



Healthy Kids Collaborative Membership Overview and Application Process

A National Initiative to Advance Culinary-Driven, Healthy, Flavorful Foods for Kids
CIAHealthyKids.com

About the Healthy Kids Collaborative (HKC)

The Culinary Institute of America's Healthy Kids Collaborative is a year-round, invitational initiative designed to both accelerate innovation and deepen technical and professional expertise in K-12 school food. It is a unique and focused multi-year collaboration between school nutrition professionals, school chefs, suppliers, and other stakeholders to create and advance culinary driven, healthier foods for students. For full overview and background, [visit our website](#).

Who are the members?

Check out the current list of [school foodservice operator members](#) and [corporate members](#) engaged in HKC.

Types of Membership

Operator Member

- Must be a school food/nutrition program operator participating in the USDA National School Lunch Program. See below for benefits and commitments HKC operator members can expect.

Affiliate Member

- Members who are employed by a non-profit with primary objective to advance school food, and support school nutrition programs, child nutrition, and child food security.

Corporate Member

- Companies and organizations that provide the financial and other support for this initiative. Corporate members include commodity boards, vendors, suppliers, and manufacturers that provide ingredients, products, and services used by school food operations.

HKC Operator Membership Benefits

- Network with a dynamic group of leading school nutrition program operators and school chefs committed to promoting a culinary culture in schools.
- Attend the Healthy Kids Collaborative annual meeting held at The Culinary Institute of America at Copia in Napa, CA.
- Gain access to culinary and flavor insights, industry and consumer trends, updates on regulations and standards, and research on children's eating habits, taste preferences, and nutrition.
- Collaborate with other operator members and serve on a working group of your choice to gain insights and develop solutions to improve school nutrition.

HKC Operator Membership Commitments

- Participate in the annual in-person member meeting at the CIA Copia campus in the Napa Valley (typically held in early December each year). CIA offers travel expense reimbursement to a limited number of primary operator members each year.
- Participate in 3-4 working group calls and 2 all-member calls per year.
- Participate in and openly contribute to HKC shared goals and respond to operator member surveys for a minimum of three years.
- Members who have missed two annual meetings in a row may be dismissed unless they have actively participated in working group activities and conference calls.

HKC Operator Member Application Process

- Individuals interested in being invited for membership may [submit an application online](#).
- Current members are welcome to nominate individuals or organizations for membership consideration.
- The HKC Membership Committee will review interested organizations to determine the appropriate fit with the HKC vision, mission, and strategic plans. These would include considerations such as recognized leadership in creating a culinary culture, incorporation of scratch cooking, geographical diversity, and overall recognition for leadership in pursuing projects at the intersection of culinary arts, health, wellness, and sustainability.
- New memberships will be reviewed and notified of the status of their application during the summer on an annual basis.
- For more information, contact Tarrah Westercamp, MS, RDN, SNS ([Tarrah.Westercamp@culinary.edu](mailto:Tarah.Westercamp@culinary.edu)).