

Report

STUDY ON THE PERCEPTIONS OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUEBECERS REGARDING SCHOOL BOARDS

DATE 2019-04-05 PROJECT NUMBER 14787-002

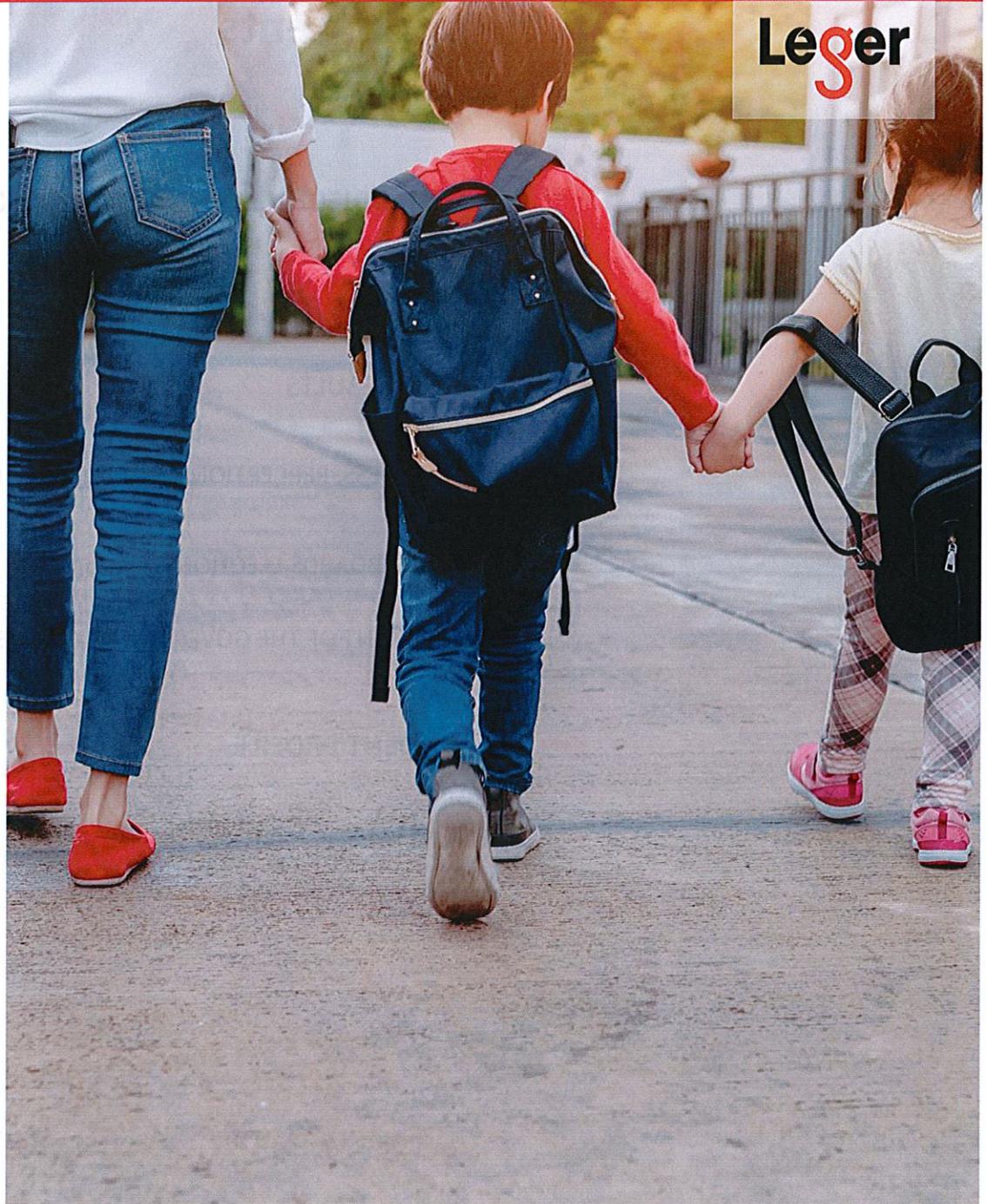


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The background of the slide is a photograph of a classroom. The walls are painted a light green color. In the center, there is a large green chalkboard with a grid pattern on the left side. To the left of the chalkboard, there is a shelf with several colorful binders. To the right, there is a wooden cabinet with a potted plant on top. In the foreground, there are several wooden desks and chairs, some with colorful pencil holders on them. The floor is a reddish-brown color.

CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Leger was commissioned by the Steering Committee of APPELE-Québec to conduct a study among the province of Quebec regarding the perception of Anglophones toward school boards in general and English school boards in particular.



In order to meet the research objectives, a Web survey was conducted from March 13th to March 21st, 2019 among a representative sample of 1,001 English-speaking Quebecers, 18 years of age or older



Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to gender, age, region and level of education, to ensure a sample representative of the entire population under review.

Notes TO READER

- › The numbers presented in this report have been rounded out and their sum in graphs and tables (based on the actual numbers before rounding) might not correspond to the manual addition of rounded numbers.
- › Results showing meaningful statistically significant differences are indicated in the coloured framed boxes beside the global results.
- › In this report, “DNK / Refusal” means “I don’t know / I prefer not to answer”

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KEY INSIGHTS



KEY INSIGHTS

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTION OF ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS

A vast majority (88%) of respondents are aware of the existence of their region's English school board, and half of them (49%) know or have heard of their English school commissioner.

Two thirds of respondents (67%) believe that school boards contribute to the efficient functioning of elementary and secondary public schools. Overall, 85% of respondents say that English school boards are important to them.

A WIDER ROLE FOR THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

A majority (81%) of respondents believe that school commissioners should meet the needs of the entire population of the school board's territory, and not only those of families with children attending school.

Moreover, 89% of respondents consider the English school board that serves their area important for their community's identity. However, only half of them (48%) consider that it as a hub of community life.

SCHOOL BOARDS ELECTIONS

Seven out of 10 respondents (68%) believe that school boards should be elected by the population. Moreover, 56% of respondents are aware that they can vote for school boards during school boards elections.



However, participation in these elections remains low : only 31% of respondents have voted in school board elections in the past, and a similar proportion (30%) intend on voting in the next elections.



Internet voting could have a positive effect on voter turnout : 82% of respondents said they would be more likely to vote if they could do so over the internet.



74% of respondents also said they would be more likely to vote in school boards elections if they were held at the same time as municipal elections. Moreover, 66% of respondents believe that the two elections should be twinned.



KEY INSIGHTS

INVOLVEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC IN ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS

61%

of respondents
are aware of the government's
plan to abolish school boards

But only 12% of them say that they support this plan, and only 16% of them believe that the Government of Quebec should be able to unilaterally make decisions regarding the future of school boards.

Moreover, three-quarters of respondents (76%) feel that a local school board elected official would do a better job at making decisions on English public education than a Government of Quebec civil servant (6%), as proposed in the government's plan.



THE MAIN REASONS FOR DISAGREEING WITH THIS INTENTION...

Respondents who are not favorable to this intention are generally against government interventionism in schooling (27%), but some respondents also raised the issue of the rights of anglophones in Quebec: 21% think that this endangers the rights of anglophones and 17% that it attacks the language, culture and institutions of the English community.

On the other hand, respondents who would support this measure mentioned money savings (18%) and avoiding the waste of public money (14%).



RESPONDENTS SEEM VERY COMMITTED TO PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THEIR COMMUNITY :

90% of them say that their minority education language rights are very important to them, and 87% think that school boards should remain independent from the Government of Quebec in order to protect these rights.

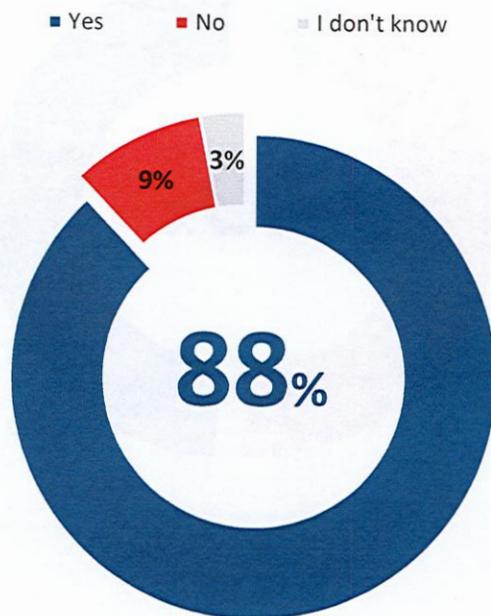
Moreover, with regard to elections, 84% of respondents agree that the population at large should be able to vote in school boards elections when it is a question of protecting the rights of English-speaking Quebecers to control and manage their educational facilities.



DETAILED RESULTS

AWARENESS, PERCEPTIONS AND ROLE OF ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS

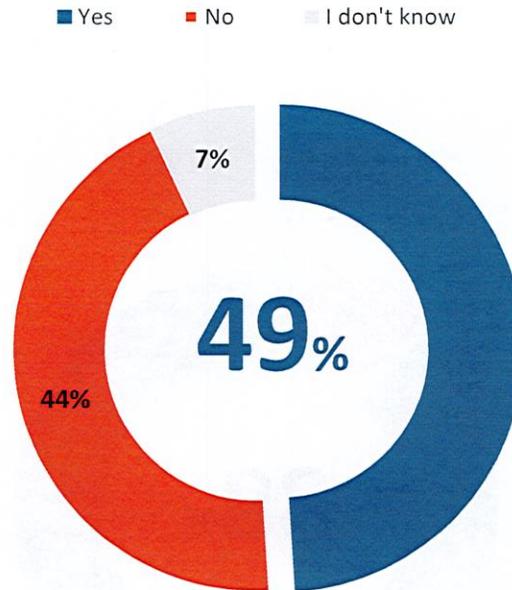
AWARENESS OF REGIONAL ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS



Q11A. Do you know or have you ever heard about your region's English school board?

Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

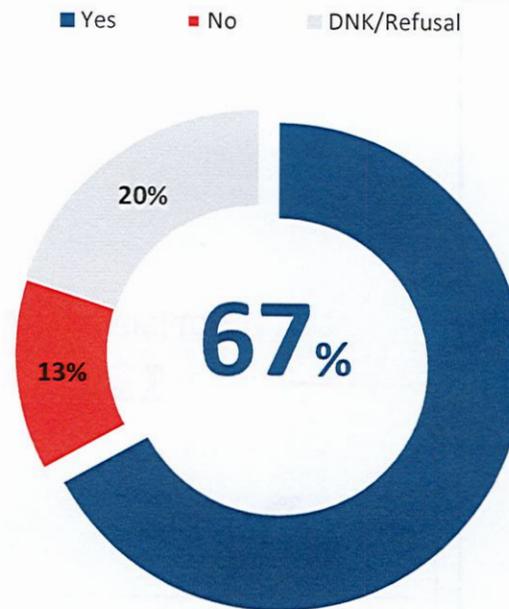
AWARENESS OF ENGLISH SCHOOL COMMISSIONER



Q21. Do you know or have you heard about your English school commissioner?

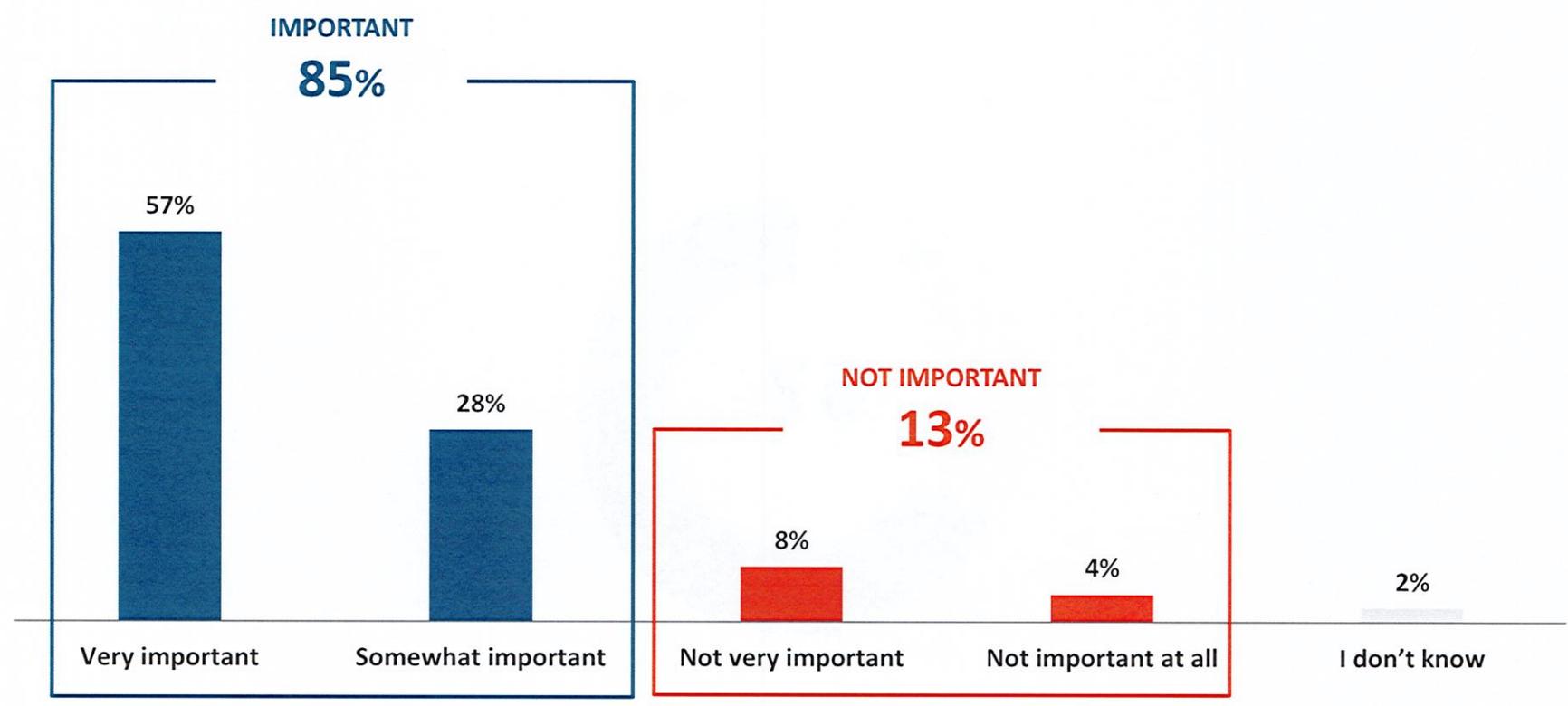
Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

PERCEPTION OF SCHOOL BOARDS' EFFICIENCY



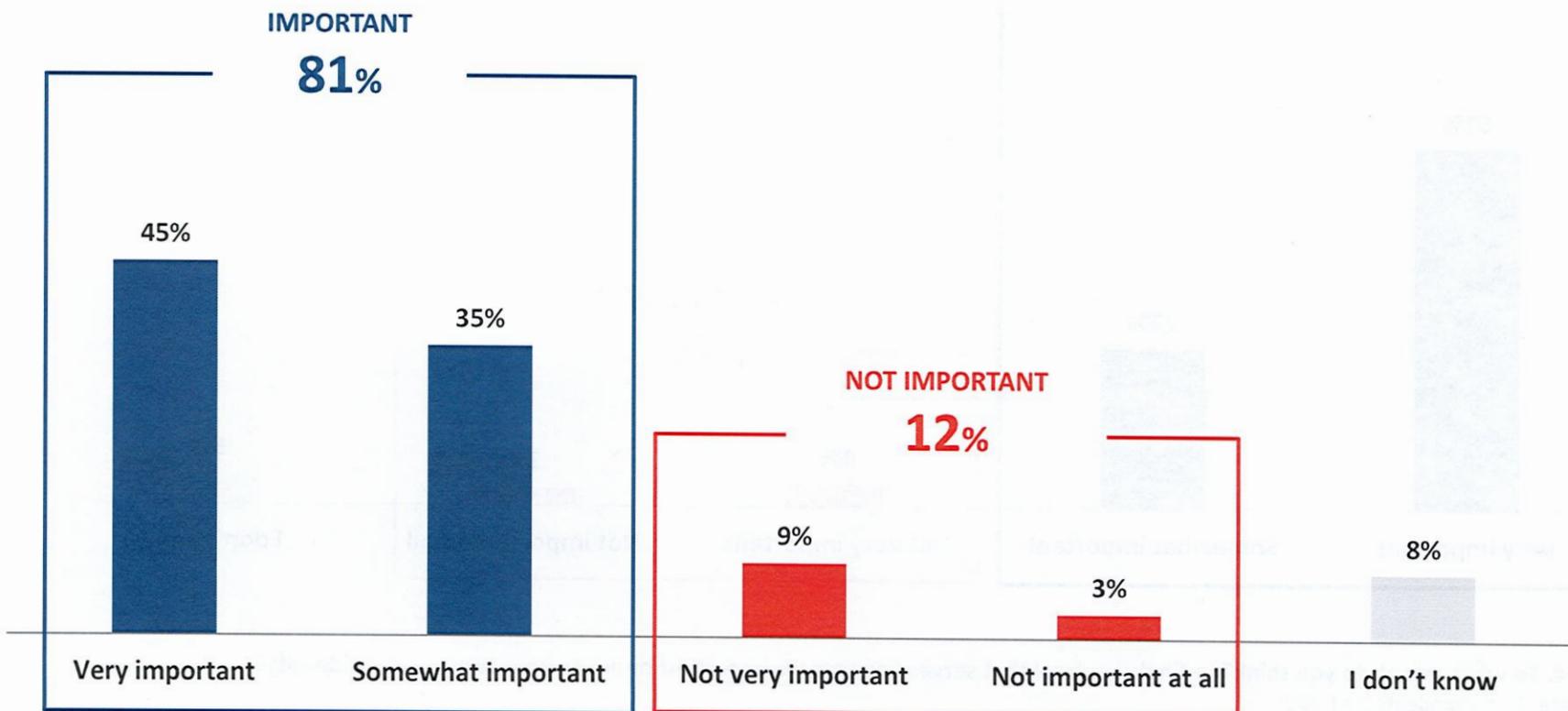
Q17. Do you personally believe that school boards contribute to the efficient functioning of elementary and secondary public schools?
Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS



Q3. To what extent are English school boards important or not to you?
Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

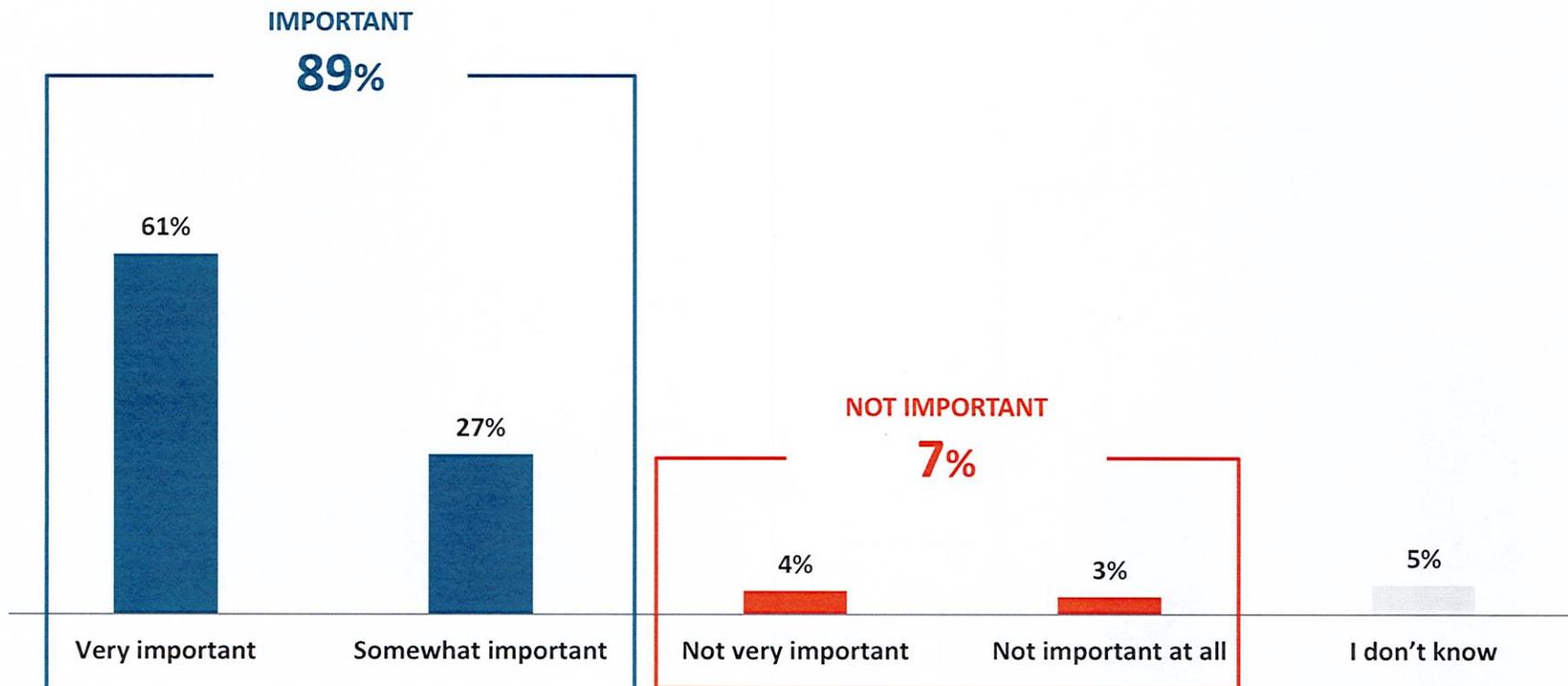
IMPORTANCE FOR COMMISSIONERS TO MEET THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION



Q24. To what extent do you think it is important for school commissioners to meet the needs and expectations of the entire population of the school board's territory, and not only those of families with children attending school?

Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

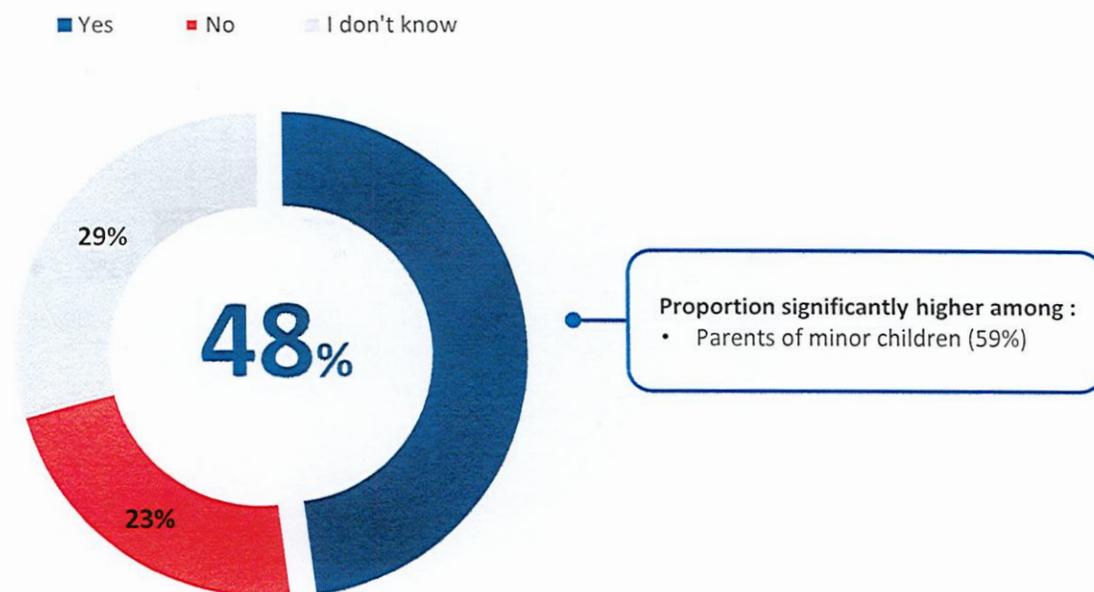
PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH SCHOOLS TO THE COMMUNITY'S IDENTITY



Q4. To what extent do you think the English school that serves your area is important or not to your community's identity?

Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

ROLE OF ENGLISH SCHOOLS AS A HUB OF COMMUNITY LIFE

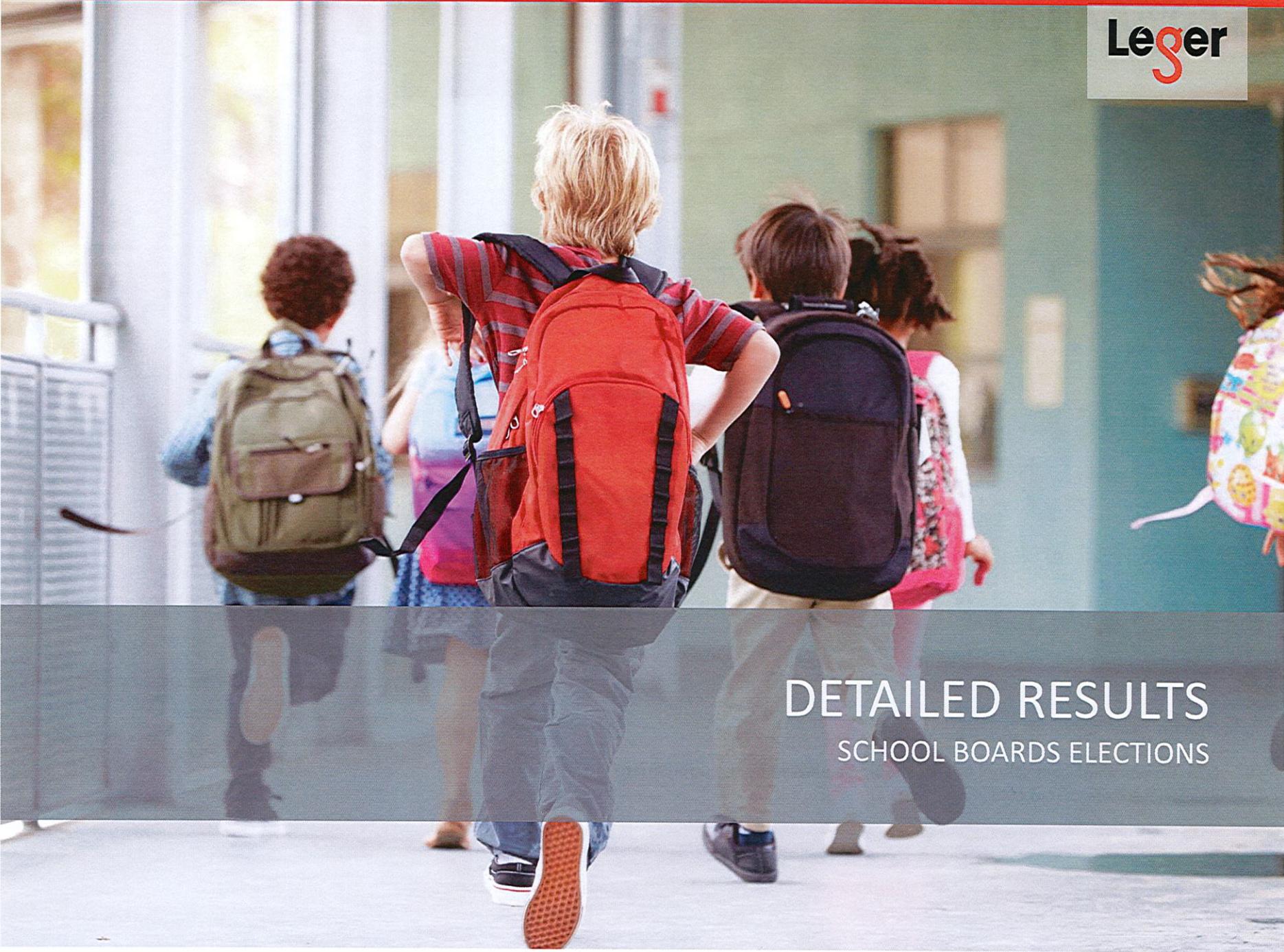


Q5. In your opinion, is the English school that serves your area a hub of community life ?

Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

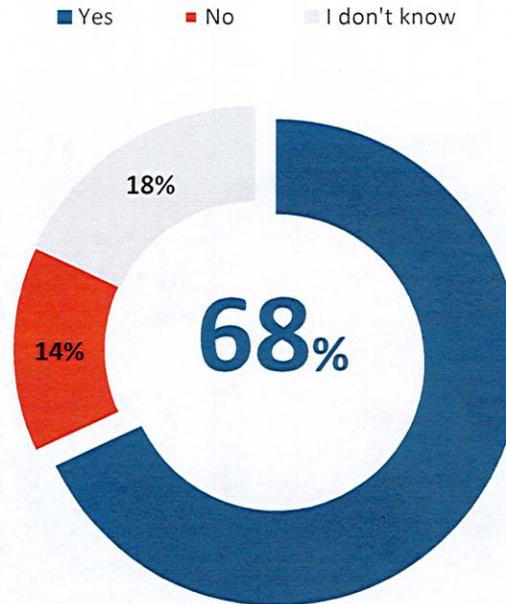
SHOULD SCHOOL BOARDS BE ELECTED BY THE

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DETAILED RESULTS
SCHOOL BOARDS ELECTIONS

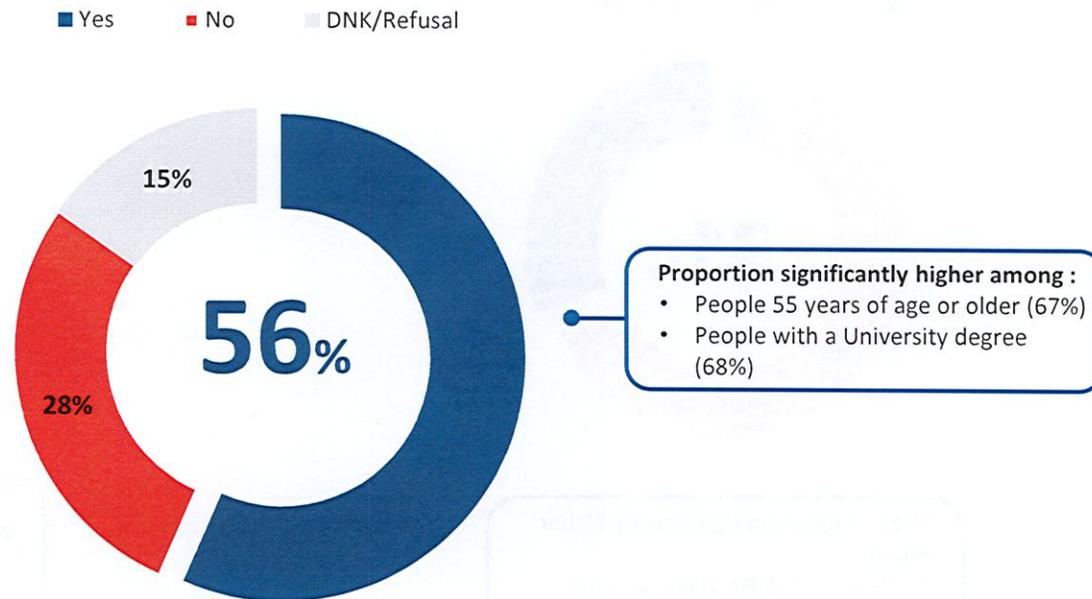
SHOULD SCHOOL BOARDS BE ELECTED BY THE POPULATION?



Q25. Do you think that school boards should be elected by the population?

Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

KNOWLEDGE OF THE POSSIBILITY TO VOTE FOR SCHOOL BOARDS

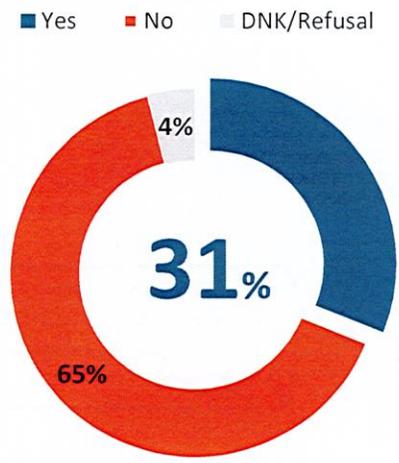


Q29. Did you know or have you heard that you can vote for school boards during school board elections?

Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

PAST ELECTIONS

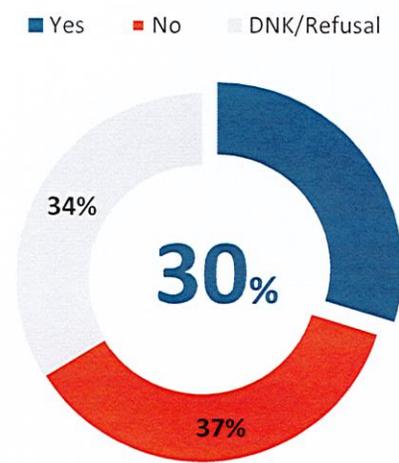


“Yes” Proportion significantly higher among :

- People 55 years of age or older (42%)
- People with a University degree (41%)

Q30. Have you ever voted in school board elections?
Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

FUTURE ELECTIONS



“Yes” Proportion significantly higher among :

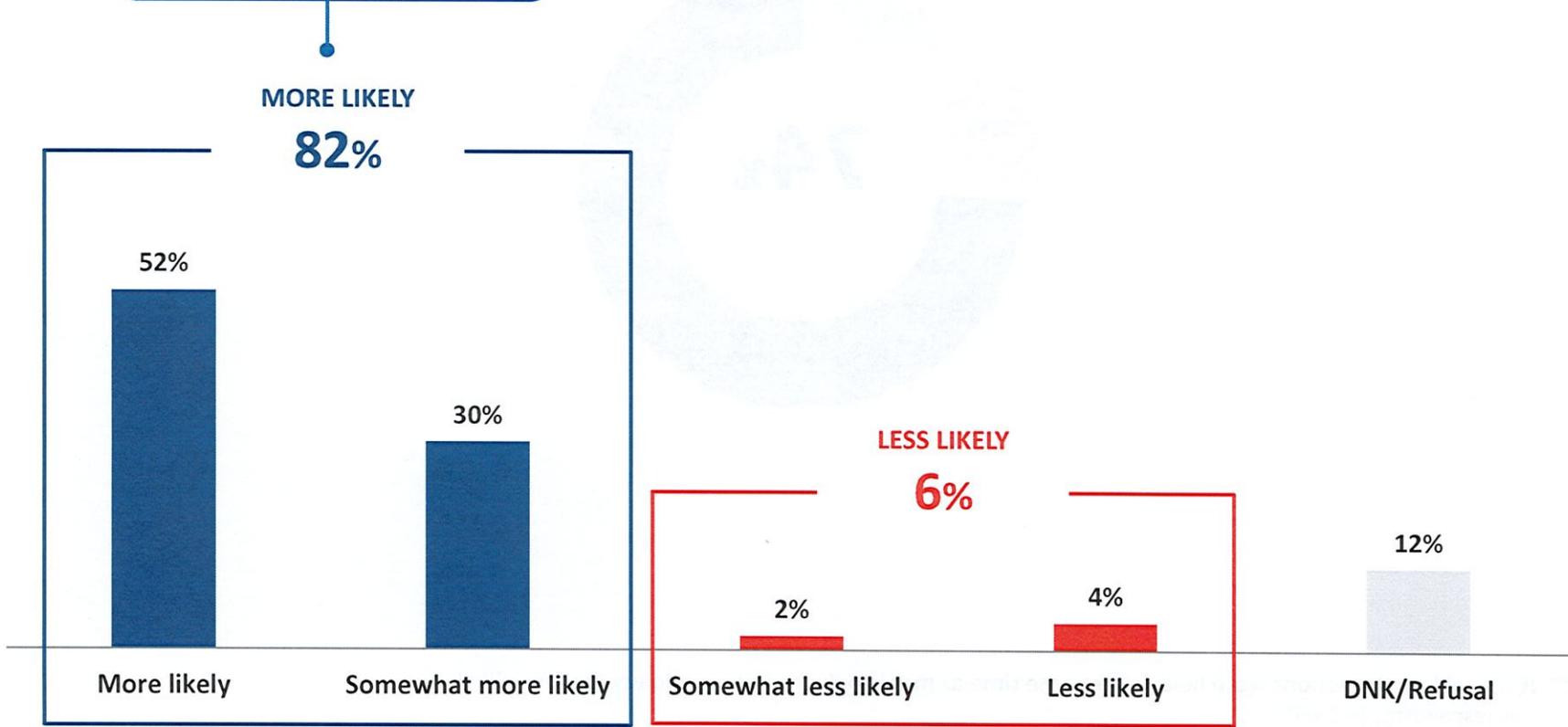
- People with a University degree (42%)
- Parents of minor children (43%)

Q31. Do you intend on voting in the next school board elections?
Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

IMPACT OF INTERNET ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF VOTING

Proportion significantly higher among :

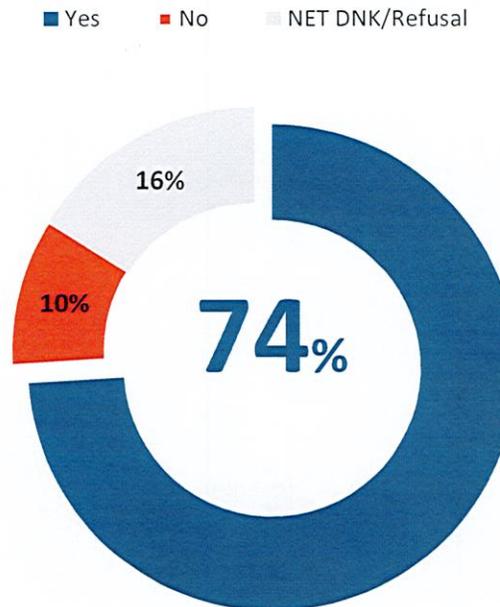
- People between 18 and 34 years of age (90%)
- Parents of minor children (88%)



Q1. If you were able to vote over the internet for school board elections, would you be more or less likely to vote?

Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

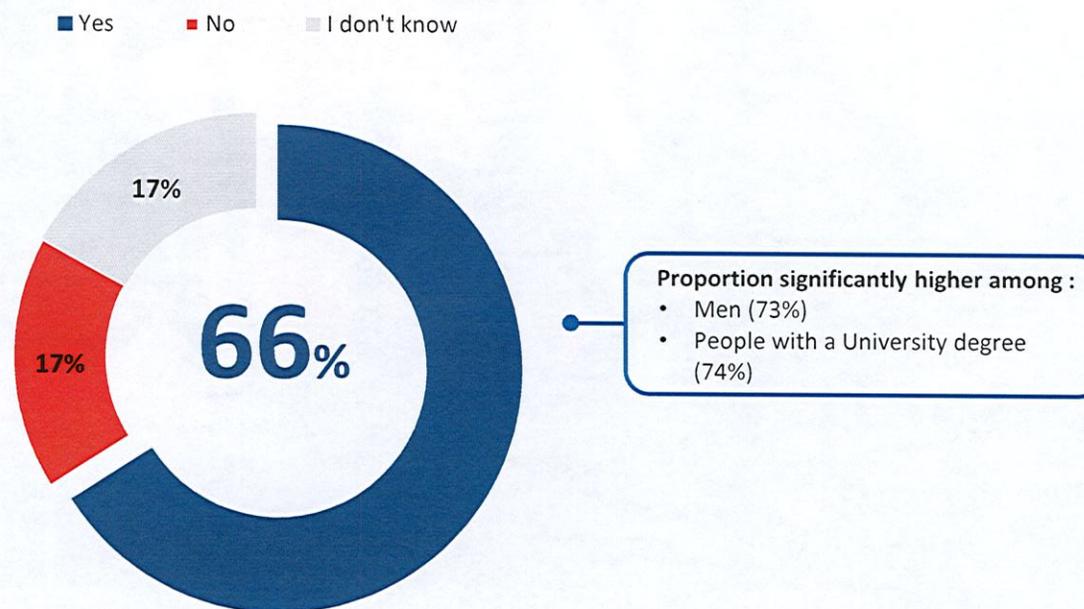
IMPACT OF SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF VOTING



Q2. If school board elections were held at the same time as municipal elections would you be more likely to vote?

Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

OPINIONS ON SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS



Q32. Do you think that school board elections should be twinned with municipal elections?

Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

A photograph of several children walking away from the camera in a school hallway. They are wearing backpacks. The child in the center has a bright orange backpack. The hallway has green doors and a grey floor.

DETAILED RESULTS

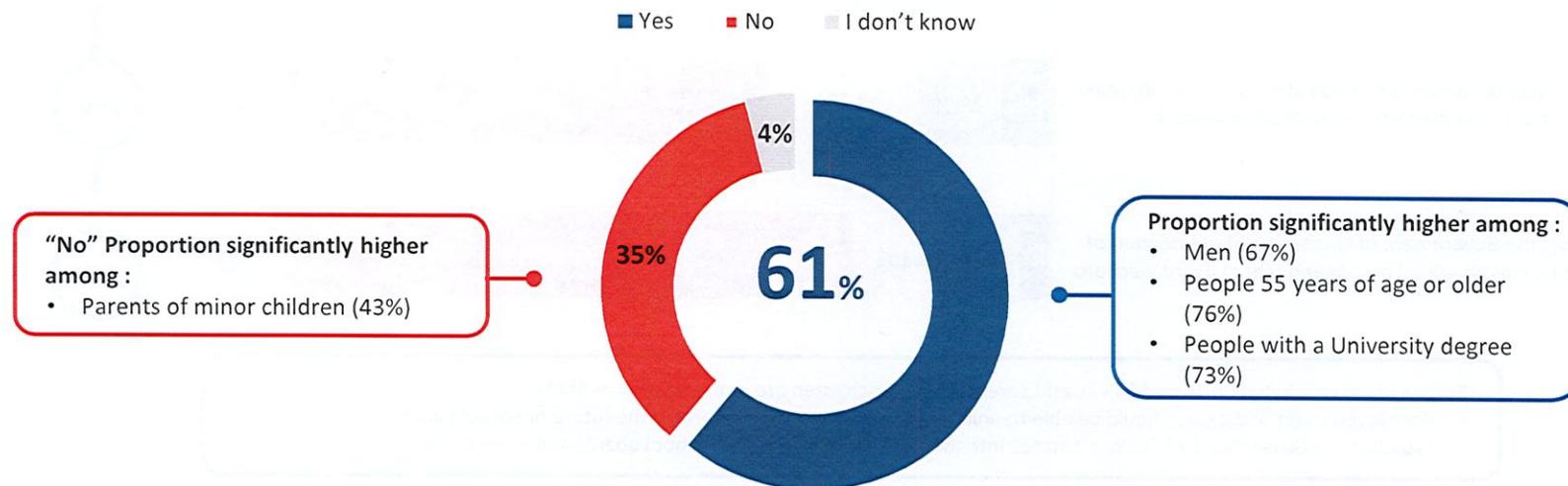
INVOLVEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC IN ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS

KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOVERNMENT PLAN TO ABOLISH SCHOOL BOARDS

THIS MESSAGE WAS SHOWN TO RESPONDENTS :

Canadians have minority language education rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. These rights guarantee English-speaking Quebecers the authority to make decisions related to the: expenditures of funds provided for instruction and facilities; appointment and direction of those responsible for the administration of such instruction and facilities; establishment of programs of instruction; recruitment and assignment of teachers and other personnel; and the making of agreements for education and services for minority language pupils.

The Government of Quebec has stated its intention of abolishing school boards and replacing them with service centres answerable directly to the Government of Quebec.



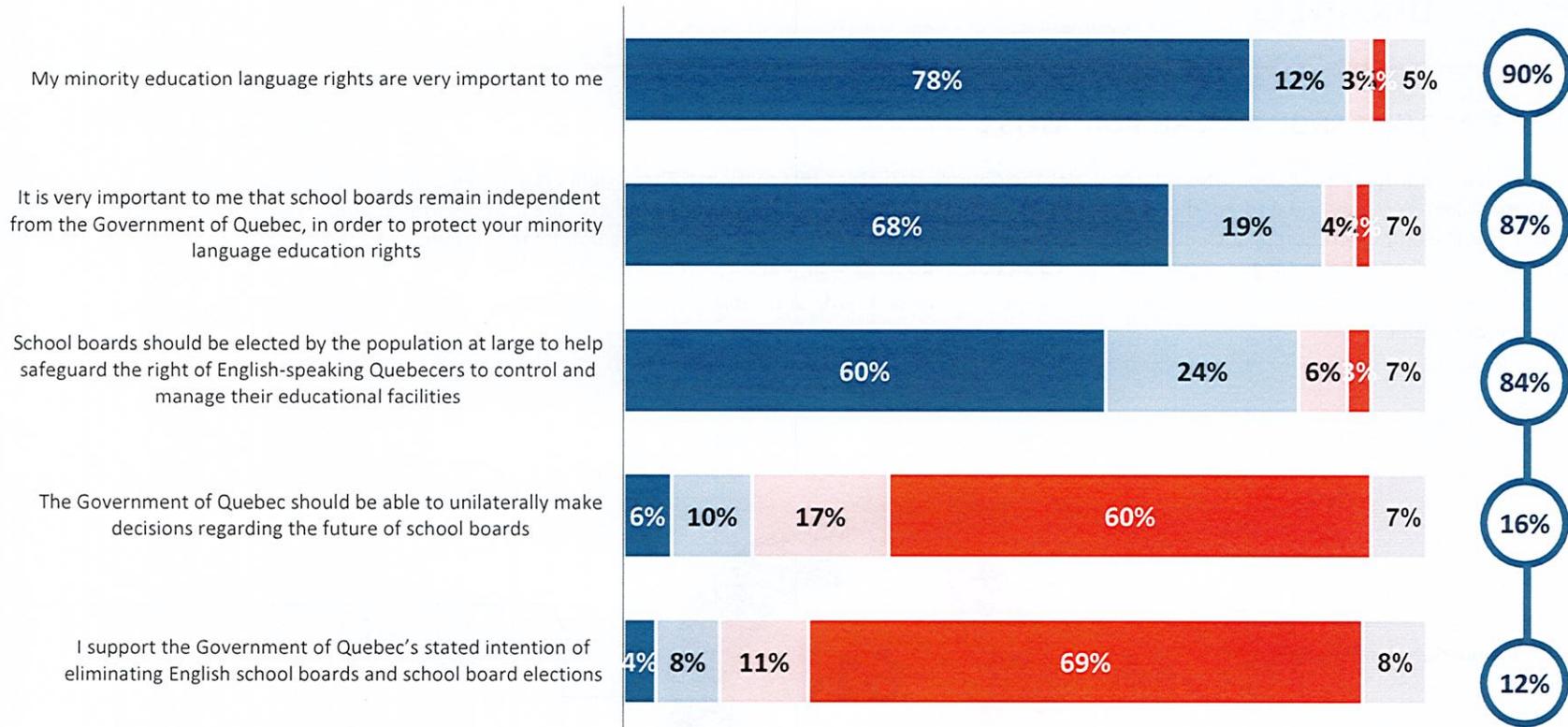
Q6B. Have you heard of the government’s plan to abolish school boards and replace them with service centres?

Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

PERCEPTIONS OF QUEBEC'S INVOLVEMENT IN ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS

■ Totally agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Totally disagree ■ DNK / Refusal

Net AGREE



Respondents ages between 18 and 34 y.o. and parents of minor children are more supportive of the following :

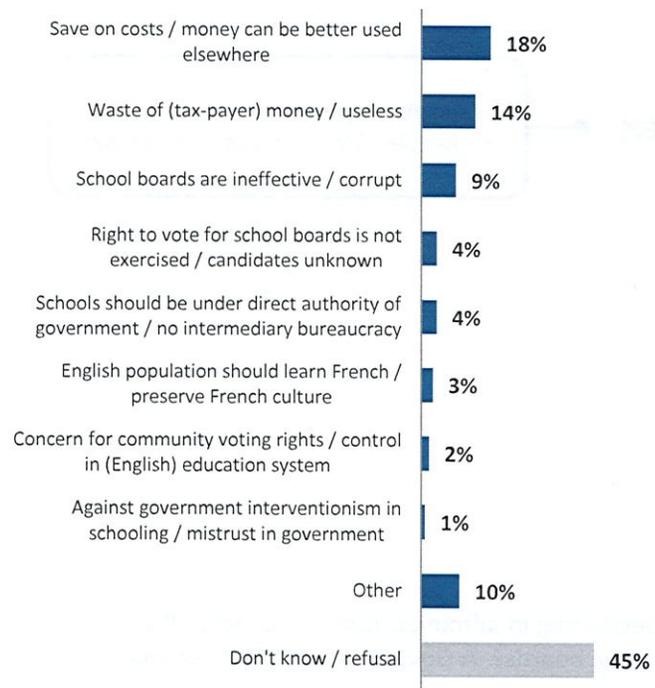
- > The Government of Quebec should be able to unilaterally make decisions regarding the future of school boards
- > I support the Government of Quebec's stated intention of eliminating English school boards and school board elections

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

REASONS TO AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH QUEBEC'S STATED INTENTION OF ELIMINATING ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

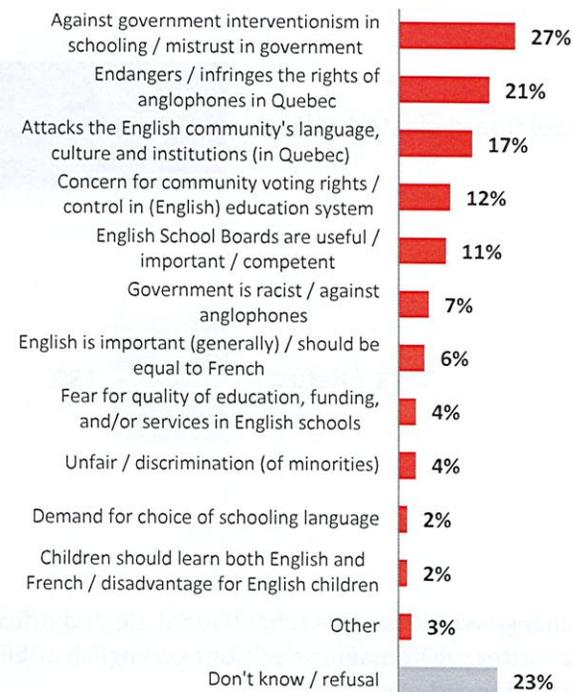
REASONS TO AGREE



Q7A. Why do you agree with the Government of Quebec's stated intention of eliminating English school boards and school board elections?

Base: (n=119)

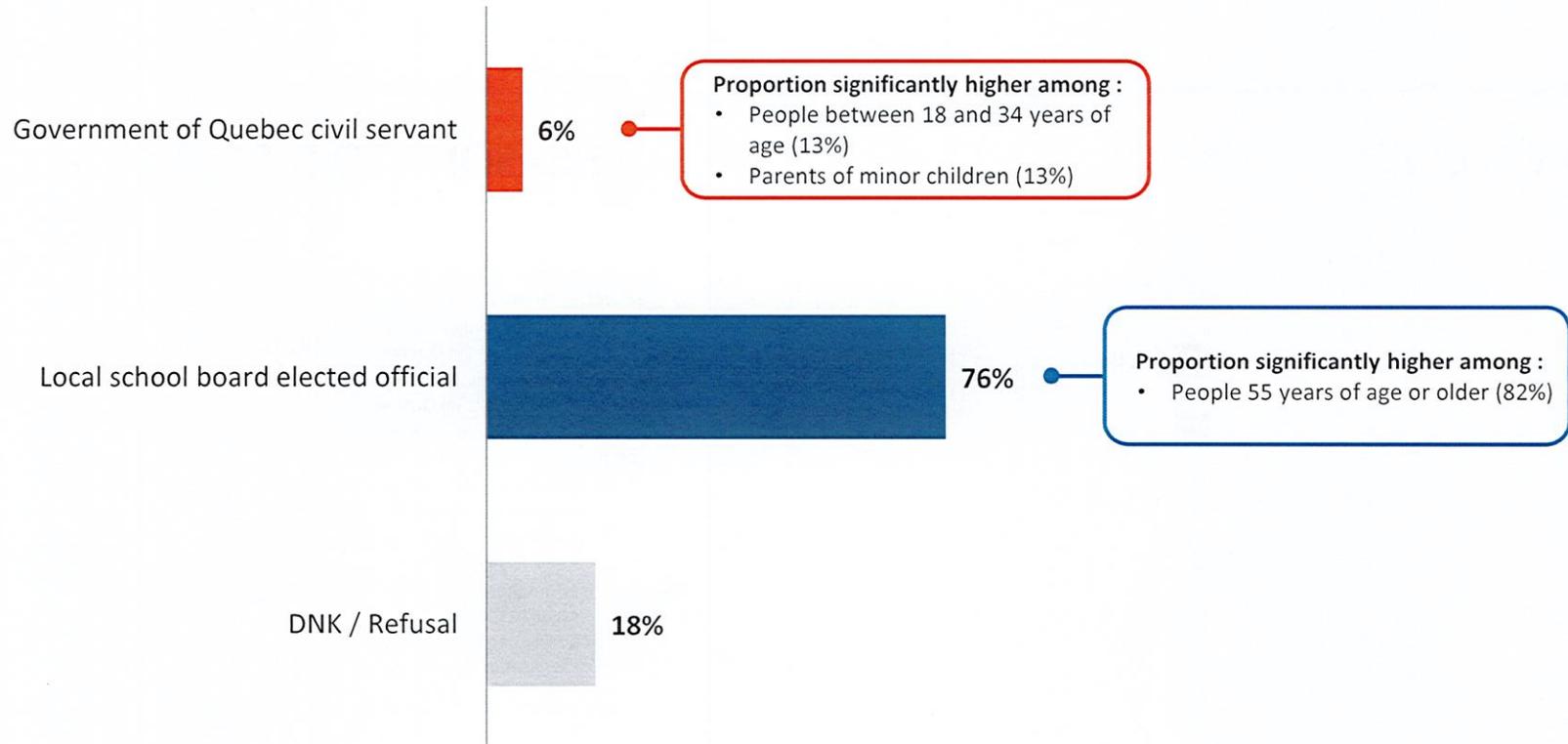
REASONS TO DISAGREE



Q7B. Why do you disagree with the Government of Quebec's stated intention of eliminating English school boards and school board elections?

Base: (n=808)

OPINIONS ON DECISION-MAKING ROLE ON ENGLISH PUBLIC EDUCATION



Q8. The proposed change would replace school board elected officials with civil servants specializing in administration of schools. Who do you feel would do a better job at making decisions on English public education than local school boards? A Government of Quebec civil servant or a local school board elected official?

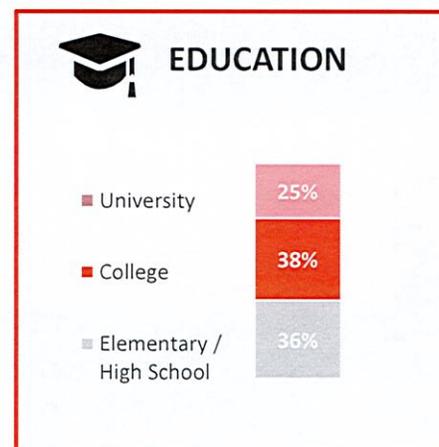
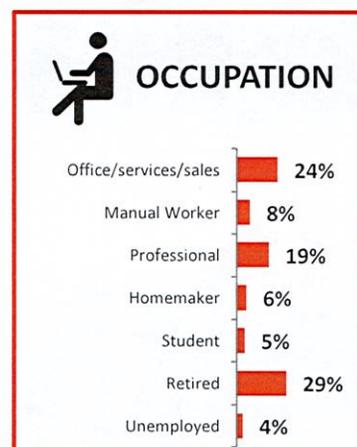
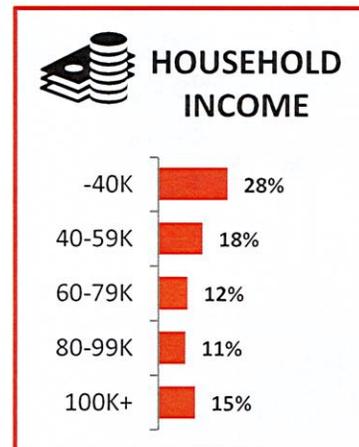
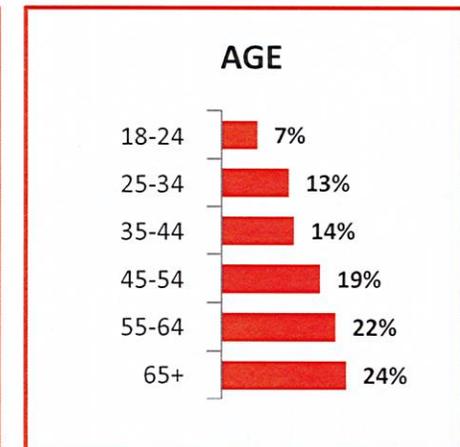
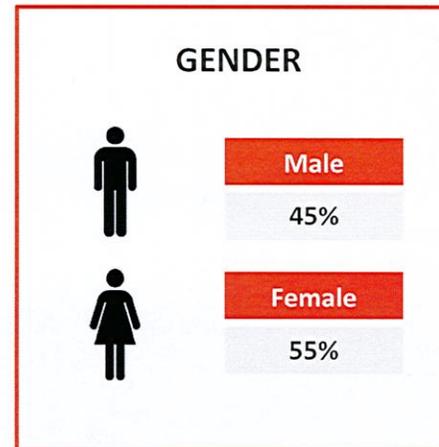
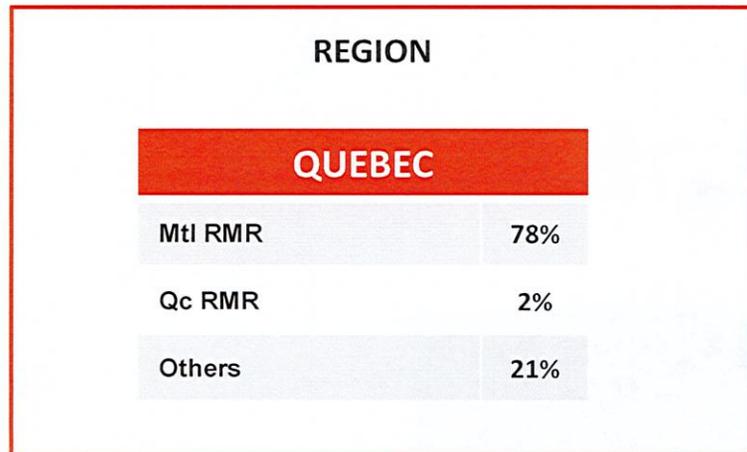
Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

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RESPONDENT PROFILE

RESPONDENT PROFILE

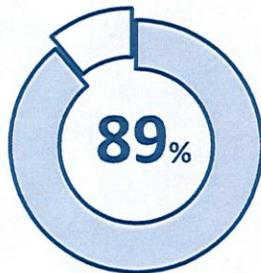


Base : All respondents (n=1,001)

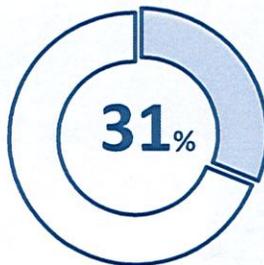
Note : For each profile category, the complement to 100% represents the mentions "Don't know" and "Refusal".

RESPONDENT PROFILE

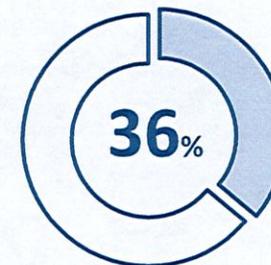
Did you personally attend English school in Quebec?
(% NET YES)



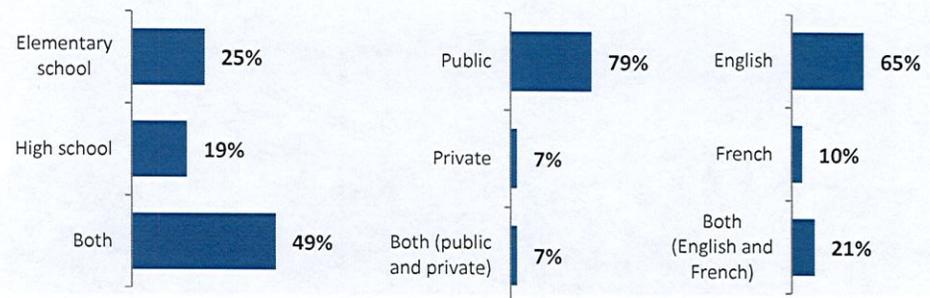
Did you personally attend English school in the rest of Canada?
(% NET YES)



Are you the parent of one or more children who attend an elementary school or high school, whether or not they live with you?
(% NET YES)



Do your children attend (...) school? (n=364)



Base : All respondents (n=1,001)

Note : For each profile category, the complement to 100% represents the mentions "Don't know" and "Refusal".

The background image shows a crowd of people from behind, with their arms raised in the air. The scene is dimly lit with warm, orange-toned lighting, suggesting an indoor event or concert. In the foreground, the backs of a man's head and shoulders and a woman's head with her hair in a ponytail are visible. The woman's arm is raised, and she is wearing a watch and a ring. The overall atmosphere is one of excitement and participation.

CREDENTIALS

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6
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OUR CREDENTIALS



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