

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group
RE: NYC Teachers Survey – School-Provided Breakfast in the Classroom
DATE: June 15, 2015

NYC Teachers Overwhelmingly Support School Breakfast in the Classroom
Teachers Identify Hunger in NYC Schools as a Serious Problem for Academic Success and Health

New York City public school teachers believe hunger in school is a serious and growing problem for many of their students that hinders their academic performance and health and see school-provided breakfast in the classroom as a solution, according to a recent online survey of 517 NYC public school teachers conducted by Global Strategy Group between June 9 and June 14, 2015.

Key findings include:

- **Teachers are deeply concerned about hunger in New York City’s public schools, and say the problem has gotten worse over the past year.** Two-thirds of teachers (66%) say that children coming to school hungry is a serious problem at their school, and nearly half (48%) say it is a problem that has increased over the past year. Nearly eight in ten teachers (79%) believe a lot or most of the children at their school rely on school-provided meals as their primary source of nutrition.
- **Students are regularly coming to school hungry.** More than eight in ten teachers (85%) say they see children coming to school hungry at least once a month, with 64% saying children come to school hungry at least once a week or more because they are not getting enough to eat at home. Nearly two-thirds of all teachers (63%) report that they have been buying food at least once a month on their own for students who are not getting enough to eat at home, with teachers spending, on average, \$110 of their own money each month.
- **Teachers believe breakfast is critical to their students’ health and academic achievement.** Nearly nine in ten (87%) teachers say breakfast is important for students’ academic achievement, and 90% say addressing child hunger should be a high priority for school systems nationwide. Teachers believe that children who come to school hungry have difficulty learning due to a lack of energy (66%) and inability to concentrate (63%), and that breakfast can make students healthier (62%) and boost academic performance (64%).
- **Teachers overwhelmingly support school-provided breakfast for all students in the classroom.** More than eight in ten teachers (84%) support a school-provided breakfast in the classroom for all students, including a majority (55%) who strongly support the proposal. Three-quarters of teachers (77%) believe that it would be easy to make sure that every student has a healthy breakfast, and that a school-provided, in-classroom breakfast would be a positive experience for students (86%) because it helps ensure students are more energized and ready to learn (54%).

The bottom line is this: Teachers in NYC public schools believe that hunger is a serious and growing problem for many of their students. Without breakfast, teachers believe students’ academic achievement and health suffer. NYC’s teachers overwhelmingly support a school-provided breakfast in the classroom as a solution and believe it would be easy to implement and a positive experience for students that ensures they are more energized and ready to learn.