



## WEST VIRGINIA SHARED TABLE INFO SHEET

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### THE BASICS OF WV SHARED TABLE (WHAT IS IT?)

The WV Shared Table Policy would do two major things if mandated in West Virginia public schools:

- ❖ *Reduce cafeteria food waste during breakfast and lunch.*
- ❖ *Use any of the excess food within USDA guidelines and procedures for supplementing pivotal programs that feed families with food insecurities as well as give students extra food for afterschool programs, etc.*
- *It allows students to select extra food from a table in the cafeteria if they are still hungry.*

### WEST VIRGINIA FOOD INSECURITY AND SHARED TABLE



- *1 in 4 children in West Virginia suffer from a food insecurity;*
- *A statewide Shared Table Policy could collectively give thousands of pounds of food to West Virginia families throughout the year in our state. This will not cost our schools or state one dime and every item would still be reimbursed by the USDA School Eligibility Food and Nutrition Service program.*
- *If West Virginia families lose their SNAP benefits due to policy change or being in the category of the “Cliff Effect”, this type of policy would supplement some of this loss for students.*

### WV SCHOOLS AND SHARED TABLE



- *In public schools, the cafeteria offers five food components that make up a student’s lunch. Students may take all five items, but at a minimum take at least three components to complete a reimbursable lunch. One component must be a fruit or vegetable.*
- *At breakfast, the cafeteria offers four components. Students may take all four items, but must take at least three components to make a student breakfast. One component must be a serving of fruit.*
- *In order to take the minimum number of items to create a student meal, a student may be required to select a food he or she will not eat. The Shared Table policy would offer a way to encourage student awareness in the prevention of food being thrown away and wasted.*
- *While students would still be encouraged to choose only what they will eat and eat what they choose, the Shared Table policy offers an opportunity for sharing items or the ability to send items to afterschool programs at the school site and distribute to charitable nonprofits that distribute through backpack programs and/or food pantries, food banks that serve children and adults with disabilities and special needs with food insecurities.*

## **MORE WV SHARED TABLE FACTS:**

- *There are already USDA guidelines for a Shared Table process that is encouraged by the federal government*  
[https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP41\\_CACFP13\\_SFSP15\\_2016os.pdf](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP41_CACFP13_SFSP15_2016os.pdf)
- *Health Departments should already support this effort as long as schools follow the guidelines set by the USDA*
- *There is a federal policy that protects schools and organizations from liability issues that may arise. Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Act -1996*  
<https://www.congress.gov/104/crpt/hrpt661/CRPT-104hrpt661.pdf>
- *We are NOT asking school cafeterias to produce extra food to add to the excess amount that already exists in schools.*
- *Each WV school cafeteria must prepare enough food to feed their entire student body for the first two days of the school week. Therefore, we know that there is some excess weekly.*
- *There are approximately 738 public schools in West Virginia- If we look at a very low estimate of 10lbs of excess reusable food that goes in a trash can each week x 39 weeks of school in session. That gives us an estimate total of a potential 287,820 pounds of food wasted. And we know this is a very low estimate that would feed a lot of WV children & families.*
- *Items included in this policy would be fresh fruit and vegetables such as bananas, apples, oranges, package unopened carrots, unopened milk, etc.*
- *We are NOT trying to reinvent the wheel. Schools in our state and nationwide are already doing this and are very successful.*

## **WHAT ARE WE ASKING THE LEGISLATION TO DO?**

*We are asking that the state pass a bill that would mandate that each county/district Board of Education has a WV Shared Table policy for their schools.*

*It does not have to be all procedures listed within the WV Shared Table Policy/Bill, but a version that makes sense in their community and school system based on the needs of their students.*

*It could easily be discussed and written into the already existing Local Wellness Policy that all 55 WV counties have in place.*

## **MEDIA RESOURCES:**

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/creative-solutions-ending-school-food-waste>

<http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/news/a46885/school-share-tables/>

<http://www.myrecordjournal.com/News/Wallingford/Wallingford-News/Wallingford-volunteers-try-to-expand-share-tables.html>

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/features/education/school-zone/os-school-lunches-share-table-donations-waste-20171108-story.html>