

Assessment of School Cafeteria Environment

This summary report is a snapshot of the cafeteria environment before and after Implementation of Smarter Lunchroom strategies. *Technical assistance of these strategies was provided by the Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs (BEN) and the California Food Policy Advocates. The BEN Center's Diagnose, Prescribe, Implement, Evaluate (D.P.I.E.) tool was used to assess the cafeteria environment.*

9/25/13 (Before Implementation) Smarter Lunchroom Redesign



School Site Background:

- Opened in 2006
- Student enrollment: 1,000
- Free & Reduced Priced Eligibility: 82%
- Lunch: 30 minutes daily
- Average National School Lunch Program (NSLP) daily participation: 50%

Observations on 9/25/13:

- Students are not getting through the line quickly enough (took 30 minutes to serve all students), leaving students without enough time to eat.
- Cafeteria has two points of service (POS).
- Line isn't fluid with too many sharp turns.
- Beverage coolers were at a 90 degree angle.
- Unused coolers were visible.
- No drinking fountain in the cafeteria.

9/25/13 (After Implementation) Same-Day Smarter Lunchroom Redesign



Redesign Strategies

9/25/13:

- Used beltways to create a better line flow.
- Placed POS computers near the doors instead of in the middle of the service area.
- Placed beverage coolers side by side and removed unused coolers.
- Placed stainless steel food table on the side of the cooler.

Additional Recommendations

9/25/13:

- Add more decorations such as a welcome sign, menu and entrée signs, and holiday décor.
- Place chalk board or white board at each entrance to write menu for the day.



11/5/13 Cafeteria Follow-up Visit



Observations 11/5/13:

- All students served lunch within 15 minutes.
- Cafeteria decorated with holiday décor.
- No drinking fountain in the cafeteria.



11/5/13 Cafeteria Follow-up Visit



Additional Recommendations

11/5/13:

- Use baskets or colorful trays to serve fruits and place fruits next to the entrée where it is more visible and accessible to students.
- Have signage of the school lunch menu in the cafeteria.
- Replace MyPyramid posters with MyPlate.
- Set up water dispensers with cups near the POS computers in the cafeteria.

Follow-up Visit

12/18/13:

- Replaced MyPyramid posters with MyPlate.
- Delivered water dispenser for the cafeteria.