



HUNGER IN OUR SCHOOLS

Share Our Strength's 2012 Annual Teacher Report

"Kids lack the ability to ignore those hunger pains. They're concentrating on how soon until lunch rather than on learning to read and misbehaving because they can't focus."

-- Elementary school teacher,
Western United States

NO CHILD SHOULD GROW UP HUNGRY IN AMERICA

But one in five children struggles with hunger. Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign is ending childhood hunger in this nation by connecting kids in need with nutritious food and teaching families how to cook healthy, affordable meals. You can help surround kids with the healthy food they need where they live, learn and play. Pledge to make No Kid Hungry a reality at NoKidHungry.org.

TOO HUNGRY TO LEARN

Teachers are first-hand witnesses to the toll hunger takes on America's students. According to Share Our Strength's new survey "Hunger In Our Schools," K-8 public school teachers worry that hunger is stunting the learning process. They also agree a healthy school breakfast is key to a good education. The following are key data on the attitudes of teachers about childhood hunger in America.

Teachers See Hunger As A Serious Issue.

- Three out of five teachers say kids in their classrooms regularly come to school hungry.
- Among those teachers, 80% say these kids come to school hungry at least once a week.
- A majority of teachers (56%) who witness hunger say the problem is getting worse.

Teachers Say Kids Rely On School Meals.

- A majority of teachers (56%) say "a lot" or "most" of their students rely on school meals as their primary source of nutrition.

Teachers Agree: Breakfast Works.

- Nine out of 10 teachers say breakfast is very important for academic achievement.
- Teachers credit breakfast with increased concentration (95%), better academic performance (89%) and better behavior in the classroom (73%).
- Health is also a major factor, with eight in ten saying breakfast prevents head and stomachaches, leading to healthier students.

Teachers Are Looking For Solutions.

- Teachers assist families in enrolling in school meal programs (71%), refer families to resources in the school (54%) and spend money out of their own pockets to buy food for hungry students (53%). On average, teachers who buy food for hungry kids in their classrooms spend on average \$26 a month.
- Teachers cite the following as ways to increase participation in breakfast programs: communicating more with parents (75%), reducing the red tape that limits participation (61%) and decreasing stigma by making free breakfast available to all students (58%).

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"The saddest are the children who cry when we get out early for a snow day because they won't get lunch."

-- Elementary School Teacher,
Midwest

"I have had students who have come to school with lunch the previous day being their last meal."

-- Elementary School Teacher,
Northeast

Survey Methodology: APCO Insight, the opinion research consultancy of APCO Worldwide, designed and conducted the Hunger in the Classroom: Teachers Report 2012, in partnership with Share Our Strength and with sponsorship from C&S Grocers. The survey, conducted online, interviewed 1,095 K-8 public teachers in the United States from May 10-20, 2012. Respondents were members of MDR's online panel, an education-focused marketing service provider who gathers information such as teacher email addresses from several sources, including the US Department of Education and state departments of education. The margin of error for the total sample is ± 3.1 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval.

FIVE WAYS TO SHARE YOUR STRENGTH

Educators across the country are making a stand against hunger. Here are ways you can join the No Kid Hungry campaign. Get involved at NoKidHungry.org/Teachers.

Tell Others About Hunger In Our Schools: View and share the Hunger in Our Schools infographic and videos, helping to raise awareness of the problem among your friends and colleagues.

Rethink Breakfast: Ask school administrators to make breakfast a priority. Encourage them to consider innovative ways of serving breakfast, like Breakfast in the Classroom and Grab N' Go options.

Keep 'em Coming Back: Say one thing about breakfast every day before children leave your classroom, like, "See you tomorrow for breakfast!" or "What are you having for breakfast?" If your school has a breakfast program, you can also write the menu on the whiteboard.

Protect Breakfast Funding: Tell your elected officials that you support protecting funding for federal nutrition programs like school breakfast.

Share Your Story: Have you encountered hunger in the classroom? Share your story with us.

Information about all these, and more, is available at NoKidHungry.org/Teachers.