



Vote for School Food: A Voter's Guide to the 2020 Elections

Make plans to vote at [foodcorps.org/PlanToVote](https://www.foodcorps.org/PlanToVote)



Join us in making school food a top priority in the 2020 elections!

HOW TO USE THIS VOTER GUIDE:

- LEARN** about issues that impact students' health.
- ASK** your candidates about their plans to support healthy kids.
- MAKE** a plan to vote at [foodcorps.org/PlanToVote](https://www.foodcorps.org/PlanToVote).
- CAST** your votes and make your voice heard!



The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated what we've long known to be true: School food is essential. Our nation's school system doesn't just teach our kids—it plays a critical role in nourishing kids whose families struggle to make ends meet, and who come from communities where systemic racism denies families access to healthy food.

We envision an equitable school food system that is fully woven into the school day, as an educational and health priority. In such a system, all students—regardless of race, place, or class—would learn about food, where it comes from, and its cultural roots. All children enjoy healthy, delicious meals and snacks. Ingredients support and advance equity, livelihoods, and sustainability all along the supply chain.

Elected officials at all levels of government—from the president to your local city council members—make decisions that impact students' physical, social, and emotional well-being in and out of the classroom. **That means you have a say in shaping school meals in your community.**

Learn more about FoodCorps' policy vision at [foodcorps.org/PolicyVision](https://www.foodcorps.org/PolicyVision)





FOOD SECURITY AND ACCESS

OUR VISION *We envision a world where all children—regardless of race, place, or class—have access to nourishment they need to thrive, free from stigma and barriers to access.*

The economic effects of COVID-19 and school closures have led to an unprecedented level of food insecurity in modern time: 14 million kids don't have enough to eat, and 3 in 10 Black and Latinx kids are facing food insecurity—double the rate of white families. Families need all the help they can get to put food on the table.*



Support Free School Meals for All Students



Support School Meal Distribution During COVID-19



Strengthen Nutrition Assistance with SNAP and PANDEMIC EBT

Questions to Ask Candidates

- *What steps will you take to ensure no kids go hungry during and after the pandemic?*
- *Do you support policy changes to make school meals free for all kids?*
- *How will you support our country's recovery from COVID-19 while centering the needs of communities of color and struggling families?*

*Lauren Bauer, Brookings Institution, About 14 million children in the US are not getting enough to eat, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/07/09/about-14-million-children-in-the-us-are-not-getting-enough-to-eat/>



HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS

OUR VISION *We envision a world where our nation's 100,000 schools serve delicious and culturally relevant meals using whole, nourishing ingredients sourced in ways that support local economies, protect lands and waters, treat animals humanely, and uphold the dignity and health of farmers, food workers, and students themselves.*

Healthy food is a building block for a full life that helps ensure kids succeed in and out of the classroom. Utilizing farm to school practices and serving fresh, delicious, culturally relevant food is a win-win-win for kids, schools, and local communities.



Invest in Farm to School Initiatives (Procurement of Local Food, School Gardens)



Adopt Policies to Support Sustainable and Equitable Procurement Practices



Support Farmers and Ranchers of Color and Protect Indigenous Lands

Questions to Ask Candidates

- How will you support farm to school efforts?
- What policies will you support to promote an equitable food system?
- Would you support targeting government resources to historically neglected farmers, producers, and other suppliers?



FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION

OUR VISION *We believe all students should have the opportunity to learn about food and where it comes from through hands-on activities led by dedicated food educators. Kids should be empowered to create healthy relationships with food, to see themselves in the lessons they learn and the food they eat, and be able to learn about and celebrate the connections between food, family, culture, community, and land.*

A typical U.S. student receives fewer than 8 hours of nutrition education in school per year*, and too often that education is not integrated, hands-on, or experiential in the ways we know drive behavior change and greater food literacy. A robust and culturally relevant education about food and nutrition is key to kids making healthier choices and living healthier lives.



Support Dedicated Food and Nutrition Educators in Schools



Integrate Food and Nutrition Education Into Curricula



Support National Service

Questions to Ask Candidates

- How will you ensure that every school is equipped with a dedicated food and nutrition educator?
- Will you support measures to expand national service and increase stipends to support service members?

*Results from the School Health Policies and Practices Study 2014. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2014 https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/shpps/pdf/shpps-508-final_101315.pdf



INVESTING IN CAFETERIAS AND NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS

OUR VISION *We believe all school districts should have sustainable and adequate resources to nourish their students and elevate student voice and choice in the cafeteria. This includes access to modernized kitchens and equipment and, for cafeteria staff, living wages, professional development, job security, and respect in the school community.*

A steep decline in revenue due to school closures and unforeseen costs for operating emergency feeding services are putting many schools at financial risk and making it challenging to update their kitchen infrastructure. School nutrition professionals are working with limited resources and compromising their safety to feed kids.



**Keep School Nutrition
Programs Funded**



**Modernize
School Kitchens**



**Fair Wages & Support for
School Nutrition Professionals**

Questions to Ask Candidates

- *How will you invest in cafeterias for our nation's 100,000 schools?*
- *What steps will you take to support school nutrition professionals?*



FOOD JUSTICE AS RACIAL JUSTICE

OUR VISION *We believe all kids should get the nourishment they need to thrive in school and in life. However, we know it's impossible without dismantling the institutional and structural racism that has shaped our education system, our food system, and our country as a whole.*

Structural inequities and systemic oppression based on race, place, and class have led to health disparities that take an unjust toll on children of color.

Violence and discrimination aimed at Black and brown youth are traumatizing, severely damaging their health and wellness and their ability to thrive in and out of school. Food apartheid—the systemic and racist practices like redlining that have led to neighborhoods without access to fresh foods—prevents healthy food options from reaching communities of color.



Support Greater Accountability For Officials in Ending Racist Practices



Implement Policy Solutions Proposed By People of Color



Provide Culturally Relevant Foods in Schools

Questions to Ask Candidates

- *What steps will you take to end the racial inequities in our public health, food, and education systems?*
- *How will you center communities of color and low-income communities when shaping public policy?*

YOUR VOTE MATTERS.

Make plans to vote at foodcorps.org/PlanToVote

- Register to vote
- Find your candidates
- See a list of your elected officials
- Vote on Election Day
or by requesting an absentee ballot for early voting

**Thank you for raising your voice
for healthy schools and healthy kids!**

Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR)—the process by which Congress updates the laws around school meals programs—may be on the agenda for the next Congress. Congress last completed CNR in 2010—they're five years overdue for improving and strengthening these programs. For federal candidates, be sure to ask about their plans to make school food a priority for CNR.

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