

Get Schools Cooking

“A Systems Approach to Change”

A program of Chef Ann Foundation, Get Schools Cooking (GSC) is an intensive 3-year assessment and strategic planning program that provides school districts with comprehensive support to transition from a heat and serve to scratch cook operational model. Get Schools Cooking is open to school districts across the country thanks to generous support from our partners, including Whole Kids Foundation and The Rachael Ray Foundation.



Program Targeted Outcomes

1. Increase knowledge surrounding scratch cooking
2. Assist with implementing operational changes to support scratch cooking
3. Support districts working towards a scratch cooked meal program centered around fresh, whole foods

Eligibility

To apply, school districts must meet the following criteria:

- Be firmly committed to working towards a scratch-cooked meal program centered around fresh, whole foods
- Demonstrate support for improvement from district leadership
- Participate in the National School Lunch Program and run a self-operated food service program

“I can’t explain how informative, beneficial, and invigorating this whole experience has been. It’s really made me a better director and leader, and I can see my staff are happy with the changes I’ve made so far.

- Amber Watson,
Marysville Joint Unified School District

Previous Participants Have:

- Introduced new scratch-cooked recipes
- Installed salad bars
- Added new vendors to procure local products
- Eliminated highly processed chicken nuggets patties
- Gained significant community support
- Introduced whole muscle chicken
- Implemented software systems to create program efficiencies



Key Program Steps

- Workshop
- School Food Institute Courses
- On-site Assessment
- Assessment Report
- Strategic Planning
- Technical Assistance
- Support
- System Assistance Grant
- Evaluations
- Connect & Reflect

Timeline

- Application Opens: August 1, 2022
- Application Closes: September 30, 2022
- Selected Districts Notified: November 2022
- Workshop: February 2023
- On-Site District Assessments: February 2023 – November 2023
- Technical Assistance: Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
- Final Evaluations: Spring 2025

Learn more at
thelunchbox.org/gsc

The Chef Ann Foundation is a 501c(3) non-profit dedicated to promoting whole-ingredient, scratch cooking in schools. Scratch cooking enables schools to serve the healthiest, tastiest meals so that kids are well-nourished and ready to learn. To date, we've reached more than 13,500 schools and 3.3 million kids with healthy school programming.