



Scaling Up Excellence in the School Meals Experience that's Vital to Fueling Every Child's Success

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER – Vol. 1

Greetings to our Nourish to Flourish 2 July 2018 meeting attendees, those who participated in our initial school meals summit in March 2017 and other interested individuals.

As we enter the holiday season and the end of another year, I wanted to provide you with an update on the progress of a few of the work groups. This newsletter is the first in a series meant to keep the broader Nourish to Flourish audience apprised of all the great work that is underway.

FOOD MATTERS (Incorporating Technology)

The data sharing and analytics initiative has reached critical mass across several milestones. As some of you may know, inTEAM has been designated to provide the system design for open data standards. This approach ensures that measurements and comparative results (Key Performance Indicators) are consistent across multiple software solutions. Development is in process, including engagement with GS1's Global Standards Synchronization Network (GDSN) and the establishment of a data pool for this purpose.

The basic infrastructure is in place and several major suppliers are already on board and have agreed to publish data to the Nourish to Flourish (N2F) data pool. All have agreed to support the industry wide initiative by carving out a "quiet" development period supporting the N2F initiative in order to refine the standards and avoid duplicative splinter efforts. Local dairy councils, state agencies and school districts have also agreed to participate in the pilot to test the data collection and reporting protocols.

This pilot will start in January 2019 and run for approximately 18 months. The pilot will create a proving ground for Nourish to Flourish ideas and innovations, providing normalized data across a wide range of demographics. Once the pilot phase is complete, this work group looks forward to strategizing together on a plan and timing that allows industry-wide access to the platform so that it can grow in scale, be sustainable and be available to schools at no cost. If you represent a food supplier and have not yet joined this pilot, please contact Elizabeth Vegas at elizabeth@drivecommonality.com to learn more and become part of this groundbreaking technology solution.

INCREASING PURCHASING EFFICIENCIES THROUGH WIDESPREAD COOPERATION (Procurement)

Launched at the first Nourish to Flourish convening more than 18 months ago this work group is focused on streamlining the school food procurement process.

This ad hoc group comprised of large and medium school districts, non-profits in the school food space, and food manufacturers, is working to create a common bid document that would help make the school food procurement process more efficient and effective for school districts and food manufacturers alike. The goal is to have the common-bid document used broadly, and – of course – be voluntary for districts.

Last spring the work of this group (a table of contents) was shared with more than 80 stakeholders from across the school food industry. A great deal of comments and advice was received about how to make the bid document even more effective and they are in the process of getting additional feedback from other organizations as well. A full federal procurement document is nearly ready and will also be circulated to relevant stakeholders for review and comment. Please contact either Peter Fleischer at pfleischer@urbanschoolfoodalliance.org or Jennifer Armstrong at Jarmstrong@butterball.com for more information and/or to get involved.

IMPROVING THE SCHOOL MILK EXPERIENCE

Members of this work group have been working on finding a progressive milk processor and school district willing to pilot test a “milk bar” rather than using the conventional single serve cartons that are currently available. They also had to find a company that was willing and able to build a prototype machine and will be making a visit to see the manufacturer and the prototype in early December. Please contact Scott Dissinger at Scott.Dissinger@dairy.org for more information and/or to get involved.

Other Nourish to Flourish Work Groups/Leaders

Please email the leader(s) of any of these other active work groups for more information and/or to get involved:

- *Articulating an Environmental/Sustainability Framework* – Camellia Patey Camellia.Patey@dairy.org
 - Focus is on food waste both in the school channel and at home, e.g., why it occurs, what aspects are of most interest to kids
- *Providing the Best Food for School Meals* – Lisa Hatch Lisa.Hatch@dairy.org
 - Focus is on the standardization of certification/accreditation to improve school meals
- *Building the Connection between School Meals and Education* – Katie Bambacht Katie.Bambacht@dairy.org
 - Exploring ways to build the connection between school meals and education, e.g., how might school meals be more formally integrated into the school day?
- *Simplifying Policy/Regulations to Improve School Meal Quality* – Patti Montague pmontague@schoolnutrition.org
 - Examining ways regulations or other aspects of the school feeding programs could be simplified to facilitate participation

- *Leveraging Partnerships/Coalitions to Improve School Meal Quality* – Alison Maurice
AMaurice@frac.org
 - Currently “scoping” content, logistics and costs to produce best practice videos featuring students highlighting innovative things being done in afterschool and summer feeding programs
- *Improving the Dining Experience* – Stanya Lemay slemay@isiamerica.com and Peggy Lee
Peggy.Lee@dairy.org
 - Working on a comprehensive guide focused on school cafeteria restyling

If you would like to participate in any of these efforts, have any questions or need additional information you may also contact David Duguid, NDC Vice President, Knowledge and Insights, at David.Duguid@dairy.org or call him 847-627-3312.

Thanks to all of you for your continued interest in Nourish to Flourish!

