

[SFUSD School Lunches]

Resolution Urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to work with SFUSD to provide nutritious and delicious school lunches for all SFUSD students, prioritizing expanding Refresh meals to elementary schools.

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission understands that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors are a different entity from the San Francisco Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, School lunch is vital for student health and well-being, especially those of low-income households¹; and

WHEREAS, Many students rely on SFUSD-provided meals for their daily nutrition; and

WHEREAS, Food insecurity disproportionately affects low-income families and students of color, making equitable access to nutritious school meals essential; and

WHEREAS, Healthy, nutritious meals have been found to have a positive impact on the cognitive development of children²; and

WHEREAS, Research has found that when a school contracts with a healthy lunch company, students score better on the end-of-year tests³; and

¹ "Benefits of School Lunch," Food Research and Action Center, <https://frac.org/programs/national-school-lunch-program/benefits-school-lunch#:~:text=School%20lunch%20is%20critical%20to,obesity%20rates%2C%20and%20poor%20health.>

² LHG Development Team, "The Benefits of Healthy School Lunches and How They Impact Performance," The Lunch Mob, last modified August 27, 2019, accessed March 12, 2026, <https://www.thelunchmob.co/the-benefits-of-healthy-school-lunches-and-how-they-impact-performance/#:~:text=Healthy%20school%20lunches%20can%20have%20many%20benefits,in%20calories%20and%20attribute%20to%20weight%20gain.>

³ Michael L. Anderson et al., "How the Quality of School Lunch Affects Students' Academic Performance," Brookings, last modified May 2017, accessed March 12, 2026, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-the-quality-of-school-lunch-affects-students-academic-performance/>.

WHEREAS, Research demonstrates that students who receive nutritious meals are more likely to have improved concentration, classroom behavior, and academic performance; and

WHEREAS, Eating healthy, nutritious meals positively impact children's immune systems, produces a better attitude, and addresses obesity⁴; and

WHEREAS, Countries such as Japan, France, Italy, and Finland have adopted nutritious meals for their students, now ranking as the best school lunches in the world⁵; and

WHEREAS, Eating habits from childhood have been shown to impact habits adopted in adulthood and beyond⁶; and

WHEREAS, The National Institute of Health states, "childhood experiences might favor certain eating styles in adulthood (e.g., emotional eating, excessive food preoccupation, and disordered eating behaviors)"⁷; and

WHEREAS, Student feedback is essential to ensuring school meals are both nutritious and appealing so that food is consumed rather than discarded; and

WHEREAS, Elementary school students between the ages of 8 and 9 years old said their top concern about their school experience was in the quality and edibility of their school lunches; and

⁴ LHG Development Team, "The Benefits," The Lunch Mob.

⁵ Candace Nagy, "School Lunch Can Be Delicious. Just Look to These Countries.," Scary Mommy, last modified July 24, 2023, accessed March 23, 2026, <https://www.scarymommy.com/lifestyle/school-lunches-around-the-world>.

⁶ "Does It Go Back to My Childhood?," Mayo Clinic, October 22, 2024, <https://mcpress.mayoclinic.org/nutrition-fitness/does-it-go-back-to-my-childhood/>.

⁷ Aleksandra Małachowska and Marzena Jeżewska-Zychowicz, "Does Examining the Childhood Food Experiences Help to Better Understand Food Choices in Adulthood?," *Nutrients* 13, no. 3 (March 18, 2021): 983, <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu13030983>.

1 WHEREAS, 18 SFUSD middle and high schools receive lunches from Refresh⁸;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Refresh meals are noted to be, “developed through student taste
4 tests, prepared fresh in each school’s kitchen, and packaged on site for students to take
5 to go”⁹; and

6 WHEREAS, Many K-5 and K-8 SFUSD schools in San Francisco receive lunches
7 from Revolution Foods¹⁰; and

8 WHEREAS, Revolution Foods meals are noted to be “packaged in a San
9 Lorenzo, CA facility, refrigerated, and delivered to schools daily”¹¹; and

10 WHEREAS, Students have reported cases of Revolution Foods lunches
11 containing melted plastic packaging within the food, mold in packaged meals, frozen
12 food, and a general inedibility; and

13 WHEREAS, Bessie Carmichael Middle, Rooftop Middle, Francisco Middle,
14 Visitacion Valley Middle, Downtown High, Independence High, John O'Connell High,
15 June Jordan High, SF International High, Wallenberg High, Ida B. Wells High, Access
16 SFUSD, CARE High, Civic Center, Hilltop, McAuley, and SF ARC also receive
17 Revolution Foods lunches¹²; and

18 WHEREAS, Elementary school students and teachers both noted the difference
19 in quality between elementary school lunches and middle and high school lunches; and

⁸ “List of Refresh Schools,” Google Docs, n.d., <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lhrqpzEUgRLqJ3JycbDx8sw93Wm3Y3XYe1uP55xISPw/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.y0nbpavpgxn1>.

⁹ “Lunch | SFUSD,” n.d., <https://www.sfusd.edu/departments/student-nutrition-services/meal-programs/lunch>.

¹⁰ “Menus | SFUSD,” n.d., <https://www.sfusd.edu/services/health-wellness/nutrition-school-meals/menus>.

¹¹ “Lunch | SFUSD.”

¹² “Menus | SFUSD.”

1 WHEREAS, Elementary school students also noted the difference in quality and
2 nutrition between public school lunches and private school lunches; and

3 WHEREAS, Purchasing from and prioritizing fresh, locally sourced, and culturally
4 relevant foods can improve meal quality while supporting local farmers and food
5 producers¹³; and

6 WHEREAS, All children deserve nutritious and delicious school lunches; and

7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission understands there are plans
8 for a central kitchen to cook and distribute fresher school lunch meals; and

9 WHEREAS, While this kitchen is being built, in the meantime, it is still crucial that
10 students receive nutritious and edible school lunches; and now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board
12 of Supervisors to continue to work with SFUSD to provide healthy and delicious school
13 lunches for all SFUSD students; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor
15 and Board of Supervisors to model SFUSD's school lunches after other countries that
16 provide appealing and nutritious school lunches; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor
18 and Board of Supervisors to advocate for children's nutrition across San Francisco; and
19 be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor
21 and Board of Supervisors to investigate the quality and nutrition of Revolution Foods
22 lunches; and be it

¹³ Christopher Erkelens, "Sustainable Food Sourcing: A Greener Future," *Project Food Box* (blog), March 4, 2025, <https://projectfoodbox.org/blog/sustainable-food-sourcing-a-greener-future>.

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor
2 and Board of Supervisors to encourage SFUSD to move away from Revolution Foods
3 lunches in SFUSD schools entirely; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor
5 and Board of Supervisors to encourage SFUSD to provide Refresh meals to all schools
6 until a long-term solution, such as a central kitchen, is solidified; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City to
8 collaborate with SFUSD to explore partnerships with local food providers and farms to
9 further improve meal quality; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges SFUSD to
11 clarify how Elementary, Middle, and High school students can give feedback on meal
12 planning and vendor selection; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission supports
14 increased funding for school nutrition programs; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission directs staff to
16 transmit this resolution to the Mayor, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the San
17 Francisco Unified School District Board of Education, and the Superintendent of
18 SFUSD.