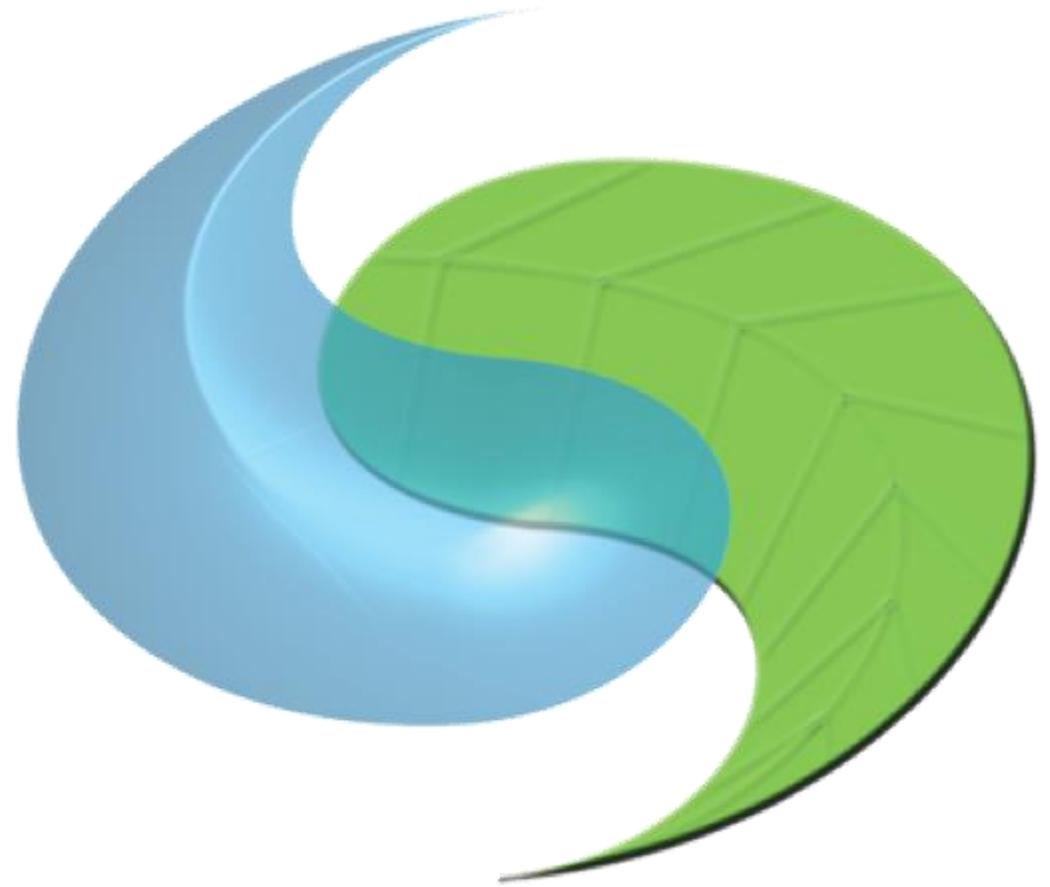


# RESOURCES



## OPERATOR RESOURCES

PRESENTED BY HEATHER HIMMELBERGER, P.E. DIRECTOR SW EFC

# When Did Operator Certification Start?



Elle Gerleman

The  
Safe  
Drinking  
Water  
Act  
Of 1974,  
1984, & 1996

# Why Certified Operators?

Protect Public Health



Increase Consumer Confidence in the Safety of Public Drinking Water



# Certification Increases Operator Professionalism

Most professionals are certified in some way

Professional Engineers  
Bar for Lawyers  
Medical Board for Doctors  
CPA for Accountants  
Professional Surveyors  
Teacher Certificates



# EPA Requires Operator Certification But States Implement The Program

With no program, EPA can  
withhold 20% of the SRF funds



# What Was Included in the Operator Certification Program?

9 Required Baseline Standards Required of Each State or Equivalent Program



# Baseline Requirements

**Authorization:** States must have the legal authority to implement the program

**Operator Qualifications:** States had to state what qualifications operators needed to have (including testing)

**Classification of Systems, Facilities, and Operators:** States must classify facilities on the basis of size, complexity, source water, distribution

**Enforcement:** States needed to have regulations requiring compliance with operator certification

**Certification Renewal:** States needed to require renewal of operator certifications

# Baseline Requirements

## Resources Needed to Implement the Program:

States needed to have adequate resources to fund and sustain the program

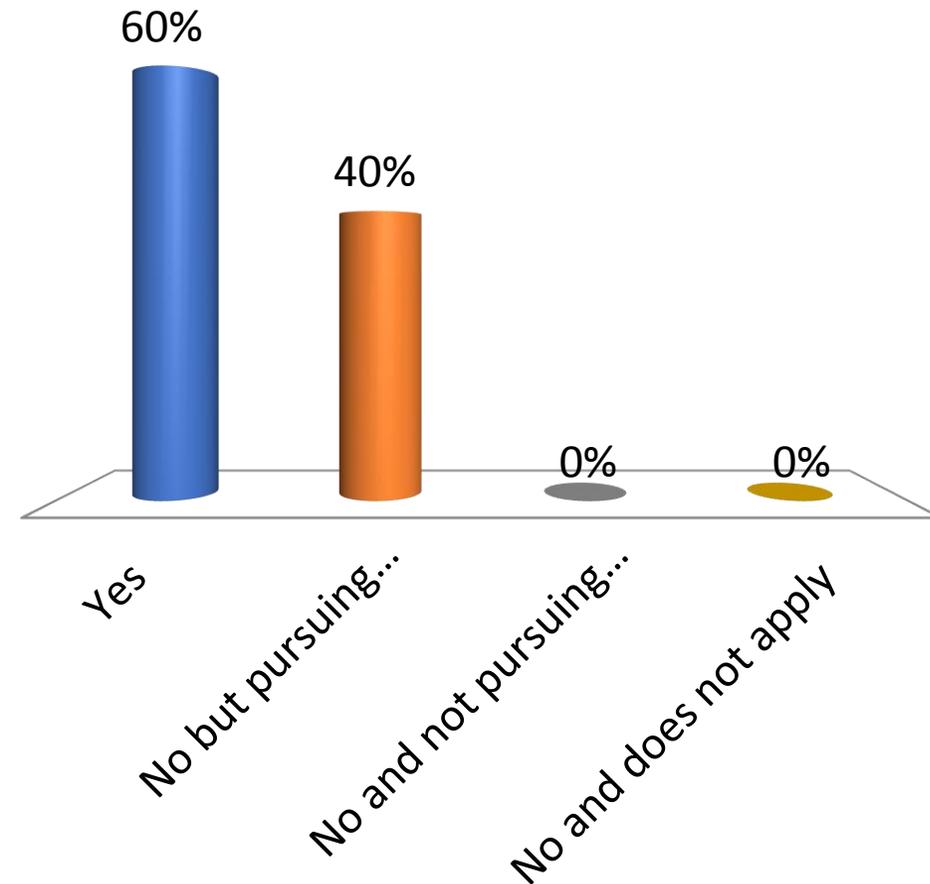
**Recertification:** States must have a way to recertify operators who let their certifications lapse

**Stakeholder Involvement:** States need to have a process for stakeholder involvement at the beginning and on an ongoing basis

**Program Review:** State needs to have a process for reviewing its own program

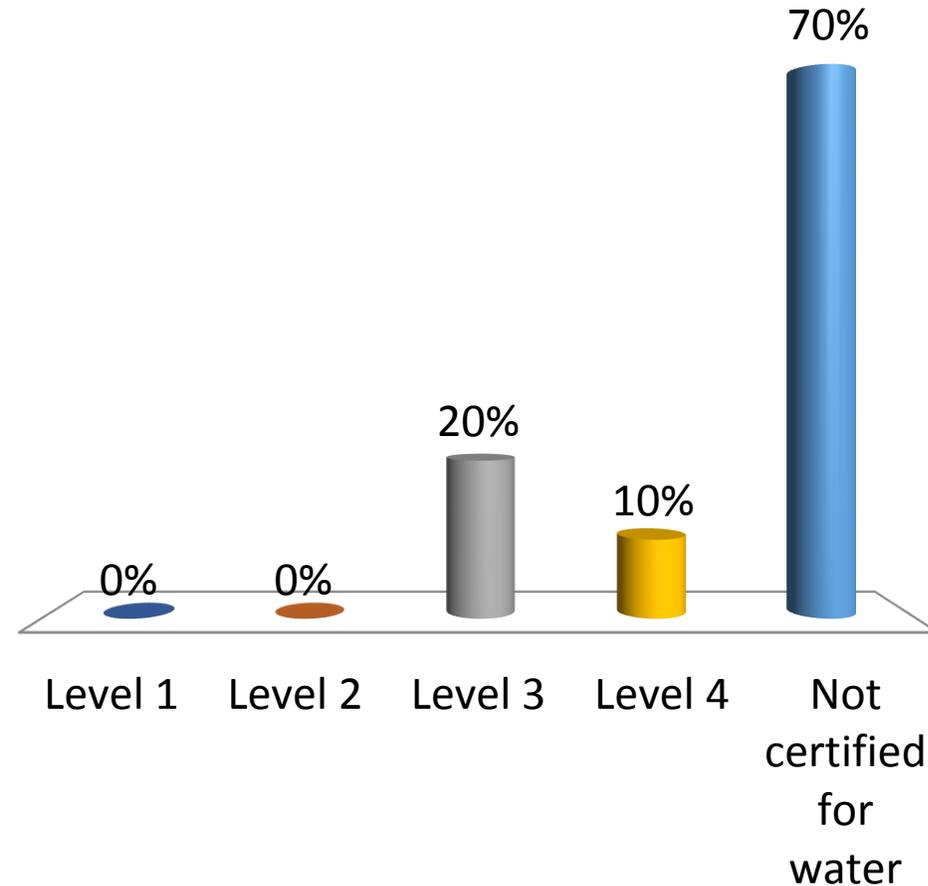
# Are you a certified operator for either water or wastewater?

- A. Yes
- B. No but pursuing certification
- C. No and not pursuing certification
- D. No and does not apply



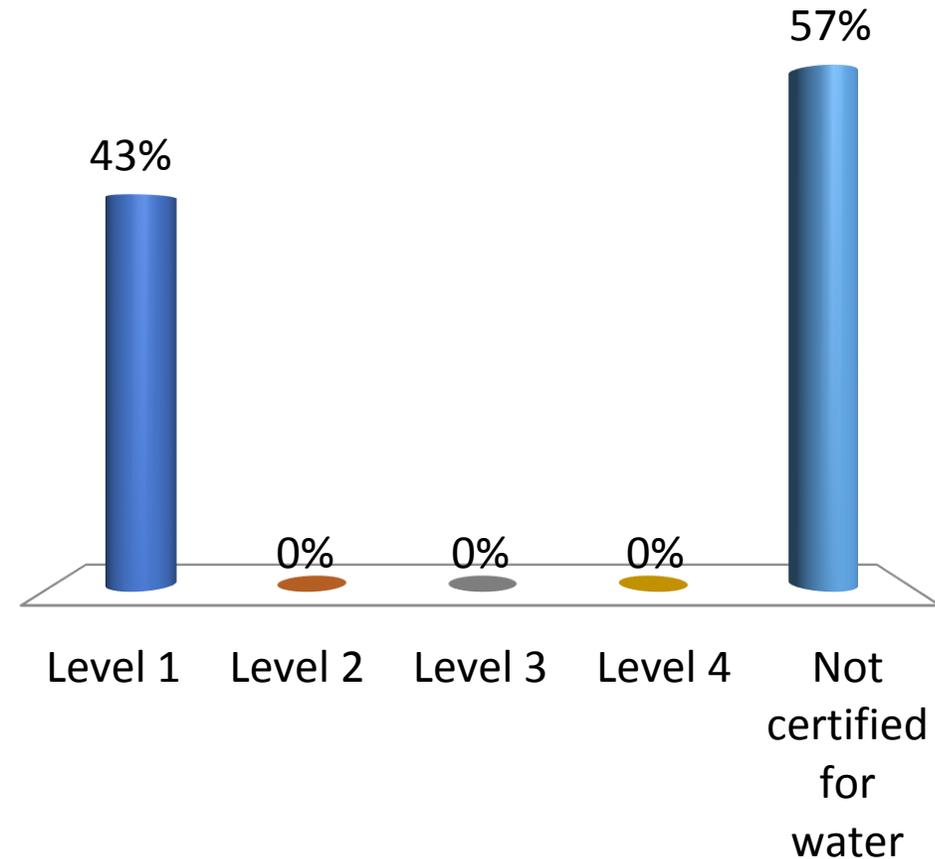
# What is your certification level for water?

- A. Level 1
- B. Level 2
- C. Level 3
- D. Level 4
- E. Not certified for water



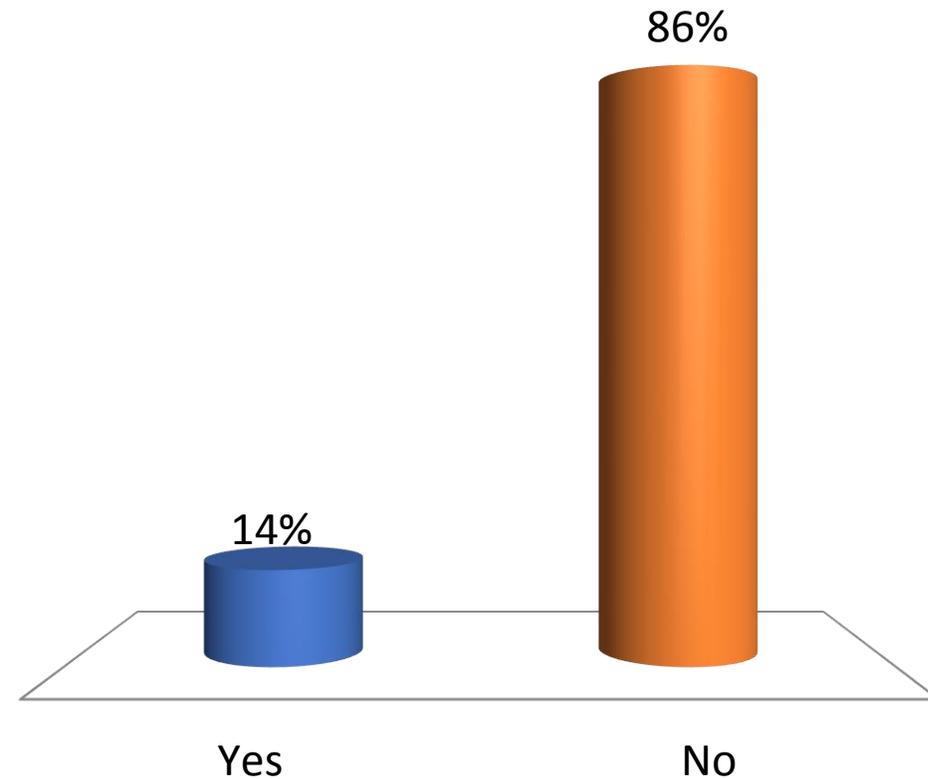
# What is your certification level for wastewater?

- A. Level 1
- B. Level 2
- C. Level 3
- D. Level 4
- E. Not certified for water



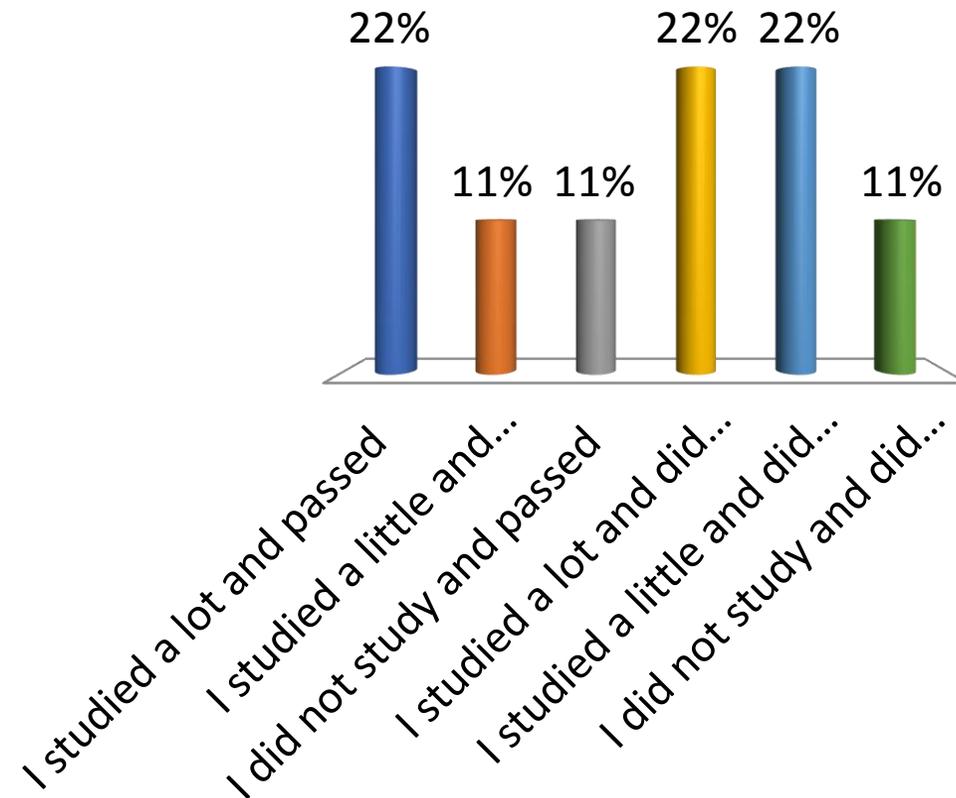
# For your current certification, did you pass the test on your first try?

- A. Yes
- B. No



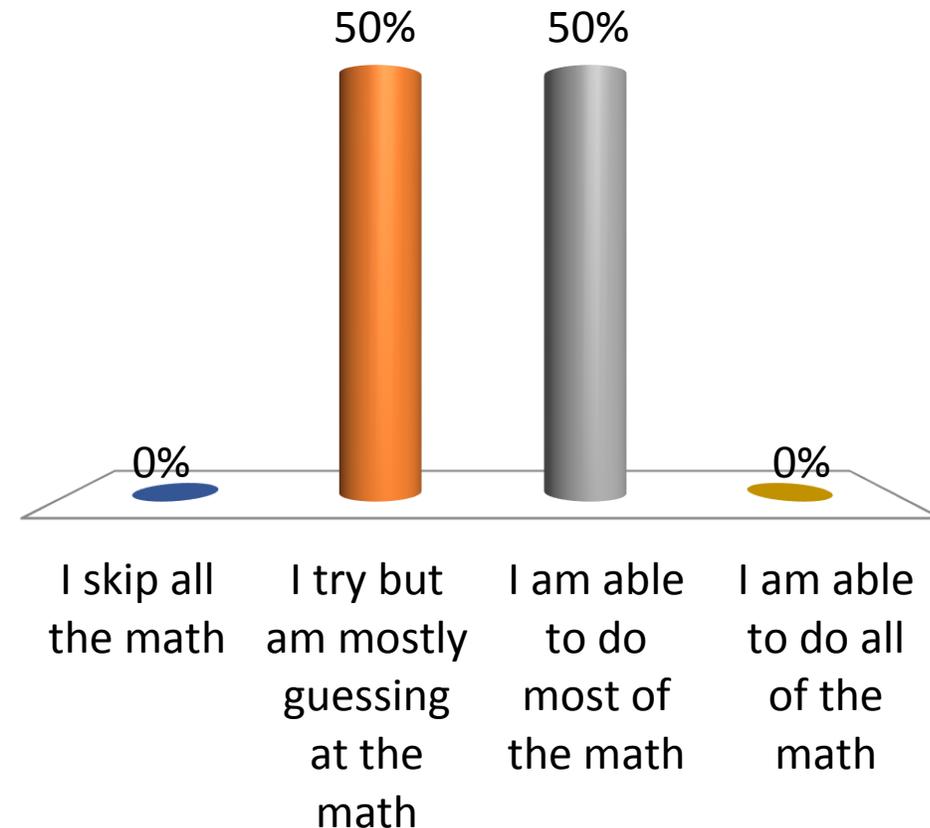
# For the last exam you took, how much did you study?

- A. I studied a lot and passed
- B. I studied a little and passed
- C. I did not study and passed
- D. I studied a lot and did not pass
- E. I studied a little and did not pass
- F. I did not study and did not pass



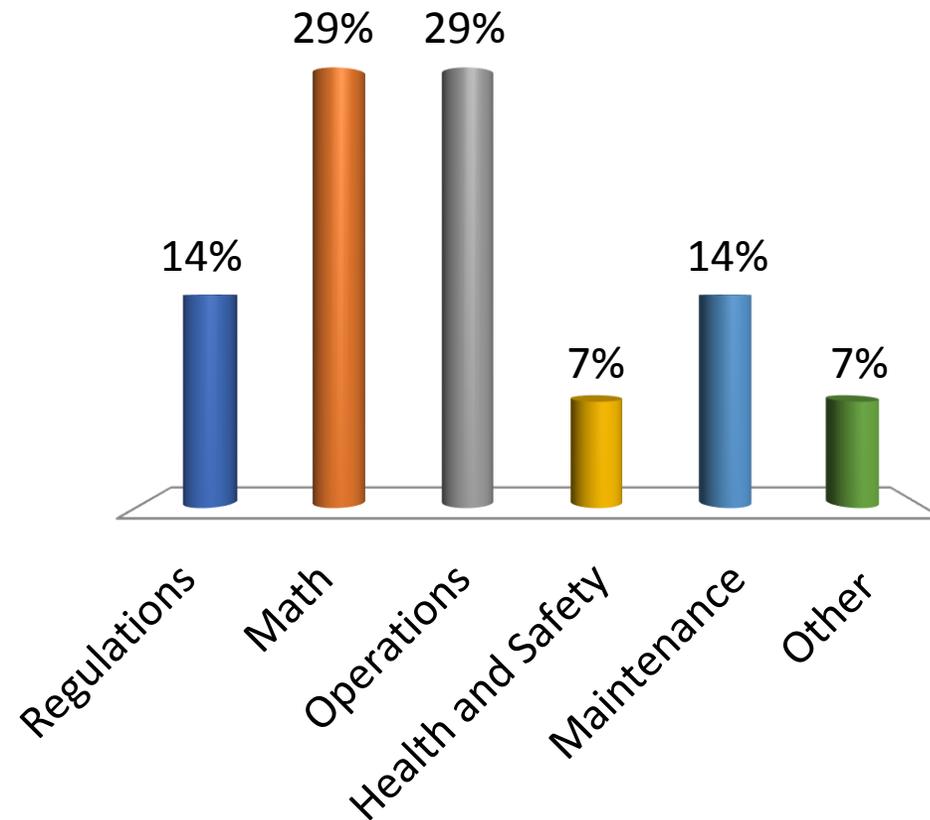
# Typically, when I take an exam...

- A. I skip all the math
- B. I try but am mostly guessing at the math
- C. I am able to do most of the math
- D. I am able to do all of the math



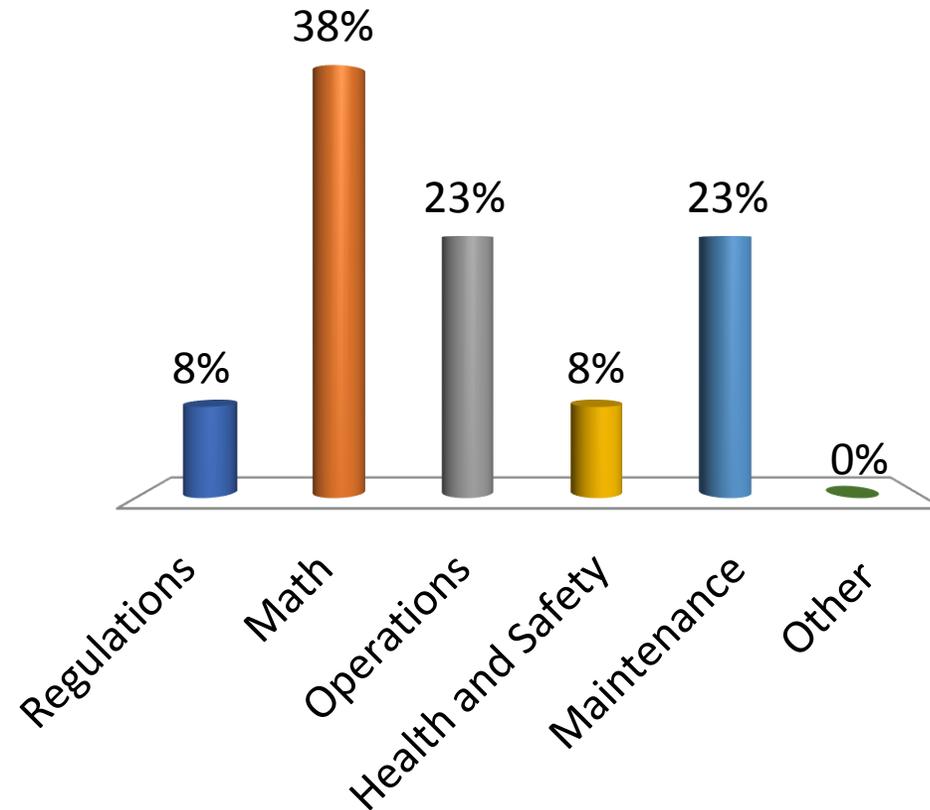
# Which subject areas are you most comfortable with? Choose All

- A. Regulations
- B. Math
- C. Operations
- D. Health and Safety
- E. Maintenance
- F. Other



# Which subject areas are you least comfortable with? Choose All

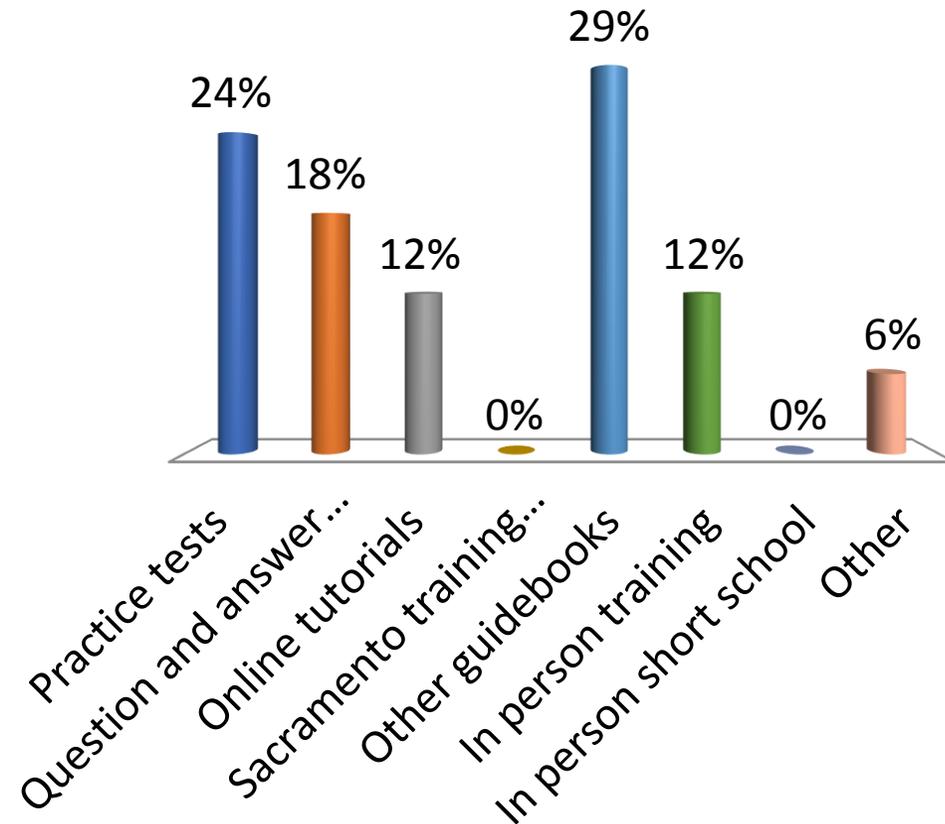
- A. Regulations
- B. Math
- C. Operations
- D. Health and Safety
- E. Maintenance
- F. Other



# Which study aids have you used?

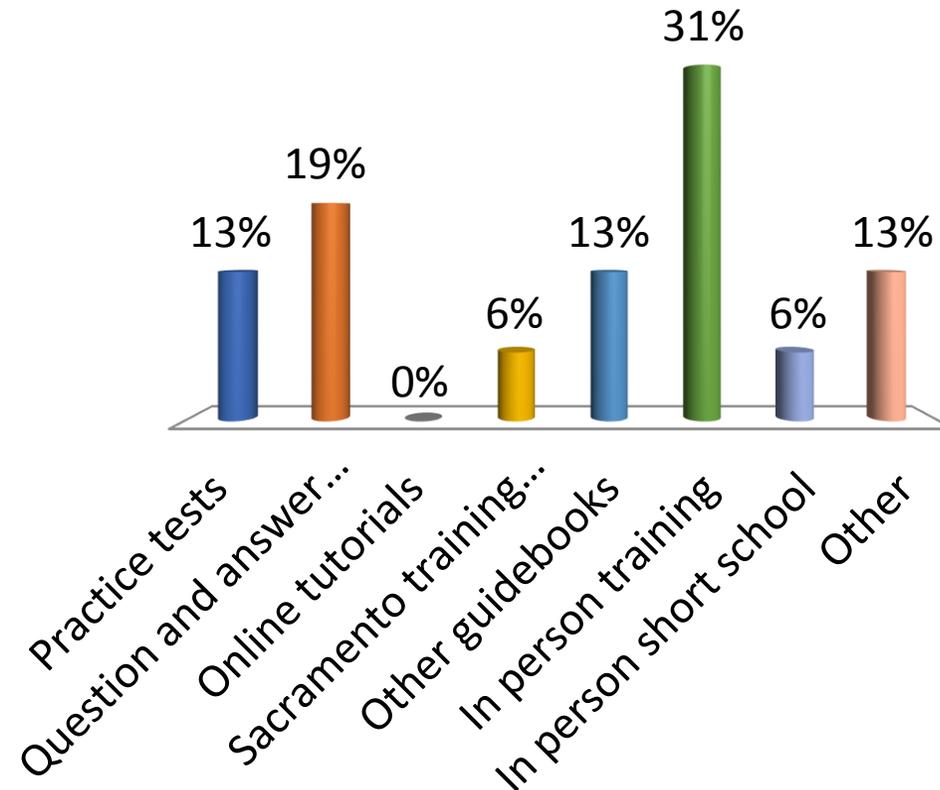
Choose All

- A. Practice tests
- B. Question and answer guides
- C. Online tutorials
- D. Sacramento training guides
- E. Other guidebooks
- F. In person training
- G. In person short school
- H. Other

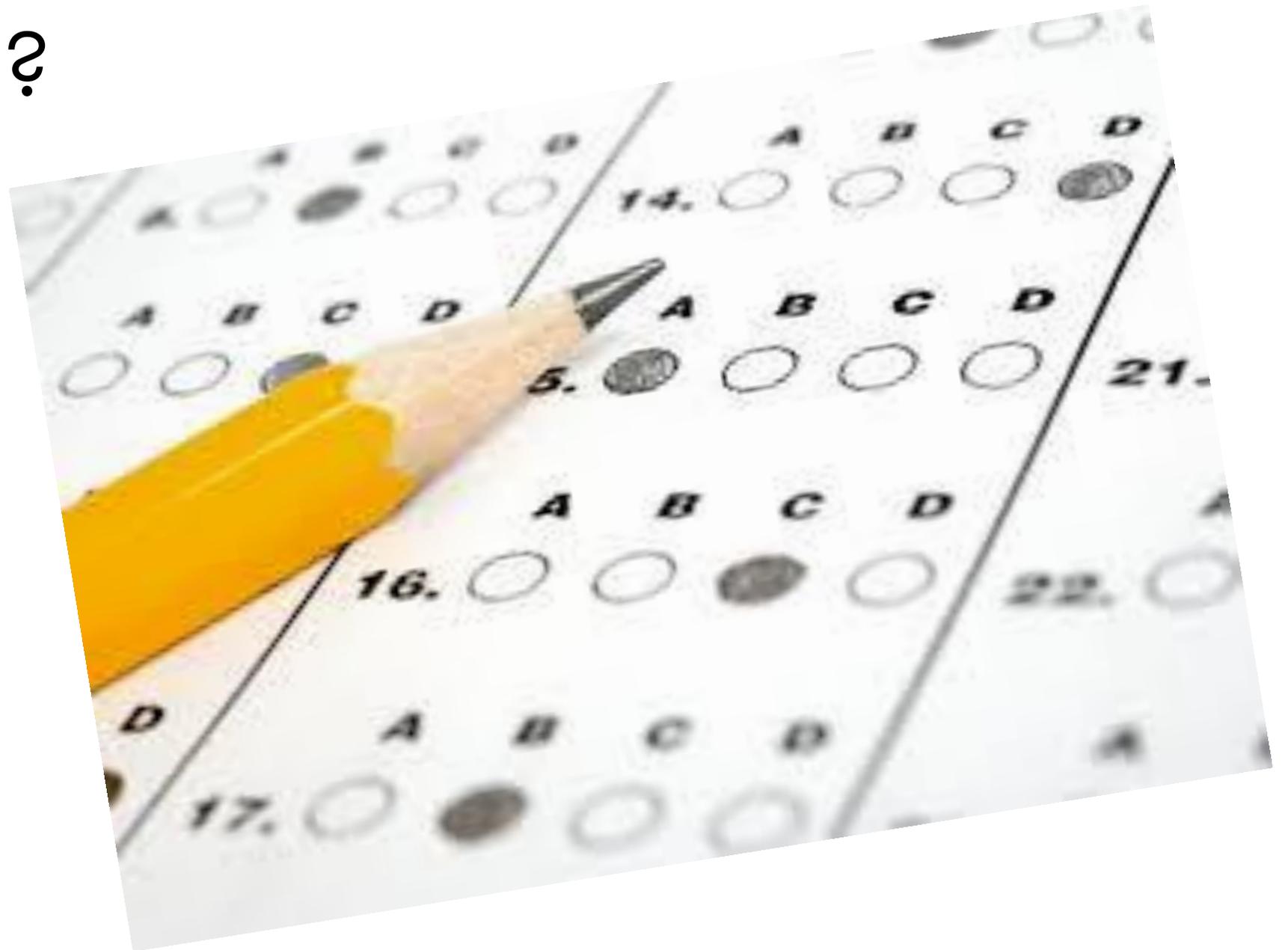


# Which study aids do you think would be most helpful for you? Choose All

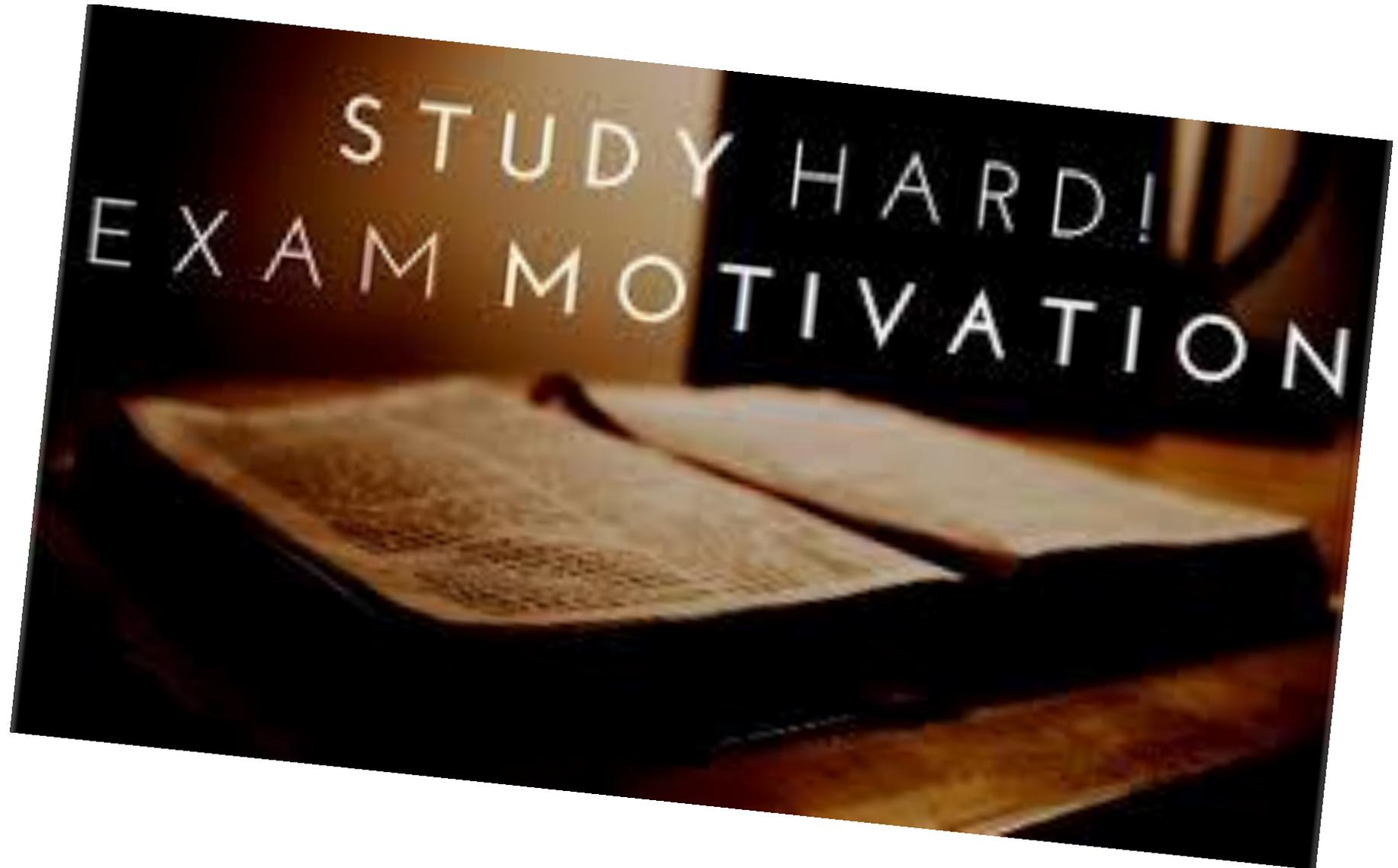
- A. Practice tests
- B. Question and answer guides
- C. Online tutorials
- D. Sacramento training guides
- E. Other guidebooks
- F. In person training
- G. In person short school
- H. Other



# Why a Test?



# Most Important Consideration



# Resources to Help



Let's Look at the Jump Drives

# CONTACT INFORMATION



## SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER

Heather Himmelberger:  
heatherh@unm.edu  
(505) 681-7437 Cell  
(505)277-0113 Office

Department of Civil Engineering MSC01 1070  
1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131  
505-277-0644  
swefc@unm.edu  
<http://southwestefc.unm.edu>