Slightly connected	28%
Not connected	20%
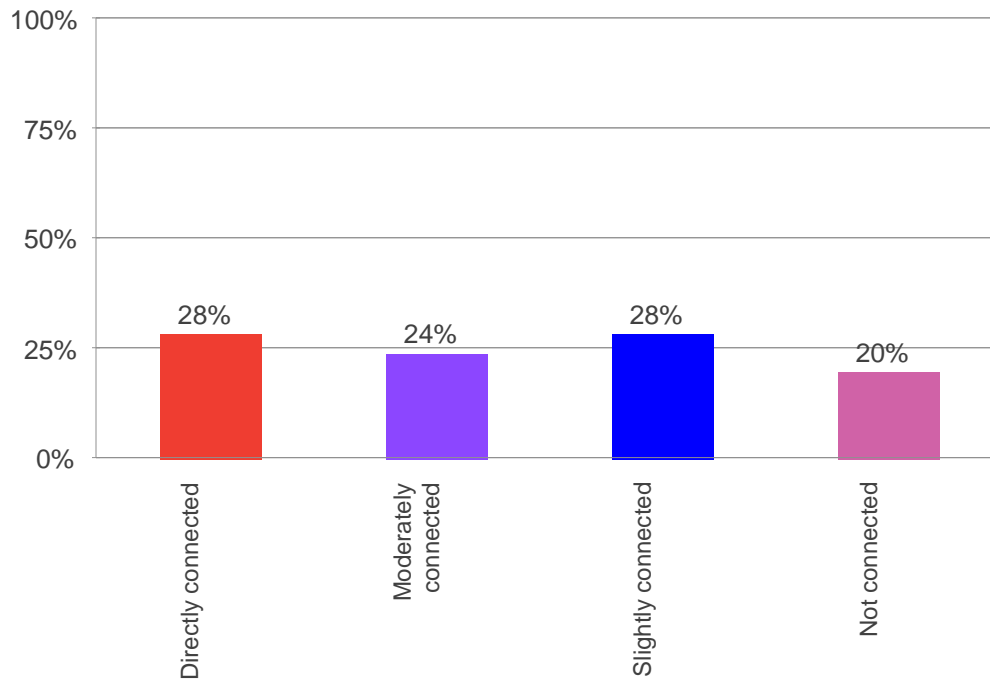
At what grade level do you teach?

Response	Percentage
Preschool	4%
Early Elementary (grades K-3)	25%
Upper Elementary (grades 4-6)	13%
Middle School/Jr. High	14%
Senior High School	26%
More than one level/K-12	18%
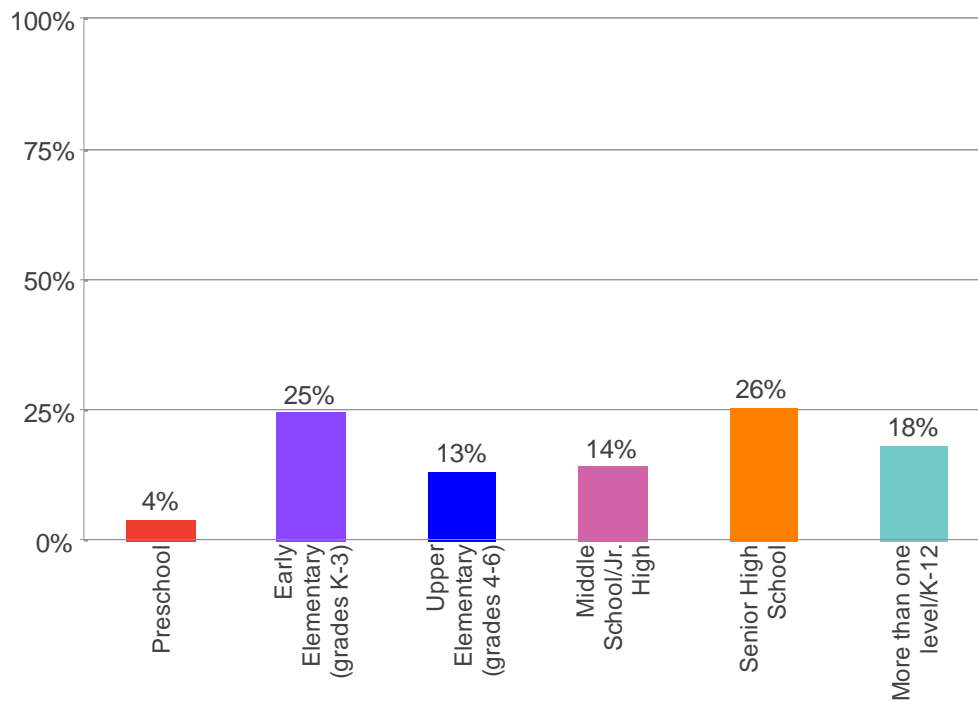
About what percent of your present teaching assignment is.in the grade(s) or subject area(s) in which you are certified/endorsed?
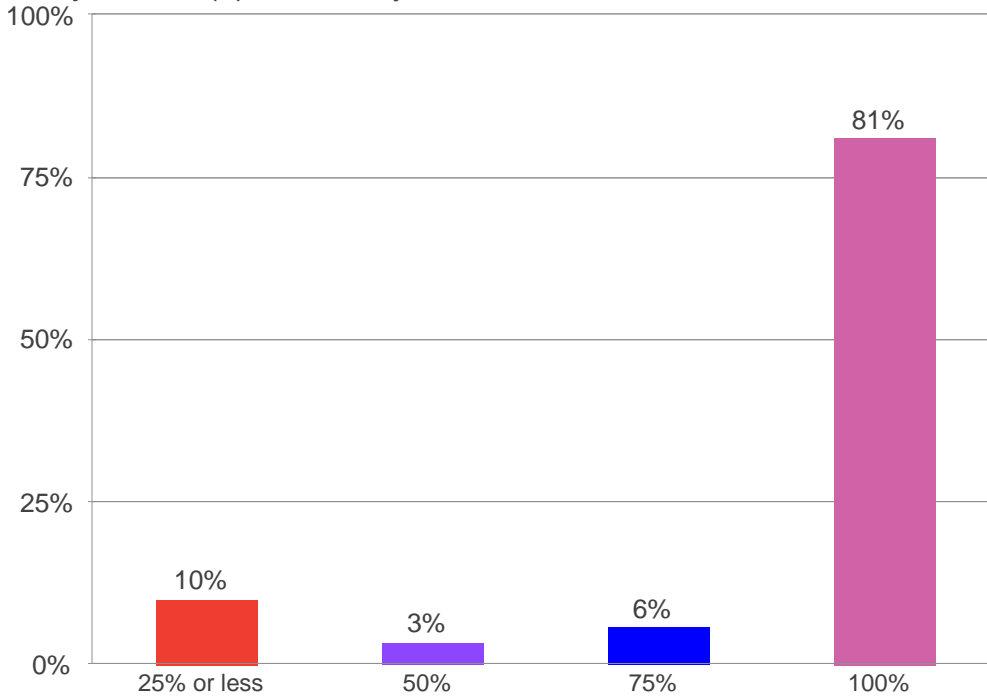
How would you describe your school: Type?

Setting:

Inner-city	Urban (pop. > 100,000)	Suburban	Town (pop. >25,000)	small town/rural
21%	22%	34%	16%	7%

Number of students:

Less than 300	300 to 599	600 to 899	900 to 1,200	More than 1,200
21%	39%	18%	10%	13%
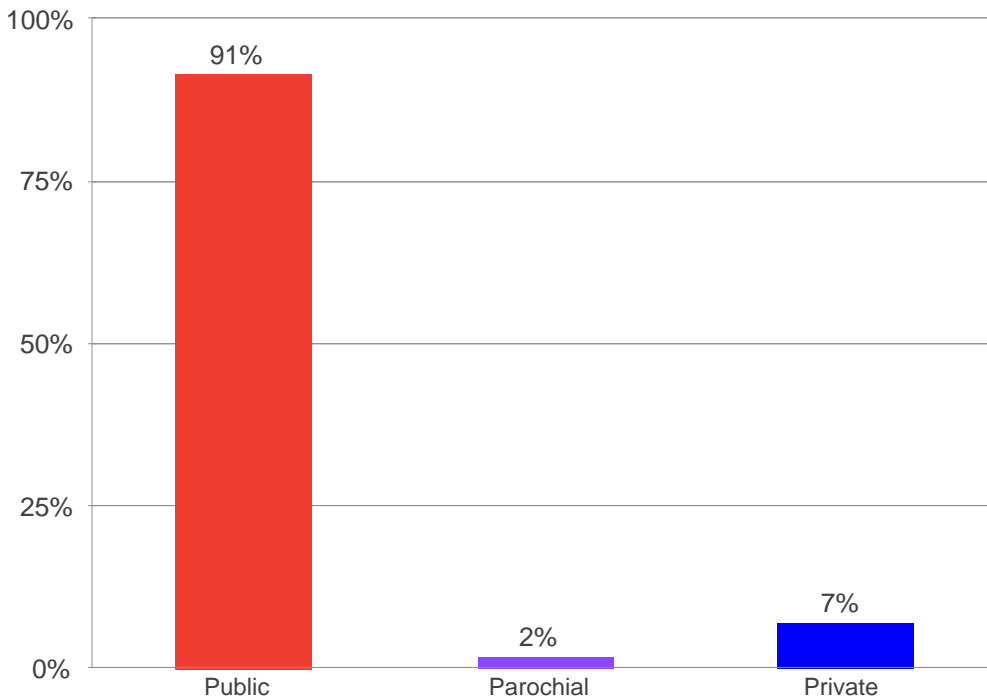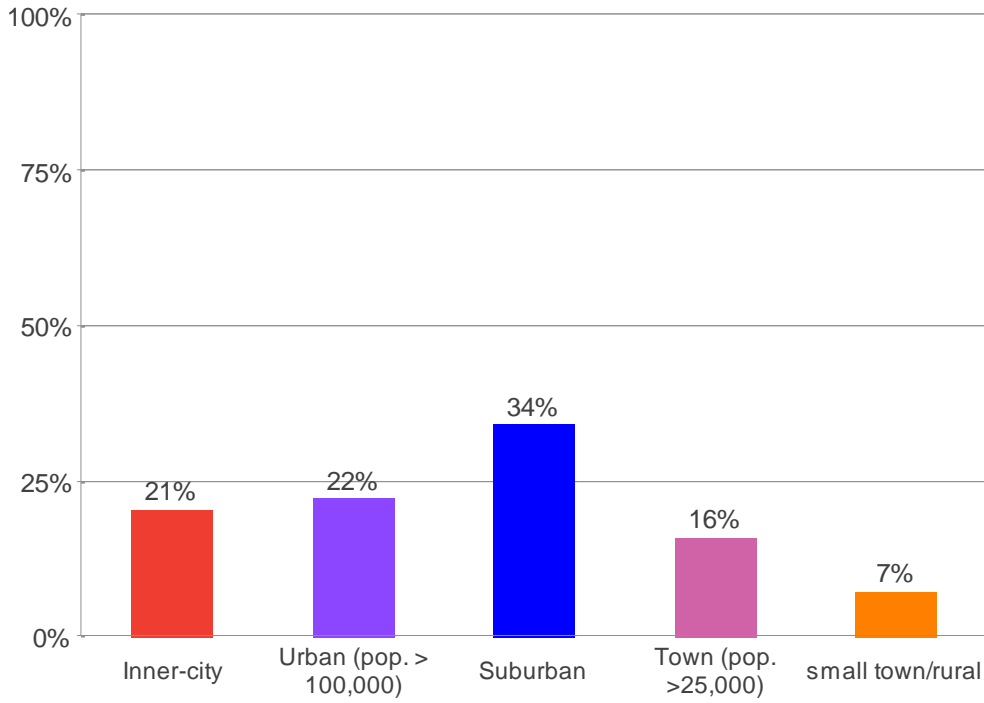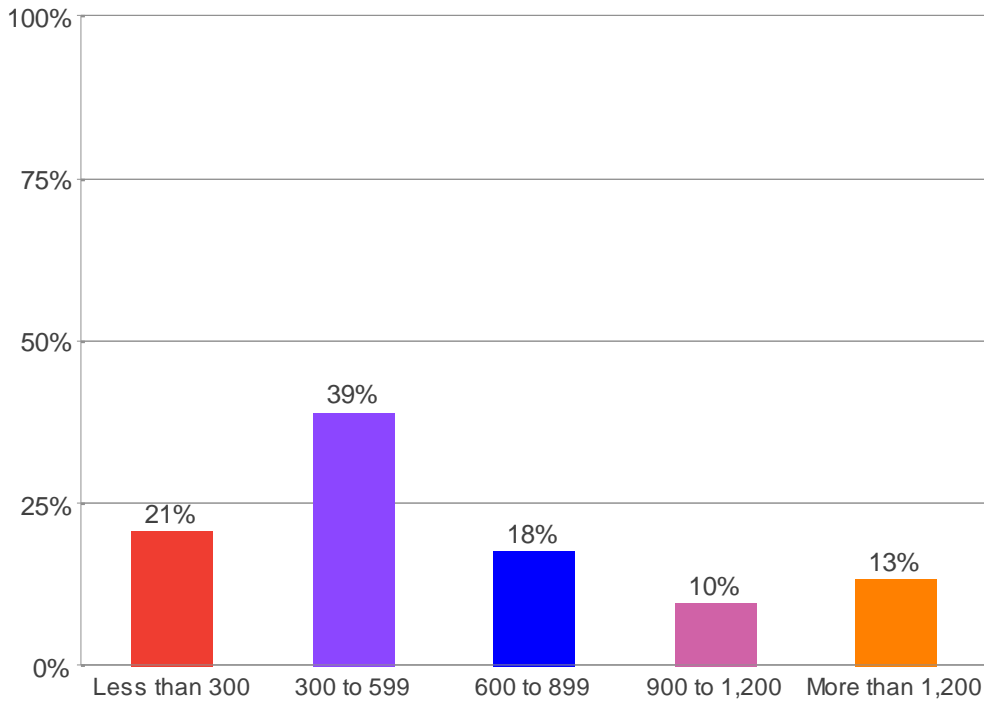
Is the school you teach located within 50 miles of the...

High school from which you graduated	10%
college from which you received your teacher preparation	13%
both of the above	62%
neither of the above	16%
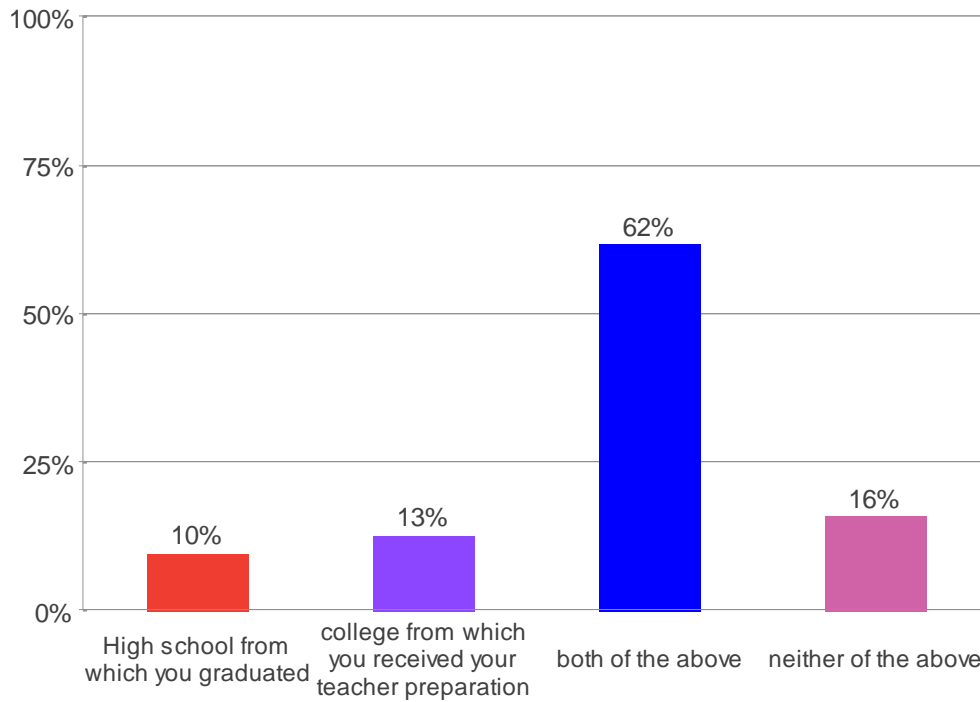
Are the socioeconomic backgrounds of most of your current students lower, higher, or similar to those of your high school classmates?

Lower	51%
Higher	12%
Similar	37%
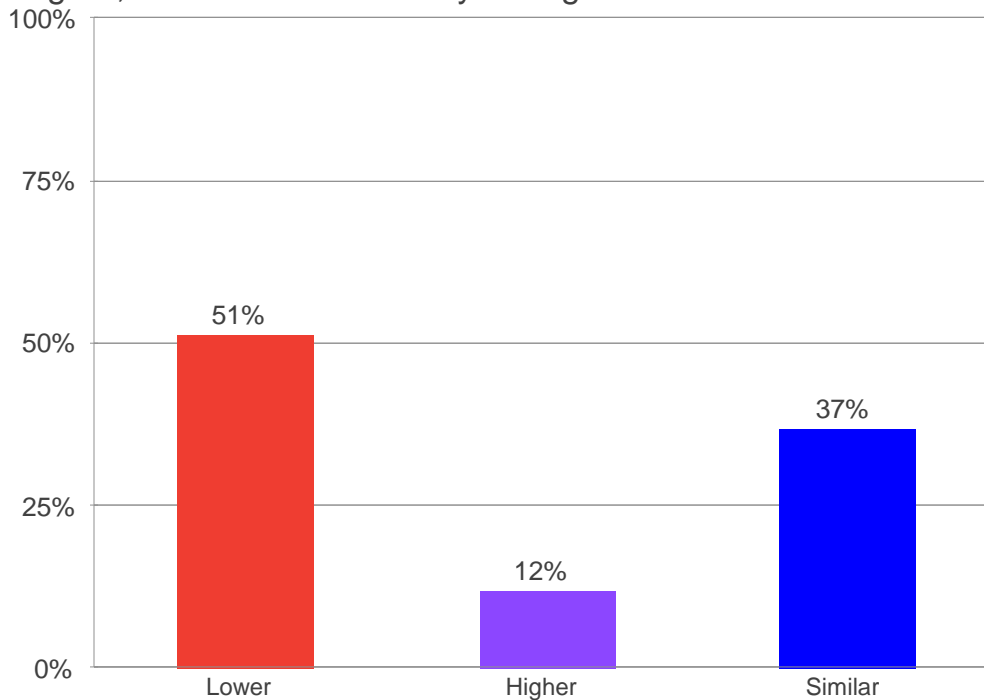
Approximately what portion of the students in your class(es) are students of color?
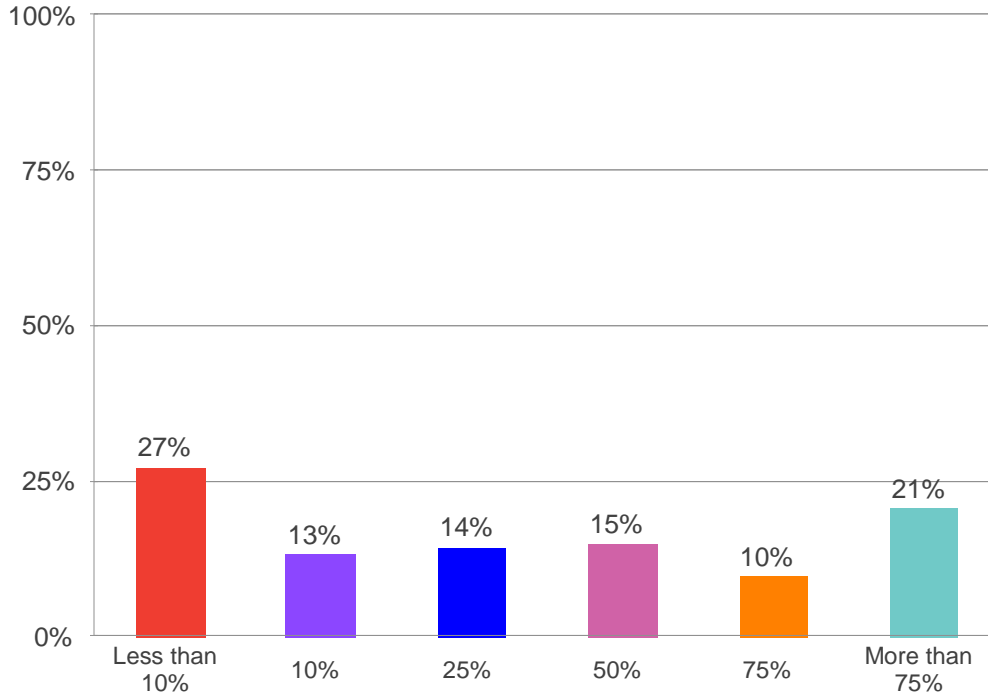
Is this percentage lower, higher, or comparable to the proportion of students of color in your high school class?
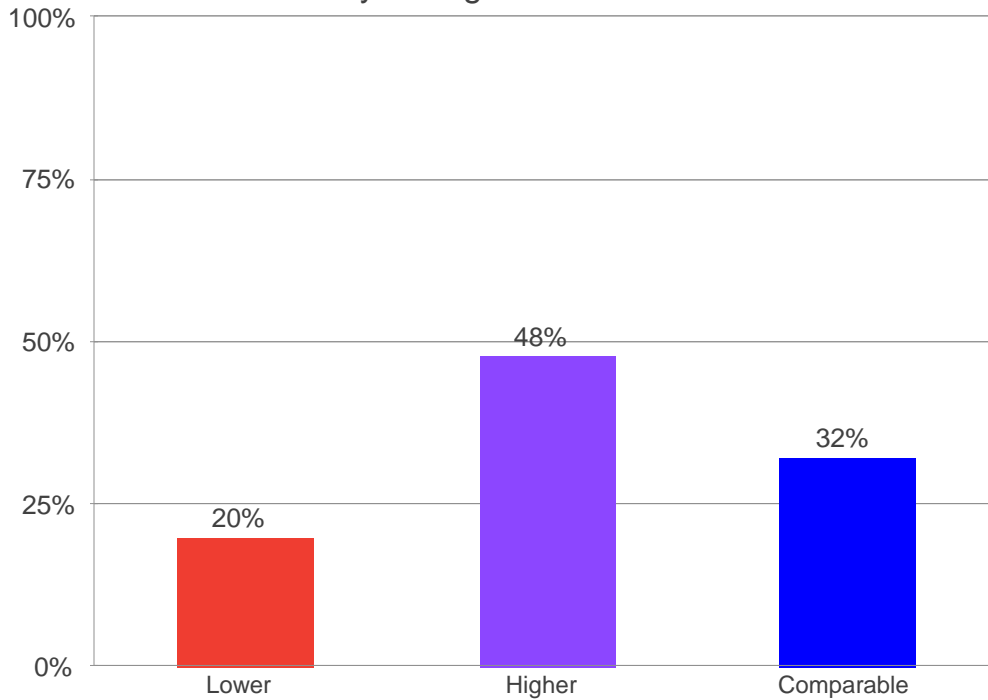
Are you a special education teacher?
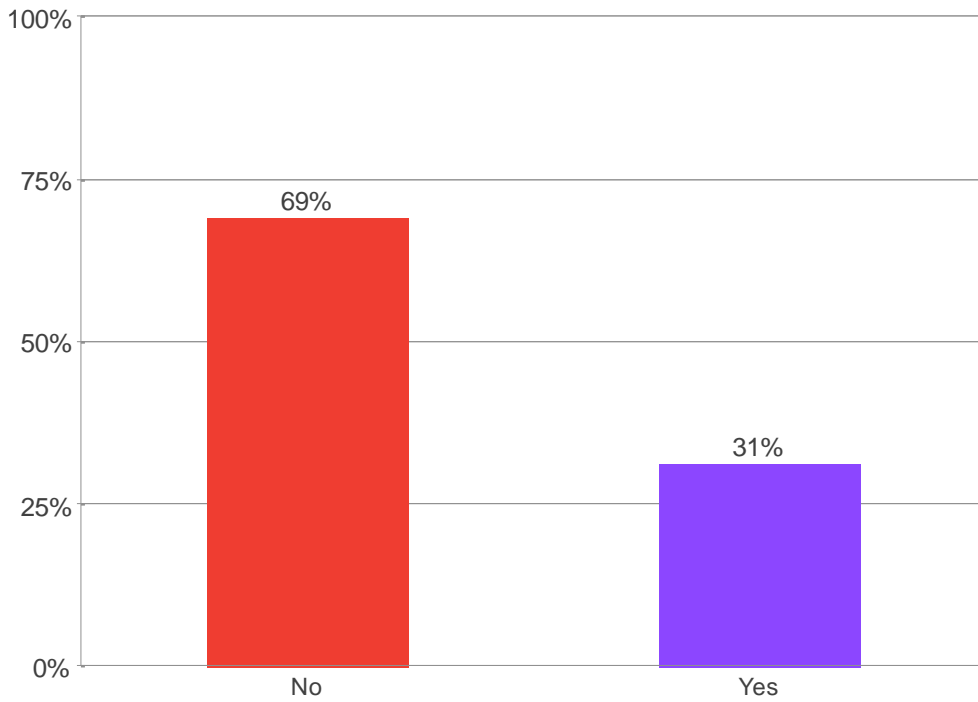
Have you experienced inclusion in your classroom?
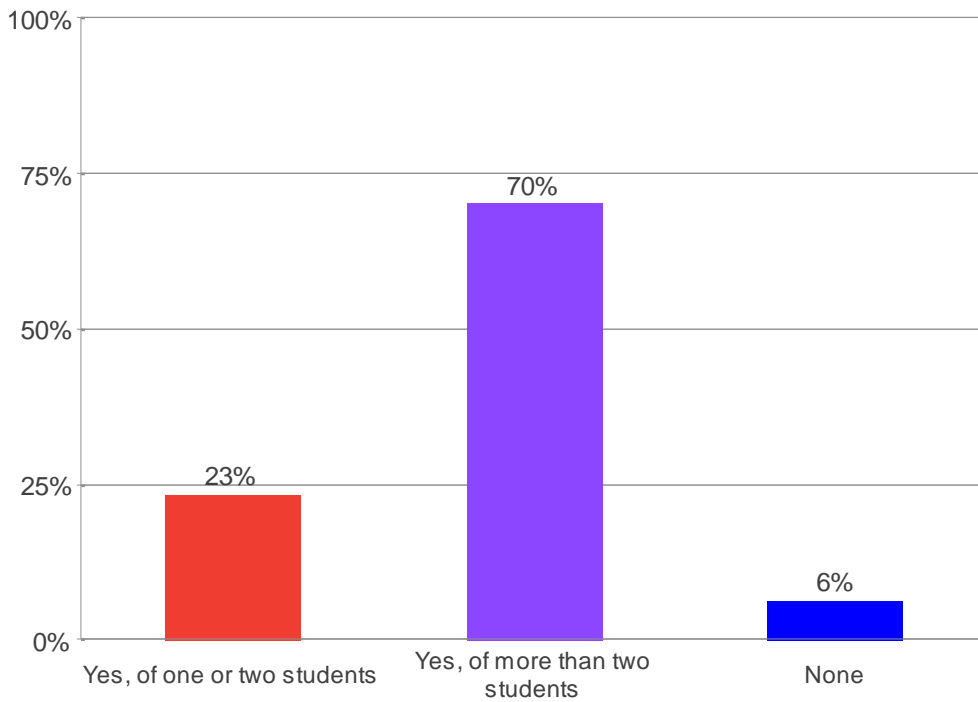
How would you characterize the level of academic motivation of your students?

Response	Percentage
Very Low	7%
Low	28%
Average	45%
High	16%
Very High	4%
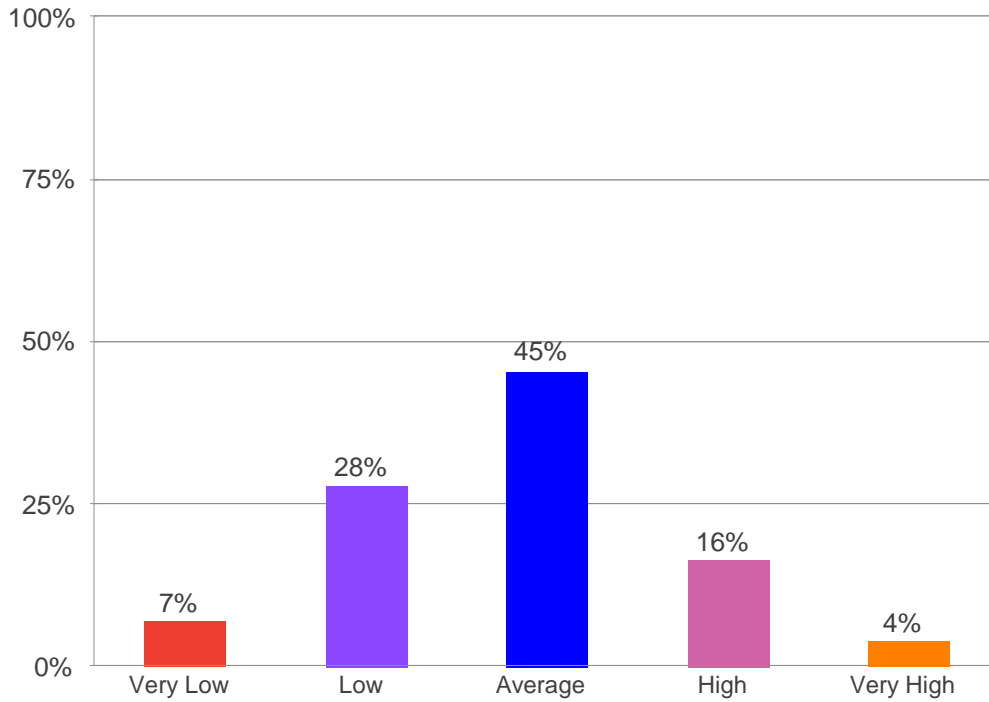
How would you characterize the frequency of behavior problems in your classes?

Response	Percentage
Few, if any, problems	25%
Occasional problems	50%
Many problems	25%
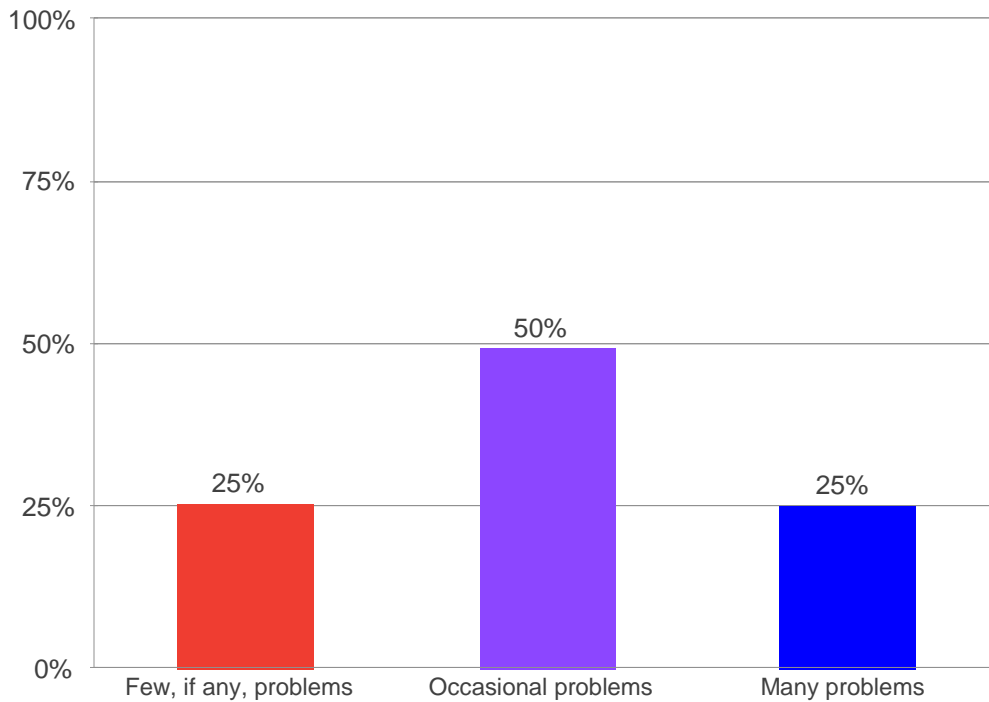
How would you characterize the level of parent-involvement in your school?

	Very low	Low	Average	High	Very High
	10%	31%	34%	16%	9%
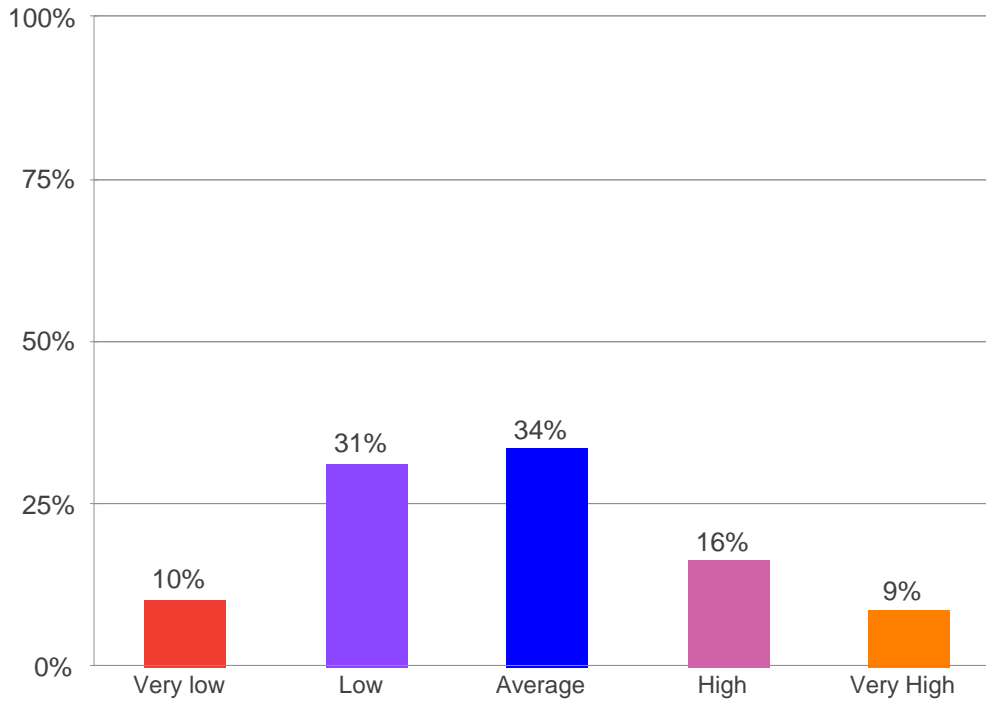
Which of the following School Management Practices does your school employ?

	Outcomes-based management	Principal managing decisions	School governing board (including parents and other community representatives)	Site-based management	Teacher-principal shared decision making and/or teacher empowerment
	9%	29%	20%	11%	32%
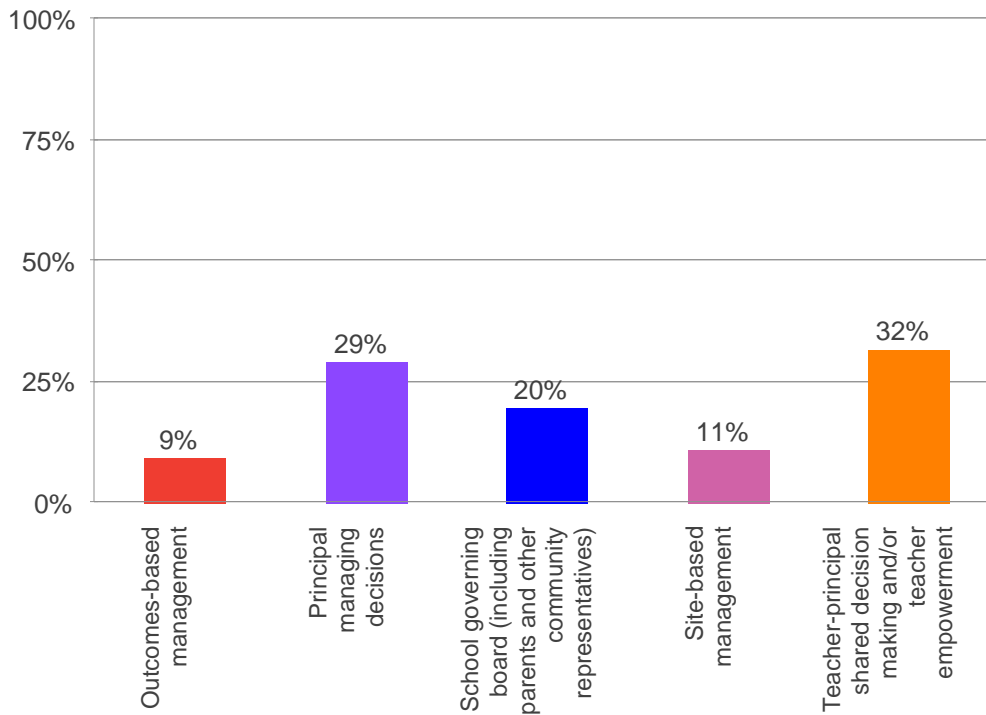
School's vision: Does your school have a clear vision of what you want your students to know and be able to do by the time they graduate?
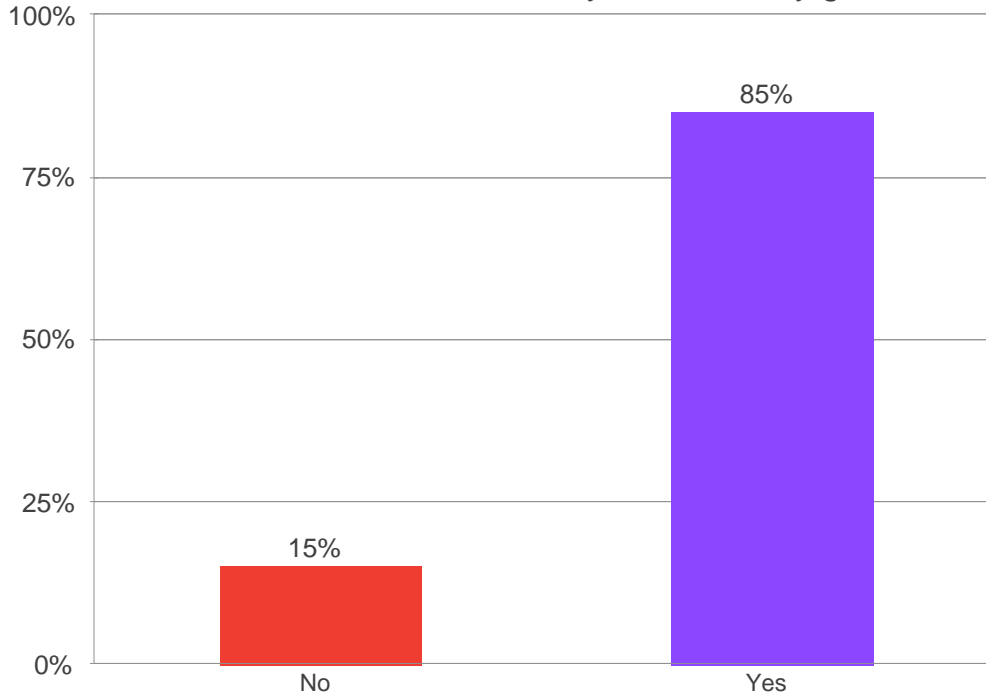
Were you in any way involved with the creation of this vision?
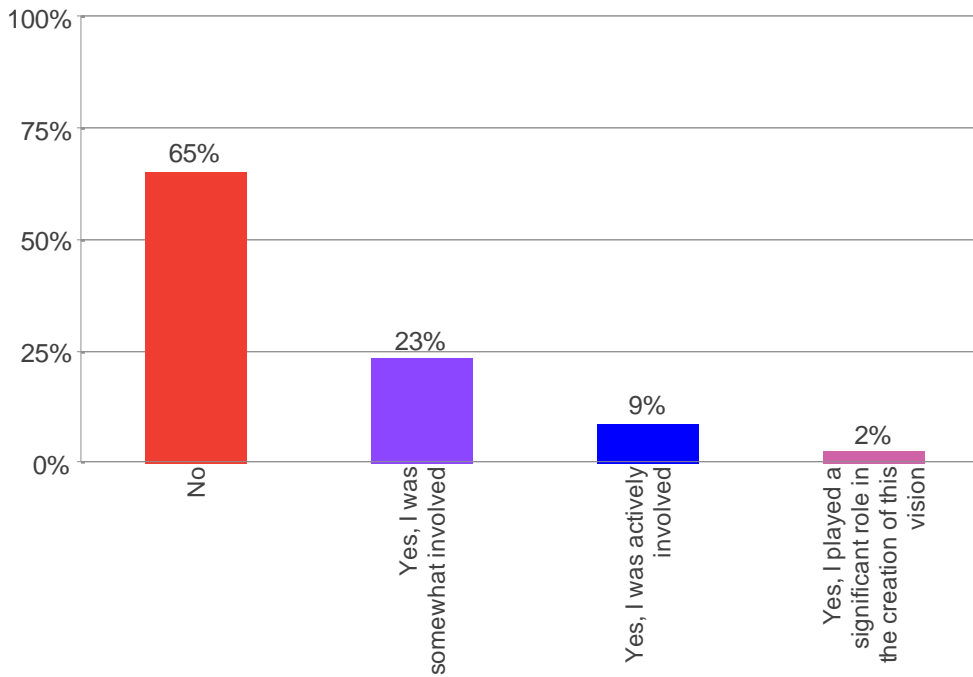
Which of the following criteria are you most likely to consider when assessing your success as a teacher? The extent to which students . . .

Category	Percentage
like and respect me as a teacher.	5%
learn what I try to teach them.	33%
gain a sense of self-confidence and self-worth in my classroom.	61%
get along with each other.	1%
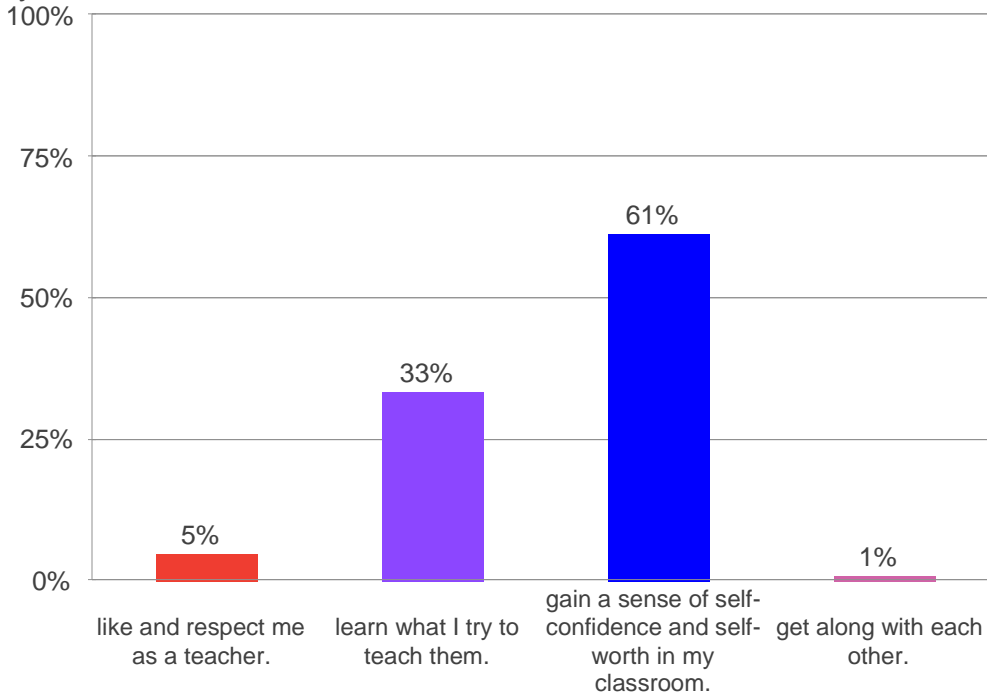
Student behavior problems may result from a number of different sources, including those listed below. Which of these would you rank the most frequent source of student behavior problems in your classroom(s)?

Category	Percentage
Overall classroom management	13%
School is not a supportive learning environment	3%
Unresolved problems students experience outside of the Classroom setting	47%
Conflicts between values students acquire at home and those that are prized in schools	29%
Parents' failure to support teachers/schools	8%
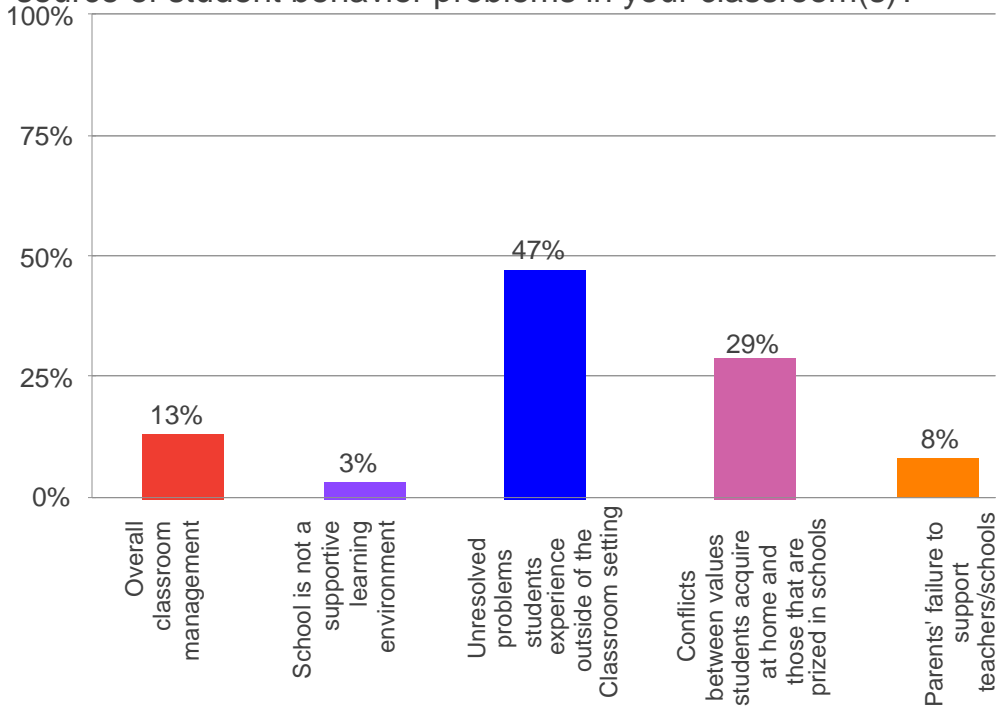
In adapting instruction to address differences in student s' academic achievement, you are most likely to vary the . . .
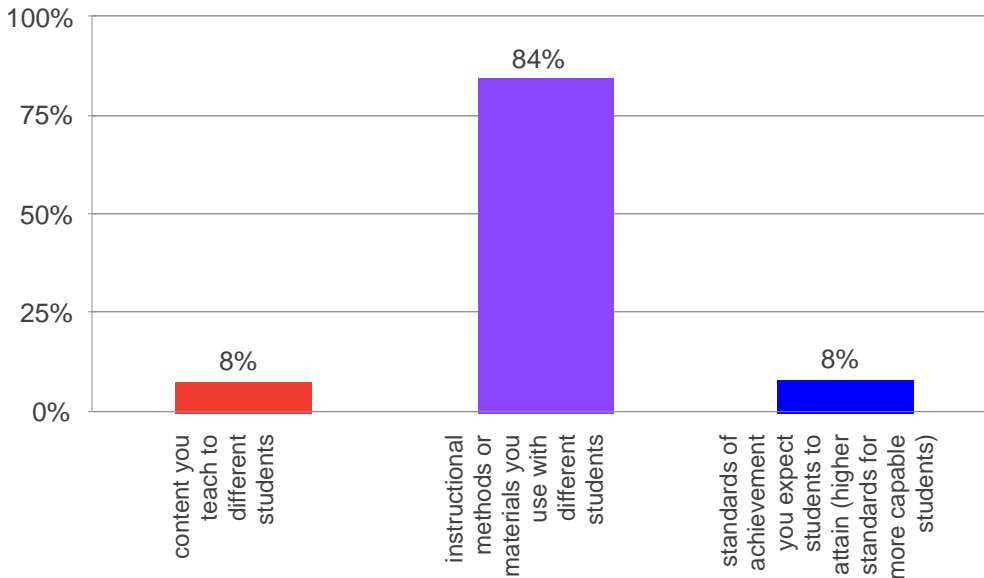
Which of the following questions is most likely to occur to you when you are trying to decide what content to teach? Will knowing this content help students . . .
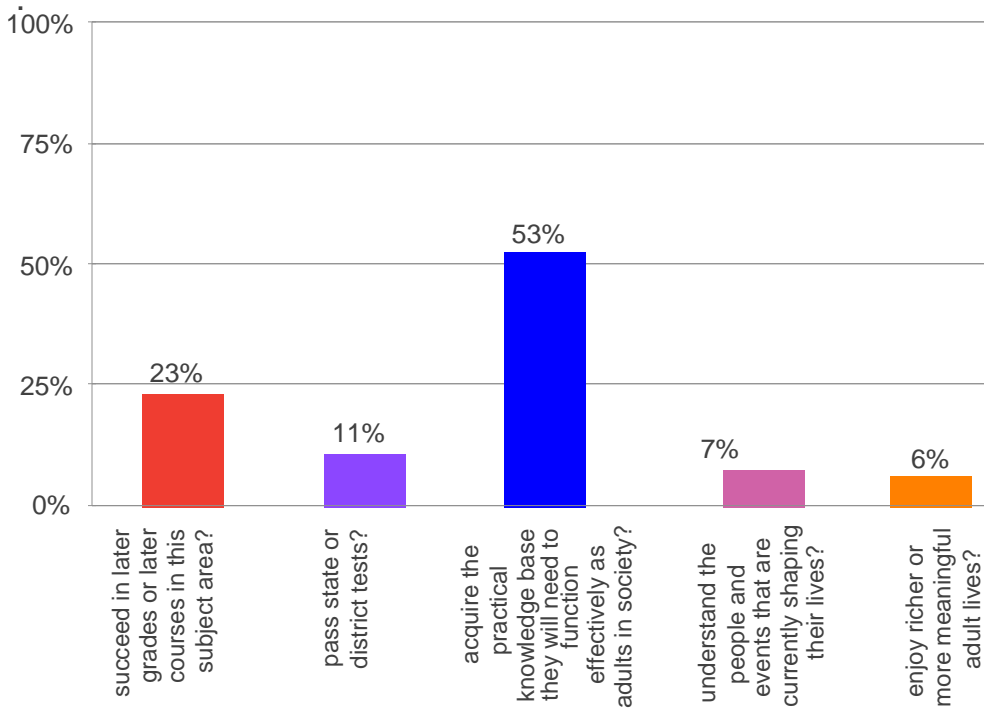
Do you believe you can reach even the most difficult or least motivated students?

Response	Percentage
No	1%
Yes	48%
No, with some qualifications	4%
Yes, with some qualifications	47%
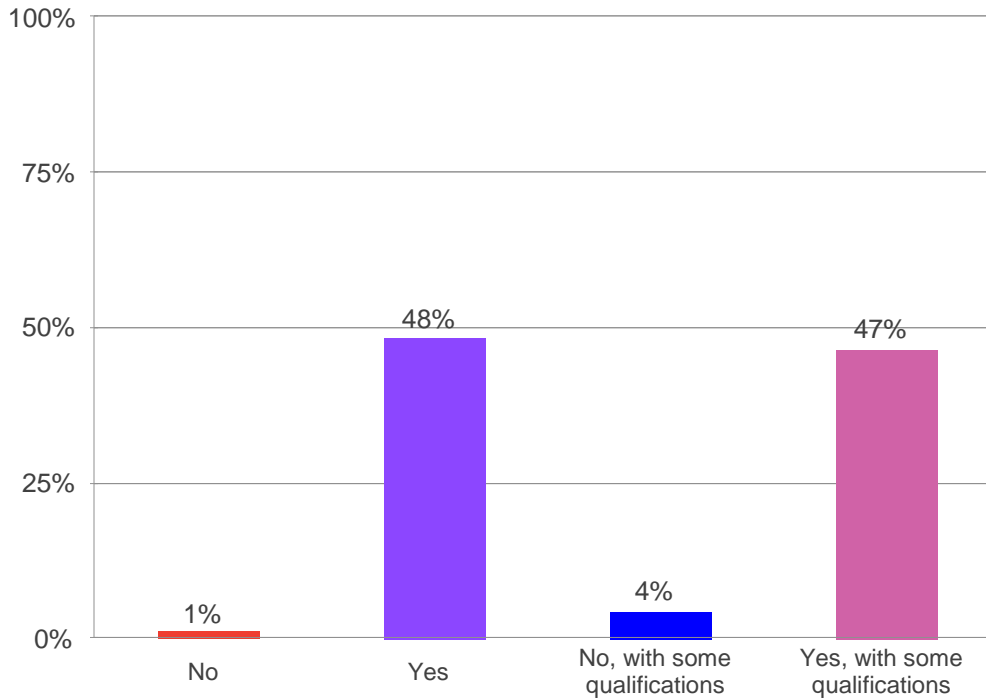
If students seem puzzled or confused at some point during a lesson, what are you most likely to do?

Response	Percentage
Try to resolve the confusion by providing a clearer example or better explanation.	73%
Provide sufficient support for students who work through the source of the confusion on their own.	27%
Downplay the seriousness of their education so students won't get discouraged.	
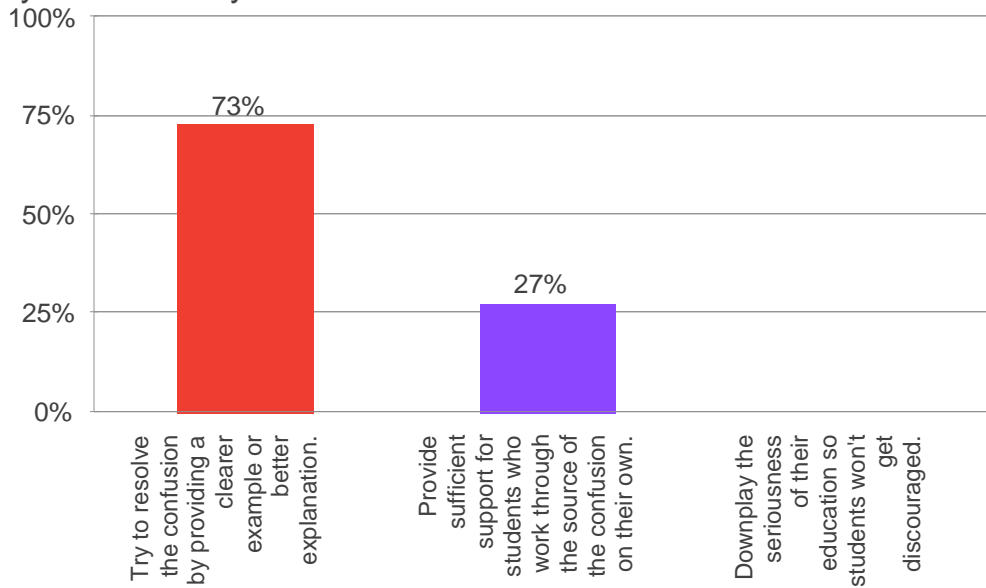
When students fail to achieve intended goals and objectives, that failure is often attributed to one of the following sources. Which do you believe is the most frequent source of failure?
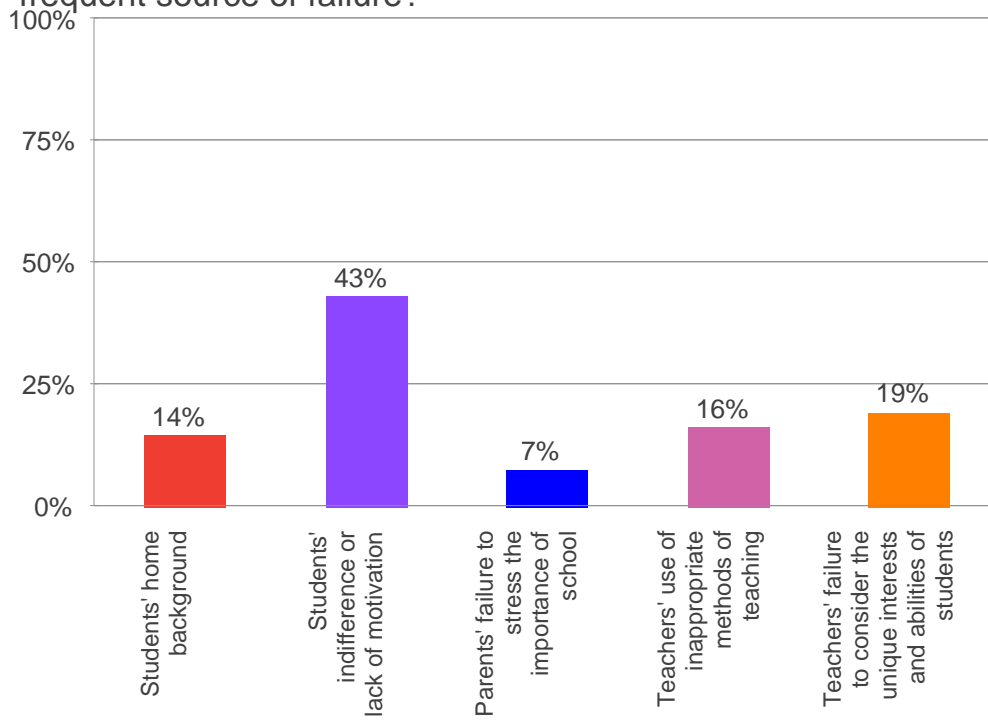
For Graduates who are Teaching: Career Satisfaction and Professional Development

On a scale of 1 to 7, how would you describe your response to each of the following features in your current job?

Salary/fringe benefits
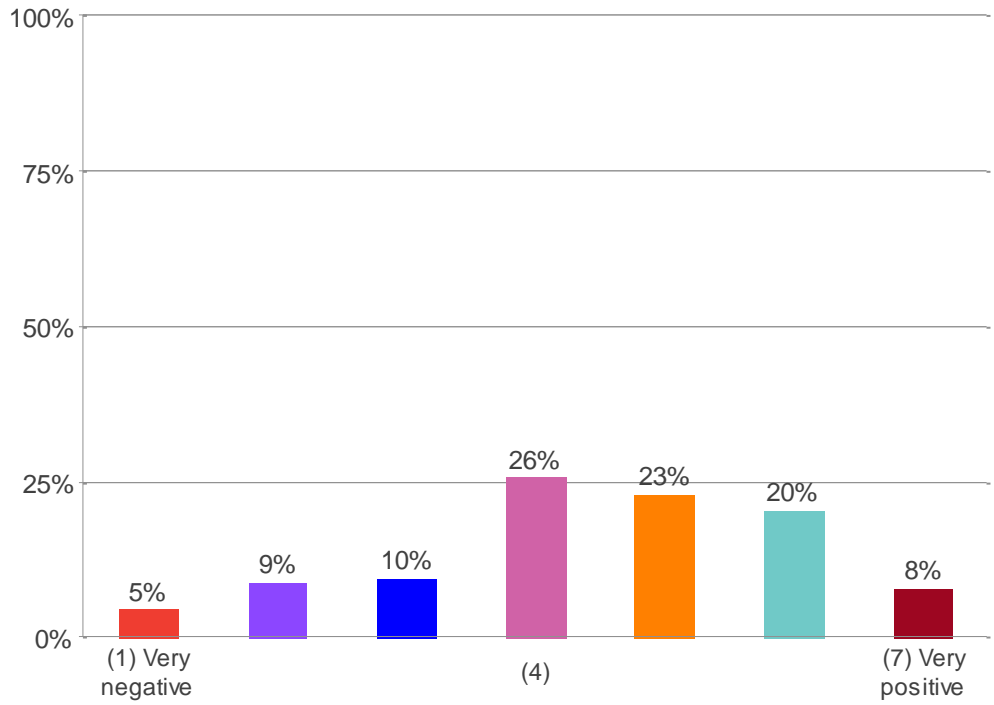
Opportunities for professional advancement

(1) Very negative	3%
	6%
	13%
(4)	28%
	23%
	21%
(7) Very positive	6%
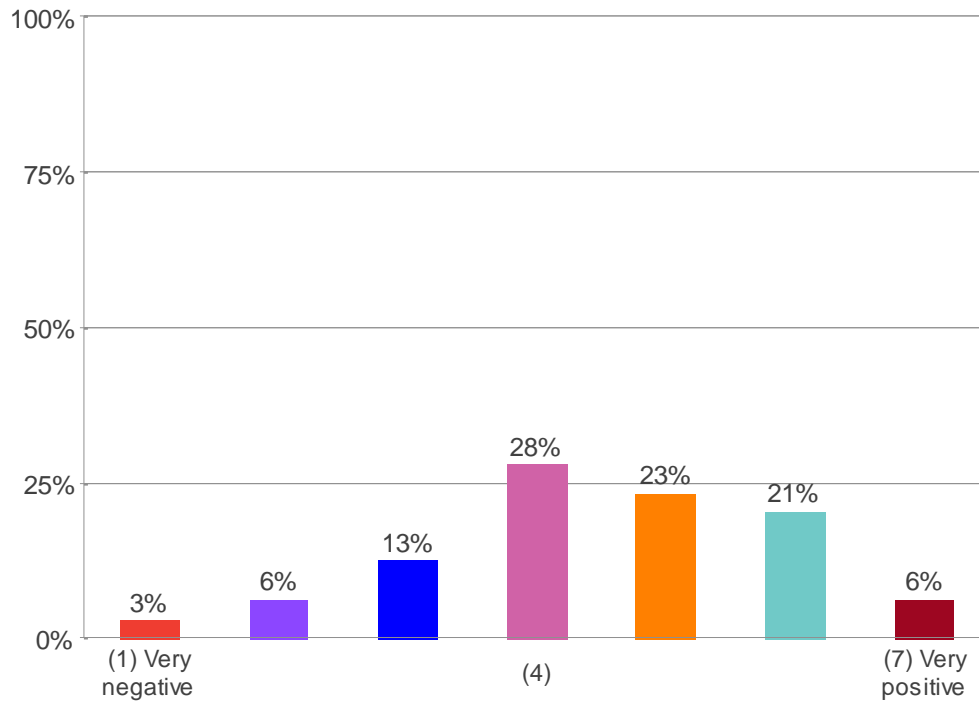
Level of personal/professional challenge

(1) Very negative	1%
	3%
	8%
(4)	20%
	28%
	29%
(7) Very positive	11%
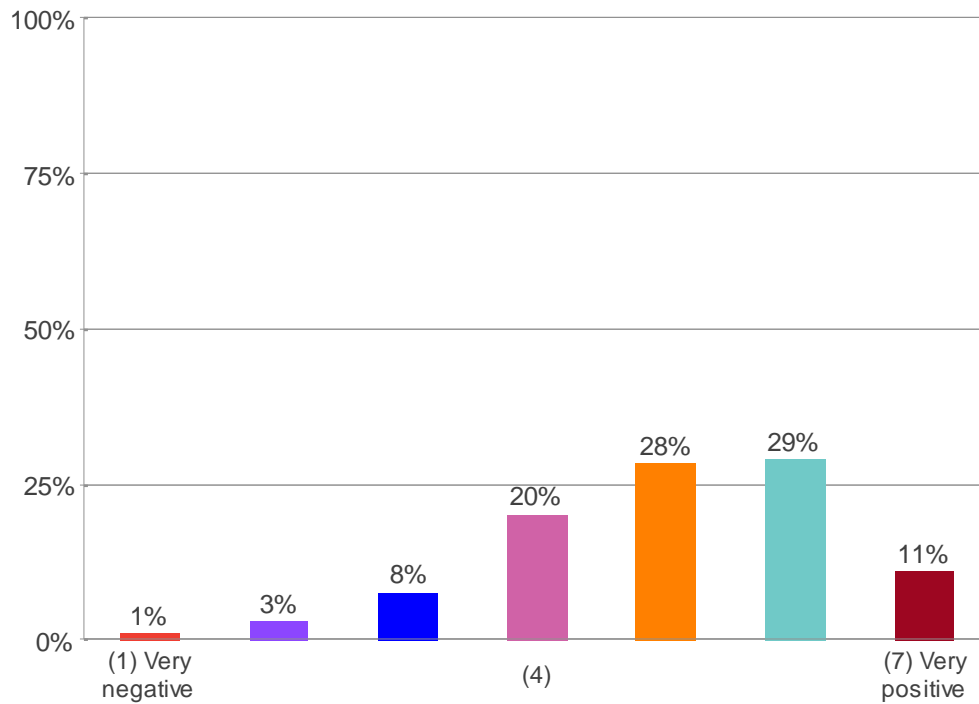
Level of professional autonomy/decision making authority

3%	9%	9%	19%	22%	28%	11%
(1) Very negative			(4)			(7) Very positive
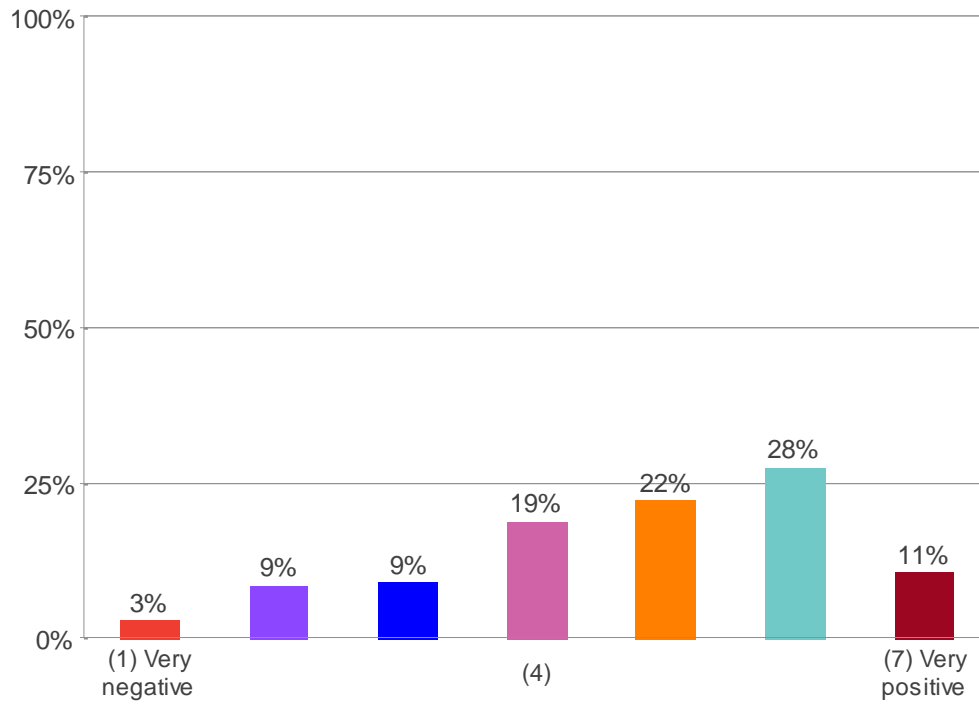
General work conditions (hours, class size, work load, etc.)

4%	10%	12%	14%	23%	24%	14%
(1) Very negative			(4)			(7) Very positive
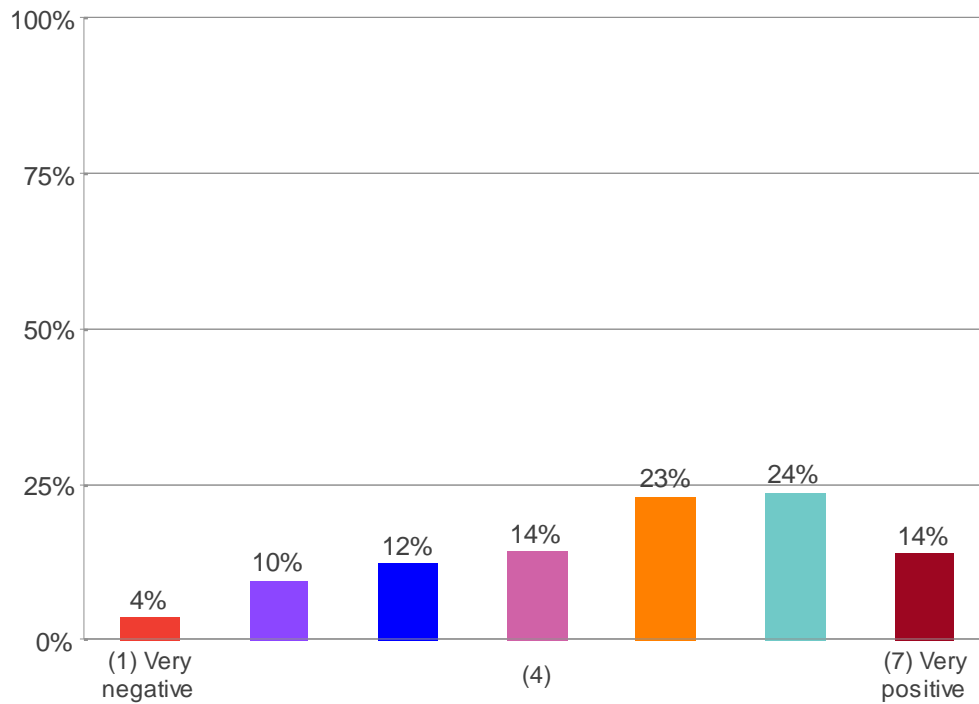
Interactions with colleagues

1%	2%	8%	14%	19%	35%	22%
(1) Very negative			(4)			(7) Very positive
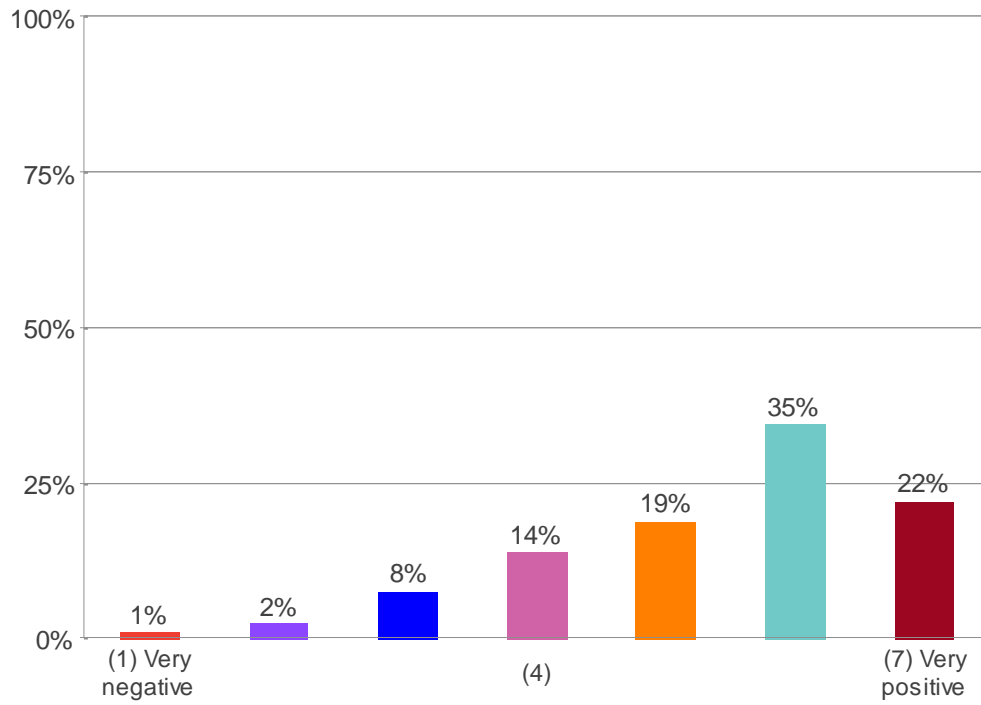
Interactions with students

	1%	3%	9%	17%	43%	28%
(1) Very negative			(4)			(7) Very positive
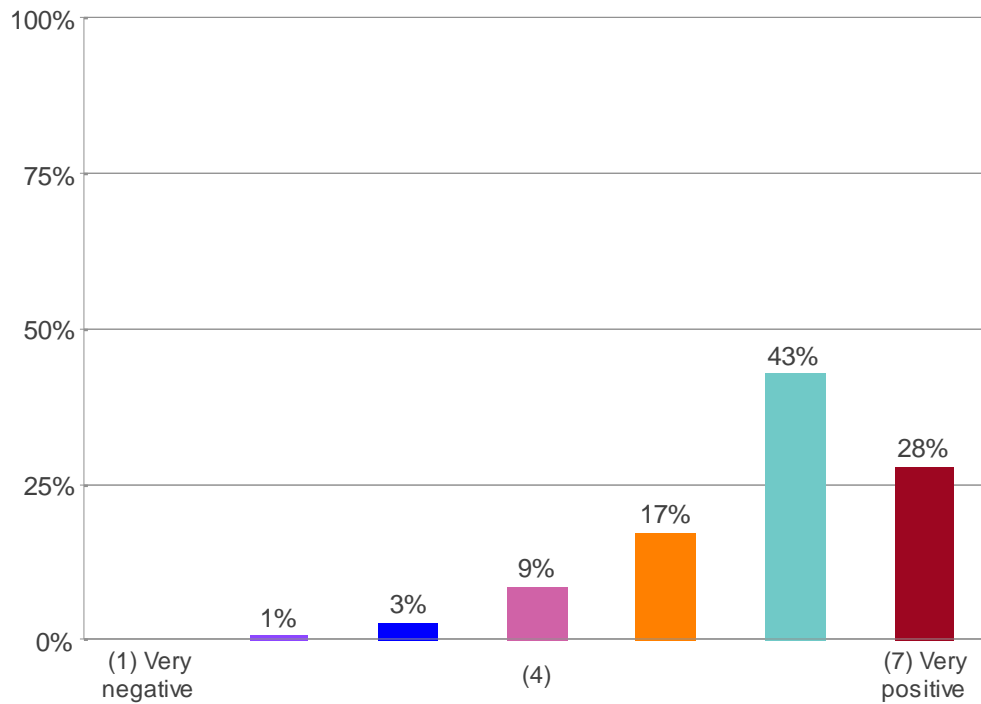
How would you describe your overall level of satisfaction with your current job?
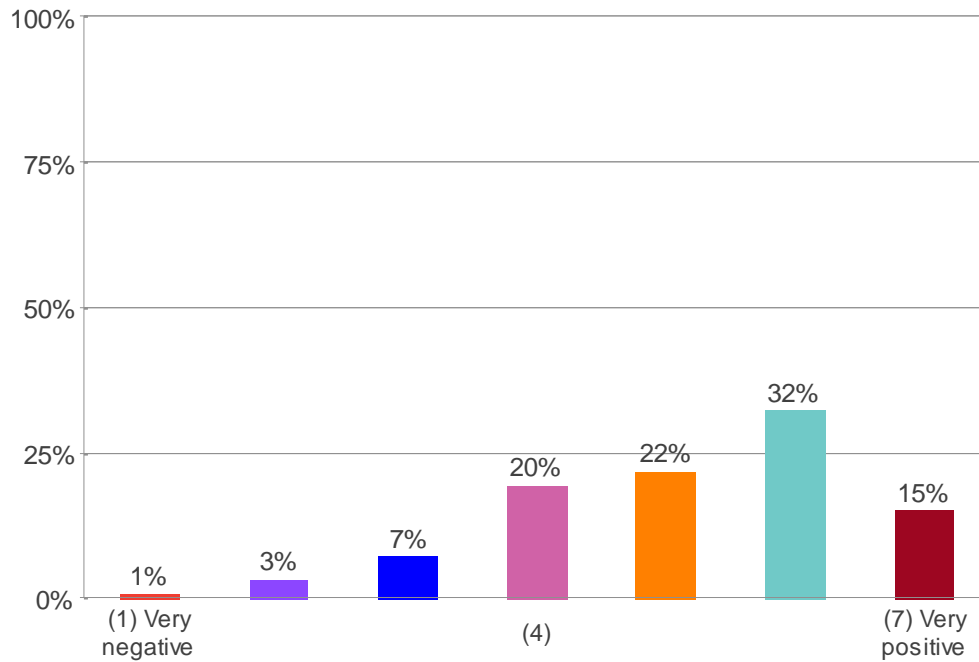
If you had to do it all over again, would still enroll in a teacher education program?
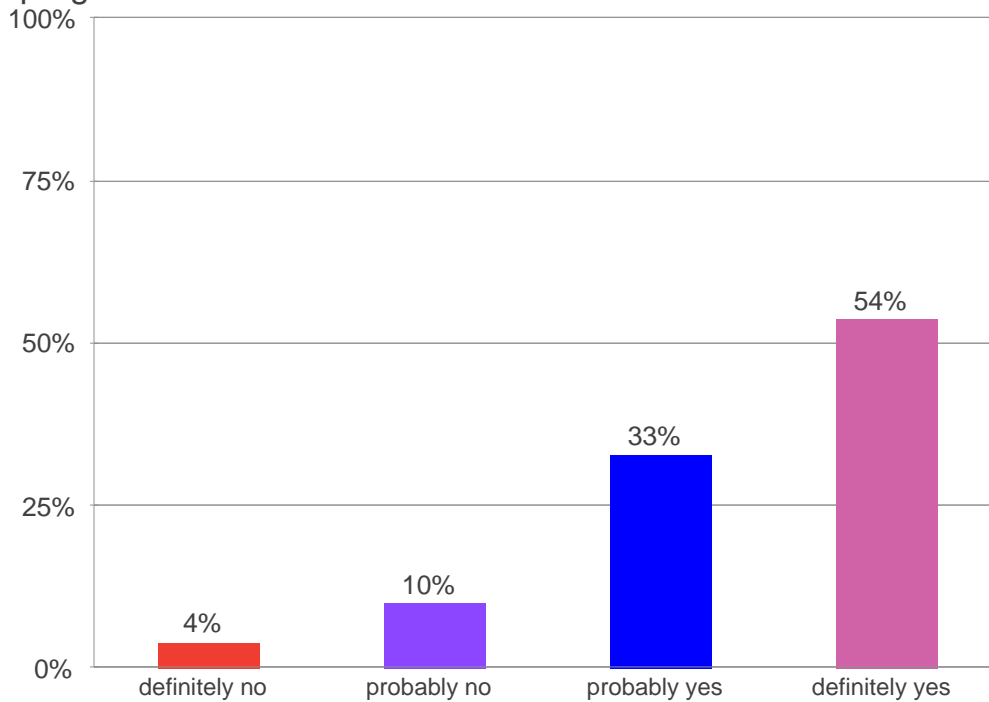
Do you feel you are a(n)...
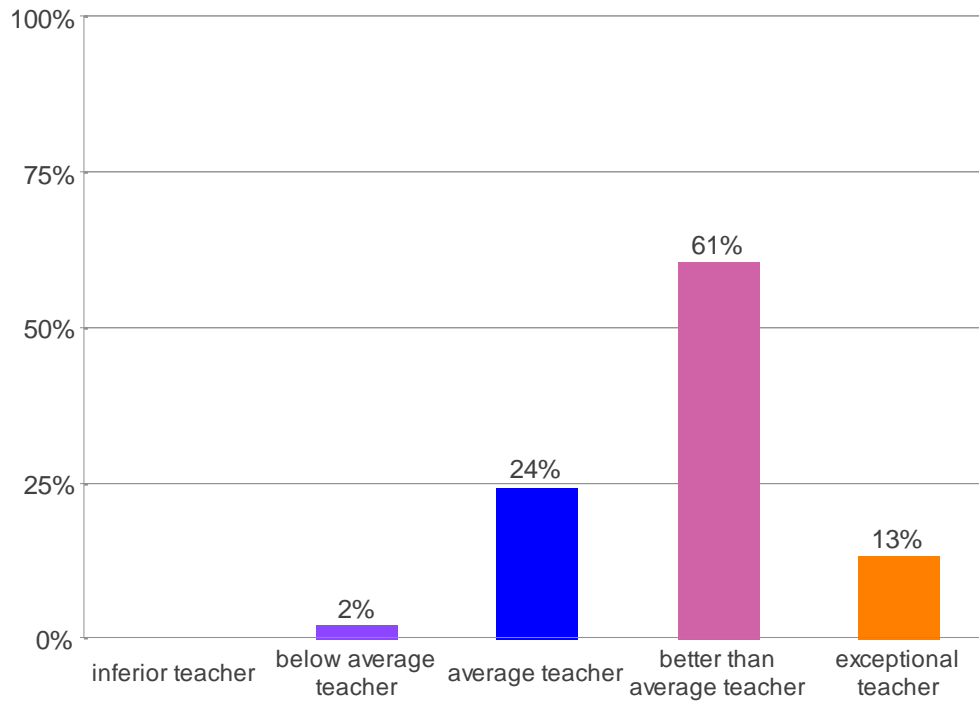
How would you characterize your district's commitment to teachers' professional development?
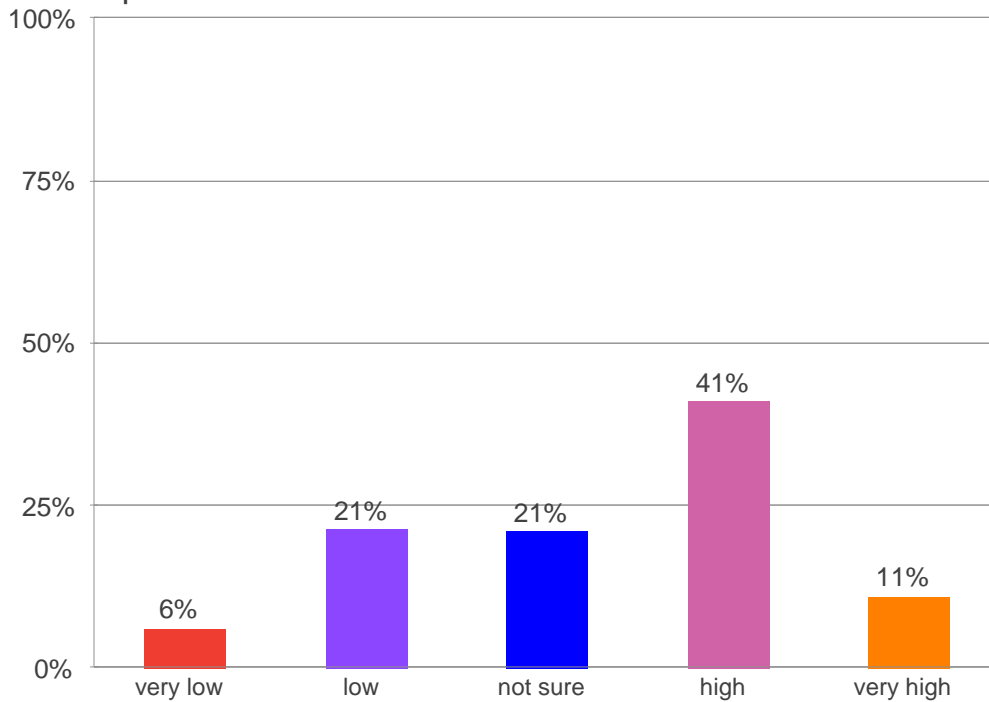
Which of the following activities is most likely to help you become a more effective teacher?

Activity	Percentage
Observe other teachers and talk to them.	46%
Be observed by other teachers or supervisors and talk with them.	13%
Read professional journals/publications.	2%
Take additional graduate courses in education	6%
Take additional graduate courses in the subjects you teach.	6%
Participate in teacher inservices/workshops	27%
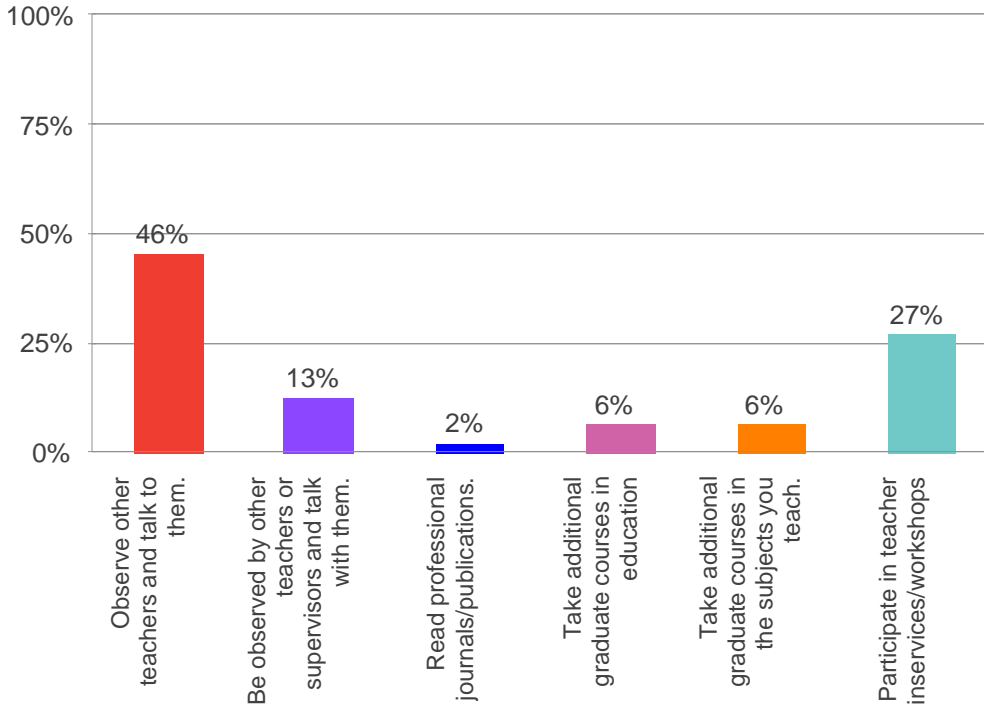
Which of the following activities is least likely to help you become a better teacher?

Activity	Percentage
Observe other teachers and talk to them.	4%
Be observed by other teachers or supervisors and talk with them.	14%
Read professional journals/publications.	46%
Take additional graduate courses in education	17%
Take additional graduate courses in the subjects you teach.	6%
Participate in teacher inservices/workshops	12%
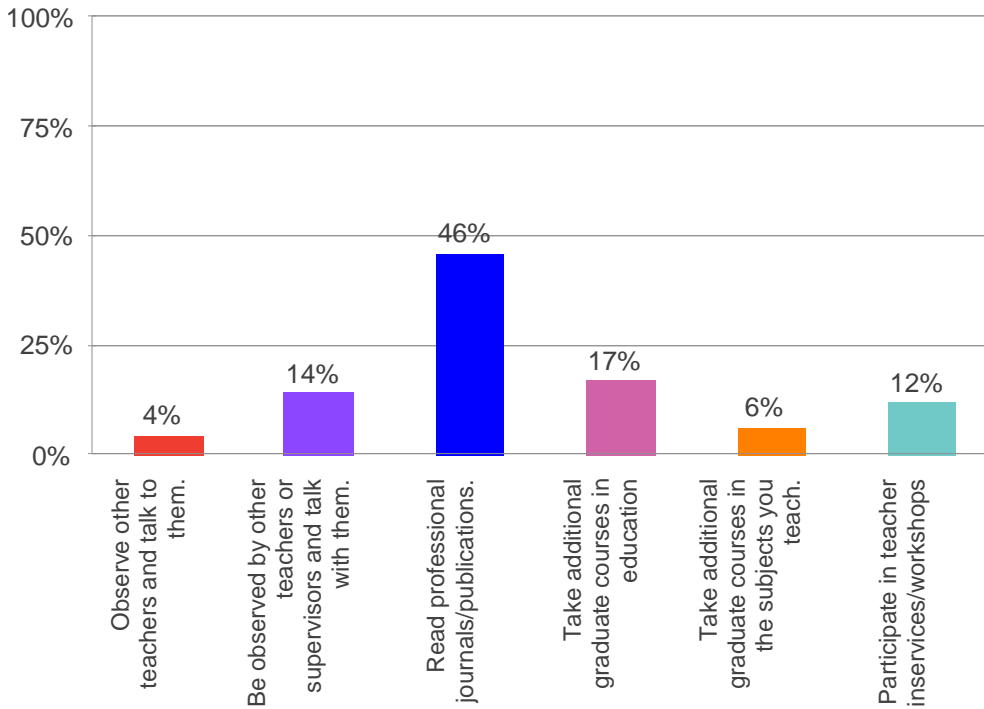
Do you have a desktop or laptop computer in your classroom?

Answer	Percentage
No	5%
Yes	95%
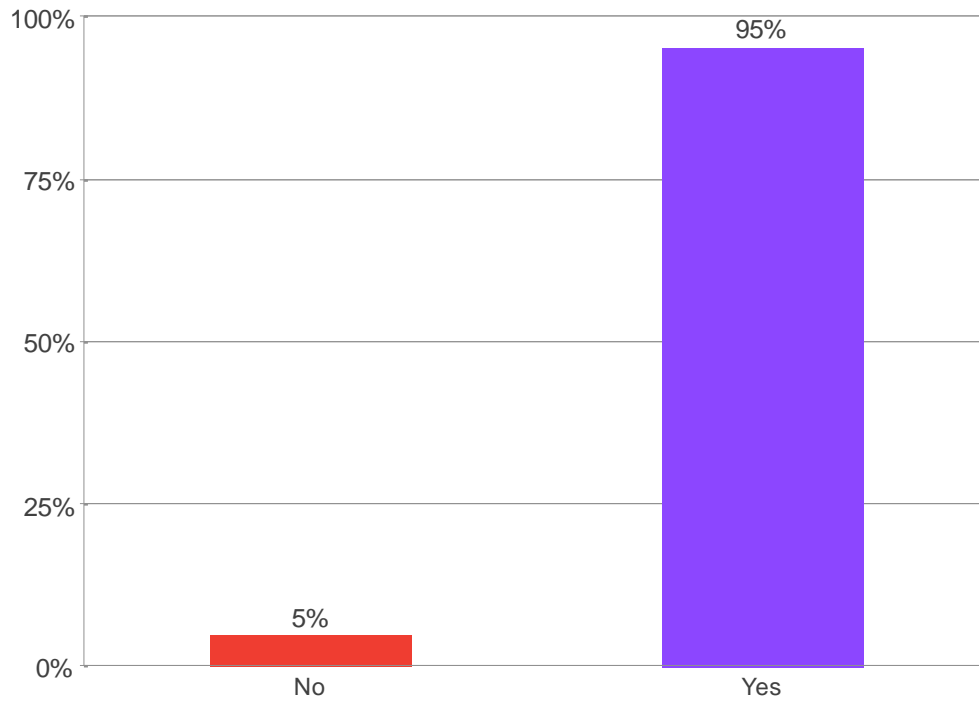
How do you use computers in your teaching?

Answer	Percentage
Not at all	3%
As a tool in teaching or reinforcing student learning (e.g., in teaching writing or math)	7%
For my own record keeping, preparation of instructional handouts, etc.	10%
both of the above	80%
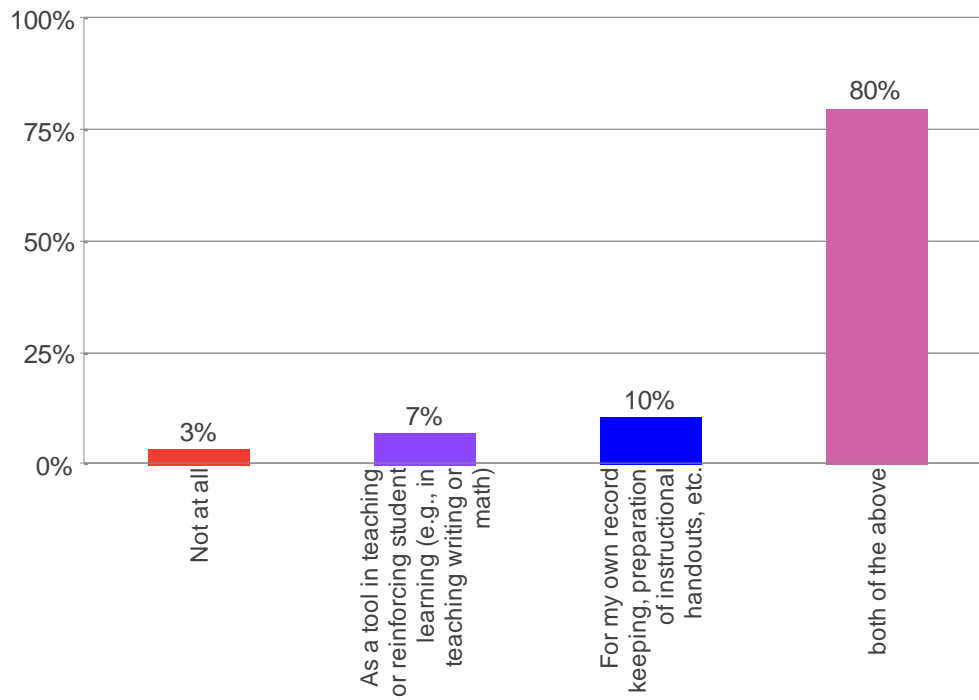
What other kinds of instructional technology do you use in your teaching?

Technology	Percentage
Videoconferencing	5%
Graphing calculators/labs	10%
Probes	4%
Computer simulations	19%
Tablet computers	52%
Interactive whiteboard and variants	65%
LCD Projector	41%
Overhead projector	29%
Video camera	16%
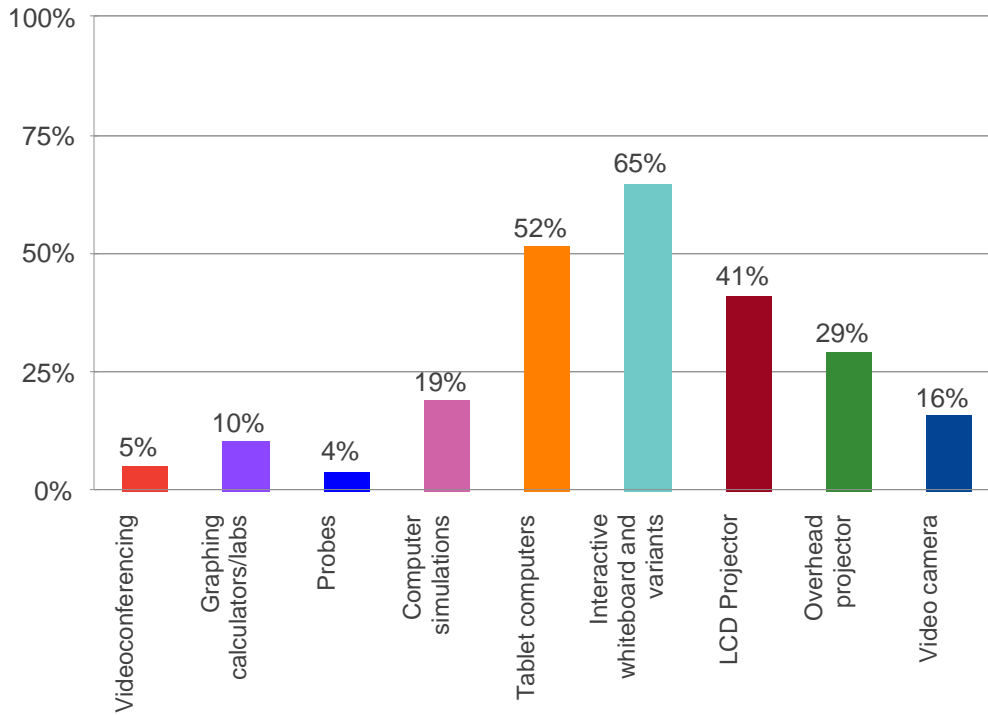
Five years from now, do you plan to be...

Plan	Percentage
teaching	58%
a school administrator	10%
an educational specialist (e.g., math consultant, librarian)	15%
educator in a non-academic setting (e.g., corporate)	1%
employed outside of the field of education	2%
temporarily out of the work force (e.g., care for a family)	2%
permanently out of the work force (e.g., retired)	2%
counselor/school psychologist	4%
full-time graduate student	1%
college faculty member	2%
other	3%

To what extent were college courses in the subject(s) you currently teach relevant to the needs of teachers?

Response	Percentage
largely irrelevant	15%
moderately relevant	59%
very relevant	27%
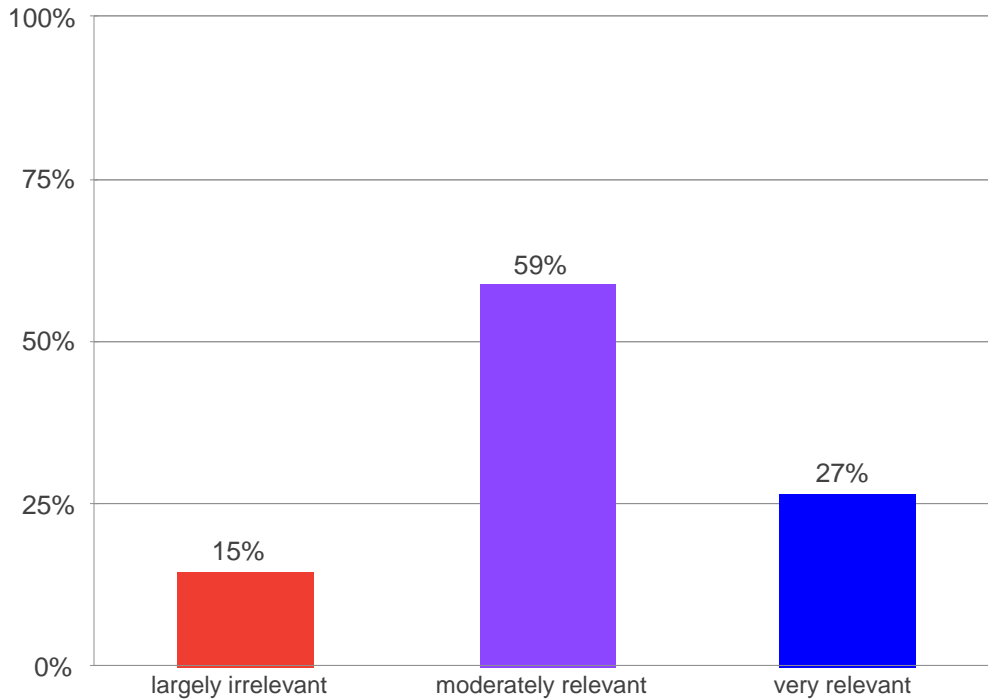
Consider your daily teaching activities. Are these teaching and learning activities that you perceive to promote lifelong learning?

Response	Percentage
definitely not	1%
probably not	5%
not sure	9%
probably yes	54%
definitely yes	31%
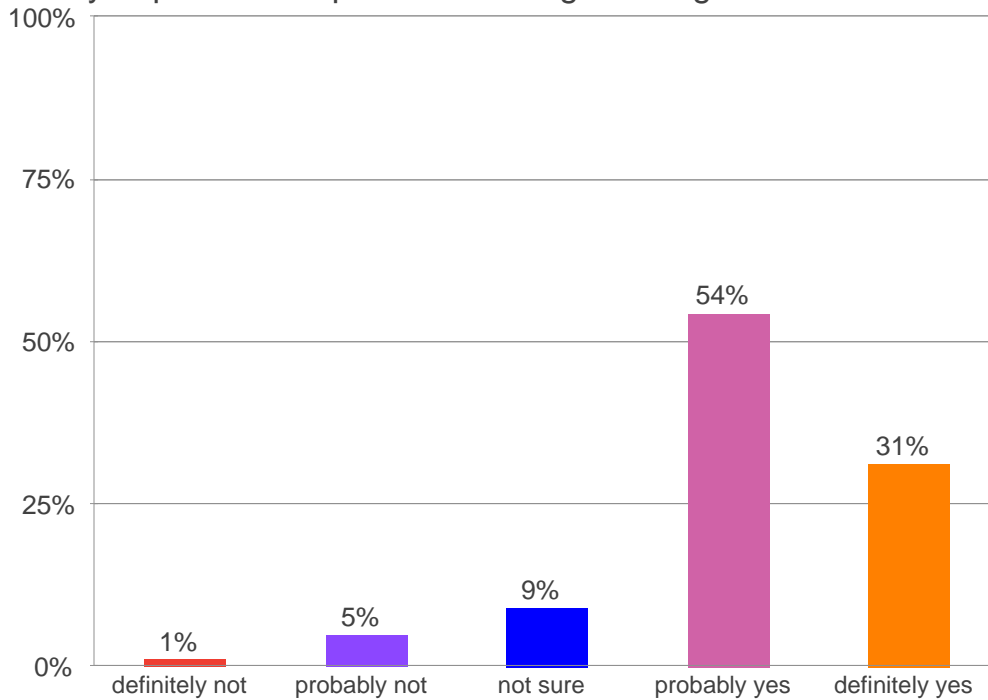
Consider your knowledge, skills and abilities as a teacher. Would you recommend the SCSU teacher education program to other prospective teachers?
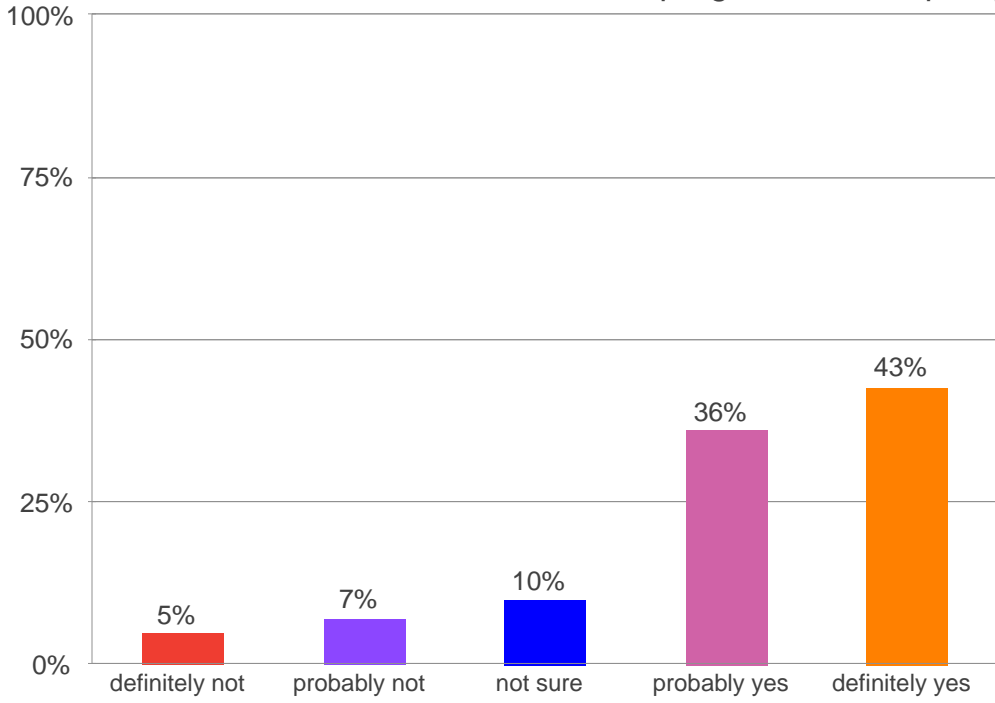
For Graduates who are not Teaching

Which of the following statements best describes why you are not in a full-time teaching position at the present time?

Category	Percentage
Teaching was not my first choice of careers at the time I began looking for a job.	41%
I was offered another job outside of education.	4%
A full-time teaching position was not available in the geographic area where I hoped to reside.	4%
I tried, but couldn't find a teaching full-time position anywhere.	22%
I needed to attend home/family affairs.	2%
Other	26%
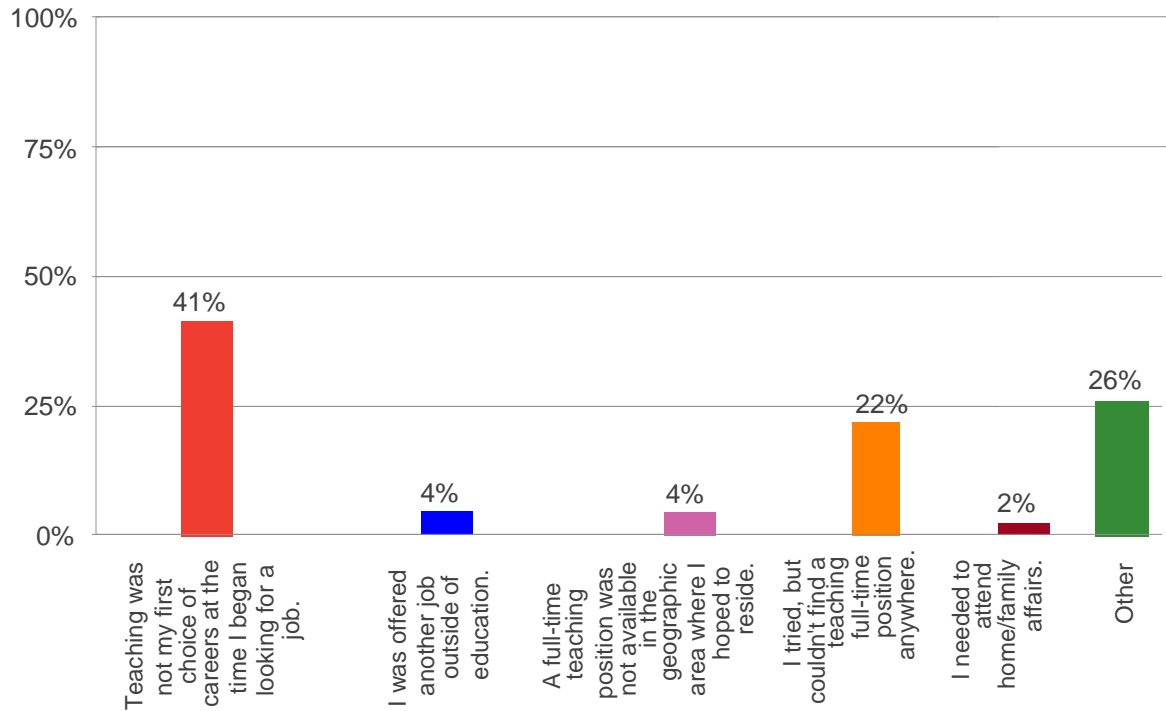
Do you regret you are not a full-time teacher?

	No	Yes
	78%	22%
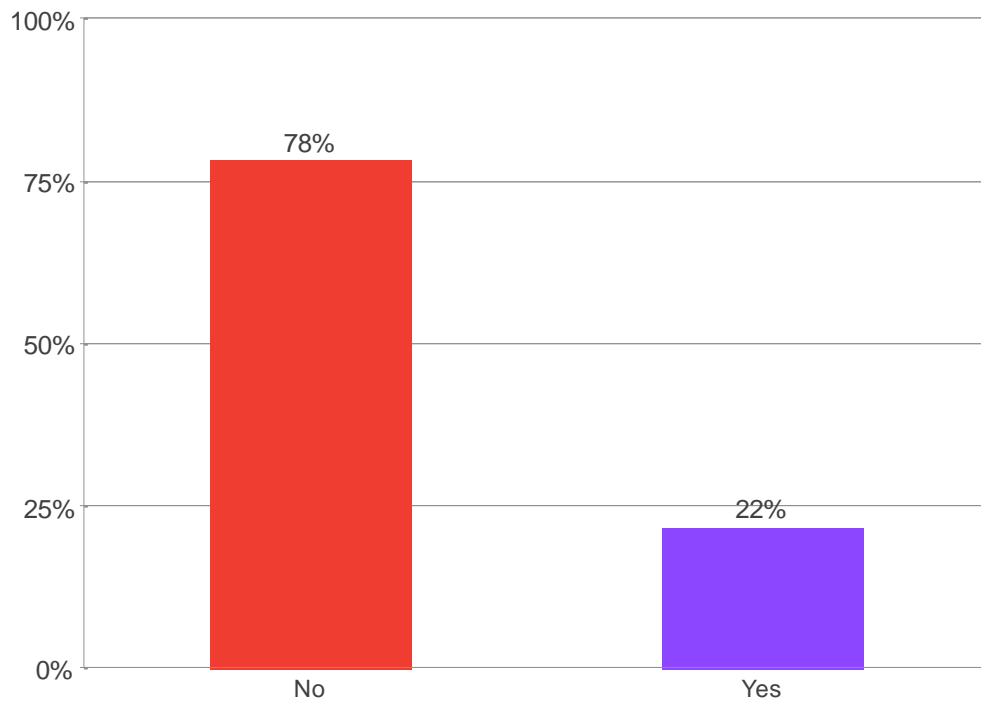
Do you feel you are underemployed?

	No	Yes
	69%	31%
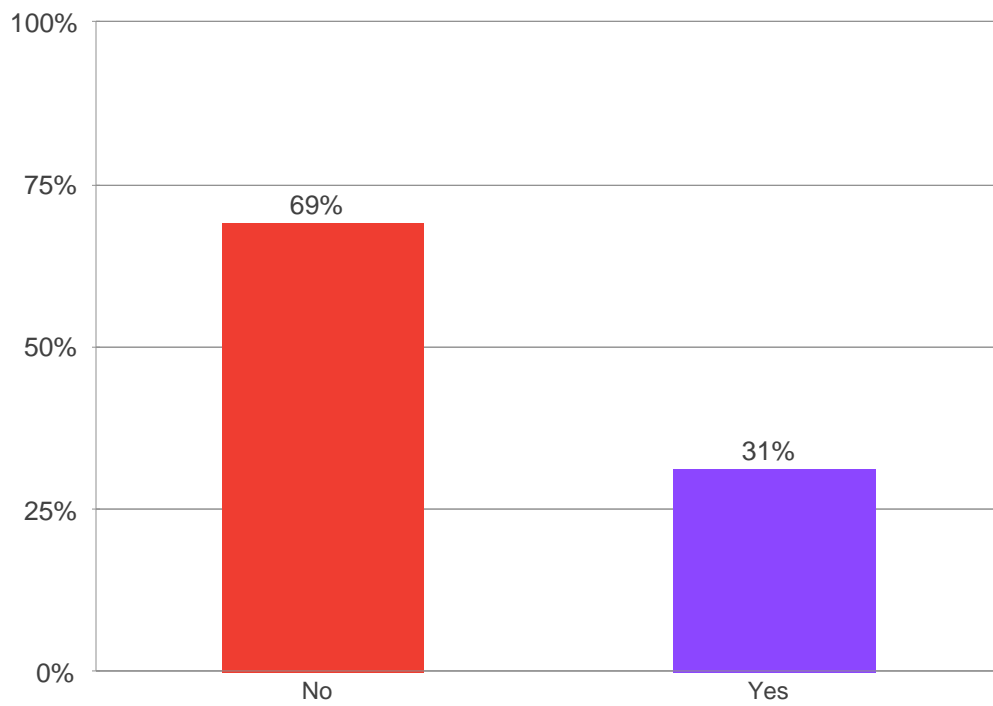
To what extent did the work you completed in your teacher education program contribute to your preparation for your current job?
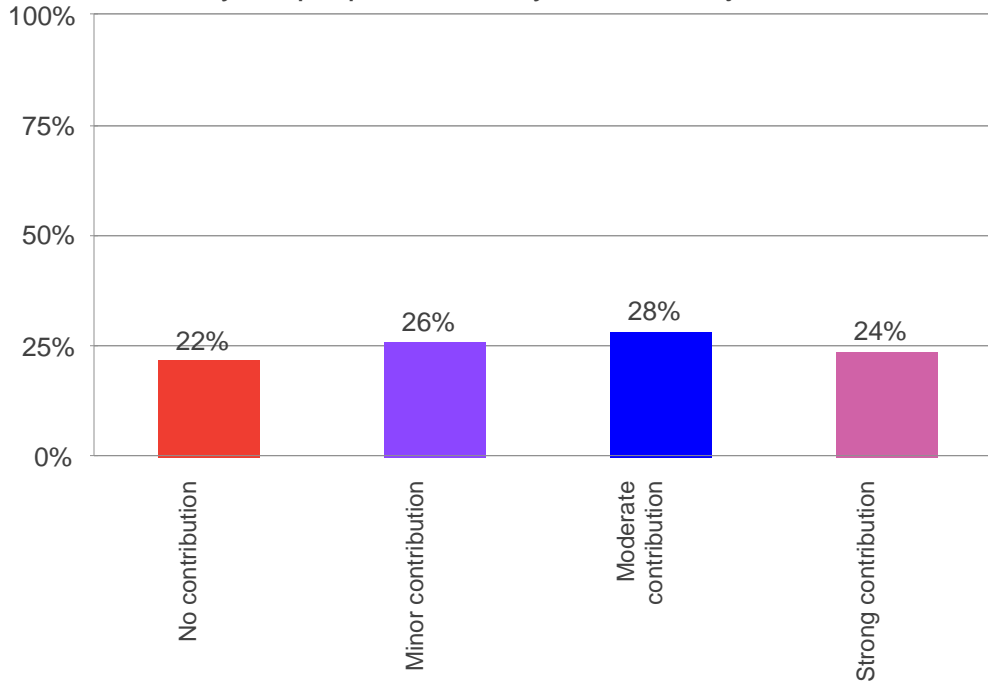
If you had to do it all over again, would you still enroll in a teacher education program?
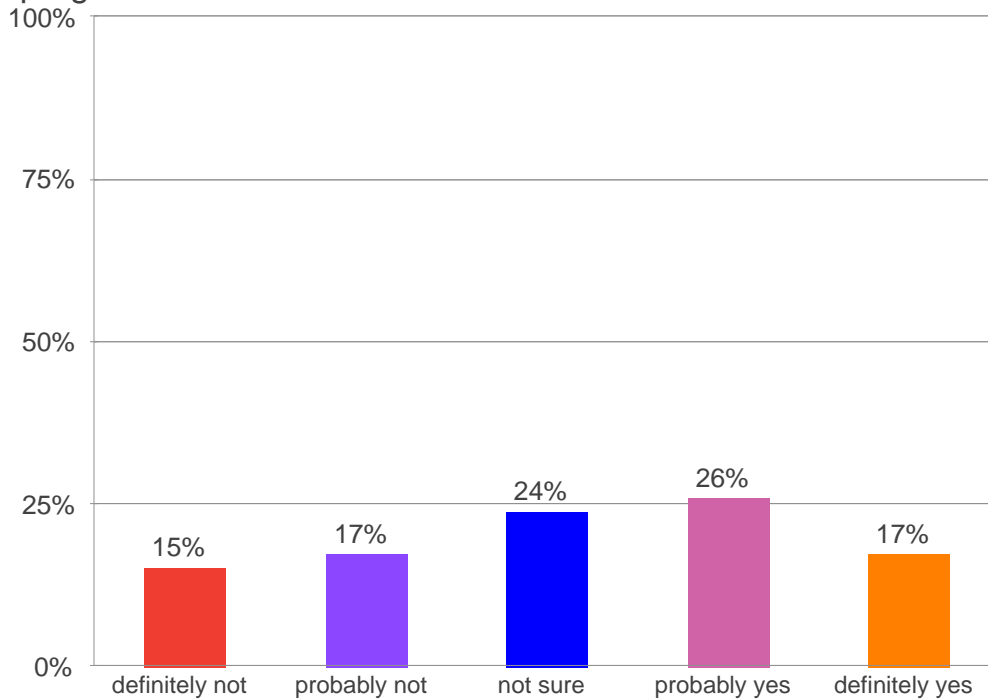
All Graduates: Ratings of Preservice Program Quality

field-based experience
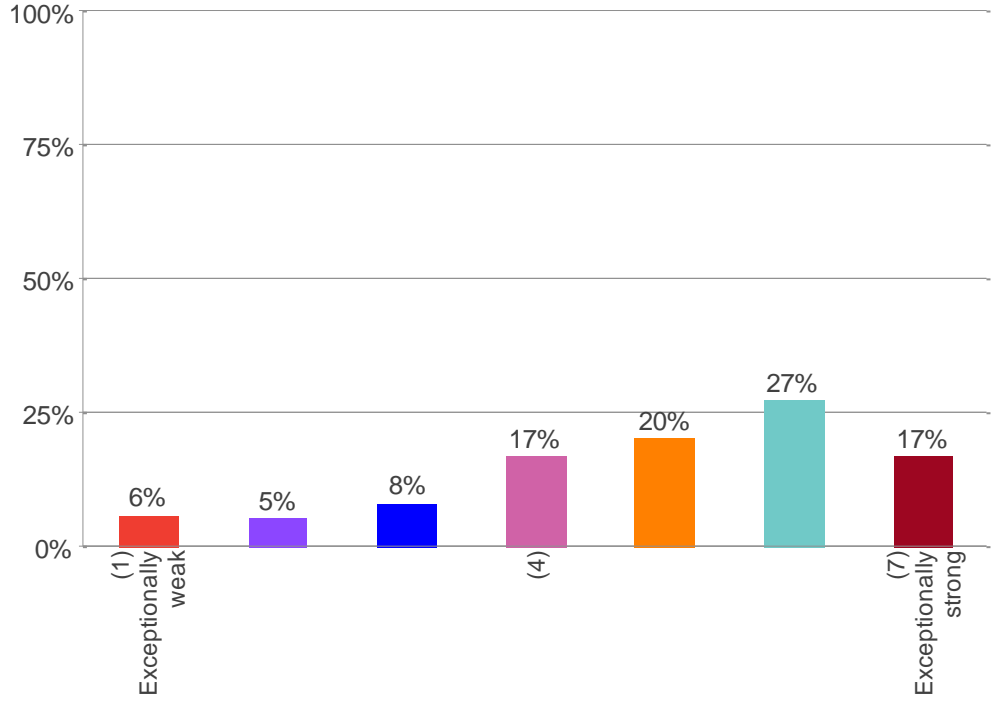
education major
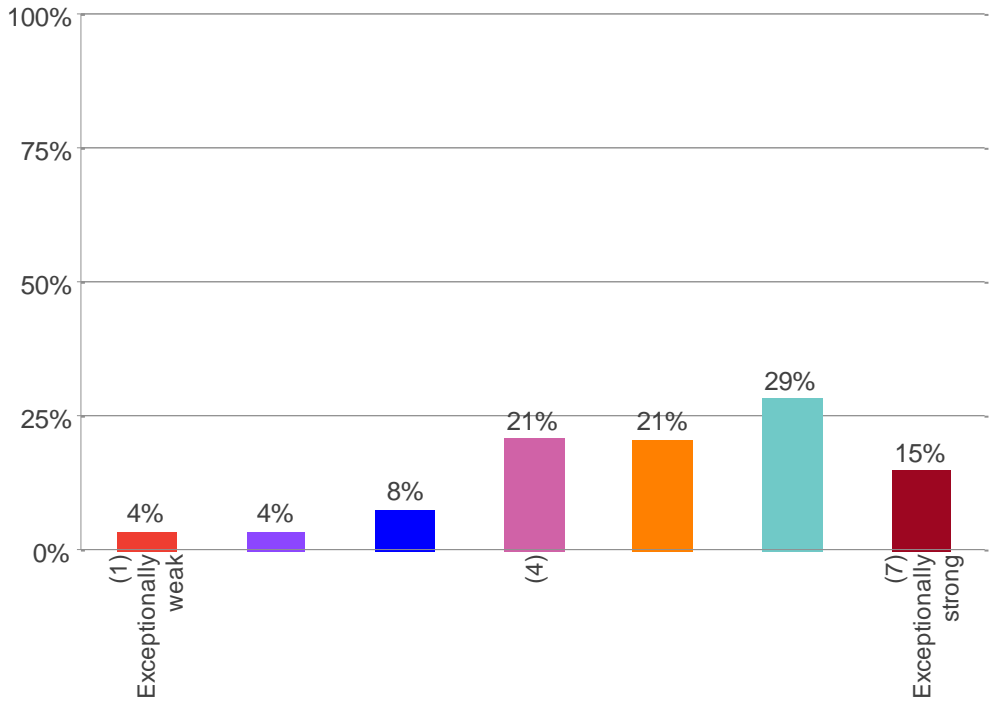
instructional resources (e.g., library)
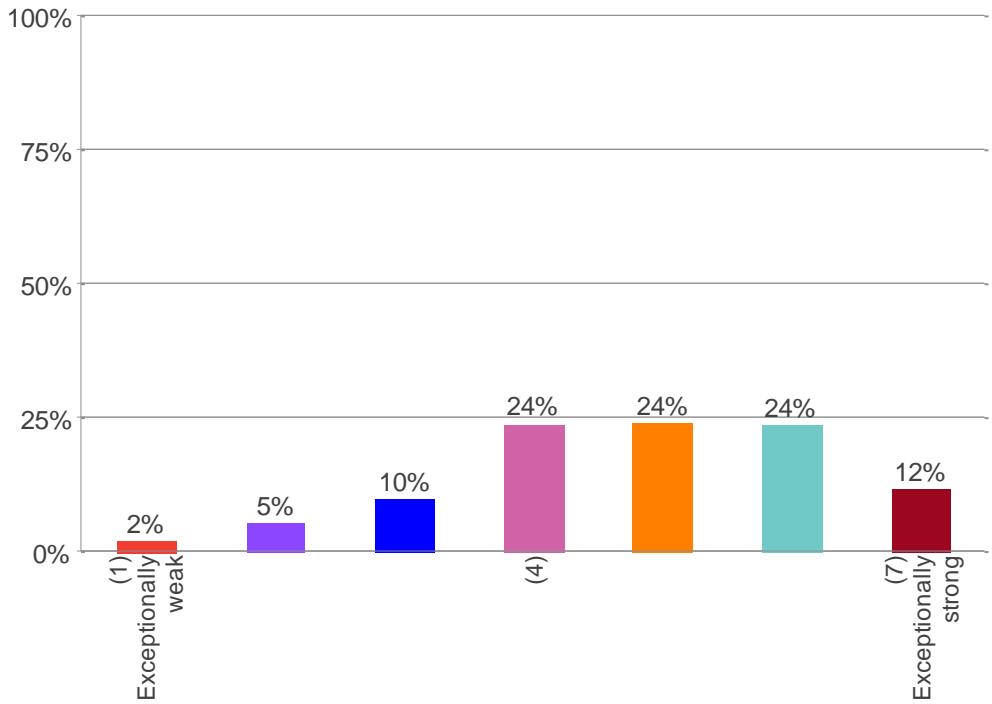
your student teaching/internship experience
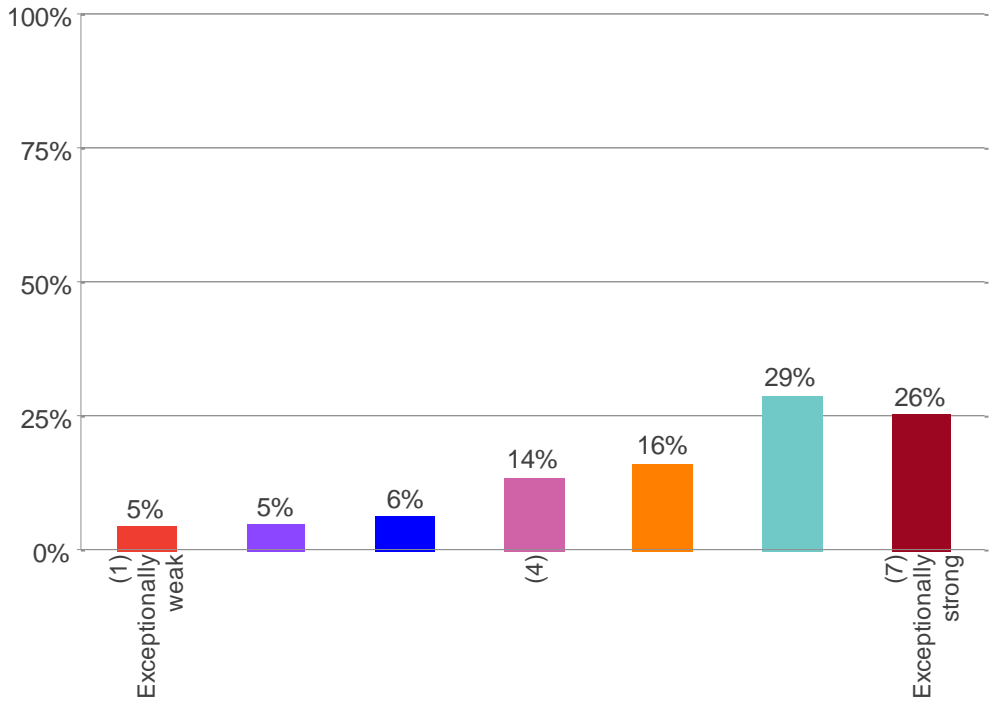
feedback from college coordinators/supervisors/faculty
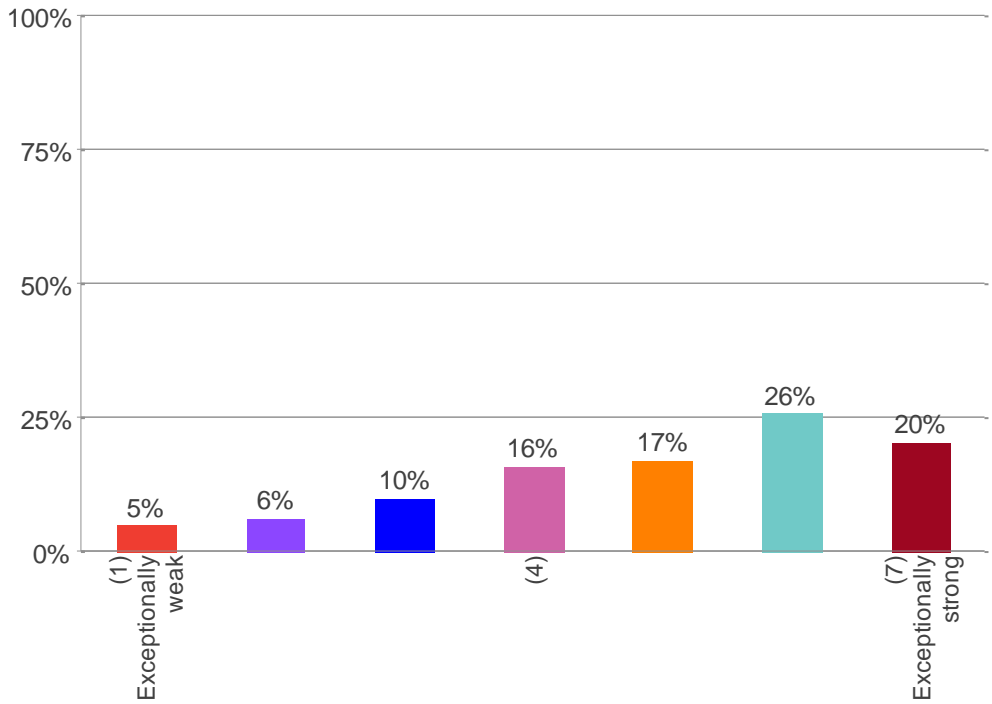
advice/counseling from your academic advisor

10%	9%	10%	15%	17%	20%	20%
(1) Exceptionally weak			(4)			(7) Exceptionally strong
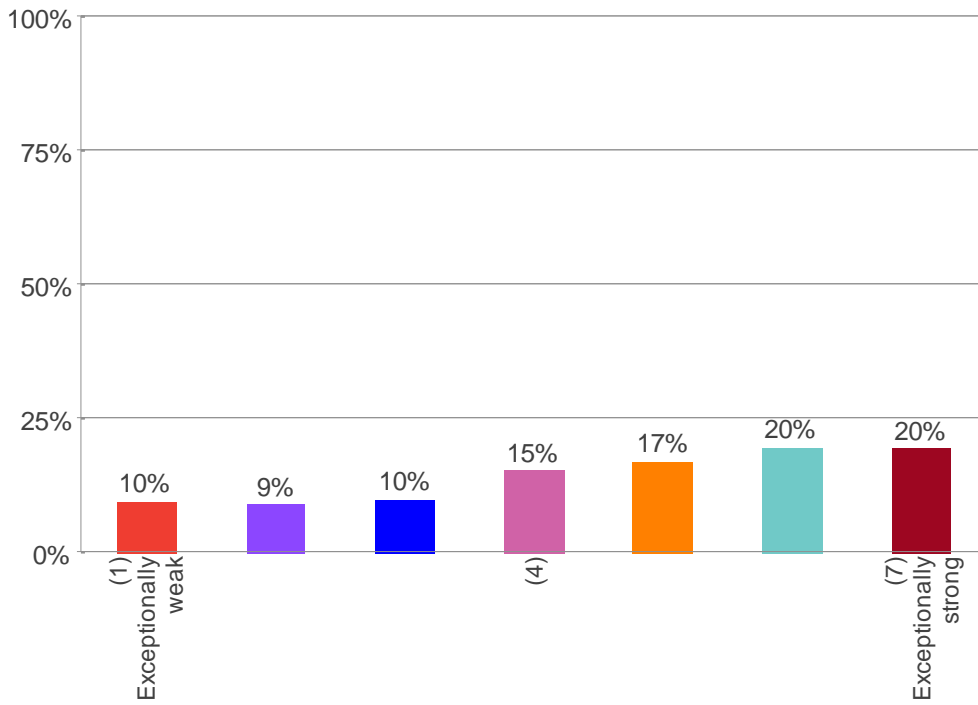
advice/counseling from your faculty advisor

9%	9%	9%	15%	15%	22%	21%
(1) Exceptionally weak			(4)			(7) Exceptionally strong
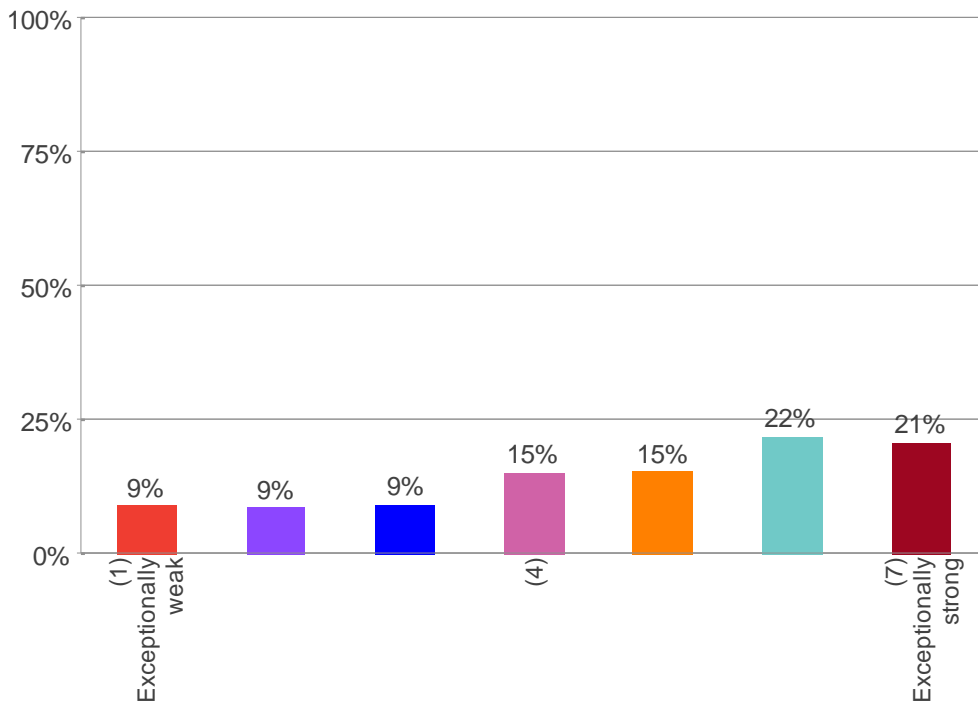
To what extent did your views of the professional roles and responsibilities of teachers change from the time you entered your teacher preparation program to program completion?
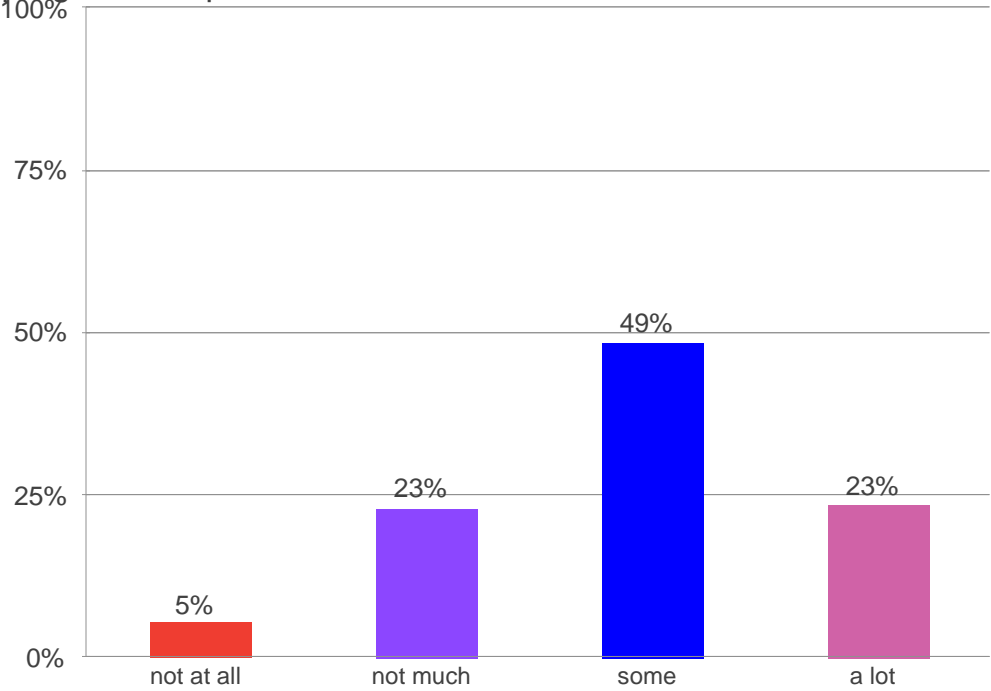
Please rate your overall capability compared with other professionals with the same number of years of experience in your professional practice.
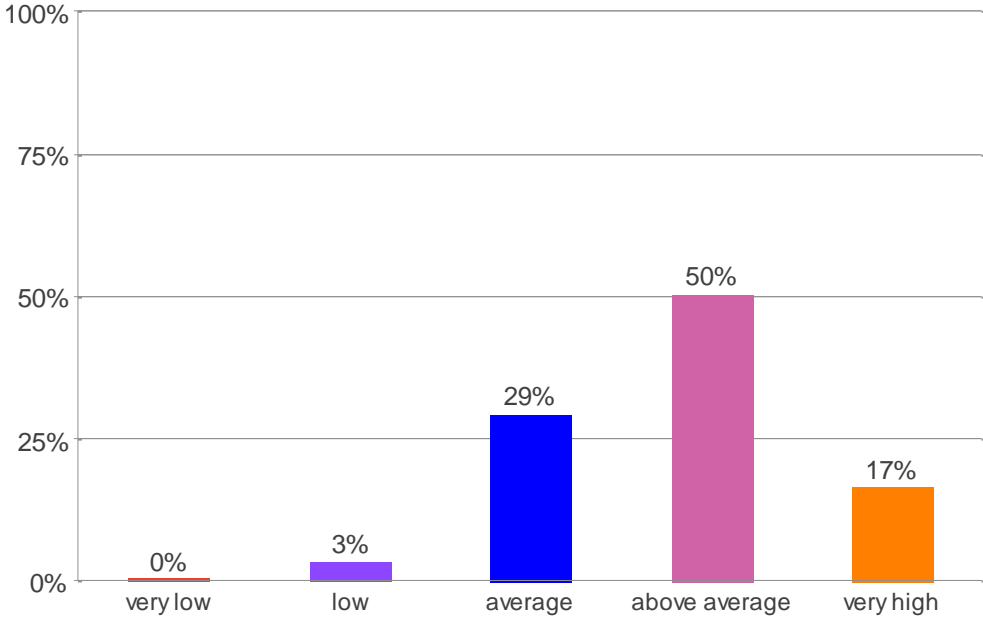
Please rate your overall confidence in your professional practice.
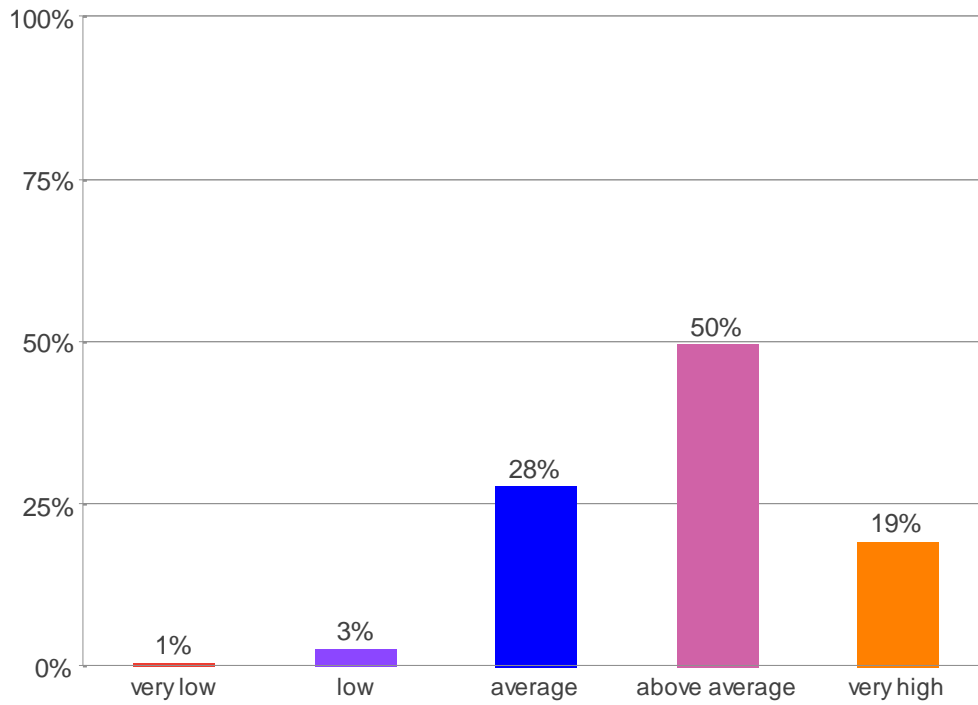
Please rate your overall professional behavior.
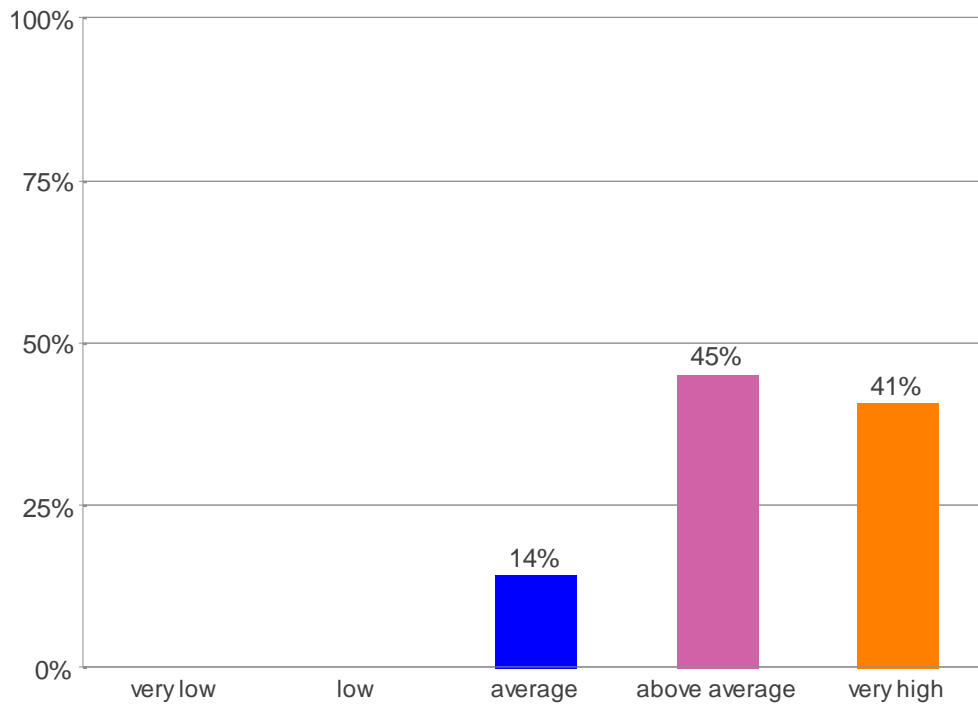
Overall, rate the quality of your education courses

	unacceptable	below average	average	above average	very high
	2%	13%	38%	35%	13%
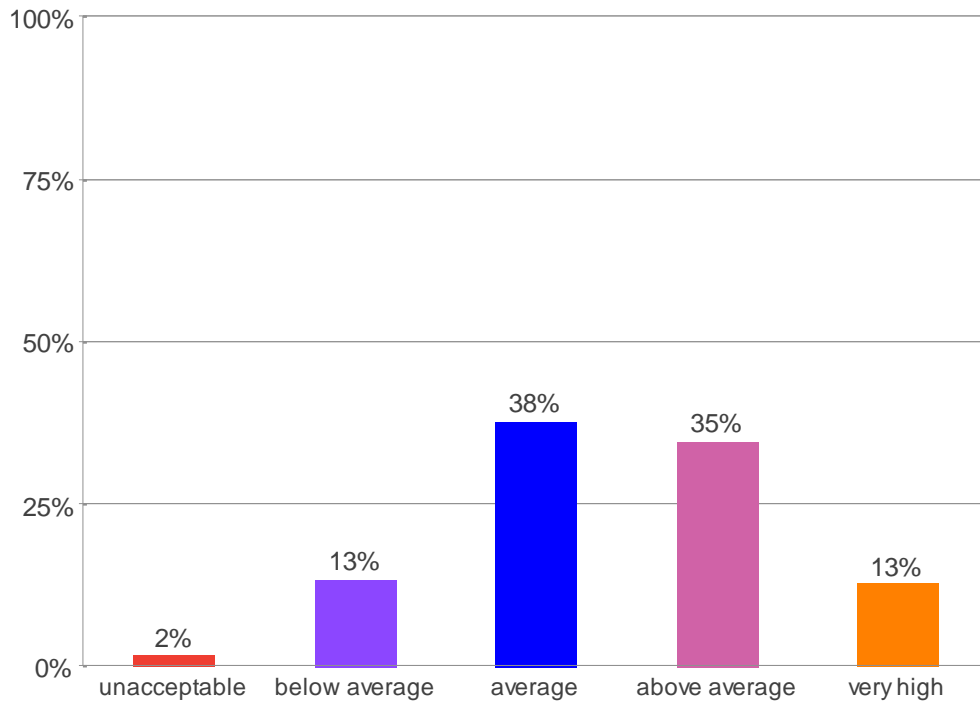
The intellectual challenge of your education course work at SCSU

	unacceptable	below average	average	above average	very high
	3%	16%	40%	29%	12%
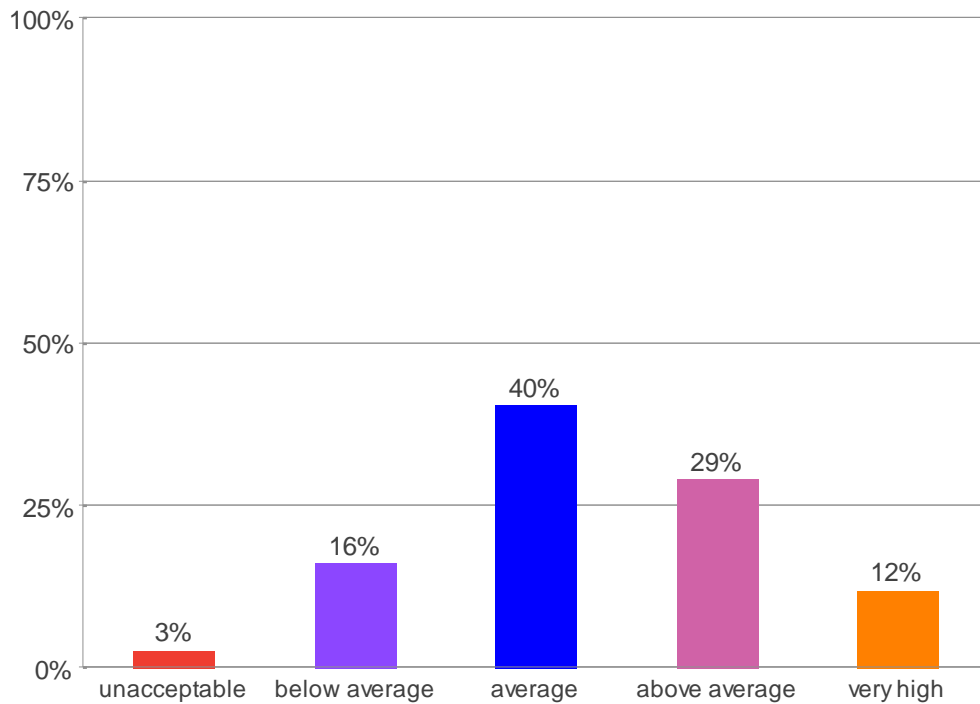
The quality of instruction you received during your course work

Category	Percentage
unacceptable	3%
below average	11%
average	38%
above average	33%
very high	16%
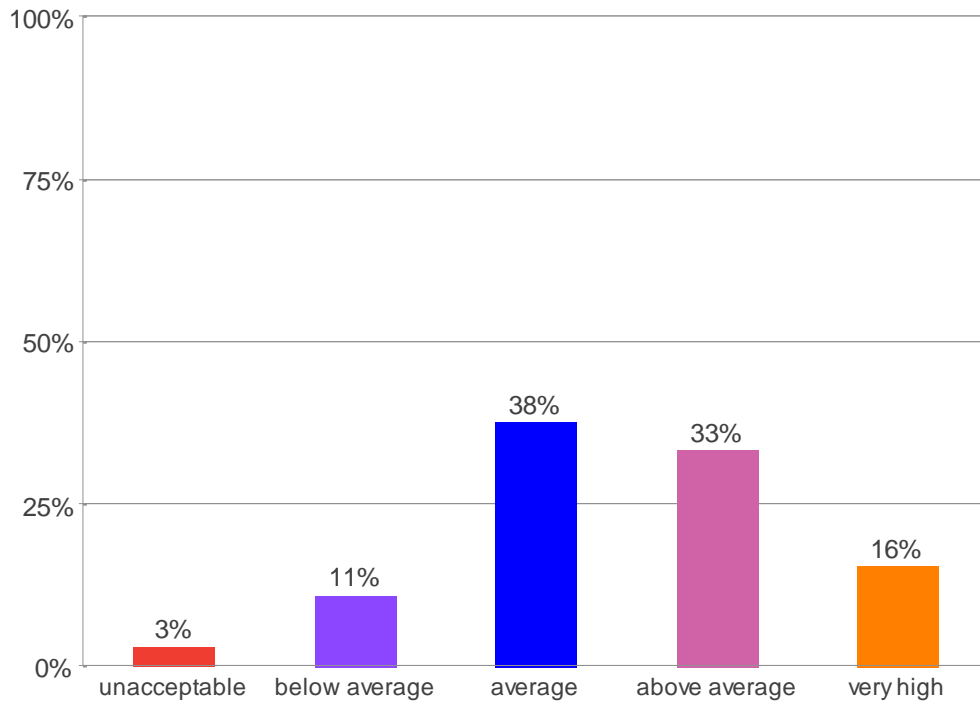
The quality of your cooperating/placement teacher

Category	Percentage
unacceptable	4%
below average	9%
average	31%
above average	30%
very high	26%
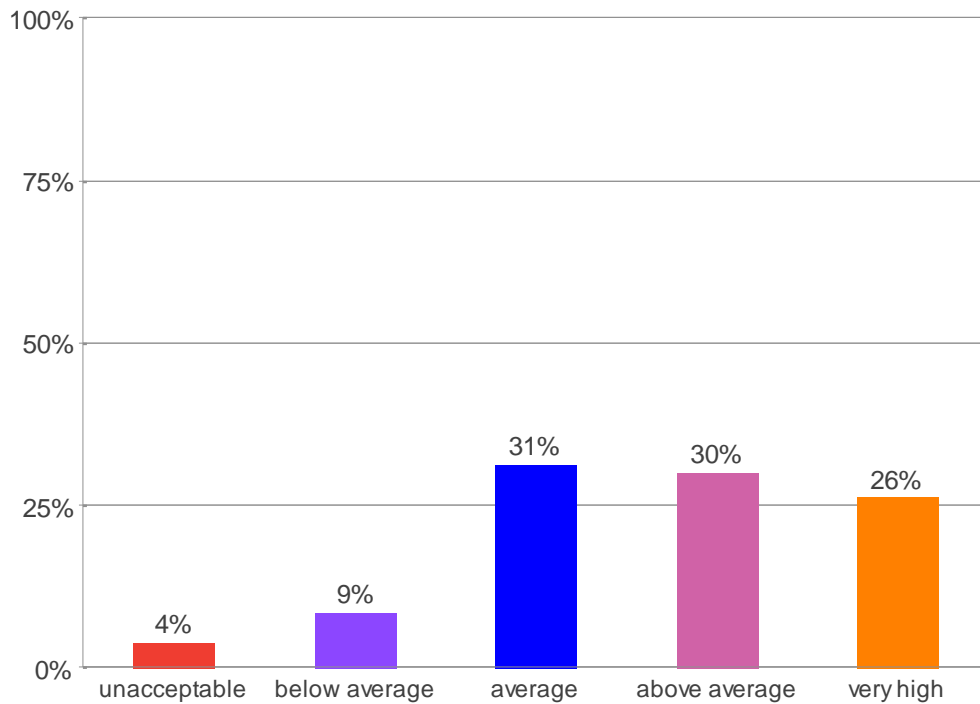
The OVERALL quality of your teacher education experience

Category	Percentage
unacceptable	2%
below average	11%
average	35%
above average	37%
very high	15%
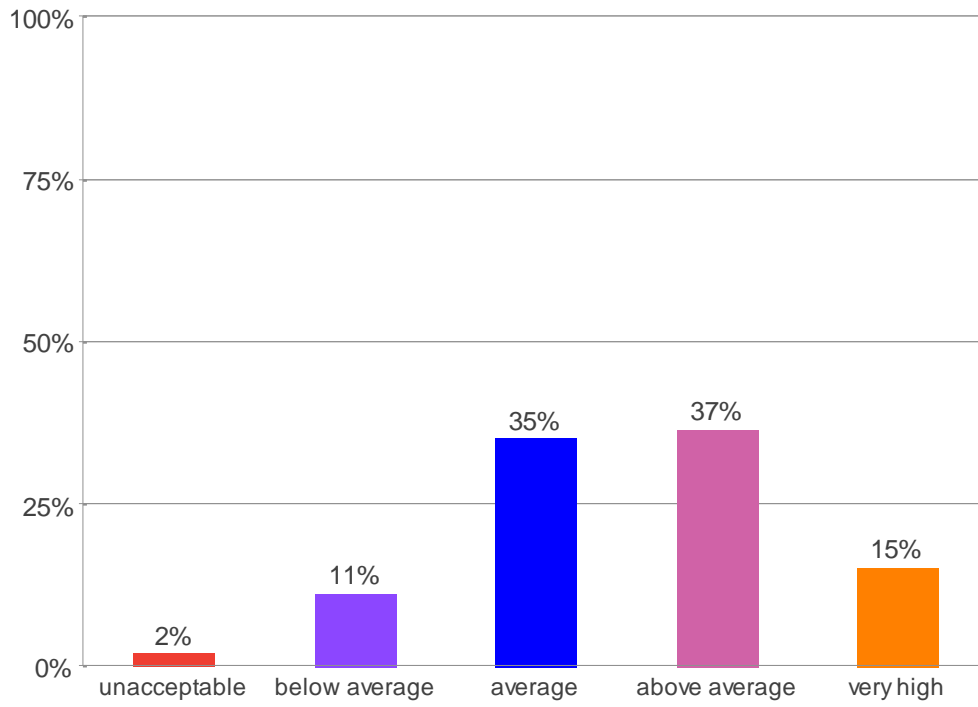
How would you have rated the adequacy of your skills in each of the following areas <u>at the time you completed your program</u>?

planning stimulating lesson
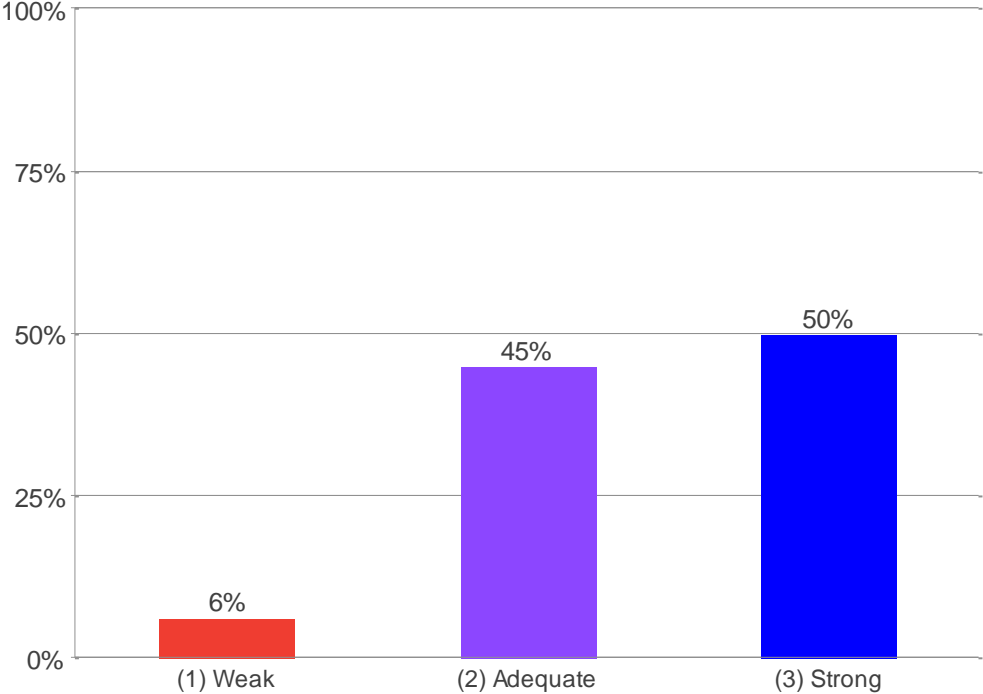
motivating students to participate in academic tasks
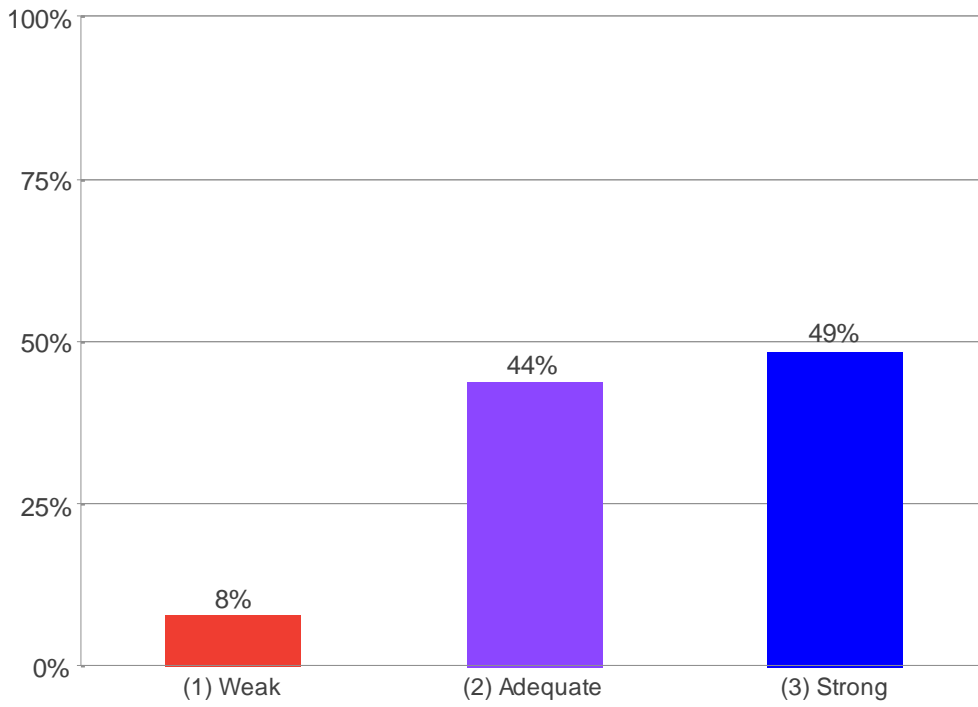
teaching basic knowledge and skills
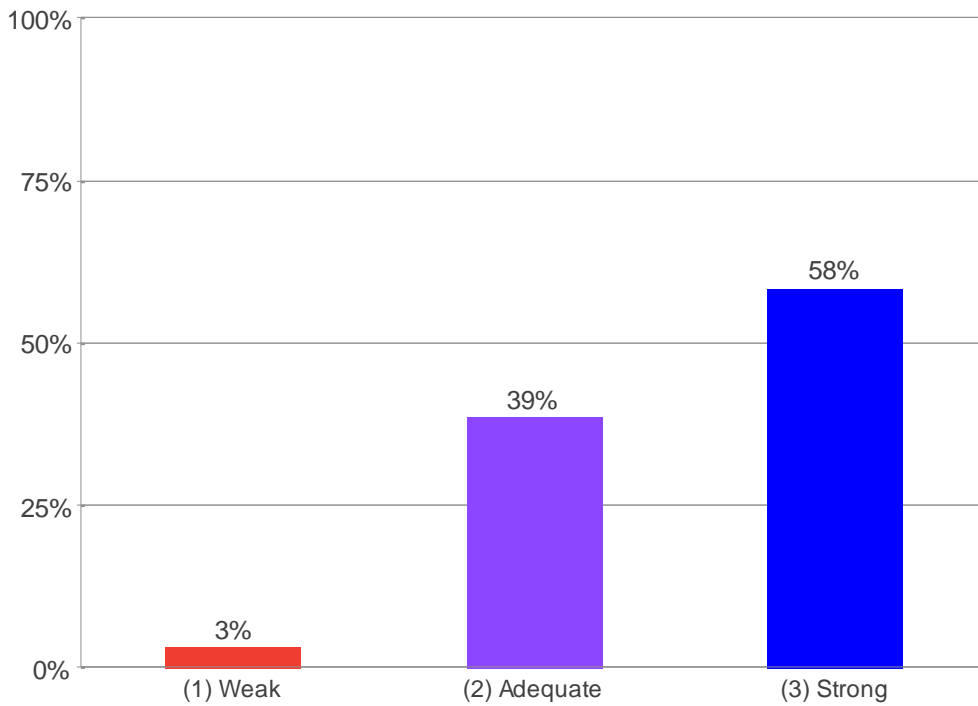
teaching problem solving and higher-order thinking to all students
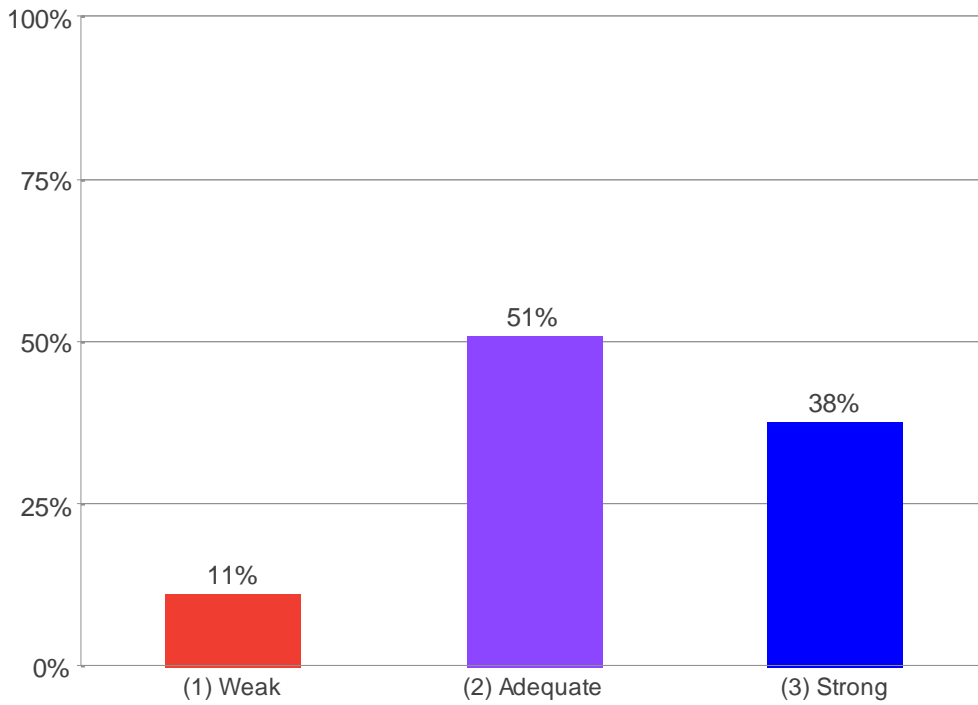
developing a "sense of community" among the students in your classroom (i.e., a classroom that stresses meaningful collaborations among students)
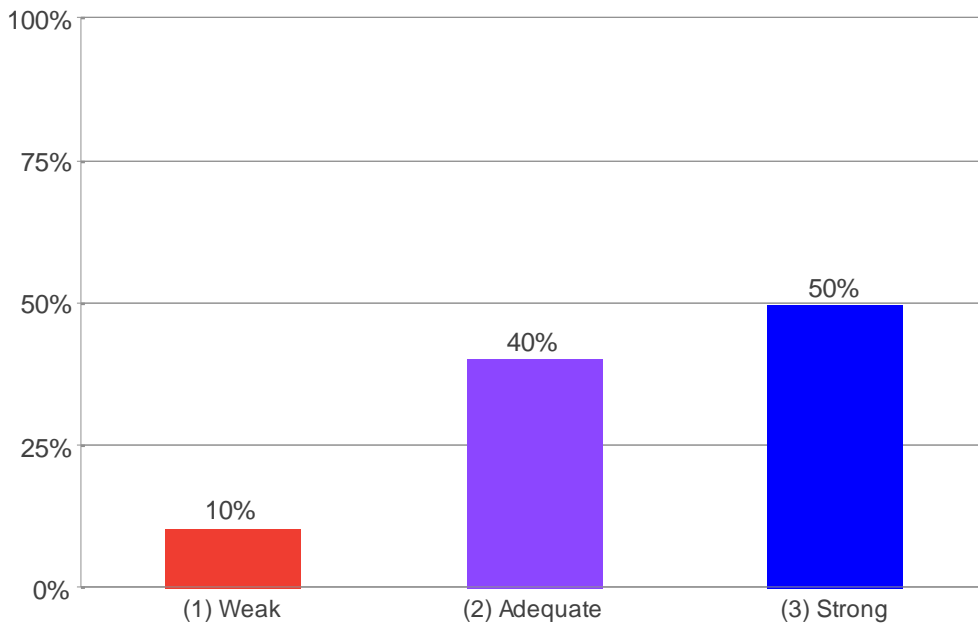
team teaching and/or interdisciplinary planning and teaching
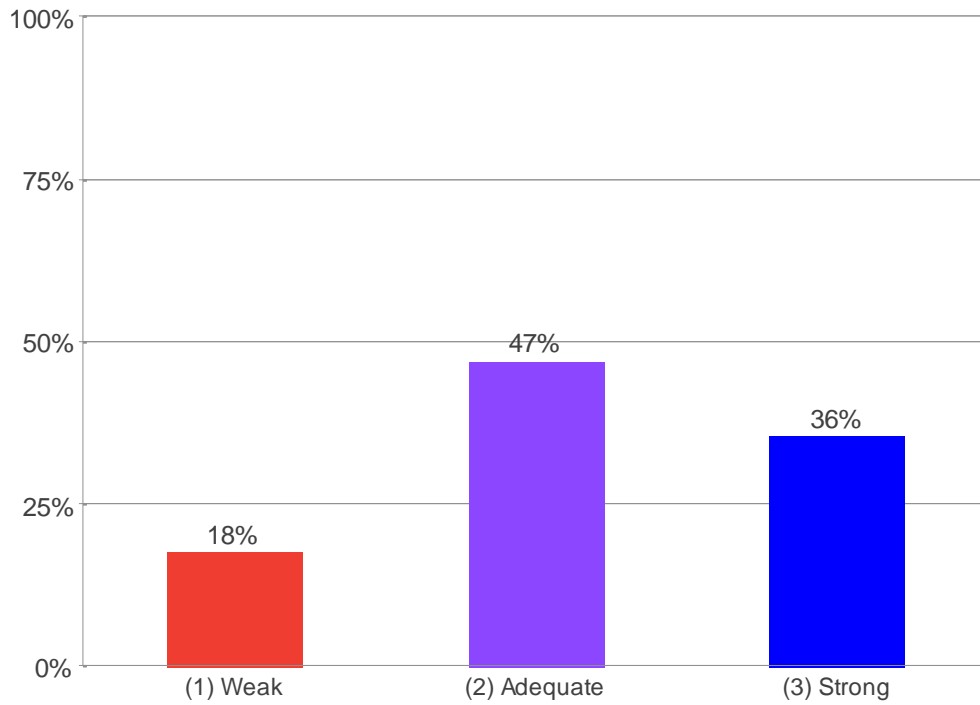
selecting, preparing, and using educational media
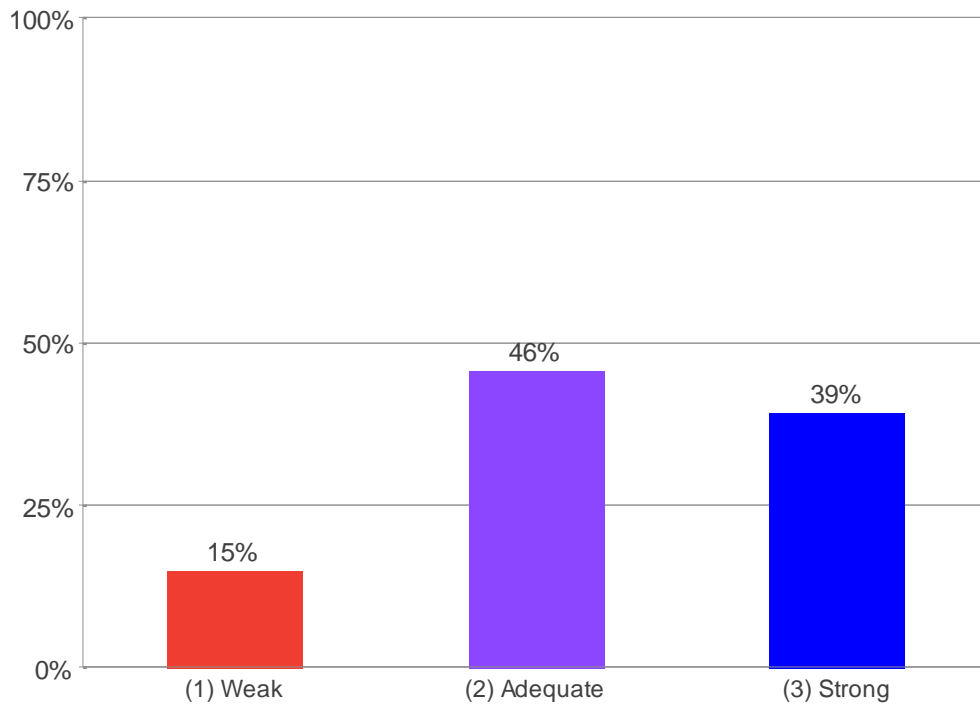
using educational technology as a learning tool
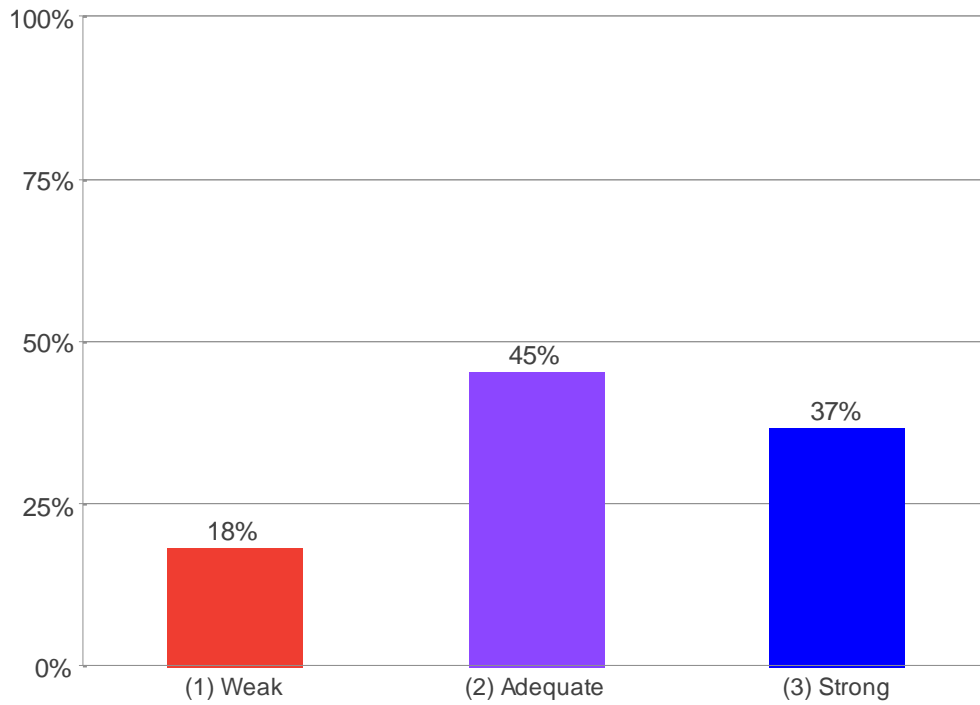
referring to students for special assistance when appropriate
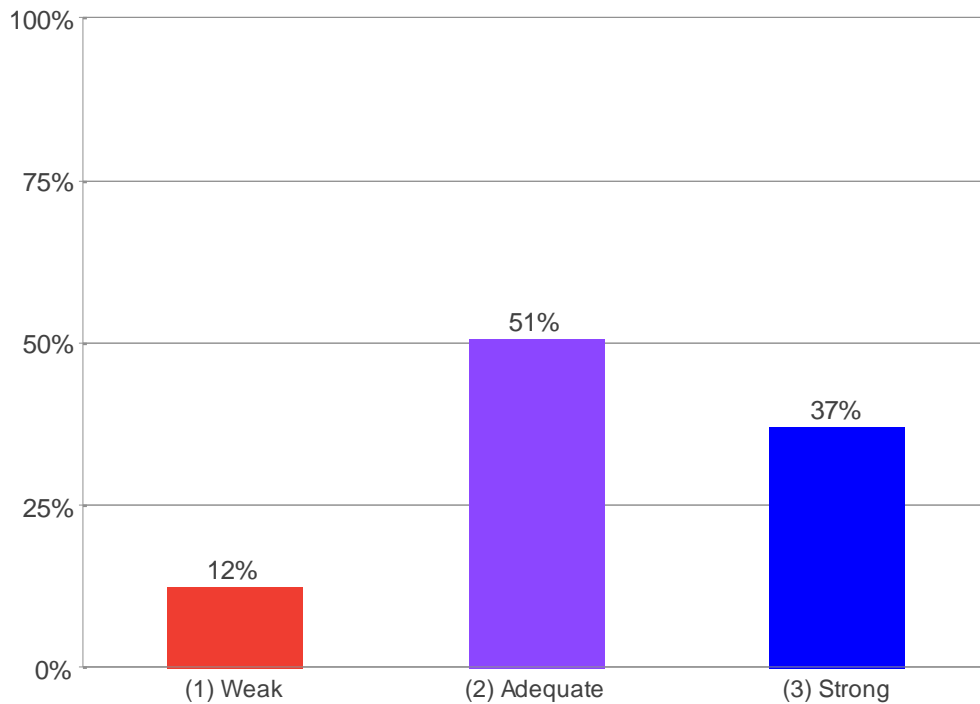
working with gifted and talented students

	(1) Weak	(2) Adequate	(3) Strong
	28%	48%	24%
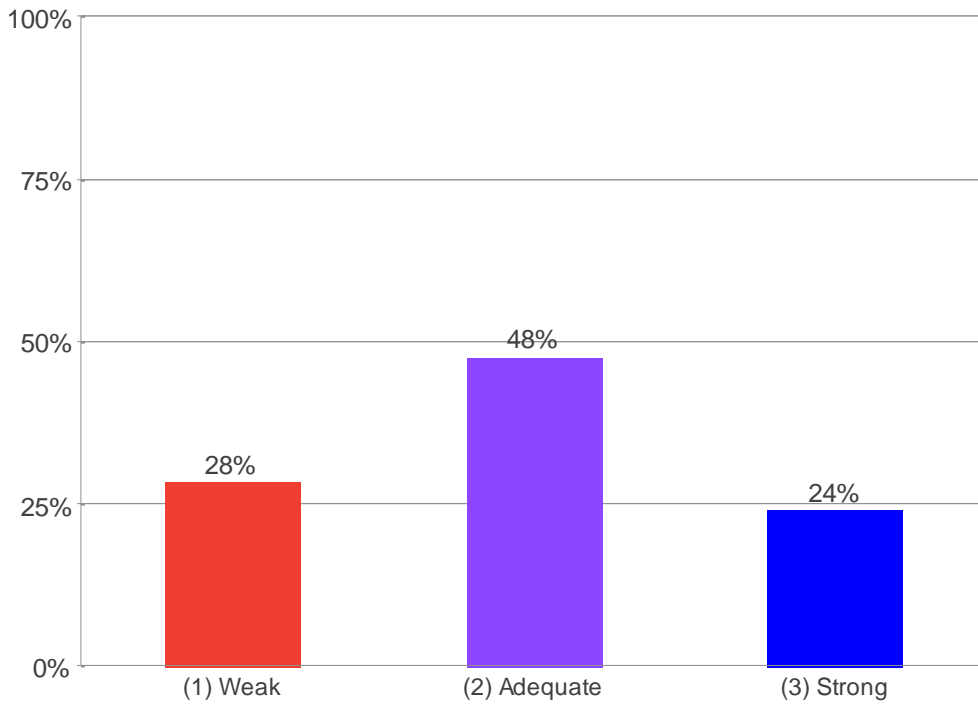
working in an inclusion setting or with students with special needs

	(1) Weak	(2) Adequate	(3) Strong
	14%	47%	39%
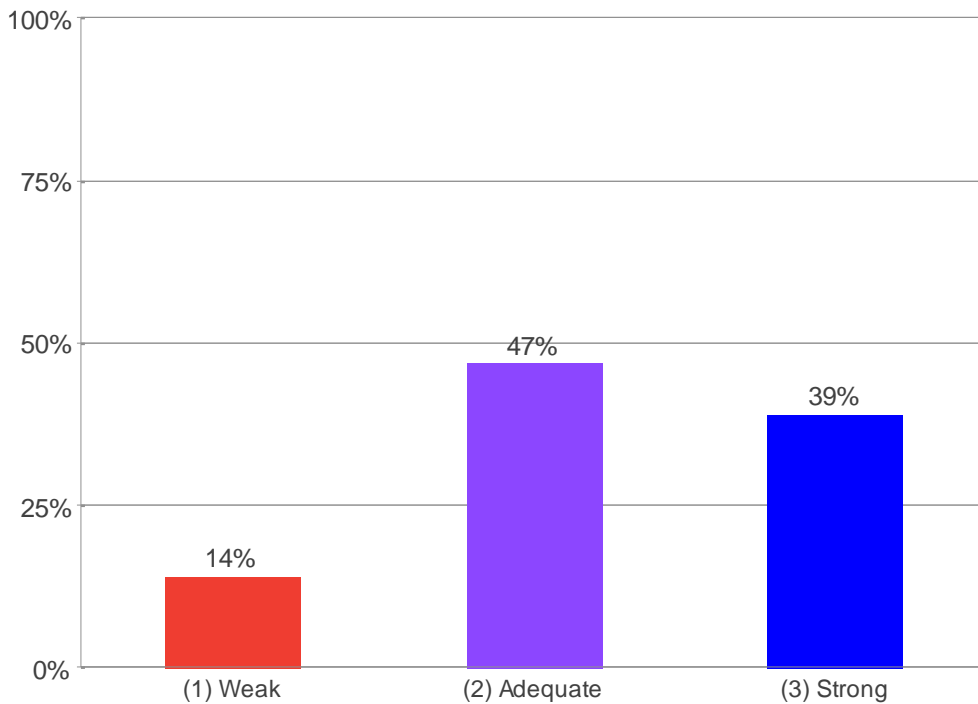
using literature-based approaches to instruction (e.g., using literacy works to teach social studies)
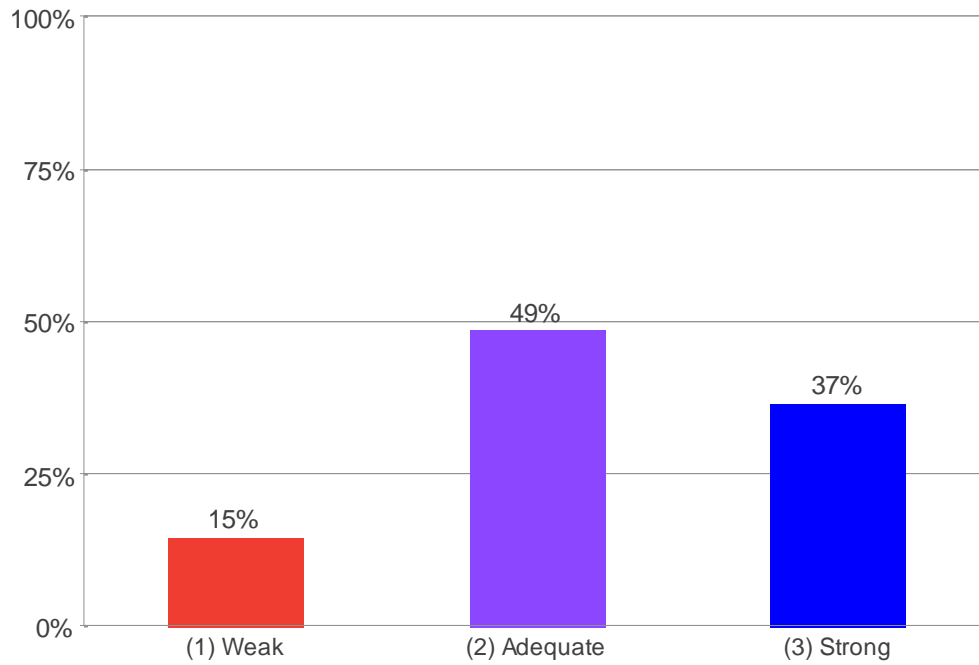
working with student from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds
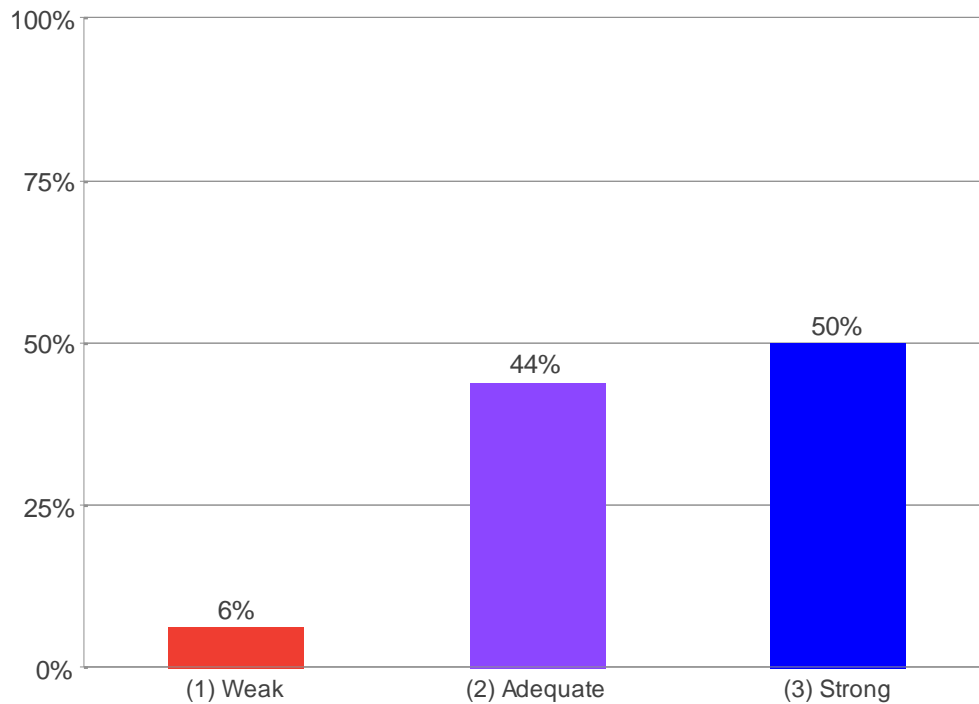
adapting instruction to address differences in students/academic aptitude
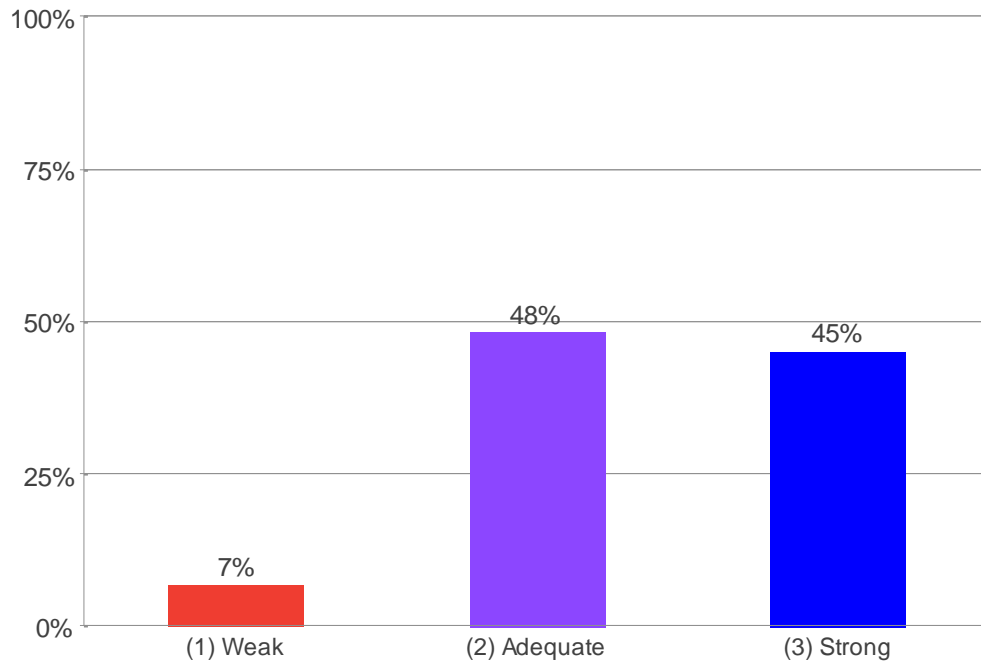
enhancing students' sense of personal achievement and self-worth
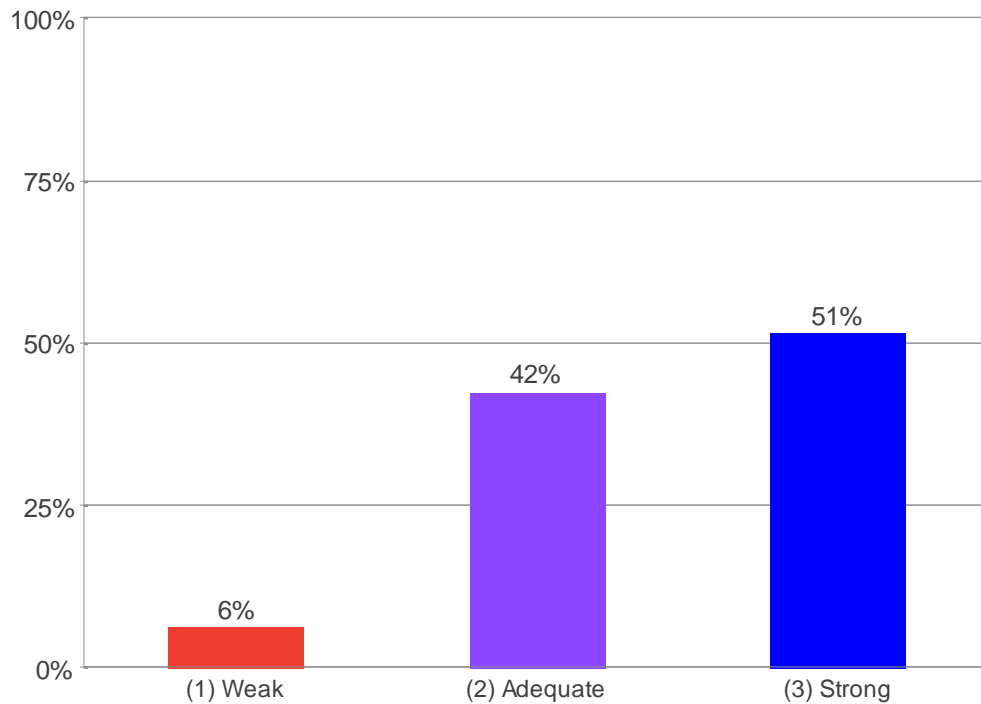
monitoring students' progress and adjusting instruction accordingly
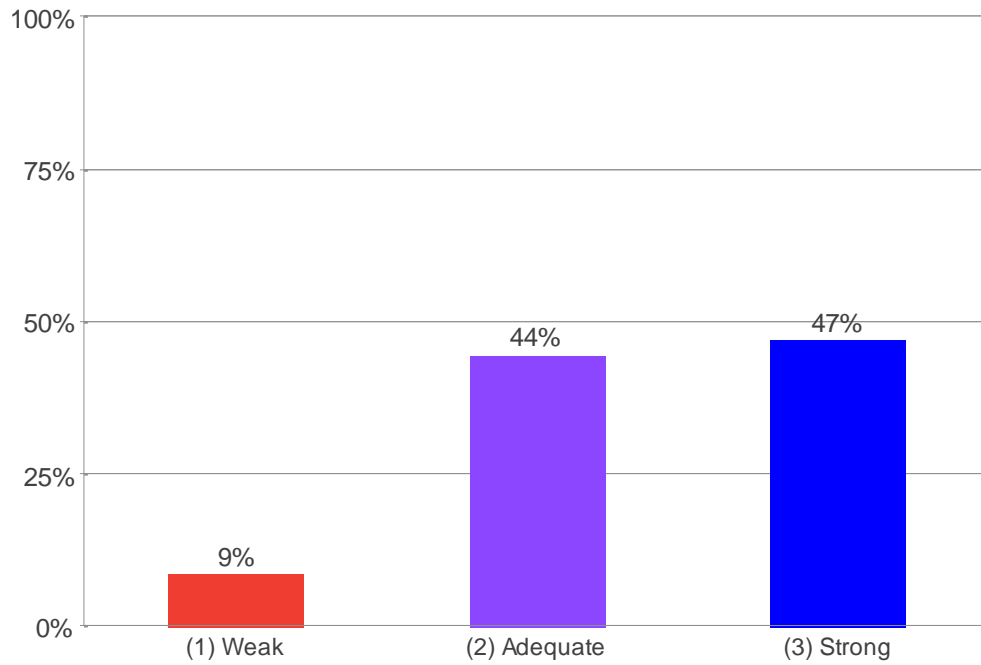
designing/interpreting measures of student work and achievement
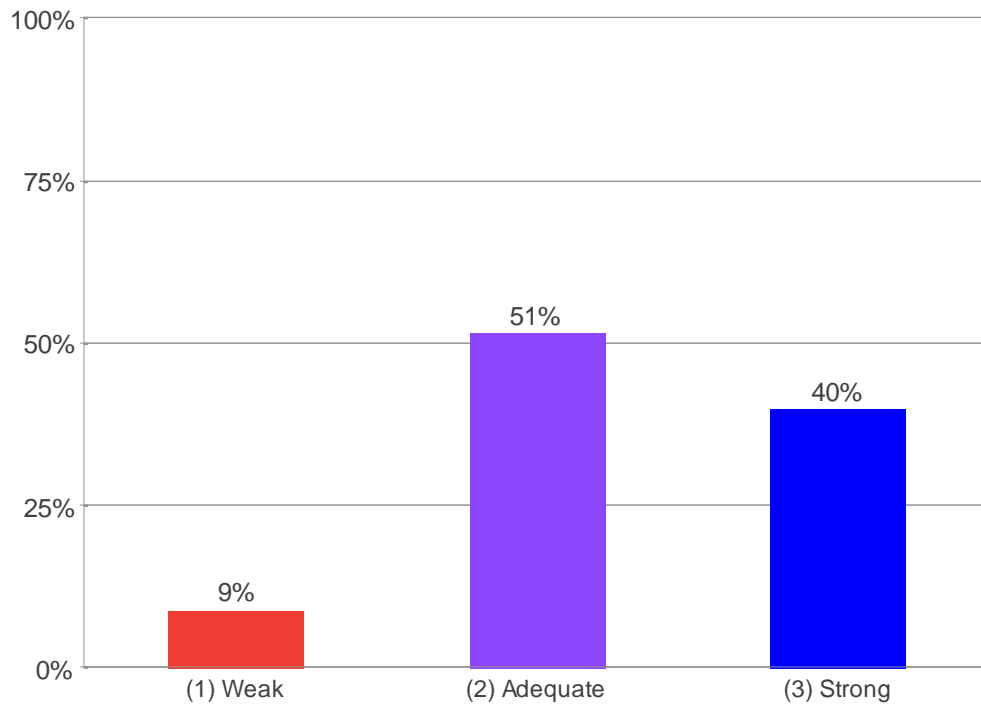
using alternative assessment practices (portfolios, performance tests, student self-assessment strategies, etc.)
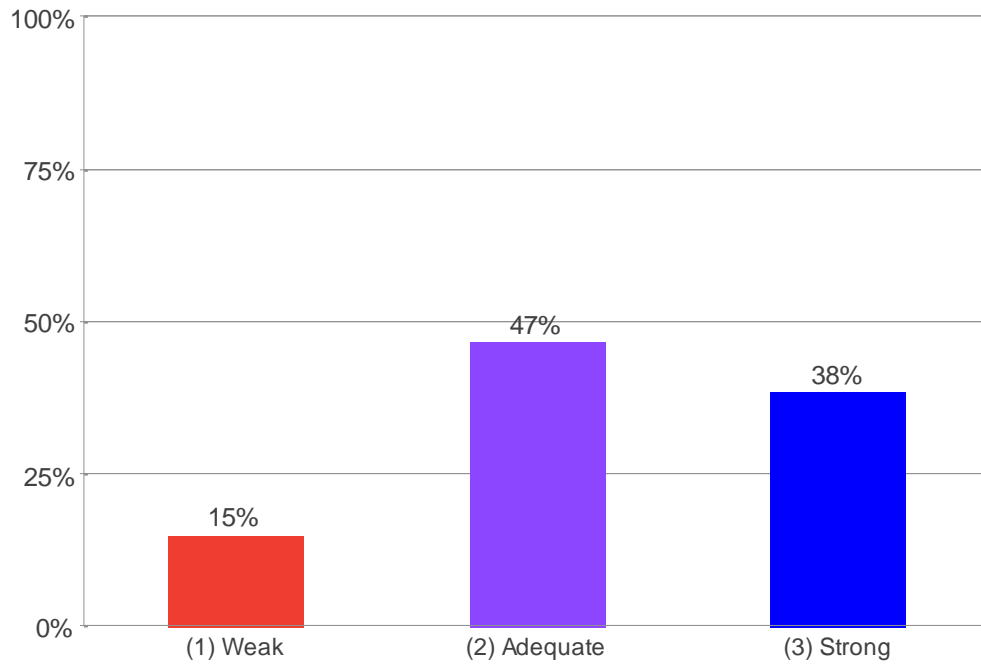
communication with parents
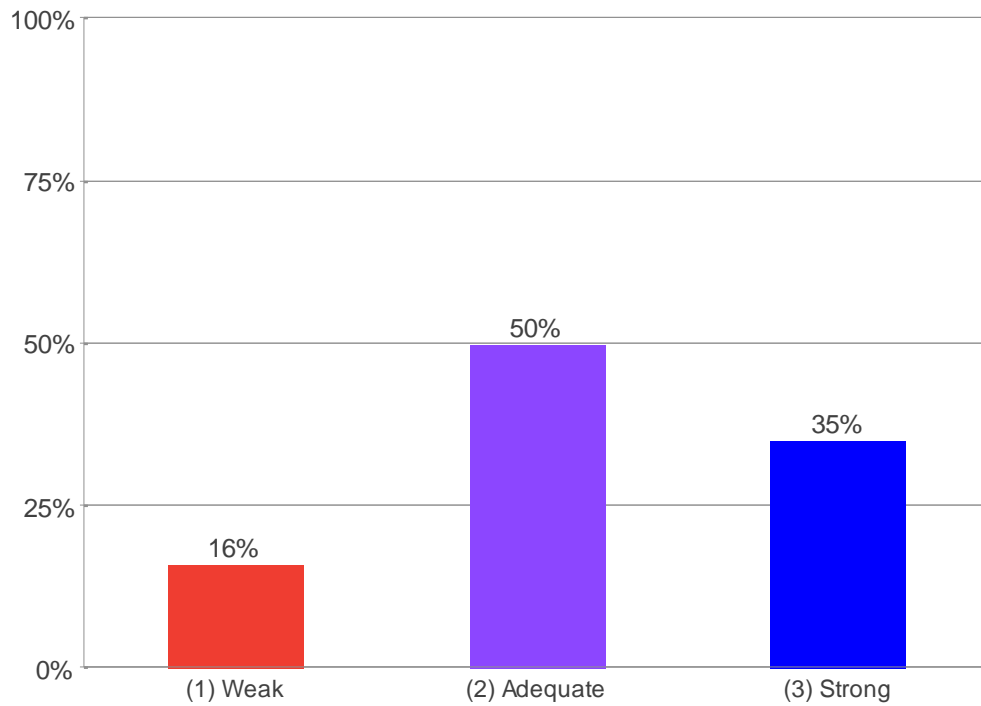
using the community as a resource for teaching and learning
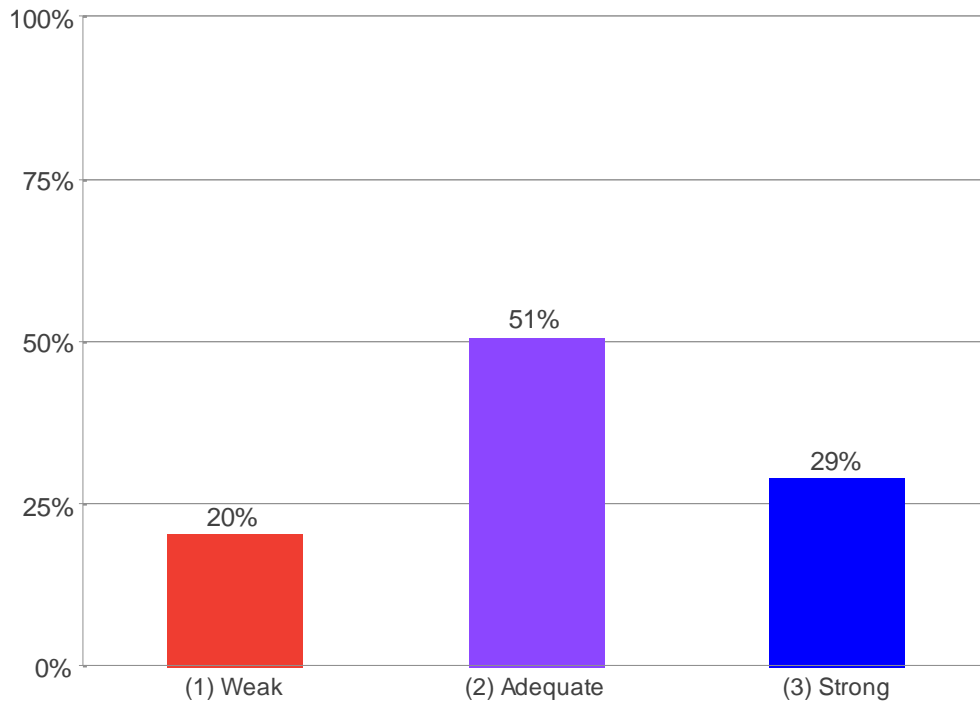
using cooperative learning techniques (e.g., jigsaw, Think, Pair, Share, or others)
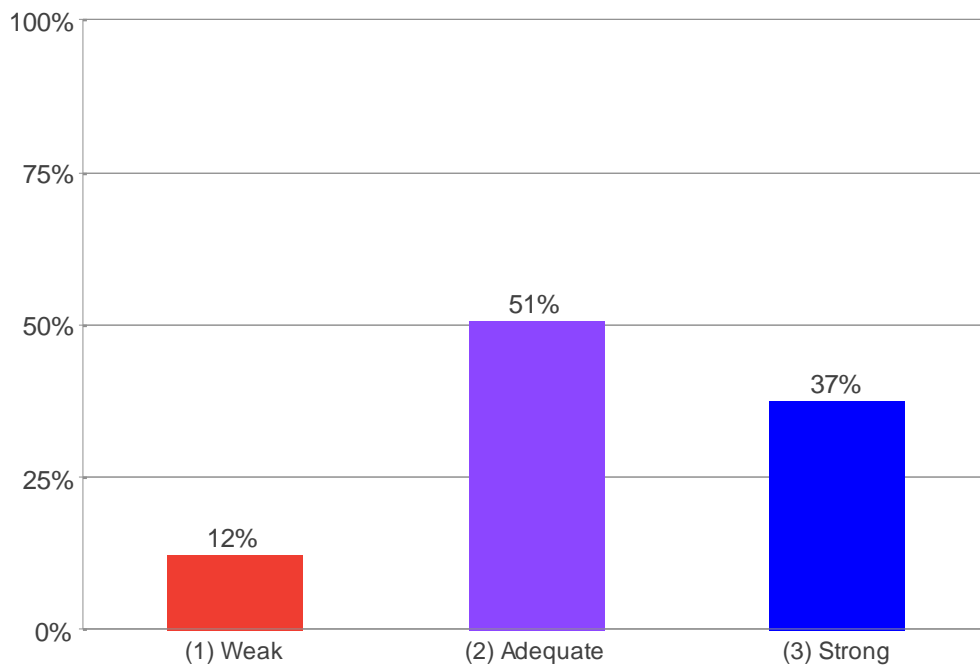
responding appropriately to disruptive student behaviors
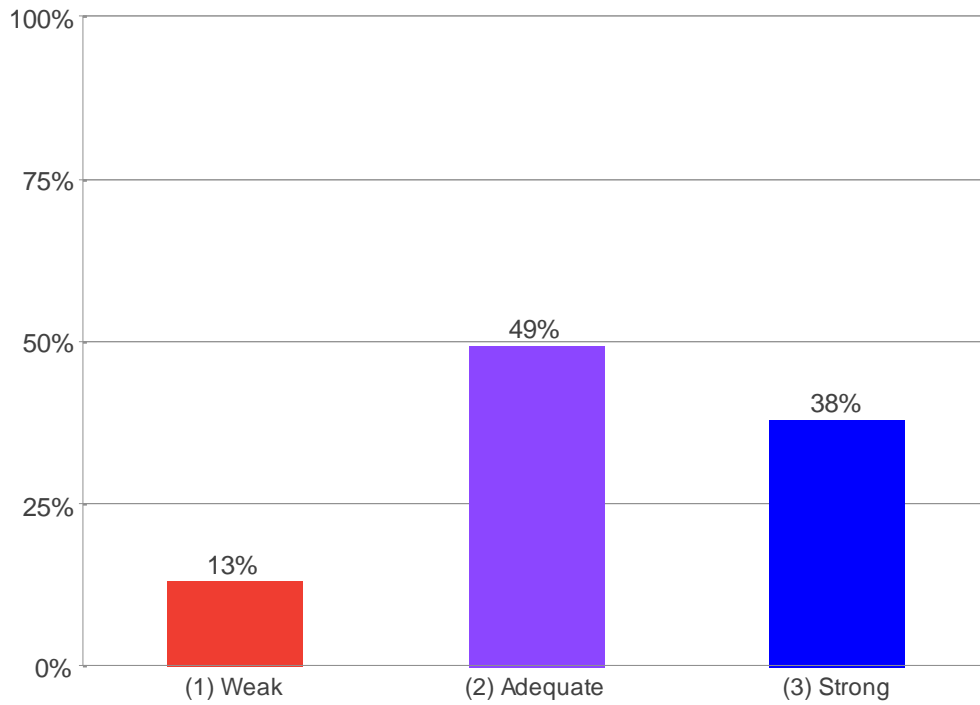
assessing the expectations of the community and school administration
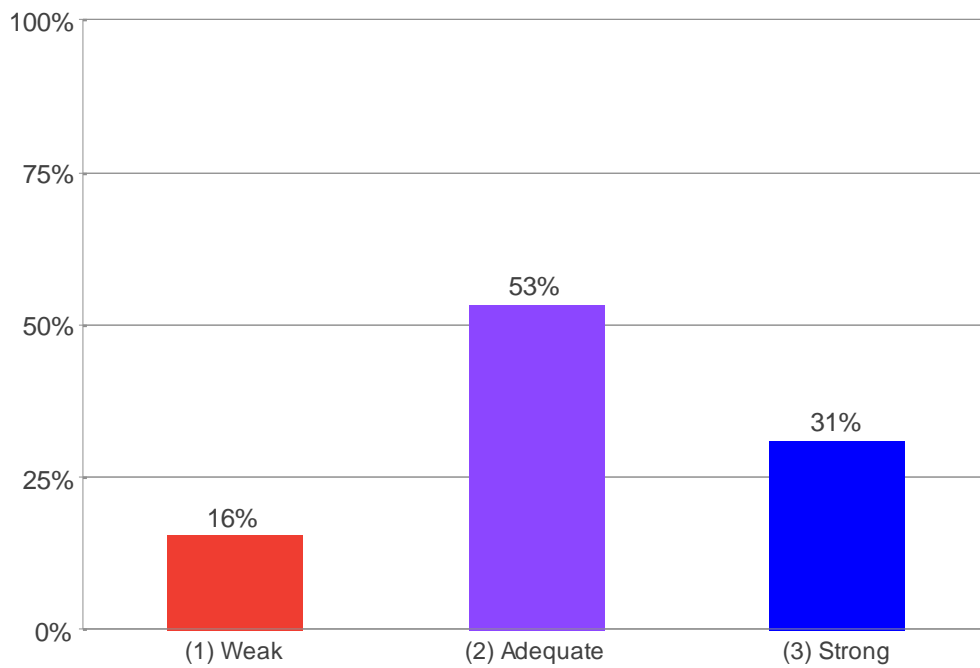
designing lessons and units of instruction that feature multiple
representation of concepts
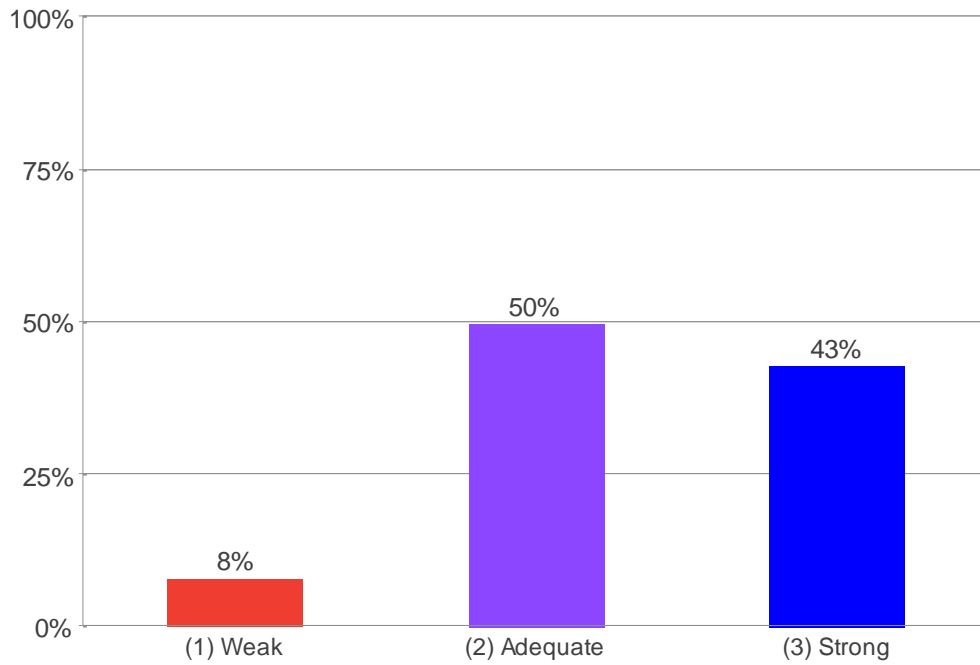
designing lessons and units of instruction that feature multiple
perspectives (e.g., a unit on westward expansion that gives
attention to Native American and Anglo perspectives)
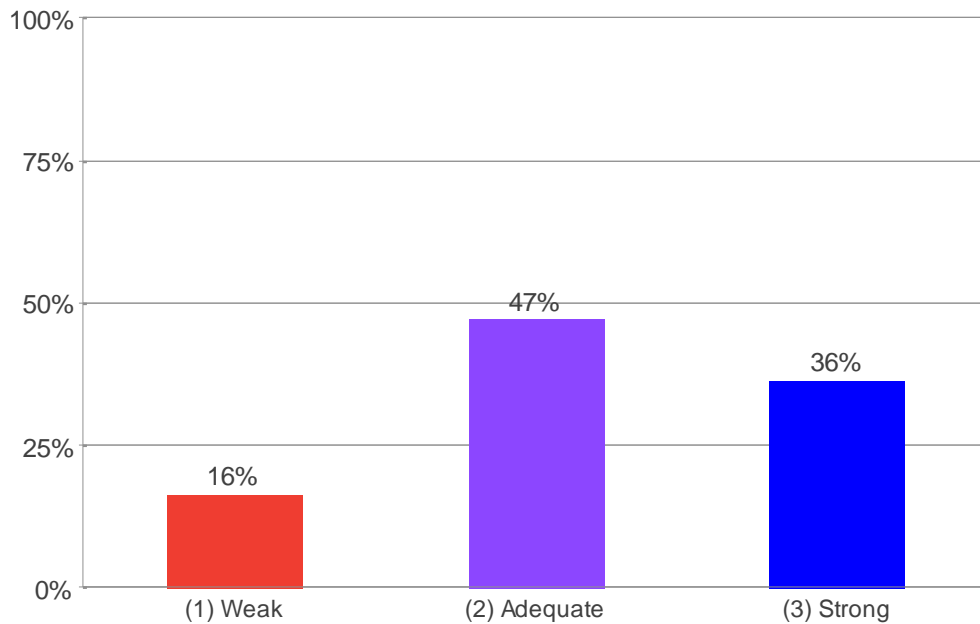
planning and implementing a successful first week of school

	(1) Weak	(2) Adequate	(3) Strong
	17%	46%	37%
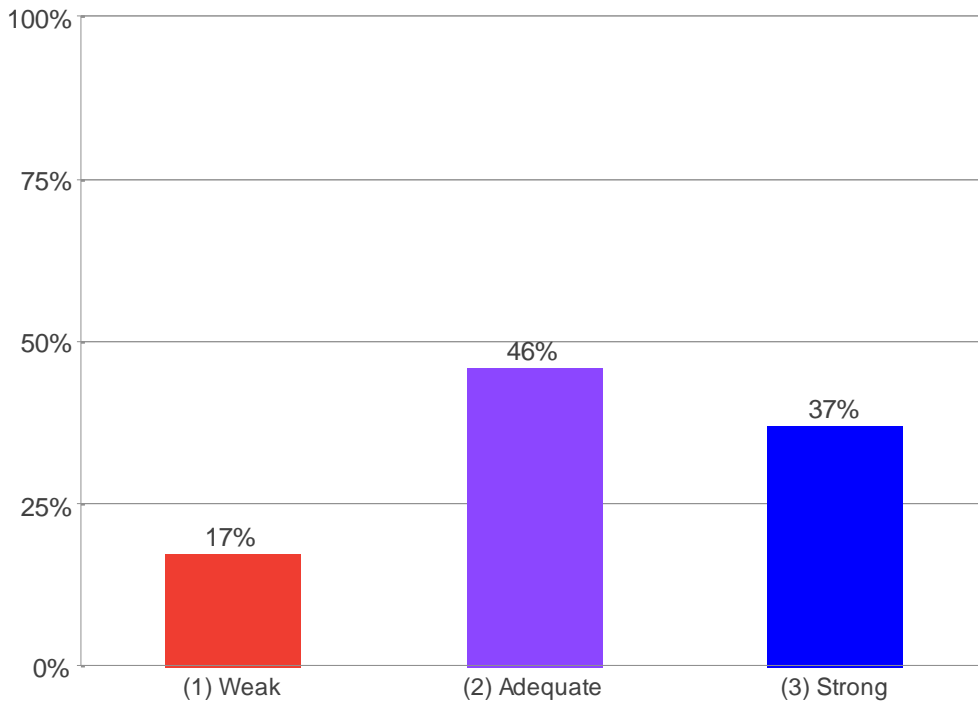
reflecting upon and improving your teaching performance

	(1) Weak	(2) Adequate	(3) Strong
	5%	45%	51%
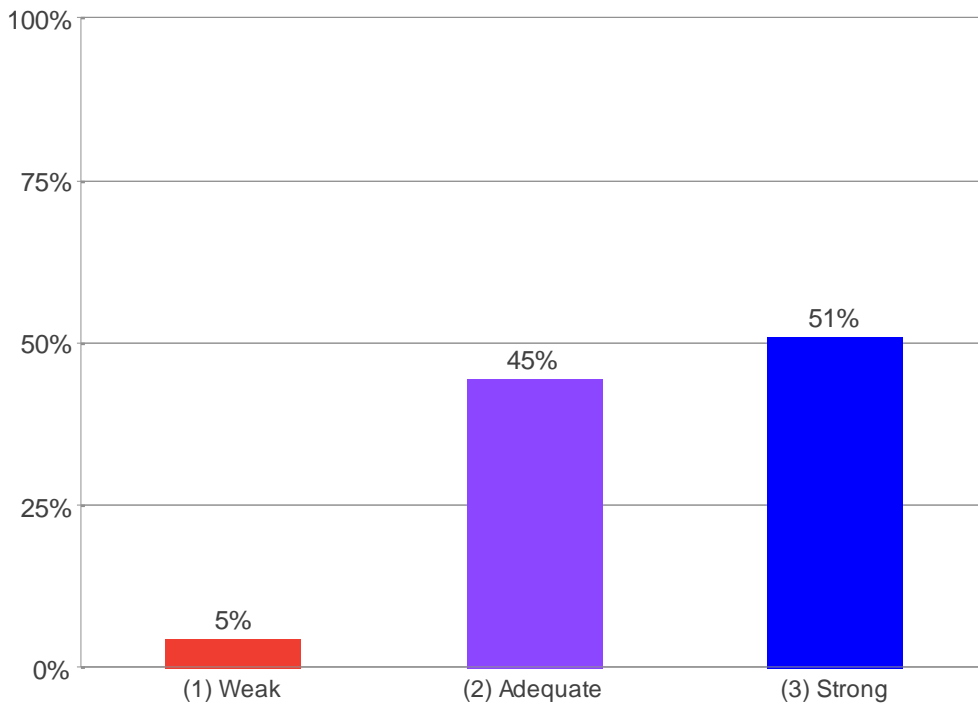
During your program, what kinds of instructional technology were you prepare to use in your teaching?
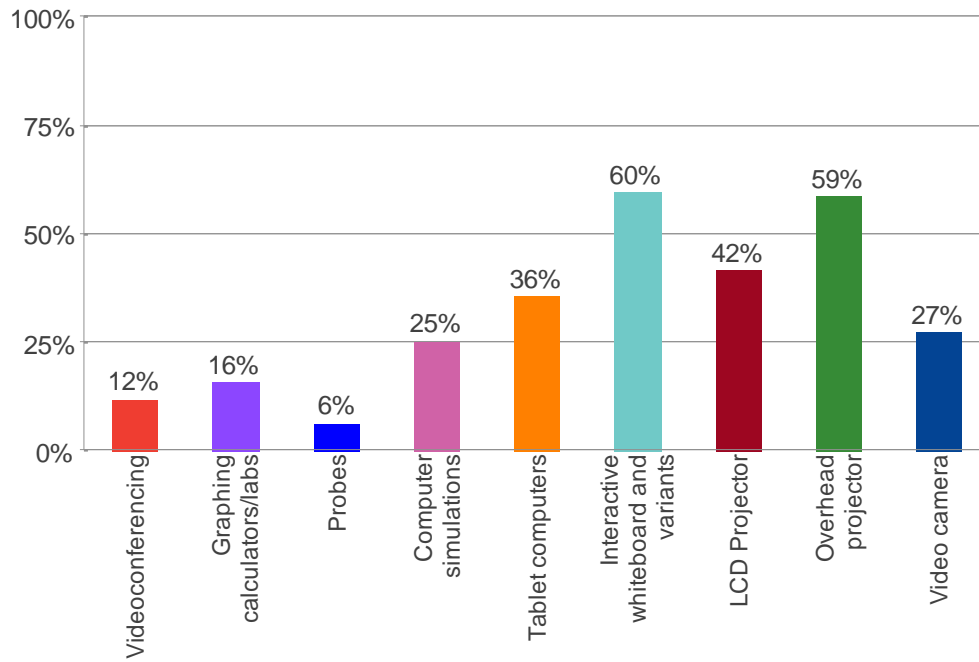
How would you rate the adequacy of your knowledge and understanding in each of the following areas?

curriculum development
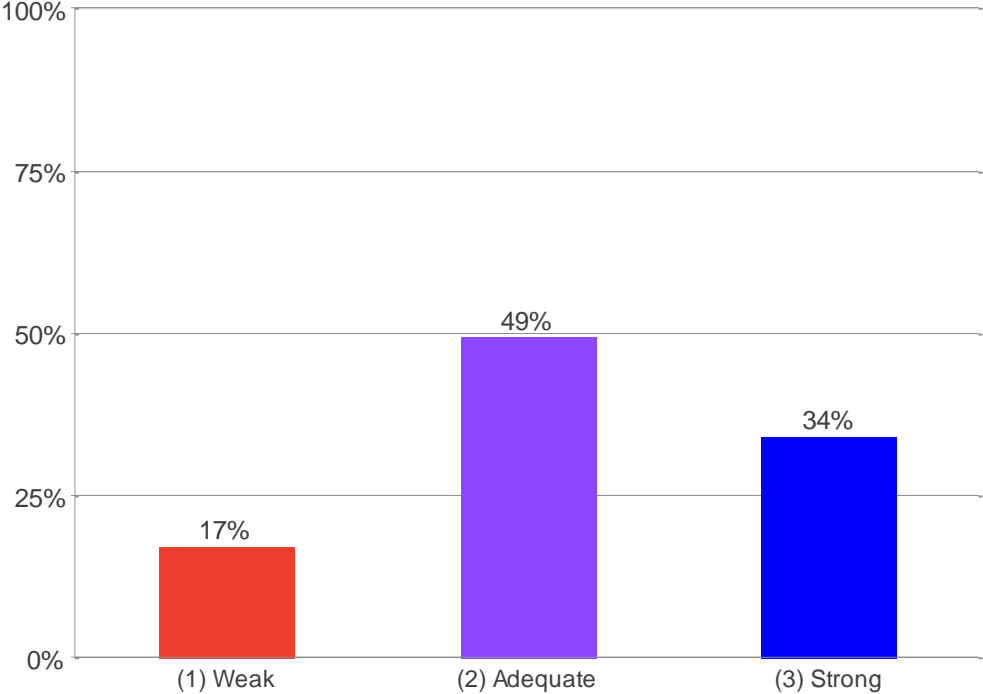
children with special needs
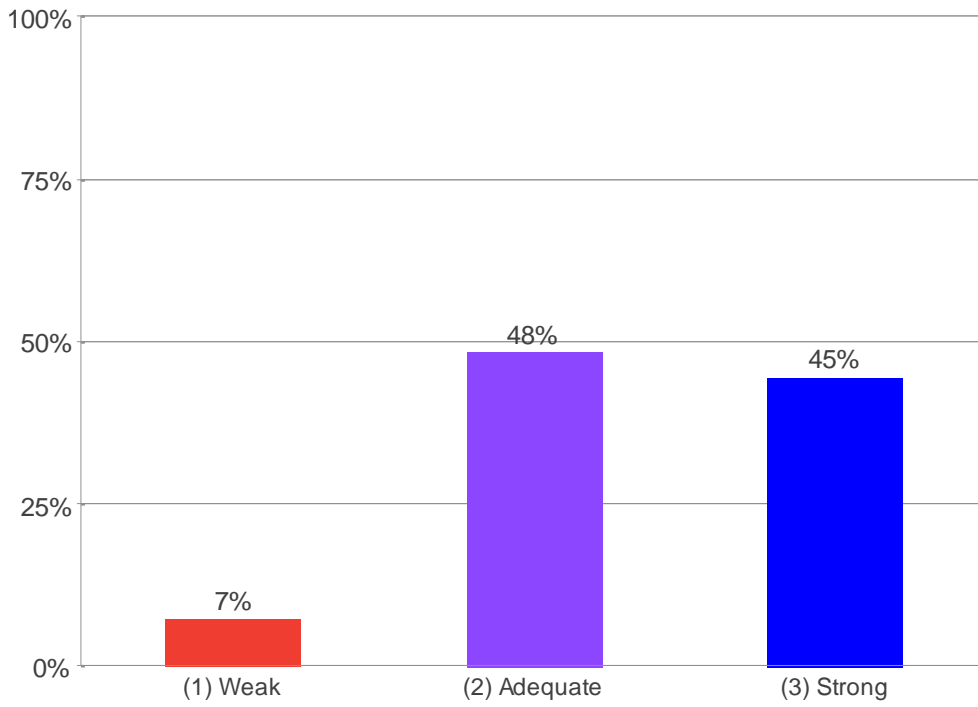
communication
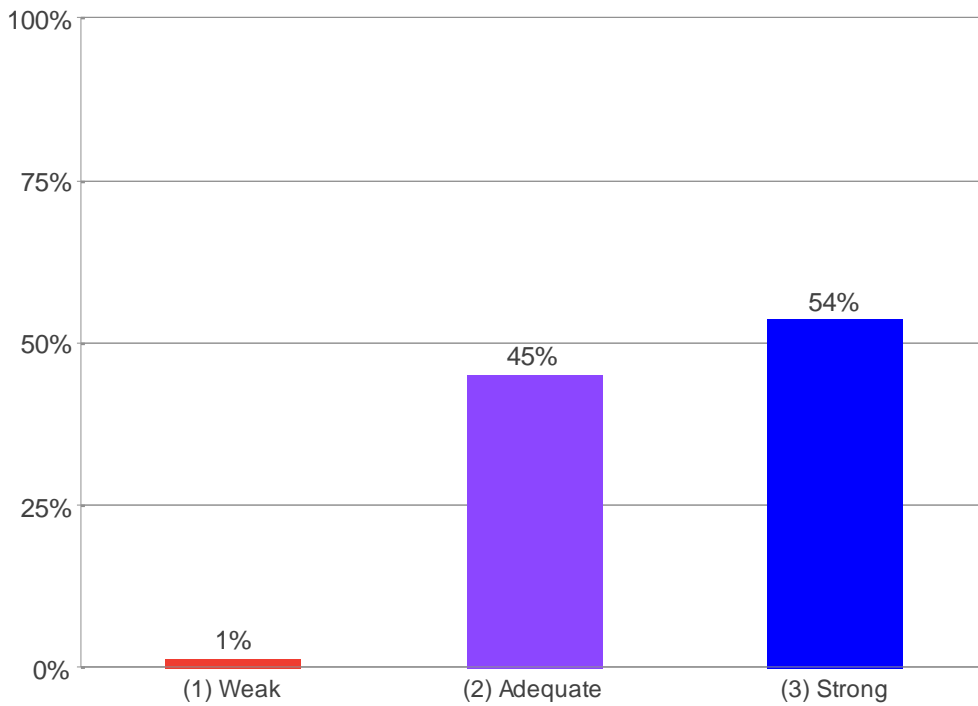
educational research
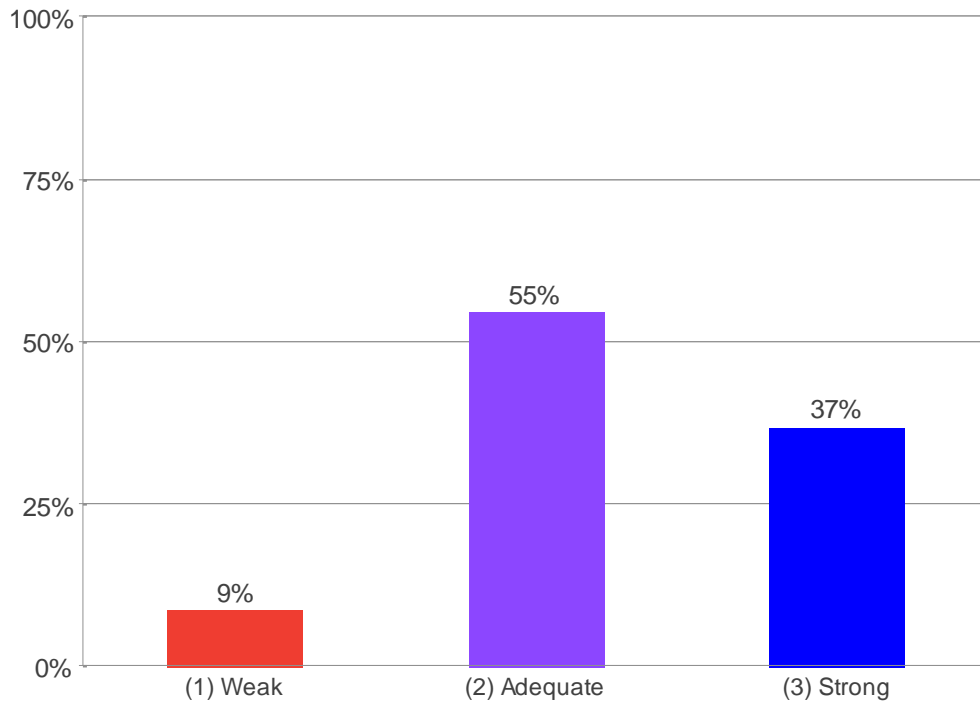
child development
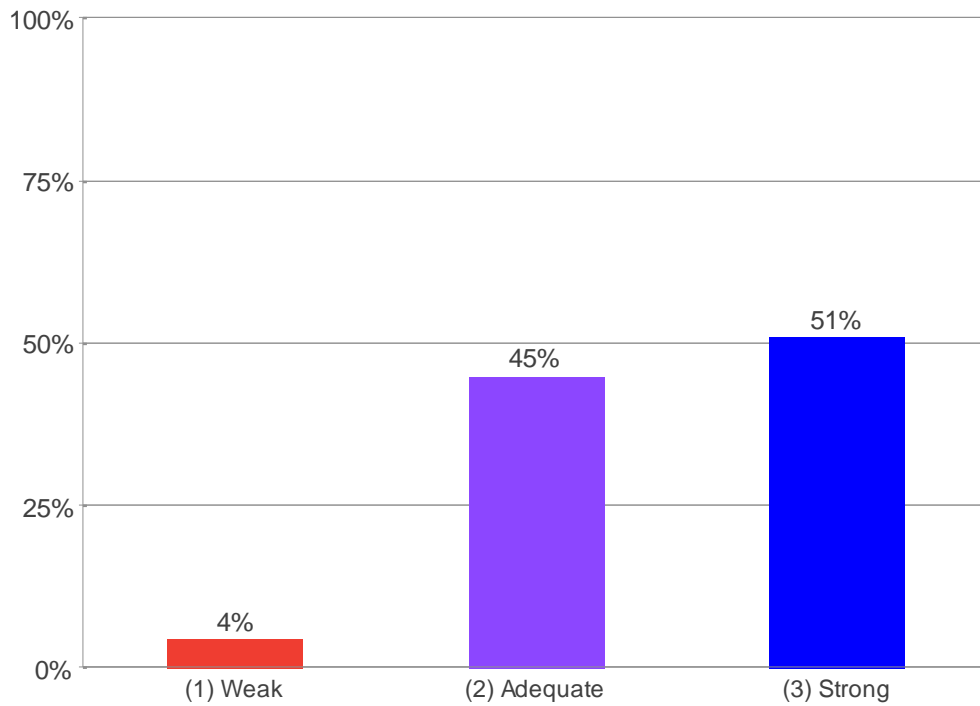
multi-cultural issues and perspectives
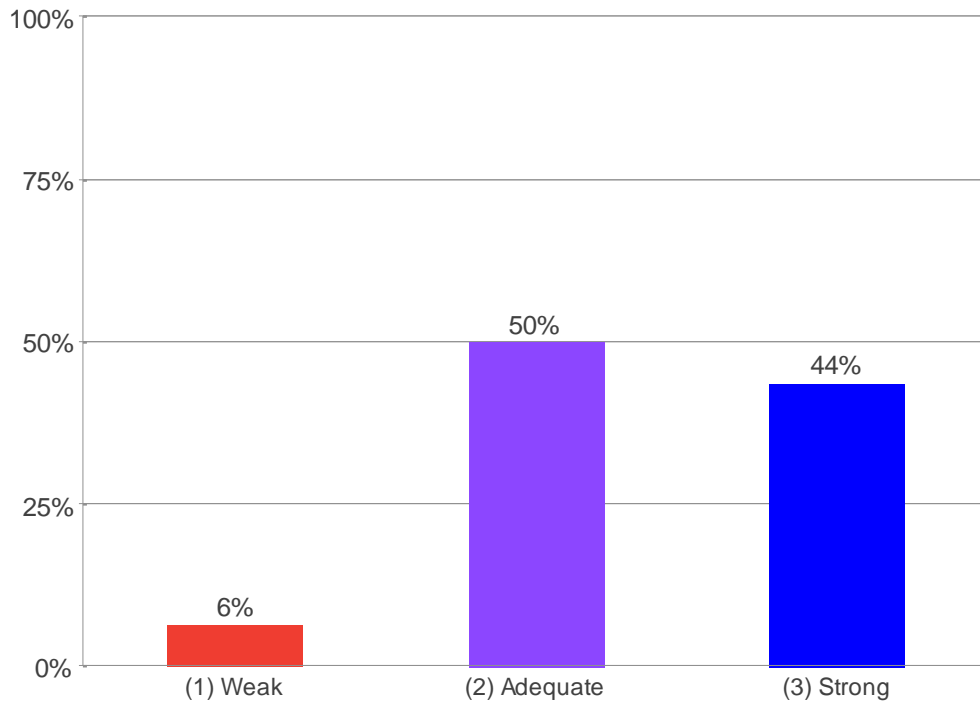
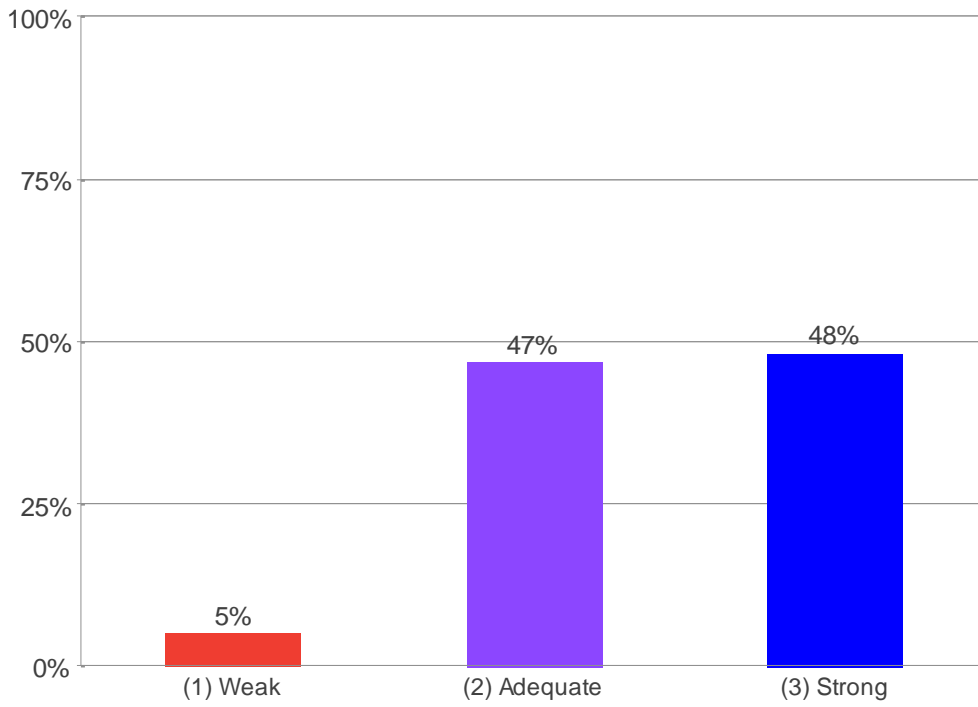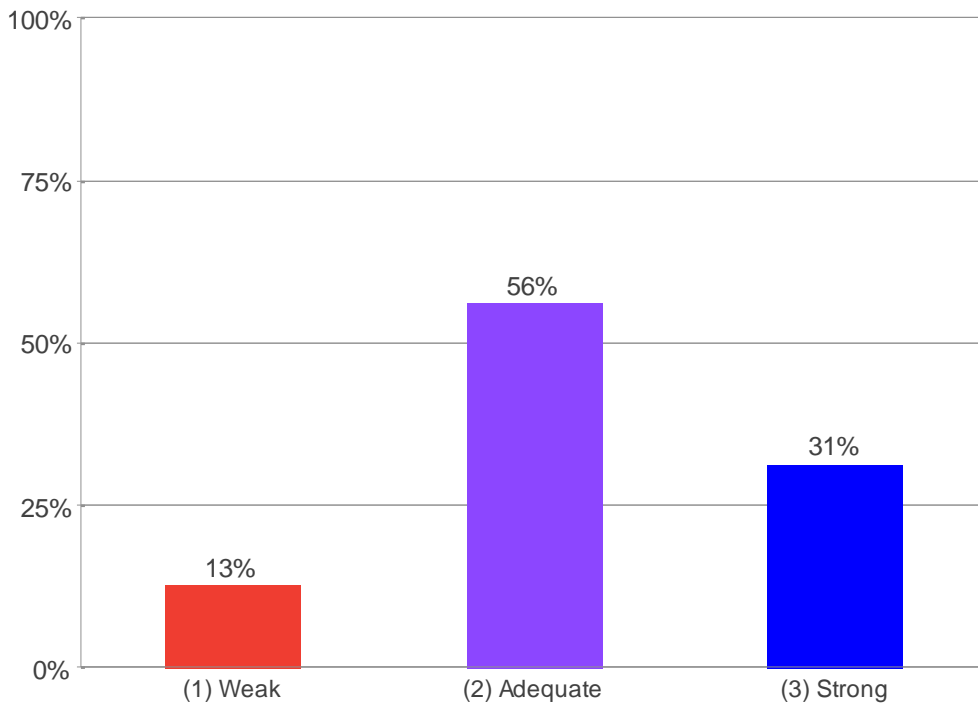## the historical and philosophical development of thought in your major field
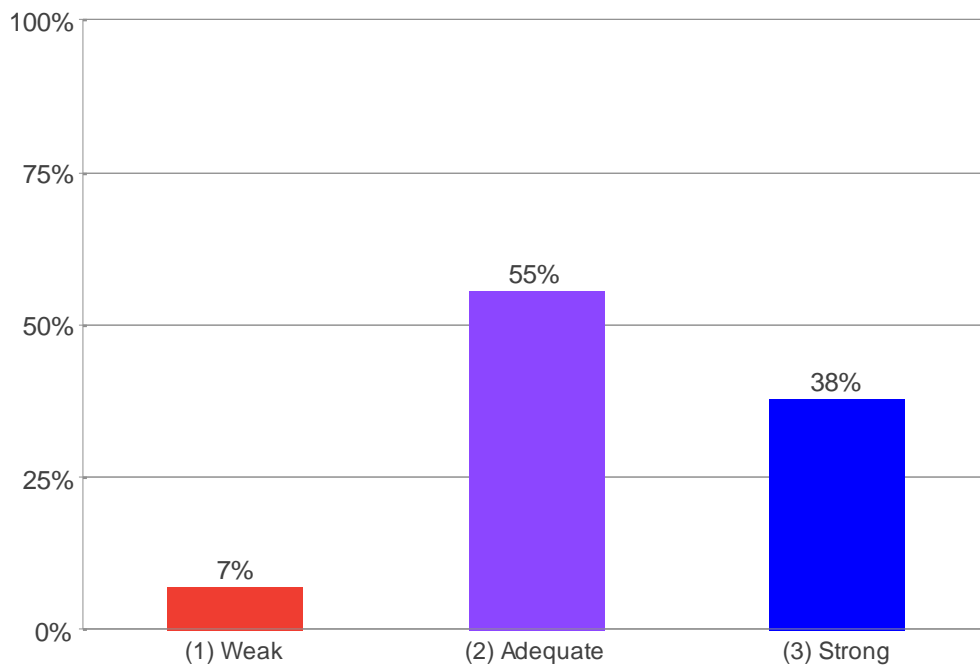
contemporary educational issues
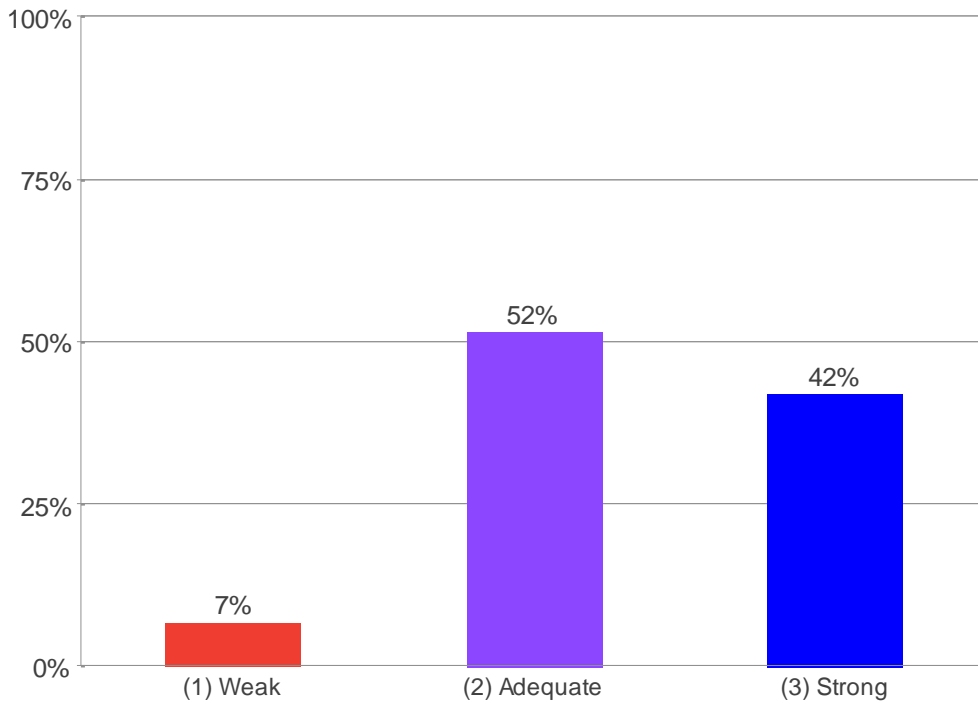
theories/principles of how students learn
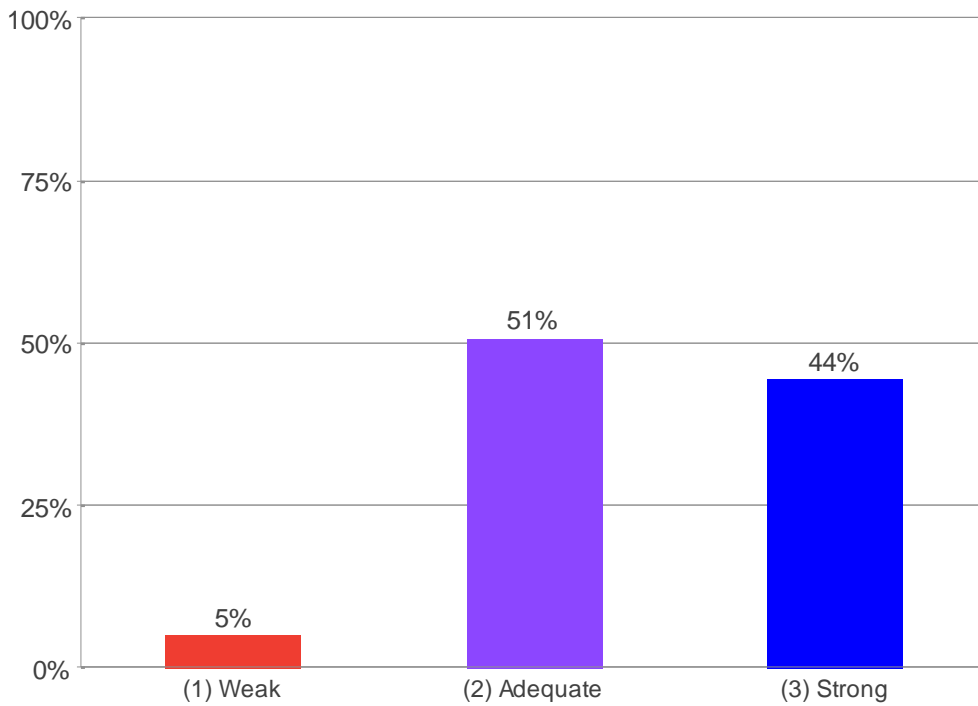
child/adolescent growth and development

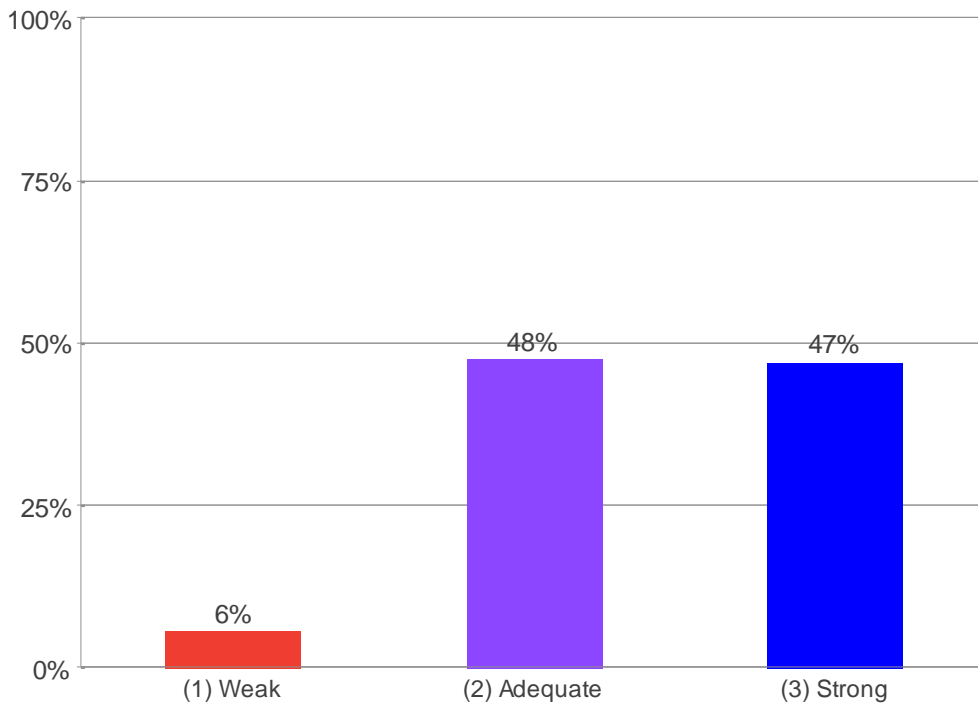## social and political roles in American society

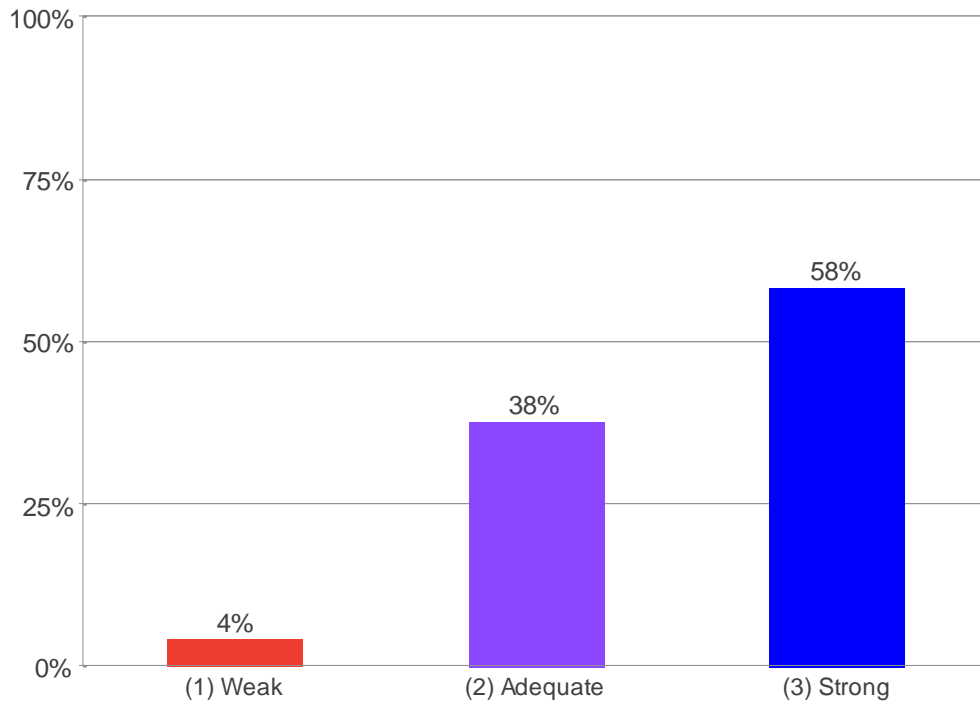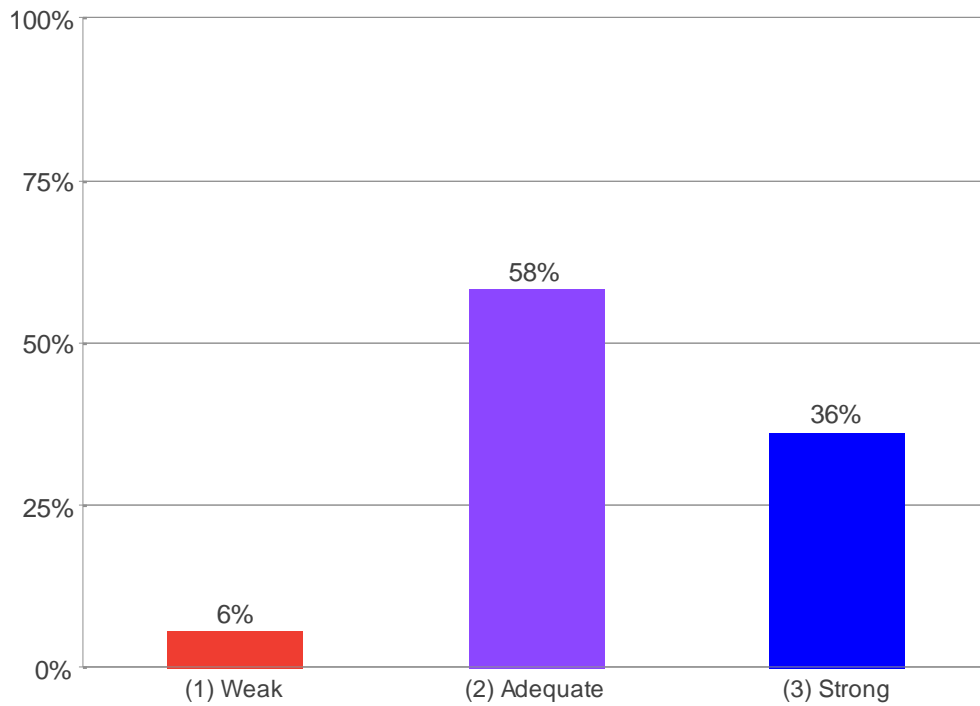## classroom management techniques/procedures
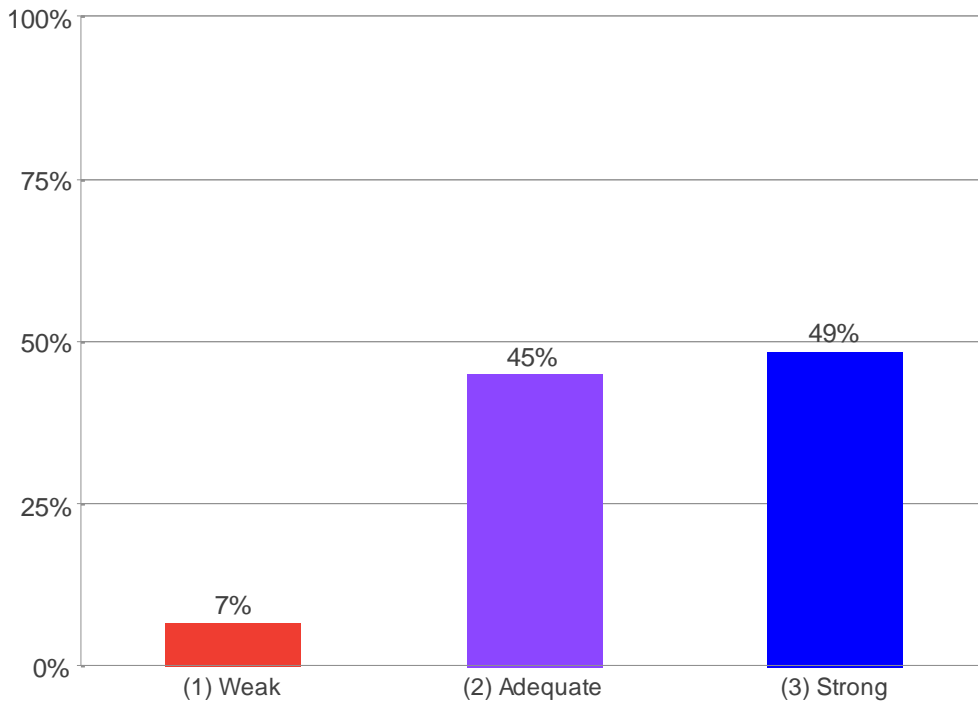
legal and ethical responsibilities of teachers
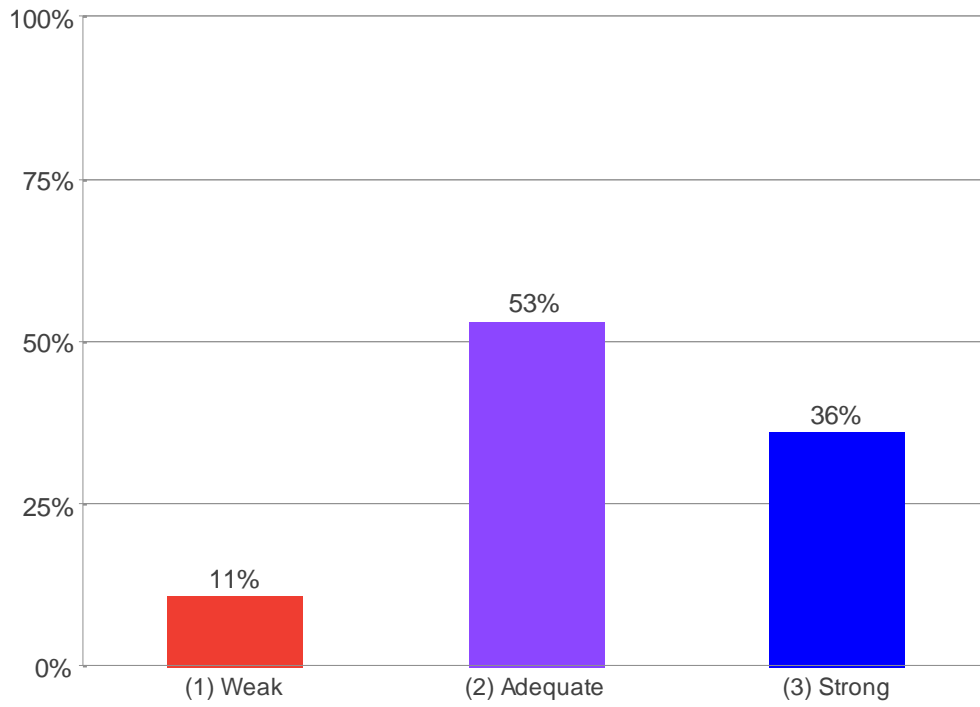
the subjects you teach

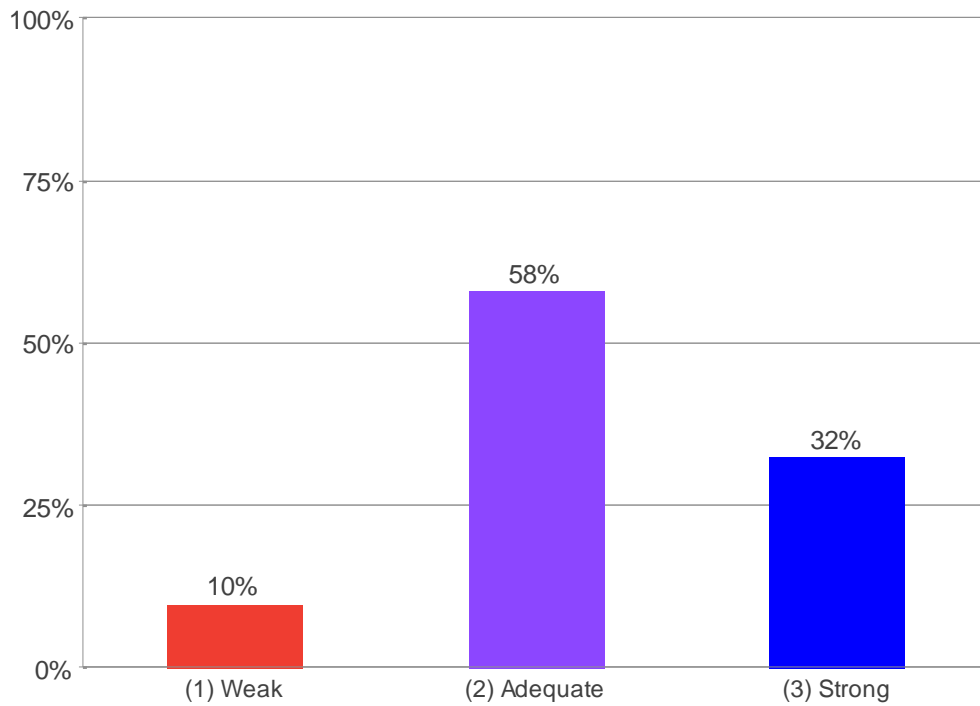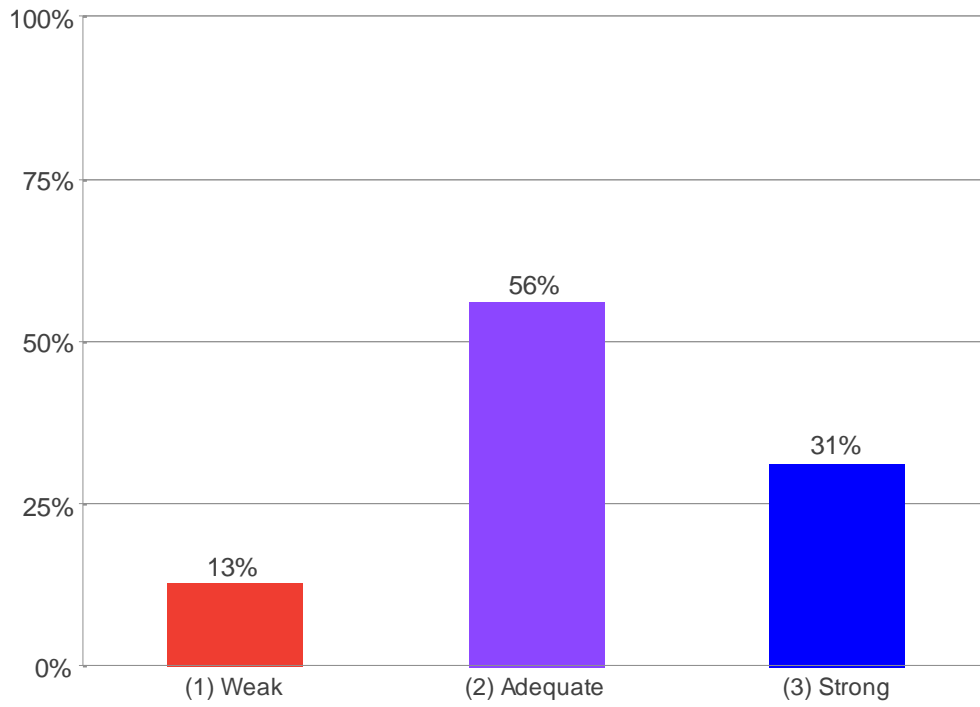## educational concepts and theories
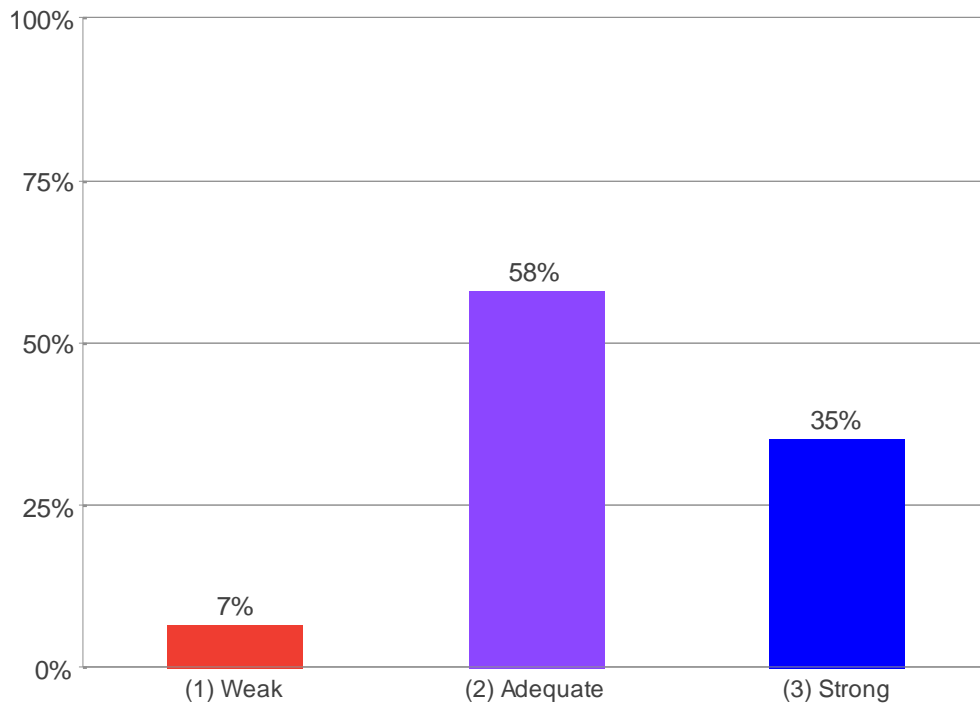
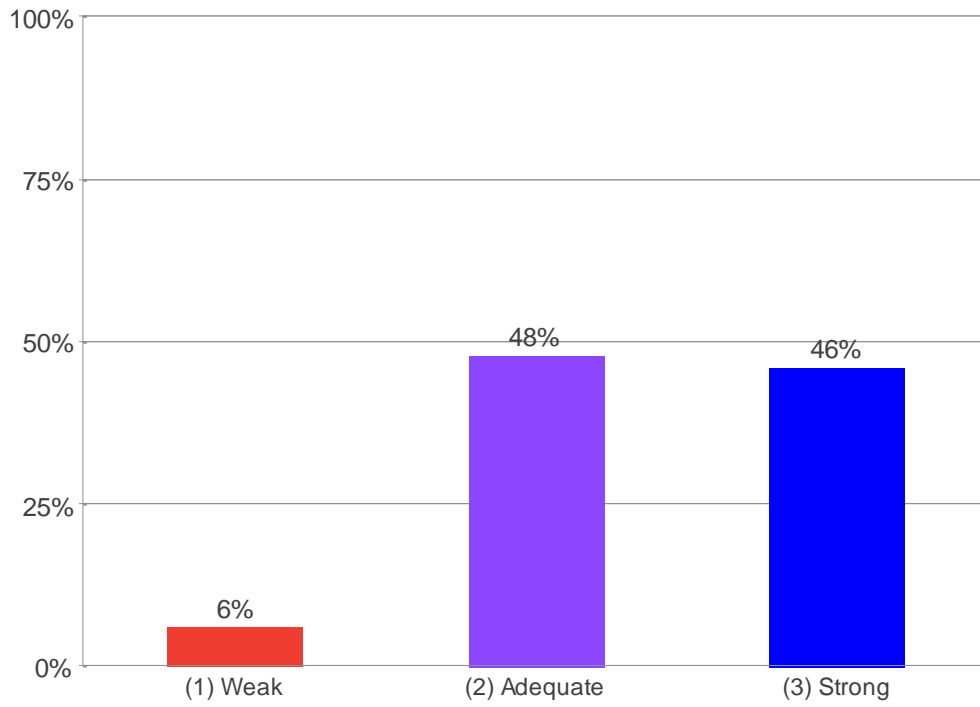## classroom research/inquiry strategies

measurement techniques

recent research in education

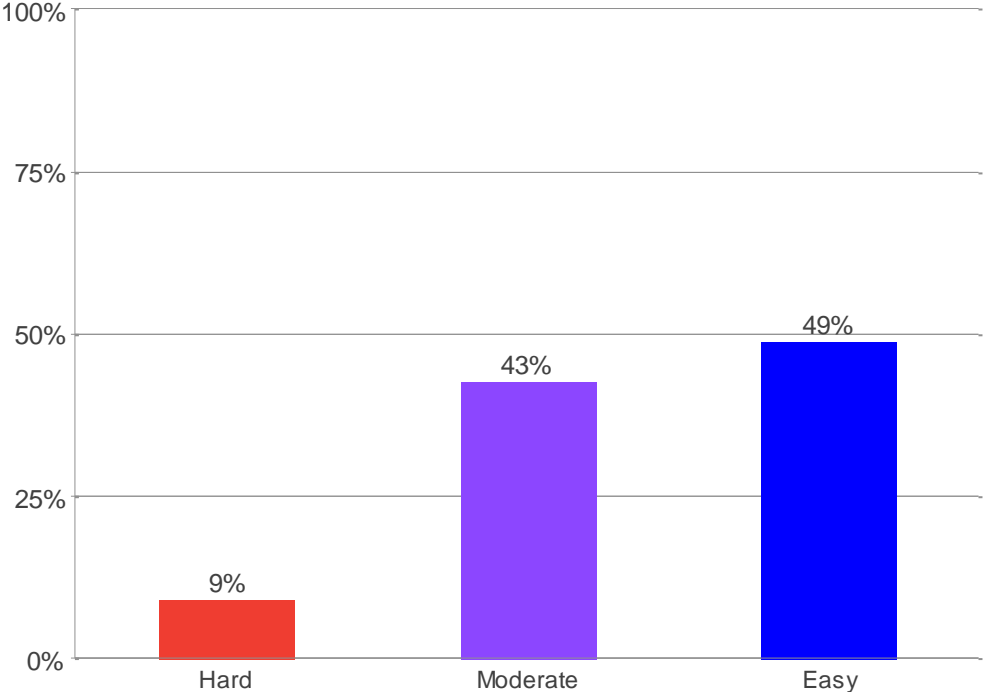## professional practice/pedagogy

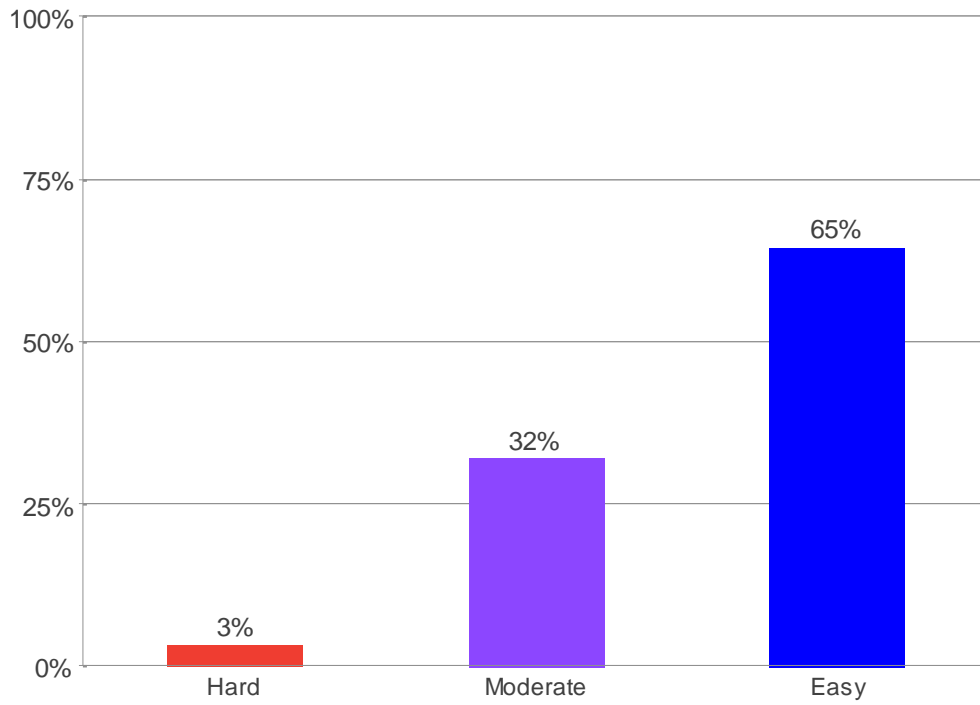a variety of assessment strategies

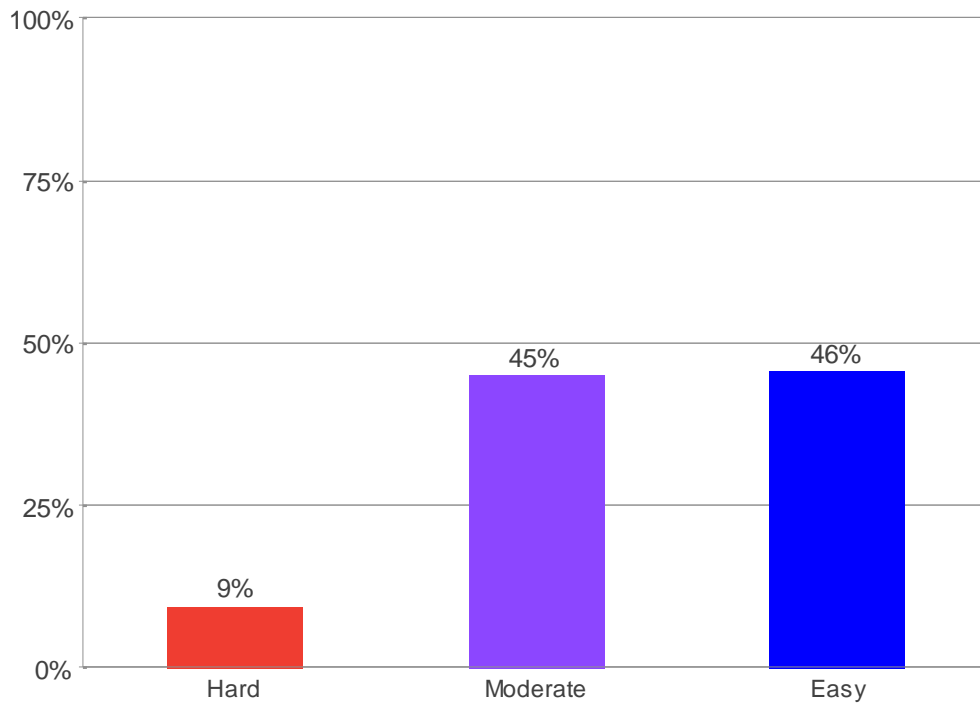**How easy/difficult was it for you to be certified with regard to the following?**

Processing application

Fingerprinting

Scheduling coursework

Generally speaking, what were your job search strategies?...

Strategy	Percentage
On-campus intervie	11%
Internship/Student teaching	43%
Teaching job fair	25%
International recruiting fair	2%
You initiated the first inquiry	33%
School of education faculty member	7%
Referral from professional colleague	30%
Referral from a friend/family member	29%
Professional association services (journal, listerv, conference interview)	11%
Web site	64%
Newspaper/print media	14%
Other	10%