



# SMARTER LUNCHROOMS SCORECARD

Date \_\_\_\_\_ School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Completed by \_\_\_\_\_

The Smarter Lunchrooms Scorecard is a list of simple, no-cost or low-cost strategies based on research from Cornell University, that can increase participation, reduce food waste, and increase selection and consumption of healthy school food.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Review the scorecard before beginning.
2. Observe a lunch period. Check off statements that reflect the lunchroom.
3. Ask other school nutrition staff, teachers, or administration about items that have an asterisk.\*



4. Tally the score.
5. Discuss the results with stakeholders. Choose unchecked strategies to implement in the lunchroom.

[SmarterLunchrooms.org](http://SmarterLunchrooms.org)

## FOCUS ON FRUIT

- At *least* two kinds of fruit are offered.
- Sliced or cut fruit is offered.
- A variety of mixed whole fruits are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of stainless steel pans).
- Fruit is offered in at least two locations on all service lines, one of which is right before each point of sale.

- At *least* one fruit is identified as the featured fruit-of-the-day and is labeled with a creative, descriptive name at the point of selection.
- A fruit taste test is offered at least once a year.\*

Focus on Fruit Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ of 6

## VARY THE VEGETABLES

- At *least* two kinds of vegetables are offered.
- Vegetables are offered on *all* service lines.
- Both hot *and* cold vegetables are offered.
- When cut, raw vegetables are offered, they are paired with a low-fat dip such as ranch, hummus, or salsa.\*
- A serving of vegetables is incorporated into an entrée item at *least* once a month (e.g., beef and broccoli bowl, spaghetti, black bean burrito).\*



- Self-serve spices and seasonings are available for students to add flavor to vegetables.
- At *least* one vegetable is identified as the featured vegetable-of-the-day and is labeled with a creative, descriptive name at the point of selection.
- A vegetable taste test is offered at *least* once a year.\*

Vary the Vegetables Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ of 8

## HIGHLIGHT THE SALAD

- Pre-packaged salads or a salad bar is available to all students.
- Pre-packaged salads or a salad bar is in a high traffic area.
- Self-serve salad bar tongs, scoops, and containers are larger for vegetables and smaller for croutons, dressing, and other non-produce items.

- Pre-packaged salads or salad bar choices are labeled with creative, descriptive names and displayed next to each choice.

Highlight the Salad Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ of 4

## MOVE MORE WHITE MILK

- Milk cases/coolers are kept full throughout meal service.
- White milk is offered in *all* beverage coolers.
- White milk is organized and represents at least 1/3 of all milk in *each* designated milk cooler.
- White milk is displayed in front of other beverages in *all* coolers.



- 1% or non-fat white milk is identified as the featured milk and is labeled with a creative, descriptive name.

Move More White Milk Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ of 5

## BOOST REIMBURSABLE MEALS

- Cafeteria staff politely prompt students who do not have a full reimbursable meal to select a fruit or vegetable.
- One entrée is identified as the featured entrée-of-the-day, is labeled with a creative name next to the point of selection, *and* is the first entrée offered.
- Creative, descriptive names are used for featured items on the monthly menu.
- One reimbursable meal is identified as the featured combo meal *and* is labeled with a creative name.
- The combo meal of the day or featured entrée-of-the-day is displayed on a sample tray or photograph.

- A (reimbursable) combo meal is offered as a grab-and-go meal.
- Signs show students how to make a reimbursable meal on *any* service line (e.g., a sign that says "Add a milk, fruit and carrots to your pizza for the Power Pizza Meal Deal!")
- Students can pre-order lunch in the morning or day before.\*
- Students must use cash to purchase à la carte snack items if available.
- Students have to ask a food service worker to select à la carte snack items if available.\*
- Students are offered a taste test of a new entrée at least once a year.\*

Reimbursable Meals Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ of 11

## LUNCHROOM ATMOSPHERE

- Cafeteria staff smile and greet students upon entering the service line and throughout meal service.
- Attractive, healthful food posters are displayed in dining and service areas.
- A menu board with today's featured meal options with creative names is readable from 5 feet away when approaching the service area.
- The lunchroom is branded and decorated in a way that reflects the student body.
- Cleaning supplies or broken/unused equipment are not visible during meal service.
- All lights in the dining and meal service areas work and are turned on.
- Compost/recycling and trash cans are at least 5 feet away from dining students.
- There is a clear traffic pattern. Signs, floor decals, or rope lines are used when appropriate.
- Trash cans are emptied when full.
- A menu board with *tomorrow's* featured meal with creative names is readable from 5 feet away in the service or dining area.

Lunchroom Atmosphere Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ of 10

## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

- Student artwork is displayed in the service area or dining space.
- Students, teachers, or administrators announce today's menu in daily announcements.\*
- Students are involved in the development of creative and descriptive names for menu items.\*
- Students have the opportunity to volunteer in the lunchroom.
- Students are involved in the creation of artwork or marketing materials to promote menu items.\*
- Students provide feedback (informal - "raise your hand if you like..." or formal - focus groups, surveys) to inform menu development.\*

Student Involvement Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ of 6

## SCHOOL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- A monthly menu is posted in the main office.
- A menu board with creative, descriptive names for today's featured meal options is located in the main office.
- A monthly menu is provided to students, families, teachers, and administrators.\*
- Information about the benefits of school meals is provided to teachers and administration at least annually.\*
- Nutrition education is incorporated into the school day.\*
- Students are engaged in growing food (for example, gardening, seed planting, farm tours, etc.).\*
- Elementary schools provide recess before lunch.\*
- The school participates in other food promotion programs such as: Farm to School, Chefs Move to Schools, Fuel Up to Play 60, Share our Strength, etc.\*
- The school has applied for the HealthierUS School Challenge.\*
- Smarter Lunchrooms strategies are included in the Local School Wellness Policy.\*

School Involvement Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ of 10

## SMARTER LUNCHROOMS SCORECARD TOTAL

Focus on Fruit _____	of 6
Vary the Vegetables _____	of 8
Highlight the Salad _____	of 4
Move More White Milk _____	of 5
Reimbursable Meals _____	of 11
Lunchroom Atmosphere _____	of 10
Student Involvement _____	of 6
School Involvement _____	of 10

Scorecard Total \_\_\_\_\_ of 60

## AWARD LEVEL



### Bronze 15-25

Great job! This lunchroom is off to a strong start.



### Silver 26-45

Excellent. Think of all the kids that are inspired to eat healthier!



### Gold 46-60

This lunchroom is making the most of the Smarter Lunchroom Movement. Keep reaching for the top!

For Scorecard FAQs visit:  
[SmarterLunchrooms.org](http://SmarterLunchrooms.org)

The asterisk \* indicates items that may need input from other school nutrition staff, teachers, or administration.

Smarter Lunchrooms Scorecard 2.0

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## DEFINITIONS

**Point of Sale (POS):** Anywhere students leave the line with food and are charged or counted, such as at a register, check-out, or PIN pad

**Point of Selection:** Anywhere students select food or drink

**Service Line:** A designated line for meal selection—deli bar, salad bar, hot lunch line, snack window, etc.

**Grab-and-Go:** A pre-packaged reimbursable meal

**Reimbursable Meal/Combo Meal:** Any meal that meets all the USDA meal requirements and is priced as a unit

**Featured Items:** A fruit, vegetable, milk, or entrée that has been identified for promotion