



Feeding Futures

School District 57 Plan

Land Acknowledgement

Respecting the beautiful unceded ancestral lands, culture and people of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, and the traditional territories of the McLeod Lake Indian Band, and Simpcw First Nation.

2025/2026



SD57 Feeding Futures Program

The Ministry has allocated dedicated, multi-year funding to school districts to increase food security for students by expanding or creating school food programs. This new funding is indented to support the delivery of food programs to students who need it the most – to maintain current programs, to increase the number of students served and to increase the quality of food being served. Currently SD57 is allocated approximately 1.68 million dollars in funding from Feeding Futures and approximately \$500 000 from National School Food Program to meet the needs of our students.

Currently the district provides food supports through two centralized lunch programs based out of Prince George Secondary and Mackenzie Secondary School. These two centralized programs provide approximately 600 lunches daily to students in both communities, serving over 15 elementary schools and 3 other secondary schools. Additionally, over 15 school-based sites provide another 1000 lunches and 2400 breakfasts daily.

Moreover, every school in our district is allocated funds to support local food preparation in the form of grocery funds and staffing funds. On site delivery of food is done for students in need, or even full student bodies as is done at Nusdeh Yoh and Ron Brent Elementary, who serve breakfast, lunch and snacks to all students daily. School Principals organize the provision of lunches, breakfasts and snacks in coordination with meals workers, EA's, Youth Care Workers, and other staff.

Food literacy projects are occurring at many sites, including Indigenous Food harvesting, preparation and enjoyment. The learning that occurs with the Feeding Futures delivery model is seen both in our culinary arts classes and regular classroom instruction. Promoting healthy nutrition and student wellbeing works hand in hand with stigma free food support for our students.

Some schools access outside supports as well to further reduce food insecurity. Donations and assistance from Rotary, Breakfast Club of Canada, corporate donors such as Cobbs Bread and others help supplement food offerings to students.

The Goal

The SD57 Feeding Futures program Goal is to address the immediate need of feeding any student who faces food insecurity in SD57 at any time.

This year School District 57 will continue offering food programs that are already in place for breakfast and lunch. The Feeding Futures funding will be used to ensure a consistent lunch and breakfast is offered to any student who needs food at any time across all schools in the district.

We will continue to utilize and strengthen our partnership with suppliers by increasing our food offerings and reach more students. Two of our secondary schools will continue to provide lunches for students in need of food support using their culinary programs, while another two secondary schools operate centralized lunch programs serving 25 elementary schools and 2 secondary schools. Lastly over 20 elementary schools will continue to feed students on site, these schools have their own kitchens to support students at those sites with breakfast, lunch and snacks daily.



Strategies

The SD57 Feeding Futures program uses several strategies to feed our most vulnerable students and fulfill our District Strategic Plan.

Truth and Reconciliation in action...Promoting Wellness, Learning and Building Equity through:

- ***Collaboration***
- ***Food Literacy Projects, Grants, supplemental supports***
- ***Centralized Lunch Delivery & School Based Programs***
- ***Hybrid Model – Mix of delivered lunches and site-based lunch prep***
- ***Facilities upgrades***



Collaboration

The District Principal of Feeding Futures collaborates with all schools to feed our most vulnerable learners. School staff hold meetings and work with parents to ensure students who need food are on our lunch program, breakfast program and receive snacks.

As a district we collaborate with all district departments, community partners such as Salvation Army, independent retailers such as Shoppers Wholesale, and our local Indigenous Nations to fulfill the food needs of our students

Our district staff are involved in steering committees, provincial meetings, and undertake training to bring their learning to our district to support students.

Actions toward success:

- Maintaining ongoing communication through phone calls and emails to support collaboration and responsiveness.
- Participating actively in Local Education Agreement (LEA) meetings.
- Meeting with First Nations to build relationships and align initiatives.
- Co-writing grant applications to support community-led goals and Indigenous Food Sovereignty initiatives



Food Literacy

Food literacy and multiple grants such as the Indigenous Foodway grant, have been submitted on behalf of our district. Some of these grants and awards include: The Pollinator Grant, Indigenous Foodway Grants (submitted in partnership with our Indigenous Nation partners (approved), FIP submissions for major renovations, Farm to School Grants and more, Currently, 12 food literacy projects are also underway in SD57.

Facilities Upgrades

In order to meet the needs of students SD57 has committed to facilities upgrades at Peden Hill, Van Bien, Pineview, DPTodd, and Blackburn. These schools will be receiving ventilation, new appliances, cabinetry, sinks, and other various upgrades in order to better serve their students.

Moreover, a grant application has been submitted by SD57 on behalf of four other schools for kitchen improvements.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Ongoing evaluation of our Feeding Futures program is done by our District Principal of Feeding Futures, School Principals, Meals Workers and Cafeteria staff. Our sites are inspected by Worksafe and our Health and Safety department is actively involved to ensure food quality and worksites meet provincial standards.

Since the inception of the Feeding Futures program in SD57 we have seen an increase in students who need food supports. Through identification of these students we have increased the number of breakfasts and lunches by 3% per annum since the start of the Feeding Futures provincial program 2023.

100% of the total amount of funding received (Both NSFP and FF) is dedicated towards the provision of grocery for meal prep, meal prep workers, equipment, kitchen renovations and supplies.

Furthermore, all schools in SD57 receive funds to provide snacks to any student, stigma free. These snacks are located around schools at location sites called “Grab and Go” tables.



SD57 Feeding Futures/NSFP Current Statistics 25/26

School Based Lunches (made at school with FF funding and hours allocated to schools)

Secondary	288
Community Elementary Schools	501
Elementary Other	221
Total	<u>1010 / day</u>

School Based Breakfasts (made at school with FF funding and hours allocated to schools)

Secondary	1018
Community Elementary Schools	802
Elementary Other	547
Total	<u>2367 / day</u>

Centralized Lunch Program (made at PGSS/Mackenzie delivered to schools)

***PGSS makes 570-650 per day fluctuating / *Mackenzie & Morfee make 60-80 fluctuating**

Secondary	210
Community Elementary	200
Elementary Other	210
Total	<u>620 / day</u>



Engagement: Working Together to Feed our Students

Using the Feeding Futures Guiding Principles, our School District 57 Strategic Plan, and our Local Education Agreements with Lheidli T'enneh Nation, Takla Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band we aim to alleviate food insecurity for our vulnerable learners.

Working hand in hand with our community, SD57 is using our Strategic Plan, our Feeding Futures Guiding Principles and our Local Education Agreements to meet the needs of our students. Students who are vulnerable and endure food insecurity are identified and then supported through the provision of food, through our breakfast, lunch and snack programs. Various food literacy projects are ongoing at several schools. These projects focus on student health, learning about nutrition, learning about cultural foods, cultural practices around food, the harvesting, processing of food and the land it comes from. Indigenous Elders, community members, outside agencies and parents through PAC are involved.

Parents are able to reach out to schools to request assistance and our community partners are encouraged to reach out as well. School Principals and staff organize, order, prepare and feed students in need across all of our district schools. SD57 is committed to enhance the food security of all students who are in need.



Feeding Futures Guiding Principles

These principles are intended to guide the development of school food programs and are not mandatory.



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

In practice, this could look like...



Students have access to food daily in an equitable, accessible, and non-stigmatizing manner.

- Where meal payment cards are used in school stores or cafeterias, the same payment cards that are available to all students can be discretely subsidized for students in need.
- Using pay-what-you-can or sliding payment scale models for hot lunch days.
- Offering snacks or lunch top-up baskets in classrooms for any student to access.



Programs support B.C. foods* to grow local communities, economies, and food system resilience.

- Asking food suppliers, distributors, grocery stores and program delivery partners about what B.C. food options they can provide and what B.C. foods are in season.
- Assessing menus and product purchases to identify opportunities for more B.C. foods, like everyday staples.
- Checking the [Feed BC directory](#) to find B.C. food & beverage products.
- Supporting food literacy and integrated learning opportunities to strengthen knowledge, skills, and positive relationships connected to food and local food systems.

* [Feed BC](#) provides definitions and recommended targets to support B.C. food procurement in K-12 schools.



Programs are flexible, adaptable, and respectful of local contexts and needs.

- Conducting a scan of existing programs and systems to identify existing resources and program gaps.
- Adapting program models to suit the needs of student needs. For example, "Grab & Go" models may work well for older students, whereas "After the Bell" or "Second Chance" models may suit the needs of students in other environments.
- Striving for continuous improvement by collecting feedback on programs or testing out new pilot projects.



Students have access to nutritious and culturally preferred foods to support healthy development & learning.

- Incorporating more nutritious and minimally processed foods into meal and snack offerings.
- Having students and families submit requests for foods they want to see featured in programs or submitting family recipes.
- Prioritizing time and space in the school day for eating.



Programs centre and include students, families, First Nation Rightsholders, Indigenous partners, and community members in decision-making & program delivery.

- Working with the district's Indigenous Education Council (IEC) to ensure that decision-making is informed by First Nation Rightsholders and Indigenous partners.
- Involving students in school food program operations (e.g., food preparation, serving, and clean-up).
- Forming a school food committee with students, families, and/or community partners to gather feedback & share information.
- Partnering with local First Nations to support special events in school communities.
- Partnering with conservation officers to offer local and traditional meats.

Reporting

Reporting to the appropriate Ministries within the Government of British Columbia is done throughout the year. Statistics for vulnerable students are provided by the Ministry and cross referenced by Principals and FF staff at all schools. Through the coordination of the SD57 Feeding Futures program funds are allocated to schools based on need.

Ongoing consultation with schools, additional funding requests, monitoring student need are coordinated by our Feeding Futures staff. Reports to District Leadership and School Trustees are provided.

Summary

Overall the Feeding Futures program benefits our students greatly in many ways. The wellbeing of our community is enhanced, our staff contributes to towards ending food insecurity in our student body, and our community collaborates with SD57 towards a common goal, that of ensuring that no student goes hungry and our schools have a stigma free approach to Feeding our Future.

Benefits for students, caregivers and communities

Students

For students, the benefits of school food programs may include:

Academic

- Improved learning outcomes
- Coming to school more often and on time
- Being more engaged and ready to learn
- Building a stronger connection to food and local food systems



Physical

- Feeling less hungry
- Improved physical and mental health
- Eating more nutritious foods
- Trying new foods

Social

- Connecting with classmates, teachers and school staff
- Feeling part of a community
- Experiencing diverse or traditional foods

Caregivers

For families and caregivers, the benefits of school food programs may include:

- Reducing financial pressures
- Spending less time preparing and packing food for school
- Reducing the burden on caregivers to have fresh, nutritious and packable food for lunches
- Having an opportunity for kids to try new foods with their peers

Communities

For communities, the benefits of school food programs may include:

- Building strong connections between schools, local non-profits and community organizations
- Supporting local farmers and food businesses