

# Child Nutrition Services

## Department Goals: 2025–2026 School Year



Our mission is to provide nutritious, appealing meals that support student success while maintaining fiscal and operational responsibility. The following goals guide our priorities and strategies for the year:

### 1. Student Participation Goals

- **Breakfast Participation:** 26% or higher
- **Lunch Participation:** 68% or higher

#### *Why Participation Matters:*

Student meal participation is a key indicator of both program impact and menu success. Higher participation reflects strong menu planning that meets students' tastes, nutritional needs, and cultural preferences. Engaging menus, consistent meal quality, and welcoming cafeteria environments are critical to encouraging more students to choose school meals, which in turn supports better academic performance and well-being.

### 2. Productivity Goals

- **District-wide Productivity Goal:** 16 Meals Per Labor Hour (MPLH)

#### *Why Productivity Matters:*

Productivity is a measure of efficiency that directly impacts labor costs and service quality. A goal of 16 MPLH ensures we are managing staff time effectively while delivering high-quality meals. Achieving this target promotes a balanced workload, enhances employee morale, and fosters a culture of teamwork and shared accountability. Efficient kitchens support both financial sustainability and job satisfaction.

### 3. Financial Benchmark Goals

- **Food Cost:** 42.5% of revenue
- **Labor Cost:** 42.5% of revenue
- **Other Costs:** 15% of revenue

#### *Why Financial Discipline Matters:*

With rising food and labor costs and continued fiscal challenges across the District, financial stewardship is more critical than ever. Meeting these benchmarks allows the department to operate sustainably, ensuring resources are focused on delivering quality meals and supporting student nutrition. These targets help align our operations with the broader financial realities of the District while preserving the long-term health of the Child Nutrition program.

### Looking Ahead

As we move into the 2025–2026 school year, our focus is clear: increase student participation through strong menu development, maintain high productivity to support both efficiency and staff satisfaction, and uphold strict financial benchmarks to navigate the District's ongoing fiscal constraints. Success in these areas will ensure the Child Nutrition Department continues to be a vital contributor to student success and District stability.