

Nine in ten Ontarians agree or somewhat agree that spending on public education is an investment in the future: Survey.



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SCHOOL BOARDS'
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Leading Education's Advocates



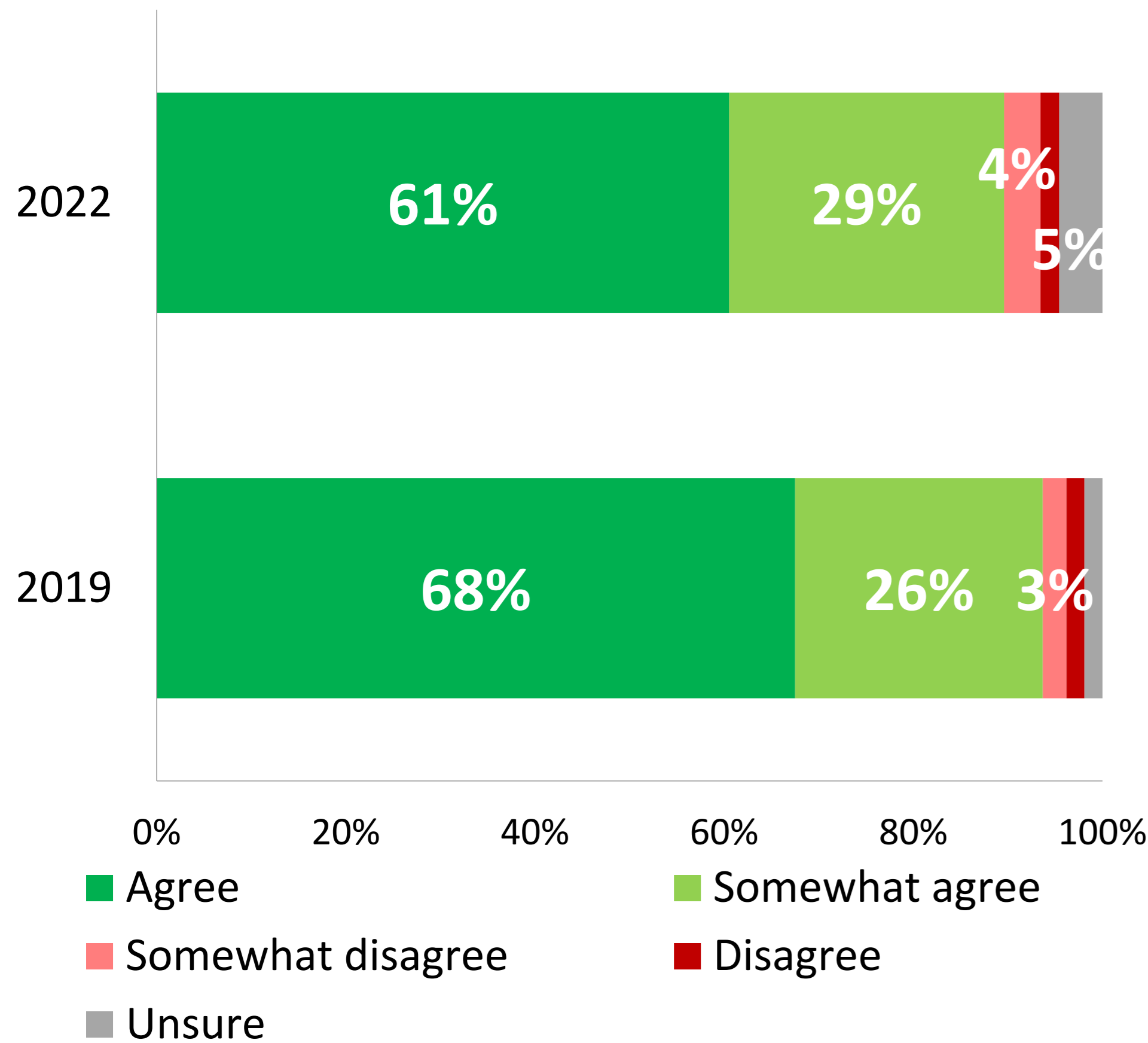


Overview

Nanos conducted a representative online survey of 2,015 Ontarians, from October 19th to 30th, 2022, drawn from a non-probability panel. The results were statistically checked and weighted by age and gender using the latest Census information and the sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Ontario. The sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Ontario.

- › **Education as investment in the future**
- › **Funding and education priorities**
- › **Indigenous reconciliation**
- › **Electing or appointing School Board Trustees**

Education as an investment in the future

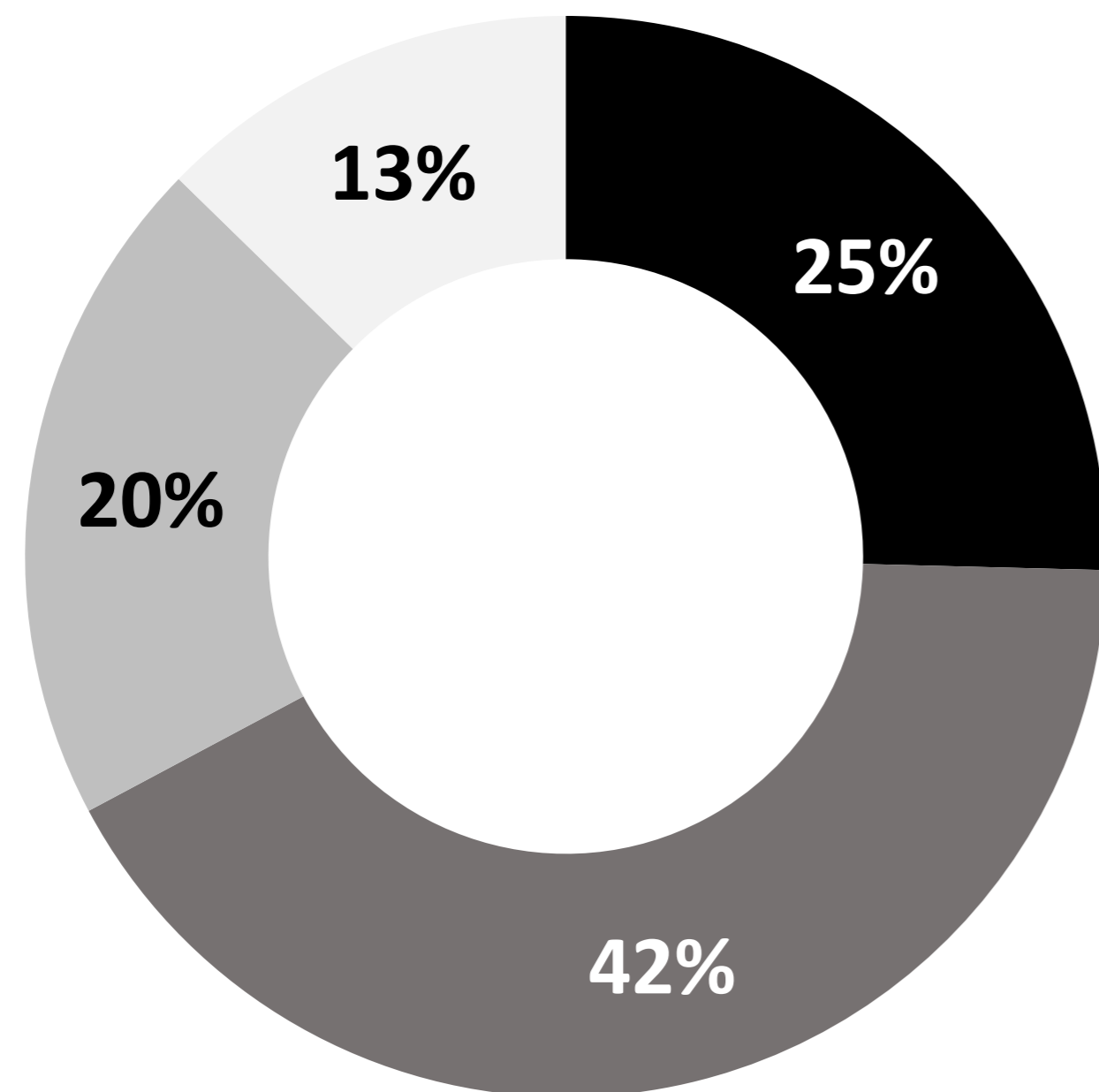


Nine in ten

Ontario residents agree or somewhat agree that spending on public education is an investment in the future, a slight decline from the 2019 wave.

Q - Do you agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or disagree that spending on public education is an investment in the future.

Views on how funding for education should be set



- The government of Ontario should set education spending based on overall provincial spending and school boards should work within this budget
- The Government of Ontario should set education spending based on the number of students and inflation
- The Government of Ontario should set education spending based on inflation
- Unsure

Q - Thinking of how funding for education in Ontario should be set, which of the following best reflects your personal view. [ROTATE]

Ontarians are more likely to think funding for education should be set based on number of students and inflation, with four in ten that say so, while one in four say it should be set based on overall provincial spending and one in five say it should be set based on inflation only.



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Importance of funding priorities

More funding for the maintenance, repair, and renewal of schools



More funding for special education programs which help students with behavioural, communication, intellectual and physical needs



More funding for school boards to offer mental health support for students and staff



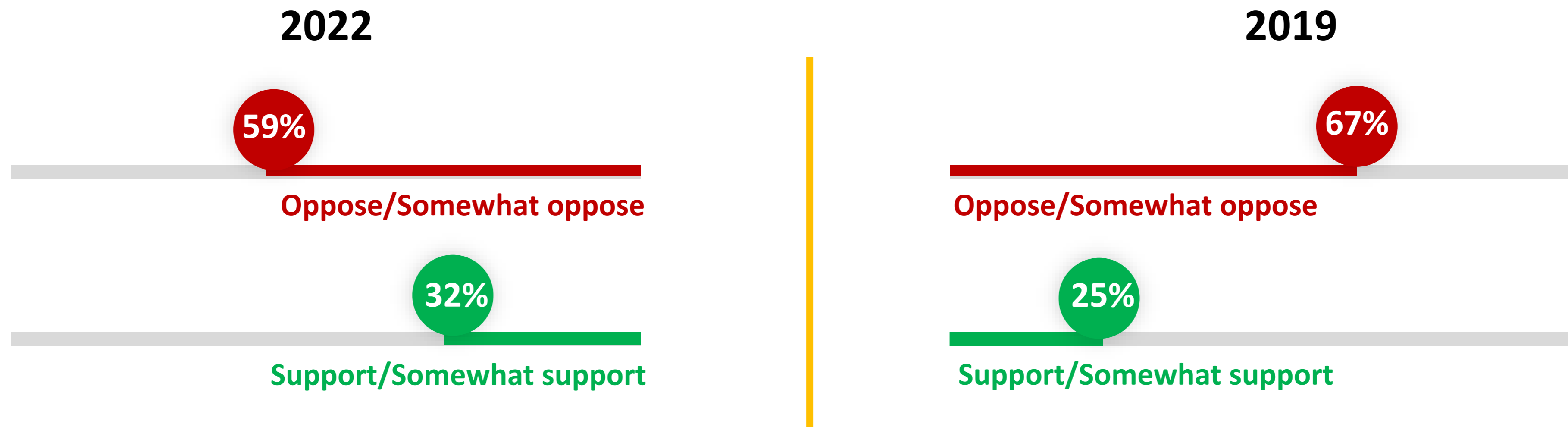
■ Important ■ Somewhat important ■ Somewhat unimportant ■ Unimportant ■ Unsure

A strong majority of Ontarians continue to say it is important to have more funding for the maintenance, repair and renewal of schools, special educations programs and funding for school boards to offer mental health support.

Q - Thinking of all the funding priorities in the public school system, are the following important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or unimportant priorities for more funding in the school system. [RANDOMIZE]

Support for public tax dollars funding of private education system

Although there was a decrease compared to 2019, most Ontarians continue to say they are opposed or somewhat opposed to public tax dollars being used to help fund the private education system. Those with no children in public school are more likely to be opposed or somewhat opposed (62%) compared to those with one (51%) or two or more children (54%) in public school.



Q - Do you support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or oppose public tax dollars being used to help fund the private education system?

Important education priorities

When presented with various priorities, about nine in ten Ontarians each say it is **important to:**



- Expand the opportunities for students to learn computer coding and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in school (56% important; 35% somewhat important)
- Have more funding for school boards to ensure schools are accessible for all individuals with disabilities (55% important; 36% somewhat important)
- Have more funding for mental health community-based supports and services (47% important; 40% somewhat important).

Q – Thinking of all the funding priorities in the public school system, are the following important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or unimportant priorities for more funding in the school system. [RANDOMIZE]



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Job done by Ontario’s public education system on Indigenous reconciliation

21% Very good/Good job

37% Average job

25% Very poor/Poor job

Ontarians are split on whether Ontario’s public education system does a very good or good job, or it does a poor or very poor job when it comes to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Advice/ideas to do a better job

33%
Acknowledge/teach the truth of what happened to Indigenous peoples/Add it to the curriculum

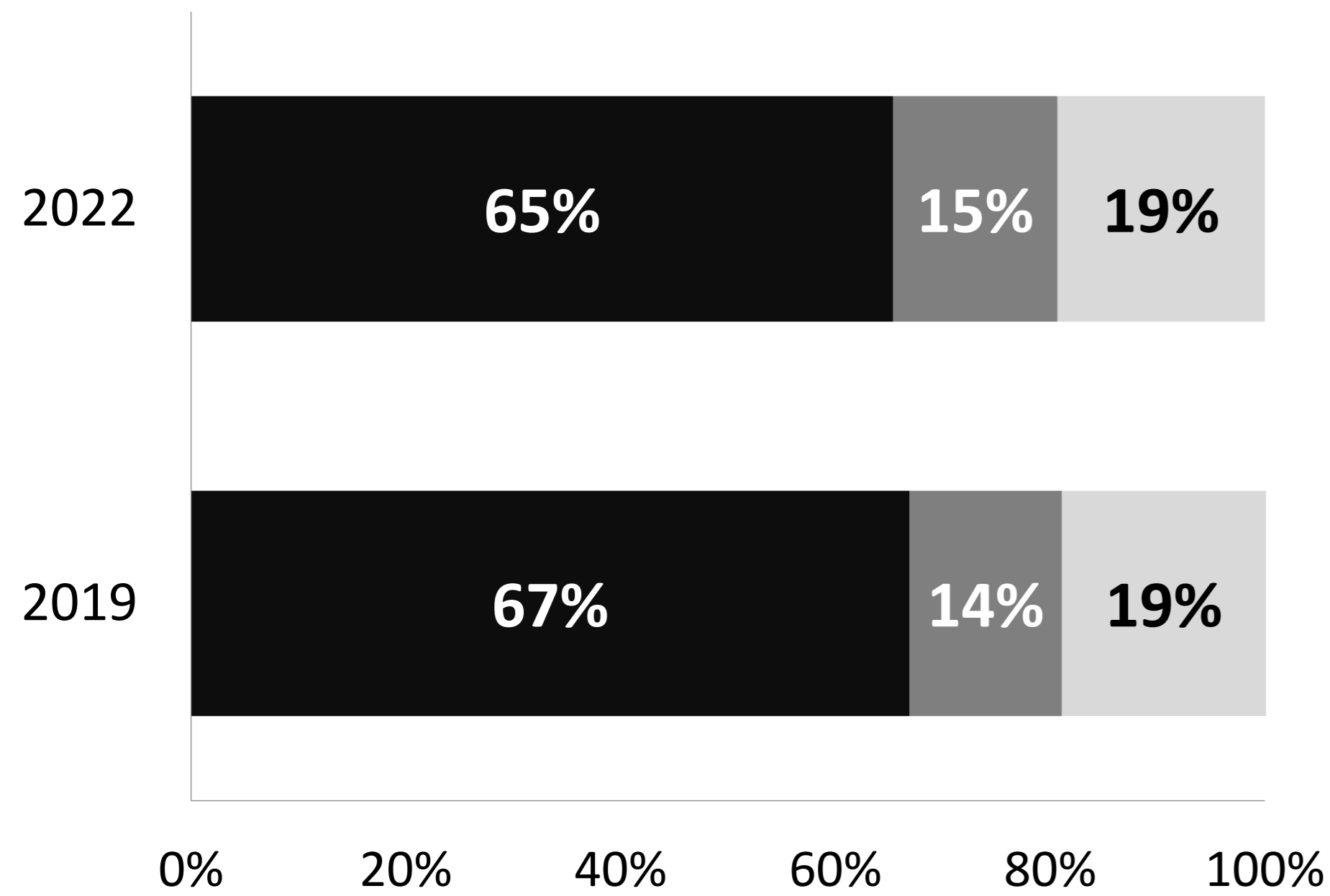
27%
No ideas/I don't know

11%
Have Indigenous people talk about their culture/More indigenous teachers/activities

Q – Do you think Ontario’s public education system does a very good, good, average, poor or very poor job when it comes to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples?

Q – What advice or ideas, if any, would you have to help Ontario’s public education system do a better job when it comes to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples? [OPEN]

Electing or appointing School Board Trustees



- Better to elect School Board Trustees
- Better to have the Government of Ontario appoint School Board Trustees
- Unsure

Given the choice, is it better to elect School Board Trustees or to have them appointed by the Government of Ontario?

Ontarians are over four times more likely to say it is better to elect school board trustees rather than to have them appointed by the Government of Ontario.

Better to elect School Board Trustees

70% 60 years and older
56% 18 to 29

HIGHEST
LOWEST

74% Northern Ontario
61% City of Toronto

AGE

REGION

Q - Given the choice, is it [ROTATE] better to elect School Board Trustees or to have them appointed by the Government of Ontario?