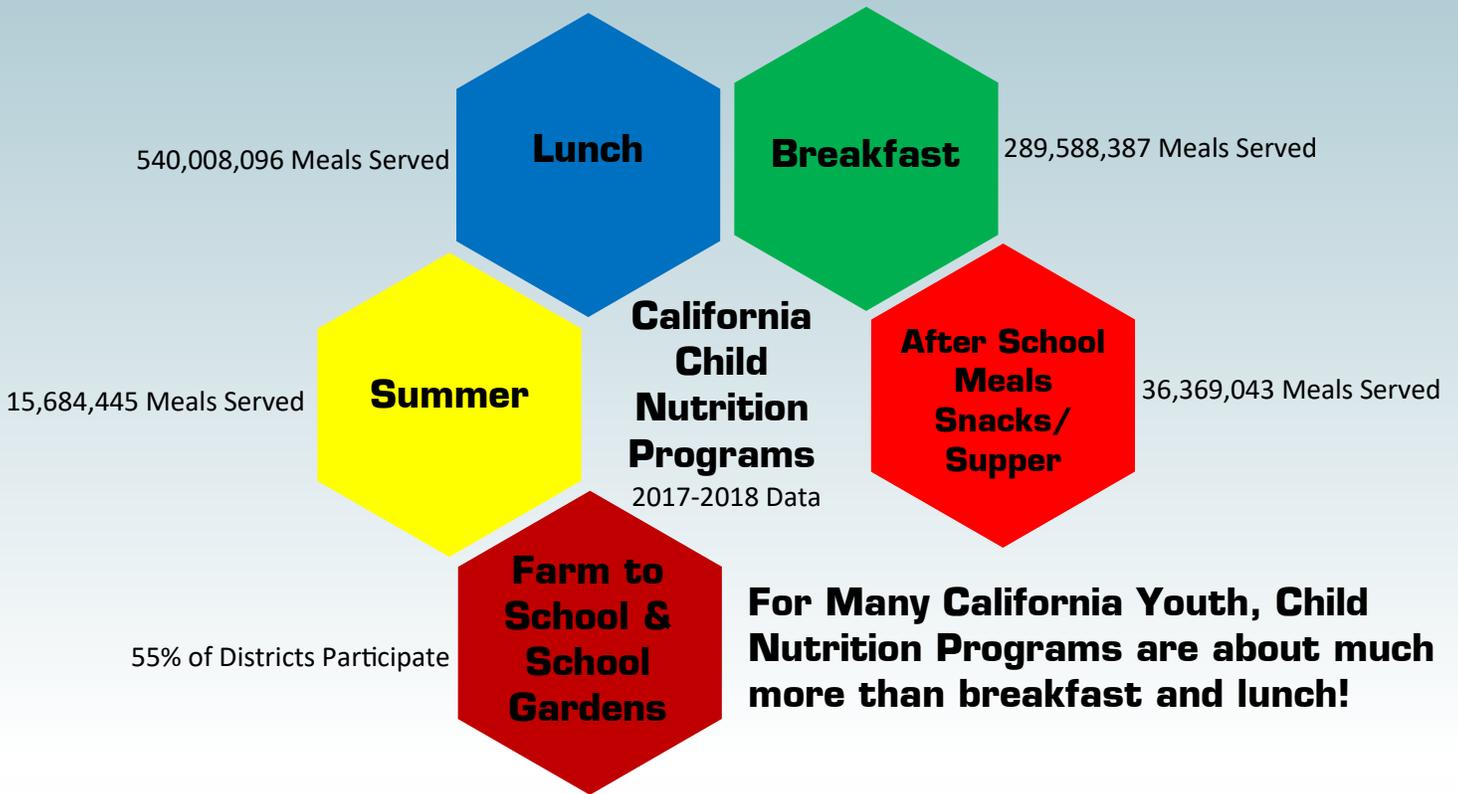


# THE MEAL VIEW

*Supporting Student Wellness Every Day,  
In and Out of School*



## Managing Pennies, Not Dollars

Did you know that federally sponsored meal programs in California schools are designed to be financially self supporting? These funds are separate from a school districts general fund. Our mandate is to provide nutritious, appetizing and appealing meals for our customers. Annual Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) cannot keep up. The USDA and Congress provide a little over \$3.53 per meal funding. California currently provides an additional \$0.2445 for Free and Reduced meals served. That may sound good, until you take into account what child nutrition costs. As a self-funded enterprise in a school district, direct and indirect costs are paid from the food service fund, not the general fund. Expenditure examples above and beyond food = Wages and Benefits (including PERS), Waste Disposal and Utilities, Paper and Supplies, Equipment Repair and Replacement.

# Serving Meals in a Pandemic

The California School Nutrition Association did a survey of its member districts to find out how many meals had been served during the Pandemic. In the **154** school districts that responded, over **370,500,000** meals were served.



## Costs are going up for our programs:

School Nutrition operations across California have had an increase in program costs under COVID with the additional PPE, food packaging materials, transportation of meals, serving and storage equipment. One example of the increased costs are vinyl gloves. Gloves are a necessity to school food service operations and are used daily. In August of 2020, the cost of gloves was \$24.95 a case. In March 2021, they increased to \$84.10 a case. This is a 337% mark up on this product alone that we use daily in our operations.



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