

Newark Schools Feeding Kids Across the City

The Newark School District has created a network of afterschool meal programs, going beyond district schools to nourish Newark children.

"It's been really inspiring to see the work in Newark," said Lee Dermott-Schaffer of NJSACC: The Statewide Network for New Jersey's Afterschool Communities. "They are serving thousands of meals every day to both school and community-based sites. This is a really great success story that should be replicated in other communities."

The district serves about 8,700 suppers a day and 3,100 snacks to 70 sites across the city, according to Kendra Burton, manager of nutrition/enrichment with the district's Office of Expanded Learning Time. The district acts as a sponsor for Newark schools,

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— Kendra Burton,
Manager of Nutrition/Enrichment,
Newark School District

recreational centers, charter and private schools and other community organizations.

"The students love the afterschool meals," Burton said. "A lot of parents rely on those meals."

A mix of hot and cold meals are provided by a vendor, who delivers the fresh meals each day to the various sites.

"The food is great, the kids love it," Burton said. "Our vendor cooks everything fresh and delivers daily

so there is no pre-packaged food. You know the students are receiving healthy, nutritious meals. Overall, it's a great program. We've expanded every year and will continue to do so."

