



In October 2021, Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) passed a [Good Food Purchasing Policy](#) that states that the district, when financially feasible, must seek and purchase products that align with one of six value categories: Valued Workforce, Animal Welfare, Equity & Transparency, Community Nutrition, Environmental Sustainability, and Local Economies.

Thanks to funding from a USDA Farm to School grant and a partnership from Adagio Health, the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council created a lesson plan for superstar PPS Student



Envoys at Fulton K-5 to think and learn about food systems, and school meals and their impact on the world around us! This included a My Food Story worksheet highlighting family traditions, favorite foods, and why we eat what we eat, a group discussion about where ingredients come from, and a review of the Good Food Purchasing Policy [categories](#). PPS Food Services provided pizza hummus (yum!) as an example of local, sustainable, and nutritious food - the high-protein chickpeas are organic and locally sourced.

From there, Student Envoys were asked to vote with their feet! Each student was given one sticker and asked to place it under \*just one\* of the categories (Valued Workforce, Animal Welfare, Equity & Transparency, Community Nutrition, Environmental Sustainability and Local Economies). Community Health and Nutrition received the most votes, but Environmental Sustainability was a close second. They also filled out a taste test sheet with the options 'I liked it,' 'I loved it!' or 'Not for me.'

Student Envoys brought the activity to the dining hall for all Fulton K-5 students the next day. They put on their gloves, handed out hummus samples (with pita and carrots for dipping), and explained the value categories. All the students got the same opportunity to fill out a taste test sheet and vote on their values. Once again, most liked the hummus, and Community Health & Nutrition was the overall value winner!

Next, Lincoln PreK-5 Student Envoys will participate in the same activities in November. Throughout the school year, parents and students will get data from the district's first-ever Good Food Purchasing Program assessment and continue to be engaged so they can share their priorities (and their taste tests!), which PPS Food Services will use for recipe development and purchasing decisions.

This activity was led by staff at the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, the Center for Good Food Purchasing, and PPS Student Envoy coordinator Annie Cillo with support from PPS Fulton teacher Ms. Emily McIntyre! Funding to support this student engagement came from a USDA Farm to School grant awarded to Adagio Health, which will also fund student garden expansion, facility equipment such as salad bars, and greater farm-to-school coordination at the district.

