

SNACT Survey: State of School Nutrition / Meal Debt

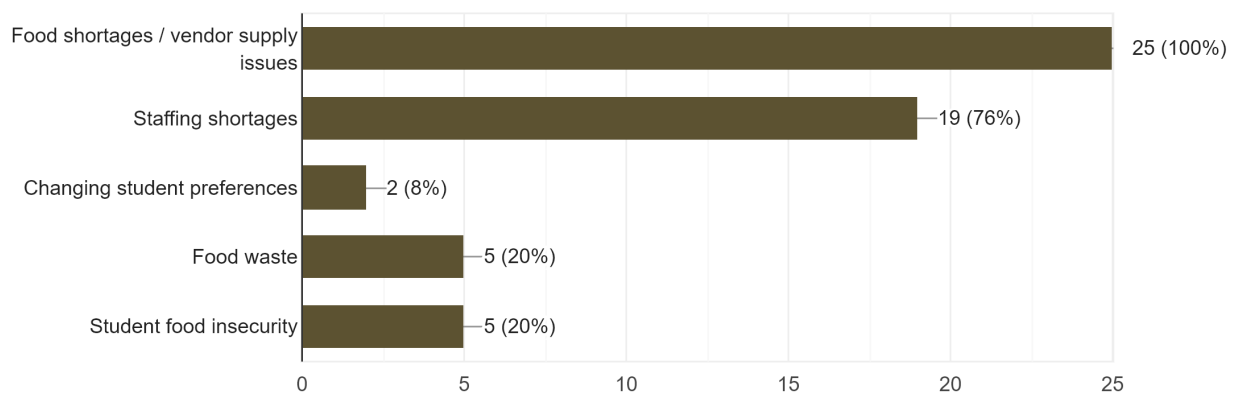
Conducted: Nov 1-Nov 20, 2021

Number of Respondents: 25

All respondents indicated that Food shortages and vendor supply issues were impacting their programs

What factors have impacted your school breakfast and lunch programs this school year (2021-2022)? Select all that apply

25 responses



Comments:

Happy so many students are eating which shows food insecurity is a issue and should continue to be free, the vendor shortages and staffing had a negative impact on our program...workers and directors being over worked on top of trying to secure food for the students

All negative - very difficult to feed the number of students taking meals without enough supplies or staff. In addition so much food is getting wasted at every grade level.

Not only are the vendors out of stock of some main items but also now we don't know when to expect our deliveries. We improvise and sub witch what we can but overall it is a negative impact.

Staffing and vendor supply issues have had a negative impact on staff morale, but have gotten us to think outside the box and utilize our commodity foods more thoroughly. Fortunately, with some social media outreach we have been able to find new staff members which has helped immensely. Vendor supply issues continue.

The issues of food shortages, staffing shortages and food waste are mostly a negative factors. Our number one issue is sourcing food and supplies for our meals. We attempt to order enough food for 7 days worth of food but this has been challenging. Staffing shortage is improving and we will nee more staff in the future as students transition being served and eat in the cafeteria particularly at the elementary level. Food waste is an issue because our elementary students are still eating in the classroom and cannot self select fruits and vegetables to consume.

Struggle to get certain food and supplies in a timely manner. Hard to hire new staff and had some staff leave for other opportunities. USDA and DoD orders have been delayed multiple times

When asked to share what could make their programs more successful:

Keeping free meals for all at the higher reimbursement rate

getting a delivery on time and all the items ordered

Stabilizing food supply and increasing staff.

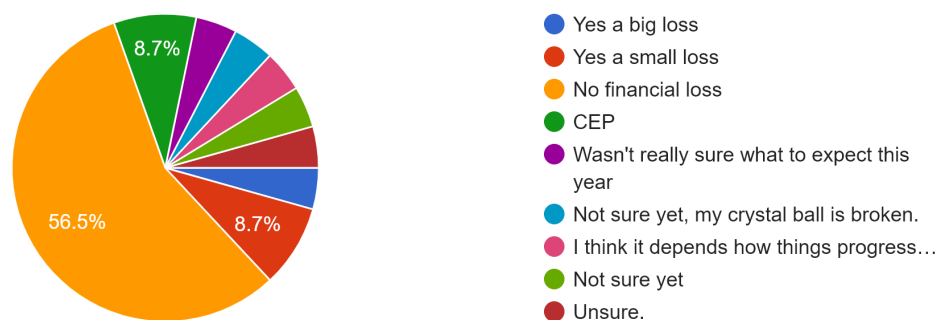
If I could hire more qualified people it would help tremendously. we are doing okay with food shortages and being able to pivot the menu. The paper supply shortages are becoming more disruptive than the food issues in my district.

Having access to weekly DoD deliveries to decrease produce costs; receiving orders in a shorter amount of time (right now, grocery delivery is a minimum of a week out)

The majority of districts do not anticipate having a financial loss in SY 2021-2021

Do you anticipate any financial loss for this school year (2021-2022)?

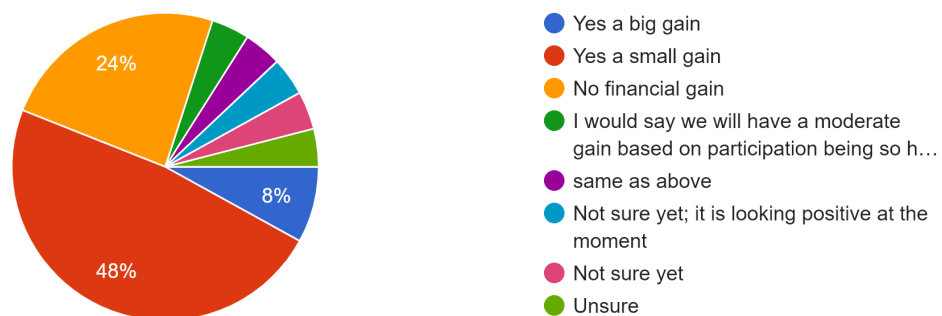
23 responses



The majority anticipate a financial gain for the year

Do you anticipate any financial gain for this school year (2021-2022)?

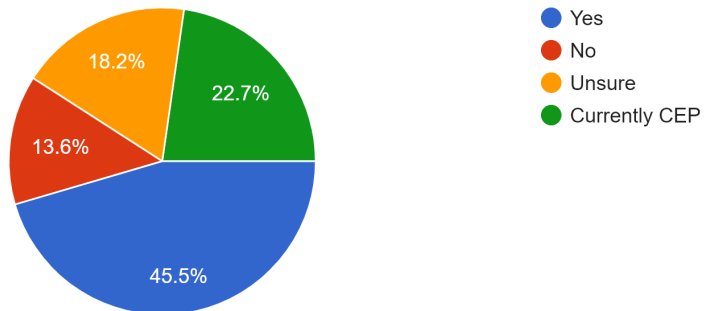
25 responses



A significant number think they would qualify for CEP if eligibility drops to 25%

If CEP identified student percentage (Direct Certified Students) eligibility drops from 40% to 25%, would you qualify?

22 responses



Unpaid Meal Balances

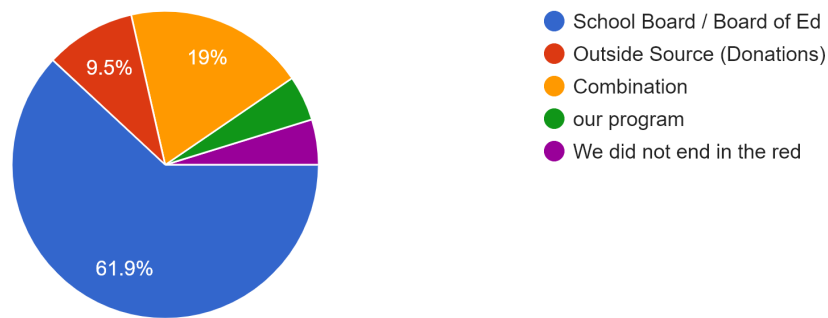
Unpaid meal balances (approximate) at the last full school year ranged from several thousand dollars to a few hundred

\$30k
\$6,000
\$7,000
\$55,000
\$1,200
\$1,500
Under \$200

In the majority of cases, debt was paid by the Board of Education

Who paid this balance

21 responses



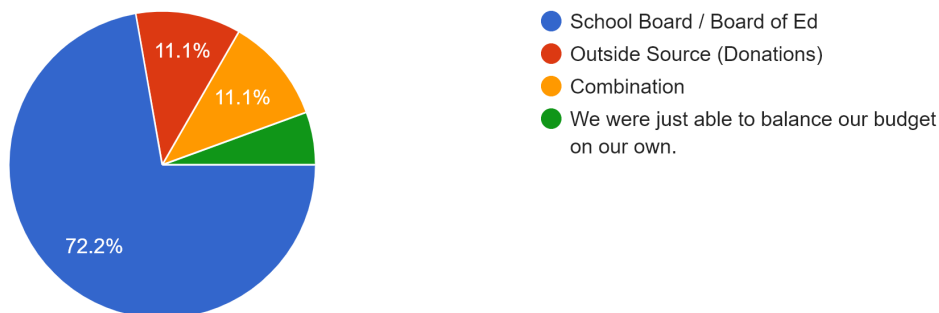
Unpaid meal balances (approximate) at the last school year (2020-2021) ranged from several thousand dollars to a few hundred

\$35,000
\$1,500
\$450
\$5,000
7,000
Under \$100

Debt was overwhelmingly covered by the Board of Education

Who paid this balance

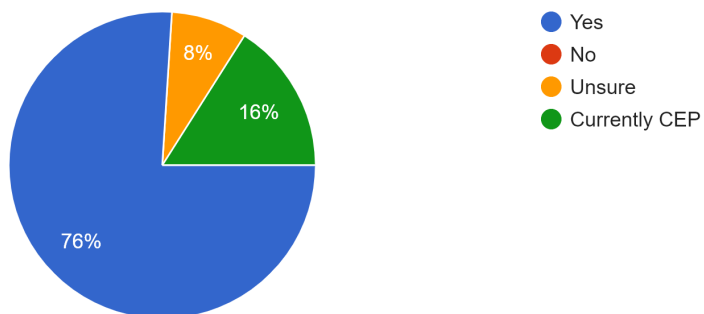
18 responses



The majority of respondents anticipate an increase in debt if universal meals are not extended

If free meals are not extended to the 2022- 2023 year do you anticipate an increase in unpaid balances

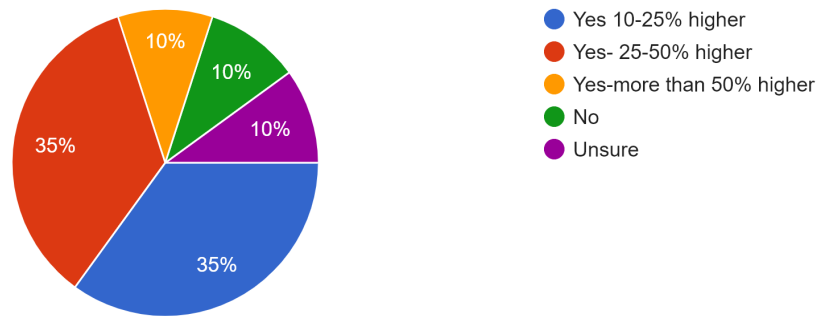
25 responses



80% believe the amount of debt will rise

If yes, do you think it will be higher than it was pre-covid?

20 responses



Only 26% of respondents had updated charging policies

Has your district updated your charge policy to reflect the new lunch shaming legislation? (you can find a link to the legislation at snact.org/page/legislation)

23 responses

