

# Professional Learning for Teachers

## New Demands Need New Approaches

May 2018

Findings from the Speak Up 2017 Research Project  
Prepared by Project Tomorrow for Verso

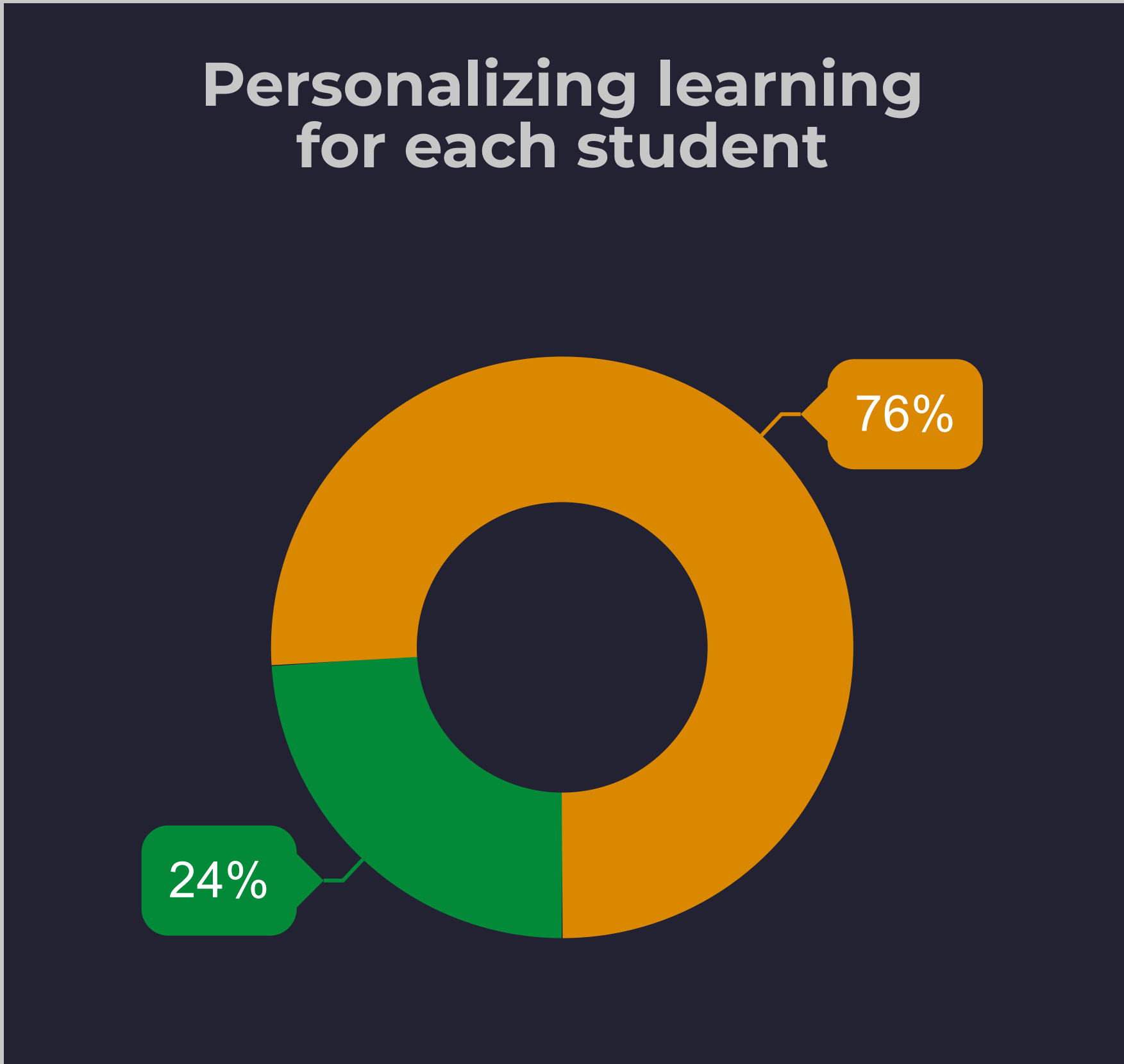
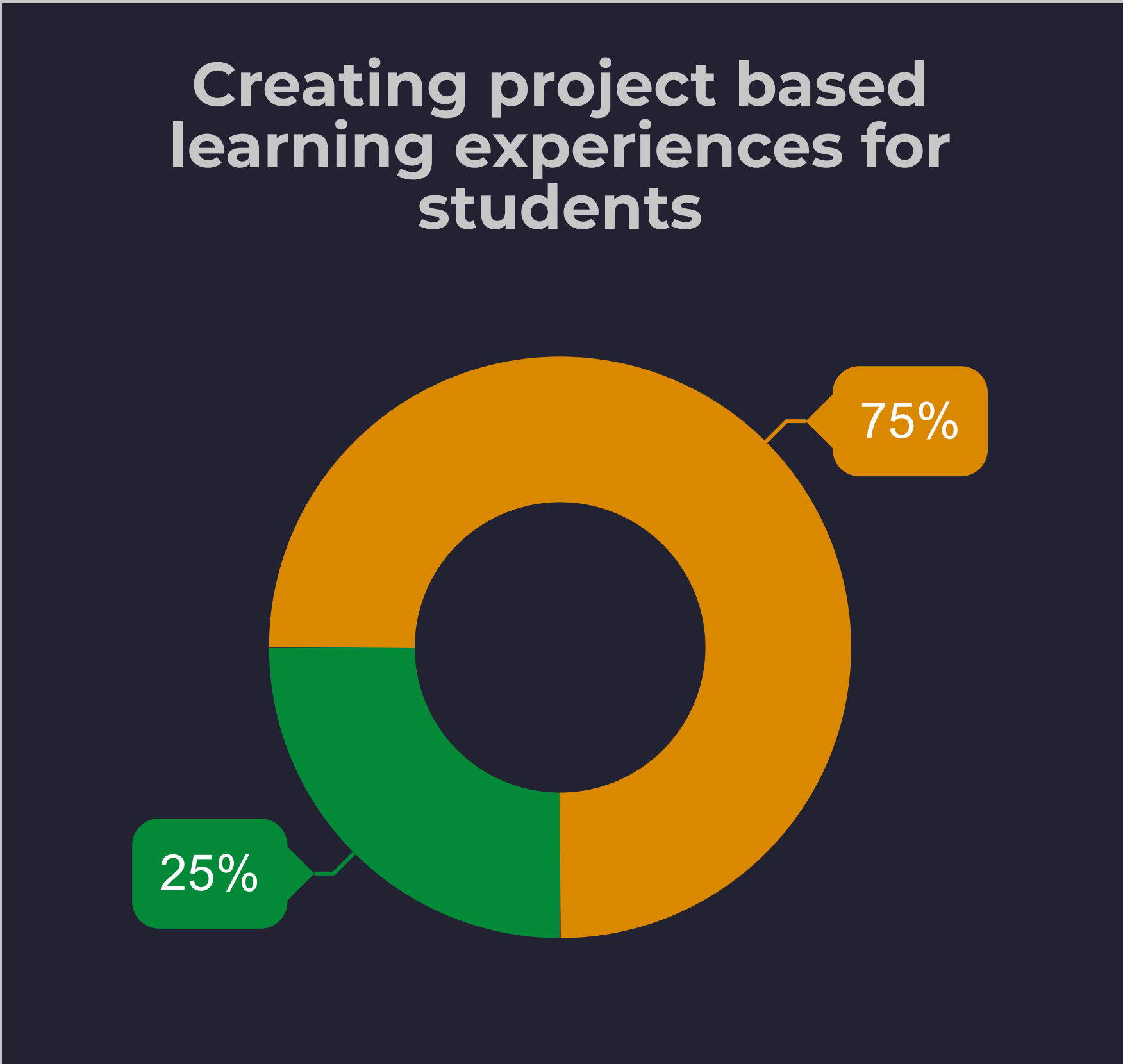
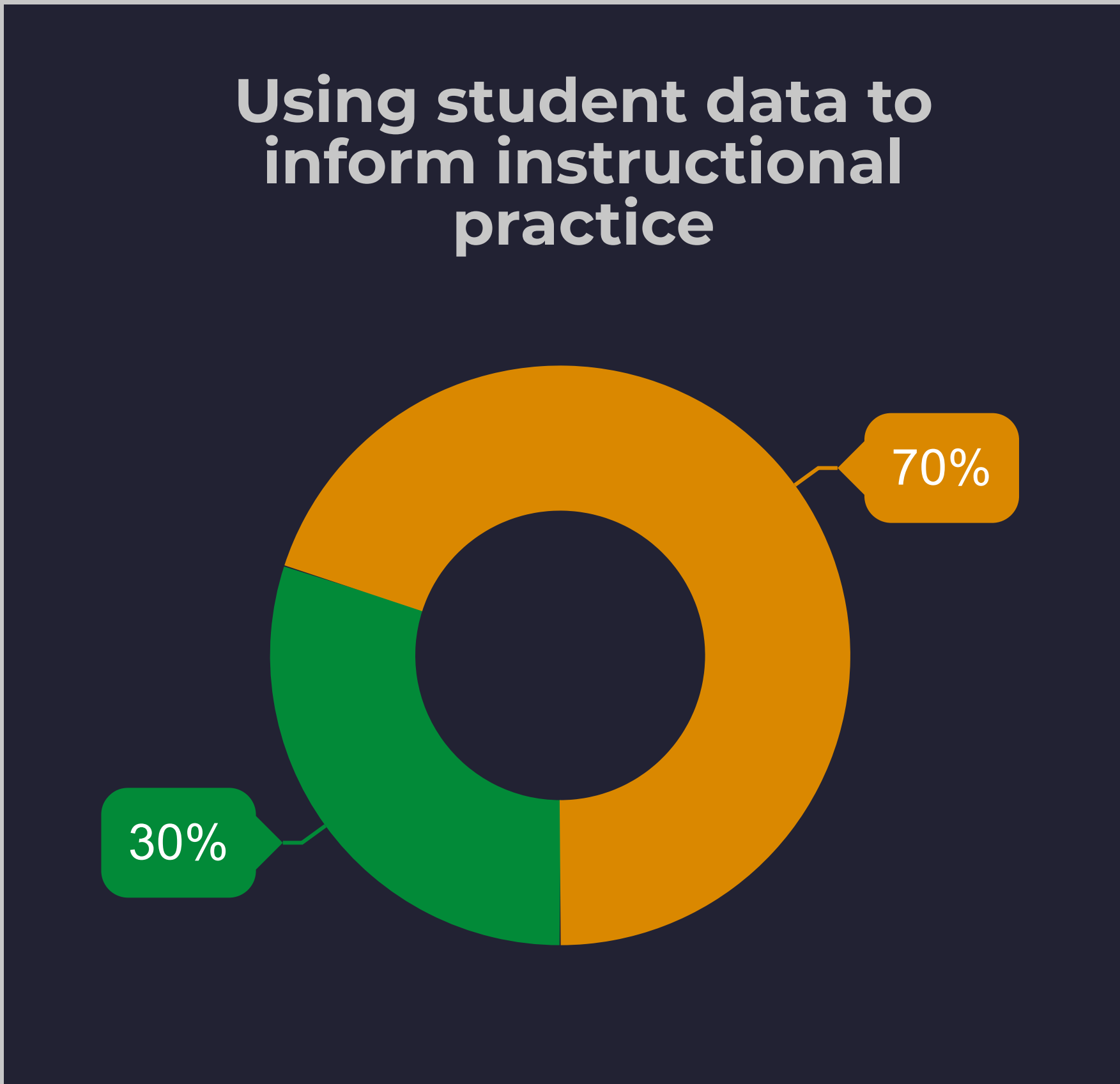
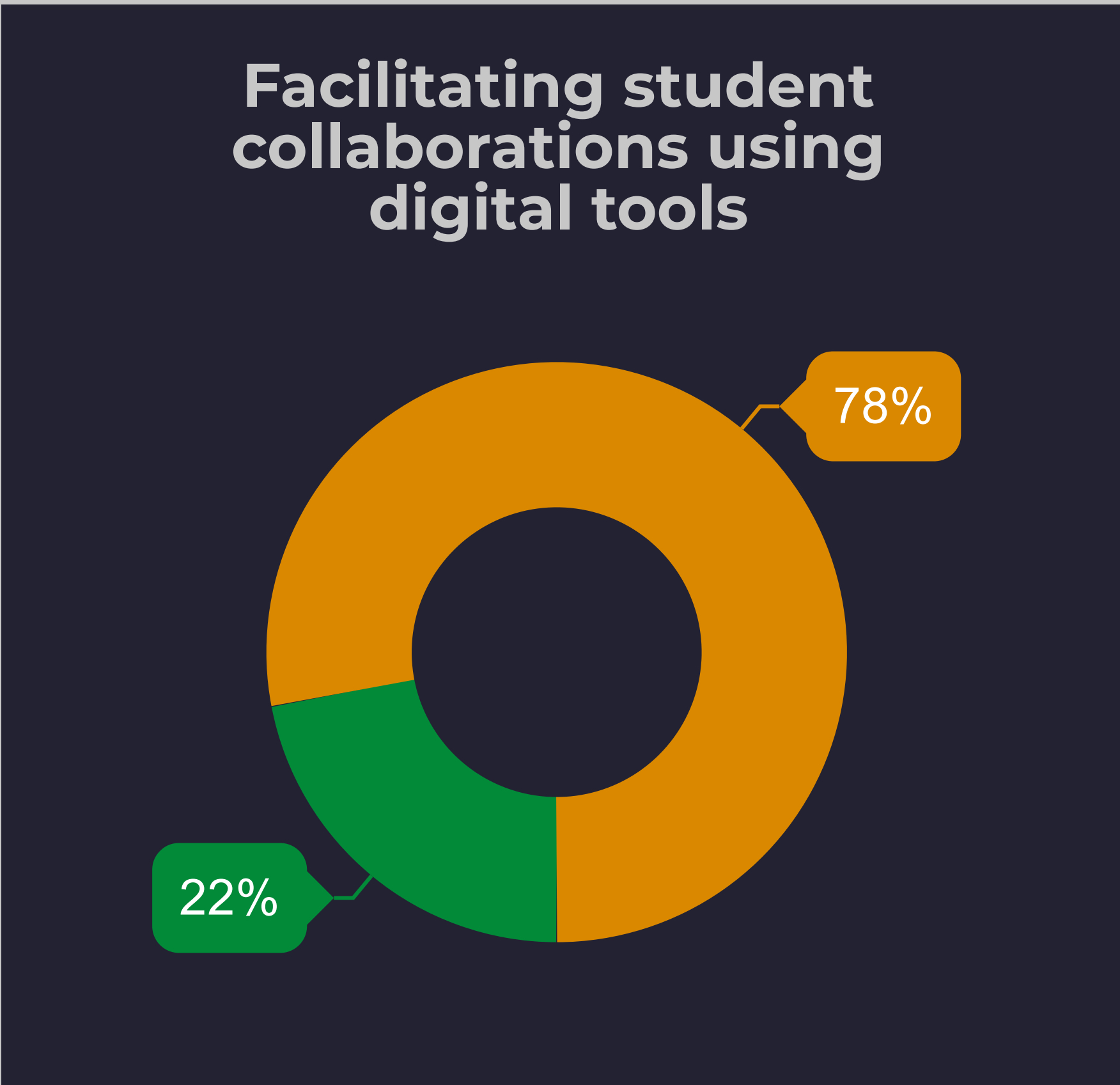


The #1 way to improve student achievement is professional learning focused on enhancing teacher effectiveness, per district administrators

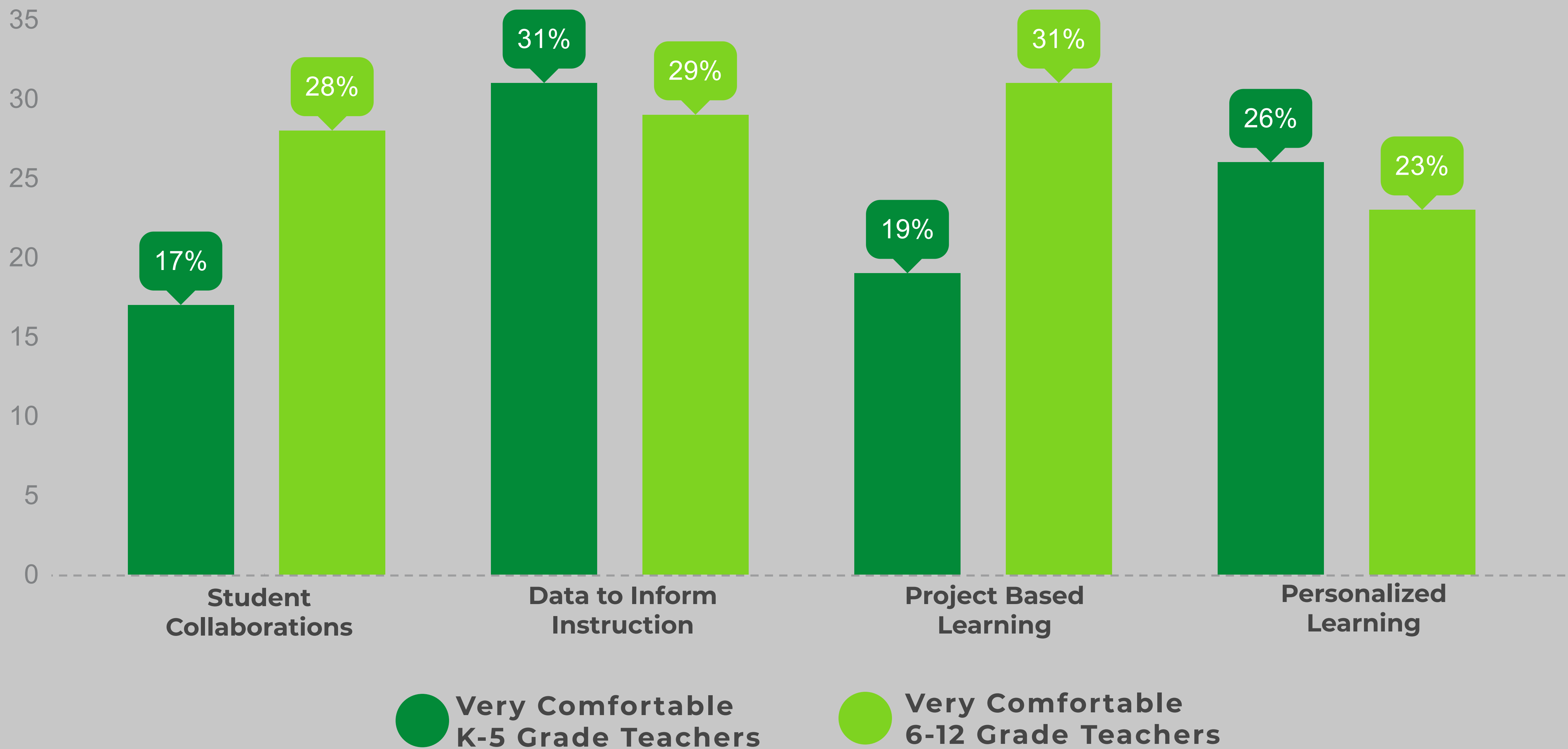
Teachers' comfort levels with new instructional practices suggest more professional learning is required

Very comfortable

Not Very Comfortable



## Teachers' comfort levels differ by grade level



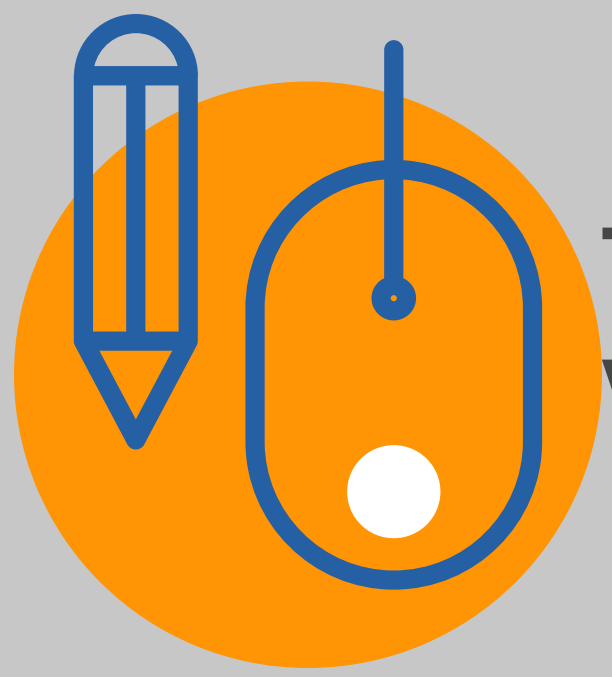
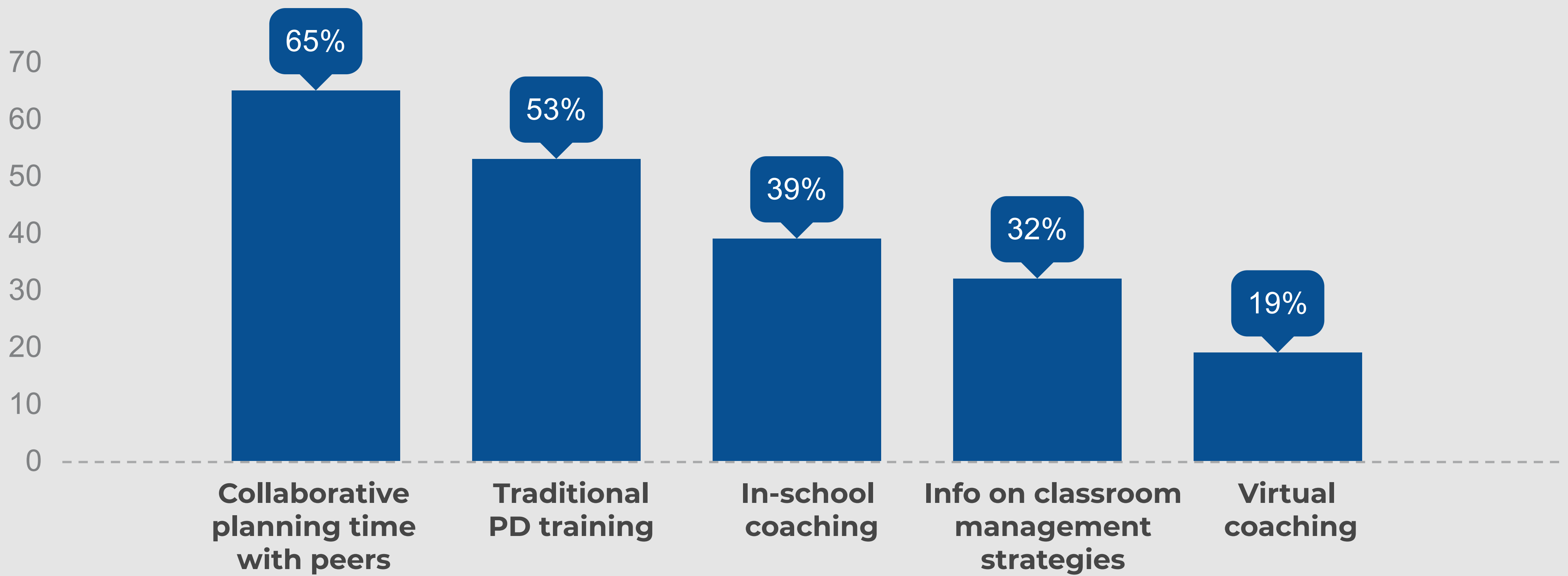
**Motivating teachers to change instructional practices** (46%) and **staff professional development** (43%) are the **top two challenges** administrators face in implementing innovative tools in the classroom

## How do administrators evaluate the success of new teaching and learning innovations?

- 77%** Level of student engagement
- 69%** Classroom observations
- 62%** Student feedback
- 54%** Teacher buy-in for the new innovation
- 53%** Teacher feedback



## To more effectively implement new teaching and learning innovations in the classroom, teachers want...



### Teachers' PD Wish List Includes...

- 47% Using technology to differentiate instruction
- 29% Using technology tools for formative assessment
- 28% Implementing blended learning in my classroom

61% of district leaders say training teachers on **how to use student data** is imperative - even though only **25%** of teachers have that same priority

## Districts Face Challenges to Implementing Professional Development

66%

Providing personalized professional development

58%

Finding time for teacher professional development

54%

Empowering teachers to be self-initiated learners



27%

Assessing teacher skills and needs

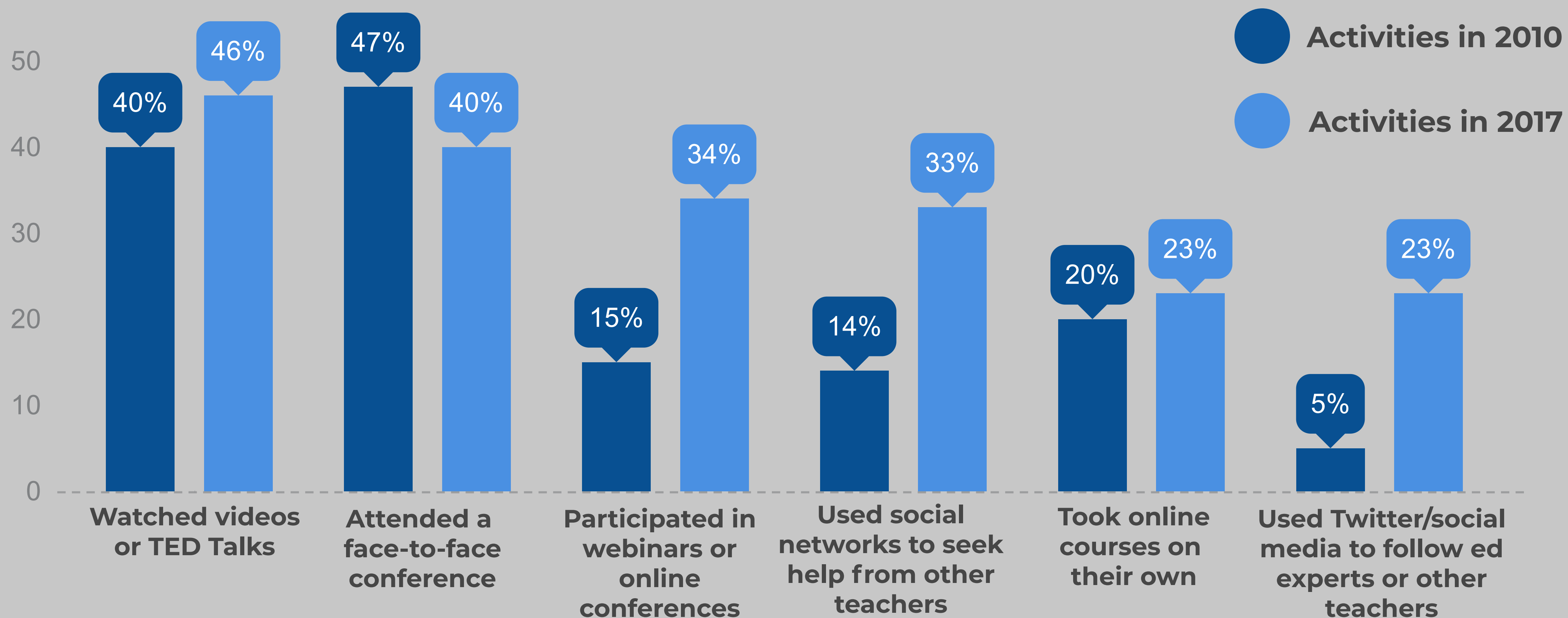
26%

Evaluating ways to recognize teacher proficiency



# Empowered to drive their own professional learning

Teachers are increasingly self-directing their own professional learning using digital tools



## Online Professional Development for Teachers is Widespread but Better Outcomes Are Needed

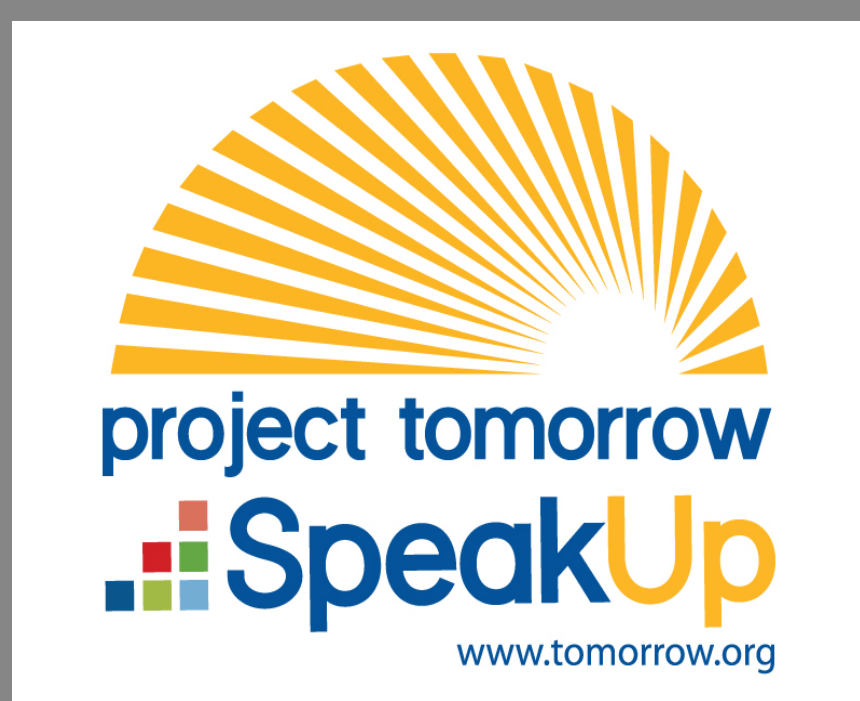
64% of districts offer online PD for teachers

Only 39% of districts report positive results from their current online PD offerings

### Verso Learning

Empowering teachers to deliver excellence in the classroom with evidence-based, embedded and personalized professional learning that engages every student.

[www.versolearning.com](http://www.versolearning.com)



SOURCE: Speak Up Research Project for Digital Learning, 2017 Findings - listening to the authentic, unfiltered views of 406,779 K-12 students, parents, and educators from around the world, including 33,156 teachers. Data was collected from October 2017 through January 2018.

Speak Up is an annual research initiative of Project Tomorrow, a global nonprofit organization. Learn more about Speak Up and other research findings from Project Tomorrow at [tomorrow.org](http://tomorrow.org).