



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)
- 20,000 – 23,000 boxes distributed weekly
- Ingredients for up to 644,000 meals per week, for 7 breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks
- **10.7 million pounds of organic food** procured between November 5, 2020 and August 5, 2021
- Organic food for **18.7 million meals** distributed between November 5, 2020 and August 5, 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
- 69% of weight of food boxes and 67% of total cost since November 5, 2020 has been certified organic and grass-fed, 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

- **\$17 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
Madelia 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
Cocojune
DiNapoli Specialty Foods
El Burrito
Edison Grainery
La Tortilla Factory
Lundberg Family Farms
Middle East Baking Co
Mori-Nu Tofu
Nature's Path
Organic Valley

Patagonia Provisions
P.K. Kinder
Rudi's Organic Bakery
RW Garcia
San-J
Sfoglino
Shady Maple Farms
Spicely
Spread the Love
Tarazi Foods
Western Sierra
Yellowbird

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 7.5% in the start of 2021
- 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