

California Thursdays – October 25, 2018 Collective Action Day

TALKING POINTS & FACT SHEET



California Thursdays is based on a simple premise: California students benefit from eating fresh, California-grown food.

Nearly one-third of all California public schools are now participating in the California Thursdays Network, which includes 89 public school districts – large and small, urban, rural, and suburban – with 3,195 schools in 33 counties across the state.

On “Collective Action Day” we celebrate how much we have accomplished together since the program started five years ago.

California Thursdays is a major win for all of California:

- Well-nourished and healthy students are better learners
- Local purchases help the local economy
- Less packaging and less waste help the environment
- Students understand where food comes from and how it reaches the table

WHAT: California Thursdays is a collaboration between the Center for Ecoliteracy and a network of public school districts serving freshly prepared school meals featuring California-grown food.

WHY: All children need real food to help them learn and grow. By the time today’s kindergarteners finish high school, they may have eaten well over 4,000 school meals.

School food represents a big opportunity: California schools serve over 1 billion meals annually with support from over \$2.4 billion in federal and state funding.

California Thursdays is a powerful strategy for improving school meals. By serving a freshly prepared meal of regionally sourced ingredients one day per week, California Thursdays creates an achievable first step to changing a system that favors processed, less nutritious food.

WHO: The Center for Ecoliteracy, a nonprofit whose mission is education for sustainable living in K-12 schools, has partnered with 89 school districts in the California Thursdays Network. For a complete list of districts, visit www.californiafoodforcaliforniakids.org.

WHERE: In 33 counties across the state. Each district is tailoring its California Thursdays program to its own school community.

WHEN: Thursday, October 25, 2018.

INFO: Program page: www.californiafoodforcaliforniakids.org/california-thursdays
Online press room: www.californiathursdayspr.org