

# Mass Insight

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E D U C A T I O N

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GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS



Opinion **Dynamics**

Interviews Conducted by  
Opinion Dynamics Corporation

Fall Survey  
October 2016

# Introduction

- This survey has been conducted since 1989.
- This is **27<sup>th</sup>** annual survey on education issues.
- This presentation details the findings of a web-based study conducted among 450 Massachusetts residents.
- Interviews were completed between October 11, 2016 and October 14, 2016.

## Demographics

Female	52%	Very Liberal	15%
Male	48	Somewhat liberal	27
		Moderate	37
Age: 18-30	23%	Somewhat Conservative	15
31-45	27	Very Conservative	6
46-66	35		
67 and over	15	Democrat	40%
		Republican	13
Below \$30,000	10%	Independent	43
\$30,000-\$60,000	23	Something else	4
\$60,000-\$100,000	26	Not registered to vote	-
Above \$100,00	30		
(Refused/Don't know)	12	Own home	63%
		Rent	29
		Live with family	8

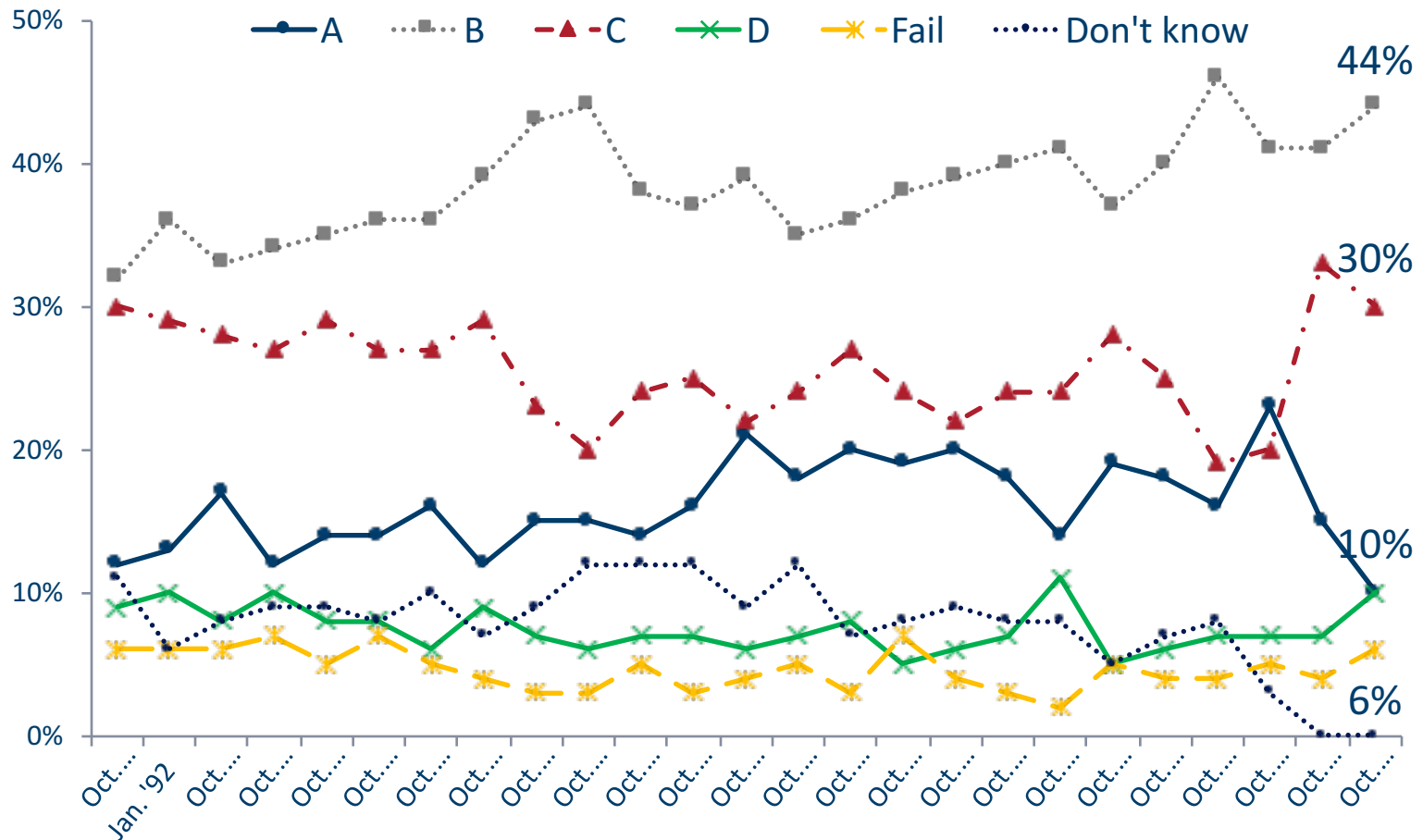
## Demographics

Catholic	39%	Children under 18 at home	27%
Protestant	14	No children under 18 at home	73
Atheist/Agnostic	11		
Jewish	5	Public	70%
Unitarian	1	Private	17
Orthodox	1	Parochial	5
Muslim	-	Charter	2
Other	4	Mix/Several	6
None	16		
Prefer not to answer	9	Grade school	43%
		Middle/High school	34
Less than high school (1 – 11)	2%	College/Graduate school	5
Graduated high school	12	Mix/Several	18
Some college/Tech./Voc.	17		
Graduated college	38		
Graduate/Professional school	31		

# A majority give their local schools a grade of A or B

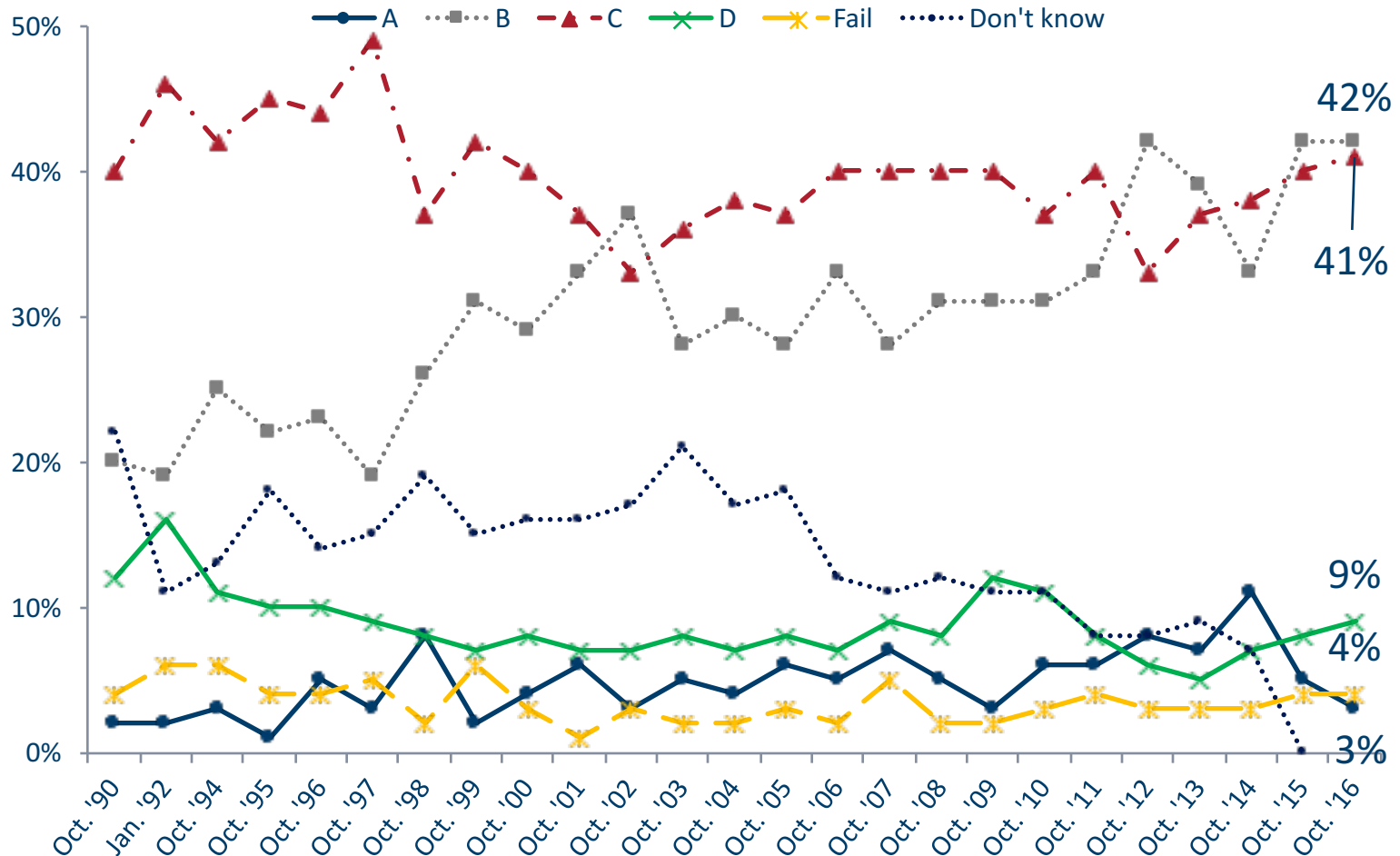
*Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D and FAIL to denote the quality of their work.*

*Suppose the public schools themselves, in your community, were graded the same way. What grade would you give the public schools here in your community—A, B, C, D or FAIL?*



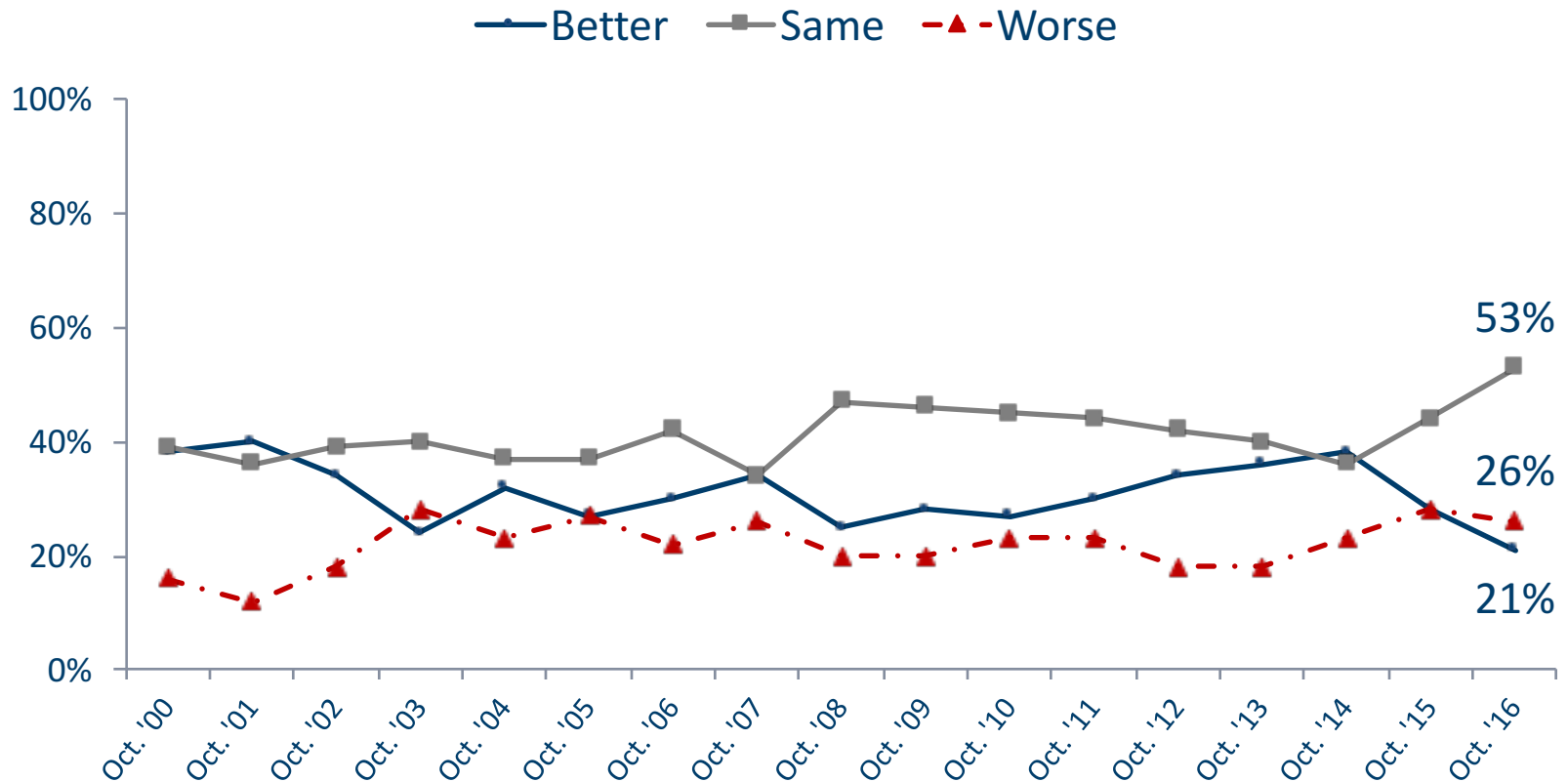
# Forty-seven percent give state schools an A or B

*How about the public schools in the state as a whole—A, B, C, D or FAIL?*



# Twenty-one percent think public schools in their community are getting better, but 26% think they're getting worse

*Do you think the public schools in your community are getting better, getting worse, or staying the same?*

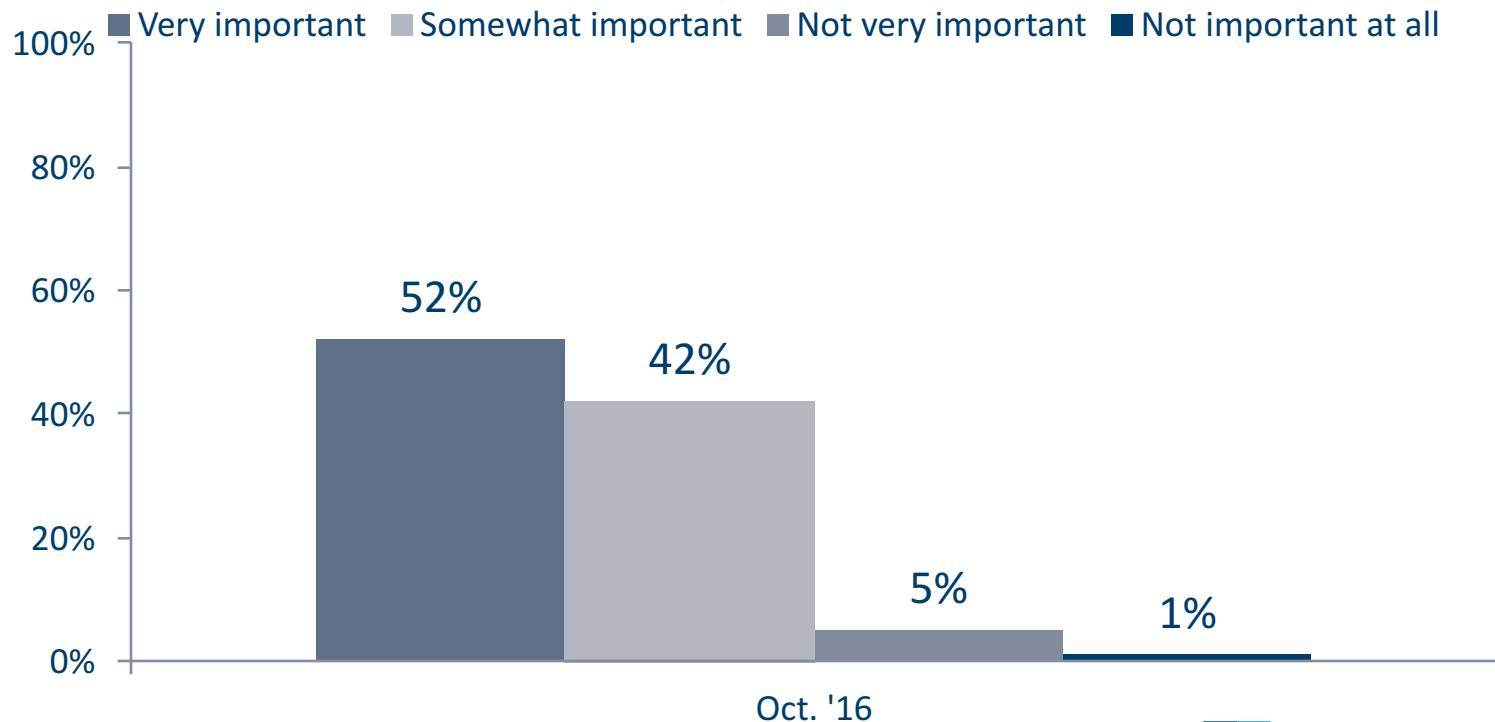


# College and Career Success and the Skilled Workforce



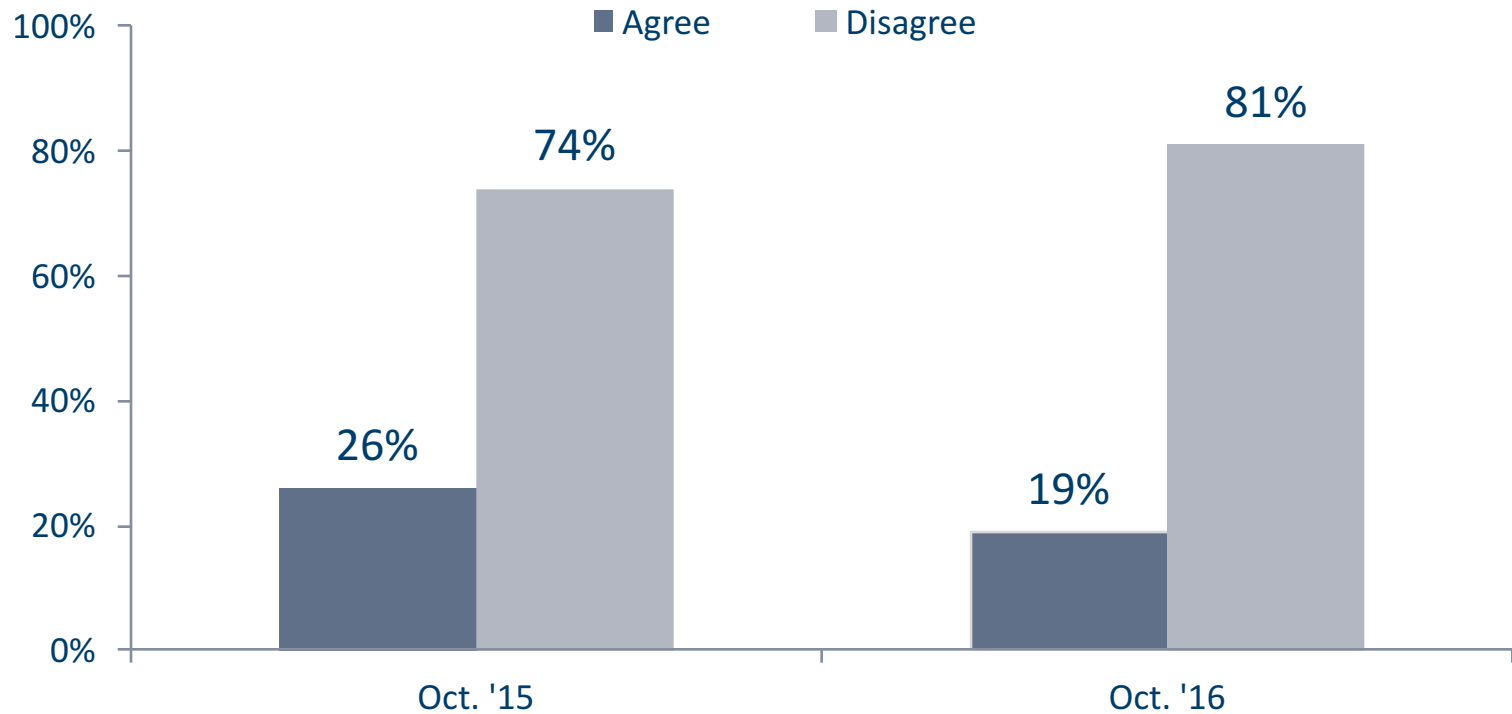
# Ninety-four percent think the institutions of higher education in the state are important to attracting and retaining businesses in the state

*Earlier this year, GE announced that it is moving its world headquarters to Boston. How important are the colleges and universities in Massachusetts to attracting and retaining businesses and corporations to the state?*



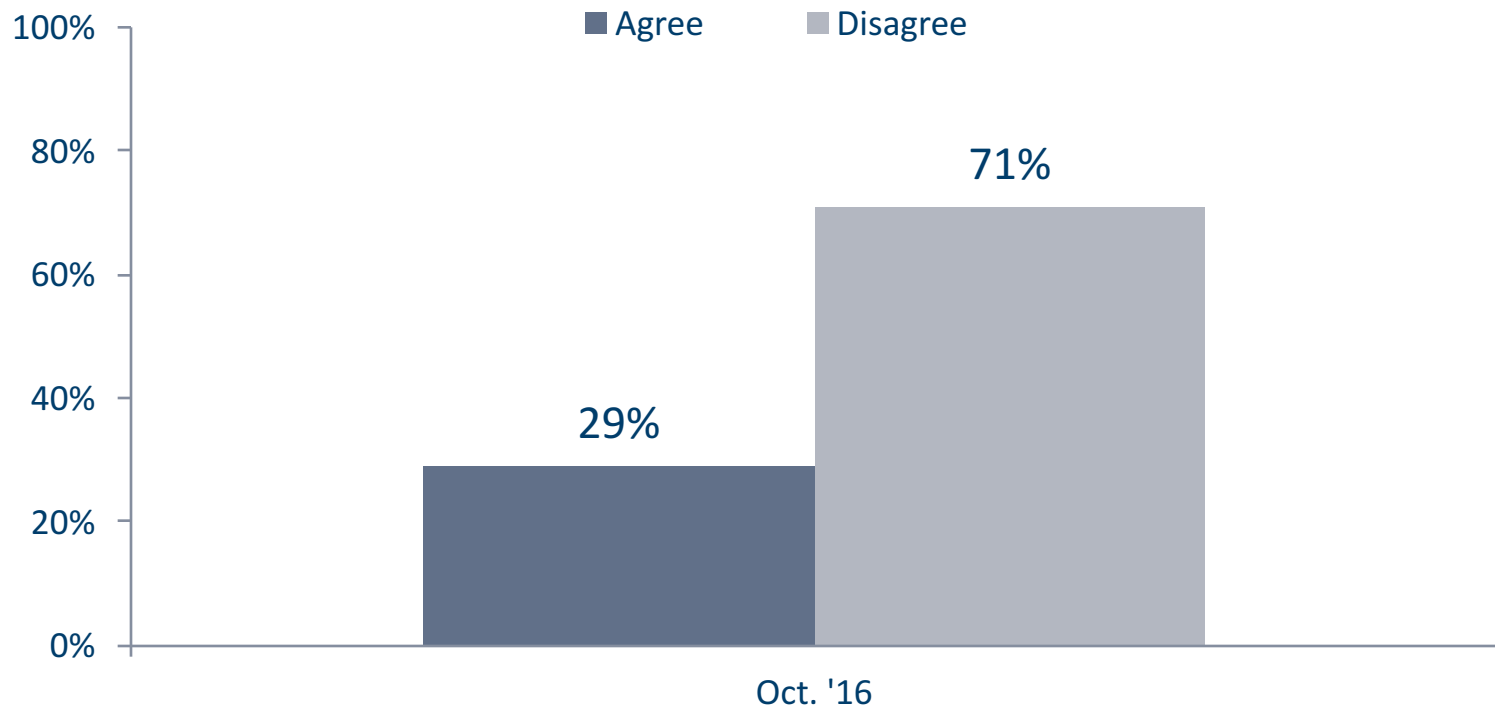
# Only 19% agree that a high school degree is enough to earn a good living.

*Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:  
A high school degree is still enough to earn a good living*



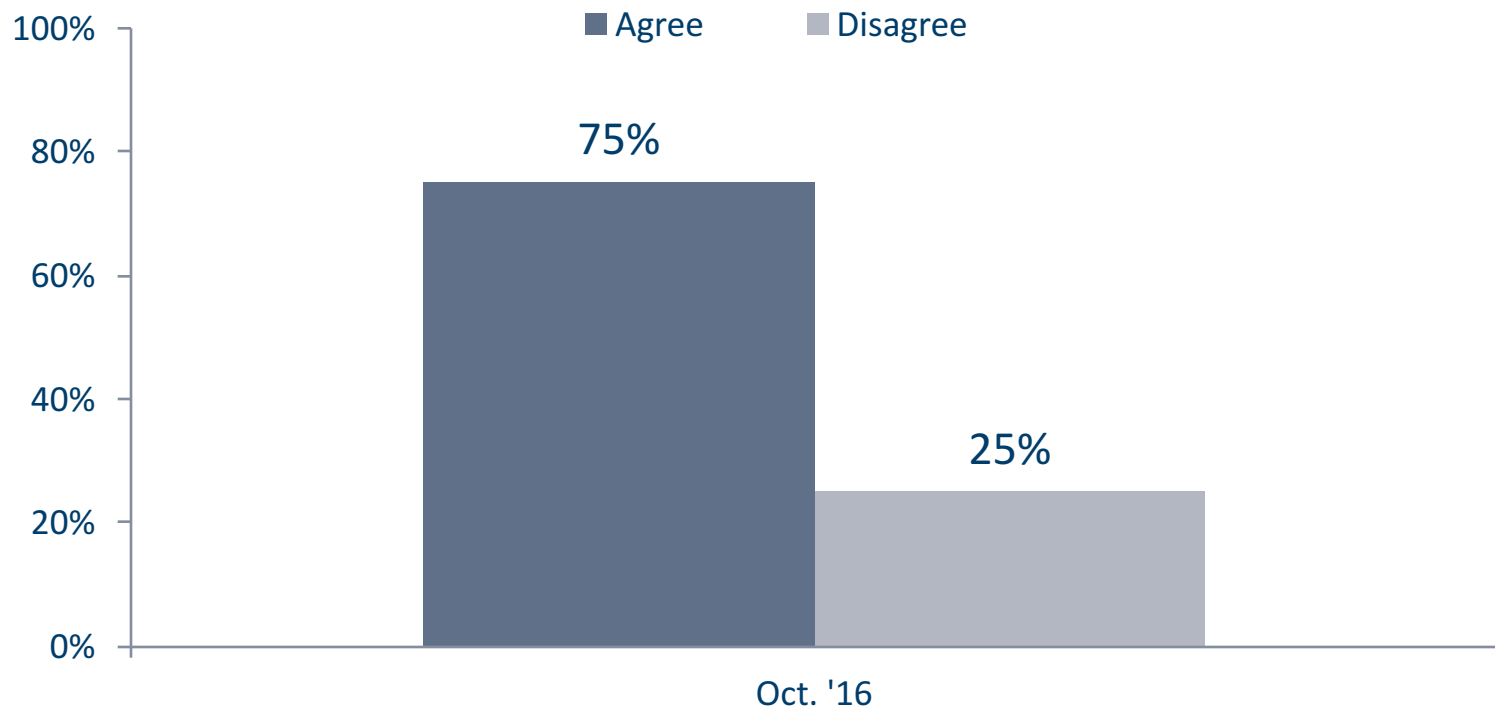
# Only 29% believe Massachusetts has enough skilled workers to meet the needs of STEM employers

*Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:  
Massachusetts currently has enough skilled workers to meet the needs of the state's  
Science Technology Engineering Math, or 'STEM' employers?*



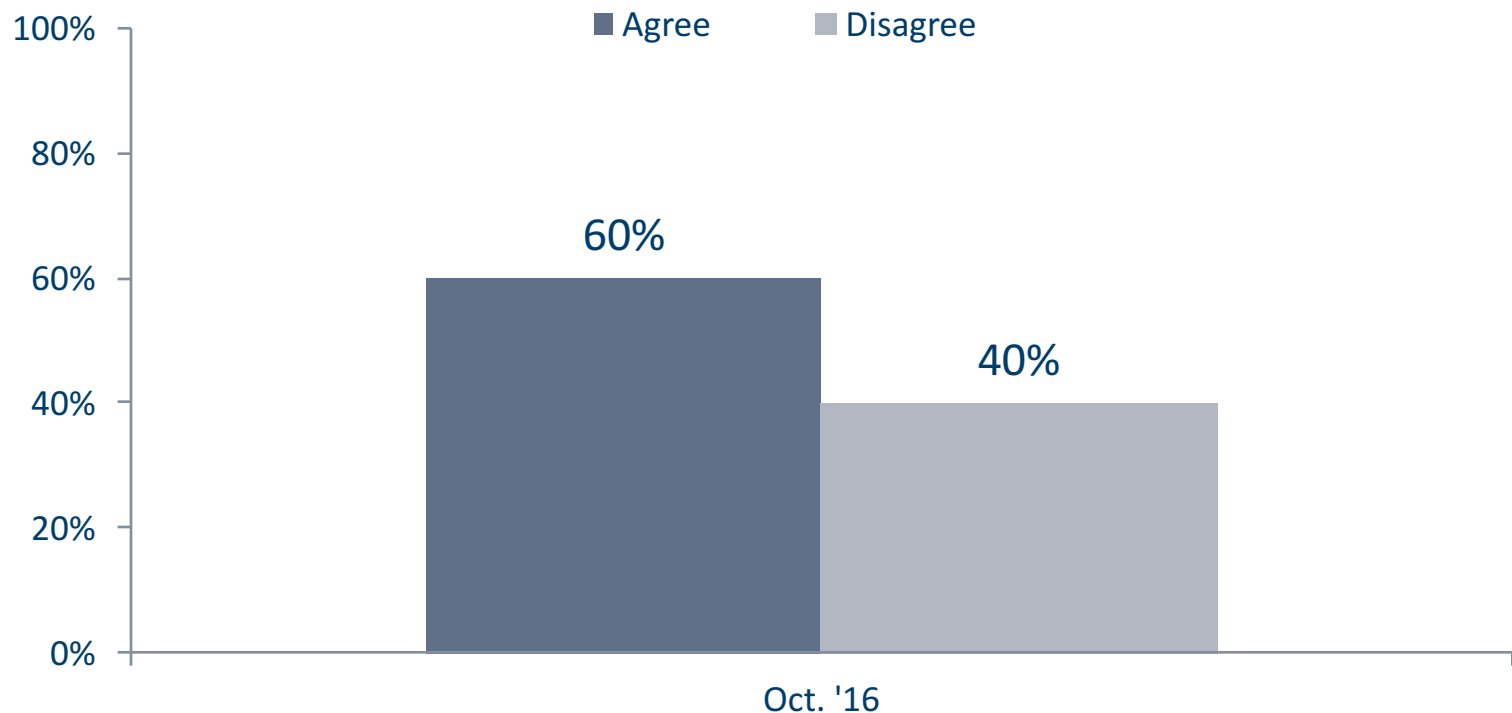
# Three-quarters believe Massachusetts high schools are effectively preparing students for community college programs

*Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:  
Massachusetts high schools are effective in preparing students to graduate with a two-year,  
or associates degree at a community college.*



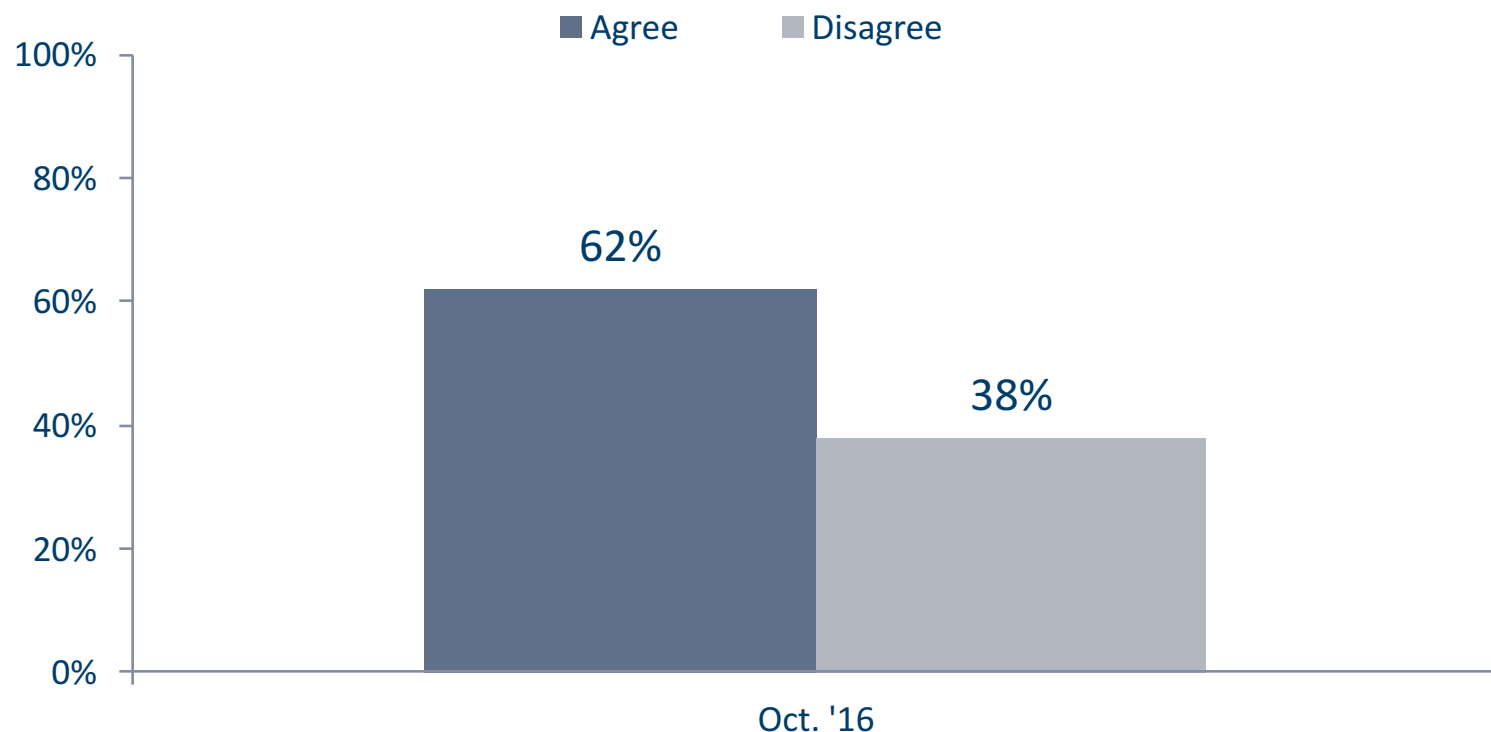
# Sixty percent believe Massachusetts high schools are effectively preparing students for a bachelor degree program

*Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:  
Massachusetts high schools are effective in preparing students to graduate with a four-year,  
or bachelor degree at a college or university.*



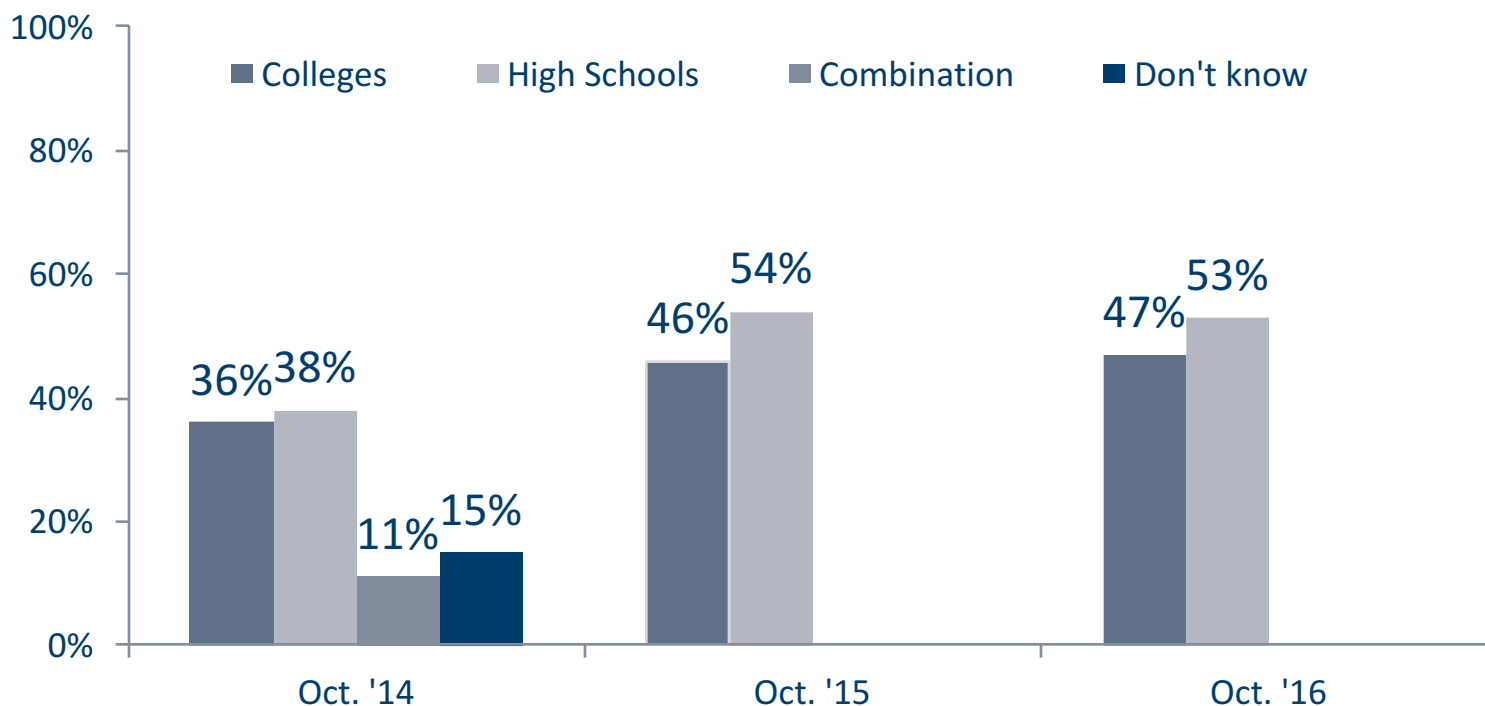
# Sixty-two percent think a rigorous exam should be passed in order for high school coursework to count for college credit

*Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Credit for college level work earned by high school students should be accepted by a college only after the student passes a rigorous exam.*



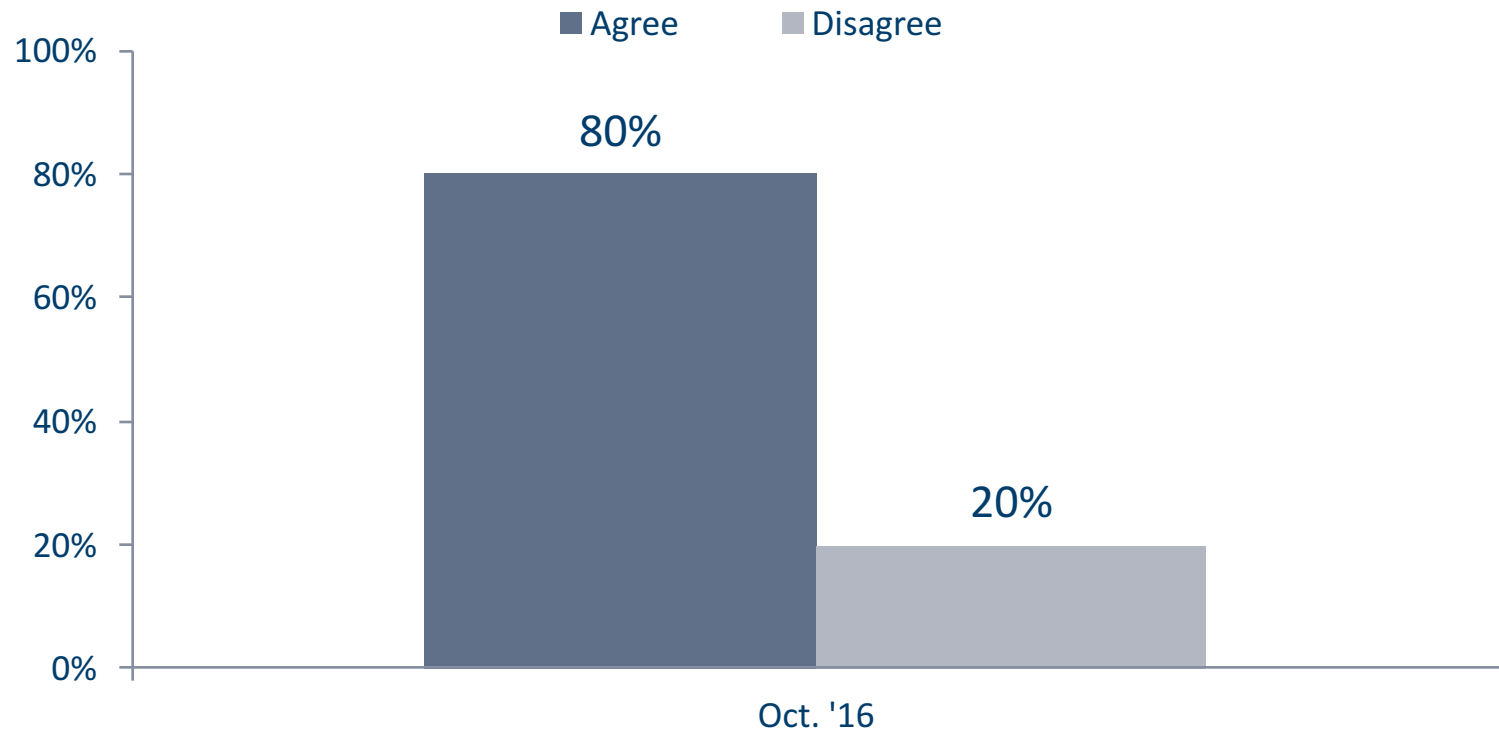
# Fifty-three percent believe high schools are more responsible for students not completing their college degrees

*Almost 50% of students who enter a public college or university do not graduate. Who do you think is more responsible for students not completing their college degrees—the colleges themselves or the high schools the students came from?*



# Eighty percent think the state should include college success indicators in high school ratings

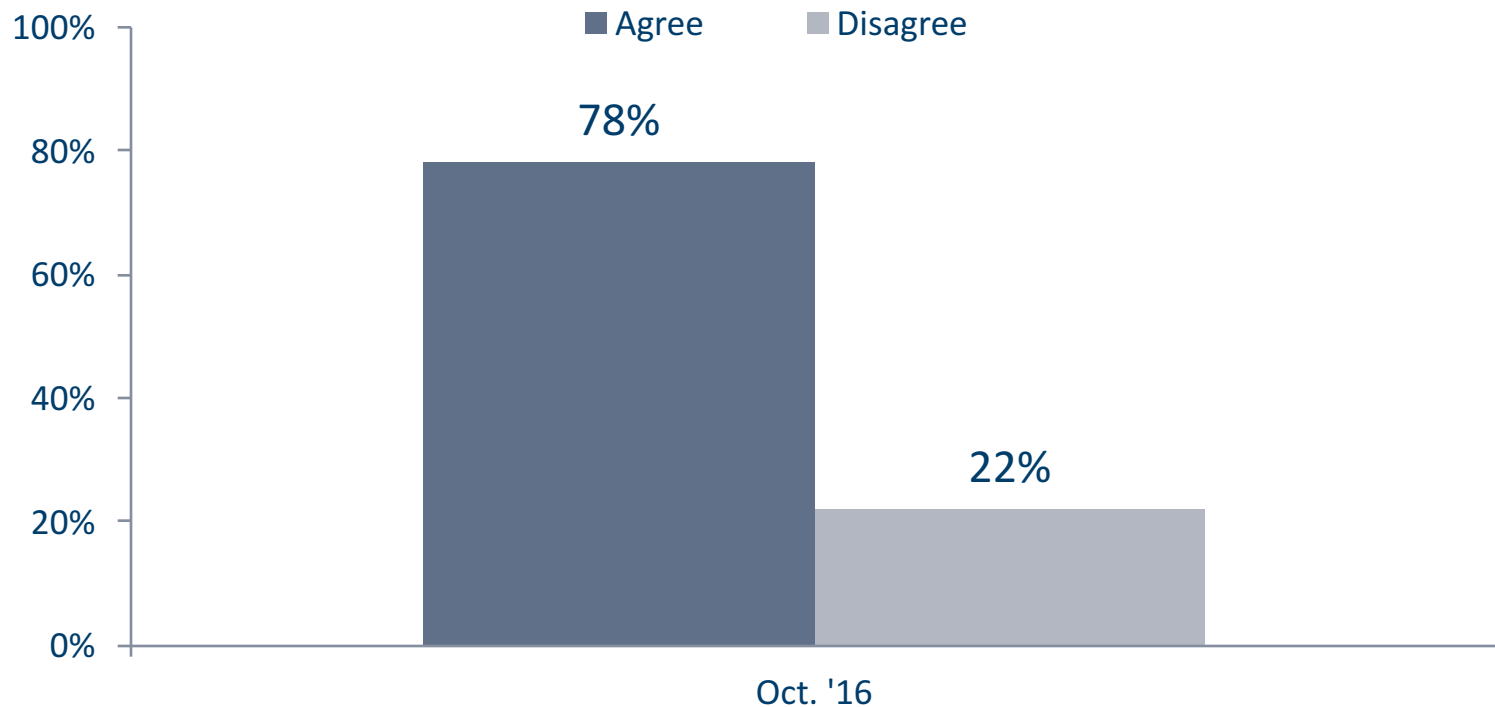
*Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: The state should include college success indicators—like degree completion rates—in their ratings of high schools.*





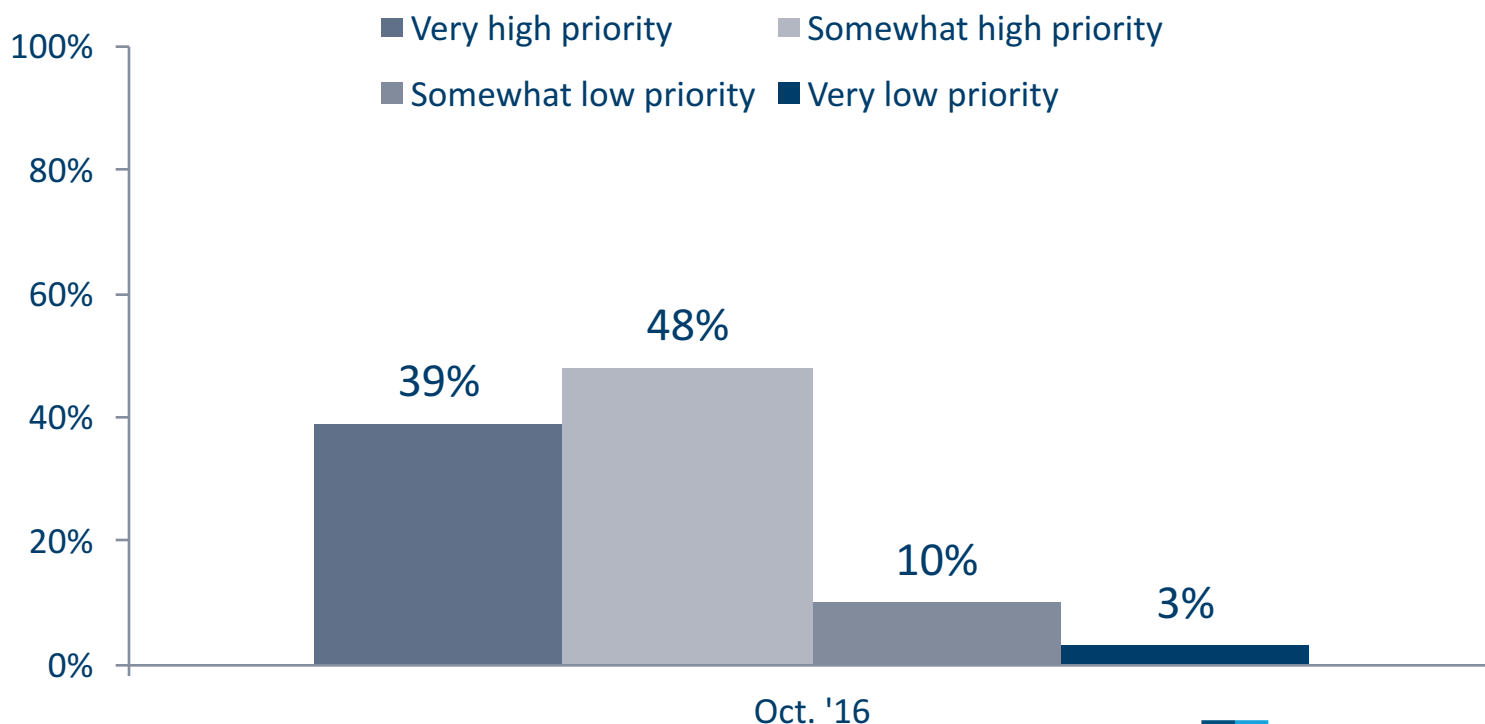
# Seventy-eight percent think the governor and legislature should adopt policies to help more students graduate college

*Would you agree or disagree: Governor Baker and the state legislature should adopt policies that help more students graduate from college?*



# Eighty-seven percent think additional funding for need-based financial aid and scholarships should be a very high, or somewhat high priority

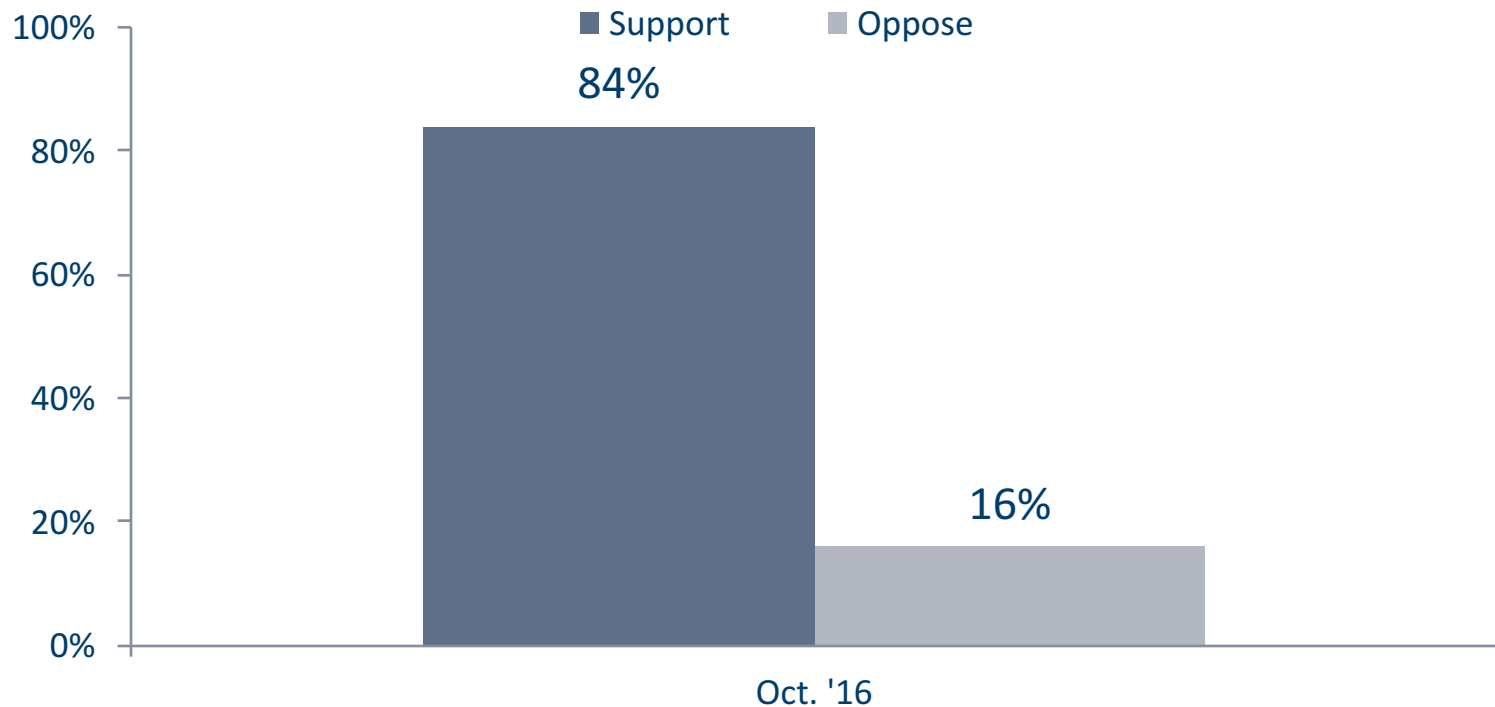
*State funding for need-based financial aid and scholarships has remained fairly constant since 2003, and as a result Massachusetts currently ranks 2nd to last with an average MassGrant award of \$652 per eligible student. In your opinion, should additional funding for need-based financial aid and scholarships be a very high priority, a somewhat high priority, a somewhat low priority, or a very low priority for the state?*



# Quality Seats to Advance College and Career Success

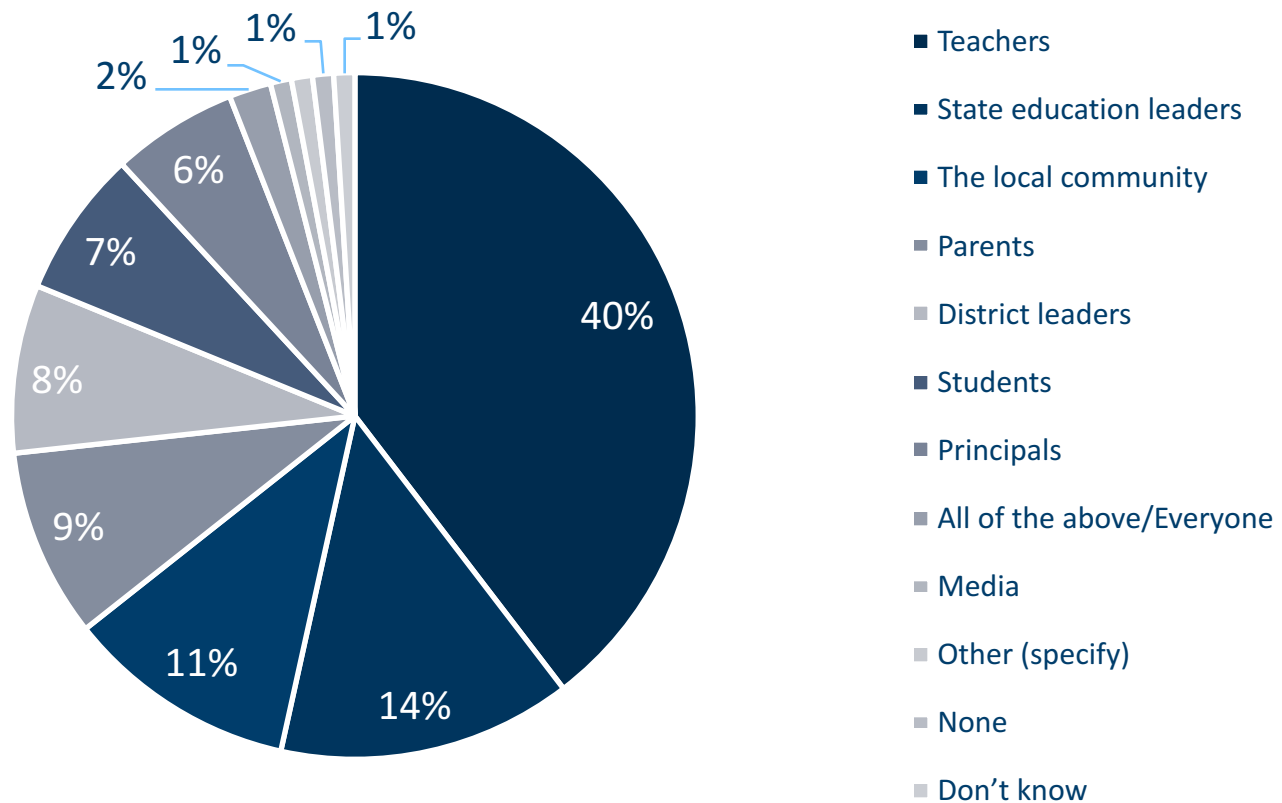
# Eighty-four percent support new legislation for early intervention in low performing schools

*Would you support or oppose a new law allowing early intervention in low performing schools if the law granted district and school leaders more authority to determine teacher assignments and working conditions?*



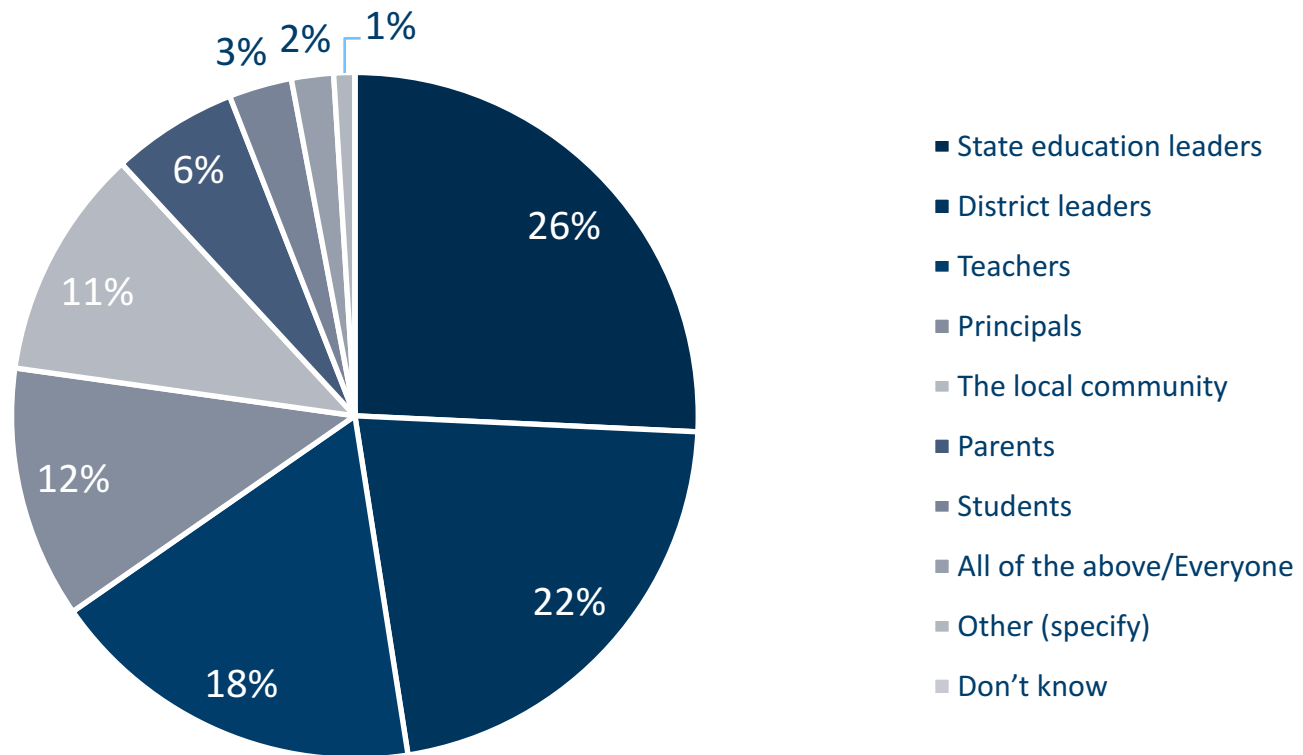
# Forty percent most trust teachers to give them information about failing schools

*Which one of the following do you trust the most to give you the facts about turning around a failing school?*



# Twenty-six percent think state education leaders are most responsible for improving low performing schools

*Whom do you believe is most responsible for improving low performing schools?*



# Seventy-six percent think business should be very or somewhat involved in supporting education reform

*Please indicate how involved you think business should be in supporting education reform:*

