



School Food For All:
Nourishing Futures



L'alimentation scolaire pour tous :
Nourrir l'avenir



Engaging children and youth and bringing student voice into school food programs

A.M.P. Up Student Voices for School Food Campaign

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Équiterre





A.M.P. Up Student Voices for School Food

by Brent Mansfield



The Power of Student Voice in Securing Canada's Investment

As school food programs are developed and expanded in Canada, it's important for students to be able to tell local, provincial, territorial, and federal decision-makers what kind of programs they want, as well as how they would like to participate in them.

The Power of Student Voice

Updated: Jul 11

On June 20th, 2024, the federal government launched its [National School Food Policy](#). What was remarkable is that PM Trudeau and Deputy PM and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland launched the Policy at schools where students had written them letters.

Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Jenna Sudds, and Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Sean Fraser joined students, teachers and community leaders at Northumberland High School to launch the Policy. Check out the Prime Minister's speech [here](#).



Back in July 2024, we published a blog post about the power of student voices.



How do we get students involved?





The Coalition for Healthy School Food would like to introduce the newest campaign:

A.M.P. Up Student Voices for School Food campaign!



This campaign better enable educators and community organizations to :

- 1) amplify and mobilize student voices** and;
- 2) to support students to actively and meaningfully participate in decisions and programs at their school** whether that is through classes or school-based extracurricular clubs.



A.M.P. Up Student Voices for School Food Activities

Letter-Writing

Creative art and messages

Student photo voice

Student Leadership Clubs and Committee



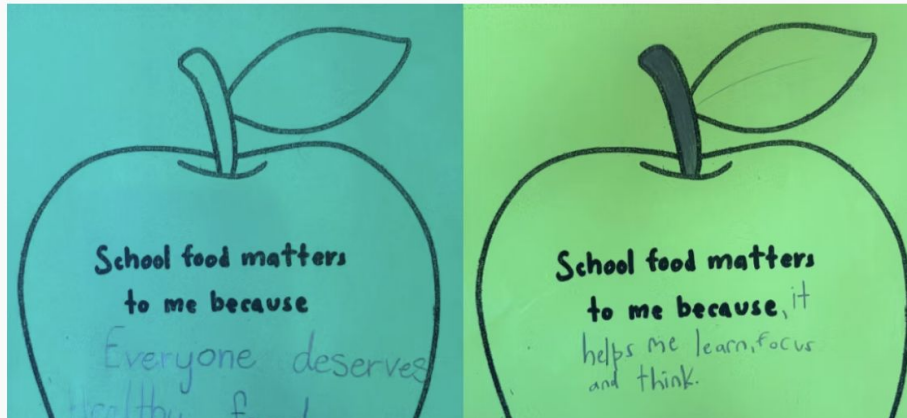
Creative art and messages

Getting students involved in creating art with short written messages provides another opportunity for students to share perspectives in their own words and through creative expression.

Students can be supported and encouraged to reflect on what school food means to them and to express their voice and creativity to speak out for school food programs that benefit students from coast to coast to coast.

Activity #1 from the 2026 Great Big Crunch Activity Toolkit is an example of how to engage students in creative art and messages. In this activity students are provided with a paper apple and asked to write a short message about school food by completing one or more of the sentence stems:

- Crunching on healthy food at school helps me...
- School food matters to me because...
- It is important for there to be more healthy food for all students at school because...



A.M.P. Up Student Voices for School Food Activities

< Hosting MPs, MPPs / MLAs, trustees

Inviting student input on how they want to be involved

Student involvement >



Hosting MPs, MPPs / MLAs, trustees

Another powerful opportunity for students to share their voices on school food programs with elected decision-makers - federal, provincial / territorial, municipal, or school district - is to invite them to visit your school to see your school food programs in action. Many decision-makers love the opportunity to get out into the community and see the impact of policies and programs on the ground. Students, though not yet voters, provide a valuable and critical perspective on school food programs, which many will be keen to hear.

Organizing a school visit could benefit from being combined with other activities from the A.M.P. Up campaign, such as letter-writing, which could include an invitation to decision makers to visit your program. Other options could include students sharing some of their voices through other activities, whether in a display or a short presentation. This could include student photo voice, creative art and messages, or the results of a survey on how students want to be involved in school food programs.

It can work well to designate two or three students to serve as lead hosts. These students should be confident in their communication and clear on key messages, which have been developed through various activities with the entire class or student group.

Depending on the nature of your school food program, it would be great to invite the guest to share food with the students to give them a full experience. This could then be followed by a short presentation in which more students can be given the opportunity to share their perspectives, talk about the impacts of school food programs, and the outputs of any AMP Up activities.



Get Involved

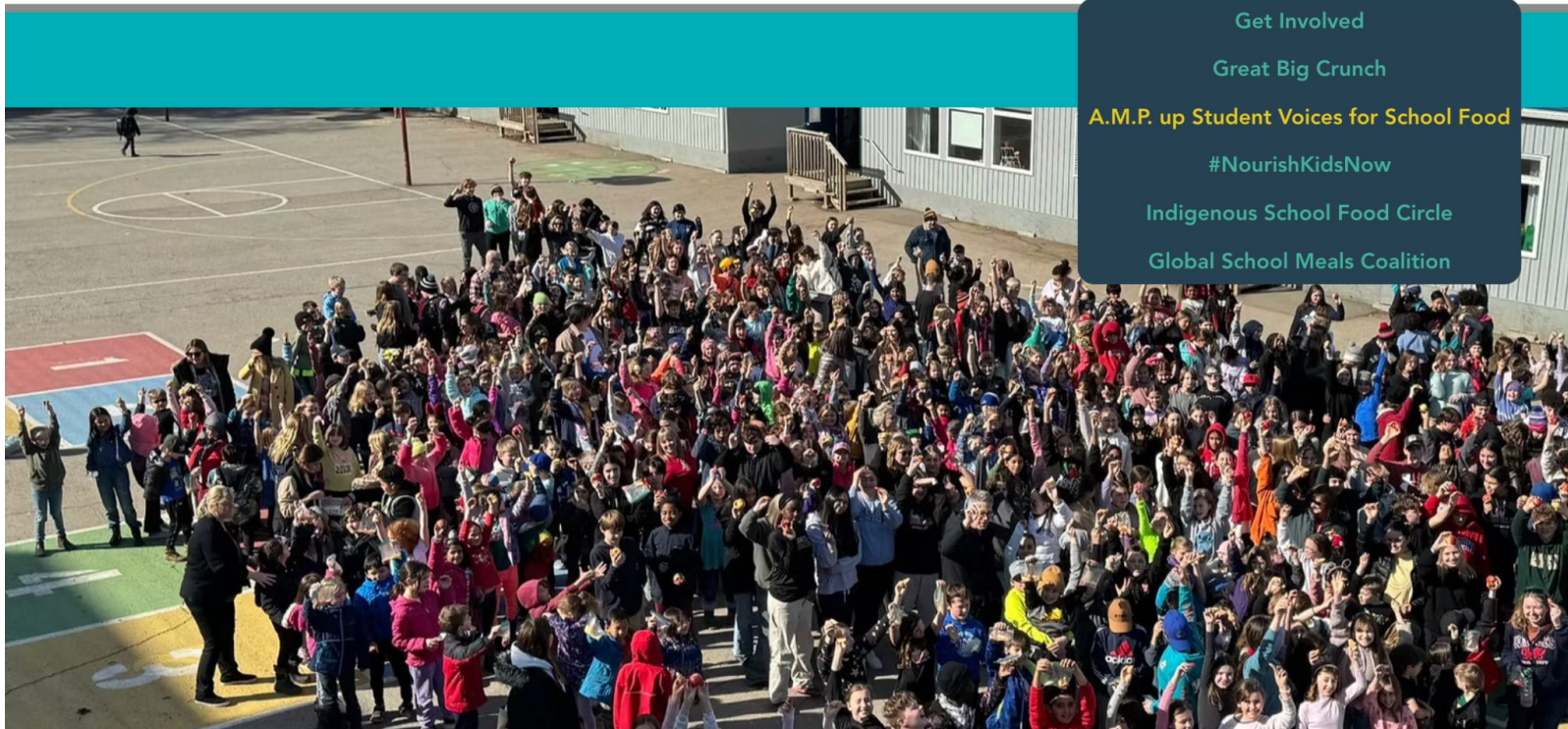
Great Big Crunch

A.M.P. up Student Voices for School Food

#NourishKidsNow

Indigenous School Food Circle

Global School Meals Coalition



www.healthyschoolfood.ca/studentvoicesforschoolfood



Sign Up for Updates



GET INVOLVED AND SHARE STUDENT VOICES

We would love for you to share the activities you do with students with the Coalition so that we can see what is happening in schools and amplify and share student voices.

Please send any photos or documents to
studentvoices@healthyschoolfood.ca.

If photos don't contain faces or identifying information of students, the Coalition would love to share them through a variety of our communications channels, including social media, newsletters, and websites.

If you are posting on social media, we ask that you tag the Coalition for Healthy School Food (@chsf_canada on Instagram) and use the hashtags:

#StudentVoicesForSchoolFood
#VoicesForSchoolFood #AMPUpSchoolFood.

Enter your email here *

Sign Up

Additional communications about the campaign to follow for back to school

