



DESOTO ISD FOCUSES ON

Transparency and Taste with New Nutrition Program Partner

Following an evaluation of its nutrition program in early 2021, DeSoto Independent School District leadership compiled several objectives it wanted to achieve. These objectives included increasing meal variety, actively and consistently seeking student feedback and giving students a voice in the program, returning value for the district, increasing efficiency and optimizing systems, and serving as a true partner aligned with the district's goals, mission and vision.

NUTRITION TEAM RAPIDLY TRANSITIONS TO VISION OF EXCELLENCE

The district chose Aramark Student Nutrition as its new partner just before the 2021-2022 school year was set to start. To hit the ground running and launch an upgraded food program quickly, Aramark worked efficiently to deploy a new inventory tracker and complete inventory, deploy a new meal tracker, train staff, and set up new communication systems between district officials and the Aramark Student Nutrition team.



LOCATION:
Texas
STUDENTS:
6,249
SCHOOLS:
9
ARAMARK PARTNER SINCE:
2021



NUTRITION PROGRAM COMPLIANCE REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

With the new Aramark Student Nutrition partnership, DeSoto ISD's first virtual compliance audit for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) passed with flying colors.

The district was organized and prepared with compliance support from Aramark, including:

- **New meal tracking to ensure all students receive all required meal components for a fully-reimbursable meal**
- **Ensuring planned menu quantities meet meal pattern requirements each review period**
- **Ensuring fluid milk is available in at least two required varieties during each serving period**
- **Pricing adult meal prices correctly so they cover the overall cost**



The Aramark team at DeSoto ISD is truly an asset to our school district. They are more than just contract partners. They demonstrate true ownership of our dining services. They add so much value to our dining, planning, and event execution.”

- **Shon Joseph**, Executive Director of Operations, DeSoto ISD



IMPROVING GOAL ALIGNMENT AND COMMUNICATION

To improve communication and alignment with the district's goals, Aramark brought on an expanded management team and increased meeting frequency with new weekly meetings to discuss priorities and strategic solutions.

ARAMARK STUDENT NUTRITION GIVES STUDENTS A VOICE

The Aramark Student Nutrition team has made student satisfaction and feedback a priority. The team introduced an annual Student ViewPOINT™ Survey, which evaluates students' attitudes on a wide range of topics — from menu options to length of lunch period — and helps shape changes to the program. They also conduct surveys for feedback when trying new options for students, such as when they introduced a temporary BBQ-themed station, or for feedback on new breakfast options.

EXPANDING STUDENT MEAL PARTICIPATION

DeSoto ISD sought to increase breakfast and lunch participation among students and expand the variety of meal offerings. By making food fresh, adding a rotating Test Kitchen station, training staff on recipes and culinary techniques, and adding appealing display plates, Aramark revamped the program to achieve these goals. Students confirmed this was the right path forward: **Taste (#1)** and **Freshness (#2)** were students' top aspects of their dining experience in Aramark's Student ViewPOINT™ survey.

Aramark Student Nutrition also made sure meals were convenient, with bagged 'Breakfast in the Hallway' meals via grab & go meal carts, special meals during standardized testing and Saturday classes, and prepared meals to take home before major weather events. The result has been that students have easy access to tasty, fresh meals, and teachers, principals and district administration are happy their students are well-fed so they are prepared to learn every day.

For more information visit us at:
[K12INSIGHTS.ARAMARK.COM](https://www.k12insights.aramark.com)



Your company's commitment to providing client services is second to none. The commitment is demonstrated every day. DeSoto ISD cannot express our gratitude enough for going above and beyond what we expected since you joined our school system."

– **Shon Joseph**, Executive Director of Operations, DeSoto ISD

