District Personal Electronic Device Policies in Kansas Schools

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Kansas State Board of Education July 2025

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Roadmap

- Background
- National Landscape
- Blue Ribbon Task Force on Student Screen Time Recommendations
- District personal electronic device policies state survey

Background

- Blue Ribbon Task Force on Student Screen Time established July 2024
- Task force to provide recommendations on:
  - Use of Personal Devices in School
  - Screen Time and Mental Health
  - Parental Oversight of District-Owned Devices
- Report accepted by the board in December 2024

National Landscape of Cell Phone Policies

- 25 states have enacted laws or policies to ban or limit cellphones in classrooms
- 4 states have adopted policies encouraging districts to adopt policies
- 3 states require districts to adopt policies, but don't specify what the policy must say

Use of Personal Devices in Schools- Task Force Recommendations

The Task Force Recommends Districts:

1. Implement a bell-to-bell personal electronic device policy in K-12 schools.
2. Implement a policy for K-12 students to store personal electronic devices in a secure location inaccessible to them during the school day.
3. Develop robust safety and emergency procedures that are not dependent on students contacting authorities or family via personal electronic devices or school-issued devices.
4. Develop a process for teachers to report gaps in district-provided technology, so teachers do not supplement lack of or insufficient district-issued technology with use of personal devices.
5. Create a personal device policy for staff members.

Survey Information

- Survey of all superintendents to gather information on policies across Kansas
  - Future guidance or support from KSDE
  - Results shared back with superintendents
- 256 responses, 90% of districts

Survey Results

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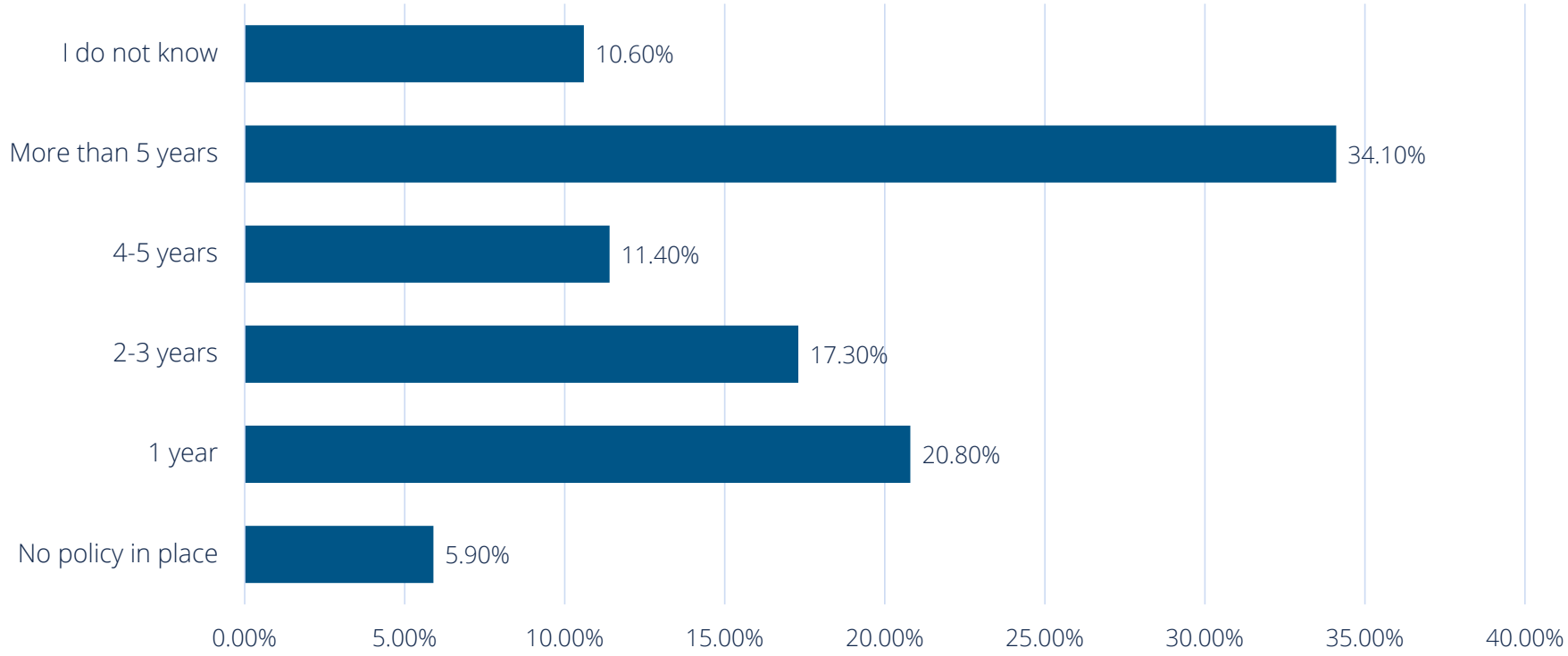
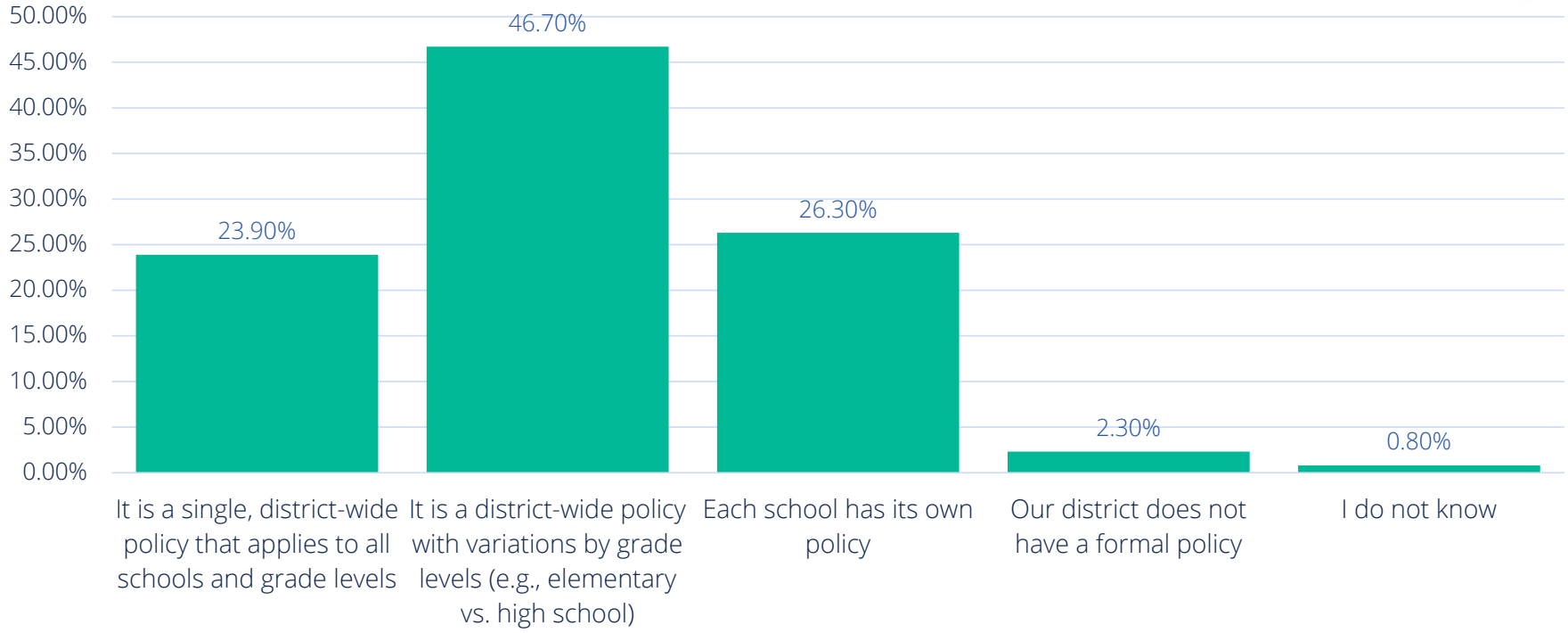
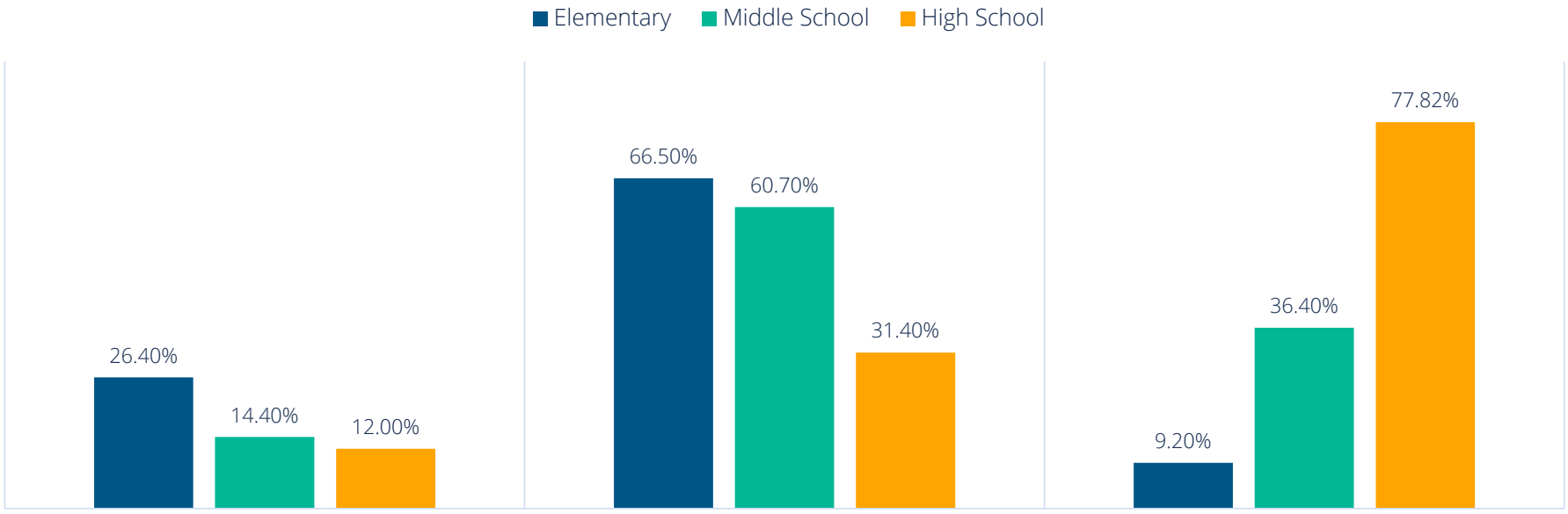
How many years has your district's personal electronic device policy been in place?



How is the policy applied across your district?



Select the elements included in your district's current personal electronic device policy and the school level at which they are applied, if any.



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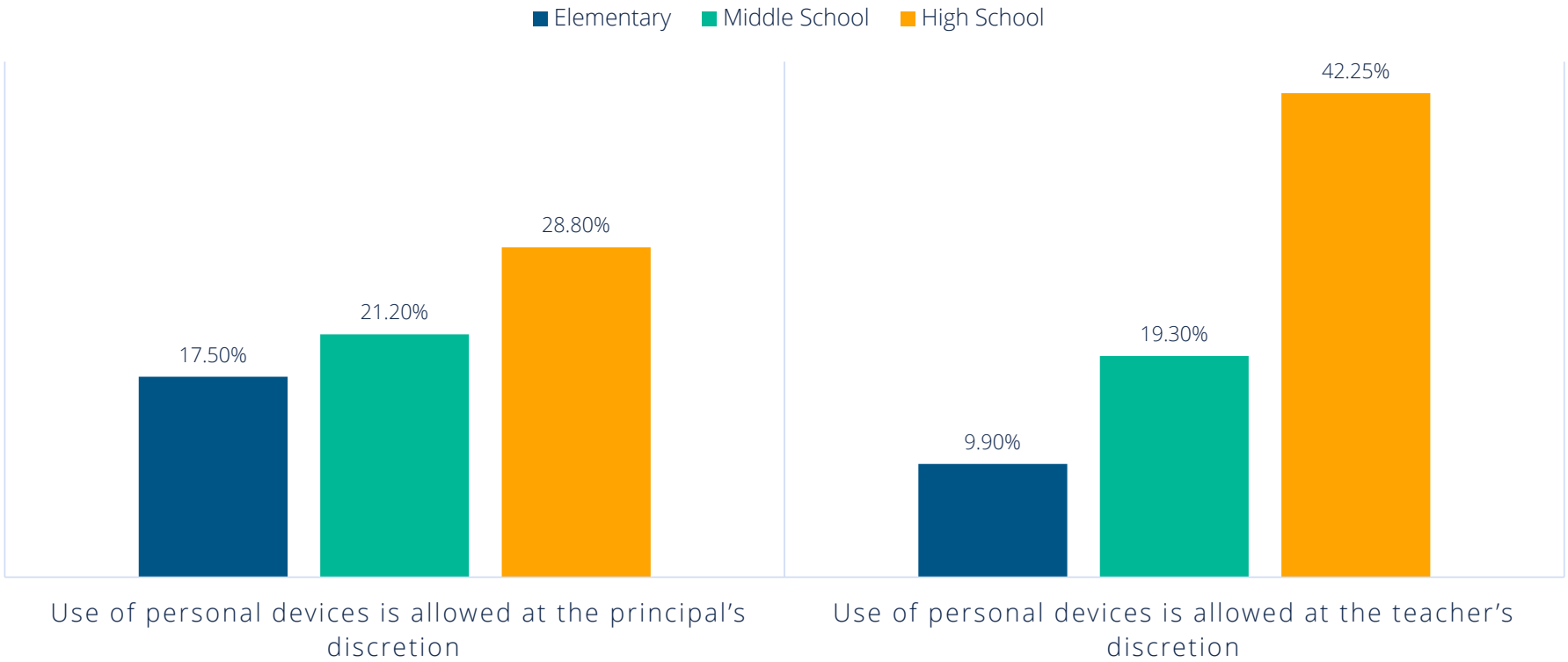
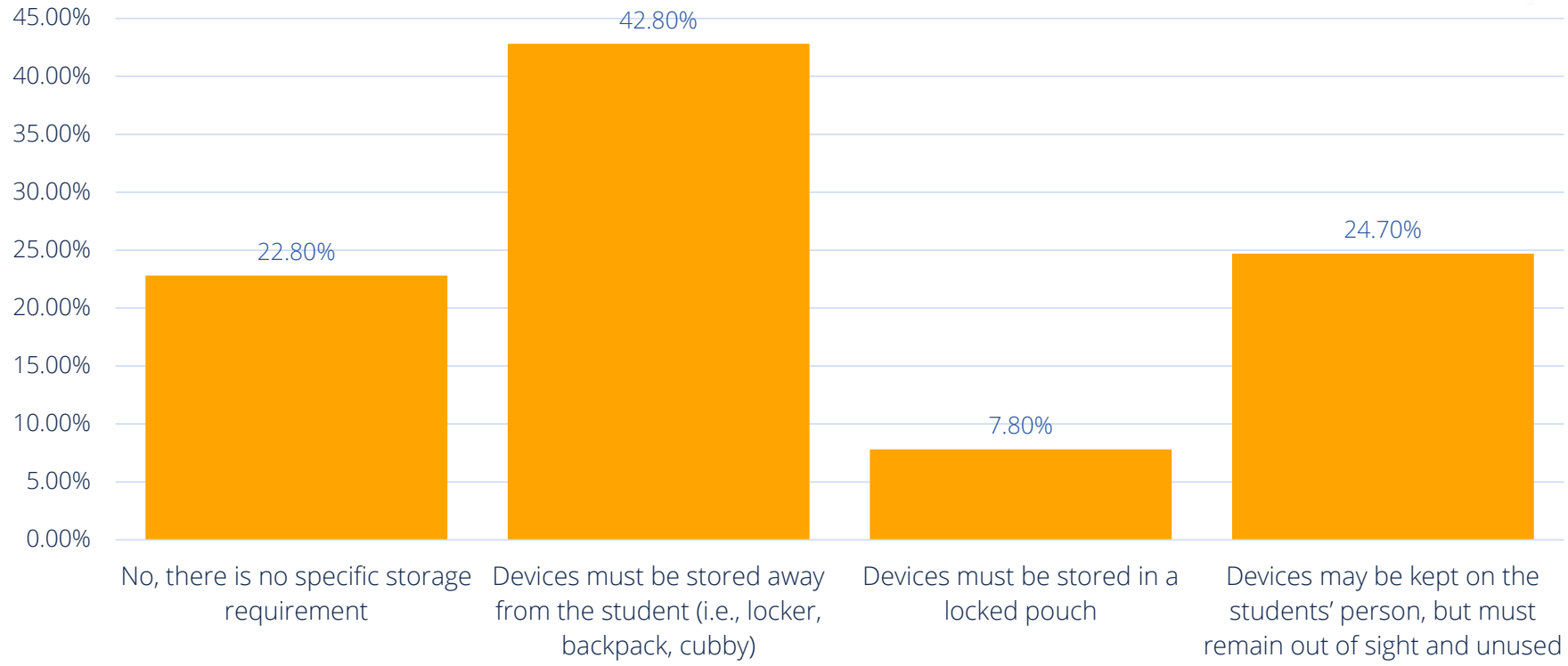
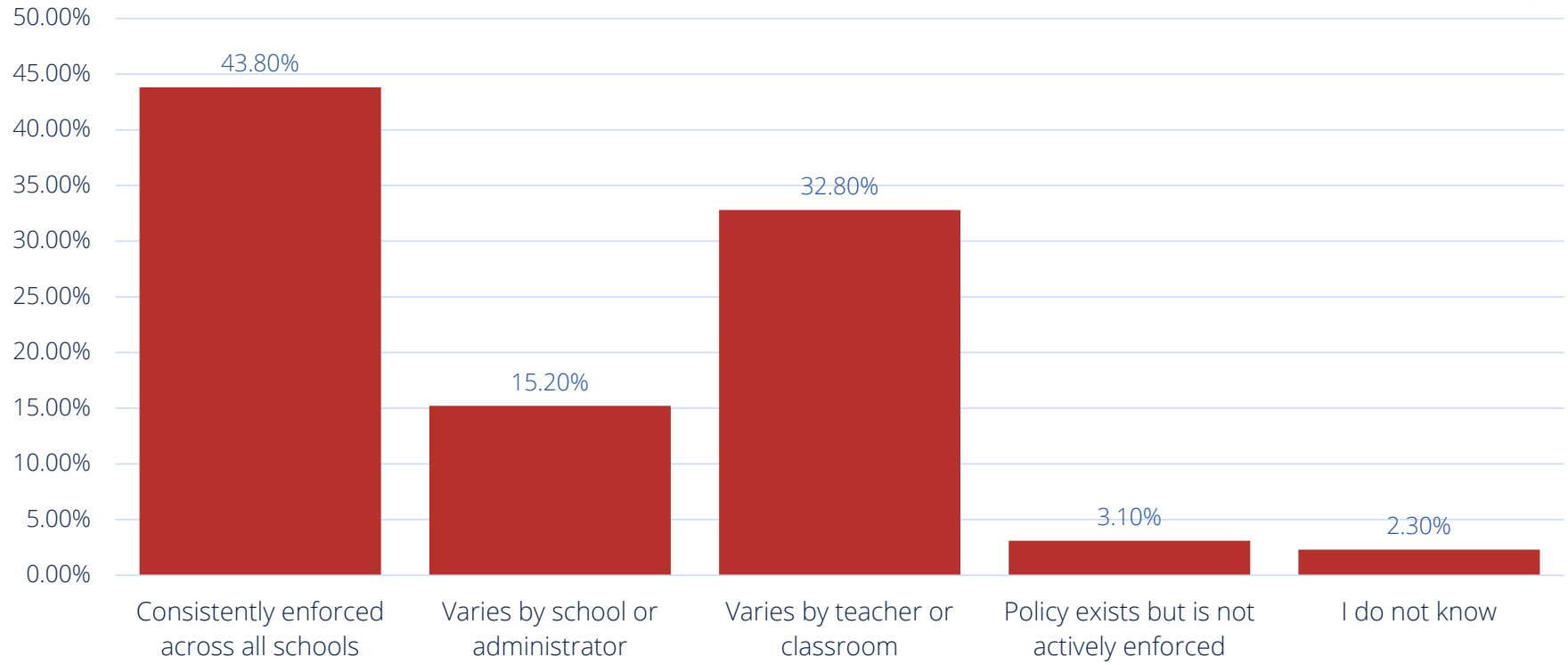


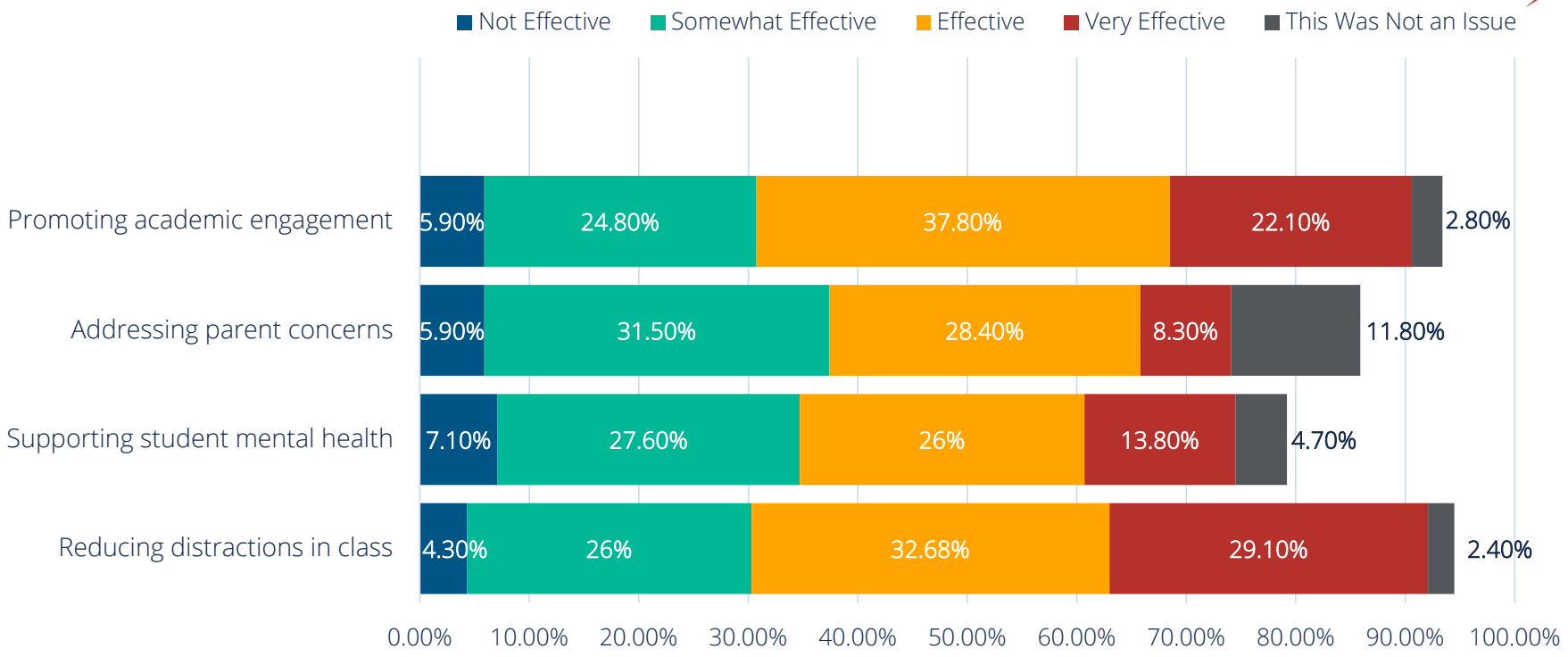
Does your district specify how students' personal electronic devices must be stored during the school day?



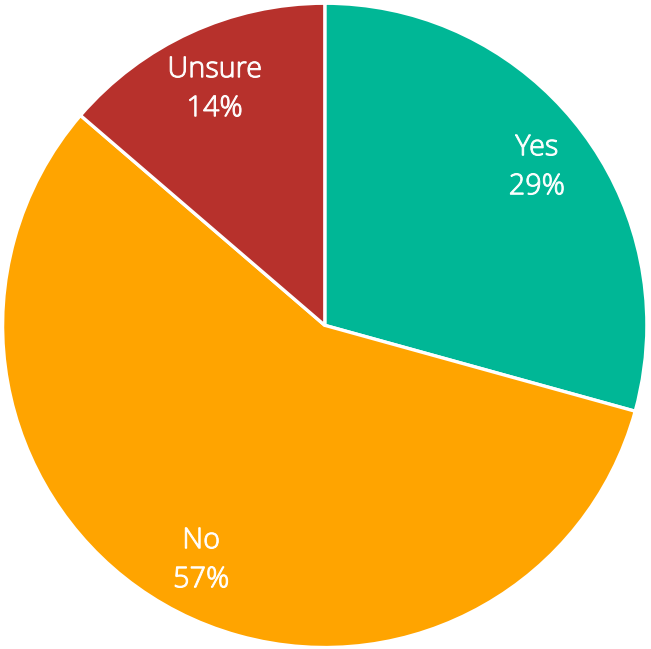
How consistently is your district's personal device policy enforced?



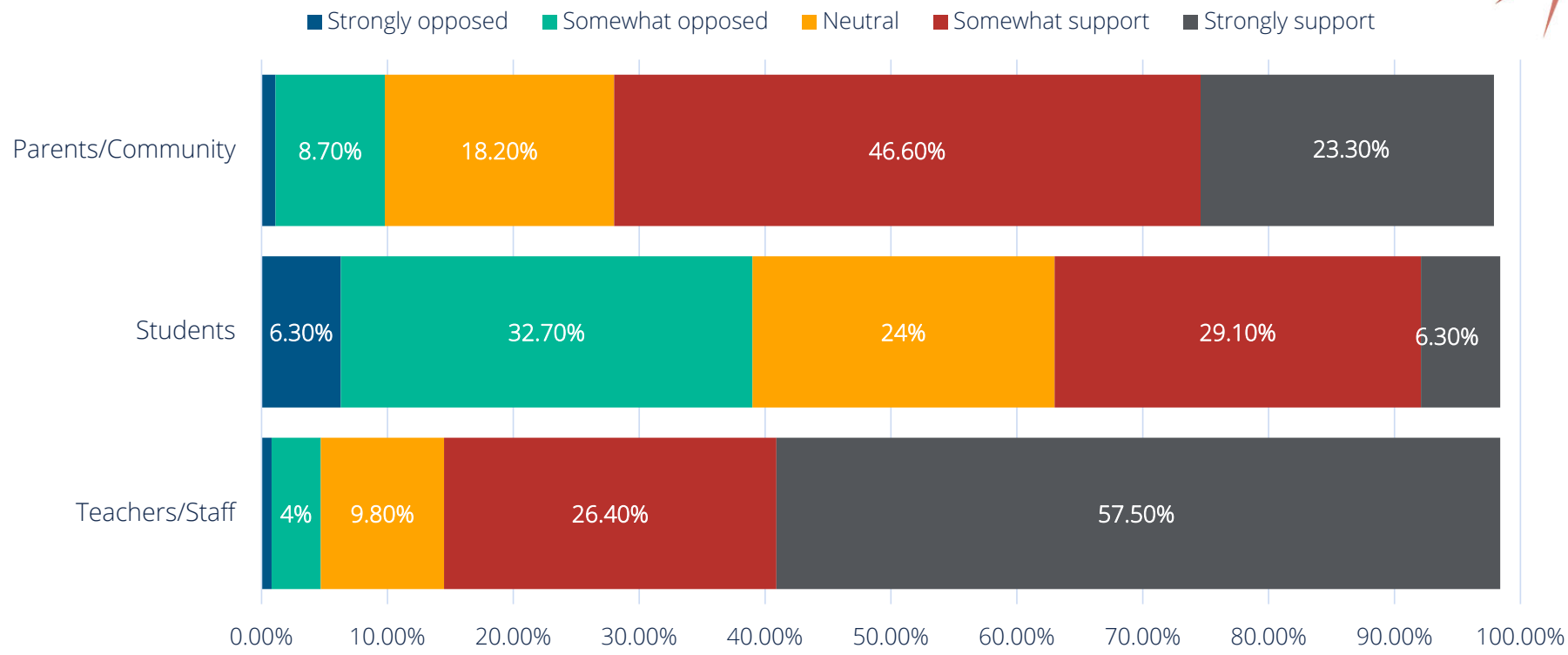
Rate the extent to which your district's current personal electronic device policy has been effective in addressing the following issues.



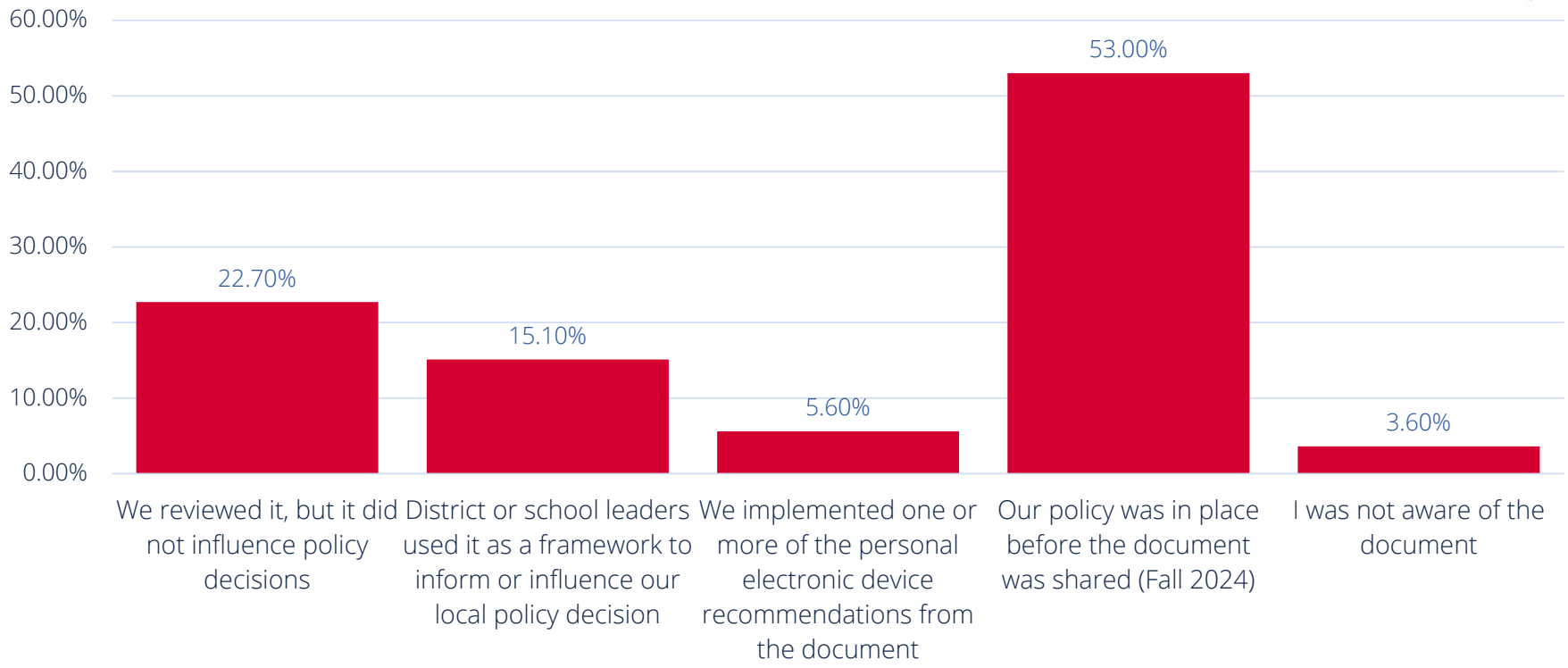
Is your district considering changes to its personal electronic device policy in the next school year (2025-2026)?



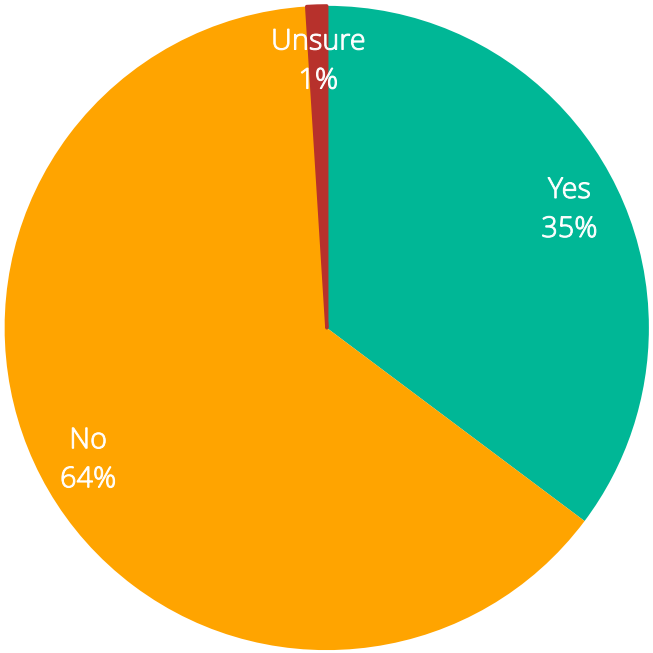
How would you characterize each group's attitude toward your district's personal electronic device policy?



In what ways, if any, did your district use the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Student Screen Time report on personal electronic devices use?



Does your district have a personal electronic device policy in place for staff?



What kind of guidance or support from KSDE/KSBE would help your district around personal electronic device policies?

- Statewide policy vs. local control
- Sample policy language
- Sharing collected data back with districts
- Research student outcomes associated with policies
- School staff policy recommendations

Please share any other thoughts about your district's development, use, and impact of the personal electronic device policy that you would like KSDE/KSBE to know.

- Parent buy-in is vital
- District level task forces to develop local policies
- Challenges with consistent enforcement
- Education on appropriate use vs. cell phone bans

Payton Lynn
Division of Learning Services
(785) 296-8362
payton.lynn@ksde.gov

Jake Steel
Director, Strategy and Operational Alignment
Office of the Commissioner
(785) 368-7356
jake.steel@ksde.gov

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