

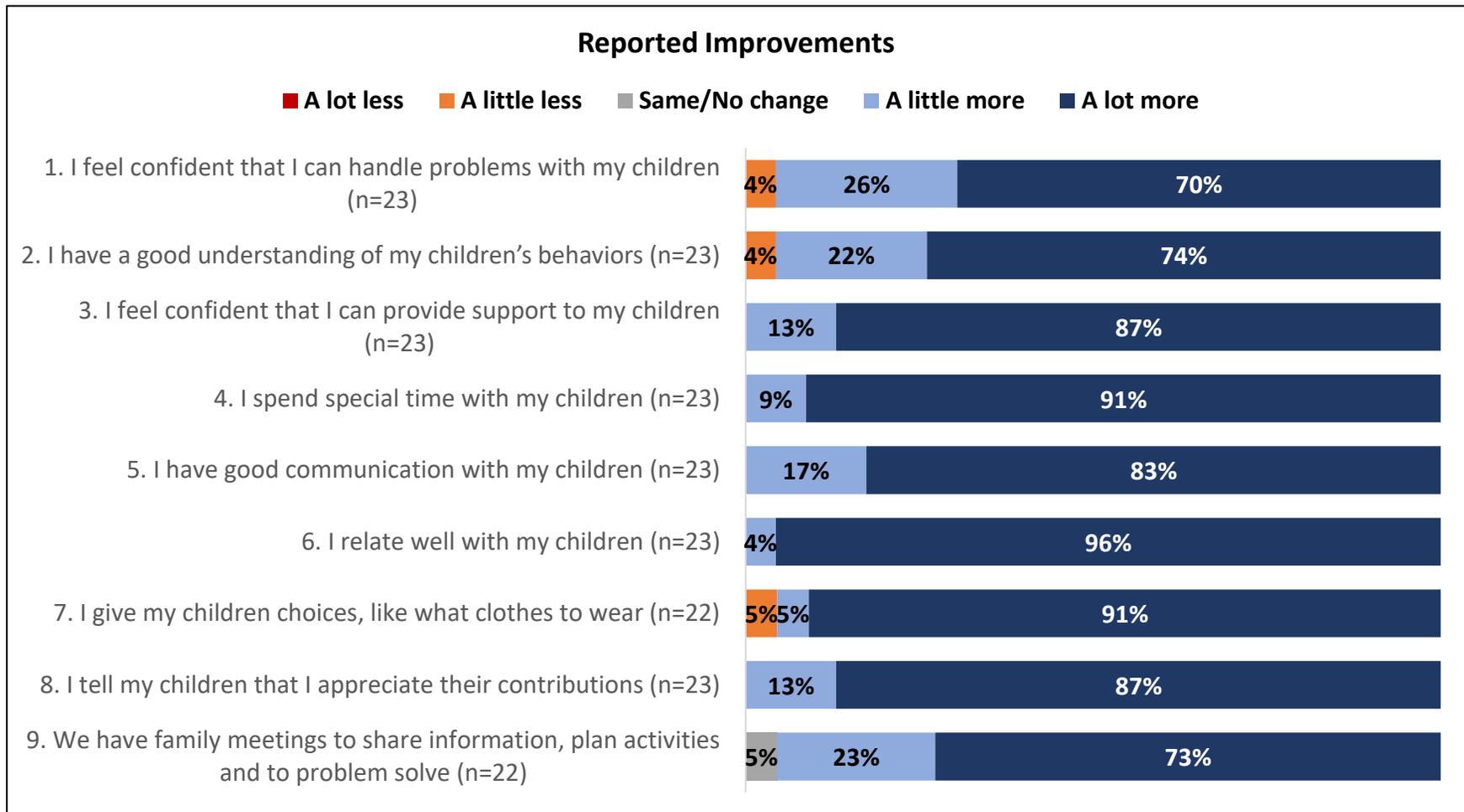
PEP Parenting Program for Latino Families Conducted in MCPS Schools Montgomery County, Maryland

Highlights of FY20 Program Report

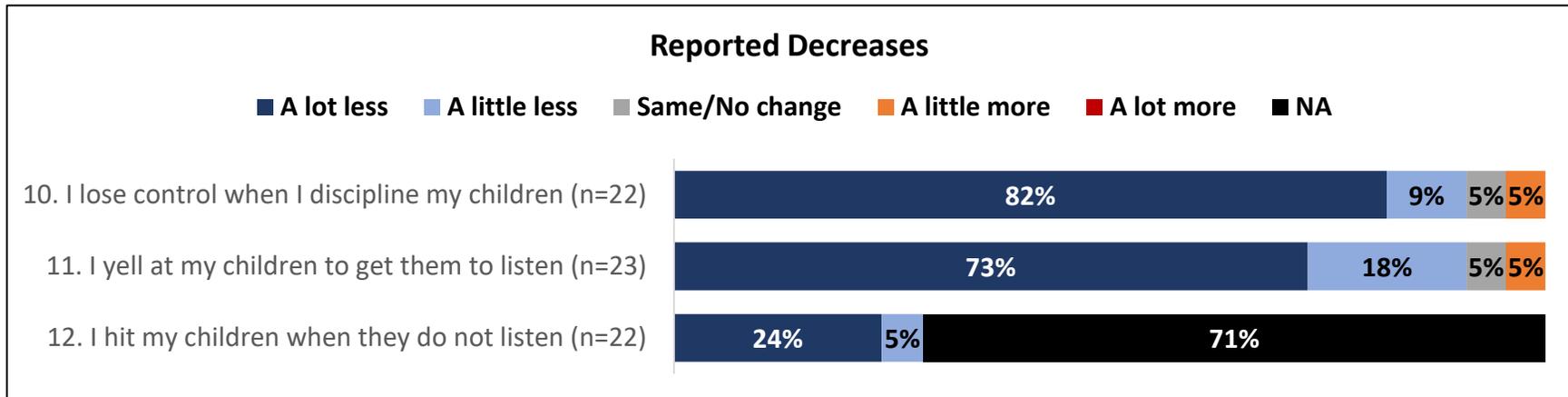
Since 2017, the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) has partnered with Montgomery County and the Linkages to Learning program to provide parenting workshops to predominantly immigrant, Latino, Spanish-speaking parents. Through this program, PEP provides a 7-week series of parenting workshops to parents whose children are enrolled in the Linkages to Learning program in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) during the year. The program was conducted in collaboration with MCPS, Family Services, Inc, and YMCA Youth & Family Services and received financial and in-kind support from Montgomery County, Suburban Hospital, MOM's Organic Market and an anonymous donor.

During the 2019/20 school year, 60 Latinx parents took part in the program from 7 different MCPS schools. Parents completed evaluations and participated in focus groups to share their experience with the classes and the outcomes they experienced with their families. Below are highlights of the results and feedback.

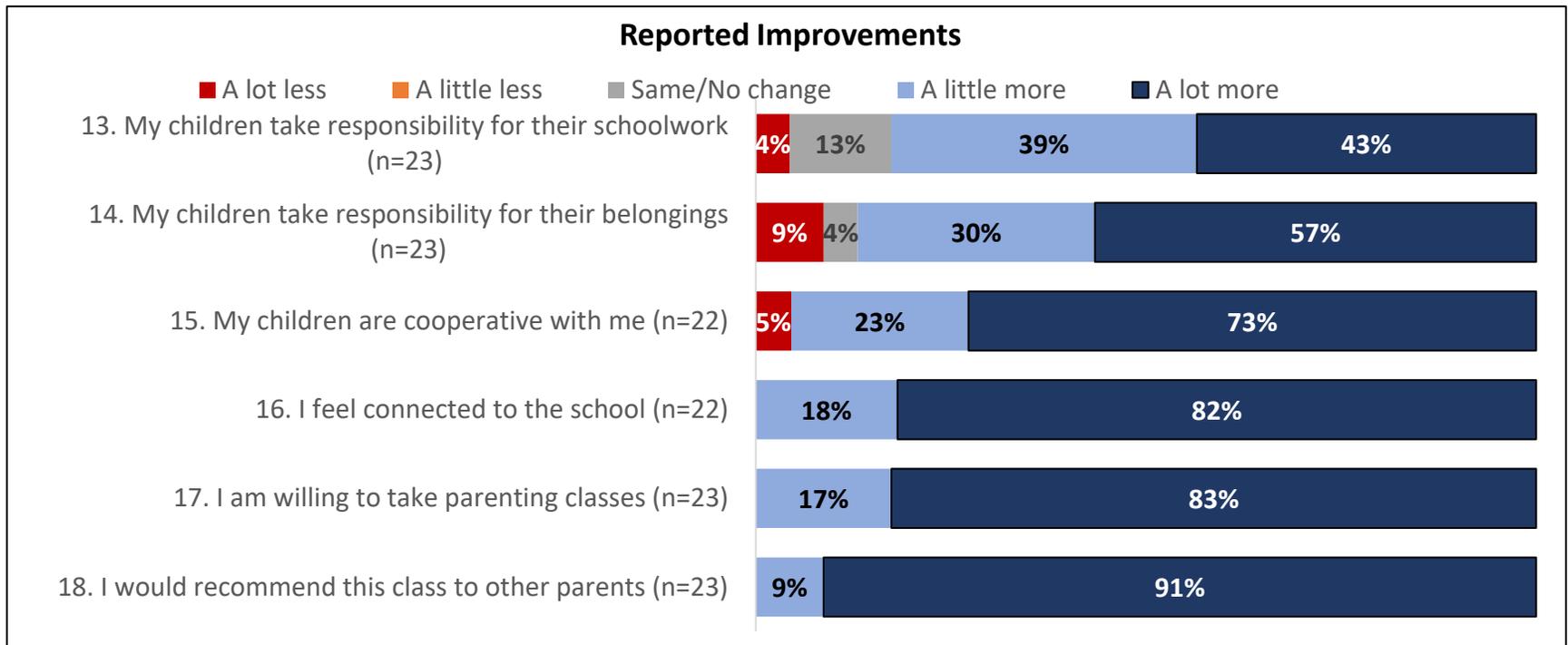
Parents reported a significant increase in positive behaviors:



Parents reported a significant decrease in negative behaviors:



Other reported positive outcomes:



Select Participant Feedback

- *I think the program was excellent. As soon as I saw that the presenters leading the discussions were Latino, I knew it would be a good program, because it's very important that they speak our language well and understand us when we talk.*
- *Thank you for giving us this kind of program especially in this very complex time, where we have to spend more time with our children in the house.*
- *I wanted to thank you for these classes, because as parents we really need these classes. I carry everything I learned in these sessions in my mind and in my heart to put it into practice with my children.*
- *It really made an impact on me when they introduced the parenting styles in the role play. I said, 'that's me,' and then saw the parenting style of the mother who spoiled the child a lot, and then the ideal model. Before I used to pull her ears. It's a difficult process to change into the mother doing things well. I still have the temptation to pull her ear, every day with my strong character, because in my childhood we thought it was normal.*
- *I have better communication with my children.*
- *Anger is also a challenge for me, I was good at grabbing the belt or sandals as a way to discipline my children and sometimes with anger that was unchecked. But with these classes I now realize that this method does not solve anything, instead I just frighten them, but that does not solve the problem. Now I have more control when I am angry.*
- *This program has helped me establish a better relationship in the family with my children and even with my husband. Now I feel like we agree more, because sometimes I would argue with my husband because sometimes, he would disagree with me, and he didn't understand why I was being strict with a rule or a routine. Now I talk more to him so that he understands the reasons and supports me in setting the boundaries.*
- *These workshops have helped me improve my self-esteem...it makes me feel that I am not the only one who goes through some situations. Now I try to remember I have to discipline my children from love and affection.*
- *It has helped me better advocate at school with my children (and in any conflicts that arise in school).*