



# Avoca Beach Public School

## Parents Survey 2008



# Overall Summary



- Parents are happy with most aspects of school resources and facilities
  - Particularly those they think are important
- There is no real dissatisfaction just a lack of awareness – “don’t know”
  - Should we be communicating these issues?
- Communication about the school is good
  - The newsletter is an effective communication tool
- Communication about my child could be better
  - This is the one key area of focus (low satisfaction / high importance)



# ABPS Overall



ABPS is a wonderful community school.

I am very happy with the quality of teaching and content of curriculum at ABPS.

As a new family to ABPS I'm extremely happy with the safe, happy, challenging environment my son is experiencing.  
Thank You.

I think so far the school has done a wonderful job with resources. It is great to see that the parents are well informed and involved in so many areas and decision making on school resources.

Keep going in the direction you are, ABPS is a fantastic school with excellent staff, environment and facilities.



# Collecting Information



- A survey was sent to all ABPS parents
- We asked a range of questions looking at
  - **Importance** of school facilities and services  
*(Must Have / Nice To Have / Not Important)*
  - **Satisfaction** with the current situation  
*(Satisfied / Don't Know / Not Satisfied)*
- 130 parents responded (out of c.270)
- ...and provided lots of feedback



## 2 X 2 – What It Means



Low Satisfaction  
High Importance  
= Need to improve now

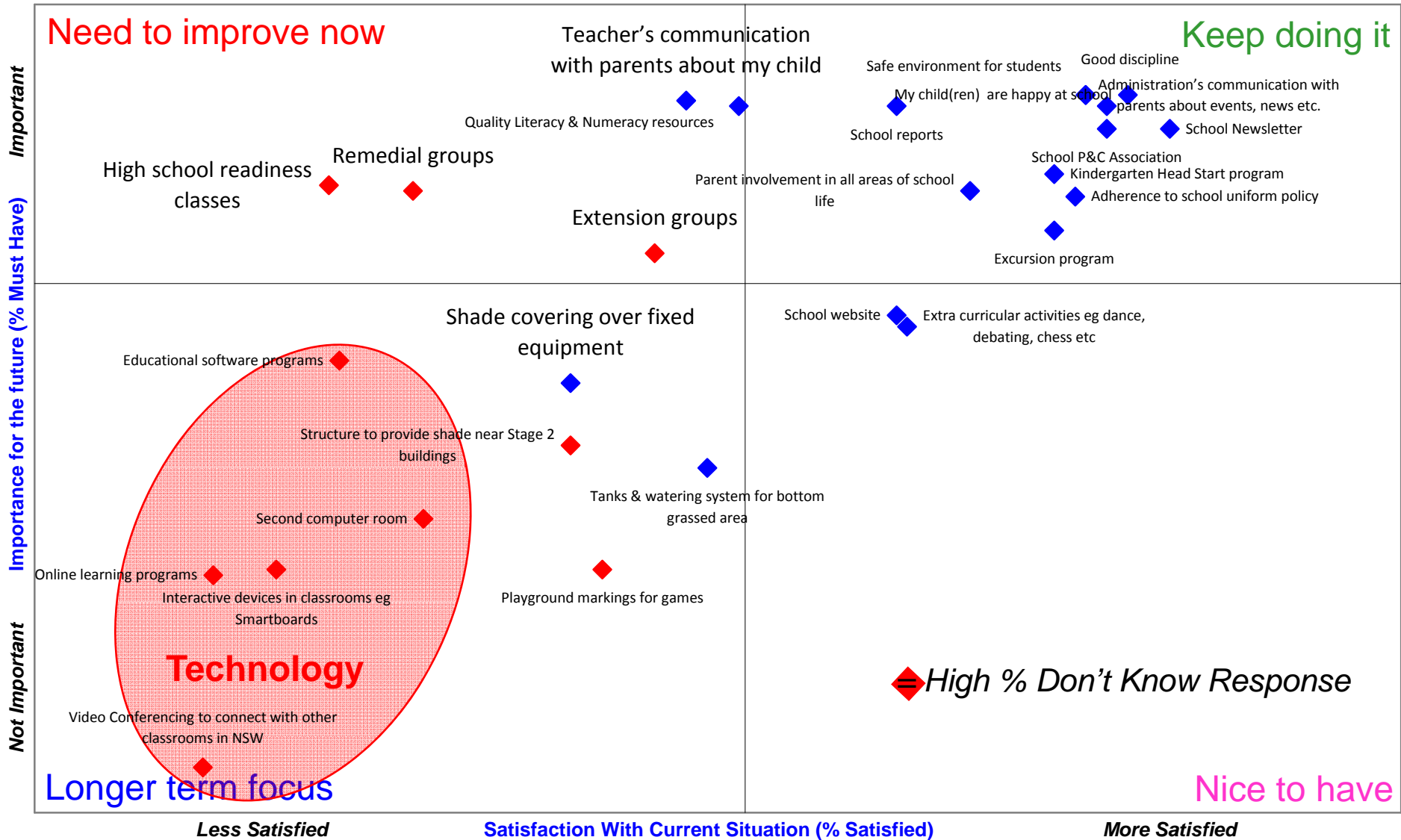
High Satisfaction  
High Importance  
= Keep doing it

Low Satisfaction  
Low Importance  
= Longer term focus

High Satisfaction  
Low Importance  
= Nice to have



# Overall Results





# Summary



Communication with  
parents about individual  
children

= Need to improve now

Most things

= Keep doing it

Technology

= Longer term focus

Website

Extra curricular activities

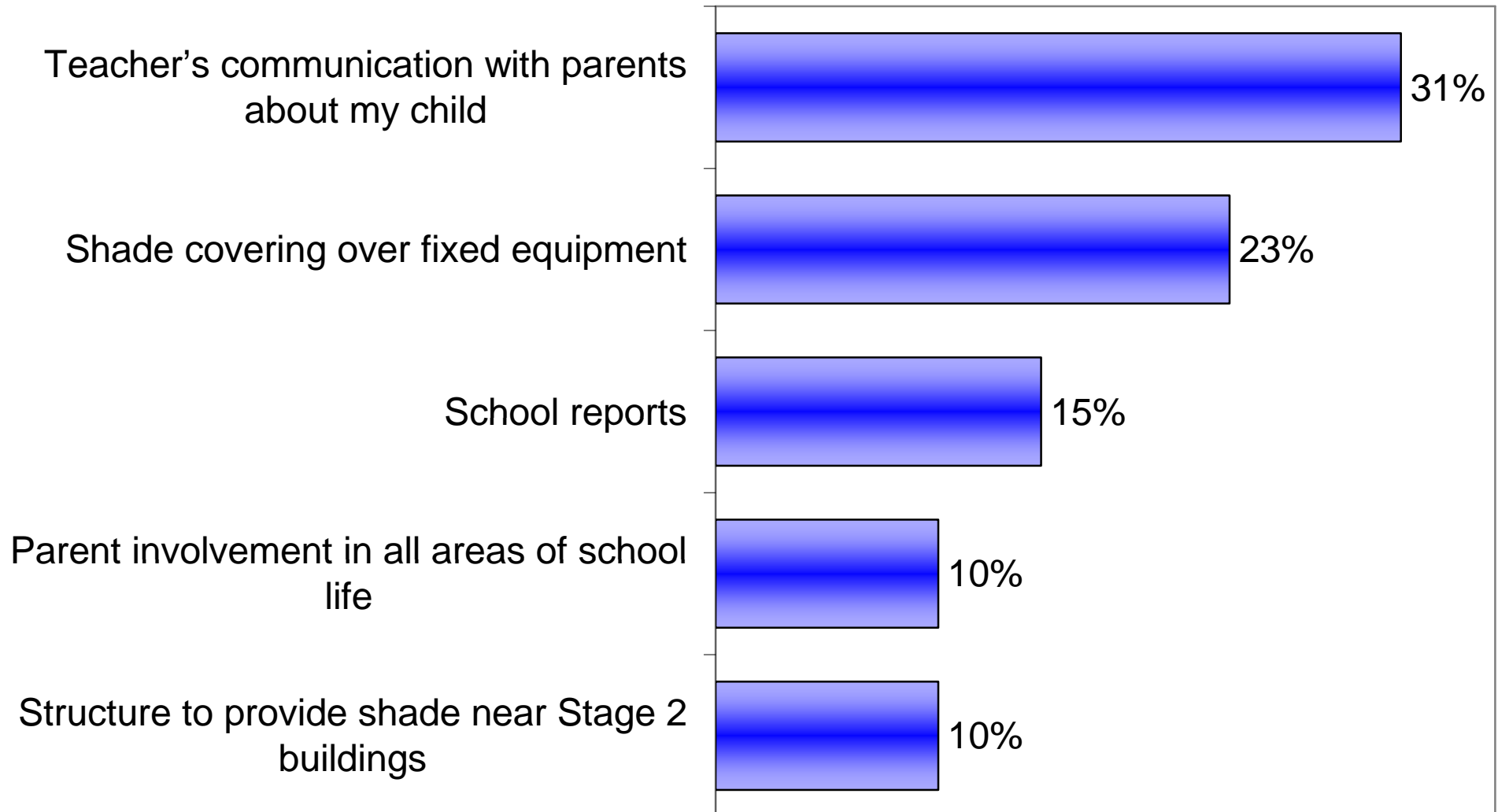
= Nice to have



# Dissatisfied with Communication About Child



## Top 5 Areas of Dissatisfaction





# Ongoing 1 to 1 Communication



When it comes to teachers communication with parents, I have been both very satisfied and dissatisfied, depending on the teacher.

Teacher Communication - difficulty at times getting opportunities to speak to teachers in a quiet environment.

I think teachers would love to be able to provide more individual one to one support to students if they had more assistance and support from student teachers or classroom assistants or parents themselves. I would like to see greater support to teachers directly.

I found out from one of my children that he is in the lowest reading group and is having to get special help but I have had no contact from his teacher regarding this. He is in year 3.

Teacher Communication - Kids not struggling OR doing extremely well, but no feedback on where they actually sit with their abilities.



# Parent / Teacher Evening



Need parent teacher nights. Please re-instate if possible. It is very difficult to guess how my child is doing without the personal feedback. Even the detailed reporting system cannot replace a face to face interview.

No parent/Teacher interviews last year (Why Not?!) I didn't even know my son's teacher!!

I am very happy with all the teachers my children have had, but I would like an allocated time to talk to them as they are extremely busy during school hours. I have found the teachers to be very supportive which is great. I would like to have parent/teacher evenings where I can discuss my child without him there.

I would like a 1:1 teacher/parent meeting about a third of the way through the school year. To be able to talk about my child's progress and further support her needs. As a full time working parent there are no other opportunities for me to have any communication with the teacher about my child (rather than just the general meeting held at the beginning of the year).



# Sun Shelter



Play equipment and shade cover for use by all stage 2 and 3 children. Not enough shaded areas for summer play. Recess and Lunch seating needs to be addressed. Child Friendly seating (Not glary aluminium tables!!) More seating in shaded and unshaded areas of playground! Children cold sitting on concrete in winter is not the optimum arrangement .

There are no shelters over the playground area for protection from the sun.

Maybe a proposed P&C project could be shade sails over fixed play equipment.

It would be great to see shade sails (Or some other shelter) over the two playgrounds for two reasons: 1. Sun Protection fro our kids 2. The play equipment gets very hot, especially in summer



# School Reports



Feel the reporting process is impersonal and can be quite clinical. Would prefer class or tier placements and a percentage mark like previous generations did with personal comments.

School reports I find very generic, I would prefer to know where my child is placed in the year for each subject.

I also find at the end of the year the reports come out a bit late. If you need to see the teacher there is not enough time.

School reports should indicate areas needing improvement, not just stating what they have done during the year.

I am not keen on the new style reports - There is too much unnecessary detailed info on numeracy and literacy. I would much rather have info about my child's social, behavioural and general learning abilities which seem to have become less important on the reports. The reports seem so impersonal and obviously statements picked from a computer software package that they really don't mean much.



# Parent Involvement



Although there are opportunities for parents to be involved in school life, as a working mum I find it difficult to take up these opportunities. As I can't get into school during the day I feel that I have no communication with my child's teacher. Collecting our children from their classrooms at the end of the day rather than at the gate might make more opportunities to interact with teachers, as would a parent/teacher night.

What happened to the Fathers Day breakfast? Very good event and very important to involve dads in the school and children.

Parent involvement is not asked for unless you have had a child there since Kindy. A new 'age' has come along new cultures and worldwide knowledge, use these parents and encourage new parents to become more involved. Believe me it will work.

Dissatisfaction with the fact that whilst ALL parents reap the rewards of the school it is only a minority of parents that contribute to reading, canteen, fundraising P&C etc.



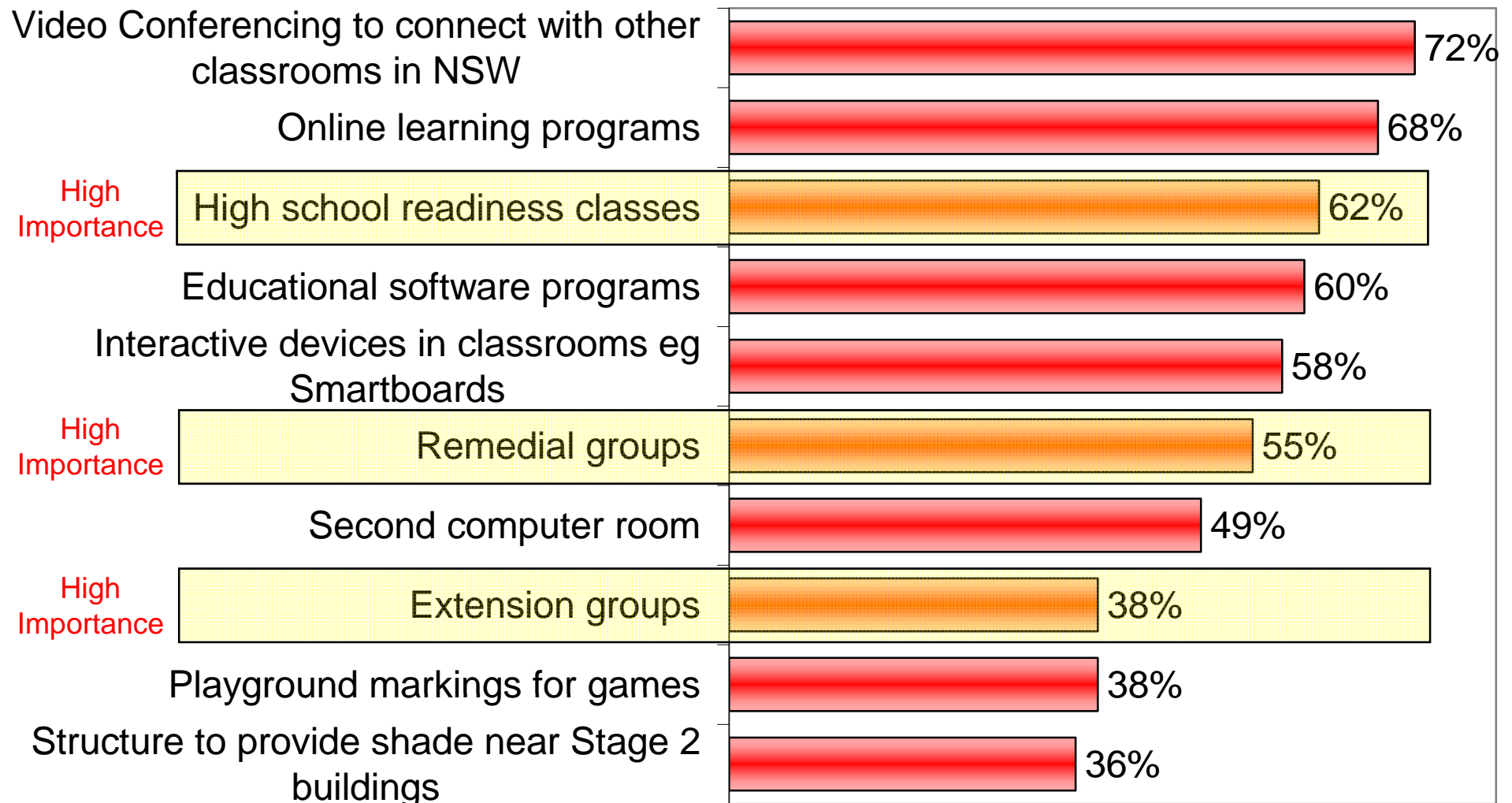
# Communicate About These

(No satisfaction rating)



## What are the benefits of technology?

### Top 10 Don't Knows (If Satisfied Or Not)





# Extension / Remedial Classes



It is also interesting to see that with extension groups Avoca tend to pick the same children for everything. E.g. writing newspaper articles. The same children wrote articles last year as this year. I wonder if the school realises a lot of other children have special things to offer, especially when teachers are helping.

Extension Groups - I think that the exclusion of 'smart' or 'slow' kids (comments made by my own child), is of concern. Others believe that they are not 'smart' because they do not go off into these groups. Can't we incorporate this extension/Remedial groups into the classroom.

More remedial classes are needed and funding for teacher aide support. This will help allow a range of activities to assist with the childrens learning e.g. multisensory tasks; small group work.

Remedial groups are not always designed to cover the specific individual needs of students.



# High School Readiness Classes



Would like more interaction with high school they will attend as far as school visits and what would be expected there. They seem to be starting completely from scratch.

I feel my son who left school Avoca last year was not appropriately graded at Kincumber High, results coming from ABPS, as a result we have moved his school and he is much happier now and in a good learning environment.



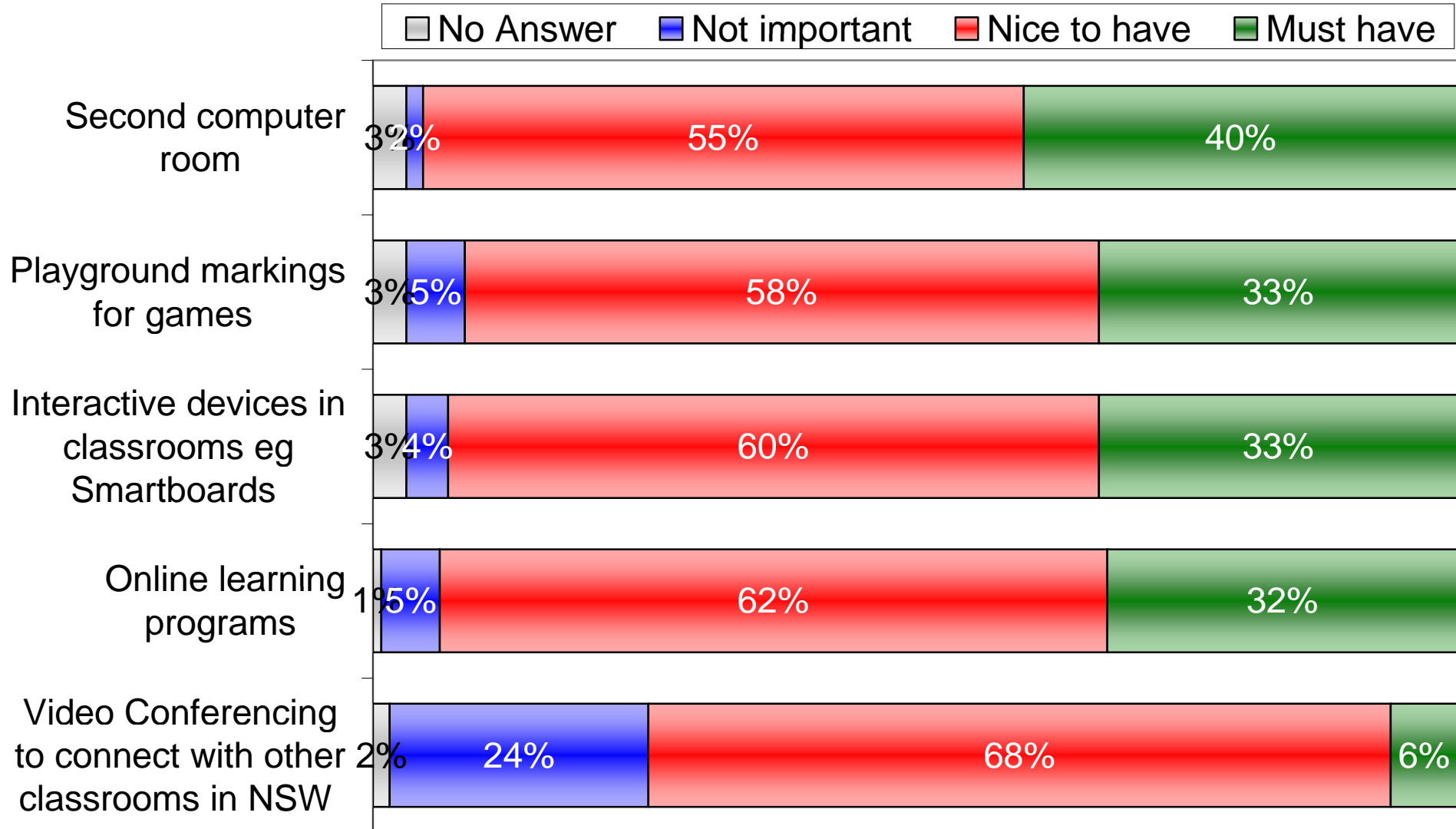
# Nice to Have

(Top 5)



## Why do we need these things?

### Nice To Have Summary



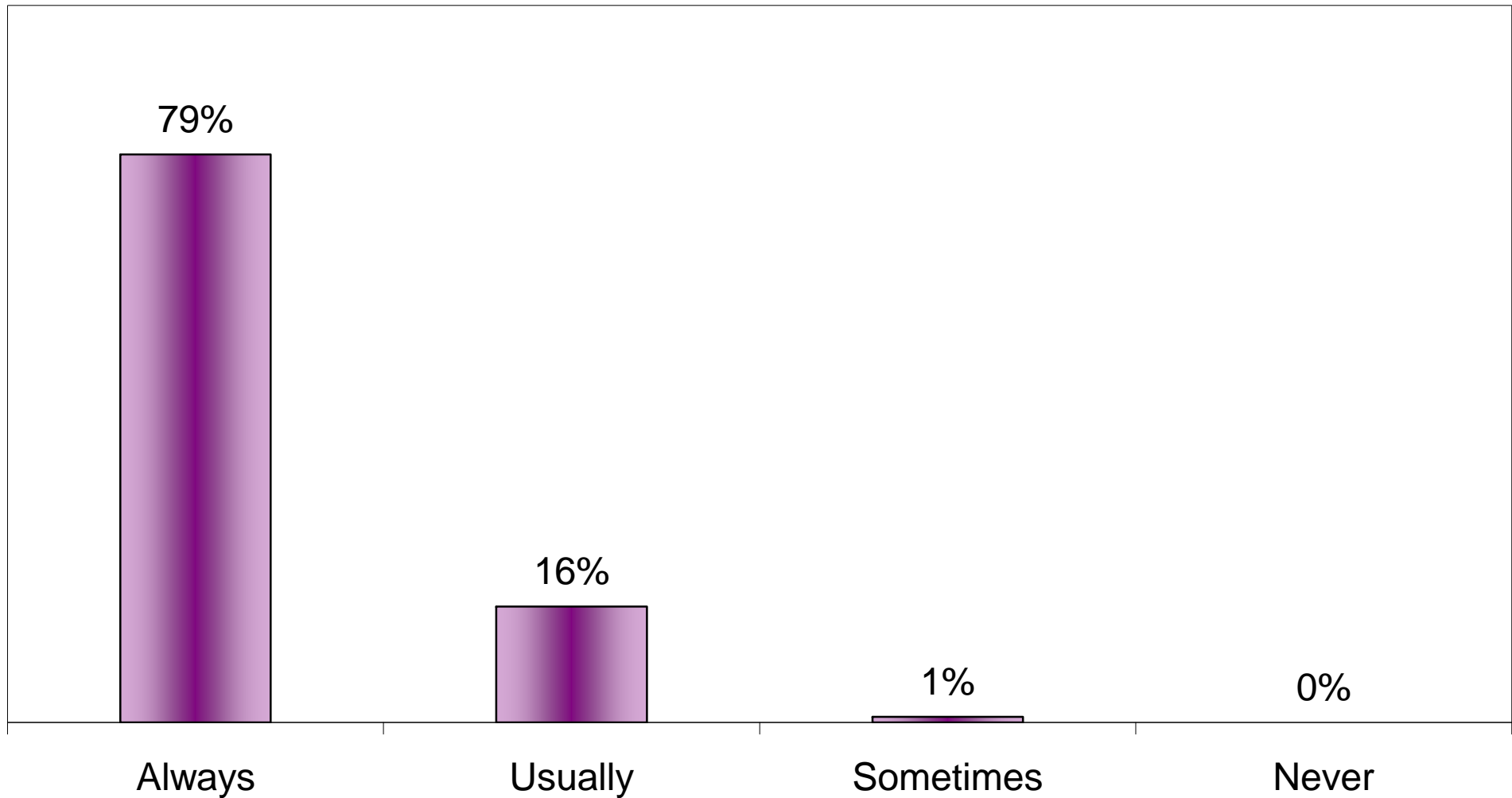


# Everyone Gets The Newsletter



It is a good way to communicate

Receive Newsletter



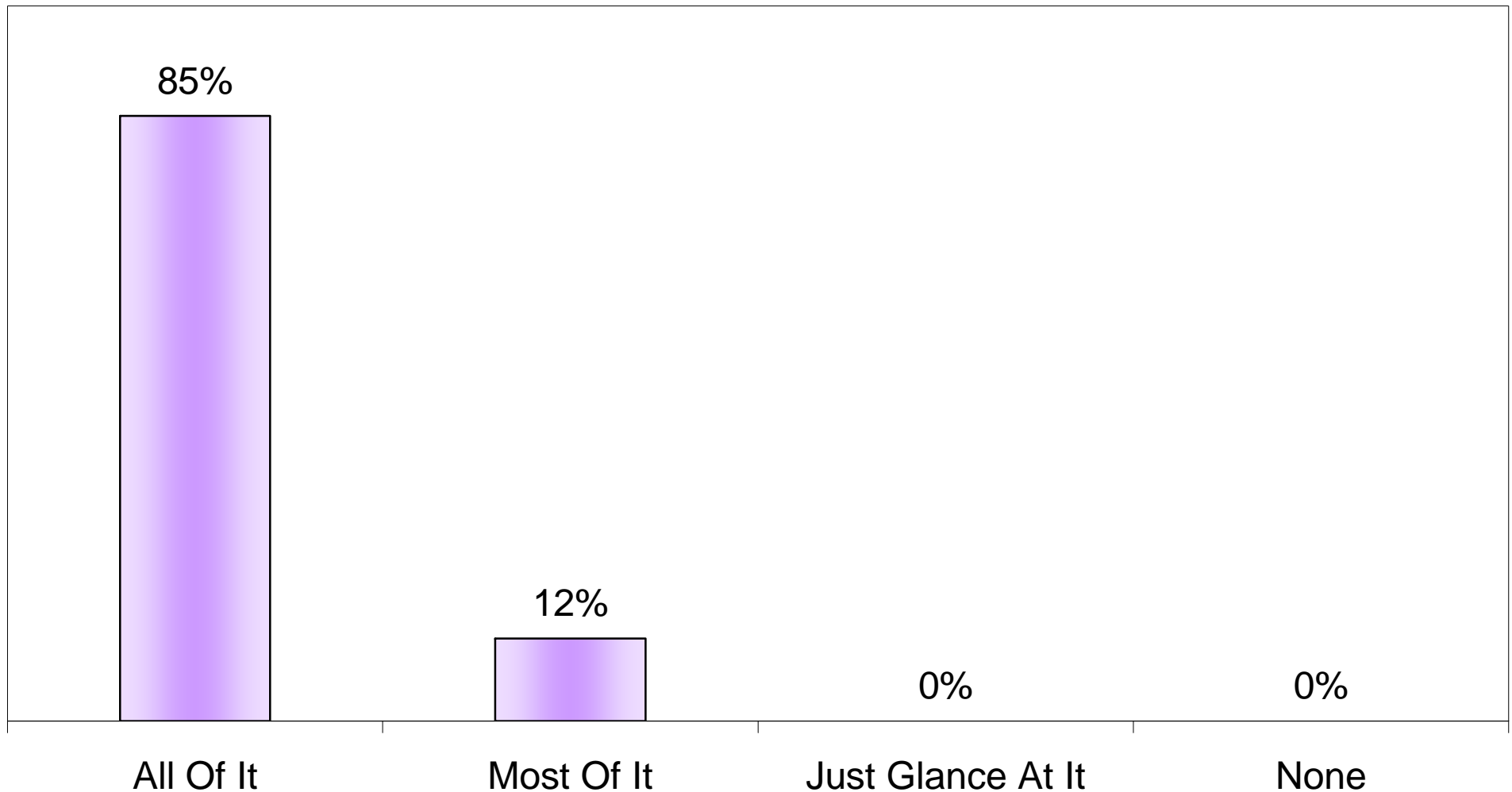


# ...& They Read It

The message gets through



## Read Newsletter





# Newsletter / Website

## Few parents answered the survey online



Could the newsletter be emailed to families weekly?

Newsletter should be available via email if required. More environmentally friendly. Website newsletters not up to date and maintained.

Online learning/homework via an enhanced school website represent an opportunity to build on the great work already done by the school.

Have been very disappointed with the school's website in the past, however for the first time in 18 months it appears to have been updated with current school leaders and current information. It provides a valuable on-line resource between parent/school and if not regularly updated loses all credibility. Great to see some progress.

Newsletter - I don't think there is enough input from the students.



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## Parents Survey Appendix



# Absentees



Absentees should be notified in the morning of the school day if parents do not ring an absentee in, the office should contact the parent. I don't think it is safe practice to wait a whole day before knowing something may be wrong. Also there could be some sort of supervision on the buses in the morning. Many times I have seen children get off the buses or walk to school and wander around. For example when Star FM sat out the front and gave our children lollypops I sat and watched many dozens of children running around the road and being silly for 20 minutes not ONE teacher noticed and came out to see what was going on.

Most important - devise a better system for marking children present/Absent, children could be gone all day before school is aware that they were left at school that morning.

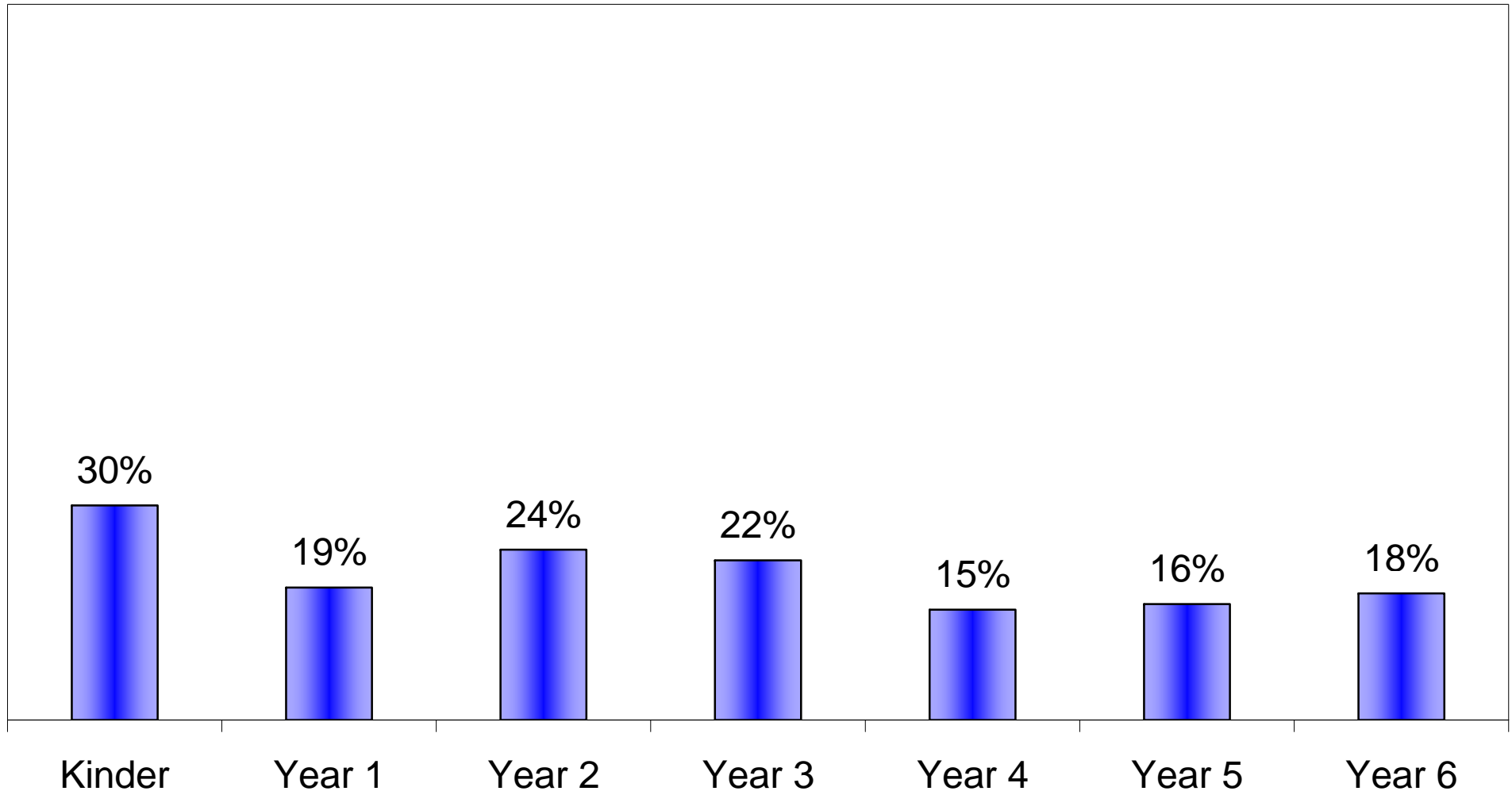
The policy to send a note to school AFTER the child has been absent, I feel is not adequate. If the child did not make it to school after leaving home, no one would know until many hours had passed. Staff need to know about absences at the beginning of the day.



# Parents of Children From All Years Responded



Year of Child





# One/Two Kids At ABPS



**Number of Children At ABPS**

