

Increasing Healthy Eating Patterns

Your school district has been selected to participate in the project funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Team Nutrition grant called *Enhancing Healthy Choices and Enriching Cafeterias through Culinary Arts*. With the help of Cornell University's Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs, school districts are receiving training to promote healthy items and generating buy-in from the community. To ensure our training and technical support throughout the grant is effective, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) will be conducting a plate waste study during lunch service. By observing students' plate waste from the National School Lunch Program, we will be able to identify how healthy your students eat!

Here are some quick pieces of information about the plate waste study:



Who will be doing the study?

The plate waste study will be completed by SCDE and dietetic interns during lunch service.

How will the study be conducted?

During lunch, we will take a picture of your child's meal tray. This picture will not include your child, only the food and drink items on the tray.

When will the plate waste study be conducted?

The plate waste study staff will visit your school for lunch service. Lunch service will be normal as usual. This will be the initial view of plate waste and a follow-up observation of plate waste will be conducted next school year.

We greatly appreciate your support in this grant and the lives of your student. Our goal at SCDE is to provide students tools to have a happy, healthy future. If you have any questions regarding the grant, please feel free to email

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