



Results of BVPAGE Acceleration Surveys

WWW.BVPAGE.ORG

BVPAGE Acceleration Survey Data



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Following this presentation, the survey data and the presentation will be located at WWW.BVPAGE.ORG under Items of Note



Why do surveys on acceleration?

When a family is offered acceleration, they need access to as much information as possible to make the best decision. These results are the opinions and experiences of multiple students and families.

What is “acceleration”?

In Blue Valley, “acceleration” is:

- Skipping one entire grade (example: student goes from 2nd grade to 4th grade)
- Skipping one grade in a single subject (example: student in 3rd grade goes to 4th grade math class)

*Acceleration in Blue Valley is a General Education process, not a Gifted or Special Education process

Types of Acceleration



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

- Early Admission to Kindergarten
- Early Admission to 1st grade
- Grade Skipping *
- Continuous Progress
- Self Paced Instruction
- Subject Matter Acceleration *
- Combined Classes
- Curriculum Compacting
- Telescoping Curriculum
- Mentoring
- Extracurricular Programs *
- Correspondence Courses
- Early Graduation
- Concurrent/Dual Enrollment *
- Advanced Placement *
- Credit by Examination
- Acceleration in College
- Early Entrance to middle school, high school, or college

* A comment about data

Data is only as good as the questions asked, the people answering, how much time was spent on survey, and the opinions and state of mind when respondents were answering the questions.

Our goal is to present the data as it is and point out trends and observations – not to propose a right or wrong answer.

“Ultimately, help choose a path for your child that will lead them into the kind of adult you want them to become.”

Survey Information



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

☞ Two different surveys

- Chose TO Accelerate
- Chose NOT to Accelerate

☞ Questions

- Demographics
- Open ended responses (comments)

☞ Review of Data

- Combined Demographics
- Advantages and Disadvantages to consider
- Comparison of Prior Concerns vs. Experience

Survey Respondents

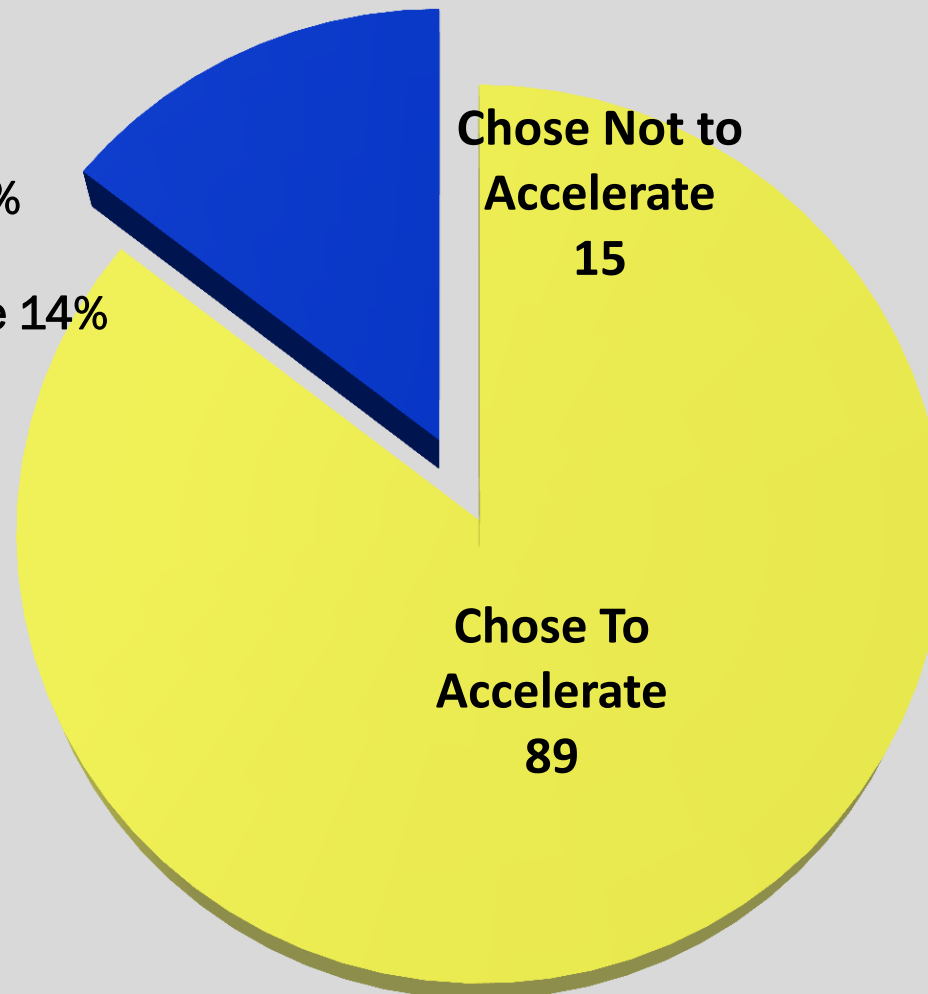


2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

104 Respondents

Chose TO Accelerate 86%

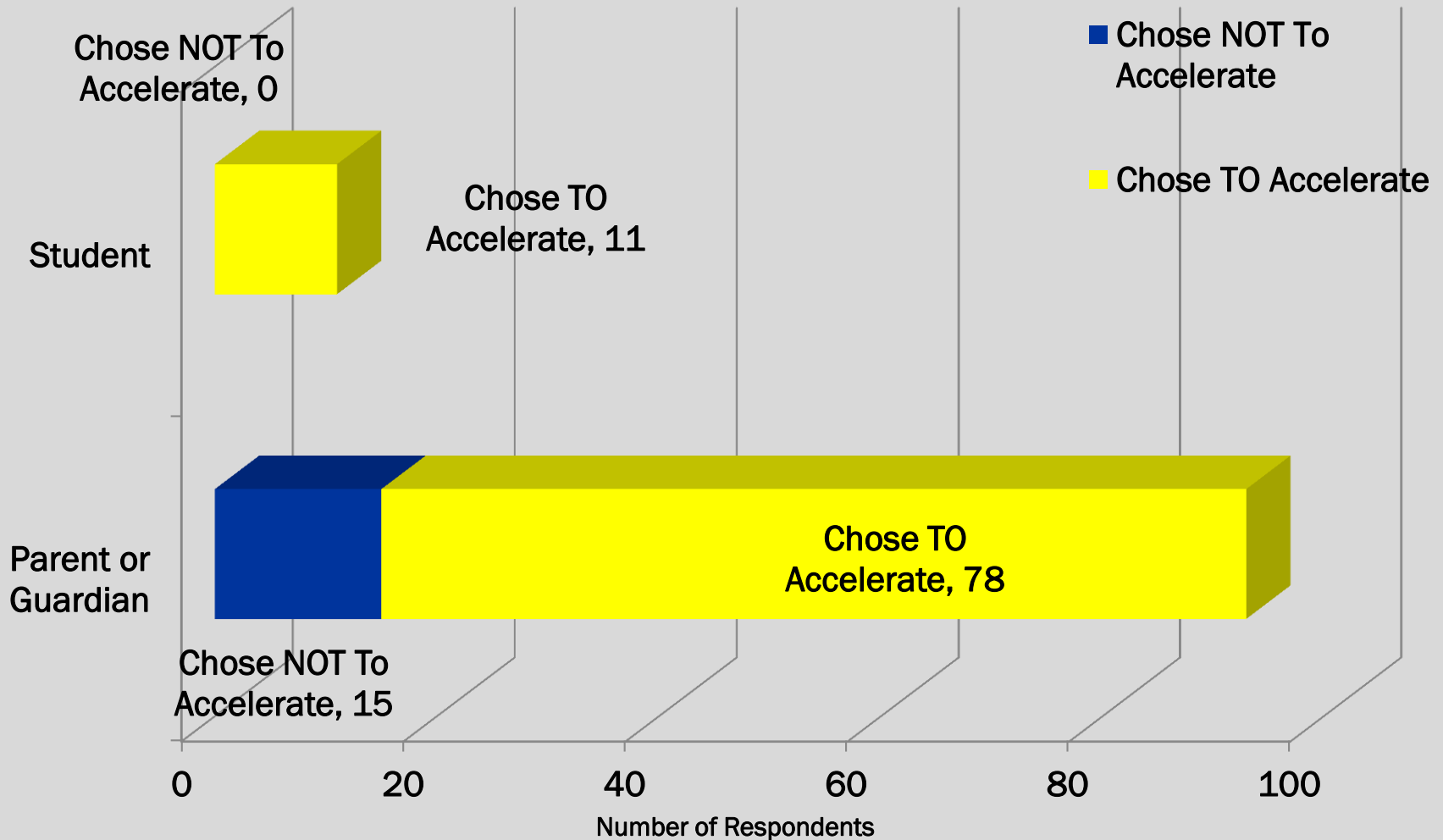
Chose NOT To Accelerate 14%



Survey Respondents: Student or Parent/Guardian



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results



Acceleration Choice



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

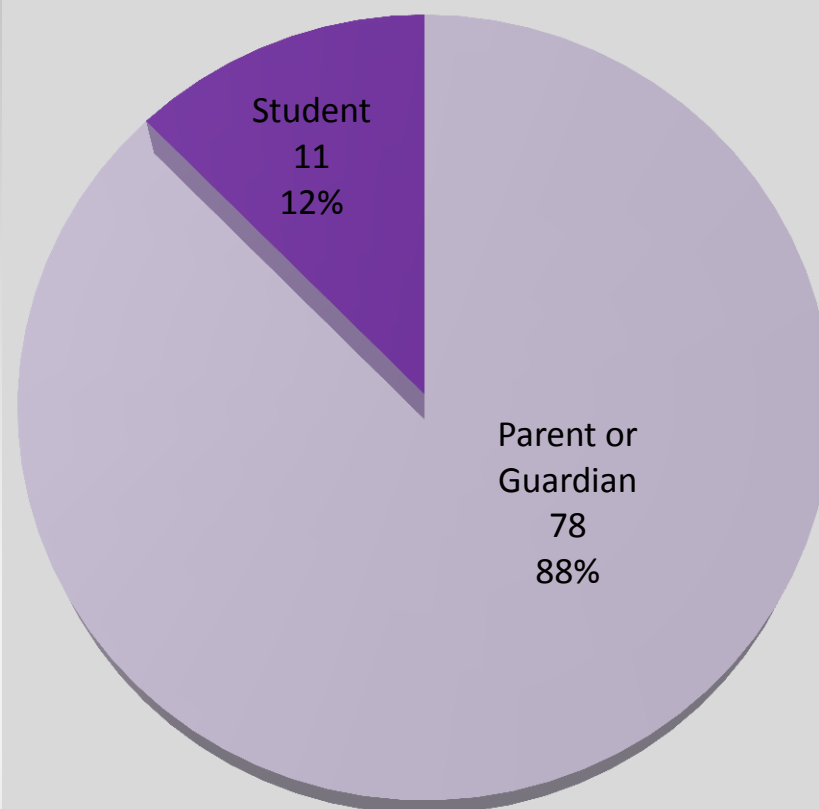
Chose Not to Accelerate

100% of respondents were
parents

15 out of 15

0 respondents were students

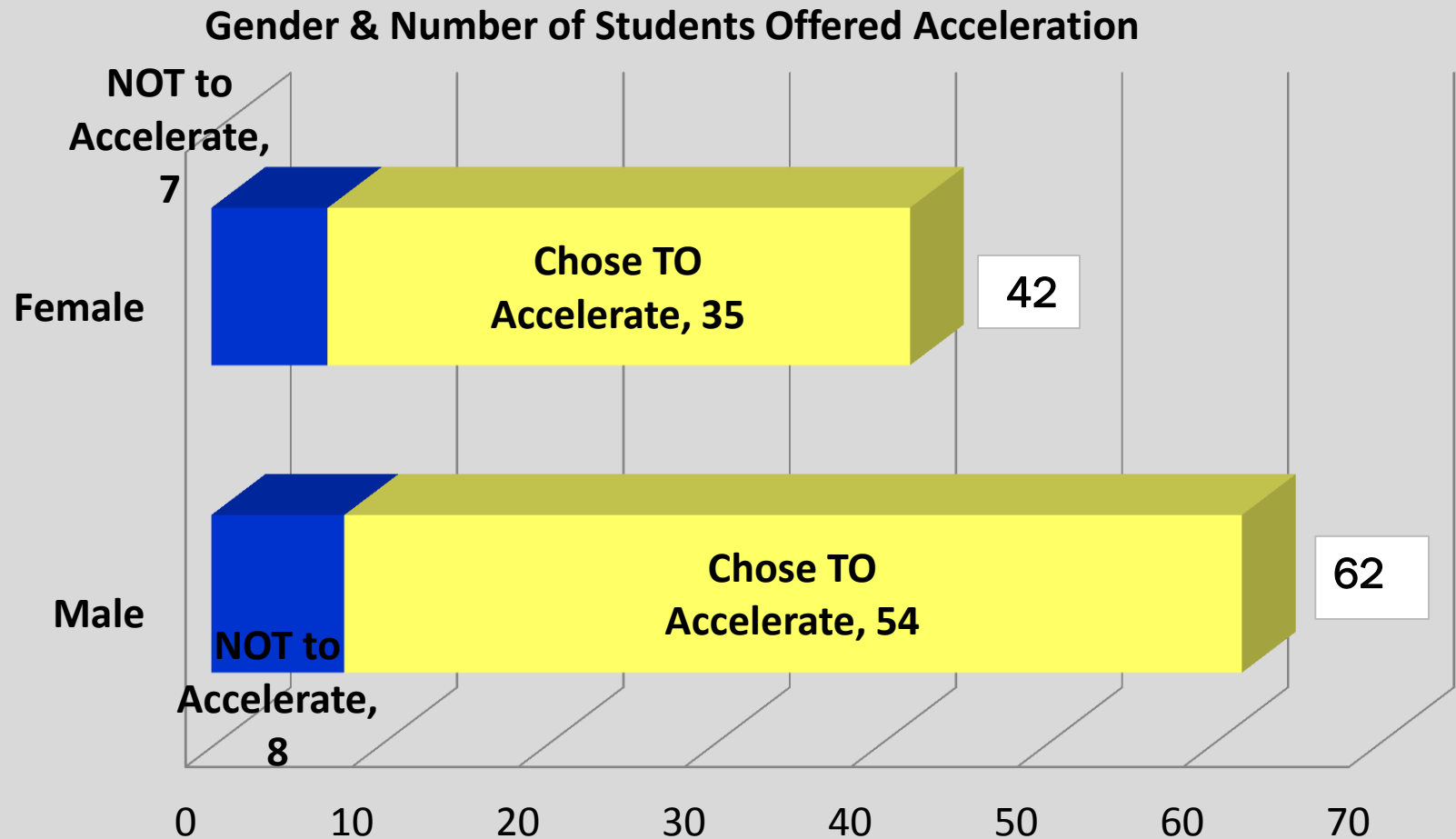
Chose To Accelerate



Gender of Students Offered Acceleration



2016-2017
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Survey Results

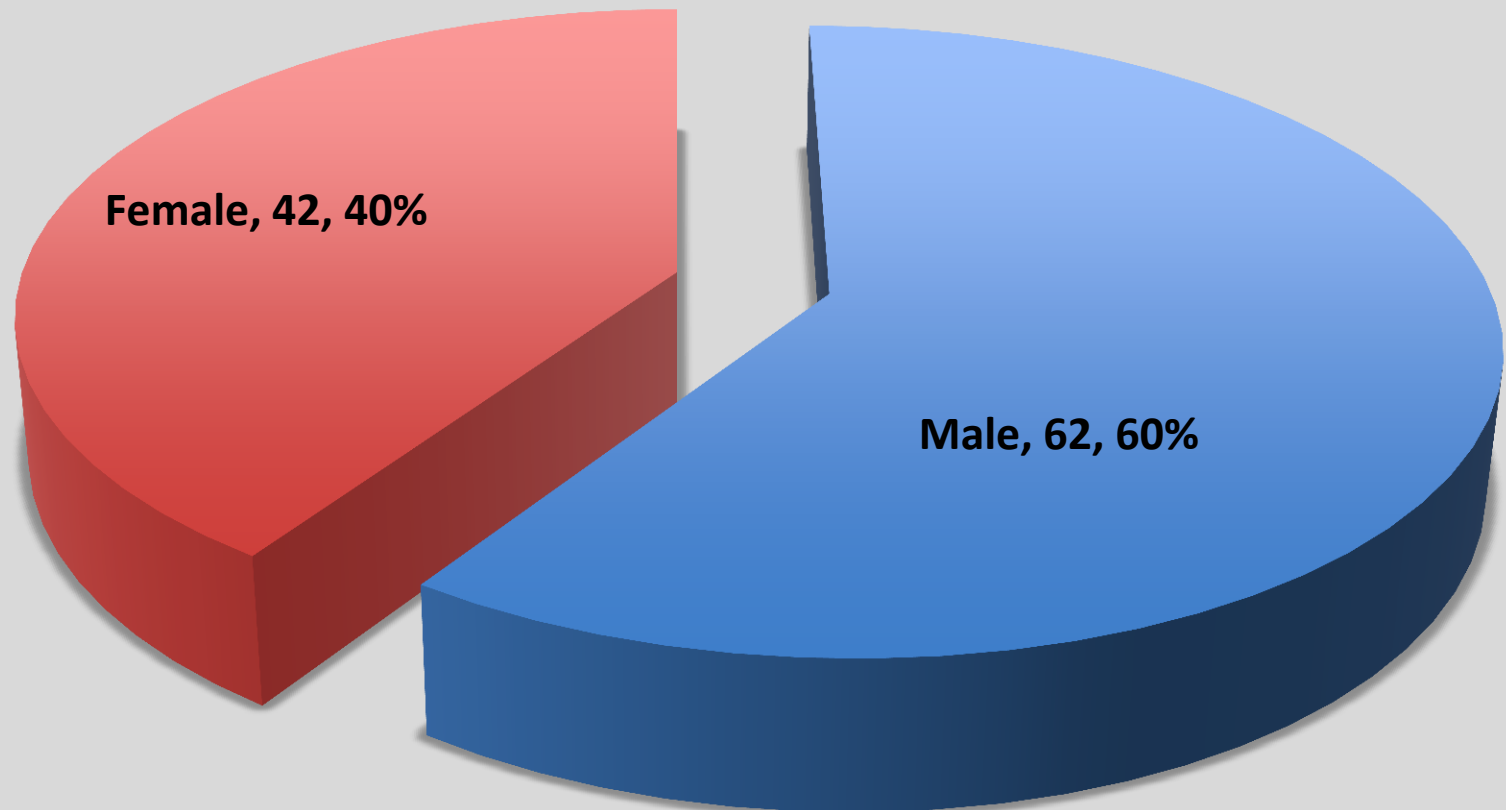


Gender of Students Offered Acceleration



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Gender Breakdown of 104 Students Offered Acceleration

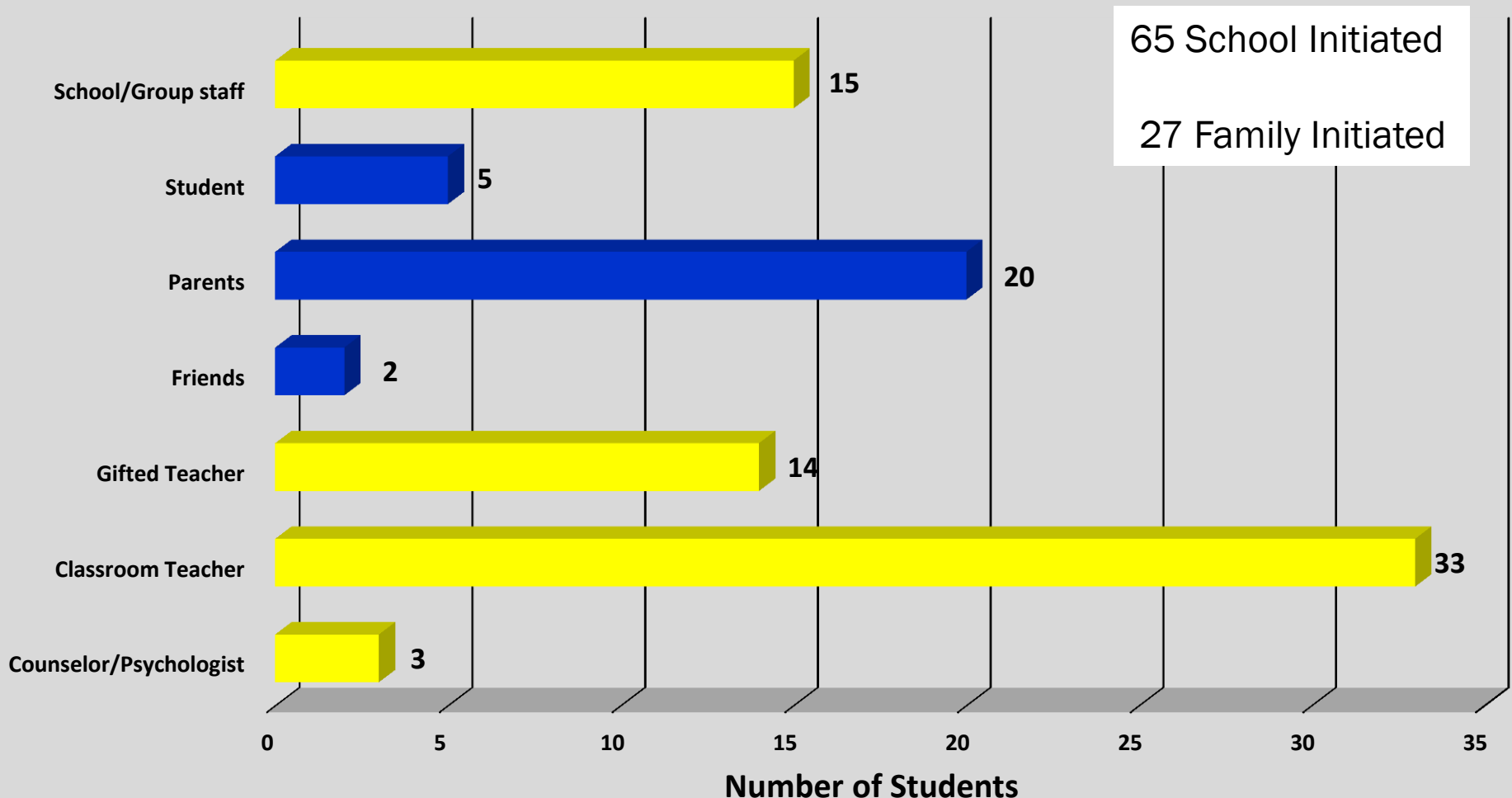


Who Initiated Acceleration Discussion



2016-2017
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Who Initiated Acceleration

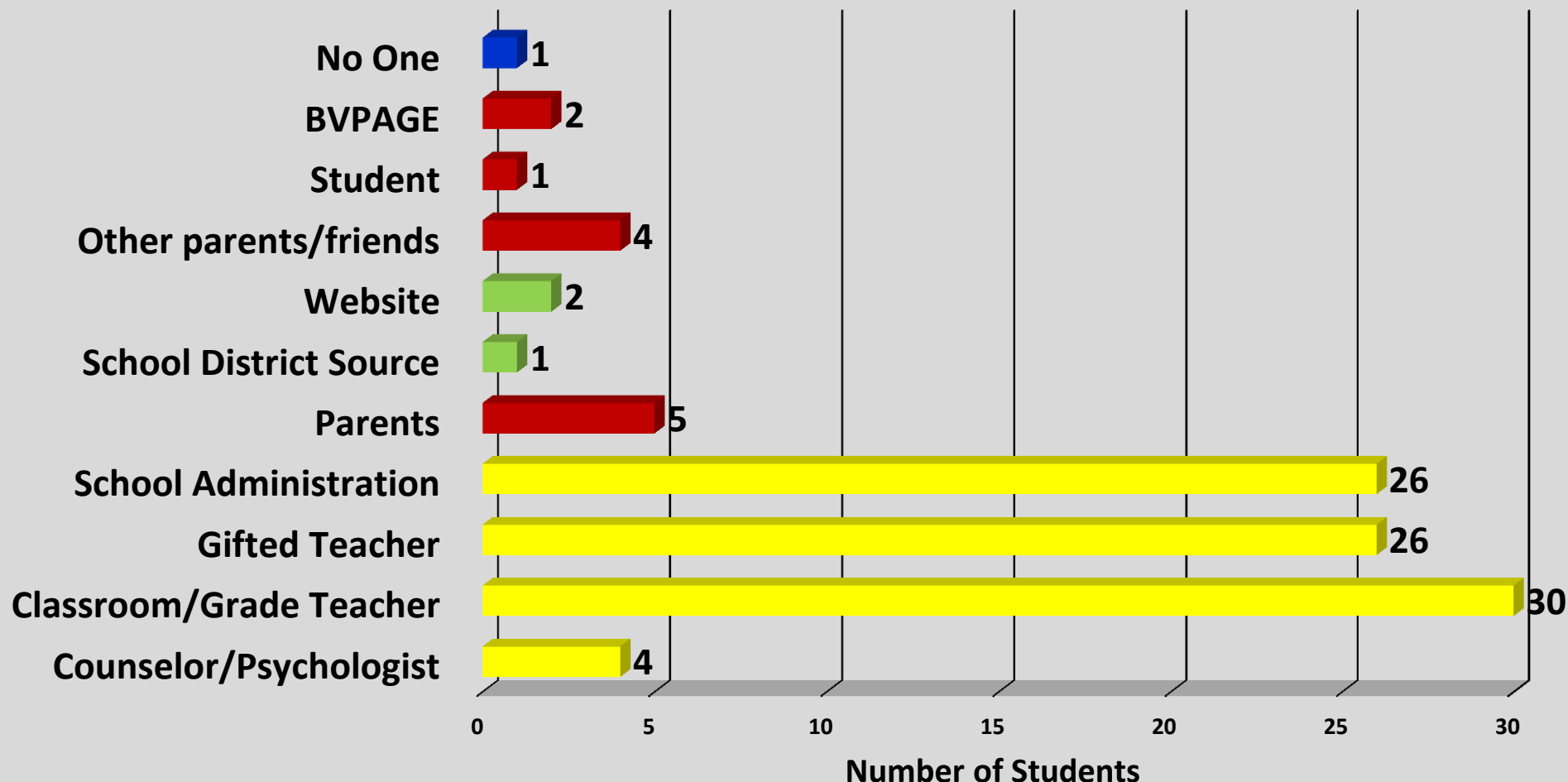


Who Provided Information



2016-2017
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Who Provided Information Regarding Acceleration

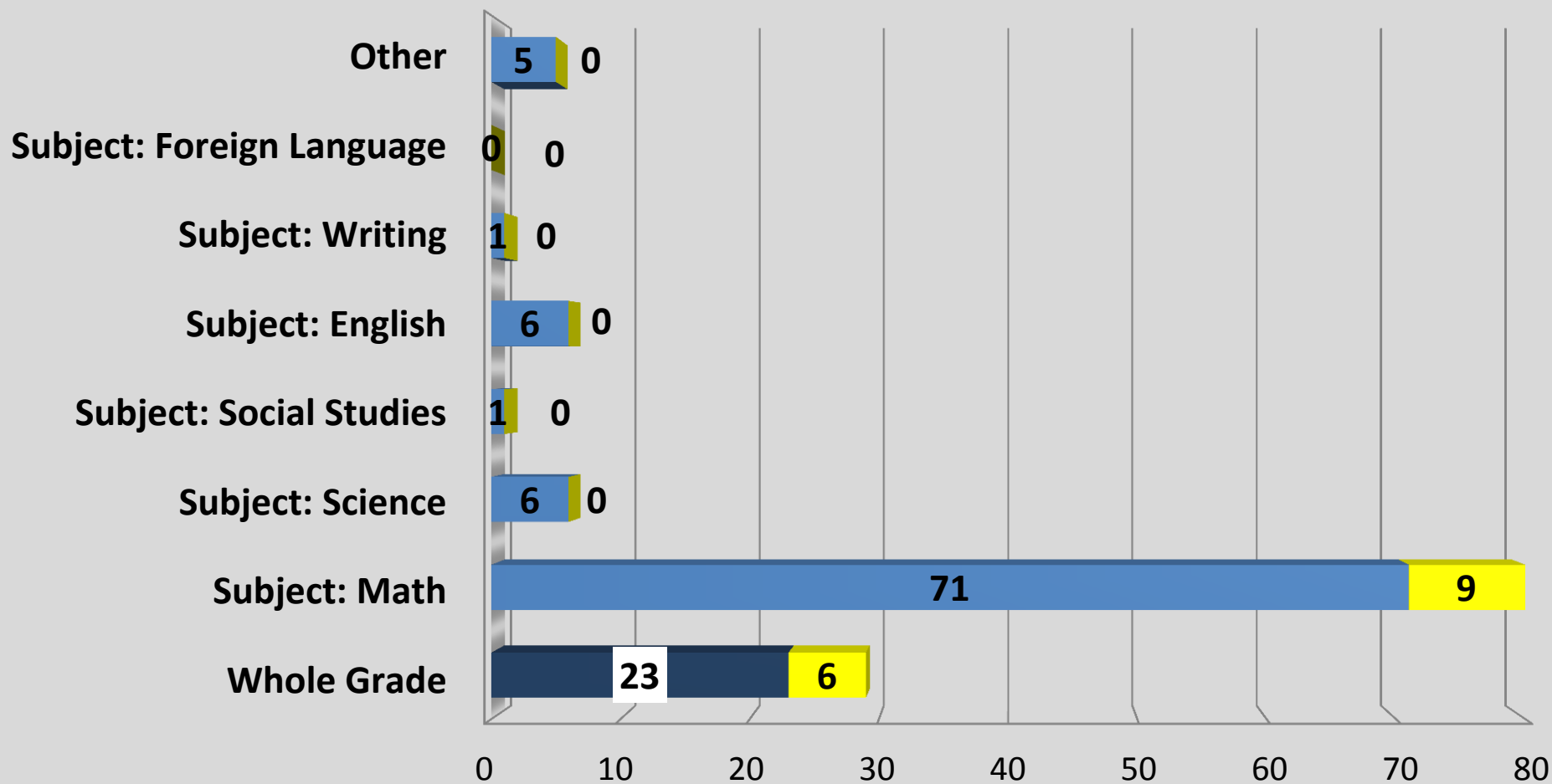


Type of Acceleration Offered



2016-2017
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Type of Acceleration Offered

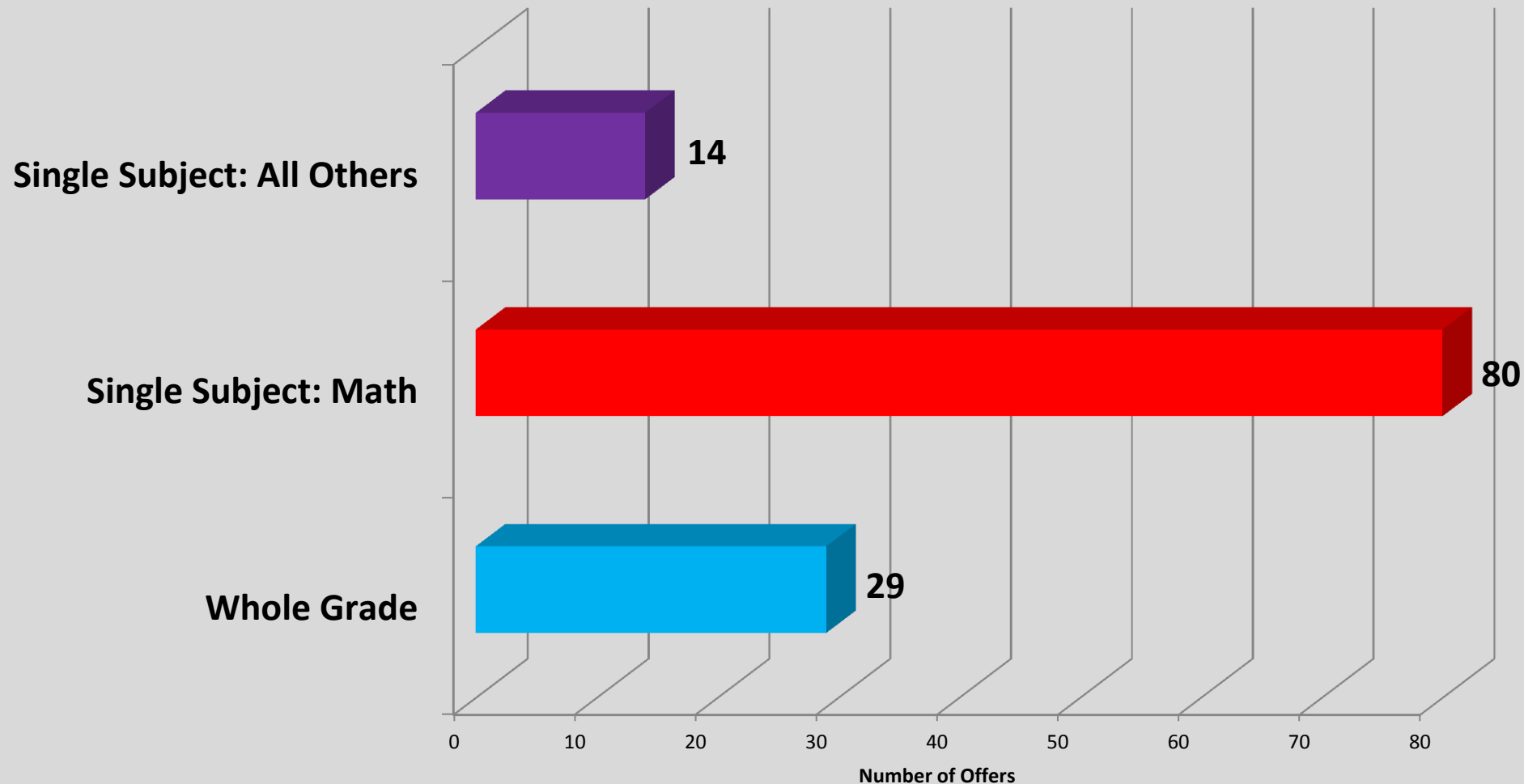


Type of Acceleration Offered



2016-2017
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Survey Results

Whole or Single Subject Offer

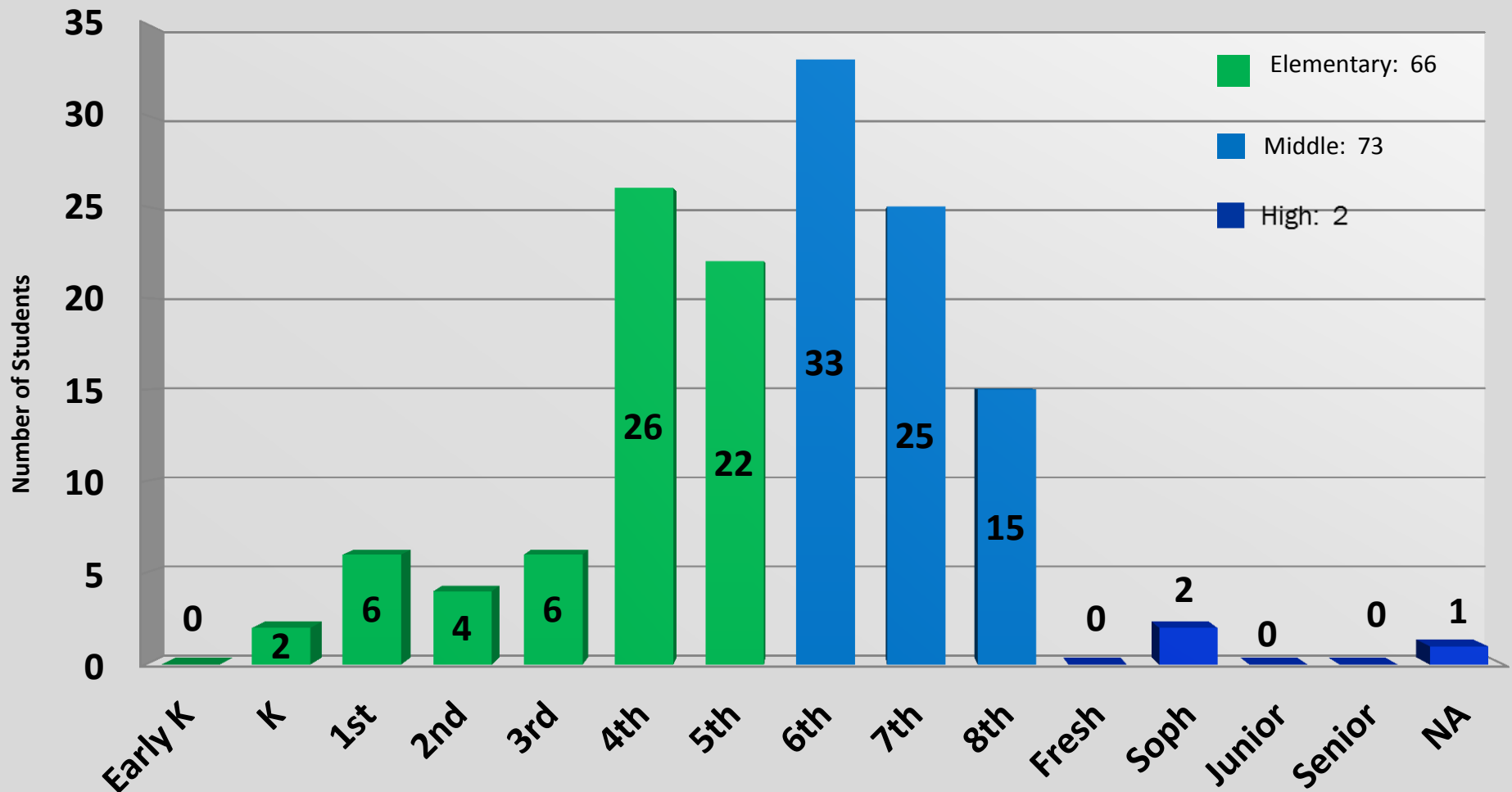


Grade at Time of Acceleration Offer



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Student Grade at Time of Acceleration Offer

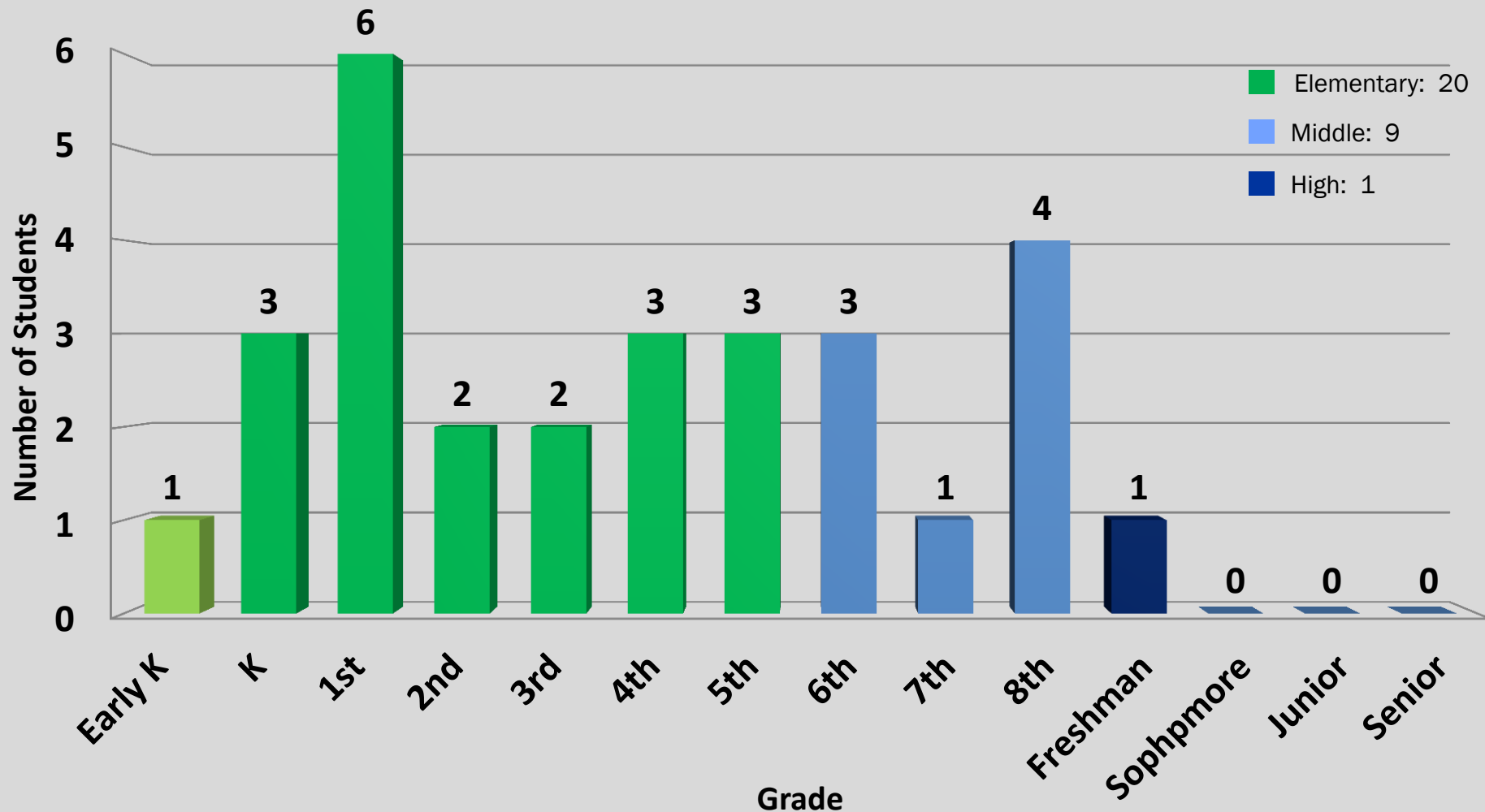


Whole Grade Acceleration



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Survey Results

Number of Students & Whole Grade Level Accelerated

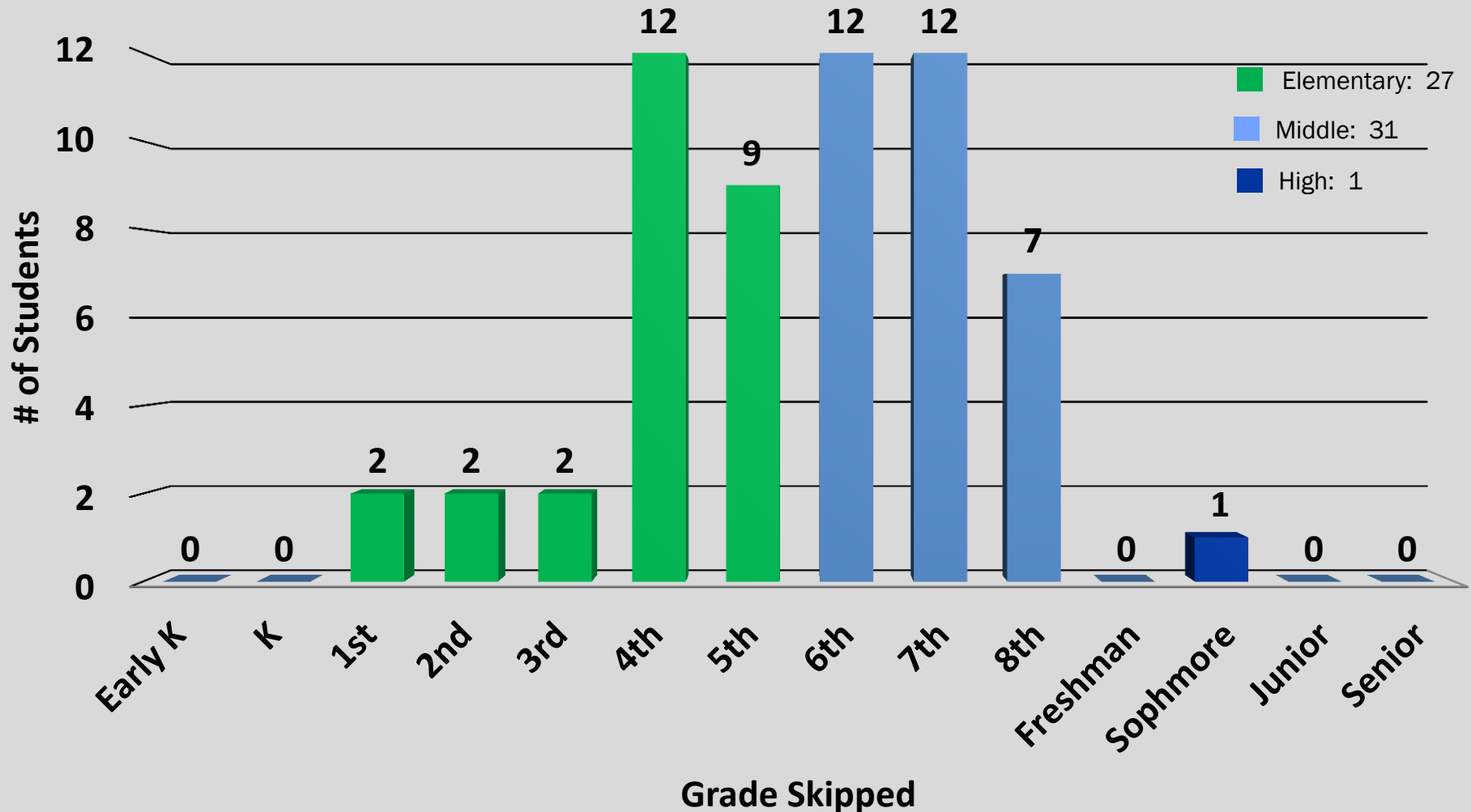


Grade of Single Subject Acceleration



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Number of Students and Single Subject Grade Skipped



Analysis was completed on 1,448 respondent comments.

We looked at comments from all questions to find themes. We used those words, synonyms, and antonyms to create the following information.

Chose Not To Accelerate Questions



2016-2017
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Survey Results

- What advantages did you consider?
- What disadvantages did you consider?
- What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?
- Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?
- Looking at your past decision not to acceleration, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?
- Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

Chose To Accelerate Questions



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

- What advantages did you consider?
- What disadvantages did you consider?
- What was the biggest surprise?
- How did acceleration affect you
 - Outside of School?
 - Academically?
 - Socially?
 - Emotionally?
 - Related to athletics, hobbies, and recreation?
 - In college?
 - Beyond college?
- Is there any additional information
 - You wish you had known before making your decision?
 - You would like to give to students considering acceleration?
 - You would like to give to parents considering acceleration?
 - You would like to report to school, teachers, and administrators?

Advantages & Disadvantages

Academic

Social

Emotional

Logistical

Academic Considerations



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Academic Advantages	Academic Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">⌘ Increased Academic Challenge⌘ Success⌘ Engagement⌘ Underachieving⌘ Scheduling Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⌘ Workload⌘ Grades⌘ New or Multiple Schedules⌘ Didn't solve the problem

Increased Academic Challenge

“I loved having material that challenged me – it really brought out my love for learning”

“It isn't just a lot of harder or extra work. Most projects done are thing that interest you personally.”

“She was placed with peers that were learning at her level”

“She actually feels like she's learning a little something and loves the challenge and the pace.”

Academic Advantages



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Academic Success

“(Surprised by) Her academic and personal success in the accelerated program”

“She advanced above her age level to her ability”

“It gave him more than just busy work, even though he still maintained A's”

“I can take harder classes and I still get all A's.”

Engagement & Underachievement

“She has maintained her interest in the subject instead of giving up with frustration. It gave our gifted child a break in her day from the frustration of the classroom pace because she was able to self-pace.”

“Caused me to struggle more with getting the good grades I received in middle school, but overall challenged me where I needed it.”

“I loved having material that challenged me – it really brought out my love for learning”

She is finally excited about school where as before we just heard it was boring.“

Scheduling Opportunities

“He was able to take other more advanced classes”

“Accelerating got me into marching band one year earlier. I fit in this class much better than I would’ve with my former class”

“I can take more math classes and harder ones that I would not have had the chance to take otherwise”

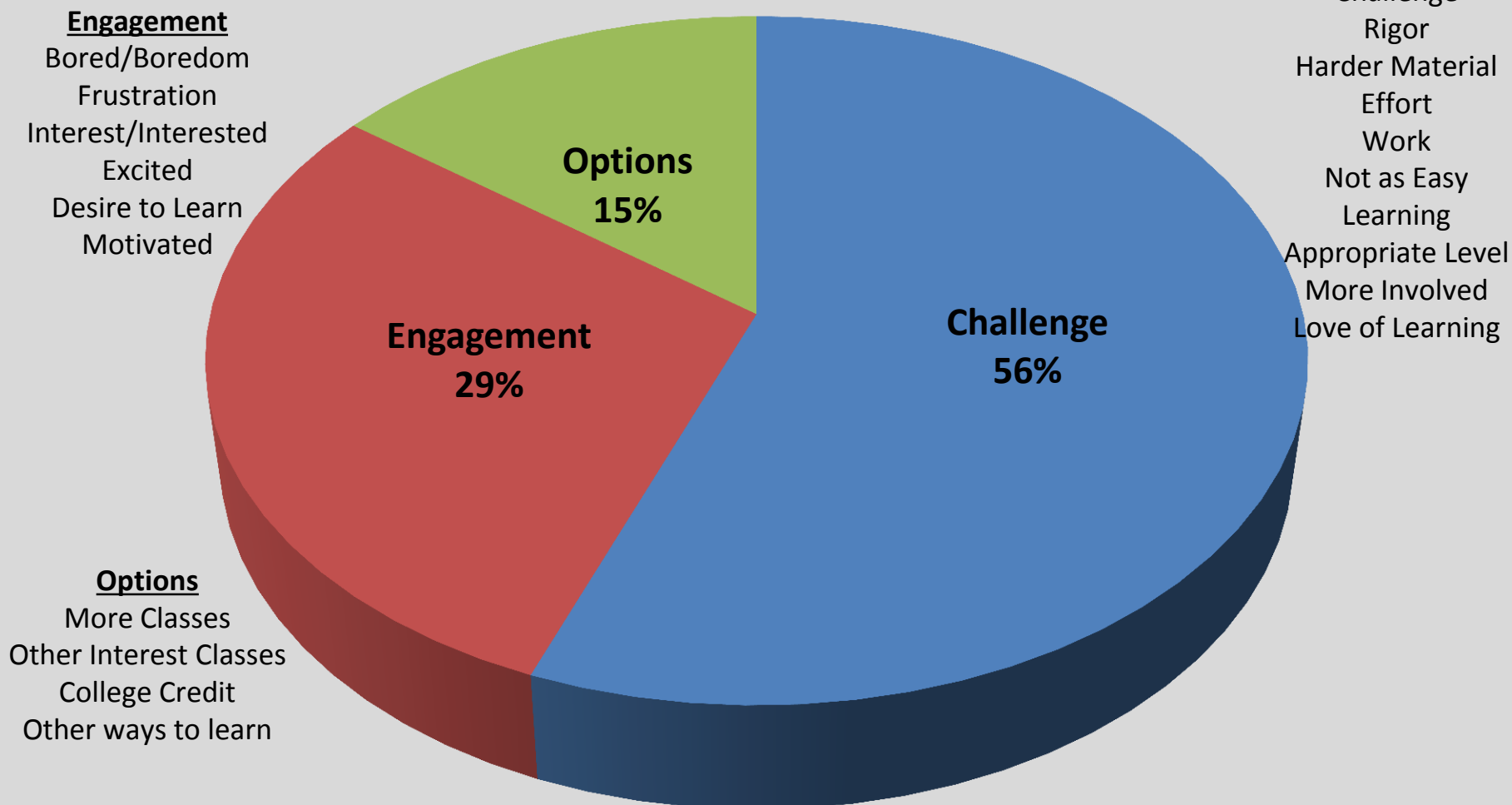
“Had room in high school schedule for college credit classes and electives”

Academic Advantages



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Academic Advantage Categories



Workload & Grades

“Staying with her class, GPA, and class rank”

“Increased amounts of homework”

“Concerns about skipping content and how that would affect future learning”

“I did have more homework than my friends which was difficult to finish in a timely manner sometimes.”

“Grades were not perfect.”

Academic Disadvantages



2016-2017
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Didn't solve the problem

“Accelerating did not solve the problem because the problem is PACING!”

“How easy it still is for him”

“The fact that he is still at the top of the advanced class”

“Acceleration a whole grade didn't meet my child's academic needs”

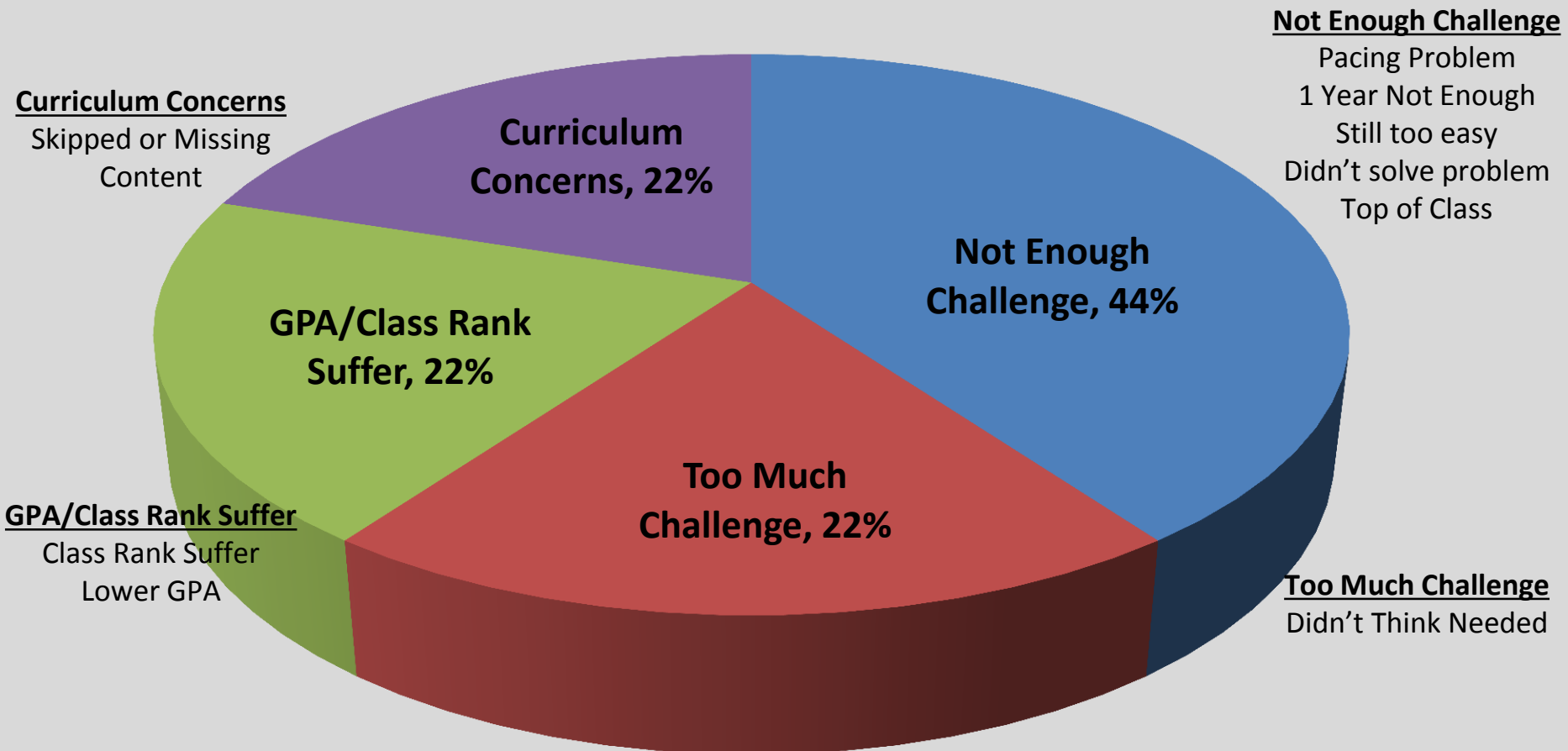
“After accelerated once, school not helpful in providing additional challenge”

Academic Disadvantages



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Academic Disadvantage Categories



Social Considerations



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Social Advantages

- ☞ Peers – Interactions with older students
- ☞ Struggling
- ☞ Self Advocacy
- ☞ Less Isolation
- ☞ Sense of Belonging

Social Disadvantages

- ☞ Student Age
- ☞ Peers – Loss of current
- ☞ Peers – Older students

Peers – Interactions with Older Students

“In the right place, on par with my peers”

“Two weeks into the school year, no one will remember that you are younger. After that, they won’t know unless you point it out.”

“Felt like I was in the right place, felt supported from people around me, found a new group of people to be with”

“I felt more on par with my peers rather than as far ahead and isolated. The timing also worked well because I got a fresh start in high school, just like every other student. “

Self Advocacy and Struggling

“Got a break from feeling like the teacher or waiting for others to catch up”

“Caused me to struggle more with getting the good grades I received in middle school, but overall challenged me where I needed it”

“Confidence, better time management. He is being asked to be more responsible”

“I had to teach my daughter how to better ask clarifying questions and communicate with the teacher directly by herself”

Less Isolation and Belonging

“Enjoyed being able to be with kids that thought like she did regardless of age”

“This was probably the best thing that happened to me socially. I got a chance to start over with a new class at the beginning of high school, which was a blessing for sure.”

“My child was with other kids who were interested in higher level math. It gave him a place to shine”

“Be yourself. It’s OK that you are younger than your classmates. They may be bigger or faster on the playground, but just do your best”

Social Advantages



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Social Advantages Categories

Social Interactions

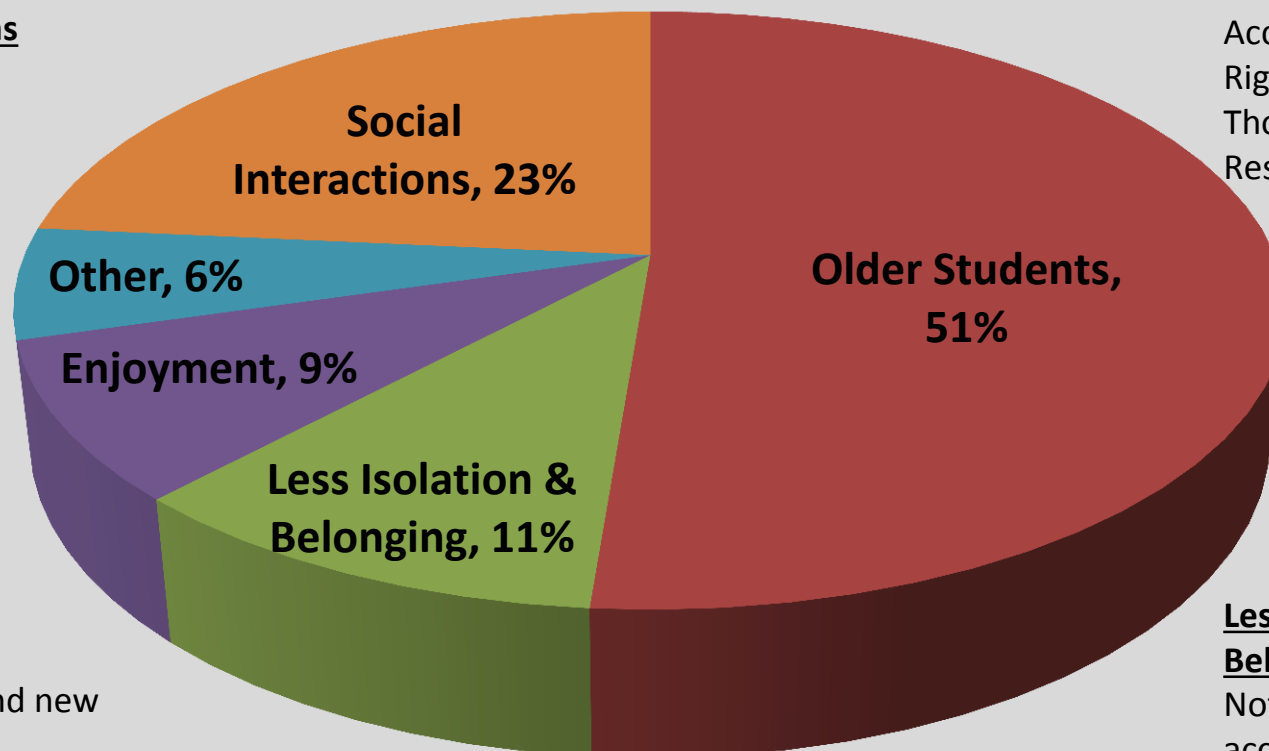
More Sociable
Met New People
New Start

Other

Helped transition
between schools

Enjoyment

Confidence
Likes new class and new
students



Older Students

New peers
New friends
Accepted
Right Place
Thought like them
Respect

Less Isolation & Belonging

Not the only
accelerated student
Not alone anymore

Social Disadvantages



2016-2017
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Survey Results

Age

Age at start of High School and College

“Is currently socially lacking and I did not want him that young in high school. I do not believe that the social obstacles would be better than the academic obstacles”

“In high school the age difference is more of a challenge--not being able to date, drive, etc.”

“She will start (college) before she is 18 and legally an adult.”

Peers – Loss of Current & Contact with Older Students

“Definitely lost touch with old friends and had to make new ones”

“Socializing with older students is NOT ideal”

“The loss of friends her own age, because they didn't understand her needs and jealousy led to bullying.”

“Being younger than everyone else and not knowing everyone as well”

Social Disadvantages



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

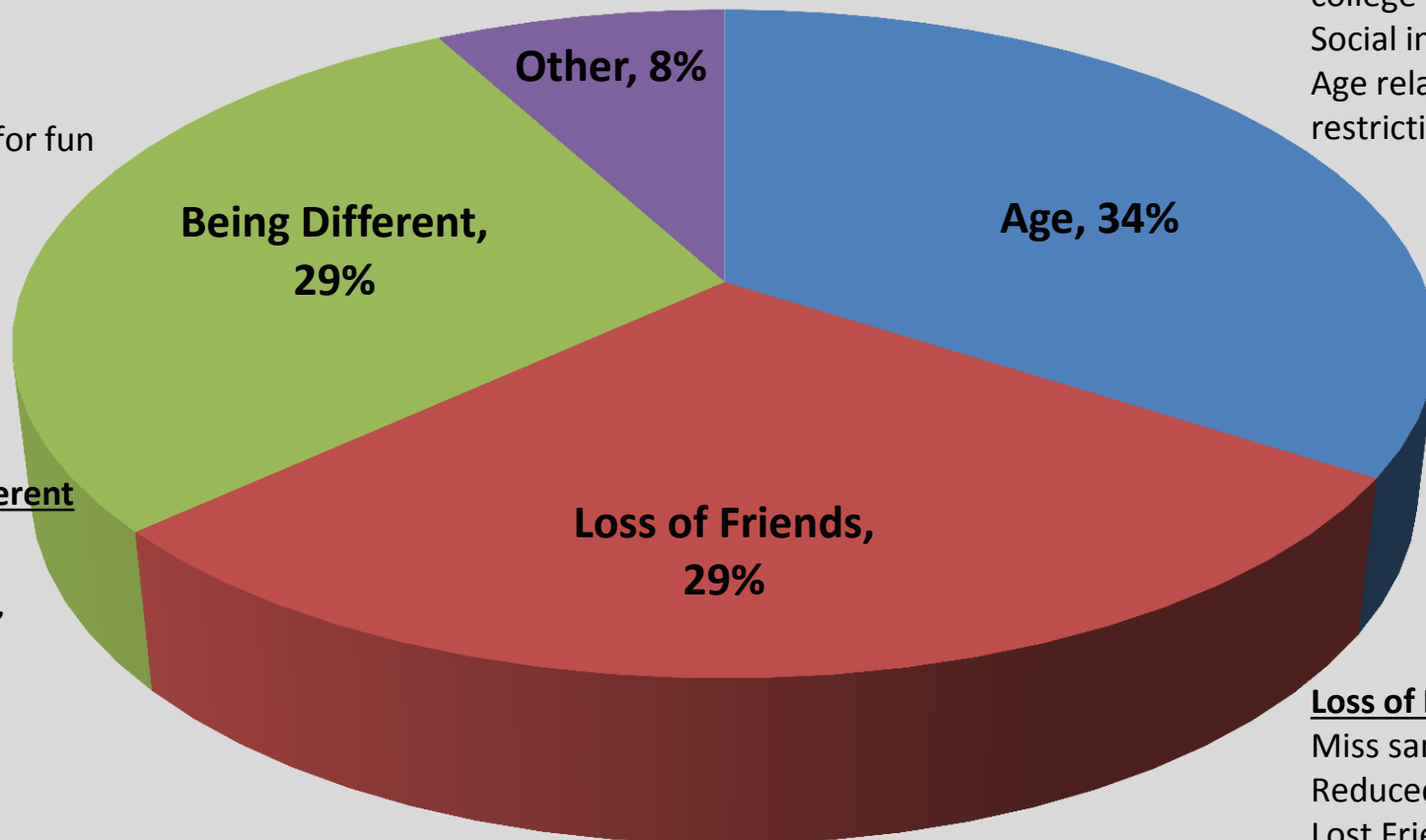
Social Disadvantages Categories

Other

Less time for fun
Pressure

Being different

Isolated
Outsider
'Smart kid'



“Acceleration does not make your student successful, the student has to want to be successful.”

Emotional Considerations



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Emotional Advantages	Emotional Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">SuccessPrideIndependenceSelf-Esteem	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Emotional AmplificationFearPressure

Success and Pride

“Overwhelmed at first, anxious and unsure, then as time went on proud and confident and I felt like I belonged”

“I think it gave her confidence in being smart and not feel she has to hide it”

“My child felt a sense of honor and satisfaction for what she saw as an earned privilege”

“She loved it, it made her feel empowered and was proud to be doing something very few could.”

Emotional Advantages



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Independence and Enjoyment

“Relieved a lot of pressure to be perfect, ironically. My student now cuts herself a lot of slack and feels better about making mistakes”

“Taught him that school is a place to learn, not just endure while others learn”

“I felt a lot happier with challenging and interesting material and I participated a lot more in class”

“Child feels challenged, enjoys harder material”

off

Emotional Disadvantages



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Emotional Amplification

“Didn’t want her to lose confidence in her abilities”

“It was more important to raise a happy, well-adjusted, and involved child”

“Process is very intimidating”

“Pressure”

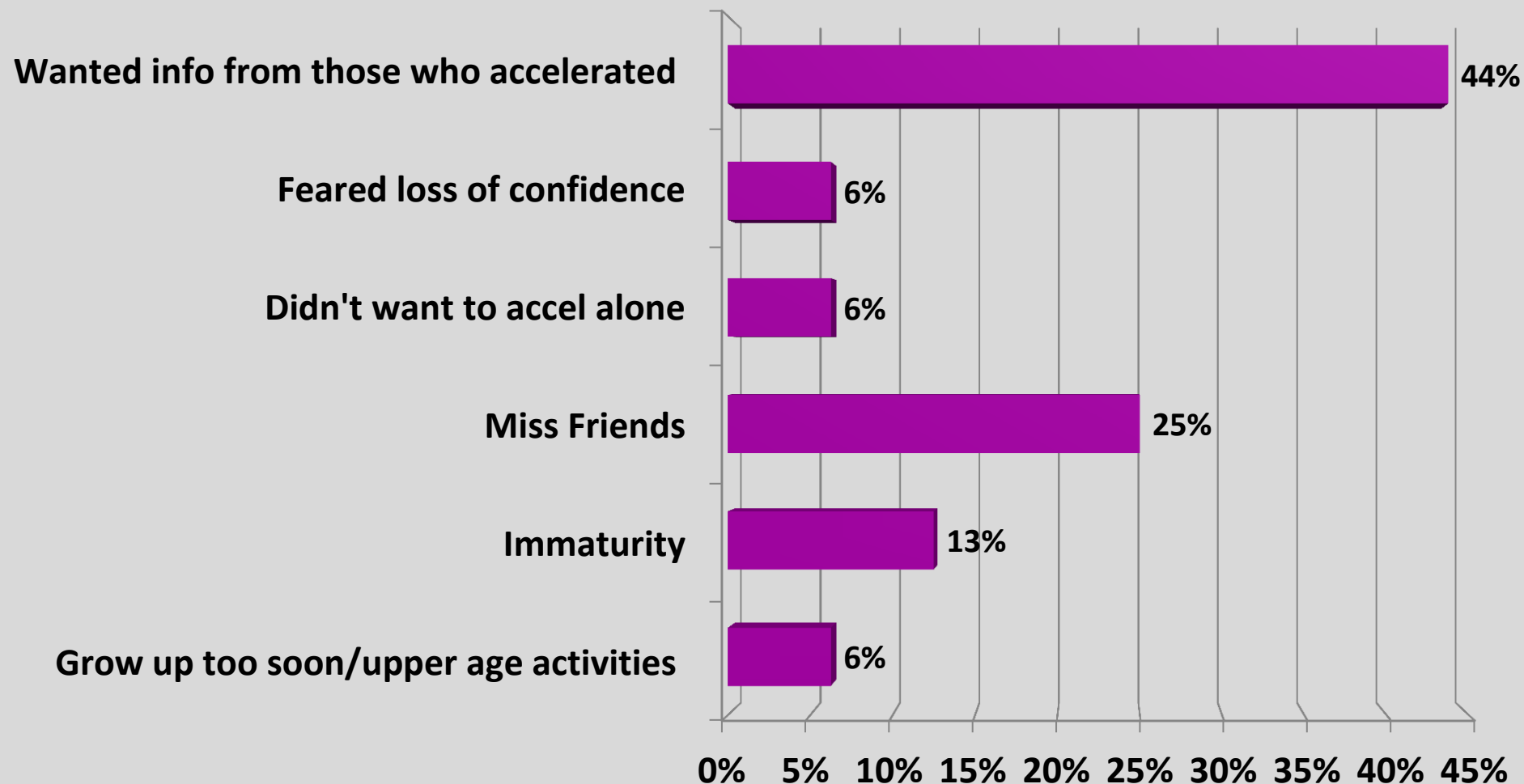
“Still very difficult. I don’t think acceleration impacted her negatively, it just stayed the same”

Emotional Considerations



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Emotional Concerns



Logistical Considerations



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Logistical Advantages

- ∞ Familiarity with next school

Logistical Disadvantages

- ∞ Communication
- ∞ Testing Procedures
- ∞ Multiple buildings
- ∞ Schedules
- ∞ Support

Familiarity with next level school

“Being able to experience the next campus for just one class built confidence and made that transition much easier.”

“In addition, early exposure to new assignment, homework, and grading systems so they weren’t ‘new’ to accelerated student when they reached new building.”

“Middle school is socially awkward anyway - skipping a grade just gets you to high school a little faster and allows you to blend into a bigger and more challenging environment” (Social)

“I gained a peer group of other accelerated parents and was able to share my experiences with other 5th grade parents who had not experienced middle school yet”

Logistical Disadvantages



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Testing Process & Communication

“It was not very clearly advertised and it almost seemed like it was a secret”

“I think that the process is solid but also not the most fair nor consistent.”

“If a child is testing extremely high in a subject, why require them to pass a test showing mastery of a subject that they have never been exposed to?”

“Make this process more available to parents & students, don't hide/discourage it or make it seem like a punishment to you personally“

“How receiving teachers felt about acceleration - make sure they are supportive”

Schedules and Length of Days

Transportation to middle or high school from base school

“It makes for a long day for him, another hour of school.”

“When I was in middle school, there were times that I missed parts of classes or other important events since I had to go to first hour at the high school.”

“Need to understand that you have to manage your schedule because you get lost in the shuffle with block days, field trips, off schedule days”

Logistical Disadvantages



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Support

“Everyone involved must be willing to support the decision: child, family, especially new teachers, building administration.”

“Receiving teachers need to know student is accelerated and communicate more with parents and not punish student if they don’t support acceleration”

“We didn’t really have much guidance in social/emotional need of gifted and the school did not either.”

“Sometimes, however, it was hard to get help with my homework since most of the people in my class were not in my grade.”

Logistical Effects



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Logistical Consideration Categories

Neutral

Things to Consider
Remember that...
Adjustment was worth it

Neutral, 22, 11%

Positive, 24, 12%

Negative

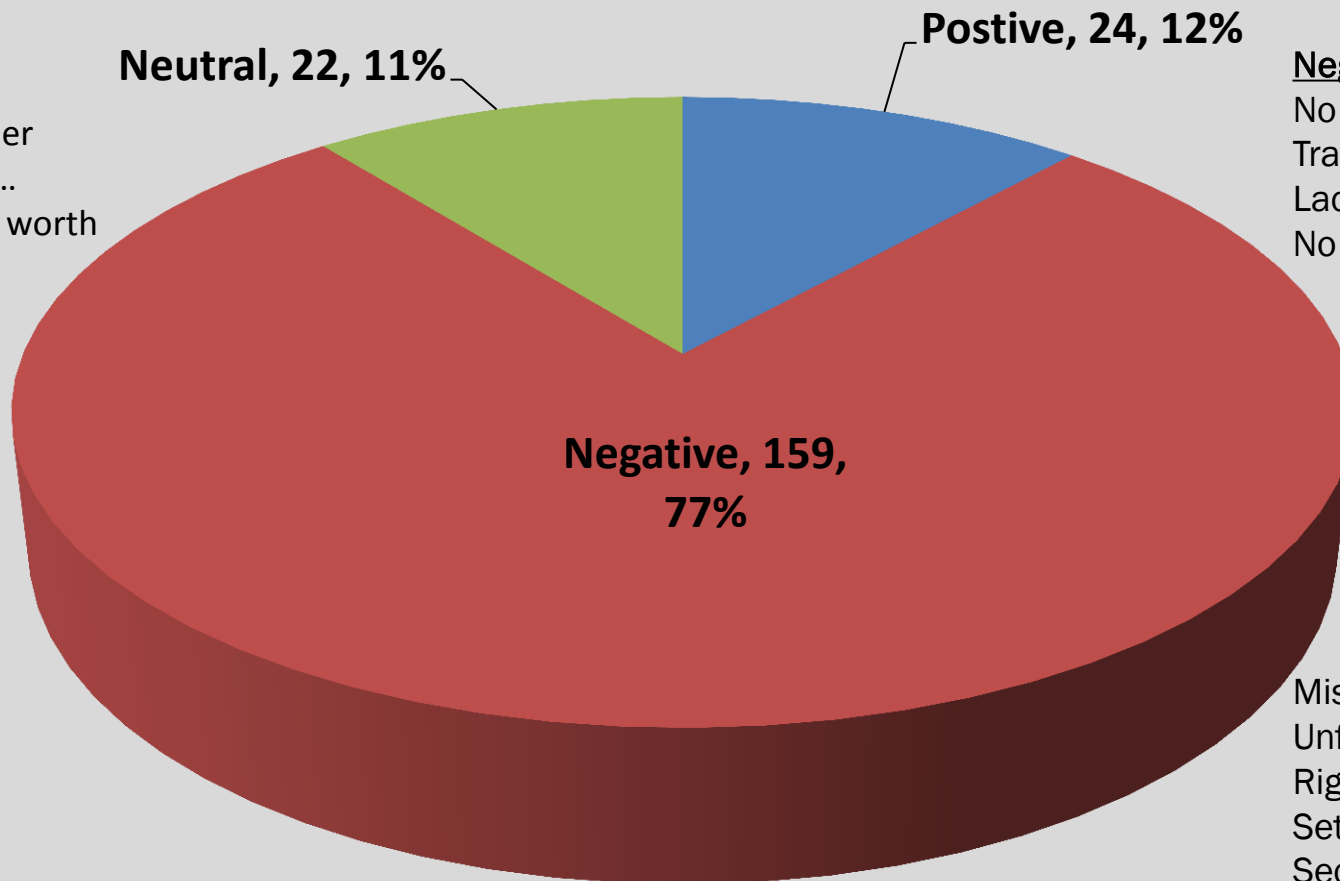
No Communication
Travel
Lack of knowledge
No ownership

Negative, 159,
77%

Positive

New building
Process went smoothly
Easy transition

Missed Events
Unfair
Rigid
Set up to Fail
Secrecy
No information



Other Considerations



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Not about one success or ability

“Don't focus solely on their biggest strength, look at the big picture.”

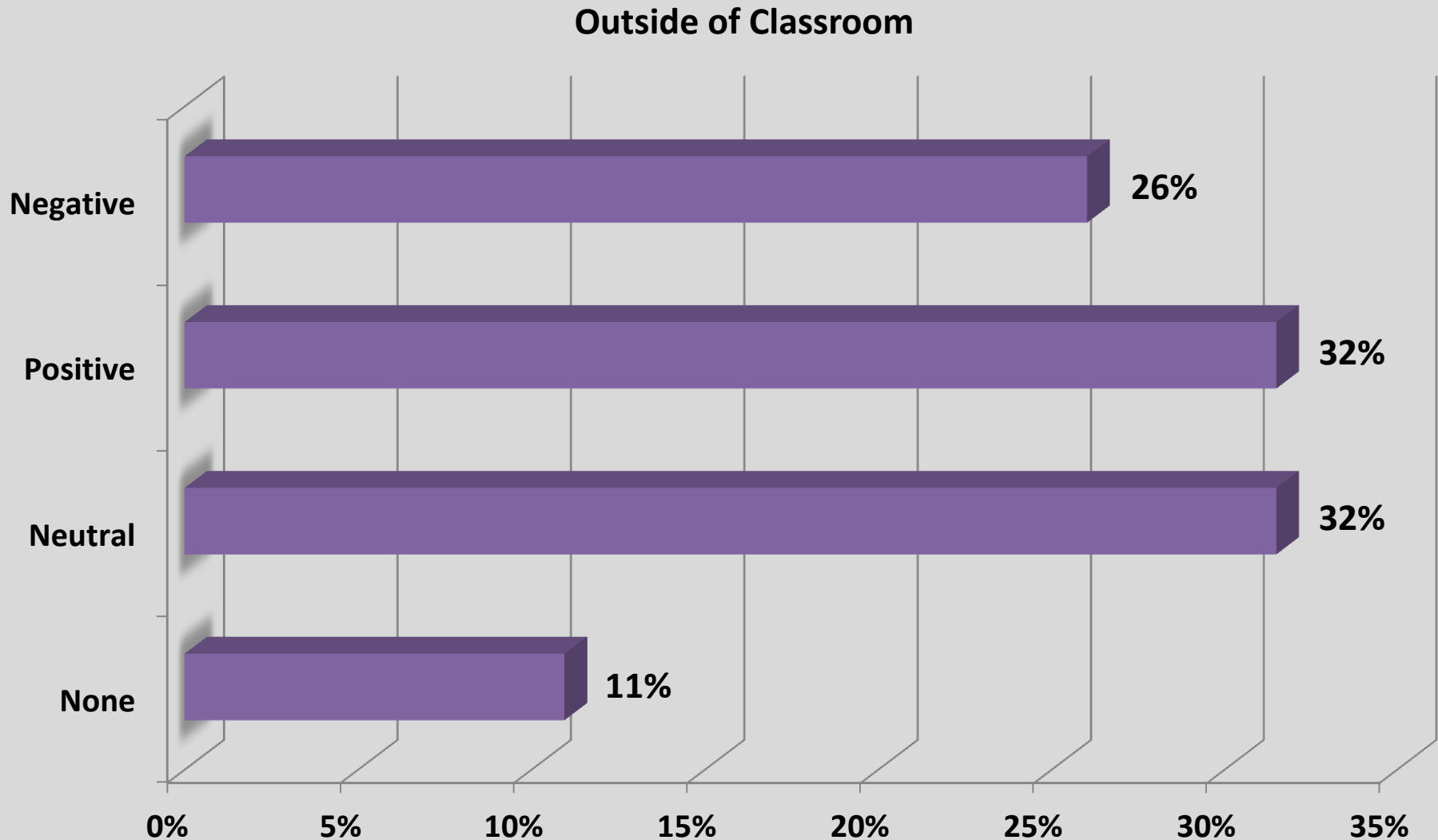
“The child needs to be confident in reading, writing, and taking notes independently. He/she needs to be able to self-advocate to get help or speak up. Accelerating does not make the student successful, the student has to want to be successful.”

“Make sure it's a well rounded acceleration and not just an academic progression”

Effects Outside of Classroom



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Effects Outside of Classroom



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Hobbies, Recreation, Sports

“Subject acceleration in math did not interfere with her eligibility in math competition”

“Effects like sports teams and Sunday school - no one really told us to think those through.

“She was a swimmer, and that is done by age, not grade, so it wasn't an issue.”

“Acceleration helped me find the extracurriculars I loved”

“Little to no effect, did sports and theater and Scouts”

“My motto has become *‘Just because you can do it doesn’t mean you have to’*”

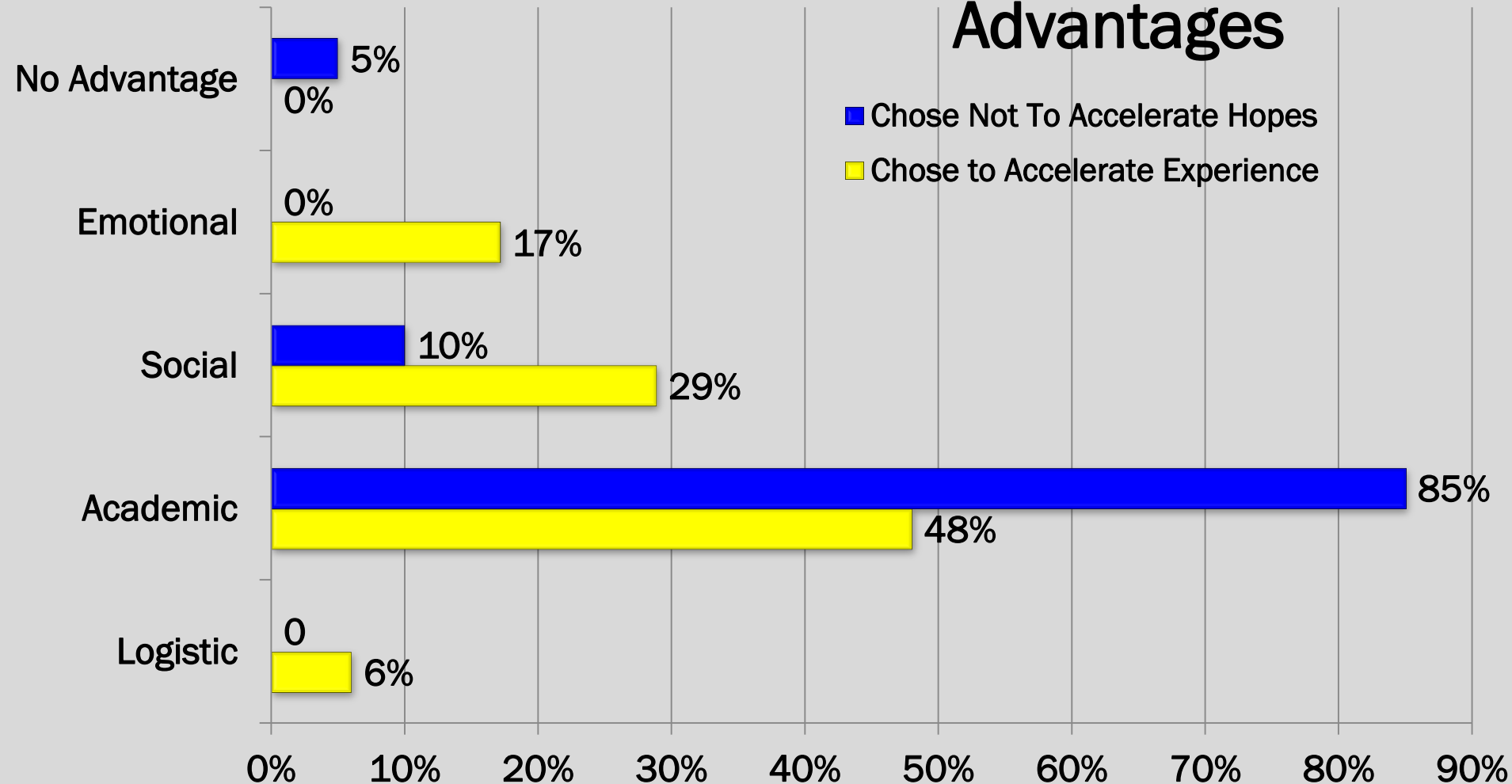
Prior Concerns vs. Experience

Acceleration: Prior Concern vs. Experience



2016-2017
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Advantages

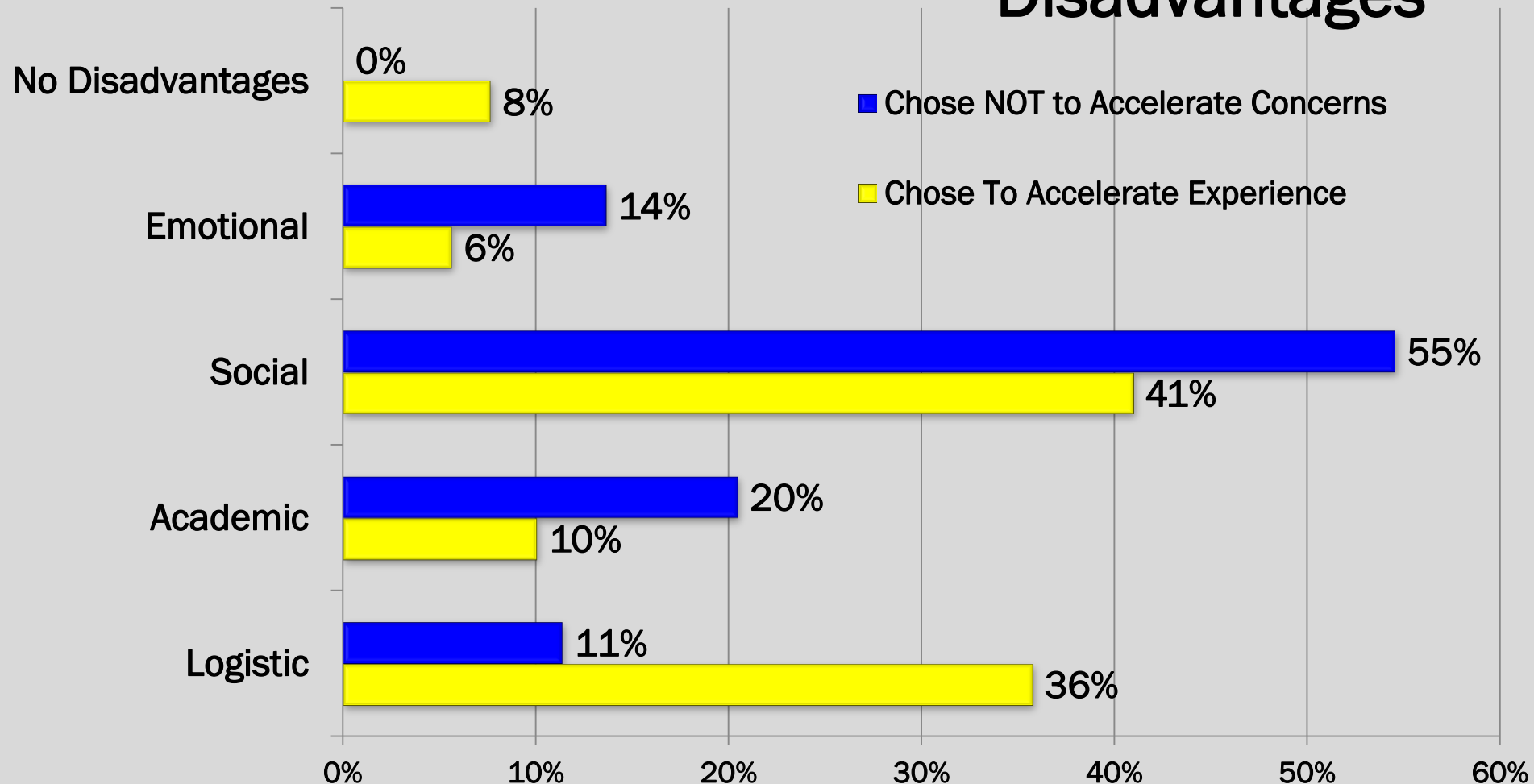


Acceleration: Prior Concern vs. Experience



2016-2017
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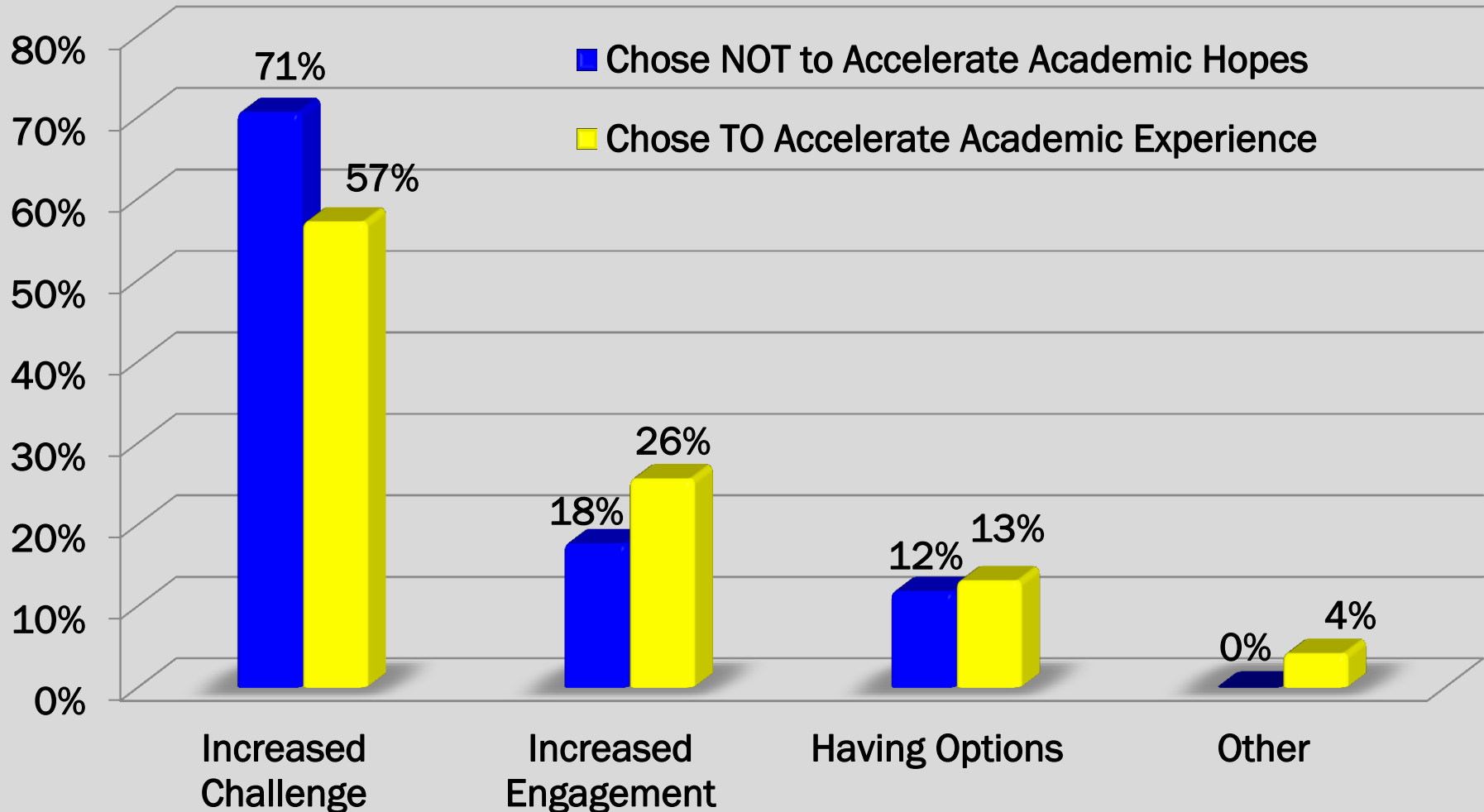
Disadvantages



Academic Advantages: Prior Concern vs. Experience



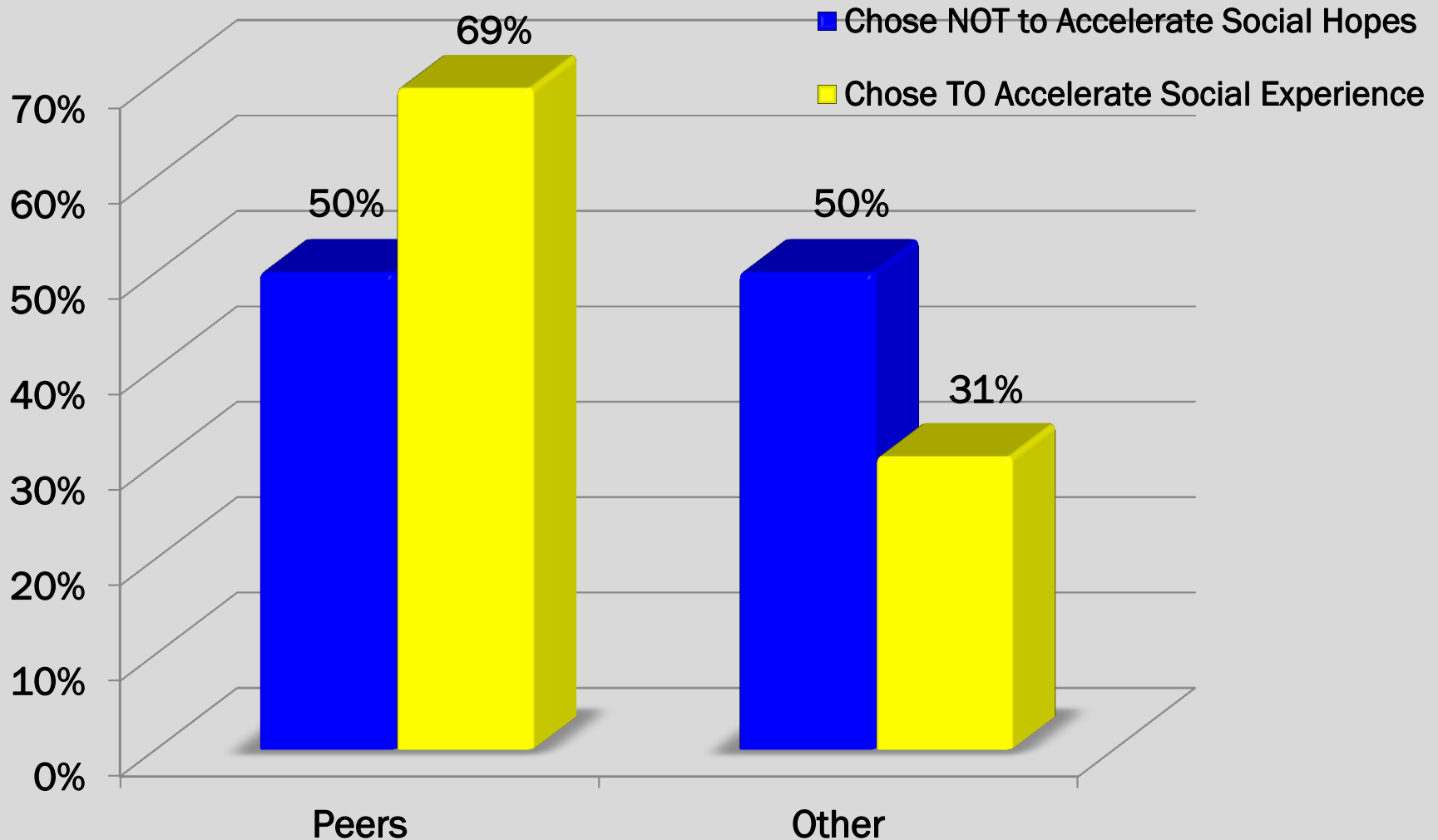
2016-2017
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Social Considerations: Concerns VS Reality



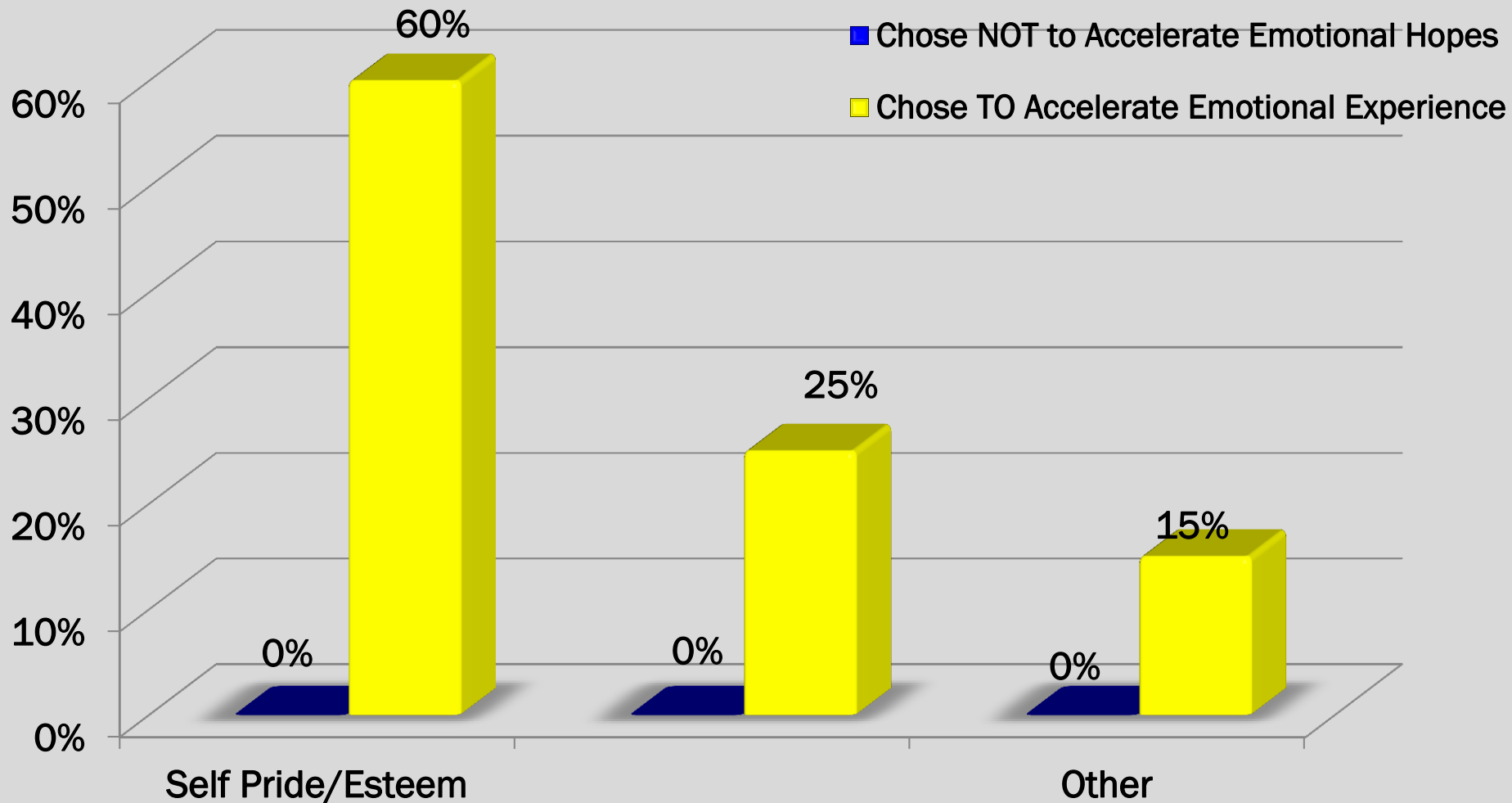
2016-2017
Acceleration
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Emotional Effects: Prior Concerns vs. Experience



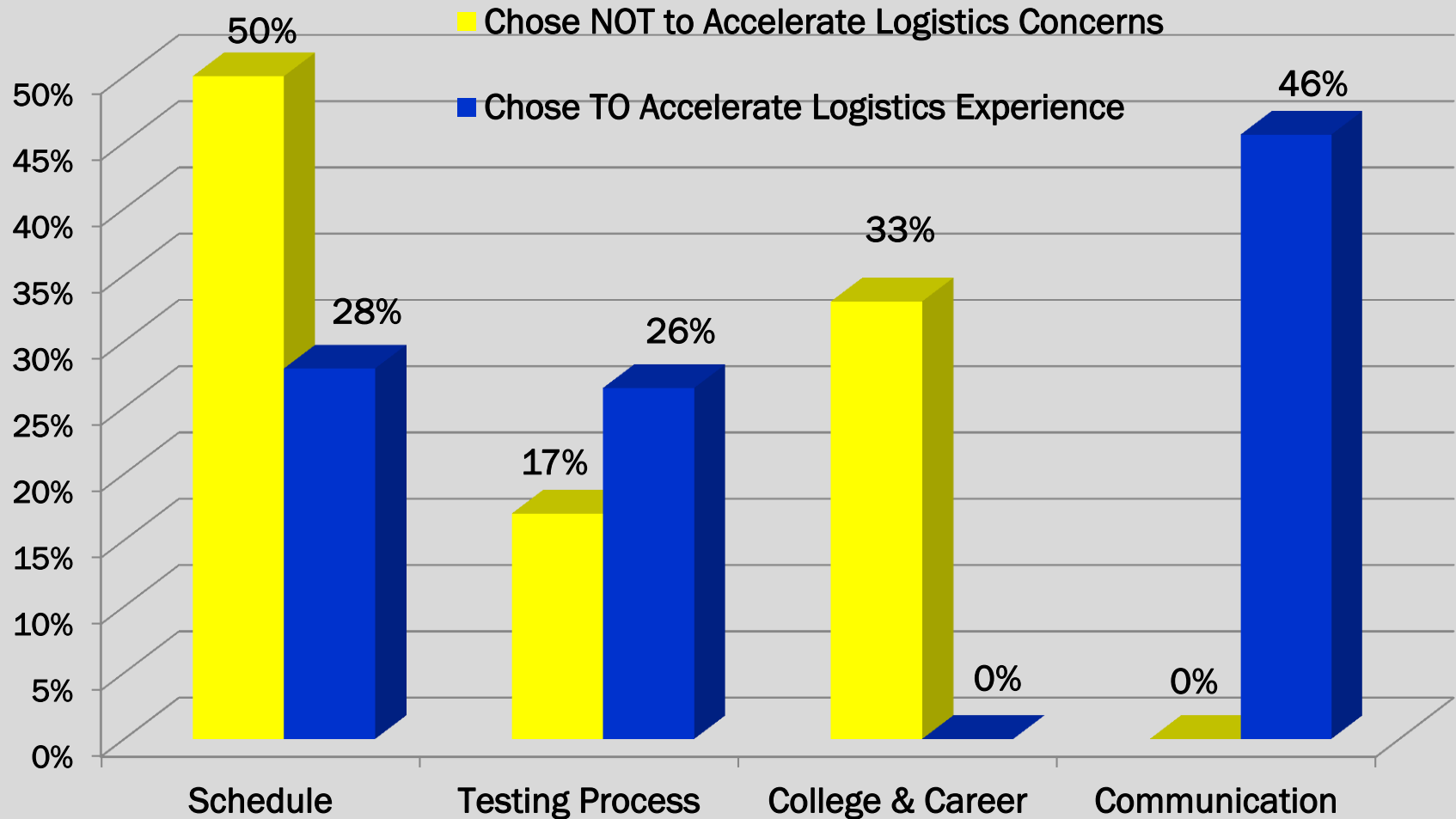
2016-2017
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Logistical: Prior Concerns vs. Experience



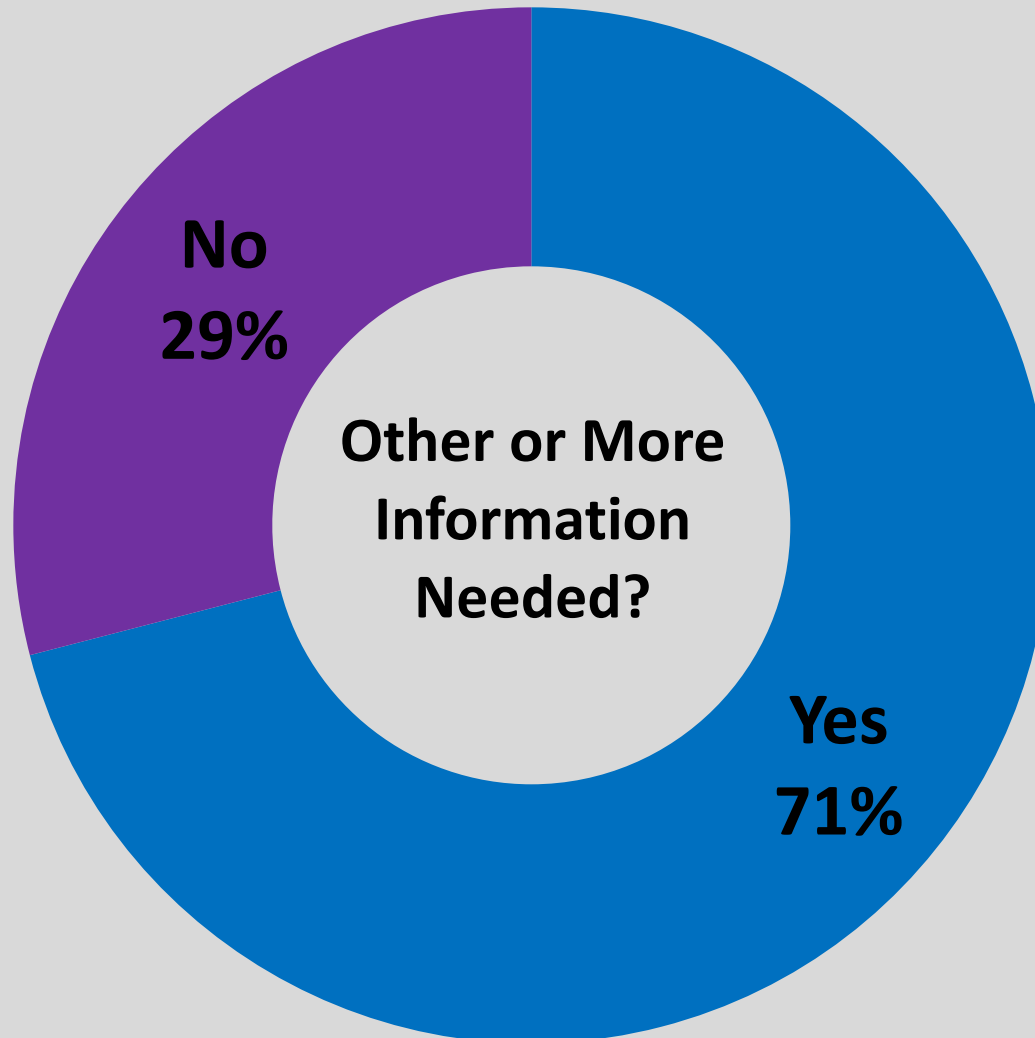
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Other Information You Wish You Knew



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Other Information You Wish You Knew



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“Clearer direction/unified suggestion of what to do from the educators/principal (they gave mixed signals)”

“Wish we would have known it was an option much earlier.”

“Wish I would have known there was an option just bumping up one subject level grade”

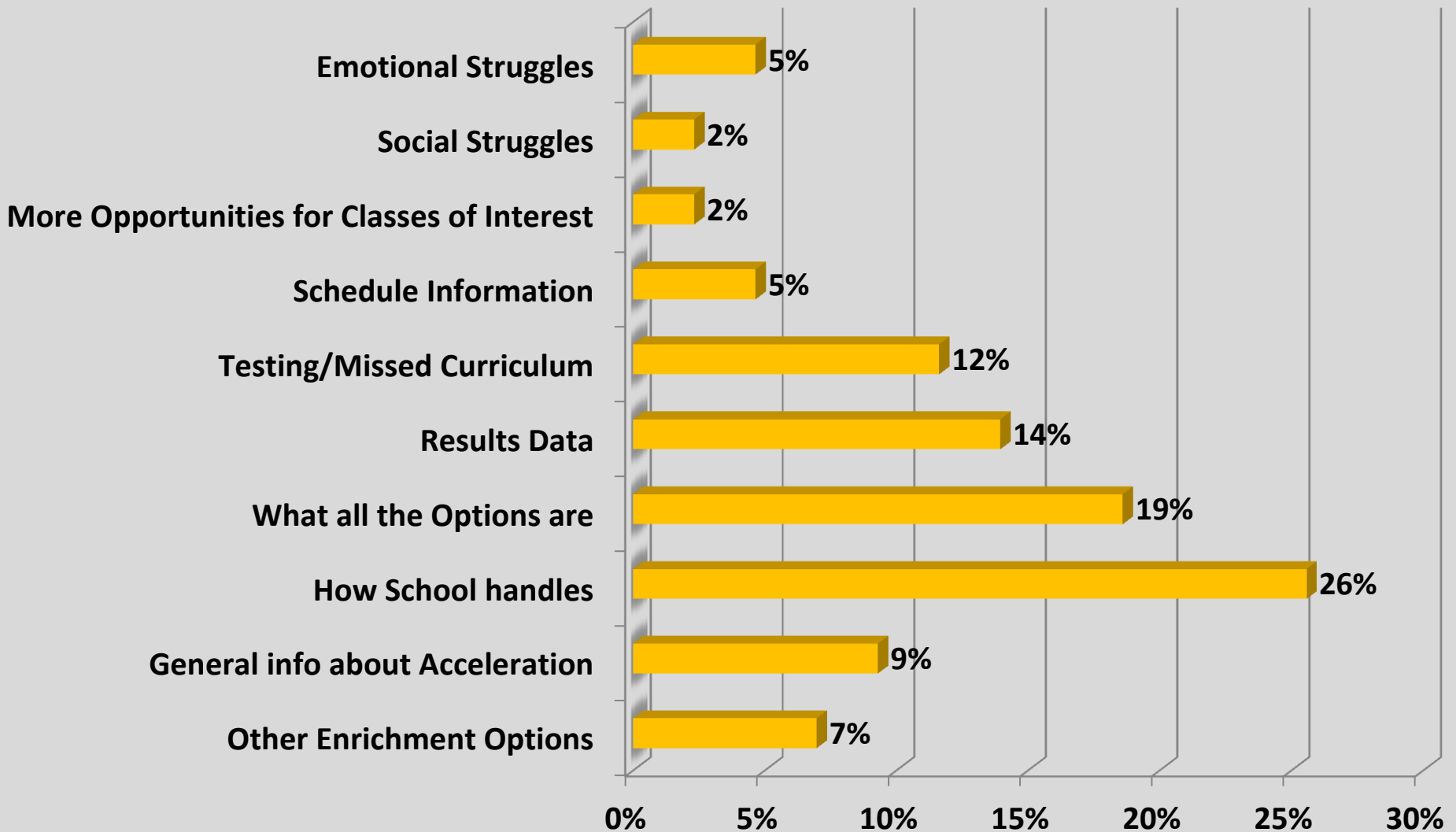
“Quotes from kids who skipped this grade. Experiences? Regrets? What was good?”

“Middle of the year acceleration is NOT a good idea, even if it is recommended by the school.”

Other Information You Wish You Knew



2016-2017
Acceleration
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What happens when child needs “something”

“There is a tendency for them to get ignored because they don't need extra help to do their work.”

“More a question of what if we hadn't bumped him . . . ???”

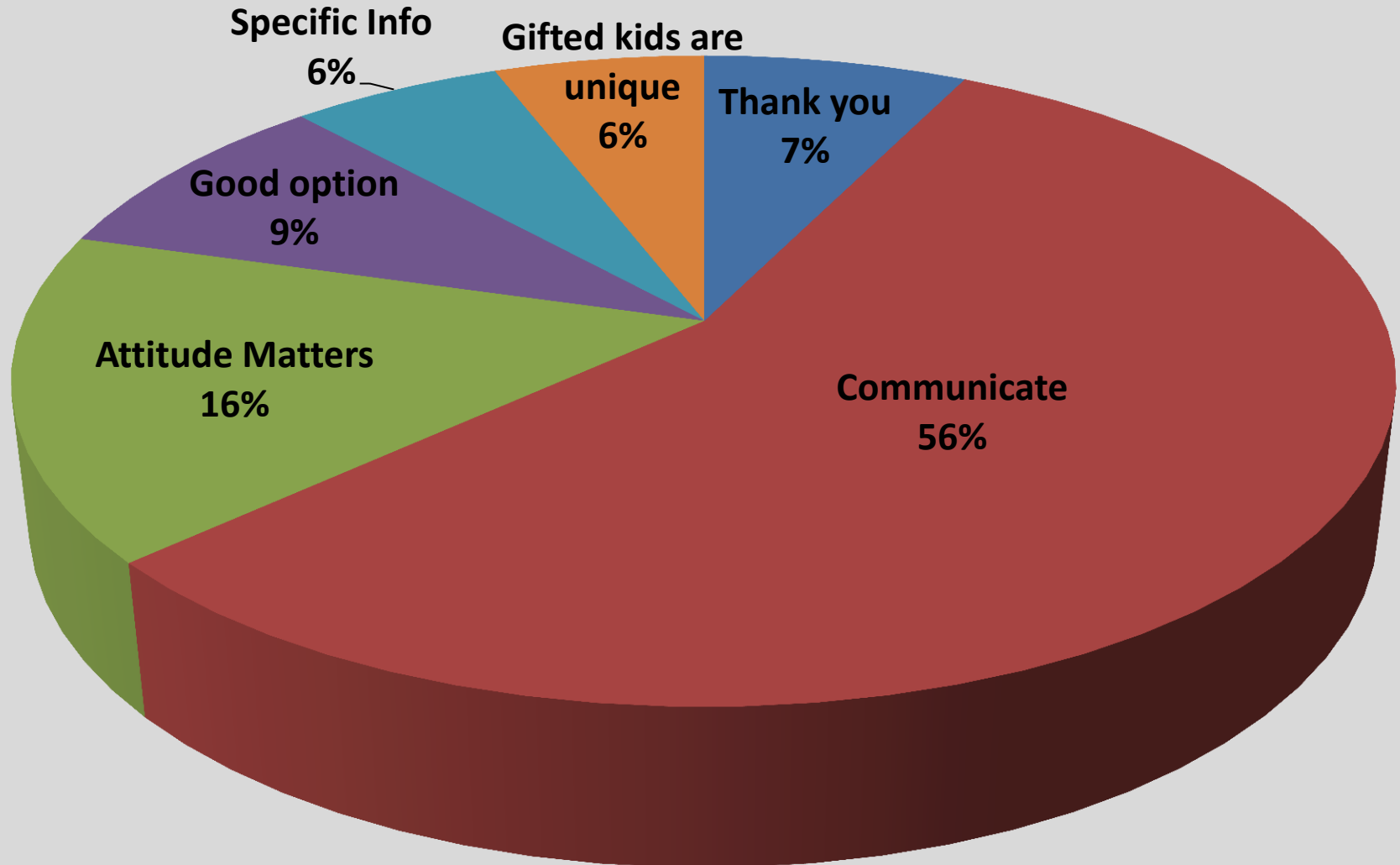
“The kids eventually become **average** since they are not given the opportunity to move up or the classroom teaching simply turns them off.”

“I think if our son had been accelerated in K or 1st, we might have had a positive outcome. Acceleration came at a point in his education when we were desperate for help at school (really too late). Our son was underachieving in the classroom, miserable at school, complained he never learned anything at school.....**we ending up homeschooling**”

Report to Teachers/Administrators



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Report to Teachers/Administrators



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Things to consider

“Don’t be so afraid of this. I have honestly never seen it go bad, but I have seen kids become underachievers who chose not to accelerate.”

“Thank you for offering this. Couldn’t imagine my son not being challenged”

“For us, the process was driven by the school and went very smoothly”

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to accelerate; it overall had an extremely positive impact on my K-12 school career”

Report to Teachers/Administrators



2016-2017
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Things to work on

“My teachers and principal demonstrated concern I would not ‘adjust socially and normally.’ Although every student is different, I would like to report that it actually helped me become more social and extroverted”

“Please be supportive of kids that need the acceleration and do not put up excuses or barriers. Administrators, empower your teachers”

“Receiving teachers need to know student is accelerated and communicate more with parents and not punish student if they don’t support acceleration”

“Boredom is dangerous”

Communication

Tell a Student Considering Acceleration



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“It’s a great thing if you are not being challenged, plan for more work and some disruption to your schedule”

“Be positive, things change, and nothing is forever”

“Express yourself and trust your inner self on what you need, not what others think you need.”

“Stay strong, apply yourself and enjoy!”

“If it’s right for you, then you should do it. But, there are also a lot of opportunities for advanced learning that go beyond whole grade acceleration. Be sure to explore all of your opportunities and decide what is best. It can be stressful to accelerate a grade.”

Tell a Parent Considering Acceleration for Their Child



2016-2017
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Survey Results

“Only accelerate if your child can perform academically and socially at a higher/more mature level. There is no "status" benefit from accelerating.”

“Don't force it on your child so he/she can "get ahead in life". That's not what this is about. It has to be a necessity not a wish of the parent or student.”

“Let the student make the final decision.”

“Have a positive attitude, be patient”

“Get help from counsellors or people who have experience like other parents of gifted students.”

Other Information



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“Question your own motives. What do you hope to accomplish by doing this? Is this really what's best for your child or is this what you want?”

“Listen to your child above all”

“It was a great experience for us academically, but I wouldn't recommend it for everyone”

“Don't let it scare you. They rise to the challenge. It's important to accelerate in some cases - the student can become bored and disengaged in school if not challenged/learning/seeing the value of an education”

“Whether you chose to accelerate or not, as long as your child is your priority, you won't make the wrong decision. If you're undecided, I'd encourage you to explore ALL the options”

Did Not Accelerate: Was this the best decision? Any Regrets?



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“Yes!! Absolutely no regrets!!”

“We regret that acceleration is not an option in our school district”

“In the long term yes, I still think it’s best due to how young he would be in comparison to his classmates”

“If our son could have been accelerated in K or 1st, we might have had a positive outcome”

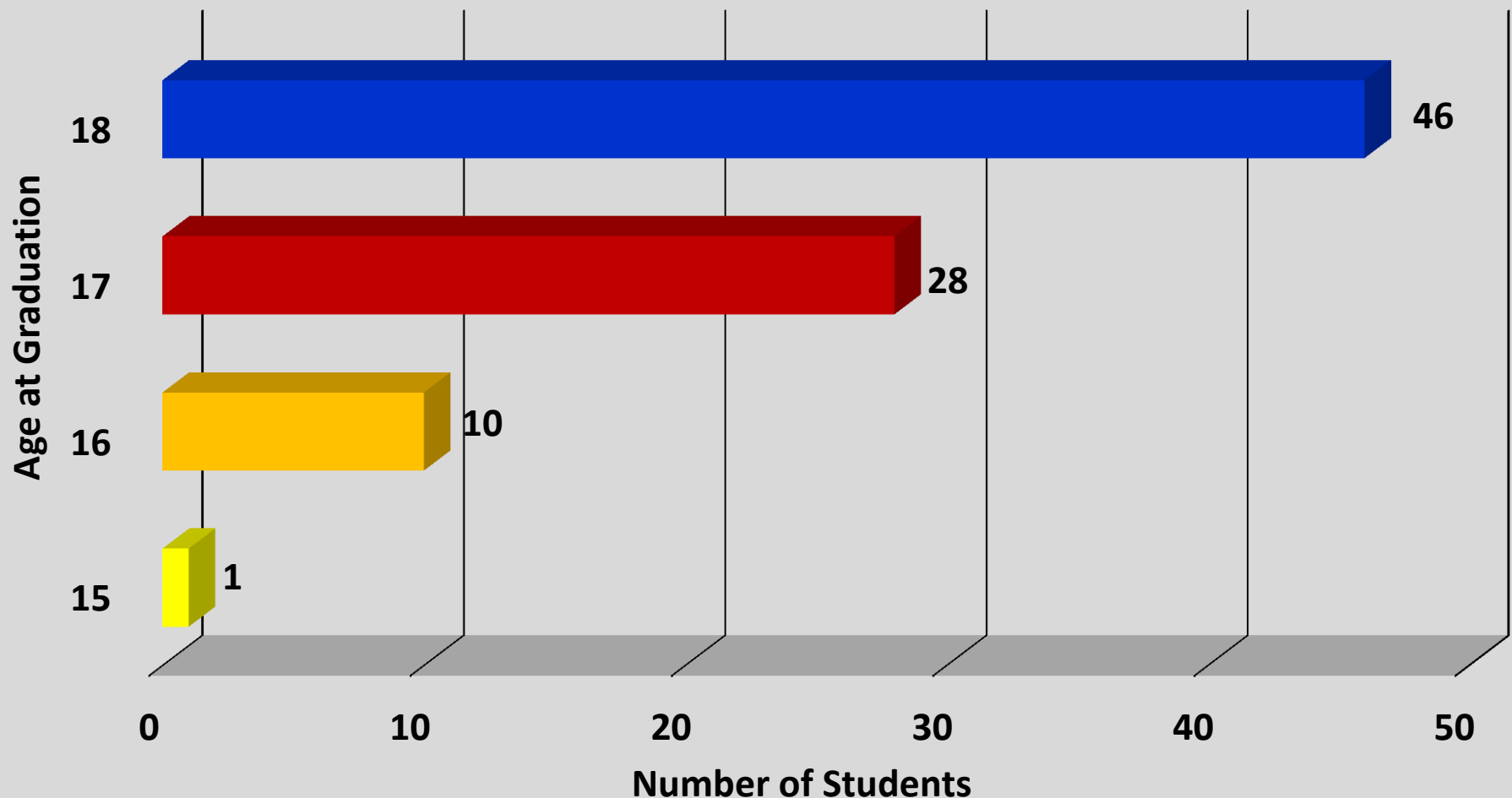
“Acceleration came at a point in his education when we were desperate for help at school (really too late). Our son was underachieving in the classroom, miserable at school, complained he never learned anything at school.”

BVPAGE Acceleration Surveys



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Student Age at HS Graduation



College Considerations



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

“One less year of saving for college \$ and one less year of our son at home”

“She will start before she is 18 and legally an adult”

“One less year of maturity to handle the pressure of it.”

“She will be 15 when she starts college. That is a much bigger issue for me as the mom than for her as the student.”

College Considerations



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

“No problems, our daughter was in the honors college and loved it”

“It definitely helped me prepare and survive academically at Harvard, especially the first year”

“Due to all the AP credits he came to college with (47 total) he can get 2 degrees in 4 years!”

“More prepared for college level work”

“He started with Honors Calc 3 and Differential Equations first semester and has done well! Already done with math for engineering degree”

Post College Considerations



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

“So burned out from school, not going to graduate program. Does not have any great leads coming out of college. Not real motivated to continue to push above and beyond.”

“Allowed him to spend a year after college graduation in volunteer service before going to medical school. when acceleration was offered, we said **"it's a gift of a year you might want some day"** and it turned out it was. He reminded us of the "gift of a year" when he wanted to gap/volunteer year!”

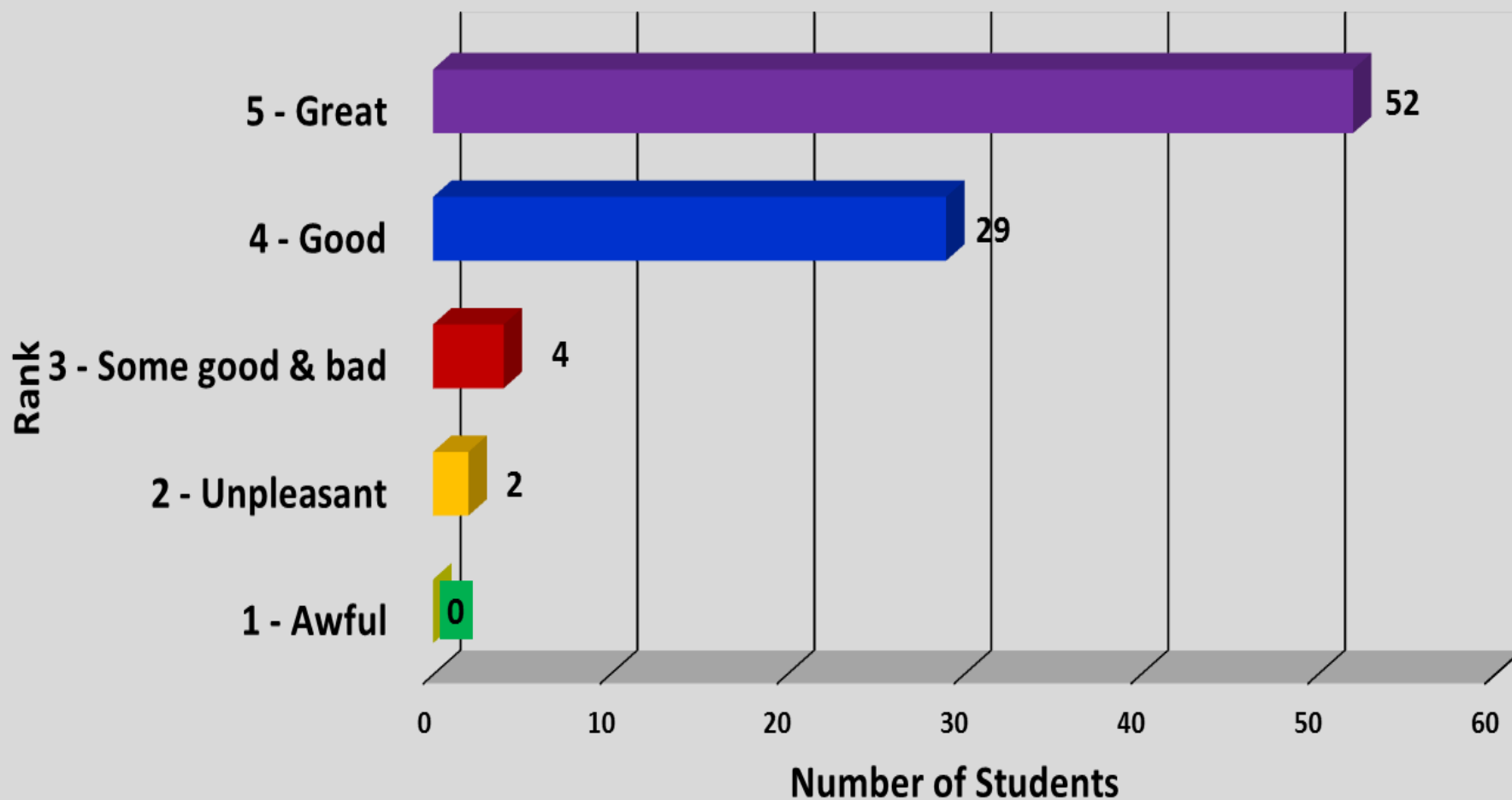
“Acceleration starting in middle school taught me to be unafraid of trying new things, to take on new challenges. I truly believe [it] contributed to my confidence in college, and will most likely continue to positively impact me beyond college.”

Acceleration Experience Ranking



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

Acceleration Experience



Acceleration Experience Ranking



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

“It’s not a solution for every child, I have 2 gifted kids & knew my older daughter could be accelerated but my younger daughter would not be able to handle it”

“Your child needs to be mature as well as gifted”

“It was really a great experience but a great personal sacrifice on her part. It was the best solution for her because she was so far beyond her peers “

“I would recommend it to any student considering acceleration. If you don’t like it or it’s too stressful, you can always go back.”

Final Thought

“It’s hard to be a parent! Know that you aren’t pushing your child you are just letting go so that you aren’t holding them back.”

BVPAGE Acceleration Surveys



2016-2017
Acceleration
Survey Results

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