

EQUITY CHECKLIST

When making sure that ALL kids get the food they need, it's important to acknowledge potential barriers that prevent students from eating school meals. Barriers can be language, comfortability with staff, stigma, the types of food served, or others. Consider implementing action items on this checklist to address barriers and make school meals more equitable for your community as a whole.



Consistently ask for community feedback

Focus groups and community forums where school leaders are interacting with community members build strong relationships and trust. Also consider parent/student surveys or taste tests to get feedback on new or existing menu items.



Display information in multiple languages

Communication is key! Consider making signage, menus, flyers, etc. in English and Spanish (and any other language represented in your district) to give all families equal access to information.



Serve culturally appropriate foods

For a diverse population, consider incorporating meals that honor the culture of all students.



Offer an alternative breakfast model

Serving breakfast in the cafeteria before class may be missing students. Consider:



Breakfast in the Classroom
breakfast items are packed in coolers and delivered to classrooms



Grab and Go
breakfasts are packed in bags for students to grab on the way to their first class



Second Chance
students who aren't hungry right away can grab breakfast between their first and second classes



Extend meals beyond school hours

Meals at school may be the only ones a student gets. If your school has over 50% F/R students, consider serving After School snacks and supper through the Child and Adult Care Food Program and summer meals through the Summer Food Service Program.



Serve no-cost meals to all students

The Community Eligibility Provision, Provision 2, or simply paying for meals eaten by students out of federal reimbursements are options to serve no cost meals to all students for many high-poverty schools.



Ensure staff are representative of those served

Hiring staff that represent those they serve expands understanding and skills, including lived experiences, which enables a school to better connect to their community.



Explore and practice cultural humility

Learning about one's own biases can help eliminate inequities in programs.

For more information:
neappleseed.org
nokidhungry.org

