

TEXAS

Section 1: School Demographics

School Name

Dr. John D. Horn High School

Principal's name

Bruce Perkins

School Address

3300 E Cartwright Rd
Mesquite, Texas 75181
United States

[Map It](#)

Number of students (total enrollment)

2352

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	2352

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

Free lunch	Reduced lunch	Neither free nor reduced lunch
1,066	214	1072

Section 2: Background about school lunch

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

51 to 70 percent

How many minutes do students have to eat lunch?

30

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

No

Are students allowed to leave campus for lunch?

No

Which students are allowed to leave campus for lunch?

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 plate lunch items, students do not choose serving size

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 receive sides with the entree, whether they want them or not

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:

The variety of food does not meet what the students would prefer.

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?

Disposable paper plates or trays

Please explain:

Section 3: Food waste activities at the school

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

- Procedures put in place to reduce food over-purchasing

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, very important

Section 4: School Waste Data Form

School name

Dr. John D. Horn High School

Date of audit

04/05/2017

Students in attendance on day of audit

2284

Numbers of lunches served on day of audit

143

Menu served on day of audit

Chicken nuggets, nachos, and breakfast for lunch

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	64	5 lbs	35.2 lbs	14.2 lbs
Vegetables	17	5 lbs	9.1 lbs	4.1 lbs
Milk	65	5 lbs	32.5 lbs	27.5 lbs

Total net weight of unopened food

45.8

Notes regarding unopened food

Many students who didn't finish their food was because the school lunches require the student to purchase the items to complete the "My Plate".

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	5 lbs	27 lbs	22 lbs	Y	85%
2	5 lbs	30 lbs	25 lbs	N	89%
3	5 lbs	28 lbs	23 lbs	N	80%
4	5 lbs	35 lbs	30 lbs	N	95%

Total net weight of food waste

100

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	1.9 lbs	10.2 lbs	8.7 lbs	Y	25%
2	1.9 lbs	9.7 lbs	7.8 lbs	N	20%
3	1.9 lbs	12 lbs	10.1 lbs	N	30%

Total net weight of liquid waste

26.6

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	5 lbs	7 lbs	2 lbs	Y	90%
2	5 lbs	6.2 lbs	1.2 lbs	N	75%
3	5 lbs	8 lbs	3 lbs	N	97%
4	5 lbs	7.7 lbs	2.7 lbs	N	94%
5	5 lbs	6.5 lbs	1.5 lbs	N	80%
6	5 lbs	7.9 lbs	2.9 lbs	N	95%

Total net weight of recycling

13.3

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	5 lbs	8.2	3.2	Y	93%
2	5 lbs	7.8	2.8	N	87%
3	5 lbs	8.2	3.2	N	93%
4	5 lbs	8	3	N	90%
5	5 lbs	7.6	2.6	N	85%
6	5 lbs	8.5	3.5	N	98%
7	5lbs	7.3	2.3	N	80%

Total net weight of other wastes (landfill)

20.6

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

We noticed that students were very wasteful with their trash, they chose to throw away their recyclables, even with the option to recycle. Some students did not eat lunch at all.

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

We stood behind the bins and monitored the students as they began to throw away their trash. If the students had a lot of trash, then we would proceed to help them out and throw it away in the proper bin.

Upload photos

- [recycle-and-eddie.jpg](#)
- [unopened-2.jpg](#)
- [trash.jpg](#)
- [food-waste-2.jpg](#)
- [recycle-2.jpg](#)
- [liquids-and-hailey.jpg](#)
- [lifesmarts6.jpg](#)
- [joel-and-reno.jpg](#)
- [lifesmarts4.jpg](#)
- [cute-guy-and-food-waste.jpg](#)

Link to files unable to upload

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.

Have labeled bins for the appropriate trash.

Do not force students to get food, knowing they will not eat it.

Monitor the disposal of the trash.

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.

Students need to be aware of the effect of food waste has on the community, and even the planet as a whole.

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.

No, considering the time frame and adjustments necessary, the food waste audit will take some time. Results will be seen in 2030, however not as large as 50%.

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.

The amount of unopened foods and drinks that were wasted was higher than expected. The cafeteria staff's protocol for the unopened items was to go ahead and throw it away. Knowing that the food is still good, the cafeteria staff could've saved it and reused it.

The fact that the students did not cooperate well with us even after a cafeteria wide announcement, showed us that the students are blindly throwing away their trash, regardless if it is a recyclable or not. Conducting the audit, we realized how wasteful the people in the schools and the world are with the everyday foods we eat. We see how low the expectations are for the reduction of food waste.

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?

At first the students did not know where to put the trash, even with the signs in front of the bins. We worked around this obstacle by helping out the students and directing them to the appropriate trash bins.

Bonus Question

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

Yes, however it depends on their cafeteria system. With our school's system, we believe a yearly audit should be performed to help save the school some money and use it for school events and supplies. But with other schools, they might have a different cafeteria system where the food waste is already at it's minimum.