



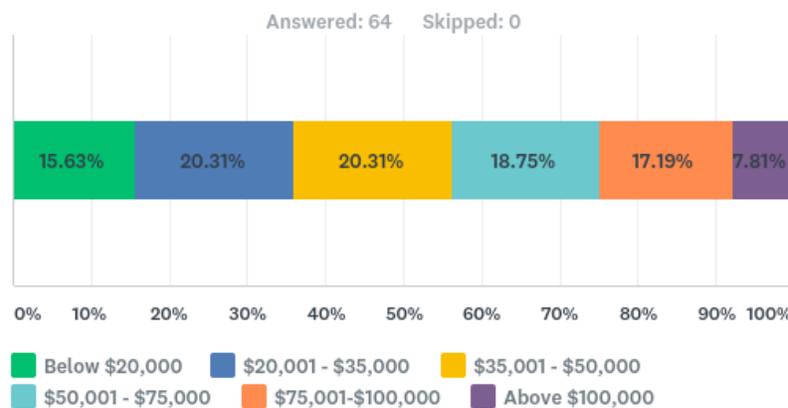
About the VLP LINK Family Survey:

The VLP LINK Family Survey was sent to approximately 200 people, who are family members of LINK After School and Summer students. Surveys were distributed in English and Spanish via email, and a flyer (English and Spanish) was sent home with each LINK Summer student. Paper copies were also available in English and Spanish. The VLP received survey responses from 64 families, which represent 128 children. 47 of the families had children enrolled in LINK After School during the 2016-17 school year. 43 of the families had children enrolled in LINK Summer 2017.

Here is a highlight of the feedback we received:

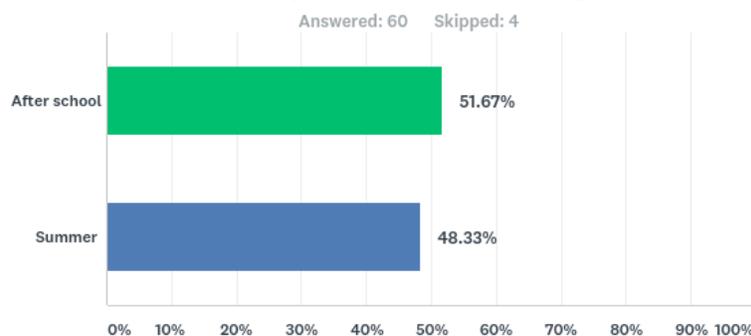
- VLP LINK families believe that the VLP provides important programming and a safe, educational space for children.
- We asked about income levels, because we wanted to see how programming decisions might differently affect our lower, middle and higher income families.

Q5 What is your family's annual income level?



- We found an almost 50-50 split if families had to choose between LINK After School or LINK Summer. This split was consistent across all income levels, except our highest income families who had a more distinct preference for keeping LINK After School.

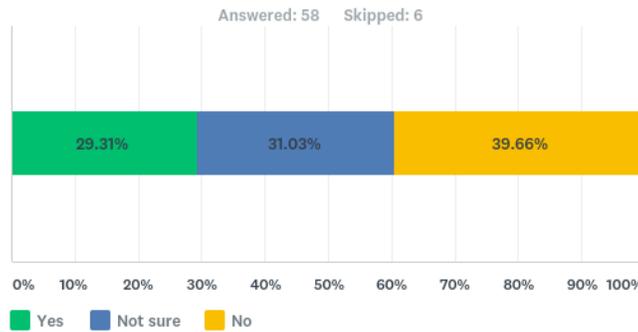
Q6 The VLP may have to choose between offering LINK After School or LINK Summer. If it were up to you, which would you choose to keep?



LINK After School

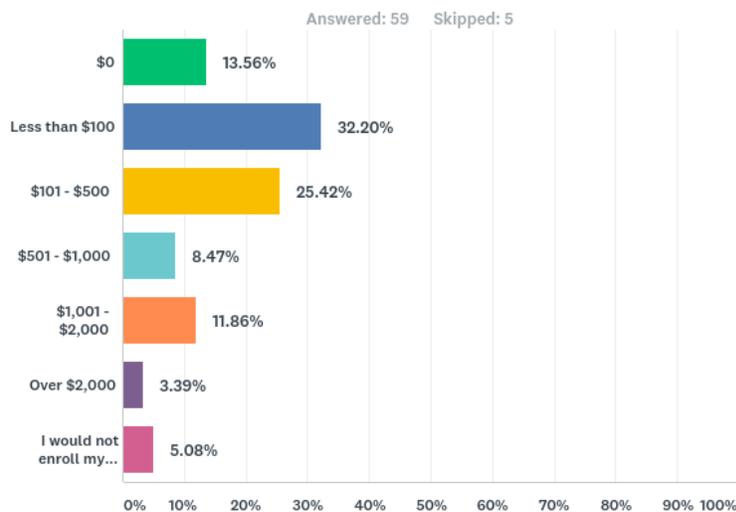
- **The main reasons for keeping LINK After School were:**
 - It provides academic support and help with homework.
 - It is a convenient and safe after-care option, which is needed while family members/caregivers are working.
 - There are other options available for summer, but it's harder to find afterschool options.
- **We found that access to other after-school care options was consistent across all income levels.**

Q8 If the VLP did not offer LINK After School, would you have other quality after-care options for your child(ren)?



- **We found that across all income levels, most families are willing to pay some fee for LINK After School. Some of our lower income families would not be able to pay a fee.**

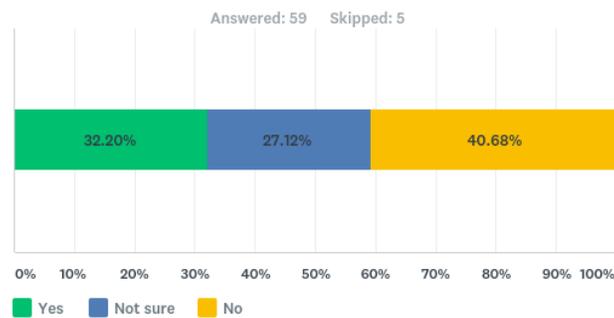
Q7 Currently LINK After School is free for all students. However, the actual cost for the VLP to run LINK After School is \$2,800 per student. Knowing this...How much would you be willing/able to pay for a year of LINK After School, per child?



LINK Summer

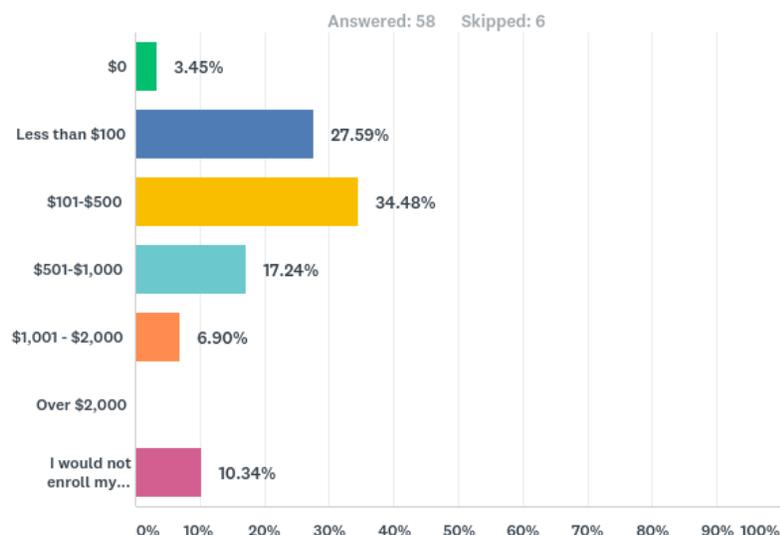
- **The main reasons for keeping LINK Summer were:**
 - It provides academic support and helps prevent summer learning loss.
 - I don't have other summer opportunities that are high quality and affordable.
 - Summer care is more necessary for me than after school care at the VLP.
- **We found out that more of our lower and middle income families would not have quality summer camp or childcare options, while our higher income families would have other options.**

Q10 If the VLP did not offer LINK Summer, would you have other quality camp or childcare options for your child(ren)?



- **We found that across all income levels, most families are willing to pay some fee for LINK Summer.**

Q9 Currently LINK Summer is free for all students. However, the actual cost for the VLP to run LINK Summer is \$2,000 per student. Knowing this...How much would you be willing/able to pay for 8 weeks of LINK Summer per child?



VLP LINK Families shared important reflections about LINK After School and LINK Summer.

Here are some of those comments:

LINK Families feel that VLP provides important programming and a safe space for children.

- “The program is very good, I thank you for your help, the people who work there are very professional and they help a lot of our children, thank you God bless you.”
- “Both programs are great and provide a much needed bridge for students during the summer and a safe educational place for kids after normal school hours have ended.”
- “It is truly a help and blessing to me. I hope LINK AFTER SCHOOL and SUMMER will continue without fees being charged to low income families.”
- “The afterschool program and LINK summer is a huge gem in Charles Village. It is also a HUGE reason why working parents can send their kids to Margaret Brent, a school that does not offer constant after school activities. LINK also provides foundational educational support for the students. I do wonder how much lower student academic performance would be without the programming you offer.”
- “This program has been around for years. I've seen the program grow and it would be a shame if this program wasn't offered to the students anymore.”
- “The LINK Summer is very important for families like mine that can't afford summer camp. It helps a lot by keeping children off the street. My children would have been locked up in the house this summer if they didn't have the LINK Summer this year.”
- “Ever since I found out about this summer program my children have attended. I feel and know that they are safe. They learn so much. I don't know what I would do without this program. It has truly been a blessing to me.”
- “They are wonderful programs and we are fortunate to have VLP in our community.”
- “My children really enjoy LINK Summer. The free trips are amazing. The Summer teachers are amazing with filling the summer learning loss.”
- “The teachers are so wonderful with the kids.”
- “I love this program (and Miss Annie!) and I would be sad to see it go or cut back. I regret that I haven't been financially able to help thus far but I feel that is also why LINK exists--to help families like my own that cannot afford other options but still want quality care for our children. However, this situation ends up I thank you and the rest of the LINK staff for all your work thus far.”

People shared their thoughts on charging fees for LINK.

- “In my family there is the willingness and ability to pay a fee for after care and summer camp. I hope that if a fee is put in place it would generate enough revenue to ensure that the teaching positions do not continue to be a revolving door at the VLP. I hope that there are also grants for the families that really cannot afford the fee because sometimes- in paper-the income of a family looks great but there are loans, mortgages, sick relatives that would make a large monthly fee difficult to commit to on a monthly basis.”
- “You all have been such a help and should I have to pay I'd be willing. Thank you.”
- “I think that both programs are a huge benefit to the families that use them and whatever the amount we end up having to pay I think will be fair and affordable.”
- “I appreciate what VLP has contributed to Baltimore City youth and hope it can remain in existence, even if a nominal fee is required.”
- “The LINK After School and LINK Summer is an excellent program. It helps the children in learning and also the parents who are working. I feel safe that my son is with VLP LINK. I believe other parents will understand if we need to pay fees. I'm sure there are ways also to help families who can't afford the fees. VLP is important to the students continuous passion to learn in school. Instead of the children playing gadgets at home, VLP provides them opportunity to explore and be adventurous.”