

Year	History of school lunch	History of the association	Photos
1889	Japan's school lunch started with the charity provision of rice balls, grilled fish and pickled vegetables (tsukemono) for impoverished children at Chuai Elementary School in current Tsuruoka City, Yamagata Prefecture.		
1923	The "Health of elementary school children" notice by the Vice Minister of Education recommended school lunches to improve nutrition of children.		
1941	School lunch spread throughout Japan for helping impoverished children and improving children's nutrition, and its contents were enhanced. However, it was discontinued due to lack of food resulting from the Pacific War.		
1946	"Encouragement of spread of school lunch implementation," a notice by Vice Ministers of Education, Health & Welfare, and Agriculture was issued, determining the post-war school lunch policy.		
1947	Provision of school lunch began for about 3 million children in cities throughout the country.		
1949	The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) donated skimmed milk and UNICEF school lunches began.		
1950	Full school lunches began for the first time for elementary school children in the eight largest cities with donation of wheat flour from the U.S.		
1951	The peace treaty was concluded and the GARIOA (Government Appropriation for Relief in Occupied Area) funds ended at the end of June, and school lunches were on the verge of discontinuation. Following this, a nation-wide movement was launched demanding continuation of school lunches with government subsidy.		
1952	Japan School Lunch Association began importing skimmed milk and accepting and distributing skimmed milk donated by UNICEF.		1952 Typical lunch menu A bread roll, skimmed milk, whale meat <i>tatsuta age</i> thinly sliced cabbage, fruit ja Source: Japan Sport Council
1954	The School Lunch Program Act was enacted and promulgated. Japan's school lunch made its second start.		
1957	The Federation of Prefectural School Lunch Associations of Japan was established.		
1958	The school lunch milk handling guide was issued by the head of the administrative bureau, the Ministry of Education, along with the school lunch milk supply project implementation guideline by the Vice Minister of Agriculture and supply of milk for school lunches began. With this as an opportunity, skimmed milk, which had been drunk until then, was gradually replaced by milk. On October 1, the Courses of Study was revised and school lunch for the first time was positioned under school events.		1950s to 1960s A bread roll, skimmed milk, soup, etc. Source: Japan Sport Council
1960		Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Japan Association for Improving School Lunch was established. It started the project to subsidize school lunches in rural areas. The foundation was established in 1960, after the discontinuation of the GARIOA funds, on the request of the Ministry of Education to start a project to offer school lunches free of cost to give relief to rural areas.	
1961	Subsidy systems were established for cost of milk lunch facility equipment in rural areas and the cost of school suppers in part-time night courses of high school education.	An elementary school from a rural area of Iwate Prefecture sent lily of the valley (suzuran) in return for the free lunches provided under the school lunch subsidy project, and this led to it later being called the Suzuran school lunch.	1950s to 1960s School lunch in a rural area Source: Japan Sport Council
1962		The Education Ministry approved the association as an incorporated foundation.	
1963	The government subsidy for skimmed milk (4 yen for 100 grams) came into effect and the full implementation of milk school lunch was promoted.		

1966	Free bread and milk school lunch was launched fully funded by government subsidy for all students at schools in highly rural areas.	
1968	Following the revision of the Courses of Study for Elementary School, school lunches at elementary schools were positioned as class room instruction of special activities.	
1969	Following the revision of the Courses of Study for Junior High School, school lunches at junior high schools were positioned as class room instruction of special activities.	
1976	Rice was officially introduced in the school lunch system.	
1980		The first issue of Sukoyaka newsletter was issued.
1989	The Courses of Study for Elementary School and the Courses of Study for Junior High School were revised and school lunches were positioned as classroom activity under special activities.	
1995	Import of skimmed milk for school lunch was liberalized and the Act on Temporary Measures concerning Customs and related laws and regulations were revised. The existing import quota contingent system was replaced by the tariff quota system.	
1996	There were major damages including death of children from food poisoning caused by intestinal hemorrhagic E. coli O157 in various regions. The Ministry of Education established the council of parties cooperating in the study and research regarding improvement of hygiene management in school lunch, and implemented emergency summer time check and inspection of ingredients using samples.	
1997	The standards for school lunch hygiene management were set forth.	
2005	In June, the Basic Act on Food Education was promulgated and enacted in July. In April, the diet and nutrition teachers system was introduced. Number of diet and nutrition teachers appointed: 34	
2006	The Basic Program for Shokuiku Promotion was formulated.	Inherited the business of importing and distributing powdered skimmed milk for school lunches from Japan Sports Council to Japan Association for Improving School Lunch
2007	Guide to Instructions Related to Food is prepared.	Published the first issue of Sukoyaka Newsletter. Published Sukoyaka as a fully revamped information bulletin
2008	Central Education Council report mentions the necessity of food education Number of diet and nutrition teachers appointed: 1,897	
2009	The School Lunch Program Act was revised, with the aim of 1) reviewing school lunch from the aspect of food education, 2) establishment of School Lunch Practice Standards for ensuring the standard of school lunches, 3) establishment of School Lunch Hygiene Control Standards established for safety, and 4) preparation of the overall plan for food-related instructions and enactment as law the role of the diet and nutrition teachers. Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology published the Manual on Washing/Disinfection in Kitchen Part I	
2010	Guide to Instructions Related to Food (1st revision) is prepared Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology published Manual on Washing/Disinfection in Kitchen Part II	50th anniversary of the establishment of the Japan Association for Improving School Lunch



Thorough temperature management
Fukuroi City Chubu School Lunch Center



Instructions on how to hold chopsticks
Yokohama City Ooka Elementary School



Vegetable preparation using dry method
Fukuroi City Chubu School Lunch Center



Working together to serve food
Kodaira 6th Elementary School



Handling of food allergy: Solid school lunch assistance structure with three staff members
Kawaguchi City Shibafuji Elementary School

2011	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology publishes Hygiene Management and Cooking Techniques Manual in the Kitchen Decision made on the Second Basic Program for Shokuiku Promotion Full implementation of the Courses of Study for Elementary School	The Cabinet Office approves Japan Association for Improving School Lunch as a public interest incorporated foundation
2012	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology publishes Training Manual for Workers Engaged in Cooking School Lunches Full implementation of the Courses of Study for Junior High Schools	
2013	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology publishes School Lunch Facilities/Equipment Improvement Example Compilation Final report from the expert committee on the future course of food education at schools released	
2014	Final report on Handling of Food Allergens in School Lunches in the Future released by the meeting of research collaborators studying food allergy in school lunches	
2015	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology publishes Policy on Handling Food Allergy in School Lunches	
2016	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology publishes dietary education text for elementary school students - Food Education Leading to Enjoyable Meals Decision made on the Third Basic Program for Shokuiku Promotion Revision of the Courses of Study for elementary and junior high schools	
2017	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology publishes Food Education of the Future at Schools Centered on diet and nutrition teachers Number of diet and nutrition teachers appointed: 6,092	



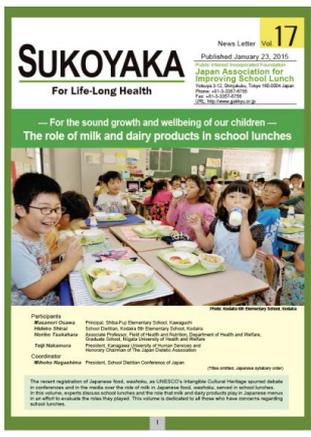
"Gochiso sama deshita" - expression of gratitude after the meal Kodaira 6th Elementary School



"JAPANESE SCHOOL LUNCHESES" brochure
This A-4 double-sided brochure illustrates Japanese school lunches with many photos.



SUKOYAKA newsletter vo.18
Actions to Prevent Food Allergy-related Accidents in School Lunches
To enable all school children to enjoy their school lunches with peace of mind



SUKOYAKA newsletter vo.17
For the sound growth and wellbeing of our children
The role of milk and dairy products in school lunches