

## NEWS RELEASE

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## Whole Kids Foundation Grants \$500,000 to Provide 150 New Salad Bars to Schools Across the U.S.

*More than 75,000 Students Now Can Choose Fresh Veggies at School  
Schools Embrace Salad Bars as Proven Strategy to Promote Healthy Eating for Students*

**AUSTIN, Texas (February 20, 2019)**— Whole Kids Foundation, a nonprofit focused on children’s nutrition and wellness, announced today that 150 new salad bars will be provided to schools in the U.S. this year. The \$500,000 investment will ensure more than 75,000 students will have access to fresh healthy produce at school.

In partnership with [Salad Bars to Schools](#), Whole Kids Foundation has provided nearly 5,500 school salad bars since 2011. Salad Bars to Schools is a public-private partnership founded by Whole Foods Market, Chef Ann Foundation, National Fruit and Vegetable Alliance and United Fresh Start Foundation. Collectively, more than \$14.3 million has been invested across all 50 states providing over 2.7 million children with daily access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Salad bars at schools are a proven way to encourage kids to eat more fresh vegetables and are a successful strategy to promote healthy eating for students, according to research by [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#). Eating nutritious food is [linked to their academic success](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention); specifically, higher grades and standardized test scores, reduced absenteeism and improved cognitive performance. For these reasons, school salad bars are in high demand.

“Every salad bar gives kids access to fresh vegetables and fruit every day, which allows them to make healthy food choices,” said Nona Evans, executive director and president of Whole Kids Foundation. “We are so proud to be a part of the movement working to support a healthier generation of kids.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who funds the national school lunch program, more than 31 million kids eat school lunch every day and for many, what they eat at school is more than 80 percent of their daily calories. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that kids with access to a salad bar consume three times more fruits and vegetables, indicating that when kids have healthy options, they make healthy choices.

Not only is having nutritious food accessible to students good for their health and education, it’s also financially smart. The cost for one freestanding, mobile salad bar grant is about \$3,000. This includes everything a school needs to get started: the bar, chill pads, pans and tongs. Each salad bar can serve a school for 10 years, which makes it incredibly cost effective with the true cost being about \$0.01 per child, per day.

In addition to the salad bar equipment, each school that is awarded a grant also receives training tools provided by [thelunchbox.org](http://thelunchbox.org), including food safety training, knife skills training and fully tested, nutritionally analyzed and scalable recipes.

Whole Kids Foundation accepts salad bar [grant applications](#) year-round from school districts and are submitted by district food service staff. A [parent advocate toolkit](#) is available for parents interested in encouraging their school districts to apply for a salad bar grant.

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#### **About Whole Kids Foundation®**

Whole Kids Foundation supports schools and inspires families to improve children's nutrition and wellness. Founded by Whole Foods Market in 2011, the independent, nonprofit organization is based in Austin, Texas and serves schools and organizations in the U.S., Canada and the U.K. For more information on the Foundation's school programs including school gardens, salad bars, bee hives and nutrition education for teachers, visit [wholekidsfoundation.org](http://wholekidsfoundation.org). For more information, visit [wholekidsfoundation.org](http://wholekidsfoundation.org). For ongoing news and updates, follow Whole Kids Foundation on [Facebook](#) or Twitter at [@WholeKidsFnd](#).