



An Open Letter To School Administrators

Dear School Administrator,

Thanks for taking the time to consider K-12 Food Rescue in your school district. As the Executive Director of Food Rescue, I wanted to forward you some information about school food recovery as you consider allowing students to end the practice of "landfill feeding" with unopened and unpeeled food **from their trays**, a practice that leads to **1 billion** food items being fed to landfills annually from American schools.

1. The **Richard Russell National School Lunch Act** was amended to encourage school food recovery in November of 2011.
2. The USDA supports the safe donation of unopened and unpeeled food items from the trays of students that they choose not to eat for any particular reason when following food safety guidelines.
3. The USDA has written guidelines in PDF form for K-12 Food Rescue, seen in chapter 5 of the **School Food Waste Policy History link**.
4. Over 100 K-12 Food Rescue Schools or school districts have made over 3.4 million rescued food item entries on Food Rescue's **Live Impact Dashboard**.
5. Dairy products are pasteurized, and **this Harvard study** emphasizes the safety of donating these temperature controlled for safety (TCS) products using proper guidelines and the myths often associated with their expiration.
6. Rotting food in landfills produces methane gas that is 21 times more harmful to the environment than CO₂.
7. 40% of food produced in the U.S. is wasted, including 1 billion food items annually from U.S. schools, while 50 million Americans are food insecure.
8. The USDA Secretary announced in September of 2015 **nationwide food waste reduction goals** aiming to reduce food waste by 50% by the year 2030.
9. Schools teach children that food has nutritional value, and K-12 Food Rescue practices augment that message, rather than erode it.
10. Schools want to teach children to be thankful, yet the thankless process of harming the environment, and ignoring children and families in need is facilitated if not "taught" by allowing students to fill landfills with unopened and unpeeled food items.

Let's end the practice of landfill feeding one school cafeteria at a time. We can end it in every state, and preserve over 1 billion unopened and unpeeled food items annually.

K-12 Food Rescue programs are a joint cooperative venture between local schools, local food pantries/qualified caring agencies, and local health departments. The entire program and relationship is between these three parties, and Food Rescue has no oversight over any K-12 Food Rescue programs around the country.

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Inspiring Student Leaders

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