



## FACT SHEET

### WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT & CONSCIOUS KITCHEN

#### Organic Food Box Program, Covid Meal Response

#### About

- For children across West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD)
- 23,000 boxes distributed weekly
- Ingredients for 644,000 meals per week, for 7 breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks
- 3.5 million pounds of organic food procured between November 5, 2020 and March 25, 2021
- Organic food for 9.3 million meals distributed between November 5, 2020 and March 25, 2021
- 4x more meals served than during a regular school year to meet increased need
- At start of Covid response, meals were pre-packaged in individual containers; dropping participation
- 47% of weight of food boxes and 45% of total cost since November 5, 2020 has been certified organic, since procurement transition began
- March 4, 2021 was the first food box with 100% USDA Certified organic contents
- Families pick up boxes once a week at numerous school sites throughout the district
- Vegetarian meals available for health benefits, sustainability and dietary restrictions

#### Purchasing Impact

- \$5 million in food purchases from organic farmers and suppliers supports local economies
- Large-scale institutional orders allow small businesses challenged by the pandemic to thrive
- Direct, local supply chain allows for cost-effective purchasing for district
- Food is sourced from a closer geographic area to reduce emissions, transportation and resources

#### Participating Organic Farms, Ranches, Purveyors & Suppliers

##### Farmers & Ranchers

Marin Sun Farms  
 Mary's Organic Chicken  
 Mindful Meats  
 Doreva Produce  
 Frog Hollow Farm  
 Fruitworld  
 Full Belly Farm  
 Josie's Farm  
 Madela Partners  
 Starr Ranch Growers  
 Tomatero Farm

##### Distributors

Earl's Organics  
 Modesto Foods  
 Coast Tropical  
 Daylight  
 Pacific Rim  
 Tony's Fine Foods

##### Packaged Goods

Alvarado Street Bakery  
 Applegate Farms  
 Clif Bar  
 Cocosune  
 DiNapoli Specialty Foods  
 Edison Grainery  
 La Tortilla Factory  
 Lundberg Family Farms  
 Middle East Baking Co  
 Mori-Nu Tofu  
 Nature's Path

Organic Valley  
 Patagonia Provisions  
 Rudi's Organic Bakery  
 RW Garcia  
 Sfoglini  
 Shady Maple Farms  
 Spicely  
 Spread the Love  
 Tarazi Foods  
 Western Sierra

#### About WCCUSD & Contra Costa County

- WCCUSD has 30,000+ students enrolled in 53 schools
- 65.6% of the district is eligible for free-and-reduced meals
- WCCUSD's diverse student population is 51% Hispanic or Latinx, 19% African American, 12% White, 11% Asian, 6% Pacific Islander and Hawaiian
- Since January 2020, Contra Costa County has seen unemployment soar from 3.2% to a high of 14.5% in March, settling at 7.9% in December
- Household enrollments in CalFresh increased by 30% in August and have remained high since
- When WCCUSD began systemic changes in purchasing, the district sourced 15% of food locally and 2.4% sustainably, per a 2018 Good Food Purchasing baseline assessment