



UNIVERSAL MEAL PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS AND UPDATE

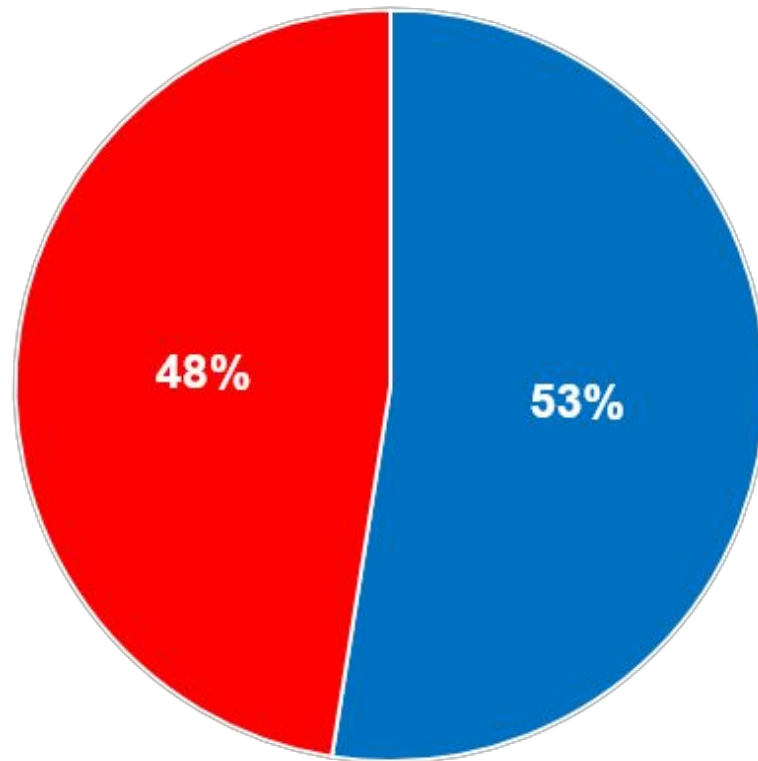
BOARD MEETING – OCTOBER 6, 2022

DONNA TRIPI, SUPERINTENDENT AND ALLISON OPPELTZ, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE



Would you prefer to continue the no reimbursement route (35 paid daily options plus the free meal option) or reimbursement (one or two daily options but more robust and variety)?

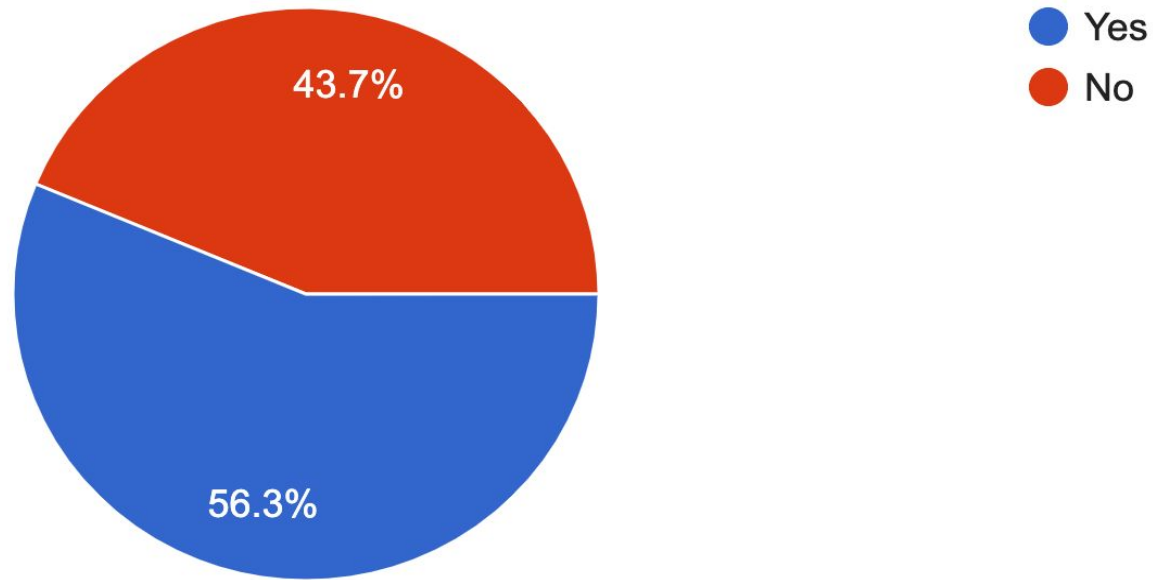
160 responses



- **No Reimbursement**
- **Reimbursement**

Do you currently utilize Ki's paid meal program to provide lunches for your child(ren)?

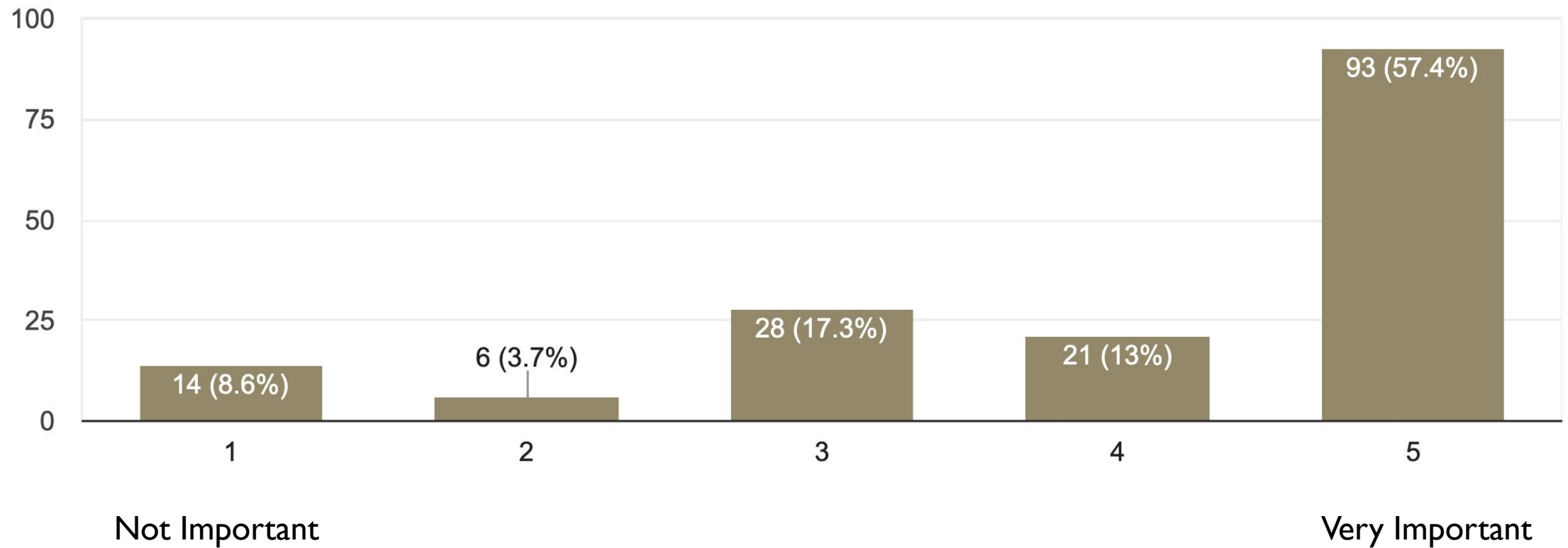
167 responses



- 64% of respondents who purchase Ki's School Lunches do so 1-3 days each week
- 40% of respondents who purchase Ki's School Lunches do so 3-5 days each week

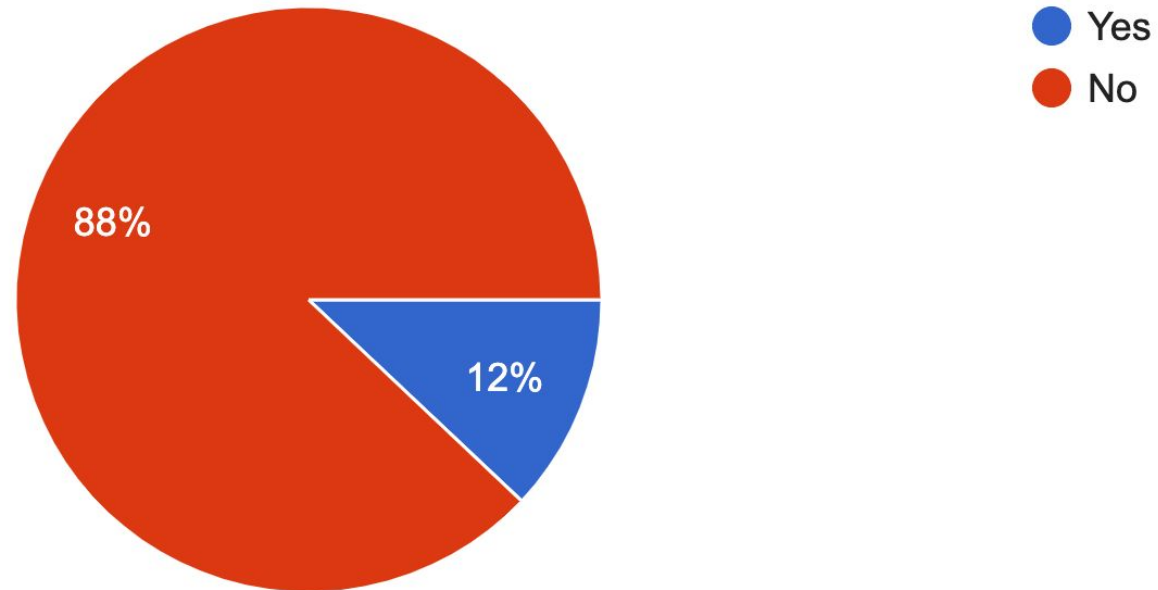
How important is having a variety of lunches each day?

162 responses



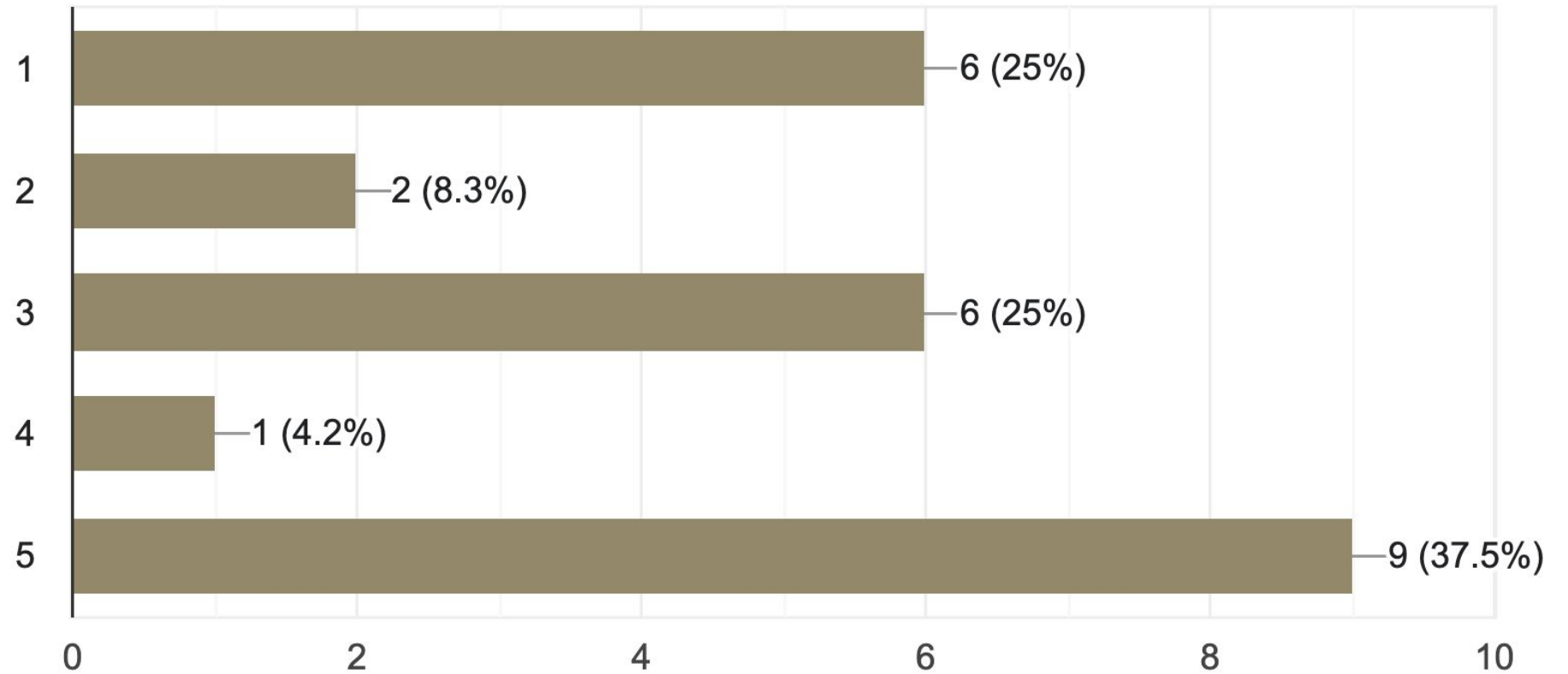
Does your child(ren) currently take advantage of the free breakfasts?

166 responses



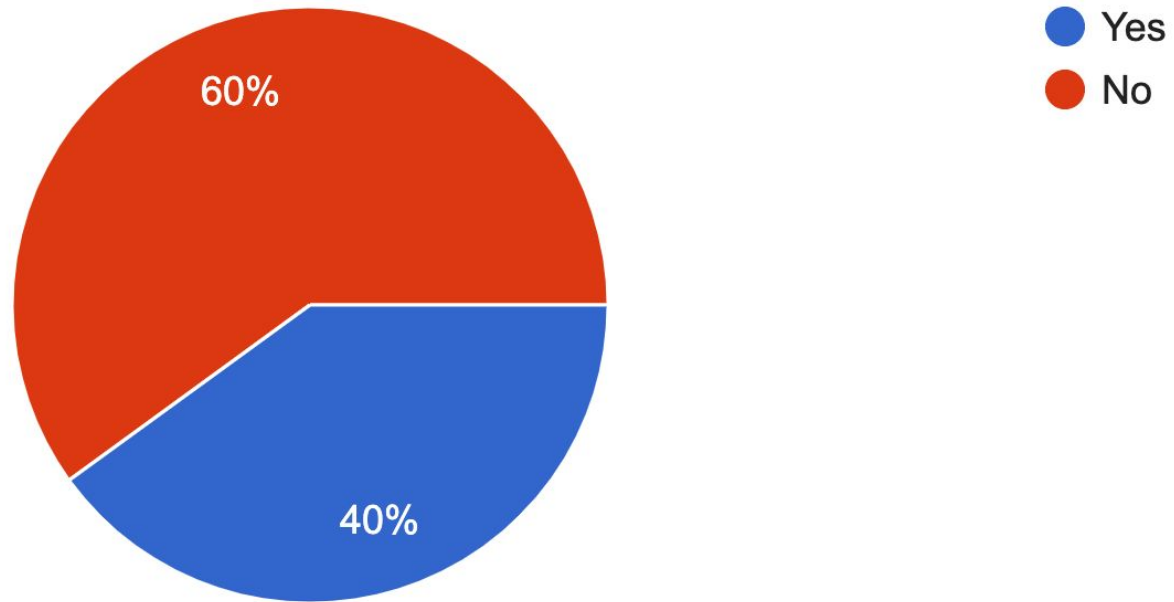
If so, on average how many days a week does your child(ren) eat a free breakfast?

24 responses



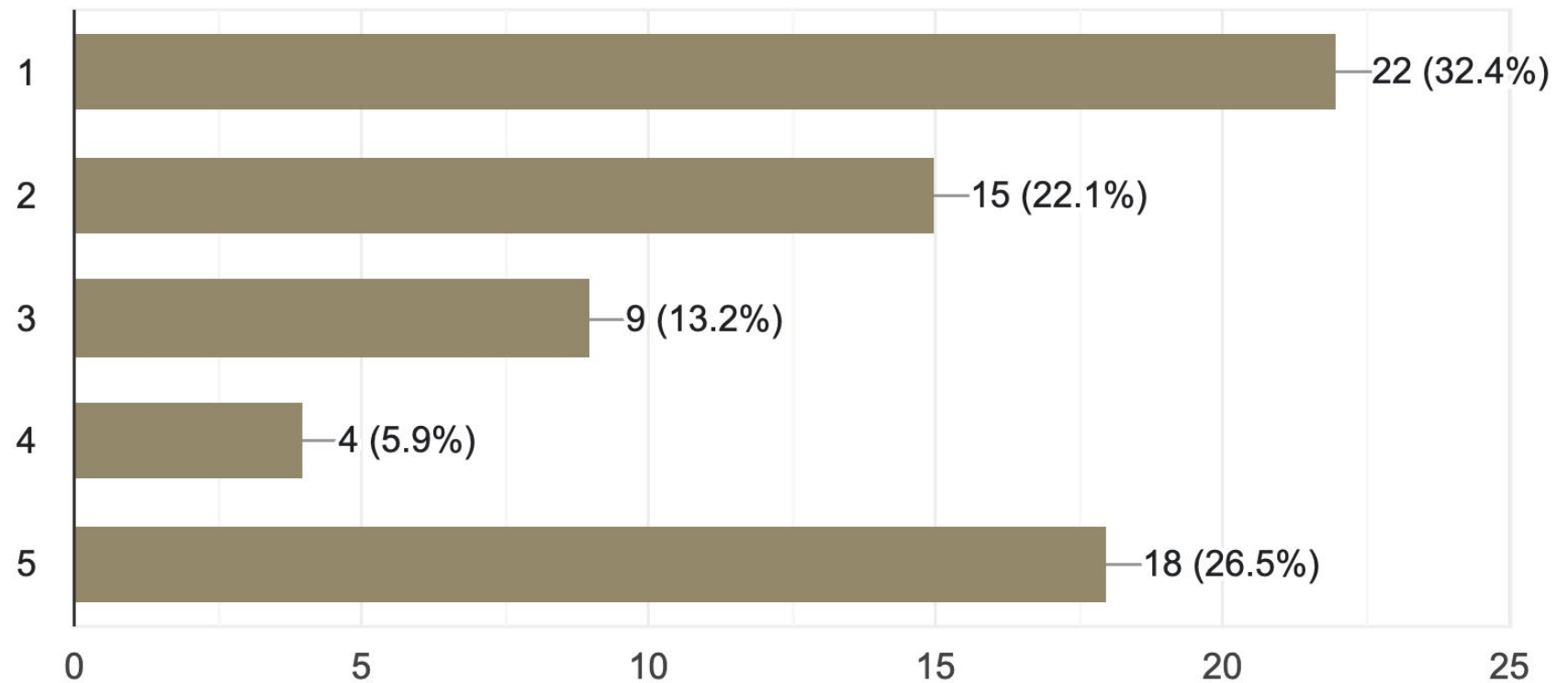
Does your child(ren) currently take advantage of the free lunches?

165 responses



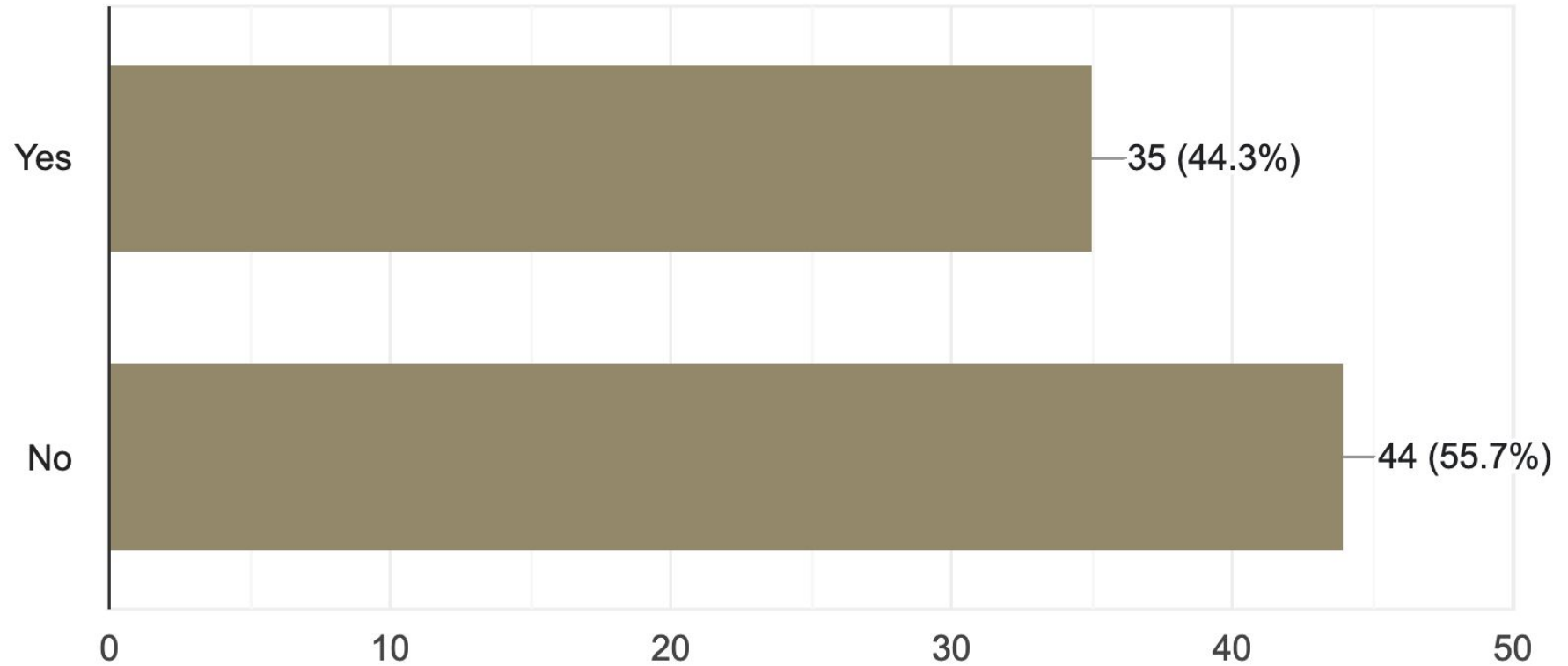
If so, on average how many days a week does your child(ren) eat a free lunch?

68 responses



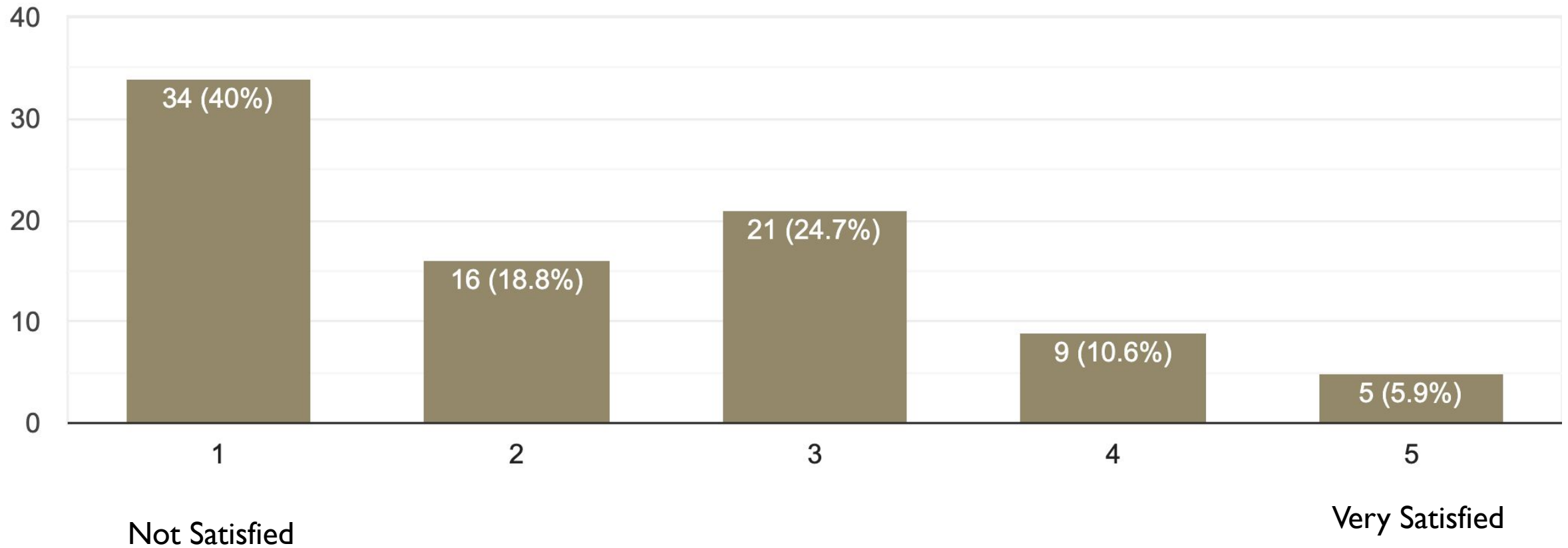
If your child eats the free lunch at school, is the current portion size sufficient for your child(ren)?

79 responses



How would you rate your child(ren)'s overall satisfaction with the free lunch?

85 responses



COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF NO REIMBURSEMENT

- Please stay as far away from USDA involvement as possible. They are nothing more than a lobby group for big Ag and dairy.
- The more flexibility and autonomy the district can retain, the better, even if it comes at a financial cost to the district. – 2 comments
- California taxpayers should not be paying for our children's meals. Let's reject government overreach. - 2 comments
- We should not take reimbursement because of all of the challenges and restrictions it poses to our district and it seems more expensive.
- The current options are fine and people should pay for what their kids eat, end of story.
- I don't use it because I don't want the school paying for something I'm perfectly capable of providing. For those who use it, we are providing a good service.
- Ki's is one of the amazing benefits of our school. Appreciate that Ki's is organic. Healthy option for our child. Keep things as is with Ki's; don't want to get rid of it as a paid option. – 17 comments
- My child prefers the variety over the Universal Meal program. - 2 comments
- My children are vegetarian and this ridiculous program will never satisfy my family's needs. People should pack lunches or buy Ki's to meet their own needs. - 2 comments
- Worry about the quality of lunch options if we switch to a state reimbursed program. It's nice to get a lunch they enjoy with quality food.
- Our community is in no NEED of free meals; no reimbursement – 4 comments
- The district should have other priorities, like academics. I'm sad that we are forced to do this. We should opt out. – 6 comments

COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF REIMBURSEMENT

- Get reimbursed.
- Disappointed in the communication and attitude around this new state mandate. It is extremely helpful to have meals provided and is one less burden for families. People who use the program shouldn't be made to feel badly about participating.
- We should figure out a way to profit from school lunches to offset the costs of a free meal.
- Establish a kitchen like every other school. – 3 comments
- We should offer what neighboring districts are offering. - 5 comments
- The universal lunch plan should be better explained to parents and parents should be informed weekly or least monthly of the options.
- The school should provide free lunch for all kids regardless. It's public. – 2 comments
- Free lunch is a great thing to have; paid lunch is too expensive.

COMMENTS ON CURRENT UMP

- Students don't know where the free breakfast is being served.
- Offer cereal every morning, it is an incentive for students to get to school on time.
- There is no/little variety, same thing every week, etc. - 20 comments
- Options are too healthy and don't appeal to kids. Children don't like the free meals. Like to have pizza and chicken nuggets as a free option. – 15 comments
- The portion size is not enough for my children. They leave hungry. – 16 comments
- No sides offered and they are needed due to the portion size. - 7 comments
- Ki's should add fresh fruit/veggies daily.
- We should interview/contract with another meal provider. - 13 comments
- The Universal Meal Program meal is not nutritionally adequate. – 3 comments
- Ki's lines are too long, and this discourages my child from getting the lunch. - 3 comments
- Children are happy with the free lunch. - 2 comments
- My child loves the options and it's helpful not to make lunches. - 2 comments
- Satisfied with the temporary measures we've taken, but it needs improvement, would like to see a salad bar.

INFORMATION FROM FOOD CONSULTANT

- Reimbursement rate has increased - \$5.245 for lunch, \$3.155 for breakfast
- We do have to follow meal pattern and other guidelines for meals regardless of whether we are seeking reimbursement.
- If we are in a reimbursement program, vendors want participation or it isn't worth their while to work with us.
- There are not many vendors out there.
- We should not do online ordering with reimbursement.
 - Tracking issues
 - If the meal offering changes due to supply issues, you haven't promised a particular meal.
- This program is probably not going away; it seems to be a nationwide movement.
- Staffing will be an issue; we will need two people minimum - at least one for serving and one for tracking. Both may not need to be full time.

Next Steps:

- Reviewing current menu and processes for compliance

OCTOBER MENU

- Monday: Pesto pasta with chicken or veggies, GF pasta with turkey meat sauce, apple slices, and carrots
- Tuesday: Whole wheat chicken quesadilla, GF bean burrito, cucumber slices, and orange slices
- Wednesday: Turkey or veggie chili, cornbread, and grapes
- Thursday: Navy bean soup, brown rice, and watermelon
- Friday: Teriyaki chicken or tofu bowl, and pineapple