



Child Nutrition Services

Key Initiatives

SY 2024-2025

*Our Promise: Customers First, Integrity, Equality,
Collaboration, Accountability & Having Fun!*

- **Standardized Menus at All Levels**

Menus are developed approximately one year in advance before serving. This is an intense process that includes compliance with TDA and USDA guidelines, procurement procedures / policies, student participation statistics and a lot of planning. Students will enjoy traditional entrée favorites as well as some exciting new entrées for the 2024-2025 school year! For more information on program regulations and information, please visit:

<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program>

- **Texas Farm Fresh Initiative**

Texas grown fruits and vegetables are incorporated in all menus as available. Our contracted produce vendor works with local farmers in order to provide these fresh options to our students, staff and visitors. In 2023-2024, NISD Child Nutrition Services received the **2023 Farm Fresh Best of the Bunch Award from the Texas Department of Agriculture!**

- **New High School Themes with Premium Entrées**

Mainline Favorites and **Pizza, Burgers & Salads** will continue this year with **Premium Entrées** added. New Chicken Strips, Chicken Wings, Smoothies, Tacos, Specialty Pizzas and more will quickly become favorites as students enjoy the **Northside Eats Café**.

- **Improved High School Dining Experience with New Modern Furniture**

New Food Court Type Furniture will be added to 8 high schools this school year. The current seating will be replaced with contemporary style booths, high-top tables and logo themed round tables which will enhance the cafeteria setting. Child Nutrition knows that the social environment plays an important part in the overall dining experience.

- **Increased Student Taste Testing**

Each year, Child Nutrition surveys students, staff and others on food quality, variety and overall service. This year, surveys will increase as menu development and operational standards are being assessed periodically throughout the year. The 2024-2025 Goal is to increase overall total meals served by 3% from last year.

- **Superintendent's High School Student Advisory**

Several times a year, Dr. Craft and District leadership invite senior student representatives from each high school to meet and discuss the educational experience from a student's view point. Child Nutrition attended two of these events in the 2023-2024 school year. Menu Entrée Taste Testing and a presentation was given at each occasion. Child Nutrition is looking forward to continue this collaboration as we listen, gain feedback and explore areas to enhance or maintain our overall operation.

- **Nutrition Outreach Initiative**

Child Nutrition is clearly an advocate for nutritious meals being an important factor in student success! National perception sometimes puts a negative connotation on cafeteria food being offered at school. Our staff has **Nutrition Outreach Initiatives** such as Warehouse Tours, Dietitian / Menu Presentations, Student & Staff Taste Testing, Marketing, Staff Recognition and more. Overall awareness in quality of food and program compliance reiterates the importance of meals served at school! For more information on NISD Nutrition Outreach, please call (210) 397-4524.

- **School Health Advisory Council**

Child Nutrition plays a vital role in linking good nutrition with student learning. Our staff works in collaboration with the NISD SHAC in planning and implementing the Local Wellness Plan. Each year, assessments are made and updated accordingly. For more information on SHAC, please visit: <https://www.nisd.net/community/committees>

- **Enhanced CN Website with Social Media**

Meal service information, menus, social media and latest updates may be found on the Child Nutrition Webpage. In recent years, the CN Webpage has become the **Communication Central** and answers the majority of general questions for students, parents and staff. Visit our webpage often: <https://www.nisd.net/schools/menus>

See You at the Café!

