

Child Nutrition Services Update

Fall SY2026/2027

Tiffany Lawrence

Senior Director, Child Nutrition Services

Joint Meeting (WCPSS Board/Wake Commissioners)

Aug. 12, 2026

Child Nutrition Update Agenda 2026-27

- ❖ Mission and Vision Statement
- ❖ CNS District Statistics (F & R and ADP)
- ❖ CNS Staff Recruitment Efforts/Staffing Levels
- ❖ Career Development and Professional Learning
- ❖ Culinary Training Emphasis
- ❖ Community Eligibility Program/Universal Breakfast
- ❖ Breakfast Initiatives
- ❖ Our Story In Action

The Team 2026-2027 Child Nutrition Services

Tiffany Lawrence, Senior Director

Melanie Dattero, Director of Field Operations

Holli Blackwell, Director of Field Operations

Jodi Moore, Senior Administrator, Business Manager

Rebecca Bryan, Senior Administrator, Business Manager

Area Administrators – 10

Menu Administrator

Training Administrator

Warehouse Administrator

Technology Administrator

Training Specialist - 10

Other Central Office Support Staff - 8

Cashiers/Food Service Workers

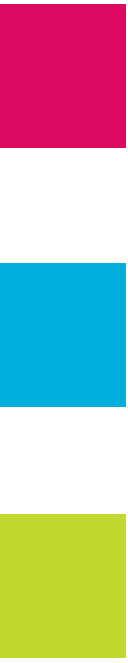
Assistant Managers

Managers

New to role

Existing in role

Child Nutrition Services - Vision and Mission



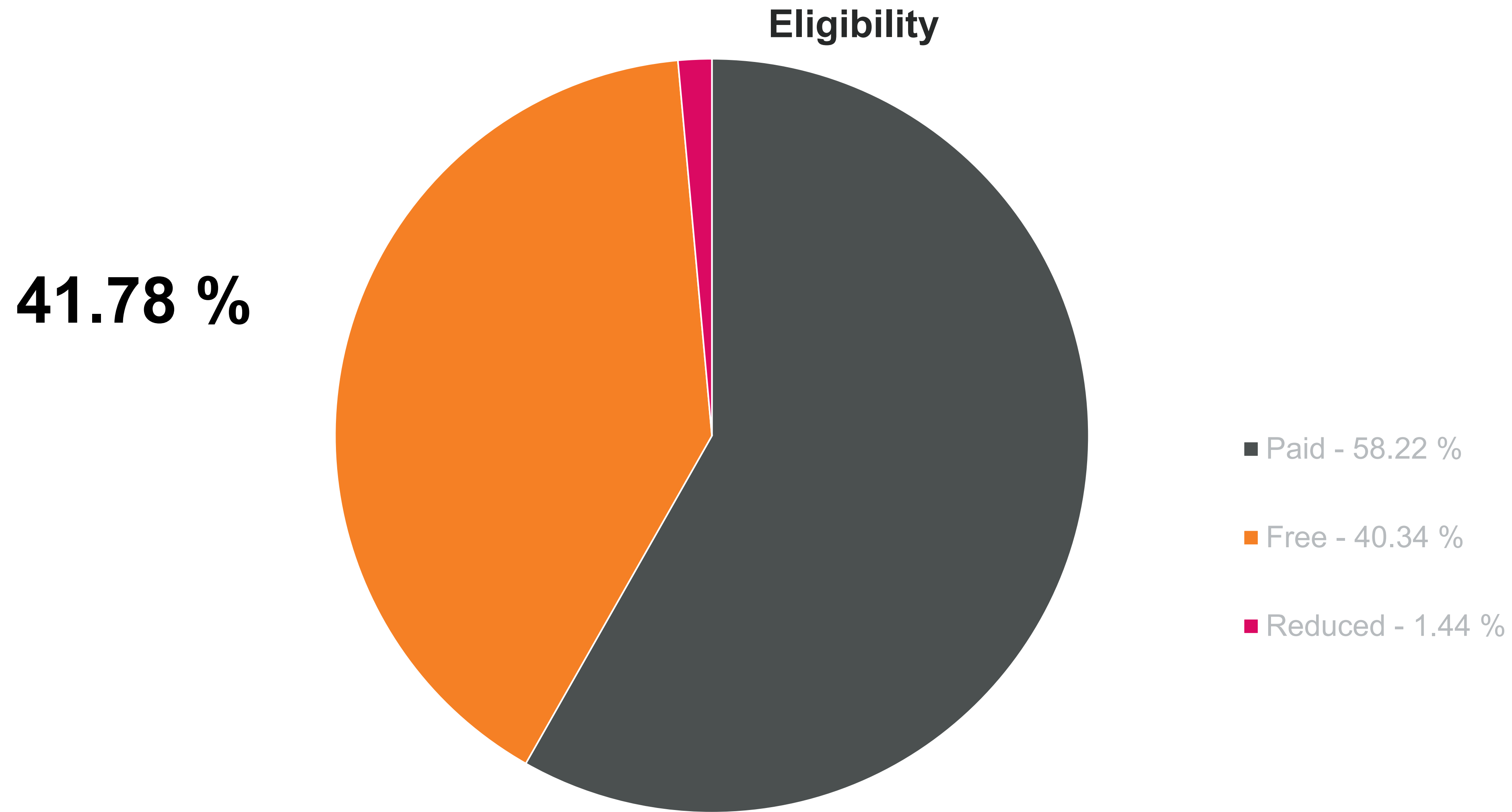
Mission

We will support academic success by providing healthy food to nourish the whole child in a caring, welcoming, engaging environment.

Vision

All WCPSS students will be valued and empowered to make healthy meal choices to reach their full potential.

WCPSS Free and Reduced % Rate



Feeding WAKE County: Spring 2026

203
 **Schools**

161,115
 **Students**
(37.5% Free & Reduced)

21,000
 **Breakfast Meals
Served Per Day**

54,000
 **Lunch Meals
Served Per Day**

Recruiting Efforts

Child Nutrition Job Fair | Wake County Public School System

Saturday, September 13, 2025 📅 Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM 📍 Location: Rock Quarry Complex, 1551 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh NC 27610, Contact Us 919-533-7200

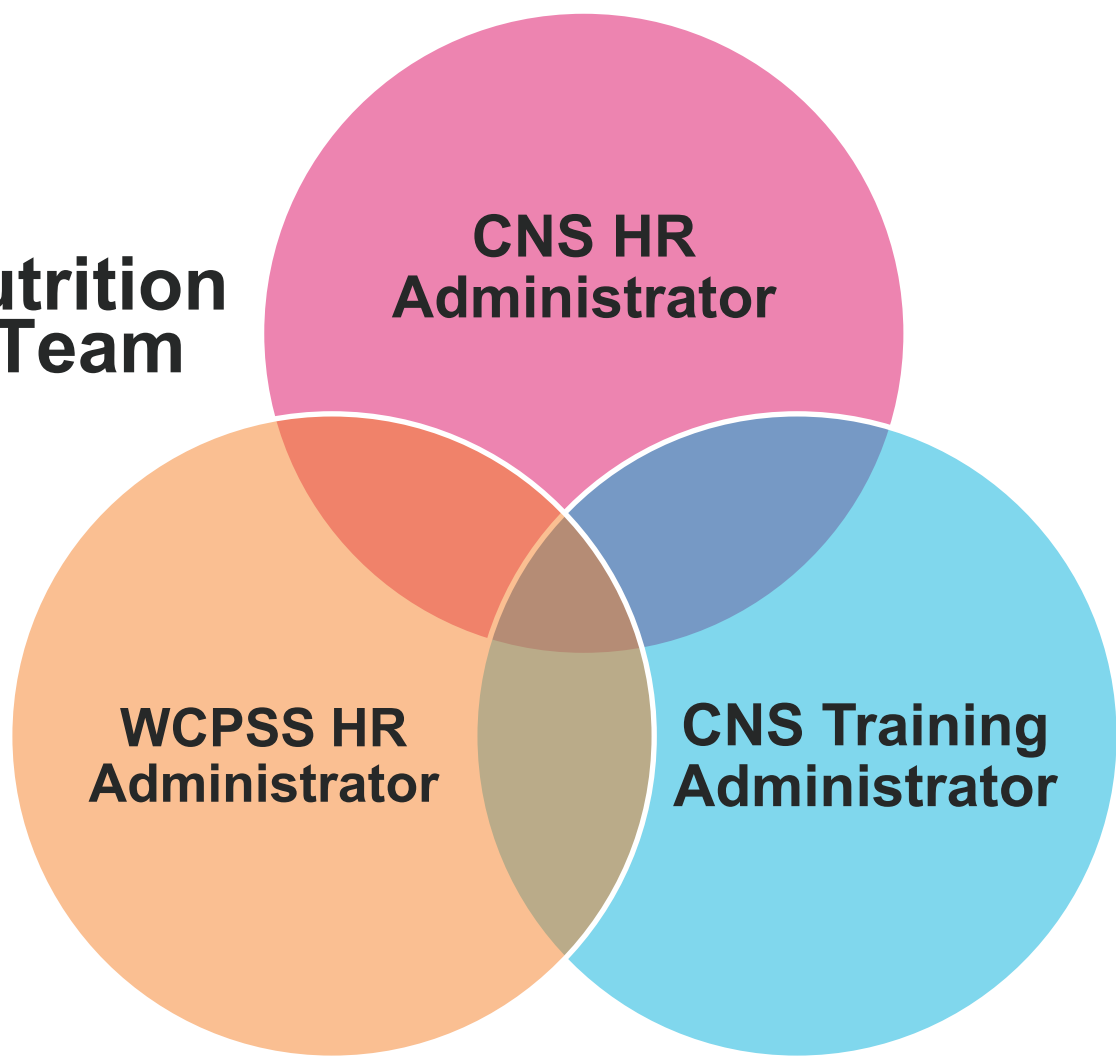
Instagram · wcpssofficial
10+ likes · 10 months ago

🍏 Join our Child Nutrition Services (CNS) Team to help ...

CNS Job Fair on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to noon in Building A of our Rock Quarry Complex. a.m. to 12 p.m., at Rock Quarry Complex 1551 ...

WCPSS Talent Acquisitions Department

WCPSS Child Nutrition Services Hiring Team



Child Nutrition Services Job Fair

July 18, 2026 09:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Saturday, July 18 📅 Time: 9 to 11 a.m. 📍 Location: S Raleigh Magnet High, 2600 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh. Contact Us ...
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Wake County Public School System
<https://www.wcpss.net/~board/newsletter/post/do...>

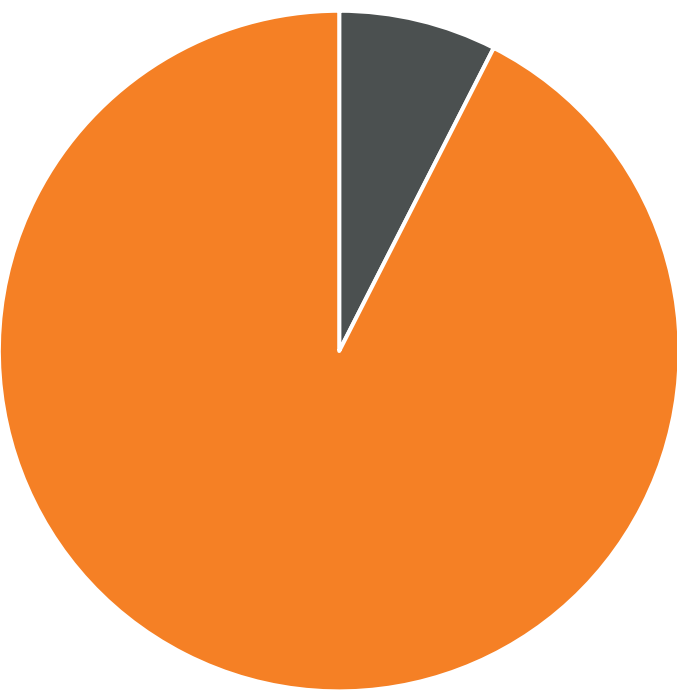
Don't forget to join us for our Child Nutrition Services Job ...

6 days ago — From 9 to 11 a.m., candidates can learn more about opportunities available in nutrition, meet our team, and apply for open roles. [Read more](#)
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Wake County Public School System
<https://careers.wcpss.net/events/events>

Our Events

Current Staffing Levels



- School Based Vacancies
- School Based Total Positions

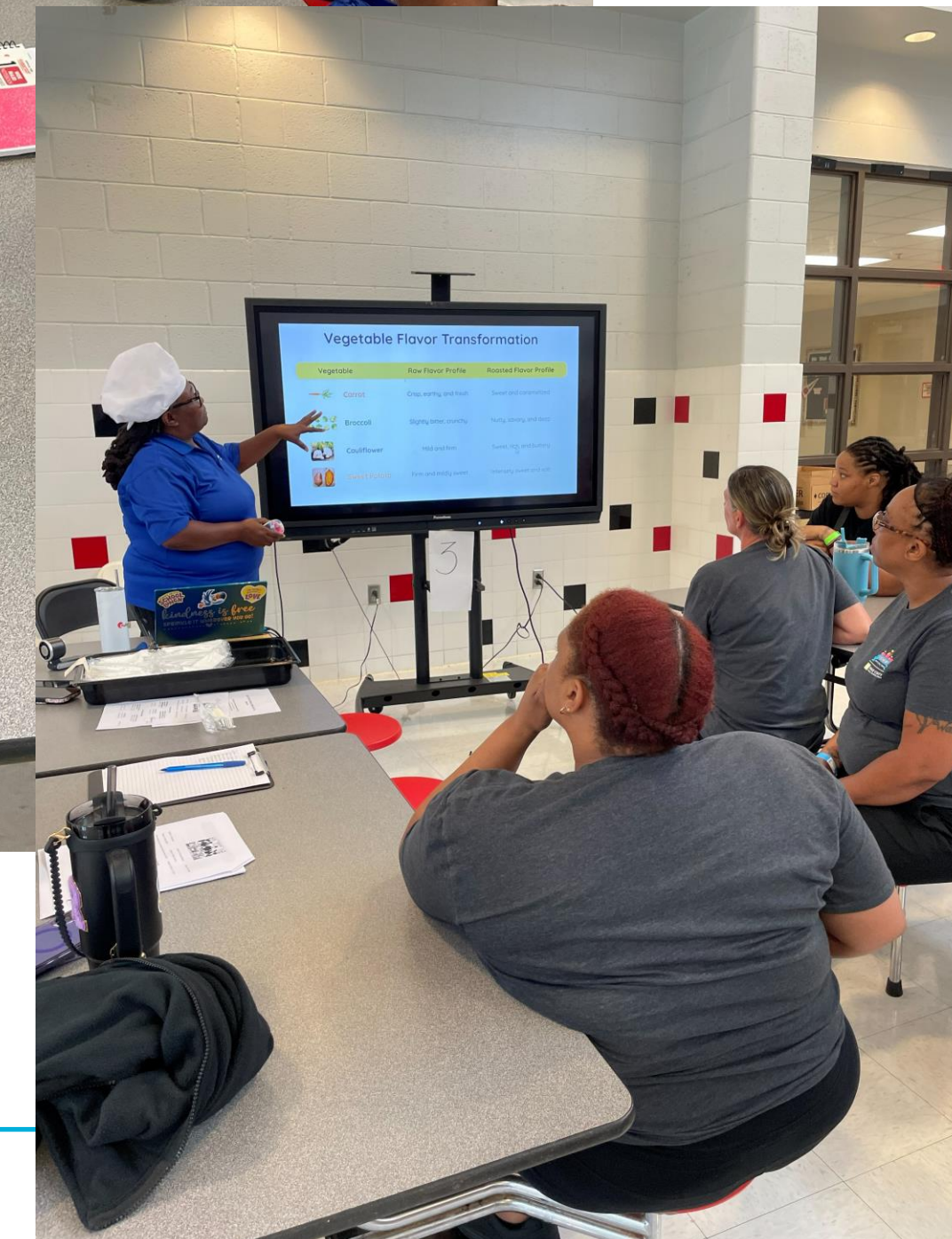
Career Development & Professional Learning

Purpose : To invest in career and professional development as a strategy to build the capacity of school nutrition staff, preparing them to meet evolving program demands, improve performance, and drive continuous improvement across the district.

Programs

- Professional development days for all school-based staff.
- Manager-In-Training Cohort (Approximately 28 Managers SY26)
- Assistant Manager Trainings
- Leadership Retreat Days – Central Office Staff
- Culinary Specific Trainings

Capacity Building: Culinary Training



Community Eligibility Program/Universal Breakfast

A federally funded program that allows schools to provide breakfast and lunch at no cost regardless of family income level.

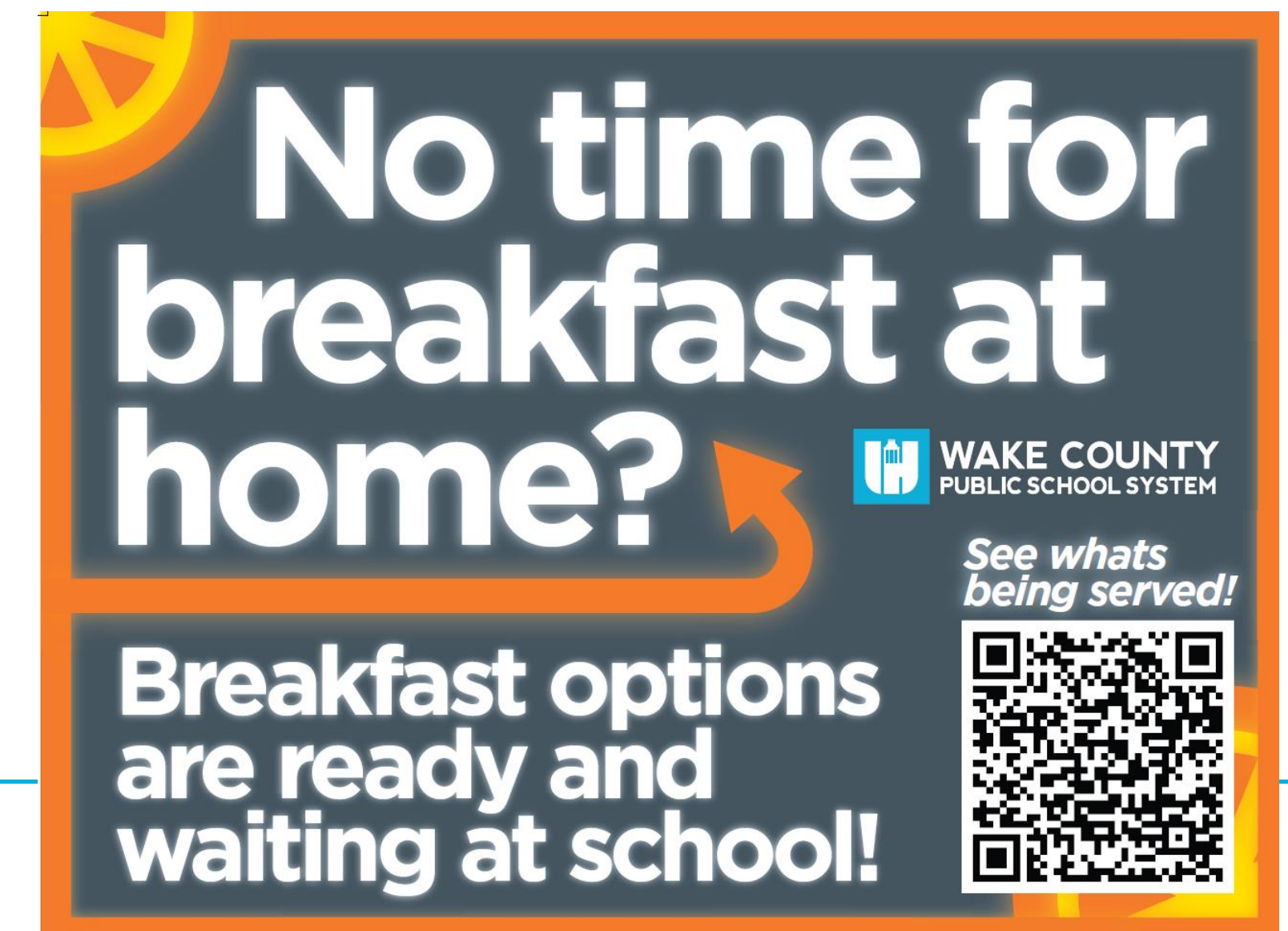
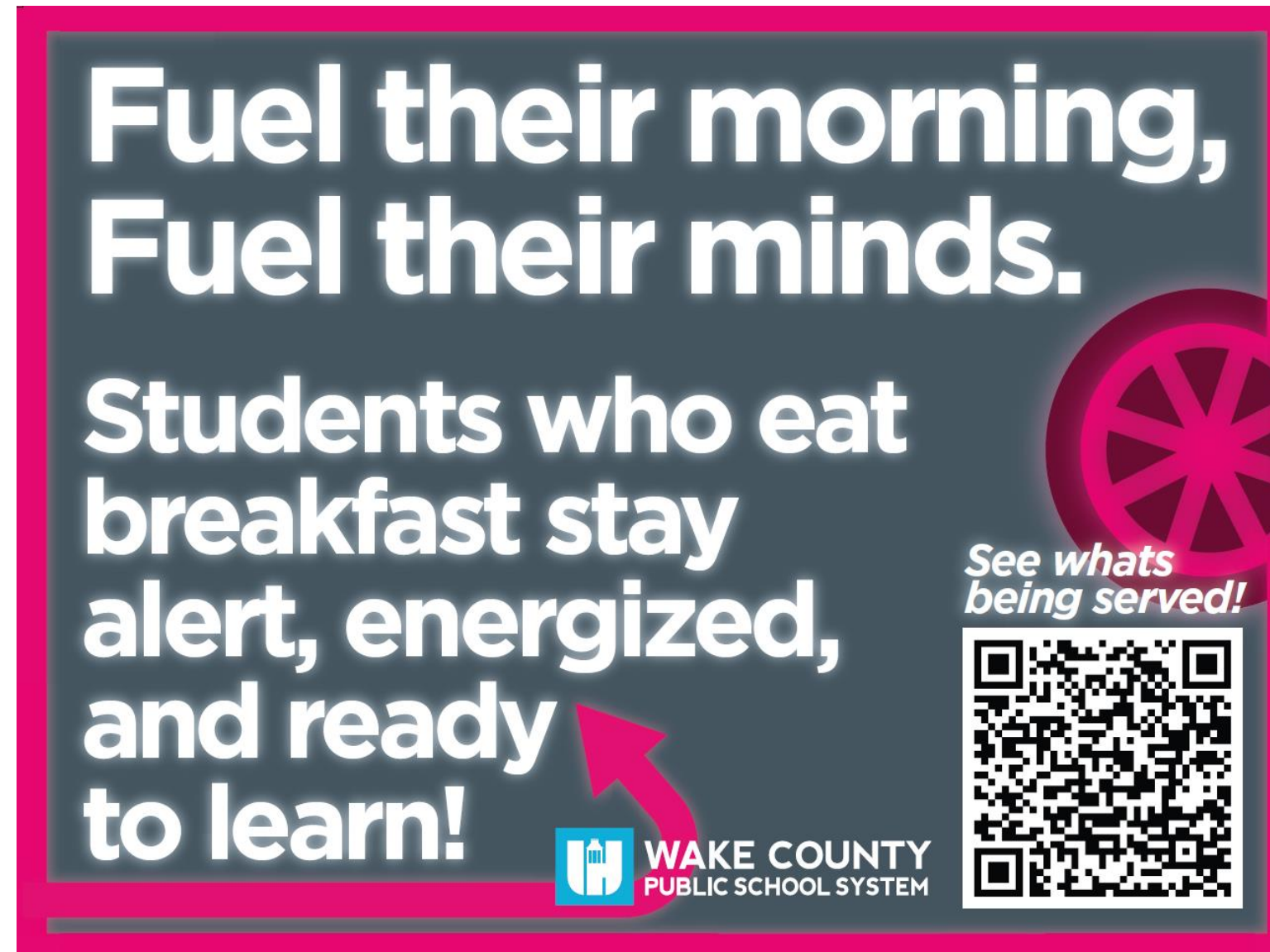
Number of CEP Schools	
44	SY25/26
53	SY26/27

A Wake Gov. funded program that allows schools to provide breakfast at no cost regardless of family income level.

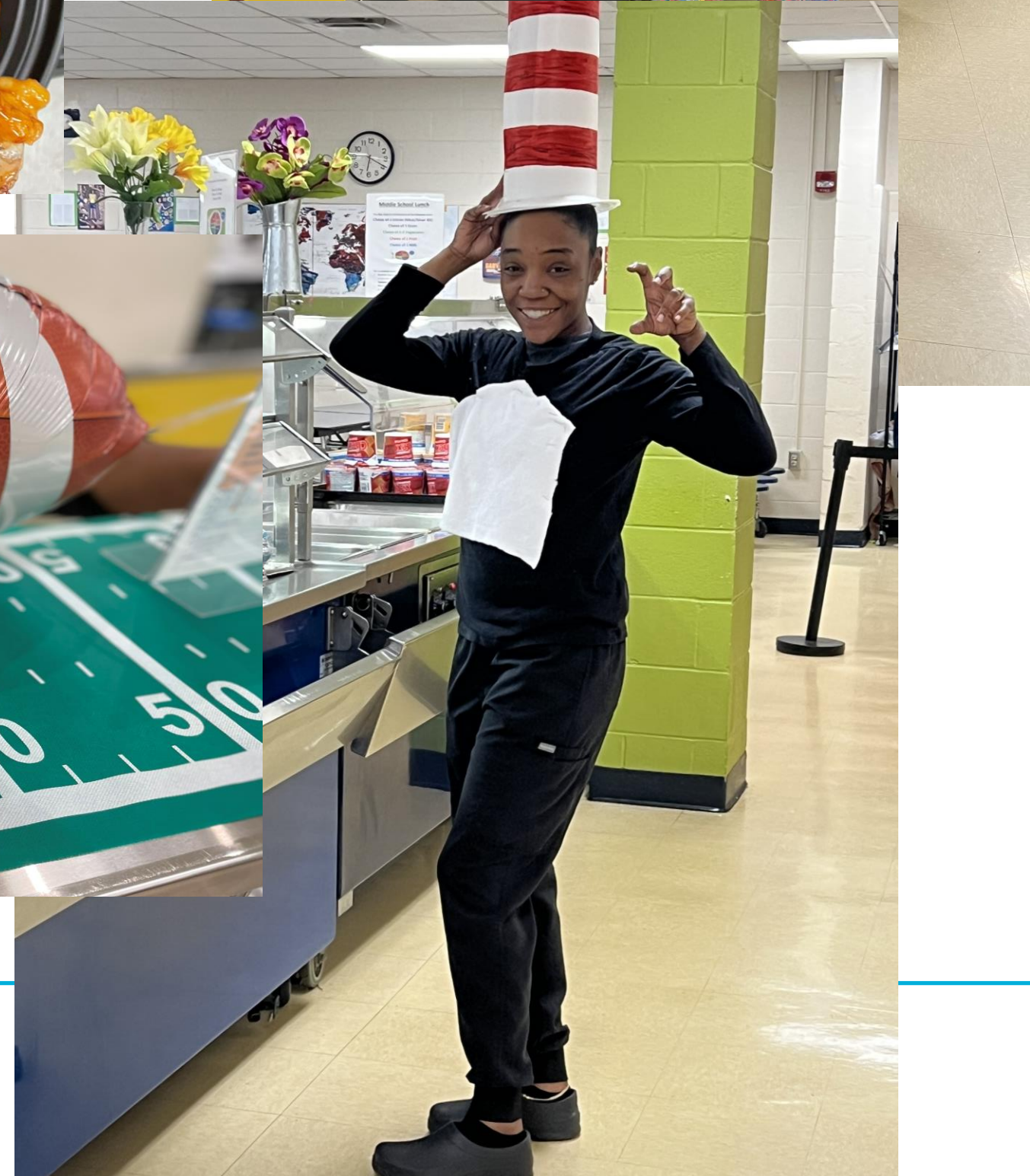
Number of UB Schools	
5	SY24/25
5	SY25/26
11	SY26/27

Breakfast Initiatives

- Increasing Alternative Breakfast Methods - Grab-n-go, Breakfast in the Classroom, Second Chance Breakfast, Breakfast After the Bell
- Breakfast Prime Location Collaboration with School Administrators
- Training and Support for Schools
- Increasing Protein Breakfast options
- Increasing Student Preference Feedback Opportunities (Flavor Labs)
- Marketing Promotions Focused on Breakfast



We Are Telling Our Story & Having Fun While Doing It



Collaboration – Offer Vs Serve/Food Waste Video



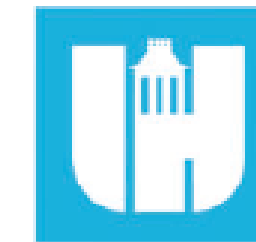
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uw5dPcm0J3s>

Laura Wood, MEd, NBCT
Senior Administrator - Sustainability
Facilities, Design & Construction

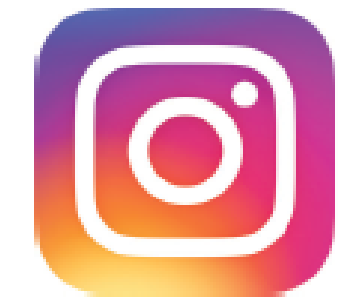
Mr. Dennis Perks, WCPSS CTE Teacher
Students, Apex Friendship High School

Questions?

Follow Us!



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



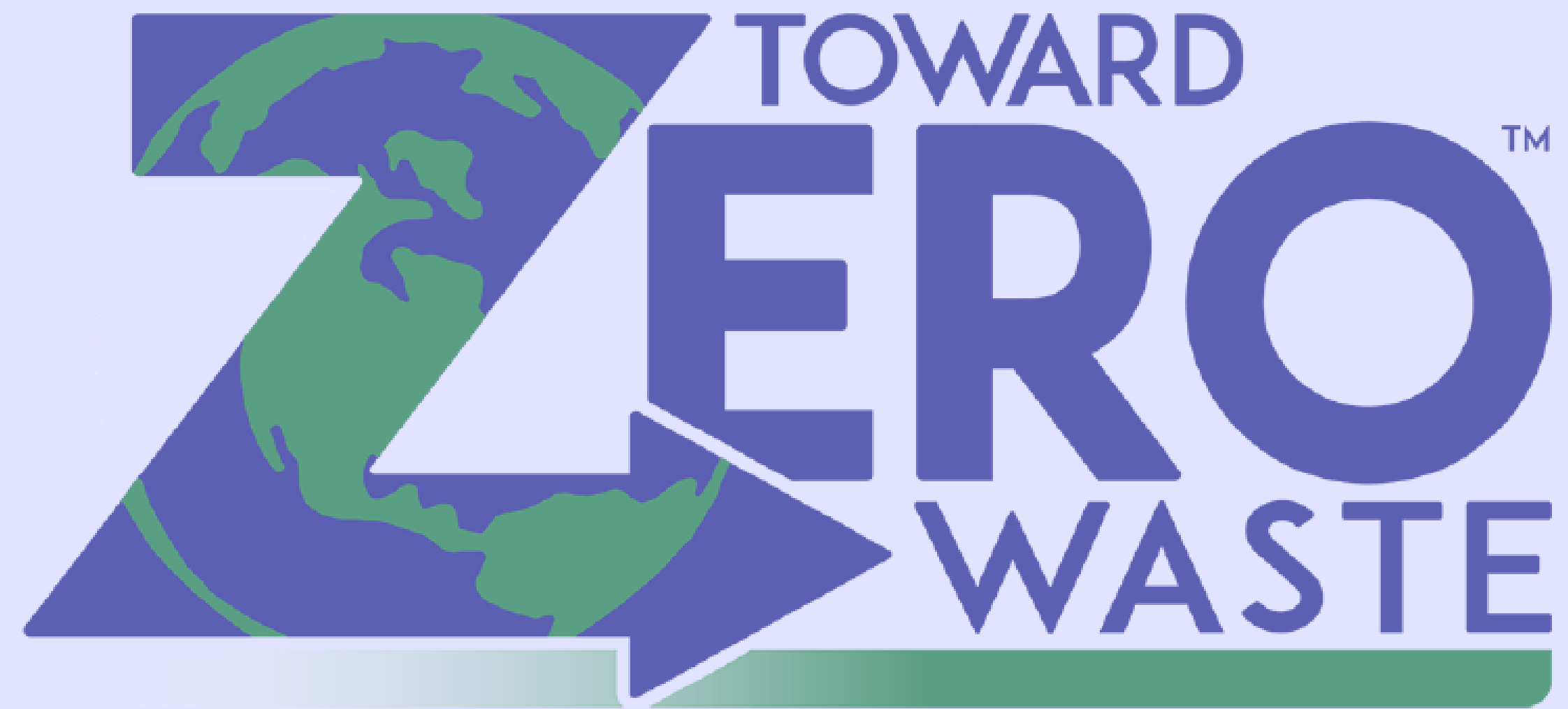
Let's Get Connected for Menus, Updates and More!



WCPSS Child Nutrition



@wakecountycns



Toward Zero Waste is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting waste-conscious living in North Carolina through inspiration, education, and action.

Kathleen Liebowitz, Executive Director

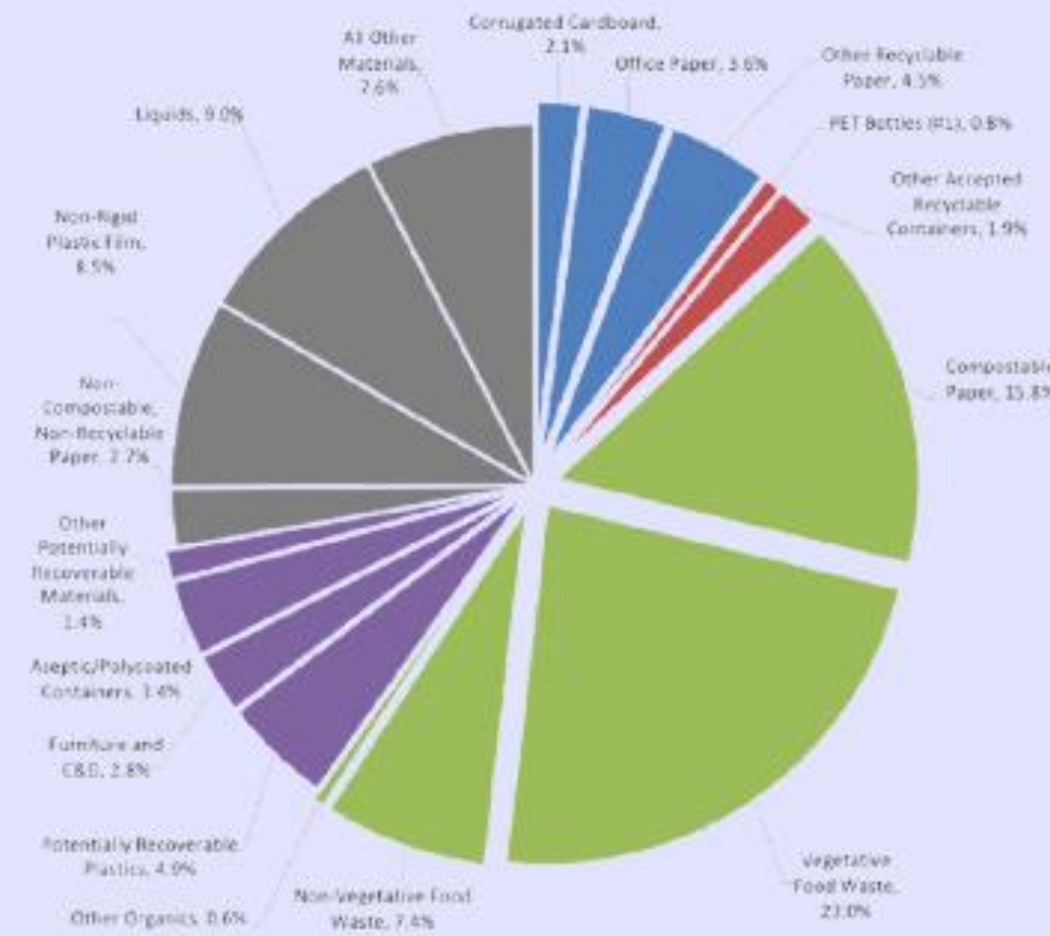


BACKGROUND

WCPSS 2023 Waste Composition Study

- Nearly half of elementary school waste was compostable
- Study noted an abundance of unopened single serving packages of vegetables and fruit

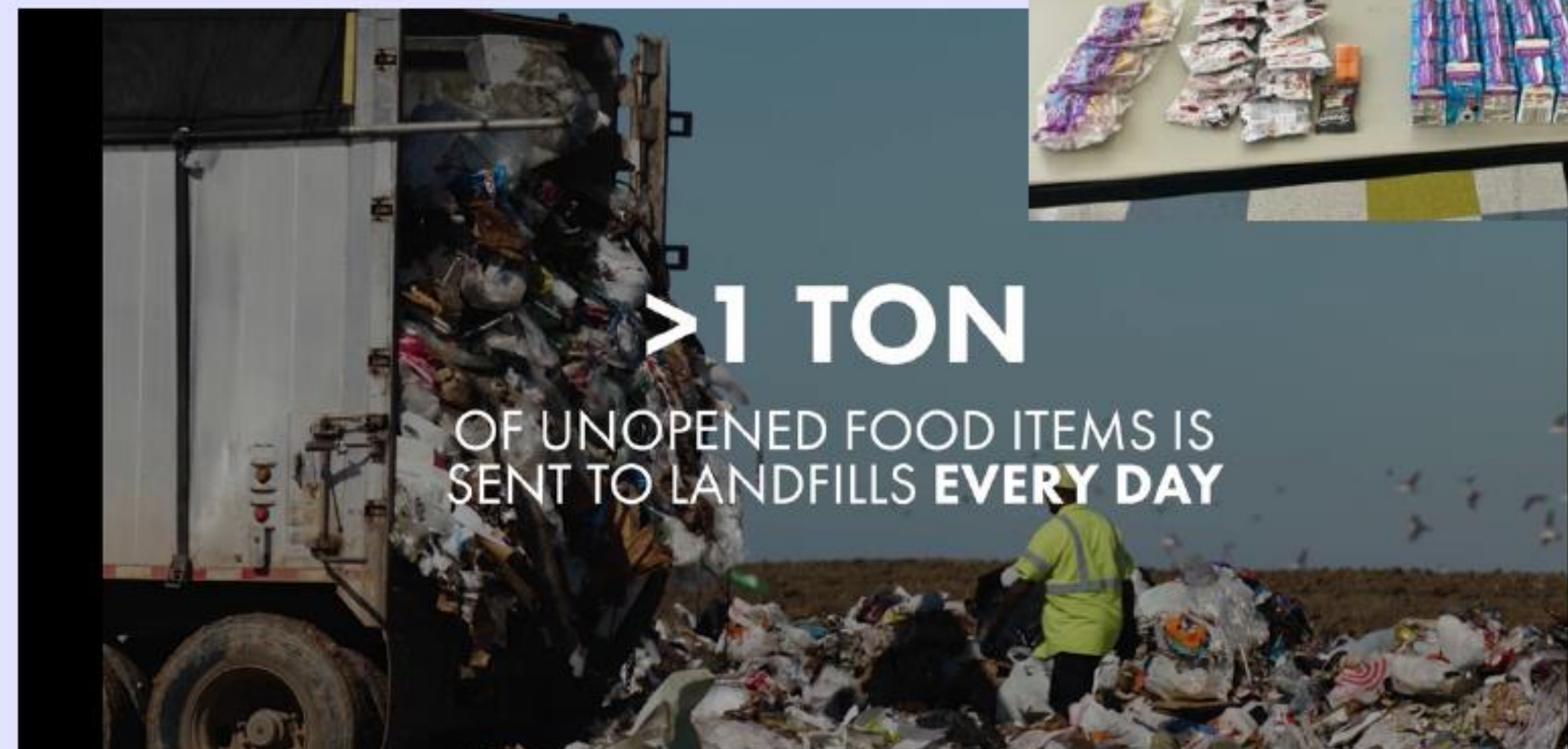
Figure 3-1: Composition of Elementary School Waste



WCPSS Free &
Reduced Lunch
2025-26 = 42.4%

WCPSS Lunch Waste Audit

- A 2024 elementary lunch waste audit = 20% of waste, by weight, was recoverable food





SHARE PROGRAM PROCESS



1

Students place unwanted, unopened food items from their tray onto the SHARE Collection Cart during meals.

2

Students access the cart to donate or take items during meals as permitted by the school. Leftover items are transferred to the SHARE Fridge and Pantry Cart by the school's SHARE team.

3

Students may access items throughout the day. Missed breakfast? Forgot to pack a snack? Check out the SHARE Fridge and Pantry Cart!





SHARE PROGRAM

MEASURING PROGRAM SUCCESS



Data Highlights (usage examples)

- A student arrived late, missing breakfast = **bag of apple slices and a juice carton** from the SHARE Fridge.
- A student stopped in the front office and asked for an afternoon snack = **applesauce cup and spoon**.

**41 FOOD ITEMS DONATED
PER DAY
PER SCHOOL
(7,380 PER SCHOOL YEAR)**





SHARE PROGRAM EXPANSION



PHASE 2

- July - September 2025 = 10 schools (6 elementary, 4 middle)

PHASE 3

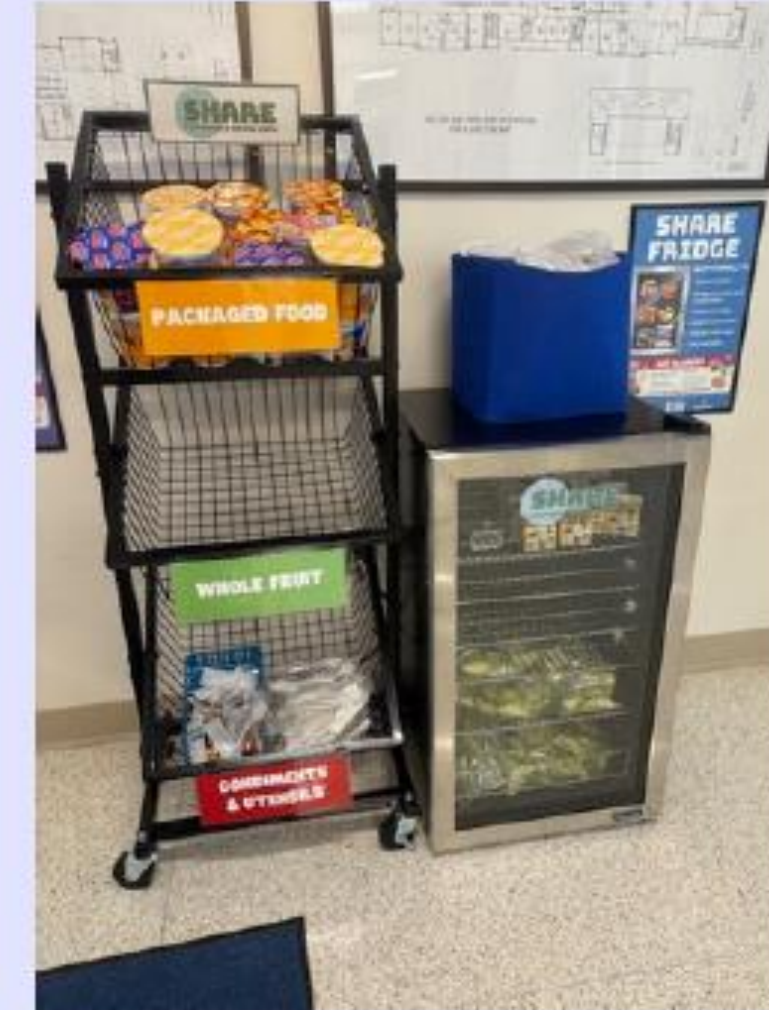
- November - January 2026 = 9 schools (6 elementary, 3 middle)

PHASE 4

- March - April 2026 = 10 schools (8 elementary, 2 middle)

PHASE 5

- July - September 2026 = 10 schools (includes 2 high schools)



= 47

**SHARE schools &
346,860 items to be
recovered for 2026-27**

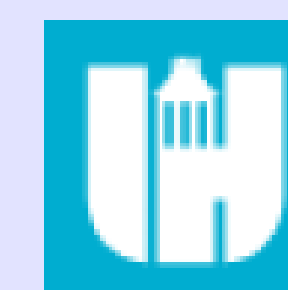


SHARE PROGRAM

SHARE TEAM



- Toward Zero Waste
 - Director of Food Recovery and Compost, Megan Holler
 - SHARE Program Manager, Nicole Wilkins
- NC Cooperative Extension, Wake County Center
 - AmeriCorps VISTA, Maci Davis
- Wake County Gov, Community Services Dept/Solid Waste
 - Program support from Environmental Education Program Coordinator, Deja Smith
- WCPSS
 - School-based team at each SHARE school
 - Sustainability Coordinator, Laura Wood



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM





BEYOND THE PILOT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH



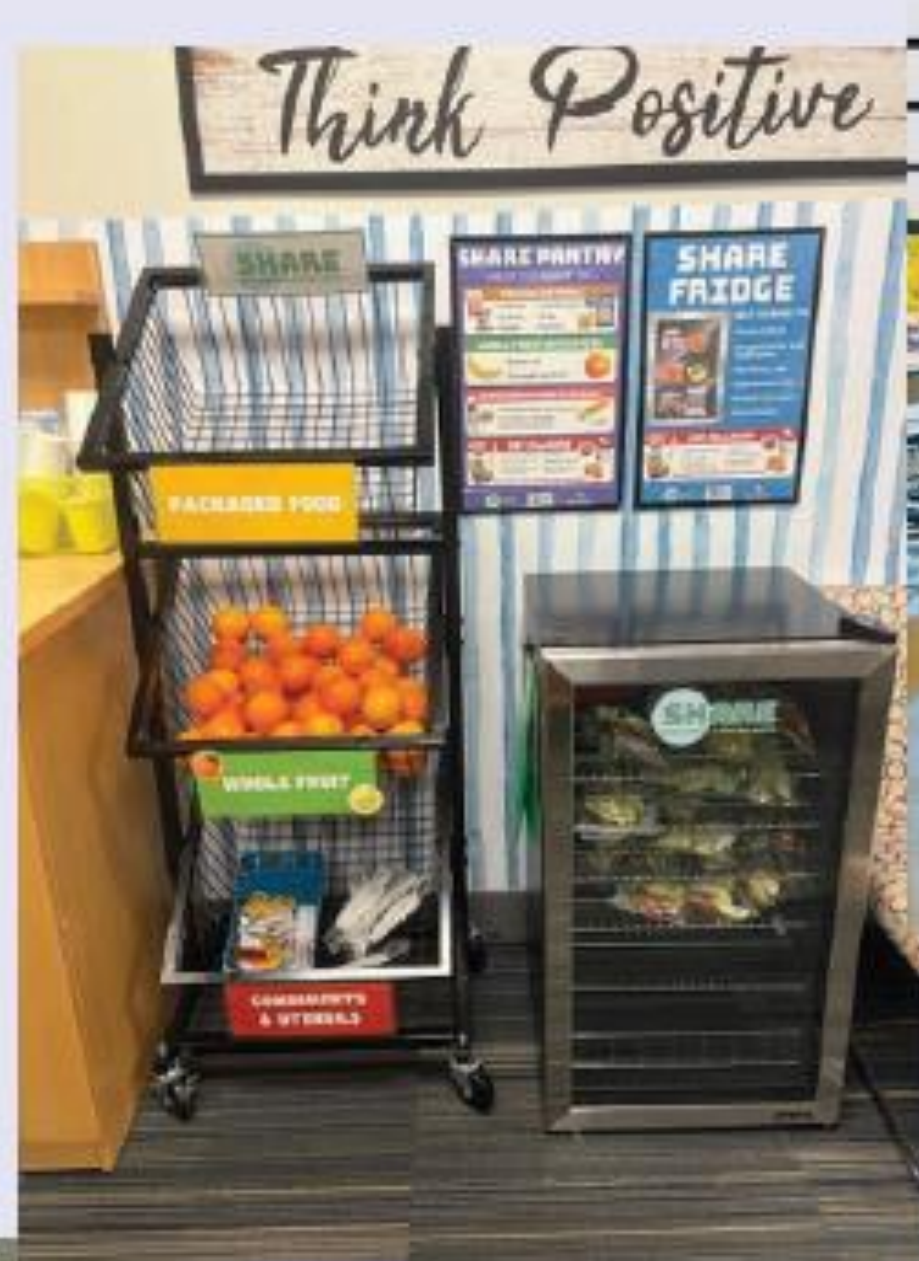
- Expansion of SHARE to any interested school within WCPSS
- Collaboration with other school districts looking to develop food recovery programs
- Advocacy at the state level for expanding recovery opportunities in NC schools





Total Zero Waste

SHARE PROGRAM PILOT



Total Zero Waste



SHARE PROGRAM CONTACTS

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