# SMART-MEALS Survey of Students in grades 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> School Year 2023-24

Thank you for taking this survey about your experiences with school meals. The survey is anonymous, and your answers will not be shared. These questions should take about 15-20 minutes to answer.

Do you agree to take the survey?
O Yes
○ No
Please select the school district where you are enrolled.
▼ XYZ School District Don't know
Which school do you attend?
▼ XYZ High School Don't know
What grade are you in?
○ 7th
O 9th
O None of the above

First we are going to talk about school LUNCH.

apply.	chool year, where do you typically get lunch on a school day? Select all that
	From the school cafeteria or school food service window.
	I bring lunch from home.
	I buy lunch (off campus, from a vending machine, snack bar or somewhere else).
	I typically skip lunch on school days.
How often do	you eat <u>lunch</u> from the school cafeteria in a <u>typical</u> school week?
O Every	school day (Monday-Friday)
O 4 days	
○ 3 days	
O 2 days	
O 1 day	
O I don't	eat school lunch.

# Think about when you eat school lunches <u>this school year.</u> How much do you <u>agree or disagree</u> with the following statements about <u>school lunch</u>?

<u>alsagree</u> with the following statements about <u>s</u>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I usually <b>like</b> school lunch.	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
School lunch tastes good.	0	$\bigcirc$	0	
School lunch is <b>healthy</b> .	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0
The food in school lunch is <b>fresh</b> .	0		10	0
School lunch looks appealing.	0	0	0	$\bigcirc$
School lunches offer a <b>variety</b> of food choices.	0			$\circ$
School lunch is served at a <b>proper</b> temperature.	6	) 0	$\circ$	$\circ$
I get <b>enough</b> food in school lunch.		$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
School lunch is <b>similar</b> to what my family eats <b>at</b> home.	0	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\circ$
School lunch menus are <b>diverse</b> and include different cultural foods.	0	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\circ$
I have enough <b>time</b> to eat lunch at school.	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$
I prefer <b>doing other things</b> during the lunch period than eating school lunch.	0	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\circ$
School lunch is <b>healthier</b> than foods I bring from home or buy outside.	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$
I would like to help my school decide what foods are served.	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$
I feel that the school takes student opinions into account when planning menus.	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$
I'm happy with the choices of <b>dairy-free options</b> they offer at school lunch (for example, soy milk, almond milk, etc.).	0	$\bigcirc$	0	$\circ$
There are enough <b>meatless</b> options in school lunch.	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$

School lunch is made fresh in the kitchen, from scratch.	0	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
They tell us what's in the school lunch (like ingredients and allergens).	0	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	0
There are too many <b>packaged</b> or <b>processed</b> foods in school lunch.	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
I like the salad bar at school.	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0
	I			

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about school lunch? Please select the option that best reflects your opinion for each statement.

	Strongly Agree	Agree I	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I never eat school lunch.
I am in a better mood when I eat school lunch.	0	0	10	0	$\circ$
My memory seems better on days when I eat school lunch.	0	Ø	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Eating school lunch helps me be healthy.	60	0	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\circ$
I find it easier to concentrate in class after eating school lunch.		$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
I have more energy when I eat school lunch.	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$

Think about the <u>reasons why</u> you eat school lunch, then tell us whether the following are reasons you decide to eat the school lunch, when you do.

#### I eat school lunch because...

	Agree	Disagree
It is convenient.	0	
I like the food served.	0	
I am hungry.	0	0 0
I get a healthy meal.	84	$\circ$
It gives me energy for the rest of the day.	O O	$\circ$
It prepares me for after school activities.		$\circ$
My friends eat school lunch.	0	$\circ$
It is free.	0	$\circ$
It saves my family money.	0	$\circ$
It saves me or my family time.	0	$\circ$
I didn't bring anything to eat.	0	$\circ$
I have no choice.	0	0

Think about the times you choose NOT to eat school lunch. For each reason listed below, tell us if it's a reason why you DON'T eat school lunch.

#### I DON'T eat school lunch because...

	Agree	Disagree
It is not convenient.	0	. 19
I don't like the food served.	9	1
They always serve the same food.	6	
I am not hungry during lunchtime.	10	$\circ$
School lunch is not healthy.	0	$\bigcirc$
I prefer to bring food from home.	0	$\bigcirc$
The food I like runs out too fast.	0	$\circ$
My friends don't eat school lunch.	0	$\bigcirc$
I want to do something else during lunch.	0	$\circ$
Menus are not accurate.	0	$\circ$
Lines are too long.	0	$\circ$
There are not enough places to sit.	0	$\circ$
There is not enough time to eat school lunch.	0	$\circ$
I have dietary restrictions or allergies that school lunch does not address.	0	$\bigcirc$
There's too much packaged food and not enough freshly made food.	0	$\circ$

Does your so	hool allow you to leave campus to <u>get lunch elsewhere</u> ?
O Yes	
○ No	
O Don't k	now/Not sure
Last week, he	ow many days did you leave campus to eat lunch elsewhere?
O Never	
◯ 1 day	, 0
O 2 days	
O 3 days	
O 4 days	
O 5 days	
What are you	r reasons for choosing to eat lunch outside campus? Select all that apply.
	School lunch doesn't offer options.
	I prefer the taste of food from outside over school meals.
	There are more food choices outside campus.
	I go where my friends go for lunch.
	Eating off campus is a nice break from school.
	I don't like school meals.
	Eating outside campus is more convenient.

What are yo apply.	our reasons for choosing NO	Γ to eat lunch	outside ca	mpus? Selec	t all that
	I'm too busy.				
	I prefer to eat school lunch.				
	I brought my own lunch.				
	I didn't have money to eat ou	ıtside.			
	My friends didn't eat outside.			1	
	I didn't eat lunch.		<	2	
How much o	do you agree or disagree with ?		g statement	ts about sch	ool meals at
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
School meal want them.	s are for all students who	No.	0	0	$\circ$
	s are <u>only</u> for students whose t have much money.		$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Most student	ts enjoy eating school meals.	0	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\circ$
It <u>is fair wher</u> at school.	n all students can eat for free	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
I like that sch students.	nool meals are <u>free for all</u>	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
School meal	s help my family save money.		$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$
	s save time for me and my se we don't have to prepare	0	0	0	0
	meals help families who have paying for food.	0	0	$\circ$	$\circ$

Do you prefer to bring food from home or to eat school lunch?							
O Bring food from home							
C Eat school lunch							
O Neither							
How often do most of your friends usual	ly eat <u>school</u>	lunch from	the school o	cafeteria?			
O About the same number of days as r	me						
O More often than me							
C Less often than me			H				
O My friends don't usually eat school lunch							
O Don't know		$\mathcal{A}^{\mathbb{C}}$					
How much do you agree or disagree with	the followin	g statemer	nts about sch	ool lunch?			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree			
I feel embarrassed or ashamed to eat school lunch.	0	0	0	0			
I think other students look down on me or treat me differently because I eat school lunch.	0	0	0	$\circ$			
I feel treated with as much respect as other students when I eat school lunch.	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$			
Students at this school are teased or bullied for eating school lunch.	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$			
In the lunch area, students eat their meals without feeling judged by others.	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$			

In general, would you	say your hea	ith is			
<ul> <li>Excellent</li> </ul>					
O Very good					
Good					
○ Fair					
OPoor					A.
In general, how is you	ır mental or e	motional hea	 Ith?	1	$\bigcirc$
Excellent				1	
O Very good					
○ Good					
○ Fair					
OPoor					
Below is a list of sym much were you bothe					<u>eeks</u> , how
	Not at all	A little	Some	A lot	A whole lot
Stomachaches	0		0	0	$\circ$
Headaches	0		$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Feeling faint or dizzy	0	0	0	0	0
PI	•				

### Thinking about the last week...

-	Not at all	Slightly	Moderately	Very	Extremely
Have you physically felt fit and well?	0	0	0	0	0
Have you felt full of energy?	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	18
Have you felt sad?	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	9	6
Have you felt lonely?	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	
Have you had enough time for yourself?	0	$\circ$	9	0	$\circ$
Have you been able to do the things that you want to do in your free time?	0	0		0	$\circ$
Have you had fun with your friends?	0	0	) 0	$\circ$	$\circ$
Have you got on well at school?	0	0'	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$
Have you been able to pay attention?	10	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$

### How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your school?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I feel close to people at this school.	0	0	0	0	0
I am happy to be at this school.	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	10/
I feel like I am a part of this school.	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	0
The teachers at this school treat students fairly.	0	$\circ$	0	10	0
I feel safe in my school.	0	$\bigcirc$			$\bigcirc$
Eating school lunch makes me feel like I belong and am a valued part of our school community.	0	0	-0,	0	0
Having a school lunch program makes me feel that my school cares about my well-being.	0		0	0	0
The school lunch program accommodates diverse dietary needs, making everyone feel included.	OB	0	0	0	0
In the past 30 days, how often did you miss an entire day of school for any reason?  I did not miss any days of school in the past 30 days.  1 day  2 days  3 or more days					

Where do you usually eat lunch on a typical school day? Select all that apply.				
In the cafeteria				
In the classroom				
Outside, on school grounds				
Off-campus (e.g., at home, at a r	estaurant, etc	c.)		
I don't usually eat lunch on school	ol days			) `
How much do you <u>agree or disagree</u> with the <u>cafeteria</u> or the area where you eat school m	_	tatements	about your <u>s</u>	chool
<u>caleteria</u> of the area where you eat school in	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The dining area is clean.	0		$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
The cafeteria or eating area is too chaotic and noisy.	0,	0	$\circ$	$\circ$
The lunch lines in the school cafeteria are too long.	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
I know what is being served before I get to the cafeteria.	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
The school cafeteria staff are friendly.	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
I have helped my school decide what foods are served.	0	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\circ$
I would like to help my school decide what foods are served.	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
The following questions are about school BREA school begins).	k <b>FAST</b> or <b>B</b>	RUNCH (br	eakfast serve	ed after

	all that apply.
	At home
	On my way to school
	From the school cafeteria (include even if you don't eat it in the cafeteria)
	From a school vending machine, school snack bar, à la carte line or single items irchased in the cafeteria
	I don't usually eat breakfast on school days.
	ally, do you arrive at school early enough to get a school breakfast (even if you se not to get a school breakfast)?
	Yes, I arrive early enough.
	No, I don't arrive early enough.
	Don't know
Do	ou usually take the school bus to get to school?
	Yes, I take the school bus.
	I don't take the school bus.
Do	ou prefer to eat breakfast at home or to eat school breakfast/brunch?
	Eat breakfast at home
	Eat school breakfast/brunch
	Neither
	Both at home and at school
	I prefer not to eat breakfast.
Do	u prefer to eat breakfast before or after the start of school?
	Before school starts
	After school starts
	Neither

Do you prefer to eat breakfast/brunch in the classroom or in the cafeteria?
O I prefer to eat breakfast/brunch in the classroom.
O I prefer to eat breakfast/brunch in the cafeteria.
O Neither
Do you prefer to eat a served breakfast/brunch or 'grab and go' (packaged, carry away options)?
O Served breakfast/brunch
○ 'Grab and go' (packaged, carry away options)
O Neither
How frequently do you eat school breakfast/brunch in a typical school week?
Every school day (Monday-Friday)
O 4 days
○ 3 days
O 2 days
O 1 day
O No days

# Think about when you eat school breakfast/brunch this school year. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about school breakfast/brunch?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I usually <b>like</b> school breakfast/brunch.	0	0	0	0
School breakfast/brunch <b>tastes</b> good.	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	
School breakfast/brunch is <b>healthy</b> .	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$		0
The food in school breakfast/brunch is <b>fresh</b> .	$\circ$	0	10	0
School breakfast/brunch looks <b>appealing</b> .	0	O	0	$\bigcirc$
There is a <b>variety</b> of food choices.	0			$\bigcirc$
School breakfast/brunch is served at a proper temperature.	0	10	$\circ$	$\circ$
School breakfast/brunch is <b>similar</b> to what my family eats <b>at home</b> .	0/	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$
I have enough <b>time</b> to eat breakfast/brunch at school.	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$
I feel <b>embarrassed</b> to eat school breakfast/brunch.	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
I would prefer to have the option to eat school breakfast/brunch in my classroom.	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$
There are too many <b>packaged</b> or <b>processed</b> foods in school breakfast/brunch.	0	0	0	0

Think about the <u>reasons why</u> you eat school <u>breakfast/brunch</u>, then tell us whether the following are reasons you decide to eat the school breakfast/brunch, when you do.

#### I eat school breakfast/brunch because...

	Agree	Disagree
It is convenient.	0	
I like the school breakfast/brunch food.	0	
I am hungry.	0	0
I get a healthy breakfast.		$\circ$
It gives me energy for the rest of the day.	O O	$\circ$
My friends eat school breakfast/brunch.		$\circ$
It is free.	0	$\circ$
I didn't eat breakfast before school.	0	$\circ$
I have no choice.	0	$\circ$
It saves my family money.	0	$\circ$
It saves me or my family time.	0	$\circ$
	•	

Think about the times you choose NOT to eat school <u>breakfast/brunch</u>. For each reason listed below, tell us if it's a reason why you DON'T eat school <u>breakfast/brunch</u>.

#### I DON'T eat school breakfast/brunch because...

	Agree	Disagree
I don't get to school early enough.	0	Q
I don't like the school breakfast/brunch.	0	Coll
I am not hungry.	0,	O o
School breakfast/brunch is not healthy.	701	
They always serve the same food.		$\circ$
I prefer to eat breakfast at home.		$\circ$
I don't like eating breakfast.		$\circ$
The food I like runs out too fast.	0	$\circ$
My friends don't eat school breakfast/brunch.	0	$\circ$
Menus are not accurate.	0	$\circ$
Lines are too long.	0	$\circ$
There is not enough time to eat school breakfast/brunch.	0	$\circ$
My parents prefer I eat breakfast at home.	0	$\circ$
I have dietary restrictions or allergies that school breakfast/brunch does not address.		$\circ$
There's too much packaged food and not enough freshly made food.	0	0

# Thinking about <u>school meals</u> in general, how much do you <u>agree or disagree</u> with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Foods from my cultural or ethnic background are frequently offered in the school cafeteria.	0	0	0	
It is important for me that school meals include options from my cultural or ethnic background.	0	$\circ$	0	
I feel that the school meals reflect the cultural diversity of students, including my own cultural background.	0	0	-10	0
I am satisfied with the variety and representation of different cultures in the school meals.	0			$\circ$
School meals provide an opportunity for me to learn about and try foods from other cultures.	0	O <sub>o</sub>	$\circ$	$\circ$
		<b>&gt;</b>		

### Answer the following questions about this school year.

## During this school year...

	Yes	No
Have you taken a <b>nutrition education class</b> at your school?	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Nutrition education helps me make healthier food choices.	$\circ$	$\circ$
Nutrition education teaches me new and interesting facts about food and nutrition.	$\circ$	$\circ$
Nutrition education motivates me to try new foods or recipes.	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Nutrition education influences my preference for school meals.	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$
Do your teachers include some <b>nutrition education</b> in what they normally teach?	$\circ$	0

The following questions are about the food situation in your home during the <u>last 12</u> months.

#### In the last 12 months...

	Never	Sometimes	A lot
We couldn't get the food we wanted because there was not enough money.	0	0	Q
I worried about how hard it was for my parents to get enough food for us.	0	$\circ$	10
I worried about not having enough to eat.	0	9	0
I felt hungry because there was not enough to eat.	0		0
I got really tired because there was not enough food to eat.		0	$\bigcirc$
After eating a school meal, how much of your food do you away?  O None (I eat all my food)	ou usually	not finish or th	nrow
A little (just scraps or small leftovers)			
Some (a noticeable amount, but not most of the meal	)		
A lot (most of the meal)			
All (I throw away the entire meal)			

What are the that apply.	e main reasons for throwing awa	y food after (	eating a so	hool meal?	Select all
	The food was not tasty or appea	ling.			
	The food was not fresh or was ex	xpired.			
	The food was not cooked proper	ly.			
	The portion size was too large.				
	I was not hungry or had other foo	od options.		1	
	I did not have enough time to fin	sh the food.			
	I had to pick sides or other food	tems that I did	dn't intend t	o eat.	
	There were ingredients in the foo	od that I don't	eat.		
	Other (please specify):				
How much o school cafet	lo you agree or disagree with the erias?	e following so Strongly Agree	tatements Agree	about food v Disagree	vaste in Strongly Disagree
l often see a in our school	lot of uneaten food thrown away cafeteria.	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\circ$
	ay food in school cafeterias o climate change.	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
	ed about the environmental sting food in school cafeterias.	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$
Our school te of reducing fo	eaches us about the importance bod waste.	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$
Throwing aw resources.	ay food is a waste of money and				

•	chool have any of the following options for drinking water? Check all that fitter they don't work or you don't use them.	
	Drinking fountain	
	Water bottle filling station	
	Water pitcher, cooler or dispenser	
	Bottled water	
	Other (please specify):	
Which option	n(s) do you use most frequently to drink water in your school? Select all that	
	I fill a water bottle from a bottle filling station.	
	I use a drinking fountain.	
	I get water from a water pitcher, cooler or dispenser.	
	I buy bottled water at school.	
	I bring my own water from home.	
	I get water from the sink.	
	I don't usually drink water at school.	
How often d	o you use the drinking fountains or water bottle filling stations?	
ODaily		
O 3-4 days per week		
Ø 1-2 da	ays per week	
Never	r	

hat are the reasons? Check all that apply.			
	They don't work.		
	They aren't clean.		
	They aren't conveniently located.		
	I don't have time to use them.		
	The water does not taste good.		
	The water isn't fresh.		
	The water might not be safe to drink.		
	The water is warm.		
	I don't bring a water bottle to school.		
	Other (please specify):		

If you don't typically use the school's drinking fountains or water bottle filling stations,

Last are some questions about you and your family.

What is your race and/or ethnicity? Mark all that apply.		
		Asian
		Black or African American
		Hispanic or Latino
		Middle Eastern or North African
		Native American or Alaska Native
		Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
		White
		Other (please specify):
		Prefer not to respond
Are you?		
○ Female (Girl)		
$\subset$	O Male (Boy)	
C	O Prefer to self-describe:	
С	O Prefer not to respond	
Do yo	ou speal	c a language other than English at home?
C	Yes	
С	No	

what language is spoken most of the time in your nome?
○ English
○ Spanish
O Mandarin
O Cantonese
O Taiwanese
○ Tagalog
○ Vietnamese
○ Korean
O Arabic
Other (please specify):
How far in school did your mother go?
O She did not finish high school.
O She graduated from high school.
O She had some education after high school.
She graduated from college.
O I don't know.