

Student Nutrition Programs in Toronto

May 29, 2023

Student Nutrition Programs: Then and Now



City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, s0372_ss0011_t0059



What is a Student Nutrition Program?

- Universal meal and/or snack program, run locally by parents, volunteers and students
- Gives students access to safe, adequate, and culturally-appropriate healthy food
 - especially important for those at risk for poor nutritional intake
- Supports student learning and development over the school day
- Creates opportunities for community capacity building, volunteering, and job skills development
- Video: [Student Nutrition Programs in Toronto](#)

- Increased attendance and class participation
- Reduced dropouts
- Reduced health disparities
- Reduced social isolation
- Job skills training for students, parents, volunteers
- Reduced obesity and chronic disease



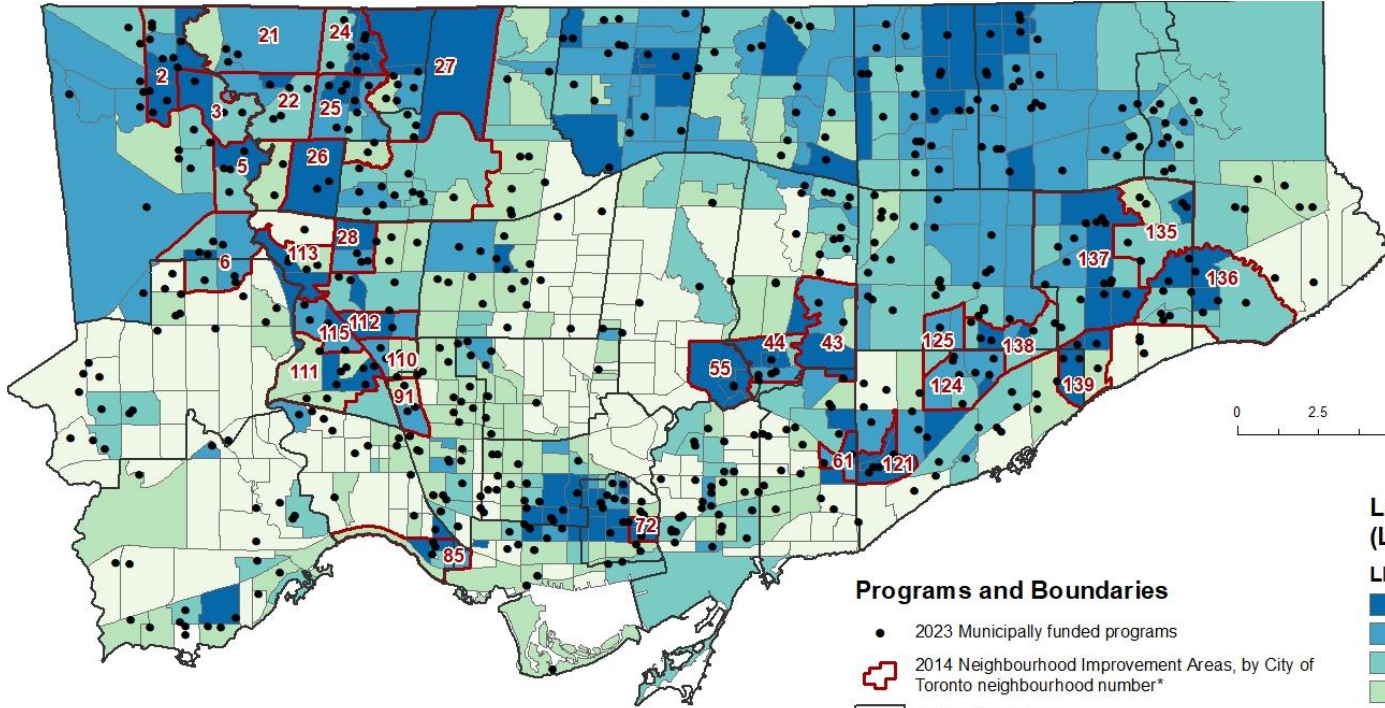
Where are the programs?

2023-2024 school year

619 school communities with
820 student nutrition programs
Will offer 227,285 meals /
school day.



0 2.5 5 10 Kilometers



Low Income Measure (LIM) Quintiles**, 2019

LIM_AT 2019



Programs and Boundaries

- 2023 Municipally funded programs
- ⊕ 2014 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas, by City of Toronto neighbourhood number*
- ▭ WARD Boundaries

Strengthen and grow student nutrition programs

- Strengthen existing programs by ensuring an annual food inflationary increase in municipal funding
- Expand program reach

2023 Municipal Investment

- \$17.7M to support over 227,000 meals per day

\$29.6M investment from government sources

- \$16.4M from the City of Toronto
- \$11.6M from the provincial government, inclusive of one-time funding for COVID-19 pressures
- \$1.6M in one-time funding from the federal government

Funding from other sources

Non-monetary support

- Ideal investment level for *existing* programs: ~\$100M
- 2023 applications identified growing need:
 - 29 applications received for new programs from new sites that would cover 12,000 additional students
 - 20 sites requested additional programs that would result in 4,000 more meals per day
- Investment needed particularly from the other orders of government

Recommendations: Enhanced Investment from Provincial and Federal Partners

- Requesting the Province to increase its investment to match the increased City of Toronto investment and provide additional funding to account for inflation
- Requesting the Government of Canada to provide details on progress made toward commitments, including a National School Food Policy