

UNLOCKING STUDENT POTENTIAL

# 2024 Educator Report

THE CRITICAL ROLE OF SCHOOL-HOME ALIGNMENT

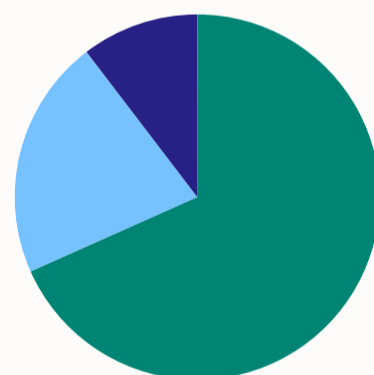
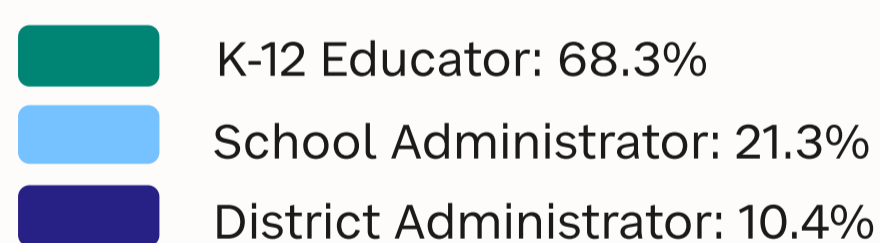


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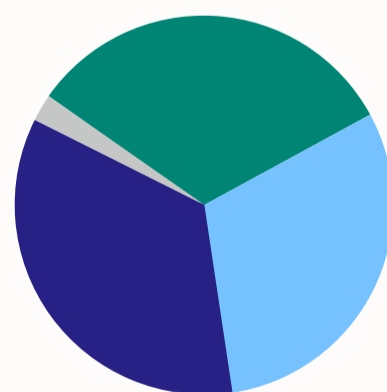
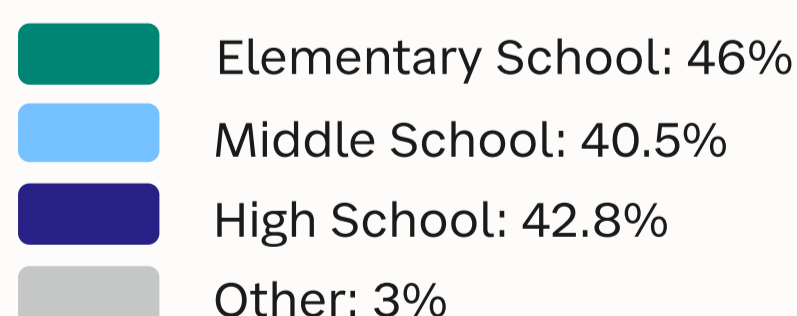
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**1,020** K-12 Educators & Administrators

## School District Role



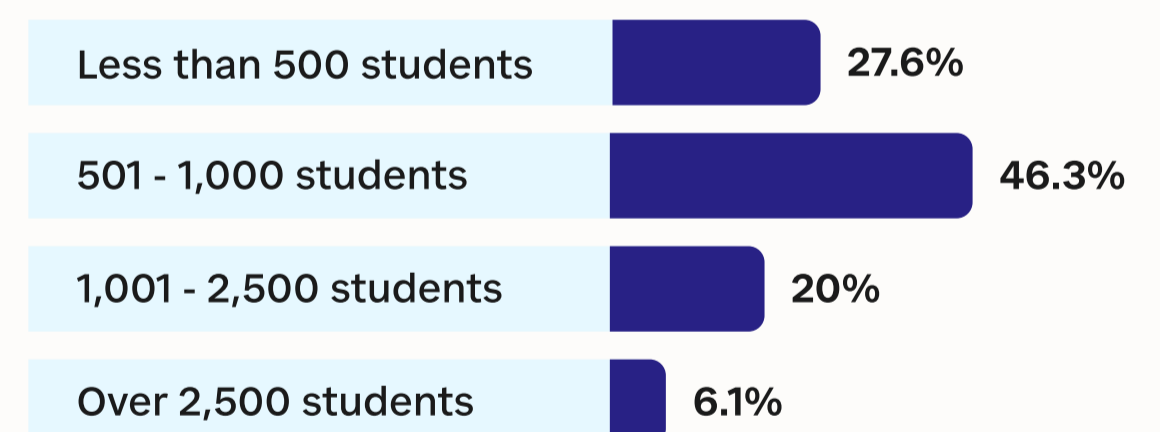
## Grade Levels



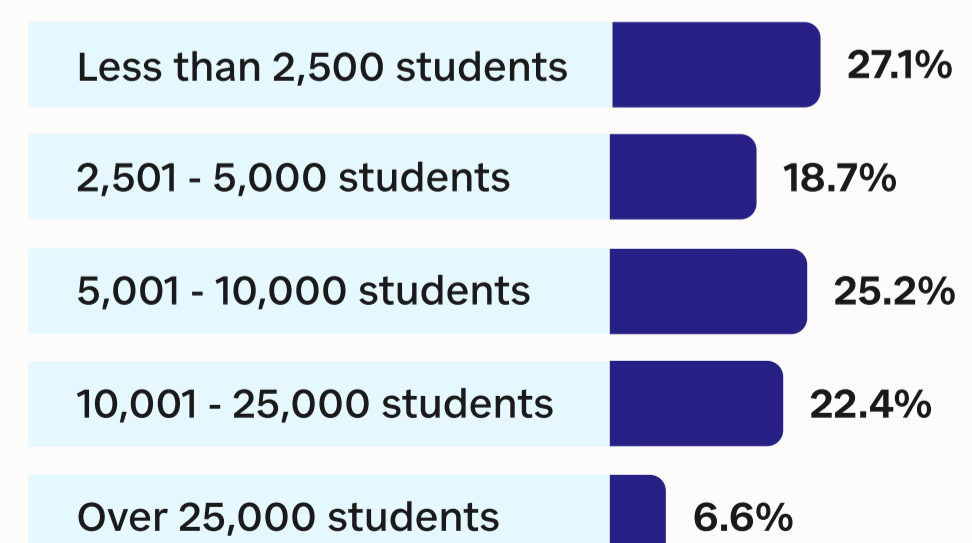
## Gender



## School Size



## District Size



# The Critical Need for Strong School-Home Connections

The American education system is facing a critical challenge: the growing disconnect between schools and families. This divide is evidenced by alarming rates of chronic absenteeism and persistent achievement gaps. To understand the root causes of this issue and identify potential solutions, we conducted comprehensive surveys of 1,020 K-12 educators and administrators across the United States, complemented by a separate survey of 1,047 families.

Our findings reveal a complex landscape where both educators and families recognize the importance of strong school-home connections, yet struggle to achieve effective alignment. There are crucial gaps in communication, data utilization, and engagement practices between school and home. Within these challenges lie opportunities for transformative change.

This report delves into the nuances of these challenges and provides research-informed strategies that district and school leaders can implement to bridge the divide, including leveraging technology and reimagining traditional practices to create stronger, more effective school-home connections.

## Key Challenges & Areas of Exploration:

- Rising rates of chronic absenteeism
- Miscommunication or lack of consistent expectations between schools & families
- Educators struggling with data overload yet lacking actionable insights
- Families feeling uninformed about their children's progress



## Survey Methodology and Data Collection

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the school-family alignment landscape, we conducted two complementary surveys.

### **Educator and Administrator Survey Conducted in September 2024**

1,020 K-12 educators and administrators across the U.S.

- Educators (68.3%), School Administrators (21.3%), District Administrators (10.4%)
- Elementary School (46%), Middle School (40.5%), High School (42.8%), Other (3%)
- Gender: 51% male, 49% female

### **K-12 Family Survey Published in February 2024**

1,047 families and caregivers of K-12 children aged 6-18 across the U.S.

- Grade Levels: K-2 (16.4%), 3-5 (21.3%), 6-8 (29.5%), 9-12 (32.9%)
- School Location: Suburban (34.1%), Urban (33.5%), Town (19%), Rural (13.5%)
- Gender: 51% male, 49% female

This report focuses primarily on the data set from educators and administrators. Data analysis involved statistical examination of quantitative responses and thematic analysis of qualitative feedback and industry sources such as [YouthTruth](#), [Learning Heroes](#), and [TNTP](#). Comparative analysis was performed to identify areas of alignment and misalignment between educator and family perspectives.

Both surveys were conducted using SurveyMonkey, ensuring diverse and representative samples. Questions included multiple-choice, rating scales, and open-ended responses to capture both quantitative and qualitative data.

Survey respondents represent a wide range of communities throughout the U.S., but it's important to remember that survey data represents a snapshot in time and may not capture all nuances of school-family dynamics. Plus, self-reported data may be subject to some bias, though efforts were made to minimize this through question design.

Using this methodology as a foundation, we present a solution-focused analysis that identifies key patterns and challenges in K-12 education. By understanding and addressing these dynamics, we can work towards solutions that align school efforts with family needs, ultimately supporting improved student outcomes and well-being.

The following sections explore challenges in communication, data utilization, attendance management, and technology, presenting a comprehensive view of the current state of school-home relationships. Each section also includes evidence-based recommendations for improving alignment. Join us as we explore how to turn the shared desire for strong school-family partnerships into reality, ensuring every student is supported and empowered to succeed.

# Communication Alignment: Bridging the Gap Between Schools & Families

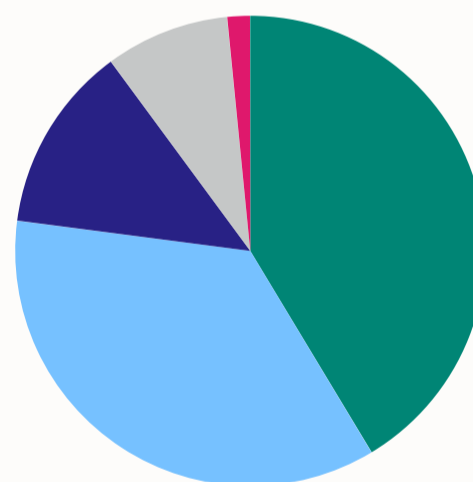
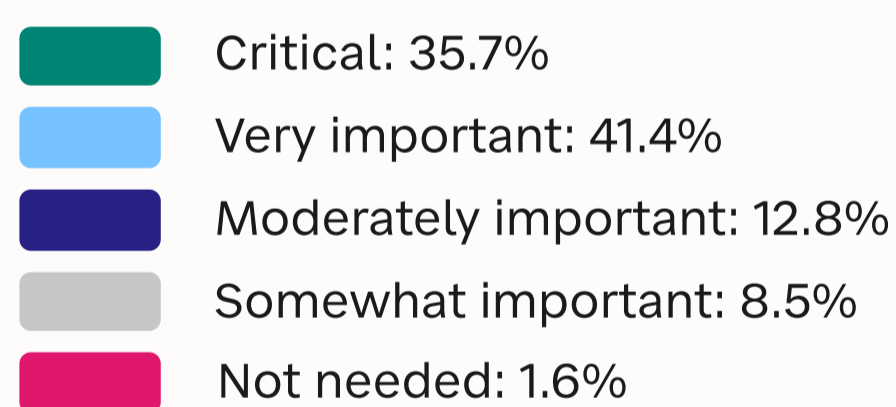
Effective communication forms the backbone of strong school-home partnerships. Using data to better understand the realities school communities face opens up new opportunities to support students both at home and at school. This section examines the current state of school-home communication, highlighting key challenges and proposing targeted solutions to bridge the communication gap.

Families and educators agree that school-home communication is an essential part of student success. Where we begin to see misalignments is in communication practices and preferences.

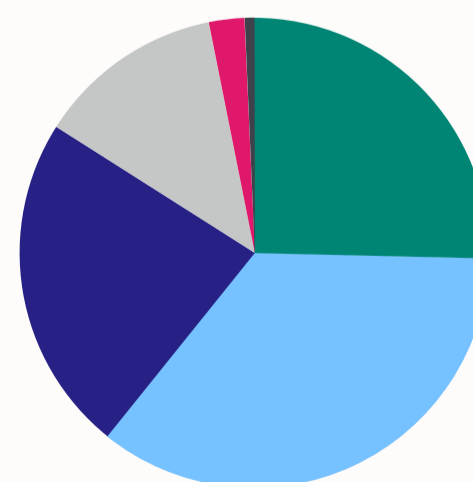
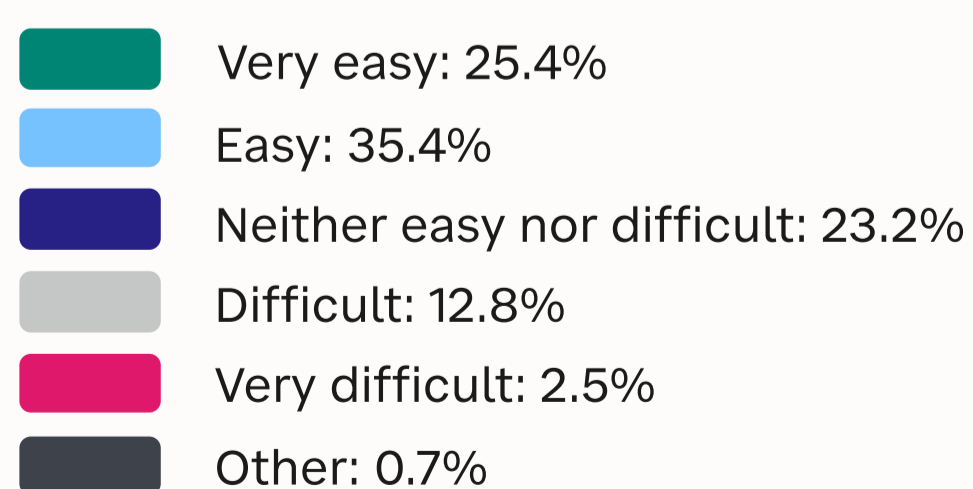
77.1% of educators rate school-home communication as "very important" or "critical" for improving student outcomes. However, only 25.4% find it "very easy" to connect with families. Meanwhile, 42.1% of families feel they receive insufficient information about their children's progress. This disparity highlights a critical area for improvement in facilitating school-family connections.

## Importance vs. Ease of Communication

*How important is school-home communication to improving student outcomes?*



*How easy do you find it to connect with families when you have a question or want to discuss something about their child?*



## Age Group Distinctions

K-5

Educators working with younger students (K-5) report **higher levels of family engagement** compared to those working with older students (6-12).

6-12

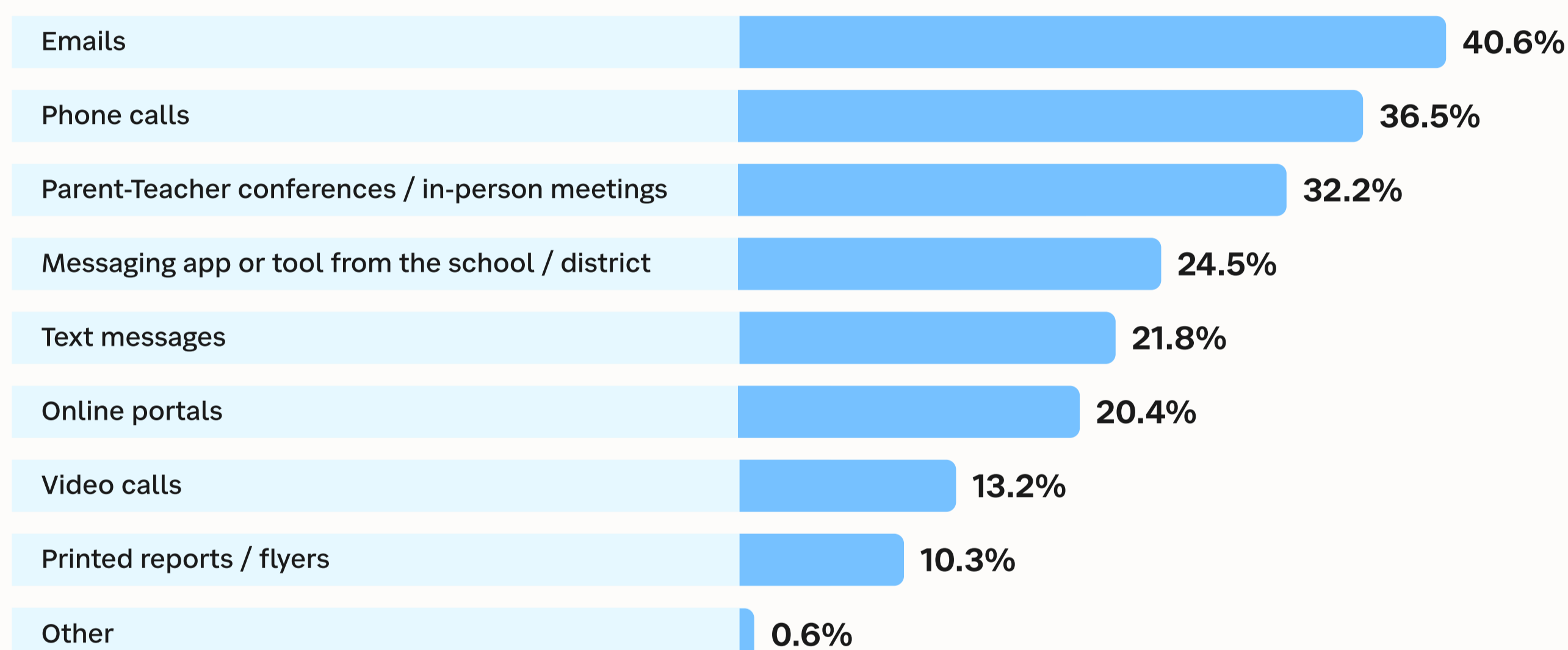
High school educators face unique challenges in maintaining consistent communication due to the **larger number of students** they interact with daily.

## Misaligned Communication Methods & Frequency

When comparing responses from both surveys, additional gaps between communication preferences and current processes are clear. Educators primarily use emails (40.6%) and phone calls (36.5%) to communicate home with families. Only 21.8% of educators communicate with families via text messages. However, families strongly prefer emails (71.9%) and texts (69.6%). The misalignment in preferred communication methods contributes to ineffective information sharing.

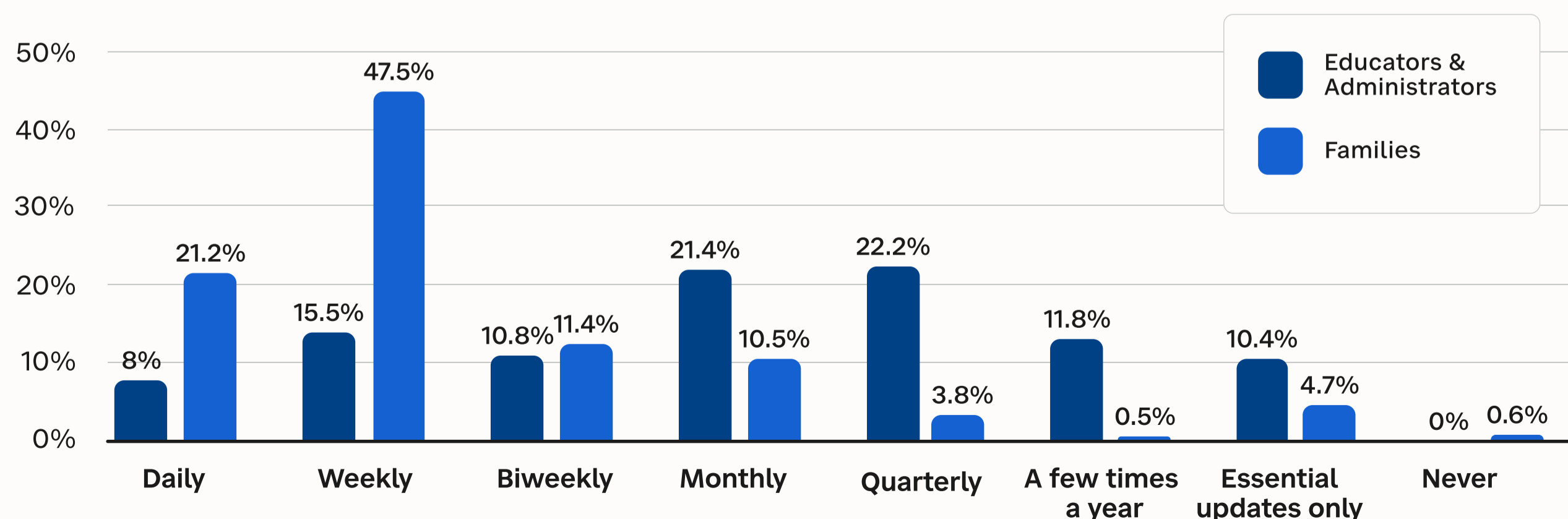
Frequency of communication also shows room for improvement. 45.2% of families feel that communications are not frequent enough. The discrepancies are easy to see with 68.6% desiring daily or weekly communication compared with only 23.5% of educators sending updates that frequently.

### What methods do you primarily use to communicate one-on-one with students' families?



**Educators:** How frequently do you share student performance information and insights with families (e.g., grades, attendance, behavior)?

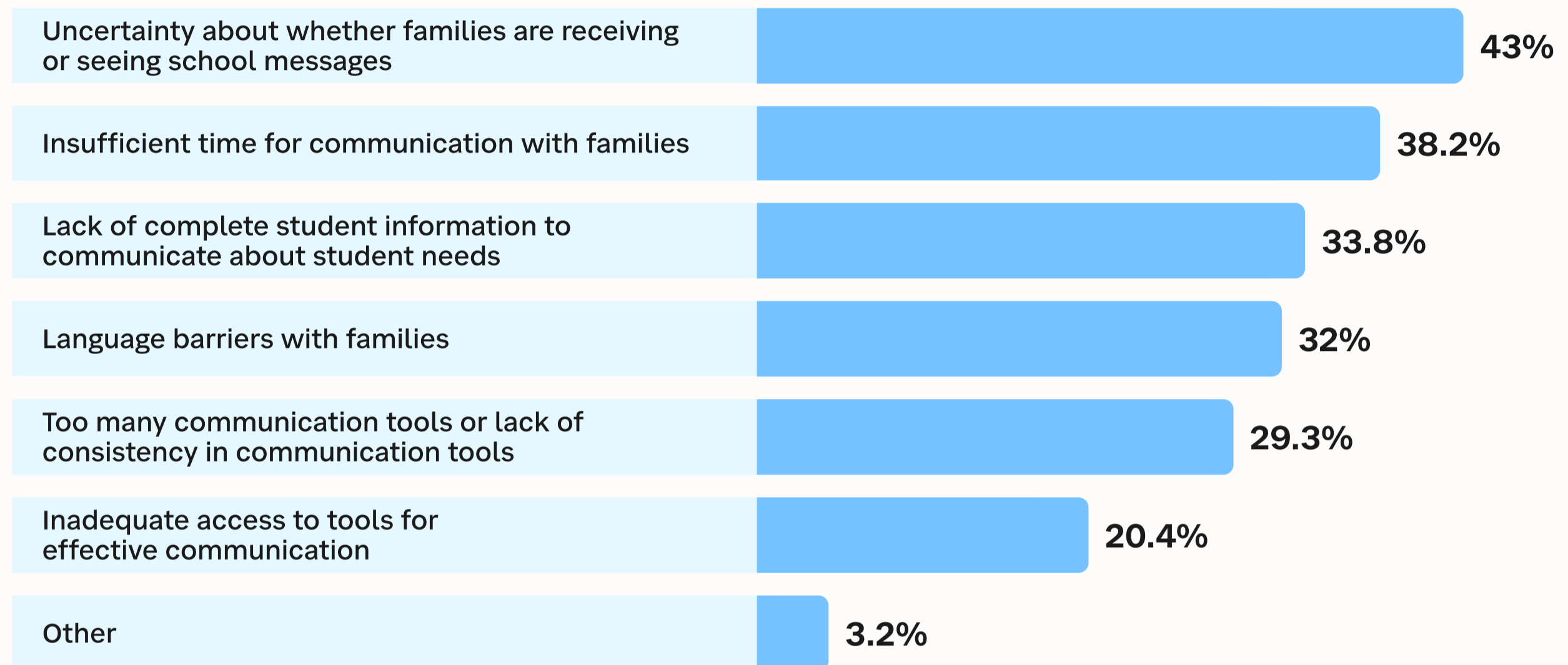
**Families:** How often would you like to receive updates or communications from the school regarding your child's academic progress or well-being at school?



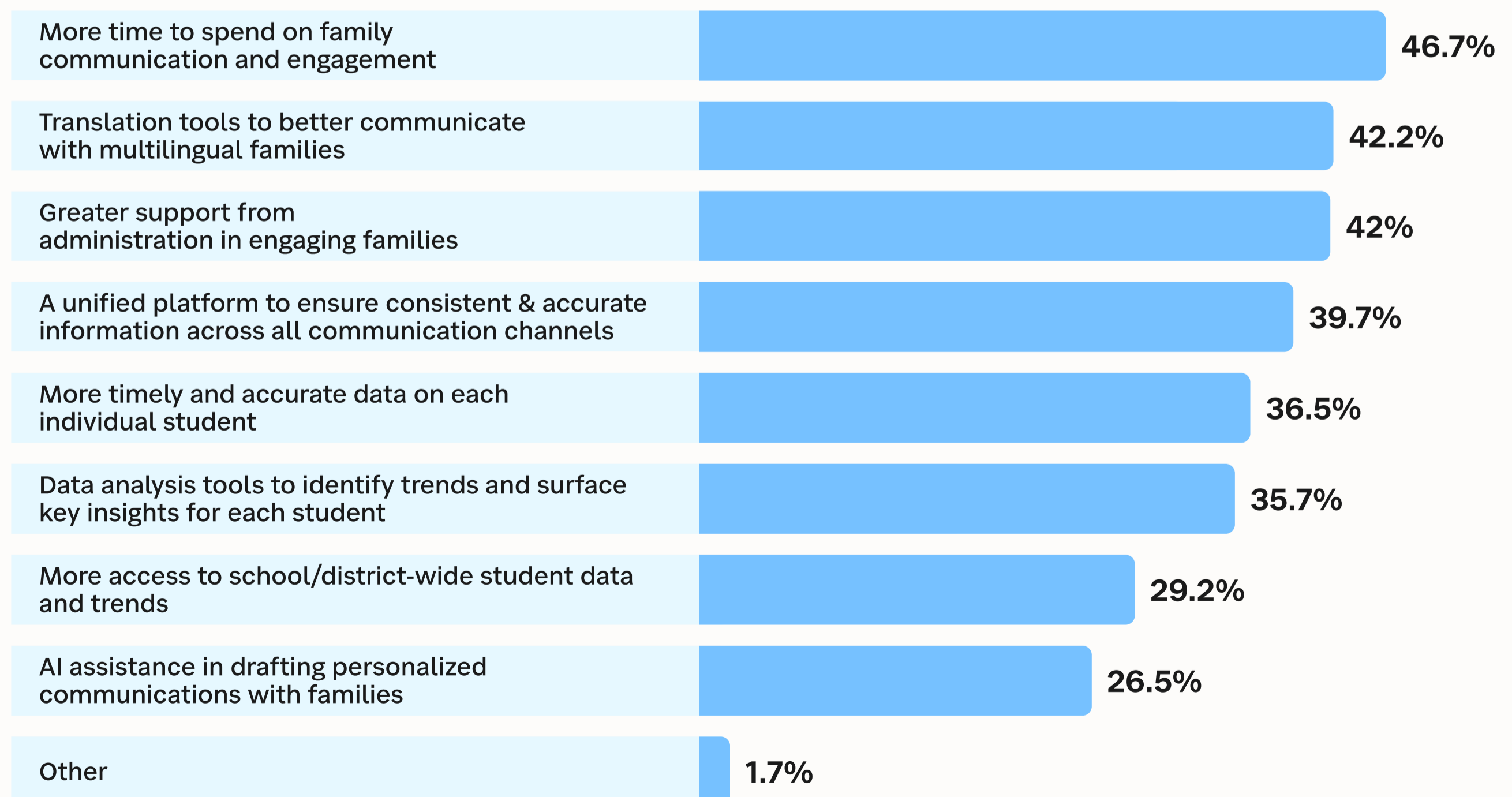
## Barriers to Effective Communication—And How to Overcome Them

Lack of time is a barrier present throughout educators' survey responses, communication included (38.2%). Educators are also uncertain if families are receiving school messages (43%), revealing a need for data to validate whether messages are seen. An additional 32% face language barriers with families, showing that technology with built-in translation could make a significant difference for both families and educators.

*What are the primary challenges you face in effectively communicating one-on-one with families to actively engage them in their child's academic success?*



*Which of the following would most help you improve engagement with families to support improved student outcomes?*



# Solutions for Improved Communication

By addressing these communication challenges and implementing targeted solutions, schools and districts can significantly enhance their connections with families. Ensuring all stakeholders are informed and involved in the educational process leads to better student outcomes.

## Ensure Timely & Relevant Messages

**32%** of educators cite language barriers as a key challenge when engaging families.

**33.8%** of educators lack complete or relevant student information.

**39.7%** of educators believe a unified platform would help improve engagement with families.

Adopt systems that integrate multiple communication channels (e.g., email, text, calls, and app notifications) to cater to diverse preferences from both educators and families. Ensure platforms offer translation features to address language barriers.

## Leverage Data and Automation for More Efficient Communication

“**More time** to spend on family communication and engagement” is the number one thing educators think will improve student outcomes.

**26.5%** of educators believe AI assistance for drafting personalized communications would be helpful.

**35.7%** of respondents believe “data analysis tools to identify trends and surface key insights for each student” would improve family engagement.

Automating time-consuming manual, routine tasks like attendance tracking so teachers and staff can focus on instruction and communication. Share data insights or provide accessible data analytics so conversations are relevant for each family. Offer AI-powered tools to draft personalized messages, freeing up educator time for more meaningful interactions.

## Enhance Two-Way Communication

**46.7%** of educators believe more time for communication is key to improving family engagement.

**33.8%** of respondents cite lack of complete student information to communicate about student needs as a major challenge.

Develop systems that allow families to set preferences for message frequency and method to create an optimal cadence for all—without adding more work to educators’s full plates. Provide easy-to-use feedback mechanisms like surveys to invite feedback, such as gauging satisfaction with communication practices, and adjust strategies accordingly.

## Provide Communication Training for Educators

**43.2%** of teachers and **42.9%** of school administrators believe greater support from administration in engaging families would help improve family engagement.

Offer professional development focused on effective digital communication strategies. Train educators on cultural competency to improve communication with diverse family populations.

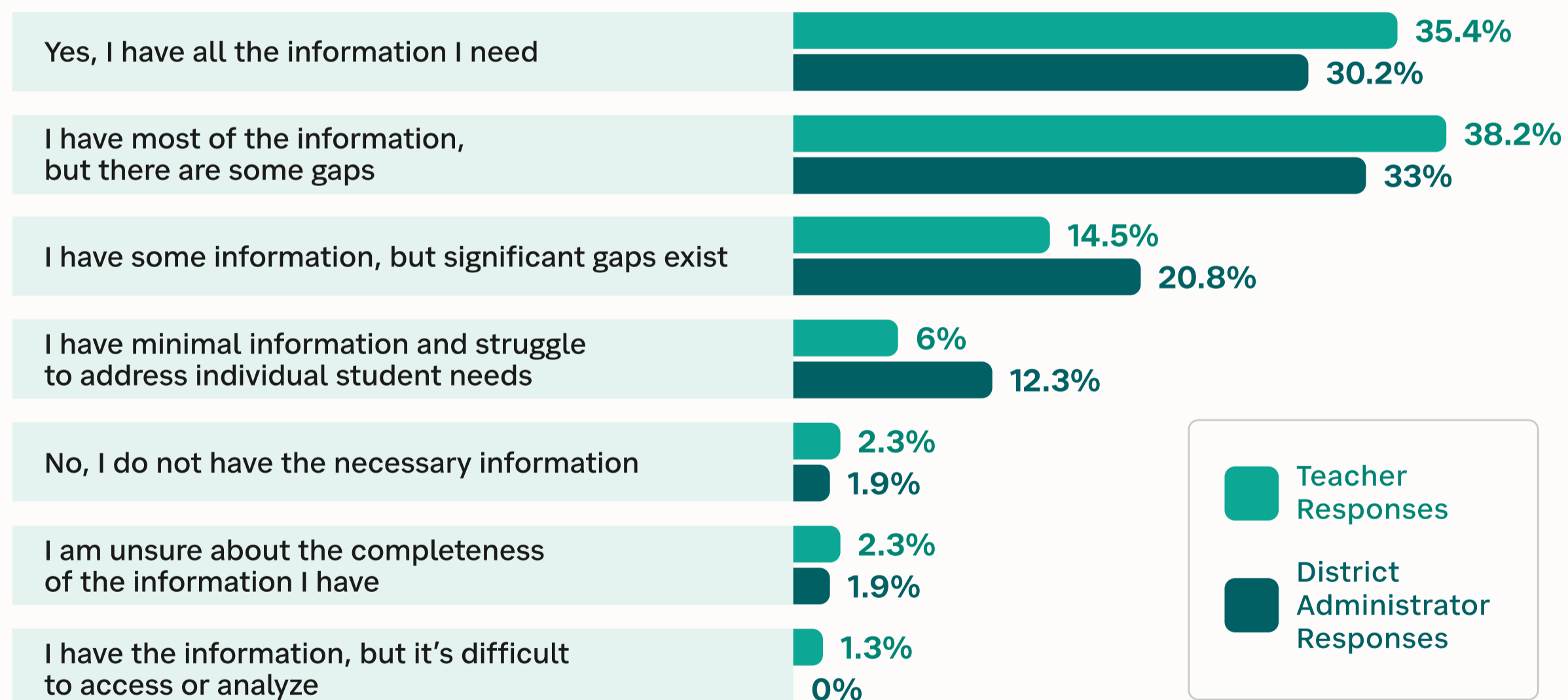


# Data-Driven Decision Making: Empowering Educators & Families

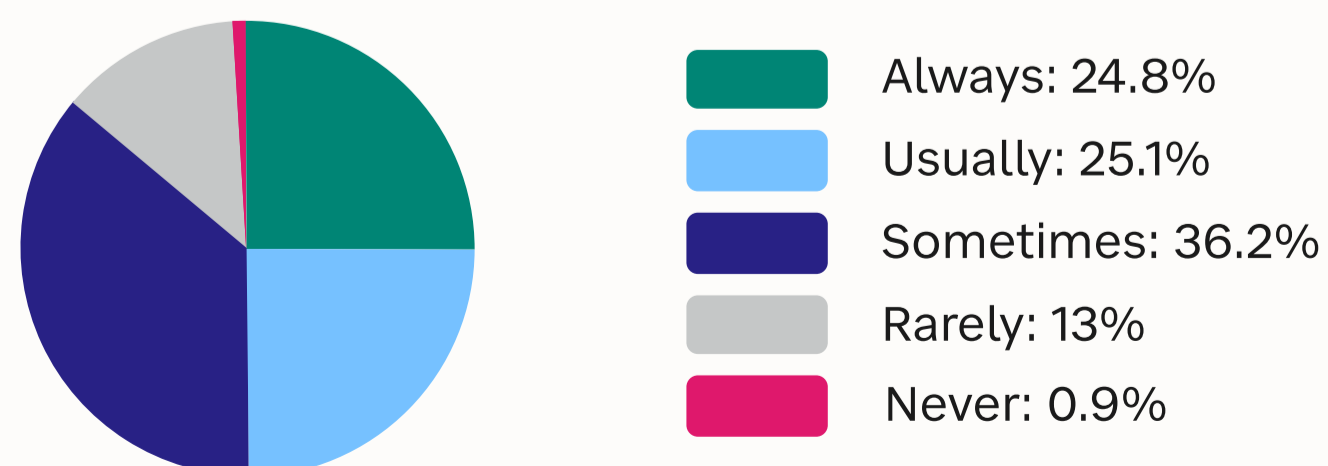
Educators today face a paradoxical challenge: they are inundated with data yet often lack the actionable insights needed to effectively support students. Meanwhile, families struggle to get clear, complete information about their children's progress. In this section we'll dive into how data is currently used, common challenges, and strategies to enhance data utilization and sharing practices.

Only 37% of respondents feel they have all the information necessary to effectively address individual student needs. Half of respondents "always" or "usually" need student information that is not accessible through existing systems. Of those who have some of the information needed, many struggle with insufficient time for analysis or a lack of training on how to use data tools effectively. These challenges are more pronounced among classroom teachers compared to district administrators, suggesting a gap in data accessibility between different roles within the education system.

*Do you have the information necessary to effectively address the individual needs of students?*



*How often do you find yourself needing student information that is not accessible through your existing systems, in order to get a complete understanding of a student's situation and support their success?*



## Data Access and Analysis

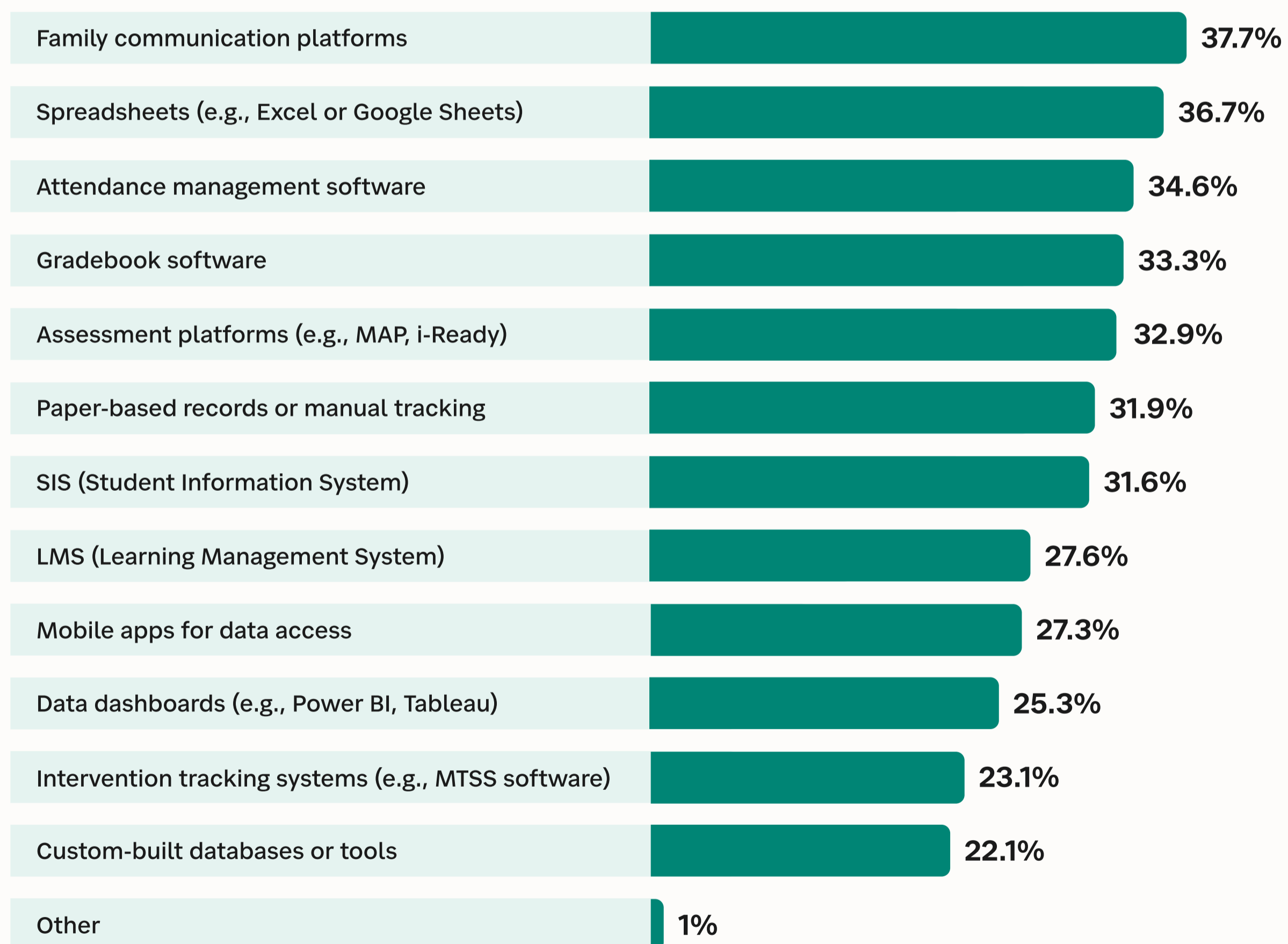
The most common tools used by educators are family communication platforms (37.7%), followed closely by spreadsheets (36.7%), and attendance management software (34.6%). Almost a third (31.9%) are still using paper-based records or manual tracking, likely contributing to the desire of 32.8% of respondents for more time to analyze and apply data findings.

Educators primarily use student data for identifying learning gaps (43.5%), addressing behavior issues (42.8%), and tracking attendance trends (42.5%). Only 32.5% of respondents use data insights for discussions with families, which may contribute to families feeling under-informed about their children's academic progress.

Only  
**27.8%**  
of families feel  
"very well-informed"  
about their child's  
academic progress

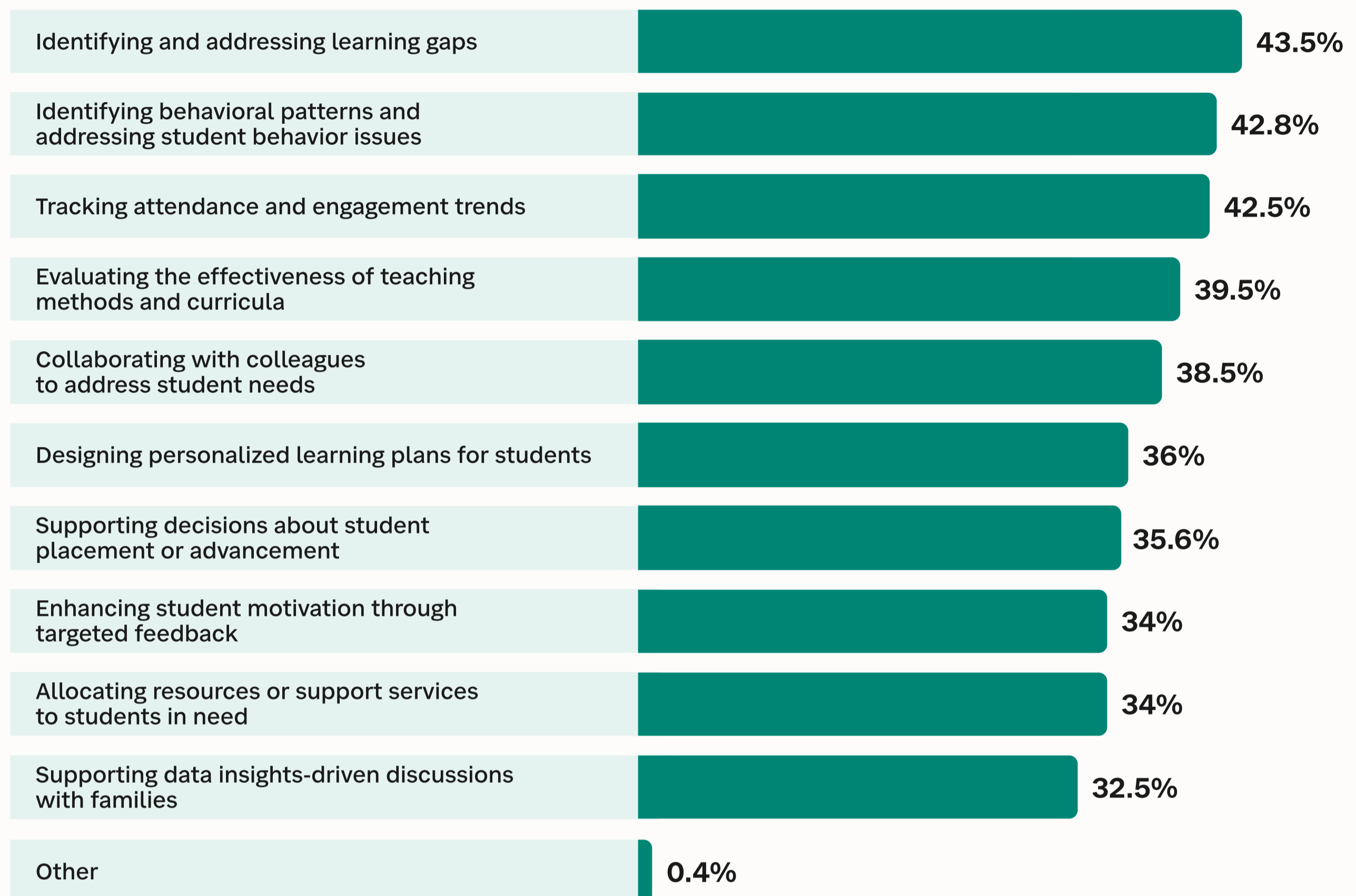
**43%**  
of educators are  
uncertain if families are  
receiving or seeing  
school messages

### What tools do you currently use to access and analyze student information?

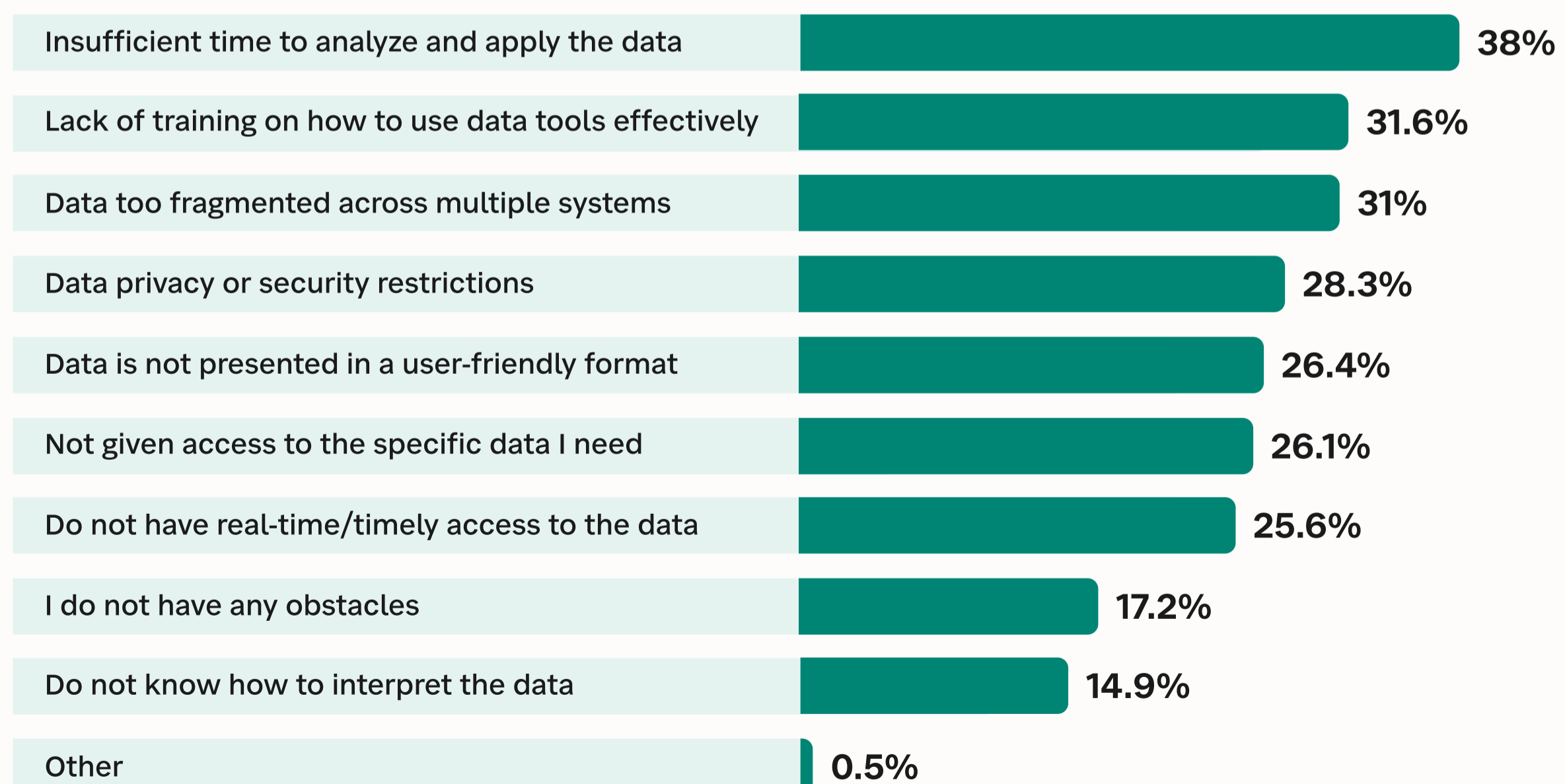


## Data Usage and Obstacles

*In which of the following ways do you currently use student information (academic, behavioral, attendance) and insights to support improved student outcomes?*



*What are your biggest obstacles to using student data to improve student outcomes?*

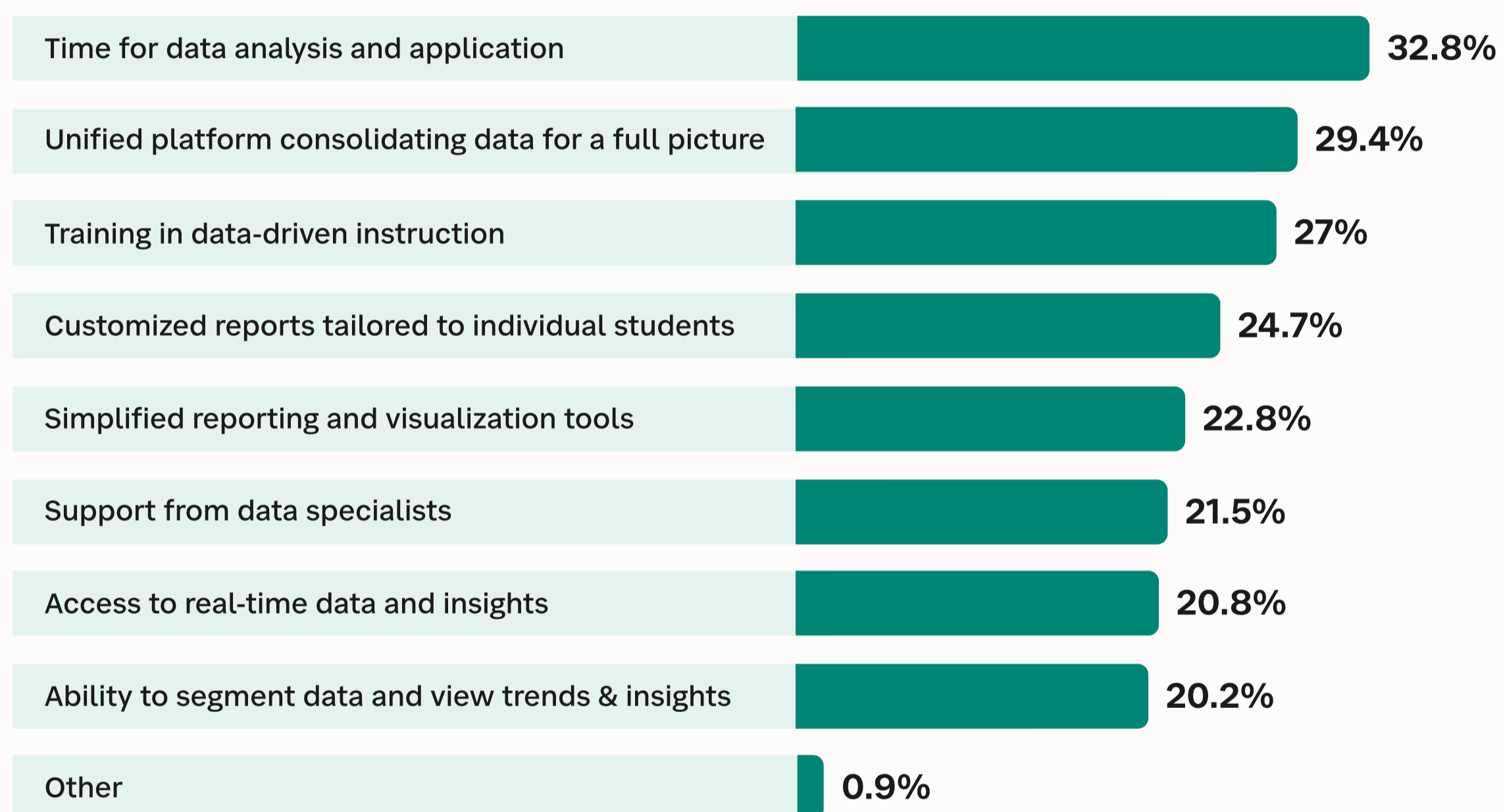


## Obstacles to Using Data to Support Outcomes

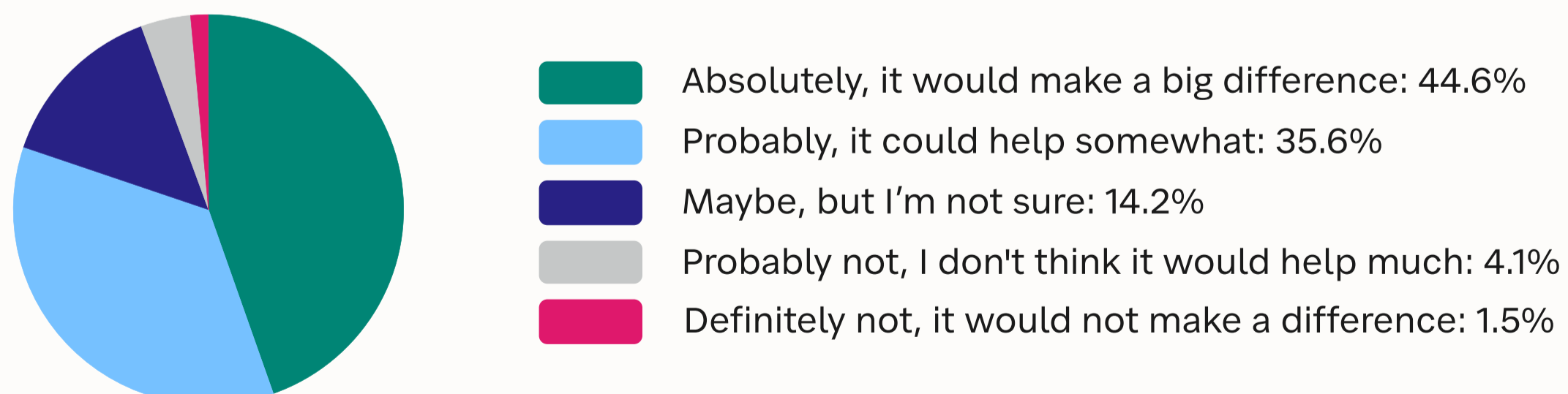
The data clearly shows a disconnect between current communication practices and family preferences. According to a recent [YouthTruth survey](#), just 22% of students in 2022-23 said their teachers understand their lives outside of school. This statistic further underscores the gap between schools and families, highlighting the need for comprehensive strategies and personalized outreach.

At the same time, educators are struggling with time constraints, language barriers, and uncertainty about message reception, while families desire more frequent, relevant, and easily accessible communications. This misalignment creates obstacles to effective family engagement, potentially impacting student success.

*What would help you more effectively use student data to improve student outcomes?*



*Do you feel that having access to more actionable data insights would help your school/district to better support and improve student outcomes?*



# Solutions for Improved Data Utilization

By addressing these data-related challenges and implementing targeted solutions, schools can significantly enhance their decision-making processes. Improved data utilization not only empowers educators to make informed instructional choices, it also enables more meaningful engagement with families, ultimately contributing to better student outcomes.

## Implement Integrated Data Systems & Enhance Data Accessibility

**29.4%** of educators believe a "one-stop-shop" platform that consolidates data from multiple sources would help them more effectively use student data.

**22.8%** of educators want simplified data reporting and visualization tools.

Implement user-friendly dashboards that provide actionable insights at a glance. Develop systems that integrate academic, behavioral, and attendance data for a comprehensive view.

## Allocate Time for Data Analysis & Leverage Predictive Analytics

**35.6%** of educators believe access to more actionable data insights would help in supporting and improving student outcomes.

**32.8%** of educators believe more time allocated for data analysis and application would improve their ability to use student data effectively.

Restructure schedules to include dedicated time for data review and planning. Implement systems that can identify at-risk students early, freeing up staff time otherwise spent looking for attendance trends and allowing for proactive interventions.

## Provide Data & Insights to Families

**Only 27.8%** of families feel "very well-informed" about their child's academic progress.

Offering user-friendly portals or apps that provide families with real-time access to their child's academic, attendance, and behavior information could make it easier for families to stay actively involved in their children's academic journeys,

## Provide Data Literacy Training

**31.6%** of educators cite a lack of training on how to use data tools effectively as a major obstacle.

**27%** of educators request professional development around best practices in data-driven instruction.

Offer targeted training sessions on interpreting data and using it to inform instructional decisions. Develop ongoing professional development programs focused on effective use of educational technology and data analysis.

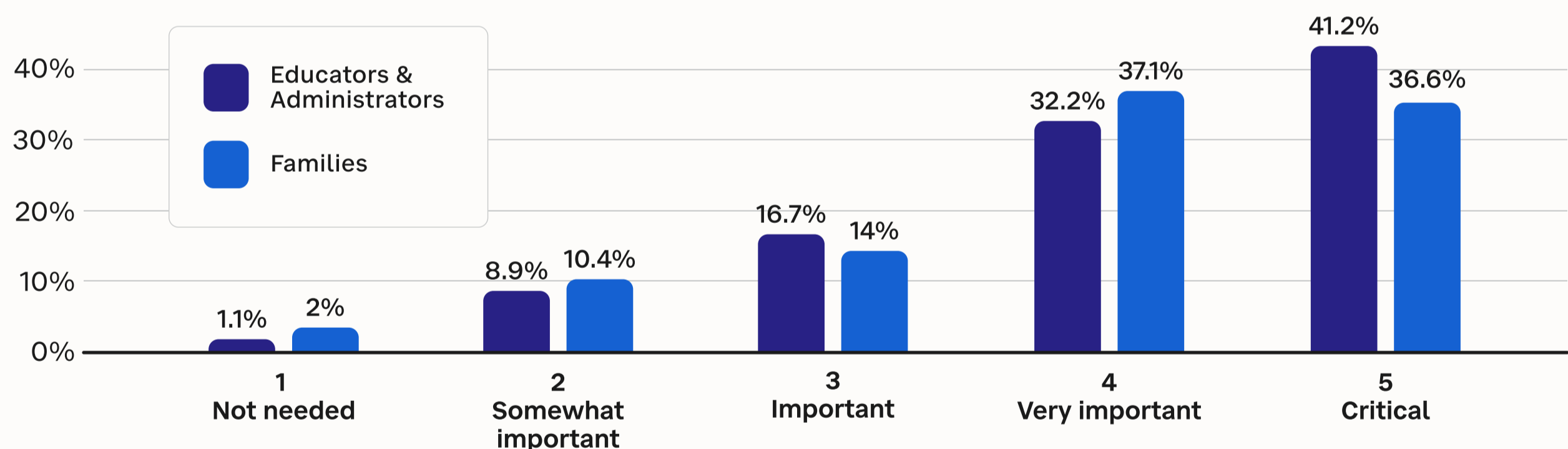
# Attendance and Engagement Strategies: Fostering Consistent Participation

Attendance is a critical factor in student success, yet districts throughout the U.S. continue to struggle with chronic absenteeism. This section analyzes current practices and looks at innovative approaches that can help schools and districts boost engagement and reduce absenteeism.

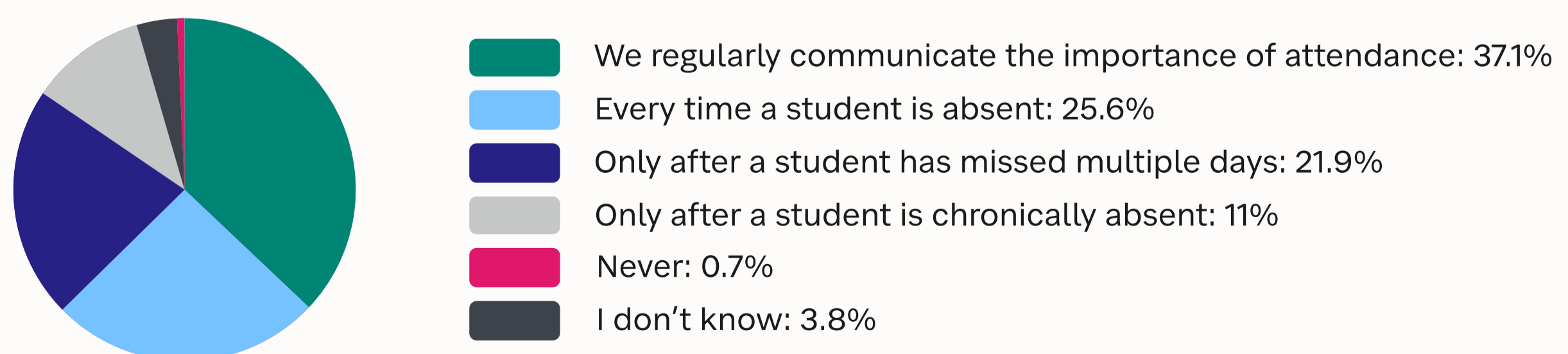
Educators and parents agree that attendance is key. 73.3% of educators and 73.7% of families consider attendance critical or very important to student success. While there's a shared understanding of attendance's importance, our surveys reveal there are often misalignments in approaches to addressing and communicating about attendance issues.

Only 37.1% of schools and districts regularly communicate with all families about the importance of attendance. And 58.4% take a reactive approach, only reaching out after students are absent or become chronically absent.

*On a scale of 1 to 5, how important do you think attendance is for student academic success?*



*How frequently does your school or district communicate with families about the importance of attendance?*



## Challenges in Addressing Chronic Absenteeism

Research shows that the gap between believing attendance is a priority and taking proactive measures is likely linked to available tools and time. Only 27.3% of respondents report having very effective tools for identifying students at risk of chronic absenteeism. 31.5% find their current tools and processes only slightly effective at identifying at-risk students. This highlights the need for better systems and processes to monitor and address attendance issues.

37.1% of schools and districts regularly communicate with families about the importance of attendance while 58.4% take a reactive approach, only reaching out after students are absent or chronically absent. Additionally, 46.3% of educators report facing difficulty getting families to prioritize attendance issues.

From the family perspective, 45.4% report receiving communications about attendance only after their child is absent. 71.3% of families want updates celebrating good attendance or improvements. Similarly, 67.3% of educators agree or strongly agree that schools and districts are too focused on punitive measures rather than supportive interventions to address absenteeism.

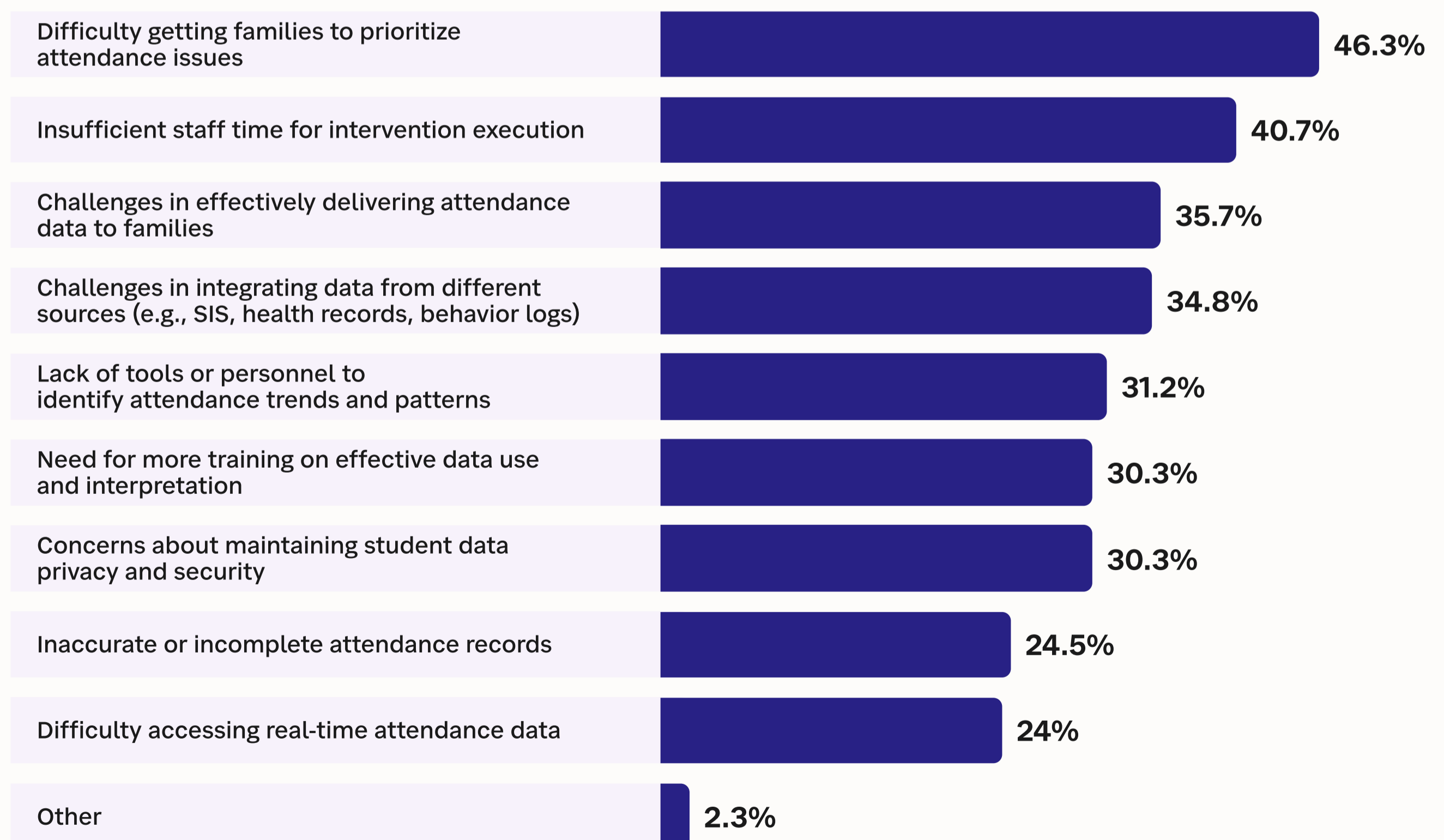
**40.6%**

of educators believe increased education on the importance of regular attendance would help address absenteeism

**53.1%**

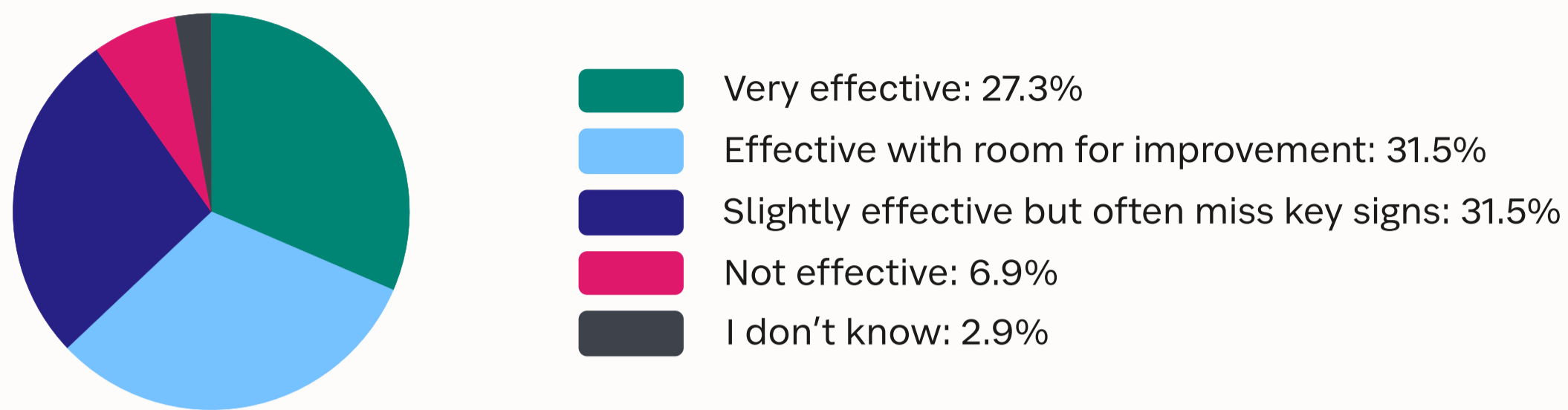
of families want information on how missing school impacts their child's academic performance

### What challenges do you face in addressing absenteeism in your school/district?

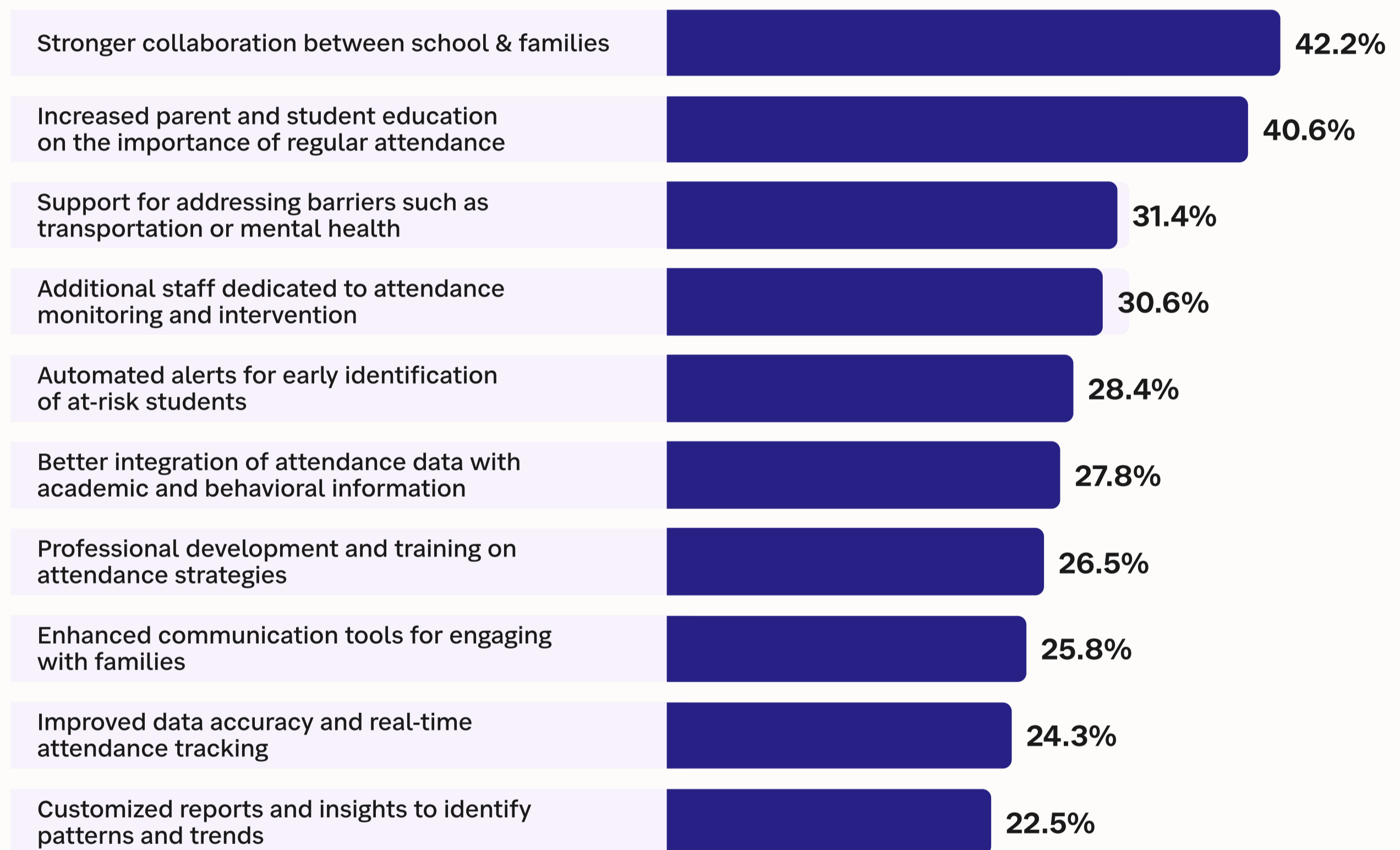


## Tools and Processes

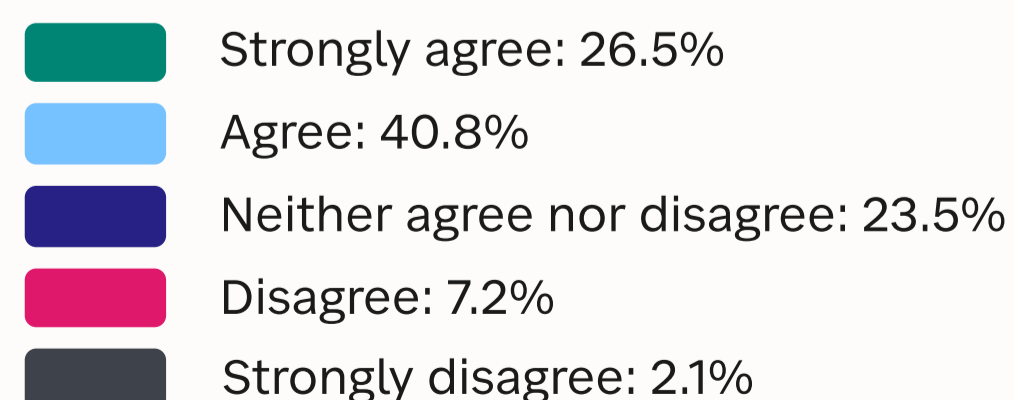
How effective are your current tools and processes for identifying students at risk of chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or 15 days or more of the school year)?



What would help your school or district more effectively address student absenteeism?



Do you feel that schools and districts are too focused on punitive measures rather than supportive interventions to address absenteeism?





# Solutions for Improving Attendance and Engagement

The majority (81.8%) of educators believe that implementing targeted strategies to engage families could significantly reduce chronic absenteeism. By aligning communication strategies with family preferences and addressing the root causes of absenteeism, schools can develop a comprehensive, family-centered approach that fosters a culture of consistent attendance.

## Implement Proactive Communication Strategies & Interventions

**71.3%** of families desire updates celebrating good attendance or improvements.

**28.4%** of educators believe automated alerts for early identification of at-risk students would help address absenteeism.

**67.3%** of educators agree or strongly agree that schools are too focused on punitive measures rather than supportive interventions to address attendance issues.

Develop positive reinforcement programs that incentivize and celebrate good attendance. Use automated systems to send regular attendance updates. Implement predictive analytics to identify students at risk of chronic absenteeism before patterns become entrenched.

## Strengthen School-Home Partnerships with Targeted Resources

**42.2%** of educators believe stronger collaboration between school and families would help address absenteeism.

**31.4%** of educators suggest more resources for addressing barriers like transportation or mental health issues.

Develop family engagement programs that emphasize the importance of attendance and provide support for overcoming barriers. Establish partnerships with community organizations to provide wraparound services addressing root causes of absenteeism such as transportation and mental health.

Only **42%**  
of students reported  
feeling like part of the  
school community in  
**2022-23**  
[YouthTruth](#)

## Improve Data Integration and Accessibility

**27.8%** of educators believe better integration of attendance data with academic and behavioral information would help address absenteeism.

Implement unified data systems that provide a holistic view of student attendance patterns and related factors. Choose user-friendly mobile apps that allow families to track attendance, receive real-time notifications, and easily communicate with schools.

## Provide Professional Development

**26.5%** of educators request professional development and training on attendance strategies.

**30.6%** report lack of training on how to use data tools effectively as one of the biggest obstacles to using student data to improve student outcomes.

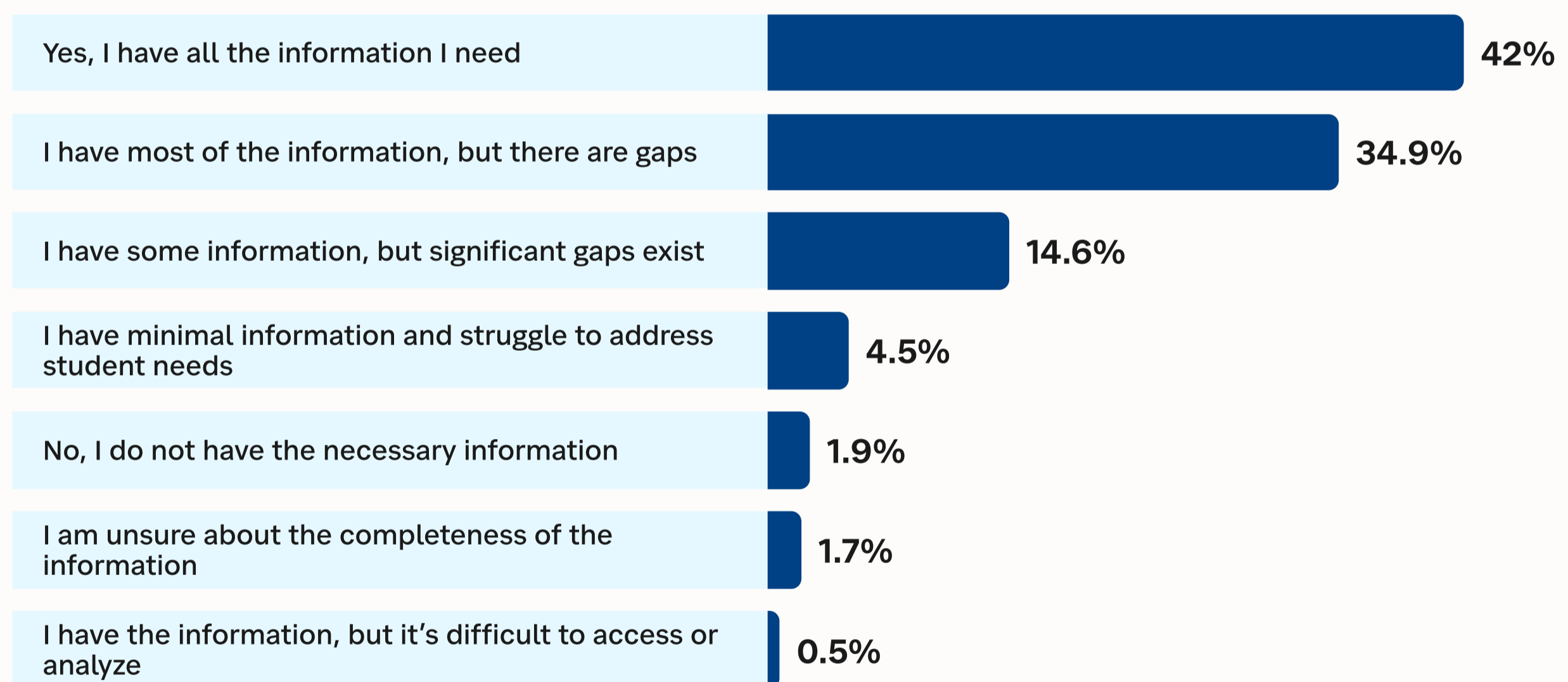
Offer professional development on data-driven decision-making, effective use of student information, how to communicate with families about attendance, and supportive interventions.

# Tools and Resources for Success: Optimizing Technology for Education

Understanding the tools and resources available to educators is crucial in addressing the challenges of school-home communication and family engagement. Our survey reveals significant gaps in the tools and resources educators currently have at their disposal. Let's dig in and look at ways to optimize resource utilization.

Over half of educators (55.9%) experience gaps in the tools needed to effectively engage families. And only 42% of respondents have all the information necessary to effectively engage families in their child's academic success. As we've seen in multiple sections, primary challenges to communication, data usage, and attendance interventions include time constraints (38%), language barriers (32%), lack of complete student information (33.8%), and, relatedly, data fragmentation (31%).

*Do you have the information necessary to effectively engage families in their child's academic success? (e.g. relevant student performance data, attendance data)*



**55.9%**

of educators experience gaps in the tools and resources needed for effective family engagement

Only **42%**

of educators feel they have all the information necessary to effectively engage families in their child's academic success

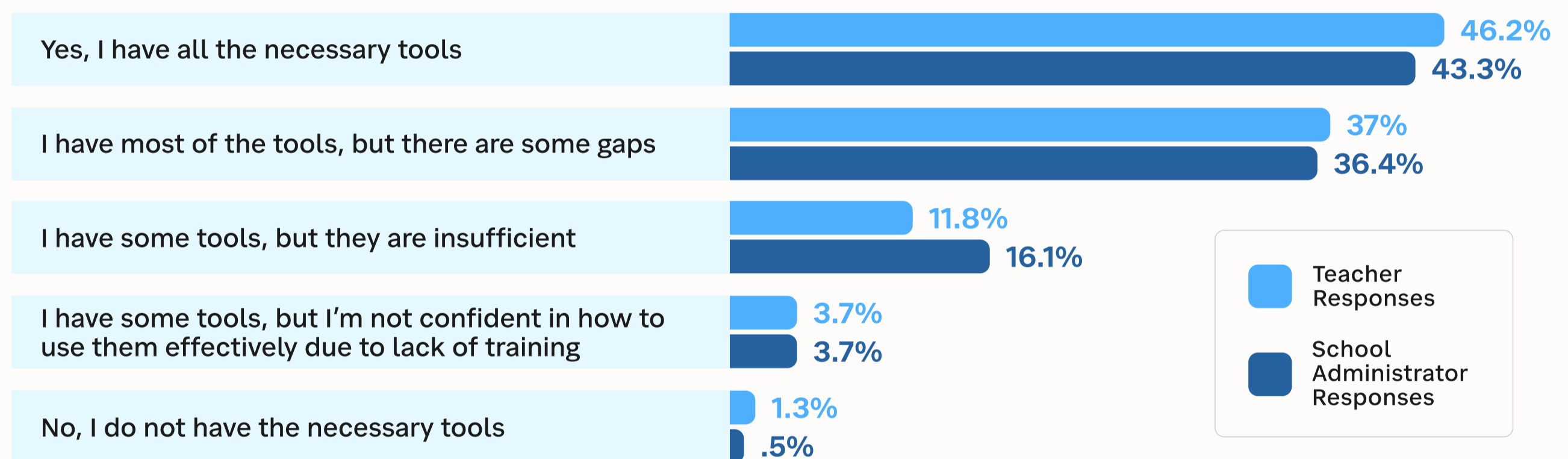
## Technology Use in K-12 Schools

While there is no shortage of technology available to educators, too often a lack of integration or training leaves users feeling in the dark. 46.2% of K-12 teachers and 43.3% of school administrators report having all necessary tools. This suggests a gap in tool availability or perception between classroom teachers and administrators.

Educators recognize the value of unified platforms for both family engagement (39.7%) and data analysis (29.4%), indicating a desire for more integrated tools to ensure consistent and accurate information across all channels. 34.8% of respondents face challenges in integrating data from different sources (e.g., SIS, health records, behavior logs). 42.8% of respondents wish they had access to family background or home environment context to better support students. 35.7% believe data analysis tools to identify trends and surface key insights for each student would help improve family engagement.

The data shows a clear need for more comprehensive, integrated tools that can support educators in their efforts to engage families and improve student outcomes.

*Do you have the tools necessary to effectively engage families in their child's academic success? (e.g. communication platforms, data access, and training, etc.)*



# Solutions for Optimizing Tools and Resources

Optimized technology not only saves time for educators but also enables more meaningful data analysis and family engagement. This, in turn, contributes to improved student outcomes and stronger school-home partnerships. As we continue to evolve educational technology, the focus needs to be on creating integrated, user-friendly systems that empower educators, engage families, and ultimately benefit students.

## Unify Communications Efforts

**39.7%** of educators believe a unified platform to ensure consistent and accurate information across all communication channels would help improve engagement with families.

Instead of relying on multiple tools and processes for communication, advocate for a district-wide communications platform that integrates various functions, including messaging, calls, engagement data, and progress tracking.

## Enhance Data Accessibility and Analysis

**36.5%** of educators want more timely and accurate data on each individual student.

**29.4%** of educators believe a platform that consolidates data from multiple sources would help them more effectively use student data.

Address the need for data consolidation and more efficient, timely analysis by adopting comprehensive systems that provide real-time, actionable insights on student performance, attendance, and behavior. Invest in solutions that can integrate data from various sources (SIS, LMS, assessment platforms) to provide a holistic view of student progress for educators and families.

## Prioritize User Experience

**55.9%** of educators experience gaps in the tools and resources needed for effective family engagement.

**27.3%** of educators currently use mobile apps for data access.

Focus on developing or adopting tools with intuitive interfaces that require minimal training to use effectively. Choose solutions with mobile applications that allow educators to access information and communicate with families on-the-go. Implement robust translation features in all communication and data-sharing tools to address language barriers with diverse populations.

Regularly gather feedback from educators to continually improve tool functionality and usability.

# Building Strong School-Home Partnerships: Fostering Collaboration for Student Success

Strong school-home partnerships are crucial for student success. This section delves into the current state of family engagement, barriers to effective partnerships, and strategies to foster stronger connections between schools and families.

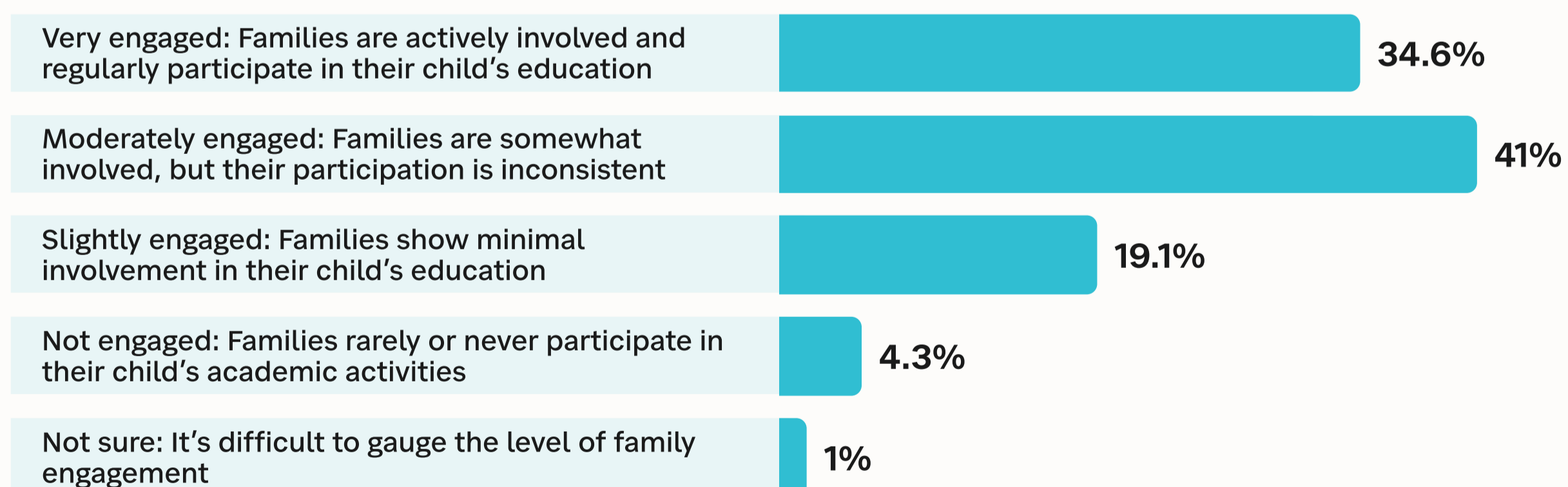
Our findings align with [a recent study by Learning Heroes and TNTP](#) which provides compelling evidence of the impact of strong family engagement. The study revealed that schools with stronger family engagement before the pandemic experienced better-than-expected attendance, achievement, and school climate outcomes post-pandemic.

Schools with strong family engagement saw a:

- 39% smaller rise in chronic absenteeism
- 37% smaller decline in Math proficiency
- 27% smaller decline in ELA proficiency

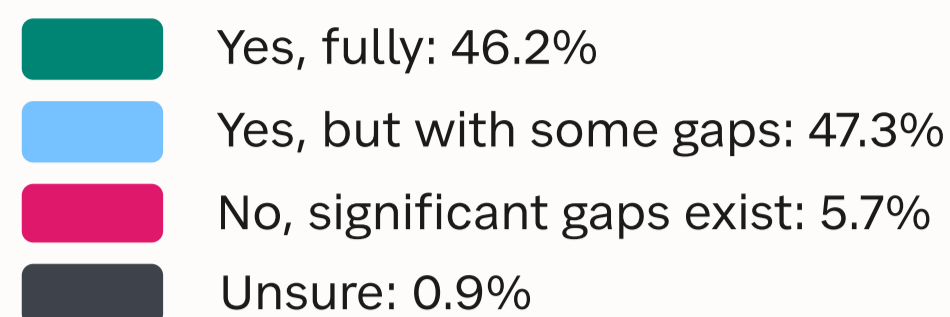
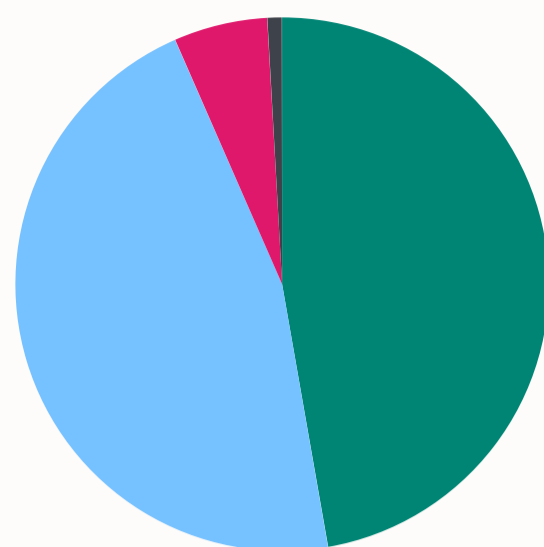
The impact of strong pre-pandemic family engagement was comparable to the importance of spending more time learning in-person versus remote. These benefits were consistent across a diverse range of schools, regardless of income level, grade level, or urban/rural settings.

*From your perspective, how engaged are the families of your students in supporting their child's academic success?*



## Perception Gaps

*Do you think families are given enough comprehensive information about their child—such as grades, up-to-date information about their classwork, behavior data, and attendance details—to effectively support their child’s educational success?*

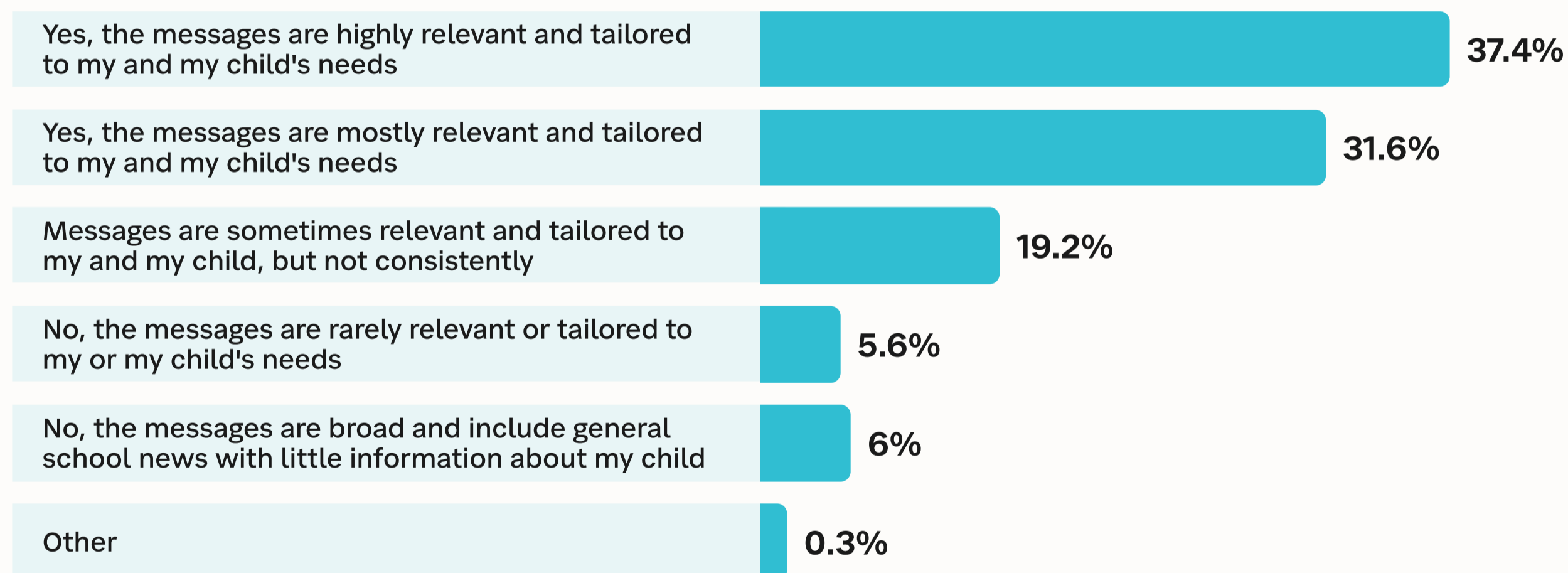


### Educator Perceptions:

- 46.2%** of educators believe families are given fully comprehensive information about their child.
- 33.8%** of educators lack complete/relevant student information to effectively communicate about student needs.
- 34.6%** of educators feel families are very engaged in their child's education.
- 41%** perceive families as moderately engaged, with inconsistent participation.

**33.8%**  
of educators lack complete or relevant student information to effectively communicate about student needs

*Are the messages you receive from your child’s school relevant and tailored to your & your child's needs?*



### Family Perceptions:

- 27.8%** of families feel "very well-informed" about their child's academic progress and success.
- 33.2%** express some level of dissatisfaction with the information provided by schools.
- 31%** of families surveyed reported messages were not consistently relevant and tailored to them and their children’s needs.
- Multilingual families** were less likely to feel communications are highly relevant and tailored to them.



## Barriers to Effective Family Engagement

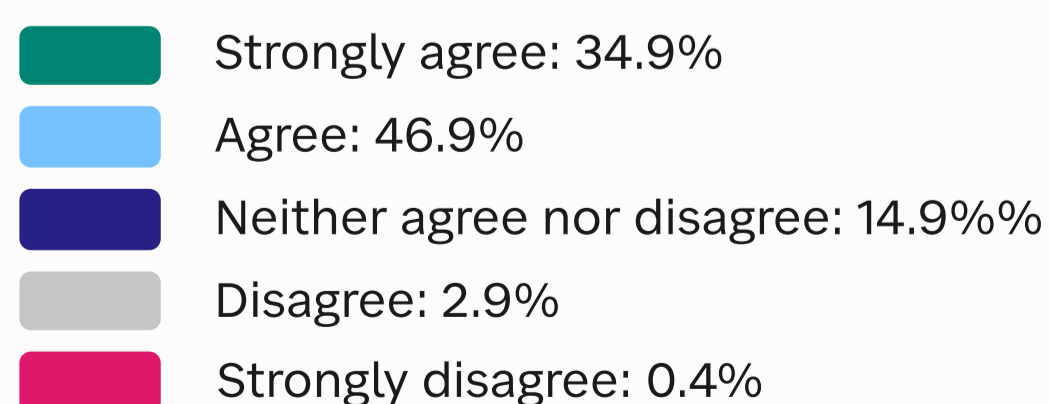
The data clearly shows that both educators and families recognize the importance of strong connections, but face various barriers in achieving them. Communication challenges are cited as the largest barrier to family engagement with 43% of educators uncertain if families are receiving or seeing school messages. 38.2% cite insufficient time for communication with families as a primary challenge. With less than 27.8% of families feeling very well-informed about their child's academic progress the need for improved communication strategies is clear.

The core issues stem from misalignment between school efforts and family needs. While both parties recognize the importance of strong school-home connections, their approaches and expectations often diverge.

Importantly, 81.8% of educators believe that implementing targeted strategies to engage families could significantly reduce chronic absenteeism. This underscores the potential impact of improved family-school partnerships on student outcomes.

As we move forward, the focus should be on creating inclusive, accessible, and meaningful ways for all families to engage in their children's education. By leveraging technology, addressing language barriers, and providing personalized communication, schools can build the strong partnerships necessary for student success.

*Do you believe that implementing targeted strategies to engage families could significantly reduce chronic absenteeism in your school/district?*



**81.8%**  
of educators believe  
targeted strategies to  
engage families could  
significantly reduce  
chronic absenteeism

# Solutions for Enhancing Family-School Collaboration

## Implement Comprehensive Communication Strategies

**42.2%** of educators see a need for translation services or tools to better communicate with multilingual families.

**39.7%** of educators believe a unified platform would help improve engagement with families.

Develop multi-channel communication approaches that cater to diverse family preferences and schedules. Offer flexible communication methods and times to accommodate diverse family schedules and preferences as a recent [Learning Policy Institute \(LPI\) report](#) suggests. This could include options for asynchronous communication, varied meeting times, and multiple channels for interaction.

Train staff on creating a welcoming environment for all families, regardless of cultural or linguistic background. Invest in robust translation services and culturally responsive communication training.

## Ensure Personalized and Timely Updates

**60.6%** of families want updates on academic progress beyond report cards.

**36.5%** of educators want more timely and accurate data on each individual student to share with families.

Implement systems for regular, personalized updates on student progress, behavior, and achievements. Develop user-friendly portals or apps that provide families with real-time access to their child's academic data, attendance, and behavior information.

## Provide Family Education and Support

**38.9%** of families seek information on areas where their child may need extra support.

**49.2%** of families desire behavioral observations and assessments.

Develop programs that go beyond traditional parent-teacher conferences, such as family workshops and student-led conferences. Offer classes or resources to help families understand curriculum, assessment practices, and how to support learning at home.

Implement programs to acknowledge and celebrate family participation in school activities and student support. Send out regular surveys to gauge family satisfaction and gather feedback on school climate.

## Build Effective Partnerships Around Student Success

By aligning communication methods, improving data accessibility and sharing, and implementing targeted strategies for family engagement, schools can create more effective partnerships with families. Such improvements have the potential to significantly impact student outcomes, including attendance rates, academic achievement, and overall well-being.



# Bridging the School-Home Divide

As schools across the country navigate the challenges of chronic absenteeism, communication gaps, and inconsistent family engagement, the need for transformative change has never been greater. The findings in this report underscore a critical truth: strong school-home connections are essential for student success. Despite widespread recognition of this fact, only 27.8% of families feel well-informed about their child's progress, and a mere 25.4% of educators report ease in connecting with families. Addressing these gaps requires more than just incremental improvements—it calls for a comprehensive, systemic approach that integrates technology, data, and communication strategies.

## Unify Communications and Data Systems

Educators often have to rely on fragmented communication methods and data. Existing systems often fail to provide a complete picture, leaving educators and families struggling to make informed decisions. Districts can overcome this by implementing platforms that streamline communication, data management, and analytics. These systems should cater to diverse family preferences and allow for personalized updates, real-time notifications, and multi-language support to ensure all families stay informed and engaged.

## Proactive Attendance and Engagement Strategies

Chronic absenteeism continues to be a nationwide concern, with only 27.3% of educators reporting effective tools to identify at-risk students. Shifting from reactive to proactive strategies is essential. Adopting early warning systems powered by predictive analytics, schools can identify trends before habits become entrenched. Promote positive attendance behaviors through reinforcement programs and establish partnerships with community organizations to address underlying barriers to attendance so all students have the opportunity to succeed.

## Family-Centered Engagement Programs

Develop digital and in-person engagement opportunities that reflect the diverse needs of families. Regular, personalized updates on student progress and behavior, combined with easy-to-use communication tools, will empower families to make informed decisions and play an active role in their child's education.

## Professional Development for Educators

Provide ongoing training on effective communication, cultural competency, and data-driven decision-making. Offer regular workshops for school-wide technology, data review meetings for teachers and staff, peer mentoring on technology use and engagement strategies, and on-demand digital training resources. Equipping educators with the skills and tools they need will enable more meaningful, productive interactions with families.

# Moving Forward Together

Now is the time for schools and districts to act. The path to stronger school-home partnerships is far from simple, but with dedicated effort and data-driven strategies like the solutions offered here, districts can create an educational ecosystem where:

**Every student is supported** by a strong school-home partnership.

**Educators have the tools and data** they need to make informed decisions.

**Families are actively engaged and well-informed** about their child's progress.

**Attendance improves** as a result of proactive, collaborative efforts.

**Technology enhances** rather than complicates the educational experience.

It's time to bridge the divide and build stronger, more resilient school-home partnerships—because when schools and families come together, students win.



## About SchoolStatus

The funding of this report reflects SchoolStatus' ongoing commitment to strengthening connections between educators and families in order to help students succeed.

SchoolStatus a K-12 EdTech company that provides a unified platform for centralized school-home communication, data-driven attendance management, and streamlined teacher professional development. Serving over 22 million students across all 50 states, SchoolStatus provides data-backed insights that help break down barriers and build relationships between school and home—so that every student is known by name and by need. Learn more at [schoolstatus.com](https://schoolstatus.com).