NEW SOUTH RESEARCH

Mountain Brook Schools Parent Survey

February 2008

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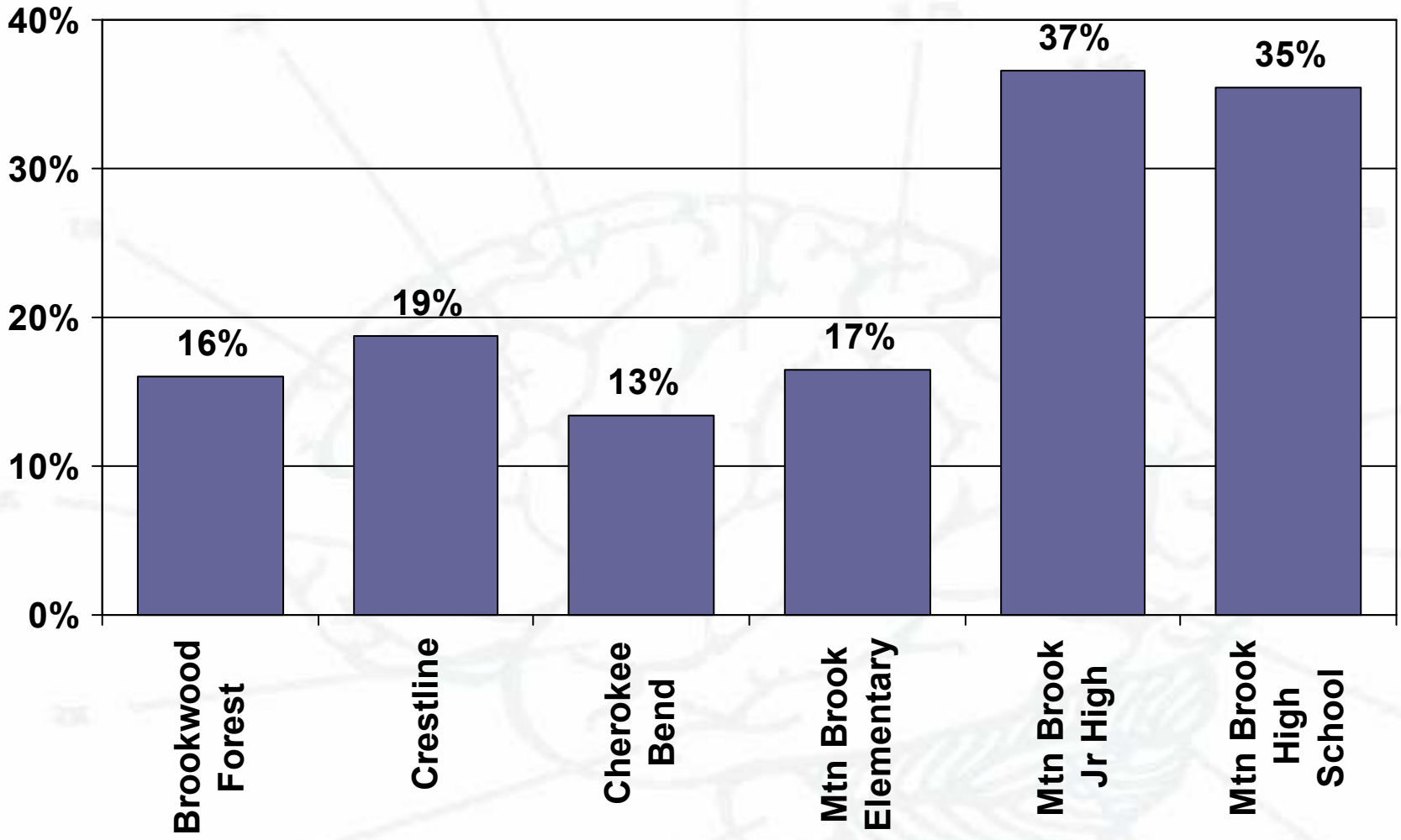
Introduction

- In February 2008, New South Research conducted an online survey of parents with children in the Mountain Brook Schools. The primary objective of the survey was to evaluate the level of satisfaction of parents with their children's educational experience.
- In total, 904 families were invited by email to participate in the survey. The parents were initially contacted by the Superintendent, Dr. Mason, and were then invited to participate by New South Research. Those who had not responded after two days were reminded about the survey in a second email, and the parents were sent a final reminder two days before the survey closed. Out of the 904 families that were contacted, 610 completed the survey giving the study a 67% response rate. The number of responses for each school is as follows:
  - Brookwood Forest Elementary 97
  - Crestline Elementary 113
  - Cherokee Bend Elementary 81
  - Mountain Brook Elementary 100
  - Mountain Brook Junior High 215
  - Mountain Brook High School 203
- A total of 610 surveys were conducted. Based on a sample of this size, the statistical margin of error is 3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence interval. That is, the results will vary by no more than +/-3.4 percentage points from the results in this report 95 times out of 100.
- Some tables presented within this report may not add up to exactly 100% because of rounding or omission of non-pertinent data.

NEW SOUTH RESEARCH

What schools are represented?

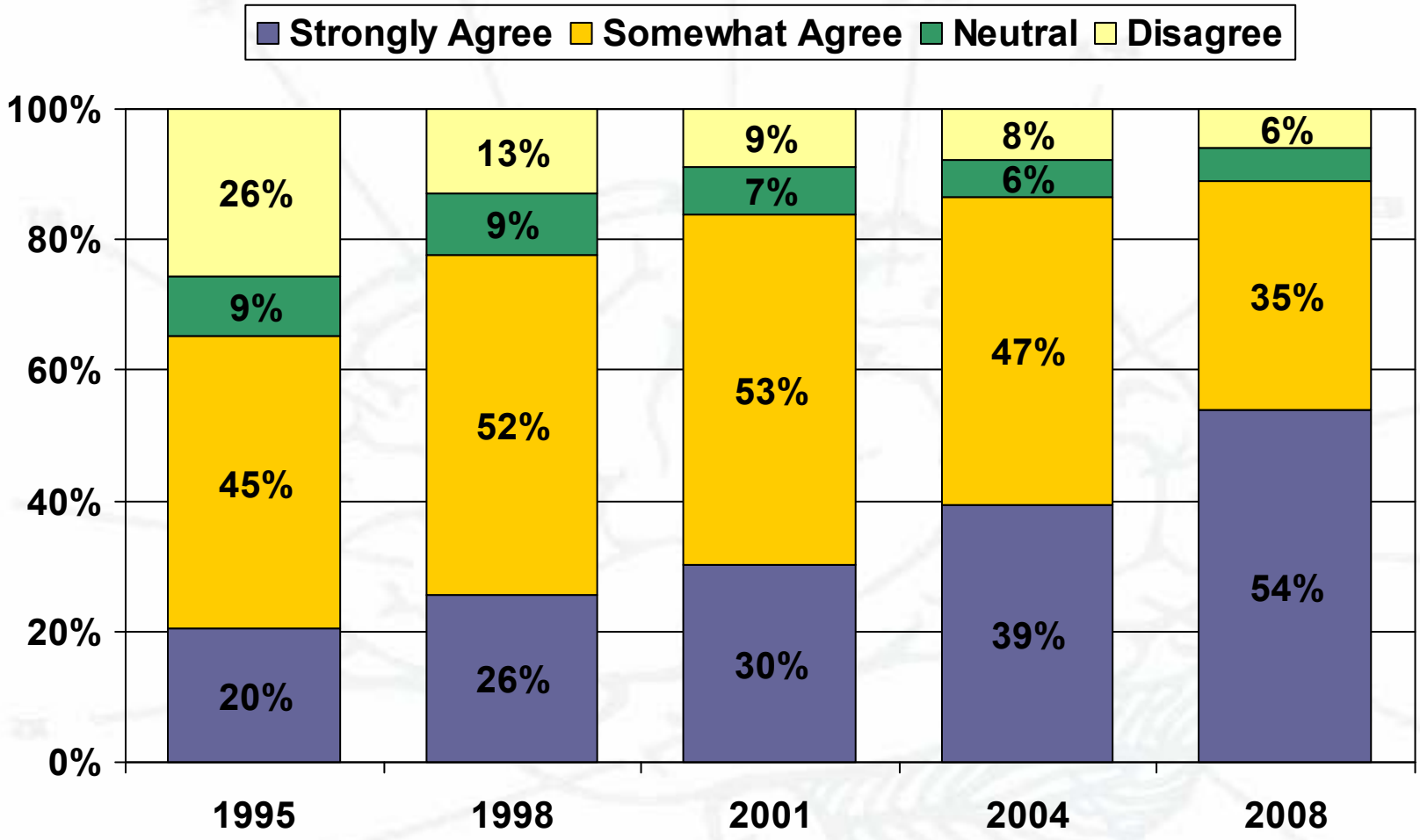
Which schools are represented?



NEW SOUTH RESEARCH

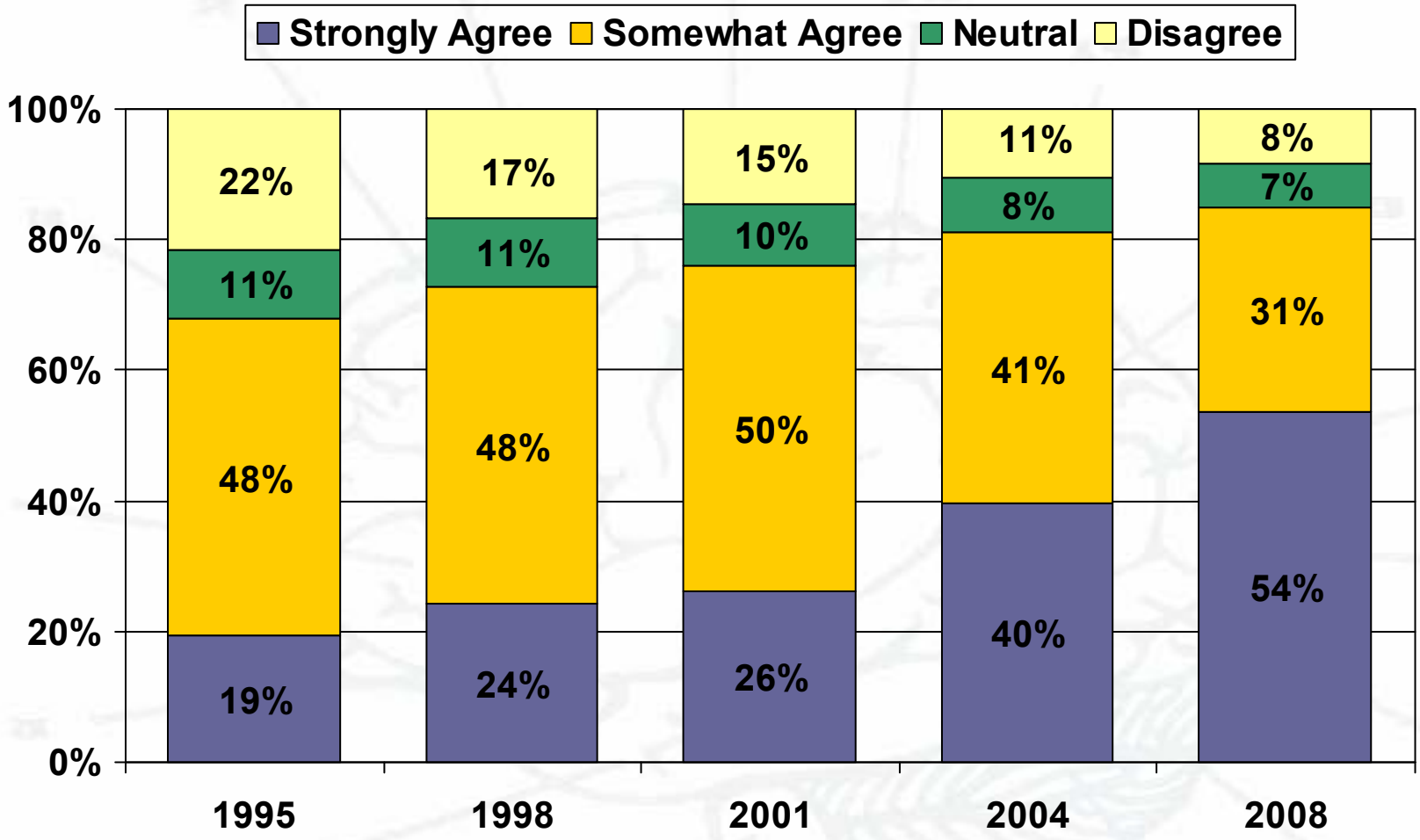
What is the satisfaction with the curricular areas at each school?

Grammar



* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

Written Composition



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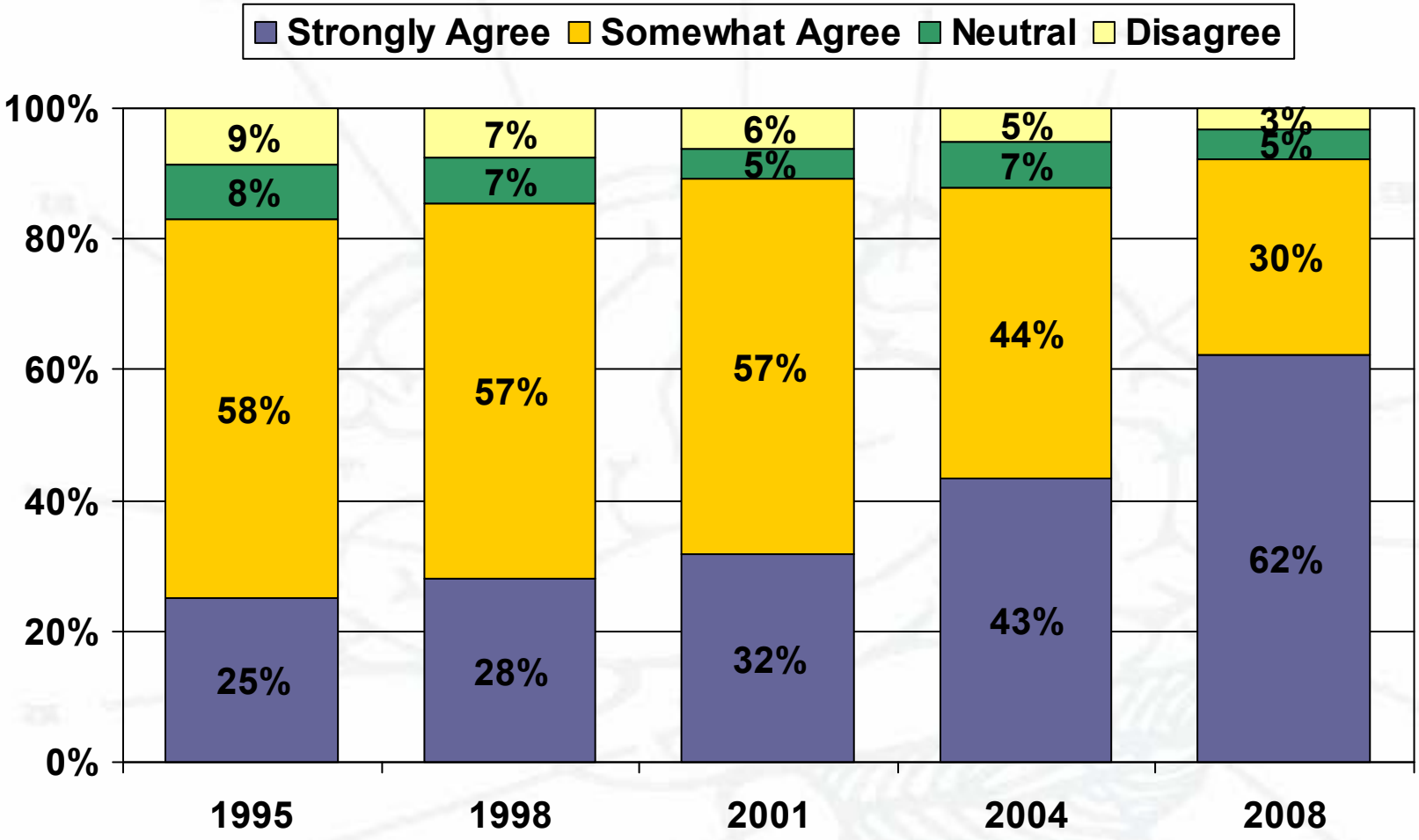
Social Studies



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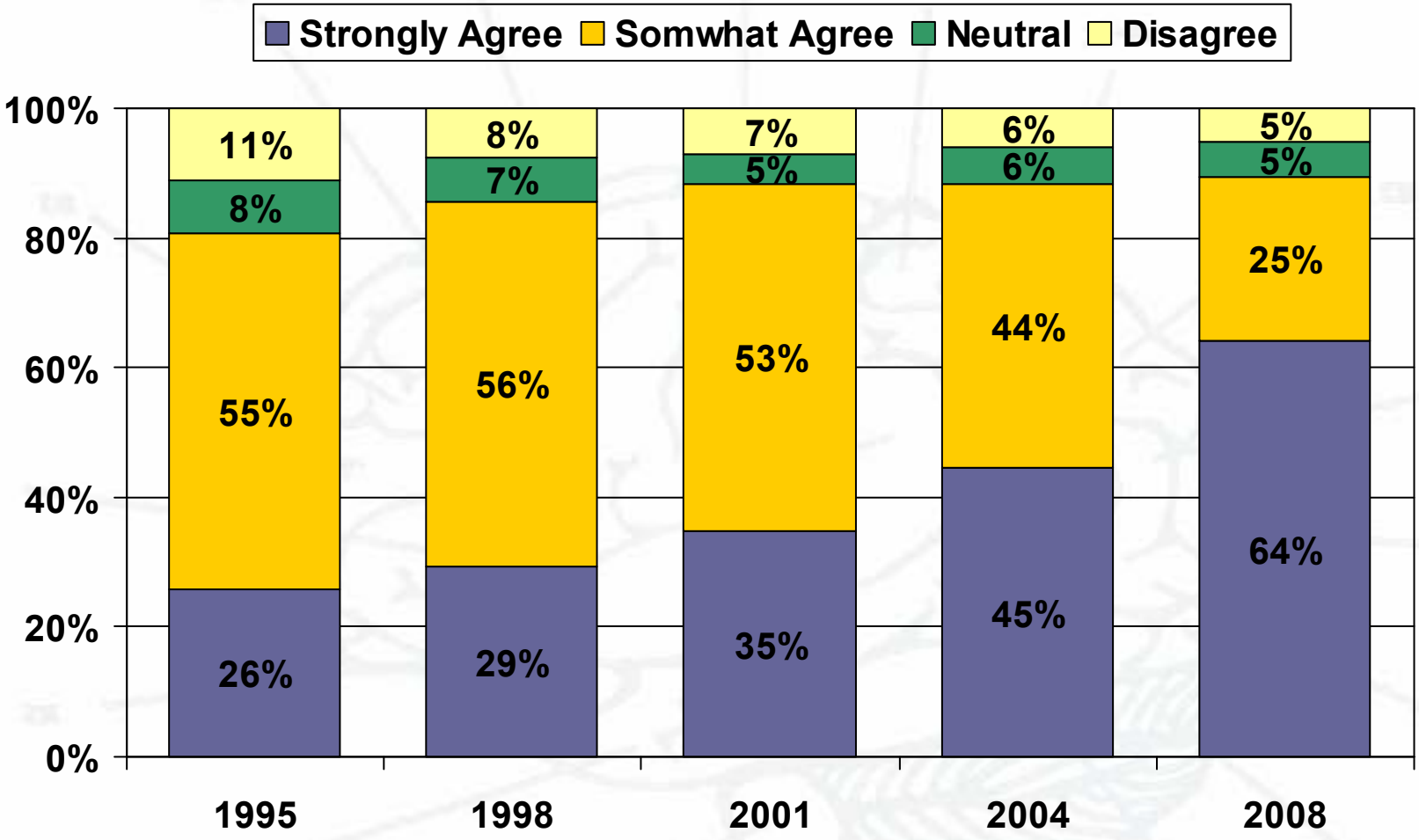
Science



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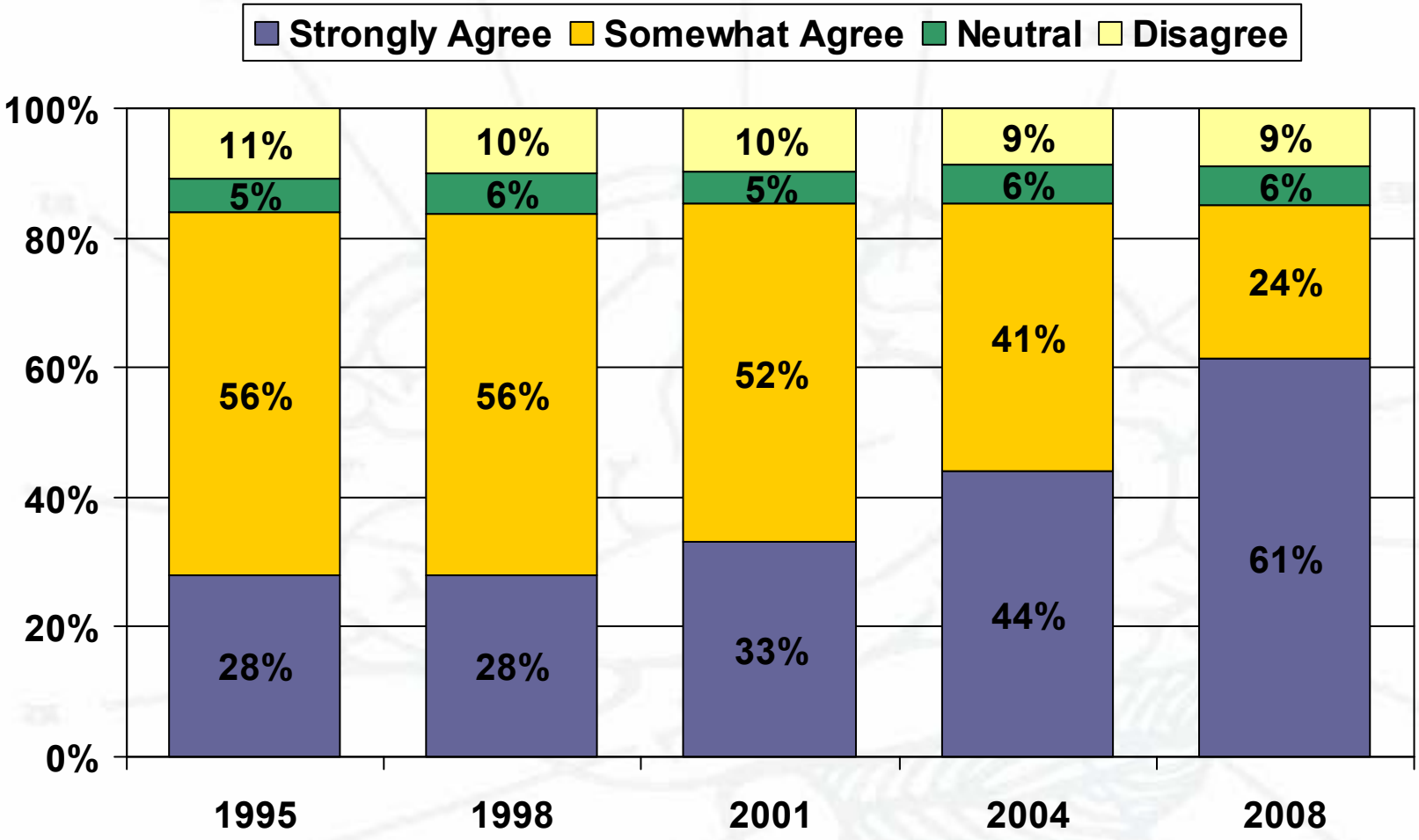
Mathematics



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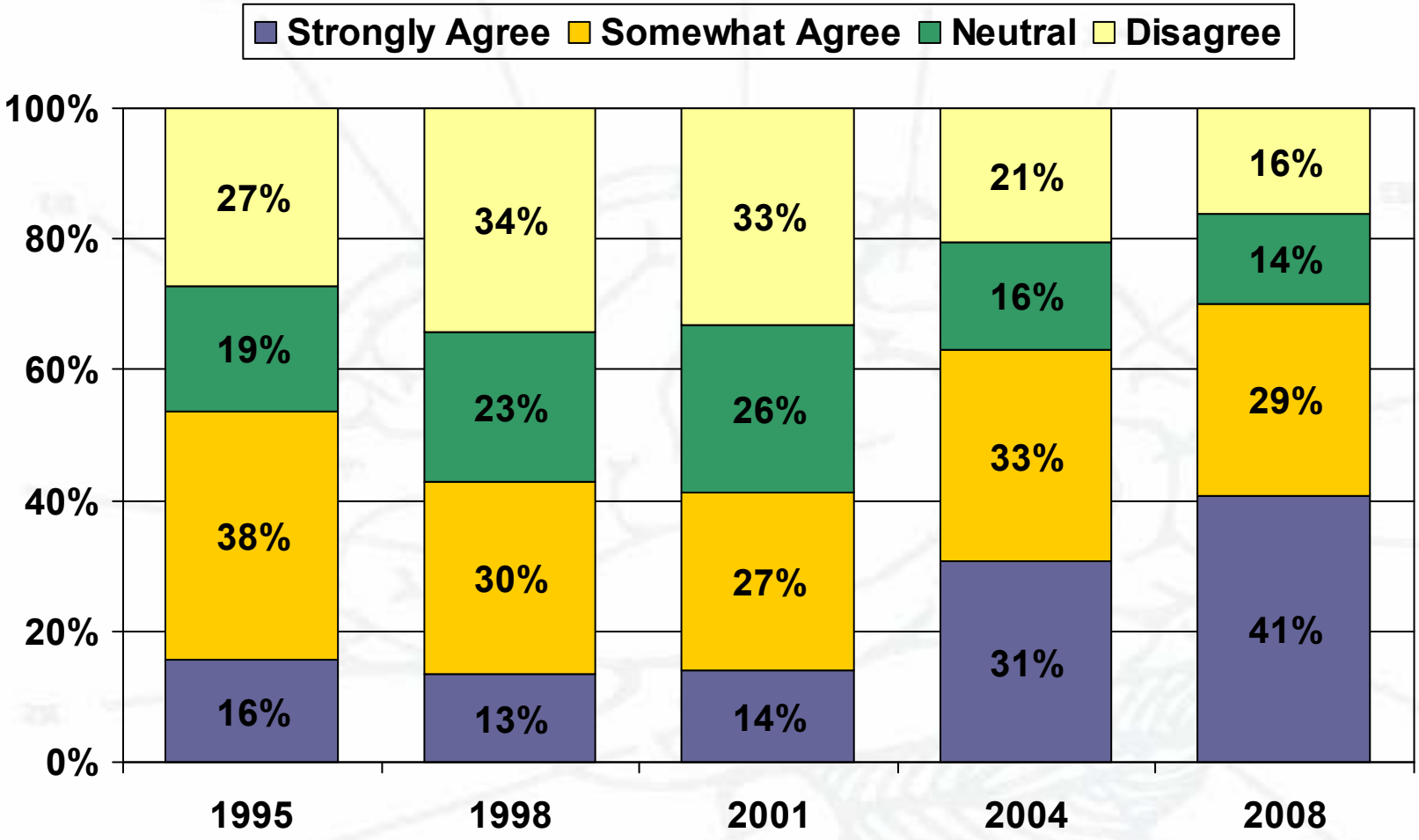
Foreign Language



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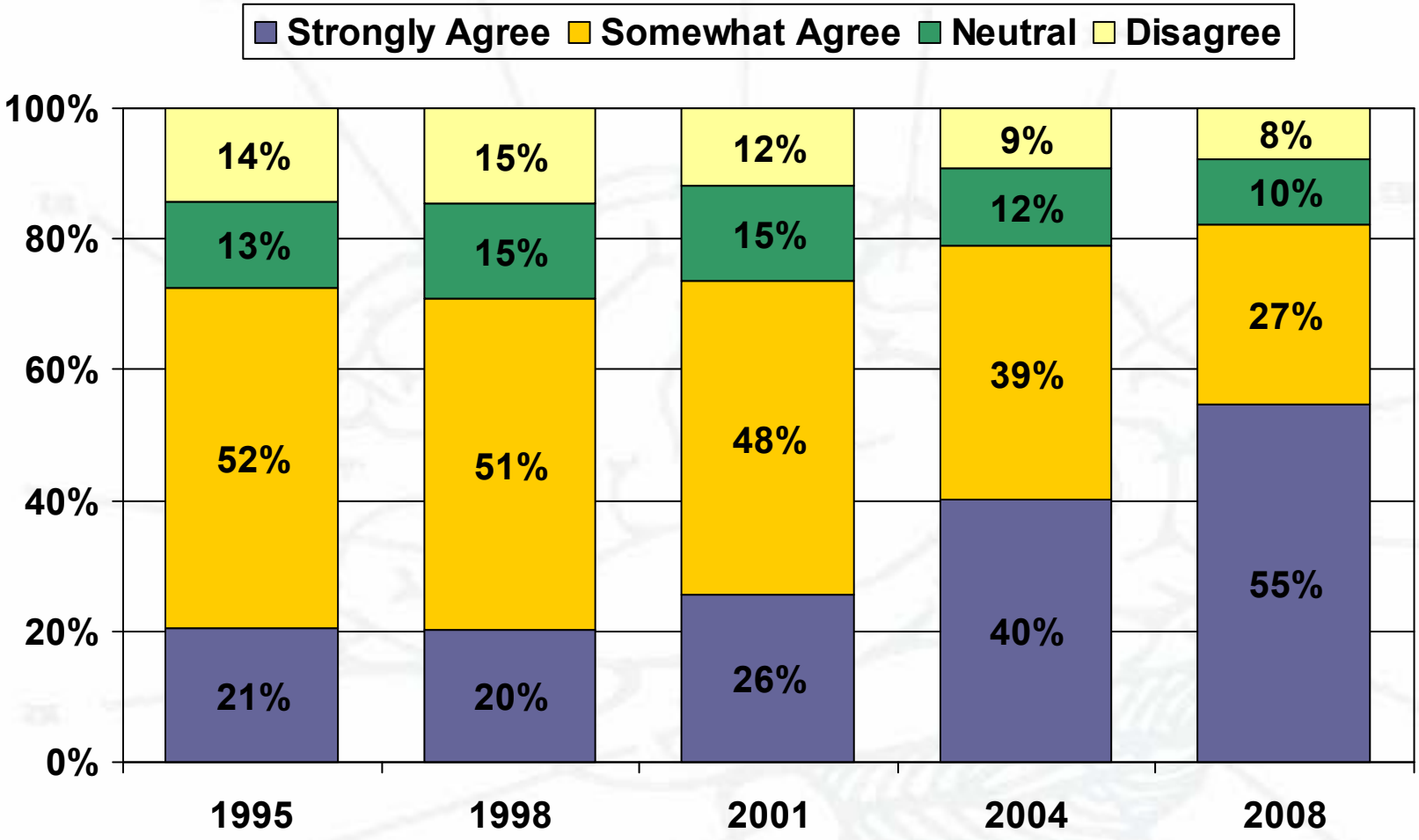
Physical Education



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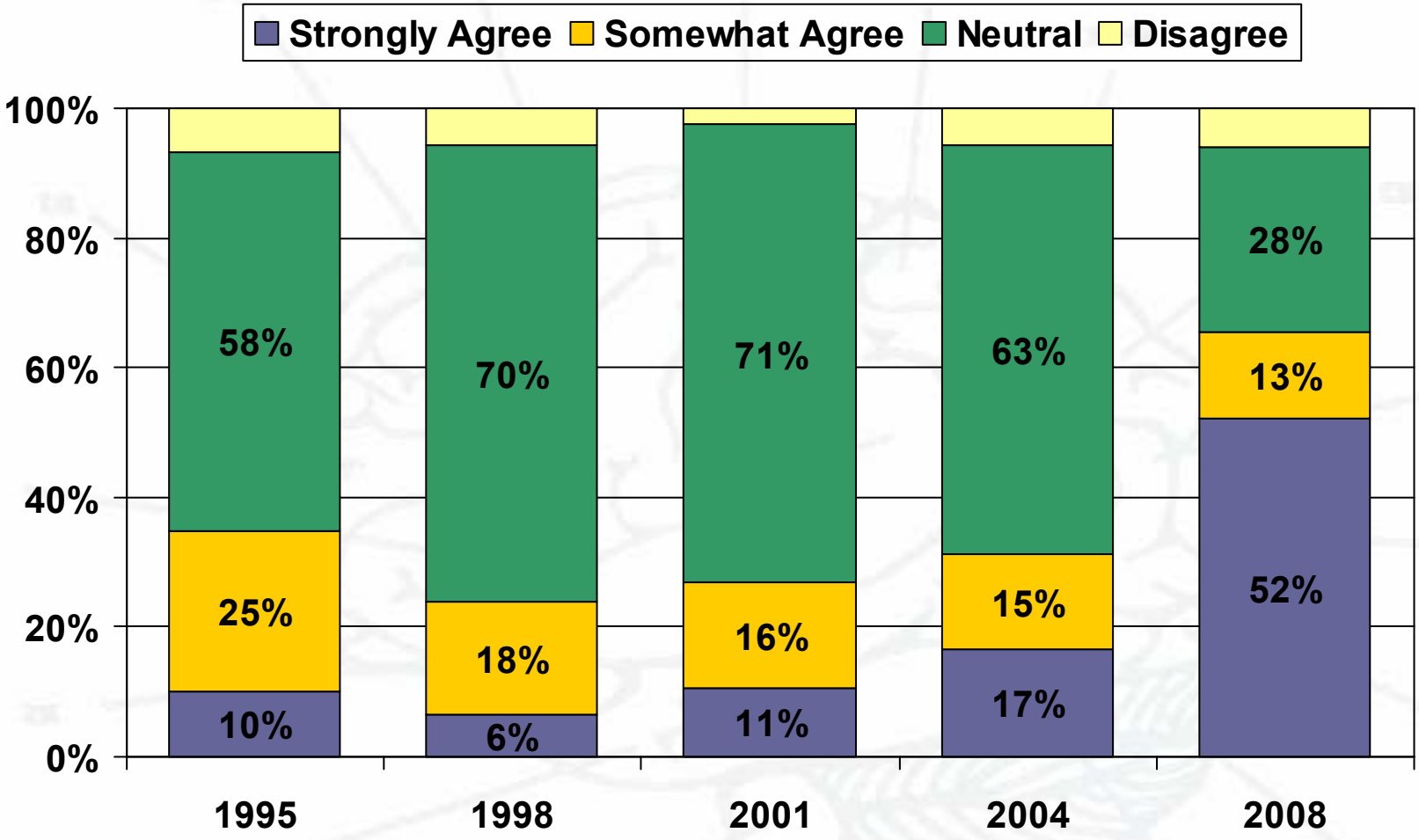
Band



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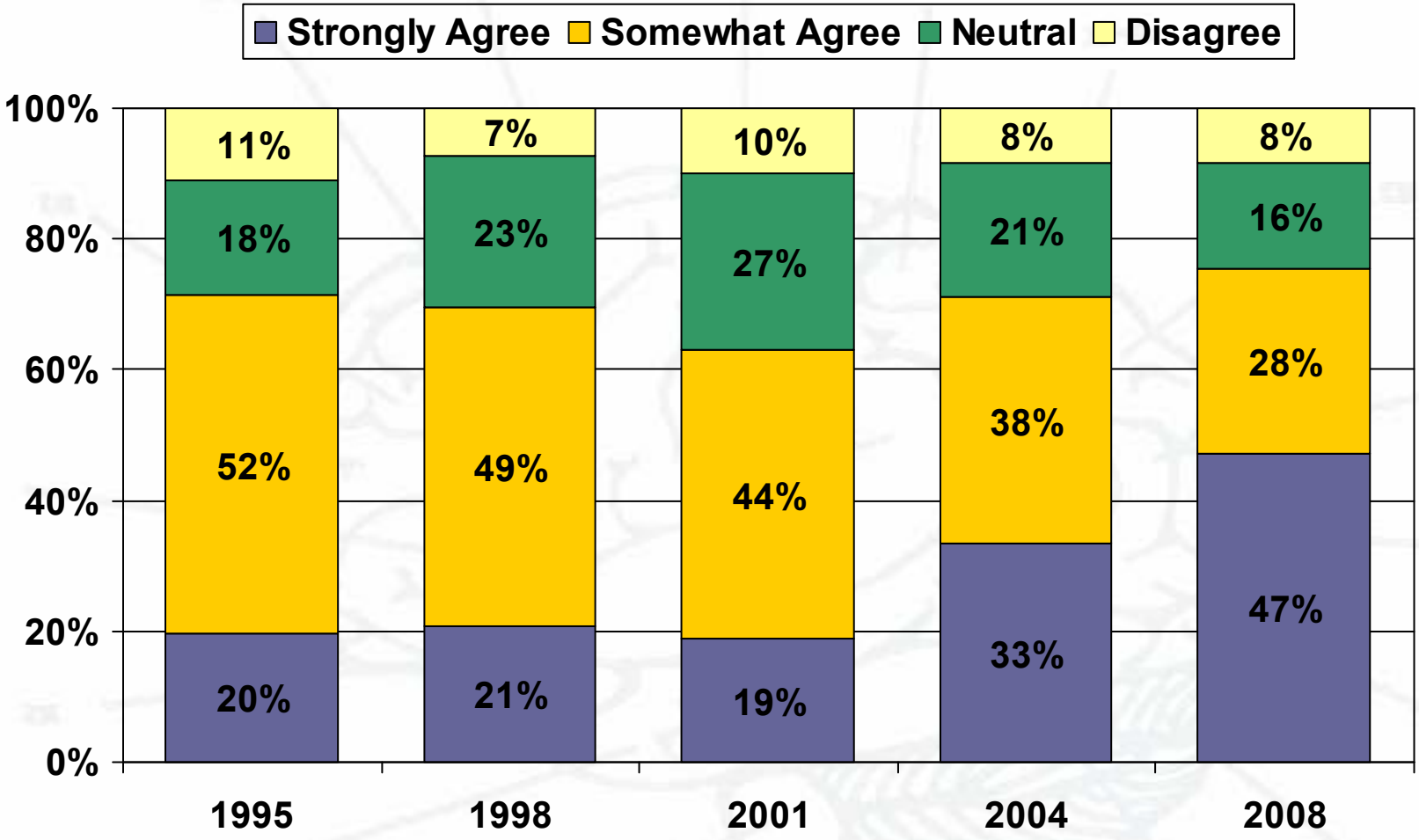
Art



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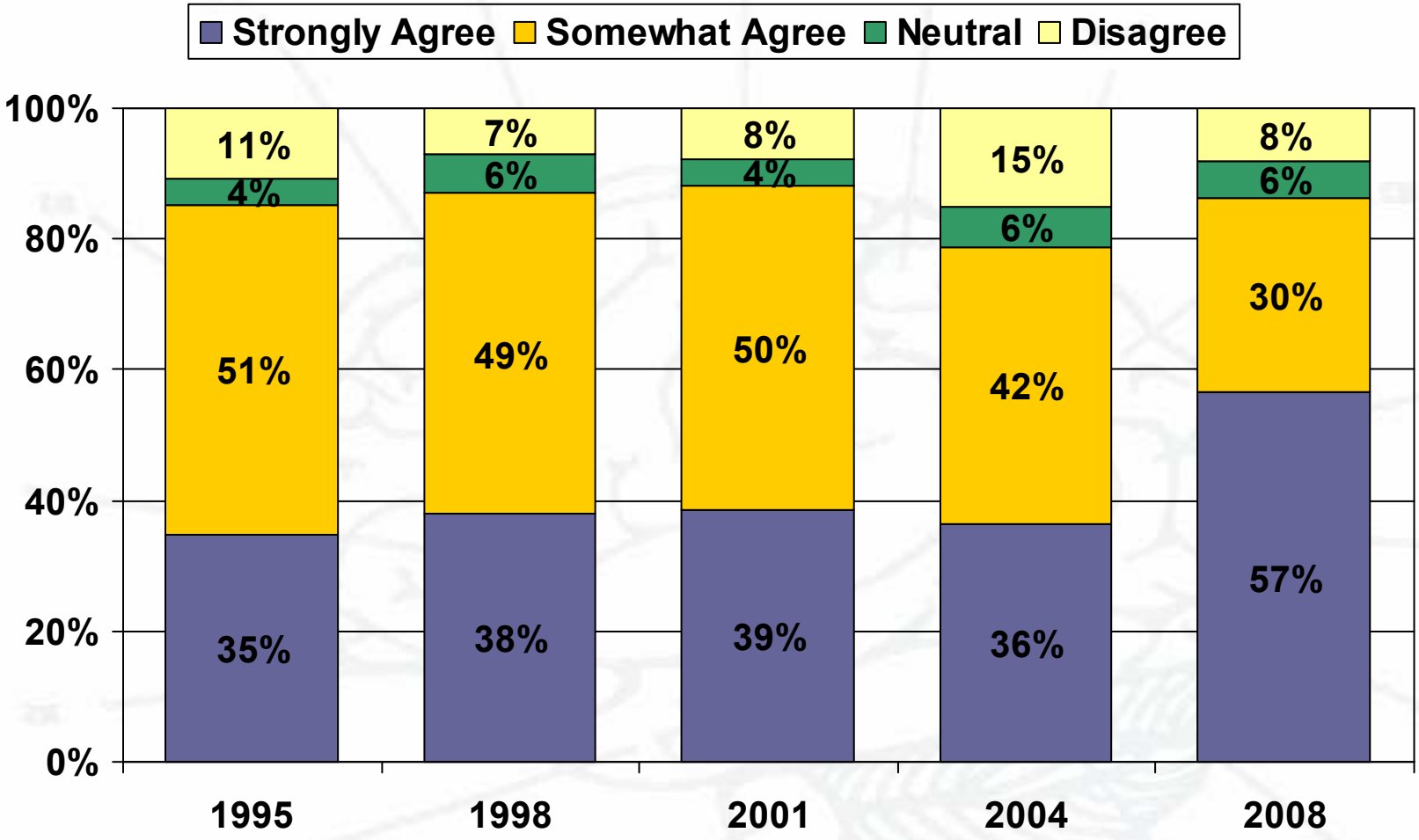
Spelling

Elementary Schools Only



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Reading

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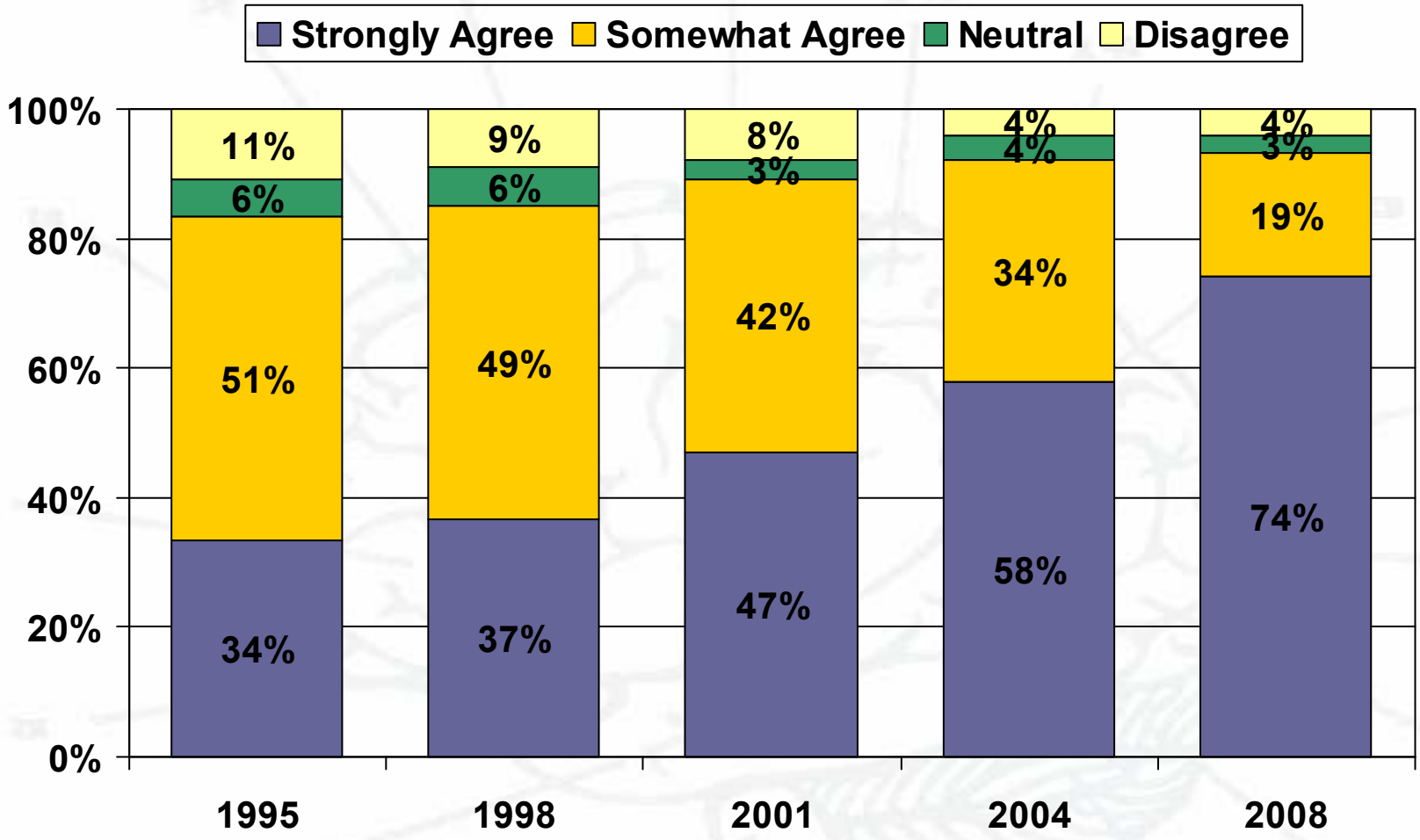

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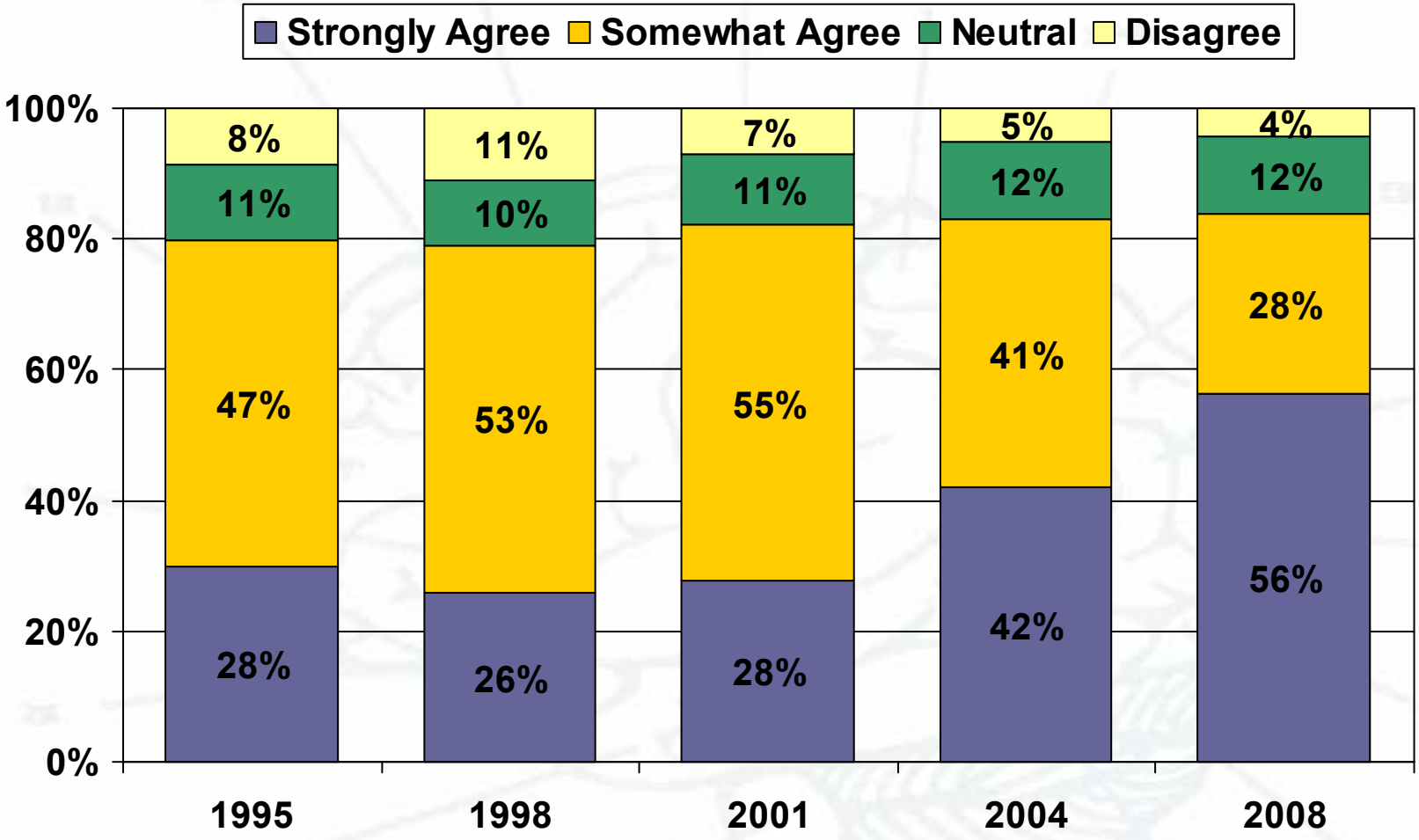
Music

Elementary Schools Only

Question wording changed from “General Music / Choral Music” to “Music” in 2008.



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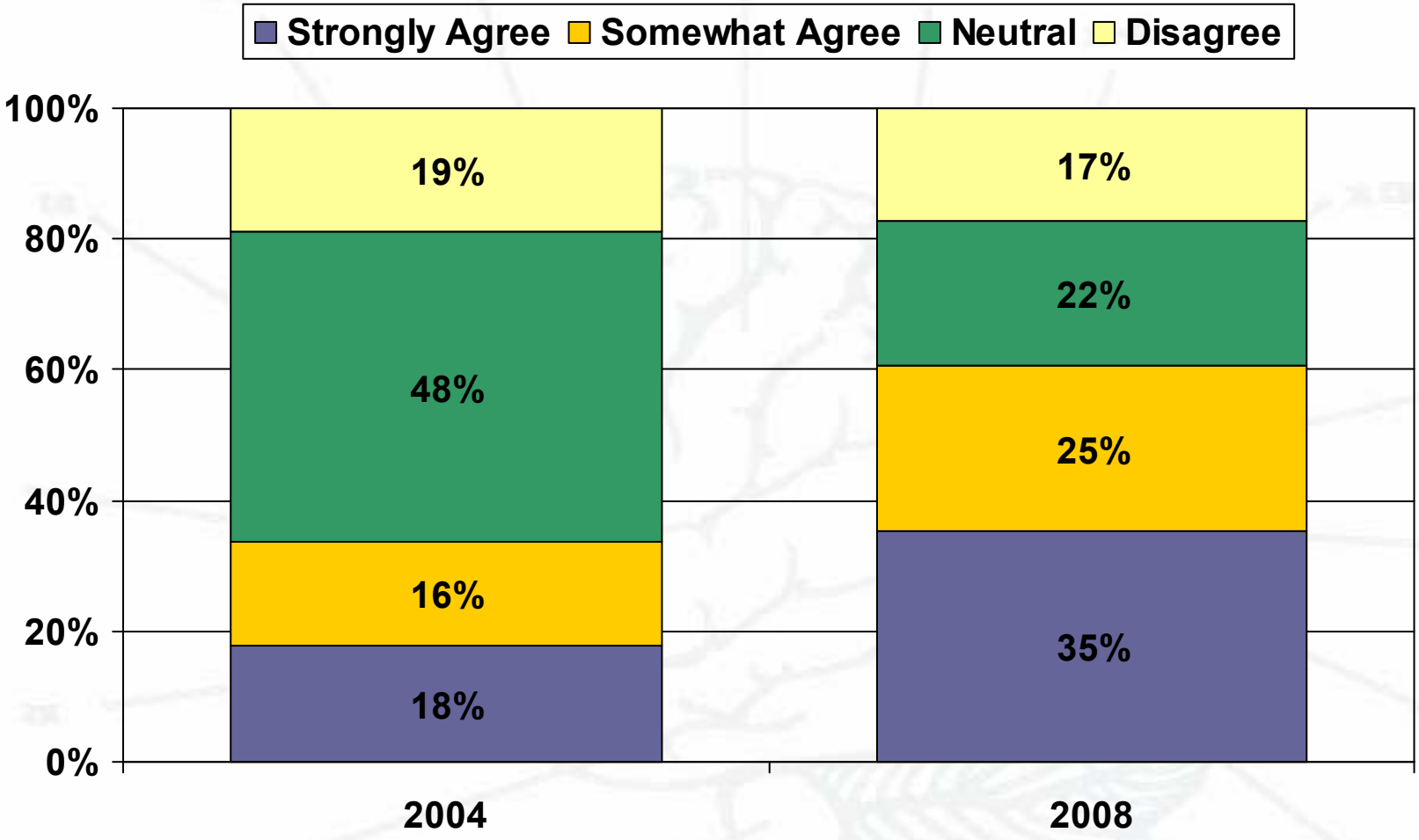
PAGE

Elementary Schools Only



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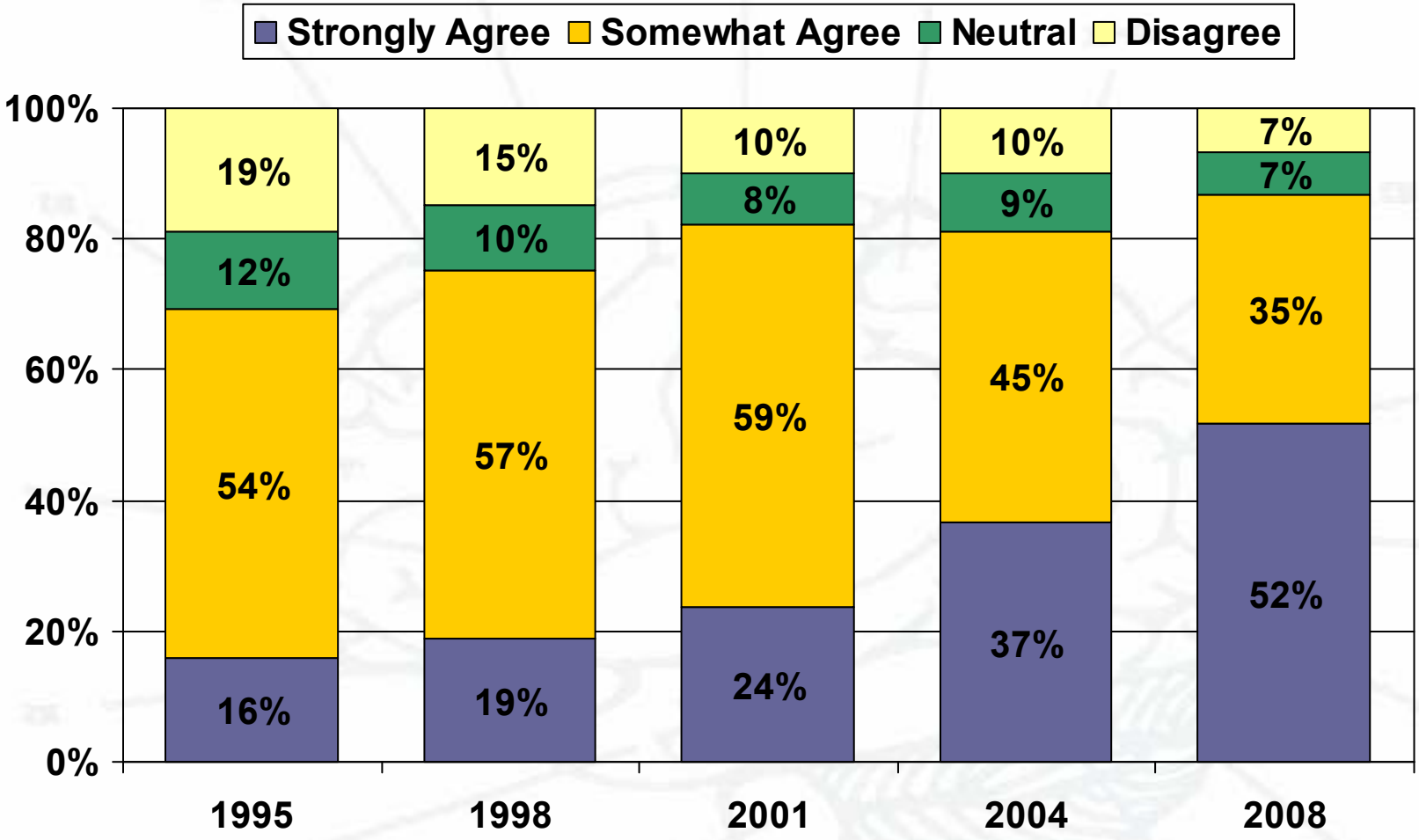
Literature

Junior High and High School Only



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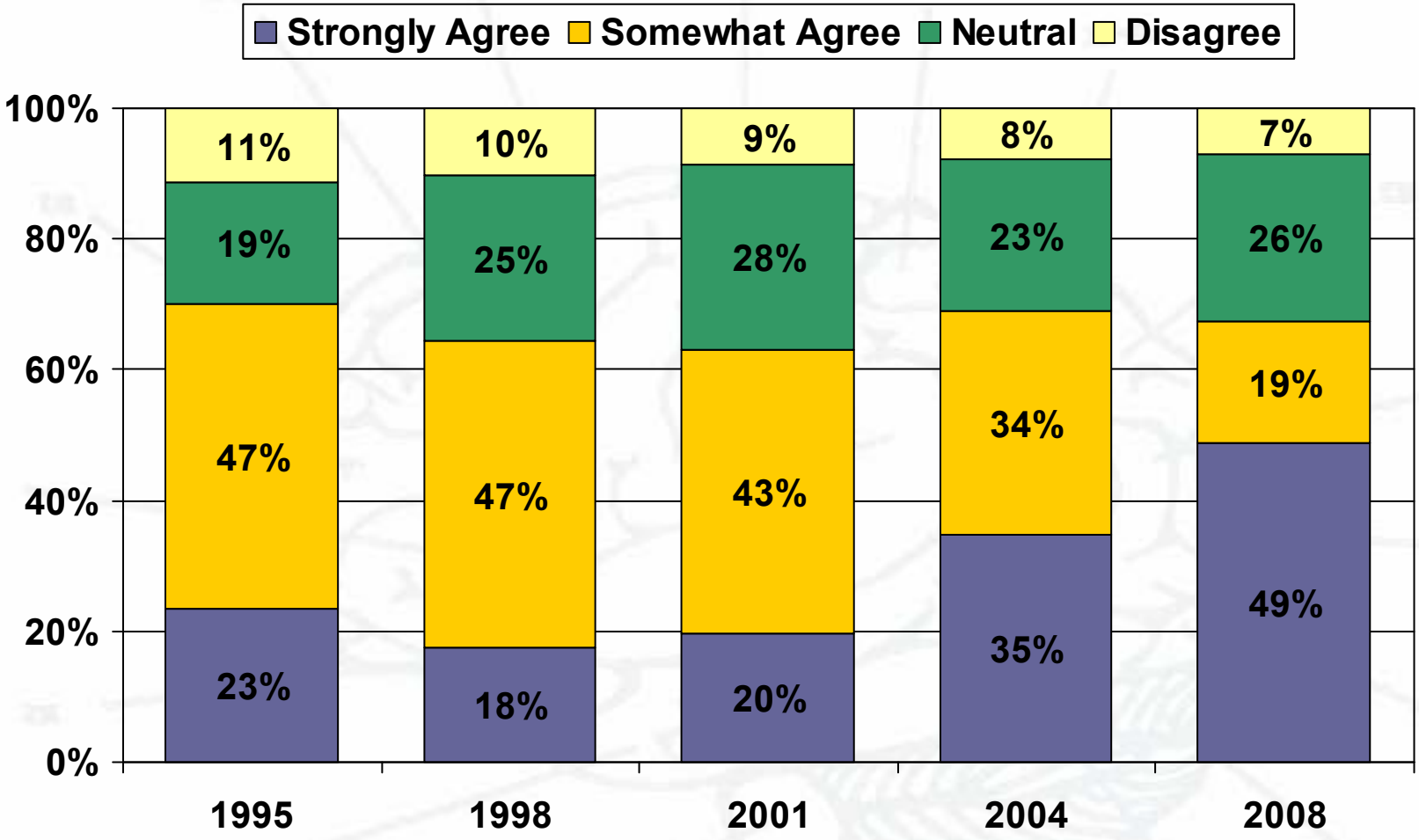
Choral Music

Junior High and High School Only



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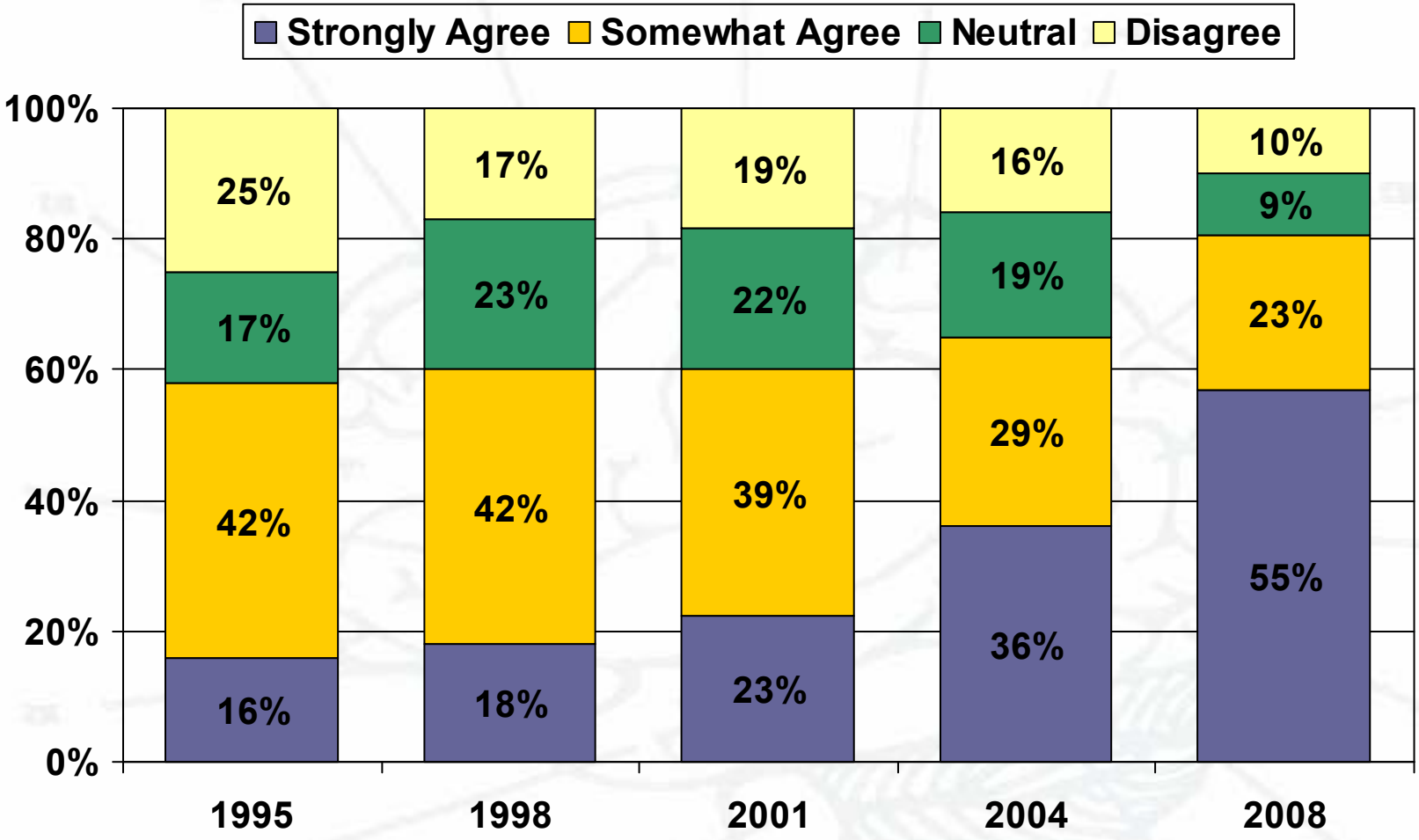
Athletic Programs

Junior High and High School Only



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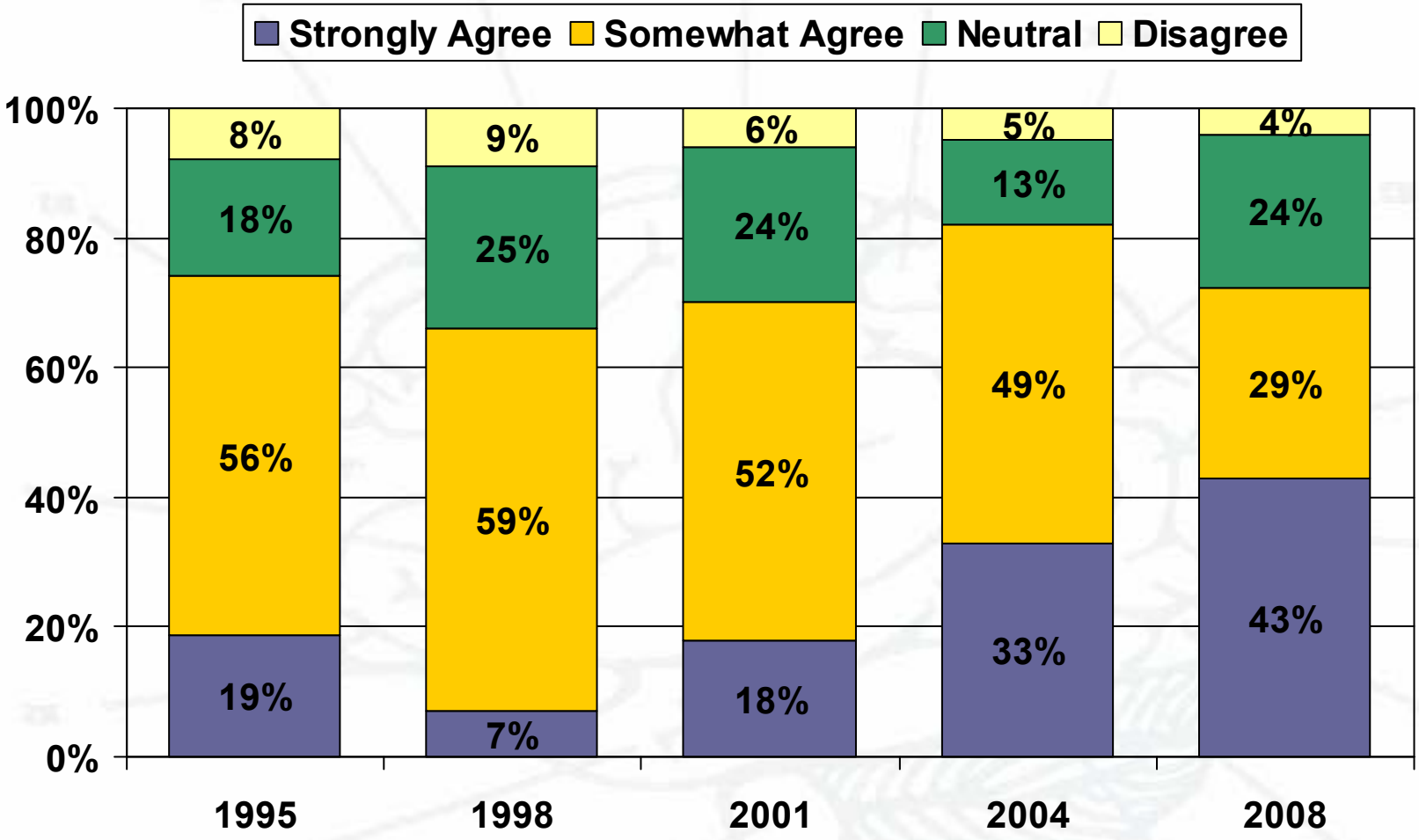
Health
Junior High



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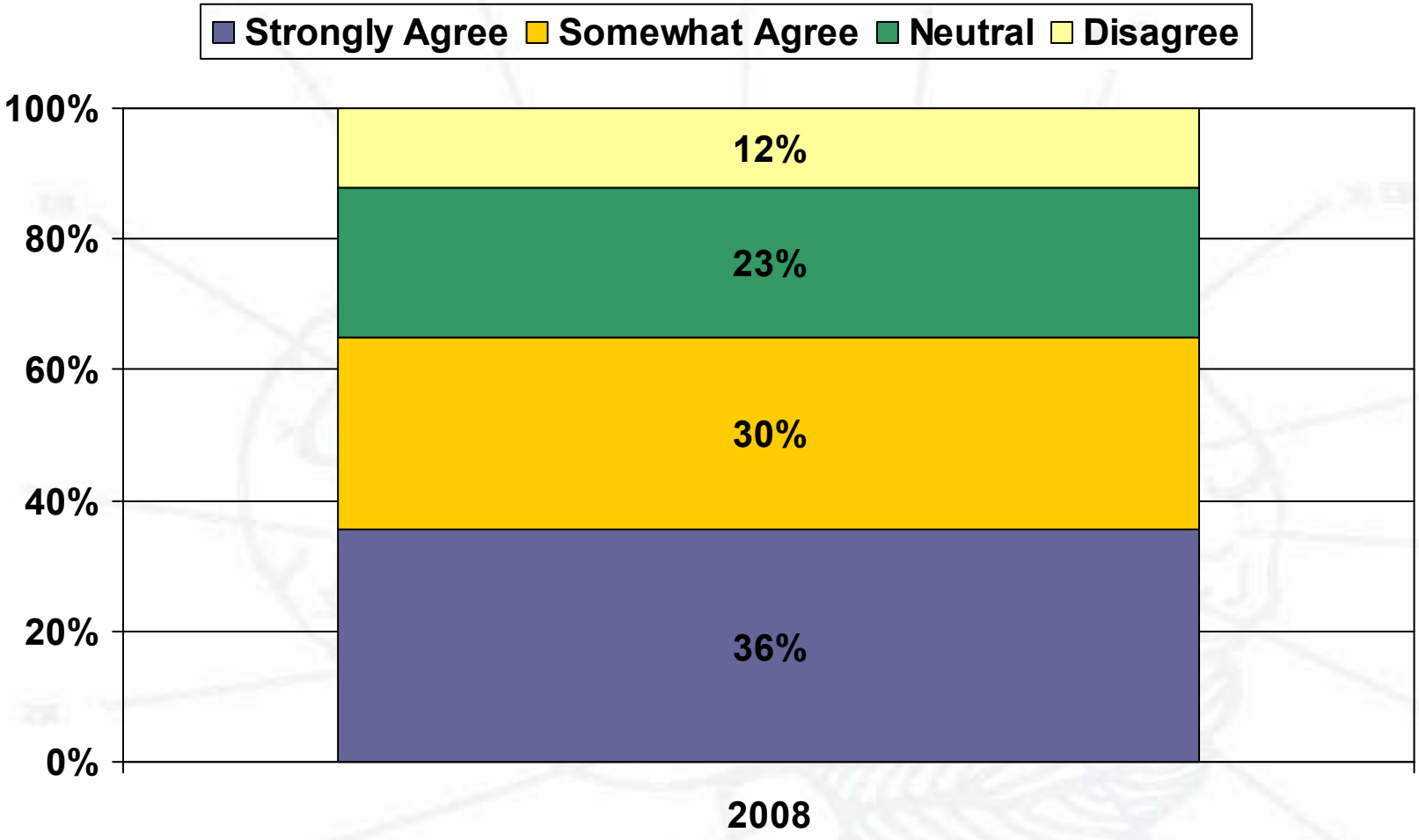
Counseling and Guidance

Junior High Only

Question wording changed from “Counseling” to “Counseling and Guidance” in 2008.



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Speech/Debate

Junior Hgh Only

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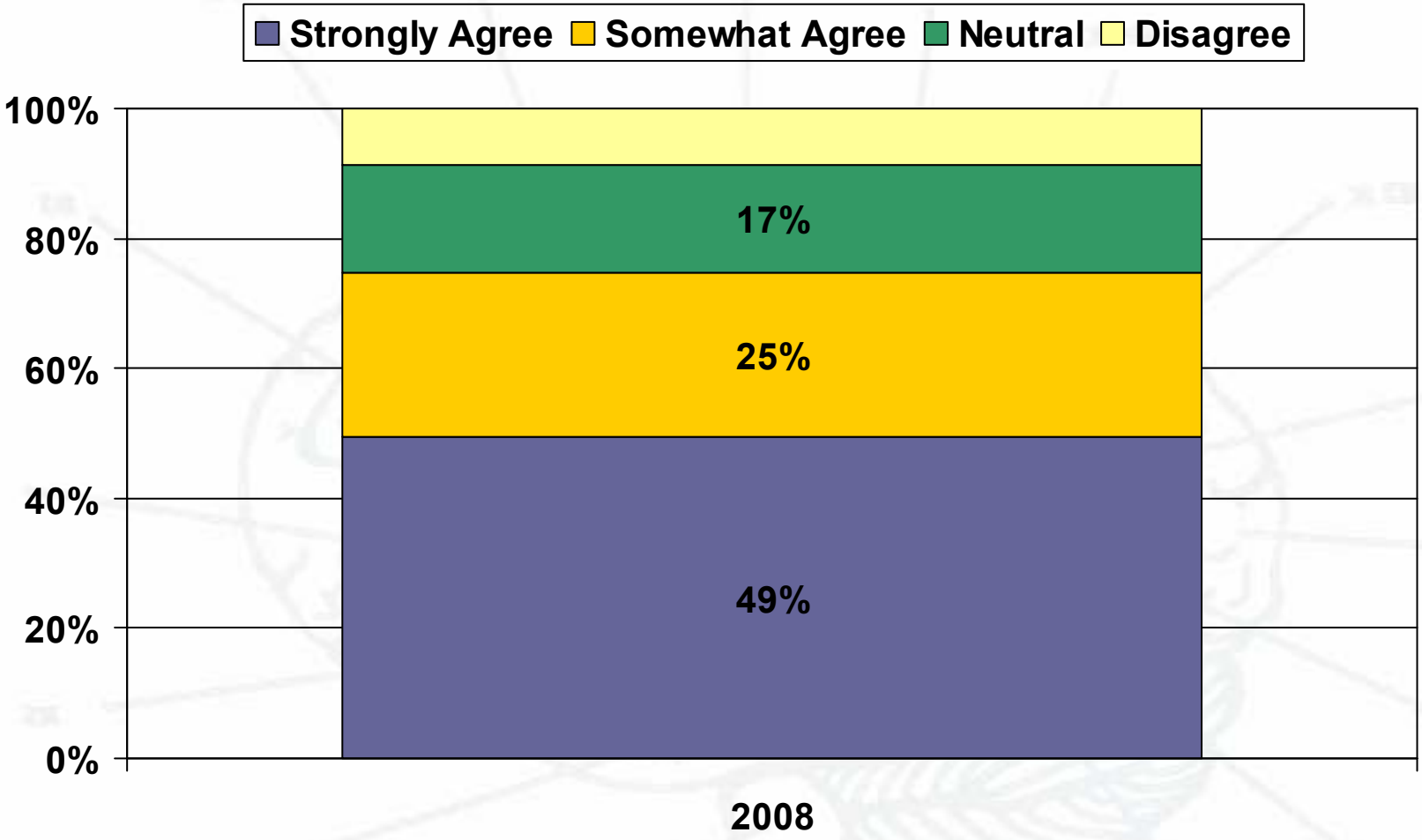

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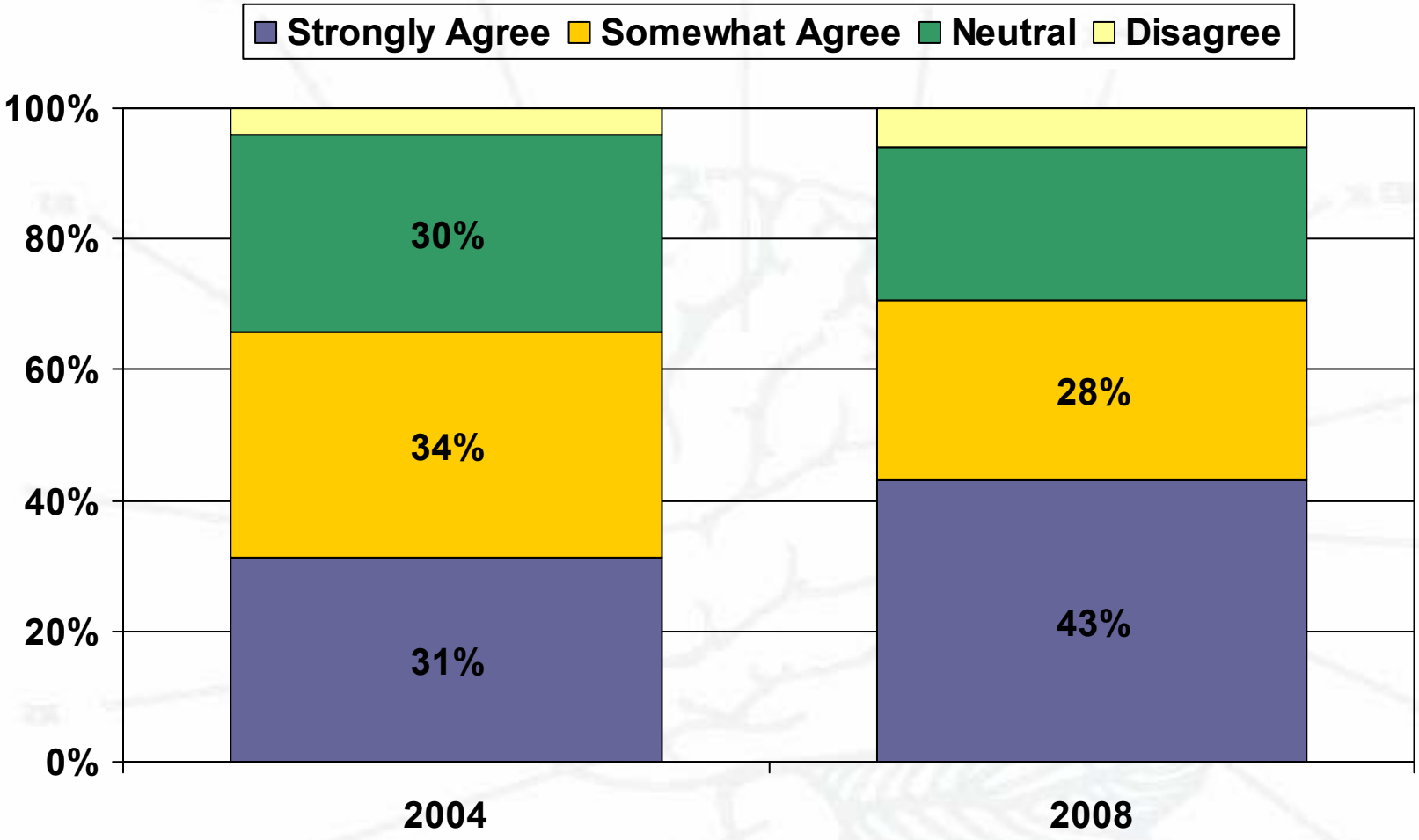
Drama

Junior High Only



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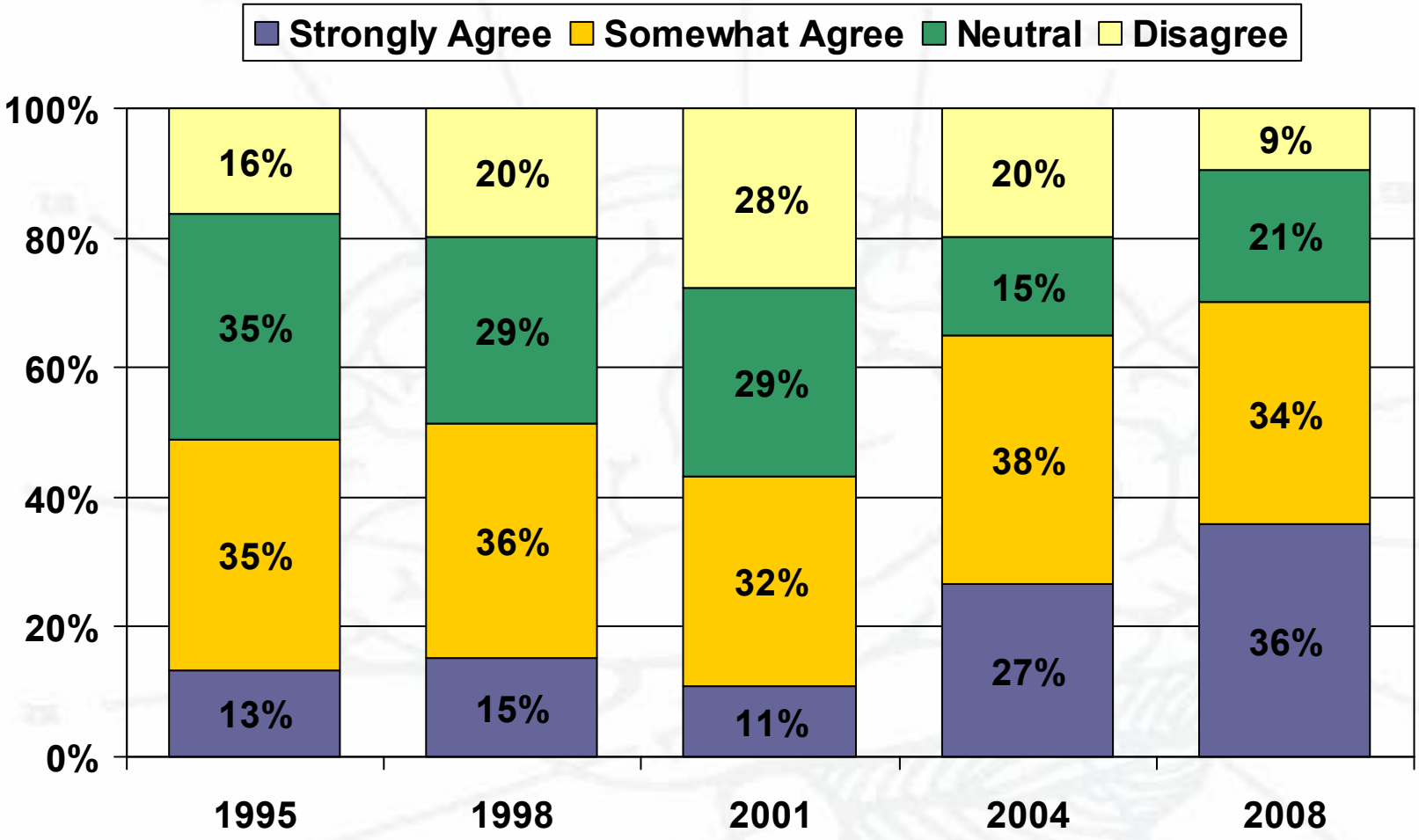
College Advisement

High School Only



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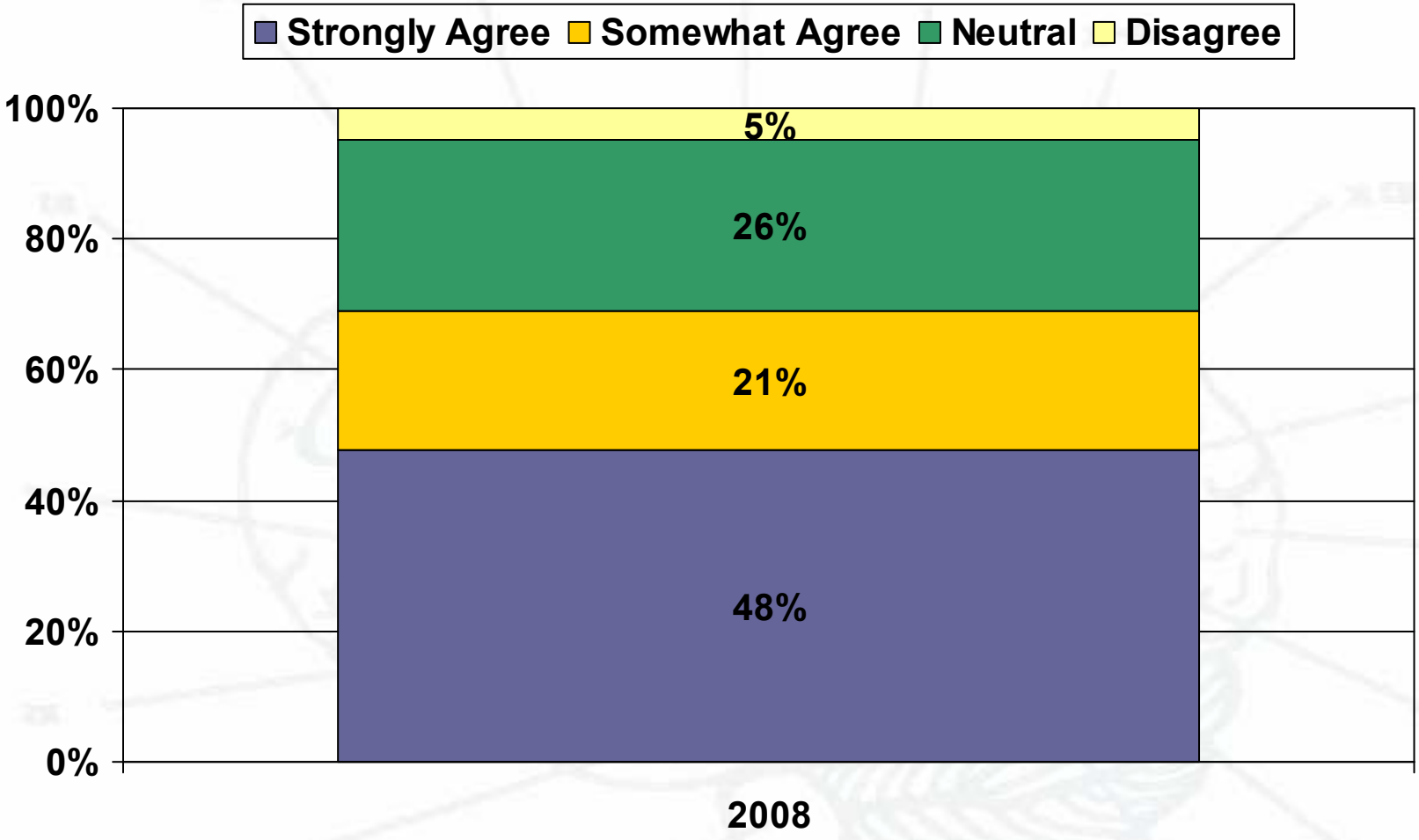
Debate / Forensics

High School Only

New Question in 2008



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Drama / Theatre

High School Only

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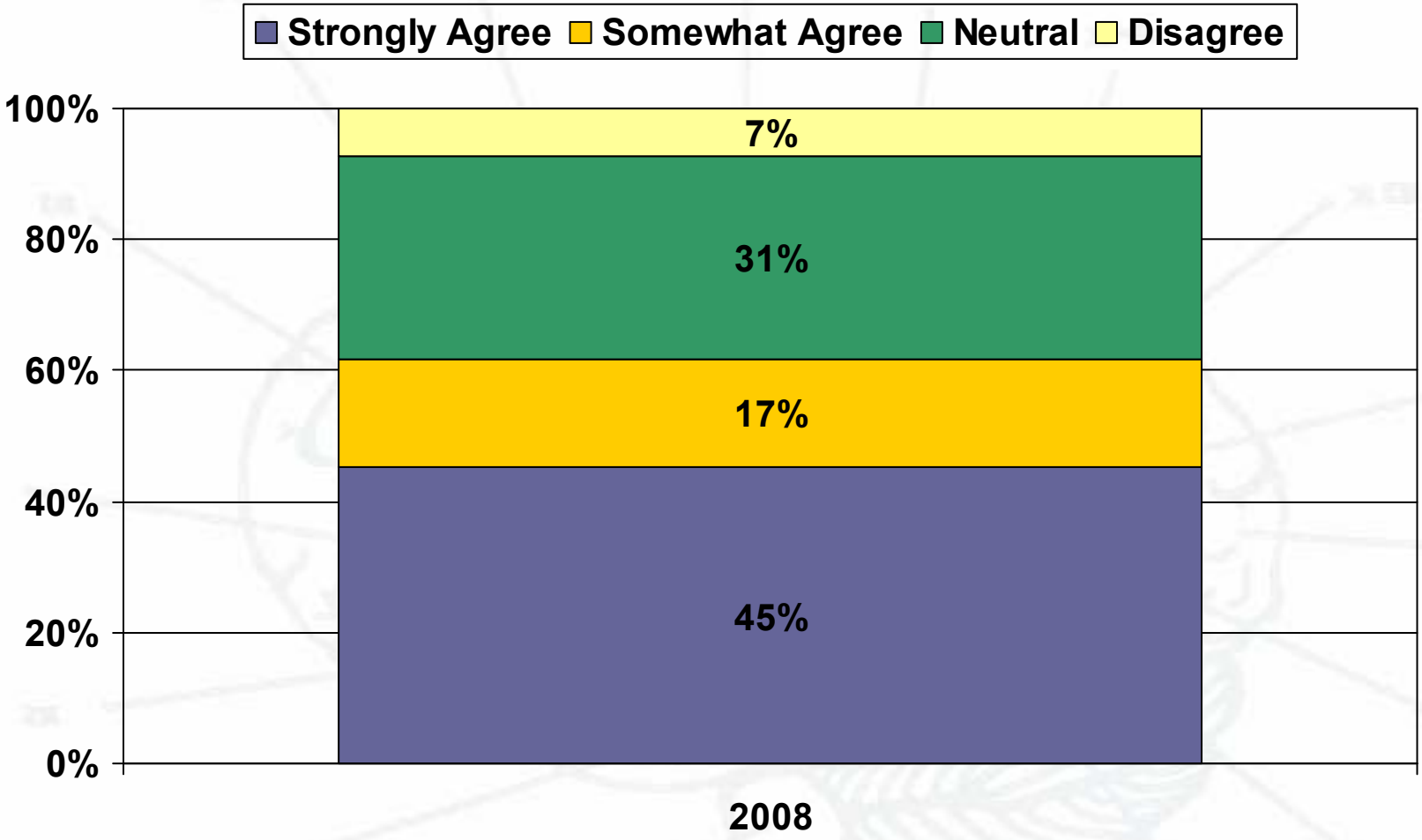

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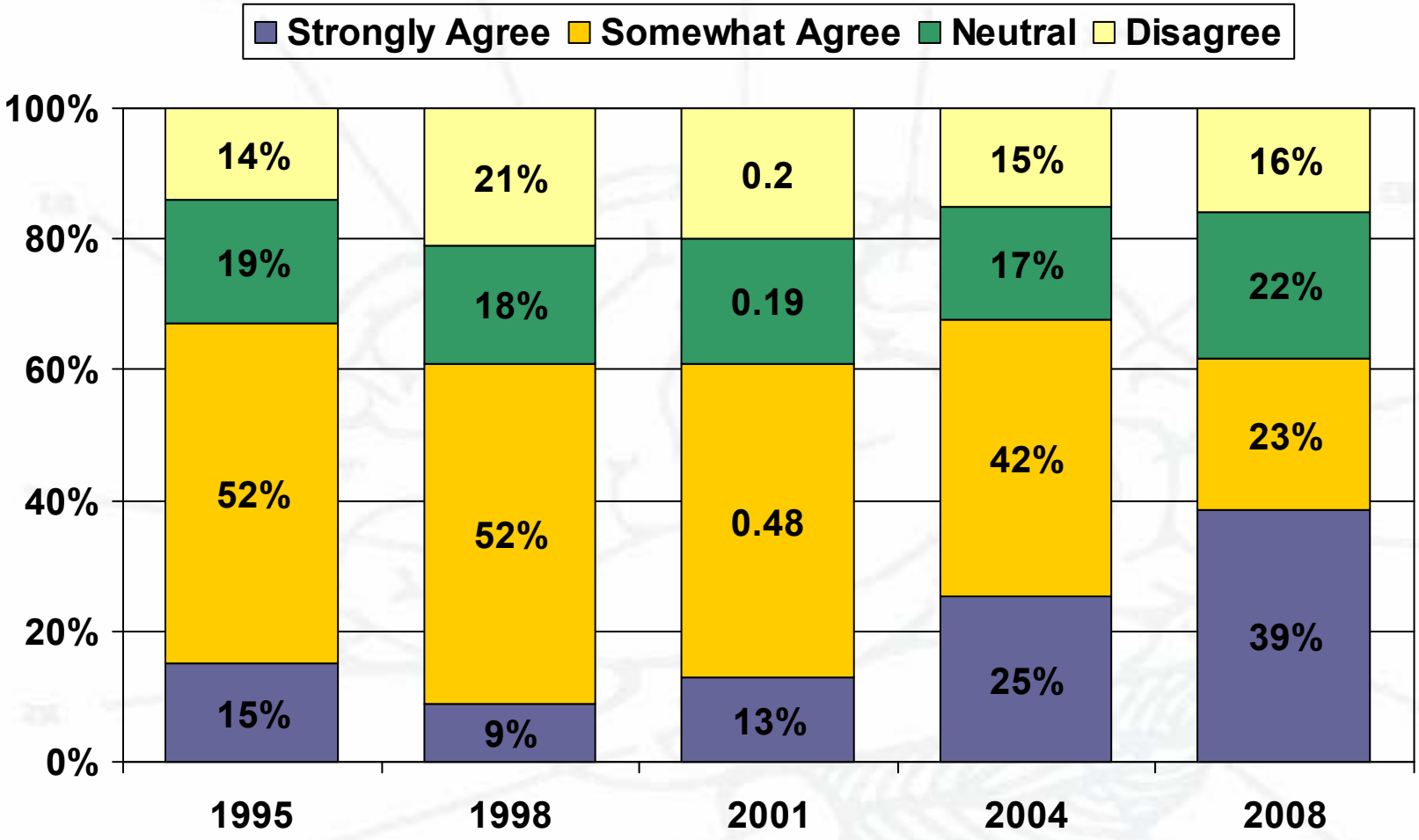
Counseling

High School Only



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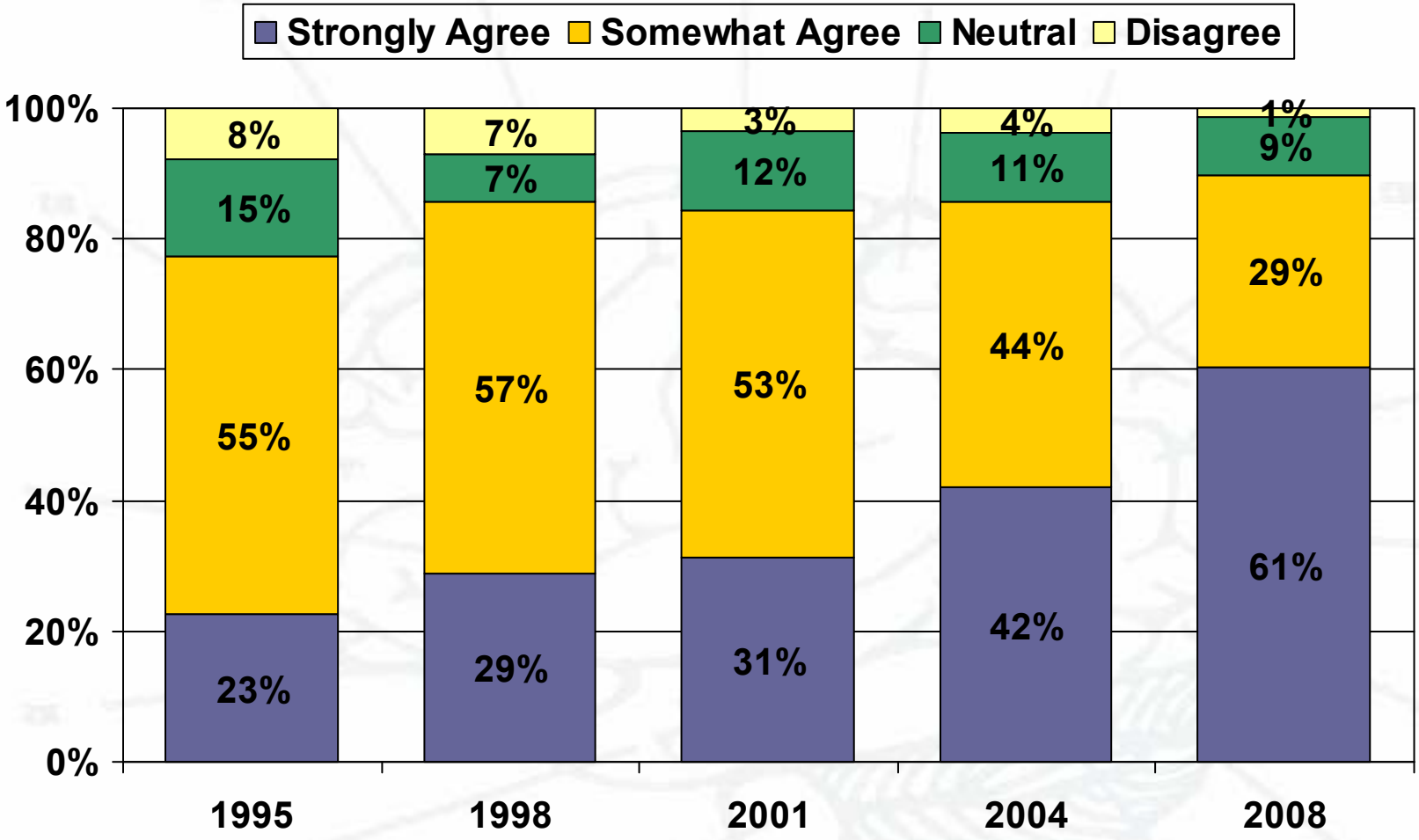
NEW SOUTH RESEARCH

What is the satisfaction with the support areas at each school?

Library / Media Center



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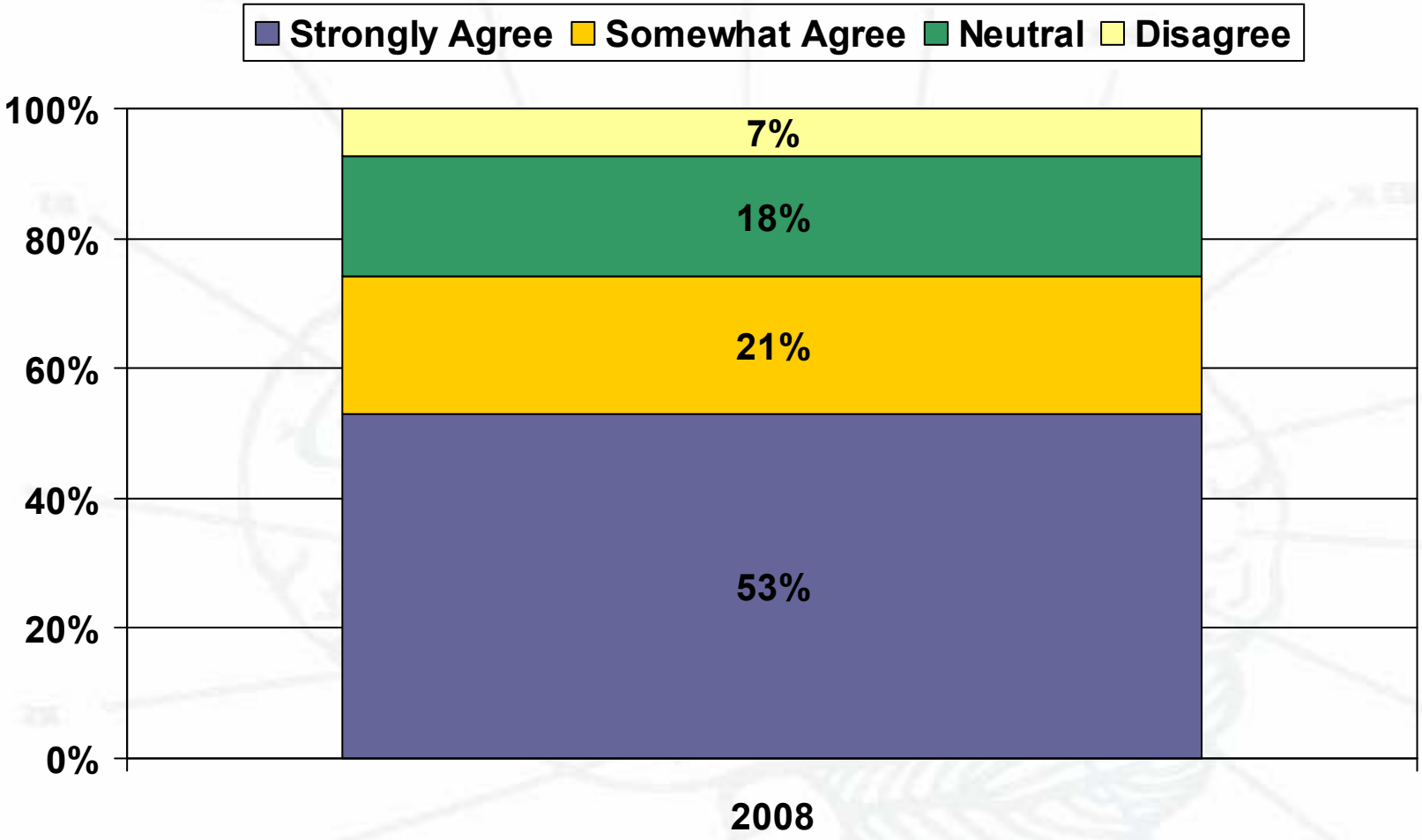
Special Education

New Question in 2008



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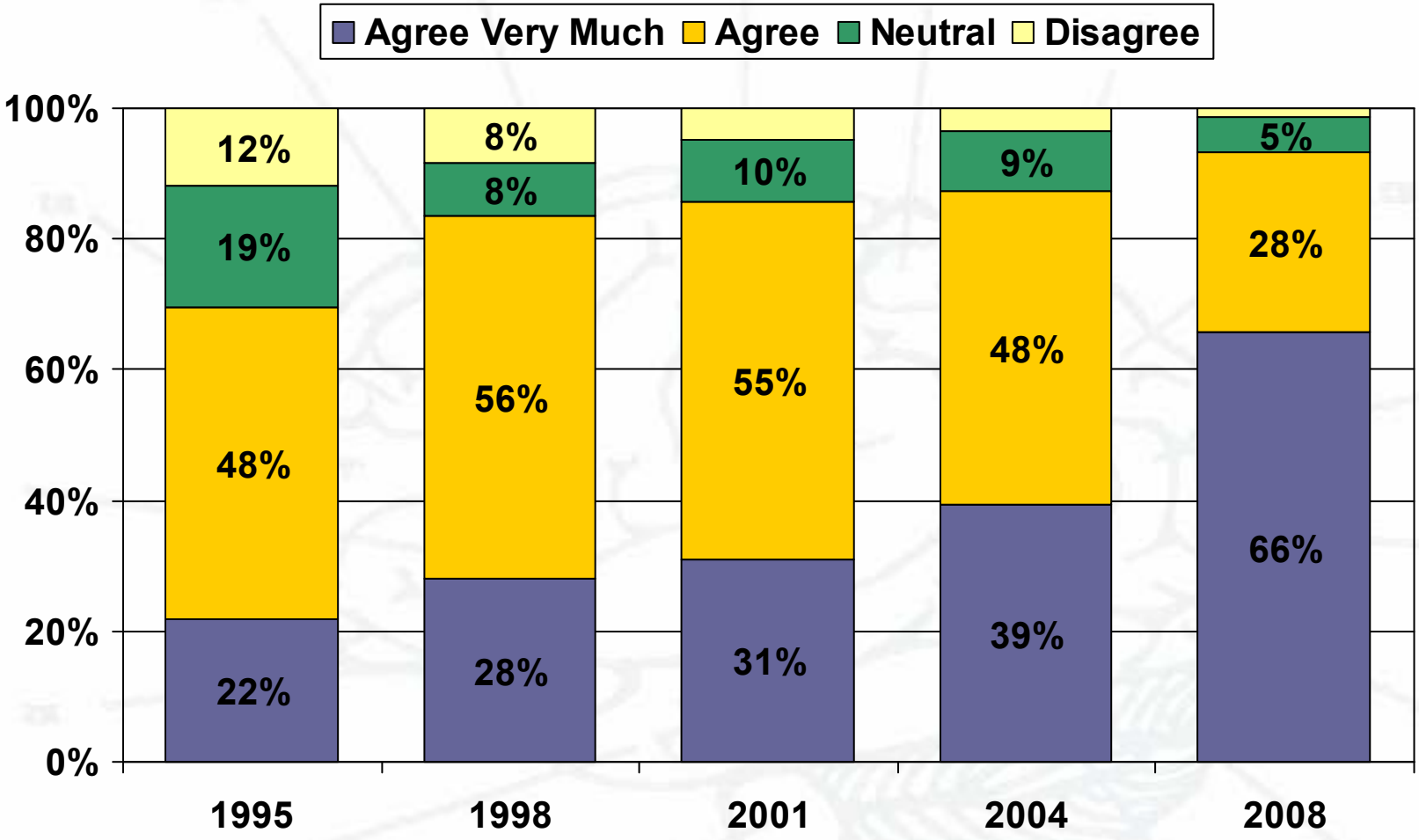
Integration of Technology in Teaching



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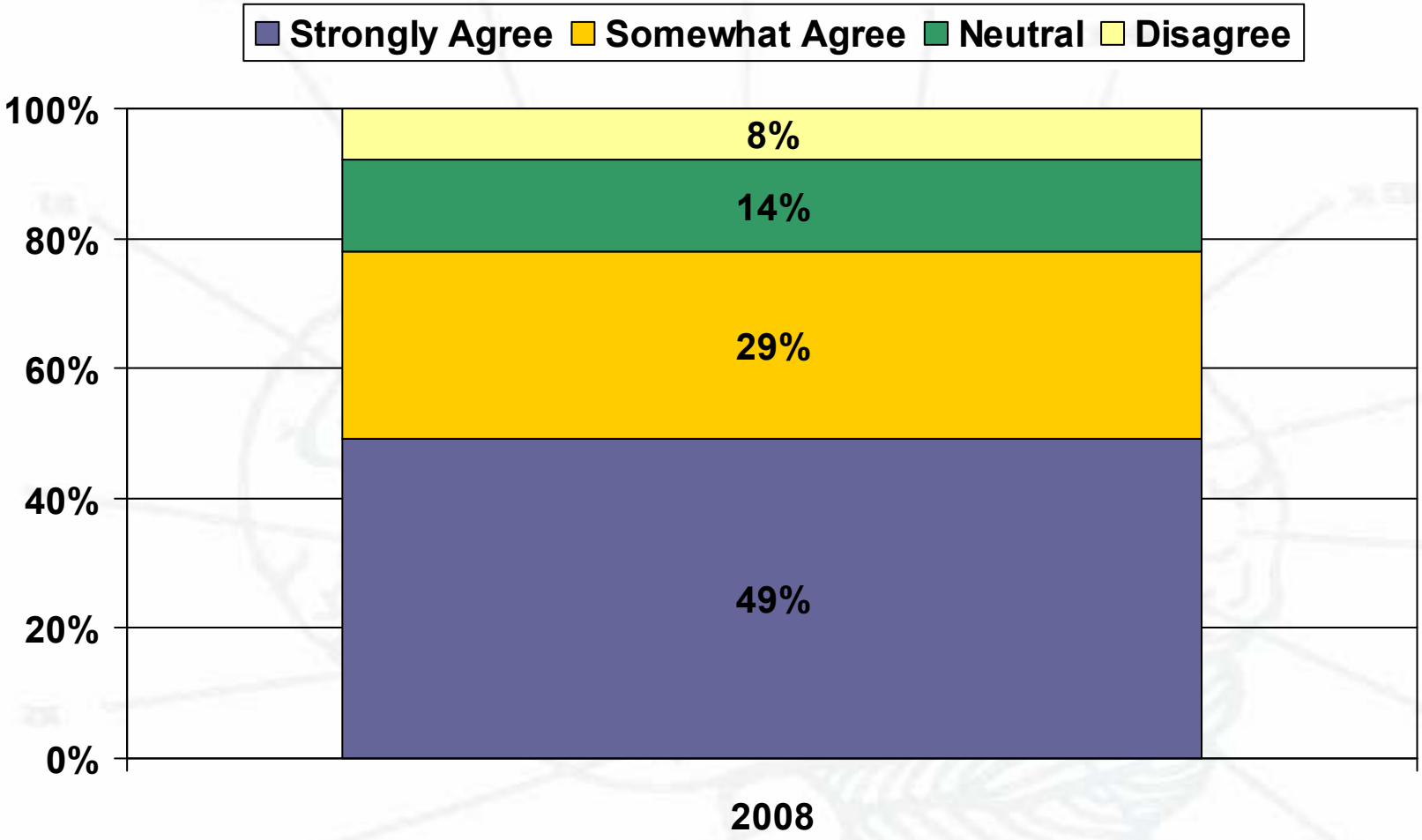
Academic Support

Question wording changed from “Academic Guidance” to “Academic Support” in 2008.



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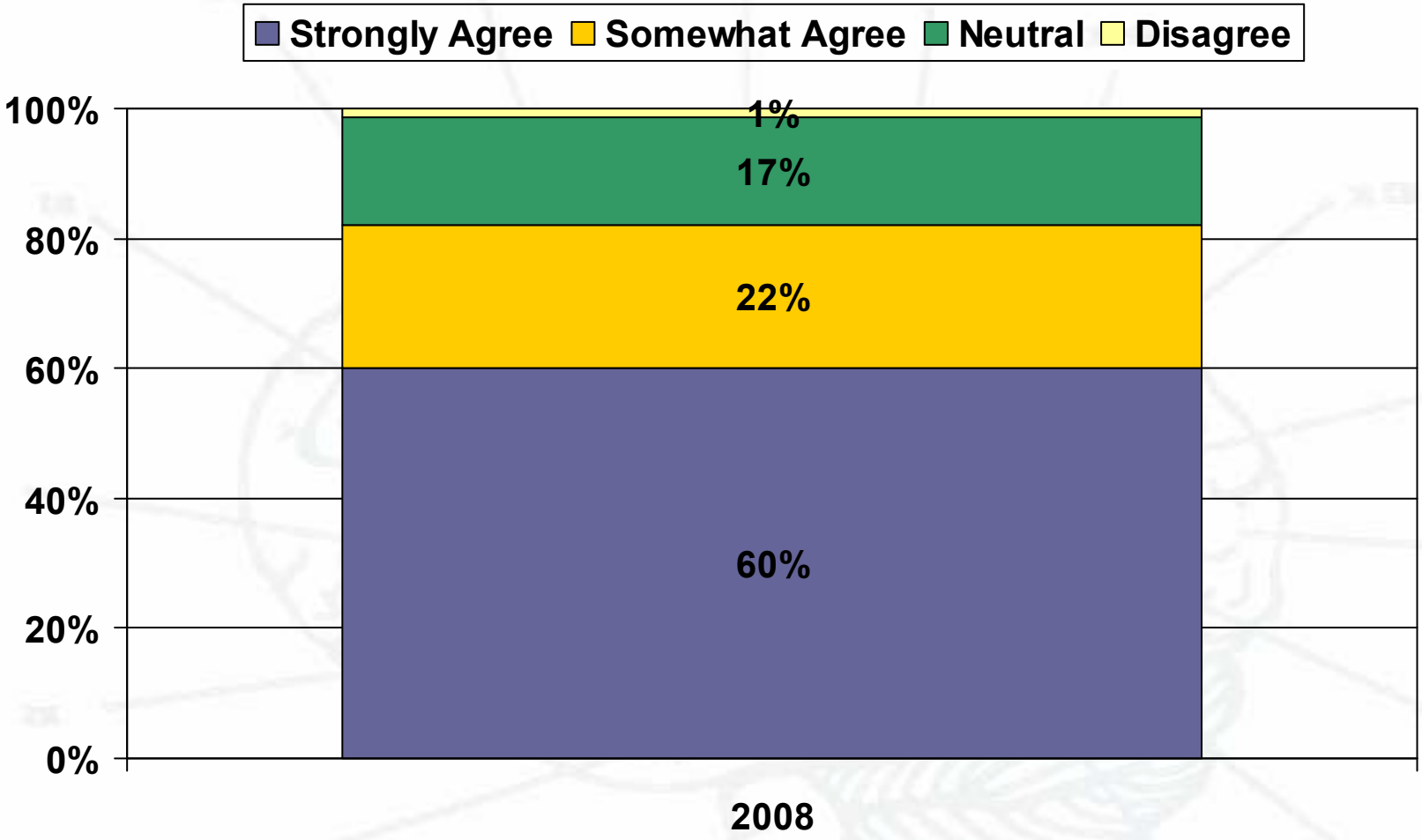
Nursing Services

New Question in 2008



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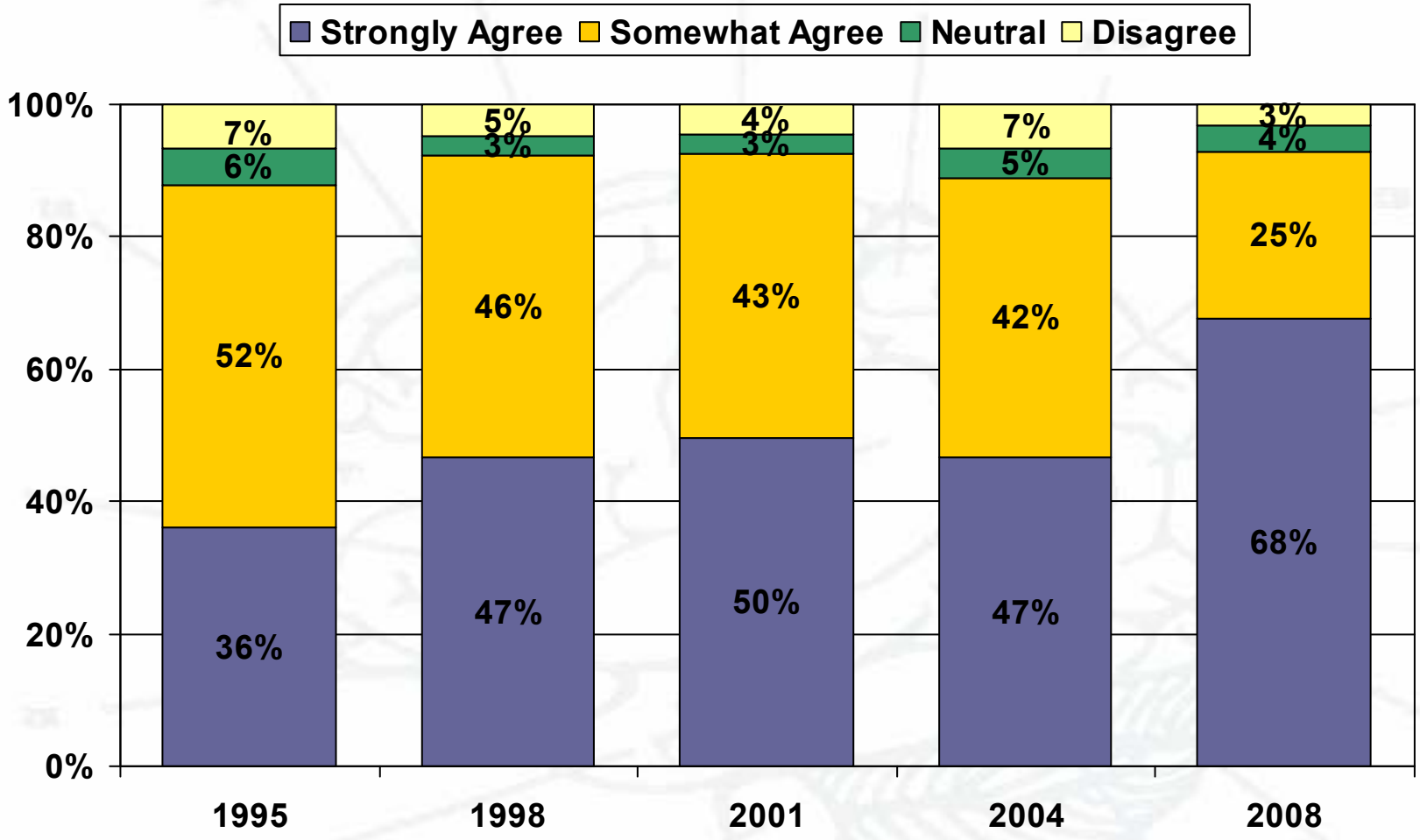
NEW SOUTH RESEARCH

What is the satisfaction with the school environment at each school?

The school does a good job of keeping parents informed of school activities.



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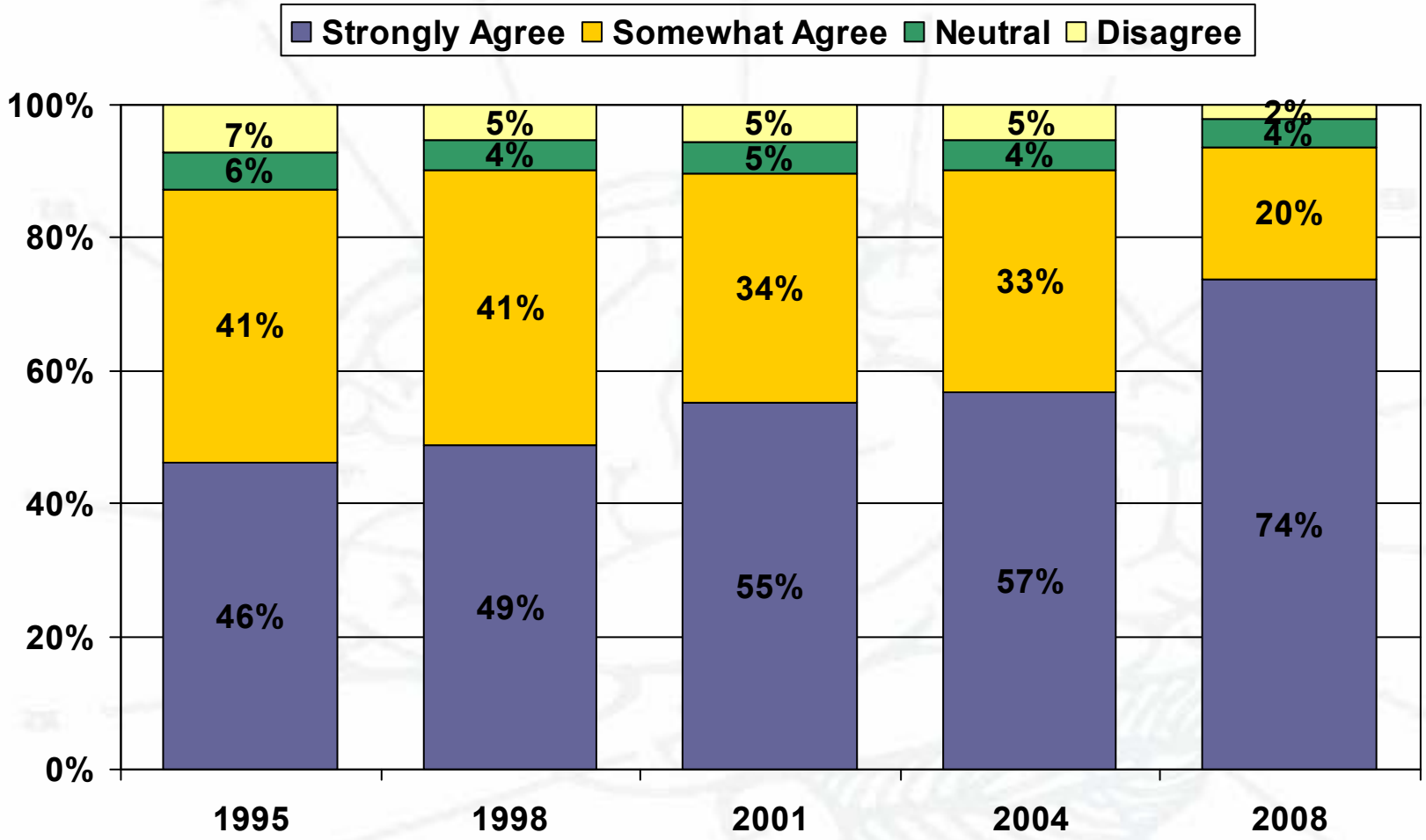
I feel comfortable and welcome when I visit my child's school.



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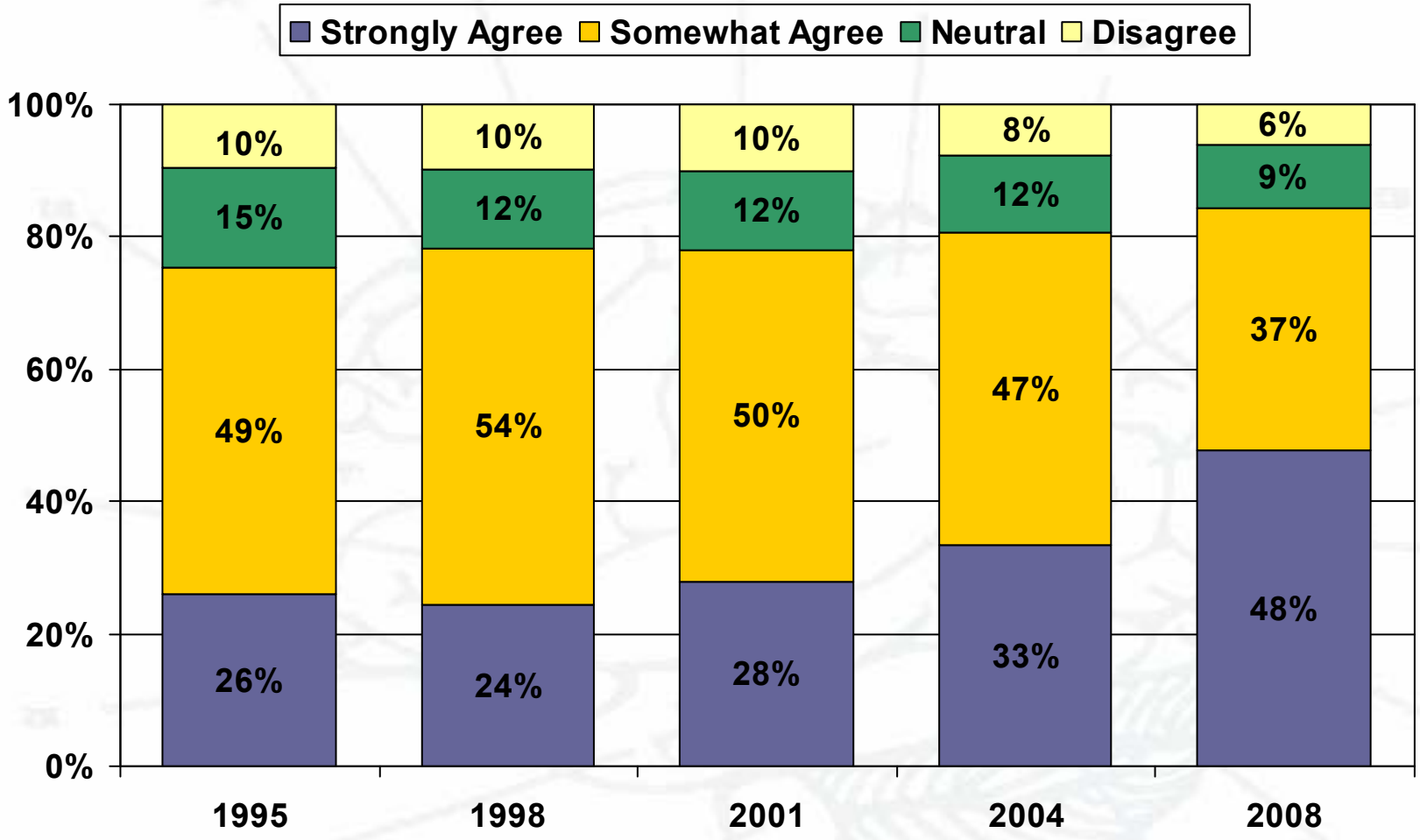
My child looks forward to school each day.



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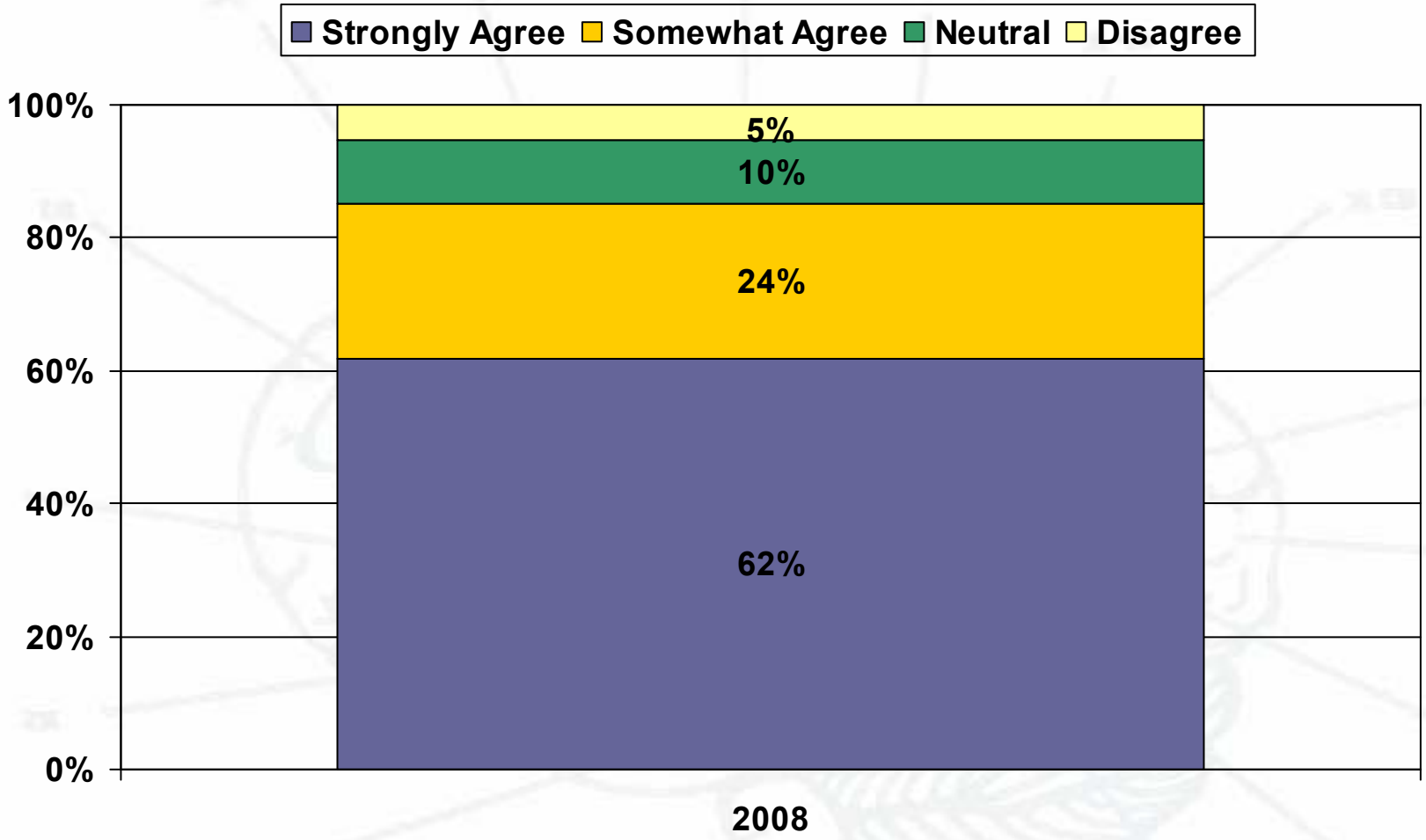
The principal is providing appropriate opportunities for parent involvement and input in the school.

New Question in 2008



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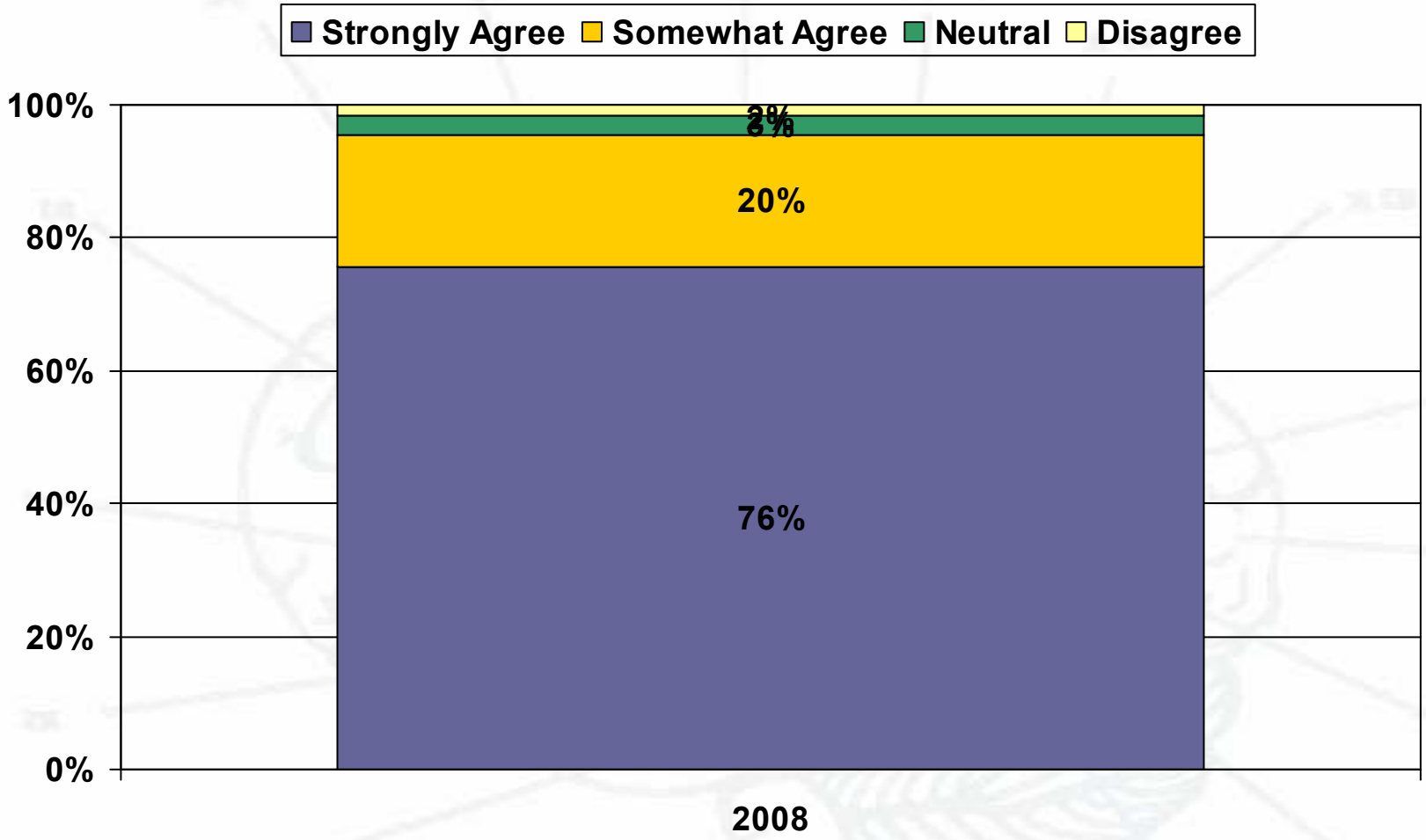
My child is safe at school.

New Question in 2008



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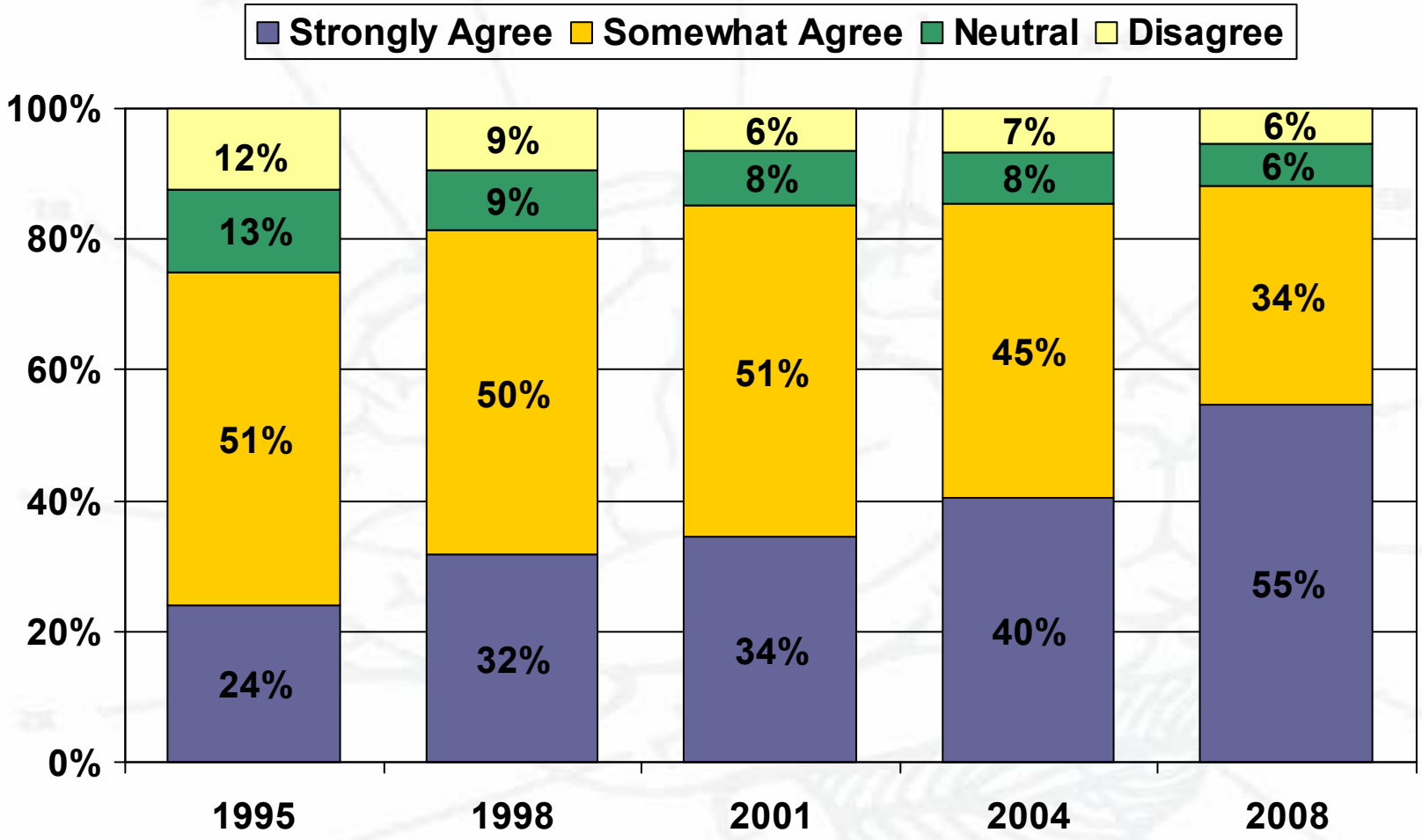
A climate of openness and trust exists between teachers and parents.



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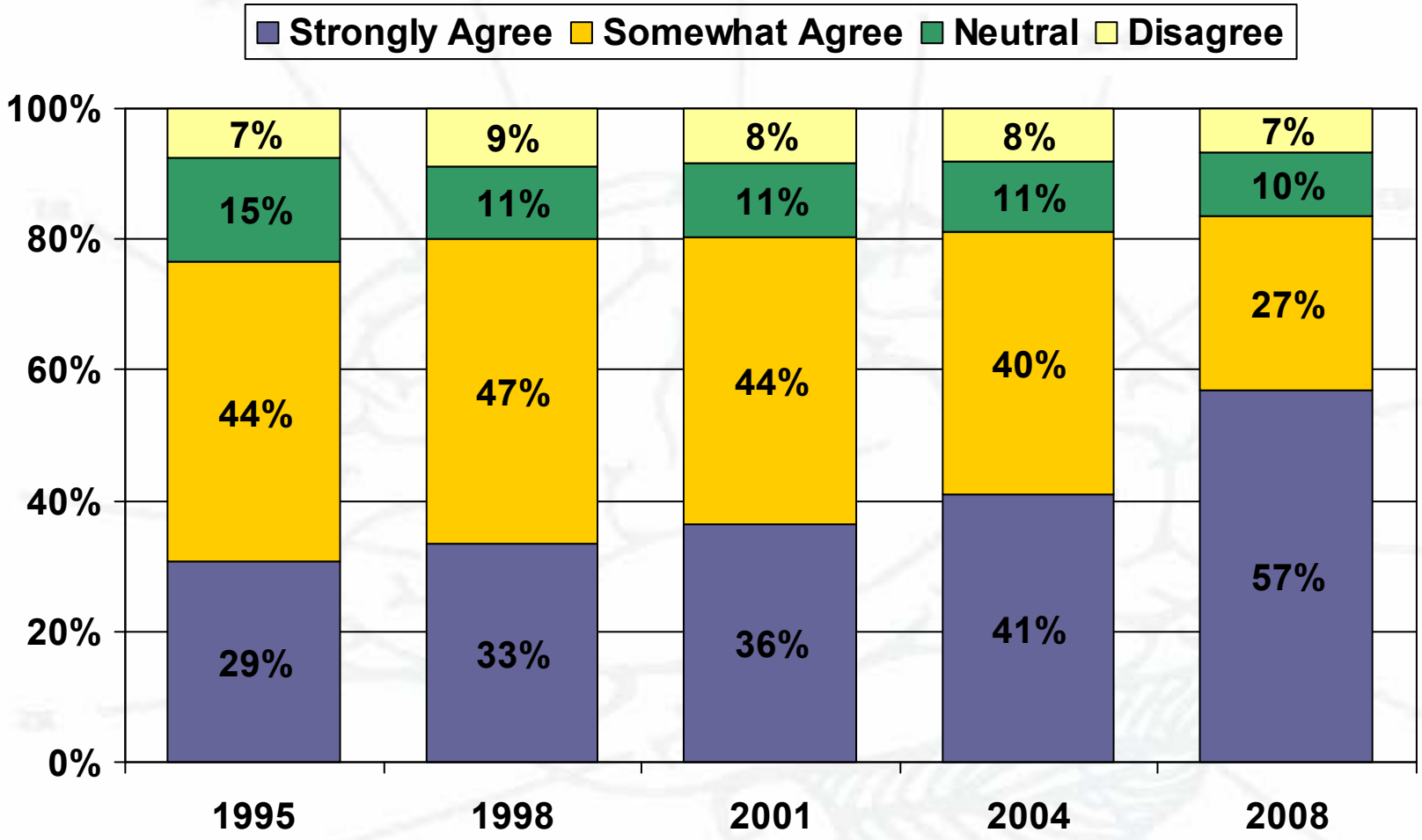
A climate of openness and trust exists between the principal and parents.



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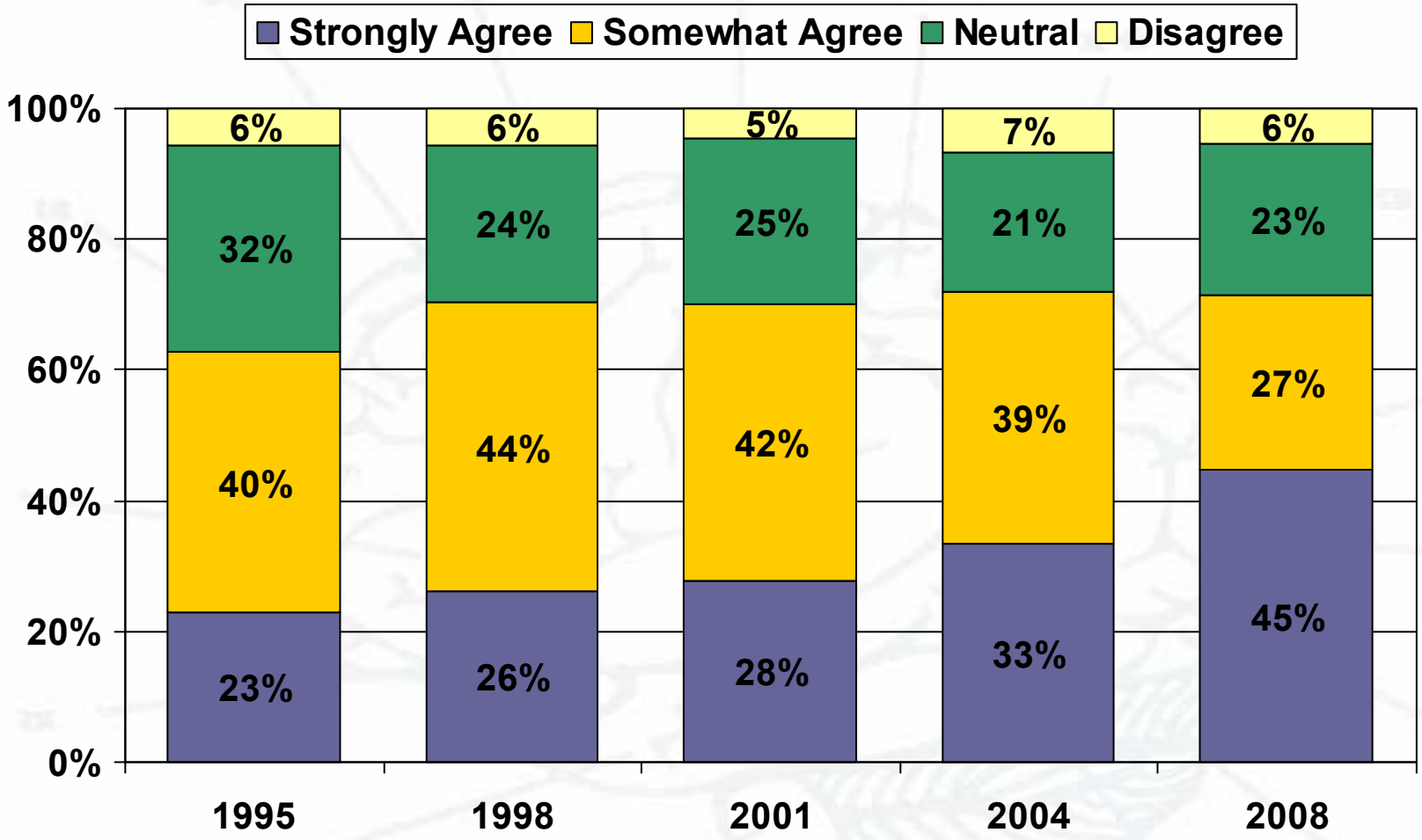
A climate of openness and trust exists between the superintendent and parents.



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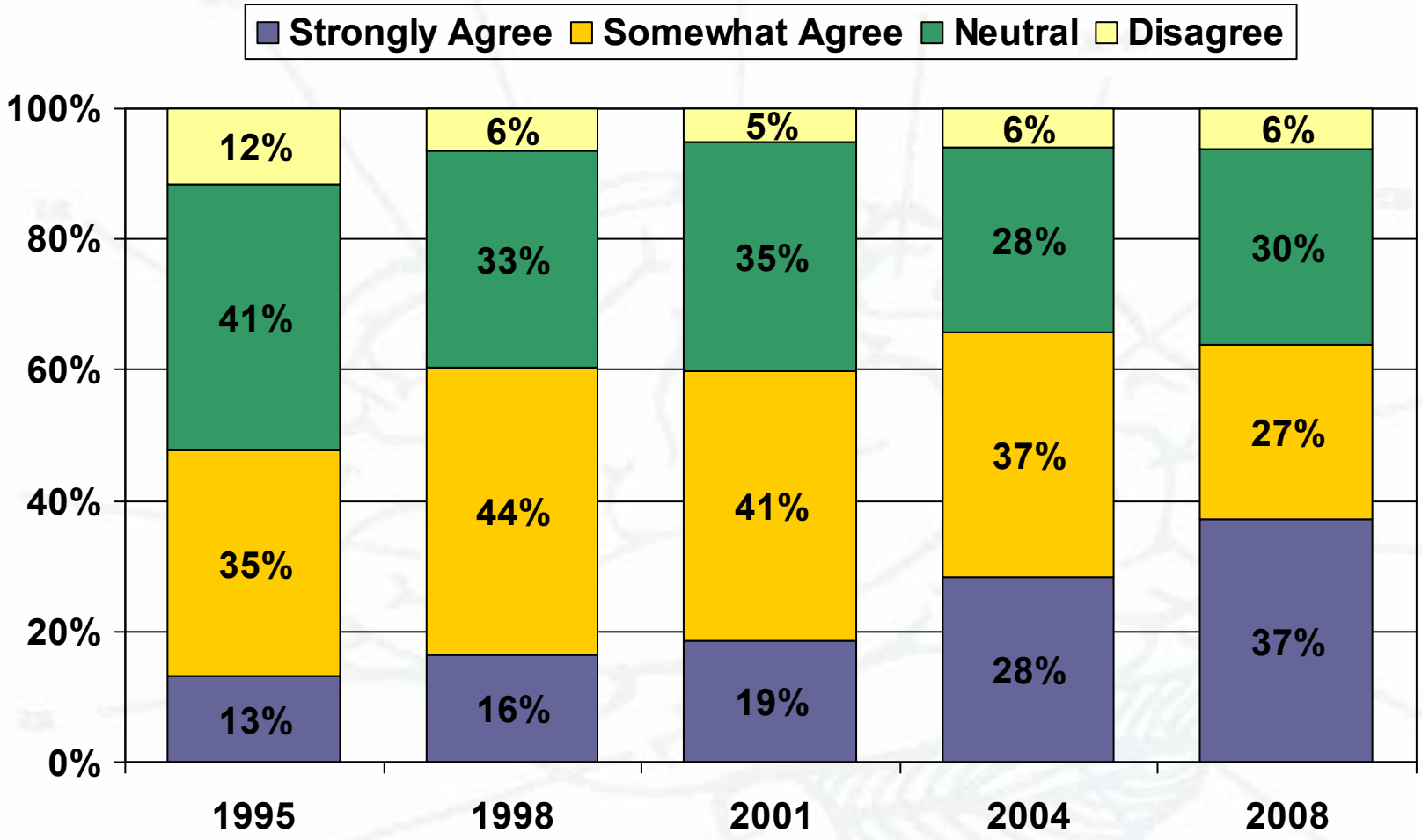
A climate of openness and trust exists between the Board of Education and parents.



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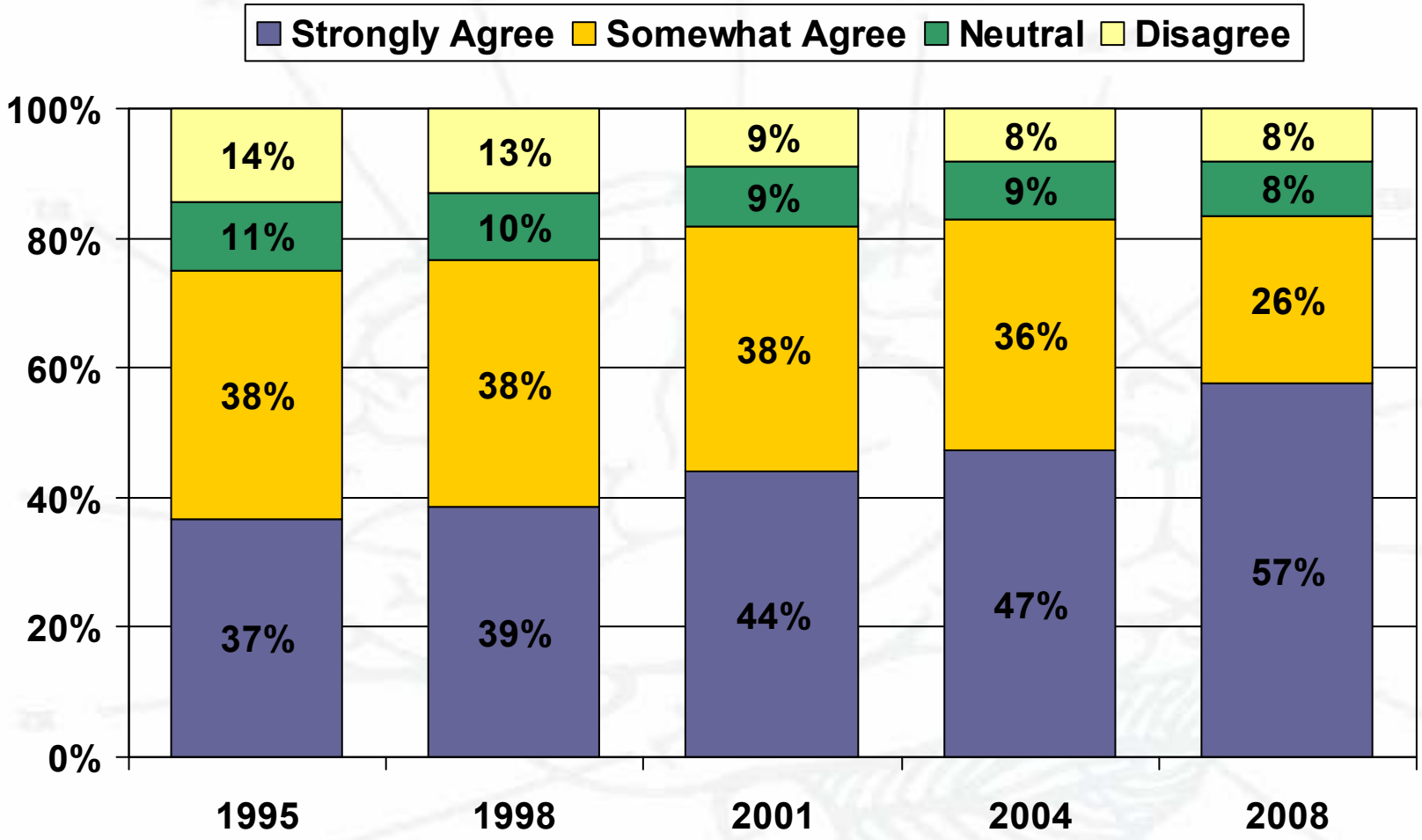
Parents are encouraged to discuss their children's progress with teachers.



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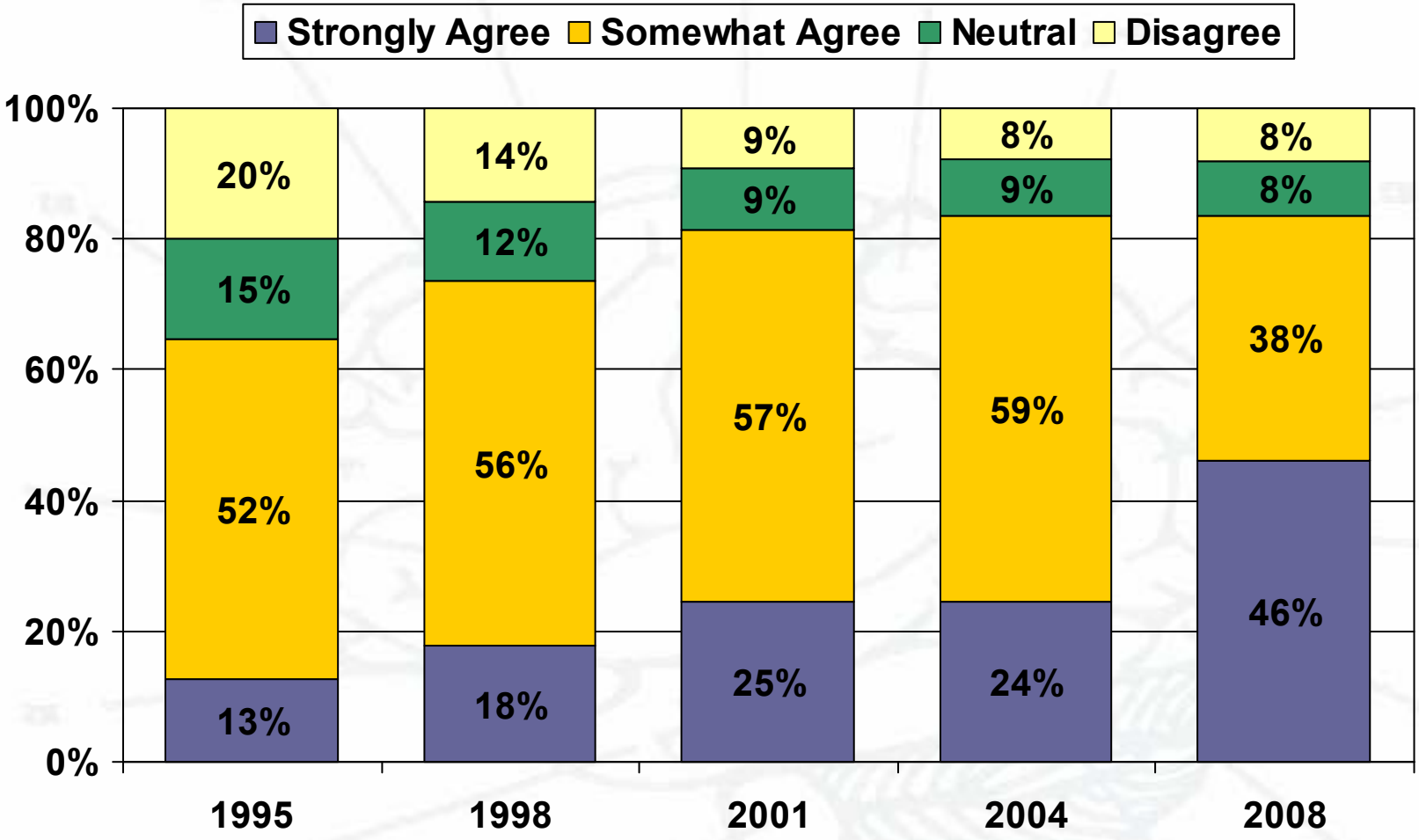
Students in our school are generally respectful of each other.



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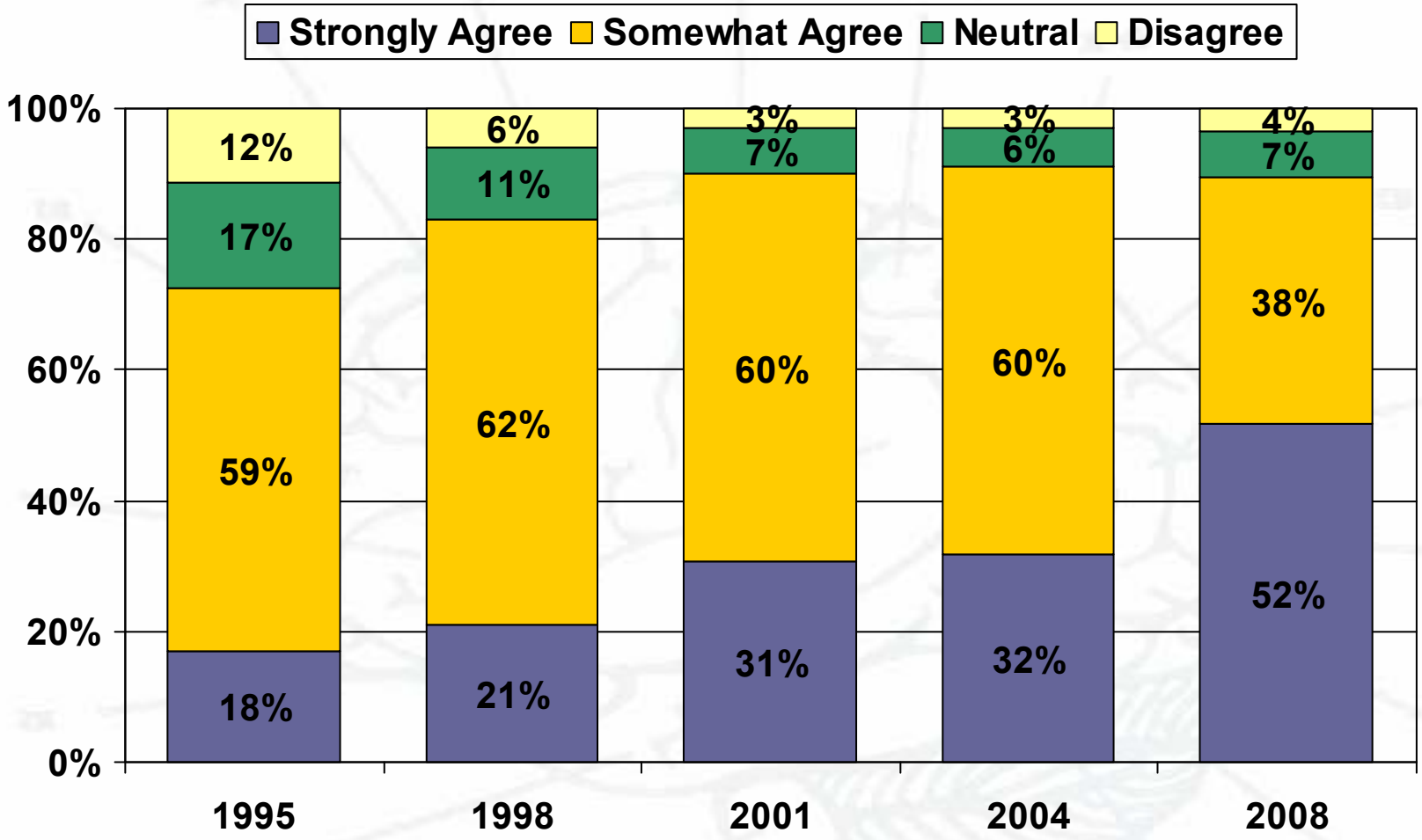
Students in our school are respectful of teachers.

Question wording changed from "Students in our school are respectful of teachers and other staff."



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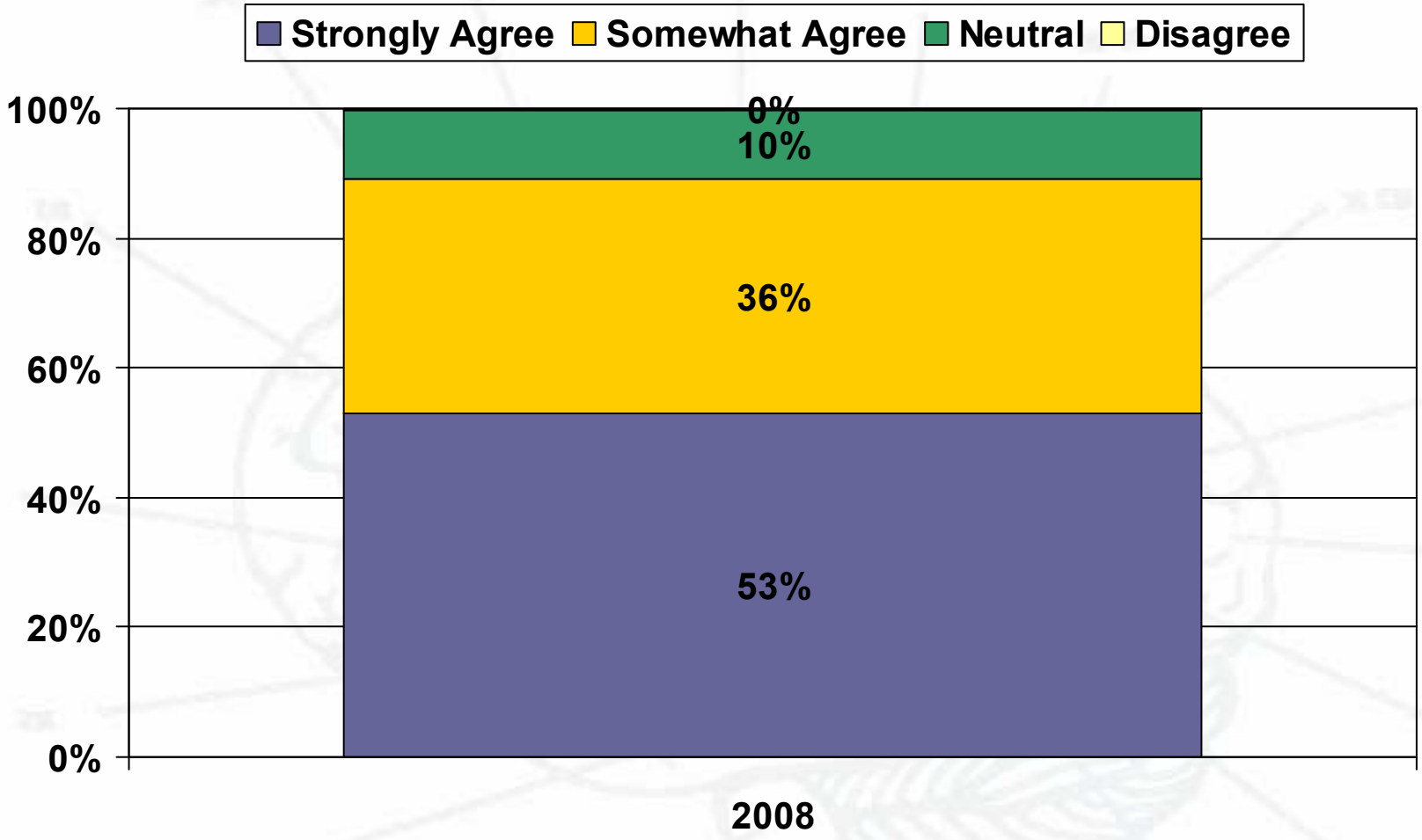
Students in our school are respectful of support staff.

New Question in 2008



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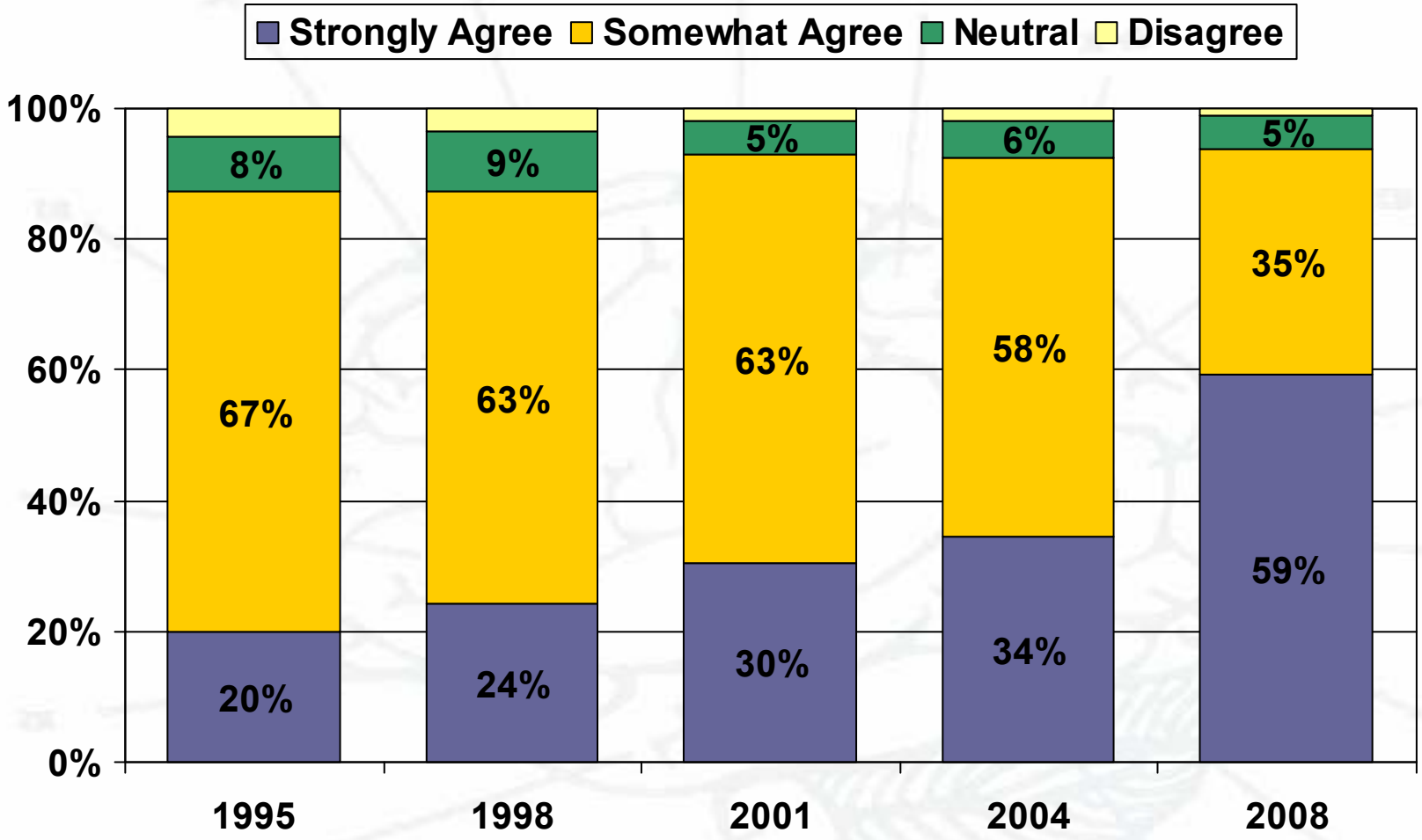
Most students and teachers in our school maintain good working relationships.



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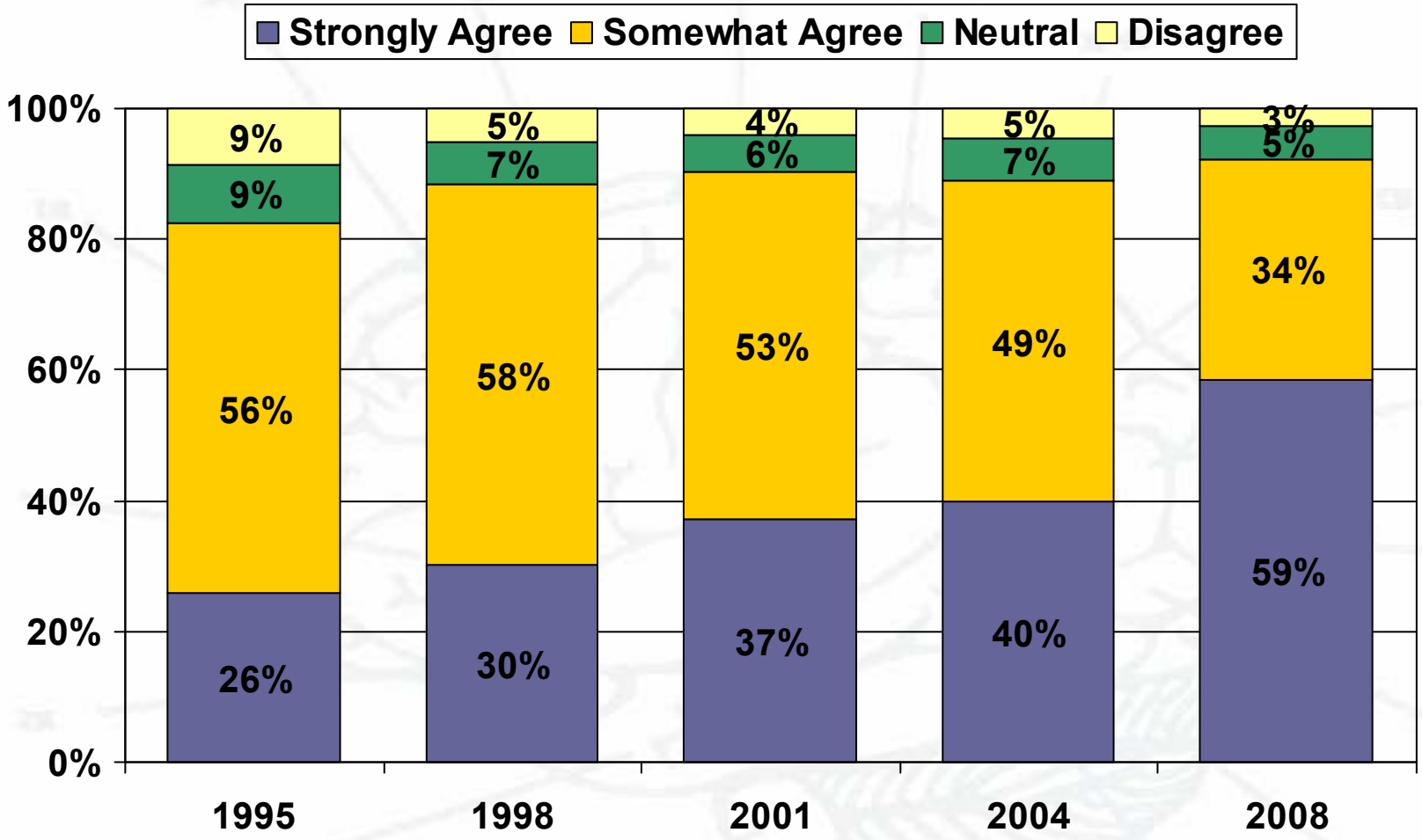
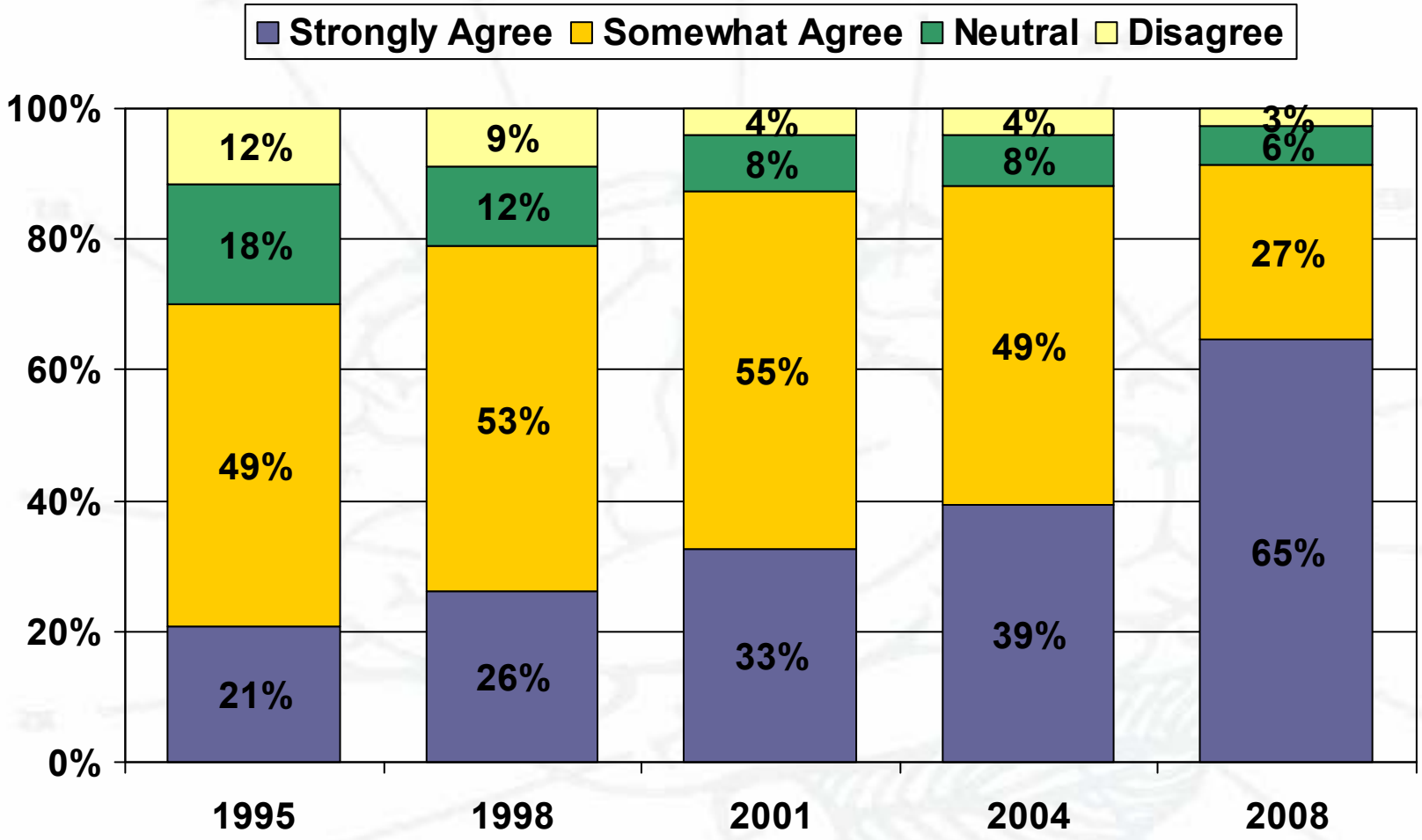
Our school is doing a good job of helping students understand their responsibilities as students.



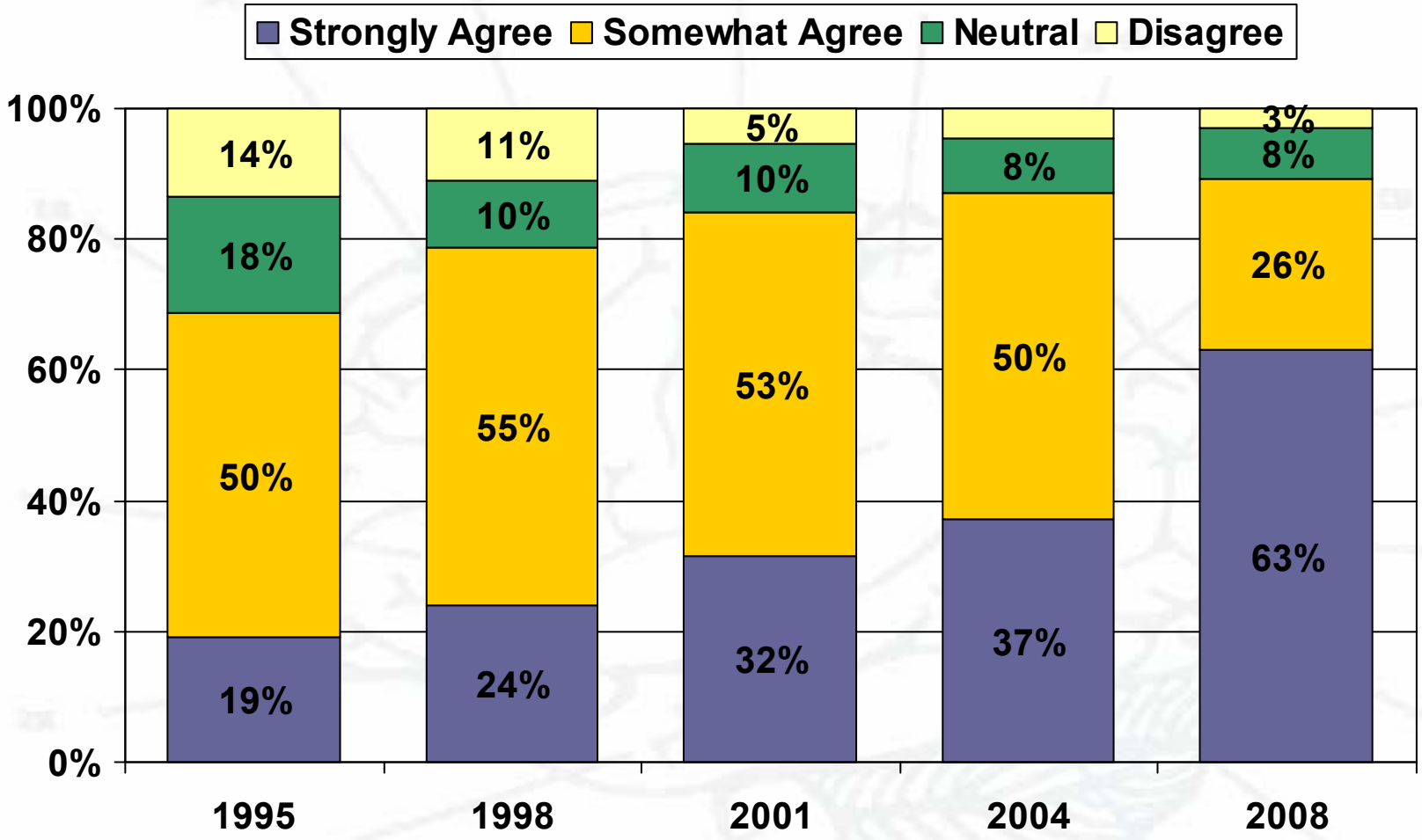
* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

The school promotes and reinforces honesty.



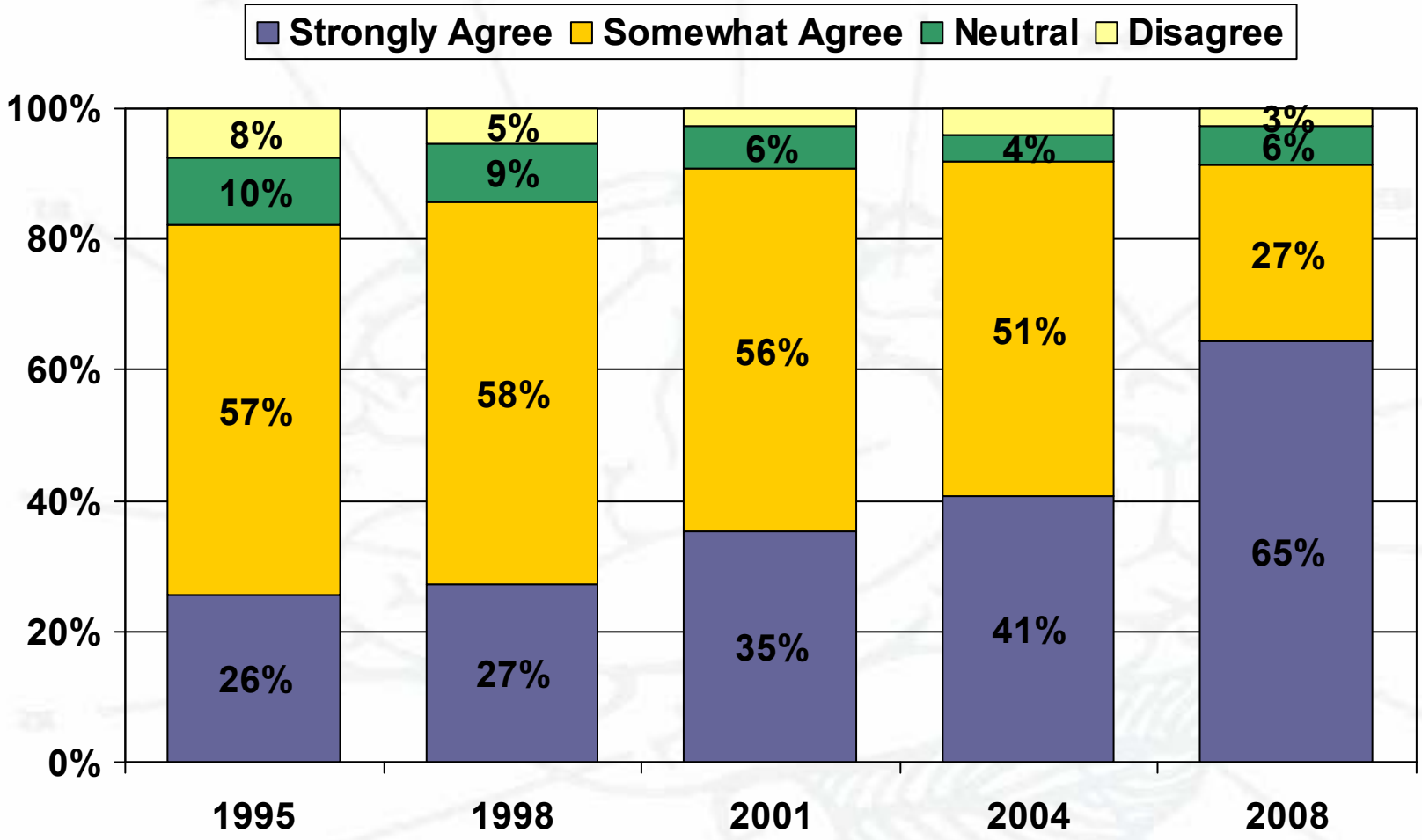
* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

The school promotes and reinforces respect for the property of others.



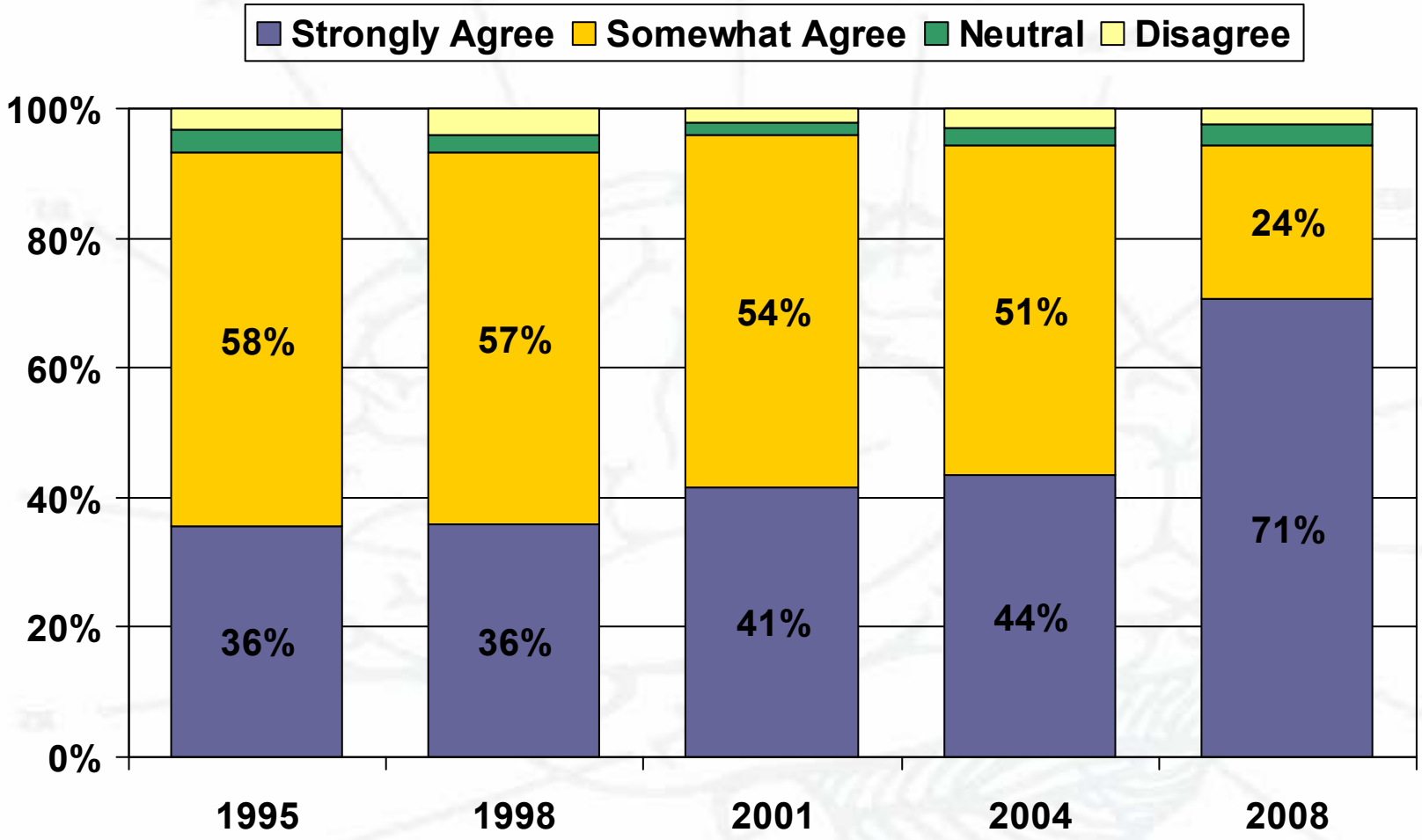
* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

Student behavior is conducive to learning in our school.



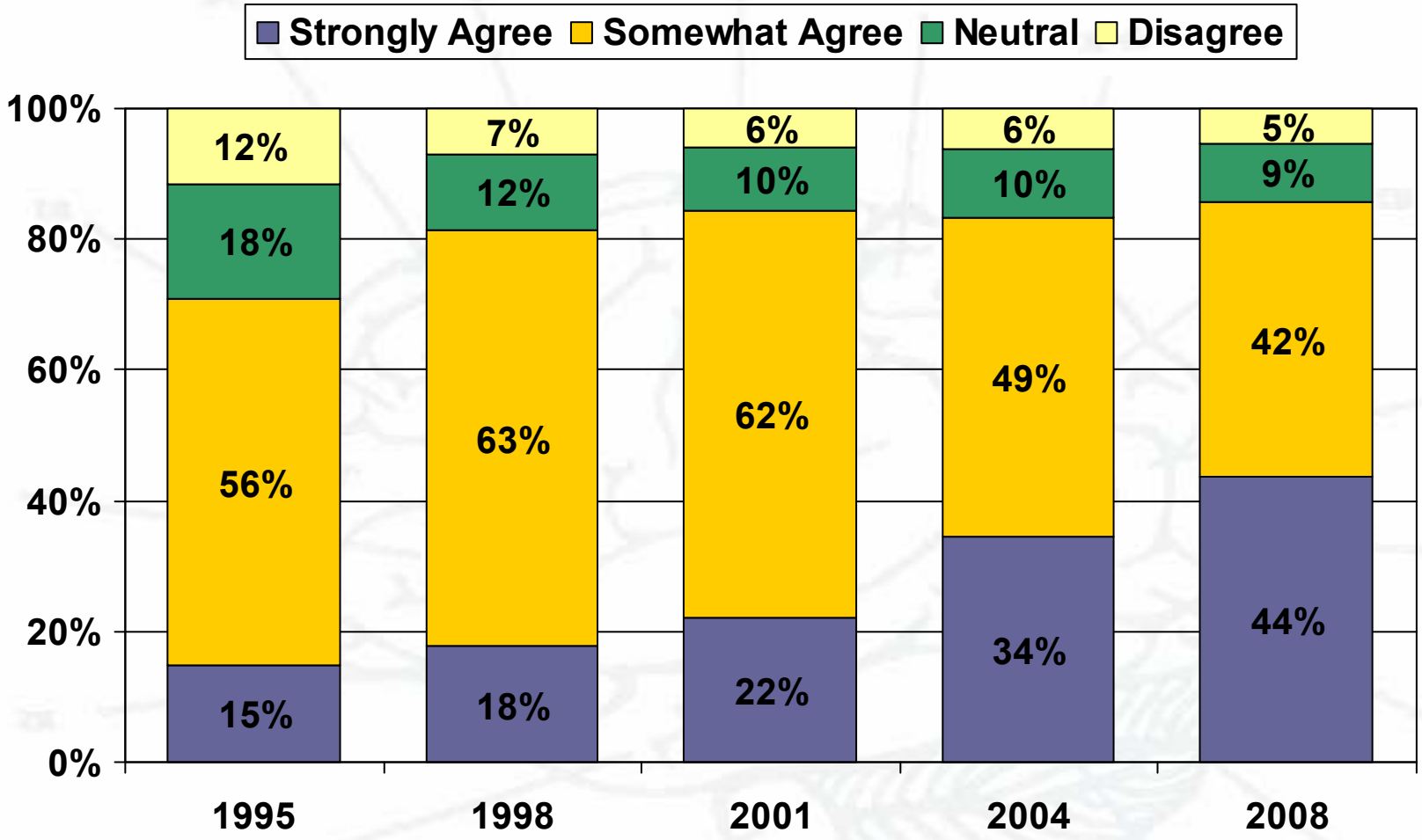
** "Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

School rules and regulations affecting our students (my child) are reasonable.



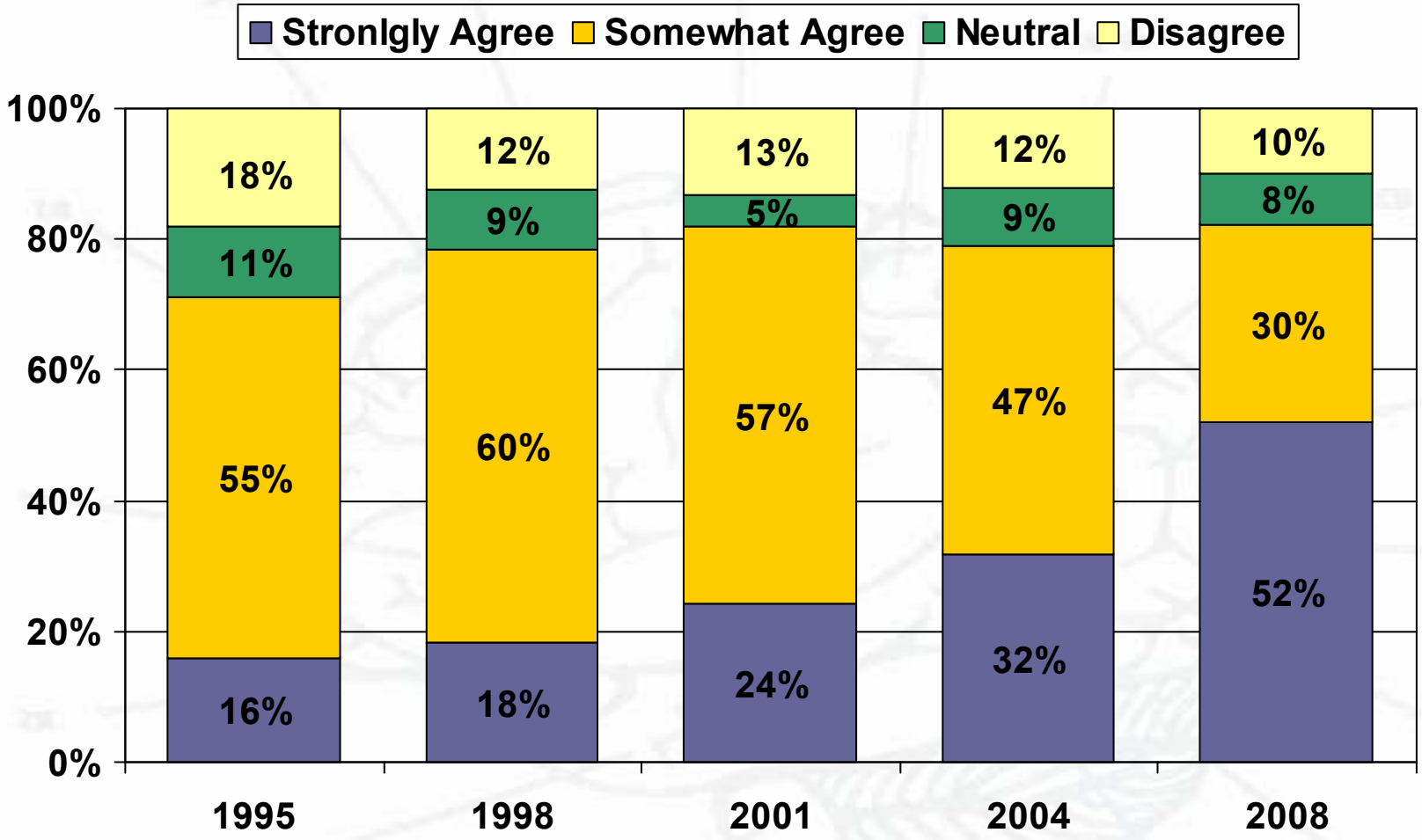
* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

The curriculum (my child's academic work) is well coordinated from one grade to the next.



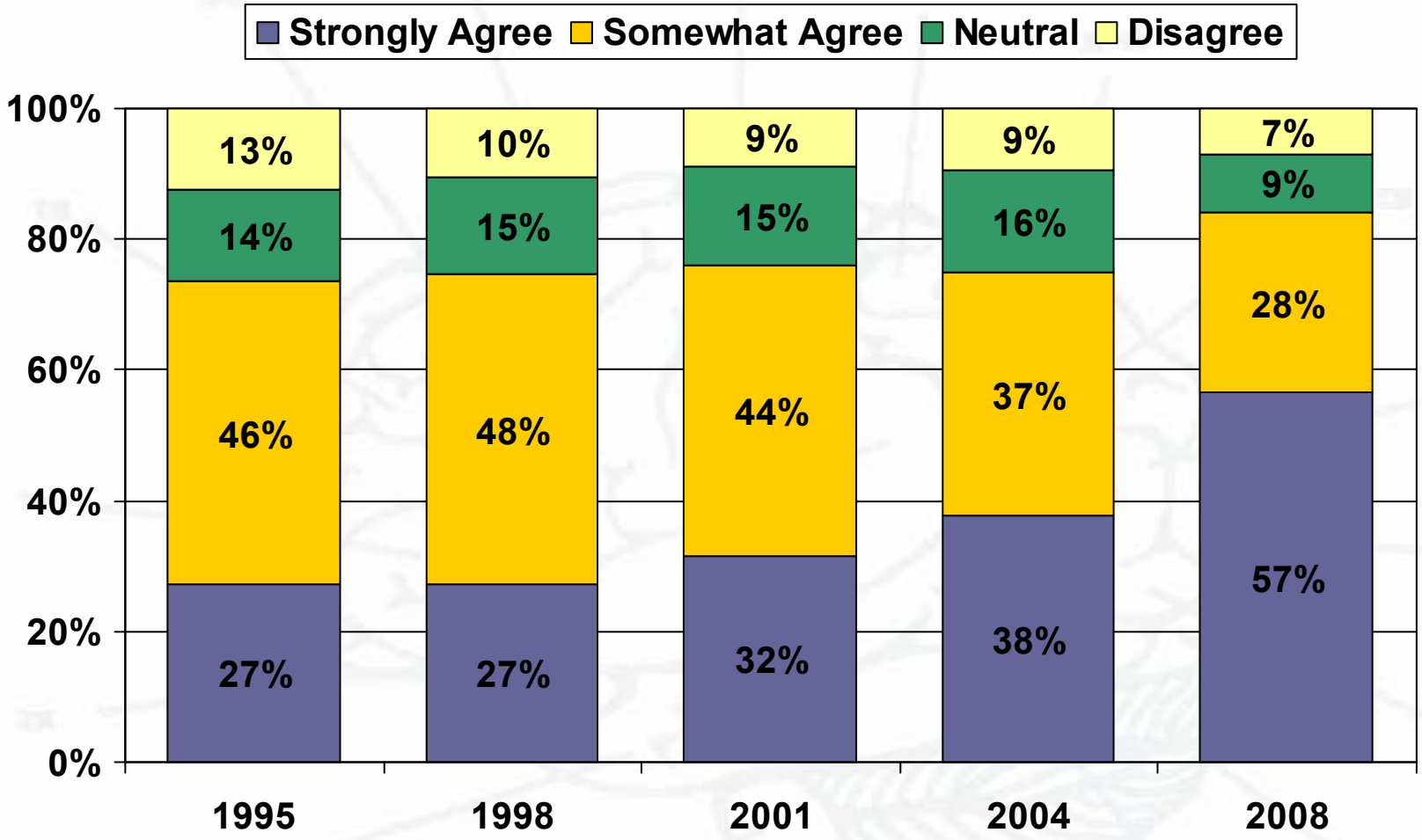
* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

The academic needs of the average student are met.



* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

The academic needs of the advanced student are met.



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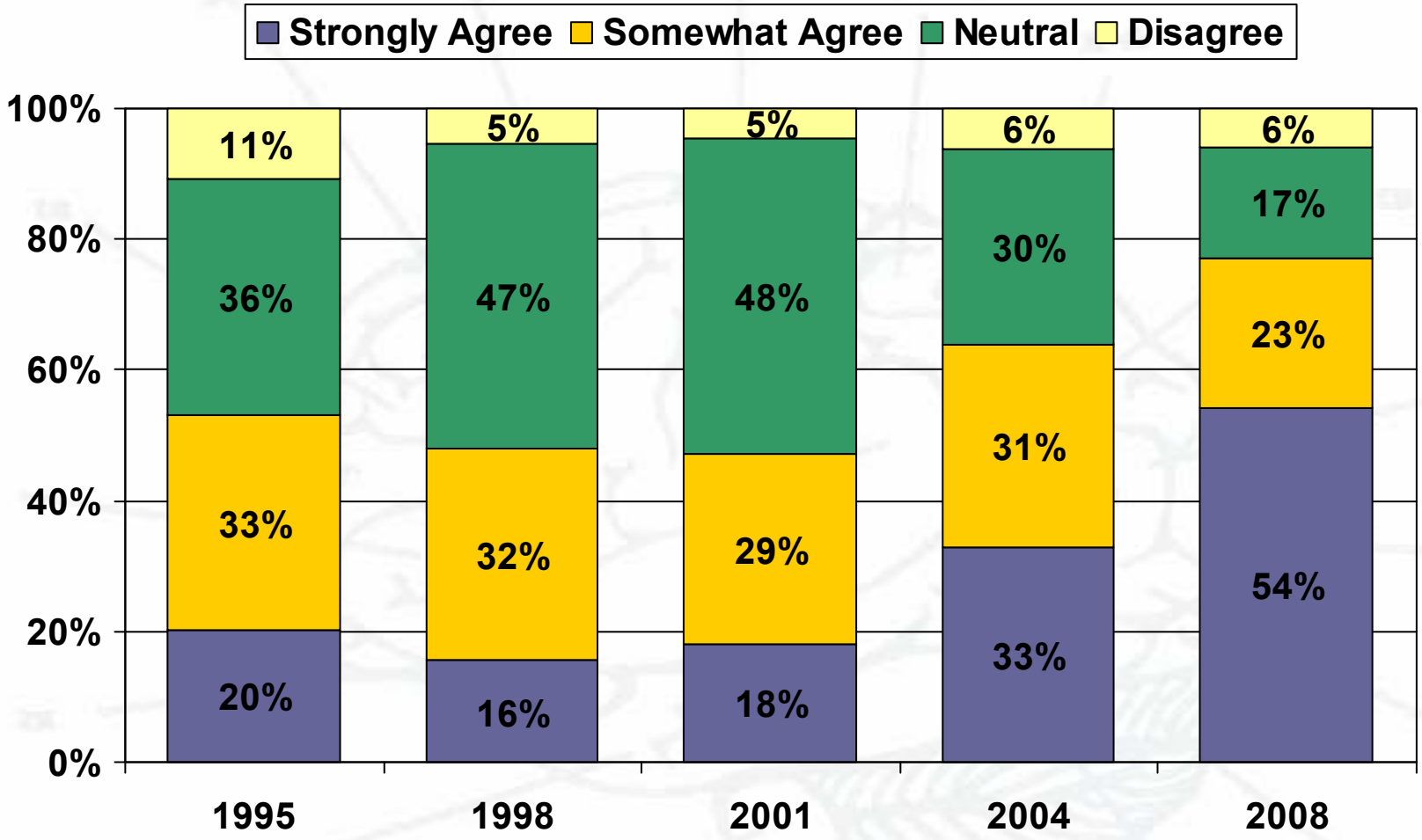
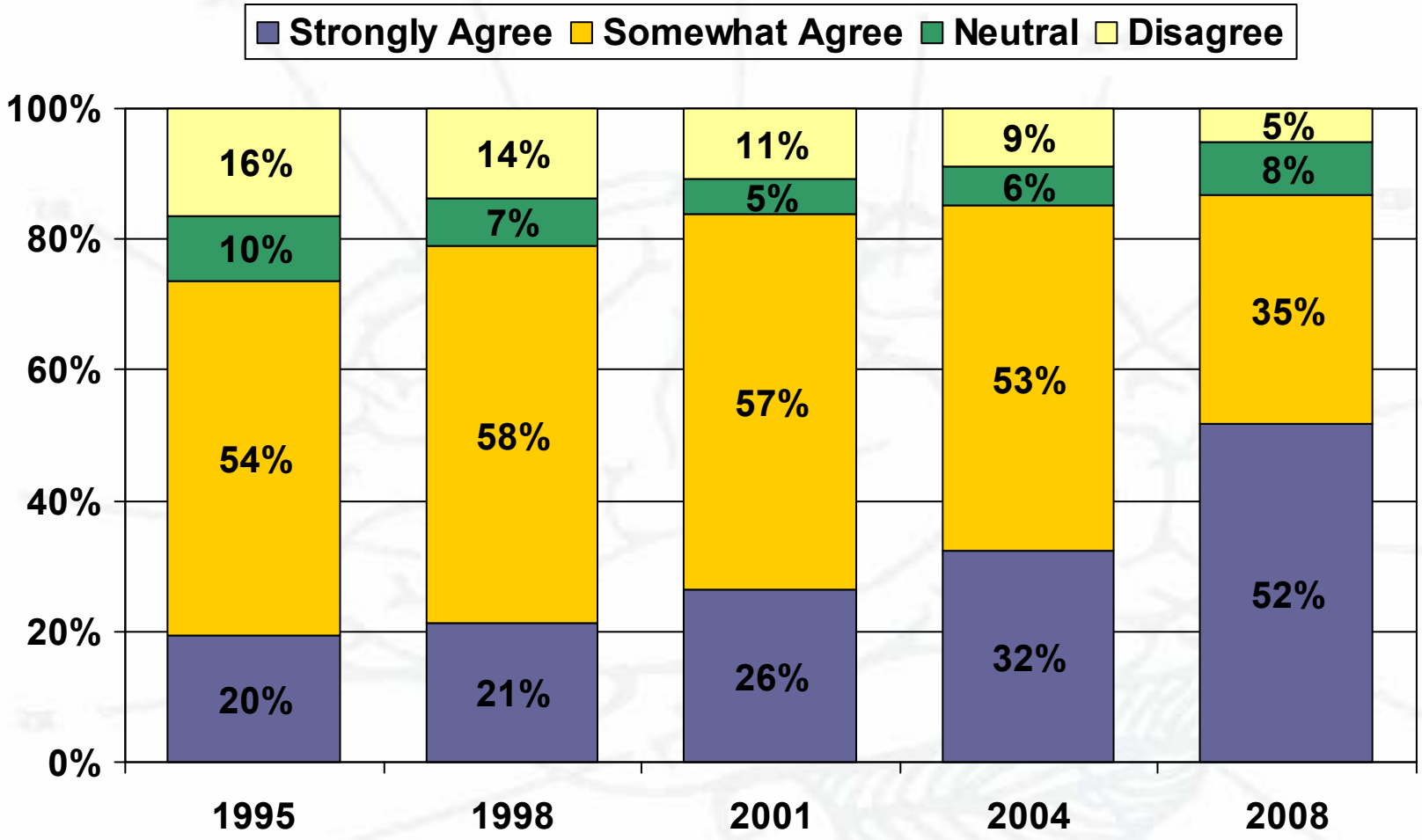
The academic needs of the special education student are met.



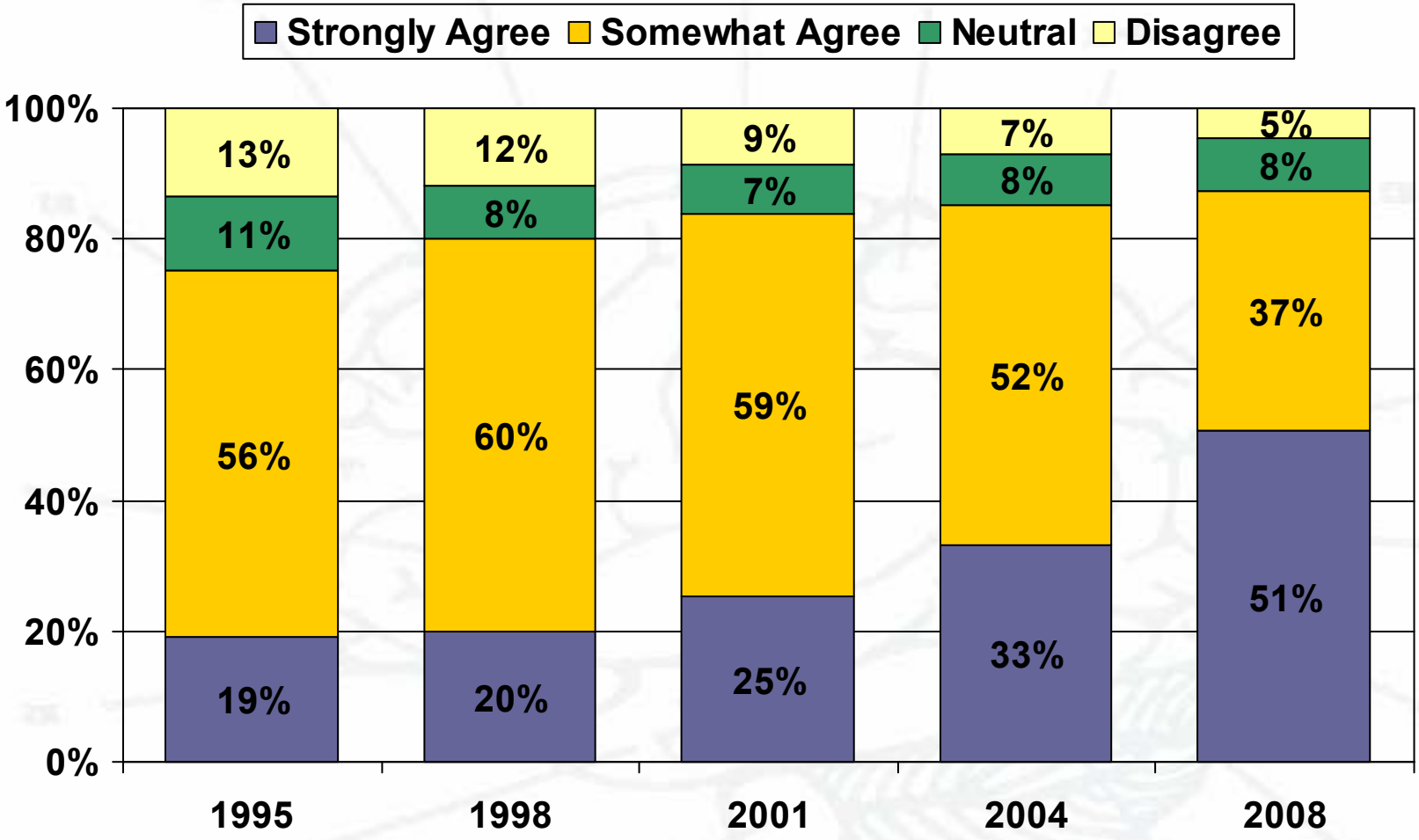
* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

My child's academic work is sufficiently challenging.



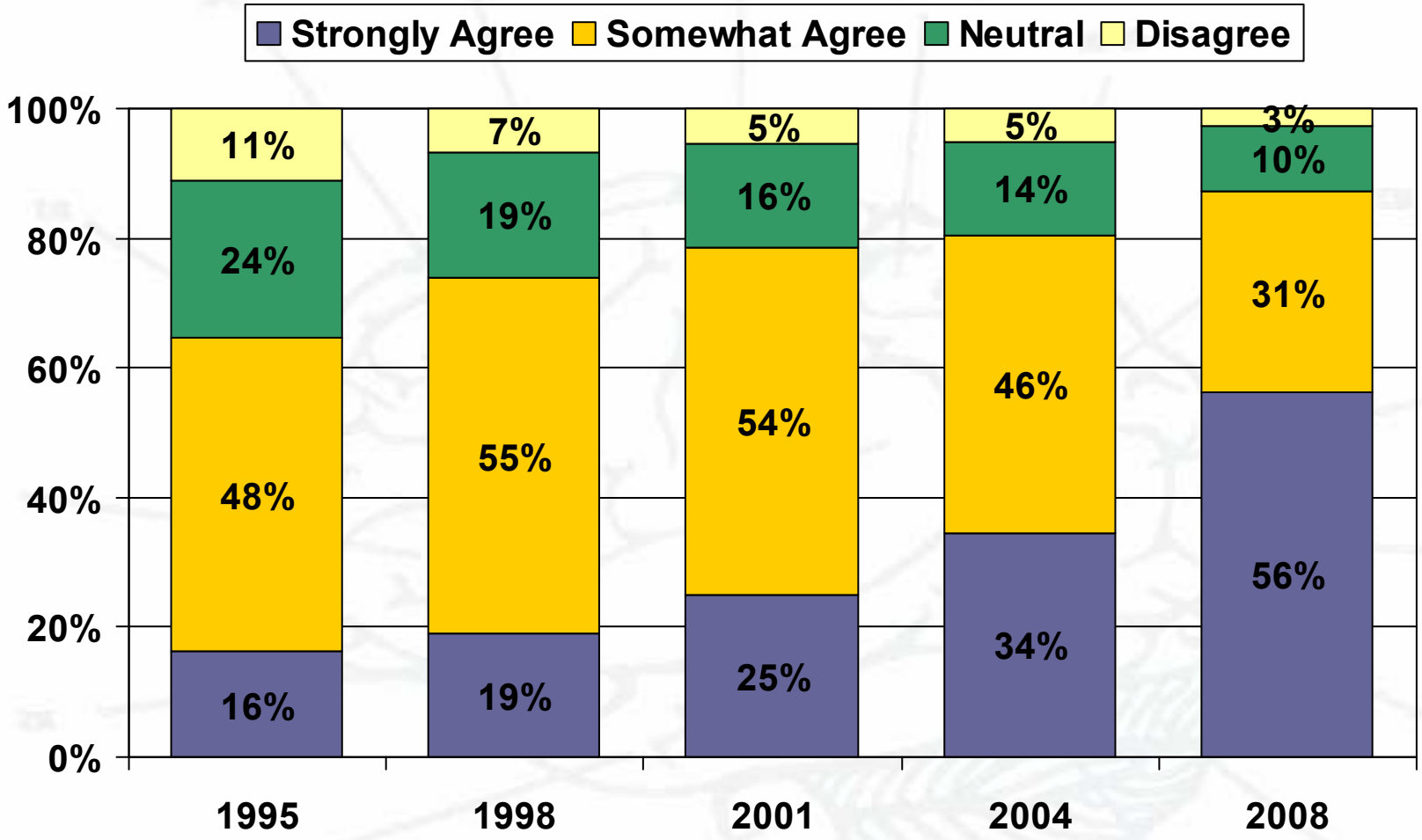
* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

My child's academic work is sufficiently engaging in actively involving him or her in the learning process.



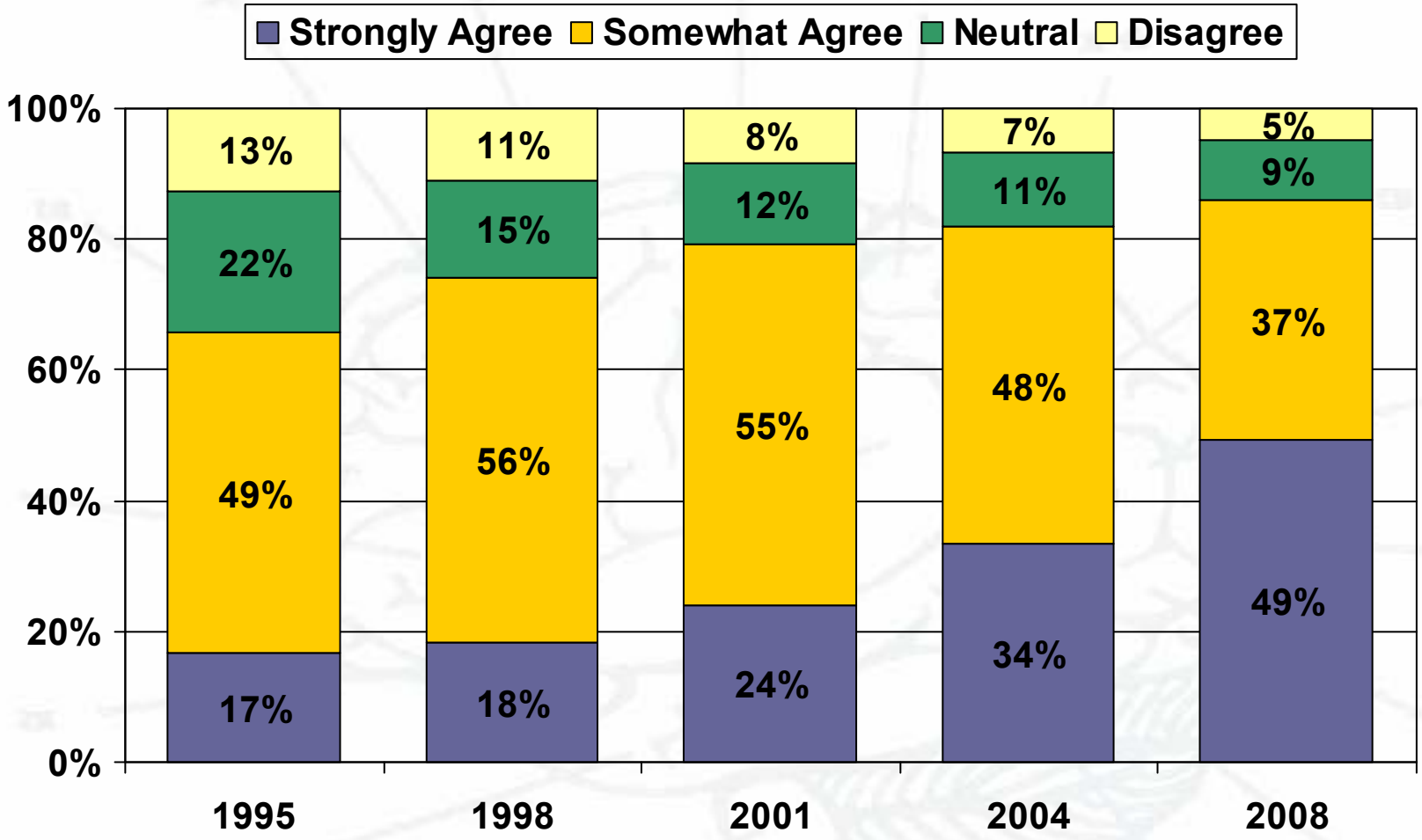
* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

My child's academic work is effective in preparing them for post-secondary education and careers.



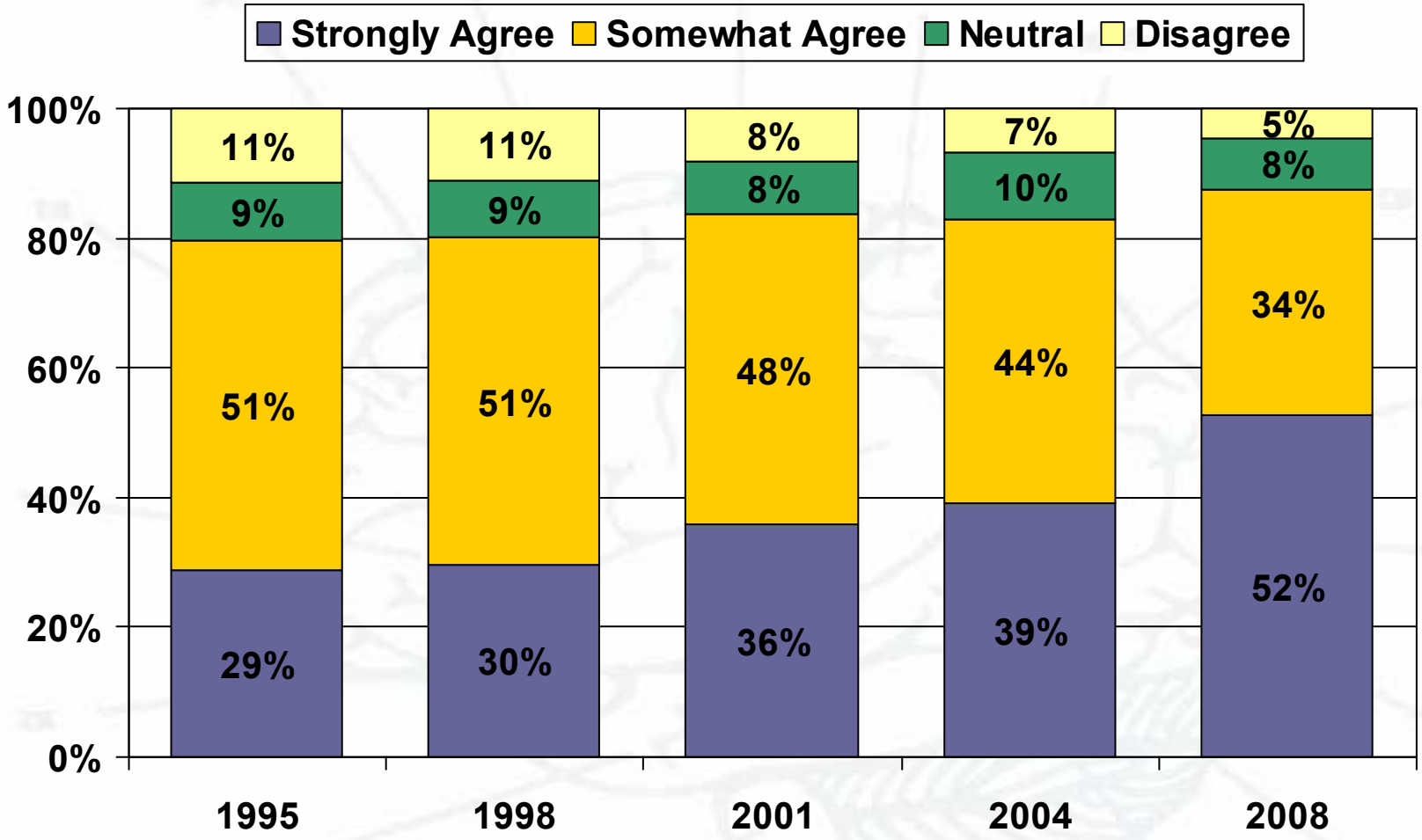
* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

My child's education is preparing them to become independent life-long learners.



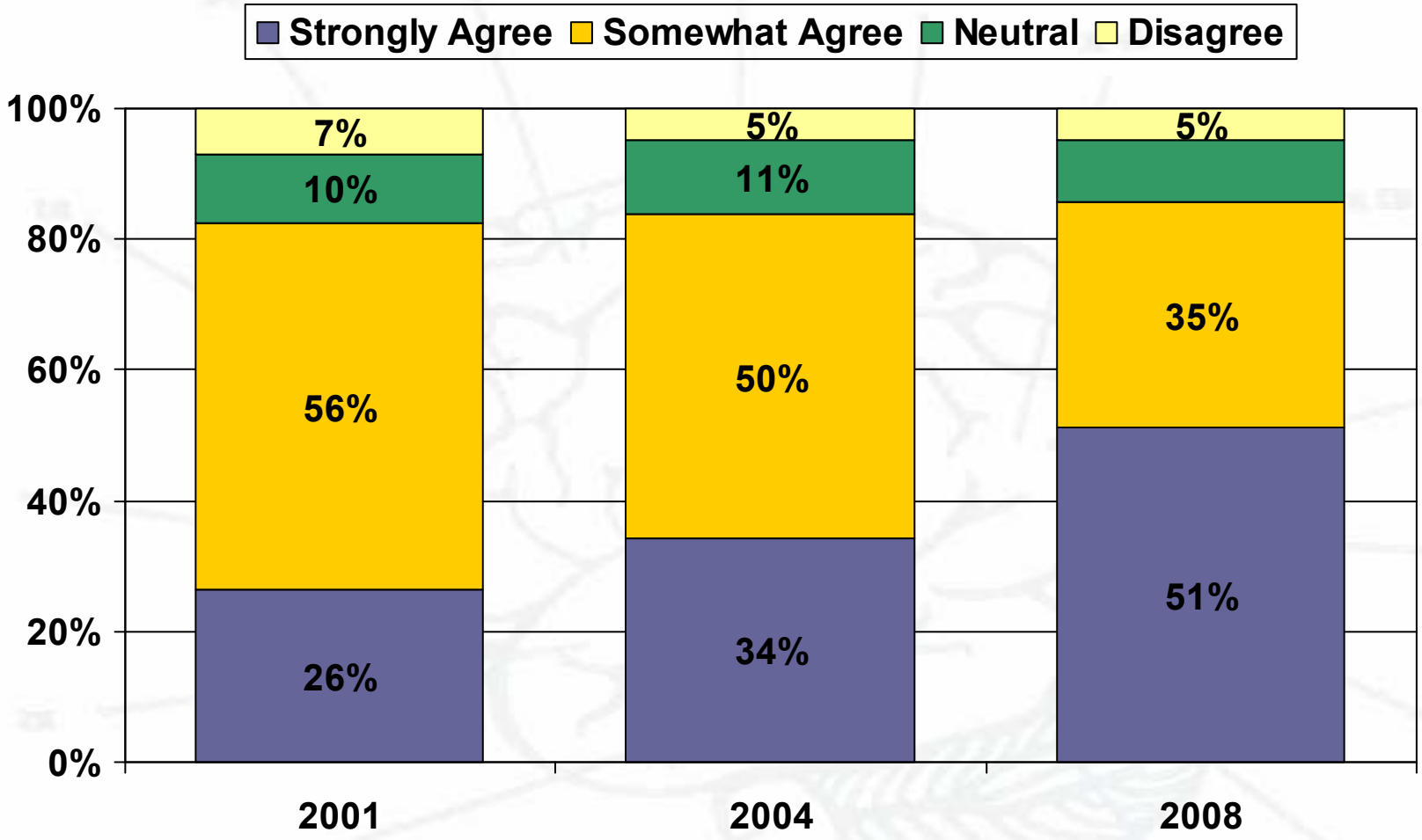
* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

Teachers in our school show concern for my child as an individual.



* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

Our teachers appropriately emphasize developing critical thinking skills (i.e., problem solving, estimating, analyzing, etc.)



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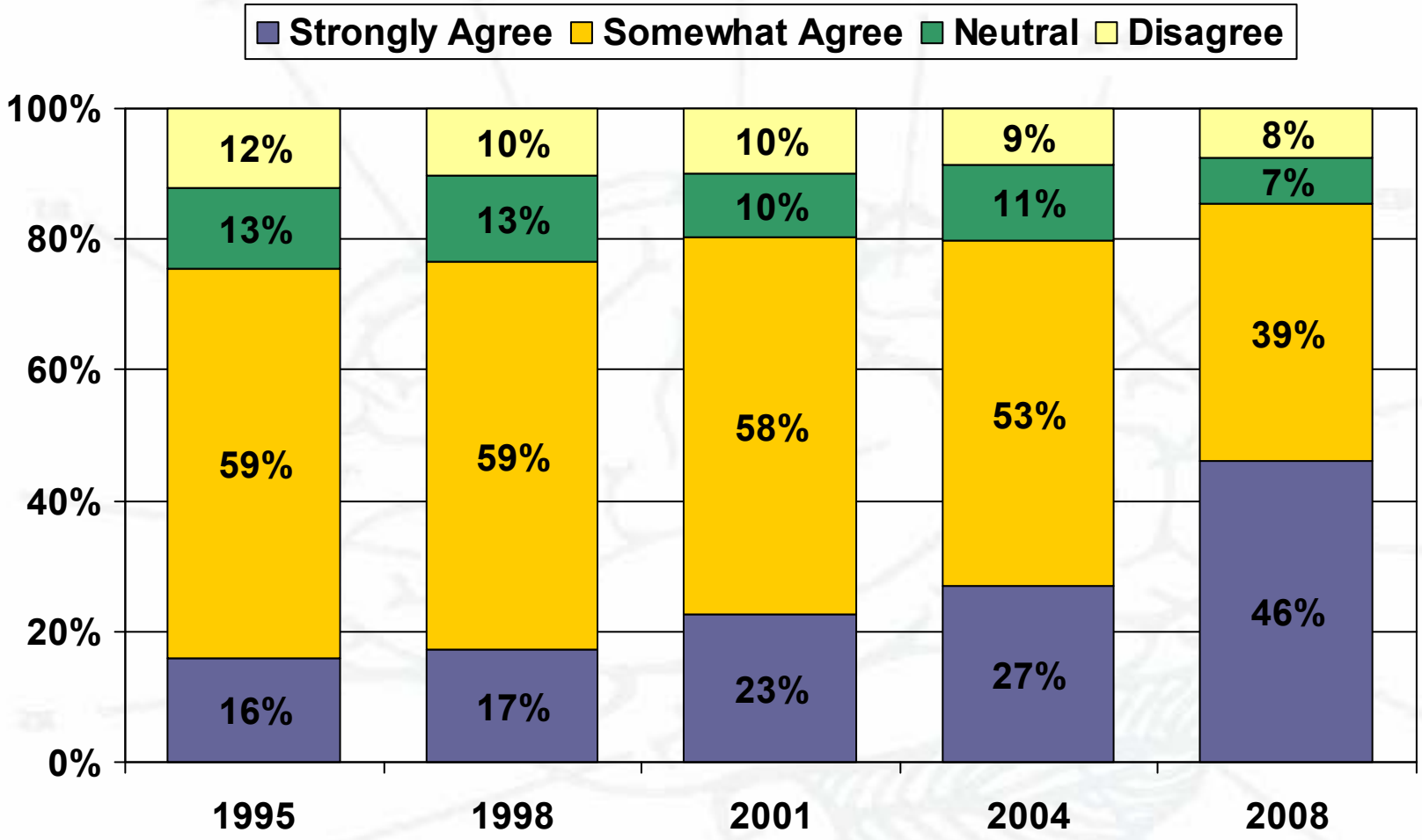
Our school places proper emphasis on grading.



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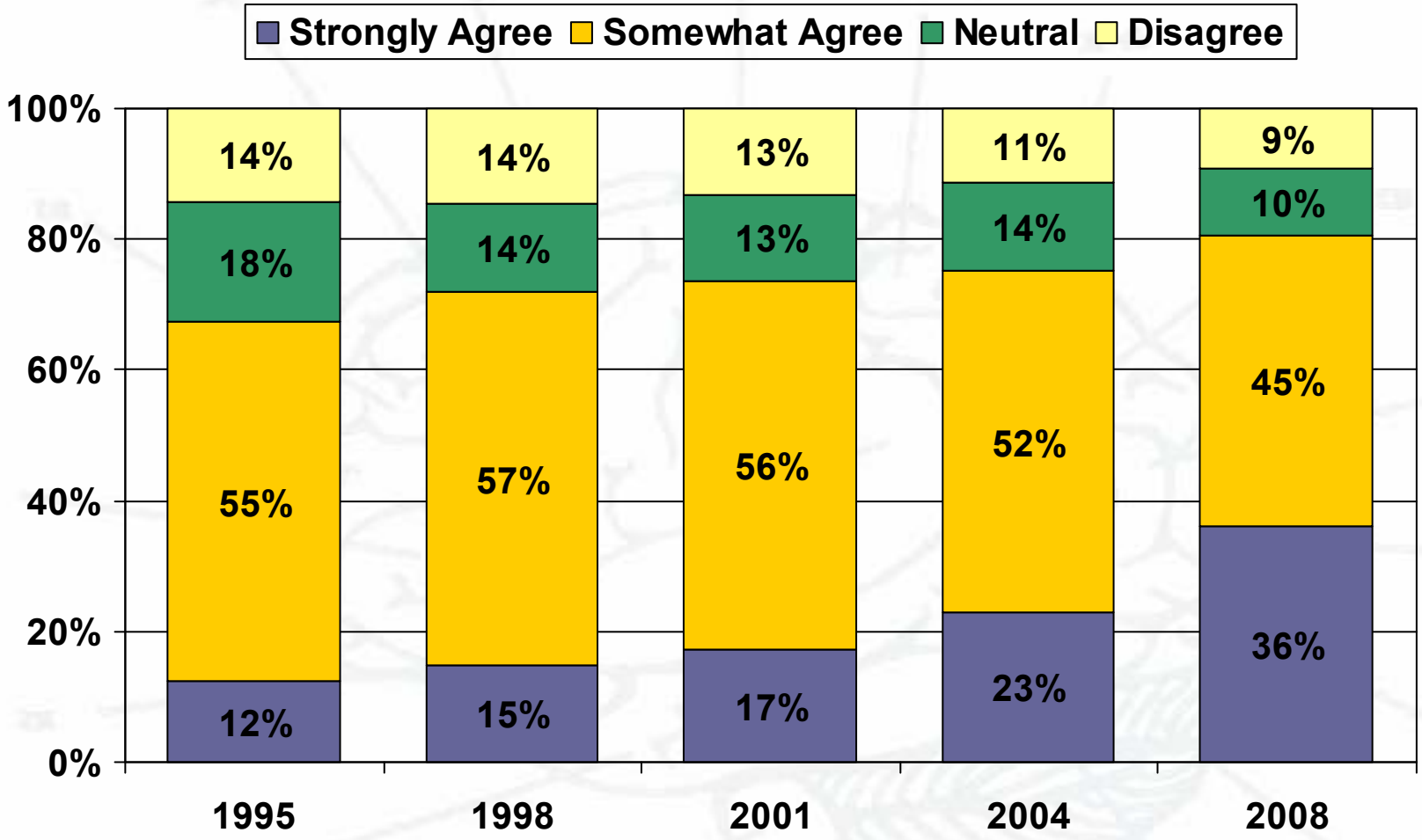
Homework assignments are meaningful.



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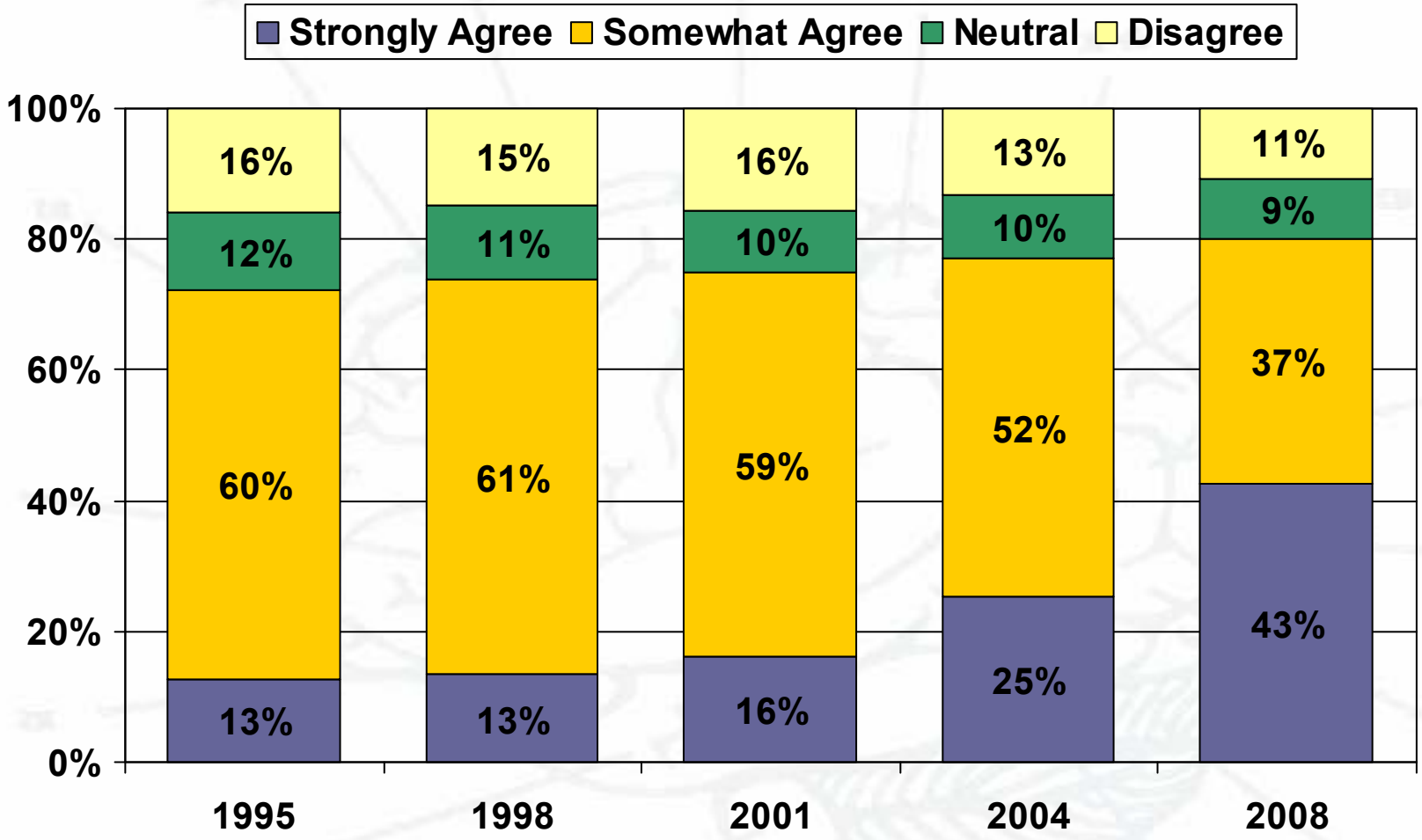
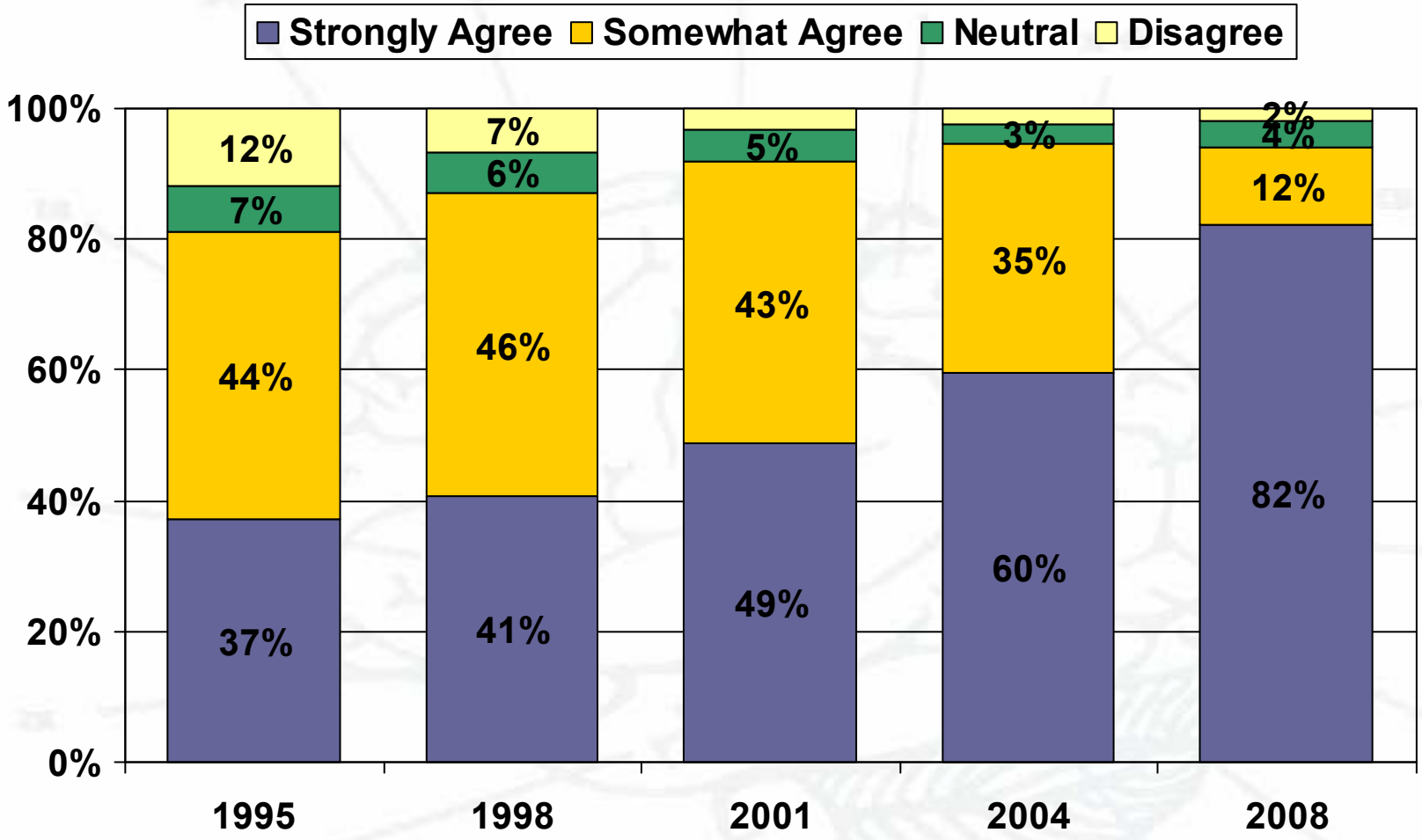
The amount of homework is reasonable and appropriate.



* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

The school promotes an environment free of tobacco.



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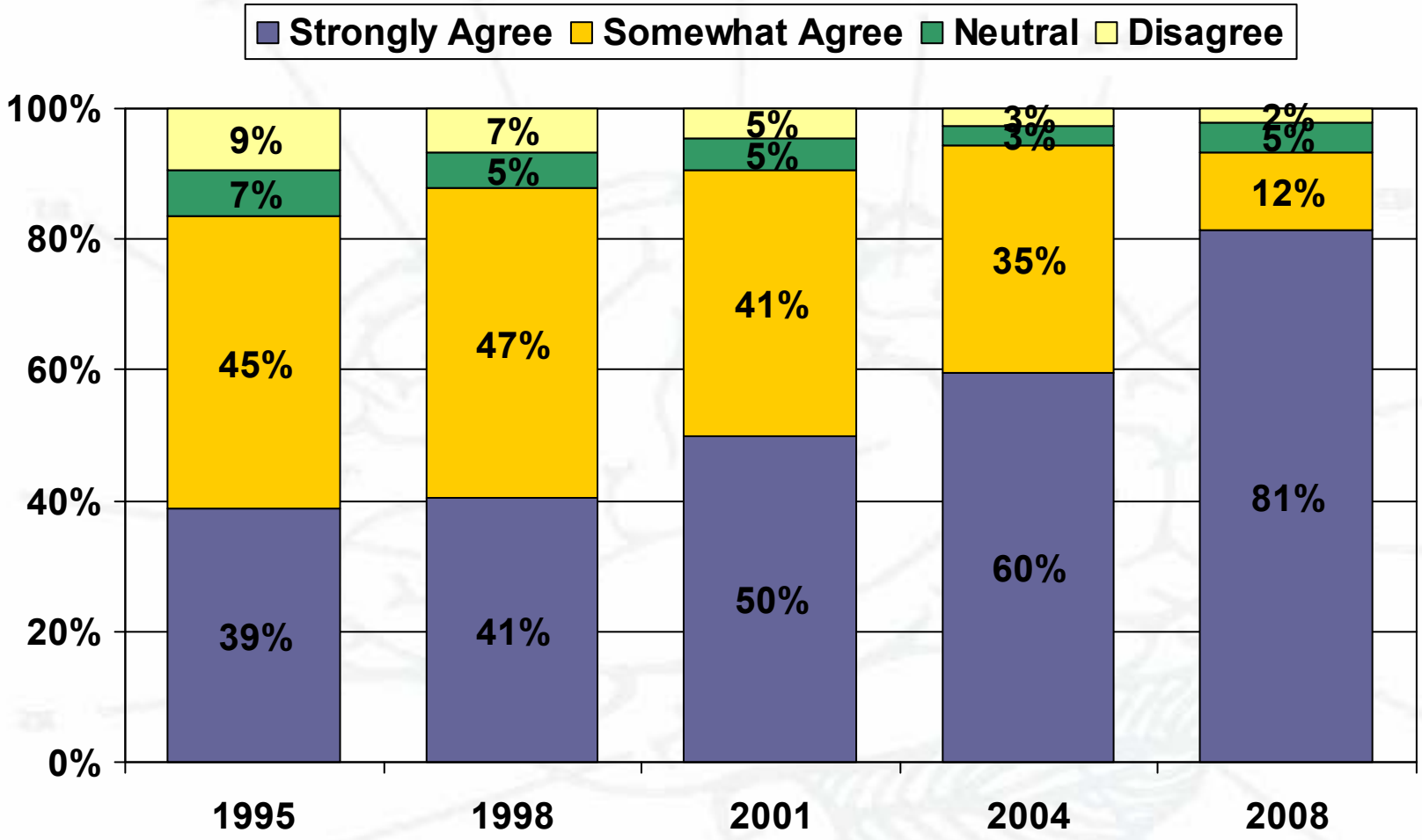
The school promotes an environment free of alcohol.



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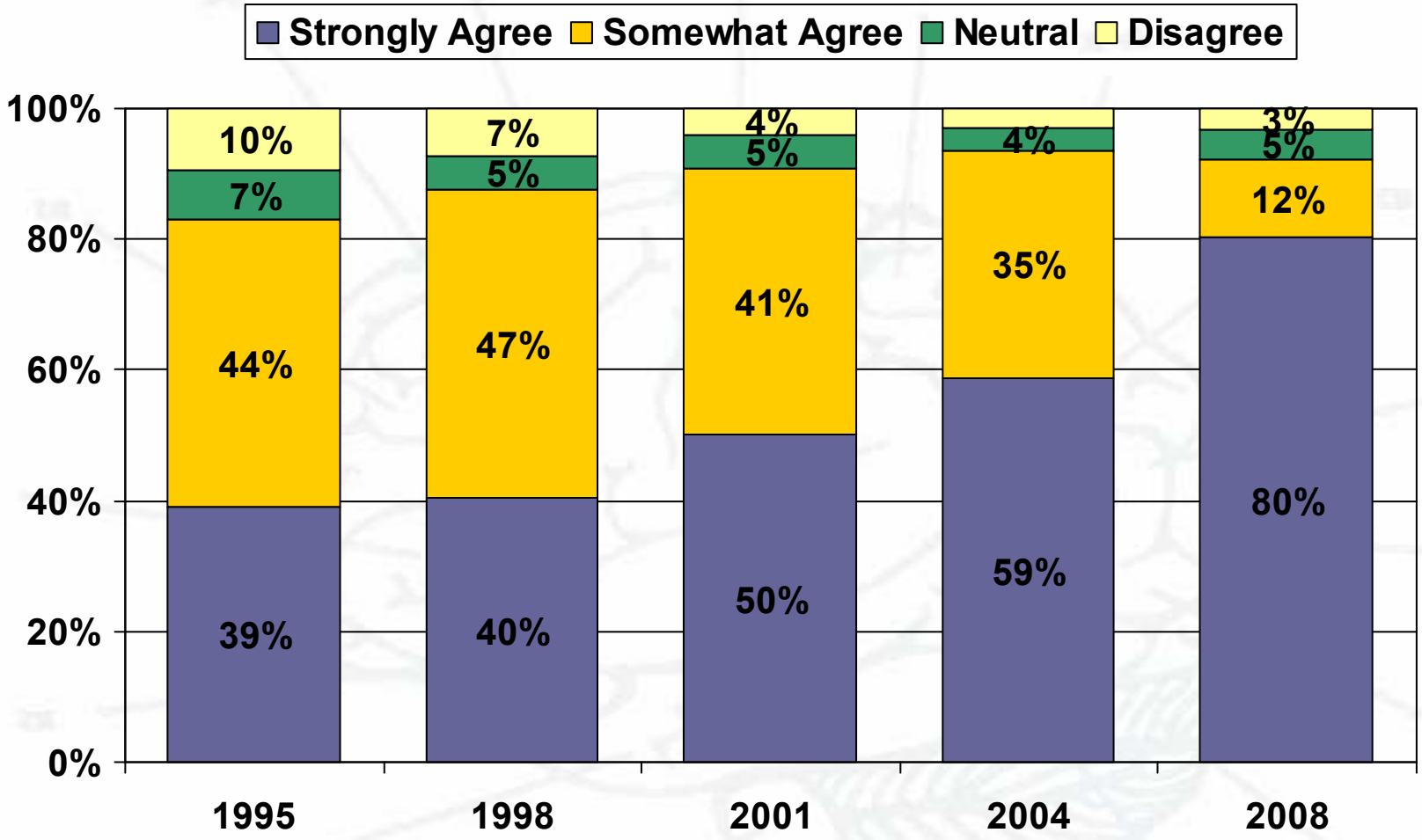
The school promotes an environment free of other drugs.



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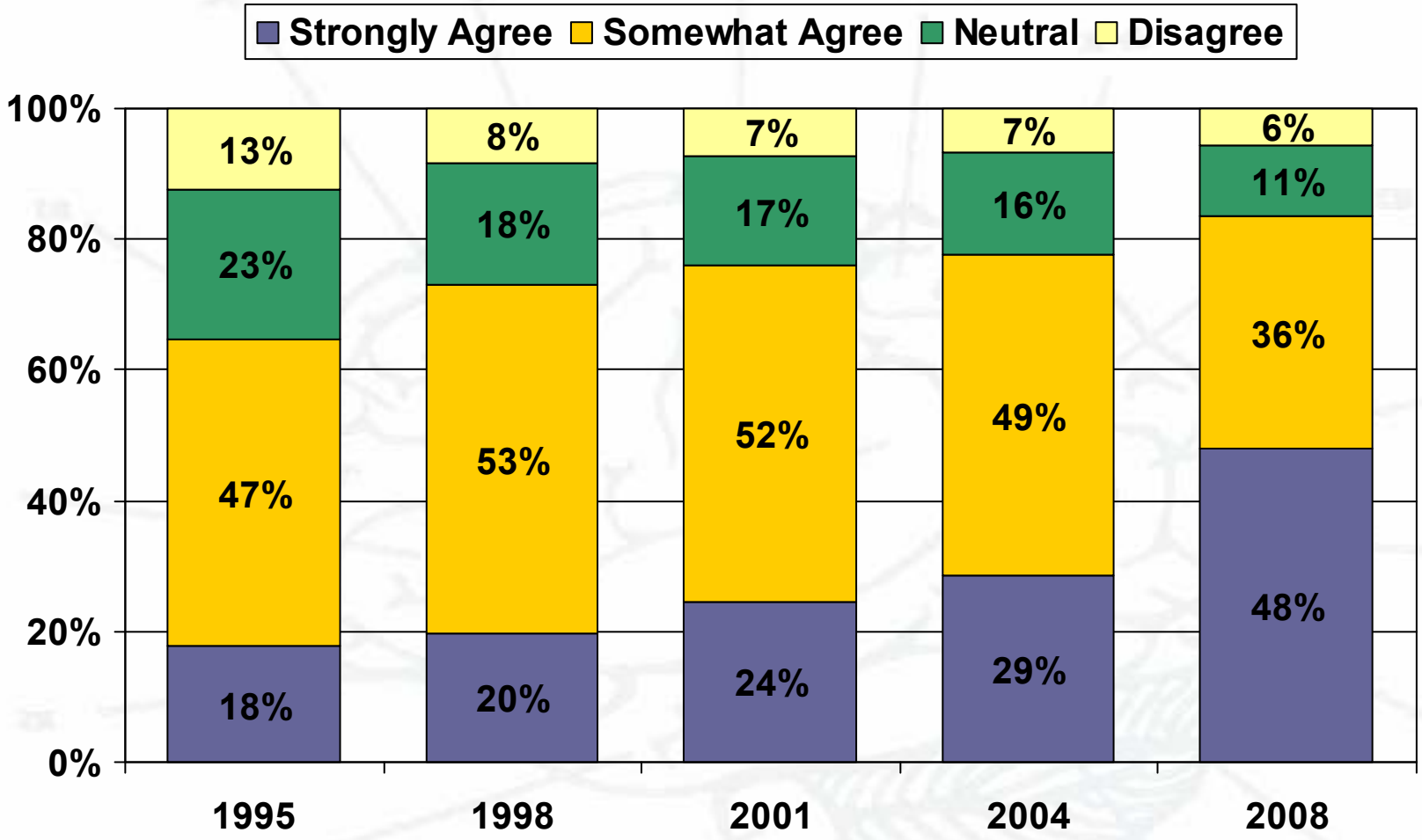
Decisions made by the local school are student-centered.



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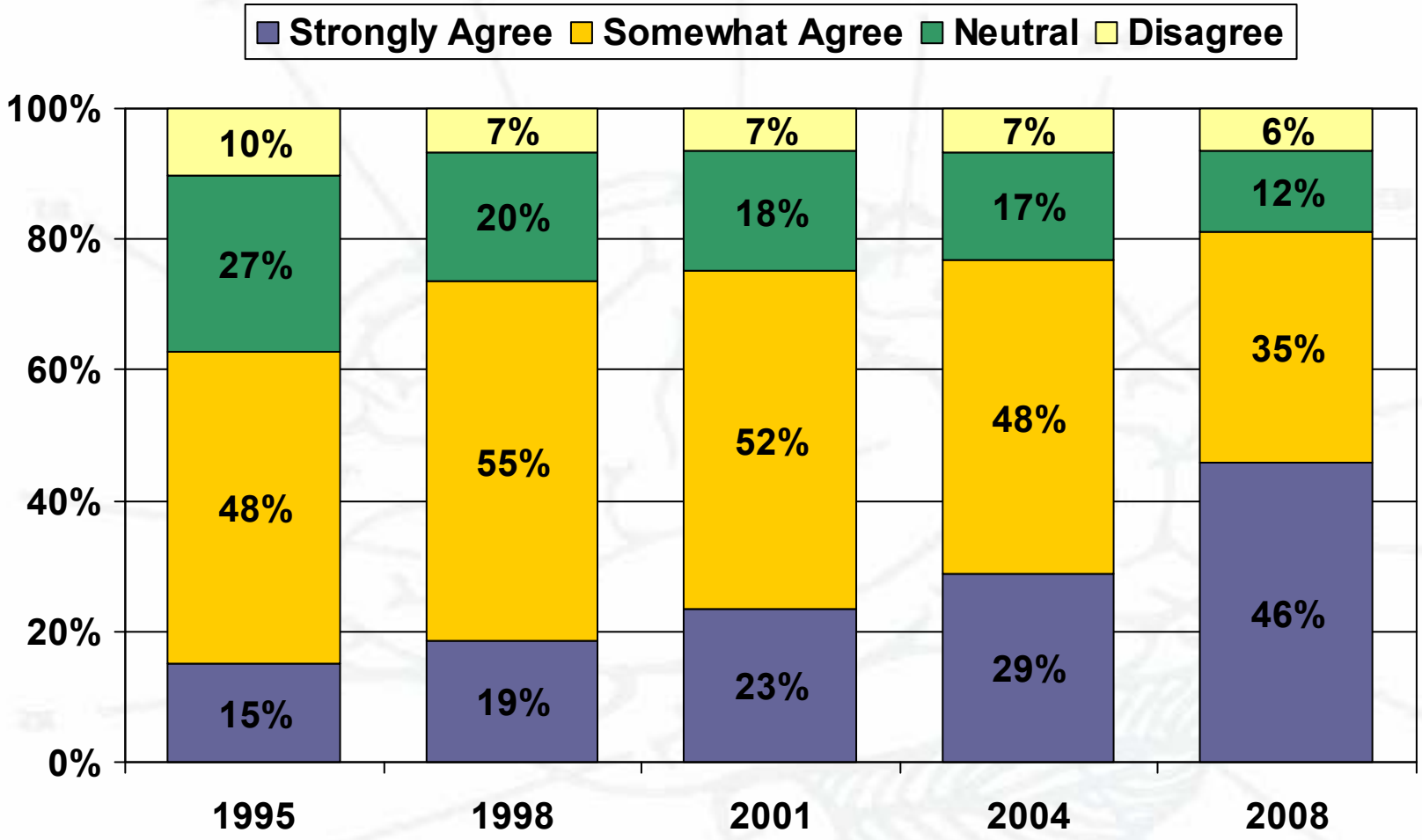
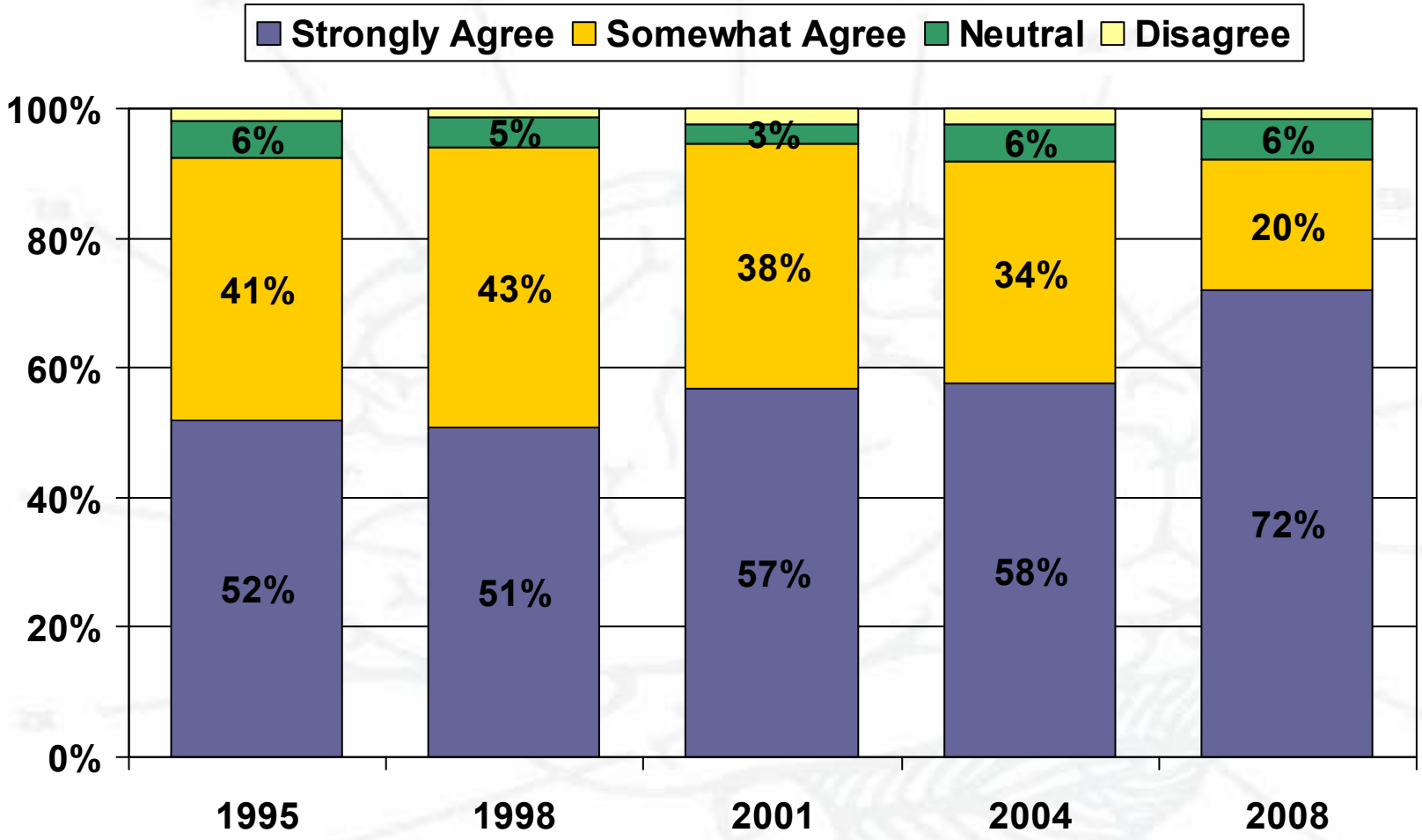
Decisions made by the school system are student-centered.



* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

Ongoing staff development / training opportunities for faculty and staff are necessary for continuing improvement of our schools.



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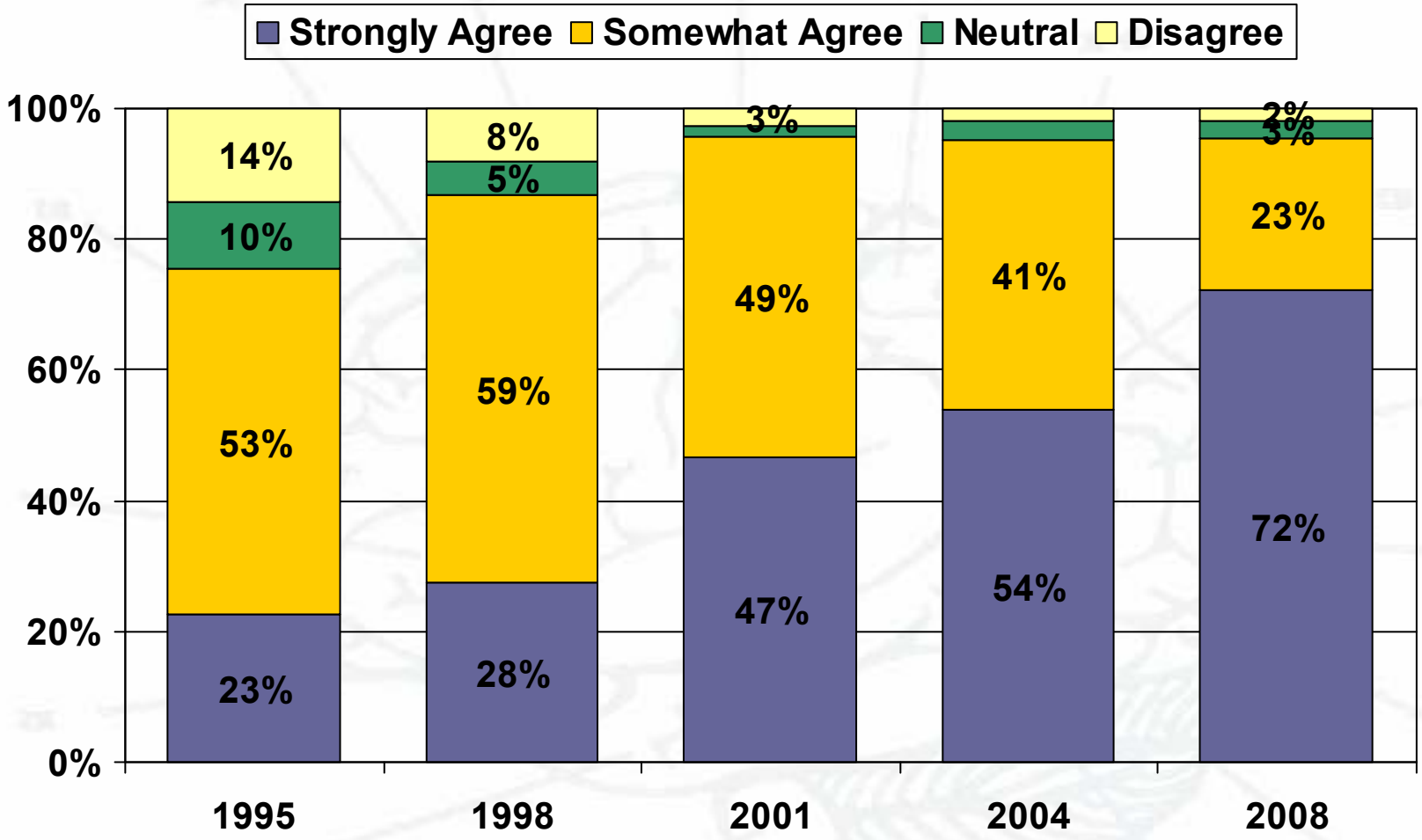
The school is well-maintained with regard to buildings.



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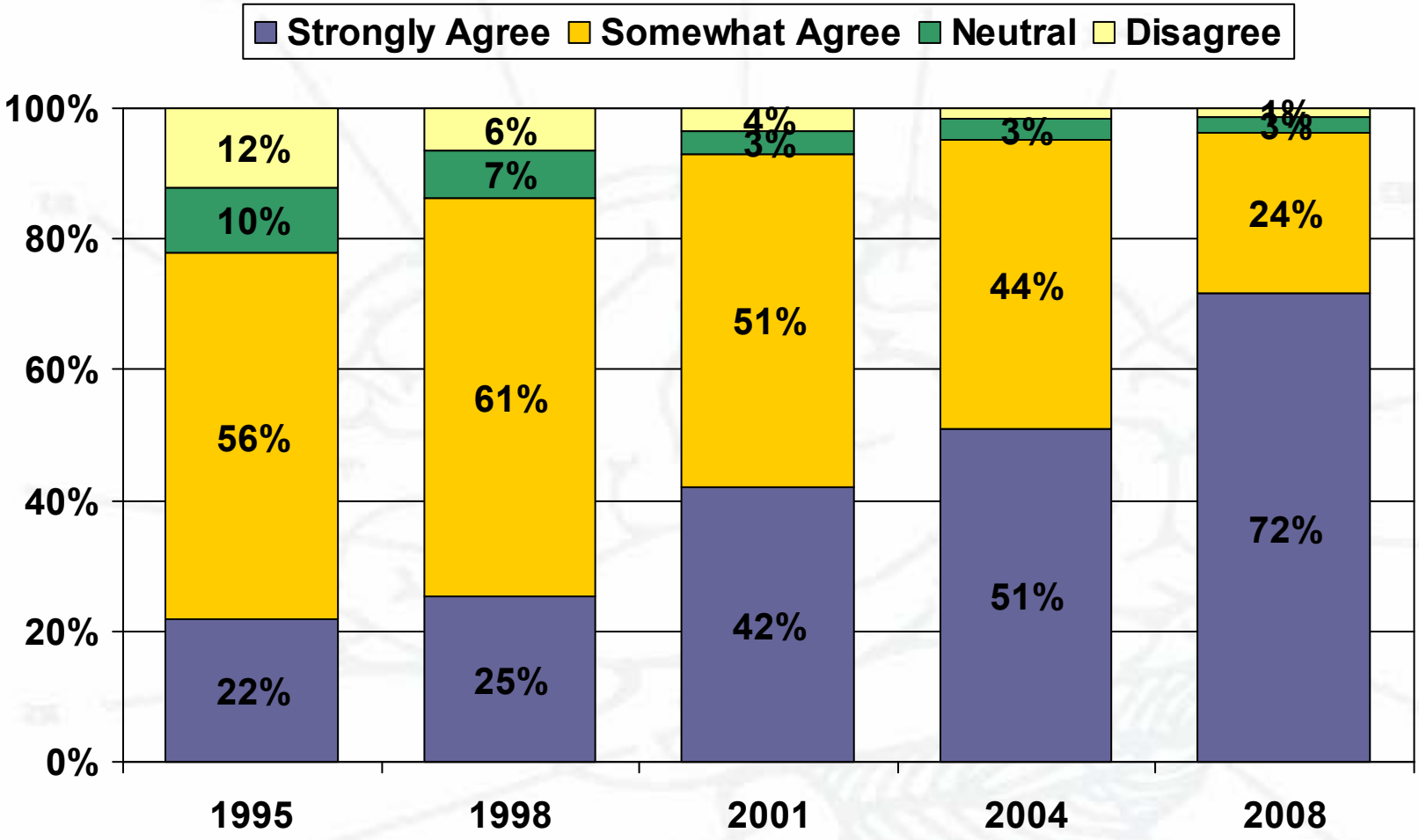
The school is well-maintained in regard to grounds.



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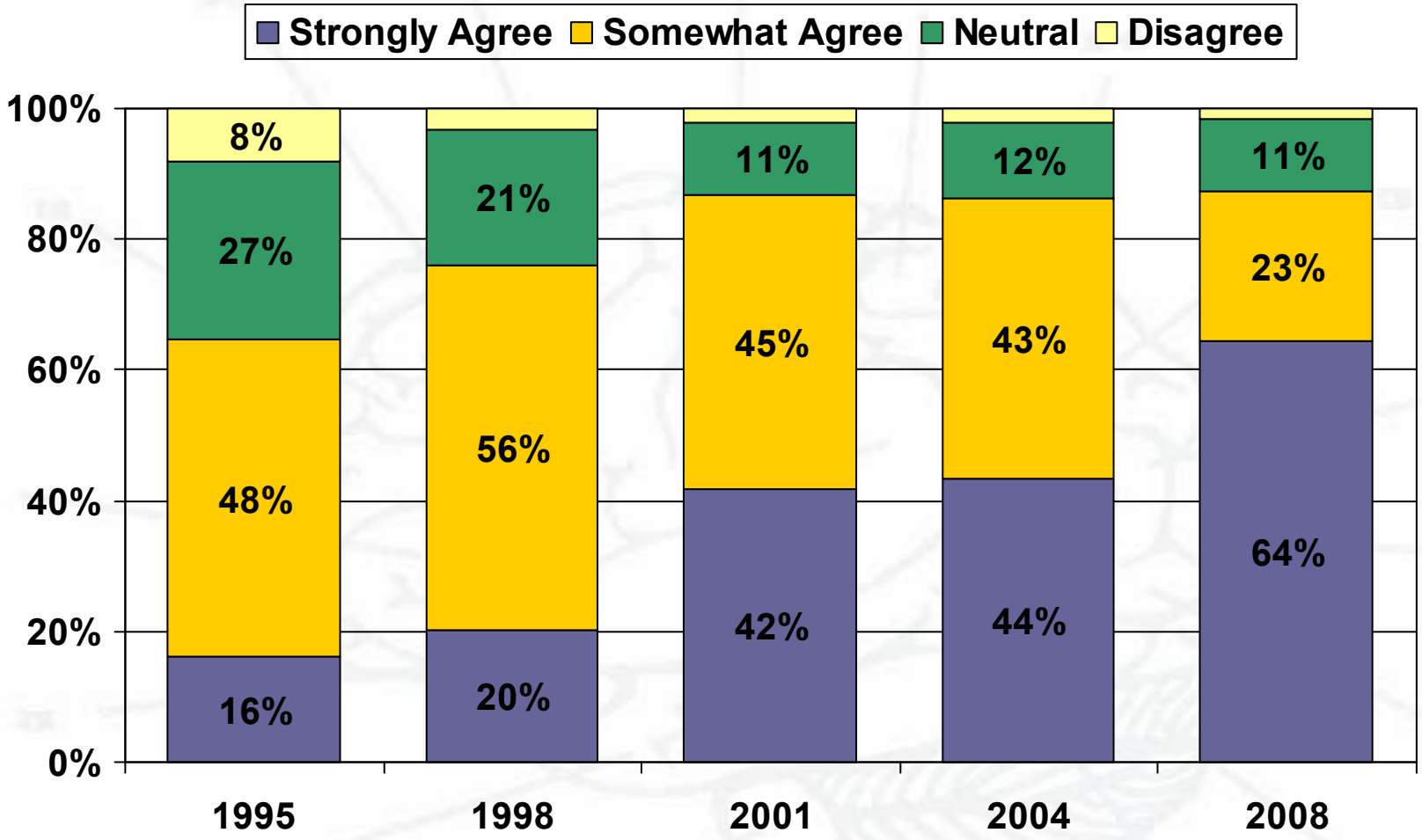
The school system manages its financial resources responsibly.



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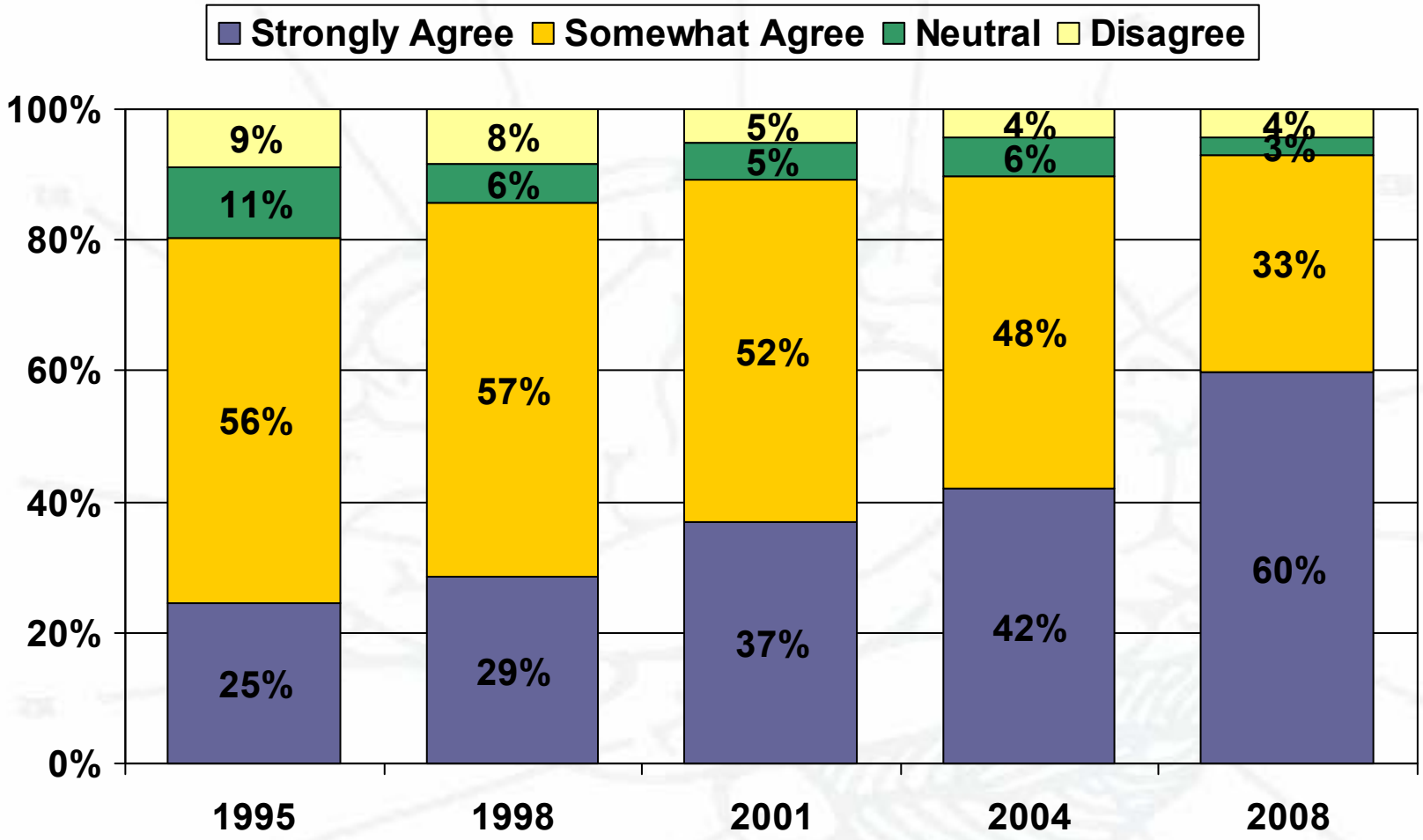
Our teachers are competent.



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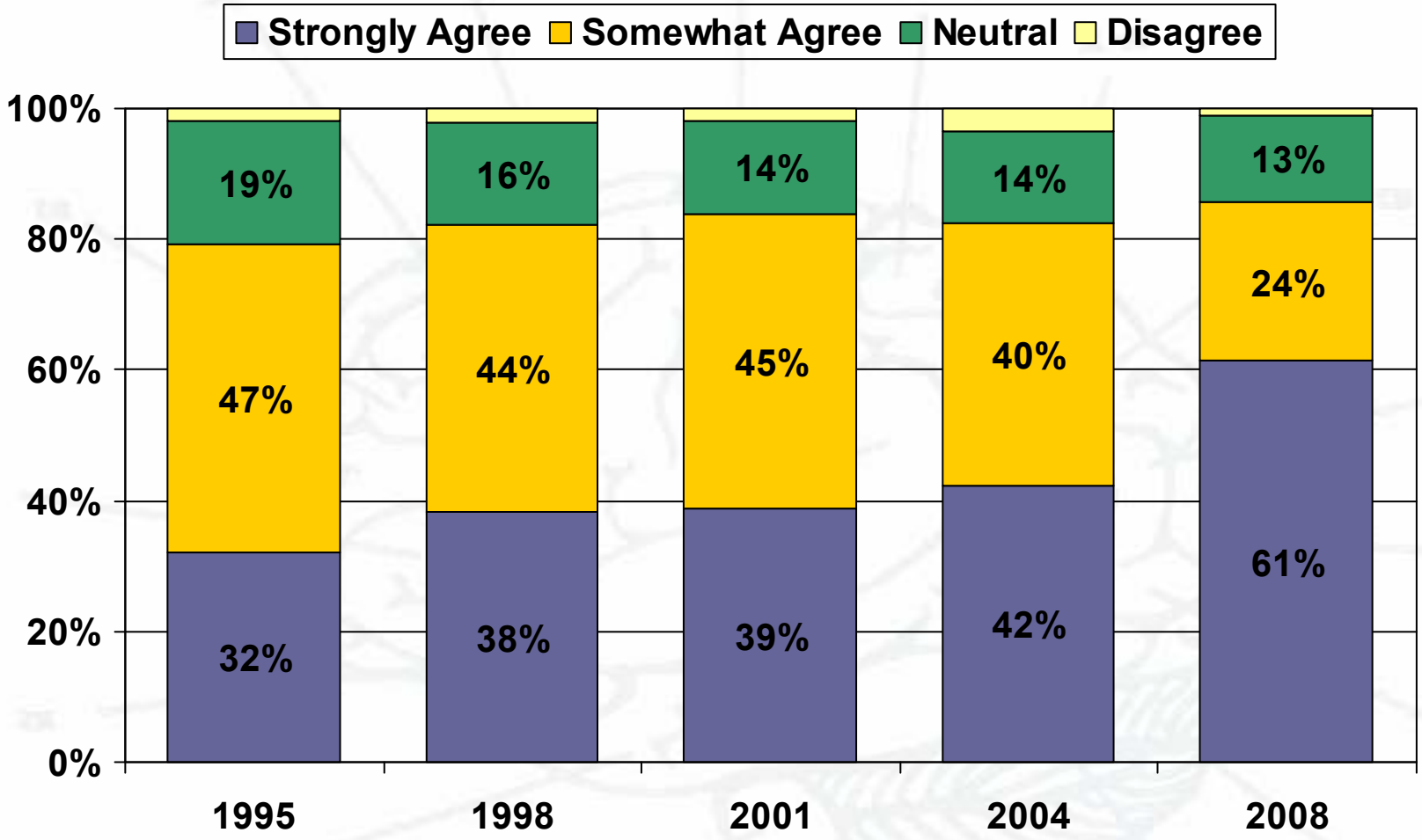
The superintendent is making effective efforts toward improving the school system.



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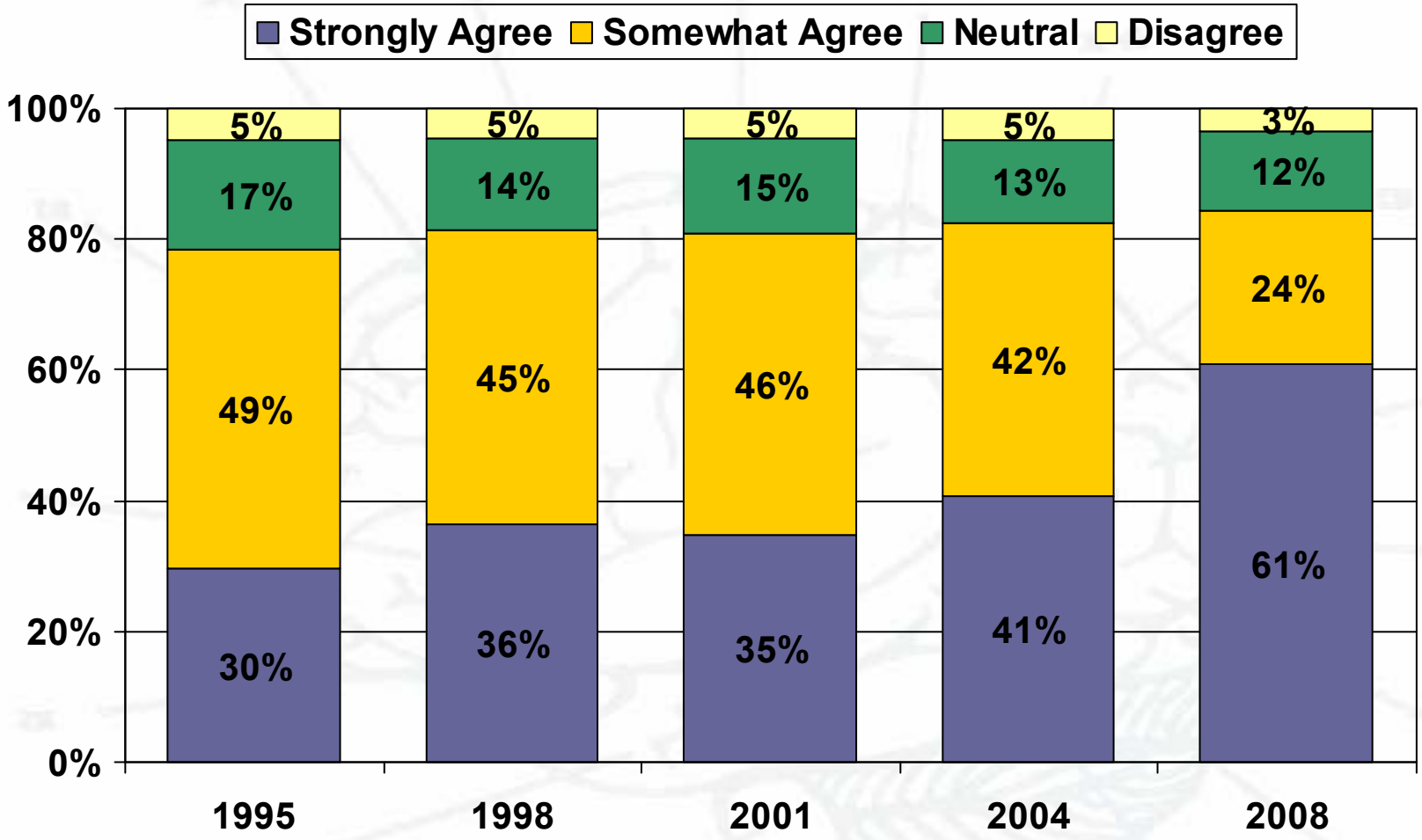
The superintendent is making effective efforts toward keeping parents informed about issues that are important.



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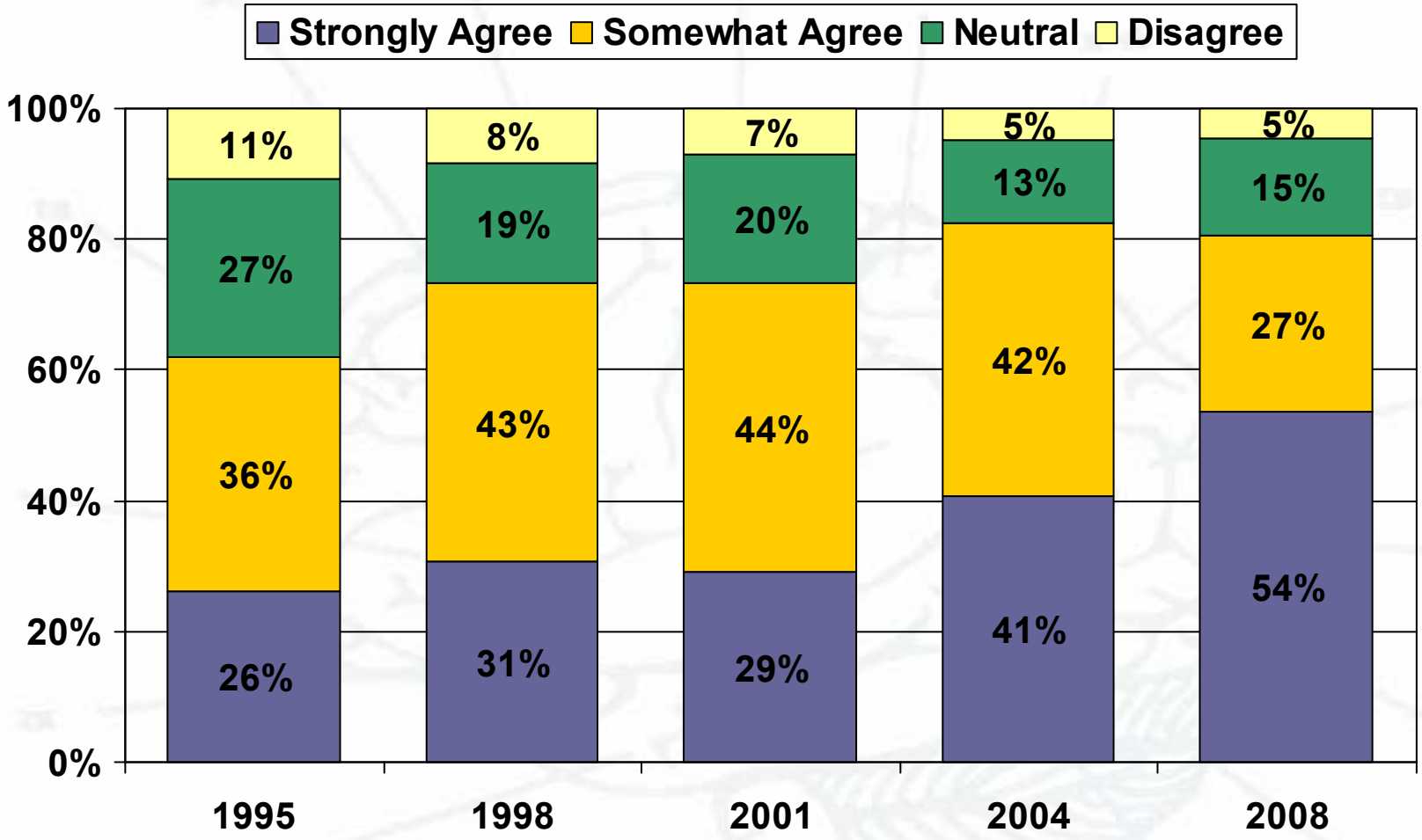
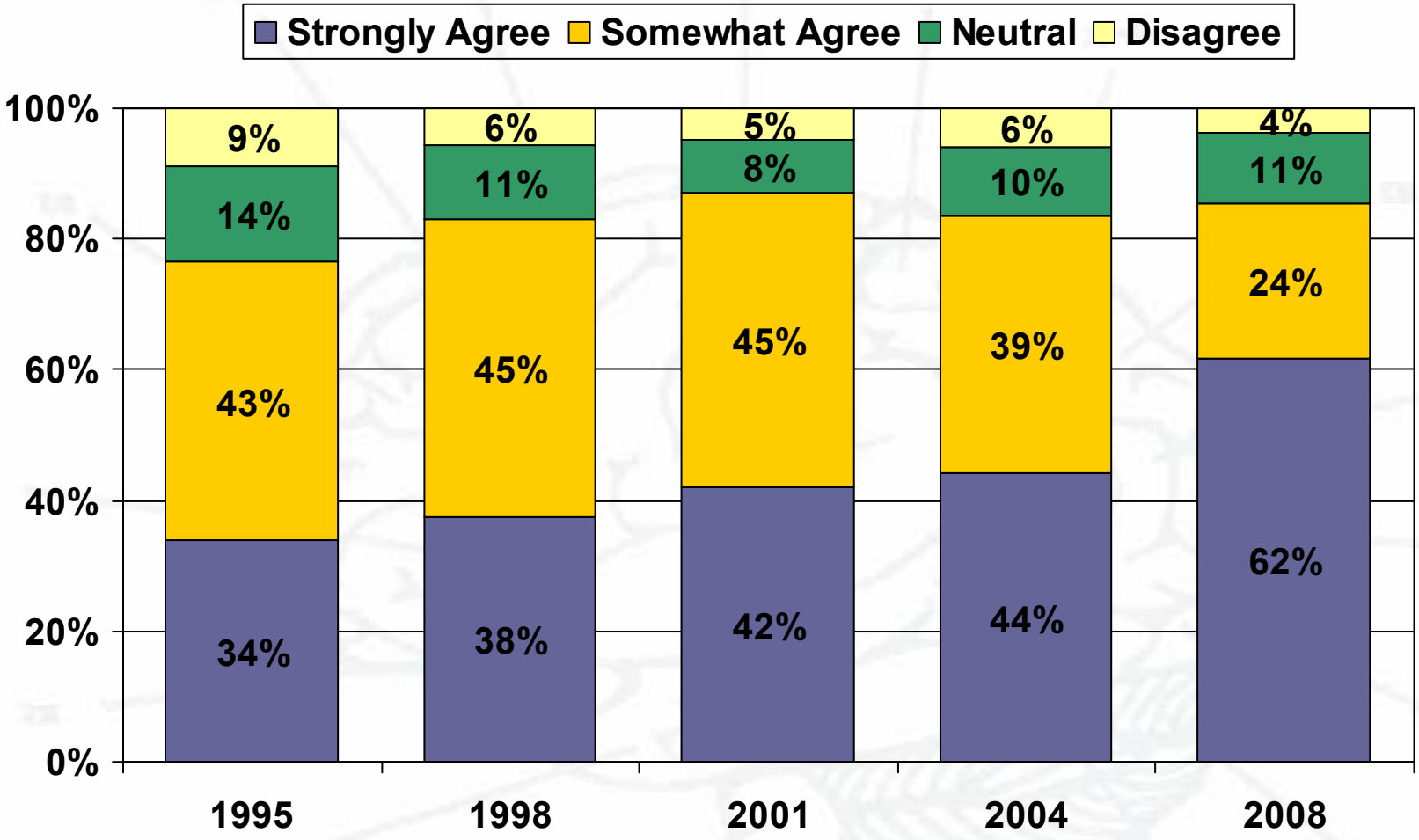
The superintendent is providing appropriate opportunities for parent involvement and input in the school system.



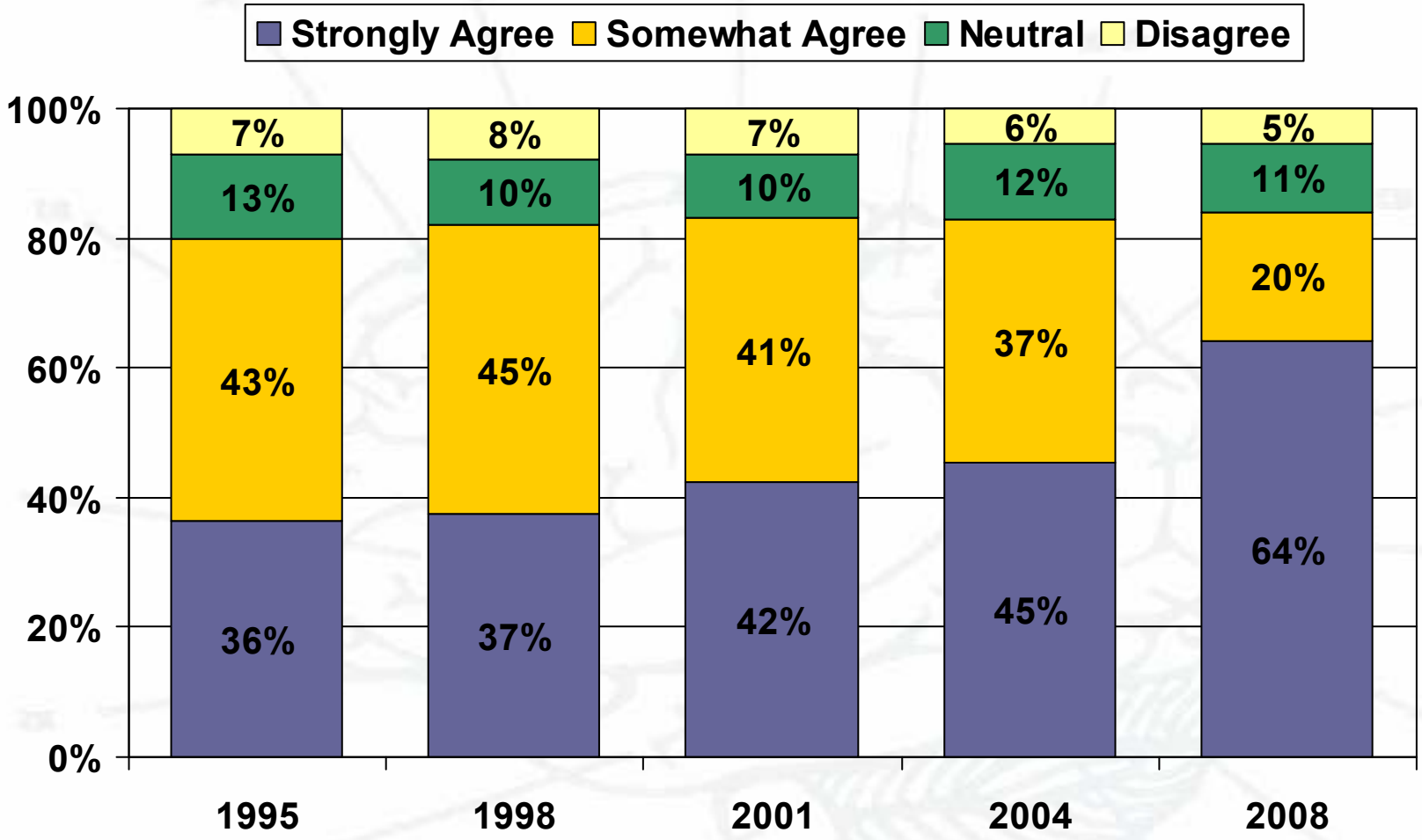
* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

The principal is effectively leading improvement efforts in our school.



** "Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

The principal is available to listen to parent concerns.



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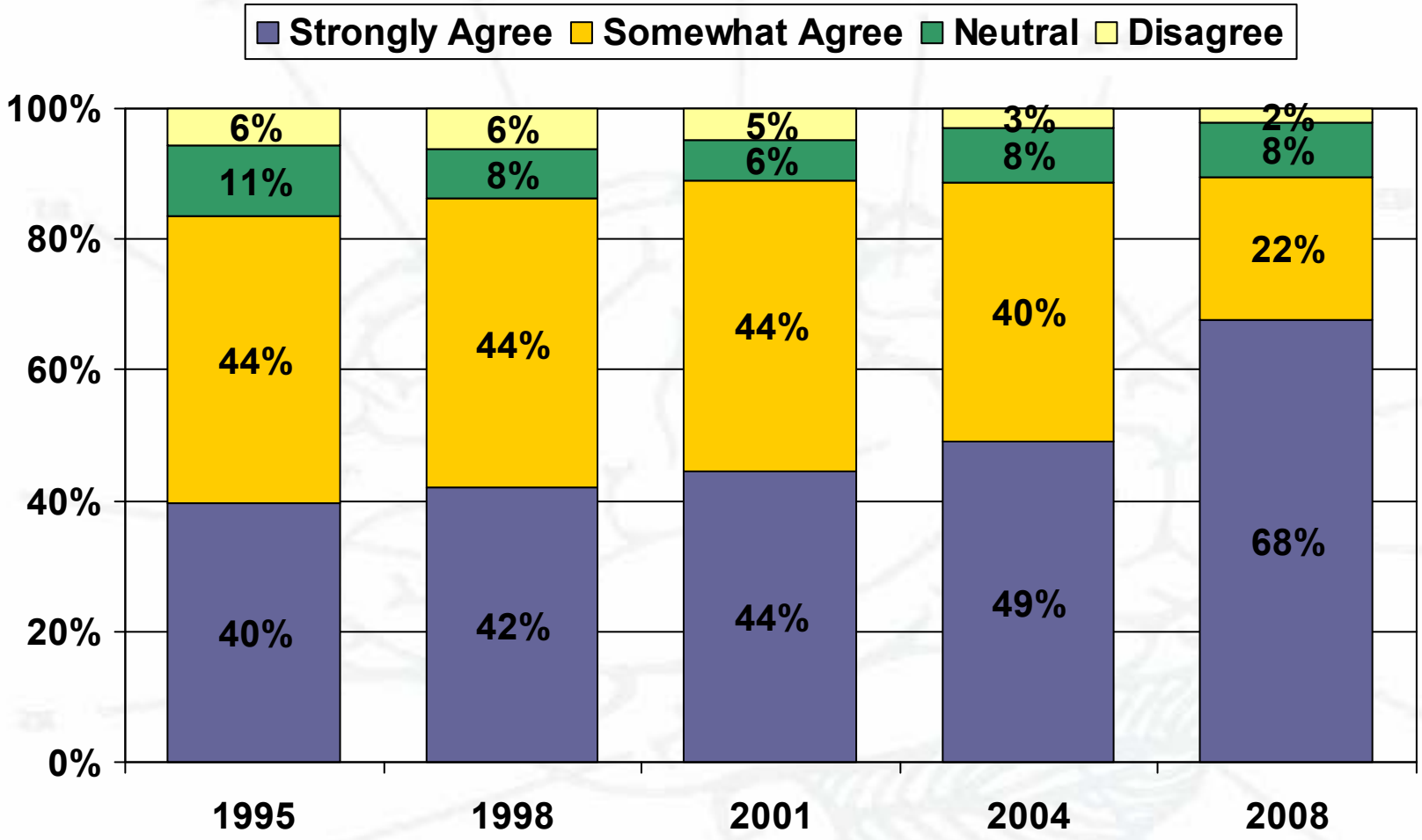
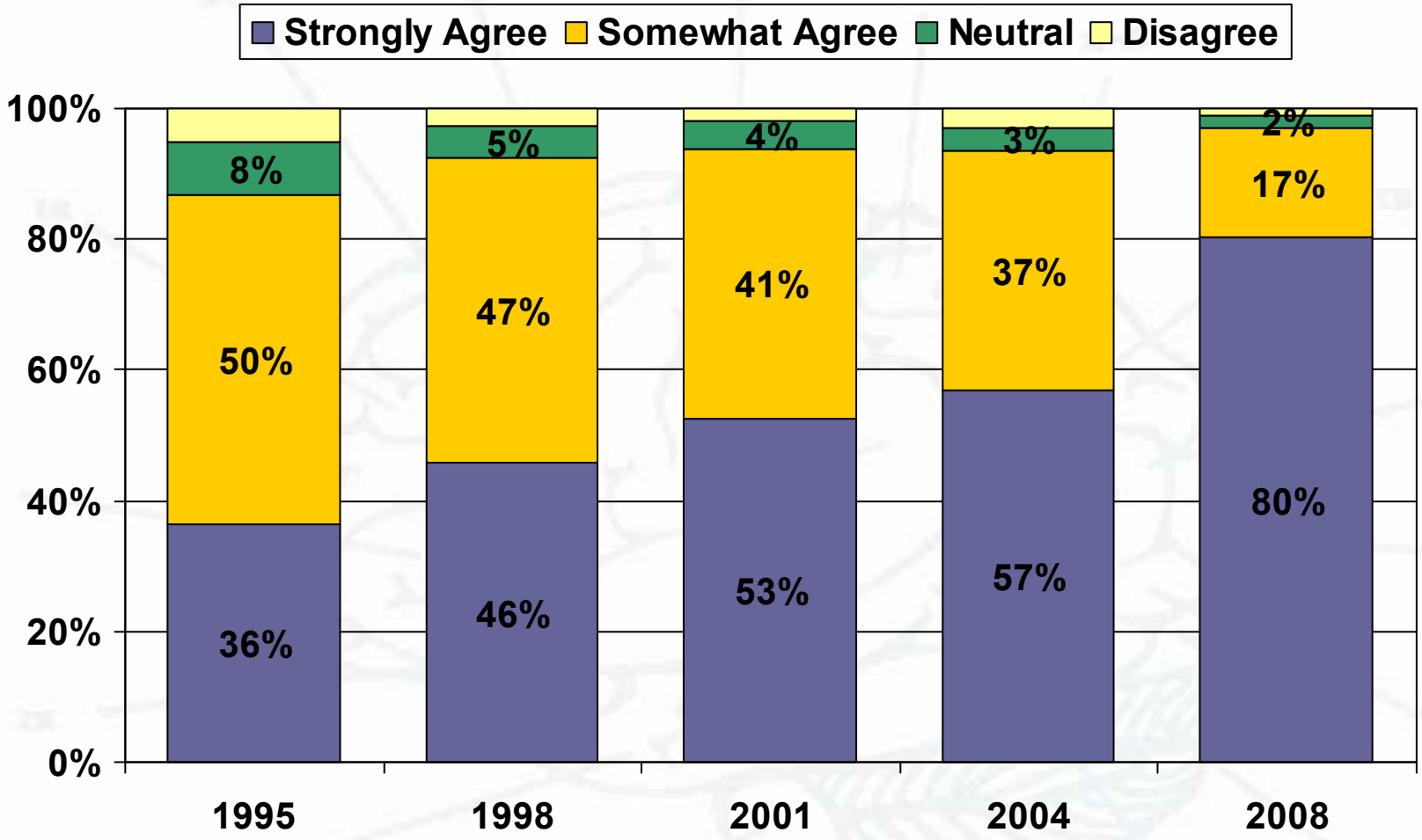
The principal is positively perceived by children.



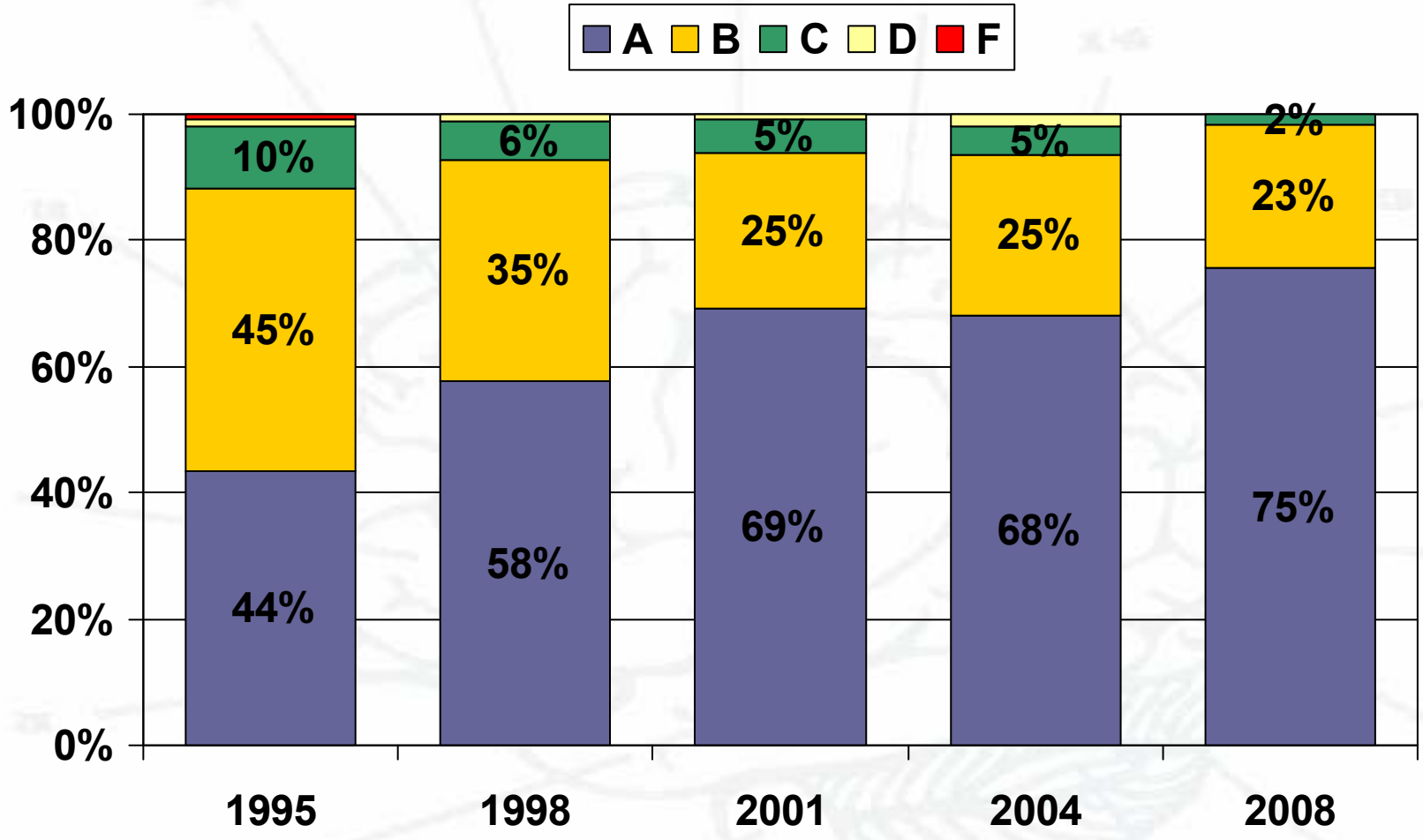
* *"Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

I am optimistic about the future of the Mountain Brook City Schools.



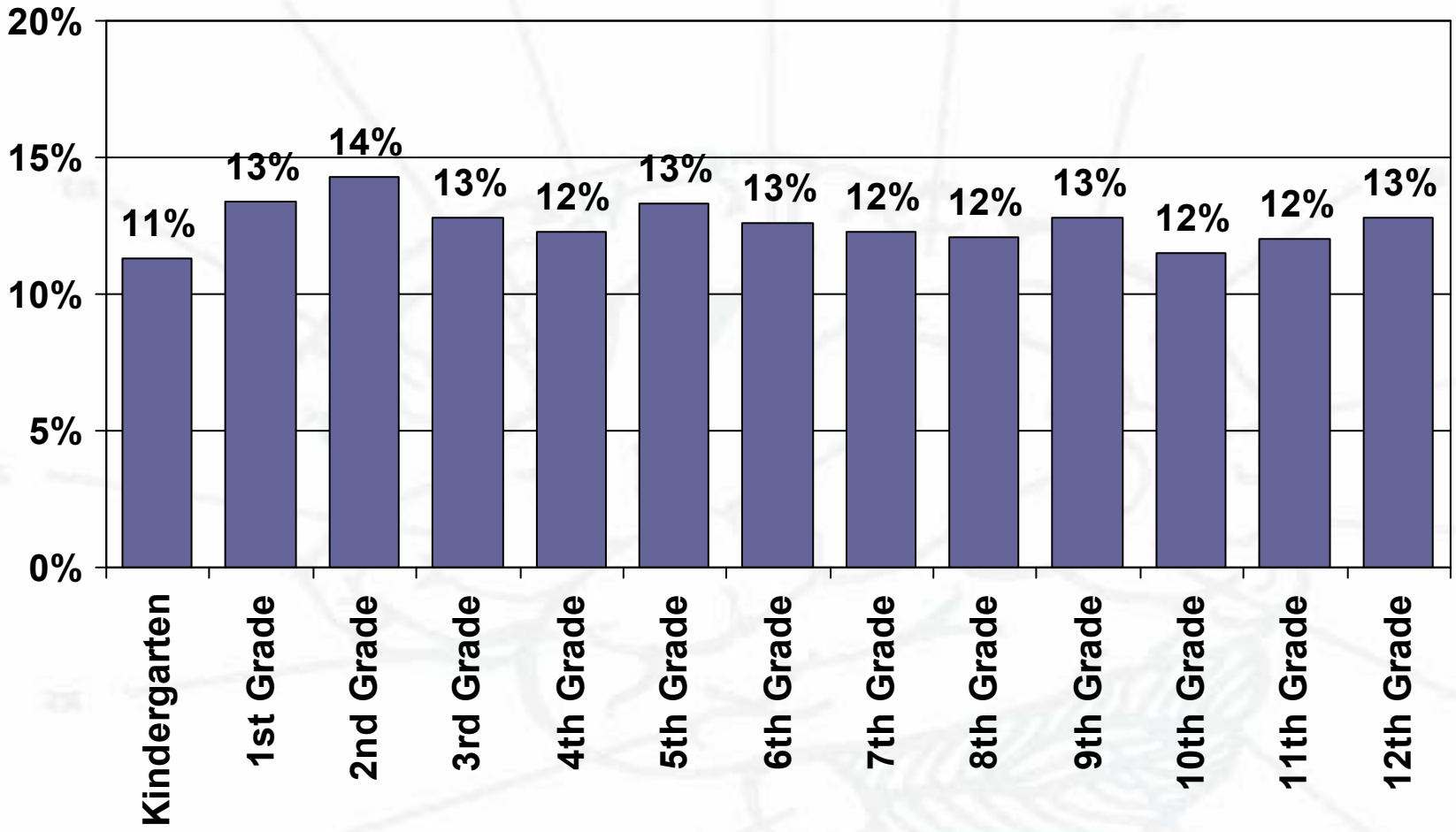
** "Disagree" includes those who disagree very much and those who disagree.*

Overall, what grade would you give Mountain Brook Schools?

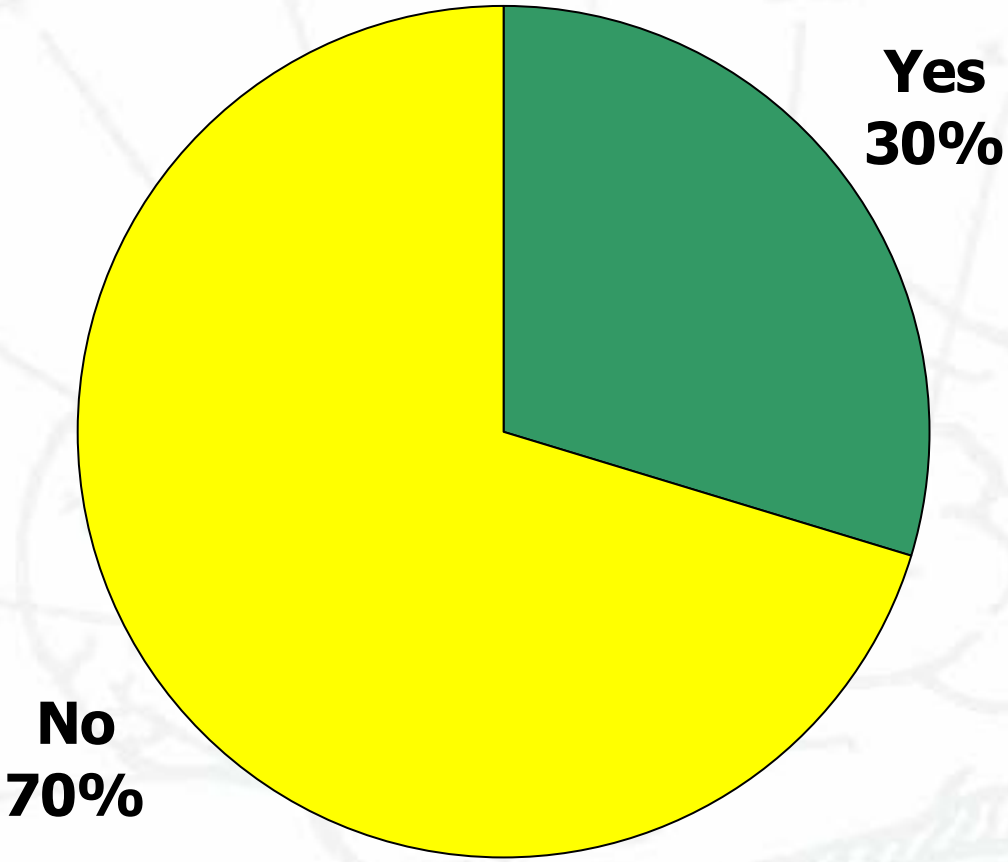


What are the demographics of the overall sample?

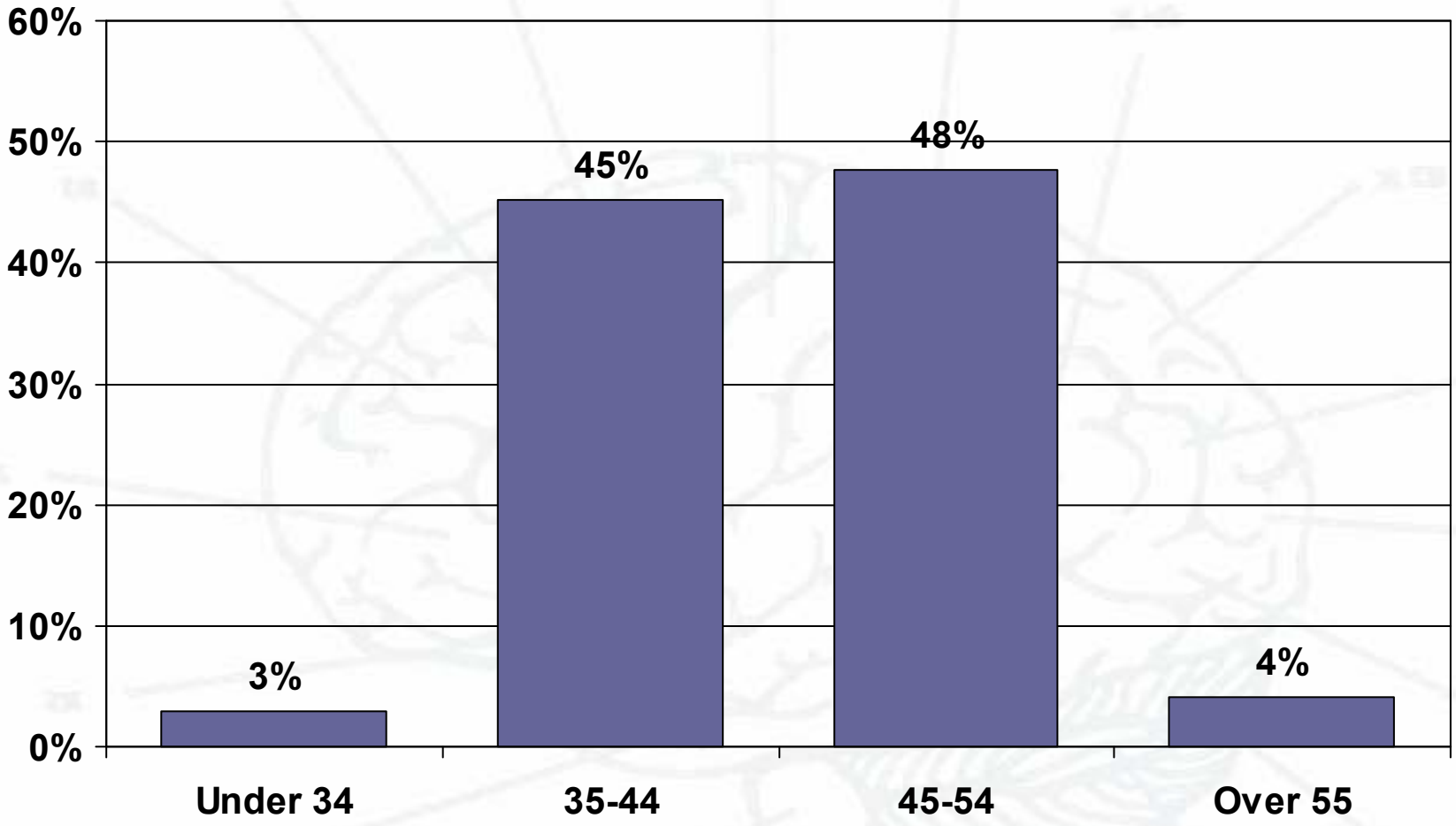
In which grade is your child enrolled?



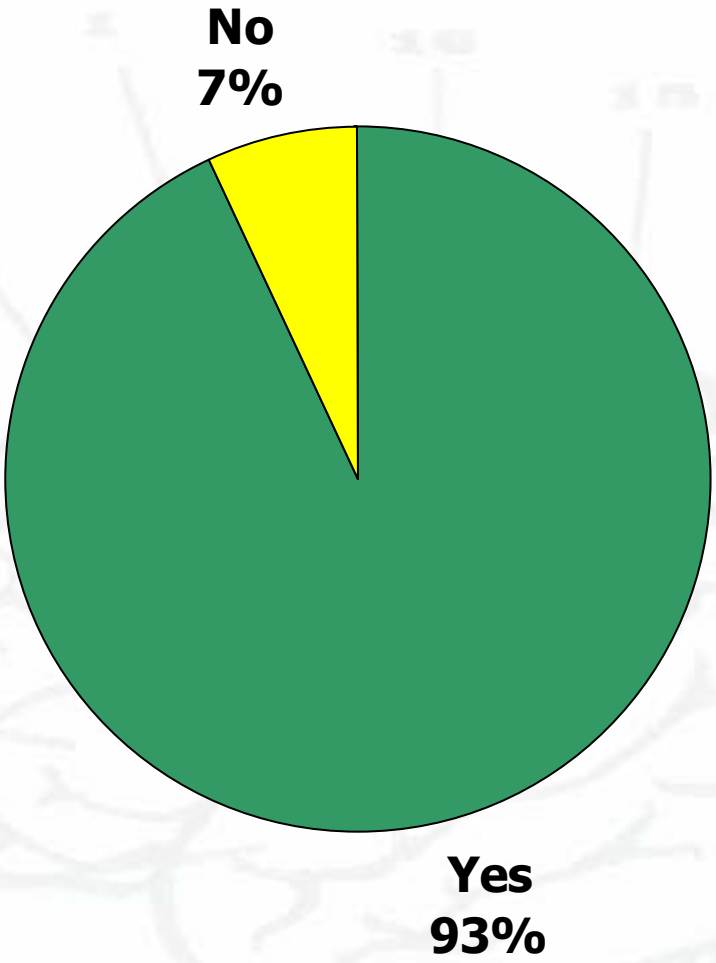
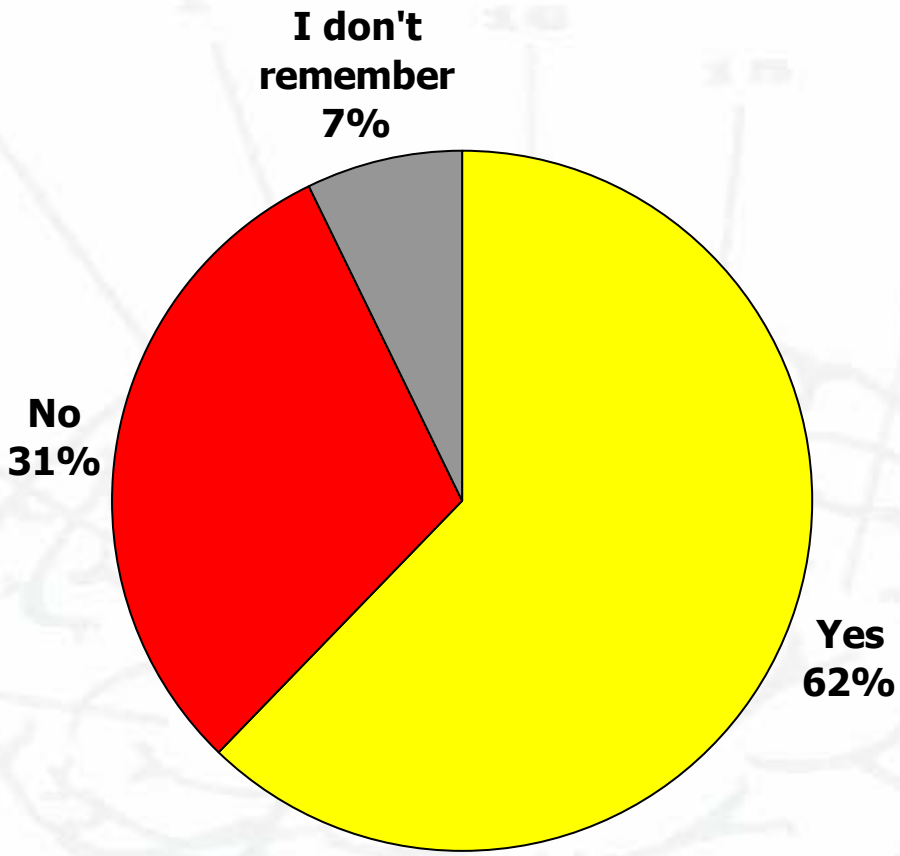
Were you ever personally a student in the Mountain Brook School System?



Into which of the following does your age fall?



Are you aware that there is a Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation that has an endowment and makes grants to the schools in support of teacher development and technology needs?



Have you ever made a contribution to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation?