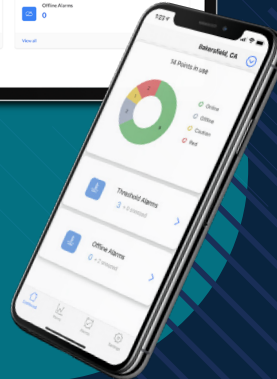


A Passion for Student Safety: Nutrition and Education



An Ohio school nutrition director worked several years in the food industry before he was inadvertently introduced to student nutrition.

“I was getting older and wanting to settle down and make a family so finding a more stable job was important,” he explained.

“I never really thought about working for the schools until I saw the job open up but I was lucky enough to fall in love with the missions and the job.”

I found my passion and love taking care of the students.”

Food safety is one of the central planks of his role in taking care of the students at an Ohio public school. The district serves 2,300 pupils at five buildings, including three elementary schools.

He leads a team of 23 employees – all focused on ensuring students have the nutrition they need to foster the best learning environment.

The district is located in one of the more economically challenged parts of Ohio, and many families rely on the school food program as a core part of their meal planning.

“A lot of these kids may not get a good meal at home,” he said. “We take a lot of pride in making sure they get a good meal at school.”

The string of preventable food losses due to freezer failures made his team well aware of the uncertain nature of the freezers and refrigerators.

“It’s all about safety when you talk about feeding these students and the fact is we’re only here from 7 to 3 Monday to Friday,” he said. “There was just too much time that we didn’t know what was going on with our units and that made me nervous.”

“And when you add the fact I was losing freezers left and right to mechanical issues, it was a no-brainer to invest in something like Sonicu.”

He loves the fact he can pull out his Sonicu mobile app and see exactly where the temperatures are across his entire district.

“I’m always nervous when anything approaches 43 degrees as that’s where bacteria start to grow,” he said. “Having all of my team with the app and knowing we have so many eyes on our aging freezers makes me so much more confident we’re not near that line.”

An Ohio school nutrition director turned to Group Purchasing Organization, HPS, for help in identifying a temperature monitoring provider.

“I already had two others I was looking at and wanted to make sure I was getting the best price and a technology that had already been vetted.”

He ultimately selected Sonicu thanks to our relationship with HPS, as well as the ability to scale additional monitoring applications. Dozens of HPS members rely on Sonicu monitoring in their kitchens today.

He said door open monitoring for his fridge and freezer doors as well as water leak monitoring, appear to be natural additions to his current slate of monitoring.

