

FLORIDA

Section 1: School Demographics

School Name

Paxon School for Advanced Studies

Principal's name

Dr. Royce Turner

School Address

3239 Norman E. Thagard Blvd.

Jacksonville, Florida 32254

United States

[Map It](#)

Number of students (total enrollment)

1410

Lowest grade

9

Highest grade

12

This school is:

- A public school

Please explain:

Number of students by grade level

Elementary or lower Middle grades High or upper school

1410

Number (or percent) of students eligible for free or reduced lunch

Free lunch Reduced lunch Neither free nor reduced lunch

12%

12%

76%

Section 2: Background about school lunch

How many students buy lunch in the school's cafeteria?

31 to 50 percent

How many minutes do students have to eat lunch?

30

Are students allowed to eat lunch in rooms/buildings other than the cafeteria?

Yes

Are students allowed to leave campus for lunch?

Yes

Which students are allowed to leave campus for lunch?

Seniors with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. 25%

Are there any times during the school year when breakfast or lunch is free to all students?

No

Please explain:

Who controls the portions and servings students receive?

Cafeteria staff portion items into servings (i.e fruit into cups) but students select items and number of servings themselves)

Please explain:

Does the school serve set meals (e.g. chicken nuggest with potatoes and carrots) or can students choose what they want from the menu?

The students can pick which sides they would like, if any

Please explain:

Are fruits/vegetables required with every meal?

Yes, fruits/vegetables are included in the price

In your teams' opinion, are students content with the meal options at school?

No, somewhat dissatisfied

Please explain:

Poor quality or quantity of food options. Long wait times.

What type of utensils do students use to eat?

Disposable utensils, such as traditional plastic

Please explain:

What type of plates/trays are used to serve the food?

Other

Please explain:

Styrofoam trays, not collected for recycling.

Section 3: Food waste activities at the school

Does the school use any of the following waste reduction activities?

- “Offer versus serve” policy in place

Please explain:

Has the school performed a food waste audit previously?

No, a waste audit has not been considered

Please explain:

Which of the following generates the majority of food waste at your school?

Student food waste

Please explain:

On average, do you think food waste is an issue at your school?

Yes, somewhat important

Section 4: School Waste Data Form

School name

Paxon School for Advanced Studies

Date of audit

04/06/2017

Students in attendance on day of audit

Teachers were audited instead of students.

Numbers of lunches served on day of audit

Teachers bring lunches from home.

Menu served on day of audit

N/A

Waste type: Unopened food

A: Type of food	B: Number of items	C: Weight of empty bin	D: Total weight	E: Net weight (Total - Empty)
Fruit	1	.1 lbs.	.5 lbs.	.4 lbs.

Total net weight of unopened food

0.4

Notes regarding unopened food

One apple was recovered.

Waste type: Food waste

A: Bin/Bag Number	B: Weight of empty bin	C: Total weight	D: Net weight (Total - Empty)	E: Picture taken of the bin? (Y/N)	F: Percent full
1	.1 lbs.	1.4 lbs.	1.3 lbs	Y	10%

Total net weight of food waste

1.3

Waste type: Liquid waste

A: Bin/Bag Number	B: Weight of empty bin	C: Total weight	D: Net weight (Total - Empty)	E: Picture taken of the bin? (Y/N)	F: Percent full
1	.1 lbs.	4.7 lbs.	4.6 lbs.	Y	25%

Total net weight of liquid waste

4.6

Waste type: Recycling

A: Bin/Bag Number	B: Weight of empty bin	C: Total weight	D: Net weight (Total - Empty)	E: Picture taken of the bin? (Y/N)	F: Percent full
1	.1 lbs.	1.5 lbs.	1.4 lbs.	Y	100%

Total net weight of recycling

1.4

Waste type: Other (Landfill)

A: Bin/Bag Number	B: Weight of empty bin	C: Total weight	D: Net weight (Total - Empty)	E: Picture taken of the bin? (Y/N)	F: Percent full
1	.1 lbs.	2 lbs	1.9 lbs.	Y	90%

Total net weight of other wastes (landfill)

1.9

Notes regarding food, recycling, and other (landfill) wastes

Form will not submit with Total Net Weights including Units (lbs).

Describe the process you used to establish clear guidelines for students to follow to sort their food waste.

Bins were provided with clear signs posted designating which type of waste should be placed in each bin. A supervisor was posted to help facilitate correct sorting of foods in each bin.

Upload photos

Link to files unable to upload

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-uBoosXSrewu_JqtMA_IYPIIGIYyFqRISkUxheSNkus

Would your team be interested in being part of the food waste panel at Nationals?

Yes

Section 5: Critical Thinking

Based on your observations during the food waste audit, make three recommendations to your School Board to reduce food waste.

- 1) Offering a share table for unopened food items may be effective to prevent waste of such items. Although unopened food was not a large part of the total waste we collected, this could be due to sampling bias of only sampling teachers, who are more likely not to waste packed food.
- 2) Developing an option to replace disposing of Styrofoam trays will be a good way to reduce land fill waste amounts. This can be solved by either replacing the trays with a reusable option, or recycling the Styrofoam trays.
- 3) Extending lunch time will prevent food waste, because due to the lack of time, many students do not have time to get lunch and eat all of the provided food in the 30 minutes that are given.

Justify a school's role in teaching children about food waste and the impact food waste has on school budgets, the environment, and hunger in the community.

The school has the role of providing 1/3 of the recommended daily nutrition meals that a student should receive in one day and as such is obligated to educate the students on what they are eating and how it affects the school. Food is wasted on school premises, no student will deny that, but they don't necessarily know or care about the affect this waste has on the school and the environment as a whole. The food they waste could be food that people who are in poverty could be eating instead, or the money spent on the food that they waste could be put towards other programs in the school instead of the food that the students are wasting.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has set a goal to reduce food waste by 50% by the year 2030. Based upon your experience conducting this food waste audit, will the US meet this goal? Explain why or why not.

Detail two or three findings or observations that surprised you. Describe how conducting this food waste audit has impacted you and your team, and the way you think about food in America.

What is one obstacle your team faced during the audit and how did you work to resolve it? If the issue went unresolved, what steps would you take to reevaluate your approach?

During the food waste audit, we had difficulty planning how to conduct the audit as a whole. Our school has almost 1,500 students in attendance as well as multiple, staggered lunches. Because of this, organizing the entire student body to use the bins appropriately and correctly would be quite difficult. Also, our entire campus is open during the lunch period, making it difficult either to funnel all students into one area to throw the food waste away or to create enough bins in enough areas to accommodate all students. In order to combat, this, we conducted the audit on teachers instead. Because most teachers eat in the teachers' lounge and there are much fewer of them, this made the food waste audit much more manageable while still representative of the population of the school as a whole.

Bonus Question

Should all schools be required to do food waste audits on a regular basis? Why or why not? Support your answer.

All schools should be required to do a food waste audit at least once per school year. This will serve the purpose of controlling food waste, and identifying how the school can improve the lunch program to better serve the community and environment. I believe that a yearly food waste audit will also aid in the education of students on the impact of food waste and land fill waste. When student are confronted with the magnitude of how much is thrown away, many students may readjust their habits, and any amount of consumer education that can be instilled into the youth of today will be beneficial to the county in the future.