

What's possible at RISE.

A scratch-cooking pilot launching August 2026: designed to nourish scholars and prove a model for school food done differently.



"We saw a gap between the level of excellence we expect in our classrooms and what we were offering in our meals."

Dawn Arthur, Executive Director, RISE Charter School

Today at RISE

- Meals arrive pre-prepared
- Limited choice, limited flexibility
- Much of what's served ends up in the trash
- Cafeteria lags behind classroom excellence

What's possible

- Fresh meals prepared in the school kitchen
- More choice, color, and variety
- Meals students actually look forward to
- Higher participation and less food waste

RISE Scholars 2025 Survey Responses

"Can we get real food please?"

"Can we get to pick what we want to eat?"

50%+ of daily nutrition comes from school meals.

Most school meal programs make **less than 25%** of meals from scratch.

90%+ of school nutrition leaders need more support to cook from scratch.

Scratch Cooking Pilot · August 2026

This kind of idea makes sense in theory.
Bringing it to life in a real school is harder.

School meal programs are built around tight reimbursement, limited labor, and rigid systems. Most schools do exactly what the system asks.

RISE is choosing to go further.

Culinary lead **Chef Dean Ogan** designed the pilot menus around what he considers essential: food education, real choice, and preparation quality.

Launch August 2026

Culinary Design Chef Dean Ogan

Services Breakfast and Lunch

Menu 10-day rotation, 2 entrées

Model Scratch-cooked, fresh, on-site

Support Ops, menus, training, year 1

Scholars ~332 per day (~65% participation)

School ~500 students

CEP Eligible 100% free meals

Revenue Reimbursement-based

RISE Charter School

\$100–175k

Philanthropic support bridges the Year 1 gap as participation revenue builds.

Food Paradigm

\$70k

Funds Food Paradigm's year-1 capacity to design, launch, and support the pilot.

Support **RISE** directly: email to designate your gift to the pilot. darthur@risese.org

Follow the pilot, **support** the work, or bring this model to your school.

foodparadigm.org/connect

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