

Montessori and Quality Rating and Improvement System

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Advocacy Background

National Montessori organizations must empower individual constituents through collection and dissemination of research concerning current needs and future direction. With the strong leadership of Dr. Sharon Damore, the Montessori Public Policy Committee (formerly the AMS Policy Committee) now reflects more inclusiveness among various Montessori organizations.

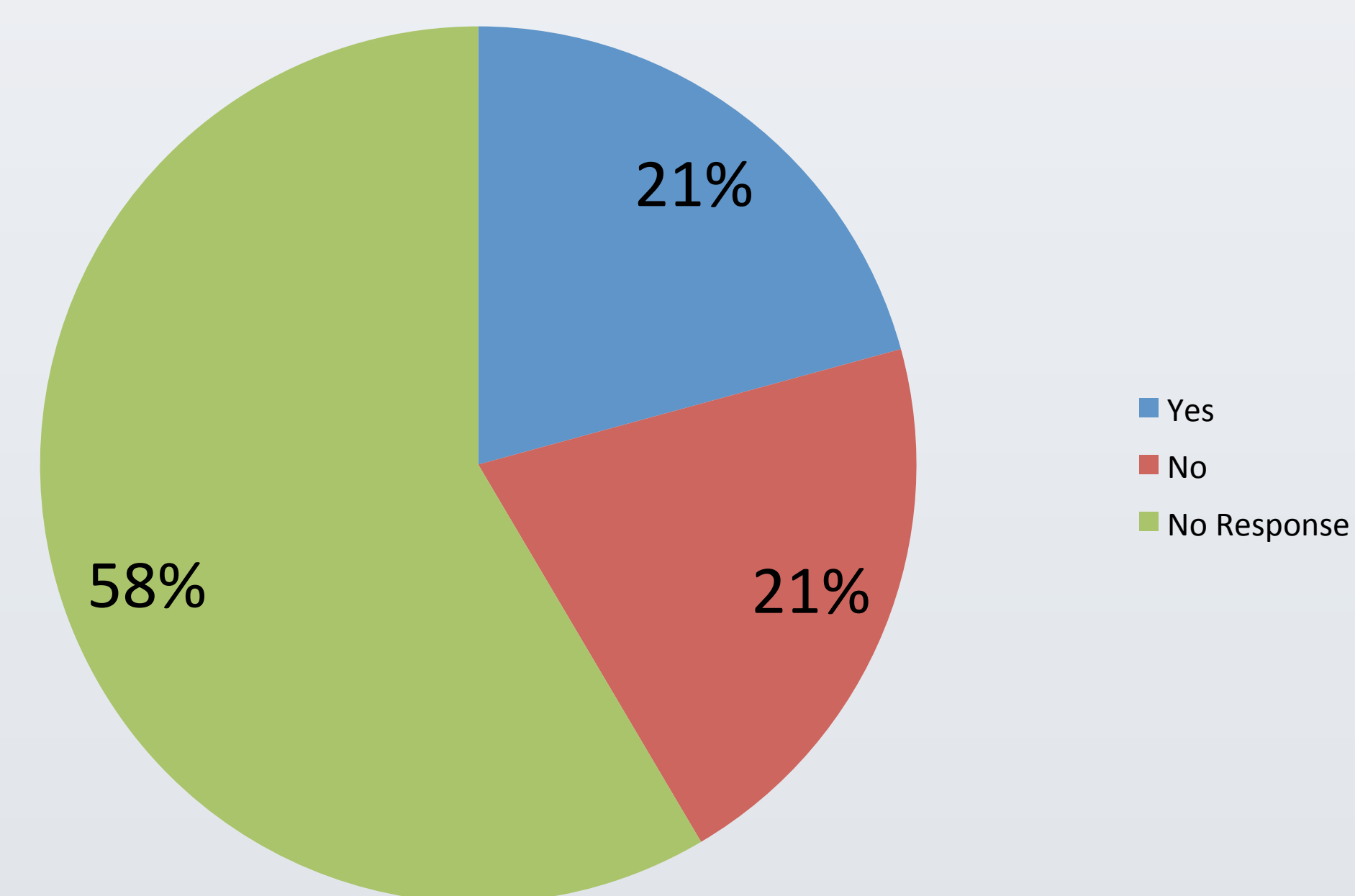
The Committee has representatives from AMS, AMI/USA, MACTE, and several state coalitions and groups. The Committee's goal is to establish and support the infrastructure and mobilization of a unified front responsible for addressing advocacy issues on a state and national scale. Currently, the most pressing standards issue for the Montessori community involves the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS). As part of this goal, researchers at AMS and Baylor University surveyed state coalition leaders and Montessori state and regional organizations to establish the current knowledge level with regards to QRIS.

QRIS

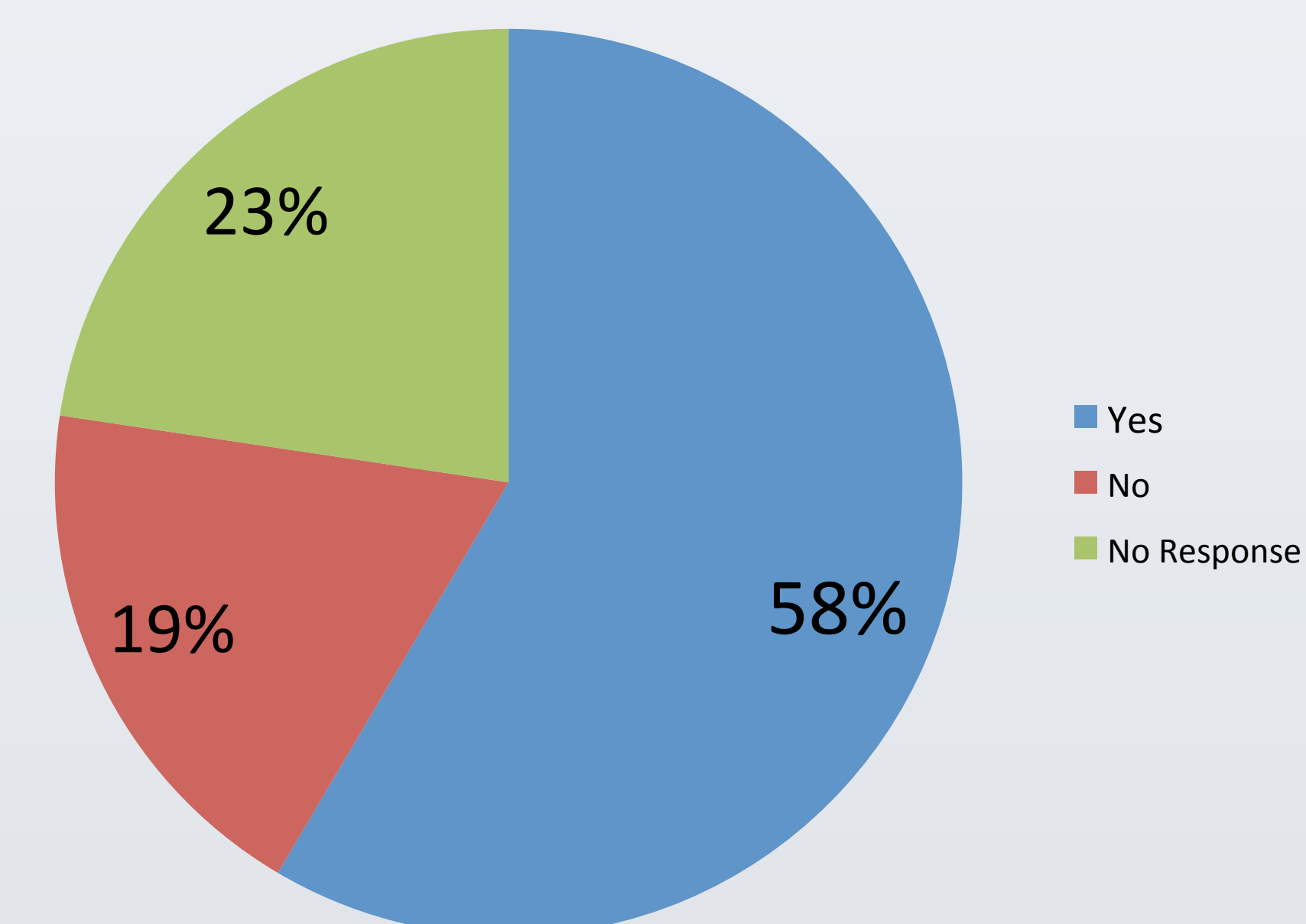
The QRIS was designed to increase the quality of childcare for children in the United States. The system includes progressive quality standards, support for on-going improvements, and publically-available rating scores. Currently, participation in QRIS varies by state and may be considered voluntary. Most QRIS include: accountability, program and practitioner outreach, financial incentives, financial incentives specifically linked to compliance with quality standards, and family/consumer education.

Survey Results

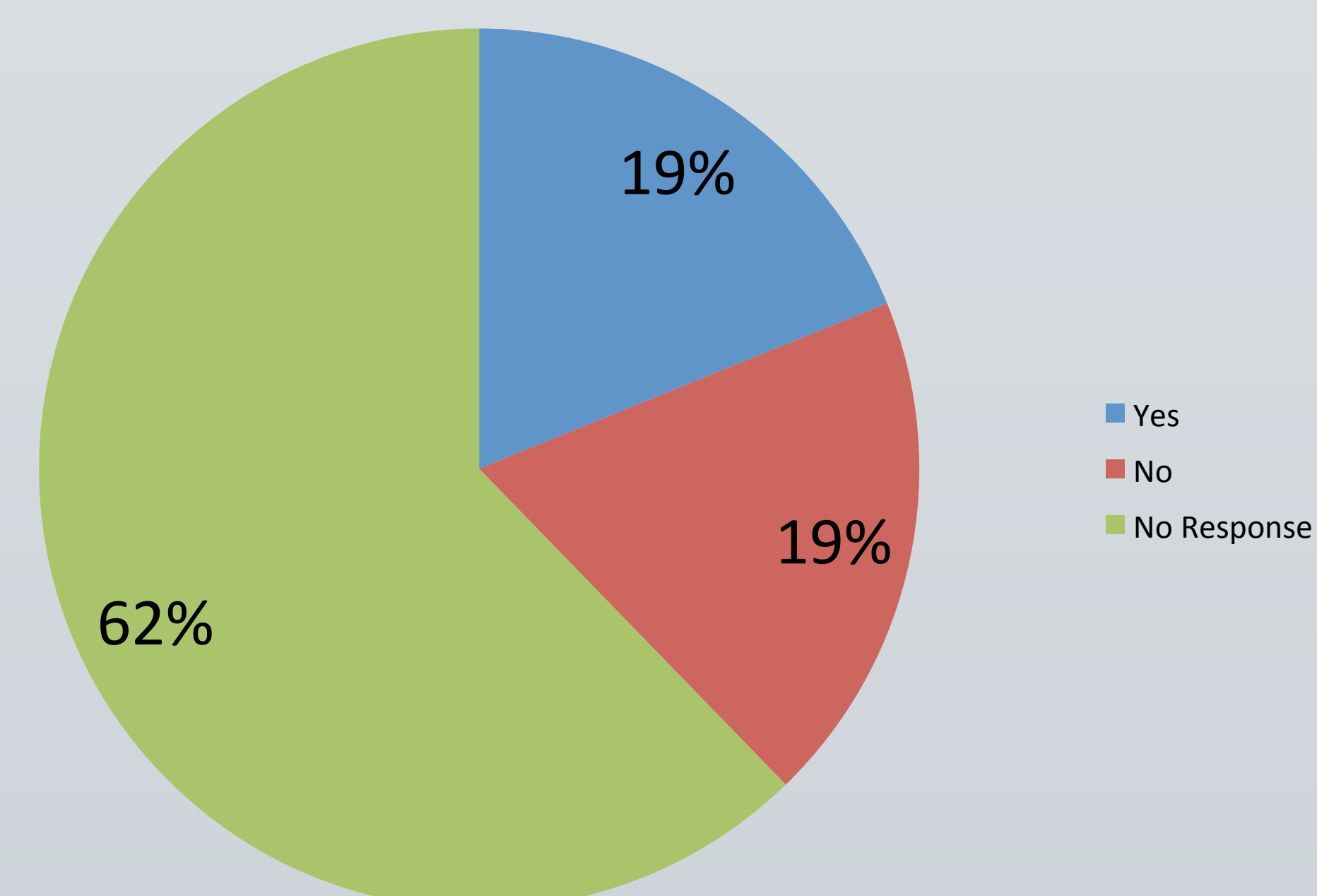
Is the Montessori Curriculum an approved EC curriculum in your state?



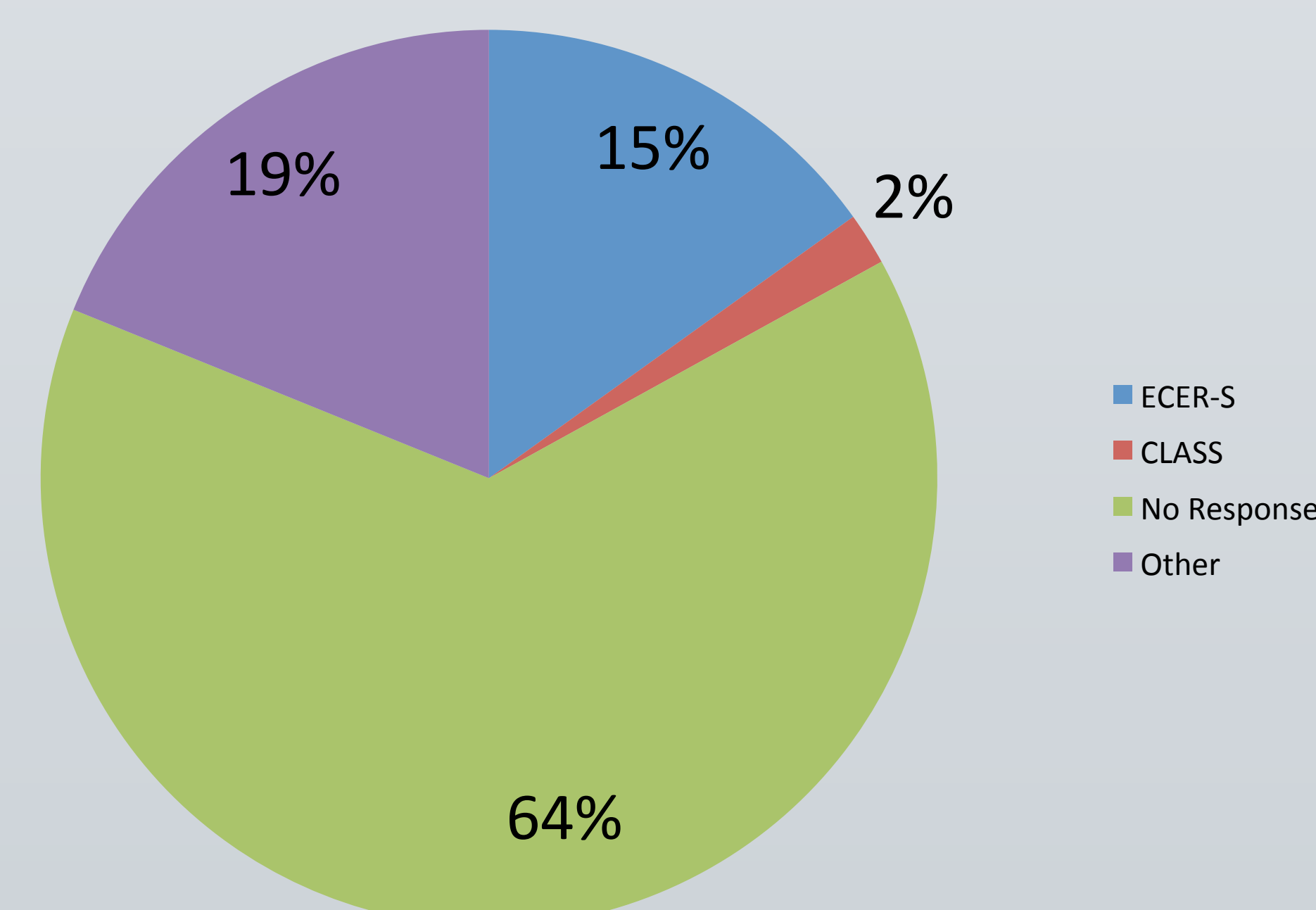
Are you aware of the QRIS in your state?



Do Montessori programs receive any exemptions under QRIS in your state?



What is the current assessment tool being used in your state?



Conclusions

- Montessori Infant, Toddler, and Early Childhood programs must have a voice in the QRIS standards conversation, so we can help select measurement tools that will reflect the unique strengths of our programs.
- Our national Montessori organizations are committed to assisting the Montessori Community to understand the QRIS movement through education and outreach.
- The Montessori Public Policy Committee is continuing to collect information from state coalition leaders and will use this information to direct future advocacy issues related to the QRIS movement.
- Additional information regarding this important advocacy research can be found at MontessoriForward.org.

State Respondents

