

Views on Healthy School Meals for All

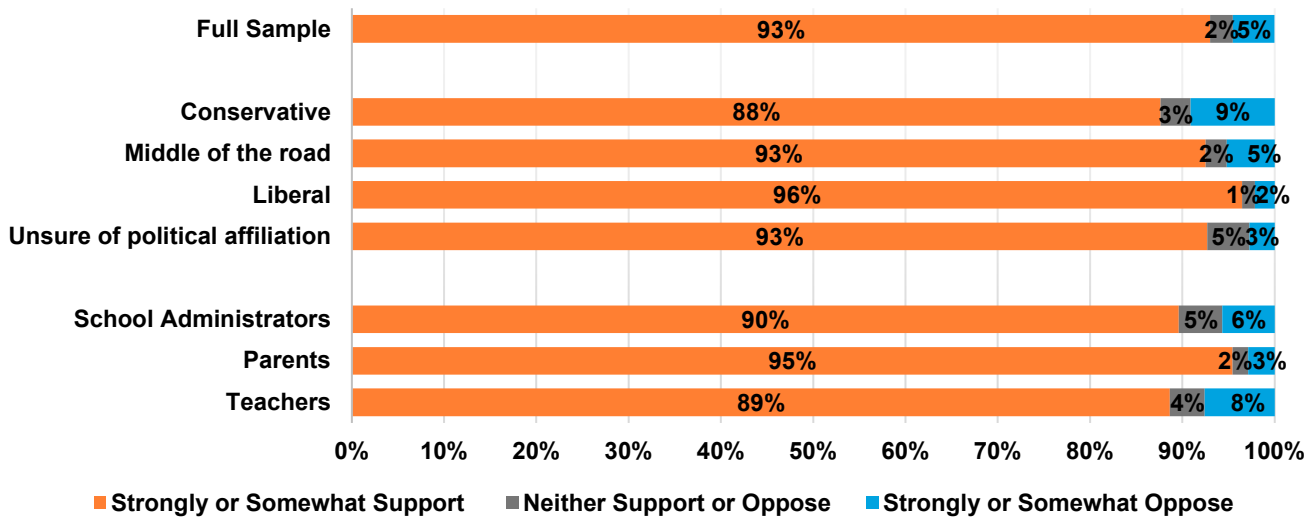
A survey of AZ parents and school community members

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We surveyed a diverse group of Arizona residents, including over 2,300 parents of school-age children and nearly 1,300 members of the school community, consisting of teachers, lunchroom staff, school administrators, and other school employees. Respondents represented a wide range of racial, economic, educational, and political backgrounds. A more detailed report of methods and results will be shared on the Arizona Food Bank Network's website in January 2023.

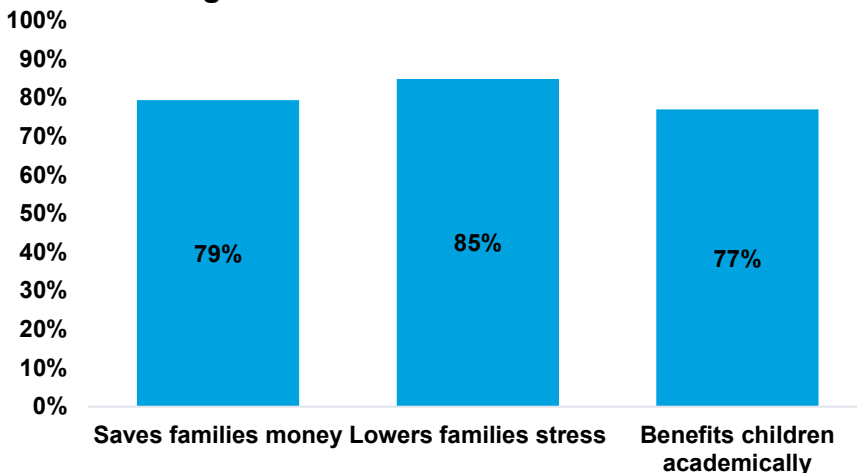
There is overwhelming support (93%) for legislation to offer healthy school meals for all (HSM4A) in Arizona, regardless of income. Support was high among all groups but was strongest among parents (95%). Respondents from all political affiliations expressed similar levels of support for HSM4A.

Support for Legislation to Provide HSM4A in Arizona by respondent political affiliation and school community group*



*Categories may not add up to 100% due to rounding

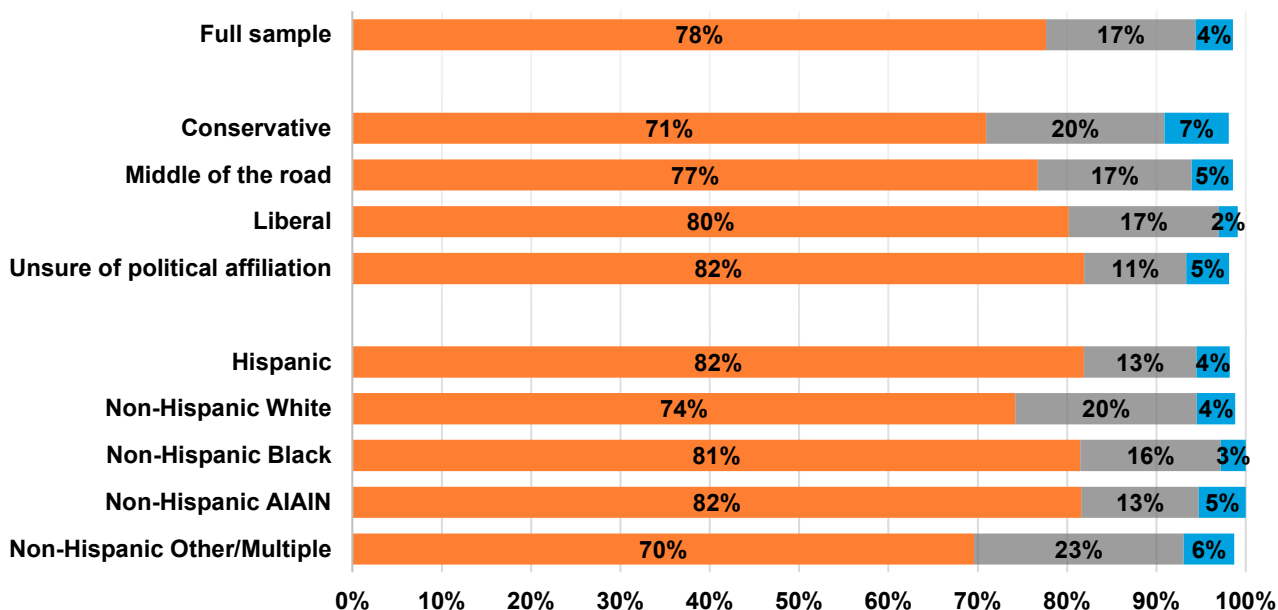
Highest Rated Benefits of School Meals



Three-quarters of Arizonans who completed the survey have favorable views of school breakfast (74%) and school lunch (76%). These views were consistent across all demographic and political groups. Respondents also recognize the many benefits of school meals.

When asked to consider different options for funding school meal programs in the future, the vast majority of respondents (78%) chose HSM4A as the best approach. The second most chosen approach, selected by 17% of respondents, was expanding the eligibility criteria so more children qualify for free or reduced-priced meals.

Top options for future funding approaches for school meals programs by respondent's political affiliation and self-identified race/ethnicity*



- We should offer meals at no charge to all students who want them, regardless of income.
- We should raise the household income limits so more children qualify for free or reduced-cost meals.
- We should continue with the current income limits for free and reduced-cost meals.

*Categories may not add up to 100% as respondents were able to choose between 5 different funding options. The table presents the top 3 choices which made up more than 98% of the total responses.

Respondents recognized many benefits of offering HSM4A. **Nearly all respondents indicated that HSM4A will reduce childhood hunger.** Other recognized benefits included lowering costs for families, reducing the stigma often cited as an issue with students who get free or reduced-priced meals, improving student academic achievement, and removing student meal debt.

Highest Rated Benefits of HSM4A

