



THE SEL PROJECT

*2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR
FARM TO SCHOOL OUTCOMES*

November 2012

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH



In December 2011, the South Euclid Lyndhurst School District became the first district in the State of Ohio to have a Board Approved Wellness Policy containing farm to school language.



Introduction

Recognizing that we are facing the first generation of children expected to live shorter lives than their parents, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) has committed to creating programs that support healthy choices for our County's youth. Since 2009, the CCBH has been a regional leader in bringing the nationally recognized Farm to School program to Northeast Ohio as an innovative strategy to address childhood obesity.

The SEL (Students Eating Locally) Project has been the result of the CCBH, the South Euclid Lyndhurst School District (SELSD), Red Basket Farm and AVI Fresh committing to make the healthy choice the easy choice for students since 2010.

This report is made possible by the support of the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Child and Family Services, Child and Family Health Services Childhood Obesity Reduction Initiative.

Local Produce Offerings

The SELSD foodservice program increased the number of fresh produce offerings from Red Basket Farm by **16 items** from year one to year two.

2010-2011 Local Food Purchases/Offerings

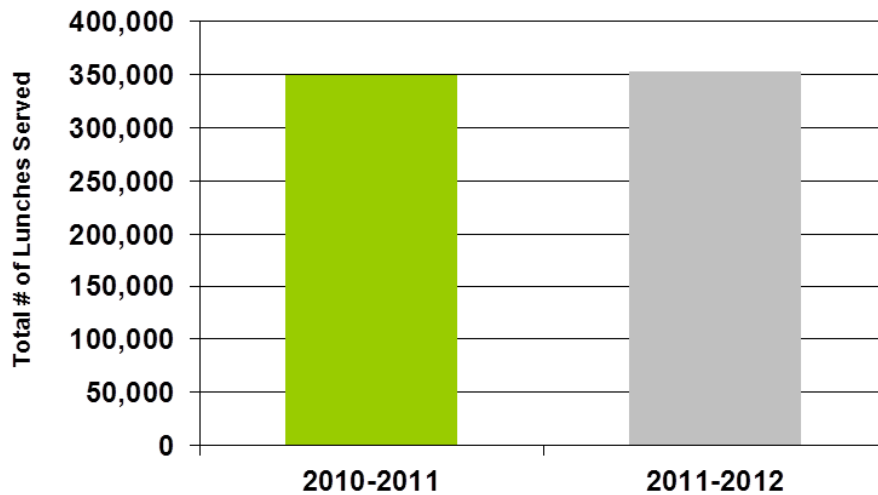


2011-2012 Local Food Purchases/Offerings

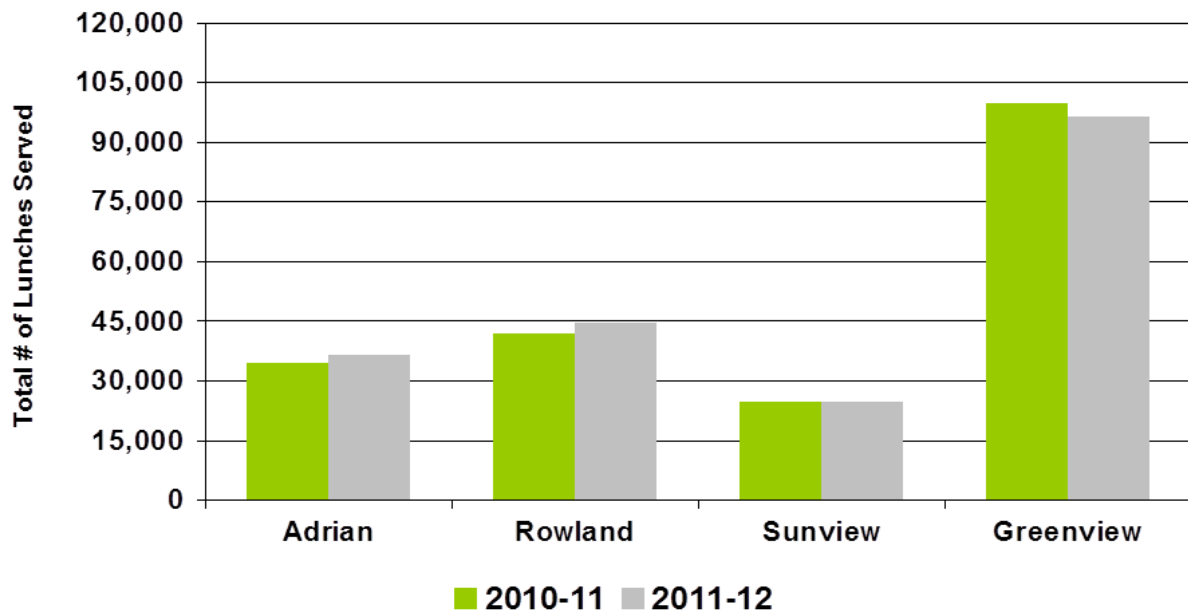


Lunch Participation

District lunch participation has been positively impacted by the implementation of the farm to school program.

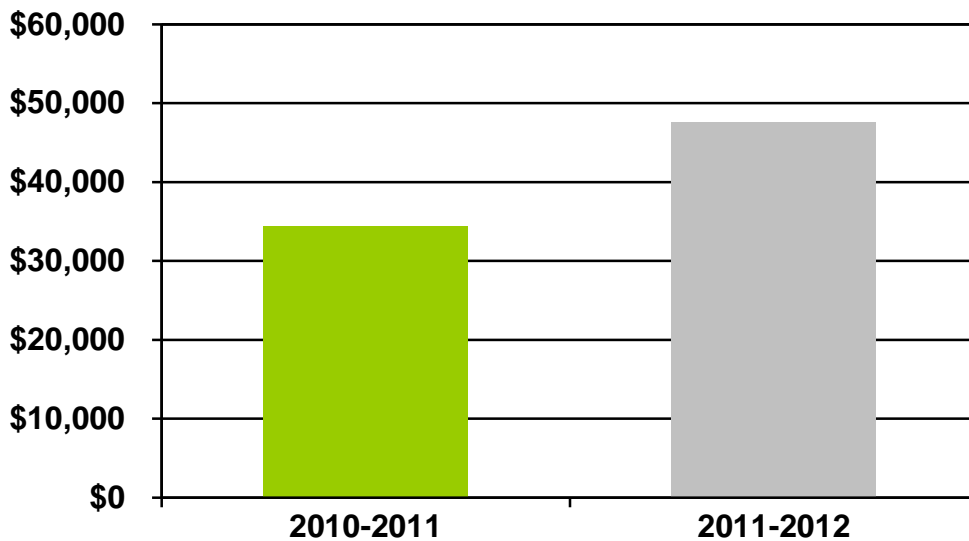


More specifically, grades K-6 have experienced a 5% increase in school lunch participation since 2010.

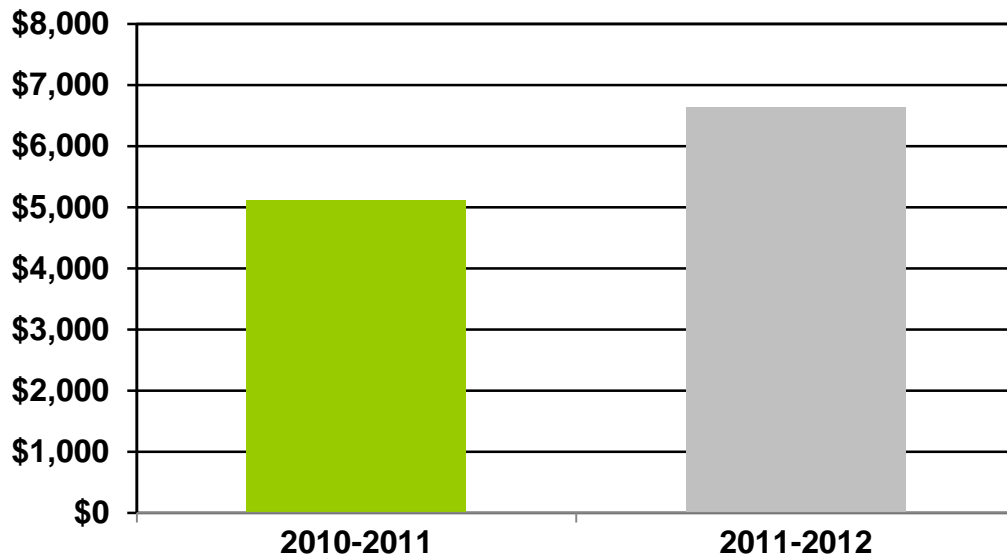


Produce Procurement

The district experienced a 38% increase in produce spending with their distributor during the 2011-2012 school year. This increase is due to the changes in the price of produce, an increase in the number of meals served, and the district's commitment to offering more fresh fruits and vegetables.

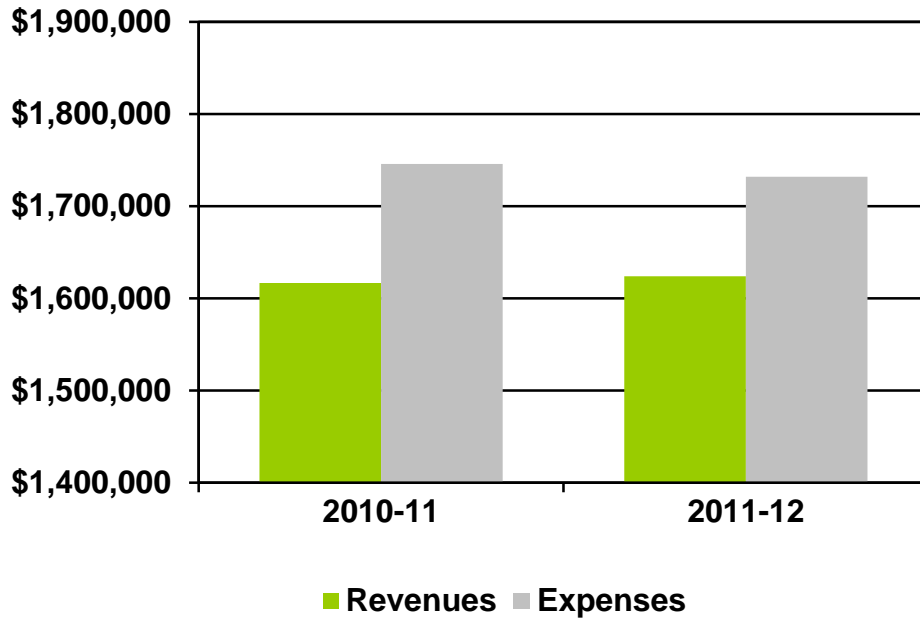


The SELSD meal program grew their investment in the Ohio economy during the 2011-2012 school year. Spending with Red Basket Farm increased by **nearly 30%** from year one to year two. Produce prices at the farm have remained unchanged since 2010.

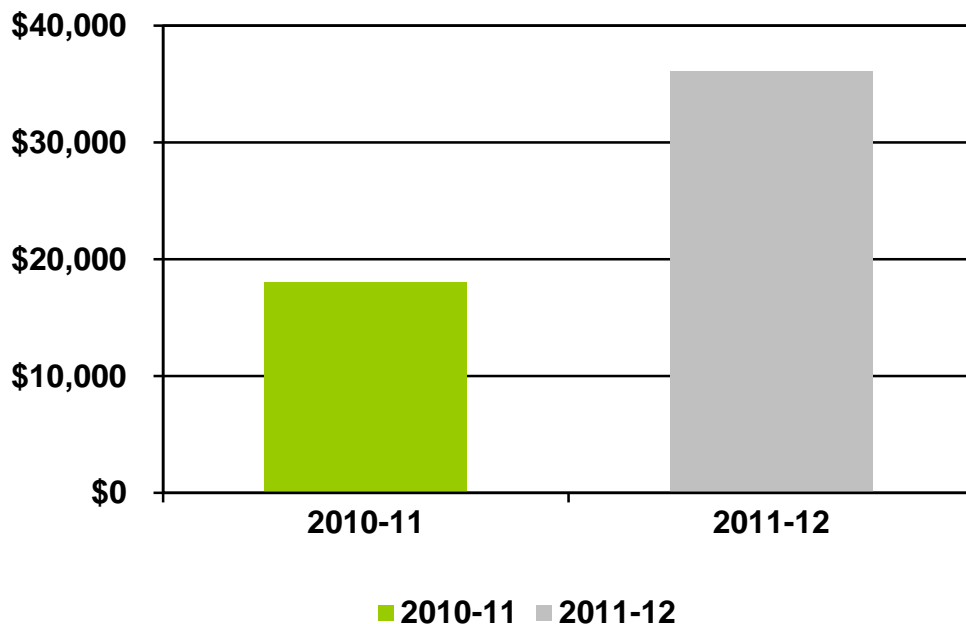


Financial Impacts

The SELSD has **increased revenue** and **decreased the total amount lost by the school meal program by 16%** in two years through the establishment of farm to school and other district wellness initiatives.



The SELSD **doubled** the amount of funding opportunities they received from year one to year two to support expansion of the farm to school program.



Experiential Learning Opportunities

Through the hard work and dedication of Adam Swirsky (Brush High School), Mardea Hunt (Greenview Upper Elementary School), and Angie Janson (Parent), three school gardens were established and 63 students participated in the Veggie U Earth to Table Curriculum during the 2011-2012 school year.





Cuyahoga County Board of Health

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