

The Lunch Box

"Tools for School Food Change"



www.thelunchbox.org

When it comes to nourishing our children, the nation is facing a crisis. Over one-third of U.S children are overweight or obese, leading to chronic disease, shorter lifespans, and decreased human productivity. Coupled with mounting food insecurity, we've created a massive strain on our health care system. According to the Economic Research Service of the USDA, 16 million children live in food insecure households, "...meaning that their access to adequate food and family meals is limited by a lack of money and other resources."

Targeted Outcomes

- To reach more schools with free, relevant, and up-to-date content and resources that enable cooking healthy, scratch cooked meals.
- To educate food service professionals on the programs and opportunities that solve common problems experienced by school food service teams.
- To motivate and support schools with content that covers a wide range of school food operator needs, including financial management.

Impact

25%

user increase since 2017

77,000+

total downloads on The Lunch Box

1600+

signed up the The Lunch Box Newsletter

58%

of downloads represent school district users.

The school-based setting is the one place where children should be guaranteed a healthy, nourishing meal. Healthy school food supports academic performance and children's success at school. Hungry kids can't think, and malnourished kids can't learn. With more than 12 million children eating breakfast and 31 million children eating school lunch every day, real food prepared by trained staff is an important part of the solution. Changing school food from processed to meals made with fresh, whole ingredients helps our youngest develop healthy eating habits that they can not only bring home to their families but carry into adulthood.

The Lunch Box is specifically designed to support school district food service teams as they transition their meal programs from processed to scratch cook using fresh ingredients. This site contains open source resources that provide the technical support school districts need to expand their capacity, ensuring that healthy food reaches even more kids each and every day. The Lunch Box shares best practices from around the United States, building a network of school food change-makers and includes a wide range of free, in-depth tools and resources. Users have free access to scalable and downloadable recipes, USDA compliant menu cycles, procurement tools, financial calculators, implementation strategies for salad bars, training tools, marketing materials such as posters and signs, and much more!

The Chef Ann Foundation was founded in 2009 by Ann Cooper, an internationally recognized author, chef, educator, public speaker, and advocate of healthy food for all children. To date, the Foundation has reached over 3 million children across the country, providing tools that help schools serve children healthy and delicious scratch-cooked meals made with fresh, whole ingredients.

