

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 26, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: L. Thomson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2006 Community Survey Results

ORIGINATOR: R. MacNeil, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Diane Brunton

INFORMATION

The community survey monitors the perceptions of the community regarding the education provided by the district. It is administered annually to a representative sample of Edmonton Public School tax supporters. The surveys are delivered via Canada Post in the latter part of April. Respondents may reply either by return mail or online via the Internet. Approximately ten per cent of responses were received online this year. Results from the Community Survey are used in conjunction with other district information to assess the overall effectiveness of Edmonton Public Schools' decisions and initiatives.

Analysis of the 2006 Community Survey results indicates an increase in overall positive response when compared to last year's data. Respondents indicating they have children attending district schools are more positive this year regarding effectiveness of EPS in responding to public concerns, effectiveness of the Trustees, the importance of heritage and French language skills as well as support for receiving funding from fund raising. Respondents without children in district schools are more positive concerning schools receiving funding from exclusive supply agreements, that EPS provides the same/better education as private schools and support for parents paying for anything beyond basic education. Analysis shows minor decreases in positive response although non-parents are less positive regarding the condition of EPS buildings. Respondents are asked to state their opinion on the main issues facing education. The issues most often cited are funding, class size and quality of education. Funding issues are the main concern for both parent and non-parent groups.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY ANALYSIS

The following table provides a summary of the increases and decreases in positive responses from respondents indicating they have children attending Edmonton Public Schools and those who do not have children in district schools. The changes in positive response shown below are compared to the previous year as well as longitudinally.

	Respondents <u>With</u> Children in EPS	Respondents <u>Without</u> Children in EPS
Increase In Positive Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responding to public concerns • effectiveness of Trustees • importance of heritage language skills • funding from fund raising • importance of French skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding from exclusive supply agreements • EPS better/same as private schools • parents pay for non-basics
Upward Trend In Positive Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effectiveness of Trustees • responding to public concerns • spending of public money • quality of education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • importance of heritage language skills • funding from exclusive supply agreements
Decrease In Positive Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no significant decreases in positive response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • condition of EPS buildings
Downward Trend In Positive Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encouraging school completion

Detailed multiyear survey results are provided in Appendix I and II.

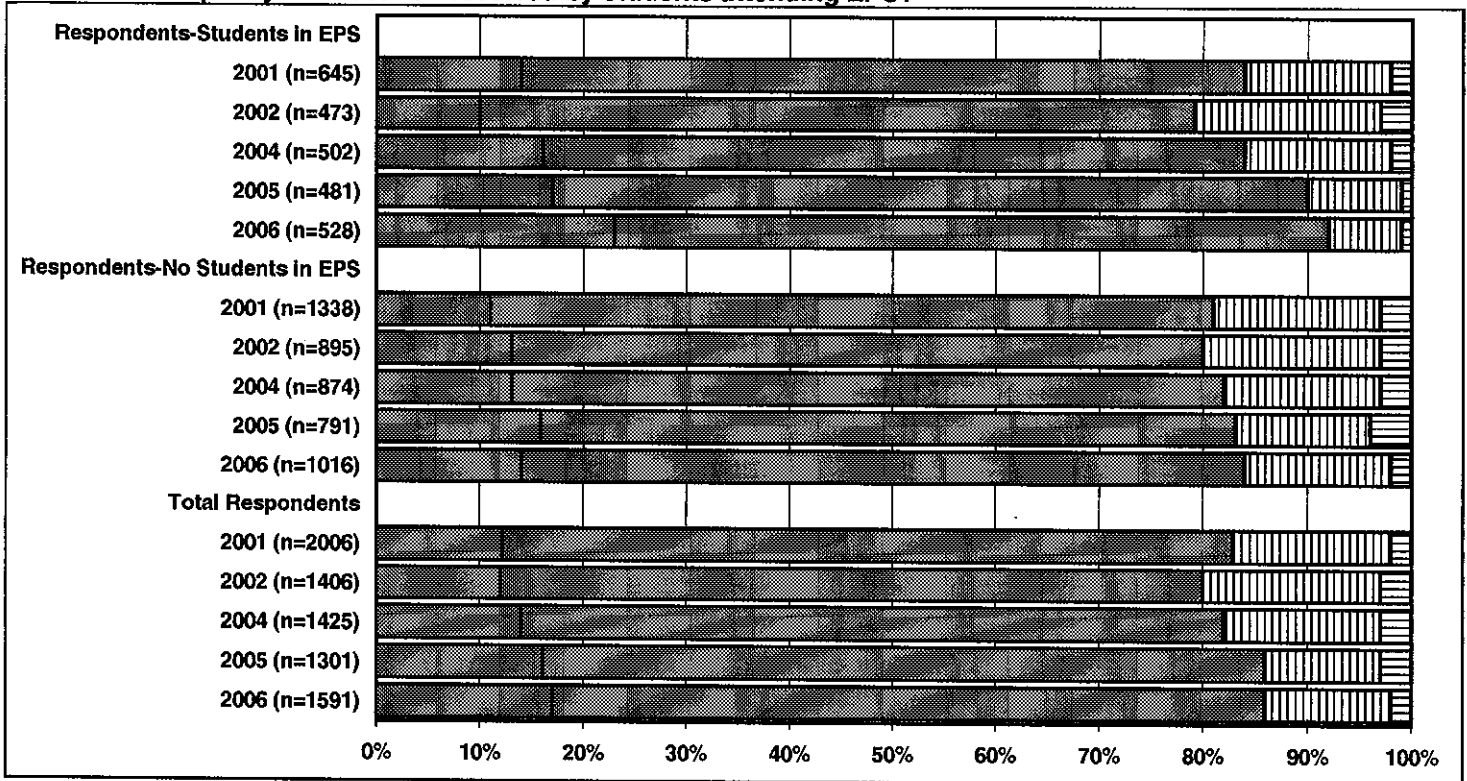
DB:

- APPENDIX I - 2006 Community Survey Multiyear Graphs
- APPENDIX II - 2006 Multiyear Table of Increases and Decreases
- APPENDIX III - Edmonton Public Schools' Community Questionnaire: 2006

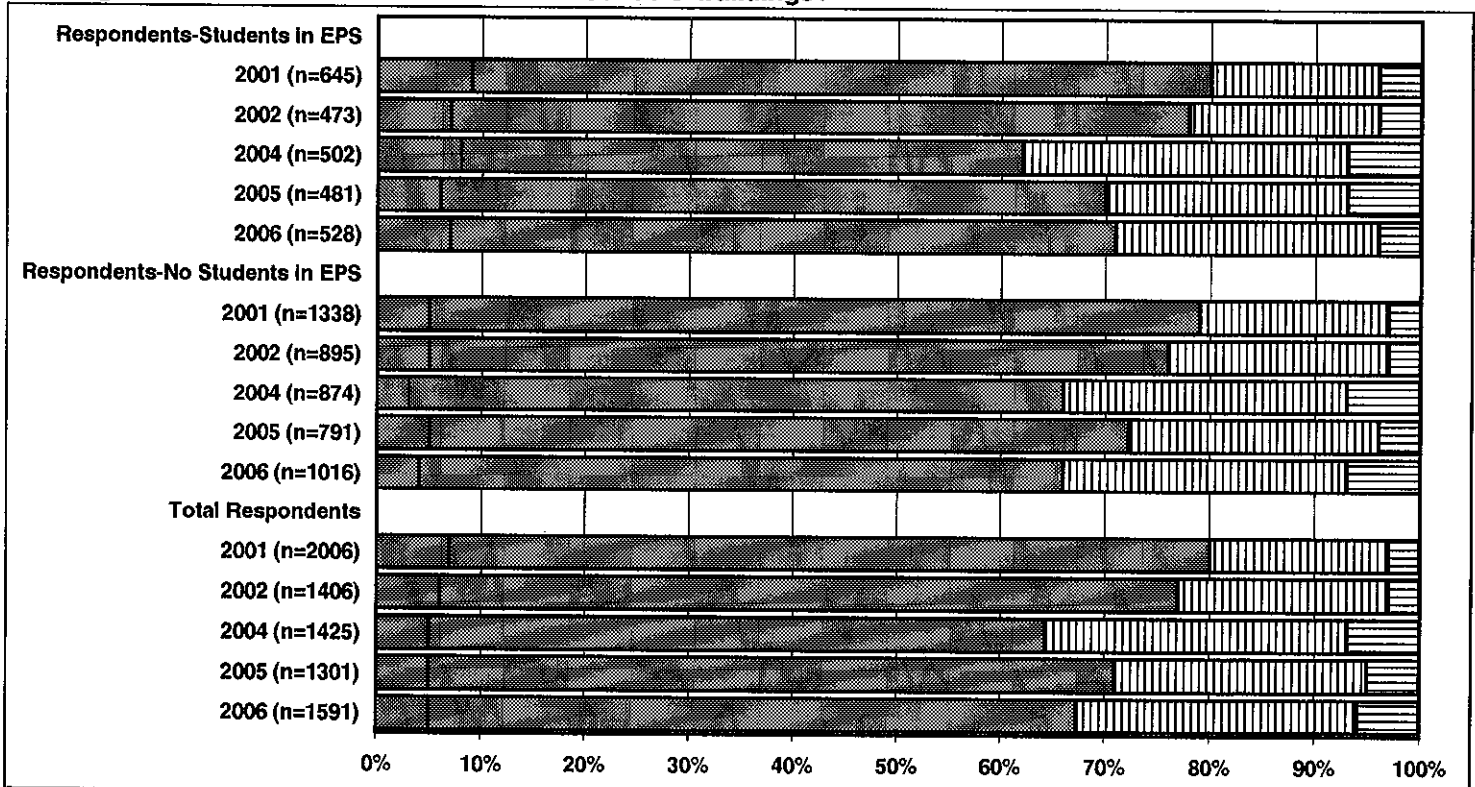
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH:

1. The overall quality of education received by students attending EPS?



2. The general condition of Edmonton Public Schools' buildings?



VERY SATISFIED

SATISFIED

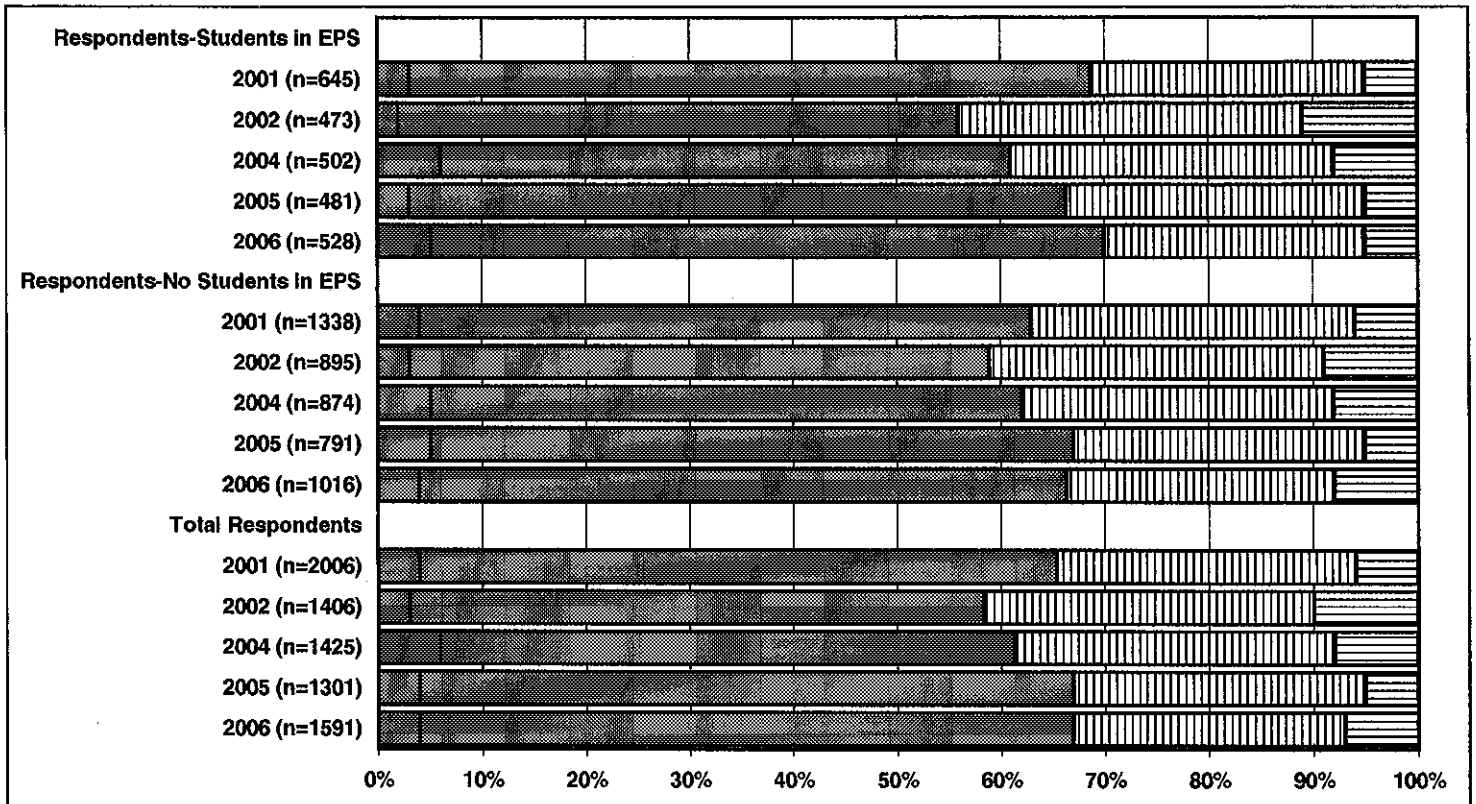
DISSATISFIED

VERY DISSATISFIED

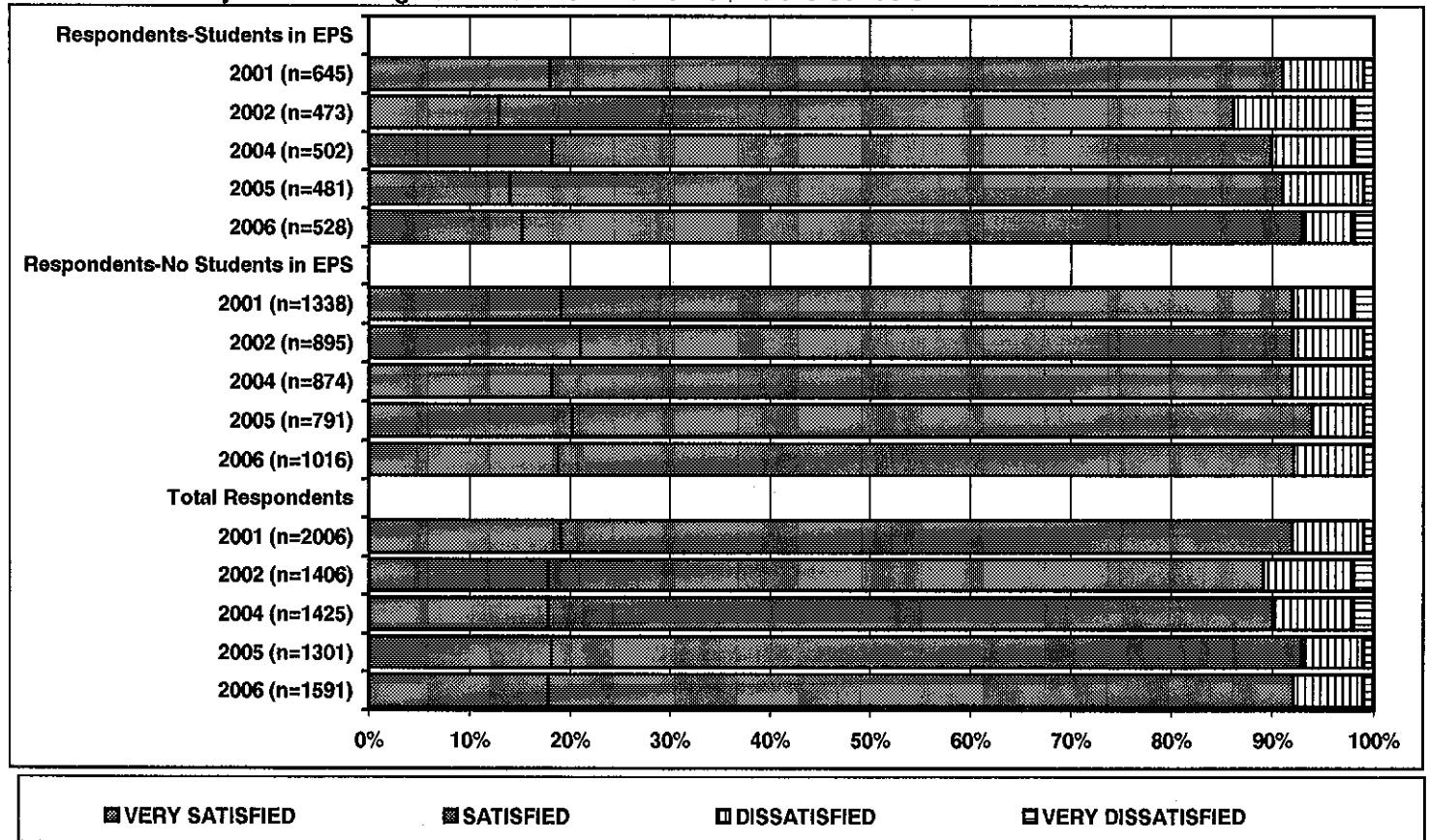
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH:

3. The way Edmonton Public Schools spends its public money?



4. The availability of Continuing Education from Edmonton Public Schools?



■ VERY SATISFIED

■ SATISFIED

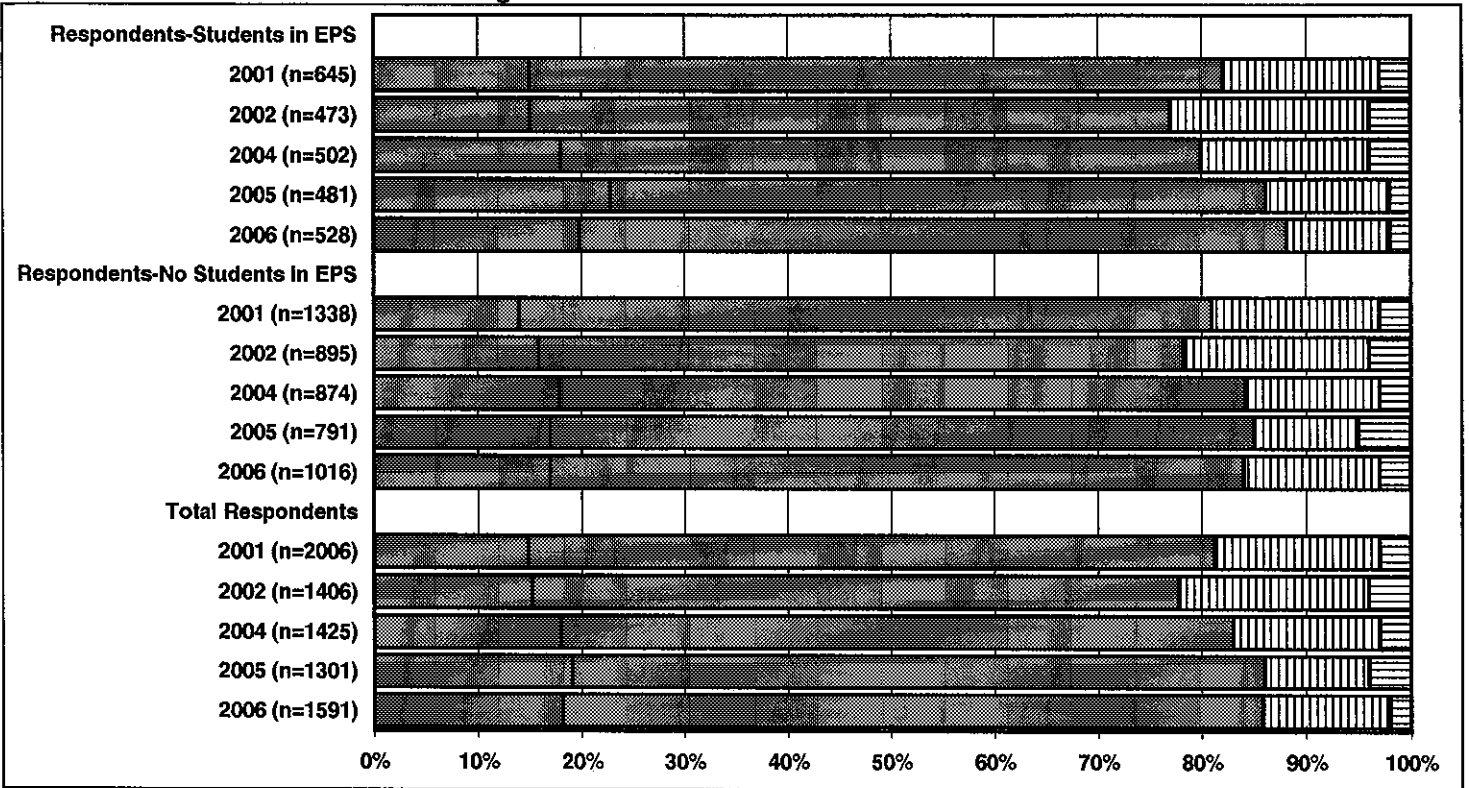
■ DISSATISFIED

■ VERY DISSATISFIED

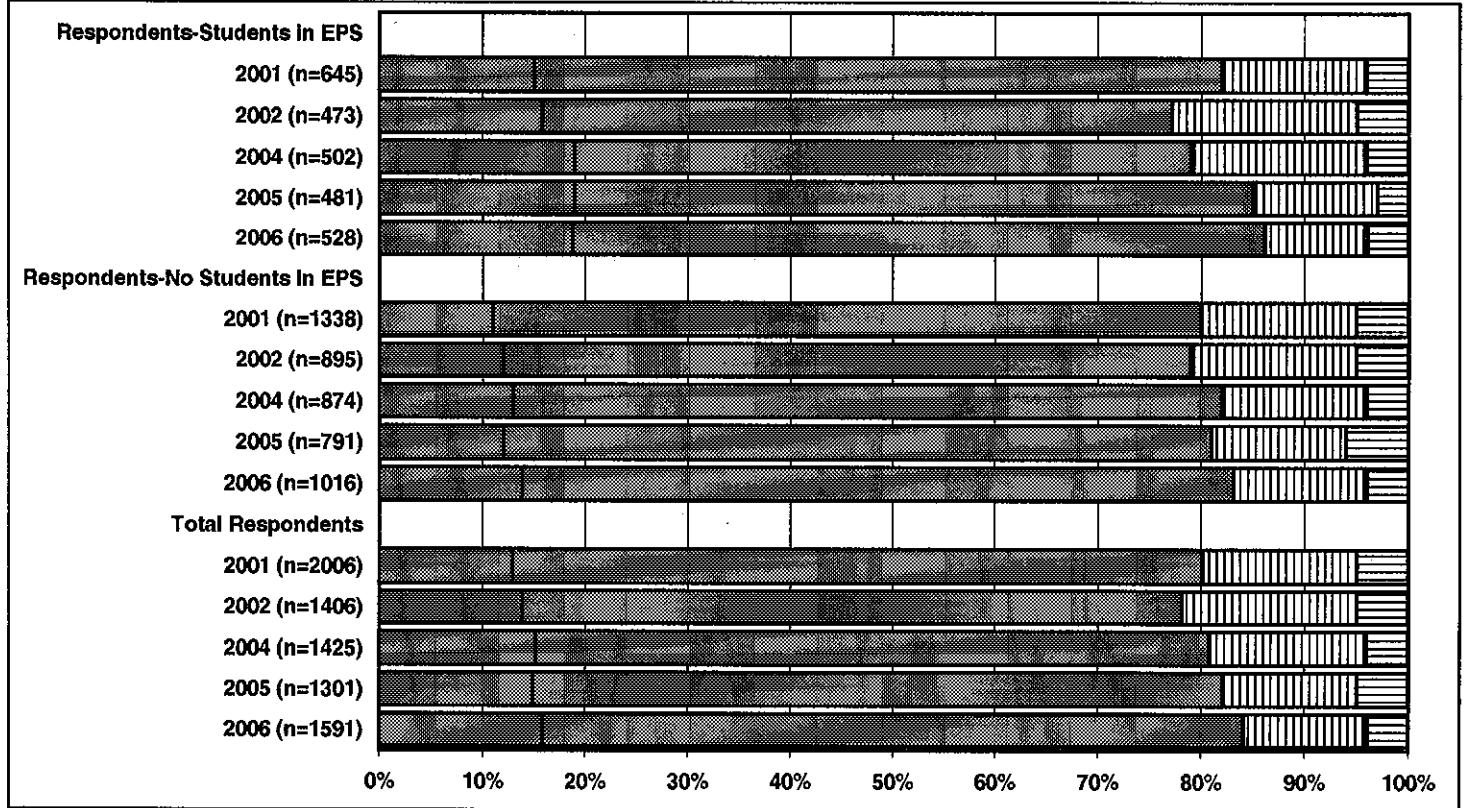
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH:

5. The overall effectiveness of teaching staff?



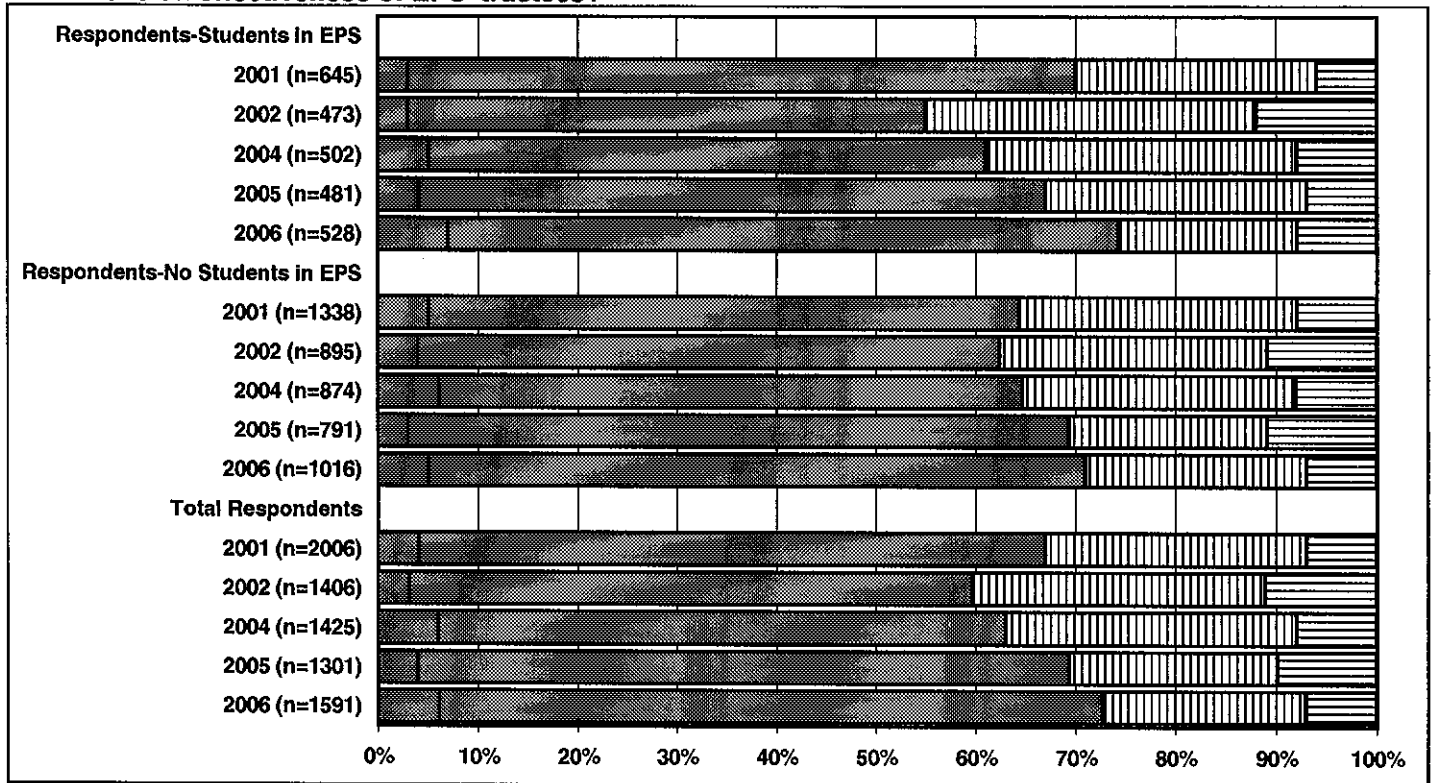
6. The overall effectiveness of the school principals?



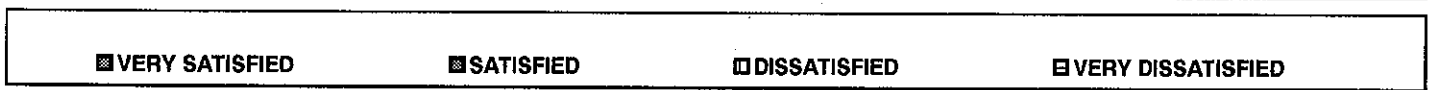
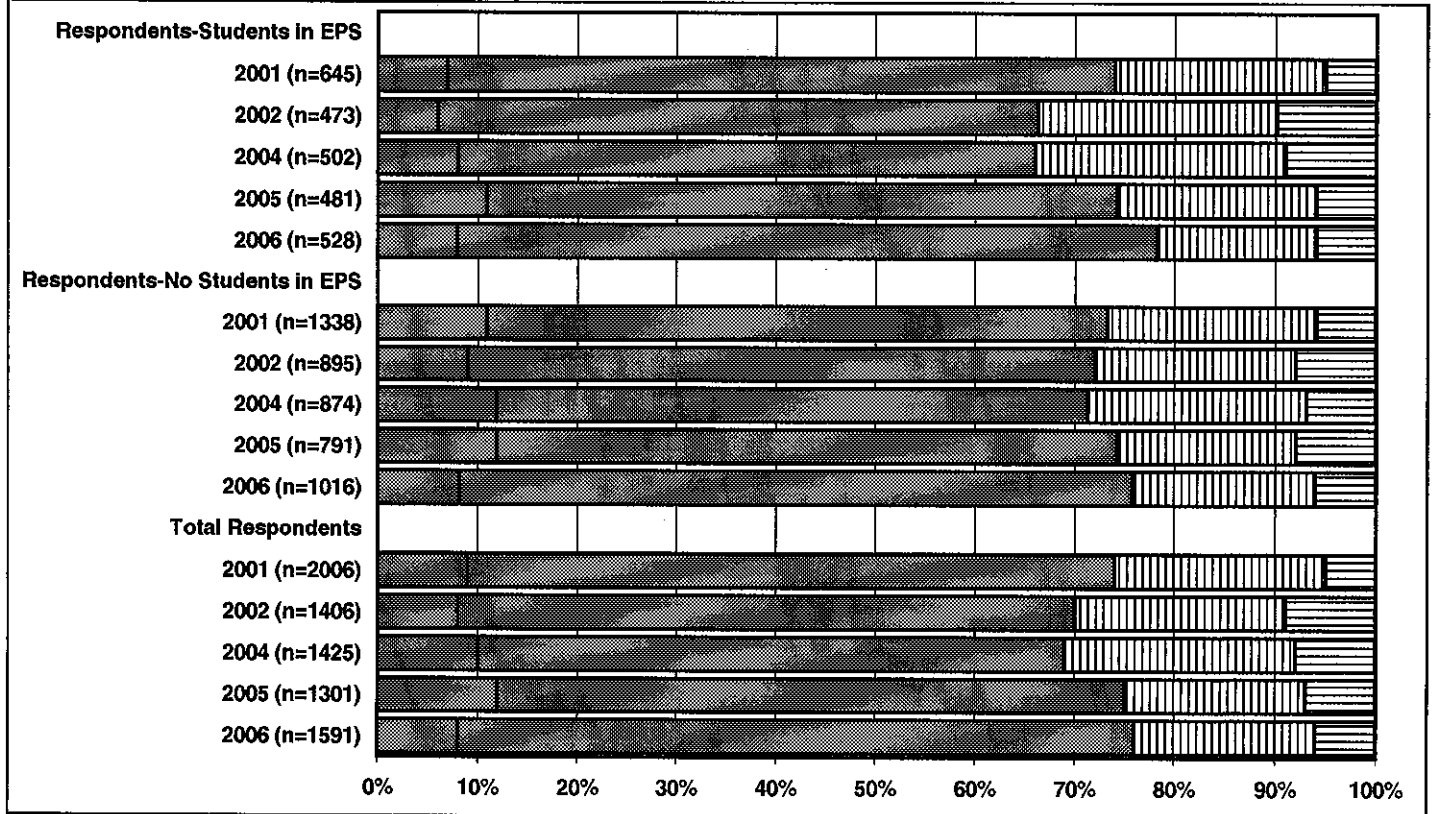
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH:

7. The overall effectiveness of EPS' trustees?



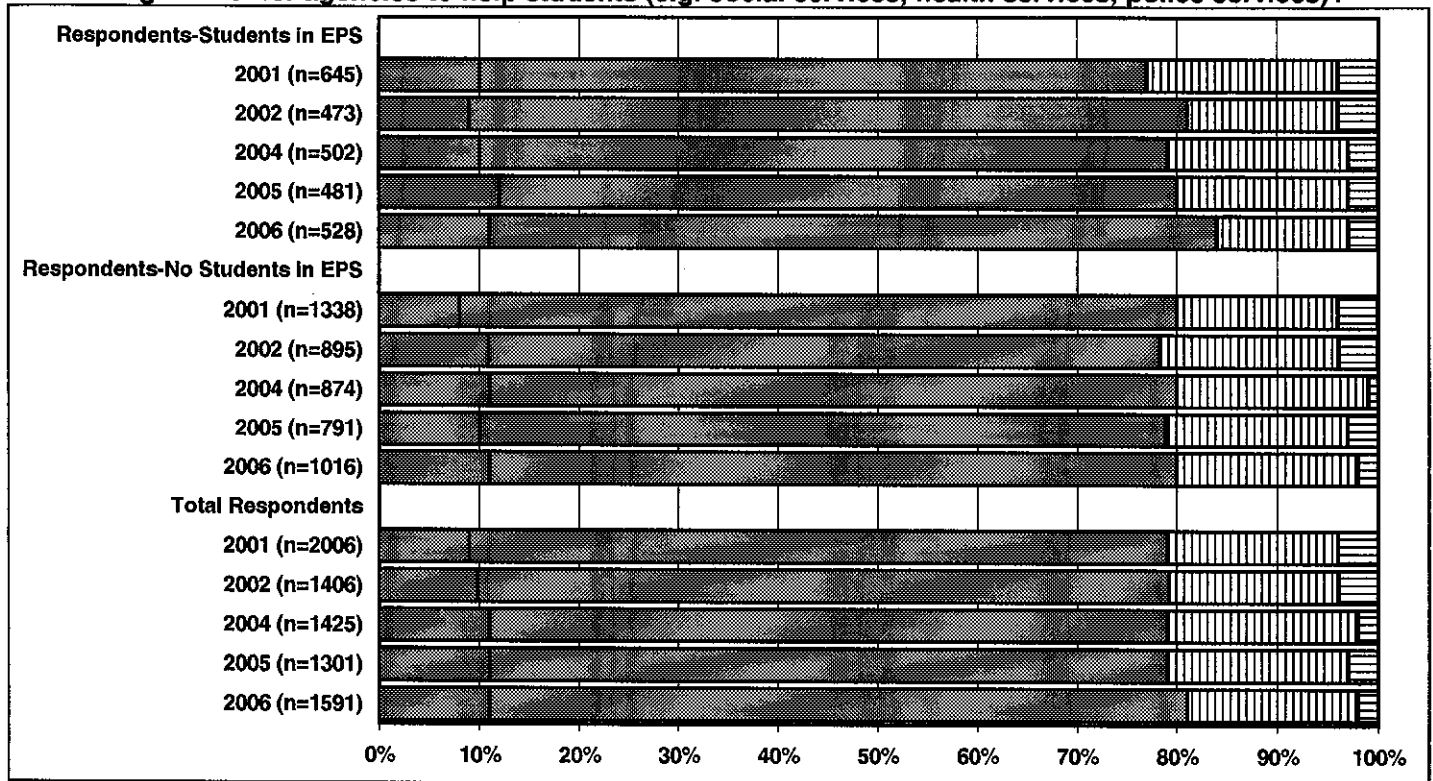
8. The overall effectiveness of EPS' superintendent?



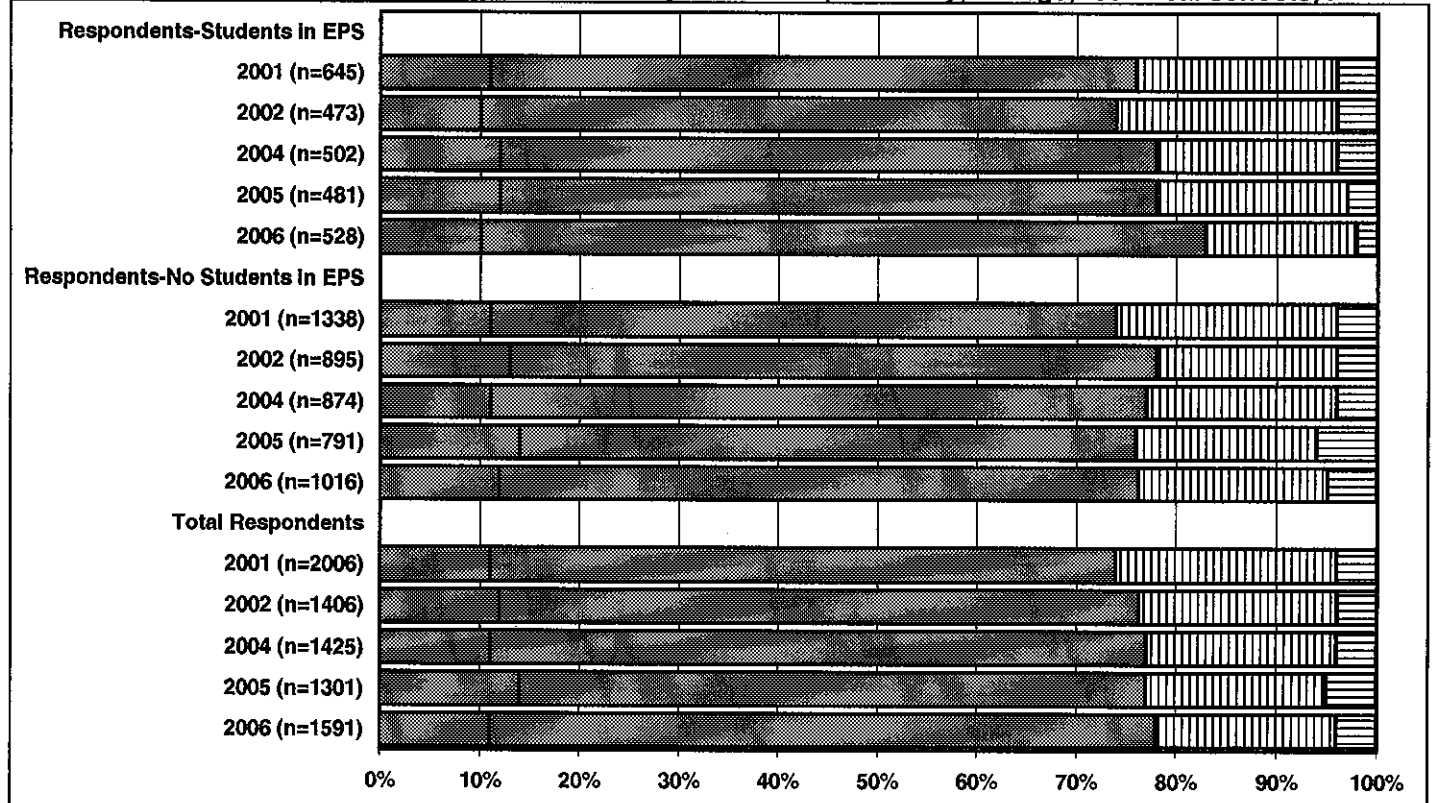
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW EFFECTIVE IS EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

9. Working with other agencies to help students (e.g. social services, health services, police services)?



10. Preparing students for entering post-secondary education (university, college, technical schools)?



■ VERY EFFECTIVE

■ EFFECTIVE

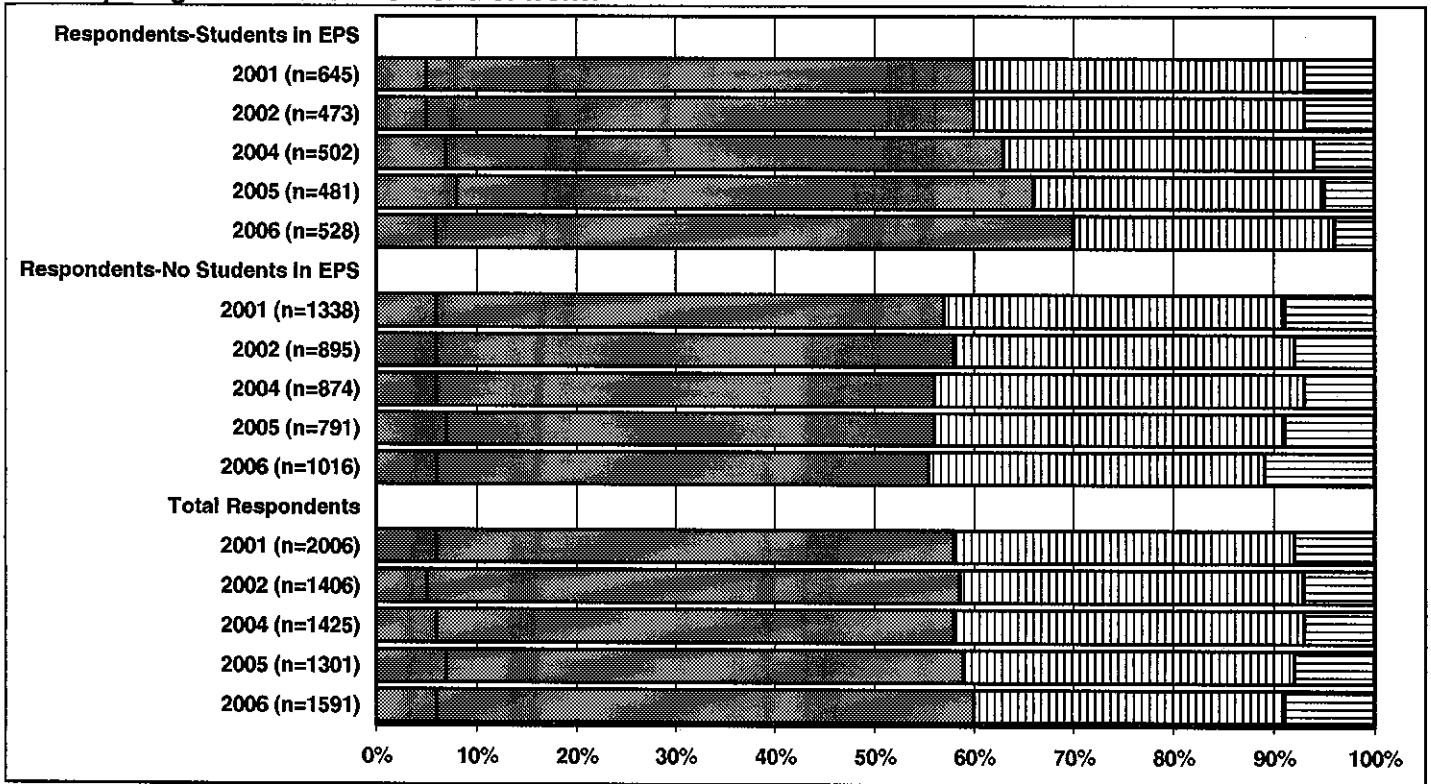
■ INEFFECTIVE

■ VERY INEFFECTIVE

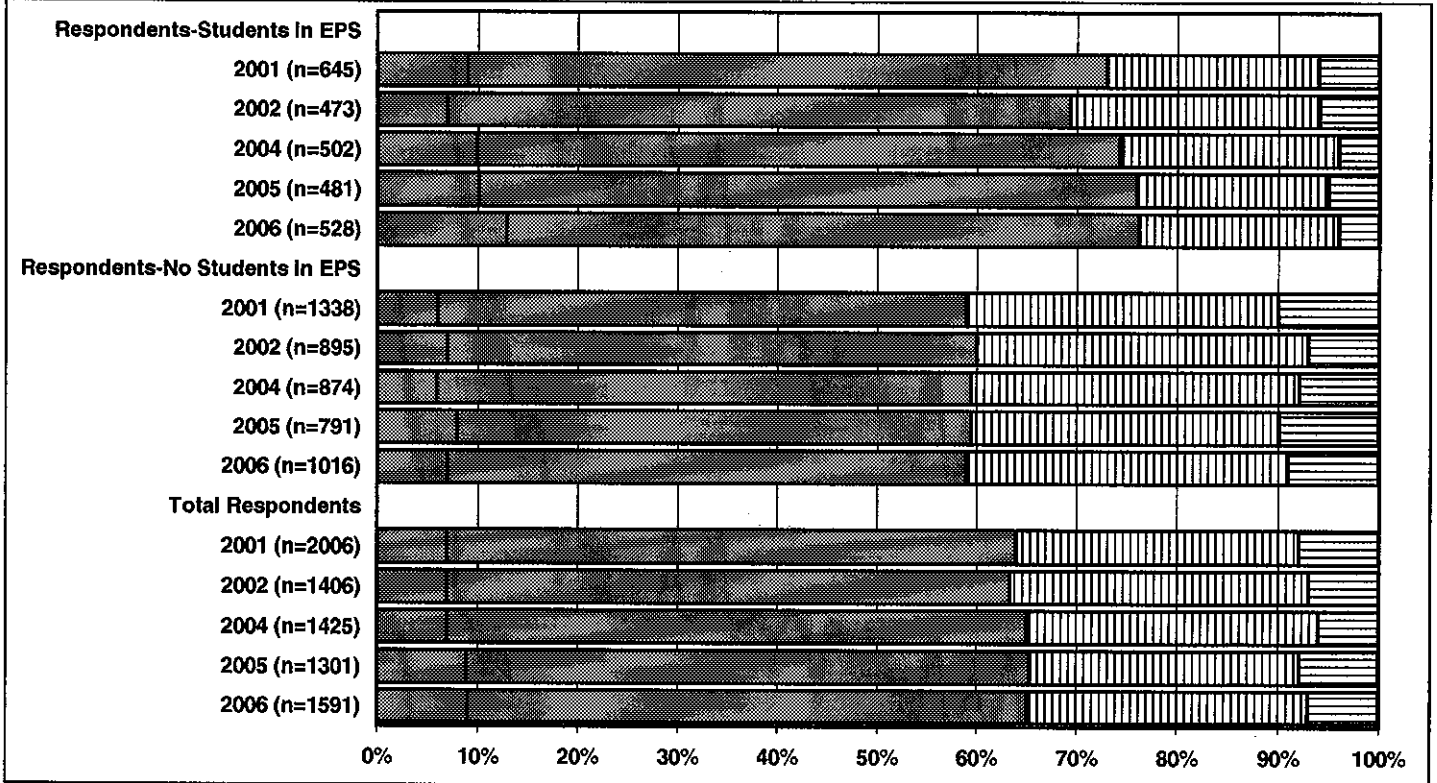
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW EFFECTIVE IS EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

11. Preparing students for the world of work?



12. Preparing students to be responsible citizens?

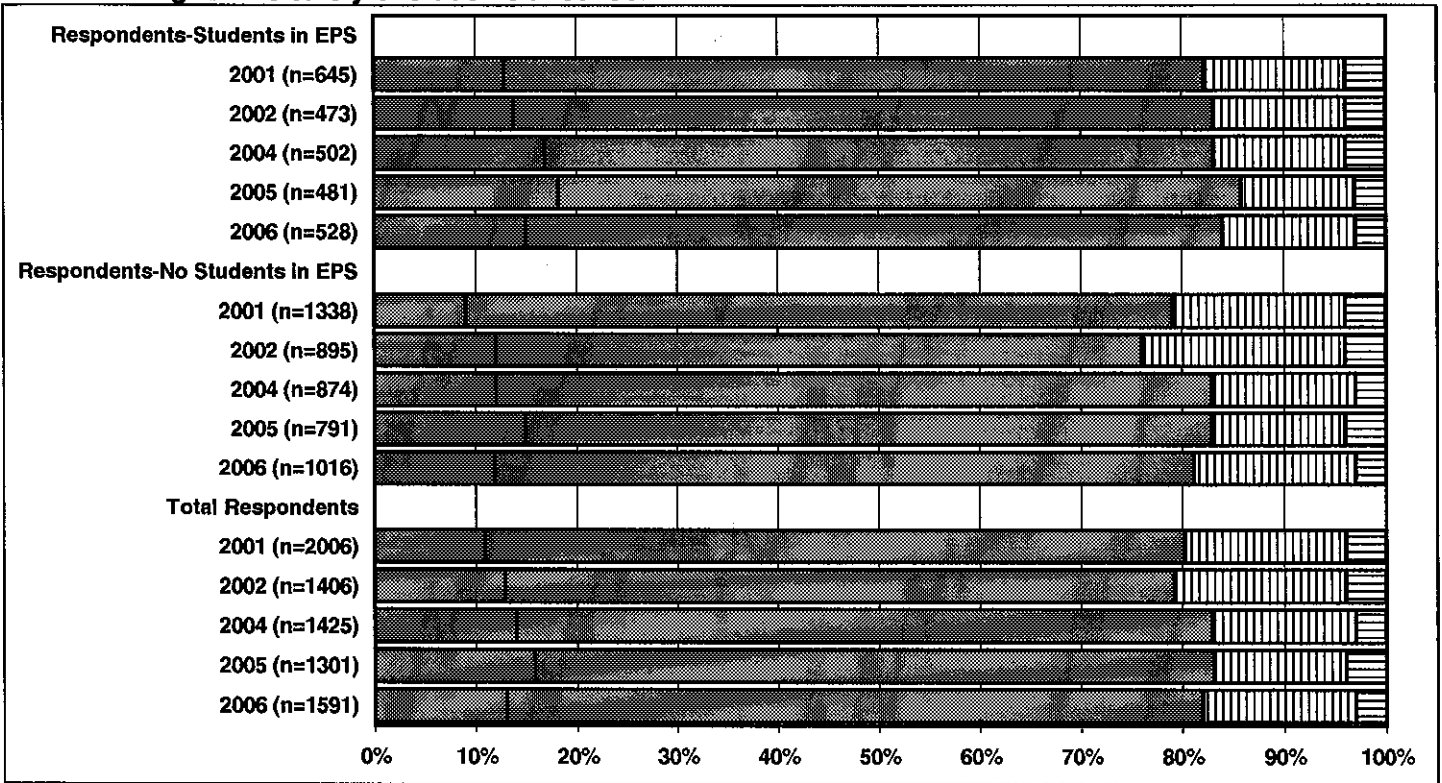


VERY EFFECTIVE
 EFFECTIVE
 INEFFECTIVE
 VERY INEFFECTIVE

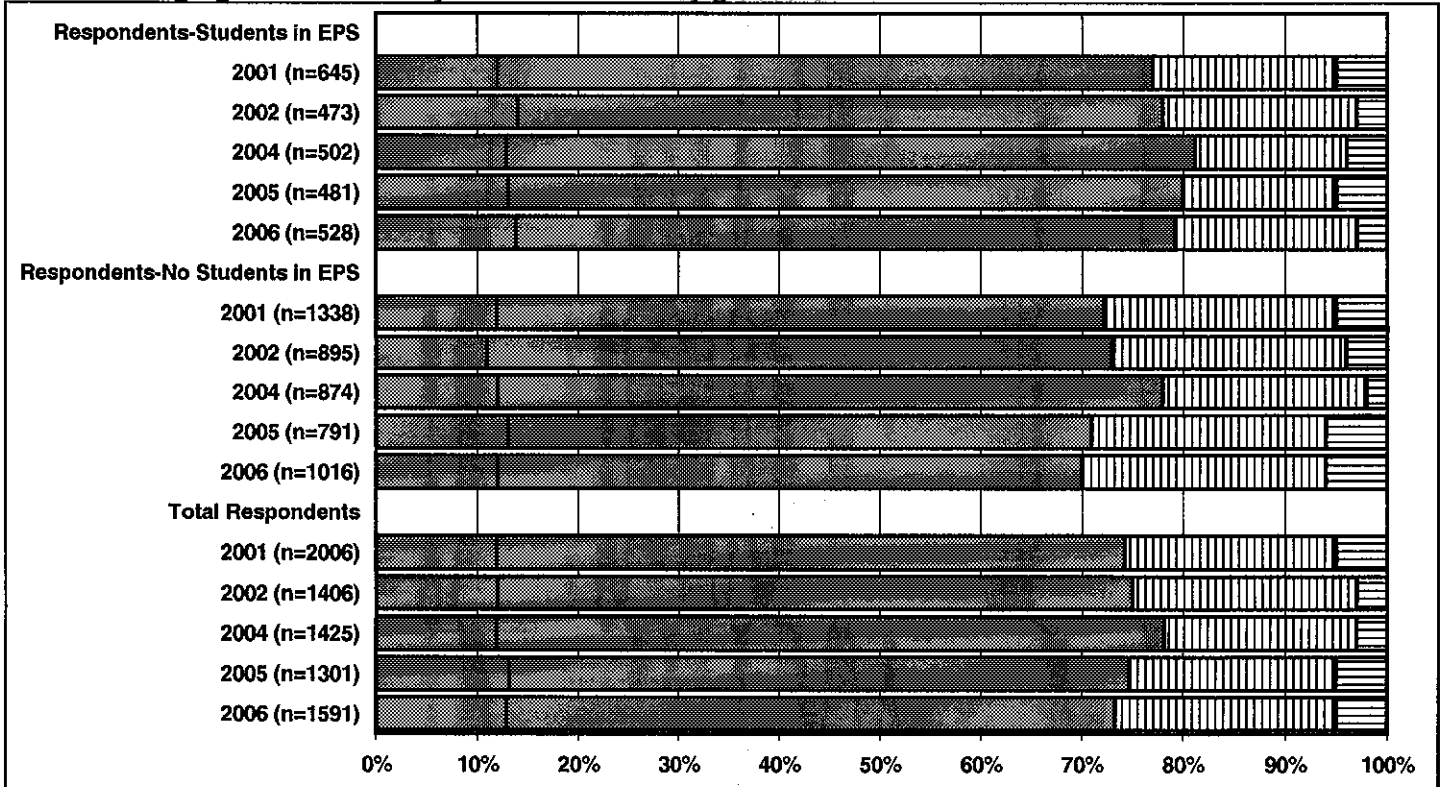
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW EFFECTIVE IS EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

13. Providing for the safety of students at school?



14. Encouraging students to stay in school until they graduate?



■ VERY EFFECTIVE

■ EFFECTIVE

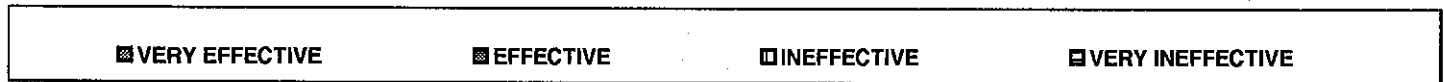
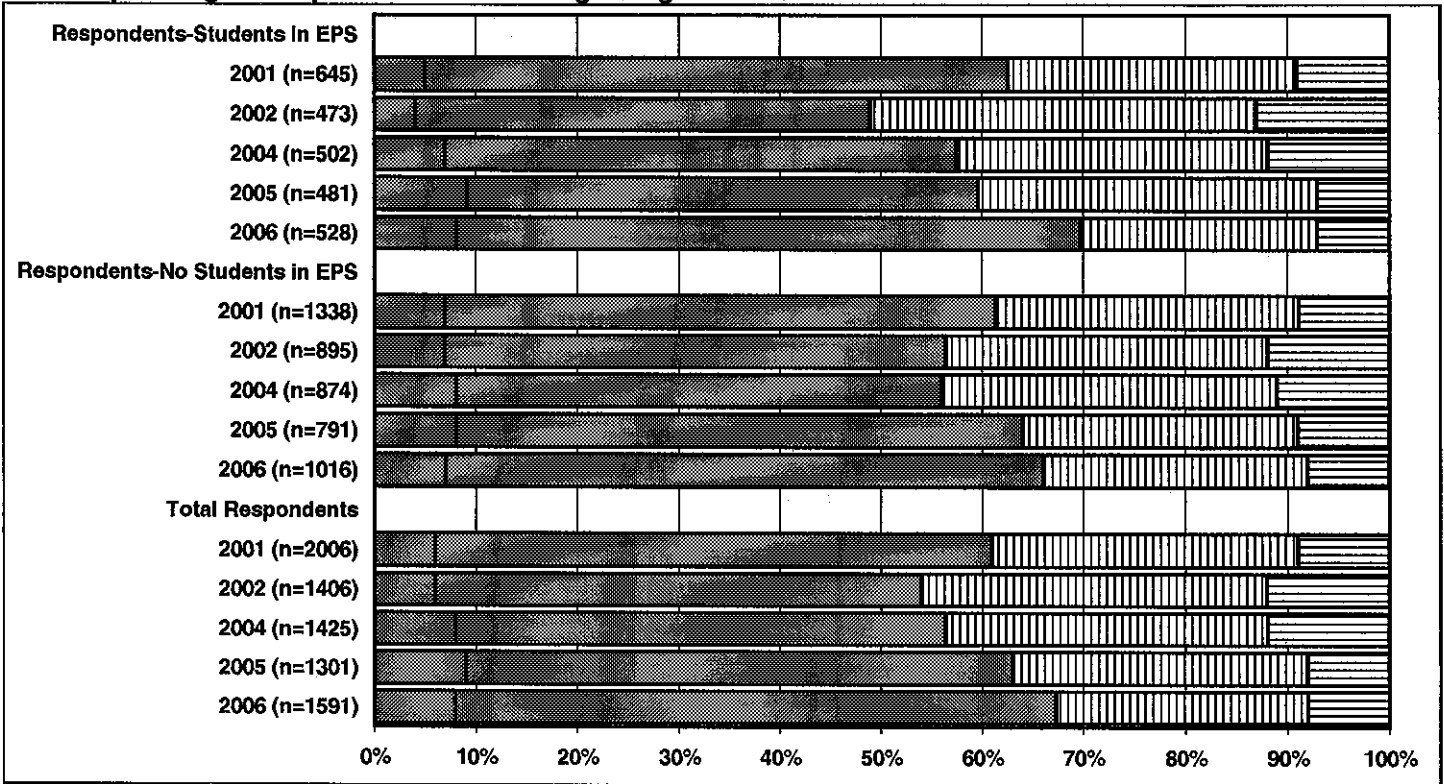
□ INEFFECTIVE

□ VERY INEFFECTIVE

2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW EFFECTIVE IS EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

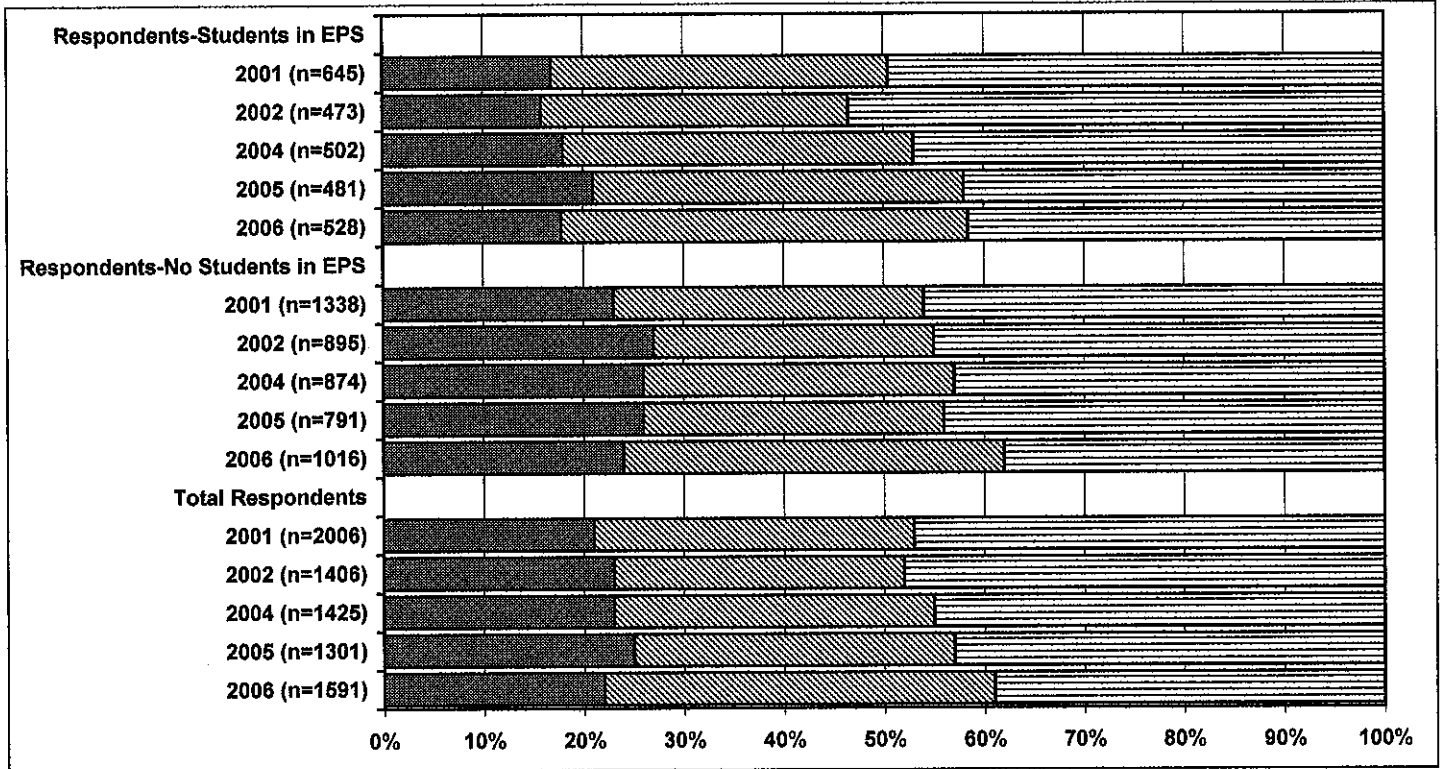
15. Responding to the public's concerns regarding education?



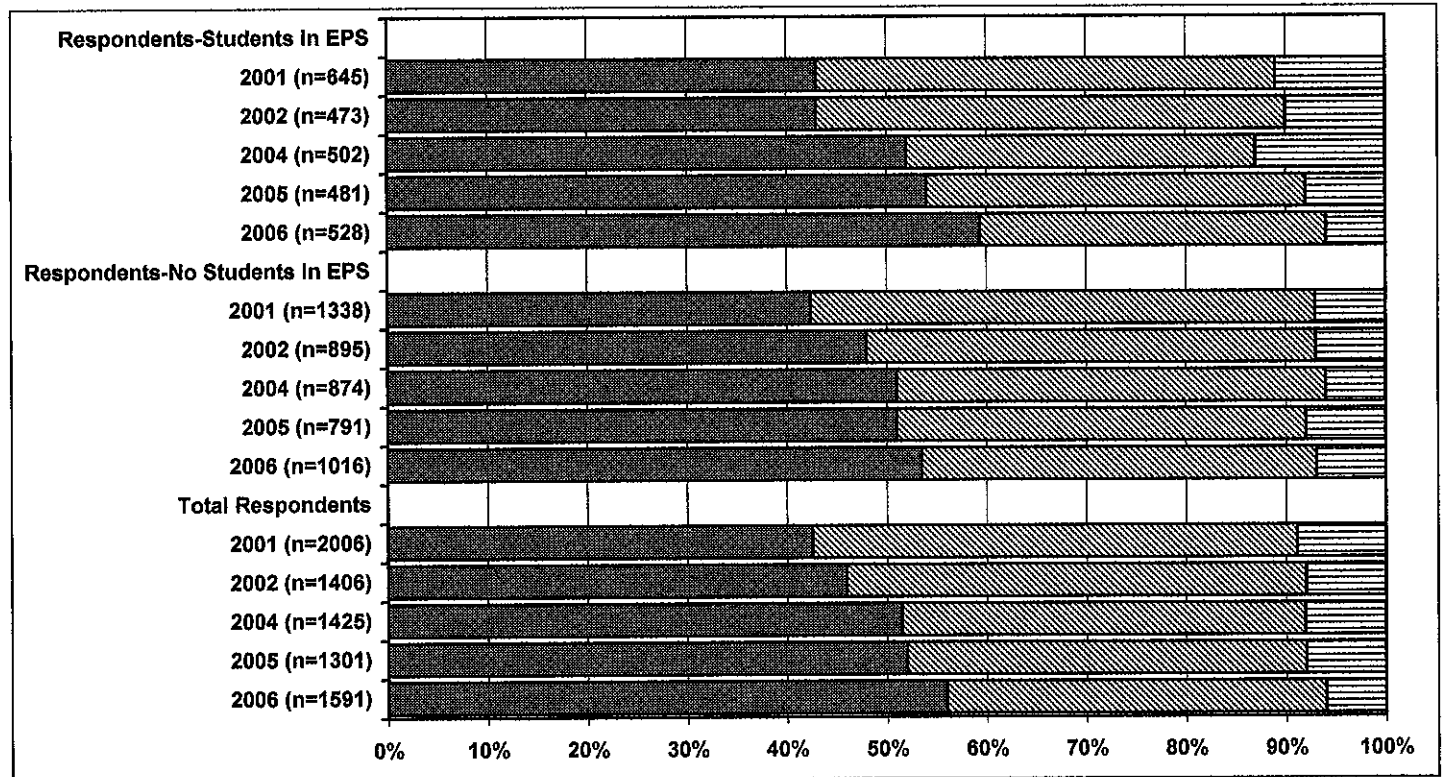
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT STUDENTS ATTENDING EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE PROVIDED WITH A QUALITY OF EDUCATION THAT IS BETTER OR WORSE THAN:

16. Students in private schools?



17. Students elsewhere in Canada?

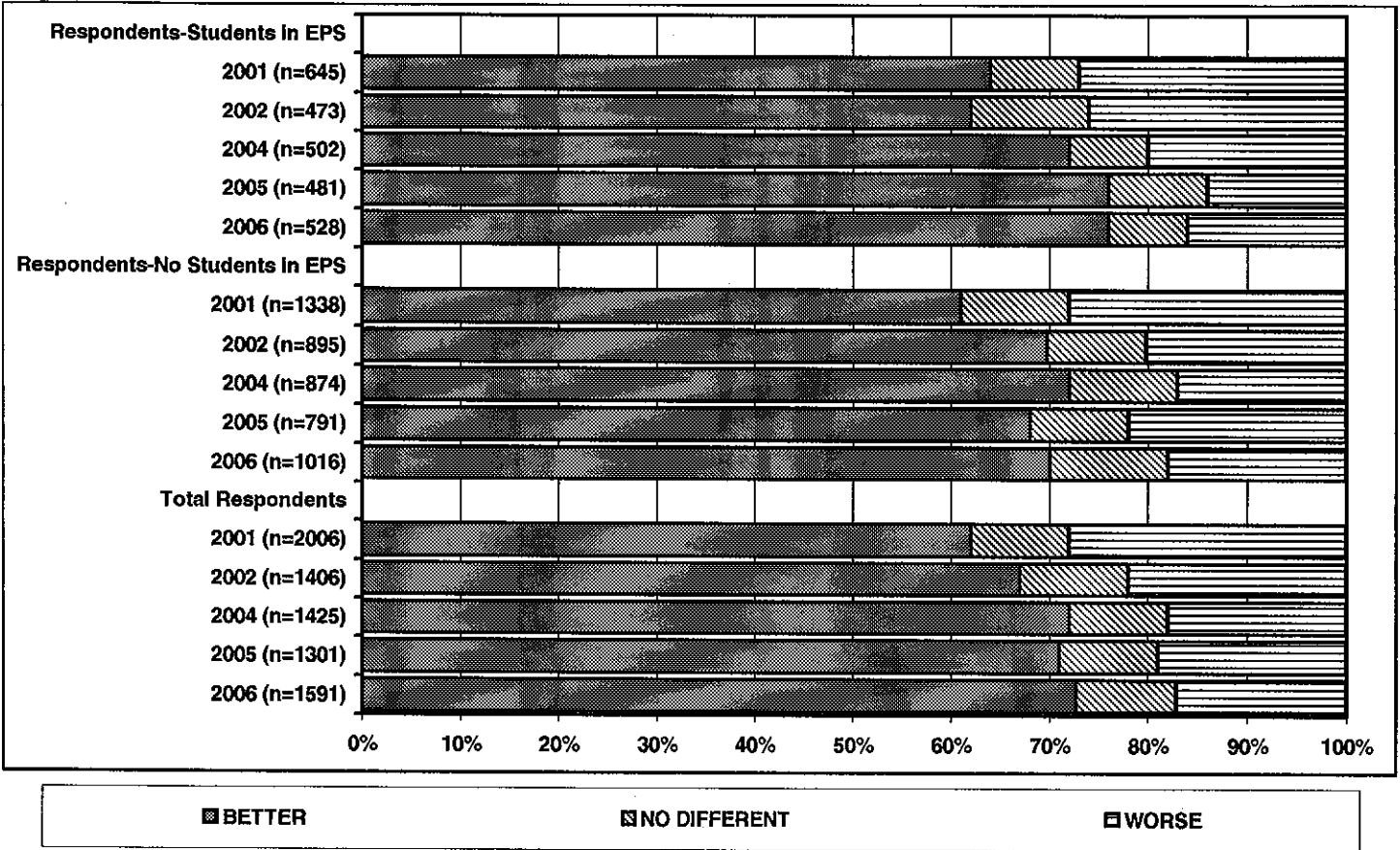


BETTER
 NO DIFFERENT
 WORSE

2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT STUDENTS ATTENDING EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE PROVIDED WITH A QUALITY OF EDUCATION THAT IS BETTER OR WORSE THAN:

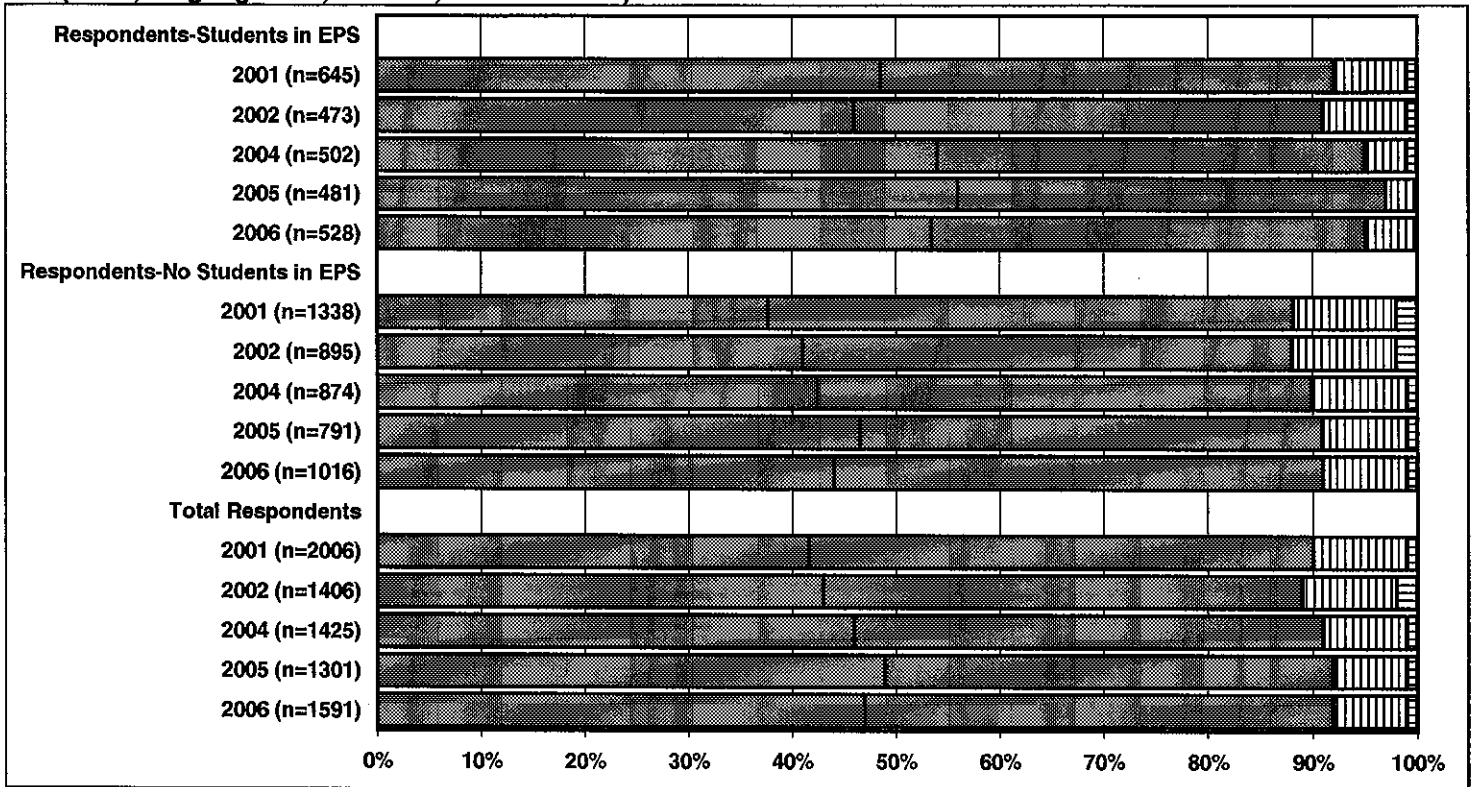
18. Students in other countries?



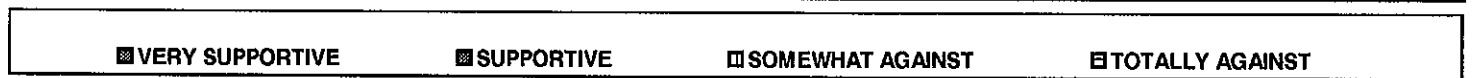
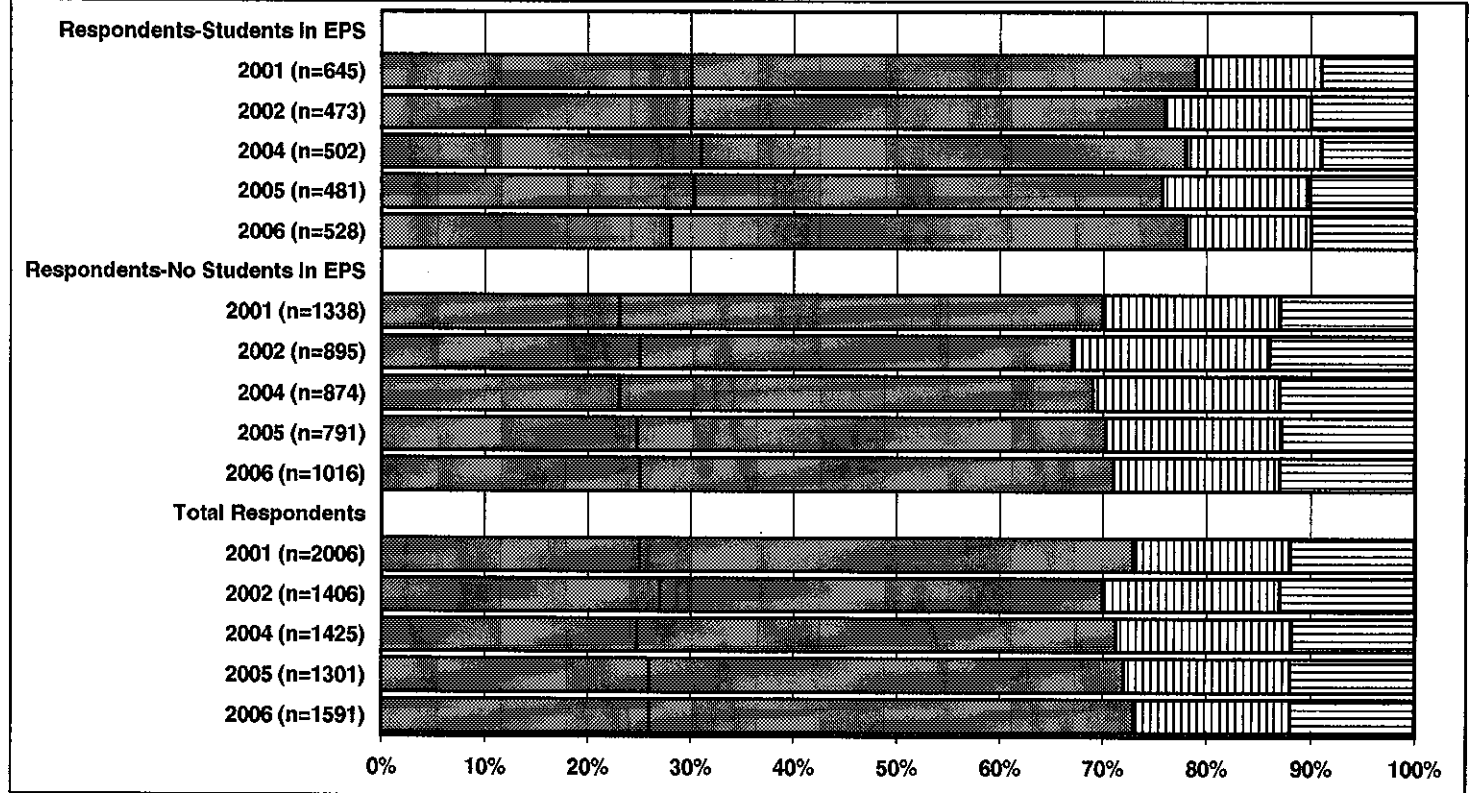
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW SUPPORTIVE ARE YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

19. Providing students with a variety of courses in addition to the core courses?
(math, language arts, science, social studies)?



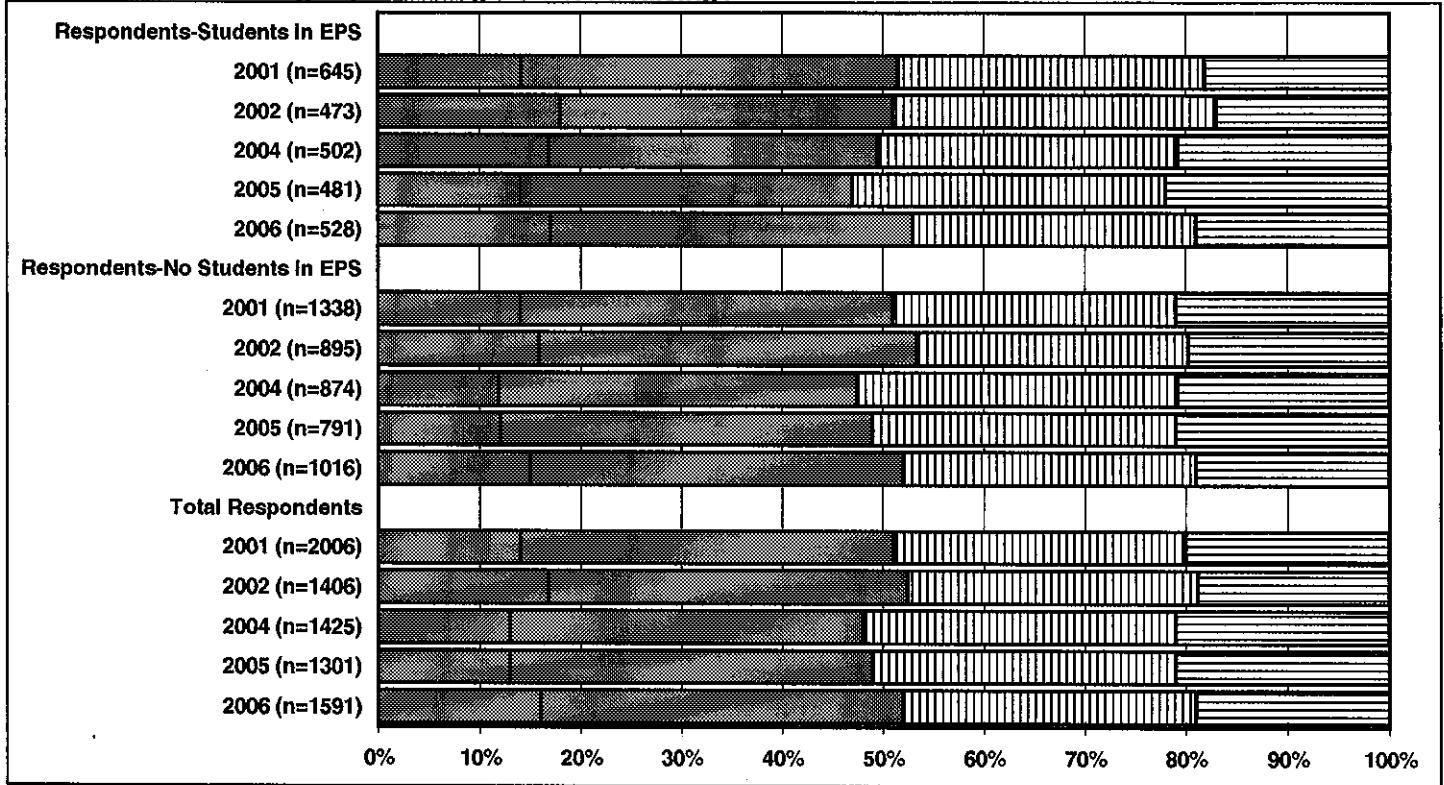
20a. Schools receiving their funding from donations?



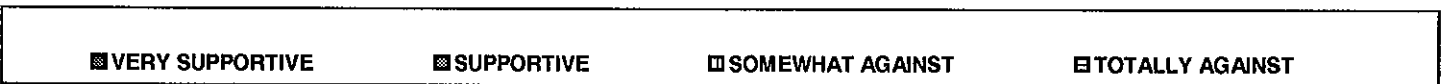
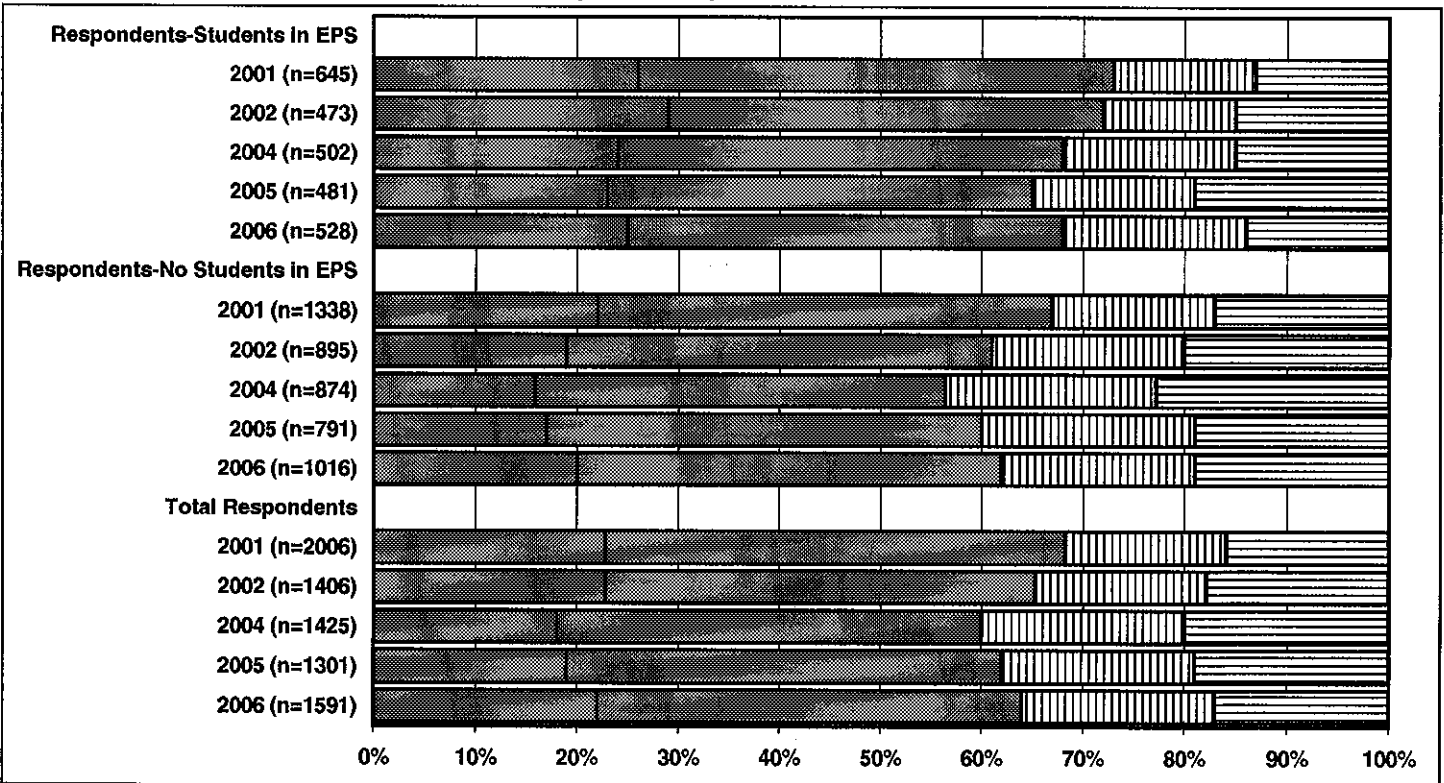
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW SUPPORTIVE ARE YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

20b. Schools receiving their funding from fund raising?



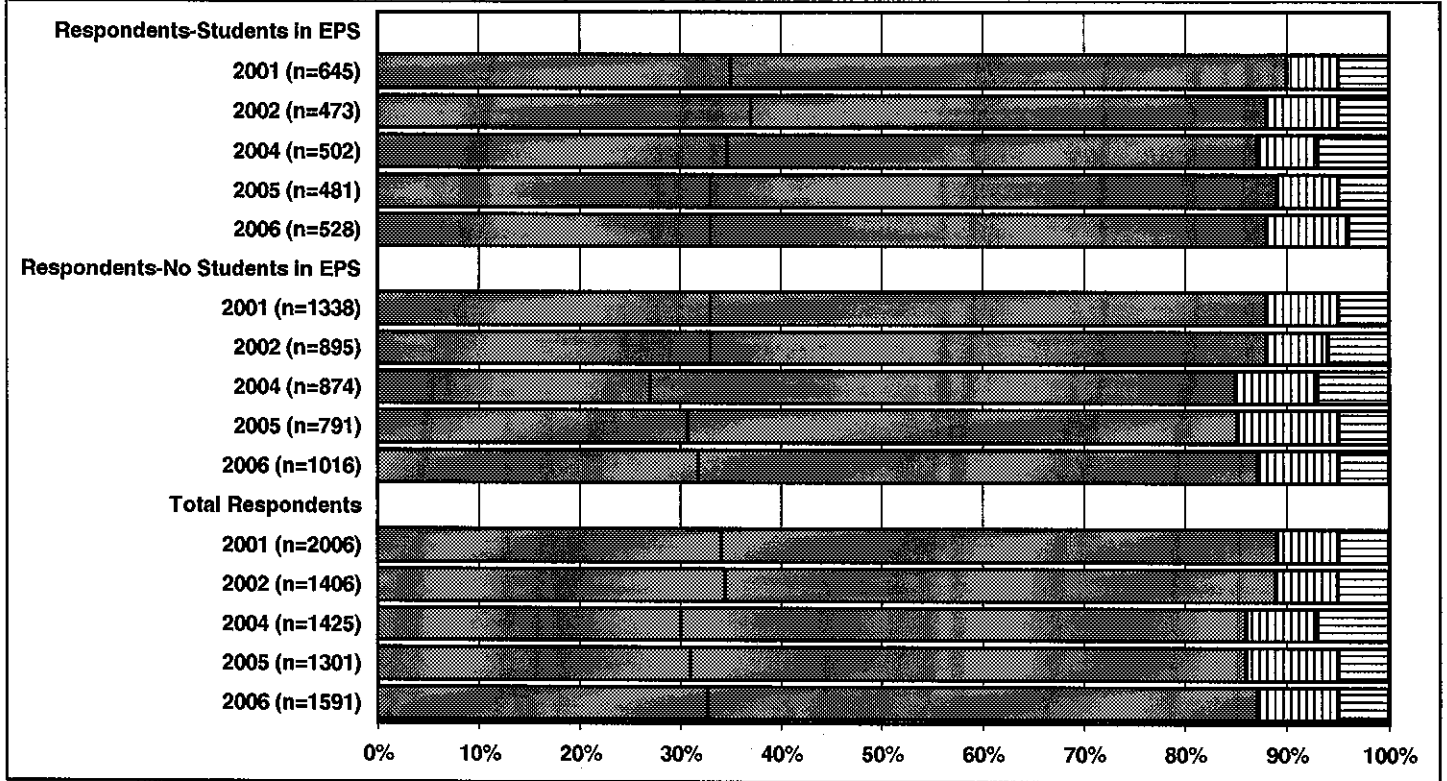
20c. Schools receiving their funding from sponsorships?



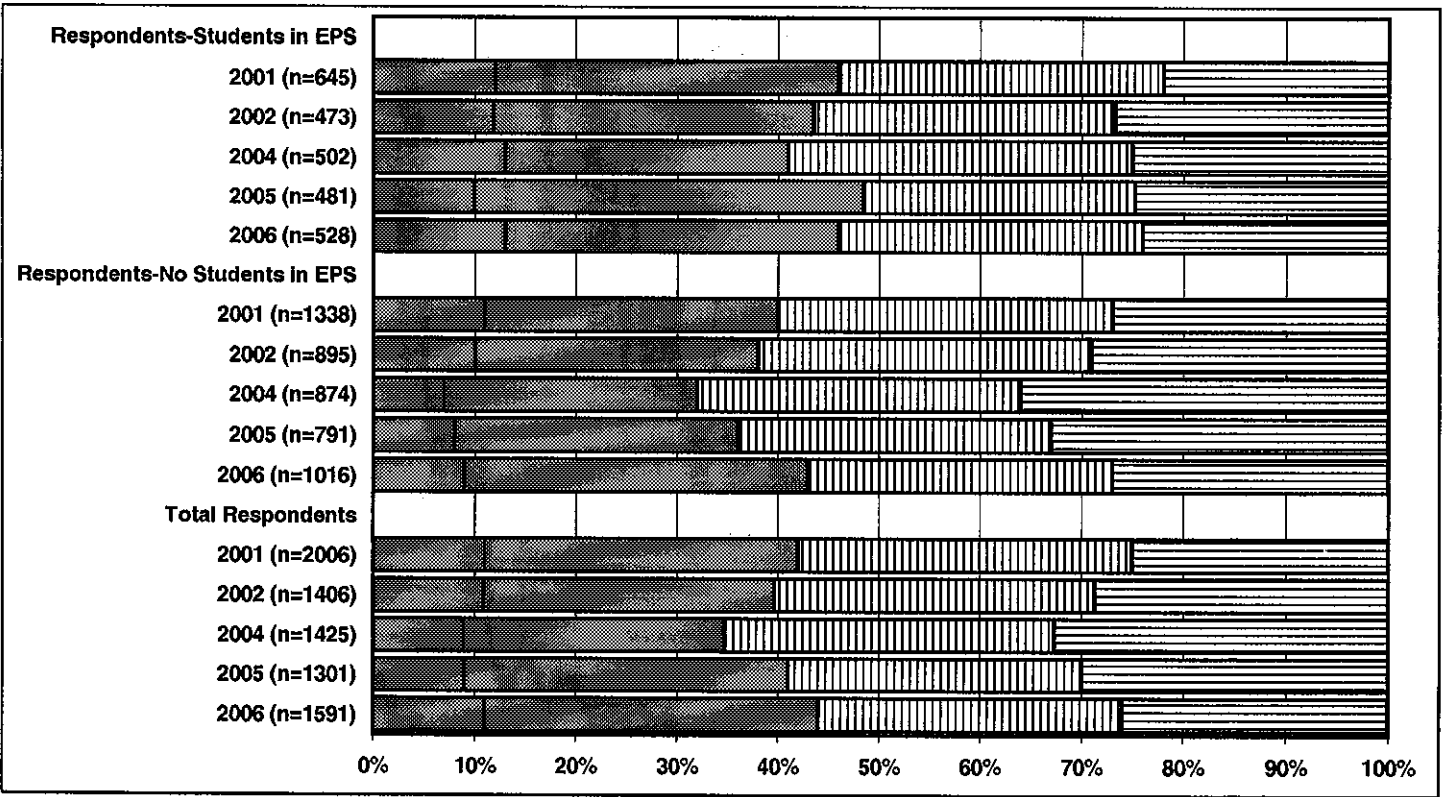
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW SUPPORTIVE ARE YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

20d. Schools receiving their funding from partnerships?



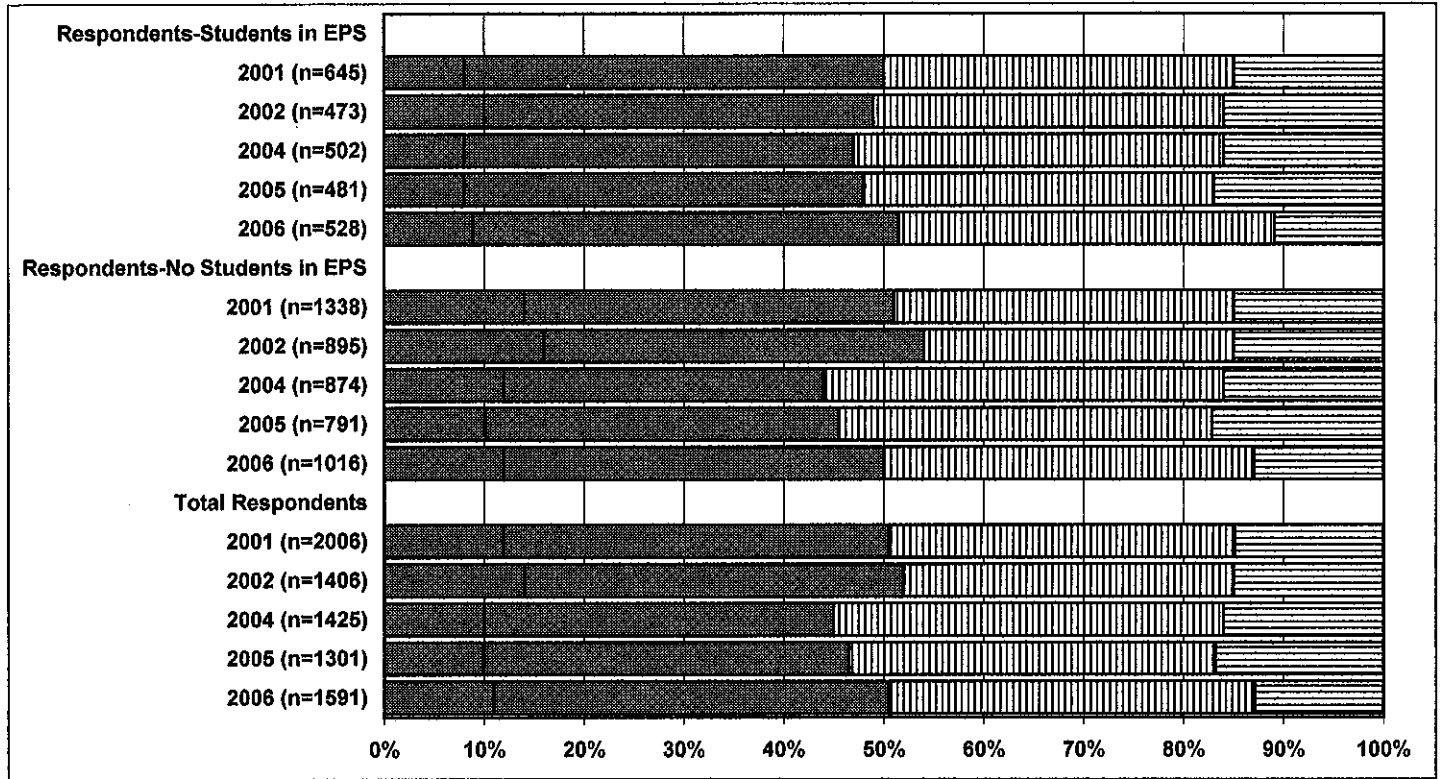
20e. Schools receiving their funding from exclusive supply agreements?



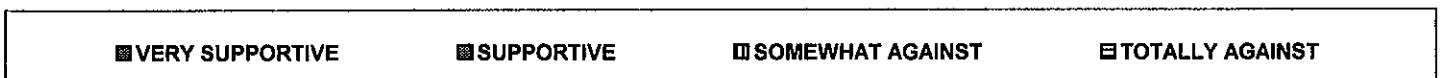
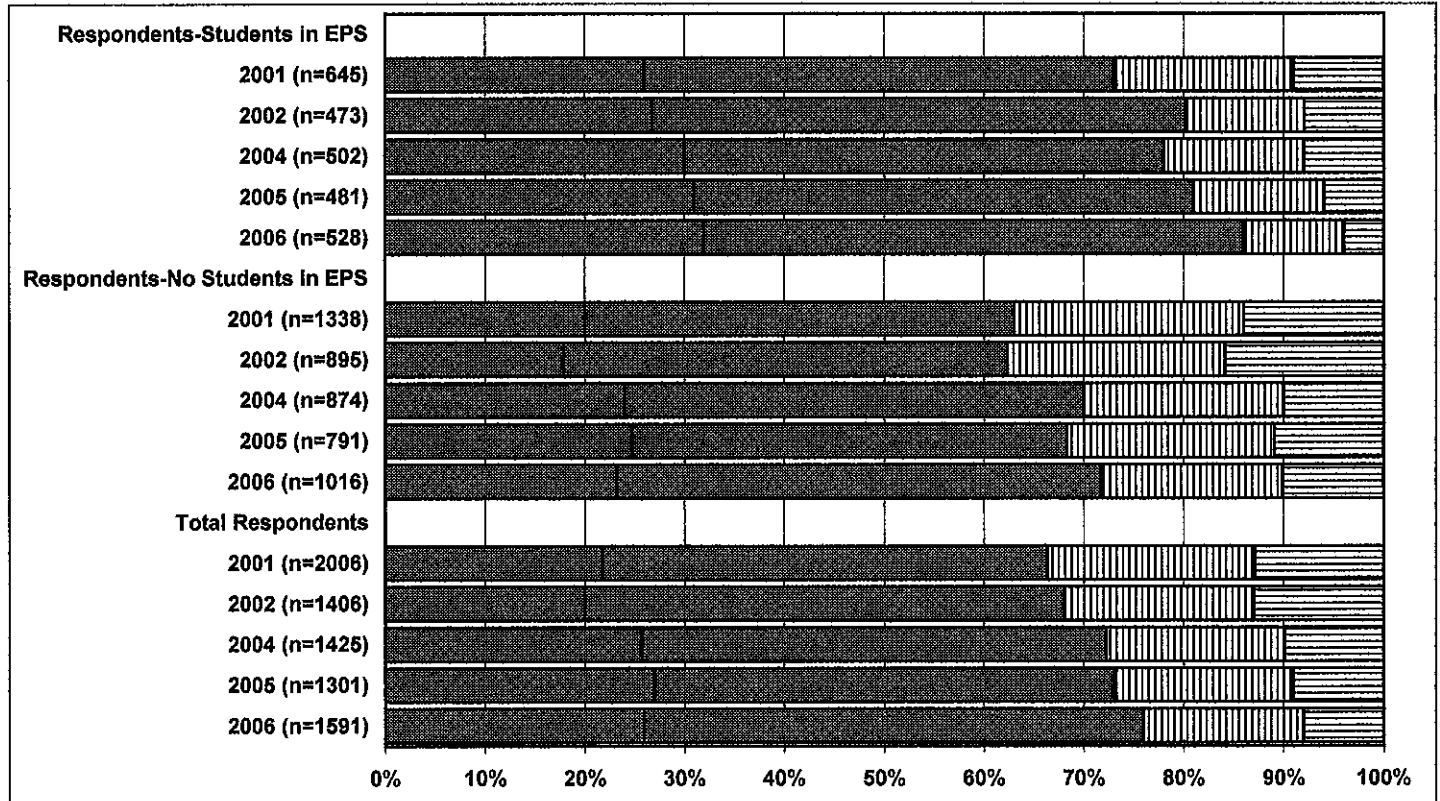
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW SUPPORTIVE ARE YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

21. Having parents pay for anything beyond basic education (e.g. sports, band, field-trips)?



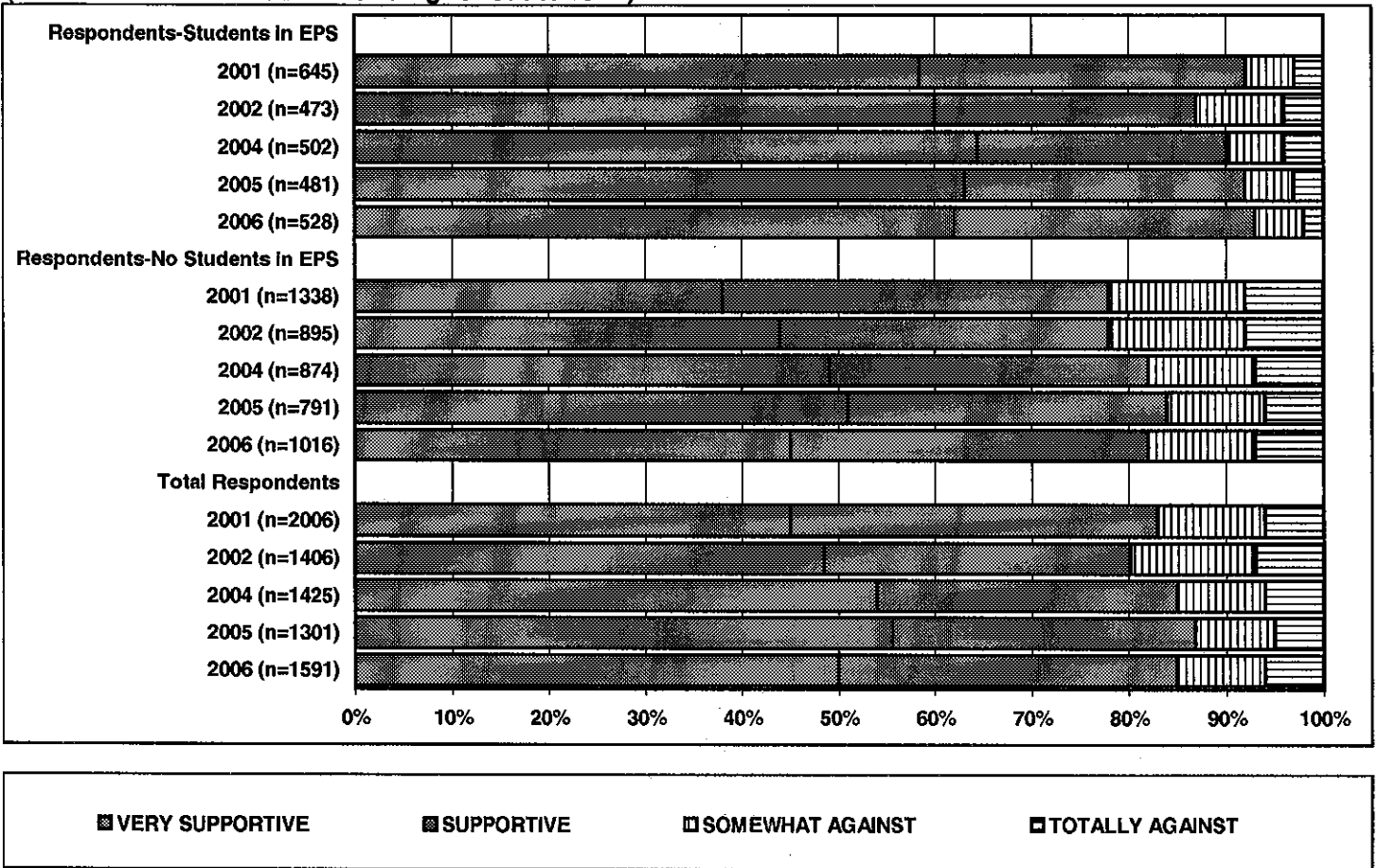
22. Having a choice of different types of schools (e.g. gender specific, language specific, fine arts, sports, etc.)?



2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW SUPPORTIVE ARE YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

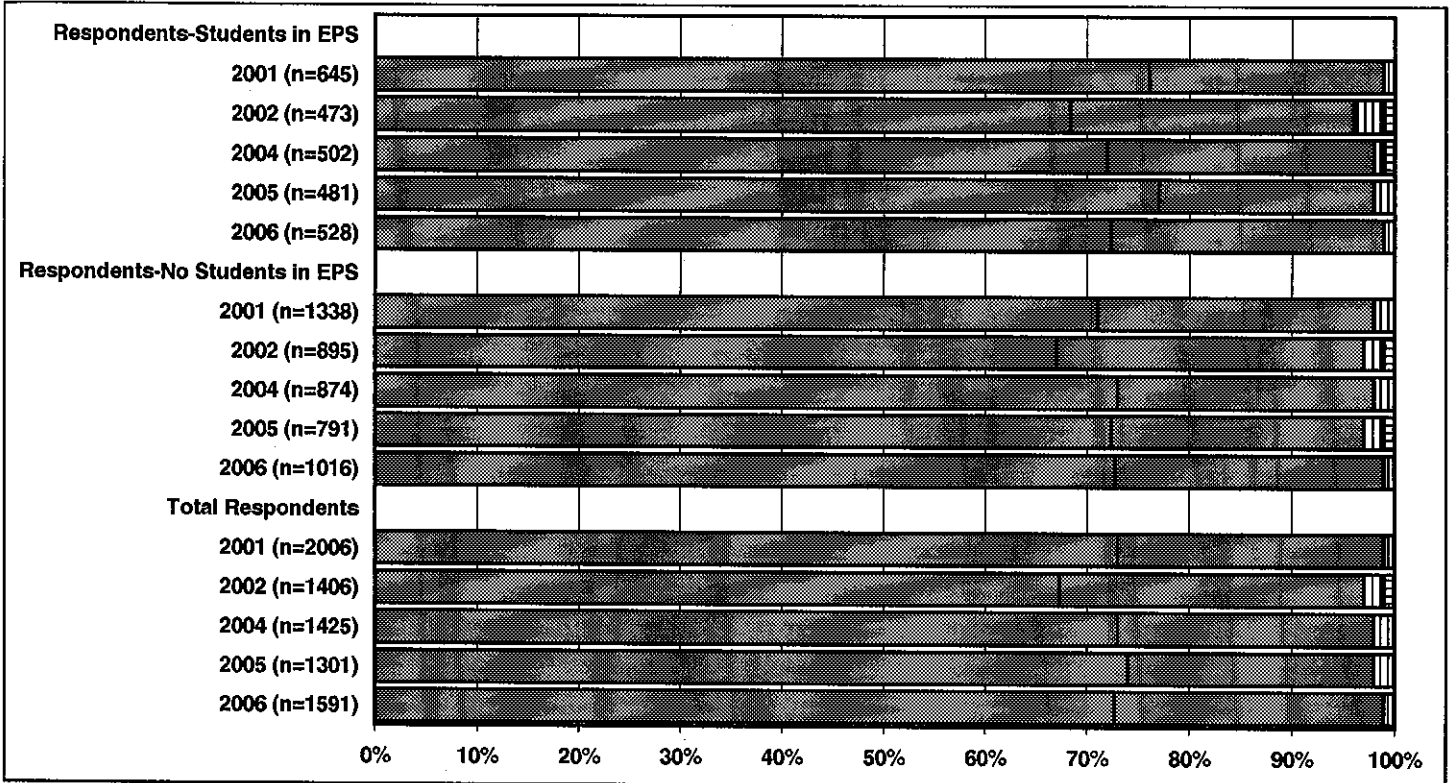
23. An increase in funding for Edmonton Public Schools?
(1998-1999 - An increase in funding for education?)



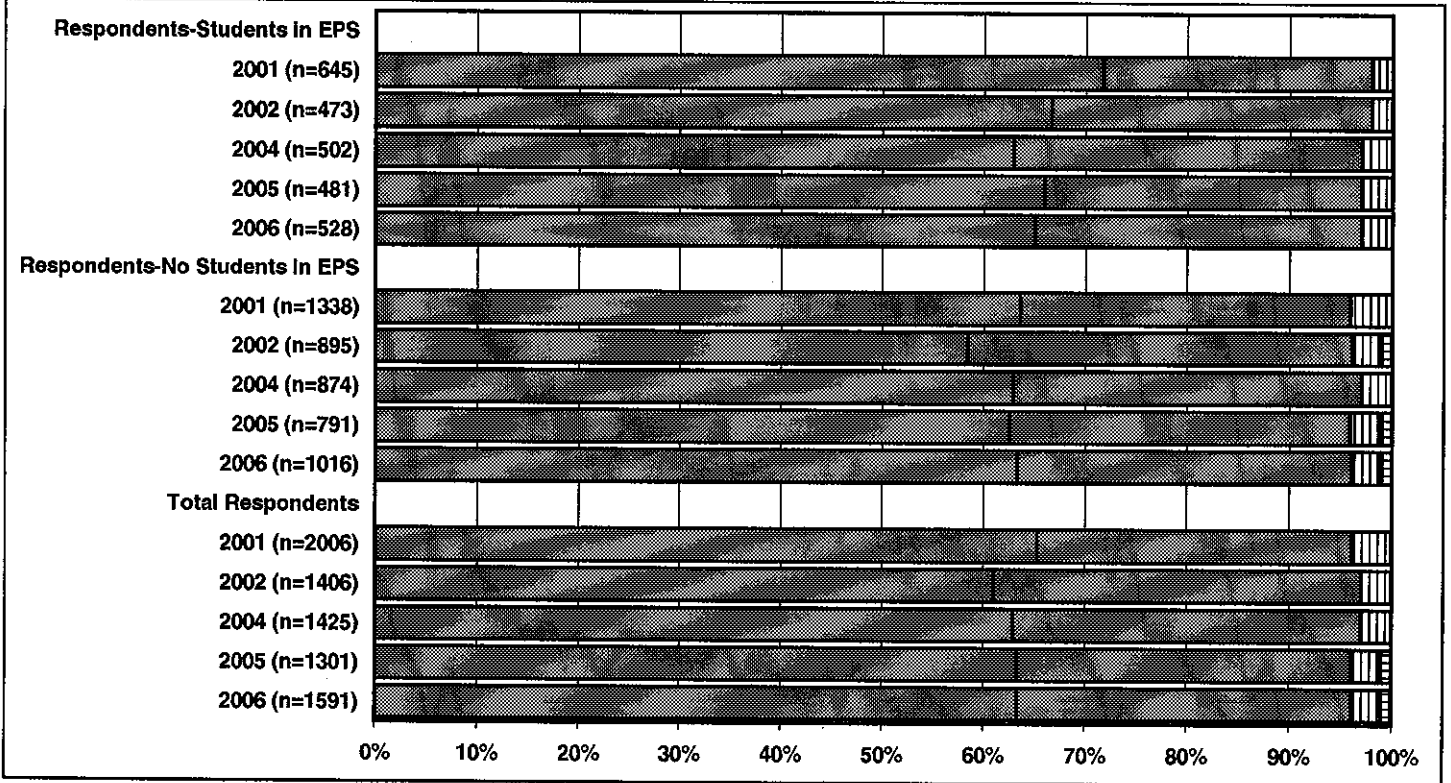
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU FEEL IT IS FOR SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP THE FOLLOWING:

24. Life skills?



25. Job related skills?



■ VERY IMPORTANT

■ IMPORTANT

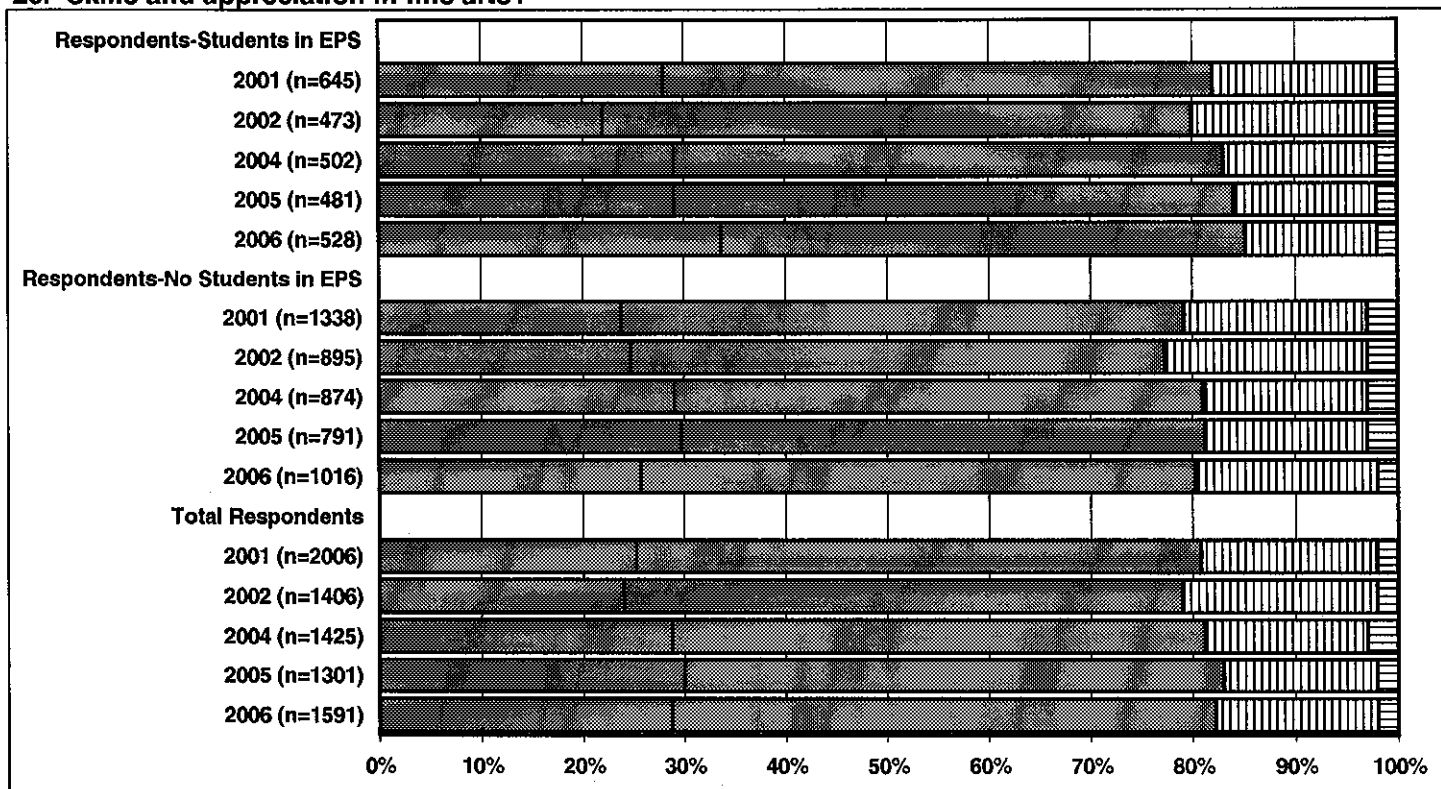
□ UNIMPORTANT

□ VERY UNIMPORTANT

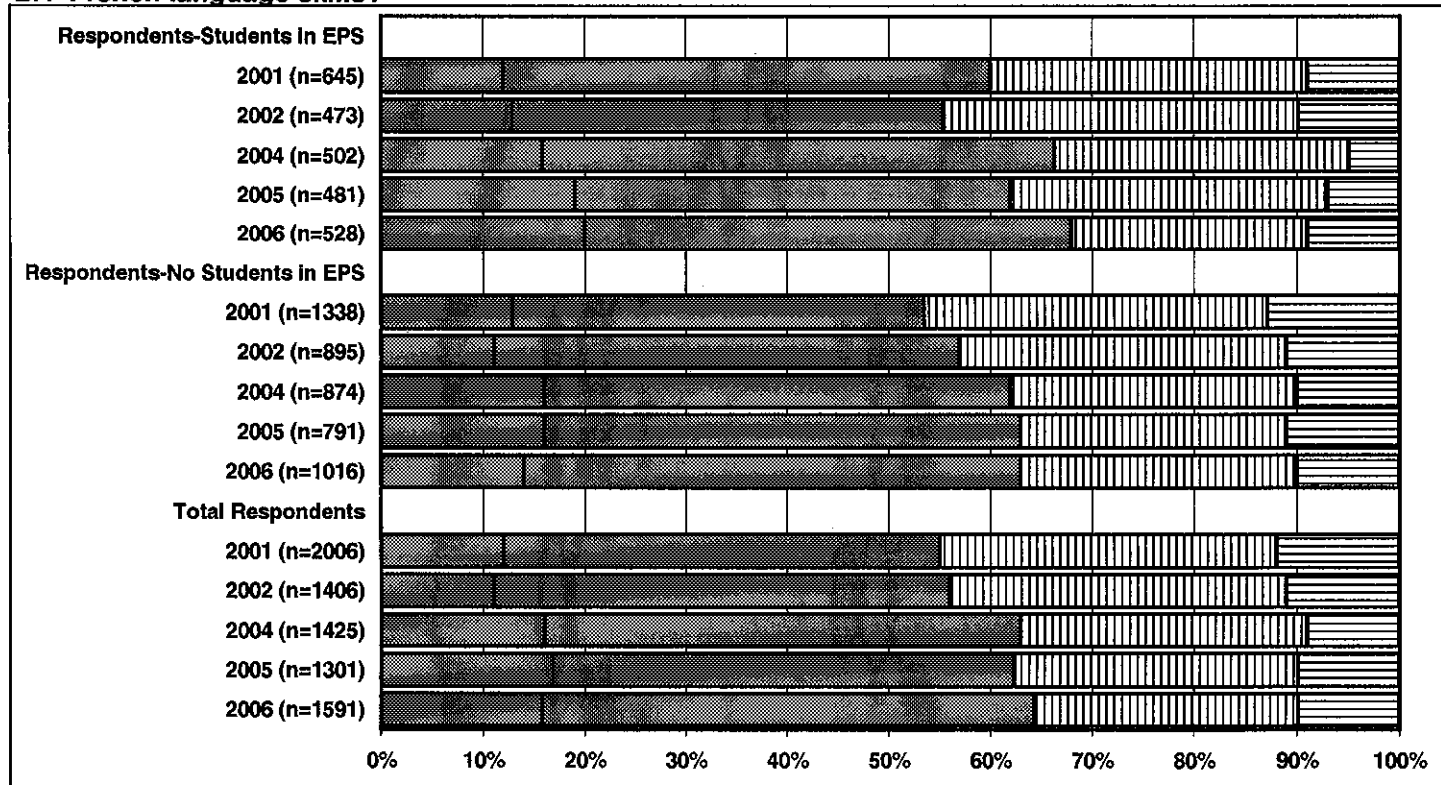
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU FEEL IT IS FOR SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP THE FOLLOWING:

26. Skills and appreciation in fine arts?



27. French language skills?



VERY IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT

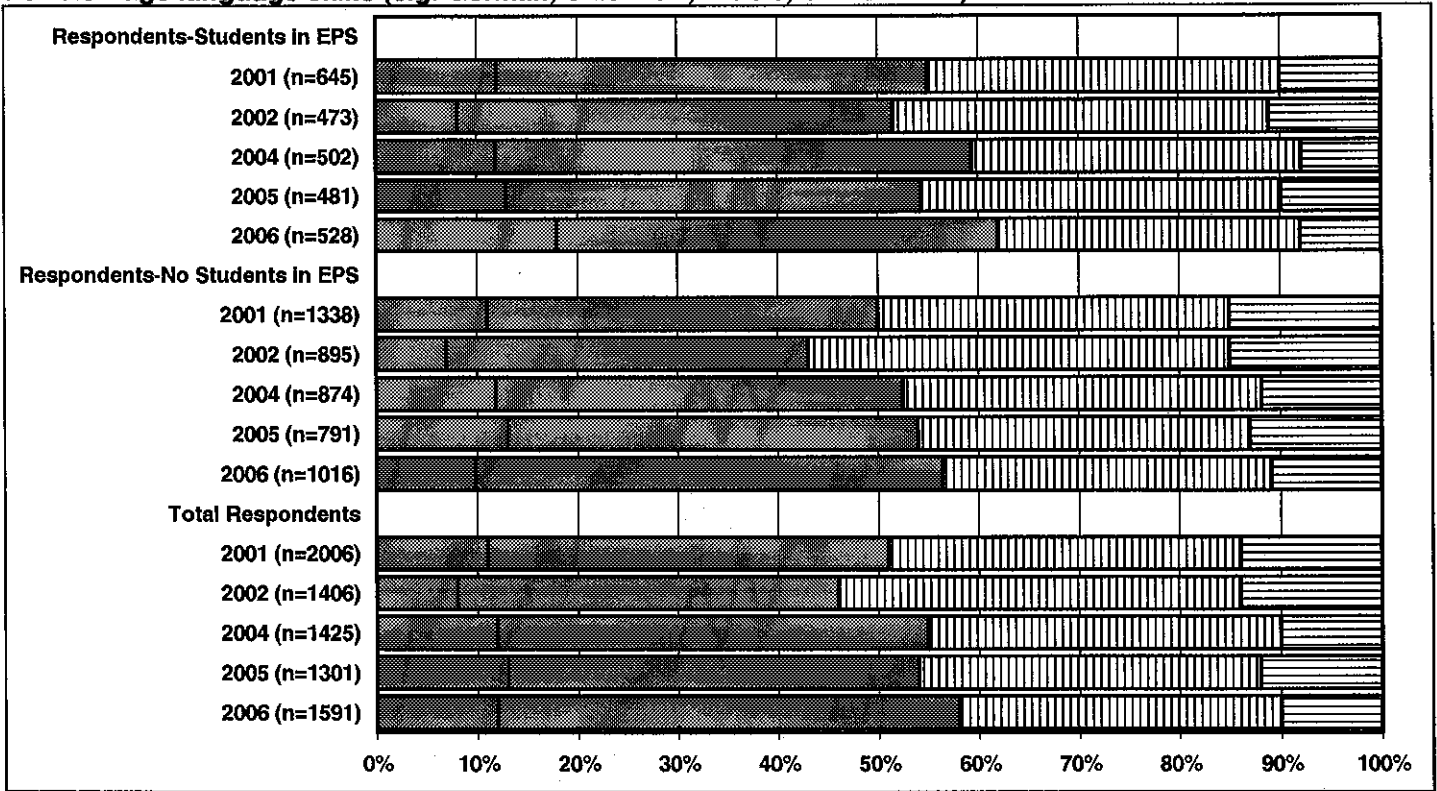
UNIMPORTANT

VERY UNIMPORTANT

2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

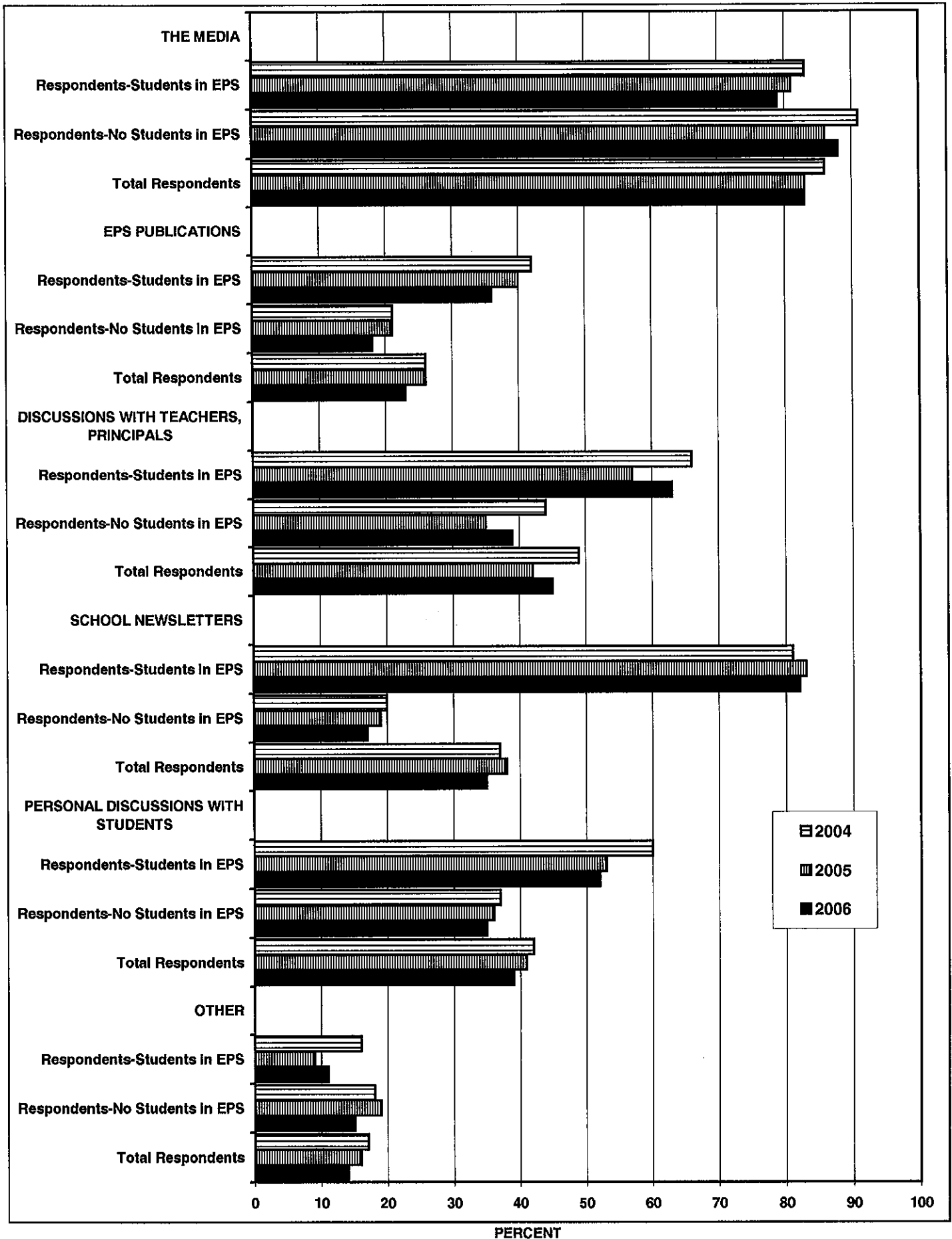
HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU FEEL IT IS FOR SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP THE FOLLOWING:

28. Heritage language skills (e.g. German, Ukrainian, Arabic, Chinese etc.)?



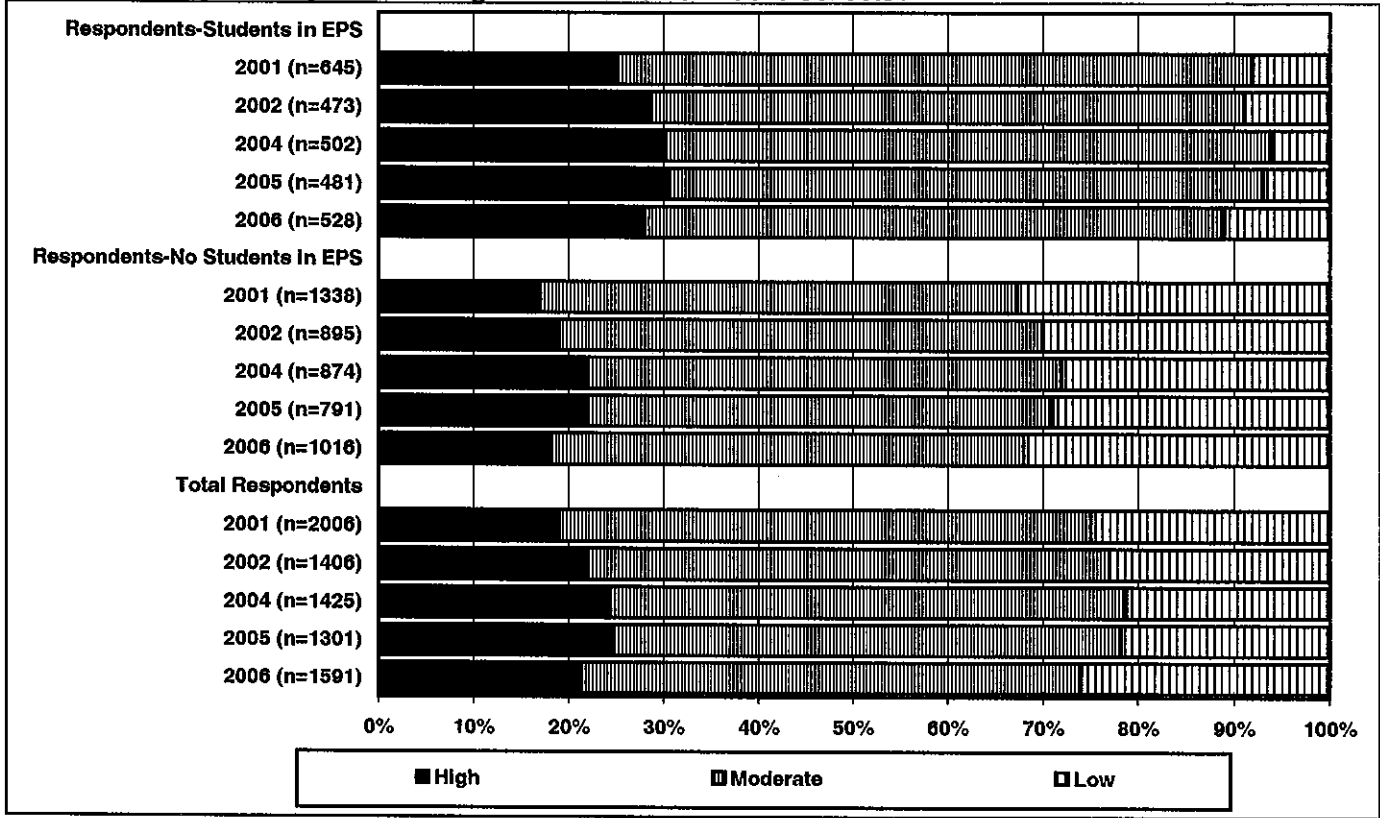
2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

29. WHERE DO YOU USUALLY GET YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT EDUCATIONAL ISSUES IN EDMONTON?

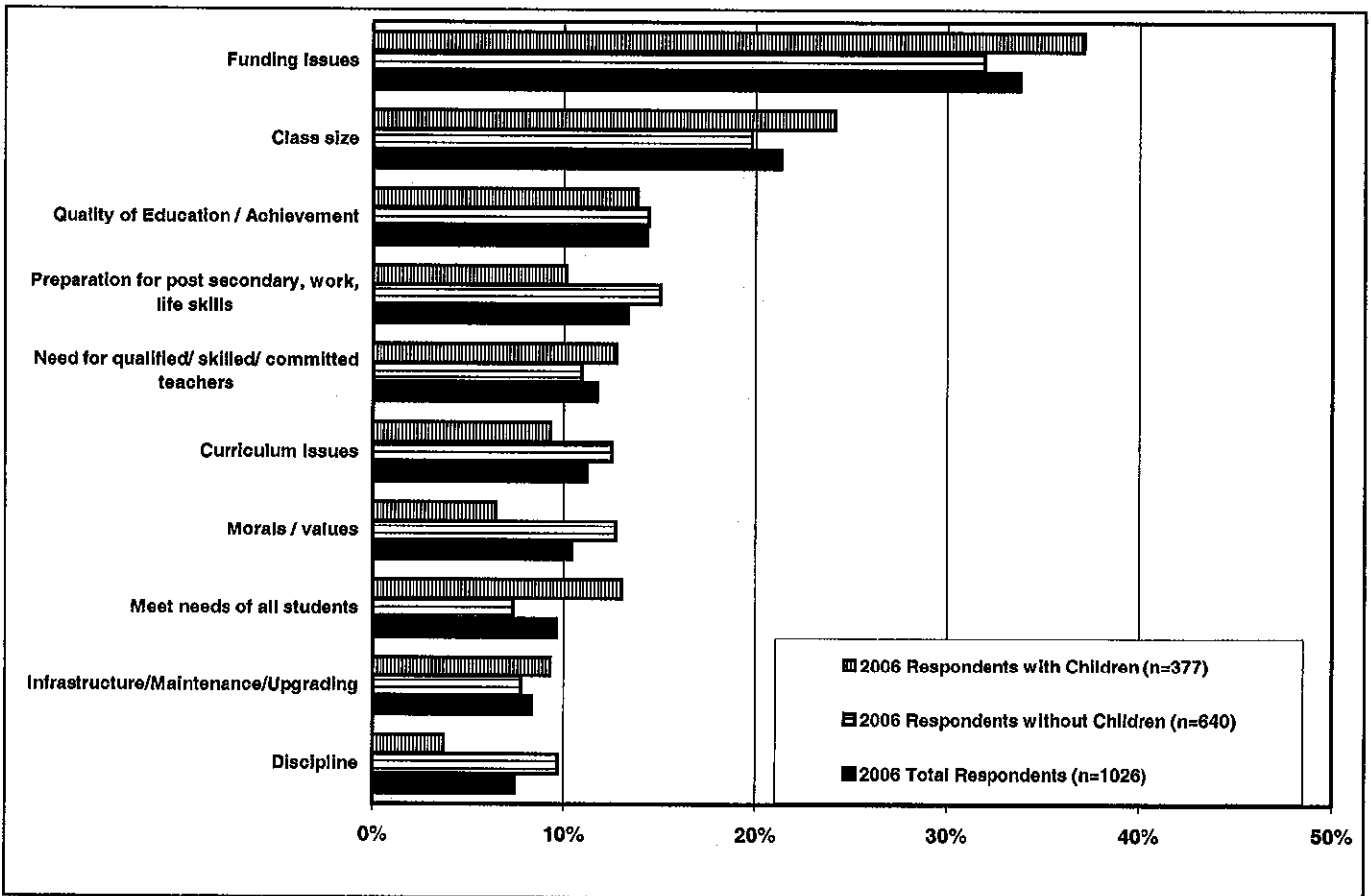


2006 COMMUNITY SURVEY

31. How would you rate your knowledge about Edmonton Public Schools?



What would you say are the main issues facing education?



2006 Multiyear Table of Increases and Decreases

TOTAL COMMUNITY 2001-2006

	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	Increase / decrease
21. Parents pay for non-basics	51%	52%	45%	46%	51%	5%
15. Responding to public concerns	61%	54%	57%	63%	67%	4%
16. EPS better/same as private schools	53%	52%	55%	57%	61%	4%
28. Importance of heritage language skills	51%	46%	55%	54%	58%	4%
6. Effectiveness of Principals	81%	78%	81%	82%	85%	3%
7. Effectiveness of Trustees	67%	60%	63%	69%	72%	3%
20b. Funding from fund raising	51%	53%	48%	49%	52%	3%
20e. Funding from exclusive supply agreements	42%	40%	35%	41%	44%	3%
22. Choice of different school types	67%	68%	73%	73%	76%	3%
8. Effectiveness of Superintendent	74%	70%	69%	74%	76%	2%
9. Working with agencies	79%	79%	79%	79%	81%	2%
20c. Funding from sponsorships	69%	65%	60%	62%	64%	2%
20d. Funding from partnerships	89%	88%	86%	86%	88%	2%
17. EPS better/same as Canada	92%	92%	91%	92%	94%	2%
18. EPS better/same as other countries	72%	78%	82%	81%	83%	2%
1. Quality of education	82%	80%	82%	86%	87%	1%
3. Spending of public money	66%	59%	62%	67%	68%	1%
10. Preparation for post sec.	74%	77%	77%	77%	78%	1%
11. Preparation for world of work	58%	59%	58%	59%	60%	1%
20a. Funding from donations	73%	70%	72%	72%	73%	1%
24. Importance of life skills	99%	97%	98%	98%	99%	1%
25. Importance of job related skills	97%	97%	97%	96%	97%	1%
27. Importance of French skills	55%	57%	63%	63%	64%	1%
5. Effectiveness of teachers	82%	78%	83%	86%	86%	0%
12. Preparation for being responsible citizens	64%	64%	65%	65%	65%	0%
19. Provide variety of courses	91%	89%	91%	92%	92%	0%
4. Availability of Continuing Education	92%	90%	91%	93%	92%	-1%
13. Safety of students	81%	80%	83%	84%	83%	-1%
23. Increase in funding	83%	81%	85%	86%	85%	-1%
26. Importance of fine Arts skills	80%	79%	82%	83%	82%	-1%
14. Encouraging school completion	75%	75%	79%	75%	73%	-2%
2. Condition of EPS bldgs.	80%	77%	65%	71%	68%	-3%

NON-PARENTS 2001-2006

	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	Increase/ Decrease
20e. Funding from exclusive supply agreements	40%	38%	32%	36%	43%	7%
16. EPS better/same as private schools	54%	55%	57%	56%	62%	6%
21. Parents pay for non-basics	51%	54%	44%	45%	50%	5%
18. EPS better/same as other countries	72%	80%	83%	78%	82%	4%
15. Responding to public concerns	62%	56%	56%	64%	67%	3%
20b. Funding from fund raising	51%	54%	47%	49%	52%	3%
20d. Funding from partnerships	88%	88%	85%	85%	88%	3%
22. Choice of different school types	63%	62%	70%	68%	71%	3%
28. Importance of heritage language skills	50%	43%	53%	54%	57%	3%
8. Effectiveness of Superintendent	74%	72%	71%	74%	76%	2%
20a. Funding from donations	70%	67%	69%	70%	72%	2%
20c. Funding from sponsorships	67%	61%	56%	60%	62%	2%
6. Effectiveness of Principals	80%	79%	82%	81%	83%	2%
7. Effectiveness of Trustees	65%	62%	64%	70%	71%	1%
9. Working with agencies	80%	79%	80%	79%	80%	1%
17. EPS better/same as Canada	92%	93%	94%	92%	93%	1%
25. Importance of job related skills	95%	96%	97%	96%	97%	1%
1. Quality of education	81%	80%	82%	84%	84%	0%
11. Preparation for world of work	57%	58%	56%	56%	56%	0%
12. Preparation for being responsible citizens	59%	60%	60%	59%	59%	0%
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24. Importance of life skills	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	0%
27. Importance of French skills	54%	57%	62%	63%	63%	0%
26. Importance of fine arts skills	80%	78%	81%	82%	81%	-1%
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4. Availability of Continuing Education	92%	92%	92%	93%	92%	-1%
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10. Preparation for post sec.	74%	78%	77%	77%	76%	-1%
13. Safety of students	79%	77%	83%	83%	82%	-1%
23. Increase in funding	78%	78%	83%	84%	82%	-2%
2. Condition of EPS bldgs.	79%	76%	66%	72%	66%	-6%

PARENTS 2001-2006

	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	increase / decrease
15. Responding to public concerns	62%	49%	58%	60%	69%	9%
7. Effectiveness of Trustees	70%	55%	61%	67%	75%	8%
28. Importance of heritage language skills	55%	52%	59%	55%	62%	7%
20b. Funding from fund raising	51%	51%	49%	47%	53%	6%
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4. Availability of Continuing Education	91%	86%	89%	91%	93%	2%
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6. Effectiveness of Principals	82%	77%	79%	85%	87%	2%
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COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE – 2006

April, 2006

Dear Edmonton Public Schools supporter:

The board of trustees and the administration of Edmonton Public Schools are interested in knowing how you feel about the education Edmonton Public Schools is providing.

You have been randomly selected from an address list representing Edmonton Public Schools tax supporters. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the enclosed addressed envelope by **May 5, 2006** (no postage is required). Your perceptions are important to us whether or not you have children attending an Edmonton public school.

You also have the option of completing this survey on the Internet. Access the survey at surveys.epsb.ca, enter the 7 digit access code given in the box at the bottom of this letter and follow the instructions given.

The opinions that you provide will be used along with other information to assist us in improving the quality of education provided by Edmonton Public Schools. The confidentiality of your individual responses is assured. The data collected will be aggregated, analyzed, and reported at the school district level only. Results will be made available to the public as well as to individuals, on request, in the fall of 2006.

Thank you for your cooperation. Should you have questions about this survey, please call 429-8160.

Yours truly,

Bev Esslinger

E. Schmidt

Bev Esslinger
Board Chairman

Edgar Schmidt
Acting Superintendent of Schools

BE:ES:db

INTERNET ACCESS CODE

Superb Results *from all students*

How important do you feel it is for schools to develop the following:

	Very Important	Important	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	Don't Know
24. Life skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. Job related skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Skills and appreciation in fine arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. French language skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. Heritage language skills (e.g. German, Ukrainian, Arabic, Chinese, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

29. Where do you usually get your information about educational issues in Edmonton? (Check all that apply)

the media Edmonton Public Schools publications personal discussions with teachers, principals

local school newsletters personal discussions with students

Other (please specify) _____

30. Do you currently have children attending Edmonton Public Schools? Yes No

31. How would you rate your knowledge about Edmonton Public Schools? High Moderate Low

32. Age: 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64

65-74 75+

33. Sex: Male Female

What would you say are the main issues facing education at the elementary, junior and senior high school levels?

THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING TO THIS SURVEY.

The following questions are designed to obtain your opinions about Edmonton Public Schools. There are no right or wrong answers. Please answer the questions on both sides of the questionnaire. All responses are completely confidential.

How satisfied are you with the following:	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
1. The overall quality of education received by students attending Edmonton Public Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The general condition of Edmonton Public Schools' buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The way Edmonton Public Schools spends its public money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The availability of continuing education from Edmonton Public Schools (e.g. academic upgrading, skill development, general interest available at Metro Community College)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The overall effectiveness of teaching staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The overall effectiveness of the school principals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The overall effectiveness of Edmonton Public Schools' trustees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. The overall effectiveness of Edmonton Public Schools' superintendent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How effective is Edmonton Public Schools in the following areas:	Very Effective	Effective	Ineffective	Very Ineffective	Don't Know
9. Working with other agencies to help students (e.g. social services, health services, police services)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Preparing students for entering post-secondary education (university, college, technical schools)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Preparing students for the world of work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Preparing students to be responsible citizens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Providing for the safety of students at school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Encouraging students to stay in school until they graduate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Responding to the public's concerns regarding education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you believe that students attending Edmonton Public Schools are provided with a quality of education that is better or worse than:

	Better	Worse	No Difference	Don't Know
16. Students in private schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Students elsewhere in Canada?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Students in other countries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How supportive are you of the following:

	Very Supportive	Supportive	Somewhat Against	Totally Against	Don't Know
19. Providing students with a variety of courses in addition to the core courses (math, language arts, science, social studies)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Schools receiving their funding from various sources:					
a) <u>donations</u> – gifts (money or supplies) from private individuals or companies in return for a charitable donation receipt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <u>fund raising</u> – students, parents or other interested groups organize events to raise money for a school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <u>sponsorships</u> – companies provide money, price discounts, equipment, materials or services in exchange for recognition at events or in school notices about events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <u>partnerships</u> – businesses or community organizations share their resources, expertise and time with schools and students without any financial commitment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <u>exclusive supply agreements</u> – a SINGLE business provides schools with quality goods and services at favorable prices for a fixed price	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Having parents pay for anything beyond basic education (e.g. sports, band, field-trips)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Having a choice of different types of schools (e.g. gender specific, language specific, fine arts, sports, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. An increase in funding for Edmonton Public Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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