

# OER AWARENESS AND ADOPTION TRENDS IN US K-12 THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (2017-2022)



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# OER TRENDS IN K-12

We will cover:

- How awareness and adoption of OER has grown over time among U.S. K-12 classrooms
- What factors have impacted this growth, and how they are changing
- How the pandemic impacted OER awareness and adoption
- How the pandemic influenced teacher opinions on digital materials in their classrooms

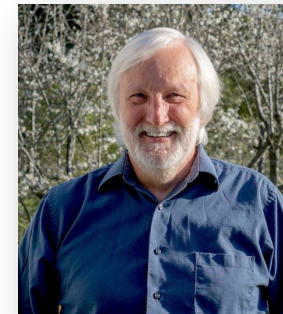


# INTRODUCTION TO BAY VIEW ANALYTICS

Bay View Analytics offers a comprehensive suite of consulting services in survey design and statistical research. Our services build on nearly two decades of research design, sampling, survey design, and statistical analysis expertise.



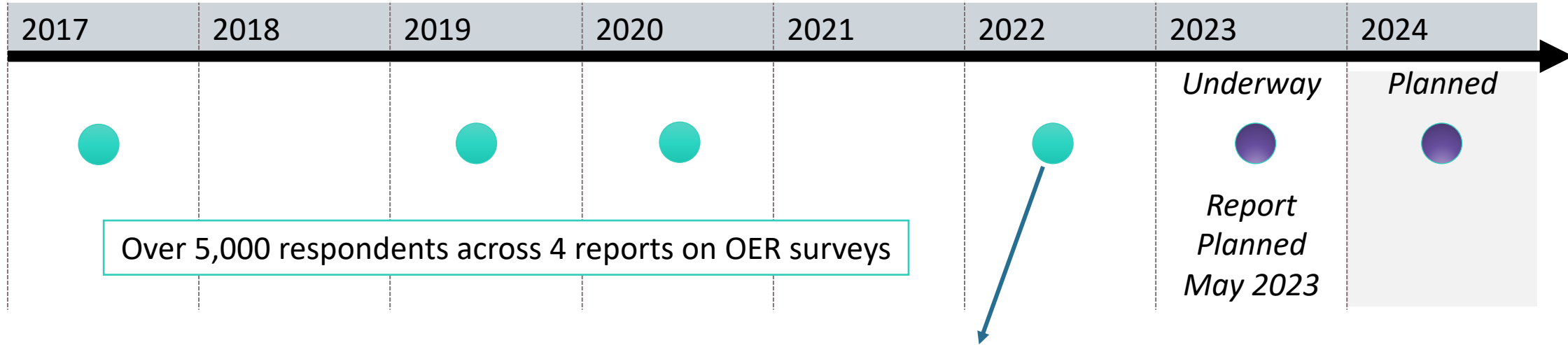
Julia Seaman, Ph.D.  
*Director of Research*



Jeff Seaman, Ph.D.  
*Director*



# WE HAVE CONDUCTED K-12 SURVEYS SINCE 2017



K-12  
OER  
Surveys

Over 5,000 respondents across 4 reports on OER surveys

2021-22 Report published June 2022 & Research Article on Digital Trends

Research Article:

Teachers believe the future of K-12 classroom materials is digital

Part of a larger project since 2007 studying OER awareness and adoption in Higher Education



# SURVEYS AIM TO UNDERSTAND THE GROWING ROLE OF OER IN US K-12 CLASSROOMS

## Goal of Surveys

- To understand the role of OER in K-12
- To quantify perceptions and awareness of digital curricula
- To understand the curricula adoption process and rationale

## Respondents

- District and School Admins, & K-12 Teachers
- Nationally representative for geography and school district sizes

Project supported by



Bay View Analytics®

# SURVEY RESULTS

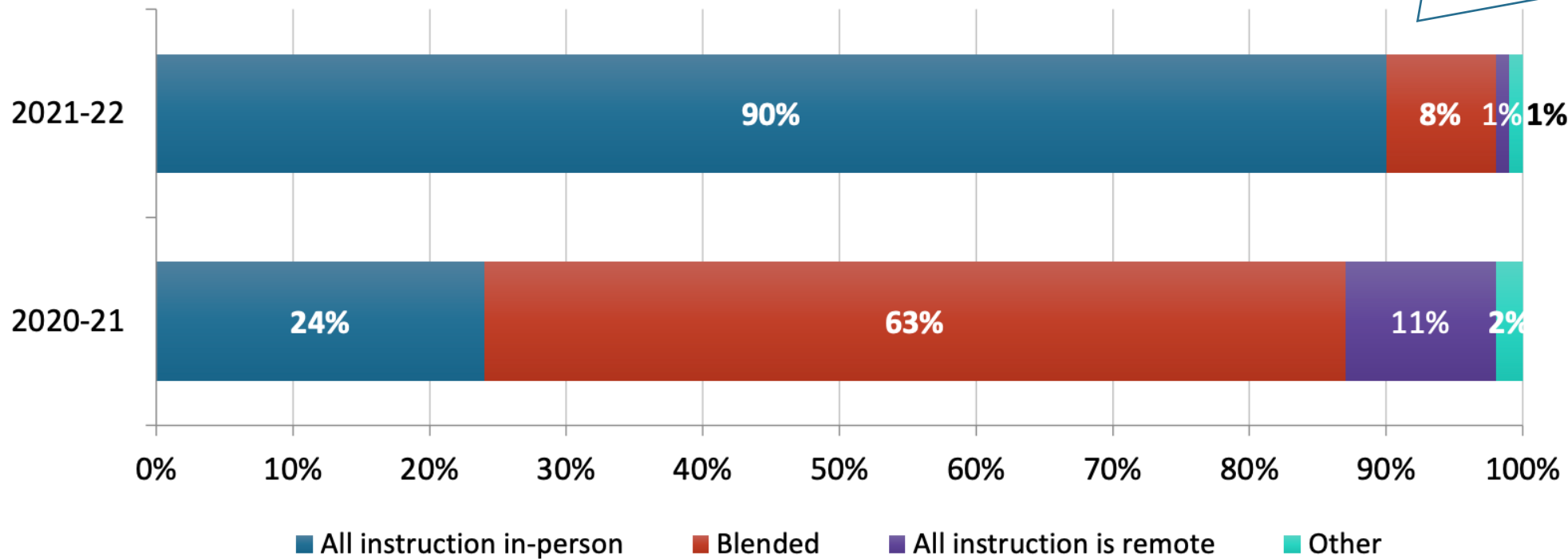
2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR STATUS



# 2021-22 WAS A RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM

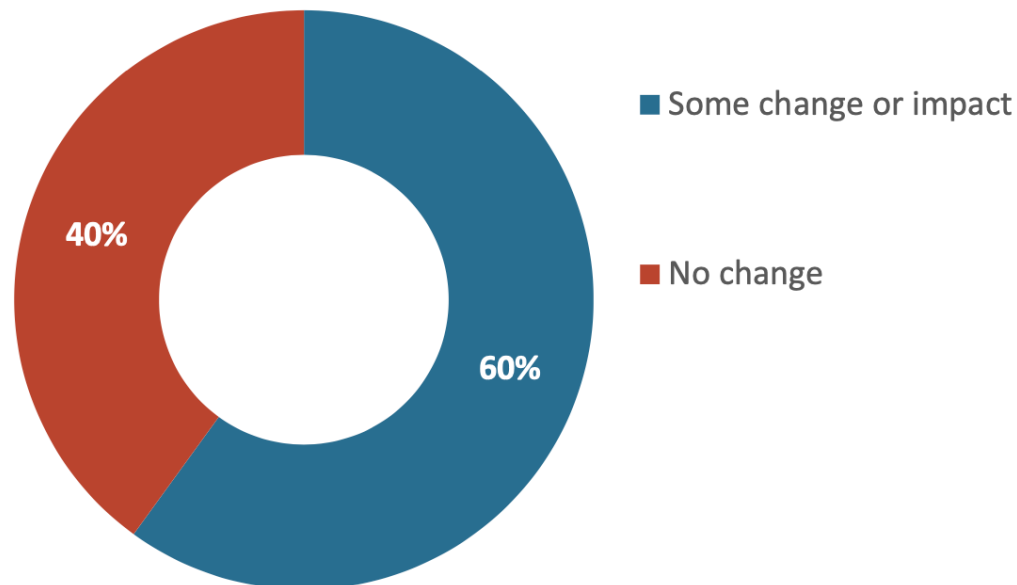
Teacher: Current Modality of Instruction by Year

98% of teachers were back in the classroom in 2021-22



# SCHOOLS WERE STILL DEALING WITH PANDEMIC IMPACTS

Administrator: Status for Curriculum Adoption Process 2021-22



These changes included:

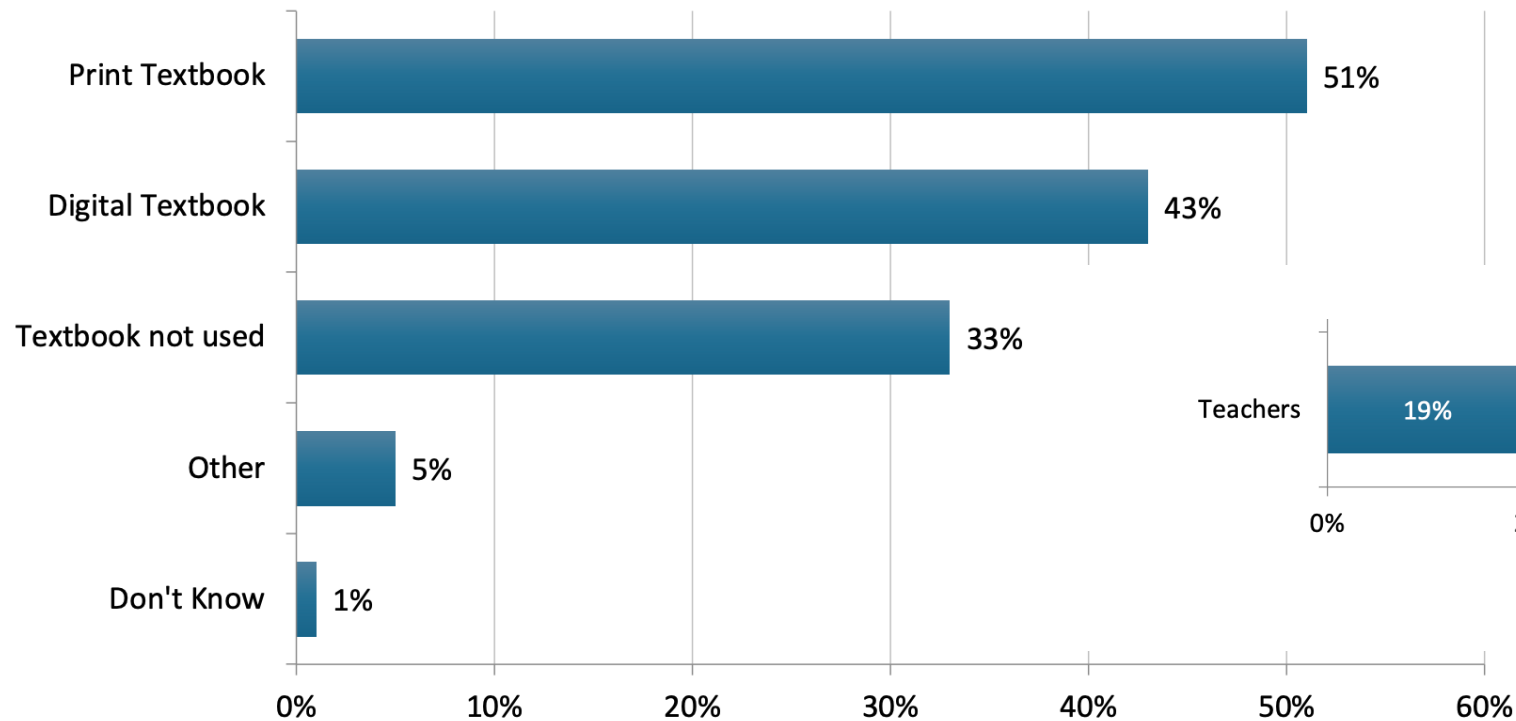
- Supplementing with additional materials for teaching
- Postponing or accelerating adoption of planned new curriculum
- Postponing or accelerating evaluation and review of new curriculum





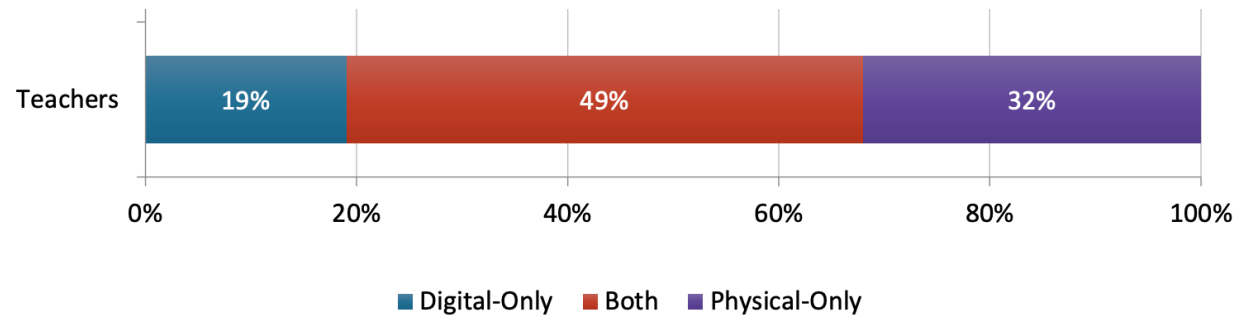
# CURRICULA MATERIALS ARE A MIX OF PRINT AND DIGITAL

Teacher: Format Primary or Required textbook(s) is Available to Students (Select all that apply)



Almost half of all classrooms with required textbooks offer it as both digital and physical

Textbook Format Overlap



# SURVEY RESULTS

OER AWARENESS



# SURVEY QUESTIONS & DEFINITIONS

Similar questions are asked year to year to allow trends to be examined.

## Definitions used in surveys

**Open Educational Resources (OER):** *OER is defined as "teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others." Unlike traditionally copyrighted material, these resources are available for "open" use, which means users can edit, modify, customize, and share them.*

### Licensing Types

**Public Domain:** *A designation for content that is not protected by any copyright law or other restriction and may be freely copied, shared, altered, and republished by anyone.*

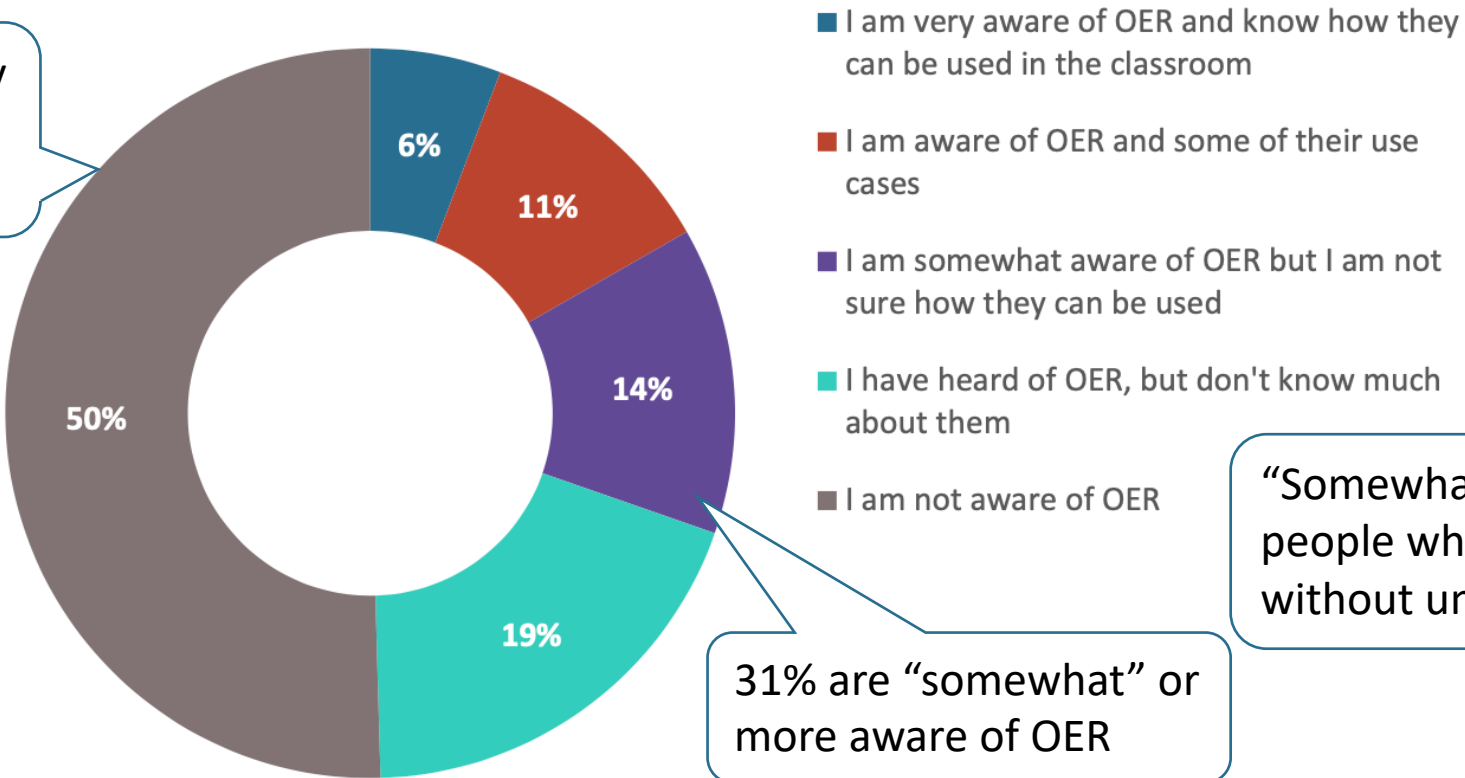
**Creative Commons:** *Open license that gives everyone from individual authors to governments and institutions a simple, standardized way to grant copyright permissions to their creative work, provided by Creative Commons.*



# HALF OF ALL TEACHERS CLAIM NO AWARENESS FOR OER

Teacher: Open Educational Resources Awareness

1 in 2 teachers state they are unaware of OER at any level

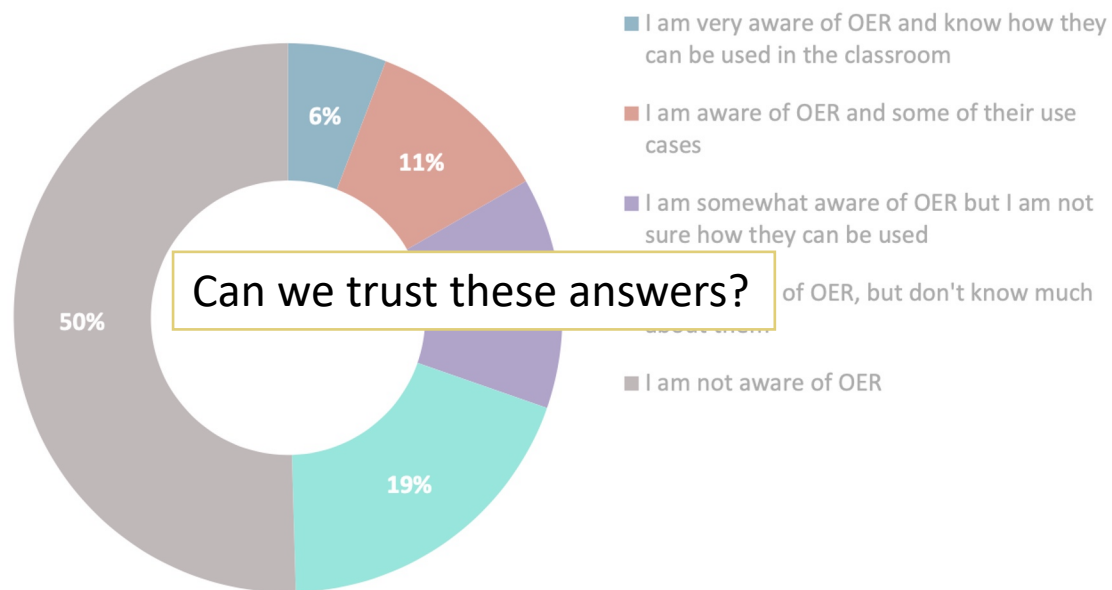


31% are "somewhat" or more aware of OER

"Somewhat aware" may include people who just heard the term without understanding it

# OER AWARENESS ON ITS OWN MAY NOT BE A GREAT MEASUREMENT

Teacher: Open Educational Resources Awareness



Teachers who are “Aware” of OER:

- May confuse it with any **free** online materials
- May confuse it with “**open source**” materials

Therefore, this question alone may be imprecise.



An **improved measurement** for OER Awareness is to require combination of **both OER Awareness & Creative Commons Awareness.**

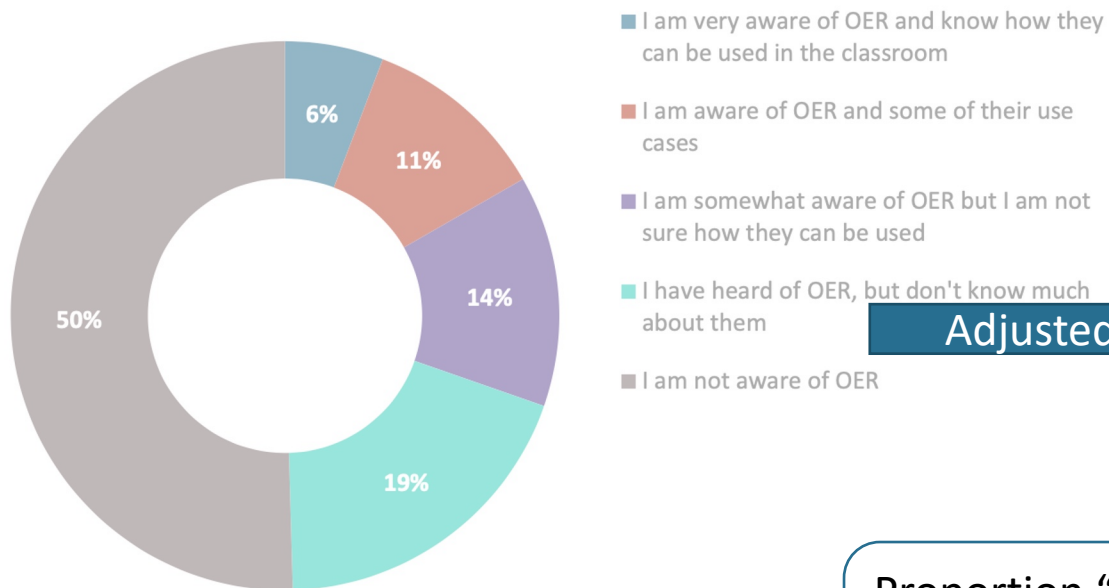


*Respondents who report that they are unaware of Creative Commons licensing are removed from the "Aware" categories, creating a stricter index of OER awareness*



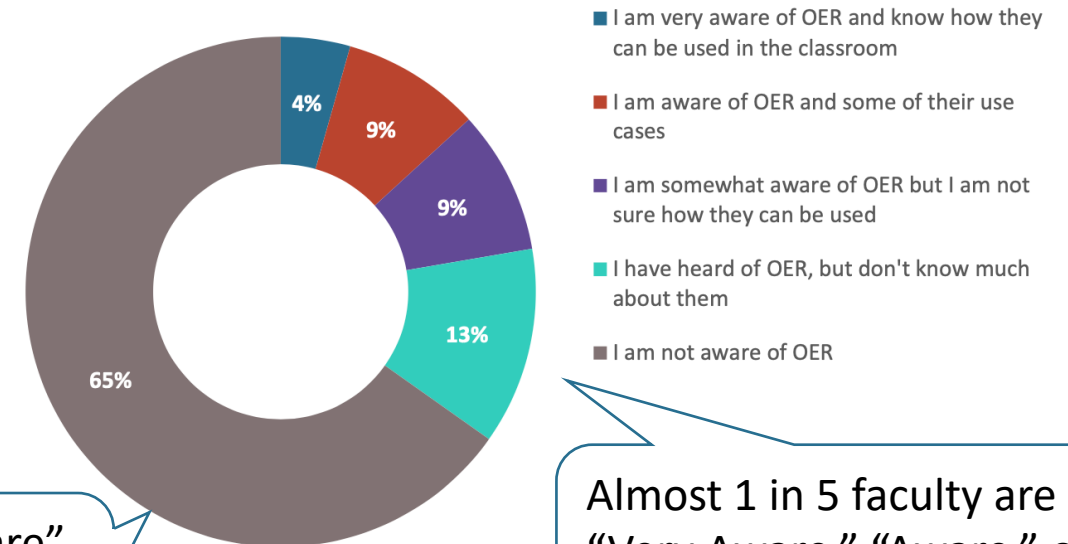
# USING THE STRICTER DEFINITION, JUST OVER 20% ARE “AWARE” OF OER AT ANY LEVEL

Teacher: Open Educational Resources Awareness



Adjusted

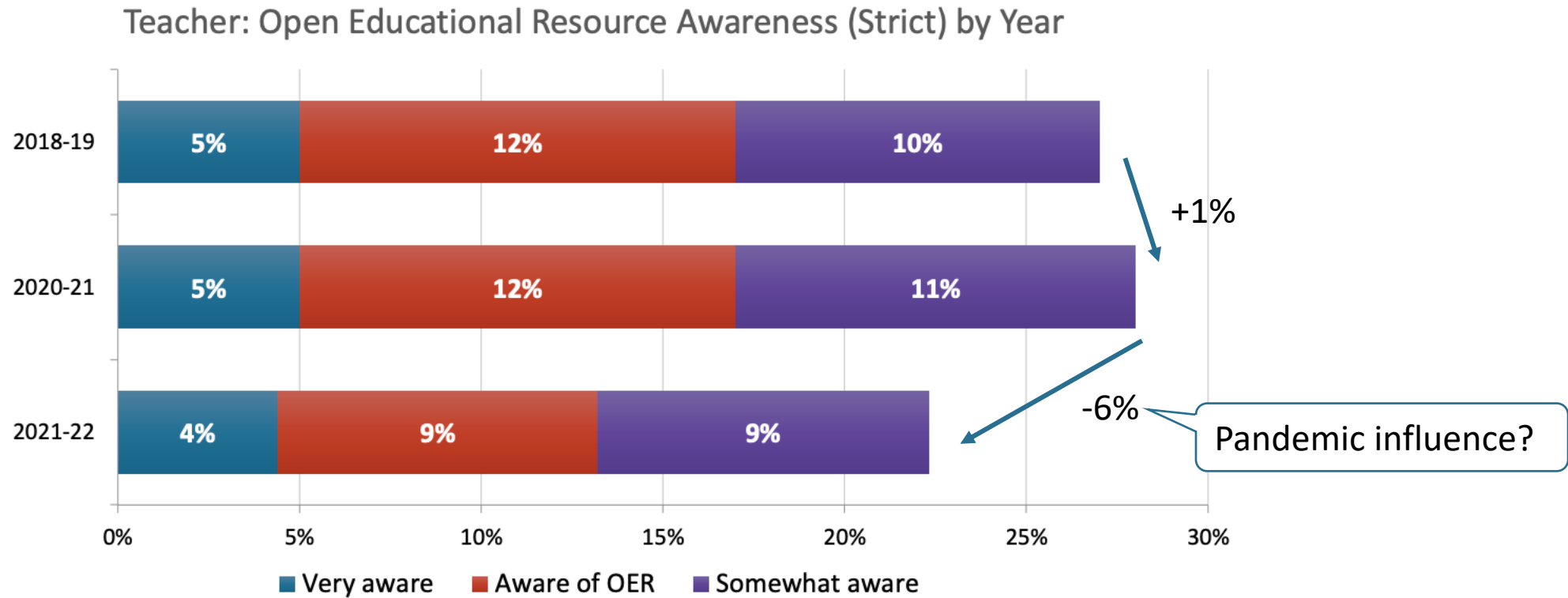
Teacher: Open Educational Resources Awareness (Strict)



Proportion “not aware” increased by 15% at this stricter definition

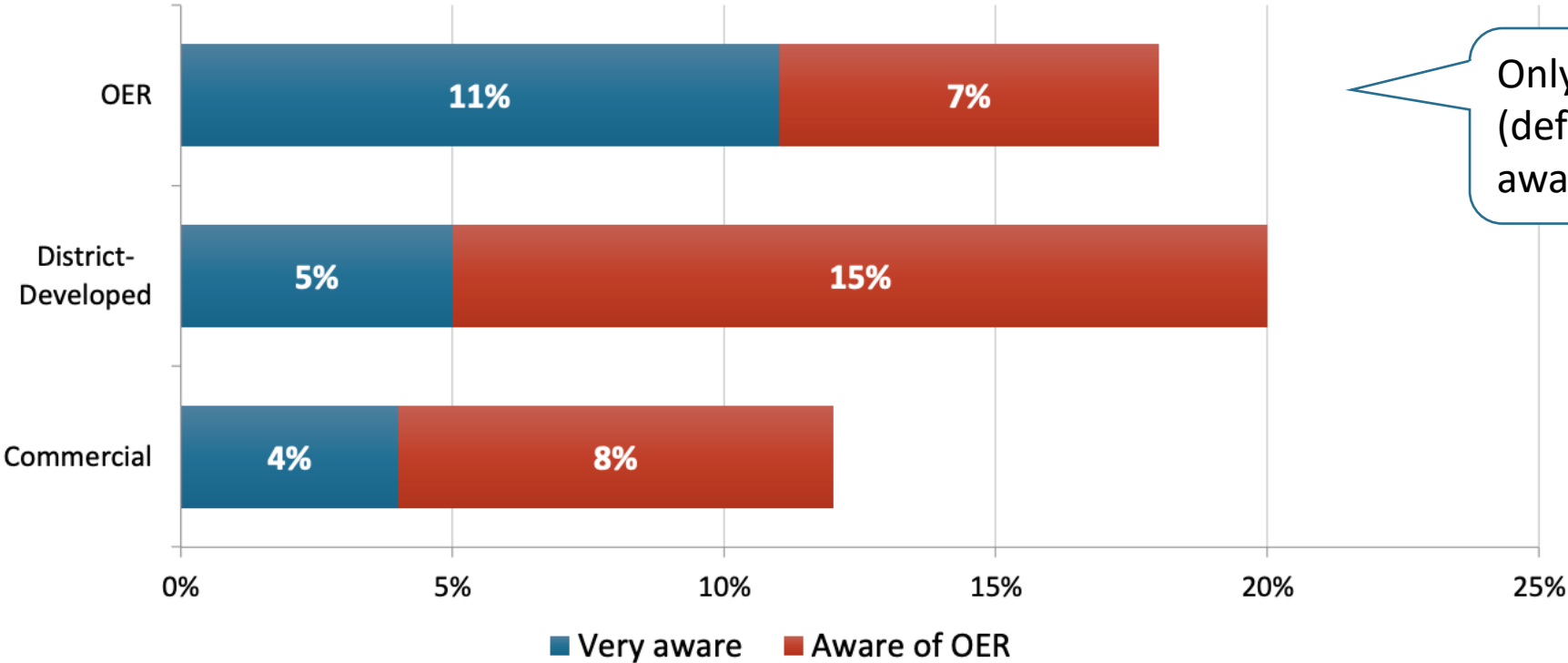
Almost 1 in 5 faculty are “Very Aware,” “Aware,” or “Somewhat Aware”

# TEACHER OER AWARENESS HAS DECREASED



# MANY TEACHERS WHO USE OER ARE UNAWARE OF OER

Teacher: Open Educational Resource Awareness (Strict) by Publisher



Only 18% of OER textbook users (defined by publisher) are aware they are using OER.



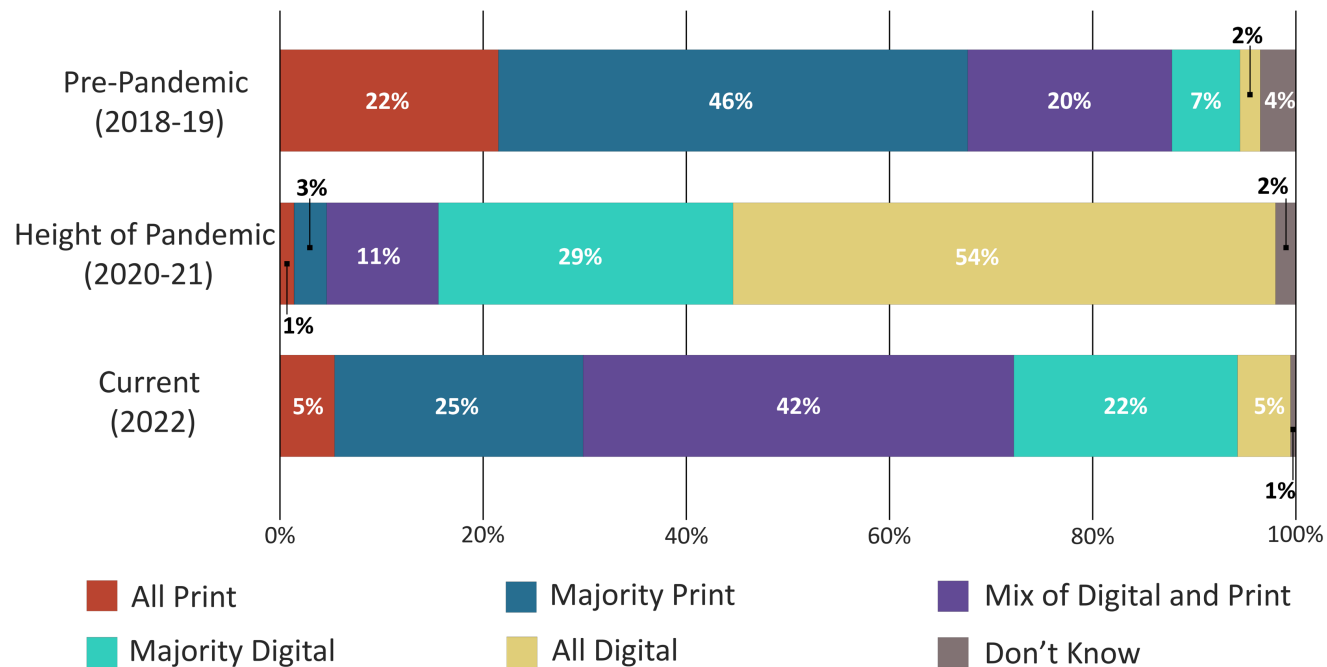
# SURVEY RESULTS

PANDEMIC IMPACT ON CURRICULA MATERIALS



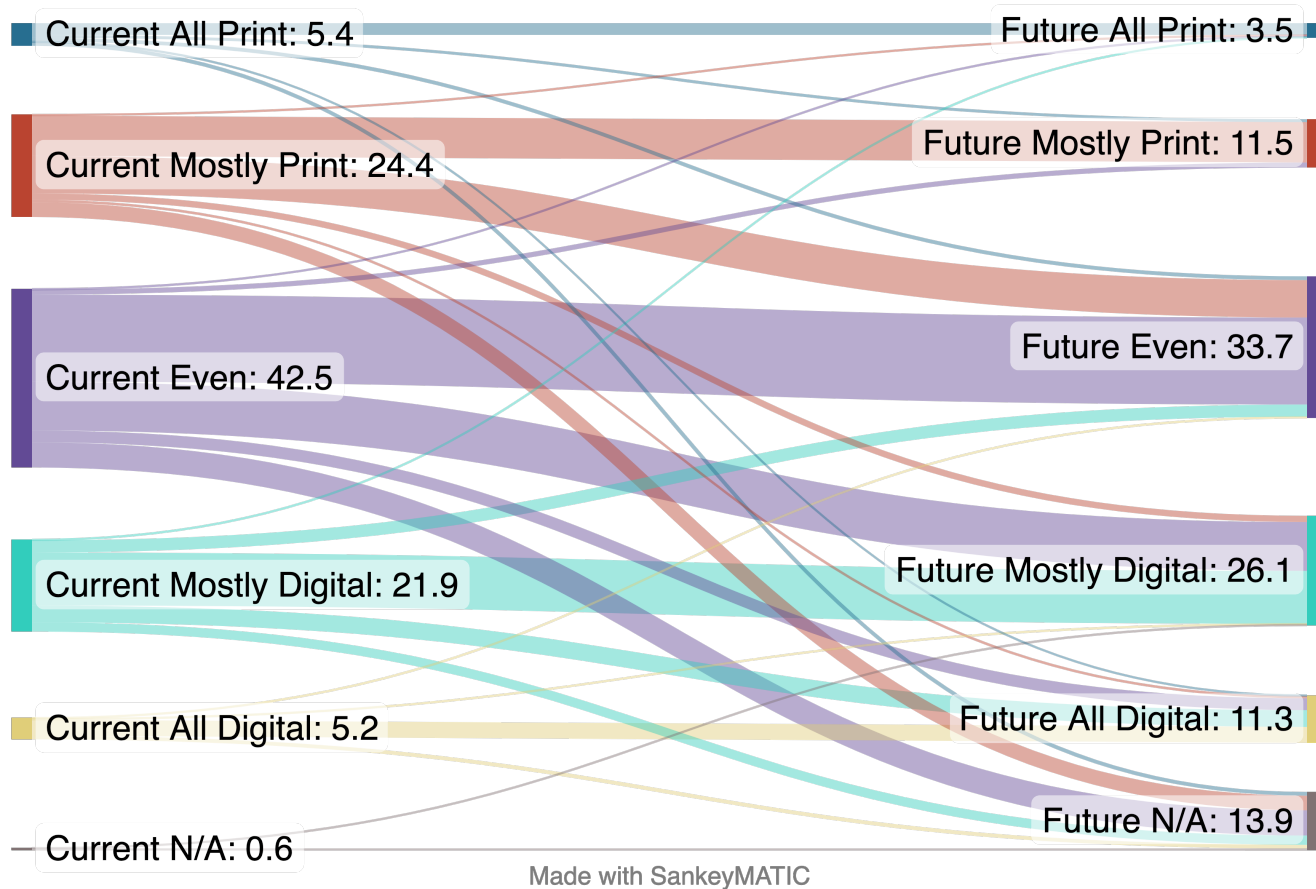
# PANDEMIC DROVE INCREASE IN DIGITAL MATERIALS

## Use of Print and Classroom Materials



- Before the pandemic, print and physical classroom materials were very common
- After the onset of the pandemic the use of digital materials skyrocketed to replace print and physical
- For 2022, most teachers were back to teaching in-person, with a similar shift back to more physical and print materials but not giving up digital

# THE FUTURE IS EXPECTED TO BE MORE DIGITAL



- Most teachers plan to use similar or slightly more digital materials by 2025
- Only 6% of teachers believe their future classroom will have lower proportion of digital materials.
- A small number of teachers are committed to “all print” materials, whether this is by preference and/or necessity for their students or classrooms

# CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE



# CONCLUSIONS

- The pandemic had a major impact on K-12 classrooms
  - Switch to remote instruction forced teachers to adopt digital materials, many that will stick around
  - The interruption delayed or changed many curricula decisions that will take time to catch up with or adapt
- OER awareness in K-12 remains low (~20%) with a decrease following the pandemic
  - However, many teachers don't know they are using OER

# INVESTIGATING 2023 AND BEYOND

- Currently fielding the 2022-23 K-12 survey (and Higher Ed)
  - Will digital adoption of classroom materials continue?
  - Will increased digital acceptance improve OER awareness and use (as it can be a low cost, high quality digital option)?
  - How will courseware adoption decisions evolve to accommodate pandemic lessons and post-pandemic preferences?
  - How will districts continue to support teachers through training and empowering courseware decisions in the classroom?

# Q&A THANK YOU!

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