



ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT (RCSD) CAFETERIA REPORT CARD

2017-2018

Background



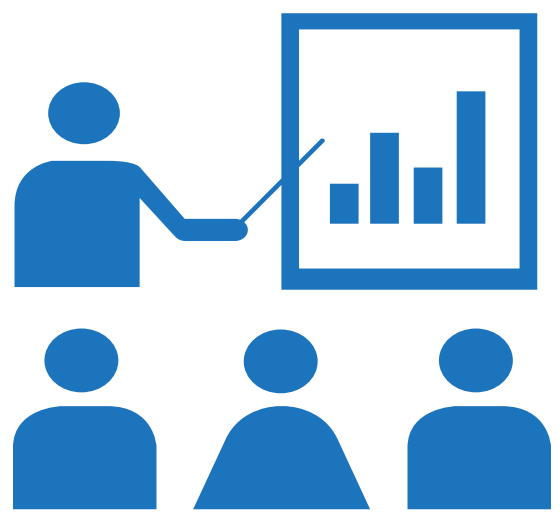
In 2017, the Healthi Kids Coalition collaborated with Youth Voice One Vision (YVOV), the City of Rochester's Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, to create a Youth Food Survey. The goal was to better understand satisfaction regarding overall lunchroom experiences and to share their ideas for continued improvement.

The survey designed by YVOV included open ended questions that asked students what their experience in the cafeteria was like, and what they would like to see improved. Eight questions asked students to rank their feelings about school meals, customer service, and overall perceptions of the cafeteria.

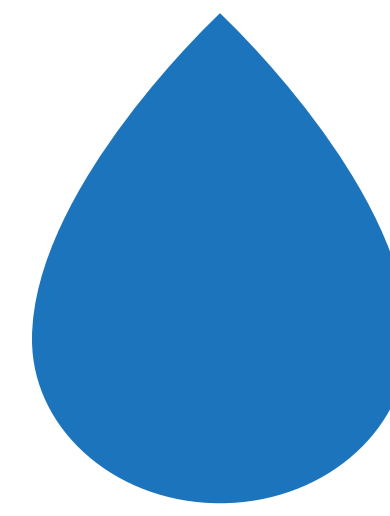
Over 700 students responded to the survey from seven schools across the Rochester City School District (RCSD).

This report highlights the results and offers recommendations on how we can continue to improve school meals for all kids throughout the school district.

Working Together to Improve Food Service



Since 2014, RCSD Nutrition and Food Services has partnered with Healthi Kids to deliver professional development to over 300 Lunch Aides and Food Service Workers.



In 2017, Food Services made free drinking water available to all RCSD students during their meal period. Students recognized the progress, and welcomed the changes.

Exceeds Expectations

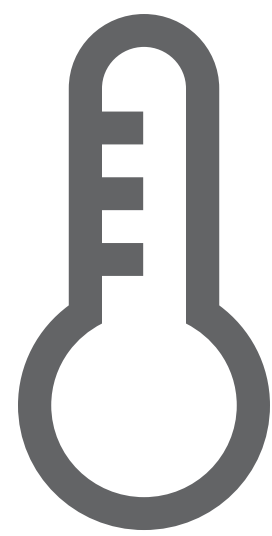


In Progress

Meets Expectations

Students shared they wanted more opportunities to influence Food Service. RCSD Nutrition and Food Service convenes a Youth Food Advisory Council to provide opportunity for student input.

Improving School Meals



Students shared they would like to see the following improvements made school meals:

- Improved meal temperatures
- Overall quality

Room for Improvement



Throughout the survey students expressed concerns regarding the lack of cultural awareness in the menu.

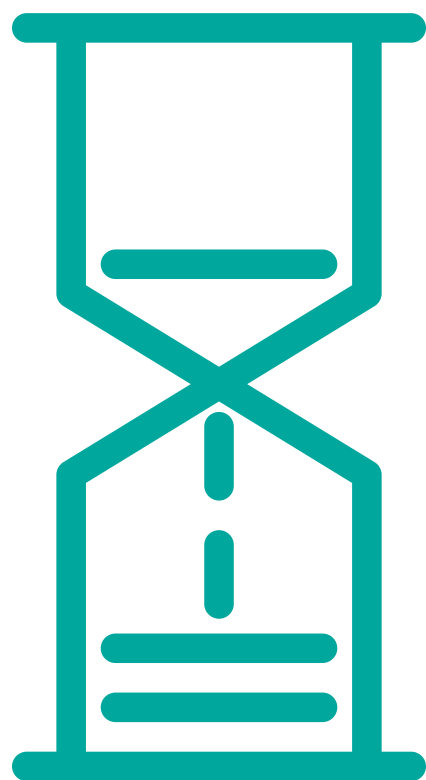
Room for Improvement



When the youth learned that all students do not have salad bar options, they were concerned. RCSD Food and Nutrition Services has developed a plan to address this issue and has begun phasing in salad bars at additional schools.

In Progress

The Overall Cafeteria Environment



Each school has its own procedures for processing students through the lines. On average the wait time for students to receive lunch is 5-10 minutes. However, in some schools the wait can be as long as 10-15 minutes.

Room for Improvement



48 percent of students shared the cafeteria has friendly staff and 58 percent of students shared the cafeteria was a safe environment. Students recognized changes in staff behavior.

In Progress



Students noted they sometimes have to rush to finish their lunch. Students desired more time for lunch and recess as well as the opportunity to sit with friends during the lunch period. The American Association of Pediatrics recommends at least 20 minutes to eat lunch once seated.

Room for Improvement



- 29 percent of students had a positive cafeteria experience.
- 37 percent stated that their experience was negative.
- 34 percent stated it was neither positive nor negative.

Room for Improvement

What Students Shared

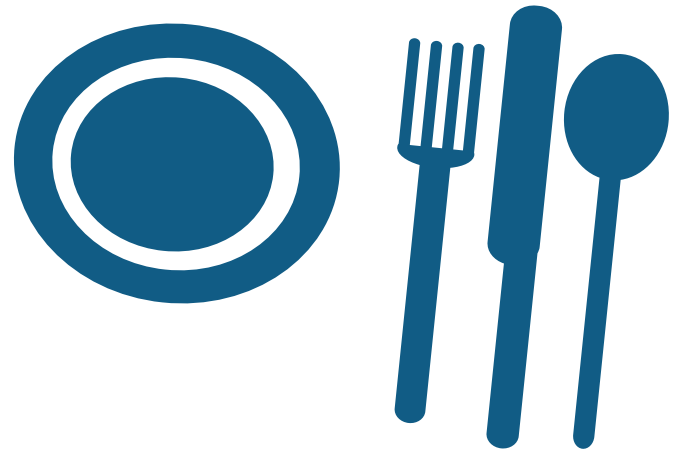


"I would improve the atmosphere-
play music so everyone can feel
good."

-Student at School #46

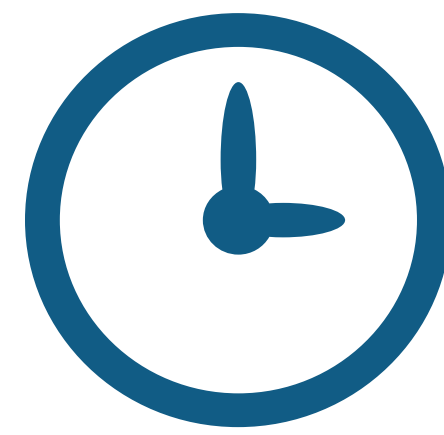
"Make food that kids
like to eat."

-Student at School #3



"Getting food faster, tables and
seats wiped down when we get in
the lunchroom."

-Student at School #43

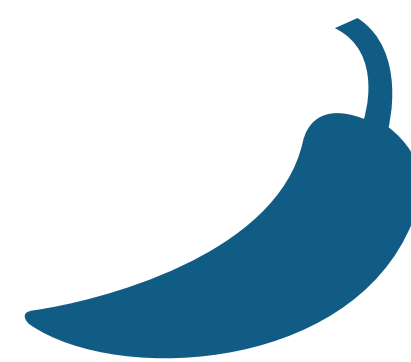
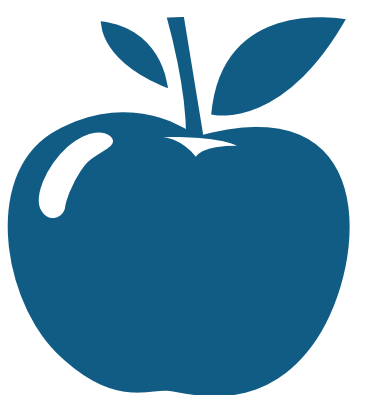


"Give us more time to eat. They make
us throw away our lunch before lunch
is even over."

-Student at School #12

"We want lunch to be fresh, good
and healthy!"

-Student at School #58



"Please use more seasoning
on food."

-Student at School #2



Youth Recommendations:

1. Implement "flavor shakers" at every school across the Rochester City School District to improve taste and appeal and allow for students to customize their meals.
2. Building administrators should create a plan with lunch aids and custodial staff to ensure that cafeteria tables and floors are clean at the start of every lunch period.
3. Work with the Youth Food Council in the 2018 - 2019 school year and beyond to develop menu items that are culturally appealing and relevant to students.
4. Work alongside principals to implement building level policies that create additional time for students to eat their school meals.
5. Introduce a survey to gauge students reactions to new menu items to ensure continuous improvement of school meals.

**Connect with us to learn more about how we can
improve school meals together:**

www.healthikids.org



Youth Voice One Vision
The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council