

Moving Towards a Healthy City for All: School Food Update



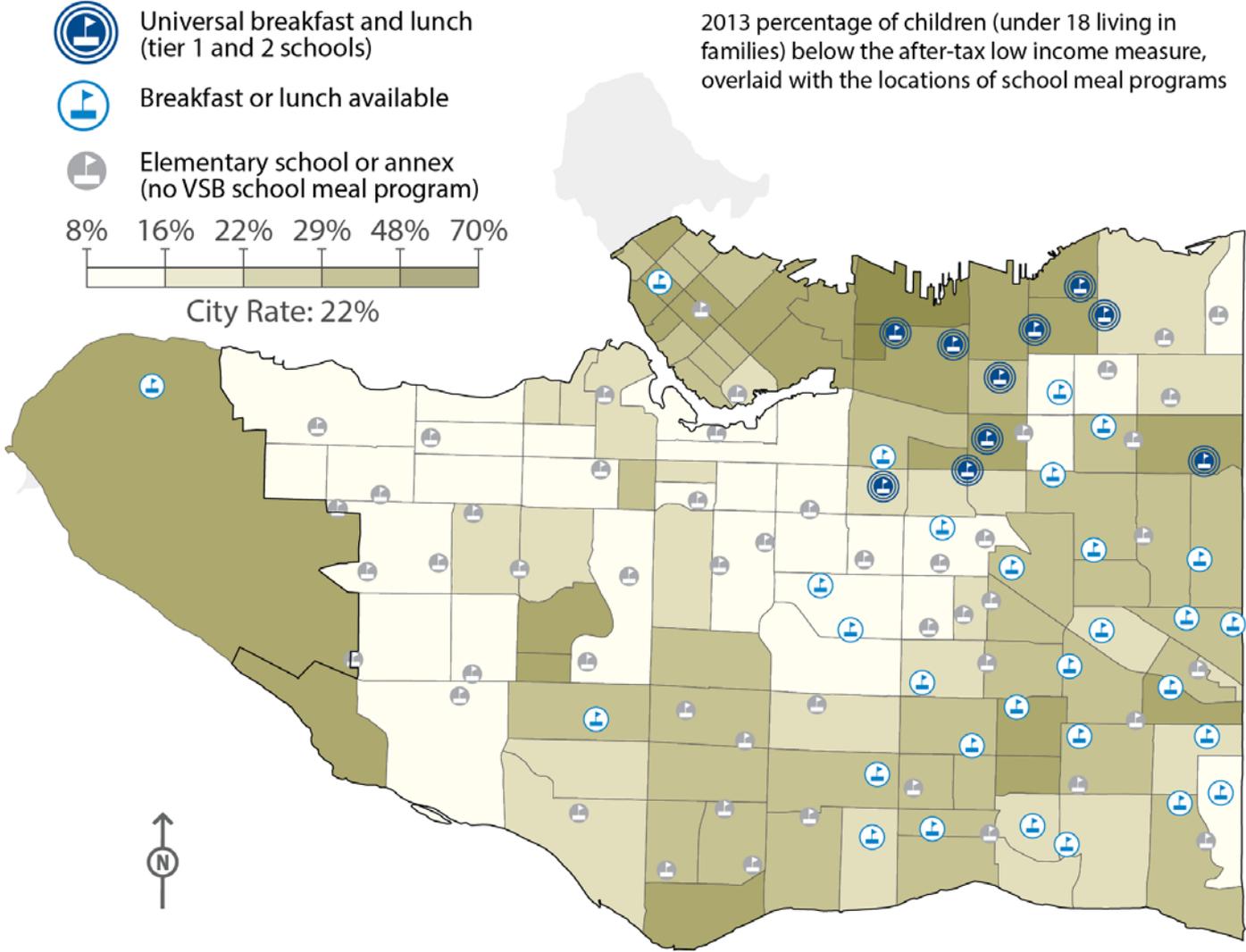
- **Healthy City Strategy**
 - Goal: Vancouver's children have the best chance of enjoying a healthy childhood
 - Priority action: facilitate school meals and food literacy development

- **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.