

Education Attitudes & Priorities Polling December 2022

Research Design + Methodology



MODEMixed-Mode



LENGTH9 minutes



DATESDecember 2022



GEOGRAPHYState of Utah



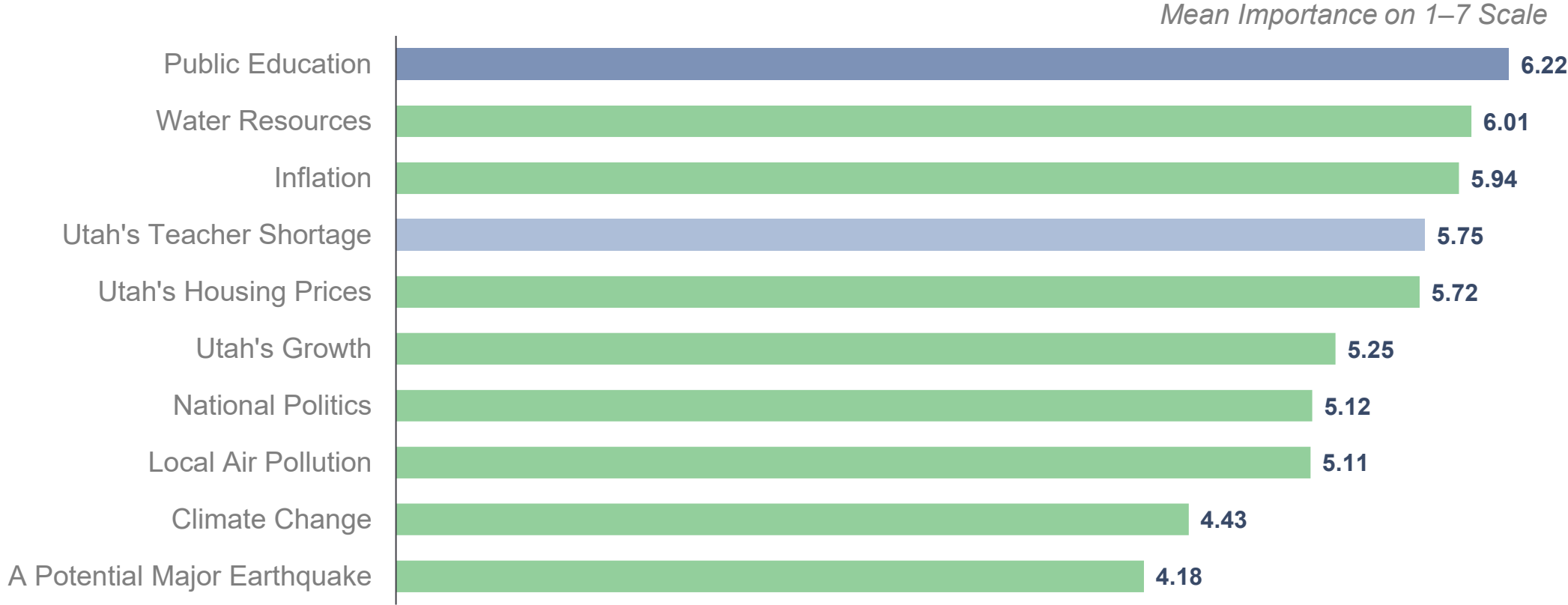
AUDIENCEGeneral public living in Utah, 18+ (n=505)



Section 1

General attitudes and priorities

Utahns rate public education as the most important topic or issue right now.

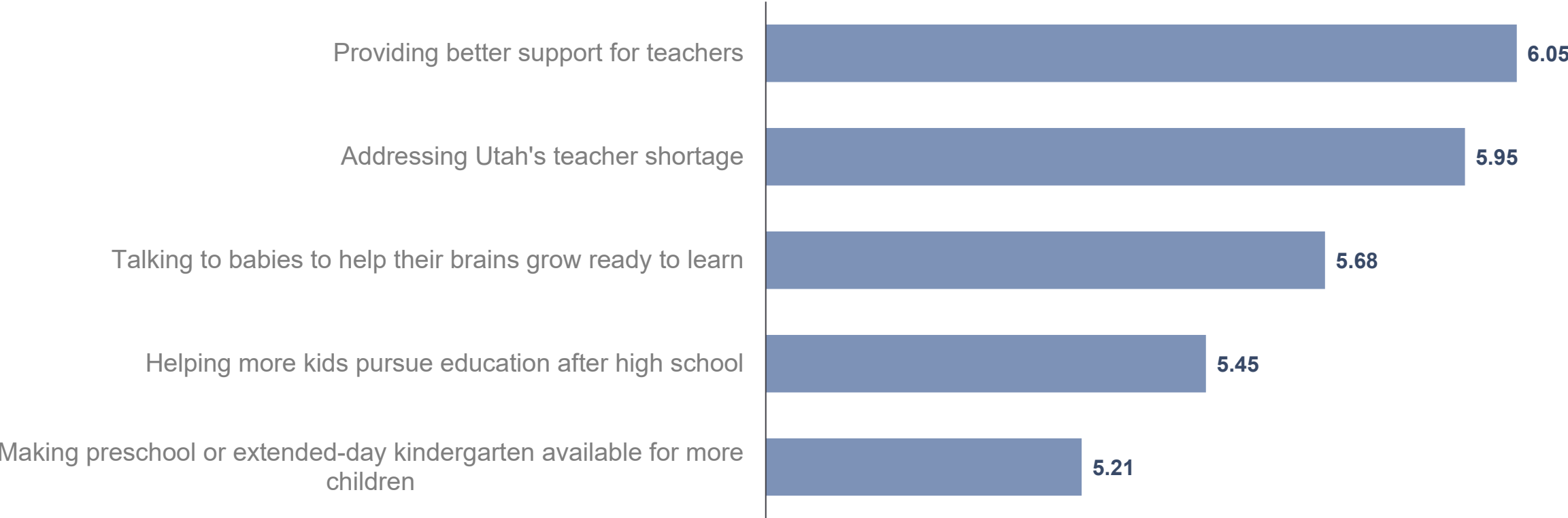


BASE: All Respondents (n=504)

Using a one-to-seven scale where one is "not at all important" and seven is "extremely important," how important do you feel the following topic or issues are right now?

Utahns continue to see **supporting teachers and addressing the teacher shortage** as the most important strategies for giving kids a great education

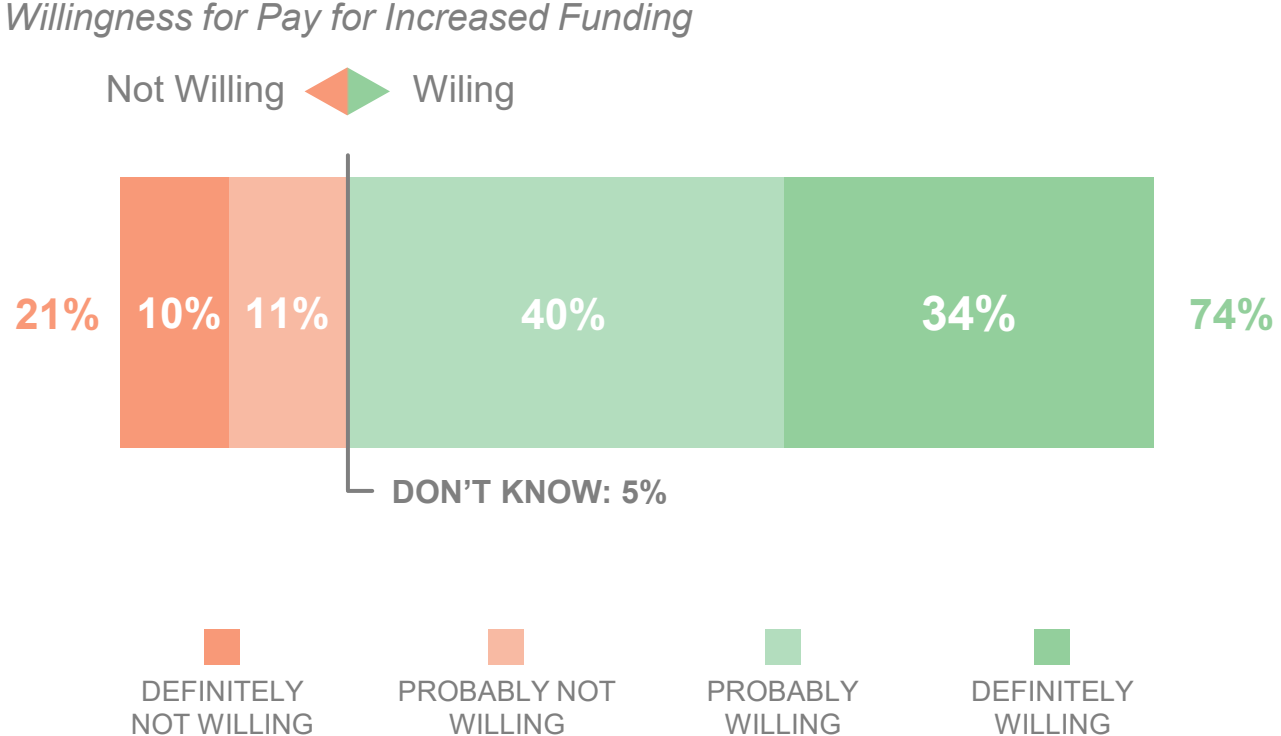
Mean Importance to “ensure Utah children get a great education” on a 1 to 7 scale



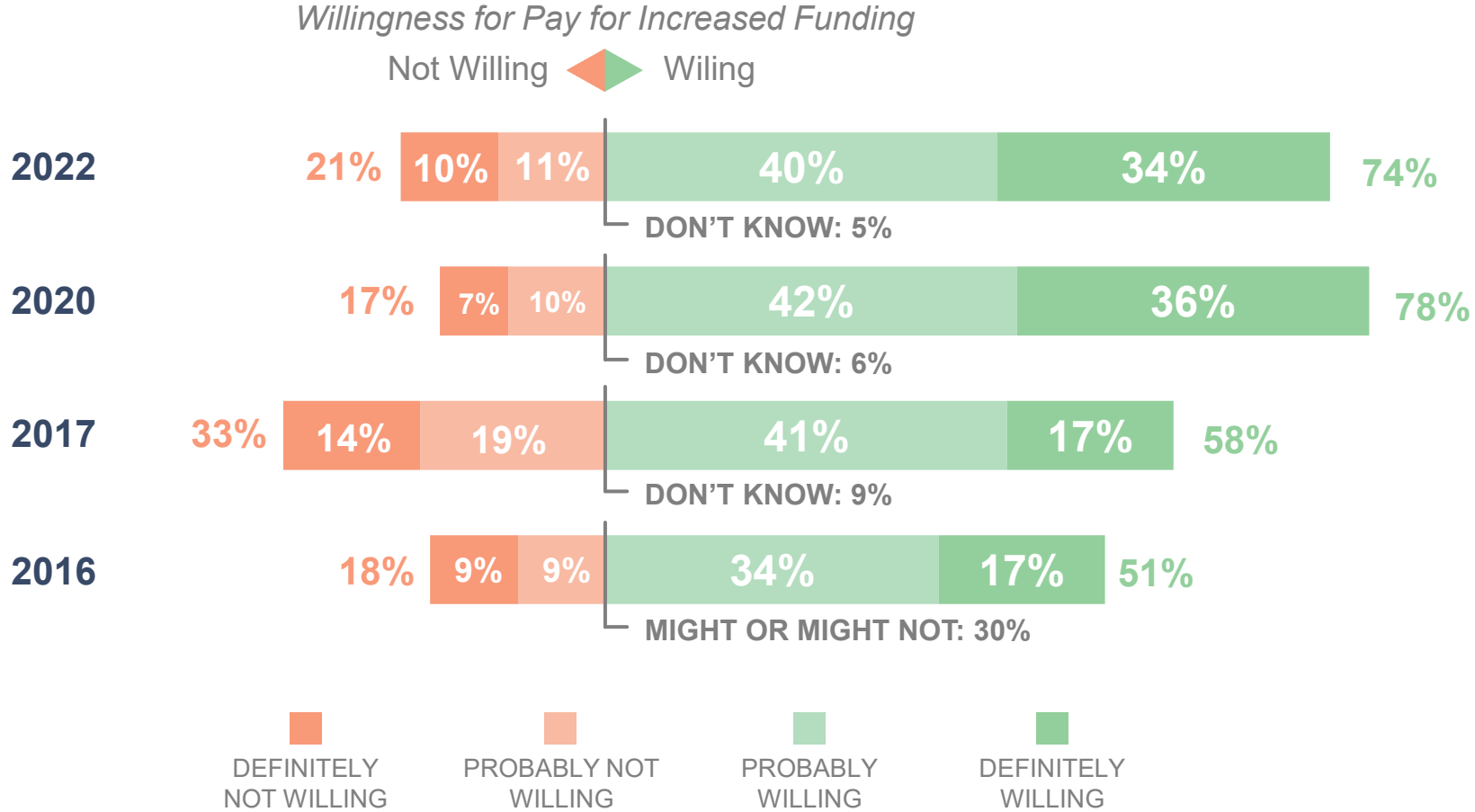
BASE: All Respondents (n=504)

Using a one-to-seven scale, where one is "not at all important," and seven is "extremely important," please rate how important the following are to ensure Utah children get a great education.

A strong majority of Utahns say they would be willing to pay for specific things that would be done to improve education

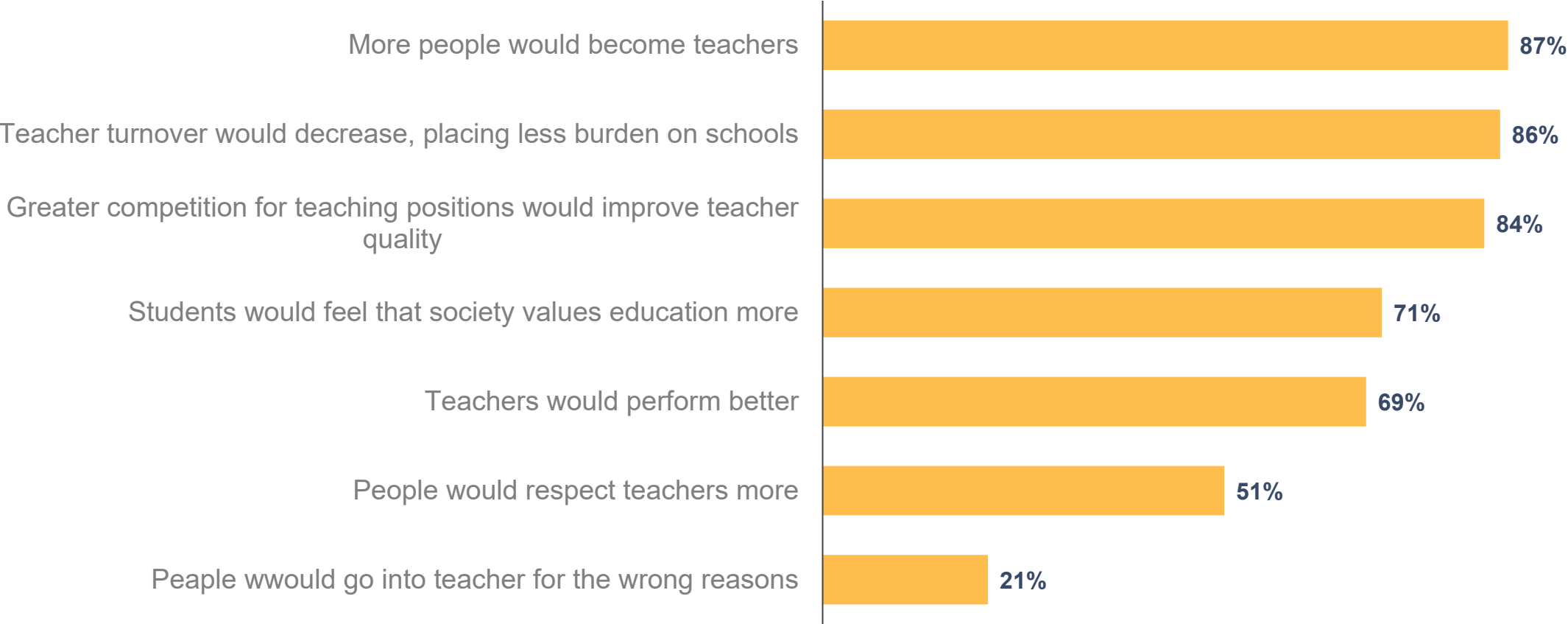


Support for education funding is down slightly since 2020, but still high compared to earlier years.



Most Utahns believe there would be positive outcomes to improving teacher compensation.

Percent who said this would happen with higher teacher pay

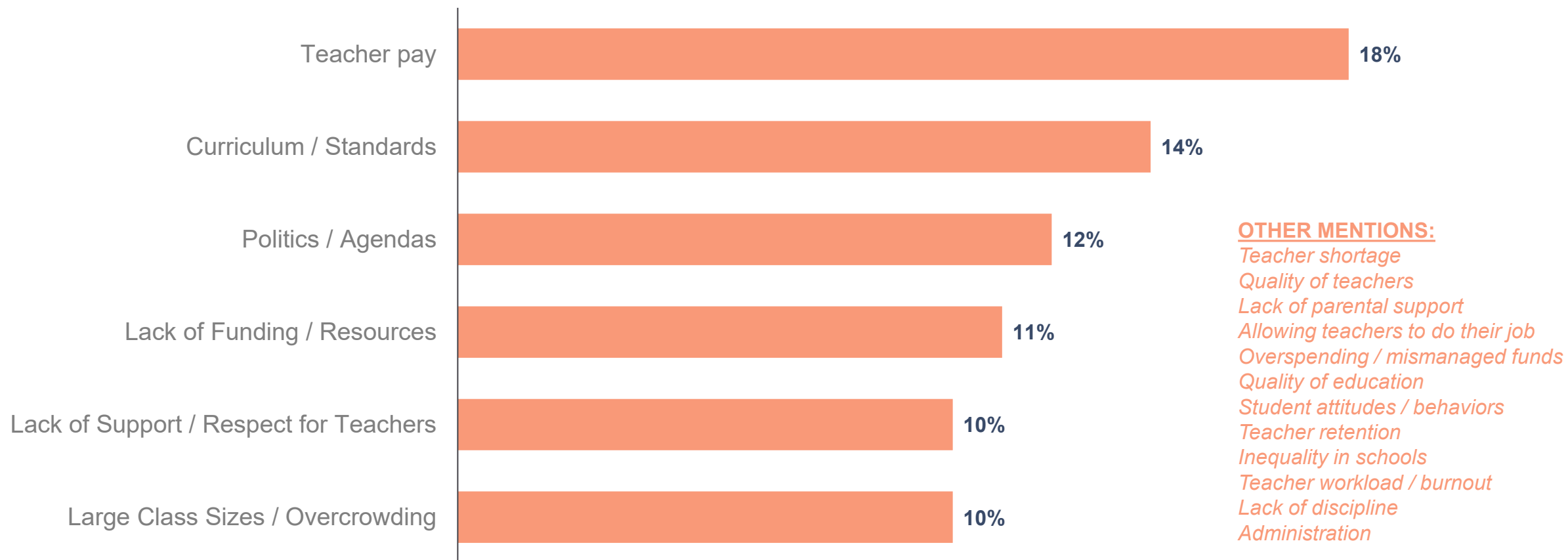


BASE: All Respondents (n=505)

If teacher pay were increased significantly in Utah, which of the following do you believe would happen? Please say "yes" or "no" to each.

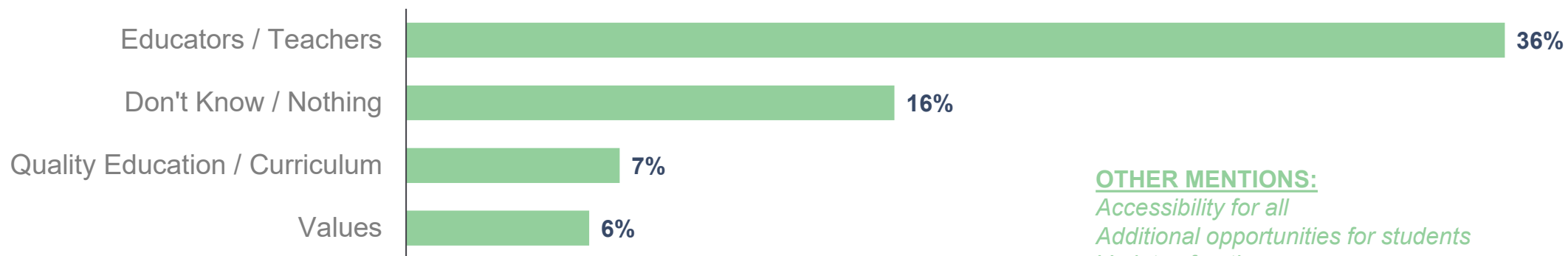
“The biggest problem with education in Utah is . . .”

Percent who said this would happen with higher teacher pay



“The best thing about education in Utah is . . .”

Percent who said this would happen with higher teacher pay



OTHER MENTIONS:

*Accessibility for all
Additional opportunities for students
Variety of options
Parental involvement
Affordability
Community support
Adequate funding / resources
Diversity / inclusivity
Facilities
Safety
Environment
Students
Doing more with less
Socialization*

Most Utahns believe there would be positive outcomes to improving teacher compensation.

Other mentioned results of better teacher compensation (free response)

POSITIVE

Improved mental health for teachers

Affordable lifestyles for teachers / won't need second job

Improved teacher effort

Improved teacher appreciation

Improved education quality / opportunities

Less teacher burnout

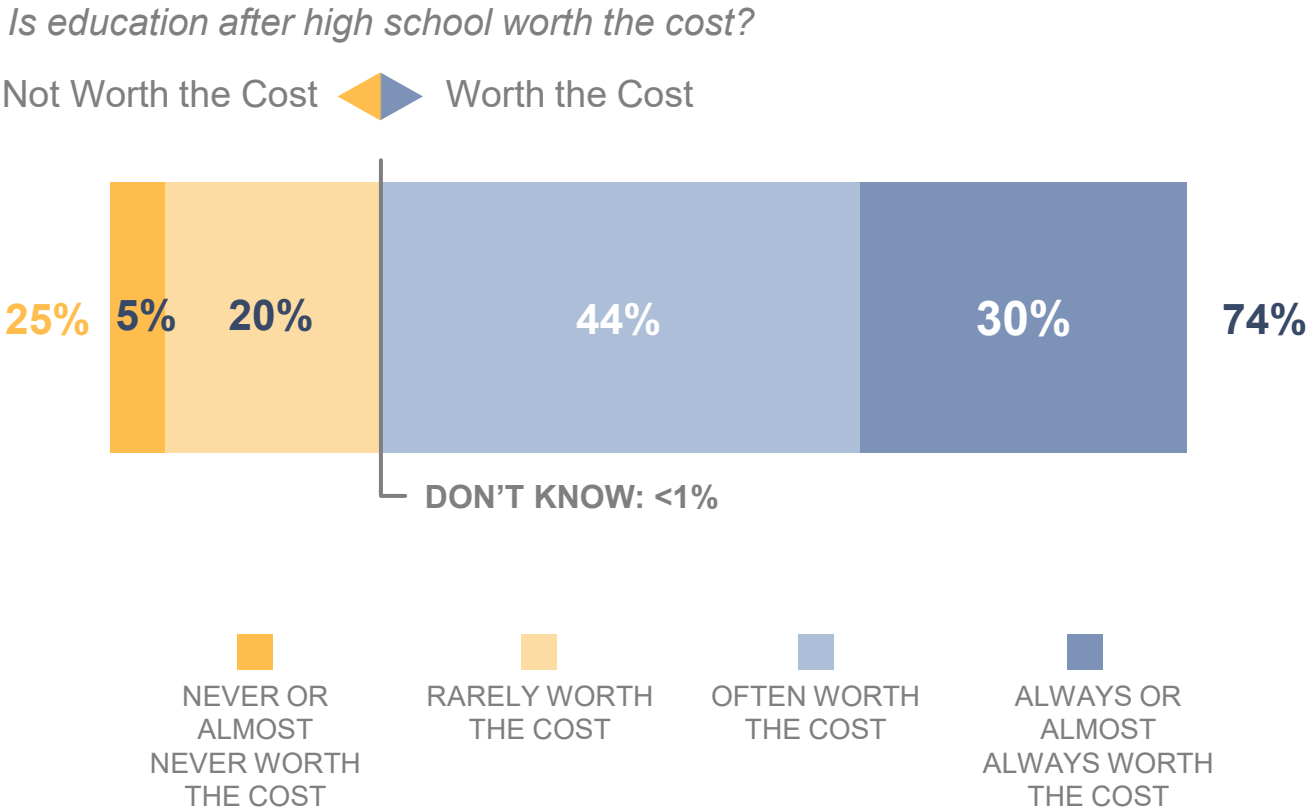
NEGATIVE OR NEUTRAL

Tax increases

Educators teaching for the wrong reason

Would not solve teacher / education problems

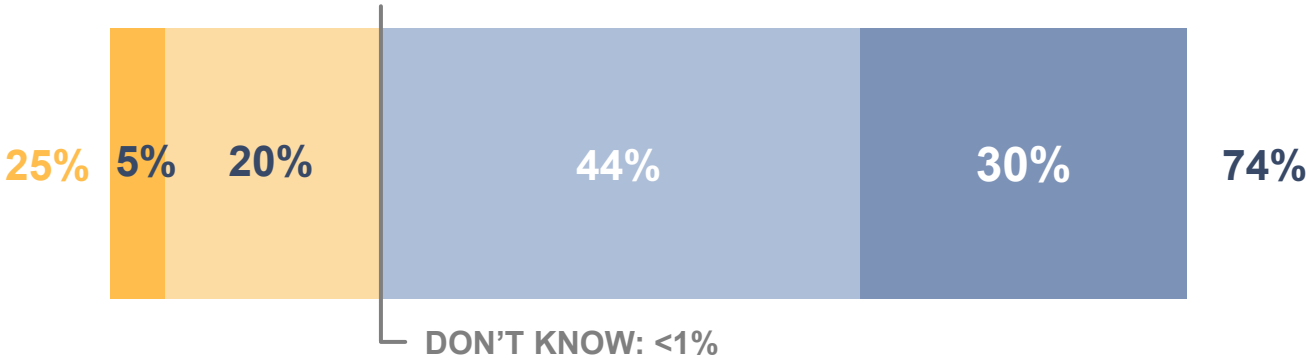
Most Utahns believe that education after high school is worth the cost.



Most Utahns believe that education after high school is worth the cost.

Is education after high school worth the cost?

Not Worth the Cost ◀▶ Worth the Cost



REASONS:

- Expenses / Debt
- Low ROI
- Trades more important
- Fields of study irrelevant
- Not necessary for success
- People don't stay in fields of study
- Degrees are unimportant to employers



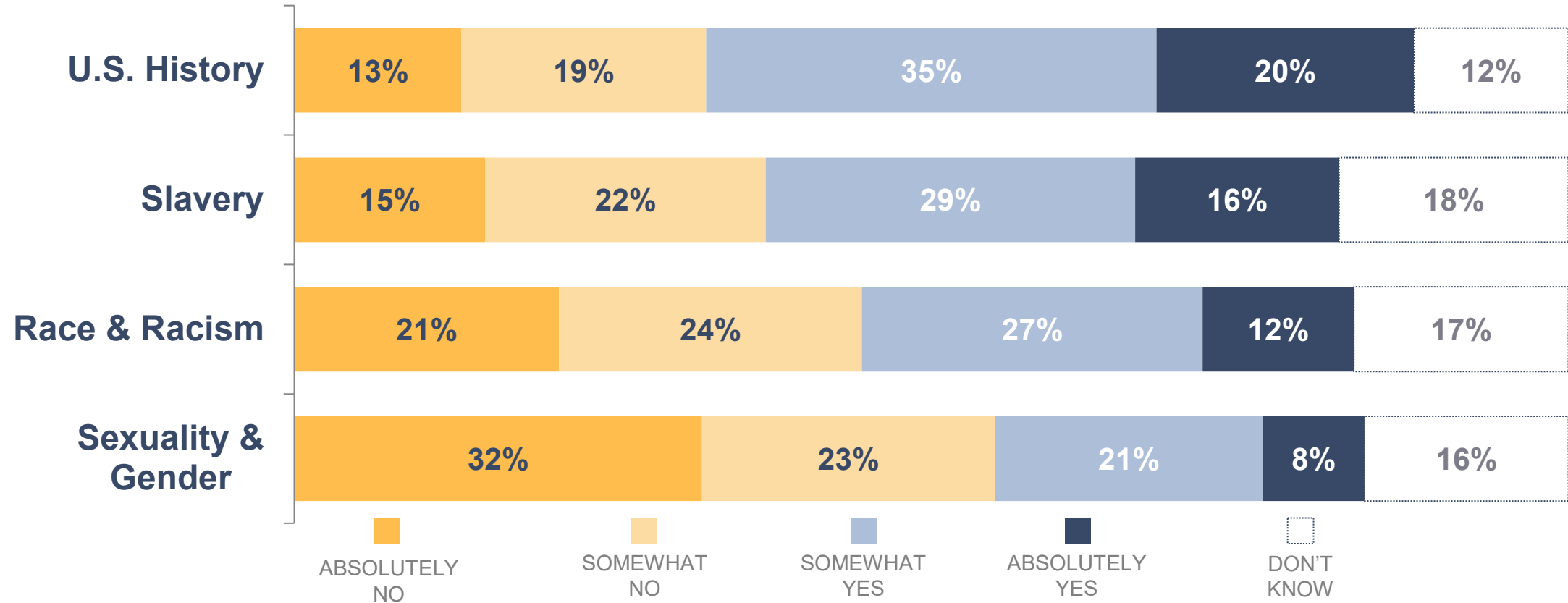


Section 2

Hot Topics

Utahns generally feel mixed on how well what is being taught in schools reflect their own values.

"Are these issues taught in ways that are consistent with your values?"

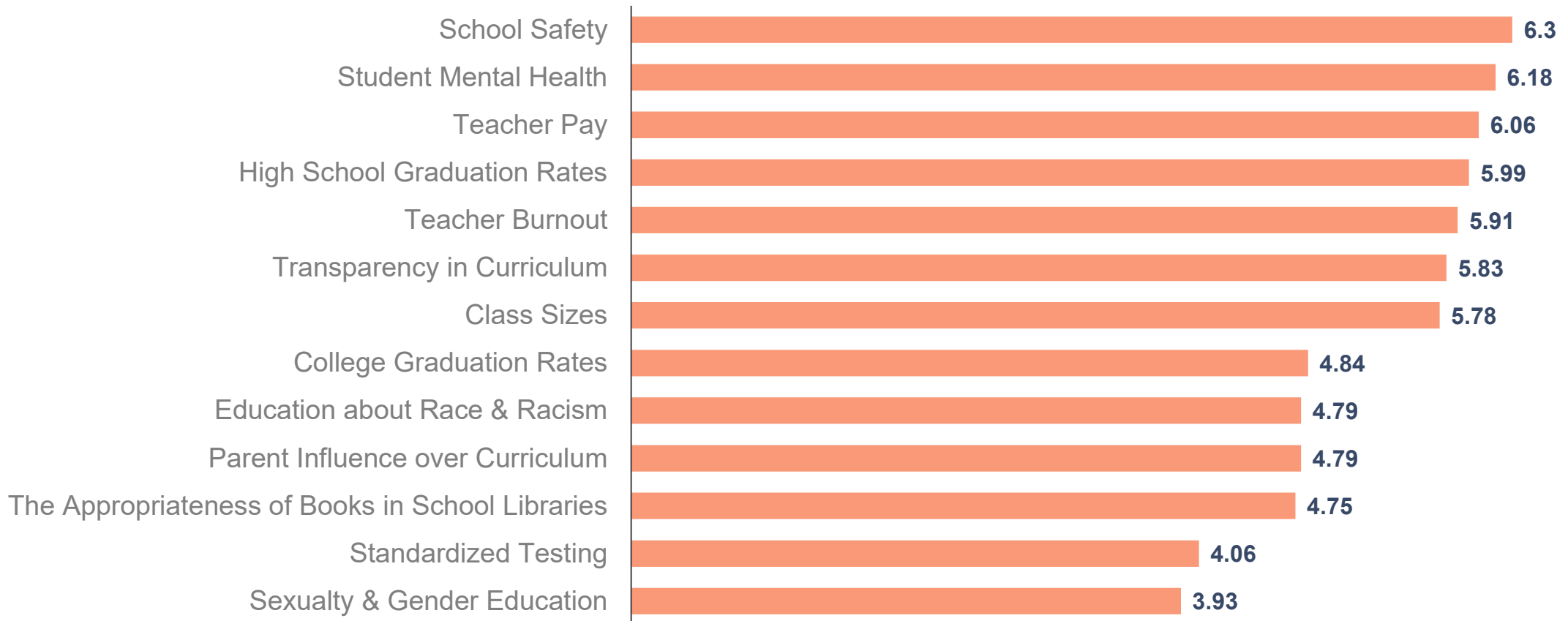


BASE: All Respondents (n=504)

Do you believe Utah schools are teaching each of the following topics in ways that are consistent with your values?

Among education policy priorities, **student health and safety** top the list followed by **teacher pay**.

Mean Importance on 1–7 Scale



BASE: All Respondents (n=504)

The following issues have all been discussed by policymakers and education leaders in recent years. Using a one-to-seven scale, where one is "not at all important" and seven is "extremely important," please rate how important the following issues are.

Preventing self-harm or suicide is the top issue among those concerned about safety.

Mean Importance on 1–7 Scale



BASE: Respondents who rated school safety as 5, 6, or 7 (n=465)

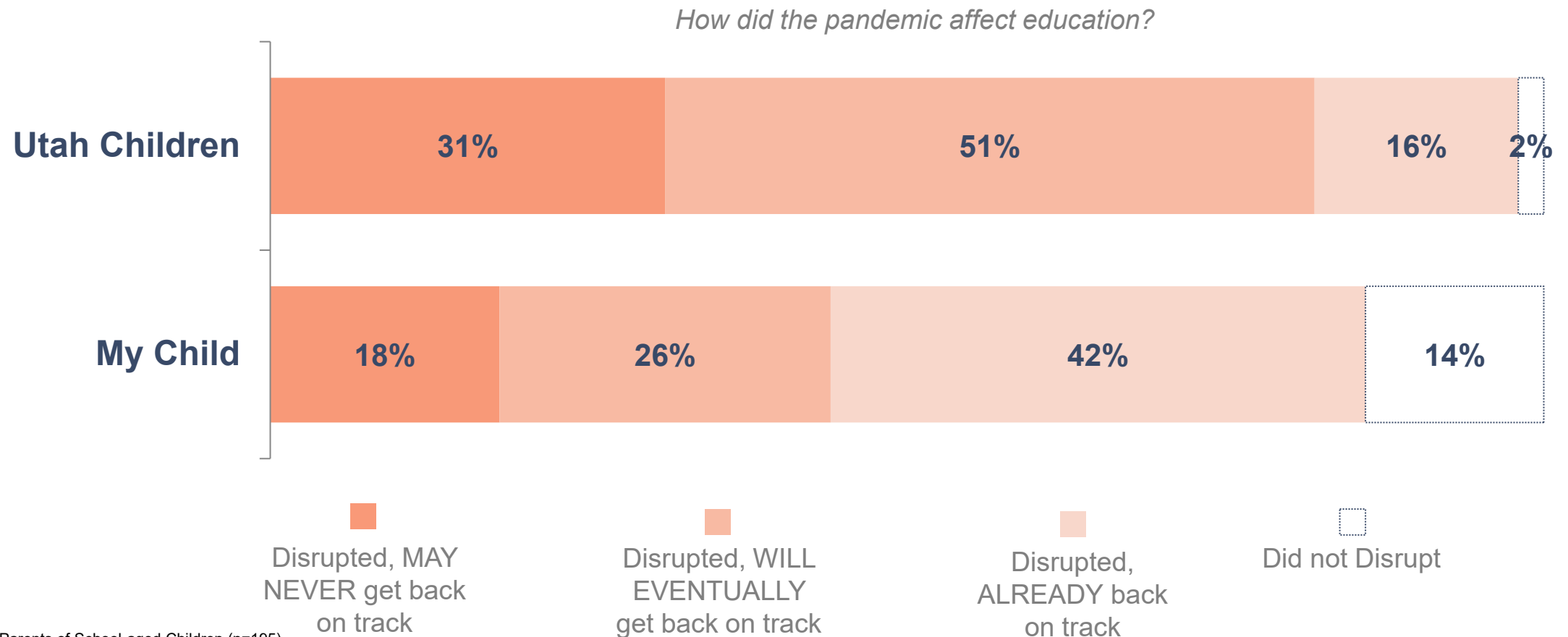
Using a one-to-seven scale, where one is "not at all important" and seven is "extremely important," please rate how important the following safety issues are.



Section 3

The Pandemic

While most Utahns believe kids will get back on track after the pandemic, a concerning number think their kids or others will never get back on track.



BASE: Parents of School-aged Children (n=195)

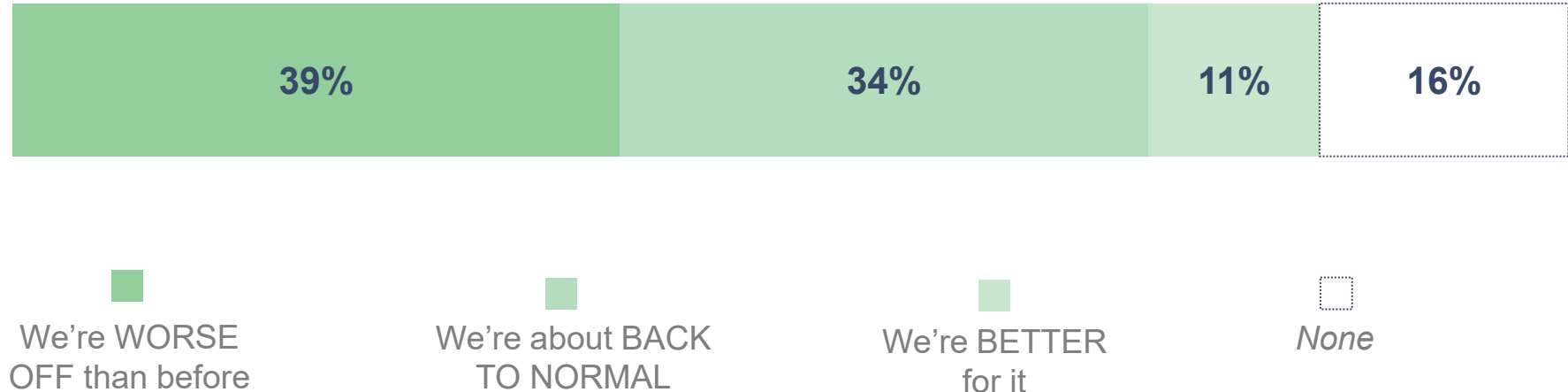
How do you feel the COVID-19 pandemic affected CHILDREN OVERALL in Utah?

BASE: All Respondents (n=502)

How do you feel the COVID-19 pandemic affected YOUR CHILD(REN)'S education?

The largest share of Utahns believe we are worse off because of the pandemic. About a third believe we are about back to normal.

How did the pandemic affect education?





Questions or Discussion?