

NATIONWIDE FOOD AND DRIVER SHORTAGES



Talking Points

WHY ARE WE EXPERIENCING SUPPLY CHAIN SHORTAGES?

Everywhere you go, there are signs posted for "Help Wanted". Manufacturers such as Tyson and distributors such as Kohl's and Ben E. Keith are experiencing the same thing. Lack of workers, increased Covid cases and quarantined employees are causing food shortages and lack of truck drivers to transport food to our school districts.

ARE OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS EXPERIENCING THE SAME SHORTAGES?

School districts across the country are experiencing the same shortages as Opaa! numerous school districts are receiving letters from distributors such as US Foods, Sysco, Springfield Grocer and Kohl's Wholesale serving official notice they will no longer deliver food and supplies to their schools. Foodservice Directors in self operated school districts are struggling to secure a new distributor to supply food for their students. School districts contracted with Opaa! do not have the burden of searching for a new distributor. Opaa!'s purchasing team is here to find solutions and guide our Directors through alternative purchasing options as needed.

DID OPAA! PREPARE FOR THE CHALLENGES WE ARE CURRENTLY FACING?

While we were all set to kick off the school year with a transition back to our multi choices menus options in the cafeteria, Opaa! also anticipated food shortages at the start of the school year. Therefore, we worked proactively to stock freezers and storage areas during the summer months to prepare for the shortages in August. This has helped, but driver shortages have increased to the point Opaa! is now experiencing food distribution shortages in many of our school districts.

The Opaa! Team is here to support you every step of the way as we work through the distribution challenges you are facing this school year. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask for assistance.

WHAT IS OPAA! DOING TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE FOOD TO SERVE OUR STUDENTS?

Kevin Collins, Director of Purchasing & Supplier Relations, and the purchasing team are working around the clock to secure additional distributors to deliver to your school district. Our purchasing team is tracking delivery schedules, food shortages and making arrangements for menu substitutions. In some cases, our purchasing team is assisting Directors in making local purchases to obtain the items they need.

Opaa!'s Culinary Team is busy developing new menus and communicating appropriate substitutions to address food shortages and utilize food available. They are here to assist you with necessary menu changes.

Nutrislice allows Directors to make changes to menus in advance of service to inform students and parents of menu changes and food shortages we are currently experiencing. It is very important to update menu choices in Nutrislice daily to keep parents and students up to date on menu choices. This is also important to aid parents, school nurses and students with food allergies or other health related issues.

HOW IS OPAA! COMMUNICATING TO OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

The Creative Team has been busy developing a variety of communication materials for social media, Nutrislice, flyers, and letters to parents. Customized social media graphics are available upon request as well. Sheila Frost, VP of Marketing and Communications is emailing ecards to our clients and Opaa! staff when major changes occur. Operations and Business Development Associates are teaming together to make phone calls to our liaisons to update them of distribution changes to their school district due to the supply chain shortage and lack of truck drivers.

HOW ARE DIRECTORS DETERMINING MENU CHOICES TO SERVE IN THEIR SCHOOL DISTRICT?

ADO's and RDO's are working closely with Directors to determine choices to offer based on food on hand and their food delivery schedule. The Culinary Team is also available for menu support and determining appropriate substitutions.