

## Teachers Speak Out

A survey of Philadelphia School District teachers and aides

**THE SURVEY** The following are selected results from an independent survey conducted by Temple University of Philadelphia School District teachers and aides on school violence and its impact on learning. The survey was developed by Michael G. Hagen, associate professor and graduate chair in political science, in conjunction with The Inquirer. The results were analyzed by Hagen and Jason Martin, a graduate student.

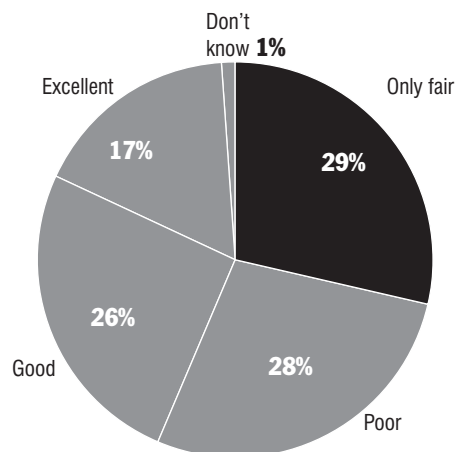
**WHO RESPONDED** More than 750 Philadelphia teachers and aides — 6 percent of the district's 13,000 teachers and aides — responded to the 31-question survey. To reach them, The Inquirer asked the teachers union, the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, to notify its members that they could link to the survey through the PFT web site. The union had no access to the responses.

### SELECTED SURVEY RESULTS

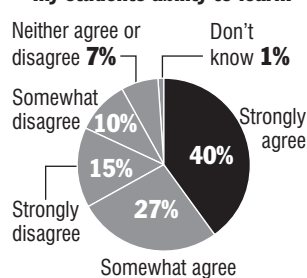
The survey asked, "How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?"

In each of the following areas, do you think your school is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or poor job?

Keeping order and discipline in the hallways.



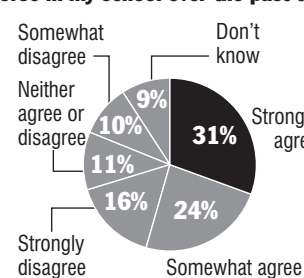
Violence and disruption hinder my students ability to learn.



"Our schools need to be tougher, and we need to get rid of those who choose not to follow the code of conduct."

— High school teacher

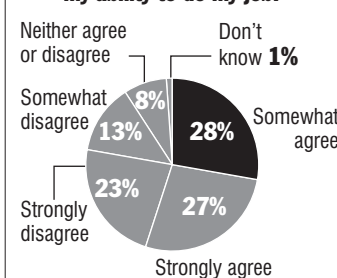
Violence and other disruptive behaviors have been getting worse in my school over the past three years.



"Many of the issues that prevent learning could be prevented by administration and support staff. No consequences occur, so the students learn they can disobey the rules."

— Elementary school teacher

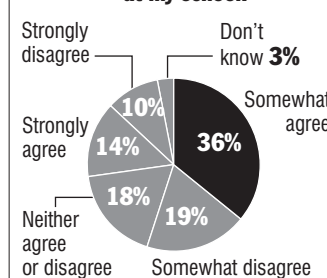
Violence and disruption hinder my ability to do my job.



"Teachers also need to be given more leverage in handling disruptive or unruly students."

— Elementary school teacher

Bullying is a problem at my school.

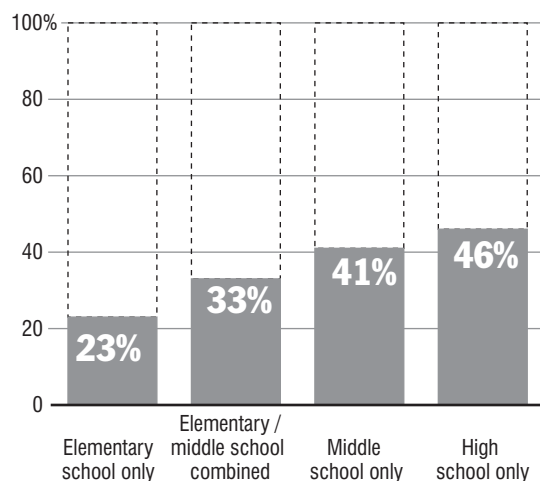


"The policies don't matter. The enforcement does. Zero tolerance for violence is a joke. Most of the violence is never reported."

— High school teacher

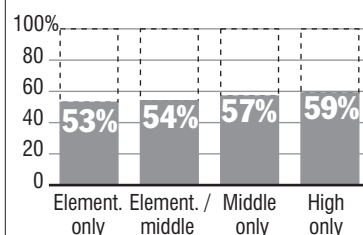
Were you in the past year involved in an incident at school when you felt police should have been called?

Percent answering "yes."



Violence and other disruptive behavior has been getting worse in my school over the past three years.

Percent strongly agree or somewhat agree

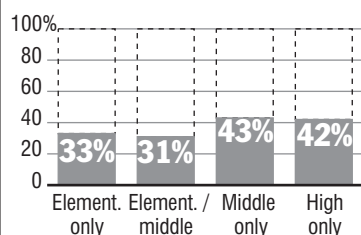


"Discipline just gets worse and worse at my school. Many of the staff wish the administration would give us the same respect they give the students."

— Middle school teacher

I personally feel less safe in my school now than I did three years ago.

Percent strongly agree or somewhat agree

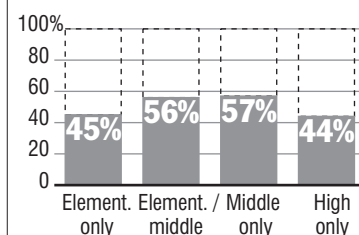


"The other day I was knocked down and hurt in a fight at the end of the day in my classroom. I called the office ... NO ONE CAME!"

— Elementary school teacher

Bullying is a problem at my school.

Percent strongly agree or somewhat agree

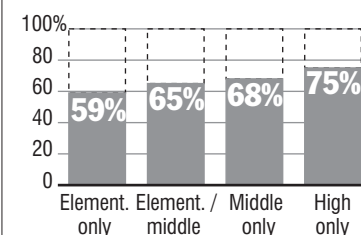


"I work closely with immigrant and language minority students, and there have been many incidents of bullying related to ethnicity and lack of resources ..."

— Elementary school teacher

Violence and disruption hinder my ability to do my job.

Percent strongly agree or somewhat agree

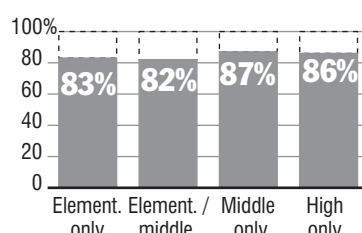


"I think the problems reflect the overall chaotic environment surrounding the schools AND present inside our school in particular."

— Elementary school teacher

I am expected to report acts of violence.

Percent strongly agree or somewhat agree

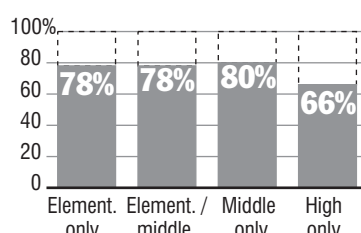


"I think that they are trying to improve our school but we have students right out of jail ... And all downtown wants to do is fix the blame not the problem."

— High school teacher

Everyone knows the school rules for student conduct.

Percent strongly agree or somewhat agree

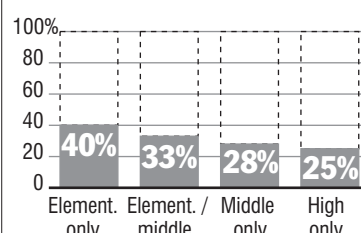


"I feel that the district has some good policies in place. It is the administrators who neglect to follow the policies appropriately."

— Elementary school teacher

If a student breaks the rules at my school, he or she will be punished.

Percent strongly agree or somewhat agree

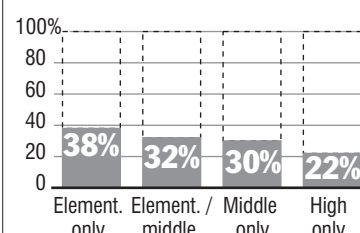


"I believe [the school], and the district, are going the wrong way. They need to crack down on students instead of making excuses for the behavior."

— High school teacher

The punishment for breaking school rules is the same no matter who you are.

Percent strongly agree or somewhat agree

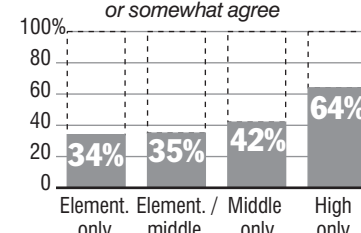


"Philadelphia police have several times declined to press charges when they felt it didn't warrant processing the student."

— Middle school teacher

Regardless of whether your school currently has it, which of these do you think your school should have? Philadelphia police officers assigned to the school.

Percent strongly agree or somewhat agree



"I had a student apparently off her prescribed medication. She was verbally abusive and I honestly felt she was going to hurt me. I called THREE times for help and no security ever came."

— High school teacher

For full results go to [philly.com/schoolviolence](http://philly.com/schoolviolence) philly.com

### PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

#### EXPERIENCE

**15 years**

Average years working in the School District.

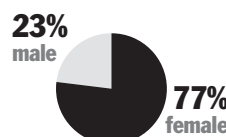
**8 years**

Average years working in current school.

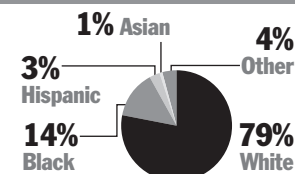
**83%**

Are teachers. The remaining 17% are teachers' aides.

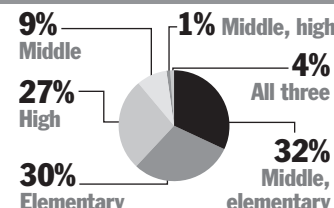
#### GENDER



#### ETHNICITY



#### GRADE LEVEL\*



\* Some teachers teach more than one grade.

NOTE: Percentages may add to more than 100% due to rounding.