

# Illinois Teachers Overwhelmingly Support School Breakfast in the Classroom

84% OF TEACHERS WANT TO SEE THE STATE GOVERNMENT MAKE CHILD HUNGER A HIGHER PRIORITY.

## OVERVIEW

According to a recent survey, Illinois public school teachers say child hunger is a serious problem in their classrooms and **they want the state government to make the issue a high priority.**

Teachers across the state say they see children come to school hungry at least once a month. They are **worried about the effect hunger has on student academic performance and health.**

Teachers also say this is a solvable problem, and overwhelmingly see **school-provided breakfast as a solution.**

## TOPLINE POLL FINDINGS

More than **nine in ten teachers** believe breakfast is important for academic achievement (95%).

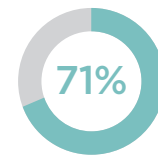
Three out of four teachers (74%) see children coming to school **hungry at least once a month**; nearly half (46%) say kids are coming to school **hungry more than three times a week.**

Two in three teachers show wide support for serving breakfast after the bell, including breakfast that is served to all students in the classroom at the start of the school day (63%).

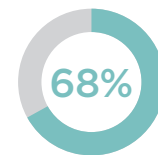
Teachers like breakfast in the classroom. Three out of four currently using this model say **it has been a positive experience** (74%).

## KEY FINDINGS

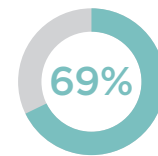
Of Illinois public school teachers who currently serve breakfast in the classroom, two out of three say it has been a positive experience and:



SAY IT HELPS STUDENTS STAY CALM AND FOCUSED



SAY IT IMPROVES STUDENT'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



SAY THE EXPERIENCE OF MOVING BREAKFAST INTO THE CLASSROOM WAS EVEN BETTER THAN THEY EXPECTED

# 3 out of 4

teachers in Illinois see students coming to school hungry at least once a month.



## MORE KEY FINDINGS

**96%**

of teachers say it is important to ensure that kids from low income families have access to school breakfast.

**80%**

of teachers say hungry kids have a lack of energy and an inability to concentrate, while 62% say coming to school hungry leads to behavioral problems.

**28%**

of teachers are spending their own money every month to buy food for students who are not getting enough to eat at home.

**15 minutes**

is the most time a majority of teacher's reported it takes to serve breakfast in the classroom.

**93%**

say they use the time to also do other classroom activities

**66%**

use the time to take attendance

**59%**

use the time for classroom announcements

## BOTTOM LINE

Teachers in Illinois public schools believe that child hunger is a serious problem for many of their students, and without breakfast, children's academic performance and health suffer. These teachers overwhelmingly support school-provided breakfast in the classroom as a solution, and those who currently participate in the program say it has been a positive experience.

Hunger is a solvable problem, but needs leadership from lawmakers. Teachers say they want to see the state government make this issue a high priority this year.

## METHODOLOGY

The Global Strategy Group conducted a phone survey of 500 Illinois public school teachers between March 15th and March 21st, 2016. The margin of error for the entire dataset is 4.4%.

## ABOUT NO KID HUNGRY

No child should go hungry in America, but 1 in 5 kids will face hunger this year. Using proven, practical solutions, No Kid Hungry is ending childhood hunger today by ensuring that kids start the day with a nutritious breakfast, are able to get the nutrition they need during the summertime, and families learn the skills they need to shop and cook on a budget. When we all work together, we can make sure kids get the healthy food they need. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of national anti-hunger organization Share Our Strength.

Join us at [NoKidHungry.org](http://NoKidHungry.org)

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