



School Districts Across the Country Nationally Recognized for Healthier School Meals

CHICAGO, Jan 16 2025 – Action for Healthy Kids and USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service announced that 61 school districts have received 75 Healthy Meals Incentives (HMI) Recognition Awards from September through December, for making nutritional improvements to their school meals.

As part of the HMI Initiative, the Recognition Awards Program celebrates school districts that make operational and/or planning and preparation changes to improve the nutritional quality of their school meals, as well as school districts that engage students and families in nutrition education.

Details and a map of recipients can be found on the Awardee Map and Announcements webpage [[LINK](#) to detailed page]. School districts have been recognized in the following HMI Recognition Awards categories:

- **Breakfast Trailblazer**
 - Little Lake City School District (California)
 - Boston Public School District (Massachusetts)

- **Small and/or Rural SFA Breakfast Trailblazer**
 - Ashdown School District 31 (Arkansas)
 - San Ysidro School District (California)
 - Central Community School District (Louisiana)
 - Weakley County School District (Tennessee)
 - Frankston Independent School District (Texas)
 - Lamoille North Modified Unified School District (Vermont)

- **Lunch Trailblazer**
 - New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School District (Indiana)
 - Cincinnati Public Schools (Ohio)
 - Brandon Valley School District 49-2 (South Dakota)*

- **Small and/or Rural SFA Lunch Trailblazer**
 - Community Regional Charter School (Maine)
 - Littleton Public School District (Massachusetts)
 - Calhoun County Juvenile Home School (Michigan)
 - Whitefish School District 44 (Montana)
 - Southeast Local School District (Ohio)

- Bledsoe County School District (Tennessee)
 - Frankston Independent School District (Texas)
 - Riviera Independent School District (Texas)
 - Waxahachie Faith Family Academy (Texas)
 - Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union 6 (Vermont)
 - Lamoyille North Modified Unified School District (Vermont)
- **Innovative School Lunch Makeover**
 - Limestone County School District (Alabama)
 - Newman-Crows Landing Unified School District (California)
 - Decorah Community School District (Iowa)
 - Cincinnati Public Schools (Ohio)
- **Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals**
 - Petersburg School District (Alaska)
 - Evergreen School District (California)
 - Clear Lake Community School District (Iowa)
 - North Lawrence Community School District (Indiana)
 - Cincinnati Public Schools (Ohio)
 - Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District (Massachusetts)
 - West New York School District (New Jersey)
 - Copperas Cove Independent School District (Texas)
 - East Central Independent School District (Texas)
 - Terrell County Independent School District (Texas)
 - Seattle Public Schools (Washington)
- **Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals**
 - Marshall County School District (Alabama)
 - Fallbrook Union High School District (California)
 - Newman-Crows Landing Unified School District (California)
 - Bettendorf Community School District (Iowa)
 - Decorah Community School District (Iowa)
 - Bogalusa City School District (Louisiana)
 - West Feliciana Parish School District (Louisiana)
 - Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District (Massachusetts)
 - Cincinnati Public Schools (Ohio)
 - Unionville Chadds Ford School District (Pennsylvania)
 - Smithfield School District (Rhode Island)*
 - Huron School District 2-2 (South Dakota)*
 - Birdville Independent School District (Texas)
 - East Central Independent School District (Texas)
 - Lewisville Independent School District (Texas)
 - Bennington - Rutland Supervisory Union 6 (Vermont)
 - Essex Westford School District (Vermont)

- Highline Public Schools (Washington)
- **Innovation in Nutrition Education**
 - Athens City Schools (Alabama)
 - Auburn City School District (Alabama)
 - Elmore County School District (Alabama)
 - Petersburg School District (Alaska)
 - Cobb County School District (Georgia)
 - Urbandale Community School District (Iowa)
 - Livingston Parish Public Schools (Louisiana)
 - Nauset Public Schools (Massachusetts)
 - Brooklyn Center Community Schools (Minnesota)
 - Power School District 30 (Montana)
 - Hozho Academy (New Mexico)
 - Cincinnati Public Schools (Ohio)
 - Athena-Weston School District 29RJ (Oregon)
 - Spartanburg School District 4 (South Carolina)
 - Brandon Valley School District 49-2 (South Dakota)
 - East Central Independent School District (Texas)
 - Frankston Independent School District (Texas)
 - North East Independent School District (Texas)
 - Loudoun County Public School District (Virginia)
 - Port Angeles School District (Washington)

*Indicates the school districts that are the first in their state to receive an HMI Recognition Award.

“The progress being made in small and/or rural school districts is unprecedented, and we needed a national Recognition Awards program to match that level of commitment,” said Rob Bisceglie, Executive Officer/President of Action for Healthy Kids. “We are happy to celebrate the staff who dedicate their days to preparing fresh, nutritious, and delicious meals for their students.”

“The Recognition Awards shine a spotlight on the progress our schools are making in serving high-quality meals that gives kids the fuel to grow, learn, and thrive,” said Tameka Owens, acting administrator for USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service. “We look forward to continuing our partnership with schools to support and amplify their incredible efforts and innovative accomplishments.”

The Recognition Awards application can be found on the [HMI website](#). School districts are eligible to apply for the Recognition Awards if they participate in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program in all 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, or the U.S. Virgin Islands. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis

throughout the application period ending on June 30, 2025. School districts that apply between August 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025, will qualify to attend the Fall 2025 Healthy Meals Summit.

ABOUT USDA'S FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service works to end hunger and improve food and [nutrition security](#) through a suite of 16 nutrition assistance programs, such as the school breakfast and lunch programs, WIC and SNAP. Together, these programs serve 1 in 4 Americans over the course of a year, promoting consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable food essential to optimal health and well-being. FNS also provides science-based nutrition recommendations through the co-development of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. To learn more about FNS, visit www.fns.usda.gov and follow [@USDANutrition](#).

ABOUT ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS

Action for Healthy Kids is dedicated to improving children's health and well-being by bringing together and mobilizing educators, families, and other key stakeholders to help children lead healthy lives. Through its core programming and family-school partnerships, Action for Healthy Kids has impacted more than 20 million children in 55,000 schools nationwide to address systemic challenges in underserved communities. To learn more about its growing network of volunteers and champions, visit: actionforhealthykids.org

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