



Meeting Summary- February 28, 2022

The meeting was held virtually from 7:00pm-8:45pm.

In attendance:

- Group Organizer- Lauren Galok
- Representing Department of Special Services- Kelly Bond, Nancy Samaha, Samantha Roberts
- Representing BOE- Ralph Addonizio, Kristen Hodnett
- District Staff- Liz Cross
- Parents- 20 parents attended

Part I- Open To All

Lauren presented the results of the SEPAG survey. The survey was emailed to parents of children with IEPs and 504s via Blackboard Connect. The survey was open from January 24- February 7, 2022. Special Education Supervisors, Ms. Roberts and Dr. Samaha, presented the last two slides on the topic of student transitions. There was also a Q&A at the end of the presentation where parents were able to ask questions about the transition process. See attached slides for presentation.

Part II- Parents/ Guardians Only

Parents discussed the committees they felt would help SEPAG be successful. The committees include: Secretary, Social Media Coordinator, Extracurricular Activities Liaison, Inclusion Liaison, Welcome Committee, and Curriculum and Policy. Committee roles and responsibilities were discussed. SEPAG co-leader positions are also available. Parents agree that more committees could be created in the future to meet the needs of the group.

SEPAG is working with the Allenwood PTG to create a sensory-friendly experience at the Allenwood Mayfair. It was confirmed that the first half hour of the event will be designated for this. SEPAG will create the wording for the Mayfair flyer and present it to the PTG at the Mayfair committee meeting on March 10, 2022. A SEPAG member, in addition to being an Allenwood parent, volunteered to be the liaison.

We continued our discussion from the January meeting regarding a SEPAG Facebook page. Parents are in agreement that this page should be private. Other details still need to be finalized, such as if the page should be started from scratch or if an existing page should be converted to the SEPAG page. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

An official email was created for SEPAG. It is sepagwall@gmail.com. All group inquiries and ideas should be sent to this email.

A parent suggested the creation of a checklist with timeline as a resource to be added to the Special Services page. This checklist would be used by parents of children who are transitioning from Early Intervention to Primary School or new to the District. An organizational checklist, including meetings dates, evaluations, contacts, etc. to help parents and children prepare for the transition would be helpful. This topic will be explored further at our next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8:45pm. Submitted by Lauren Galok.

Important Resources:

- Wall SEPAG webpage- [Special Education Parent Advisory Group \(SEPAG\) - Special Services - Wall Township Public Schools](#)
- Statewide Parent Advocacy network (SPAN)- [SPAN Parent Advocacy Network | Empowered Parents: Educated, Engaged, Effective! \(spanadvocacy.org\)](#)
- Parental Rights in Education (PRISE)- [Parental Rights in Special Education \(nj.gov\)](#)



Wall Township

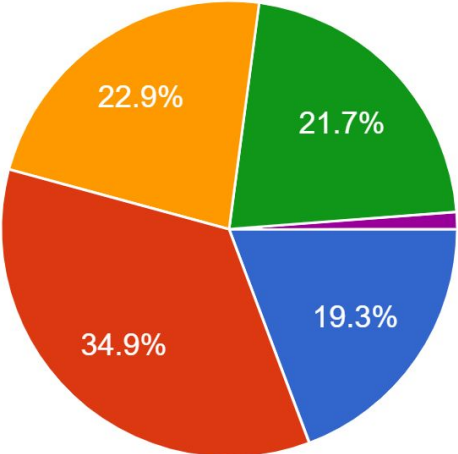
SEPAG

(Special Education Parent Advisory Group)

Parent Survey Responses
February 2022

How old is your child?

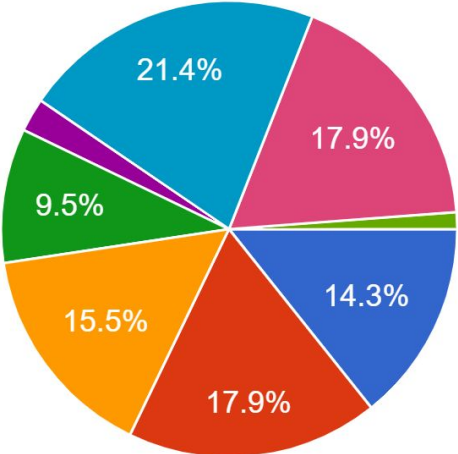
83 responses



- 3-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-13 years
- 14-18 years
- 19 years and older

What school does your child attend?

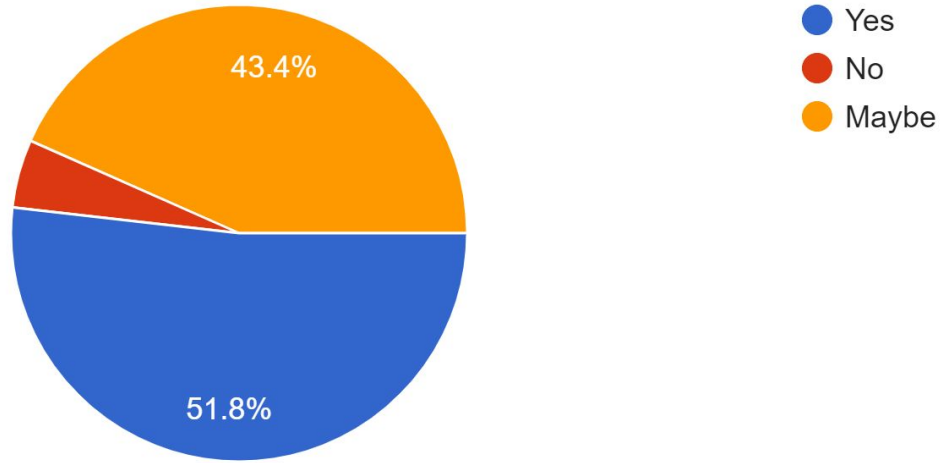
84 responses



- Primary School
- Allenwood
- Central
- Old Mill
- West Belmar
- Wall Intermediate
- Wall High School
- My child attends an out of district school

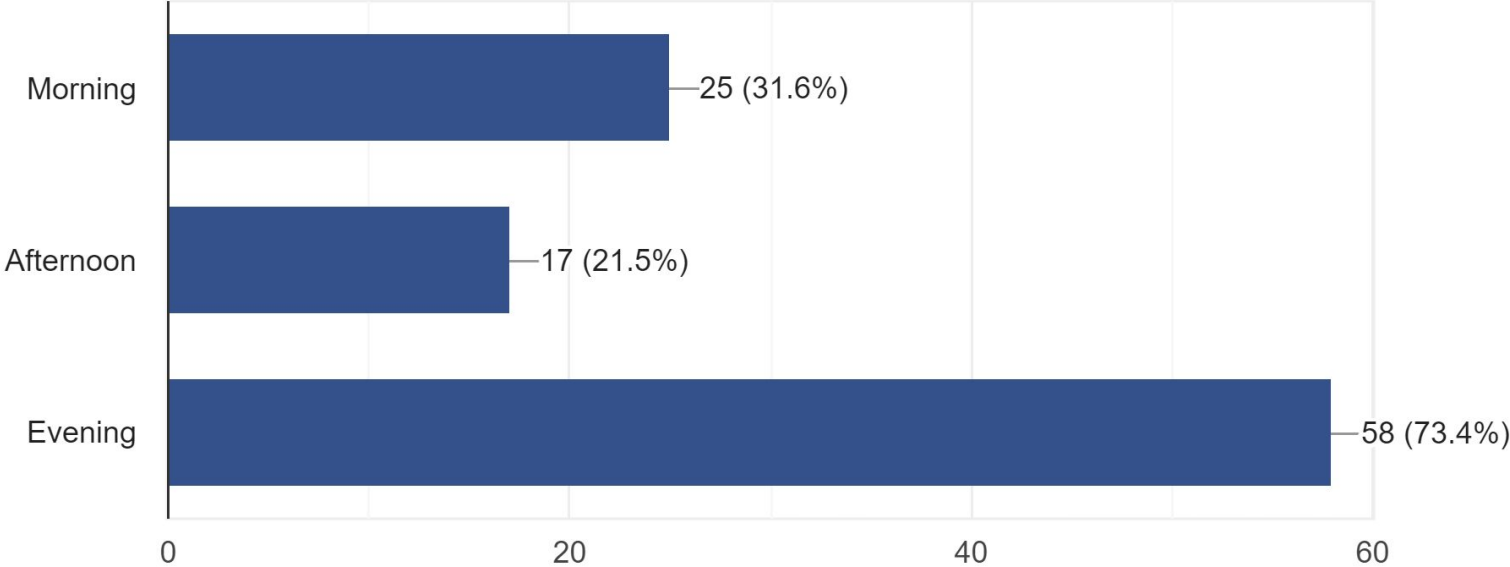
Are you interested in attending SEPAG meetings?

83 responses



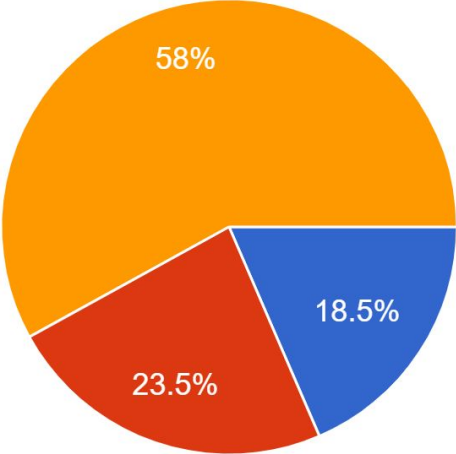
If so, please indicate the most convenient meeting time(s) for you.

79 responses



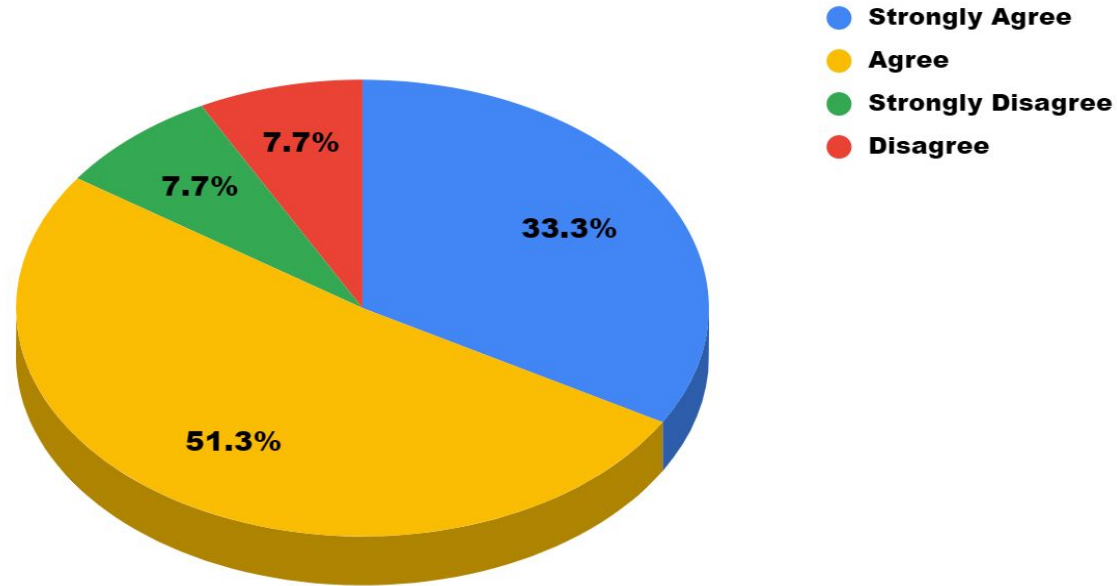
Which meeting format at you most comfortable with that will allow you to freely share new ideas and concerns?

81 responses

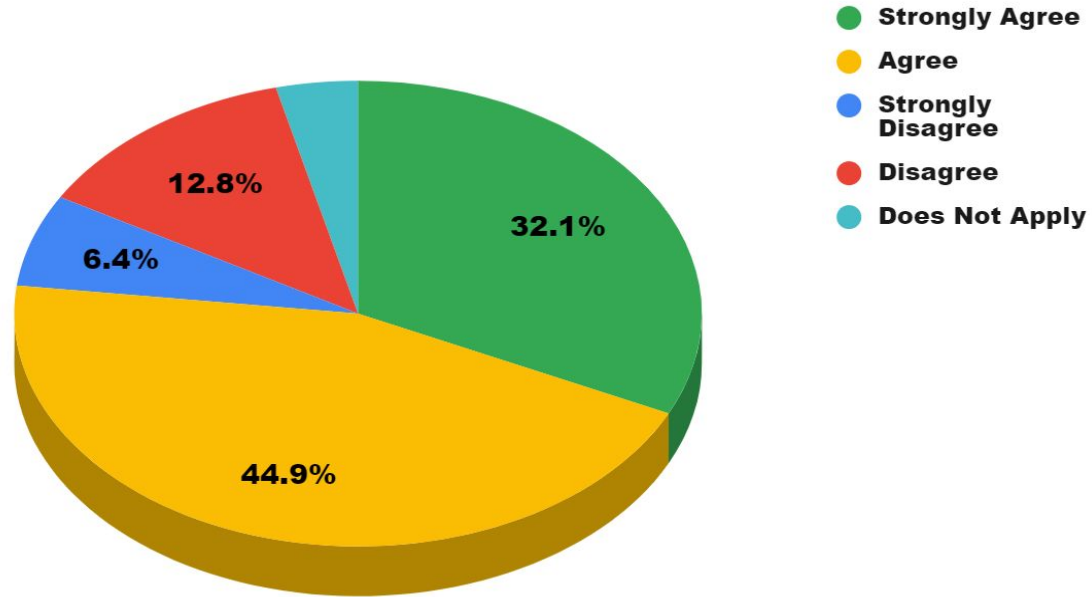


- Full meeting- includes parents, educators, administrators, etc
- Split meeting- First half is full meeting and second half is parents only
- I have no preference

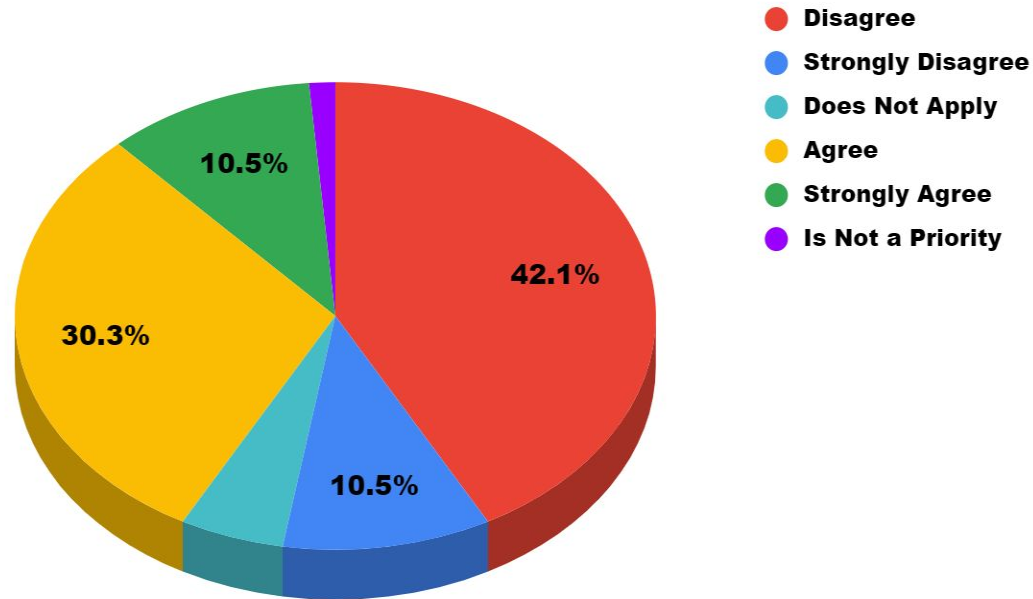
I am considered an equal member of the IEP team in planning my child's education



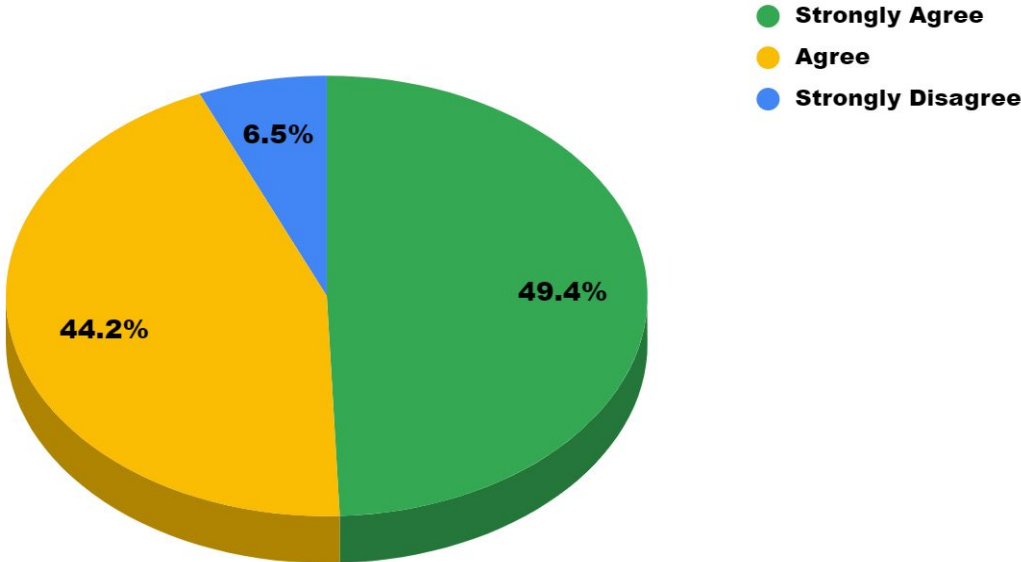
My child's progress report is written in terms I understand



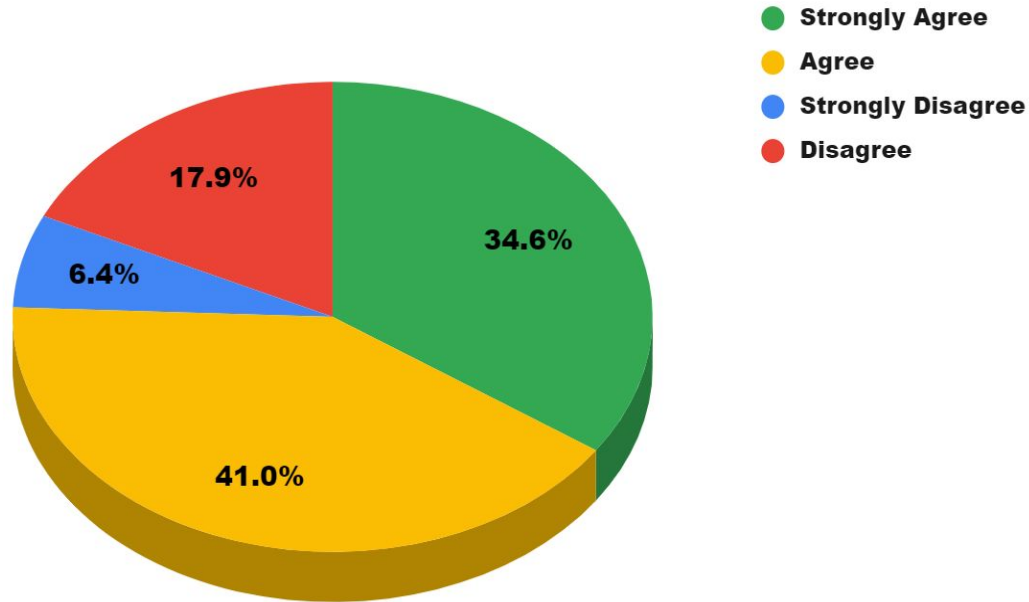
Information about organizations that offer support for parents of students with disabilities is readily available



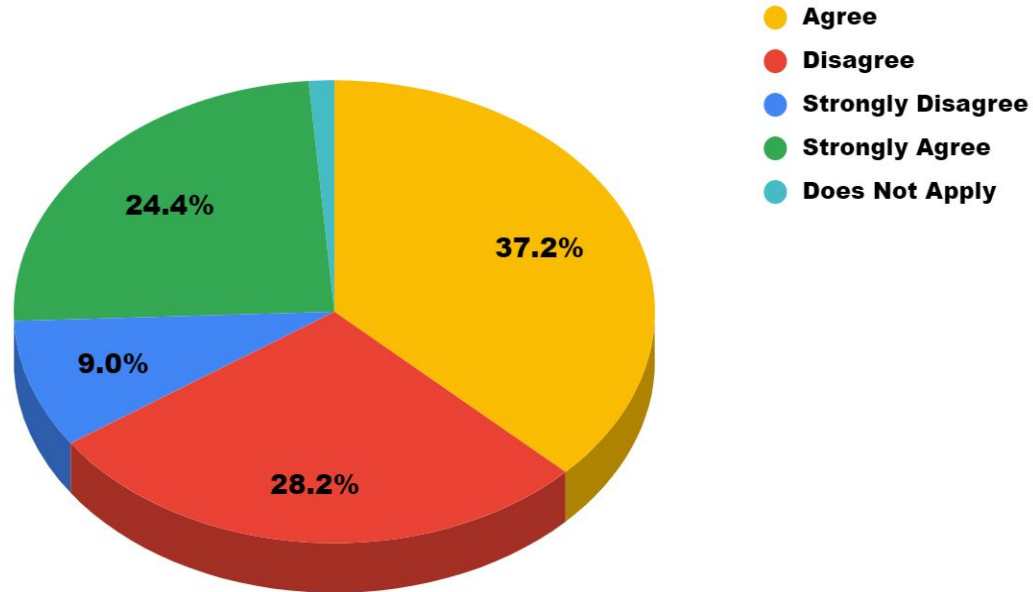
Teachers are available to speak with me



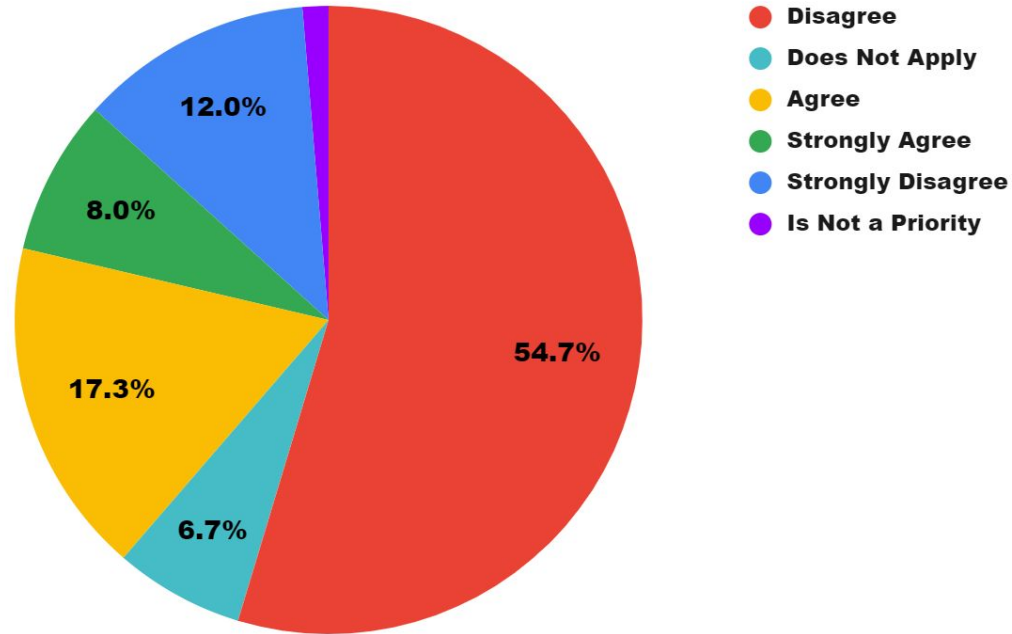
Teachers and administrators encourage me to be involved in making decisions about my child's services



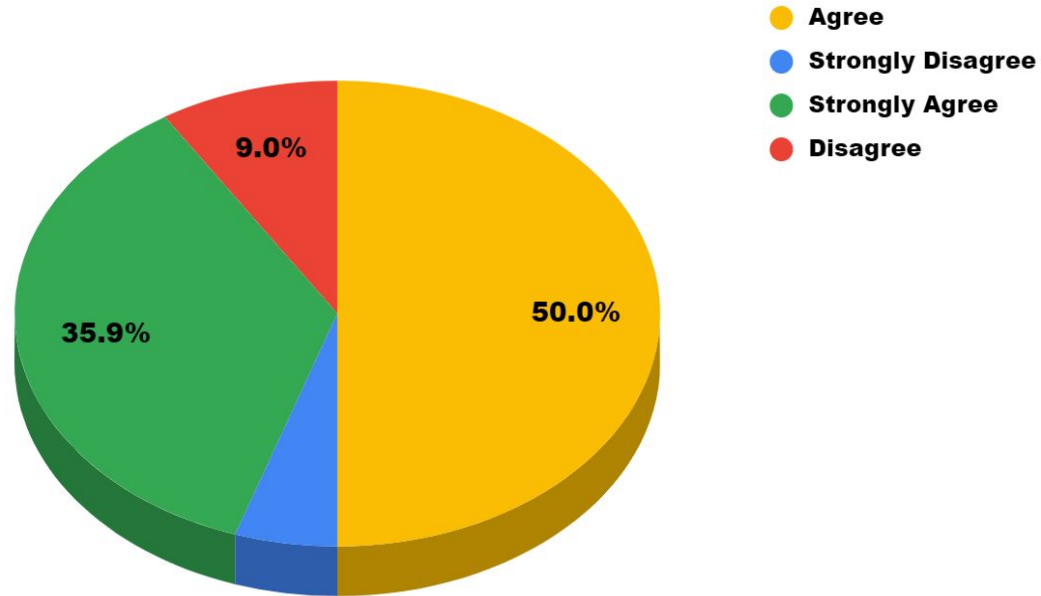
My school communicates regularly with me regarding my child's progress on IEP goals.



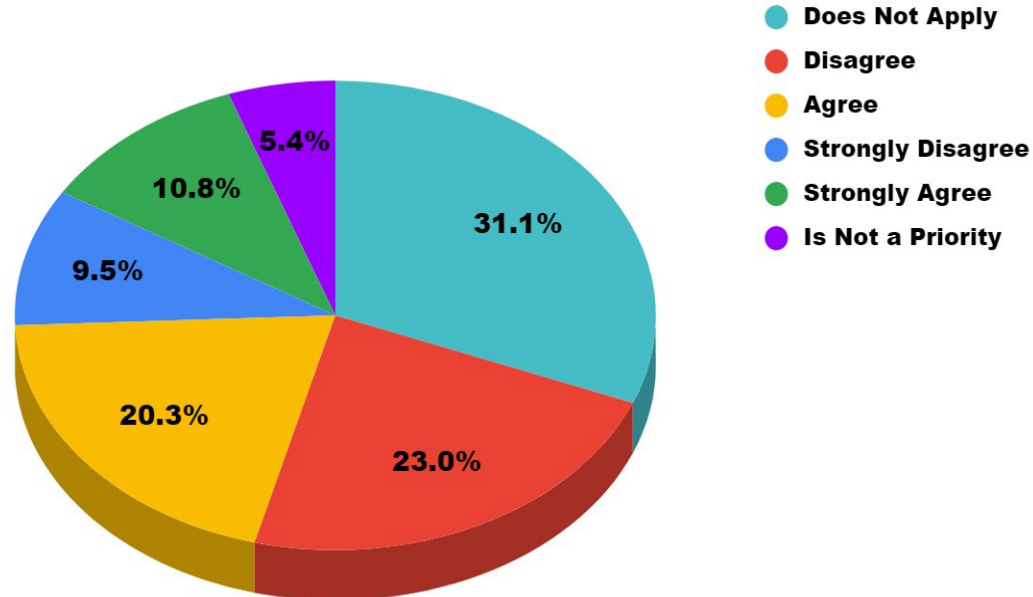
My school offers parents training about special education issues



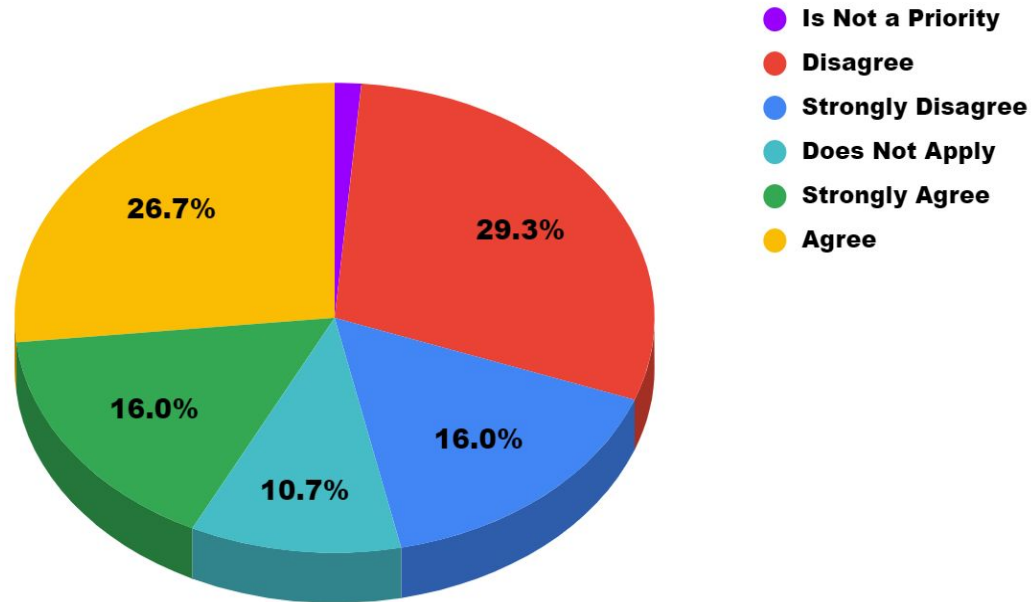
My school offers parents a variety of ways to communicate with teachers



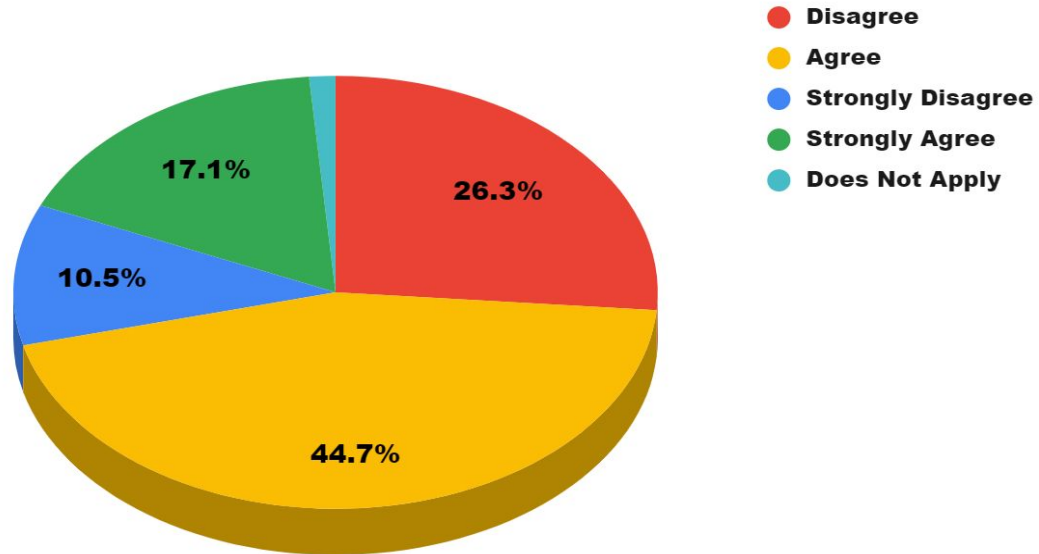
My school provides information on agencies that can assist my child in the transition from school to adult life



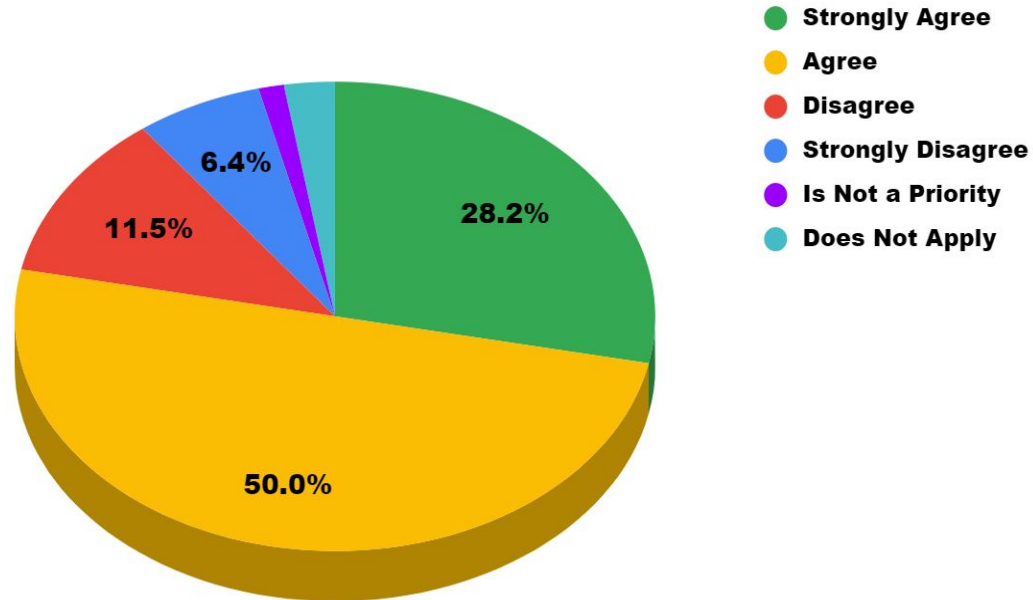
My school explains what options parents have if they disagree with a decision of the school



Administrators seek out and welcome parent input

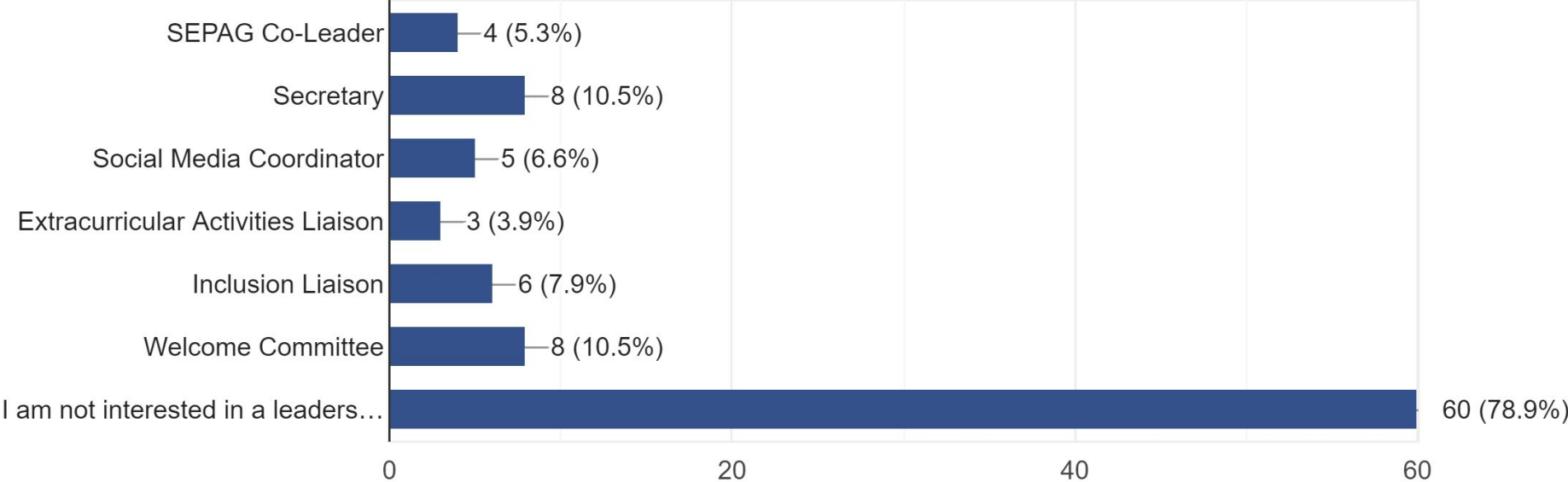


All of my concerns and recommendations were addressed at my last IEP meeting



Are you interested in a leadership/ liaison role within SEPAG? If so, please indicate which role(s) you are interested in. (Note: more positions will be created as the group evolves.)

76 responses



Please list topics you would be interested in discussing and/or learning more about.

IEP Components/IEP Process/ CST Communication	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Extra Curricular Activities/Social Support/Child Care	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
College - Postsecondary - Estate Planning	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Transition from school to school	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Parent Resources - Perform Care - Advocacy	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Dyslexia/Dysgraphia - Reading/Writing programs	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Teaching Strategies/Carry Over/ABA Approach	✓ ✓
ADHD/Anxiety/Behavior	✓ ✓
Acceptance/Inclusion	✓ ✓
Assistive Technology for Communication	✓

Transition from Wall Elementary Schools to Wall Intermediate

- **December 20, 2021 & February 2, 2022** - Self-contained 5th grade teachers observed/collaborated with WIS self-contained teachers
- **February 23, 2022** - **5th to 6th Grade Parent Information Night # 1 - 7PM:** An overview of WIS, this presentation (just for parents) highlights the major differences between the elementary level and the middle school level.
- **April 6, 2022**- **5th to 6th Grade Parent Information Night # 2 - 7PM:** An overview of the leveled classes and placement at WIS (just for parents). They will also discuss Elective and World Language Options for students.
- **Spring 2022** - Specific students will visit WIS during the school day to assist with transition to self-contained classes
- **May and June 2022** - WIS Principal/Counselor visit each elementary school and all 5th grade students take a field trip to WIS
- **TBD: 5th to 6th Grade Info Night #3 - Activities Night:** Students and parents should attend. There will be separate presentations for parents and students with an activities fair to follow in the gym for both parents and students.
- **July 2022** - **ESY Program at WIS:** 4 hour extended school year program for selected incoming 6th, 7th and 8th grade students
- **August 2022** - **WIS Knights in Training:** 3 hour sessions for selected incoming 6th grade students to gain familiarity with WIS
- **September 2022** - Welcome to 6th Grade Pizza Party - This is an opportunity for incoming 6th graders to attend a pizza party before the first day of school.

Transition from Wall Intermediate to Wall High School

Ongoing Student Visits to WHS Regular visits throughout the school year to WHS for specific students who will be transitioning to WHS self-contained special education programs

Parent Coffee Hour WIS 11/30/21 9 AM Meeting with parents and WHS Principal, Director of Guidance and Instructional Supervisors to introduce the different academic programs at WHS, discuss the placement process and answer questions

Academic Night 1/12/22 6:30 PM Meeting with parents of incoming 9th graders with WHS administrators, counselors, supervisors and other WHS staff members to discuss in detail the many different academic programs at WHS

Activities and Clubs Information Session **Date: TBD** Parents and students will learn about clubs and activities from the WHS staff and students

Step-Up Day **Date: TBD** 8th grade students will participate in a day of orientation at WHS that is led by WHS staff and select current WHS students

Freshman Orientation **Date: TBD** Incoming 9th graders are invited to attend a welcome session at WHS to find their lockers, follow their schedules and meet counselors and administrators

ESY Program at WIS 4 hour extended school year program for selected incoming high school students