
The DMUSD Hot Lunch Survey

February 24, 2011

District-wide Parent Committee
for Improving School Lunch

This survey was posted on the DMUSD website on February 4, 2011 and closed on February 21, 2011.

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I Current Participation in the DMUSD hot lunch program.

As of February 1, 2011, the total enrollment at the DMUSD is 4352 students from approximately 3168 families. The table and graph below show what fraction of these students subscribe to the hot lunch program.

Students participating in the hot lunch program at the DMUSD			% of the total enrollment of 4352 students
Number of students paying for their lunch	571		13.1
Number of students receiving a free or reduced price lunch	179		4.1
Total number of students on the hot lunch program	750		17.2
Number of students NOT on the lunch program	3602		82.8

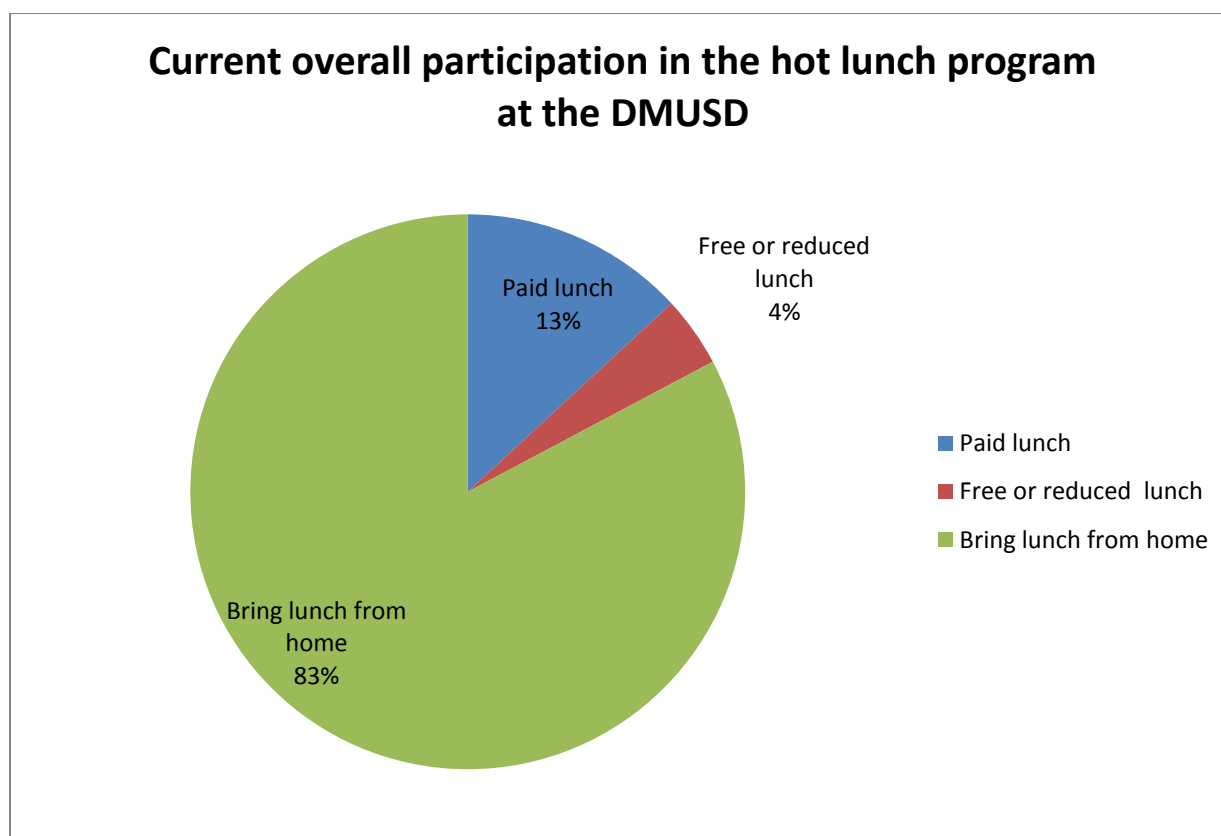


Figure 1

II Participation in this survey.

The survey was conducted entirely online. Announcements of the survey were posted on the DMUSD website, the website of each school in the district, in e-Blasts, and in an all-district all call. Leaflets with the survey websites were left at the front desk at each school. The survey was available in English and in Spanish.

Each family was requested to submit only one survey, and the computer program which collected the results did not accept more than one entry from any one computer. There are approximately 3168 families with students enrolled in the DMUSD, and the total number of surveys returned was 1039. Therefore, the response rate was 33%.

Of the 1039 families who turned in their surveys, 546 families (53%) subscribe to the lunch program and 493 (47%) do not. Of the 546 respondents who are on the lunch program, 12 receive a free or reduced lunch. Assuming that each of these three groups of families have an equal average number of children presently enrolled in the district, the distribution of the survey participants is as follows:

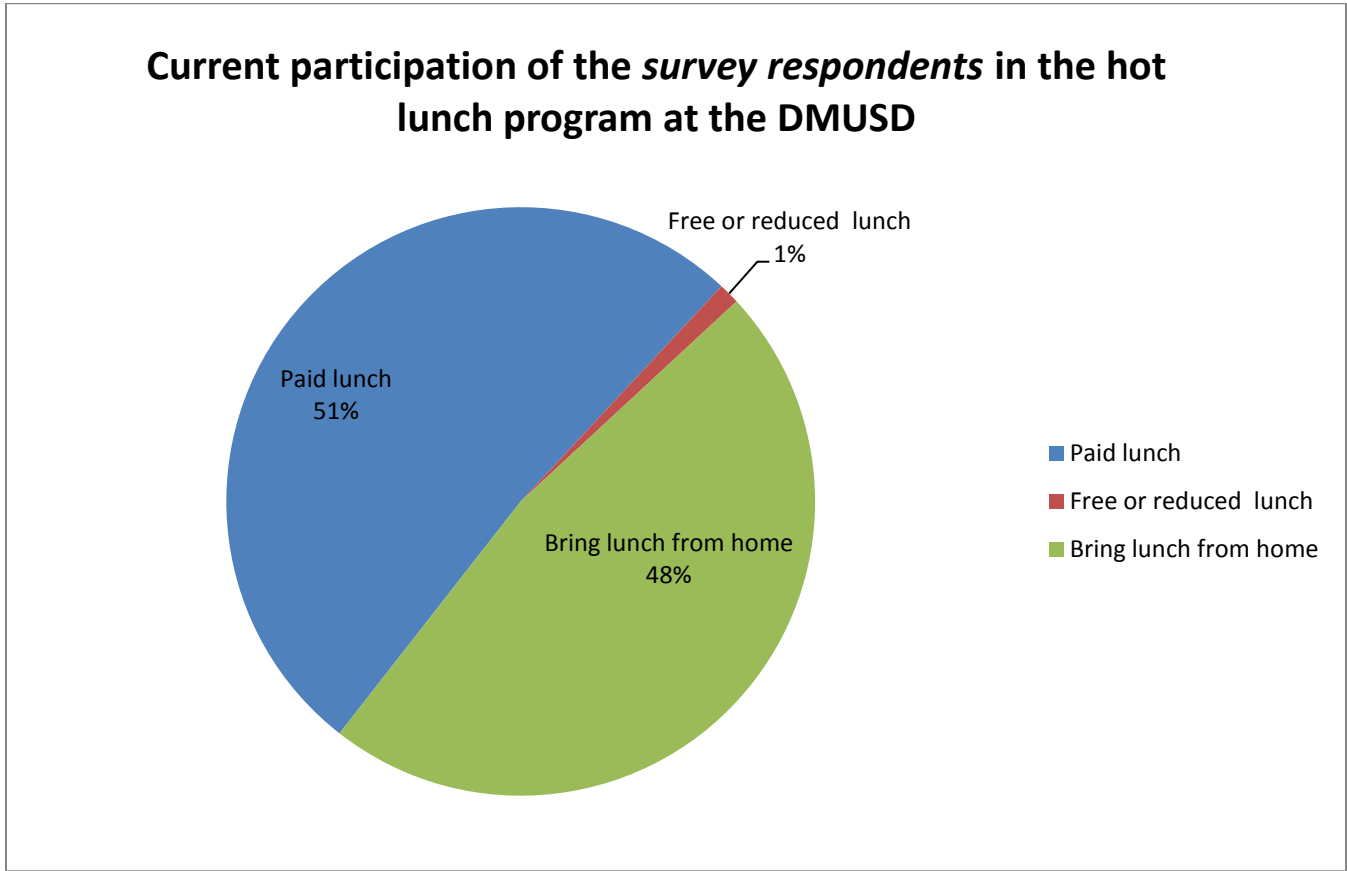


Figure 2

III Quick summary of key findings

1. Families who purchase lunch

There were two dominant reasons these 546 families purchase lunch:

- the children like the food served for lunch (307, 55%)
- the parents have no time to prepare lunch in the morning (239, 43%).

Other factors in the families' decision to purchase lunch were to provide their children with variety or an occasional treat (51, 9%), their own convenience (29, 5%) and the nutritional adequacy of the lunch (29, 5%).

167 (29%) of the families who purchase lunch are satisfied with it, while 400 (71%) are not. The families who are not satisfied with the lunch were asked to provide reasons for their dissatisfaction in the free response section. Their answers were categorized and quoted in the [Appendix](#) to this document.

The three main reasons for dissatisfaction with lunch were found to be

- the failure of the lunch to meet their nutritional requirements (215, 52%).
- the lack of appeal of the food served (94, 23%)
- the price of the lunches (80, 19%)

241 families who purchase lunch answered Question #7 "Why don't you purchase school lunch?". It is assumed that they interpreted the question as asking "Why don't you purchase school lunch more frequently?". The three most popular reasons were that¹

- they felt it is nutritionally inadequate (143, 59%).
- the lunch costs too much (127, 52%)
- their children did not like the food served for lunch (96, 40%)

2. Families who do not purchase lunch

The top three reason families listed for not purchasing lunch were that

- they felt it is nutritionally inadequate (350, 71%).
- their children do not like the food served for lunch (187, 38%)
- the lunch costs too much (179, 36%)

¹ The reasons for not purchasing lunch appear as a single block on the survey results for the families who purchase lunch and those who don't. Because the reasons differ among these two groups of families, they are presented separately here.

3. What features of a lunch families consider important

The features found important or very important by the largest number of respondents were:

- Meals that include whole grains, vegetables, and fruits (995, 96%)
- Meals that do not include artificial colors, artificial flavors, preservatives, high fructose corn syrup, partially hydrogenated oils and hidden MSG. (947, 91%)
- Fresh whole, unprocessed foods that are prepared on the same day. (933, 90%)

4. Milk requirements.

- 706 (68%) of the families felt it was important or very important to specify organic/hormone-free milk
- 602 (58%) of the families felt it was important or very important to specify plain or flavored milk when ordering
- 260 (25%) of the families felt it was important or very important to have a non-dairy milk substitute available.

5. How much families are willing to spend on a food lunch that meets their requirements.

The answers of the 928 families who provided a numerical answer to this question fell into the following categories:

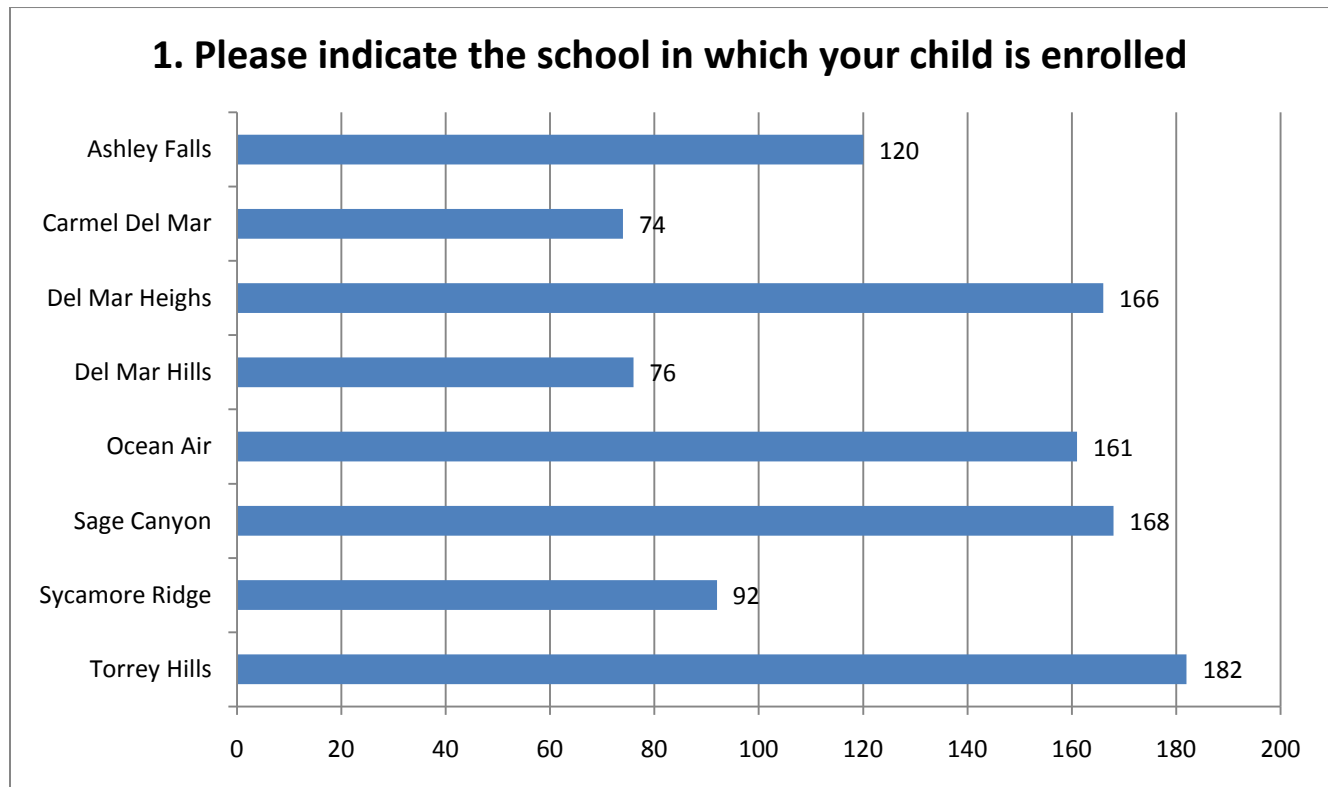
- Between \$4.25 and \$4.75 (384, 41%)
- Between \$4.75 and \$5.25 (262, 28%)
- Between \$5.25 and \$5.75 (155, 17%)
- Below \$4.25 (114, 12%)
- Above \$5.75 (14, 1%)

6. Volume of current versus projected lunch purchases

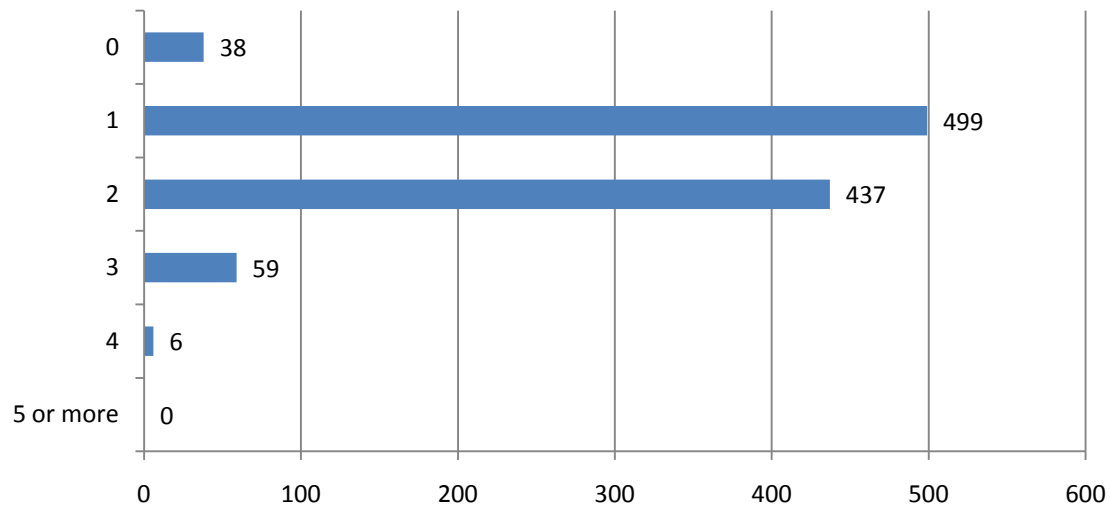
Collectively, the respondents to the survey currently order lunch about 1116 times a week. This number was obtained by multiplying the number of families who order lunch x times a week by x and adding up all the values for $x=1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ (see Question 4 in the [Appendix](#)). If the respondents' nutritional, taste, and cost requirements are satisfied, they expect to order lunch 2950 times a week (obtained from Question 12 in the [Appendix](#)).

IV Data gathered from the multiple choice questions.

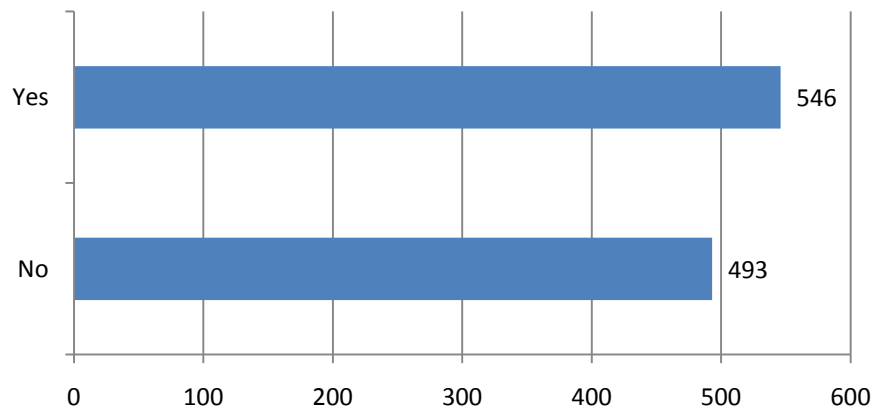
NOTE: The data presented below merges the results of the English and the Spanish surveys.



2. How many children in your family do you expect to be enrolled in the DMUSD in the 2011-2012 academic year?

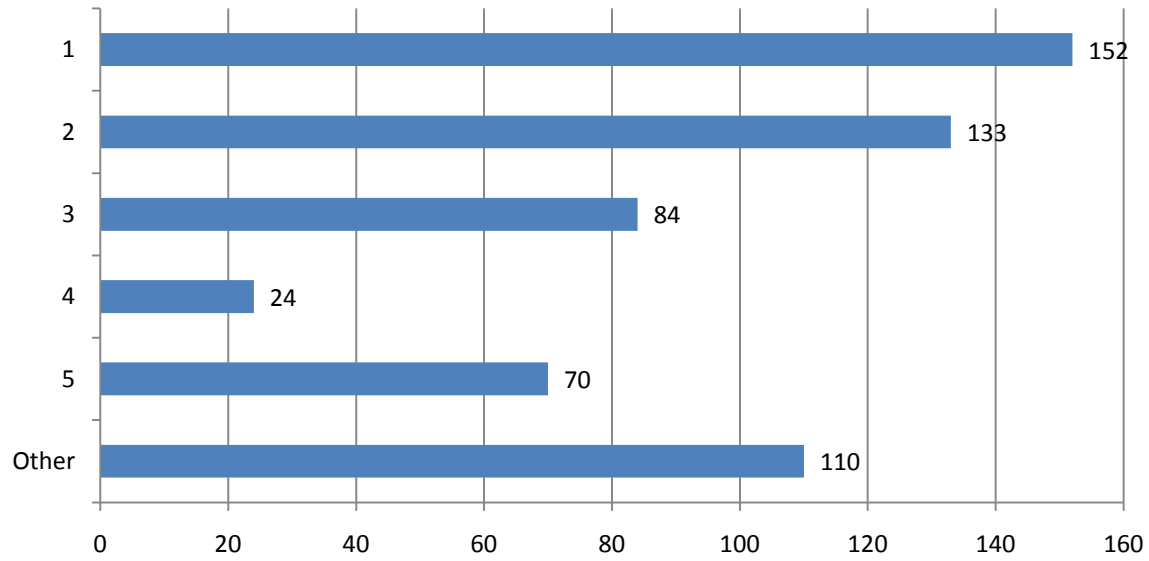


3. Do you currently purchase the school lunch for your child?



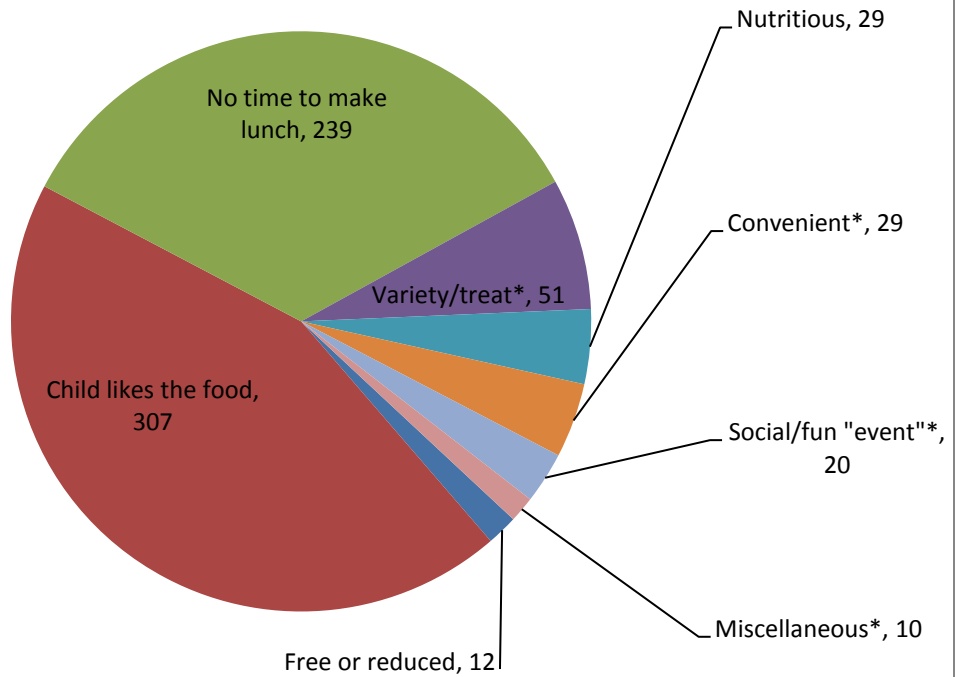
4. How often are you purchasing lunch for your child right now?

573 responses



5. Why do you currently purchase the school lunch?

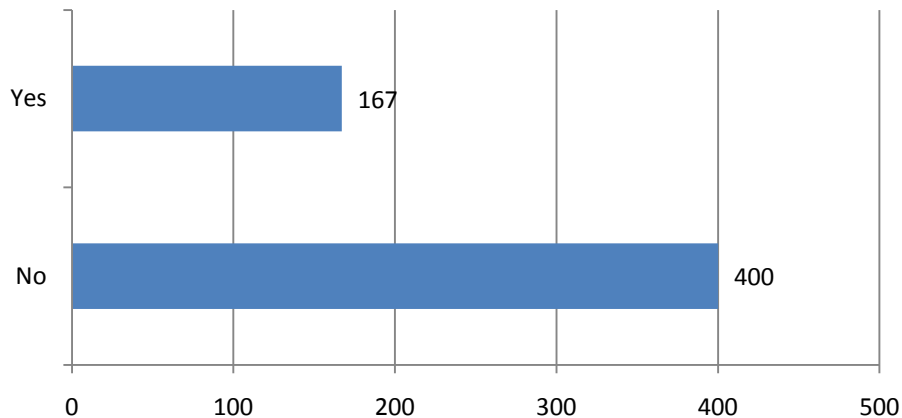
556 responses



* data gathered from free responses

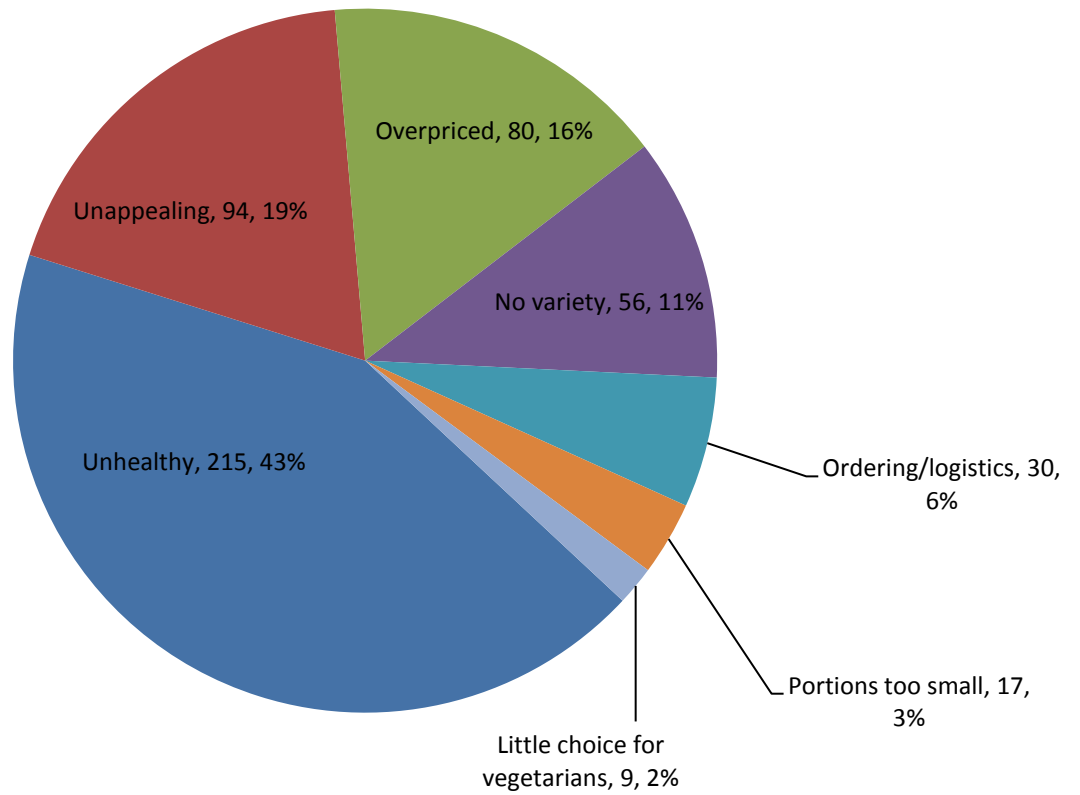
6. Are you satisfied with the current school lunch?

567 responses



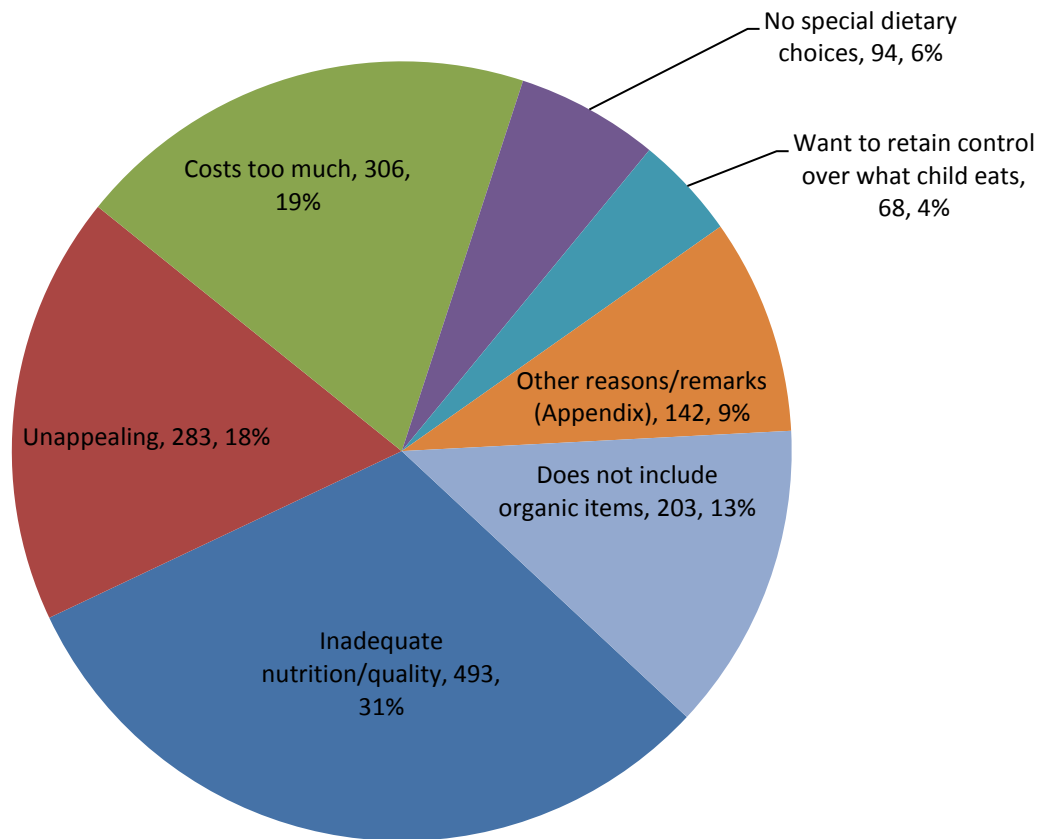
6. Reasons for dissatisfaction with the current school lunch

501 responses

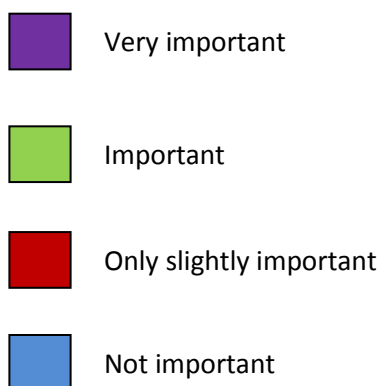
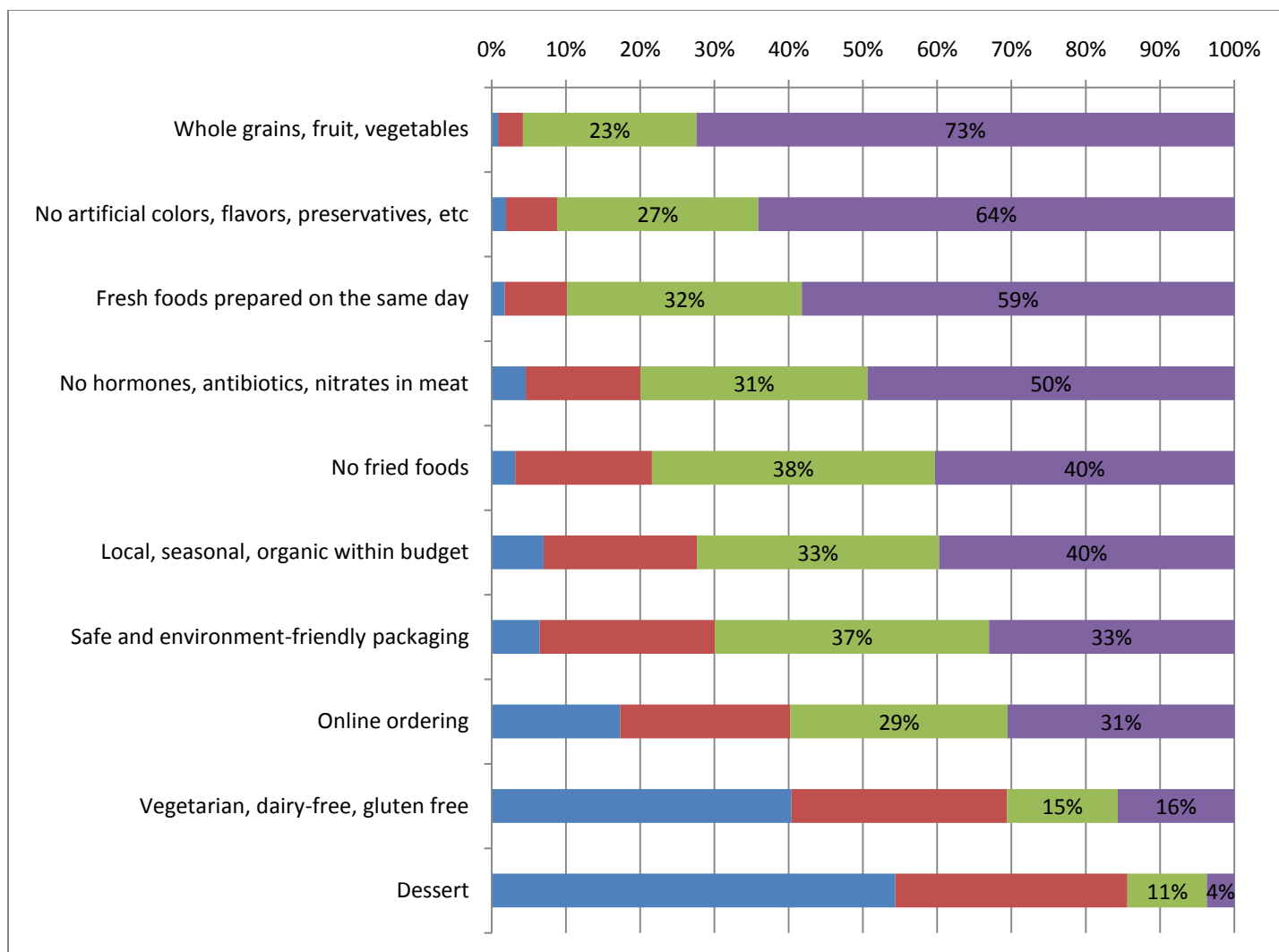


7. Why don't you purchase school lunch?

1589 responses

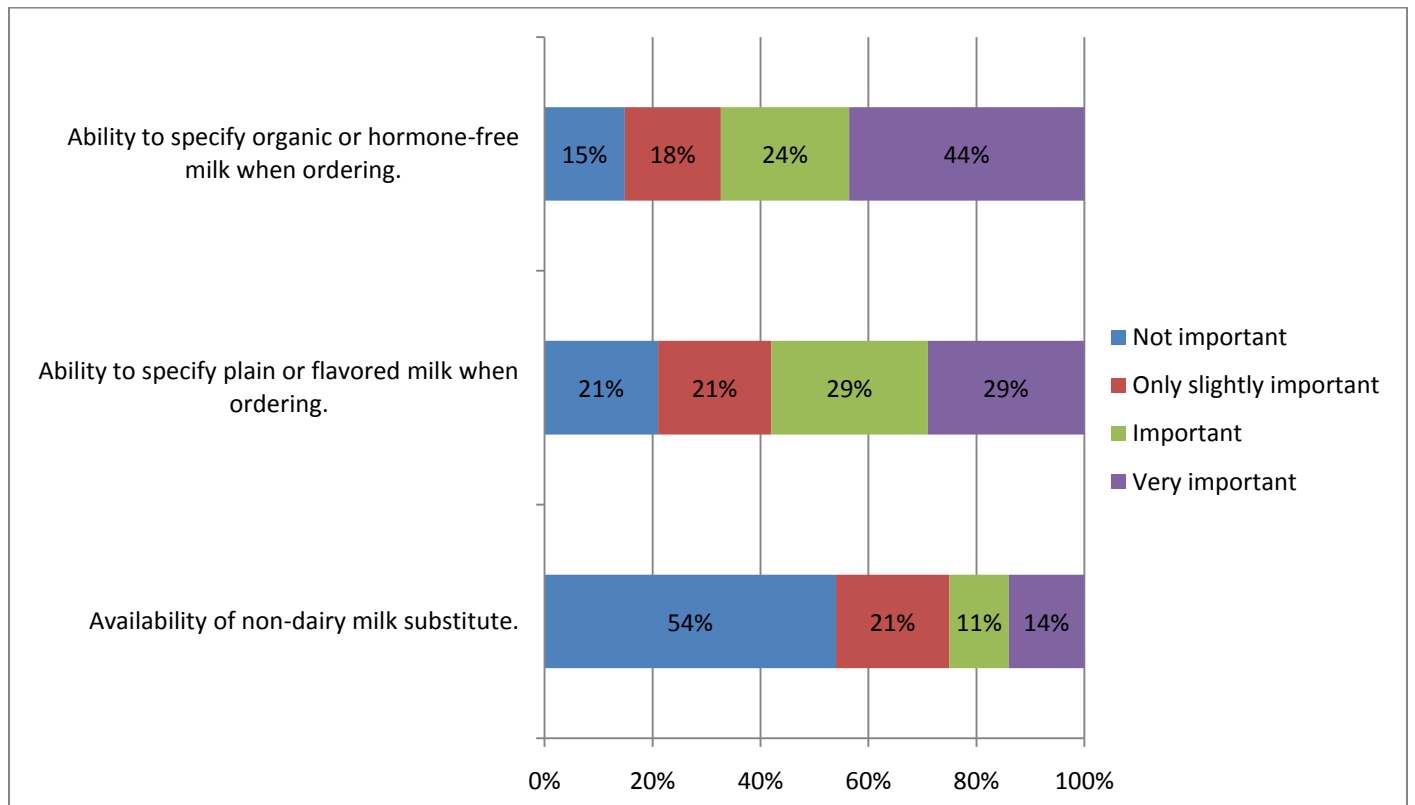


8. Please rate the importance of possible components of a tasty, kid-friendly school lunch.				
Top number is the count of respondents selection the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Not important	Only slightly important	Important	Very important
Meats that are hormone-free, antibiotic-free and nitrate-free	48 5%	161 15%	319 31%	511 50%
Meals that do not include artificial colors, artificial flavors, preservatives, high fructose corn syrup, partially	20 2%	72 7%	283 27%	664 64%
Meals that do not include fried foods.	33 3%	192 18%	397 38%	417 40%
Fresh whole, unprocessed foods that are prepared on the same day.	18 2%	88 8%	330 32%	603 59%
Meals that include whole grains, vegetables and fruits.	9 1%	35 3%	244 23%	751 73%
Meals that include local, seasonal and organic ingredients when it is within budget limits.	73 7%	215 21%	340 33%	411 40%
Alternative entrée choices including gluten-free, dairy-free and vegetarian.	420 40%	302 29%	155 15%	162 16%
Dessert with the meal	565 54%	325 31%	111 11%	38 4%
Meals served on safe and environmentally-friendly packaging.	67 6%	246 24%	385 37%	341 33%
Online ordering.	180 17%	239 23%	305 29%	315 31%
Total				1039 100%



Question 9. will be addressed in the Appendix.

10. Milk or a milk substitute must be provided with the lunch. Please rank the following according to how important				
Top number is the count of respondents selection the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Not important	Only slightly important	Important	Very important
Ability to specify organic or hormone-free milk when ordering	151 15%	182 18%	248 24%	458 44%
Ability to specify plain or flavored milk when ordering.	219 21%	218 21%	304 29%	298 29%
Availability of non-dairy milk substitute	566 54%	213 21%	115 11%	145 14%



11. Number of families willing to spend an amount within the given price range for a lunch that meets their nutritional and taste requirements

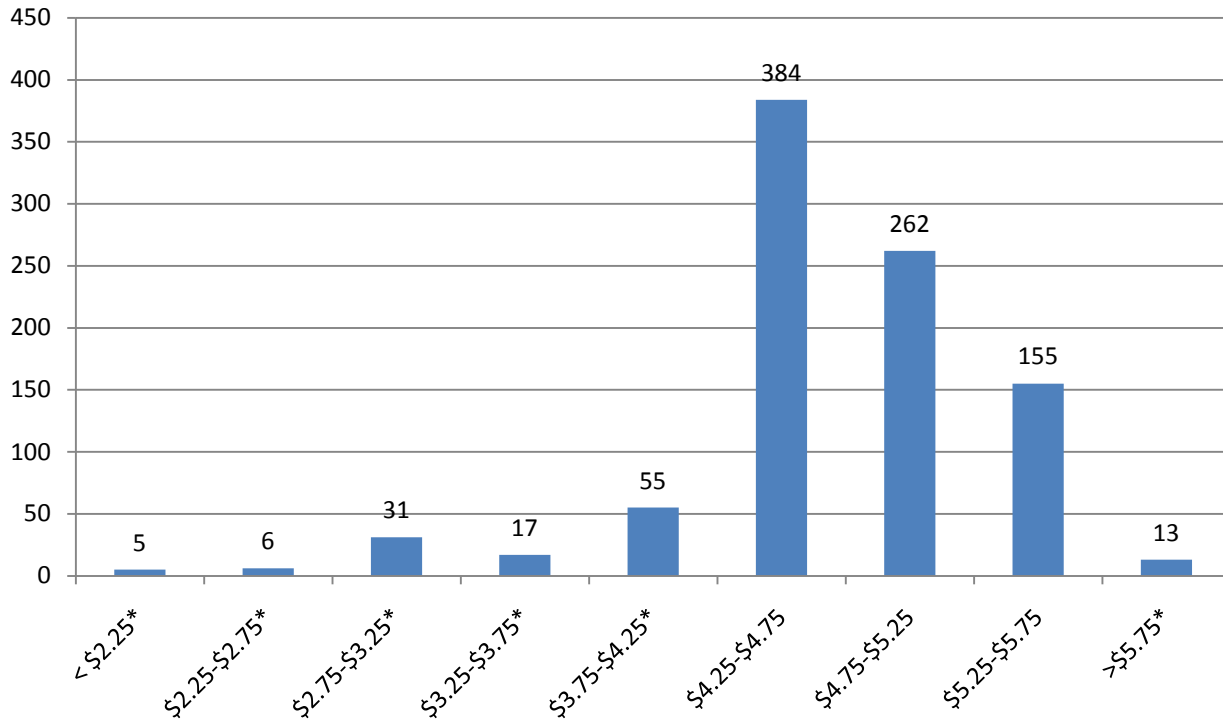
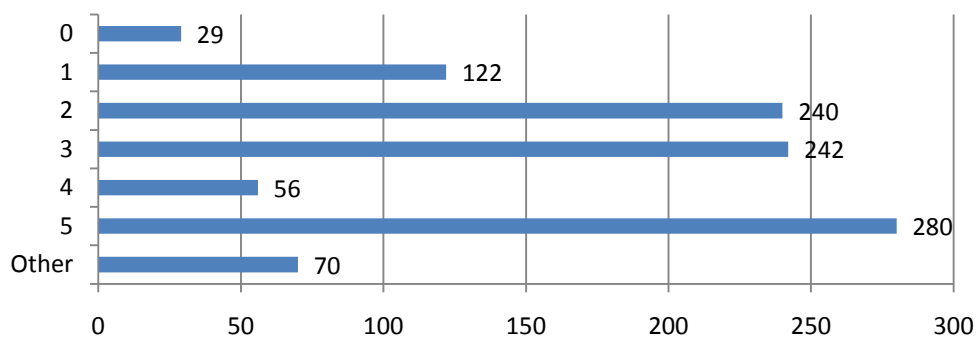


Figure 3

*data in these ranges was gathered from the free responses. Only the free responses which provided numerical data related to the question asked were used to generate the chart above.

12. How often would you purchase a school lunch that meets your nutritional requirements and is within your budget?



V Appendix: unedited free responses, arranged by topic

Remarks on the numbering and tabulation system.

- For each question, the number in front of the quote in the form “117.”, for example, means that this quote appeared as number 117 under the free responses for that question in the survey results on zoomerang.com.
- If there is a quote numbered “13.14.”, for example, under the heading of Question 6, Section A, then this quote appeared as an answer to Question 13, but deals with a topic that is discussed in Question 6.
- An “S” in front of a number means that the quote was taken from the Spanish language survey. The numbering system described above applies.
- If a free response did not add anything new to the answer of a given question or did not relate to the topics addressed in other questions, it was omitted from this report.

Question 5. Why do you currently purchase the school lunch?

A. Variety/occasional treat for child (51 responses)

3. “For variety”
8. “Trying it out once per week. We tried to pick the most healthy options but I feel there aren't many.”
9. “More convenient and varied choices”
10. “Just for a change of lunch options”
13. “Just a change from home food”
14. “Because we can only send items that don't need to be warmed up, which does not allow for much variety. Also, my child likes to eat what everyone else is.”
15. “As an occasional treat for my children”
19. “if there is something they like on the menu”
20. “variety”
23. “she wants to get it only when there is tasty vegetarian choice”
24. “variety”
25. “Variety from packed lunches”
26. “He wants to eat hot lunch once in school.”
27. “It's a fun alternative to pack lunch.”
28. “Child is a vegetarian and the vegetarian option is available only once a week.”
30. “Give some variety to his lunch options”
33. “To have a change once a week”
38. “It is seen as a special treat to have something hot for lunch once a week”
40. “As a treat and change in routine for parent and child.”
46. “I thought it would be nice to give a hot lunch, but the food was not good.”
47. “as a treat for my child”
48. “Kid picks lunch she likes.”
52. “Want my kids try different kinds/flavor of food.”
53. “for variety and to be able to have a hot meal instead of just cold.”
54. “my kids wanted to try it once”

- 56. "Variety from having sack lunch from home"
- 58. "to break it up a little; not have sandwiches or noodles every day"
- 59. "Change of pace and variety for my son"
- 63. "something different"
- 64. "More variety and hot food"
- 67. "It provides a change from the same peanut butter sandwich"
- 68. "Special treat for her..."
- 69. "variety, would like lunches to be more nutritious"
- 73. "Variety for my child other than sack lunch"
- 75. "my kids sometime like the alternative option other than brown bag"
- 79. "a treat for my child to get lunch on Friday"
- 81. "Something different for my child"
- 84. "To encourage her to try different foods."
- 85. "my child likes 3 menu options"
- 87. "My child likes to eat hot lunch."
- 91. "It is a treat for my child to be able to get school lunch"
- 92. "its a special treat for my daughter ..."
- 93. "a break from the norm"
- 94. "to give some variety"
- 103. "one of our girls likes it just to change it up sometimes, if its not processed its even better..."
- 106. "as an end of week treat"
- 108. "Special treat for our children."
- 109. "It gives him some variety, not just sandwiches each day."
- 113. "variety"
- 121. "provides a change to the home packed lunch once in a while"
- 123. "To add some variety to my children's lunch."

B. Convenience/break for having to prepare lunch for parents (29 responses)

- 4. "lazy"
- 7. "Like to not have to make lunch everyday."
- 11. "it's nice to have a break once in a while from making lunches"
- 12. "Occasional break from making lunch"
- 18. "for convenience"
- 22. "extended study days"
- 31. "Make it easier in the mornings."
- 39. "gives mom a break"
- 41. "easier in the morning for me"
- 42. "take pressure off family tasks"
- 50. "For convenience"
- 57. "I like to have 1 day off from making lunch."
- 61. "Gives me a break once in a while"
- 62. "It allows me to have a day off from sending lunch"
- 65. "Convenience"
- 68. "...it frees me up from making lunch once a week"
- 70. "It is nice to take a break from preparing lunch once in a while."
- 72. "We only order when absolutely necessary because we are not pleased with the menus."
- 82. "Convenience on Fridays"
- 83. "convenience"

- 88. "food is hot and very convenient"
- 89. "It's a way for me to not have to pack a lunch everyday."
- 104. "Makes our life easier."
- 115. "convenience"
- 118. "...gives me a break"
- 120. "it frees up time for the family"
- 124. "I don't need to pack lunch for my kid everyday."
- 125. "mom is sick"
- 127. "break from packing lunches"

C. Kids like the social aspects of having hot lunch or the idea of having school lunch (20 responses)

- 1. "My kids used to want it as they thought it was cool because other kids "got to go get a ticket and get hot lunch" So I started doing it once a week as a "treat" for them; then it became a "treat" for me that I did not have to pack a lunch. They don't like it anymore and I am going to stop."
- 2. "One of my children loves the social nature of getting the ticket and grabbing lunch with his freinds, although he dislikes the food he is willing to sacrifice taste so we do it on occassion and pick something he can live with."
- 5. "He likes the idea of purchasing the lunch at the school."
- 16. "m[y] child sees other kids and craves the food"
- 29. "socially, the kids like to get a "hot" lunch with other kids sometimes"
- 32. "My child likes the idea of buying hot lunch but doesn't really like the food."
- 37. "it is a good social experience for my kids to get hot lunch with their friends"
- 43. "My children like the novelty of getting the hot lunch"
- 51. "My child likes getting lunch because her friends do."
- 74. "Gives my child another option to belong!"
- 80. "My child likes the experience of getting his hot lunch, but I'm not convinced that he likes or actually eats the food."
- 86. "My child likes the idea of getting a "hot" lunch"
- 99. "My child likes being able to line up first for lunch"
- 107. "it's fun to "buy" lunch!"
- 6.51. "...my children like the 'event' of getting food at school."
- 110. "My daughter enjoys having hot lunch"
- 111. "my child thinks it's fun but often dislikes what they get"
- 118. "Child thinks it's fun..."
- 119. "My child thinks it's fun to receive hot lunch."
- 126. "My son wants to take same food with his friends"

D. Miscellaneous (10 responses)

- 34. "My children try to have hot l[u]nch."
- 36. "Child wants to order it"
- 78. "wanted to try the program and see if my child likes it"
- 95. "Less trading of home-packed lunches"
- 96. "My child likes warm food"
- 98. "My children wanted to try it"
- 105. "My son specifically asked for hot lunch"

- 112. "No time in the morning + my child likes the specific item on that day"
- 114. "My daughter likes 2 menu items, so we do hot lunch when they have these items."
- 116. "Children like to buy lunch every once in a while"

Question 6: Why aren't you satisfied with the school lunch?

A. Food is not healthy (215 responses)

- 1. "It's poor quality, non-nutritious ..."
- 3. "not nutritionally adequate- quite unhealthy!"
- 4. "not healthy enough with variety for vegetarians. Cardiff area receives organic lunches from the Ki's even if its for slightly higher price."
- 5. "Would like to see healthier choices with more variety."
- 7. "not enough vegetarian options not very healthy"
- 8. "The Kellogg's rice krispie treats contain high fructose corn syrup, which we'd like to avoid."
- 9. "Not healthy and doesn't look too fresh."
- 10. "It looks unhealthy and not fresh. "
- 11. " I dont see any nutrional value inmost of the selections and most of it is just frozen cheap food reheated. I see most of the kids throw away the food and eat the treet that comes with."
- 12. " Each school needs it's own cafeteria type area where fresh, nutritional lunches can be prepared on site and served. Better nutritional choices could be served. This would allow more choices for the children."
- 16. "I think at \$4.25/lunch, the meal provider could do a better job with choices that are more nutritious."
- 17. "My child doesn't like it and I don't blame her. Choices are unhealthy."
- 20. "It is junk food disguised as healthy food. If we are serving junk food, let's call it that. Turkey corn dogs are not a healthy choice. Let's just be honest."
- 21. "not healthy.... I don't think powdered donuts are an acceptable lunch item."
- 23. "I feel that we are teaching children healthy habits in everything we do at school. I would love to see more fresh veggies and fruit, less processed foods. I realize we are limited because we do not have cafeterias within the district to make our own meals but I'm sure there are vendors out there that could provide healthier, more balanced even organic meals."
- 24. " Definitely not healthy enough...especially the chicken nuggets."
- 26. " Unhealthy choices"
- 29. "I would much prefer healthier options"
- 31. "because the food is not nutritious..."
- 32. "The menu doesn't list the goodies that are served on the plate. Powdered donuts are not part of the healthy food groups."
- 36. "Needs to be more nutritious."
- 37. "They are unappealing (don't taste good) and unhealthy. They include dessert (no need for that at school, too many calories and bad for their teeth). Please provide an organic lunch with fresh fruits and

green vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins. That is the kind of lunch I would purchase.”

38. “Mostly is junk food like corn dogs, chicken fingers, hamburgers, etc., or sugary foods like teriyaki chicken.”

39. “very unhealthy and fattening”

40. “Not nutritious enough.”

43. “Some items (such as cheese filled pretzel) are not appropriate. Items are not as nutritious as they could be...”

45. “ I would also like to see other healthier choices. Salads. Tuna Sandwiches / Wraps.”

46. “ Wish it were more nutritious”

49. “ Not healthy enough, too much fry foods”

50. “not very healthy...”

51. “I think the nutritional value of the meals is low. “

52. “Not very healthy”

56. “The lunches are not nutritional ...”

61. “...has no nutritional value.”

62. “The processed packages are empty calories. They should have one main entree, one fresh fruit and one fresh vegetable. Cold canned greenbeans should not count as a vegetable. The kids do not eat them. Also they should offer a ranch packet with the ketchup so the kids are more likely to eat the veggies.”

64. “ Too few healthy options”

65. “ not very nutritious, expensive for what is offered.”

66. “Too much processed foods such as chicken nuggets, chicken patty sandwiches.”

67. “ To many fried food. Would like healthier options.”

68. “Not sufficient nutritional benefit: need more whole grains, organic, soy milk and vegetarian options.”

69. “I would like...a more nutritious lunch than currently offered.”

70. “Would prefer no fast-food type options, such as nuggets, corn dogs etc. Prefer fresh veg and fruit.”

72. “ Not really healthy and most time is bad quality and small quantity.”

73. “ The desserts (like donuts) are not necessary. Otherwise, I am happy.”

76. “It is interesting that the apricots that are part of the hot lunch have a lot of sugar. I tried the apricots at home. This is in light of the ban on sugar treats during school time (cookies, cupcakes) that would be presented during a birthday party. Quite a paradox. How does this happen?”

77. “pizza strips and chicken nuggets do not qualify as healthy or nutritious”

78. “ Would prefer organic, fresh fruits and vegetables, more vegetarian options, and more balanced nutritionally”

79. “Too much fat (pizza, quesadillas, etc., carbs, and processed meats. Also too much sugar (rice krispys). Not enough fresh fruits and veggies. “

80. “ Would prefer healthier options. We like the brown rice/chx mix you have weekly, but other than that the healthy choices are slim.”

83. “Too many breaded and fried items . alot of oil in food , not too many simple fresh choices like chicken noodle soup or pasta choices .”

84. "My son has high cholesterol and has to watch his saturated fat & cholesterol intake. Pizza, corn dogs, & chicken nuggets do not meet his dietary requirements. More brown rice, non fried chicken, non-creamed soups, & beans would be great!"
87. " Yes and no, I would love to see more healthy options, but realize it's hard to get kids to choose healthy foods."
92. "...Less continous Carb, more salad options, no donut holes-not happy that you find "Fortified" acceptable."
94. " Poor quality. Poor nutrition. "
97. " Food options need to be healthier. More protein, fresh fruit and vegetables needed. Fried, high carb, high sugar foods should be not be a choice at lunch for children."
98. "It is greasy and unhealthy. (e.g. pizzas drip with oil)"
- 100." Too much processed food (sodium, carbs)"
101. " The food served is what I consider to be junk. I can't understand why there isn't grilled chicken with fresh, local strawberries, e.g., instead of nuggets and fries. But my child begs for it, so I allow her to get hot lunch on Fridays, if she likes the menu."
103. "WHERE ARE THE VEGETABLES, FOR GOODNESS' SAKE??!! Kids HATE the fake or processed cheese. Where are the fish sticks, the beef tacos, the bean burritos, the tuna sandwiches, the salisbury steak, all of the other traditional lunch meals that can also be nutritious??!! And again, where on EARTH are the vegetables??!!"
106. "Should have more healthy variety."
108. " ... the quality of the food is what i would expect from dmusd. Not healthy and not a balanced meal. would like to see juice offered as a beverage, one of my children is lactose intol and can't drink milk so the meal really isn't good for him"
112. "Would like for the food to be more nutritious."
113. "Need healthier choices and more options."115. "...not enough fruits and vegetables; not enough fresh foods..."
117. "...I question the nutritional quality of the food"
121. "Wish for healthier options"
- 122." it is all junk food "
123. " It appears to be mostly processed food. Would like to see fresher more nutrisious choices."
134. "would prefer healthy lower fat options"
135. " Not a lot of choice for healthy basic foods. "
136. "I don't like how the children get to pick and leave behind the veggies, fruit options. Wish fresher fruit and veggies."
137. "... food quality and nutrition are not satisfactory"
138. "I would like to see a healthier variety"
141. "... not as healthy as it should be ..."
142. "Too prepackaged."
143. "processed food not fresh also she says always out of fruit or vegetables when she gets there"

144. " ...There are only a few per month that they will eat. I would purchase more lunches if my children liked them and they were more nutritional."
146. "Need more whole grains, vegetables, fruit and lean/plant proteins."
149. "Not healthy at all. Not adequate healthy choices. And, some choices that I saw (rice krispie treats) are unacceptable at school. .."
155. "... not nutritional"
156. "...Not particularly nutritious -- lots of nuggets, pizza, corn dogs and other less-healthy fare"
157. "It is not healthy enough, no fresh fruit or vegetables, too much salt!!!"
159. "Need more vege and fruits, not only in the menu, also should contain in the dish. Ex. put mix vegie in a teriaki chicken dish. Otherwise, kids do not eat vegie."
160. "The reason behind doing it this way was to make it healthier and so far I don't see healthier choices, we used little caesars in the past and had healthier lunches and less cost to the district. always had fruit out and veggies and nothing fried..."
161. "... There is no fresh fruits or vegetables"
164. "I don't feel the choices are the healthiest but I understand the difficulty in trying to do that with no kitchen on site."
165. "I don't consider pizza and chicken strips to be "healthy." This is why we only order 1 per month as a treat."
166. "...We should have more healthy alternatives."
171. "It could always be healthier..."
168. "Some of the choices the kids are given are not as healthy as I feel they could be. "
169. " would prefer it to be healthier and less processed."
175. " Mostly satisfied, but would like healthier entrees. The fruit and vegetables and milk offered currently are good. However, the entrees are generally unhealthy, unimaginative, standard terrible 'kid-fare' - I think they could be much better, both in terms of health and diversity."
176. "...poor nutrition, poor quality"
178. "The choices are not healthy..."
180. "Would like it to be more nutritious."
181. "I think there should be less "crunchy" and fried foods and burgers. More grilled meats with pasta and rice would be nice"
182. "nutritional value is low"
183. "...horrid health choices"
186. " No one makes sure the kids are eating it, or choosing healthy sides, doesn't seem balanced ie) mostly carbs & protein, sugar "
187. " I am generally satisfied, and the kids like it, but some healthier fare would be appreciated"
188. "...the side choices are sometimes horrible (fruit snacks?). No non-fat milk available..."

189. "I feel as though the menu is basically several items reconfigured each week. How many nuggets or chix sandwiches can our kids choose. We went to another school before AF and they had a salad bar and much healthier options. I understand that the kids love the nuggets, but that doesn't mean that we need to offer them several times a week instead of healthier stuff."
192. "The food could be healthier and less fried food. There is a lot of schools that are turning to more healthy choice."
193. ".... Would definitely like to see healthier options that still taste good so the kids will eat them."
195. "Too much chicken... too much processed foods. A couple of times per week is ok, but with current menu I will not buy every day. I would if the menu was better, yet still kid friendly."
196. "The food is too fatty. For example, any item containing cheese is 'drenched' with cheese. Instead of rice or pasta you offer totter tots etc."
197. "High refined sugar content and high fat. Paucity of fresh fruit or vegetables. If there were organic options, I'd be all over it - whatever the cost. Cost now is too high for what you get. Would be willing to spend more and get better quality. BTW my children will not touch anything with trans-fats - they read all the labels - if it says "hydrogenated" or if there are tropical oils (palm/coconut/etc.) they don't touch it - they toss it."
199. "...too little emphasis on fresh and healthy food"
203. "It's fast food type, not fresh, especially veg. and fruits"
204. "Too much junk style foods."
205. "... it could be healthier."
207. "too unhealthy. even if main course appears healthy, they add extra crap to supplement."
208. "It contains white flour, trans fats, and sugar"
211. "Would prefer more fresh fruits/vegetables and less processed foods."
213. "One, they stopped using outside vendors that actually had good, nutritious food and went with the central kitchen in an effort to "save money" Two - the food is unhealthy and meat-based mostly junk food quality"
214. "need to be more nutritional, better choices"
216. "It seems like a bunch of junk food. That's why I only let her have it once a week."
217. "I would much prefer foods that were more nutritious, not fried, were all natural and had no sugar as part of the desserts. "
218. "Would prefer healthier choices."
219. "Lunches are satisfactory, however, I would like more nutritious options."
220. "I'd love to see healthier, hot meals, or salads. . . . less processed food"
- 222 I think school lunch is too starch, has a lot of sugar, instead of fried chickens, pizza bites, sliced pizza breads, lunches can include healthy mini sandwiches with chicken breast or turkey, I would like to see sliced cucumbers, tomatoes and maybe more fresh fruit - apples. grapes...Fridays can be fun food time where kids can have pizza or other high carb favorite foods. My daughter complains that lunch is always the same and too sweet taste. I can help to make decision if requested.
223. "Some of the hot lunches are not that healthy."

224. "I would like to have healthier more fresh cooked menu items."

225. "Lack of healthy choices"

226. "Too many fried entrees. Also, too high in carbs as side dishes are usually goldfish crackers.

228. "Most items on the menu i.e. burgers, corn dogs, pizza are unhealthy food. I took a look at the food one time and it does not even look fresh. It will be nice to have healthier food like spaghetti, grilled chicken."

229. "I would like to see school offer organic bananas, carrots and celery and macaroni and cheese. Organic food is expensive. Maybe we just offer in small portion and only for those who really are going to eat them. We need to let the kids know that if they don't want to eat, they don't have to take their portion and toss it in the trash. I see lots of food are being wasted now. "

230. "Not healthy."

232. "Some fruits and vegetables need to be added"

233. "Nutritionally poor",.... Seems to be the cheapest possible ingredients, plus some kind of junk food snack. I'd rather pay more for real food.

237. "Stopped participating due to unhealthy choices"

238. "again so unhealthy zoggi expensive for food that just throws away by the children because it is so bad. Could be so easy to serve a fresch sallad. carrot stick fresch cold chicken sallad .etc"

239. "I do not want my children to eat chicken nuggest, corn dogs and hot dogs as often as they are served. I also do not like the fact that chocolate milk always is available. And, I would like a say in the dessert options. "

240. "too many sweets or other empty calories. My ADD child reacts badly to artificial colors."

243. "...and some of the food is lame, for lack of a better word. Too many starch options. Kids need more protein options."

244. "Wish they had more of what a child will eat along with less salt. I notice my child comes home thirstier than normal after eating a hot lunch."

245. "Artificial ingredients, horrible processed foods, preservatives, very little fresh foods or whole grains"

246. "and limited nutritional value."

247. "Zero nutritional value. "

248. "I want a better variety of healther foods."

251. "Needs to be more healthy."

252. "...More fresh options."

255. "Many of the lunch choices do not appear healthy. "Cheesy Breadsticks" as a lunch? I would not consider going to Pat and Oscars and allowing my child to only order bread sticks? I understand that the school lunch program needs to be profitable to work, perhaps the demand is for foods that I would consider less healthy (when I do,I don't purchase those lunches), but I want to encourage some more creative healthier lunches that kids may want. I am not affiliated with this site, but there are many like it: healthyschoollunches.org"

260. "Not enough healthy choices that appeal to kids ..."

261. "I don't think school lunch is very nutritious."

263. "Too much processed, fatty foods. Not enough appetizing veggies or healthier options."

265. "there are not enough fresh vegetables and too many cookies"

266. ""there is a lot of fatty foods."

267. "High fat. Not enough fruit/vegetables"
268. "Fruit and yogurt would be better than current sweets..."
270. "But I think it can be improved. Healthier lunch choices would be great."
272. "Unhealthy"
274. "had to explain to my kids that it is junk food. Will only let them have it on occasssion."
275. "But, it could be more nutritive"
281. "Not from the menu that I see. I would like less fried food and more steamed vegetable on the menu."
283. "Not nutritious enough, doesn't meet standards for healthy food"
290. "I don't think its nutritionally well balanced, have you count calories and saturated fat on it?"
292. "Predominately junk food (burgers, pizzas, hot dogs, etc.) that are higher in sodium and sugar, and nutritionally imbalanced. We only purchase school lunch when absolutely necessary. "
293. "would like healthier whole grain, fruit, veggie options"
295. "Its unhealthy...."
296. "The food is not nutritious"
297. "...questionable health value"
- 298." ...It does not even try to be organic, sustainable and the packaging is not enviro friendly. Other schools in San Diego are enrolled and participating in the Revolution Foods program and I don't understand why the most socially mobile district in San Diego is serving 'poor' food."
301. "not enough nutritious options"
304. "It's ok, but I will not allow it more than 2times a week because of some nutritional pitfalls. mostly it is the use of high fructose corn syrup in snacks. I don't think there is enough fruit and vegetables. "
305. "Some are nutrionally questionable at best..."
307. "...does not seem healthy"
313. "...really wonder about nutritional value"
317. "Could use ... more healthy choices."
322. "Generally yes, but if it were affordable, I would love an organic and/or more nutritious option without peanuts."
326. "...not nutritious, too much sugar and white flour"
327. "...not healthy,not fresh"
331. "I don't view them as being very healthy."
332. "some of the items seems kind of greasy"
335. "...Also, the selection is not that healthy...."
336. "It should be more nutritious and less trans fat."
338. "lots of unhealthy choices, even the items that are mandatory aren't healthy. No fresh food!"

339. "I would like a healthier lunch supplied by the school."
342. "Uses hydrogenated oil products, white flour products, too many packaged/processed foods/fried foods. Not enough natural, whole products."
343. "to much processed food..."
345. "Would like it to be healthier, fresher, fewer calories."
346. "mostly, but would like to see more grains,fresh fruits and vegetables"
347. "not healthy"
349. "Veggie or fruits are optional. Kids should not be allowed a donot or chips if they have not eaten their fruit or veggie first"
353. "i don't feel the choices are very healthy, and what we pack is much healthier."
354. "... nurtrition concern ..."
356. "...too much starch"
361. "...Calories are very high. Not too happy about rice krispie treats & donut holes either, particularly in light of the attitude about birthday treats."
362. "too much processed foods & often run out b4 my child gets her food. She's been given a doughnut from the teachers lounge before. unacceptable."
364. "I do not think it is nutritious and can not believe chocolate milk is even an option. Why can't a turkey sandwich be offered?"
368. "...unhealthy for the most part"
369. "I think it is pretty unhealthy."
371. "To little or no fresh vegetable and fruit"
375. "Not very good nutritional value."
379. "Would like to see healthier lunches that the kids would still enjoy"
381. "some meals are not as healthy as I would like"
382. "It is not that nutritious"
384. "not healthy"
387. "wish it was a bit healthier"
388. "unhealthy, processed, chocolate milk. Del Mar stands for the best and I honestly wouldn't feed any living thing this "food.""
394. "There are not enough vegetables and fruit. Every lunch should have a green vegetable and a red vegetable. There are too many refined breads and grains, fried foods and sugar. There is no excuse for not serving whole grains in this day and age! Whole grains should always be served in place of refined grains. If the institution of learning doesn't care about good eating habits, why should the kids?!"
395. "Prefer organic, hormone-free."
396. "I would prefer the use of organic and fresh ingredients in the preparation of the food"

398. "Not as healthy as the lunches we prepare"
399. "I don't find that it meets my family's nutritional standard. I would purchase it more often if it did. There is a lot of processed food and not enough fresh fruit or vegetables"
401. "it needs to add more vegetables and reduce fried food."
403. "... Less healthy..."
404. "Lot of cheese or chicken options but wish they were atleast all natural."
405. "even though it costs \$4.25...quality of good is not fresh and almost same as junk food, for instances, corndog, pizza strip"
407. "It is expensive, however it is not healthy."
408. "it's hard to know what he is actually eating some of the items that go with the main item are unhealthy"
409. "most choices are not overwhelmingly nutritious"
410. "The quality of the food is not good -- it is not nutritious -- it is processed food and n
- S1. "Los almuerzos tienen una mala calidad nutricional, en general es comida rápida, con pocas verduras y frutas. no debieran darse alternativas como pretzels, asi no se pueden bajar los estándares de obesidad . [The lunches have poor nutritional quality and are generally similar to fast food with little vegetables and fruit. They shouldn't offer options like pretzels. That way it is hard to reduce obesity.]
- S2. "algunos contienen altas cantidades de carbohidratos"[Some of them have high carbohydrate content]

B. Food is not appealing (94 responses)

2. "My kids don't like the food."
6. "I used to volunteer on a day that I had to walk the kids over to the Hot Lunch line and I sat and ate lunch with the kids.....the entree never looked or tasted good, never really hot, fruit choice very limited. I mostly remember the powdered donuts!"
8. "Food does not look or taste fresh..."
15. "Bad quality meals"
22. "The food was cold and not very tasty plus the bagged milk was messy."
30. "My child said the food isn't that good and many times they have run out of what he orders."
31. "...my kids generally think that the food is terrible."
55. "...my daughter really doesn't like it. Says many are "soggy" or cold. But it's a convenience since I work and have other child to take to Middles School too."
56. "...and my kids do not like the sides."

58. "My son always comes home looking and asking for [f]ood. I think the hot lunch is not delicious enough to let him consume them all."
59. "My kids have decided the food is disgusting. Also, my kids typically won't eat the vegetables (carrots) because they don't have ranch dressing available. And let's not even start with the donuts."
13. 14 "The plastic on the microwave macaroni melts into the food."
13. 25 "Too much chicken and she says a lot of it is dried out and too crunchy"
82. " Unappealing, poor choices, not 'hot'".
85. " Wish the food was fresher"
90. "many lunches that she wont eat...mixing cheese&meat, need more raw carrots,apples."
91. "My kids don't really like the food."
95. " They are soggy and cold"
99. " I heard that hot lunch of other school district is more delicious and cheaper than ours. They provide buffet, so the student have their account and whenever they need, they can buy hot lunch. But, in my district, even though I was sick, I have to prepare lunch. And the student received the hot lunch that just warmed in microwave, so the taste is not good. My child enjoyed the experience that he buy lunch, so I ordered hot lunch once a week even if I don't satisfied."
109. " If green beans, corn etc is served it is always cold. Whole uncut apples are impossible for kids to eat with braces."
111. "Child does not like most of the choices, plus they are pretty pricey."
114. " Kids complain how bad it is. It is always cold too."
115. "doesn't taste very good; low quality."
116. "my kids don't like most of the lunches, particularly anything with cheese, they say the cheese is gross."
119. " I see children pick only what they want. That might just be the entree, or just the side with no milk or other drink."
120. "Food is fatty & tastes plain."
125. "Poor quality, poor taste."
131. "The amount isn't enough, the milk has mysterious materials or is often found expired. The food is dry, and unfresh."
132. "my kids complain that they did not eat their lunch because it did not taste good. This is a total waste of money for me and my kids are starving when they get home. Have meals that are kid friendly,that kids will eat. I have been at the school at lunch and it is unsettling the ammount of hot lunch food that goes in the trash."

13.68 "The snacks are not good. They are too processed and gross (according to my kids)."

139. "...food is not warm enough."

140. "My son also complains, a lot of times, lunch is too cold. "

144. "my children do not like the lunches. I let my children sign up for the lunches they like. There are only a few per month that they will eat. I would purchase more lunches if my children liked them ..".

147. "When we got the lunch my child said some of it had mold on it. The food was poor quality and my child hardly ate it. She also would not eat the side dishes provided and did not even get her milk (she would forget). They always ran out of the chocolate milk which is what she wanted (it was a waste of money!)"

153. "A lot of the food the kids don't like. So we won't order it...too spicy, too greasy, etc."

155. "Terrible product, kids don't like..."

158. "Chicken taquitos are too dry and not tasty."

160. "... the only thing my daughter eats is the nuggets and other than that she says it's gross"

166. "...Food does not taste good"

182. "Quality of food is poor...and my kids generally do not like the lunches, we do it only for convenience"

183. "Not tasteful, cold and soggy"

184. "yucky food..."

201. "One of my kids will not eat one thing fr the menu. The other likes it well enough to eat it so it's worth the convenience. However, it looks pretty gross/unhealthy selection/unappetizing.

202. "My son is starting to complain that the food taste bad and there is not enough so he is hungry afterwards- this could be becasue he doesnt eat it all becasue of the taste."

209."Kids have a tough time finding something they like to eat."

212. "There are only 2-3 items that my children like to eat."

215. "In particular, the milk doesn't taste good. Would like to see more freshness and better quality."

221. "The lunch does not seem to be filling for my children. They complain that the food is cold or soggy. They always come home hungry and complaining about the lunch. Most of there friends seem to feel the same way. I think I am going to start brown bagging if there isn't any changes in the program. I am glad the survey came out because I have been contemplating switching to the brown bag. Plus with more than one child to feed it is expensive. "

233. "...tastes horrible..."

235. "Our children hate the school lunches because the food is 'bad'. We are most likely going to discontinue purchasing the school lunch because the kids do not eat it and go hungry at school, per their feedback to us."

242. "Kids not happy with taste and quality of the food"

249. "sometimes my child doesn't like the food so he just doesn't eat it. He doesn't like teriaki and orange chicken.

250. "Lunches just look sad and quick."
253. "Not entirely, there are many meals that the kids don't like, so we often purchase only the chicken entrees."
254. "...sometimes is too soggy."
256. "My kid always complains the school lunch that is tasteless, awful."
257. "There are only a few selections my daughter likes."
268. "..., and vegetables smell funny (not fresh)"
282. "since I only purchase lunches a couple times/week, my kid picks the ones he likes, but he often times doesn't like the sides offered and it's a waste of money."
286. "The kids don't like the raw vegetables, it's better to make the vegetables more delicious for them to finish."
290. "...but my daughter keep asking for it. the only thing she complains about are the chicken roll tacos, she says they are disgusting."
295. "...unsatisfying, and just tastes bad."
296. "The food is not nutritious, and the child doesn't like it."
298. "The food tastes disgusting. The quality of the food is a disgrace..."
303. "NO - for a while tried ordering. I have had 3 children go through this school. All thought the lunch tasted terrible. (one of my children is a picky vegetarian, the other 2 eat a wide variety of food and make very healthy, generally fresh food choices)."
305. "Some are nutritionally questionable at best. Others are horrible looking and/or tasting (per the kids)."
306. "Poor quality, poor presentation..."
309. "Children do not like the proteins or sides"
312. "I know its a balance between healthy choices and what the kids will eat but they don't like many of the choices."
323. "My children always complaint that food is not tasty and sometimes its COLD! YUKE!
324. "Both my daughters would select more lunches IF the choses were more appealing to them. As it is, the only select the meals they enjoy."
329. "Certain food need to have better quality - like the bagel pizza, the New York pizza strip, and the animal crackers"
330. "My child says the chicken is always dry, the tortillia dishes are dry and hard, the pizza strips are too salty and hard,the veggies are always cold, the field trip sandwiches are always soggy and wet."
337. "I don't mind that the food choices are like pizza and taquitos; it's just that some of the choices are BAD. The pizza is horrible. If it were \$2/lunch, I would expect that, but it's over \$4! I wish they had more than one choice, too, per day."
344. "...some food doesn't taste good, quality is not good either."
348. "The kids says they do not taste good."
350. "Kids only like few items in the menu."
351. "I do not like the selection of food. Most of the meals are pretty gross."

357. "My child occasionally says that the food (eg.potato or chicken is too dry). The fresh carrots are too hard -- they once broke my child's tooth (how about steamed carrots?). The teriyaki sauce (chicken or beef) tends to be too salty for my child. The end pieces of the taquitos are too hard that my child ends up breaking it off and throwing the ends away."

358. "The consistency of the meal is not good. Some times it is soggy, not enough sauce, he doesn't like what is substituted."

359. "My kids dislike the food!"

367. "My child only likes a few of the options; if he enjoyed more of the selections, I'd happily buy the lunch everyday."

368. "its cold..."

372. "I feel that not quality ingredioents are used..."

377. "It is hard to find things that he likes and will eat. I have purchased lunch for more days and he didn't eat them, said they didn't taste good. They end up in the trash!"

378. "TASTE IS NOT GOOD."

386. "Kids don't really like most of the meals"

389. "It is not tasty."

390. "I stopped ordering school lunches, because my children started complaining about how bad they were, and I am paying full price for them!"

391. "Some of the food looks like it has been in a warmer forever (example: the cheese pizza bagel etc)."

393. "...My child's favorite foods are cheese pizza and macaroni and cheese, and she never chooses either of these dishes off the menu (says they are horrible)."

402. "my kid does not like most items on the menu I m[i]ght be forced to pack lunch if menu doesnot improve"

403. "...kids don't like."

406. "...The food tast[e]s too strong..."

C. Cost is too high/ lunch is not good value for the money (80 responses)

1. "... over-priced."

19. "The cost is very high at \$4.25. Other competitive school district (like Poway School District) give lunches at a much cheaper rate. Maybe, reduce the quantities to bring the price down."

28. "...plus it's quite expensive."

29. "...feel that the cost is expensive for some of the meals. My kids love some of the meals and don't like others."

42. "too expensive"

43. "Lunch at \$4.25 each is a bit expensive."

44. "Cost is high for what the kids get.."
47. "The price is too expensive comparing to the quality."
48. " I don't buy the school lunches because they are expensive and most are fried"
51. "...Paying \$4.25 for junkfood is pretty outrageous and I only do it because my children like the 'event' of getting food at school."
54. "The food quality is not always good, and I feel that the cost is way too high."
60. "Too expensive."
61. "It is too expensive"
72. ".... Expensive,too."
81. " Its too expensive and not of great quality. Kids land up throwing it sometimes."
- 82." really not great for \$4.25"
88. " The cost is too high and the quality of food is satisfactory."
93. "... it is very expensive for such the poor quality product and poor service is out of the normal way of conducting the business. I feel that all of us are being taken advantage by the school lunch program."
102. "It is too pricy. School district like Poway and Rancho Bernado only charged at \$2.50 per day, not \$4.25 per day here in Del Mar school district. I am not sure what makes such big price difference???"
104. "...price is too high, portion is too small"
105. " Too expensive for the taiste and quality. My kid love the subway better then school hot lunch. They're same price."
108. " First of all, it is too expensive..."
109. " Lunch is expensive for children compared to what I can get at work cafeteria. Would like to have a seperate price for milk since not all children can drink milk...."
117. "...I think it is expensive for the quality"
124. " too expensive, too many packaged snack items"
127. "over priced and not flexible to cancel during field trip or absent "
130. "...cost is also a bit high this year"
133. " expensive for food I could buy myself in the freezer section of the grocery store. Penasquitos' district's lunches are \$2 and are more homemade."
137. "Expensive ..."

139. "The price is high compare to other school districts' ..."
140. "...The cost of \$4.25 is too high for a kid meal. I usually spend \$5- \$6 for lunch at my company's cafeteria. I get main and side order, and it comes with very good size. .."
141. "Expensive..."
145. " Not in term of the content provided for the price. The school lunch money I provided was intended for children's meal, but not for school fund raising. We do have specific venues for raising funds."
150. "Too expensive. .."
152. "... it's kinda pricey for what they get."
154. "more expensive than other schools, San Diego and Poway. In addition, no more choice for each day."
161. "It is expensive for what it is being served as lunch..."
162. "very costly for what the kids get..."
164. "I feel the lunch is expensive in comparison to what is being offered."
166. "Its is very expensive for what is provided...."
172. "The cost is very expensive and the schedule is not flexible compared to other San Diego school districts where the cost is only 2 dollars per meal without pre-order and they even have a salad bar. Here, we are not credited for the lunches not taken due to illness or emergency and have to order 2 weeks in advance and the price is close or more than other commercial places like McDonald. If other districts in San Diego can do it, why not DMUSD?"
173. "For the price it is charged, I would expect higher quality hot lunch and kids would actually sit down and eat instead of throw most of their lunch away."
174. "Too expensive."
176. "Overpriced..."
177. "Minus thing is the lunch is kind of expensive comparing with other school districts."
- 178 " ...It is very expensive too."
191. " It's expensive for what the kids get."
199. "too low quality food for the moneytoo little emphasis on fresh and healthy food"
200. "It's way over priced. The food quality is not so good as well."
203. "... And worst of all is that they are so expensive, nothing like other public school, with cafe fresh made food daily and cost half the price. It's terrible food."
231. "too expensive"
236. "For what the child receives, it is very expensive..."

241. "The costs of the lunch do not meet the quality they should provide."
259. "I think it's not worth the price."
269. "I believe that is expensive for what my child actually eats. \$4.25 for such a small serving of an entree and I suspect that he does not eat the sides. Since I don't see what the portion sizes are and I don't get any left-overs back in his lunch box, I have no idea how much he is actually eating. He usually comes home from school VERY hungry, even on early dismissal days when he would have eaten within the past hour or so. I also have to pay for milk twice. I signed up for milk before he chose to start eating hot lunch, but milk comes with the hot lunch."
271. "...And the cost is relatively high"
280. "it costs a lot and I don't think the value is there."
288. "Why is DMUSD's school lunches so much more expensive than the school lunches at Poway Unified Schools? If the cost were as low as theirs, I would buy hot lunch more often than once a week."
289. "Lunch is costly and I do not think the food does not meets my nutritional standards, but my child likes to eat something hot not cold sandwich everyday."
299. "It is pricy by given the food."
307. "It is too expensive..."
310. "It's pricy though. I buy hot lunch to make my kid happy but I have my own budget limit too."
314. "I think the lunch itself is OK. But it is just way to expensive. It is more than double over other school district, such as Mira Mesa and Poway. And lot higher than the Solana Beach School District as well. We moved from Solana Beach School District, their lunch is equally good or better than DMUSD, but is cheaper."
316. "Yes, they're good, but the price is a little high."
319. "price is too high for what they are getting.."
321. "Cost is too high."
327. "the price is too high..."
341. "...The vegetarian option offered each day seems over priced in my opinion."
352. "Mostly satisfied. I have a son that can not drink milk and there is not an alternative or reduced cost option. So I never get him hot lunch as the cost of the milk is a good percentage of the cost of the lunch. I also think a lot of food is wasted, if the kids do not eat all their food, it goes in the trash."
354. "expensive..."
355. "...Cost per lunch has also increased but quality and choices remain the same."
360. "the portions are small and the price of \$4.25 is very over priced for what the children receive."
361. "Too expensive for the quality..."
363. "too expensive"
366. "Too expensive. ..."
376. "Over priced, poway school district much cheaper"

383. "Only issue is cost -- that's steep. I could buy them a 6 inch subway sandwich for the cost of a school lunch. It seems like Food Services is being run as a business -- if it really takes \$4.25 to break even, then somebody needs to go in there and start item[i]zing expenses line by line because that seems ridiculous. And if Food Services is making a profit at the expense of the kids/families, that just seems wrong."

392. "...cost is a little high so limited my daughter to four lunches per month."

400. "The lunches are expensive for what they get that is why I only do it a couple of times a month."

406. "It's too expensive."

D. Inadequate selection/variety (56 responses)

8. "...The vegetable is often the same - either carrots, celery or root. Carrot packaging is hard to open..."

13. "need better choices"

14. "Would love for it to be healthier."

18. "I would be more pleased with the lunches if they offered more variety of kid friendly lunches. My child likes the nuggets, so we only buy lunch when nuggets are served."

25. "Not enough variety Would like to see Mac and cheese come back and cheese lasagna"

28. "there isn't much variation, plus it's quite expensive."

34. "Almost every meal is chicken and it is the same food week after week, month after month. Not enough variety at all. I want more fruits and salads and how about some pastas and mexican food?"

35. "mostly, I wish there would have been more choices of thing he though tasted good."

41. "I am not satisfied with the complete menu, so I pick the day that my child likes the food."

43. "Program does not provide substitute items for food allergies - my child is lactose intolerant and I asked if they could give her water or a juice box and was told no."

50. "...not a lot of choice"

53. "need more varieties."

55. "Very little variety ..."

60. "Only one type of food is offered each day."

63. "Not enough variety and my son is becoming bored. Too much chicken and not enough other meats"

92. "I'd like to see opportunities to change up the menu from week to week, month to month."

94. "...No variety."

104. "variety is limited..."

115. "Not enough variety..."

127. "Also, should provide other drink option than milk (like juice or even water)"

152. "The choices seem limited...."

156. "Not enough variety, i.e. lots of chicken and no fish..."

163. "fried...lots of "chicken"....at least make the chicken quality better....serve cold waters rather than milk...."

171. "... there could be more options."

181." ... I think the children should have a choice of sides, so that if they don't like a particular fruit or veggie, they can still choose what may appeal to them. Often my son just wouldn't eat and just threw it away."

183. "...lack of variety"

199. "... too few choices, all choices are very similar, basically chicken or rice or pizza-based."

206. "Kids were having lunch 3 times a week, but got tired of chicken sandwich, chicken nuggets, and chicken teriyaki. Also, that is reason way they take sack lunches."

246. "...Not much variation"

252. "...Would like more variety for sides."

254. "No choices..."

262. "Would prefer more variety"

266. "I think there is not much variety in the menus"

271. "Does not have enough choices Almost every day is Chicken, no choice for fish"

276. "Not a whole lot of variety, I'm seeing lots of chicken nuggets and fried stuff (same things we were fed in school in the 80s!)"

278. "Not enough variety. Too many days with chicken nuggets/strips/patties etc.--things that I could easily make for my child that isnt that healthy."

284. "I would like to see more choices. For example, PB&J sandwich instead of main entree."

285. "I would like to see a greater variety of foods offered. "

287. "other school district has 2 options for lunch;"

294. "There aren't many different choices and my child only likes a few of the choices that are available."

299. "...There are not many selections and variaties. Chicken is almost on everyday's menu. "

300. "would like more vegetable choices (besides jicama)."

313. "not enough variety and really wonder about nutritional value"

315. "More variety(i.e., ethnic) would be fun..."

317. "Could use more variety of meals"

318. "Too much chicken on the menu. More fresh items and variety."

319. "....seems repetitive"

325. "need more varieties"

335. "the choices repeat too often ...I would love to purchase lunch for my child every day if the food was better. They started out eating hot lunch every day but have cut down to about 1 to 2 times a week because the selection is not so good."

344. "...very few selection..."

355. "The menu has stayed the same since our oldest started Kindergarten which was about 5 years ago. Not a lot of choices, mostly chicken this or chicken that...."

370. "Not Really, It is ok. Kind of boring."

380. "Not enough variety...too many "hot dog" choices & the nuggets are dry & bland."

385. "Same menu every month"

393. "Not much variety in the main dish, and no knowledge of side dishes (not shown on the menu), so not sure if adequate variety there. No choice of beverage (only milk). Never any seafood offered..."

403 "lack of diversity..."

E. Don't like the ordering system/logistics of lunch distribution (30 responses)

19. "If the child is sick, the current school lunch system doesn't allow pickup of the lunch which hurts for two reasons a) the child was really looking forward to the lunch and can still eat at home but cannot because pickup is not allowed. b)the cost is too high for a missed lunch. I really don't understand how it hurts the school if the meal is picked up - one cannot plan for sick days so it should be allowed. Can we have a similar system that caters lunch services for Poway School District over here?"

21. "small portions (4 chicken "balls"!), same options over and over, sometimes they run out of food but the parents aren't automatically given a credit. I'd rather we buy punchcards and if the kids want hot lunch that day they get their card punched, instead of pre-ordering."

27. "hard to book it that far in advance. I share custody and don't want to pay for lunch when the girls are not with me. It's not inexpensive."

33. "The ordering process could be simpler"

44. "... many times they have not received the lunches I purchased. I have witnessed the procedures for getting the kids their lunches. If I ran my business that way I wouldn't be in business. I also once got a bill for a lunch one of my kids allegedly ate when she didn't have lunch. The alleged lunch identified was supposedly eaten a month prior to me getting notice. Once again, pretty horrid management."

57. "It would be better if lunches can be ordered and paid online."

60. "Kid has to walk a long way to pick up her lunch. by the time she gets back to the lunch area, she doesn't have much time to eat."

69. "I would like to option to purchase the lunch the day of"

74. "she paid for one last month but apparently she was not on the list and did not get anything to eat... she went hungry.. you should have some things that kids can purchase and not have to order months in advance"

75. "not enough time to eat and play the kids always rush eating to have time to play"

86. "Often times when my child goes to get her lunch, they run out and serve tuna sandwiches. There needs to be a better system in which they manage the lunches."

93. "It is hard to order, the deadline for the date we can order is total doesn't make sense..."

102. "...Also, other school district only charges as you eat, they don't require you to pay one month in advance. And if your kid misses the school day or does not like to eat, the parents don't have to pay. Can Del Mar School district adopt those policy like other school district???"

108. "... Also I would like to be able to prepay for a couple of lunches, to be used "just in case" he forgot or something. There is no good option if his lunch is lost or forgotten or spills etc."

127. "... not flexible to cancel during field trip or absent" Also, should provide other drink option than milk (like juice or even water)"

130 "ordering too much in advance - very inconvenient"

149. "...In addition, it's hard to plan ahead and order the meals."

151. "Don't really know much about it except my kindergarten child is not reminded to pick up the sides (usually veg/fruit)& milk which he loves probably more than the main dish. I guess those items are distributed separately fr where they get the main dish."

162. "Kids dont' have enough time to get lunch and eat"

164. "The process to order hot lunch is a hassle with the pre-order so far in advance and weekly dates. I would prefer to have it like other schools do where you have a card with money and the kids can decide on a day by day basis...but again I realize this is not ideal with no kitchen on campus."

188. "Sometimes they run out of food"

190. "It is very inconvenient to pay the lunch. I don't understand why I can pay the payment by internet."

236. "Also, the ordering is inconvenient since I have to remember to go check the school website to see if the lunch form has been posted. There is no consistency on when the form will be available - it is a guessing game and most of the time I guess wrong and I don't get the form turned in on time."

260. "... not enough time for them to eat"

273. "When you stopped handing out the lunch order forms we stopped buying lunch."

277. "...I do NOT like having to remember to print out the menu. It was better when the menus came home in Wed. folders!"

289. "I also wish that I can purchase the lunch everyday, not 3 weeks ahead."

306. "... delay in serving and kid did not find time to finish the lunch due to long line."

335. "... the method of purchase is not very convenient. ..."

366. "...pre-ordering is not flexible. Recently the reminder in Wed folder was removed - as a result we ended up forgetting quite a bit."

F. Portions are too small (17 responses)

21. "small portions (4 chicken "balls"!)"...

96 . "Portion is a bit on the small size - kids tell me"

104. " ... portion is too small"

131. "The amount isn't enough..."
137. "not enough quantity .."
140. "...The quantity is too little. My 6 ½ year old boy always complains he does not get enough school lunch."
141. "...portions are small since many times the sides are gone by the time the ki[d]s with later lunch times go to lunch."
150. "... Sometimes it is not enough for the kid."
161. "...the portion is small"
185. "The kids say there is not enough food. They are still hungry after lunch."
215. "Sometimes kids complain not enough portion."
277. "Servings are not large enough ..."
326. "portion too small..."
333. "My child said that the amount is too small."
405. "...the quantity of food is too small ..."
406. "...the quantity is too little. My son always complains that he is too hungry after school."
410. "My child always comes home hungry on days he has school lunch. The portions are small..."

G. Not enough vegetarian selections (9 responses)

7. "not enough vegetarian options..."
170. "We are vegetarians which means we do not eat any meat and eggs. There are extremely few vegetarian choices in the lunch menu."
279. "No Vegetarian lunch except one day. It will be nice if you can provide veg lunch at least 2 or 3 days per week."
297. "Not enough vegetarian options"
308. "but would like more vegetarian options"
341. "We are vegetarians and there is a limited selection."
356. "Too much meat (vegetarians)..."
365. "Although I'm satisfied, I still desire more. We are a vegetarian/vegan household and the options are very limited for us."
372. "...No variety for vegetarians"

Question 7: Why don't you purchase the school lunch?

A. Health/nutrition concerns (32 responses)

4. "concern about hormones in meat and dairy, genetically modified foods, no fresh fruit or veggies"
10. "I don't want them eating the desserts."
11. "would like the option of natural meats, even if not organic at least, hormone, steroid and antibiotic free!!!! please!!"
12. "We used to, but meals are just not healthy or diverse."
16. "There is too much processed food"
21. " I would purchase more if they were healthier overall."
23. " Too high in saturated fat"
25. "not enough fruits, vegetables - drinks are low quality"
31. " I'm a single working mom but once a week I make lunch to make sure my kids get some VEGETABLES."
39. " It is a treat once in awhile but not so healthy."
44. " sometimes we do purchase the school lunch but not satisfied with it because it isn't healthy."
45. "Many "junk" food items, no (not enough) fresh veggie/fruits."
- 49 . "...would purchase more if there were healthier options more option"
63. "The sides should not be an option of more sugar or salt. Should include more fresh fruit and veggies."
66. "Very unhealthy, processed, not organic"
80. "It is "junk food" and high oin fat. the quality is poor"
83. "Too high fat and sodium. Would like to see more vegetable and low fat food."
87. " ...lack of salad type options, lack of fresh produce"
91. "it is important to me that my children eat fresh minimally processed food. Organic fruit and veg where possible. The current food is none of those things"
93. "I can provide a healthier and cheaper lunch for my child"
95. "the food is a fast-food quality, processed meats, full of sodium. why not serve foods like mashed potato (not from the box, actually done from fresh potatoes), piece of chicken breast, again not packaged, done freshly on a daily basis from scratch, plain rice with turkey meatballs (from scratch), boiled vegetables, I would love to enroll my child into lunch program at school and have no problems"

paying only if high quality foods are served, I do not want my child eating pizza, hamburgers, or chicken nuggets thank you for understanding”

96. “do buy school lunch, but it would better if we can have organic products (will buy more)”

99. “I require nutritious, vegetarian and hopefully organic choices. I wish we had such choices in the school lunch program.”

102. “...I would love organic items but understand that can be cost prohibitive. If I had a better idea of the quality, then I would be comfortable with the price point.”

104. “Lunch was too fatty, more like junk food.”

107. “...some items seem kind of greasy.”

108. “Want non GMO foods”

109. “junk food”

110. “we do once a week but i would rather it not be any processed food. organic would be a plus but not necessary...”

121. “All food should be organic. Foods that grow should be offered. No package food.”

123. “Toom many calories if my child eats the whole lunch”

134. “Seems to be quite a bit of focus on low fat. More concerning to me are ample protein, LOW SUGAR, and high fiber choices that are fresh”

B. Food lacks appeal/variety (24 responses)

1. “the food is disgusting”

2. “My child does not like it as she use to.”

13. “The food smells gross, the veggies are yucky looking”

17. “Not enough choices”

18. “Food is absolutely awful. Not fresh or healthy”

20. “ too few choices”

22. “ no vegetarian options every day”

24. “ First, the menu DISGUSTS everyone i know. Second, you charge WAY too much. We never get hot lunch anymore because of these things.”

27. “ small, lousy quality meals at high prices.”

33. “The lousiest food quality and value I have ever seen and tasted. It's a big disgrace.”

56. "Both children claim the food is disgusting!"
57. "The freshness and readiness of the food"
71. "Some of the items are disgusting, have you tasted them?"
72. "My child says the food does not taste good."
77. "My other child does not care for the lunches and never eats hot lunch."
85. "too many chicken dishes"
87. "minimal variety"
111. "...They [the children] also say the taste is not to their liking."
117. "i wouldnt pay even a cent for your horrible crappy food. too oily, disgusting. my child's friends say the they wish they did not buY the lunch because it SUCKS and my child even found an entire fungus growth in his friends lunch. i am even thinking of suing this horrible meal program. CHANGE IT IMMEDIATELY! or else, you will lose the money you got from those fundraisers you had. i AM SERIOUS!"
119. "Food is not even [fit] for human consumption"
120. "Choices are limited as well as variety."
126. "TASTE IS NOT GOOD..."
127. "The lunches are of poor quality..."
133. "It's disgusting. In order to try and make it "healthy" it is no appetizing to the kids."

C. Inconvenient ordering and other logistical issues (23 responses)

3. "It needs to be ordered too far in advance"
6. "Not convenient. Ordering so far in advance is not practical"
14. " limited window from when menu arrives to deadline to order (for monthly orders)"
19. "Option to purchase day of."
29. " Sometimes they do not serve what was supposed to be served on a given day and the child ends up with something that they might not eat."
30. "You have to pay in advance. If you kid misses the school day, you still have to pay. It is a very bad policy!!"
34. " Have to order one month ahead of time. Other districts don't have that restriction"
36. " For the few items my child does like, I would be more inclined to purchase if there were an option to order and pay online."

38. "ordering too much in advance"

60. "We want the flexibility to order on the day we want lunch than planning about it a month earlier. It would be much easier for parents who cant pack lunch on certain days to let the kids buy from cafeteria."

65. "Aside from high cost, I hate writing so many checks. Can I pay by cc#?"

70. "Ordering process is a pain."

74. "one has to order too far in advance"

79. "No order forms provid[e]d. Online only is not good option."

81. "Only being able to pre-pay online is very inconvenient. If I was able to pay cash, I would probably purchase school lunch more often."

82. "I don't remember to print the form out in time and there are no reminders!"

100. "it is very hard to deal with the payment system -- I often get the forms with insufficient time to review with my kids and select; I would really appreciate an online ordering system (orders for a given week due, say, on Friday at 5pm the week beforehand)"

102. "I would like to have the choice on any given day, rather than having to plan the week or month prior what days he will buy..."

107. "must be ordered in advance and I don't know what day to order it by. I would like to order online and pay online. It would also help to get a reminder email from the district that tells you order by a certain date."

124. "To hard to pre-purchase."

125. "have to order too far in advance"

130. "We spent one year in Salomar Beach District, which allow student to purchase lunch card and decide if they want to have lunch on certain days, not like preorder and without refund if not taken, plus, they have salad and refresh fruit not canned fruit."

132. "Would love the ability to order lunch the night before for my child"

D. Cost is too high/ lunch is not good value for the money (9 responses)

24. "you charge WAY too much"

27. "small, lousy quality meals at high prices."

43. "Torrey pines highschool lunch is around \$ 3.00 with drink. Elementary school lunch is too expensive. I often visit in school. A lot of students throw away their school lunch. I think the reason is they don't like that. It needs various food item they can choose that day. (2~3 choice per day)"

86. "I only let my child have hot lunch once a week due to the cost of the lunch."

88. "...also the price is much higher than other school district"

89. "The cost is ridiculously high. Even the neighbouring school district Solana Beach does not have as high a hot lunch meal. I believe they are under \$3.50 there."

93. "I can provide a healthier and cheaper lunch for my child"

127. "...We have 5 children, this SHOULD NOT BE a PTA fund raiser. It is far too costly for larger families like our to afford. Given the food that is provided, \$2.00 is the max per lunch that should be charged."

139. "Cost high for families of 3+ children"

E. Prefer to prepare home cooked meals for my child/ child prefers food from home (9 responses)

5. "I prepare fresh homecooked meals daily. A school program might not be able to compete with this."

50. "I prefer that my son eat meals prepared at home for the most part."

42. "it is easy to send lunch with her"

53. "my kids are too picky"

54. "I can see what my child ate at lunch when his lunchbox returns home after the school day"

55. "i would like to provide more nutritious meals for my child"

75. "Our children enjoy lunches prepared at home."

94. "I enjoy making bento box lunches and using food from our garden."

131. "My other child is more picky and prefers home choices"

F. Food is being thrown away by children. (7 responses)

15 "There is no controlover the children eating hot lunch and most of it is thrown away creating lots of waste!"

43. "...A lot of students throw away their school lunch..."

47. "Children trash 90% of the food purchased."

48. "I don't want the food wasted - he throws out un-eaten food."

111. "The children always eat the sweet item and throw away the main item...."

113. "My child does not eat very much and would waste the hot lunch."

13.234 "....Lastly, I feel like there's ALOT of wasted food going on which strongly affects my willingness to order hot lunch... Often times my daughter says she got carrots or other items she doesn't care for & tossed them immediately. I've witnessed many children doing this... Children should be able to leave

unwanted packaged items behind or have someone collect all the unwanted items so they're not just being dumped.... VERY wasteful!!!!!"

G. Medical concerns (6 responses)

40. "Fructose allergy for child #1"

58. "My child's medication eliminates hunger completely during school hours."

6. 210. "My kids have celiac disease and there is nothing on the menu that they can eat."

78. "Need gluten free"

114. "mostly peanut free"

115. " My child is allergic to milk"

H. Beverage issues (5 responses)

32. "should be another non-dairy beverage option (soy milk or juice)"

67. "Water in not an option as a bevarge."

6. 198 "Please provide soy milk too."

9.134. "drinks including some balanced nutrition elements (Vitamins, minerals, etc) but less sugar."

9.135. "My child does not like Milk...other options should be available"

I. Not enough vegetarian selections (4 responses)

59. "There is no decent vegetarian option. PBJ everyday does not make a good lunch."

64. "Vegetarian option is non-existent"

99. "I require nutritious, vegetarian and hopefully organic choices. I wish we had such choices in the school lunch program."

122. "no vegetarian option"

J. Portions are too small (4 responses)

88. "the food is not enough for my son, but too much for my daughter..."

97 The portions are too small and my child always is hungry when he gets home.

126. "...SO SMALL QUANTITY"

127. "...there is not not enough food. We stopped buying your lunch because we still had to pack a lot of extra food. ..."

K. Not enough time to eat the food (4 responses)

26 . "My children don't want to do hot lunch because the lines are too long to get the food."

73. "By the time my child (K) gets her food she does not have enough time to eat it. "

76. "our son did not want to loose play time, and a bag lunch was quicker."

128. "I want my child to eat his lunch he brings from home and then play on the playground. If he spends time in the lunch line, it will take away from eating and playing."

L. Children feeling as 'outsiders' when they are a minority that orders lunch (2 responses)

68. "Last year we bought hot lunch every day, I loved it! But...hot lunch kids can't save a seat with their friends and end up as 'outsiders'."

141. "My child used to participate in the hot lunch program every day, but she hated to be one of the few in her class who had to get it in line and started eating later than the majority of the class. The benefit of the program did not outweigh the peer pressure of homogeneity."

M. Issues with the way that food is presented. (2 responses)

92. "The way food is preseneted makes the kid to throw away the food"

105. "I think that my children WOULD care for the food if it were presented in a manner that appealed to them."

N. Miscellaneous (2 responses)

98. "I don't consider the cost too high but save money making lunches at home."

118. "the rules associated with the food- the child cannot take home the cookies or crackers in the factory sealed bag if they are not able to eat them (it punishes them for eating their lunch first and cookies last)"

Question 9: If there are criteria that are important to you that were not mentioned in Question 8, please state them here.

Only responses on topics that have not appeared in other parts of the survey have been tabulated here.

A. Make sure food is appealing to kids (26 responses)

1. " I let my child choose what she likes for lunch. So that kid has to like it is more important for me."

45. "low calorie meals that taste good"

48. "Taste - I would buy more hot lunches for my kids if they liked more of them."

6.148 "The kids seem to eat it. It is only nutritious if it gets inside of them. Changing the program to something that they will not eat will make me buy less or not at all"

60. "My issue is not nutritional value as much as taste of the food. My child does not like how the food tastes."

73. "The kids don't like the "healthy" meals served, so they don't eat them. Baked chicken products do not taste good. So buying them is a waste of money for the parents. You need to have food that the kids will eat. Healthy is important but still need the kids to eat it. "

74. "Meals that are good quality with food the kids will eat and enjoy."
80. "Food that taste good and is attractive to kids"
90. "Simple, basic, kid friendly foods that kids will recognize; if it looks 'weird', kids tend to not try it regardless if they would actually like the taste of it."
99. "Food that kids actually want to eat."
100. ".. the food [my son] HAS eated in the past (some of them) are very spicy." [referring to past school lunches son has eaten]
101. "food that kids like to eat is very important"
105. "Need to be appealing to kids."
109. "Taste and kid friendly for picky eaters is a high requirement for us as well as freshness and quality"
114. "It should be healthy, but also something my child will eat. I'm afraid if it's too "healthy" it will backfire. It should be delicious and kid-tested."
121. "My child must like it!"
123. "Meals that my child likes and finds tasty and fun"
- 133 "While all of the above is important, the meals should also appeal to the children."
158. "Meals that my children find appealing"
168. "Meals that are healthy AND taste good. :)"
178. "...It's important to provide healthy meals but if it tastes bad the kids are not going to eat it..."
180. "I NEED THE TASTE TO IMPROVE OR ELSE I WILL SUE YOU . I SWEAR TO GOD! I LIVED WITH THIS LONG ENOUGH AND I CANT TOLERATE THIS!"
191. "Food that my child thinks tastes good and will eat. If he won't eat it, I won't buy it (even if its healthy). I know my son would just go hungry instead of eating food he doesn't like."
197. "I believe that for children of elementary school age, creative, visually-appealing (fun) and great tasting choices are as important as those with nutritional benefits. If the child is not interested or inspired to eat something, it will get thrown away and it won't matter how healthy, organic, or fresh/unprocessed the food was anyway."
209. "Just make fun and yummy lunches. The kids will enjoy and the school will make money. It's simple..."

218. "Low cost, and kids would actually eat, and not throw away."

B. Please reduce or eliminate sugars in meals (12 responses)

3. " Please no added sugars in anything. If dessert means anything other than fresh fruit, then I'd prefer no dessert."

5. "Eliminate chocolate milk and processed foods. Canned fruit with corn syrup is just horrible. Pizza, chicken 'nuggets', burgers are also junk - we would never order from the school lunch program if these items are not eliminated. The statistics on child obesity don't lie - these types of foods do nothing but fuel the problem. "

18. "No refined sugar or corn syrup."

28. " sugar free options (not using sugar substitutes either, whole wheat (not just wheat)"

49. " I want that the student don't receive the cookies."

79. "Do not give kids sugar and then send them back to class. They can not concentrate"

125. "Lower fat/ lower sugar/ higher fiber foods. No high sugar alternatives like choco milk."

141. "Please provide: Foods low in sugar Foods low or without artificial sweetners."

159. "Kids don't need dessert with lunch."

177. "...please do not offer chocolate milk. This should be reserved for a desert not a daily lunch item."

198. "Chocolate milk is a poor food choice, loaded with sugar and low quality ingredients. It should not be a part of the school program. Only water should be served to the kids."

206. "Either have chocolate milk or dessert, but not both. I don't want my child just drinking the chocolate milk and eating a bag of cookies."

C. Specific requests regarding the healthfulness of food served. (10 responses)

103. "100% whole grains vs "whole grains""

119. "Grass-fed beef, responsibly farmed animals"

120. "organic milk, in particular"

128. "It is important to me that my child receives some sort of green vegetable (not an iceberg lettuce salad) with lunch. I would also prefer that fruit and vegetable items not be canned."

164. "NO GMO (Genetically modified foods) organic generally complies with this"

167. "The "dirty dozen" veggies/fruits should be organic when used. Not as much meat (more beans, whole grain rice, etc."

184. "Some claimed organic milk is not organic as it is homogenized. Homogenized milk is not organic. Milk should not be homogenized."

196. "Heating up of foods in plastic wrap that can leak into foods. Very dangerous!"

211. "In the whole grain category we only accept Quinoa and Barley. No fruit juices, instead the real fruit. I feel more comfortable providing my own lunch: no processed foods!"

215. "I am very particular about the dairy/meat to be hormone, antibiotic free."

D. Beverages (9 responses)

29. "Choice of drinks are not mentioned in option 8. I think organic milk and fresh juice and free drinking water should be offered."

30. "It would be nice if you could somehow integrate the milk program and the hot lunch program. Since I already pay for milk every day through the milk program, it doesn't seem right that I have to pay for it again when I buy hot lunch."

35. " ... For those students not drinking milk, I would like another drink option...water???"

106. "Another option other than milk available to dairy free children. "

108. "Alternative choices for drink such as fresh juice rather than cow's milk."

149. "...juices for lunch must be available"

161. "milk that is all fat-free/skim"

207. "drink options - water or flavored waters or iced tea etc."

210. "...Would like juice to be offered as an alternative to milk (whether or not someone was on a dairy-free diet)."

E. Need list of ingredients/nutritional information for meals served. (6 responses)

7.62. "My children require certain nutritional information for each meal."

136. "I would like to see, online, a list of ingredients for each meal. For example if there is a sauce, what is in the sauce. Or if there are toppings/seasonings. My daughter next year has an allergy to milk. So I have to make sure it doesn't contain milk products (cheese, caisen, etc.)"

13.45. " We would need to know the carbohydrate per serving. Our child is a Type 1 diabetic."

189. "The nutritional content of the food to include total carbohydrates, calories etc."

202. "make the food allergen information available"

204. "Food that is nut free or ingredient labeling so parents can determine if food is suitable for child with allergies"

F. More ethnic foods, please (5 responses)

91. "Healthy more oriental style foods, like rice and vegetables."

129. "Please provide more oriental meals such as rice and noodle."

5.315. "More variety(i.e., ethnic) would be fun..."

13.107. "...I'm sure kids would appreciate a Japanese bento box, or an Indian meal, or even a chinese salad! I know my kids love to eat an ethnic variety of foods and love to explore new options. ..."

7.137 "lack of asian food with such a huge population of asian kids"

G. Beware of excessive focus on "healthy" and "organic" (4 responses)

39. "You are going overboard with the "healthy alternatives". Sometimes kids go without eating the hot lunch (because its so gross) and then have to spend the day without any lunch at all! PLEASE get better food!"

114. "I'm afraid if it's too "healthy" it will backfire."

122. "organic is a scam that schools should not get sucked into"

147. "Important is different from "would enjoy" - your questions will get different responses accordingly. On line ordering and on line payment would make it much easier. Without going the whole "organic" route you could still significantly improve the meals..."

H. Food -related medical concerns (4 responses)

9. "We are not able to purchase lunch because of a peanut allergy."

17. " My daughter is tree nut allergic. I have been told that even the usually nut-free meals (like pizza, chicken nuggets, etc.) cannot be assured to be nut free. Even if not all meals are nut free, it would be nice to be able to see on the menu one or two options a month - that are assured to be nut free.

21. "My child can only have Soy milk"

23. "Will provide substitutes for food allergies"

I. Want vegetables to be "sneaked" into the entrees (2 responses)

6. " I would love to see vegetables "sneaked" in to the entrees."

12. " Maybe vegetables hidden in some of the entrees."

J. Miscellaneous (2 responses)

169. "non processed food would be ideal but does not half to be prepped that day..."

181. "please consider using recyclable packaging and provide containers to sort/accept them"

Question 11: Given that the current cost of a school lunch is \$4.25, how much would you be willing to pay for a lunch that meets your nutritional and taste requirements?

A. Numerical responses outside the ranges given in the survey. (120 responses)

Price range	Number of families
less than \$2.25	5
\$2.25 to \$2.75	6
\$2.75 to \$3.25	31
\$3.25 to \$3.75	17
\$3.75 to \$4.25	55
greater than \$5.75	6

B. Remarks about the high cost/ lack of value for price of the current lunch and comparisons with lunch policies with those of other school districts'. (49 responses)

2. "Other local districts are not that high"
8. "Cost is too high already"
10. "current rate is too high! budget of around \$2 like in Poway School District"
12. "I'm trying hard to understand why our lunch costs so much compared to other school districts and even our own Carmel Valley Middle School?"
26. "I think you are already over priced."
28. " way to expensive for especially if you have 3 or more kids at school. PRices should much Solana Beach School District prices. we are at the same neighborhood and the cost of lunches there is half. I wonder why?"
30. "the cost is still to high for us"
38. " Solana Beach is lower than DMUSD"
40. " It is already pretty high and we should try to keep it the same if not reduce the cost."
41. " Too high!"
43. " I'm not willing to pay more than \$2.50 for all the table scraps that you serve my family."
44. "I think they are all too high for the amount of food they children get."
46. "School lunches are way too much now! I wouldn't pay more."
48. " \$4.25 is obscene for school lunches. this should not be a money making enterprise for anyone. lunches should be made onsite. on the east coast, school lunches are typically under \$2.50, including a drink and secind helping. "
49. "I think the current price is already too high to justify it..."
51. "I think luch price is too expensive compare to other district."
59. "too expensive"
60. " Why does Del mar district have to charge more than Poway and Solana beach district?"
61. " not much more. Other schools have better lunches for half the price."
62. " current prices are too high for our budget..."
65. " i think \$4.25 is already too expensive."
67. " the current cost is already way above some of the other school districts'."
68. " I know this can be done more cheaply"

70. "\$4.25 is already high, considering kids sometimes throw most of their food away."
72. "I do not how much te current \$4.25/lunch budget could do without having a portion of it donoted to the fund raising."
76. "None of them. \$4.25 is expensive."
100. "I believe that we are paying way more than other school districts for our current food service. We should be able to have all the bells and whistles for \$4.25."
113. "too expensive as is; we do not participate for the cost with such poor quality food"
117. "....Right now I pay \$4.25 for food that is worth close to \$0.00. I'd rather pay \$6 or \$7 for a real meal, not an "entree" and bag of chips or carrots served on a paper plate after waiting in line for most of the lunch period."
121. "I would not pay above 4.25 - this is too expensive as it is."
124. "no way i will pay higher cost unless it's justified. please see line 9."
127. "too costly already, I have watched kids throw away the majority of their lunches so they can go play"
128. "price is too high, wish we could get food, but not such a high rate"
132. "School lunches should be cheaper....\$2-3. Prices are ridiculous!!!"
134. "As a parent of two children from another state with nutritous, great tasting, lunches costing \$2.00 with a milk, these prices are unbelievable! I will continue to pack my children's lunches. Thanks"
137. "Cost is too high as it is. Lunch should be around \$2.50."
144. "I think \$4.25 is too high "
145. "Reasonal price as poway school district"
150. "None- currently feel the lunch is priced too high"
153. "other school districts offer lunch at \$2 to \$3, don't understand why ours charge this much"
158. "I think the cost is already too high....."
163. "These lunches are way over priced...how can you justify these high prices? You can buy an entire low caloric, fat free meal from Subway for the same price!"
174. "the lunches are to pricey as it is"
179. "Lunches at other schools are fresher and cheaper "
181. "too much money already. I have 3 kids"
191. "Feel value for current lunch is not good."
196. "will buy less often if price increases. Already high"
197. "This price is already too high"
200. "Elementary school lunches across the country average no more that \$2.00 to \$2.50 in cost. Why are these #'s so high. Our previous elementary school provided a great hot lunch for \$1.25 per day. Sch"

C. The price I am willing to pay depends on offering (9 responses)

6. "depends on the offerings"

161. "If the cost went up again, I would refuse to buy hot lunches. Unless they were totally organic, fresh, unfried and larger portions."

117. "As much as the quality of the food justifies. Right now I pay \$4.25 for food that is worth close to \$0.00. I'd rather pay \$6 or \$7 for a real meal, not an "entree" and bag of chips or carrots served on a paper plate after waiting in line for most of the lunch period."

157. "if we want mpor nutritious lunch we have to pay the right price, just make it fair."

167. "Price is not as important as product being served. I'm open to all prices if there is quality."

169. "If all organic items were avail, would pay accordingly."

171. "It would depend on how many of the check boxes you cover but on the lower side would be preferred. The kids only have a limited time to eat, so you have to balance cost with what might end up in the trash in their efforts to get to recess."

187. "The quality of the food is more important to me than the price. You get what you pay for."

205. "quality is important, not cost"

D. No limit on cost, as long as lunch is satisfactory (7 responses)

9. "whatever it costs to feed our kids a proper fresh lunch"

21. "whatever it costs. it is very important to me."

39. "as much as it would cost to have have a meal which meets my requirements"

52. "Whatever it costs to provide a healthy meal based on mainly organic ingredients"

173. "I am willing to pay even higher price, if we can provide fresh food that was prepared daily instead of frozen food. Is that possible?"

178. "regardless of cost toxic/carcinogens have their price to be paid in ill health sooner or later"

182. "The amount necessary to meeting the above standards"

Question 13: Suggestions for improvement.

A. Foods parents want to see offered (115 responses)

5. "No desserts...just a banana (which is hard to pack) or apple"
10. "salad bar, smoothies"
17. "Fresh, fresh, fresh"
18. " Hot, tasty, nutritious food would be great."
20. "Offer burritos (can be bought from a local Mexican restaurant and made fresh). Offer pasta."
27. " Healthy portions of the meal should not be optional. Kids need the nutrition. Meals should incorporate nutrition in the main dish, and not just as an optional side dish--especially when that option is a bruised pear."
28. " FRESH, LOW-FAT, ORGANIC, WHOLE FOODS PLEASE!"
29. "Please include natural meats, no fried foods, more variety. Seems like the same few meals are constantly being rotated. More vegetables, salads, lettuce wraps. No cold meats, that is something we can pack and always nitrate free."
30. " If less fried and more baked meats along with fresh fruits were available daily and the cost was less than \$5 a day, I would order daily"
32. "...More variety of items."
35. "some other foods can be relatively inexpensive, such as stir fry noodles, or wraps"
37. " How about a salad bar with veggies and fruits that are fresh, not canned or frozen."
- 38 "Provide more salad items"
39. "The quality of the food in the school lunch is so below standard. You would really need to improve the quality of the food before I considered paying such a high price for such sub-standard food."
40. How about some pasta choices like spaghetti and meatballs, mac and cheese, etc?
42. "Cafeteria with salad bar!!"
43. "Better side dishes."
44. " Offer more steamed vegetables. Offer more fresh fruits and not canned and preserved. Offer more fish and other seafoods."
49. " I was surprised by the minimal vegetarian options at this school. In other areas that we have lived before, every day there was at least one vegetarian meal. Thanks for this survey and I hope you will consider this for 2011 - 2012."

51. “ offer water as a drink choice or orange juice with calcium added . Maybe just a vege sandwich like tomatoe, cheese., lettuce, pickle , cucumber , avocado .. like a healthy subway sandwich . Pasta with red sauce , asian noodles with chicken and some veges, vege or chicken rice dish (not fried chicken) Bacon , lettuce tomatoe sandwich on whole wheat with fresh mango side. hard boiled egg with salt and pepper , carrot sticks with ranch “

53. “ Nutritious and simple. Doesnt have to be hot. Pizza fridays. Dont change out the menu so much keep it simple. I think every ftiday should be pizza friday with one other choice. Get rid of disgusting looking food. Consult a NUTRITIONIST (duh) to help make meal plans. Get rid of hot dogs n other disgusting meats. Get mini cheese pizzas from pizza hut delivered every friday for pizza friday students. More fresh fruits and veggies. Carrot sticks with ranch. Celery with peanut butter. Bananas. Apples. Its not that hard. Moms pack nutritious lunches EVERY day for their kids n tthey EAT them. Get rid of all nutritionally replete foods and replace with nutritious food. Its SUPER easy!!!”

54. “ Have a buttered noodles selection”

57. “ When we were at the RSF elementary school (10 years ago?) they purchased/contracted lunches from the deli in Fairbanks ranch. You could select from a few choices each day - usually a deli sandwich or a hot meal (spaghetti, pizza). It was high quality and yummy. On Wednesdays the student council offered pizza day. Interested families had to sign up for the whole year at the beginning of the school year. It was very popular - I think it may have been from the ranch deli too.”

58. “ more raw carrots, cheesesticks. burgers/hot dogs:with cheese on the side. “

59. “Buffet, with salad, bread, and sandwich meats. “

60. “ Good milk, not as oily pizza, Strawberries!!!!”

65. “ i wish there were more variety and healthier options, and more whole foods. also non-dairy drink choices (choc silk milk?). the kids should be allowed to get seconds of any portion of the meal if they are still hungry. no dessert (or a very small dessert) should be served, they do not need any sugar provided at school. i would like to be able to prepay for a "lost lunch" fund, so my kids could get a lunch if they needed one (in a pinch). thank you :)”

69. “ We would like a mexican bowl on the menu-- spanish rice, black beans, cheese, sour cream, tomato, olives, avocado”

71. “ Although we didn't purchase any school lunches this past year, in previous years we had.... I would also prefer that the sides provided included a mandatory whole fruit/veg item. When I would ask my child what she picked for her side for the day, it was usually some sort of cracker.”

73. “ A fresh salad bar, and fruit stand, let them make their own choices. “

74. “ Spaghetti and meat/tomato sauce. Lasagna. Fresh fruit salad. Hearty soups. Tacos with steamed corn tortillas.”

76. "My child cannot drink milk or soy milk and prefer to have the option to take juice or water. Only time I don't order lunch is if my child does not like the food selection, not sure if you can give 2 options each day."
78. "I would love to see healthy Chinese food on the menu!"
79. "fresh fruit"
81. "fresh salads, grilled chicken, fresh pizza, etc"
82. "Good quantity and "hot" lunch "
84. "more cheeseburgers"
85. "Real cheese. Pasta. Better pizza."
87. "Include fruit, whole grains; healthy food in general."
90. "Pizza, normal, not on a bagel, would be great, like once a week. It's a well balanced meal."
91. "More pasta choices"
95. "better variety ... also having the items they enjoy more often."
98. "Organic Vegetarian sandwiches with whole wheat bread; whole grain pasta with veggies. Milk should be optional."
99. "It is hard to keep a hot lunch warm when they eat outside so either go with food that is supposed to be served cold or soups/casserole types that have a chance of staying warm."
103. "Offer fat free organic milk as a choice. Offer more fresh fruits and veggies instead of crackers and sweets."
104. "Things like pot stickers or mashed potatoes, casadita would really improve the variety. On the east coast kids are offered tuna salad sandwich, egg salad, chicken salad sandwiches. Even egg and cheese sandwich would be great. Soup is another great nutritional lunch. "
105. "More variety"
106. "items from health conscious places to eat and lots of variety"
109. "would like to have more soy products than dairy products."
116. "Kids love smoothies - not sure how feasible that is. They love healthy hot lunches too - organic burgers would be awesome. Fresh fruit instead of packaged sweets are preferable for dessert."
119. "Tastes good. While it is great they provide raw broccoli, green beans and other healthy sides currently, they are not foods that most 7 year olds will eat. More bananas, apples, etc should be choices because if they don't eat it, it isn't healthy for them."
121. "Certain foods seem to be offered on the same day i.e. pizza on Mondays and if you don't like Pizza you can never get hot lunch on Mondays so we want to suggest switching the days and food around"
123. "The pizza is too soggy. Please improve the pizza. Also, offer a variety of lunches it's pretty expensive but there isn't a variety to choose from"

124. "I would like to see more sandwiches with cheese, choice of protein and tomatoes with hummus or other healthy spread, side of non-canned, non processed vegetable and fruit slices that daily prepared such as bananas, grapes, apples, pear or plum, broccoli, cucumber or celery or carrots with a healthy dip. Some dried fruit such as prune, raisin or apricot. "

125. "the meals currently are "over processed" and of poor nutritional quality. I also question the handling of the food, my son got sick off of a meal last year and so we stopped ordering. at home we enforce healthy choices, and focus on serving unprocessed food. lets just face it, the food served at DMUSD is overpriced and nutritionally questionable so as a result, we have stopped participating."

126. "Make the food taste better!!!!!!!!!!!! and include foods that are delish and still nutritish."

130. "Salad bar"

131. "Overall, I am satisfied with the program and I believe we must be reasonable in our expectations. I ensure that my children eat a healthy breakfast and dinner, which I can easily monitor for nutritional value and balance. I think the school lunch program is fine, and perhaps just as nutritious as many packed lunches sent by parents. I would like to think that there is a bit more variety, it seems chicken/pizza represent 3/5ths or 4/5ths of each week's menu."

133. "Ability to specify fat content of milk (ie 1%)"

135. "no lines healty good tasting prepared the same day food not zoggi and greesy.it has to shape up or you can totaly stop to serve lunches the children are our future they derserd way better lunches. The prise is sky high for such bad lunch. My children will not eat it"

136. "I would like to see less pizza, hot dogs, corn dogs and chicken nuggets. Instead of pizza, how about whole wheat pasta? Instead of corn dogs, how about grilled chicken sausages? Instead of chicken nuggets, how about teriyaki bowls with chicken, vegetables and brown rice. Instead of rice crispy treats, how about a yogurt parfait with low fat granola, low fat yogurt and some fresh fruit? Instead of chocolate milk, how about plain milk that is hormone free? Instead of hot dogs, how about grilled cheese on whole wheat bread? How about bean and cheese burritos on whole wheat tortillas instead of taquitos? How about a make-your-own sandwich day? How about sloppy joes on whole wheat buns? As you can see, I think that are many more nutritional options and more effective ways to bring in whole grains and stay away from processed foods. "

139. "Make it much more appealing to picky eaters. ...Other days shoot for more nutritious with better taste and appeal."

144. "lactose free milk option would be great"

153. "Fresh fruits and other alternative veggies like broccoli, steamed corn, diced cucumbers. Melted cheese sandwich, low fat cheese."

155. "It may be difficult to unring the bell, but I think chocolate milk should not be offered every day-maybe twice a week as it adds unnecessary sugar into their diet and is hard to have them choose regular milk over chocolate"

156. "If more food groups could be offered, such as fish is offered once per week, we would be much happier."

163. "I would like to see one day as a pizza day from a local pizzeria (maybe Fridays)."

167. "Yogurt. fresh vegetables that vary across days. Bananas, oranges, apples. chicken nuggets in various forms are not the only food staple for a growing child."

169. "would love to see rice milk offered. love the idea of a salad-bar as a side option. monthly new featured items for kids to taste test/sample as a way of adding to menu. featured veggie or fruit to include during a month - showcase it in different ways - broccoli raw, broccoli in stir fry, in a salad, etc. "

170. "MORE PIZZA BURGERS HOLD ON THE CHEEZE,TACOS MORE VIGGIES OR SALADS W DRESSINGS"

180. "fresh meat wraps, non-processed foods "

181. "Can peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or grilled cheese be an option? or dino nuggets and mac n cheese? quesadilla soft."

183. "There seems to be a lack of variety. How about some healthy salad items that might include a protein ingredient, caesar with chicken or taco salad with chicken and black beans or a healthy fruit salad with a side of some sort of protein. Pizza can be made healthier with a whole grain crust or a chicken teriyaki bowl with veggies included. I know that it must be difficult to serve large scale, healthy meals that please all but it seems that some improvements can easily be made. "

184. "The food should be fresh and green(ish)."

185. "Showing younger kids how to open milk. Sandwiches are healthy choices"

186. "Macaroni and cheese or pasta with different sauces would be a great choice"

188. "I like the idea of buying school lunches if they were made locally with fresh ingredients--my perception has always been that these were like astronaut meals, which may not be fair--but that's been my perception..."

189. "Is it possible to provide freshly made pasta sometimes. It is never same when made in the morning and stays in thermal bottle for lunch."

191. "soups and stews, cooked fresh would be great, specially during colder months. Cold pastas with veggies and more salad and fruits for warmer days."

193. "Dal (lentils), tofu, no hot dogs, more fruits and vegetables, salad bar"

195. "warm veggies that are supposed to be warm and cold when they are supposed to be cold, would like mac&cheese added, strawberry milk, tacos, and better quality food on field trips."

196. "We hope there are more menus. If you provide two choices for lunch everyday, we can choose the meal more times. "

197. "Offering skim milk as well as lowfat would be nice."

199. "I think there should be less fat foods and more healthy things like a fruit bowl,a Rice Krispie...."

200. "she wants water with her lunch ,because that's her choice of drink"

201. "If there was any way to provide fresh food that is prepared daily."

202. "Focus on FRESH fruits and vegetables."

203. "more variety, ? cafeteria style vs pre made"

204. "more choices"

9.177. "It would be great to see kid friendly fermented foods such as yogurt or coconut kefir added to the menu. They help digest the food and help kids immune systems fight off all the sick bugs. Maybe we wouldn't have to use so much hand sanitizer if we had good immune systems...."

205. "I would like to see more home cooked wholesome food on the menu with a vegetarian option. I would not feed the type of food that is offered on the school menu at home."

208. "choice of local fruit..."

209. "Fresh fruits and vegetables; maybe salads..."

210. "fruit smoothies would be an excellent addition and can include all components that make it a complete meal."

211. "Have an option where they don't have to purchase a whole lunch- ie hummus and pita, fruit salad, salad, breadsticks."

212. "It would be nice to be able to purchase just the hot entree. I could pack juice/milk and veg/fruit that is to my child's preference but he could still enjoy a hot meal also. Our kids are wasting too much food."

213. "peanut free and fresh fruit no juice please"

214. "First of all vegetarian meals are available only on tuesdays. secondly, sugar contents is very high in desserts. food such as Powdered donuts and high corn syrup should not be included in child's lunch menu."

216. "sandwich bar. my friends school in boston offers a sandwich bar for the kids to make their own PBJ or turkey sandwiches. huge hit! they also have a yogurt bar, a bagel bar, and they offer pizza every single day. they have little kiosk manned by volunteers with these items and the kids LOVE to pick their lunch. supper easy for moms bc no matter what, your kid is going to find something fun to eat. pizza day, hotdog day, popsicle day...those were always fun when i was little. I can't imagine pizza as any less

healthy than the chicken nuggets or the egg/bean burrito that replaced it. middle school has pizza everyday???? and yummy breadsticks from little caesars. they offer a lot better options for only .25 cents more. i would pay .25 cents every single day if we had those options!!!"

220. "sometimes, my child only wants to order the school lunch for the candy or dessert in it. So when we attend the children's lunch and see them throw away the food and only eat the lunch, it makes us a bit upset. I vote for no dessert or have fruit instead. I liked the yogurt idea or yogurt bar. The need to reduce processed and fatty foods is important as obesity continues to become more and more a problem. Let's promote healthy eating, even if it reduces menu choices. It's difficult to find a balance between tasty foods and good sellers however if continued efforts prevail then we can set a precedent and the kids will only be winners from it. thanks!"

222. "-Better variety with introduction of some new items over the course of time. -Better value - Healthier side dishes"

225. "More fresh fruit (apples & oranges)."

226. "Cheese and crackers, turkey sandwich, ham sandwich, whole wheat pasta with olive oil or red sauce. Whole wheat bagel with cream cheese."

230. "...I don't like that they can choose chocolate milk either..."

231. "Homemade soups in the winter season."

232. "Again, I beleive that the choices should be creatively healthy (maybe theme-based), fun to eat, and visually appealing (as much as is possible)."

233. "MORE MENU AND BETTER TASTE"

236. "more choices for the side dishes (kids say always the same choices, different choices for drinks (including water))."

242. "Please try to provide fresh fruit ..."

248. "...Please add to the variety of fruits and vegetables available."

249. "More fruit and vegetable choices"

251. "option between 2 entrees maybe a meat dish and non meat dish?"

252. "How about food you.know they like pizza, spegetti, ravioli, chicken nuggets, grill cheese, etc"

253. "My daughter does not drink milk. We would like lunches without milk to be available at a lower price."

257. "More variety would be nice. A lot of lunches involve bread chicked of some sort."

B. Foods parents do NOT want to see offered (14 responses)

36. "Not serve fry foods"
52. "If you can provide lunches that are made of non-processed foods and reduce or eliminate fried & high saturated fats from the menu that would be great!"
56. "less Chinese as these are ones we never order"
71. "...I would prefer that flavored milk was not an option..."
83. "No pizza, chicken nuggets, hot dogs or hamburgers"
111. "NO CHOCOLATE MILK as an option--it's ALL SUGAR..."
114. "less pizzas, sometimes food is soggy, sometimes the food isn't filling enough"
115. "Skip the flavored milk altogether :-)"
137. "Please don't offer chocolate milk. If a child won't drink regular milk, their parents can offer chocolate milk at home without tempting my child. That is one reason I don't order more meals."
174. "Let's get ride of weird terriaki orange chicken, funky meals the kids can't even pronounce and get with the times. For goodness sake, you can get a better meal from Subway or Vons...what is with the high price?"
182. "My kid's previous school provided organic lunch, but actually that was not real organic food, just named organic, but the menu was kind of junk food, e.g. hot dog, pizza, burger, chicken nugget, etc... No one wants to get just named organic lunch."
229. "Less processed foods, no fried foods, more nutritious desserts or no dessert"
242. "...keep high sugar drinks out."
245. "No Pizza, who-knows-what chicken and beef patties, no donuts or other packed snacks, no fries, no fas[t] food type"

C. What parents say kids will eat (8 responses)

4. "I have learned that children will often not eat fruit that is presented whole. Cut it into pieces and they gobble it up."
12. "Perhaps the kids will be more likely to eat the fruits and veggies if they are GIVEN to the kids with each meal (rather than let them decide whether to take it or not)."
13. "More chicken nuggets on the menu. Smoothies? Bestter or at least different choices"
61. "Kids adore fresh fruit, yet it sounds like there isn't much offered at school. It seems like an easy way to improve the nutritional quality of the school lunches. And for heavens sake, stop offering crackers as a side dish!!! Goldfish are junk -- something to be eaten as a treat, not as apart of a balanced meal. That's absurd. They offer zero nutritional value. Just empty calories. I'd rather see

three different fruit choices -- maybe one fresh, local option (apples in fall, berries in spring), one fresh always-available option (grapes, bananas), and one shelf-stable option (no-sugar-added applesauce, dried mangoes, raisin, pineapple canned in juice). If regulations require you to offer veggies, how about raw veggie sticks with or without dips, beans, baked potatoes, sweet potatoes. If the main dish doesn't include a grain, then a grain should also be offered as a side. But please, make it a nutritious whole grain. Brown rice, 100% whole wheat bread, even popcorn!"

66. " They love subway sandwiches"

92. "As a kindergartner and first grader she wanted hot lunch. This year (2 grade) she said it did not matter what sort of lunch she got."

111. "I have 2 children at 2 different schools, Sage-K and Del Mar Hills-6th. Sushi, pasta, sub sandwiches, ravioli, low-sodium soups with bread on the side, salad with grilled chicken (low fat dressing), ...grilled chicken patty sandwiches, salmon burgers, vegetarian pizza not loaded with cheese and grease--these are items that are healthy and tasty and my kids will eat."

128. "...My 1st grade daughter is very picky when it comes to food, but she does loves organic spinach lasagna from Jimbo. It is tasty and nutritious. I think most kids would like it."

D. What kids say they will eat. (10 responses)

1. "she would like to have more choices for lunch."

2. "My child said she'd definitely eat hot dogs and pizza. If there are natural/organic versions of these, that would be great."

19. "My son suggests fresh fruit salad and soy or rice milk :-)"

33. " from kids: bigger napkin, choice of side dishes, bigger entree, choice of chocolate or regular milk, use recyclable or reusable trays"

46. My child says that sometimes the hot food is cold and the cold food is warm. She also suggests that there be more "chicken or beef" than rice in the bowls."

50. " My son says he likes all the chicken dishes. Doesn't like the pizza bagels. Likes pizza, but not the pizza provided. He wants more cheese/toppings. He would like mandarin oranges added to the menu."

125. "...my son has asked me if jamie oliver's food nation could visit sage canyon so that they would not serve junk anymore. out of the mouths of babes!"

151. "her comment is that there is chicken in the lunches very frequently. maybe more variety."

206. "My son would like more vegetarian selections (no brussel sprouts:))."

217. "My kids love honey mustard and onion pretzels. That's what they are asking for."

E. Logistics: ordering, distribution of food, etc. (11 responses)

6. "While improving the quality of the lunch is a great step, another way to have children eat well and not waste food is to have recess before lunch. They will also enter into the classroom with better attention and focus. Many scientific studies support this."
8. "To be able to buy lunch items during lunch if child did not bring lunch that day."
9. "My child would like more careful monitoring of the lunch line - sometimes kids who didn't buy lunch sneak through the line and so they run out of lunches for those who paid!"
24. "I have never lived in a school district that you could not send \$ for same day school lunch ordering. I can't imagine why it has to be ordered a month in advance."
26. "Need to be able to order on the same day."
32. " (1) Would like ability to order and pay on-line (2) Would like email reminder of when it is time to order. School does not give me menu/notice so I am often late ordering (3) More variety of items. (4) Ability to see on-line what child had such as Poway district has."
41. " I wish lunch could be delivered to their classroom, especially for lower grade students."
43. "The lunch itself is not a problem, the transaction charges when ordering online is our concern. These charges should not be there; it should be standard practice in this district as it is in other school districts. The paper/check method is antiquated, and the order cutoff date is also inconvenient."
47. " Last year, my children occasionally got hot lunches. A complaint I heard many times, other than they didn't like the food, was that the lines were long and often times the food items were substituted."
48. "If we cannot open cafeteria kitchens at our children's schools, and food cannot be prepared onsite (meaning it's fresh and warm), then please provide other resources and tools our kids can use to bring lunches from home that are nutritious, fresh, and warm when they need to be. For example, kids should have a fridge in their classrooms or lunch area where they can store homemade items that need to stay cold. Or, a microwave to warm up items that should be warmer. Lunches are placed on the ground and sometimes are exposed to the hot, hot sun for hours before a child gets to eat it. I have seen this throughout Torrey Hills Elem. and it saddens me that if a child brought yogurt or fresh fruit, it may not be appealing after his/her lunch has been exposed to sun for a number of hours. Children end up throwing away a lot because, by the time they can eat it, it is no longer appetizing. If the lunch program does not improve, I would love to have the option of sending my child with items leftover from our dinner, but my child would need to store it in a fridge or heat it up and this is not possible. Think of a workplace, we have areas where employees can prep their food at lunchtime. You think this is not possible but both my children attended a Montessori and they were able to warm up their own meals at lunchtime."
9. 32 "It would be great if lunch could be purchased same-day, not just pre-paid. Sometimes we need an emergency option!!"

63. "UNBELIEVABLE that online and credit card ordering is still not implemented. Menus do not come out with enough lead-time before first payment is due. Have a contest for kids to design a month of their favorite, most healthy lunches."

80. "I wish that the kids would get the whole lunch and that someone wld be around to make sure they eat it! TOO RUSHED to get to recess/free-time."

88. "The younger kids need to be reminded to pick up the sides and the drinks especially if it is being served fr a different line or place."

89. "Other schools have a debit system that parents can pay into and students/parents can use a pin # to pay for the lunches they want. It would be ideal for students to be able to choose that morning to sign up for lunch that day or even just a week in advance. Part of the benefit of buying school lunch is the convenience on those certain busy days where preparing at home is difficult. Just a "wishlist" request!"

93. "We should get credit if we miss the lunch we have already paid due to sick or other reasons."

94. "Offer same day payment"

101. "If the kids could chose what they will eat and only pay for the food that they would actually eat. As a parent I would like to see lunch item being sold by item and lowering the cost of the school lunch."

108. "dont make them take food they just turn around and throw way. Make it more like the high school where they are offered but not forced. Plus high school has Little Ceasar's pizza for their combo lunches "

117. "the cost for online ordering is way too high! Check into mylucnchmoney.com, much better system!"

127. "Lunch time is too short - only 15 minutes. It is too short even for an adult."

132. "an email needs to be sent out to remind parents when the next payment is due."

134. "Make ordering easier and quit increasing the price so much every year."

140. "Allow hot-lunch kids the ability to pick a seat with their peers, THEN get their lunch. (Having a friend hold their seat doesn't work; it gives the friend too much 'power')"

141. "Would be nice to be able to have a lunch account to draw from rather than writing a check every month or week. FYI, I do like getting the email confirmation so that I know my order was received."

142. "Some lunch items are not available at the second lunch period."

149. "I don't like having to order so far in advance. A week wouldn't be too bad, but the system in use last year was not practical for me. I don't use school lunch this year because I have two kids eating and \$8.50 a day times five is \$42.50 a week. That's 'way out of my league! For that amount, I can feed my

two elementary children and my junior high child a good lunch with freshly cut fruits and vegetables and a sandwich on whole grain bread.”

52. “My child does not have enough time to eat his lunch. I'm concerned about purchasing a hot lunch as it would make it even more difficult for him to finish. At least with the lunch I provide him the leftovers come home and I can see how much he has eaten and he can eat the rest when I pick him up from school. I would imagine that the hot lunch items would be wasted/thrown away a lot of the time.”

160. “Reminder emails to sign up in advance would help tremendously! Busy lives, hard to remember to sign up so far in advance. ...”

164. “More flexibility with the ordering process, ability to change orders due to absence, field trips etc. (time to order ahead is way to long currently)”

176. “Give 30 minutes to eat the lunch. Covered seating for all children will be useful when the lunch line is too long.”

194. “The lunch system needs improvement - right now most of the kids that don't have hot lunch go through one gate at once and it is uncontrollable and the kids that have hot lunch have to try to go in at the same time. It would be better if some of the kids go in at an earlier time. Also, it would help if there are two supervisors with hand sanitizer per three grade levels (instead of one for all six grades).”

218. “Need to have tables to sit at and eat. He does not like having to taking one of everything and then waste the food. There should be a way to take home food not eaten. He feels rushed to eat lunch and does not always get to finish.”

235. “The hot lunches are served pretty late. It would be nice if they were ready for the kids as soon as lunch begins.”

236. “...I would like to see on-line/credit card ordering without such high pre-transaction fees.”

234. “if possible..include a picture or better description of the food item so my child can remember if she liked it the first time or if she wants to try it now. She always forgets the difference between a pizza bagel, pizza bread, new york style pizza, pizza quesadilla etc. TOO CONFUSING!!!! The "hot dog" choices are even worse...turkey dog, chicken dog, mini dog, bagel dog etc...”

250. “online ordering would be much easier but the fees are ridiculous”

9. 116. “Supervision is needed to insure that students take all components to make a balanced meal (especially with the young children). I witnessed first graders going through the hot food line and taking only a doughnut!”

F. Find a different vendor for providing lunches (20 responses)

i. Ki's

3. "I don't have any specific ideas, but I know Ki's restaurant in Cardiff makes school lunches that meet many of the standards that most people probably are looking for: organic, local, healthful & fresh"

7. "Try out the Ki's children lunch menu and copy their standards of quality."

75. " Use Ki's Lunch Program"

86. " Del Mar Pines had contracted a company to bring in lunches for their students and the lunches were amazing! Things like pasta with ground turkey sauce and garlic bread, fresh tuna sandwiches, and pizza Fridays, were provided. Why can't our school do something like this? I would buy lunch a lot more often. I would rather buy them a healthy hot lunch vs. a sack lunch from home." [Del Mar Pines uses Ki's]

7. 37 "Ki's Lunch Program would be a wonder addition - Santa Fe Christian uses their services and they are wonderful and healthy"

148. "I know people who have the Ki's school lunch program and they love it. I would definitely consider that."

158. "KI's in Encinitas has a school lunch program...Highly recommend it. High quality /low fat organic food."

221. "i have used Kis in the past. it was awesome!! i really liked choices of smoothies. and they always had a vegetable bar... even hot soups would be good or a nice pasta or rice dish...or a grilled chicken please please please do something!! We live in a nice area. Both my neices in AZ and San Fran they are not allowed any sugar for lunch, no dessert, no kids bringing in tons of sugar for holiday parties and birthdays. There is so much at our school. i will eventually have 4 kids coming to school at del mar heights. We can do better!!"

ii Subway

15. "Consider day subway or other options"

34. " 1 Subway sandwich is \$2.50 and it is more nutritious than school lunch. School lunches are too expensive, but the quality is not satisfied."

iii Other suggestions to find an outside vendor

11. "Overhead FUN banners telling the kids how many servings of each they need in a day-so they can think about their choice. Working with local kitchens to help facilitate fresher ingredients, update the school kitchen resources so they are not just reheating frozen foods."

64. " use a fair and open process to let private providers to bid for the service"

8.14 "Have you ever thought of having a day where a pizza company sends in pizza for lunch- I know people complain about things not being healthy but doing that once a month would thrill my children. How about a subway day???"

77. " seek other campus catering companies in the area. Other schools not in DMUSD are happy with the food service they receive"

96. "Contract with local restaurants to make packaged lunches for a small fee and pay a courier to deliver them!"

139. "...Offer Dominoes or Papa John's once a week like the Solana Beach School District."

198. "when my daughter attended preschool, the school lunch catered through Metro Catering for \$5 a meal was delicious and nutritious and only needed to be ordered a week in advance. I'm sure the price could go down if there were more orders."

207. "I know that Jimbos Naturally would be willing to work with us and provide healthy lunches that meet all the above standards for \$5 per child. I'd love to help any way I can to make these changes happen..."

237. "It would be helpful to contact outside vendors"

260. "Get Revolution Foods to supply food for DMUSD lunches. They are already at seven other schools in San Diego -- they have sustainable and organic food. Poway School District has a buffet salad bar, bigger portions and healthy food. Why can't we have that?"

G. Have a look at what these school districts are doing (6 responses)

16. <http://www.powayusd.com/Nutrition/prices.shtml> Poway Unified School District offers very good lunch services in a very affordable range. I think something similar should be implemented here.

23. "here is the link to the school lunches at PS 87 in New York City..the food was excellent, healthy and reasonably priced. Just click on PS 87 wellness lunch menu
http://www.ps87.info/site_res_view_folder.aspx?id=43779a36-46a1-4112-9ef3-70131fafcdad"

31. " Solana Highlands Elementary have a GREAT lunch program. They get 2 choices, sometimes "breakfast" for lunch. Water or juice would be a great option because my youngest can't drink milk. I'm sure other children cannot, as well."

159. "Check with High Tech High - they have an outside caterer that provides yummy and healthy foods that the kids like. That's what I've heard."

243. "Look at the lunch program provided by the Solana Beach School district. They include many healthy choices, salad bar etc."

260. "...Poway School District has a buffet salad bar, bigger portions and healthy food. Why can't we have that?"

H. Gather input from kids directly. (7 responses)

63. "...Have a contest for kids to design a month of their favorite, most healthy lunches."
67. "I would love for the kids to somehow be more involved in menu planning, gardening, or other aspects of food preparation or serving. Probably not that realistic but I dream of my kids going to a school like that."
11. 42 "I know that it costs money to prepare and present good lunches. However, why not create a Parent Nutrition Council to review costs and provide input. It would only have to meet 4 times per year and could include a rep from each school site with an alternate parent for back-up. Students should also be on the Nutrition Council, which I believe some districts have in place. Thank you!"
- 122." How about including student ideas and incorporating students in the cooking and planning?"
165. Survey children what kind of vegetable they like. For example, many children are not against cucumbers, cauliflowers, etc. Leaved vegetables can be minced and mix-cooked with meats or eggs."
190. "Find out what the children like. Survey them."
228. "Taste-testing the food with kids -- including items that are historically popular in home-packed lunches (yogurts, fruits, etc.)"

I. Portion size (6 responses)

21. "larger portions for boys in the upper grades."
26. "Need to have a bigger portion size. "
- 9.96 "Portion is a bit on the small size - kids tell me"
110. "The children want more food. They are upper grades and are still hungry. Maybe have a larger lunch order for older kids."
154. "Portion sizes should be considered when providing lunches. It doesn't seem reasonable that the same portion size that is provided for a 5-year-old child would satisfy a 12-year-old child. When my eldest was in 6th grade, there was simply not enough food for him."
227. "Smaller portions for the lower grades, thinking about calories when putting together a meal."

I. People happy about the fact that this survey is being conducted (14 responses)

22. "Thank you for doing this. I know there are limitations in the DMUSD schools that make preparing healthy, fresh foods difficult. I appreciate that you all are looking into creative ways to change the current offerings."
28. "I am so glad you are asking for feedback from parents. I hope you can make lots of changes to the current lunch program."

70. "Just doing this survey is a wonderful start-- healthy lunch food is so important. Thanks so much!"

112. "I love that parents are involved and trying to get better meals for our kids. However, given budget constraints in our district, I don't know that this will be fiscally possible without charging parents A LOT more per lunch which would greatly deter me from purchasing the lunch."

129. "as stated above, it looks like whomever wrote the survey knows exactly what is needed. that is what needs to happen!"

160. "...Thank you for the survey."

161. "I like the idea of this survey for the reminder that nutrition is always important. There is no need for raw sugar like candy, etc. at school, because if it's available kids will choose it over better options. Let's resist the trend toward empty calories, but let's also make our own decisions, without pressure from the politicians."

171. "Thank you for addressing this very important issue!"

188. "...Thank you for doing this survey!"

207. "...Thank you for taking the time to have the conversation!!!"

9. 195. "Thrilled about the survey!!! Would love to see improved choices and fresher, healthier foods!!"

9.199. "For us, it is important that there not be junk in the food. Non processed real food! Thanks for the survey."

230. "...I appreciate that there may be changes on the way."

254. "Thank you to all the volunteers who are taking time to have a healthy neighborhood for our kids to grow up. Greatly appreciate your effort."

K. People satisfied with the current lunch program or some aspect of it. (5 responses)

131. "Overall, I am satisfied with the program and I believe we must be reasonable in our expectations..."

9. 205 "I have two children: one loves hot lunch everyday and would not change a thing..."

238. "The lady who communicates billing info over the phone is very helpful."

242. "Please try to provide fresh fruit, and keep high sugar drinks out. Otherwise we are very satisfied with the current lunch provided to our children"

255. "I think the lunches are fine. They are already expensive. For the amount of food the kids actually eat (whether its prepared that day, fresh, etc.) I don't want to pay more."

L. Become a part of the current food movements: farm-to-table, chefs involved in school lunches, expose kids to the foods of other cultures, educate kids about nutrition. (11 responses)

9.83. "Expand on variety of food to open kids' eyes to different cultures and tastes."

97. "I would be happy to talk to someone about ways to improve the lunch program. I have over 20 years in the food service industry which includes being an executive chef at several 4 and 5 star hotels. I also helped Penn State University with their food program for their students...."

102. "Make better use of local farms. It would be cool (on many levels) for our district/school community (the whole community; school and families alike) to be involved in a community garden/farm program which our lunch program could also benefit from. Teaching our kids the importance of the concept of "from farm to table", working together to build stronger community, as well as supporting local farms."

107. " My children have purchased the school lunch in the recent past and both of my kids do not like it. We eat healthy organic meals at home, and the quality at school is not great. The choices are redundant and boring to them. There are very few whole grains (only rice and wheat) and rarely include a vegetarian meal. Chicken is on the menu much too often! why not use a a program with creative meals and organic options. Our school should be a leader in nutrition for other schools, not following along with the un-educated majority about S.A.D. (standard American diet). Fresh vegetables, whole grains and vegetarian options should be the norm! And with the diversity at our schools why not include some diversity in the meals? I'm sure kids would appreciate a Japanese bento box, or an Indian meal, or even a chinese salad! I know my kids love to eat an ethnic variety of foods and love to explore new options. and with the beautiful garden at the school, why not utilize the garden and tell the kids..."these radishes are from our garden?" There is more then enough garden beds to provide food to be used on occasion. Especially if a fresh salad bar was ever an option. Here is a helpful link: <http://www.thelunchbox.org/> and here is an upcoming event.. Thursday, Feb. 18 10:30 a.m. to noon Whole Foods Market Hillcrest Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Press Conference Chef Ann, local and state politicians, as well as representatives from SDUSD and Whole Foods Market will discuss ways to improve the current school lunch program and will launch a call to action campaign to ask Congress to increase the USDA lunch allocation via the Child Nutrition Act. Whole Foods Market will provide a Chef Ann-inspired "healthy school lunch" menu following the press conference. Read more: <http://www.sdn.com/sandiego/2010-02-17/blog/eat-drink-san-diego/renegade-lunch-lady-to-appear-at-healthy-meals-healthy-kids-expo#ixzz1DlnzKx2e> Please make the change!!!!!"

118. "Check out chef Jaime Oliver's school lunch revolution that transformed England's school lunch system."

125. "...my son has asked me if jamie oliver's food nation could visit sage canyon so that they would not serve junk anymore. out of the mouths of babes!"

145. "Join the school food revolution and do not serve food that you can find in gas stations like the food you are serving now :(PLEASE SERVE FOOD THAT IS PREPARED THE SAME DAY AND NOT MICROWAVED and please make the change before the 2010-2011 school year"

209. "...Could the District "partner" with a Chef or group to help to plan healthy offerings that taste good? Could there be classes where they learn about nutrition and make some items to eat for themselves?"

215. "Please incorporate more food and nutrition programming into the lunch program. Our nutrition week really opened my kids up to a wider range of foods. It seemed to help to hear from someone else that you should eat the rainbow and not eat everything out of a box!"

244. "Lunch should be part of the teaching curriculum. Color code the five food groups. Serve something from every group at every meal. Serve desserts separately at the end of the meal. Kids should learn that they can eat as much as they want, whenever they want, if they eat the right kinds of foods. I wish I had been taught that when I was younger. Kids should learn that the majority of packaged foods are not healthy, and they need to be proactive and take responsibility for what they eat."

258. "ongoing education, making it cool and important to eat healthy - getting the kids involved in picking the items etc."

M. Remarks on cost reduction(3 responses)

113. "cost reduction can be done by looking at the processes and eliminate non-value added and reduce waste and may help reduce cost while improving quality"

150. "Not directly related to Hot Lunch - can we stop the Wacky Wednesday \$3 snacks ? The snacks should be \$1 or lower. For example the .50 cents popcorn is fine. We pay \$4.25 for lunch and then we have to pay \$3 for a snack so we paid \$7.25 x 2 kids for food!"

166. "high price lunch will cause less people to buy; then the % of overhead will be higher; then it will drive the lunch price even higher."

N. Ideas for reduction in the waste of disposable utensils. (3 responses)

128. "Since the current lunch packages required reheating, why can we not have large bin of organic spinach lasagna, spaghetti or organic mac and cheese reheated and serve the cafeteria way. This will help reduce the plastic wrapping."

157. "I'd like to see hot lunches that are dished out on the spot, almost family style. I'm bothered by the packaging and excessive trash currently generated. It would be ideal if kids could eat on real plates w/real utensils that are washed rather than thrown away. (after lunch, load up dirty dishes and haul away for cleaning.)"

172. "reduced packaging would be nice"

O. People wishing the DMUSD had its own food preparation facilities (5 responses)

120. "Create a "cafeteria" that has the ability to prepare and serve the food on campus."

146. "Build kitchen in school site and cook there to have a fresh and tasty lunch every day."

6. 311. "we wish the school had a cafeteria with hot prepared food."

192. "I think that the lack of a school lunch program that is supported by the children and parents is a disservice to the children, parents and the environment. I was truly shocked to learn of the state of school lunch in our district. Our kids at Del Mar Heights barely have a PLACE for lunch. Handing out lunches from card tables is not a school lunch program and it does not surprise me that my children are not interested in it. My idea would be to have a real cafeteria where children do not try to eat their lunch as quickly as possible to get out to the playground. Right now they EAT on the playground essentially."

246. "I have never understood why the DMUSD has made a systematic choice not to have cafeterias. All other school districts in the immediate area have cafeterias with much better choices and lower costs."

P. Miscellaneous

6. 264. "In terms of where district staff spend time and energy this is a low priority topic for me. We normally send our children with a healthy lunch. The lunch program is a convenience for our family when one of us has a business trip, but it is not a necessity."

138. "The kids complain of inadequate food temperature."

168. "take out the milk bags half an hour before lunch time to allow the milk to naturally warm up a little bit."

175. "Use as criteria - would parent, teacher or staff be happy eating the food? If not, then many kids won't like it either."

187. "The most important thing is for children to eat their lunch. Kids are not obese because they eat hot lunch in elementary school (one meal 5 days a week)."

219. "I am FURIOUS ."

247. "The milk is packaged in a pouch which is difficult for younger kids to drink out of. It should be in a standard kid size milk carton."

248. "Please stop providing whole fruits (except bananas) with lunches. Please cut them into sections so they are easy for the kids to eat...."