

What do Parents Think of Middle School and of Mathematics and Science Studies?

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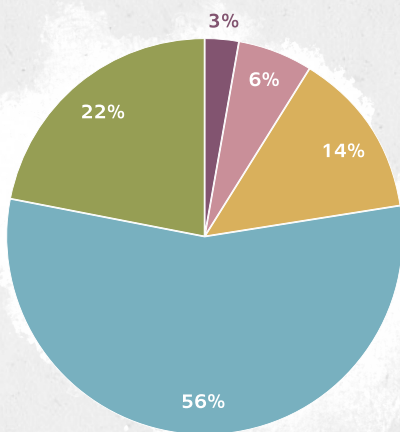
The study addresses the perceptions of parents with respect to middle school, and their opinions of the school their child attends. They were asked about the role of middle school with respect to the future they wish for their child, and about their attitude toward mathematics and science studies. Participating in the research were 315 parents (147 fathers and 168 mothers) of children studying in 7th through 9th grades from all population groups across the country.

Key findings

Satisfaction with middle school

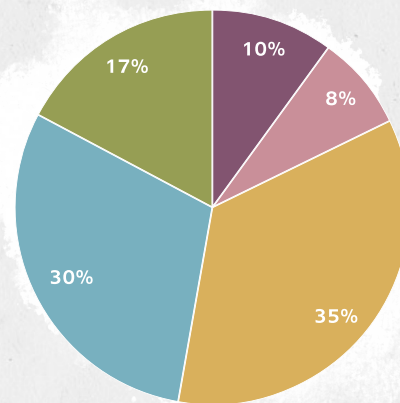
Parents expressed a noticeably high level of satisfaction with middle school: most (78%) stated they are satisfied with the level of studies in their child's school, and almost half said they themselves would wish to learn in the school their child attends.

Am I satisfied with the level of studies in my child's school?



- Quite dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- No clear opinion
- Very satisfied
- Quite satisfied

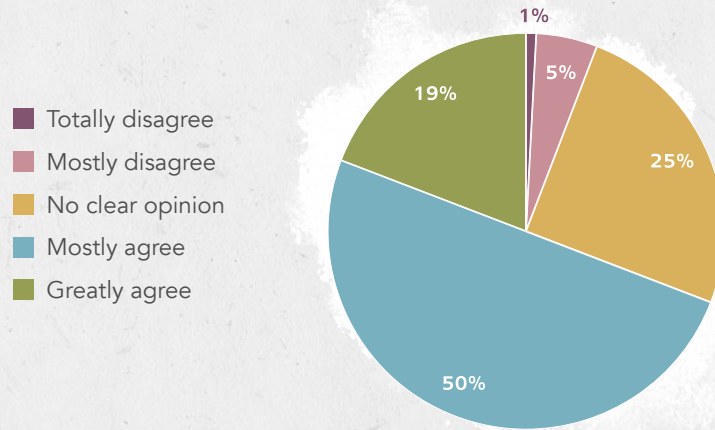
Would I want to study in the school my child attends?



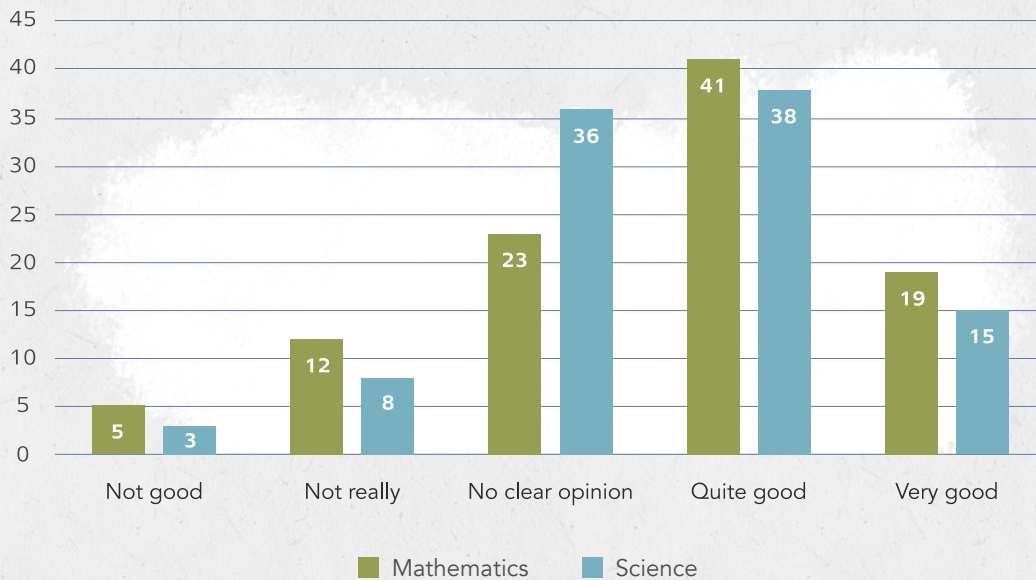
- Definitely not
- Not really
- No clear opinion
- I think so
- Very much so

The level of instruction and the quality of the teachers in middle school both receive high marks from parents. Most parents (69%) note that their child's school has many good teachers in general and, specifically, considering the teachers' level of knowledge in the areas of mathematics and science.

Does your child's school have many good teachers?



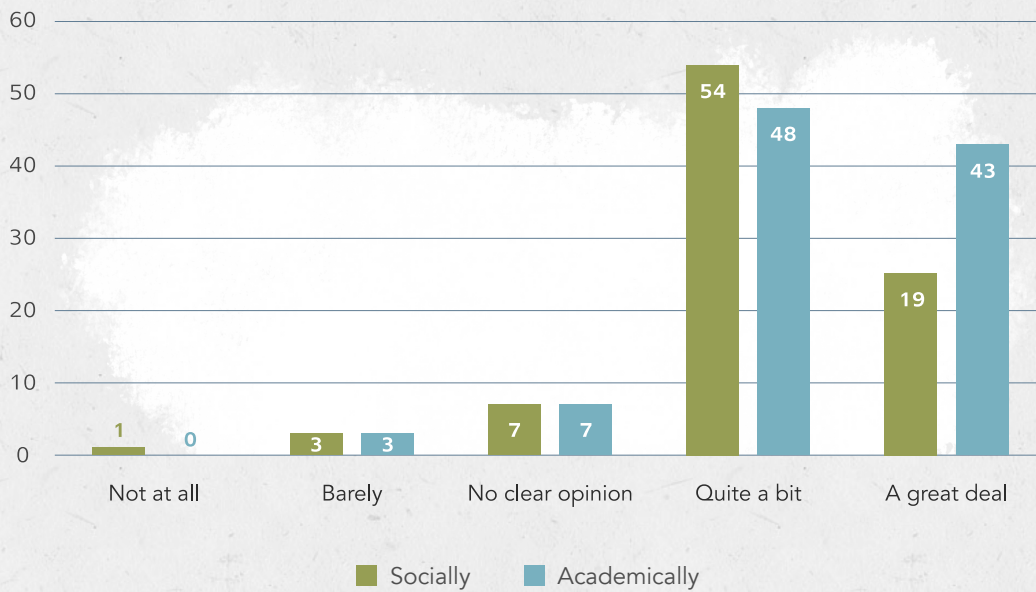
Is your child's teacher a good teacher?



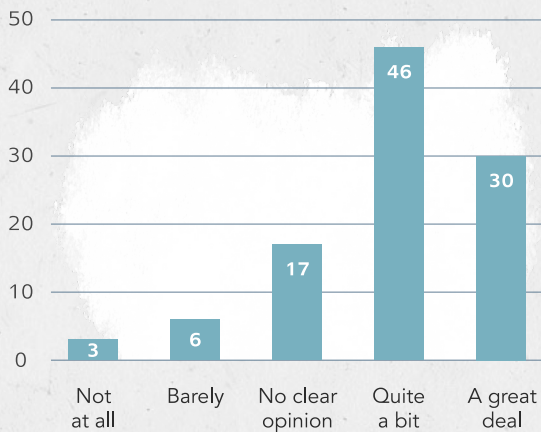
Degree of involvement in the school life of their child

Parents declare that they are very aware of what their children experience in middle school, both socially (89%) and academically (91%). Most (76%) say they can depend on the child's homeroom teacher. Yet, they (60%) still express the wish that the school would involve them to a greater degree about what is happening with their child in school.

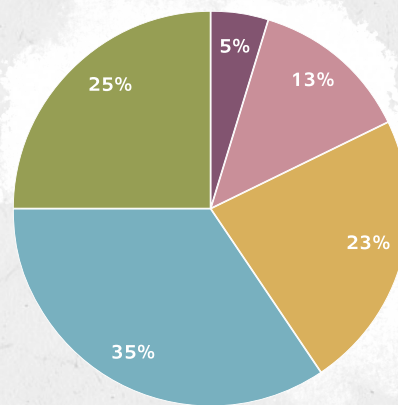
Do you know the status of your child in school?



Can you trust your child's homeroom teacher?



Would I want the school to involve me to a greater extent in what is going on with my child?



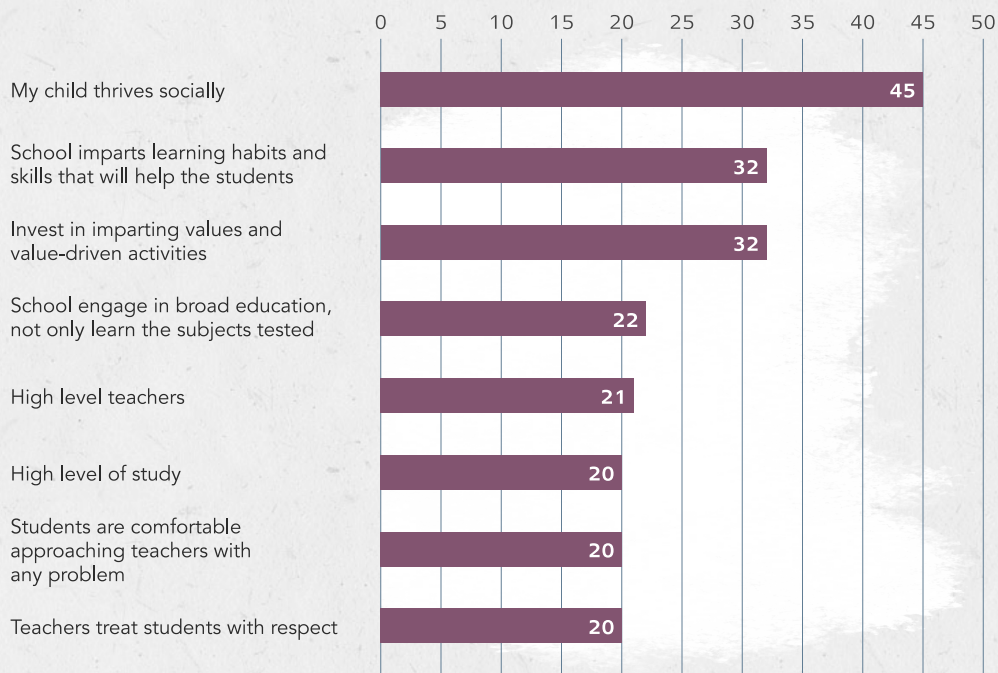
How do parents perceive the middle school?

In parents' opinions, middle school is perceived as an important transition phase between elementary school and high-school and as a stage that contributes to effective integration in high school. 55% think that middle school, as a transition phase between primary and high school, is important and instructive, and about half (48%) believe that this stage contributes to their child's assimilation in high school.

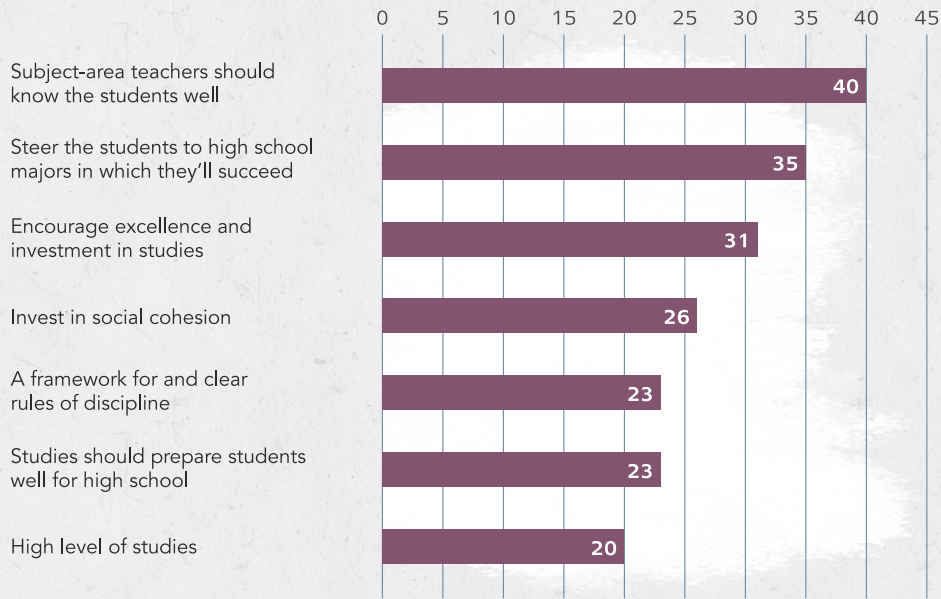
At the same time, it is important to note that in the parents' opinion, the important functions of middle school are mainly social and value-related. Academically, they expect middle school to impart learning skills and habits but yet, do not attach importance to the academic level, to encouraging excellence nor to investing in studies, or to steering students toward high school majors.

The impression received is that many parents (41%) have no clear preference for a specific field they would want their child to study in the future ("they should learn what interests them"). When asked, nonetheless, what direction of study they would like for their child, the most common answers were: computer science (23%), medicine (15%), engineering (13%), and economics and business administration (13%).

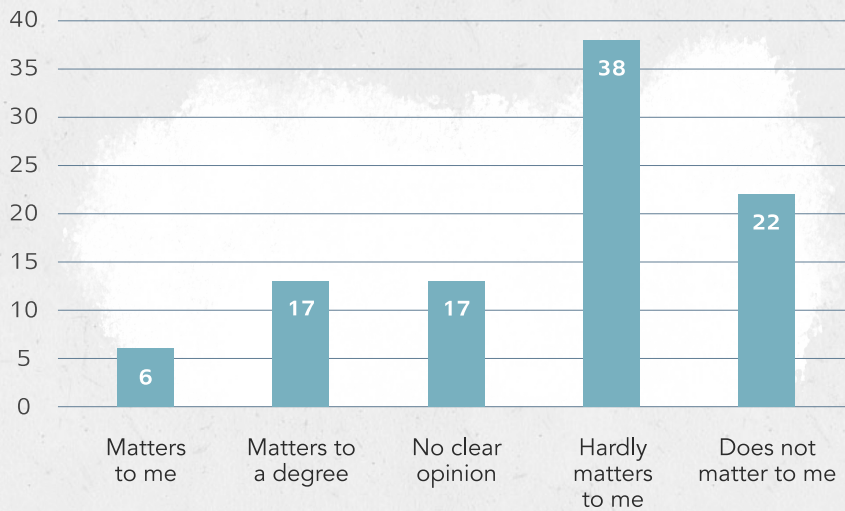
What are the 3 most important things to you in middle school?



Which 3 things are not important to you in middle school?



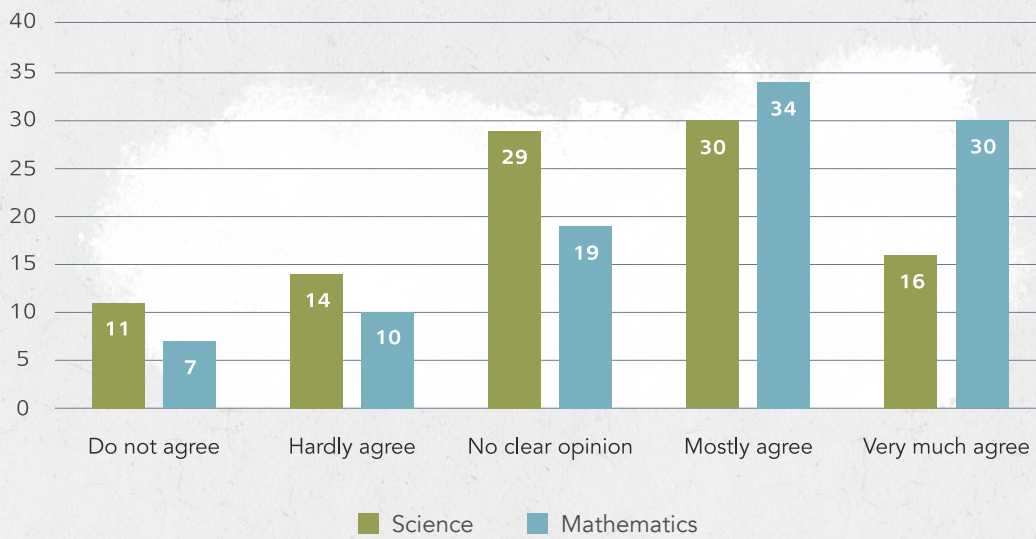
Does it matter to you what your child studies in university?



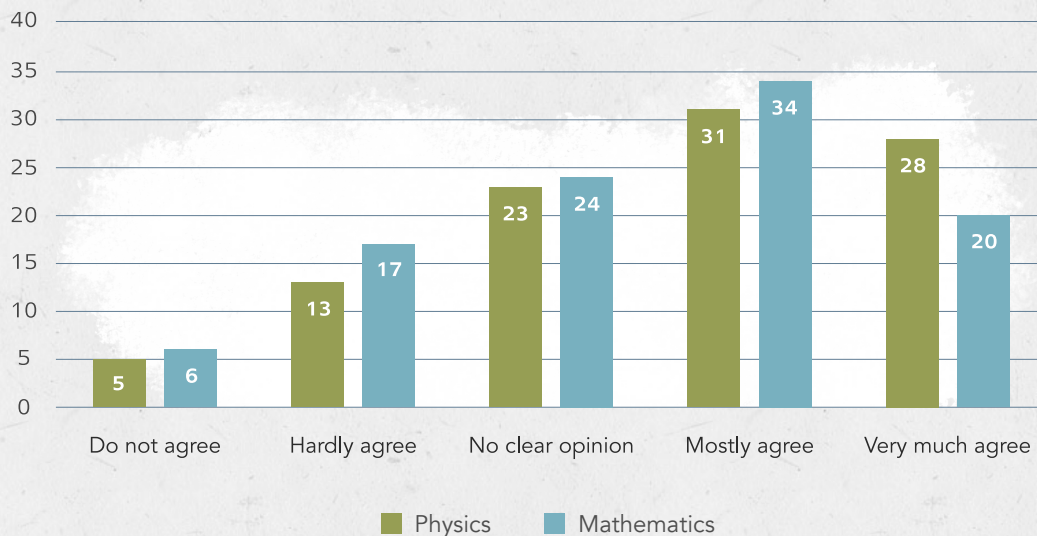
Mathematics and science study

In the parents' opinion, the study of mathematics, mainly (64%), and to a lesser degree, science (46%), are perceived as very important subjects that can help their children in life. The five-unit study tracks in mathematics and physics are perceived as particularly important and especially difficult, and which only a minority of students can study at the highest levels. At the same time, most parents (56%) think their child can study five units of mathematics in high school and they (60%) see importance in their child studying in a high ability grouping in mathematics in middle school as it enhances their chances of reaching the five-unit track in high school.

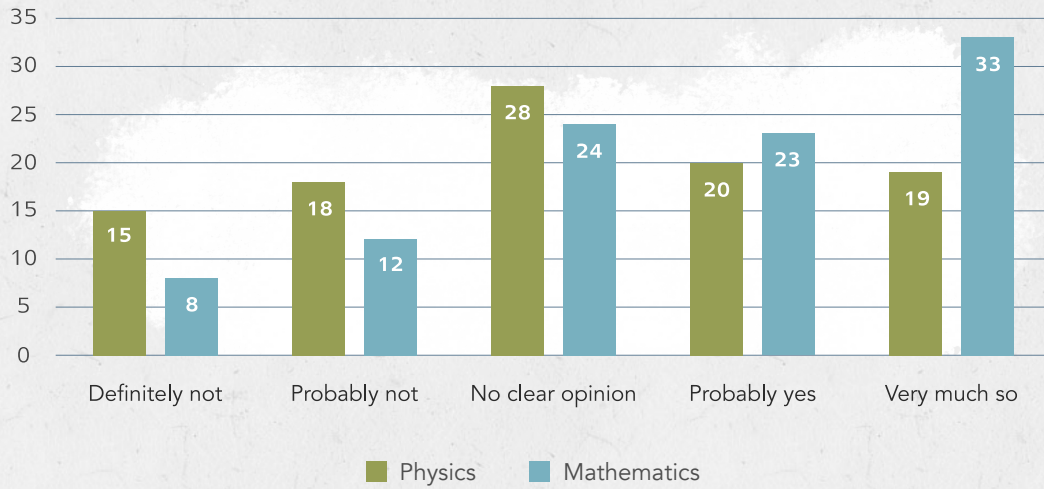
In your opinion, is this one of the most important subjects studied in school?



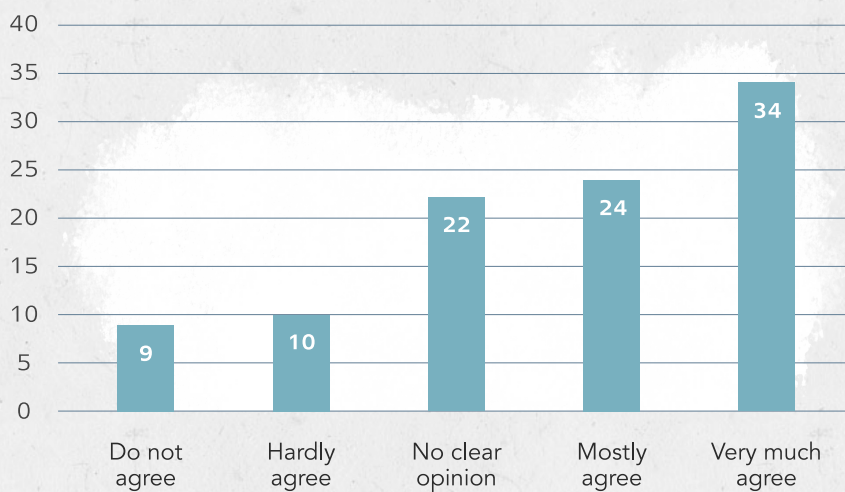
This is a difficult subject, only a minority of children can study it at the five-unit level



I think my child should study five-units

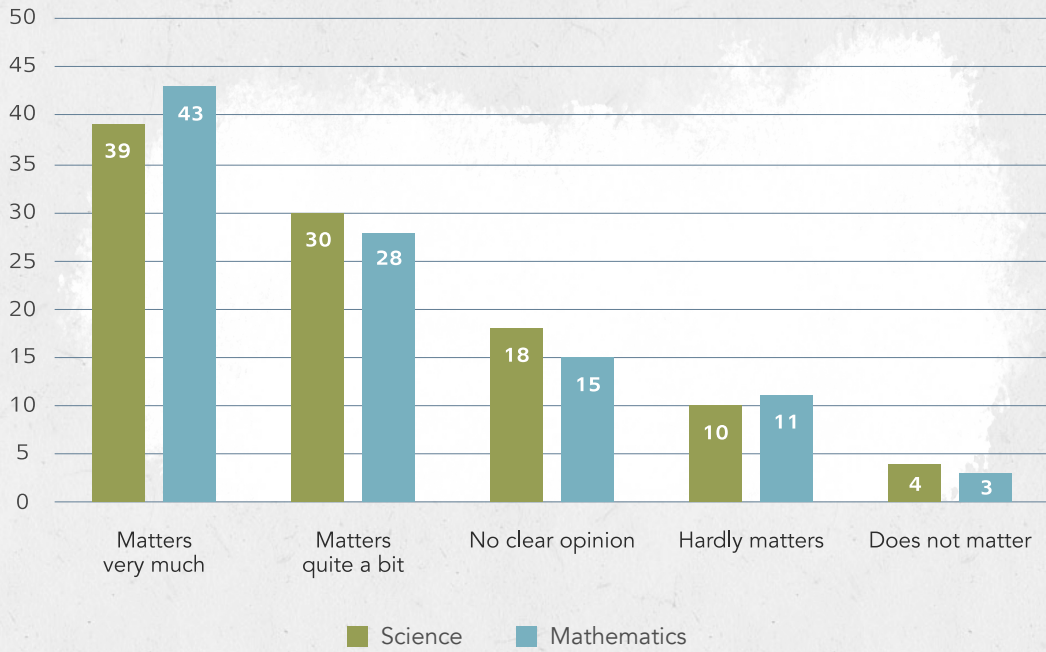


It is important to me that my child study in ability grouping A in mathematics in order to be accepted to the five-unit track in high school



Parents report that they take an active role in their children’s mathematics study. 71% of parents would like their children to invest in mathematics study; 86% would be pleased if their child were to receive a high grade in mathematics, and 90% would encourage their child to make an effort and not despair if s/he finds the material difficult. 30% note that they help their child with mathematics homework when necessary.

Does it matter to you if your child invests effort in his/her studies?



When it is hard for my child to cope with the mathematics material, I encourage him/her to make an effort and not give up

