Early school leaving

ARIOGALA'S GYMNASIUM

Problems of early school learning

Young early school leavers have a negative impact for their career and well-being. Such people face serious challenges when looking for a job, are unemployed more often, and depend on social allowances.

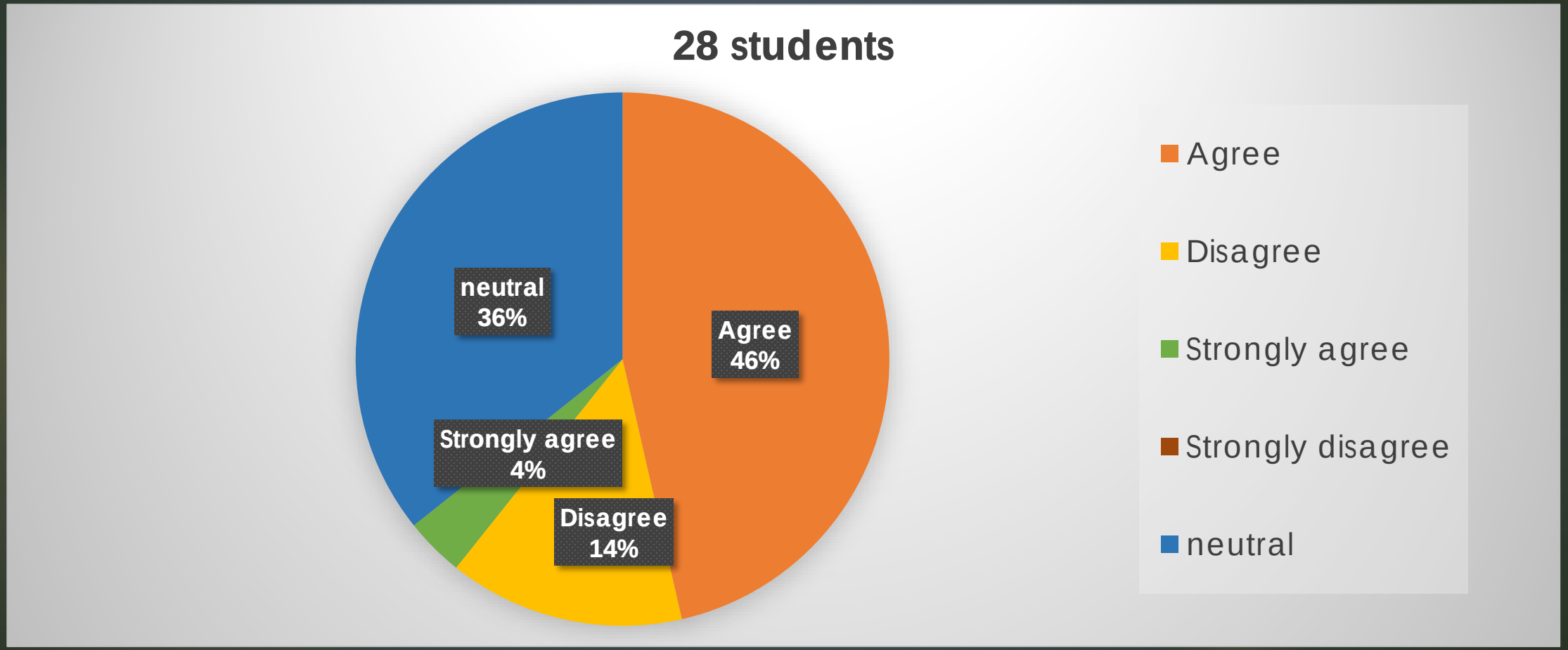
This slows down economical growth and social development. Studies also show that they grow up being less active citizens.

Survey about dropping out of school early

Out of 28 scholars there were:

- 8 male students *(age 16-19)*
- 13 female students *(age 16-19)*
- 4 male students *(age 13-15)*
- 3 female students *(age 13-15)*

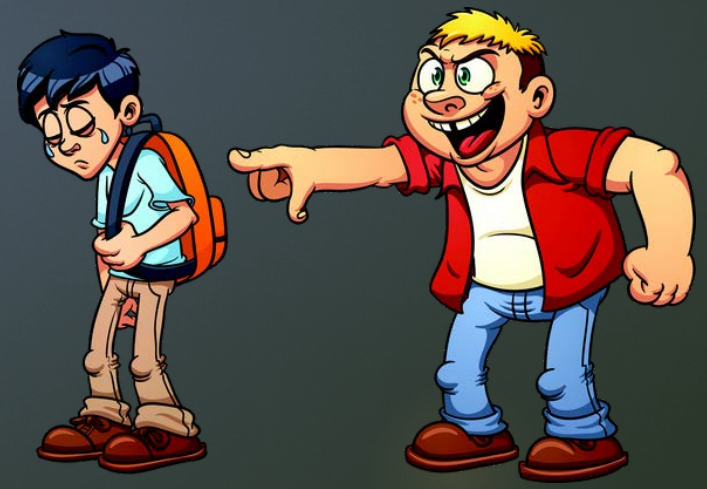
“I believe dropout is related to bullying”



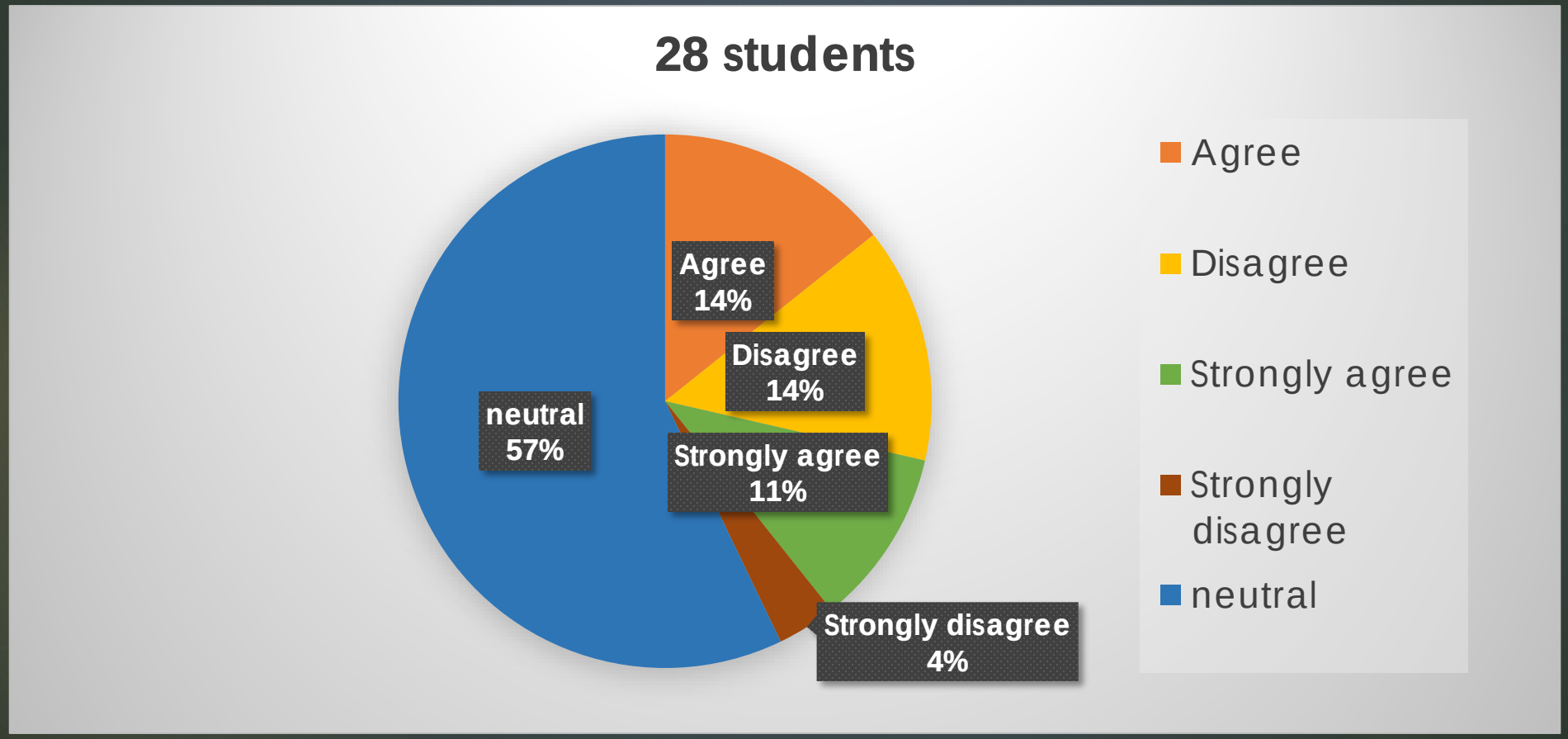
Bullying and early school leaving

Anything from personal or family problems *(e.g. abuse, mental health issues)* to learning difficulties or negative school experiences *(e.g. bullying, poor relationship with teachers and peers)* or unstable social-economical situation can have an impact.

Being a victim of bullying can be a serious cause of school abandoning, that can lead to social exclusion and passivity.



“(Feelings / cases) of dropout in my school are a relevant problem”



Sending signals

Most pupils who are planning to leave school tend to send "*signals*" for several months or even years.

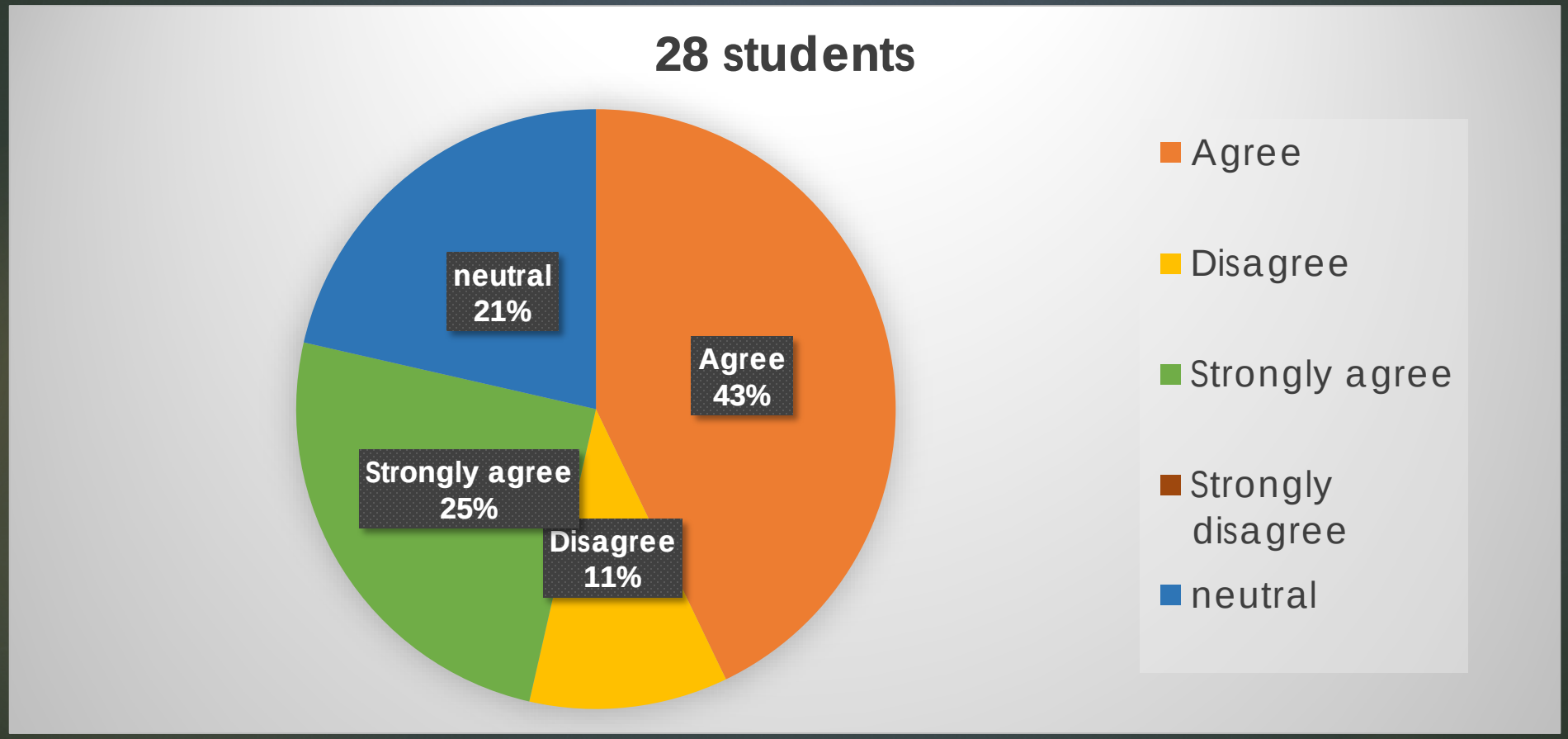
These signals can vary from one teen to another, but usually the first warning signs are:

- unattending lessons;
- bad behaviour;
- grades (marks) going worse;

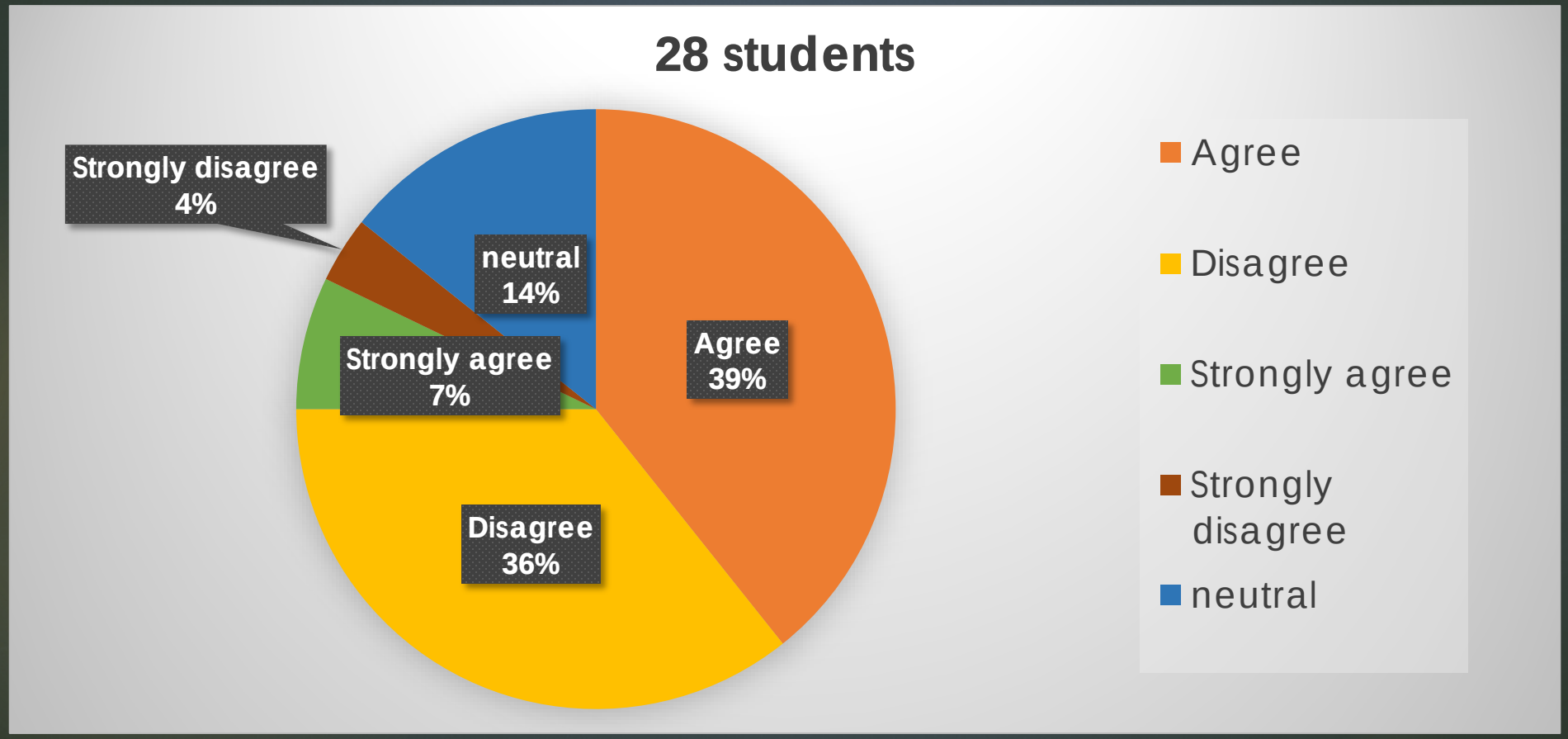
and so on.

The goal of the prevention is to notice the first „signals“ and react to them.

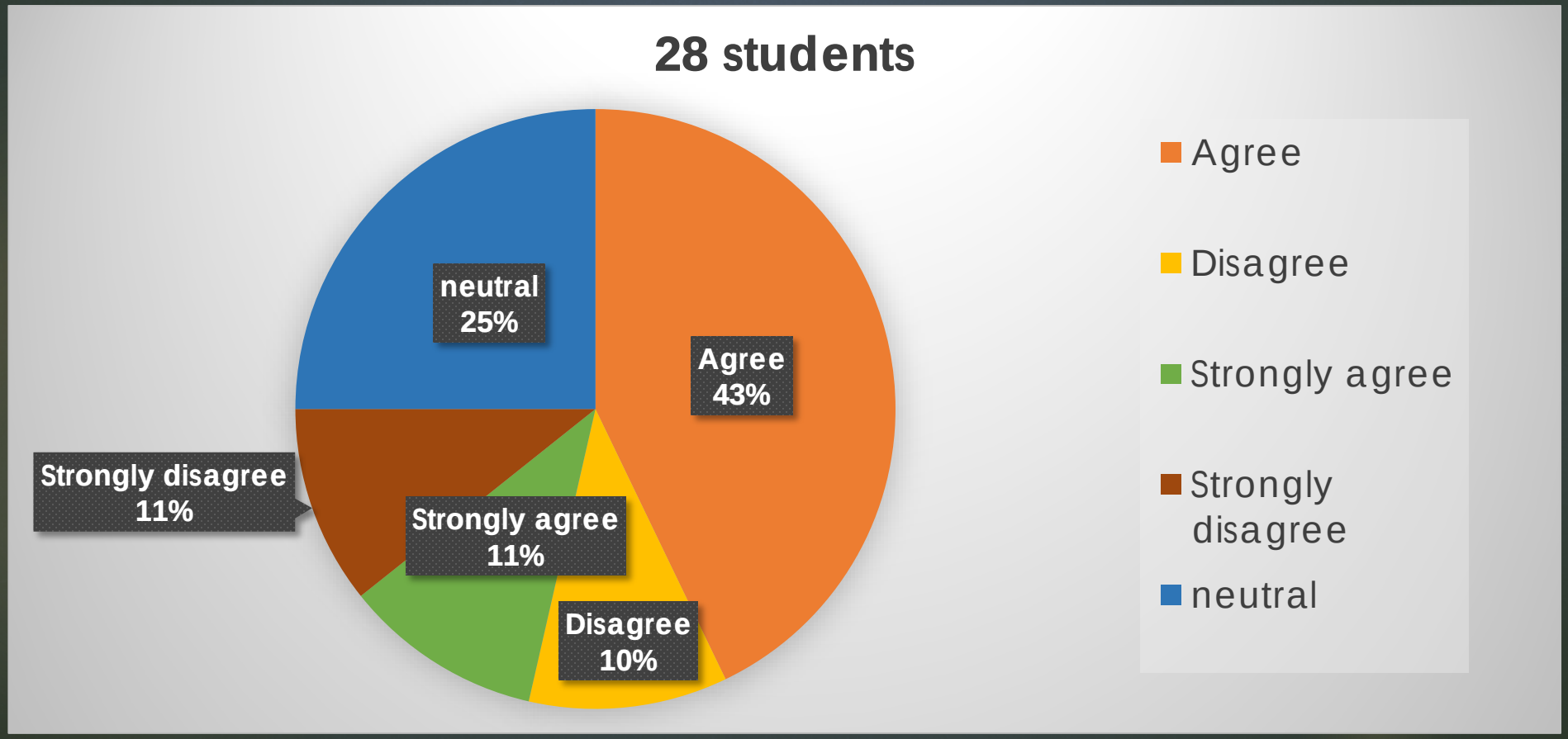
“I feel that there is competition among students”



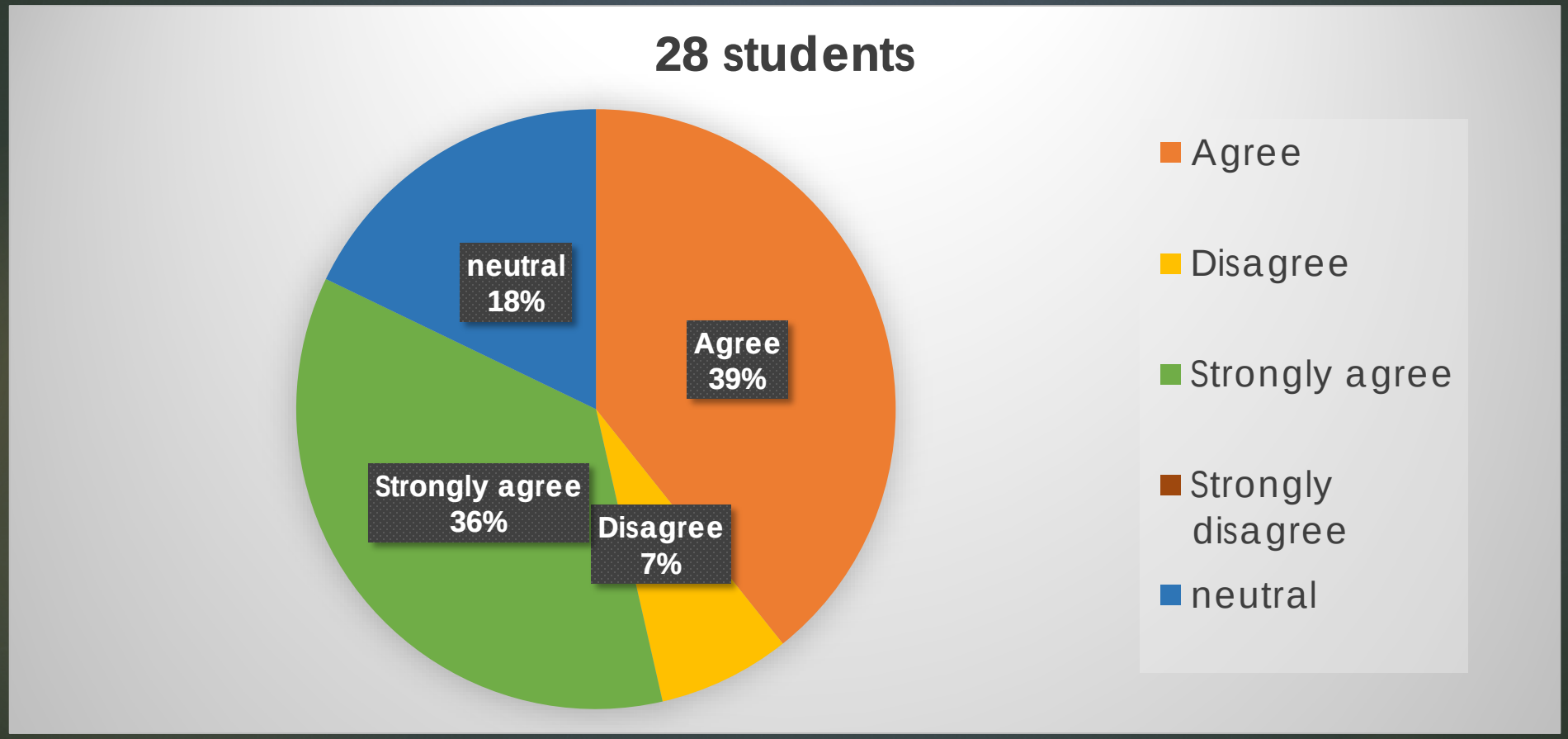
“Students like educational programs”



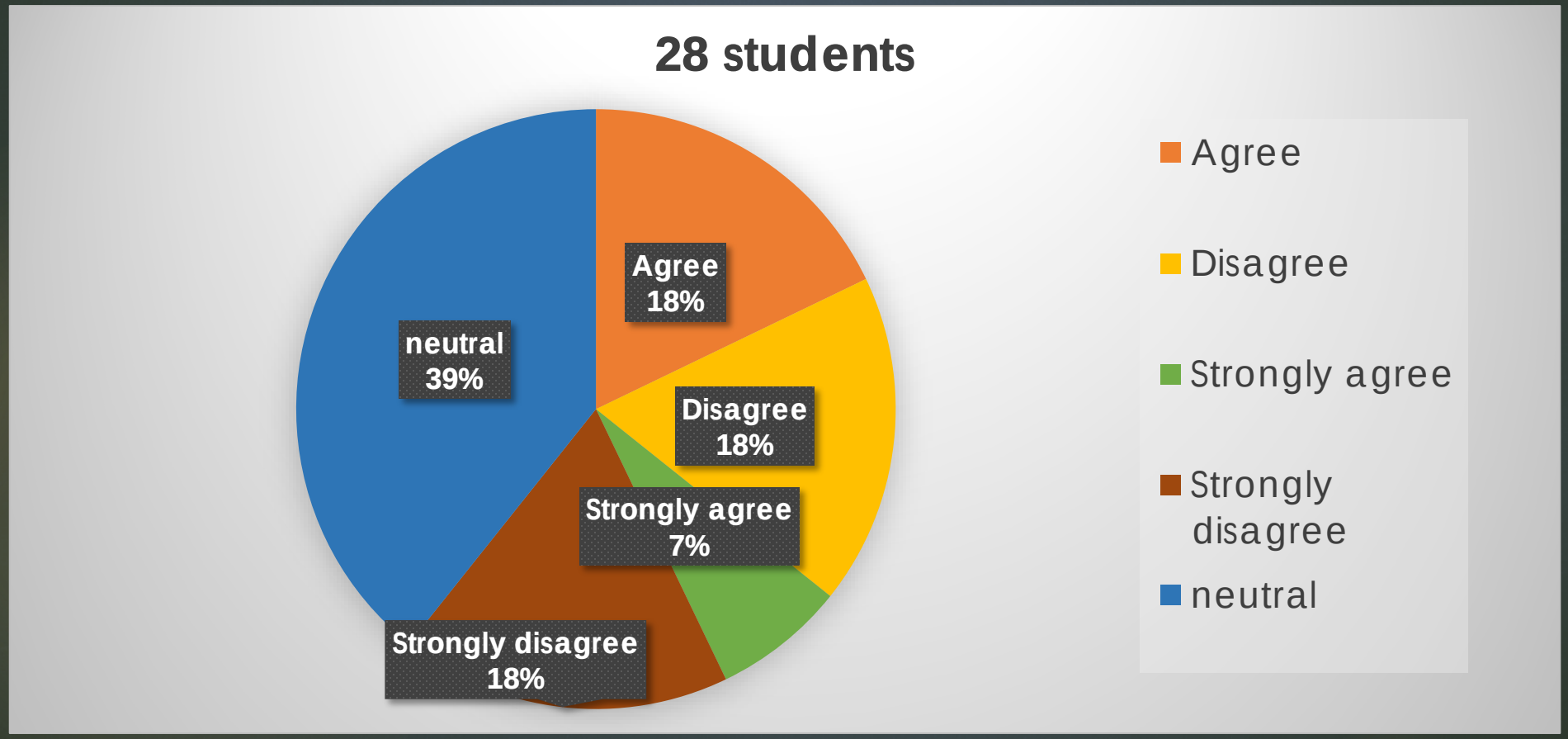
“Educational programs are so demanding that students don’t have free time for other activities.”



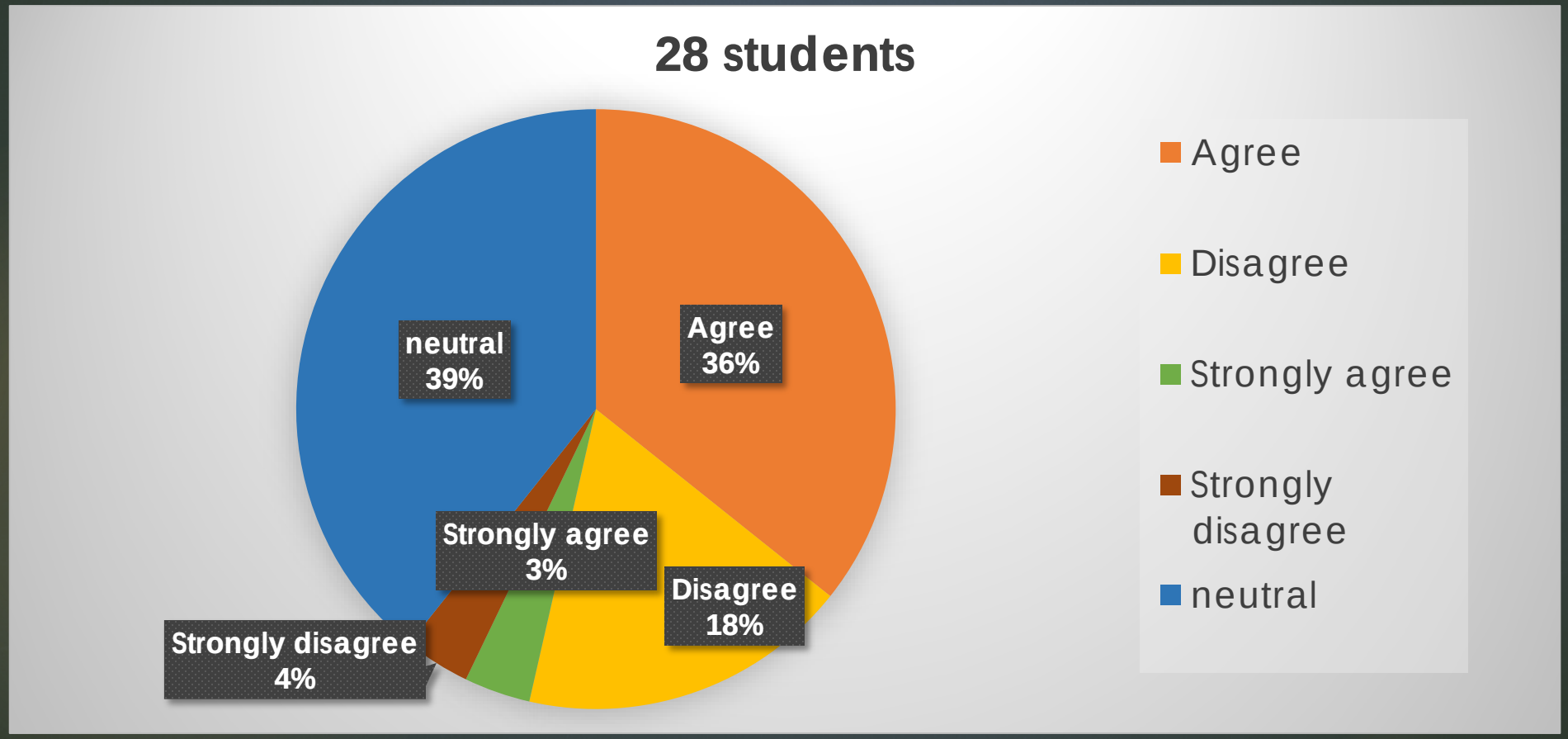
“I think that final exams are difficult.”



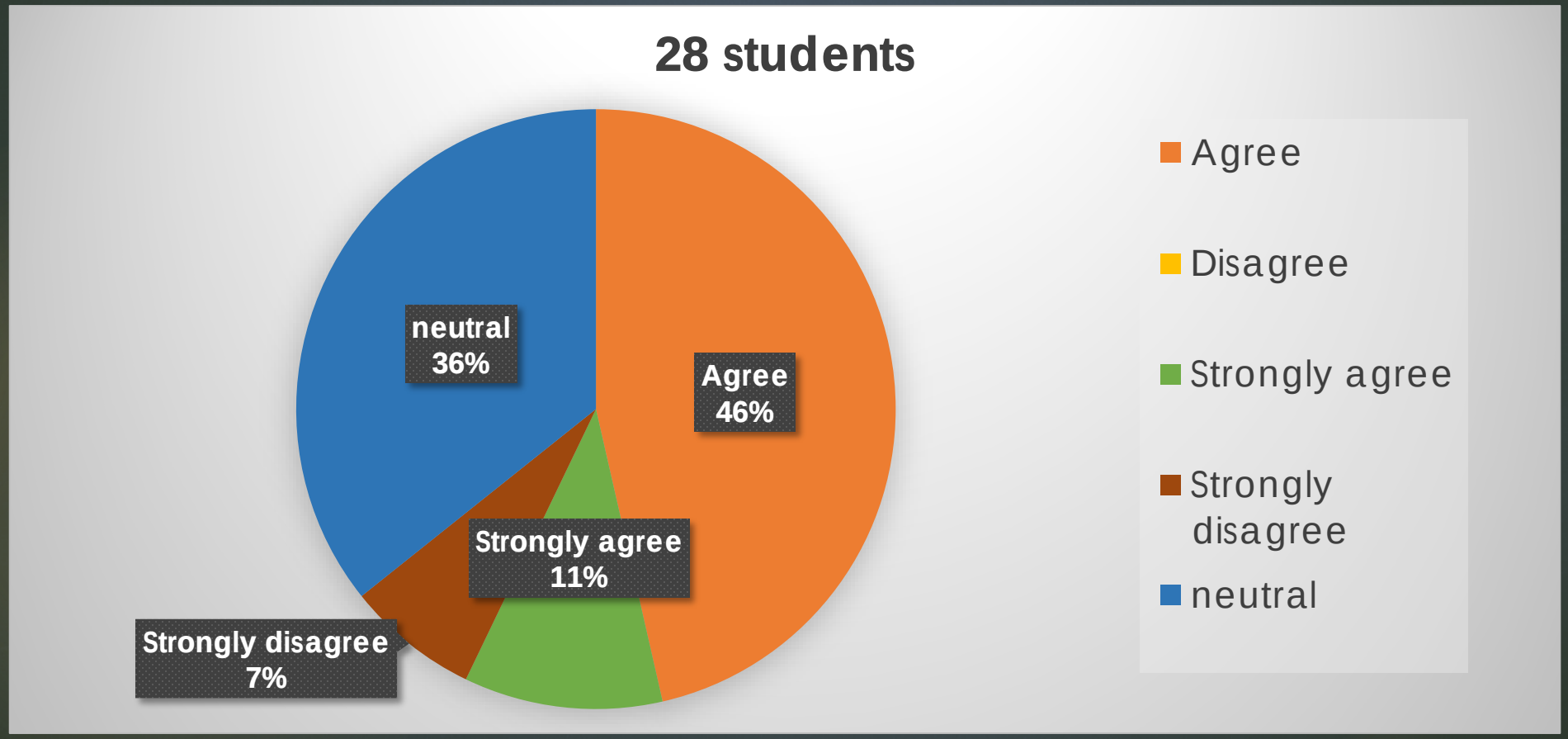
“Accessing the school is difficult (transport)”



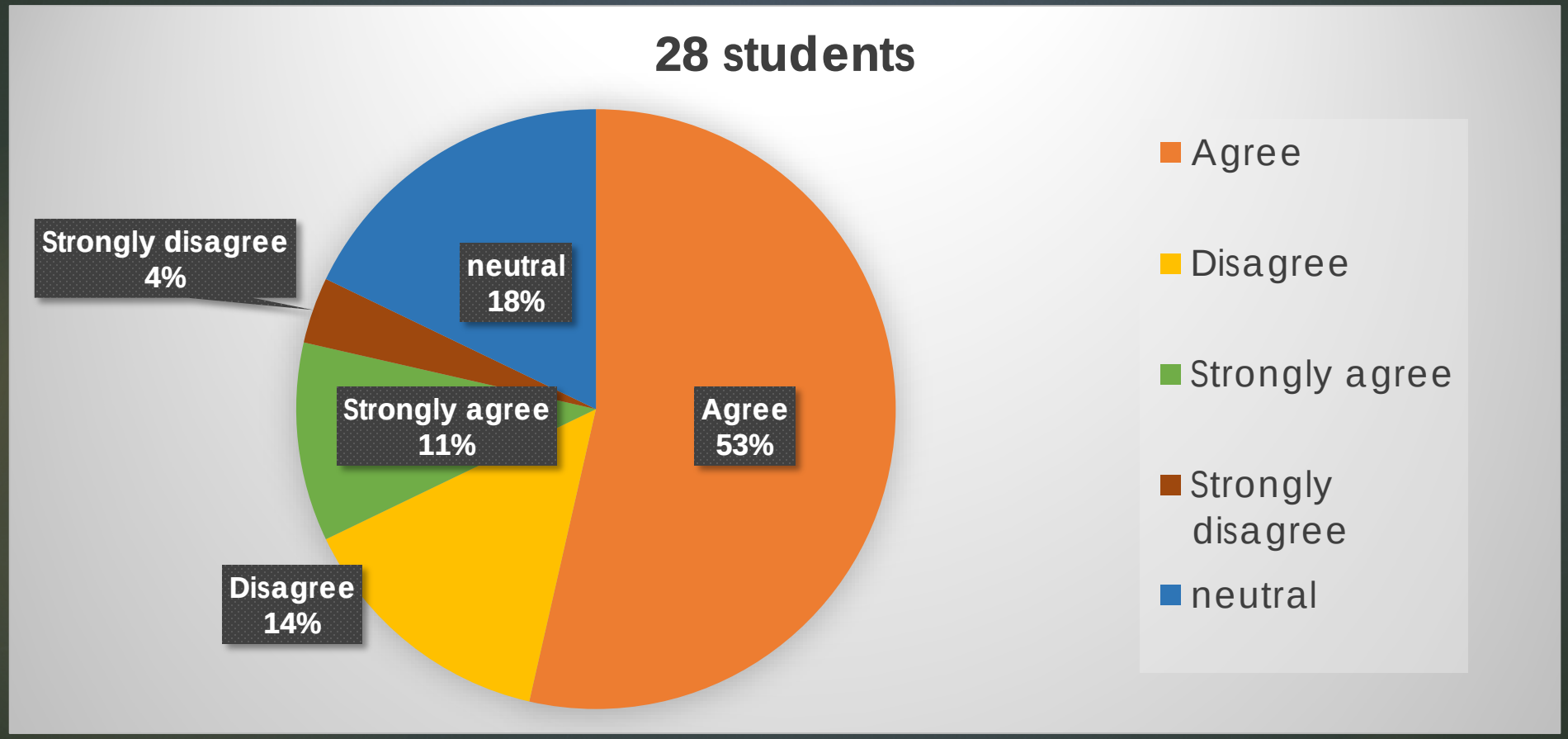
“Teachers are likeable by students”



“There is a fair application of the school rules.”



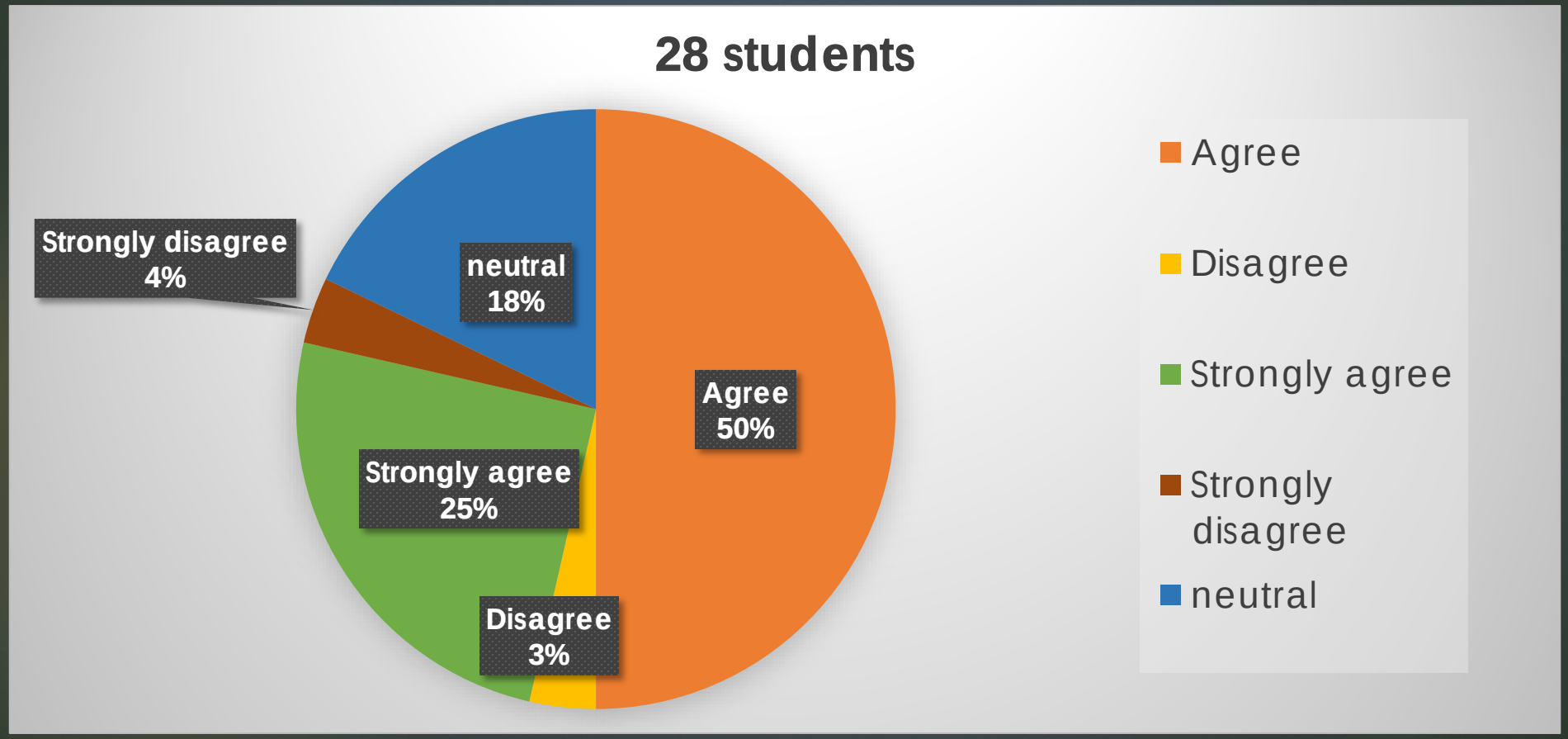
“In my school there is violence and bullying.”



In addition to creating a safe and welcoming environment, school has an important role in detecting situations of bullying, victimisation, violence or abuse happening within and outside school, developing strategies to deal with bullying.

A wide range of activities, support and counselling, *including emotional and psychological support for their mental health issues (distress, depression, post-traumatic disorders),* should be available to pupils in the school.

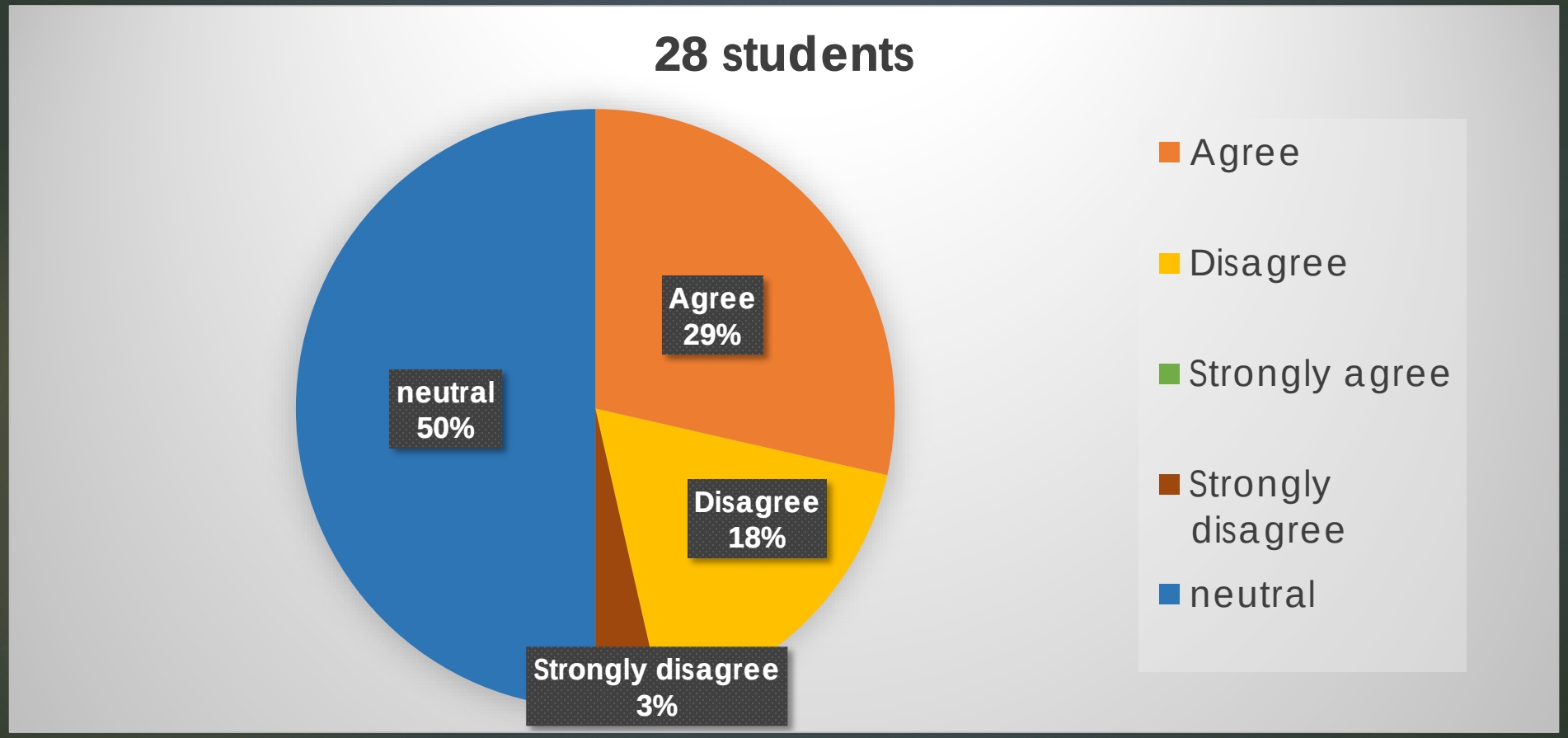
“I found new friends or groups at school”



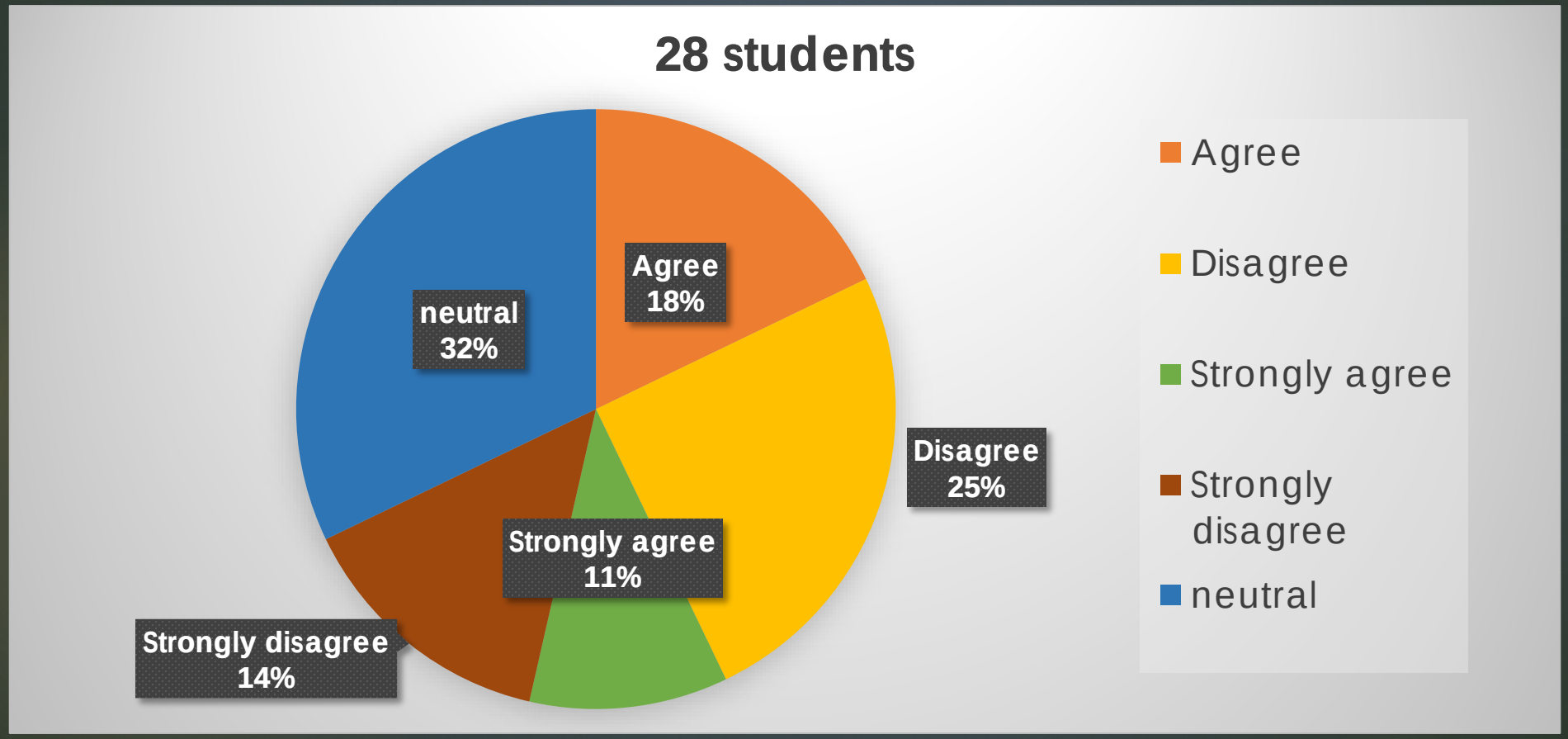
Reducing the number of early school leavers

Increasing after-school activities, day center activities may help with engagement, busyness, finding new friends.

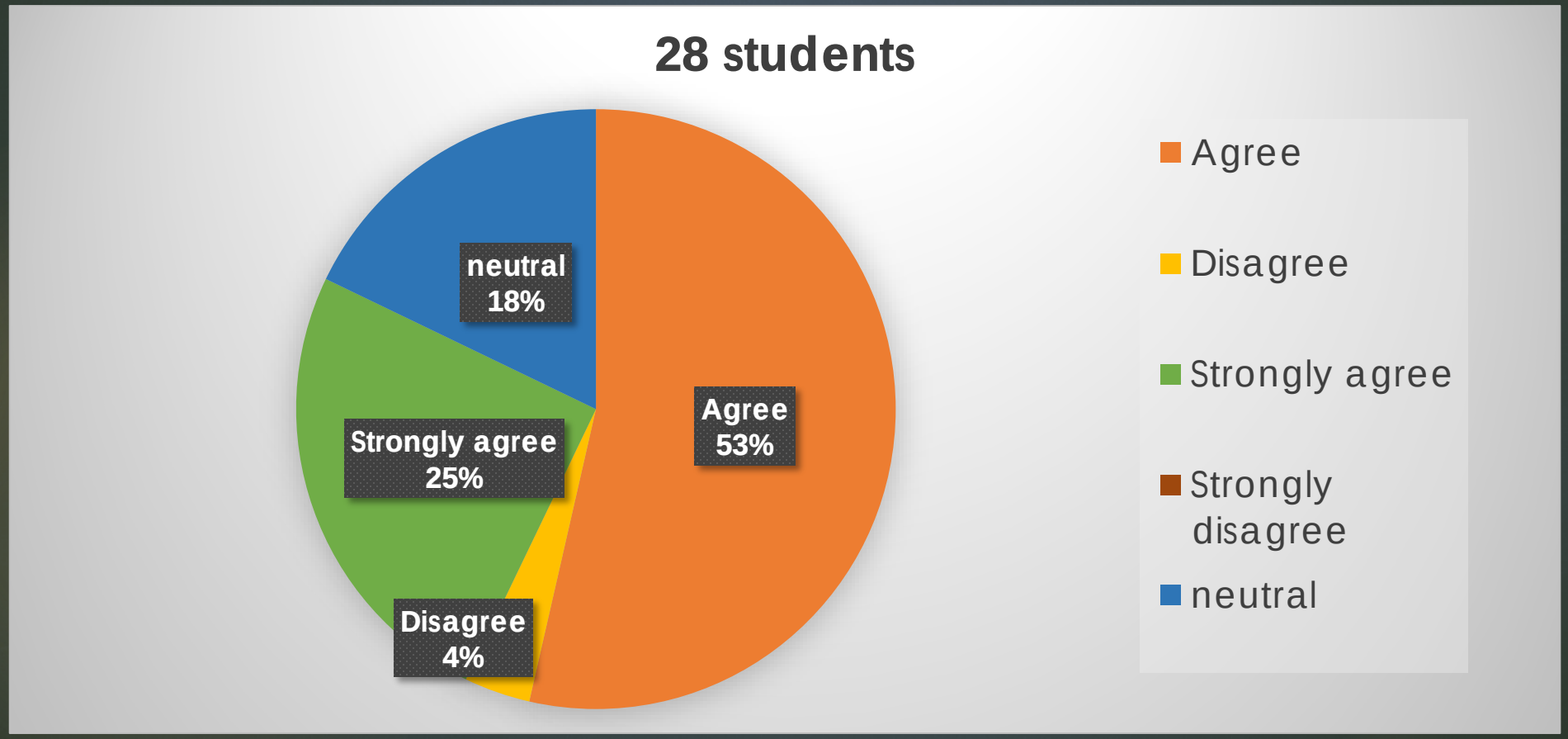
“Students trust teachers”



“My parents (or guardians) help me with homework”



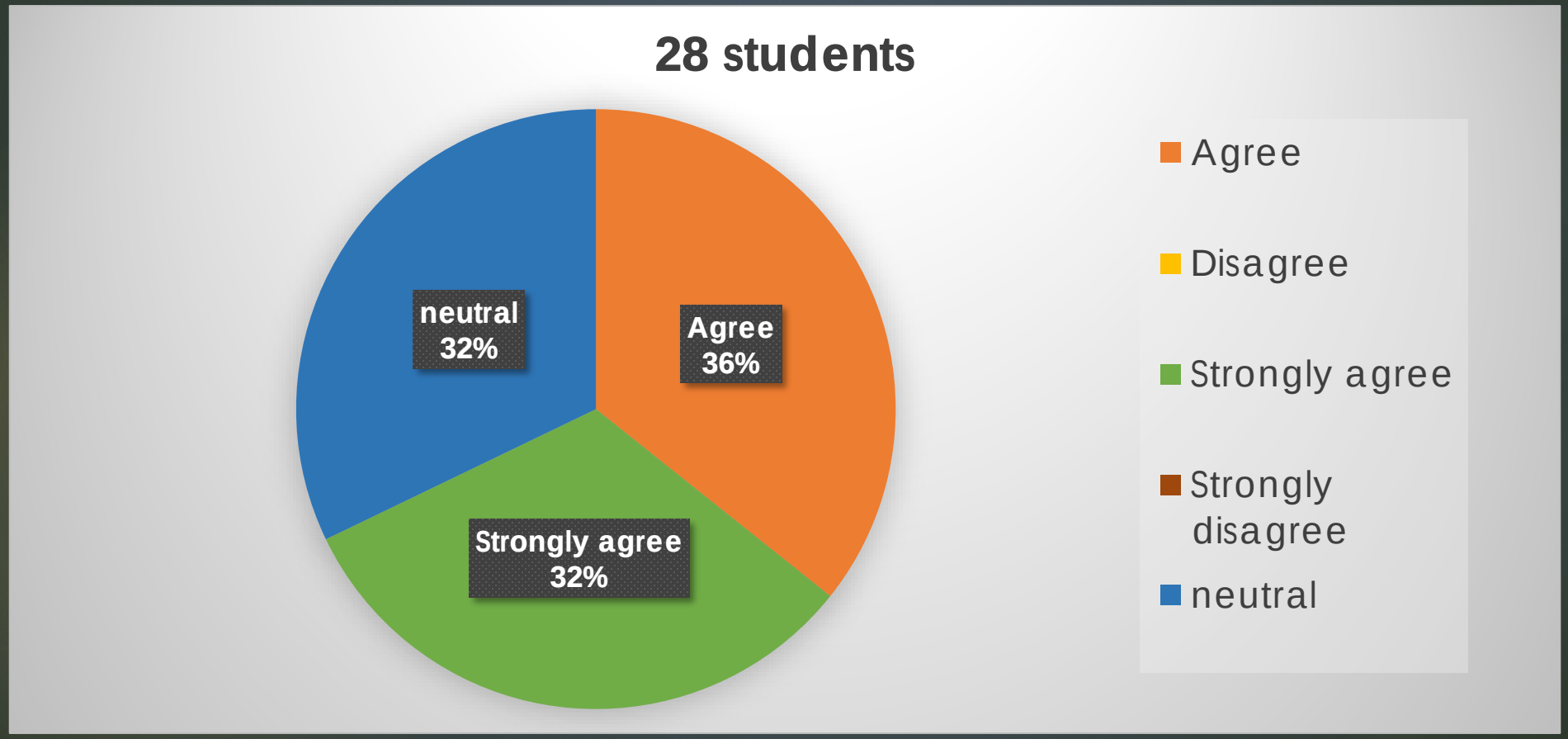
“Parents care about their children’s performance in my school”



Reducing number of early school leavers

Watching pupils school and lessons attendance and informing the parents in time, providing the necessary pedagogical and psychological support in time can prevent a teen from leaving school.

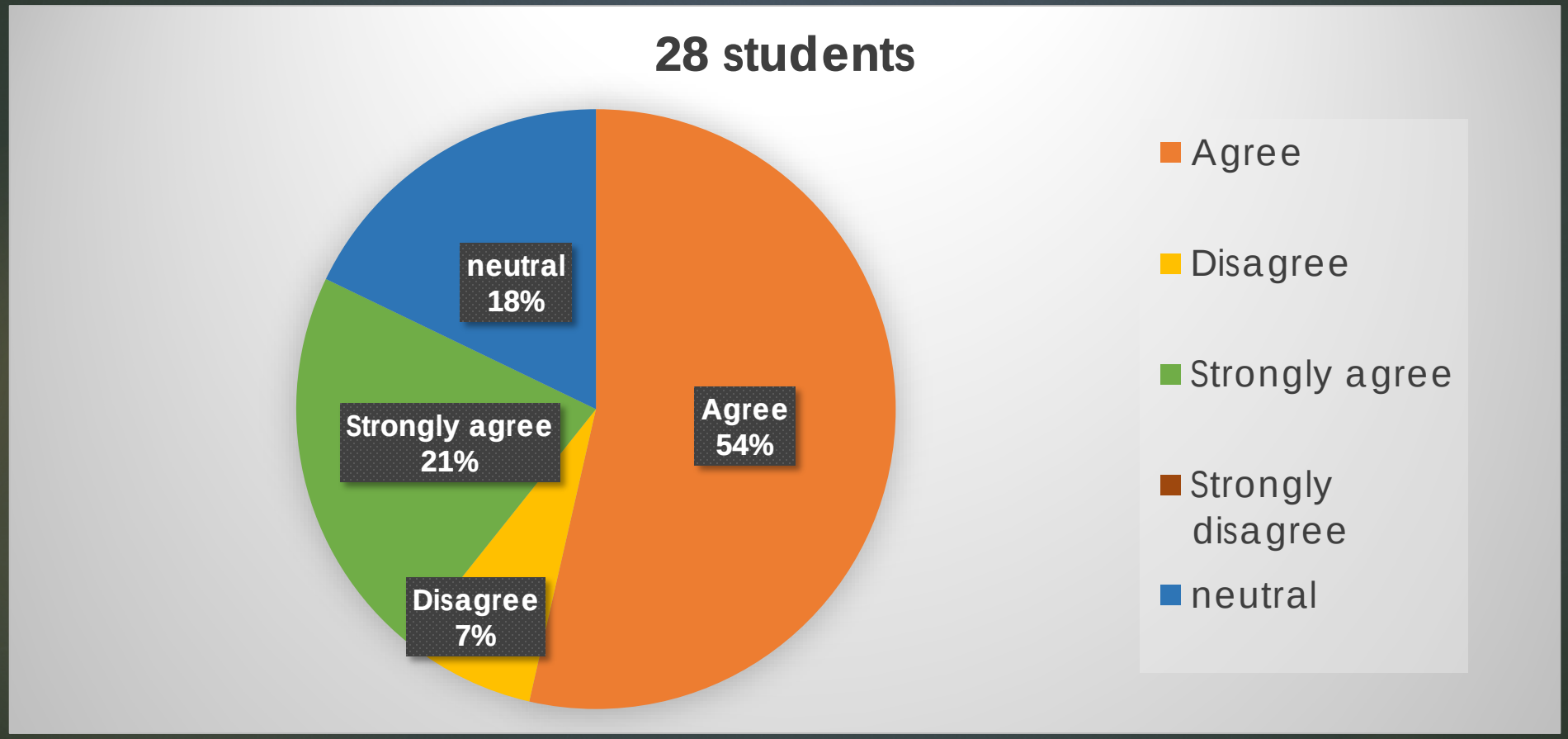
“In my school there are students facing family problems”



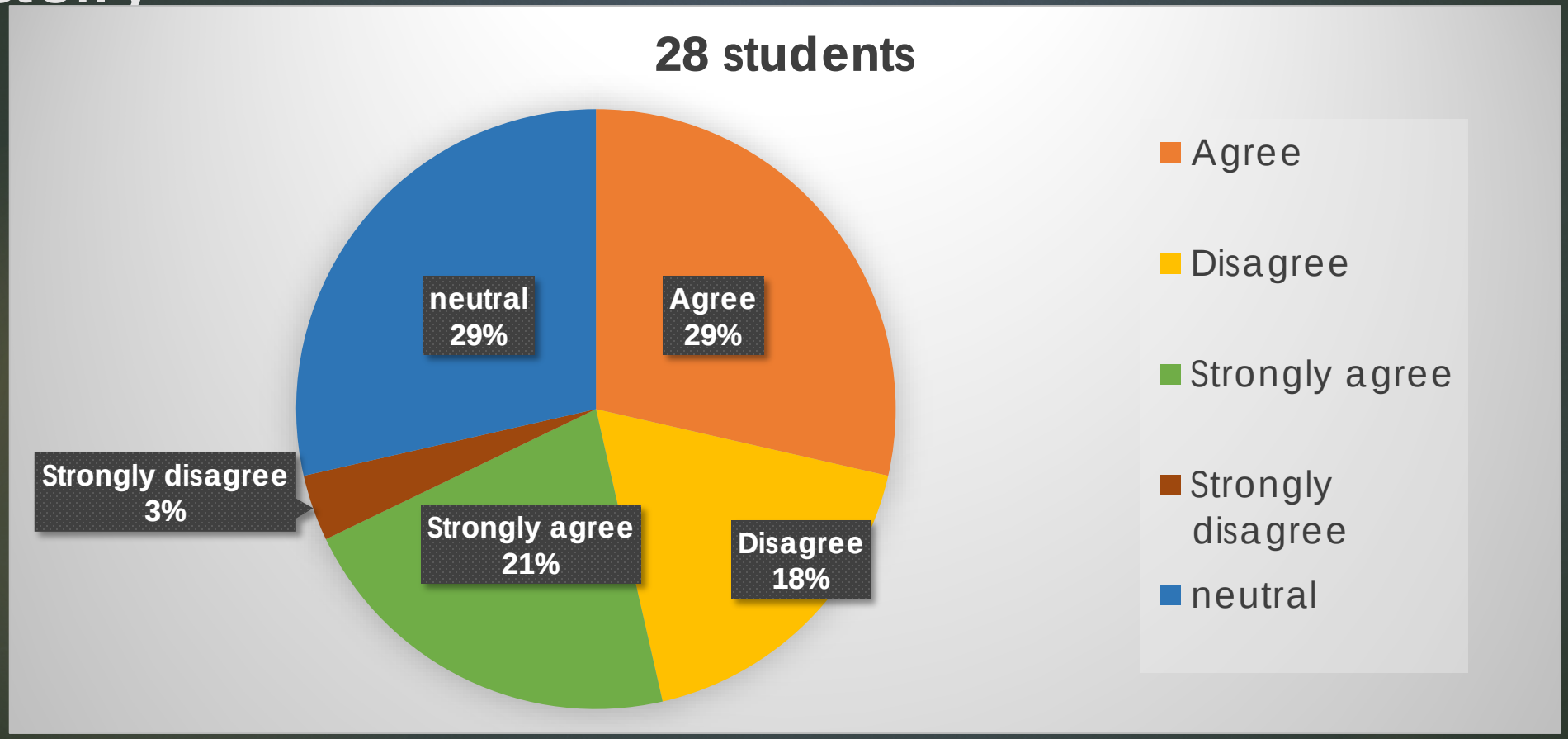
An analysis of research in Lithuania shows that pupils often abandon school due to:

- failure in learning school material;
- emotional and behavior disorders;
- conflict with teachers and peers;
- bullying, teasing, abuse;
- lack of teachers willing to work with unmotivated, school avoiding pupils;
- negative attitude of teachers towards students who have learning disabilities;
- family problems.

“I think that there are prospects for my future after school”



“I believe that school and later on university will help me to find a job easily”



In 2011 in the EU 54,8 % of early school leavers were unemployed, but around 70 % intended to get a job.

Strategy to reduce the number of early school leavers:

- Prevention. Enabling youth to use their learning potential and successfully integrate at school.
- Intervention. Prevention of dropping out: reacting to the first signs and offering support to the pupils, who are at a risk of leaving.
- Compensation. To help the early school leavers, offering ways of returning to education and getting a qualification.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION