

COALITION FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL FOOD PRINCIPLES-BASED DECISION MAKING FRAMEWORK 2021

The Coalition for Healthy School Food regularly needs to choose between different courses of action to achieve our vision. Given the Coalition's limited capacity and the need to use its resources effectively, this document has been developed to inform how priority actions are decided upon. We will use the following filters to guide our decision-making:



1. Alignment

Does this action advance the Coalition's goals and guiding principles and align with the needs identified by the community and key stakeholders?

- Every activity taken by the Coalition must align with its mission, goals & objectives - We only engage in activities that move forward our vision of a school food program for Canada, and that align with the Coalition's objectives as set out in our Terms of Reference.
- We represent community needs - We prioritize activities that align with the needs and interests of our members and school communities across Canada.
- We work on a basis of consensus - We work on issues in a way that strives for consensus (outlined in our Terms of Reference, Appendix A).



2. Effort / Capacity

Do we have the time, resources, energy, interest, and capacity to make this happen without overly straining our resources?

- We can only take on what we have the capacity to do - We prioritize projects that align with existing funding and staffing resources and requirements.
- We go where there's energy - We take advantage of opportunities with lots of energy, excitement, and existing partnerships.
- We balance quick wins with long-term goals - We balance activities that are likely to see successful and quick results, with long-term goals that achieve our vision.



3. Impact

Is it going to have a significant impact on the Coalition's mission? Is the moment right for this? Does the political, economic, social and technological climate make it so that our actions can have a high impact?

- We are responsive to the current context - We can see the broad landscape. We know what we're working towards and different strategies that could help us achieve our vision, and so we're ready to take action when opportunities arise.
- We prioritize activities that will yield significant results and impact - We want to see Canada-wide results and we place a priority on activities that will signify a significant step towards the Coalition's vision and objectives.

1. Transparent - We are transparent about our decisions and offer members a way to democratically agree with, disagree with, or block decisions made by the Steering Committee or Coalition staff.

2. Member-directed - Through a confirmed Steering Committee, the membership of non-profit organizations direct the activities and goals of the Coalition.

3. Collaborative - We work together with diverse stakeholders, using the best available evidence, to promote the best interests of children and youth to foster collective impact, including with governments whenever possible. However, as an independent Coalition, we will advocate for governments to change their trajectories when their decisions do not align with our mission.

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4. Non-partisan -- We see school food as an issue for all political parties and we remain non-partisan in all our advocacy efforts.

5. Through distributed leadership - We encourage and support members to take on projects and working groups that move forward our collective vision for a universal school food program.

6. Flexible - We are ready to quickly pivot our strategies and tactics when needed if it will help us better achieve our mission.

7. Align with values of humour, joy, compassion, respect, kindness, mindfulness, and humility.