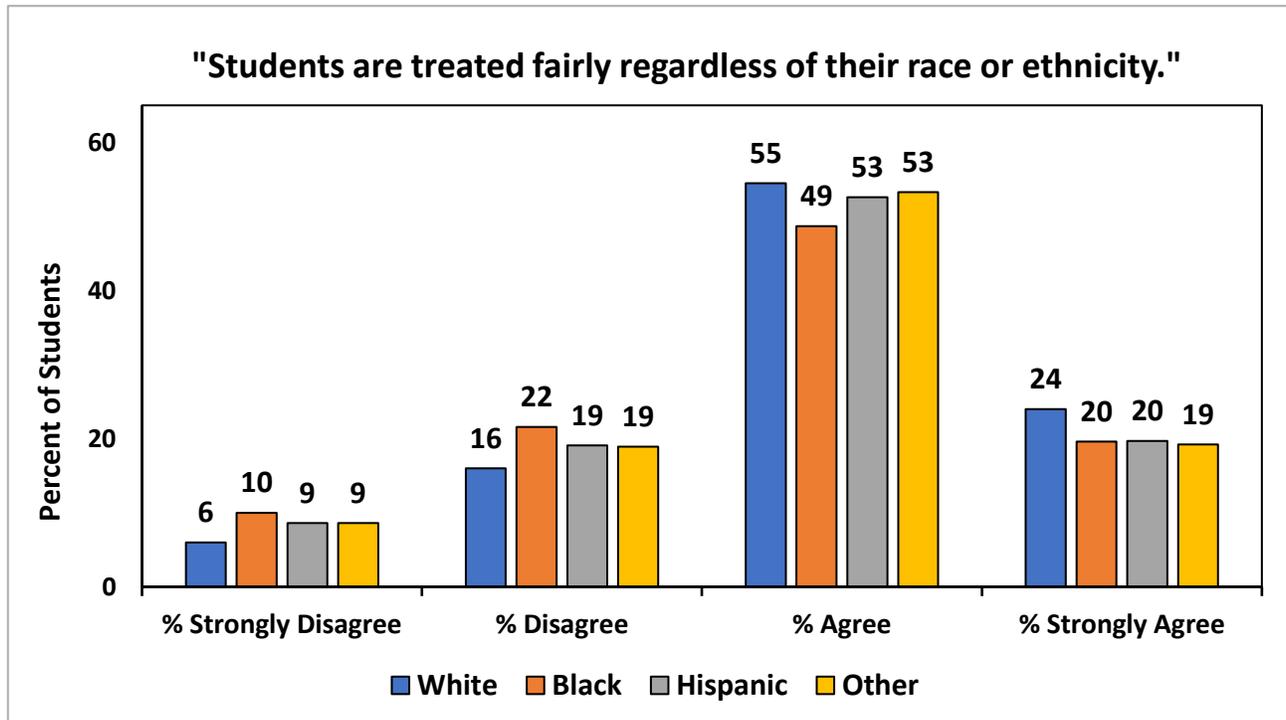


## Practical Findings from the Virginia School Climate Survey

### Student Perceptions of School Fairness

The Virginia Secondary School Climate Survey conducted in the winter of 2020 asked high school students to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement “Students are treated fairly regardless of their race or ethnicity.” The survey was completed by 106,865 students in grades 9 through 12 from 299 public schools. Statewide, 79% of White students, 69% of Black students, 73% of Hispanic students, and 72% of Other race students agreed or strongly agreed that students are treated fairly at school regardless of their race or ethnicity. Although most students (75%) perceived there to be fair treatment at their school, White students had more favorable views than students in Black, Hispanic, or Other groups.



Note. The sample included students self-reporting as White (46%), Black (18%), Hispanic (of any race, 19%), or Other (17%, including Asian, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, two or more races, and other race students). Additional breakdowns available in the full technical report.

**Practical Suggestions.** Schools should review their student perspectives in the individual reports sent to each high school and division and consider meeting with students to understand their concerns. For resources on racial awareness in teaching, see the [Yale Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning](#). For information on school discipline practices, see the [U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights](#) and a report by [Brookings Institution](#). Recommendations on school discipline practices also can be found in the [School Discipline Consensus Report](#). The [American Psychological Association](#), the [National Association of School Psychologists](#), the [American School Counselors Association](#), and the [School Social Work Association of America](#) all have guidelines and training for increasing cultural competence for serving racially/ethnically diverse children and families in schools.

**Study Overview.** The Virginia Secondary School Climate Survey was administered in the winter of 2020 as part of the annual School Safety Audit (§ 22.1-279.8.A) by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) in the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Education. This project was supported by grant #NIJ 2017-CK-BX-007 awarded to the University of Virginia by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and recommendations expressed in this report are those of the researchers at the Youth Violence Project of the University of Virginia and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Justice or the Center for School and Campus Safety at the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. More detailed analyses are available from the Virginia Youth Violence Project: <http://youthviolence.edschool.virginia.edu>.