

**Board of Education /
Catholic School
Community Councils
(CSCC) Winter Linkage
Meeting**

**Wednesday,
February 24, 2021**



**Regina
Catholic Schools**

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AGENDA

Superintendent of Education Services - Dave Magnusson

- Welcome and Opening Prayer
- Introduction of Trustees

Board Chair - Vicky Bonnell

- Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD) Board of Trustees Update

Director of Education - Domenic Scuglia

- RCSD Update

Superintendent of Education Services – Dave Magnusson

- The Catholic School Community Councils (CSCC) successes and challenges
- Results from the level 4 remote learning surveys

CSCC Successes and Challenges

CSCC Successes

1. We are able to keep meeting via Microsoft Teams.
2. We are finding some virtual ways to connect with the community (ex. trivia night).
3. We filled all pertinent open positions on the CSCC.
4. Our successes at St. Luke School include reaching at-risk families during the Christmas break to provide a Christmas dinner. While we usually celebrate together as a community, we had to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19, so this year, we sent meals home to those who identified a need.
5. I would like to acknowledge the entire staff at St. Luke School for providing seamless online learning opportunities and working hard to ensure every student can participate in a meaningful way. Connectivity was a challenge for many families who either lacked the equipment or connection, but the staff made sure no student was left behind. We truly have an amazing staff at St. Luke School.



CSCC Successes and Challenges

CSCC Successes (Cont'd)

6. We have had a good response to our CSCC fees this year. This has allowed the CSCC to address some needs at the school.
7. Our CSCC was able to support the Teacher Funding Requests, as we do every year, by purchasing some additional fitness equipment for the school's PIT area and providing funding to the science and PAA areas and the Chapel.
8. Our CSCC recognized this is a very challenging year for staff, so the CSCC directed additional funds to show staff appreciation. Staff were all given a Christmas gift, care of the Administration and CSCC. Staff members were also treated to a delicious hot lunch during Staff Appreciation Week, which was very well received.



CSCC Successes and Challenges

CSCC Challenges

1. Our challenges at St. Luke School are unique in that it is a transient school with students coming and going as needed. Therefore, we do not have the opportunities that other schools have to form a functioning CSCC or fundraise as other schools do. However, we have managed to successfully reach out to the business community for the last few years to help provide funding/donations so that students can enjoy specials treats and help celebrate our staff during teacher appreciation week. We were also fortunate to have other schools help provide tokens of appreciation for the staff.
2. As we move forward, we will need to focus on student mental health moving through the pandemic.
3. Fundraising opportunities will continue to be a challenge, and we are working hard to find ways to meet students' needs and provide the same opportunities as other students have.



CSCC Successes and Challenges

CSCC Challenges (Cont'd)

4. The CSCC feels more disconnected from school as we cannot have traditional special lunches, the teacher appreciation potluck, and community events.
5. Recruiting new members has been a challenge as people stay within their bubbles, so our CSCC mainly consists of parents from the last two years.
6. Recruitment has been a challenge as we always conduct CSCC promotions at events such as Grade 9 Welcome Breakfast, face-to-face parent/student/teacher conferences or Grade 8 transition nights.
7. Since there are no extra-curricular activities, we miss the connections with our student representatives – they have nothing to share, so they are not attending our meetings.



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Regina Catholic School Division
High School Student Survey

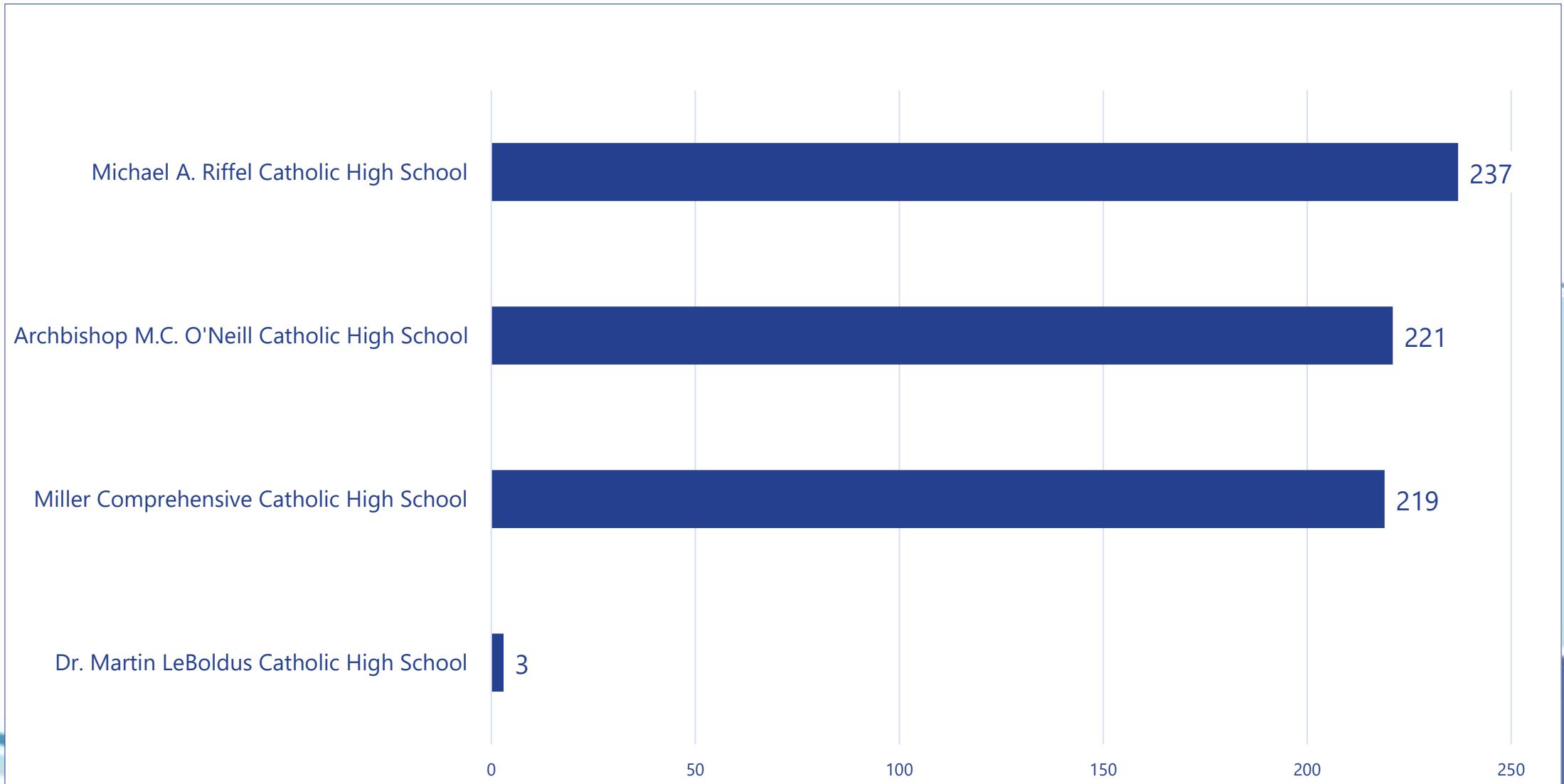
Temporary Move to Level Four

January/February 2021

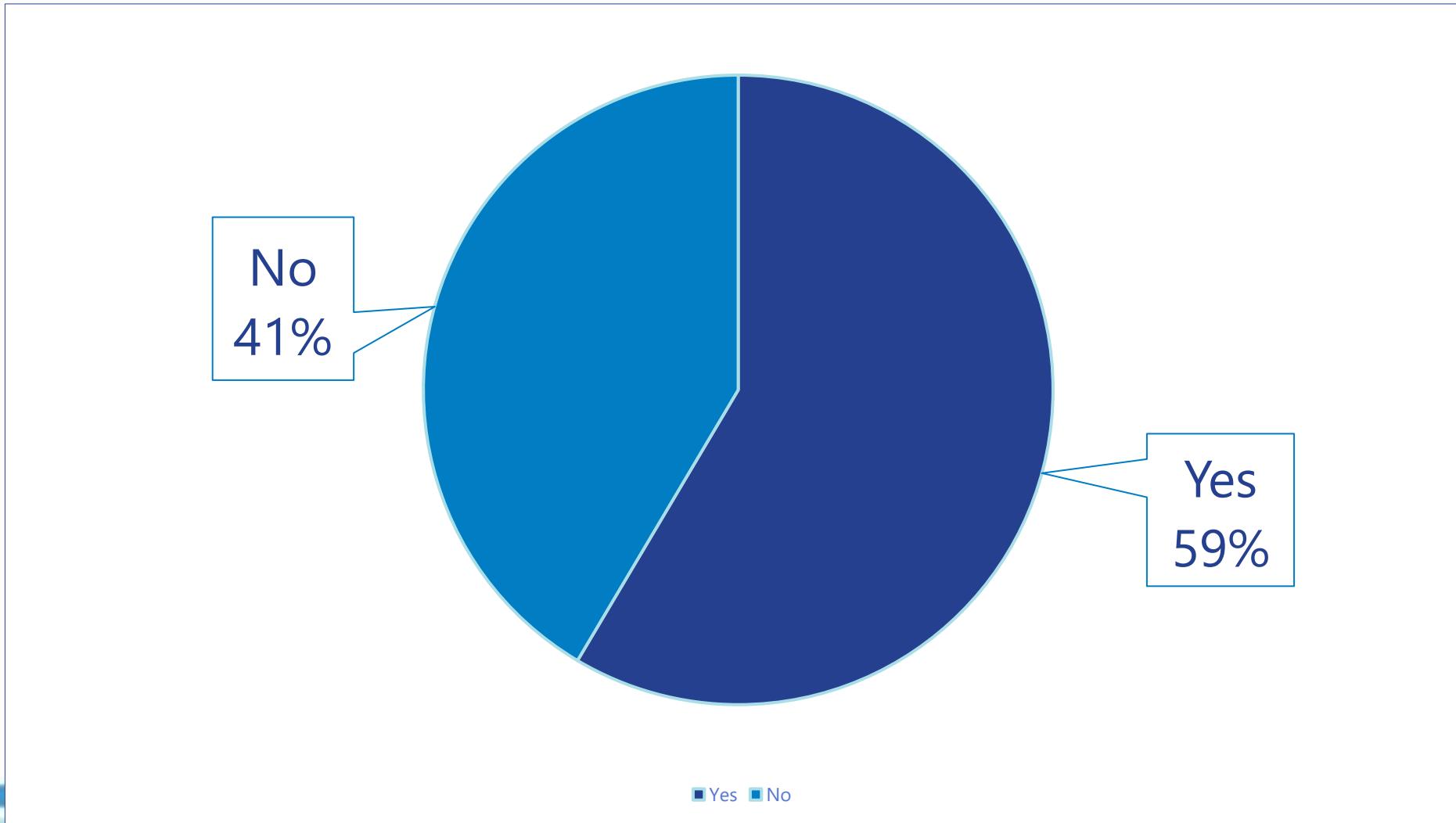
Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD) Level Four Remote Learning – High School Student Survey

- February 4-12, 2021
- 680 responses from about 2761 high school students
- 237 comments
- Approximately a 25 per cent response rate

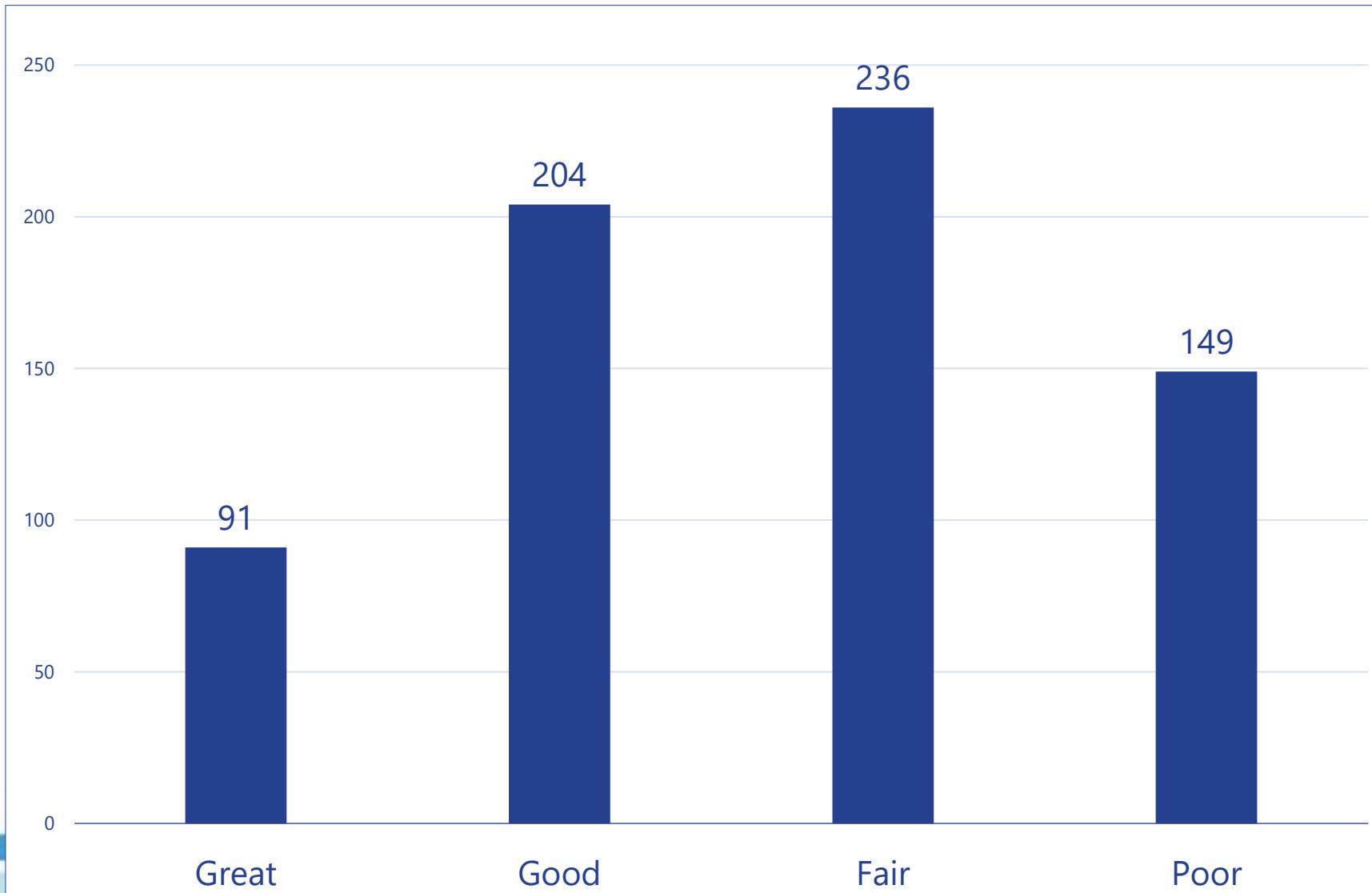
Q1. What School Do You Attend?



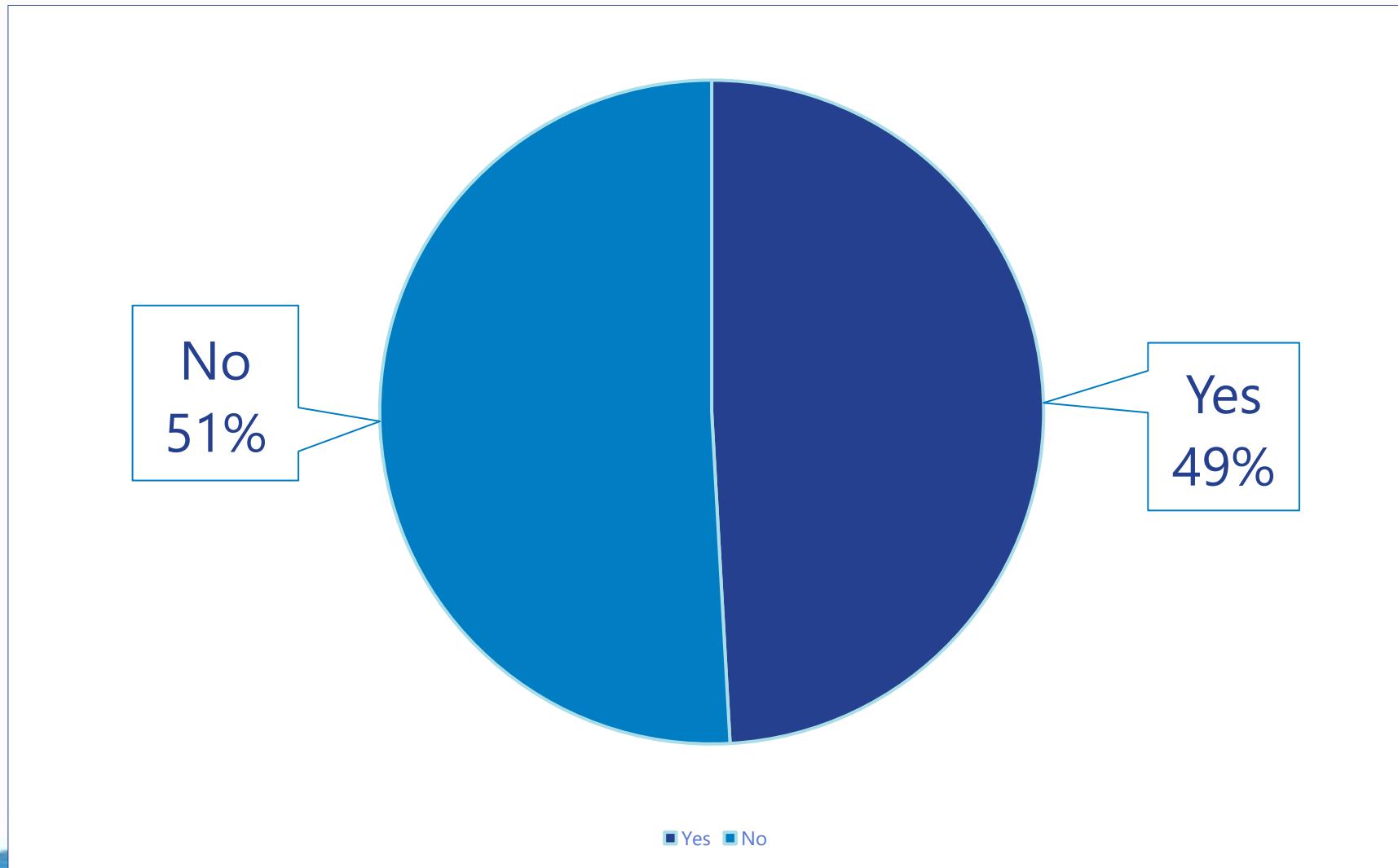
Q2. Do You Feel You Had Enough Notice to Prepare to Move to Level Four (Remote) Learning?



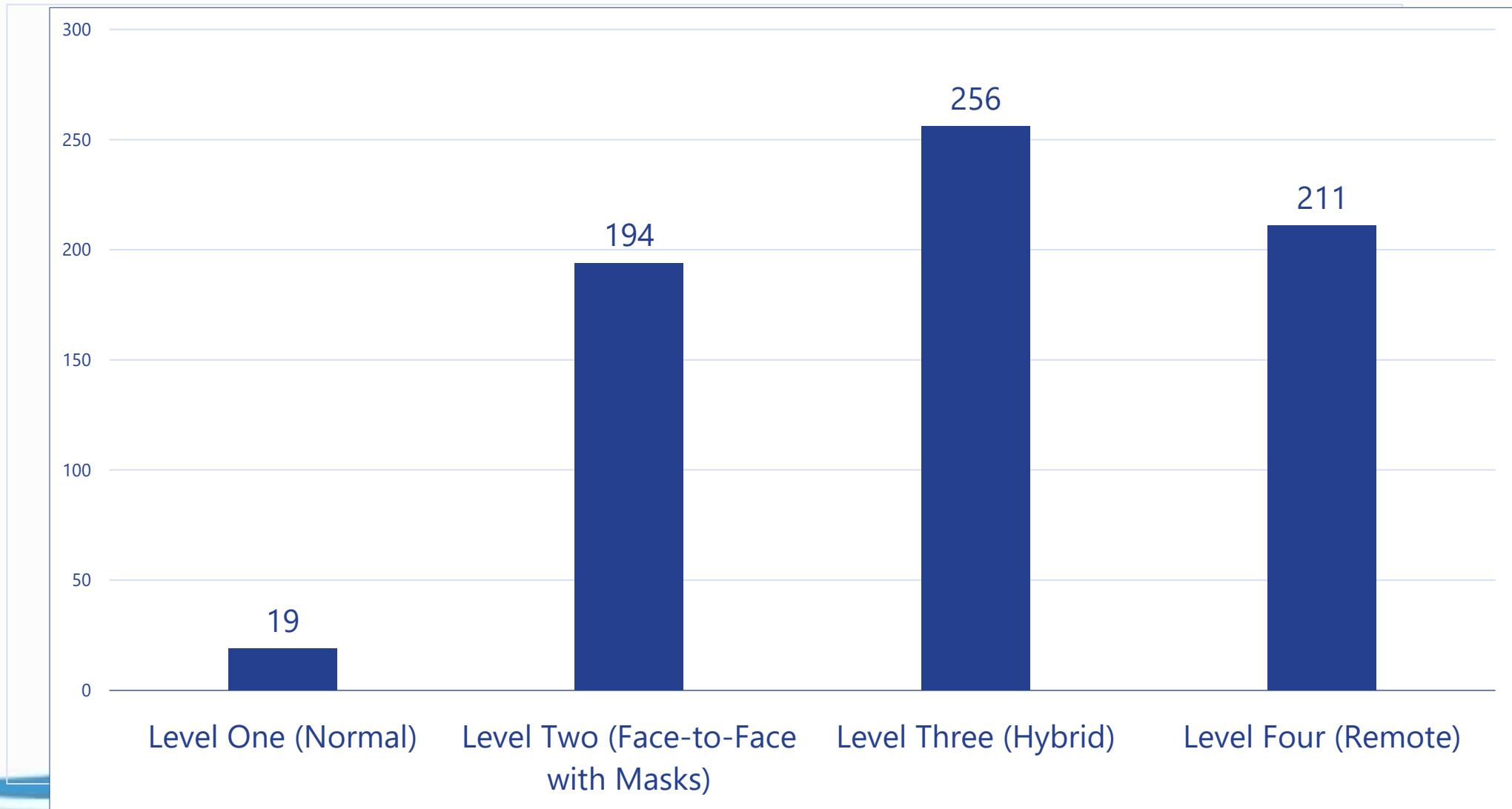
Q3. How Was Your Experience with Level Four (Remote) Learning Instruction?



Q4. Would You Support a Return to Level Four (Remote) Learning in the Future?



Q5. With the Current COVID-19 Situation, at Which Level Do You Think RCSD Should Be?



Student Comments

- Teachers are doing an amazing job of keeping our school clean and organized.
- The remote learning system was really well executed and provided a fair and easy-to-use system for the students to use. If MS Teams was fully supported in all classes, the system would be even better.
- I think RCSD is doing a good job with this Covid-19 situation.
- Thank you so much for all the hard and stressful work you have put into making our education happen.
- Thank you for trying your hardest to adapt to the situation. Your struggles are going unnoticed, and I wanted to let all teachers know that they are doing amazing, even though it may feel like a time to give up.

Student Comments (Cont'd)

- The workload is heavier when students are at home.
- I feel it is very difficult to learn material with minimal interaction with teachers, I understand that we can reach them via email and online meetings but it is not the same.
- We can have hybrid learning but I need instruction.
- I have dyslexia and I need more time to finish my work.
- I do not want to go back to remote learning, it is hard to manage time between each class.
- All of the assignments were too much. Then I had to remember all that I learned from the beginning for finals. It was a lot of pressure.

Student Comments (Cont'd)

- Remote learning takes away any chance of students getting to experience the social aspect of school (which is already being minimized, and for good reason). Going to school, for some students, may be the only excuse for them to leave their homes. Not being able to do so can have tremendous effects on an individual's mental health. Students are all on board with all of the protocols in place to help everyone stay safe when we are at school, so please advocate for us so we are able to stay at school.
- I think remote learning is hard on the students' motivation wise. You're expected to put in the same amount of work as before but in a completely new environment.

Student Comments (Cont'd)

- I have to watch my siblings and help with their schoolwork when we did remote learning since my parents had to work, which interferes with my schooling...it's hard.
- I find it incredibly hard to communicate with teachers from home. It's very difficult to articulate questions, and gain the courage in some cases to ask questions, and send them via email, remind, or teams. I also feel that I don't want to burden them with arranging a Skype meeting.
- We aren't getting enough time to digest and sift around the information in our heads to, completely understand it all.



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Regina Catholic School Division
Parent/Guardian Survey

Temporary Move to Level Four

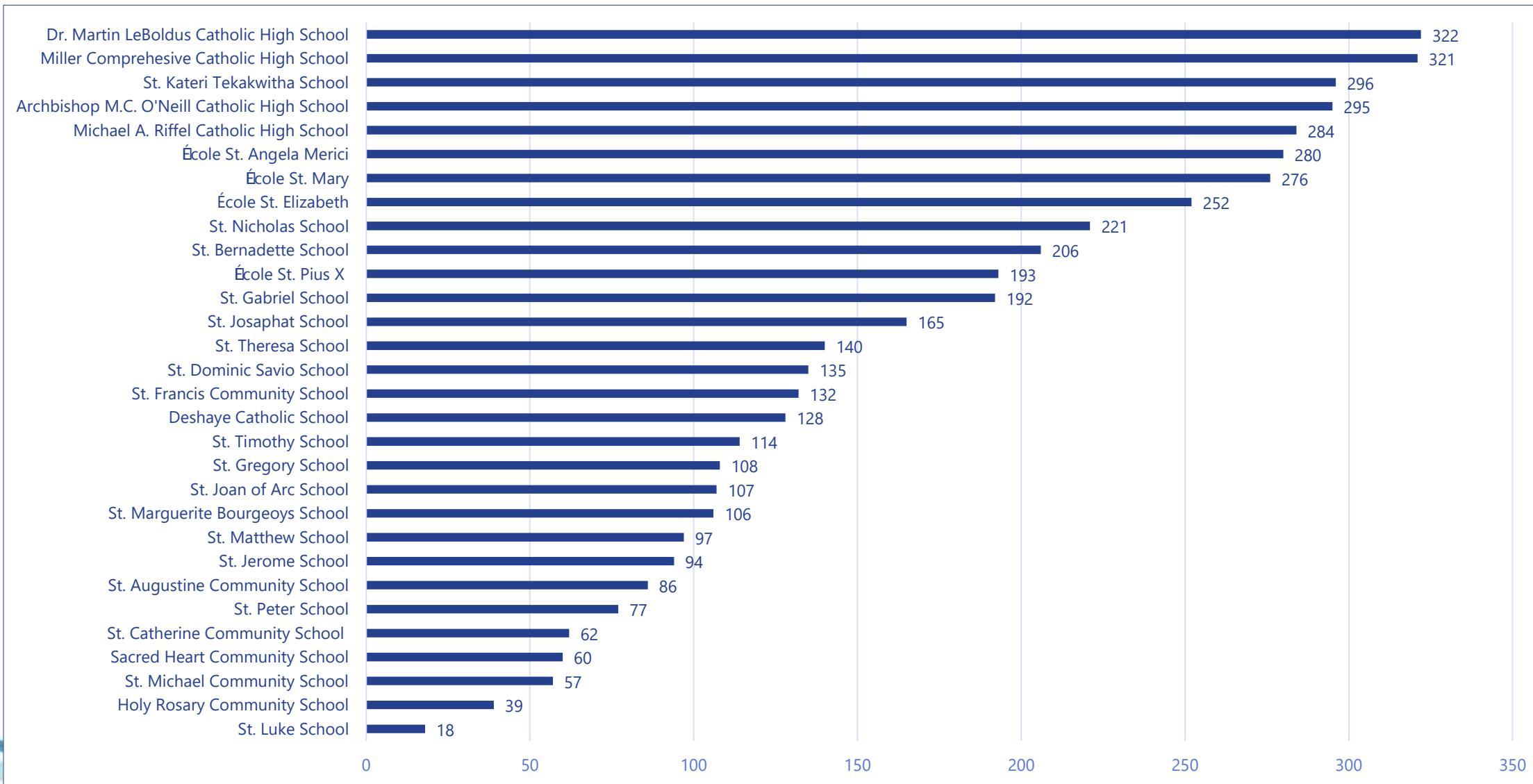
January/February 2021

Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD) Level Four Remote Learning – Parent/Guardian Survey

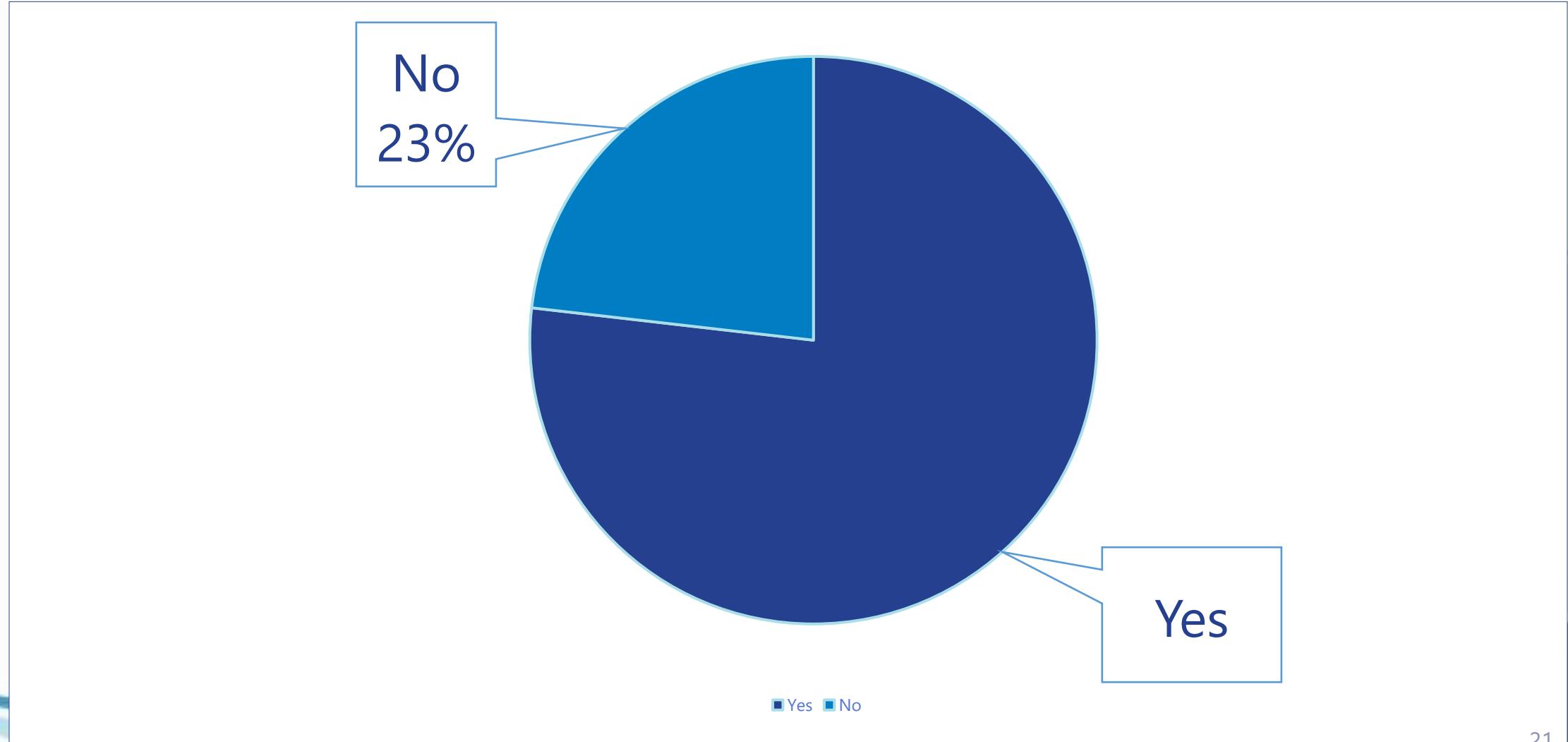
- January 21-29, 2021
- 4711 responses from parents/guardians of about 12,000 students
- 2,527 comments
- Approximately a 79 per cent response rate*

*Based on one response per household, all households with two students, imperfect but demonstrative math

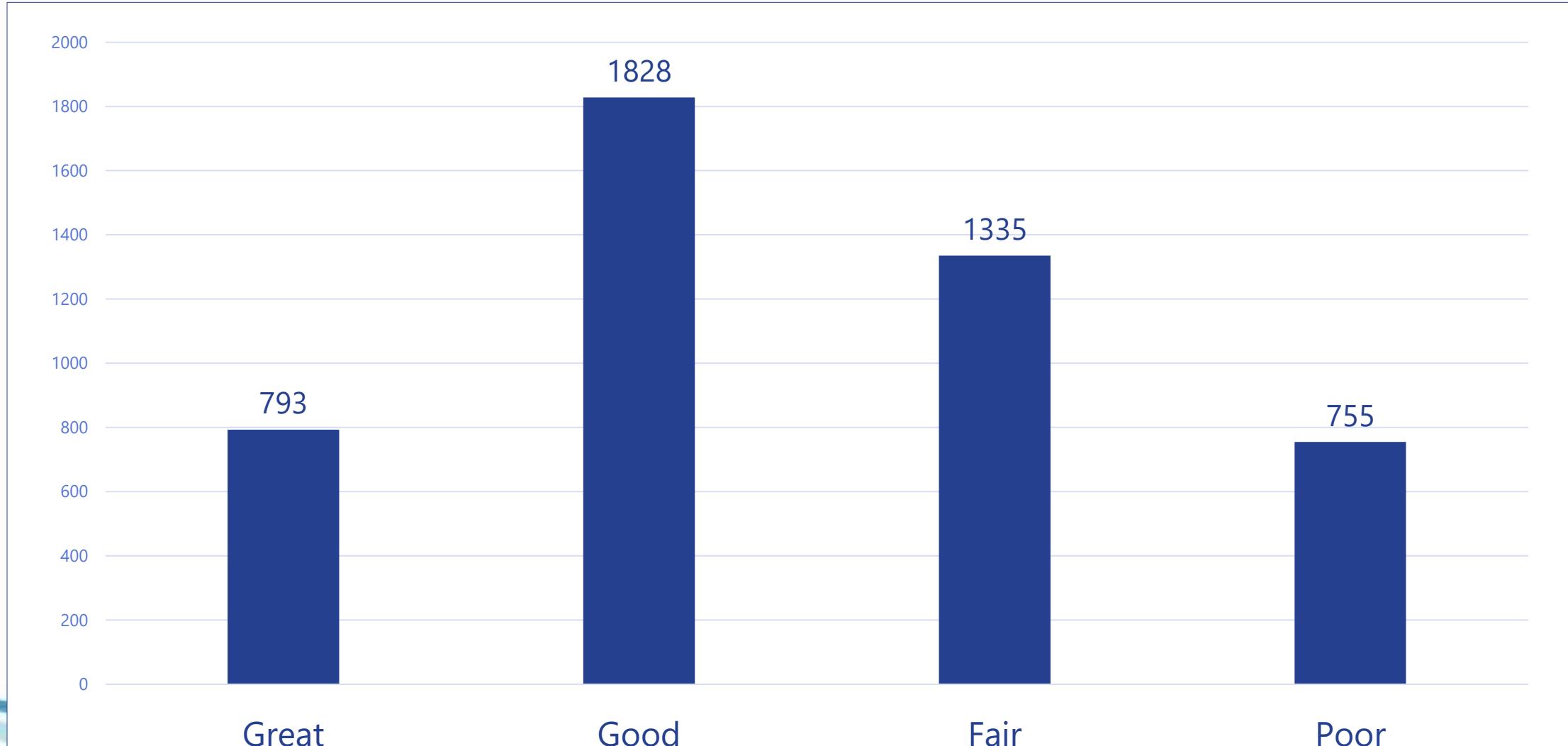
Q1. What School(s) Do Your Children Attend?



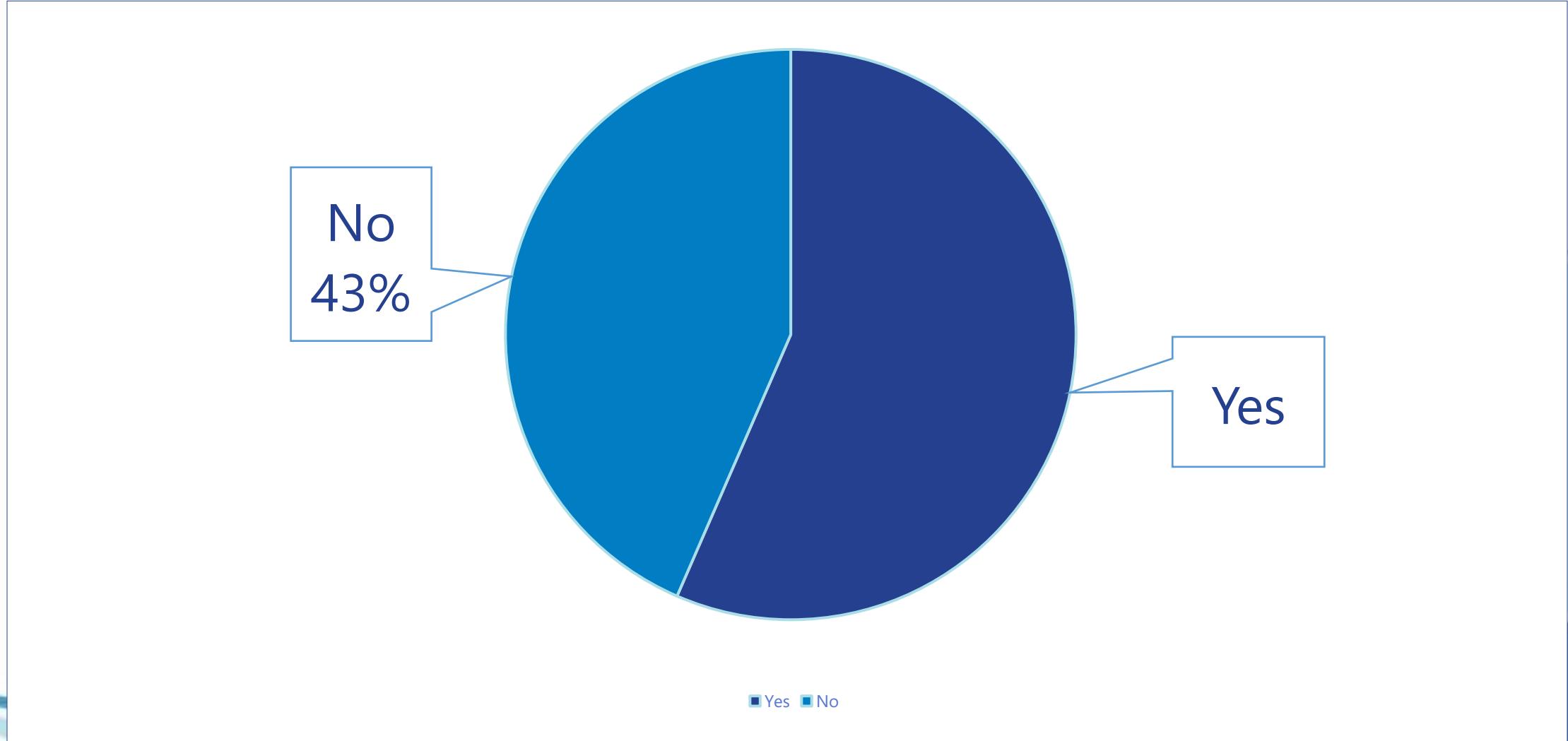
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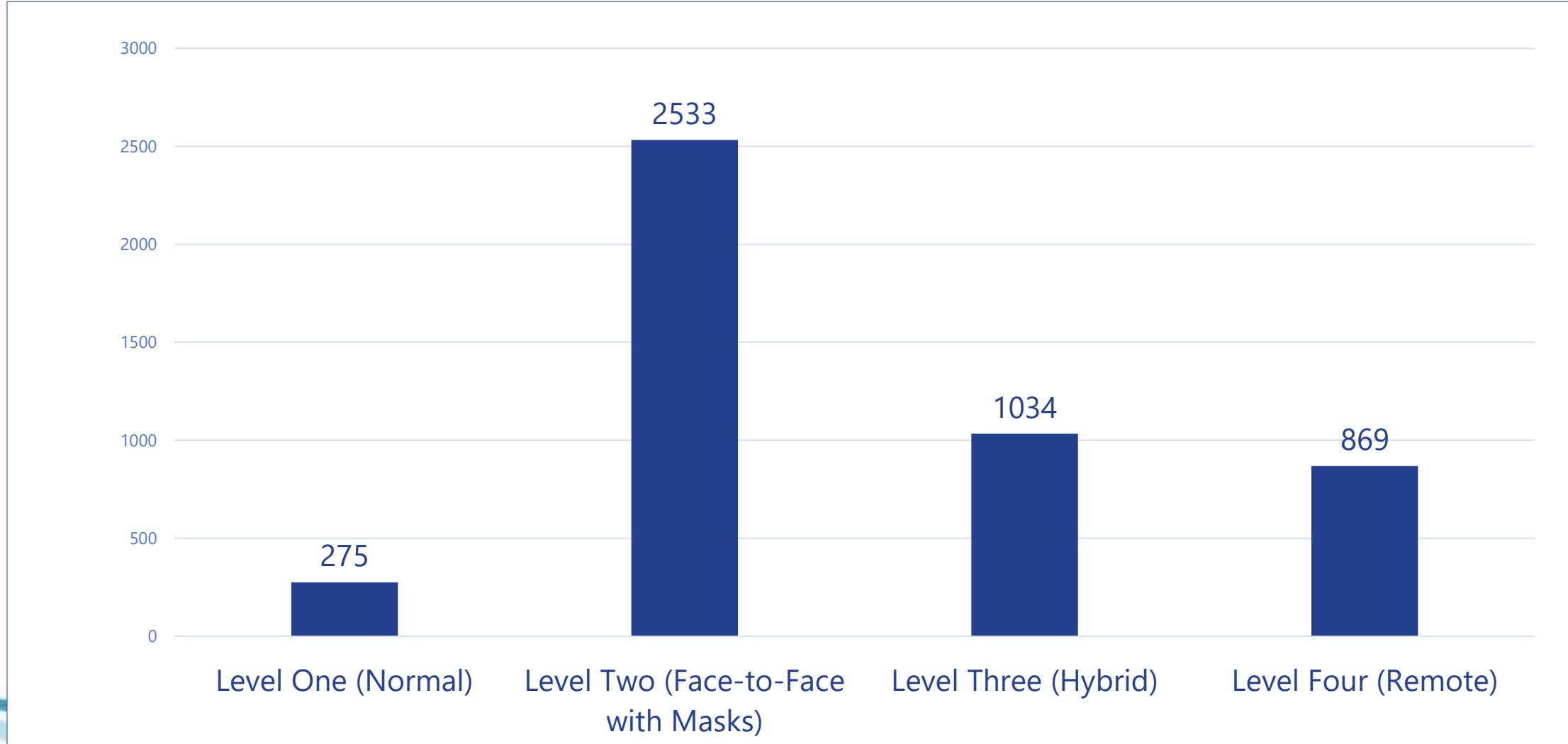
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Q4. Would You Support a Return to Level Four (Remote) Learning in the Future?



Q5. With the Current COVID-19 Situation, at Which Level Do You Think RCSD Should Be?



Parent/Guardian Comments

- The recent move to level four was a lot better than what happened in March.
- We appreciated the extra work put in by the teachers, and the preparation they did with students before they returned to level four.
- Having the kids know what they needed to log into and know all of their passwords in advance was very helpful.
- Regina Catholic School Division is doing a great job!
- The elementary school had the kids actually online twice per day for instruction and I think they did a great job trying to engage the students.

Parent/Guardian Comments (Cont'd)

- My son's teacher was FANTASTIC during level four! Extremely organized, thorough and prepared.
- Good opportunity for kids to learn to use technology as well as become more responsible in terms of having to manage their learning materials.
- Remote learning was well done.
- I would have liked the online class portion to be once a day for an hour or so instead of twice for 20 minutes. I was so impressed with how well my kids' teachers engaged their students!!
- Hats off to all the teachers!! You are amazing!

Parent/Guardian Comments (Cont'd)

- I believe that students learn better and were getting more curriculum with the face-to-face daily education. Most students cannot receive/learn information at home, online nor every second day. Their brains are not mature enough to handle that kind of learning. We are doing these children a disservice by continuing to keep them home!
- If Division decides to move to remote learning again - please consider full-time working families and the cost for families. We were lucky enough to find day care with so short notice that cost us additional \$600 per month!!!
- I would have liked to get more communication to us as parents like an email so we knew what their assignments were.

Parent/Guardian Comments (Cont'd)

- Our kids are so in technology these days. I think kids have to be provided with paper based workbooks in order to spend less time in laptop or iPad. Seesaw is a great platform but it has to be mixed so kids can have break from screens.
- Teachers need to show up for their class learning. Especially since we were sent numerous emails saying that the learning was mandatory.
- This is very difficult on kids' mental health and this far outweighs the risk of kids getting Covid.

Parent/Guardian Comments (Cont'd)

- With the older children (Grades 6 & 7), distance learning was easier for me because they could navigate their assignments themselves and ask questions directly to their teacher.
- My Grade 3 daughter was too young and not too motivated and definitely distracted. Her school work really fell behind. I work Monday to Friday full time, so I ended up taking a day off work solely to work on assignments with her the entire day, and used up most of the weekend to complete them. This set up would definitely not be successful long term.

Parent/Guardian Comments (Cont'd)

- While I support online learning and believe there can be a lot of value that comes from it, I do understand the challenges that are associated with online learning. It seems the school and/or the teachers were not prepared.
- I believe that with both Seesaw and MS Teams setup the online lessons could have been provided to a higher standard.
- Perhaps the teachers are going to need to take courses on online teaching and course creation?
- Since the mortality rate of dying from Covid is comparable to that of the seasonal flu, classes need to get back to normal.

Parent/Guardian Comments (Cont'd)

- The research on face masks shows they do nothing to stop the spread and actually do more harm, therefore masks need to be discarded as soon as possible.
- With the continued rise of Covid-19 in Saskatchewan we feel that it is better and safe for kids to stay at home.
- High School Remote Learning needs to be consistent between schools
- High Schools should involve more actual in person time by the teachers.

Parent/Guardian Ideas

- Continuous risk evaluation for incidence of COVID within the school district is paramount.
- If at any point there is a high risk or surge in numbers of infection then remote learning should be adopted ASAP.
- Keeping Covid numbers down, until we have herd immunity, is our highest priority.
- If the number of cases jumps up we should strengthen the measures that reduce contact of people.
- Transparent benchmarks would help people be prepared. For example, if the seven day (new case average) exceeds three hundred we will move to level four. This would create an expectation and families could be prepared.

Parent/Guardian Ideas (Cont'd)

- More time spent interactively with all the students together or in a small group while completing an assignment.
- Use of the breakout rooms could give the kids a bit more social interaction.
- Families struggled with the commitment to being online during school hours – this was a disadvantage to them.
- Evenings or weekends arrangements be made for families to meet up then with other families. This could help everyone access more of the social attention children crave.

Parent/Guardian Ideas (Cont'd)

- Outline and information should be laid out and concise for each day of learning, keep it basic and to the point.
- Remove all unnecessary schooling and focus on the mandatory classes such as math, sciences, etc.
- Offer arts, fitness, etc. to be optional to ensure parents can apply the time they need for core subjects.



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Regina Catholic School Division
Staff Survey

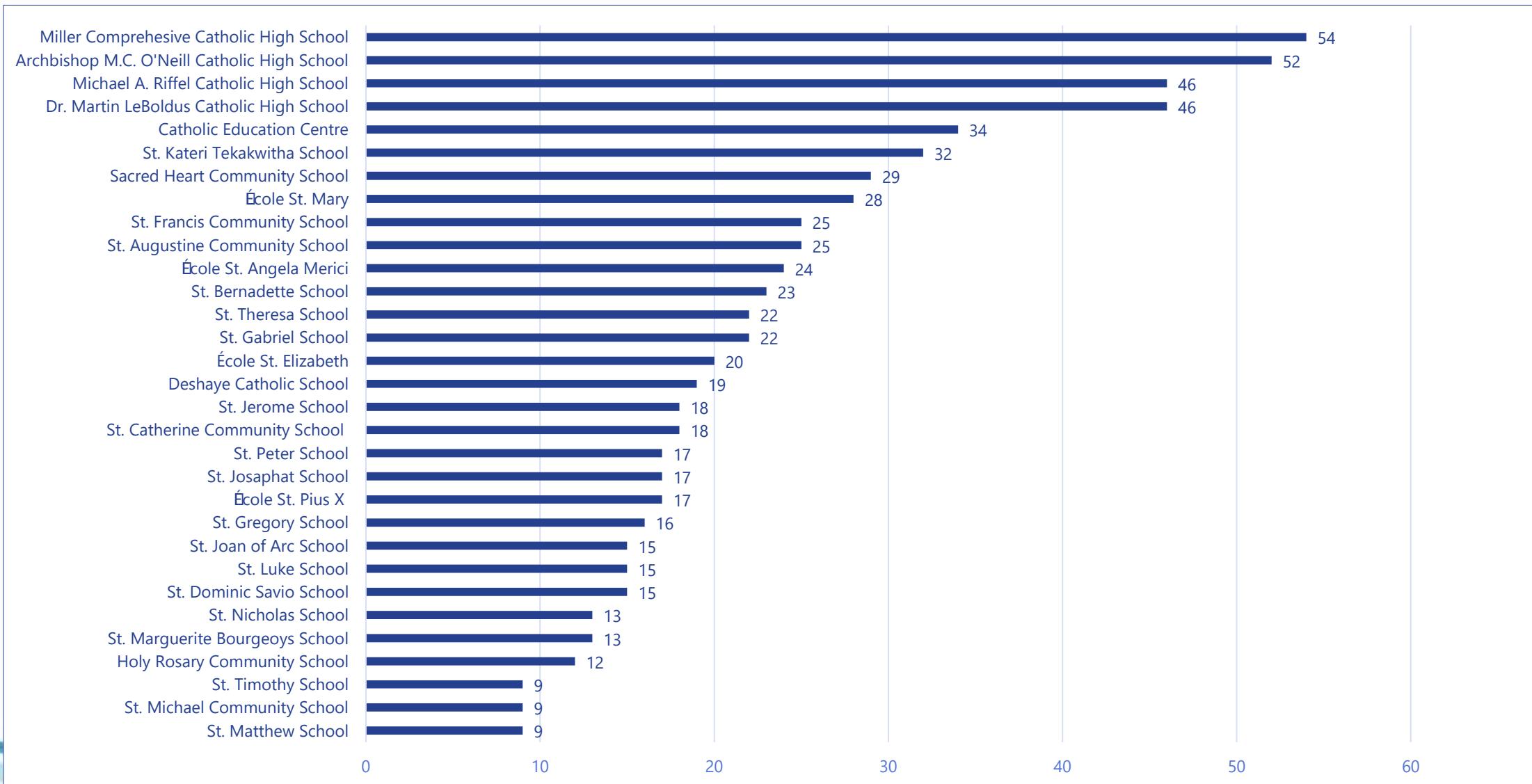
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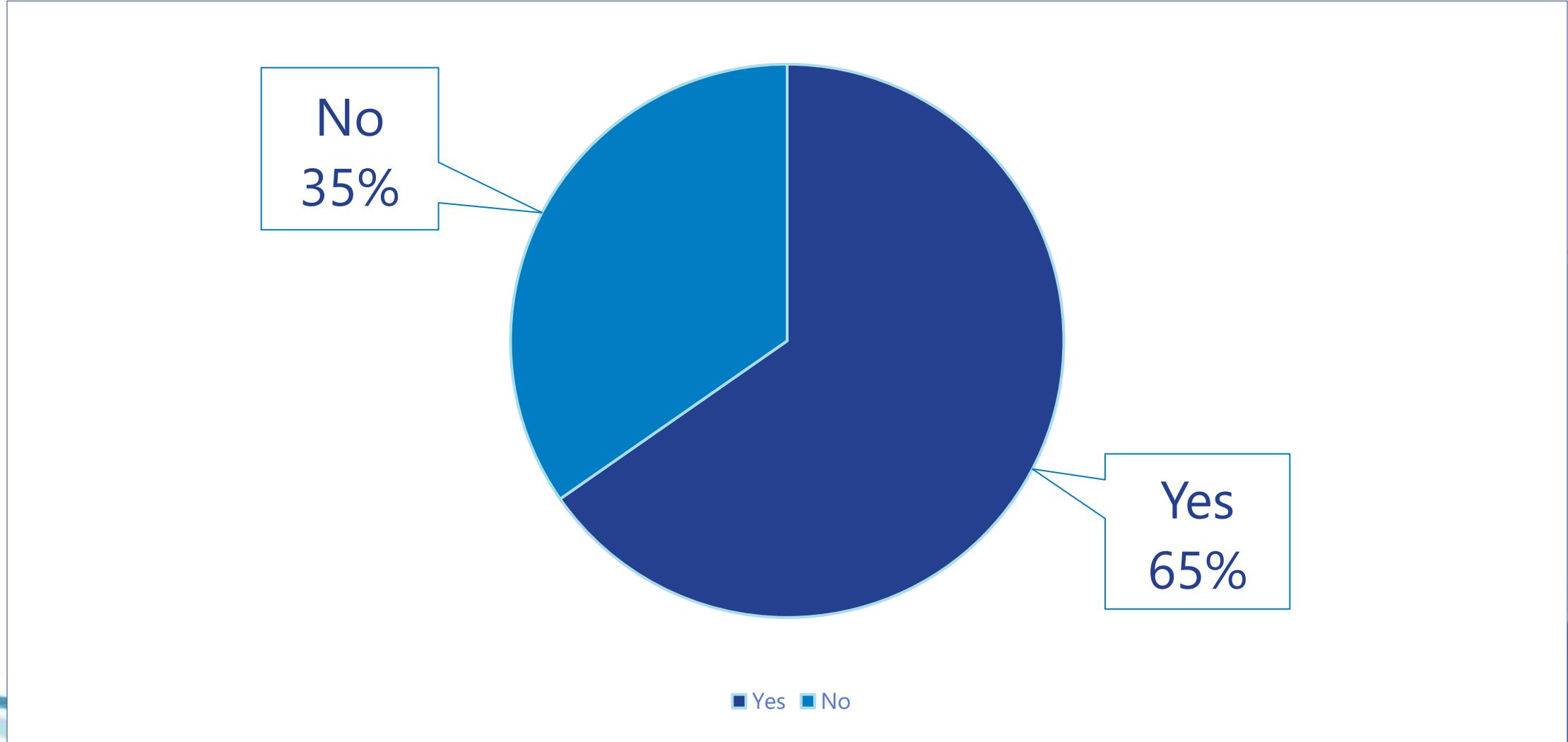
Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD) Level Four Remote Learning – Staff Survey

- January 21-29, 2021
- 669 of about 1,200 staff members responded, approximately 56 per cent
- 401 comments

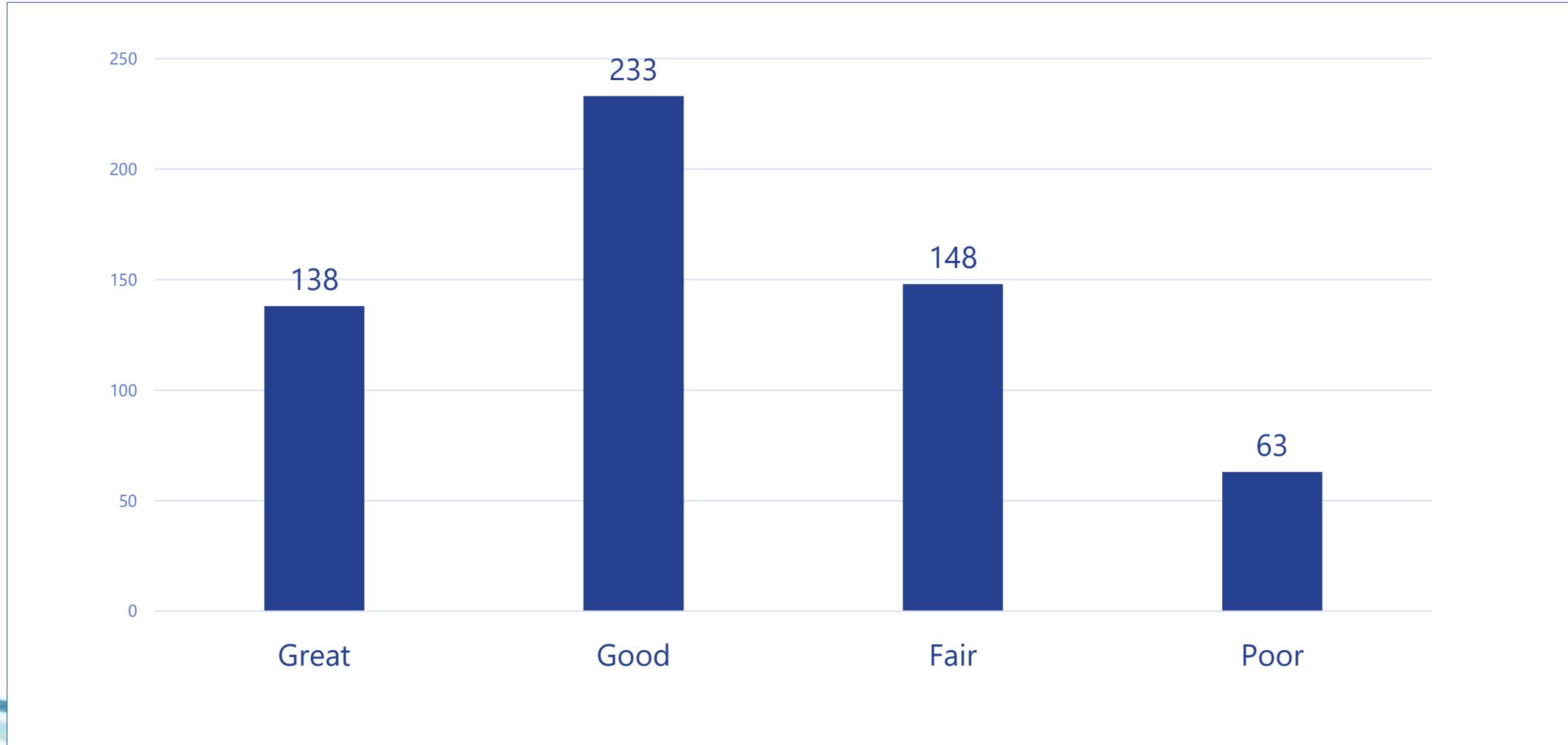
Q1. Which School(s) Do You Work In?



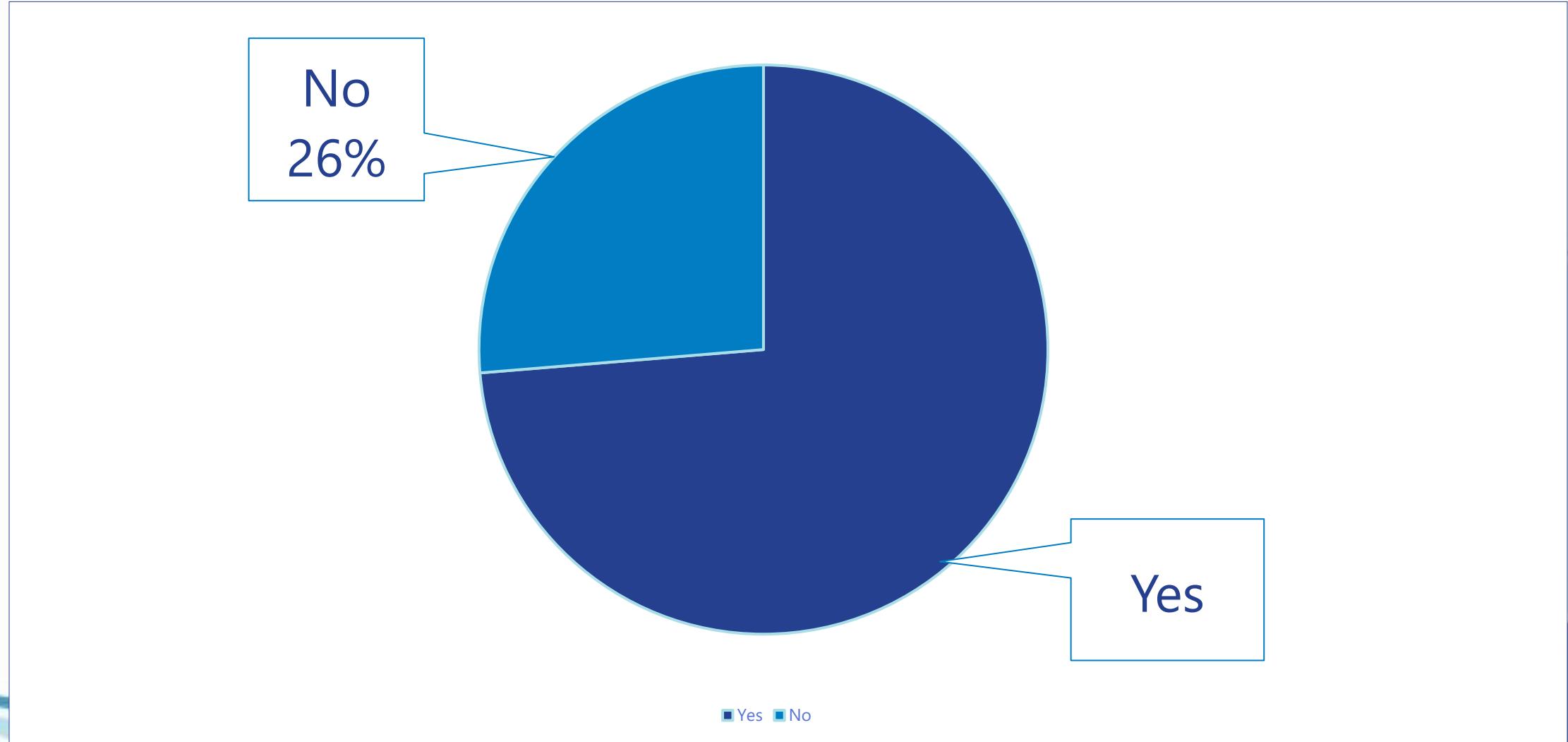
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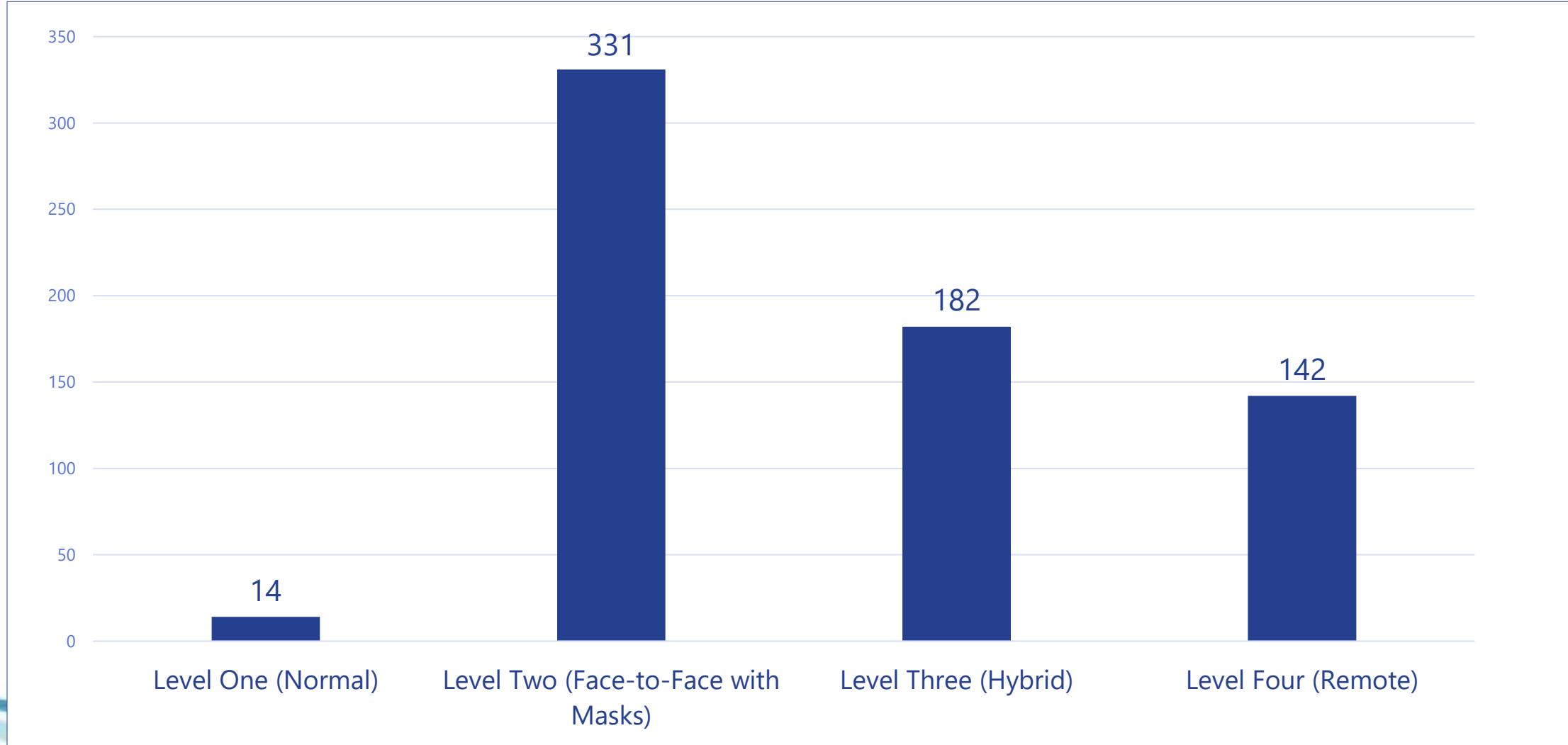
Q3. How was Level Four (Remote) Learning Participation From Your Students?



Q4. Would You Support a Return to Level Four (Remote) Learning in the Future?



Q5. With the Current COVID-19 Situation, at Which Level Do You Think RCSD Should Be?



Staff Comments

- The school year has been difficult. Teachers are exhausted.
- Feeling of no time to mark or prep. 10 to 14 hour days
- Everything has to be adapted for remote/hybrid learning
- Admin doesn't understand the work and pressure. There is a disconnect between admin and teachers.
- Concern about student engagement or buy in.
- Usually had more than 90% participation.
- I had prepared my students and families since October for the possibility of Remote Learning.

Staff Comments (Cont'd)

- Used Teams, Seesaw and other important websites.
- MS Teams is amazing for organizing and teaching in a hybrid and/or remote situation.
- Daily classroom meetings were scheduled as a school to ensure there wasn't an overlap with two (or three) children in the same household being in meetings at the same time.
- Students are not performing to their best ability while at home. Face-to-face education is the best for relationships, accountability and learning content.
- Teachers do double duty while doing hybrid learning.
- Face to face with masks is the best option if we continue sanitizing and doing staggered starts/quads.

Staff Comments (Cont'd)

- The students were happy to meet every day during our Teams meeting. I had 100% of students either attend the meeting or check in every day.
- Most students did all the work assigned. The same students who struggle to hand in work during face-to-face class time were essentially the same students who struggled to hand in their work during level 4.

Staff Comments (Cont'd)

- I feel like when students were away, there was not enough sanitization at the school level for staff who remained in the building. Fogging should still have been done every night.
- Is our safety less important than that of the students?
- I feel safe with the mitigations in place as an employee. It is time to get back into a routine of normalcy for I fear the "unseen" damages being inflicted on our students/families is a far greater risk than what a temporary pandemic can provide.
- I'd like to send my thanks to our caretakers.

Staff Comments (Cont'd)

- I appreciated having almost a full week to prepare for online learning.
- Admin did an AMAZING job at giving us clear expectations for the two weeks of remote learning.
- Everyone is working so hard and it is making this year possible.
- I knew exactly what to do/what was expected of me and I felt 100% supported.
- I liked being at the school for the two weeks; thus having access to my classroom, colleagues, materials, etc. Thank you RCSD for making it an ok transition for teachers!
- Regina Catholic did a great job of preparing teachers for remote learning.

Staff Comments (Cont'd)

- As a parent of school-aged children and as an educator, I know for fact that the absence of face-to-face learning opportunities has been detrimental to the academic progress and social relationship building our students would otherwise enjoy.
- The absence of extra-curricular and social interaction within the schools is causing damage we perhaps cannot see on the exterior, but I have encountered students who are suffering mental and emotional stress with the pandemic realities.

Staff Comments (Cont'd)

- I prepared AHEAD of time just in case we ever did move to level 4. So I already had everything photocopied for my students AND had video lessons made. As much as it scares me to be in potential contact with students with Covid, I think learning HAS to be done in person.
- Students hand in work online that was BLATANTLY copied.
- When they returned to class, they had no idea how to do anything.
- We need to change our criteria for "engagement" and marking students present/absent.
- I know this isn't ideal learning and even hybrid learning is not great. Many students are not doing the work that is expected of them while they are at home.
- They are falling behind each day. That being said, with the way cases are going right now, I also don't think it is safe having everyone in school right now.
- I don't think there are any right answers of what we should be doing. Thank you for all the work that you do."

Staff Ideas

Provide online learning platform for French immersion like 1 2 3 Nougat and A B C Majesté (Cheneliere Edition) for Grades 1 to 2: the learning platform goes with paper notebooks for FLA and Math, the notebooks are also on the platform (digital), and the platform provides individual learning activities-group activities-formative & summative assessments, drawing tools box, replicable resources.

Staff Ideas (Cont'd)

- I think we should have semester schedules, but with hybrid/alternating days, and masks.
- If we must go to level four remote learning there needs to be a number of changes including the following:
 - allowing staff the option of working from home
 - students need to be held accountable
 - teachers need more prep time;
 - teacher burn-out and wellbeing needs to be accounted for
 - have better representation in the media to account for the misleading information.
 - to allow for teacher advocacy;
 - staff lunches should not be shortened as a result of quadrant hybrid finals.

Staff Ideas (Cont'd)

- I do think if we are remaining hybrid that a four day week with Friday remote for all students might be a better option
- If the same group came on the same days it might make things a bit smoother.
- All schools need to consider using MS Teams. Consistency for families throughout the division is important.

Questions and Comments