

January 15, 2015



# **Legislative Report**

## **Virtual Schools in Iowa**

### **Annual Report**

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Department of Education  
Grimes State Office Building  
400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

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## OVERVIEW

### I. BACKGROUND

During the 2012 legislative session, lawmakers amended Iowa Code section 256.7 to address online learning in the state of Iowa. The Iowa Department of Education (Department) was directed by legislation to conduct an annual survey of students attending online schools, to include not less than ten percent of the total number of students enrolled and not less than one hundred percent of students enrolled in online schools who are eligible for free and reduced price meals. In addition, CAM Community School District and Clayton Ridge Community School District shall annually submit to the Department, in the manner prescribed by the Department, data that includes but is not limited to student achievement and demographic characteristics, retention rates, and the percentage of enrolled students' active participation in extracurricular activities.

### II. DEMOGRAPHIC AND ACHIEVEMENT DATA

The Department has received the following demographic characteristics, achievement data, retention rates, and active participation from both the Iowa Connections Academy at CAM Community School District (hereinafter "IACA") and Iowa Virtual Academy at Clayton Ridge Community School District (hereinafter "IAVA"): race, gender, poverty, disability, and English language learner (See Appendix).

### III. SURVEY DATA

The Department conducted a survey of the students enrolled in both IACA and IAVA (See Appendix B). The surveys were conducted by Department staff via telephone for the student population in Kindergarten through third grade, and through an online survey for the students enrolled in grades four through twelve. The number surveyed, number of respondents, and response rate for each school are provided below.

School	Number of responses	Number surveyed	Response rate
IACA	148	394	37.5%
IAVA	117	285	41.0%

The response rates obtained are within rates expected when conducting survey research through telephone or online methods.

#### **IV. CONCLUSIONS**

As required by legislation, both IACA and IAVA have submitted the required and available demographic data to the Department for school year 2014-2015. Additionally, the Department has conducted a survey of students enrolled in online schools. Furthermore, the evidence submitted supports that IACA and IAVA are continuing to operate schools with educational instruction and course content delivered primarily over the internet. It is the Department's recommendation, based on a review of the data collected, the continued delivery of instruction primarily over the internet be permitted to the extent legislation allows.

## APPENDIX A

### DEMOGRAPHIC DATA, RETENTION RATES, AND PARTICIPATION

#### Appendix A: Demographic Data

Characteristic	IAVA	IACA
Enrollment	285	394
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	126	172
Female	159	222
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>		
White	228	352
African-American	24	18
Hispanic	13	27
Asian	*	*
Native American	*	19
Pacific Islander	*	*
Multiracial	0	0
<b>Other Characteristics</b>		
English Language Learner	0	0
Disability	18	44
Free-Reduced Lunch Eligible	97	154

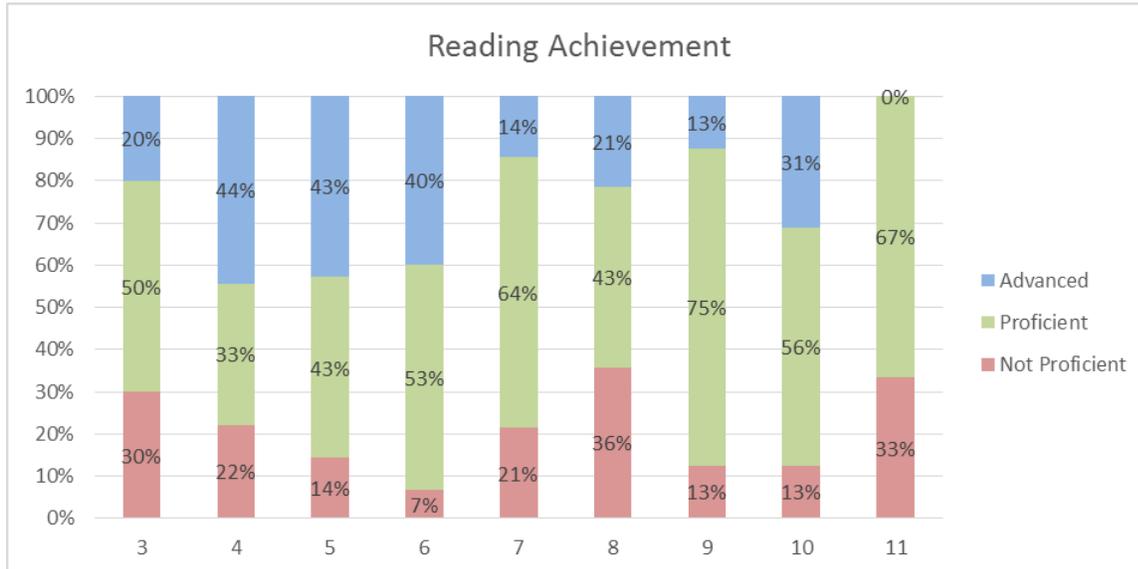
Note: An asterisk (\*) indicates that there are fewer than ten students in that particular cell. No data will be publicly reported for those cells, to protect student privacy pursuant to state and federal law.

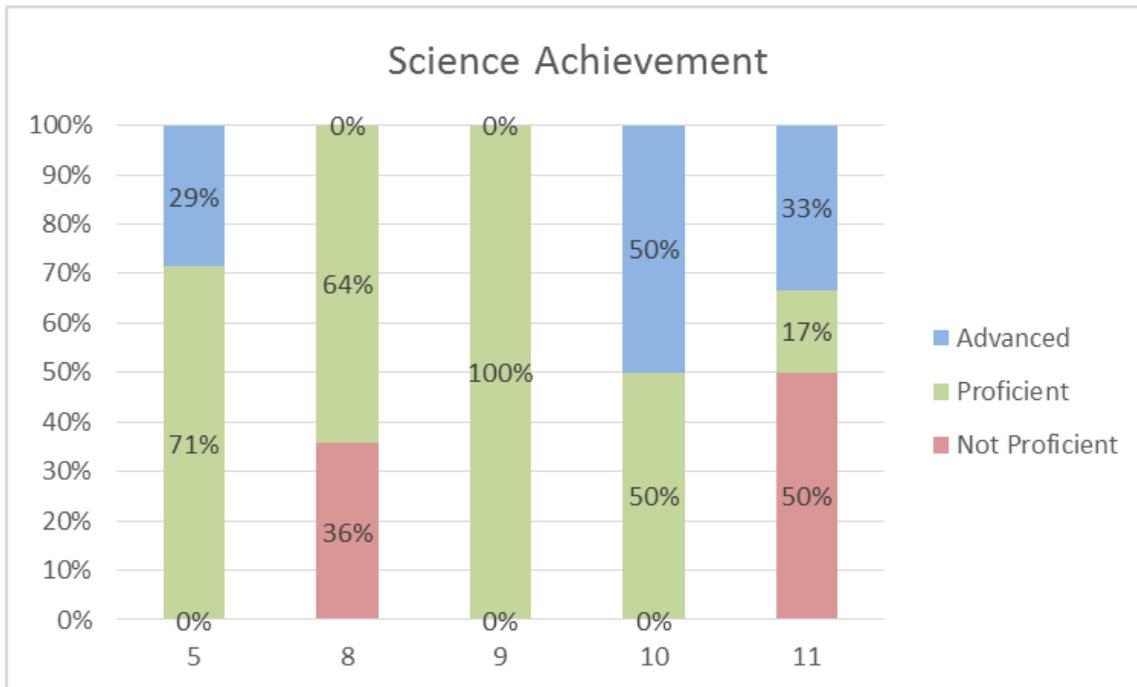
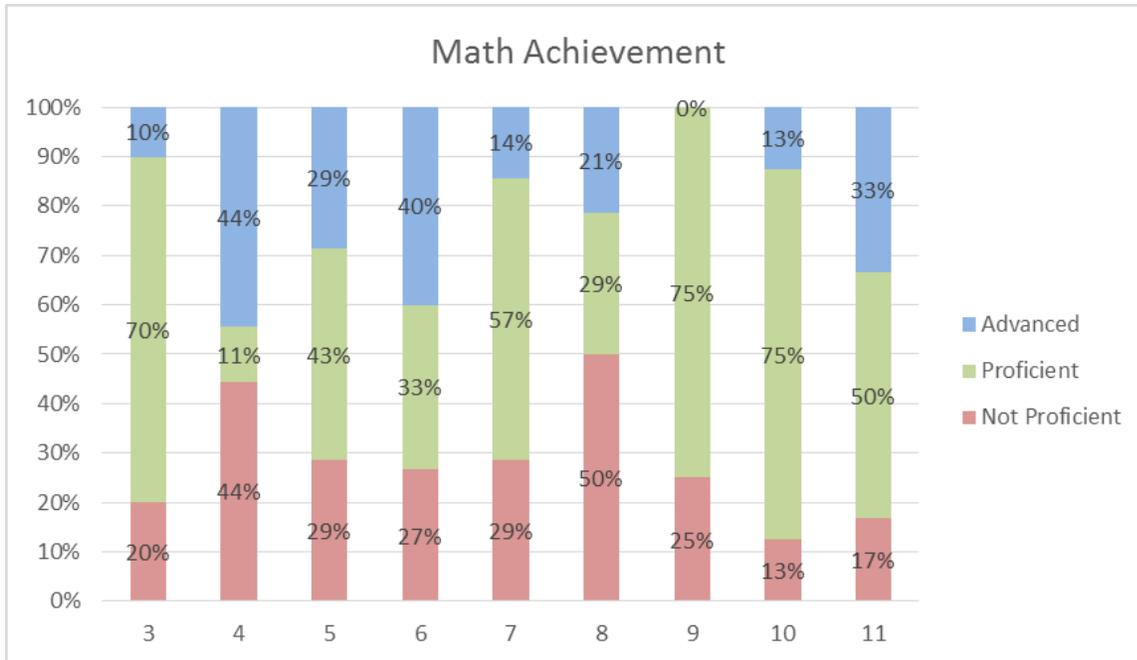
## IAVA Retention Rates, Achievement Data, and Participation

What is the K-12 in-year retention/re-registration rate for SY14-15?

- In-year retention:
  - School Year 12-13: W/D rate was **17%**
  - School Year 13-14: W/D rate was **30%**-- it's important to note that the school experienced significant growth last year with the addition of grades 7-12. We expect to see this metric get worse.
  
- Re-registration:
  - School Year 12-13: N/A; no students returning from the prior year as this was the school's first year of operation.
  - School Year 13-14: 88.5% of eligible students returned
  - School Year 14-15: 74% of eligible students returned

### IAVA 2013-2014 Achievement





**Participation**  
**IOWA VIRTUAL ACADEMY CLUBS**

FRENCH CLUB : 3 STUDENTS

SPANISH CLUB: 3 STUDENTS

LEGO CLUB: 1 STUDENT

CARING FOR ANIMALS CLUB: 2 STUDENT

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS CLUB: 1

ART CLUB: 2 STUDENTS

CULINARY CLUB: 2 STUDENTS

DEBATE: 2 STUDENTS

ENTREPRENEUR CLUB: 2 STUDENTS

GETTING CRAFTY CLUB: 1 STUDENT

GUITAR CLUB: 3 STUDENTS

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB: 2 STUDENTS

SCRAPBOOKING: 2 STUDENTS

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB: 1 STUDENT

WRITING CLUB: 1 STUDENT

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB: 1 STUDENT

TOTAL STUDENTS IN CLUBS: 29

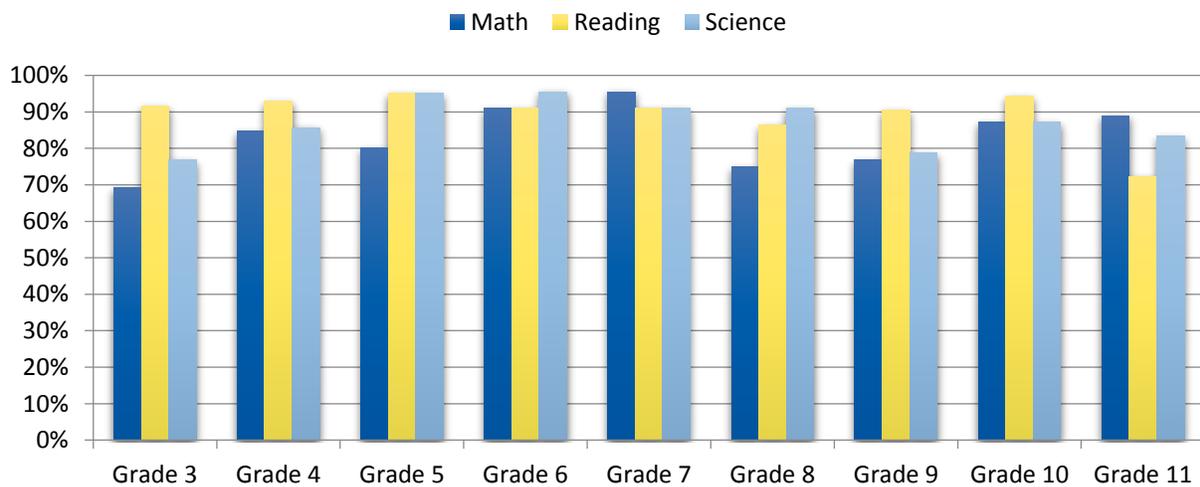
## IACA Retention Rates, Achievement Data, and Participation

	11/30/2013		10/31/2014		11/30/2014		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%Change
Iowa Connections Academy	324	100%	403	100%	394	100%	22 %
Grades PK-2	26	8%	41	10%	41	10%	58 %
KG	11	3%	10	2%	11	3%	0 %
1	10	3%	14	3%	13	3%	30 %
2	5	2%	17	4%	17	4%	240 %
Grades 3-5	44	14%	47	12%	46	12%	5 %
3	11	3%	10	2%	10	3%	-9 %
4	14	4%	16	4%	16	4%	14 %
5	19	6%	21	5%	20	5%	5 %
Grades 6-8	92	28%	93	23%	94	24%	2 %
6	24	7%	25	6%	26	7%	8 %
7	23	7%	36	9%	36	9%	57 %
8	45	14%	32	8%	32	8%	-29 %
Grades 9-12	162	50%	222	55%	213	54%	31 %
9	56	17%	61	15%	59	15%	5 %
10	71	22%	78	19%	70	18%	-1 %
11	24	7%	64	16%	63	16%	163 %
12	11	3%	19	5%	21	5%	91 %
New	173	53%	197	49%	198	50%	14%
Returning	151	47%	206	51%	196	50%	30%

	N Enrolled Last day of 2013-14	% Returned for 2014-15
Grade K	8	75.0%
Grade 1	12	75.0%
Grade 2	5	60.0%
Grade 3	9	77.8%
Grade 4	14	71.4%
Grade 5	22	63.6%
Grade 6	25	76.0%

<b>Grade 7</b>	25	76.0%
<b>Grade 8</b>	51	62.7%
<b>Grade 9</b>	60	68.3%
<b>Grade 10</b>	71	80.3%
<b>Grade 11</b>	19	84.2%
<b>Grade 12</b>	12	0.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>70.0%</b>

## State Test Results 2013-14: All Tested Students



<b>Math</b>	<b>Grade 3</b>	<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>
N	13	13	20	22	22	44	52	70	18
% Proficient	69.2	84.6	80.0	90.9	95.5	75.0	76.9	87.1	88.9

<b>Reading</b>	<b>Grade 3</b>	<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>
N	12	14	20	22	22	44	52	70	18
% Proficient	91.7	92.9	95.0	90.9	90.9	86.4	90.4	94.3	72.2

Science	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11
N	13	14	20	22	22	44	52	70	18
% Proficient	76.9	85.7	95.0	95.5	90.9	90.9	78.9	87.1	83.3

### Participation

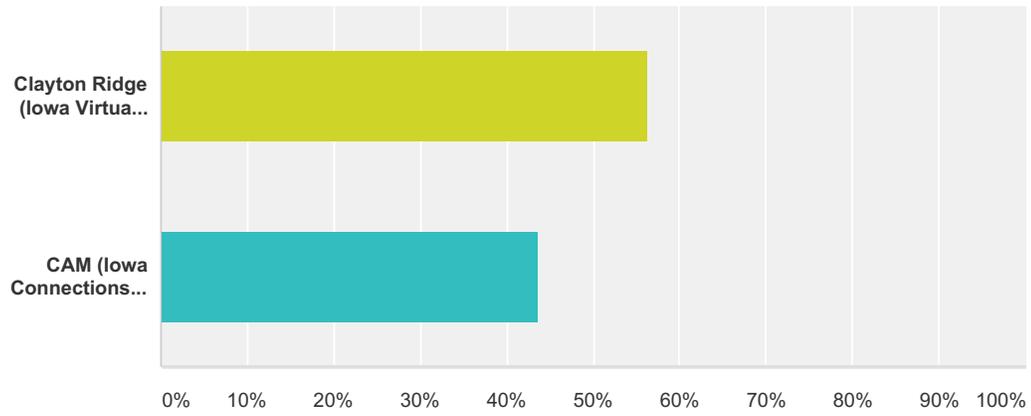
45 out of 394 students are involved in IACA sponsored clubs. The following clubs have at least one student participating.

- Broadcast and Theater Arts Club
- The Monitor Newspaper
- Robotics Club II
- Pen Pal Club
- College Planning Club
- First Generation Club
- High School Gaming and Technology Club
- Brainteasers Club
- Broadcast and Theater Arts Club
- Advanced Chess
- Introduction to Chess
- Math Club I
- Arts and Crafts Club
- Digital Story telling Club
- Pens and Lens Magazine
- Quiz Bowl Club I
- Art Club I
- Movie Club
- Book Club
- Digital Storytelling Club
- Debate Club
- Environmental Club

SURVEY DATA

### Q1 Which of the online schools do you go to?

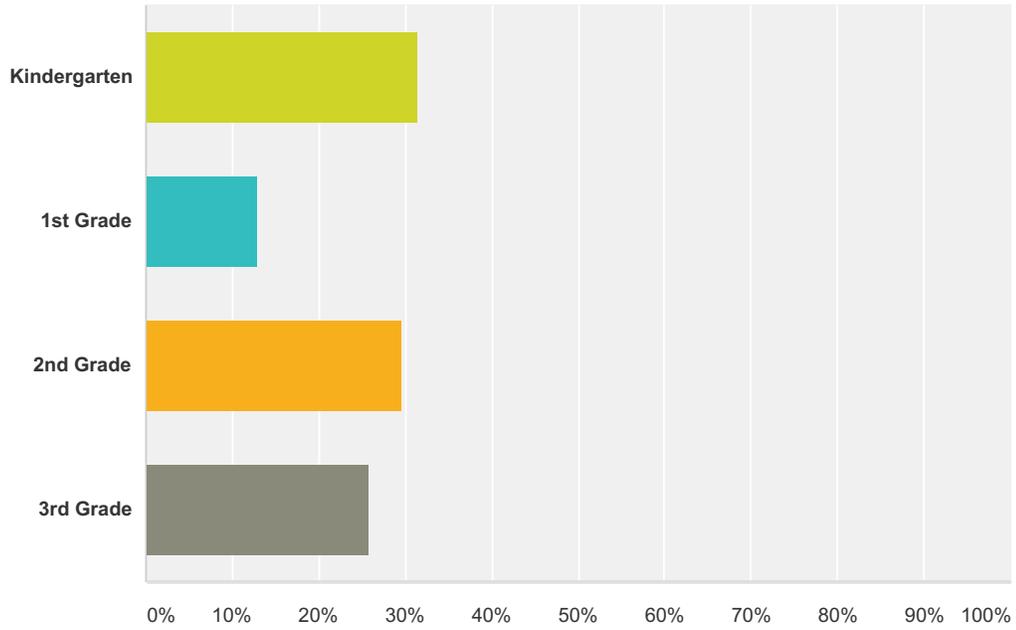
Answered: 55 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Clayton Ridge (Iowa Virtual Academy)	56.36% 31
CAM (Iowa Connections Academy)	43.64% 24
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>

### Q2 What grade are you in?

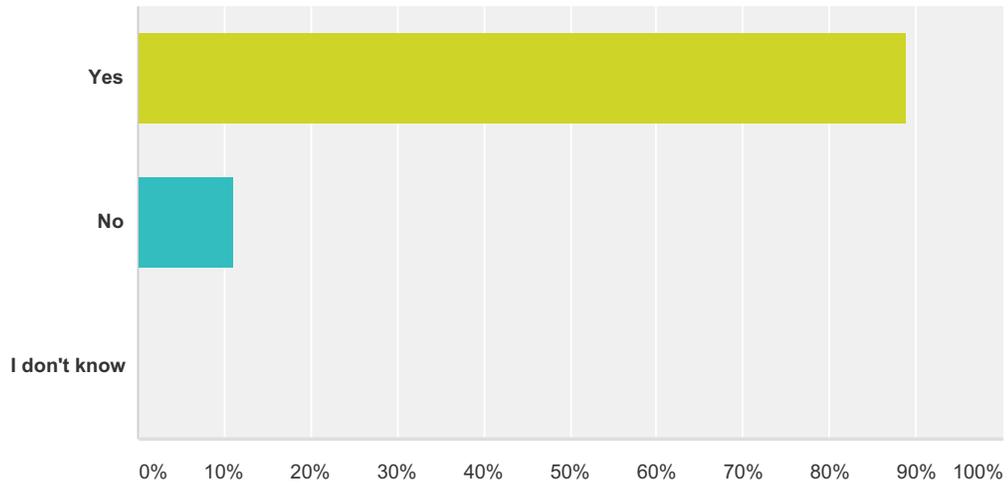
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Kindergarten	31.48%	17
1st Grade	12.96%	7
2nd Grade	29.63%	16
3rd Grade	25.93%	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>54</b>

### Q3 Do you start school at the same time every day?

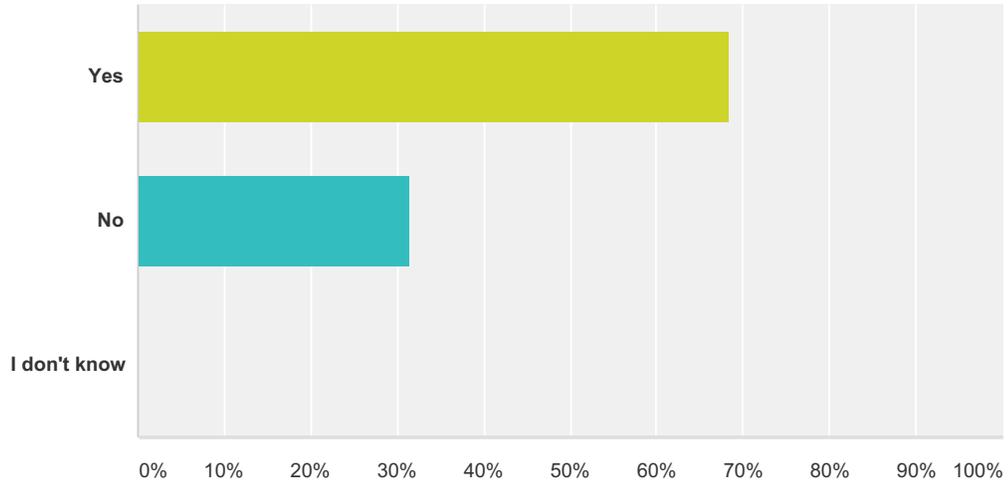
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	88.89% 48
No	11.11% 6
I don't know	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

**Q4 Do you need to tell your teacher or principal if you will be late or absent from school?**

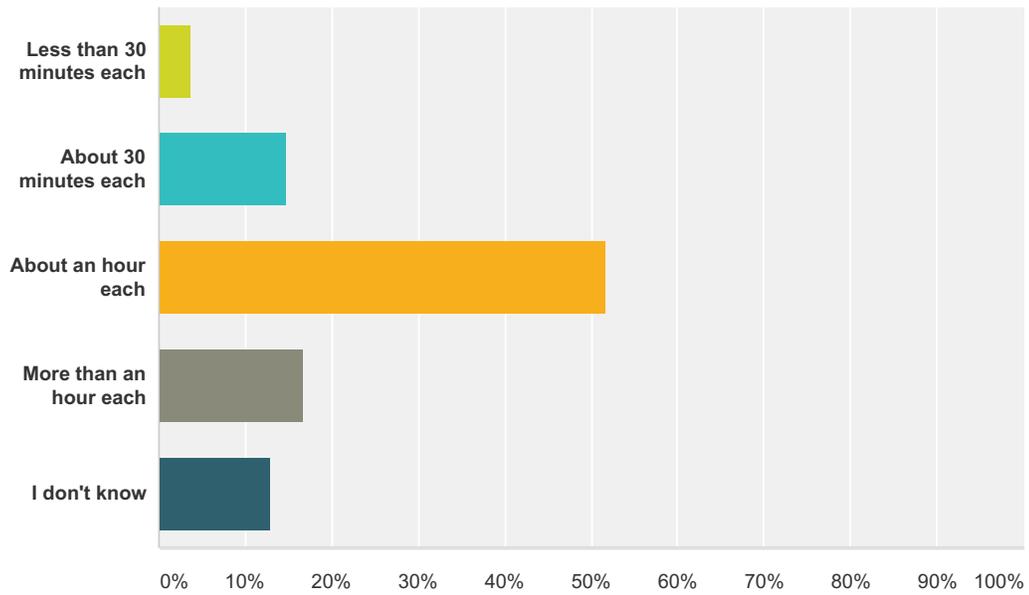
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	68.52%	37
No	31.48%	17
I don't know	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>54</b>

### Q5 How long are your classes?

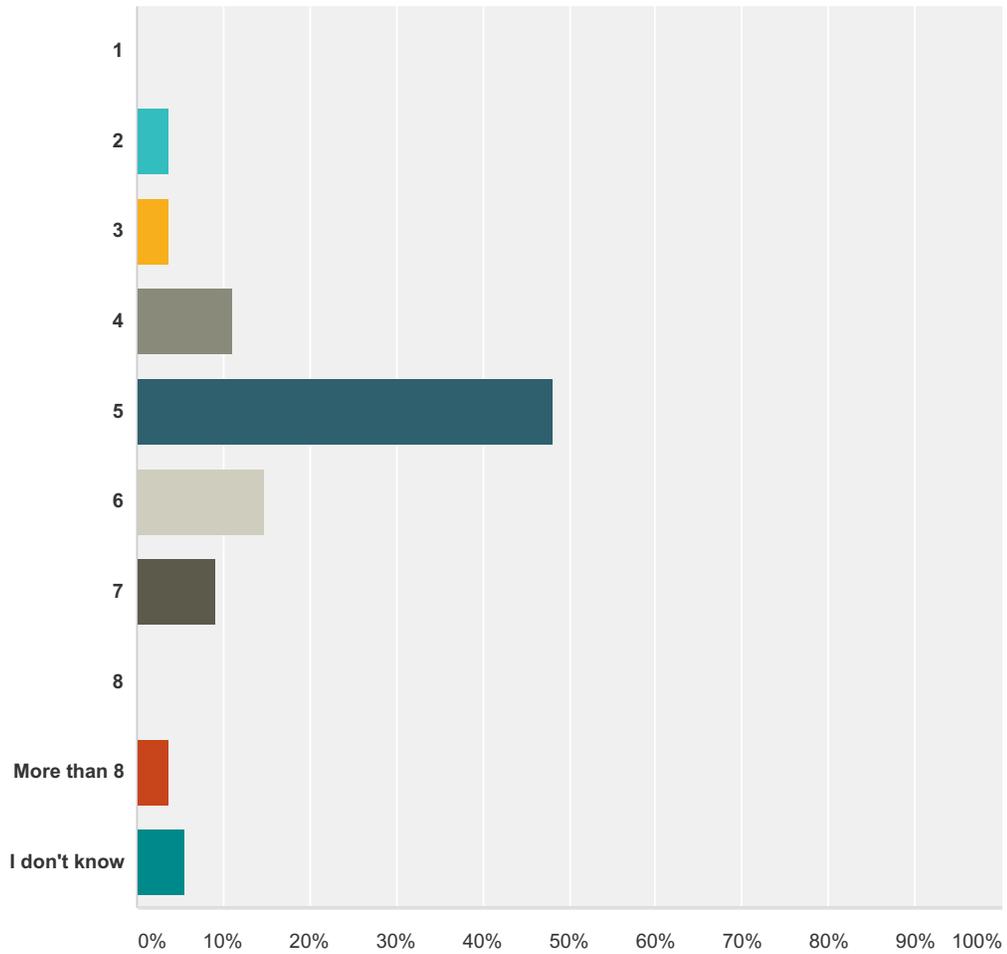
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Less than 30 minutes each	3.70% 2
About 30 minutes each	14.81% 8
About an hour each	51.85% 28
More than an hour each	16.67% 9
I don't know	12.96% 7
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

### Q6 How many classes do you have each day?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



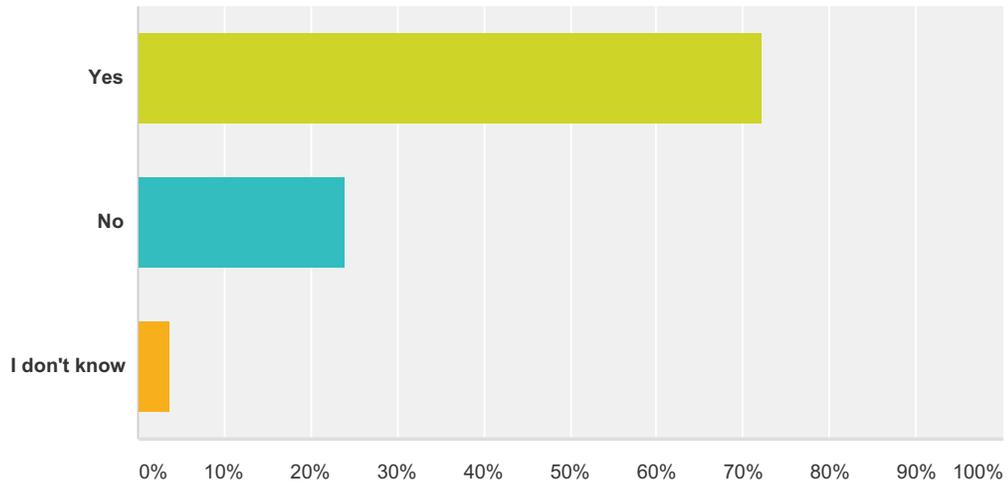
Answer Choices	Responses
1	0.00% 0
2	3.70% 2
3	3.70% 2
4	11.11% 6
5	48.15% 26
6	14.81% 8
7	9.26% 5
8	0.00% 0
More than 8	3.70% 2

## 2014 Online Schools Student Survey Grades K-3

I don't know	5.56%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>54</b>

### Q7 Do you finish school at the same time every day?

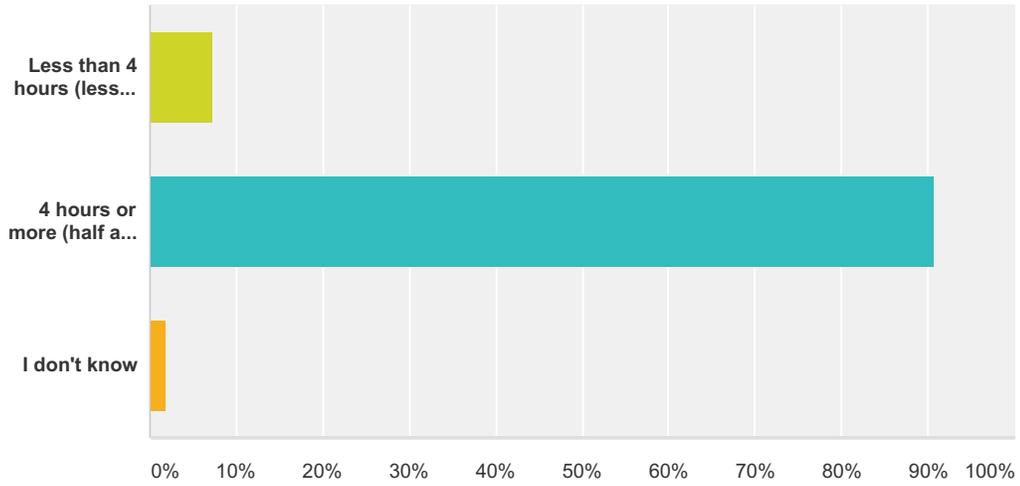
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	72.22% 39
No	24.07% 13
I don't know	3.70% 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

### Q8 How long is your school day?

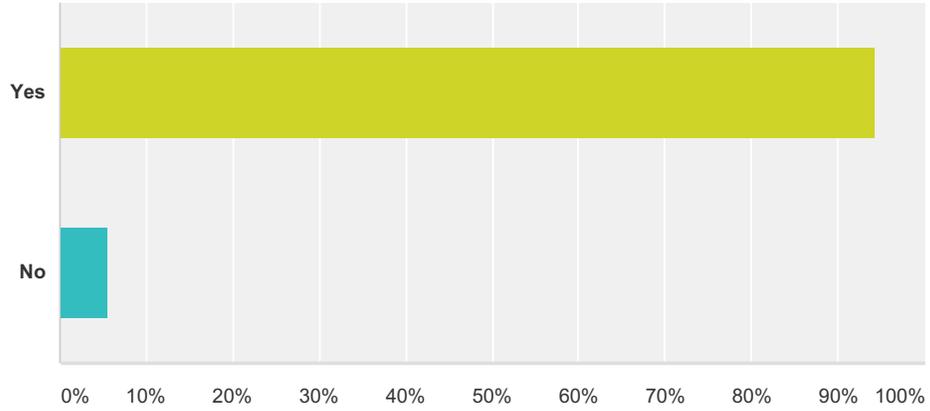
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Less than 4 hours (less than half a day)	7.41% 4
4 hours or more (half a day or more)	90.74% 49
I don't know	1.85% 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

**Q9 If you were bullied by someone on your computer or phone, would you know how to report it to your school?**

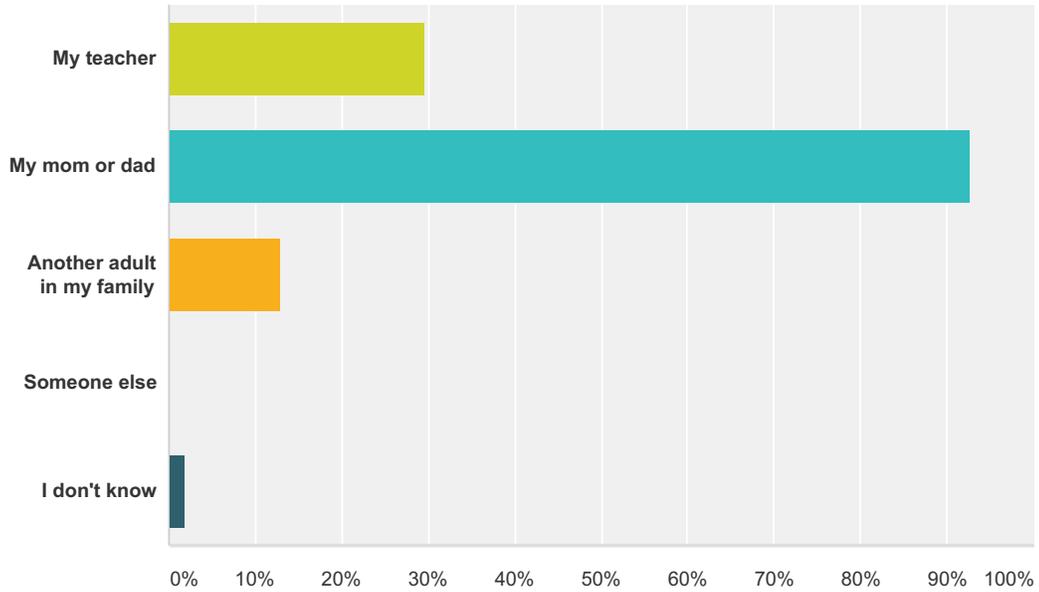
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	94.44%	51
No	5.56%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>54</b>

**Q10 Who usually teaches you during school? Check all of the answers that are right for you.**

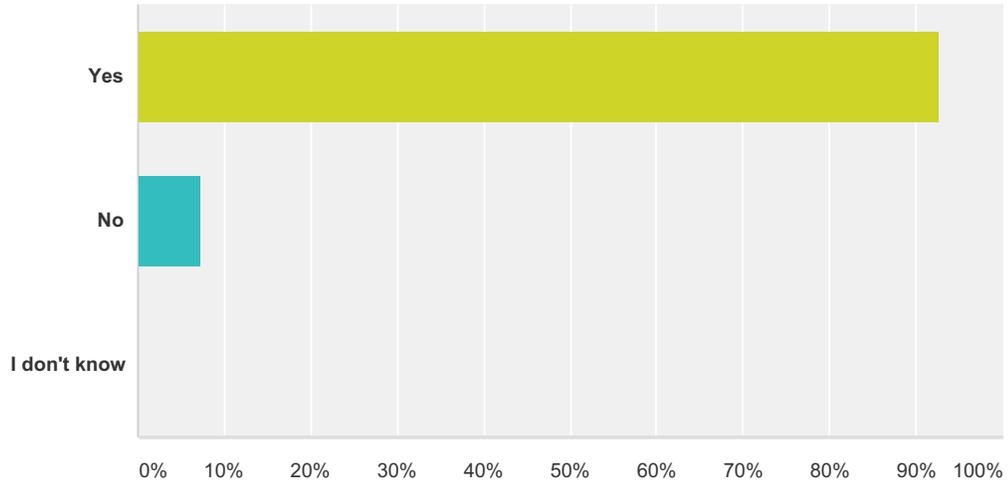
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
My teacher	29.63% 16
My mom or dad	92.59% 50
Another adult in my family	12.96% 7
Someone else	0.00% 0
I don't know	1.85% 1
<b>Total Respondents: 54</b>	

**Q11 During your classes, does your teacher spend time talking to you and showing you how to do the things you are learning?**

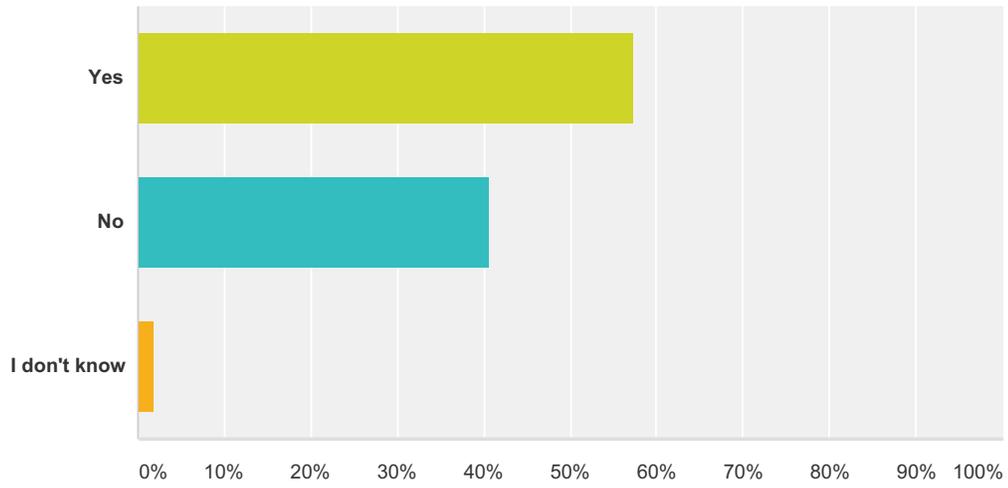
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	92.59% 50
No	7.41% 4
I don't know	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

**Q12 Do you work in groups with other students during or outside class?**

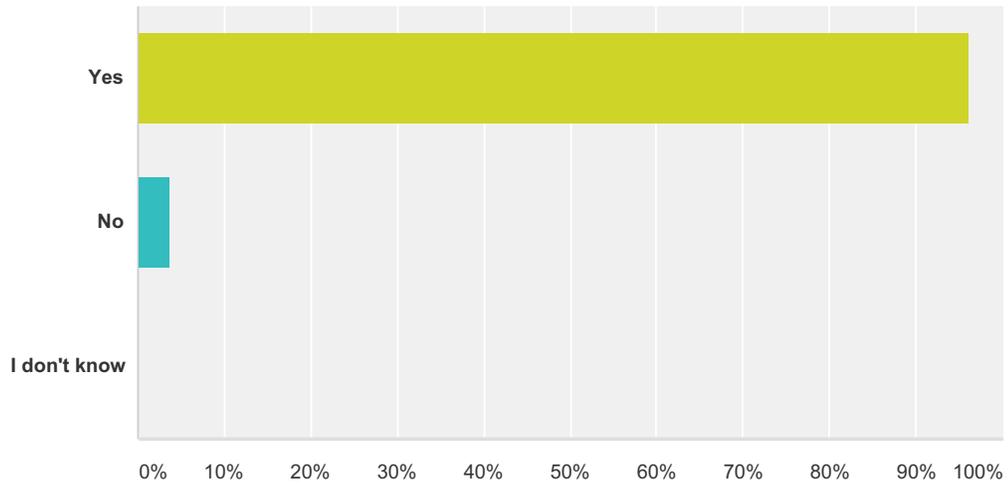
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	57.41% 31
No	40.74% 22
I don't know	1.85% 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

**Q13 Do you have time to work on your own during any of your classes?**

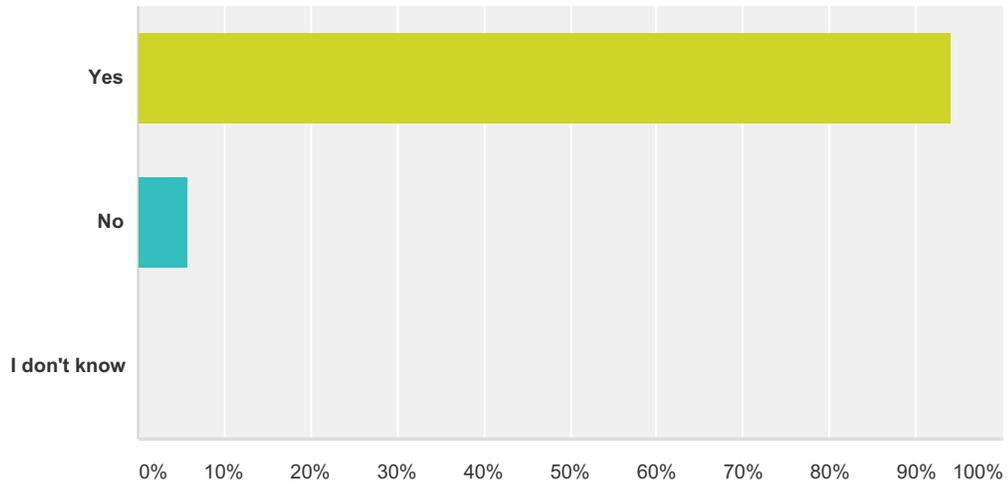
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	96.30% 52
No	3.70% 2
I don't know	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

### Q14 Is there time to study during any of your classes?

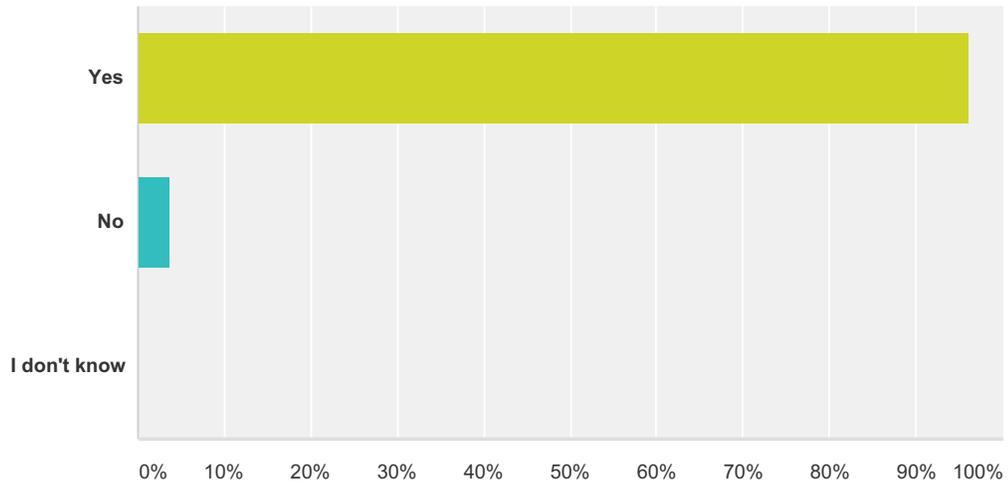
Answered: 52 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	94.23% 49
No	5.77% 3
I don't know	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>

### Q15 Are you called on to answer questions during your classes?

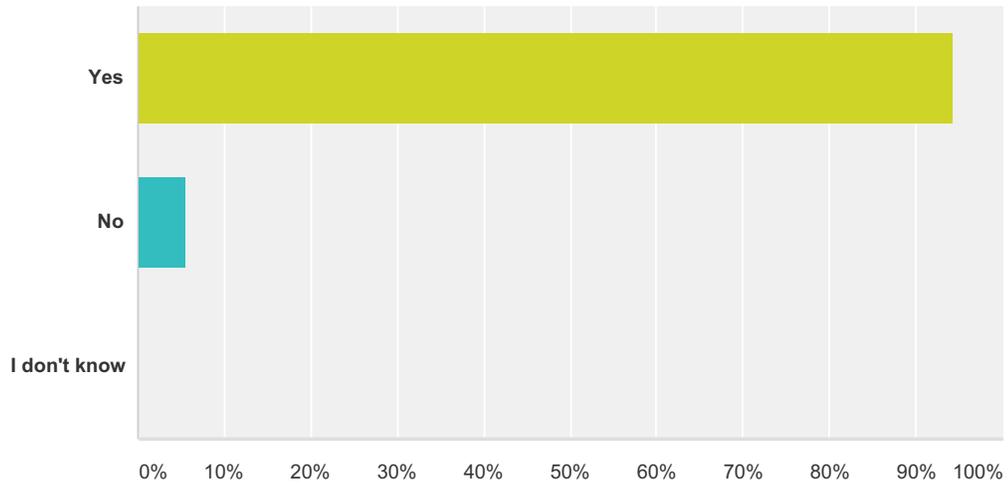
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	96.30%	52
No	3.70%	2
I don't know	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>54</b>

### Q16 Can you ask questions during your classes?

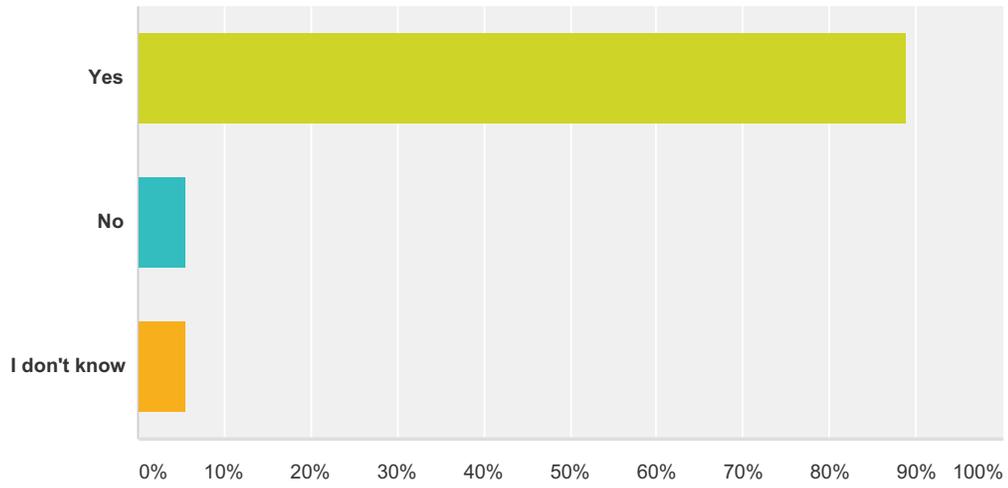
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	94.44% 51
No	5.56% 3
I don't know	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

### Q17 Do you know how well you are doing in your classes?

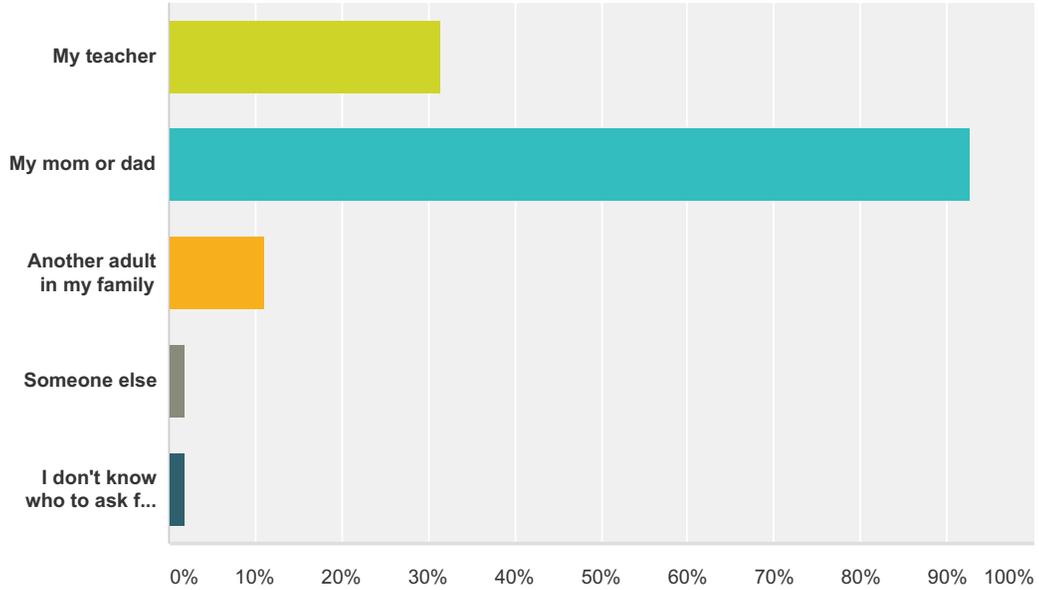
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	88.89% 48
No	5.56% 3
I don't know	5.56% 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

**Q18 If you need help with your work, who do you ask? Check all of the answers that are right for you.**

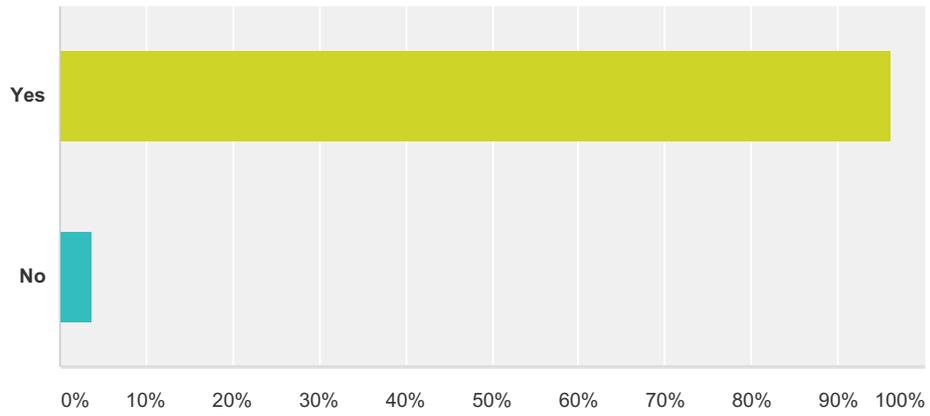
Answered: 54 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
My teacher	31.48% 17
My mom or dad	92.59% 50
Another adult in my family	11.11% 6
Someone else	1.85% 1
I don't know who to ask for help	1.85% 1
<b>Total Respondents: 54</b>	

### Q19 Do you know what your teacher expects you to learn in your classes?

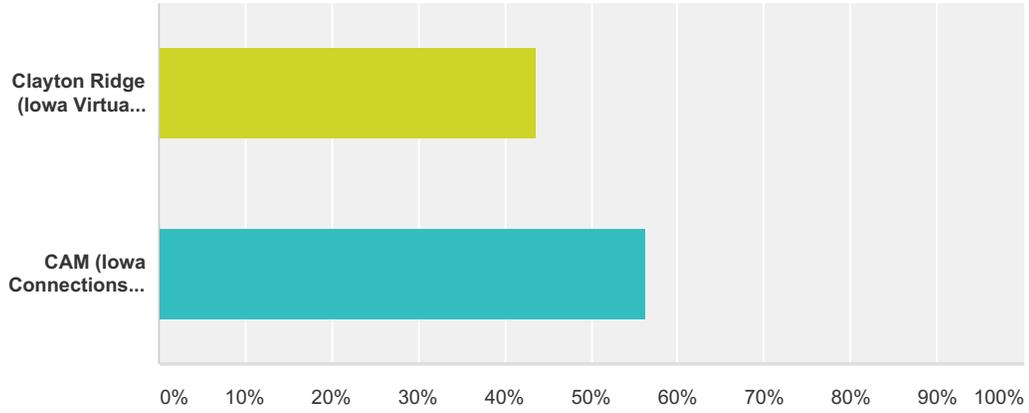
Answered: 53 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	96.23% 51
No	3.77% 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>

### Q1 Which of the online schools do you go to?

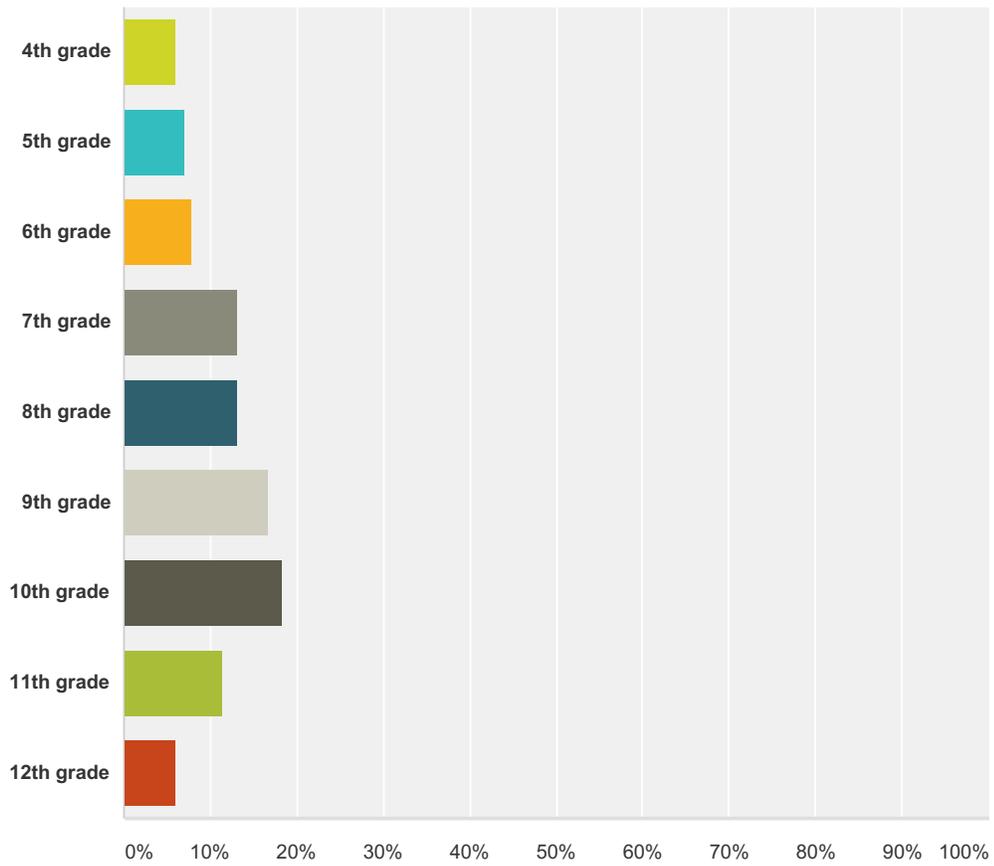
Answered: 220 Skipped: 31



Answer Choices	Responses
Clayton Ridge (Iowa Virtual Academy)	43.64% 96
CAM (Iowa Connections Academy)	56.36% 124
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>

### Q2 What grade are you in?

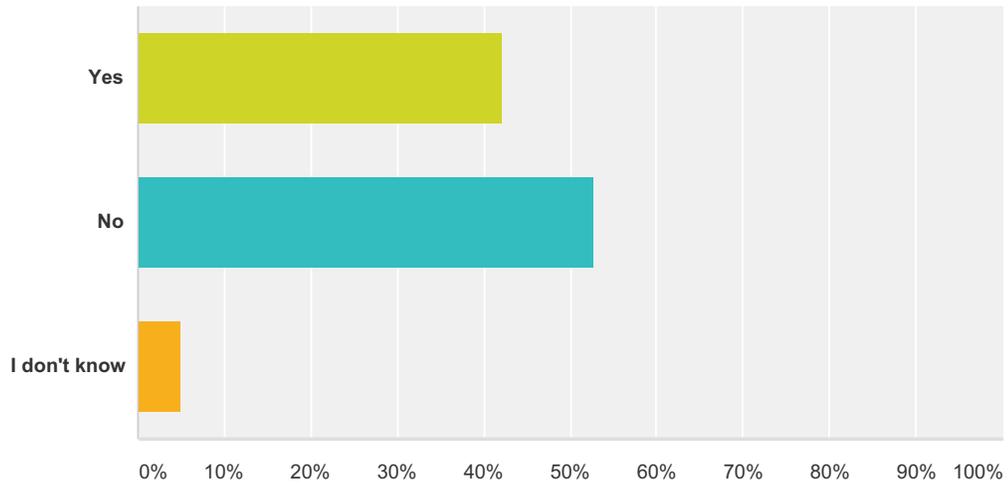
Answered: 251 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
4th grade	5.98% 15
5th grade	7.17% 18
6th grade	7.97% 20
7th grade	13.15% 33
8th grade	13.15% 33
9th grade	16.73% 42
10th grade	18.33% 46
11th grade	11.55% 29
12th grade	5.98% 15
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>

### Q3 Do you start school at the same time every day?

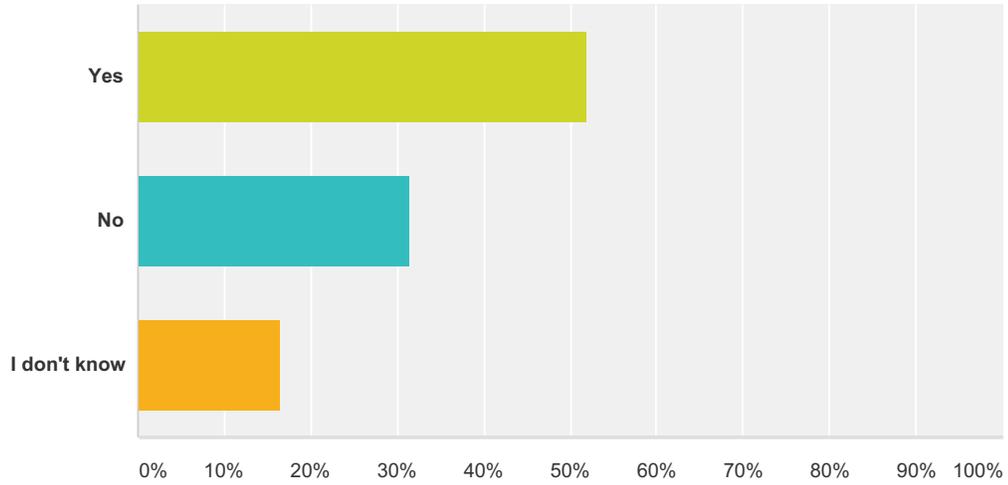
Answered: 244 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	42.21% 103
No	52.87% 129
I don't know	4.92% 12
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>

**Q4 Do you need to tell your teacher or principal if you will be late or absent from school?**

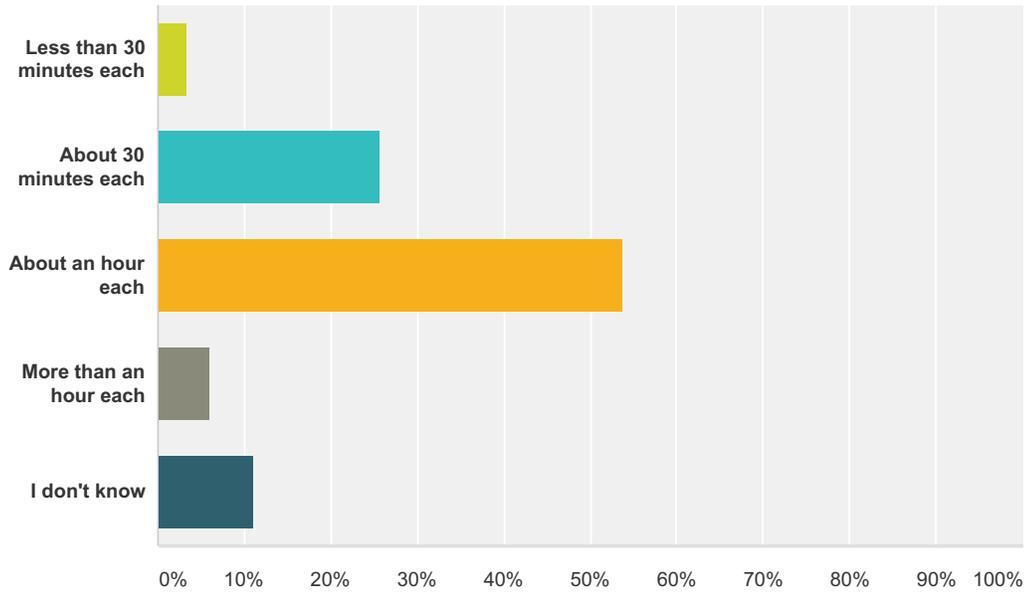
Answered: 244 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	52.05% 127
No	31.56% 77
I don't know	16.39% 40
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>

### Q5 How long are your classes?

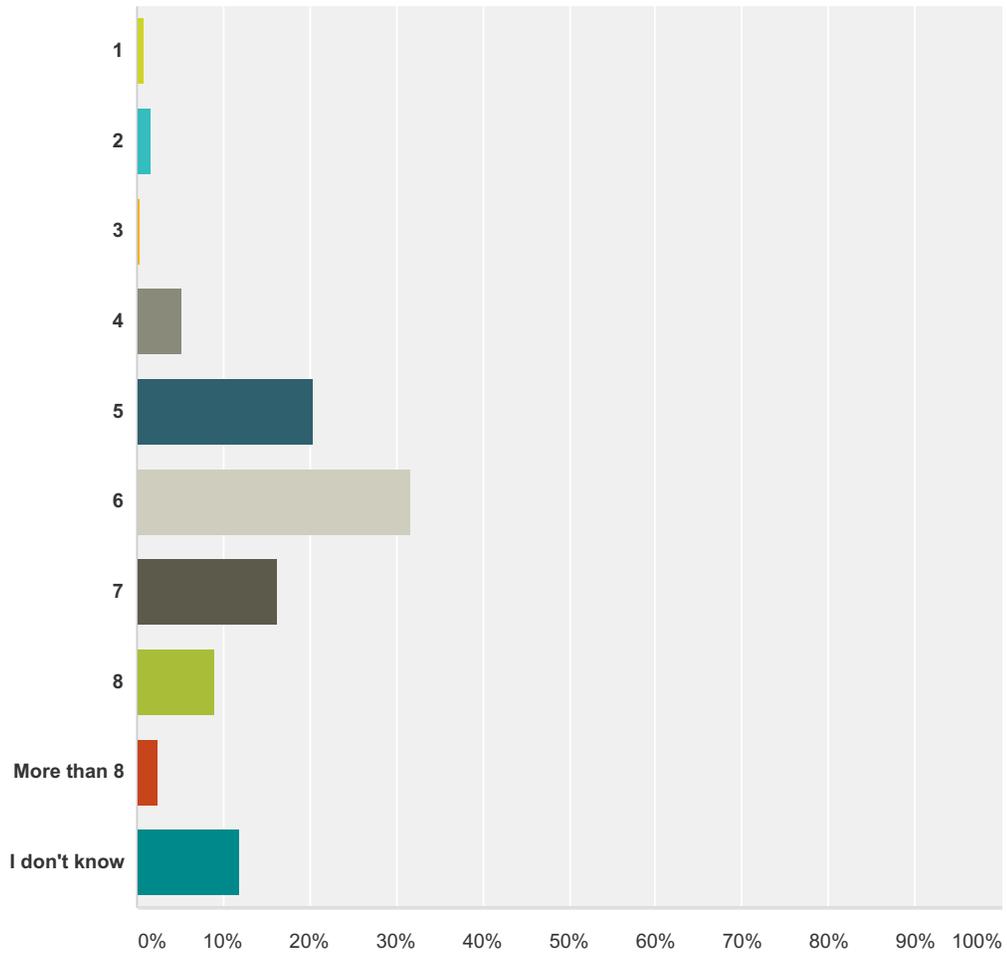
Answered: 245 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses
Less than 30 minutes each	3.27% 8
About 30 minutes each	25.71% 63
About an hour each	53.88% 132
More than an hour each	6.12% 15
I don't know	11.02% 27
<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>

### Q6 How many classes do you have each day?

Answered: 245 Skipped: 6



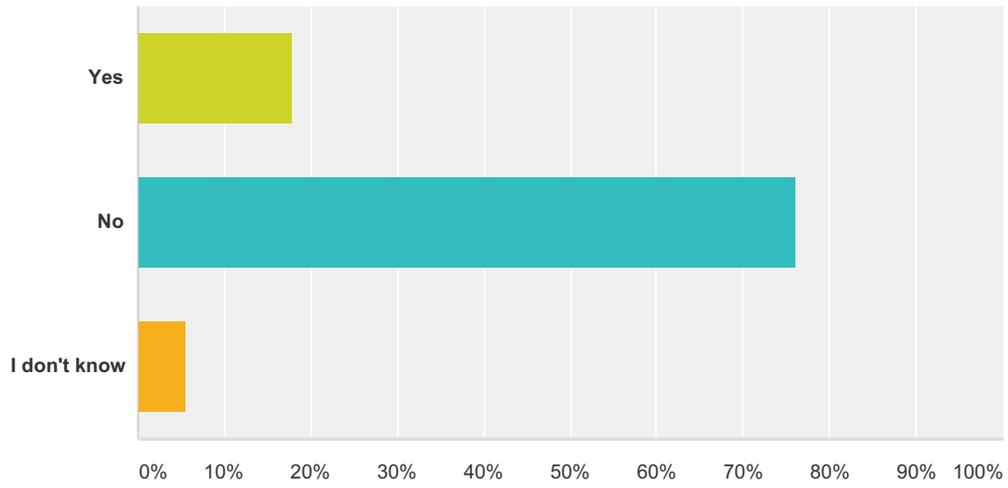
Answer Choices	Responses
1	0.82% 2
2	1.63% 4
3	0.41% 1
4	5.31% 13
5	20.41% 50
6	31.84% 78
7	16.33% 40
8	8.98% 22
More than 8	2.45% 6

## 2014 Online Schools Student Survey Grades 4-12

I don't know	11.84%	29
<b>Total</b>		<b>245</b>

### Q7 Do you finish school at the same time every day?

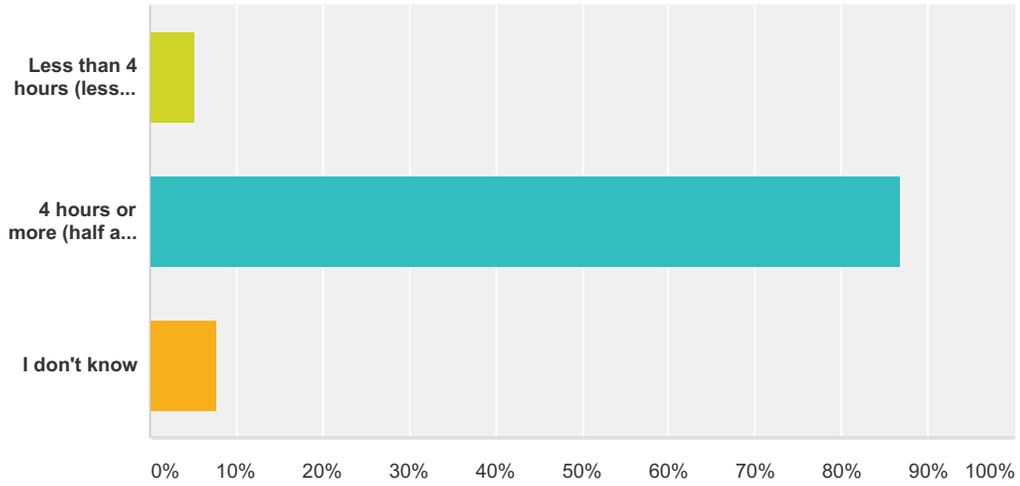
Answered: 244 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	18.03% 44
No	76.23% 186
I don't know	5.74% 14
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>

### Q8 How long is your school day?

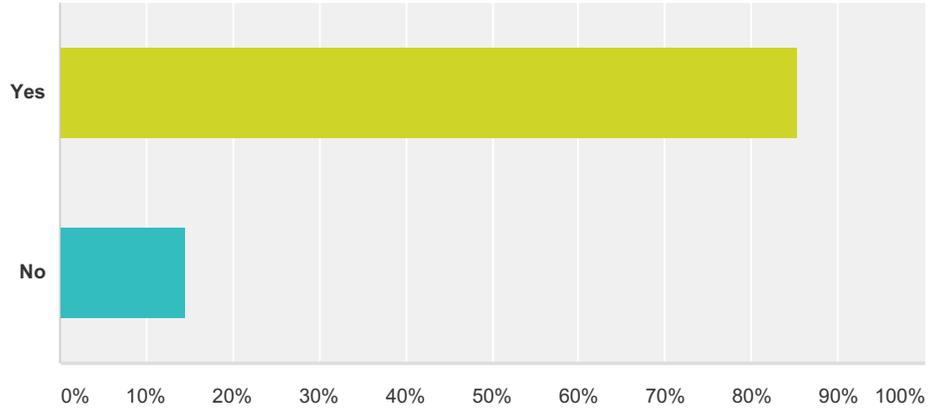
Answered: 245 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses
Less than 4 hours (less than half a day)	5.31% 13
4 hours or more (half a day or more)	86.94% 213
I don't know	7.76% 19
<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>

**Q9 If you were bullied by someone on your computer or phone, would you know how to report it to your school?**

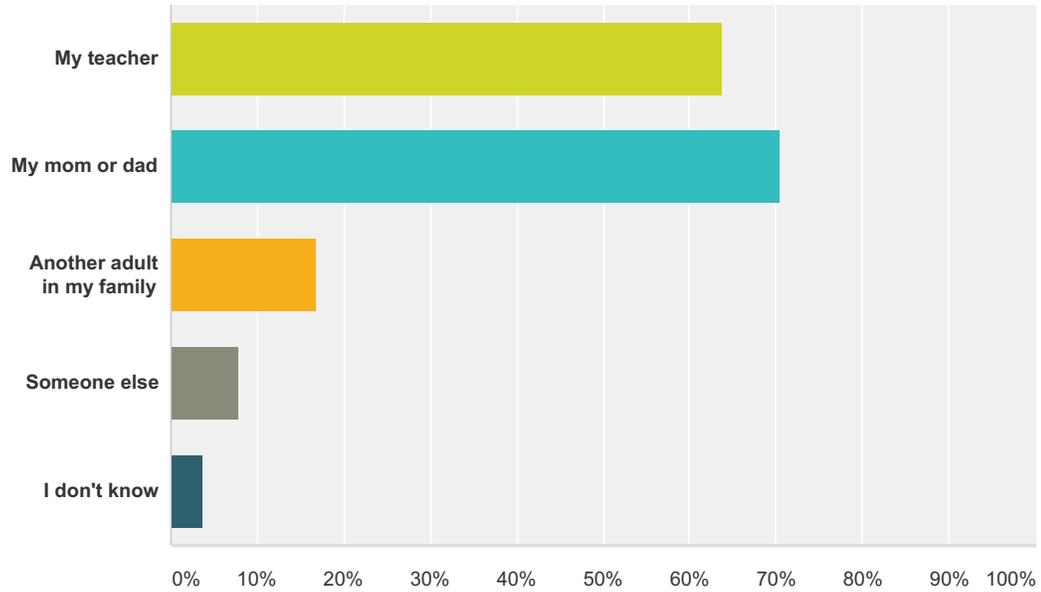
Answered: 245 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	85.31% 209
No	14.69% 36
<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>

**Q10 Who usually teaches you during school? Check all of the answers that are right for you.**

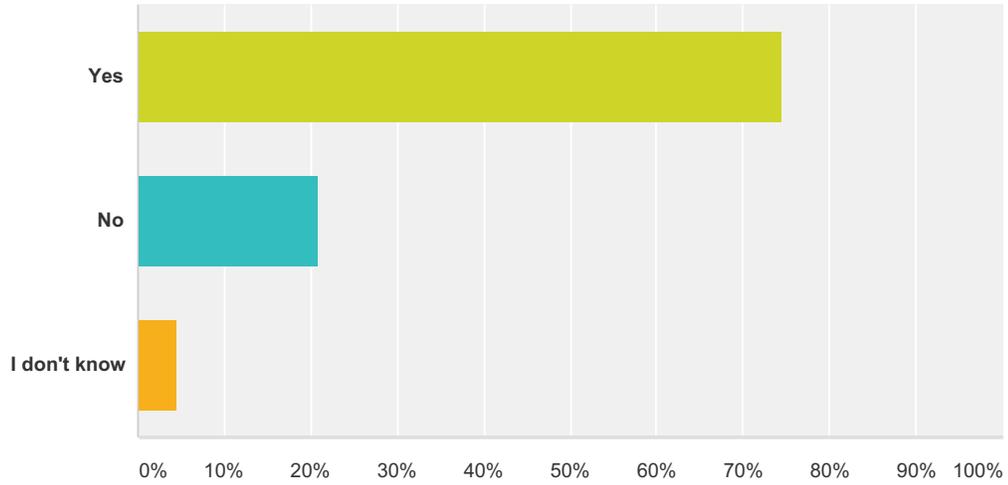
Answered: 241 Skipped: 10



Answer Choices	Responses
My teacher	63.90% 154
My mom or dad	70.54% 170
Another adult in my family	17.01% 41
Someone else	7.88% 19
I don't know	3.73% 9
<b>Total Respondents: 241</b>	

**Q11 During your classes, does your teacher spend time talking to you and showing you how to do the things you are learning?**

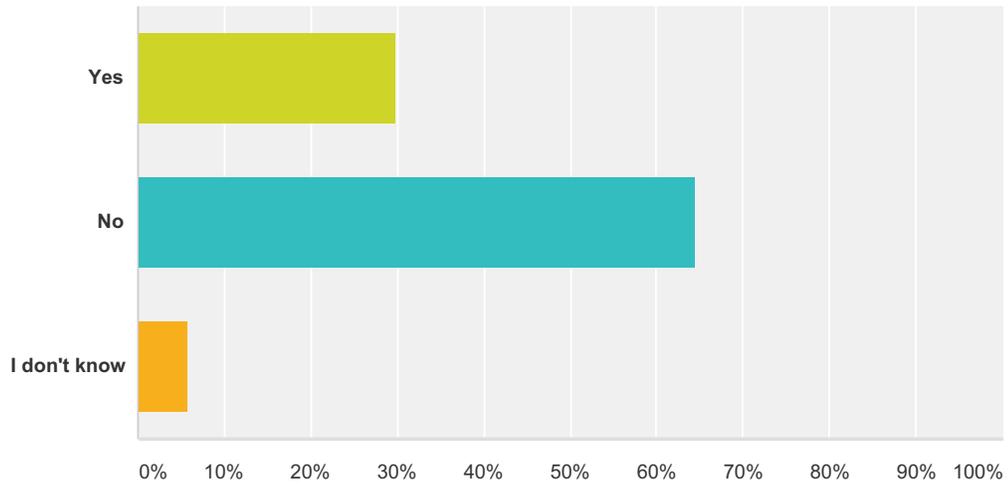
Answered: 240 Skipped: 11



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	74.58% 179
No	20.83% 50
I don't know	4.58% 11
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

**Q12 Do you work in groups with other students during or outside class?**

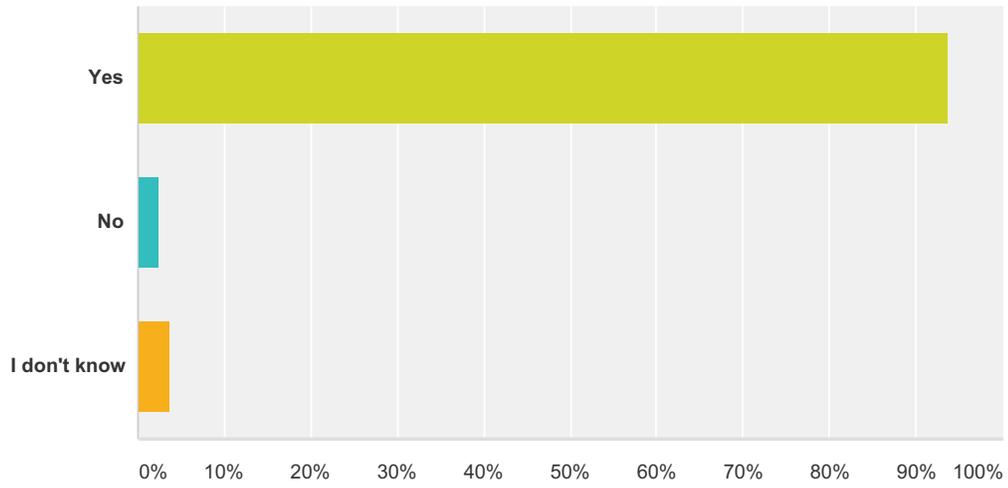
Answered: 242 Skipped: 9



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	29.75% 72
No	64.46% 156
I don't know	5.79% 14
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>

**Q13 Do you have time to work on your own during any of your classes?**

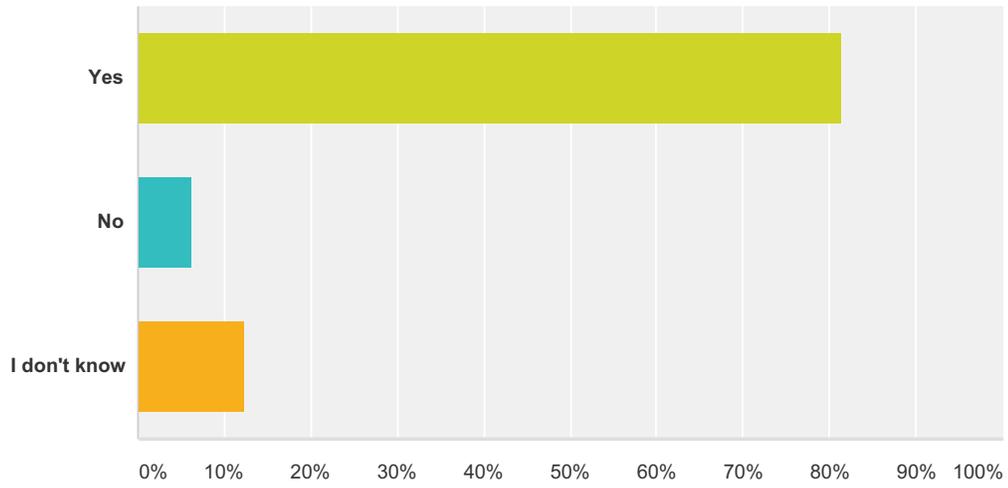
Answered: 242 Skipped: 9



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	93.80% 227
No	2.48% 6
I don't know	3.72% 9
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>

### Q14 Is there time to study during any of your classes?

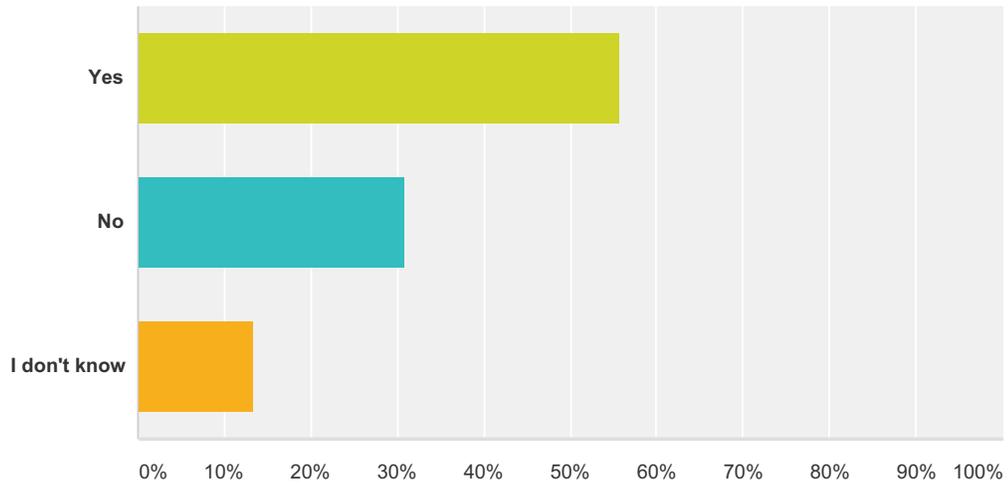
Answered: 242 Skipped: 9



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	81.40% 197
No	6.20% 15
I don't know	12.40% 30
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>

### Q15 Are you called on to answer questions during your classes?

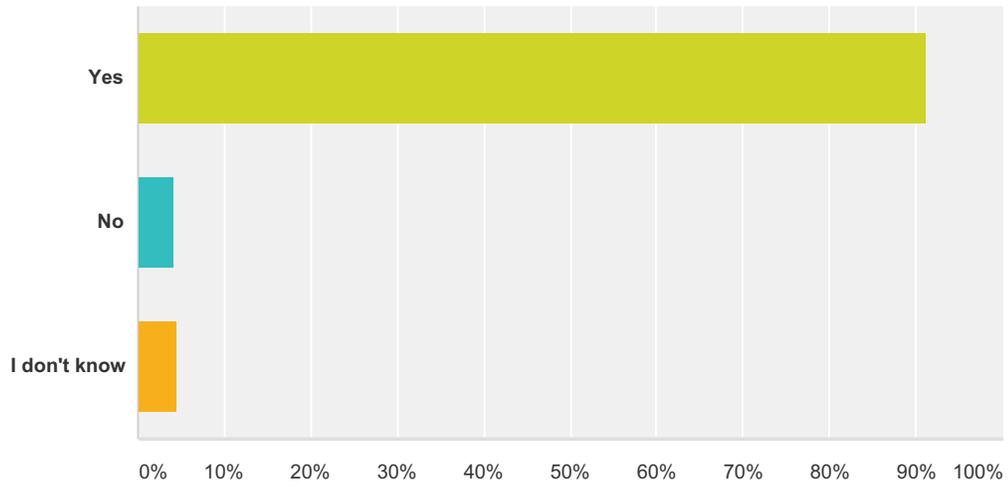
Answered: 240 Skipped: 11



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	55.83% 134
No	30.83% 74
I don't know	13.33% 32
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

### Q16 Can you ask questions during your classes?

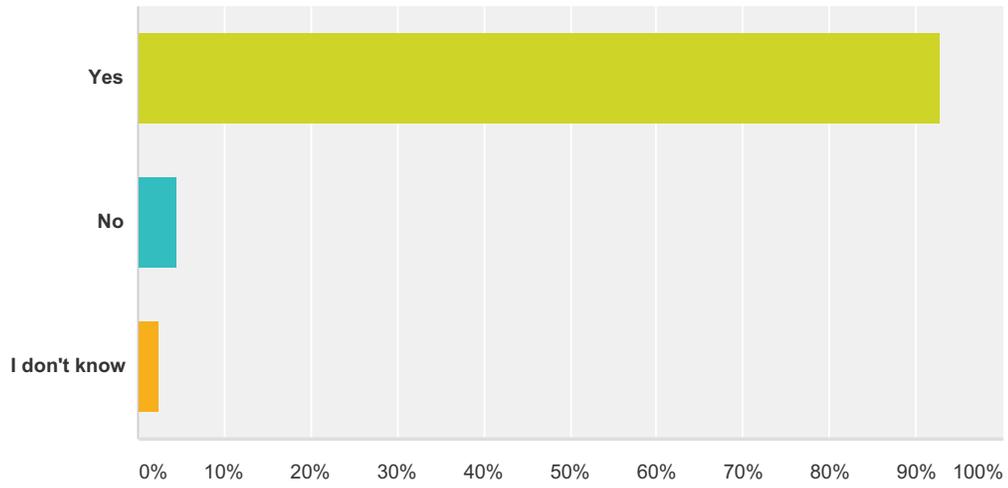
Answered: 240 Skipped: 11



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	91.25% 219
No	4.17% 10
I don't know	4.58% 11
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

### Q17 Do you know how well you are doing in your classes?

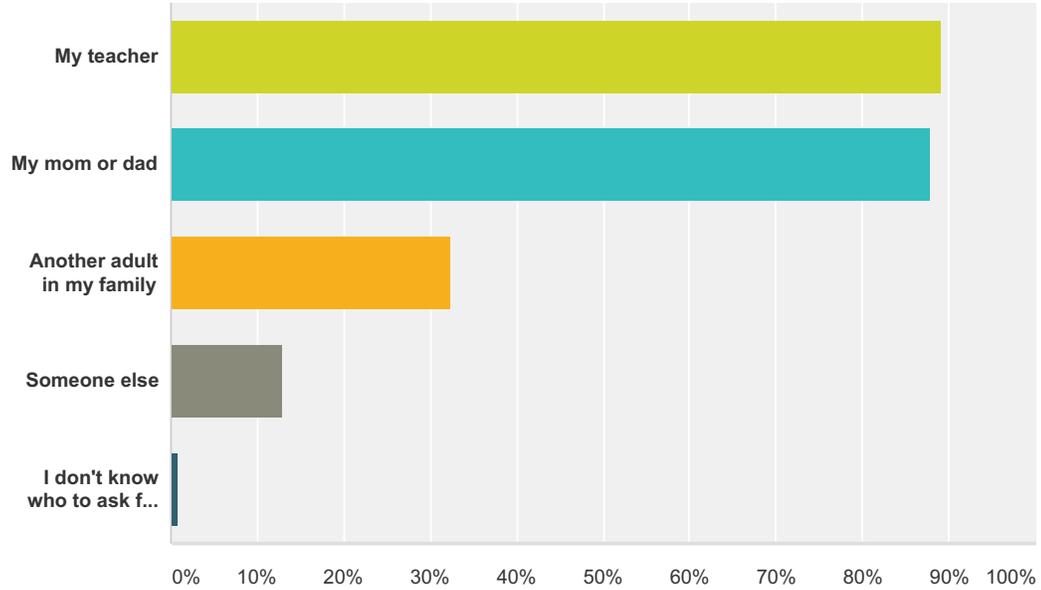
Answered: 242 Skipped: 9



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	92.98% 225
No	4.55% 11
I don't know	2.48% 6
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>

**Q18 If you need help with your work, who do you ask? Check all of the answers that are right for you.**

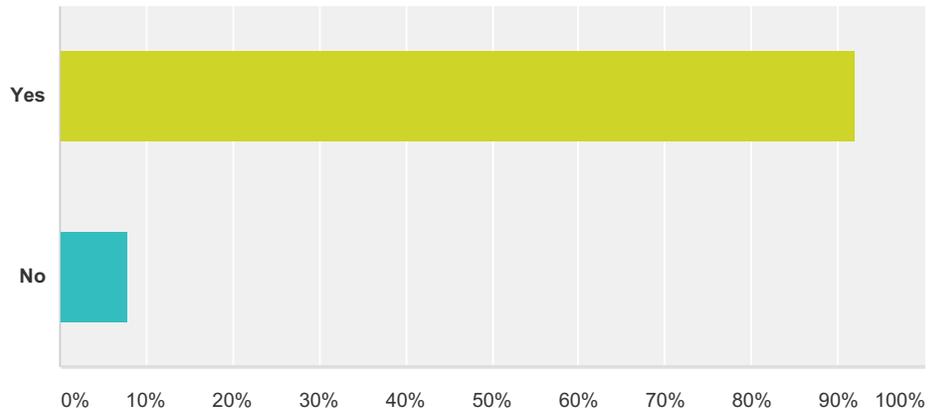
Answered: 241 Skipped: 10



Answer Choices	Responses
My teacher	89.21% 215
My mom or dad	87.97% 212
Another adult in my family	32.37% 78
Someone else	12.86% 31
I don't know who to ask for help	0.83% 2
<b>Total Respondents: 241</b>	

**Q19 Do you know what your teacher expects you to learn in your classes?**

Answered: 242 Skipped: 9



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	92.15% 223
No	7.85% 19
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>