



Initiative to Reform School Food in San Francisco’s Public Schools

While much has been accomplished by the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) over the past decade to offer healthier meals to students, there are a number of **significant barriers** that impede the district’s ongoing work to improve school meals. For example:

- inadequate communication with the local food community
- limited kitchen facilities
- old cooking equipment
- no warehouse /distribution center
- a historic and structural lack of funding from federal, state, and local sources
- low student participation
- inadequate cafeteria space for students

SFUSD has joined forces with San Francisco Food Systems (SFFS) and the San Francisco Department of Public Health (Food Systems) to work in conjunction with community stakeholders to **develop a visionary road map** that outlines the strategies, tactics, costs, and estimated timeline associated with comprehensively reforming school food in San Francisco’s public schools.

The initiative to reform school food in SFUSD is organized into **four phases**.

	Goals	Timeline
Phase 1	Developing a vision and specific recommendations to comprehensively reform school food in San Francisco’s public schools.	December 2012 – September 2013
Phase 2	Reviewing the recommendations and choosing a specific course of action.	September 2013 – November 2013
Phase 3	Securing resources to implement the chosen course of action.	November 2013 – to be determined
Phase 4	Executing the plan to reform school food in San Francisco’s public schools.	To be determined

SFUSD is shifting internal resources to dedicate a Project Director 100% to this initiative. An Oversight Committee will meet on a regular basis to ensure the project is completed on-time and within budget, and to ensure all stakeholders are informed of the project and involved in key areas as needed.

During Phase 1 of this initiative, we will:

- Engage and inform stakeholders at multiple levels, and gather input from the San Francisco community about school food and its reform
- Develop a vision and specific goals and objectives for food systems in SFUSD
- Assess existing facilities, equipment, meal production methods, and procurement practices
- Understand exciting school food reform efforts in other communities and how they might be relevant locally
- Analyze the fiscal implications of different options
- Present recommendations, including costs and timelines, for transforming school food to the Board of Education

One year from now, the Superintendent and the Board of Education will have the information needed to choose a course of action and begin securing resources to implement the strategies and tactics necessary to reform school food in San Francisco’s public schools.