

High School Lunch Survey Results

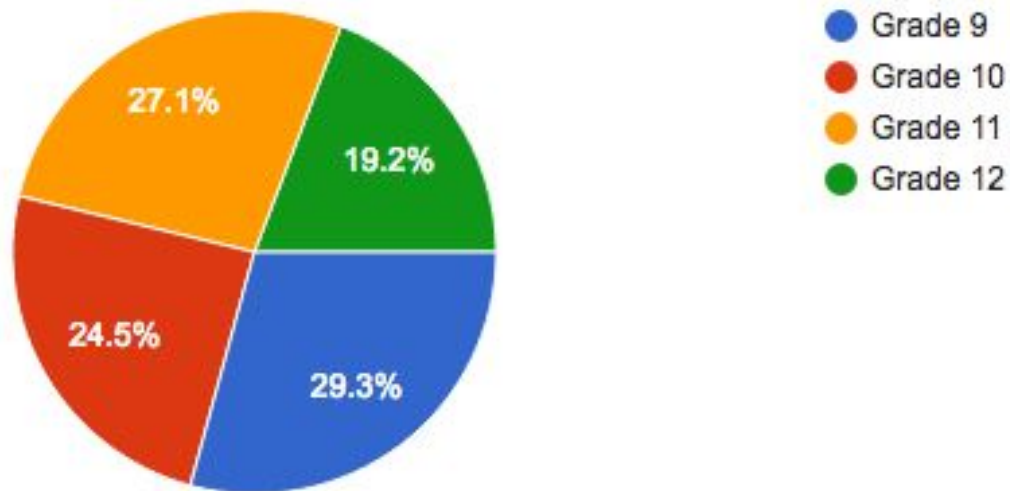
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March 2017

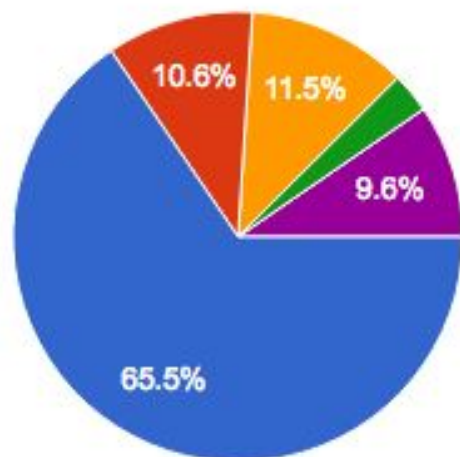
Survey Info

- Description given to students:
 - The district is researching lunch programs for students. We hope to meet two needs: making a good lunch affordable for all students, and helping students who struggle to get a lunch get something to eat. Your input is important and will shape decisions that are made, because there are many possible ways to meet the needs.
- 417 students responses collected
- Results expressed, in general, willingness to try a lunch program but extreme aversion to closing campus

What grade are you currently in? (417 responses)



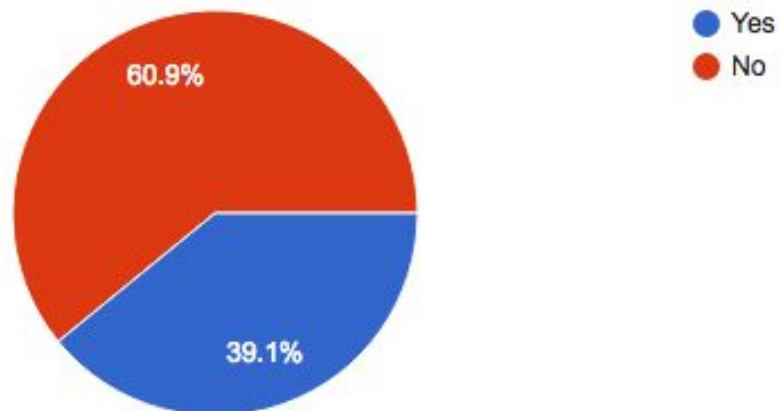
When you leave campus, where do you get your lunch? (417 responses)



- Shop in town
- I bring a lunch but eat off campus
- I go home
- I don't eat but like to leave campus
- I don't (or only very rarely) leave campus for lunch

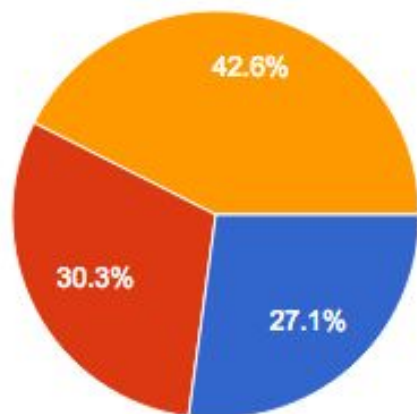
Do you sometimes leave school for lunch because there isn't space to sit and eat?

(417 responses)



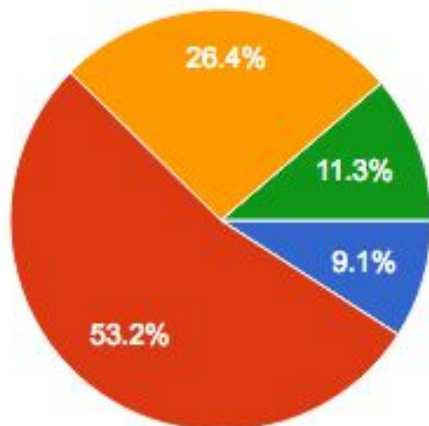
Just to make sure we've got you right: On average, how often do you leave campus during your lunch period (even if you come back)?

(188 responses)



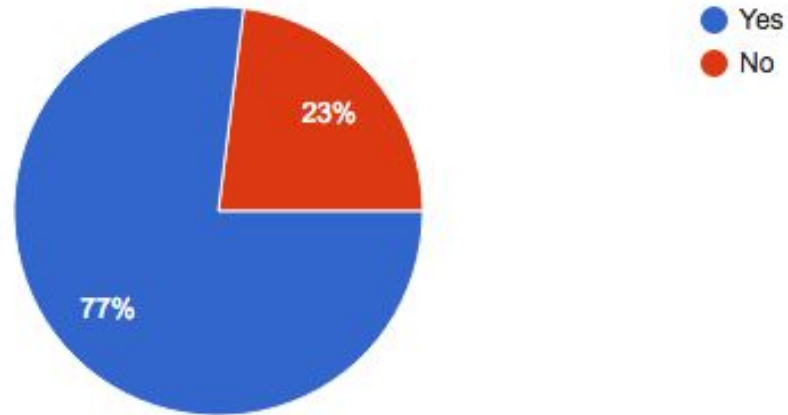
- 0-1 days per week (I rarely leave)
- 2-3 days/week (I leave about half the time)
- 4-5 days/week (I usually leave during lunch)

If you purchase lunch in town, what is your daily budget? (417 responses)



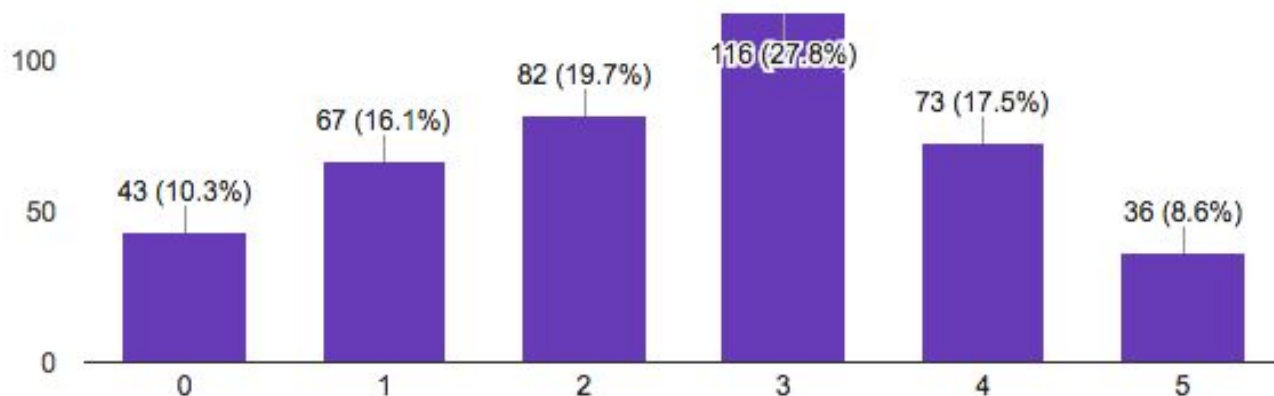
- Less than \$5
- \$5 - \$7
- \$8 or more
- I never (or almost never) purchase lunch in town, so I'm not sure.

Would a less expensive (quality) lunch be appealing to you? (417 responses)



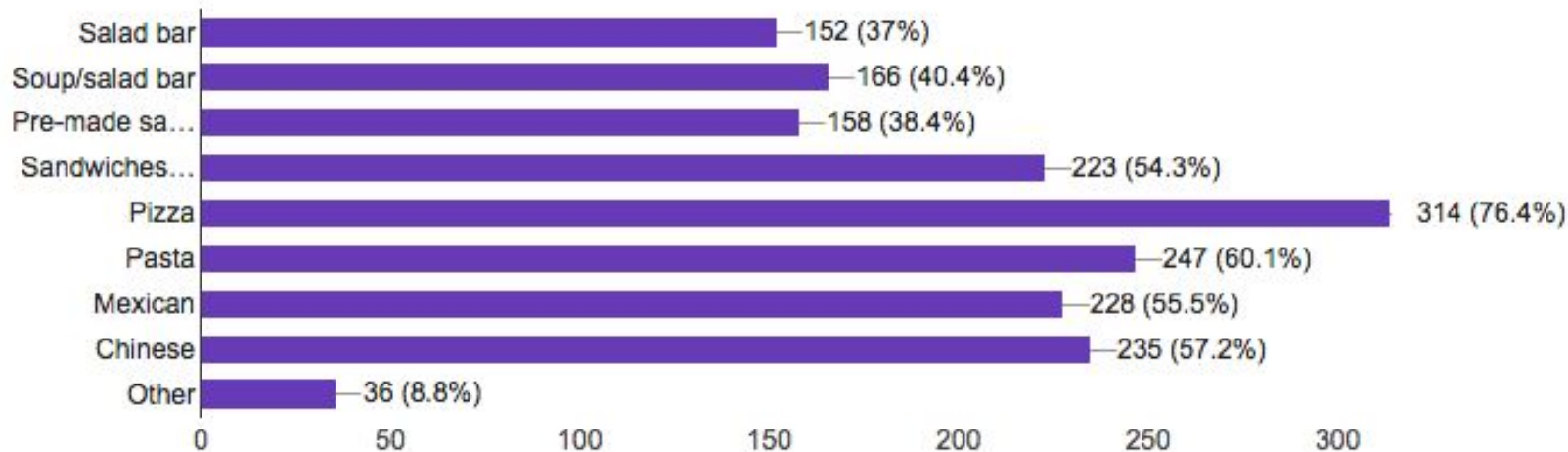
If there were a lunch program in the school, do you think you would participate (you could still choose to go home or go to town if you wanted)?

(417 responses)



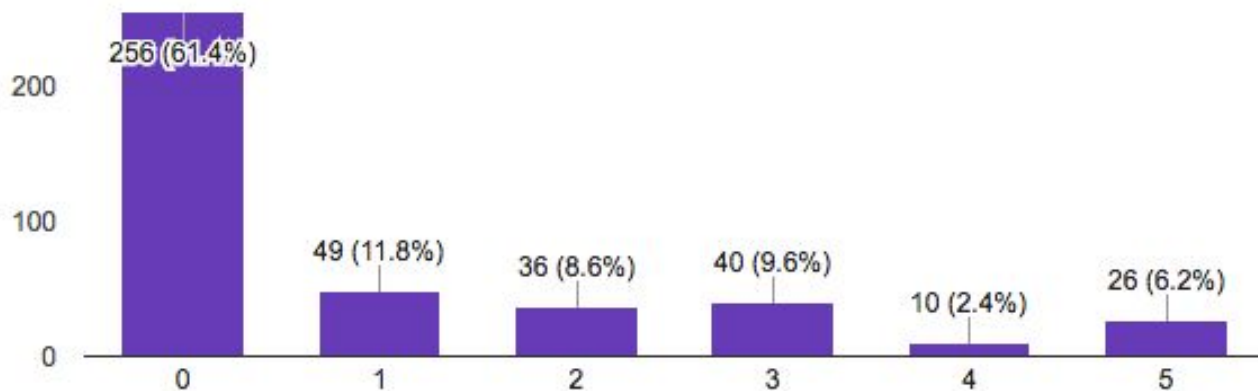
Which of these options for an in-house lunch would be most appealing to you? (check all that apply)

(411 responses)



Would you be in favor of a high-quality lunch program that required a closed campus for some or all grades?

(417 responses)



Student Responses (samples from 89 total replies)

- I want a high-quality lunch program but I do not support a closed campus. Students leave campus for many reasons aside from purchasing lunch. Students frequently need to get notebooks/folders/school supplies/etc. from home. Also, the cafeteria is not large enough to accommodate all students. Have you seen it during a Common Lunch, or even just a regular lunch? Tables are impossible to find and people always come up to others asking if they have a free table or an extra seat in order to fit everyone. The open-campus system is an intrinsic piece of CHHS that CANNOT be removed.
- I think that the on campus lunch is a great idea, but i still would like to have the option of going out with my friends for lunch. It's probably my favorite part of the day, being able to leave
- I would favor the lunch program as long as the prices of the food are at a reasonable price so all student could buy something.
- Dont close the campus. Theres really not enough space in the lunchroom, especially when theres common lunch.
- Vegetarian options!! :)
- I would really like a lunch program before I graduate
- I'm likely to adapt to whatever choice is made.
- A lot of the shops in town need us as patrons in order to keep their heads above the water. We would be losing valuable shops if we closed campus.



Community Survey: Results & Analysis



CHUFSD Committee on School Lunch
June 20, 2017



Objectives

Method

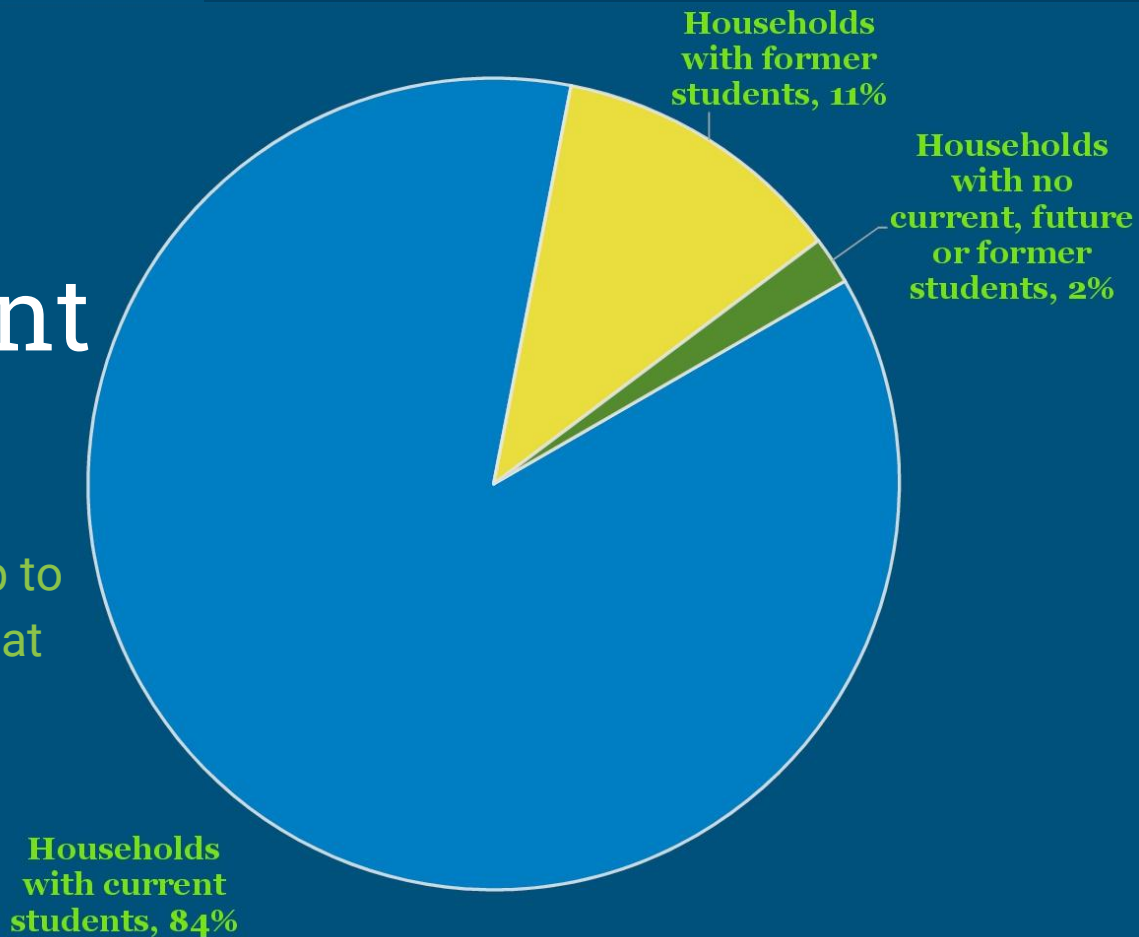
650

Number of Respondents

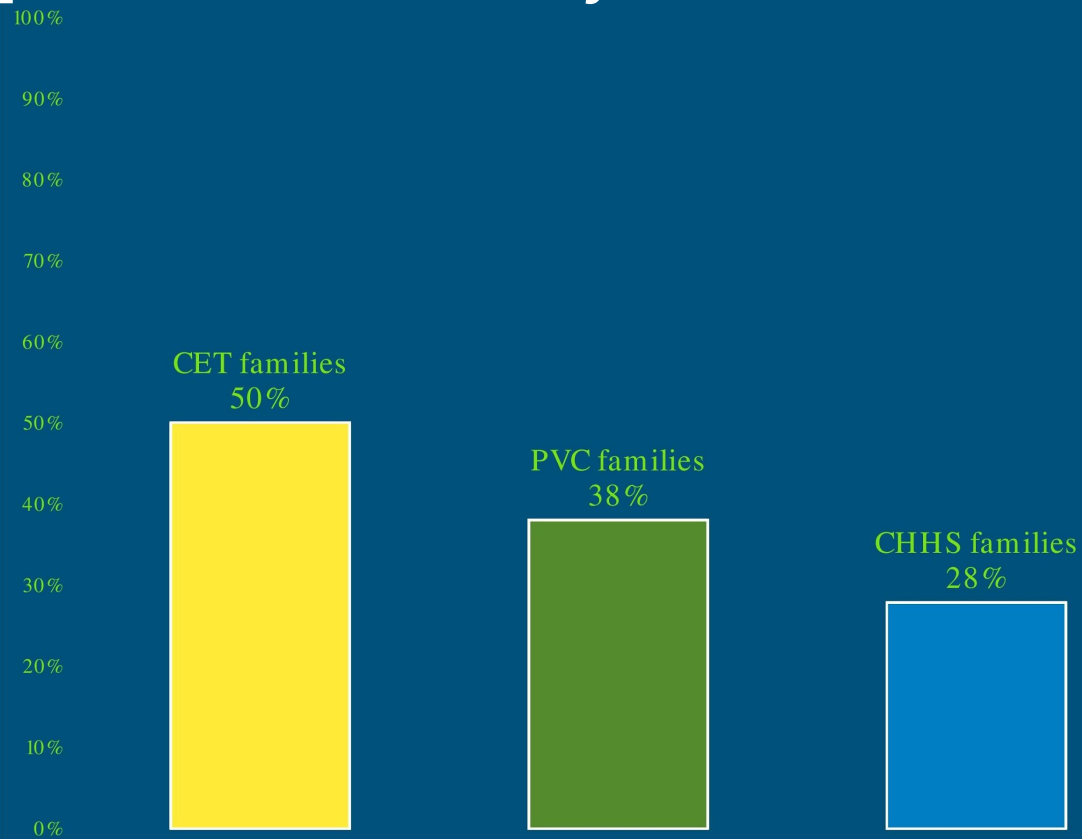
Survey Responses

Q1: Respondent Identity

Please indicate your relationship to the school district. Choose all that apply.

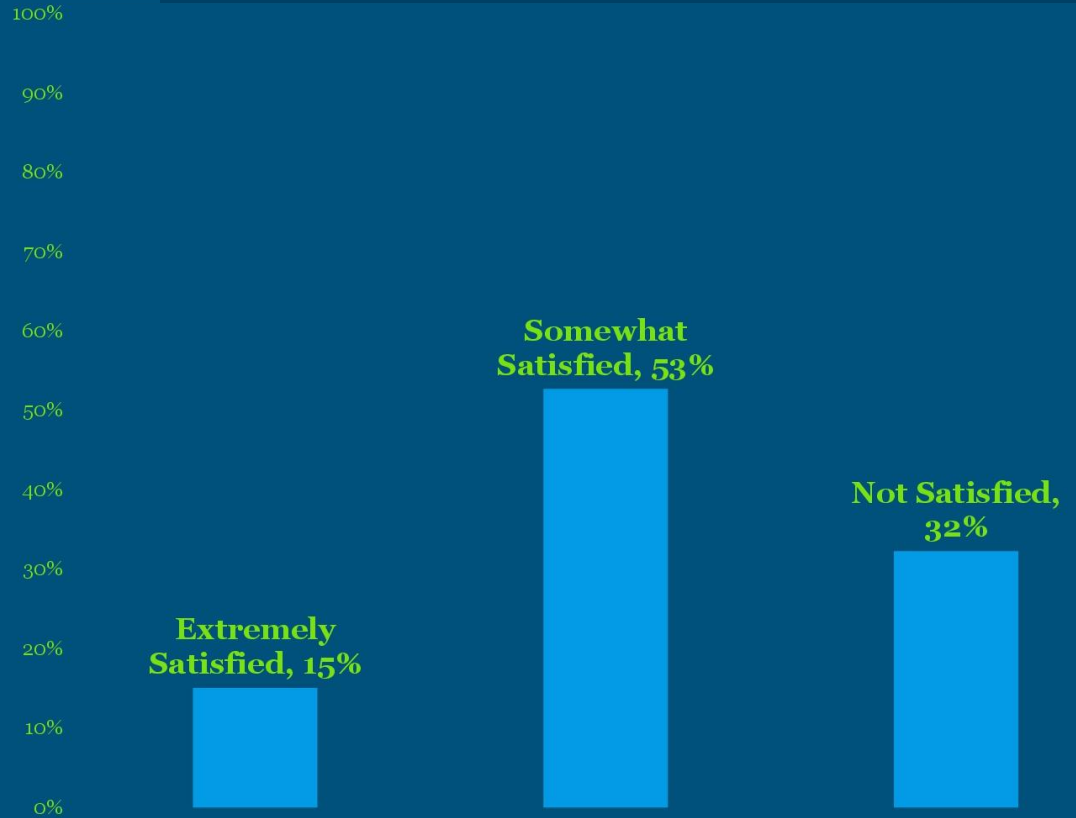


Q1: Respondent Identity

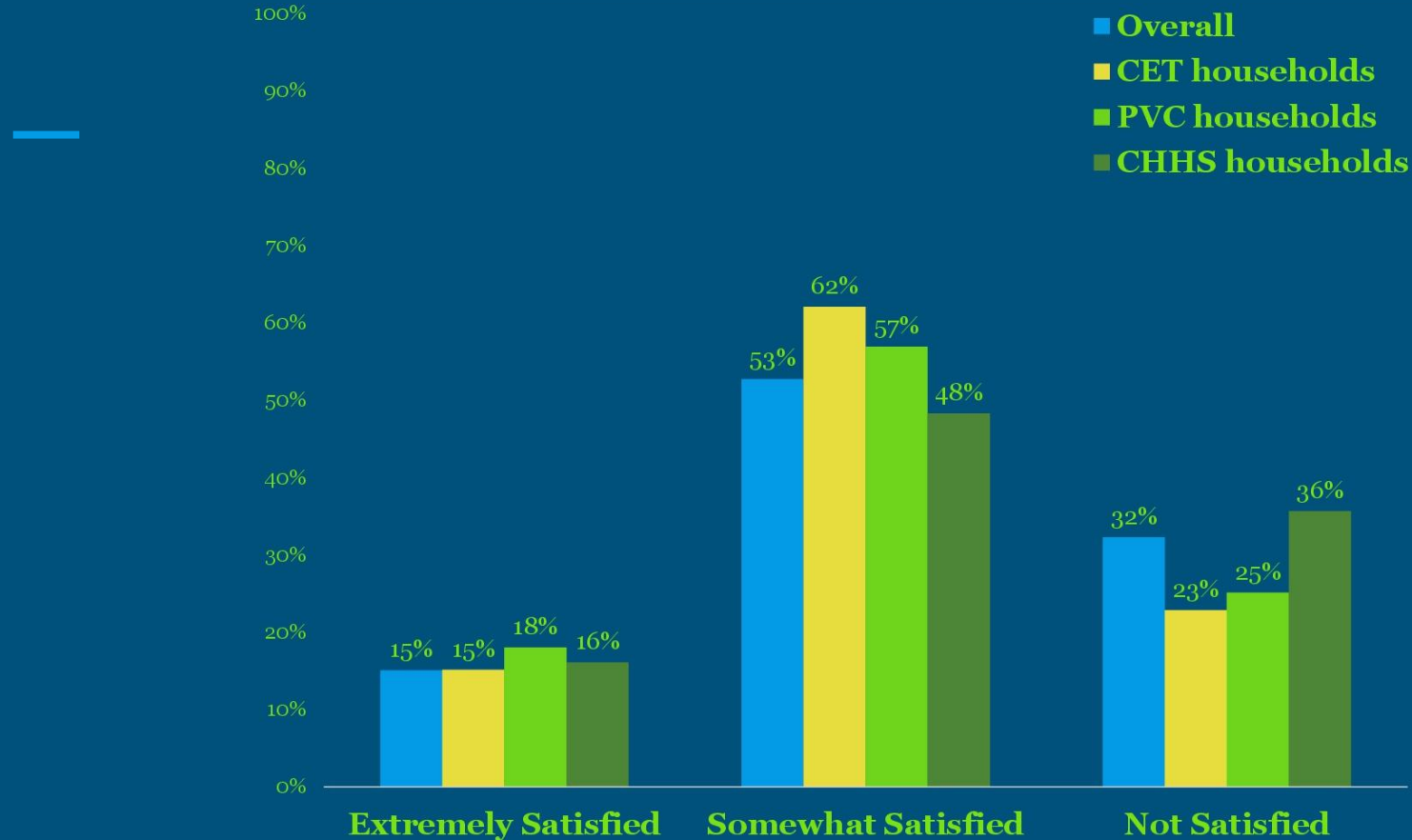


Q2: Overall Assessment

How satisfied are you with the current lunch programs available in the Croton-Harmon School District?



Q2: Overall Assessment, by school



Q2: Overall Assessment

230

Comments

Q2: Overall Assessment

230 Comments

- 103 Food Content (73: nutrition and health; 40: choice)
- 58 Convenience and availability
- 44 Concern for underserved Children
- 43 District Responsibility
- 17 Program too expensive
- 15 Sustainability
- 13 Support for local businesses

Q3: Priorities

How important to you are the following components of a lunch program?

Nutrition/healthy choices

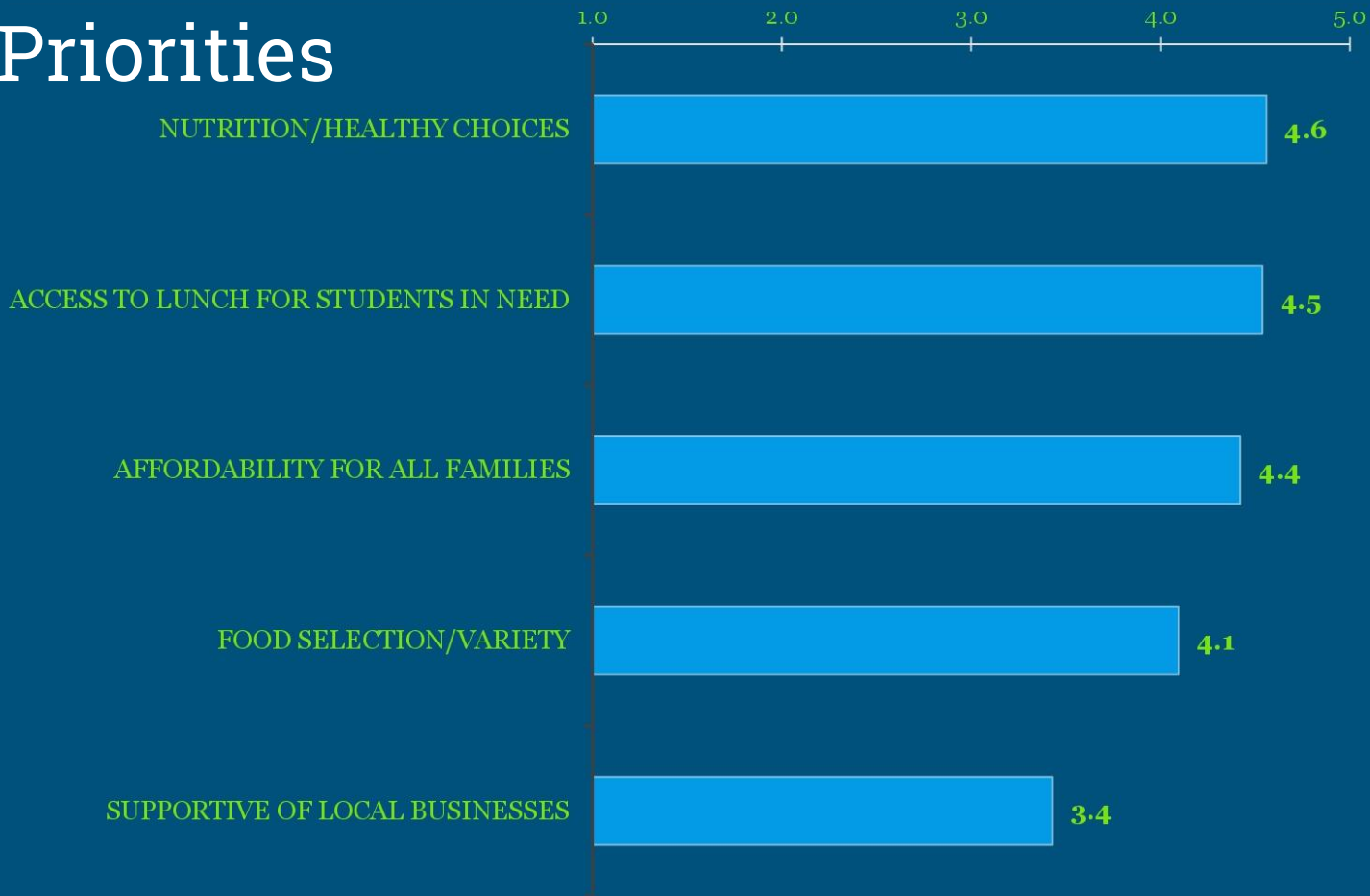
Access to lunch for students in need

Affordability for all families

Food selection/variety

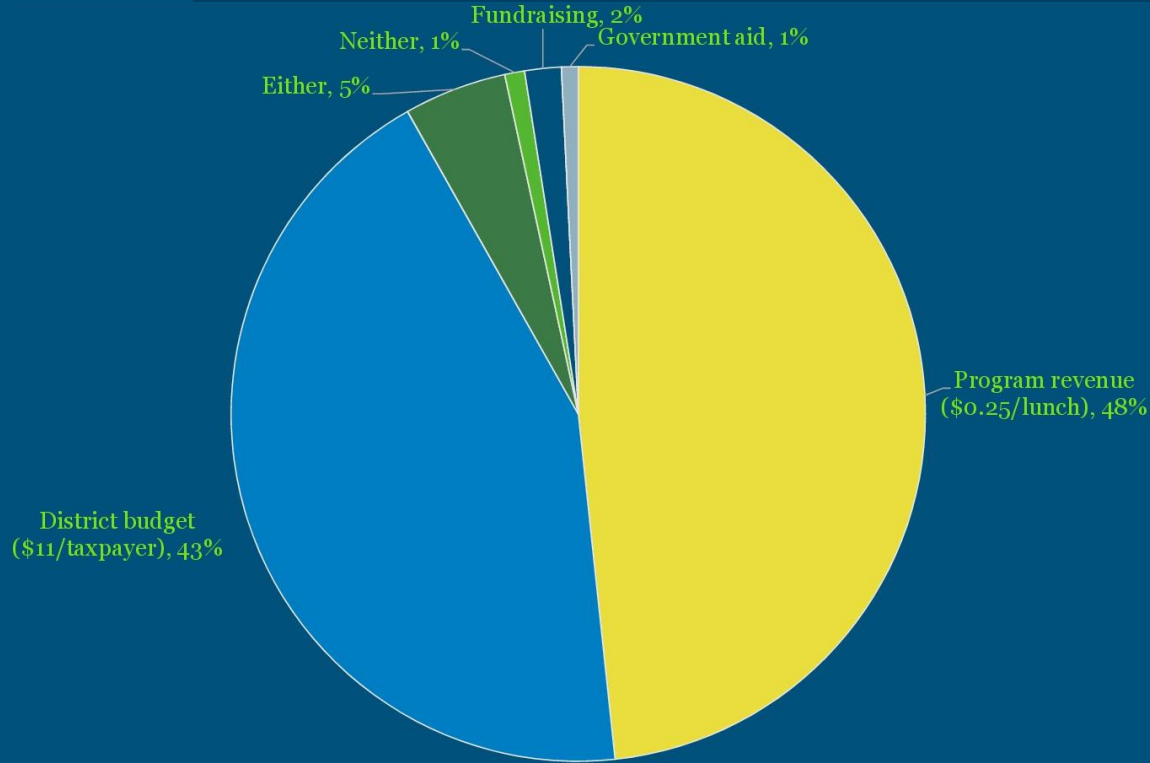
Supportive of local businesses

Q3: Priorities



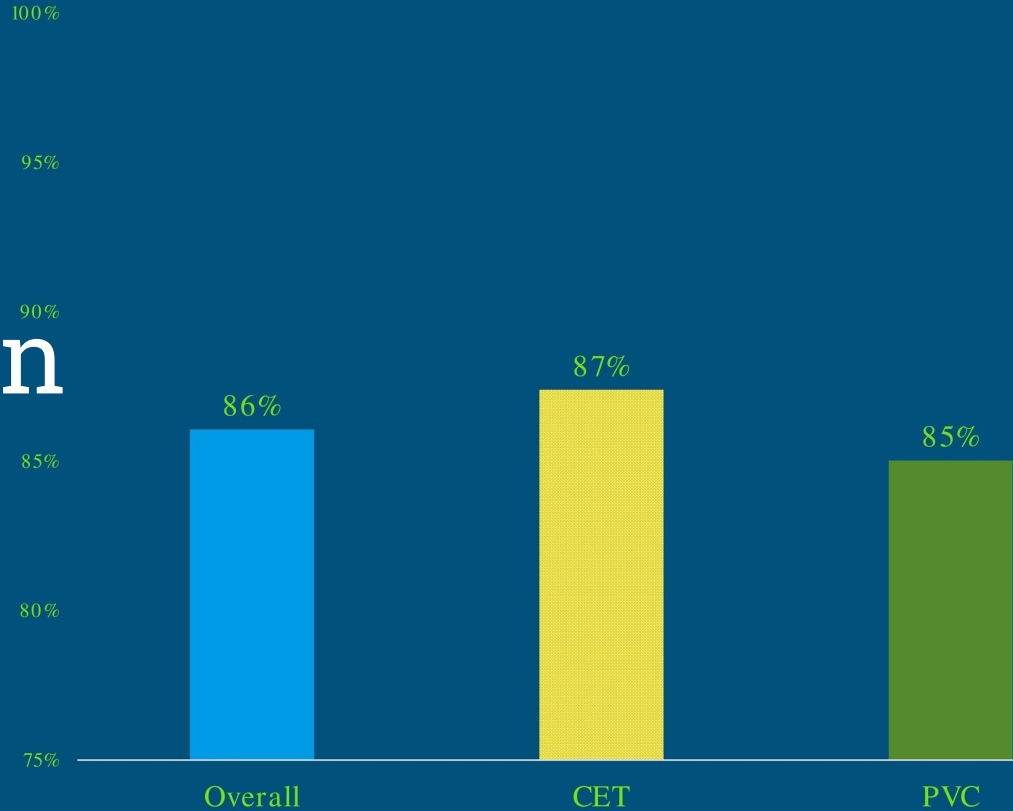
Q4: Funding

Which of the below options do you feel is the most appropriate way to cover the cost of free and reduced price lunch for eligible children?



Q5: Participation

Do you or your child(ren) currently participate in any of the lunch programs currently offered at CET or PVC?



Q6: Participation

If you or your child(ren) do(es) not participate in all of the available food service days at CET or PVC, why not?
Please check all that apply.

Cost

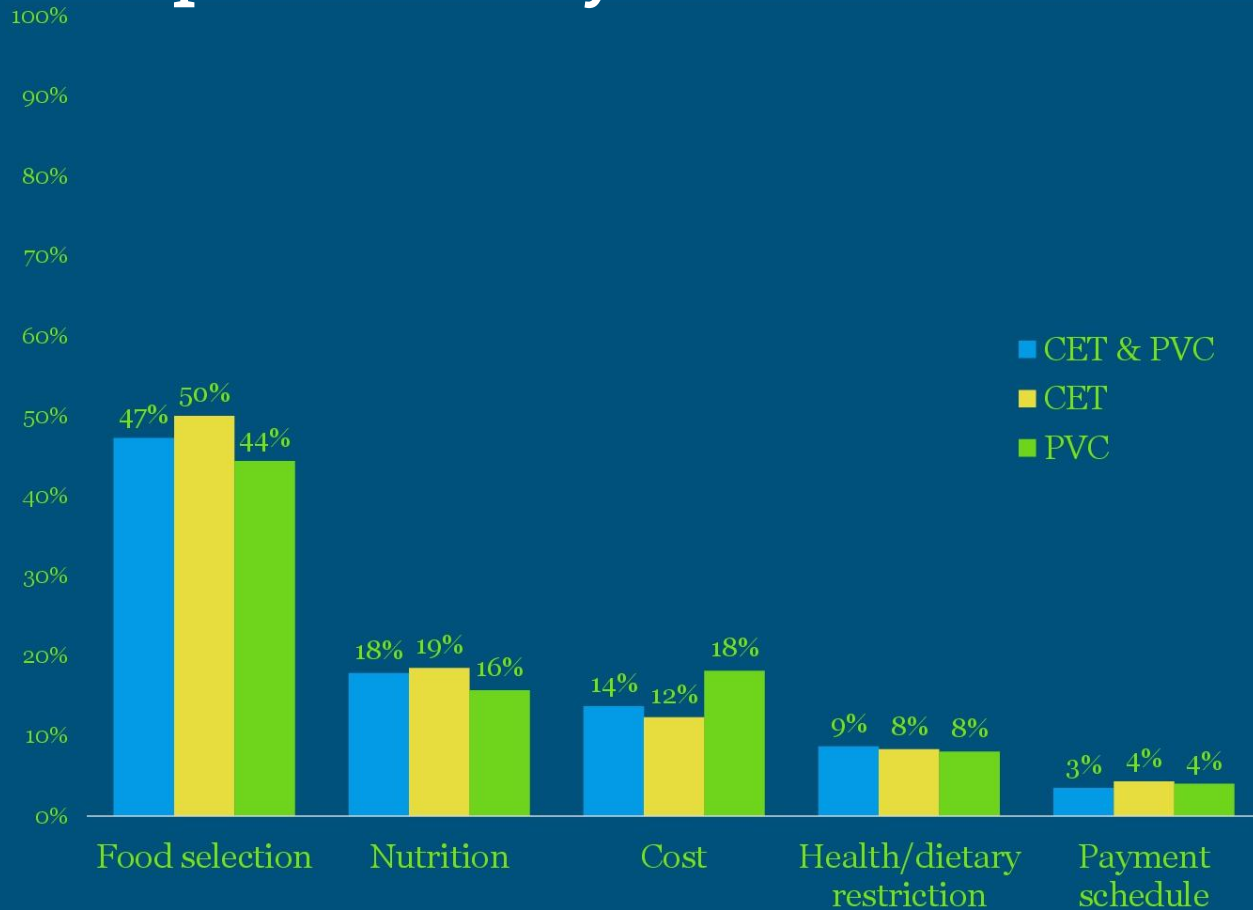
Food selection

Nutrition

Health/dietary restriction

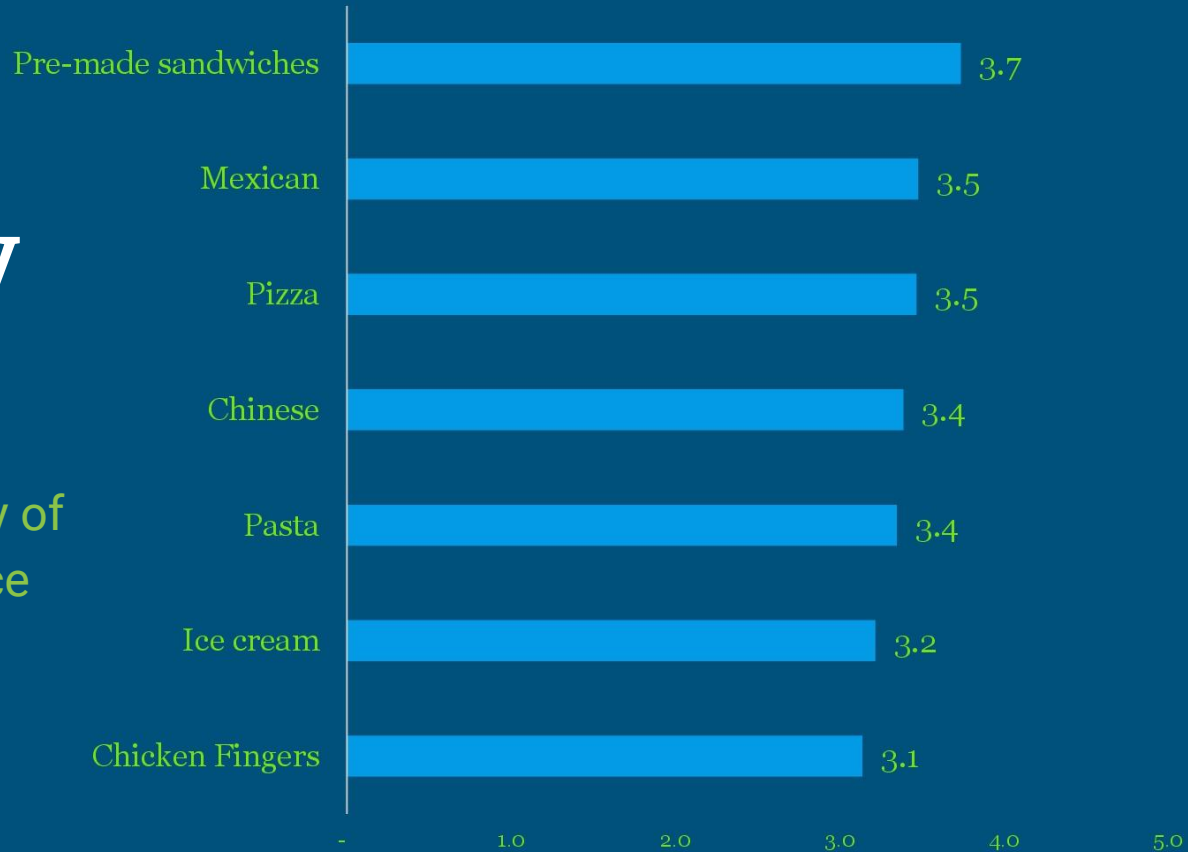
Payment schedule

Q6: Participation: Why not in **ALL** offerings?



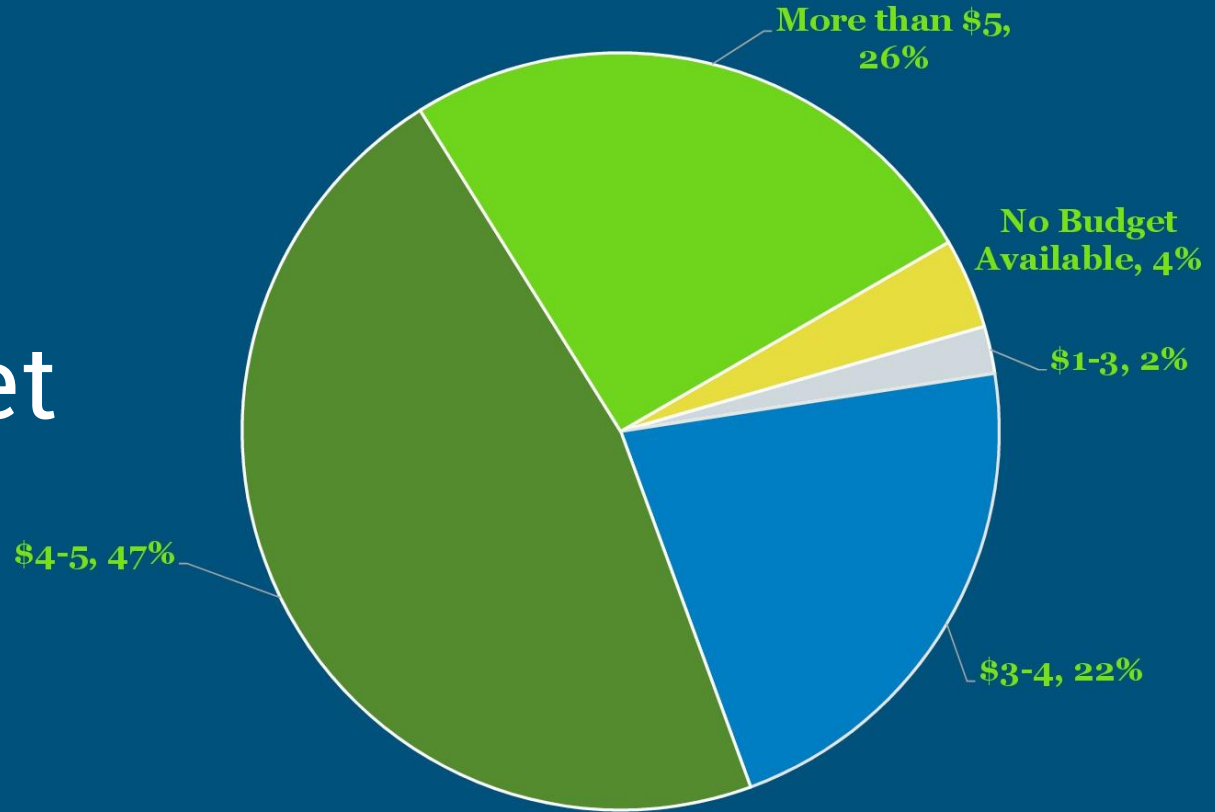
Q7: Quality (current)

How would you rate the quality of each of the current food service options at CET and PVC?



Q8: Budget

What is your available daily budget per student for a quality school lunch?



Q9: Comments

Please provide any additional information that you would like the committee to consider as it continues to develop recommendations for a school lunch program.

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Listen to a Diversity of Voices

“As a **local business person** I am a big supporter of local business. But public schools and the students they are charged to serve should not be used as a ploy to benefit local businesses.”

“Even though our three children have already graduated, we feel this program is needed in our community.”

“Please have a **kid’s committee** involved in menu ideas/choices.”

“Have a **nutritionist** on your committee! Thanks!”

“Ensure a balanced, **transparent committee** [...including] administrator, guidance officer, teacher, front office staff, CET parent, PVC parent, CHHS parent, community member who does not have kids enrolled, community member who is going to have kids enrolled, senior citizen, PTA member, mayor of Croton...”

Nutrition and Health

"I would like to see a **balance** between cost, nutrition, and what the majority of children will actually eat."

"My daughter has **severe food allergies** and there is no way to know what is in the local food."

"**Healthy yet interesting choices** are key for me."

"**Organic** options should be available, even at a higher cost."

"Erring on the too healthy (much as we know it is better) might end up **backfiring**."

"Salad bar, soups, more **variety**."

"It would be wonderful if the school provided **FRUIT**."

"Having plant-based milk as an option and **vegan** options."

"My child seems to be learning at school (and at home) to **make healthy choices**, but then that's not what's provided for lunch options."

"**Children** will eat healthier food if they are **involved** in the sourcing and preparation."

Responsibilities and Costs

“If we [have money] to buy a fancy sign for the High School, have Chinese taught in the schools, we should be able to take care of the **most basic needs** of our students.”

“CET does a good amount of fundraising. Maybe some of those funds can be put towards putting in a kitchen.”

“Please don’t raise the prices. Twenty five cents more per lunch per day for three kids for the year **really adds up.**”

“Do not raise taxes.”

“I don’t support taxpayers paying for lunch for children in need -- when the children in need are often in need of attention, not money or food.”

“Food stamps provide for families to procure their required foods for the families to make lunches to send with their children.”

“I am concerned that the lunch programs are 100% volunteer run. **Is that sustainable?**”

“This is the only **public school district** I have ever known that did not have dedicated food service everyday for students.”

“\$11.00 per homeowner is way too much.”

The Open Campus Issue

“There should be a lunch option at each school so that students are not *required* to leave campus to get lunch.”

“Keep CHHS open campus no matter what lunch program is chosen.”

“Do not close campus.”

“Students being able to go out to lunch is a must for our schools. It teaches so many lessons that are essential for our children as they go into the world. Let’s remember that as well.”

Suggestions

“Have the kids begin a **gardening program**.”

“Please **keep using the local businesses** for lunch options.”

“It would be great to have a ‘**forgot your lunch**’ **option** for kids. Other schools have had PB&Js or cheese sandwiches with sides of apples/carrots and milk.”

“I’m ok with the vendors providing outside food, but would like to **increase transparency** for the selection process as well as the criteria for selecting the vendor. Thanks!”

“We should consider a **breakfast program**.”

“May want to consider a professional catering **food truck** company.”

“Please look into Red Rabbit. My children had this at their daycare in NYC.”

“Student groups and clubs should continue to **be allowed to fundraise** by food sales.”

“As an active parent volunteer, I hope that some **parent involvement** will still be available, at least at the CET level.”

“Students who are provided with school meals often **throw away the food** for various reasons. Please be mindful of this fact.”

Committee Recommendations

1

Long-term: Implement a full lunch program at all three schools.

Committee Recommendations

2

Retain the open campus concept at the high school, notwithstanding the greater budget subsidy that will likely be needed as a result.

Committee Recommendations

3

Prioritize nutrition and “access for all.” Survey results show these to be of paramount importance. Support for local food service vendors was somewhat important, but not if it would mean sacrificing nutrition or access/price.

Committee Recommendations

4

Aim for a price point of \$3-5 per meal, with free lunch provided to students eligible for free/reduced under state guidelines. Subsidize the cost of these meals through a combination of higher pricing for paid meals and district budget subsidy.

Committee

5

If able to do so and keep lunch price within the recommended range, offer a fruit and/or vegetable with all meals that is not mandatory to take but is included in the meal's cost. (For example, the cost would be the same whether the child takes the apple or not.)

Continuing Role of the Committee

The committee feels that its initial tasks have now been completed, but is committed to discussing any other areas in which the board, administration, or community feels we can be helpful. In any case, the committee would like to have an ongoing role as a lunch program evolves in the long-term, essentially to act as a community- representative sounding board as the district formulates its path forward.