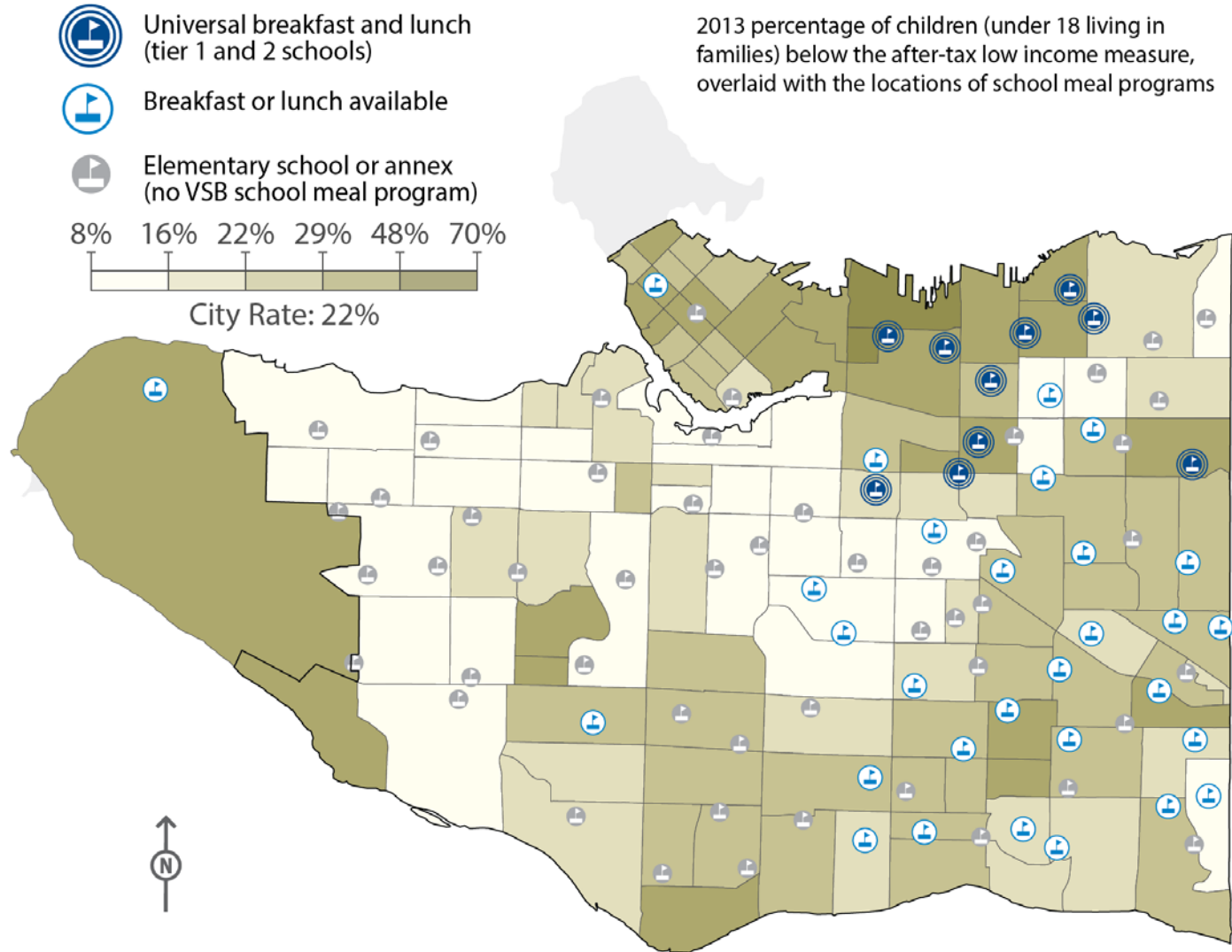


# Moving Towards a Healthy City for All: School Food Update



- **Healthy City Strategy**
  - Goal: Vancouver's children have the best chance of enjoying a healthy childhood
  - Priority action: facilitate school meals and food literacy development
  
- **Vancouver Food Strategy**
  - Improve access to healthy, affordable, and culturally diverse food
  - Advocate for a just and sustainable food system
  
- **In 2014, Council expanded access to healthy foods for students through \$400,000/year (ongoing)**
  - Vancouver Board of Education's Food4Schools - \$320,000
  - Strathcona Community Centre's breakfast program - \$80,000
  
- **In 2015, Council directed:**
  - \$50,000 for a school meal program evaluation
  - \$75,000 for an alternate meal model
  - Staff to report back on the number of students needing meals

# The \$320,000 commitment supports a city-wide Vancouver Board of Education Food4Schools program



Data Sources: Vancouver School Board, January 2016, for school locations and types;  
Statistics Canada, 2013 T1 Family File (Income Tax Returns) Census Tract Data, accessed through  
Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development.

- Vancouver Board of Education's Food4Schools program
  - 258 students at 17 schools
  - The City contributes 100% of the meal costs for the 258 students. This contribution represents ~12% of VBE's Meal Program budget.
- Strathcona Community Centre's breakfast program
  - ~120 students / family members
  - The City funds 80% of program costs.



## Findings

1. Vancouver Board of Education Food4Schools program
  - Stigma was not identified as a concern by staff or students
  - Improved attendance and classroom behaviours
  - Grade 4-7 students reported the meals were too small
2. Strathcona Community Centre breakfast program
  - Increased food skills and improved self-confidence and leadership skills among youth
  - Positive attitudes towards breakfast eating and eating healthier food
  - Positive reports of social connectedness

- Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) provides 3500 meals daily to elementary students
- VBE estimates there are approximately 250 additional students who may require food supports
- These students attend 52 different schools

\*Ministry of Education Social Service Index data

- There are over 6,400 elementary students living in poverty

\*Stats Can 2013 Income tax returns



- There are significant challenges to expand meal services:
  - Infrastructure, e.g.
    - Lack of kitchens
  - Staff, e.g.
    - Lack of staff with food handling designations
  - Distribution of need, e.g.
    - Students are located across 92 schools total

- Continue supporting Vancouver Board of Education's and Strathcona Community Centre's meal programs based on the positive meal program evaluation results.
  - Recommend renewing the \$80,000 grant to Strathcona Community Centre Association
- Vancouver Board of Education and City staff will work on a long-term approach to feeding students and funding meals.
- Staff plan to carry forward the one-time \$75,000 allocation pending further conversations and identification of priorities.