

NORTH CAROLINA

Section 1: School Demographics

School Name

Union Academy

Principal's name

Jim Zorn

School Address

675 N M.L.K. Jr Blvd
Monroe, North Carolina 28110
United States

[Map It](#)

Number of students (total enrollment)

452

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 |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 0 | 0 | 452 |

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

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?

25

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?

9-12

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?

Meals are prepackaged, students and staff do not affect portions or servings received

Please explain:

Does the school serve set meals (e.g. chicken nuggets 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?

No

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

Yes, very content

Please explain:

Catered food is easy and tastes good.

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:

Containers that the food is catered in.

Section 3: Food waste activities at the school

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

- Students learn ways to reduce food waste
- Trays are no longer used
- Share table created for unopened food items
- Unopened food is recovered for afterschool or supplemental snacks

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?

Neutral

Section 4: School Waste Data Form

School name

Union Academy

Date of audit

03/28/2017

Students in attendance on day of audit

431

Numbers of lunches served on day of audit

207

Menu served on day of audit

Chick - fil - a sandwiches and nuggets, ice cream, milk, juice, water

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) |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| N/A | 0 | 4.6 lb | 4.6 lb | 0 |

Total net weight of unopened food

0

Notes regarding unopened food

No unopened food disposed of by students.

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 | 4.6 lb | 19 lb | 14.4 lb | Y | 76% |

Total net weight of food waste
14.4

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 | 4.6 lb | 7.2 lb | 2.6 lb | Y | 36% |

Total net weight of liquid waste
2.6

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 | 4.6 lb | 7.2 lb | 2.6 lb | Y | 36% |

Total net weight of recycling
2.6

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 | 4.6 lb | 8.2 lb | 3.6 lb | Y | 44% |

Total net weight of other wastes (landfill)
3.6

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

N/A

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

Made announcements in each high school lunch to inform students on where to dispose their waste as well as put signs up on each bin for each category.

Upload photos

- [image1_1.JPG](#)
- [image2_1.JPG](#)
- [image2.JPG](#)
- [image3.JPG](#)
- [image4.JPG](#)
- [image5.JPG](#)
- [image6.JPG](#)
- [image7.JPG](#)
- [image8.JPG](#)
- [image1.JPG](#)

Link to files unable to upload

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

No

Section 5: Critical Thinking

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

Three ways our school could reduce waste would be, encourage composting, provide food waste education, and to require recycling the correct recyclable products.

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.

A school should do its part to educate children in science classes on the impact of food waste. Food waste impacts a school's budget because it has to pay more for garbage collection if more trash is produced. Food waste impacts the environment in countless ways, including pollution, which happens in oceans with trash islands. Unopened food waste can have an impact on hunger in the community if it was collected and distributed to the hungry in a community.

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.

Based on this food waste audit, the EPA will meet this goal because our results show that our school produced very little amounts of food waste in two lunches of hundreds of kids.

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.

Something that surprised us was the finding that food waste is a majority of what waste we produced. Another finding was that when asked to recycle our students recycled correctly more than usual. This audit impacted us in realizing that a lot of food waste can be reduced in a few different ways, and good food could be used to help those in the community.

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?

One obstacle we faced was broadcasting the audit to students, but we resolved it by making announcements in each of the lunches.

Bonus Question

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