

1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
(202) 234-5570

Interviews: 1,010 voters and  
387 public school parents  
Dates: January 11-16, 2012

	All <u>Voters</u>	Public School <u>Parents</u>
<b>[109]</b>		
Male	48	46
Female	52	54

**FINAL**

Study #10447  
School Nutrition Survey  
January 2012

***Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.***

1a. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of eighteen?

	All <u>Voters</u>	Public School <u>Parents</u>	
Yes.....	38	100	<b>[148]</b>
No .....	62	-	
Not sure/refused .....	-	-	

**(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY "YES" IN Q.1a.)**

1b. Do any of your children attend a public school or a public charter school?

	All <u>Voters</u>	Public School <u>Parents</u>	
Yes, children attend a public/charter school .....	80	100	<b>[149]</b>
No, children do not attend public/charter school .....	20	-	
Not sure/refused .....	-	-	

2a. Are you currently registered to vote at this address?

	All <u>Voters</u>	Public School <u>Parents</u>	
Registered.....	100	100	<b>CONTINUE [150]</b>
Not registered.....	-	-	<b>TERMINATE</b>
Not sure.....	-	-	

2b. For statistical purposes only and to ensure that we have a representative sample, would you please tell me how old you are? (IF "REFUSED," ASK:) Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?

	<u>All Voters</u>	<u>Public School Parents</u>	
18-24 .....	10	2	<b>[151-152]</b>
25-29 .....	8	7	
30-34 .....	9	15	
35-39 .....	8	17	
40-44 .....	9	24	
45-49 .....	9	19	
50-54 .....	9	8	
55-59 .....	10	4	
60-64 .....	10	1	
65-69 .....	7	1	
70-74 .....	5	1	
75 and over .....	5	-	
Refused .....	1	1	

3a. To ensure that we have a representative sample, would you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

	<u>All Voters</u>	<u>Public School Parents</u>	
Yes, Hispanic .....	10	11	<b>[153]</b>
No, not Hispanic .....	90	88	
Not sure/refused .....	-	1	

3b. And again, for statistical purposes only, what is your race—white, black, Asian, or something else?

	<u>All Voters</u>	<u>Public School Parents</u>	
White .....	74	72	<b>[154]</b>
Black .....	12	12	
Asian .....	1	1	
Other .....	4	3	
Hispanic (VOL) .....	8	10	
Not sure/refused .....	1	2	

4. To begin with, in your opinion, are things in the country generally going in the right direction, or are things pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

	<u>All Voters</u>	<u>Public School Parents</u>	
Right direction .....	25	21	<b>[155]</b>
Wrong track .....	65	71	
Not sure .....	10	8	

5a/b. Are you concerned about the state of children's health in the United States today? (IF "YES," ASK:) And would you say you are very or somewhat concerned?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
<b>Yes</b> .....	<b>84</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>[156-157]</b>
Very concerned.....	48	48	
Somewhat concerned.....	36	37	
<b>No</b> .....	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	
Not sure.....	2	1	

6a/b. More specifically, are you concerned about the issue of childhood obesity? (IF "YES," ASK:) And would you say you are very or somewhat concerned?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
<b>Yes, concerned with childhood obesity</b> .....	<b>81</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>[158-159]</b>
Very concerned.....	54	52	
Somewhat concerned.....	27	28	
<b>No, not concerned with childhood obesity</b> .....	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	
Not sure.....	2	1	

**On a different topic. . .**

7a. How much would you say you know or have heard in recent months about the national school meals program--do you know or have you heard a lot, a fair amount, just some, very little, or nothing at all about the national school meals program?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
Know/have heard a lot.....	10	13	<b>[160]</b>
Know/have heard a fair amount.....	17	16	
Know/have heard just some.....	21	22	
Know/have heard very little.....	25	25	
Know/have heard nothing at all.....	26	23	
Not sure.....	1	1	

**(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE HEARD VERY LITTLE OR MORE IN Q7a.)**

7b. Just briefly, can you tell me what you recall hearing in recent months about the school meals program, or health issues within school meals? Do you recall hearing anything else about school meals or health standards? (DO NOT READ RESPONSES.)

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
Any mention of potatoes/french fries/starch in school meals program.....	14	11	<b>[161-162]</b>
Any mention of vending machines in schools.....	13	12	>
Better quality meals, more vegetables, fruits, healthier choices.....	12	14	
Any mention of pizza sauce counted as a vegetable.....	10	8	
Any mention of Congress' work on school meals program.....	10	9	
Any mention of number of children served by school meals.....	8	8	
More nutrition, less sugar, less carbs, less junk, less sodas.....	6	7	
Unhealthy food, unhealthy meals/not enough fruits, vegetables.....	5	6	
All other responses.....	21	20	
Not sure.....	24	21	

**The national school meals program provides lunches and breakfasts to many school children across the country, and provides them for free or at a reduced cost to children from low-income families. In this program, the federal government reimburses school districts for the costs of meals that meet certain nutrition standards. To be clear, this school lunch is a full meal that can only be purchased as a full meal--it does not include extra items that can be purchased individually for additional money.**

8. How important do you believe it is that the meals in this program meet a minimum standard for nutritional value--would you say it is very important, fairly important, just somewhat important, or not that important?

	All <u>Voters</u>	Public School <u>Parents</u>	
Very important .....	81	82	[169]
Fairly important .....	10	9	
Just somewhat important.....	5	6	
Not that important .....	3	3	
Not sure .....	1	-	

**In many public schools, there is also food available to students that is not a part of the school meals program. This includes food that is sold in school stores, food and drink vending machines, and in a la carte lines in the cafeteria that have individual items for sale, such as a slice of pizza, a container of yogurt, a side of french fries, or a piece of fruit.**

9. How important do you believe it is for students to have access to food outside of the school meals program, such as from vending machines or the a la carte line--would you say it is very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?

	All <u>Voters</u>	Public School <u>Parents</u>	
Very important .....	18	19	[170]
Fairly important .....	34	36	
Just somewhat important.....	23	24	
Not that important .....	23	20	
Not sure .....	2	1	

**And from what you know . . .**

10. Do you think that food sold in **(READ ITEM)** is totally healthy and nutritious, mostly healthy and nutritious, only somewhat healthy and nutritious, or not really that healthy and nutritious?

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF ALL VOTERS WHO SAY TOTAL OR MOSTLY HEALTHY/NUTRITIOUS*

	Total <u>Healthy/ Nutritious</u>	Mostly <u>Healthy/ Nutritious</u>	Only Somewhat <u>Healthy/ Nutritious</u>	Not Really <u>Healthy/ Nutritious</u>	Depends <u>(VOL)</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>	
<b>Cafeteria a la carte lines</b>							[172]
All voters.....	3	18	47	21	3	8	
Public school parents.....	2	21	45	21	3	8	
<b>School stores</b>							[171]
All voters.....	2	8	35	33	2	20	
Public school parents.....	2	9	31	34	1	23	
<b>School vending machines</b>							[173]
All voters.....	1	4	22	61	3	9	
Public school parents.....	2	5	22	60	3	8	

11. Food that is part of the school meals program that we spoke of earlier must meet certain nutritional requirements in order to be served in schools. Do you think that it is very important, fairly important, just somewhat important, or not that important that food served OUTSIDE of the school meals program, meaning food from the a la carte line, school stores, and school vending machines, meet minimum standards for nutritional value?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
Very important .....	61	61	[174]
Fairly important.....	14	13	
Just somewhat important.....	15	18	
Not that important .....	9	7	
Not sure .....	1	1	

12a/b. In fact, many schools are not required to meet nutrition standards for the foods and beverages served in their a la carte lines and vending machines. Suppose there was going to be a rule that all foods sold in schools in these ways would have to meet basic minimum nutritional standards, such as limiting calories, fat content, and sodium in the foods while encouraging more fruits, vegetables, and low-fat dairy items. These standards would be set nationally, but individual school districts would have the leeway to build on the standards if they wished to, as long as they met basic, minimum standards. Is this something you would favor or oppose? (IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK:) And would you say you strongly (FAVOR/OPPOSE) or somewhat (FAVOR/OPPOSE)?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
<b>Favor</b> .....	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	[175-176]
Strongly .....	57	61	
Somewhat.....	23	19	
<b>Oppose</b> .....	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	
Somewhat.....	7	6	
Strongly .....	10	10	
Not sure.....	3	4	

13. Soon, nutrition experts at the U.S. Department of Agriculture are going to issue these kinds of standards for foods sold in schools. Do you think that Congress should get directly involved in writing these standards, or should Congress not get directly involved in writing these standards?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
Congress should get involved .....	34	36	[177]
Congress should not get involved ....	59	57	
Not sure.....	7	7	

14. How much have you seen, heard, or read about Congress passing legislation that continues to allow tomato paste used in pizza to count as a vegetable in school lunches--would you say you have heard a lot, a fair amount, some, very little, or nothing about this?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
Heard a lot.....	7	7	[178]
Heard a fair amount.....	10	9	
Heard some .....	12	12	
Heard very little.....	19	17	
Heard nothing .....	51	55	
Not sure .....	1	-	

15a/b. Do you approve or disapprove of this legislation that continues to allow tomato paste used in pizza to count as a vegetable? **(IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE, ASK:)** And would you say you strongly (APPROVE/DISAPPROVE) or somewhat (APPROVE/DISAPPROVE)?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
<b>Approve</b> .....	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>[179-180]</b>
Strongly .....	8	9	
Somewhat.....	14	13	
<b>Disapprove</b> .....	<b>66</b>	<b>70</b>	
Somewhat.....	19	22	
Strongly .....	47	48	
Not sure.....	12	8	

16. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your point of view on this issue?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
I disagree with this action because it undermines the efforts of nutrition experts and worsens the quality of kids' school lunches .....	60	62	<b>[208]</b>
I agree with this action because tomato paste has nutritional value and the legislation was trying to improve kids' school lunches .....	26	27	
Neither (VOL).....	7	6	
Not sure .....	7	5	

**FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.**

F1. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
Grade school.....	1	1	<b>[271-272]</b>
Some high school.....	4	3	
High school graduate.....	24	26	
Some college, no degree.....	19	18	
Vocational training, 2-year college .....	10	8	
4-year college/bachelor's degree.....	24	25	
Some postgraduate work, no degree .....	2	3	
2-3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree.....	12	11	
Doctoral/law degree.....	2	3	
Not sure/refused.....	2	2	

F2. Regardless of how you may be registered, how would you describe your overall point of view in terms of the political parties? Would you say that you are mostly Democratic, leaning Democratic, completely independent, leaning Republican, or mostly Republican?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
Mostly Democratic .....	27	26	<b>[273]</b>
Leaning Democratic .....	11	10	
Completely independent .....	25	25	
Leaning Republican .....	12	14	
Mostly Republican.....	20	19	
Not sure .....	5	6	

F3a/b. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate, or conservative? (IF "LIBERAL" OR "CONSERVATIVE," ASK:) Do you consider yourself to be very (liberal/conservative) or somewhat (liberal/conservative)?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
Very liberal.....	11	9	[274-275]
Somewhat liberal .....	13	11	
Moderate .....	33	36	
Somewhat conservative.....	20	21	
Very conservative .....	15	15	
Not sure.....	8	8	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO ARE A PARENT OR GUARDIAN IN Q1e.)

F4. Which of the following best describes the grade your child or children are in school?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
Not in school yet.....	13	5	[276]
Preschool or kindergarten .....	18	16	>
Elementary school.....	43	50	
Middle school or junior high.....	26	35	
High school .....	31	38	
Other (VOL).....	3	3	
Not sure/refused .....	3	3	

F5. Are you currently single and never married, unmarried and living with a partner, married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
Single.....	20	9	[277]
Unmarried and living with a partner ..	3	2	
Married.....	59	78	
Separated .....	1	2	
Widowed .....	6	1	
Divorced.....	8	5	
Other (VOL) .....	1	-	
Not sure/refused .....	2	3	

F6. Would you describe the area you live in as an urban, suburban, small town, or rural area?

	All Voters	Public School Parents	
Urban .....	21	19	[278]
Suburban .....	32	33	
Small town .....	26	28	
Rural .....	18	16	
Not sure .....	3	4	

F7. Finally, for statistical purposes only, would you please tell me which of the following best describes your total annual household income? Please stop me when I get to the correct range.

	<u>All Voters</u>	<u>Public School Parents</u>	
Less than \$20,000 .....	12	8	<b>[279]</b>
\$20,000 to \$30,000 .....	10	8	
\$30,000 to \$40,000 .....	11	12	
\$40,000 to \$50,000 .....	9	10	
\$50,000 to \$75,000 .....	13	14	
\$75,000 to \$100,000 .....	12	13	
\$100,000 to \$200,000 .....	16	18	
\$200,000 or more.....	3	4	
Not sure/refused .....	14	13	