

La Porte Independent School District

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Cooking Up Perfection: Nutrition Department Earns State’s Highest Recognition

La Porte ISD’s School Nutrition Department has accomplished a rare feat by receiving a perfect review for its overall performance by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

It is the district’s second perfect comprehensive audit in the past 20 years and one of only seven in the state so far this year. The TDA is conducting about 360 audits across Texas this year.

School districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program, such as La Porte ISD, are required to undergo a comprehensive audit of their operation every three years. The review primarily focuses on financial management, food production including sanitation and food safety, free and reduced meal application processing, and professional development training.

The perfect score could not have been achieved without a commitment from everyone who wears a Nutrition Department identification badge, according to Yvonne Bennett, the district’s nutrition director.

“We strive every day to comply with all the state and federal regulations,” Bennett said. “An auditor can visit any of our kitchens on any given day and observe that. Our teams stayed focused and committed, and we couldn’t be prouder of their accomplishment.”

The department will receive an award of recognition from the Texas Department of Agriculture sometime this spring.