

# HOUSE BILL 5

## Parent Viewpoints on the Endorsement Selection Process:

*A Report of Findings from a  
Recent Statewide Survey*

Texas PTA Webinar | 01.19.2017

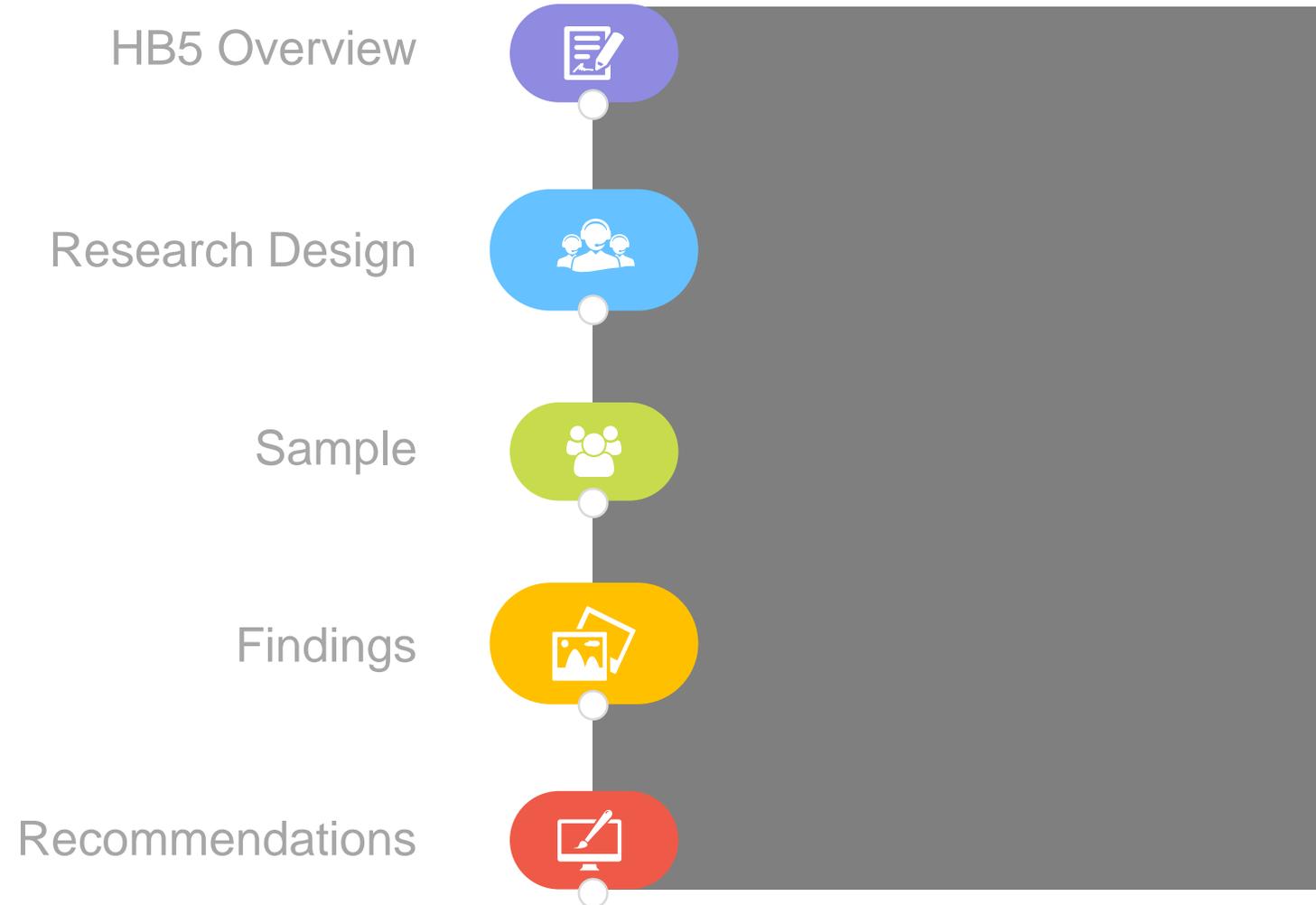
Presenter: Dr. Jenny Knowles Morrison

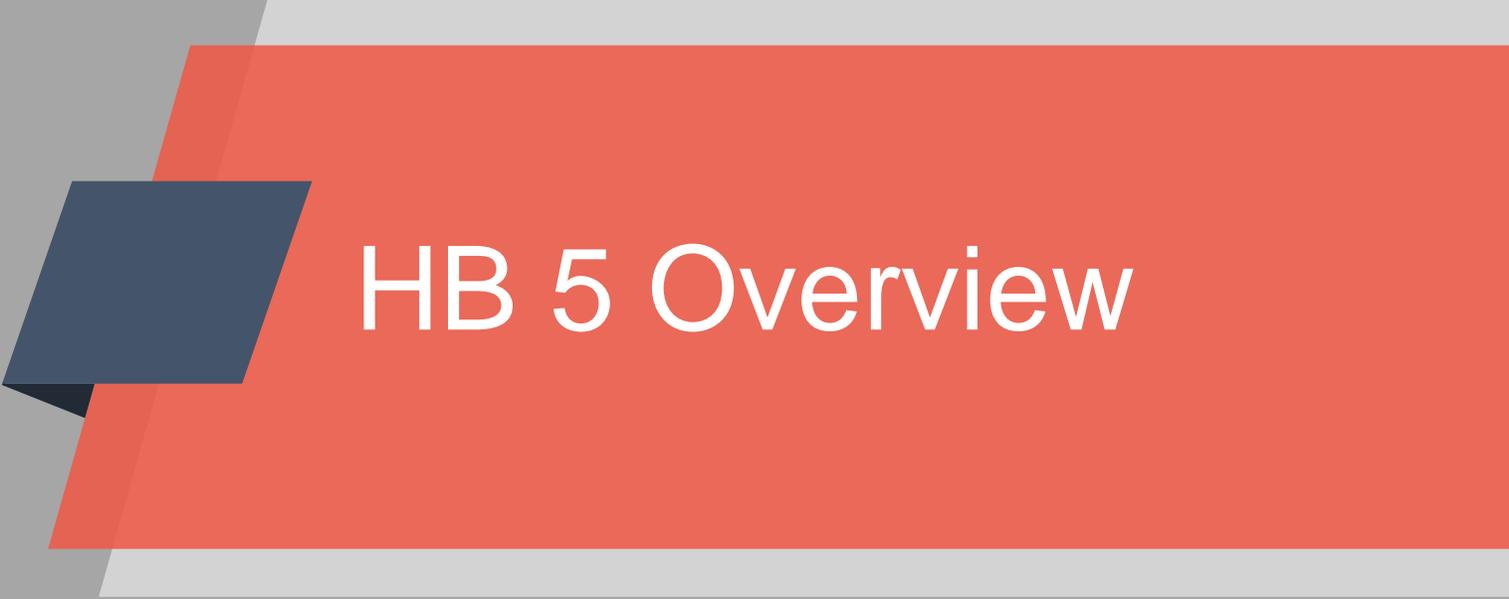


Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium

# Agenda

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# HB 5 Overview

# Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit

## Graduation Program – Overview

### Foundation High School Program

A new, more flexible graduation program that allows students to pursue their interests will be in place for all students who enter high school, beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

#### The program contains up to four parts:

- A 22-credit foundation program which is the core of the new Texas high school diploma
- Five endorsement\* options that allow students to focus on a related series of courses
- A higher performance category called Distinguished Level of Achievement
- Performance Acknowledgments that note outstanding achievement

#### The Foundation requirements (22 credits) include:

<b>English (4 credits)</b>	• English I	• English II	• English III	• An advanced English course
<b>Mathematics (3 credits)</b>	• Algebra I	• Geometry	• An advanced math course	
<b>Science (3 credits)</b>	• Biology	• Integrated Physics & Chemistry or an advanced science course		
	• An advanced science course			
<b>Social Studies (3 credits)</b>	• World History or World Geography	• U.S. History		
	• U.S. Government (one-half credit)	• Economics (one-half credit)		
<b>Languages Other Than English (2 credits)</b>	• 2 credits in the same language or			
	• 2 credits from Computer Science I, II, III			
<b>Physical Education (1 credit)</b>	<b>Fine Arts (1 credit)</b>	<b>Electives (5 credits)</b>		
<b>Speech:</b> Demonstrated proficiency				

**Endorsements** Total credits with endorsements 26

### Enhancements

Additionally, a student may earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement and/or a Performance Acknowledgment for outstanding performance. The Distinguished Level of Achievement must be earned to be admitted to a Texas public university under the Top 10 percent automatic admission law.

#### Distinguished Level of Achievement

- Foundation Program requirements
- 4 credits in math including Algebra II
- 4 credits in science
- at least 1 endorsement

#### Performance Acknowledgments

- dual credit course
- bilingualism and biliteracy
- PSAT, ACT's Plan, SAT or ACT
- Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam
- earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license

\*A student entering 9th grade must indicate an endorsement he or she plans to follow. A student may change or add an endorsement at any time.

A student may graduate without earning an endorsement if, after his or her sophomore year, the student's parent signs a form permitting the student to omit the endorsement requirement.

BR14-130-02

**For a complete explanation of each endorsement:**

<http://www.lmci.state.tx.us/shared/FHSEB/FHSEB.asp>

# Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit

## Endorsements – *Choices*

### Endorsements

For the first time, students will be able to earn one or more endorsements as part of their graduation requirements. Endorsements consist of a related series of courses that are grouped together by interest or skill set. They provide students with in-depth knowledge of a subject area.

Students must select an endorsement\* in the ninth grade. Districts and charters are not required to offer all endorsements. If only one endorsement is offered, it must be multi-disciplinary studies.

Students earn an endorsement by completing the curriculum requirements for the endorsement, including 4th credit of math and science and 2 additional elective credits.

### Students can choose from 5 endorsement areas

#### Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses related to STEM
- Mathematics
- Science
- Computer Science
- Combination of no more than two of the categories listed above

#### Business and Industry (one of the following or a combination of areas)

- Agriculture
- Arts
- Audio/Video
- Finance
- Marketing
- Food and Natural Resources
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Technology Applications
- Architecture and Construction
- Technology and Communications
- Business Management and Administration
- Transportation or Distribution and Logistics
- English electives in public speaking, debate, advanced broadcast journalism, advanced journalism including newspaper and yearbook

#### Public Service (one of the following)

- Human Services
- Law
- Corrections and Security
- Health Science
- Public Safety
- Education and Training
- Government and Public Administration
- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

#### Arts and Humanities (one of the following)

- 2 levels each in two languages other than English (LOTE)
- 4 levels in the same LOTE
- Courses from one or two areas (music, theater, art, dance) in fine arts
- English electives not included in Business and Industry
- Social Studies
- American Sign Language (ASL)

#### Multi-Disciplinary Studies (one of the following)

- 4 advanced courses from other endorsement areas
- 4 credits in each foundation subject area, including English IV and chemistry and/or physics
- 4 credits in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, LOTE or fine arts

\*Visit your school counselor to learn more about your options.  
Students may earn more than one endorsement.





## Distinguished Level of Achievement

26 Credits • Algebra II Required • Eligible for Top 10% Automatic Admissions to Texas Public Universities



22 Credits for the Foundation High School Program



### Requirements of 1 Endorsement

(including 4<sup>th</sup> credit of Math and Science and 2 additional electives)



**STEM**



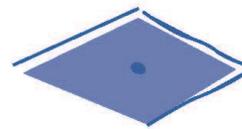
**Business & Industry**



**Public Service**



**Arts & Humanities**



**Multi-Disciplinary Studies**



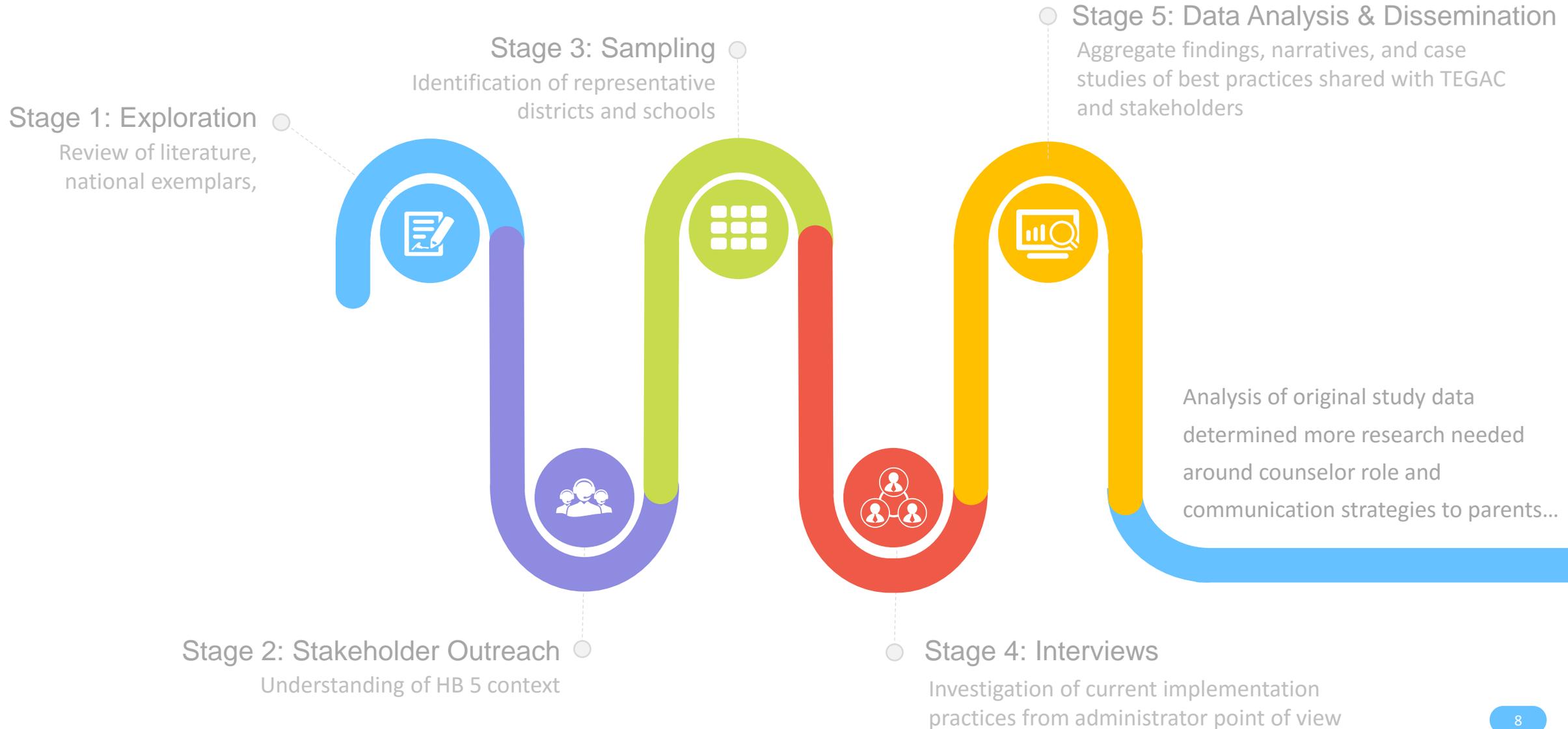
Be sure to visit your school counselor to learn more about your options.  
Students may earn more than one endorsement.

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# Research Design

# Phase 1: District Administrators

January – April 2016



# Phase 2: Counselor & Parent Survey Research Study

May –August 2016

## Stage 6: Counselor Outreach

Identification of communication channels to contact counselors



## Stage 8: Interviews

Contacted counselors and head counselors across state



## Stage 9: Data Analysis

Aggregate findings, more best practice cases, parent survey findings, and final recommendations developed



## Stage 10: Dissemination

Additional findings shared with TEGAC, all participants, and educational community in lead-up to legislative session to expand dialogue.



## Stage 7: Sample Considerations

Targeted low SES, West, and RGV counsellors



## Stage 8: Parent Survey

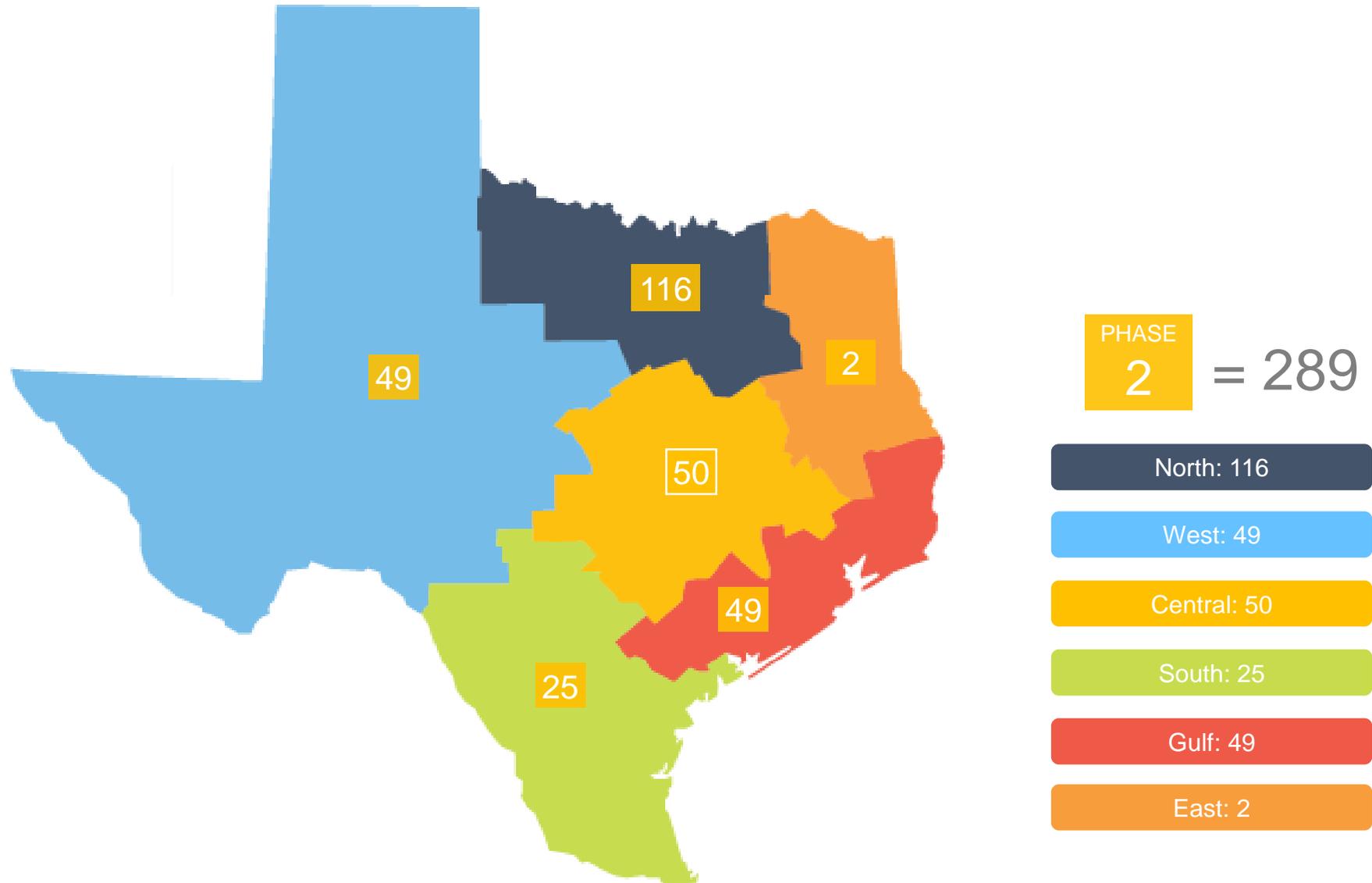
Contacted 40,000 PTA members across state



A decorative graphic consisting of overlapping shapes. A dark blue parallelogram is on the left, overlapping a light green parallelogram. The light green shape is further overlapped by a white parallelogram. The word "Sample" is written in white text on the light green background.

Sample

# Parent Survey Respondents by Region



# Survey Overview

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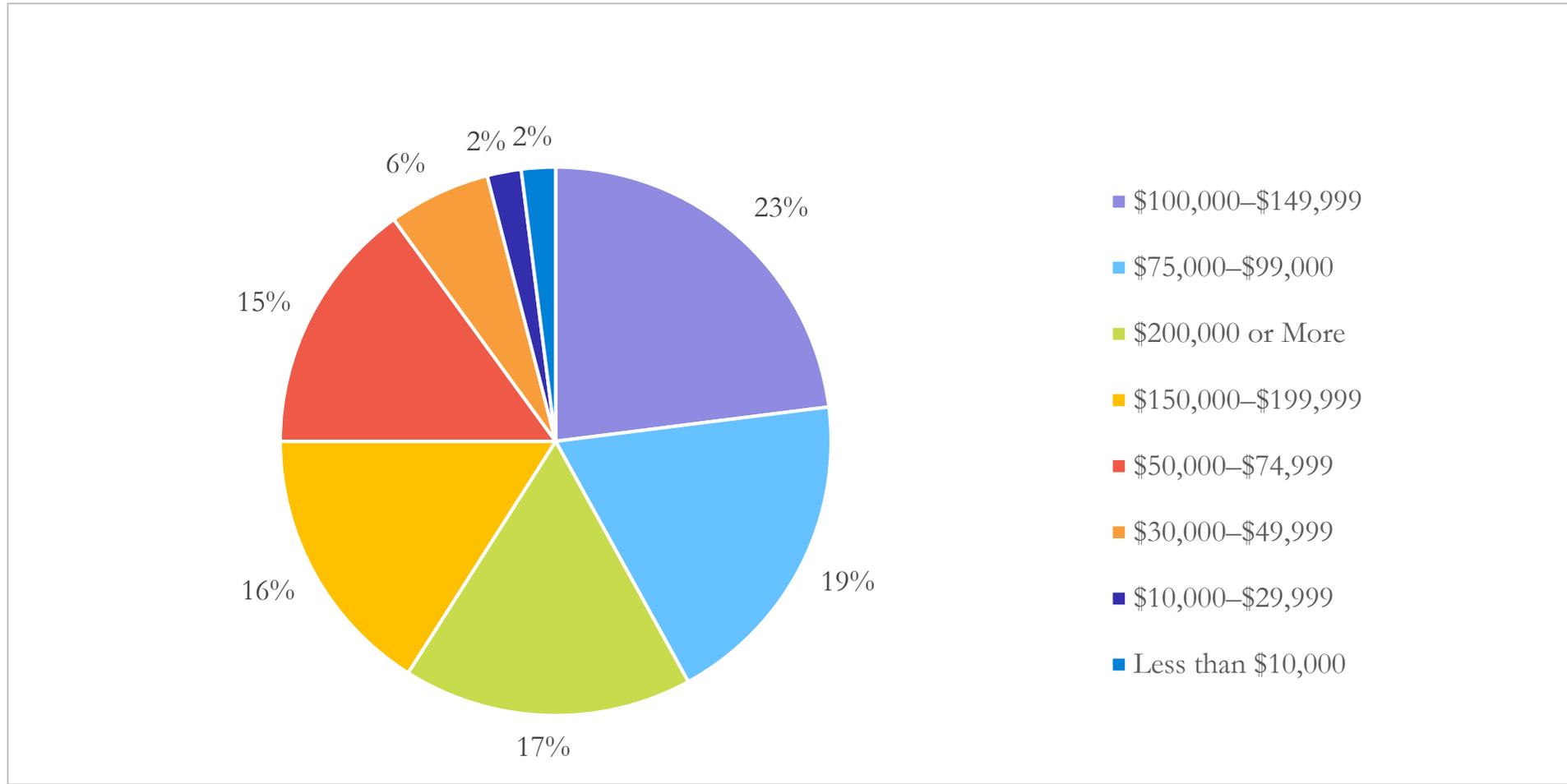
- Texas PTA provided access to their 40,000 Texas PTA parent members
- Online survey
- Parents were asked to self-select into the survey based on endorsement experience (e.g. parents with children under endorsement plan)
- Resulted in 290 respondents
- Allowed assessment of perceptions of some of the state's most active parents in the educational process
- Parent voice: 98 frustrations, 118 added feedback from parents

# Survey Topics

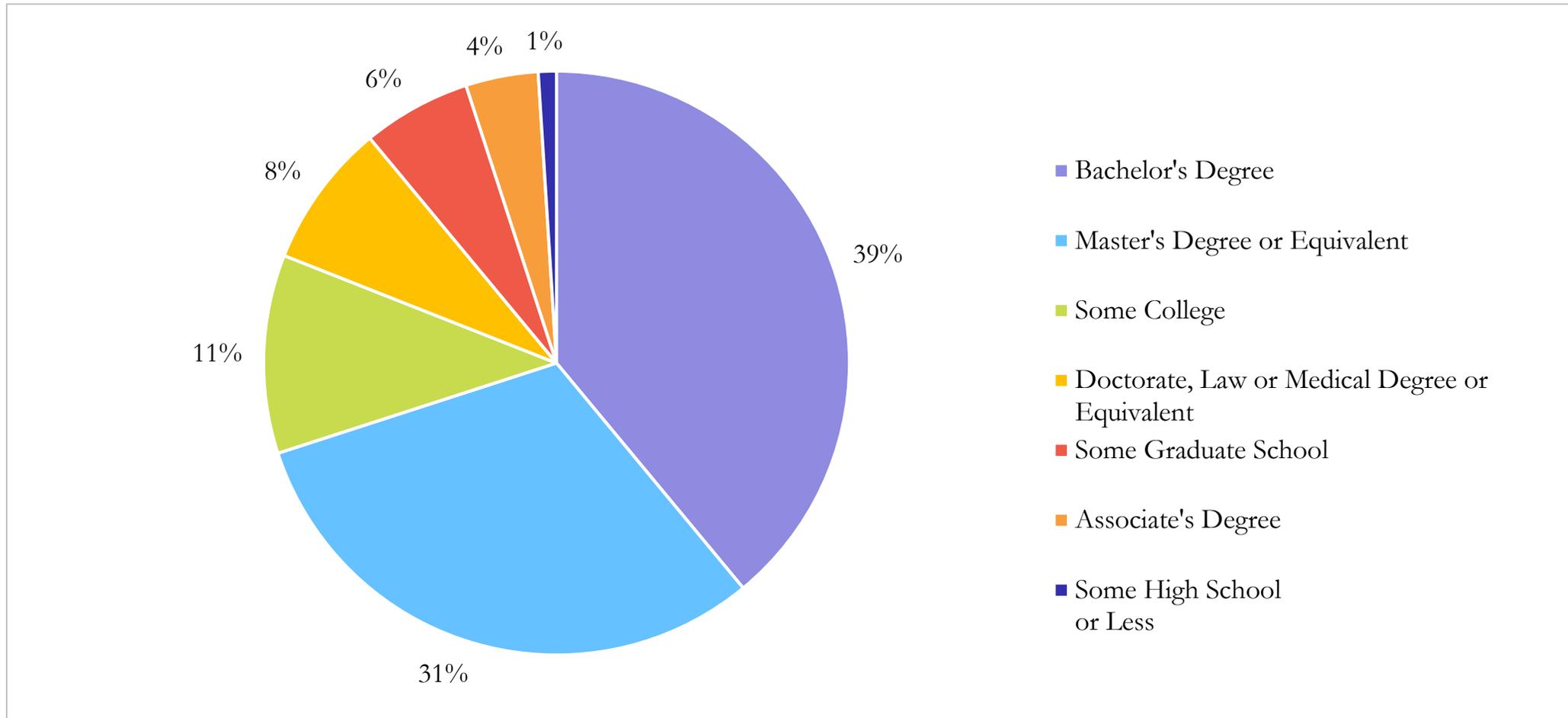
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- Parent understanding of the endorsement selection process
- Communication channels used and preferred by parents
- Perceptions of the information sharing experience
- Knowledge of career interest inventories
- Comfort levels with materials
- Confidence in their child's selections

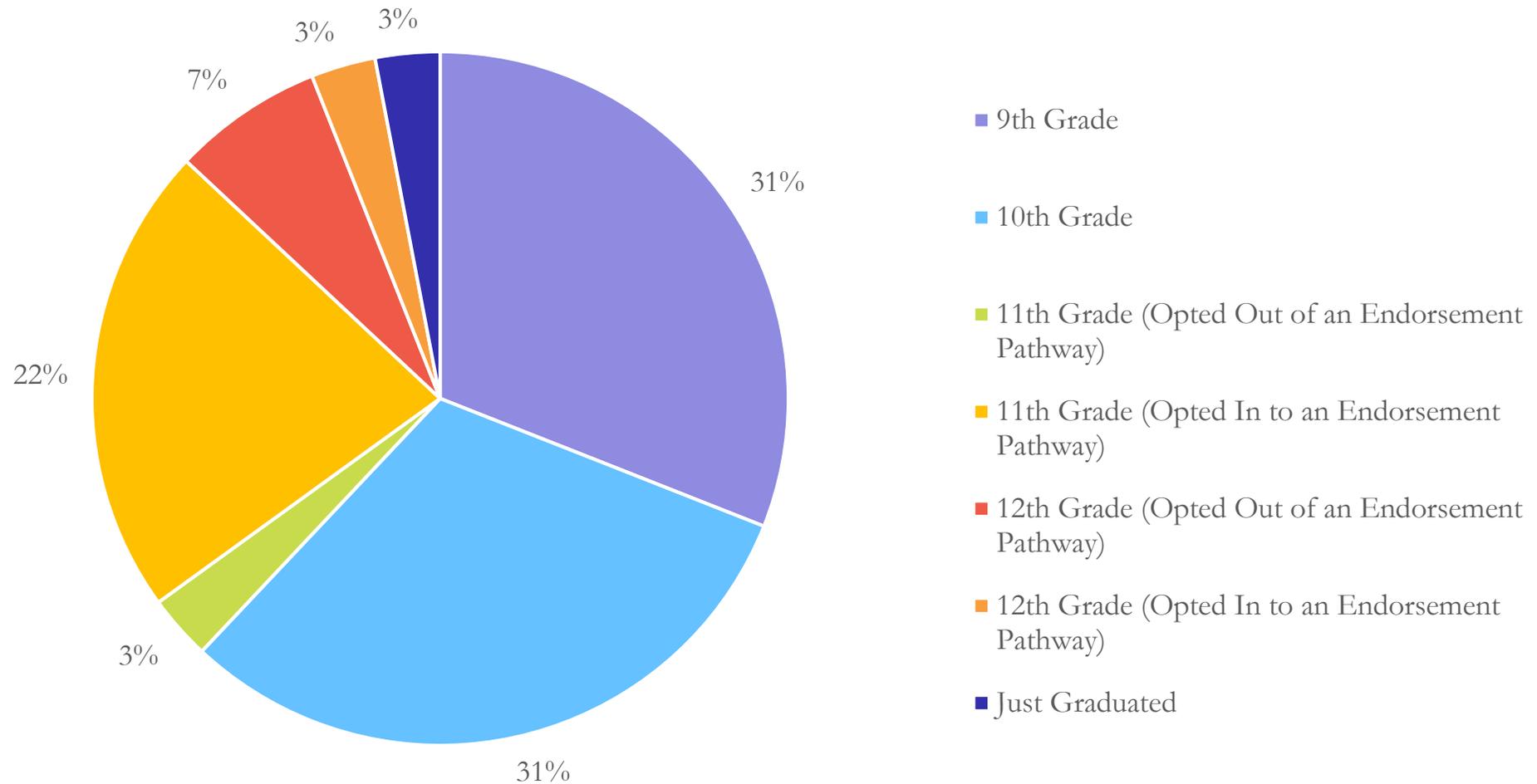
# Combined Household Income of Surveyed Parents



# What is the Highest Level of Education Attained in Your Household? —



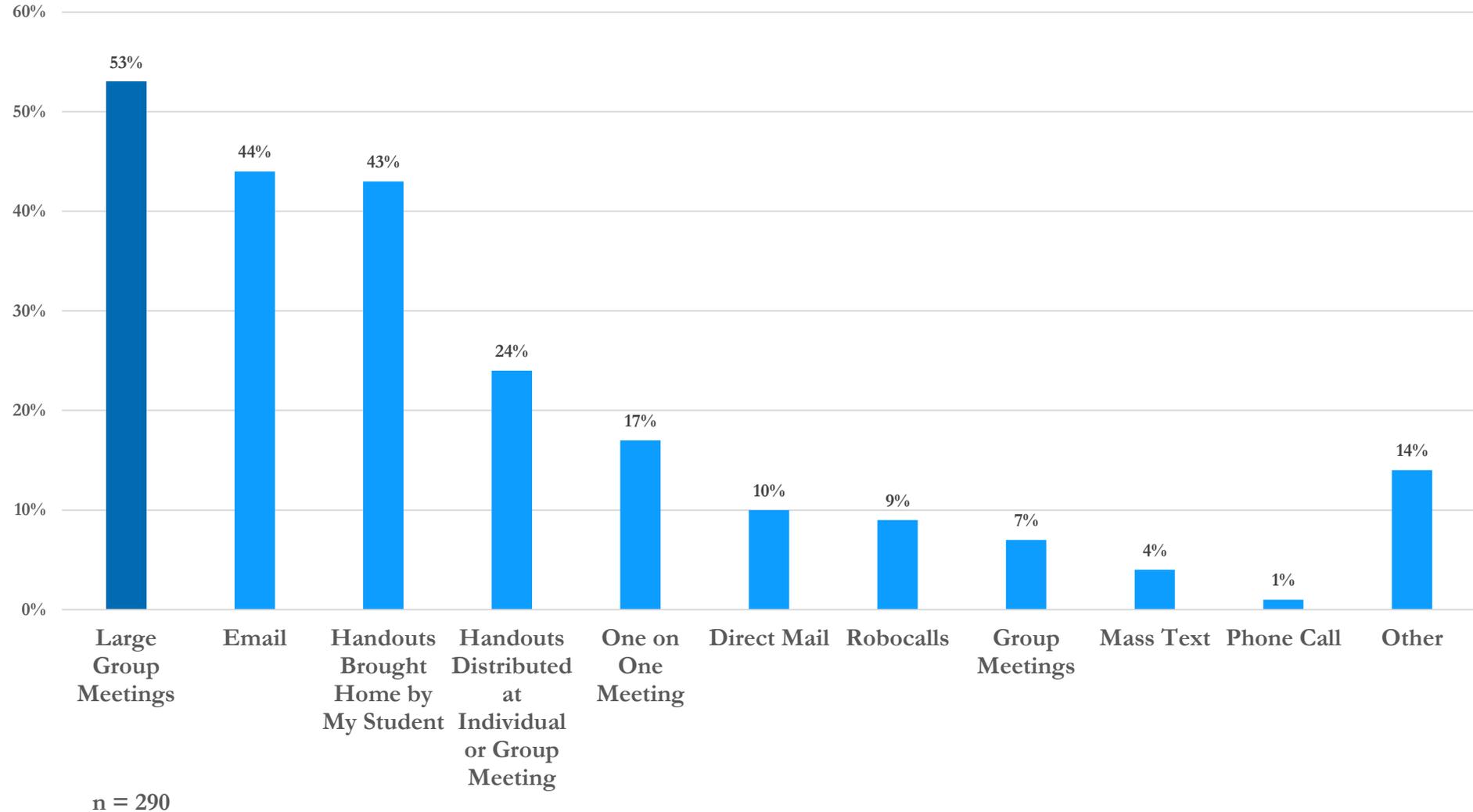
# What Grade Will Your Child be Entering in the Fall of 2016?



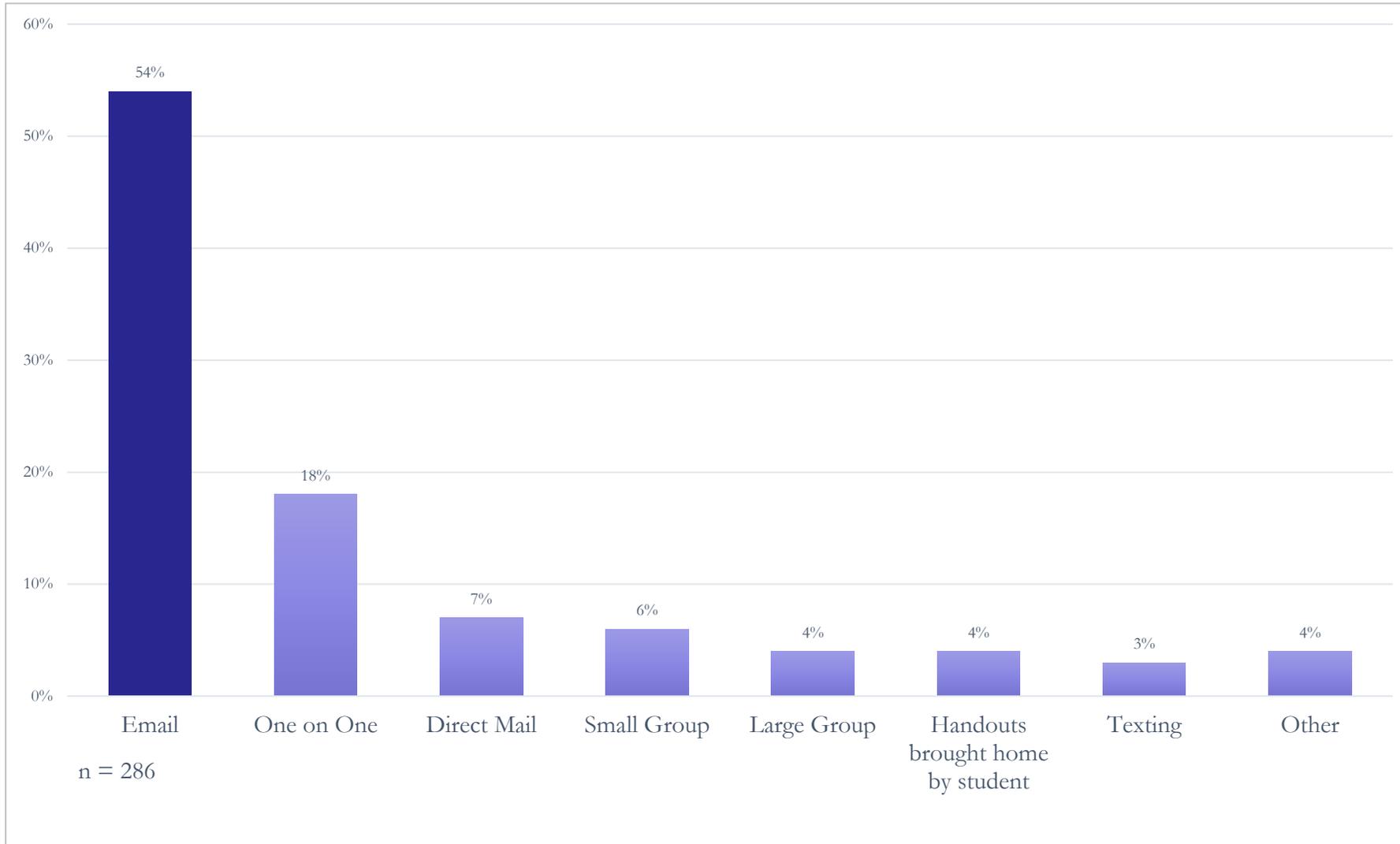


# Major Findings: Parent Survey

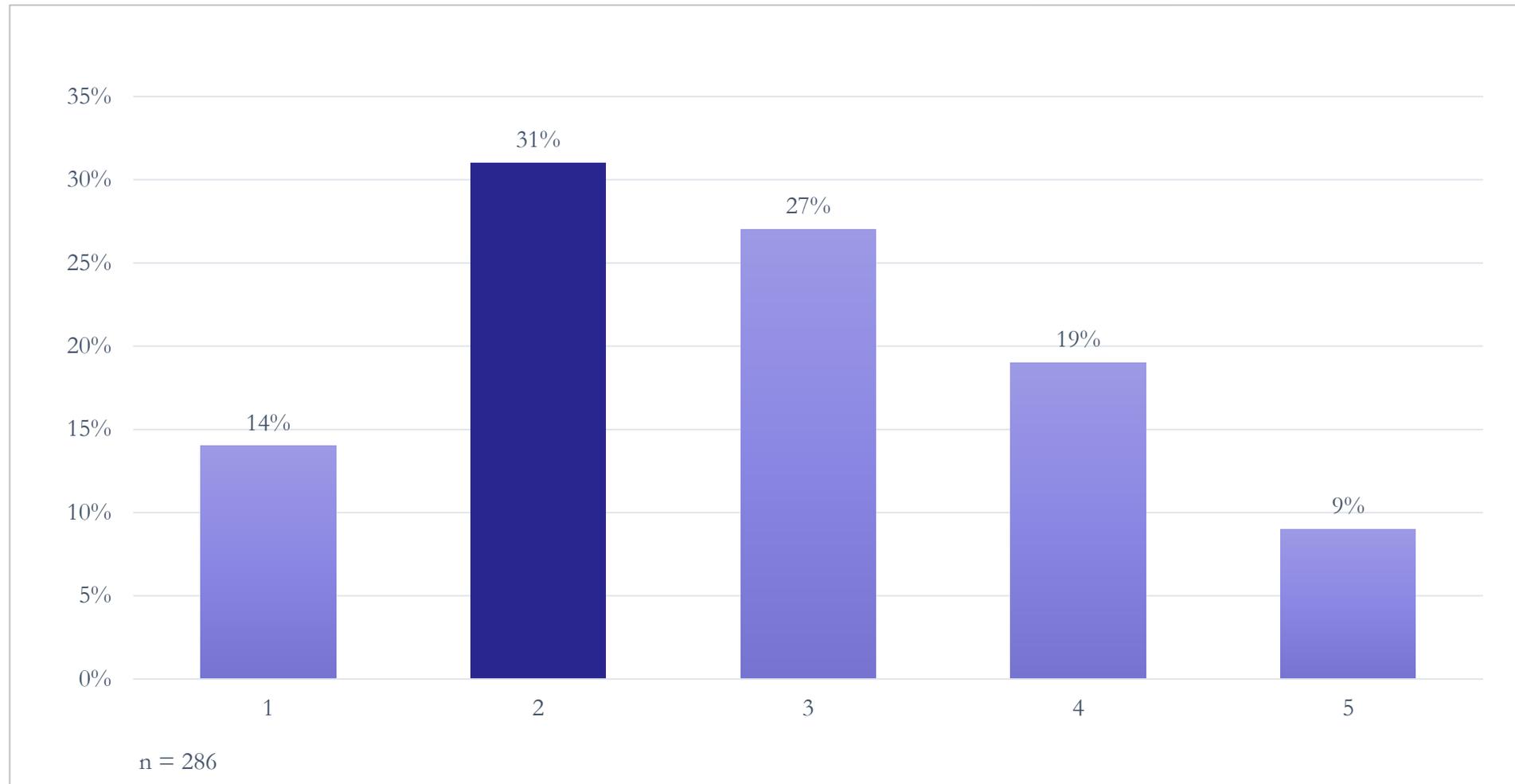
# Most Common Parent Communication Channels



# Most Effective Parent Communication Channels

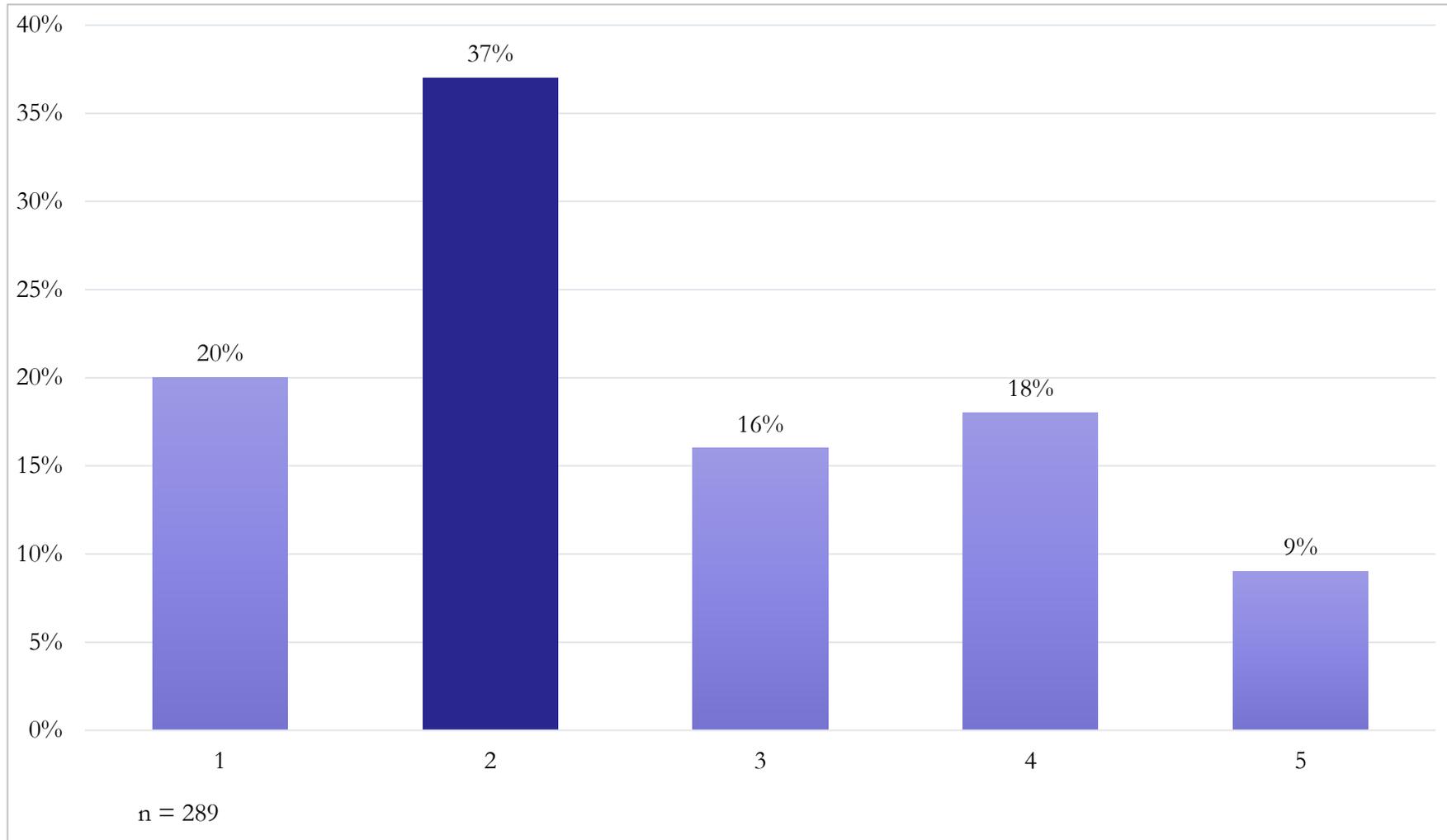


# Understanding of the Endorsement Selection Process



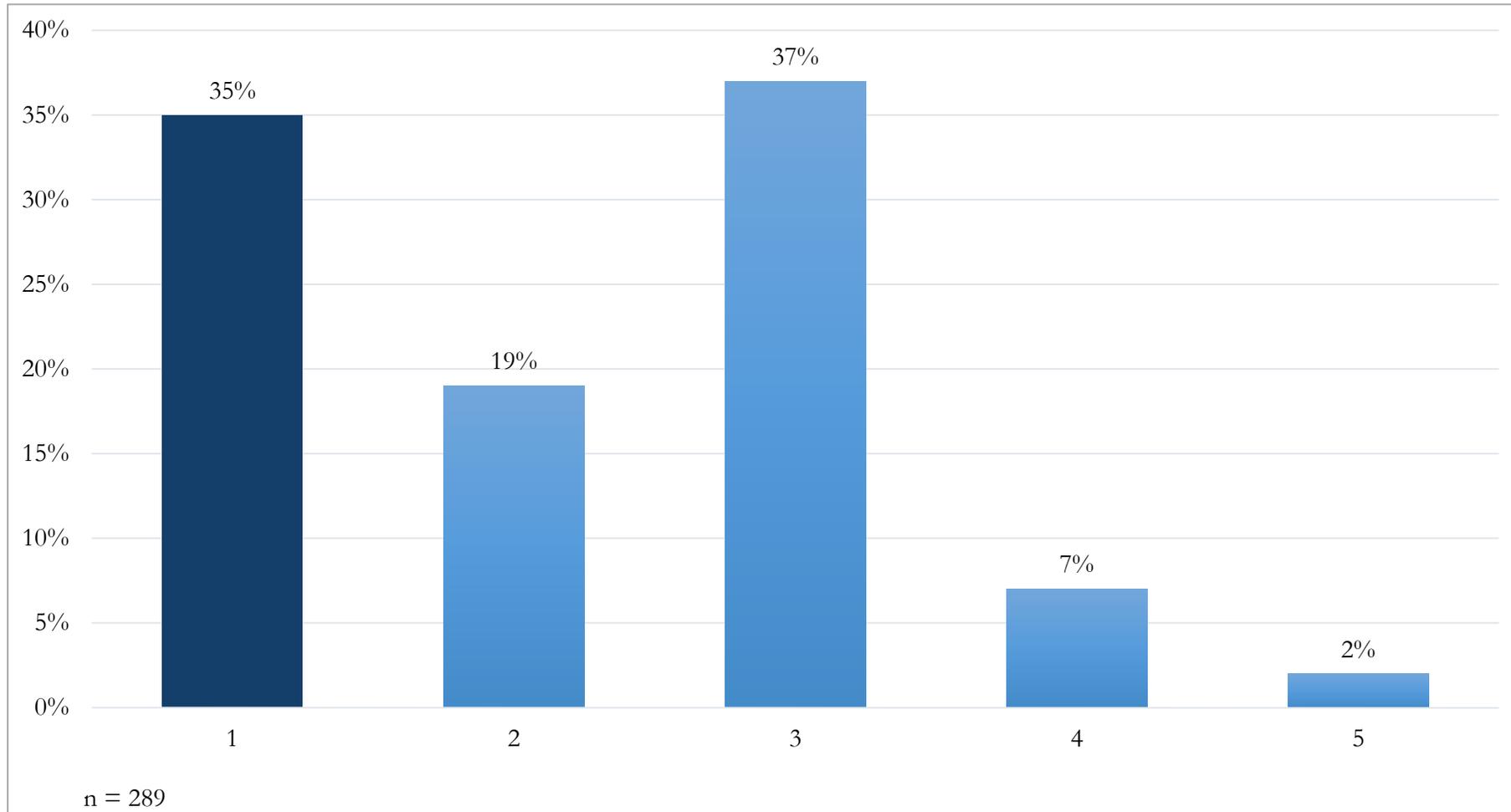
On a Scale of 1-5, with 1 Being “Very Comfortable” and 5 Being “Very Uncomfortable,” How Comfortable Are You with Your Understanding of the Endorsement Selection Process, Regardless of Quality of Materials?

# Student Understanding of the Endorsement Selection Process



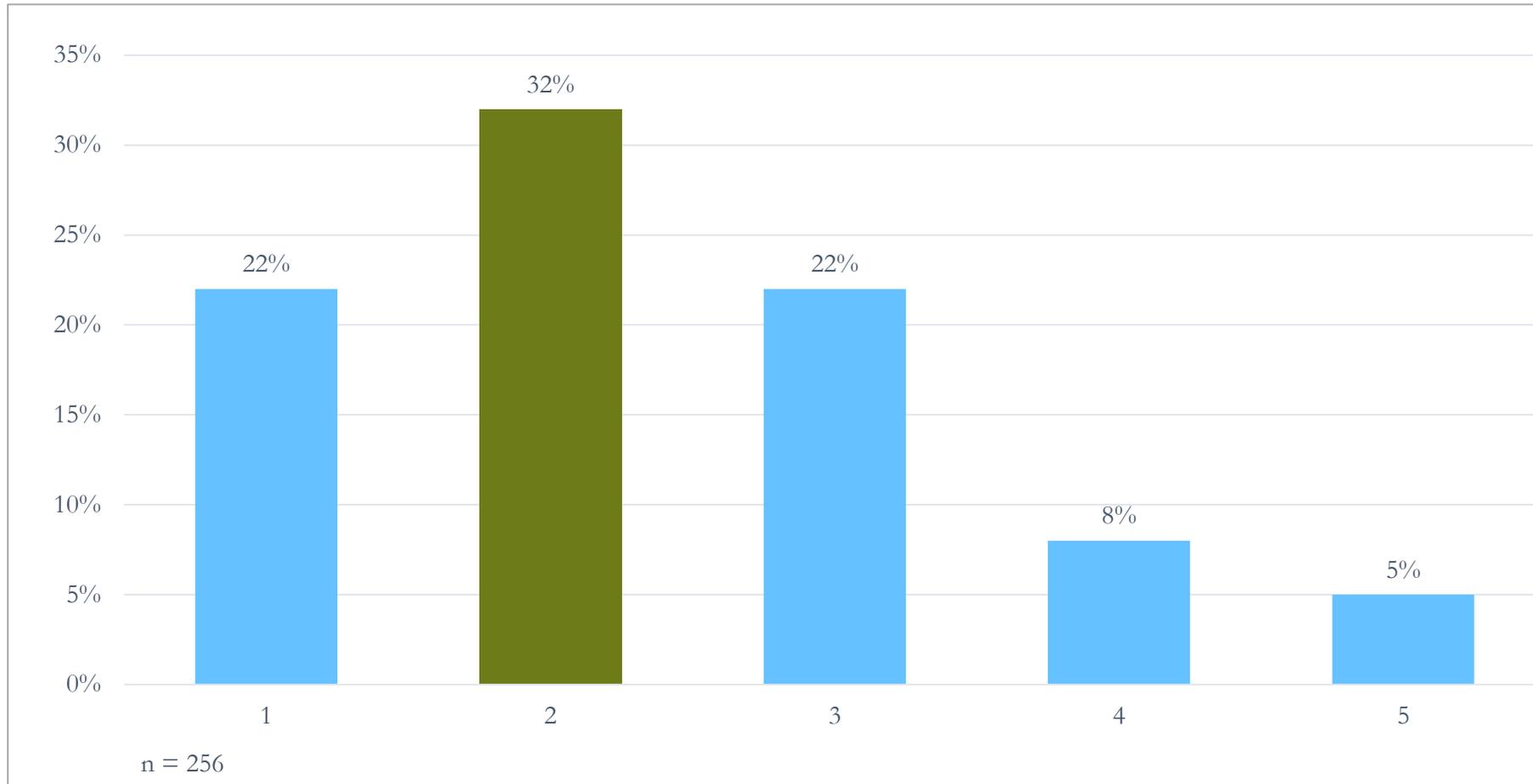
On a Scale of 1-5, 1 Being “Very Well” and 5 Being “Not Well at All,” How Would You Assess Your Student’s Understanding of the Endorsement Selection Process? (As Reported by Parents)

# School Counselor's Understanding of the Endorsement Content



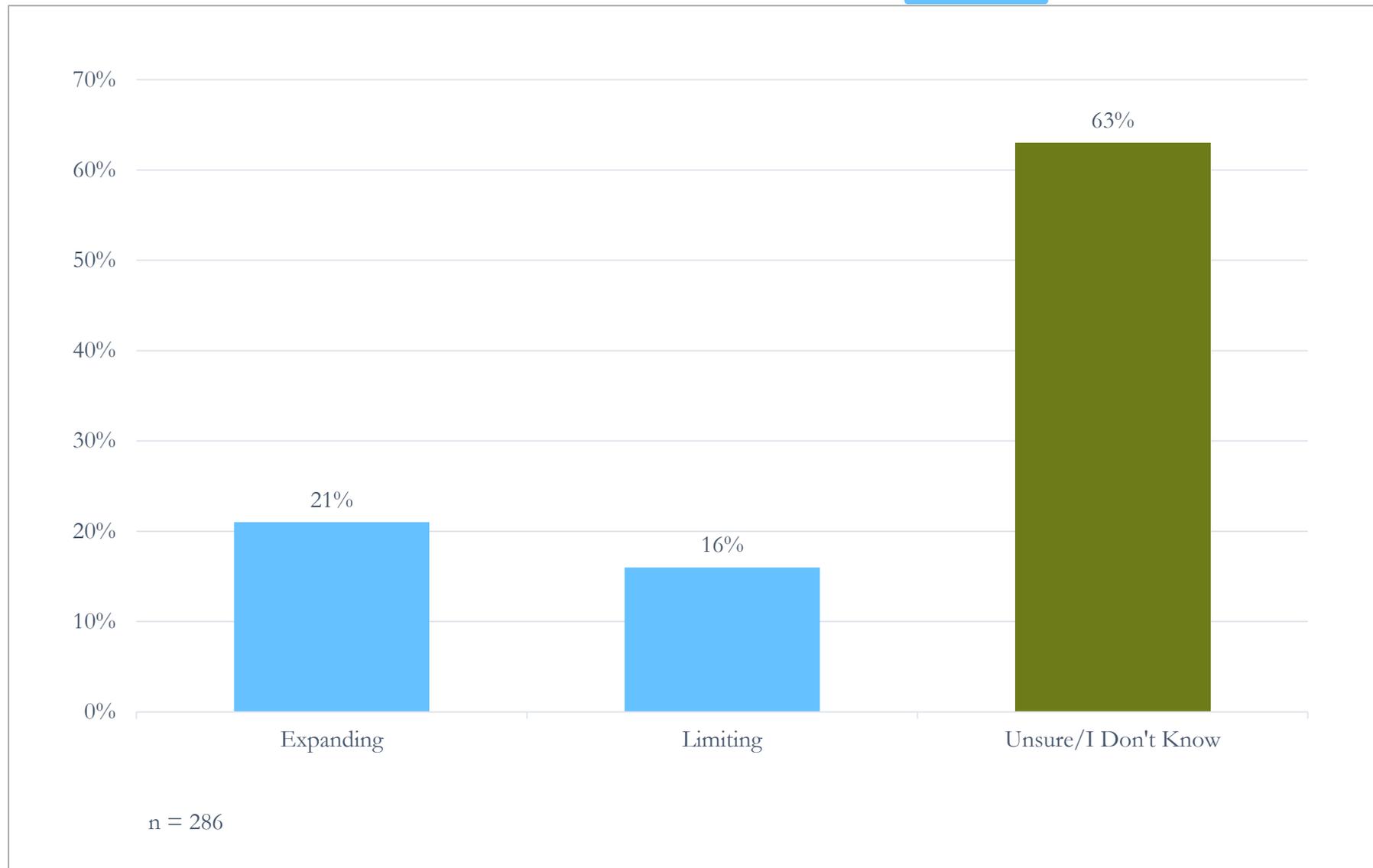
On a Scale of 1-5, 1 Being “Understands Extremely Well” and 5 Being “Does Not Understand at All,” How Would You Assess Your School Counselor’s Understanding of the Endorsement Content?

# Quality of the In-Person Advisement Session(s)



On a Scale of 1 to 5, with 1 Being “Extremely Well Designed” and 5 Being “Extremely Unhelpful,” Please Rate the Quality of the In-Person Advisement Session(s) (As Reported by Parents)

# Endorsements Expanding or Limiting Student Choice



# In Their Own Words

Core Concerns of Parents

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- Endorsement Process Coming Too Early, Creating Too Much Pressure for Young Students
- Lack of Parent Consultation
- Parents Desire More Options for Students to Sample
- Parent Concerns about Process
- Logic of Endorsement Selection is Unclear – Parent Sees it as a Waste of Time
- Concerns about Counselor/Administrator/Teacher Role/Capacity

# In Their Own Words (cont.)

Core Concerns of Parents

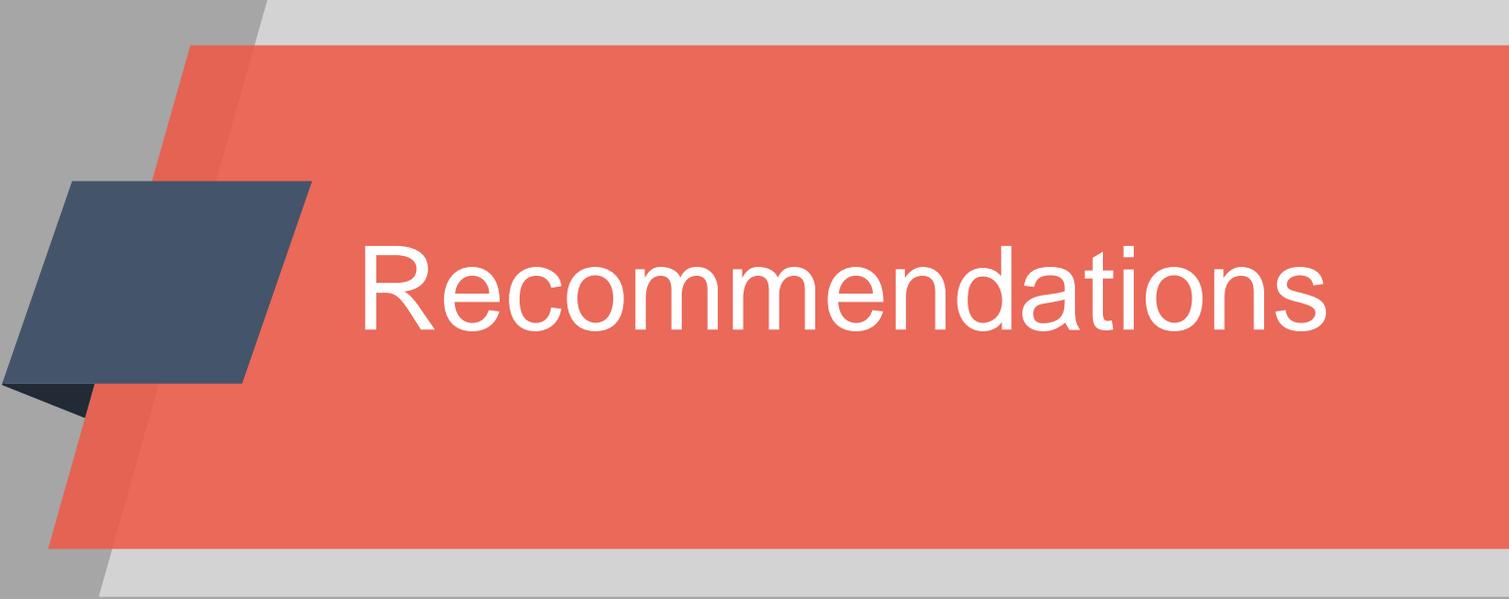
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- Special Circumstances – My Kid Is Stuck!
- Ready and Interested, But Need Access to Information
- Connection To Post-Secondary Education Unclear
- Meeting Issues
- Too Much Information
- Equity Concerns
- Need More Attention at a Different Level

# Major Challenges for Parents

College Requirements

- Most schools have too few counselors to adequately guide each student and many are still learning how to navigate the complex details of the new graduation plans.
- There may be cases where some courses do not align with college requirements.
- Colleges and universities still have their own requirements for acceptance. You must verify that any CTE (career-technical) course or endorsement course replacing a previous '4x4' plan course will be accepted. This applies especially to math and science courses.



# Recommendations

## Next Steps: More Data Needed

- Wealthy and best educated responded to this survey
- The jury is still out on whether HB 5 has been a positive intervention or not
- Need data collection within districts
- Need focus groups by parent types to better understand nuanced challenges
- Need to launch a state-wide survey to capture a much wider demographic
- How to reach low socio-economic and minority parents to better assess their perspectives?
- How to get word to districts?
- How to get word to TEA?
- Worth sharing best district exemplars statewide to spur improvements

# Summary Recommendations

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- Clarify role of TEA vis a vis information sharing, training, support functions
- Identify workload relief options for counselors
- Consider modifications to counselor roles and team structures, vertical integration
- Create more one on one time with students
- Enhance parent communication strategies in line with their preferences
- More widespread sharing of resources & best practices across districts



# Support for Parents & Students

# Parent Involvement

## Key Points

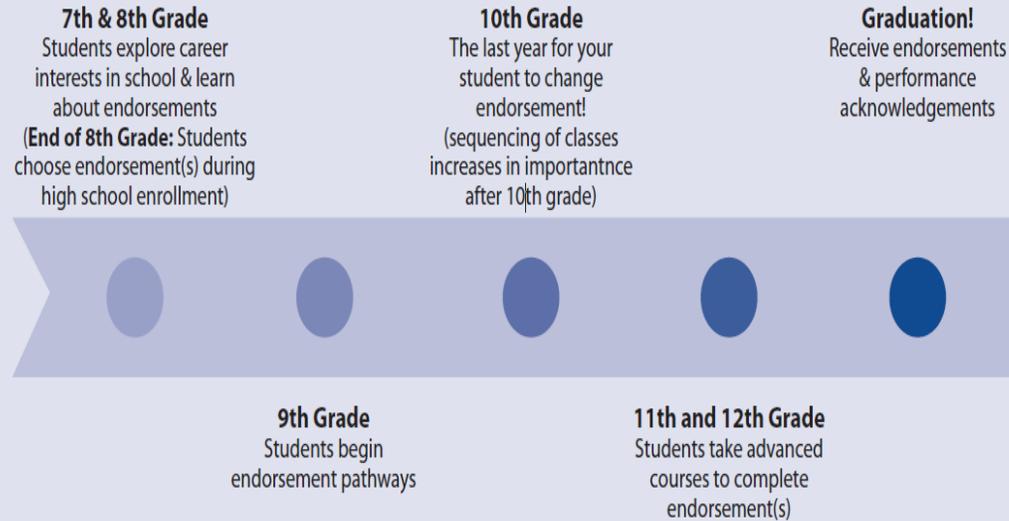
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- Parental involvement is critical! Remain informed and knowledgeable of the courses your student is taking, as well as the changes to their high school graduation plan.
- Students need parental support and guidance as they explore their potential career pathways.
- Websites and resources are a great foundation, but most students need an involved parent to encourage them to engage in the materials.

# Parent Support

## Milestones & TEA Checklist

### Basic Endorsement Milestone Timeline



Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit  
Graduation Program – *Checklists*

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Review** choices offered under the **Foundation High School Program** and the **Endorsements** to decide on your future academic path.
- Select** the endorsement that best fits your area of personal interest and the major you plan to study in college.
- Recognize** that most college entrance requirements include rigorous advanced courses including **Algebra II**, higher-level science courses and languages other than English.

### 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Monitor** high school credits; be sure to meet all **local and state requirements** by the end of the senior year.
- Take dual enrollment** or **Advanced Placement courses** if possible to earn college credit while still in high school.
- Keep** list of awards, honors and extracurricular activities for scholarship and college applications.
- Research** colleges or universities you are interested in attending. **Check** admission and application requirements and timelines.
- Explore** interests and take advantage of **Career Day** opportunities.
- Attend college nights** hosted by your high school. **Talk** with school representatives about the types of financial aid available.
- Take** the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in your sophomore year for practice. In your junior year, take the PSAT for eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Students who take the PSAT or ACT's PLAN tend to score higher on the SAT or ACT than those who do not.

### 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Take dual enrollment** or **Advanced Placement courses** if possible to earn college credit while you are still in high school.
- Check** with your counselor's office to learn about available scholarships. Be sure to apply early and for as many scholarships as possible. Do not limit yourself to local scholarships.
- Consider** taking SAT/ACT preparation classes. **Sign up** and take the ACT and/or SAT test, preferably in your junior year but no later than the fall of your senior year.
- Fill out** the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) early in the spring of your senior year.
- Apply** to college during the fall of your senior year.

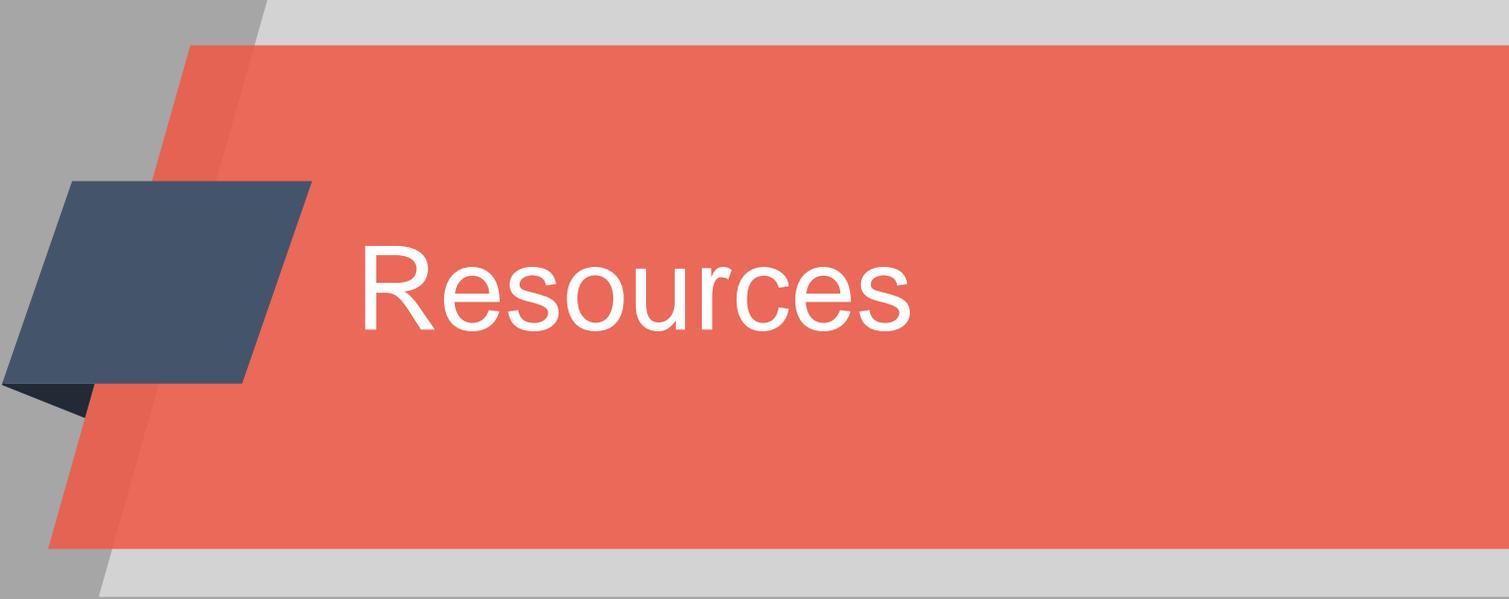
If you plan to pursue technical training or enter the workforce after graduation, see the Information - *Workforce Resources* page or visit Texas Reality Check at [www.texasrealitycheck.com/](http://www.texasrealitycheck.com/).

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# 6 Questions You Can Ask To Advocate On Behalf Of Your Student

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- What endorsement options are available from this school for my child? What is the full range available in this district?
- Are there transportation options for students to take classes at other campuses?
- How will my student benefit from taking Algebra II, Statistics or Algebraic Reasoning? Which one will best fit their college/career goals?
- Which math and science courses are colleges/universities still requiring for admittance?
- What are 'performance acknowledgements' and how can they benefit my student?
- How does the distinguished plan benefit my student and help with the Top Ten Percent automatic admission?



# Resources

# Best Websites

*Where Do I Go for More Information and Tools to Support My Student's Career Exploration?*

- **OnCourse for Educators, Students, & Parents:**

<http://texasoncourse.org/students-parents>



- **AIR Student-Oriented Career and Program of Study Exploration:**

<http://www.LaunchMyCareerTX.org>



- **Texas Education Agency (TEA) Education Resources:**

*Graduation Toolkit:* <http://tea.texas.gov/communications/brochures.aspx>

*Graduation Requirements:* <http://tea.texas.gov/graduation-requirements/hb5.aspx>

*Endorsement FAQs:* [http://3\\_HB5 Endorsement FAQ 031914.pdf](http://3_HB5%20Endorsement%20FAQ%20031914.pdf)

- **Texas Workforce Commission and Bureau of Labor Education and Career Resources:**

*Overview of 5 Endorsements:* <http://www.lmci.state.tx.us/shared/FHSEB/FHSEB.asp>

*Additional Career Exploration:* <http://www.texascareercheck.com>

*Occupational Outlook Handbook:* <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

# Additional Web Resources

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- **Other Resources:**

*Salary and Budget Exploration by Job Type:* <http://www.texasrealitycheck.com/>  
*U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Portal:* <https://www.onetonline.org/>  
*Matched Career Field and College Exploration:* <http://www.texasgenuine.org/>  
*Career Interest Survey:* <http://assessment.texasgenuine.org/>

*Programs of Study:* <http://www.texascareercheck.com/ExploreEducation/ProgramsOfStudy>  
*Comparison of Texas Public 2 & 4-year postsecondary institutions by graduate earning data:*  
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/txcrews/>

**Student-Oriented Resources:**

- <http://texasoncourse.org>
- <http://www.TexasGearUp.com>
- <http://www.OwnYourFuture.com>

Questions?

THANK YOU

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***Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium***

**[www.tegac.org](http://www.tegac.org)**

in collaboration with students and faculty at the  
Bush School of Government at Texas A&M University

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