

Springfield Schools: When You Nourish, They Flourish

In recent years, Springfield Public Schools have significantly ramped up their School Nutrition Programs. The result? Increased student participation, food program revenue growth, and improved student performance. **Nourish to Flourish** is an initiative put forth by the Urban School Food Alliance and the National Dairy Council to maximize the many benefits of school meal programs for students, their communities, and the environment.

Programs & Innovation

Springfield has implemented a variety of changes and innovations to its school food programs:

- Breakfast in the Classroom
- Community Eligibility Provision
- Summer Food Service Program
- Supper Program
- Improvements to school milk
- Backpack Program
- Farm-to-School
- School gardens
- Full-time sustainability manager
- Culinary & Nutrition Center

The Impact

- Average daily participation (ADP) in breakfast **increased** from 47% in 2014 to **69%** in 2016
- ADP in lunch **increased** to **81%**
- In schools that have implemented Breakfast in the Classroom, breakfast **ADP grew** even more rapidly. In one school, from 25% in 2014 to **87%** in 2016
- School food program revenue has **grown** from \$15.4 million in 2014 to **\$22.1 million** in 2017
- And while multiple factors are likely involved, Springfield has also seen steady and measurable **improvements** in **behavioral health metrics** (absence, tardiness, etc.) and academic achievement



Identified Keys to Success

- Identify key decision-makers and influencers
- Communicate with people and make them part of the process
- The entire school food service team must be united
- Involve the community and work through partnerships
- Set specific goals and measure actions against them
- Involve vendors and suppliers
- Take advantage of existing federal program opportunities
- Schools administration support has to be visible
- It's not going to happen overnight
- It's not just starting a program, checking a box, and moving on

Made possible through the partnerships of:



To learn more about Springfield Public Schools' experience in the full case study [click here](#)

To learn more about Nourish to Flourish [click here](#)

To learn more about School Nutrition Programs and if they are right for your school [click here](#)