

Food in Schools



ANDREA SENFT

Manager, Community Partnerships & Early Learning

MICHELLE GEHRING

District Principal, Learning Support Services

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Why food in schools?



To support learning and school success by providing a healthy meal to learners who would not otherwise have lunch.



While we know our business is learning, not food, we also know that hungry kids struggle to learn.



It is also evident that this is a community issue – many community supports are already being accessed by the school district.

Various Access Points

School Lunch Program – providing healthy warm/cold individual meals delivered daily to 450 students across 21 schools

Starfish Backpacks in partnership with Archway – providing 600+ backpacks each week

Pantry 34 in partnership with Salvation Army – providing snacks to 27 schools, approx. 2500 students

Dunach Mobile Food Bank in partnership with Salvation Army – serving 900 students each month

School-based breakfast and snack programs

Back to School event in partnership with Community Partners – supporting 1200 students with supplies

BC Fruits and Vegetables Program – delivering BC grown fruits and veggies 12x/year to 39 schools

Christmas Hampers – delivered to 450 families

Trends

2021-22 School Year

- Contract established with Simply Foods for \$180,000 (Community Link funding)
- September lunches = 210/day, June lunches = 350/day (67% increase)
- Contract amount was exceeded the end of February, found grants and received funds from SBO to finish the year; forced to freeze program and not add any more students
- Final amount paid to Simply Foods \$316,507

2022-23 School Year

- Contract continues, with additional money allocated from Affordability Fund
- September lunches = 361/day, current lunches = 450/day (25% increase)
- Contract amount was exceeded the end of January; some schools using Affordability Fund to support families instead of adding them to lunch program
- Anticipated final amount paid to Simply Foods \$460,000

An additional \$35,200 dispersed to schools to support their own lunch programs.

Current Immediate Challenges

Cannot support current lunch numbers long term

Numbers and needs increase daily

Affordability Fund is one time money

There are no additional funding sources for this year

Broader Emerging Areas of Need

Increasing food security challenges in our local community, across the province and Canada is impacting the learning success of our students

Funding and infrastructure to meet the nutritional needs of students at school



Future Plans

Explore different models to meet nutritional needs of our students to ensure every student is able to learn effectively and joyfully

Explore collaborations and partnerships to meet the nutritional needs of our students

Build on the great partnerships and effective programs we already have in place at our schools