

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

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IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

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### ORDER FOR A HEARING ADDRESSING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCHOOL LUNCHESES AND THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

- WHEREAS,** One of the fundamental responsibilities of the Boston City Council is to promote equity, student well-being, and academic success for all Boston Public Schools (BPS) students; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Research shows that when students perceive school meals as low quality or unappealing, participation declines, meals are skipped, and students' ability to concentrate and engage in school is negatively impacted; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The My Way Café program was piloted during the 2017–2018 school year in four East Boston schools. In 2020, BPS expanded the program districtwide, investing in school food infrastructure through the construction, renovation, or retrofitting of on-site kitchens; *and*
- WHEREAS,** BPS has increased local food sourcing as part of its nutrition strategy, supporting both student health and the regional food economy; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Recent federal cuts to the Local Food for Schools program have created uncertainty for districts seeking to maintain fresh, locally sourced food options amid rising costs and the loss of pandemic-era aid; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Many students rely on school meals as a primary source of nutrition, and disparities in access to appealing, nutritious food can widen existing achievement gaps; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Addressing school food quality and student satisfaction requires meaningful student and family voice in decision-making; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine student satisfaction with school lunches and the relationship between school food, student well-being, and the achievement gap in Boston Public Schools. This hearing shall include a review of participation rates, food quality and cultural responsiveness, kitchen infrastructure investments, local sourcing practices, and the sustainability of funding.

Filed in Council: February 4, 2026