NIH SciEd24

Project Name:	
Authors, Affiliations, and Email Address of Primary Contact: Pamela Koch, Raynika Trent, Felicia Mensah (Pam pak14@tc.columbia.edu and Raynika rt2569@tc.columbia.edu)	**Funder:** SEPA (September 2023 to July 2028)
Website: tc.edu/crunchlunch/	**If SEPA project, URL for project on https://nihsepa.org/** nihsepa.org/project/creating-resources-uplifting-nutrition-culture-and-health-at-lunch-crunch-lunch/

Brief Program Description (50 – 60 words)

CRUNCH Lunch, uses robust, engaging, and comprehensive teacher professional development to make the connection between STEM and school lunch happen. The current environment of adopting Universal Free Meals throughout the U.S. offers an unprecedented opportunity to improve attitudes and confidence in STEM and connect education to school lunch for up to 30 million public school children.

Program and Participant Characteristics

Program type (Please check all that apply):

√ Curriculum
__ Out-of-school program
__ Exhibit
__ Interactive multimedia
√ Teacher PD
__ Research experiences for students or teachers
__ Other (describe):

Setting(s): √ Formal ___Informal

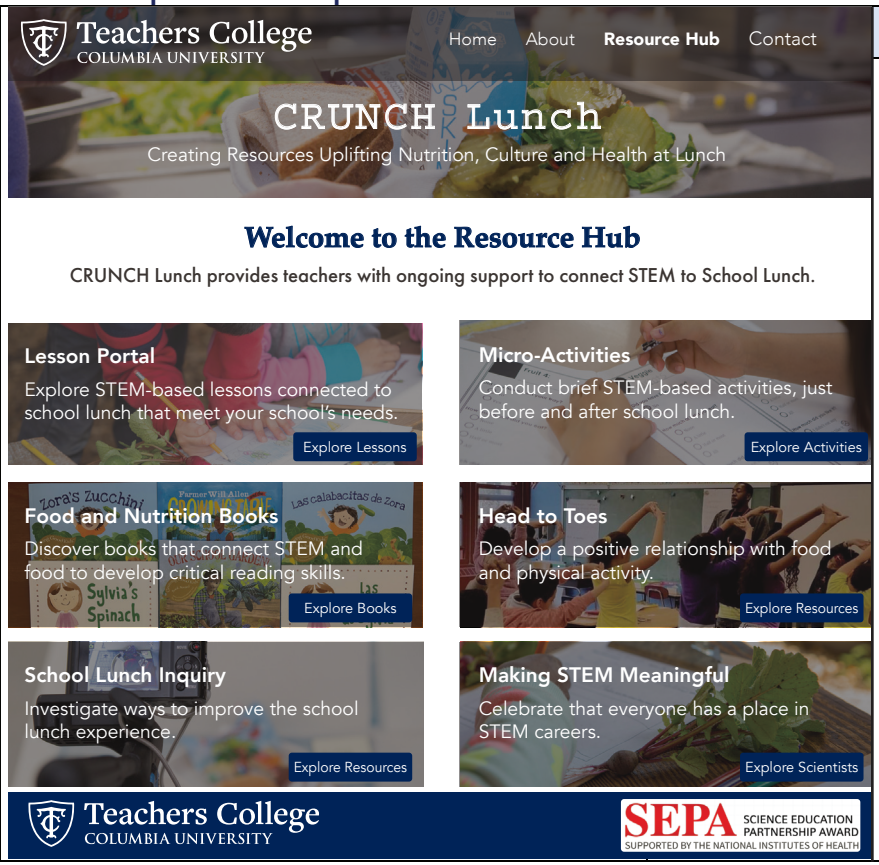
Types of participants

√ Students √ Teachers √ Scientists
__ Families __ Public
__ Other (describe):

Grade level(s) of participants

√ PreK √ Elementary (K-5) __ Middle (6-8)
__ High (9-12) __ Adult

Characteristics of the populations you serve relative to DEIA: Working in NYC public schools: 41% Hispanic, 24% Black, and 17% Asian, 14% ELL, 21% have disabilities, 73% economically disadvantaged.



Program Activities

During our first year we created our CRUNCH Lunch Resource Hub website. We also designed our two Teacher Professional Development Workshops:

- **Why CRUNCH Lunch:** *teachers reflect on their own school lunch, learn about the National School Lunch Program and begin to connect the school menu to their curriculum.*
- **Connecting STEM to School Lunch:** *teachers build more confidence in their ability to connect STEM to school lunch by reviewing the Resource Hub and making a CRUNCH Lunch lessons and activities plan.*

Evaluation

Constructs measured

√ Content knowledge __ Skills

__ Nature of science __ Career awareness

√ Attitudes (e.g., interest, identity, belonging)

√ Quality or fidelity of implementation

√ Other (describe): **consumption of school lunch**

Methods

√ Tests/surveys √ Interviews/focus groups

__ Observations __ Artifacts (e.g., student work)

__ Other (describe):

Design characteristics

√ Comparison or control group

√ Pre/post surveys or assessments

__ Longitudinal tracking of participants

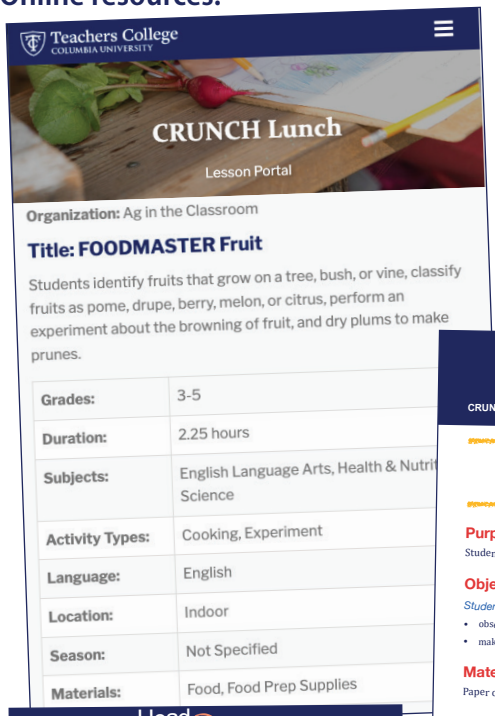
__ Other (describe):

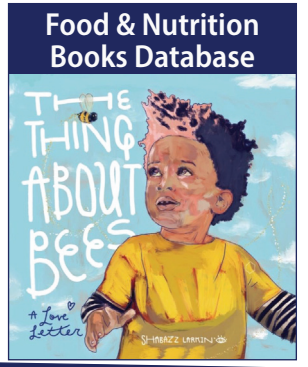
Project Lessons Learned

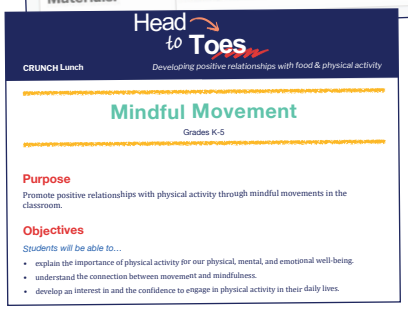
- **New York City Public Schools (NYC PS) are very dedicated to food education, improving school lunch, and to connecting school lunch with STEM.**
- **To promote adoption of CRUNCH Lunch resources, we are going to need to align our teacher professional development workshops and website resources with the NYC PS science curriculum.**

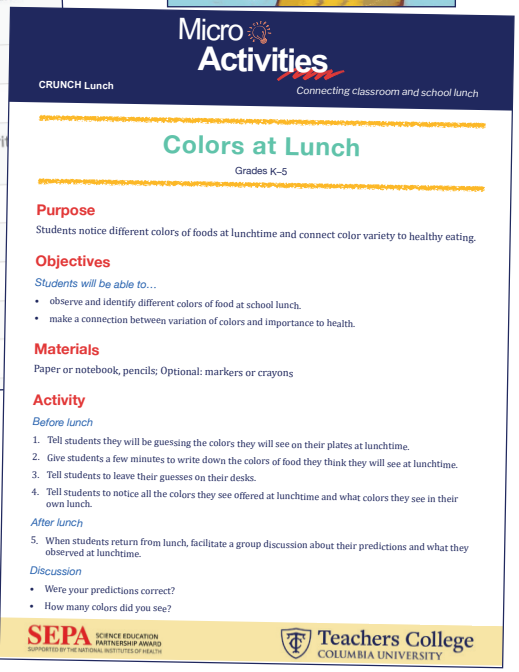
Key Accomplishments and/or Findings

Online resources!









Questions, Advice Wanted, or Topics of Discussion for the SciEd Community (optional)

- **What are your experience related to school lunch in schools you work with?**
- **Do you know any food nutrition, food systems, STEM, BIPOC professionals for us to interview for our Making STEM Meaningful resource?**
- **What we are creating now is specific to NYC PS and we will make it more adaptable for dissemination. Any tips on how to go from materials that are specific to the "evaluation population" to become more inclusive for wider dissemination?**
- **What are your creative ideas for recruiting schools?**