

NYC Food Policy

School Meals

NYC provides free breakfast and lunch meals for all public school students during the school year, free afterschool meals for most, and free breakfast and lunch for every kid age 18 or younger during the summer at schools, parks, pools, and libraries in all five boroughs.



Nutrition Standards

School meals meet requirements for whole grains, fruits and veggies, and whole or minimally processed plant proteins, and limits on added sugar, sodium, beef, and processed meats. They contain no deep-fried foods, pork, or artificial flavors, colors, or sweeteners. NYCPS solicits feedback on cultural preferences, taste, and food quality. Every recipe that is served in NYCPS is taste-tested by students.

Chefs in the Schools

During the 2022-2023 school year, Wellness in the Schools (WITS) developed more than 100 scratch-cooked, plant-based, culturally relevant recipes that were taste-tested by students in all five boroughs. Now, WITS Chefs and OFNS Cook Ambassadors are training on the implementation of new recipes.

Cafeteria Enhancement Experience Program

The CEE initiative transforms cafeterias into warm and welcoming spaces and increases the efficiency of serving lines. More than 100 cafeterias have received CEE so far, with a 35% increase in lunch participation after renovations.

School Meals
2022-2023

42 million total breakfasts served

95 million total lunch meals served

152 million total meals served

New York City Public Schools reached a peak serving

532,000

plant-powered lunches in one day!

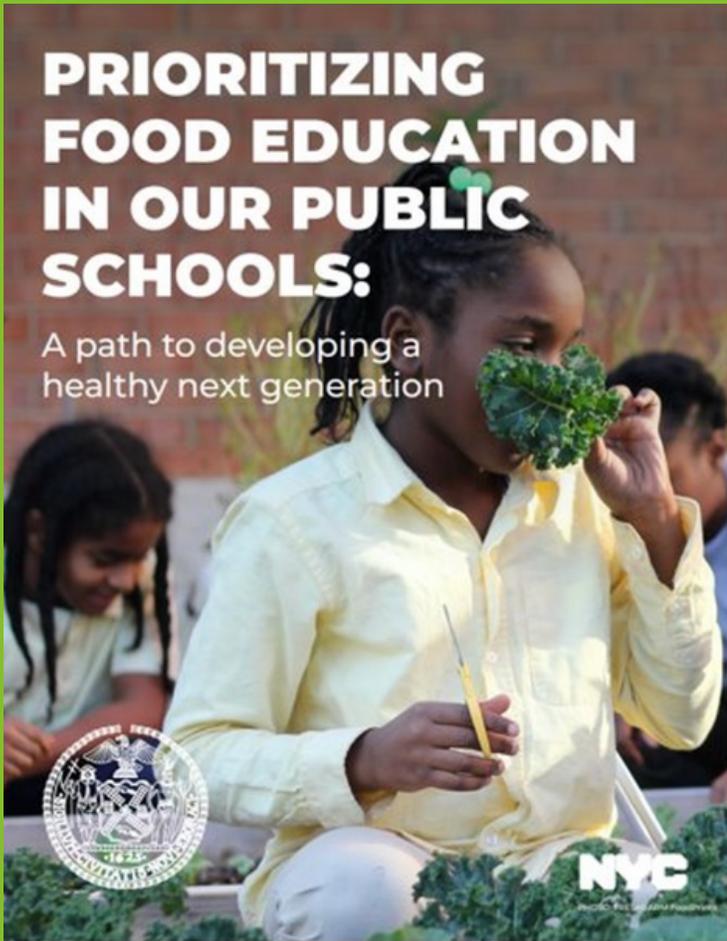
What's on the Menu?

- [Plant Powered Fridays](#)
- [Plastic Free Lunch Days](#)
- [Halal Options](#) identified on the menu and kitchen certification is available upon request
- [Kosher Meals](#) available upon request
- New York State-sourced products

School Kitchens Dashboard

Get the inside scoop on meal service at your school, from programs available like halal meals to infrastructure details like school gardens and cafeteria enhancement experience installations.

Food Education



Roadmap Goals

- Students have access to and consume healthy food in schools that meets their needs.
- Students build knowledge and habits about healthy eating and wellness.
- The community (food service workers, educators, staff, and families) has the knowledge and resources to be advocates for healthy habits and wellness.

Upcoming Work

- Grant program matching schools with food education service providers
- Professional learning and leadership opportunities for teachers and community members
- Food education standards
- Nutrition education curriculum for health educators

“Food education includes not only nutrition but also the role that food plays in one’s life, relationships, culture, communities, environment, history, and society.”

-- Pilot Light

Food education non-profit fostering food literacy in NYC classrooms