

Meeting #4 Agenda (September 19, 3-4:30pm)

I. Welcome & Agenda Overview (3:00-3:05)

II. **Policy Feedback: School food waste (Use Food Well WA recommendations) (3:05-4:25)**

- Rec. #10 - Develop an emergency food distribution plan for Washington schools
- Rec. #11 - 20-minute seated lunch
- Rec. #12 - Support recess before lunch in Washington elementary schools
- Rec. #13 - Increase food waste reduction education in Washington schools
- Rec. #17 - Build more Farm to School partnerships
- Rec. #26 - Increase infrastructure investments in Washington schools.

**Rec. #10 - Develop an emergency food distribution plan for Washington schools**

**Rec. #13 - Increase food waste reduction education in Washington schools**

**Rec. #26 - Increase infrastructure investments in Washington schools**

**NEW SECTION (OSPI) Sec. 1.** A new section is added to RCW 28A.235 to read as follows:

(1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall develop educational frameworks for use by schools to integrate mathematics, science, environmental and sustainability, and social studies content standards to help support and prioritize food waste reduction in schools.

(2) **The office of the superintendent of public instruction** must establish a grant program to support the installation and maintenance of food waste reduction infrastructure in Washington schools, including food processing and preservation equipment, dishwasher, refrigerator, oven, range, coolers, and milk dispensers, and electrical upgrades for food waste prevention equipment. The grant program must prioritize applications that demonstrate both anticipated food waste reductions and reduced expenditures on food or associated packaging or serveware. **[OR ADD to the grant programs established in HB2301]**

(3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must develop guidance to facilitate the distribution of school meals to students in the event of public health or safety emergencies that disrupt in-person student attendance. The guidance must include mechanisms to prevent and rescue food waste and wasted food.

**NEW SECTION (Food Center) Sec. 2.** A new section is added to RCW 70A.207 to read as follows:

(1) The center must support activities by the office of the superintendent of public instruction to reduce food waste in schools.

(2) By January 1, 2027, and in consultation with office of the superintendent of public instruction, the department must:

- (a) identify food waste reduction educational best practices and ways to overcome food waste reduction barriers in schools; and
- (b) develop a school food waste reduction resource hub that is accessible to schools and school districts statewide.

**Rec. #11 - 20-minute seated lunch**

**NEW SECTION.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.235 RCW to read as follows:

The definitions in this section apply throughout sections xx and xx of this act and RCW 28A.235.150 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) "Lunch period" means the total time that students are allotted for obtaining and consuming lunches. "Lunch period" includes the student time spent obtaining and consuming a lunch.
- (2) "Seated lunch duration" means the time that students have to sit and consume their lunch. "Seated lunch duration" is determined by subtracting the time students spend traveling to and from the cafeteria or other location where lunches are served, and obtaining a lunch, from the lunch period. "Seated lunch duration" includes time required for properly returning cafeteria trays or other items and clean-up duties generally expected of all students.

**NEW SECTION.** By February 28, 2026, the Washington state school directors' association established in chapter 28A.345 RCW shall adopt a model policy and procedure that school districts may use to ensure that students have a lunch period that:

- (a) Includes a seated lunch duration of at least twenty minutes for the consumption of their food;
  - (b) Is reflective of the time spent traveling to and from the location where lunches are served and the time spent obtaining a lunch; and
  - (c) Incorporates, to the extent appropriate and feasible, pertinent recommendations from the office of the state auditor.
- (2) By the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year, school districts must adopt and enforce policies and procedures consistent with the model policy and procedures required by this section.

**Rec. #12 - Support recess before lunch in Washington elementary schools**

**NEW SECTION.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.210 RCW to read as follows:

- (1)(a) By April 1, 2026, the Washington state school directors' association, with the assistance of the office of the superintendent of public instruction, must review and update a model policy and procedure regarding nutrition, health, and physical education.
- (b) The model policy and procedure must:
  - (i) Strive to make elementary school recess safe, inclusive, and high quality for all students;

- (ii) Encourage elementary school recess to be scheduled before lunch, whenever possible, to reduce food waste, maximize nutrition, and allow students to be active before eating;
- (iii) Discourage the practice of withholding recess as a disciplinary or punitive action except when a student's participation in recess poses an immediate threat to the safety of the student or others, and create a process to find and deploy alternatives to the withholding of recess; and
- (iv) Discourage the withholding of recess to have a student complete academic work.

(2) By the beginning of the 2026-27 school year, school districts must adopt or amend if necessary policies and procedures that, at a minimum, incorporate all the elements described in subsection (1) of this section.

### **Rec. #17 - Build more Farm to School partnerships**

**Sec. 3.** RCW 15.64.060 and 2015 c 225 s 9 are each **amended** to read as follows:

(1) A farm-to-school program is created within the department to facilitate increased procurement of Washington grown food by schools.

(2) The department, in consultation with the department of health, the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the department of enterprise services, and Washington State University, shall, in order of priority:

- (a) Identify and develop policies and procedures to implement and evaluate the farm-to-school program, including coordinating with school procurement officials, buying cooperatives, and other appropriate organizations to develop uniform procurement procedures and materials, and practical recommendations to facilitate the purchase of Washington grown food by the common schools. These policies, procedures, and recommendations shall be made available to school districts to adopt at their discretion;
- (b) Assist food producers, distributors, and food brokers to market Washington grown food to schools by informing them of food procurement opportunities, bid procedures, school purchasing criteria, and other requirements, **and to identify opportunities to reduce wasted Washington-grown food through timely and targeted procurement by schools;**
- (c) Assist schools in connecting with local producers by informing them of the sources and availability of Washington grown food as well as the nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits of purchasing Washington grown food;
- (d) Identify and recommend mechanisms that will increase the predictability of sales for producers and the adequacy of supply for purchasers;
- (e) Identify and make available existing curricula, programs and publications that educate students on the nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits of preparing and consuming locally grown food;
- (f) Support efforts to advance other farm-to-school connections such as school gardens or farms and farm visits; and
- (g) As resources allow, seek additional funds to leverage state expenditures.

(3) The department in cooperation with the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall collect data on the activities conducted pursuant to chapter 215, Laws of 2008 and communicate such data biennially to the appropriate committees of the legislature beginning November 15, 2009. Data collected may include the numbers of schools and farms participating and any increases in the procurement of Washington grown food by the common schools.

(4) As used in this section, RCW 28A.335.190, and 28A.235.170, "Washington grown" means grown and packed or processed in Washington.

III. Wrap-up & Adjourn (4:25-4:30)

- a. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 3, 3-4:30pm – C&D waste study; Offal