



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 9.3

Meeting Date: July 21, 2011

Subject: East/Central Community High School Survey Report

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Learning Support Unit/Department: Office of the Superintendent

Recommendation: Hear/discuss results from recent community survey regarding high school options for East/Central Sacramento neighborhoods

Background/Rationale: In June, 2011, the district conducted a survey for residents of East and Central Sacramento regarding high school options in their communities.

More than 2,000 community members participated in the survey, which was promoted by a postcard mailer to every home in Central/East Sacramento zip codes, ConnectEd phone calls in multiple languages and a district press release.

Findings from the survey are included in this report for review.

Financial Considerations: As a result of the work budgeted for the 2010-11 school year, there are no additional financial implications.

Documents Attached:

1. Community High School Survey – Full Report

<p>Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 minutes Submitted by: Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent</p>

Community High School Survey Full Report

June 2011



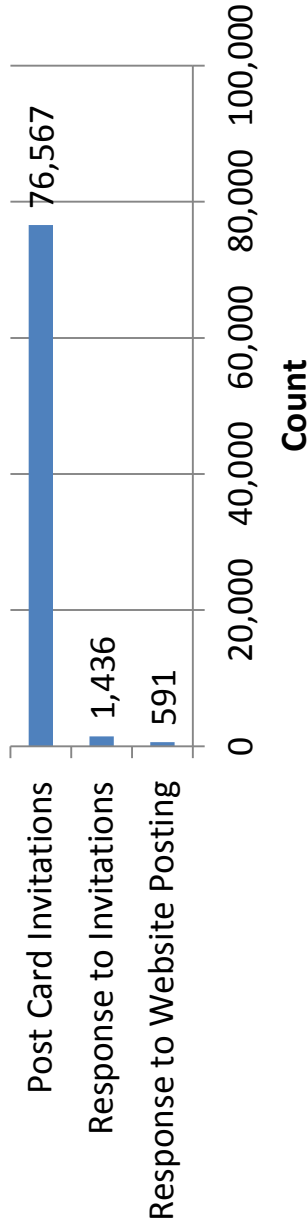
Overview

There has been much discussion about the need for a comprehensive high school to serve the East Sacramento, Midtown, and Oak Park neighborhoods. To advance the discussion between these communities and the school district, a survey was conducted in June 2011. The survey collected perceptions from the community regarding how well their high school education needs are being met, the need for a comprehensive high school, and suggestions for improving services.

The survey was administered online. Post card invitations were disseminated to 76,567 community members; these invitations included direction and a single-use password for accessing the survey. In addition, a public link to the survey was provided on the school district's Website, making the survey available to anyone who may not have received a post card invitation. Individuals wishing to complete the survey, but who do not have computer access at home or work, could complete the survey at the district office, school, or library. In addition, provisions were made for the survey to be completed by telephone if other access to a computer was not available.

Participation

A total of 1,436 individuals responded to the 76,567 post card invitations (1.9%). An additional 591 individuals responded to the survey as posted on the district's Website. The total 2,027 respondents is sufficient to support a 3% margin of error, assuming that the respondents provide a fair representation of all community members within the neighborhoods of interest.

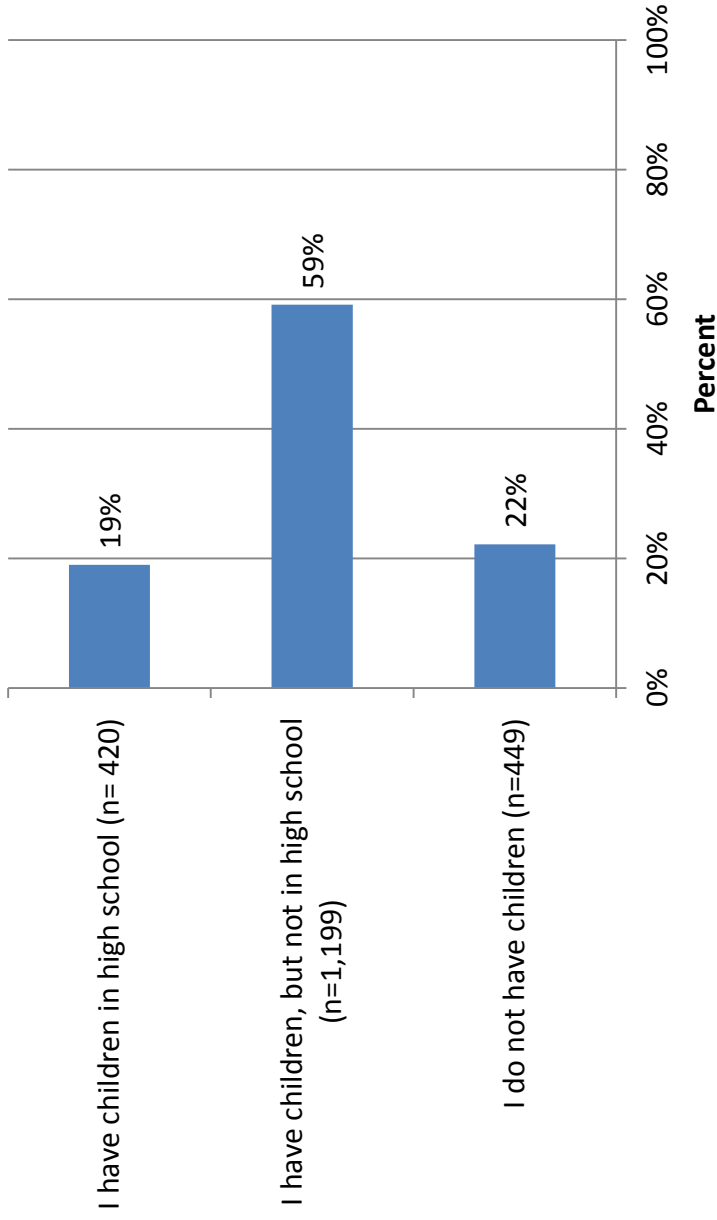


A potential issue with surveys accessible via public links on a Website is that some individuals may respond many times in an attempt to influence results. An analysis of computer IP addresses and of response patterns from the public access survey and the emailed invitation survey did not uncover any attempts to influence the results. Findings from both forms of this survey are combined for this summary.

Children in High School

The survey respondents indicated whether they have children in high school. Most of the survey respondents indicated that they either do not have children in high school at this time (59%) or do not have children at all (22%). That is, as many as 81% of the respondents are not immediately impacted by a high school.

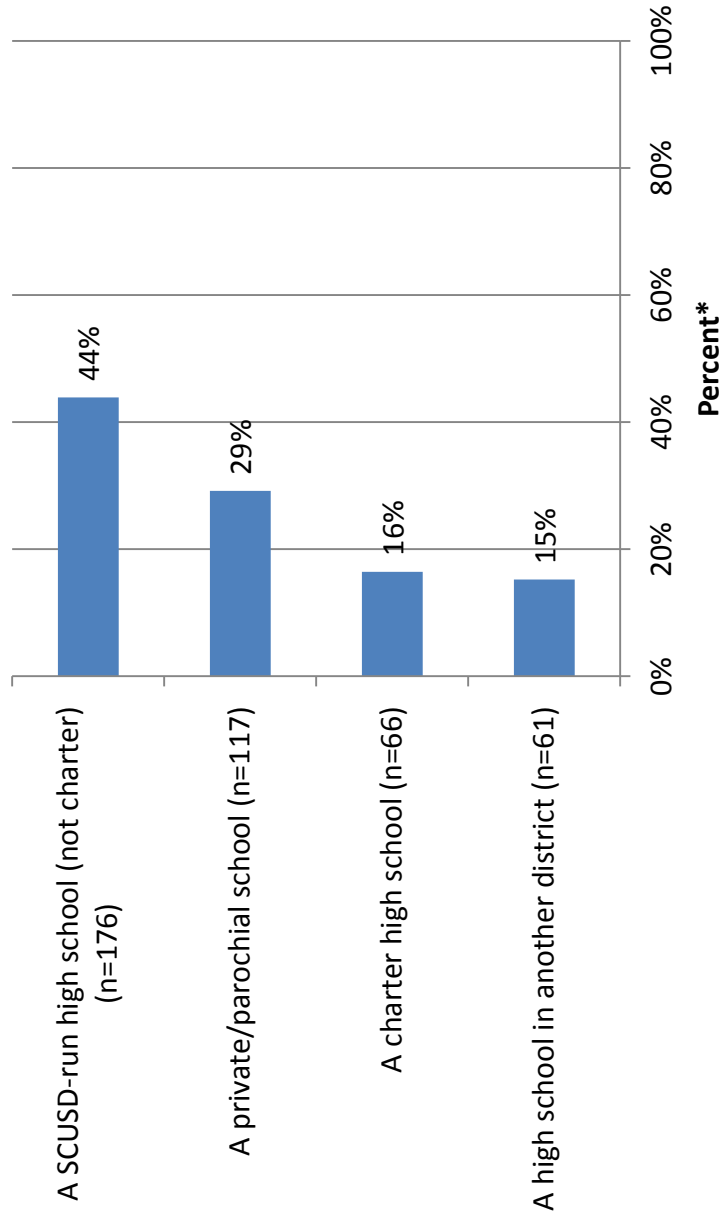
Children in High School



Respondent Descriptions

Of the respondents who said they have a child in high school, most (44%) said they attend a SCUSD-run, non-charter high school. About one-third of the respondents said they have a child in a private/parochial school (29%). Few of these respondents indicated that they have a child in a charter high school (16%) or in another school district (15%).

Where Children Attend High School



* Total percentages exceed 100% because respondents may select more than one option.

Major Questions Addressed

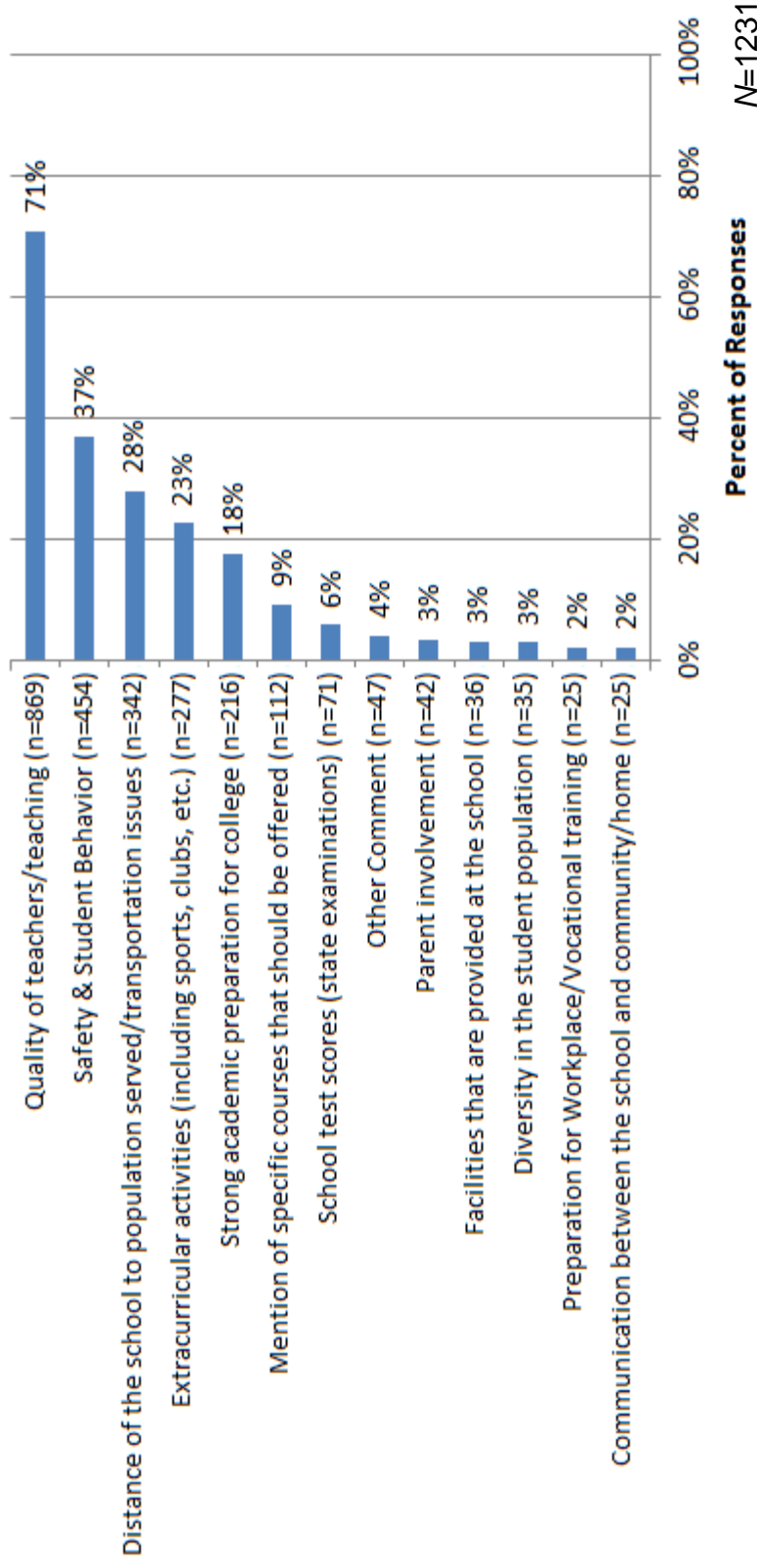
- Most important factor when deciding where to send child to high school (open-ended)—Slide 6
- Importance of a comprehensive high school (closed-ended)—Slide 7
- Importance of distance to school (closed-ended)—Slide 8
- Views on distance and available programs (open-ended)—Slide 9
- Relative importance of high school programs (ranking)—Slide 10
- Parent's concerns about high school (open-ended)—Slide 11
- Proposed solutions (open-ended)—Slide 12
- Feedback from non-parents (open-ended)—Slide 13
- Where future high school parents will send children (closed-ended)—Slide 14
- Where children graduated (closed-ended)—Slide 15

All Parents—Most Important Factor

What is the most important factor for you when deciding where to send your child to high school?

Open-Ended Question, Total of percentages may exceed 100%

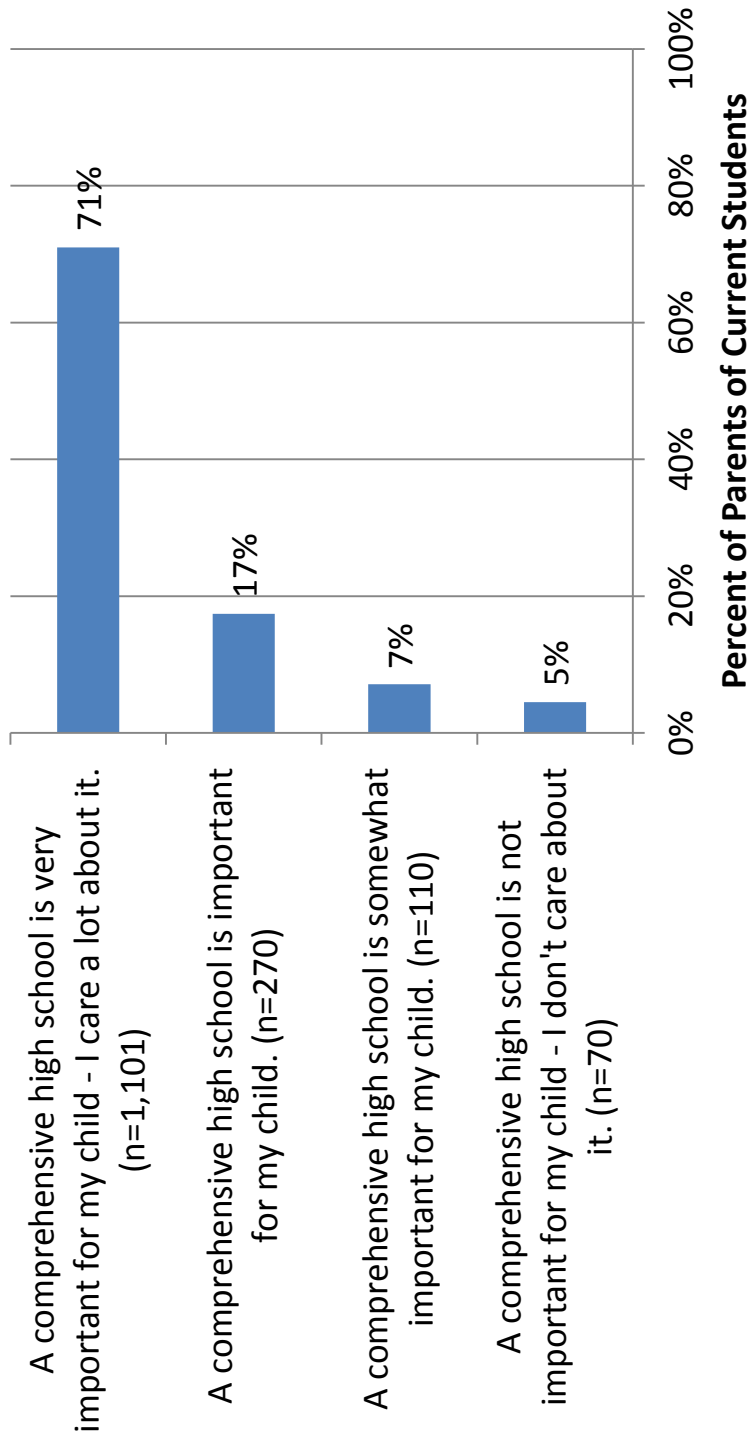
The quality of teachers and teaching was mentioned more often than any other factor (in 71% of the responses) for deciding where to send children to high school. The second most commonly mentioned item, safety and student behavior was noted about half as often (37% of the responses). Distance to school and availability of extracurricular activities were each mentioned by about one-quarter of the respondents.



All Parents—Comprehensive High School

How important is it that your child's high school be a comprehensive high school? A comprehensive high school offers a broad curriculum, with extracurricular activities such as sports and band, to meet the needs of all students. In contrast, there are high schools that offer specialized study such as a focus on a particular subject (like math, science, or the arts), or training for a particular career.

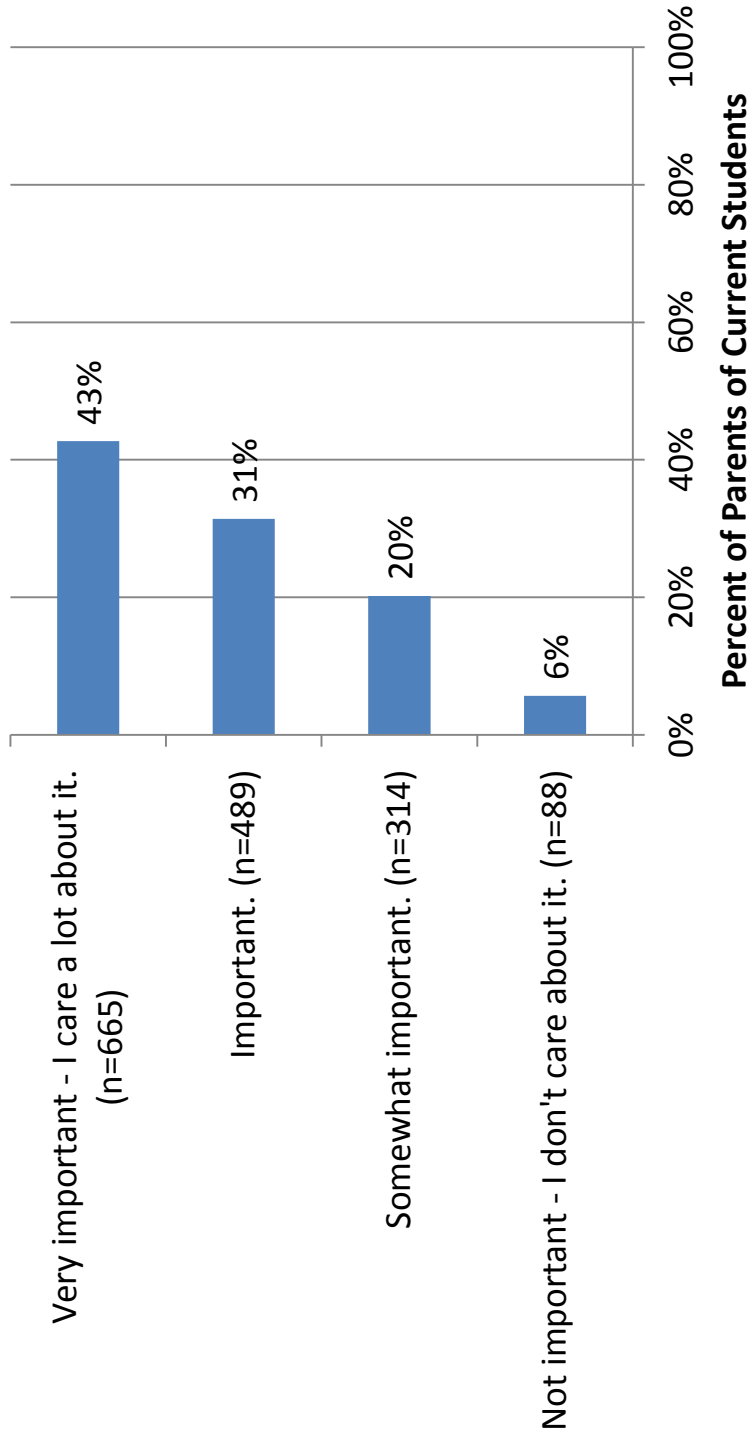
Most parents (88%) indicated that the availability of a comprehensive high school is important or very important for their child.



All Parents—Distance to School

When it comes to deciding where to send your child to high school, how important is the distance that your child has to travel to school?

Most parents (74%) also indicated that the distance between home and the school is also important or very important.

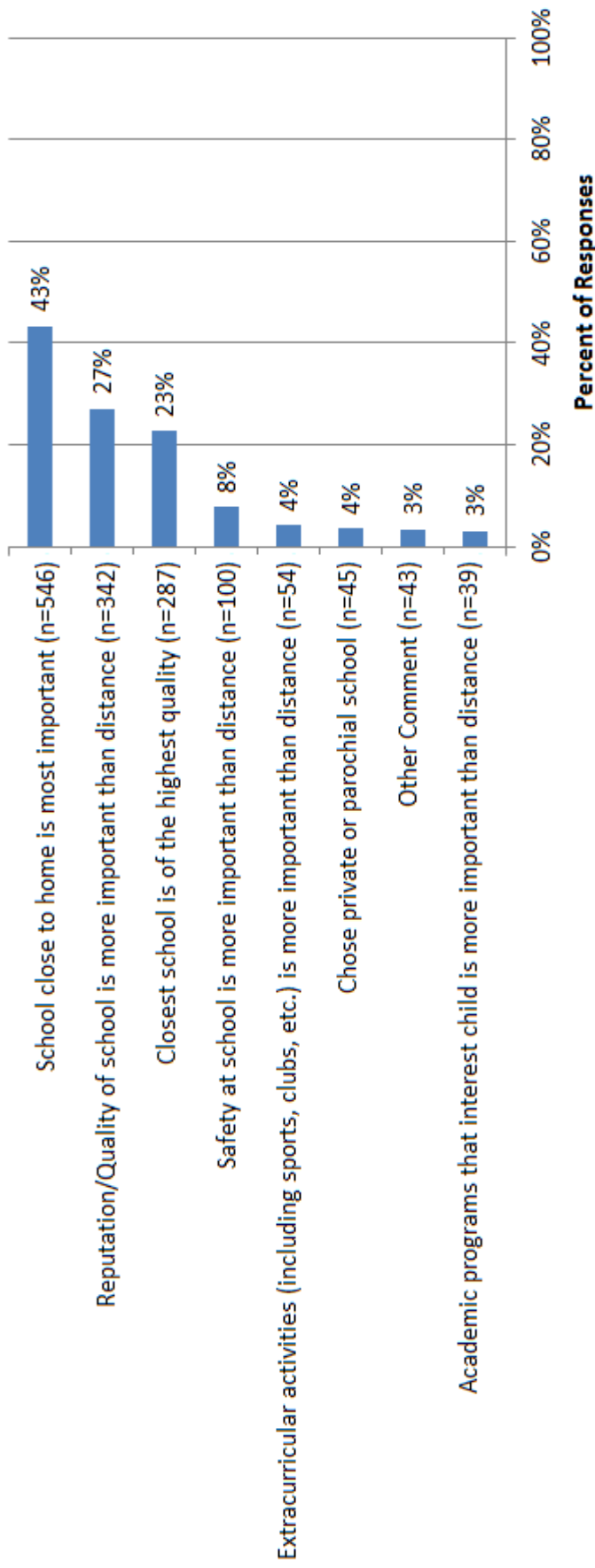


All Parents—Views on Distance and Available Programs

We would like to better understand your views about the distance to school and the high school programs available in choosing where to send your child. Please share with us how distance and available programs affect your decision.

Open-Ended Question, Total of percentages may exceed 100%

When asked to reflect on the relationship between distance and the programs offered by the school in their decision making, most indicated that distance was a more important factor (43%) while about a quarter of parents indicated that quality was the more important factor (27%). A sizable proportion of the respondents (23%) argued that the closest school should be of the highest quality.



All Parents—Importance of High School Programs

Parents were asked to rank in the order of importance the top three programs for a high school. To summarize the data, the number of “votes” each item received was converted to a 0 to 100 point scale. The item that received the most votes has a score of 100, the remaining items are reported as the percent of votes relative to the top item. Instruction in a broad range of topics to prepare students for a college education was selected as most important, followed by advanced study in a specific subject. Elective courses received half the number of votes compared to preparation for college study.

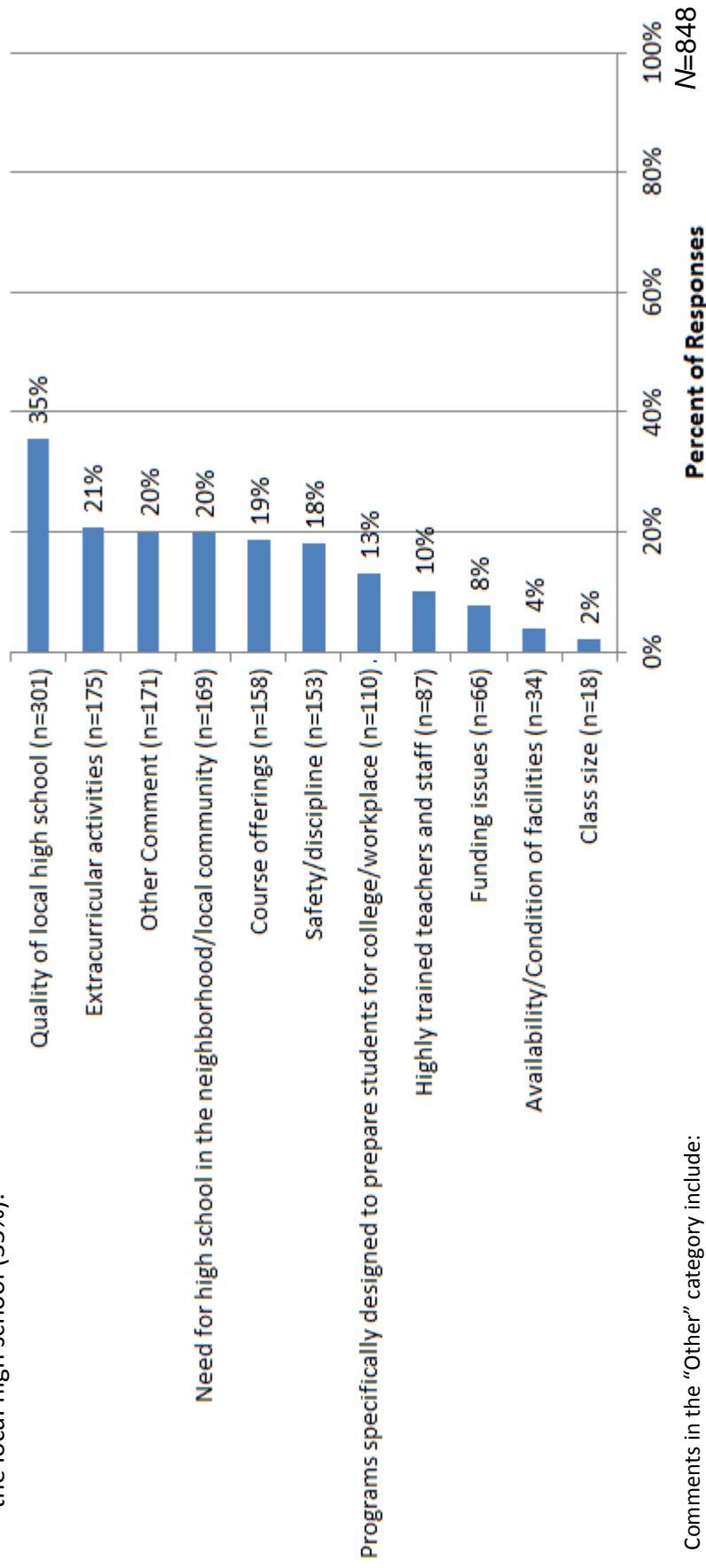
Program	Score
Courses that provide instruction in a broad range of topics to prepare students for <u>general college study</u> .	100
Courses that provide <u>advanced study in a specific subject</u> (such as world languages, science, mathematics, technology, etc.).	75
A wide selection of <u>elective (optional) courses</u> that appeal to different interests such as arts, music, drama, etc.	55
A broad selection of <u>sports/athletics programs</u> (varsity football, track, baseball, soccer, etc.)	30
Courses to give students <u>skills needed for employment</u> right after high school graduation.	21
A broad selection of <u>clubs and afterschool programs</u> .	12
Other (Please describe below)	6

All Parents—Concerns about High School

Are you concerned your child's high school or future high school does not have some of the things you consider important to a good education? If so, please list them and make any suggestions for what the district should do in response to this concern.

Open-Ended Question; Total of percentages may exceed 100%

A broad-range of concerns were offered, with little consensus noted. The most commonly mentioned concern was the quality of the local high school (35%).



Comments in the "Other" category include:

- Do not have any children.
- Complaints about how specific classes are taught.
- Comments about personal living situation.
- Not enough knowledge about the schools in Sacramento.

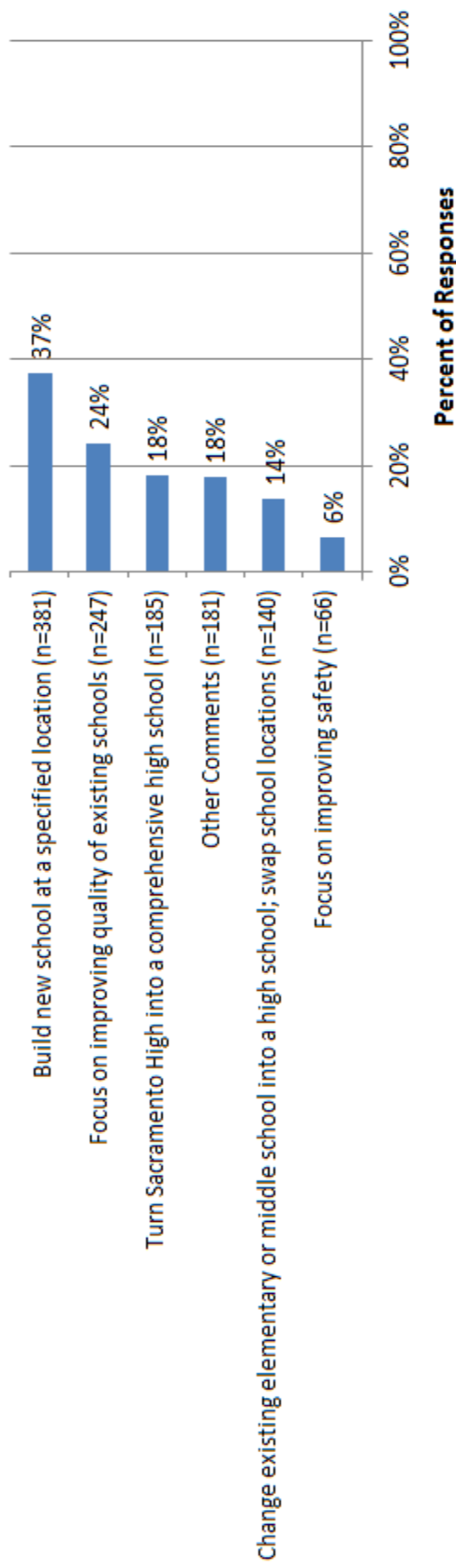
- General complains about the school district (school district is dysfunctional, uses outdated models, type of people at the schools).
- Decided to send child to home school/private school/ other

All Parents—Proposed Solutions

If you feel that the high school needs within the communities of East Sacramento, Midtown, or Oak Park are not being met, what specific solutions do you suggest?

Open-Ended Question; Total of percentages may exceed 100%

A variety of solutions were offered for meeting the needs of these communities, the most common of which was to build a new school at a specified location (37%). Other ideas included making efforts at improving existing schools (24%), placing a comprehensive high school at the Sacramento High School site (18%), or an arrangement of swapping school locations (14%).



Comments in the “Other” category include:

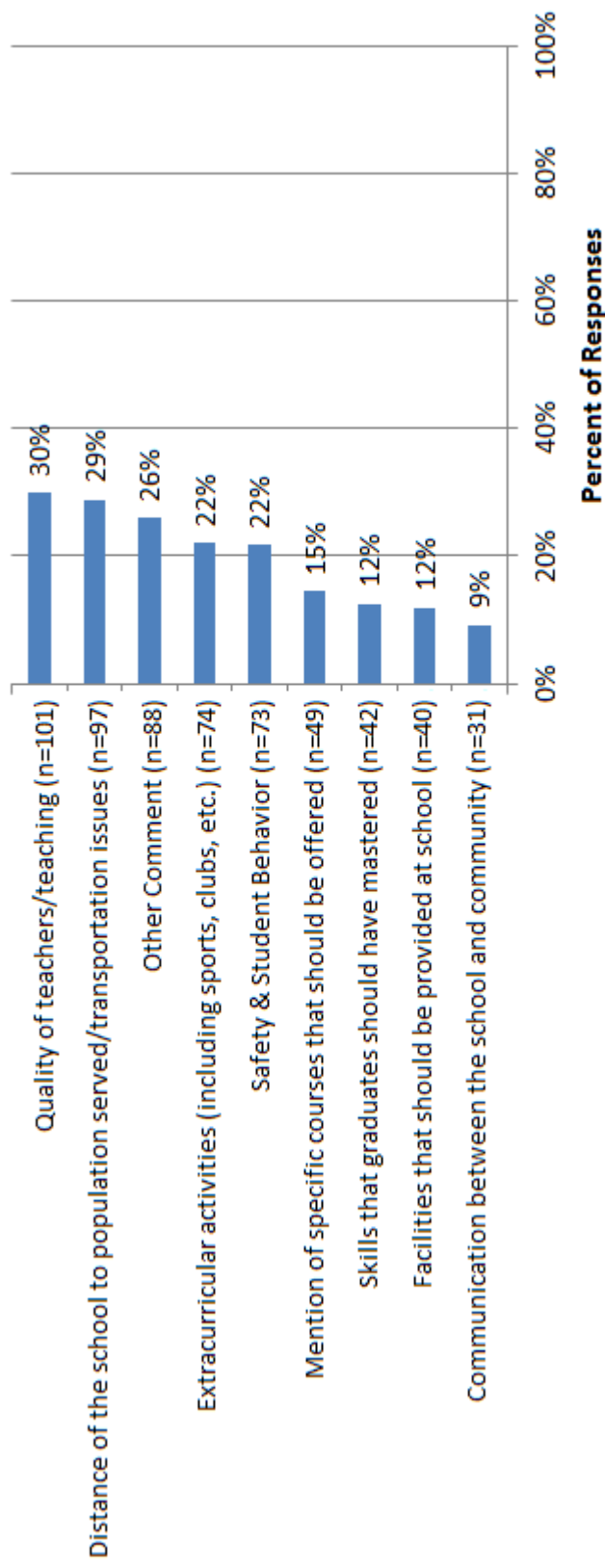
- Non-specific statement of a problem.
- General statement of need for a comprehensive school.
- Need to involve the community in school planning.
- More/fewer charter schools
- Don't know enough about the issues.
- Questions about Sac High's bookkeeping/business practices.
- Schools need more money.
- Short answers: “It's fine,” “No,” “I think they are,” etc.

Feedback from Residents Who Do Not Have Children

Your views as a resident of this community who does not have children in school are still very important for the planning of school services. Please share with us thoughts about what a high school should provide in your community.

Open-Ended Question; Total of percentages may exceed 100%

Non-parents also had an opportunity to express their views about the community's need for a high school. A range of responses were provided, with two items that impact the overall community most often mentioned: quality of teachers and teaching (30%) and the distance of the school to the population served (29%).



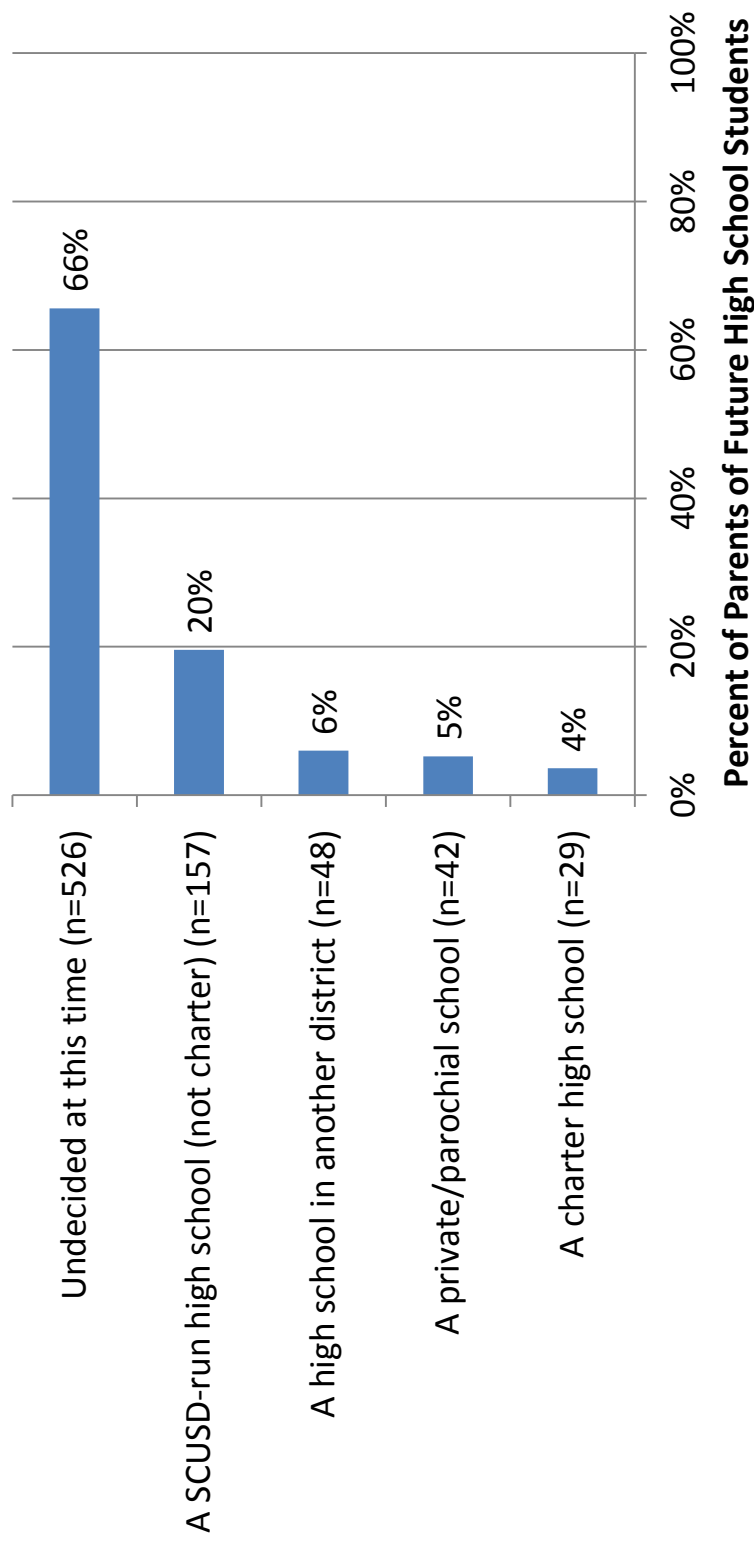
Comments in the "Other" category include:

- Favor small high schools
- Question about how to provide more input
- Support for public schools.
- Area X needs a high school.
- Need to consider the demographics of the area to be served.
- Fairness of school taxes paid by non-parents
- Comparison of importance to the community of schools and other public services.

N=337

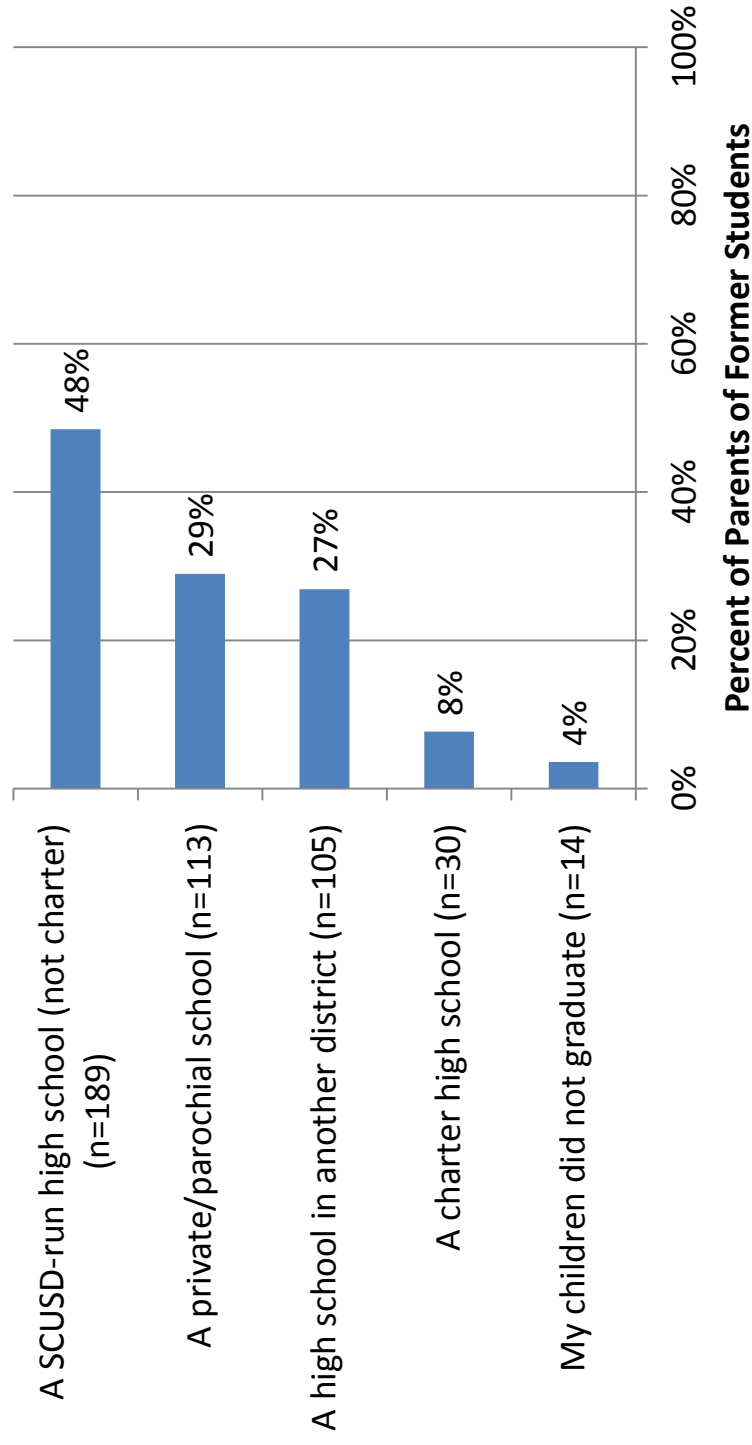
Parents of Future High School Students

802 (67%) of respondents indicated they would have children attending high school in the future. Of these parents, most (66%) were undecided as to where they would send their child to high school in the future.



Parents Who No Longer Have Children in School

390 (33%) of respondents indicated they will not have children attending high school in the future. Of these parents, most (48%) indicated that their child graduated from a SCUSD-run high school.



Next Steps

- Board discussion
- Share results with public via district website

