



**SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
LOVE FOOD NOT WASTE PROJECT
SUMMARY 2022-23**

Background

- During the 2016-17 school year, the Love Food Not Waste **food rescue** program was phased in at ALL school cafeterias and production kitchens
- From September 2016 – June 2019:
 - **530,900 pounds** of food was rescued from schools
 - **422,300 meals** equivalent
 - **275,200 pounds** of CO₂e was eliminated from the atmosphere
- Due to the pandemic and other challenges, food rescue was halted from January 2020 – June 2022

SDUSD Meal Service 2022-23

- 130,000 healthy, nutritious meals served each day
- All SDUSD students are eligible to receive FREE meals at school

Love Food Not Waste – Food Rescue & Food Scrap Diversion

- Coordinating with hunger relief organizations to once again phase-in food rescue so that certain leftover food, prepared but not taken, can be provided to help feed those in need
- Phasing in a kitchen food scrap collection program to keep organic waste from landfill disposal

Program Goals

- Rescue prepared food from landfill disposal
- Feed hungry people
- Save money by reducing food costs
- Reduce food scraps and other organic waste from going to the landfill

Reasons to Focus on Food Waste

- Over 500,000 tons of food waste is sent to local landfills each year
- 1 in 6 San Diegans don't know where their next meal will come from
 - That's 435,000 people, including 150,000 children facing food insecurity
- State laws (AB 1826 and SB 1383) requires schools to divert organic waste, including food, landscape/garden waste, and wood waste from landfill disposal in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save valuable landfill space