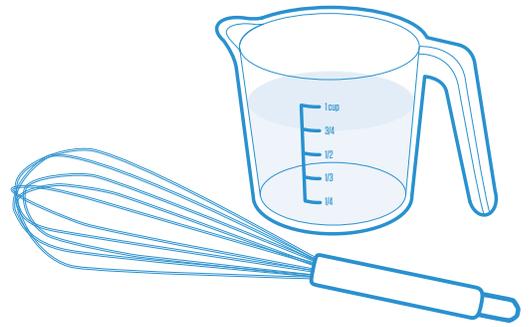
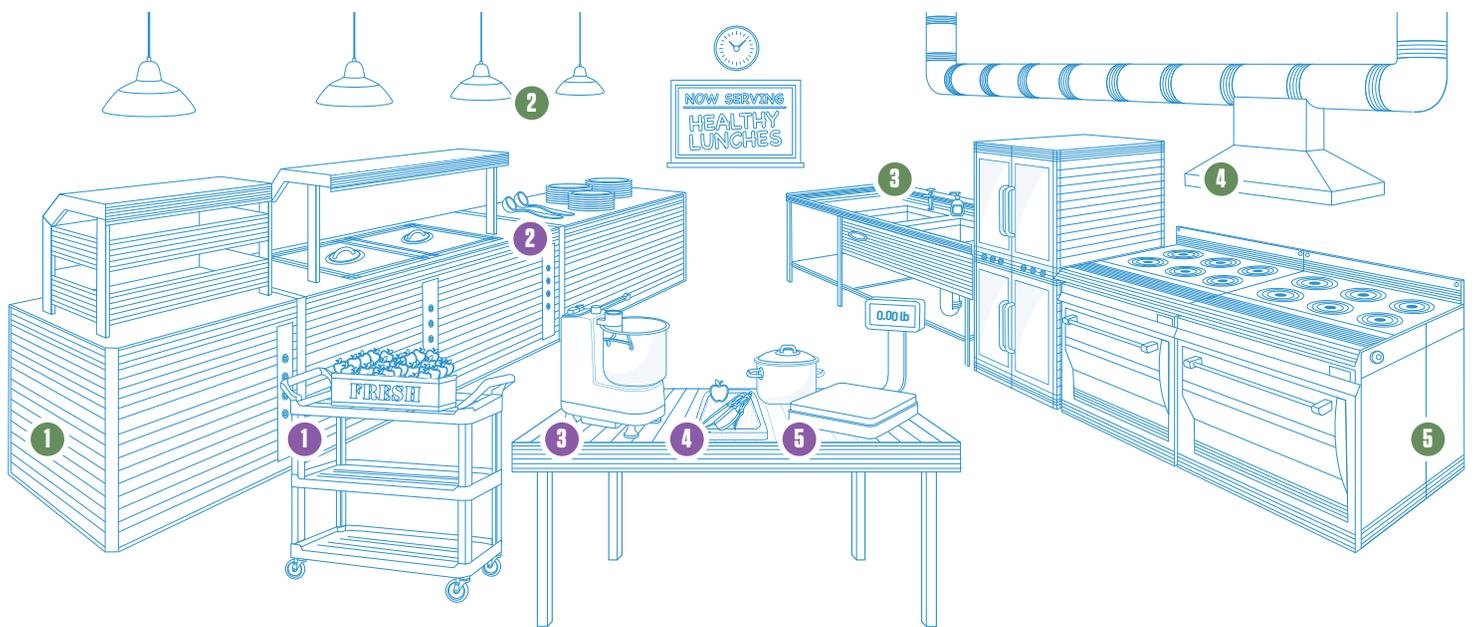


KIDS' SAFE & HEALTHFUL FOODS PROJECT

What does a school kitchen need?



Schools across the country are serving healthy meals, but many could do so more effectively with updated equipment and infrastructure. Without the right tools, districts rely on workarounds that are expensive, inefficient, and unsustainable. Investing in kitchens and cafeterias could help schools better serve nutritious foods and beverages in a way that's appealing to kids.



88% of districts need at least one piece of kitchen equipment. The items most in demand are:

- 1 **Utility carts** to transport items within a kitchen or cafeteria. Without enough carts, food service personnel carry items by hand in multiple trips that waste valuable time.
- 2 **Serving utensils** to determine appropriate portion sizes. Without them, servings are sometimes measured inaccurately.
- 3 **Large-capacity food processors** to prepare many different foods, including fruits and vegetables. Without bulk processors, school cooks must cut and mix foods by hand, or prepare recipes in smaller, less-efficient batches.
- 4 **Knife sets with cutting boards** to prepare fresh food. Without enough of the right knives, preparation takes more time and poses safety risks for food service staff.
- 5 **Industrial scales** to weigh bulk ingredients. Without large-capacity scales, ingredients are weighed in smaller batches, which is time-consuming, inefficient, and leaves room for error.

55% of districts need kitchen infrastructure changes. The top challenges are:

- 1 **Physical space:** Additional room for storage, preparation, or serving.
- 2 **Electrical capacity:** Increased amps and voltage and more outlets.
- 3 **Plumbing:** Modified water supply or relocation of sinks and drains.
- 4 **Ventilation:** Exhaust hoods or fire suppression systems.
- 5 **Remodeling:** Facility compliance with local health code standards.

Help School Foods Make the Grade
Learn more at healthyschoolfoodsnow.org.



Contact: Michelle Cardoso, associate, communications Email: mcardoso@pewtrusts.org Project website: healthyschoolfoodsnow.org

The Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project, a collaboration between The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, provides nonpartisan analysis and evidence-based recommendations to make sure that all foods and beverages sold in U.S. schools are safe and healthful.