

## Food Share Tables are Safe, Allowed, and Encouraged!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state temporarily prohibited self-service which led to all food share table programs around the state being paused. Given the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, self-service food bars and food share tables are now allowed by the California Department of Education and the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health. StopWaste encourages the use of food share tables to reduce food waste and encourage the consumption of food served to students.



### ✔ Relaunch Food Share Tables District-Wide

- Learn how to set up a food share program in this [K-12 School Food Share Table Guide](#).
- Coordinate with child nutrition, custodial and supervisory staff to ensure that food sharing stations are cleaned and sanitized after each meal period (when possible) or after the last meal service.

### ✔ Educate Students and Staff on Food Share Program

- Show educational videos during staff training, schoolwide assemblies or in the classroom:



[Food Share Table Training Guide for Schools](#)



[Food Share Table Guide for Elementary Schools](#)



[Understanding School Food Share Tables](#)



[Animated Food Share Table Guide](#)

### ✔ Consider Donating Surplus Food Share Items to a Local 501(c)3

- Schools as Local Education Agencies will be required to donate surplus edible food by January 1, 2024. For more details, visit: [www.StopWaste.org/rules-food-recovery](http://www.StopWaste.org/rules-food-recovery)
- Learn how to set up a school food donation program in this [K-12 School Food Donation Guide](#).

### ✔ Learn more about how to prevent food waste at school

- Additional information is available at: [www.StopWaste.org/food-waste-prevention-at-school](http://www.StopWaste.org/food-waste-prevention-at-school)

#### ★ Need Help? Assistance is available:

- Email [Schools@stopwaste.org](mailto:Schools@stopwaste.org) and our team will connect you to staff and/or consultants designated to support your district.
- Funding for containers and equipment to facilitate food share and donation activities can be found at: [www.stopwaste.org/at-work/stopwaste-grants](http://www.stopwaste.org/at-work/stopwaste-grants)



This guidance was developed by StopWaste in consultation with the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health.

Can't click the printout?  
Scan code to download PDF:

