

Team Green Gang (Aurora Yuan and Alice Feng)

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School: Princeton High School

Day 13- Greenest

Part I:

Food Insecurity at Princeton High School/Princeton School District:

1. *Percentage of students who are food insecure*

About 14% of the students in the Princeton School District qualify for the free or reduced-price lunches from the government. This does not necessarily mean that these students are food insecure (because I could not find any specific statistics on this), but it is an important indicator.

Source: <https://shupprinceton.org/>

2. *What does our school do with its leftover food?*

Some of our leftover food is put used as compost or recycled, but most of it is still thrown out and put into landfills.

Source:

<https://www.princetonk12.org/district/sustainability-and-green-team>

3. *Is there a food pantry on campus?*

No, there is not a food pantry on campus that I have knowledge of

4. *Is our school part of the Food Recovery Network or any swipe sharing program?*

No; I would love to start one, but looking at my research and their websites it looks like these programs are only for colleges, while I am still in high school, so this question might not be applicable.

5. *Are there any student organizations working to address this problem on campus?*

No; However, there is the ECHO club (End Childhood Hunger

Organization), but that does not address this problem of food insecurity on our campus

At first, I did not think that food insecurity was a large problem at Princeton High School, but through this research and reading the article, I realized that just because I am privileged enough to not experience this problem does not mean that others are not suffering from this every day. It is a prevalent and important issue at my school that is often overlooked, and severely needs to be addressed.

Part II:

1. The main plan that Princeton High School has to combat food insecurity is already being implemented. This is the free or reduced lunch program that provides students who are eligible for this based on income meals that cost less or are free. I think this is wonderful and helps many students. Also, even though this is not specifically on Princeton campus, Send Hunger Packing Princeton is a local organization that provides students with food to fight food insecurity. For example, one of their programs gives packages of food to students over the weekend so that they can come back to school healthy and nourished on Monday. One way I can get involved is by volunteering time to the SHUPP or donating money to their amazing program. Even though we do a good job of fighting food insecurity on Princeton High School's campus already, I believe we could do even more. An idea that has been implemented all around the country is the Share Table idea, which is basically having students place any food that they do not want to eat or cannot finish on the "Share Table" and other students can take any of the food for themselves to combat their hunger and food insecurity. At first I was skeptical of this idea, but I researched a bit more and it turns out these programs reap huge benefits and has been approved and backed by the US Department of Agriculture as a real and great way to fight food insecurity. I believe that Princeton schools could implement a program similar to this, and is something I would like to bring up to my administration. Furthermore, growing and eating fresh food from the school garden is a great way to get cheap, locally grown, and healthy food for kids who cannot afford this nutritious food. Our school already has a nice garden, but I would like to start gardens at all the Princeton Schools. The teacher that we talked with the other day for Day 8 Greenest Challenge talked about how we could really feed the school if we had a larger area and more funding and students working on our school garden. I think she is 100% right, which is why I am currently in the process of trying to start a sustainability project at our school and give a presentation to the administration at PHS to see if they would be willing to support these proposed projects further.

Sources:

1. <https://schoolleadersnow.weareteachers.com/how-your-school-can-help-reduce-student-food-insecurity/>
2. <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/news/a46885/school-share-tables/>

