

Transforming the School Meal Experience The Case for A Major Expansion of Enhanced Cafeterias in NYC



The NYC Office of Food and Nutrition Services (OFNS) has rolled out an innovative cafeteria redesign in 34 middle school and high school cafeterias throughout the city. The “Cafeteria Enhancement Experience” features deli-style serving lines and student-friendly seating areas (over for photos).

In the schools with the enhanced cafeterias student participation and fruit and vegetable consumption has increased dramatically. To build on the foundation of universal free school lunch, we are calling on Chancellor Carranza to commit \$175 million in his 5-Year Capital Plan in order to enhance half of all NYC high schools and middle schools.

More Fruits and Vegetables Served

Compared with schools of the same type without an enhanced cafeteria, enhanced cafeterias served: *

3.0x more
Bananas, Peppers, & Tomatoes



4.0x more
Apples, Carrots, & Spinach



30.0x more
Lettuce



4.9x more
Broccoli



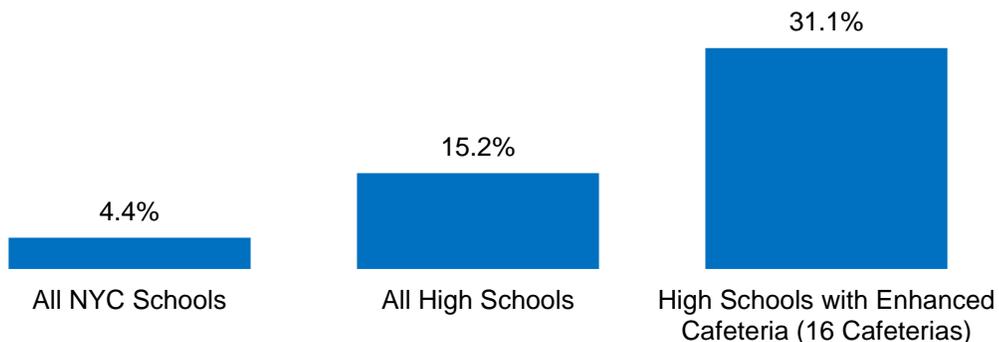
11.3x more
Grapes



Higher School Lunch Participation

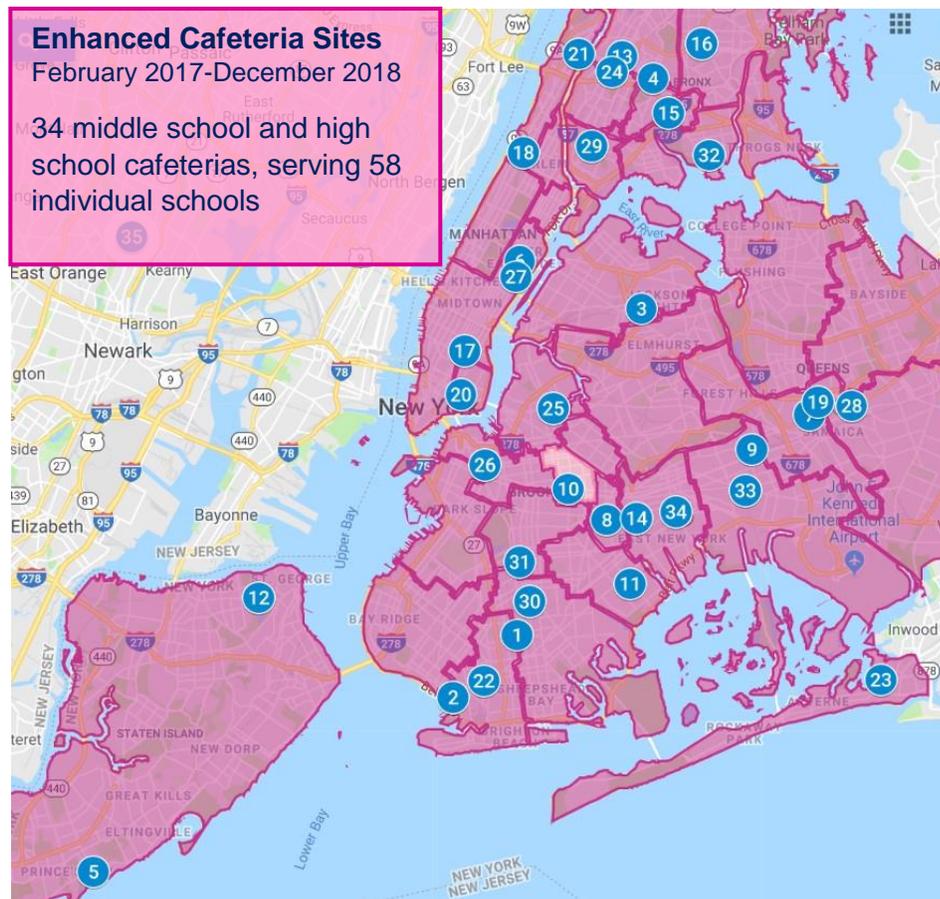
Our analysis found an increase of 31.1% in lunch participation in high schools with an enhanced cafeteria in the 2017-18 school year, compared with the previous year. This is compared to a 15.2% in all high schools and 4.4% in all schools. The 2017-18 school year was also the first year of universal free school lunch.

■ Percent increase from 2016-17 to 2017-18



About Enhanced Cafeterias

The new serving line includes more menu options daily, and the presentation dramatically increases the appeal of the food. The lunchrooms are more comfortable and inviting, with diner-style booths and round tables replacing the institutional rectangular tables with benches. Additionally, the Food Court Style serving lines have significantly reduced the time that students stand on line, allowing for more time to eat, socialize and decompress.



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*based on Department of Education Office of Food and Nutrition Services analysis