



OHIO PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

RATING THE PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DURING THE CORONAVIRUS SHUTDOWN

*April,
2020*

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Some important aspects to understand when considering the results...

- Because schedules, spring breaks and capabilities vary greatly among Ohio's many school districts, although 3 weeks of the Ohio school shutdown had passed before the survey, it should be remembered that some districts were in the first few days of the actual implementation of remote learning
- As static measures, the results were baseline tests to gauge assessments and opinions at the time the survey was conducted, so they cannot reflect the effects of a highly-fluid opinion environment, such as one that may exist due to the current health crisis or a protracted school shutdown
- References to types of school districts (e.g. urban, suburban, etc.) and poverty levels were based on typologies set forth by the Ohio Department of Education
- Very high and high poverty designations were consolidated into a single variable value, as well low and very low poverty into a separate single variable, in order to create larger sub-group categories to allow for more robust analyses

Caveats

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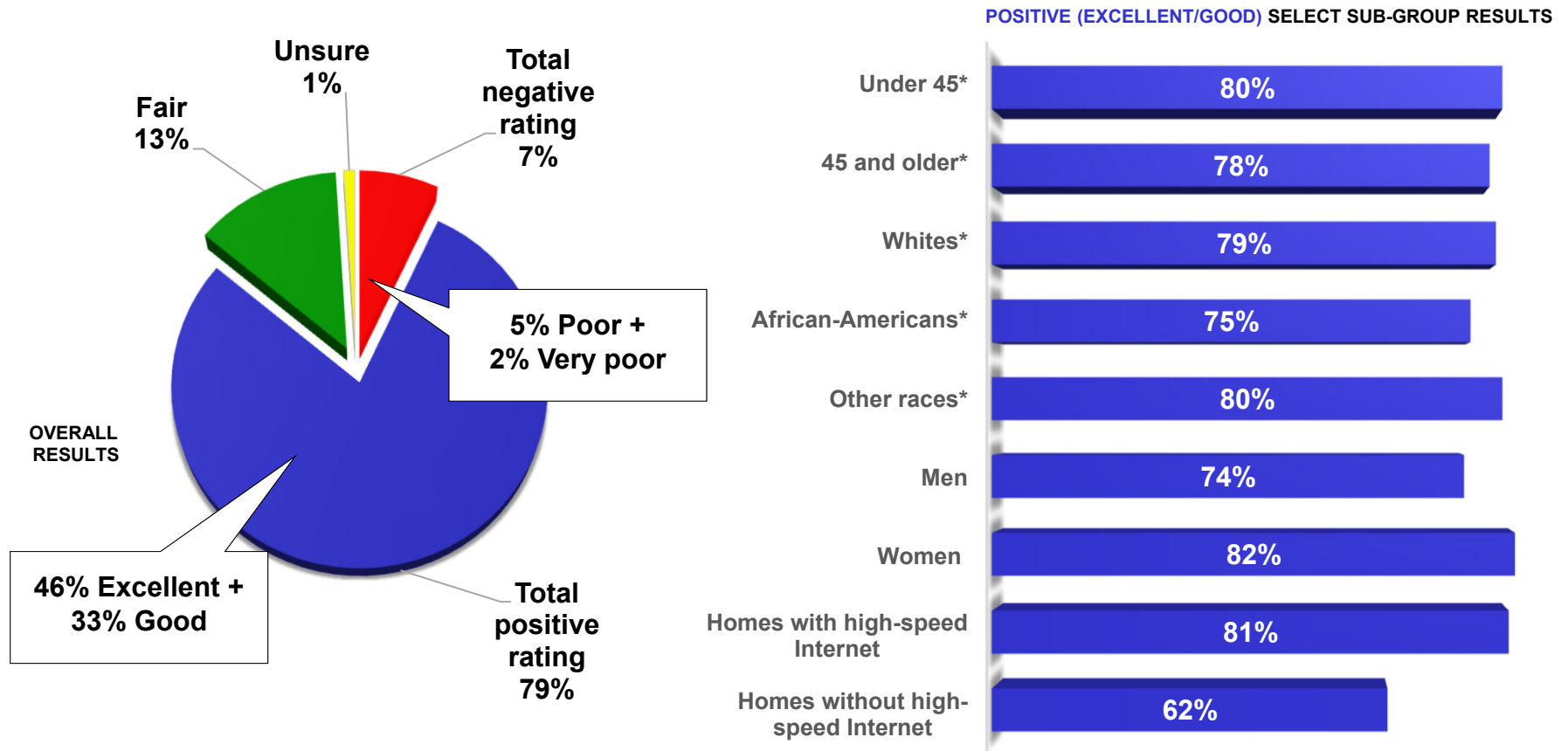


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Parents were very satisfied with the remote learning opportunities that had been offered thus far, and sentiments were largely consistent across the board



In general, how would you rate the job that your public school district is doing to provide online teaching & remote learning during the school shutdown?

Online Teaching & Remote Learning

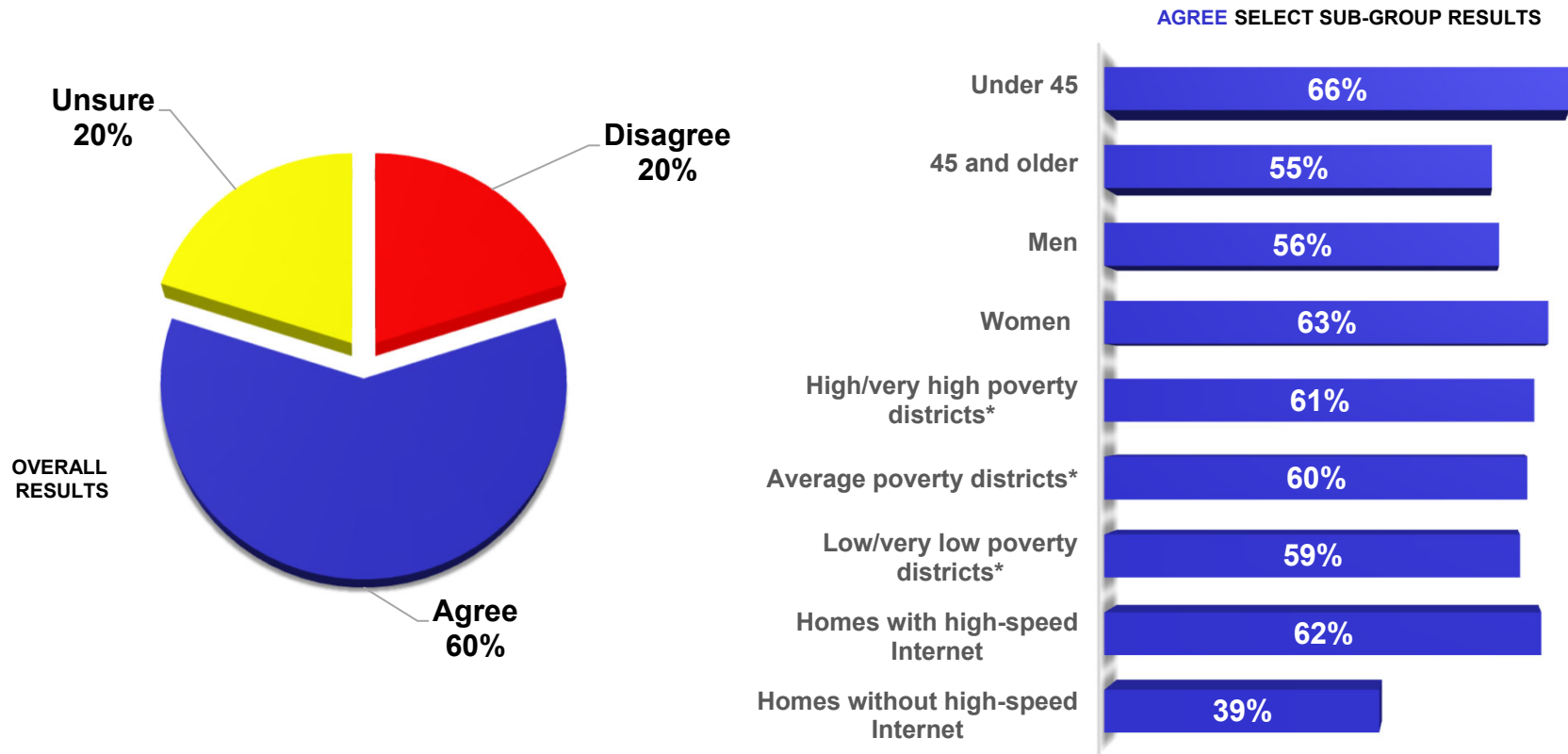
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A sign of confidence in teachers & school leaders, parents were generally content with the types of schoolwork being given to their children to complete at home



Do you generally agree or disagree that the kind of schoolwork and assignments being given to your child or children are suitable to be completed at home without direct teacher assistance and supervision in the classroom?

* Differences are not statistically significant

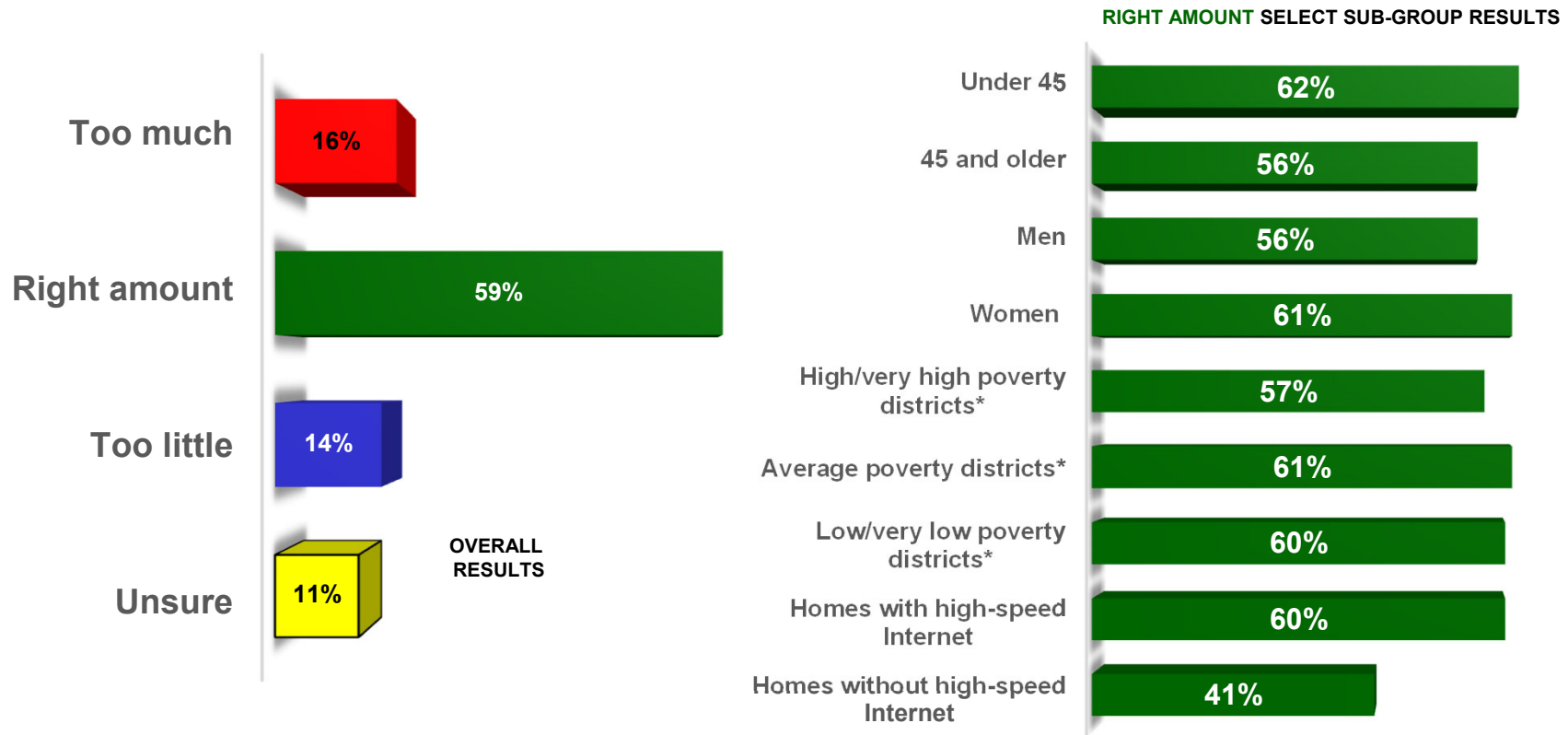
Suitability Of Schoolwork

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Most were content with the amount of work given, which may also be a proxy indicating that parents do not feel schools have contributed to their burdens during the shutdown



Do you think that the amount of schoolwork and assignments currently being given to your child or children is too much, about the right amount or too little?

Amount Of Schoolwork

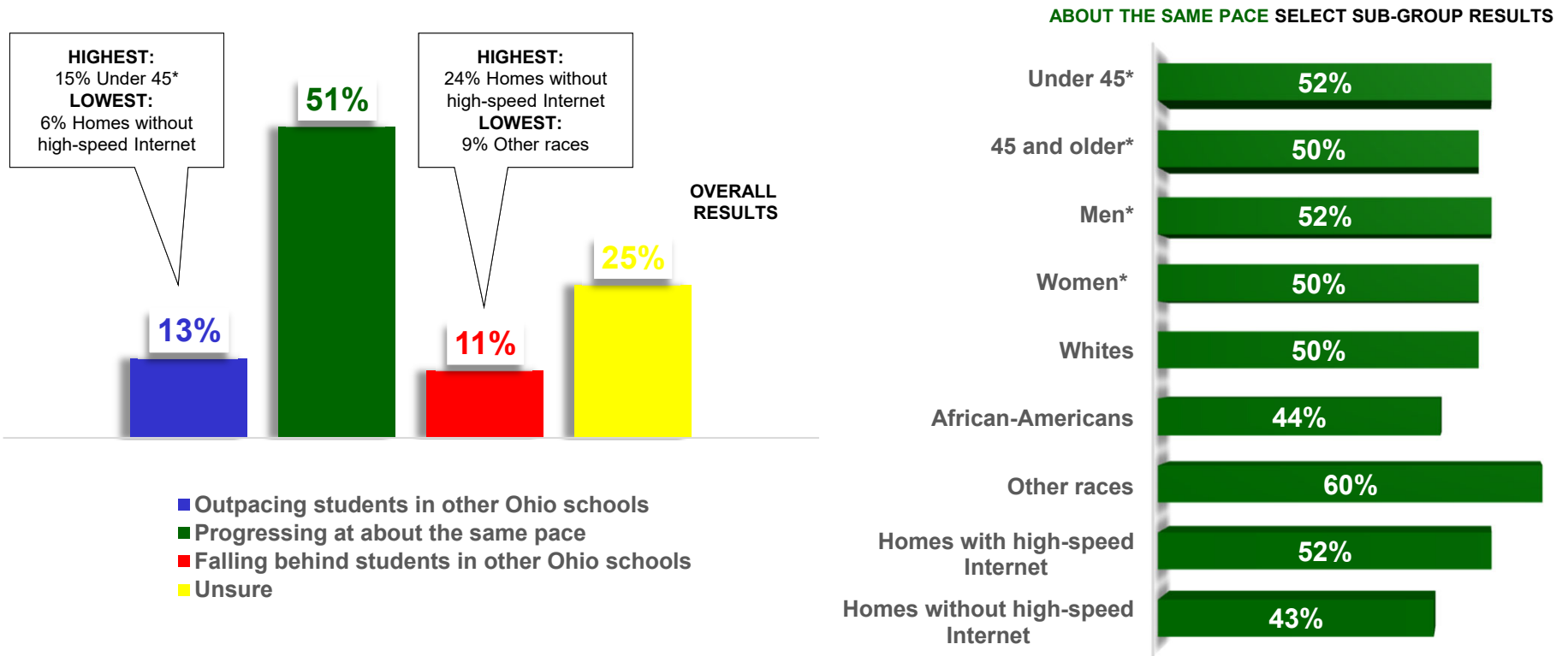
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The perception of progress parity was consistent among most sub-groups, and the high-speed Internet service-digital divide gap was narrower than for other measures



Thinking about educational progress being made through online teaching & remote learning during the virus shutdown, do you think your child or children are outpacing students in other Ohio schools, progressing at about the same pace as students in other Ohio schools or falling behind students in other Ohio schools?

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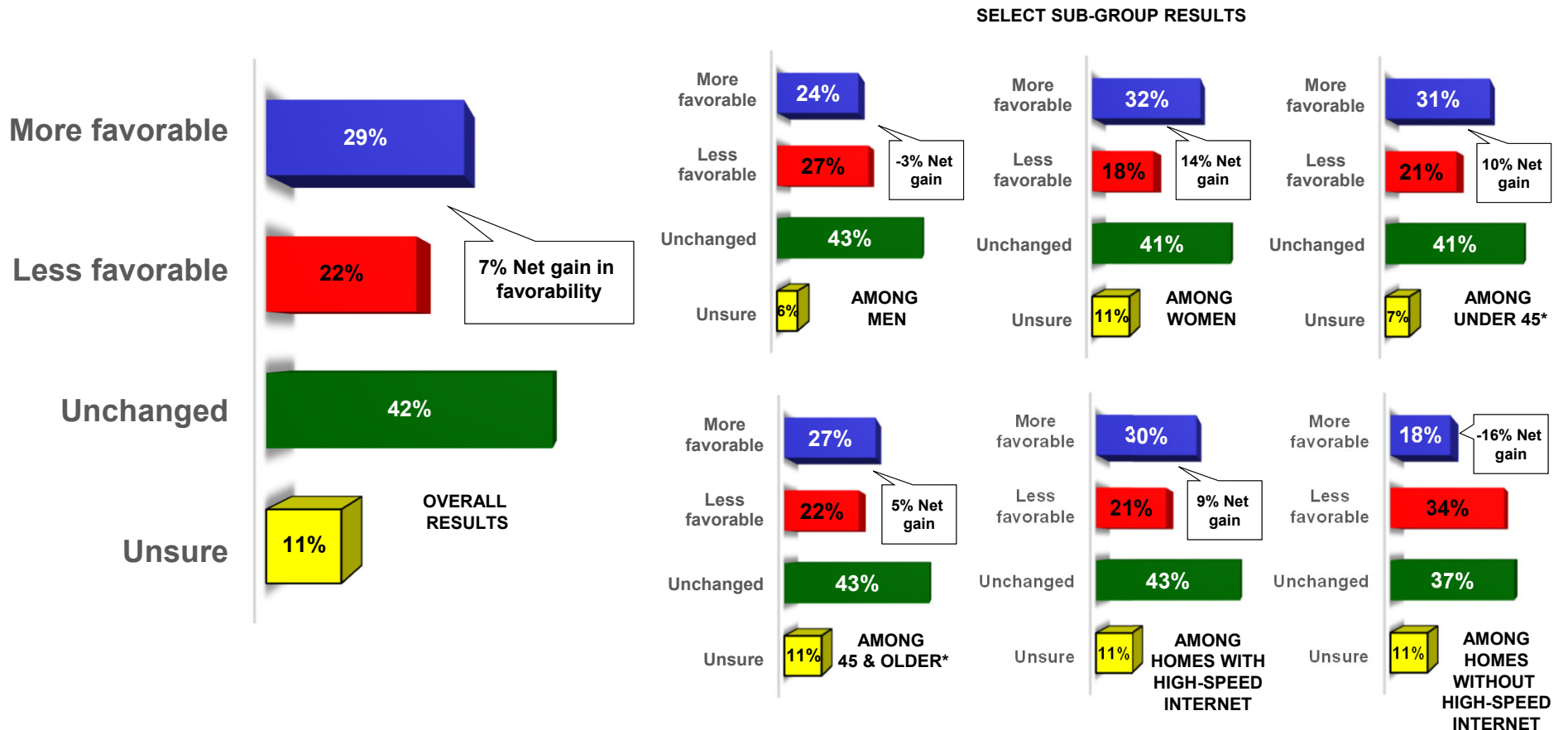
Comparative Perceptions Of Progress

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Overall, a narrow majority of opinions about remote learning have changed since the shutdown began, but the net gain in support for the concept was negligible



Now that you have seen what can be done with online teaching & remote learning, has your opinion of it become more favorable, less favorable or unchanged?

Informed Views

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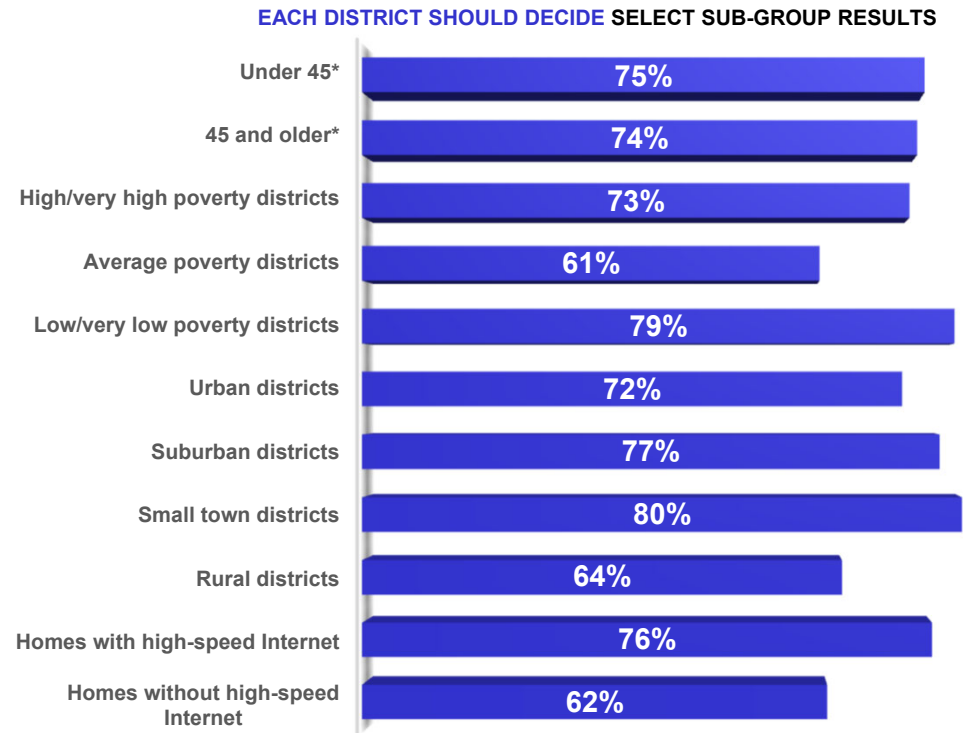
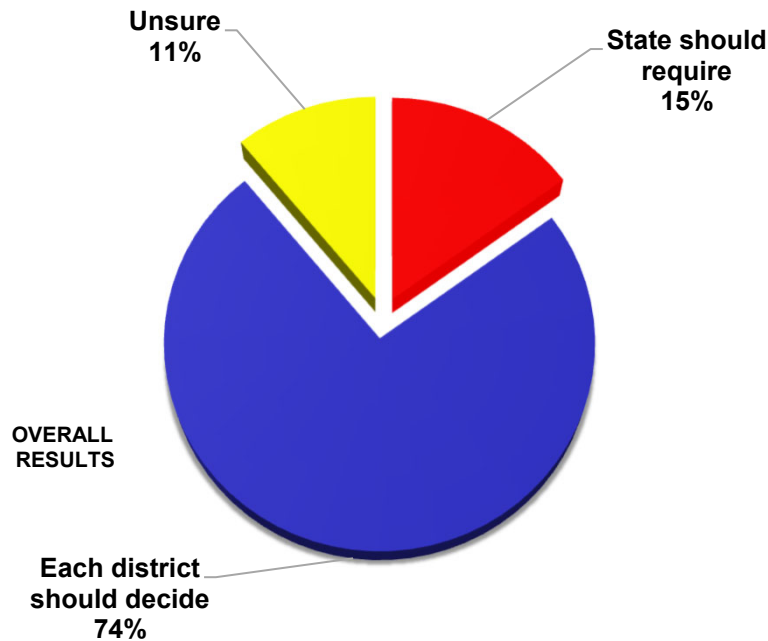


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A vote of confidence in a crisis, majorities in every sub-group felt that their districts should decide what coursework will be offered, but differences abound



Do you think each school district should be deciding the types and amount of coursework being assigned during the shutdown, so each district can work within its own capabilities or the State should be requiring that the same types and amount of coursework be assigned in all school districts during the shutdown, so students in some school districts do not fall behind?

State Or Local Control

* Differences are not statistically significant

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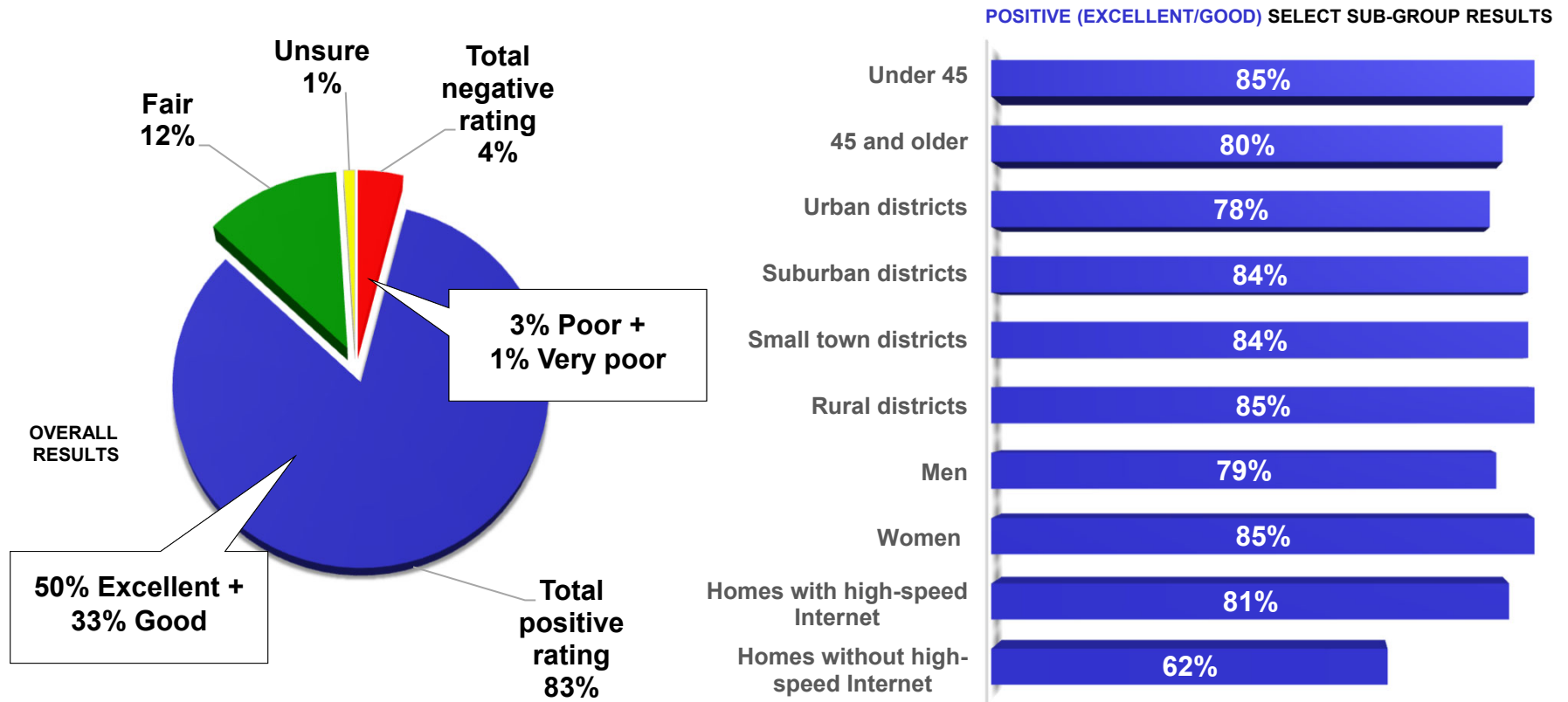


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Ratings for this were also quite high, but, curiously, parents believed that districts have done a slightly better job communicating about remote learning than implementing it!?



In general, how would you rate the job that your public school district is doing to communicate and provide information to parents during the school shutdown resulting from the Coronavirus?

Communicating With Parents

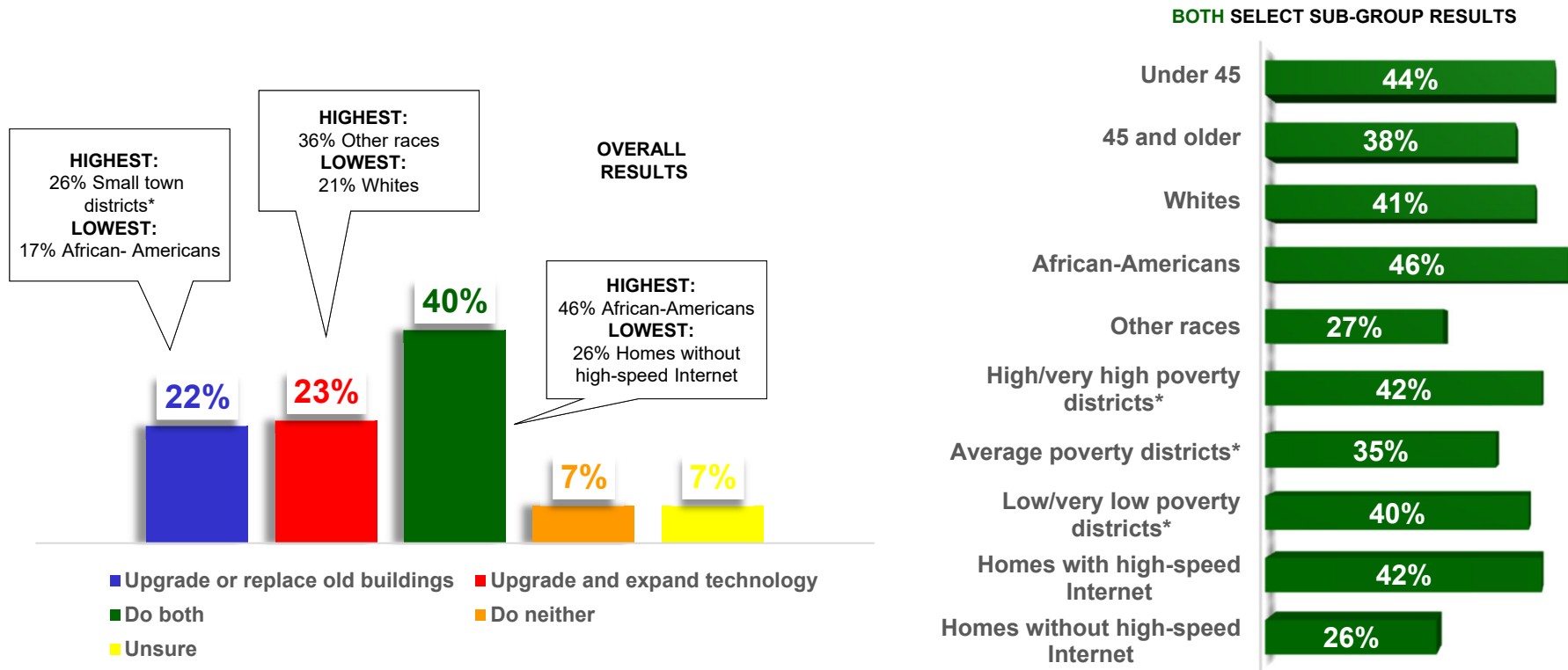
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Although the economy will affect voting for bond issues, the shutdown does not appear to have created a mandate to shift away from conventional learning environments



Now that you have seen what can be done with online learning and remote teaching, in the future, after the virus has been eliminated and life returns to normal, do you think it is better to spend school tax dollars to upgrade or replace old school buildings for traditional in-school classes, upgrade and expand technology for online teaching and remote learning, neither or both?

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Future Capital Needs

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- 41 percent of the respondents reported that their children had received computers or other equipment from their school districts in order to complete the schoolwork that had been assigned during the virus shutdown, including 37 percent among those residing in rural areas and 38 percent of those in high or very high poverty school districts
- 91 percent of respondents reported that they had high-speed Internet service in their homes (excluding WIFI hotspots or other equipment they may have recently gotten from their school districts), including 81 percent among parents in rural areas
- 83 percent of respondents said they believed they had the equipment necessary for their children to complete the schoolwork that had been assigned during the virus shutdown, but that sentiment was only 44 percent among those who did not have high-speed Internet service in their homes
- Among the original pool of respondents (which included those whose responses about online teaching & remote learning were not tabulated because their children had not yet been receiving it) 3 percent indicated that their respective school districts were only providing take-away or home-delivered meals. 12 percent said their districts were neither providing online teaching & remote learning nor take-away or home-delivered meals at the time the survey was conducted, which could partly be indicative of a lack of awareness of such services being offered

Other Findings

- School districts appeared to have earned the confidence of their parents through the work they have done to deploy online teaching and remote learning, as well as keeping parents informed, which may be why there was so little disenchantment exhibited in the survey results
- Most impressively, understanding the expectations and burdens of the shutdown, most districts seemed to have adroitly struck the right balances with the types and amounts of schoolwork being assigned, which is remarkable given the lack of precedent for this situation. It reflects how carefully attuned superintendents, curriculum advisers and teachers are to the capabilities of their students and the unique demands being placed on parents who are trying to help their children adapt
- Garnering the largest consensus in the survey, the fact that the vast majority of parents felt that their districts should be deciding what coursework should be offered, rather than the State, is another indication – a rather impressive one – of the deep reservoir of trust that is likely a product of both the ways districts have responded to the shutdown and their track records of past performance
- Despite the success that can be inferred, there appeared to be no indication that conventional schooling, such as classrooms, have fallen out of favor as a result. In fact, there may eventually be clamoring for more updated and expanded capabilities within them, as parents continue to become more cognizant of the potential that technology offers to modern learning milieus
- The shutdown may have magnified the digital divide that existed and may serve as an urgent call for greater broadband access to be deployed throughout Ohio, as it probably also has similarly hindered small businesses that are trying to remain viable and small local governments trying to inform and advise their citizens

Key Takeaways

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METHODS: This survey research data was gathered through secure SMS-text based digital surveys among 1,108 randomly-selected Ohio registered voters who were public school parents. The surveys were performed on April 6, 2020. The overall estimated margin of sampling error is +/- 2.94 percent, based on a confidence level of 95 percent, although it varies for each individual question. This means that if this survey were repeated, 95 times out of 100 the results would be within plus or minus 2.94 percent of those provided herein. Adjustments were made to weight the results toward estimates of demographic and geographic characteristics of Ohio's public school parent population among voters, in order to account for under- and over-sampling that normally occurs as a result of the random selection process, and to ensure that all major sub-groups are represented in proportion to their actual percentages. Like all polls, this survey research is subject to other possible sources of error, such as unintentional bias in the wording of questions, data-entry error and nonresponse bias.

Paul Fallon is a public opinion researcher & political pollster for public school districts, architecture & engineering firms, levy & bond issue committees, interest groups, PACs, public agencies, unions and trade associations. He also conducts parent, voter, member and citizen satisfaction studies for governments, industry & labor groups and political campaigns. Among his areas of specialization, Paul works extensively in the field of public education, district planning and citizen satisfaction. His company specializes in telephone interviews, digital surveys and onsite & electronic focus group testing, but also performs other forms of opinion research and data-gathering. The company has worked in 40 different U.S. states and provides specialty services, such as electronic ad testing and Spanish language interviewing.



This survey data was not funded or commissioned by any organization or committee. Permission is granted for distribution to share this information with any interested parties.

About The Study

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QUESTIONS?

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