

## 2024-2025 Becker Public Schools Nutrition and Wellness Report

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Thank you for the opportunity to share what we've been doing in the Food Service Department. We know how important school breakfast and lunch is for children and we in the food service department strive to provide our students with a variety of healthful, appealing, and nourishing foods.

### School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program

The state has completed two full years of MN Free School Meals for Kids. All children are eligible for a free breakfast and lunch each day. The program has saved Becker families \$817 per student per year. (Based on a full priced breakfast at \$1.70 and lunch at \$3.05 for 172 days.) As shown in the table below, Becker Public Schools has great meal participation rates!

### **Student Participation Rates:**

<b>Lunch</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>		<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>
Primary School	<b>85%</b>		Primary School	<b>92%</b>
Intermediate School	<b>86%</b>		Intermediate School	<b>53%</b>
Middle School	<b>83%</b>		Middle School	<b>42%</b>
High School	<b>72%</b>		High School	<b>50%</b>

### Wellness Committee

- The committee has representation from all four school buildings and includes teaching staff, administration, nursing and food service.
- A donation from the Becker Lions (\$2,500) helped support the committee and we were able to purchase prizes for a wellness bingo challenge with additional funds left for future wellness initiatives.

### Department Highlights

- Total Breakfast Meals Served: 269,873
- Total Lunch Meals Served: 355,401. *The next highest annual meal count I could find in my files was the 2012/2013 school year in which we served 337,877 lunches.*
- Total Ala Carte Sales: \$155,366.5
- MN grown or raised foods on the menu this year included: apples, pears, peppers, sweet corn, baby red potatoes, tomatoes, ground beef, wild rice, greens, onions, asparagus, beef hot dogs, cucumbers, refrigerator pickles, mushrooms and delicata squash.
- MN Department of Agriculture FY25 Farm to School Grant recipient for \$30,000.
- MN Department of Agriculture FY25 equipment grant recipient for \$12,500 used to purchase a new kettle at the Intermediate School.
- Sherburne County grant recipient for two different grants of \$10,000 each. One for recycling and source separating (implemented food waste going to pig farms versus landfill) and one for supporting waste diversion goals (implementing bulk milk at the middle school versus using cartons).
- Implementation of a monthly Cultural Fusion Entree choice at the high school with positive reception. ~200 students chose the special entree each month.

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### A look at the 2025/2026 school year:

- Transitioning from utilizing a central kitchen at the high school to prep entrees and process vegetables and fruit to site level preparation.
  - Adding walk in freezers to the intermediate and middle school.
  - Adding new cooking equipment to the intermediate and middle school.
  - The primary school will utilize reach in freezers and support from the high school until they can get a walk in freezer and equipment (slated for summer '27)
- Bulk milk implementation at the middle school.
  - Expecting higher quality milk to be well received by students and a significant reduction of milk cartons ending up in the trash.
- Prepacked salads, bento boxes, and sandwiches will be offered out of the ala carte area as a reimbursable meal for students looking for a quick service option versus standing in line for the hot choice.

Respectfully Submitted,

Felicia Kittok, RDN  
Becker Public Schools Food Service Director  
[fkittok@isd726.org](mailto:fkittok@isd726.org)

