



School Food Program

June 2024

Multi-Year Plan

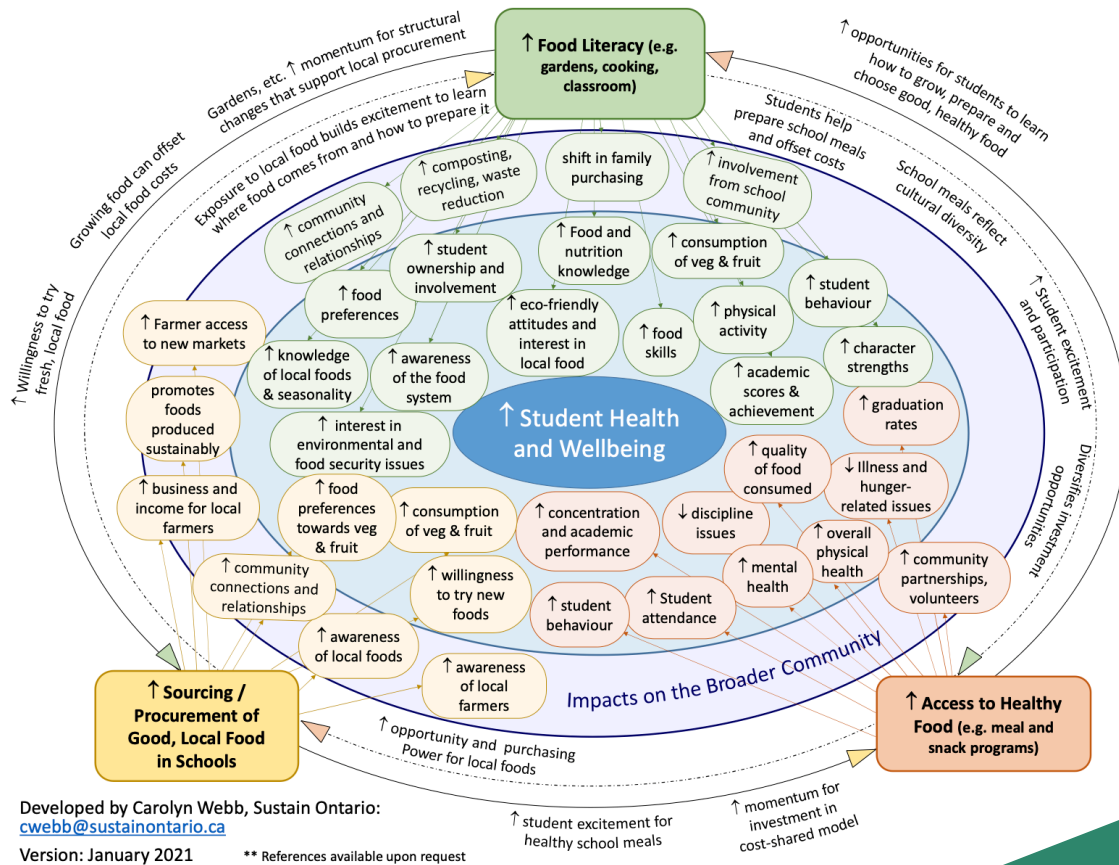
Introduction

Promoting and supporting the health and safety of all students is a priority for the Sooke School District. Fundamental to this is helping ensure all children have access to nutritious foods at school and food literacy* education for a healthy life.

The Sooke School District is committed to achieving our vision of a nourishing, culturally appropriate, comprehensive school food system for the District with the support of the provincial government's Feeding Futures initiative.

*Food literacy is a broader competence encompassing the relationships built through social, cultural, and environmental experiences with food, which supports an understanding of how food decisions impact individual, community and ecological health.

The Potential of School Food Initiatives



Strategic Framework

Vision

A nourishing, culturally appropriate, comprehensive school food system for the Sooke School District.

Mission

To work collaboratively with community to provide integrated school meal, snack and food literacy programs for all students in the Sooke School District.

Guiding Principles

Inclusive and Student Centred - students have access to food daily in an equitable, accessible and non-stigmatizing manner.

Sustainable - programs support BC foods to grow local communities, economies, and food system resilience, while working to reduce waste and be climate sensitive.

Health Promoting and Evidence Informed - programs are guided by good practice and are in line with Canada's Food Guide, foster a nutritious food environment, and promote overall health and wellbeing.

Integrated - food programs are integrated into pedagogy and curriculum and enable food literacy and food skills education.

Collaborative - working in partnerships, recognizing that this work is situated across many partners, systems and communities. Building synergies with broader food system initiatives.

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

Evaluation - committed to evaluation and evidence-based practice.

Strategic Priorities

Our food security program is guided by the four interrelated components of the comprehensive school health framework:

> Teaching and Learning

A school-based food system that creates opportunities for student involvement, supports nutrition education, and develops student's food preparation skills and food literacy.

> Relationships and Environment

Establish school environments that foster strong relationships between students, staff, families and the wider community and have appropriate infrastructure for students to grow, cook and eat together.

> School Policy

Develop an overarching school policy framework that supports a comprehensive school food system across the Sooke School District.

> Community Partnerships and Services

Enhance access to nutritious food for students and families in the Sooke School District.



Our objectives for each of the above goals are outlined on the following page.

Teaching and Learning

GOAL:

A school-based food system that creates opportunities for student involvement, supports nutrition education, and develops student's food preparation skills and food literacy.

OBJECTIVES:

- Support teachers' professional practice in the area of nutrition education.
- Further support integration of Indigenous food and diverse cultural food practices into classroom and school wide practices.
- Support continuity of learning through engagement of parents/caregivers and community partners

Relationships and Environments

GOAL:

Establish school environments that foster strong relationships between students, staff, families and the wider community and have appropriate infrastructure for students to grow, cook and eat together.

OBJECTIVES:

- Identify needs and address opportunities to provide the time and support for the school community to come together to enjoy nutritious foods.
- Based on identified needs, enhance food production and service spaces in schools, including: infrastructure, equipment requirements and appropriate human resources within schools.
- Continue to support the development of school food gardens and composting, in partnership with key District departments (e.g., Curriculum, NA'TSA'MAHT Indigenous Education, Facilities) and the greater community.



School Policies

GOAL:

Develop an overarching school policy framework that supports a comprehensive school food system across the Sooke School District.

OBJECTIVES:

- Conduct a policy review and integrate best practice policies and connect to the larger Safe and Healthy Schools Plan to ensure that this work is embedded into the overall work of the Sooke School District.
- Support and monitor the implementation of federal, provincial and local guidelines and recommendations around food provision in schools.

Community Partnerships and Services

GOAL:

Enhance access to nutritious food for students and families in the Sooke School District.

OBJECTIVES:

- Continue to scale up the existing school food service programs to provide cost effective, sustainable, nourishing breakfast, lunch and snack programs in schools.
- Partner with local food security, food distribution organizations and other interested parties and networks to support efforts to increase regional food security for families.
- Work with and support parents through school Parent Advisory Committees to build alignment with other food related initiatives.
- Partner with local First Nations and NA'TSA'MAHT Indigenous Education to engage Elders in providing opportunities for the school community to learn about the cultural meanings around traditional foods/diets.
- Partner with ethnocultural communities in providing opportunities for the school community to learn about cultural meanings and traditional foods from diverse communities.
- Connect students to farms by serving farm fresh food and raising awareness about food and local food systems.

