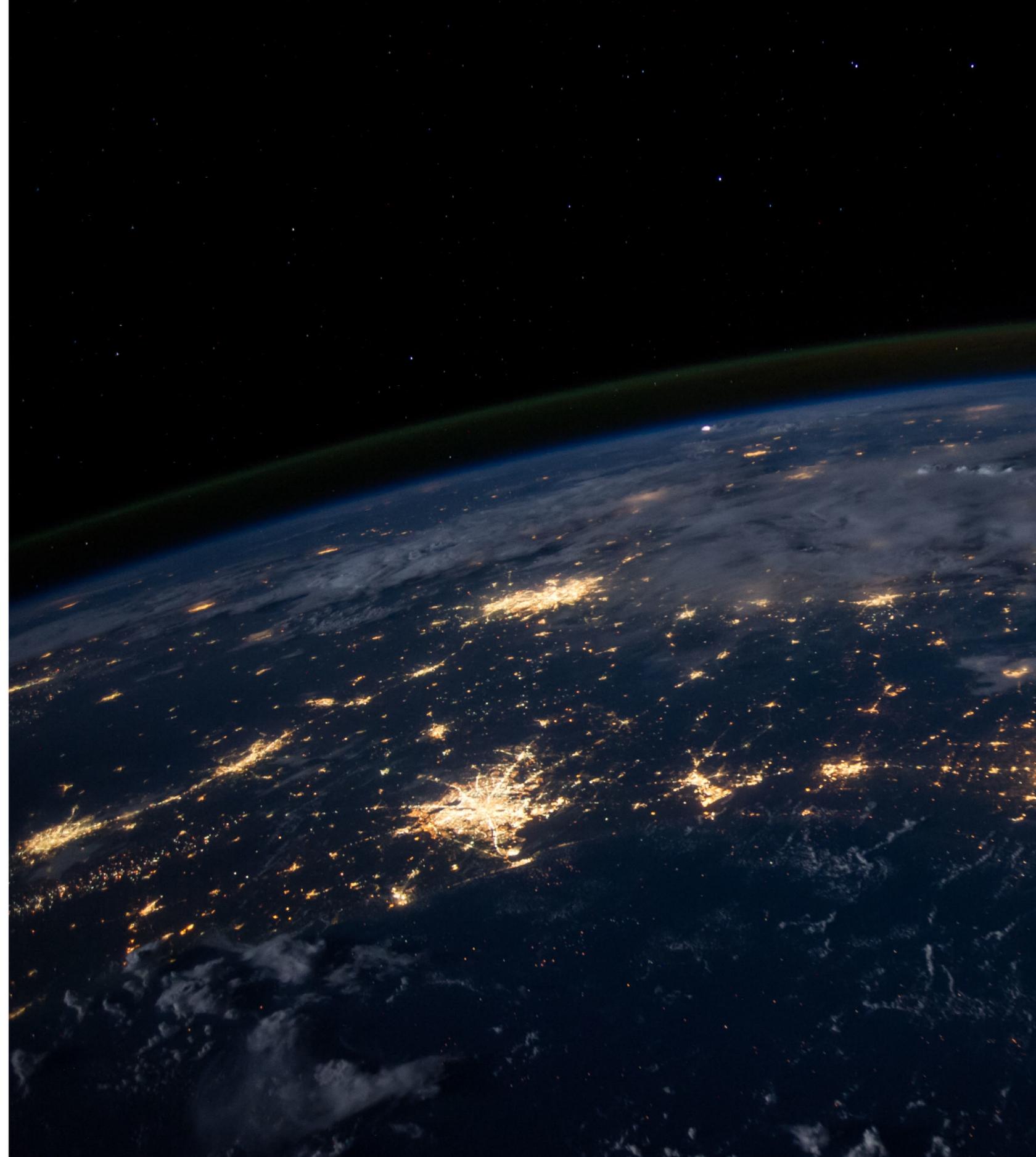




Views On Race-Related Issues In K-12 Education

PIE Network
Survey & QualBoard Research



Background

During the summer of 2020, issues around race and equity came to the forefront in many arenas of American life. Among those arenas were our nation's public schools. Since that time, policymakers of all political persuasions have taken a look at how the schools in their state or local area are navigating decisions about curriculum and how they should handle conversations around race in the classroom.

This report is intended to illuminate where American voters broadly agree on how schools ought to handle these issues, as well as highlight the areas where there is division. This report does not advocate for nor provide messaging guidance around any particular side of these debates, but instead aims to cut through the heated discussions to provide clarity around where Americans currently stand on these issues.

PIE Network commissioned this research as a resource to its members and to those involved in K-12 education policymaking across the country as they try to understand how best to promote unity as well as rigorous, high-quality education to all children.



About The Research

ONLINE SURVEY | September 14-21, 2021

- N=2,004 registered voters nationwide + oversample of 502 registered voters who are parents of K-12 students
- Sample weighted to population benchmarks for registered voters in the US. The margin of sampling error, adjusted to incorporate the effect of weighting, is +/- 2.6 percentage points.

QUALBOARDS (ONLINE DISCUSSION BOARDS) | October 12-15, 2021

- Board 1 - 24 parents of public school students in grades K-5
- Board 2 - 21 parents of public school students in grades 6-12



Key Findings: Common Ground Vs. Areas Of Disagreement

Concepts On Which Majority Across Party Lines Agree

Racism still exists in America today, and race relations are getting worse.

Schools should teach students to love their country, but should also teach the full history of America - including the terrible things that have happened related to race and racism.

Schools should include books by diverse authors and lessons on a diverse array of historical figures.

Schools should celebrate diversity among students, provide inclusive learning that makes each student feel valued, and facilitate open conversations for students to discuss their experiences and perspectives.

Schools should probably not separate students into groups based on their racial or ethnic background.

Concepts On Which Voters Are More Divided

The extent to which racism is a problem, and whether schools should focus MORE on race and racism.

Whether schools should teach that systemic racism is embedded in American institutions and a major problem.

Whether schools should teach students that they may have advantages or face obstacles due to their racial or ethnic background.

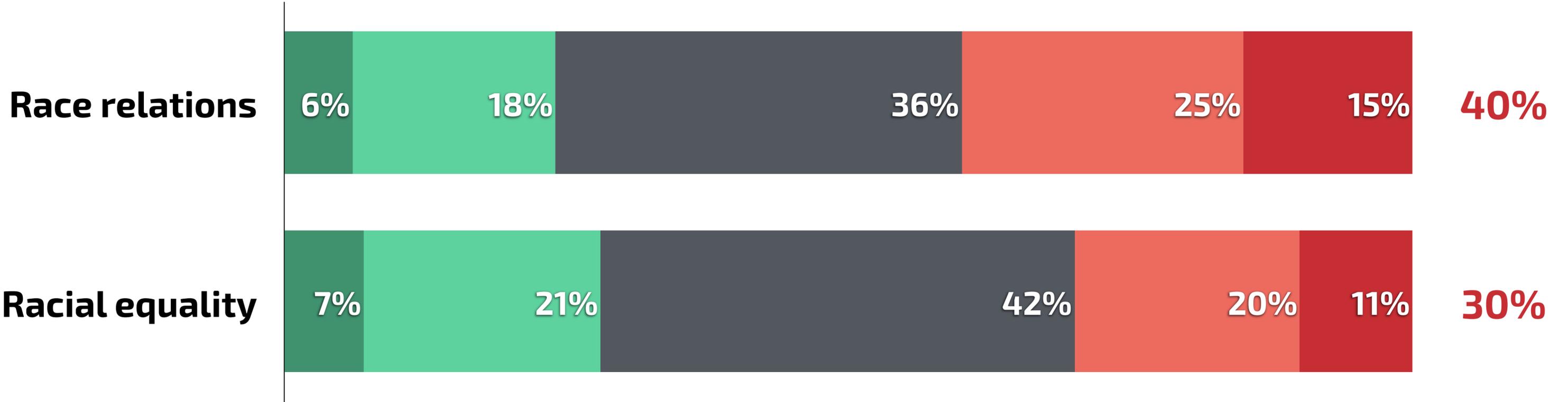
Whether schools should teach students that they harbor biases, conscious or unconscious.

Landscape



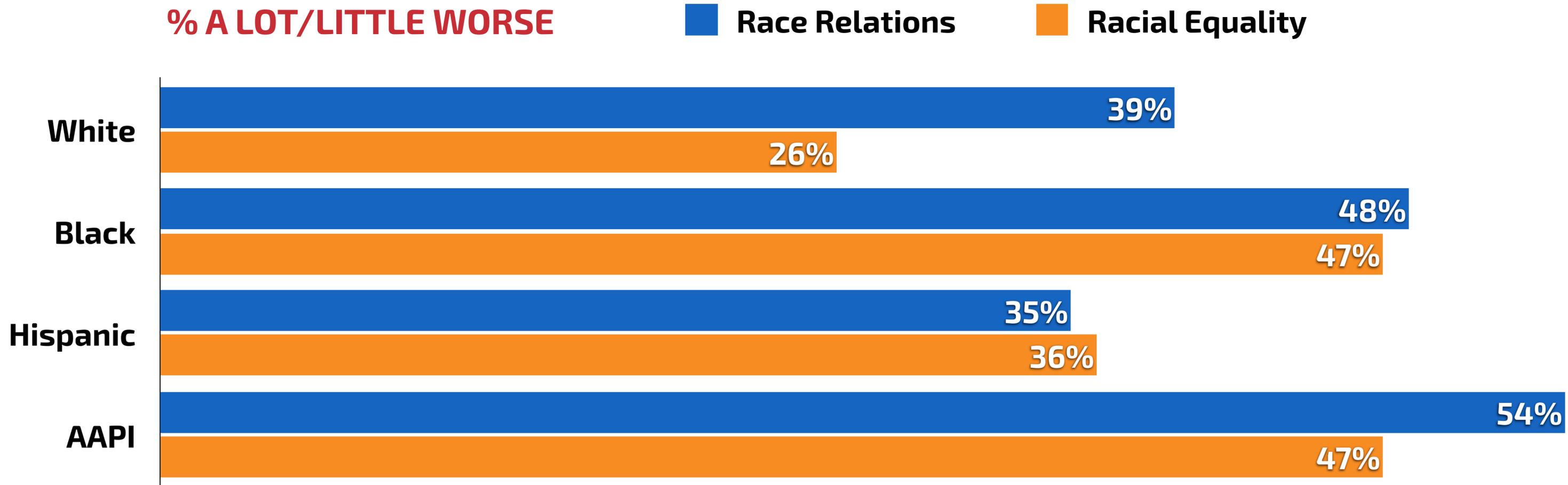
More Voters Are Pessimistic About Race Relations Than Equality

Q. With regard to each of the following, in general would you say they are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same in the U.S. these days?



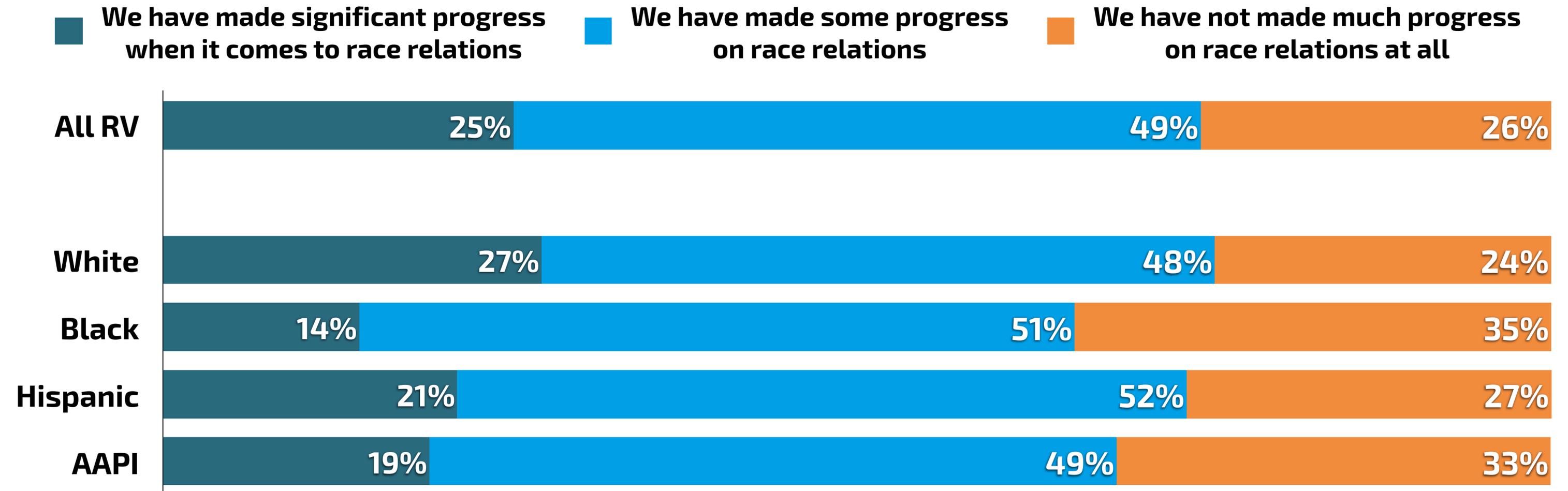
White Voters Less Likely To Feel Equality Is Getting Worse; Smaller Differences On Race Relations

Q. With regard to each of the following, in general would you say they are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same in the U.S. these days?



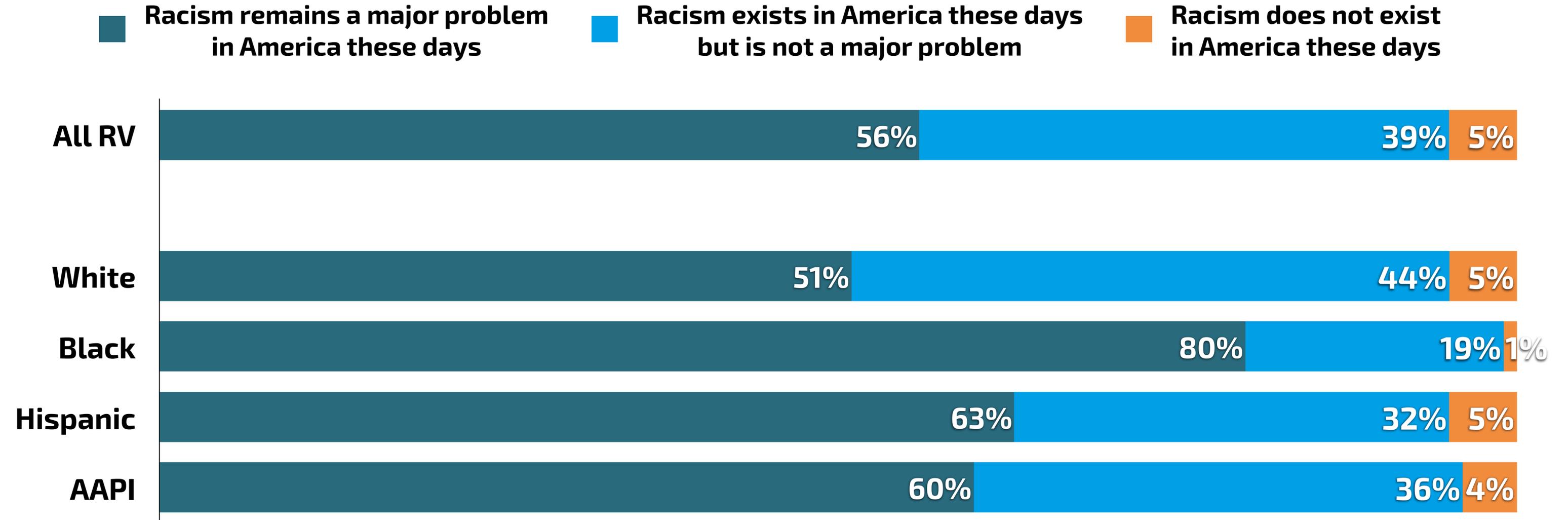
White Voters Most Likely To Say We Have Made Significant Progress On Race Relations

Q. Even if none are perfect, which of the following statements best describes your view of race relations in the United States today?



8 In 10 Black Voters Say Racism Is Still Major Problem

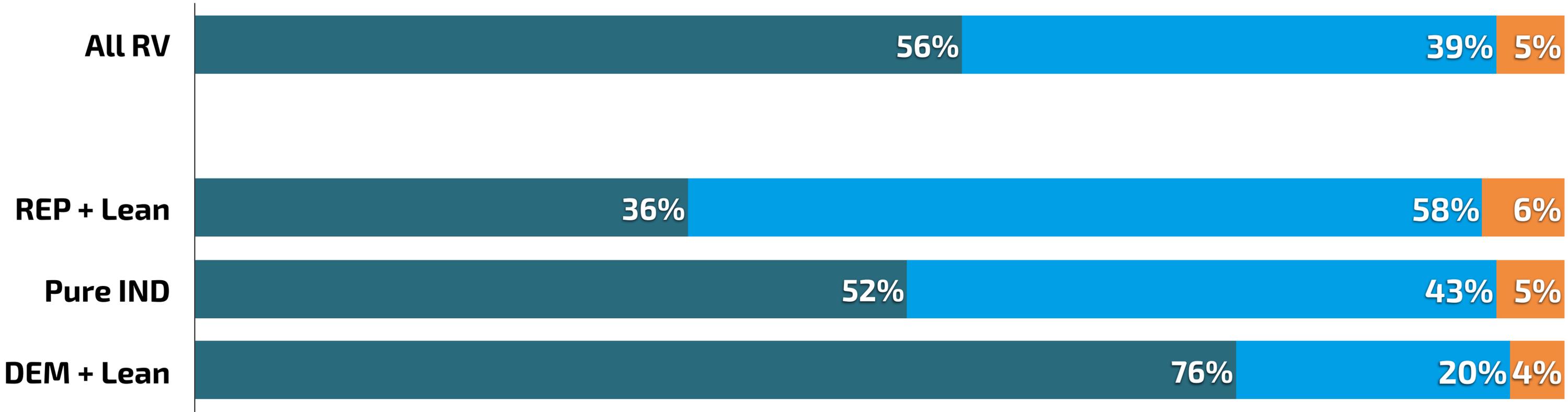
Q. Even if none are perfect, which of the following statements best describes your view?



Partisans Split On Extend To Which Racism Is A Problem In America These Days

Q. Even if none are perfect, which of the following statements best describes your view?

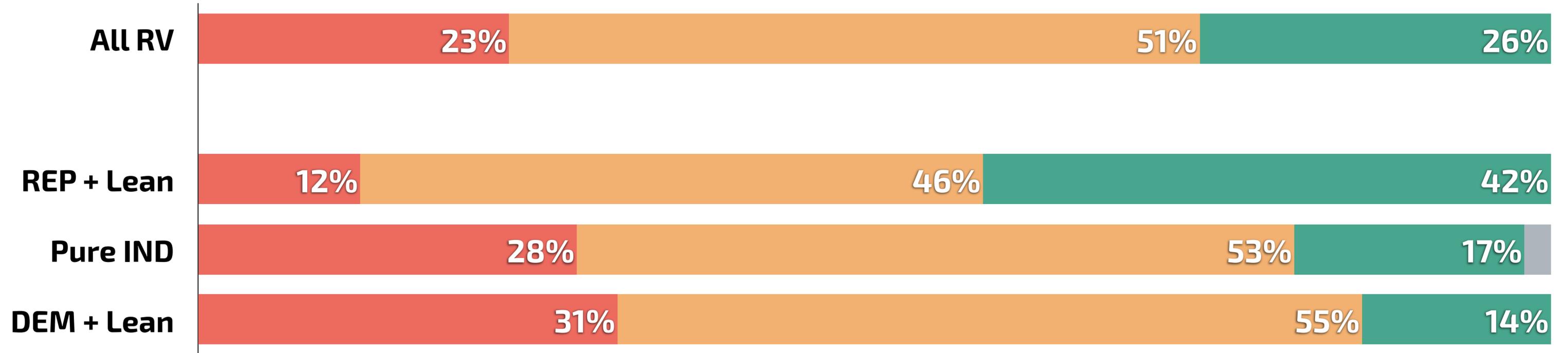
- Racism remains a major problem in America these days
- Racism exists in America these days but is not a major problem
- Racism does not exist in America these days



Most See America As A “Work In Progress”

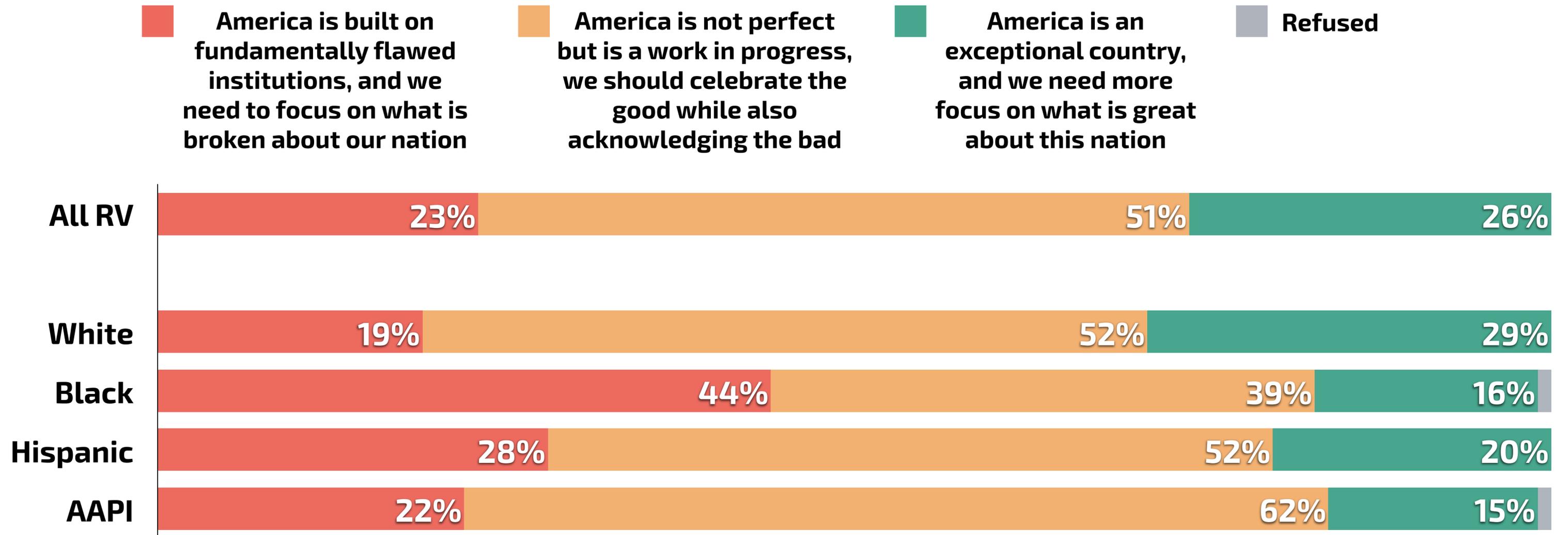
Q. Even if none are perfect, which of the following statements best describes your view?

- America is built on fundamentally flawed institutions, and we need to focus on what is broken about our nation
- America is not perfect but is a work in progress, we should celebrate the good while also acknowledging the bad
- America is an exceptional country, and we need more focus on what is great about this nation
- Refused



Plurality Of Black Voters Say US Built On Flawed Institutions

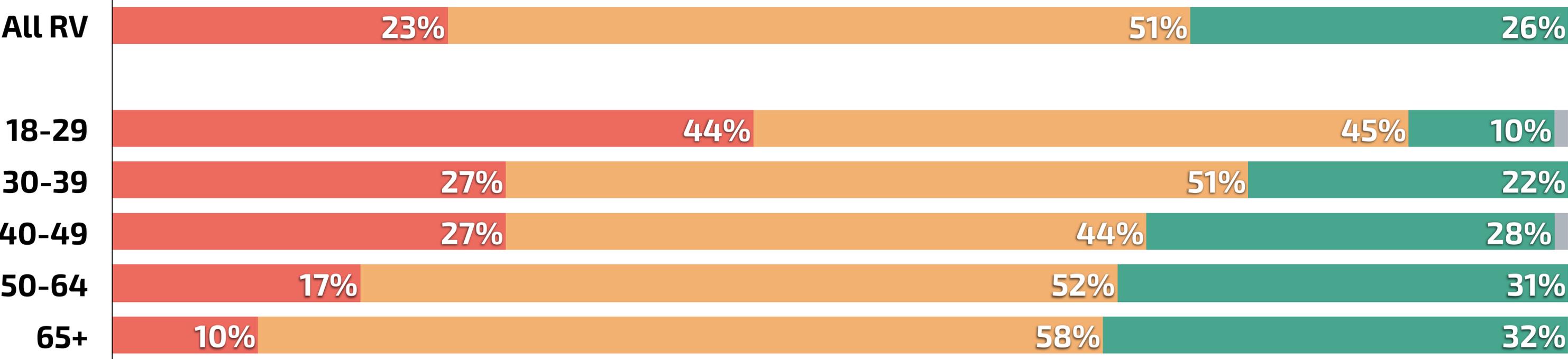
Q. Even if none are perfect, which of the following statements best describes your view?



Young Voters Are The Most Likely To Say America Fundamentally Flawed, But Plurality Of All Age Groups Say US is “Work In Progress”

Q. Even if none are perfect, which of the following statements best describes your view?

- America is built on fundamentally flawed institutions, and we need to focus on what is broken about our nation
- America is not perfect but is a work in progress, we should celebrate the good while also acknowledging the bad
- America is an exceptional country, and we need more focus on what is great about this nation
- Refused



K-12 Education & Racial Issues

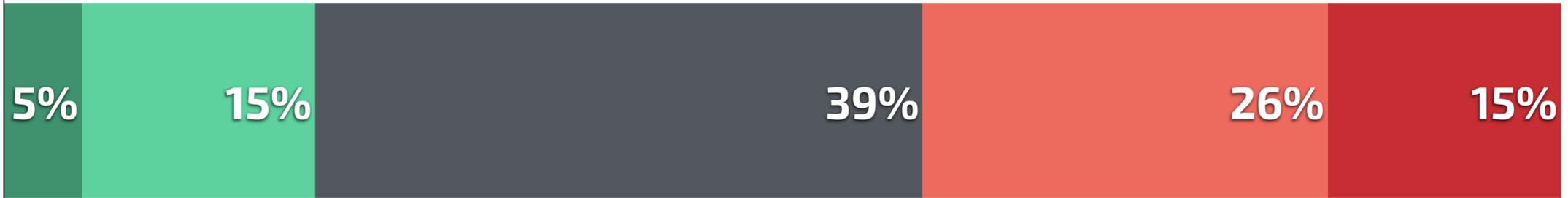


Voters More Negative About The Direction Of Schools Nationally Than Locally

Q. With regard to each of the following, in general would you say they are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same in the U.S. these days?



Public schools for grades K-12 nationally



42%

Public schools in your area



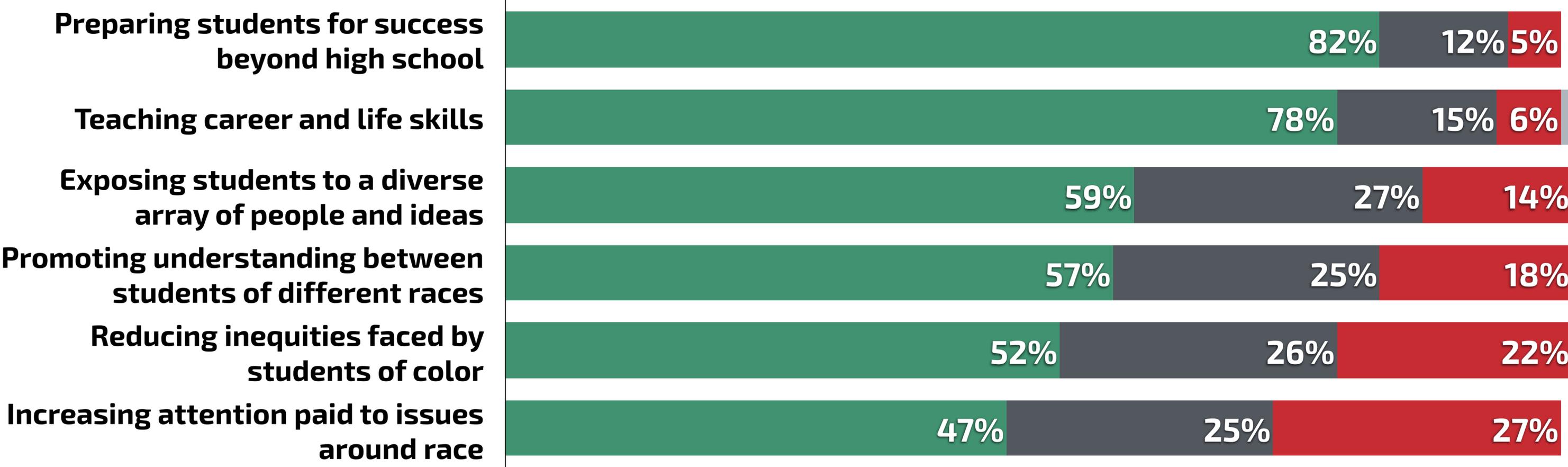
33%



Vast Majority Want Increased Focus On Preparing Students For Future Success And Careers

Q. Thinking about our K-12 public schools in the U.S., please indicate if you would like schools to focus on each area more or less than they currently do.

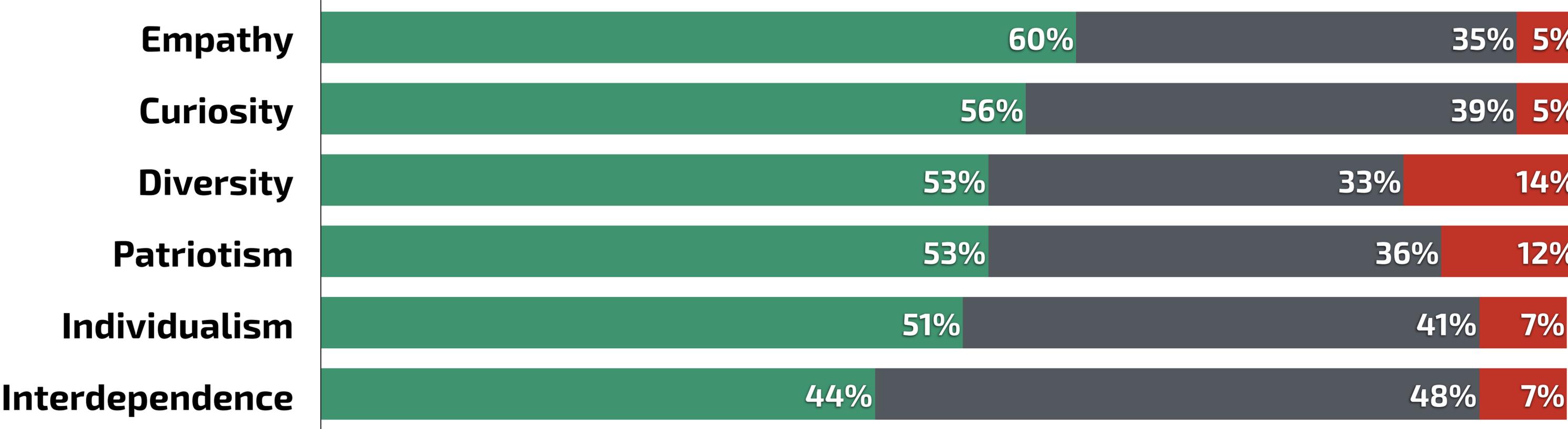
■ Focus on this a lot/little more
 ■ Keep focus about the same
 ■ Focus on this a lot/little less
 ■ Refused



Most Interest In Seeing Schools Emphasize Empathy More

Q. Should schools in the U.S. emphasize each of the following values more than they currently do, less than they currently do, or about as much as they currently do?

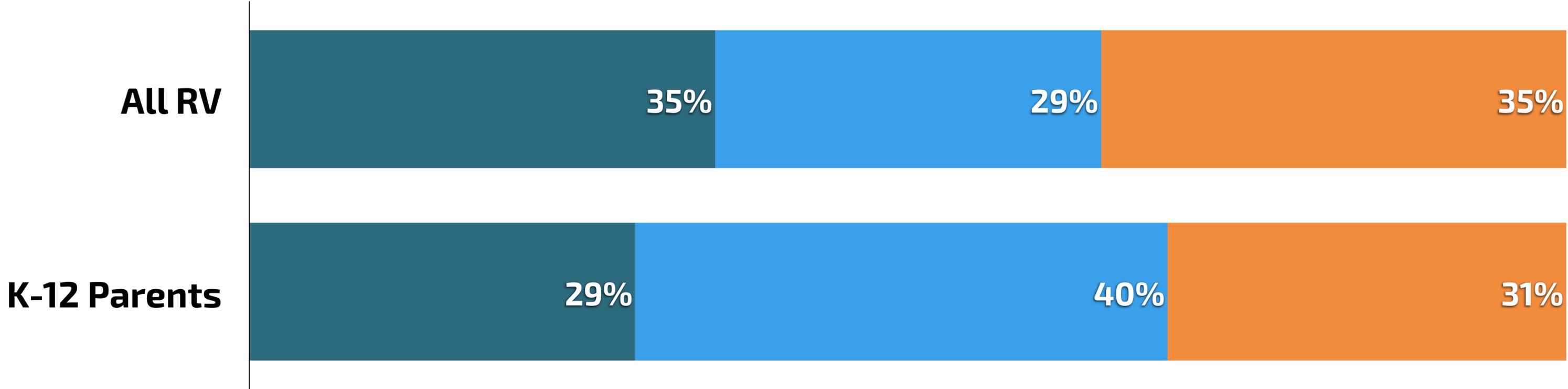
■ Should emphasize more ■ Should emphasize about as much as they currently do ■ Should emphasize less ■ Refused



Voters Split On How Schools Are Handling Issues Related To Race; Plurality Of K-12 Parents Say It's About Right

Q. Even if none are perfect, which of the following statements best describes your view?

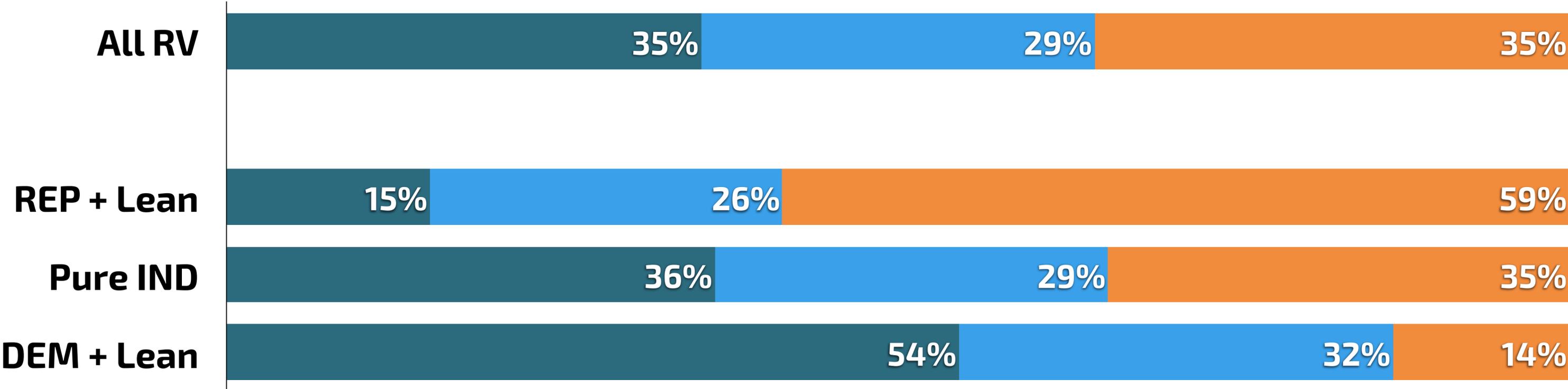
■ I worry that our schools are not focused enough on issues relating to race and racism ■ Our schools are handling issues related to race and racism about right ■ I worry that our schools are focusing too much on issues related to race and racism ■ Refused



Strong Partisan Divide On Whether Schools Are Focused Too Much Or Not Enough On Issues Around Race And Racism

Q. Even if none are perfect, which of the following statements best describes your view?

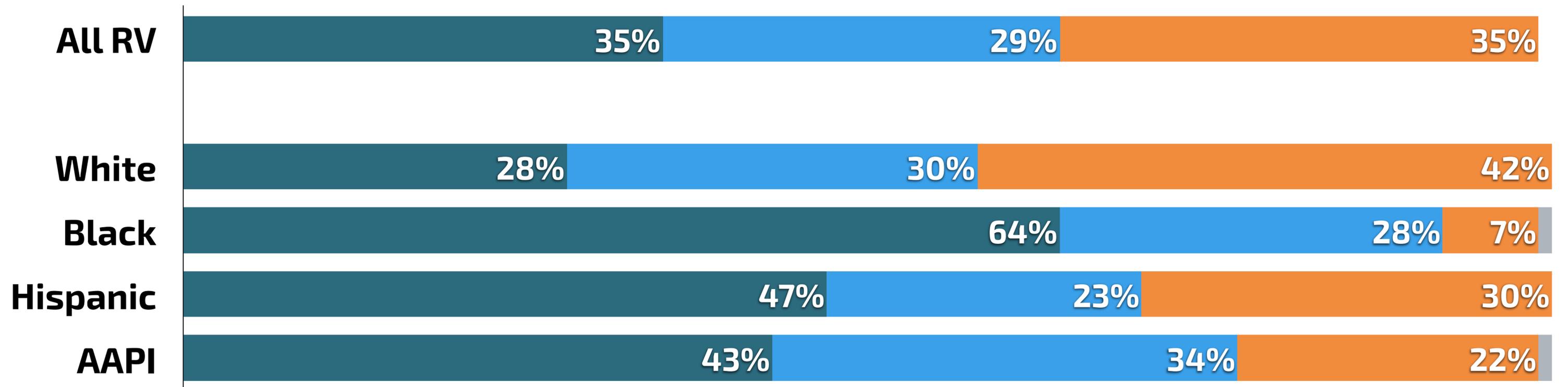
I worry that our schools are not focused enough on issues relating to race and racism
 Our schools are handling issues related to race and racism about right
 I worry that our schools are focusing too much on issues related to race and racism
 Refused



Majority Of Black Voters Worry Schools Are Not Focused Enough On Race And Racism

Q. Even if none are perfect, which of the following statements best describes your view?

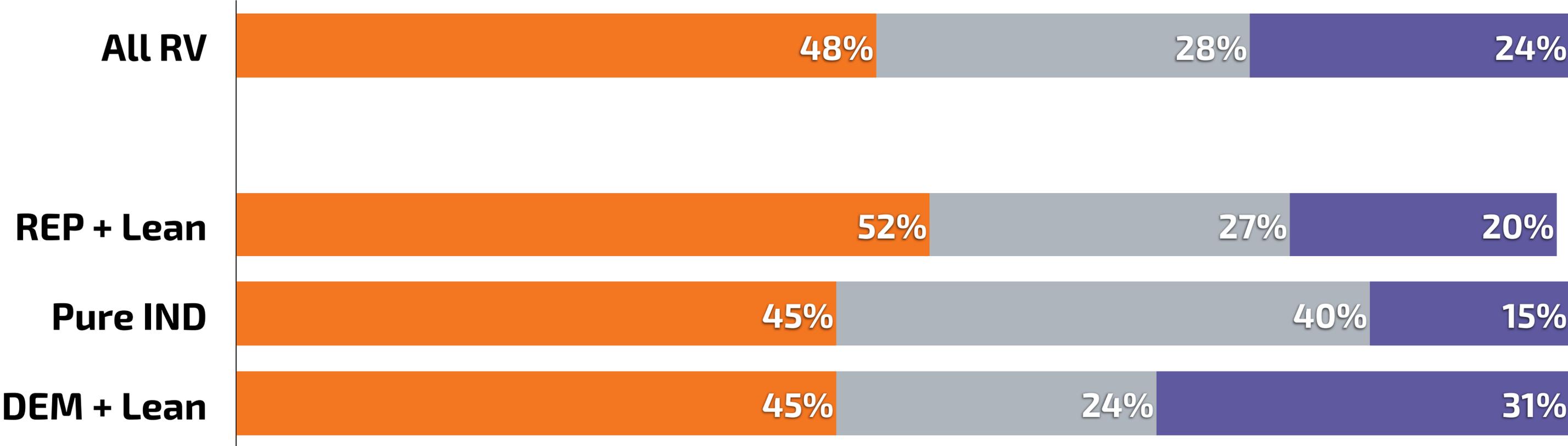
■ I worry that our schools are not focused enough on issues relating to race and racism ■ Our schools are handling issues related to race and racism about right ■ I worry that our schools are focusing too much on issues related to race and racism ■ Refused



More Voters Say Decisions About What To Teach Students Should Be Made By Local School Districts Than State Government

Q. Many states and school districts are currently debating how to handle the issue of teaching about race in schools. Who do you think should be in charge of deciding what students are taught on this subject?

Local school districts Unsure State government leaders



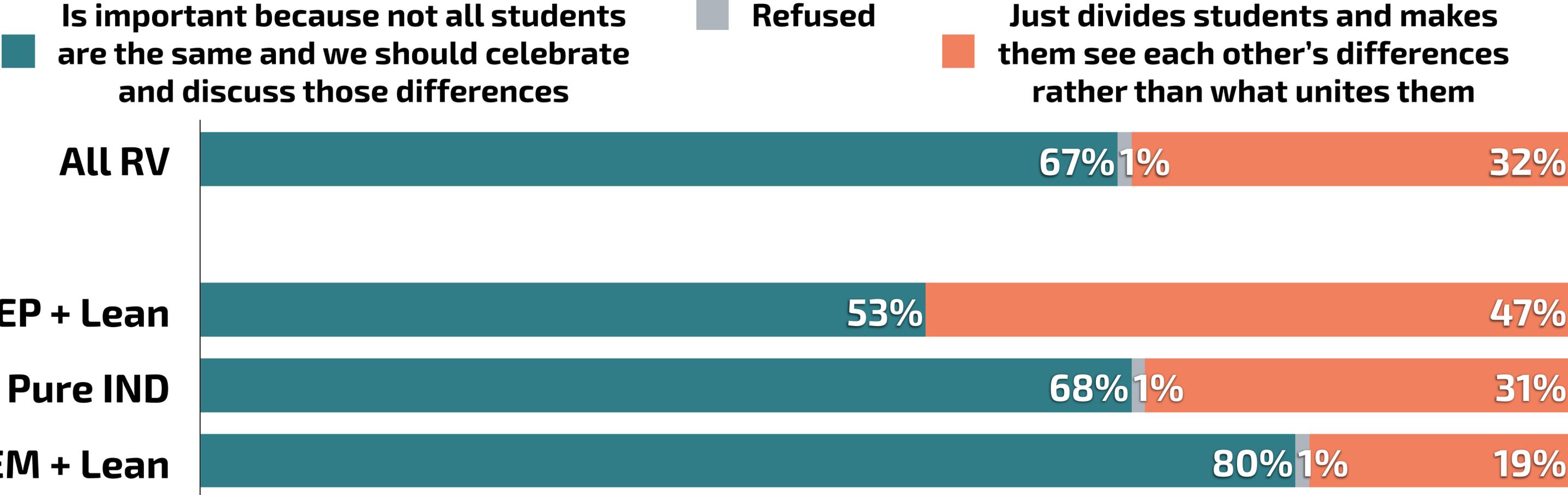
Curriculum & Handling Issues Related To Race In Schools



2 In 3 Say Acknowledging And Celebrating Diversity Is Important

Q. Even if neither are perfect, which of the following statements best describes your view of how schools should handle issues of culture and race?

Acknowledging racial and cultural differences...



Partisans More Divided About Focusing On Racism

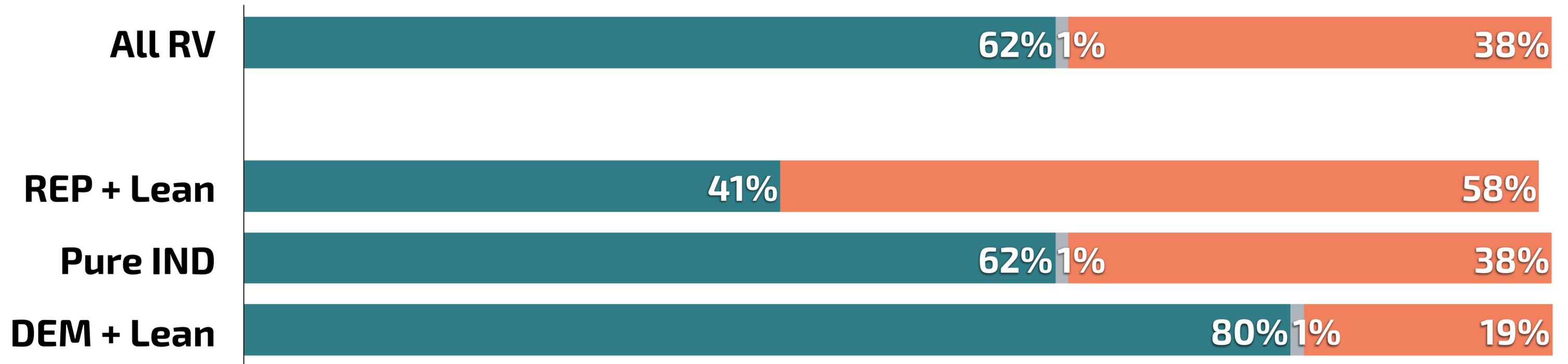
Q. Even if neither are perfect, which of the following statements best describes your view of how schools should handle issues of culture and race?

Focusing on the issue of racism in schools is more likely to...

 Promote better understanding and foster healing of divisions by acknowledging the problem

 Refused

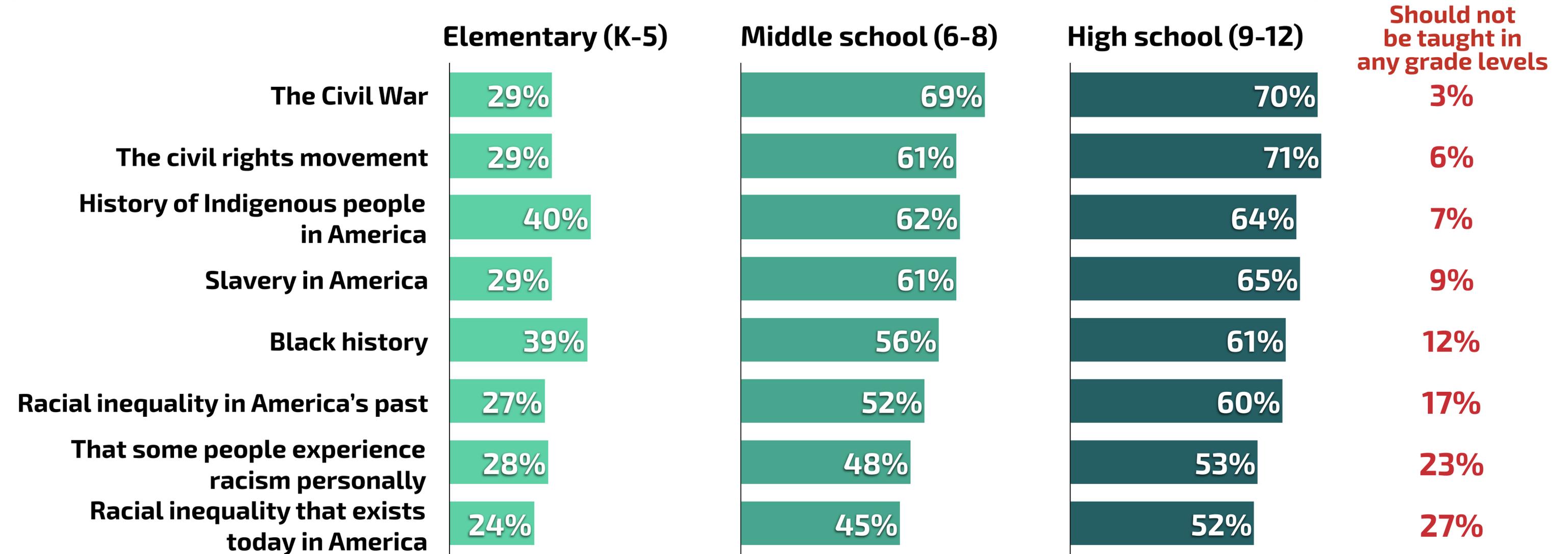
 Pit students against each other on the basis of skin color by making a big deal of the issue



More Support Teaching About Inequality In History Vs. Present

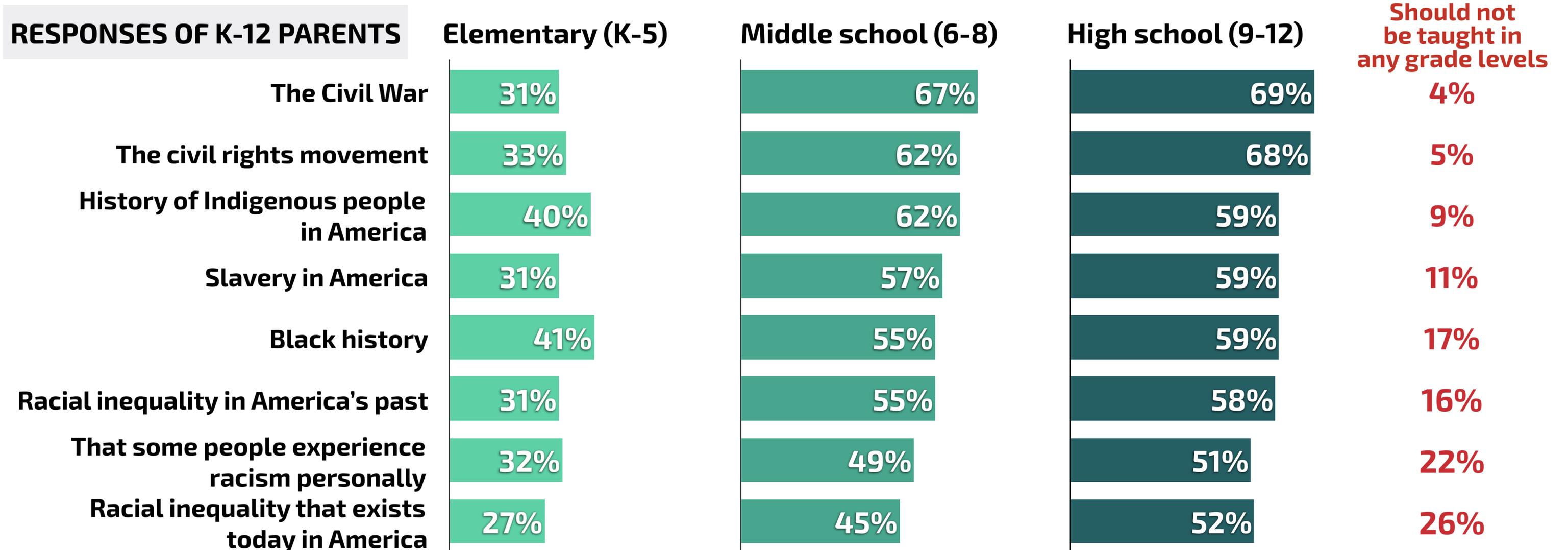
Views Differ On Teaching Elementary Vs. Older Students

Q. K-12 schools today teach children about a variety of subjects. For each, please indicate in which grade levels – if any – you think students should be taught about the following concepts. You can select multiple grade levels if you choose.



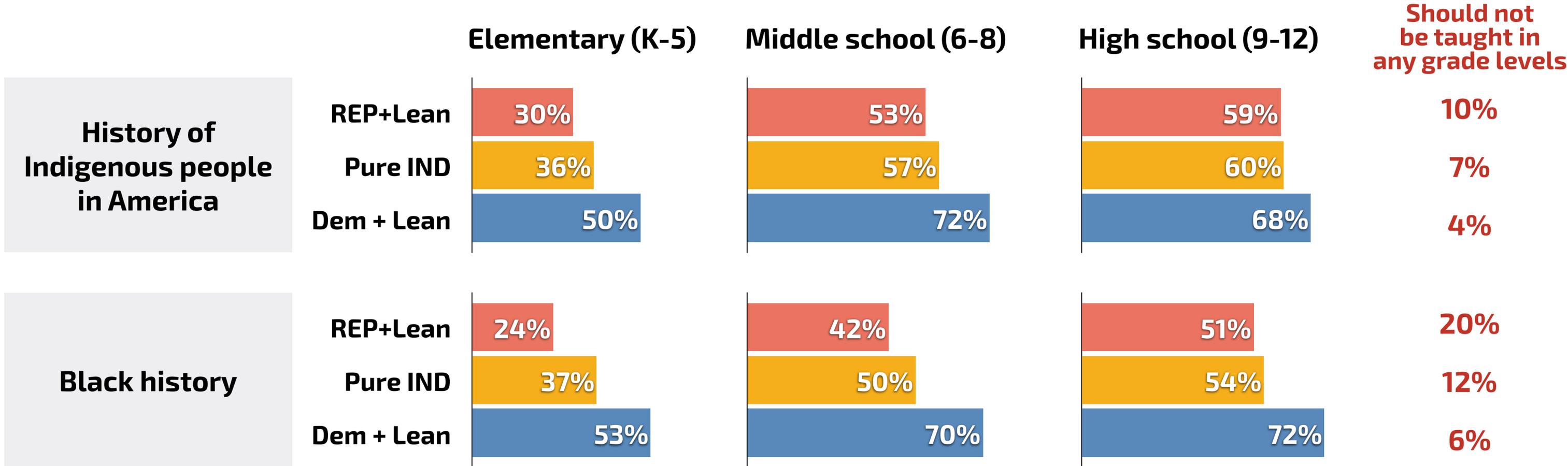
K-12 Parents Express Similar Views To Voters Overall

Q. K-12 schools today teach children about a variety of subjects. For each, please indicate in which grade levels – if any – you think students should be taught about the following concepts. You can select multiple grade levels if you choose.



Most Voters In Both Parties Agree History Of Indigenous People And Black History Should Be Taught In Some Grade Levels

Q. K-12 schools today teach children about a variety of subjects. For each, please indicate in which grade levels – if any – you think students should be taught about the following concepts. You can select multiple grade levels if you choose.

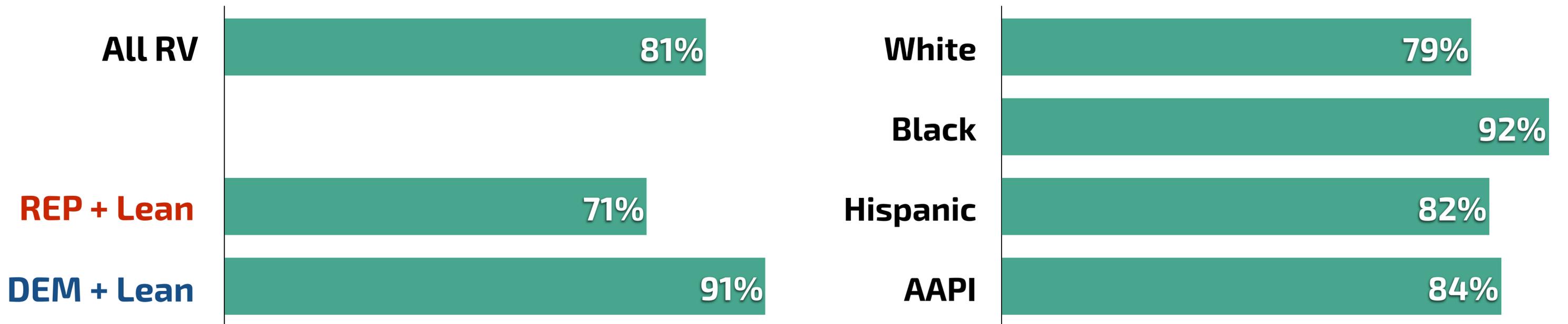


Majority Across Party And Racial/Ethnic Groups Agree Black History Should Be Woven Throughout Curriculum

Q. For each of the following, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statement.

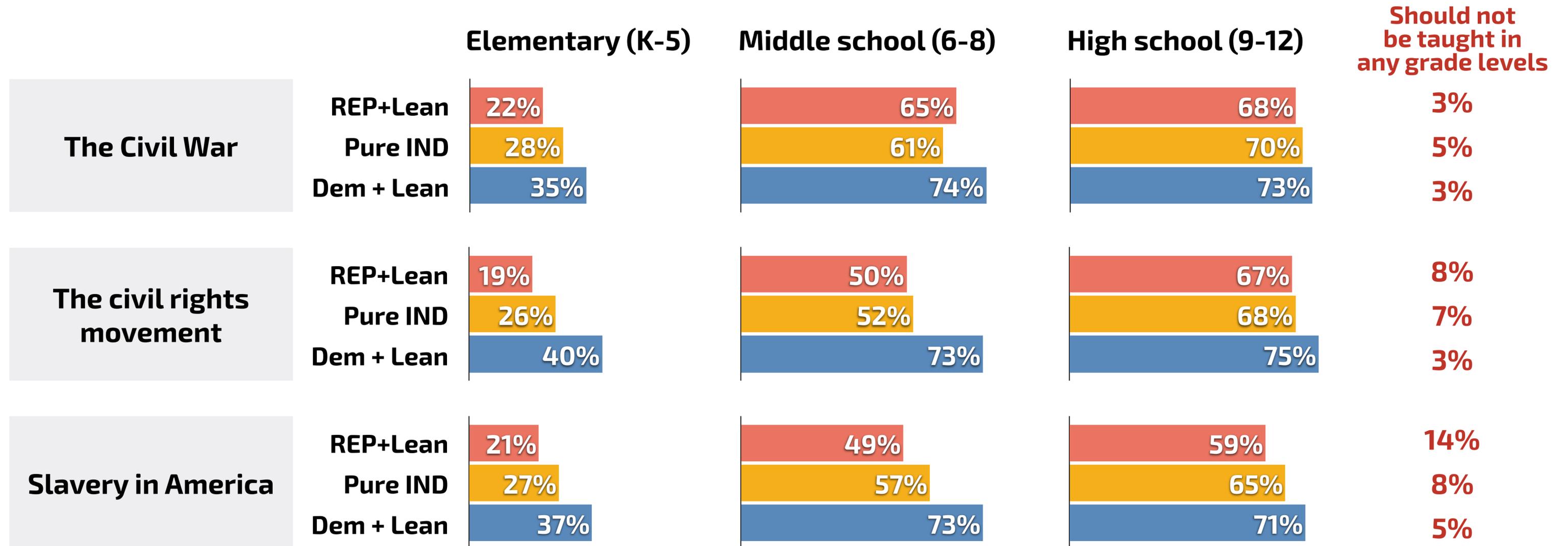
*% Strongly/
Somewhat
AGREE*

Lessons about subjects like Black history should not just be confined to a particular month but should be woven throughout the curriculum students are taught.



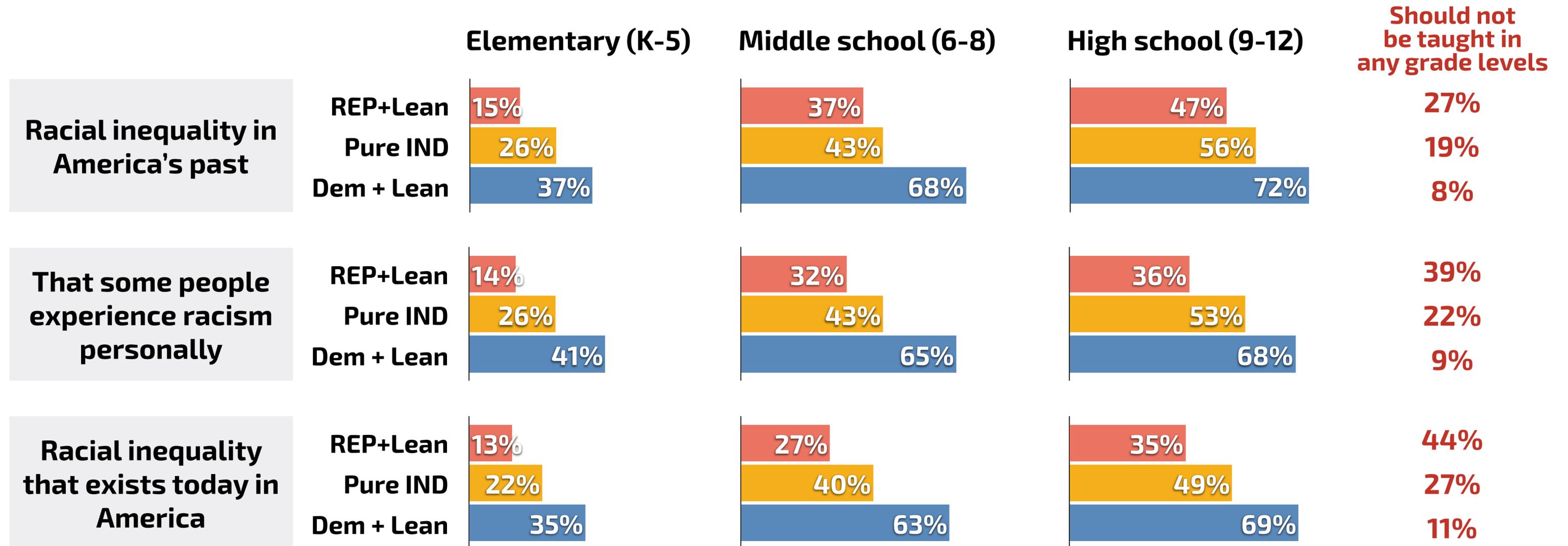
Majority Support Teaching About Civil War, Civil Rights, Slavery

Q. K-12 schools today teach children about a variety of subjects. For each, please indicate in which grade levels – if any – you think students should be taught about the following concepts. You can select multiple grade levels if you choose.



Partisans More Divided On Teaching About Inequality Today

Q. K-12 schools today teach children about a variety of subjects. For each, please indicate in which grade levels – if any – you think students should be taught about the following concepts. You can select multiple grade levels if you choose.



Majority Agree Students Should Be Taught To Love America And That We Should Acknowledge Past Wrongs

Q. For each of the following, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statement.

*% Strongly/
Somewhat
AGREE*

Students should be taught to love America and what their country stands for.

We should acknowledge the terrible things that have happened in our nation's history regarding race so students can learn from them and make the future better.



“I think it is essential to teach kids about the true racism and America's past. I think this could only be good and help the students to do better in the future. I think **you are doomed to repeat your past if you fail to acknowledge the mistakes** of your past. **It is a great idea that kids know that America is still a work-in-progress, but we have made a lot of progress.**”

- *Parent of 6th Grader, Moderate Democrat, Black*

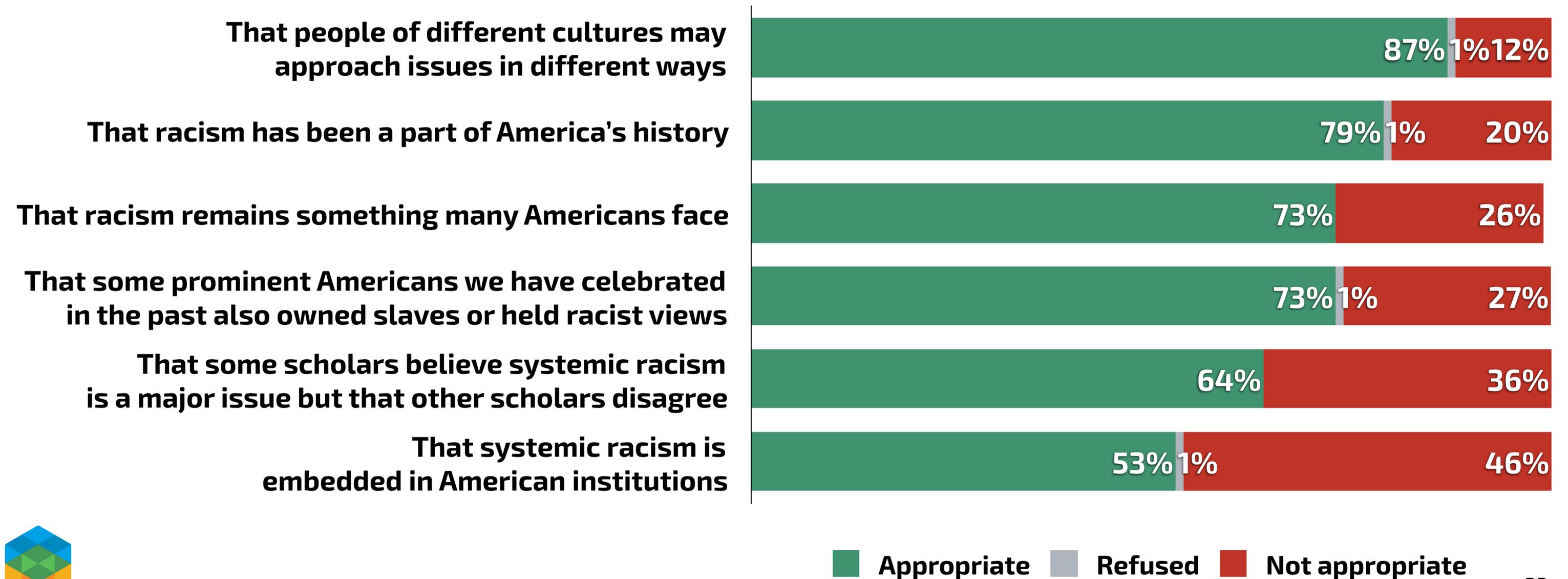
“**Children need to know what has happened in our past** and how far we have come. **I feel it will make them feel proud of our country by seeing how far we have come** not how sad it is about the past. **It also helps them to understand what other cultures and races went through back in the day** and how different our world has become.”

- *Parent of 6th Grader, Moderate Republican, White*



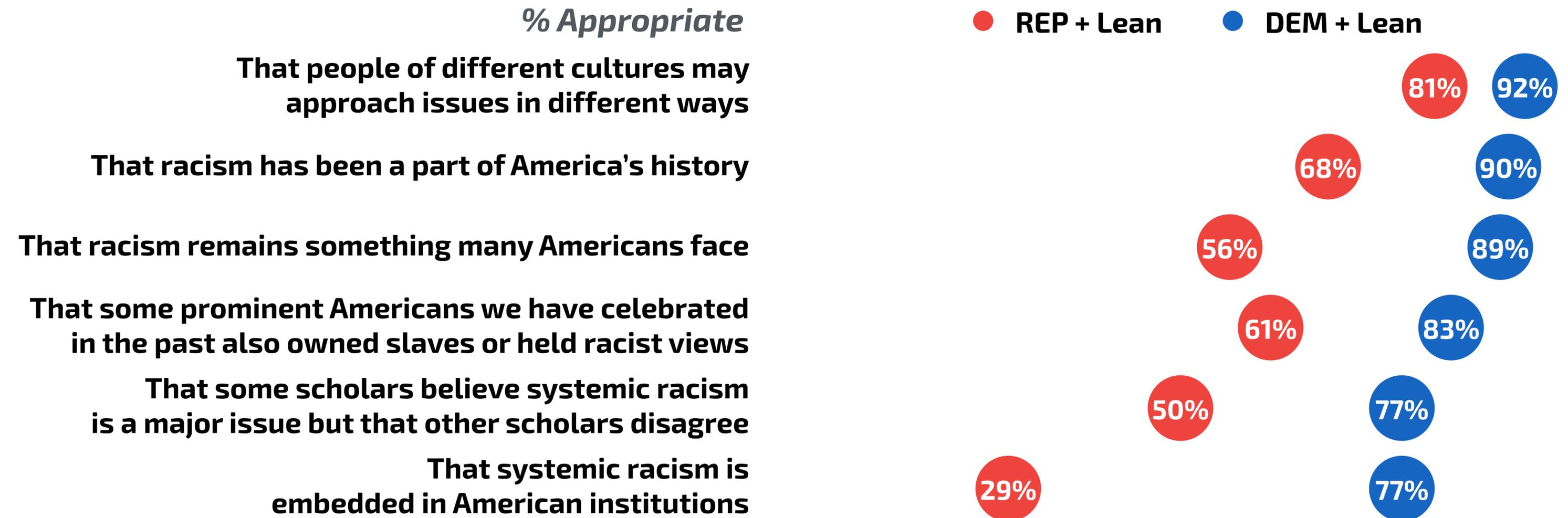
Majority Feel Most Lessons Appropriate For High Schoolers; Most Division On Teaching Systemic Racism Is Embedded In Institutions

Q. Recently, there has been a debate about how issues around race should be taught in public schools. Please indicate if you think it would be appropriate or not appropriate to teach high school students each of the following.



Partisans Closest On Teaching About Cultural Differences, History Of Racism In America, And Prominent Americans Holding Racist Views

Q. Recently, there has been a debate about how issues around race should be taught in public schools. Please indicate if you think it would be appropriate or not appropriate to teach high school students each of the following.



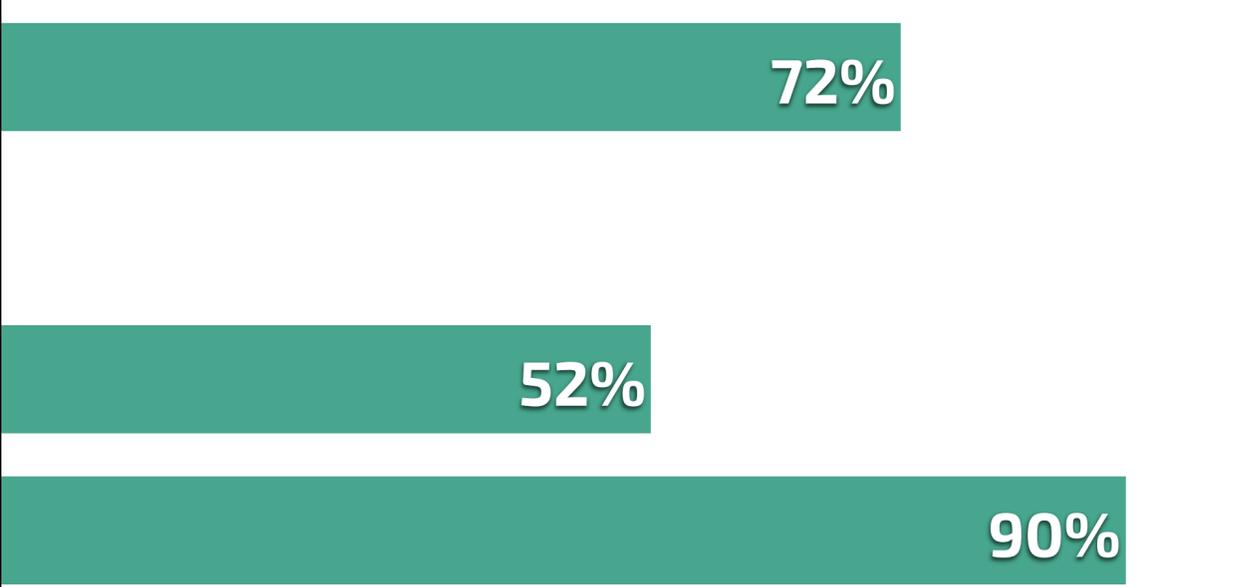
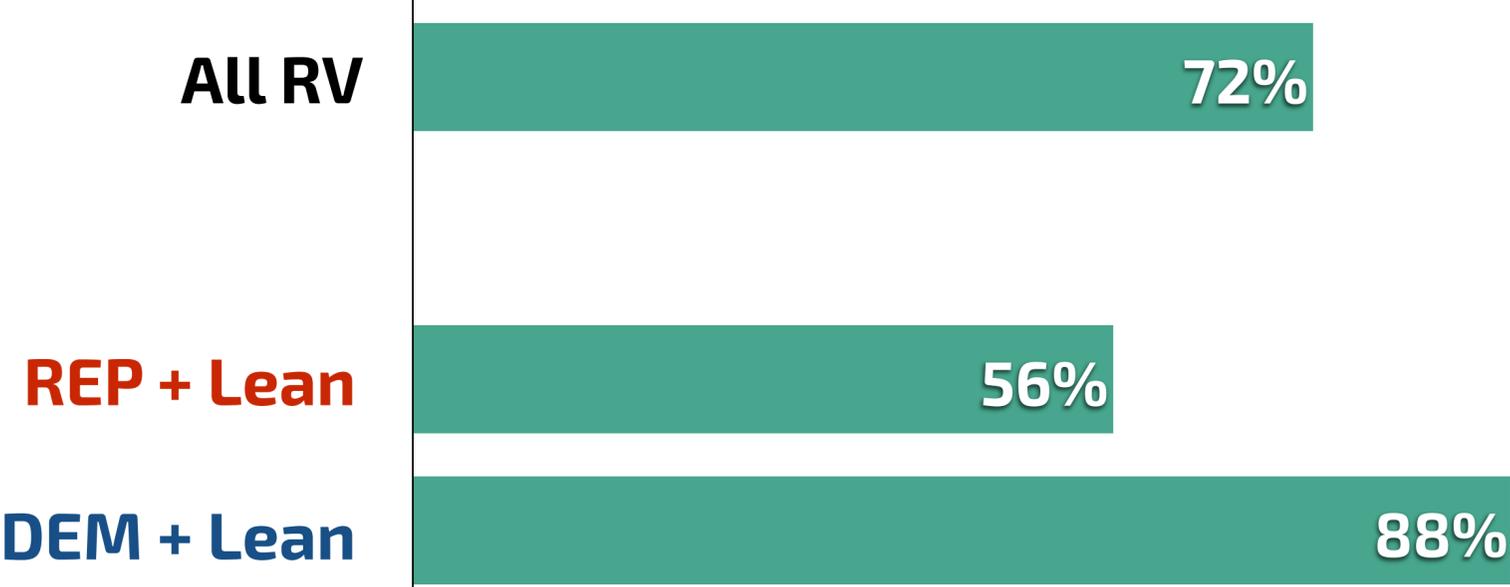
Teaching Different Theories About, Current Influence Of Racism Agreed Upon By Most; Republicans Split

Q. For each of the following, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statement.

*% Strongly/
Somewhat
AGREE*

We should teach students about different theories that exist on issues like race and the role it plays in America today.

We should teach students about the way that racism in the past still has an influence over the way things are done in America today.

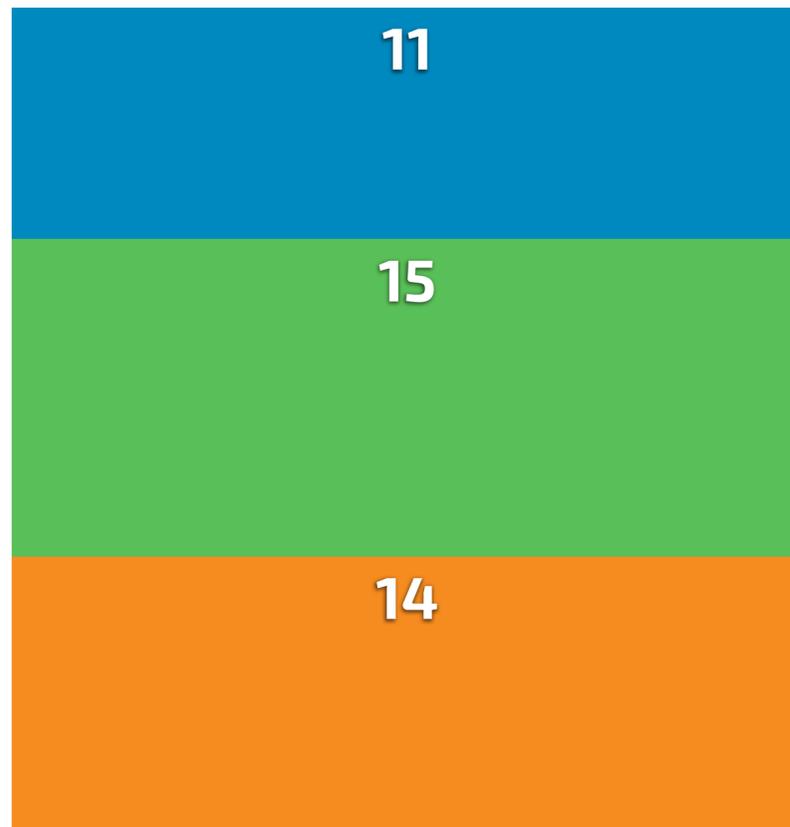


QualBoard Participants Were Divided On How Schools Should Teach About Systemic Racism; 11 (28%) Said It Shouldn't Be Taught At All

14 Schools should teach students that systemic racism – the idea that institutions in America are inherently biased against people of color – is a major problem.

15 Schools should teach students that some scholars believe systemic racism is a major problem, but other scholars disagree.

11 Schools should not teach students about the idea of systemic racism at all.



“...I do not believe most educators would accurately and responsibly present those who disagree... **it is better to not have any discussion.**” Parent of 2nd Grader, Conservative Rep

“I believe that is getting too deep. **I don't want children hating themselves or their country because of its past.**” Parent of 12th Grader, Liberal Dem

“**I think both views should be taught...** Lay it out and let people take the info with them to make up their own minds.” Parent of Kindergartener, Moderate Dem

“Teaching that all institutions are home to systemic racism, or ignoring the issue completely, **does no good for either side.**” Parent of 6th Grader, Conservative Rep

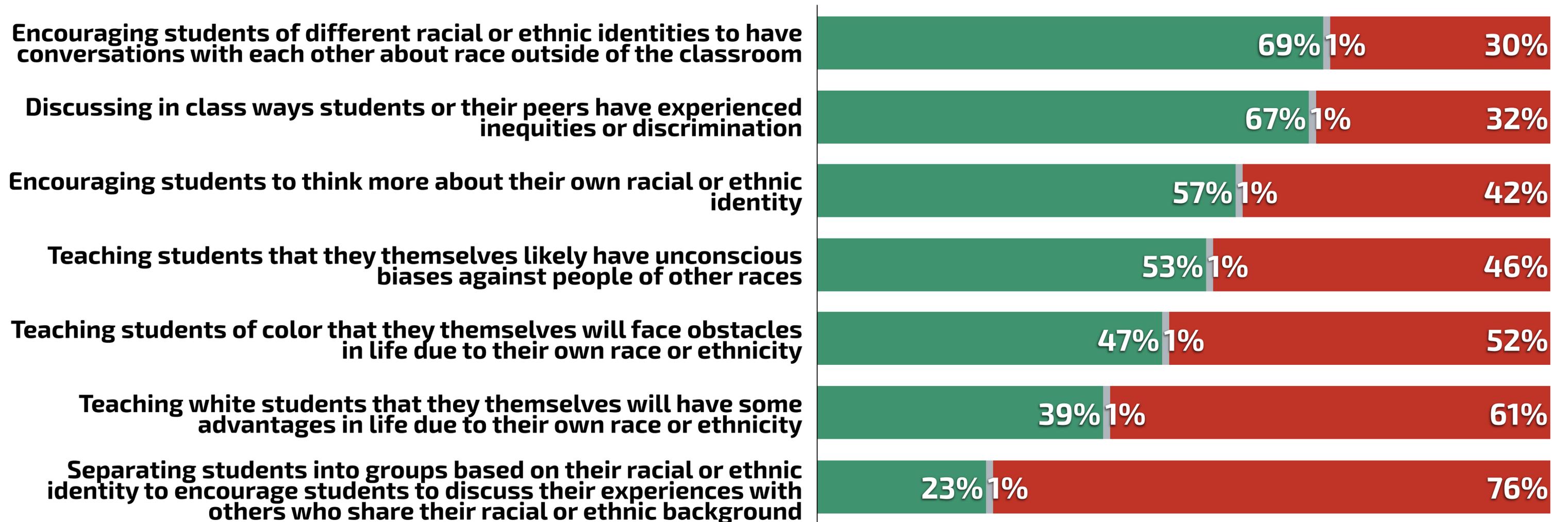
“**...racist laws were written into legislation and the Constitution...** Like I said, let's be pragmatic and teach kids the unadulterated truth...” Parent of 2nd Grader, Conservative Ind

“...the data confirms that juveniles of different races, with similar records, are sentenced disproportionately... **My opinion is my opinion but the data is a different thing.**” Parent of 7th Grader, Liberal Ind



Encouraging Diverse Conversations, Discussing Discrimination Seen As Most Helpful To Teach Students

Q. Recently, there has been a debate about new approaches to teaching in our public schools. Please indicate if you think it would be more helpful or more harmful to teach students in each of the following ways.



More helpful Refused More harmful

Few See Separating Students Based On Race As Helpful; Divided On Teaching Students They Will Have Advantages Or Face Obstacles Due To Race

Q. Recently, there has been a debate about new approaches to teaching in our public schools. Please indicate if you think it would be more helpful or more harmful to teach students in each of the following ways.

% More Helpful

● REP + Lean ● DEM + Lean

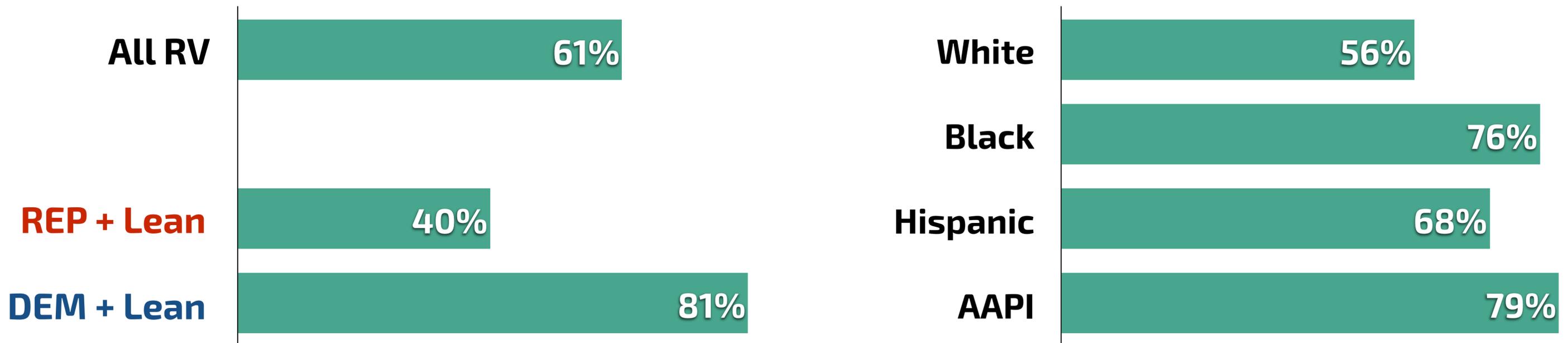


Wide Partisan Divide On Teaching Students They Likely Harbor Biases Or Engage In Behaviors That Perpetuate Racism

Q. For each of the following, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statement.

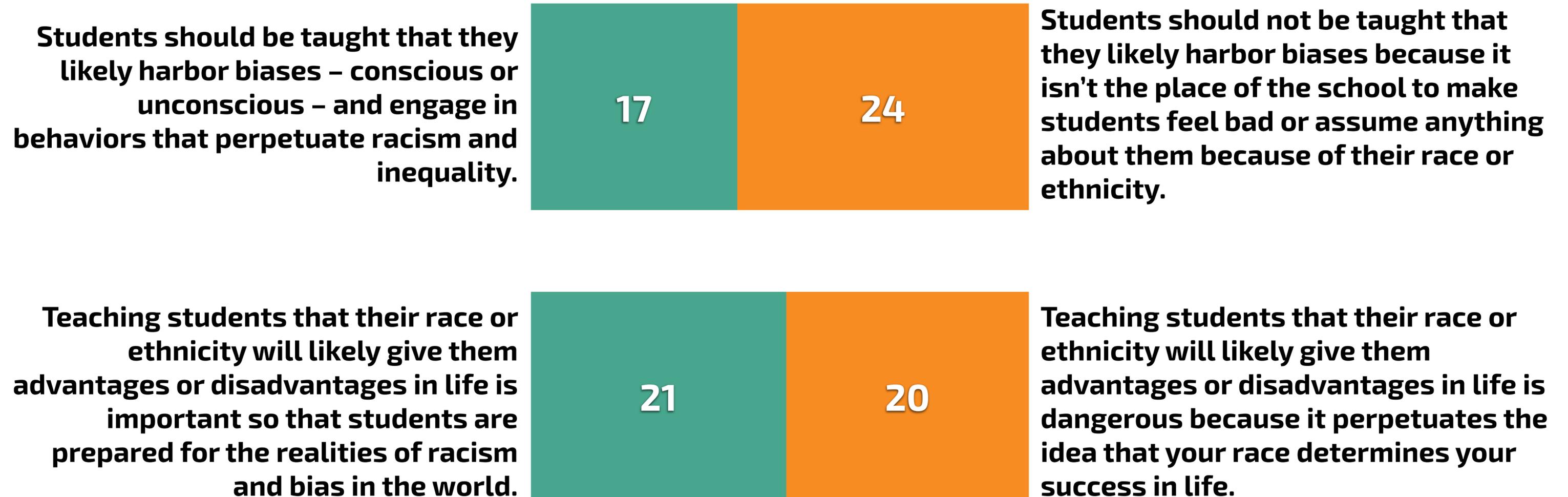
*% Strongly/
Somewhat
AGREE*

Students should be taught that they likely harbor biases – conscious or unconscious – or engage in behaviors that perpetuate racism and racial inequality.



QualBoard Participants Were Divided On Teaching Students They Harbor Biases, Have Advantages Or Disadvantages

Q. Even if neither is perfect, which of the following do you think you agree with more?



Students should be taught that they likely harbor biases – conscious or unconscious – and engage in behaviors that perpetuate racism and inequality.

“Everyone harbors bias and racism unconscious or not and student should understand this and learn to work on it to change it. We are not born racist our family, our lifestyle, community and our experiences shape these things and they can be unlearned.” - **Parent of 5th Grader, Dem, White**

“They need to know and the younger they find these things out the better life will be. Meaning they won't be any surprises on how people react to racism.” - **Parent of 2nd Grader, Liberal Dem, Black**

“It is a good way to start over coming biases we teach our kids. We were instilled with these biases and cycle should be broken.” - **Parent of 6th Grader, Liberal Dem, Hispanic**

Students should not be taught that they likely harbor biases because it isn't the place of the school to make students feel bad or assume anything about them because of their race or ethnicity.

“I don't believe that students are likely to harbor biases. I find this statement to be untrue and by teaching this you're putting it in the children's heads and creating it.” - **Parent of 9th Grader, Moderate Rep, White**

“Let's say in this instance we're still talking about elementary school children, do you honestly believe little kids harbor biases? I don't. Maybe if we were talking about Middle School or High School kids, but at elementary level? No.” - **Parent of Kindergartener, Moderate Dem, White**

“We shouldn't teach students what they think is bad, but rather teach them how to have unbiased thoughts and how to love and respect everyone for who they are. Making students feel they are bad or wrong for a potential thought or feeling only perpetuates the race issue.” - **Parent of 6th grader, Conservative Rep, White**



Teaching students that their race or ethnicity will likely give them advantages or disadvantages in life is important so that students are prepared for the realities of racism and bias in the world.

“We should treat students how the world is so that they can change it. Let them understand because of racism over the years there are real advantages and disadvantages.” - **Parent of 5th Grader, Dem, White**

“It is important to let them know that their race or ethnicity will give them advantages or disadvantages, so that when they get into the real world and witness nepotism, cronyism and other types of ism's they will be prepared and understand that it's nothing they did wrong that it's just the system that we live in.” - **Parent of 11th Grader, Moderate Ind, Black**

“Speaking from experience, people tend to be friends or hire people who look like them. Acknowledging or highlighting those realities could hopefully bring about change in society.” - **Parent of 7th Grader, Moderate Ind, Black**

Teaching students that their race or ethnicity will likely give them advantages or disadvantages in life is dangerous because it perpetuates the idea that your race determines your success in life.

“This takes away from the “all are equal” we are trying to teach our children.” - **Parent of 8th Grader, Conservative Ind, Hispanic/Latino**

“How does telling a child they are at a disadvantage in life and will likely not achieve as much because of the color of their skin help? . . . In my opinion, telling a child this makes that person a racist.” - **Parent of 2nd Grader, Conservative Rep, White**

“Each individual can set their future on a course for their best possible outcome. To rely on a teaching of advantages and disadvantages based on race or ethnicity is just feeding into hate.” - **Parent of 8th Grader, Liberal Dem, Hispanic/Latino**

“I believe that is something that a parent should teach, not an educator.” - **Parent of 7th Grader, Moderate Ind, Black**



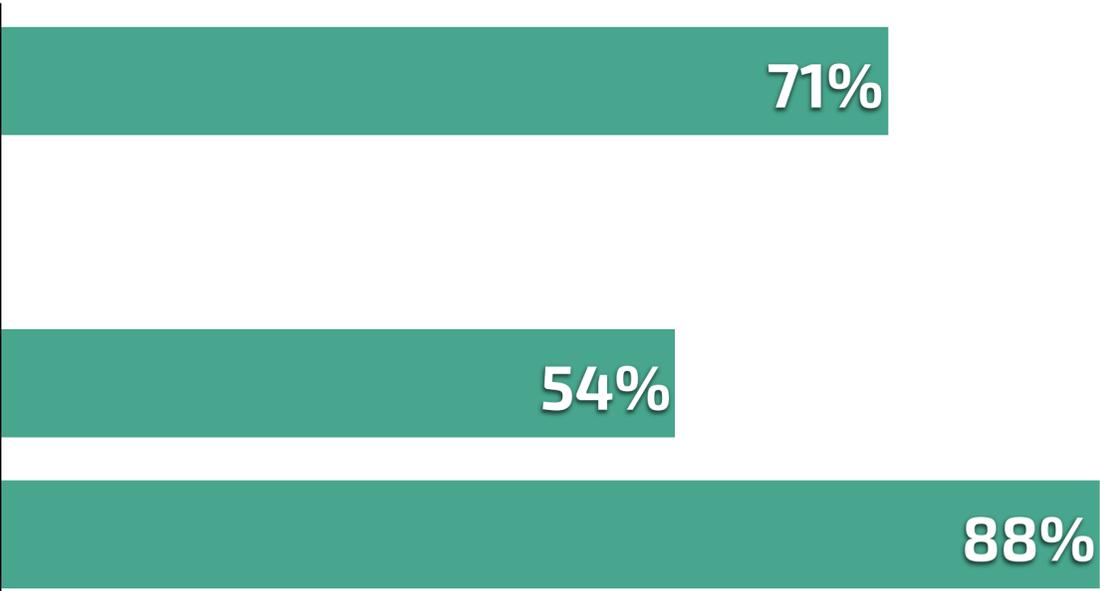
Majority Agree With Promoting Student-Led And Teacher-Encouraged Discussions About Inequality And Racism

Q. For each of the following, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statement.

*% Strongly/
Somewhat
AGREE*

Students should be encouraged to discuss in class their personal experiences dealing with inequality or racism.

Teachers should encourage students to consider ways their peers may have experienced inequality or racism.



Most Parents In QualBoards Positive About Schools Creating Environment Where Students Can Share Different Personal Experiences

Q. Some schools are trying to create an environment where students can talk to students of other races about personal experiences they may have had, whether that is experiences with racism personally or questions they have about how to be supportive of someone who is experiencing racism. What kinds of conversations, if any, should schools be encouraging students to have with one another about race?

Sharing Personal Experiences

"If students are willing to share personal experiences, it should be encouraged. It can be therapeutic for person telling experience and learning experience for person listening." - **Parent of 6th Grader, Liberal Dem, Hispanic/Latino**

"This is perfect! I would honestly support students sharing over teachers teaching a lesson." - **Parent of 10th Grader, Moderate Rep, White**

Different For Younger Kids

"I think the conversations should depend on grade level. I think it's going to be more difficult for the younger children to understand completely but I think it should be taught that there are different races and that we should be kind and inclusive of everyone." - **Parent of 2nd Grader, Dem, White**

Some Hesitant About Pushing Too Much

"The conversations should be organic not feel forced." - **Parent of 7th grader, Moderate Ind, Black**

"I think that schools should not dwell on making it an issue. Teach them all to get along, and be color blind." - **Parent of 8th Grader, Conservative Rep, White**



Most In QualBoards Supportive Of Facilitating Conversations...

Q. There are different ways issues around race can be taught to students. For a moment, consider students in a high school setting. In some cases, teachers are asked to give lessons and instruction to students about topics, telling them information about an issue. In other cases, teachers are asked to facilitate conversations by providing some information and then encouraging conversations and letting students come to their own conclusions. What do you think is the best way to approach teaching about an issue like race?

“The best way to approach teaching about an issue like race is to have the teacher start the conversation and see where the students will lead the conversation.” - **Parent of 3rd Grader, Moderate Ind, Black**

“Absolutely teachers facilitating conversations is way better! I love the idea of reading books to be the starting point. Also, if there is a current event within the school, community, or other area it would also be a natural discussion.” - **Parent of 10th Grader, Moderate Rep, White**

“Facilitating conversations while providing information I think is a good approach. Students will come to conclusions and get to have open conversations about how issues affect them and society around them.”
- **Parent of 6th Grader, Liberal Dem, Hispanic/Latino**

“I think that the more open the atmosphere is the better there will be understanding for each student. These conversations will make kids comfortable about discussing how they are feeling with certain topics.”
- **Parent of 6th Grader, Moderate Rep, Native American**

“I think both are important. To first present the information of all sides/parties/views and then to open a conversation about what was presented to them, together.” - **Parent of 3rd Grader, Liberal Dem, White**



... But A Few Worried About How Conversations Would Be Handled, Or Leaned Toward Just Teaching Factual Information

Q. There are different ways issues around race can be taught to students. For a moment, consider students in a high school setting. In some cases, teachers are asked to give lessons and instruction to students about topics, telling them information about an issue. In other cases, teachers are asked to facilitate conversations by providing some information and then encouraging conversations and letting students come to their own conclusions. What do you think is the best way to approach teaching about an issue like race?

Conversation Might Not Be Respectful, Truly Open

“Unfortunately parents often lead their kids into their own biases. Having an open discussion between students about sensitive topics can be good if there is proper moderation but a skilled facilitator and certain rules of respect are mandated prior to the discussion.” - **Parent of 8th Grader, Liberal Dem, Hispanic**

“An honest and open conversation cannot be had in most schools/classrooms. I would not advise my child to speak up because of fear he will immediately be branded with some label that is derogatory and hateful.” - **Parent of 2nd Grader, Conservative Rep, White**

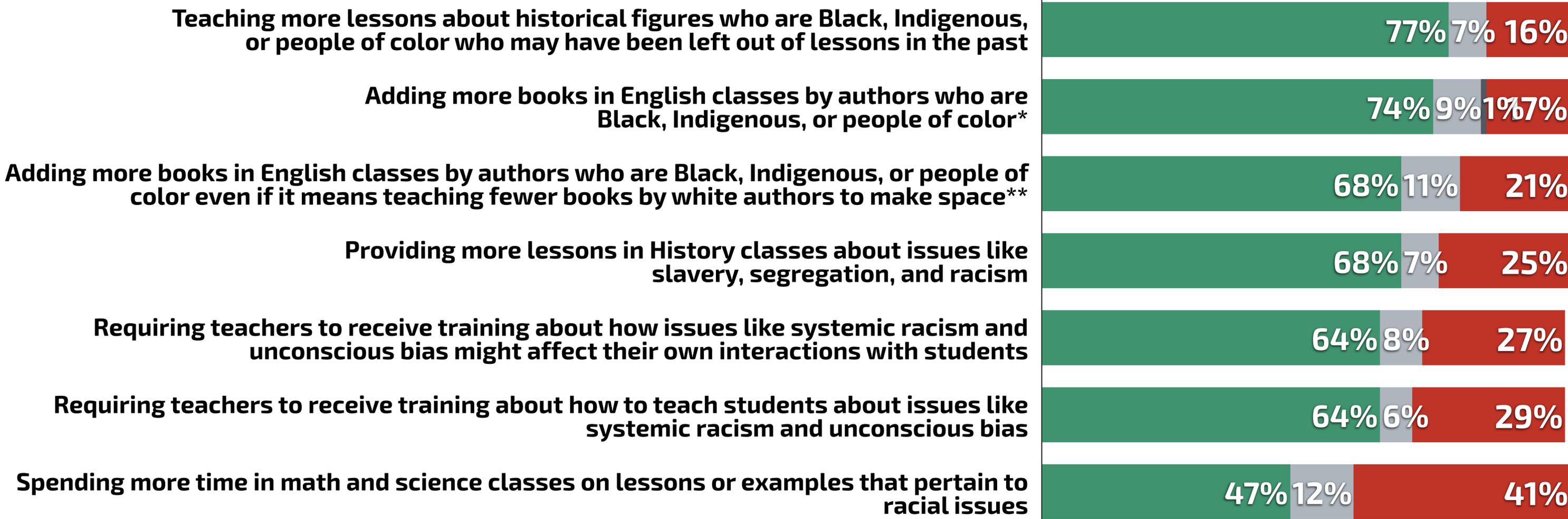
Should Just Teach Facts

“I think the best way for schools to teach is by giving lessons & instructions to students about the topic & telling them the correct information & information with only FACTS about the race issue.” - **Parent of 7th Grader, Moderate Ind, Black**



Voters Support Most Proposed Curriculum Changes; Opposition Strongest On Spending More Time On Racial Issues In STEM Classes

Q. Some changes have been proposed in K-12 public schools across the country. For each, please indicate if you would support or oppose each of these changes.

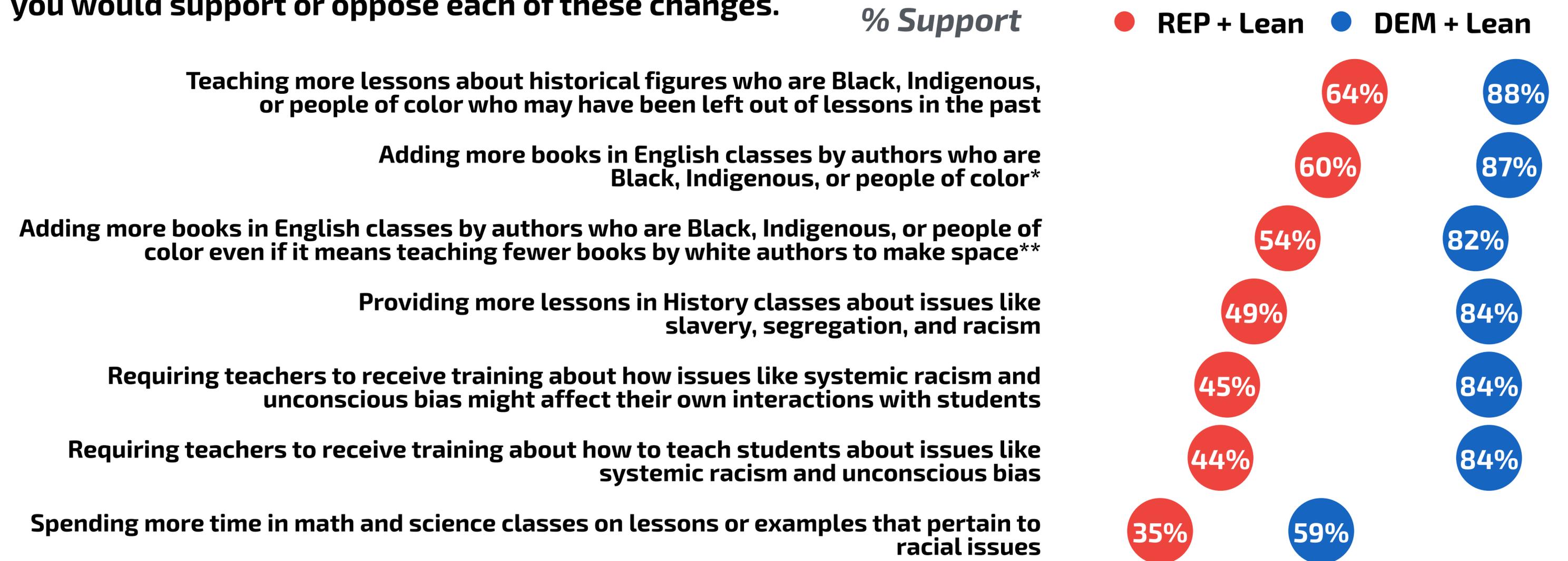


Strongly / somewhat support Unsure Refused Strongly / somewhat oppose

Note: *Split sample A (n=1221) **Split sample B (n=1285)

Bipartisan Support For More Lessons About Diverse Historical Figures And Including More Books By People Of Color

Q. Some changes have been proposed in K-12 public schools across the country. For each, please indicate if you would support or oppose each of these changes.



Note: *Split sample A **Split sample B

Multiple Parents Felt Exposing Students To Books By Diverse Authors Would Make Them More “Well-Rounded”

A Few Pushed Back Saying Authors' Racial Background Shouldn't Matter

“I do think that students should be exposed to books written by all different authors. I don't think it should just be one racial background. It should be all backgrounds so they can read from all different perspectives. It makes for a more well-rounded person.” - **Parent of 2nd Grader, Democrat, White**

“I would absolutely be fine with my children reading books from diversified authors, genres, and backgrounds. This would only make them more well-rounded individuals!”
- **Parent of 6th Grader, Conservative Republican, White**

“Students should be exposed to authors who don't look or think like them. It's how we become more well-rounded.” - **Parent of 7th grader, Moderate Independent, Black**

“I don't understand why we need to push one race over the other. Why can't the children just read good books without regard to the color of the authors skin? It doesn't and shouldn't matter.”
- **Parent of 2nd Grader, Conservative Republican, White**



Parents In QualBoards Were Also Broadly Supportive Of Teaching About A Diverse Array Of Historical Figures

“I agree there should be a more diverse array of historical figures whenever it is relevant. I agree this will give the students a more complete view. It should be easy to weave in these figures alongside the traditional white male narrative.” - **Parent of 1st Grader, Liberal Democrat, Asian**

“I think this is a great idea and I have no problem with highlighting minorities who made a difference in the past! I think they should balance it out and make sure diversity is included.”
- **Parent of 3rd Grader, Conservative Republican, Hispanic/Latino**

“I think schools should focus on everyone who made this nation great. People of every color. People of both genders. I don't think it should be restricted to the white male as it has always been.”
- **Parent of 6th Grader, Moderate Democrat, Black**

“I definitely agree that we should put more focus on a myriad of figures. It not only can help students respect other cultures and races, but allows them to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions. That said, American history does have a lot to do with white men, and we shouldn't quiet their stories either.”
- **Parent of 6th Grader, Conservative Republican, White**



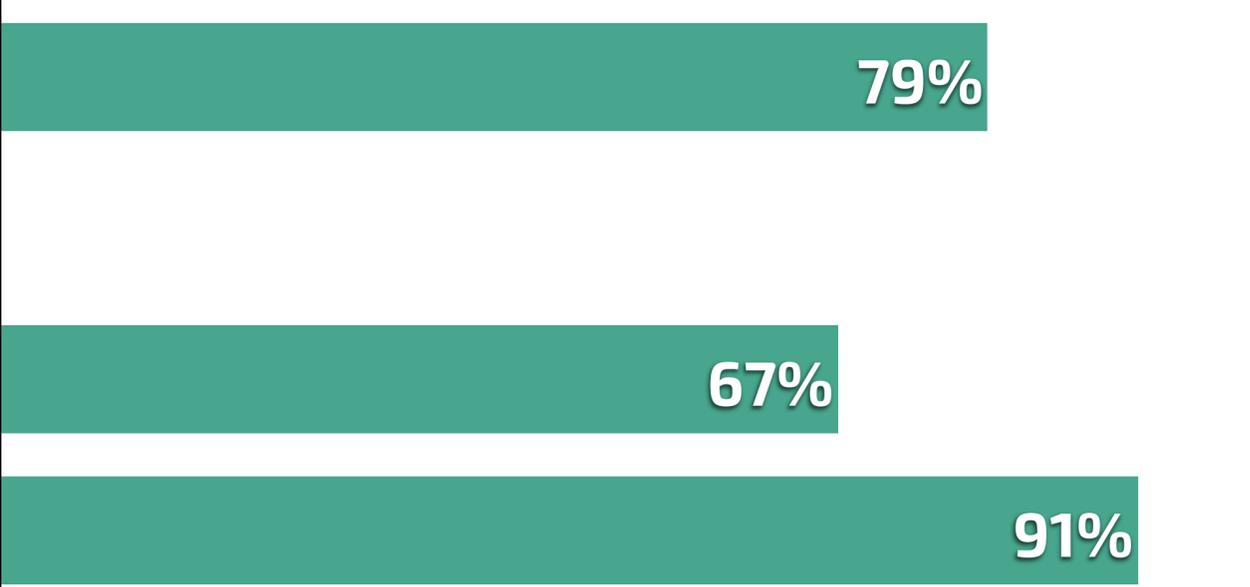
Strong Bipartisan Agreement On Inclusive Learning Experiences; Majority Agree Diversity Between Students Should Be Celebrated

Q. For each of the following, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statement.

*% Strongly/
Somewhat
AGREE*

Schools should provide inclusive learning experiences where each student feels seen, heard, and valued as part of a community.

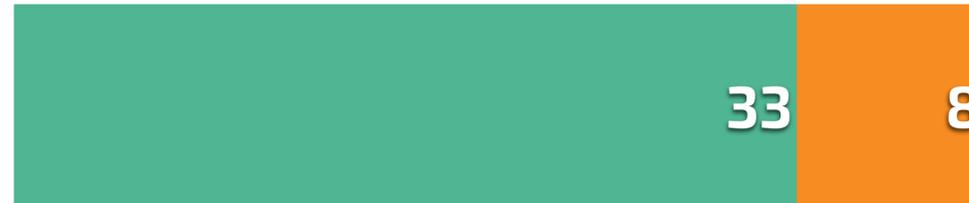
It is good for students if schools celebrate racial diversity and the cultural differences between students.



Most In QualBoards Agreed Differences Should Be Celebrated

Q. Even if neither is perfect, which of the following do you think you agree with more?

Acknowledging racial and cultural differences **is important** because not all students are the same and we should celebrate and discuss those differences.



Acknowledging racial and cultural differences just **divides students** and makes them see each other's differences rather than what unites them.

"America is one big cultural melting pot, **diversity and different cultures make us who we are**. Kids need to understand it's ok to be of different cultures." - **Parent of Kindergartener, Moderate Ind, Hispanic/Latino**

"**Racial and cultural differences are what make us all unique and special**. These should be discussed and celebrated, but not in a way that makes another group feel wrong or bad." - **Parent of 6th Grader, Conservative Rep, White**

"Yes we should teach children about all races so they can **respect** all races. **This will not divide them this will make them come closer**." - **Parent of 7th Grader, Moderate Ind, Black**

"I feel focusing on racial differences are pointing the difference out. **It separates the children by race and cultural differences instead of celebrating what they all have in common**. They should be uniting the kids not singling them out." - **Parent of 9th Grader, Moderate Rep, White**



In QualBoards, respondents were presented with this statement and asked to react...

"We should teach our children that there is much to be proud of when it comes to America, and at the same time we should ensure we are giving our children a complete picture of our complicated country, including the things past and present that we have not gotten right.

We should not ignore the issue of race, but should also celebrate the way that diverse backgrounds and experiences make our country and communities even better.

By facilitating open and honest conversations between students of different races and backgrounds, we can help students become more curious about and understanding of one another.

In a moment where racial tensions may be rising, it is important to make sure our teachers and schools have the resources to navigate these issues effectively.

By both celebrating the good and confronting the bad things that happen in our country around race, we can help the next generation be part of the great 'work in progress' that is America."



...every participant agreed with the statement.

"I agree with the statement because **it's important to teach them that America isn't defined by its past. That they hold the key to its future** and they can change the things that we haven't been able to by learning about and understanding each other and giving everyone the respect they deserve."

- *Parent of 3rd Grader, Liberal Democrat, White*

"In our household, **honesty is paramount**. . . .This is especially important on issues of race in America. **Our history is complex. It is filled with atrocious history and it is filled with human greatness and everything in between. Give info on both sides.**"

- *Parent of Kindergartener Moderate Independent, Hispanic/Latino*

"Intellectually I agree with what is said. However, I am repeatedly seeing instances where that is the "open" position but the reality of the teaching is much different. There are many documented instances where the teaching is much more divisive . . . **An honest look at the past is important. However, I am seeing teaching that labels an entire culture as being racist.**"

- *Parent of 2nd Grader, Conservative Republican, White*



Methodology: Survey Research

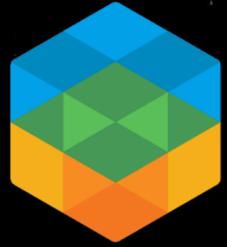
- We conducted an online survey of 2,004 registered voters nationwide with an additional oversample of 502 registered voters who are parents of children in grades kindergarten through 12th grade from September 14-21, 2021.
- The sample was sourced from Dynata's general population web panel, and respondents were screened based on self-reported voter registration status. Minimum quotas were set for groups that would otherwise likely be underrepresented, including voters under age 30, Black voters, Hispanic voters, and non-college voters. The sample was weighted to reflect population benchmarks for registered voters in the United States, including gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, region, and 2020 presidential election vote. Benchmarks were based on the U.S. Census Bureau's November 2020 Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement, voter file data, and 2020 presidential election results.
- The margin of sampling error for the survey, adjusted to incorporate the effect of weighting, is +/- 2.6 percentage points.



Methodology: QualBoard Research

- We conducted two QualBoards of parents of K-12 public school students across the country from October 12–15, 2021. QualBoards are a form of qualitative research through moderated online discussion boards. Participants are required to respond to questions before they can see other participants' responses.
- Board 1: 24 Parents of public school students in grades K-5
- Board 2: 21 Parents of public school students in grades 6-12
- Combined composition:
 - 11 Liberal, 20 Moderate, 12 Conservative, 2 Unsure
 - 18 Democrat, 14 Independent, 11 Republican, 2 Unsure
 - 20 White, 11 Black or African American, 10 Hispanic or Latino, 2 Asian, 1 Native American, 1 Mixed Race





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