

LUCIA CALTHORPE



After working at a preschool in the neighborhood, Lucia and her family embarked on a project to start the first elementary charter school in West Oakland in 2009. Her involvement in the effort to start Vincent Academy ranged from organizing volunteers at the public hearing for charter approval to distributing recruitment flyers throughout the community, to helping with construction and volunteering in the classroom. Lucia also worked to develop and run the Summer Program at Vincent Academy. At Penn, Lucia has continued to be involved in public education. She worked as a volunteer for the West Philadelphia Tutoring Project and as a mentor at West Philadelphia High School with the Netter Center's College Access and Career Readiness Program. Additionally, she co-founded Penn Cares for Kids, a club that runs a bi-weekly afterschool program at the HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy. In both her extra-curricular and academic work, Lucia has also pursued the issue of child nutrition. She worked as a volunteer for the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative and wrote her capstone on federal child nutrition programs in Philadelphia. Next year, Lucia will pursue a Masters in Epidemiology at the University of Cambridge with the Gates Foundation-Cambridge Scholarship.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HEALTHY, HUNGER-FREE KIDS ACT OF 2010: A CASE STUDY OF PHILADELPHIA AND TWO NEIGHBORING SUBURBAN DISTRICTS

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This thesis seeks to explore the way in which the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) has been implemented in the School District of Philadelphia, in comparison to the neighboring suburban school districts of North Penn and Lower Merion. While the legislation has served to increase food quality, participation, and revenue in Philadelphia, it has generally had the opposite effect in North Penn and Lower Merion. Philadelphia's unique Universal Feeding pilot and its effort to phase out competitive food sales as early as 2004 help to explain the ease with which it has adopted the HHFKA. Furthermore, Philadelphia's socioeconomic makeup allowed it to implement the HHFKA's Community Eligibility Provision, which has increased both participation and overall program reimbursement. In contrast, the experiences of Lower Merion and North Penn shed light on policy issues that have resulted in criticism of some of the HHFKA's nutritional standards – specifically, the financial burden placed on districts to meet these nutritional standards, as well as the barriers they create for cooking fresh foods from scratch. Thus far, most scholarship on the HHFKA has focused on national trends regarding nutritional intake and food waste. This thesis seeks to explore the way in which local context has influenced implementation of the HHFKA. In doing so, it brings to light a wide range of outcomes that has thus far been largely unacknowledged in evaluation of the legislation.