

A Year in Review

October 2020 – August 2021

U R B A N S C H O O L
F O O D
A L L I A N C E

A small grey speaker icon with sound waves is positioned over the first 'O' in the word 'FOOD'.

Over the Last Year

Some Highlights

**New USFA
Board Seated**

**Three New
Members Join
USFA**

**CRAU Turkey
Standard
Released**

**State
Agency Call**

**CNR
Testimony on
Capital Hill**

October 2020

**Distributed
Grants to
Districts**

**LA Hosts
Virtual Winter
Meeting**

**Harvard
Project
Results**

**New Technology
• Mural Webinar**

August 2021

Three New Members

Austin, Portland & Seattle

Welcome



USFA
Welcomes you!



Austin

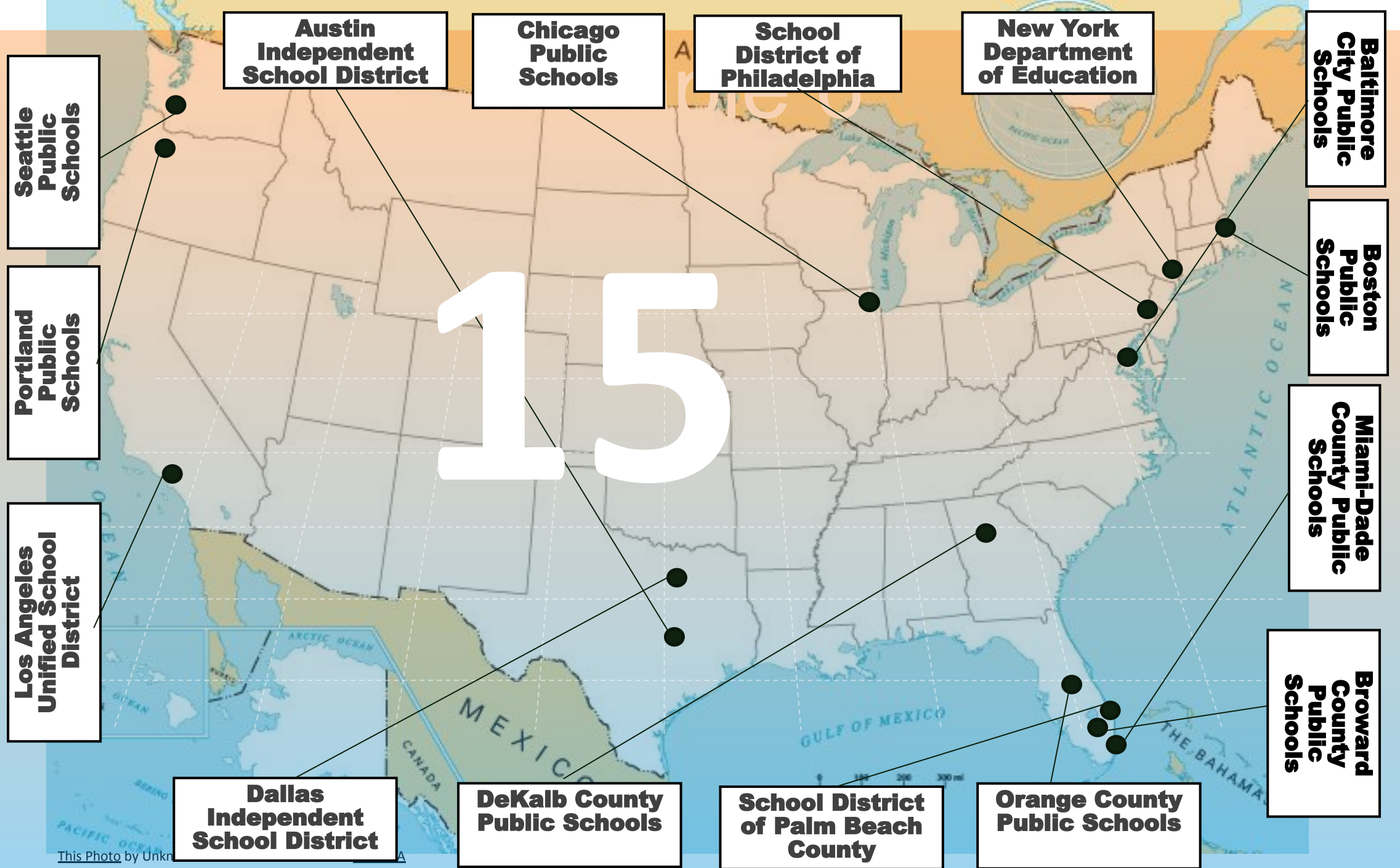


Portland



Seattle

15 Member Districts



USFA Winter Meeting



Class
Of
'21



10 Best Practices Shared



Tour and Korean Tacos with Los Angeles

Paul the Ripples Guy



(((ripple))) Shine with all you have.
~Katelyn S. Irons



2021 Best Practices

Austin Independent School District
Best Practice:
Using Google Shared
Drives/Google Docs to improve
Collaboration and
Communication



Boston Public Schools
**Collaboration with
City Partners**



Best Practice:

Maximizing your
Membership with The
Urban School Food
Alliance



(THE) Dallas ISD

Best Practice:
Co-packing Bulk
Foods with Vendor



DeKalb County
School District

Best Practice:
"Right Sizing"
Labor Analysis



NYC DOE Office of
Food & Nutrition Services

Best Practice:
Prohibited Ingredients



Orange County
Public Schools

Best Practice:
Special Program-
Marketing Department



Portland Public
Schools

Best Practice:
Incorporating Local
Foods into School
Lunch



U R B A N S C H O O L
F O O D
A L L I A N C E

Philadelphia

Best Practice:
Developing a
Communication Strategy



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

The School District of
Palm Beach County

It Takes a Village:
Grants and
Partnerships



New USFA Website



WORKING TOGETHER: OUR DISTRICTS

Urban School Food Alliance began in 2012 with 6 founding districts: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Dallas, and Orlando. Since then USFA has grown our membership to include 15 districts across the United States, working together to provide fresh, healthy and delicious meals to students.



• **MEMBER PORTAL**
[LOGIN / REGISTER](#)

USFA in the News



Urban School Food Alliance

July 28 · 🌐

"It's this type of holistic, long-term approach to nourishing every student with dignity that will help us solve more than the immediate 'learning loss.'"

Excellent piece from [Boston Public Schools'](#) Laura Benavidez and [San Francisco Unified School District's](#) Jennifer LeBarre on the important role of [#schoolmeals](#) in our nation's pandemic recovery and the need for [#UniversalSchoolMeals](#).



K12DIVE.COM

How universal meals nourish all students and transform citywide wellness

Boston



Urban School Food Alliance

July 19 · 🌐

Great work! Since March, the [New York City Department of Education](#) has served 130 million meals from 400 grab-and-go sites! [#SummerMeals](#) provide critical nutritional and financial support for many families, especially this year as food insecurity remains high due to the pandemic.



YOUTUBE.COM

NYC Offering Summer Meals To All In Need

New York City kicks off its summer meals program, and it's not just ...

NYC



Urban School Food Alliance

June 17 · 🌐

Hunger doesn't end when classes do! Summer meals provide critical nutritional and financial support for many families, especially this year as food insecurity remains high among those impacted by the pandemic.

Hear how member district [Orange County Public Schools](#) is ensuring no child is left behind through a curbside meals initiative (via [News 6 WKMG / ClickOrlando](#)) 📺



CLICKORLANDO.COM

Orange County Public Schools to provide summer meals for struggling families

Orange County

Advocacy

11
JUN
2021

USFA MEMBER TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE EDUCATION AND LABOR SUBCOMMITTEE

Filed Under: District Highlights, USFA in the News

Urban School Food Alliance Member and Treasurer, Crystal Cooper, Executive Director of the Chicago Public School District testified to the House Education and Labor Civil Rights and Human Services Sub Committee. Crystal's testimony was compelling and thought provoking on the topic of the value of school meals and the need to make healthy, fresh meals available to all children.

Jun 10, 2021 11:55:46 AM

B-5



Virtual Hearing



Tufts Procurement Research

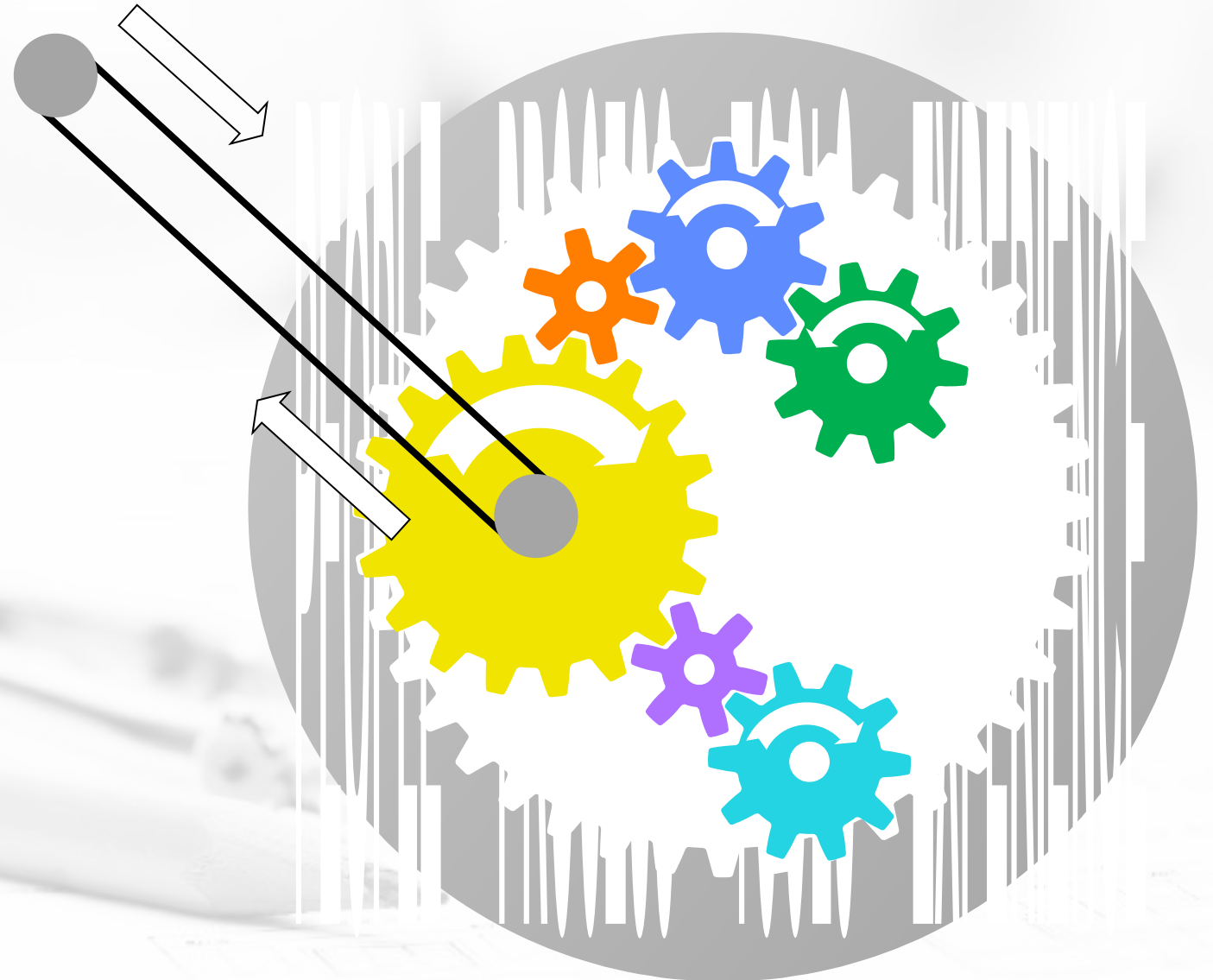
FarmLogix Data Project

Best Practices Shared

State Agency Call

**Procurement
Mini-Series**

Harvard Research Project



State Agency Outreach

GET TO
KNOW USFA!

URBAN SCHOOL
FOOD
ALLIANCE

USFA HOSTS
STATE AGENCY
MEETING

AGENDA

Staff Introductions/Overview of USFA

How USFA supports Districts with

✗ Best Practices

✗ Advocacy

✗ Procurement

Discuss Potential Partnerships

Q & A

Austin

Baltimore

Boston

Broward County

Chicago

Dallas

DeKalb County

Los Angeles

Miami-Dade

New York City

Orange County FL

Palm Beach

Philadelphia

Portland

Seattle

Meeting open
to you & any
members of
your team.

ZOOM MEETING

MAY 26, 2021

@ 2PM EDT/11AM PDT

WWW.URBANSCHOOLFOODALLIANCE.ORG



May 2021

Urban School Food Alliance

Urban Updates

Broward County
Public Schools

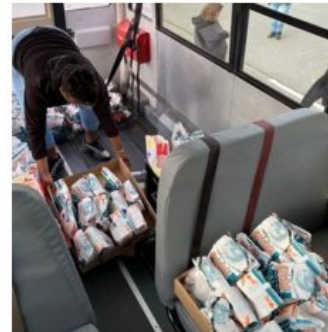
2021

Best Practice:
Point of Sale for Special
Diet Identification



Best Practice Highlight

Click on the picture to
take you to the [Broward
County Public School
Best Practice.](#)



USFA Presents Webinar to Members of NAPT

Recently USFA Member Lora Gilbert, Senior Director with Orange County Public Schools and USFA staff member Jeremy West, Director of Partnerships & Member Engagement presented a webinar to members of the National Association of Pupil Transportation. NAPT is an international trade association with members all across North America & in Australia.

The presentation title was: "Partnerships Against Hunger: School Buses Delivering School Meals and highlighted the successful partnerships between district transportation and nutrition to bring meals to students during the pandemic and ideas for continued collaboration.



USFA District Highlight



Meet Mr.
Stephen O'Brien
Director of Strategic
Partnerships-
New York City
Department of
Education.
Vice Chairman of the
Board/ Chairman of
the Membership Committee for USFA

Mr. O'Brien has worked for 30 years to improve school meals for the 1.1 million New York City students throughout the city. He has a broad understanding of the complexities involved in delivering a quality service to students. Stephen has overseen several changes and transformed school meals and cafeterias making them a model for districts across the country including using more locally sourced foods, cutting out ingredients of concern, bringing salad bars to all kitchens, implementing the service of whole grains, converting from polystyrene to compostable plates and utensils in cafeterias, and getting students engaged in the meal service.

Mr. O'Brien has been honored for his work and participates in conferences and events that educate communities about school meals, nutrition education programming, sustainability, and other model practices for engaging and educating communities about School Meals. He is a key leader within the Urban School Food Alliance, serving as a founding member and actively supports best practice sharing, policy positions and large-scale market change to improve the quality of meals offered nationally.

Mr. O'Brien holds an A.O.S. in Culinary Arts, a B.S. in Food Service Management with a minor in Secondary Education from Johnson & Wales University, ECornell Certificate in Plant-Based



USFA in the News

Over 3.2 Million
Meals Served



Portland

Executive Summary

Total Meals Served Including Adult and A La Carte: 29.1 million				
Pre-COVID-19 - July to March 13, 2020				
Breakfast	Lunch	Snack	Supper	A La Carte, Adult & Earned Meals
6.6 million	13.6 million	1.5 million	1 million	1.9 million
Total Meals 24.6 million				
Post-COVID 19 - March 14 to June 30, 2020				
Breakfast	Lunch	Supper	Total Meals	
2.0 million	900 thousand	1.6 million	4.5 million	

26.90%
Students participated in the Breakfast Program

55.43%
Students participated in the Lunch Program

680 thousand
Extra Snacks Were served at **27 schools** That participated in the Fresh Fruits & Vegetable Program

Community Hunger Relief Efforts

Food Boxes Distributed

Feeding South Florida	Pan-Florida Challenge	County's Farm Fresh	Other Partners
131,684	9,485	14,700	3,454

Kids First... Providing Food for Thought

MainMENU

6. School Food Service 2019-2020 Annual Report

Necessary Shifts in Response to COVID

Once schools closed in March 2020, due to COVID, School Food Service remained focused on our purpose "To provide Nutritious Meals and Promote Healthful Living" by shifting meal service models, working with community partners, and developing new accountability measures. Within one week of school closing, School Food Service staff were passing out meals at grab-and-go locations at schools across the District. In total, our School Lunch Heroes served over 4.5 million meals from school closure through June 30, 2020. During school closing, and into the summer, School Food Service remained up-to-date on national and state changes in school nutrition programs and nimble in making required changes. New procedures and technology solutions were developed to support our children and families to the highest extent possible.

The following videos highlight the efforts of the School Food Service staff.

- COVID Feeding - Food Service Putting Kids First Video
- COVID Feeding - Feeding South Florida Video

To celebrate our School Lunch Heroes, School Food Service promoted National School Lunch Hero Day with district staff and parents. Many people shared their appreciation of our staff with videos, cards, and signs.

Video by Park Vista Students
School Lunch Heroes During COVID WPTV video
TEN Super Hero Video

Palm Beach

Conference Presentations



AASA, The School Superintendents Association

July 13 · 🌐

#AASAadv21 "Every kid deserves a good meal."

Crystal FitzSimmons of Food Research & Action Center and Katie Wilson of Urban School Food Alliance reflect on lessons learned from the pandemic as well as the benefits and challenges of providing the nutrition students need to succeed.

ICYMI: Urban School Food Alliance and [Orange County Public Schools](#) recently presented on a [National Association for Pupil Transportation](#) webinar on distributing [#schoolmeals](#) via school buses during summer months, holidays, and emergencies. Check out the recording on [#NAPTACTS](#) ➡ <https://rethinkedu.io/napt/>.



Conference Presentations



2020 NOTABLE PRESENTATIONS

American Commodity Distribution Association Virtual Conference
California Child Nutrition Access Institute
Center for Science in the Public Interest Virtual Series
The Culinary Institute of America Healthy Kids Summit
Duke Sanford World Food Policy Center Podcast
Eating City: Increasing Food System Resilience into Cities
Food Management Virtual Leadership Series
2020 Menus of Change: Virtual Series
No Kid Hungry Back-to-School Series
School Lunch For All Hill Briefing
AASA x GENYOUth Healthier School Communities 2020 Virtual Forum
United Fresh 2020 FreshStart Conference

Healthy Kids Summit: Food Choices for Our Future The Culinary Institute of America

Time Left 2h:9m

General Session VIII | Leveling Food and Social Disparities: How Can Schools Lead?



Monique Rolle '04



Laura Benavidez

Happy International School Meals! Join Dr. Wilson and [School District of Philadelphia's Amy Virus](#) today @ 11am ET for a conversation on how [#schoolmeal](#) provision can increase food security and promote healthy eating habits in the wake of the pandemic led by [Glasgow Caledonian University](#). [#ISMD2021](#)



GCU.AC.UK

Scotland and the US link up to tackle child food poverty | GCU

USFA in the News



Miami



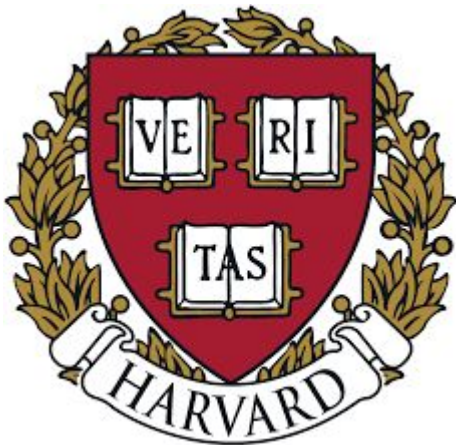
Philadelphia

USFA and the Harvard Project



USFA Co-Researchers on Harvard Study

On behalf of USFA, Dr. Wilson and Jeremy West participated as co-researchers on a project relating to the impacts of COVID-19 on school meal operations. They, along with a group of researchers out of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health released the following article **"Feeding Children and Maintaining Food Service Operations during COVID-19: A Mixed Methods Investigation of Implementation and Financial Challenges"** which has been published in Nutrients



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Accolades to the USFA Members from Sheila Fleischhaker, one of the researchers on the Harvard project, "This is a great example of partnership - Thank you USFA for helping make this collaborative work happen and lifting up the voices of school food champions! Please extend my gratitude for their help on this project among all other life and job needs on their plates."

USFA In the News



Broward County Public Schools thanks Trust Financial Corporation for their \$50,000 grant through [Urban School Food Alliance](#). The grant helps to continue and expand [Broward County Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services](#) Grab-and-Go meal service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds support unanticipated costs, such as providing meals to children, adults and entire families.



Broward

Los Angeles



Los Angeles Unified School District is at Los Angeles Unified School District.
November 5, 2020 · Los Angeles, CA ·

November is Good Nutrition Month!

Eat healthy nutrient-rich foods to help support your immune system.

Make a meal plan and grocery list, this will help to only purchase the items you actually need and allow for those items to last longer.

Photo Credit: aetc.af.mil



Thank you to the hunger heroes who have prepared and served millions of meals to children and families during the pandemic. Your work is so important and your heart for your students and their families is incredible!

Full video <https://youtu.be/fFMrvZ4h4JY>



DeKalb County School District
December 2, 2020 ·

Good News!

Starting this week, DeKalb County School Nutrition Services will be providing 7 days of meals and snacks per week.

Distribution on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays will

DeKalb

Turkey
Standard
Released
March
2021



Urban School Food Alliance

March 30 · 🌐



ICYMI: The Alliance is proud to have played a part in food systems transformation by issuing a standard for antibiotic use in chicken in 2014, even before major industry players. This month, we announced a standard on responsible antibiotic-use in turkey!



PERISHABLENEWS.COM

Urban School Food Alliance Announces Standard on Responsible Antibiotic-Use in Turkey - Perishable News

School Meals Turn 75

75 years ago, President Truman signed the National School Lunch Act, enabling children to receive hot meals at school. This program made sure that the wealth of agricultural products produced across this country were used to feed our most vulnerable population - our children.



"75 years later, school meals are still the best safety net this country has to offer for improving food security and nutritional diet quality for ALL children, giving them a better chance to be successful in the classroom and live healthier, productive lives."

Dr. Katie Wilson
Executive Director

USFA in the News

Urban School Food Alliance member [Seattle Public Schools](#) is designing geographic menus to best serve students and families throughout the city, working with teachers to create menus that support learning, and partnering with Amazon to deliver healthy meals to virtual learners.

Listen to [Food Management's](#) recent discussion with Director of Food and Nutrition Aaron Smith to learn more about how SPS is empowering school food.



FOOD-MANAGEMENT.COM

One On One: Seattle Public Schools builds menus tailored to students and the learning experience

Seattle



Congratulations to our members at [Dallas ISD](#) for being recognized as the top large district in Texas in the [Kroger](#) 2021 School Food Rankings by [Children at Risk](#)! Learn how programs are evaluated and view the list [#NationalNutritionMonth](#)



CHILDRENATRISK.ORG

2021 Kroger School Food Rankings - CHILDREN AT RISK

Across Texas, over 3 million students from low-income households ...

Dallas

We are grateful for [#HungerHeroes](#) like Jeannette Bell and her team! Because of their dedication, [Baltimore City Public Schools](#) has served more than 3.4 million [#schoolmeals](#) to students and families since the pandemic began last year.



WBALTV.COM

City schools serving 34,000 meals a day amid COVID-19 pandemic

Baltimore

USFA – New Office in Washington D.C.

~ Meet Carletta Sweeney ~

Operations and Office Manager



1612 K Street NW, Suite 200

USFA In the News



Austin ISD

June 24 · 🌐

🍎 School may be out, but free meals are still available for children and caregivers at Austin ISD sites throughout the summer. 🍎

To find meal sites in your area text FOOD or COMIDA to 512-229-9110 or visit <https://www.austinisd.org/nutrition.../meal-programs/summer>

🍎 Aunque ya hayan terminado las clases, todavía hay comidas gratuitas disponibles para los niños y sus cuidadores en lugares de Austin ISD durante el verano. 🍎
Para encontrar lugares de distribución de comidas en su área, envíe un texto que diga FOOD o COMIDA al 512-229-9110 o visite <https://www.austinisd.org/nutrition.../meal-programs/summer>

#AISDProud Austin ISD Food Service

See Translation



Austin ISD Free Summer Meals

Find free summer meals in your area:

Text **FOOD** or **COMIDA**
to **512-229-9110**

Learn more: www.austinisd.org.

AISD is an equal opportunity provider.

Comidas gratuitas de verano de Austin ISD

Encuentre comidas de verano gratuitas en su área:

Envíe un mensaje de texto con la palabra

FOOD o **COMIDA**
al **512-229-9110**

Aprende más: www.austinisd.org.

AISD es un proveedor que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.

Austin



Chicago Public Schools

January 22 · 🌐



Chicago Mayor's Office

Public Official · January 22 · 🌐

Our [Chicago Public Schools](#) nutrition support staff have been unsung heroes throughout this pandemic—they've fed CPS students more than 35 million meals since last March! Our meal sites are open every weekday ➡ chi.gov/3iy7UPe

📷 Heidi Zeiger

Chicago

Our Guiding Principles



BEST PRACTICES

We share best practices with members and the school nutrition community so all can benefit from the success of our members.



PROCUREMENT

We work on crafting policies and standards that focus on elevating school meals for the health and wellness of students.



ADVOCACY

We advocate for school meals to ensure that all of America's students have access to high-quality, nutritious food at no cost.

VISION



All students have access to no-cost, high-quality, healthy meals.

MISSION



Leveraging our collective voice to transform school meals.

VALUES

- 1 Elevate Environmental Stewardship.** We strive to keep sustainability at the forefront of our decision-making.
- 2 Partner with Purpose.** We believe that partnership and collaboration are key to systems-change success.
- 3 Promote Equity.** We are tenacious about ensuring that all students have access to the food they need.
- 4 Remain Visionary.** We strive to set an innovative standard for what a positive school meal experience should be.
- 5 Prioritize Student Health.** We are dedicated to keeping the wellbeing of our students at the forefront of every decision.
- 6 Lead with Influence.** We responsibly use our expertise and experience to strengthen school meals.
- 7 Nourish Children.** We believe that all students deserve high-quality, healthy meals to learn and grow.

Staff Continuing Education



Urban School Food Alliance

April 2 · 🌐

...

This April, we are participating in Food Solutions New England's 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge. Join us on a journey of learning and chart a course of action to dismantle racism in our food system and world! #FSNEEquityChallenge

Learn more + register: <http://fsne.info/FSNEEquityChallenge>



Lifetime Achievement Award

**Dr. Kathryn
Wilson**



USFA in the News

These issues are nothing new, but the pandemic shed a light on them by forcing suppliers to make choices about which clients they could continue to serve. “I really think that the pandemic has shown that we are not good to do business with,” Wilson said.

New rules that allow for more flexibility in the way schools plan meals and purchase food would empower schools to be more “proactive instead of reactive to whatever is happening around us,” Benavidez said.



New Technology
New Technology
New Technology



New Website Launches December 2020



URBAN SCHOOL
FOOD
ALLIANCE
Presents



Want to make an upcoming meeting, training event, or strategic planning session more productive and fun? MURAL is an app/online visual collaboration tool made for teams to promote design thinking within organizations.

Join **USFA** for the
Mural Training Webinar

When: **August 24, 2021**

Time: **2:00 PM Eastern**



Think and Collaborate visually anytime, anywhere.

USFA In the News

School cafeterias are looking for workers, too

“A crisis point”

“The labor shortage has become really quite a crisis point for many of us in school nutrition, particularly in these large urban districts,” said Katie Wilson, executive director of the Urban School Food Alliance, a group that represents food service professionals in the nation’s largest school districts. “Many of our districts are looking for [200] to 300 employees in their school nutrition programs alone.”

And she said the labor shortage doesn’t end at the cafeteria door.

“The distributors, the manufacturers, are also having labor problems. There’s not enough people working in warehouses, there’s not enough truck drivers. We’ve heard from a couple of the distributors that for every 10 trucks, they can only send one out,” Wilson said.



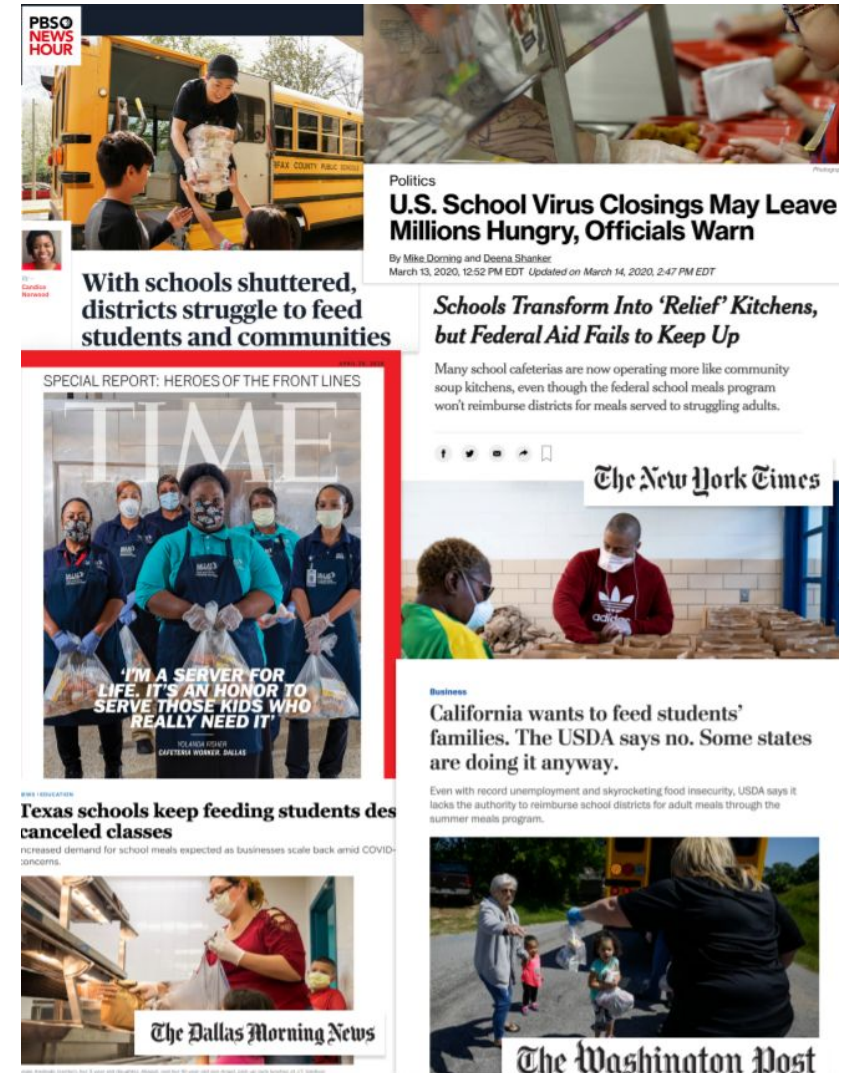
USFA
Members
Called Upon
by White
House



USFA Members provide input on:

- COVID Student Vaccine Efforts
- Supply Chain Concerns

USFA Members Making a Difference



A Year in Review

Thank You For Making USFA Great!

