

# Zero Waste Schools Program

We work with school staff and students to shift operations and minds towards generating zero waste through source reduction, recycling, composting, and food recovery.



## Program goals

- Help schools plan effective waste reduction strategies
- Provide on-the-ground support for operational changes
- Educate students and staff about the How and Why of going zero waste
- Connect schools with local partners and opportunities
- Drive policy changes and infrastructure development that promote zero waste



*SGA's Zero Waste Schools program educates and empowers students to advocate for positive changes in their schools and in their communities.*



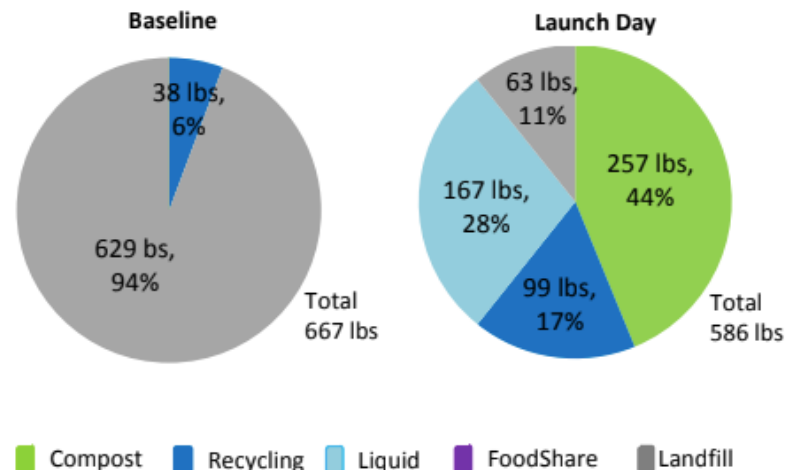
Photo credit: Charles Deters

## Impact



At Sandoval Elementary (1,015 K-5 students) in Chicago Public Schools, the lunchroom went from filling **25 trash bags per day to 2 bags per day.**

### Waste Audits of Cafeteria/Kitchen



Typical schools we work with divert 80-90% of lunchroom materials from the landfill. We have helped dozens of schools across the region get on the path to zero waste, including including schools in Chicago Public Schools, Cook County, Lake County, and McHenry County.

Our school-specific zero waste resources have provided technical expertise to countless more schools across the country.



## Program benefits

- Offers students a chance to actively combat climate change every day
- Creates potential for cost savings
- Provides opportunities for curricular connections
- Contributes to community zero waste goals
- Presents students with leadership opportunities
- Sets an example for other schools



## Lunchroom sorting station



To learn more, contact:  
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