

My Voice Aspirations Survey

My Voice Grades 6-12 Report (US)

GALLATIN GATEWAY ELEM SCHOOL

November 12, 2012

The Role of Student Aspirations in Today's Schools

Today's students want to be successful, whether their goal is to learn algebra or a trade, get good grades or go to college. Too often, however, students can't reach their future goals and dreams because their schools' conditions are not supportive. The key to understanding whether supportive conditions exist is to ask the students themselves.

The *8 Conditions that Make a Difference*[®] in promoting student aspirations have been identified and defined by Dr. Russell J. Quaglia, an internationally known leader in the study of student aspirations. The 8 Conditions are: *Belonging, Heroes, Sense of Accomplishment, Fun & Excitement, Curiosity & Creativity, Spirit of Adventure, Leadership & Responsibility*, and *Confidence to Take Action*. The 8 Conditions make a difference because they help schools put into practice the three Guiding Principles that facilitate Aspirations work: *Self-Worth, Active Engagement*, and *Purpose*.

Developing Students' Self-Worth:

Belonging, Heroes, and Sense of Accomplishment

Self-Worth begins when students experience a sense of *Belonging*: They feel like they are part of the school community while being recognized and appreciated for their uniqueness. Students also experience *Self-Worth* when someone in their lives believes in them. They need *Heroes*: people they can look up to, respect, and learn from. To develop *Self-Worth*, students also need a *Sense of Accomplishment*. They must be recognized as much for their effort, perseverance, and citizenship as they are for high grades and good test scores. As students build *Self-Worth*, they are more likely to persevere through difficult tasks and be inspired to take the steps needed to reach their goals.

Fostering Students' Active Engagement in Learning:

Fun & Excitement, Curiosity & Creativity, and Spirit of Adventure

Active Engagement means that students experience *Fun & Excitement* in their learning. They become so involved that they almost lose track of time. At the end of the lesson, they wonder, "Where did that time go?" Actively engaged students are not afraid to ask "Why?" or "Why not?" about the world around them. *Curiosity & Creativity* are alive in the way they learn, fostering inquisitiveness and a desire to satisfy their minds with new discoveries. Engaged students also have a *Spirit of Adventure*. They are not afraid to try new things or to take on healthy challenges, regardless of whether they might succeed or fail. With *Active Engagement*, learning becomes important in and of itself.

Encouraging a Sense of Purpose:

Leadership & Responsibility and Confidence to Take Action

Schools must challenge students to think about their *Purpose* -- *who* they want to become as well as *what* they want to be. To reach this goal, students need to explore what it means to have, and create, a successful and rewarding life. *Purpose* is about being responsible, accountable, and confident. To develop *Purpose*, students need the opportunity to assume *Leadership & Responsibility* in their lives. They must learn to make decisions and understand the consequences of their choices. When students have *Purpose*, they have the *Confidence to Take Action* toward a meaningful, productive, and rewarding future. They believe in themselves and are motivated to reach their dreams.

All members of the school community can foster the 8 Conditions, making a positive difference in the lives of today's students by supporting the goals those students set and strive to reach.

The *My Voice*[™] Student Survey

The *My Voice* Student Survey assesses student aspirations by asking students questions based on each of the 8 Conditions. By asking students how they perceive their school environment, *My Voice* provides educators with a powerful tool for understanding both what motivates and inspires students to achieve and how well students believe their school is meeting those objectives.

The 8 Conditions that Make a Difference

Belonging

Heroes

Sense of Accomplishment

Fun & Excitement

Curiosity & Creativity

Spirit of Adventure

Leadership & Responsibility

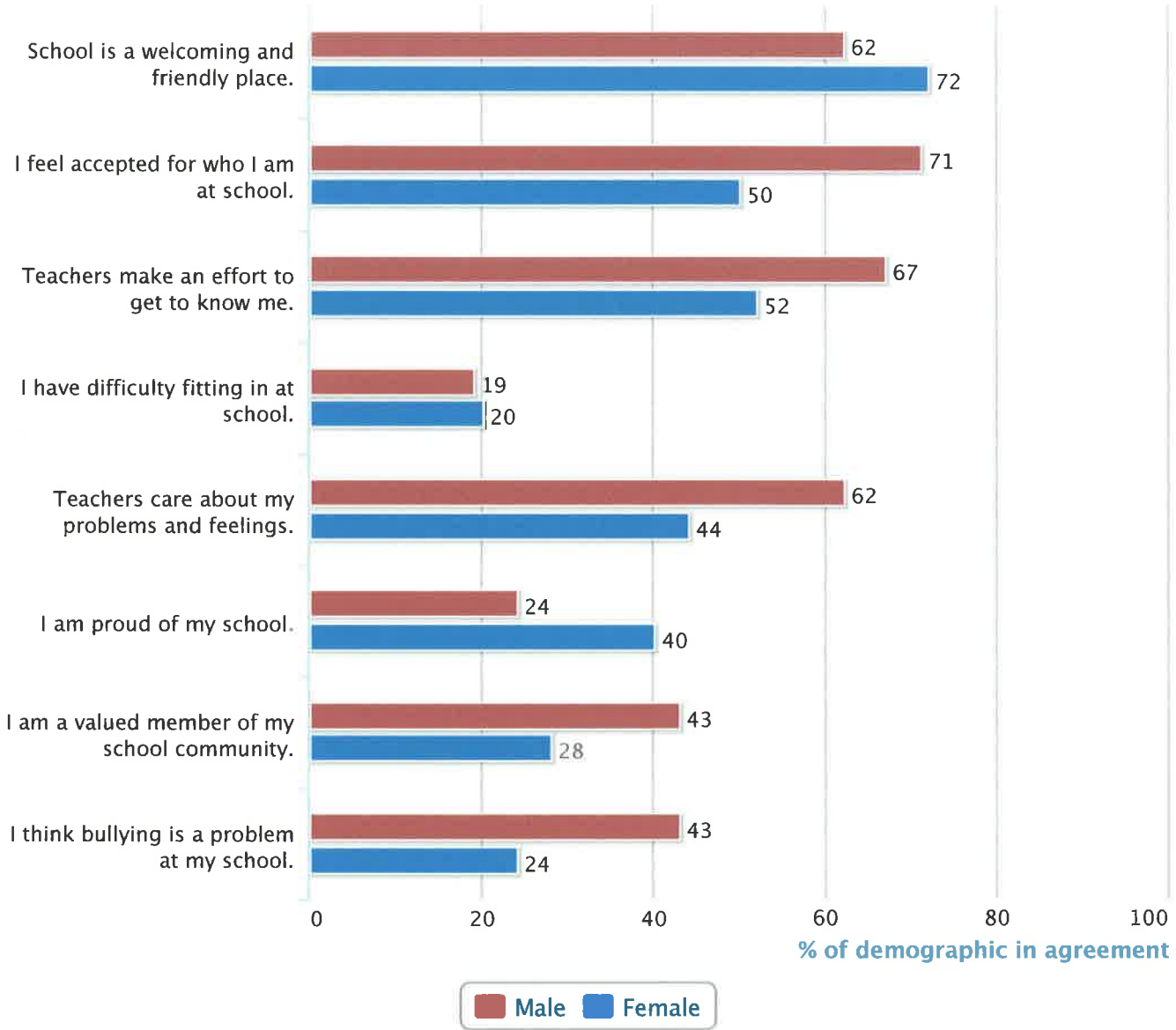
Confidence to Take Action

The 8 Conditions have positive effects on the development of student aspirations in schools. The descriptions of these Conditions outline an approach that frames how schools can recognize and nurture the development of student aspirations. The 8 Conditions represent a return to the common belief that every educator holds: There is nothing more important than motivating students to learn. The identified 8 Conditions do not represent an exhaustive list, but each is important if we are to have self-assured, inspired, and goal-directed students. All schools can benefit by creating and cultivating these Conditions in the lives of their students.

*"Aspirations is the ability to dream and set goals for the future
while being inspired in the present to reach those dreams."*

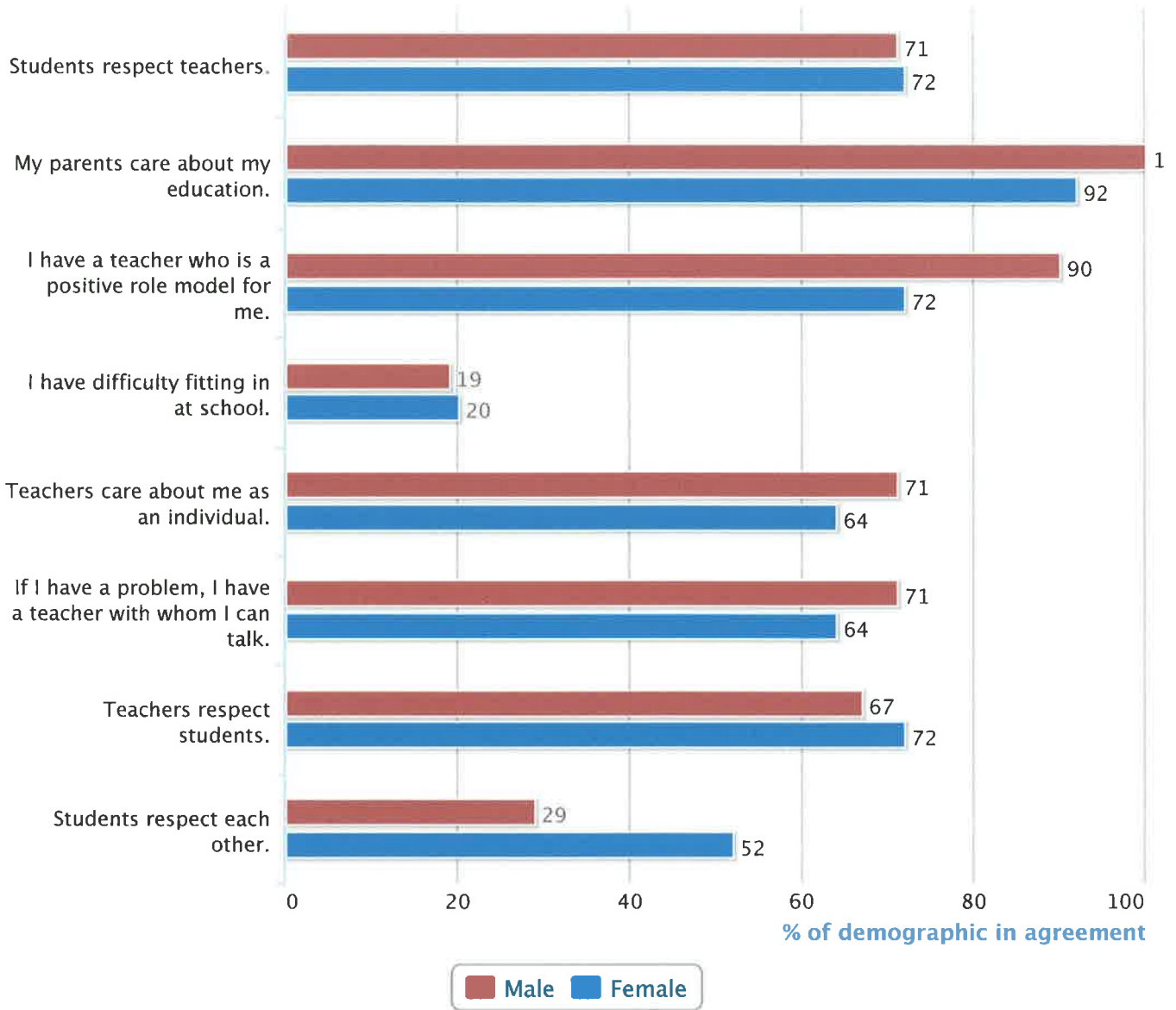
-Dr. Russell J. Quaglia

Belonging

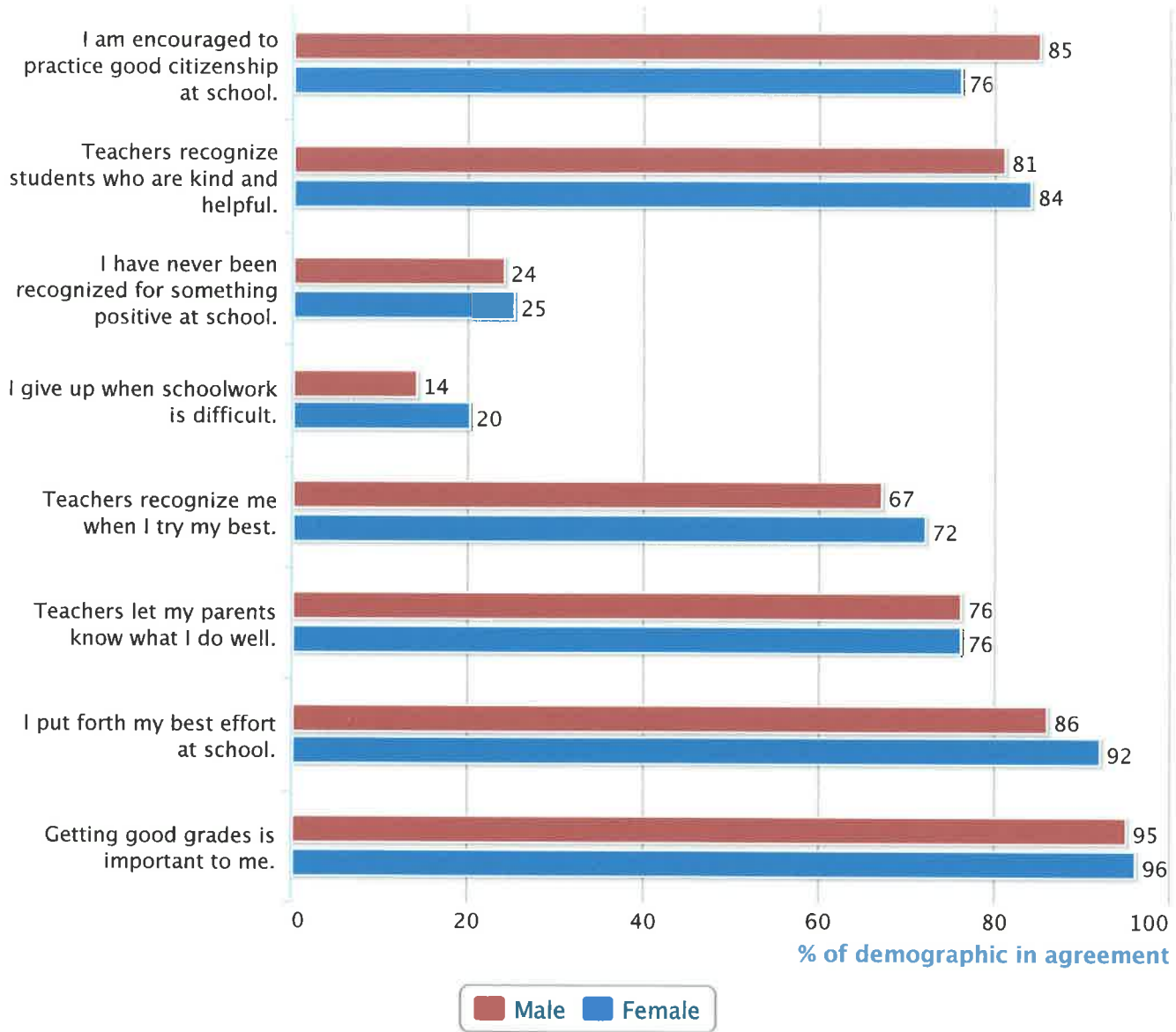


% of demographic in agreement

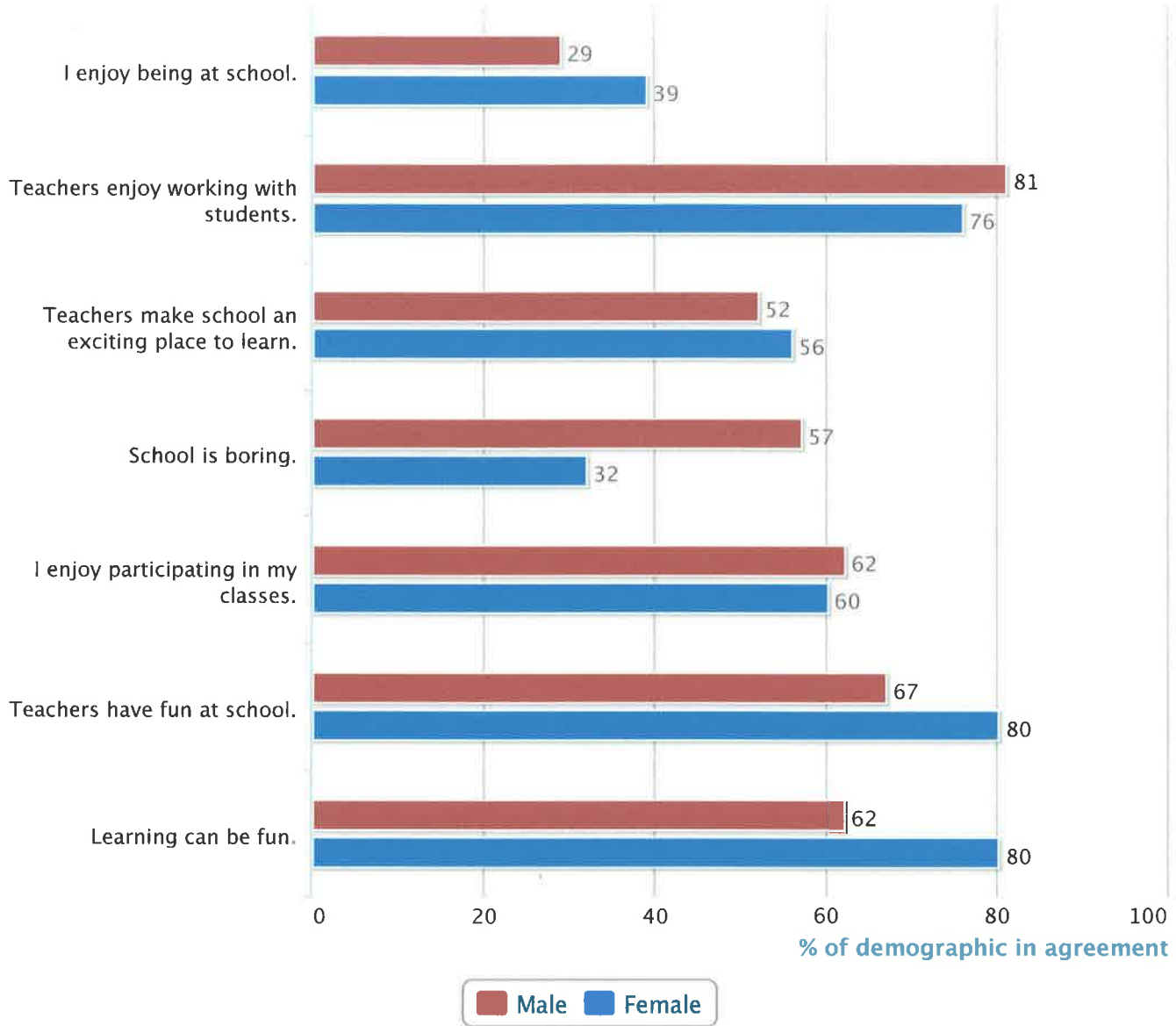
Heroes



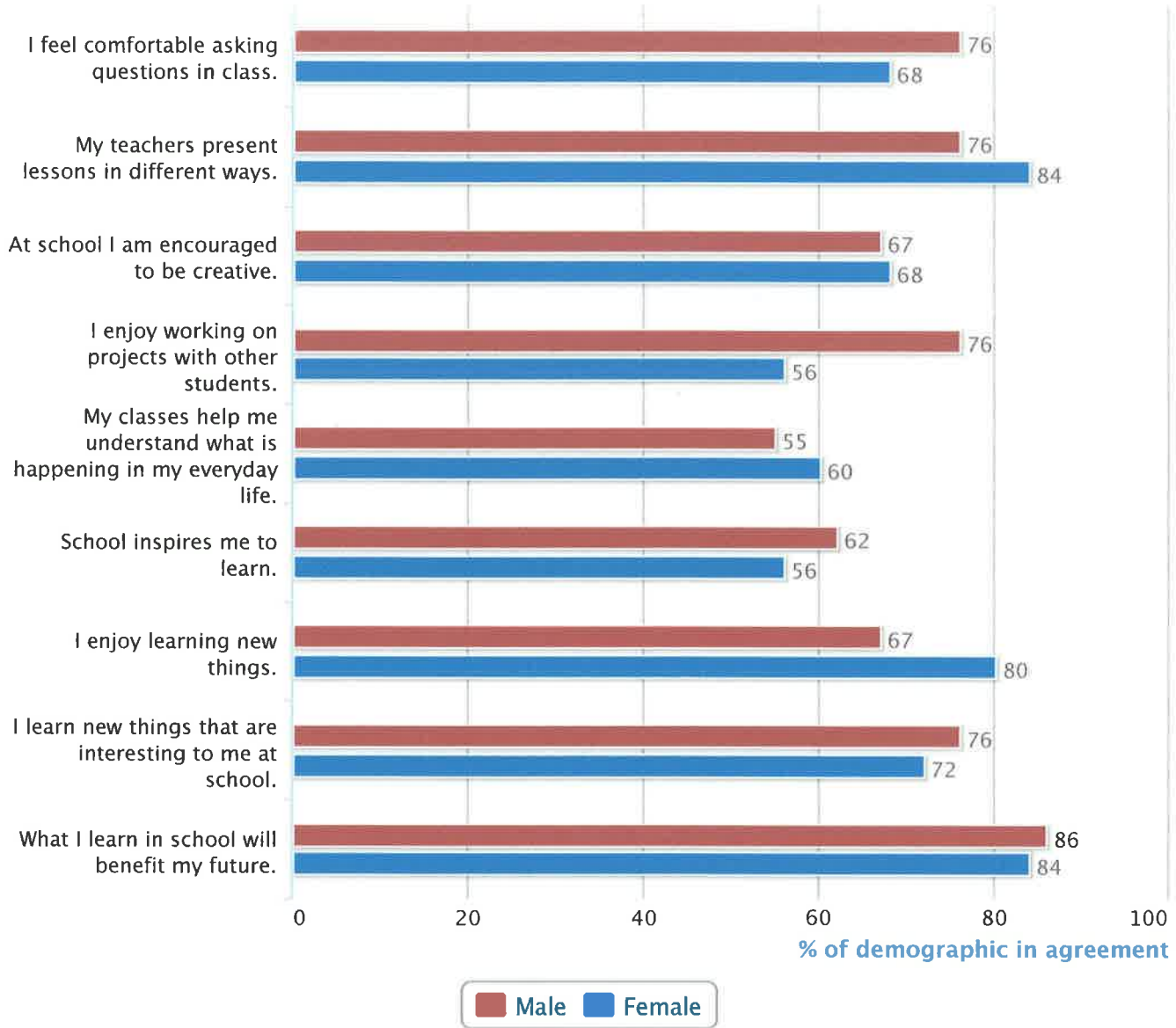
Sense of Accomplishment



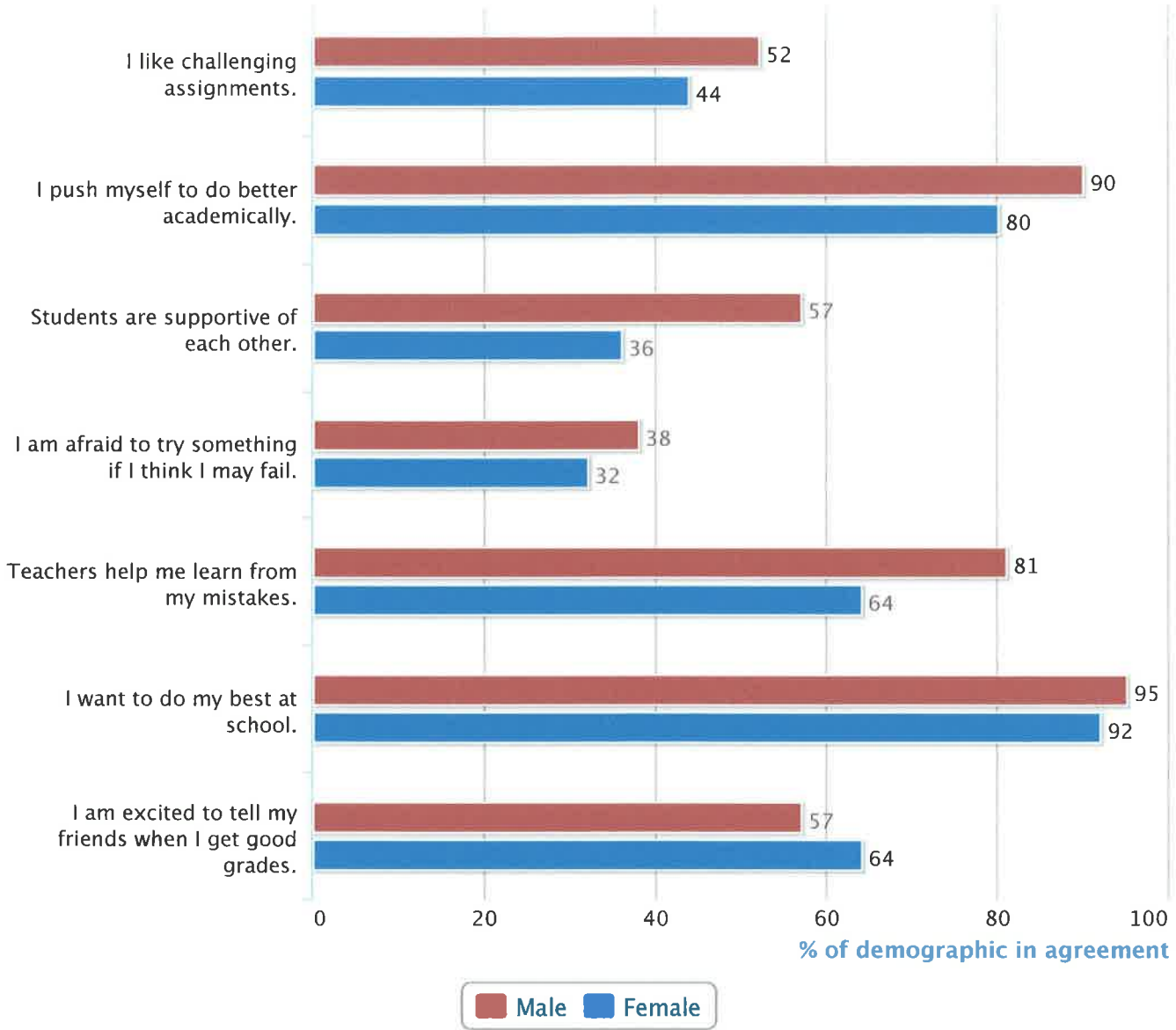
Fun and Excitement



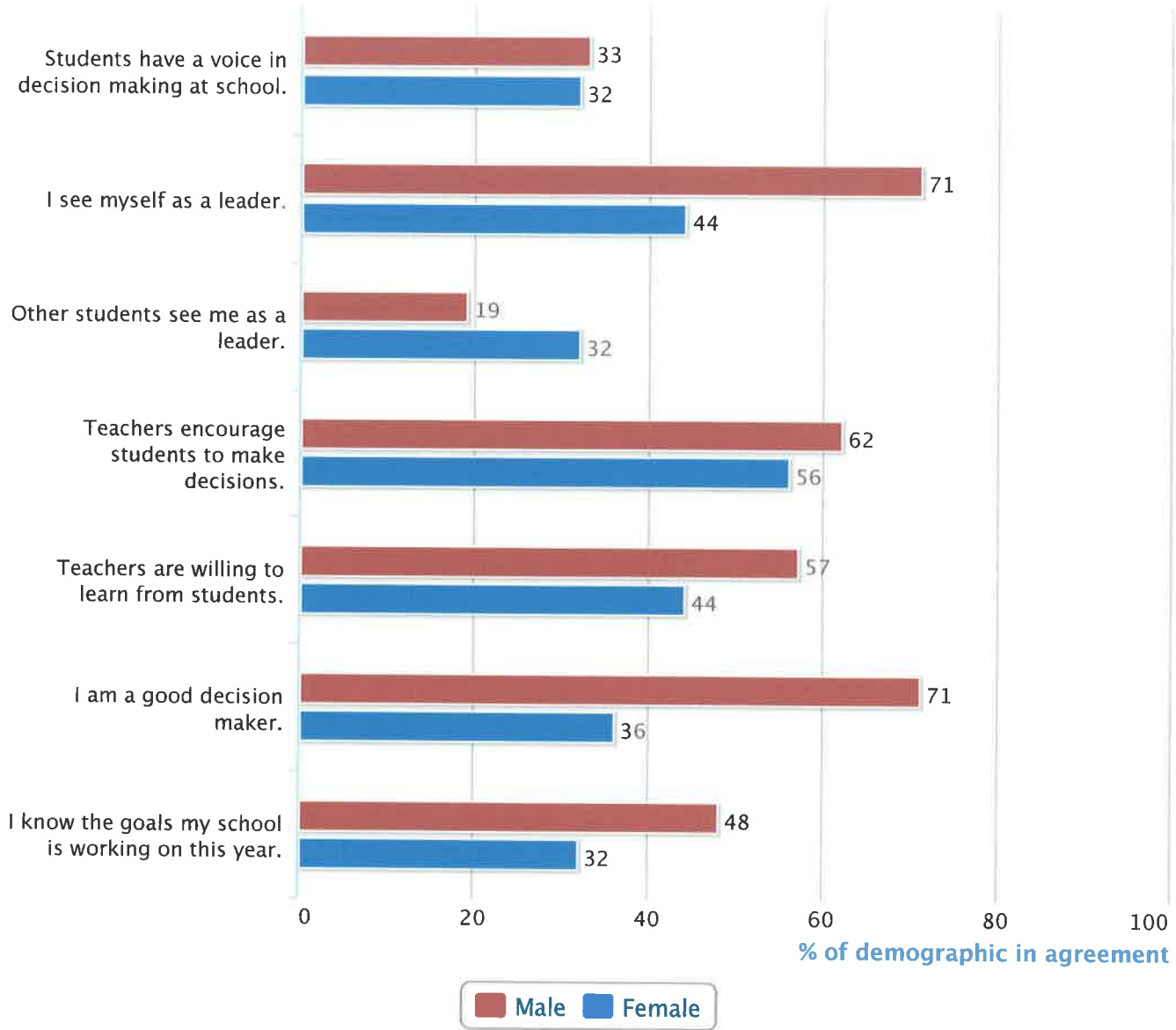
Curiosity and Creativity



Spirit of Adventure



Leadership and Responsibility



Confidence to Take Action

