



A message from Jefferson Local School District

Hello,

Starting with the 2021-2022 school year Jefferson Local School District contracted with Chartwells to manage and operate its food service program. The Board of Education took this action due to concerns surrounding how the food service program was being managed. Each year meal counts fell and deficits in the Food Service Fund required increasingly larger transfers from the General Fund, which took funds out of the classroom. The table below demonstrates the financial performance of the District's food service operations in the immediate three years leading to contracting out this vital service.

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020¹	FY 2021²
Ending Fund Balance	\$3,598.96	\$1,010.74	(\$119,035.90)	(\$208,117.89)
GF Fund Transfer	\$30,000.00	\$67,000.00	\$0.00	N/A
Ending Fund Balance w/o Transfers	(\$26,401.04)	(\$65,989.26)	(\$119,035.90)	N/A

¹ \$120,000 transfer was made in July 2020 after the close of FY 2020

² Deficit covered by federal COVID relief funds

As shown above, the deficit in the Food Service Fund grew from \$26,401, requiring a transfer of \$30,000, in fiscal year (FY) 2018 to \$208,118 in FY 2021. To put those deficits in context, the FY 2021 deficit represents the starting salaries of 5 teachers or 26 experienced coaches/advisors in the current fiscal year.

In contrast, the table below shows the financial performance of the District's Food Service Fund after the first year of management and operations under Chartwells.

Revenues	\$689,574.17
Expenditures	\$618,656.65
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$70,917.52

As shown above, Chartwells was able to financially turn around the District's food service financial performance after one year of management.

Participation in the food service program substantially increased under Chartwells compared to pre-covid levels. The table below compares meal counts up until the March 2020 closure of schools to provide an apple to apple comparison of operations. The 2020-2021 school year operated under a hybrid model that skewed participation rates, hence why 2019-2020 was used for comparison.

	2019-2020	2021-2022	Difference
Meal Counts			
August		8,201	8,201
September	19,426	18,347	(1,079)
October	18,214	20,689	2,475
November	11,507	16,982	5,475
December	10,777	11,194	417
January	13,617	11,761	(1,856)
February	13,522	15,397	1,875
Total	87,063	102,571	15,508

Note: August 2019 counts included in September 2019 reporting

Participation increased by 15,508 meals, or 17.8%, under Chartwell's management compared to the 2019-2020 school year. The increase in participation indicates an overall satisfaction of the quality food being served by the staff. All meals meet [National School Lunch Program dietary guidelines](#) and provide students with a healthy, affordable meal for under \$3.15.

The staff at Chartwells takes great pride and care in their work. However, we understand if parents would like to bring food to their children. There is absolutely no prohibition on that practice. Vending machines in the cafeteria are turned off during meal hours to comply with longstanding federal guidelines.

The decision to outsource the management and operations of the food service program was not taken lightly by the Board of Education. It weighed all options and decided that outsourcing was the best course of action financially as well as nutritionally. If there are ever any questions or concerns about the quality of food being served to your children, please let the dedicated Chartwells staff know and they will address your concerns.

Thank you,

Jefferson Local School District