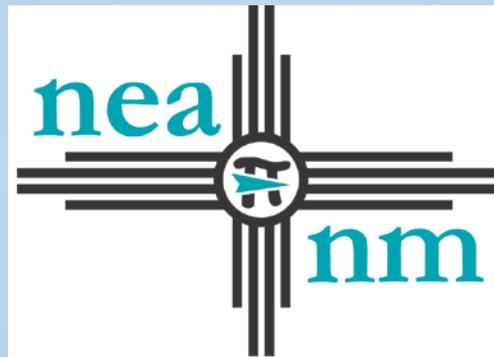




# NEA survey of New Mexicans' Perception of Public Education



**Presented for NEA-New Mexico**

[www.nea-nm.org](http://www.nea-nm.org)

by Charles Goodmacher,  
Do Good LLC (505) 450-3155

[Cgoodmacher@neanm.org](mailto:Cgoodmacher@neanm.org) or  
[DoinGoodConsultant@gmail.com](mailto:DoinGoodConsultant@gmail.com)

# The NEA-New Mexico Survey on New Mexican's Perceptions of Public Education – A Representative Sample

## Respondents closely mirror the NM general population:

46% Hispanic/Latino/Spanish – participants

49% *Hispanic/Latino/Spanish - census*

40% Anglo/White - participants

37% *Anglo/White - census*

9% Native American/Indian/Pueblo/Navajo - participants

10.9% *Native American/Indian/Pueblo/Navajo – census*

2% Black/African-American – participants

2.6% *Black/African-American – Census*

3% Other – participants

4.9% *Other - census*

# The NEA-New Mexico Survey on New Mexican's Perceptions of Public Education – A Representative Sample

- Respondents closely mirror the NM general population:

	Total	Anglo	Hisp
Democrat.....	49	41	61 – Survey
- Democrat			46% registrations
Republican.....	33	40	25 - Survey
- Republican			30.4% registrations
No party affiliation/independent/unaffiliated.....	17	19	12 - Survey
- No party affiliation/independent/unaffiliated			22.6% registrations

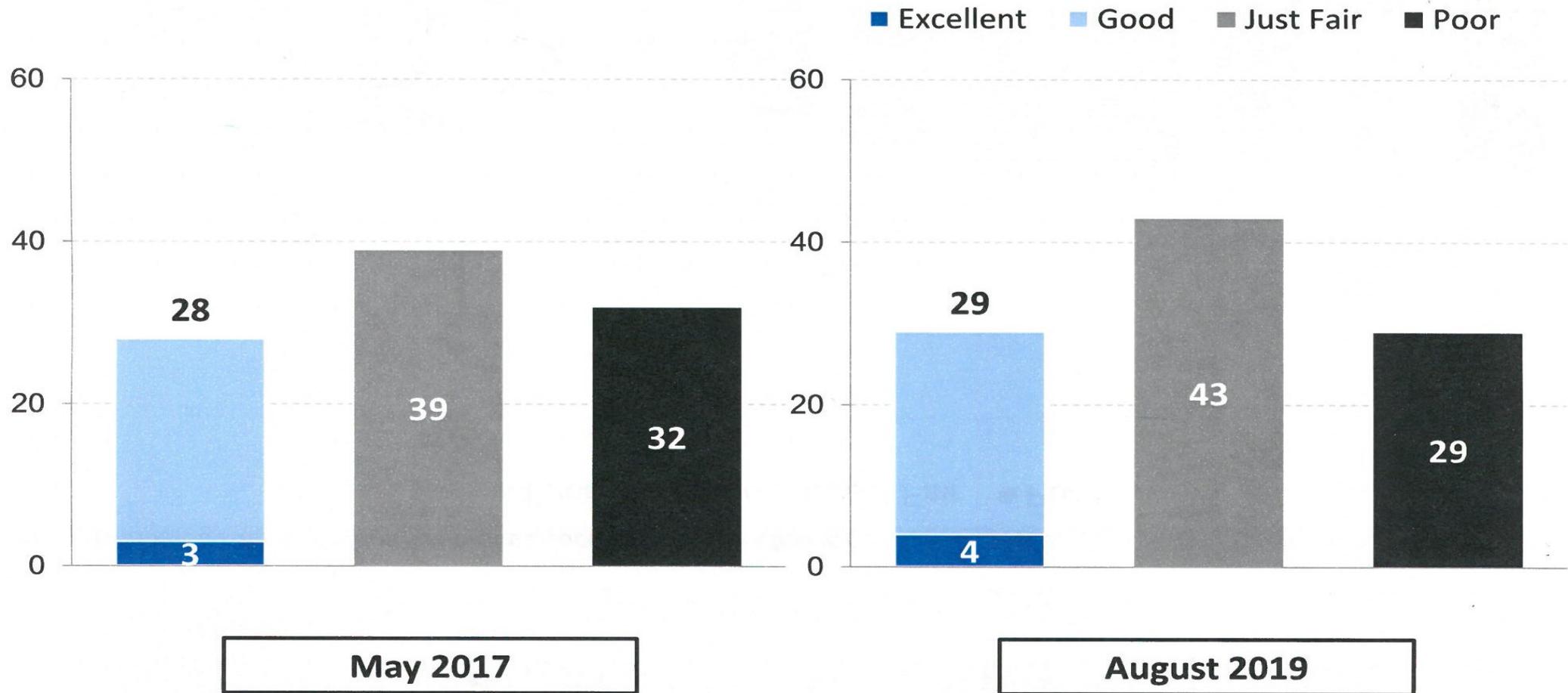
# The NEA-New Mexico Survey on New Mexican's Perceptions of Public Education: **International Polling Firm**

- [Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research https://www.gqrr.com/](https://www.gqrr.com/)
- “**GQR is a woman-owned business that has provided precise, penetrating opinion research** and sophisticated, data-driven strategies for candidates, parties, government leaders, corporations, and advocacy groups **across the United States and around the world for nearly four decades**. From Seattle to Chicago to Dallas to Miami, and across over **90 countries on six continents**, we provide the polling, focus groups, communications plans, digital strategies, and data analytics our clients need.”



# Majority remain dissatisfied with education in New Mexico

How would you rate K through 12 public education in New Mexico?

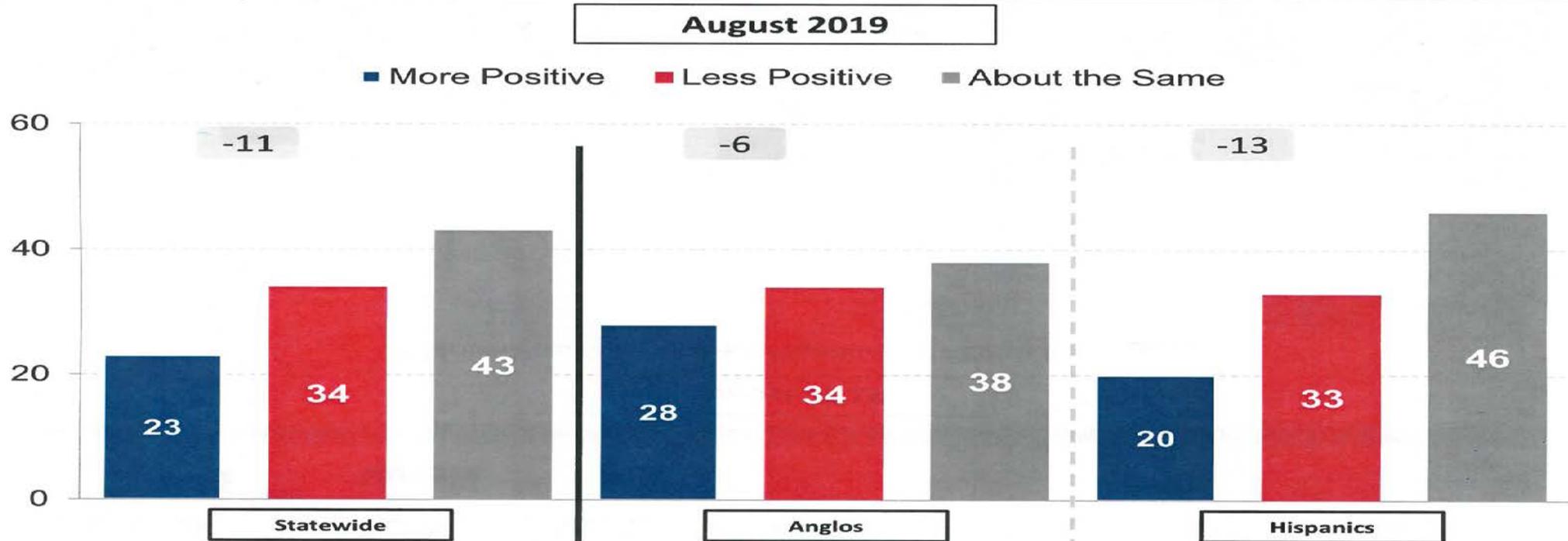


# Satisfaction Levels Vary By Ethnicity



## Convincing Hispanics of improvements to public education will be harder

Do you feel more positive or more negative about the direction of public education in New Mexico since the election last November (2018)?

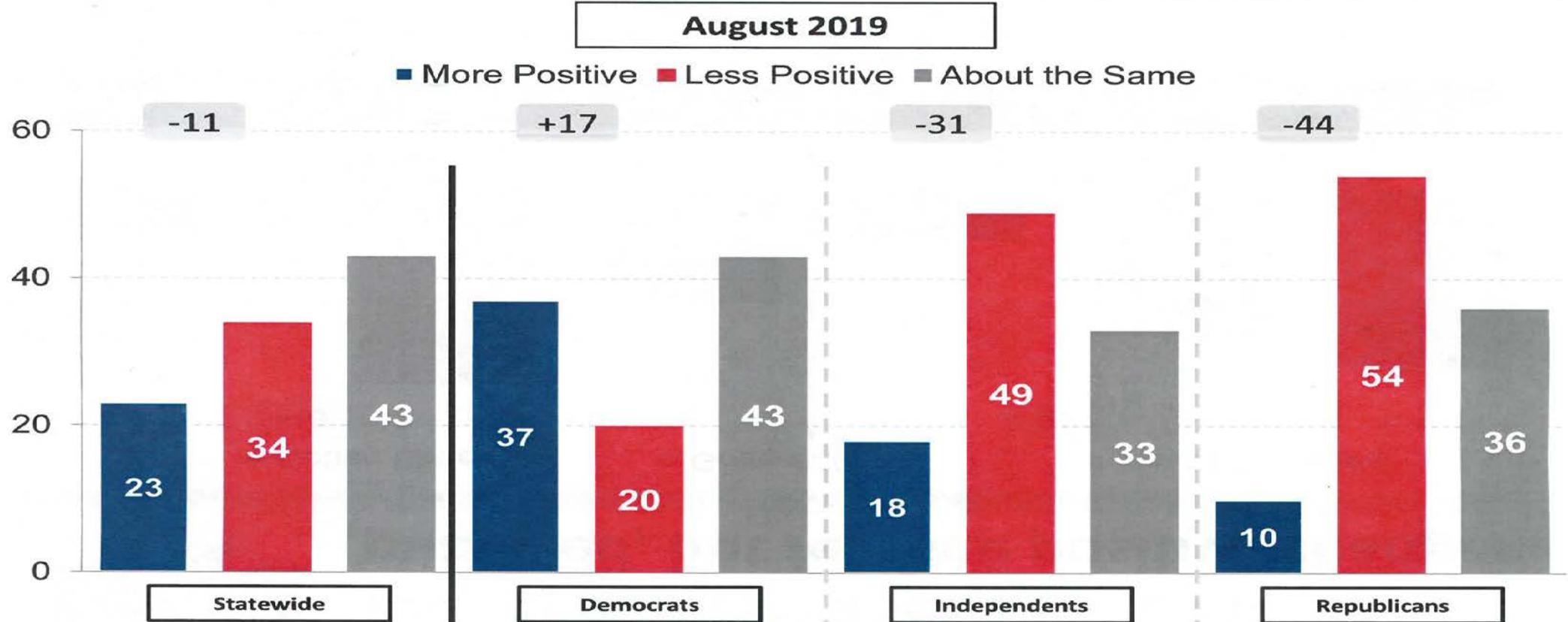


17



# Most, including Democrats, skeptical new leaders improving public ed

Do you feel more positive or more negative about the direction of public education in New Mexico since the election last November (2018)?



15

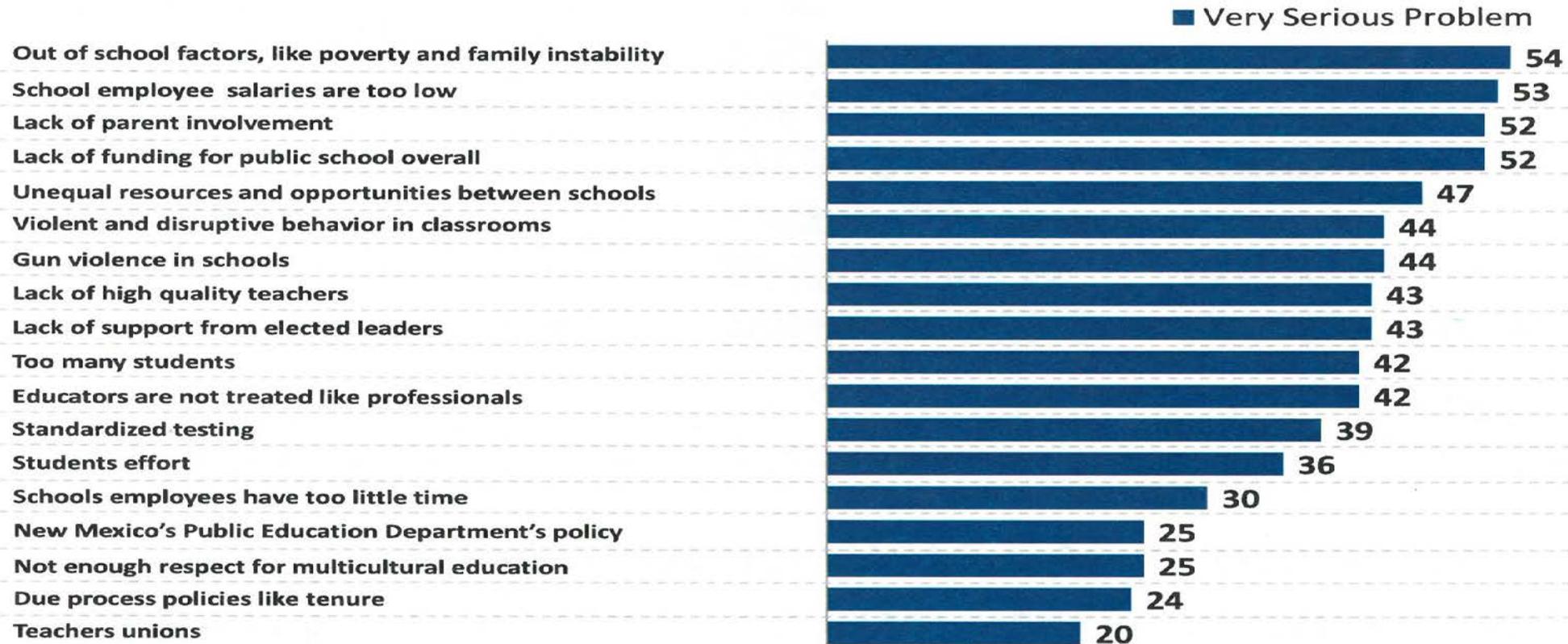
# Top Education Problems as Understood by New Mexicans:

- **New Mexicans say the top problems in public education are out of school problems like poverty and family instability, funding (low employee pay, low funding for schools overall) and a lack of parent involvement.**
  - Hispanics are more focused on lack of funding and equal resources, while Anglos are more focused on lack of responsibility from parents and students.
  - There is also a partisan divide: Democrats are more concerned about funding and out-of-school factors, while Republicans are more concerned about parental and student involvement.
  - For parents, the biggest problem is lack of funding for public schools.
- **Susana Martinez continues to take part of the blame for the problems in public schools.**
- **Notably, very few New Mexicans blame teachers or teacher unions for the problems in public education.**



# Top education issues concerning NMs tied to responsibility and funding

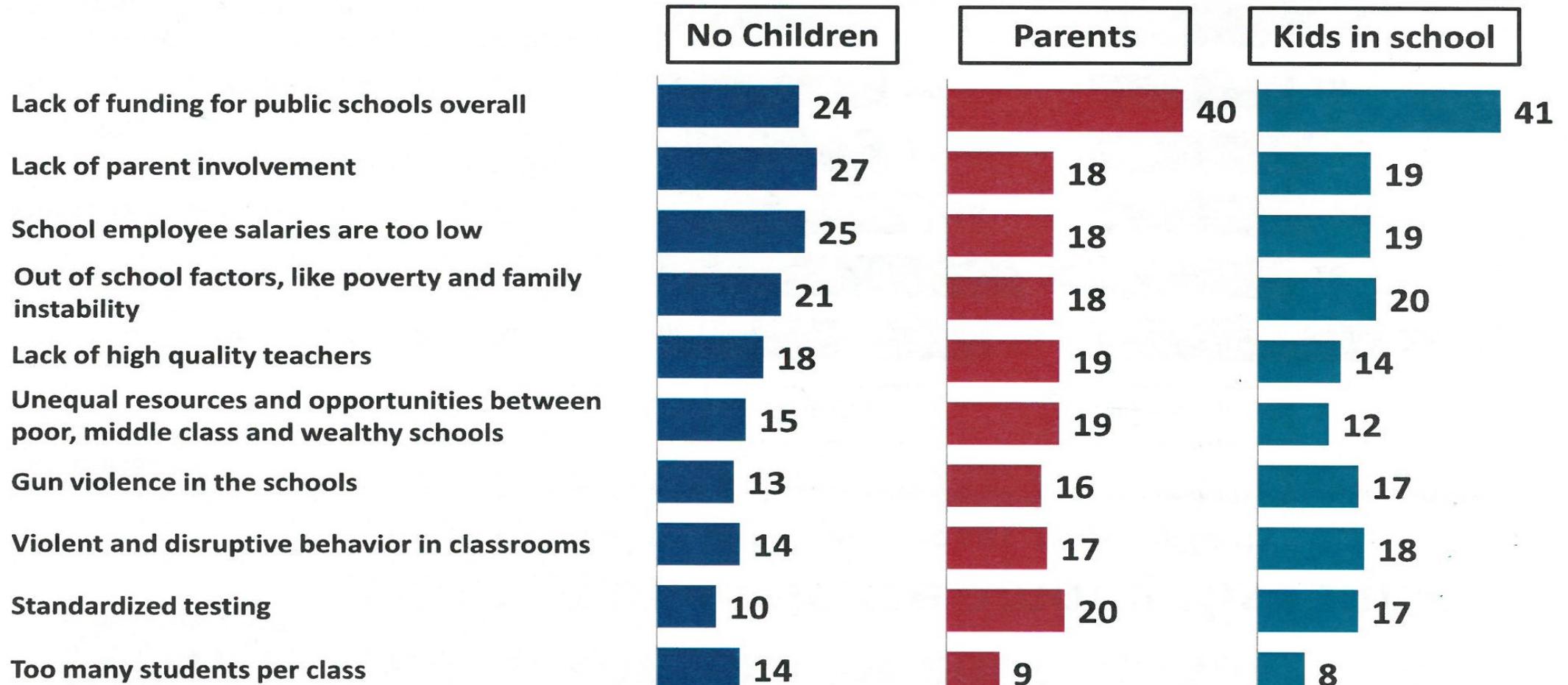
Below is a list of problems in public education some people in New Mexico are concerned about. Please read each one and indicate how serious a problem it is.





# More focus on outside factors for childless, parents worry about funding

Below are some things people say are the biggest problems in public education in New Mexico. Please indicate the TWO that you think are the biggest problems.



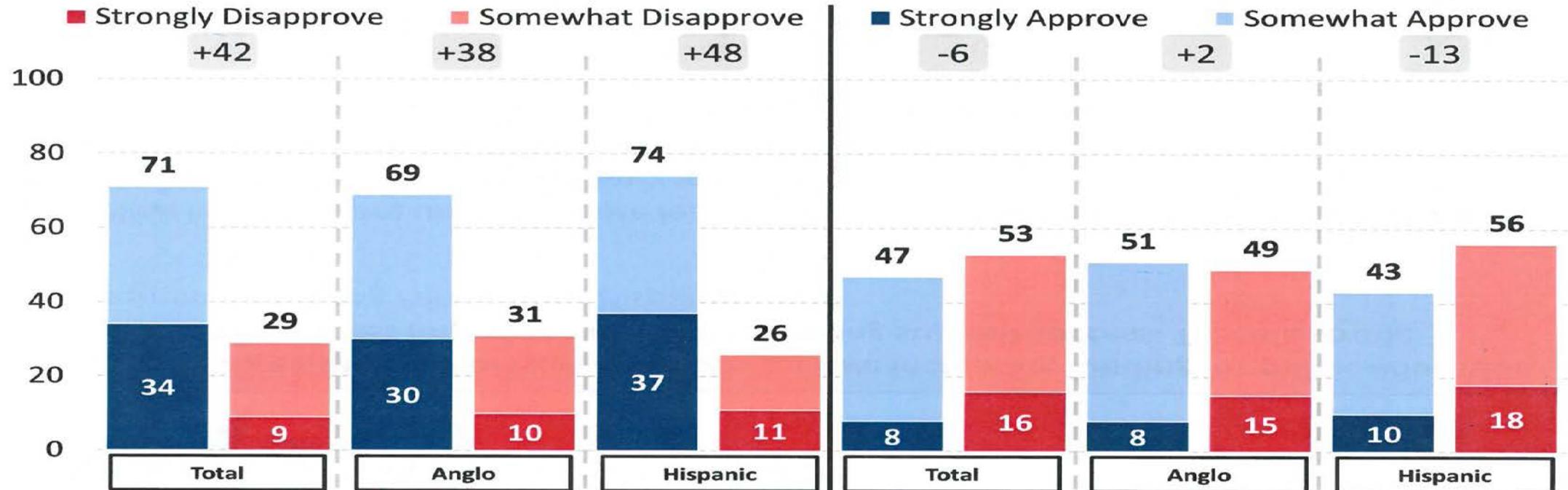


# Education funding critical to quality, and not clear that government doing enough

Below are some statements about public education in New Mexico. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each.

**One of the most important ways to improve student success is to increase education funding.**

**State leaders are prioritizing public education.**



29

# Multicultural Approach, Increased \$, Teacher Pay and Student Focus Supported!

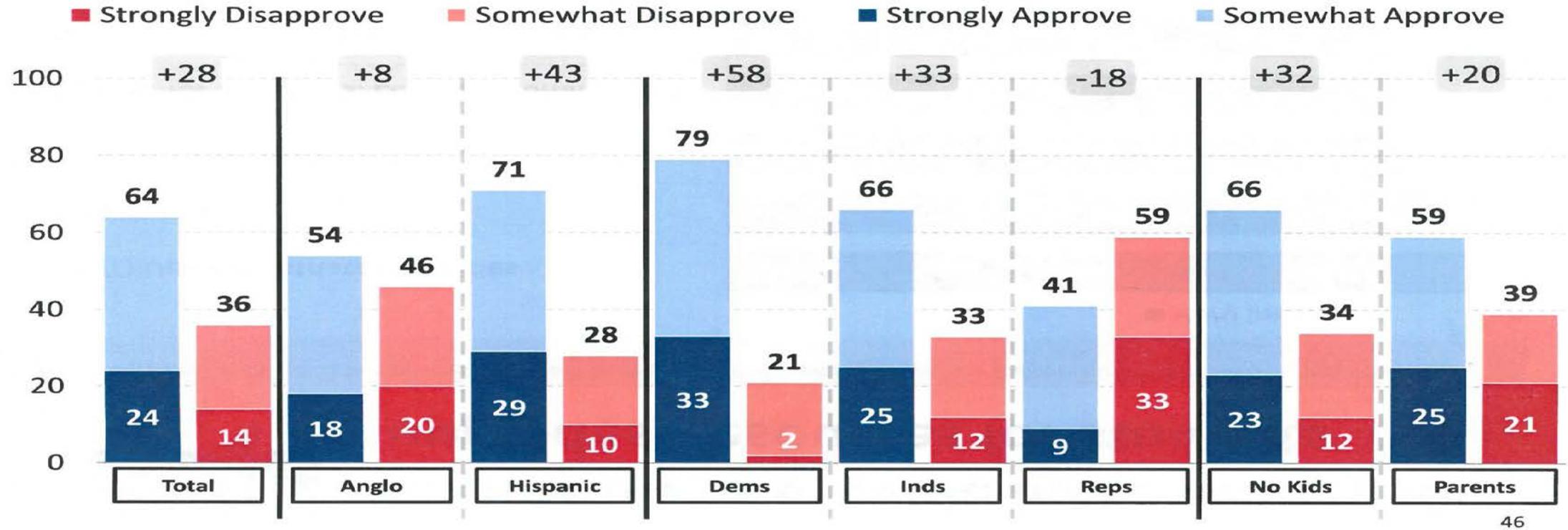
- **The importance of multicultural education divides on racial and partisan lines.** Majorities of Democrats, Hispanics, and Independents believe New Mexico needs to provide more support and respect for multicultural education that reflects the diversity of cultures, languages, and identities. Anglos are mixed on it, and a majority of Republicans do not believe this.
- **Increasing funding for upgrading facilities and increasing resources for students are top policies New Mexicans believe should be enacted.** Hispanics, lower-income New Mexicans, non-college educated New Mexicans, and parents place a higher priority on policies that increase funding and resources than on policies directly affecting classrooms or teachers (limiting class sizes or changing teacher evaluation systems).
- **There is strong and wide support for increasing teacher pay.** Support extends to increasing base salary and minimum wage pay, giving out flat rate increases, and closing the teacher pay penalty.
- **For the teacher evaluation system, New Mexicans buy in to 'professionalism' and 'student focused' frame, rather than 'accountability' and 'investment' frame.** Teachers are viewed very positively in New Mexico, and using their professional status is an effective response to those seeking to use the teacher evaluation system as a way for outside people to change funding.



# Importance of multicultural education divides on racial and partisan lines

Below are some statements about public education in New Mexico. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each.

**We need to provide more support and respect for multicultural education that reflects the diversity of cultures, languages, and identities.**

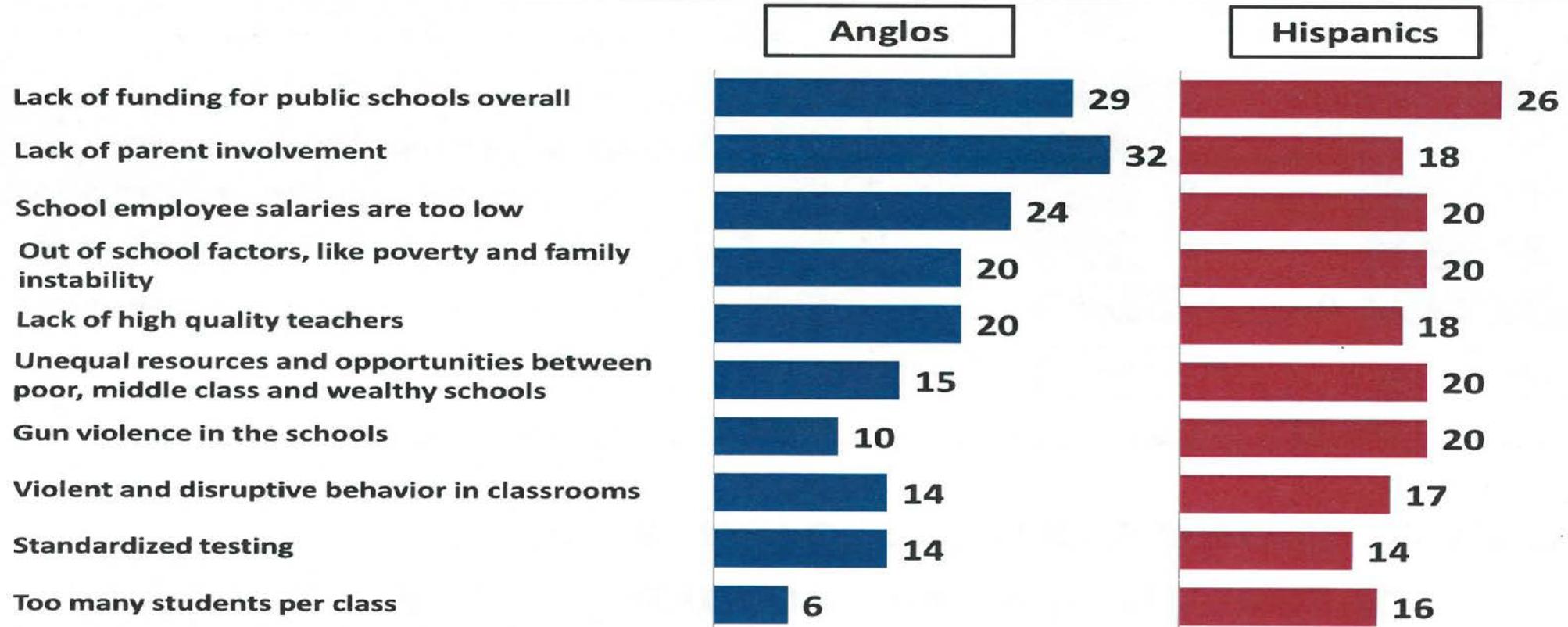




# Higher concern for educational equity/gun violence among Hispanics

## Anglos focused on parental/student responsibility

Below are some things people say are the biggest problems in public education in New Mexico. Please indicate the TWO that you think are the biggest problems.





## Partisan divide on blame from social factors; more blame on parents from affluent

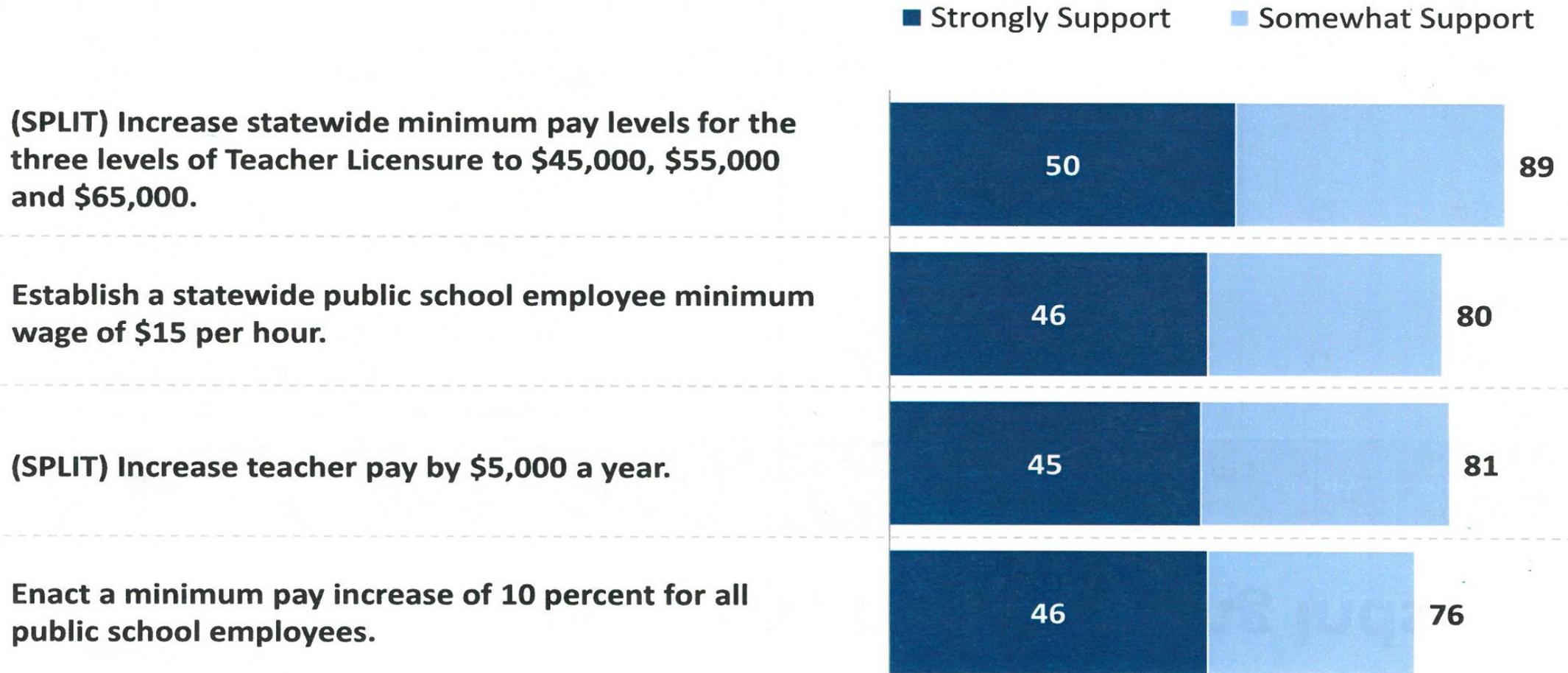
*Below is that same list of people and organizations involved in public education in New Mexico. Which ONE would you say deserves the MOST BLAME for what is going wrong with public education in New Mexico?*

	Total	Dems	Reps	Inds	Parents	Under 50k	Over 50k	College Grad	NonColl Grad
<b>Outside factors</b>	22	29	12	22	20	18	27	29	19
<b>Susana Martinez</b>	16	29	5	7	13	17	15	22	13
<b>Parents</b>	13	10	16	16	14	9	19	14	13
<b>School administrators, principals and superintendents</b>	12	10	18	18	12	12	11	12	12
<b>Michelle Lujan Grisham</b>	10	4	24	24	16	9	10	7	11
<b>The National Education Association of New Mexico</b>	9	7	11	11	10	10	9	5	11
<b>Social media</b>	8	6	3	3	12	11	4	5	9
<b>Students</b>	4	4	4	4	2	5	2	0	5
<b>Teachers</b>	3	1	2	2	1	5	1	0	5
<b>Teachers unions</b>	3	0	6	6	1	2	3	5	1



# Strong support for increasing school employee pay

Below are a few more policy proposals. This time, please indicate if you support or oppose each one.





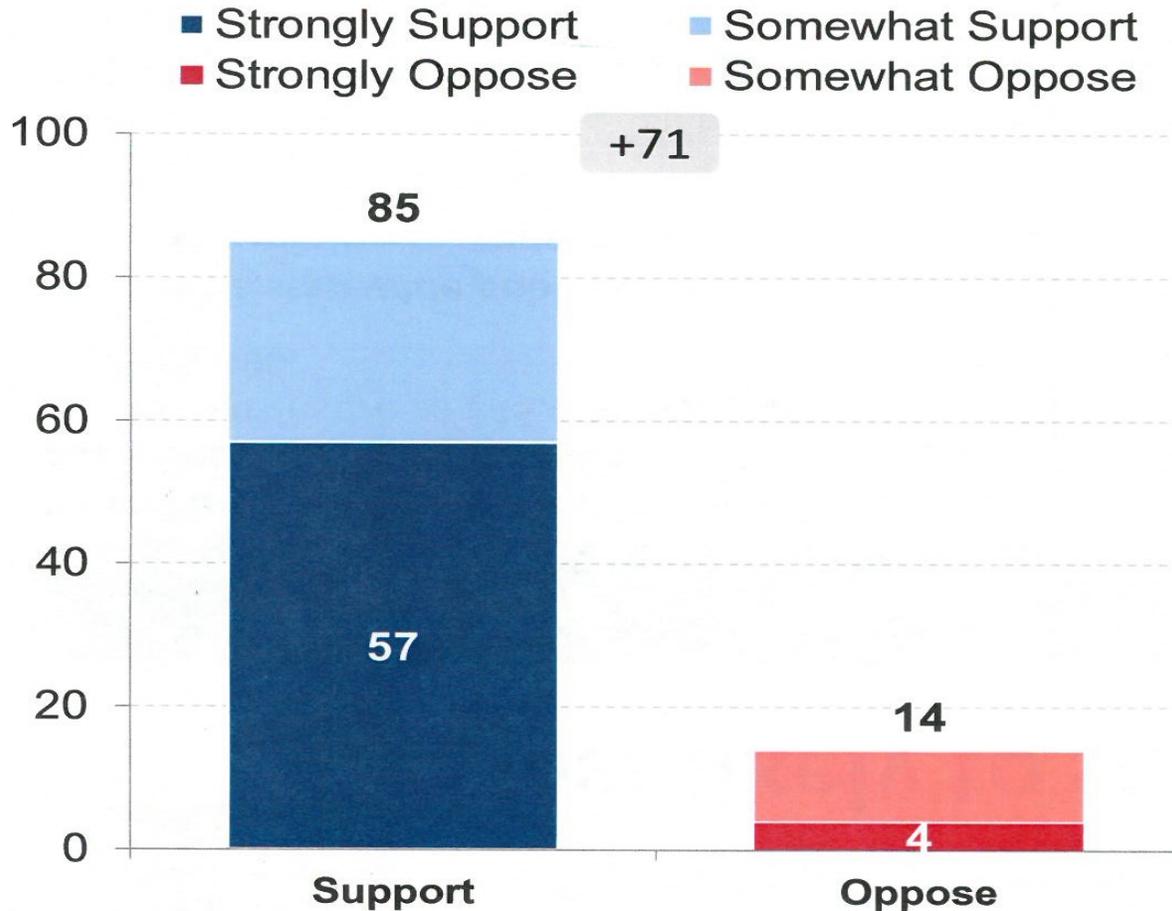
## Strong support for more school employee pay holds among Inds

<b>“Strongly Support”</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Dems</b>	<b>Inds</b>	<b>Reps</b>	<b>Anglo</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>
<b>(SPLIT) Increase statewide minimum pay levels for the three levels of Teacher Licensure to \$45,000, \$55,000 and \$65,000.</b>	50	56	59	34	47	52
<b>Establish a statewide public school employee minimum wage of \$15 per hour.</b>	46	57	45	30	42	49
<b>(SPLIT) Increase teacher pay by \$5,000 a year.</b>	45	50	39	44	43	48
<b>Enact a minimum pay increase of 10 percent for all public school employees.</b>	46	55	48	33	41	49



# After hearing of teacher pay penalty, strong support across groups to increase pay

As you may have heard, teacher pay in New Mexico has recently increased. But, teachers are still paid one third less than other comparable working professionals. Economists call this "the teacher pay penalty". Do you support or oppose New Mexico further increasing teacher pay?



	Strong Support
Total	57
RVs	57
LVs	58
Democrat	71
Independent	49
Republican	45
Anglo	55
Hispanic	58
w/Kids in school	49

# Implications for Policy and Legislation: N.M. Public Perceptions and Public School Support

Messaging from the prior administration on trying to root out bad teachers as a primary way of increasing student success did not sway public opinion. **The public understands the very or somewhat serious problems faced by K-12 are:**

- (1) **Out of school factors**, like poverty, and family instability (87%)
- (2) **Lack of Parent Involvement** (87%)
- (3) **School Employee Salaries are too low** (84%)
- (4) **Lack of school funding overall** and (5) **Violent and disruptive behavior in classrooms**, (both 82%)

# Implications for Policy and Legislation: N.M. Public Perceptions and Public School Support

- The public is skeptical that Santa Fe is working hard to solve the problems. Any budget that does not substantially grow resources for our students, and substantially increase salaries for teachers and other educators, will make the public even more skeptical that the state is doing all it can to help our education system improve.
- When NEA-New Mexico and other advocates speak in favor of substantial raises for salary and for the other needs of our students, we speak with public opinion strongly favoring the same positions.

# Implications for Policy and Legislation: N.M. Public Perceptions and Public School Support

- The public views teachers and other educators with great respect, and New Mexicans believe educators are all vastly underpaid.
  - From a list of 11 options of which one group/person/entity **deserve credit for what is going right in New Mexico, teachers were the choice of 52%**, while Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham came in number 2 at 12%.
  - 78% of respondents agree “Most teachers in New Mexico have the best interests of students in mind.”
- **The public overwhelmingly supports major raises this year:**
  - **89%** support increasing tier minimums to \$45, 55 and 65,000.
  - **81%** support a straight-up raise of \$5,000 for all teachers.
  - **76%** support a 10 percent raise for all public school employees.
  - **Even when reminded of last year’s raise: 85% still support “further increasing teacher pay.”**