

# Ohlone 2015 Site Council Survey Findings

Presented September 15, 2015

## Survey Overview

- Bi-annual survey to assess school climate and receive anonymous feedback.
- Conducted online in April 2015.
- All parents, teaching staff and 4/5 students invited to participate.
- Respondents
  - Parents: 277 responses, across all grades, English & MI tracks, ELL, VTP, Special Academic Instruction
  - Students (4/5's only): 189 responses
  - Teachers & Resource Specialists: 29 responses

## Survey Topics Discussed Tonight

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- School Climate / Inclusiveness
  - Ohlone's Core Values
  - Academic Challenge & Readiness
  - Social Emotional Development & Support
  - Resolving Conflicts
  - Participation In Farm Activities
  - Community Events, Activities & Volunteering
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## **Students: What Do You Value Most About Ohlone?**

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“I like the friendly atmosphere, the amazing teachers, the happy energy, the not-too-intense-but-just-right learning style, the music (I especially LOVE my music and PE teachers) And I love all the amazing students. In short, I LOVE OHLONE”

“THE WAY EVERY ONE IS KIND ( MOST OF THE TIME ) AND UNDERSTANDING AND WANTS TO HELP YOU WITH STUFF.”

“i like that we have no home work so that makes it so i have some time to relax at home.”

“I like how everyone is inclusive and that I have so many friends because at my old school no one was friendly at all. My teacher is simply awesome and she helps me a lot in learning and finding new challenges for me.”

“The friendly people that always have a smile on their face when you greet them”

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## Parents: What Do You Value Most About Ohlone?

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- “Ohlone educates and develops the whole child. Gives tools for children to address and resolve conflicts... which enhances self esteem. Has a wonderful community of teachers and staff... children aren't just memorizing text books, but living and breathing the experience through all their senses while, collaborating and developing social and emotional skills to carry them through life.”
  - “So many things! The community all around feels different than so many other schools... families and staff are in it together... The round experience that the students get (art, music, farm, field trips, mindfulness, body movement, opera, etc.)... (our daughter) feels empowered and invited to participate - even as a little first grader. I also love the opportunities for connection with older students, and how generally kind and inclusive they are...”
  - “Our family has LOVED being part of a like-minded community that values human interactions. It has been an oasis in the craziness that is PA.”
  - “Caring, loving and fun environment. Field trips and simulations, over night trips. Very open and friendly. Kids learn from various ways, not just the books. Leadership and stage performance opportunities.”
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## Teachers: What Do You Value Most About Ohlone?

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- “Students have time to be children: to play, to wonder, to have fun with learning for the sake of learning not for data. Students have choices and responsibilities.”
  - “I value the way independence is taught and fostered. I value the parent community being such a big part of their child's education.”
  - “The freedom to design curriculum based on student needs. Students are independent enough and are used to small-group instructions as well as independent working. They respect parent volunteers and aides as well as classroom teachers.”
  - “The freedom to do what I think is best for kids in terms of supporting their growth in all areas-academic, social, emotional, physical. Having two grades, having my kids for two years, and the kinds of community and relationships that fosters. The supportive parent community. The farm, simulations and overnight field trips.”
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## **Nearly all students, parents, and teachers feel welcomed and respected at school**

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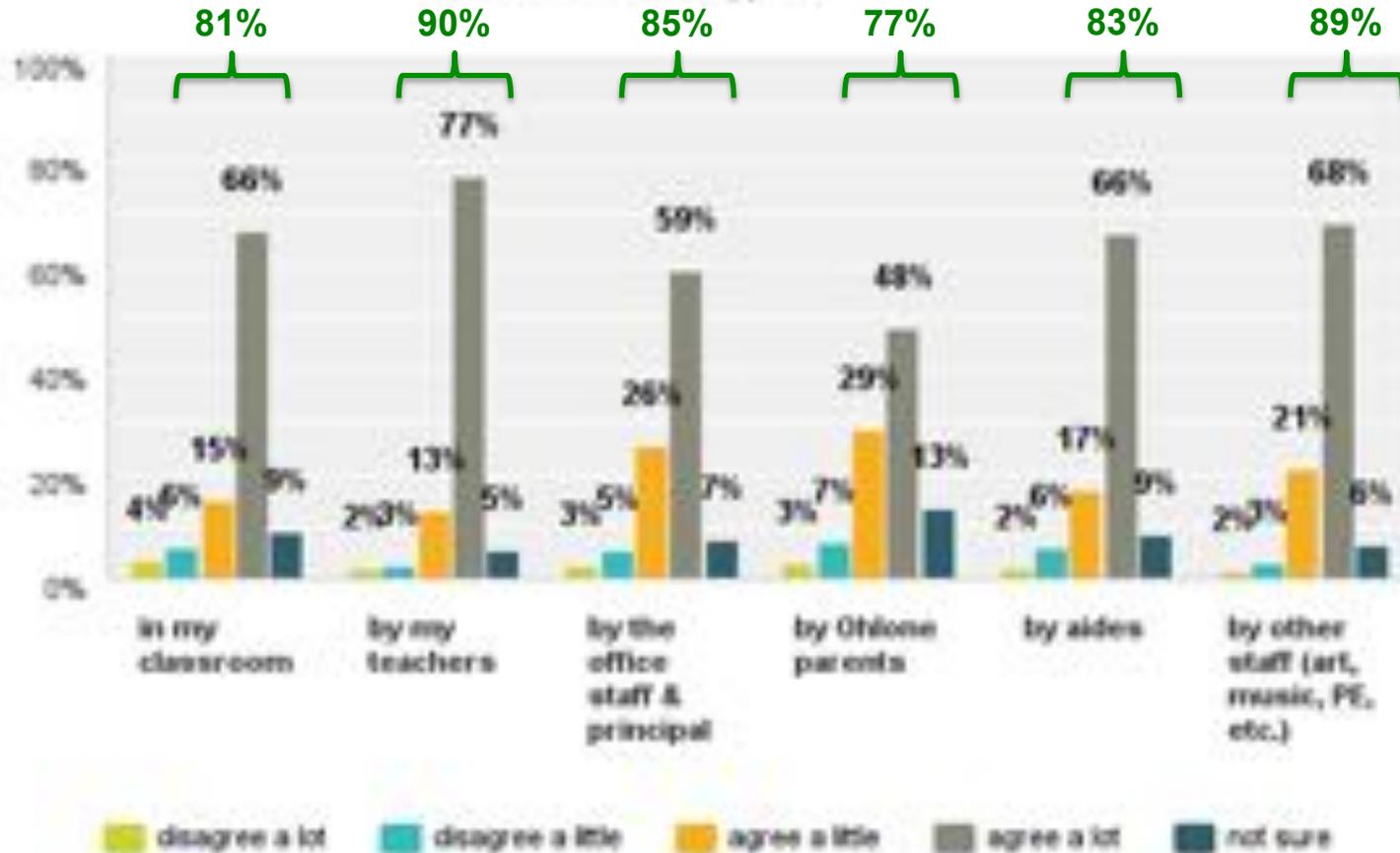
- ~90% of parents say they feel welcomed and included.
  - ~90% of teachers feel valued and respected by students and parents.
  - ~90% students feel welcomed and included by teachers and staff; ~80% by other students and parents.
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# Nearly All Students Feel Welcome And Included

Students

Q2 As a student, I feel welcome and included:

Answered: 188 Skipped: 1

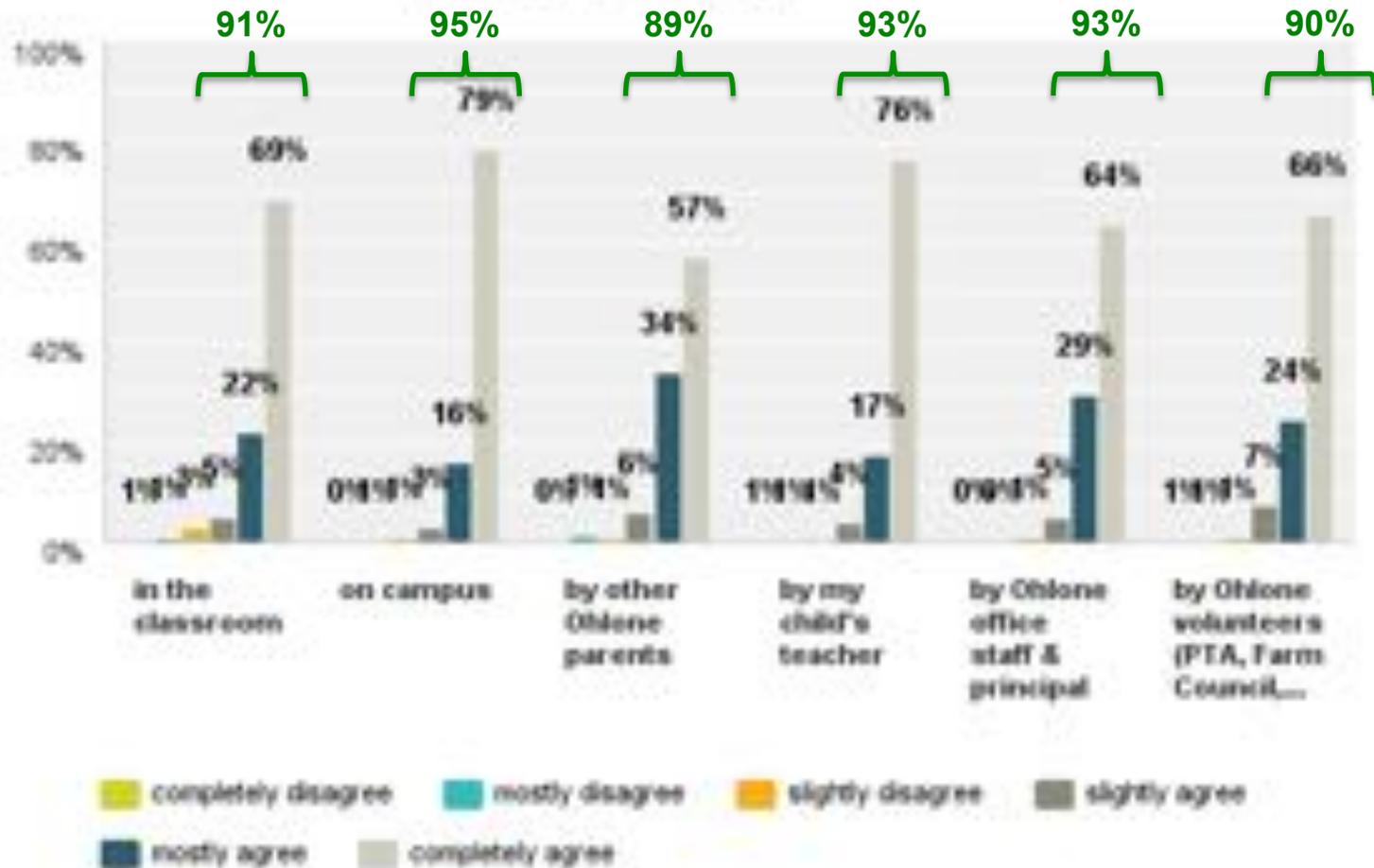


# Nearly All Parents Feel Welcomed And Included

Parents

## Q8 As a parent, I feel welcome and included:

Answered: 271 Skipped: 6

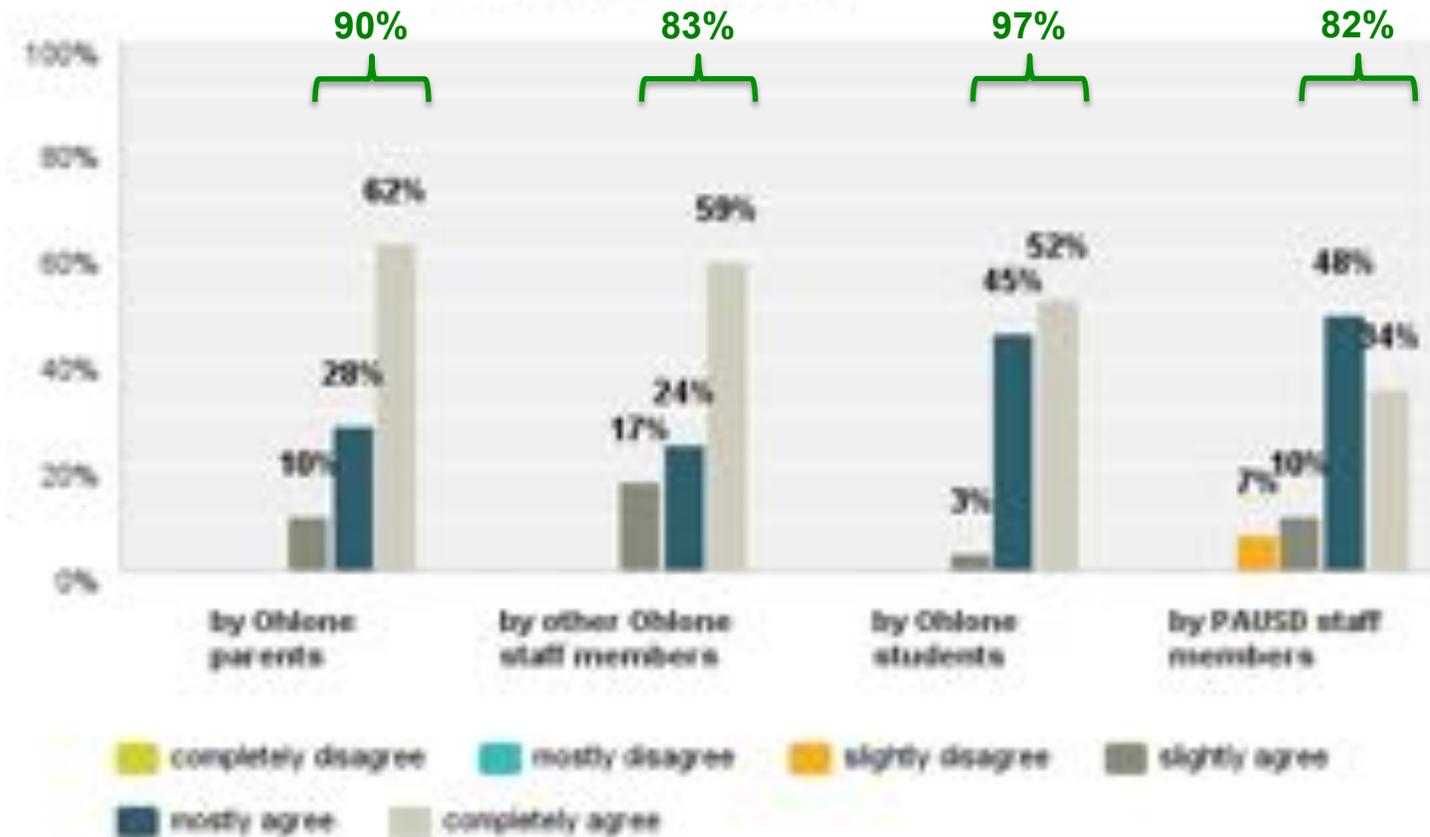


# Nearly all teachers feel valued and respected

Teachers

## Q1 I feel valued and respected:

Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



## **Inclusiveness / One Community**

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- Parents of MI-track students are (compared to English-track parents):
    - More likely to feel welcome and included
    - More likely to feel the Core Values are being upheld
    - Less likely to feel classroom issues are being addressed
    - No different in ratings of academic achievement
  - Parents of VTP students are (compared to non-VTP parents):
    - Less likely to feel welcome and included by other parents & office staff
    - More likely to say child would go to aides or office if they needed help
    - No different in ratings of Core Values and academic achievement
  - Parents of ELL students' responses were very similar to other parents'.
  - Not enough responses from parents of Special Academic Instruction students to make comparisons.
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## Everyone Feels The Core Values Are Being Upheld

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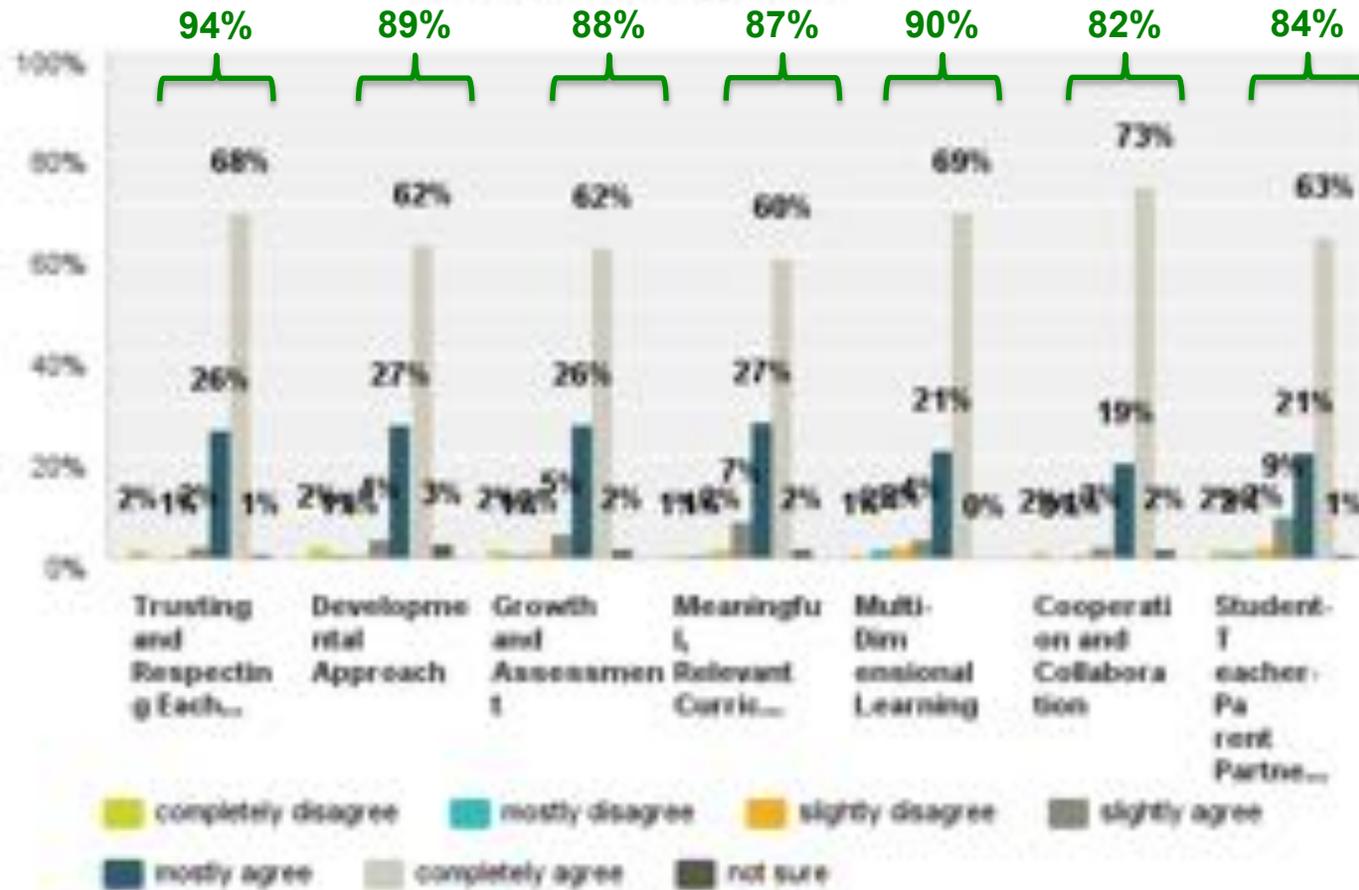
- ~80% of kids agree that they learn by doing, and are supported by parents & teachers.
  - ~90% of parents feel Core Values are upheld in classrooms
  - ~90% of teachers feel parents uphold Core Values
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# Parents Feel The Core Values Are Upheld In Classrooms And The Community

Parents

Q9 Each Ohlone Core Value is upheld IN MY CHILD'S CLASSROOM.

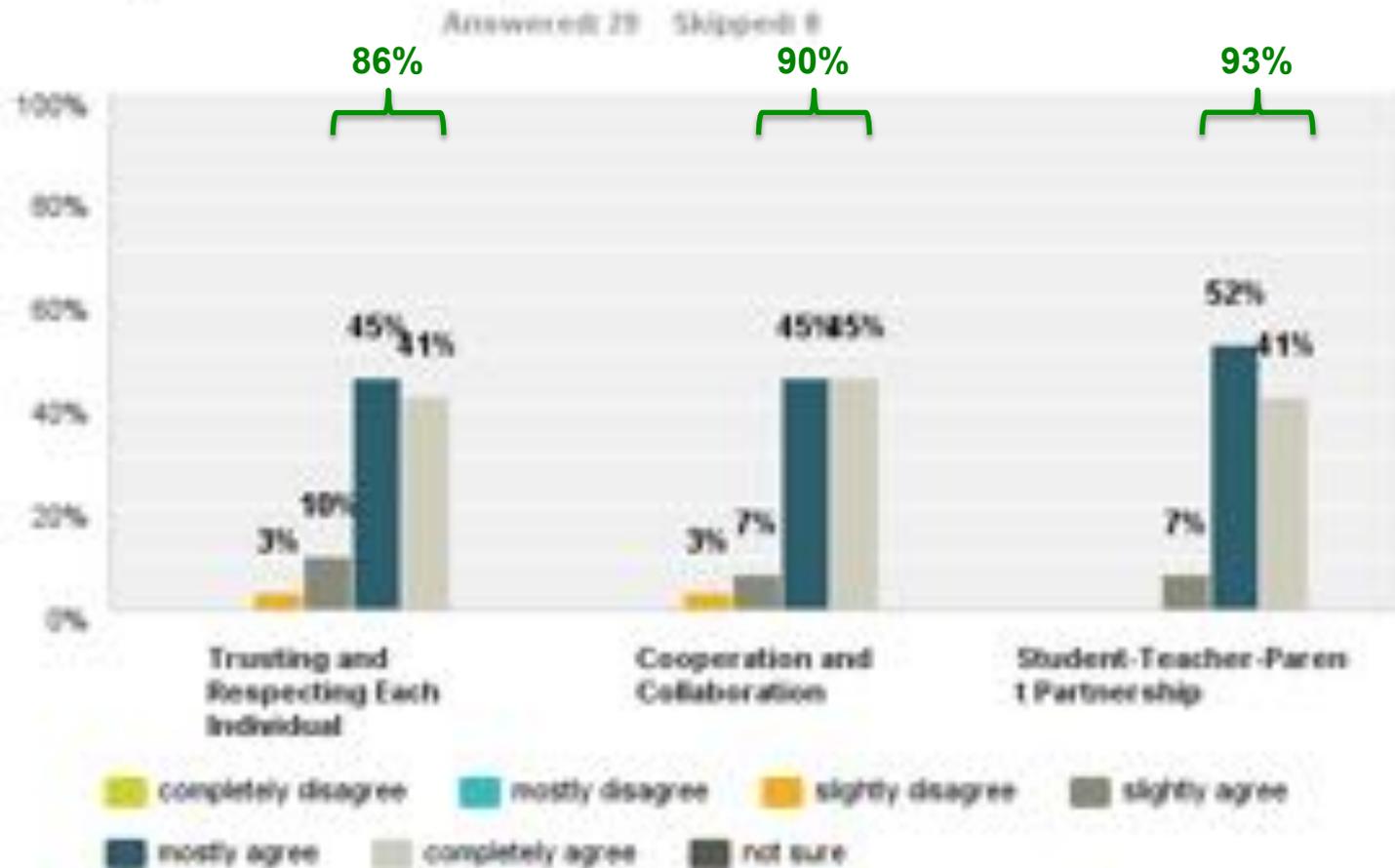
Answered: 241 Skipped: 34



# Nearly All Teachers Feel Core Values Are Upheld Between Themselves & Parents

Teachers

Q3 These relevant Ohlone Core Values are upheld between parents and teachers/staff.



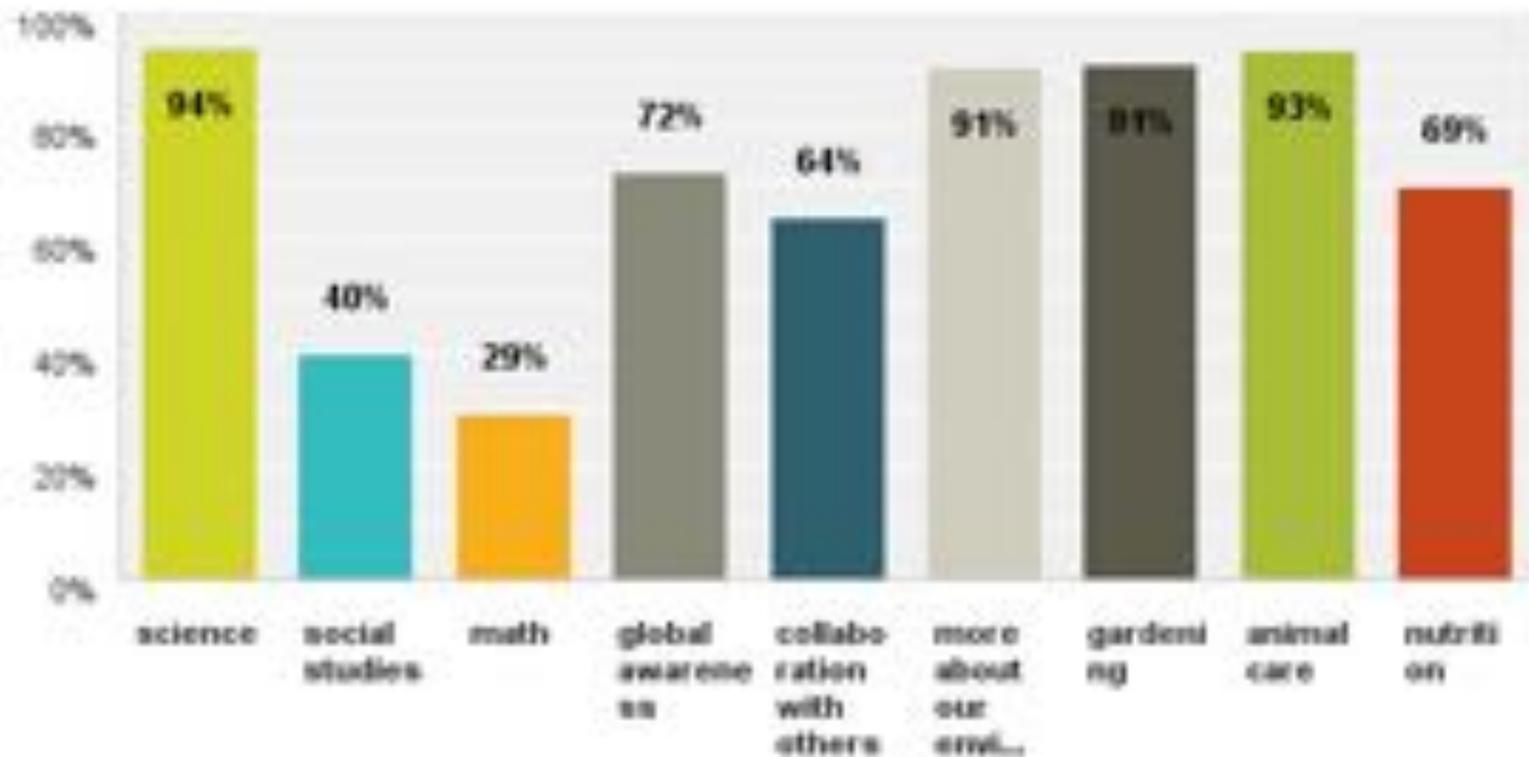
# The Farm: Students Understand They Are Learning About The Environment, Plants, Animals, Science, Collaboration.

They're less conscious of learning about social studies and math on the farm.

Students

**Q14 I learn the following things on the farm (check all that apply):**

Answered: 188 Skipped: 3

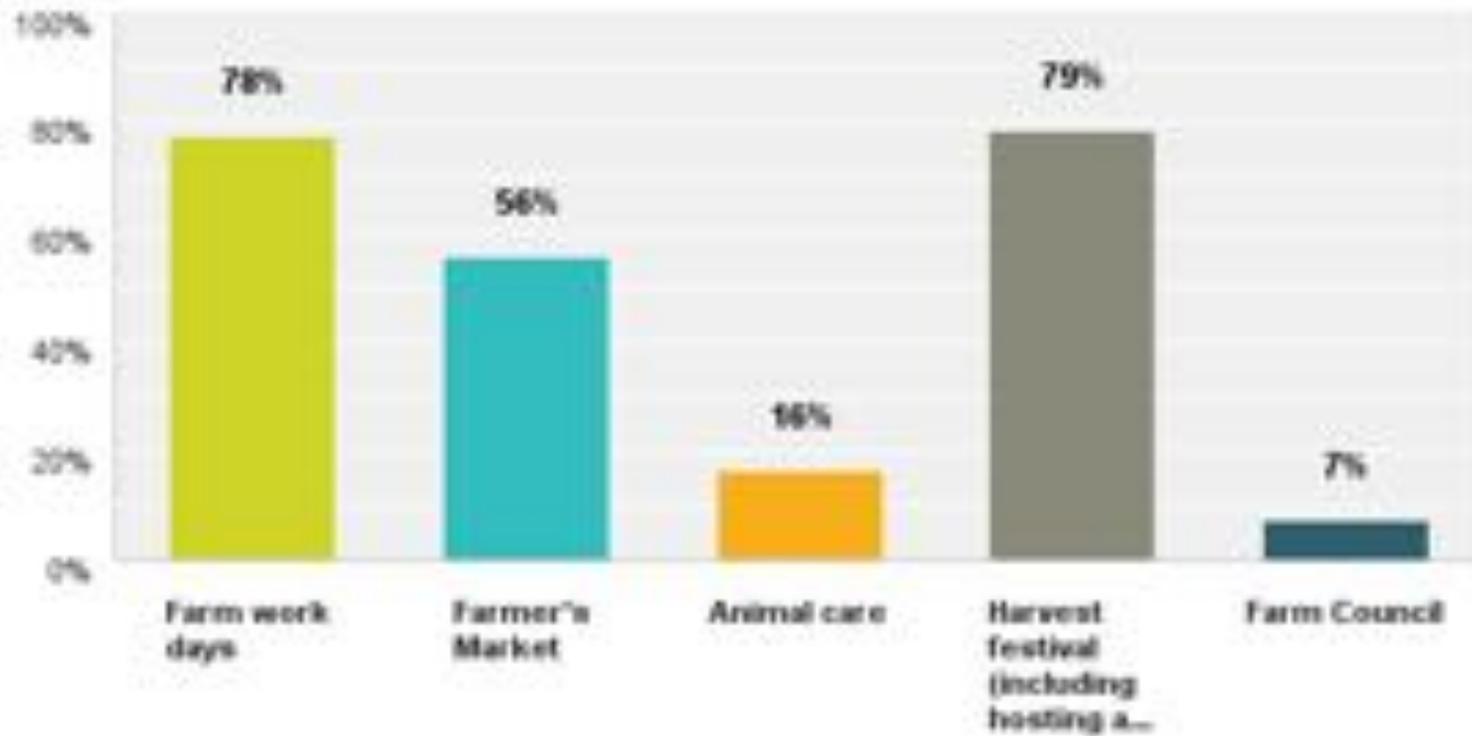


# The Farm: Most Families Participate in Farmer's Market, Work Days and the Harvest Festival

Parents

**Q32 Our family has participated in the following farm activities (check all that apply):**

Answered: 219 Skipped: 18



## **Academic Challenge: Most Feel It's Appropriate; Some Parents & Students Feel There Isn't Enough**

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Most teachers and parents feel the level of academic challenge is right for their students.

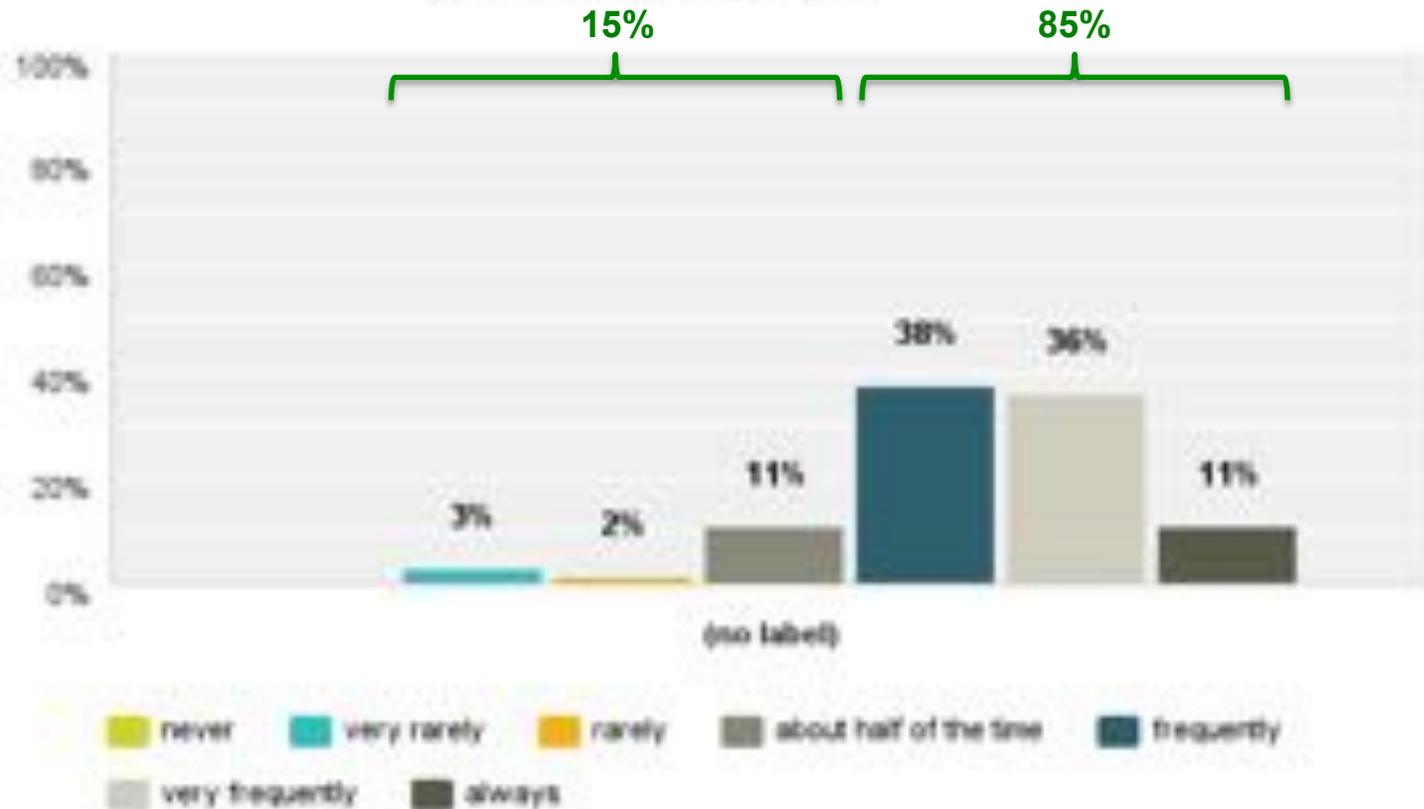
- 15% of parents say the academic levels aren't always appropriate – mostly not challenging enough.
  - And 19% of students say their work is too easy.
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# Most Parents Feel The Academic Challenge Is Appropriate. 15% Say 'Half The Time' Or Less.

Parents

Q12 My child is appropriately challenged academically.

Answered: 288 Skipped: 17



## A Few Parent Comments Re Academics & Growth and Assessment

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“Not sure if growth and assessment is an ‘ongoing’ process in terms of regular updates; would love to have a little more knowledge throughout the year as to how my child is doing, even if it's just completed work coming home more regularly.”

“I don't like how homework is handled. Very difficult to know our role in it, and lots to keep up on.”

“Less than 20 assignments have come home for me to see my child's progress this year. Other than conferences twice a year, I have no idea how my child is progressing.”

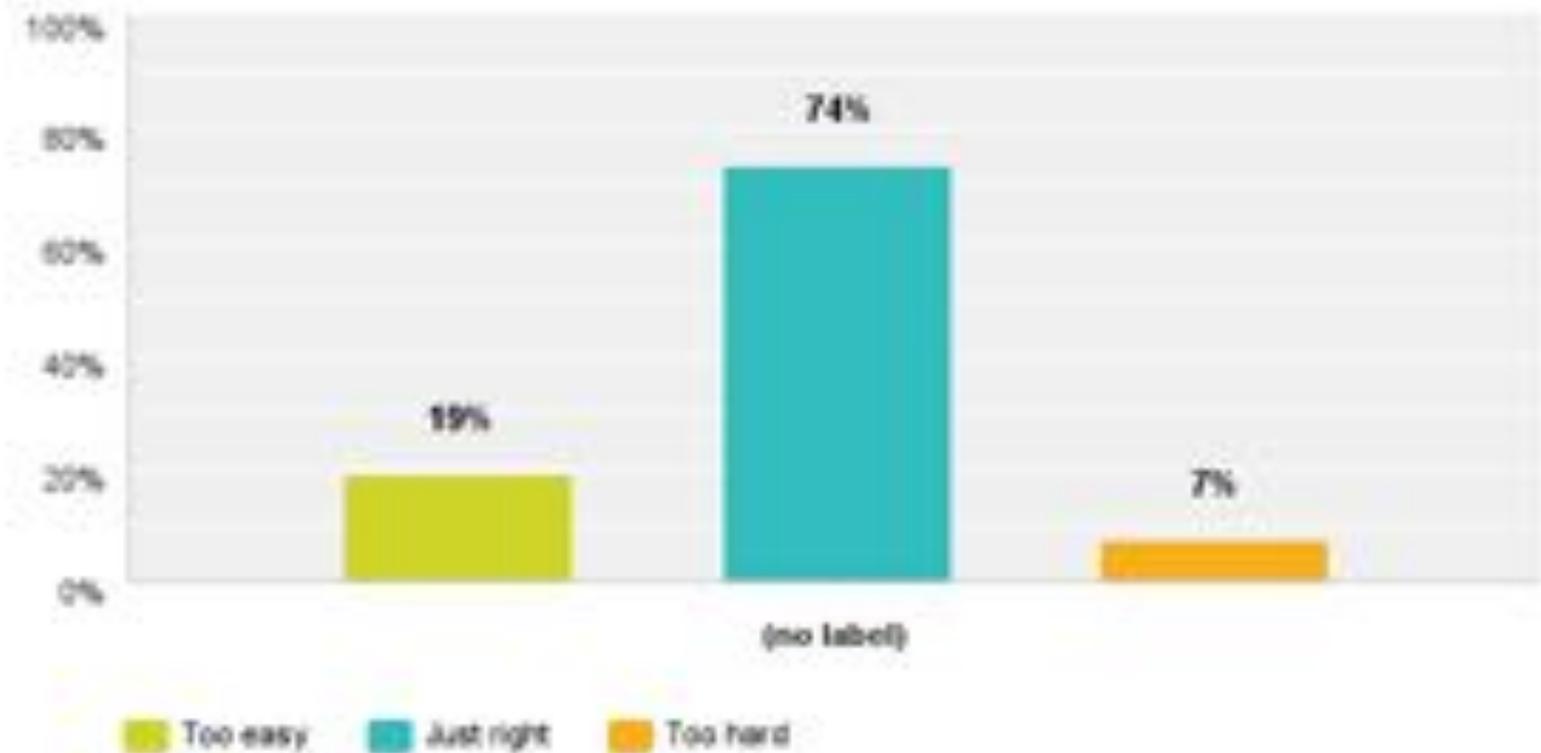
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**Most students feel the level of challenge is just right.  
1 in 5 feel it is too easy.**

Students

**Q4 Most of the time my school work is:**

Answered: 174 Skipped: 15



## Most Parents and Students Feel Social-Emotional Development Is Well-Supported

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- 91% of Parents say their child's social-emotional development is being supported.
  - Kids say they feel safe at school.
    - 85% say they feel physically safe "often" or "always"
    - 71% say they feel emotionally safe "often" or "always"
  - 89% of students say they feel comfortable going to an adult besides their teacher for help (eg aides, office, staff, other parents)
    - 11% said they wouldn't go to an adult; in open-ended comments most of these said they would go to friends or siblings
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## **Most Conflicts Are Resolved Effectively**

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### **In the Classroom**

- 73% of 4/5 students say they get enough help resolving conflicts; 13% say they don't.
- Nearly all parents and teachers feel conflicts are resolved.

### **On the Playground**

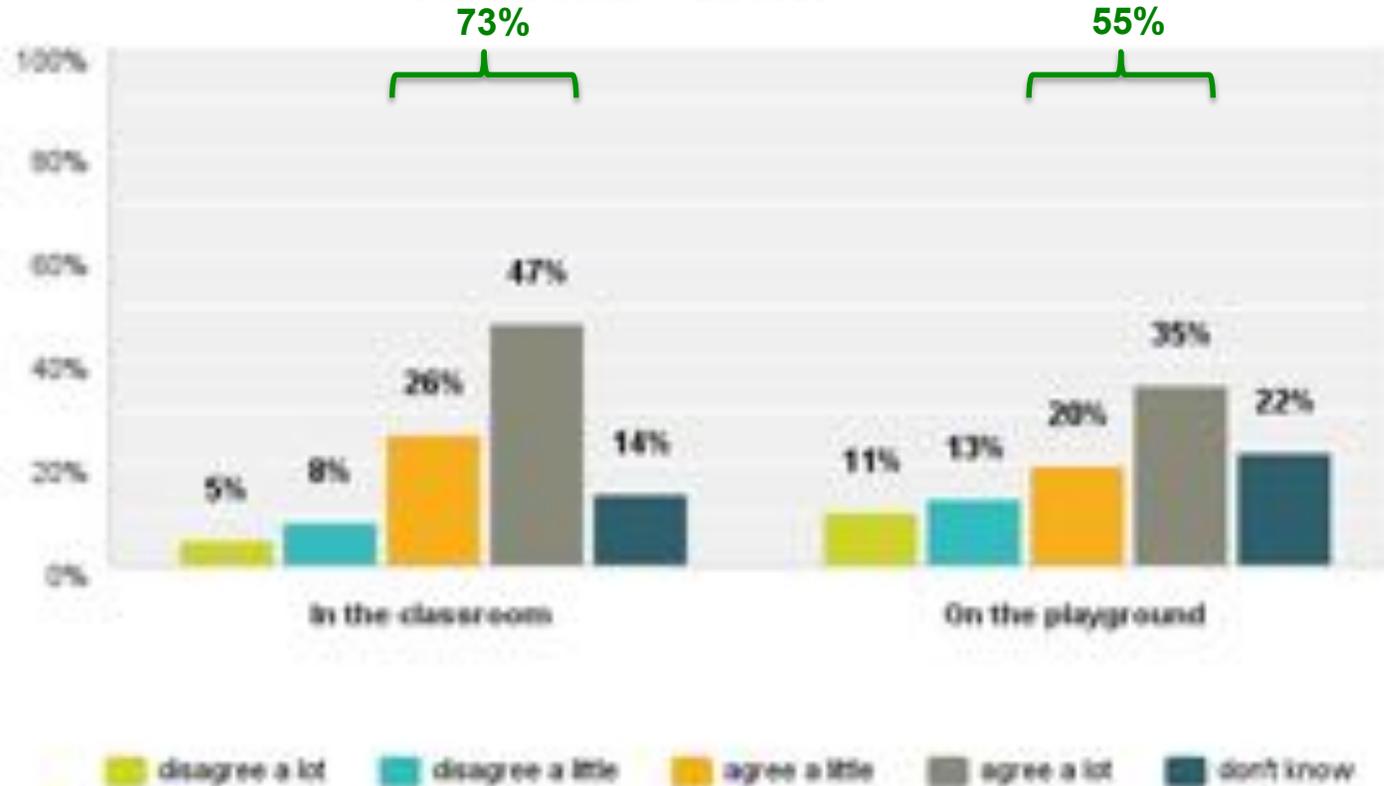
- 55% of Students say they get enough help resolving conflicts; 24% say they don't.
  - Most parents and teachers feel playground conflicts get resolved, but some aren't sure or disagreed.
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# Most 4/5 Students Say They Get Enough Help Dealing With Conflicts In Class And On Playground; Some Disagree Or Don't Know

Students

Q17 I have enough help in dealing with conflicts with other kids at Ohlone.

Answered: 188 Skipped: 9

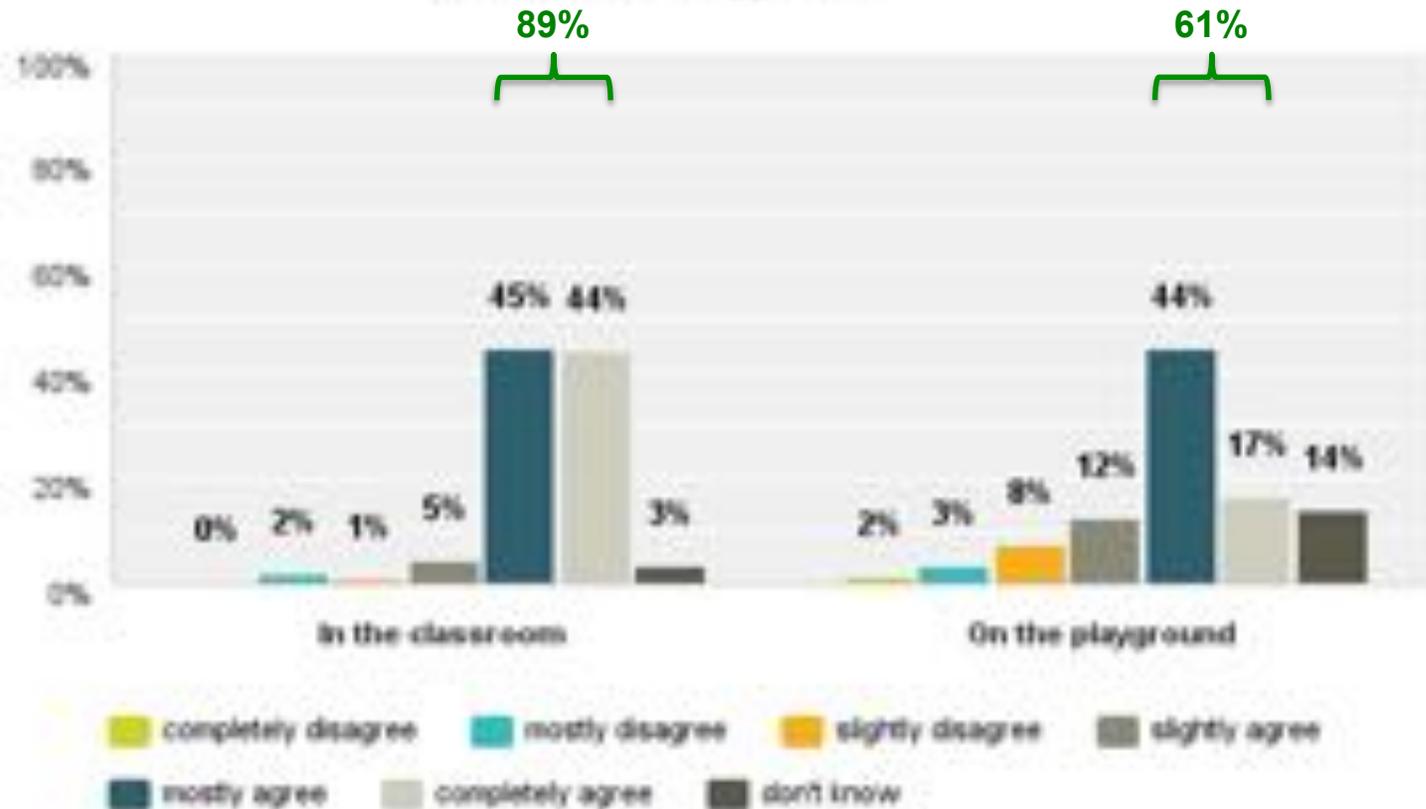


# Parents Feel Conflicts In The Classroom Are Resolved; Slightly Less Sure About Conflicts On The Playground

Parents

Q19 Relationship issues and conflicts between students are addressed effectively.

Answered: 238 Skipped: 41

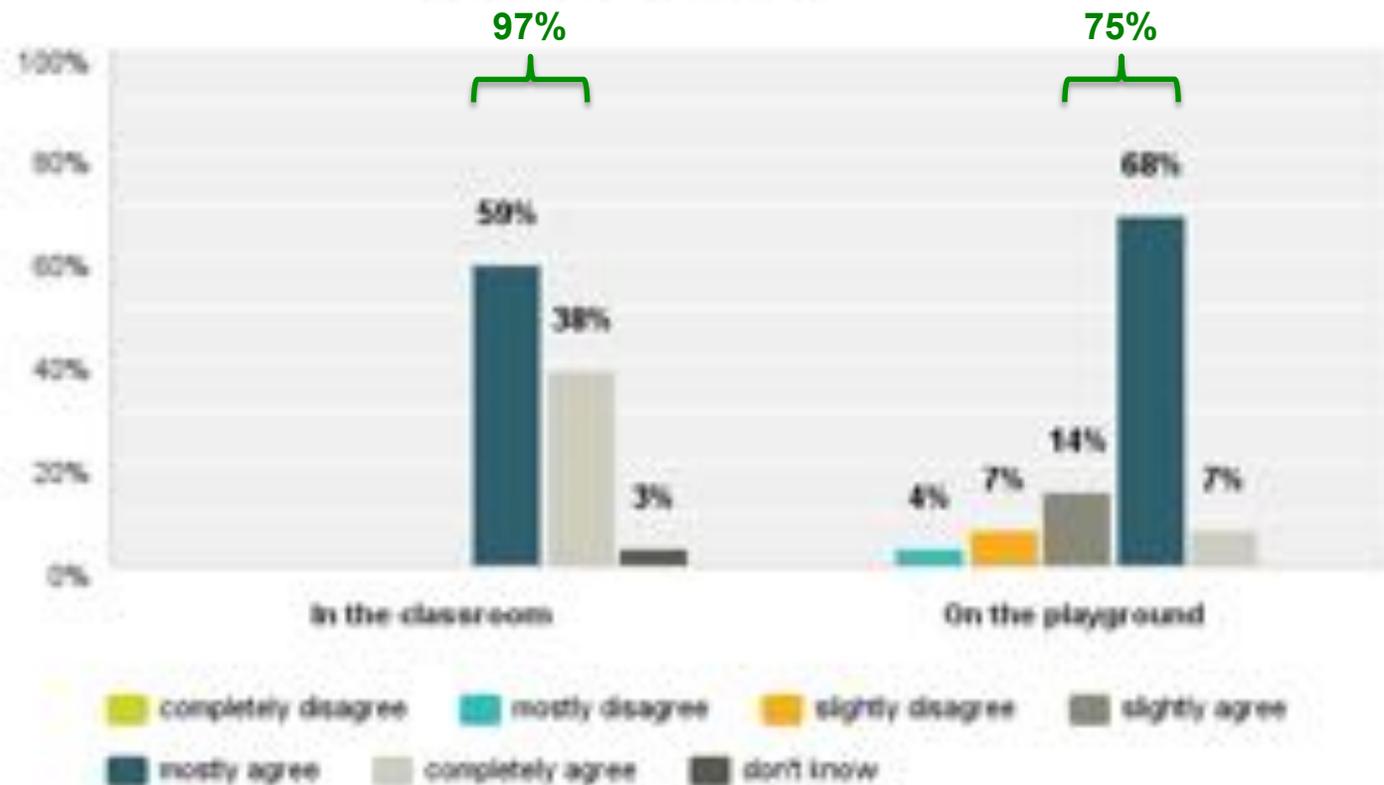


# Teachers Feel Conflicts Are Resolved Effectively In The Classroom, And Mostly Resolved On The Playground

Teachers

Q6 Relationship issues and conflicts between students are addressed effectively.

Answered: 29 Skipped: 8



## Comments: Resolving Conflicts

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### **4/5 Students:**

“I have learned a lot about (resolving conflicts) through 2/3 and now I can help out others with conflicts too, and do a lot, actually.”

“...when someone is being mean to you and you ask the (yard duty) for help they usually say, "Talk to them." And if you say I already did that they say, "Do it again." I understand they are trying to teach us to figure things out by ourselves but sometimes you need an adults help.”

### **Parents:**

“It's fantastic that kids get training & encouragement to solve their own problems & conflicts. Many times I've been amazed at how wonderfully that works out!”

“Not enough supervision on the playground and a huge number of kids”

“a lot of power dynamics on the playground between older kids vs younger kids without much supervision or constructive resolution.”

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# Steps Taken To Support Fewer Conflicts & Better Resolution On Playground

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## Strengthening Yard Duty

- Fully staffed with paid yard duties during lunch and recess periods.
- More training for yard duty staff on actively mediating conflicts.

## More Activity Options During Lunch and Recess

- Funding more days of Coach Bryant at lunchtime
- Noon Art – seeking Coordinator volunteer
- Library is open during lunch and recess; volunteers always wanted

## Capital Improvements to Play Yard

- Nicki, PTA, PAUSD, and student leaders working to add shades and more outdoor seating and develop a quiet outdoor play area.
  - Designs and timelines still being developed; stay tuned for updates!

## Discussion & Parent Education

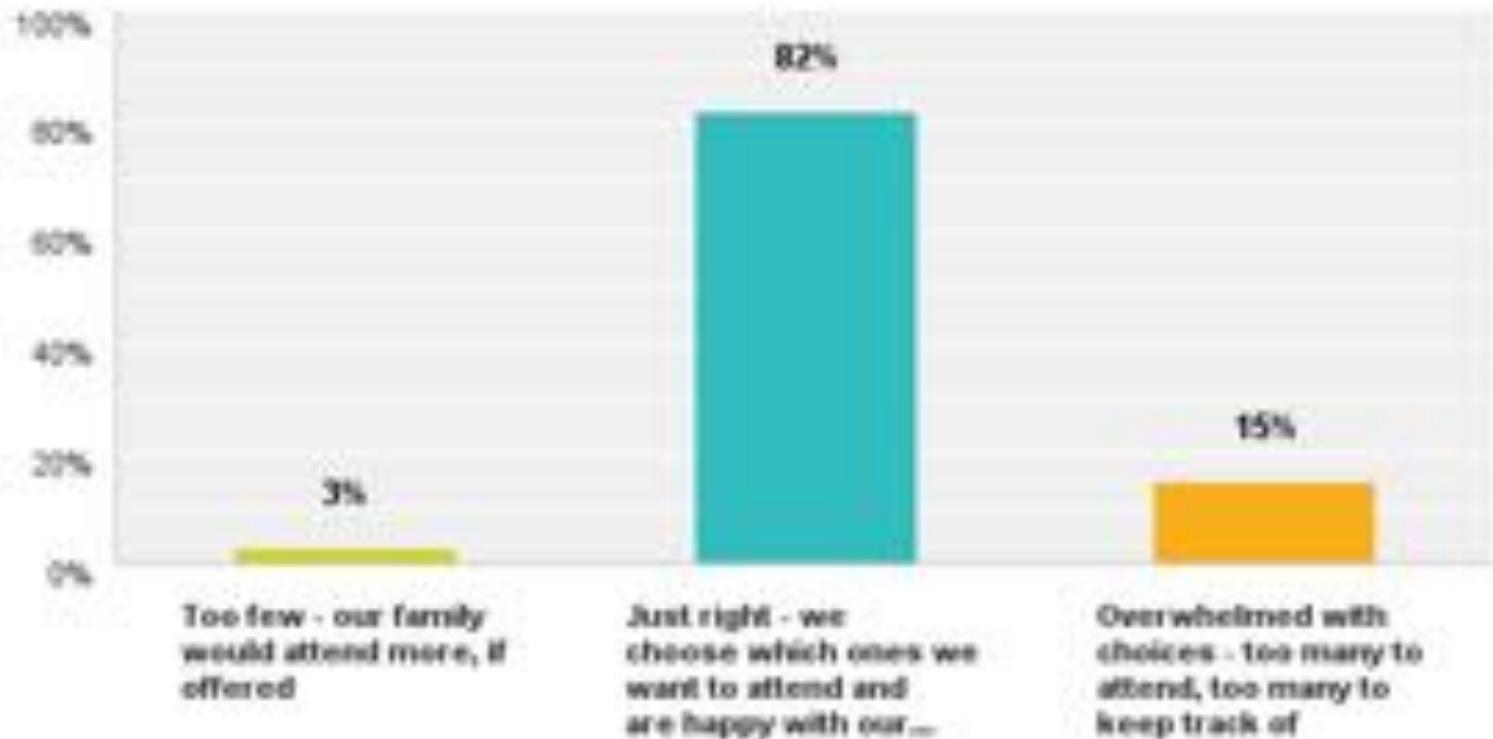
- K/1 Parent Ed Night, next Mon. 9/21: “Mindful Parenting & Schooling”
  - Next CVC meeting: "Conflict Resolution: On the playground & Beyond"  
Tues. 10/6
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# 82% of Parents Feel The Number Of Activities Is Just Right; Some Feel Overwhelmed

Parents

**Q29 My overall feeling about the amount of activities at Ohlone is:**

Answered: 231 Skipped: 46



# 83% of Parents Are Happy With Their Level Of Volunteering

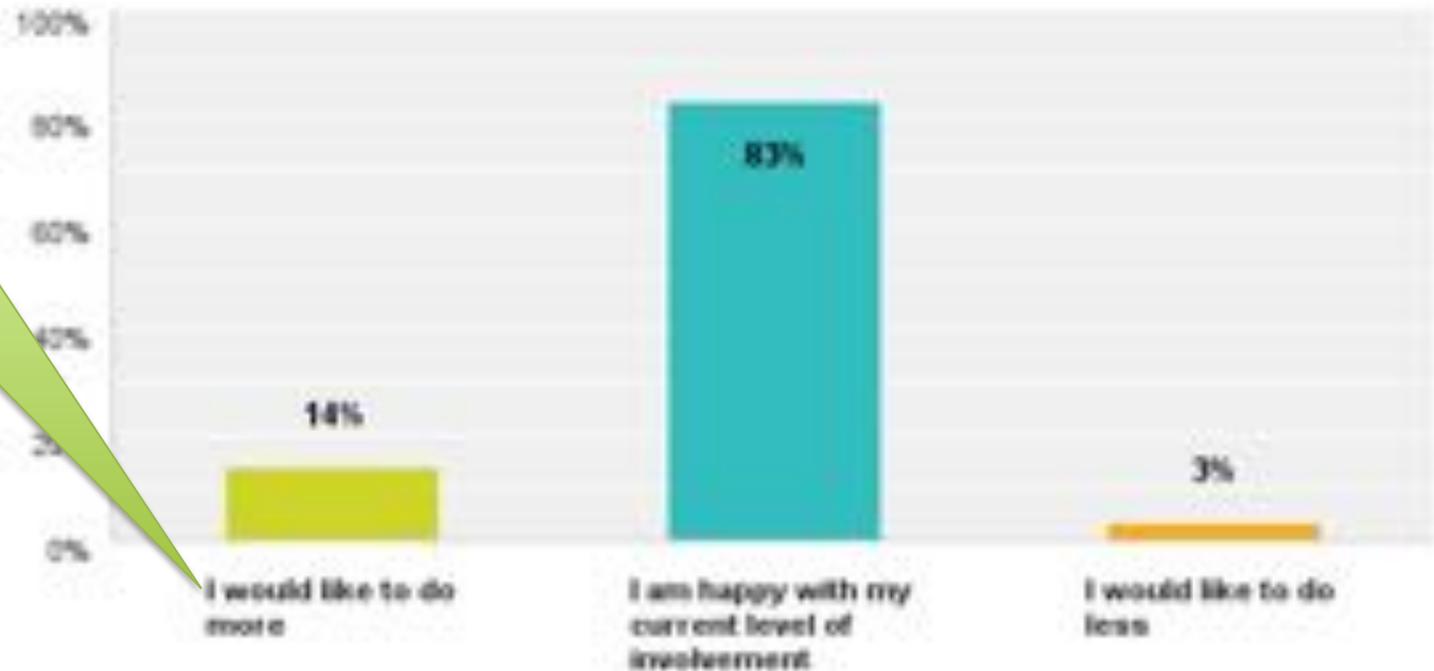
Parents

Q30 Are you happy with your level of involvement with the school (volunteering)?

Answered: 232 Skipped: 45

Are these people who wish they could volunteer, but can't?

Or who want to volunteer, but feel shut out?



## Parent Comments: Volunteering

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“Some parents work very hard for the school. I am so grateful to those who give so much time.”

“sometimes the active parents in the PTA seem like a clique and it's uncomfortable to try to find a way in.”

“Not enough help from most parents. Burden left to small group of volunteers. Choice program should mandate more parent participation to distribute burden.”

“I would like to feel less pressure and guilt about not doing more.”

“I would like more opportunities to support the school outside of school hours”

“I would like to do more, but I've had problems many times I have volunteered. I often felt unneeded, like I had wasted my time.”

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## Parent Comments: Selected Suggestions

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“Due to the size of the school I think we need to do a better job at reaching out to the new parents. It's a tough job, not only do we have to pull them in but we have to take the time to make them feel welcome and to want to be a part of it.

“I would like to see us put a check on ramping up all events. Simple is good and can be wonderful. Each event doesn't need to top last years or the one before. It puts so much pressure on the volunteers (parents). Community building is wonderful but we are on the verge of over "building".

“Greater communication from the PTA exec council is needed. For example, links or blurbs in eNews to important PTA decisions/information/etc would be great.

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## Next Steps

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- Site Council sharing all comments with Nicki, PTA Exec Board, CVC and Farm Council. (Names & identifying details removed.)
- School climate & Core Values
  - Continue efforts at welcoming all, especially VTP & new families
- Academic challenge & readiness
  - For those wanting more academic challenge, talk to your child's teacher about the work they're doing and what they're ready for
- Social Emotional development & Resolving conflicts
  - SEL continues to be a unique strength of an Ohlone Education
  - Administration & PTA providing more support for resolving/preventing conflicts on playground
- Community events, activities & volunteering
  - Communications continues to be a big challenge
  - Strike the balance on volunteering: make it welcoming and accessible; be aware of perceived pressure and "insider" status

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# Appendix

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# Survey Topics

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## All respondents were asked:

- Grade level(s) of student(s) or teacher
- Enrollment in MI, VTP, ELL, or SAI
- School climate/inclusiveness
- Ohlone's Core Values
- Academic challenge & readiness
- Social Emotional development & support
- Resolving conflicts
- Participation in Farm activities
- General comments & suggestions

## Students were also asked:

- Farm activities
- Service activities
- Small group & Common Core instruction

## Parents were also asked:

- Parent-Teacher communication
- Communications channels
- Community events, activities & volunteering

## Teachers were also asked:

- Parent-Teacher communication
  - Service activities
  - Small group & Common Core instruction
  - Communications & volunteer support
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# The Survey Process

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- Bi-annual survey to assess school climate and receive anonymous feedback.
    - Written and fielded online by the Site Council in April 2015.
    - All parents, teaching staff and 4/5 students invited to participate.
    - Respondents:
      - Parents: 277 responses, all grades, English & MI tracks, ELL, VTP, Special Academic Instruction
      - Students (4/5's only): 189 responses
      - Teachers & Resource Specialists: 29 responses
  - All results processed and reviewed by Site Council.
    - Individual responses and comments are confidential
  - Sharing results
    - Topline overview published on The Arrow blog in June.
    - All comments and suggestions will be shared with Nicki, PTA Exec Board, CVC Chairs and Farm Council Chairs. All names and identifying details have been removed
    - Presenting key results and findings here, and posting the presentation to The Arrow online.
  - Questions? Please contact Nicki, Site Council Chair or PTA Exec Board at [PTAExecOhlone@googlegroups.com](mailto:PTAExecOhlone@googlegroups.com)
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