



RISE's Scratch Cooking Pilot



A public K–8 charter school
in Southeast Raleigh
Serving over 550 scholars daily

Excellence. Community. Opportunity.

This is RISE.

We accept nothing less.



Why RISE, Why Now?



Ready for innovation

Academic progress, organizational health, and support from Great Schools NC prepared us to innovate.

A further push on Excellence

Our meals should reflect the same care and excellence we expect in our classrooms.

Strong partners helped us see what more was possible.



The Partners Who Made It Possible



Relationships opened the door

Introductions to the Rocky Top Catering founder, former mayors, and Wake County School Board members helped us consider a project of this magnitude.

Partners make this possible

Food Paradigm, Overflowing Hands, and other nonprofit partners brought expertise and support.

“I can smell the delicious food long before I even enter the kitchen.” former Raleigh Mayor Baldwin



What happens every school day?



Before scholars arrive

The chef and kitchen team prepare food on site, beginning early in the morning.

Breakfast and lunch

Nutrition staff serve fresh meals. School staff support scholar flow and encourage students to try foods.

During and after service

The team tracks meals served, completes production records, and manages food safety and cleanup.



Why the meal experience matters



Food is part of the school day.

A meal only helps when a child eats it. We want scholars to look forward to breakfast and lunch.

Fresh food offers repeated opportunities to try new foods and build healthy habits.

Free meals for every scholar support families and make access part of everyday school life.



What success looks like

EVERY SCHOLAR.

Scratch-cooked breakfast and lunch.
Offered every school day.

>60%

Breakfast
participation

>80%

Lunch
participation

>90%

Costs covered by
reimbursements over time

Pilot targets • Reliable service. Fresh food. A sustainable model.

Every child deserves this.



**Fresh food.
Dignity.
Opportunity.**

Starting with 550+ scholars at RISE.
Building a model more schools can use.

Excellence belongs at every table.

