

AI & Education

National Survey

Publication date: September 8, 2026

Parents are more open to classroom technology, but Canadians still draw a hard line around AI doing the work.

Prepared by Liaison Strategies

Survey method and sample

Liaison Strategies surveyed a random sample of Canadians from August 23 to September 5, 2026.

Sample

1,526 Canadians

Mode

**Interactive Voice
Recording**

Weighting

Gender, age and region

Margin of error

**+/-2.5 points, 19 times
out of 20**



Canadians want AI literacy with clear limits

The poll points to a practical middle position: teach students how AI works, allow support uses, and keep boundaries around schoolwork.

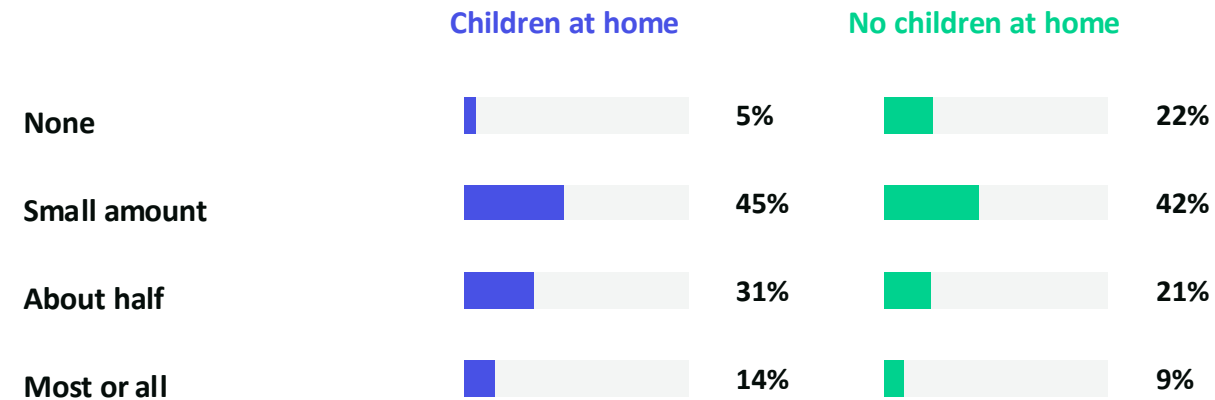
- | | | | | | |
|----------|--|----------|---|----------|---|
| 1 | Parents are less anti-screen | 2 | Task matters | 3 | Readiness lags |
| | Only 5% of households with children choose no laptop or tablet use in elementary classrooms. | | 66% permit AI for explaining concepts. Only 21% permit AI-generated first drafts with disclosure. | | 58% say schools are not well equipped to manage students' AI use. |

Families closest to classrooms show more openness to technology, while the public still wants clear limits around student work and teacher judgment.

Parents are less likely to reject screens in elementary school

The public still prefers limited use, but households with children are much less likely to choose no laptop or tablet use.

How much of the schoolwork done in elementary school classrooms should involve using a laptop or tablet?

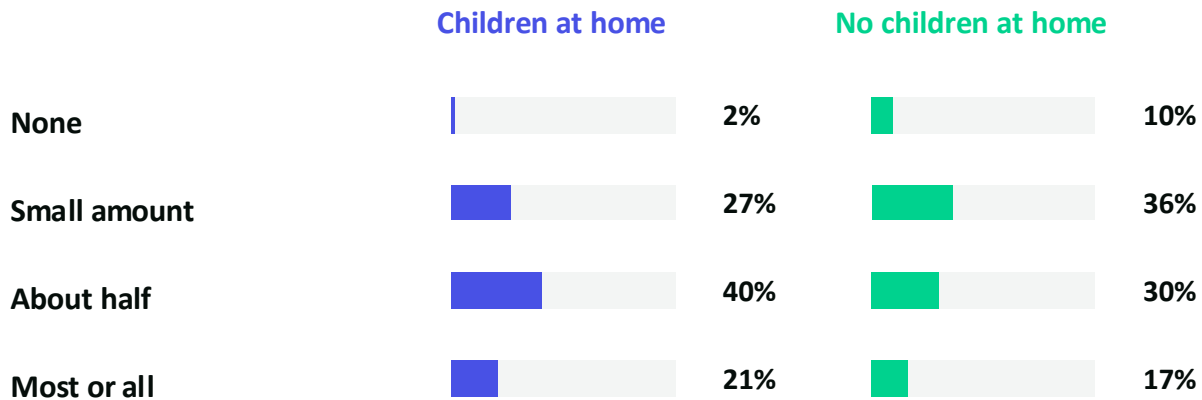


Parents are not asking for screen-only classrooms. Their preference is controlled use, not no use.

Parents also accept more technology in secondary school

Sixty-one percent of households with children say about half, most or all secondary schoolwork should involve laptops or tablets.

How much of the schoolwork done in secondary school classrooms should involve using a laptop or tablet?

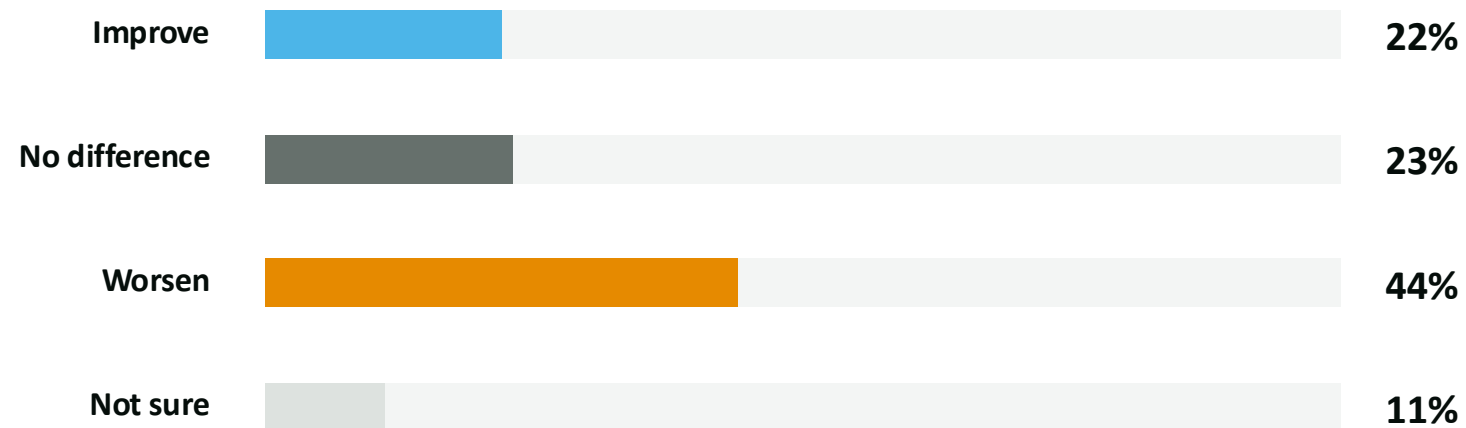


The household gap appears before the AI questions. Parents are more comfortable with classroom technology overall.

Canadians start from caution on AI's effect

Forty-four percent expect AI to worsen education, twice the share who expect it to improve education.

Overall, do you think the use of AI in elementary and secondary education will improve the quality of education, worsen it, or make no difference?



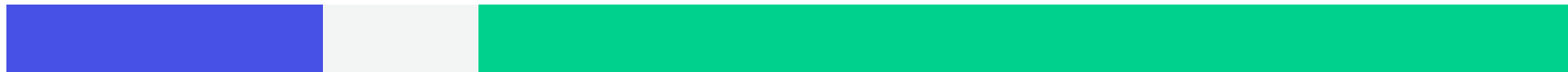
AI literacy is the consensus policy

Support is broad because the question is about teaching use and judgment, not giving AI more control over assignments.

Do you support or oppose requiring secondary schools to teach students how to use AI tools and assess the accuracy of their outputs?

20% oppose

70% support

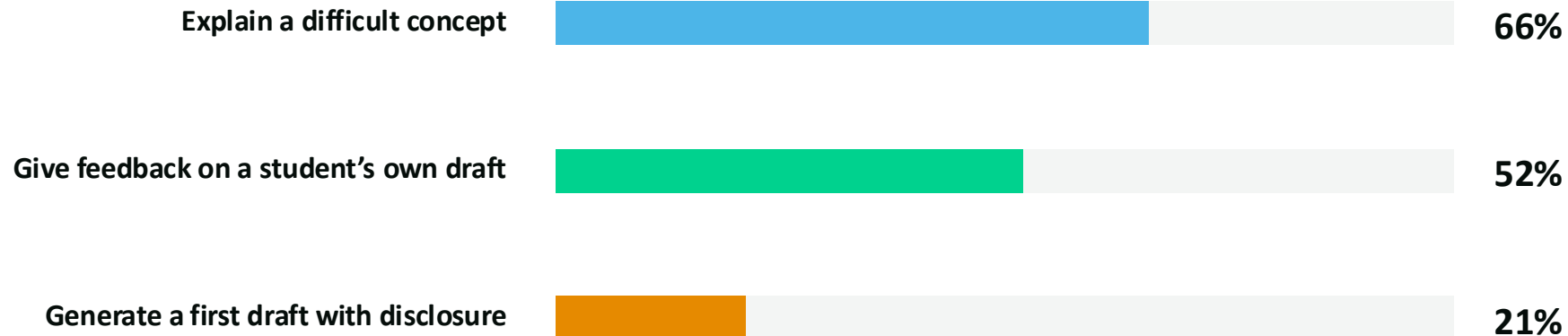


The public wants schools to teach AI use and accuracy checks before students are left to navigate the tools alone.

Support drops when AI produces schoolwork

Canadians distinguish between help understanding material and help producing work for submission.

Support for Artificial Intelligence being used to...



First drafts and grading remain hard boundaries

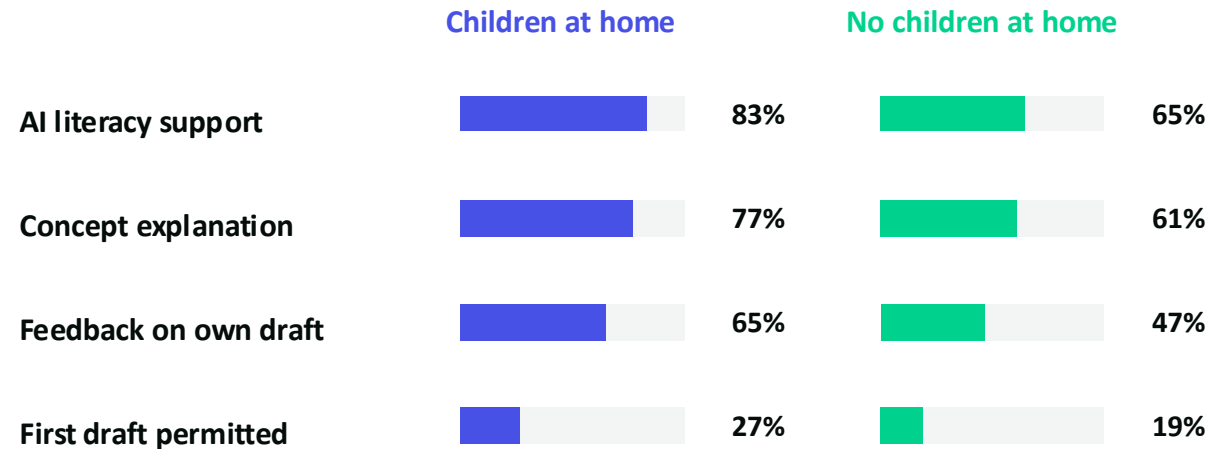
Disclosure and teacher review leave most Canadians uncomfortable with AI-generated drafts or AI-assisted grading.



Canadians are more comfortable with AI as a learning aid than as a producer or evaluator of schoolwork.

Parents are more open to guided AI use

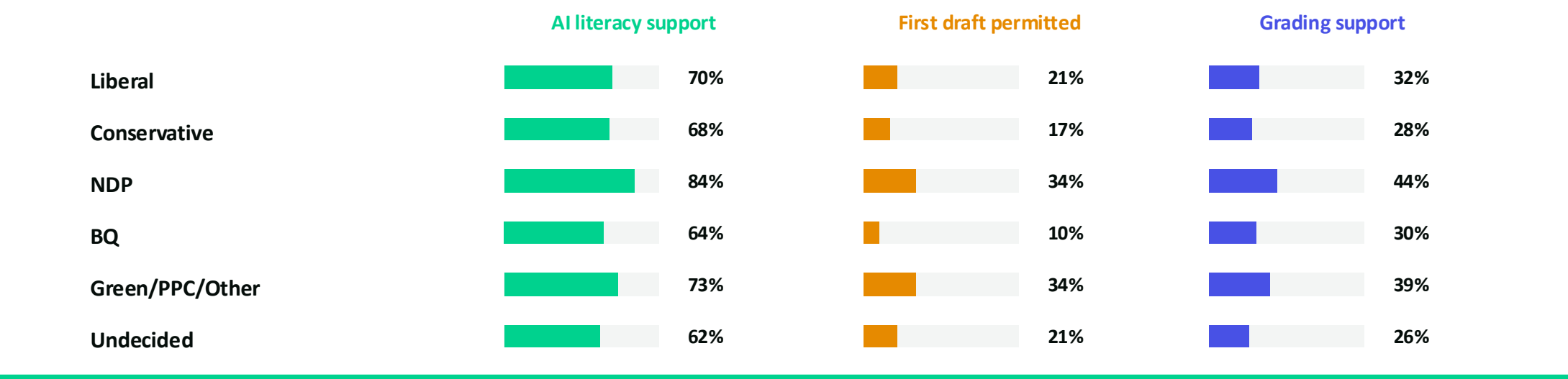
Households with kids are more supportive of AI literacy and student support tools, but they share the broader discomfort with AI-written first drafts.



Parents are not rejecting AI. They are more likely to accept structured use, while still wanting limits on AI-generated work.

Conservative voters want trust and control

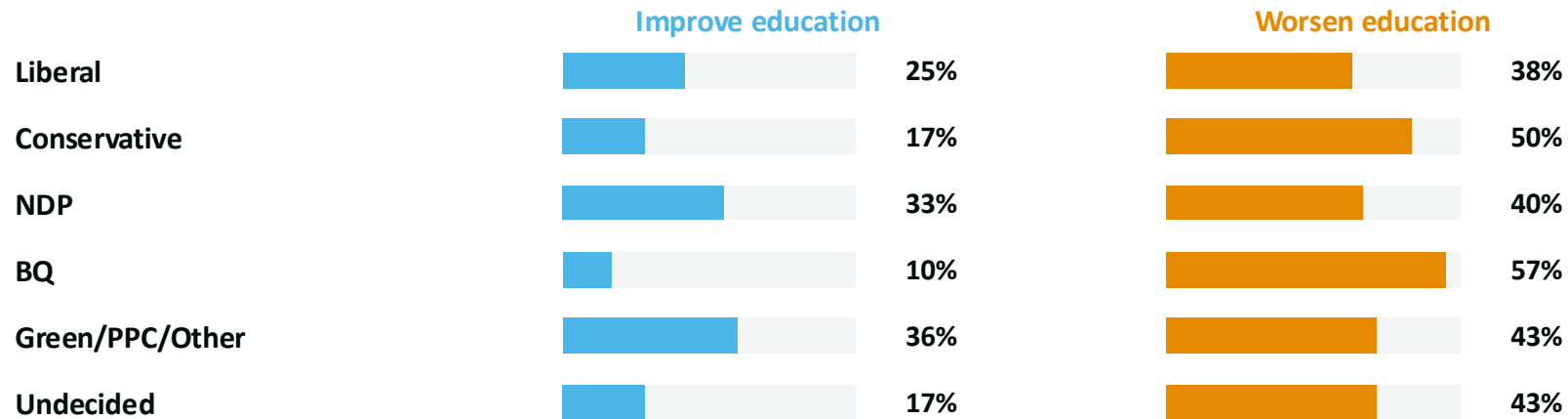
Conservative voters are more cautious than Liberals and NDP voters, but 68% still support teaching AI literacy.



Among Conservative voters, scepticism signals demand for guardrails while support for teaching AI literacy remains high.

BQ and Conservative voters are the most pessimistic on AI's effect

The scepticism is clearest on the overall impact question, where BQ and Conservative voters are most likely to expect AI to worsen education.

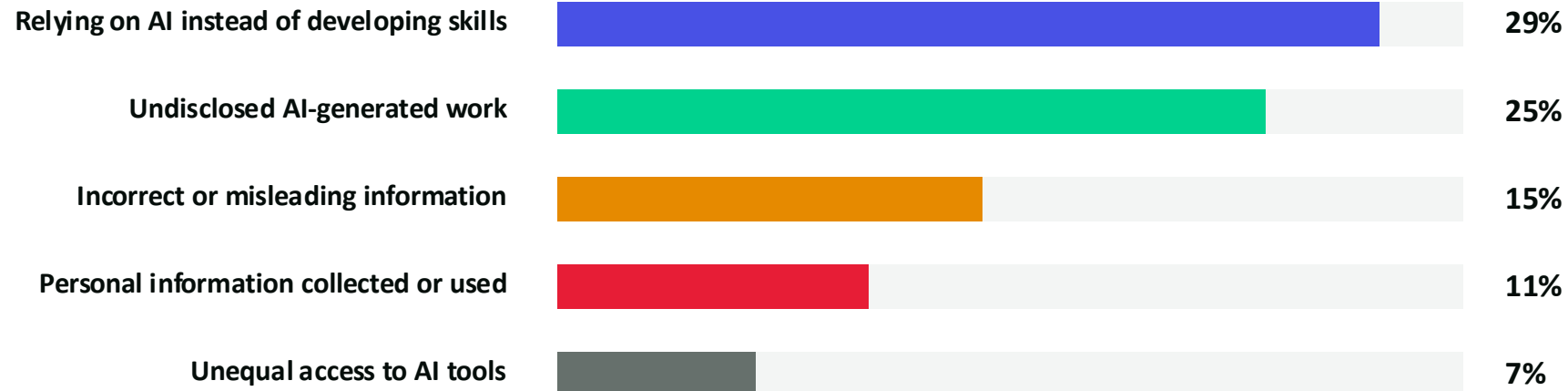


Conservatives are not alone in caution. BQ voters are even more likely to say AI will worsen education.

Skill development is the main concern

The public worries most about students relying on AI instead of learning the underlying skills.

Which of the following, if any, is your biggest concern about students using AI for schoolwork?

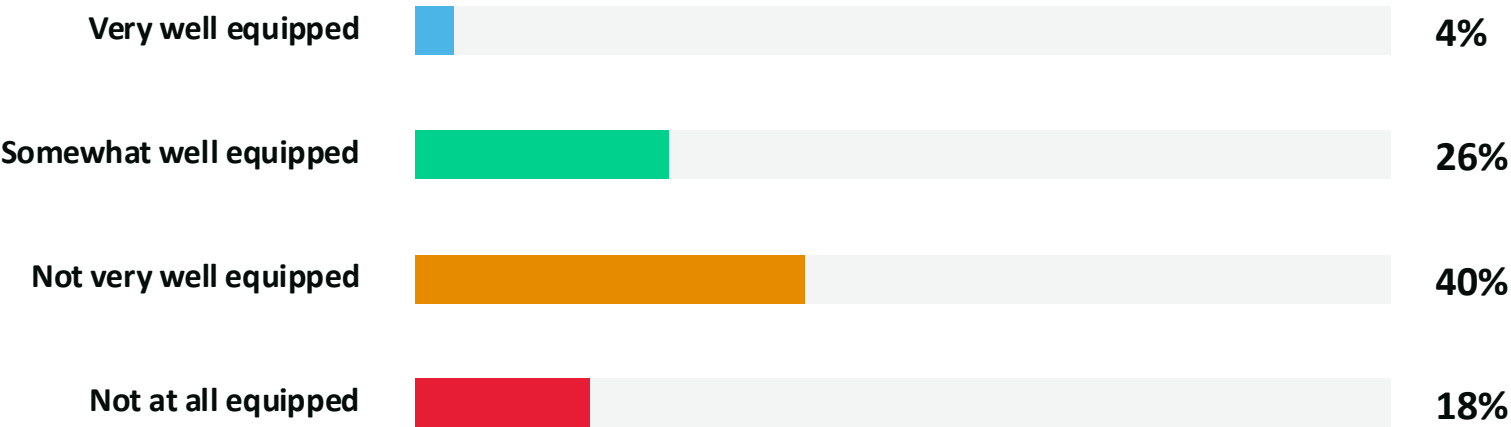


Only 4% say they have no concerns about students using AI for schoolwork.

School readiness lags public expectations

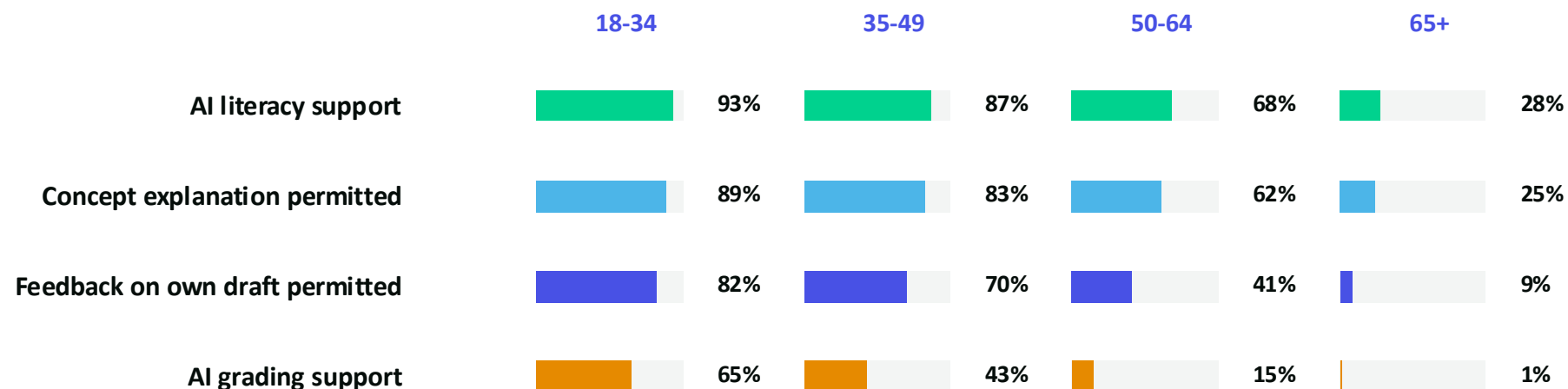
Canadians support AI literacy, but most do not think schools are equipped to manage student use.

How well equipped do you think Canadian elementary and secondary schools are to manage students' use of AI?



Younger Canadians are far more comfortable with AI in school

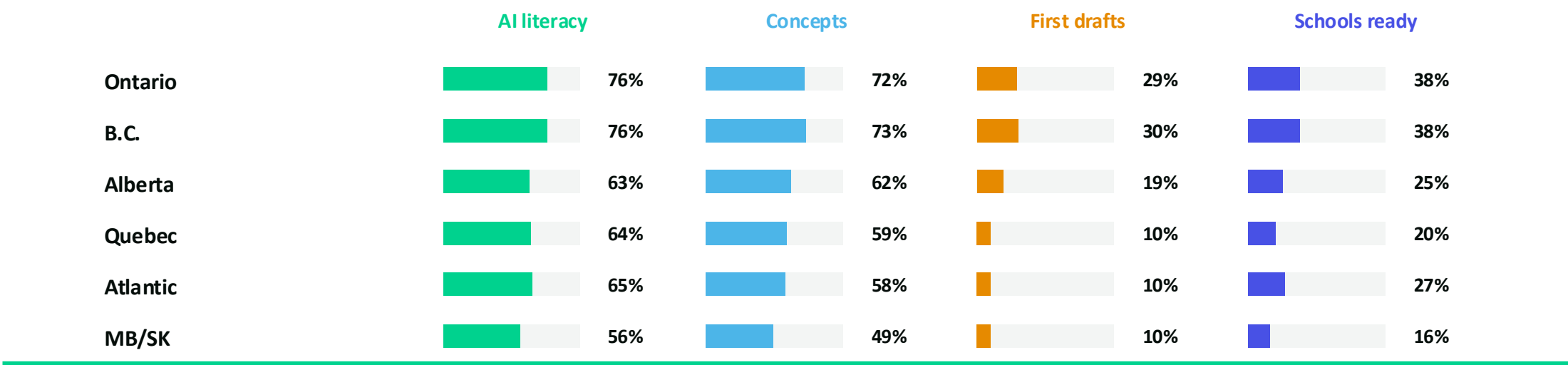
The age split is larger than the parent split and larger than most party differences.



The classroom AI debate has a strong generational divide, especially on feedback, grading and first drafts.

Ontario and B.C. are more open to classroom AI

Regional gaps are clearest on AI-created first drafts and whether schools are equipped to manage AI.



Ontario and B.C. show more comfort with guided AI use. MB/SK is the most cautious region on these measures.



Contact

For questions about this report, detailed tables, methodology, or a briefing on the findings.

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