



# Director Spotlight!

Showcasing the passion, talents, and hard work of Arizona school nutrition professionals.



## Emma Kitzman

Director of Nutrition Services, Tempe Elementary School District

**Hometown:** Greenwich, New York

**Current City of Residence:** Gilbert, Arizona

**Favorite Childhood School Meal:** Spaghetti with Meatballs

**When I was a kid, I wanted to grow up to be a:** Meteorologist

### What prompted you to start working the field of school nutrition?

I was inspired by my own college experience, and wanting to make a difference in children's health and nutrition habits.

### Tell us about a specific project or initiative you have championed that you are proud of.

Our partnerships with the Chef Ann Foundation and Life Time Foundation, which have allowed us to introduce more scratch cooking, implement our own clean label initiative, and promote fresh produce.

### Assuming time and money were not barriers, what would be your top priority as far as changes you would like to see in your school nutrition program?

I would prioritize providing staff culinary training, staff management classes (HR), and health/wellness training for all nutrition and food service employees.

### What are the top three skills a school food service director should have?

Relatability, multitasking ability, and adaptability.

### What advice would you give to a younger version of yourself just starting your role as Director?

Do not feel like you have to do everything at once; slow down! Know that you will not please everyone all the time.