



# Support strengthens for schools' role in helping families get health care

The most recent School Health Profiles, published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reported that 71% of Kentucky secondary schools had protocols ensuring that children with chronic conditions are enrolled in eligible insurance programs.<sup>1</sup> In addition, about half of Kentucky's secondary schools provided health care referrals to students with chronic conditions. Healthy students can better achieve academic success than those facing challenges to their health.<sup>2</sup> To find out Kentucky adults' opinions about school health, the **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** asked two questions about the topic. KHIP is sponsored by Interact for Health and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

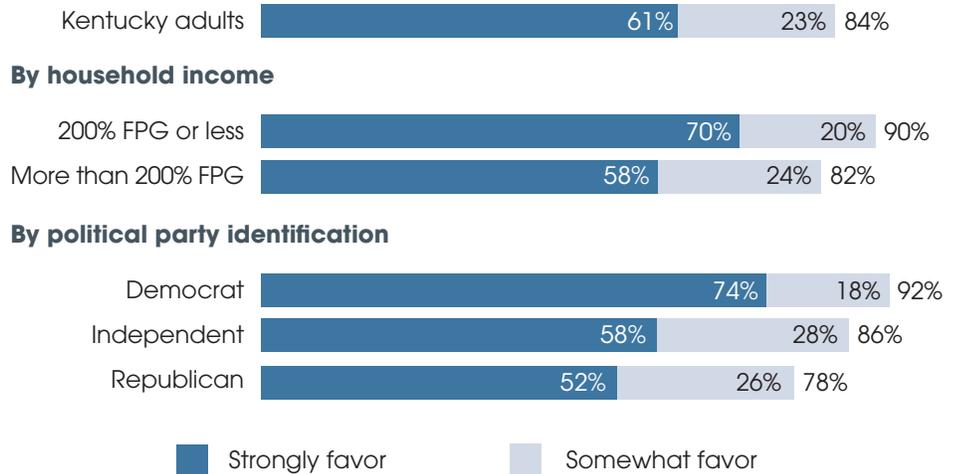
## MOST ADULTS FAVOR SCHOOLS' ROLE IN HEALTH

According to KHIP, support was strong for schools to take a more active role in helping families get health care services for children. In 2017, more than 6 in 10 Kentucky adults (61%) strongly favored this.

<sup>1</sup> Brener ND, Demissie Z, McManus T, Shanklin SL, Queen B, Kann L. School Health Profiles 2016: Characteristics of Health Programs Among Secondary Schools. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2017. Accessed Jan. 31, 2018, from [https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/profiles/pdf/2016/2016\\_Profiles\\_Report.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/profiles/pdf/2016/2016_Profiles_Report.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> For Kentucky data, see Student Health tab on <http://openhouse.education.ky.gov/Data>.

### Percentage of Kentucky adults who favor schools taking a more active role in helping families get health care services for their children



SOURCE: 2017 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released March 2018)



Adults in households with income more than 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)<sup>3</sup> were less likely than adults in households earning 200% FPG or less to favor schools taking a more active role in health. Likewise, Republicans were less likely than Democrats or Independents to favor schools taking a more active role.

Support for schools' role in health was significantly higher in 2017 than in 2009, the last time KHIP asked this question. In 2009, 5 in 10

<sup>3</sup> In 2016, 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines was \$48,600 for a family of four.

Kentucky adults strongly favored (52%) and 2 in 10 somewhat favored (23%) schools taking a more active role in helping families get health care. The economic and partisan divides found in 2017 were also found in 2009.

## ADULTS FAVORABLE ABOUT SCHOOL NURSES

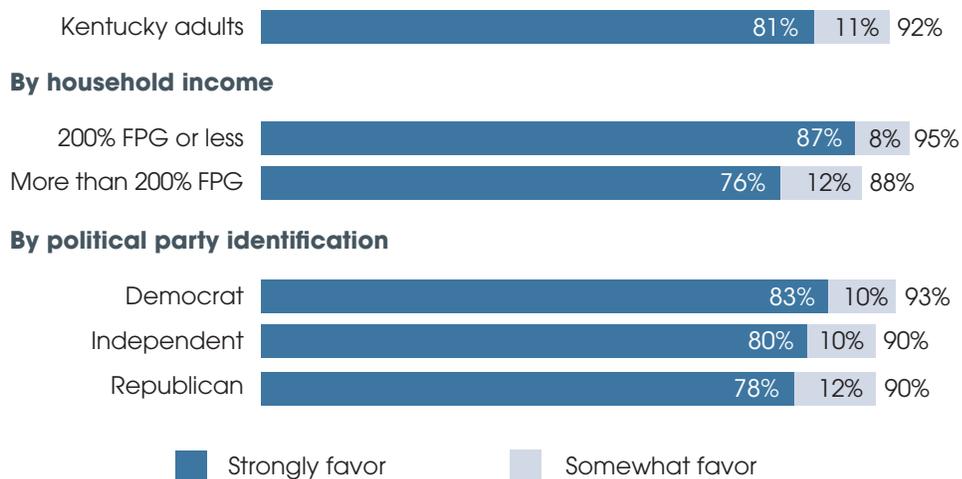
In 2017, Kentucky adults overwhelmingly favored (92%) a state law requiring schools to have a nurse in each school building. Support was slightly more likely

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among adults in households earning 200% FPG or less (95%) than among adults in households earning more than 200% FPG (88%). Support was strong across political parties. Large majorities of Democrats (93%), Republicans (90%) and Independents (90%) favored a school nurse requirement.

The School Health Profiles estimated that 54% of secondary schools in Kentucky had a full-time registered nurse who provides health services to students, 45% had a part-time registered nurse and 29% had a school-based health center.<sup>4</sup>

### Percentage of Kentucky adults who favor a state law requiring schools to have a nurse in each school building



SOURCE: 2017 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released March 2018)



<sup>4</sup>Brener ND, Demissie Z, McManus T, Shanklin SL, Queen B, Kann L. School Health Profiles 2016: Characteristics of Health Programs Among Secondary Schools. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2017. Accessed Jan. 31, 2018, from [https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/profiles/pdf/2016/2016\\_Profiles\\_Report.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/profiles/pdf/2016/2016_Profiles_Report.pdf).