



2018 Vermont Farm to School (FTS) Data Harvest

Result from the 2016/17 School Year

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AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS
AGENCY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



VERMONT
FARM TO SCHOOL
NETWORK

Learning Objectives

- 1:** Recognize the current level of FTS integration among Vermont schools
- 2:** Understand the progress of Vermont schools toward the FTS Network goal
- 3:** Identify resources schools have indicated as potentially useful in designing and integrating a FTS program





Background & Methodology



Background/Objectives

- Vermont FTS Network Evaluation Team's desire to assess FTS programming/level of integration in Vermont schools through a survey among all Vermont schools
- Data Harvest objectives:
 1. Assess FTS integration according to the Network's phases of development rubric
 2. Identify progress towards FTS Network goals
 3. Evaluate barriers to integration in the classroom and purchasing

Measuring FTS Integration–Phases of Development

- FTS is a spectrum of activities that do not require a formalized program
- VT FTS Network views schools with any engagement in FTS activities/programming as being a FTS school.

Five FTS Content Areas





Data Harvest Scope & Procedure

- Survey conducted March 2018 to June 2018
- All primary/secondary public, independent, interstate, and technical schools were eligible
- Follow-up outreach was conducted to increase response

Response Rate = 51%
171 of 336 eligible schools

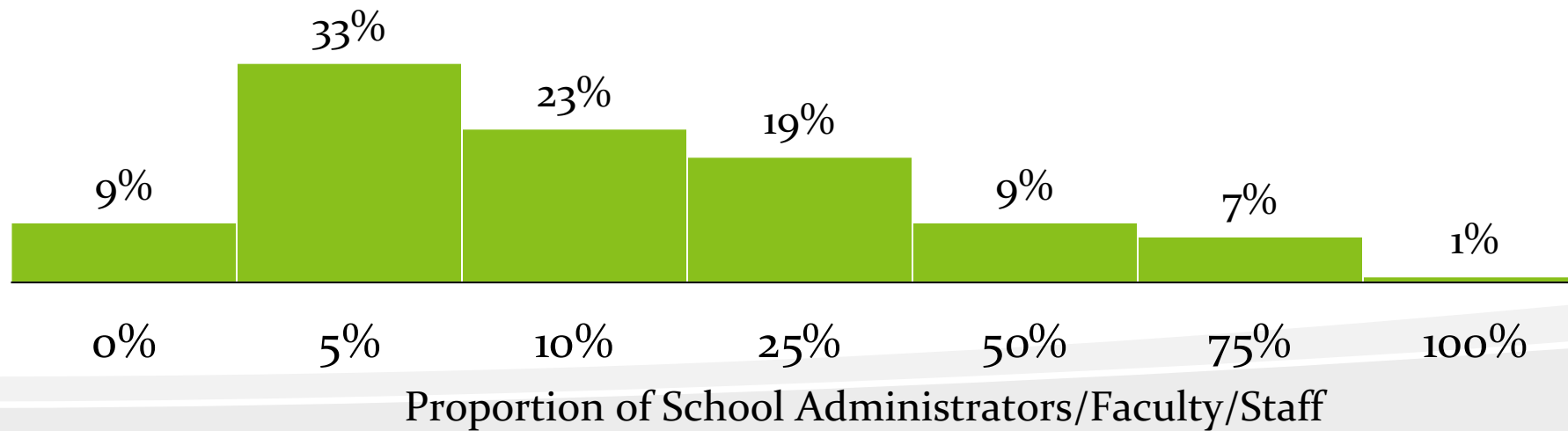


Current FTS Integration



FTS Leaders

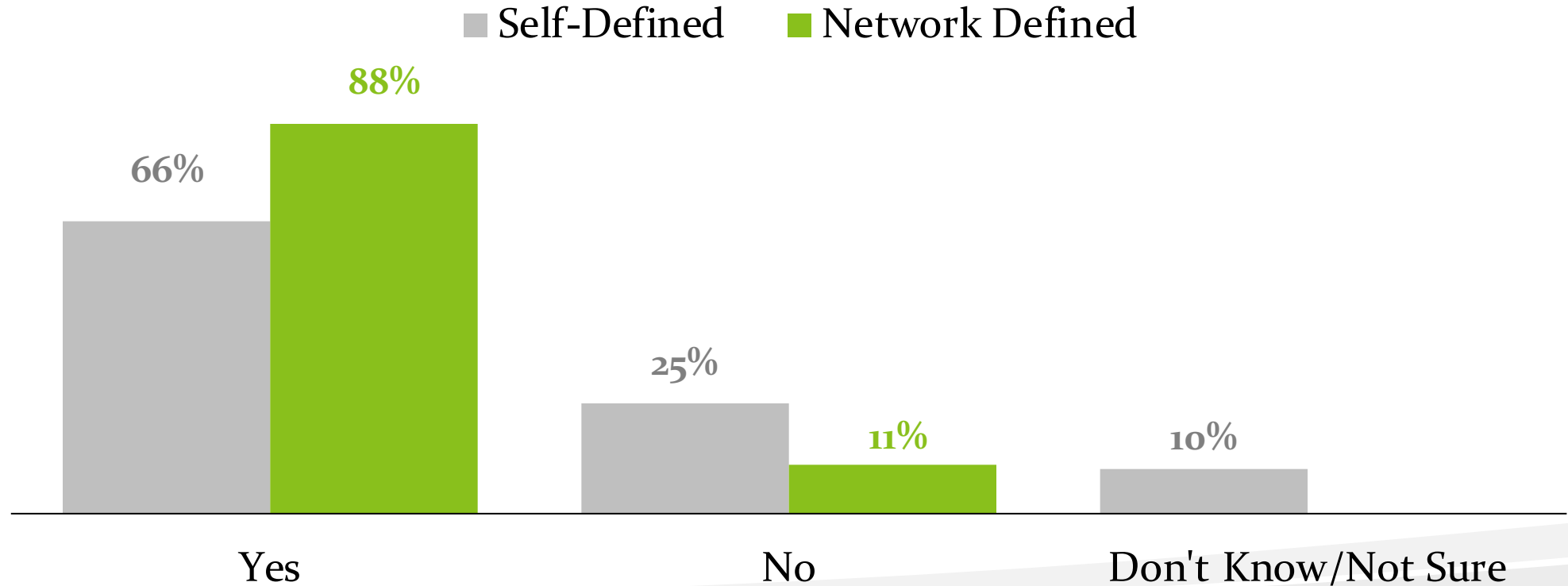
Proportion of Administrators/Faculty/Staff School Believes to Be FTS Leaders





Participation in Farm to School (FTS)

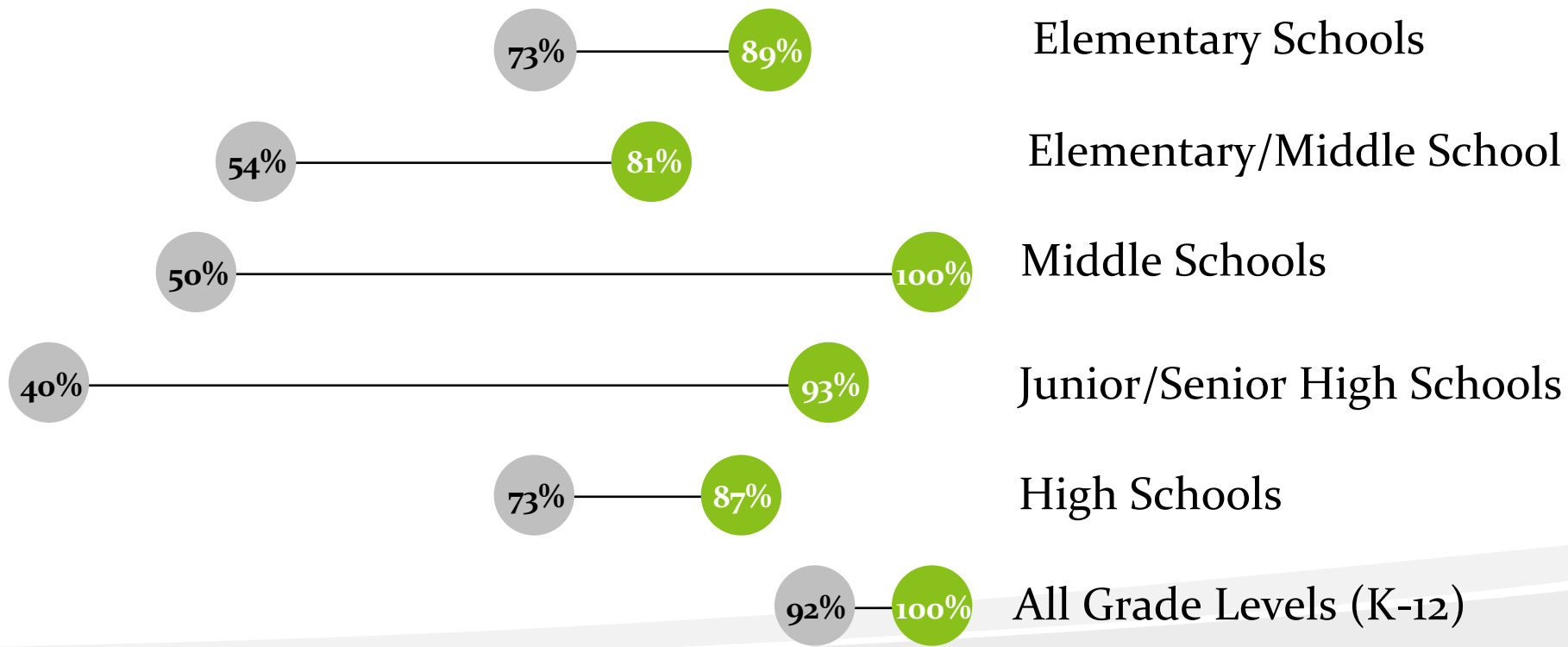
Proportion of Schools Who Are FTS Schools





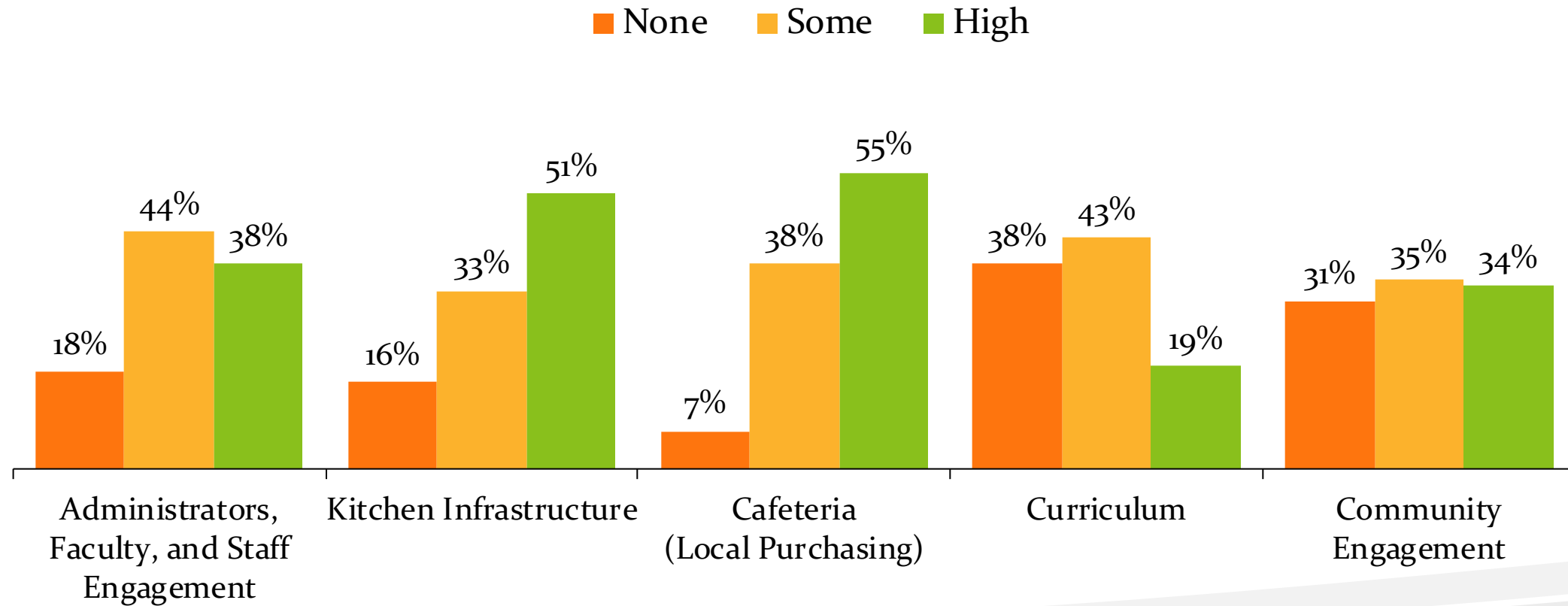
Participation in FTS – By School Type

Self-Defined and Network Defined FTS Schools by Grades Taught





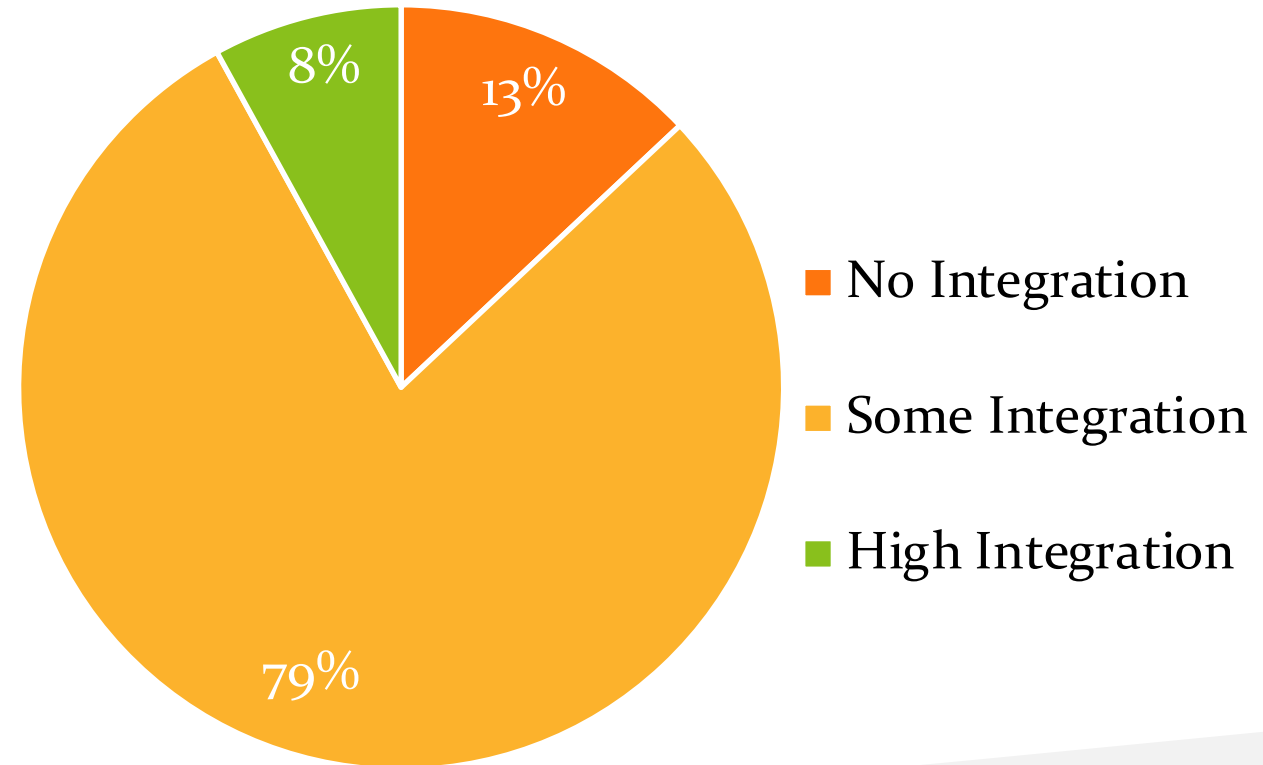
Level of FTS Integration – Across the Five Content Areas of FTS Development



Overall Level of Integration in Vermont Schools

- Nearly 4 in 5 schools (79%) have at least some integration
- 8% had high integration
- 13% had no integration

This is likely an accurate representation of VT schools overall



Progress Toward Network

Goal



(b) State Farm-to-School Network goal. It is the goal of the Farm-to-School Program to establish a food system that by 2025:

- (1) engages 75 percent of Vermont schools in an integrated food system education program that incorporates community-based learning; and
- (2) purchases 50 percent of food from local or regional food sources.

VT FTS Network Goal

Act 63 – FTS Network

OUR GOAL

Vermont Farm ^{to} School Network

By 2025, 75% of Vermont Schools will lead the cultural shift to a values-based food system that engages 75% of our students in integrated food system education; community-based learning; nourishing universal meals; and the experience of self-efficacy; purchasing at least 50% from a socially just and environmentally and financially sustainable regional food system.



Curriculum & Community Integration

FTS Programming Integrated Into Curriculum

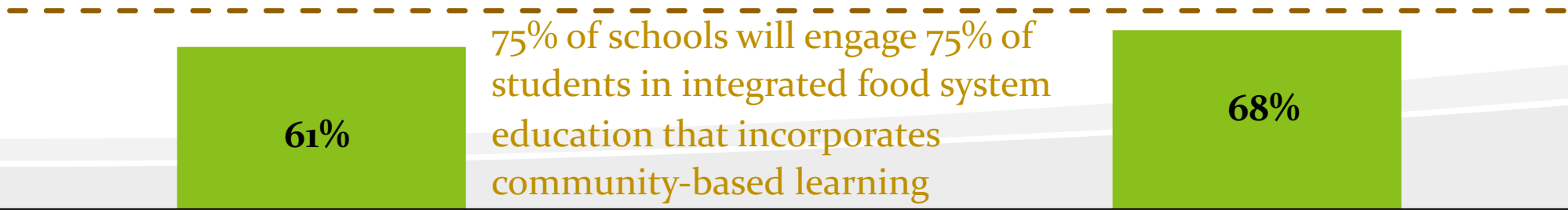


School FTS Integration with Community



Network Goal:

75% of schools will engage 75% of students in integrated food system education that incorporates community-based learning



■ 2018 Actual - - 2025 Target

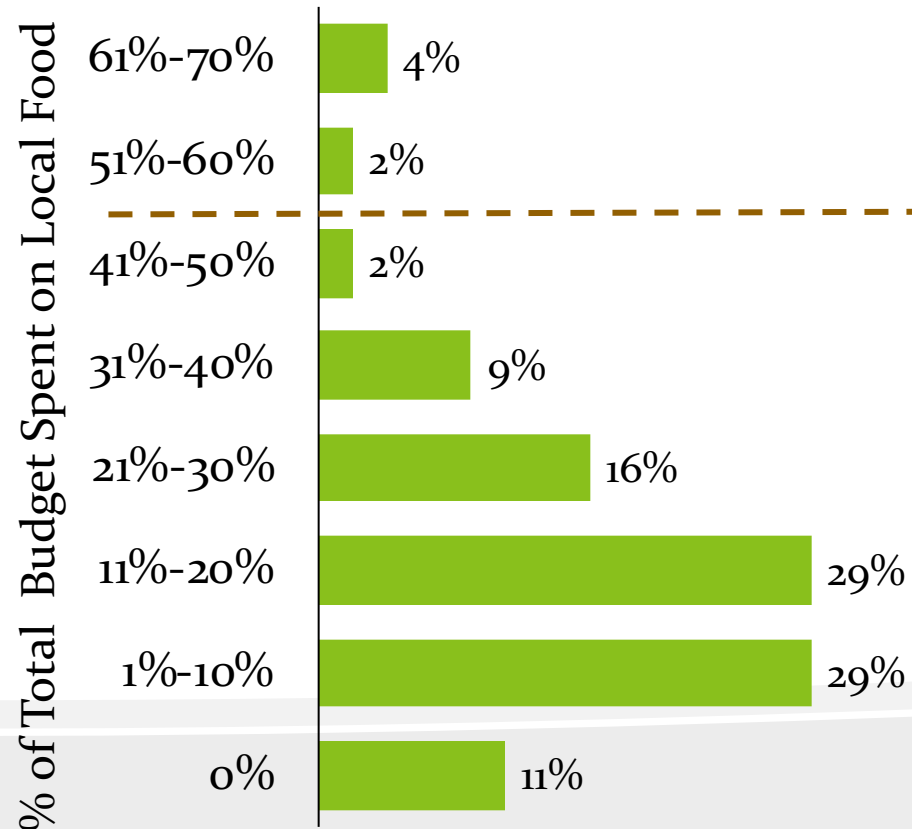
Community Integration – Farm Field Trips

53% of schools have participated in farm field trips/agriculture based learning with/in the community in the past 2-years



Progress Toward Goal – Local Food Purchasing

School Budget Spending on Local Food (Including Fluid Milk)



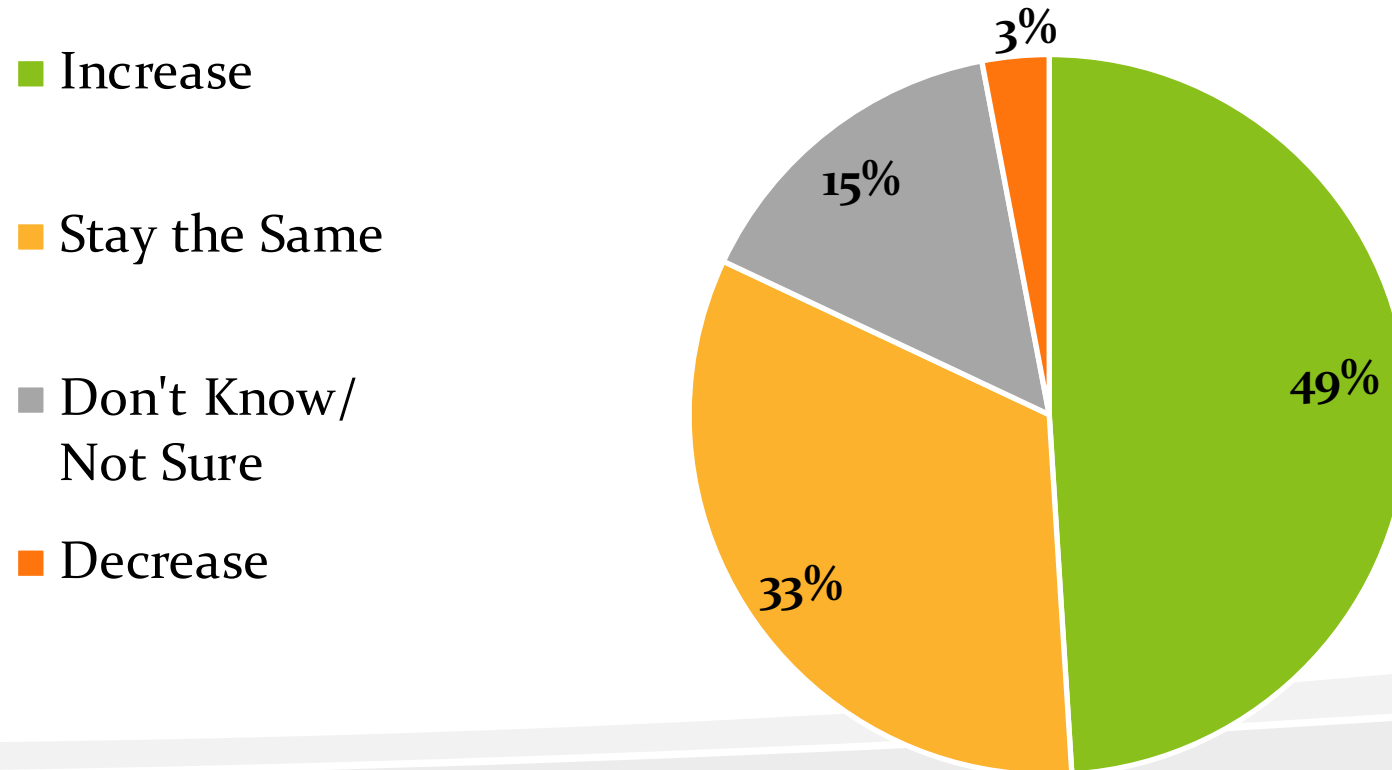
Network Goal:

By 2025, 75% of Vermont schools will purchase at least 50% of their food from socially just, environmentally friendly, and financially sustainable regional food systems.



Future Local Purchasing

Plans to Purchase Local Food in the 2018/2019 School Year



Barriers & Facilitators to Integration

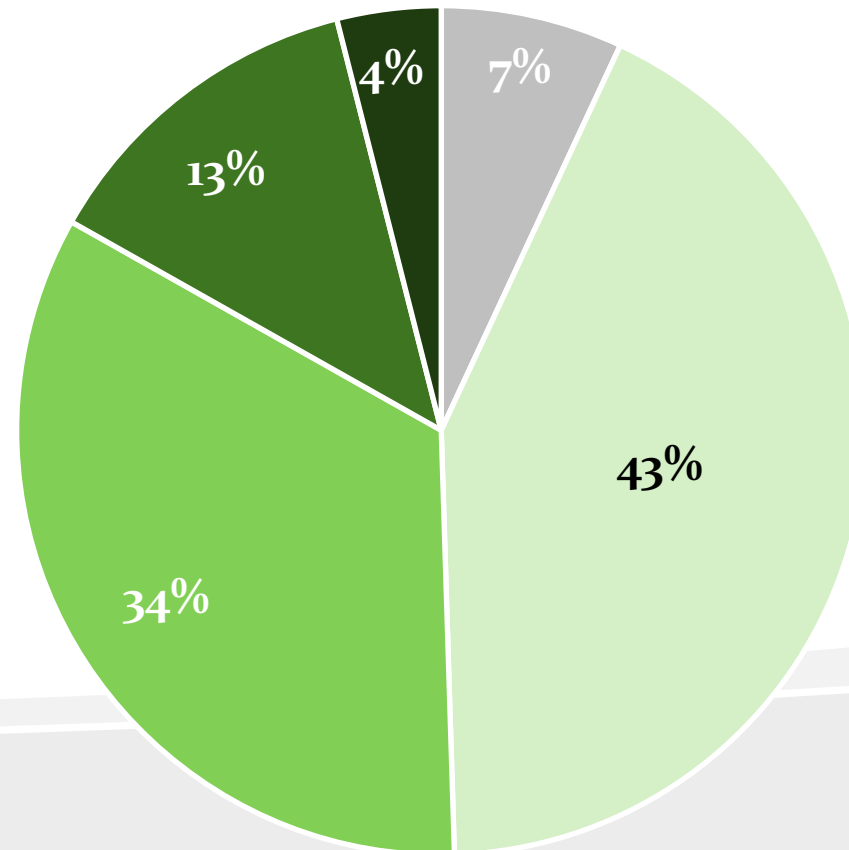




Classroom Integration Challenges

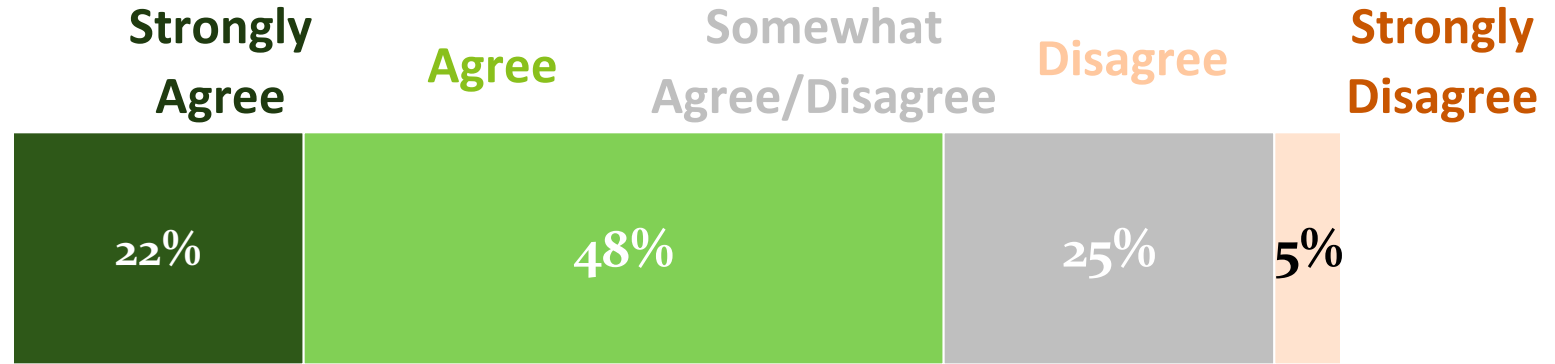
**Proportion of Teachers
at School Incorporating FTS Learning**

■ None ■ Few ■ Some ■ Most ■ All

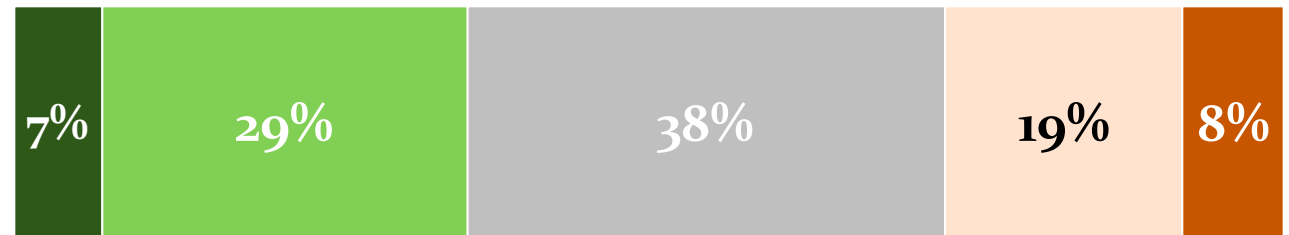


Classroom Integration Challenges

There is interest in incorporating any kind of FTS Learning Activities into the Curriculum

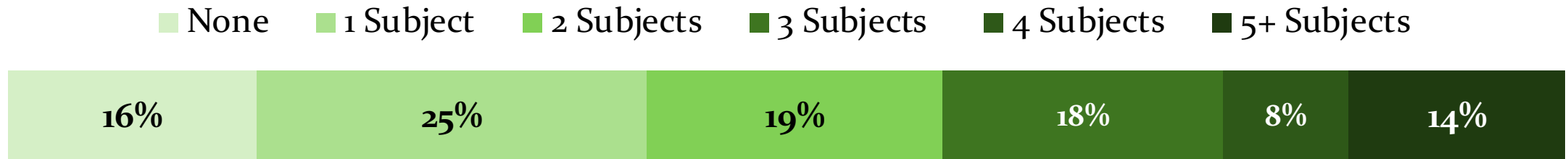


FTS Learning Activities are Incorporated into the Overall Curriculum as part of the School's Learning Priorities

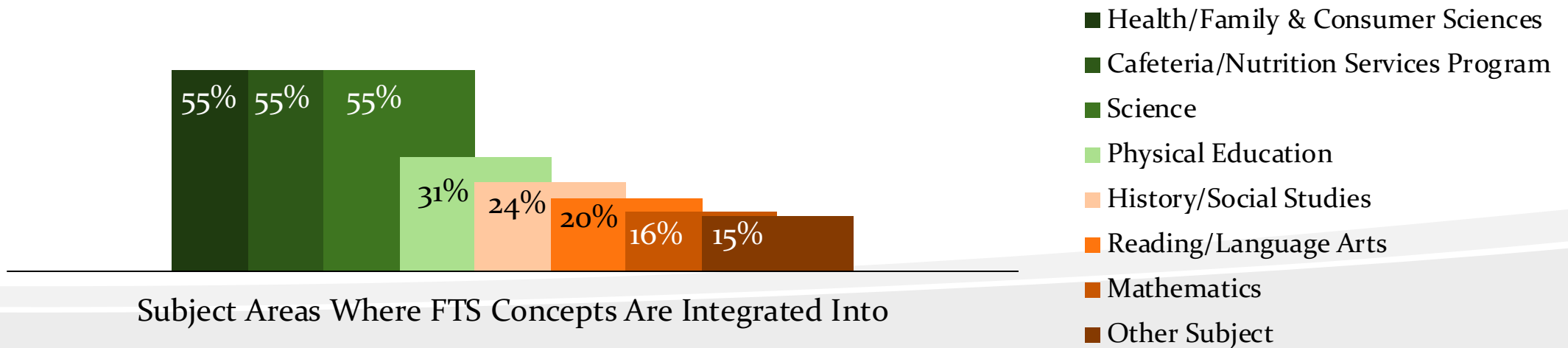


Classroom Integration Challenges

Number of Subjects into which FTS Concepts Have Been Integrated,
2016/2017 School Year



Subject Areas Where FTS Concepts Have Been Integrated Into Lessons



Subject Areas Where FTS Concepts Are Integrated Into

Useful Instructional Materials

Instructional materials provided to those who teach FTS that were designed using resources from USDA, National/Vermont FTS Grant Program, VT FEED, or similar professional organization.

Instructional Material*	
Strategies that are age-appropriate, relevant, and actively engage students in learning	51%
Goals, objectives, and expected outcomes for FTS learning	38%
Methods to assess student knowledge and skills related to FTS learning	29%
A written curriculum that includes objectives and content addressing FTS learning	26%
A chart describing the annual scope and sequence of instruction for FTS learning	16%

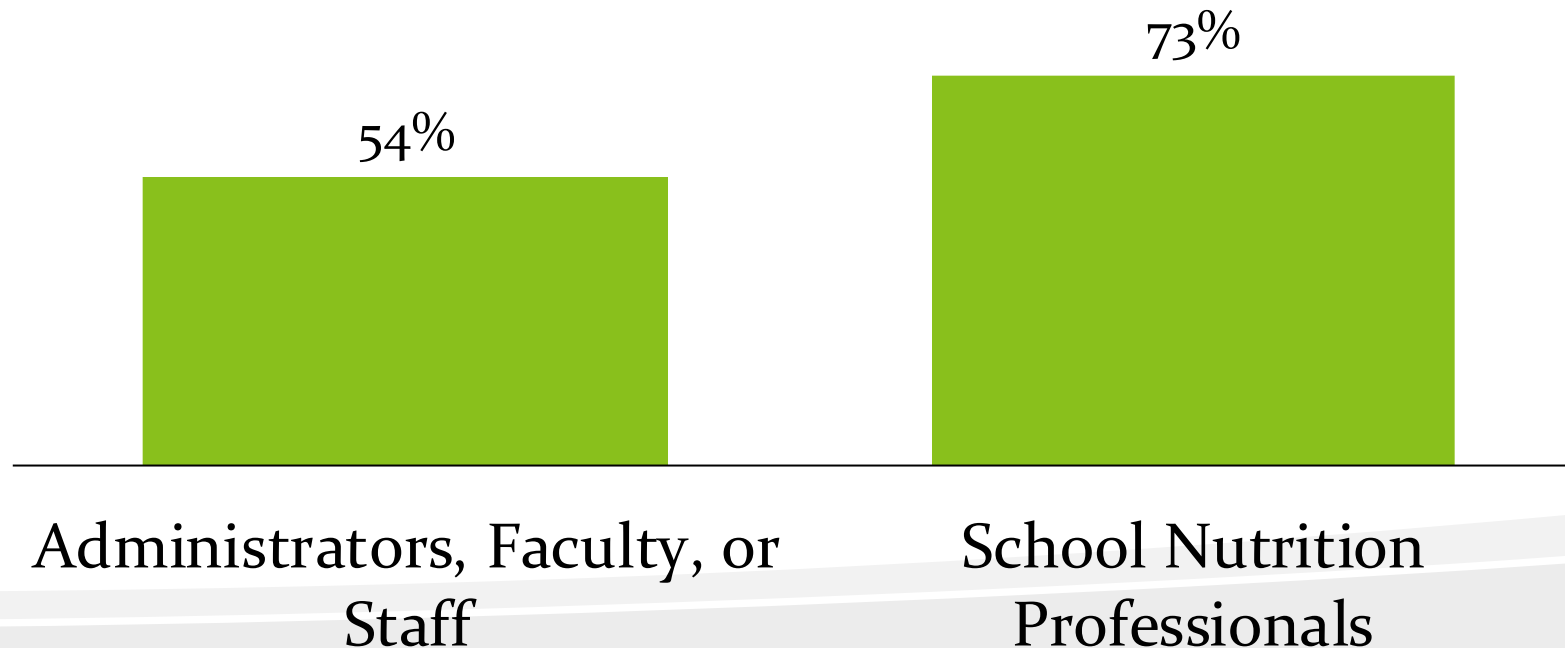
**Respondents were instructed to only consider instructional materials designed using resources from USDA, National/Vermont FTS Grant Program, VT FEED, or similar professional organization.*

About 55 respondents indicated that these materials were not applicable and were excluded from the above calculations.



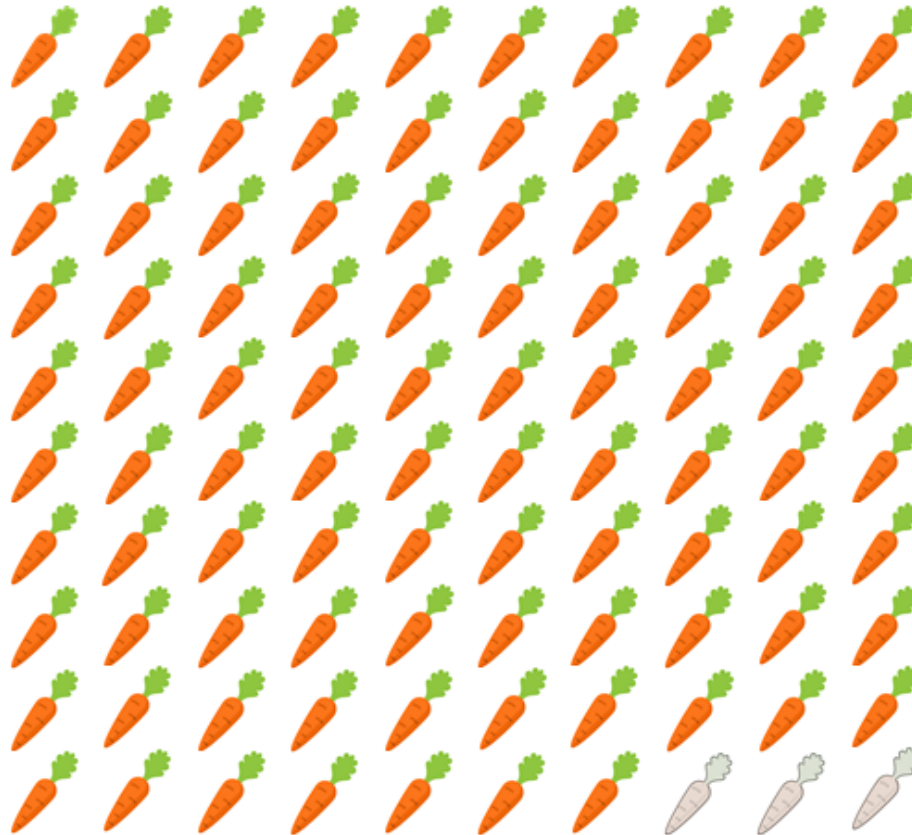
Classroom Integration Challenges – Professional Development

**Opportunities for Professional Development in FTS,
Including the Use of Local Food, in the Last Two Years**



Local Purchasing – Interest

Who's Interested In Purchasing or Modifying Nutrition Programs to Incorporate Local Food?



97%

Of schools have **EVER** expressed interest in starting to purchase local food and/or modify their nutrition program to incorporate local food

School Nutrition Program

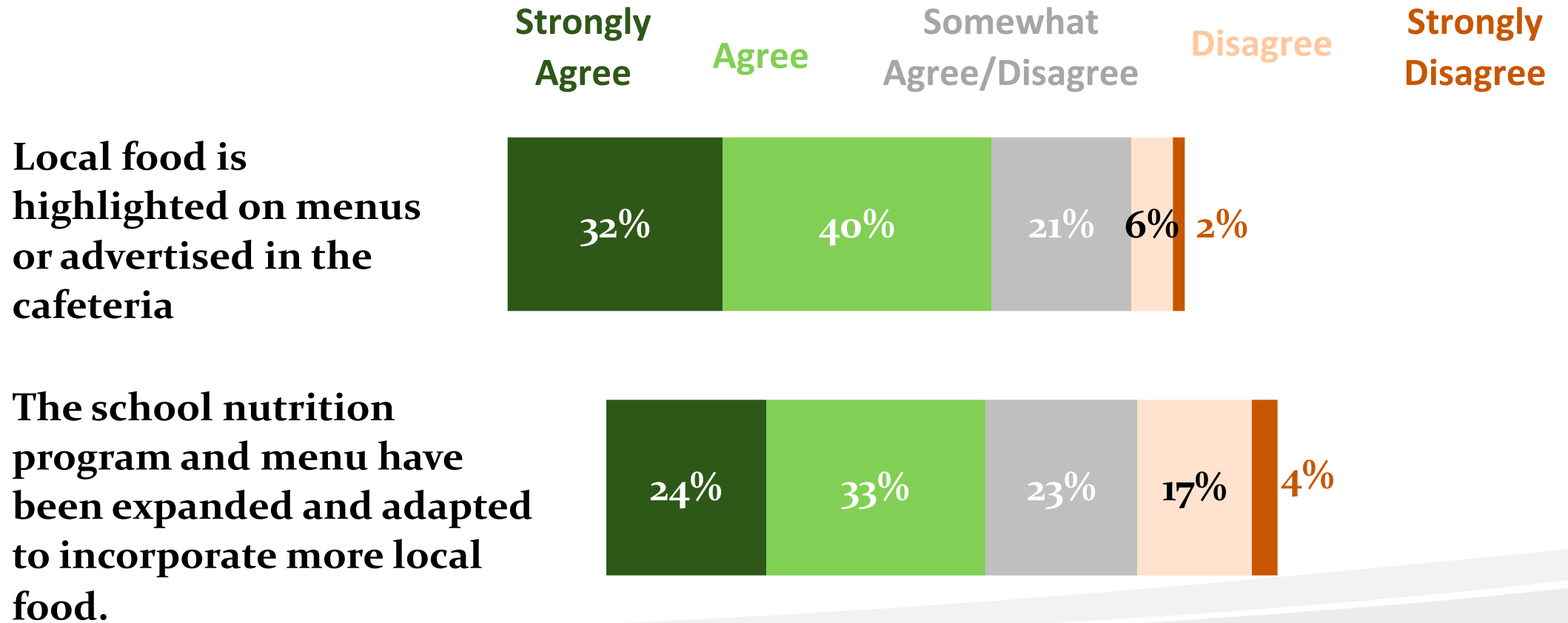


29% Strongly Agree
39% Agree

School nutrition program understood to be integral in nutrition awareness and education

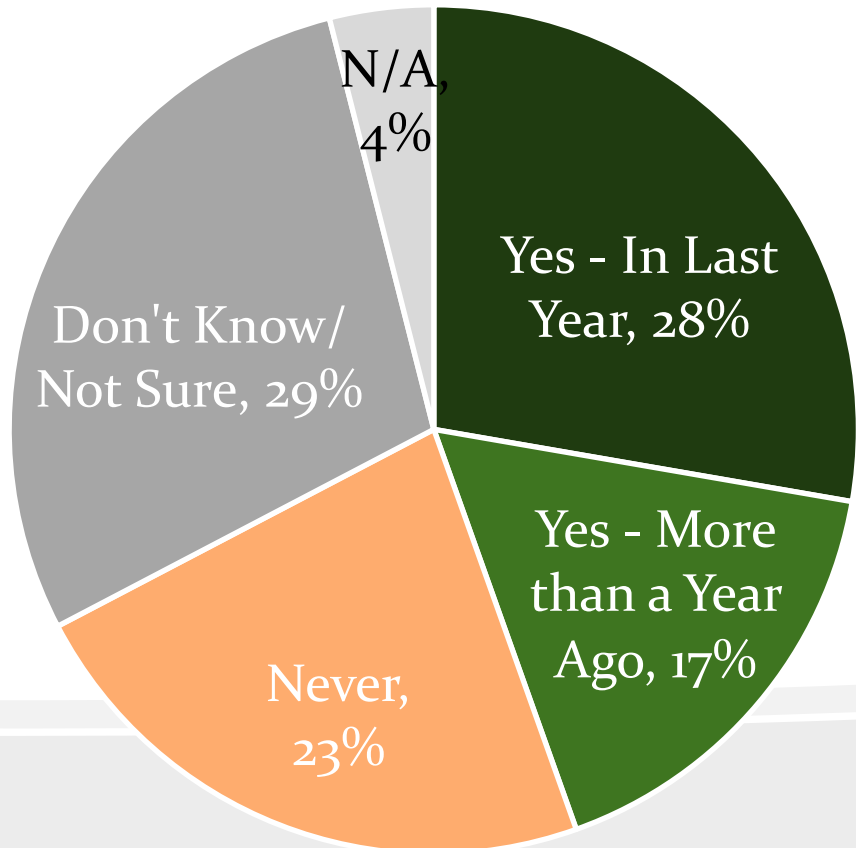


School Nutrition Program - Menu

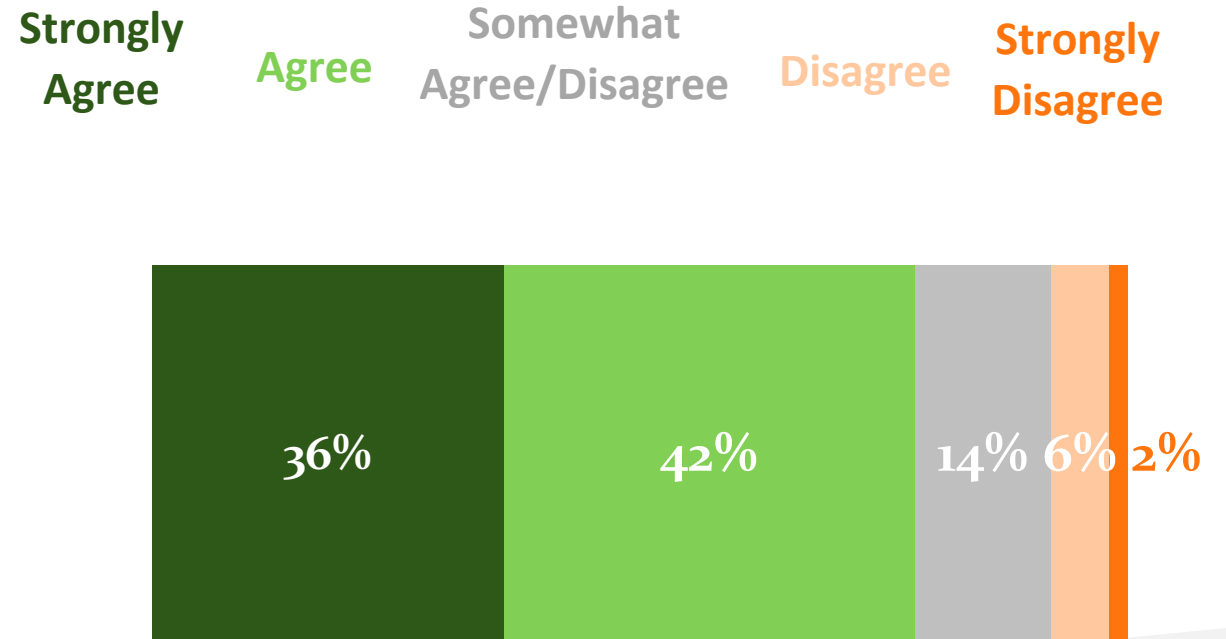


Kitchen's Ability to Accommodate Local Food

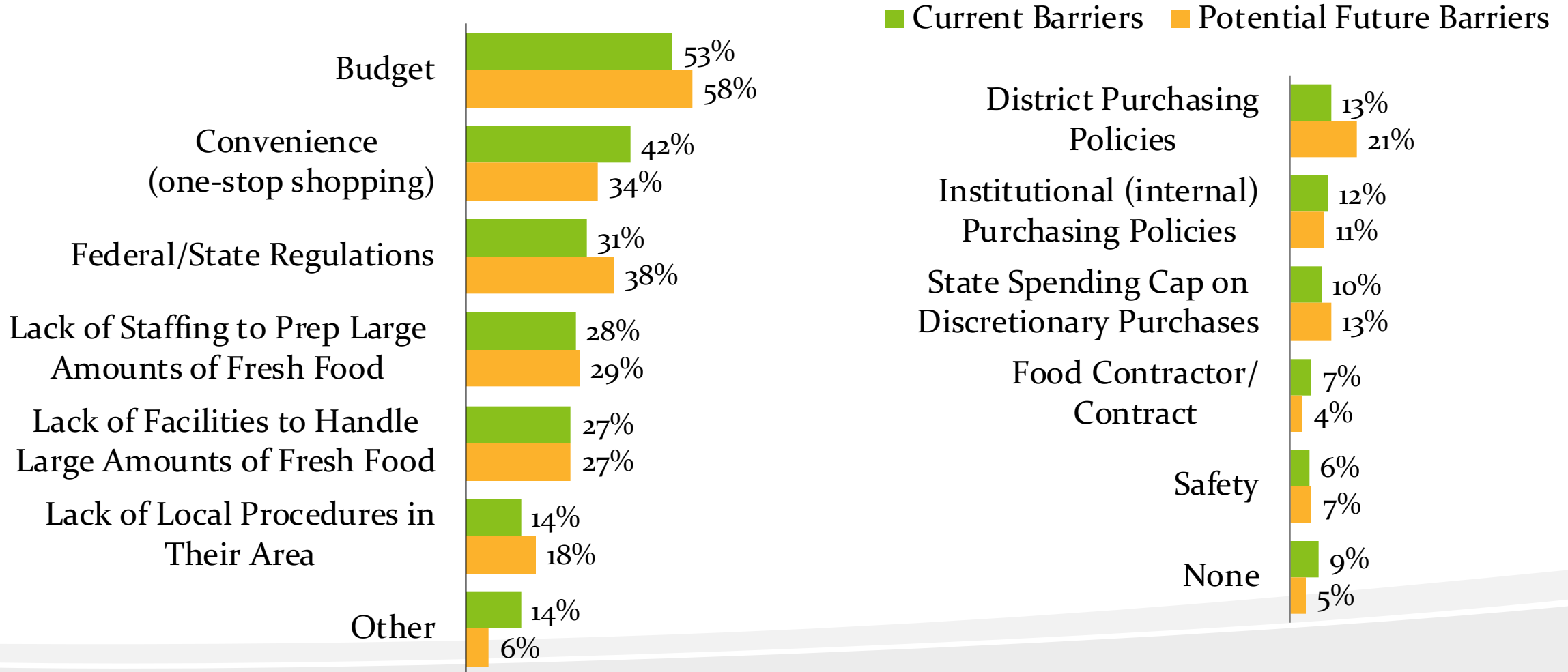
Schools Who Have Evaluated the Kitchen's Ability to Accommodate the Use of Local Food, 2016/2017



School's Kitchen is Adequate for Use in Accommodating Local Food

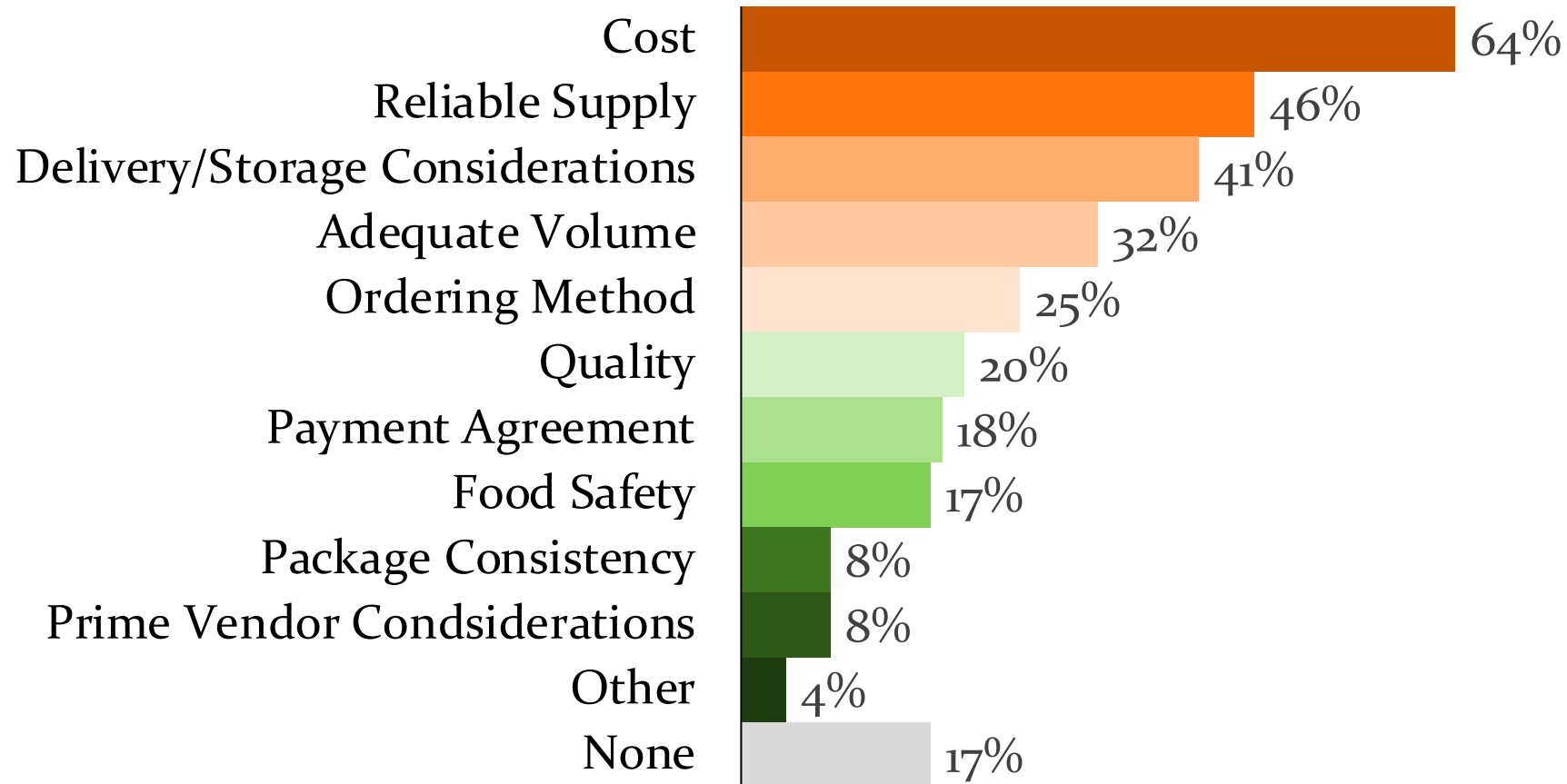


Local Purchasing – Current and Potential Future Barriers



Local Purchasing - Concerns

Schools Concerns with Purchasing Local Food



Local Purchasing – Top Motivating Factors

Top 3 Motivations for Purchasing Local



Support Local
Community
(65%)



Help VT farms
and/or businesses
(63%)



Higher consumption
of fruits/vegetables
(55%)

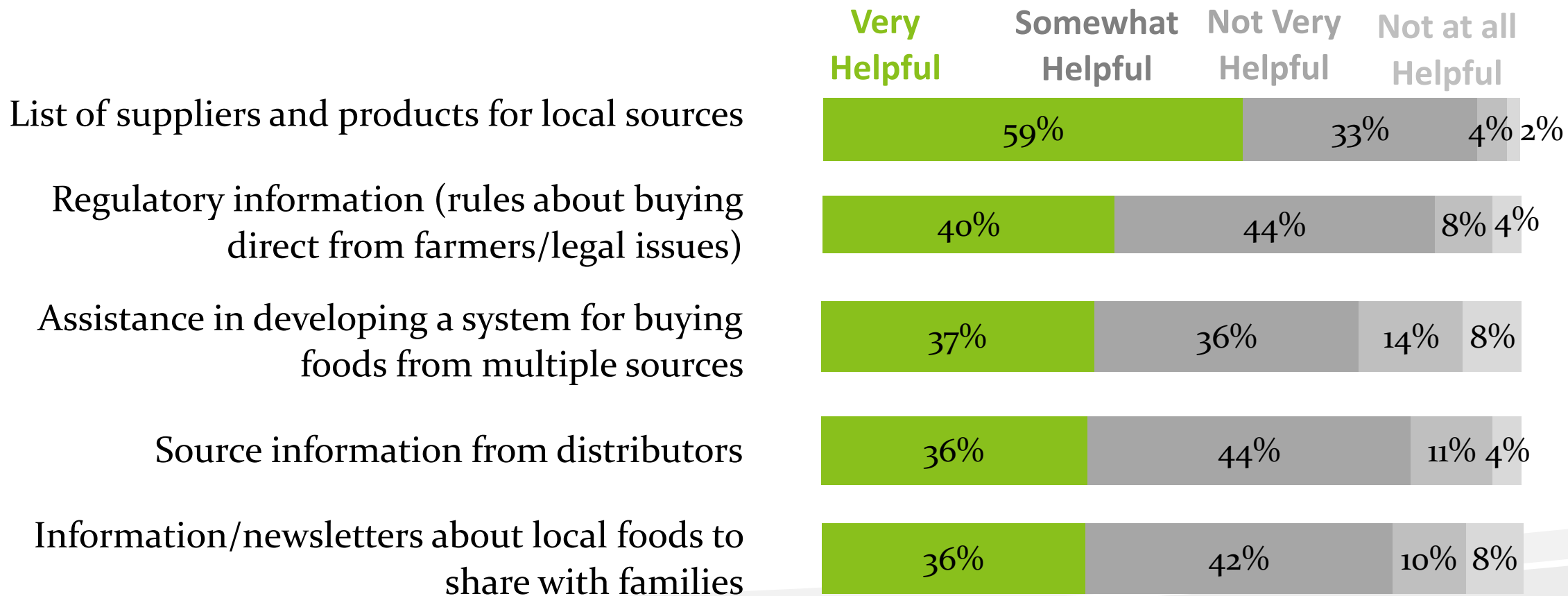
Additional Motivations

4. Higher quality food – 54%
5. Access to fresher food – 53%
6. Knowing product source – 52%

Local Purchasing - Helpful Materials

Resource

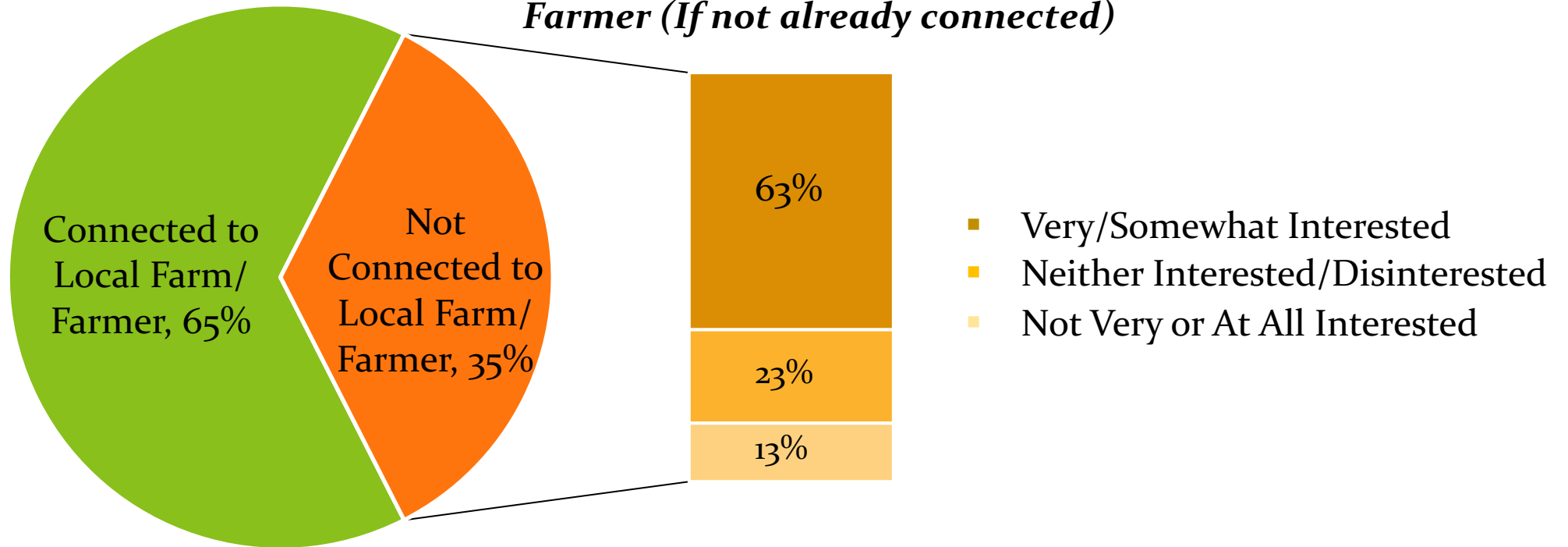
Perceived Helpfulness of Resource





Connection to Local Farm/Farmer

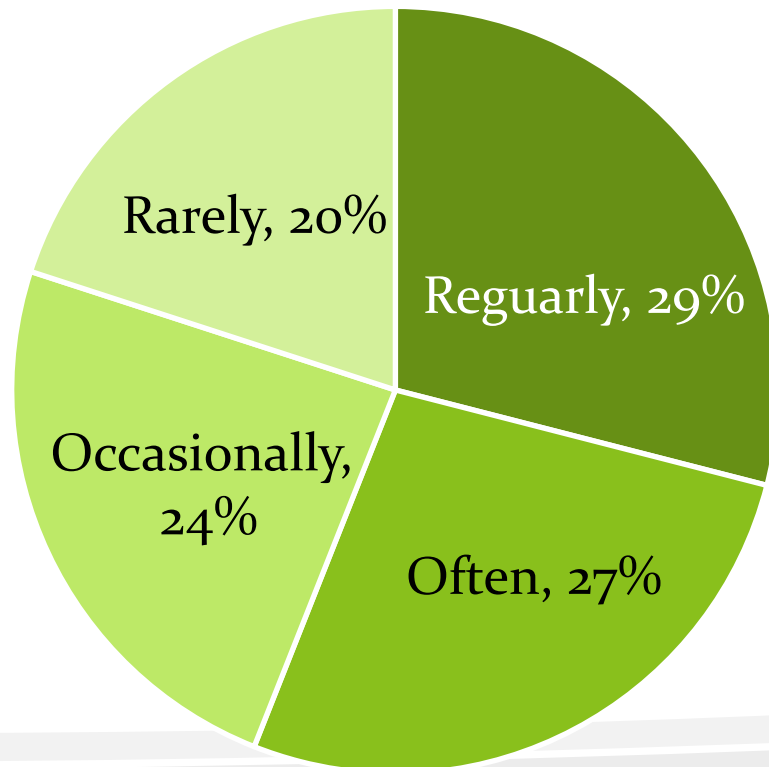
Level of Interest in Connecting to a Local Farmer (If not already connected)



Local Purchasing - Frequency

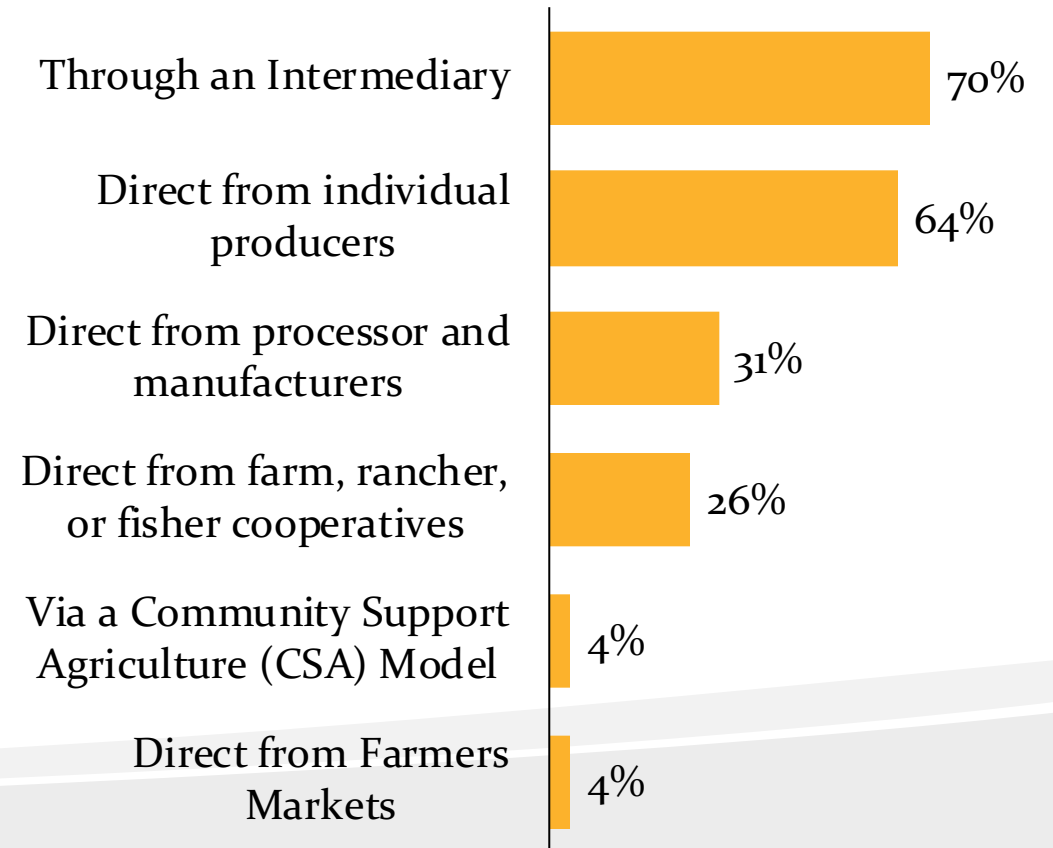
- 87% of schools reported purchasing from a local producer.

Frequency of Purchasing Local Food



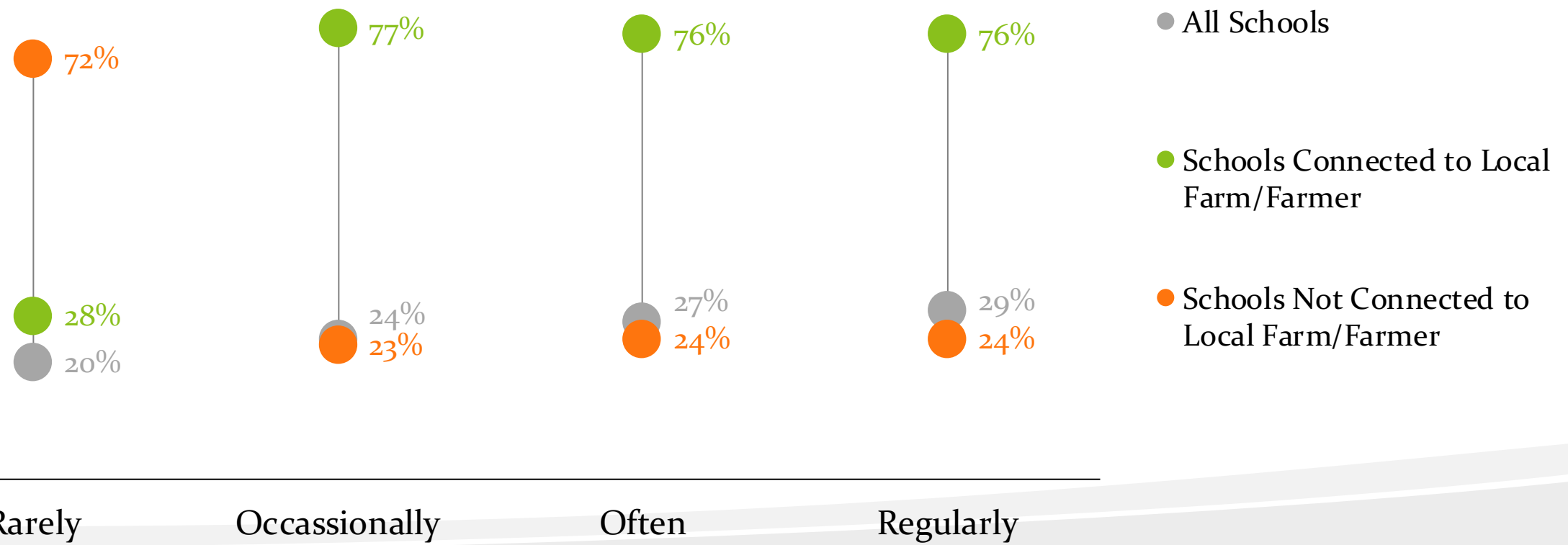
Among schools who purchased local food in the 2016/2017 school year.

Distribution Sources Where Schools Purchased Local Food





Local Purchasing – Frequency of Purchasing by Connection to Local Farmer





Additional Resources

Contacts For Questions About

FTS in Vermont

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Vermont FTS Network

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Vermont FTS Grant Program

Alexandra Zipparo

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Presentation/Report

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- 2018 FTS Data Harvest Summary Report

<https://vermontfarmtoschool.org/resources/2018-vermont-integrated-food-farm-and-nutrition-programming-data-harvest>

- Vermont FTS Network

<https://vermontfarmtoschool.org/>

- Vermont FTS Grant Program

https://agriculture.vermont.gov/vermont_farm_to_school_program

- Vermont School Health Profiles

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/health-statistics-vital-records/population-health-surveys-data/school-health-profiles>