

Feeding Futures

Update for School Board Trustees and
Senior Leadership

February 2024



Hunger vs. Food Insecurity

- Hunger is experienced at the individual level and may or may not be caused by food insecurity (student forgot their lunch, doesn't like to eat in morning, has a long commute, growth spurt)
- Food insecurity is measured at the household level and relates to inadequate income to access the food they need.
- If hunger is not addressed at school, it can reduce a student's ability to learn, manage their emotions and regulate their behaviour.
- School food availability addresses hunger at school but does not solve the broader challenge of food insecurity for families.

School meal programs are a lot of work!

- They involve shopping, delivering, storing, chopping, preparing, cooking, serving and cleaning up after food.
- To help support the workload of school meal programs, we hired a Coordinator (Serena), and offered paid school meal worker positions to every school.



We are piloting
centralized order
and delivery!



Every school in SD 83 has a meal program



Soupermeals & Community Partnerships

- Shuswap Food Action delivering to 13 schools and now 5 Strong Start Programs
- Faith Mission Church delivers soup to Falkland Elementary
- The Hub offers hot lunch at Eagle River
- Glad Tidings Church offers bag lunches in Armstrong



School-wide Feasts

- Feasts build school spirit and connectedness
- So far this year, 10 schools have hosted their school-wide feast.
- Of note, SAS culinary arts cooked pancakes and sausages for whole school, ERS Foods class prepared pictured feast and Silver Creek and SAW invited the whole community to their feasts.

SD 83 Farmer's Box



Pilot program to increase access and affordability of fresh fruits and vegetables while supporting local farmers.



Boxes are pre-paid and ordered online. Families can receive a \$20 discount by inserting a promo code



Boxes delivered once a month to schools for pick-up





School Food Working Group

Observations to Date

Takes a lot of admin time for processing school food receipts

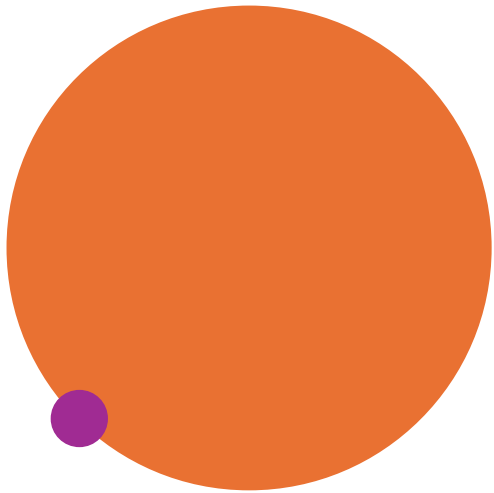
Stigma-free programs are best when universal, but we don't currently have resources and capacity to provide universal meals at all schools

Challenges around time it takes to feed large numbers of students

Infrastructure needs for schools

Gratitude for food support (IEWs, Bridge, CCP, as well as PACs)

Relief for students and families in our district around accessing nourishing foods and reducing stigma around access to food at school



Thank you