



What Kentuckians Think about *The Role of Schools in Children's Health*

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Results From the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky
and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



The overall health and well-being of students affect their academic achievement. In turn, students' academic achievement affects their health status in the future.¹ Schools, then, may be one place to help children be healthier.

To find out what Kentuckians think about the role of schools in children's health, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati included questions on the 2009 *Kentucky Health Issues Poll* about health education in schools and if schools should help families get healthcare.

Almost All Kentuckians Favor Health Education in Schools

Almost all Kentucky adults (98%) favored teaching health education topics—specifically nutrition, safety, and dental health—in schools, with more than 8 in 10 (85%) strongly favoring this. Support was similarly high among all subgroups surveyed by the *Poll*.

Do you favor or oppose teaching health education topics—specifically nutrition, safety, and dental health—in schools? (*Graph presents only those who said they strongly favor or somewhat favor this.*)



Do you favor or oppose schools taking a more active role in helping families get healthcare services for their children? (*Graph presents only those who said they strongly favor or somewhat favor this.*)



■ Strongly favor

■ Favor somewhat

Kentuckians Favor Schools Taking a More Active Role in Helping Children Get Healthcare

Three in four Kentucky adults (75%) favored schools taking a more active role in helping families get healthcare services for their children.

The subgroups more likely to favor schools taking a more active role in helping families get healthcare services for children included subgroups who typically have more difficulty getting healthcare services in general, including:

- Kentucky adults living below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG)² (91% favored schools taking a more

active role in helping families get healthcare services for children);

- Kentucky adults living in Eastern Kentucky, a rural, mostly Appalachian region of the state (86% favored schools taking a more active role); and
- Kentucky adults with less than a high school education (83% favored schools taking a more active role).

Finding affordable, quality healthcare is more of a challenge for some Kentucky families, and the *Poll* results indicate that these families might turn to schools to help them get healthcare services for their children.

¹ Cutler DM and Alleras-Muney. (2006) Education and Health: Evaluating Theories and Evidence. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.

² 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2008 was a household income of \$21,200 for a family of 4.