Student Personal Technology in Schools

Survey Results

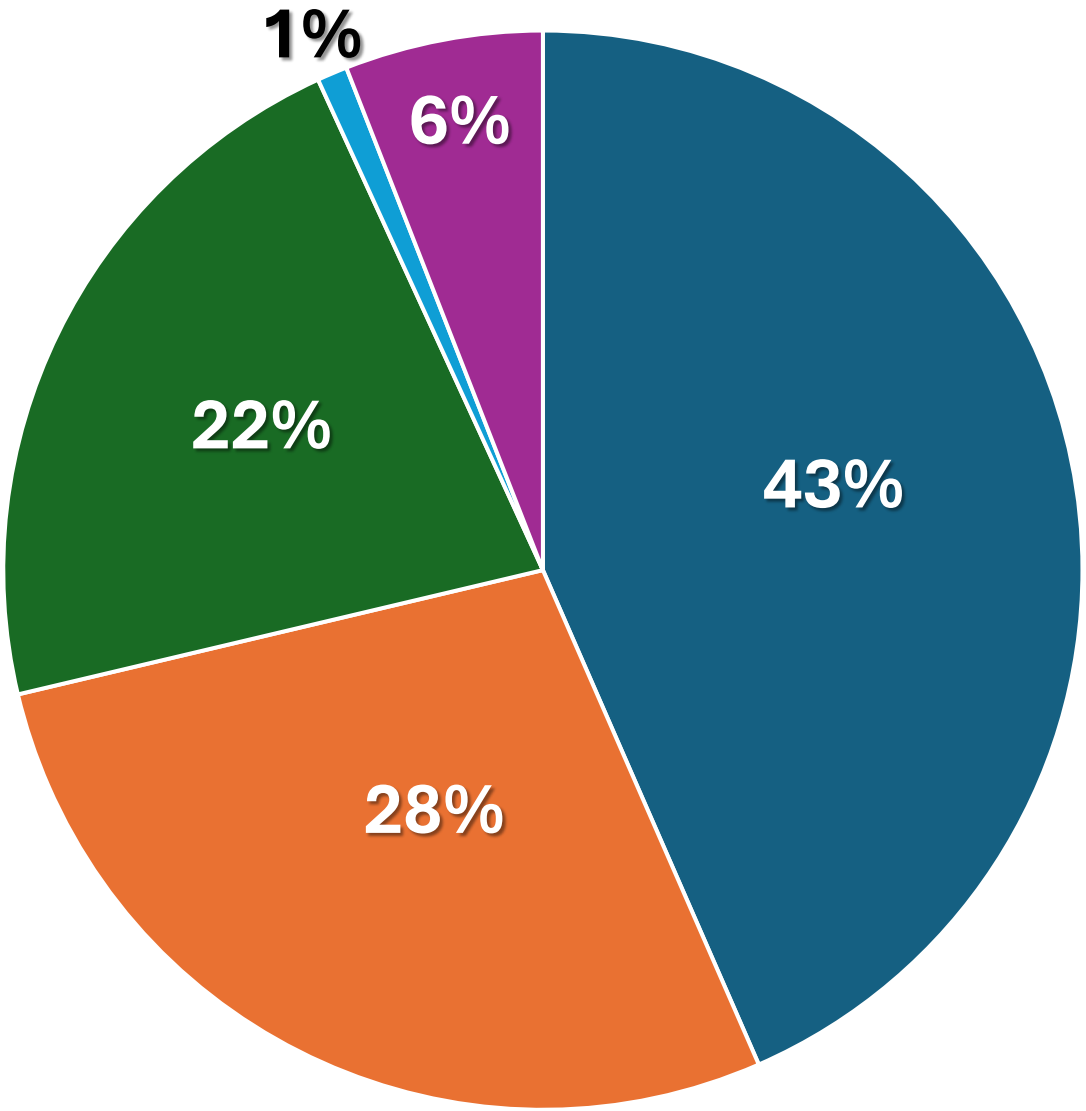
Howard County
Public School System

Survey Demographic Overview

Total Survey Responses: 9,325

- English: 9,247
- Spanish: 39
- Korean: 28
- Chinese: 11

Survey Demographic Overview



Parent/Guardian: 4,655

Student: 2,984

School-Based Staff: 2,342

Non-School-Based Staff: 97

Other: 636

***Other** = Family member of a student (not parent or guardian), 0ther community stakeholder, or recent HCPSS alumni (classes of 2010-2024)*

Student Personal Technology in Schools

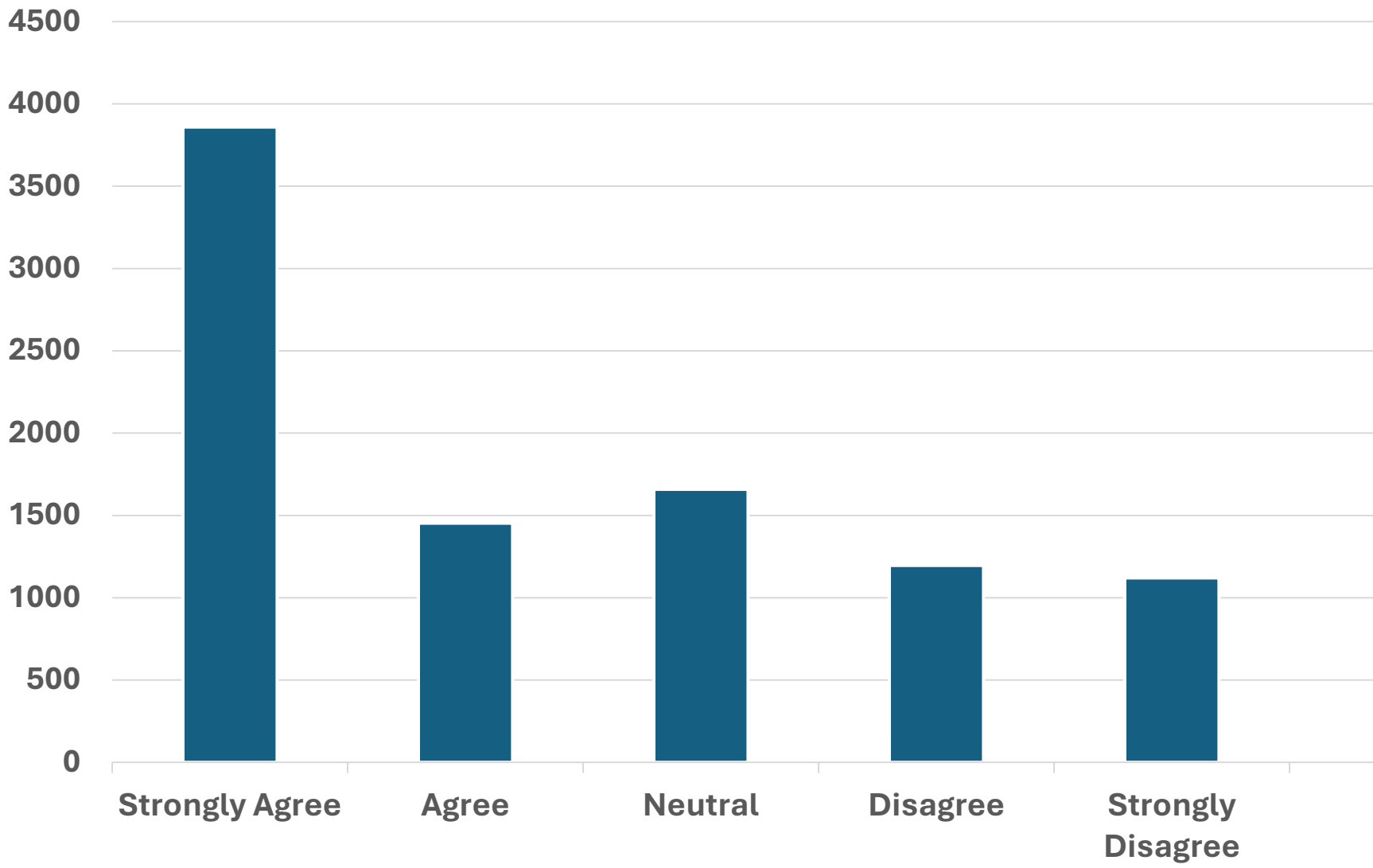
Survey Results

All Responses

Howard County Public School System

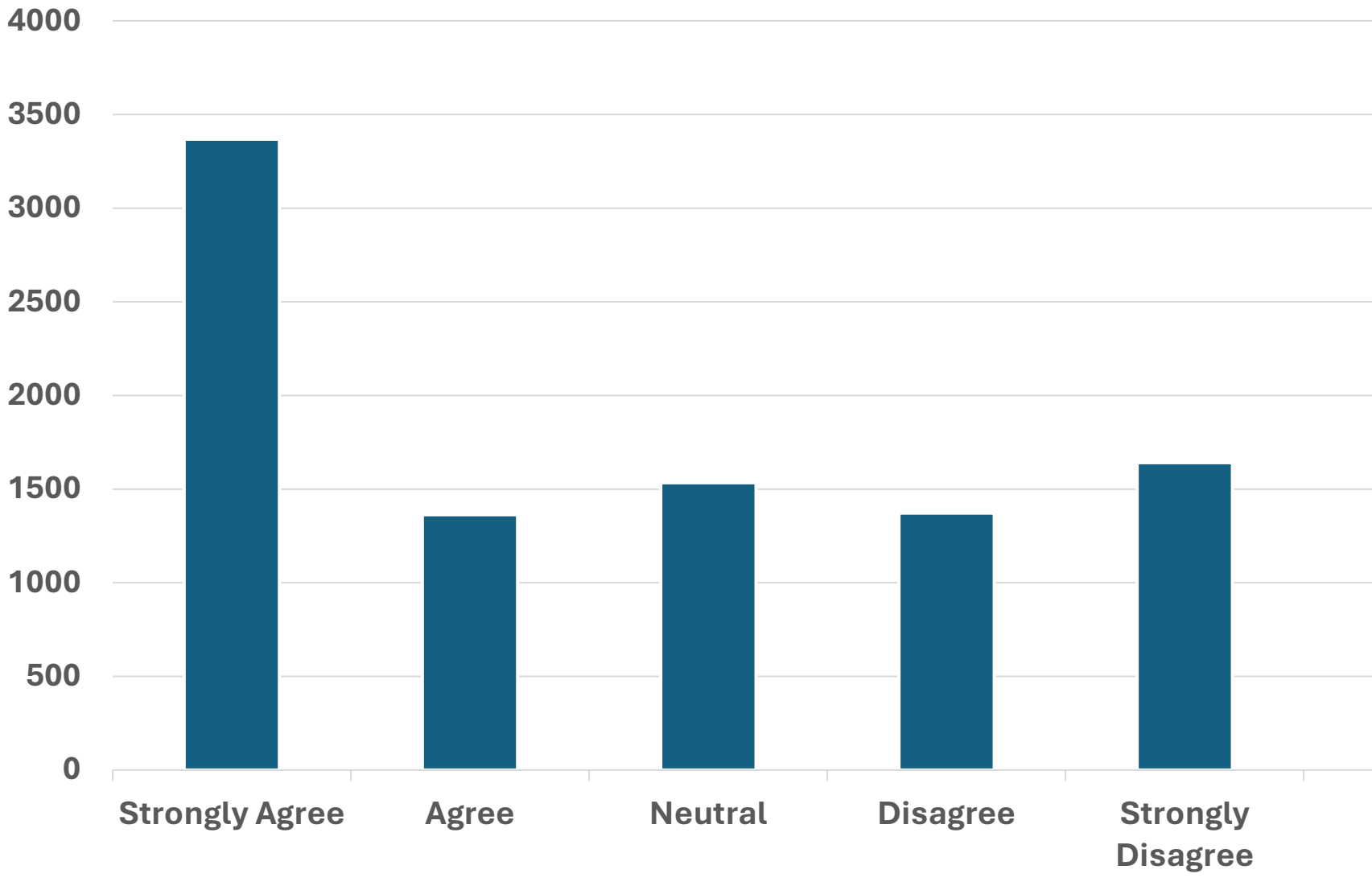
All Responses

Student personal technology use in school is a problem



All Responses

Students should have access to personal technology in schools for reasons of safety.



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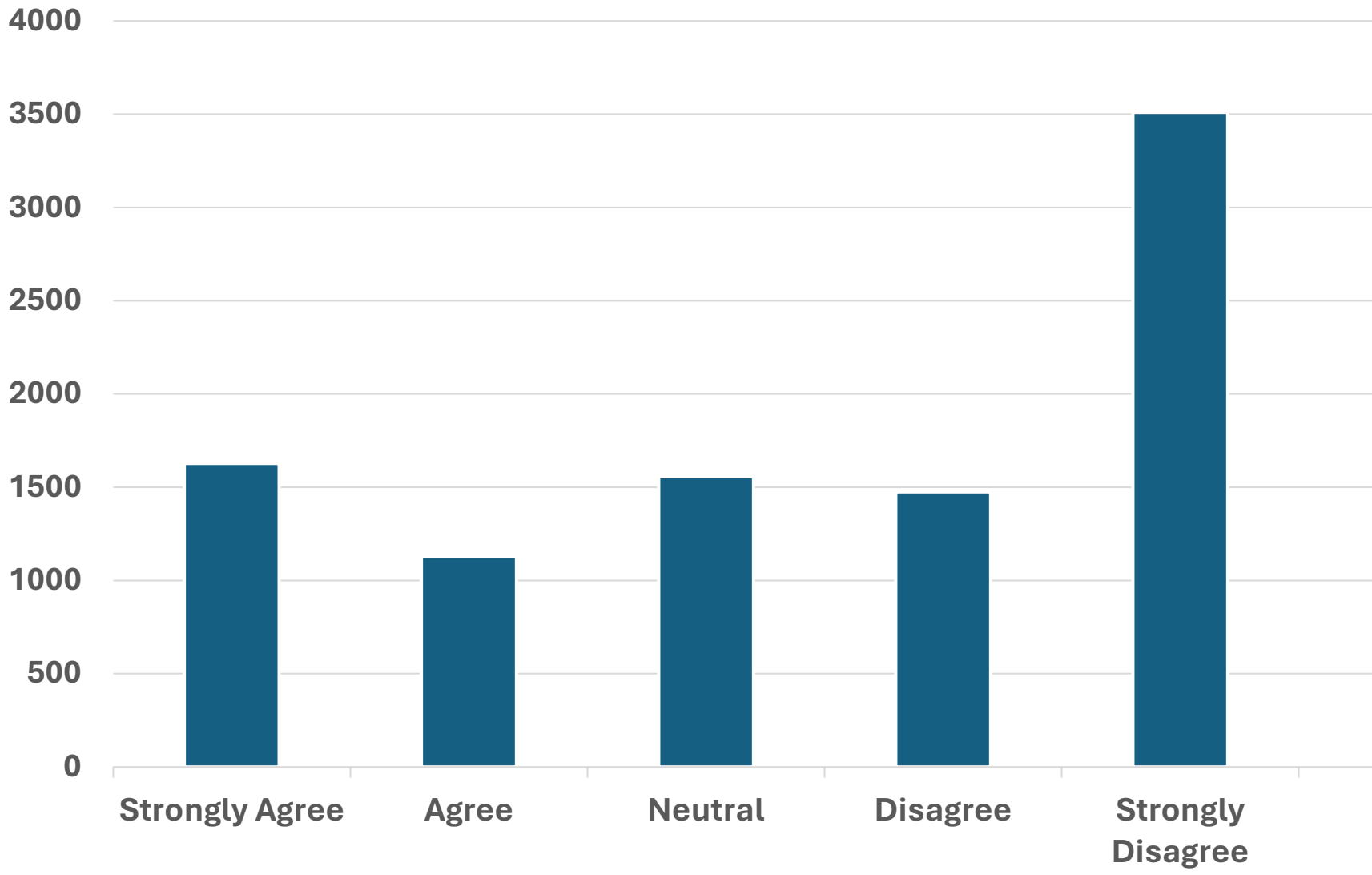

All Responses

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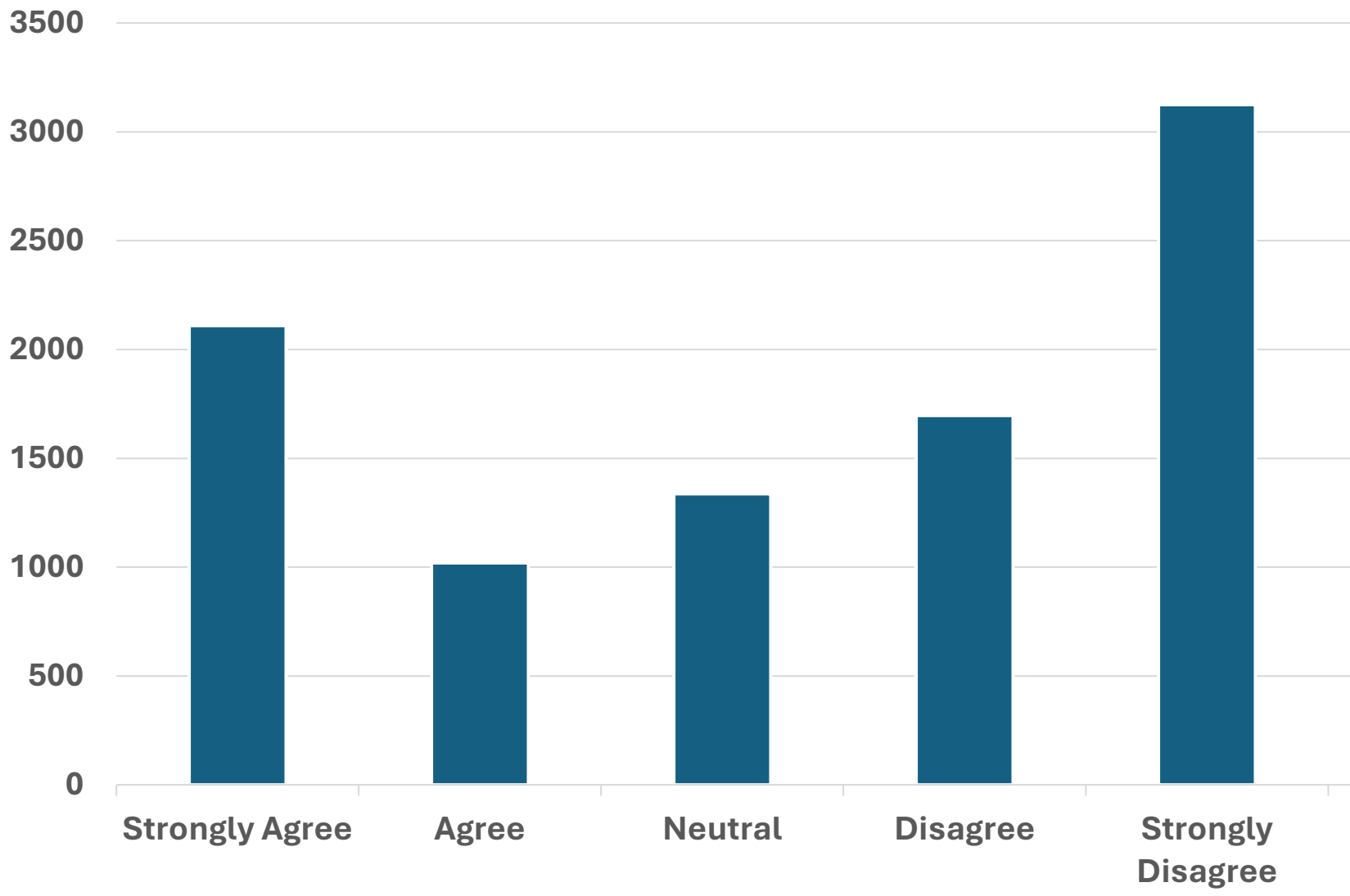

All Responses

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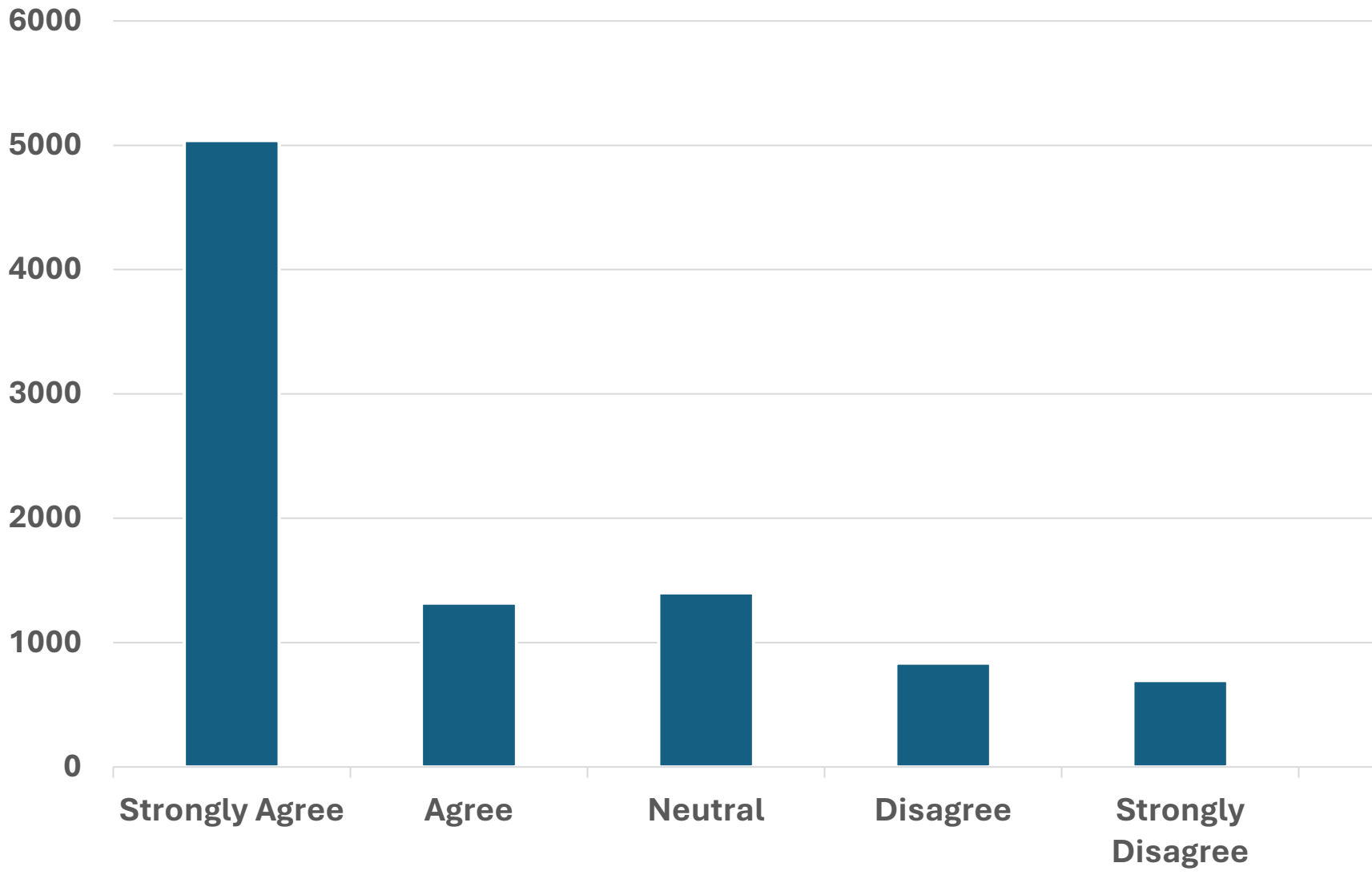

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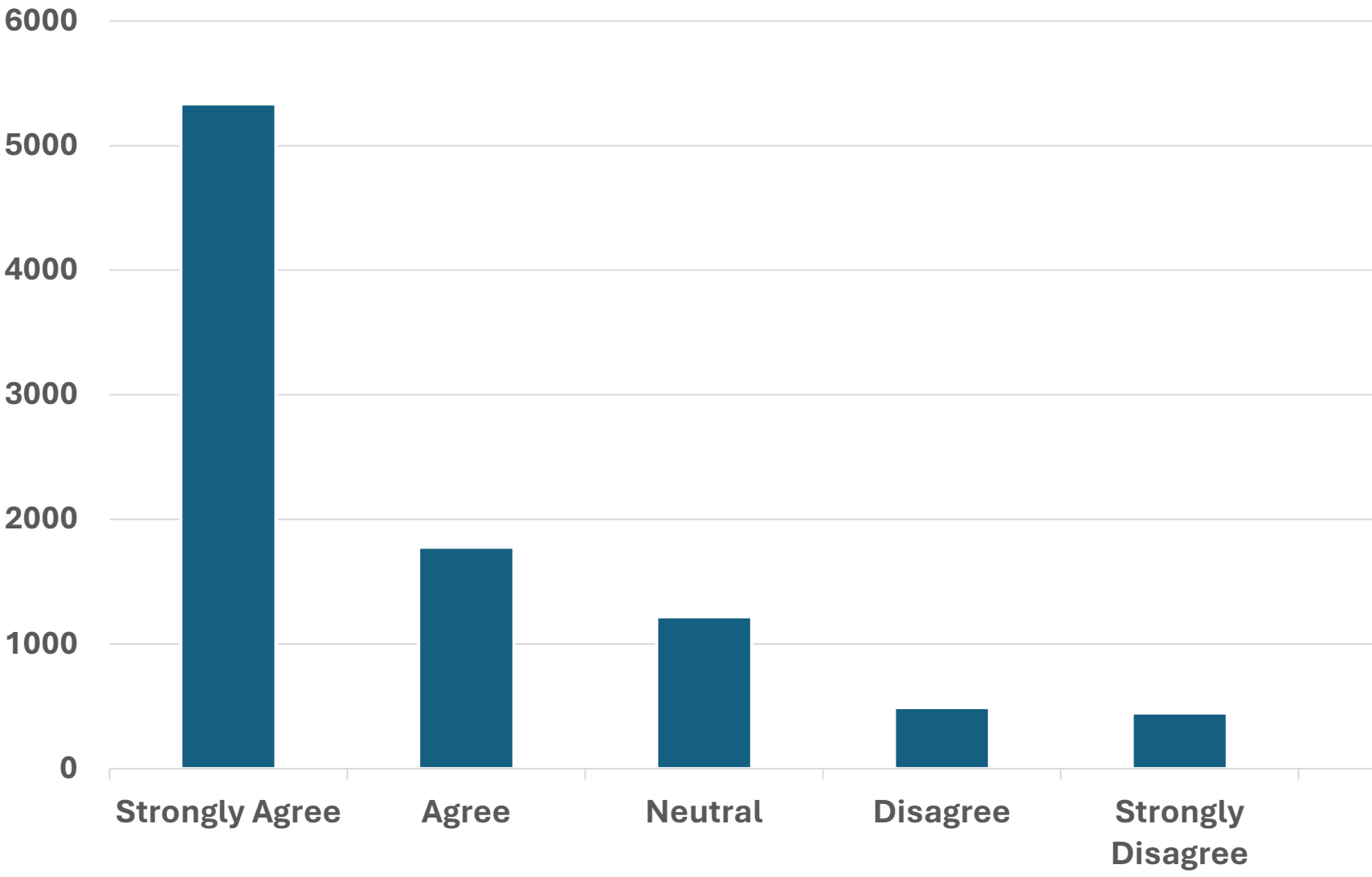

All Responses

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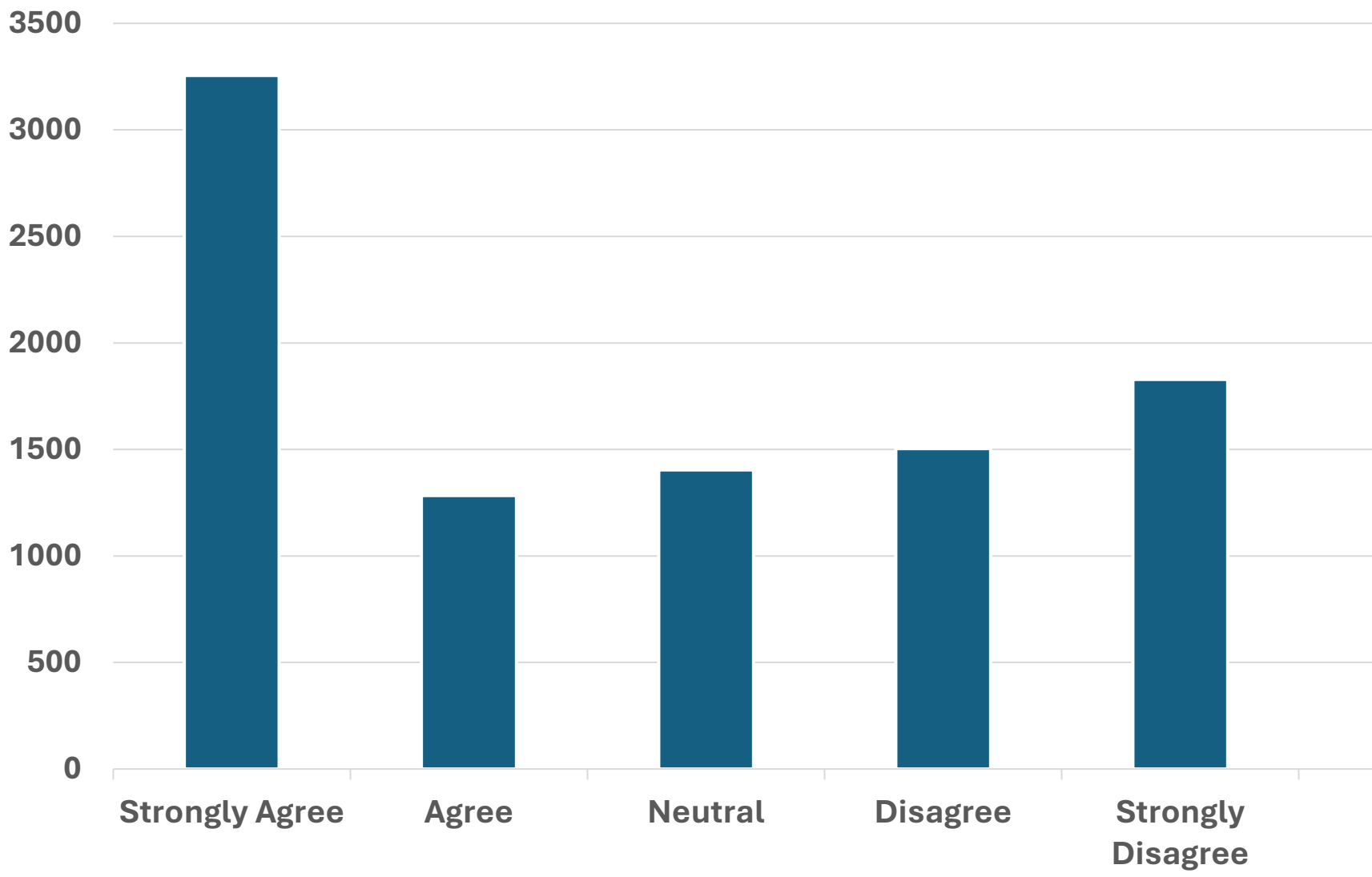
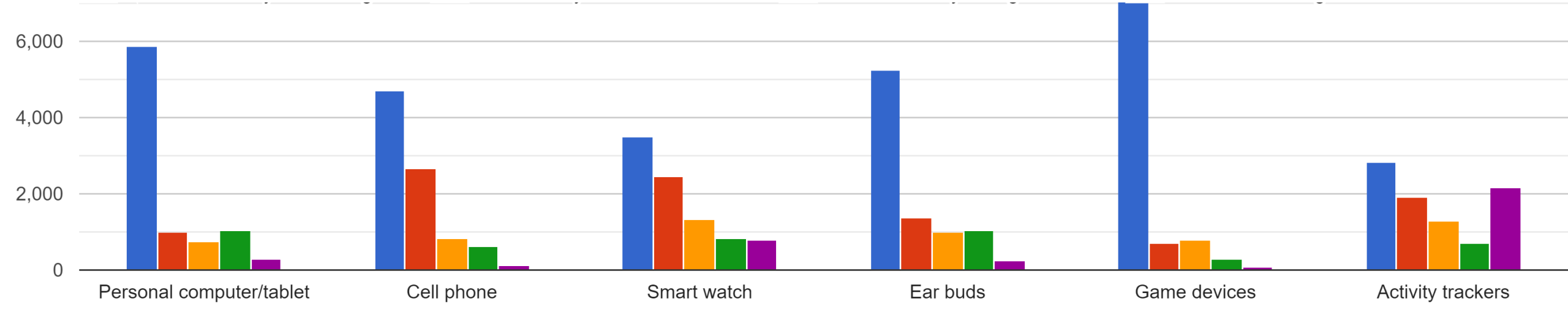


All Responses

Elementary Student Access to Personal Technology



No Access at any time during the school day

Able to carry but not use during the school day

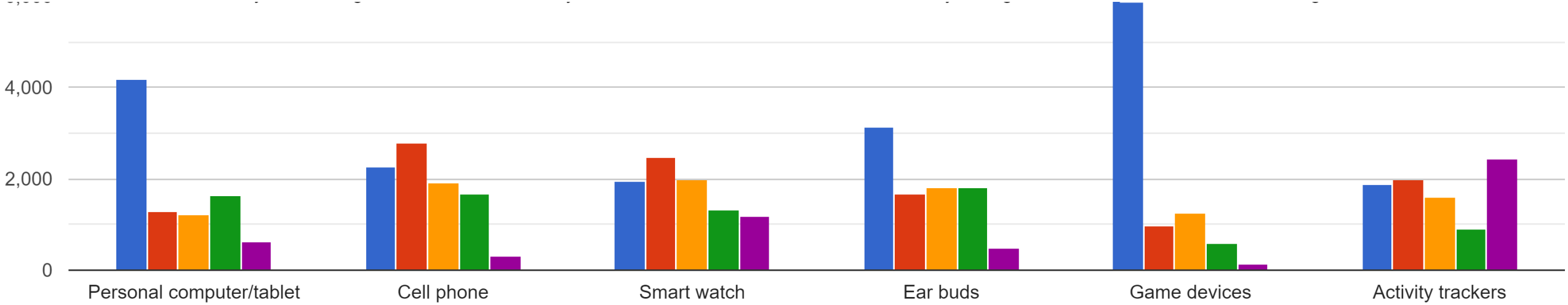
Able to use only during non-instructional times (lunch, recess)

Able to use during non-instructional time & when permitted by a staff member

Able to use at all times of the school day

All Responses

Middle Student Access to Personal Technology



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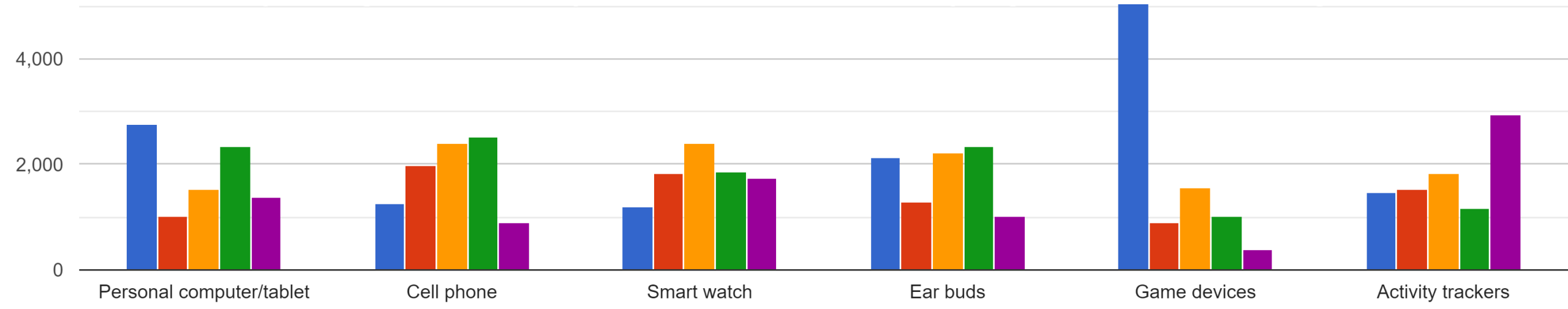
All Responses

High Student Access to Personal Technology



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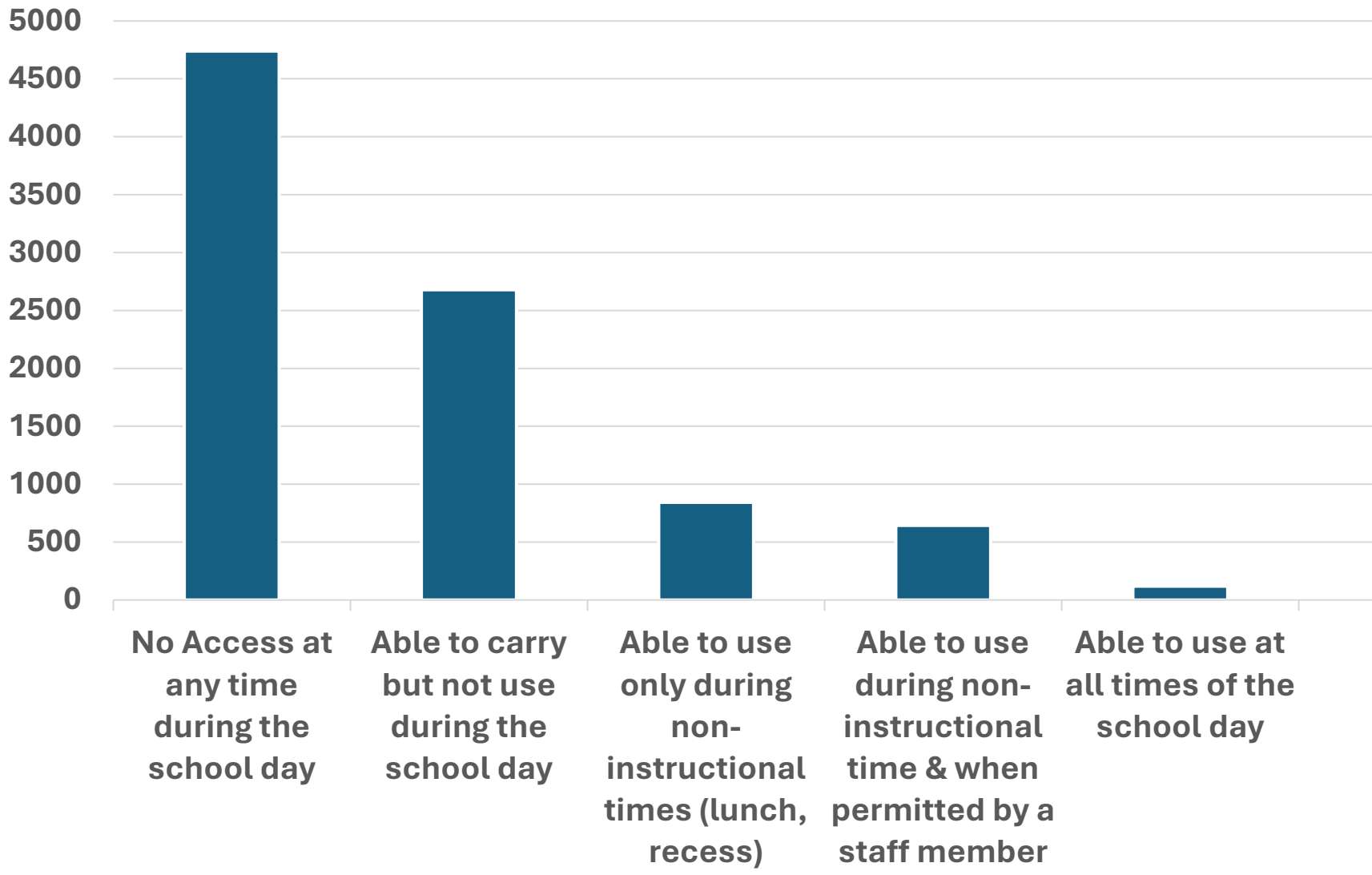
All Responses

Elementary Student Access to Personal Cell Phone



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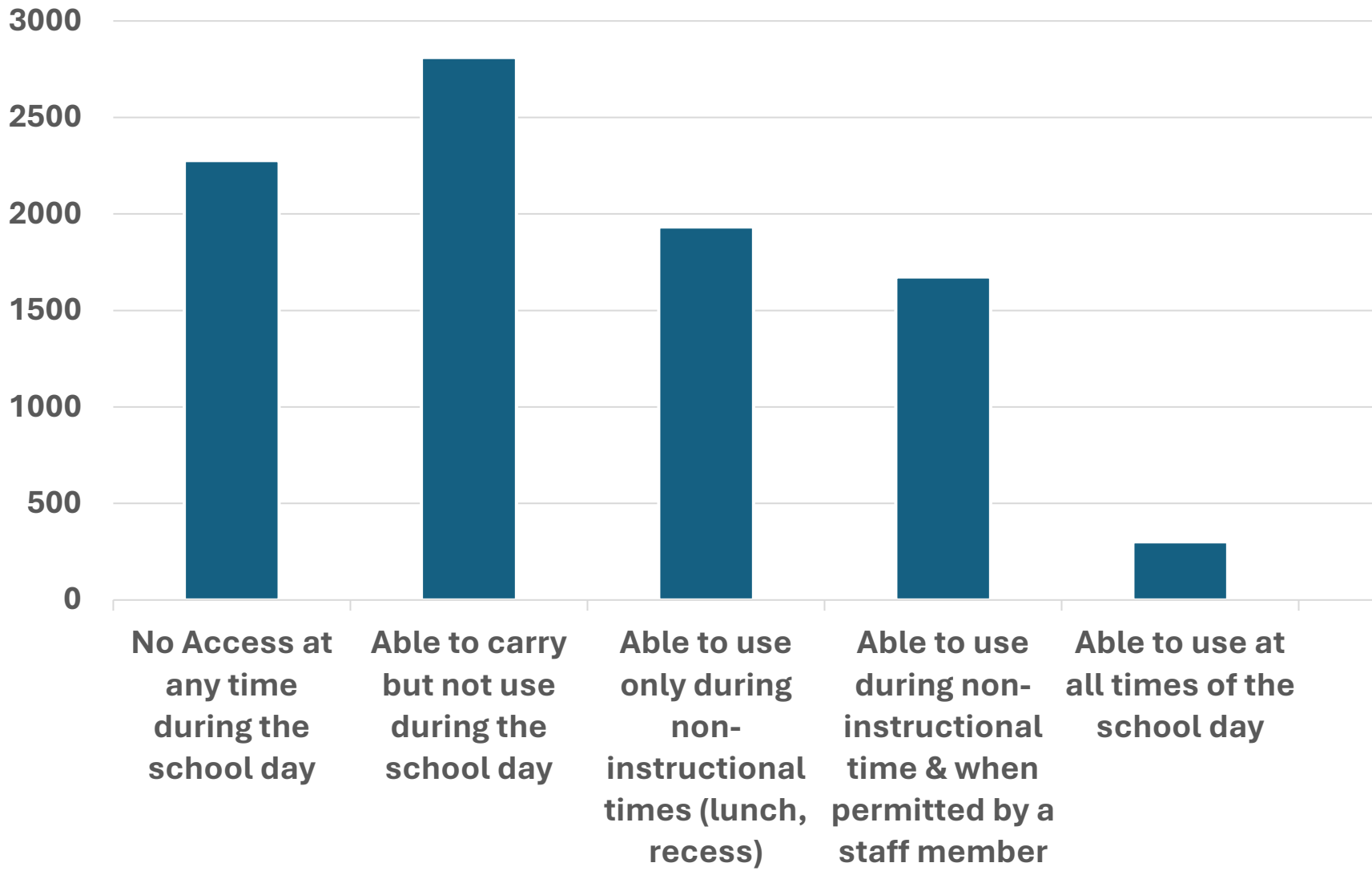

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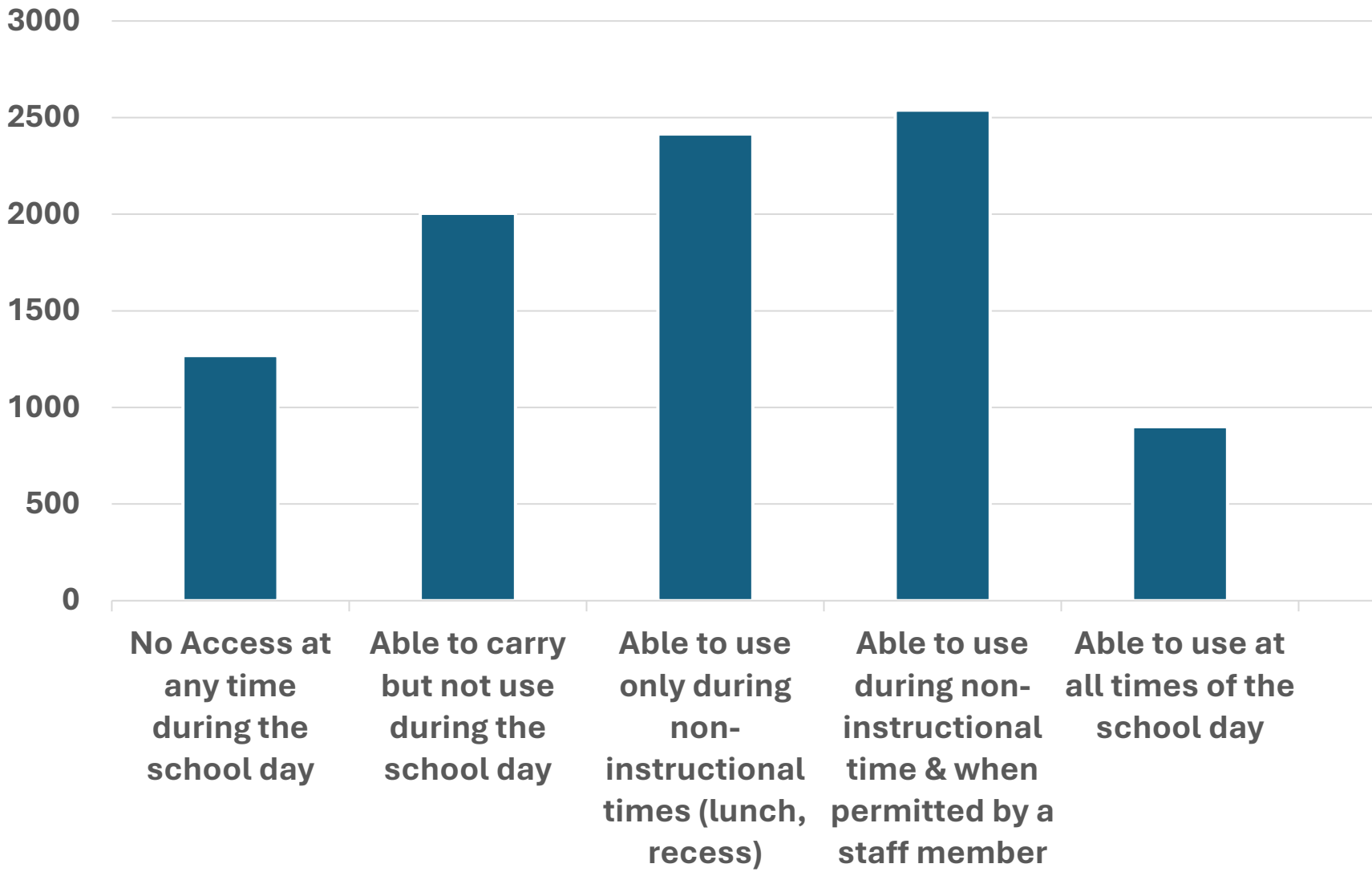

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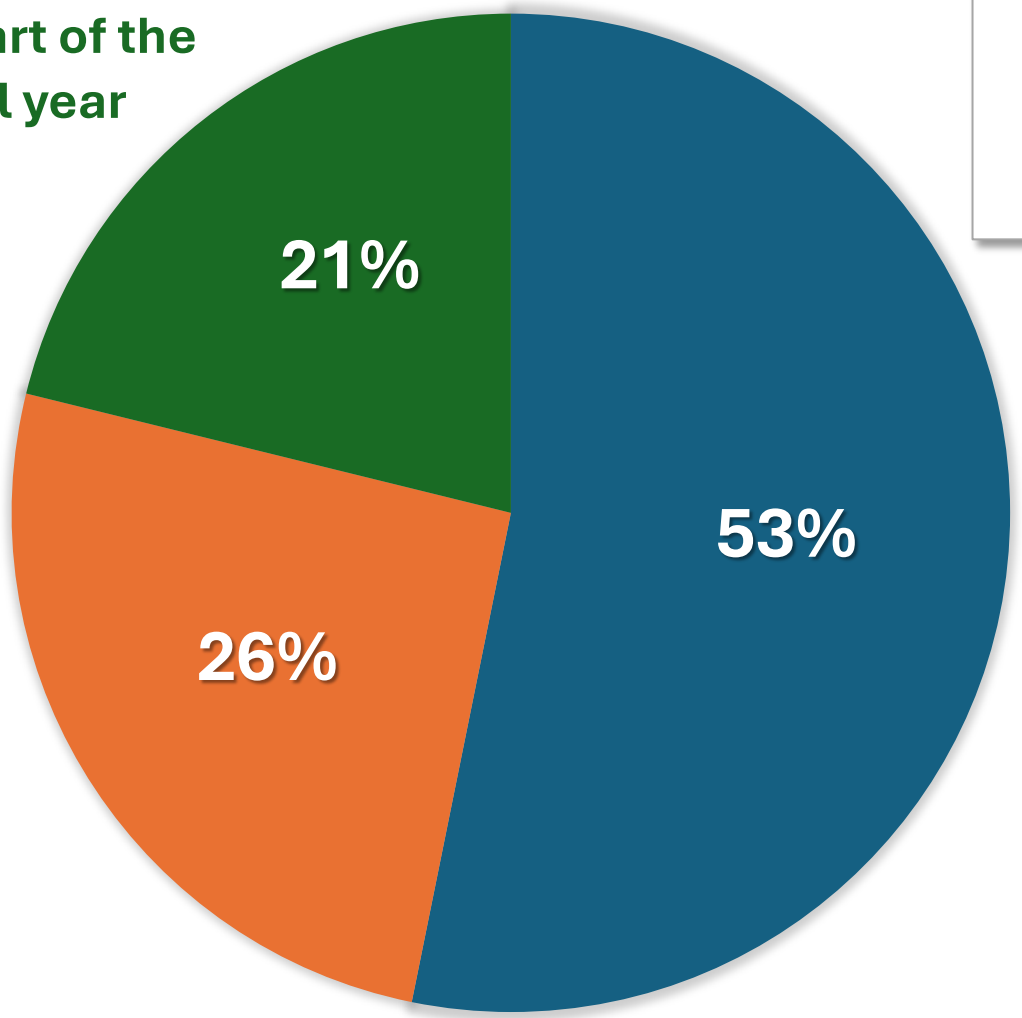
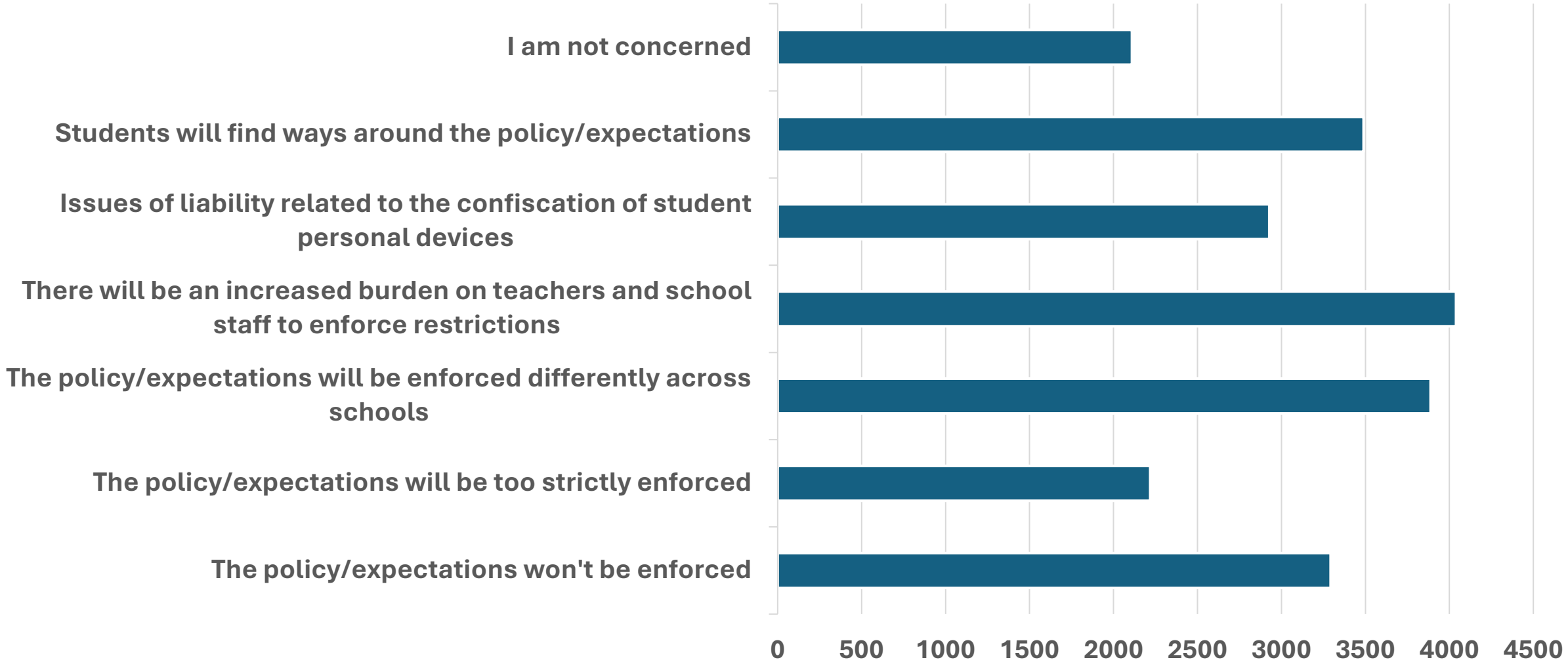


All Responses

I am Concerned About:



Student Personal Technology in Schools

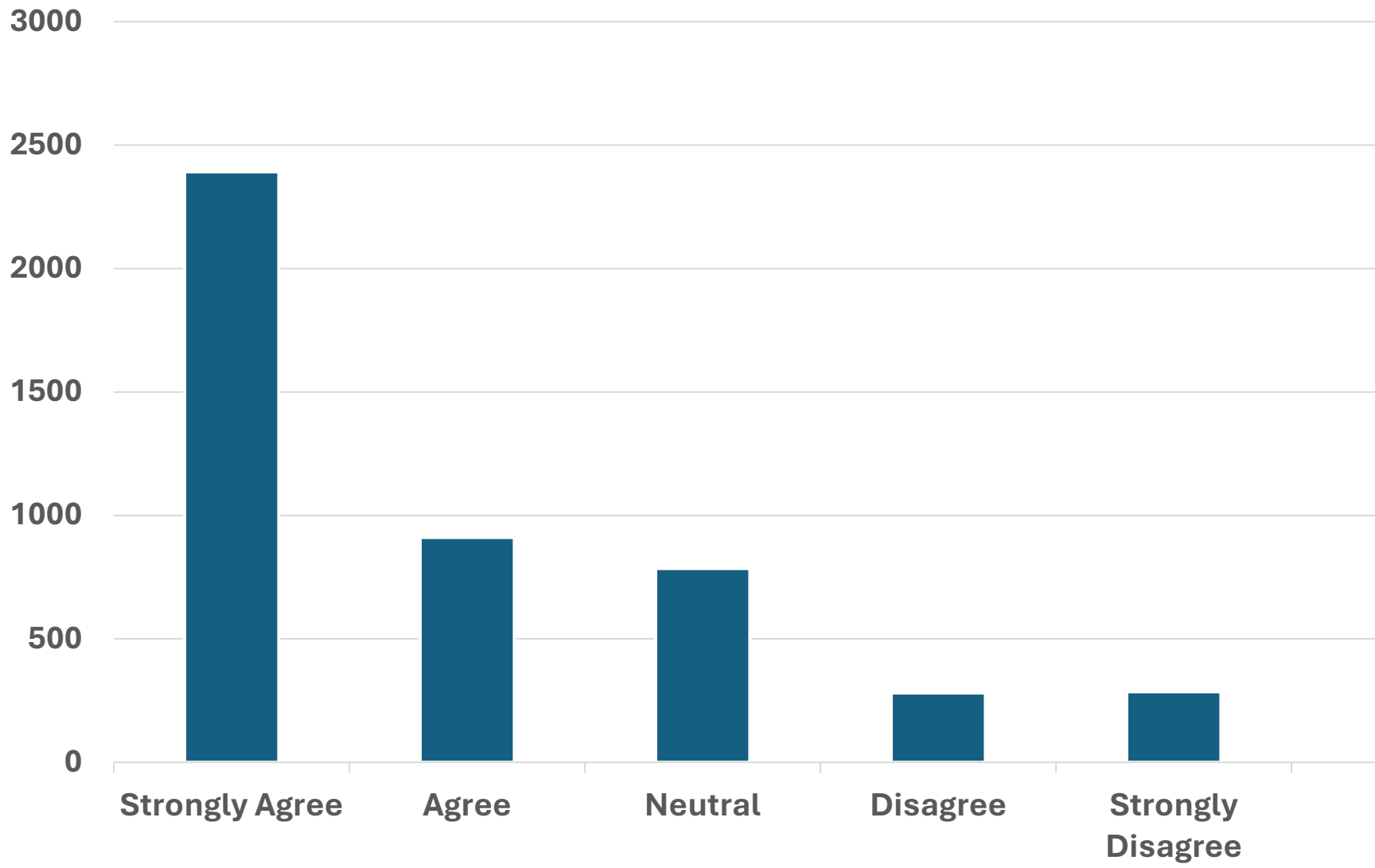
Survey Results

Parents/Guardians

Howard County Public School System

Parents/Guardians

Student personal technology use in school is a problem



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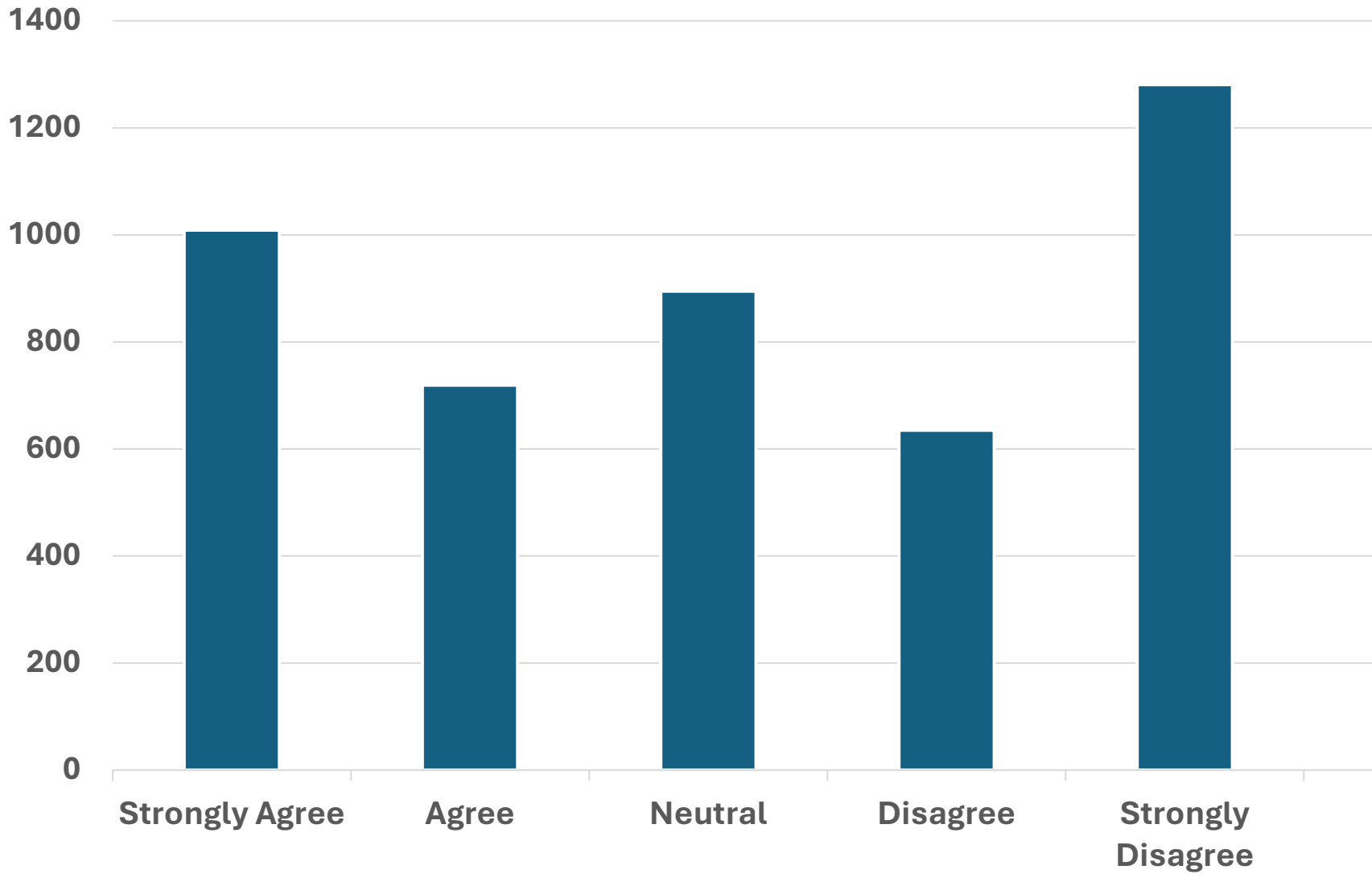

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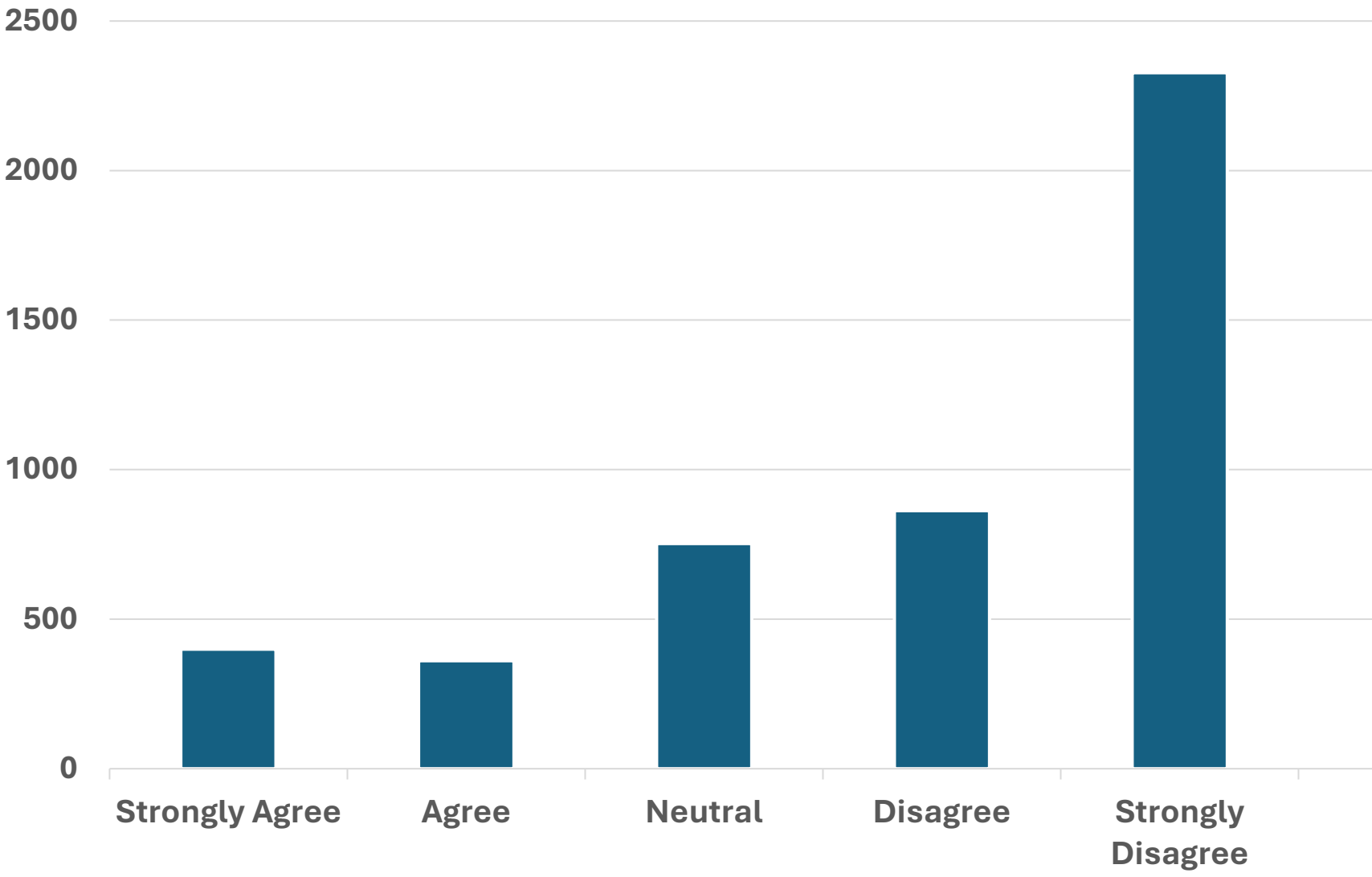

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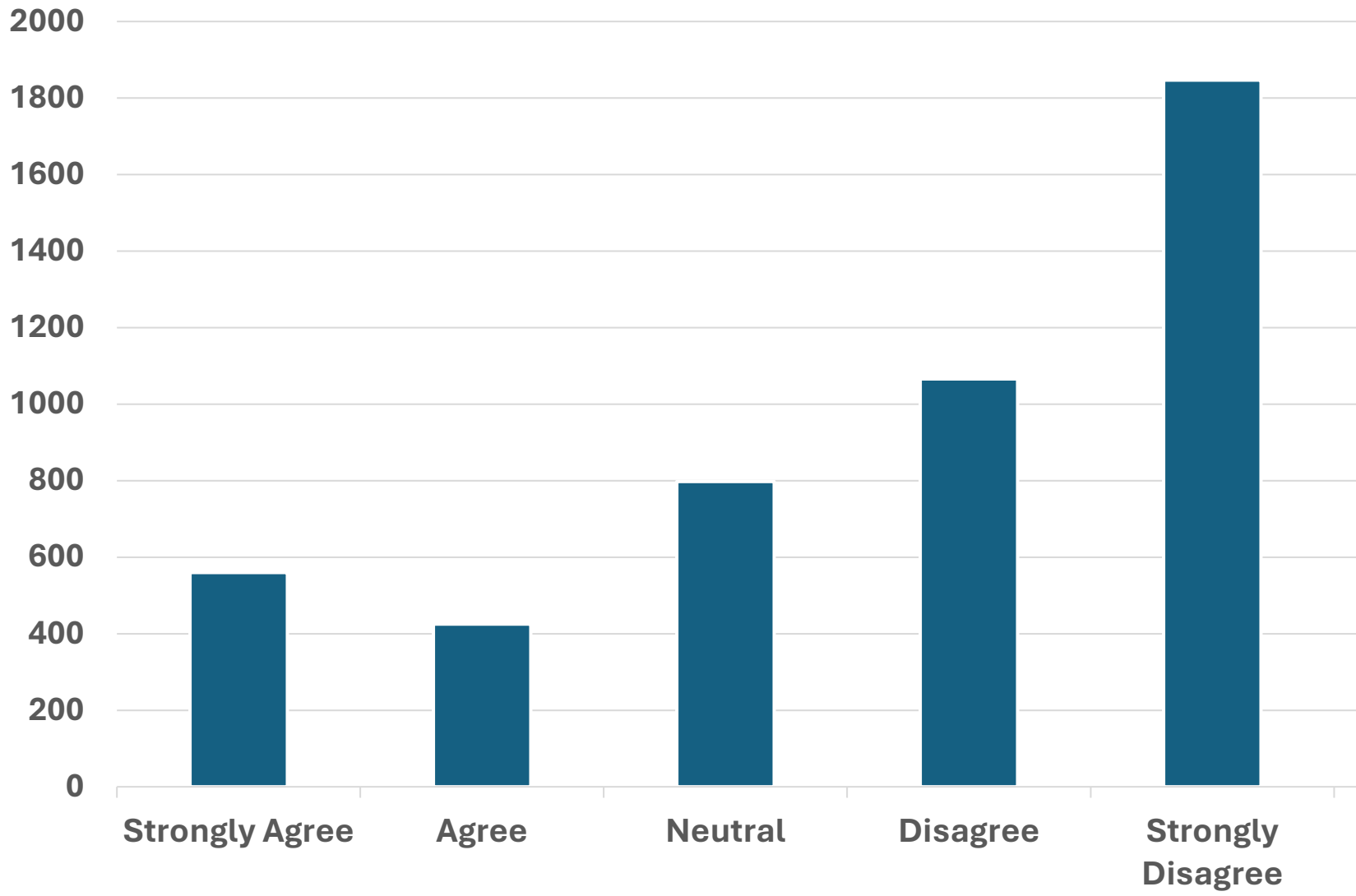

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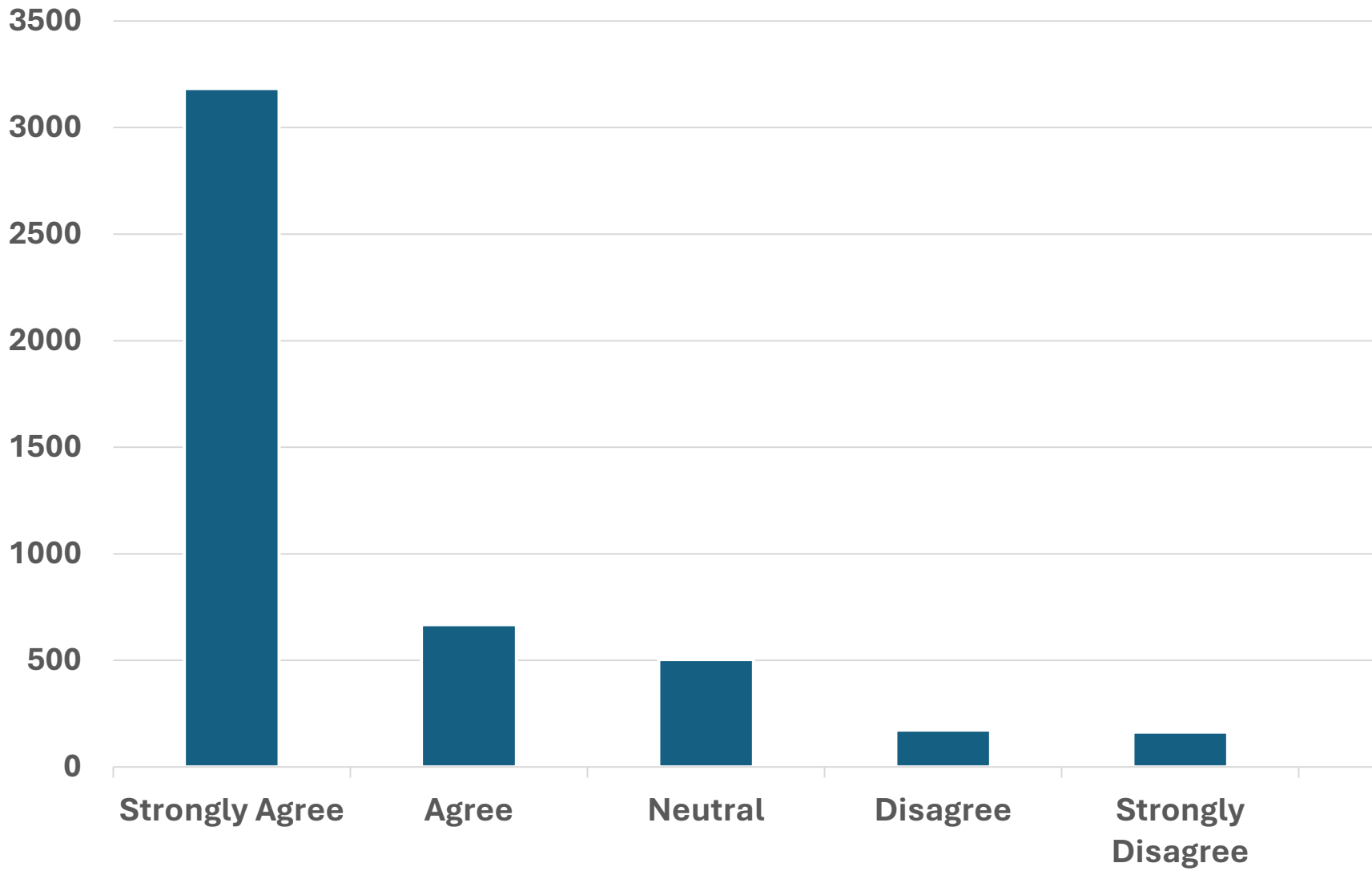

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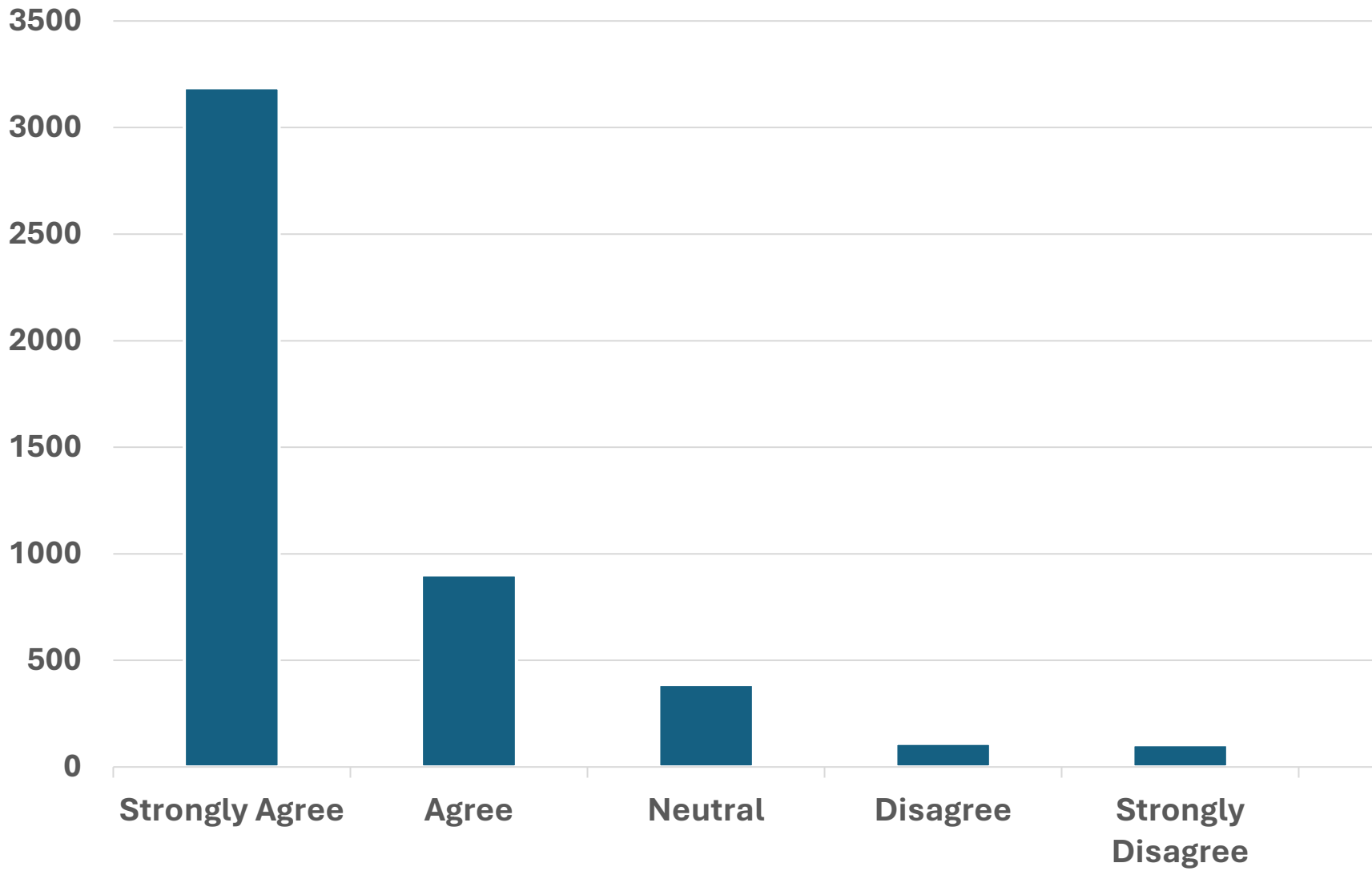

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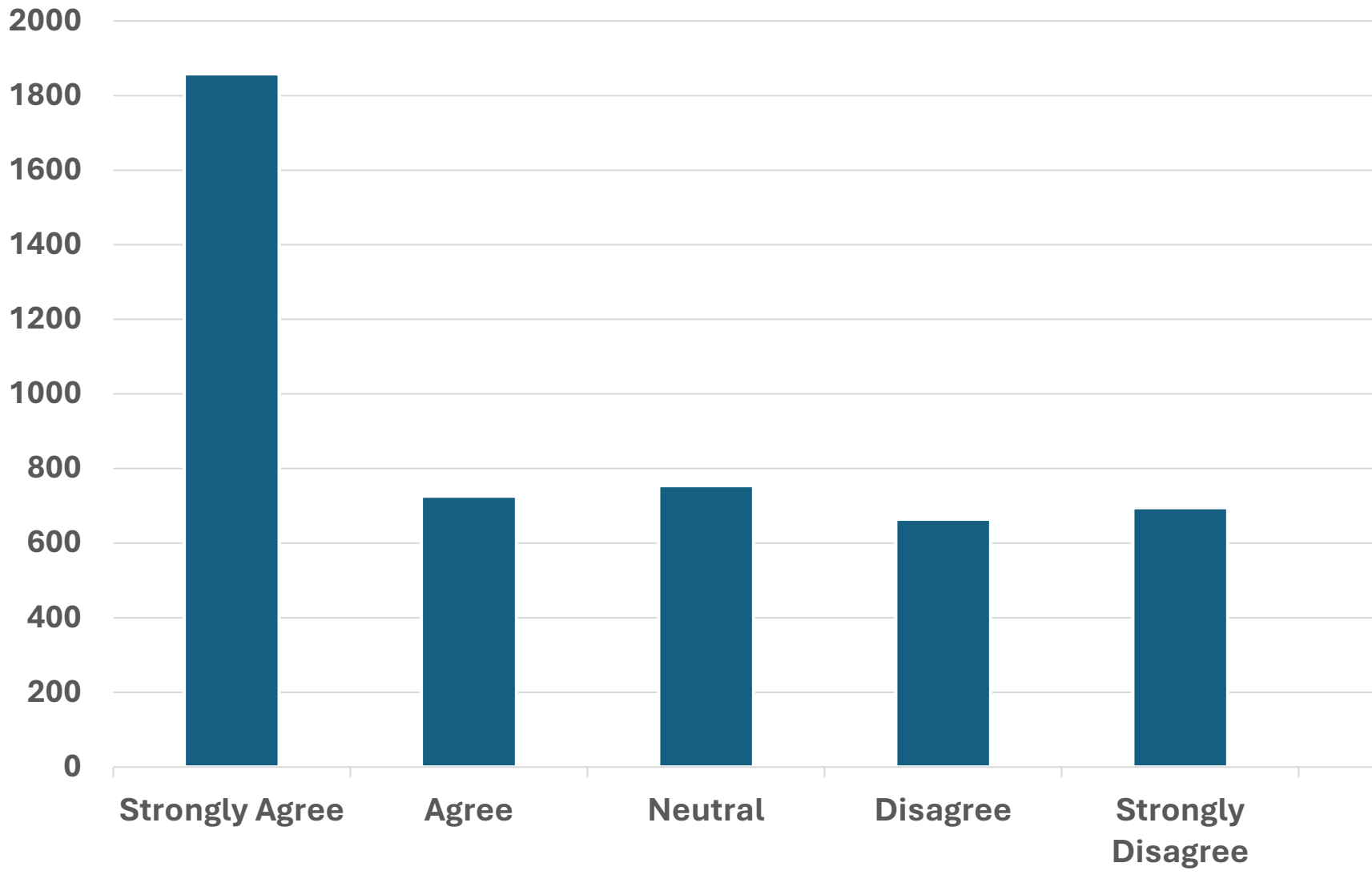
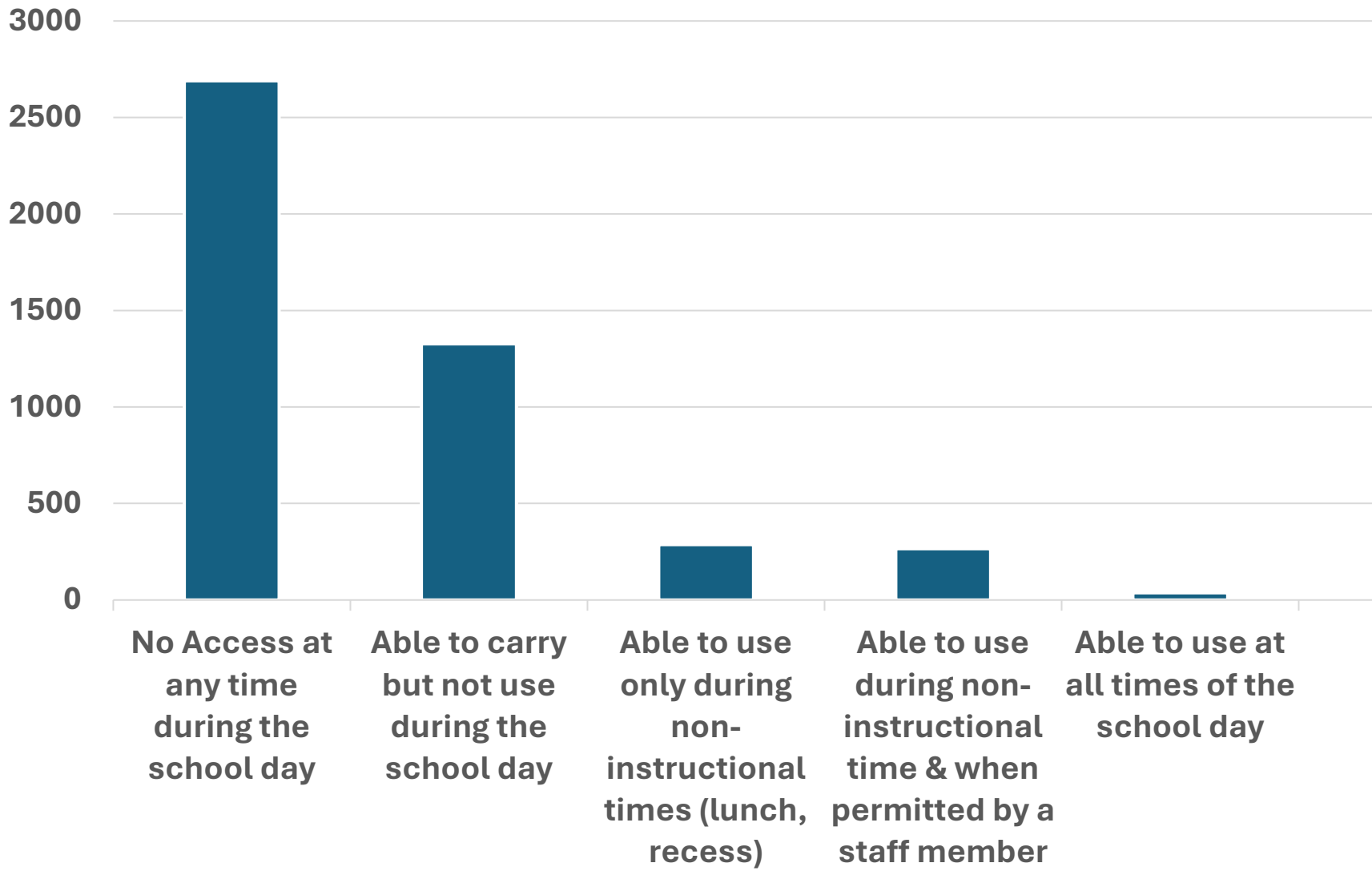


Parents/Guardians

Elementary Student Access to Personal Cell Phone



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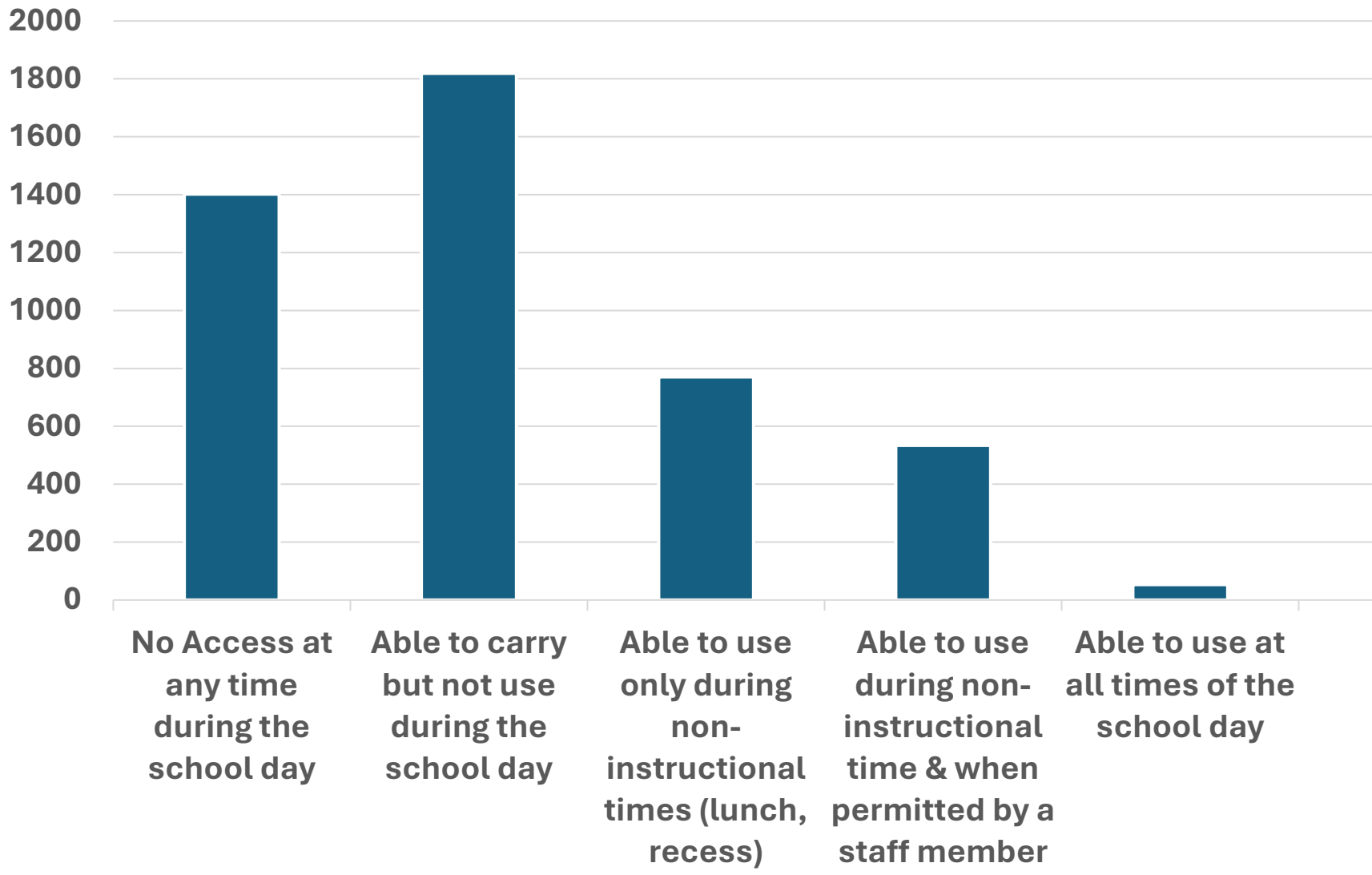

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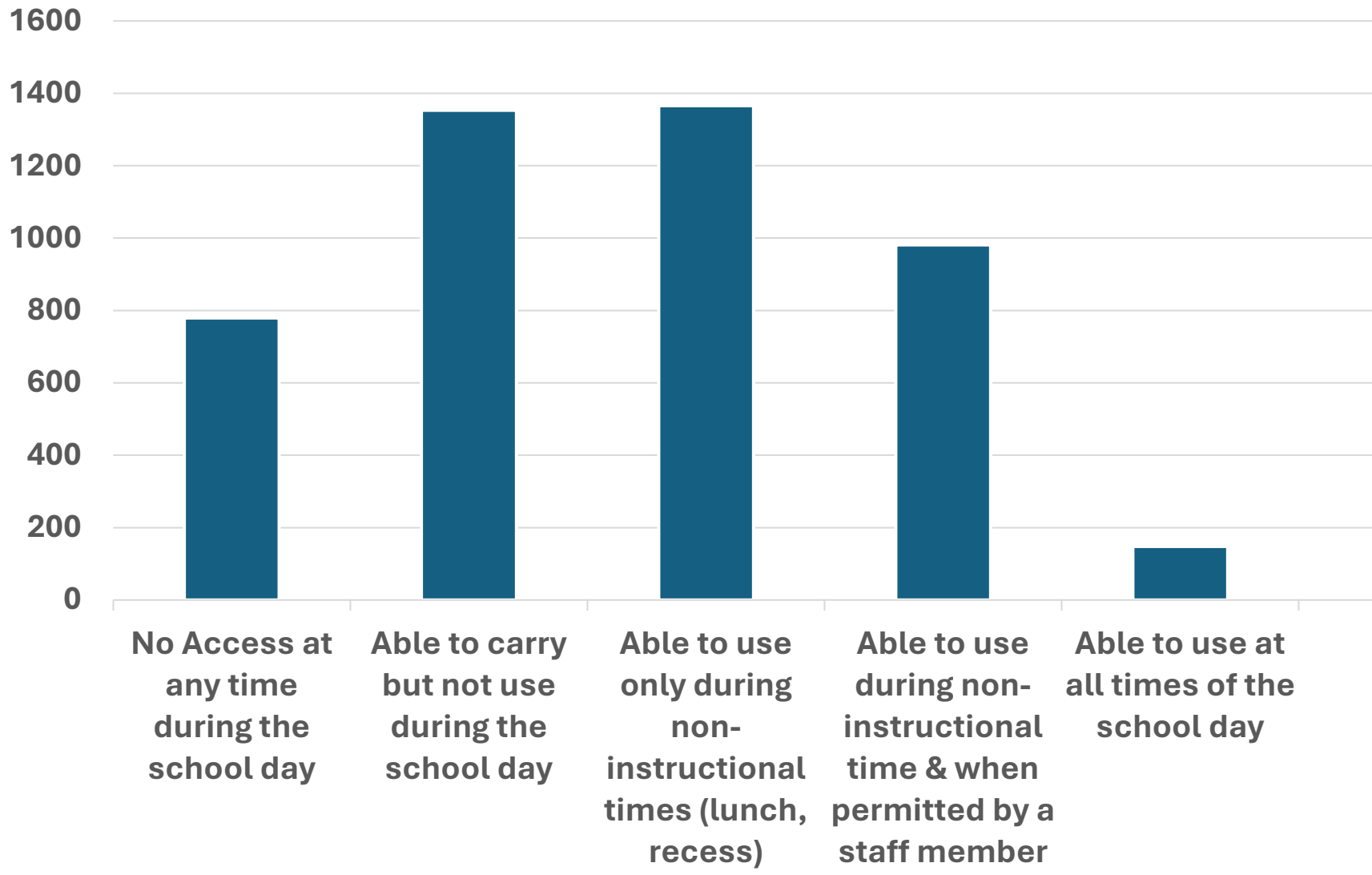

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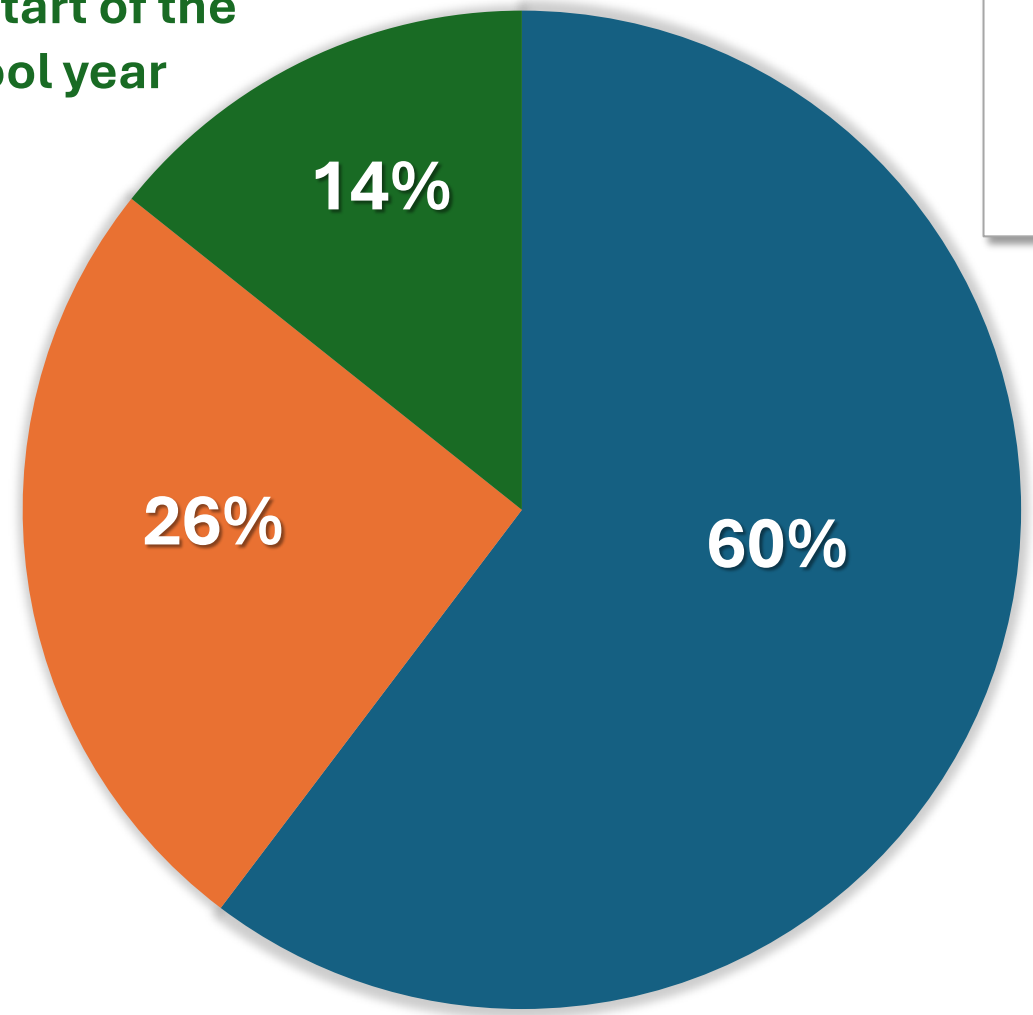

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Parents/Guardians

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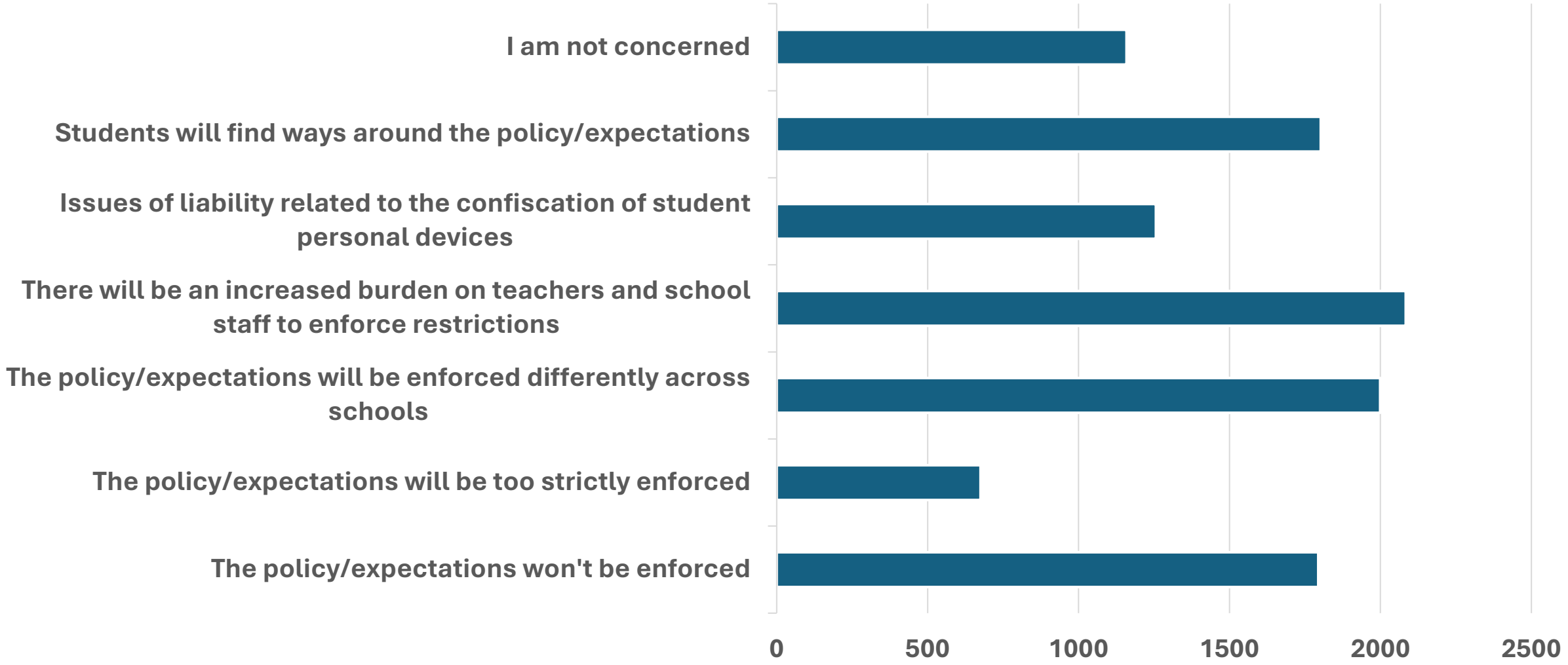


Student Personal Technology in Schools

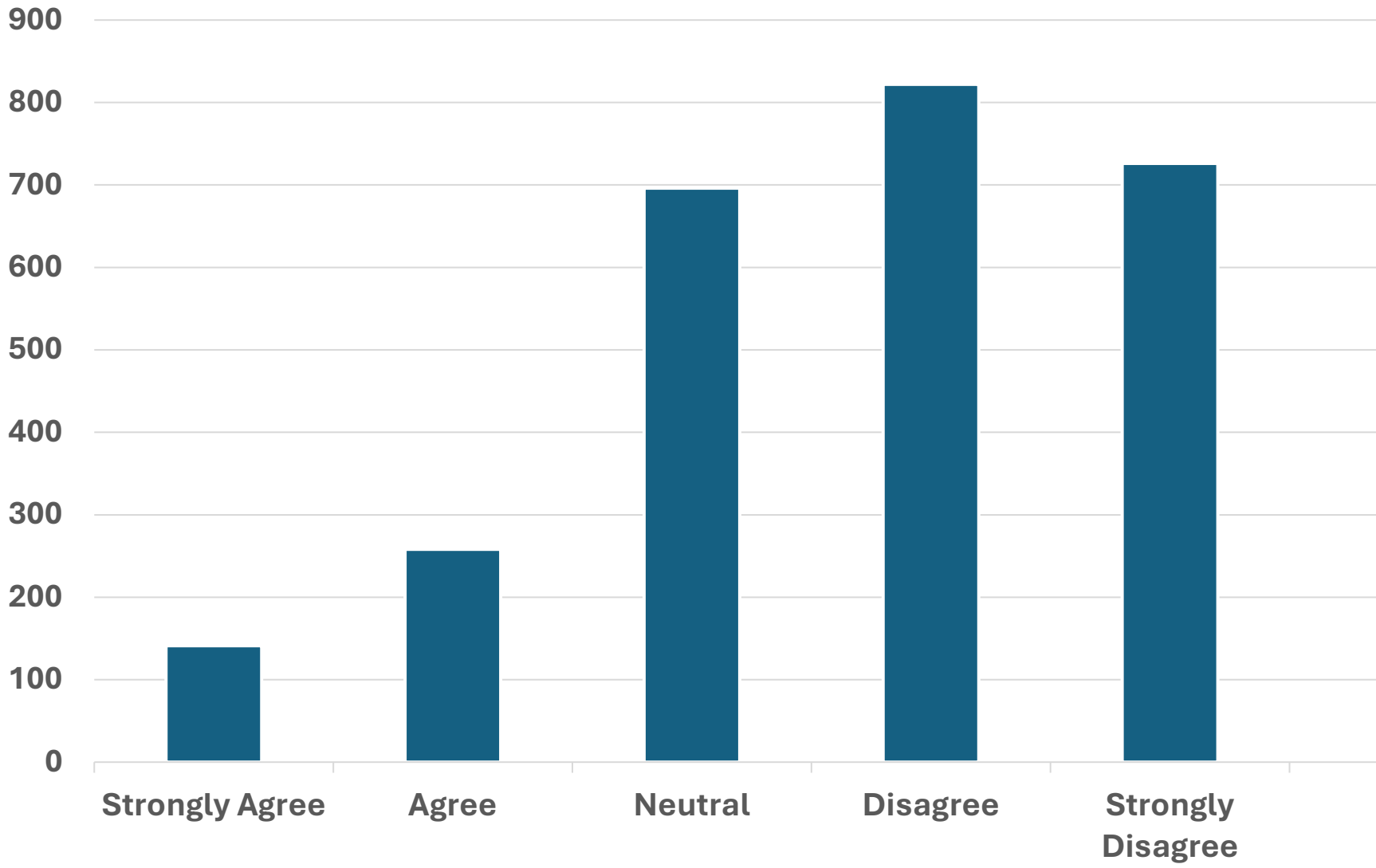
Survey Results

Students

Howard County Public School System

Students

Student personal technology use in school is a problem



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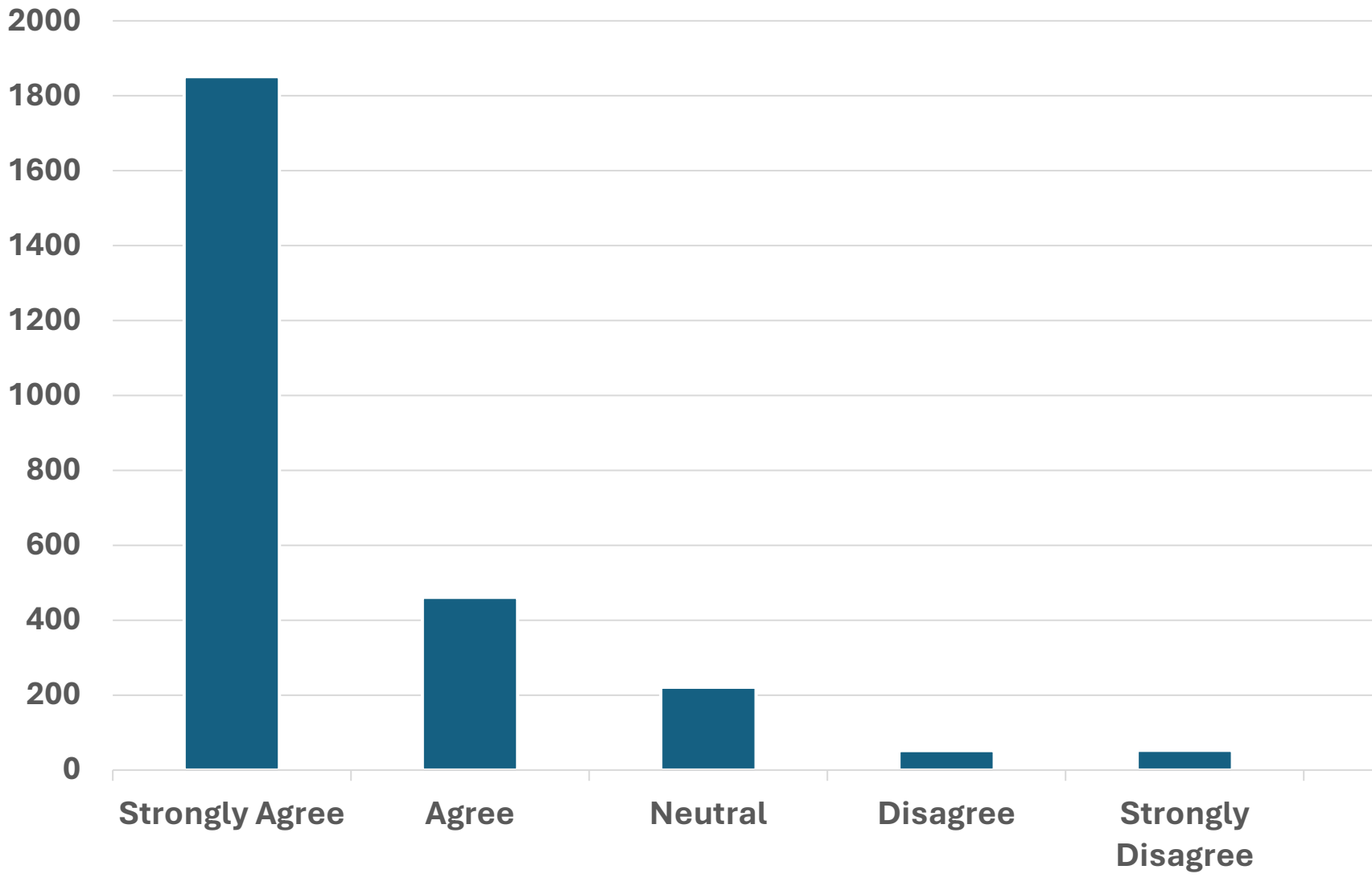

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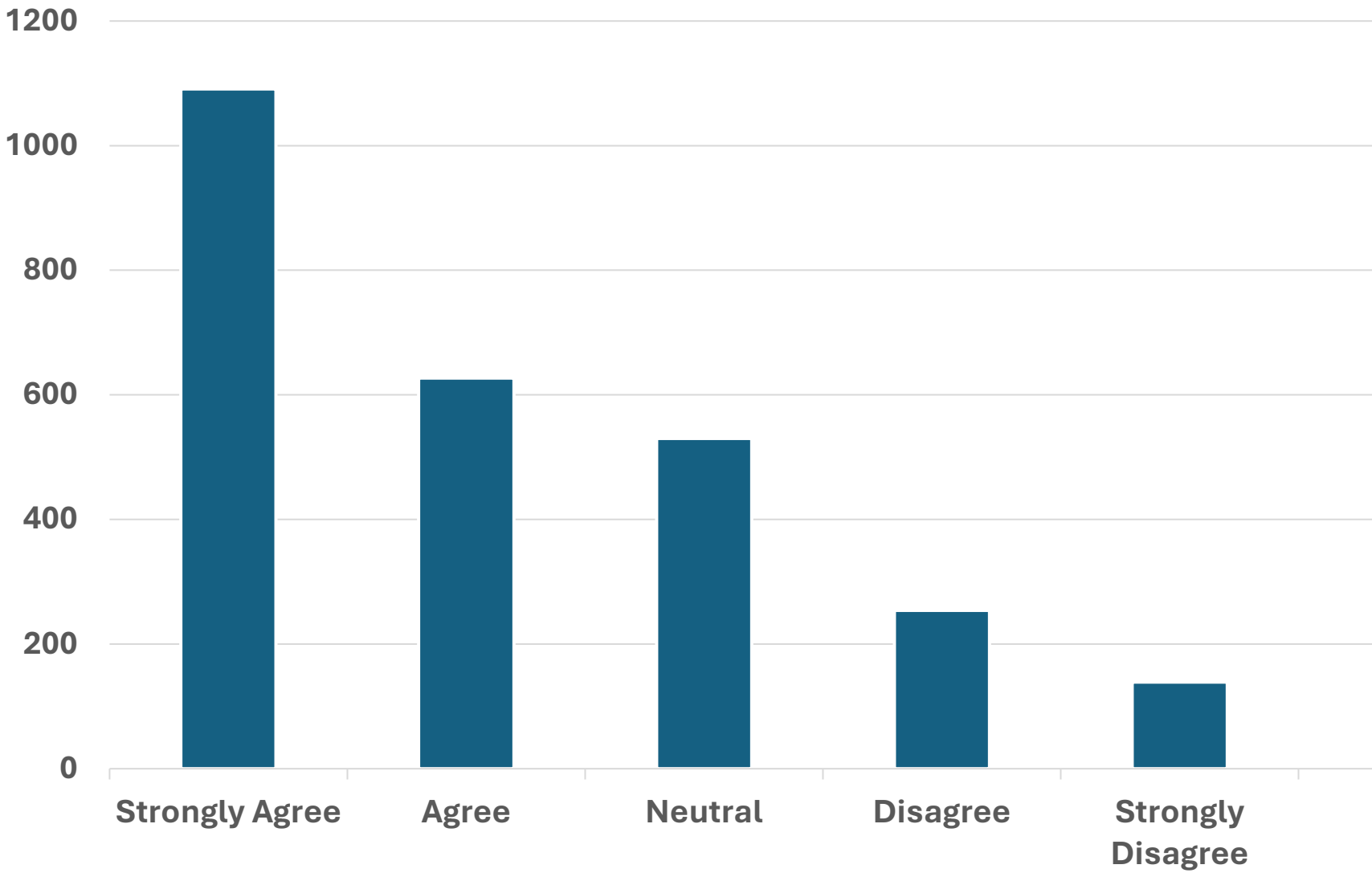

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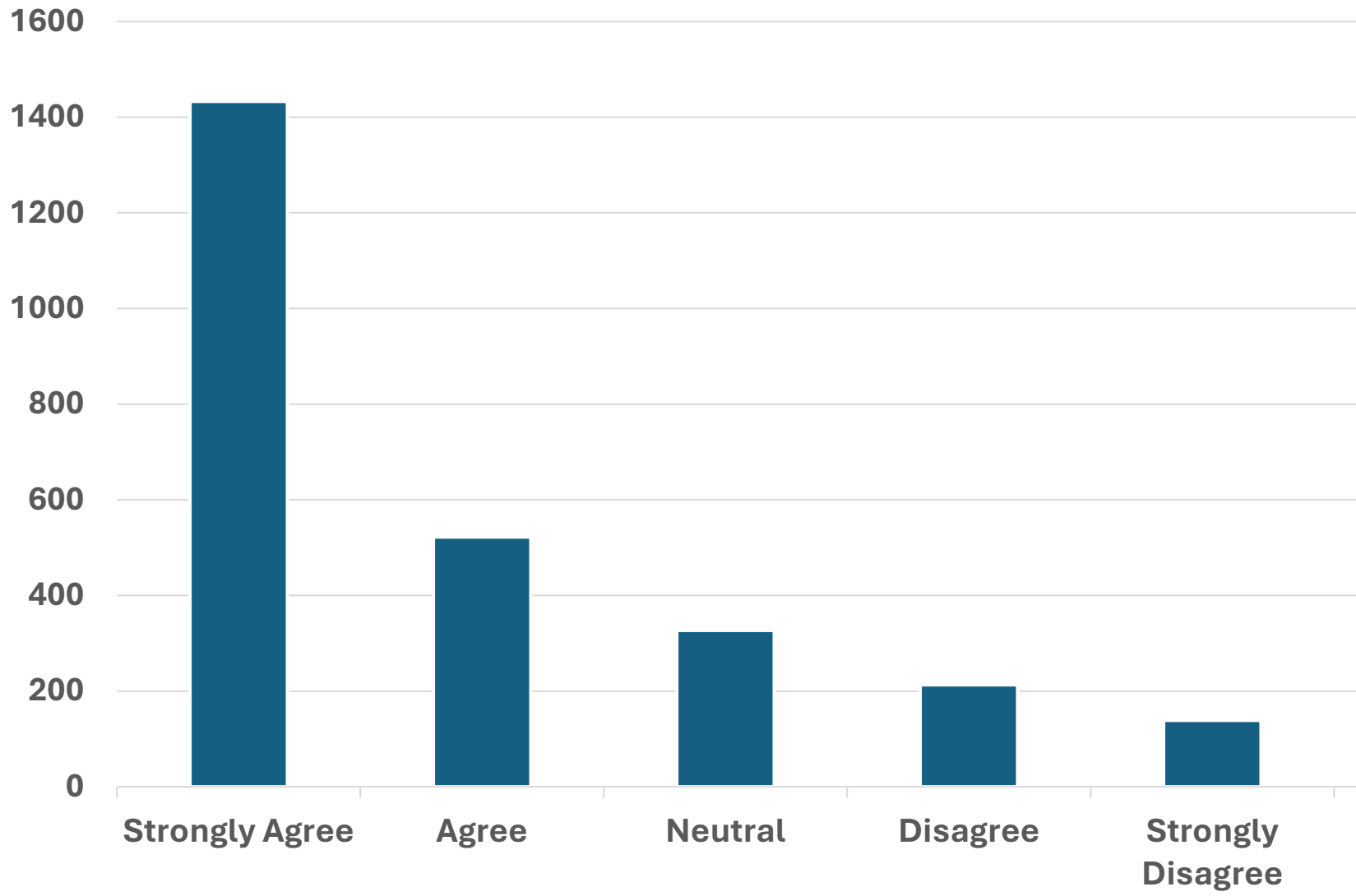

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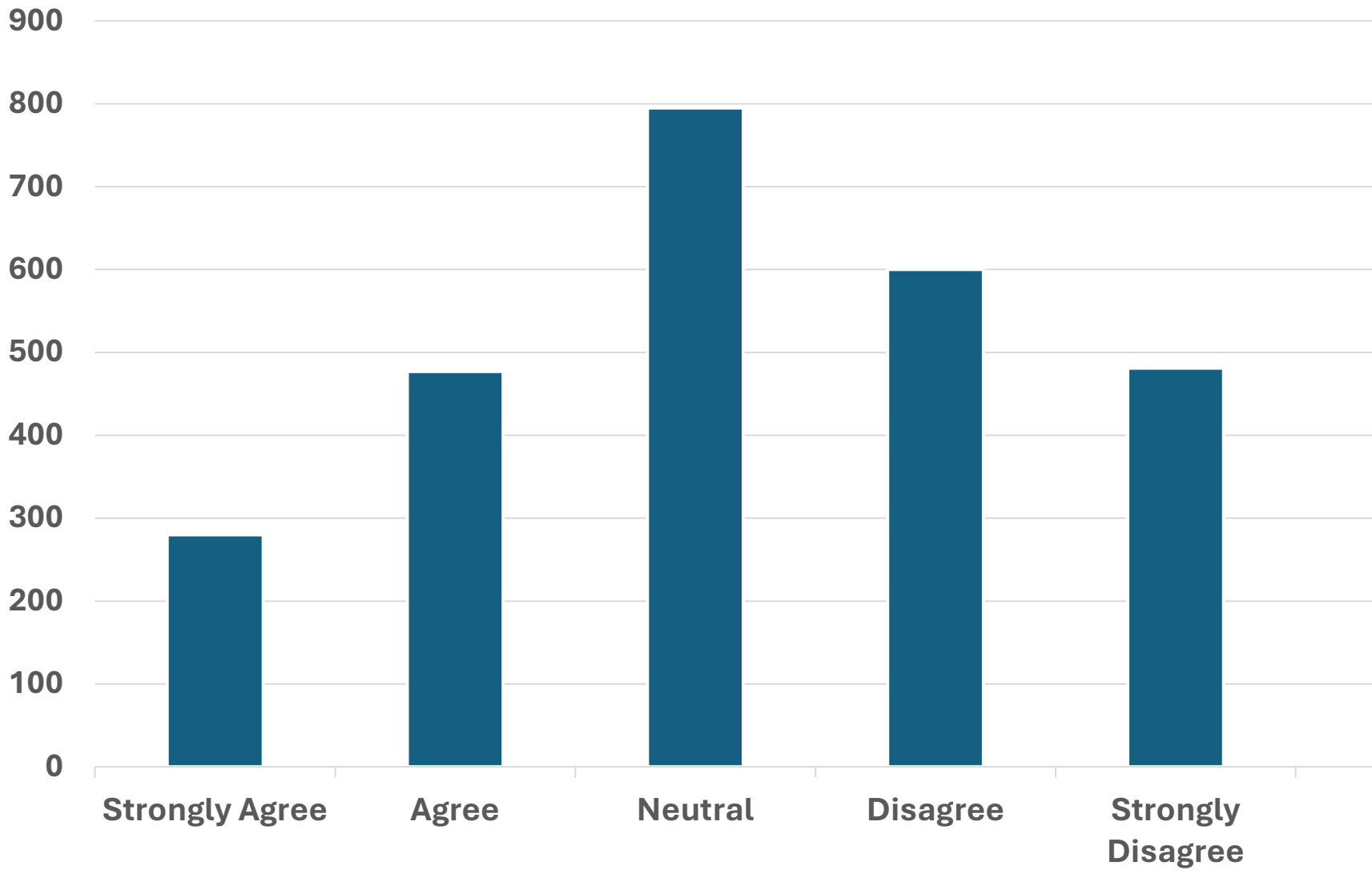

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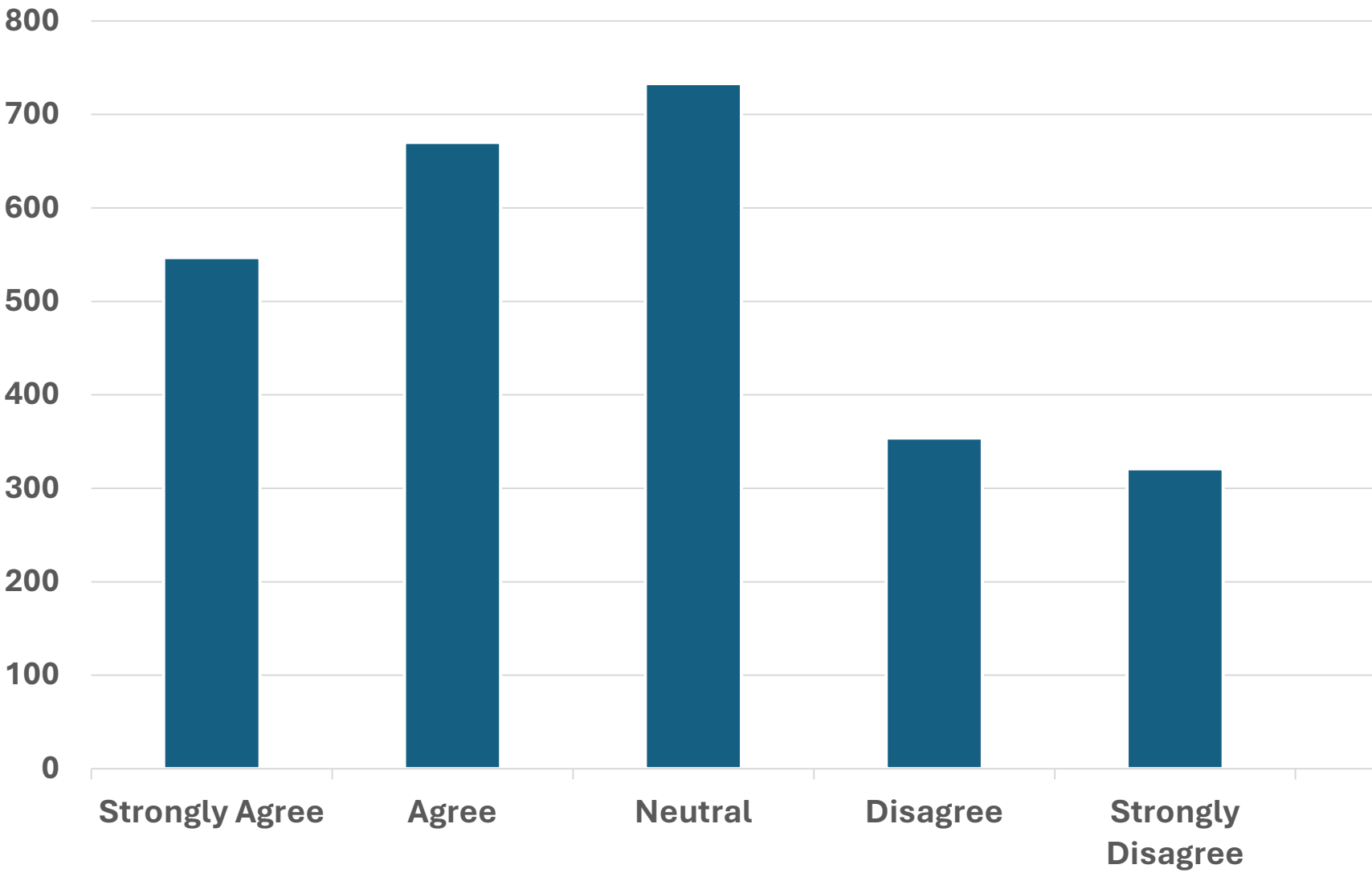

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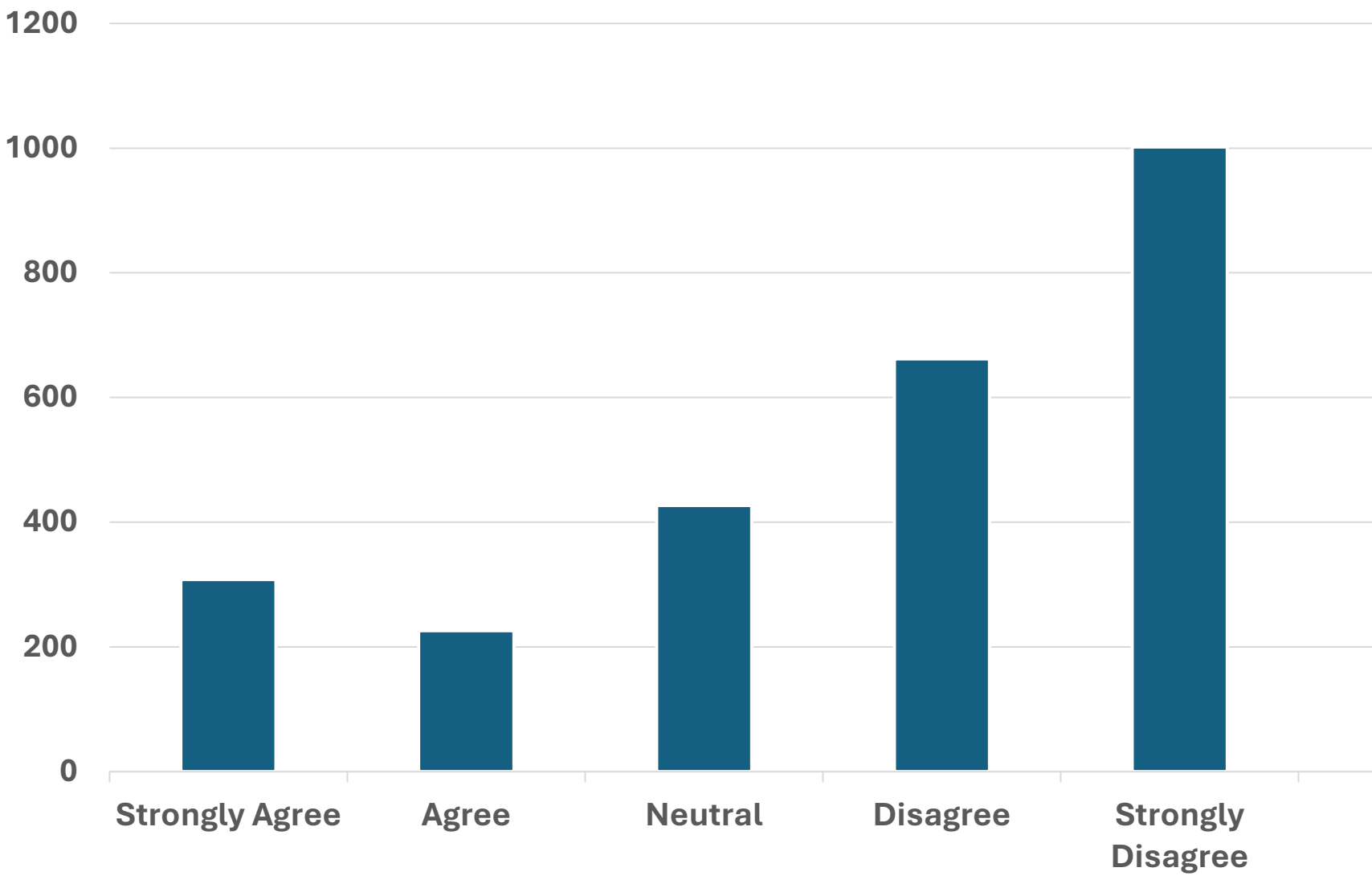
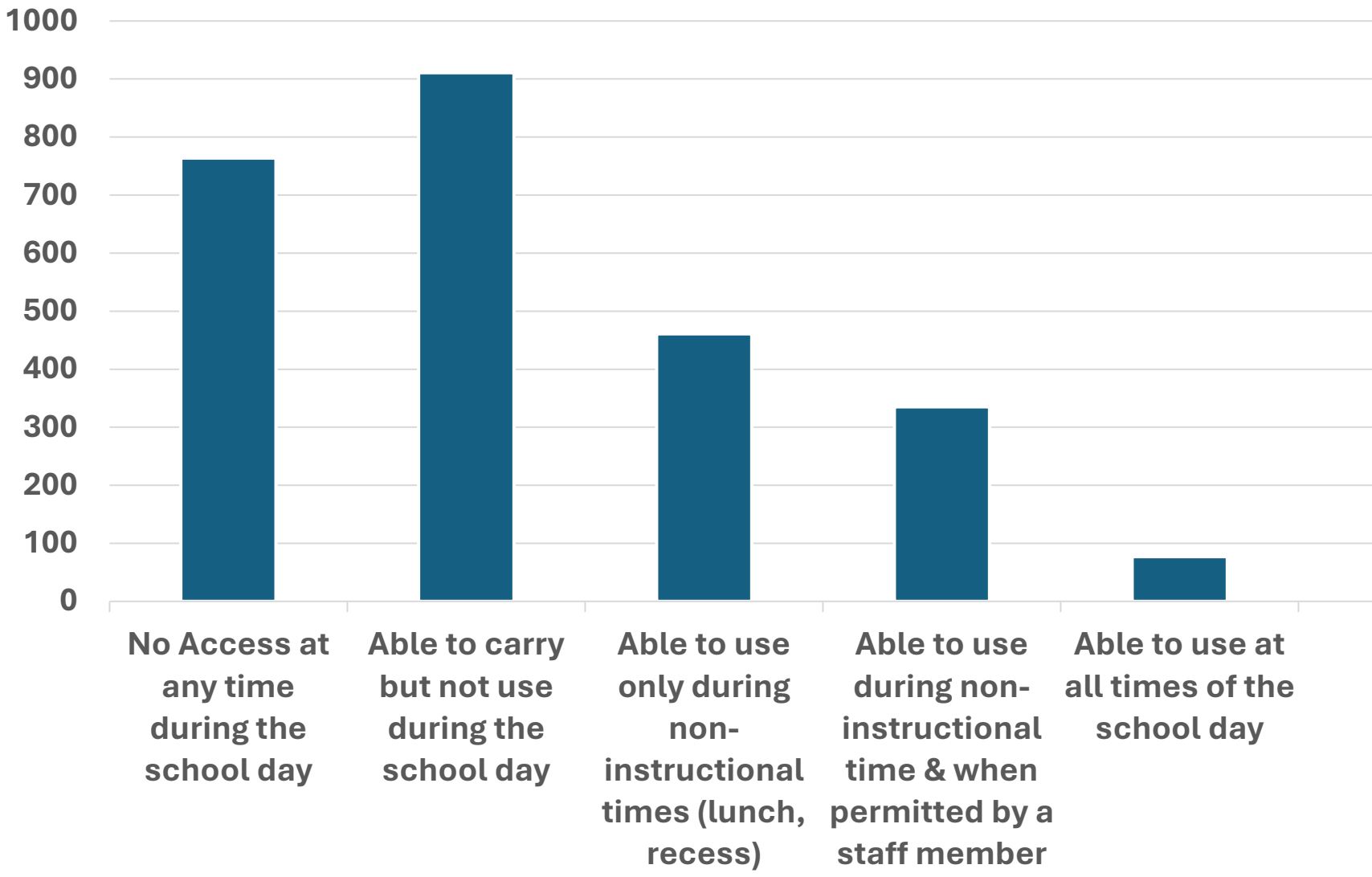


Students

Elementary Student Access to Personal Cell Phone



Students

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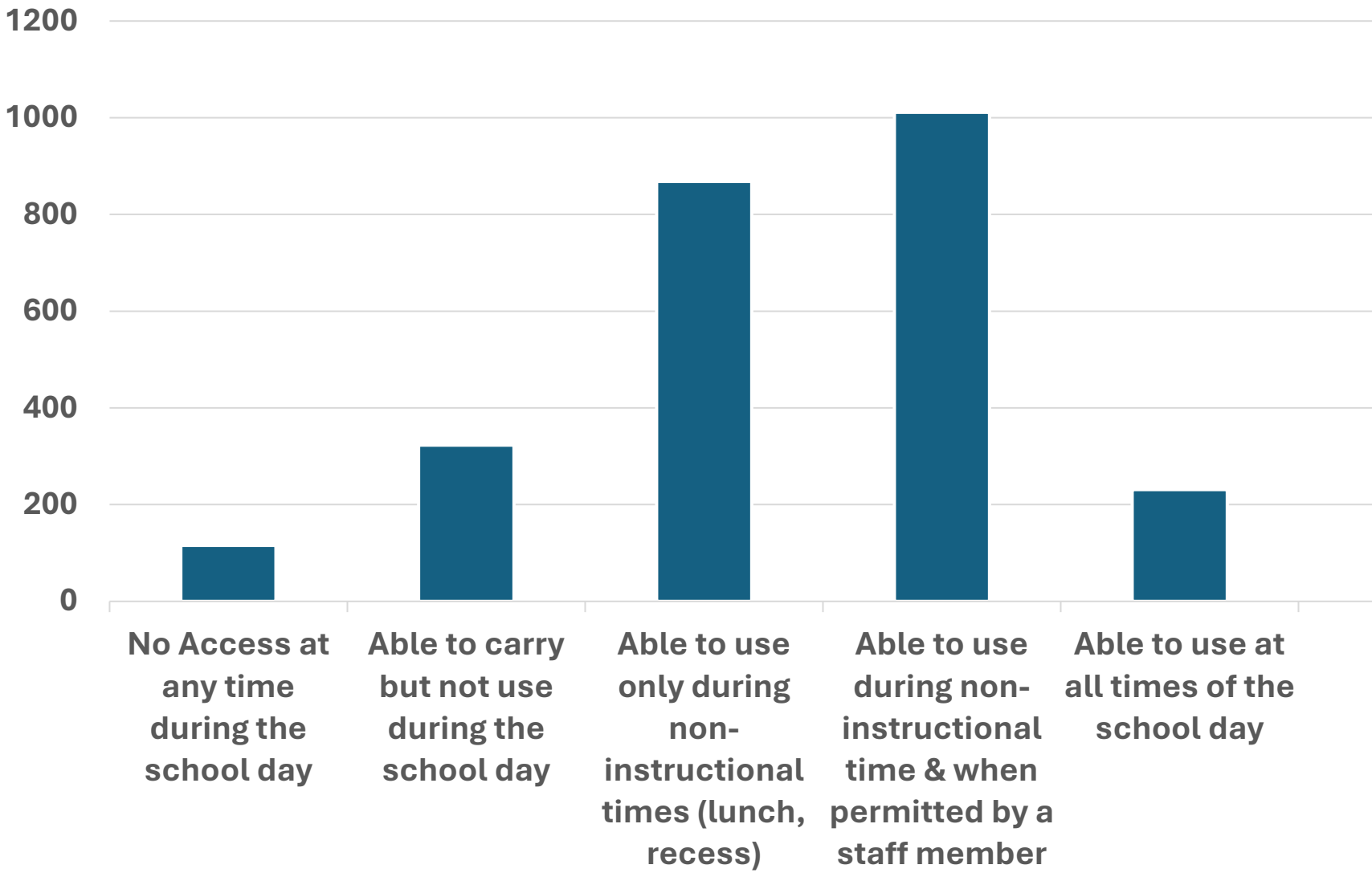
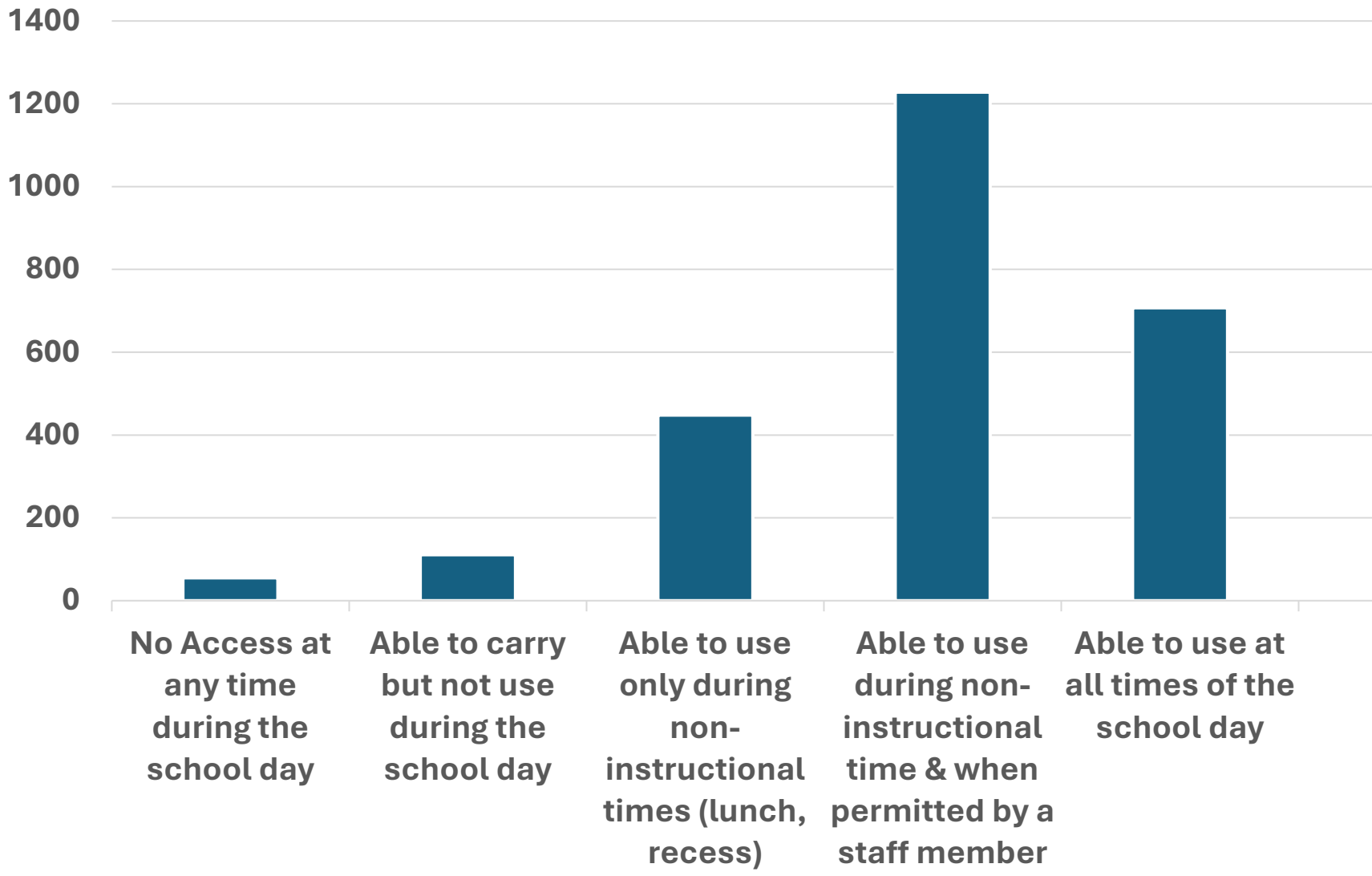


Students

High Student Access to Personal Cell Phone



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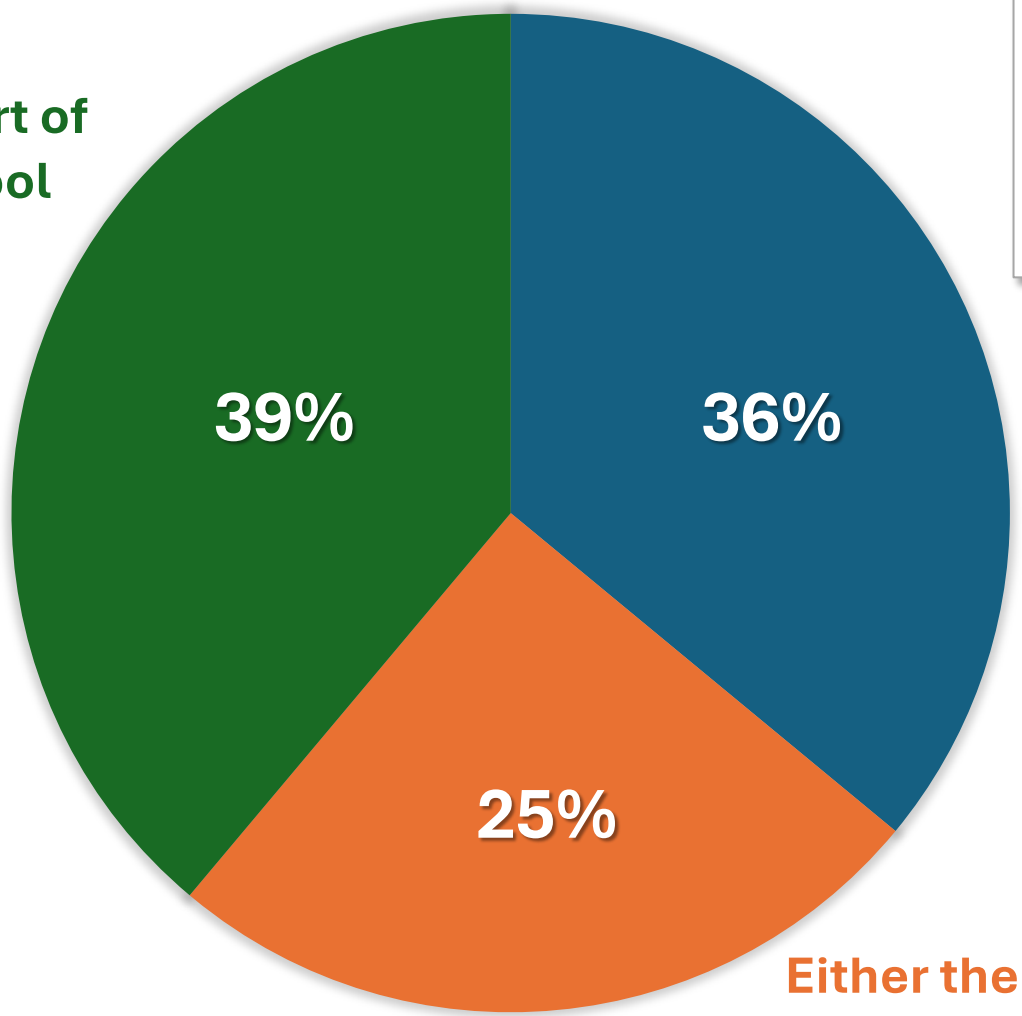

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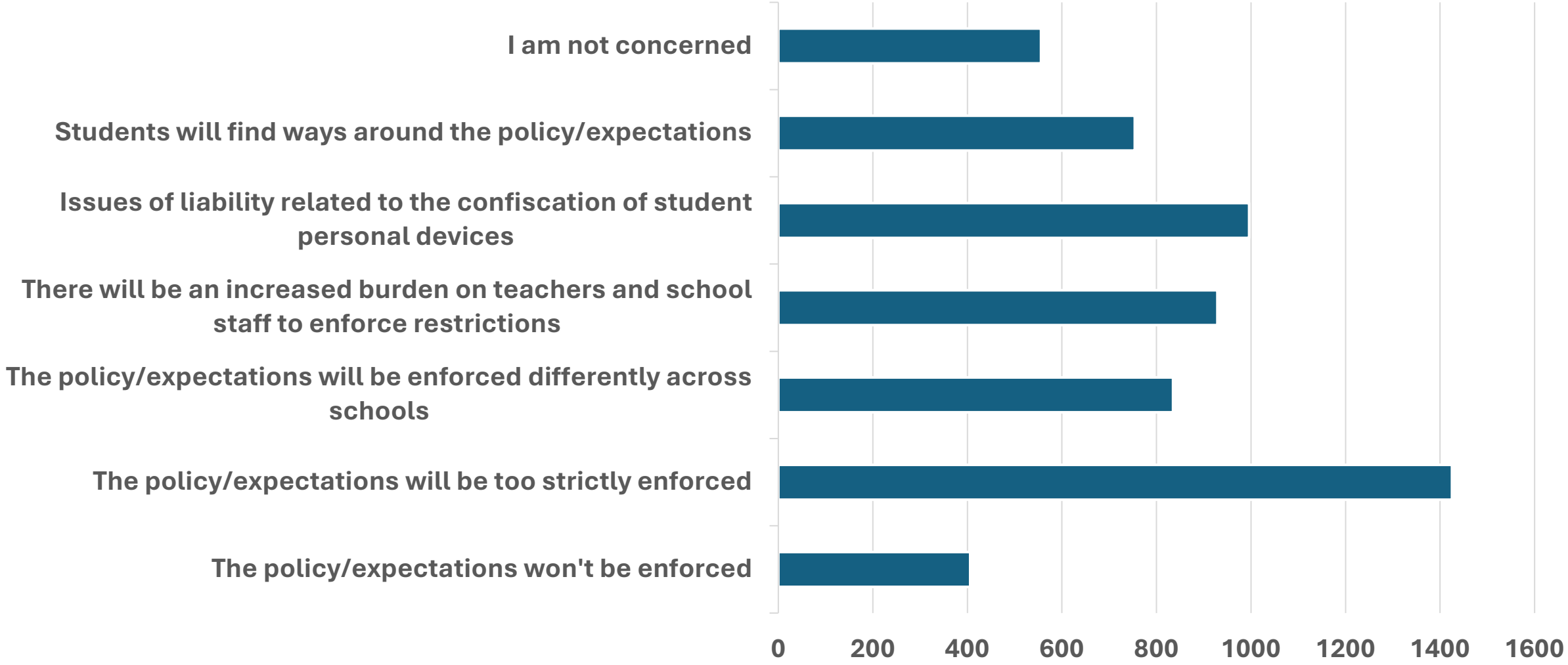


Student Personal Technology in Schools

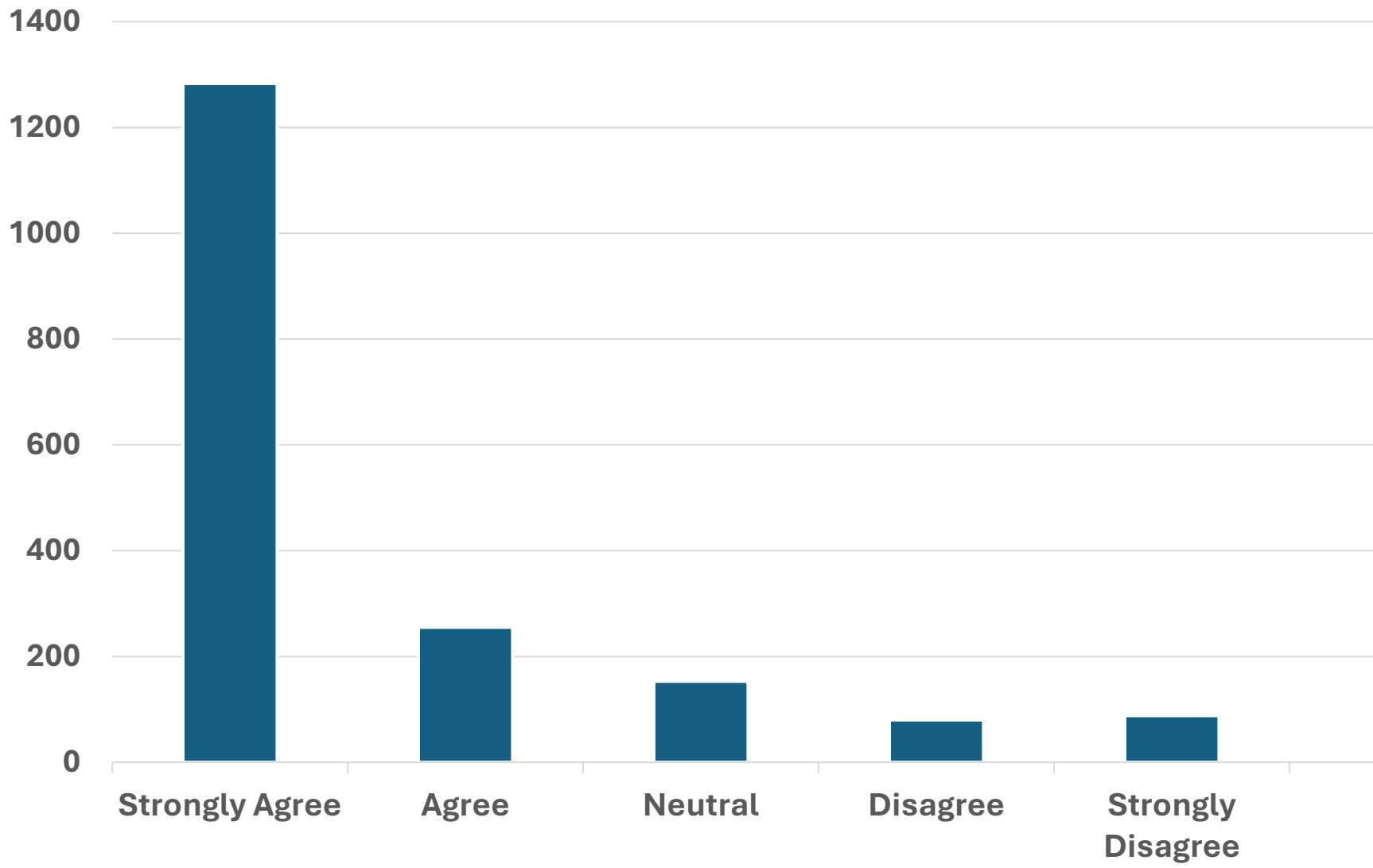
Survey Results

School-Based Staff

Howard County Public School System

School-Based Staff

Student personal technology use in school is a problem



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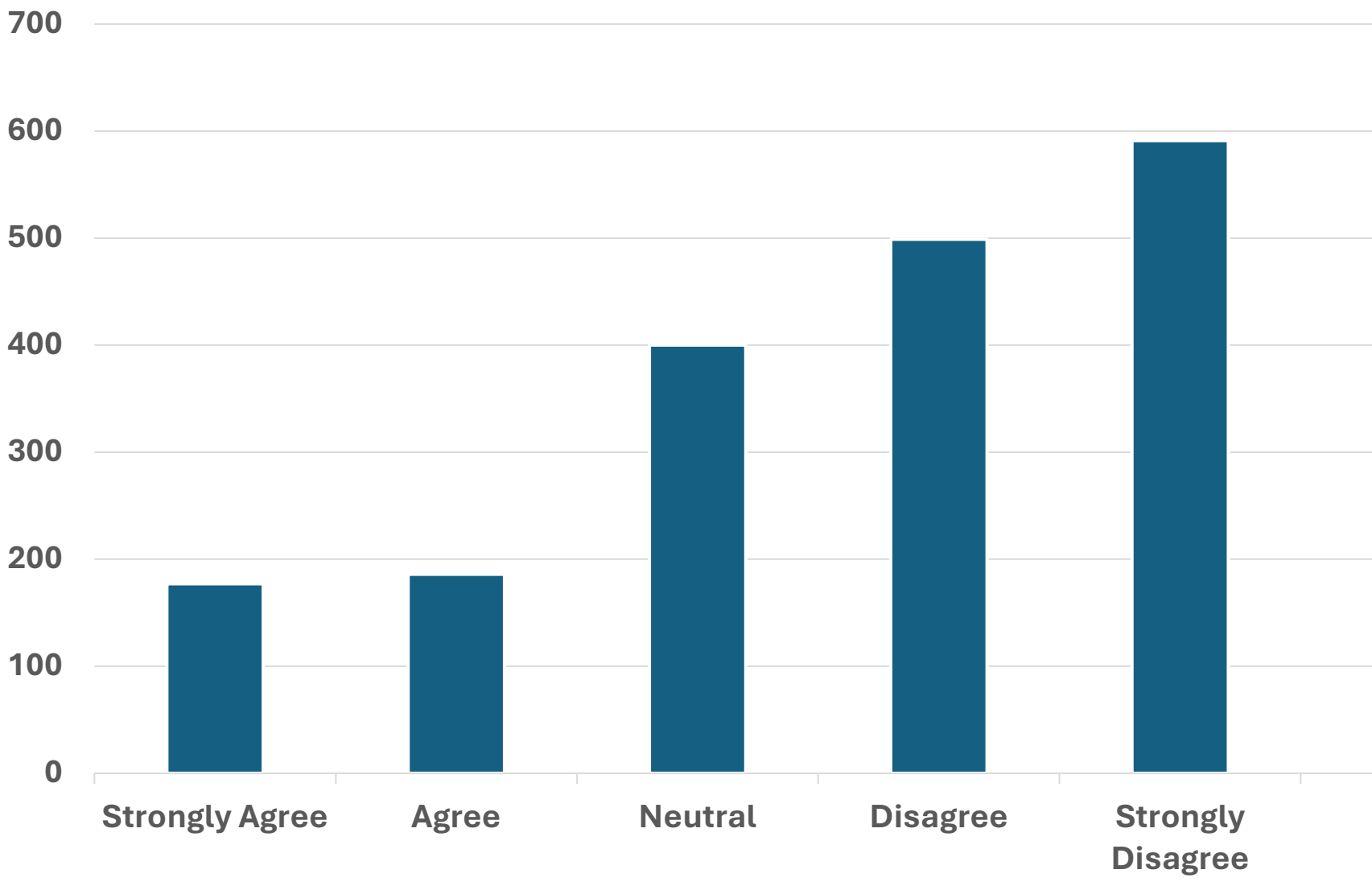

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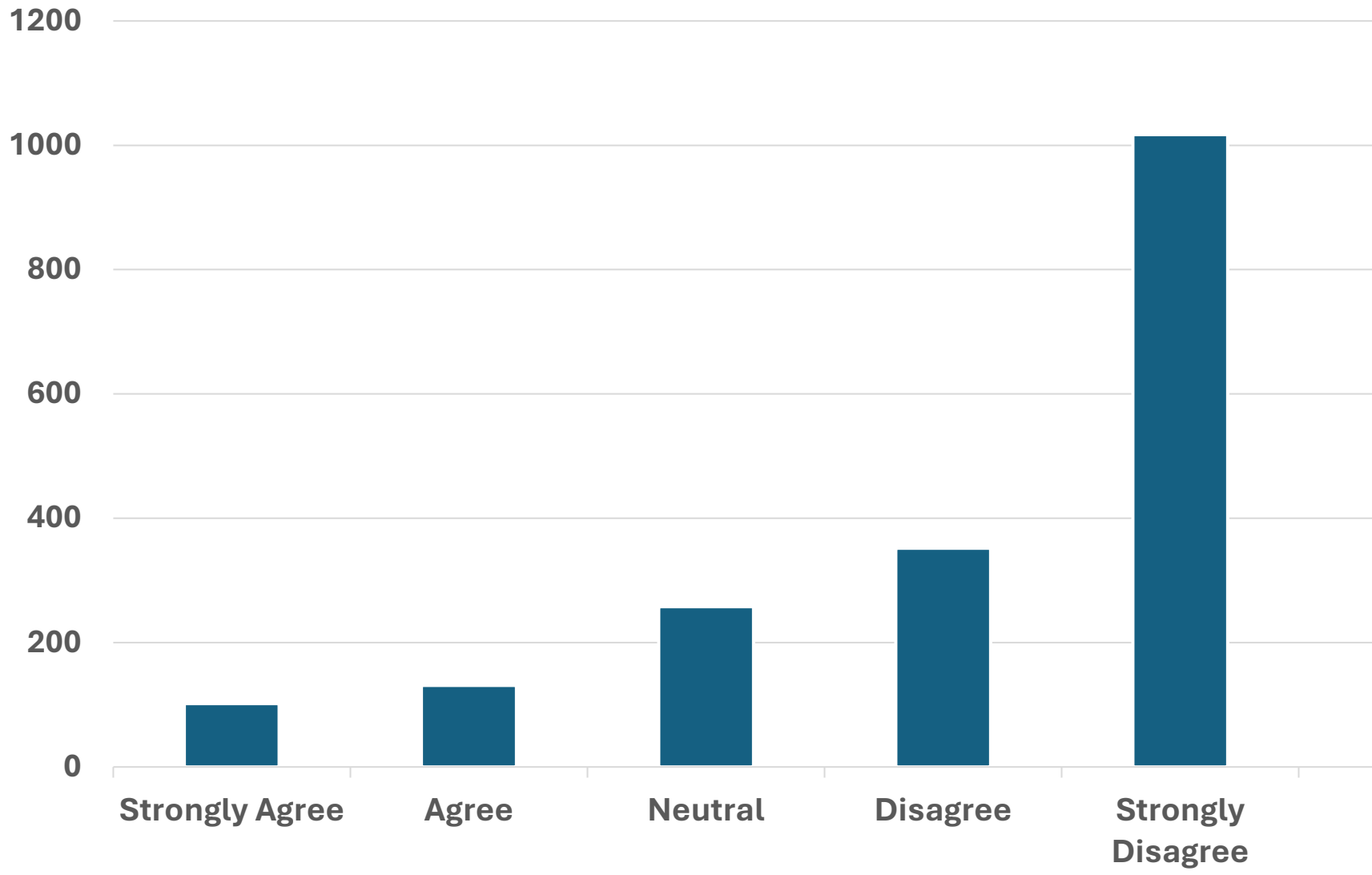

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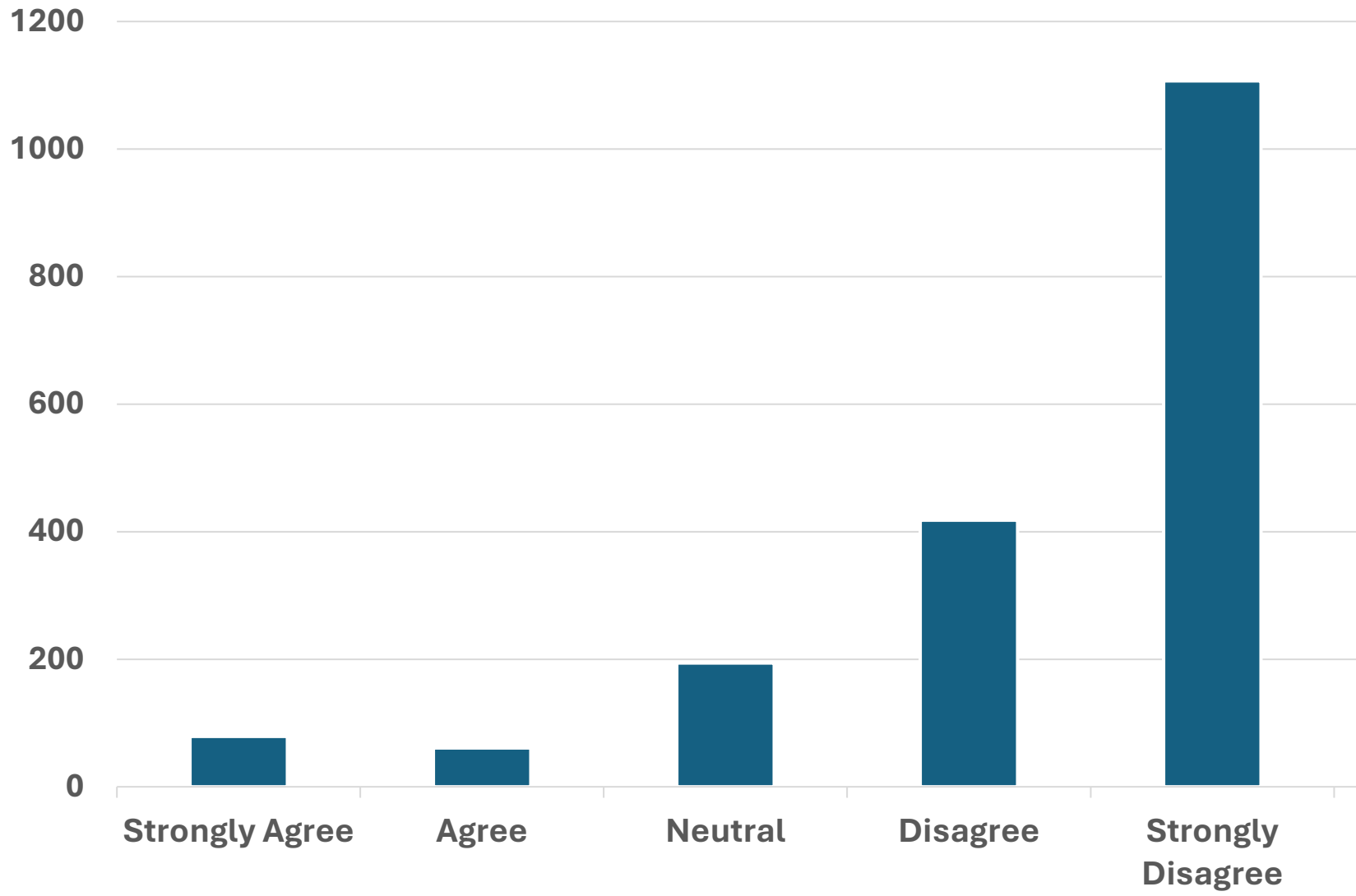

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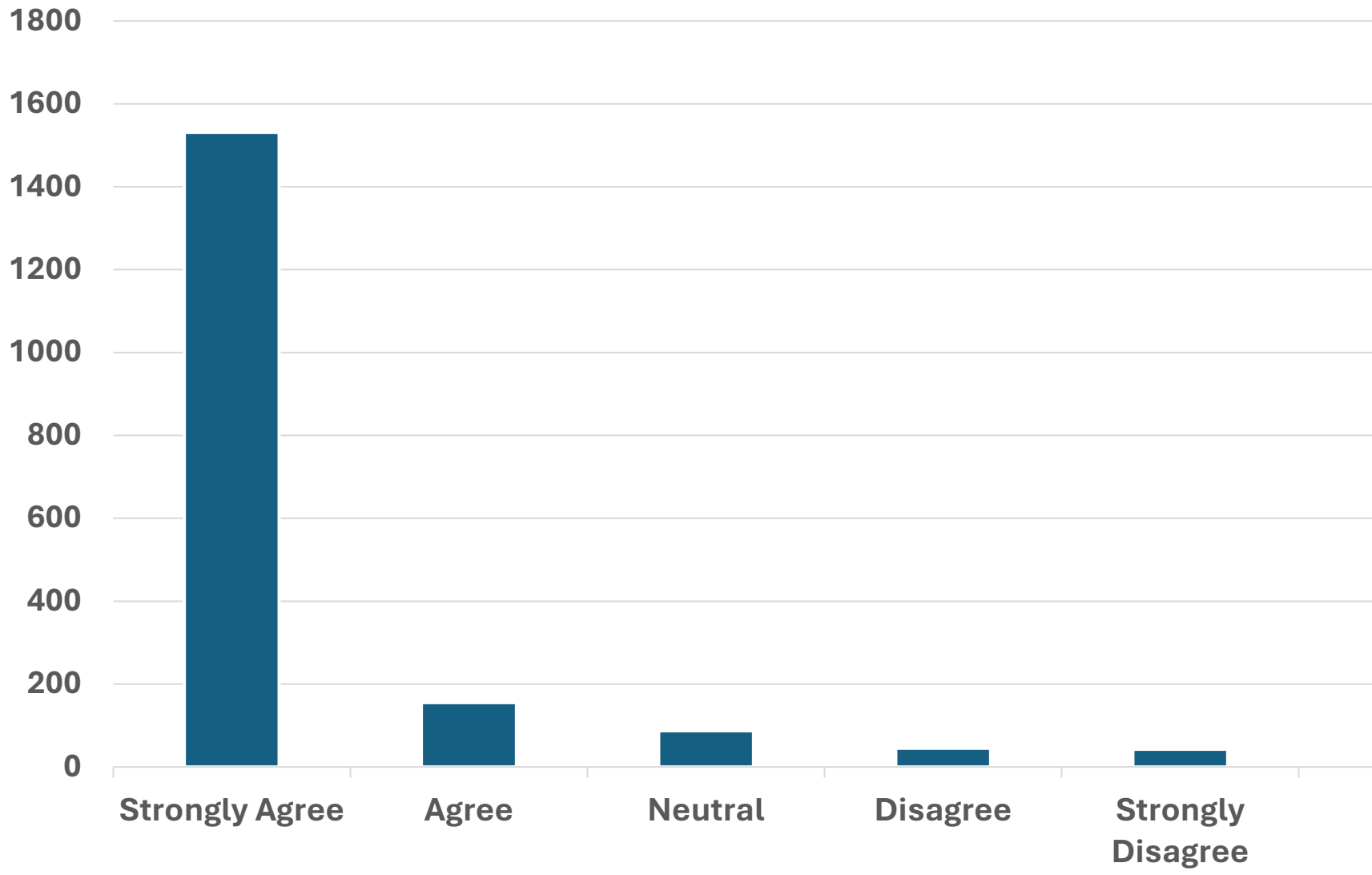

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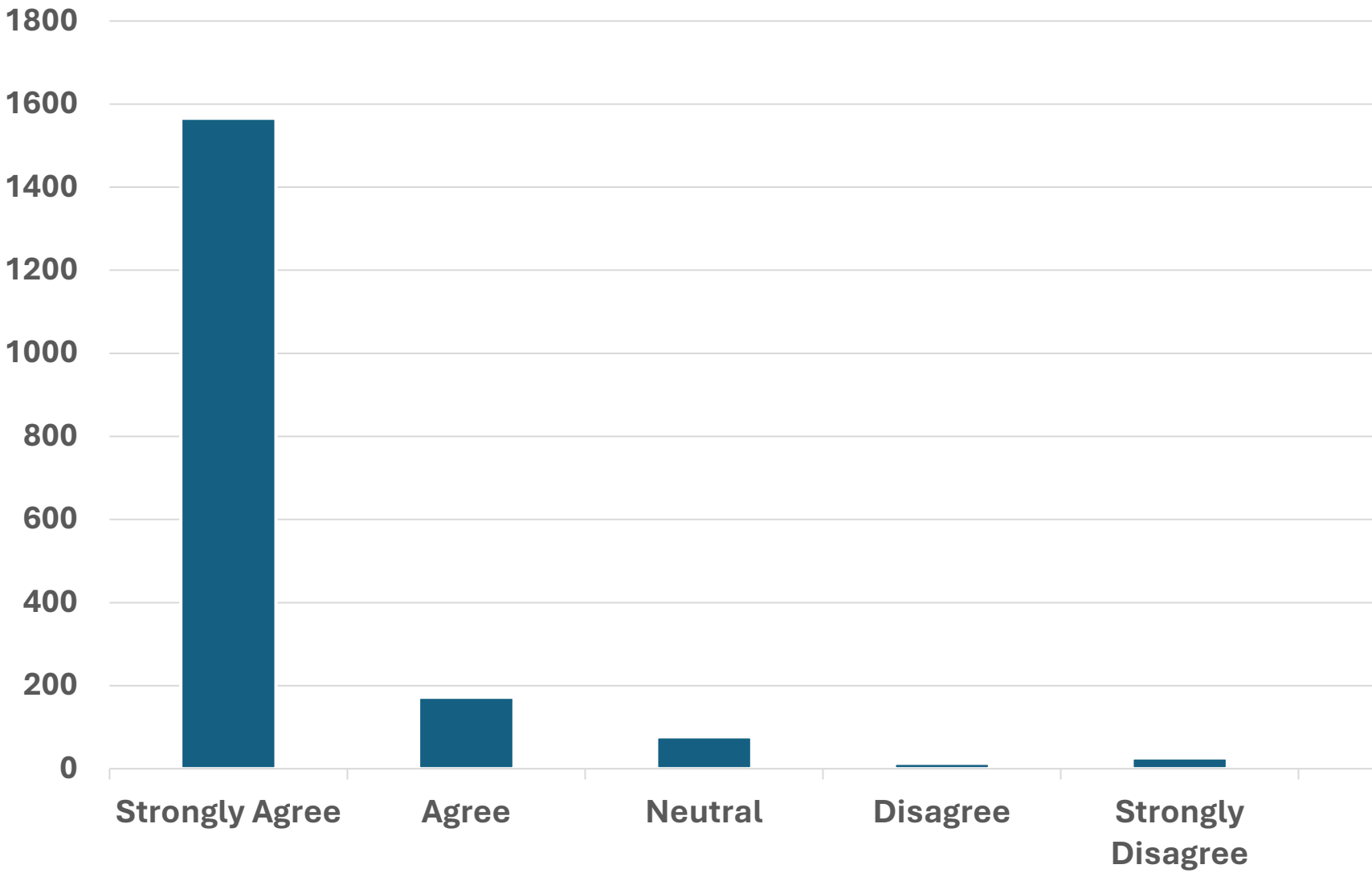

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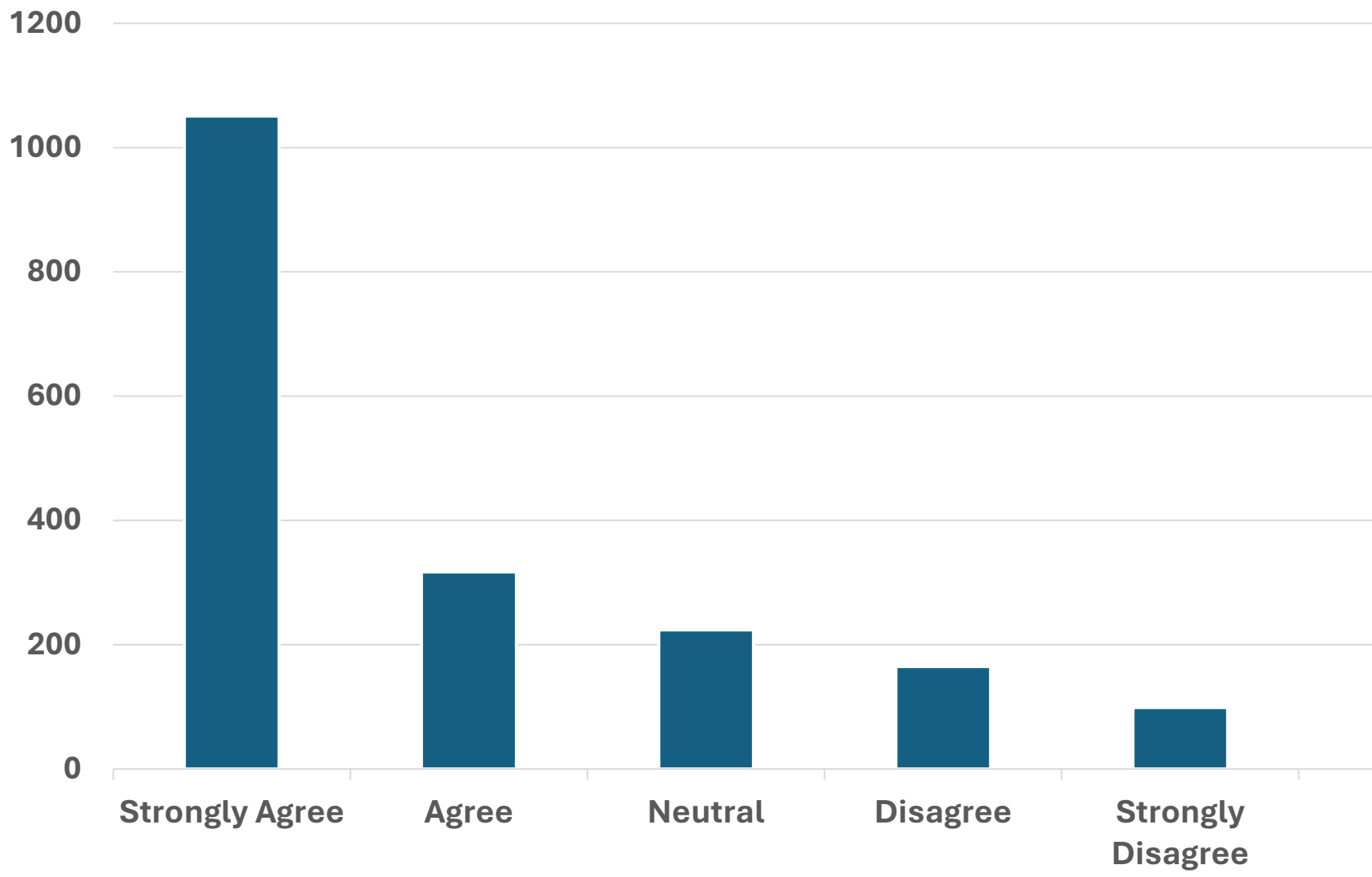
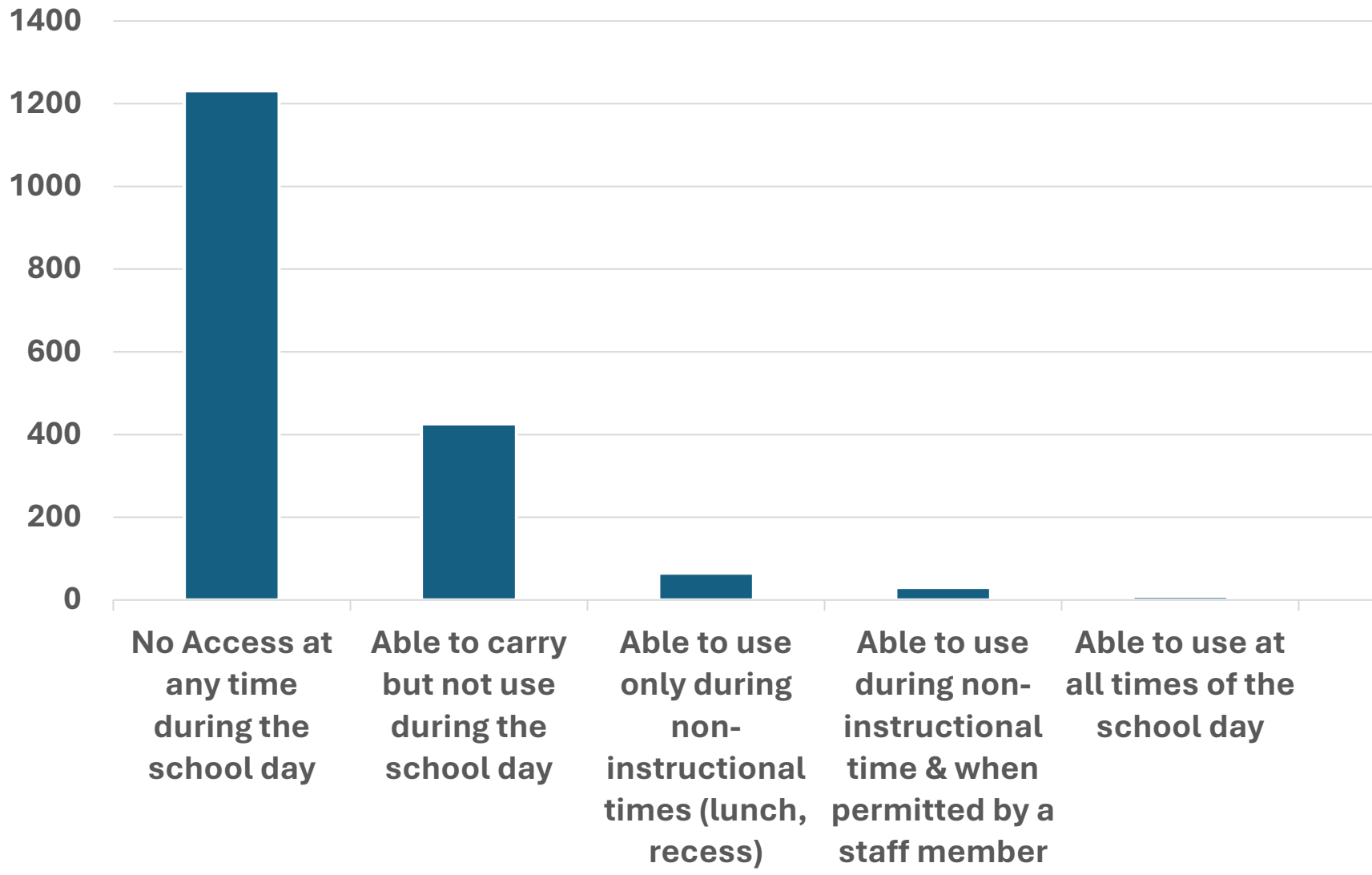


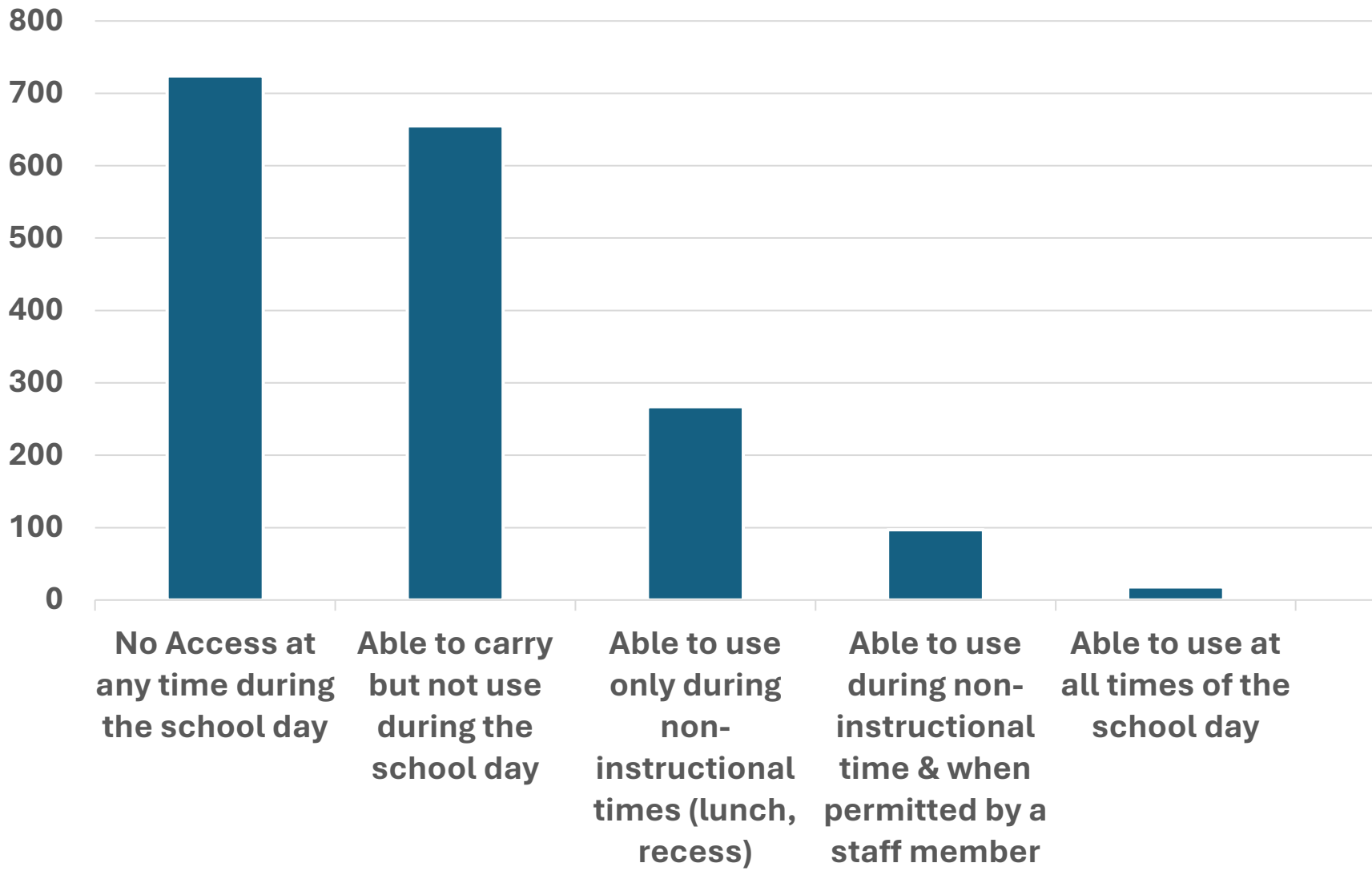
School-Based Staff

Elementary Student Access to Personal Cell Phone



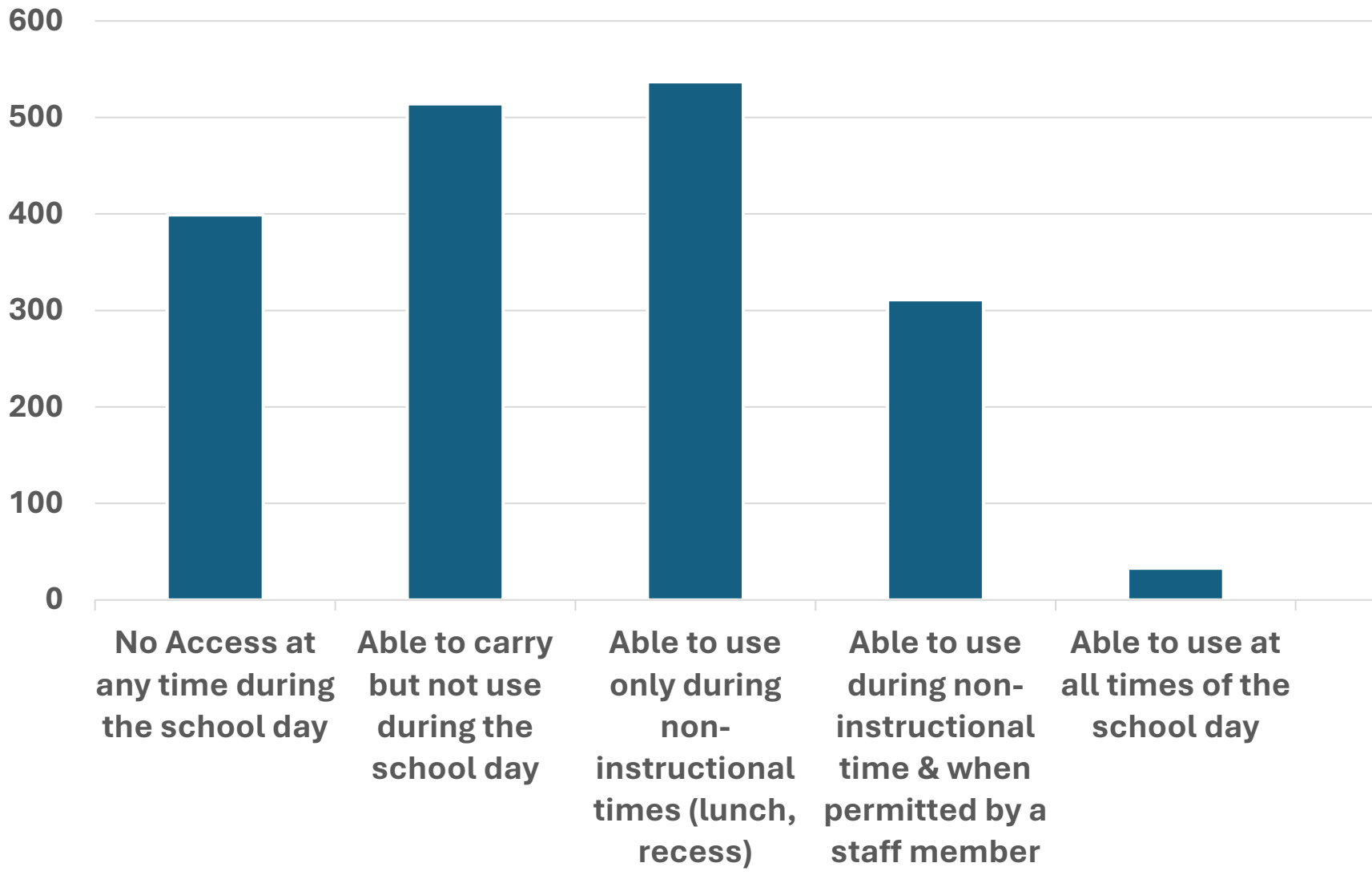
School-Based Staff

Middle Student Access to Personal Cell Phone



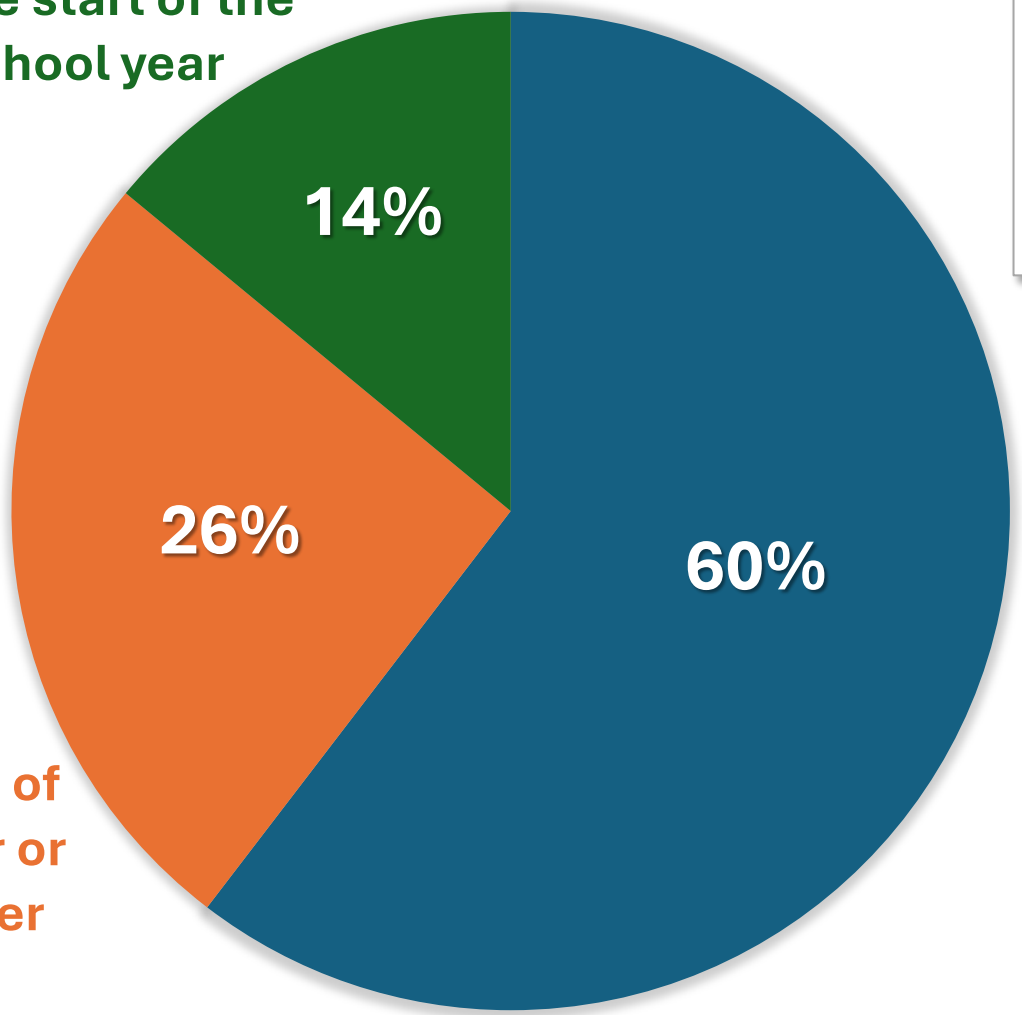
School-Based Staff

High Student Access to Personal Cell Phone



School-Based Staff

Any changes to policies or expectations should be implemented:



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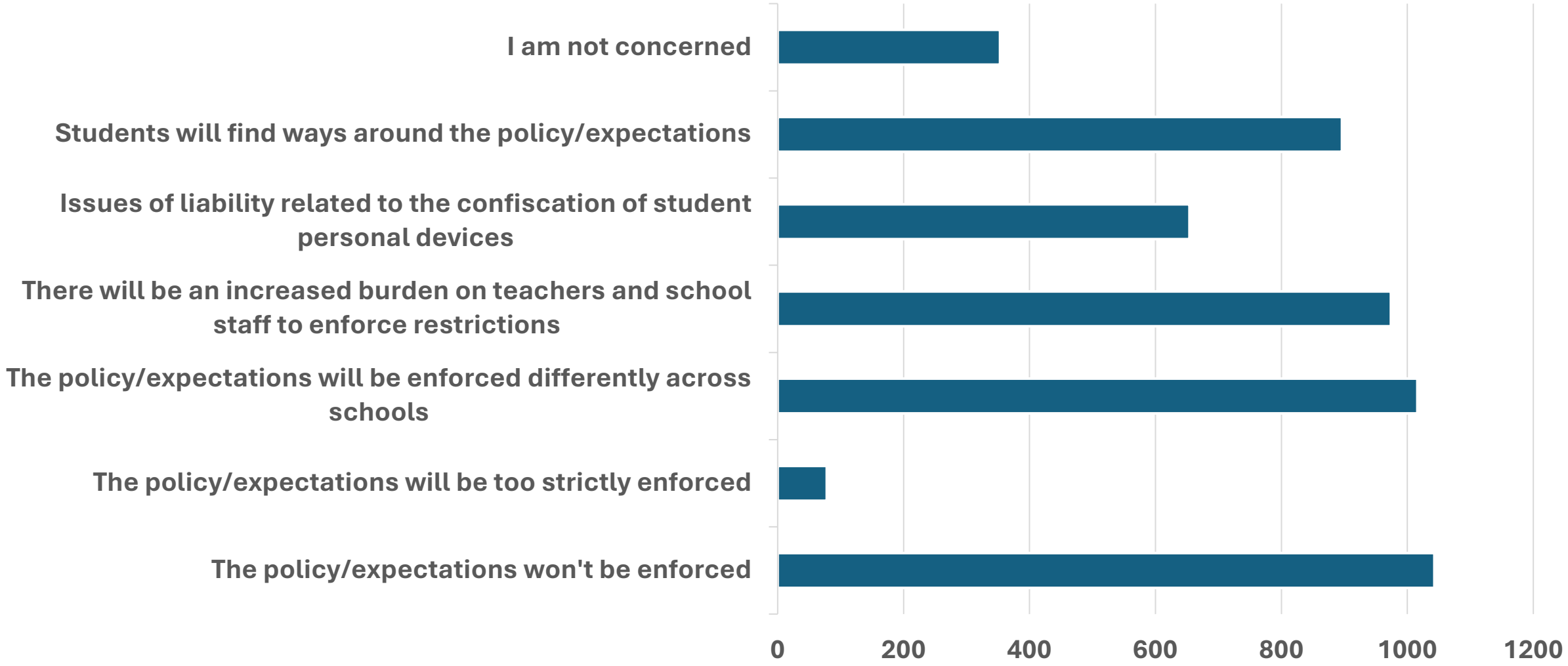
I am Concerned About:



The following themes were collected in feedback provided by HCPSS stakeholders in an open-ended question contained in the stakeholder survey. The feedback organized in this document leveraged AI (Perplexity) to identify common themes contained in the thousands of responses.

Based on the feedback provided in the document, several key themes and ideas emerge regarding the use of personal technology in schools:

Safety and Emergency Communication
Many parents express concerns about safety and want their children to have access to phones for emergency situations. This includes:

- Communicating during potential school shootings or other emergencies
- Contacting parents for health issues or early pickup
- Coordinating after-school activities and transportation

Distraction and Learning Impact
There is widespread acknowledgment that personal devices, especially cell phones, are a significant distraction in the classroom. Many respondents believe that:

- Phones negatively impact students' focus and learning
- Social media use during school hours is particularly problematic
- Devices hinder face-to-face socialization and social skill development

Policy Implementation and Enforcement
Feedback indicates a desire for:

- Clear, consistent policies across all schools
- Strict enforcement by administration to support teachers
- Gradual implementation of new restrictions
- Consideration for students with medical needs or IEPs/504 plans

Specific Device Considerations
Respondents had varying opinions on different types of technology:

- Some support allowing smart watches for limited use
- Others suggest permitting activity trackers but not full-featured smart watches
- There are mixed views on personal computers vs. school-provided Chromebooks

Balancing Restrictions and Access
Many responses highlight the need to find a balance between:

- Limiting distractions and promoting focused learning

- Allowing necessary communication for safety and logistics
- Teaching responsible technology use

Additional Concerns

Other themes mentioned include:

- The impact of technology on students' mental health
- The need for parent education on responsible device use
- Concerns about privacy and unauthorized recording in schools

**** Overall, while there is strong support for limiting personal technology use in schools, there is also recognition of the complexities involved in creating and implementing such policies.**