

Celebrating Success



Partnerships: A Key to Smarter Lunchrooms

Smarter Lunchroom Principles Used

1. Increase visibility
2. Increase convenience
3. Enhancing taste expectation
4. Suggestive selling

School District Profile

District Name: Twin Rivers Unified

Grade Levels: K-12

Number of Schools: 54

Enrollment: 31,035

Percent Free and Reduced: 83%

Average Participation: 25,730

Foodservice Director: Jill VanDyke



Smarter Lunchrooms TAP:
Name: Leslie Pring
Agency: Dairy Council of California

Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD) is fortunate to have Nutritionist Lisa Vorce, R.D., SNS, as their champion for Smarter Lunchrooms. Since 2013 Vorce has been implementing sustainable, low cost changes in the cafeteria that promote healthy eating behaviors for children.

In the fall of 2015, she partnered with Leslie Pring, Community Nutrition Adviser for Dairy Council of California, to provide Smarter Lunchroom Movement (SLM) training to all kitchen managers in the school district. After the training, kitchen managers completed the Smarter Lunchroom Self-Assessment to evaluate their current food service program and determine which strategies staff could implement to improve the lunchroom program at each school.

In addition, TRUSD partnered with Dairy Council of California and Health Education Council to implement the following SLM strategies:

1. Created signage and posters encouraging students to choose Milk, fruits and vegetables
2. Developed creative names for fruits, vegetables and targeted entrees.
3. Highlighted healthy menu items on menu boards
4. Displayed fruit choices in multiple locations on the serving line
5. Involved students in developing promotional ideas and creative names for menu items

Cafeteria staff members throughout the district have reported numerous positive changes. At Pioneer Elementary School students have enjoyed being involved in making their cafeteria healthier and are choosing healthy menu items on their own. The staff at D.W. Babcock Elementary School has implemented a "Farmer's Market" stand displaying fresh produce, which encourages students to try new fruits and vegetables. Oakdale Elementary School staff report teachers are now eating lunch in the cafeteria with students, providing encouragement and positive communication, and students enthusiastically talk about the foods they're choosing for lunch.

In addition to her work improving school lunchrooms, Vorce was instrumental in helping 29 schools in Twin Rivers Unified School District receive the Healthier US School Challenge award. The award recognizes schools that are creating healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity.

Through partnerships and dedicated staff, TRUSD successfully implemented sustainable changes that encourage students to select, eat and enjoy healthy foods -- all core principles of the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement.

To learn more about Smarter Lunchrooms Movement trainings and for additional Smarter Lunchrooms resources, visit
<http://healthyeating.org/Schools/School-Foodservice/Smarter-Lunchrooms-Movement-of-California.aspx>.