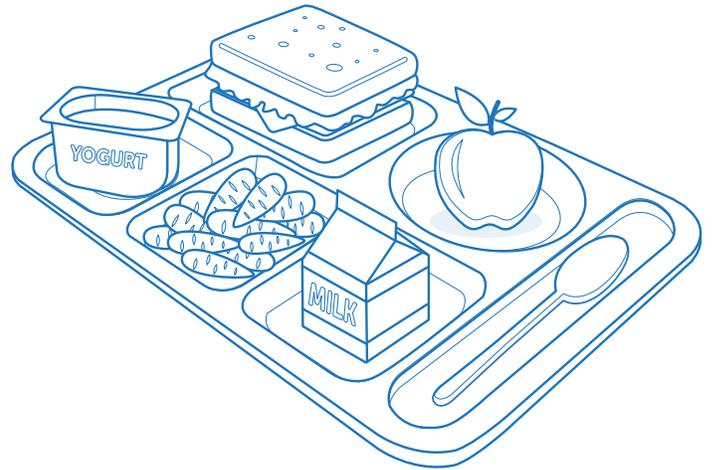


Parents Support Healthier School Food Standards

A new poll shows that parents of school-age children overwhelmingly support national nutrition standards for all foods and beverages sold to students during school.¹ The findings come as school districts implement the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Smart Snacks in School" standards, which set basic limits on the fat, salt, and calories in items sold through vending machines, school stores, and a la carte cafeteria menus. Both student health and school food service revenue can benefit from these changes.²



Most parents favor nutrition standards for all food sold to students.



72% favor national standards for school meals.



72% support standards for school snacks.



75% think salt should be limited in meals.



91% support requiring schools to include a serving of fruits or vegetables with every meal.

The majority of parents are concerned with the state of children's health and childhood obesity.



80% are concerned about the state of children's health.

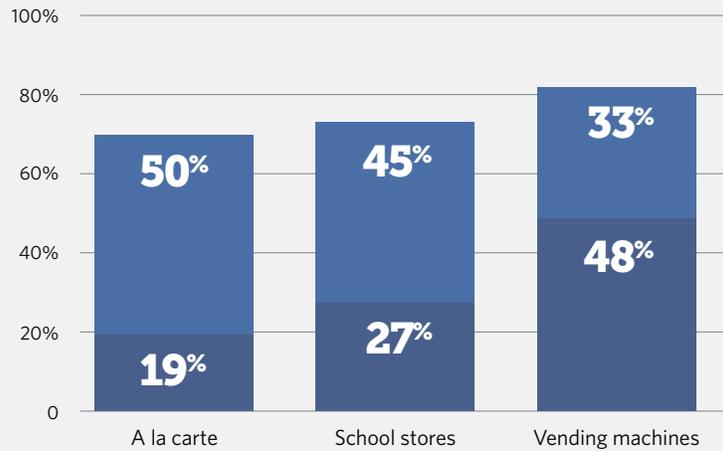


74% are concerned about the issue of childhood obesity.

Most parents hold a mixed or negative opinion of the nutritional quality of snack foods and beverages traditionally sold in schools.

Percentage of parents reporting that items sold in this venue are:

- Not really healthy/nutritious
- Only somewhat healthy/nutritious



Help ensure that all students have access to healthy foods and beverages throughout the school day.

Learn what you can do at healthyschoolfoodsnow.org.

Endnotes

- 1 The poll was conducted by Hart Research Associates and Ferguson Research. Data were collected via telephone surveys between June 19 and 28, 2014, among registered voters who are parents of public school students. It was released by The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and the American Heart Association (AHA).
- 2 The Pew Charitable Trusts, Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project, *Health Impact Assessment: National Nutrition Standards for Snack and a la Carte Foods and Beverages Sold in Schools* (2012), <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/0001/01/01/health-impact-assessment-national-nutrition-standards-for-snack-and-a-la-carte-foods-and-beverages-sold-in-schools>.



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Pew, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and American Heart Association (AHA) are jointly supporting efforts to ensure all foods and beverages in schools are healthy through the Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project, a collaboration between Pew and RWJF, and Voices for Healthy Kids, an initiative of RWJF and AHA.