



Feeding Futures - Nechako Lakes Information 2025-2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Over the past two school years, *Feeding Futures* has become a part of each school community. The school district recognizes the powerful influence of *Feeding Futures*. This program has been a key source to supporting many throughout the school district.

- Through investment from the <u>National School Food Program</u> and ongoing support from Foodbanks BC, schools can participate in the <u>Fresh for Kids</u> program from BC Agriculture in the Classroom. This program provides each school with three food items each 5-day school week.
- The *National School Food Program* further supports school meal programs throughout the school district.
- Continued funding from *Feeding Futures* supports the daily food program operation, making it possible for staff to have time to prepare items for snack bowls/fridges, or breakfast or lunch programs.
- In the last school year, 44% of all money spent on food was spent on food products
 produced or processed in BC. 8% of all money spent on food was spent within the
 Nechako Lakes region, with food purchased from numerous farmers, producers
 and processors.
- Lakes District Family Enhancement Society (The Link) continues to be a partner in delivering Fresh for Kids items to Francois Lake Elementary and Grassy Plains schools. The partnership helps ensure these two school communities have access to nourishing food, while reducing the ownership of staff having to travel to pick up food. It keeps staff at the school, using time to prepare food.

Most importantly, it is with gratitude to each school meal worker, and school community, that each student has access to nourishing food at school to be ready to learn.

In Focus - Feeding Futures Guiding Principle

Feeding Futures has five guiding principles. Each newsletter will focus on one. The focus this time is:

"Students have access to food daily in an equitable, accessible, and non-stigmatizing manner".

As each school is unique, how food is available can vary. For example:

 David Hoy, William Konkin and Lakes District Secondary Schools have central locations where food is available. A variety of nourishing food is offered, like fruit, vegetables and yogurt or milk or cheese strings.
 Students can choose a food item as needed.



- Breakfast programs are available at all schools. As students arrive, they are welcome to have some food if they choose.
- Nechako Valley Secondary, Fraser Lake Elementary-Secondary, Evelyn Dickson, Sinkut View and WL McLeod are using a program called Meal Manage. This web-based program allows all to access lunch, with households discretely supported by Feeding Futures.



Other Items

 Schools are always looking for new recipes and meal ideas. If you have one, please share.

Did you know? Menus are created with input from the students. Ideas are collected ongoingly and added to an upcoming menu.

Comments heard throughout the school district:

"The students love the menu"

"This program is such a huge stress off my plate with all of the cost of groceries being so high. It's a life saver."

Kind regards,

Robyn Turner-Klopper, RD

Food Programs Manager, School District 91 – Nechako Lakes