

Superintendent's Snapshot

MARICOPA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 15, 2025

Wagyu, Gold Bars, and Fries

What middle & high schoolers told us about school meals.

Dear MUSD Parents,

School is in full swing, and so is our lunch line. If you haven't filled out this year's *Free & Reduced-Price Meal Application*, now's the time.

It could help your family **and** allows our schools to keep healthy, delicious meals on every tray. We asked all middle & high schoolers about school meals; 156 responded. They gave us honest feedback... and a few gourmet suggestions.

The scoop:

- **Participation:** ~60% eat school meals - right at the national average.
- **Clean & Fast:** 81% praised presentation; 84% applauded speed.
- **Taste & Variety:** 3 out of 5 stars - it's tough to beat In-N-Out with low-sodium burgers.

New this year:

More entrée choices at every grade level + fresh fruit & veggie bars for all.

Best part:

When asked what to add, students dreamed big: Wagyu steak, Honey Walnut Shrimp, Spam Musubi, Beef Wellington, and "1 ton gold bar with a side of money."

Reality check:

- Sushi rolls? Done last year.
- Shrimp Ceviche? Testing this year.
- Gold bars? Denied... but I did try.

Thank you for choosing MUSD.

Sincerely,



Dr. Tracey Lopeman
Superintendent, Maricopa Unified School District

