



LAUSD
UNIFIED

Central Manufacturing Kitchen Update

Committee of the Whole
March 17, 2026

Agenda

1. Central Manufacturing Kitchen –
Need & Purpose
2. Site Selection
3. Implementation Plan
4. Timeline & Next Steps



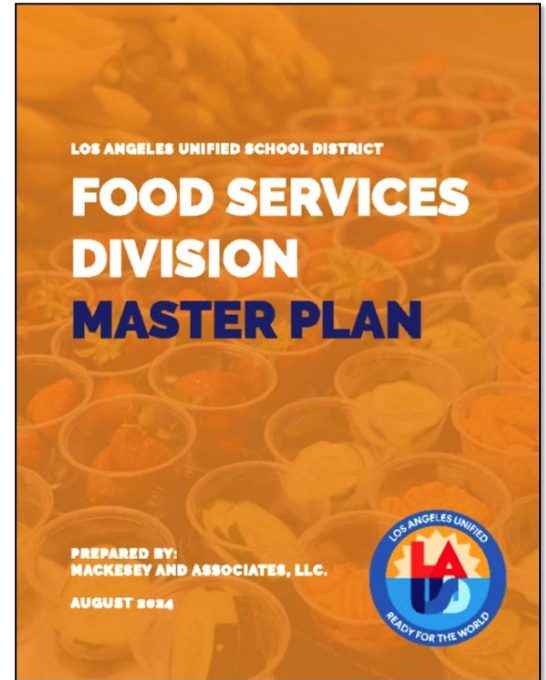
Why is a Central Manufacturing Kitchen Needed?

Central Manufacturing Kitchen (CMK) Purpose:

- Elevate school nutrition with fresher, healthier, and more appealing options informed by family and student feedback

2024 Food Services Master Plan:

- Identified the need for a new CMK to support fresh, healthy, and appealing meals
- A new CMK would modernize operations and align with LA Unified's sustainability goals
- Developing one CMK is more cost effective than multiple kitchens



Central Manufacturing Kitchen Priorities

- 1) Transition 170 schools currently served by the Newman Nutrition Center to the CMK to enable approximately 60,000 students to receive fresh meals
- 2) Expand capacity to provide fresh meals and products prepared at the CMK for schools across the District
 - Prepare raw proteins from scratch for District recipes
 - Create sauces, dressings, and condiments
 - Process fresh produce from local farmers
 - Bake fresh products
- 3) Hands-on training facility and kitchen for employees, culinary students, and adult learners
- 4) 8-hour workday for more workers to elevate nutrition and menu choices



Priorities will be refined based on cost and feasibility

Measure US Funding Framework

- Measure US Implementation Plan identifies bond funds for School Cafeteria Upgrades
- Of this, approximately \$240M is allocated for a project to develop a kitchen facility to prepare fresh, healthier student meals and support schools
- Facilities and Food Services have initiated preliminary planning to define the facility program, evaluate site feasibility, and develop project scope



Site Selection Criteria & Considerations



District owned
property within
District
boundaries



Minimum of 4
acres of usable
space



Access to
freeways/major
transportation
corridors



Proximity to
Central LA and
Pico Rivera
Warehouse



Compatible
zoning and land
use



Relocation and
demolition costs
minimized



Potential
integration with
Division of Adult
and Career
Education (DACE)
programs

Site Selection Methodology



Proposed Site

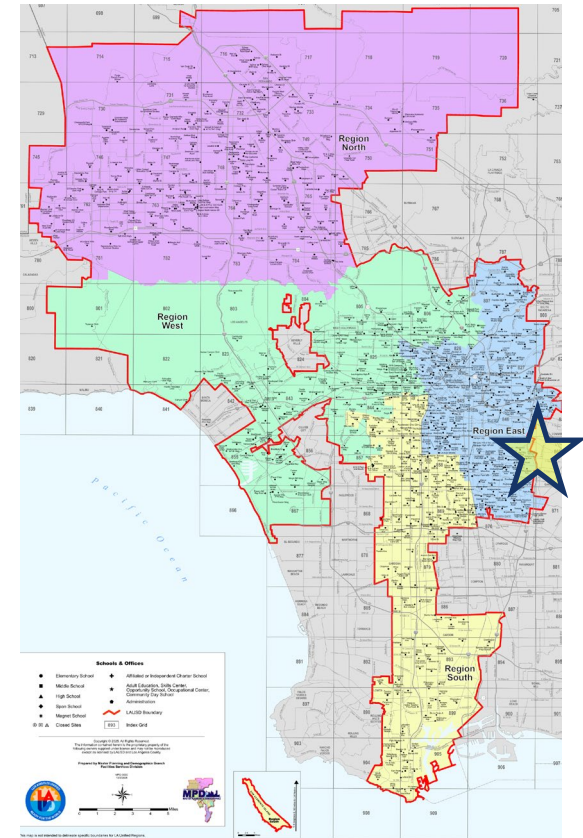
Richard N. Slawson Southeast Occupational Center & Bell Storage Yard

Strategic Site Advantages:

- Approximately 4 miles from Pico Rivera warehouse
- Direct access to major transportation corridors (710, 5, 10 and 60)
- Approximately 5 acres of usable space
- Located within an established industrial district for trucking operations, and no residential conflicts
- Minimal relocation and demolition required

Educational Component & Potential DACE Integration:

- Adjacent DACE culinary arts program
- Potential internships and job opportunities for LAUSD students



Planning Considerations of Proposed Site

Richard N. Slawson Southeast Occupational Center & Bell Storage Yard

Proposed Site:

- Portion of existing parking lot & Bell Storage Yard

Planning Considerations:

- School operations and student safety
- Parking for students and staff
- Truck routing and deliveries



Site Address	5500 Rickenbacker Road, Bell, CA 90201
Board District	5
Region	East
Year Built	2011

Implementation Plan

Phase 1 – Site Analysis, Programming, Project Definition (5–7 months)

- Define the facility program: functions, equipment needs, and space requirements
- Evaluate site conditions and infrastructure at the Slawson-Bell site
- Prepare site test fits and identify required site reconfigurations
- Develop preliminary project scope, square footage, and cost estimates
- Return to the Board for approval of project scope, budget, and schedule

Phase 2 – Design and Environmental Review

- Complete architectural and engineering design
- Conduct required environmental testing and clearances
- Obtain agency approvals and permits

Phase 3 – Construction

- Bid and award construction contract
- Construct and equip facility

2026 Key Milestones

April 2026:

- Site analysis and programming contract presented to the Board for approval

Q4 2026:

- Project Definition, including defined scope, schedule, and budget presented to the Board

Following Board Approval of Project Definition:

- Proceed with design, environmental assessments, and required agency clearances

Questions?