

# NJ Public School Parents Survey

## Research Findings Prepared by Global Strategy Group



# Methodology

## Parents

Global Strategy Group conducted an online survey of **400 New Jersey public school parents/guardians** between January 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## Margin of error

The margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 4.9%.

The margin of error on sub-samples is greater.

# Key Findings

- **Coming out of the pandemic, New Jersey public school parents have academic concerns about their children.** Specifically, parents' top concerns center on students' focusing in class, social isolation, and difficulty learning new concepts and getting help from teachers. They are particularly concerned that their children have fallen behind in the core subjects of math (41%) and reading (29%).
- **As a result, parents are seeking bold changes in education.** Parents – especially lower-income parents and people of color – want to see significant reforms to address their concerns. Most want to see schools use new funding to make these bold changes (63%) rather than simply moving back to the old normal (37%).
- **Parents want changes that provide students with more academic support.** Parents want more instructional time for their children (59% want more time), and particularly support more time in the subjects they are most concerned about -- math and reading. They also want individualized learning plans and extra academic support and tutoring.
- **Parents support testing to measure progress.** Parents want more data about students to ensure they are on track and that their schools are doing a good job teaching. They believe statewide tests are effective at measuring these and support them (80% believe testing is important).

# How Has the Pandemic Affected Student Learning in New Jersey?

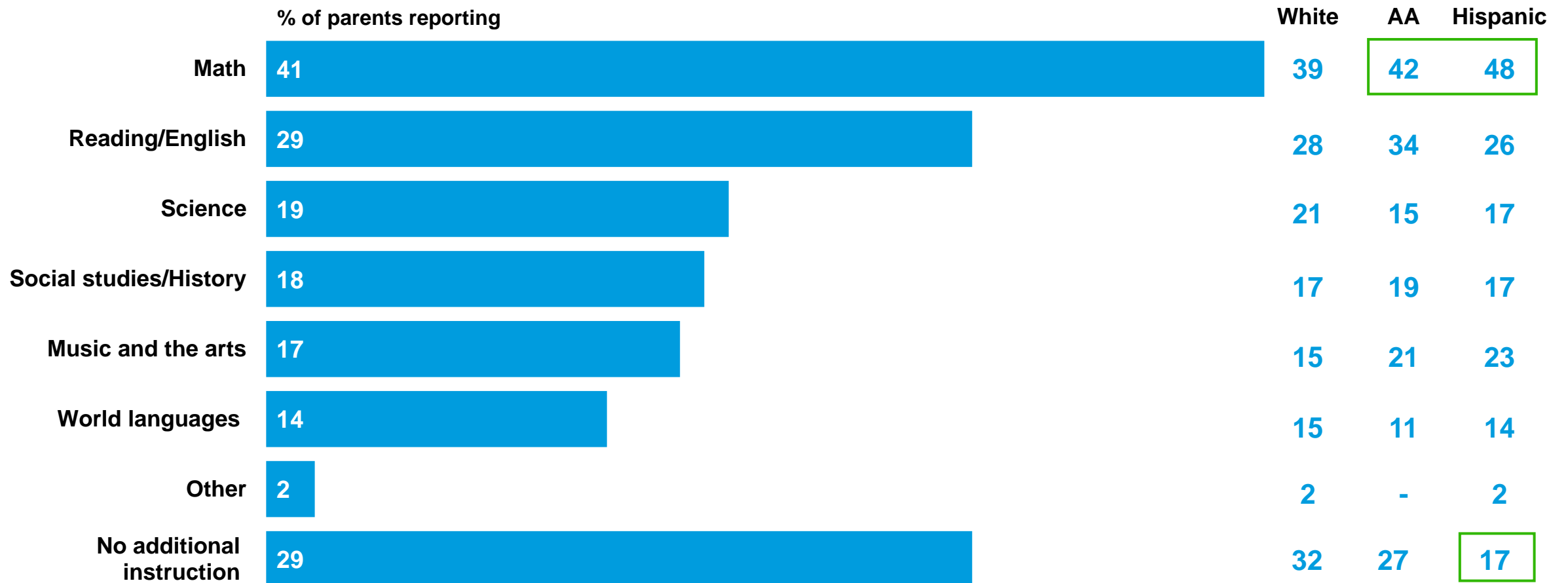
# New Jersey public school parents are clearly worried about students' academic skills and other issues

Has your child experienced any of the following as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

	% of parents reporting	White	AA	Hispanic	<\$50k	\$50 – 100k	>\$100k
Had more trouble paying attention in class	32	39	19	26	37	34	28
Felt lonely or socially isolated	30	33	24	27	25	32	33
Had a harder time learning new concepts	28	29	17	31	27	34	23
Had more difficulty getting help from their teachers	26	27	26	24	30	29	21
Had more difficulty participating in class	23	38	18	20	23	29	19
Had more problems taking tests or completing assignments	23	27	21	16	24	28	18
Had problems accessing online classes or resources	20	23	14	20	23	19	20
Had more behavioral issues	20	21	23	18	25	23	13
Experienced mental health challenges or depression	18	20	7	18	19	18	18
Been able to move through coursework faster during virtual school	12	14	11	19	8	12	15
Had access to courses they normally wouldn't have had access to	8	7	14	11	9	8	8
None of the above	30	25	29	32	28	28	32

# Parents are specifically concerned their kids have fallen behind in math and literacy

Thinking about how the COVID-19 pandemic may have affected your child's schoolwork and classes, are there any areas in which you think your child may have fallen a bit behind or need additional instruction this school year to make up for things they may have missed?

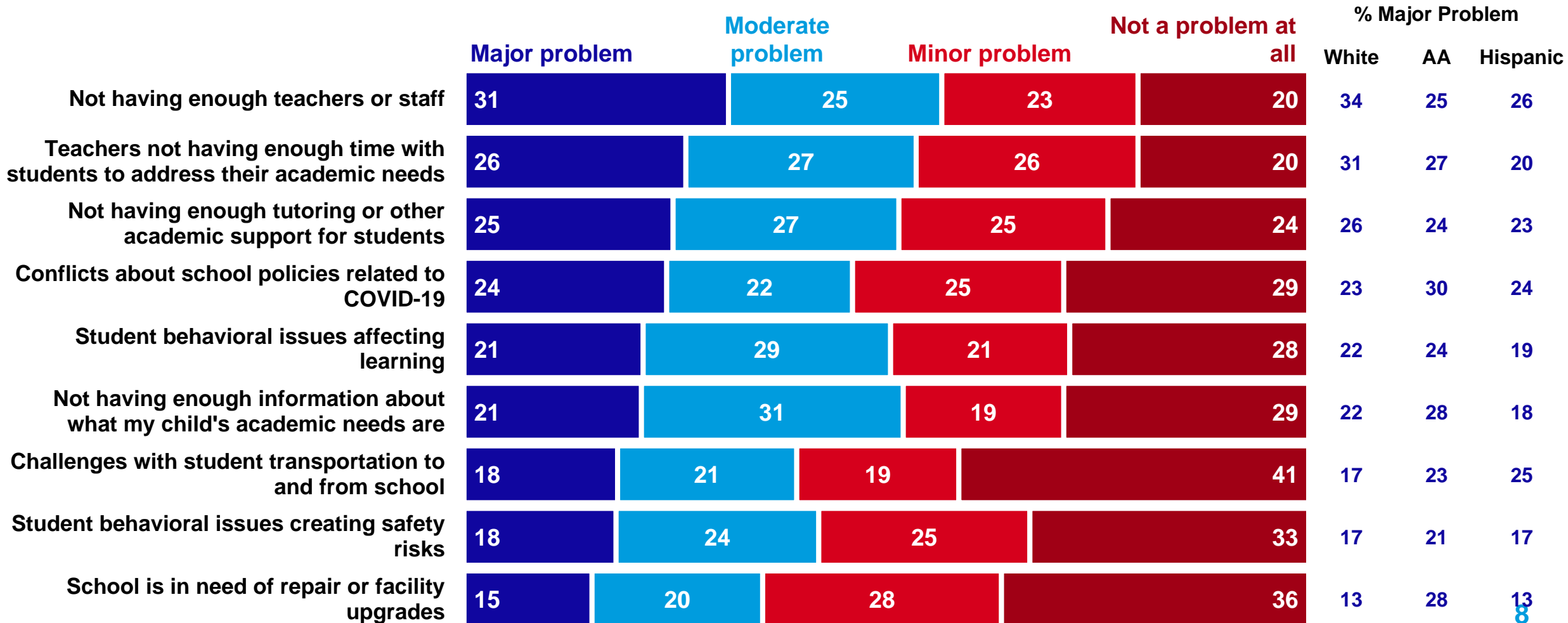


Higher income parents are most likely to believe that their children don't need additional instruction (35%), compared to lower (31%) and middle-income (22%) parents.

# **New Jersey Public School Parents Share Specific Academic Concerns and Needs**

# New Jersey public school parents' top concerns: not enough teachers, instructional time, or tutoring and academic supports

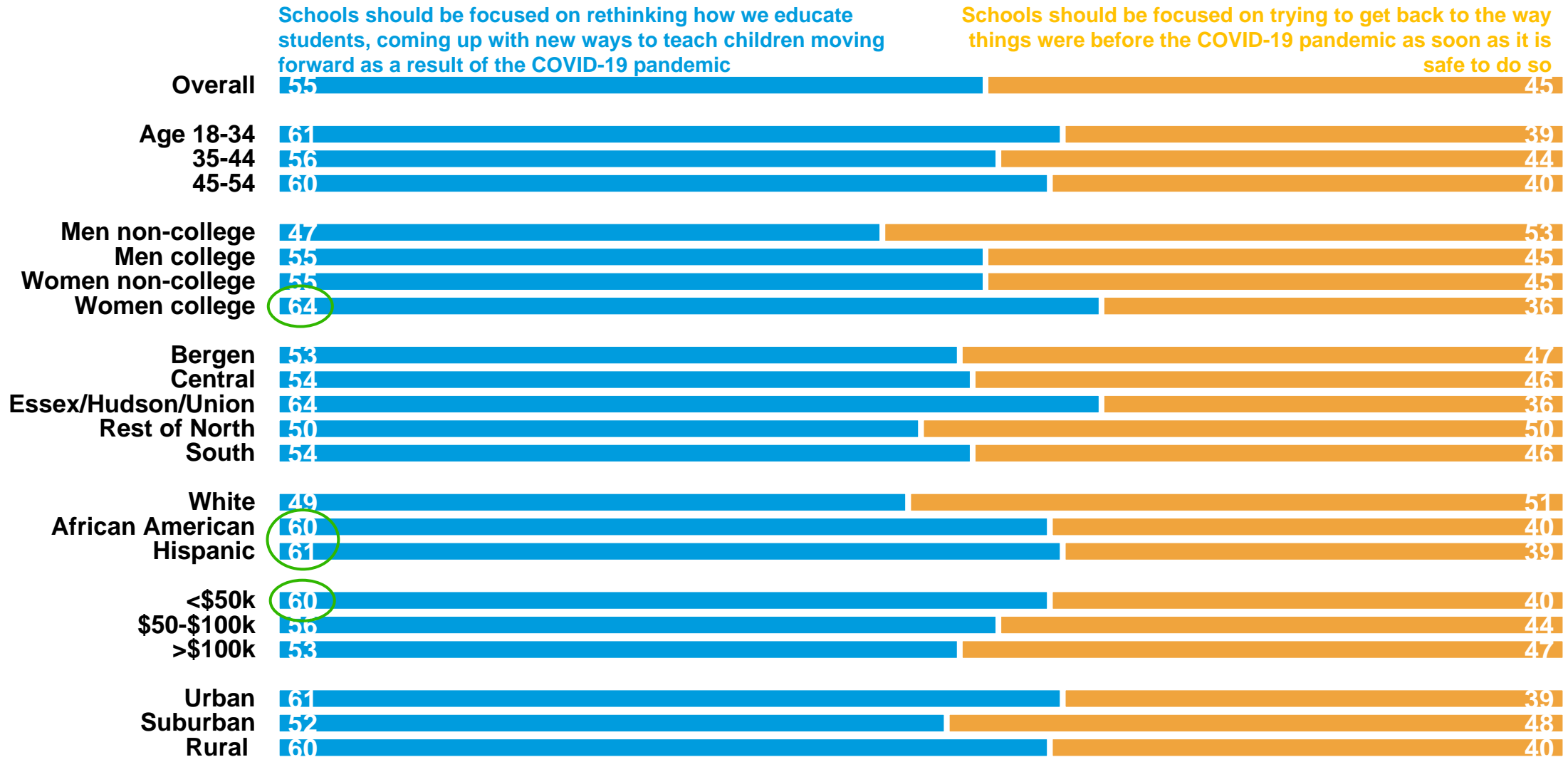
Below are some concerns parents have about their child's schools. For each one, please indicate how much of a problem it is at your child's school right now.





# Consistently across demographic groups, parents are demanding that schools rethink education

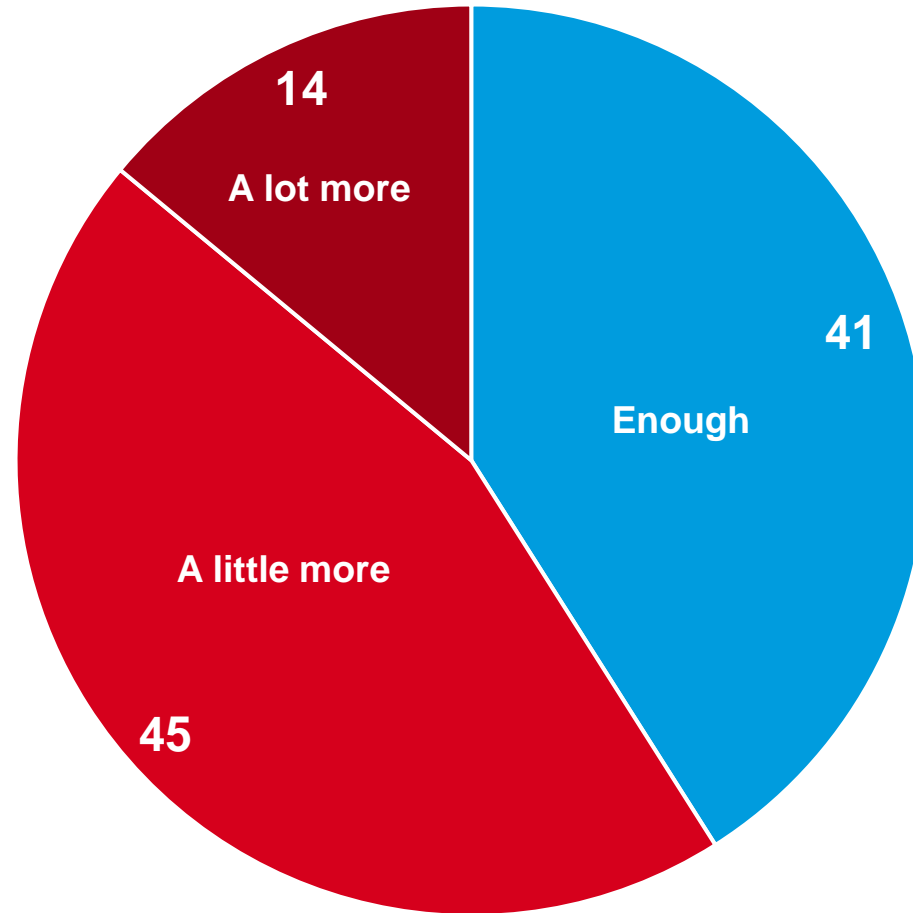
Which of the following best describes how you feel, even if neither fits perfectly?



# Most New Jersey public school parents want their children to get more instructional time

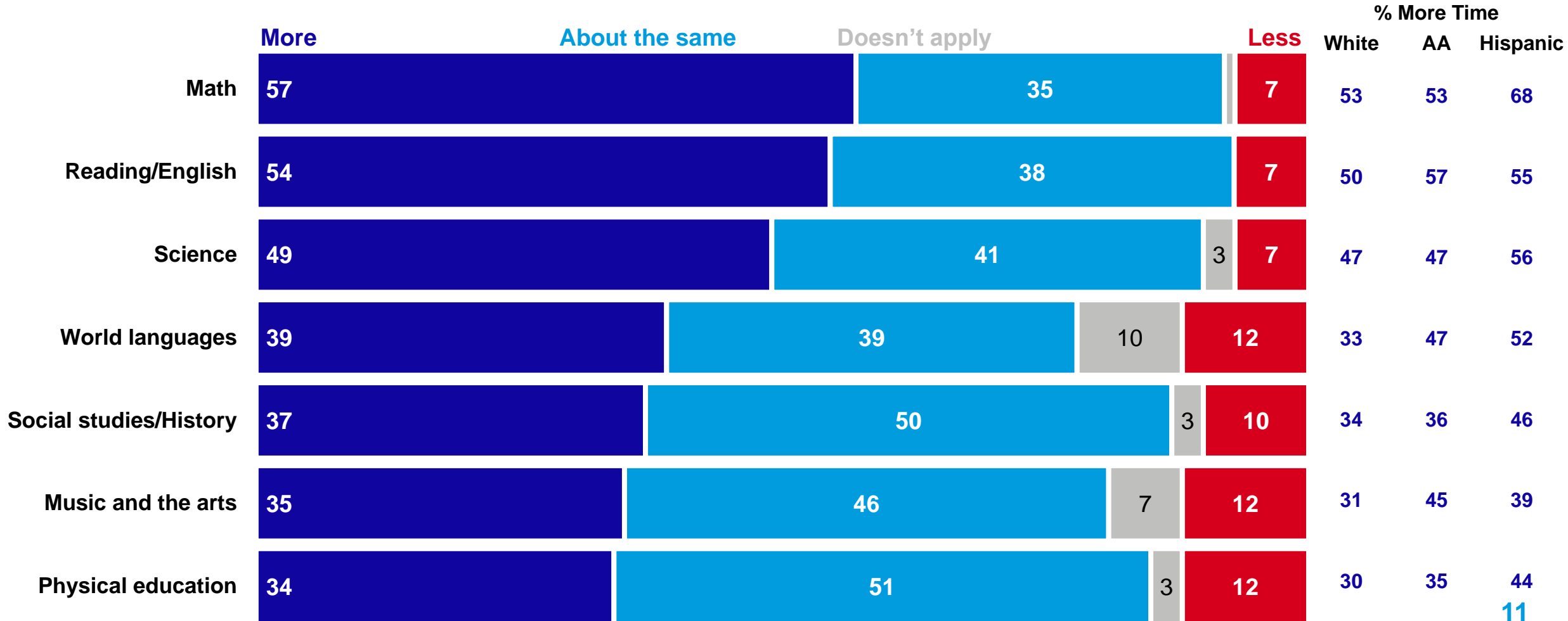
Do you think your child is getting enough instructional time with their teacher(s), or do you think your child should be getting more instructional time?

**59% of parents  
want more  
instructional time**



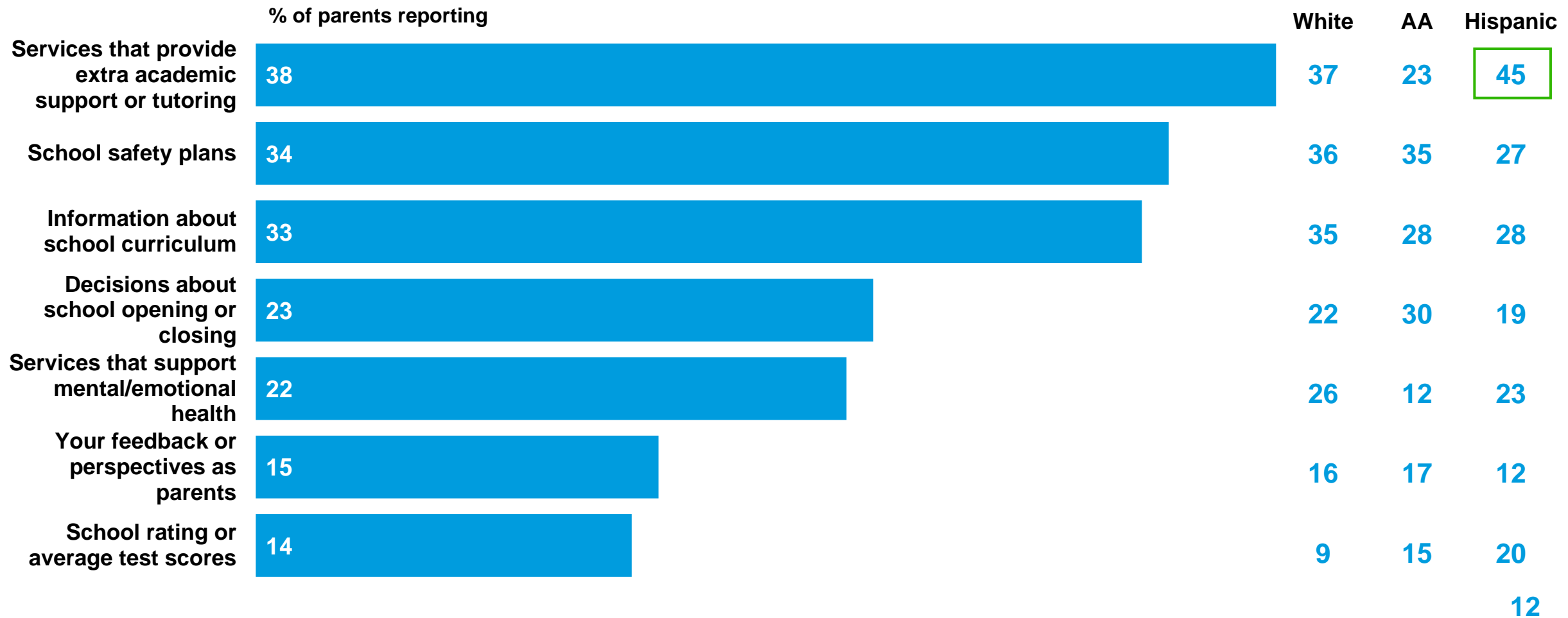
# Majority of New Jersey public school parents want more class time on key subjects, particularly math and reading

Below is the same list of subjects taught in school. If you were able to adjust how much instruction time your child receives in each, would you want your child to have more, less, or about the same amount of instruction time in each of the following subjects?



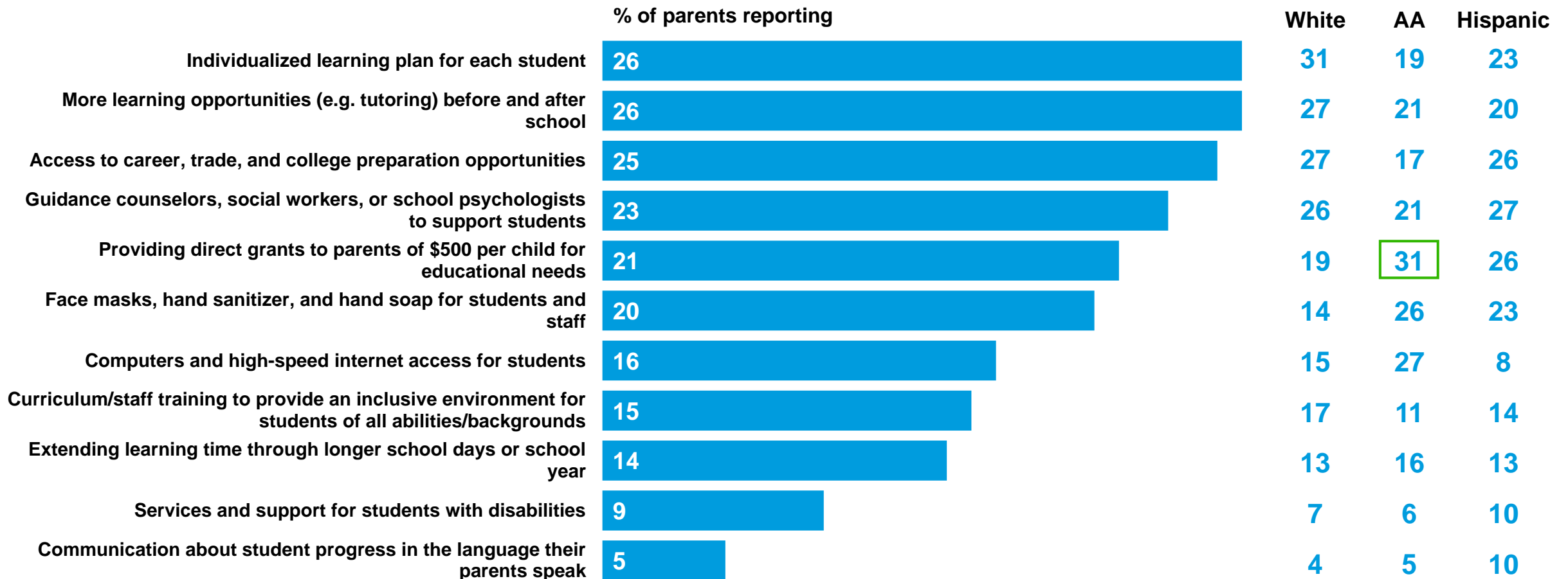
# New Jersey public school parents want new forms of extra help and more information

What are the top one or two things you want your child's school to communicate about regarding what is going on at the school in general?



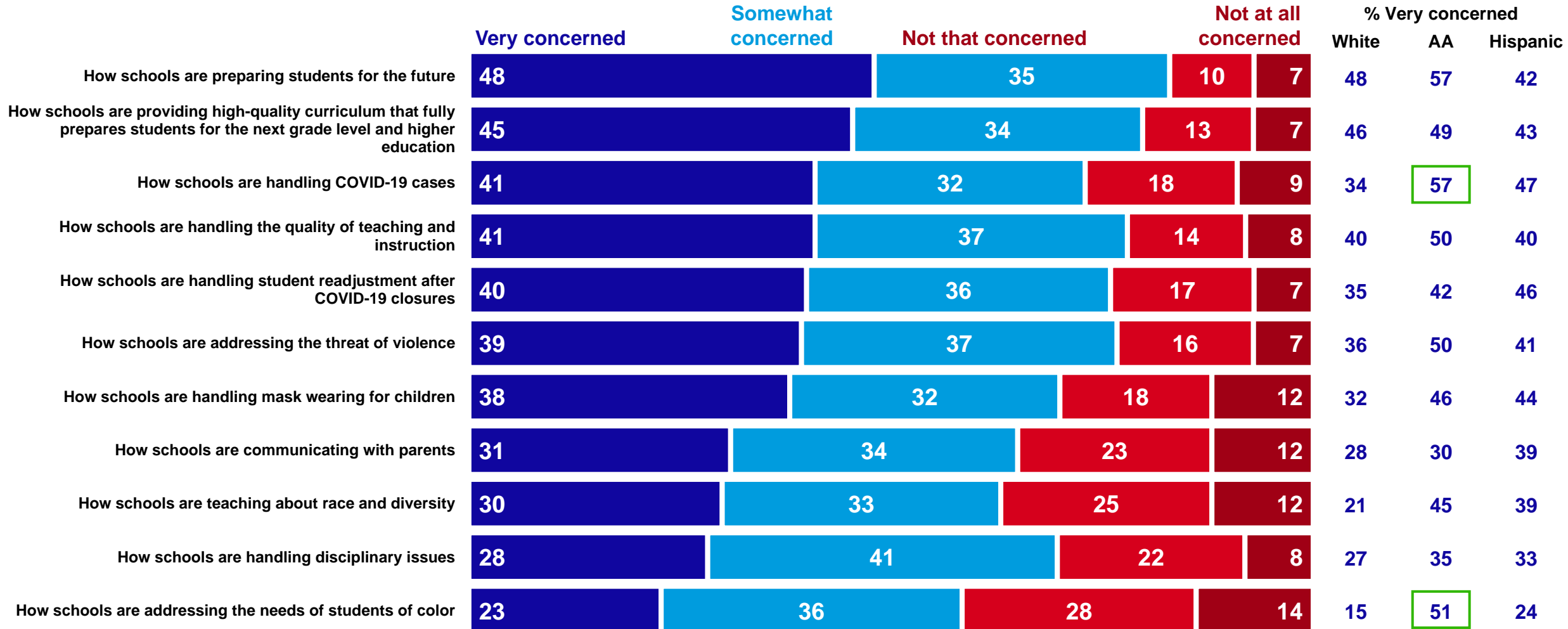
# New Jersey public school parents seek specific supports for students: individualized learning plans, tutoring, and other supports

Which two of the following do you think would be MOST helpful for your children?



# Parents are most concerned about students being prepared for the future – both in the immediate and long term

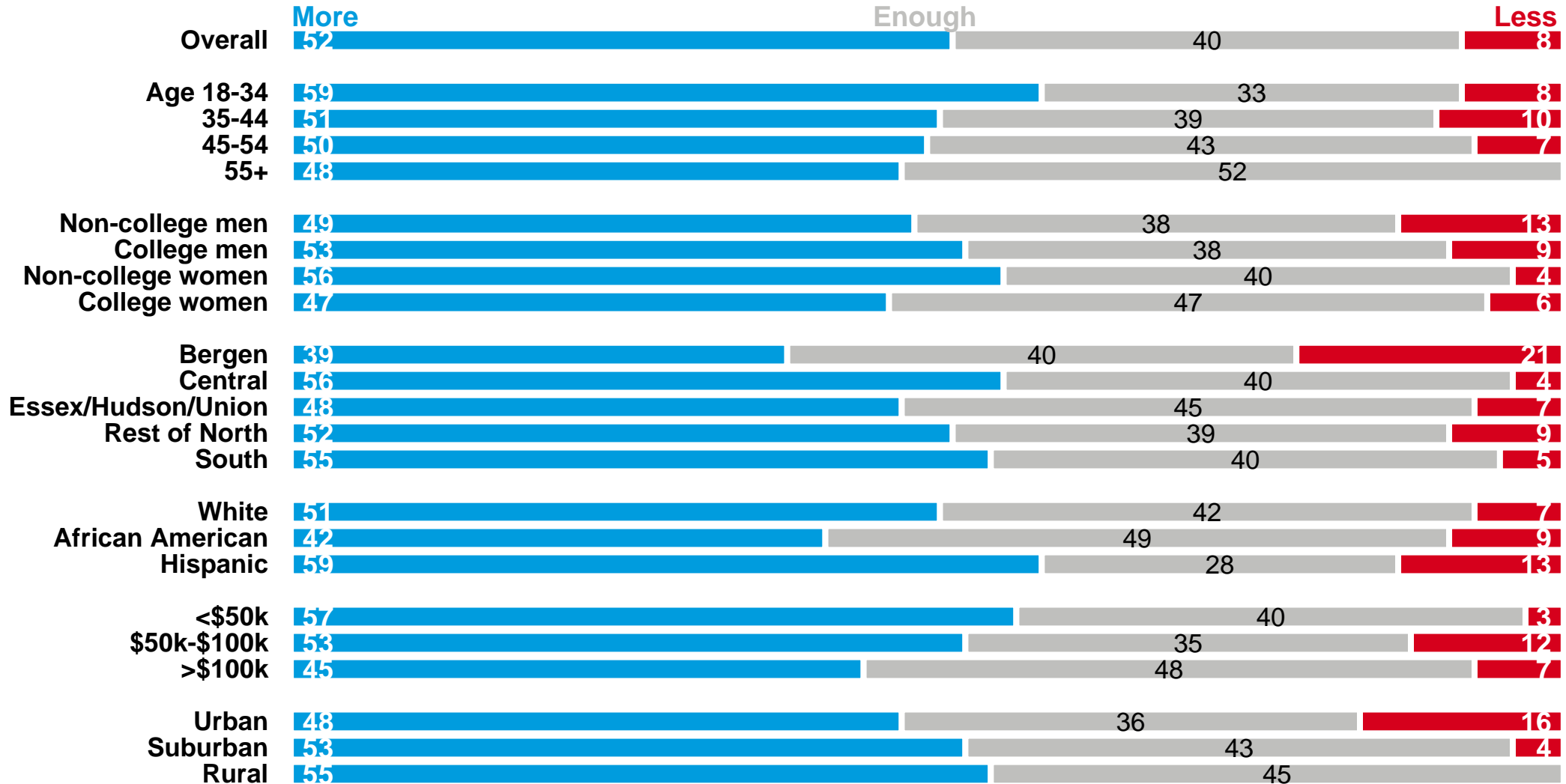
Below is a list of items many public schools are addressing. Please indicate how concerned you are about each.



# **New Jersey Public School Parents Support Data and Testing to Gauge Students' Needs**

# Across demographic groups, parents desire more communications from schools

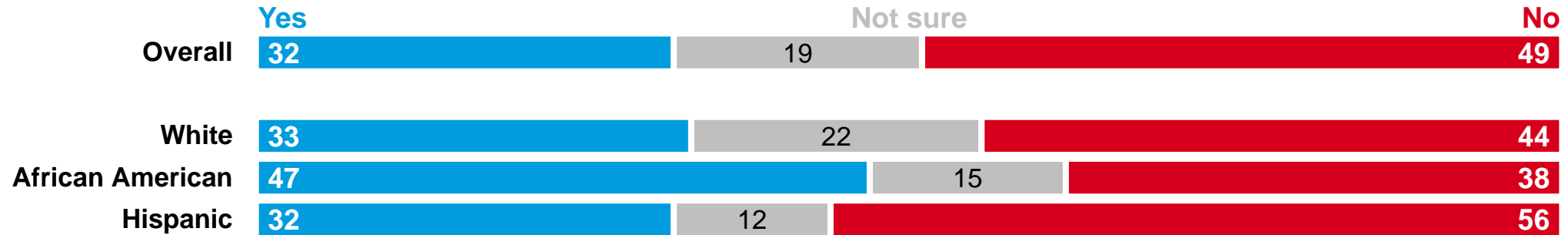
Thinking about how much your child's school communicates with parents about what is going on at the school in general, do you wish they would communicate with parents more, less, or do you believe they communicate with parents enough?



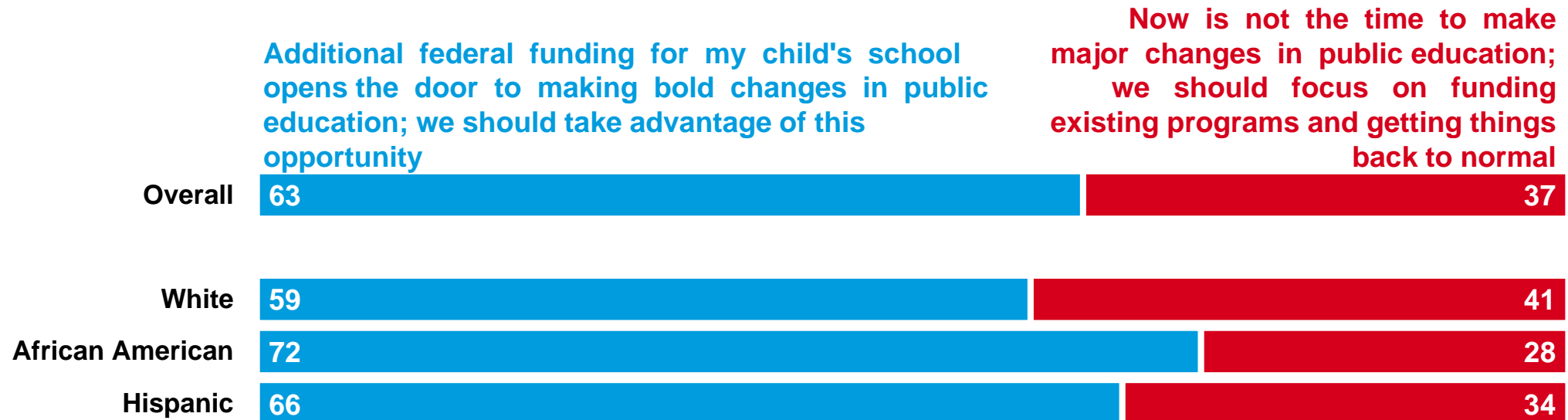


# More communication is needed on plans for federal funding, which parents support using for bold changes

Have your child's schools communicated with parents about how they are using or plan to use any additional federal funding they may have received?

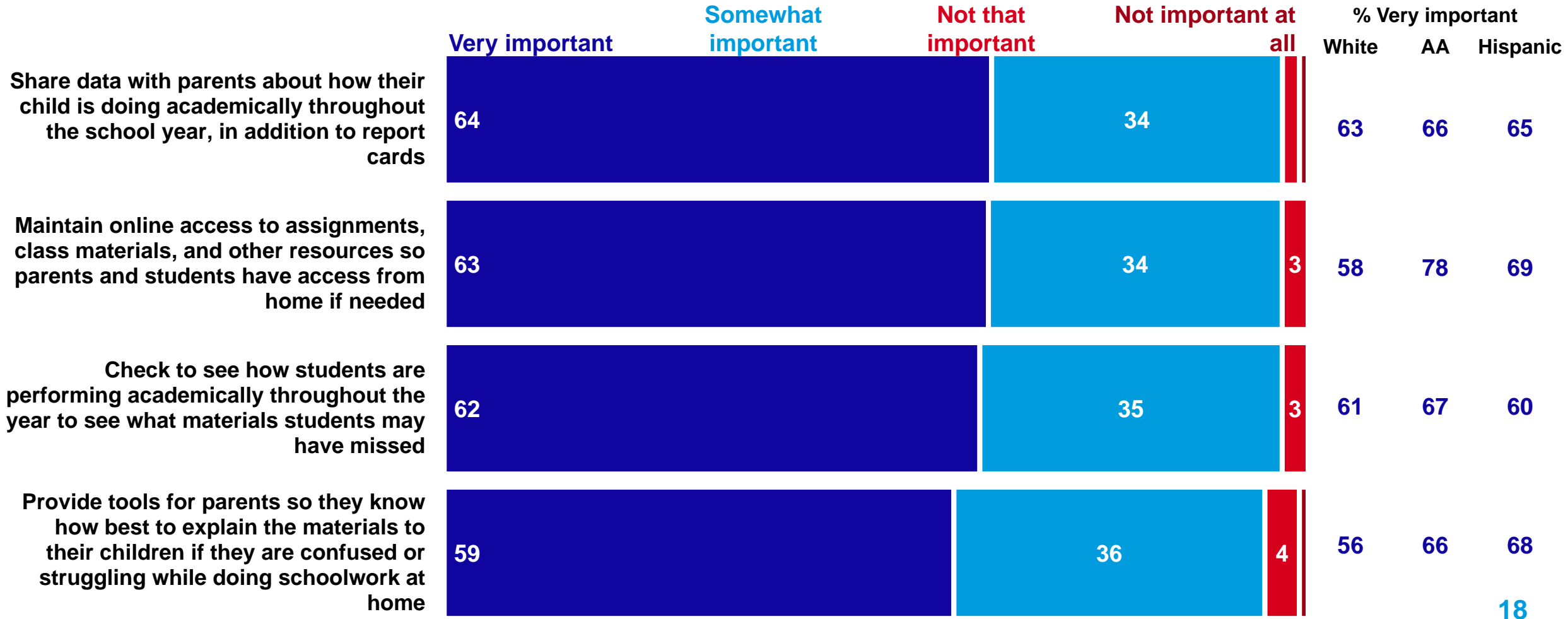


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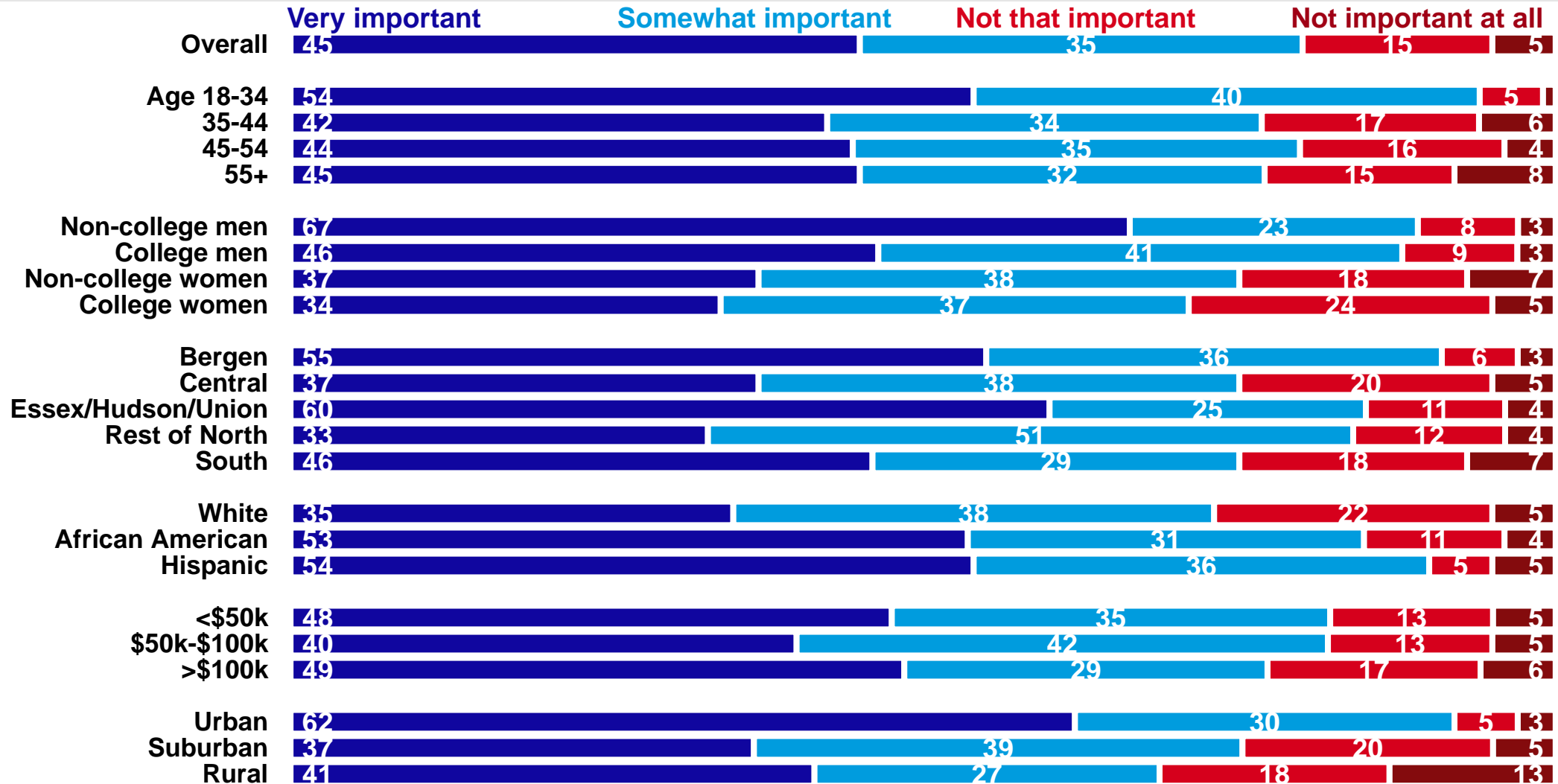
# New Jersey public school parents want data and tools to see how their children are doing

Below are some services schools provide for parents and students. Please indicate how important you think each one is.



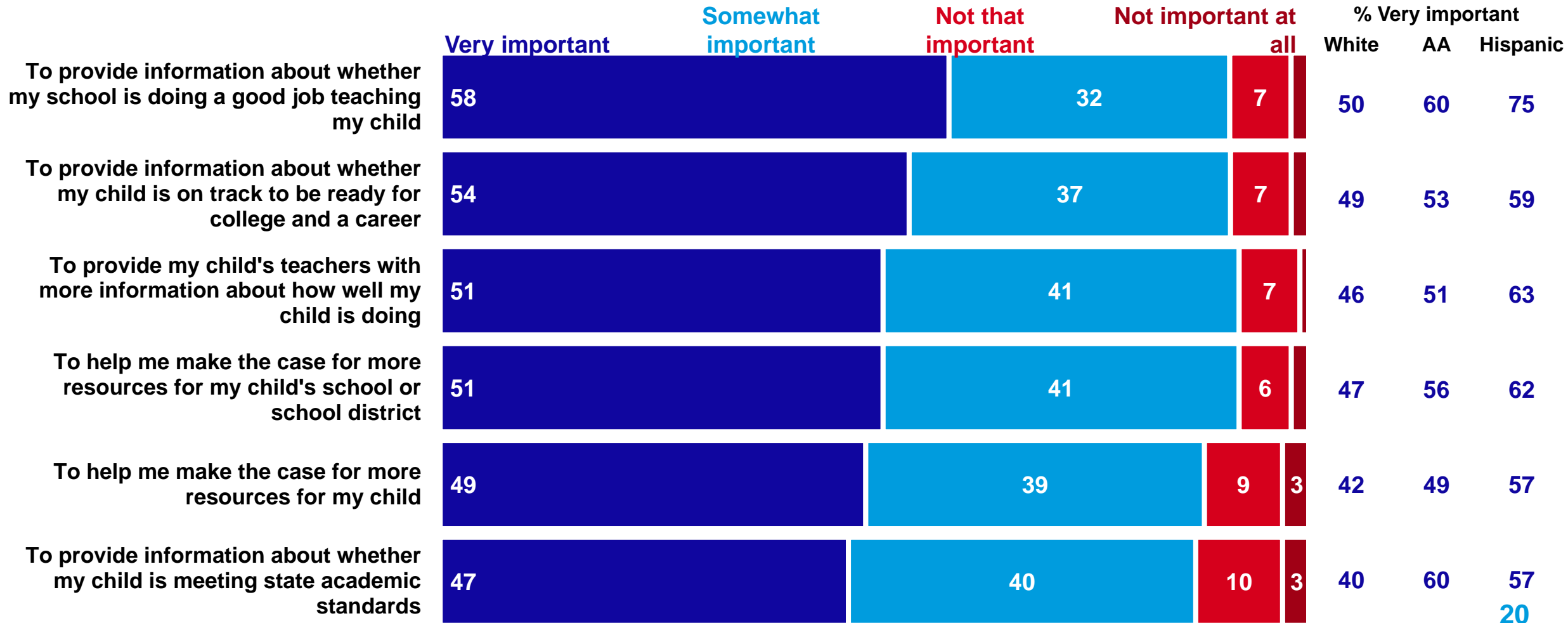
# New Jersey public school parents strongly support a statewide test, especially parents in urban areas

In your opinion, how important is it that students take a statewide test to make sure they are meeting expectations in math and reading?



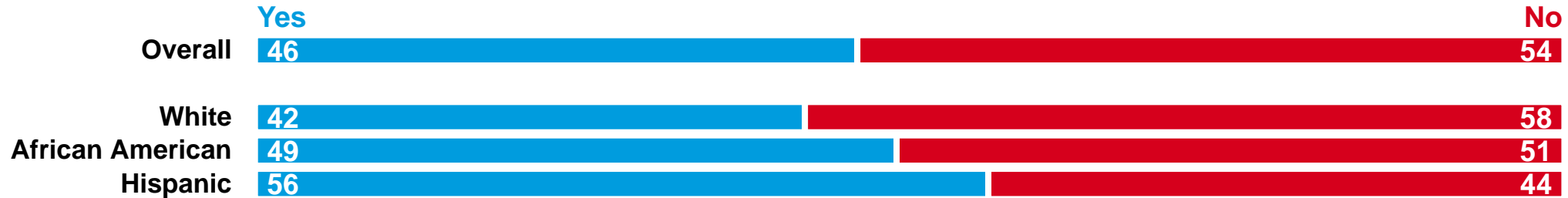
# New Jersey public school parents want tests to gauge students' needs and school performance

Students are given statewide tests at the end of the year in grades 3-8 and in high school. Below are some things state tests are used for. Please indicate how important you think each one is.



# Most parents are unaware of recent statewide diagnostic test – more outreach is needed

Are you aware of the new Start Strong assessment that was given to students in grades 4-10 this past fall?



Were the results of your child's Start Strong assessment shared with you?



Were the results helpful for you to know where your child stood academically at the beginning of the year?



# Thank You

New York

Washington, DC

Hartford

Chicago

Denver

Seattle