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Culinary Stars of Tomorrow Compete in The Education Fund's Student Top Chef Competition

Taste of Education features a culinary panel of local celebrity chefs.

MIAMI (March 2, 2022) – The Education Fund ([EducationFund.org](https://www.educationfund.org)) celebrates the culinary dreams and ambitions of public school students at the **2022 Taste of Education** on Tuesday, March 15, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at historic Hialeah Park, 100 E 32nd St., in Hialeah.

Taste of Education ([#tasteofeducation](https://twitter.com/tasteofeducation)) showcases the talents of students from 17 culinary programs in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Students from middle and high school will prepare and plate gourmet bites and vie for \$20,000 in top prizes. Guests get a chance to weigh in, voting for their top choice at the gala and fundraiser.

The judges – top local chefs and food writers – will determine the winning teams. This year's culinary panel features renowned local chefs Ralph Pagano, Allen Susser, Letty Alvarez, Dayanny De La Cruz, Ingrid Hoffmann, Max Santiago, and Linda Gassenheimer. Each team will present their dish and make their pitch, hoping to wow the judges with their skill and presentation.

Guests will feast on the students' creations and enjoy mini installations showcasing The Education Fund's programs, including walking through a food forest. On the menu is an array of dishes slated to delight the palate: Caribbean Veggie Stew, Bang Bang Salmon Tacos, *Torrejas Cubanas*, Cheddar Bay Biscuit Snapper Sliders, Cauliflower Burgers With Goat Cheese and Date Jam, Thai Sweet Soy Chicken, Corvina Ceviche, Key Lime Shooters, and so much more.

"A Taste of Education gives public school students a chance to compete before culinary giants in South Florida's restaurant industry," said Linda Lecht, president of The Education Fund. "Our culinary competition serves as a learning experience that can help our budding chefs prepare for a career in hospitality."

A Taste of Education also celebrates the more than 100 volunteers in the 2021-22 Teach-A-Thon, a campaign that fosters awareness of the teaching profession and teaching quality, while raising money for educators and their students. This year's Teacher Champions featured Wells Fargo employees, CEOs, community leaders, and business professionals who "stepped into the shoes" of local educators.

"There has never been a more important time to support public school education and our students. The Taste of Education is an inspiring program that affords students the opportunity to follow their dreams and passion," said Rachel Sapoznik, CEO of Sapoznik Insurance, A. World Company. I am proud of our involvement with and commitment to the program and making a difference in the lives of these future chefs.

The Teach-A-Thon campaign, sponsored by Regions Bank and the Florida State Matching Grants program, has raised more than \$1 million for local schools since its launch 12 years ago.

Special thanks to our Taste of Education sponsors: Colonial Life, Sapoznik Insurance, a World Company, South Florida Business Journal, Career Technical College, Hialeah Park, PNC Bank, Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, TD Bank, Humana, Regions Bank, Gus Machado Ford, Coastal-Pacific Wine & Spirits of Florida, Kaufman Rossin, Naked Taco, and Biscayne Bay Brewing Co.

Taste of Education tickets are \$125 per person. Purchase tickets at [EducationFund.org](https://www.educationfund.org). Sponsorships are available.

Culinary Panel of Judges:

- Ralph Pagano, Naked Taco
- Letty Alvarez, LA Sweets
- Paulette Bilsky-Phillips, The 305 Chef
- Dayanny De La Cruz, Centerplate
- Linda Gassenheimer, Food News & Views on WDNA 88.9FM
- Carolyn Guerra, TD Bank
- Ingrid Hoffmann, Top Chef Estrellas
- Pat Mackin, Food Vlogger
- Ana Machado, St. Thomas University
- Monty Trainer, Coconut Grove Arts Festival
- Patty Ruiz, The Mad Table
- Max Santiago, Max'd Out Donuts & Batch, The Cookie Company
- Gretchen Schmidt, Edible South Florida
- Hugh Sinclair, Irie Spice, Inc.
- Allen Susser, Chef Allen Consulting
- Mr. and Mrs. Brunetti, Hialeah Park Owners

Participating Schools (Teams per School)

- American Senior High School (2)
- Coral Gables Senior High School (2)
- Hialeah Senior High School (1)
- Homestead Senior High School (2)
- John A. Ferguson Senior High School (1)
- Jorge Mas Canosa Middle School
- Kinlock Park Middle School (2)
- Lamar Louise Curry Middle School (1)
- Miami Beach Senior High School (2)
- Miami Jackson Senior High School (2)
- Miami Lakes Educational Center (3)
- Miami Springs Senior High School (2)
- Dr. Michael Krop Senior High School (2)
- Redland Middle School (2)
- Robert Morgan Educational Center (2)
- Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High School (1)

Social Media Hashtag: #tasteofeducation

Facebook & Instagram: @educationfundmiami

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About The Education Fund

The Education Fund brings innovative methods to local public schools, informs the community about public education, and encourages private sector investment in public education. Due to its success in improving student outcomes, including improving science scores by 84 percent, eating habits by 52 percent, and college enrollment by 34 percent, The Education Fund has won numerous awards, including the Greater Miami Chamber's NOVO Award for Non-Profit Excellence, the Blue Foundation's Sapphire Award, and the 2022 TD Ready Challenge. Visit [educationfund.org](https://www.educationfund.org).

