

# Food Waste Fact Sheet

Every day, schools across the U.S. waste tons of food—most of it perfectly edible. Use these food waste facts\* to bring credibility and power to back your position:

**U.S. schools waste an estimated 530,000 tons of food each**

**year**—enough to fill over 1,000 Olympic- sized swimming pools or feed every K-12 student in the U.S. for five days.



**Wasting food wastes**

**money.** Schools across the country spend over \$1.7 billion each year on food that ends up in the trash.



**Milk and dairy products** account for almost **30% of school food waste.**



The average school wastes **39 pounds of food per student per year.**



Elementary schools that participate in Food Waste Warriors programming **reduce food waste by 14.5%** on average.



Nearly **one in three cafeteria meals end up in trash cans.**



## OTHER POINTS TO CONSIDER:

When we waste school lunch, we waste **money** and the **water, energy,** and **time** it takes to get those meals to our school cafeterias.



Teaching students about food waste can instill **lasting values**, including conservation, gratitude, and environmental responsibility.



**Share tables** are a great way to save unopened food items like milk, vegetable packets, or fruits.



**Composting** is a great way to sort our food scraps from other waste and recycle food back into the Earth.



\*World Wildlife Fund Food Waste Warriors Report, 2019



**Food Waste Warriors**

