GBAO

Connecticut Education Association
Reopening Survey

July 2020

n = 15,882 members

Conducted July 13-20, 2020 via Qualtrics

Margin of error = +/- 0.8 percentage points

Figure 2

Key Findings – Reopening

- CEA members are divided between wanting to continue distance learning and taking a hybrid approach in the fall. Very few support full reopening.

- Members widely oppose Governor Lamont's plan and do not feel comfortable returning to school under the plan.

- Educators want many safety precautions in place before returning to school, including disinfecting and cleaning, masks, and social distancing, but they are also concerned about students' ability to consistently wear masks and socially distance.

Key Findings – Distance Learning

Figure 3

- Most members see distance learning as "somewhat" effective so far.

- Educators working with students with disabilities face particular problems distance learning.

High Risk

Please indicate which of the following statements apply to you when it comes to COVID-19 by clicking yes or no.

52% One Or More

18	27	28
High-risk due to age	High-risk due to health condition	Caregiver of someone high-risk

Distance Learning

Most Think Distance Learning Was *Somewhat* Effective

Figure 6

Effectiveness

How effective do you think distance learning was for your students?
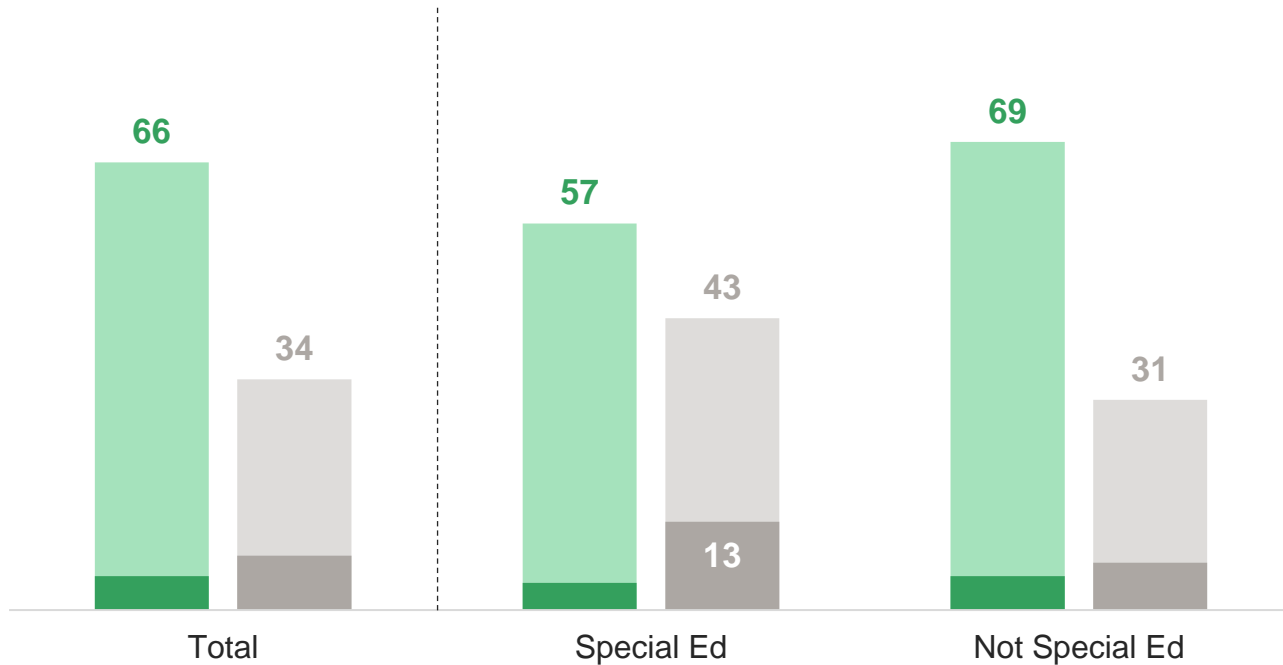
● Effective ◐ Not effective *Darker shade = Stronger intensity*

|	Effective	Not effective
Total	66	34
Special Ed	57	43 (13)
Not Special Ed	69	31

Attendance Lower Among Special Education Students

Figure 7

Class Attendance

In terms of class attendance and participation, about what percentage of your students regularly attended or participated in distance or digital learning opportunities during the shutdown this spring? Give your best estimate.
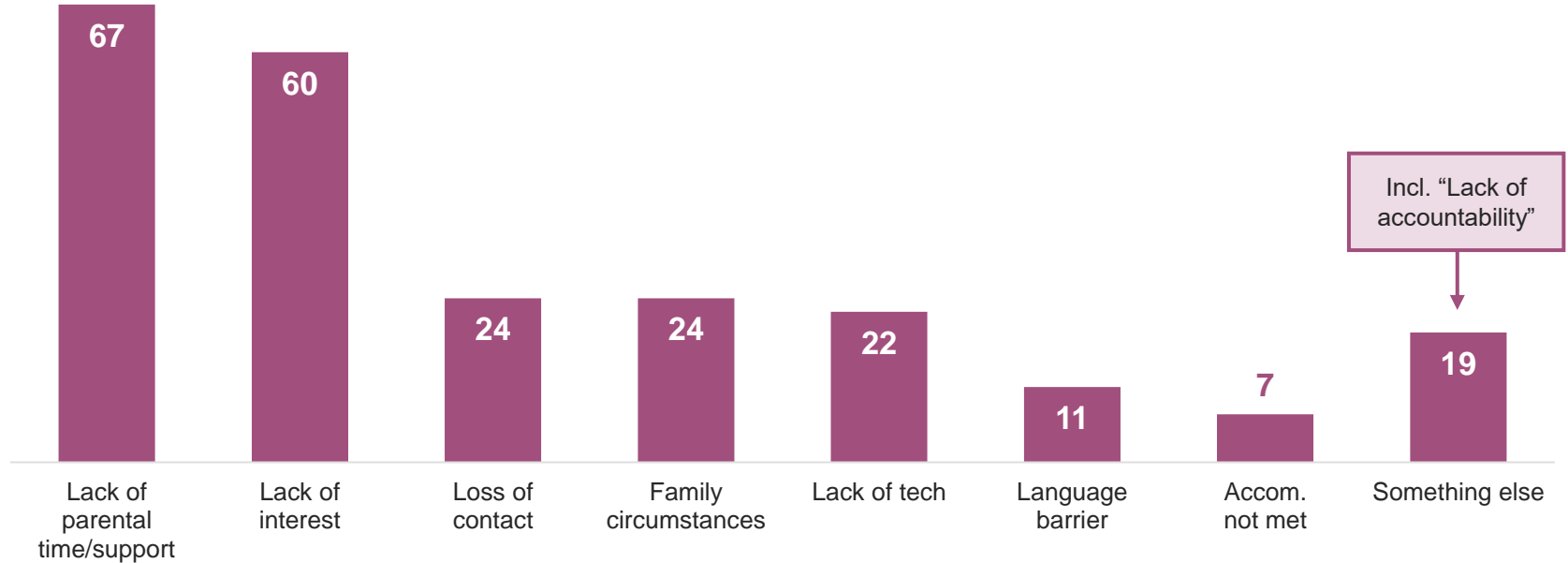
● Mean

Total	Special Education	Not Special Education
68	63	70
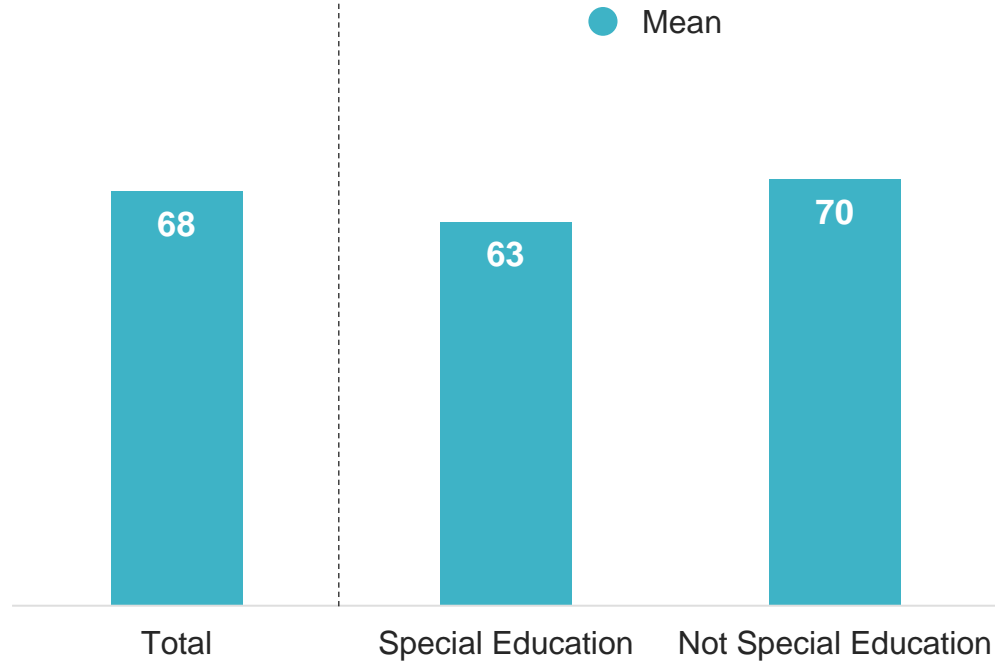
Lack Of Parental Time/Support, Student Interest Most Frequently Cited Reasons For Participation Problems

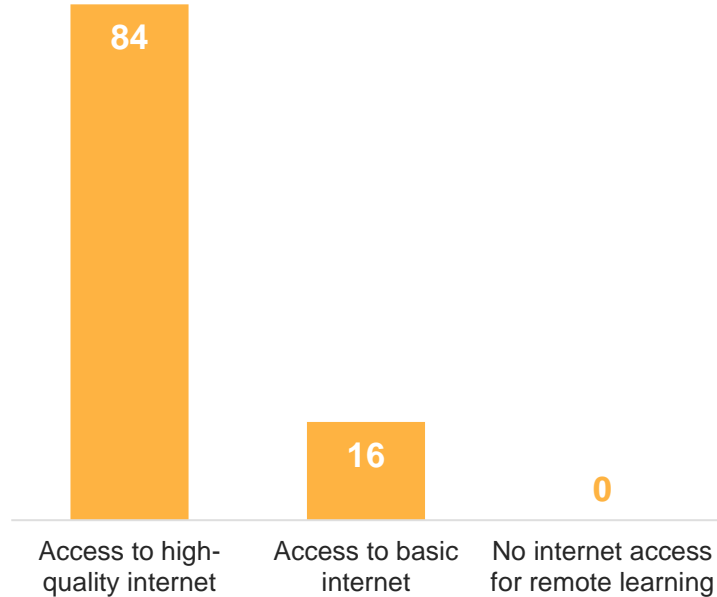Figure 8

Lack Of Participation

(If less than 100% participation) To the best of your knowledge, what were the primary reasons for students' lack of participation or attendance? Please select all that apply.
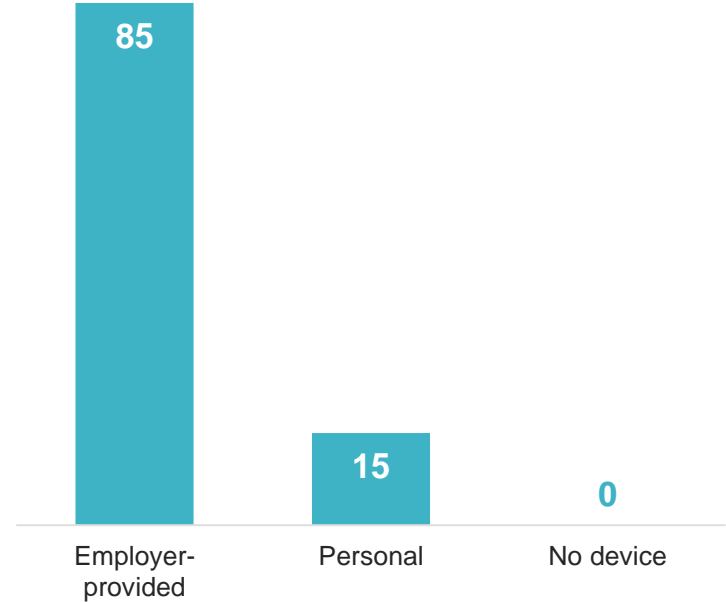
Incl. "Lack of accountability"

Category	Value
Lack of parental time/support	67
Lack of interest	60
Loss of contact	24
Family circumstances	24
Lack of tech	22
Language barrier	11
Accom. not met	7
Something else	19

Most Members Have Internet, Employer-Provided Devices

Figure 9

Member Internet

Access to high-quality internet	Access to basic internet	No internet access for remote learning
84	16	0

Member Devices

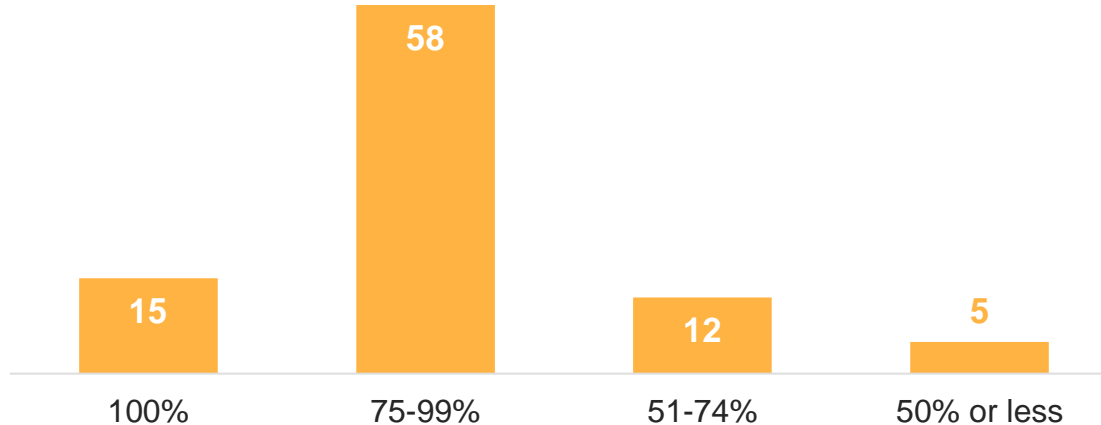| Employer-provided	Personal	No device
85	15	0

Most Members Report Majority, But Not All, Students Had Reliable Internet

Figure 10

Student Internet

To the best of your knowledge, what percentage of your students had consistent and reliable access to appropriate internet and technological devices for distance learning in the spring? Give your best estimate.
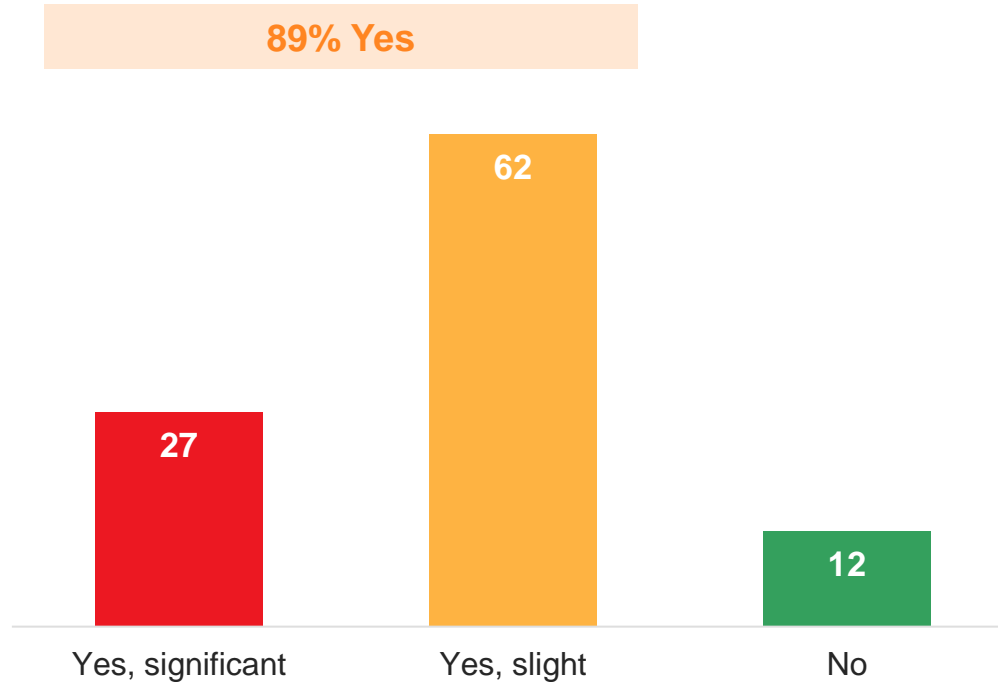

100%	75-99%	51-74%	50% or less
15	58	12	5

Figure 12

Learning Loss

What do you think the causes of students' learning loss were? Select all that apply.
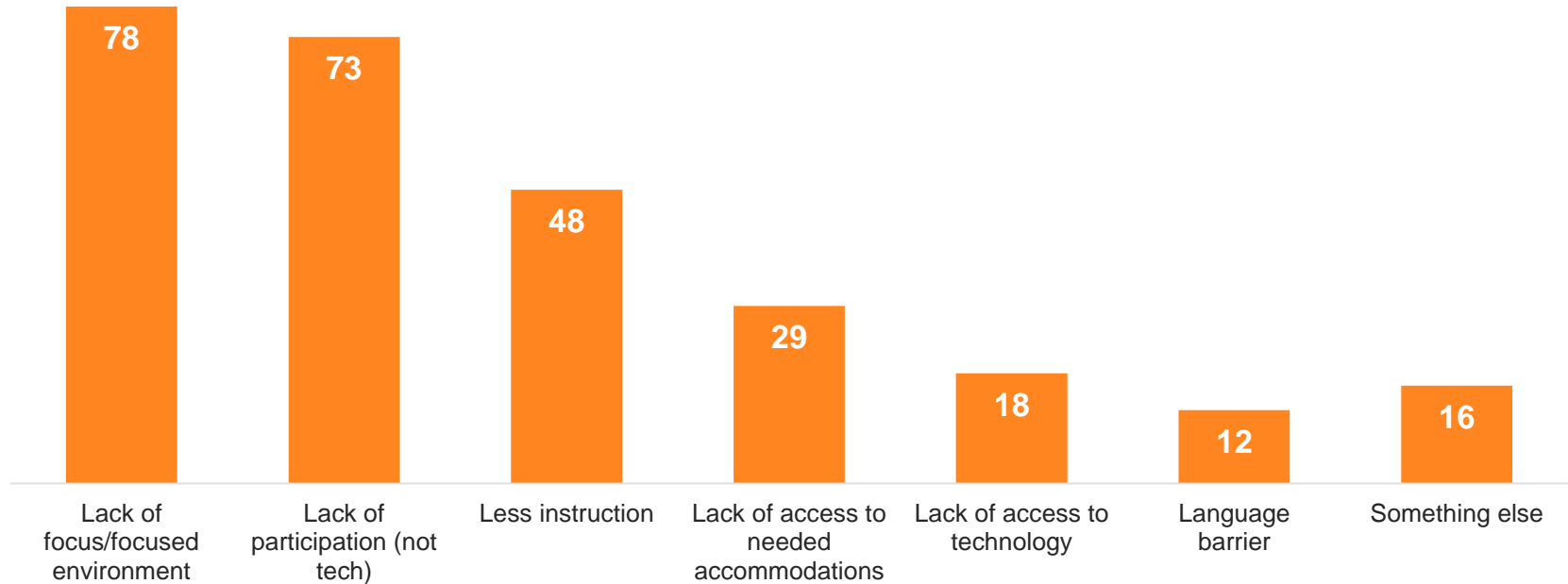
Category	Value
Lack of focus/focused environment	78
Lack of participation (not tech)	73
Less instruction	48
Lack of access to needed accommodations	29
Lack of access to technology	18
Language barrier	12
Something else	16

Reopening

Members Split Between Preference For Hybrid And Full Distance Learning This Fall

Figure 14

Preferred Plan

Based on current trends, if you were given a choice, would you rather...?

- Full Reopening
- Hybrid
- Full Distance Learning

	Full Reopening	Hybrid	Full Distance Learning
Total	16	39	46
Women	14	40	46
Men	20	36	44
Under 40	12	38	50
40+	18	39	43
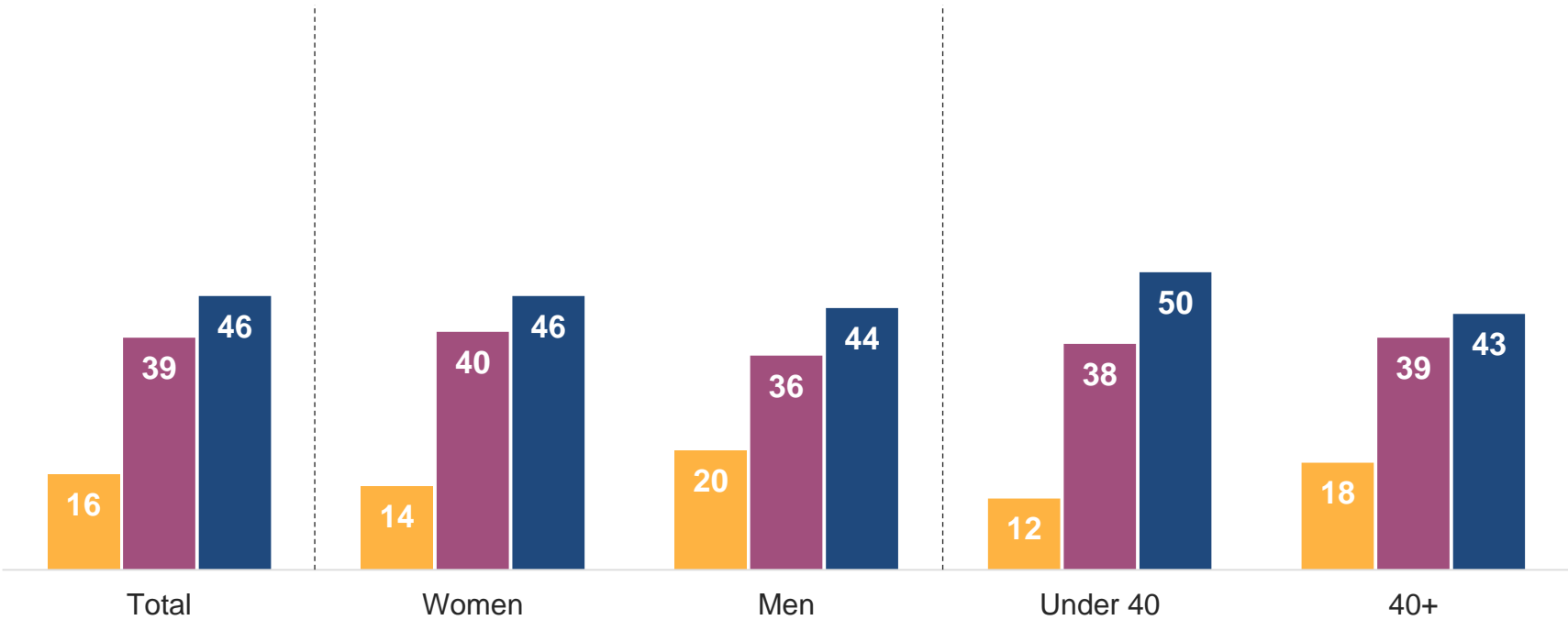
Members Oppose Lamont's Reopening Plan

Figure 15

Darker shade = Stronger intensity

As you may know, Governor Lamont released his school re-opening plan. The plan calls for public schools to be open five days a week unless coronavirus infection rates spike. Students and educators will be required to wear masks on buses and in schools. Social distancing will take place when feasible. Student COVID-19 screening, monitoring, and class size reductions will not be required by the state and will be determined by each school district. Based on this, do you favor or oppose Governor Lamont's school re-opening plan?

74

43

26

Favor

Oppose
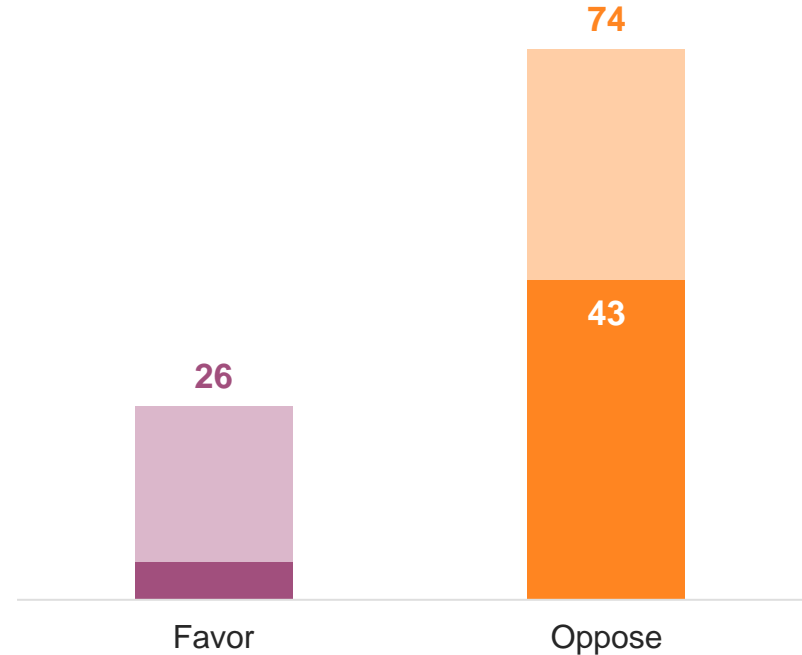
Most Members Uncomfortable Returning Under Lamont Plan

Figure 16

Returning Comfort

Based on the state's plan, how comfortable are you returning to physical school in the fall?

Darker shade = Stronger intensity
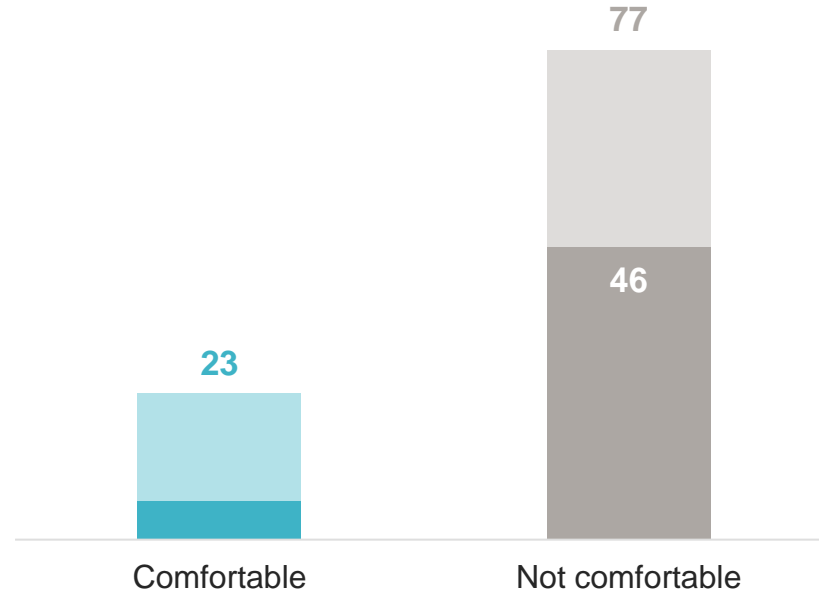
Almost All Members Think Students And Educators Should Be Required To Wear Masks

Figure 17

Masks

When it comes to policies regarding wearing masks in school during the coronavirus pandemic, do you think _____ should be required to wear masks?

	90	3	2	4
	Students and educators	Only educators	Only students	No one

Large Majorities Think All Proposed Reopening Precautions Are "Very Important"

Figure 18

Reopening Precautions

● Very important　　● Total important
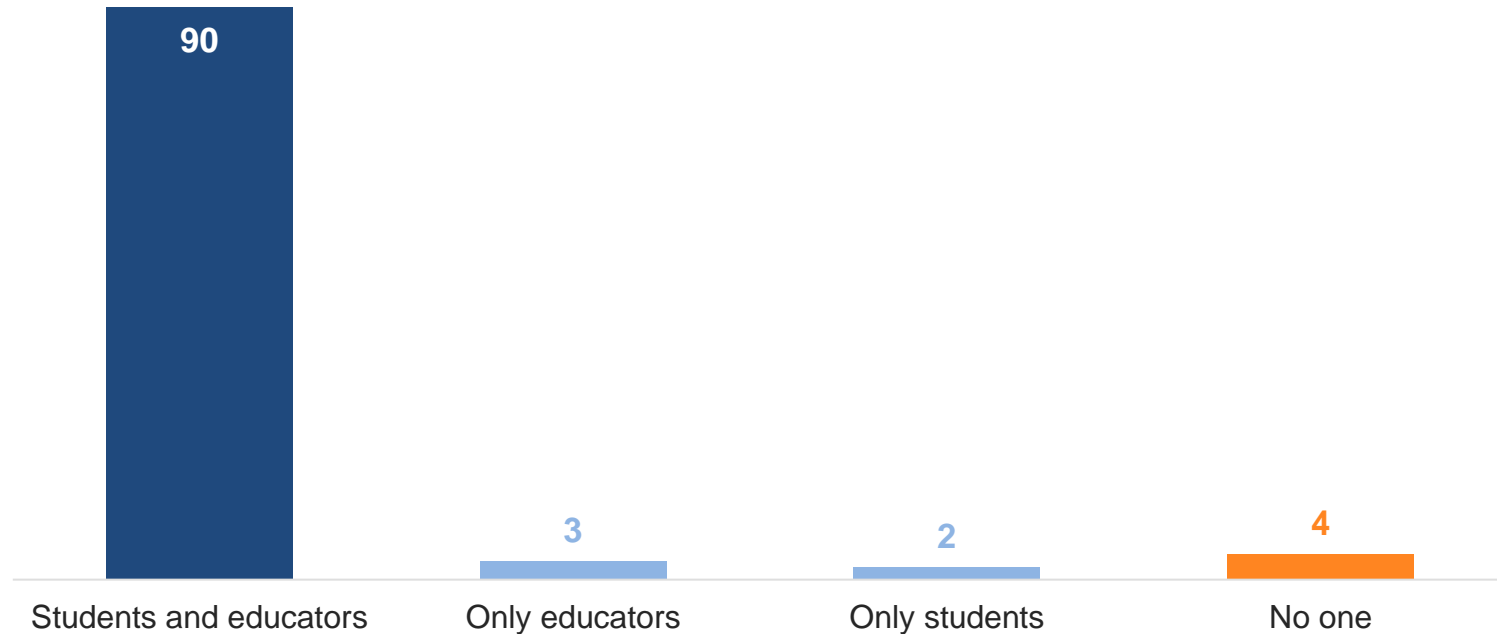
Precaution	Very important	Total important
Require students and educators to follow CDC recommendations about regularly washing hand.	95	99
Hand sanitizer available throughout buildings.	94	99
Disinfecting and cleaning handles, surfaces, lab equipment, P.E. equipment, and bathrooms between groups of students being in a room.	90	98
Limits on groupings of students and educators that reflect schools' ability to physically distance six feet apart including in classrooms, cafeterias, gyms, in science labs, and on school buses.	82	97
Masks are provided and required for educators and students.	88	96

Members Place Less Importance On Teachers Changing Rooms, While Students Stay Put

Figure 19

Reopening Precautions

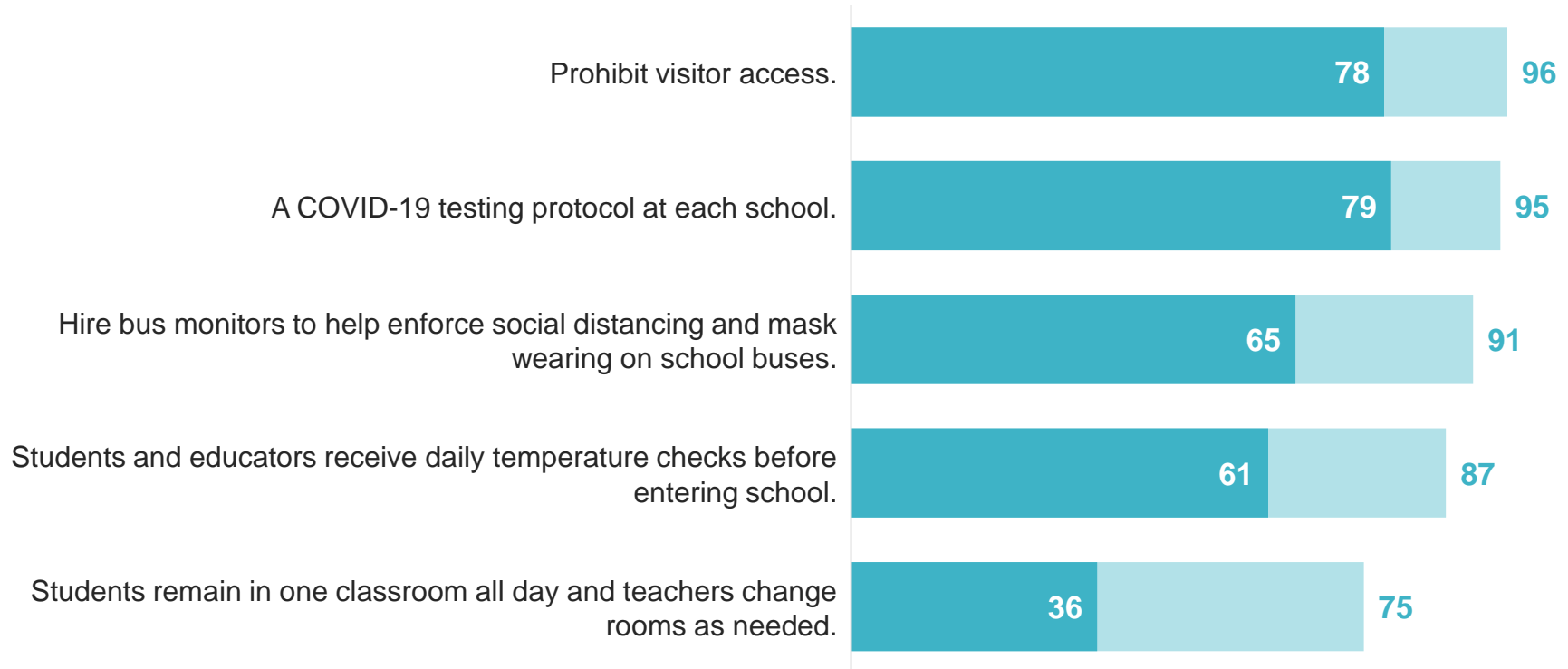● Very important   ● Total important

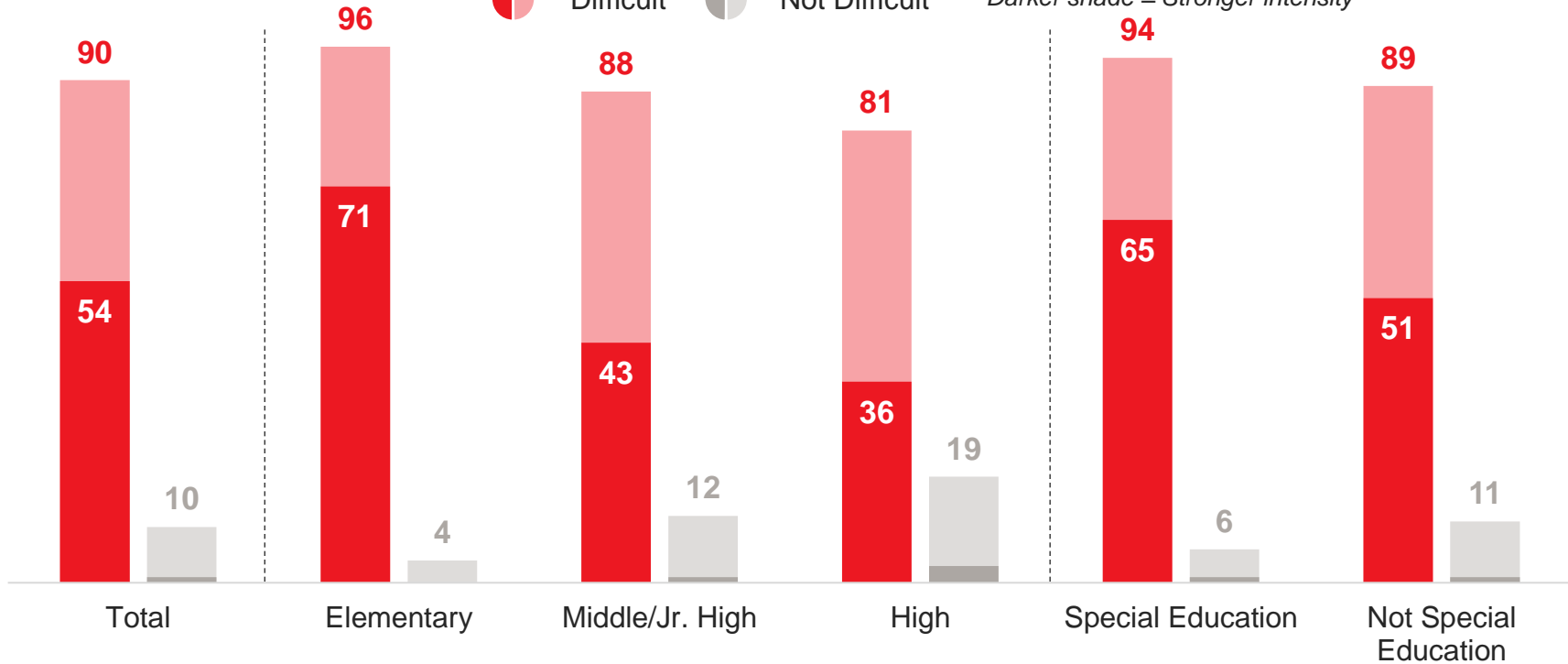| Precaution	Very important	Total important
Prohibit visitor access.	78	96
A COVID-19 testing protocol at each school.	79	95
Hire bus monitors to help enforce social distancing and mask wearing on school buses.	65	91
Students and educators receive daily temperature checks before entering school.	61	87
Students remain in one classroom all day and teachers change rooms as needed.	36	75

Special Education, Elementary Teachers Expect Mask Adherence To Be Most Difficult

Figure 20

Mask Difficulty

Thinking about the grade level(s) or students you work with, how difficult do you think it will be to ensure students keep masks on during the school day?

Difficult   Not Difficult   *Darker shade = Stronger intensity*

	Total	Elementary	Middle/Jr. High	High	Special Education	Not Special Education
Difficult (total)	90	96	88	81	94	89
Difficult (strong)	54	71	43	36	65	51
Not Difficult	10	4	12	19	6	11

Less Variance In Expected Distancing Difficulty

Figure 21

Distancing Difficulty

Thinking about the grade level(s) or students you work with, how difficult do you think it will be to implement social distancing and other health practices during the school day?
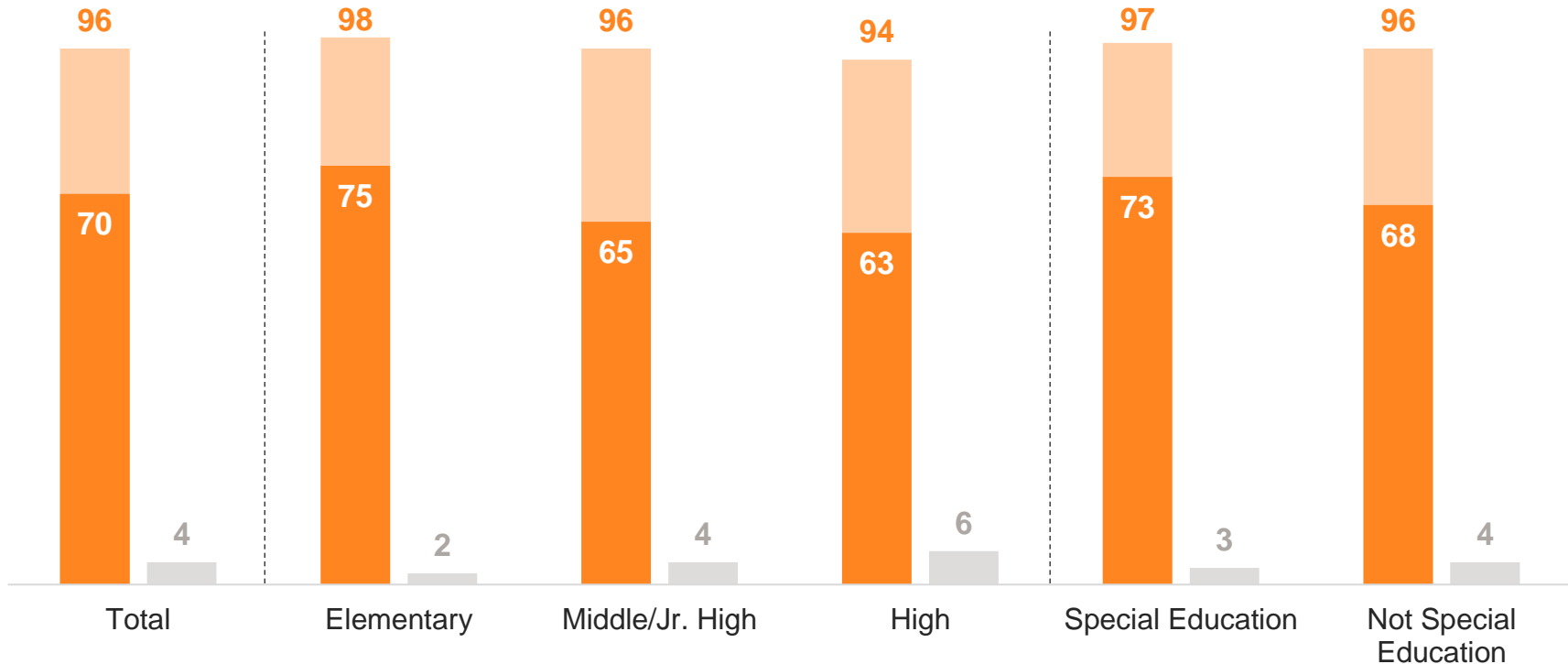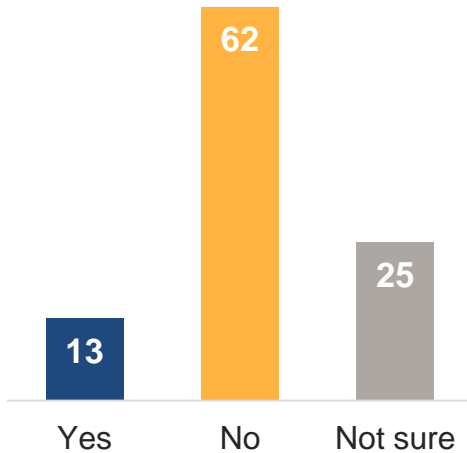
Difficult   Not Difficult   *Darker shade = Stronger intensity*

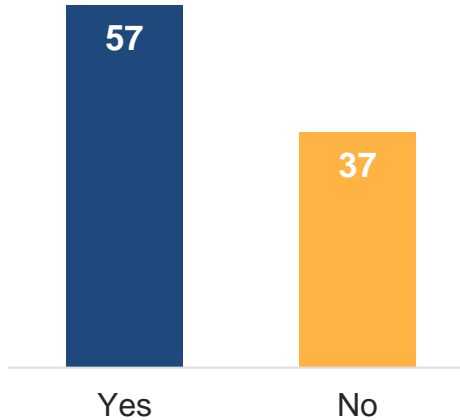|	Total	Elementary	Middle/Jr. High	High	Special Education	Not Special Education
Difficult (total)	96	98	96	94	97	96
Difficult (strong)	70	75	65	63	73	68
Not Difficult	4	2	4	6	3	4

Mix Of Airflow In Schools And Classrooms

Figure 22

Air Flow In School

- Yes: 13
- No: 62
- Not sure: 25

Classroom AC

- Yes: 57
- No: 37

Classroom Windows

- Open, will improve air flow: 23
- Open, will not improve air flow: 43
- Do not open: 28
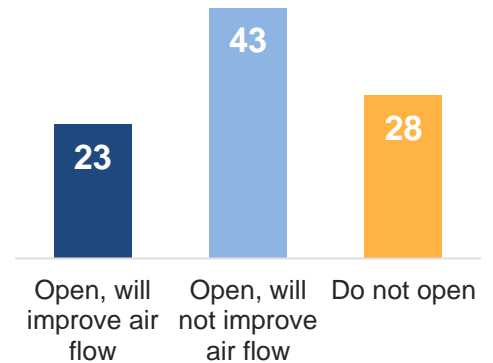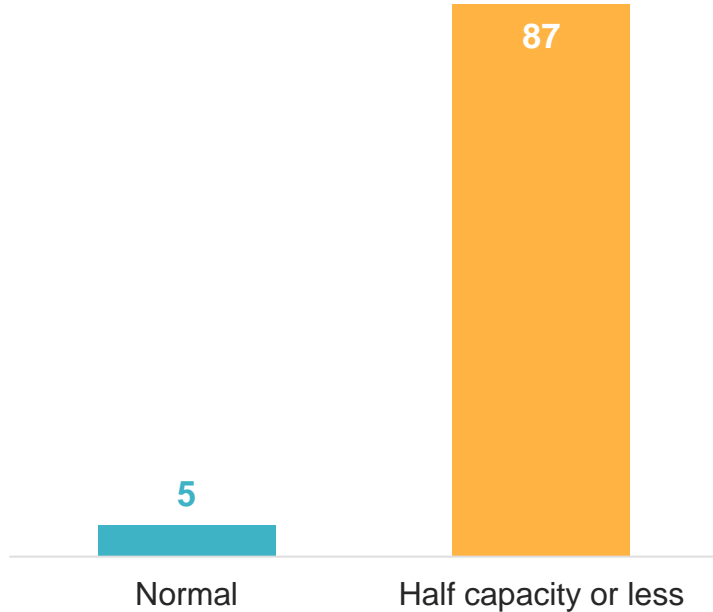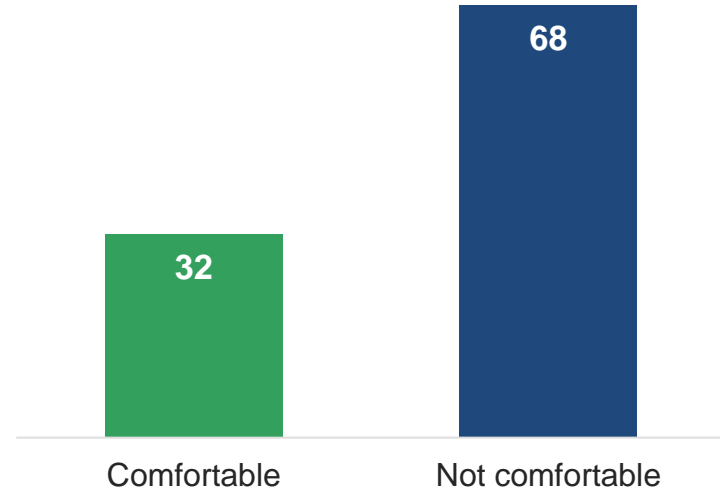
Members Think Buses Should Run At Lower Capacity, Most Uncomfortable Loading And Unloading

Figure 23

Ideal Bus Capacity

Normal	5
Half capacity or less	87

Loading Buses

Comfortable	32
Not comfortable	68

Most Members Comfortable Enforcing COVID Guidelines, Little Difference By Grade, Special Education

Figure 24

Enforcing Guidelines

Are you comfortable enforcing mask wearing and social distancing guidelines with your students?

● Yes   ● No

	Total	Elementary	Middle/Jr. High	High	Special Education	Not Special Education
Yes	71	70	72	73	72	71
No	29	30	28	27	28	29
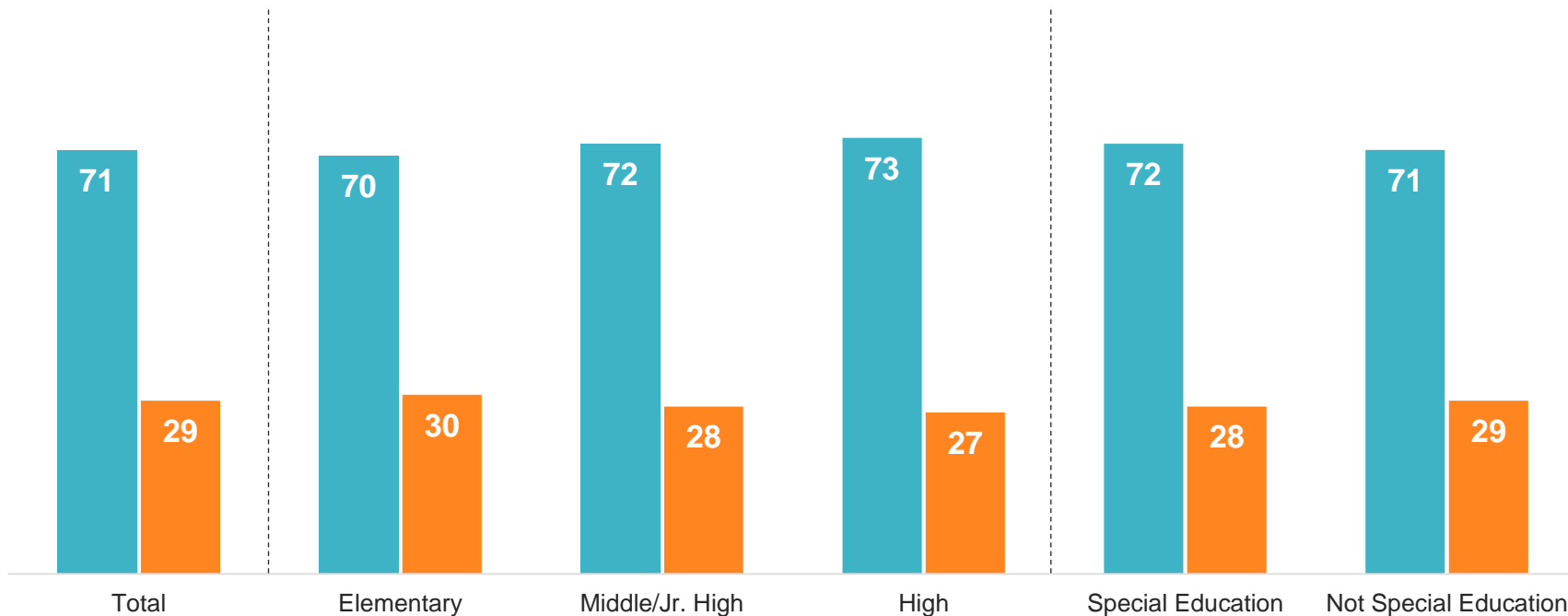
Most Would Be Comfortable With Contact Tracing Technology

Figure 25

Tracking Technology
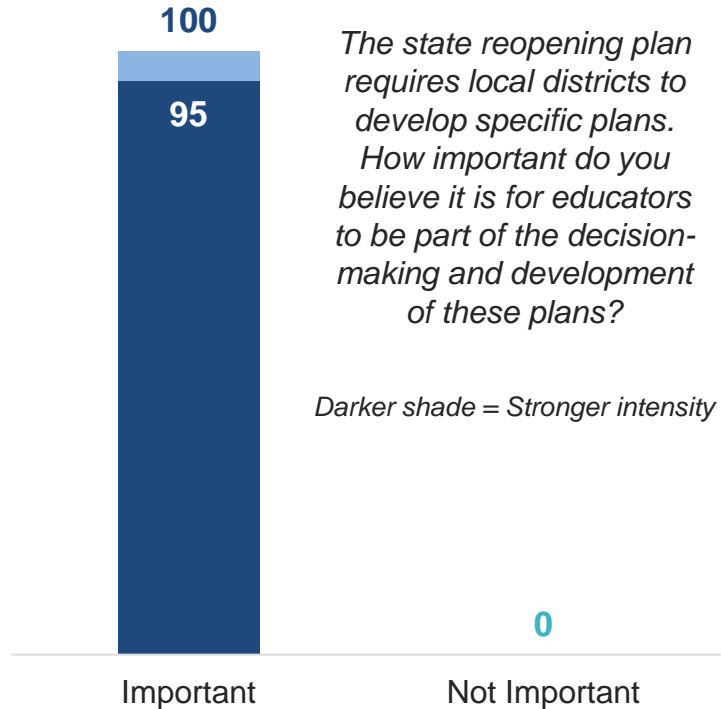
Darker shade = Stronger intensity

How comfortable would you be if your district used technology to track students and educators who have come into contact with someone with COVID-19?

78

42

22

Comfortable

Uncomfortable
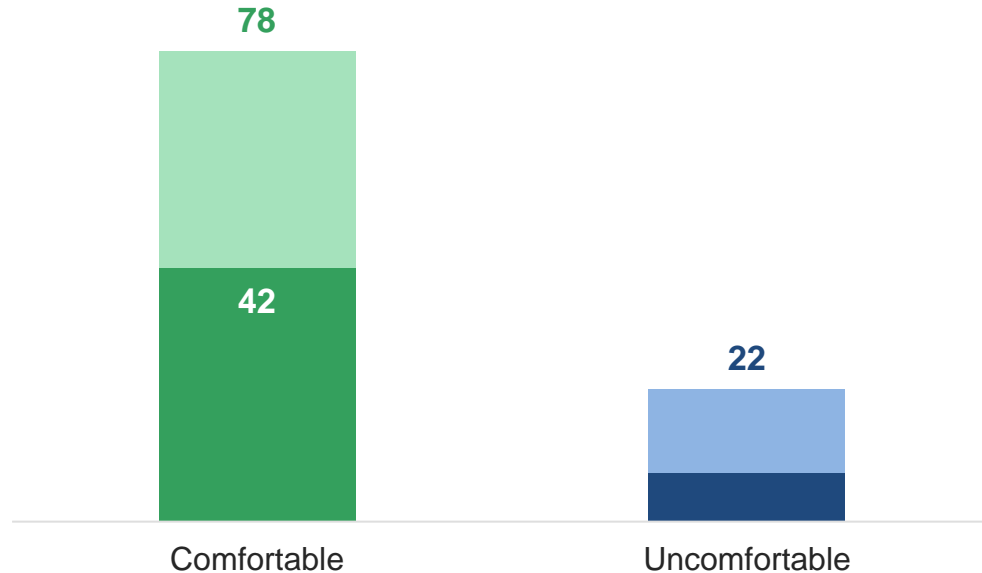
Unanimity That Educators Need To Be Part Of The Decision-Making Process

Figure 26

Input Importance

The state reopening plan requires local districts to develop specific plans. How important do you believe it is for educators to be part of the decision-making and development of these plans?

Darker shade = Stronger intensity

100

95

0

Important   Not Important

Funding

The state reopening plan does not provide local districts with additional funding to implement COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. Without additional funding from the state, do you think your school will be able to adequately implement the new health and safety guidelines?

9

68

24

Yes   No   Not sure
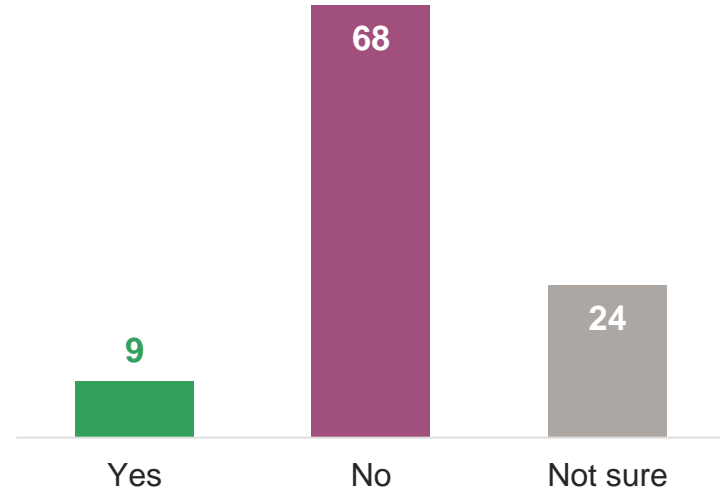
Figure 27

A Quarter Report Considering Leaving Education Earlier Than Planned

Retirement/Leaving Plans

Darker shade = Going to
Lighter shade = Total going to and considering
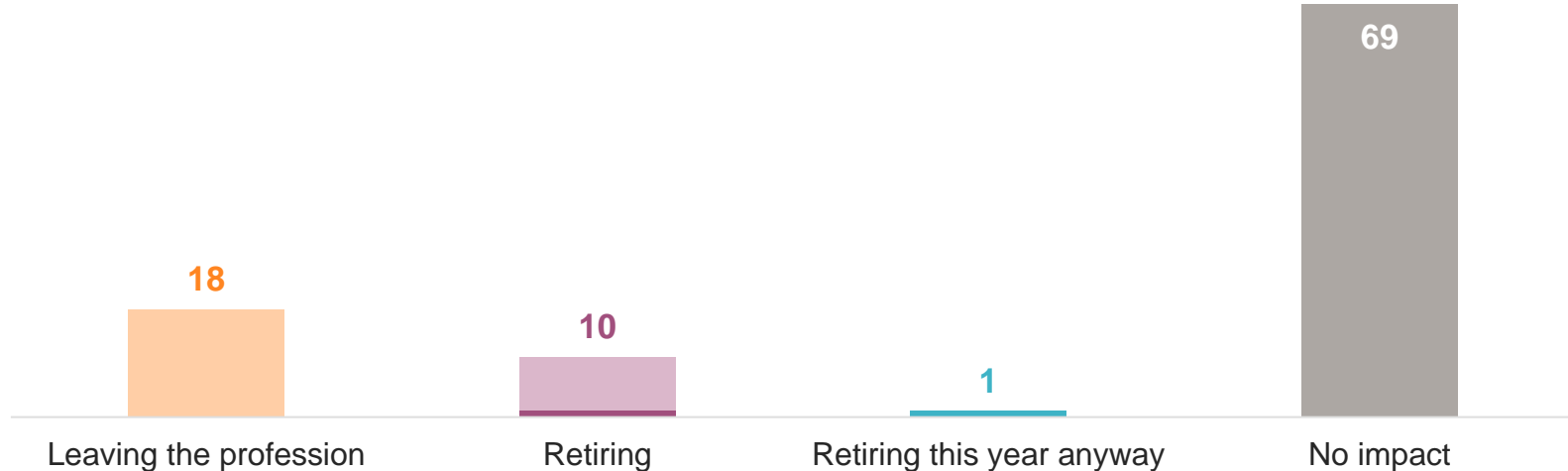
Has COVID-19 made you think about leaving the public education profession or retiring earlier than planned?

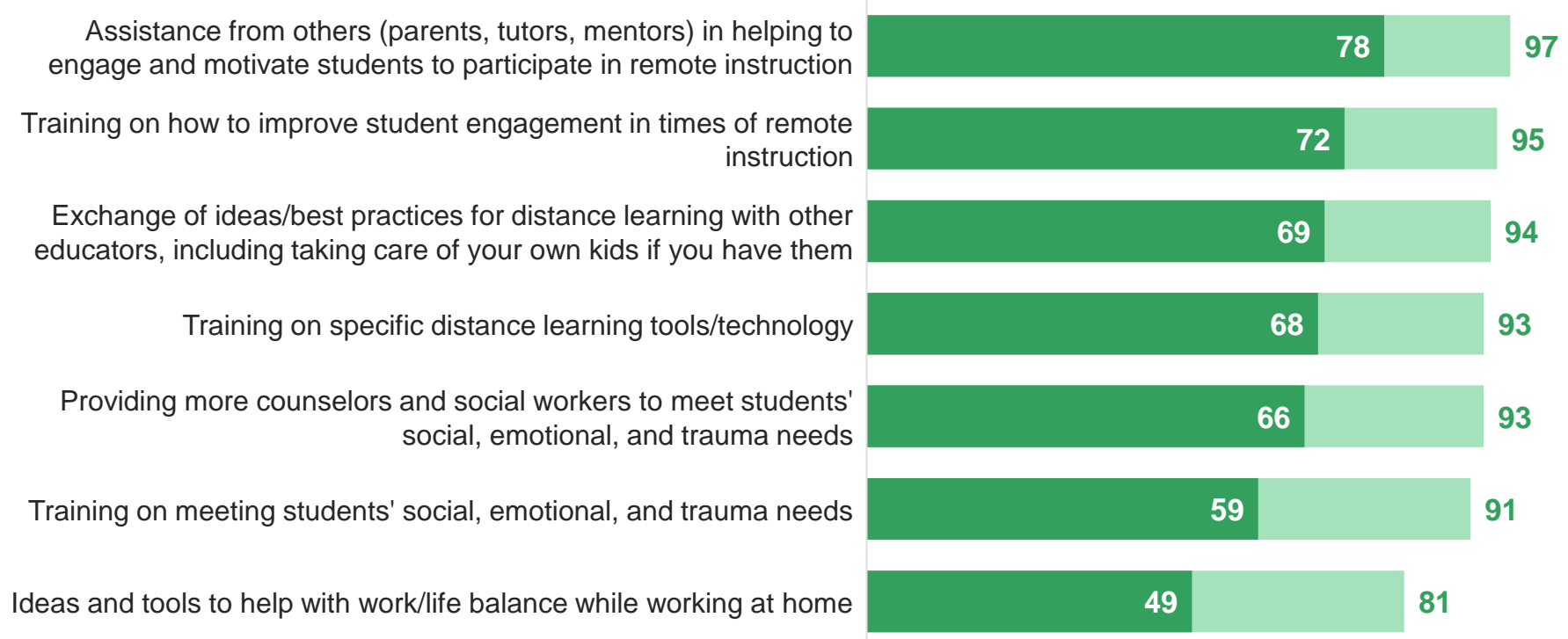| Leaving the profession	Retiring	Retiring this year anyway	No impact
18	10	1	69

Members Needs If Continuing Distance Learning

Figure 28

Development Needs

● Very important   ● Total important

Development Need	Very important	Total important
Assistance from others (parents, tutors, mentors) in helping to engage and motivate students to participate in remote instruction	78	97
Training on how to improve student engagement in times of remote instruction	72	95
Exchange of ideas/best practices for distance learning with other educators, including taking care of your own kids if you have them	69	94
Training on specific distance learning tools/technology	68	93
Providing more counselors and social workers to meet students' social, emotional, and trauma needs	66	93
Training on meeting students' social, emotional, and trauma needs	59	91
Ideas and tools to help with work/life balance while working at home	49	81