



THE CENTER

Central Kitchen,
Instructional Farm,
and Education Center

THE CHALLENGE — AND OPPORTUNITY

Today in Oakland, **one in four children** does not have access to affordable, nutritious food. Within the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), this issue is even more glaring, with 72 percent of students coming from lower-income homes.

By creating The Center, OUSD has the unique opportunity to establish a hub for its **Rethinking School Lunch Oakland** initiative, whose vision is to dramatically improve the meals served in our schools. In so doing, we hope to boost student achievement and support mental, emotional, and physical health – all of which are closely tied to nutrition and healthy eating.

WHAT IS THE CENTER?

Through a state-of-the-art Central Kitchen, Instructional Farm, and Education Center, The Center in West Oakland aims to give Oakland kids the healthy food they deserve. Among other features, The Center will have:

- Roughly **30,000 square feet** of space housing a new OUSD Central Kitchen
- A teaching kitchen and instructional space to support **Linked Learning career pathways** in agriculture, culinary arts, botany, and related fields
- A one-acre instructional **urban farm, greenhouse, and produce market**

HOW DID OUSD CHOOSE THIS LOCATION?

We visited and considered more than 50 potential sites before settling on the **former site of Marcus Foster School at 2850 West Street**. Along with meeting a long list of technical requirements (square footage, green space, elevators, truck access, proximity to freeway), the West Oakland location was also ideal because of the neighborhood's rich history of urban farming and dedication to food justice.



CENTER FOR
ECOLITERACY



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Schools. Thriving Students



Artist's rendering of potential Center design



WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY SAYING ABOUT THE PROJECT?

A survey of nearly 300 West Oakland residents found that:

- **87%** of respondents believe Rethinking School Lunch Oakland will have a positive impact on the health of our students.
- **70%** were enthusiastic about the Central Kitchen, Instructional Farm, and Education Center project coming to their neighborhood.

HOW WILL THE CENTER BENEFIT OAKLAND KIDS AND FAMILIES?

Here are just a few of the ways The Center will make a difference in the community:

- The Central Kitchen will prepare 35,000 fresh, nutritious meals daily, giving our students healthy options throughout the day to help them learn, grow, and thrive.
- Its Instructional Farm and Education Center will offer hands-on Linked Learning opportunities for kids in grades K-12, and add a new branch to West Oakland's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Corridor.
- Through its produce market, meeting spaces, and classrooms, The Center will be a hub for neighborhood events, adult education, and community engagement.

"I am so proud to see this project situated in West Oakland," says District 3 School Board Member Jumoke Hinton Hodge, who represents and lives in West Oakland. "This is a movement toward food justice and access to healthy foods in a community that suffers from food insecurity. I am so excited about the many ways the instructional farm will benefit the community as well as students, and I can't wait to shop at the produce market."

WILL THE CENTER BRING NEW JOBS TO WEST OAKLAND?

We expect The Center to create 200-300 construction jobs, with priority given to those who live in the neighborhood.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED?

To learn more about the project, visit www.ousdthecenter.org. If you're interested in joining this project's Community Engagement Advisory Committee, please email thecenter@ousd.org, or call 510-761-8360.